

**OPINION 6**  
UNEARTHING THE ROOT OF THE DISASTER

**WORLD 9**  
UK HOME SECY MULLS CUT IN POST-STUDY STUDENT VISA STAY

**MONEY 10**  
AI OFFERS NEARLY 98 CRORE SHARES TO STAFF

Published From  
DELHI LUCKNOW BHOPAL BHUBANESWAR RANCHI RAIPUR  
CHANDIGARH DEHRADUN HYDERABAD VIJAYWADA

Late City Vol.33 Issue 25  
\*Air Surcharge Extra if Applicable

NEW DELHI, THURSDAY JANUARY 26, 2023; PAGES 12 ₹3

# the pioneer

26 January  
HAPPY REPUBLIC DAY

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## BBC's docu fuels unrest in varsities

Police, admins of univs crack down as students of Jamia, Punjab univ, JNU try to see banned film

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

The proposed screening of the controversial BBC documentary 'India: The Modi Question' became a major flashpoint between students and the police at Jamia Millia Islamia University in the national Capital on Wednesday. The police first detained four students and later many more when the students led a protest to demand their release, the Students' Federation of India (SFI) claimed.

The students of the Punjab University also organised the screening of the BBC documentary which was stalled midway after authorities intervened. In a tweet, the Congress-affiliated students wing NSUI said "@NSUICHandigarh organised a screenplay of the BBC Modi documentary at Panjab University. The state president and many students watched the truth about



Security personnel at Jamia Millia Islamia campus during the SFI's protest against the detention of four activists over the proposed screening of a BBC documentary on Prime Minister Narendra Modi, in New Delhi, on Wednesday. PTI

democracy killers."

The SFI's bid to screen the documentary at the Jamia campus comes a day after a similar event was organised at the Jawaharlal Nehru University during which students claimed that power and Internet were suspended and stones hurled at them. The campus witnessed heavy deployment of police and the anti-riot units Rapid Action Force (RAF) personnel.

Secretary of SFI Delhi State committee, Pritish Menon said the police detained the protesters who had gathered there.

"We were about to begin the demonstration but they were taken to the police station," Menon said.

The SFI's Jamia unit had released a poster announcing that the documentary would be screened at the MCRC lawn Gate Number 8 at 6 PM.

The police said it detained four students after the SFI announced its plan.

The university administration said the screening of the controversial documentary would not be allowed. **Contd on P2**

## EAM slams Pompeo over slight to Sushma

PNS/AGENCIES ■ NEW DELHI / WASHINGTON

External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar has deplored the derisive remarks made by former US Secretary of State Mike Pompeo against Sushma Swaraj when she headed the Foreign Ministry.

Jaishankar's sharp reaction came a day after Tuesday's launch of Mike Pompeo's book in which he made disparaging references about the late Swaraj. Writing about Swaraj, Pompeo said he never saw his counterpart Swaraj as an "important political player" but got along famously with S Jaishankar. "I have seen a passage in Secretary Pompeo's book referring to Smt Sushma Swaraj ji. I always



held her in great esteem and had an exceptionally close and warm relationship with her. I deplore the disrespectful colloquialism used for her," Jaishankar said. In his latest book 'Never Give an Inch: Fighting for the America I Love' that hit the stores on Tuesday, Pompeo

describes Swaraj somewhat disparagingly, using the American slang words "goof-ball" and "heartland political hack" for her.

Swaraj served as the External Affairs Minister from May 2014 to May 2019. She died in August 2019.

**Continued on P2**

## 'India-Pak came close to N-war after Balakot strike'

WASHINGTON: Former US Secretary of State Mike Pompeo wrote in his book that India and Pakistan came close to nuclear war in 2019 after the Balakot strike and that US intervention prevented escalation. "I do not think the world properly knows just how close the India-Pakistan rivalry came to spilling over into a nuclear conflagration in February 2019," the likely future presidential contender wrote in his memoirs of his time as Donald Trump's top diplomat and earlier CIA chief.

## 'India seen with new respect on global stage'

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

In her maiden Address to the Nation on the eve of Republic Day, President Droupadi Murmu on Wednesday said India is now being seen with "new respect" on the global stage.

She lauded the linguistic diversity of the country, founders of the Constitution for giving a moral framework, and commended the roles of farmers, workers, scientists and engineers whose



combined strength enables India to live up to the spirit of "Jai Jawan, Jai Kisan, Jai Vigyan, Jai Anusandhan".

Asserting that the world looked at India now with a "new respect", she pointed to the country's leadership of G20

and said it was an ideal platform to discuss and find solutions to "most pressing" problems such as global warming and climate change that were affecting the poor the most. The President said after a series of initiatives in recent years to transform all aspects of governance and unleash the creative energies of the people, the world has started to look at India with a new sense of respect.

**Continued on P2**

## Padma Vibhushan for MSY, SM Krishna, Zakir Hussain

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Samajwadi Party founder late SMulayam Singh Yadav, former External Affairs Minister SM Krishna, and tabla maestro Zakir Hussain are among the six people listed for this year's Padma Vibhushan awards.

Others who will be bestowed the highest civilian honor are: Balkishna Doshi from Gujarat (posthumously), Dilip Mahalanabis (posthumously) who worked in relief camps during the Bangladesh war and US-based scientist and engineer Srinivas Varadhan.

No one has been named for the Bharat Ratna, the country's highest civilian award.

In the Padma Awards announced ahead of Republic Day 2023, President Droupadi Murmu also listed out nine names for Padma Bhushan and 91 for Padma Shri Awards.

The nine Padma Bhushan awardees include: Industrialist Kumar Mangalam Birla, Infosys founder Narayana Murthy's wife and writer Sudha Murthy, Kannada writer SL Bhyrappa, and singer Vani Jayaram. Telangana's spiritual gurus Swami Chinna Jeeyar Kamlesh D Patel and writer and educationist Kapil Kapoor from Delhi as well, and singer Suman Kalyapur from Maharashtra were also awarded Padma Bhushan.

**Continued on P2**

### Swadeshi Resolution, The Only Option

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LIC/PI/2022-23/271/Eng

# BBC docu viewing: Students exchange assault charges

## JNUSU, ABVP file cross complaints with cops

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Two JNU students have alleged they were assaulted and harassed by some members of the students union, an allegation rejected by JNUSU president Aishe Ghosh, who claimed the two students threw stones at a gathering watching a controversial BBC documentary on Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Tuesday.

The Left-backed AISA, whose members took part in the screening of the documentary, rejected the allegation, claiming they caught two Akhil Bharatiya Vidyarthi Parishad (ABVP) members but they were not harassed. "We caught them when they threw stones at us but did not harass them in any form," AISA JNU president Qasim said.

Police said they have received cross-complaints from both Jawaharlal Nehru University Students' Union (JNUSU) and the ABVP. There was no immediate official response from the JNU administration to the allegations and counter-claims of the students. It had on Monday, in an advisory, said the JNSU had not taken its permission for the event and it should be cancelled, warning of strict disciplinary action.

On Tuesday night, several students, who gathered at the JNU students' union office for a screening of the BBC documentary, claimed the university administration cut power and internet to stop the event and staged a protest after stones were thrown at them.

They claimed that they were attacked when they were

watching the documentary on their mobile phones as the screening could not be held. Some alleged that the attackers were ABVP members, a charge the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh-affiliated student body denied. JNUSU President Aishe Ghosh said they caught two ABVP members who threw stones at them. "We were peacefully watching the documentary on our cell phones as the university snapped the power and internet. ABVP goons threw stones at us. We caught two of them," she said. Of the two caught was Gaurav, a second-year post-graduate student of the university, who denied that he threw any stone. He claimed that he was assaulted by JNUSU members.

"I was out on the campus with my friends for tea when I

noticed that a large number of people have gathered. I noticed the commotion before I could react. Several people surrounded me and grabbed me by the neck. I pleaded with them that I am a heart patient and have anxiety issues. But they started dragging and made several allegations against me," Gaurav claimed.

He is affiliated with ABVP but claimed that he was unaware of any development on campus.

The other student claimed, "I was out with my friends when they caught and harassed me." Late on Tuesday night, raising slogans of "Inqlaab Zindabad" and against the JNU administration, the protesting students marched to the Vasant Kunj police station to lodge a complaint against the "stone pelters".

# SP spokesman's wife, mother die in Lucknow building collapse incident

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

Samajwadi Party spokesman Abbas Haider's (75) mother Begum Haider (35), both taken out of the rubble on Wednesday morning after a 12-hour-long rescue operation, were pronounced dead by the doctors at the Shyama Prasad Mukherjee Hospital (Civil Hospital) shortly after being rushed to the medical facility.

Till now 15 others have been safely rescued from the rubble and are recuperating at the hospital. The survivors include Abbas' son Mustafa and his father Amir who is a Congress party veteran.

Meanwhile, Lucknow Commissioner of Police SB Shiradkar said as per the latest information, 15 persons had been rescued from the accident site and now nobody was left to be evacuated.

"We have got information that there were only 17 persons of seven families present at different floors of the ill-fated

apartment before it collapsed. Since 24 hours have passed, there are little chances of survival of anyone and the National Disaster Response Force (NDRF) and State Disaster Response Force (SDRF) teams are clearing the rubble to clear the site," Shiradkar added.

He said the rubble contained the valuables of the families which lived in the building and so these will be collected and handed over to the families/victims rescued.

The commissioner of police said an FIR was registered against the builders of the Alaya apartment, identified as Mohammed Tariq, Nawazish Shahid and Fahad Yazdani and Nawazish Shahid had been arrested by the Meerut police and he was being brought to Lucknow.

"Five teams have been formed to arrest the remaining two of the culprits named in the Alaya building collapse case," he added.

Shiradkar said that police

had registered the FIR under the charges of Indian Penal Code sections 308 (attempt to commit culpable homicide), 420 (cheating), 323 (voluntarily causing hurt), 120-B (criminal conspiracy) against the three accused at Hazratganj police station. "We arrested former minister and Samajwadi Party leader Manzoor Ahmed's son Nawazish in connection with the building collapse.

As per the records available with the district administration the land agreement of the plot on which the apartment was constructed, is in the name of Nawazish. We have made five police teams to arrest the other two and raids are going on at all the possible hideouts of the two accused," he said.

As per the FIR, the owners of the apartment were drilling the basement for some construction for the last two days and it was opposed by the residents of the flats as it was consistently shaking the building but the protests fell on the deaf

ears. The building had 13 flats. Poor construction material was used and despite disapproval construction was done in the apartment.

Minutes after doctors pronounced the death of Uzma and her mother-in-law, Abbas alleged that the NDRF team did not drill the spot suggested by them.

He further alleged that water and oxygen was not supplied to the victims, including his mother Begum Haider, and wife. Abbas made the allegations while talking to journalists at SPM Hospital.

He said the policemen and rescue teams officials were busy in photo sessions by the media persons present at the scene in large numbers. He said the officials kept saying that they would supply water and oxygen but did not do so.

He further alleged that the administration was not handing over the bodies of his wife and his mother though he had given an undertaking for autopsy.

# 'India seen with new...

**From Page 1**  
"Our interventions in various world forums have started making a positive difference. The respect that India has earned on the world stage has resulted in new opportunities as well as responsibilities," she said.

President Murmu said, "Under India's leadership, I am sure, G20 will be able to further enhance its efforts to build a more equitable and sustainable world order."

The President said G20 represents about two-thirds of the world population and around 85 per cent of the global GDP, and it is an ideal forum to discuss and find solutions for global challenges.

She also welcomed the new National Education Policy (NEP) saying it makes "our civilisational lessons relevant for contemporary life", while also preparing learners for the 21st century challenges.

"With the economy on a sound footing, we have been able to begin and carry forward a series of praiseworthy initiatives. The ultimate goal is to create an environment in which all citizens can, individually and collectively, realise their true potential and prosper. As education builds the right foundation for this purpose, the National Education Policy has introduced ambitious changes," she said.

She said the founding document is inspired by the humanistic philosophy of the oldest living civilisation in the world as well as new ideas that emerged in more recent history.

"The nation will always remain grateful to Dr B R Ambedkar, who headed the Drafting Committee of the Constitution, and thus had a critical part in giving it the final shape. On this day, we should also remember the role of jurist

BN Rau, who had prepared the initial draft, and other experts and officers who helped in making of the Constitution," she said. The President said such a vast and diverse multitude of people coming together as one nation remains unprecedented.

"We did so with a belief that we are, after all, one; that we are all Indians. We have succeeded as a democratic republic because so many creeds and so many languages have not divided us, they have only united us. That is the essence of India," she said.

Murmu said the essence was at the heart of the Constitution, which has withstood the test of time.

"The Constitution that started governing the life of the Republic was the outcome of the Freedom Struggle. The national movement, led by Mahatma Gandhi, was as much about winning Independence as about rediscovering our own ideals," she said.

Those decades of struggle and sacrifice "helped us win freedom" not only from colonial rule but also from the imposed values and narrow world-views, she said.

"Revolutionaries and reformers joined hands with visionaries and idealists to help us learn about our age-old values of peace, brotherhood and equality."

"Those who shaped the modern Indian mind also welcomed progressive ideas from abroad, following the Vedic advice... Let noble thoughts come to us from all directions'. A long and profound thought process culminated in our Constitution," she said.

"To my mind, global warming and climate change are the most pressing among them. Global temperatures are rising and incidents of extreme weather are increasing... Unfortunately, the poor bear the brunt of global warming more than others," she said.

The President said India is faced with the dilemma of lifting more and more people out of poverty which is possible through economic growth but that also comes from fossil fuels. She said one of the solutions to the conundrum is promoting the use of alternative energy sources.

"India has taken a commendable lead in this direction by giving a policy push to solar energy and electric vehicles. At the global level, however, emerging economies need a helping hand from advanced nations in the form of technology transfer and financial support," Murmu said.

Murmu, the first President from the tribal community, said to balance development and the environment, we have to look at the ancient traditions with a new perspective.

"We need to reconsider our basic priorities. The scientific aspects of traditional life-values have to be understood. We must, once again, rekindle that respect for nature and humility before the vast universe," she said.

The President said Mahatma Gandhi was a true prophet of our times, as he foresaw the calamities of indiscriminate industrialisation and cautioned the world to mend its ways.

Reminding that the United Nations have accepted India's call for declaring 2023 as an International year of millets, Murmu said "we used to take millets earlier" which we are using again. She said the millet grain is "good for health and good for environment" as it can be grown with the minimum water.

On the Covid-19, she said India dealt with the virus very competently but it "comes back in different forms".

The President said during Covid-19 the Government ensure "food security" for 81 crore people. She said in 2023 also free monthly ration is assured to the poor of the country.

The President assured that people need not worry if Covid raises its head again as the country has an able and efficient administrator to nail it down. She, though, advocated that people continue to adopt caution. Murmu paid tribute to the "brave soldiers" and said they sacrificed their lives to make the country's border safe. "I bow before them", she said.

# G'gram civic body seals 8 unauthorised shops

PARVESH SHARMA ■ GURUGRAM

The enforcement team of the Municipal Corporation of Gurugram (MCG) on Wednesday sealed around eight unauthorised shops adjoining Sector-10A in Gurugram.

According to the MCG officials, the shop plans of these structures were not approved by the civic body.

"A team led by junior engineer Mohit Kumar carried out the drive in zone-1. We had received the information that the construction of these buildings was underway even though their building plan was not approved by the civic body," said Akhilesh Kumar, joint commissioner of Zone-1.

Following a direction of the state government the enforcement teams of all MCG zones have been conducting sealing and demolition drives in their respective areas to reclaim the government land.

"A complaint against illegal construction was also given by me to the MCG office. Such illegal construction will not be tolerated anymore," Ashwani



Sharma, former councillor of ward no-29 told reporters. To ensure better utilisation of the government land, MCG commissioner P.C. Meena has directed the joint commissioners and enforcement teams of each zone to conduct demolition as well as sealing drives at the MCG limits encroached upon in the city.

# EAM slams Pompeo over slight to Sushma

From Page 1

"On the Indian side, my original counterpart was not an important player on the Indian foreign policy team. Instead, I worked much more closely with National Security Advisor Ajit Doval, a close and trusted confidant of Prime Minister Narendra Modi," 59-year-old Pompeo writes in his book.

A confidant of then US president Donald Trump, Pompeo was the CIA Director in his administration from 2017 to 2018 and then served as the Secretary of State from 2018 to 2021.

"My second Indian counterpart was Subrahmanyam Jaishankar. In May 2019, we welcomed 'J' as India's new foreign minister. I could not have asked for a better counterpart. I love this guy. English is one of the seven languages he speaks, and his is somewhat

better than mine," writes the former top American diplomat, who is now exploring the possibility of a 2024 presidential run. "Professional, rational, and a fierce defender of his boss and his country," is how Pompeo described Jaishankar. "We hit it off immediately. In our first meeting, I was bemoaning, in a very diplomatic speech, that his predecessor had not been particularly helpful," he said.

"He (Jaishankar) said that he could see why I had trouble with his predecessor, a goofball and a heartfelt political hack. "Careful, I'm a heartfelt political hack!" I replied in jest. He laughed, noting that if that were true, it would make me the first heartfelt political hack who had ever been an editor on the Harvard Law Review. Well played, J," Pompeo said. J here stands for Jaishankar. In his

book, Pompeo also says American neglect of India was a decades-long bipartisan failure. "We are natural allies, as we share a history of democracy, a common language, and ties of people and technology. India is also a market with enormous demand for American intellectual property and products. These factors, plus its strategic location in South Asia, made India the fulcrum of my diplomacy to counteract Chinese aggression," he writes.

"In my mind, a counter-China bloc made up of the United States, India, Japan, Australia, South Korea, the United Kingdom, and the European Union would have an economic weight at least three times that of China. I chose to devote serious quantities of time and effort to help make India the next great American ally," Pompeo says.

# BBC's docu fuels unrest in varsities

From Page 1

They said they were taking all measures to prevent people and organisations with a 'vested interest to destroy the peaceful academic atmosphere of the university'. In a statement, the varsity said no permission had been sought for the screening of the documentary and it would not be allowed. "It has come to the knowledge of the

university administration that some students belonging to a political organisation have circulated a poster about screening of a controversial documentary film on the university campus today," it said in the statement.

Earlier, the university had issued a memorandum/circular asserting that no meeting/gathering of students or screening of any film shall be allowed on the campus without permission from the competent authority.

Strict disciplinary action shall be taken against organisers in case of any violation, it said. "The university is taking all possible measures to prevent people/organisations having a vested interest to destroy the peaceful academic atmosphere of the university," the varsity further said in its statement. Jamia Millia Islamia Vice Chancellor Najma Akhtar on Wednesday called SFI a "small student group with no follow-

ing" and accused it of disturbing peace on the campus as the group announced screening of a recent BBC documentary India: The Modi Question on 2002 Godhra riots on the campus.

"We do not want any disturbance on the campus. We desire to keep the peace and harmony in the university where students are studying and giving exams," Akhtar said.

"A small group like Students' Federation of India (SFI), which has no following, is holding protests. We do not approve of this kind of behaviour. Their aim is to disturb peace and harmony on the campus. At no cost I will allow this kind of behaviour under my watch," she said. Asked whether any action will be taken against protesting students, she said they will ask for a report and "take action against students, if necessary."

# Padma Vibhushan for MSY, SM Krishna, Zakir Hussain

From Page 1

As many as 91 people were given Padma Shri this time including stock market guru late Rakesh Jhunjhunwala, musician Keeravani, actress Raveen Tandon. Delhi based physician Dr. Ishwar Chandeer Vrma, Gurcharan Singh (sports) Dr. Nalini Parthasarathi (medicine) are also figured in the Padma Shri awardees list.

Among the Padma awarded 19 are women and two are from non-resident Indians and seven were awarded posthumously. Sukama Acharya, Jodhaiyabai Baiga, Premijit Baria, Usha Barle, Hemant Chauhan, Bhanubhai Chitara, Hemoprova Chitiasubhadra Devi, Hem Chandra Goswami, Pritikana Goswami Ahmed Hussai, Mohammed Hussai, Dilshad Hussain (all in art category) were awarded Padma Shri.

The Government has awarded Padma Shri to many unsung heroes working in social service. They are Ratan Chandra Kar, a doctor working with Jarwa tribes of Andamans Island; Hirabai Lobi, working for the welfare of Siddi Tribes; Dr. Munishwar Chander Dawar, working in Jabalpur for poor patients. Ramkuiwangle Newme, engaged in primary education from Nagaland, noted Gandhian Appukkuttan Poduval from Kerala; S Chandra Sekhar, working for uplift and child education of the poor in Andhra Pradesh; snake experts from Tamil Nadu Vadivel Gopal; and Masi Sadaian, Nkrkam Sharma from organic farming.

Complete list:  
PADMA VIBHUSHAN  
Mulayam Singh Yadav (Posthumous)  
Balkrishna Doshi (Posthumous)  
Zakir Hussain  
SM Krishna  
Dilip Mahalanabis (Posthumous)  
Srinivas Varadhan

PADMA BHUSHAN  
SL Bhyrappa  
Kumar Mangalam Birla  
Deepak Dhar  
Vani Jairam  
Swami Chinna Jeeyar  
Suman Kalyanpur  
Kapil Kapoor  
Sudha Murty  
Kamlesh D Patel

PADMA SHRI  
Sukama Acharya  
Jodhaiyabai Baiga  
Premijit Baria  
Usha Barle  
Munishwar Chanddwar  
Hemant Chauhan  
Bhanubhai Chitara  
Hemoprova Chutia  
Narendra Chandra Debbarma (Posthumous)  
Subhadra Devi  
Khadar Valli Dudekula  
Hem Chandra Goswami  
Pritikana Goswami  
Radha Charan Gupta  
Modadugu Vijay Gupta  
Ahmed Hussain & Mohd

Hussain (Duo)  
Dilshad Hussain  
Bhiku Ramji Idate  
C I Issac

Rattan Singh Jaggi  
Bikram Bahadur Jamatia  
Ramkuiwangle Jene  
Rakesh Radheshyam  
Jhunjhunwala (Posthumous)  
Ratan Chandra Kar  
Mahipat Kavi  
M M Keeravani  
Areez Khambatta (Posthumous)  
Parshuram Komaji Khune  
Ganesh Nagappa

Krishnarajanagara  
Maguni Charan Kuanr  
Anand Kumar  
Arvind Kumar  
Domar Singh Kunvar  
Risingbor Kurkalang  
Hirabai Lobi

Moolchand Lodha  
Rani Machaiah  
Ajay Kumar Mandavi  
Prabhakar Bhanudas

Mande  
Gajanan Jagannath Mane  
Antaryami Mishra  
Nadoja Pindipapanahalli  
Munivenkatappa  
Prof. (Dr.) Mahendra Pal  
Uma Shankar Pandey  
Ramesh Parmar & Shanti Parmar (Duo)  
Nalini Parthasarathi  
Hanumantha Rao  
Pasupleti  
Ramesh Patange  
Krishna Patel  
K Kalyanasundaram Pillai  
V P Appukkuttan Poduval

Kapil Dev Prasad  
S R D Prasad  
Shah Rasheed Ahmed  
Quadri

C V Raju  
Bakshi Ram  
Cheruvayal K Ramam  
Sujatha Ramdorai  
Abbareddy Nageswara Rao  
Pareshbhai Rathwa  
B Ramakrishna Reddy  
Mangala Kanti Roy  
K C Ruremsangi  
Vadivel Gopal & Masi Sadaian (Duo)

Manoranjan Sahu  
Patayat Sahu  
Ritwik Sanyal  
Kota Satchidananda Sastry  
Sankurathri Chandra Sekhar  
K Shanathoiba Sharma  
Nekram Sharma  
Gurcharan Singh  
Laxman Singh  
Moham Singh  
Thounaojam Chaoba Singh

Prakash Chandra Sood  
Nehunuo Sorhie  
Dr. Janum Singh Soy  
Kushok Thiksey Nawang  
Chamba Stanzin  
S Subbaraman  
Moa Subong  
Palam Kalyana Sundaram  
Raveena Ravi Tandon  
Vishwanath Prasad Tiwari  
Dhaniram Toto  
Tula Ram Upreti  
Gopalsamy Veluchamy  
Ishwar Chander Verma  
Coomi Nariman Wadia  
Karma Wangchu  
(Posthumous) Ghulam Muhammud Zaz

**PUBLIC NOTICE**  
Mr. Kam Madhav Gulati, holder of Indian Passport No. Z4379071, aged 35, S/o Mr. Ashok Gulati, having Indian address in Delhi at C-5-D, Gangotri Enclave, Alaknanda, New Delhi - 110019 and presently residing in Lagos, Nigeria at 28 Gerard Road, Ikoyi and Miss Victoria Crandall, holder of United States of America Passport No. 588296203, aged 37, D/o Late Wilson Crandall having address in Lagos, Nigeria at 28 Gerard Road, Ikoyi intend on getting married at the High Commission of India, Abuja and CGI, Lagos under the Foreign Marriage Act, 1969 of India. Objections, if any, may be conveyed to the High Commission of India, Abuja and CGI, Lagos within 30 days.

**BHARGAV R THALI ADVOCATE**  
E-21, Basement, Lajpat Nagar 3, New Delhi-24

**Public Notice**  
This is to inform general public that Mrs. Bartha Mittal is the owner of the Property Bearing No. G-25, 1/1105, area measuring 105 Sq. Yds. i.e. 87.79 Sq. Mtrs., out of Khosra No. 281, Situated at Village Chandrawal alias Shandera, in the block of Mansarovar Park, Ilaga Shandera, Delhi via GFI Deed dated 17.08.2012 (Doc. No. 4105). Mrs. Bartha Mittal has misplaced the below mentioned documents, a) Original Sale Deed dated 01.07.1989 executed by (1) Mr. Shanti Niran, (2) Mr. Parkash Naran, (3) Mr. Shiv Naran, (4) Mr. Jagdish Naran, (5) Jai Naran in favour of Mr. Lalit, Ram in respect of the said property area measuring 105 Sq. Yds. Anyone who find the above said documents shall handover the same to the Manager of Indus Bank having its office at 2E/1, 3rd Floor, Jhandewala Extn. New Delhi - 110055. Now, Mrs. Bartha Mittal and M/S Kanika Enterprises are availing loan on this property from Indus Bank by mortgaging the said property. In case anyone has any objection regarding mortgage of the said property, the same may be raised with 7 days of this publication to Mr. Muneesh Chawan/ Mr. Sudhir Jain (Advocates), Law Veritas North, Unit no 907, 9th Floor, G-11, Tower, (E-08), Netaji Subhash Place, Delhi-110034 or contacted at 9869701772/9818229636 (M).

**Government of Madhya Pradesh  
Office of the Engineer-in-Chief  
Water Resources Department,  
Jal Sansadhan Bhawan, Tulsī Nagar, Bhopal (M.P.)**  
Email Id: [ceproc.encwrd.bpl@nic.in](mailto:ceproc.encwrd.bpl@nic.in)  
Tel: 0755-2767635 Fax: 0755-2552406

**N.I.T. No. 961/2022-23/E-in-C/e-tendering** Bhopal, Dated 19.01.2023  
Bids for following works are invited on website <https://www.mptenders.gov.in> Last Date of purchase/download of Bid Document and submission of bid is 16.02.2023, 17:30 hrs. Any amendment/modification can be seen only on the website. Detailed N.I.T. and other details can be viewed on above mentioned website.

S. No.	Tender No.	Work	District	Amount (Lakhs)
1.	2023_WRD_245982	Grouting work, construction of Butters, Downstream face, treatment work etc. of Tighra Dam under special repairs work including management, operation and maintenance (MOM) for 10 years.	Gwalior	1169.04

G-22063/22 Chief Engineer (Procurement)

# 'Guvs, LGs obstructing elected Govts' work'

## We need to ponder over how to save democracy: CM

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Amid tussle with the Lieutenant Governor, Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal on Wednesday alleged that several States in the country are being harassed by Centre-appointed Governors and Lieutenant Governors, who have been consistently obstructing the elected Government's work. He even wondered if a "dark shadow" was being cast over democracy.

"On the 74th Republic day, we need to ponder over how to save democracy from these Laal Sahibs (Governors/LGs)," Kejriwal said at a Republic Day function organised by the Delhi Government at Chhatrasaal Stadium.

The Chief Minister hoisted the Indian flag and also felicitated Delhi Prisons department officers Rajesh Kumar and Naresh Kumar with Presidential Correctional medals. The music bands of Delhi government schools were a highlight of the function.

The AAP supremo also referred to the "conflicts" between the Centre and the judiciary, State Governments



Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal addresses the State-level Republic Day function of Government of NCT of Delhi, at Chhatrasaal Stadium in New Delhi on Wednesday

and farmers and traders etc, and called for an end to such fights so that India could become the "number one" country in the world.

"These days, they are fighting with the judiciary. What is the need to fight with judges? They are also fighting with the State Governments, students, farmers and traders. If we work together and learn from each other, then nothing can stop India from becoming number one country in the world," Kejriwal said.

Remembering sacrifices of the freedom fighters, Kejriwal said: "State Governments are

Government wanted to call the session of their Legislative Assembly but the Governor refused to sign the file. Some States Governments appointed Vice-Chancellors but Governors of the respective States rejected them," he said.

Can an unelected Governor have so much power as to question an elected government meeting its elected

representatives, he asked. "This is not democracy."

"We have witnessed so many similar instances in the recent past. Is this the idea of India we want to propagate? Is this what our freedom fighters sacrificed their lives for? As we move into the 74th year of being a republic, the whole nation needs to ponder over it," said the AAP convener.

## India's trade with Beijing up by 50% despite Chinese aggression, says Kejriwal

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

In an apparent swipe at the BJP-led Centre, Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal on Wednesday said India's trade with Beijing has increased by 50 per cent despite Chinese aggression. He reiterated his demand to boycott of China to send out a strong message.

Addressing a Republic Day function organised by the Delhi Government at Chhatrasaal Stadium, Kejriwal alleged that China is procuring more weapons to use against India with the very money it

earns doing trade with us.

"We read about Chinese Aggression on our borders. Today a highly reputed newspaper reported how the Chinese have encroached upon some of our territory near the border. This is a matter of deep concern for every citizen of our country," he said at the event.

"Our soldiers put in all their might to fight the Chinese on the border. It is now the duty of all citizens and all governments to stand shoulder to shoulder with our soldiers and support them," he said.

## ₹1 crore ex gratia to kin of martyrs announced

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

The families of eight police and armed forces personnel who lost their lives in the line of duty will be given an ex-gratia sum of ₹1 crore each, Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal announced on Wednesday.

The Chief Minister said that the Government is with the families of those who lost their lives in the line of duty.

The ex gratia sum of ₹1 crore will be given to the families of martyrs — Dinesh Kumar, Jayant Joshi, Mahavir, Radheshyam, Praveen Kumar, Bharat Singh, Naresh Kumar and Puneet Gupta.

"Earlier, the system in our country was very bad. There was no one to look after the families of the martyrs. As soon as our government came to power, we decided to give ₹1



crore to families of martyrs. In the last seven-eight years, we have assisted many such families and visited them. Today, we are announcing the names of eight martyrs, whose families would be given ₹1 crore," he said during an online briefing. The personnel include policemen, home guards, firemen, civil defence volunteers and military men.

Dinesh Kumar, a resident of Nangloi, used to work as an inspector in 205 Cobra Battalion of CRPF. He was seriously injured in an IED blast in 2013. Captain Jayant Joshi, a resident of Dwarka, was a pilot in the army and his heli-

copter crashed near Pathankot.

Mahavir lived in Saraswati Garden and was an SI in Delhi Police. He was on duty at Mehta Chowk making the commuters follow traffic rules when hit by a speeding vehicle. Praveen Kumar was an operator in the Delhi Fire Department.

Rohini resident Radheshyam was on duty as ASI in Burari traffic circle of Delhi Police. He noticed that a vehicle was not following the traffic rules. While trying to catch it, he was hit by another vehicle and died. Puneet Gupta, a resident of Pandav Nagar, was a civil defence volunteer. During checking, he saw a truck coming from Dhansa side. He tried to stop that truck. Instead of stopping, the truck hit him and ran away. He died on the spot.

## Deputy Collector booked for deleting woman's name from voter's list

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Three Uttar Pradesh Government officials, including a deputy collector, have been booked allegedly for deliberately deleting the name of a woman from the voter list in Gautam Buddh Nagar ahead of the 2022 State Assembly elections, police said on Wednesday.

The FIR has been lodged on the orders of an SC/ST court, which recently heard the complaint of the aggrieved woman, who belongs to the Scheduled Caste. The woman also accused the official of discriminating with her on the basis of her caste.

The 35-year-old woman, a native of Roshanpura village in the district, had moved the court in May last year. The voting for the election was done in February and results were declared in March. She claimed that her name was deleted from the electoral roll by the officials despite her being a registered voter in previous elections and possessing all required documents.

"My name was deliberately deleted from the electoral roll by the government officials who misused their power to not allow me to use my constitutional right," the complainant alleged.

## Give funds to MCD for G-20 works, Govt tells Centre

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Ahead of the G20 Summit in September this year, the Delhi Government has demanded that the Centre give funds to the Municipal Corporation of Delhi (MCD) to carry out works as part of preparations.

"The Centre gives funds to local bodies and municipal corporations... There is a formula for it, funds are allocated to municipal corporations according to the population. We have been demanding funds for the municipal corporation for six years. Delhi is the national capital, the G20 Summit is coming up. A large number of events will be held here and a lot of people will come. So, it is the Centre's duty to give funds to the municipal corporation," Deputy Chief Minister Manish Sisodia said.

He also demanded that the Centre increase goods and service tax (GST) compensation for Delhi.

As part of the implementation of the new tax regime, the Centre compensates the States and Union Territories (UTs) with a Legislative Assembly for any loss in revenue.

## National Voters' Day aims at encouraging first time voter: Delhi CEO

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

The primary purpose of the National Voters' Day celebration is to encourage, facilitate, and promote voter registration and participation, particularly among first-time voters, Delhi's Chief Electoral officer Ranbir Singh said on Wednesday.

The Election Commission launched a song named 'Main Bharat Hoon, Hum Bharat ke Matdata hain' while observing the 13th National Voters' Day with the theme 'Nothing like voting, I vote for sure' in Delhi.

The National Voters' Day has been celebrated on January 25 every year





since 2011 to mark the foundation day of the Election Commission of India on January 25, 1950.

Representatives of various political parties of the state along with state icons also attended the event.

Singh said all participants took a pledge to uphold the democratic traditions of India and to vote in an ethical manner in every election. Several young voters of Delhi of diverse categories were given their Elector Photo Identity Card (EPIC) at the National and the State level functions on the occasion. Certificates of achievement and cash prize to winners of various competitions were also given.

Awards for the best electoral practices were granted to 42 officers and officials at the state and district levels for their performance in election administration.


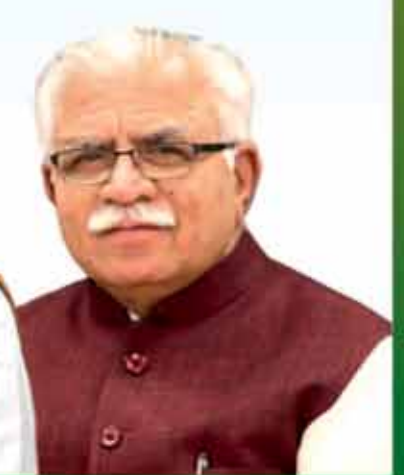
"Our constant endeavour is to educate, motivate, facilitate, engage and empower the voters so that they can play their democratic role more and more effectively," Singh said. District Magistrates R Menaka, Isha Khosla, Monica Priyadarshini were awarded as best DEOs while Kaanchan Azad, who has been the officer on special duty, was also felicitated with the special category award for 'Dedicated and Sincere Service', a statement said.

## Remembering the Messiah of Farmers Deen Bandhu Sir Chhotu Ram

### on his Birth Anniversary and Heartiest Greetings on the occasion of Basant Panchami

January 26, 2023

"जन सेवा और किसान कल्याण के लिए अपना जीवन समर्पित करने वाले सर छोटूराम जी को उनकी जयंती पर शत-शत नमन। उन्होंने न केवल देश के अन्नदाताओं के अधिकारों के लिए संघर्ष किया, बल्कि वे मजदूरों, वंचितों और शोषितों की भी आवाज बने। समाज के उत्थान में उनका योगदान सदैव अविस्मरणीय रहेगा।"  
 - नरेन्द्र मोदी

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# SC verdicts to be had in 4 bhashas from today: CJJ

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

In a first, the Supreme Court has decided to make available judgments into regional languages. To start with, the judgments will be translated into four languages — Hindi, Tamil, Gujarati and Odia.

Speaking at the inauguration of Delhi High Court's Online e-Inspection Software, Chief Justice of India (CJI) Dhananjaya Y Chandrachud said on Tuesday "English is not a comprehensible language to 99.99 per cent of the citizens" in the country.

The CJI said the apex court will operationalise the part of the electronic-Supreme Court Reports (e-SCR) project for making available verdicts in some scheduled languages free of cost.

"We have the e-SCR (PROJECT), which now has nearly 34,000 judgments and an elastic search facility. We also now have 1,091 judgments in regional languages which will be launched tomorrow on the Republic Day," the CJI said.

"We have 21 in Odia, 14 in Marathi, four in Assamese... 17 in Kannada... 29 in Malayalam, three in Nepali, four in Punjabi, 52 already in Tamil, 28 in Telugu, and three in Urdu," he said, adding that the apex court was on "a mission" to provide its judgments in all scheduled languages.

The Chief Justice has constituted a committee headed by Justice AS Oka for translation of top court's judgments into regional languages.

Besides Justice Oka, the committee consists of Justice Suraj Govindaraj of Karnataka High Court; Sharmistha from National Informatics Centre; -Mitesh Kapra from IIT Delhi; - Vivek Raghavan from Ek step foundation; -Supriya Shankaran from Agami.

"I have constituted a committee chaired by Justice AS Oka, a dynamic judge of the Supreme Court, and the first step taken is to ensure that the Supreme Court judgments will at least be translated in four languages; Hindi, Tamil, Gujarati and Oriya," the CJI said. There are 22 languages in the Eighth Schedule of the Constitution including Assamese, Bengali, Gujarati, Hindi, Kannada, Kashmiri, Konkani,



Malayalam, Manipuri, Marathi, Nepali, Oriya, Punjabi, Sanskrit, Sindhi, Tamil, Telugu, Urdu, Bodo, Santhali, Maithili and Dogri. The verdicts, as part of the e-SCR project, are available on the apex court website, its mobile app and on the judgment portal of the National Judicial Data Grid (NJDG).

The top court, on January 2, had announced the launch of the electronic-Supreme Court Reports (e-SCR) project to provide free access to its about 34,000 judgments to lawyers, law students and the common public.

"This is a free service available for lawyers across the country. Young juniors do not have to pay. There is an elastic search facility. We are improving upon the search engine by incorporating the following, distinguished and incorporated judgments in a few weeks..." the CJI had said.

Lawyers, while arguing in courts, refer to the reported judgments supporting their matters by using law journals including the 'Supreme Court Reports'.

The Electronic Supreme Court Reports (e-SCR) project was an initiative to provide the digital version of the apex court's judgments in the manner as they are reported in the official law report - 'Supreme Court Reports'.

The Supreme Court has developed a search engine with the help of the National Informatics Centre comprising elastic search technique in database of e-SCR and the search facility in e-SCR provides for free text search, search within search, case type and case year search, judge search, year and volume search and bench strength search.

# 901 police, paramilitary personnel bag service medals on R-Day eve

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Centre on Wednesday announced service medals to a total of 901 police and paramilitary personnel on the eve of the Republic Day, 2023.

"A total of 901 Police personnel have been awarded Police Medals on the occasion of the Republic Day, 2023. The Police Medal for Gallantry (PMG) has been awarded to 140, the President's Police Medal for Distinguished Service (PPM) to 93 and Police Medal for Meritorious Service (PM) has been awarded to 668," the Union Home Ministry said in a statement.

Among the majority of the 140 gallantry awards, 80 personnel from Left Wing Extremism or Naxal-affected areas and 45 personnel from Jammu and Kashmir region are being awarded for their gallant action, it said.

Among the personnel receiving Gallantry Awards, 48 are from Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF), the maximum among all the forces, 31 are from Maharashtra, 25 are from Jammu and Kashmir and Kashmir police, nine from Jharkhand, seven are each from Delhi, Chhattisgarh and BSF and the remaining from the other States/Union Territories and Central Armed Police Forces (CAPFs) of armed forces of the Union.

The Police Medal for Gallantry (PMG) is awarded on the grounds of Conspicuous Gallantry in saving life and property, or in preventing crime or arresting criminals. The President's Police Medal for Distinguished Service (PPM) is awarded for a special distinguished record in Police Service and the Police Medal for Meritorious Service (PM) is awarded for valuable service characterized by resource and devotion to duty. No personnel's Police Medal for Gallantry (PPMG), the top category of bravery decorations among the police forces, has been awarded.

A Central Industrial Security Force (CISF) jawan who "overpowered" his armed colleague after the latter allegedly killed four personnel at a power plant located in Bihar in 2017 has been awarded the police medal for gallantry on the occasion of 74th Republic Day.

Officials said this is one of the rare times when a PMG has been given to



a personnel who showed courage to end a fragging incident. Head constable (HC) Rajesh Singh was posted at the Nabinagar Power Generation Company Ltd (NPGCL) in Bihar's Aurangabad district on January 12, 2017 when his fellow constable Balveer Singh allegedly opened fire from his rifle and killed four colleagues.

Constable Balveer Singh reached the roof top of the new barracks in the campus and was "challenged" by Rajesh Singh, who was unarmed, the CISF said in a statement.

"Knowing that constable Balveer Singh was in a fit of rage and had a deadly assault weapon with him and it could result in loss of his life, Rajesh Singh with sheer sense of determination and to save human lives, confronted Balveer Singh and snatched the INSAS rifle and threw it, thus disarming him," the force said.

He also overpowered constable Balveer Singh and pinned him to the ground, who was later handed over to the local police, the CISF said. Rajesh Singh's "act of valour and courage" saved many precious lives, at a time when others were running to save their lives, the CISF said.

The PMG, his citation said, is being awarded for his "conspicuous gallant action, courage and devotion to duty during major indiscriminate firing incident while he was posted at CISF unit NPGCL Nabinagar at the time of incident."

The CISF unit is deployed at the NPGCL, a wholly-owned subsidiary of NTPC Limited, to provide it with anti-terror cover from Maoists and similar extremist elements.

Head constable Rajesh Singh is currently posted at the CISF unit that guards the ISRO Telemetry Tracking and Command Network (ISTRAC) in Uttar Pradesh's Lucknow.

# Prez gives 6 Kirti Chakras, four conferred posthumously

PNS ■ NEW DELHI



PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

President Droupadi Murmu has conferred six Kirti Chakras, including four posthumous and 15 Shaurya Chakras, including two posthumous for gallantry on the occasion of the Republic Day. Kirti Chakra is the second highest peacetime gallantry medal while Shaurya Chakra is the third highest.

Major Shubhang of Dogra Regiment was awarded Kirti Chakra for his gallant action in April last year while fighting terrorists in Budgam, Kashmir. He sustained bullet wounds in his shoulder during the encounter.

Naik Jitendra Singh of Rajput Regiment was awarded Kirti Chakra for his action while in anti-terrorist operation in Pulwama district of Kashmir in April last year. Despite getting injured, he managed to neutralize two ultras.

The seven Shaurya Chakras awardees include Major Aditya Bhaduria, Captain Arun Kumar, Captain Yudhvir Singh, Captain Rakesh T R, Naik Jasbir Singh (posthumous), Lance Naik Vikas Choudhary and Constable Mudasir Ahmed Sheikh (posthumous) of Jammu and Kashmir police. All the medals were awarded for actions in Jammu and Kashmir.

The President in all has approved 412 Gallantry awards and other defence decorations to Armed Forces personnel and others on the eve of 74th Republic Day.

# SCO chaired by India invites Pak in FMs' meet; no reply as yet

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

Even as relations between the two countries are frosty, India, as the Chair of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO), has invited Pakistan Foreign Minister Bilawal Bhutto Zardari and Chief Justice of Pakistan Umar Ata Bandial to participate in the SCO Foreign Ministers' and Chief Justices' meetings. However, Pakistan is yet to respond to the invitation extended through the Indian High Commission in Islamabad recently.

The Foreign Ministers' conclave is scheduled to take place on May 4-5 in Goa and if Bilawal Bhutto accepts the invitation it will be the first such visit by a Pakistan foreign minister to India since 2011.

Then Foreign Minister Hina Rabbani Khar had then visited India. Incidentally, the last Indian external affairs minister to visit Pakistan was Sushma Swaraj in 2015. Now External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar accompanied her as Foreign Secretary.

India took over the chairmanship of the nine-member grouping last September and will host the key ministerial meetings and summit in Goa in May. New Delhi has also extended the invitation to Chinese Foreign Minister Qin Gang and Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov. It will be their second visit to India as both the ministers are expected to take part in G-20 Foreign

Ministers' meet on March 1-2. The invitation to Pakistan comes at a time when its Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif last week called for a dialogue with Prime Minister Narendra Modi to discuss all contentions issues.

However, Prime Minister's Office in Islamabad later said till Article 370 is restored in Jammu and Kashmir talks cannot be held.

Moreover, the Indian invitation came days after Bilawal Bhutto's controversial remarks against Prime Minister Modi in the United Nations session.

The SCO also includes China, Russia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan. Invites have also been sent to the foreign ministers of China and Russia along with the other Central Asian countries.

Iran is the newest member of the organization and, under India's presidency, will, for the first time, attend the grouping's meeting as a full member. Its last meeting was held in Samarkand, Uzbekistan.

While ties are not normal between India and Pakistan, its officials have visited each other's country to participate in the Regional Anti-Terrorist Structure (RATS) meetings under the aegis of the SCO.

However, Pakistan will not participate in the SCO Film Festival to be held in Mumbai later this month.

While all countries have sent entries, Pakistan is the only country that did not send any film for screening in the group's third such film festival.



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**NOTICE**

Notice is hereby given that Share Certificates pertaining to shares of the Company detailed below have been reported lost and request(s) for issue of duplicate Certificates in lieu thereof have been received by the Company. Shareholder(s)/Claimant(s) shall also be entitled to Bonus Shares in the ratio of (4:1) on these shares from Investor Education & Protection Fund Authority :-

Sl. No.	Folio No.	Name of the Share Holder / Legal Heir (Claimant)	Cert.No.	Dist.No. (from)	Dist.No. (to)	Last Shares
1	A 0002181	PREM KUMAR SETHI (CLAIMANT)	95317	4089434	4089449	16
		AMRIT LAL SETHI (DECEASED SHAREHOLDER)	975086	18543498	18543530	33
2	SRF0050239	POONAM NAGRATH (CLAIMANT)	389547-8	17389224	17389235	12
		HARISH CHANDER JUNEJA (DECEASED SHAREHOLDER)	538547-8	25409016	25409027	12
3	SRF0138683	P K ABRAHAM	772657	8046394	8046424	31
		OMANA ABRAHAM (JT. HOLDER 1)	772657	24737987	24738004	18
4	K 0003357	KUNTI GUPTA	43412	2525051	2525075	25
			66321	3390069	3390076	8
5	P 0005498	PARSHOTAM LAL SACHDEVA	332911	16374831	16374880	50
		SMT USHA SACHDEVA (JT. HOLDER 1)	332915	16374926	16374927	2
6	R 0002603	KUMARI DEEPA SACHDEVA (JT. HOLDER 2)	481911	24394623	24394672	50
			481915	24394718	24394719	2
7	G 0000175	ANAND CHANDER GULANI (CLAIMANT)	118316	5064602	5064613	12
		GULANI CHANDRU SOBHRAJ (DECEASED SHAREHOLDER)	975498	18557002	18557026	25

Any person having any claim / objection in respect of the above requests should lodge such claim / objection with the company at its Corporate Office within 15 days of the publication of this notice, failing which the company will consider to give effect to the above requests.

Public is hereby cautioned against dealing with the aforesaid share certificates.

For SRF LIMITED  
 Sd/-  
**RAJAT LAKHANPAL**  
 Sr. VP (Corporate Compliance) & Company Secretary

Place: Gurugram  
 Date: 25-01-2023

# Youth will be biggest beneficiaries of developed India, says Modi

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Prime Minister Narendra Modi said on Wednesday the youth will be the biggest beneficiaries of a developed India and the biggest responsibility to build it also rests on their shoulders.

Addressing National Cadet Corps (NCC) cadets and National Service Scheme (NSS) volunteers who will be part of the Republic Day parade, Modi said they represent the country's aspirations and dreams in the ongoing "amrit kaal".

He said there are a lot of opportunities for youngsters in the country as India is working for the future of the entire world in sectors ranging from space to environment. "The world sees a new future for itself in India's achievements," Modi added.

He said it was encouraging to see youngsters taking part in various programmes in increasing numbers.

Referring to an event on Parakram Diwas to mark Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose's birth anniversary, he said it was the first time that many children dressed up as Netaji had come to the prime minister's residence. "The mantra of 'Jai Hind' inspires one and all," he said.

The NCC and NSS link the young generations with national goals and aspirations, he said, adding that his government has been working to encourage and expand their activities. Interacting with the youth is always special for him, he added.

He noted that different challenges come up in border and coastal areas and special training is being given so that



the youth can play the role of "first responders", if needed. The prime minister said his government has been working on making border areas vibrant by boosting development and creating various facilities there.

# NIA arrests main shooter in attack on Punjab Police Intelligence HQ

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The National Investigation Agency (NIA) on Wednesday arrested Deepak Ranga, the main shooter in the attack on Punjab Police Intelligence Headquarters in Mohali in May 2022. Ranga was nabbed from Gorkhpur early on Wednesday. He has been absconding since May.

Ranga of Surakpur village in Jhajjar district of Haryana, is a close associate of Canada-based gangster-turned-terrorist Lakhbir Singh Sandhu alias Landa and Pakistan-based gangster-turned-terrorist Harvinder Singh Sandhu alias Rinda, the NIA said in a statement.

"Apart from his involvement in the May RPG attack, Deepak has been involved in a number of other violent terrorist and criminal

offences, including violent killings. He has been actively receiving terror funds and logistical support from Rinda and Landa," it said.

The NIA had registered the case suo moto on September 20, 2022 after it emerged that terrorist outfits and terror elements based abroad were operating in tandem with leaders and members of organized criminal gangs operating in northern States of the country to commit targeted killings and violent criminal acts, it said.

It had also emerged that the terror-gangster-drug smuggler network was also engaged in smuggling terrorist hardware, such as arms, ammunition explosives and IEDs across borders through a widespread inter-State network of gun runners, illegal arms and ammunition manufacturers, suppliers and explosive traffickers.

# Cong, AAP question Centre's clean chit to China

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

Congress and Aam Aadmi Party have questioned the Centre's "clean chit" to China after a new report revealed that India has lost access to 26 of 65 patrolling points in Eastern Ladakh.

"Modi Government's continued denial of illegal occupation and construction of infrastructure by the Chinese has 'endangered' our borders," Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge wrote in a tweet sharing the news report. Attacking the PM, the Congress chief said,

"Your 'clean chit' to China is costing the nation's territorial integrity."

Kharge further said that PM Modi must take nation and Parliament into confidence over this issue. Congress has been asking the government to take concrete steps over alleged Chinese incursions in various border areas, including in the Northeastern state of Arunachal Pradesh. The party had accused the government of running away from a debate on Chinese issue in the recently concluded Winter Session of the Parliament.

Addressing a Republic Day function organised by the Delhi

government, Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal alleged that China is procuring more weapons to use against India with the very money it earns doing trade with us.

"We read about Chinese aggression on our borders as how the Chinese have encroached upon some of our territory near the border. Our soldiers put in all their might to fight the Chinese on the border."

It is now the duty of all citizens and all governments to stand shoulder to shoulder with our soldiers and support them. It is our duty to send a strong message to China against its

aggression. It is our duty to boycott China, look into its eyes and make it clear that we will not compromise on national security," Kejriwal said. He also lamented that over the last few years, the country has seen a rise in trade with China despite its forays on the borders.

Media reports quoting a note PD Nitya, the Superintendent of Police of Leh, Ladakh's main city said out of 65 patrolling points between Parakoram pass to Chumur India's presence is lost in 26 PPs (i.e. PP no. 5-17, 24-32, due to restrictive or no patrolling by the Indian security forces.

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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.	Mukesh Chand/ Prashant Nigam/ Geeta Devi/ LBAGR00004711594	House No. 163, Built Over Plot No. 163, Tulsi Budget Villa, Mauza Patholi, Sadar Tahsil, Agra, Uttar Pradesh/ January 23, 2023	August 25, 2022 Rs. 29,67,712/-	Agra/ Noida/ Delhi/ Mumbai

The above-mentioned borrowers(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 : January 25, 2023  
 Place : Delhi/NCR (Noida)

Authorized Officer  
 ICICI Bank Limited

# Flyers entitled to 75% of ticket refund from Feb

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

Air passengers will now be entitled to get 75 per cent of the ticket cost refund from the airline whose domestic flight tickets have been downgraded.

For downgrading of international tickets, the reimbursement amount will vary from 30 per cent to 75 per cent of the ticket costs, including taxes, depending on the distance covered by the particular flight. The directive comes at a time when there have been several complaints about airlines such as Air India downgrading



passengers to a lower class than the one they booked because of issues such as unseivable seats. The Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) on Wednesday

informed that it has amended facilities to be provided to passengers by airlines due to denied boarding, cancellation of flights, and delays in flights. "The new norms will be

effective from February 15. This step is taken to strengthen the rights of air travellers affected by the downgrading of their tickets, it said.

"The amendment will allow the passenger, who is downgraded involuntarily and is carried in a class lower than that for which the ticket is purchased, to be reimbursed by the airline.

For the downgrade of a domestic flight ticket, the passenger concerned will get 75 per cent of the cost of ticket, including taxes, from the airline. In the case of a downgrade of an international ticket, a passenger will receive 30 per cent

of the cost of ticket, including taxes, for flights flying 1,500 kilometres or less. Inclusive of taxes, the amount will be 50 per cent if the flight covers a distance between 1,500 and 3,500 kilometres," the DGCA said in a statement. "The reimbursement amount will be 75 per cent of the cost of ticket, including taxes, for flights covering more than 3,500 kilometres," it said.

In December last year, DGCA had proposed that airlines should have to refund the full value of such tickets, including taxes, and also that affected passengers will be flown free of cost in the next available class.

# K'taka HC okays marriage of bride aged below 18

PTI ■ BENGALURU

The High Court of Karnataka has held that a marriage under the Hindu Marriage Act cannot be termed void even if the bride is below 18 years of age.

A lower court had declared a marriage void under Section 11 of the Act but the High Court pointed out that this section does not include the condition of the bride being 18.

Overtaking the Family Court order, the High Court Bench of Justice Alok Aradhe and Justice S Vishwajith Shetty, in their judgement, on January 12, said, "Section 11 of the Act deals with void marriages. The Act provides that any marriage solemnised after the commencement of the Act shall be void and the court may on the petition presented by either of the parties thereto, declare the same to be nullity if it contravenes the provisions of Clauses (i), (iv) and (v) of Section 5 of the Act. Thus, it is evident that clause (iii) of Section 5 of the Act, which provides that the bride has to be 18 years of age at the time of marriage, has been omitted from the purview of Section 11 of the Act."

Setting aside the trial court order passed on January 8, 2015, the High Court said, "The trial court has, however, failed to appreciate the afore-



said aspect of the matter" Sheela from Chennapatna Taluk had approached the High Court in 2015 against the order of the Family Court.

She had married Manjunath on June 15, 2012. After the wedding, Manjunath realised that Sheela's date of birth was September 6, 1995 and she was a minor at the time of marriage. So, he filed a petition before the Family Court to declare the marriage null and void under Section 11 of the Hindu Marriage Act.

The Family Court held that on the date of marriage, Sheela was 16 years, 11 months and 8 days old and had not completed 18 years of age as was required under Clause-3 of Section-5 of the HMA. It, therefore, declared the marriage void under Section 11 of the Act.

However, her appeal before the High Court was admitted as it found that Clause-3 of Section-5 was not applicable to Section 11 which deals with void marriages.

# UNNAO RAPE CASE Victim seeks cancellation of Sengar's interim bail, HC calls for reply

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Delhi High Court on Wednesday sought the response of the CBI and expelled BJP leader Kuldeep Singh Sengar, who is serving a life term for raping a minor girl in Uttar Pradesh's Unnao in 2017, on a plea by the victim seeking cancellation of his interim bail.

Sengar has been granted interim bail to attend his daughter's wedding. His sentence has been suspended from January 27 to February 10 in the rape case and in another for which he is serving 10 years'



imprisonment for the death of the rape victim's father in custody.

The victim, who was present in court, submitted in her application that there is a threat perception to her and her family and she has received information that Sengar is allegedly likely to harm them after being released.

# Antony's son quits Cong in Kerala

KUMAR CHELLAPPAN ■ KOCHI

The resignation of Anil Antony, son of veteran Congress leader AK Antony from all party positions comes at a time when the CPI(M) and the Indian National Congress were publicly screening the controversial BBC documentary on Gujarat riots across Kerala. Anil Antony, leader of the digital wing of the Congress resigned from all positions except his primary membership of the party.

While the octogenarian Antony, former Chief Minister as well as a Union Minister refused to comment about his son's decision.

# CBI unearths another 153 fake bank accounts in WB's cow smuggling case

SAUGAR SENGUPTA ■ KOLKATA

As a part of its investigation Aprocess into the multi-crore cow smuggling case the Central Bureau of Investigation on Wednesday unearthed another lot of 153 fake bank accounts opened in the names of villagers who had no inkling of their presence.

All the accounts opened in the Birbhum district Cooperative Bank were frozen by the agency. Early this month the CBI had grubbed up 177 similar accounts. The Wednesday's expose take the total number of fake accounts to 330 CBI sources said adding there were possibilities of many more fake accounts getting



exposed.

On whether the accounts could be related to cow smuggling case — that has already seen Trinamool Congress national executive member and Birbhum strongman Anubrata Mondal go to jail — sources said most of the fake accounts had transactions with two rice mills linked to Mondal.

Villagers in whose names the accounts were opened and

who were interrogated regarding the transactions said they had no idea of the accounts having existed. Some villagers said that though they had accounts in their names they were so poor that their savings hardly crossed three-figure mark.

When asked as to how the accounts came into existence in their names some villagers said that they had never gone to the banks, neither shared their personal details with anyone save on the occasions when they gave away the copies of their Aadhar and Voter ID cards to local panchayat or ruling party members for the purpose of receiving wages under MNRGA.

# Bodies of 7 of family found in Pune river: 5 relatives arrested for murder

PTI ■ PUNE

An investigation into the death of seven members of a family, whose bodies were found in a riverbed in Pune, has indicated they were murdered allegedly by their rela-

tives over a previous incident involving the death of the son of one of the accused, a police official said on Wednesday.

Mohan Pawar (45), his wife Sangita Mohan (40), their daughter Rani Fulwara (24), son-in-law Shyam Fulwara

(28), and three children aged between three and seven years were found dead in the Bheema riverbed near Pargaon bridge in Duanand tehsil of Maharashtra's Pune district between January 18 and January 24.

Police have arrested five

siblings - Ashok Kalyan Pawar, Shyam Kalyan Pawar, Shankar Kalyan Pawar, Prakash Kalyan Pawar and Kantabai Sarjerao Jadhav - who are cousins of the deceased Mohan Pawar, an official said.

Pune Rural Superintendent

of Police Ankit Goyal said during the investigation, some facts came to the fore which indicated all the deceased were murdered.

Prima-facie, it is understood that Dhananjay Pawar, son of accused Ashok Pawar,

died a few months ago in an accident and a case related to it was registered in Pune city, he said.

"The prima-facie probe indicates Ashok was angry and held Mohan's son responsible for Dhananjay's death.

# MNM will support Congress in Erode East bypoll in TN: Kamal Haasan

PTI ■ CHENNAI

Actor Kamal Haasan-led Makkal Needhi Maiam (MNM) on Wednesday extended unconditional support to Congress candidate EVKS Elangovan for the February 27 Erode East by-poll, saying it was a "moment of national importance" to fight for the common cause of joining hands against "communal forces."

Elangovan, senior Congress leader and former union minister, is the candidate of the DMK-led Secular Progressive Alliance (SPA). The bypoll was necessitated due to the recent death of sitting local legislator and his son Thirumahan Everaa.

DMK President and Tamil Nadu Chief Minister M K Stalin thanked Haasan for extending support to the SPA.

# MLA's ₹6K per vote remark: Cong files plaint against BJP prez, Karnataka CM,

PTI ■ BENGALURU

The Congress in Karnataka on Wednesday lodged a complaint with the police against BJP national president J P Nadda, Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai and MLA Ramesh Jarkiholi levelling allegations of offering bribes to woo voters in the ensuing assembly polls in the State.

State Congress President D K Shivakumar, legislature party leader Siddaramaiah who are signatories of the complaint have requested the police to register a case and conduct an inquiry.

The complaint comes following an alleged announcement of ₹6,000 per vote in the assembly elections due in May, by Gokak BJP MLA Jarkiholi.

# 1 killed, 2 injured in group clash in Azamgarh

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

One person was killed and two were critically injured when former village head Shiv Shankar alias Bhurey Singh and his henchmen opened indiscriminate fire on rival Bhim Singh and his supporters at a panchayat in Dakshin ka Pura locality in Azamgarh district.

Azamgarh's Superintendent of Police Anurag Arya said that a dispute between two groups took an ugly turn during a panchayat convened to decide the beneficiaries of a government housing scheme and Bhurey

and his supporters opened indiscriminate fire.

"Himanshu Singh (32), Pradeep Singh Bhim (40) and Tavendra Singh Munna (38) suffered bullet injuries. They were rushed to the district hospital. In view of the critical condition of Himanshu, doctors referred him to a hospital in Varanasi where he died," the district police chief said.

"Five persons have been taken into custody so far. Four teams have been deputed to arrest Bhurey and his accomplices, who managed to escape after opening fire during the panchayat," the SP said.

# Man throws his 4 kids into canal over spat with wife

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

A man has been arrested for allegedly throwing his four children into a canal following an argument with his wife, sources said on Wednesday.

The 12-year-old daughter, whom the man flung from a 30-foot high bridge, not only managed to swim to safety but also rescued two of her siblings. However, the fourth child, a five-year-old and youngest of the lot, is still missing.

The accused, Pushpendra Kumar, after a domestic dispute, dropped his wife at her father's place. On the way back home, he threw his four kids into the 15-foot-deep canal.

# Body of boy missing for 22 days found in sugarcane field

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

In a suspected case of kidnapping and murder, the body of a 4-year-old boy, missing for the last 22 days, was found lying in a sugarcane field in Gangoh police station area of Saharanpur.

According to a police official, after getting information about a body from the villagers, they rushed to the sugarcane field in Khanpur Gurjar village under Gangoh police station of Saharanpur district on Tuesday evening and recovered the body.

**January 26, 2023**

**Greetings to all on the occasion of Republic Day**

गणतंत्र के गौरव गान में,  
भारत की शान में,  
आओ फहरारें तिरंगा  
संविधान के सम्मान में

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PAPER WITH PASSION

## Window of opportunity

India has invited Pakistan Foreign Minister for SCO meeting may not result may break the ice

India inviting Pakistan Foreign Minister Bilawal Bhutto Zardari and Chief Justice Umar Atta Bandial for the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) meeting in Goa has hit the headlines. The SCO Foreign Ministers' meeting is likely to be held in the first week of May. Though officials have made it clear that the invitation sent to Bhutto Zardari is a "routine matter" as India is the current chair of SCO, it has attracted considerable interest. This is mainly because of Pakistan Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif's recent conciliatory remarks vis-à-vis India and his desire to hold talks with India. He said that he had asked the United Arab Emirates (UAE) to facilitate the negotiations. The Pakistan Prime Minister's Office later brought in a caveat—that India must restore Jammu and Kashmir's special status—but it is widely believed that this was the result of the intervention of the deep state. It is a well-known fact that the Pakistani deep state remains wedded to the jihadist ideal of destroying India. A lot of factors ensure that the ideal is poignantly felt and zealously acted upon: revenge for the defeat in the 1971 Indo-Pak War, resulting in an inglorious surrender and dismemberment of the nation; Islamisation, which began under Zia-ul-Haq in the 1980s, and gained depth and breadth in Pakistani society and culture subsequently; birth and development of the terror factory with its various stakeholders entrenched in the Army, government, society, culture, and civil society. Even the

Oxford-educated Imran Khan ended up with the sobriquet 'Taliban Khan.' In such a socio-cultural milieu, it will always be difficult to even find, let alone have dialogue with, people in the Pakistani establishment who are sensible enough to talk sense and courageous enough to walk the talk.

Such is the climate of opinion that anything reasonable attracts flak and obnoxious gets applause. Unsurprisingly, Pakistani leaders regularly indulge in loose talk and make deplorable remarks. Last month, for instance, Bilawal Bhutto called Prime Minister Narendra Modi "the butcher of Gujarat." This is not how foreign ministers talk about the heads of governments of other countries. But then in Pakistan politicians are always mindful of the reaction of the all-powerful Army, which carries out coups, installs and deposes governments. Imran Khan's rise and fall are examples of generals' intervention; they ensured that he won the election and, when he became defiant, kicked him out of power. Pakistani politicians' plight is best summarized in an old Hindi film song by Mukesh: Mujhe raat din yeh khyal hai, kahin woh nazar se gira na de... Therefore, to expect that the visit of Bilawal Bhutto (if it happens, for Islamabad may decide to send the junior foreign minister) would result in a thaw in the bilateral relations would be excessive optimism. Yet, the visit does open a window of opportunity for both nations to have meaningful dialogue.



A man walks with sheep during light snowfall on the outskirts of Srinagar

## Kerala govt's U-turn

Despite Centre's rejection the Kerala govt wants to go ahead with the controversial Silver Line project

The Kerala Government which called off the Semi High Speed Silver Line Rail Project connecting Kasaragod in the north and Thiruvananthapuram in the south has made a U-turn from its earlier stance and has decided to approach the Centre for permission for the controversial rail route which generated massive protests across the State. While delivering the customary address to the first session of this year's Legislative Assembly on Monday, Governor Arif Mohammed Khan announced that the Detailed Project Report of Silver Line has been approved by the State Government and submitted to the Ministry of Railways for final approval. But what he did not tell in the speech was the Centre's rejection of the proposal citing issues like ecology, environment and apprehension expressed by the public. The State administration loses nothing if it sees the writing on the wall and calls off the project which has drawn widespread public ire and resistance from thousands of people who would be shunted out of their homes and farm lands for acquisition of land. The Governor's announcement that the State Government would bid seriously for the Angamali-Sabari Rail Project.



The move to go ahead with the Angamali-Sabari Rail Project for the benefit of Lord Ayyappa devotees is a retrograde and regressive measures. Hundreds of people were shocked by the announcement because the State Government has not acquired the land for the implementation of the Railway Line except installing stones along the proposed route and that too without the permission of the land owners. A cabal consisting of railway contractors, land sharks and drug peddlers are reportedly behind the initiative to lay the Sabari rail track to ensure the illegal traffic of high quality marijuana cultivated in the dense forests of the Western Ghats to the outside world, according to B V Kumar, who headed the Directorate of Revenue Intelligence for years and had led many operations against drug traffickers. The Kerala Government has failed time and again to focus on infrastructure projects which are essential for the State's development. Rail journey in the State is a harrowing experience as most of the services between Thiruvananthapuram and Kasaragod are delayed by hours because of outdated signal system and worn-out tracks. The Governor's speech stands out for its rhetoric and absence of concrete proposals. The CPI(M) has disappointed the electorate which re-elected the party to power. People in the State need a better deal.

# Unearthing the root of the disaster

If plundering of hill is not stopped, disasters like in Joshimath are bound to happen in the fragile ecosystem of the lower Himalayas.



BRIJENDER SINGH PANWAR

The fragile Himalayan mountains of Uttarakhand in the town of Joshimath in Chamoli district, located at an altitude of 6,150 feet, is famous as a gateway to Badrinath, one of the holy shrines 'Char Dhams' as well as the Sikh pilgrimage center at Hemkund Sahib, skiing attraction of Auli and the 'Valley of Flowers' UNESCO World Heritage site, is in news for wrong reasons - it is sinking rapidly all due to human-induced causes. On January 11, 2023, 723 houses in all the nine wards of the town had developed major or minor cracks on the floors, ceilings, and walls. Consequently, 145 families have been moved to safer locations. Joshimath has a population of 23,000 and is heavily built, with hotels, resorts, and a busy market catering to tourists, pilgrims, trekkers, and army and Indo-Tibetan border Police (ITBP) personnel. It emerged as a place of strategic importance in 1962 because it leads to villages along the Indo-China border and falls en route to Barahoti, a disputed territory along the border.

As per surveys conducted by experts, Joshimath falls in Zone V, India's highest-risk seismic zonation scheme and situated between two thrusts, the Main Central Thrust (MCT) and the Vaikrita Thrust (VT) and occupies a seismically active terrain. The town is highly active in terms of slope mobility because it is built on the deposits of an old landslide which means that the slopes can be destabilized even by slight triggers. Climatically, it lies in a region that frequently receives high-intensity, focussed rainfall, is prone to extreme weather, and could trigger landslides because the slopes are precariously balanced. Alarm bells in the region had begun ringing about five decades back when it was part of erstwhile Uttar Pradesh when the government constituted a committee led by the then Garhwal Commissioner, Mahesh Chander Mishra to investigate the cause of land subsidence in the area. The committee's report of 1976 warned against heavy and unscientific construction in the town.



It was clearly indicated that "Joshimath is a deposit of sand and stone.....hence was not a suitable place for the coming up of a township. Vibrations produced by blasting and heaving traffic will also lead to disequilibrium in natural factors". Subsequently, several studies flagged similar concerns, but the alarm bells went unheard and timely warnings were ignored.

In fact, on the contrary, Joshimath continued to develop exactly against the way the Mishra committee had advised. Successive governments, however, have sanctioned bigger projects - highways, hydropower, infrastructure development, and haphazard development of townships with no regard for environmental fallout. As normally attributed, the local people and climate change are responsible for the disasters. However, in his case, the policy-led disasters are "Made in Delhi". This is apparent from the decision of sanctioning large hydropower projects by the Centre even after the 2013 Kedarnath tragedy. The armed forces and the state and local authorities, in their overenthusiasm, to have a smoother, faster, all-weather connectivity for pilgrims, and tourists, ignored the government's own recommended "best practices norms". The construction of highways and railway tracks

SUCCESSIVE GOVERNMENTS, HOWEVER, HAVE SANCTIONED BIGGER PROJECTS - HIGHWAYS, HYDROPOWER, INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT, AND HAPHAZARD DEVELOPMENT OF TOWNSHIPS WITH NO REGARD FOR ENVIRONMENTAL FALLOUT

has now become a prime cause for landslides and their occurrences have doubled over the years making the hill slopes extremely unstable. Consequently, recurring landslides have gone up leading to erosions and land shifts.

According to a report published in Current Science in 2010, "Tapovan-Vishnugad hydropower tunnel that passes just below Joshimath, which is sitting on an old glacial deposit, could be contributing factor to this phenomenon. During the construction of the tunnel, a boring machine perforated a water-bearing stratum on the left bank of the Alaknanda river near Shelong village, leading to the discharge of 60-70 million liters per day. This must have led to the gradual depletion of pore pressure within the sediment leading to aquifer compaction and settling of the ground. The role of pore pressure in determining slope stability needs to be studied further in the region. Although the officials of NTPC who are responsible for the construction and maintenance of the 520 MW hydropower project refute these allegations. However, many residents believe that the town would not be facing the current crisis if not for the hollowing of the ground beneath their feet. Moreover, construction along the Helang bypass to build an all-weather road is

also believed to have disturbed the mountain's foundation.

Similar sentiments are echoed by the members of Joshimath Bacho Sangharsh Samiti, which have been protesting against projects detrimental to Joshimath since 2004 and are currently leading protests demanding adequate relief and rehabilitation for Joshimath's residents whose houses have been damaged. They felt that water released in 2009 is a major contributor to the subsidence and the water laden with muck and some volatile chemicals, began surfacing in the town's Marwari from the February 7, 2021 flood that would have entered into the (under construction) tunnel of the Tapovan Vishnugad project and is now surfacing in Joshimath. However, there have been no scientific studies establishing links between the puncture and the subsidence in Joshimath. Refuting these allegations, the NTPC has denied any role in the ongoing crisis. The real cause of this disaster remains a sort of mystery for the authorities as well as the public.

(The writer is a senior journalist and Chairman of the Panwar Group of Institutions, Solan, Himachal Pradesh. The views expressed are personal. This is the first part of two-part series on the Joshimath disaster; to be continued)

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### BAN ON BBC DOCUMENTARY

Sir — This ban on BBC documentary deserves criticism from both angles. Let us first take the ban from BJP's perspective. What is the need for banning the documentary when NDA has been elected twice with a comfortable majority in 2014 and 2019 and the riots took place in 2002? People knew pretty well about the riots and yet they voted for Modi for two consecutive terms with an ascending majority. Unnecessarily, by banning, they are advertising something that in the normal course would have fizzled out.

Now coming from the opposition's angle, a good number of voters were born after the riots if you take the segment of 20-22 years youth. Even assuming the ban is lifted, what impact would it have when Modi followed by courts' verdicts has eclipsed the whole issue successfully, albeit under the garb of truth and nothing but the truth? Amplifying the issue will neither reduce the vote bank of the BJP nor will it increase the same for all other opposing parties. The program, if shown may or may not dent the image of Modi per se.

Let us be reconciled to the reality that we are not in an era of 'yatha Raja tatha praja' but rather 'yathaha praja tatha raja'.  
**D. Nagarjuna | Hyderabad**

### NAMING OF ISLANDS

Sir — Prime Minister (PM) Narendra Modi named the 21 largest unnamed islands of Andaman and Nicobar Islands after Param Vir Chakra (PVC) awardees in a ceremony on the occasion of Parakram Diwas (Day of Valor) on the day of Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose's birthday. Before this earlier in 2018, Ross Islands was renamed Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose Dweep by the prime minister during his visit to the island. Similarly, Neil Island and Havelock Island were also renamed Shaheed Dweep and Swaraj Dweep. No doubt the decision is heartening, even what will happen when in future more and more PVC awardees will be there? They will create islands to be named.

Actually, after Modi became PM his love towards all-time Congress leader

### HC's judgement on abortion



The Bombay High court had delivered a landmark decision on termination of pregnancy and allowed a pregnant lady to terminate in 32 weeks treating in violation of individual liberty which has been exercised by every individual. Court had said that it would be a denial of the woman's right to dignity and her reproductive and decisional autonomy if she is not allowed to undergo medical termination of the foetus with serious abnormalities and "the decision is hers and hers alone to make, once the conditions in the statute are met. The right to choose is the mothers'. A medical board was constituted as required by the Medical Termination of Pregnancy Act. The medical opinion confirmed the diagnosis of anomalies and added the possibility of intel-

lectual disability to the child but said both conditions were not life-threatening. It denied the request for a medical termination of pregnancy in view of the advanced gestation period.

The woman, however, said she comes from a humble background and will not be able to provide additional care and meet the expenses of an infant born with such conditions and urged the court to intervene. The court then directed a qualified psychiatrist to assess whether a medical termination of the pregnancy at this stage would pose a physical or mental risk to the woman. The report stated that she has no major medical, obstetric, or psychiatric complications at present but considering the advanced gestational age the medical termination of pregnancy is not recommended. However, Advocate in the court pointed out that the Act does not say what is to happen if a fetal abnormality is detected late in the pregnancy and that the writ jurisdiction of the Court may be invoked. The court on January 20 allowed the termination of the pregnancy. These important decisions should be highlighted by the concerned general public.

**Yashpal Ralhan | Jalandhar**

Sardar Vallabh Bhai Patel, and recent respect towards Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose or other freedom fighters is nothing, but to cover up Rashtriya SwayamSevak Sangh (RSS) which is throughout India's freedom struggle, it was subservient to the British, with its leadership prohibiting participation in mass movements. People are fully aware that RSS is the parent organization of the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) and without RSS, BJP is nothing on the ground. Netaji's daughter Anita Bose said the BJP and RSS do not reflect the idea of respecting all religions as preached by Netaji, who was a devout Hindu but believed in respecting other faiths.

Even that shrewd and politically minded PM Modi created Netaji Memorial (to be built on Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose Dweep) and the 21 newly named islands will be a source of constant

inspiration for the young generations. Though I doubt how much respect Modi's PVC winners have, rather than just playing politics by using their great sacrifice.  
**Bidyut K Chatterjee | Faridabad**

### HOCKEY IS THE KEY TO MEDAL TALLY

Sir — Hockey is the key that can open the lock of India's medals tally and bring back golden memories. Government, Media, and Trade-business communities have the power to uplift or pull down anything in the country. We have tremendous sports talent available in small towns and villages. We only have to discover and train them to bring out their true potential. Let us remember India's Sports Talent has immense potential.

**TS Karthik | Chennai**

Send your feedback to: [letterstopioneer@gmail.com](mailto:letterstopioneer@gmail.com)

## SOUND BITE

If a person is working for the nation, then he may think one day his RAW and IB files can be made public. It is a matter of concern... It is a serious issue.



**The Law Minister**  
— Kiran Rijju

We know the scourge of gun violence across America requires stronger action. I once again urge

both chambers of Congress to act quickly and deliver this Assault Weapons Ban to my desk, and take action to keep American communities, schools, workplaces, and homes safe.

**US President**  
— Joe Biden

I want every film to be a super duper hit. Now Pathaan is releasing and whatever reports we are reading about the advance booking seem fantastic I am very happy about it from the bottom of my heart.



**Actor**  
— Ajay Devgn

India finally committing to playing day cricket the aggressive way makes them Red not favorites to win the men's World Cup this year.

**Former England skipper**  
— Michael Vaughan

Congress does not need any proof from the armed forces.



**Congress leader**  
— Rahul Gandhi

## FIRST COLUMN

## IT IS EASIER TO LIVE IN DENIAL OF REALITY

But the lesson of Gita is that we should accept reality



AJIT KUMAR BISHNOI

One must wonder as to why we do not want to accept reality. Why do the majority of us want to live in denial? Because it is difficult, it is easier to live in denial. It wasn't so, it would not have taken Lord Krishna to speak the entire Gita to convince Arjuna, who accepted what the Lord wanted him to do only in verse #18.73.

What was Arjuna's initial position? He didn't want to fight the inevitable war, and he gave many reasons for it. Sample some of his arguments. Arjuna didn't see the opposition Army consisting of persons who were bent upon perpetrating 'adharma' (injustice) as what they were; he saw them as relatives. (1.28) He could see only adverse consequences, nothing favourable in killing them. (1.31) He would rather die than desire either victory, kingdom or pleasures. (1.32) He was strongly of the opinion that it would be sinful to kill his relatives. (1.36) Arjuna even foresaw sacrosanct family values getting destroyed, predominance of immortality, women of the family getting corrupted resulting in illicit progeny, etc. Such an act by him was surely going to result in a long stay of hell for his side. (1.44)

How did Lord Krishna manage to bring Arjuna around to see the reality? The Lord started with the knowledge of soul, while Arjuna was seeing only material bodies. This is what most of us do too. We don't want to accept the reality of previous lives, future lives, etc. For the ignorant mass, the present life is everything. This wrong perception prevents us from seeing the truth of our existence.



We don't believe in the 'Karmaphala Principle', which is crucial for accepting reality, the system of reward and punishment, which is fate. Once we accept the reality of the soul, we begin to accept death – the most painful reality. This is where actual realism comes.

The next reality is being dutiful. Even animals are dutiful towards their progeny. We cannot be worse than them. We must accept to do whatever is necessary according to time, place and circumstances. If we are mentally prepared to do that, life becomes more meaningful. Because as human beings, being dutiful is the foremost requirement. These duties are towards ourselves, our families, our professions, etc.

We, being small, are incomplete in every sense; we need God's help 24x7. A good connection with God makes us complete, we being parts of Him. (15.7) Then nothing is beyond us. We can accept whatever the realities of our lives.

Then, comes mind control. Aren't we dictated to by our minds? Don't they define us? Therefore, God has insisted that we try to control our minds. We have to be in control, not our minds. Then, where will there be any difficulty in accepting what we must?

'Maya' may try to bemuse, confuse, and make us see everything upside down, which is liking what hurts and avoiding what helps. This is where the human species is well placed; it has all the tools to live a quality life. We just have to accept to be good in all respects, which happens by embracing the mode of goodness in all our activities, as detailed by Lord Krishna in the Gita. Gradually, we will become habituated to accept the ups and downs of life. (2.14) Acceptance makes living easy. It shows faith and hope for the future. Will we then be ready to accept what we must and go on steadily ahead? Those who can live their lives in the way explained by Lord Krishna in the Gita can look forward to a quality life, notwithstanding challenges, which loom ahead.

(The author is a spiritual teacher)

## Pariksha Pe Charcha deals with anxiety

Making career decisions is a crucial milestone at the secondary level because it helps students build their identities



PRACHI PANDEY



TARA NAOREM

Adolescence is characterised by significant psychological, physical, and social changes. Traditionally, a coming-of-age period, it should be a celebration of life. However, it is alarming how stressed and in the mental health crisis today's pupils are.

Common sources of stress include interpersonal interactions, learning difficulties, and exam failures. Examinations, in themselves, are a cause of stress as they lead to anxiety about opting for higher education or career. Choosing a higher education and future employment is challenging due to the complex options available. The choice of a career among the many possibilities available is one of the major reasons that might cause stress and worry in youth.

Additionally, empirical data has demonstrated that late teenagers with career choice issues frequently have significant psychological issues. Therefore, it is now more crucial than ever to pinpoint the causes of the stress and worry that young people are experiencing.

The pupils' stress may be influenced by what their parents think about them and their prospects. Additionally, a youngster who is unable to express their thoughts, feelings, and plans to their parents may wind up keeping everything buried deep inside, which could be harmful to their health and wellbeing.

In fact, such questions have been raised in previous editions of 'Pariksha Pe Charcha', wherein one student talked about the "huge competition in each field", how at times "they were not selected in any exam due to high competition and pressure". Questions from a societal perspective as to "what can we do for them so that great talent of our nation will not be just wasted and will be useful for the nation?" have been raised.

The Prime Minister's response has, of course, been well-documented but he has also written, "Aspire not to BECOME something but TO DO something. Normally, the desire to become something is driven by the expectations of the family, fashionable professional trends, peer pressure or fantasies about fame, money and power. It distances you from your true potential and gradually snuffs out the innate passion you are blessed with."

When parents don't approve of their child's choices, such as choosing to major in humanities rather than science, the child may experience shame, disappointment, resentment, and despair. Getting influenced by the choices made by their peers and constantly making comparisons with them could add on to their stress.

While it is good to have focus and many children may be able to decide what they want to become, it is important not to let these choices, whether to become a doctor or pilot or civil servant, define our dreams. Rather let the dreams lead you to



IN EXAM WARRIORS, PM HAS WRITTEN, "CREATE YOUR OWN OPPORTUNITIES. BE THE MASTER OF YOUR DESTINY. TODAY, THERE ARE TREMENDOUS OPPORTUNITIES IN FIELDS WHICH WERE UNIMAGINABLE EVEN A DECADE AGO. WHEN YOU MAKE THESE CHOICES, REMEMBER, YOUR PASSION MAKES FOR THE BEST VOCATION"

(Prachi Pandey is Joint Secretary, Ministry of Education; Tara Naorem is Principal Chief Consultant, SS, MoE)



paths determined by how you can make a difference to your family, to society and to the world at large.

Lacking clarity about one's interest areas, aptitude, work preferences, etc. and having a negative self-image could substantially increase the magnitude of stress and anxiety experienced by the students.

Swami Vivekananda exhorted us, "...each soul is a manifestation of divinity. If you have faith in all the Gods...and still have no faith in yourselves, there is no salvation for you." Thus, self-awareness is crucial, leading to identification of both strengths and weaknesses and resulting in increased confidence. This is why it is critical not simply to have a positive outlook, but rather to consciously weed out the negativity in our lives – negative thoughts, negative friends, negative information, etc. Negativity should not be removed by a false sense of superiority but by acknowledging that even our smallest strengths can help in different situations.

Life is a series of new experiences, environments, people, it is multi-faceted and a journey with many infinite destinations and possibilities. But everyone approaches it in a different way. While some are stifled by choices, others are overwhelmed by choices. At another end of the spectrum, some do not even know enough about the choices at hand. Lack of accurate understanding about numerous career options is another issue that stresses out students. This includes diverse work profiles, pay scales, potential for growth, future of certain industries, etc. One can make an informed choice only when they have all the required information. In such a case, not having access to information or

consuming content from unreliable sources (eg. making a career decision based on a random conversation with a friend) could prove to be quite harmful in these circumstances.

In Exam Warriors, PM has written, "Create your own opportunities. Be the master of your destiny. Today, there are tremendous opportunities in fields which were unimaginable even a decade ago. When you make these choices, remember your passion makes for the best vocation."

With these words as a foundation, practically, at the individual level, students can focus more of their time and energy in seeking information, having healthy conversations with friends, family, teachers, and resource persons. The cohort of adults in a child's environment can assist the students by encouraging open communication. They can guide, without being judgmental or forcing their opinions on children, and help children make decisions and become independent while selecting their subjects, colleges and universities.

Having an adult to speak with or discuss their career concerns or to ask questions and have constructive discussions could be significantly important for teenagers deliberating about their future.

Parents and teachers can also help the children by removing the taboo of going to a counselor and seeking professional help, if the need be. Having proper meetings with the parents, teacher and the child present would also be beneficial in discussing the concerns each of them might have, even concerns about resources, and come up with feasible solutions accordingly.

Such discussions could foster an environment of support, and understanding for the student. It is of utmost importance for the students to know that they are not alone in this journey, and that they will be able to figure things out gradually.

Lacking important life skills like time management, goal setting, etc., could further deteriorate their academic situation, and the student might start feeling incompetent leading to a negative self-image.

During PPC, PM Modi counseled students, "Every individual is blessed with unique abilities. These abilities are best channelled through quality time management. So, time management is nothing but ability management."

Life skills are built by taking constant care of yourself, mentally, physically and emotionally. The Prime Minister has said that "practising yoga with full awareness is the most effective way to achieve holistic development of the self....one who plays, shines." Physical exercise, whether in the form of individual games or team sports, not only keeps us physically fit but also helps us to learn life skills, value of team-work, the art of competing with oneself and achieving a better version of your own self. It instills a sense of discipline and also increases focus.

Making career-related decisions is a crucial milestone at the secondary level because it helps students build their individual identities in society and prepare for the workforce. The process of making these decisions can be both exciting and anxiety-provoking. This is, why, in this journey, Pariksha Pe Charcha has come to play an important role.

## POINT COUNTERPOINT

BJP MEANS BHAGTI JANATA PARTY. TODAY WE DEMAND THAT THE MEETING SHOULD BE CALLED AGAIN AND THE MAYOR'S ELECTION SHOULD BE DONE TODAY ITSELF.

— DELHI DEPUTY CM  
MANISH SISODIA



WE WERE SITTING IN THE HOUSE TO VOTE & WHEN THE TIME CAME, A RUCKUS BEGAN IN THE HOUSE. DEMOCRATIC PRINCIPLES MUST BE FOLLOWED.

— UNION MINISTER  
MEENAKSHI LEKHI

## India should win war against cervical cancer fast

The necessary tools to stop this preventable disease and eliminate it completely are available

Third Front again! Before every Lok Sabha poll, the Third Front idea is floated, and the 2024 polls are no exception. Political pundits predict that there is space for the entire Opposition against Bharatiya Janata Party but not a Third Front, as it will splinter the anti-BJP votes and help the ruling dispensation. The concept was tried and tested in 1977, 1989, and 1996-98, supported by either Congress or the BJP. But they were all short-lived.

A recent tweet by the Union Minister of Health & Family Welfare highlighted a new milestone achieved by India in securing the health of new mothers in the country. Sustained systemic efforts over a decade and targeted health initiatives have helped India

DR SHALINI RAJARAM

(The author is Professor and Program Lead of the MCh Gynecologic Oncology Program, Dept. of Obstetrics & Gynecology, AIIMS Rishikesh)

bring down the number of maternal deaths per 100,000 live births or the Maternal Mortality Ratio (MMR) from 130 in 2014-2016 to 97 in 2018-2020.

A decade back, deaths due to cancer of the uterine cervix and maternal deaths were both pegged at around 72,000 per year. However, cancer cervix has rapidly surpassed maternal mortality and has become the second common cause of cancer deaths amongst women in India. This is a distressing sign for a life-threatening disease that is almost entirely preventable. In 2020, over 120,000 women in India were reported to have cancer of the cervix, resulting in more than 77,000 deaths. Human Papilloma virus (HPV) has been established as a cause of cancer of

the cervix. More than 90 per cent of cancer cervix cases are due to high-risk HPV type. HPV, much like the influenza virus, is a ubiquitous virus and can enter the body through small abrasions in the skin and mucosa.

While most low-grade infections spontaneously resolve within two years, persistent infection results in cancer of the cervix. Early cancer can be completely asymptomatic. Hence, we may not know when a woman will develop pre-invasive or invasive cancer and a woman could be harboring a cancer for several years only discovering it at an advanced stage. Symptoms usually include irregular vaginal bleeding, post-coital vaginal bleeding and sometimes between men-

strual cycles.

Invasive cancer of the cervix can cause a foul-smelling vaginal discharge or pelvic pain and is undeniably the most dreaded form when it invades adjacent organs like the bladder and rectum.

Beyond mortality, the long-term effects of cervical cancer can severely impact the quality of life. In addition to undergoing the harrowing experience of cancer treatment and associated toxicities, cancer survivors also have to battle with long term issues such as menopausal symptoms, severe leg swelling (lower limb lymphedema), sexual dysfunction, infertility, social judgement and rejection, difficulty in social functioning, reduced self-esteem, negative body image, as well as finan-

cial issues.

Unfortunately, this cancer is mostly diagnosed in young women between 35 to 45 years of age when they are in the prime years. Only silver line is that the cancer of the cervix is almost entirely preventable. We know that it is caused by a virus and that there are effective vaccines already used globally to help prevent it. Vaccinating young girls long before they are exposed to this virus can aid primary prevention. Regular screening after the age of 30 and effective treatment through surgery or radiation, can eliminate what currently stands as the second most common cancer in women in India. Advocating the vaccine to every young girl between the age of 9-14, that they see

in their practice, and advising screening of women between 30-49 years with a high precision HPV DNA test will be the two strongest pillars in this fight against cancer cervix.

As a member of the World Health Assembly, India committed to WHO's Global Cervical Cancer Elimination Initiative to accelerate the elimination of cancer of the cervix by 2030. The 90-70-90 target set by the initiative requires 90 per cent of girls to be fully vaccinated with HPV vaccine before the age of 15, 70 per cent of women to be screened with a high-performance test by the age of 35 and again by the age of 45, and 90 per cent of women identified with cervical cancer to receive treatment. In an endeavour to meet the commitment and

protect our girls, the Government of India must consider launching HPV vaccination funded and implemented under the immunization programme. As we celebrate the cervical cancer awareness month this January, each one of us can play a part in helping the country secure the health of its women.

Women represent the cornerstone for a family's overall health and hence investing in their health and ensuring their access to quality care goes a long way in ensuring the wellbeing and future of a society. The necessary tools to stop women from suffering and dying from this preventable disease and eliminating it completely are available; thus our girls will live to see a world free of this deadly disease.

# Ukraine forces pull back from Donbas town after onslaught

AP ■ KYIV

Ukrainian forces have conducted an organised retreat from a town in the eastern region of the Donbas, an official said on Wednesday, in what is a rare but modest battlefield triumph for the Kremlin after a series of setbacks in its invasion that began almost 11 months ago.

The Ukrainian army retreated from the salt-mining town of Soledar, which lies near the city of Bakhmut, as key to capturing the entire Donbas.

The accomplishment takes the Russian forces a step closer to Bakhmut, but military analysts say capturing Soledar is more symbolic than strategic.

Ukraine's military, which has held out in Soledar against a monthslong onslaught of superior Russian forces, has said its fierce defence of the eastern stronghold helped tie up Russian forces.

Russia claimed almost two weeks ago that it had taken Soledar, but Ukraine denied it. Many of Russia's troops

positions, he said.

Moscow has portrayed the battle for Soledar, which lies near the city of Bakhmut, as key to capturing the entire Donbas.

The accomplishment takes the Russian forces a step closer to Bakhmut, but military analysts say capturing Soledar is more symbolic than strategic.

Ukraine's military, which has held out in Soledar against a monthslong onslaught of superior Russian forces, has said its fierce defence of the eastern stronghold helped tie up Russian forces.

Russia claimed almost two weeks ago that it had taken Soledar, but Ukraine denied it. Many of Russia's troops

around Soledar belong to the private Russian military contractor Wagner Group, and the fighting reportedly has been bloody.

Since its invasion of Ukraine, Moscow has prioritised taking full control of the Donbas - a region made up of the Donetsk and Luhansk provinces, where it has backed a separatist insurgency since 2014.

Russia has seized most of Luhansk, but about half of Donetsk remains under Ukraine's control.

Taking control of the town would potentially allow Russian forces to cut supply lines to Ukrainian forces in Bakhmut,

though the strength of Ukraine's new defensive positions was not known.

The Institute for the Study of War, a think tank in Washington, said earlier this month that the fall of Soledar wouldn't mark "an operationally significant development and is unlikely to presage an imminent Russian encirclement of Bakhmut".

The institute said Russian information operations have "overexaggerated the importance of Soledar," which is a small settlement. It also argued that the long and difficult battle has contributed to the exhaustion of Russian forces.

Perhaps more worrying for

Moscow, Western military help for Ukraine is now being stepped up with the delivery of tanks.

Elsewhere, Russian forces have continued to pummel Ukrainian areas, especially in the south and east.

Russian strikes wounded 10 civilians in the eastern Donetsk province on Tuesday, Pavlo Kyrylenko, the provincial governor, said.

Five were wounded when Russian shells slammed into apartment blocks, he said.

The General Staff of the Armed Forces of Ukraine said on Wednesday that over the previous 24 hours Russian forces had launched four missile

strikes, 26 airstrikes and more than 100 attacks from rocket salvo systems.

Russian forces are concentrating their efforts on establishing control over Donetsk province, conducting offensive operations around the embattled cities of Bakhmut, Lyman and Avdiivka, and the village of Novopavlivka, according to spokesperson Oleksandr Shtupun.

In addition to Donetsk, the Russian attacks struck settlements in the country's north-eastern Kharkiv and Sumy, northern Chernihiv, easternmost Luhansk, southeastern Zaporizhzhia, and southern Kherson provinces.



Meanwhile, Volodymyr Zelenskyy, the Ukraine president who has gone from professional comedian to an internationally recognised wartime leader, turned 45 on Wednesday.

His wife, first lady Olena Zelenska, said that though he is the same person as when they met at 17, "Something has changed: You smile much less now."

## New Zealander killed in Ukraine helped hundreds, parents say

AP ■ WELLINGTON

The parents of a New Zealand scientist who was killed in Ukraine said Wednesday he helped save hundreds of people while volunteering in the dangerous Donbas region.

Andrew Bagshaw, 47, a dual New Zealand and British citizen, was killed along with



British colleague Chris Parry, 28, while attempting to rescue an

elderly woman from the town of Soledar when their car was hit by an artillery shell, according to Bagshaw's parents, Dame Sue and Phil Bagshaw.

The Bagshaws said the deaths, which occurred some time this month, had only just been confirmed to them.

They said their son worked independently and wasn't affiliated with an aid agency.

They said he helped evacuate people from a dangerous area and bring food, water and medicine to others in need.

They said he even fed abandoned pets.

Soledar has seen intense military action and Russia this month claimed it had retaken the salt-mining town in a rare

recent victory in the 11-month conflict.

Bagshaw's parents said Ukrainian authorities were working with officials in New Zealand and Britain, but it could take some time to get their son's body returned from where it was being held at a children's hospital mortuary in the capital, Kyiv.

New Zealand Prime Minister Chris Hipkins said he'd yet to be officially briefed about the death but had received some preliminary information.

"I just want to extend my condolences to the Bagshaw family," Hipkins said. "I haven't had an opportunity to convey that to them personally yet. It's obviously a very tragic situation for them."

Hipkins said that there was very limited consular support available in Ukraine.

Andrew Bagshaw's parents told reporters their son was a humanitarian who had travelled to Ukraine in April with little more than a backpack and a travel guide.

## Ukraine corruption scandal claims several top officials

AP ■ KYIV

Several senior Ukrainian officials, including front-line governors, lost their jobs in a corruption scandal plaguing President Volodymyr Zelenskyy's government as it grapples with the nearly 11-month-old Russian invasion.

Ukraine's biggest government shake-up since the war began came as U.S. officials said Washington was poised to approve supplying Kyiv with M1 Abrams tanks, with international reluctance eroding toward sending tanks to the battlefield against the Russians.

Zelenskyy was elected in 2019 on an anti-establishment and anti-corruption platform in a country long gripped by graft, and the new allegations come as Western allies are channeling billions of dollars to help Kyiv fight against Moscow.

Officials in several countries, including the United States, have demanded more

accountability for the aid, given Ukraine's rampant corruption.

While Zelenskyy and his aides portray the resignations and firings as proof of their efforts to crack down, the wartime scandal could play into Moscow's political attacks on the leadership in Kyiv.

On the capital's streets, Serhii Bochkarev, a 28-year-old translator, welcomed the moves. "Corruption during war is totally unacceptable because people are giving their lives to fight Russians and to defend the motherland," he said.

The shake-up even touched Zelenskyy's office.

Its deputy head, Kyrylo Tymoshenko, prominent for his frequent battlefield updates, quit as the president pledged to address allegations of graft - including some related to military spending - that embarrassed authorities and could slow Ukraine's efforts to join the European



Union and NATO.

Tymoshenko asked to be relieved of his duties. He didn't cite a reason.

Local media said Deputy Defence Minister Viacheslav Shapovalov also resigned, in connection with a scandal involving the purchase of food for Ukraine's armed forces.

Deputy Prosecutor General Oleksiy Symonenko also quit.

In all, four deputy ministers and five governors of front-line provinces were set to leave their posts, the country's cabinet secretary said on the Telegram messaging app.

Authorities did not announce any criminal charges.

There was no immediate explanation.

The departures thinned government ranks already diminished by the deaths of the interior minister, who oversaw Ukraine's police and emergency services, and others in the ministry's leadership in a helicopter crash last week.

**SRF LIMITED**

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E-mail: cs@srf.com, Website: www.srf.com; CIN: L18101DL1970PLC005197

**NOTICE**

Notice is hereby given that Share Certificates pertaining to shares of the Company detailed below have been reported lost and request(s) for issue of duplicate Certificates in lieu thereof have been received by the Company :-

Sl. No.	Folio No.	Name of the Share Holder / Legal Heir (Claimant)	Cert.No.	Dist.No.	Lost Shares
1	J 0000863	JAI PARKASH GOEL	20328	1872501-525	25
			122776	5197374-85	12
			463930-33	24022352-87	36
			1129190	309736302-837	536
			90159020	12078055-079	25
2	A 0003947	ANDREW JOSEPH SIKKANDADAS PAUL (Deceased)	96420-21	4117647-721	75
			975150	18545506-655	150
			32861	2233301-325	25
			71292	3483234-244	11
			102637	4292198-215	18
3	A 0005354	ASHOK MANGALDAS MODY (Deceased)	90152089	10453030-049	20
			1127903	309174334-629	296
			1214	1156531-540	10
			60167	2900179-189	11
			67122	3405436-445	10
4	A 0004499	ARUNA UMMAT	71124	3481059-069	11
			77369	3581480-83	4
			80919	3628040-50	11
			84992	3715623-30	8
			85172	3718576-86	11
5	SRF0121016	SUDHA AMBWANI	92547	1167501-510	10
			93023	3378491-497	7
			96887-88	4133766-852	87
			975165	18546591-661	71
			10078369	3608410-420	11
6	S 0009675	SNEHA PRABHA MITTAL	90249630-31	9068906-005	100
			90257215-16	9068806-905	100
			17108-09	1786026-75	50
			39509	2414376-425	50
			147960	5883551-600	50
7	M 0005397	MADIPALLI ANNAPURNA DEVI	344085-89	16601837-922	86
			493085-89	24621629-714	86
			1124178	307857234-8521	1288
			28107	2098126-150	25
			32576	2224601-25	25
8	M 0005272	MOSES SUTHANTHIRADAS PAUL (Deceased)	132985	5497708-32	25
			325026-30	16209203-288	86
			474026-30	24228995-9080	86
			90164710-11	12653280-354	75
			1129692	30990402-1689	1288
9	SRF0158562	BHARAT BHUSHAN BHAGAT	132912-13	5495284-358	75
			976244	18579581-730	150
			1125950	308412194-3033	840
			397172-74	17538843-917	75
			546172-74	25558635-709	75
10	SRF0105575	ASHISH SUKTHANKAR	90208410-12	15640665-814	150
			573246-57	26239046-482	437
			20904	1889201-225	25
			140214	5705420-31	12
			334061-65	16397510-77	68
11	SRF0118613	ARCHANA SARAN	483061-65	24417302-69	68
			90034770-71	7409954-10001	48
			90170022	12915325-74	50
			33977	2266151-75	25
			69298	3449845-52	8
12	R 0001868	RACHEL VARGHESE	131490	5462620-35	16
			90027121-22	7111178-257	80
			90163760-61	12613510-64	55
			1128036	309237050-785	736
			97475-76	4149086-151	66
13	M 0002741	MAHMOOD EBRAHIM LADHABHOY (Deceased)	975196	18547297-429	133
			1123910	307752690-3485	796
			69298	3449845-52	8
			131490	5462620-35	16
			90027121-22	7111178-257	80
14	B 0000900	B S RAJPUROHIT	90163760-61	12613510-64	55
			1128036	309237050-785	736
			97475-76	4149086-151	66
			975196	18547297-429	133
			1123910	307752690-3485	796

Any person having any claim/objection in respect of the above requests should lodge such claim/objection with the company at its Corporate Office within 15 days of the publication of this notice, failing which the company will consider to give effect to the above requests.

Public is hereby cautioned against dealing with the aforesaid share certificates.

for SRF LIMITED  
Sd/-  
RAJAT LAKHANPAL  
Sr. VP (Corporate Compliance) & Company Secretary

Place: Gurugram  
Date: 25-01-2023

**NORTHERN RAILWAY**

**E-TENDER NOTICE**

SMM/ETDI/GZB acting for and on behalf of President of India invites E-Tender against tender no. 44225339. The details are as under:

Sl. No.	Description of Item	Quantity	Tender due on
1	"DRIVER DISPLAY UNIT (DDU) AS PER CLW SPEC."	10 Nos.	21.02.2023 11:00 Hrs
2	Quantity	10 Nos.	
3	Tender due on		21.02.2023 11:00 Hrs
4	Website particulars where complete details of tender documents can be seen: www.ireps.gov.in		

Note: (1) The tenderer/s must be registered on the Indian Railway E-Procurement System (IREPS) site i.e. www.ireps.gov.in for participating in E-tender system. (2) For all terms and conditions please refer tender document. (3) No manual offers are acceptable.

No.: 16/44225339/ETDI/GZB Dated: 21.01.2023

SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE 266/23

**SPECIAL TRAIN**

For the convenience of rail passengers, Railways have decided to run the following Special Train in view of 81<sup>st</sup> Urs Fair-2023 as per schedule given below:-

**09655/09656 Ajmer Jn. - Delhi Sarai Rohilla - Ajmer Jn. Express Special Train**

Train No.: 09655	STATIONS	Train No.: 09656	
ARR.	DEP.	ARR.	DEP.
---	05:45	22:15	---
11:35	---	---	15:00
AJMER JN.			
DELHI SARAI ROHILLA			

**DAYS OF RUN: 09655 from Ajmer Jn. and 09656 from Delhi Sarai Rohilla on 29.01.2023 (Sunday).**

**STOPPAGES:** Madar Jn., Kishangarh, Phulera Jn., Ringas Jn., Rewari, Gurgaon & Delhi Cantt Stations

**ACCOMMODATION:** AC 2 Tier, AC 3 Tier, Sleeper & General.

For any other information passengers are requested to contact RailMadad Helpline No. 139 or may visit Indian Railways website https://enquiry.indianrail.gov.in or NTES App.

Visit RailMadad website: www.railmadad.indianrailways.gov.in Download RailMadad App.

**कार्यालय अधिशासी अभियन्ता, केन्द्रीय भण्डार, उत्तराखण्ड जल संस्थान**

जल भवन, 'बी' ब्लाक, नेहरू कालोनी, देहरादून।

पत्रांक : 1008 / ई-निविदा / 2022-23

ई-निविदा सूचना दिनांक : 25.01.2023

उत्तराखण्ड जल संस्थान की ओर से केन्द्रीय भण्डार, देहरादून द्वारा निम्न कार्य हेतु ई-निविदा, दू-बिड सिस्टम (तकनीकी बिड एवं कॉमिश्नियल बिड) आधार पर निम्नानुसार आमंत्रित की जाती है।

निविदा सं.	कार्य	घरोहर धनराशि रु.	ई-निविदा प्रपत्र डाउनलोड करने की तिथि एवं समय	ई-निविदा अपलोड करने की प्रारंभ एवं अंतिम तिथि एवं समय	ई-निविदा सूचना क्र.सं. 7 अनुसार मूल प्रपत्र विभाग में जमा करने की अंतिम तिथि एवं समय	तकनीकी बिड खोले जाने की तिथि एवं समय	निविदा की वैधता	बि-बिड मीटिंग की तिथि एवं समय
23/22-23	वार्षिक दर अनुबन्ध पर, M.S. Intake Chamber size 40.5cm x 40.5cm x 50cm. as per departmental drawing and design की आपूर्ति।	1,25,000.00	30.01.2023 from 11:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.	10.02.2023 from 11:00 a.m. to 17.02.2023 upto 5:00 p.m.	17.02.2023 upto 5:00 p.m.	20.02.2023 at 11:00 a.m.	120 days	06.02.2023 at 11:00 a.m.
अर्हता:- Only manufacturers/fabricators of M.S. Intake Chamber as per departmental drawing and design are allowed to take part in this tender.								
24/22-23	वार्षिक दर अनुबन्ध पर, M.S. Uttaranchal Koop having 4, 5 & 6 laterals size 200, 250, 300 and 350 mm as per departmental drawing and design की आपूर्ति।	1,55,000.00	30.01.2023 from 11:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.	10.02.2023 from 11:00 a.m. to 17.02.2023 upto 5:00 p.m.	17.02.2023 upto 5:00 p.m.	20.02.2023 at 11:00 a.m.	120 days	06.02.2023 at 11:00 a.m.
अर्हता:- Only manufacturers/fabricators of M.S. Uttaranchal Koop as per departmental drawing and design are allowed to take part in this tender.								
25/22-23	वार्षिक दर अनुबन्ध पर, ISI marked Pre-cast concrete Manhole Covers conforming to IS: 12592:2002 with M.S. Frame (M.S. Frame for square and rectangular shall be made from hot rolled steel flat iron 5 mm, thick with arrangement for hold fast 10 cm. long at each corners) of suitable size, quality and load bearing, for placing of M.H. Covers की आपूर्ति।	92,500.00	30.01.2023 from 11:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.	10.02.2023 from 11:00 a.m. to 17.02.2023 upto 5:00 p.m.	17.02.2023 upto 5:00 p.m.	20.02.2023 at 11:00 a.m.	120 days	06.02.2023 at 11:00 a.m.
अर्हता:- Only manufacturers of ISI marked Manhole Covers having BIS license for IS: 12592/2002 are allowed to take part in this tender.								

ई-निविदा से सम्बन्धित समस्त जानकारीयों व शर्तें उत्तराखण्ड की वेबसाइट www.uktenders.gov.in एवं विभाग की वेबसाइट http://ujs.uk.gov.in पर ऑन लाइन देखी/प्राप्त की जा सकती हैं।

## In reversal, US poised to approve M1 Abrams tanks for Ukraine

AP ■ WASHINGTON

In what would be a reversal, the Biden administration is poised to approve sending M1 Abrams tanks to Ukraine, U.S. Officials said Tuesday, as international reluctance to send tanks to the battlefield against the Russians begins to erode.

A decision to send a bit more than 30 tanks could be announced as soon as Wednesday, though it could take months for the tanks to be delivered.

U.S. Officials said details are still being worked out.

One official said the tanks would be bought under an upcoming Ukraine Security Assistance Initiative package, which provides longer-range funding for weapons and equipment to be purchased from commercial vendors.

The U.S. Announcement is expected in coordination with an announcement by Germany that it will approve Poland's request



to transfer German-made Leopard 2 tanks to Ukraine, according to one official.

The officials spoke on condition of anonymity because the decision has not yet been made public.

By agreeing to send the Abrams at an as-yet unspecified time under the assistance initiative, the administration is able to meet German Chancellor Olaf Scholz's demand for an American commitment without having to send the tanks immediately.

Much of the aid sent so far in the 11-month-old war has been through a separate program drawing on Pentagon stocks to get weapons more quickly to Ukraine. But even under that programme, it would take months to get tanks to Ukraine and to get Ukrainian forces trained on them.

It wasn't clear Tuesday how soon the U.S. Will start training Ukrainian troops on the Abrams and roughly how soon they can get to the battlefield.

Until now, the U.S. has resisted providing its own M1 Abrams tanks to Ukraine, citing extensive and complex maintenance and logistical challenges with the high-tech vehi-

cles.

Washington believes it would be more productive to send German Leopards since many allies have them and Ukrainian troops would need less training than on the more difficult Abrams.

Just last week, Under Secretary of Defence for Policy Colin Kahl told reporters that the Abrams is a complicated, expensive, difficult to maintain and hard to train on piece of equipment. One thing Defence Secretary Lloyd Austin has been very focused on, he said, "is that we should not be providing the Ukrainians systems they can't repair, they can't sustain, and that they, over the long term, can't afford, because it's not helpful."

A U.S. Official familiar with White House thinking said the administration's initial hesitancy was based on concerns about the requisite training and the sustainment of the tanks.

The official added that the administration believes that such plans are now in place, but it could take time to implement them.

At the Pentagon, spokesman Brig. Gen. Pat Ryder said he had nothing to announce on any U.S. Decision regarding Abrams tanks.

But he said, "anytime that we've provided Ukraine with a type of system, we've provided the training and sustainment capabilities with that."

## After US offer, Germany unleashes Leopard tanks for Ukraine

AP ■ BERLIN

After weeks of hesitation that saw growing impatience among Germany's allies, Chancellor Olaf Scholz announced Wednesday that his government would provide Ukraine with Leopard 2 battle tanks and approve requests by other countries to do the same.

In a statement, the German government said it would initially provide Ukraine with one company of Leopard 2 A6 tanks, which comprises 14 vehicles, from its own stocks.

The goal is for Germany and its allies to provide Ukraine with a total of two battalions, or 88 tanks.

"This decision follows our well-known line of supporting Ukraine to the best of our ability," Scholz said after a Cabinet meeting in Berlin.

Germany was "acting in close coordination" with its international allies, he added.

The long-awaited decision came after US officials said Tuesday that a preliminary agreement had been struck for the United States to send M1 Abrams tanks to help Ukraine's troops push back Russian forces that remain entrenched in the country's east almost a year after Moscow's invasion and war.

Scholz had insisted that any decision to provide Ukraine with powerful Leopard 2 tanks would need to be taken in conjunction with Germany's allies, chiefly the United States. By getting Washington to commit some of its own tanks, Berlin hopes to share the risk of any backlash from Russia.



# PTI man held for public censuring of Pak Govt

**PTI ■ ISLAMABAD**  
Pakistani authorities on Wednesday arrested Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf party senior leader Fawad Chaudhry, hours after he publicly censured the government for scheming to arrest party chairman Imran Khan.  
Fawad, a close aide of ousted prime minister Khan, was taken into custody from his residence in Lahore after a case was registered against him at Kohsar Police Station on the complaint of the Secretary Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP).  
"This imported government has gone berserk," PTI leader Farrukh Habib tweeted.  
An official PTI Twitter account also posted videos, showing a convoy of police vehicles which the party



deepens political fault lines in Pakistan where the Khan-led opposition is demanding snap polls.  
General elections in Pakistan are due after August. However, Khan is demanding snap polls.  
"He (Chaudhry) was taken away from outside his house at 5:30 am in four cars that did not have any number plates," Faisal Chaudhry, the PTI leader's brother, was quoted as saying by the Dawn newspaper

immediately report any major damage or injuries from sub-zero temperatures and icy conditions that have affected most of the country since Tuesday.  
But at least eight roads and 10 sea routes remained closed as of Wednesday afternoon. About 140 homes in capital Seoul and nearby regions reported busted water pressure pumps or pipes as temperatures dipped to around minus 15 to minus 20 degrees Celsius (5 degrees to minus 4 degrees Fahrenheit) across the mainland.  
South Korea's Ministry of the Interior and Safety didn't

# 'Home Secretary Suella Braverman mulls cut in post-study student visa stay in UK'

**PTI ■ LONDON**  
British Home Secretary Suella Braverman is said to be on a collision course with the country's education department over plans to cut the period of stay allowed for overseas students under a post-study visa route, according to a UK media report on Wednesday.  
The new Graduate Visa route, which allows foreign graduates - including Indians - the chance to stay on to job hunt and gain work experience for up to two years without the requirement of a specific job offer, is expected to be cut under Braverman's proposed review.  
According to 'The Times', the Indian-origin home secretary has drawn up a plan to "reform" the Graduate Visa route requiring students to



obtain a work visa by getting a skilled job or leave the UK after six months. The newspaper refers to leaked advice to say that the UK Department for Education (DfE) is attempting to block the changes as they fear it would harm the UK's attractiveness to international students.  
"It's being used as a backdoor immigration route," the newspaper quoted the source as saying.  
The DfE, however, argues that the two-year Graduate Visa, often referred to as the UK's post-study offer, was aligned with most of Britain's main competitors, with only the US offering a one-year

A government source who backs Braverman's plan said the Graduate Visa was being increasingly used by students on short courses at 'less respectable universities'.  
"It's being used as a backdoor immigration route," the newspaper quoted the source as saying.  
The DfE, however, argues that the two-year Graduate Visa, often referred to as the UK's post-study offer, was aligned with most of Britain's main competitors, with only the US offering a one-year

**Piramal Capital & Housing Finance**  
Piramal Capital & Housing Finance Ltd (Formerly Known as Dewan Housing Finance Corporation Ltd.)  
CIN:L65910MH1984PLC032639  
Registered Office: Unit No-601, 6th Floor, Piramal Amrit Building, Piramal Agastya Corporate Park, Kamani Junction, Opp. Fire Station, IBS Marg, Kurli (West), Mumbai-400070. T +91 22 3802 4000  
Branch Office: Plot No-6, Block A, Sector-2, Noida, U.P. 201 301  
Contact Person: 1. Nishant Gautam- 9899216466 2. Naveen Kapoor- 9810854841 3. Rohan Sawant- 9833143013  
E-Auction Sale Notice- Fresh Sale  
Pursuant to taking possession of the secured asset mentioned hereunder by the Authorized Officer of Piramal Capital & Housing Finance Limited (Formerly Known as DHFL) under the Security and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 for the recovery of amount due from borrower/s, offers are invited by the undersigned for purchase of immovable property, as described hereunder, which is in the physical possession, on 'As Is Where Is Basis', 'As Is What Is Basis' and 'Whatever Is There Is Basis', Particulars of which are given below:

Loan Code/ Branch/Borrower(s)/ Guarantor(s)	Demand Notice Date and Amount	Property Address_Final	Reserve Price	Earnest Money Deposit (EMD) (10% of RP)	Outstanding Amount (01-12-2022)
Loan Code No. 00004417, New Delhi (Branch), Sanjay Kumar Gupta (Borrower), Poonam Gupta (Co Borrower 1), Himanshu Gupta (Co Borrower 2)	Dt: 19-11-2019, Rs. 2,79,69,719/- (Rs. Two Crore Seventy Nine Lakh Sixty Nine Thousand Seven Hundred Nineteen Only)	All The Piece and Parcel of the Property having an extent:- Entire Ground Floor of Northern Side Por Tion and Halfacre of FF, W-132 G.K. Part-I New Delhi New Delhi Delhi 110065 Boundaries As North: Plot No. W-134 South: Part of plot No-132 East: Road West: Service Road	Rs. 2,00,90,000/- (Rs. Two Crore Ninety Thousand Only)	Rs. 20,09,000/- (Rs. Twenty lakh Nine Thousand Only)	Rs. 4,26,56,889.38/- (Rs. Four Crore Twenty Six Lakh Fifty Six Thousand Eight Hundred Eighty Nine Only and Thirty Eight Paise)
Loan Code No. 00001206, Netaji Subhash Place (Branch), Raman Kumar (Borrower), Radha Devi (Co Borrower 1)	Dt: 24-05-2021, Rs.13,97,389/- (Rs. Thirteen lakh Ninety Seven Thousand Three Hundred Eighty Nine Only)	All The Piece and Parcel of The Property Having an Extent:- Property No T 184 Third Floor Rear Side Kh. No.18 Vill. Bindapur Block T Uttam Nagar New Delhi New Delhi Delhi-110059 Boundaries As North: Road 25 Feet South: Gali- 10 Feet East: Part Of Plot West: Plot No-185	Rs. 12,60,000/- (Rs. Twelve lakh Sixty Thousand Only)	Rs.1,26,000/- (Rs. One lakh Twenty Six Thousand Only)	Rs. 17,26,581.34/- (Rs. Seventeen lakh Twenty Six Thousand Five Hundred Eighty One Only and Thirty Four Paise)
Loan Code No. 00001119, Delhi Rajouri Garden (Branch), Sunny Madan (Borrower), Poonam Madan (Co Borrower 1)	Dt: 14-06-2021, Rs. 24,47,230/- (Rs. Twenty Four Lakh Forty Seven Thousand Two Hundred Thirty Only)	All The Piece and Parcel of The Property Having an Extent:- Roof Mahavir Etlcave Kh. No.813/97, Gali No.4 Palam Colony Palam Delhi Palam Delhi New Delhi Delhi:- 110045 Boundaries As North: Gali 15 Feet South: Other's Property East: Other's Property West: Part of Property	Rs. 18,30,000/- (Rs. Eighteen lakh Thirty Thousand Only)	Rs. 1,83,000/- (Rs. One lakh Eighty Three Thousand Only)	Rs. 27,88,012.7/- (Rs. Twenty Seven lakh Eighty Three Thousand Two Hundred Twenty One Only and Seventy Paise)
Loan Code No. 00001430, New Delhi-West (Branch), Mukesh Kumar (Borrower), Mohit (Co Borrower 1)	Dt: 12-05-2021, Rs. 20,70,658/- (Rs. Twenty lakh Seventy Thousand Six Hundred Fifty Eight Only)	All The Piece and Parcel of The Property Having an Extent:- Plot No-4350-4351 & 4352, 2nd Floor Without Roof, Ward No. XII, Gali Tej Ram Arya Pura, Subj Mandi North Delhi, Delhi New Delhi Delhi:- 110007 Boundaries As North: Other Property South: Other Property East: Other Property West: Gali	Rs. 19,00,000/- (Rs. Nineteen lakh Only)	Rs. 1,90,000/- (Rs. One lakh Ninety Thousand Only)	Rs. 8,98,246.96/- (Rs. Eight lakh Ninety Eight Thousand Two Hundred Forty Six Only and Ninety Six Paise)
Loan Code No. 00041688, Delhi- Pitampura (Branch), Gulshan Kumar Arora (Borrower), Sharmila Ahora (Co Borrower 1) Saket Chopra (Co Borrower 2)	Dt: 19-11-2019, Rs. 24,91,694/- (Rs. Twenty Four lakh Ninety One Thousand Six Hundred Ninety Four Only)	All The Piece and Parcel of The Property Having an Extent:- RZ-H-601, 2nd Floor (Front and Back Side) Block H, Kharsa No-56/21 & 56/22 Street No-16, Raj Nagar-2 Delhi New Delhi Delhi:- 110045 Boundaries As North: Gali 6 Ft South: Other's Property East: Other's Property West: Gali 7 Ft	Rs. 31,80,000/- (Rs. Thirty One lakh Eighty Thousand Only)	Rs. 3,18,000/- (Rs. Three lakh Eighteen Thousand Only)	Rs. 38,75,251.1/- (Rs. Thirty Eight lakh Seventy Five Thousand Two Hundred Fifty One Only and Ten Paise)
Loan Code No. 00001579, Rohini (Branch), Amar Singh (Borrower), Ram Devi (Co Borrower 1)	Dt: 26-07-2019, Rs. 35,93,020/- (Rs. Thirty Five lakh Ninety Three Thousand Twenty Only)	All The Piece and Parcel of The Property Having an Extent:- Plot No-IX/4677, Kharsa No-478/153 Gali No.-1, Aji Nagar, Village Seelampur Gandhi Nagar Gandhi Nagar Delhi New Delhi Delhi:- 110031 Boundaries As North: Part of Plot South: Plot No-IX/4676 East: Gali No-1 West: Other Property	Rs. 44,60,000/- (Rs. Forty Four lakh Sixty Thousand Only)	Rs. 4,46,000/- (Rs. Four lakh Sixty Thousand Only)	Rs. 50,33,701.62/- (Rs. Fifty lakh Thirty Three Thousand Seven Hundred One Only and Sixty Two Paise)
Loan Code No. 00000956, Delhi Rajouri Garden (Branch), Harvinder Singh (Borrower), Harjeet Kaur (Co Borrower 1) Gurmeet Singh (Co Borrower 2)	Dt: 18-12-2021, Rs. 23,28,730/- (Rs. Twenty Three lakh Twenty Eight Thousand Seven Hundred Thirty Only)	All The Piece and Parcel of The Property Having an Extent:- Southern Eastern Portion Prop No. K-1 TF With Roof Block K, Kh. No.18/2/1 Village Khyala, Vishnu Garden Portion Plot No. 1 Delhi New Delhi Delhi 110018 Boundaries as North: Part of Plot South: Road East: Plot No. K-2 West: Part of Plot	Rs. 26,30,000/- (Rs. Twenty Six lakh Thirty Thousand Only)	Rs. 2,63,000/- (Rs. Two lakh Sixty Three Thousand Only)	Rs. 26,49,301.64/- (Rs. Twenty Six lakh Forty Nine Thousand Three Hundred One Only and Sixty Four Paise)
Loan Code No. CPL30365, Delhi- Cp (Branch), Kevin Randolph Hyams (Borrower),	Dt: 23-03-2018, Rs. 60,07,554/- (Rs. Sixty Lakh Seven Thousand Five Hundred Fifty Four Only)	All The Piece and Parcel of The Property Having an Extent:- H/F/ Plot No. A-25, Chulharpur Khadar, Greater Noida, Uttar Pradesh- 201308	Rs. 76,80,000/- (Rs. Seventy Six lakh Eighty Thousand Only)	Rs. 7,68,000/- (Rs. Seven lakh Eighty Thousand Only)	Rs. 1,28,74,033.28/- (Rs. One Crore Twenty Eight Lakh Seventy Four Thousand Thirty Three Only and Twenty Eight Paise)
Loan Code No. 00000490, Greater Noida (Branch), Anju Sachdeva (Borrower), Kamal Sachdeva (Co Borrower 1)	Dt: 23-04-2019, Rs. 10,15,893/- (Rs. Ten lakh Fifteen Thousand Eight Hundred Ninety Three Only)	All The Piece and Parcel of The Property Having an Extent:- Flat No-623, Top Floor Sector- Chi-Phl Greater Noida, Greater Noida, Gautambudh Nagar-201308 Boundaries as North: Open South: Flat No-624 East: Open West: Stair/Flat No-621	Rs. 8,20,000/- (Rs. Eight lakh Twenty Thousand Only)	Rs. 82,000/- (Rs. Eighty Two Thousand Only)	Rs. 16,39,645.66/- (Rs. Sixteen lakh Thirty Nine Thousand Six Hundred Fifty Five Only and Sixty Six Paise)

**DATE OF E-AUCTION: 27-02-2023, FROM 11.00 A.M. TO 2.00 P.M. (WITH UNLIMITED EXTENSION OF 5 MINUTES EACH), LAST DATE OF SUBMISSION OF BID: 25-02-2023, BEFORE 4.00 P.M.**  
**TERMS AND CONDITIONS OF THE AUCTION:**  
The sale shall be subject to the terms & conditions as described below:-  
1. The asset will not be sold below the reserve price.  
2. In case of single bidder, the bidder/purchaser has to bid with a minimum increment amount of Rs. 10,000/- for property upto 3cr RP & More than 3 Cr (Property Reserve Price (RP) bid increment amount will be Rs. 1,00,000/-).  
3. Auction/bidding shall only by "online electronic mode" through the website of the service provider i.e. Company Name: C1 India Private Limited, Name of Representative: Mr. Dharami Krishna; Contact Number: 9948182222; Site: https://www.bankelections.com.  
4. Care has been taken to include adequate particulars of Secured Assets in the Schedule herein above. The Authorized Officer shall not be answerable for any error, misstatement or omission in this proclamation.  
5. The intending bidders are advised to go through the portal https://www.bankelections.com for detailed terms and conditions for e-Auction sale before submitting their bids and taking part in the e-Auction sale proceedings and contact the respective Authorized Officer for the concerned property as mentioned in the schedule above regarding the property.  
6. Auction shall commence at one increment above the Reserve Price and bidders shall be free to bid among themselves by improving their offer with minimum incremental amount stated herein above.  
7. 10% Earnest Money Deposit (EMD) DD shall be deposited on or before 25-02-2023, before 4:00 P.M. to the designated Branch in favour of 'Piramal Capital & Housing Finance Limited' along with fully filled bid form and Tender/Sealed Bid/offer in the prescribed tender forms along KYC. a) Self attested true copy of Identity Card containing Photograph and Residential Address and PAN card of the intending bidder, issued by Govt. of India. Original of the document should be made available for verification by the concerned Authorized Officer. b) Intending Bidder's Mobile Number and E-Mail address.  
8. The intended bidders who require assistance in creating Login ID & Password, uploading data, submitting bid, training on e-bidding process etc., may contact Mr. Dharami Krishna; Contact Number: 9948182222, Help Line E-Mail ID: https://www.bankelections.com and for any property related query may contact PCHFL Authorized Officer: Nishant Gautam-9899216466 during the office hours on any working day.  
9. In case of sale or Recovery proceeding by any superior court of competent jurisdiction, the auction may either be postponed/cancelled in compliance of such order, without any further notice and the persons participating in the sale shall have no right to claim damages, compensation or cost for such postponement/cancellation etc.  
10. Only those bidders holding valid user ID and Password and confirmed payment of EMD through Demand Draft shall be permitted to participate in the online e-auction. The Authorized Officer reserves the right to accept or reject any or all bids. Further, the Authorized Officer reserves the right to postpone or cancel or adjourn or discontinue the Auction or vary the terms of the Auction at any time before conclusion of the Auction process, without assigning any reason whatsoever and his decision in this regard shall be final.  
11. The successful bidder shall have to pay 25% of the purchase amount immediately within 24 hours (including Earnest Money already paid) from knocking down of bid in his/her favor, in the same mode as stipulated in clause 7 above. The balance of the purchase price shall have to be paid in the same mode as stipulated in clause 7 above within 15 days of acceptance/confirmation of sale conveyed to them. In case of default, all amounts deposited till then shall be forfeited including earnest money deposit.  
12. Meagre deposit of 25% of the Sale Price shall not entitle the successful bidder to get the sale confirmed in his favour. Sale shall be subject to terms and conditions applicable to this e-auction notice and confirmation by the secured creditor to that effect.  
13. The EMD (without interest) of the unsuccessful bidder will be returned on 3rd day of the closure of the e-auction sale proceedings.  
14. During e-auction, in case any bid is placed in the last 5 minutes of the closing time of the Auction, the closing time shall automatically get extended for another 5 minutes.  
15. The sale is subject to final confirmation by the PCHFL. In case if the borrower/guarantors pays the total Outstanding due to the PCHFL before the Date of Auction, then auction sale may be cancelled at the discretion of PCHFL.  
16. All statutory dues/attend charges/other dues including registration charges, stamp duty, taxes etc. shall have to be borne by the purchaser.  
17. The Sale Certificate shall be issued to the highest successful bidder and in the same name in which the Bid is submitted.  
18. The property is sold on "As is where" and "As is what is" basis and the Authorized Officer or the PCHFL shall not be responsible for any charge, lien, encumbrances, or any other dues to the government or anyone else in respect of properties E-Auctioned. The intending Bidder is advised to make their own independent inquiries regarding the encumbrances, search results and other revenue records relating to the property including statutory liabilities arrears of property tax, electricity dues etc. and shall satisfy themselves before submitting the Bid.  
19. Properties as mentioned above can be inspected by the prospective bidders at the site with the prior appointment of concerned Branch Manager or Authorized Officer or any other officer identified for the purpose, from 11 A.M. to 3 P.M. on any working day before 25-02-2023.  
20. PCHFL reserves its right to accept/reject any or all of the offer(s) or bid(s) so received or cancel the sale without assigning any reason therefor.  
21. In case there is any discrepancy found in Publication of Vernacular Version or English Version then in such case English Version will be considered for the purpose of interpretation. Bidding in the final minutes and seconds should be avoided in the bidders own interest. Neither PCHFL nor Service Provider will be responsible for any failure/lapse (Power failure, internet failure etc.) on the part of the vendor. In order to prevent such situation bidders are requested to make all the necessary arrangements/alternatives such as backup power supply etc required so that they are able to prevent such situation and continue to participate in the auction successfully.  
22. It shall be the responsibility of the successful bidder to remit the TDS @ 1% as applicable u/s 194 I-A if the aggregate of the sums credited or paid for such consideration is Rs. 50 Lakhs or more. TDS should be filed online by filling form 26QB & TDS certificate to be issued in form 16B. The purchaser has to produce the proof of having deposited the income tax into the government account within 15 days of e-auction.  
**STATUTORY 30 DAYS SALE NOTICE UNDER SARFAESI ACT TO THE BORROWER/GUARANTOR / MORTGAGOR**  
The above mentioned Borrower/Guarantor are hereby notified to pay the sum as mentioned in section 13(2) in full with accrued interest till date before the date of auction, failing which property will be auctioned/sold and balance dues if any will be recovered with interest and cost from borrower/guarantor.  
Date : January 26, 2023  
Place : Delhi  
SD/ - Authorized Officer  
Piramal Capital & Housing Finance Limited

# South Korea, Japan grapple with heavy snow chaos, delays



**PTI ■ SEOUL**  
Frigid winter weather gripped East Asia for the second straight day on Wednesday, causing several deaths and multiple injuries in Japan and a scramble for flights out of South Korea's resort island of Jeju following delays by snowstorms.  
Heavy snow and record cold temperatures brought widespread disruptions in Japan.  
South Korea's Ministry of the Interior and Safety didn't

immediately report any major damage or injuries from sub-zero temperatures and icy conditions that have affected most of the country since Tuesday.  
But at least eight roads and 10 sea routes remained closed as of Wednesday afternoon. About 140 homes in capital Seoul and nearby regions reported busted water pressure pumps or pipes as temperatures dipped to around minus 15 to minus 20 degrees Celsius (5 degrees to minus 4 degrees Fahrenheit) across the mainland.  
South Korea's Ministry of the Interior and Safety didn't

# Israeli troops kill Palestinian after attempted stabbing



**PTI ■ JERUSALEM**  
Israeli troops shot and killed a Palestinian in the occupied West Bank on Wednesday, Palestinian officials said, the latest death in a surge of violence. The Israeli military said the Palestinian tried to stab a soldier.  
The violence comes amid tensions over Israel's new government, it's most right-wing ever. On Wednesday, ultranationalist Cabinet minister Itamar Ben-Gvir promised to continue visits to a flashpoint Jerusalem holy site, despite pleas from neighbouring Jordan that Israel maintain a delicate status quo at the site.  
The Palestinian Health Ministry identified the man shot as Aref Abdel Nasser Lahlouh, 20. The Israeli military said the man was carry-

ing a knife and was shot after he attempted to attack a soldier at a military post. Video on social media showed a man running toward soldiers and then falling to the ground.  
Tensions have been high for months as Israel has been conducting nightly arrest raids in the West Bank, which were prompted by a spate of Palestinian attacks against Israelis last spring. Some 30 people were killed in Israel by Palestinians in 2022.

# US reroutes \$72M in aid for wages for Lebanese army, police



**AP ■ BEIRUT**  
The United States is rerouting USD 72 million of America's assistance to Lebanon to help the country's cash-strapped government boost wages of its soldiers and police officers, the US ambassador said Wednesday.  
Washington is a key donor of the Lebanese Army and its 80,000 members, providing over USD 3 billion in military aid since 2006. The announcement Wednesday is the first time the US is allocating funds for wages of security personnel in Lebanon.  
Lebanon, a tiny Mediterranean country of 6 million people, is struggling with an unprecedented economic crisis, one that the World Bank says is among the worst worldwide since the 1850s.

# UN official: Aid groups press Taliban on ban on women's jobs



**PTI ■ ISLAMABAD**  
Heads of major aid groups are pressing the Taliban to reverse their decision to ban Afghan women from working for national and international nongovernmental groups, the UN humanitarian chief said on Wednesday.  
The Taliban move last month to bar women from NGO work prompted major international aid agencies to suspend operations in

Afghanistan, though some have since resumed their work in parts of the country.

**PUBLIC NOTICE**  
Notice is hereby given to the General Public on behalf of IFC First Bank Ltd. that Mr. Sanjay Batra is the owner of Entire Second Floor without roof/terrace rights with one mezzanine room between state case of Second Floor & Third Floor (said floor) built up Property bearing No. 84-24 (Plot No.124, Block-4A) land area measuring 200 Sq. Yds. Situated in the area of Village Naraina, in the area of approved colony known as Indraprastha, New Delhi. The said property by virtue of Partition Deed dated 22.08.2022, Registration No. 4802, executed amongst Mr. Sanjay Batra 'First party' and Mrs. Samy Kapoor & 2 Mrs. Nikita Batra as second party, all were owner of the Second and Third Floor of the said property by virtue of Release/Conveyance Deed dated 18.08.2022. All persons are hereby informed that Mr. Sanjay Batra want to sell Entire Second Floor of the said property to Mr. Raj Kumar and his nominee who is taking loan for purchase the said floor from IFC First Bank Ltd. If anyone has any objections upon the ownership of above owner in respect of the said Property/Floor, its sale (Mortgage) Litigation, and any kind of objection kindly inform the undersigned in writing on the below mentioned address within 07 days of the present.  
Kumar & Associates (Advocates & Consultants)  
200, 1st Floor, 23, Shivaji Marg, Vast Nagar, N. Delhi-15  
Ph: 011-4112227-28 kumar.associates.advocates@gmail.com

**THE MAHARAJA BHUPINDER SINGH PUNJAB SPORTS UNIVERSITY, (MBSPSU), PATIALA**  
Mohindra Kothi, Near Fountain Chowk, Patiala-147001  
Advertisement No. 01/2023  
1. Online applications are invited for various teaching and non teaching posts for The Maharaja Bhupinder Singh Punjab Sports University and its constituent colleges i.e. Prof. Guruswag Singh Govt College of Physical Education, Patiala and Govt Arts and Sports College, Jalandhar.  
2. Online registration of application for these posts will start w.e.f. 25.01.2023 and end on 12.02.2023. Last date for submitting the hard copy of the online submitted application and supporting documents (6 sets of hardcopies of online application form along with self attested copies of all the certificates by courier or by hand) is 18.02.2023. 3. For further details visit University Website <http://www.mbspus.ac.in>  
PATIALA  
23.01.2023  
REGISTRAR

**NORTHERN RAILWAY**  
CORRIGENDUM  
Ref.- Tender Notice No. 78 Dated: 12.01.2023  
Tender No. 14221030 due on 13.02.2023  
In reference to above tenders, the item description has been modified same has been uploaded. All other terms and conditions remain unchanged. The corrigendum has been published on website [www.ireps.gov.in](http://www.ireps.gov.in)  
SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE 264/23

**NORTHERN RAILWAY**  
TENDER NOTICE  
Invitation of Tender through E-Tendering (E-Procurement Systems)  
N.I.T. No. S.N. 37-2022-23-W-V  
1 Name of work with its location: 1) Transplantation of trees in connection with construction of EMU stabling line at HN2M yard in the section of SSE/W/HNZM line under ADEN/HNZM  
2 Approx. Cost of work: 1) Rs. 15,10,255.00  
3 Earnest Money Deposit: (It should be in the form of net banking or payment gateway Only. Note: FDR will not be accepted as EMD for tender invited on IREPS as per Railway Boards letter no. 201025/CE-I/CT/5/1 dated 31.08.2016) 1) Rs. 30,200.00  
4 Completion period of Work 1) 2 Months  
5 Date and time for submission of tender and opening of tender: Upto 15.00 hrs. on 17.02.2023. Opening of tender at 15.00 hrs. on 17.02.2023  
6 Website particulars notice board location complete details of tender can be seen and address of the office from where the tender form can be purchased etc.: Above tender available on IREPS site i.e. [www.ireps.gov.in](http://www.ireps.gov.in)  
No. 128-W/280/OET/2022-23/W-V/NIT-37-2022-23-W-V Date: 24.01.2023 259/2023  
Serving Customers with a Smile

**NORTHERN RAILWAY**  
TENDER NOTICE  
Invitation of Tender through E-Tendering (E-Procurement Systems)  
N.I.T. No. 38-2022-23-W-V  
Name of work with its location Development of landscaping and other horticulture in the section of SSE/W/HNZM under ADEN/HNZM  
Similar Nature of work: Supply, installation and maintenance of indoor/outdoor will developed ornamental potted plant.  
Rs. 9039034.97  
Earnest Money Deposit (It should be in the form of net banking or payment gateway Only. Note: FDR will not be accepted as EMD for tender invited on IREPS as per Railway Boards letter No. 201025/CE-I/CT/5/1 dated 31.08.2016) Rs. 180800.00  
24 Months  
Date and time for submission of tender and opening of tender Upto 15.00 hrs on 17.02.2023 Opening of tender at 15.00 hrs. on 17.02.2023  
Website particulars notice board location complete details of tender can be seen and address of the office from where the tender form can be purchased etc.  
Above tender available on IREPS site i.e. [www.ireps.gov.in](http://www.ireps.gov.in)  
No. 128-W/280/OET/2022-23/W-V/NIT-38-2022-23-W-V Dated : 25.01.2023  
SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE 271/23

**PUBLIC NOTICE**  
This is to inform the General Public that the Original Lease Deed No- 5329 dated 05/05/1998 executed by Greater Noida Industrial Development Authority in favour of Shri. Sanjay Chaturvedi & Original Transfer Deed No- 4343 dated 09/03/2011 executed by Shri. Sanjay Chaturvedi in favour of Shri. Suresh Kumar Seth in respect of A Residential House no: 117 area 200 Sq. Mt, Block-A, Sector-Alpha-01, Greater Noida (U.P.), has been lost somewhere from Axis Bank Ltd. Noida, Retail Asset Centre, Ground Floor, Axis House, Sector-128, Noida and its misuse shall be illegal.  
If the said document is found to anyone or has any information or objection about it then the same be communicated within 07 days to Trinity Legal Partners, Gurugram, Mobile No: 9619800228 on behalf of Axis Bank Ltd. Noida, Noida Loan Centre, Ground Floor, Axis House, Sector-128, Noida.

**PUBLIC NOTICE**  
This is to inform public in general that Kotak Mahindra bank Ltd has organized an auction in below mention respect of Vehicles. **VEHICLES FOR SALE**  
1) FORCE\_FORCETTFB REG. NO. HR47D7876-YOM-2017  
2) FORCE\_FORCETTFB REG. NO. HR47D1286-YOM-2017  
3) TATAMOTORS\_SFC407CHP REG. NO. DL11AA8125-YOM-2018  
4) EICHR\_VECV\_PRO1049 REG. NO. DL1LAB0499-YOM-2018  
5) SWRJ\_MAZDA\_SAMRAT\_TA REG. NO. DL1MA2499-YOM-2019  
6) TATAMOTORS\_TSF407SG REG. NO. DL11AA5567-YOM-2018  
UNDER HYPOTHECATION WITH M/S KOTAK MAHINDRA BANK IS UNDER SALE IN ITS "AS IS WHERE IS CONDITION" INTERESTED PARTIES CAN GIVE THEIR QUOTATIONS WITH IN 7 DAYS AT  
BRANCH ADDRESS: KOTAK MAHINDRA BANK LTD., 3RD FLOOR, PLOT NO 7, SECTOR 125, NOIDA-201313  
OR CONTACT : JAGBIR SIR KOTAK MAHINDRA BANK LTD. CONTACT : 9999996157 EMAIL:jagbir.singh@kotak.com

**OFFICE OF THE PROJECT MANAGER, CONSTRUCTION UNIT, UTTARAKHAND PEYJAL NIGAM**  
GHINGARIKHAL, RANIKHET, DISTT- ALMORA 263645  
Letter No: 01/Camp Dehradun/ Date : 25-01-2023  
**E-Tender Notice**  
1. Name of the work:- CONSTRUCTION OF REPAIRING WORKS OF TYPE-II RESIDENTIAL BUILDINGS FOR REVENUE DEPARTMENT AT TEHSIL RANIKHET, DISTRICT ALMORA.  
2. Estimated Cost: - Rs. 24.26 Lakh  
3. Period of Completion:- 04 Month  
4. Date and time of availability of Bid documents in the portal:- 25-01-2023 (17.00hrs)  
5. Online Bid submission: End date :- 08-02-2023 (17.00 hrs)  
6. Date & Time of Technical Bid Opening :- 09-02-2023 (16.30 hrs)  
7. Name and Address of the Officer inviting bid: - Project Manager, Construction Unit, Uttarakhand Peyjal Nigam, Ranikhet.  
8. For further details, details of subsequent Amendment / correction documentation etc. may be obtained from the e-Procurement portal [www.uktenders.gov.in](http://www.uktenders.gov.in)  
PROJECT MANAGER

**PUBLIC NOTICE**  
BE IT KNOWN TO ALL that We Natraj Industries, a Partnership Firm having its manufacturing Unit at Property No. 65, Sector-6, Faridabad - Haryana since 1978, are in business of manufacturing of Corrugated Boxes Packaging Machines for Industrial Use only and we have never changed our business. We were/are never in business of trading or manufacturing or packaging of Pen or Pencil or Paper Plate of any type of any brand. We have no concern of any nature whatsoever with Natraj Pencil or any similar pen or pencil, Paper Plate brand. Our company doesn't offer any kind of these machines under any scheme. It has come into our knowledge that some notorious and criminal minded unknown persons singly and in group illegally using name " Natraj " or "Natraj Industries" to play fraud and to deceive the innocent persons on account of offering fake and frivolous job / business are making offer like "घर में बैठे बैठे रोज़ पैसे कमायें" और भी कई तरीके से लोगों को युराह कर रहे हैं for this modus operandi these notorious and criminal minded persons are illegally using social media platform like Facebook, you-tube, Instagram etc. even to take innocent people in confidence fixing fake, unauthorized picks, videos, offers on these social media sites. We Natraj Industries, already informed the concerned police of our area that how on-line fraud are being done by criminal minded notorious persons in the name of "Natraj" / "Natraj Industries". Further, we have time to time, also posted that these offers are FRAUD through social media sites. Few of telephone numbers of these fraud people which we came to know are as 9219485822, 7854038561, 9348750955, 7735574101, 9692355823, 8249603417, 8962398972, 8982124093, 875979568, 9555804125.  
We, being law abiding citizen in best interest of society, under bonafide believe seriously in apprehending these notorious / fraud / criminal minded people as they may further succeed to mislead the innocent people on pretext of fake job / business offer and deceive them in future. All concerned are advised immediately to report such incident to Local Police Station of their respective area so that concerned police can take immediate action against them and book them for committing the various offences with the public at large. Hence notifying public at large vide this notice. Please do not get trapped in any manner whatsoever with these FAKE people - WITH FAKE OFFER in the name of "Natraj" or "Natraj Industries" or Fake Job / Offer of Pen / Pencil / Paper Plate Packing Business etc. in any manner on any assurance, if any one shall be doing so, it shall be entirely as its / her own risk, costs, consequences and responsibility from all quarters without any concern of any nature with "Natraj" or "Natraj Industries" in any manner whatsoever.  
Anand Mohan (Manager)  
Natraj Industries

# Sensex, Nifty tumble more than 1% on F&O expiry

## Bank, financial stocks skid

PTI ■ MUMBAI

Benchmark indices Sensex and Nifty tanked more than 1 per cent on Wednesday due to heavy selling pressure in banking and financial shares amid unabated foreign capital outflows.

The 30-share BSE barometer plunged by 773.69 points or 1.27 per cent to 60,205.06 as 22 of its scrips declined while eight advanced.

The index opened lower and later fell nearly 900 points during the day to touch a low of 60,081.36 as investors closed their positions on the last day of derivatives expiry.

The broader Nifty of the National Stock Exchange declined sharply by 226.35 points or 1.25 per cent to close below the 18,000 level at 17,891.95. As many as 35 of its scrips ended in the red and 15 gained.

"Indian equities witnessed a significant sell-off as the market appeared apprehensive ahead of the upcoming Union Budget and Fed meeting next week," Vinod Nair, Head of Research at Geojit Financial Services, said.



"Sentiments were dampened by persistent FII selling, where funds are being shifted to other EMs as a result of attractive valuations. Furthermore, a weak economic growth outlook that stoked recession fears pulled down global markets," Nair said.

Analysts said that traders offloaded stocks ahead of the Adani Enterprises Rs 20,000 crore FPO, while migration from T2 to T1 settlement starting on Friday also led to some selling.

"Markets plunged sharply lower on the monthly expiry day and ended with a cut of over a per cent. After the flat start, the Nifty index drifted gradually

lower in the first half and remained in a narrow band thereafter," Ajit Mishra, VP - Technical Research, Religare Broking, said.

Among Sensex stocks, SBI fell the most by 4.3 per cent. IndusInd Bank tanked by 4.26 per cent, HDFC Bank by 2.78 per cent and Axis Bank by 2.02 per cent. HDFC, Tech Mahindra, ICICI Bank, Ultratech Cement, L&T, Bajaj Finserv, Reliance, HCL Tech, Asian Paints, Wipro and M&M were among the major losers.

On the other hand, HUL advanced the most by 1.14 per cent. Maruti, Tata Steel, NTPC and Sun Pharma also posted gains.

In the broader market, BSE Midcap declined by 1.52 per cent while BSE Smallcap by 0.94 per cent.

Among sectoral indices, BSE Power plunged by 2.72 per cent, Utilities by 2.87 per cent, Bankex by 2.42 per cent, Financial Services by 2.11 per cent, Telecommunications by 2.06 per cent, Oil & Gas by 1.76 per cent, Realty 1.92 per cent, and Capital Goods by 1.06 per cent.

Asian markets were mixed after the US stocks finished little changed. Japan's benchmark Nikkei 225 gained 0.4 per cent and South Korea's Kospi jumped 1.4 per cent, while markets in Hong Kong and Shanghai were closed for the Lunar New Year holidays.

European shares were also mixed with stock indices trading lower in Germany and France, while Britain's FTSE 100 rose 0.1 per cent.

Brent crude, the international oil benchmark, declined by 0.31 per cent to USD 85.86 per barrel.

Foreign Institutional Investors (FIIs) were net sellers in the capital market on Wednesday as they sold shares worth Rs 2,393.94 crore, according to exchange data.

Stock and money markets will remain closed on Thursday for the Republic Day holiday.

## Microsoft, amid layoffs, says quarterly profit declined 12%

AP ■ WASHINGTON

Microsoft on Tuesday reported a 12% drop in profit for the October-December quarter, reflecting the economic uncertainty it said led to its decision to cut 10,000 workers. The company reported quarterly profit of \$16.43 billion, or \$2.20 per share. Excluding one-time items, the company based in Redmond, Washington, said it earned \$2.32 a share, which topped Wall Street expectation for adjusted earnings of \$2.29 a share.

The software maker posted revenue of \$52.75 billion in the October-December period, its second fiscal quarter, up 2% from the same period a year ago.

Analysts polled by FactSet expected Microsoft to post revenue of \$52.99 billion for the October-December quarter.

Microsoft last week blamed "macroeconomic conditions and changing customer priorities" for its decision to cut nearly 5% of its global workforce. It's one of a number of tech companies, including Google, Amazon, Salesforce and Facebook parent Meta, to announce mass layoffs.

Microsoft's personal computing business, centered on its Windows software, was widely expected to continue a deterioration that began earlier last year due to economic uncertainties and crimped demand.

# Govt to sell 30 L tonnes of wheat in open market to control prices of grain, flour

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The Centre will sell 30 lakh tonnes of wheat in the open market from its buffer stock to check rise in prices of wheat and wheat flour (atta), sources said.

Last week, food secretary Sanjeev Chopra had said that prices of wheat and atta have increased in the retail market and the government was exploring all options to control the rates. According to sources, the food ministry has decided to offload 30 lakh tonnes of wheat under the Open Market Sale Scheme (OMSS) in order to rein in prices.

Wheat stocks will be sold to flour millers and traders among others through tenders. Cooperatives Nafed and Kendriya Bahandar will also get wheat under the scheme.

According to the government data, the average prices of wheat across major cities stood at Rs 33.43 per kilogram on Wednesday, up from Rs 28.24 per kg a year ago.

Average prices of atta (wheat flour) stood at Rs 37.95 per kg as on Wednesday as against Rs 31.41 per kg a year ago.

State-owned Food Corporation of India (FCI), the government's nodal agency for procurement and distribution of foodgrains, had around 171.70 lakh tonnes of wheat as on



January 1 in the buffer stock.

Under the OMSS policy, the government allows FCI to sell food grains, especially wheat and rice, at pre-determined prices in the open market from time to time to bulk consumers and private traders.

The purpose is to boost the supply during the lean season and moderate the general open market prices. Flour millers have been demanding from the government to offload wheat stocks from the FCI.

"We are finding that there is an uptick in the prices of wheat and atta. We are aware of the issue. Various options are being explored by the government and very soon we will come up with our response," Chopra had told reporters last week. The secretary had said that the stocks of wheat and rice in the FCI godowns are comfortable.

The Centre had banned wheat exports in May to control prices, after a slight fall in the domestic production and a sharp decline in the FCI's procurement for the central pool.

India's wheat production fell to 106.84 million tonnes in the 2021-22 crop year (July-June) from 109.59 million tonnes in the previous year due to heat waves in a few growing states.

The procurement fell sharply to 19 million tonnes this year from around 43 million tonnes last year. The area under coverage for wheat crop in the current rabi (winter-sown) season is slightly higher. The procurement of new wheat crop would commence from April 2023.

Sources said that the government will consider lifting the ban on wheat exports after harvesting of new crop.

# 'Budget to continue social welfare spends as poor consuming less, making eco recovery unsustainable'

PTI ■ MUMBAI

Economic recovery has not yet become broad-based and sustainable as only creamier sections are consuming, India Ratings and Research said on Wednesday and added that the FY24 budget is expected to continue with social sector spending.

The annual budget for the financial year 2023-24 will be presented in parliament on February 1.

Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman will focus on making consumption demand resilient, boosting infrastructure and manufacturing capex, skill development and increasing productivity, fiscal consolidation and climate change in the last budget of this government, the agency said.

It said there is likely to be a "stark

difference" between economic performances of the first and second halves of FY23, which will suggest that it is only the upper layers which are driving the private final consumption, the agency said.

"Anecdotal evidence suggests that the gap between have and have not has widened. ...Various social welfare schemes such as PM-KISAN and MGNREGA will not only continue but will also get appropriate resource allocation in the FY24 budget," the agency said.

It added that the recently announced measure on the free food grains from under the National Food Security Act for 813.5 million poor from 1 January 2023 to 31 December 2023 is a step in the same direction.

Spending power of the lower-



middle-income class has been "eroded significantly" due to higher inflation and negligible or negative real wage growth over the past few years, it said, adding some relief on the income tax front in

the FY24 budget will go a long way in alleviating their pain and can provide the much-needed thrust to the consumption demand.

On the infrastructure front, it expected the budget to increase capital expenditure to Rs 8.50 lakh crore in FY24 in order to build and strengthen vital infrastructure which could act as a foundation for a broad-based and sustainable recovery.

With the private sector not keen to come forward to invest, the agency said the budget can look at the customs duty front, saying inverted or distorted duty structures in select areas and sectors have been waiting for a correction for a long.

The agency said the budget would attempt a more gradual approach towards fiscal consolidation and there-

fore the fiscal deficit may get pegged at about 6.0 per cent of the GDP.

On the skill development front, it termed the decline in the contribution of quality of labour to India's GDP growth to 4.5 per cent during FY16-FY19 from 9.5 per cent during FY06-FY10 as a "cause of worry".

This is happening because India is lagging behind in equipping its workforce with the requisite skill set and education to cope up with the technological/business/ managerial changes occurring in the economy, the agency said, expecting an uptick in allocations on this front.

With India announcing climate commitments, the next logical step in this direction is to announce a road map to adopt climate responsive budgeting in the FY24 Union Budget, it said.



# In a stellar show, Indian Bank net soars 102% to ₹1,396 crore in Q3

PTI ■ MUMBAI

All-round improvements in key metrics, especially on provisioning front which nearly halved, helped Indian Bank register a 102 per cent jump in net income at Rs 1,396 crore in the quarter ending December 2022.

The management of the Chennai-based public sector bank, led by managing director and chief executive Shantilal Jain, has guided towards better days ahead especially on the asset generation side, hoping to continue the good run rate on advances which have maintained a steady 13 per cent growth rate throughout the fiscal so far.

"We've been able to maintain our good show for the third quarter as well with all sources of income, be it net interest income, asset quality, or fee and forex income or loan sales, growing in the quarter. There is no one-off item in the numbers at all as all verticals performed well," Jain told PTI from Chennai on Wednesday.

The bank reported a 25 per cent growth in net interest income at Rs 5,499 crore in the quarter and the fee-based income grew 6 per cent to Rs 704 crore led by a 99 per cent spike in forex income at Rs 294 crore. This was driven by a healthy 71 basis points jump in net interest margin at 3.74 per cent from 3.03 per cent in December 2021.

Another key profit driver, Jain said, was the recovery which jumped 53 per cent on year to

Rs 426 crore. This also had the bank seeing a 40 per cent reduction in provisioning at Rs 1,474 crore from the year-ago period.

Gross NPAs (Non-Performing Assets) declined by 260 basis points to 6.53 per cent or Rs 29,400 crore from Rs 36,000 crore, helping the bank more than halving net NPAs or by 172 basis points to 1 per cent, or at Rs 1,474 crore from Rs 2,439 crore, Jain said.

This had the provision coverage ratio improving by 810 basis points to 93.59 per cent, Jain said.

He said the recoveries through the NCLTs, one-time settlement and other means stood at Rs 426 crore, which was 53 per cent more than the year-ago period, while slippages declined to Rs 1,300 crore.

Advances increased 13 per cent to Rs 4,51,658 crore from Rs 4,00,432 crore in December 2021, of which the RAM (retail, agriculture & MSMEs) book grew 15, 15 and 6 per cent respectively to Rs 2,62,811 crore from Rs 2,33,738 crore.

The contribution of this book to gross domestic advances is 62 per cent. Home loans grew by 12 per cent, auto loans jumped 27 per cent and personal loan soared 35 per cent.

The bank's gold loan book, which is among the largest (Canara Bank is the largest among banks with around Rs 1 lakh crore of asset under management) grew 17 per cent to Rs 60,000 crore, Jain said, adding deposits rose at a tepid 6 per cent to reach Rs 5,97,114 crore.

# Rising cost of data a concern, Meity will reach out to Trai for assessment: MoS IT

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The rising prices of data and devices are a concern for the rapid proliferation of digitisation, Minister of State for Electronics and IT Rajeev Chandrasekhar said on Wednesday. The comments have come against the backdrop of a recent hike of about 57 per cent in the minimum monthly recharge plan by the country's second-largest telco Bharti Airtel.

"Rise in cost of data or cost of devices is a matter of concern because they are impediments in rapid digitisation. We have a target to bring 120 crore Indians online by 2025. We have 83 crore Indians online today. We certainly see issues in rising cost of data consumption or any rise in the cost of devices," Chandrasekhar said on the sidelines of the India Stack Developer Conference.

The minister said that he has not studied the recent tariff hike in mobile services rates by Airtel and will wait for telecom regulator Trai to examine it.



"We are certainly going to talk to Trai, that's what is it? Is it short-term because of the Russia-Ukraine Global issue? Is it long-term? Is it a trend or more of an episodic issue? These are the questions that we are going to ask," Chandrasekhar said. He also said that there has been an impact on prices across the world due to the Russia-Ukraine war and the impact of data prices needs to be examined.

The minister said the cost of data and devices are barriers to digitisation.

"If an operator is going to take it then that is an issue that

Meity will certainly ask questions why are they taking it up? What are the reasons behind it? Is it because of a supply chain issue? But it is our mission in Meity to ensure that data remains affordable in India because that is the secret sauce of digitisation," he noted.

Bharti Airtel has increased the price of its minimum recharge for the 28-day mobile phone service plan by about 57 per cent to Rs 155 in eight circles, including Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh, Bihar and Uttar Pradesh West.

The company has stopped its minimum recharge plan of Rs 99, under which it offered 200 megabyte of data and calls at the rate of Rs 2.5 paise per second. In Haryana and Odisha, Airtel has now started offering the Rs 155 plan with unlimited calling, 1 GB of data and 300 SMSes. Ministry of Electronics and IT secretary Alkesh Kumar Sharma said people should have access to digital inclusion, talk about digital empowerment and ensure there is no digital divide.

# Digital currency to further bolster digital economy: RBI

PTI ■ CHANDIGARH

Digital currency will further bolster the digital economy, make payment system more efficient, reduce cost involved in physical cash management and also contribute to further financial inclusion, RBI Executive Director Ajay Kumar Choudhary said on Wednesday.

Choudhary was addressing an outreach seminar on Central Bank Digital Currency: The India Story' organised by the Reserve Bank of India. The event was organised ahead of a two-day International Financial Architecture Working Group meeting of G20 slated to take place on January 30 and 31 here.

The RBI has already launched pilots of CBDC (Central Bank Digital Currency) in wholesale and retail segments last year.

Choudhary said the CBDC is just a digital form of the physical currency and will have all its characteristics.

It is non-remunerative that



is it does not carry any interest like any currency, noted Choudhary, adding, "E-rupee is also expected to offer features of physical cash like safety and settlement of transactions."

Asserting that the digital currency is aimed to complement rather than replace the current forms of money, he said, "it should not be construed as a step to replace any of the existing bouquet of payment which are already available with

us."

He said the key motivation for exploring the issuance of CBDC in India among others include moving to a digital economy, reduction in production and operation cost involved in physical cash management, which is huge even if suppose 10-15 per cent reduction, fostering financial inclusion, adding efficiency in the settlement system, boosting innovation in a cross-border payment space.

"Supported by the state-of-the-art payment system of India that is affordable and accessible, convenient, efficient, safe and secure, the CBDC can further bolster the digital economy, make the monetary and payment system more efficient and contribute to further financial inclusion," he asserted.

He also said for future considerations, offline functionality forms is one of the fundamental considerations for the design of E-rupee as it is a defining characteristic of the physical currency.

# 'Surviving very well for over 75 years greatest aspect of Indian democracy'

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The greatest aspect of Indian democracy is that the country has survived very well unfractured for over 75 years, Dr. Justice M. Jaichandren, Former Judge of Madras High Court, said on Wednesday. Delivering the Republic Day Special Address at SRM Institute of Science and Technology, Dr. Justice Jaichandren said.

At the same time, this was a big achievement, the people

had to continue to do even better, considering the diversity — of cultural and traditional values, religions, and languages.

At the Special Lecture, organised by the School of Law of SRM IST on the eve of India's 74th Republic Day, he said there was immense diversity in our language alone — considering there were 22 languages mentioned in the Eighth Schedule of the Constitution in addition to hundreds of dialects.

# AI offers 98 cr shares to staff under stock option scheme

PTI ■ MUMBAI/NEW DELHI

Air India has offered around 98 crore shares of the company to its permanent employees as part of a stock option scheme. The shares are also being offered to the permanent staff of Air India Express as part of the Employees' Share Benefit (ESB) Scheme 2022, according to a document.

The Tata group took over the control of Air India and Air India Express from the government on January 27, 2022. An airline official told PTI that around 8,000 employees will benefit from the scheme.

"In accordance with the share purchase agreement signed as part of the investment process, Air India has initi-



ated the Employee Share Benefit Scheme for eligible employees who were in service with the airline on the date of privatisation.

"We will be working with the relevant employees to help them understand the long term benefits and avail of the

same," an Air India spokesperson said in a statement.

Those who were permanent employees at the two carriers — Air India and Air India Express — at the time of the takeover will be eligible to participate in the scheme where the share is offered at a price of 27 paise apiece, as per the document sent to the staff.

A source said the price is at a discount compared to the book value of 87-90 paise per share at the time of acquisition. An employee trust has been set up to administer the ESB scheme.

"The company has authorised the trust to offer ESB benefits on no more than three per cent of the shares of the company purchased by Talace i.e., 97,99,56,600 to the eligible employees

from time to time, in one or more tranches, acquired by the trust from Talace for nil monetary consideration.

"The trust shall hold the ESB shares to provide the ESB benefit to the eligible employees upon the payment of the aggregate exercise price together with all applicable taxes and amounts...," the document said.

Talace, a subsidiary of Tata Sons, acquired Air India, Air India Express and the government's 50 per cent stake in Air India SATS Airport Services Pvt Ltd.

"...Any eligible employee retiring on or after January 27, 2022, will be deemed to be an eligible employee and will be entitled to the benefits in accordance with and subject to the terms of this scheme," as per the document.

# PFC bags Gold Shield in ICAI Awards

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Power Finance Corporation Limited (PFC), a Maharatna CPSE and country's leading NBFC in power sector, has been conferred with the prestigious Institute of Chartered Accountants of India (ICAI) Gold Shield being a winner in the category 'Public Sector Entities' of ICAI Awards for Excellence in Financial Reporting for 2021-22.

# Djokovic reaches Aus semis



AP ■ MELBOURNE

Novak Djokovic delivered a masterclass Wednesday to race into the Australian Open semi-finals and edge closer to a 22nd Grand Slam title with a straight-sets thrashing of Andrey Rublev.

The Serbian was in the zone to blitz past the Russian 6-1, 6-2, 6-4 on Rod Laver Arena and meets Tommy Paul for a place in Sunday's final.

The unseeded American Paul defeated countryman Ben Shelton 7-6 (8/6), 6-3, 5-7, 6-4.

"I cannot be happier with my tennis, honestly," said Djokovic, after reaching a 10th semi-final at Melbourne Park.

Only Roger Federer (15) and Jack Crawford (11) have been there more often.

"I've been playing very solid from the back of the court and I really love playing in these conditions and this court," the 35-year-old told Rod Laver Arena.

"Some really close games that we had," he added. "Andrey is a great opponent, great player. I have tons of respect for him, one of the biggest forehands, quickest players on the tour."

"I knew what the game plan was and it was important that I found my best tennis."

Djokovic's quest for a record-extending 10th Australian Open title has been far from smooth, plagued by a left ham-

string strain suffered en route to the title at Adelaide this month.

He struggled physically in the early rounds but was dominant during his fourth-round demolition of Alex de Minaur, and he showed few problems against Rublev.

Victory for the red-hot favourite propelled him into a 44th Grand Slam semi-final to close the gap on Federer's all-time record of 46.

In another astonishing record, he clocked a 26th consecutive match-win at the Australian Open to equal Andre Agassi's Open-era record for longest streak at the first Grand Slam of the year.

The signs were ominous for

Rublev before the match even started. In contrast to Djokovic's outstanding record in Melbourne, Rublev — who was taken to five sets by Holger Rune in the fourth round — came into the clash with a 0-6 record in Grand Slam quarter-finals.

After a shaky start when he served double fault to open proceedings, Djokovic quickly settled into a rhythm.

The Russian, who also sent down a double fault to start, struggled early on.

His serving jitters persisted and when the Serb worked a break point at 2-1 he double-faulted again in response.

Djokovic was on fire and raced to a 4-1 lead before con-

verting a fifth break point to speed 5-1 clear and clinch the set in 39 minutes.

Rublev had no answers to his precision and power.

Djokovic continued in the same vein in the second set, grabbing his opportunity in game four after a 16-shot rally when Rublev blinked first with a backhand error.

Another break left Rublev frustrated and castigating himself as he slumped two sets down.

He took a bathroom break in between sets, but it didn't work as Djokovic came out with more venomous shots and broke his serve in the opening game and never let up.

# Sania-Bopanna pair reaches mixed doubles AO decider

PTI ■ MELBOURNE

Playing the last Grand Slam tournament of her career, Sania Mirza earned the chance to win her seventh major title by reaching the Australian Open mixed doubles final with compatriot Rohan Bopanna here on Wednesday.

The unseeded Indian pair knocked out third seeds Desirae Krawczyk and Neal Skupski 7-6(5), 6-7(5), 10-6 in the semifinal that lasted one hour and 52 minutes.

After splitting a set each, the Indians raced to a commanding lead in the Super Tie-breaker. Sania found a stunning backhand winner to earn three match point and sealed the contest with a drive volley that Krawczyk could not return.

"It was an amazing match, there was a lot of nerves. It's my last slam and it's so special to play with Rohan. He was my first mixed doubles partner when I was 14 and today I'm 36 and he is 42 and we are still playing, we have a solid relationship," Sania said after the match.

Sania has announced that the WTA event in Dubai in February will be her swansong.

"We are excited to come back here and give ourselves another chance. We were playing the best mixed doubles pair on Tour and had to come up with the best," she said about the rival players from USA and England.

"I'm not a crier but I'm almost there right now, I feel the love for the last 18 years I have been coming here. It feels like home for me, I have a family here, I eat at home and I have so many Indians supporting me," said Sania, who won her first Grand Slam title at the Australian Open in 2009, win-



ning the title with compatriot Mahesh Bhupathi.

She later won the women's doubles title at Melbourne Park in 2016 with Swiss great Martina Hingis.

The 42-year-old Bopanna, who won his only major title at the French Open, winning the mixed doubles with Canadian Gabriela Dabrowski, said seizing the momentum in tie break was crucial.

"As Sania mentioned it was a tough team we were playing against. It is not easy to keep the momentum going having lost that second set but we stayed strong and got an early lead and gave us that momentum," he said.

"Really happy to be sharing the court with Sania. (It's an)

incredible journey, inspiring everyone back home and today so many fans here.

"One more to go. It would be an absolute dream (Sania winning the title). It can't get better than that. It will be special and we need it in India, keep inspiring everyone back there is the only way to keep it going."

Out of Sania's six Grand Slams title, three are mixed doubles trophies which she won with Mahesh Bhupathi (2009 Australian Open, 2012 French Open) and Brazilian Bruno Soares (2014 US Open).

All three women's doubles titles came with Swiss great Martina Hingis. (Wimbledon 2015, US Open 2015 and Australian Open 2016).

# Netherlands-Croatia, Spain-Italy in Nations League semis



AP ■ NYON

Host nation Netherlands will play Croatia in the UEFA Nations League semifinals after the draw was made on Wednesday. The Dutch, under new coach Ronald Koeman, will face World Cup semifinalist Croatia on June 14 in Rotterdam at the De Kuip home stadium of Feyenoord.

In the other semifinal, Spain will play European champion Italy on June 15 in Enschede at the home of Twente.

The final in Rotterdam and third-place game in Enschede are both scheduled on June 18.

The four teams qualified for the mini-tournament by winning a top-tier Nations League group played last June and September.

The finals played every two years were previously won by host Portugal in 2019 and France

in the 2021 edition staged in Italy.

The four teams' commitment to the Nations League meant they were all drawn into smaller five-team qualifying groups for the 2024 European Championship. Those groups start in March and run through November. UEFA created the third-tier competition to replace unwanted friendlies in national-team schedules. It also added competitive games to the increasingly congested season for players.

Koeman, who was Netherlands coach in his first spell in the job when his team lost the inaugural 2019 final, said he preferred to play for a trophy than extra qualifying games.

"We are not a nation that is always winning prizes. For football players it's important," he said, expecting his team in June "will be really very motivated."

# Sabalenka, Azarenka chase historic all-Belarus final

AP ■ MELBOURNE

Victoria Azarenka and Aryna Sabalenka can Thursday set up an all-Belarusian Australian Open final but Wimbledon champion Elena Rybakina and Magda Linette stand in their way of making Grand Slam history.

Two-time champion Azarenka faces Russian-born Kazakh Rybakina in the first women's semi-final on Rod Laver Arena, with Sabalenka up against Poland's unseeded Linette after.

Should Azarenka and Sabalenka progress to Saturday's final, it will be the first time two Belarusian players have contested the championship match at a tennis major.

"I really want it to happen," said Sabalenka, the fifth seed who is yet to

drop a set in 2023 after winning the Adelaide International earlier this month.

"I know that Vika will do everything she can to make it happen. I will do everything I can to make it happen. That's going to be history."

The 33-year-old Azarenka is chasing a hat-trick of titles at Melbourne Park, 10 years after she won her second, but knows she has her work cut out against Rybakina. "It will be a great match-up," the 24th seed told reporters after knocking out third seed Jessica Pegula in straight sets to reach the last four.

"She's an incredible player," she added of 22nd seed Rybakina.

Rybakina was awarded no ranking points for winning her first Grand Slam title because of Wimbledon's ban on Russian and Belarusian players last year.



She would otherwise have been in the top 10 now.

"She's a very good, solid player. Her ranking obviously doesn't tell the full story," said Azarenka.

Rybakina has launched 35 aces so far in Melbourne and will be hard to topple on the form that has already seen her oust last year's finalist Danielle Collins, top-ranked Iga Swiatek and former French Open champion Jelena Ostapenko.

"Very powerful. Big serve. She's in the semi-final, so she's obviously playing amazing," said Azarenka.

As well as Pegula, Azarenka knocked out 10th seed Madison Keys on her way to the last four so will fear no one as she rolls back the years in Melbourne, scene of her greatest career triumphs in 2012 and 2013.



# Joelinton sinks Saints

AP ■ SOUTHAMPTON

Newcastle moved within touching distance of the League Cup final as Joelinton clinched a 1-0 win against Southampton in Tuesday's semi-final first leg.

Joelinton netted in the second half at St Mary's to put Eddie Howe's side on the brink of their first domestic cup final since 1999.

Southampton's Duje Caleta-Car was sent off in the closing stages as a feisty clash boiled over.

Nathan Jones' team, bottom of the Premier League, felt hard done by after Adam Armstrong's equaliser was disallowed by VAR for handball.

But Newcastle can book their long-awaited trip to Wembley in the second leg at St James' Park on January 31, with the winner facing Manchester United or Nottingham Forest in the final.

Forest host United in the first leg of their semi-final on Wednesday.

Newcastle are enjoying a renaissance this season thanks to Howe's astute leadership and the financial investment of the club's Saudi-backed ownership group.

The Magpies sit third in the Premier League and are making their first domestic semi-final appearance since 2005.

Underlining Newcastle's new, confident attitude, Howe had said merely reaching a semi-final was "not enough" as he aims to win the club's first major domestic trophy since the 1955 FA Cup.

The Magpies' most recent domestic cup final ended in defeat against Manchester United in the 1999 FA Cup, with their last major silverware coming in the 1969 Inter-Cities Fairs Cup.

For Newcastle, this is their most promising period since the Kevin Keegan era in the 1990s and they left the south-coast having taken another step on the road back to relevance.

# Indonesia Masters: Sen, Saina progress to second round



PTI ■ JAKARTA

Indian shuttlers Lakshya Sen and Saina Nehwal made an impressive start at the Indonesia

Masters Super 500 tournament, advancing to the second round of men's and women's singles events, respectively, with contrasting wins here on Wednesday.

Sen, who had a subdued start to the new season with early exits from Malaysia and India in the last two weeks, dished out a superlative performance to outwit Japan's new sensation, Kodai Naraoka, 21-12, 21-11 in his opening match.

Saina, who had reached the second round at India Open, eked out a 21-15, 17-21, 21-15 win over Chinese Taipei's Pai Yu Po to make it to the pre-quarterfinals.

Seventh seed Sen will face Malaysia's Ng Tze Yong next, while Saina takes on the winner of the match between two Chinese, Zhang Yi Man and eighth seed Han Yue.

Former world No. 1 Kidambi Srikanth continued to flatter to deceive as he blew a 18-15 lead and two game points in the second game to lose 10-21, 22-24 in 39 minutes.



# Lazio crush AC Milan

AP ■ ROME

Lazio shot into Serie A's Champions League places on Tuesday after hammering AC Milan 4-0 to leave the champions' title defence hanging by a thread.

Lazio breezed up to third on goal difference, ahead of Inter Milan and local rivals Roma, and a point behind second-place AC Milan, who gave a disastrous display at the Stadio Olimpico in Rome.

Sergej Milinkovic-Savic put Lazio ahead after three minutes with a first-time finish. By the time Mattia Zaccagni bundled in the hosts' 38th-minute second they could have already been up by three.

Luis Alberto ended the match as a contest by smashing home a penalty midway through the second half his beautifully disguised pass set up Felipe Anderson to roll in a deserved fourth in the 75th minute.

Milan are 12 points behind runaway league leaders Napoli at the season's halfway point and have lost their aura as the country's top team.

Three league matches without a win have allowed Napoli to skip away to a commanding lead, while Milan have four teams breathing down their neck for second place.

Lazio are one of three sides trailing them by a single point while in-form Atalanta are a further two points back in sixth, as the race for the top four heats up.

Maurizio Sarri's Lazio team were missing star striker Ciro Immobile but had no problem getting at a Milan defence which has conceded 12 goals in their last five matches in all competitions, losing three and drawing two. Coach Stefano Pioli lost France's Theo Hernandez ahead of the match and starting centre-back Fikayo Tomori to injury in the 24th minute before full-back Davide Calabria hobbled off in stoppage time.

Those were more blows for a team who have the Milan derby coming up in less than a fortnight — against the side who gave them a lesson in the Super Cup last week — and a Champions League tie with Tottenham on the horizon.

# Belgium and Australia not taking anything for granted

PTI ■ BHUBANESWAR

The world's top two sides, Belgium and Australia, have achieved their primary goal of reaching the semi-finals of the FIH Men's World Cup, and having accomplished it the hard way, they are not taking anything for granted.

Last edition's bronze medallists and world No.1 Australia came back from two goals down to beat Spain 4-3, while defending champions and Olympic gold medallists Belgium fended off a spirited challenge from New Zealand in the second half to emerge 2-0 winners in their quarter-final matches here on Tuesday.

"It (World Cup) is a tough competition against tough teams, there are no easy games. It will become harder and harder but we are very pleased that we are in the semi-finals," Australia coach Colin Batch said.

"We were in a difficult position at the start. Spain played very well, defended well and made counter attacks. The goal just before half time gave us the momentum and we did very well



in the second half, especially the third quarter," the coach added.

It was Australia's 12th straight semi-final entry in the World Cup since the 1978 edition, which shows their consistency in the showpiece event.

"We have to be at our best in a World Cup, there is no escape from that. It will only get tougher as you go ahead in the tournament," Australia captain Aran Zalewski added.

In the last edition in 2018, Australia lost to the Netherlands in the semi-finals in a penalty shootout.

Belgium captain Felix Denayer said anything can happen in the semi-finals and what his team can do is try and play their best game.

"We will try to grow in the tournament and analyse this game (against New Zealand) and all the details and see if there is room for improvement. That is the only thing we can do, we can only hope to play our best."

"Winning the title is what we dream of but we will first focus on the semi-finals. Back-to-back titles will be brilliant."

# SKY VOTED ICC MEN'S T20 CRICKETER OF YEAR

PTI ■ DUBAI

Washbuckling Indian batter Suryakumar Yadav was on Wednesday named the ICC Men's T20 Cricketer of the Year for his ridiculously good run in the shortest format of the game.

Surya had a stellar 2022, breaking an array of records and setting a benchmark in the format.

He beat the likes of Sam Curran, Pakistan wicketkeeper-batter Mohammad Rizwan and Zimbabwe's batting all-rounder Sikandar Raza for the top honour. India's newest fast-bowling star Renuka Singh become the recipient of ICC Emerging Women's Cricketer of the Year Award.

However, India vice-captain and last year's Cricketer of the Year Smriti Mandhana lost out to Australia's Tahlia McGrath in the women's T20 category.

Popularly known as 'SKY', the 32-year-old became just the second batter to make more than 1000 runs in a calendar year in T20Is and ended the year as the highest run-getter, scoring 1164 runs at a strike-rate of 187.43.

Surya hit a stunning 68 sixes during the year, easily the most recorded by anyone in a year in the format's history.

The Indian was the key batter for his team through the year, smashing two hundreds and nine half-centuries.

Surya was at his stupendous best during the ICC Men's T20 World Cup 2022 in Australia, recording three fifties in six innings and averaging nearly 60. Notably, his strike-rate was yet again right up there at 189.68.

Having already recorded a ton earlier in the year, Suryakumar continued his brilliant year after the multi-nation tournament, making his second hundred in T20Is in the bilateral series in New Zealand.

Surya also became the top-ranked T20 player, achieving a career-high 890 rating points.

## RENUKA WINS

There has been a buzz surrounding Renuka, who burst into life in a busy 12



months for the Indian women's team.

The 26-year-old beat Australia's Darcie Brown, England's Alice Capsey and compatriot Yastika Bhatia to take home the emerging player award.

The right-armed claimed 40 wickets for her country in 22 in just 29 matches across the two white-ball formats, filling the void left by the great Jhulan Goswami.

In the ODI game, Renuka was especially potent, taking 18 wickets at an average of just 14.88, of which eight came in two appearances against England and seven in India's series with Sri Lanka.

Renuka troubled the Australian lineup in the seven T20I meetings across the year, taking eight wickets, and her performances across the Commonwealth Games and Asia Cup also grabbed attention. She claimed 17 wickets in 11 matches, at an economy of just 5.21.

With an ability to swing the ball and get it to deviate off the surface, Renuka will likely be one of India's most dependable bowlers in the coming years.

# BCCI earns ₹4,669.99 crore windfall for five WPL teams, 3 IPL franchisees among owners

PTI ■ MUMBAI

The BCCI on Wednesday earned a ₹4669.99 crore windfall for the sale of five teams in the inaugural Women's Premier League (WPL) with Adani Sportsline shelling out a massive ₹1289 crore for the Ahmedabad team, which emerged the most expensive franchise.

IPL team owners Mumbai Indians, Royal Challengers Bangalore and Delhi Capitals made successful bids of ₹912.99 crore, ₹901 crore and ₹810 crore respectively to enter the WPL.

Capri Global Holdings got the Lucknow franchise for ₹757 crore.

"Today is a historic day in cricket as the bidding for teams of inaugural #WPL broke the records of the inaugural Men's IPL in 2008! Congratulations to the winners as we garnered ₹4669.99 Cr in total bid," BCCI secretary Jay Shah tweeted.

Earlier this month, the BCCI sold the media rights of the Women's Premier League to Viacom18 for ₹951 crore, getting a ₹7.09 crore per match value for five years.

Adani Group, which had failed to buy an IPL team when the Lucknow and Ahmedabad franchises were up for sale in 2021, has made its official entry into Indian cricket by securing a women's team for WPL.

Many were already calling the league Women's IPL but BCCI secretary revealed the name on Wednesday.

"The BCCI has named the league - Women's Premier League (WPL). Let the journey begin."

"Today is a historic day in cricket as the bidding for teams of inaugural #WPL broke the records of the inaugural Men's



IPL in 2008. This marks the beginning of a revolution in women's cricket and paves the way for a transformative journey ahead not only for our women cricketers but for the entire sports fraternity.

"The #WPL would bring necessary reforms in women's cricket and would ensure an all-encompassing ecosystem that benefits each and every stakeholder," Shah said in a series of tweets.

The eight franchisees in the men's IPL were sold for \$723.59 million before the maiden edition in 2008.

The WPL player auction will take place next month with the first edition to be played in March.

The BCCI on Monday had cleared 17 technical bids for the closed door bidding that was held in a five star hotel here on Wednesday.

As many as seven IPL franchisees were in the race and the ones to miss out were Punjab Kings, Kolkata Knight Riders, Rajasthan Royals and Sunrisers Hyderabad.

Among the outsiders, multinational sweets and snacks company Haldiram's too had submitted its bid on Monday. The BCCI had not set any base price for the sale of teams.

A total of 22 games will be played in the inaugural season with the top-ranked team in the league stage qualifying directly for the final. The second and third placed teams will battle out for a place in the title clash.

Each team will have a purse of ₹12 crore at the players' auction next month and will need to buy a minimum of 15 players and maximum of 18. Up to five overseas players, including one from associate, will be allowed in the playing eleven.

# Siraj becomes world No. 1 bowler in ODIs

PTI ■ DUBAI

India pacer Mohammed Siraj on Wednesday became number one bowler in the ICC rankings for ODI bowlers, a testament to his rapid rise in international cricket.

Siraj went past New Zealand's Trent Boult and Australia seamer Josh Hazlewood to become the top-ranked ODI bowler for the very first time.

Not only has Siraj's form over the last 12 months been imperious, but his effort in the ODI series at home earlier this month against Sri Lanka and New Zealand has shown just how much the right-armed has improved in recent times.

India bowling coach Paras Mhambrey challenged Siraj to work on certain aspects of his game last year and the extra training the energetic quick has put in has paid off.



Siraj took nine wickets against Sri Lanka to be the leading wicket-taker for the three-game series and backed that up by claiming a four-wicket haul in the opening match of the recently-completed series against New Zealand.

It means Siraj jumps to the top of the ODI bowler rankings with 729 rating points, albeit narrowly, with his lead at the top over Hazlewood just two rating points higher than the Australian.

Fellow India pacer Mohammed Shami has jumped 11 places to 32nd overall on the updated list for ODI bowlers, while there is plenty of movement at the top of the batter rankings following the completion of India's home series against the Kiwis.

Pakistan skipper Babar Azam still enjoys a healthy lead at the top of the ODI batter rankings, but there is now a total of three India players inside the top 10 and chasing the highest accolade.

In-form opener Shubman Gill is the eye-catcher as the right-hander jumps a whopping 20 places to sixth overall following a brilliant double hundred and a century against New Zealand at home.

Gill rises in front of veteran Virat Kohli, who slipped to seventh following a quiet series against New Zealand, while Rohit jumped two places to equal eighth after his quickfire hundred against the Kiwis in Indore.

# Statistics need to be presented with perspective: Rohit

PTI ■ INDORE

An annoyed Rohit Sharma slammed the broadcaster for missing 'perspective' when it chose to highlight that his century in the third ODI against New Zealand was his first in three years, pointing out that he hardly played 50-over matches during that period.

As Rohit pulled away to deep square to get to his 30th ODI century in the third game against New Zealand on Tuesday, the broadcaster flashed the statistic that it was the Indian skipper's first ton since January 2020.

While the statistic is true, Rohit felt it did not convey the correct picture.

"Regarding the first hundred in three years, I've played only 12 (17) ODIs in three years. Three years sounds a lot," Rohit told reporters after India whitewashed New Zealand 3-0 in the series following team's 90-run win in the final ODI.

"You guys should know what's happening. I know that it was shown on broadcast but kabhi kabhi woh cheez bhi dhyana dena chahiye, broadcaster ko bhi sahi cheez dikhana chahiye (the broadcasters should give the correct picture)," he added.

When a journalist further asked if it was the return of the 'Hitman', a moniker used for him, Rohit, who

slammed nine fours and six sixes in India's 90-run win, said, "As I said, there were no matches in 2020."

"Everyone was sitting at home because of COVID-19. We hardly played ODIs, I was injured so I played two Tests during that time, so you have to put all of that in perspective."

"We were playing T20 cricket last year. And in T20 cricket, there's no better batsman than Suryakumar Yadav at the moment. He has hit two hundreds and I don't think anyone else has."

Shardul Thakur changed the complexion of the match with his wicket-laden second spell as he snapped Daryl Mitchell and Tom Latham's wickets off back-to-back balls before getting rid of Glenn Phillips in his next over.

"He has got the knack of taking wickets at the crucial time for us. We have seen it not just in ODI cricket but also in Tests. He's very critical to us, and where we stand as a team."

"So, I just hope he keeps putting up performances like this and it will only do good to the team and give him confidence that he can come and take wickets."

"This guy is very smart, he has played a lot of domestic cricket and understands what needs to be done."

He revealed how Shardul, Hardik Pandya and Virat Kohli plotted New



Zealand skipper Tom Latham's dismissal.

"In this format, you need to use your skills and he (Shardul) definitely has them. He bowled a good knuckle ball to Tom Latham today (Tuesday), nicely planned in the middle by Virat, Hardik, and Shardul."

The skipper was also full of praise for the young Shubman Gill, who was the leading run-getter in the series.

"The way he was batting in the series I don't think much needs to be told. He understands his game, he paces his innings well and that is what we want, to go big and deep into the game."

"No matter how flat the pitch is, a double hundred isn't easy and that shows. In that game (first ODI) the next best score was 34, which shows that he is calculative. He's got great maturity."

With the win, India climbed to the top spot in the ODI rankings but Rohit was indifferent to the feat.

"Honestly speaking, ranking and all doesn't matter. Before this series we were fourth. I don't know how we were fourth because the entire last year I don't think we lost any series."

"We don't get too much into it, we prepare for the big tournaments. We want to be ready for everything. All these series give confidence."

# Conway happy to have developed spin game



PTI ■ INDORE

Opener Devon Conway is delighted to have added the sweep and reverse sweep to his repertoire on New Zealand's ongoing tour of the sub-continent with the ODI World Cup scheduled in India later this year.

New Zealand are having a bittersweet tour of the sub-continent. Having won the ODI series in Pakistan, the Black Caps slumped to a 0-3 loss in the 50-over fixtures in India.

Conway scored two Test centuries in the drawn series

against Pakistan, followed by a 138 in the third ODI against India as he successfully negotiated spinners of both countries.

"I'm certainly pretty happy with how things have gone, personally, over the last month-and-a-half," Conway said at the post-match press conference.

"There's been a lot of learnings for me, how to attack spin in the subcontinent. I've had to learn how to sweep, reverse sweep and put bowlers under pressure as much as possible."

The 31-year-old opener has emerged as a force to reckon with at the top, boasting of an exceptional record across all three formats that includes a double century on Test debut.

"I've been very fortunate to have good experience in our group. We had Kane with us in Pakistan, it gave me the opportunity to have those conversations with him and Tommy Latham — guys who've played here in these conditions quite often — and see how they go about it."

# Oz great Healy slams selectors for not considering Smith as white-ball opener



PTI ■ SYDNEY

Legendary Australian wicketkeeper Ian Healy has questioned the national selectors for not considering Steve Smith in the role of an opener in white-ball cricket.

Smith, 33, has notched up 328 runs in four innings for the Big Bash League (BBL) side Sydney Sixers, scoring 36, 101, 125 not out and 66.

Healy says it is difficult to ignore Smith's credentials as an opener, especially since David Warner and Aaron Finch are

nowhere near their best.

Finch retired from ODIs late last year after a miserable season, which also saw the hosts exit the T20 World Cup at home prematurely.

Healy also compared Smith with the legendary Don Bradman and said it was a 'privilege' watching the cricketer bat.

Asked whether he would like to see Smith open in the shortest format, Healy said, "Definitely, how could you not?"

"Who opened with (David) Warner in the T20 World Cup? It was Finchy (Aaron Finch) who

was captain. Both Warner and Finch aren't playing anywhere near as well as Smith, so he overtakes both of those in my eyes with the way he's batting now," Healy told Sportsday NSW on Wednesday.

The 58-year-old added that not just T20Is, the selectors should consider Smith for the opener's role in the 50-over World Cup in India next year.

"We don't play many international T20s so hopefully he's doing this (scoring big in BBL) in the lead-up to the next World Cup. Even in the 50-over game I'd be opening with him as well," Healy indicated that very few batters in Australia came anywhere close to Smith in terms of technique.

"I feel like it's a privilege watching him. When he gets out, seeing how hard the others are doing it, the discrepancy between him and the rest is unbelievable, it's very Bradman-like."

# Ashwin will be one of the toughest challenges during India series: Renshaw

PTI ■ MELBOURNE

Australia batter Matt Renshaw has conceded that spinner Ravichandran Ashwin will be one of the toughest bowlers to face in the four-Test series in India beginning February 9.

With the Border-Gavaskar series set to begin in Nagpur, a lot of focus is on how the Pat Cummins-led Australia will face the Indian off-spinner, who made history in 2021 by becoming the first bowler to take 200 wickets of left-handers.

With Australia's batting lineup packed with left-handers, including David Warner, Usman Khawaja, Travis Head, wicketkeeper Alex Carey and Renshaw himself, Ashwin could prove to be more than handful for the visitors during the high-profile series.

"Ashwin is difficult to face. He is a smart bowler with a lot of variations and he uses them very well, but you do get used to him once you've faced him for a while," Renshaw, 26, was quoted as saying by Australian Associated Press on Wednesday.



"I think the big challenge from Ashwin and any off-spinner in spinning conditions to a left-hander is the lbw threat."

Renshaw indicated Australia should be wary of Ashwin's delivery that doesn't spin and has caused a lot of LBW dismissals.

"Obviously everyone thinks about the one that turns and gets you caught at slip, but the big one is the lbw when it doesn't spin. You just have to be ready for that one."

"I think two years batting at No.5 helped me with facing spin. I know my game a lot better now and I am a lot more comfortable in different situations," he added.

Renshaw was a member of the side that toured India in 2017 and opened the innings in all but one innings of the four Tests. Ashwin dismissed him once, in the opening Test at Pune, but not before Renshaw had scored a half-century.

The Australian, who would most likely come in at No.5 if given an opportunity in the XI on the upcoming tour, however was confident his side would be strong challengers.

"We have a strong squad and it is going to be hard to push my way in, but I know that I will be ready if I do get a chance."

Renshaw said his Big Bash League (BBL) stint with Brisbane Heat was helping him prepare for the series as the side was packed with spinners.

Heat have the likes of leg-spinner Mitchell Swepson, Matthew Kuhnemann and Marnus Labuschagne, and Renshaw said he is preparing for the India series with SG balls.

"The SG ball is a bit different, so we are just trying to prepare as well as we can during this BBL schedule if we get a window to hit red balls," said Renshaw.

"It is a lot different conditions in India, so we are trying to replicate them as much as we can. The plan was if (the Heat) got knocked out we'd do some prep with the (Australian) team in Sydney, but we just kept winning and are in the (BBL) finals now."

"We have got a good week and a bit in India before the first Test, so there will be plenty of time to prepare there as well," he added.