





# Hope Centre will ban cow slaughter: Allahabad HC

‘Govt should tag cow as protected national animal’

PTI ■ LUCKNOW

The Lucknow bench of Allahabad High Court has expressed hope that the Centre will take an appropriate decision to ban cow slaughter and declare it as a “protected national animal”.

“We live in a secular country and must have respect for all religions. In Hinduism, the belief is that the cow is the representative of divine and natural beneficence. Therefore it should be protected and venerated,” Justice Shamim Ahmad said on February 14, dismissing a plea seeking the quashing of criminal proceedings against a person under the Uttar Pradesh Prevention of Cow Slaughter Act, 1955.

The petitioner, Barabanki resident Mohammad Abdul Khaliq, had pleaded that the police booked him without any evidence and hence the proceedings pending against him in the court of additional chief judicial magistrate should be quashed. Dismissing the plea,



the bench held that from the facts on record, a prima-facie case was made out against the petitioner.

While passing the order, the judge observed, “The cow has also been associated with various deities, notably Lord Shiva (whose steed is Nandi, a bull) Lord Indra (closely associated with Kamadhenu), Lord Krishna (a cowherd in his youth), and goddesses in general.”

“According to legend, she emerged from the ocean of milk at the time of Samudramanathan (the great churning of the ocean by the gods and demons). She was presented to the seven sages and with time came into the custody of sage Vasishtha.”

The judge further said that a cow’s legs symbolise the four Vedas and her milk is four “purushartha” (or human objectives -- “dharma” or righteous-

ness, “artha” or material wealth, “kama” or desire and “moksha” or salvation.

“Her horns symbolise the gods, her face the sun and moon, and her shoulders “Agni” (the god of fire). The cow has also been described in other forms: Nanda, Sunanda, Surabhi, Susheela and Sumana,” Justice Ahmad said.

He said that the origin of the veneration of the cow can be traced to the Vedic period.

“The Indo-European peoples who entered India in the second millennium BCE were pastoralists. Cattle had a major economic significance that was reflected in their religion. The slaughter of milk-producing cows was increasingly prohibited. It is forbidden in the Mahabharata, and in the “Manusmriti”).”

A cow which produces milk was said to be “unsalable” in the Rigveda, the court said, adding, “The degree of veneration afforded to cow is indicated by the use in rites of healing purification and penance of the “panchagavya” (cow-milk, curd, butter, urine, and dung).”

Subsequently, with the rise of the ideal of “ahimsa”, cow came to symbolise non-violence, it said.

# Rijiju: Bid on to tell world Indian judiciary, democracy in crisis

PTI ■ BHUBANESWAR

Union Law Minister Kiren Rijiju on Saturday said attempts were being to tell the world that the Indian judiciary and the democracy were in crisis. Inaugurating a conference of the Centre’s counsels in the Eastern states, Rijiju said the wisdom of judges was beyond public scrutiny.

“Indian judiciary cannot be questioned, especially the wisdom of judges cannot be put into public scrutiny,” he said.

“At times, calibrated attempts are being made from both inside and outside the country to tell the world that the Indian judiciary is in crisis. A message is being sent to the world that Indian democracy is in crisis.

“It is a deliberate attempt by

some groups to malign the image of the country,” he added.

No campaign with ulterior motives can succeed in defaming India and its democratic setup, Rijiju said. The US may stake claim to be the oldest democracy, but India truly is the “mother of democracy”, he said. Rijiju’s comments came after Congress leader Rahul Gandhi at a lecture at Cambridge University alleged that Indian democracy is under attack and several politicians, including himself, are under surveillance.

Gandhi listed five key aspects of the alleged attack on Indian democracy — capture and control of media and judiciary; surveillance and intimidation; coercion by federal law enforcement agencies; attacks on minorities, Dalits and tribals; and shutting down of dissent.

# 4 held for duping 20K people of ₹1K cr in Raj

PTI ■ SIKAR

Rajasthan Police has arrested four people for allegedly duping around 20,000 people in the State of Rs 1,000 crore in the name of investing their money in neighbouring Gujarat’s Dholera city.

Ranveer Bijaraniyan, Subhash Chandra Bijaraniyan, Opendra Bijaraniyan and Amarchand Dhaka operated a chit fund company in Rajasthan against which, more than 100 cases were registered, police said.

The accused were arrested from Ahmedabad, Sikar Superintendent of Police Karan Sharma said, adding that Rs 10 lakh in cash and a car were seized from them.

# Jaishankar meets Lankan counterpart, talks ties, economy of island nation

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar on Saturday here discussed the entire spectrum of bilateral ties with his Sri Lankan counterpart M U M Ali Sabry including the island country’s economic recovery and boosting trade. Jaishankar also held bilateral talks with his Canadian, Slovak and Armenian counterparts.

India extended financial assistance worth around USD 4 billion to Sri Lanka, including lines of credit for purchases of food and fuel, last year when it was reeling under a severe economic crisis.

New Delhi also provided guarantees to the International

Monetary Fund (IMF) to help the country secure a USD 2.9 billion bailout package.

“Nice to catch up FM @alisabrypc of Sri Lanka. Thank him for his #RaisinaDialogue2023 participation,” Jaishankar said on Twitter. “We took stock of our cooperation that is focused on facilitating Lanka’s economic recovery. Discussions covered investment, trade and development partnership,” he said.

Sabry described the meeting as “constructive”. “I met with @DrSJaishankar, Minister of External Affairs of India at Hyderabad House during my official visit to New Delhi. We had a constructive bilateral meeting and reviewed the current status of Indo-Lanka relations,” he said.

# PM package Kashmiri migrants end 300-day stir

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ JAMMU

Hundreds of PM package Kashmiri migrant employees on Saturday ended their 300 day long protest here in Jammu.

The decision was announced after the core committee of the All Migrants (Displaced) Employees Association Kashmir arrived at

a unanimous decision of suspending the ongoing protest.

Demanding safety of their lives these employees were sitting on a dharna inside the office premises of Relief and Rehabilitation Commissioner (Migrants) here in Jammu after the killing of Rahul Bhat on May 12. Since day one the PM package employees were seeking relocation to a safer place outside the Kashmir valley.

# Sisodia to stay in CBI...

From Page 1

“They don’t have anything in documents, only in statements,” Sisodia said. “Last time my lawyer mentioned this word, they said third degree. They (CBI) respect us. But 8-10 hours sitting, same questions on repeat is third degree only. It is mental harassment,” he told the court. Special judge Nagpal also directed the CBI not to ask him the same questions repeatedly after

Sisodia termed it as “mental harassment”. To which the judge, who had on the last hearing directed the CBI not to use the third degree on the accused, told the probe agency not to ask the “same questions again and again. If you have something new, ask him.”

“While considering all things, my wife’s medical condition has been brushed aside. She is basically a vegetable and her body is degenerating,” the counsel said on behalf of Sisodia.

The Former Deputy Chief Minister of Delhi made these arguments while opposing the CBI plea seeking his further custody on the ground that he was not cooperating. The CBI’s plea was opposed by Sisodia’s lawyer who said the inefficiency of the agency to complete the probe cannot be ground for remand and he cannot be asked to

incriminate himself. “Non-cooperation cannot be a ground for remand. They cannot say we will wait till he confesses. They should have completed the investigation. Their failure to complete investigation can’t be a ground for remand,” senior advocate Dayan Krishnan, appearing for Sisodia, said.

The court, meanwhile, issued notice to the CBI on Sisodia’s bail plea and directed it to file a reply by March 10, when it will hear the arguments on the application. In his application, Sisodia stated that he joined the investigation as and when called for by the Central probe agency. He further stated that no fruitful purpose would be served by keeping him in custody as all the recoveries have already been made, adding that the other accused persons arrested in this case have already been granted bail. Asserting that he had held an important constitutional post of Deputy CM of Delhi, Sisodia said he has deep roots in society. There was heavy security presence in and outside the Rouse Avenue Courts premises.

AAP supporters staged a protest outside the premises and demand-

ed the release of Sisodia. The protest erupted before Sisodia’s appearance before the Rouse Avenue court, only a few metres from the party office on Deen Dayal Upadhyay Marg. The workers raised slogans like ‘Manish Sisodia ko riha karo’ (release Manish Sisodia). Several police teams have been deployed as back up at the AAP headquarters. Barricades and water cannons have also been placed on DDU Marg.

AAP’s Saurabh Bharadwaj said the CBI has nothing to do with evidence or truth. “They are only listening to what the Central Government is saying. This whole procedure is meant to trouble Sisodia,” the AAP leader said. Meanwhile the Delhi Congress said the court denied bail to the AAP leader was the clear indication that there was strong evidence against him and CBI wants more time to ferret out further information from him. The CBI on Sunday evening arrested Sisodia in connection with alleged corruption in the formulation and implementation of the now-scrapped excise policy for 2021-22.

# Scientist behind Russia’s Sputnik Covid-19...

From Page 1

Russian President Vladimir Putin honoured the virologist with the Order of Merit for the Fatherland award for his work on the Covid vaccine in 2021. Botikov was one of 18 scientists who developed the Sputnik V vaccine in 2020, according to reports.

His death is being investigated as a murder, the committee, which is the investigating authority in Russia, said in a Telegram statement.

According to investigators, a 29-year-old young man strangled Botikov with a belt during an argument and fled. Law enforcement agencies said the murder was a domestic crime and the result of a conflict, the report said.

The suspect was arrested shortly after Botikov’s body was found, the federal investigative agency said in the statement. “The location of the attacker was established in short order. During the interrogation, he pled guilty and was charged. The defendant has a previous criminal record, as he stood trial on charges of committing a serious crime. In the near future, the investigation plans to petition the court to place the defendant in custody pending trial,” the Investigative Committee said.

# Select Central Govt staffers get one-time chance...

From Page 1

“It has now been decided that, in all cases where the Central Government civil employee has been appointed against a post or vacancy which was advertised/ notified for recruitment/appointment, prior to the date of notification for National Pension System i.e. 22.12.2003 and is covered under the National Pension System on joining service on or after 01.01.2004, may be given a one-time option to be covered under the CCS (Pension) Rules, 1972 (now 2021),” the order said.

Those government servants who are eligible to exercise the option, “but who do

not exercise this option by the stipulated date”, shall continue to be covered by the National Pension System, it added. The option once exercised shall be final, the order said.

The matter regarding coverage under the CCS (Pension) Rules, 1972 (now 2021), based on the option exercised by the government servant, shall be placed before the appointing authority. In case the government servant fulfils the conditions for the coverage under the CCS (Pension) Rules, 1972 (now 2021), necessary order in this regard shall be issued latest by 31st October, 2023, it said.

The NPS account of such

government servants shall, consequently, be closed with effect from December 31, 2023.

The National Movement for Old Pension Scheme (NMOPS), an umbrella body of more than 14 lakh central and state government employees, has welcomed the government decision. “It is good news for the eligible central government employees. We again ask the central government to amend the existing NPS to ensure that the benefits of the old pension scheme can be extended to all central government staff,” NMOPS Delhi unit head Manjeet Singh Patel said.

# Khalistanis vandalise...

From Page 1

Community members with the temple committee cleaned anti-Hindu hate-filled graffiti. “Hindustan Zindabad,” she tweeted with a picture.

“Khalistan supporters are terrorising the Australian Hindu community and making it a very traumatising experience to practice our religion and visit temples,” a long-time resident of the suburb said.

On January 23, the walls of the revered ISCKON temple in Melbourne’s Albert Park were vandalised with graffiti “Hindustan Murdabad.” On January 16, the historic Shri Shiva Vishnu Temple in Carrum Downs, Victoria, was vandalised in a similar manner. On January 12, the Swaminarayan temple in Melbourne was defaced by ‘anti-southern elements’ with anti-India graffiti.

India has repeatedly condemned the vandalism against the Hindu temples in Australia and has raised the issue with the Australian Government.

During his visit to Australia last month, External Affairs Minister Jaishankar met his Australian counterpart Penny Wong and emphasised the need for vigilance against “radical activities” targeting the Indian community in Australia in the wake of vandalism of Hindu temples in the country by Khalistani supporters. “Noted the forward movement on our bilateral agenda. Emphasised the need for vigilance against radical activities targeting the Indian community,” Jaishankar had tweeted after his meeting with Wong in Sydney.

**PUBLIC NOTICE**  
**Branch Office:** ICICI Bank Ltd, Landmark Building, 4th Floor, 228A, AJC Bose Road, Kolkata- 700020 CIN No: L65190GJ1994PLC020102, www.icicibank.com

The following borrower/s have defaulted in the repayment of principal and interest of the loans facility obtained by them from the Bank and the loans have been classified as Non-Performing Assets (NPA). A notice is issued to them under Section 13 (2) of Securitisation and Re-construction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act-2002 on their last known addresses, however it was not served and hence they are hereby notified by way of this public notice.

Sr. No.	Name of the Borrower/ Co-Borrower/ Guarantor/ Loan Account Number & Address	Property Address of Secured Asset / Asset to be Enforced	Date of Notice Sent/ Outstanding as on Date of Notice	NPA Date
1.	Rajmani Kumar/ Sabnam Kumar/ S O Badhe Shyam Prasad Kisan Colony Phase 2 Near Beur Akhara Anishabad Patna Bihar Patna- 800002/ LBPTN00005314853	Khasra Survey Plot No.59 (Part), Thana Code-113, Thana No.53, Tazari No.- 5070, Khata No-72, Ward No- 7, Mouza- Beur, Mausam Mohalla Kisan Colon, Thana Phulwari Shariff, Sub-registry Phulwari Shariff, Sadar Registry Office and District Patna, Bihar Patna (admeasuring an Area of 1772 Sq. Ft. or 4.0679522 Decimal	February 04, 2023 Rs. 1,02,32,996/-	05-09-2022

The steps are being taken for substituted service of notice. The above borrower/s and/or their guarantors (as applicable) are advised to make the payments of outstanding within period of 60 days from the date of publication of this notice else further steps will be taken as per the provisions of Securitisation and Re-construction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002.

**Date : March 04, 2023**  
**Place : Delhi/NCR**

Authorized Officer  
ICICI Bank Limited

**PHYSICAL POSSESSION NOTICE**  
**Branch Office:** ICICI Bank Ltd, 3rd Floor, Plot No- 23, New Rohlak Road, Karol Bagh, Delhi- 110005

**Whereas**  
The undersigned being the Authorized Officer of ICICI Bank Limited under the Securitisation, Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 and in exercise of the powers conferred under section 13 (12) read with Rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) rules 2002, issued demand notices upon the borrowers mentioned below, to repay the amount mentioned in the notice within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said notice.

As the borrower failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the borrower and the public in general that the undersigned has taken possession of the property described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on him/ her under Section 13(4) of the said Act read with Rule 8 of the said rules on the below-mentioned dates. The borrower in particular and the public in general is hereby cautioned not to deal with the property and any dealings with the property will be subject to the charge of ICICI Bank Limited.

Sr. No.	Name of the Borrower/ Loan Account Number	Description of Property/ Date of Physical Possession	Date of Demand Notice/ Amount in Demand Notice (Rs.)	Name of Branch
1.	Vikram Paul/ Banita Paul/ LBNOD00002263659	Ngp-174, Dif New Town Heights, 17th Floor, Tower-P, Sector-90, Gurgaon/ February 28, 2023	June 23, 2021 Rs.1,11,41,273/-	Delhi/ NCR

The above-mentioned borrower(s)/ guarantors(s) are hereby given a 30 day notice to repay the amount, else the mortgaged properties will be sold on the expiry of 30 days from the date of publication of this Notice, as per the provisions under the Rules 8 and 9 of Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules 2002.

**Date : March 04, 2023**  
**Place : Delhi/NCR**

Authorized Officer  
ICICI Bank Limited

**SYMBOLIC POSSESSION NOTICE**  
**Branch Office:** ICICI Bank Ltd, 3rd Floor, Plot No- 23, New Rohlak Road, Karol Bagh, Delhi- 110005

**Whereas**  
The undersigned being the Authorized Officer of ICICI Bank Limited under the Securitisation, Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 and in exercise of the powers conferred under section 13 (12) read with Rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) rules 2002, issued demand notices upon the borrowers mentioned below, to repay the amount mentioned in the notice within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said notice.

As the borrower failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the borrower and the public in general that the undersigned has taken Symbolic possession of the property described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on him/ her under Section 13(4) of the said Act read with Rule 8 of the said rules on the below-mentioned dates. The borrower in particular and the public in general is hereby cautioned not to deal with the property and any dealings with the property will be subject to the charge of ICICI Bank Limited.

Sr. No.	Name of the Borrower/ Loan Account Number	Description of Property/ Date of Symbolic Possession	Date of Demand Notice/ Amount in Demand Notice (Rs.)	Name of Branch
1.	Rajvinder Singh Bedi/ Anu Sharma/ LBGUR00002359955	Flat No-7B Belgravia II, 7th Floor, Tower No. 11, Sector-48, Gurgaon 122001/ 28 February, 2023	June 07, 2019 Rs. 1,53,77,495/-	Delhi
2.	Rajesh Tomar/ Sai Industries/ Poonam Tomer/ Ayodhya / Maxi Tech Electricals/ Surjeet Singh/ LBDEL00004982929/ LBDEL00004982931/ LBFD000005387554	Plot No-548-P, Sector 30, Urban Estate, Haryana, Faridabad, Haryana- 121003/ 27 February, 2023	October 29, 2022 Rs. 86,71,243/-	Delhi

The above-mentioned borrower(s)/ guarantors(s) are hereby given a 30 day notice to repay the amount, else the mortgaged properties will be sold on the expiry of 30 days from the date of publication of this Notice, as per the provisions under the Rules 8 and 9 of Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules 2002.

**Date : March 04, 2023**  
**Place : Delhi/ NCR**

Authorized Officer  
ICICI Bank Limited

**CHANGE OF NAME**  
**I, Surinder Mohan Sharma**  
S/o Baldev Raj Sharma R/o House No. 229-230, Pocket-7, Rohini Sector-24, Delhi-110085 have changed my name from old name Surinder Mohan to New Name Surinder Mohan Sharma as per affidavit number IN-DL71441998729016V for all future purposes.  
**PD (90290)A**

**THANKSGIVING**  
**Thank you holly spirit blessings Celine.**  
**PD (90291)A**



# DU SOL cancels exams while students were writing paper

## Registrar admits goof-up

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

The Delhi University's School of Open Learning (SOL) abruptly announced the cancellation of Saturday's examination for the first-year BA and BCom programmes while students were writing the paper and asked them to hand in their answer sheets.

scheduled for Sunday has been cancelled as well but the rest of the date-sheet remains the same, university officials said, adding the dates for these two subjects would be notified soon.

Saturday was the first day of the examination for the students of the two programmes and it was supposed to be conducted in two shifts — morning and evening.

A senior university official said due to an "error", all students had been assigned the morning shift, which is why the examination had to be cancelled.

Soon after the examination was cancelled, a notice of cancellation was put up outside the



gates of the centres. Sangeeta, a first-year BA student, said she reached her designated centre on time and the examination began normally, but a few minutes later, students were informed about the cancellation.

"My examination centre was Miranda House. I reached on time, checked my seat and sat down. We filled up our details and question papers were distributed. We were given the allotted time to read the question paper," she said.

"The answer sheets were distributed and as I picked up my pen, the invigilator told us that the exam has been cancelled. We were not given any reason," she claimed.

Sangeeta said hundreds of students had gathered outside

the centre, demanding answers. They found a notice pasted on the main gate of the college which read, "As per information received from the Examination Branch today SOL papers for morning and evening sessions have been cancelled. Next date of examination will be informed later on."

The university official said the examination for both Saturday and Sunday have been cancelled.

"The students will be issued new roll numbers. It was a goof-up by SOL. We are looking into it. We are determining whether it was a human error or that of a computer," Registrar Vikas Gupta said.

"We will notify the next date for the examination of these two subjects. The rest of the date-sheet is the same," he added. In a message issued by the Delhi University, its assistant registrar said the exam was cancelled "due to unavoidable circumstances".

"The next date of these examinations will be announced later," it read.

Shivani, whose examination centre was DU's Atma Ram Sanatan College, accused the administration of negligence. "They should have told us at least a day earlier. So many students have come here from far-away places. They were told at the last minute," she said. Student group

Krantikari Yuva Sangathan (KYS) condemned the mismanagement and incompetence which led to the cancellation of the examinations. Its activists, along with students of the SOL, held a protest demonstration at the SOL building.

The students later organised a rally to the Arts Faculty, gate number 4 and submitted a memorandum addressed to the DU vice-chancellor.

"This exposes the sheer mismanagement and chaos which has become the hallmark of SOL and DU administrations that are least concerned about the future of lakhs of students who study in SOL," the KYS said in a statement.

# LG OK's city Govt's proposal with rider to send primary teachers to Finland for training

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Amid controversy, Delhi Lieutenant Governor Vinai Kumar Saxena has given in-principle approval to the city Government's proposal to send primary teachers of State-run schools to Finland for training.

The issue triggered a war of words between the LG's office and the Government, with the Delhi Government led by AAP accusing Saxena of "interfering" in the Government's work as the same was pending decision due to the AAP Government's reluctance to provide details of the impact assessment and analysis of similar foreign training programmes funded by the Delhi Government in the past.



Saxena, in his approval, said he was okaying the proposal in the "interest of facilitating an executive decision — flawed that it may be, rather than joining issues to enable anarchic disruption".

"Taking the approach of equitable benefit for all, the LG has increased the number of primary in-charges, who were to proceed to Finland for training, from 52 to 87 so as to ensure equal representation of primary in-charges from all 29 administrative zones of the education department," an official from the LG's office said.

"There is nothing on record to show as to what has been the selection procedure to

identify the Institute for organizing the proposed training programs. It is advised that in all future proposals, the Department should essentially adopt a fair and transparent selection process for identifying the organizers for the training program. For optimal utilization of the resources and maximizing the benefits of the training programs, it is advisable that these organizers of training programs should conduct training in India itself for wider coverage in a much shorter time span," Saxena noted.

Former Deputy Chief Minister Manish Sisodia who is in jail in corruption charges in

the excise policy scam case, had wrote to several times to Lt Governor, seeking his approval which has become a prestige issue for the AAP dispensation.

"The Minister and the Chief Minister are aware that the training programs for Principals, Vice Principals, mentor teachers and officers of the Education Department and Teacher Educators of SCERT, at United Kingdom, Finland and Singapore have been agreed to by my predecessor in the past. More so, I have also agreed for the training program at Cambridge, UK for 57 Principals/Vice Principals of the Education Department between July and September 2022. It would be only logical that a Government, as it does with any of its schemes, must have undertaken post implementation if not concurrent, evaluation and impact assessment of these training programs so as to augment, abridge or calibrate their continuation," the LG noted.

"With this, 87 primary in-charges — three in-charges from each of the 29 administrative

zones — will be selected for the training programme, as against the 52 primary in-charges who were arbitrarily selected by the government," the official said.

"The training for teachers should be formulated in such a way that subsequent to the training, these teachers become Trainers of Trainees and they train remaining Primary in charges and Primary teachers of the Department so that more and more teachers are trained and no student is deprived of the benefits derived out of this training programme.

The class room projects adopted by Finland in their educational institutions may be replicated for adopting their best practices and a virtual tour of these projects may be conducted as a regular exercise.

This would result in the number of primary in charges increasing from the proposed 52 to 87.

It should be ensured that the number of officers accompanying the primary in charges does not exceed 02 in each cohort," the Lt Governor advised.

## LG is acting like a mini-dictator: Govt

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

The Delhi Government strongly slammed the LG's decision on Finland teacher training programme calling it a fraud upon the Constitution and the Supreme Court, and said the LG has acted like a mini-dictator.

The Government attacked the LG after he returned an amended proposal for Finland teacher training programme, after sitting on it for four months and ensuring that the proposal itself became infructuous since the trainings were to be held in December 2022 and March 2023.

The file for the Finland teacher training programme was first submitted to the LG office on October 25, 2022 for him to consider if he wished to invoke a difference of opinion and refer it to the President of India within 15 days, as per Transaction of Business Rules of GNCTD, said the Government.

However, in blatant violation of the rules, the LG returned the file to Delhi's

Chief Secretary raising three objections.

"The SCERT Delhi, the expert body that oversees teacher training activities, clarified those points and resubmitted the file to the LG again. Thereafter, the LG sought two more clarifications and returned the file to the CM on January 9, 023. The then Deputy CM Manish Sisodia sent a detailed reply through CM to LG," it said.

Now after more than 4 months of the file was first submitted to him, the LG has once again returned the proposal with amendments in flagrant violation of the Constitution and SC orders, it said.

The LG's actions display a complete disregard and disrespect for the advice of SCERT Delhi, the expert body that has overseen all teacher training programmes in Delhi for several decades, it said.

The LG's actions further demonstrate what he has been repeatedly saying he is not bound by the Constitution and SC orders, said the Government.

## Capital records minimum temp at 16.3 deg Celsius



STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Delhi on Saturday recorded a minimum temperature of 16.3 degrees Celsius, three notches above the season's average, the India Meteorological Department said.

The maximum temperature is likely to settle around 32 degrees Celsius, it said.

It has also predicted partly cloudy skies during the day.

The relative humidity was recorded at 94 per cent around 8.30 am, the weather office said.

Delhi's Air Quality Index (AQI) was in the 'moderate' category with a reading of 120 around 9 am.

An AQI between zero and 50 is considered 'good', 51 and 100 'satisfactory', 101 and 200 'moderate', 201 and 300 'poor', 301 and 400 'very poor', and 401 and 500 'severe'.

## AAP workers seek Sisodia's release, stage protest

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Scores of Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) workers staged a protest in central Delhi on Saturday demanding the release of senior party leader Manish Sisodia, who was arrested by the CBI in connection with the excise policy case.

The protest erupted before Sisodia's appearance before the Rouse Avenue court, only a few metres from the party office on Deen Dayal Upadhyay Marg. They were stopped by the Delhi Police who put out barricades on their path.

After that the protesters continued their demonstration on the road and carried placards reading messages such as "Modi Jab Jab Darta Hai, Police ko Aage Karta Hai", "Manish Sisodia ko riha karo" (release Manish Sisodia) and "Manish Sisodia Tuihe Salaam".

AAP Chief Spokesperson and MLA Saurabh Bharadwaj also castigated the CBI for working directly at the instructions of the central government and not as a federal agency. Bharadwaj said that no fresh argument was presented by



the CBI today that would necessitate the extension of Sisodia's CBI remand.

He explained that the CBI is effectively saying that the only way Sisodia can cooperate with them is by accepting their unfounded allegations.

He stressed that this is clearly a case of abuse of laws, and the CBI's intention is evident. He also claimed that the CBI is aware that Sisodia will eventually be proven innocent since there is no evidence against him.

"But the Central Government would consider it a victory if they could keep Sisodia in jail for as long as possible through an unfair process," alleged Bharadwaj.

Taking part in the protest, AAP senior leader and Rajya Sabha MP Sanjay Singh said that the party's struggle against the Central Government will continue in the courts, streets, and the Parliament of India. He further said that the "dictatorship of the Narendra Modi government has reached its peak".

The AAP senior leader said the Modi Government's actions show that it wants to keep India uneducated. He highlighted how the two most capable Ministers in the country, who transformed the health and education sectors in Delhi, were currently under arrest because of Modi's Government.

## Mayor being remote-controlled by senior AAP leaders, alleges BJP

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

The BJP on Saturday alleged that Delhi Mayor Shelly Oberoi sits like a "dummy" in municipal meetings and, instead of exercising her own wisdom for civic governance, is being "remote-controlled" by senior AAP leaders for decision-making.

Senior BJP leader and former South Delhi Mayor Kamaljeet Sehrawat made the accusations during a Press conference at the saffron party's Delhi unit headquarters.

Oberoi either "remains mute" or reacts with a sense of delay, as if she has received "some instructions" from AAP leaders like Atishi, who is mostly "remotely feeding information" to her over mobile, Sehrawat alleged.

In meetings, it is expected that a mayor will exercise his or her own wisdom and work with all the councillors and other leaders for the city's collective good, she said.

"But, in the meetings with department heads and others that she attends, AAP leaders Atishi and Saurabh Bhardwaj



accompany her. And she sits there like a 'gungi gudiya' (dummy) and doesn't engage in discussions while these two AAP leaders make decisions," the BJP leader claimed.

Sehrawat said the AAP dispensation should "allow" the Municipal Corporation of Delhi (MCD) to run as per its autonomy and not try to "remote-control" civic governance.

She also alleged that the Arvind Kejriwal government in Delhi is trying to "hand over 1,400 kilometres of Public Works department roads to a private concessionaire" through a Cabinet note and that the AAP dispensation is also trying to "wreck" the national capital's sanitation system.

"And, if Mayor Shelly Oberoi sides with the AAP government on these issues and



allows herself to be remote-controlled by it, then the BJP, as a strong opposition, will protest vehemently," Sehrawat said.

Repairing broken pavements, central verges and manholes, resurfacing roads and sprinkling water on them daily — these are some initiatives that will be undertaken as part of the Delhi government's mega project to transform the city roads that will kick off from April 1.

The Chief Minister, in late January, had said that they would transform 1,400 kilometres of roads that come under the jurisdiction of Delhi's Public Works department. During Saturday's press conference, former East Delhi mayor Harsh Malhotra also levelled allegations against the AAP dispensation.

## 10-km e-bike tour covering heritage sites organised



STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

The Municipal Corporation of Delhi (MCD) on Saturday organised a 10-km guided e-bike tour covering heritage sites such as Sheesh Mahal, Gordon Highlanders Memorial and Roshnara Bagh and tomb. This was the second such tour organised by the civic body, with the first held in January.

The MCD has partnered with Yulu Bikes to offer guided e-tours to showcase the rich heritage of the city. "A heritage tour was organised by Keshavpuram Zone starting from Sheesh Mahal Park Entrance, Haiderpur. On the

occasion, Deputy Commissioner of Keshav Puram zone, Naveen Aggarwal and other senior municipal officials were also present," the MCD said in a statement.

"These types of events will help in exploring hidden gems of our city and the same will add to tourist attractions of the city," Aggarwal said informing that many such tours will be organised in future.

The tour started from Sheesh Mahal and covered a distance of 10 km exploring heritage places like Gordon Highlanders Memorial, Gateways of Badli ki Sarai, Gurudwara Nanak Piao, Tripolia gateway and Roshnara Bagh Baradari and Tomb.

# Murder accused in 2020 NE Delhi riots gets bail

## Sensitise IOs about duty to assist court in fair manner: Court to top cop

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

A city court has granted bail to a man accused of murder during the 2020 North East Delhi riots, saying in the name of opposing the bail plea the prosecution tried to mislead the court as eyewitnesses did not establish his culpability.

The court also asked the Commissioner of Police Sanjay Arora to sensitise all Investigating Officers (IOs) about their duty towards assisting the court in a fair manner. Additional Sessions Judge



Pulastya Pramachala was hearing the bail plea of Rishabh Chaudhary in a case of rioting and alleged murder of a man called Mushraff, whose body was found in a drain near Johripur Pulia in Gokulpuri on February 27, 2020. According to the postmortem report, there were 12 external injuries on the body and the cause of death was injuries to the brain produced by blunt force impact.

"...Cited eyewitnesses have been examined, but they did not establish the incident in question and the other two

remaining witnesses did not claim having seen any person in the mob...I find the applicant to be entitled to bail," the judge said in an order passed on Friday.

"Hence, the bail application is allowed and applicant Rishabh Chaudhary is admitted to bail on his furnishing personal bond and surety bond in the sum of Rs 30,000 each with one surety in the like amount," the judge added.

The judge said the statement of an eyewitness before the Investigating Officer (IO)

identifying the accused had no evidentiary value and that the same witness in his testimony before the court categorically stated he had not identified anyone in the riotous mob. But the IO's reply did not mention the witness' statement before the court, the judge said.

"It is well within the knowledge of the Special Public Prosecutor (SPP) and IO that statement under section 161 (examination of witnesses by police) of the code of criminal procedure (CrPC) cannot stand before the testimony given before the court and hence, the purpose of not mentioning the testimony of this witness given before the court appears to be nothing but to mislead this court..." the judge said.

The judge noted the submissions of the SPP that one of the prosecution witnesses had identified Chaudhary as a

member of the riotous mob and that the IO had mentioned him in the reply.

But in his testimony before the court, the other alleged eyewitness did not say anything about the incident which allegedly occurred on February 25 from around 7.30 pm to 8 pm, and which was being probed in the present case, the judge said.

"Thus, I find that in the name of opposing bail application through a reply the prosecution has attempted to mislead the court rather than assisting in a fair manner to project the correct picture of the developments taking place in the case," the judge said.

"Hence, once again I call upon the Commissioner of Police to do the needful for proper sensitisation of all the IOs in this respect," the judge added.

# Man booked for raping female dog in Inderpuri

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

The Delhi Police on Saturday booked a man for allegedly sexually abusing a female dog in central Delhi's Inderpuri. This is the second such incident reported in the national Capital in a week. The matter came to light after a neighbour of the accused, who recorded a video of the incident, lodged a police complaint.

On the basis of the complaint, an FIR was registered against the accused under Section 377 (unnatural offences) of the Indian Penal Code (IPC) and relevant provisions of the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act.

According to the complainant, when he returned home late on February 28, he



heard the dog's cries coming from the house of the accused.

The complainant saw the accused sexually abusing the dog while threatening it with a wiper, according to the FIR.

The incident was brought to the notice of a member of People for Animals, Surbhi Rawat, who posted about it on social media.

"It is shocking that two cases of a man raping female dogs have come to light within a week. If this is happening in the capital city, imagine the situation elsewhere... All the

atrocities dogs face these days, beating, poisoning, hanging, being crushed by cars and relocation, now we have bestiality too. Shame on us," Rawat said.

Earlier this week, a 40-year-old man was arrested for allegedly sexually abusing a dog in a park in west Delhi. A video of the purported incident is being circulated on social media. According to police, the incident took place four or five days ago.

A case under section 377 (unnatural offences) of the Indian Penal Code and provisions of the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act was registered and the accused, identified as Shankar, has been arrested, a senior police officer said.



# Oz, Japan PMs to visit India for summit with Modi

Albanese, Modi will discuss cooperation in areas of trade, renewable energy

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

India will host two high profile visits in the next few days with Australian and Japanese Prime Ministers holding summit with Prime Minister Narendra Modi here. Prime Minister Anthony Albanese will arrive on March 8 and Prime Minister Fumio Kishida is likely to visit for three days starting March 19.

Incidentally, the two leaders will visit India days after their respective Foreign Ministers Penny Wong and Yoshimasa Hayashi were here earlier this week for the G-20 Foreign Ministers' meet and the Quad Foreign Ministers' par-

leys hosted by External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar. The Quad comprises India, US, Japan and Australia.

China and Russia criticized the Quad and AUKUS (Australia, UK, US) groupings after the Quad meeting here on Friday.

Beijing termed the Quad as an "exclusionary bloc" aimed at containing China's rise while Moscow said the two groupings were used by the West to drive a wedge between Russia and other countries.

Giving details of Australian Prime Minister's schedule, ministry of external affairs (MEA) said here on Saturday, Albanese will be accompanied by Minister of Trade and Tourism Don Farrell, Minister for Resources and Northern Australia Madeleine King MP and senior officials besides a high-level business delegation for the visit from March 8-11.

This will be Prime Minister Albanese's first visit to India in his current role. He will arrive



in Ahmedabad on March 8 March on the day of Holi.

He will also visit Mumbai on March 9 before arriving in Delhi later in the day. Australian Prime Minister's Office also said he along with Modi will also witness the fourth cricket test match between Australia and India in Ahmedabad.

In Delhi, Prime Minister Albanese will be accorded a ceremonial welcome at the forecourt of Rashtrapati Bhawan on 10 March 2023. Prime Minister Modi and Prime Minister Albanese will

hold the Annual Summit to discuss areas of cooperation under the India-Australia Comprehensive Strategic Partnership, besides regional and global issues of mutual interest. Prime Minister Albanese will also call on the President Smt. Droupadi Murmu, MEA said.

India and Australia share warm and friendly relations based on common values and democratic principles. The Strategic Partnership between the two countries was elevated to a Comprehensive Strategic Partnership in June 2020 which

has been strengthened and deepened through frequent high-level exchanges and enhanced cooperation across sectors. Prime Minister Albanese's visit is expected to provide further momentum to the Comprehensive Strategic Partnership.

It will be the first visit by an Australian prime minister to India since 2017. "Our relationship with India is strong but it can be stronger," Albanese, who assumed the top post in May last year, said on Saturday. His office also said his visit to Ahmedabad, Mumbai and New Delhi will further deepen Australia's strategic, economic and people to people ties with India, a "close friend and partner" to Canberra.

"A stronger India-Australia partnership is good for the stability of our region. It also means more opportunities and more trade and investment, strengthening our economies and directly benefiting our people," Albanese said.

The Australian statement said Albanese and Modi will discuss cooperation in areas of trade and investment, renewable energy, technology and defence and security.

"As we look to the future, India will continue to be an important partner and close friend to Australia," Albanese said. "I look forward to hosting Prime Minister Modi in Australia mid-year for the Quad Leaders' Summit and to visiting India again in September for the G20 Leaders' Summit," he said.

As regards Japense Prime Minister's visit, reports from there indicated Kishida has been eager to confirm with Modi that Tokyo and New Delhi, as this year's G-7 and G-20 presidents, will work together more closely to tackle issues stemming from Russia's war in Ukraine. Kishida is also expected to invite Modi to participate in the G-7 summit there during the talks in New Delhi, it was learnt.

On the latest Quad meeting, China on late Friday said state-to-state cooperation should be consistent with the trend of peace and development, rather than putting up "exclusionary blocs."

Responding to the Quad statement issued in New Delhi, Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesperson Mao Ning said in Beijing, "We believe that state-to-state cooperation needs to be consistent with the trend of peace and development, rather than be about putting up exclusionary blocs."

"We hope certain countries can do more things that contribute to security and mutual trust between regional countries and that help to maintain regional peace and stability," Mao Ning said reaffirming Beijing's oft-repeated opposition to the Quad that it is an exclusive bloc aimed at containing China's rise.

Slamming the AUKUS and Quad, Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov in New

Delhi on Friday accused the US and the West of seeking to drive a wedge between Russia and other countries by using these mechanisms.

"This is unfortunately what is being tried by some other outside players in the context of so-called Indo-Pacific strategies, in the context of AUKUS, in the context of using Quad, not for economic purposes but trying to militarise Quad," he said.

"The idea promoted by our American friends of ASEAN plus Quad is openly aimed at ruining the East Asia Summit.

"In other words, it would be East Asia Summit minus China and Russia. These are the questions I believe you should address more openly and honestly," he said while participating in the Raisina Dialogue. Lavrov has made similar accusations about the Indo-Pacific policy and Quad in the past, only to have them dismissed by the Indian side.

# BJP raps Rahul for ‘maligning’ India abroad

DEEPAK K UPRETI ■ NEW DELHI

For the second successive day on Saturday, the BJP sharply attacked Congress leader Rahul Gandhi for "maligning" India in a foreign country in his speech in Cambridge University and "dissuading investors" from investing in India and questioned if he was working "as an agent on the payroll of an agency to bring down India".

Virtually lampooning the former Congress president, BJP spokesperson Sambit Patra here at a Press conference accused Rahul of praising China saying "in his lecture he talks of role of Chinese yellow river in building nationalism there but



can't see Ganga despite his recent Bharat jodo yatra".

Patra said the Congress leader, in his speech, had painted a picture of India being "a dangerous country".

"Just because you are not a bright kid and not a bright kid of your dynastic party doesn't mean India is not a bright spot," he said, hitting back at the Congress leader.

"While the whole world is using good words to describe

India, its main opposition leader is claiming on foreign soil that the country has been destroyed and democracy is no longer there while the judiciary and the media are in a bad shape" , Patra said.

He accused Rahul of dissuading investors from investing in India at a time when the world is seeing the country as a "bright spot" and foreign firms are leaving China to do business here.

"At abig university, he is telling people bad things about India. While even Pakistan no longer dares say these things about India on a global forum, Gandhi is presenting it as a place where democracy is no longer there and the judiciary has been compromised," he said.

Patra questioned if Gandhi was working as an agent on the payroll of an agency to bring down India.

At a lecture at Cambridge University in London, Rahul alleged that Indian democracy is under attack and several politicians, including himself, are under surveillance.

The former Congress president listed five key aspects of the alleged attack on Indian democracy -- capture and control of media and judiciary; surveillance and intimidation; coercion by federal law enforcement agencies; attacks on minorities, Dalits and tribals; and shutting down of dissent.

Patra said Rahul or other Congress leaders did not even submit their mobile phones

for inspection by a probe committee set by the Supreme Court to look into the charge of snooping through the Pegasus malware.

He said an RTI reply had revealed that thousands of phones were tapped and hundreds of emails read by government agencies when the UPA was in power and recalled that former president Pranab Mukherjee, then a Cabinet minister, had suspected that his office was bugged at the behest of another minister P Chidambaram.

Patra slammed Gandhi for his remarks at a time when India was hosting the G20, with world leaders recognising the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

# Ex-Australian PM meets Nadda under ‘Know BJP Programme’

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Former Australian Prime Minister Tony Abbott met and interacted with BJP national president JP Nadda on Saturday under the 'Know BJP' programme here at the party's headquarters.

The initiative to interact with foreign dignitaries and diplomats was launched last year in April on the Foundation Day of the party by the BJP president.

Abbott is an Australian politician from the Liberal Party of Australia. He was the Prime Minister



of Australia from 2013 to 2015. He also held the position of Leader of the Opposition from 2009-2013.

According to BJP's Foreign Affairs Department-in-charge , Vijay Chauthawala, this is in continuation of BJP "Know BJP" initiative to give an

authentic perspective of the BJP to overseas audience.

BJP is trying to expand and consolidate its bilateral relations with various countries and inform the world about its ideology functioning and political, social and economic policies and programme.

# Sibal’s new platform ‘Insaaf’ to fight ‘injustice’ in India

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

Former Union Minister and Lawyer Kapil Sibal on Saturday announced for a platform in which lawyers will be at the forefront to fight what he called was growing injustice in the country under the BJP Government, the damage being dealt to Constitutional values and the spread of the RSS ideology through the Sangh Shakhnas at the grassroots level.

Sibal, who parted ways his long association the Congress last year said the campaign being launched by him is called 'Insaaf Ke Sipahi', and it will



formally begin with an event at Jantar Mantar on March 11. A website by the same name is already live and open for registration.

"Go to any lane or district or locality in the country, citizens and institutions have to deal with the erosion of the Constitutional guarantees that they are entitled to and dealing with injustice. Insaaf Ke Sipahi

will fight against this injustice. It will have lawyers at the forefront...We have RSS Shakhnas in every locality and they spread their ideology which again is only adding to injustice," Sibal said at a press conference.

He insisted it will not be a political front, but he would expect political leaders, including chief ministers, to join him in the campaign.

The lawyer-turned-politician who served in the Congress led UPA governments said he will present his vision of India at the March 11 event, where he expects all those who support the initiative to be present.

# India has stood for principle of respect, dialogue: Navy chief

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

India has all along stood for principles of respect, dialogue, peace and prosperity, Navy chief Admiral R Hari Kumar said here on Saturday and stressed contemporary challenges in the maritime domain could be best addressed by "issue-based convergences" among like-minded countries. He also highlighted the advantages of "regional solutions to regional problems."

Making this point at the Raisina Dialogue, he cited India's experience and said working in smaller groups and regional frameworks is helpful in building trust, interoper-



ability and overall outcome.

He shared these views in the presence of Commander of the US Indo-Pacific Command Admiral John Aquilino, the UK's chief of Naval Staff Admiral Ben Key and Chief of Staff of Japan's defence ministry General Koji Yamazaki.

Kumar said India's policy

to deal with challenges in the maritime domain, the Navy chief said they are both "non-traditional and trans-national" and cannot be addressed by any individual nation.

"There is a need for cooperation.. That is something we in the maritime domain always look forward to — to find how to cooperate, how to work together," he said.

"While doing this, I would say today we are looking at issue-based convergences. We may not agree on certain things, but we will agree on many other issues. Therefore, we come together on those matters," he added. "We are looking at regional solutions to regional problems," he said.

Kumar also referred to the

US Navy back in 2015 talking about a thousand-ship Navy including all the friendly partner navies coming together.

The Navy chief also cited the advantages of regional groupings like the Indian Ocean Naval Symposium (IONS), which has 25 partner countries, the Colombo Security Conclave and the Goa Maritime Conclave.

"When we work in smaller groups, it serves a lot of purposes. For example, it generates a lot of trust among the partner countries; you work towards building capacity and it results in increasing interoperability, domain awareness and regular engagements. And all this finally leads to maritime security," he said.



Regional Office: ICICI Bank Limited, NBCC Place, Bisham Pitamah Marg, Pragati Vihar, New Delhi- 110003

Regd. Office: ICICI Bank Tower, Near Chakli Circle, Old Padra Road, Vadodara- 390 007

Corporate Office: ICICI Bank Towers, Bandra- Kurla Complex, Bandra (E), Mumbai- 400 051

**PUBLIC NOTICE - TENDER CUM AUCTION FOR SALE OF SECURED ASSET**

Sale of Immoveable Asset under the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 read with proviso to rule 8(6) and rule 9(1) of Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 ("Rules").

Whereas, The undersigned being the Authorized Officer of the ICICI Bank Limited ("ICICI Bank") under the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 ("Act") and in exercise of the powers conferred under Section 13 (12) read with Rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002, ("Rules") issued a statutory demand notice dated December 13, 2021 under Section 13(2) of the Act calling upon M/s Cellugen Biotech Private Limited, Mr. Firodosh Rohinton Mahuvavalla ("Borrower / Security Providers / Personal Guarantors") (hereinafter referred as "Noticee(s)") to repay the entire outstanding amount under the facility sanctioned to M/s Cellugen Biotech Private Limited as particularly mentioned in the notice being ₹ 2,10,39,140.39 (Rupees Two Crore Ten Lakh Thirty Nine Thousand One Hundred Forty and Paise Thirty Nine Only) as on November 29, 2021 together with further interest, default/penal interest and other charges thereon till the date of realization ("Outstanding Dues"), within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said notice. That, the Noticee(s) failed and neglected to comply with the said demand.

The Secured Asset (as detailed below) has been mortgaged by Mr. Firodosh Rohinton Mahuvavalla as Security for the facility granted by ICICI Bank to the Borrower and whereas, in exercise of powers conferred under section 13(4) of the SARFAESI Act read with the Rules, the Authorized Officer had taken physical possession of the Secured Asset on November 16, 2022.

Public at large is hereby informed that ICICI Bank is inviting offers for the sale of Secured Asset (as described in the Schedule below) under the provisions of SARFAESI Act and the Rules thereunder on "As is where is basis", "As is what is basis", "Whatever there is basis" and "Without any recourse basis" as per details given below.

SCHEDULE						
Sr. No.	Description of the Secured Asset	Reserve Price (In ₹)	Earnest Money Deposit ("EMD") (In ₹)	Bid Increment Value (In ₹)	Date of Property Inspection and time	Last date of submission of EMD
1.	Commercial property located at 405-B, 4th Floor in the scheme name "Benison Complex" located in the land bearing R.S. No. 83, 84, 85, 142 and 143 of Mouje Jetalpuri on which Haribhakti Colony is organized and out of the said revenue survey, R.S. No. 83A is bifurcated, which is in T.P Scheme No. 14, F.P. No. 7 bearing Tenure – C in the City Survey No. 1864, Vadodara, Gujarat – 390 007 admeasuring build up area of 1,240 Sq Ft. and carpet area of 1,177 Sq. Ft. in the name of Mr. Firodosh Rohinton Mahuvavalla.	1,00,00,000.00/-	10,00,000.00/-	1,00,000.00/-	April 03, 2023 (01:00 PM to 02:00 PM) with prior intimation	April 10, 2023 upto 4:00 PM

**TERMS & CONDITIONS**

(1) The online auction will be conducted through M/s e-Procurement Technologies Limited (Auction tiger) on the website of auction agency i.e. https://icicibank.auctiontiger.net and shall be subject to terms & condition contained in the tender document which is available on https://icicibank.auctiontiger.net.

(2) For any clarifications with regard to inspection, terms and conditions of the auction or submission of tenders, kindly contact Mr. Karan Kakkar, Authorized Officer of ICICI Bank Limited on + 91-70427-92970 or write at karan.kakkar@icicibank.com.

(3) The Noticee (s) are given last chance to repay the total outstanding dues aggregating to ₹ 2,33,66,211.40 (Rupees Two Crore Thirty Three Lakh Sixty Six Thousand Two Hundred Eleven and Paise Forty Only) outstanding as on December 31, 2022 along with further interest and other charges thereon at the contractual interest rates. The said dues are required to be paid by the Noticee(s) on or before April 11, 2023 failing which, the Secured Asset will be sold as per schedule, as mentioned above.

(4) The Noticee (s) in particular and the public in general are hereby cautioned and restrained not to deal with the Secured Asset, as detailed above, in any manner in terms of Section 13(13) of the said Act and any dealing with the Secured Asset will be subject to the charge of ICICI Bank for the amounts and further interests thereon.

(5) The Authorised Officer has absolute right and discretion to accept or reject any bid or postpone/cancel the e auction without assigning any reason.

(6) In case there is any discrepancy between the publication of sale notice in English & vernacular newspaper, then in such case the English newspaper will supersede the vernacular newspaper and it shall be considered as the final copy, thus removing the ambiguity.

**Statutory 30 days Sale notice under Rule 8(6) of the Rules**

The Noticee(s) once again are hereby notified to pay the sum as mentioned above along with up to date interest and ancillary expenses before the date of e-auction, failing which the Secured Asset will be auctioned/sold and balance dues, if any will be recovered with interest and cost. If auction fails due to any reasons whatsoever, Bank would be at liberty to sell the above secured asset through private treaty or any other means as provided under sub-rule (5) of rule 8 of the Rules or otherwise without any further notice to the Noticee(s) as per the provisions mandated under SARFAESI Act and the Rules.

Date: March 04, 2023

Place: New Delhi

SD/-

Authorized Officer

For ICICI Bank Limited

# IMA advises against use of antibiotics amid rising cases of cough, cold

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

If you have been experiencing recurring fever while coughing your lungs out for what seems like weeks, it's time for you to visit a doctor.

Scientists from the Indian Council of Medical Research who keep a close watch on ailments caused by respiratory viruses through the Virus Research and Diagnostic Laboratories network have said that it is due to influenza A subtype H3N2.

They said the H3N2, which has been in wide circulation for the past two-three months, causes more hospitalisations than other subtypes.

Meanwhile, the Indian Medical Association (IMA) has cautioned not to pop in antibiotics as a remedy in such cases.

They have also suggested a list of Do's and Don'ts for people to follow to protect themselves from contracting the virus.

The Indian Medical Association (IMA), on the other hand, has advised against indiscriminate use of antibiotics amid rising cases of cough, cold and nausea across the country.

Seasonal fever will last five to seven days, it said.

The fever goes away at the end of three days but the cough can persist for up to three weeks, the IMA's Standing Committee for Anti-Microbial Resistance said.

Viral cases have also surged due to air pollution, it said, adding that it mostly occurs in people aged below 15 and above 50 and causes upper respiratory infections along with fever.

The association also asked doctors to prescribe only symptomatic treatment and not antibiotics.

"Right now, people start taking antibiotics like Azithromycin and Amoxiclav etc, without caring for medication frequency and stop once they start feeling better. This needs to be stopped as it leads to antibiotic resistance. Whenever there will be a real use of antibiotics, they will not work due to the resistance," the IMA said in a statement.

# ‘Chennai, Kolkata at significant risk if sea level continues to rise’

ARCHANA JYOTI ■ NEW DELHI

Tamil Nadu's Capital, Chennai, and West Bengal's Capital Kolkata, two of the biggest metro cities in India, are at significant risk if sea level continues to rise the way it is now, according to a new international study based on simulations carried out by the National Center for Atmospheric Research (NCAR) in the United States.

The simulations run at the N C A R - W y o m i n g Supercomputing Centre considered the effects of natural sea-level fluctuations if society continued to emit high levels of greenhouse gases. This helped the scientists to determine the extent to which these natural fluctuations can amplify or reduce the impact of climate change on sea level rise along certain coastlines. They found that internal climate variability could increase sea level rise in some locations by 20-30 per

cent more than what would result from climate change alone, exponentially increasing extreme flooding events.

"Internal climate variability arises from complex and unpredictable interactions within and between climate-system components, rendering its impact irreducible," said the study published in the journal Nature Climate Change. It came close on the heels of the warning by United Nations Secretary-General Antonio Guterres that global sea levels have risen faster since 1900 and their relentless increase puts countries like Bangladesh, China, India and the Netherlands at risk and acutely endangers nearly 900 million people living in low-lying coastal areas.

The authors of the study said it is critical for society to be aware of the potential of extreme sea level rise in order to develop effective adaptation strategies.



# India rejects OIC’s comments on J&K

**PTI ■ GENEVA**

India has assailed the Organisation of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) for its “unwarranted references” to the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir and for allowing Pakistan to hijack and misuse its platform for carrying out Islamabad’s “nefarious agenda” against New Delhi.

Exercising its right of reply at the High-Level Segment of the 52nd session of the Human Rights Council, Seema Pujani, First Secretary, Permanent Mission of India in Geneva, outrightly rejected the reference to the statement made by the OIC representative.

“As regards the OIC statement, we reject the unwarranted references to the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir,” Pujani said in a statement on Friday.

“The fact is that the entire territories of the Union Territories of Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh have been, are and shall always be part of India. Pakistan is in illegal occupation of Indian territory,” she said.

Instead of calling upon its member Pakistan to give up state-sponsored terrorism and to lift its occupation of Indian territory, the OIC has “let Pakistan hijack and misuse its platform for carrying out its nefarious agenda of engaging in malicious propaganda against India,” Pujani said.

India has previously criticised the Jeddah-based OIC for its attempt to interfere and meddle in India’s internal affairs as completely unacceptable.

A spokesperson of the

# China hints at hiking defence budget

**PTI ■ BEIJING**

China on Saturday signalled at increasing its defence budget, the second biggest after the US, citing “complex security challenges” ahead of its annual Parliament session during which it will unveil a new ministerial and official leadership, including a successor to Premier Li Keqiang.

The annual season of China’s rubber-stamp Parliament began on Saturday with the opening meeting of the top advisory body the Chinese People’s Political Consultative Conference (CPPCC) while its national legislature, the National People’s Congress (NPC), will begin its session on Sunday.

Over 5,000 deputies and advisors will take part in the two sessions lasting for over a week during which China will formally unveil its new ministerial and top official leadership including a new Premier to succeed Li, who will be retiring.

Li is widely expected to be succeeded by President Xi Jinping’s loyalist Li Qiang.

Except for President Xi, 69, all top officials will be replaced as part of the practice of changing the leadership team every 10 years.

Xi and a new set of officials -- mostly stated to be his loyalists -- were elected to various key posts of the ruling Communist Party of China (CPC) at its once-in-a-five-year Congress here in October last year.

Xi, regarded as the most powerful leader holding the key posts of head of the party, the military and the Presidency, has been elected for an unprecedented third five-year term continuing in power beyond the 10-year tenure followed by his predecessors.

Ahead of the NPC session, its spokesman Wang Chao signalled an increase in its defence budget, which last year totalled USD 230 billion after a 7.1 per cent rise, the second largest after the US defence spending of USD 777.1 billion.

Wang, while not disclosing the amount, which he said will



Chinese President Xi Jinping, centre, and other delegates applaud during the opening session of the Chinese People’s Political Consultative Congress (CPPCC) at the Great Hall of the People in Beijing on Saturday

in Africa, saying that Beijing is not the largest creditor of Africa citing data from the World Bank.

On Friday, Guo Weimin, spokesperson of the CPPCC said the allegations of “debt traps” linked to China’s Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) are a groundless smear, and Beijing will not stop the initiative from going forward.

China’s investments like that of Sri Lanka’s Hambantota port which it acquired as part of a debt swap led to allegations of debt traps.

Guo said to avoid creating new debt risks for countries participating in the BRI initiative, China has taken into account their conditions when offering loans for their projects.

The BRI, which involves mainly infrastructure and production, has added to high-quality assets in participating countries, he said.

By mid-February, China had signed more than 200 BRI cooperation documents with 151 countries and 32 international organisations, Guo said.

# India criticises Pak for sheltering UNSC-designated terrorists

**PTI ■ GENEVA**

Pakistan has the “unique distinction” of hosting the most number of UNSC-designated terrorists and terror organisations, and its policies are directly responsible for thousands of civilian deaths in the world, India has said as it slammed Islamabad for its “malicious propaganda” against it.

Exercising its right of reply to Pakistan’s statement at the United Nations Human Rights Council (UNHRC) in Geneva on Friday, India said when it is not entirely focused on suppressing its own population, Pakistan actively lends its energies to aid, host and abet international terrorists.

“It has the unique distinction of hosting the most number of UNSC designated terrorists and terror organisations. Osama bin Laden lived next to Pakistan’s premier military academy. Its security agencies have nurtured and sheltered Hafiz Saeed and Masood Azhar for decades,” First Secretary of India’s Permanent Mission to UN Seema Pujani said.

“These are but a few dreaded names from the annals of Pakistan’s history of supporting terror-

# China is US’ toughest foe ever: Haley

**PTI ■ WASHINGTON**

China is the strongest and the most disciplined “enemy” that the US has ever faced, Republican presidential aspirant Nikki Haley has warned.

In an impressive speech addressing the Conservative Political Action Conference -- the top annual event of the Republican Party and its support base -- the Indian-American politician continued with her focus on America’s foreign policy, wherein she asserted that the US should not give aid to countries that hate it.

“Never in my life did I think Americans would look at the sky and see a Chinese spy balloon looking back at us. It was a national embarrassment,” she said on Friday referring to the recent spy balloon incident.

The balloon, which Beijing denies was a government spy vessel, spent a week flying over the United States and Canada before being shot down off the Atlantic Coast last month.

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.

“And before we even talk about the cartels, we need to confront the fact that China is the one sending the fentanyl across our border,” Haley said.

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.

The 51-year-old two-term Governor of South Carolina and the former US Ambassador to the United Nations formally launched her 2024 presidential bid last month. Since then she has gained the attention of the party and the national audience as well. During the party primaries, she would be fighting against her former boss and former president Donald Trump. She is the only woman in the 2024 presidential race so far.

“I cannot believe what Joe Biden is letting China get away with. Chinese companies now own more than 380,000 acres of American soil, some of it right next to our military bases. What are we doing? We should never let an enemy buy land in our country. And we need to tell every university -- you can either take Chinese money or American money, but you will no longer get both,” Haley said, articulating her policy on China.

China thinks the American era has passed and so do all the enemies of the US, said the former South Carolina governor. “But they are wrong. America is not past our prime. It is just that our politicians are past theirs,” she said.

Haley’s speech was welcomed by the audience, who have gathered in the national capital from across the country for the three-day conference, which among others is being addressed by Trump and Vivek Ramaswamy, the other Indian American to have entered the presidential race.

# Zelenskyy: Bring Russia to court for war crimes

**AP ■ LVIV**

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy met with US Attorney General Merrick Garland and top European legal officials on Friday, and called for Russia to face international prosecution for war crimes. Zelenskyy announced the meetings in the western Ukrainian city of Lviv, hundreds of kilometres from the war’s front lines, during his evening video address to the nation. “We are doing everything to ensure that the International Criminal Court is successful in punishing Russian war criminals,” Zelenskyy said.

“The main issue of all these meetings and the Lviv conference is accountability,” he added. “The accountability of Russia and its leadership is personal, for aggression and terror against our state and people.”

Zelenskyy said over 70,000 Russian war crimes have been recorded so far.

“But, unfortunately, we do not know about all crimes at the moment,” he added. “A large part of our territory still remains occupied and we cannot currently reliably predict how many Russian crimes we would discover after the occupiers are expelled.”

Along with Garland, other participants at the conference included UK Attorney General Victoria Prentis, Spanish Attorney General Alvaro Garcia Ortiz and European Commissioner for Justice Didier Reynders.

Meanwhile at the United Nations, deputy spokesman Farhan Haq said UN humani-

## Ukraine plant builds bunkers for war front

**Kryvyi Rih (AP):** The pops of welding torches and the piecing whine of angle grinders fill the spacious production floor at a steel plant in Kryvyi Rih, the city in central Ukraine that is President Volodymyr Zelenskyy’s hometown.

Instead of doing their usual jobs producing and repairing mining equipment, some workers are busy building metal bunkers for front-line troops. Ukrainian mining and metals company Metinvest launched the project, and the plant workers say they are happy contributing to the resistance to Russia’s invasion.

For now, that means assembling prefabricated materials into underground shelters using a Soviet-era design.

# Imran Khan’s party leaders released

**PTI ■ LAHORE**

Most of the leaders and workers of Imran Khan’s Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf party who were arrested for its mass court arrest movement against the federal government’s failure were released on Saturday on court’s order in Pakistan’s Punjab province.

More than 600 PTI leaders and workers were arrested last month for the party’s ‘Jail Bharo Tehreek’ (court arrest movement) which was against the “violation of fundamental rights, abuse of the Constitution and the econom-

ic meltdown in the country”.

Prominent leaders who were released from the jail included PTI vice chairman and former foreign minister Shah Mahmood Qureshi, former finance minister Asad Umar, ex-governor of Punjab Umar Sarfraz Cheema, Senators Azam Swati and Waleed Iqbal and Khan’s close aide Zulfi Bokhar.

The Lahore High Court on the PTI petition on Friday ordered the immediate release of the party’s leaders with the observation that they are not required in any criminal case.

## GLOBE TROTTER

**INDIAN AMERICANS RAISE OVER USD 300K FOR TURKIYE, SYRIA**

**WASHINGTON:** Indian Americans from across the US have raised more than USD 300,000 for earthquake victims in Türkiye and Syria. A fundraiser organised by several eminent Indian Americans led by Dr Hemant Patel, the former president of the American Association of Physicians of Indian Origin (AAPI), the community raised more than USD 230,000. The fund raised over the weekend in New Jersey was attended by Turkish Ambassador to the US Murat Mercan, along with Turkish Consul General in New York Reyhan Özgür, wherein they profusely thanked the Indian American community for the generous support for the earthquake-hit people of their country.

**PHILIPPINE GOVERNOR KILLED BY GUNMEN**

**MANILA:** Gunmen in military uniforms shot and killed a provincial governor and wounded civilians while the politician was meeting poor villagers at his home in the central Philippines, in the latest brazen assault on local politicians in the country, police officials said. At least six men armed with assault rifles alighted from a convoy and opened fire on Negros Oriental Governor Roel Degamo, hitting him and a still-unspecified number of villagers at his home in Pamplona town. The province has a history of violent political rivalries. The gunmen fled and later abandoned three SUVs, police said.

**CHARLES TO BE CROWNED KING WITH CHRISM OIL FROM JERUSALEM**

**LONDON:** The holy oil to be used to crown Charles as King of the United Kingdom during his coronation ceremony on May 6 has been consecrated at a ceremony in the Church of the Holy Sepulchre in Jerusalem, Buckingham Palace said on Saturday. The Chrism oil will be symbolically touched to the 74-year-old monarch’s head, chest and hands as part of the religious ceremony at Westminster Abbey in London during his coronation as King Charles III. His wife, Camilla, will also be anointed Queen Consort with the same holy oil.

## 2 dead as storm roll eastward

**AP ■ CALIFORNIA**

A large storm system spouting heavy winds and possible tornadoes in Texas, Louisiana and Kentucky damaged homes and buildings, downed trees, left thousands without power and was blamed for the deaths of two people on Friday as it marched eastward, threatening heavy snow in the Midwest and Northeast.

After spawning likely tornadoes overnight in Texas and Louisiana that damaged a university campus, the storms threatened the Tennessee and Ohio valleys with high winds and more tornadoes as they moved toward New England, officials said.

A 70-year-old man sitting in his truck as strong winds blew through Talledega County, Alabama, was killed Friday when a tree fell onto the vehicle. Coroner Shaddix Murphy said it happened about 11.30 am as a storm system came through the area.

“The death appears to be weather-related, with the winds we were having at the time,” Murphy said. The victim was identified as Allen Cooley of Talledega.

In west central Mississippi, a person was killed inside a vehicle Friday after a tree, toppled by strong winds, struck the car. The Mississippi Emergency Management Agency has not identified the person but said in a news release that their death is being considered as weather-related.

## IAEA chief talks with Iranians on enrichment



International Atomic Energy Organization, IAEA, Director General Rafael Mariano Grossi, left, and Iranian Foreign Minister Hossein Amirabbodollahian pose for the media before their round of talks, in Tehran on Saturday

**AP ■ DUBAI**

The head of the UN nuclear watchdog was meeting with officials in Iran on Saturday, days after it was revealed that the country had enriched particles of uranium to near weapons-grade, raising new alarm over its long-disputed nuclear programme.

Rafael Mariano Grossi, the head of the International Atomic Energy Agency, declined to comment on his discussions during a press conference with the head of Iran’s nuclear programme, saying the delegation’s work was still ongoing.

“It’s an atmosphere of work, of honesty and cooperation,” Grossi said. He was expected to speak with reporters again upon his return to Vienna later on Saturday.

Earlier this week, the Vienna-based International Atomic Energy Agency reported that uranium particles enriched up to 83.7 per cent —

just short of weapons-grade — were found in Iran’s underground Fordo nuclear site.

The confidential quarterly report by the IAEA, which was distributed to member states on Tuesday, came as tensions were already high amid months of anti-government protests in Iran and Western anger at its export of attack drones to Russian forces fighting in Ukraine.

The IAEA report says that inspectors in January found that two cascades of IR-6 centrifuges at Iran’s Fordo facility had been configured in a way “substantially different” to what had been previously declared. The IAEA took samples the following day, which showed particles with up to 83.7 per cent purity, the report said.

The IAEA report only spoke about “particles”, suggesting that Iran isn’t building a stockpile of uranium enriched above 60 per cent — the level it has been enriching at for some time.

# Biden, Scholz huddle on Ukraine war

**AP ■ WASHINGTON**

US President Joe Biden and German Chancellor Olaf Scholz met privately in the Oval Office for more than an hour on Friday after declaring themselves in “lockstep” on maintaining pressure on Russia over its invasion of Ukraine.

Even their top advisers were left out of the conversation. When the meeting ended, Biden and Scholz walked across the hall to the Roosevelt Room, where the American and German officials had been mingling. Biden joked that the two leaders had solved all the world’s problems by themselves, according to a senior administration official, who requested anonymity to describe the closed-door discussions.

If any agreements were reached or plans made, the White House was not saying. The official readout of the meeting provided little additional detail, except to say the two leaders discussed the war and “exchanged perspectives on other global issues”. The conversation came at a delicate moment in the conflict. Ukraine and Russia are preparing for spring offensives, meaning a steady flow of Western weapons will be important for Kyiv’s success on the battlefield.

However, there are fresh concerns that public support for ongoing military assistance may be waning. In addition, US officials have warned that China could step off the sidelines and begin providing ammu-

States in taking a hard line with Beijing. However, there are signs that may be shifting as global rivalries grow more tense.

In a speech to the German parliament on Thursday, Scholz called on China to “use your influence in Moscow to press for the withdrawal of Russian troops, and do not supply weapons to the aggressor Russia”.

During brief public remarks on Friday, Scholz said Western allies would support Ukraine for “as long as it takes”.

“This is a very, very important year because of the dangerous threat to peace that comes from Russia invading Ukraine,” he said. Biden thanked Germany for providing “critical military support”.

“And I would argue, beyond the military support, the moral support you have given Ukrainians has been profound,” he said.

Biden said, “Together, we worked lockstep to supply critical security assistance to Ukraine,” and Scholz also described the US-German effort as “lock-step”.

The White House announced USD 400 million more in US assistance as their meeting began. The US and Germany have worked closely together to supply Ukraine with military and humanitarian assistance. But there has also been friction over issues such as providing tanks and Washington has occasionally grown frustrated with Berlin’s hesitance.

## Biden’s lesion was cancerous

**Washington (AP):** A skin lesion removed from US President Joe Biden’s chest last month was a basal cell carcinoma -- a common form of skin cancer -- his doctor said on Friday, adding that no further treatment was required.

Dr Kevin O’Connor, the White House doctor who has served as Biden’s longtime physician, said “all cancerous tissue was successfully removed” during the president’s routine physical on February 16. Biden, 80, was deemed by O’Connor to be “healthy, vigorous” and “fit” to handle his White House responsibilities during that physical exam, which comes as he is weeks away from launching an expected bid for reelection in 2024. O’Connor said the site of the removal on Biden’s chest has “healed nicely” and the president will continue regular skin screenings as part of his routine health plan.

nition to Moscow, a decision that would change the trajectory of the war by allowing Russia to replenish its depleted stockpiles.

China is Germany’s top trading partner, and European nations have generally been more cautious than the United



# India's goods, services exports may cross \$750 bn this fiscal, says Goyal

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

India's goods and services exports are expected to cross \$750 billion this fiscal despite the global economic uncertainties, Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal said on Saturday.

In 2021-22, the country's goods and services exports touched an all-time high of \$422 billion and \$254 billion respectively, taking the total shipments to \$676 billion.

"Last year we crossed a record \$650 billion of goods and services (exports). This year, we are aiming for an even bigger record...We have crossed last year's figure already...We will hopefully cross \$750 billion (this year)," he said while speaking at the Raisina Dialogue here.

Due to the global demand slowdown, India's exports contracted for the second consecutive month in January, dipping by 6.6 per cent to \$32.91 billion.

During April-January this fiscal, goods shipments rose by 8.5 per cent to \$369.25 billion, while services exports were estimated at \$272 billion in the period.

The minister said that sectors which would help in promoting exports include manufactured goods, agri products, labour intensive items, and high quality products.

He expressed confidence that by 2030, India's goods and services exports would



touch \$2 trillion.

Replying to a question about widening trade deficit with China, he said the government is taking steps to boost domestic manufacturing of quality goods which would help in containing imports.

He added that until 2000-01, Indo-China total trade was about \$1 billion and even till 2004, the trade was "probably" in the range of \$4 billion and the trade deficit was about \$1 billion.

"After 2004, almost an outreach was done to engage more with China, to attract Chinese goods into the country in a big way. I do not want to politicise this subject...Between 2004 and 2014, we saw trade grow very rapidly and the trade deficit went up by nearly 35 times," Goyal said.

He said that the previous governments

should be held accountable for the jump in the trade deficit with China.

"But the nation has held them accountable for more than one occasion already and will probably continue to do that," he said, adding the earlier regime in India actually decimated Indian manufacturing capability and it never allowed Indian manufacturing to flourish.

However, now the government is creating that ecosystem to boost domestic manufacturing, he said.

"We are working on bringing quality consciousness to the country," the minister said.

During April-December 2022-23, India's exports to China stood at \$11 billion, while imports were aggregated at \$75.9 billion. The trade deficit stood at \$64.9 billion.

On the semiconductor industry, he said a big announcement has already been made to set up a semiconductor facility in Gujarat and many other semiconductor companies around the world are in dialogue with the ministry of electronics and information technology.

On free trade agreements, he said that negotiations are going on "very well" with countries including the UK, and Canada.

"We are on the right path and these agreements have to be equitable and win-win for both," Goyal said.

# Govt not in 'crazy rush' to sell everything: FM

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The Government is not in a "crazy rush" to sell everything and it will continue to have a presence in four strategic sectors, including telecom, Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman said on Saturday.

In strategic sectors, a bare minimum presence of the existing public sector commercial enterprises at the holding company level will be retained under government control. The remaining enterprises in a strategic sector will be considered for privatisation or merger with another PSE or for closure.

Speaking at the Raisina Dialogue, the minister said that the country will have government-owned professionally run companies in four broad strategic sectors.

According to the PSE Policy, the four broad strategic sectors are - atomic energy,



space and defence; transport and telecommunication; Power, Petroleum, Coal and other minerals; and Banking, Insurance and Financial Services.

The policy, she added, "is not a crazy rushing out to sell everything..Nor it is saying that the government will run the business of producing pins to crops to everything. So where the government doesn't have to be, it won't. But where because of strategic interests you have to be, it will be there like telecom for instance."

"There will be a telecom company which will be government owned and it will be run professionally."

# Windfall tax on diesel slashed to ₹0.50 per litre, nil on ATF

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The Government slashed windfall profit tax on export of diesel to its lowest of ₹0.50 per litre and nil on jet fuel (ATF) while the levy on domestically produced crude oil was marginally increased, according to an official order.

The levy on crude oil produced by companies such as Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC) has hiked to ₹4,400 per tonne from ₹4,350 per tonne, the order dated March 3 said.

Crude oil pumped out of the ground and from below the seabed is refined and converted into fuels like petrol, diesel and aviation turbine fuel (ATF). The Government has also cut the tax on export of diesel to ₹0.5 per litre from ₹2.5, and the same on overseas shipments of ATF was cut to nil from ₹1.50 a litre.



The new tax rates come into effect from March 4, the order said.

This is the second reduction in rates in a fortnight. Rates were cut on February 16.

The export levy on diesel and ATF is the lowest since the tax was introduced in July last year. The tax rates are reviewed every fortnight based on average oil prices in the previous two weeks.

India first imposed windfall profit taxes on July 1, joining a growing number of nations that tax super normal profits of energy companies. At that time, export duties of ₹6 per litre (\$12 per barrel) each were levied on petrol and ATF

and ₹13 a litre (USD 26 a barrel) on diesel.

A ₹23,250 per tonne (\$40 per barrel) windfall profit tax on domestic crude production was also levied.

The export tax on petrol was scrapped in the very first review.

Reliance Industries Ltd, which operates the world's largest single-location oil refinery complex at Jamnagar in Gujarat, and Rosneft-backed Nayara Energy are primary exporters of fuel in the country. The government levies tax on windfall profits made by oil producers on any price they get above a threshold of \$75 per barrel.

The levy on fuel exports is based on cracks or margins that refiners earn on overseas shipments. These margins are primarily a difference between the international oil price realised and the cost.

# Bajaj Electricals bags ₹565 crore contract from South Bihar Power Distribution Co



PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Bajaj Electricals on Saturday said its EPC division has bagged a contract worth ₹564.87 crore from South Bihar Power Distribution Company Ltd (SBPDCL).

The contract is for supply of goods and services by SBPDCL, a domestic entity, under the Revamped Distribution Sector Scheme (RDSS), the company said in a regulatory filing. The work includes the supply of plant and installation services for the development of distribution infrastructure of electric supply circle Sasaram and Munger of Bihar, it added.

The projects, whose aggregate value is ₹564.87 crore "shall be completed within 30 months from the date of issue of contracts," it added. Bajaj Electricals is a part of the country's leading business house Bajaj Group. It had a turnover of ₹4,813 crore in FY22.

# 'Industry scenario: It will take time to change perception about Bengal'

PTI ■ KOLKATA

The legacy and perception about the industry in West Bengal, which the state has been shouldering for more than four decades, will take time to change, Chief Secretary H K Dwivedi said on Saturday. Though the state had witnessed a significant flight of capital and industry in the past, some green shoots are visible now and they will carry good news for the investors, Dwivedi said at a CII event here. The official said the increased social expenditure of the government is almost 45 per cent of the state budget.

The debt-to-GDP ratio of West Bengal had declined from 45 per cent in 2011 to 32 per cent in 2022. West Bengal Commerce and Industry Minister Shashi Panja said that despite the pandemic, the State's revenue collections increased ₹48,000 crore in FY2022.

**PUBLIC NOTICE**

This is to inform general public that Mrs. Sushma Kapoor has acquired the Entire Ground Floor without roof rights 'said floor', built on Property bearing No. 15, area measuring 62.80 sq. mtrs., in Block-U(P), situated in the layout plan of Pitampura Residential Scheme, presently known as "Pitampura", Delhi-110088 vide Relinquishment Deed dated 06.01.2023, Doc no. 308, Now, Mrs. Sushma Kapoor is intending to sell above said property to Mr. Manshi Lalwani and Mrs. Rakesh Lalwani and further Mr. Manshi Lalwani and Mrs. Rakesh Lalwani are mortgaging the above said property with RBL Bank Ltd. & in case anyone has any objection, the same may be raised within 07 days of this publication to Mr. Muneesh Dhawan/Mr. Suchir Jain (Advocates), Law Vistas North, Unit no 907, 9th Floor, G-0-TL Tower, (B-08), Netaji Subhash Place, Delhi-110034 or contact at 9066707172/9618228636 (V).

**PUBLIC NOTICE**

Notice is hereby given to the General Public on behalf of our Client i.e. ICICI Bank Ltd. that Mr. Dharam Pal Singh is owner / muttee of Property bearing No. 90, (area measuring 162 sq. mtrs.), in Block-B, Sector-41, Noida, Distt. Gautam Budh Nagar, (U.P.) "the said property" by virtue of Mutation letter dated 01.11.2022, issued by Noida Authority, after demise of his father Late Mr. Jai Singh, who was owner of the said property by virtue of Lease deed dated 28.02.1994, Registration No. 604, All persons including other legal heirs if any are hereby informed that above mentioned owner want to sell the said property to someone who is taking loan for purchase the said property from ICICI Bank Ltd. If anybody has any objection upon the ownership of Mr. Dharam Pal Singh in respect of the said property its sale / Mortgage/Litigation, and any kind of objection kindly inform the undersigned in writing on the below mentioned address within 10 days of the present.

**Kumar & Associates (Advocates & Consultants)**  
200, 1st Floor, 23, Shivaji Marg, Meo Nagar, N. Delhi-15  
Ph.: 911-4112327-28 kumar.associates.advocates@gmail.com

**CHANGE OF NAME**

I, Naveen S/o. Prakash, declare that I have changed my name to Naveen Mehra. Hence, from now on and in future, I shall be known by my new name.

**Old Name:**  
Naveen

**New Name:**  
Naveen Mehra

**Address :** D2/3, Mahendra Enclave, Shastri Nagar, Ghaziabad, Uttar Pradesh-201002

**DOON UNIVERSITY DEHRADUN**  
A State Government University  
UGC 2 (f) & 12 (B) approved, NAAC accredited

**Recruitment Notification- 124/125/126**  
Dated 21 Feb 2023 and 131 dated 22 Feb 2023

**Recruitment for Teaching and non-Teaching Posts**

ON-LINE Applications in the prescribed format are invited from eligible candidates for the posts of Professor, Associate Professor, Assistant Professor and non-teaching positions in various Academic Subjects/Departments. Details of posts with necessary information and terms & conditions are available on the university website [www.doonuniversity.ac.in](http://www.doonuniversity.ac.in). Registrar

**NOTICE INVITING TENDER**

No. SSA-33067/9/2022-POI-SSA I/130391/2023

Mission Director, Samagra Shiksha Axiom , Kahilipara, Guwahati-19, Assam invites following bids through GeM portal.

1. GEM/2023/B/3150041 Dated: 18-02-2023 for Happiness Index at Secondary Schools.

Interested bidder may visit GeM portal and submit their bid on GeM portal accordingly.

 Sd/-Mission Director  
Samagra Shiksha, Assam  
Kahilipara, Guwahati-19

Janasanyog/CF/4713/22

**OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER, CONSTRUCTION DIVISION, UTTARAKHAND PEYJAL NIGAM, CHAMPAWAT**  
Phone/Fax : 05965 - 230044 E-Mail: [executivechampawat@gmail.com](mailto:executivechampawat@gmail.com)

**Bid Notification No : 411 / Nivida / 221 Date: 04.03.2023**

**E-TENDER NOTICE (Two Bid System)**

**Name of the works: Bhaisark (Retro) Solar Pumping W/S Scheme (JJM).**  
**Bhadiyans Solar Pumping W/S Scheme (JJM).**  
**Taliyabanj Solar (Retro) Pumping W/S Scheme (JJM).**  
**Basan Pumping W/S Scheme (JJM).**  
**Dumdai Tubewell Pumping (Retro) W/S Scheme (JJM).**  
**Malla Bapru Tubewell Pumping (Retro) W/S Scheme (JJM).**  
**Chamrauli (Retro) Lift Solar Pumping W/S Scheme (JJM).**  
**Chami Pumping W/S Scheme (JJM).**

**Date of Publication on e-procurement portal Date. 06.03.2023 at 17.00hrs.**

**Note : Further details can be seen from the e-procurement portal - [www.uktenders.gov.in](http://www.uktenders.gov.in) & contact 05965-230044.**

**Executive Engineer**

# FSSAI asks States, UTs to deploy mobile testing vans to check milk quality during Holi

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Food regulator FSSAI has asked states and Union Territories to deploy mobile testing vans to check quality of milk and milk products considering higher demand during upcoming Holi festival.

The Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) said in a statement that it has "directed states/UTs to deploy Food Safety on Wheels (FSW) mobile food testing vans, to check adulteration of milk and milk products considering the ensuing festive season of Holi."

The authority has requested the Commissioner of Food Safety of all states/UTs to carry out testing of at least 10 samples of milk and milk products per FSW on a daily basis to tighten vigilance against milk adulteration.

FSSAI has also urged consumers to get their milk and milk products tested through the FSWs deployed closest to



them.

The test can be carried out free of cost.

FSSAI said the whole exercise is targeted towards ensuring availability of safe and pure milk and milk products to the consumers of the country.

Currently, 168 FSWs are available with states/UTs for carrying out on-the-spot food testing for various food products, including milk and milk products.

Tests for fats, solid-not-fat, protein, adulterants like added water, urea, sucrose, maltodextrine, and ammonium sulphate can be done through the Milk-o-Screen system installed at FSWs.

# 51% millennials for 25% of income to be spent on fully managed housing rental accommodation: Survey

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Over 50 per cent of millennials are willing to spend more than 25 per cent of their income on fully managed rental accommodations for a hassle-free life, according to a survey.

Co-living operator Housr has conducted a survey of more than 600 millennials that provides insight into the diverse lifestyle of millennials and their ideal housing preferences, it said in a statement. As per findings of the survey, nearly 49 per cent of the respondents are willing to spend less than 25 per cent of their income on managed rental accommodations.

Nearly 41 per cent are willing to spend 25-30 per cent while 10 per cent respondents are ready to pay more than 30 per cent as well.

For over 60 per cent of the respondents, luxury, in terms of accommodations, means a fully managed space that includes all necessary amenities.



Deepak Anand, Co-Founder & CEO, Housr said, "We are seeing a shift in the way millennials approach housing. They are prioritizing experiences over ownership and are willing to invest in luxury accommodation that offers convenience, style, and security."

The survey revealed that 39.48 per cent of millennials go on vacation twice a year, and 25 per cent go once a year.

The survey also highlighted that 44.86 per cent of millennials choose to stay in 3-4 star properties, 26.26 per cent prefer to stay in high-end 5-star properties.

## BUSINESS BRIEF

### SPORTS, CULTURAL FEST 'VITOPIA-23' HELD AT VIT-AP

**Vijayawada/Amaravati/Guntur :** Vitopia 2023 an annual sports & cultural festival began in the VIT-AP University campus Amaravati, A.P today with Vasudakam, the state wise ethnic rally of all the states students. Students from Andhra Pradesh, Telangana, Bihar, Gujarat, Maharashtra, Rajasthan, Chhattisgarh, Tamilnadu, Kerala, Karnataka, Uttar Pradesh, West Bengal, North-eastern states have presented their regional dances in their ethnic wear. Vitopia is the 4th edition of this extravaganza of culture and sports. The day one of 2-day program had various cultural events including singing concert, tribal dances, stand-up comedy shows and theme fashion show.



### NT ORGANISES NATIONAL EXHIBITION ON DIVYANG

**New Delhi:** The National Trust organized a National Exhibition on 'Talent and Scope of Persons with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities' in Delhi on March 3, 2023 at Dr. Ambedkar International Centre. The Exhibition was inaugurated by the Chairperson, National Trust and Secretary, DEPWD. Apart from cultural performance by Divyangjan showing unity and diversity there was also presentation of products prepared by these Divyangjan in different stalls. The products were exhibited by the Registered Organisations of the National Trust from States i.e. Assam, Tripura, Maharashtra, Delhi, Gujarat, Haryana, Madhya Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Tamil Nadu, Kerala, Uttar Pradesh, Odisha and West Bengal. Mesmerizing performances by the kids from 9 States — Assam, Tripura, Maharashtra, Delhi, Gujarat, Haryana, Uttarakhand, Tamil Nadu and Kerala — got lauded by the audience. The National Trust for the Welfare of Persons with Autism, Cerebral Palsy, Mental Retardation and Multiple Disabilities is a statutory body constituted by an Act of Parliament, 1999.



### GEMPL LAUNCHES SPORTY E-SCOOTER AMPERE ZEAL EX

**Ranchi:** Greaves Electric Mobility Private Limited (GEMPL), the e-mobility business of Greaves Cotton Limited, has introduced the new Ampere Zeal EX, an entry-level, sporty e-scooter designed to create a comfortable and smooth city riding experience for the youth. The new Zeal EX will be debuted at an attractive introductory price point of ₹69,900 (effective price) in Madhya Pradesh, Bihar, Uttar Pradesh, and Jharkhand. Furthermore, buyers can avail of benefits of up to ₹6000. The benefits are valid till 31st March 2023. The new Zeal EX is a sporty electric scooter. Its youthful style with sporty decals, and dual tone colour makes it an aspirational product for the young generation. The Zeal EX, which has a certified high range of 120 km, will be equipped with CAN-enabled Lithium-ion Battery, a large battery pack, multiple ride modes, side stand sensor, and more. It will be available in three iconic colours inspired by India - Stone Grey, Ivory White, and Indigo Blue.



# Dish TV EGM: Shareholders shoot down resolutions for appointment of 4 ind directors

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Shareholders of the Direct-to-Home operator Dish TV have rejected special resolutions seeking approval for the appointment of four new independent directors.

Four special resolutions in the Extraordinary General Meeting (EGM) held virtually on March 3 failed to get the requisite majority of votes from the shareholders of the company, according to an exchange filing.

"The Resolutions Nos 1 to 4 have failed to receive a requisite number of votes in favour by the shareholders under remote e-voting and e-voting at EGM," said the report of the scrutinizer of the meeting, a copy of which was updated on the bourses.

The four independent directors, whose names were put up for approval are Sunil Kumar Gupta, Madan Mohanlal Verma, Gaurav Gupta and Lalit Behari Singhal.

Later in a separate filing, Dish TV informed its four independent directors have resigned after the outcome of the voting in the EGM.

"In this regard, basis the votes cast by the shareholders at the EGM, Sunil Kumar Gupta, Madan Mohanlal Verma, Gaurav Gupta and Lalit Behari Singhal, vacate the office of Independent Director of the Company, effective from today," said Dish TV in a late-night regulatory filing.



It further said consequent to the above vacation in the office of Directors, the Board strength of the company has been reduced to two directors.

"The Board shall take necessary steps for complying with the requirement of the Companies Act, 2013 and SEBI Listing Regulations in respect of the number of Directors on the Board," it added.

Over 74 per cent of the votes polled opposed all four special resolutions.

The Companies Act mandates, that a special resolution needs to be passed by a super-majority, which refers to at least 75 per cent of the members voting in favour of it.

Dish TV's largest shareholder Yes Bank Ltd (YBL) and the promoter family led by its former chairman Jawahar Lal Goel are engaged in a legal battle over board representation in the company.

The company's board announced their appointments in December last year, which was the first major appointment after the departure of its former chairman Jawahar Lal Goel.

# Like-minded nations should work together to shape future of technology: MoS IT

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Minister of State for IT Rajeev Chandrasekhar on Saturday said there is a fundamental reset underway in semiconductor, electronics and innovation world order post-Covid, and like-minded nations need to work together on a cooperative framework to shape the future of technology.

To safeguard citizens from online user harm, India has defined the boundary conditions of openness, safety and trust as well as accountability for platforms and companies to



operate on the Indian Internet, the minister said and hoped that with global cooperation these principles will find a wider play among other nations.

Chandrasekhar was speaking at a panel discussion on 'Democracy's Eleven:

Protecting our Technology Future' at the Raisina Dialogue 2023.

To a question on internet shutdown in India, the minister said that the internet shutdowns as percentage of the total number of online users in India as also the diversity or enormity of content ecosystem, is among the smallest in the world.

Moreover, any internet shutdown or content take-down is lawfully prescribed and lawfully ordered by the government in exceptional circumstances under the law, the minister explained.

PTI ■ CHENNAI

Tyre manufacturer CEAT, the flagship company of RPG Enterprises, has inaugurated its state-of-the-art fully automated warehouse in the city.

The warehouse, which has a capacity of two lakh finished tyres, can be expanded two-three times over the next five years, CEAT said in a statement on Saturday.

The new warehouse uses state-of-the-art technology to automatically store, retrieve and dispatch tyres to the right truck. It eliminates any mix-up



of tyres, resulting in increased customer satisfaction.

"..The fully automated warehouse is a significant step towards providing superior quality products and services to our customers. Our aim is to deliver products in a manner that exceeds customer expectations and enhances customer delight. This new warehouse will help us achieve that," CEAT chief operating officer Arnab

Banerjee said.

The inauguration of CEAT's first fully-automated warehouse marks a new milestone in the company's journey towards growth and development.

The Chennai plant has a capacity of 20,000 passenger car radials per day.

It is in close proximity to major original equipment manufacturers (OEMs) such as automobile makers Hyundai Motor, Renault-Nissan, German truck maker Daimler, heavy commercial vehicle maker Ashok Leyland among others.



# Man City see off Newcastle

AP ■ MANCHESTER

Manchester City rode their luck to close the gap on Arsenal at the top of the Premier League to two points with a 2-0 win over Newcastle on Saturday.

Phil Foden and Bernardo Silva scored the goals for the defending champions, who were let off the hook at the Etihad by a series of glaring misses from the visitors.

Sean Longstaff, Callum Wilson and Joelinton were all guilty of not even forcing Ederson into a save as Newcastle suffered another blow to their hopes of a top-four finish.

City have shown flickers of their best form in recent weeks but relied on two moments of inspiration to claim a vital three points from a disjointed performance.

Foden struggled for form and fitness following the World Cup, but the England international has looked more like his old self over the past week.

The 22-year-old ghosted past four Newcastle challenges to score his fourth goal in three games thanks to the aid of a deflection off Sven Botman to beat Nick Pope on 15 minutes.

A first full season under Saudi ownership that promised so much is beginning to fade for Newcastle.

Eddie Howe's men missed out on the club's first major trophy for 54 years in losing the League Cup final to Manchester United last weekend.

A run of one win in eight league games since December 26 has also seen them fall four points behind Tottenham in the race for a place in next season's Champions League.



The Magpies were made to pay for a familiar lack of potency up front.

Longstaff should have struck back almost immediately, but the midfielder delayed a second too long to allow Nathan Ake to produce a brilliant last-ditch block.

Wilson's barren run explains Newcastle's return of just one goal in their last eight league games and he then failed to connect with Kieran Trippier's cross.

At the other end Erling Haaland also failed to score for the sixth time in eight games.

The Norwegian's best chance to extend his lead in the fight for the Premier League's Golden Boot came just before the break when he headed wide from Kevin De Bruyne's cross.

A triple change by Howe early in the second half nearly had the desired effect as Newcastle pinned City inside their own half.

One of the substitutes Joe Willock broke down the right and his low cross was just begging for the finishing touch by Joelinton, who instead missed his kick.

Moments later, another of the changes, Alexander Isak had a penalty appeal turned down as he was wiped out by Ederson after Ruben Dias blocked the Swede's first effort.

Pep Guardiola introduced Silva for De Bruyne in a bid to stem Newcastle's flow through

the City midfield.

The Portuguese had an immediate impact with the goal that settled City's nerves.

Haaland laid the ball into Silva's path on the edge of the box and with virtually his first touch he fired low past Pope.

The second goal took the wind out of Newcastle's sails as City were able to see out the final quarter comfortably and could even have added to their lead when Pope saved low to

his right from Foden.

# Barca hardest club in world to manage: Xavi

AP ■ BARCELONA

La Liga leaders Barcelona are the hardest club in the world to manage due to their critics always being ready to snipe at them even after big wins, coach Xavi Hernandez said on Saturday.

Barcelona beat Real Madrid 1-0 in the Copa del Rey semi-final first leg on Thursday at the Santiago Bernabeu, but were criticised for only having 34 per cent possession.

Xavi said the demands on his team to play good football as well as winning games and lifting trophies meant his job was trickier than any other in the game.

"You beat Real Madrid 1-0 and it seems that it's not convincing enough, whereas if it was the reverse there would be a national party," Xavi told reporters.

"So it is the hardest club in the world. Now you believe me? I said it last year and got bashed for it.

"At Barcelona you have to win and convince, to have 70 per cent of possession and create 16 chances while the opponent makes three.

"That is the objective, and that is our objective, but you have to understand that there is an opponent who is the reigning La Liga and European champions, and we're competing with them."

Xavi said it was "absurd" to criticise Barcelona for not keeping the ball when they faced a Madrid side pressing them high up the pitch.

"We did not want to set up in our box, Madrid pushed us there, that wasn't our objective



for the game," said Xavi.

On Sunday Barcelona face Valencia in La Liga, where they have the chance to move 10 points clear before Real Madrid face Real Betis.

Last weekend Barcelona missed a chance to extend their advantage as they lost 1-0 at Almeria.

Valencia, 18th, recently appointed Ruben Baraja as coach and they beat Real

Sociedad 1-0 last weekend to bolster their bid to escape relegation.

"They defend well with Baraja, they are more aggressive, generous in their defensive work, very fast," said Xavi.

"We come from the Almeria defeat, we have to change the mindset from the cup. We want three points but the opponent arrives in need too, they have a lot on the line."

## Real Sociedad risk losing third

AP ■ SAN SEBASTIAN

Real Sociedad fired blanks in a 0-0 draw with Cadiz on Friday,

unable to consolidate third place in La Liga, leaving the door open for Atletico Madrid to overtake them.

The Basques had the better of the game but their

stubborn opponents, 14th and three points above the relegation zone, held out for a valuable point.

Real Sociedad, who have held third place since November, could fall behind Diego Simeone's Atletico, fourth, if the Rojiblancos beat Sevilla on Saturday.



# Lazio hand Napoli rare defeat

AP ■ NAPLES

Matias Vecino's brilliant long-range strike earned Lazio a 1-0 win at Napoli on Friday as the runaway Serie A leaders lost for only the second time in the league this season.

The Uruguay midfielder drilled in the winner on 67 minutes, unleashing a thumping half-volley from 25 yards to send Lazio up to second but still 17 points behind Napoli.

Vecino had gone close to scoring at the start when he glanced Luis Alberto's free-kick towards goal only for Napoli captain Giovanni Di Lorenzo to head over from under his own crossbar.

Andre-Frank Zambo Anguissa saw his drive from distance deflected just over for Napoli, who had won eight in a row and 19 of their last 20 in

Serie A -- a run that began with a 2-1 victory away to Lazio in September.

Victor Osimhen, the league's top scorer with 19 goals, headed powerfully against the bar from a Khvicha Kvaratskhelia cross and Ivan Provvedel produced a terrific stop to keep out the rebound from Kim Min-jae.

Sergej Milinkovic-Savic grazed the crossbar with a free-kick late on for Lazio, who climbed above both Milan clubs courtesy of a third successive victory.

It is only the fourth time in 25 Serie A this season that Napoli have failed to win.

They remain overwhelming favourites for the title -- their first since 1990 -- but still have to play Atalanta, AC Milan, Juventus and Inter Milan.

# Reus, Can send Dortmund 3 points clear

AP ■ DORTMUND

First-half goals from Marco Reus and Emre Can sent Borussia Dortmund three points clear at the top of the Bundesliga on Friday with a 2-1 home win over title rivals RB Leipzig.

Dortmund captain Reus won and converted a penalty after 21 minutes and Can doubled the lead with five first-half minutes remaining with a long-distance shot from outside the box.

The win was Dortmund's 10th from 10 matches in 2023 and switched the pressure back to previous leaders Bayern Munich, who travel to Stuttgart on Saturday.

After the match, Reus told DAZN "we had to hold on at the end" but said "our goal was to

steal the lead on top of the table back and we did it".

A "very satisfied" Dortmund coach Edin Terzic said his side "played a really good game in the first half and in the second half defended passionately".

"The second half was of course frustrating but you can see that it's not really easy to score goals against us," he said.

"Today the two most important teams in the Bundesliga played each other."

Leipzig boss Marco Rose said the result "was difficult to accept" and credited Dortmund's "efficiency".

"We've got to do more to perform at this level consistently, but I think we also showed what we are capable of," he added.

Both sides were hit by late



withdrawals in the lead-up to the game, with Leipzig striker Timo Werner forced to the bench through injury and Dortmund goalkeeper Gregor Kobel injured in the warm-up.

Julian Brandt had the ball in the net for Dortmund after 15 minutes when he controlled a superb lofted pass from Jude

Bellingham and put the ball past RB keeper Janis Blaswich.

However, a VAR review showed the Germany midfielder handled the ball before unleashing his shot.

Reus was fouled in the box just five minutes later and won the spot-kick despite not going to ground.

# Govt could sell Stade de France

AP ■ PARIS

The Stade de France could be put for sale after the Olympics, with Paris Saint-Germain and FIFA already linked to the money-losing stadium, sources close to the French Minister of Sports said on Friday.

The sources said the state will next week call for applications to either buy or manage the stadium from the summer of 2025.

The Stade de France was completed in 1995 for the 1998 football World Cup. It will host its second Rugby World Cup final later this year and will be the main stadium for the 2024 Olympics.

The stadium was the site of chaotic scenes at last year's Champions League final between Liverpool and Real



Madrid which "almost led to disaster", an independent report released in February said.

The report said European football's governing body UEFA was primarily at fault. An earlier French Senate enquiry blamed poorly-executed security arrangements.

The stadium is owned by

the French state but has always been operated by a consortium made up of the two giants of the French construction industry Vinci, with a two-thirds share, and Bouygues, with the rest, who built the stadium.

The contract ends in July 2025.

# US Open, USTA back Djokovic's bid to enter US

AP ■ LOS ANGELES

Novak Djokovic's bid to gain entry to the United States for ATP events at Indian Wells and Miami received support from the US Tennis Association and US Open organisers on Friday. The Serbian star is currently barred from entering the United States because he is unvaccinated against Covid-19, but has petitioned US authorities for special permission to enter.

The US Open Twitter feed featured a post on Friday saying American tennis authorities hoped he would be allowed to enter.

"Novak Djokovic is one the greatest champions our sport has ever seen," the post said. "The USTA and US Open are hopeful that Novak is successful in his



petition to enter the country, and that the fans will be able to see him back in action at Indian Wells and Miami."

The Indian Wells ATP 1000 event begins next Wednesday in the California desert and is followed by the prestigious tournament in Miami.

The United States still doesn't allow unvaccinated international travellers to enter the country, with the Transportation Security Administration recently indicating the policy would not change until at least mid-April.

# Wimbledon to scrap Russia player ban

AP ■ LONDON

British tennis chiefs are set to abandon their controversial ban on Russian and Belarusian players ahead of this year's Wimbledon championships, it was reported on Friday.

Following Russia's invasion of Ukraine last year, the UK's governing Lawn Tennis Association (LTA) came under pressure from the British government to impose a ban.

Russian and Belarusian players were eventually barred from all five ATP tournaments staged by the LTA, including the longstanding Queen's Club event in London.



Tennis Club (AELTC), which runs Wimbledon, imposed a similar suspension.

But Britain's Daily Telegraph reported Friday: "All expectations suggest that the AELTC

will lower the ban on Russians and Belarusians".

However, it added players from those countries may need to sign a declaration promising they will not "promote or glorify"

Russia president Vladimir Putin's war in any way during the tournament.

Jon Wertheim, of the US-based Sports Illustrated magazine, tweeted: "Hearing that @Wimbledon and the LTA will NOT repeat last year's decision to prohibit the Russians/Belarusians from competing."

An AELTC spokeswoman told AFP: "We are continuing to work very closely with the UK Government and key stakeholders in tennis on this matter."

The ATP, which runs the men's professional tour, responded to last year's ban by hitting British tennis with a \$1 million fine, split between a

AP ■ PARIS

Africa's National Olympic Committees have followed their Asian counterparts in giving the green light on Saturday for Russian and Belarusian athletes to compete at the 2024 Paris Olympics.

Russia and its ally Belarus have been sidelined from most Olympic sports since Russian forces invaded Ukraine last February.

However, in January the International Olympic Committee (IOC) said it was seeking a "pathway" for Russians to take part in the Games.

Following that announcement, the Olympic Council of Asia (OCA) offered athletes from both countries the chance to compete in this year's Asian Games.

# Africa follows Asia in giving Russians green light for Paris Olympics



That was a significant move because they could gain qualifying marks in competition in Asia to allow them to compete in Paris.

Africa has now followed

suit. The motion -- to allow Russians and Belarusians to compete under a neutral flag --

was passed unanimously by the executive committee of the Association of National Olympic Committees of Africa (ANOCA) at their meeting in Nouakchott, Mauritania.

"The members came out unanimously in favor of the participation of Russian and Belarusian athletes in all international competitions," the ANOCA said in a statement.

It said ANOCA president, the Algerian Mustapha Berraf, had reiterated that the body "aligns itself with the position of the International Olympic Committee and its President Dr. Thomas Bach".





नरेन्द्र मोदी  
प्रधानमंत्री

# सशक्त नारी

सशक्त परिवार, सशक्त समाज,  
सशक्त प्रदेश, सशक्त देश



शिवराज सिंह चौहान  
मुख्यमंत्री



शिवराज सिंह चौहान

मुख्यमंत्री, मध्यप्रदेश  
द्वारा

शुभारंभ  
5 मार्च, 2023

अपराह्न 1.00 बजे | जम्बूरी मैदान, भोपाल

- प्रत्येक पात्र बहन को प्रति माह रुपये 1000/-
- योजना अंतर्गत आवेदन हेतु आवश्यक जानकारी का पत्रक कैम्प, ग्राम पंचायत, वार्ड कार्यालय, आंगनवाड़ी केन्द्र से दिनांक 23 मार्च, 2023 से निःशुल्क मिलेगा जिसे पात्र बहनों को भरना होगा।
- कैम्प की तिथियां स्थानीय निकाय, ग्राम पंचायत द्वारा सभी को पृथक से अवगत करायी जायेंगी।
- आवेदक बहन को स्वयं उपस्थित होकर लाइव फोटो खिंचवानी होगी।
- आवेदक बहन का व्यक्तिगत बैंक खाता होना तथा उक्त बैंक खाते का आधार लिंक एवं डी.बी.टी. इनेबलड होना आवश्यक है।
- आवेदक बहनें कैम्प में आने के पूर्व समग्र पोर्टल में अपना आधार ई-के.वाय.सी. पूर्ण करा लें।

अधिक जानकारी के लिये जिला कार्यक्रम अधिकारी, महिला एवं बाल विकास, स्थानीय निकाय/ग्राम पंचायत से संपर्क करें  
या वेबसाइट [cmladlibahna.mp.gov.in](http://cmladlibahna.mp.gov.in) पर विजिट करें।

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महिला एवं बाल विकास विभाग, मध्यप्रदेश



"I don't want other people to decide who I am. I want to decide that for myself"  
— Emma Watson



# INTELLIGENT TUTOR?

ChatGPT could be an effective and affordable tutor, writes Anne Trumbore of the University of Virginia

Imagine a private tutor that never gets tired, has access to massive amounts of data and is free for everyone. In 1966, Stanford philosophy professor Patrick Suppes did just that when he made this prediction: One day, computer technology would evolve so that 'millions of schoolchildren' would have access to a personal tutor. He said the conditions would be just like the young prince Alexander the Great being tutored by Aristotle.

Now, ChatGPT, a new artificial intelligence-powered chatbot with advanced conversational abilities, may have the capability to become such a tutor. ChatGPT has collected huge amounts of data on a wide range of topics and can pass graduate school exams. As a researcher who studies how computers can be used to help people learn, I think ChatGPT can be used to help students excel academically. However, in its current form, ChatGPT shows an inability to stay focused on one particular task, let alone tutoring.

Philosophy, engineering and artificial intelligence scholars envisioned using the computer as an "intelligent tutor" well before the internet became a global commercial network in the 1990s. I believe lessons from developing those early tutoring systems can offer insight into how students and educators can best make use of ChatGPT as a tutor in the future.

**COMPUTERS AS TUTORS**

Suppes – the Stanford philosophy professor – was a pioneer of a field called "computer-assisted instruction". He developed some of the earliest educational software. That software provided individual instruction via computer and led students to have better test results than those who didn't use the program. I worked for Suppes in developing software and other online programs from 2004 to 2012.

Since then, experiments in building "intelligent tutors" to help students have driven advances in

artificial intelligence, social networks and computer hardware. And today, the abilities of ChatGPT to write essays, answer philosophical questions and solve computer coding problems may finally achieve Suppes' goal of truly personalised tutoring via computer.

**EARLY VERSIONS OF PERSONALISED LEARNING**

In 1972, a new personalised learning system called PLATO, for Programmed Logic for Automated Teaching Operations, made its debut. It was the first widely available personalised learning system of its kind.

Created by Don Bitzer, a professor of electrical engineering at the University of Illinois, PLATO allowed up to 1,000 students to be logged onto a mainframe computer simultaneously. Each student could complete different online courses in foreign languages, music, math and many other subjects while receiving feedback from the computer on their work.

PLATO enabled students to reach the same level of achievement as in-person classes in less time. And most students preferred this mode of instruction over sitting in a large lecture class. Yet, the system was too expensive to be used by many colleges and universities. Each computer terminal was marketed at over US\$8,000 – about \$58,000 today – and schools were charged additional fees every time a student used the system. Still, PLATO's success with students inspired a number of companies to create software that provided a similar kind of tutoring, including the College Curriculum Corporation, which was co-founded by Suppes.

Popular personal computer brands, such as Apple and Commodore, advertised the availability of educational software as a reason for families to invest in a home computer.

By 1985, researchers at Carnegie Mellon University were designing

software using advances in artificial intelligence and cognitive psychology. They claimed that the current technology had advanced to a level that enabled computer systems to be designed to serve as effective as human tutors. However, even though there were over 10,000 pieces of educational software available at the time, much of it was of fairly low quality and did not provide real tutoring.

Although the more advanced designs of the educational software developed at Carnegie Mellon enabled students to learn significantly more than students in traditional classrooms, they were not widely used in schools.

In the 1980s and 1990s, a school would need a sizable number of expensive, high-powered computer workstations for students to use an intelligent tutor. Today, the computers are much more powerful and much less expensive.

And early intelligent tutors were used primarily in math, science and technology courses, which limited their appeal. Students could not ask the software programs a question. However, students could get feedback on answers to quizzes and tests.

In 2001, the next generation of intelligent tutoring systems was able to have conversations with students in written English. These systems, early chatbots, used advances in natural language processing to have dialogues with students about a range of subjects. Each system was designed specifically for one subject, such as physics. Adding another subject, like English, would require its own specialised tutoring system.

The next few years brought three developments, which enabled a forward leap in achieving the dream of computerised tutoring. One was the availability of broadband internet, which was faster than the dial-up connections of the 1990s. The second was the lower cost of more powerful computers. The third was investment by technology companies and government funding for university



"I AM A GOOD TUTOR FOR A STUDENT BECAUSE I AM ABLE TO UNDERSTAND AND RESPOND TO A WIDE RANGE OF QUESTIONS AND PROMPTS, AND I CAN PROVIDE DETAILED AND ACCURATE INFORMATION ON A WIDE RANGE OF SUBJECTS..."

research in artificial intelligence, which led to the development of what we now call chatbots.

**THE FIRST CHATBOTS**

By 2007, early AI chatbots provided tutoring by talking students through their answers to questions. Research showed these chatbots supported learning outcomes similar to the effects of human tutors.. Even so, using chatbot technology to provide tutoring was primarily experimental.

During the 2010s, social networks and advances in artificial intelligence dramatically changed the way people interact with technology. Chatbots are integrated into many parts of our lives and are no longer experimental. People now talk to their phones, to their cars and their home appliances. Many people have virtual assistants at home. They can ask Alexa, Siri or Google for directions or the answers to simple homework questions.

Today, ChatGPT has advanced abilities that enable more complex conversations and can provide individualised tutoring much like what Suppes predicted in 1966.

I asked ChatGPT why it would be a good tutor, and it responded: "I am a good tutor for a student because I am able to understand and respond to

a wide range of questions and prompts, and I can provide detailed and accurate information on a wide range of subjects. Additionally, I am able to communicate this information in a clear and easy-to-understand manner, making it accessible for students of all levels of understanding. Because I am a machine-learning model, I can also provide a large amount of information quickly and efficiently, which can be especially helpful for students who are trying to learn a lot of new material in a short amount of time."

By contrast, Siri said, "Hmm ... I don't have an answer for that. Is there something else I can help you with?"

Recent research in using chatbots in college courses shows that how chatbots are used is important in encouraging students to learn more deeply. For instance, AI chatbots enabled significant improvements in learning in a graduate course on cloud computing at Carnegie Mellon. These learning gains occurred when these chatbots asked students to build on an existing argument or to provide more information about a claim they had made. In this case, the chatbot asked the student a question, rather than vice versa.

Many educators are worried about students learning less with ChatGPT since it can be used to cheat on assignments and papers. Others are worried about ChatGPT giving wrong answers or spreading misinformation.

Yet the history and research of intelligent tutors show that using the right design to harness the power of chatbots like ChatGPT can make deeper, individualised learning available to almost anyone. For example, if people use ChatGPT to ask students questions that prompt them to revise or explain their work, students will have better learning gains. Since ChatGPT has access to far more knowledge than Aristotle ever did, it has great potential for providing tutoring to students to help them learn more than they would otherwise.

(courtesy: The Conversation)



# THIS HOLI, GO HEALTHY

Holi is almost here, therefore it's necessary to take precautions to preserve your skin and body as we get into the festive mood and indulge in overeating those lip-smacking sweets and foods. But be careful that experimenting with colour and foods do not do any serious harm to your skin and hair as well as your gut health, caution doctors. The HEALTH PIONEER wishes you all a SAFE HOLI



Twenty-year-old DU student Srishti Nagpal had to take medication for a full week to recover from the skin sensitivities she developed after Holi last year. Her friends had used grease and other chemical colors, which caused eczema. In addition to having blisters and severe flaking, her skin started to swell and become quite itchy.



Her doctor, Cosmetic Dermatologist **Dr. Akriti Gupta** from Jivisha Clinic, Yamuna Vihar, New Delhi points out that, "industry chemicals like engine oil, diesel, acids, mica, glass powder, and alkalis are highly used in making of colors these days. Not only do these chemicals damage the skin very badly, but they also cause serious injuries like eczema, redness, blisters, extreme redness, and flaking of the skin. It is advisable to take precautions in order to reduce any potential harm these could do to the skin and hair."

**Dr. Karuna Malhotra**, Cosmetologist and Aesthetic Physician from Cosmetic Skin Clinic, Rajouri Garden, New Delhi, adds, "certain colors are extremely poisonous and may even be cancerous. Individuals who handle colored objects or engage in Holi frequently get

#### TIPS FOR YOUR HAIR AND SKIN PROTECTION

- Apply lots of good SPF before going outside. On the day of Holi, make sure to only use products with a lot of vitamin E and SPF. They will act as a shield from UV rays.
- Before you begin playing, thoroughly grease your hair. Olive oil and coconut oil are both good choices for protecting your hair from damaging dyes.
- Put some oil behind your ears, on your ear lobes, and under your nails as these are areas where color can readily settle.
- Avoid sitting in the hot sun after playing Holi if you used chemical colors, especially if they are still on your face or body. As a result, the colors are more vibrant and challenging to remove. Sit in the shade even if you are outdoors
- Use more red or pink colors, which can easily be taken off. Gaudy ones like purple, green, yellow and orange have more harmful chemicals in them and should be avoided.
- Don't forget to wear waterproof sunscreen before you step out for a day in the sun at least SPF 30 or more.
- Wear clothes that cover most of your body. Avoid heavy fabrics like denim that don't dry easily.
- Cover your head with a thick scarf or bandana.
- Don't wear lenses when you go out to play. While Holi colors cause irritability, lenses have a tendency to absorb the color, thereby making things worse. Wear glasses and keep wiping them clean from time to time.



severe skin reactions, asthmatic flare-ups, and conjunctivitis." Furthermore, Rhodamine B for pink, Red is obtained from mercury sulphite, Purple is obtained from chromium iodide, and many people asked for darker colors that stay on the skin for a long time, but the industrial chemicals present in these colors can cause serious diseases like skin cancer, explains Dr. Malhotra. "Not only that, but the toxic colors combined with the UV rays from the sun can cause a pho-

totoxic reaction to the skin that further leads to blisters.

It's usually a good idea to hydrate your skin well with oil or moisturizer before starting to play because it works best for the skin and minimizes chemical accumulation, advises Dr. Gupta. Also, consume a lot of water all day long. Water will keep you energized, prevent illnesses, and prevent heat exhaustion, she suggests.

In addition to colors, bhang is another custom connected to Holi. The two elements that bring the event to a close are rang and bhang. Nonetheless, bhang overdose might result in major health issues.

"Bhang is a drug that induces drowsiness and sleepiness. Bhang consumption can cause elevated blood pressure, an accelerated heart rate, as well as effects on the developing baby's neurological system and

#### TIPS FOR REMOVAL OF COLORS POST HOLI CELEBRATIONS

- After a wash, deep condition your hair. Ensure that your hair is tidy. After two to three days, use a hair mask to repair the damage.
- It's important to clean the skin and hair after using color. Instead of intensively rubbing the skin with soap to remove gulal, use a cleanser. Use a lot of moisturizer afterward, especially those designed for sensitive skin.
- Refrain from using your fingernails to remove paint since they may leave unsightly stains. To remove the colors, gently scrub the body and face with a granular cleanser.
- Avoid bleaching, shaving, waxing, facial clean-ups, and other procedures the following week. Give your body's skin some time to recover from the damage.
- Kerosene, gasoline, and spirits should not be used to remove stains since they will dry out your skin.
- Use a mixture of sea salt, glycerin, and a few drops of aroma oil to rejuvenate your skin. This mixture has an antibacterial and antifungal effect and can remove chemical colors, glasses and keep wiping them clean from time to time.

brain" says **Dr. Shobha Gupta**, Medical Director, Gynecologist and IVF Specialist from Mother's Lap IVF Centre, New Delhi.



For a pregnant lady, it's essential not to participate in any Holi festivities; instead, stay inside or, accompany some elders or trusted friends. "Also, we are aware that today's holi colours are composed of chemicals. Certain hues are potentially cancer-causing. Thus, breastfeeding mothers should use the same caution as pregnant women. Premature birth, births with low birth weight, miscarriages, and abortions may occur if these colors are used by a pregnant person in

an area where lead is present. The nervous and reproductive systems may also be impacted."

**Dr. Manish Jhangra**, Delhi-based Senior Dermatologist too warned that chemical colors can also lead to a range of health issues, particularly ear,



nose, and throat (ENT) diseases, besides various respiratory problems like asthma when inhaled. Hence, one should opt for organic or home made natural colours with natural extracts. These are environmentally friendly and won't cause harm to the hair, skin or eyes, he says, adding that the colours can be easily using simple kitchen ingredients.

## Dealing with Acidity

The festival of colours also means indulgence in fried and sweet foods (including mithai like gujiya) and drinks. But overindulging in food, which is especially tempting at this time, can be heavy on your digestive system. Acidity can cause us a lot of discomfort if not addressed. Also known as acid reflux, this occurs when excess acid is produced in the stomach and backs up into your "food pipe", known as the oesophagus.

Indigestion, nausea and constipation are also other common symptoms of acid reflux.

Thankfully, there are simple tips that can be implemented to alleviate symptoms. With home remedies, antacid solutions and lifestyle and diet measures, quick and long-lasting relief is possible, tell the doctors.



**Dr. Shri Ram Agrawal**, Senior Consultant Gastroenterologist and Specialist in Liver says (With pix), "As many as 30% of Indians frequently experience symptoms of heartburn, bloating and nausea. These are typically signs of acid reflux or Gastroesophageal reflux disease, known as GERD, which can cause significant discomfort. Thankfully, several solutions offer immediate or long-lasting relief, including lifestyle and dietary changes and medication like antacids."

Here are some tips that can be followed to manage the acidity:

1. Using home remedies for quick relief : There are several natural home remedies for acid reflux symptoms – many of which are likely to be in your kitchen. These include:

- Tulsi (basil leaves) – Wash and chew the leaves, or boil a cup of water and brew the leaves, having it as a hot, soothing tea.
- Saunf (fennel seeds) – Soak some fennel seeds in water for a few hours and have after meals, or chew the seeds directly.
- Gur (jaggery) – Soak some jaggery in cold water and drink, or simply eat a small piece after meals.
- Almonds – Have a hand-



ful of unsoaked almonds throughout the day, along with bananas.

2. Seeking long-lasting relief. These include:

■ For more long-lasting relief from acidity, you can also take antacids that are available over-the-counter. These quickly help ease acidity symptoms by neutralizing stomach acid, whether you're at home, at work or on-the-go. Today, these are readily available in various easy-to-consume formats, from chewable tablets to liquid-based gel syrups in tasty flavours, like orange, mint, and mixed fruit.



**Dr. Jejee Karankumar**, Medical Affairs Director, Abbott India (with pix) was of the opinion that due to unhealthy eating and lifestyle habits, an increasing number of people in India is experiencing stomach acidity. "This condition acidity can be improved by having a balanced diet. In addition, instantly cooling antacids can also be an option for fast and effective relief."

Reducing discomfort

linked to stomach acidity can help people carry on with the rest of their day and continuing the things they enjoy as part of a healthier, fuller life."

He further said that, while it is important to know how to manage stomach acidity, understanding how you can prevent this – especially in case it is occurring more frequently – is also crucial.

There are a few lifestyle and dietary tips you can follow year-round to keep this condition in check.

Avoid foods especially prone to causing acid reflux including fried delicacies and fat-heavy sweets and spicy foods (various types of chaat, sabji or vegetables with garam masala). This includes your Holi-special delicacies, from phirni and dahivada.

- Understand your triggers to help you keep symptoms at bay.
- Watch out the time at which you eat – which can be delayed when you get carried away with the festivities. Keep a gap of at least an hour between your bedtime and your last meal.
- Avoid wearing tight clothing post meals.
- Stay well hydrated and maintain a consistent sleep pattern and daily exercise.

In case your symptoms persist or you're frequently experiencing acidity attacks, consult your doctor.

## HEALTH BRIEFS



#### JAN AUSHADHI TRAIN FLAGGED OFF BY MANDAVIYA AND VAISHNAW

Mansukh Mandaviya, Union Health Minister and Ashwini Vaishnav, Union Railways Minister last week flagged off a Jan Aushadhi Train (Chhattisgarh Samparkranti Express) here. Wrapped with branding of Jan Aushadhi scheme to spread awareness about Jan Aushadhi Generic medicines, the train is set to cover more than 4 States for 2 months. Also, the similar train from Pune to Danapur has been flagged off

covering 4 States for 2 months for generating awareness amongst the general public about Jan Aushadhi scheme.

Mandaviya said that more than 9000 Jan Aushadhi kendras are working to ensure that people would get quality medicines at affordable prices and these Kendras are gaining popularity amongst public while Vaishnav informed that Railways Ministry has decided to open Jan Aushadhi kendras at some big railway stations. This will prove beneficial for the commuters as they can buy med-

icines from these kendras at stations and they don't need to go anywhere. The Minister also informed that "Jan Aushadhi Kendra can be opened by any private individual. 20% commission is provided to him so that he can not only get a medium of employment, but also of service. These Kendras are also providing sanitary pads to women at the price of just Re 1 per pad."

#### WORLD BIRTH DEFECTS DAY: WHO CALLS FOR STRENGTHENING OF HEALTH SYSTEMS

An estimated 8 million newborns suffer from birth defects annually worldwide. Nine out of every 10 children born with a serious birth defect are in low- and middle-income countries, WHO regional director for South-East Asia Poonam Khetrpal Singh said as the countries observed World Birth Defects Day on March 3. In the South-East Asia Region, birth defects are the third-most common cause of child mortality and the fourth-most common cause of neonatal mortality, accounting for 12

per cent of all neonatal deaths, she said.

She said that birth defects increased as a proportion of child mortality in the region, from 6.2% to 9.2% between 2010 and 2019.

In 2019, birth defects contributed to at least 117,000 deaths in the region, about 22% of the global total, Singh said and asked authorities to work to facilitate better connection between health facilities and community-based networks, platforms and organisations.

#### ORGANS OF BRAIN-DEAD MAN SAVE FOUR LIVES IN DELHI

The family of a 39-year-old businessman, who was declared brain dead at a private hospital in Delhi, donated his organs and saved four lives, including that of a 16-year-old girl. On February 23, Manikandan Ayyappan, a resident of Mayur Vihar, was admitted after sudden loss of consciousness because of bleeding in the brain, said Dr Ashutosh Bhardwaj, director critical care, Dharamshila Narayana Super Speciality Hospital.

Despite efforts, doctors could not save him and he was declared brain dead on Monday, Dr Bhardwaj said. His family was counselled for organ donation. Subsequently, the organs were allocated to recipients through National Organ and Tissue Transplant Organisation (NOTTO). One kidney was transplanted to a 38-year-old woman at Max Hospital in Vaishali who was on dialysis for several years, said Dr Yasir Rizvi, senior consultant in Nephrology at Dharamshila Narayana Hospital. The second kidney was allocated to a 42-year-old woman at the Dharamshila Narayana Hospital while the heart went to a 52-year-old man at Maharaja Agrasen Hospital. The liver was transplanted at Dharamshila Narayana Hospital, to a girl studying in Class XI.

#### AYURVEDA, REGULAR BP CHECK CAN CUT DOWN RISK OF KIDNEY DISEASES BY 75%, SAY DOCTORS

Combining the best of Ayurveda and modern medicine can help cut down kidney diseases

at least by 75 per cent, health experts have said even as they noted that prevention is better than cure in the scenario where treatment cost is escalating.

Dr. Satya N Dornala, Medical Superintendent of Vivekananda Ayurvedic Panchakarma Kendra, Delhi, said that regular monitoring of blood pressure (BP) is most important. "If someone's BP rises from normal, then he/she should immediately try to control it. Because high BP can result into kidney disorder," he warned while speaking at an ongoing webinar themed 'Kidney Manthan' being organized by AIMIL Pharmaceuticals, ahead of World Kidney Day on March 9.

Dr Dornala further added that if people adopt three concepts of Ayurveda in life, they can avoid chronic ailments like kidney, BP and diabetes. "These are balanced diets according to Ayurveda, proper sleep and regular exercise."

Apart from this, there are many herbs in Ayurveda, includ-

ing Chandraprabhawati, which are helpful in boosting kidney's healthy. For example, AIMIL's NeeriKFT, a herbal formulation, based on extracts from medicinal plants like punarnava among others, is beneficial for the kidney and has the ability to repair its damaged cells.

Dr. Sanchit Sharma, Executive Director, AIMIL Pharmaceuticals stressed on increasing awareness about health and ways of keeping it healthy. "This will help not only keep the kidney diseases at bay but also make it possible to get treatment immediately."

On the occasion, Dr. Prabhu S, Internal Medicine Specialist from Bangalore, Dr SK Mishra, general medical practitioner from Odisha and Dr Sanjeev Sharma, nephrologist from Rajasthan among others from States including Rajasthan, Odisha, Madhya Pradesh, Haryana, Uttar Pradesh, Himachal Pradesh, Karnataka, Kerala and Tamil Nadu spoke about healthcare of the kidney.



# Windsor Framework: Bid to sort Brexit flaws

The Windsor Framework seems to be a great relief for the people of both sides of the Irish Sea. On the last day of February, the UK and the European Union (EU) reached a historic deal with the main objective to revise the Northern Ireland Protocol (NIP) that was set up to define the business regulations between the Northern Ireland, a British Province, and the Republic of Ireland, an EU member.

The deal was signed by UK Prime Minister Rishi Sunak and EU Commission President Ursula von der Leyen at Windsor near London. To Sunak, this framework is all about “what is best for people in Northern Ireland” and not for politicians. But only time will tell how this could mend the historically tense relations between Northern Ireland and the UK.

Northern Ireland is a British-ruled province which shares a long border with the Republic of Ireland. When the UK formally left the EU on January 31, 2020, the trickiest subject was how to settle the business and transactions between Northern Ireland and the Republic of Ireland on an open border between the two.

To avoid the hard border with Ireland, and to prevent goods that arrive unchecked into the EU’s single market, Boris Johnson, the then UK Prime Minister who finally broke the contentious deal with the EU, agreed to leave Northern Ireland within the latter’s single market. Further it implies that Northern Ireland had to follow the regulations made by the EU.

On the other hand, the province being part of Britain’s customs territory, it imposes a customs border in the sea between Northern Ireland and the UK. The Democratic Unionist Party (DUP), the largest unionist party of Northern Ireland, says when the province is following the EU rules, it must have a say.

If we reflect on history, what we observe is that both the UK and Ireland joined the precursor to the EU in the



Britain's Prime Minister Rishi Sunak and EU Commission President Ursula von der Leyen shake hands after a press conference at Windsor Guildhall, Windsor, England, on Feb 27, 2023

1970s and their joining into a common union put an end to the customs barriers. But the parts of the border between the two countries were fortified during the time of “The Troubles” — a period when violence erupted between the Republicans and the loyalists. The Republicans were also known as the Nationalists who wanted Northern Ireland to be independent from the UK and join the Republic of Ireland.

They were known as the Republicans because they wanted to join the Republic of Ireland. On the other hand, the Unionists were those who wanted Northern Ireland to be with the UK. They were also known as the loyalists because

they are loyal to the British Crown.

Besides, the Unionists are primarily Protestants whereas the Republicans are Catholics. So, the trouble began between them on the ideological front and finally it took a bloody turn in the past.

The fight between the two groups took nearly three decades to come to a stop in 1998. The signing of the Good Friday Agreement on April 10, 1998 (also known as Belfast Agreement) helped put an end to the bitter struggle called The Troubles. The message that has flown from London is that the bureaucracy i.e. checks and paperwork for trading brought by the NIP, might

threaten the Good Friday Agreement.

But ironically, as the opinion polls demonstrate most of the Northern Ireland voters who opposed the Brexit process have supported the NIP. But the Unionists, their supporters and sympathisers have seriously wanted to revise the NIP.

Why is the NIP so controversial? This all started with the finalisation of the Brexit deal between the UK Government and the EU. In fact, the historic Brexit process had created a new borderline between the UK and Northern Ireland. The NIP was part of the Brexit process. The basic framework that guides the NIP includes Northern Ireland within the

EU’s single market for goods. As a result, the NIP arrangements allow the Irish Border to open for goods. But what it means was that the products reaching Northern Ireland from the rest of the UK are fully subjected to checks and controls.

For the DUP, the NIP has already caused great economic and constitutional damage to Northern Ireland and its people. For many, the contentious deal in the past has spoiled the community consent across the borders necessary for bringing the process of devolution into reality. Thus the constitutional and democratic issues raised by the protocol are of primary importance for the region. The

problem is that the EU laws were imposed on Northern Ireland without any democratic deliberation on the same. Indeed from the beginning of the NIP, it was demanded by the Unionists that securing legal replacement of the NIP was of utmost importance if peace and tranquillity were to be sustained in Northern Ireland.

What are the business implications of the Windsor Framework? The British Government is finally trying to bring an end to bureaucratic hurdles so as to smoothen the trade between Northern Ireland and the UK. And it resulted in the signing of the Windsor Framework last month. The centre of the Windsor Framework is the Green Lanes and the Red Lanes. Now, the British goods that travel from Northern Ireland ports using the Green Lanes will face less paperwork. On the other hand, the Irish goods that come into the UK will pass through the Red Lanes and will have to go through customs processes and other regular checks.

Further to utilise the Green Lane, the goods have to be registered under the New United Kingdom Internal Market Scheme (UKIMS) as trusted goods. A large group of businesses will be moved under the UKIMS, including those which are already settled in the UK and those that have no physical presence in Northern Ireland.

The UK Government says it has removed more than 60 EU food and drink rules that were originally there in the NIP. The Government has also said it will help the businesses with financial support for labelling changes under the new agreement. Another significant aspect of the Windsor Framework is Stormont Brake. This implies that under the new deal, the Stormont that is Parliament of Northern Ireland will have the power to object to the EU rules. And this is called Stormont Brake.

It is hoped that the Windsor Framework could

resolve the thorniest issues of the post-Brexit mess. But both the UK and the EU will have to make legislative changes to implement the new agreement. And this will start after a meeting next month.

For Sunak, it is a great but cautious start to handle the remnants of a volatile issue called Brexit that forced three Prime Ministers out of 10 Downing Street in the past. Some of the proposals under the Framework will take longer time. For example, the Sunak Government’s promise of a new regime for business parcels will start in October 2024. Meanwhile, Sunak has already promised a parliamentary vote on the Framework, and he is likely to win the same as the Opposition Labour Party has agreed to support him. But then no one knows what his Conservative colleagues are planning and if a sizable number of them revolts, he might be forced to face the same fate like Johnson.

However, the international community is tired of regime change in London for the last four years since the starting of the real Brexit negotiations with the EU. Now it’s time for the Conservatives to understand both global and national dynamics to stabilise the economic environment of the country.

And around the same time, as the Russia-Ukraine war is seriously threatening the global economic stability, the British and the Irish lawmakers need to be more cautious to fix the post-Brexit issues as early as possible.

The battle starts in London and this time it is better and safer for the Conservative politicians to allow Sunak to run a stable government. Only this can save the Windsor Framework and can help in ironing out the other contentious issues with the bureaucracy in Brussels, the headquarters of the EU.

*(The writer is the Head of the Department of Arts and Humanities at Geeta University, Panipat)*

**To UK Prime Minister Rishi Sunak, this framework is all about ‘what is best for people in Northern Ireland’ and not for politicians. But only time will tell how this could mend the historically tense relations between Northern Ireland and the UK**



MAKHAN SAIKIA

## PERSPECTIVE

# Digital health system and last-mile accessibility

**The recent example of supplying medicines through drones in Meghalaya and delivering online health services in remote Tamil Nadu villages are the best instances of increasing healthcare accessibility in tough terrains**



PRATAP C MOHANTY



SANDEEP KUMAR



JATINDER SINGH

In the post-pandemic era, the Finance Minister presented the Budget before Parliament focusing on seven priorities, one of which is inclusive development.

The goal of achieving inclusive development is impossible without giving special attention to the health sector. The Union Budget allocated ₹88,956 crore for the health sector with an increment of 2.71 per cent compared to the previous Budget. But it comes down to 3.1 per cent by adjusting for base year inflation. The reduction in Budget allocation to health in real terms on the one hand and the rising population, particularly the elderly, on the other, which is projected to reach 11 per cent and 18 per cent by 2025 and 2050 respectively, could have implications on health indicators due to demand and supply mismatch.

The Economic Survey has shown some progress in health indicators like IMR and MMR, which have come down from 45 and 167 in 2013 to 32 and 97 in 2020 respectively. Still, we are lagging behind the target of achieving sustainable development goals (SDGs). Unlike the previous Budget, there is no mention about the prevention and control of non-communicable diseases which are the major contributors to death and deprivation (65 per cent of deaths, Economic Survey 2022-

23). The allocation of funds for the tertiary healthcare sector decreased from 500.5 crore in the previous Budget to 289.81 crore in the present Budget.

Though the allocated funds remained unutilised across many States in India as per NITI Aayog reports. Still, the reduction of funds is not a solution. Instead of reducing funds, more focus should be given to healthcare governance and efficient utilisation of funds.

The focus of the Government on eradicating sickle cell anemia is a welcome step as it accounts for 20 per cent of all child deaths in India by the age of two, as per the ICMR report. Another notable move is the 19 per cent increase in the Budget for the Indian System of Medicines (ISM). The sizeable increase in budget for AYUSH will revive and promote the traditional knowledge of preventive healthcare. This parallel development of the ISM along with modern healthcare will be able to meet the growing demand for healthcare. Further, the capital expenditure for the establishment of 157 nursing colleges could increase skillful manpower in the health sector and improve nurse to population ratio. Similarly, a 12 per cent hike in funds for PMJAY could help in addressing the problem of financial risk associated with medical out-of-pocket



expenditure (OOPE) as 55 million people every year fall into poverty trap in India (WHO report 2022).

The present Budget allocated ₹1,250 crore for pharmaceutical industries which will boost such industries and pharmacy exports. But there is a decrease in funds under the production-linked incentives

scheme which was introduced in 2020 to incentivise those industries which produce the main ingredients like API (active pharmaceutical ingredients) on which India is heavily dependent on imports, particularly on China. Moreover, the allocation regarding the establishment of the National Centers for Disease Control

(NCDC) for the “zoonotic diseases and some specific neglected tropical-disease-surveillance of viral hepatitis antimicrobial resistance” has reduced to ₹55 crore compared to ₹71 crore in the previous year. Similarly, the budget for medical and health research has been reduced to ₹2,980 crore this year as com-

pared to ₹3,200 crore in the previous year, which has decreased by 6.8 per cent. This decrease in expenditure has long-term implications for a country like India which shares 21 per cent of the global burden of disease as per the WHO report 2022. Therefore, more funds should have been allocated to medical research so

that advanced tools, equipment, and drugs could have been developed for the early detection and treatment of high-risk diseases.

The recent Covid-19 pandemic has exposed the weakness in the Indian healthcare system along with inequity in access, finance, and delivery of healthcare across regions and socio-economic groups. Those issues to some extent can be addressed through digital health. In this context, the government has allocated 90 crore for telemedicine in the last two budgets. Though it is a small amount, it will trigger the digital health system in India and will increase last-mile accessibility by reducing geographical barriers. The recent example of supplying medicines through drones in Meghalaya and delivering online health services in remote Tamil Nadu villages are the best examples of increasing healthcare accessibility in tough terrains. Similarly, to address the emerging problem of mental health, the National Tele Mental Health Program with an allocation of ₹133 crore has been devised. This is a laudable step that might address 14 per cent of the Indian population.

*(Pratap C Mohanty is Associate Professor, IIT Roorkee; Sandeep Kumar and Jatinder Singh are research scholars, IIT Roorkee)*



