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GT BEAT PUNJAB IN IPL MATCH
11 SPORT

Atiq's son Asad killed in STF encounter in Jhansi

Accomplice also shot in encounter

PNS ■ PRAYAGRAJ/LUCKNOW

The body of jailed mafia Atiq Ahmad's son Asad after he was killed in an encounter by the UP STF in Jhansi on Thursday PTI

Asad Ahmad, son of jailed gangster-turned-politician Atiq Ahmad, and shooter Ghulam Mohammad were killed in an exchange of fire with the UP Special Task Force team in Jhansi on Thursday afternoon, officials said. Both were wanted in the Umesh Pal murder case and carried a reward of ₹5 lakh each. Asad Ahmad was caught on CCTV when Umesh Pal was killed and had been on the run for the past 50 days, police said.

"Sophisticated foreign made weapons were recovered from the accused. Further details are awaited," said Special Director General (Law and Order) Prashant Kumar. He added the UP STF team that gunned down Asad and Ghulam was led by deputy superintendents of police Navendu Kumar and Vimal Kumar.

Atiq Ahmad was in the court of chief judicial magistrate in Prayagraj in connection with the murder case when the news of Asad's encounter broke. He started crying after hearing the news of his son's encounter death. He asked for water and sat down holding his head in the district court premises.

STF officials said Asad and Ghulam were on the run since the murder of Umesh Pal on February 24. Several STF teams were pressed to track them down. On Thursday, they were trying to flee on a motorcycle when they were intercepted by an STF team in Jhansi, the officials said, adding they opened fire on the police and were killed in the retaliatory firing.

ADG (STF) Amitabh Yash said, "We knew that they had foreign weapons. We were ready. The way this gang killed Umesh Pal and his two gunners, it was not easy to catch these accused. Both had British Bull Dog revolver and Walther pistol. These weapons are rare. Generally not found".

Visuals showed two bodies lying beside a motorcycle at the site of the alleged encounter. An ambulance later took them away.

With Thursday's encounter in connection with the Umesh Pal murder case, the UP Police have so far gunned down four shooters. Earlier Arbaaz was killed in the first encounter on February 27 in Prayagraj. Arbaaz was driving the Creta car in which the assailants had reached Umesh Pal's house. Asad was also in it. The second encounter took place on March 6. In this, Vijay Chaudhary, alias Usman, who fired the first shot at Umesh, was killed.

Umesh Pal, a key witness in the 2005 murder case of then BSP MLA Raju Pal, and his two police security guards were shot dead outside his home in Prayagraj's Dhoomanganj area on February 24 this year.

His wife Jaya Pal had lodged a report on February 25 against Atiq Ahmad, his brother Ashraf, Asad, Ghulam and others.

Reacting to the news of the encounter, Umesh Pal's family thanked Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath and the police administration.

"Whatever they have done is right. He (the chief minister) has punished the killer of his daughter's husband. I express my gratitude. He is like a father. Justice has been done," Jaya told the media, adding she hoped strict action would be taken against other accused.

Umesh Pal's mother said, "The two gunners who were killed in broad daylight today had committed a sin. They have been punished today. We have faith, we will get complete justice."

The Samajwadi Party and the Bahujan Samaj Party have demanded an investigation into the Jhansi shootout, suggesting that the Special Task Force staged a fake encounter.

Atiq gets 5-day police remand; wife wants to surrender

Prayagraj: A Prayagraj court on Thursday sent gangster-politician Atiq Ahmad and his brother Ashraf to 14-day judicial custody and also allowed five-day police remand in connection with the Umesh Pal murder case.

Ahmad and Ashraf, alias Khalid Azim, will be kept in judicial custody till April 26, said advocate Vikram Singh, the counsel for Umesh Pal's wife Jaya.

Singh said after arguments on the application submitted by police seeking their custody were completed, the court allowed five-day police remand of the duo which will remain effective till evening of April 17.

He said that the next date of hearing in the case has been fixed for April 26.

Meanwhile, sources said Atiq's wife Shaista Parveen wants to surrender before police in order to have access to the last look at her son Asad — who was killed in an encounter with UP STF in Jhanshi — before his last rite.

Bastar tribals have trust in Gandhis: Priyanka

STAFF REPORTER ■ JAGDALPUR

A ICC General Secretary Priyanka Gandhi Vadra on Thursday said tribals in Bastar are attached to Gandhi Family.

Gandhi was addressing a public meeting titaled 'Bharose ka Sammelan' in Jagdalpur.

"I am here for the first time. People don't know me but they are here as they have faith in the Gandhi family and have trust in Nehruji and Indiraji," the heir to the Gandhi family said.

"I have learnt a lot about your culture and about your struggle from my family members and know very well what challenges you face," she added.

Praising Chhattisgarh Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel, Gandhi said she could see on Baghel's face "the love he has in his heart for the people of Chhattisgarh".

"Whenever he meets me, he never says any negative things. He never speaks ill about anyone. He always talks about new work and policies for Chhattisgarh… I have met many leaders but only a few like him sincerely want to work for people and can be completely trusted to keep their promises."

Chief Minister Baghel, addressing the gathering, cited welfare policies of his government and expressed commitment for their development.

"Earlier sounds of bullets had echoed in Bastar and tourists refrained from visiting here. But the situation has now changed and Bastar is moving on the path of development," he said.

Gandhi later visited an exhibition set up by the beneficiaries of government schemes. She appreciated their efforts and the quality of their products.

Furthermore, she praised the workmanship of the people of Bastar, saying their skills and craftsmanship was as impressive as their admirable qualities.

"It's heartening to see that government assistance is now allowing the products made in Bastar to reach wider markets, providing much-needed benefits to the talented craftsmen in the region," she said.

The Bastar district administration set up a photo exhibition showcasing the trips of the Nehru and Gandhi families to the Bastar region.

ED books BBC India for foreign funds violations

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

ITBP and police personnel guard outside the BBC office at KG Marg in New Delhi File photo I PTI

The Enforcement Directorate (ED) has registered a case under Foreign Exchange Management Act (FEMA) against British Broadcasting Corporation (BBC) India for alleged foreign exchange violations.

The agency also summoned BBC staffers for questioning following which its Deputy Managing Editor deposed on Thursday. The ED action came nearly two months after the Income-Tax Department surveyed the BBC India's offices in Delhi and Mumbai on February 14. The survey operation lasted for three days. The FEMA case was registered about two weeks back to essentially probe purported foreign direct investment (FDI) violations by the company and related instances, according to officials.

The ED has called for documents and the recording of statements of some company executives and a team of lawyers representing the company has already submitted some financial documents last week, they added.

Rahul plea to stay conviction in Modi defamation case: Verdict on Apr 20

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI/SURAT

A Surat court on Thursday said it would pronounce on April 20 the order on Congress leader Rahul Gandhi's plea for a stay on his conviction in a criminal defamation case over his "Modi surname" remark, made exactly four years ago during a poll rally.

After hearing arguments from both sides, additional sessions judge RP Mogera said he will pronounce the order on April 20.

A metropolitan magistrate's court in Surat had on March 23 sentenced the former Congress chief to two years in jail after holding him guilty for his remark "how come all thieves have Modi as the common surname", made during an election rally in 2019.

Rahul, who was disqualified as MP after the conviction, filed an appeal before the sessions court here against the verdict.

Pawar meets Kharge; Manjhi-Shah meeting triggers speculation

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

On a day NCP supremo Sharad Pawar met Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge, former party chief Rahul Gandhi and other top leaders of the Congress in the national Capital for Opposition unity, Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar's ally Jitan Ram Manjhi set political circles abuzz with a meeting with Home Minister Amit Shah on Thursday.

The development came amid the Janata Dal (United) leader's talks with several Opposition leaders as part of his effort to forge an alliance against the BJP.

Manjhi, however, sought to quell any speculation and reiterated that Nitish has all the qualities to become the country's Prime Minister.

He asserted that he has sworn to remain with Nitish and rejected any possibility of joining hands with the BJP, saying it has spoken against the existence of small parties like his. During his 2-day Delhi visit, Nitish interacted with Kharge and Rahul and CPI's D Raja, Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal accompanied by Bihar Deputy CM and RLD leader Tejashwi Yadav during his two days to Delhi.

Queried about his absence from Wednesday's meeting, Pawar said he was asked to join the meeting in Delhi but was unable to do so as he had work in Pune. The leaders are likely to take forward unity talks as more deliberations are expected in the coming days.

Continued on Page 2

Covid 8-month high at 10K+, but just 1 of 1K patients hospitalised

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Amid warning that Covid cases in the country will peak in the next couple of weeks, India on Thursday recorded a single-day rise of 10,158 new infections, highest in nearly eight months and up by 30 per cent over the previous day, according to the Union Health Ministry data.

However, low hospitalisation has come as a breather. "Currently, the hospitalisation ratio is 1:1,000 and this is not a wave. It may be an endemic cycle of Covid-19," officials in the Union Health Ministry said. The daily positivity rate was recorded at 4.42 per cent while the weekly positivity rate was 4.02 per cent. The active cases now constitute 0.10 per cent of the total infections, as per the Union Health Ministry data.

AIIMS, Delhi, has issued an advisory for its staff to follow Covid-19 appropriate behaviour saying that people "must use reusable cloth face cover/surgical mask in the workplace. Ensure proper cleaning and frequent sanitation of the workplace, particularly of the frequently touched surfaces."

A few AIIMS doctors too have tested Covid positive with a newborn diagnosed with Covid-19 at Delhi's LNJP Hospital.

The number of active cases has increased to 44,998, the data updated on Thursday showed. India had reported 7,830 coronavirus infections on Wednesday. The nationwide Covid-19 recovery rate has been recorded at 98.71 per cent, according to the Health Ministry website.

The case fatality rate was recorded at 1.19 per cent.

Make effective marketing system for Agri and Forest produce: CM

Chairs 2nd meeting of Board of Directors of Sidho-Kanho Agriculture and Forest Produce State Cooperative Union Ltd

PNS ■ Ranchi

Chief Minister Hemant Soren and Agriculture Minister Badal during a meeting in Ranchi on Thursday. PNS

Chief Minister Hemant Soren today said that forest produce based products can be made an important source of livelihood by value addition in remote rural areas of the State. Emphasize on providing fair price to the villagers for the products produced and stored by them. Sido-Kanhu Agriculture and Forest Produce State Cooperative Union Limited Production, collection, processing and distribution of agricultural and forest produce such as paddy, wheat, vegetables, fruits, tamarind, surguja, chironji, sal, amla, lac, mahua, karanj, silk and others in the state. Prepare an effective system of marketing for buying and selling. The CM said that a database should be prepared of which forest produce trees are there on private and forest land, and by which group the products of those trees are being used. He was directing the officials in the second meeting of the Board of Directors of Sido-Kanhu Agriculture and Forest Produce State Cooperative Union Ltd., Ranchi, held at the Ministry of Jharkhand on Thursday.

In the meeting, officials of the Sido-Kanho Agriculture and Forest Produce State Cooperative Union Ltd informed that lac processing is being encouraged in 12 districts of the state. Along with this, medicinal plants like Chiraita, Jamun, Ashwagandha, Amla etc are being promoted in the State. In the first phase, forest produce and agricultural produce hubs are being constructed in Ranchi, Gumla and Dumka districts, under which action for collection and processing will be taken.

In the meeting, Soren was informed by the officials that quality training is being imparted to the rural people at the level of lamps/packs. By the end of this year, there is a target of increasing the capacity of 30 thousand people in the state, which will be accomplished. Efforts are being made to increase the number of A grade lamps/packs in the state.

Sido-Kanhu Agriculture and Forest Produce State Cooperative Union Ltd is continuously organizing meetings with the District Union and the works are being given a concrete shape. State level workshop is also being organized along with the survey. Approval was also given for the selected logo of Sido-Kanhu Agriculture and Forest Produce State Cooperative Union Ltd. in the meeting.

In the meeting Agriculture Minister Badal, Additional Chief Secretary L.Khyangte, Principal Secretary to Chief Minister Vandana Dadel, Principal Secretary Finance Department Ajay Kumar Singh, Secretary to Chief Minister Vinay Kumar Choubey, Agriculture Secretary Abu Bakar Siddiqui, K.Srinivasan, Secretary, Scheduled Caste, Scheduled Tribes, Minority and Backward Classes Welfare Department, Sanjeev Kumar, CEO of Sidho-Kanho Agriculture and Forest Produce State Cooperative Union Ltd, Secretary Jaiprakash Sharma and JHASCOLAMP, Jhamkofed and Vegfed and other concerned officials were present.

Governor CP Radhakrishnan meets President Droupadi Murmu in New Delhi on Thursday. PNS

ED raids ex-Ranchi DC Chhavi Rajan, other officials' premises

Security personnel stand guard during a raid conducted by Enforcement Directorate (ED) on the premises of IAS officer Chhavi Ranjan in Ranchi on Thursday. Pix by Vinay Murmu

PNS ■ Ranchi

The Enforcement Directorate on Thursday conducted multiple raids in three states including Jharkhand related to IAS officer Chhavi Ranjan in connection with a land scam case. Ranjan, a former Deputy Commissioner of Ranchi was transferred from his post after his name surfaced in an Army land scam last year. The ED raid was conducted at around 22 places in Bihar, West Bengal and Jharkhand on the premises of some private persons and government officials.

The persons whose premises were raided in connection with the fraudulent sale of Army land and other plots during the last three years also included several circle officers, circle inspectors, land brokers, Associates of Jagatbandhu Tea estate besides Chhavi Ranjan and his close relative Lovely in Jamshedpur.

The action is being undertaken under the provisions of the Prevention of Money Laundering Act.

Born in Jamshedpur Ranjan, has been in controversy for most of his tenure of 12 years. He is facing investigation for allegedly cutting six forest trees in 2015 at his official residence when he was DC of Koderma. He hit the hornet's nest for leasing out stone mines in the name of Chief Minister Hemant Soren.

Though no official comments on the recoveries are available, sources said that the ED stumbled upon several incriminating documents and evidence, which may expose a huge land scam in Ranchi during around two years' tenure of Chhavi Ranjan as DC by tampering and manufacturing land documents.

BJP legislature party leader Babulal Marandi has alleged that the scam is worth Rs 10,000 crore and Chhavi Ranjan is the main character of this land fraud.

The raids are in connection with a money laundering probe conducted by the federal agency at around two dozen locations, including his official residence, over some land deals in Ranchi in the past few years.

Several such deals, including the sale of land allegedly belonging to the Indian Army in Ranchi, are under the scanner, a senior ED official said.

Ranjan, a 2011-batch IAS officer, was the deputy commissioner of Ranchi when the deals were allegedly processed, between 15 July 2020 and 11 July 2022.

He is the second IAS officer from the Jharkhand cadre to have come under ED's scanner in the last one year. Senior IAS officer and then mines secretary Pooja Singhal was arrested on May 11 last year on money laundering charges in connection with an alleged MNREGA scam. Around Rs 20 crore was recovered during the raids at locations linked to Singhal and her acquaintances.

Meanwhile, according to sources, the ED team is also raiding the locations of land trader Ashraf Khan and Birendra Sahu. The ED has recovered a fake seal of the Calcutta registrar's office from Afsar Khan's place in Ranchi. The documents received by ED also have the seal of the Kanke Zonal Officer. The agency has confiscated all the recovered documents. Sahu is alleged to have links with the Sahibganj scamsters too.

Congress attacks BJP on Modi-Adani issue

PNS ■ Ranchi

Addressing a press meet at the party headquarter in the State Capital on Thursday, former Union Minister, Subodhkant Sahay attacked Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) led Central Government and said that there is no caste of thief and a thief is a thief. "The person about whom this thing was said is not even an applicant in the court. Rahul Gandhi has been punished for speaking the truth and making the Prime Minister's relationship with Adani public," he added.

Sahay said that Mahatma Gandhi also did the Satyagraha movement against the British. "Today the beating of the Central Government is at its peak. Today, even in the Parliament, we are not being given a chance to speak. It was seen for the first time when the Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha were not allowed to run by the ruling party. 12,000 industries were closed in this State. We were demanding a special economic zone. But from port to airport and coal mine was given to only one person. Jai Bharat Satyagraha program is being organized on these issues. The program will conclude on April 16 at the old assembly ground, Dhurva," he added.

Speaking on the occasion former Minister in the State Government, Bandhu Tirkey said that the Congress is fighting from road to house against the tax policy of the Central Government. "For 13 days, the Congress State In-Charge has been continuously involved in the program of Jai Bharat Satyagraha. The Central Government is playing with the constitution. In this closing ceremony, people from 18 blocks will participate in the program. Congress officials up to the panchayat level and general public will participate in this closing programme," he added.

The Congress State General Secretary cum Spokesperson, Rakesh Sinha, Amulya Neeraj Khalkho, Ranchi Rural district president, Dr Rakesh Kiran Mahato and Ranchi Congress City Chief Kumar Raja were mainly present in the press conference.

CPI (Maoist) calls bandh on April 14, 15

PNS ■ Ranchi

In protest against police action against five Naxalites, who were killed in an encounter that took place in Chatra district the banned CPI Maoist organization has declared a bandh in western Jharkhand and southern Bihar on April 14 and April 15. The Intelligence Department has issued an alert regarding this. A letter has been sent to the officers of Jharkhand and Bihar Police in this regard. According to the information, it has been told in the letter that the border districts of Jharkhand state especially Gaya, Aurangabad, Nawada, Jamui, Banka are mainly affected by the activities of CPI Maoist organization whereas, there is Maoist activity in Lakhisarai and Munger. The areas of Kiul-Jamalpur, Kiul-Jasidih, Gand Chord Line and GT Road remain sensitive due to the activities of the militants.

The intelligence department informed that the militants will retaliate by setting up police, paramilitary forces, police stations, OPs, pickets, base camps, watchmen, police informers, mobile towers, railway tracks, railway stations, government offices, development works in the area under their influence. They can carry out violent incidents by attacking contractors, their workplaces, their equipment, vehicles, scribes, laborers etc. In this situation, while conducting security audits in militancy-affected districts, take special vigilance and take necessary protective action.

The Naxalite organization pasted a handwritten leaflet in favor of the Bihar-Jharkhand Regional Committee (Maoist) on the electricity transformer located in Raushanganj police station area of Balsot village in Gaya district of Bihar.

UD & HD Secy holds virtual meeting with all urban civic bodies

Strict instructions given for legacy waste remediation

PNS ■ Ranchi

Secretary, Urban Development and Housing Department, Vinay Kumar Choubey has said that all the municipal bodies should speed up the progress of schemes related to cleanliness of cities and providing houses to the needy. The Secretary said this while addressing the meeting convened with all the municipal bodies in virtual mode on Tuesday. Choubey reviewed the schemes related to legacy waste, solid waste, FSTP, STP, door to door garbage collection and its execution in all the municipal bodies. Along with that, the Secretary also reviewed the schemes related to Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana, AMRUT Yojana and 15th Finance Commission.

The Secretary said that all the civic bodies should execute the tender for legacy waste remediation and issue the work order in the next 15 days. Ranchi Municipal Corporation should select a good company for door to door garbage collection, if additional amount is needed for this, the government will bear it. Legacy waste should not be seen anywhere in Ranchi after August 2024.

He said that JUIDCO should prepare DPR of Ranchi and Dhanbad sewerage project soon. He also asked to complete the work of the proposed and under-construction plant under solid waste management at the earliest. He said to take the help of the district administration and department in environmental clearance and land related problems. In cities where concessionaires are not available even after repeated tenders, the directorate should club and tender together so that a good company can come. In the city where the sewerage scheme has been completed, ensure that every household's waste water STP line is connected. In the DPR being prepared for the new scheme, it should be ensured that no part of the city is left out. JUIDCO engineers should visit municipal bodies, especially Giridih, Chas and Jamshedpur at present to see these schemes themselves. On this occasion, the Director of the State Urban Development Agency Amit Kumar directed all the municipal bodies to speed up the implementation of schemes for sanitation and drinking water, these schemes are included in the priority list of the government. He said that the State Government and the Chief Minister and Departmental Secretary have the vision that every city should be clean and basic facilities should be available to every citizen without any effort. The Secretary also reviewed the ongoing schemes for private participation in the state as well as the scheme for affordable housing. On this occasion, the Secretary instructed all the municipal bodies that due to non-availability of shares of the beneficiaries under the Affordable Housing, the beneficiaries are not able to buy houses, so you should talk to the bankers and organize camps to make loans available.

China in a fix

By Banshidhar Rukhaiyar

India China standoff has reached a critical stage after the naming of Arunachal Pradesh and some of its important places in Chinese and issuing Chinese maps accordingly. Recently clashes in Tawang took place which is also related to the unjust Chinese claim over Arunachal Pradesh. Claiming neighbour's territory and naming them in Chinese have been an old strategic and diplomatic game plan of China by which they take leverage at the time of negotiation for settling border disputes. The present Chinese diplomatic aggression is meant to keep India on backfoot during the G 20 summit in India and address the gallery back home.

But the home minister Amit Shah visited Arunachal Pradesh and gave warning to China in a very terse language which is a clear departure from the old policy of meek and muted response to any Chinese mischief. He also launched the ambitious vibrant village programme to equip almost three thousand villages of five north eastern states with modern amenities and good connectivity so that villagers do not abandon these strategically important border villages.This newfound confidence has come after giving firm replies to the Chinese misadventures in Galwan and Tawang and looking eyeball to eyeball for the past almost three years.

Why is China pushing things this far? The reverses China has faced in Galwan and Tawang has left Xi Jinping red faced and it desperately wants some success against India which could be showcased to the Chinese people. But this is not easy to come.

India's tough stand against China is the culmination of a well thought out policy of developing infrastructure and connectivity in border areas at a very rapid speed in the last few years under the present leadership. In the defence sector, the country has made big strides and India has become an exporter of arms and ammunition. India's healthy economy supports all this. The doubting Thomases of the Indian economy should revise their opinion.

China is disturbed that India is fast catching up with it in the international arena of politics and diplomacy. Xi Jinping had gone to Russia with a plan to end the Russia Ukraine conflict. Nobody knows the details of the proposed peace plan. In the meantime, the Russian foreign minister Lavrov made a statement that a new world order will have to be made in place of a unipolar world and this would be an important agenda as and when Russia and Ukraine would sit together to finalise the modalities of peace. Such a statement is definitely not conducive for the peace process to begin, leaving apart the aim of finding a solution. And these are not purely Russian sentiments. These words are literally Chinese. This would further delay the beginning of the peace process as in no case this issue would be addressed in any peace talks. As a matter of fact, China doesn't want an early end of the war for its continuation would weaken the US-led West as well as Russia, which is a friend of China because of the extraordinary circumstances .

Russia and China have many issues between them. The foremost is the Russian city of Vladivostok which is very important from a commercial point of view as the port there connects India through a shorter route. It also shortens the route from India to Europe. What is, however, needed is the development of this port. China has been making claims over Vladivostok for a long time. Xi himself is a rank expansionist and wants to take it over. Russia is feeling a little weak in the face of this sinister Chinese design. It is in this backdrop that Russia wants India's assistance in the development of this port. If this happens, it would benefit Russia immensely as India would develop vested interests over there and Russia and India would be a deadly combination against China. It is quite logical then that China wants to keep India on the backfoot so that it does not dare to take on China.

A strong and determined India is giving sleepless nights to China and it doesn't know how to contain India. A feather in the cap is the arrival of Ukraine's Deputy Secretary of foreign affairs in Delhi on a four days visit. Naturally, one of the most important points of discussion will be as to how to bring an early end to the Russia Ukraine conflict. India can break the ice as it has the confidence of both Russia and Ukraine. Moreover, a peace negotiation mediated by India will be acceptable to all as India has the trust of the US-led West also. In all probability, an India brokered peace will be beneficial for the world as India has no personal interest.

The writer is a noted academician and political commentator. Views Expressed are personal.

ED RAIDS

BJP claims there are more corrupt officials in State

PNS ■ Ranchi

BJP state president and MP Deepak Prakash has termed Enforcement Directorate's (ED) action against Ranchi former DC Chhavi Ranjan as corruption at government machinery. Prakash while reacting to ED's action said that action against Ranjan is not an isolated case as there are more government officials who are corrupt. He said that corruption at government offices indicates that the Hemant government has pushed the state into the pit of corruption. Everyday new scams are being exposed. In the action of ED, illegal assets and cash are being recovered from the houses of officers. Prakash said that all these are the result of state-sponsored corruption.

The Enforcement Directorate on Thursday conducted multiple raids in three states including Jharkhand related to IAS officer Chhavi Ranjan in connection with a land scam case. Ranjan, former Deputy Commissioner of Ranchi was transferred from his post after his name surfaced in an Army land scam last year. The ED raid was conducted at around 22 places in Bihar, West Bengal and Jharkhand at the premises of some private persons and government officials. The persons whose premises were raided in connection with the fraudulent sale of Army land and other plots during the last three years also included several circle officers, circle inspectors, land brokers, Associates of Jagatbandhu Tea estate besides Chhavi Ranjan and his close relative Lovely in Jamshedpur. He said that all the people who have come in the clutches of ED till now, it seems that the exploits of corruption are not limited only to them, but ED should also keep a close watch on other favorite officials of the state government. He said that the way the cases of corruption are being exposed, it seems that there is no black in pulses, but the whole pulse of the state government has turned black.

Prakash said that BJP is fighting and agitating against the corruption of the state government from road to house. He said that when the BJP agitates against the state government in a democratic way, then this government, misusing its police administration, wants to crush them with the help of sticks, bullets and guns.

Prakash said that on April 11, the Hemant government also tried to crush the secretariat gherao program organized by the BJP. It is said that the corrupt inefficient government has been exposed in front of the people of the state.

Health Minister inaugurates PHC in Naxal affected area

Devasheesh Badal ■ Giridih

Health Minister Banna Gupta on Thursday inaugurated the newly constructed Block Community Center at Pirtand in Giridih district, where Giridih DC Naman Priyesh Lakda and Giridih MLA Sudivya Kumar Sonu welcomed him. The Health Minister said on the occasion that it is our endeavour to provide better health facilities to the people. The state government is making efforts to strengthen and improve the health facilities so that the people of the state can get good health facilities.

He said that with the introduction of CHC, it would be convenient for the people of nearby Naxal-affected areas to get treatment and they would not have to travel to the headquarters time and again. He said that the first priority of the state government and the district administration is that the patients should get proper medical and check-up facilities on time. The Health Minister inspected the Covid Care Center, RTPCR Lab, PSA Plant Ward, Covid Testing Center and other resources and gave necessary guidelines to the concerned officials. Meanwhile, Gupta said that now corona can be tested in Giridih itself, for which the RTPR lab has been set up. Along with this, tests for dengue, chicken pox, measles, chikungunya and rabies will also be done. Now the report will not have to wait long and will not have to go round other districts. He said that the health systems are being simplified so that the people of the district can be provided better health facilities in their own district.

CM for construction of MLAs' residences in planned manner

Chairs meeting of Board of Directors of GRDA

PNS ■ Ranchi

The meeting of the Board of Directors of Ranchi Development Authority (GRDA) was held in Jharkhand Mantralaya today under the chairmanship of Chief Minister Hemant Soren. In the meeting, mainly information related to construction of houses to be built for MLAs on 45 acres of land in HEC area under GRDA was placed before the Chief Minister.

It was informed in the meeting that 70 houses are proposed to be constructed for the MLAs. In the meeting, the Chief Minister directed the officers that the Greater Ranchi Development Authority (GRDA) should do all the work of sewerage drainage, road and park construction etc. in a planned manner under the master plan for the houses to be built for the MLAs so that the house construction work can be completed in time.

Chief Minister Hemant Soren holds a meeting with senior officials at Project building in Ranchi on Thursday. PNS

State Chief Secretary Sukhdev Singh, Development Commissioner Arun Kumar Singh, Finance Secretary Ajay Kumar Singh, Secretary to Chief Minister-cum-GRDA Director Vinay Kumar Choubey, Building Construction Secretary Sunil Kumar, GM GRDA B.N. Verma, Project Manager GRDA SK Singh and other officers were present.

INBRIEF

BJPSA holds technical meeting

The 2023 technical meeting of Jharkhand branch of Bihar Jharkhand Plastic Surgeons Association was held at RPS Hospital Ranchi on Thursday, Dr. Raj Kumar Pathak presented his technical research on burns and microsurgery, in this CME organized under the chairmanship of Dr. Arvind Prakash, along with Dr. Vikrant Ranjan, plastic surgeon of RIMS, Dr. Arvind Prakash of Medanta, Dr. Pankaj Kumar, Dr. RK Pathak, Dr. Tanmay, Dr.Anant Sinha and Dr. Arvind Prakask was present in today's meeting. The planning and consideration of the outline of the conference of the National Burn Association to be held in February 2024 at Ranchi was also done. The vote of thanks was done by Dr. Ajay Kumar Singh, the founder of the organization.

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Biranpur returning to normalcy

STAFF REPORTER
RAIPUR

Peace is finally returning to communal violence-hit village Biranpur in Bemetara district in Chhattisgarh thanks to joint efforts by villagers, community leaders and the administration.

A peace committee meeting had a positive impact on the villagers, who accepted that peace is vital for a secure environment. The administration and police have already taken action against the culprits.

On Thursday, Collector Padum Singh Elma along with other officers were present in Biranpur village throughout the day.

The district administration ensured that the villagers continued to get ration. Even a door-to-door delivery arrangement was made, an official communication said.

Mobile medical units and medical staff were made available round the clock. The health team is providing medical services. A veterinary doctor has been deputed to take care of livestock.

The police are also constantly monitoring the situation in the village.

Jethuram Sahu, the Biranpur Sarpanch, said that after the peace committee meeting, the villagers were complying with the instructions of the administration and normalcy was returning in the village.

> **Jethuram Sahu, the Biranpur Sarpanch, said that after the peace committee meeting, the villagers were complying with the instructions of the administration**

C'garh recognizes 92 hospitals for govt employees

STAFF REPORTER
RAIPUR

The Chhattisgarh government has recognized 92 hospitals to treat its employees and their dependent families.

These hospitals have been approved by Public Health and Family Welfare Minister T.S. Singh Deo for 2023-24 for treatment of government employees, an official statement said on Thursday.

The list has been sent to all the departments of the state government, Chairman of the Revenue Board at Bilaspur, all department heads, Divisional Commissioners as well as Collectors.

Four Maoists surrender

STAFF REPORTER
SUKMA

Four Maoists, one of them carrying a bounty of Rs 1 lakh, surrendered to security forces on Thursday in Sukma district of Chhattisgarh.

Muchaki Deva, Muchaki Joga, Muchaki Hunga and Somaru turned themselves in citing disappointment with the Maoist ideology, Sukma Superintendent of Police Sunil Sharma told The Pioneer.

Deva, who carried a reward of Rs 1 lakh on his head, was a Militia Commander while Joga was a Deputy Militia Commander. The other two were militia members of the outlawed Maoists outfit.

They will be rehabilitated as per the government's rehabilitation policy, Sharma added.

Events held to mark PNB foundation day

STAFF REPORTER
RAIPUR

Various events were held at the regional and divisional offices of the Punjab National Bank (PNB) to mark its 129th foundation.

An official communiqué on Thursday said the programmes were inaugurated by Regional Manager V Srinivas by garlanding a portrait of the bank's co-founder Lala Lajpat Rai.

The foundation day is a milestone and is a celebration of achievements, Srinivas said.

"It is the effort of the bank to provide modern banking services to our customers and make them prosperous," he added.

IPL betting racket busted, one held

STAFF REPORTER
BILASPUR

Chhattisgarh Police on Thursday arrested a 26-year-old man in Bilaspur city for accepting bets on IPL matches.

Bilaspur Superintendent of Police Santosh Singh identified him as Mahesh Vadhwani.

Police seized a mobile phone and Rs 2,500 from him.

He had accepted bets on an IPL match played between Chennai Super Kings and Rajasthan Royals on Wednesday.

Two Maoists held

STAFF REPORTER
DANTEWADA

Two Maoists, including a woman carrying a reward of Rs 1 lakh on her head, were arrested on Thursday in Dantewada district in Chhattisgarh.

Budhri Mandavi (24) and Tula Vetti (22) were apprehended by the District Reserve Guard between the jungles of Marjum and Kalepal villages, Dantewada Superintendent of Police Siddharth Tiwari told The Pioneer.

Mandavi was the President of the Krantikari Adivasi Mahila Sangathan (KAMS) in Marjum village and carried a bounty of Rs 1 lakh on her head.

Vetti was the Dandakaranya Adivasi Kisan Majdoor Sangh (DAKMS) member in Mundenar village.

They were involved in several Maoist incidents in 2020, Tiwari added.

State is implementing agency of Central schemes: Patel

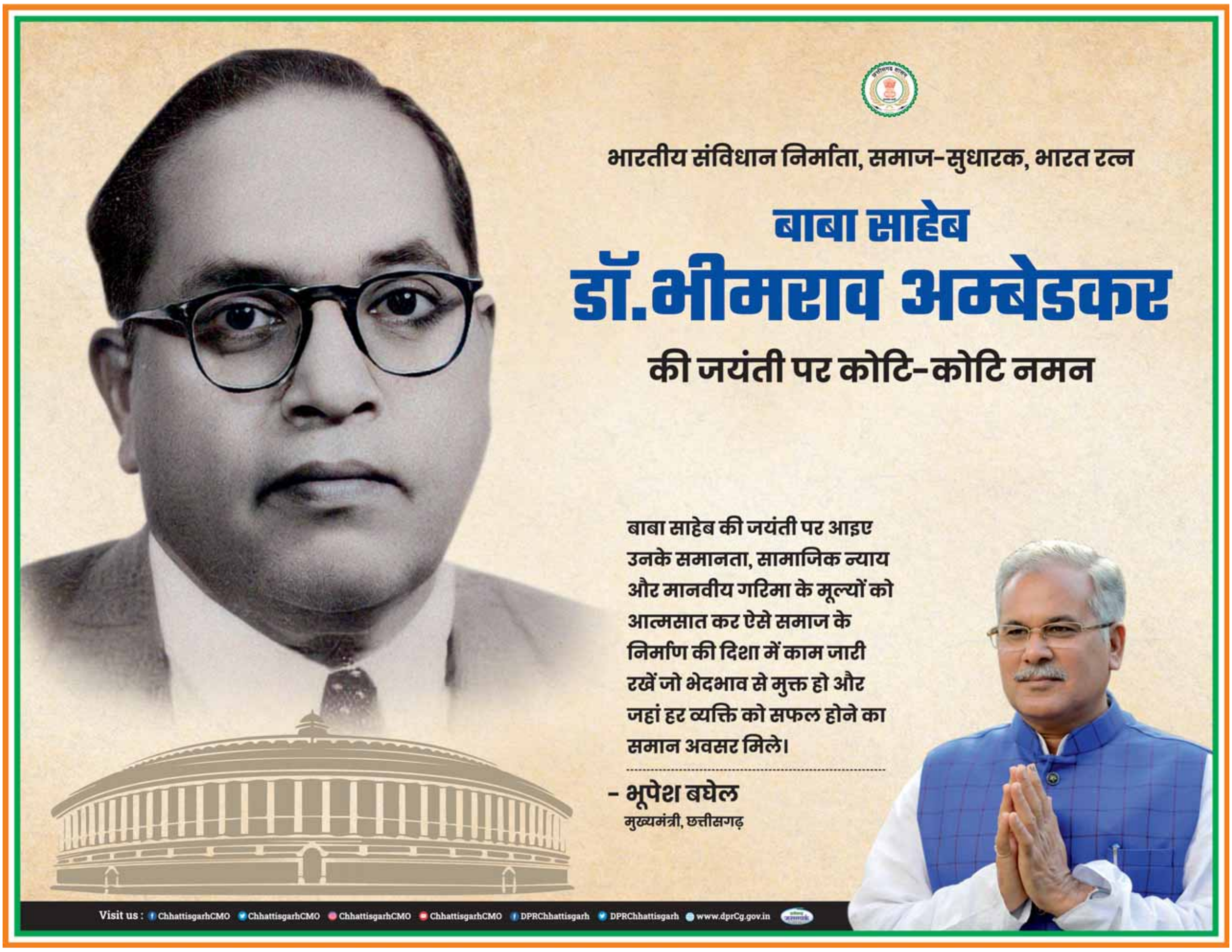
STAFF REPORTER
RAIPUR

It is the responsibility of the state government to ensure drinking water to each citizen. But the Modi government took the initiative by setting targets for 2024 across the country, Union Minister of State for Jal Shakti Prahlad Singh Patel said on Thursday.

He said similarly, the housing scheme is being implemented across the country with targets.

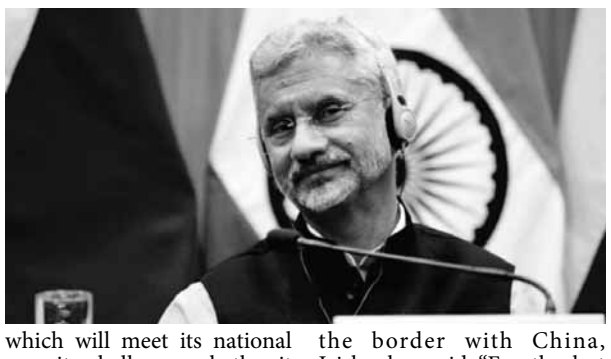
It is a success of the Central government that state officials have confirmed there was no interference. Even then the responsibility of implementation of the Central schemes lies on the shoulders of the state government, he said.

If the target is not achieved, the onus lies on the state government, said Patel.



This is different India, can meet security challenges: EAM

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE/AGENCIES ■ NEW DELHI/KAMPALA, UGANDA



Giving a tough message to Pakistan and China, External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar has said this is a "different India" that can meet its national security challenges. He also Indian soldiers have now the "full backing, they have the right equipment and the infrastructure."

Making these assertions while addressing the Indian community in Uganda late Wednesday, he said forces, who indulged in cross-border terrorism against India for decades, now know this is a "different India" which will give them a reply. He emphasized that today the country can meet its national security challenges posed by Pakistan and China while underlining the transformation of the country into a new India.

Speaking about the challenges India faces on its borders, Jaishankar said: "Today, people see a different India that is willing to stand up and India which will meet its national security challenges whether it is Uri or whether it is Balakot."

He was referring to the 2016 Uri attack by Jaish-e-Mohammed(JeM) insurgents from Pakistan against an Indian Army brigade headquarters and the 2019 Balakot airstrike conducted by Indian warplanes in Balakot, Pakistan against a terrorist training camp.

"Today, the forces which indulged in cross-border terrorism against India for decades and which India tolerated, they now know this is a different India and this India will give them a reply," he said.

As regards challenges on the border with China, Jaishankar said "For the last three years, in violation of the agreements, the Chinese have brought large forces," he said. Today the Indian military is deployed at great heights and in very tough conditions, he added.

This situation is different from the past as Indian soldiers have now the "full backing, they have the right equipment and the infrastructure," he said. He acknowledged that more work has to be done to develop the infrastructure on the border with China as it has been neglected in the past.

"This is a different India which will stand up for its interests and the world will recognise that," he said. Today, he said India's policies are not impacted by any outside pressure. "It is a more independent India," he said.

Today, India cannot be put under pressure by countries that will "tell us where we should buy our oil and where we should not buy our oil."

"This is an India which will do what is in the interest of its citizens, its consumers," he said.

India has been snapping Russian oil available at a discount after the West sanctioned Moscow over its invasion of Ukraine. India continues to buy Russian oil in large quantities.

He said some people felt "bad" when India joined the Quad.

In November 2017, India, Japan, the US and Australia gave shape to the long-pending proposal of setting up the "Quad" to develop a new strategy to keep the critical sea routes in the Indo-Pacific free of any influence. China has been criticising the formation of the Quad grouping, saying it was aimed at containing Beijing's rise.

In 2007, Jaishankar said Quad had come up but they bent to pressure and gave up. "But this time we are very clear that if the Quad is in global interest and is good for the world it is good for us," he said, adding India will do whatever is necessary for the global interest.

Jaishankar said today's India is an Atmanirbhar (self-reliant) country.

"Atmanirbhar Bharat at the end of the day is actually a confidence that we are capable of many things. We need a leader who gives us the confidence that we can realise that capability and who can give us the policies that will enable us to go in that direction and it is happening," he said.

This is today a different India which will take positions which will be determined by India's national interest and "that is very much that you can actually see in the personality of Prime Minister (Narendra) Modi", he said.

Army, IAF joint exercise in Eastern Theatre to meet any Chinese threat

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

With the objective of honing their operational readiness in meeting any challenge from China, the strategic forces of the Indian Army including its elite commandos of the Shatrujeet Brigade and IAF in the first week of April jointly conducted a multi domain exercise in the Eastern Theatre.

China had tried to change the status quo at the Line of Actual Control(LAC)in Tawang, Arunachal Pradesh on December nine last year. It led to a clash between the troops from both the sides and some soldiers from both the armies also received injuries.

The drill was undertaken to validate joint plans for strategic airlift of specialised forces employing IAF fixed and rotary wing platforms by landing and dropping in designated areas for undertaking kinetic actions to provide surge to ongoing operations by regular land forces, sources said here on Thursday.

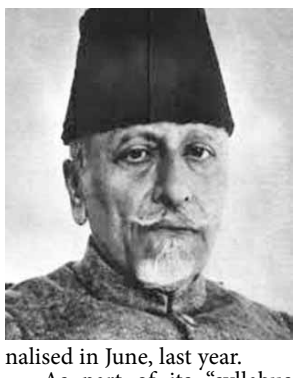
Such Special Operations Exercises are a mix of conventional and unconventional military actions that are undertaken by specially designated, selected, trained and equipped units.

The C17 Globemaster transport aircraft, Chinooks and Mi 17s helicopters undertook multi-mode insertion into designated greenfield landing zones with surgical precision.

Paratroopers from the Shatrujeet Brigade conducted special heliborne operations with the aim of validating their ability to rapidly deploy into hostile environment using Chinooks and Mi17 helicopters to augment the capability of the regular ground forces.

Opp slams Govt for omitting Maulana Azad's name from NCERT textbook

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI



Yet another omission, this time removal of references to freedom fighter and India's first Education Minister Maulana Abul Kalam Azad from the new class 11 political science textbook by the National Council of Educational Research and Training (NCERT), has invited sharp reaction from the Opposition parties.

While Congress lashed out at the Government saying there is a concerted attempt to "rewrite" history and pass on a "distorted legacy built on lies", CPI(M) alleged that such "vengeful rewriting of history" is aimed at creating a false narrative to further the RSS' "ideological projects".

The NCERT has, however, claimed that no curriculum trimming has taken place this year and the syllabus was rationalised in June, last year.

As part of its "syllabus rationalisation" exercise last year, the NCERT, citing "overlapping" and "irrelevant" as reasons, dropped certain portions from the course including lessons on Gujarat riots, Mughal courts, Emergency, Cold War, Naxalite movement, among others from its textbooks. The rationalisation note had no mention of any changes in class 11 political science textbook.

"Certain changes not finding mention of in the rationalised content book could be an 'oversight'," NCERT Director Dinesh Saklani reiterated.

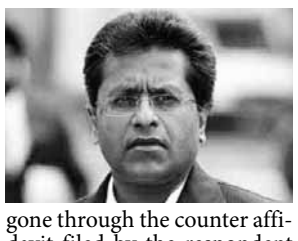
In the class 11 political science textbook's first chapter, titled 'Constitution - Why and How', a line has been revised to omit Azad's name from the constituent assembly committee meetings. The revised line now reads, "Usually, Jawaharlal Nehru, Rajendra Prasad, Sardar Patel or BR Ambedkar chaired these Committees."

In the tenth chapter of the same textbook, titled "The Philosophy of the Constitution", the reference to Jammu and Kashmir's conditional accession has also been deleted.

"For example, the accession of Jammu and Kashmir to the Indian union was based on a commitment to safeguard its autonomy under Article 370 of the Constitution," says the dropped paragraph.

Tender apology for anti-judiciary remarks: SC orders Lalit Modi

PNS ■ NEW DELHI



The Supreme Court on Thursday came down heavily on ex-IPL commissioner Lalit Modi over his remarks against the judiciary made in social media posts and directed him to tender an unconditional apology on social media platforms and national newspapers. Observing that Modi is not above law and the institution, a Bench of Justices MR Shah and CT Ravikumar warned any repeat of such conduct will be viewed very seriously.

The apex court also directed him to file an affidavit before it tendering an apology and stating no such posts will be made in future which would tantamount, even remotely, to tarnishing the image of the Indian judiciary. "We have gone through the counter affidavit filed by the respondent (Modi). We are not at all satisfied with the explanation given. We are of the view even the clarification would tarnish the image of the judiciary.

"Counsel for respondent AM Singhvi has stated at bar that an unconditional apology would be tendered in all social media where he has followers and leading newspapers at Delhi, Mumbai, Bangalore, Madras and Kolkata editions," the Bench said while posting the matter for further hearing on April 24.

ED takes Chanda's statement in land-for-jobs scam

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Enforcement Directorate (ED) on Thursday recorded the statement of RJD chief Lalu Prasad Yadav's daughter Chanda Yadav in a money laundering case linked to the land-for-jobs 'scam' in the railway.

Chanda Yadav's statement was recorded under the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA) during her deposition before the ED. She is the fourth child of Lalu, a former Railway Minister, to have deposed before the ED in this case till now. Lalu has nine children.

On Wednesday, his other daughter Ragini Yadav was questioned. Earlier, his MP daughter Misa Bharti and his son and Bihar Deputy Chief Minister Tejashwi Yadav have also been questioned at the agency's office here.

In March, the agency had searched the premises of Chanda Yadav, her sisters Ragini Yadav and Hema Yadav, and former RJD MLA Abu Dojana in Patna, Phulwari Sharif, Delhi-NCR, Ranchi and Mumbai.The ED had on Monday questioned and recorded the statement of Tejashwi Yadav in this case.

Misa Bharti was similarly questioned by the ED in this case on March 25, the same day Tejashwi Yadav had deposed before the CBI.

Both the central agencies recently initiated action in the case, with the CBI questioning Lalu Prasad and his wife and former Bihar chief minister Rabri Devi and the ED carrying out raids against the RJD chief's family.

Congressional Caucus meet on Apr 26 to boost US-India ties

PNS/AGENCIES ■ NEW DELHI / WASHINGTON

The Congressional Caucus on India and Indian Americans has announced a meeting to strengthen US-India partnership by bringing key stakeholders together. It is the first of its kind meeting at the US Congress and will take place on April 26. The meeting has bipartisan support and has gained momentum in the past decade.

"I am very excited that leading members of the Indian American community, senior members of the Congress, critical Administration leaders and foreign policy experts will be convening on April 26 to chart out a comprehensive strategy for strengthening US-India partnership," Indian American Congressman Ro Khanna said late Wednesday.

IAF's Rafale's to take part in multilateral Exercise Orion in France

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

An Indian Air Force (IAF) contingent will depart on Friday for France to participate in multilateral Exercise Orion at Mont-de-Marsan with IAF Rafale jets for the first time taking part in a drill abroad. The exercise is scheduled at Mont-de-Marsan, an air force base of the French Air and Space Force (FASF). The exercise will be conducted from April 17 to May five. The Indian contingent comprises four French built Rafale jets, two C-17, two ll-78 aircraft and 165 air warriors. This will be the first overseas exercise for the IAF's Rafale aircraft, officials said here on Thursday.

Besides the IAF and the FASF, Air Forces from Germany, Greece, Italy,

Netherlands, United Kingdom, Spain and United States of America would also be flying in this multilateral exercise. Participation in this exercise would further enrich the employment philosophy of the India Air Force, by imbibing the best practices from other Air Forces.

Bengaluru company unveils chip that could revolutionise satellite-based navigation

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

In a development that could revolutionize satellite-based navigation in India and abroad, Elena Geo Systems, a Bengaluru-based space technology company on Thursday unveiled a chip that could form the core of the navigation, positioning and timing applications in India.

The chip works using navigation with Indian Constellation (NavIC) or the Indian Regional Navigation Satellite System (IRNSS) satellites. Elena Geo Systems founder, Lt Colonel V S Velan handed over the chip to Chief of Defence Staff General(CDS) Anil Chauhan here in the presence of Samir V Kamat, Chairman, Defence Research and Development Organization (DRDO).

The chip has many cores that service the requirements of signal acquisition, regeneration, processing and the output interface and hence it is has been named as the NavIC processor. This will enable high precision and accuracy for all the three types of applications such as navigation, positioning and timing, providing India much needed self-reliance in this domain.

The company has been pursuing advance technologies to manufacture

these chips and modules; some of which have been supplied to the Indian Army and some private entities. Elena Geo Systems, was incubated at IIT-Kharagpur in 2012 and is now a member of the Delhi-based Indian Space Association.

Data on attacks on Christians not correct, Centre tells SC

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Centre on Thursday disputed in the Supreme Court the figure pertaining to alleged attacks on Christian institutions and priests, terming the data "wrong" and claiming the petitioners wanted to keep "the pot boiling" to sully the image of the country abroad. The apex court was hearing a PIL filed by Rev. Peter Machado of the National Solidarity Forum, Rev. Vijayesh Lal of Evangelical Fellowship of India, and others claiming violence against Christians.

A Bench headed by Chief Justice DY Chandrachud was earlier told by the PIL petitioners that from 2021 to May 2022, 700 cases of violence against Christians were reported and a majority of those arrested were followers of the faith.

Solicitor General Tushar Mehta, appearing for the Centre, referred to a report containing the case data received from Bihar and Chhattisgarh and said most of them related to disputes involving neighbours and, coincidentally, one of the parties happened to be a Christian.

He said the Bench, also including Justices PS Narasimha and JB Pardiwala, had taken note of the matter based on the figures provided by the PIL petitioners which were wrong. "The petitioner claimed that there are some 500 incidents where Christians were attacked. We sent everything to the State Governments. We collated all the information we got. The figure given by them, which obviously persuaded your lordships, was not correct," said Mehta, citing that Union Home Ministry has collated the responses from all the States. Altogether 38 such incidents were reported from Bihar, and as per the report, they pertained to fights between two neighbours of whom one happened to be a Christian.

Delhi HC speeds up appeal process in 2G scam cases

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Speeding up the appeal process in 2G scam cases, the Delhi High Court on Thursday asked the CBI, ED, former Telecom Minister A Raja and others to file their submissions in the appeals challenging the acquittal by the trial court. Justice DK Sharma said the parties shall file brief written submissions not exceeding five pages. The CBI demanded day-to-day hearings and its counsel urged the court to list the matter on an early date when he would argue on the aspect of granting leave to appeal, the judge fixed the matter for May 22 and 23.

The CBI and ED filed appeal against the trial court's verdict acquitting all accused persons on March 2018, five years ago. There were 95 listings and seven judges presided on the appeal process. At one point Justice Najmi Waziri in mid 2018, fined some accused for delaying the process and ordered them to plant 16,000 trees at Delhi Ridge forest area.

"The matter requires urgent hearing. Fix anytime of the day for conducting day-to-day hearing in the matter," the CBI counsel submitted.

Though the CBI had earlier concluded its submissions on the issue of leave to appeal, it will have to argue the matter afresh due to change of the judge.

Leave to appeal is a formal permission granted by a court to a party to challenge a decision in a higher court.

Earlier, the case was being heard on a day-to-day basis by Justice Brijesh Sethi, who retired on November 30 and had released the matter from his board on November 23 owing to paucity of time. Before retiring, Justice Sethi had decided various petitions and applications filed by the acquitted individuals and firms in the three cases arising out of the 2G scam probe lodged by the CBI and ED.

Union Minister of Youth Affairs and Sports Anurag Singh Thakur with Sports Secretary Sujata Chaturvedi and CEO of the Food Safety and Standards Authority of India, G K Rao at an event 'Paving the Path For Clean Sports – A Dialogue with stakeholders on risk associated with use of nutritional supplements by NADA' on Thursday. PTI

IMD warns of heatwave in 4 States

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The India Meteorological Department (IMD) on Thursday issued a heatwave warning for four states - West Bengal, Odisha, Andhra Pradesh, and Bihar - over the next three to four days. Earlier this month, the IMD predicted above-normal maximum temperatures for most parts of the country from April to June, except parts of the northwest and the peninsular regions.

According to the IMD, heatwave conditions are likely in isolated pockets of Gangetic West Bengal until April 17, north coastal Andhra Pradesh and Odisha until April 15, and in Bihar from April 15 to 17. The IMD said that the maximum temperatures in several parts of the western Himalayan region and northeast India, West Bengal, Sikkim, Odisha, coastal Andhra Pradesh, and Kerala are three to five notches above normal.

Above-normal heatwave days are expected in most parts of central, east, and northwest India during this period.

The maximum temperatures in central and north peninsular India are hovering in the range of 40 to 42 degrees Celsius at present. At present, certain regions of Madhya Pradesh, Gujarat, interior Maharashtra, Odisha, and Telangana are experiencing maximum temperatures between 40 and 42 degree Celsius, while the other parts of the country have temperatures below 40 degrees Celsius. Additionally, some areas of Jammu & Kashmir, northeast, and adjoining East India are witnessing temperatures that are 2-3 degree Celsius above the normal range. The Odisha government has even announced the closure of schools till 16 April in the wake of "intense heat wave conditions" in the state.

The IMD said maximum temperatures are three to five notches above normal in many parts of the western Himalayan region and northeast India, West Bengal, Sikkim, Odisha, coastal Andhra Pradesh and Kerala. In an extended-range forecast, the IMD said heatwave conditions are likely over parts of Bihar, West Bengal, Odisha, and Andhra Pradesh on some days between April 20 and April 26.

A heat wave is declared if the maximum temperature of a station reaches at least 40 degrees Celsius in the plains, at least 37 degrees in coastal areas and at least 30 degrees in hilly regions, and the departure from normal is at least 4.5 degrees.

DISCONTENT OVER CHOICE OF KARNATAKA POLL CANDIDATES

BJP brass try to calm those denied tickets

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Amidst the release of two lists of 212 candidates out of total 224 Assembly seats in Karnataka, the disgruntlement among those denied tickets has made the party leadership anxious with the central leaders and Chief Minister Basavraj Bommai and Lingayat strongman BS Yediyurappa trying to mitigate the problem through consultations and mediation.

Some of the sitting BJP MLAs, denied tickets, have resigned from the party.

The latest list of nominees does not include Hubli-Dharwad Central segment, from where former Chief Minister Jagadish Shettar wants to contest. It also does not include a candidate for the Shivamogga city segment, where sitting MLA and former minister K S Eshwarappa has announced his retirement from electoral politics. Eshwarappa wanted his son to be nominated from his seat.

Many of those sitting MLAs denied tickets have resigned from the party.

The BJP on Tuesday announced its first list of 189 candidates and a second list of 23 on Wednesday night. The party is yet to name contestants for 12 seats even as the process of filing nominations has already begun and to end by April 20 . Elections in Karnataka are scheduled on May 10.

Mudigere BJP MLA M P Kumaraswamy and Haveri MLA Nehru Olekar on Thursday announced their resignation from the primary membership of the party, after they were denied tickets.

"Some aspirants and legislators have announced their resignation, a few have resigned. We are speaking to workers and leaders and things will be resolved by and large. I'm speaking to seniors (who are disgruntled), also our high command will be speaking to them. I'm confident things will be resolved," Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai said in Mangaluru.

Bommai maintained that things would be resolved in some time. On former Deputy Chief Minister Laxman Savadi announcing that he was quitting the party, Bommai said, "... He will also have to safeguard the trust of the people of the constituency from whom he will be under pressure. So it will take some time, but it will be resolved."

It is speculated that Savadi is in touch with the Congress leaders and may move to their side. Stating that candidates had been selected based on "survey reports", the Chief Minister said he would also speak to Mudigere MLA Kumaraswamy and try to ensure that he remained in the party.

Cong in Catch-22 situation over Pilot's fast against Gehlot

'Sachin will neither join BJP nor AAP'

DEEPAK KUMAR JHA ■ NEW DELHI

After going to town over action against Sachin Pilot for observing a daylong fast to protest against his own government led by Ashok Gehlot, the Congress has now find itself in a Catch-22 situation.

On the other hand sources close to the rebel leader Sachin Pilot refuted speculations that he may go to BJP neither he is `bargaining' with Aam Admi Party (AAP) which is eyeing to set its foot in Rajasthan which so far has seen the toss of power game only between Congress and BJP with BSP making a significant presence. "But he is mentally prepared if any action is taken then the former Union Minister in Congress led UPA governments will float his own outfit which will not damage Congress but BJP only," a close aide of Pilot told The Pioneer.

Sources said Pilot has been trying to convey to the central leadership that he did not defy the party since his fast was an internal matter.

Sources mentioned that when Gehlot was let scot free despite his complete disobedience to the directives of the then President Sonia Gandhi to take over the reins of the grand old party then Pilot has done nothing as his protest pertains to corruption in Vasundhara Raje led BJP government.

Pilot has stationed himself in the national Capital after his one day fast on Tuesday and seeking a meeting with top party leadership.

Sources said neither the Congress chief Mallikarjun Kharge, nor former chief Rahul Gandhi or General Secretary Priyanka Gandhi have met him so far. Pilot's last rebellion when he alongwith his supporters had lodged in a Gurugram resort two years ago was pacified by Priyanka with whom he is considered to be very close.

While the Congress general secretary in-charge for Rajasthan Sukhjinder Randhawa has held several rounds of meetings including that on Thursday with party chief Mallikarjun Kharge and former party chief Rahul Gandhi for the second time in two days as the party continues to grapple with the situation arising after Pilot's fast in defiance of the central leadership, sources in the grand old party said the Congress leadership is caught in a peculiar situation as it neither wants Pilot to quit the party nor it wants to be seen condoning his action.

Will prefer begging from State's people to pleading before Centre: Mamata

They won't release funds till 2024 Lok Sabha polls but I will manage, says Didi

SAUGAR SENGUPTA ■ KOLKATA

With the BJP Government blocking release of MNREGA and other funds pertaining to various social welfare schemes, Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee on Thursday said that she better be going around to beg from door to door than submitting before New Delhi with a begging bowl.

An apparently emotional Banerjee said, "I have tried to serve you (the people) with best of my capacity and have still been doing so though the Centre has blocked State's funds," adding the people not to misconstrue her.

"There have been problems in implementation of projects on account of fund crunch … I will request you not to misunderstand me or my intention to serve you," Banerjee, a bevy of whose ministerial colleagues and senior party functionaries have landed in jail in connection with a plethora of scams said. Banerjee was speaking at the inaugural function of Dhana Dhanya, a state-of-art auditorium constructed at the cost of ₹440 crore at plush Alipore in South Kolkata. The auditorium resembles a gigantic blue-and-white conch shell.

Alleging that the Centre had not been releasing funds worth thousands of crores meant for clearing wages under the 100-days' work scheme, Banerjee said "they (BJP) are thinking that I will go begging before them but I will not … I have reports that they will not release the funds before 2024 (general elections)."

Shah reviews security arrangements ahead of G-20 meet in J&K

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

Union Home Minister Amit Shah chairs a high-level meeting to review security situation in Jammu and Kashmir, in New Delhi on Thursday PTI

Ahead of G20 meeting in Srinagar, Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Thursday reviewed the functioning of the security grid and all security-related aspects in Jammu and Kashmir. The meeting was attended by the top brass of security and intelligence units. At the security review meeting, attended by National Security Adviser Ajit Doval, Jammu and Kashmir Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha among others, Shah took stock of the functioning of the security grid and various aspects related to security, an official statement said.

Union Home Secretary Ajay Kumar Bhalla, J&K DGP Dilbag Singh, IB Chief Tapan Kumar Deka, RA Chief Samant Goel also attended the high-level security review meet chaired by the Home Minister.

Shah also reviewed the preparations for a G20 meeting to be held in Srinagar next month and directed all relevant agencies to work in coordination for successful conduct of the event. India is hosting a meeting of the G20 Tourism Working Group in Srinagar in May while a youth engagement group meeting is scheduled to take place in Leh later this month.

The Home Minister reiterated the Modi government's unflinching resolve to the policy of zero tolerance against terrorism. He also reviewed the area domination plan, zero terror policy, law and order situation, matters related to UAPA and other security-related issues.

Shah appreciated the efforts of the Jammu and Kashmir administration and security agencies for significant reduction in cross-border infiltration and improvement in law-and-order situation and stressed on strengthening routine policing.

Man held for marriage with minor, tampering with her date of birth on Aadhaar card

T N RAGHUNATHA ■ MUMBAI

In a classic case of the groom of a "Balika Badhu" landing in trouble within hours of their marriage, the Mumbai police have arrested a 23-year-old man for entering into a court marriage with a minor girl after allegedly tampering with her real date of birth on her Aadhaar card to prove that she was a major.

The fraud came to light within hours after they got married in a civil marriage on Tuesday (April 11) at the office of Marriage Registrar at Bandra in north-west Mumbai, when the boy and girl visited the Dahisar Police Station to complete the mandatory legal formalities.

Suspecting foul play, the police summoned the girl's father Sabajit Pal, a tailor, to ascertain facts about the bride's age. Pal told the police that his daughter's date of birth had been tampered with allegedly by the boy to prove that she was 18 years, an age criterion for Court Marriage.

Under the Special Marriage Act, 1954, the Court Marriage age for a boy is 21 years and the Court Marriage age for a girl is 18 years. On his part, Pal produced his daughter's original birth certificate, as submitted to a local school as proof of the real date of birth. The girl also admitted that the groom had committed the fraud with her knowledge.

Immediately afterwards, Pal later lodged a complaint against the boy with the Dahisar police.

Taking serious cognisance of the complaint, the police registered an FIR against the accused "groom" — Gaurav Makwana, booked him on charges of kidnapping, cheating, forgery and child marriage.

SC quashes Calcutta HC order for CBI probe into attack on Union Min Pramanik's convoy

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Thursday set aside a Calcutta High Court order for a CBI probe in the alleged attack on Union Minister Nisith Pramanik's convoy during a visit to his constituency in West Bengal in February and directed fresh adjudication of the PIL filed by BJP leader Suvendu Adhikari on the issue.

The top court also rejected the vehement submissions of Adhikari, the leader of the opposition in the West Bengal Assembly, for a "status quo" on the probe into the incident by the state police which, otherwise, will proceed with a "lightening speed" in view of the fact that they have not given the case files to the CBI as directed by the high court. "No we cannot pass such an order," a bench comprising Chief Justice D Y Chandrachud and Justices P S Narasimha and J P Pardiwala said.

The top court referred to the fresh affidavit filed by the West Bengal police before it with regard to the actions taken so far in the incident and set aside the high court judgement ordering a CBI probe, saying the "the High Court has not noticed any of the facets".

"However, the narration which is set out in the earlier part of the judgement (of the high court) have a bearing on the fact that the high court did not apply its mind to the entirety of the material which was produced before it by the petitioners on whether a proper investigation was being conducted (by the state police)," the bench said.

Appoint child marriage prohibition officers in all dists: SC to Centre

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Thursday asked the Centre to ensure appointment of child marriage prohibition officers in every district and directed it to specify the policy steps it has taken for enforcement of the Prohibition of Child Marriage Act.

A bench of Chief Justice DY Chandrachud and Justices PS Narasimha and JB Pardiwala asked the Ministry of Women and Child Development to furnish data after collecting them from all states on the number of cases registered under the 2006 law and steps taken for its enforcement.

"The Union government shall engage with state government and ensure appointment of child marriage prohibition officers in every district and that they are not given multifarious duties," the bench said.

The top court was hearing a plea filed by NGO 'Society for Enlightenment and Voluntary Action' which has claimed the Act was not being enforced in letter and spirit.

During the hearing, Additional Solicitor General Aishwarya Bhati, appearing for the Centre, said a bill was moved in Parliament seeking raising the marriageable age of women to 21 years. The bill is currently before a select committee, the ASG said.

PACS to get priority in allotment of petrol/diesel dealerships, purchase of ethanol

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

Now Primary Agricultural Credit Societies (PACS) in the country will get priority in allotment of new petrol/diesel dealerships and purchase of ethanol produced by cooperative sugar mills. They will also be able to apply for LPG distributorship and have the option to convert existing Wholesale Consumer Licensed PACS into retail outlets.

This was decided at a meeting held between Union Home Minister Amit Shah and Union Minister for Petroleum and Natural Gas Hardeep Singh Puri here in the national Capital on Wednesday.

The move was taken with an aim to strengthen the PACS as well as pave a way for them to convert into multipurpose economic units, which will provide regular sources of income to crores of farmers of the country and hence realize the goal of 'Sahakar se Samardhi' as envisioned by Prime Minister Narendra Modi. Giving details, a senior official from the Cooperation Ministry said that Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas agreed to convert existing wholesale petrol and diesel dealership licensed under Primary Agricultural Credit Societies (PACS) into retail outlets, provided they fulfil all the requirements for setting up retail outlets in rural areas, including statutory approvals and other permissions.

The decision also aims to give priority to PACS in the allotment of new petrol and diesel dealerships. Now, PACS have been made eligible to get LPG distributorship as well.

As per an official from the Union Ministry of Cooperation, the existing PACS will be given a one-time option to convert their wholesale consumer pumps into retail outlets. With the eligibility for LPG distributorship, the PACS will become the economic hub of rural development, the official said, adding that the PACS will become a strong empowered entity after the option to convert existing wholesale consumer-licensed PACS into a retail outlet. In addition to the above, rules will also be changed by the Ministry of Petroleum to make PACS eligible for LPG distributorship.

Also, under the Ethanol Blending Program, the Ministry of Petroleum will ensure that cooperative sugar mills are given priority for ethanol procurement at par with other private companies, explained the officials.

It has also been decided that PACS will be considered under the Combined Category -2(CC 2) along with the freedom fighter and sports quota in the allotment of new petrol/diesel dealerships, he said.

'Will those who burnt 2 men in Hry also be killed in encounter'

PTI ■ HYDERABAD

Attacking the BJP for conducting encounters "in the name of religion", AIMIM president Asaduddin Owaisi on Thursday sought to know whether those who burnt to death the two youth in Haryana would also be killed in an encounter.

Owaisi, who was addressing a gathering at Nizamabad in Telangana, referred to the killing of Junaid and Naseer in Haryana, allegedly by cow vigilantes in February this year.

"Whose government is in power in Haryana? Are houses not being bulldozed? Are encounters not done by firing bullets?... Will you shoot at those who killed Junaid and Naseer?" he asked. "... You do encounter in the name of religion.

Can you eliminate the killers of Junaid and Naseer? You will not do. So far, one has been caught and nine disappeared," he said.

Reacting to the killing of gangster-turned-politician Atiq Ahmed's son during an exchange of fire with the UP police today, he said the law was being torn to shreds with such so-called encounters.

"You want to do an encounter of the Constitution. You want to weaken the rule of law. Then what the courts, CrPC, IPC, judges, public prosecutor are for?" the AIMIM leader questioned.

"If you decide that we will do justice with bullets, then close down courts. What will judges do? Rule of law should prevail... This is the work of court. Not yours. You nab the criminal. You get punishment for a criminal," Owaisi said.

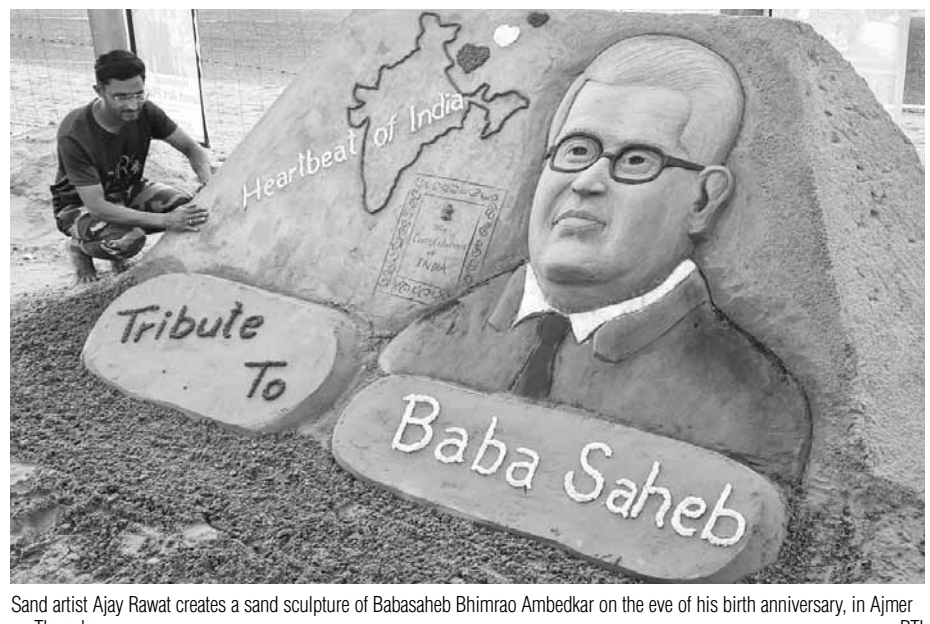
Atiq Ahmad's son Asad and an accomplice, both wanted in 2005 BSP MLA Umesh Pal murder case, were killed in an encounter with the Uttar Pradesh Police in Jhansi today.

Another soldier dies of gunshot wound in Bathinda Military Station

PTI ■ CHANDIGARH

Hours after four Indian Army soldiers were killed in their sleep by unidentified assailants, another soldier at the Bathinda Military Station in Punjab died of a gunshot wound Wednesday evening. Meanwhile, a search is going on for the two men who killed the four jawans while they were sleeping. As per the Army, the case purportedly seems to be of attempted suicide and has no connection with the incident which took place earlier in the day in the same military station. The incident took place around 4.30pm Wednesday evening but was made public only Thursday morning even as he was evacuated immediately to the Military Hospital, where he succumbed to his injuries. He had returned from leave a day ago on 11 April, the Army said.

"Bathinda is a huge military station and the location of this incident was nowhere close to where the earlier incident took place," a source said, adding that "he might have been facing some domestic issues."



Sand artist Ajay Rawat creates a sand sculpture of Babasaheb Bhimrao Ambedkar on the eve of his birth anniversary, in Ajmer on Thursday PTI

Don't know who Sukesh Chandrasekhar is: BRS' Kavitha

PTI ■ HYDERABAD

BRS leader K Kavitha on Friday said she does not know who Sukesh Chandrasekhar, the alleged conman accused of extorting Rs 200 crore from the wife of a prominent businessman, is.

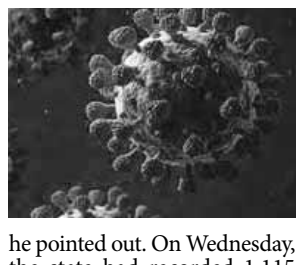
Rubbishing reports in a section of media linking her with Chandrasekhar, Kavitha said some media organizations have been deliberately spreading false news against the Telangana government, BRS party, and most importantly, her.

In a statement issued here, she lambasted BJP leaders saying that based an anonymous letter by a "financial criminal," the saffron party was carrying out the smear campaign against her.

"I am not even familiar with the real Sukesh Chandrasekhar. I don't even know who he is. But regardless of the facts, some media outlets are zealous and persistent in publishing false news," said the BRS MLC.

Covid-19 surge: Maha records 1,086 new cases, one death; active tally 5,700

PTI ■ MUMBAI



Maharashtra on Thursday recorded 1,086 Covid-19 cases and one death, which took the tally to 81,53,377 and the toll to 1,48,471, a health official said.

It is the second consecutive day when the addition to the tally was above the 1000-mark, he pointed out. On Wednesday, the state had recorded 1,115 cases.

Mumbai accounted for 274 cases, followed by 85 in Thane, 76 in Nagpur and 65 in Pune, while the sole death took place in Dhule, the official said.

The recovery count increased by 806 in the last 24 hours and touched 79,99,206, leaving the state with an active caseload of 5,700, he said.

Shah on tour of Bengal, Rajasthan, Maharashtra, Goa from today

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Union Home Minister Amit Shah will visit four states in the three days from Friday as he spearheads the BJP's drive to tone up its organisation machinery and boost public outreach in the run-up to the Lok Sabha polls next year.

Party leaders said Shah will visit Birbhum in West Bengal on Friday followed by Bharatpur in Rajasthan on Saturday and Maharashtra and Goa on Sunday.

He will lay the foundation stone of a party office and address a rally in Birbhum and address a meeting of booth presidents in Rajasthan, they said.

RAIPUR | FRIDAY | APRIL 14, 2023

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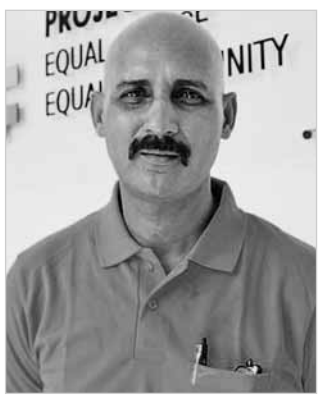
PAPER WITH PASSION

Systemic failure

A 12-year-old was tried for murder, convicted, and spent his best years on death row

Niranaram Chetanram Chaudhary is a living testament to the pathetic state of our police and justice systems. In 1994, he was 12 years old — and tried for murder on the presumption that he was 22. This happened because somehow he got dragged into a murder case in Pune, in which five women and two children were knifed to death. After class three he ran away from his school at Bikaner in Rajasthan, went to Pune, and began working in a tailoring shop. He doesn't remember why ran away from his home or with whom, nor could any of his brothers. Some cop misspelled his name as Narayan instead of Niranaram, leading to his trial, conviction, and death sentence. What is startling and heartrending is the fact no one in the system — from cops of various ranks and lawyers to judges at different levels in the judicial hierarchy — could even notice that a child was being on trial. A junior police officer may have misspelled the name, but could he tell a 12-year-old kid from a 22-year-old youngster? And what about the senior officers? And the prosecuting lawyers and defence counsels? And judges in the trial and appeal courts? A 42-year-old man, if he abuses his own body, may look 52; and a 52-year-old man, who takes good care of his body, may pass off as 42. But how on earth can a 12-year-old boy be mistaken as 22 years of age? Even if he did commit the crime, he could not have been imprisoned for more than three years, as per the juvenile law in effect at that time.



Justice is said to be blind, but those responsible for dispensing it are not supposed to be blind; their cognitive and cogitative faculties ought to be sound. In Chaudhary's case, all these were found wanting — and he paid a terrible price. He had to spend 28 long years in prison, and on death row to boot. The best years of his life — adolescence and most of his youth — were spent behind bars. "When you are on death row, every hope is broken. You just try to get through the day," he recently told a newspaper after his release, adding that he now feels blessed to look at the stars on a dark night after spending years confined to four walls under the glare of lights. In prison, he studied a lot, getting a master's degree in sociology. It was at this time that he realised that he was much younger than the prison records showed. The Supreme Court ended his ordeal in March when it concluded that Niranaram was 12 years and six months old at the time of the murders. School documents and medical examination proved that. The exercise was carried out as part of the National Law University's Project 39A which works on death penalty reform. This episode proves, if any proof is needed, that India's justice and police systems urgently need reforms. Our political masters, however, have not shown great zeal for reforms in the justice system. People like Niranaram Chetanram Chaudhary continue to suffer.

PICTALK

Students perform 'Bhangra' during Baisakhi celebrations, at a wheat field on the outskirts of Amritsar PTI

Adapting to climate change is imperative

AS **MITTAL**

For a country like ours, which experiences almost extreme weather conditions every year, resilience building must be given top priority

The agriculture sector is highly vulnerable to climate change and is a big challenge for the agrarian economy. Food-bowl Punjab and Haryana farmers' fetish for unsustainable big cereal wheat this time has begun to hurt, as returns diminish due to climate challenges. The climate challenge farmers faced this time was erratic rainfall at the end of March, while crops were ready to harvest, likely to affect the yield significantly. In the case of Punjab, the initial deliberation by the agriculture department has indicated that at least 40 per cent of 35 lakh hectares of wheat sown is impacted by rain, winds, and hailstorms.

The serious challenges from climate change-induced impacts of erratic rainfall and the heat waves are not just a threat to our food security and nutrition as well as to the livelihood of 45 per cent of the country's population that depends on farming. It has an impact on their crop loan cycle to return on time to get fresh lending and to invest back into their farms.

Policymakers, agri-scientists and farmers must come together to confront the challenge of climate change. Various climate change policies are established at international, national and state levels to address the impacts of climate change. Traditionally, the focus of such policies remained on mitigation instead of adaptation measures. Adaptation actions are needed to respond to climate change as these actions help reduce vulnerabilities.

Overuse of resources like water, soil, fertilisers and pesticides to boost yield resulted in Green-House Gases Emissions (GHGs). Take the example of Punjab, after the implementation of the Food Security Act; the nation is again looking toward Punjab, but Punjab farmers need to conserve its soil and water management along with adopting diversification in agriculture.

Why are the funds dwindling?

However, the National Mission on Strategic Knowledge for Climate Change (NMSKCC) seeks to build a dynamic knowledge system that would inform and support action for responding effectively to the objective of ecologically sustainable development making agriculture climate resilient.

The National Adaptation Fund for Climate Change (NAFCC) was established in 2015 to meet the cost of adaptation for the States but why are the funds dwindling to address this serious challenge? The grants released under NAFCC fell from ₹350 crore in 2015-16 to ₹27.76 crore in 2022-23, while the sub-committee of the Ministry of Finance estimates the cumulative expenditure for adapting to climate change at ₹ 85.60 lakh crore by 2030.

Research and development is the bedrock of climate resistance agriculture but the minuscule investments in R&D impede the ability of science and technology research to tackle multiple challenges. As per the Indian Council of Agriculture Research, around 85 per cent of their budget goes towards salaries and other administrative/establishment expenditures, with little left for research. The same is with state agriculture universities facing a financial crunch for R&D work. The total R&D expenditure in India as a percentage of agricultural GDP has been stagnant at 0.3 to 0.5 per cent in the last two decades. It is much lower than in the US (2.8 per cent), China (2.1 per cent), South Korea (4.3 per cent), and Israel (4.2 per cent).

> POLICYMAKERS, AGRI-SCIENTISTS AND FARMERS MUST COME TOGETHER TO CONFRONT THE CHALLENGE OF CLIMATE CHANGE. VARIOUS POLICIES ARE IN PLACE AT INTERNATIONAL, NATIONAL AND STATE LEVELS TO ADDRESS THE IMPACTS OF CLIMATE CHANGE

For a country that experiences almost extreme weather every year, adaptation and resilience building must be a priority. India needs more granular risk analysis that can help target appropriate adaptation action locally while making new infrastructure climate resilient and strengthening early warning systems.

An analysis by the Council on Energy, Environment, and Water found the frequency and intensity of extreme climate events increasing by almost 200 per cent since 2005 and three out of four districts of India are facing extreme climate change. Experts' analyst estimates show that climate change might reduce global agriculture productivity by 17 per cent by 2030. According to a study by the World Meteorological Organisation, India is estimated to have suffered an average annual loss of more than ₹6 lakh crore from climate-induced changes.

The way forward:

To face these risks, adaptation is the key factor. Farmers should start promoting sustainable integrated agriculture practices that could enable them to lower their vulnerabilities by higher crop diversity from staples to high-value crops, fruit and vegetables. Integrated farming with the inclusion of dairy, poultry, beekeeping, fisheries and mushroom cultivation can give additional high-energy food without affecting the production of food grains. There are four sustainable ways farmers can produce more food.

First, Farmers need handholding in the early phases. Support them for knowledge exchange with skill-intensive practices. Second, support technology innovation and adaptation to minimise their vulnerability. Third, Instead of input-based subsidies for fertiliser and power, incentivising outcome-based support could encourage innovation. Four, and the most significant, is enhanced research and development for impact studies compared with conventional farming across agro-climatic zones.

(The writer is vice-chairman of Sonalika Group, and vice-chairman (Cabinet Minister rank) of Punjab Economic Policy and Planning Board)

Tailored corporate courses in demand

YAJULU **MEDURY**

A growing number of companies are now opting for flexible training courses that allow executives to attend sessions as per their comfort

Continuous learning is essential in the business world to keep up with the constantly changing landscape. Executive education programs provide tailored courses to meet the specific needs of professionals and organisations. The demand for such courses is global and not limited to specific industries or regions.

Upskilling employees to adapt to new technologies and building leadership and management skills to tackle organizational changes are some examples of the specific challenges that executives face. A skills-based approach can make an organization achieve greater diversity, equity, and inclusivity (DEI) advantages. Providing the right opportunities and enabling employees to learn skills that the company finds necessary for its future growth can help employees grow individually and the organisation collectively.

Flexible training courses that allow learners to attend sessions as per their comfort, and choose offline, on-campus, or online learning options are being preferred by corporates. As an executive, every individual and their organisation needs to focus on upskilling and reskilling. Deeper analytical insights can be provided by executive learning programs apart from the skills that are in demand.

With digital automation making existing technologies go obsolete rapidly, upskilling or reskilling can also be instrumental in ensuring that a person remains relevant and effective in the current role, even in the future. As per a global study by Deloitte, about 86% of organizations are aware of this need, but just 10% find themselves ready to address them.

The need for executive education programs is growing as businesses face rapid changes in technology and the global market. Executives need to continually upgrade their skills and knowledge to keep up with the demands of their industry. Organizations are looking for courses that are not only relevant to their industry but also address the specific challenges they are facing, such as upskilling employees to adapt to new technologies or building leadership and management skills to tackle organisational changes. With digital automation making existing technologies obsolete rapidly, upskilling or reskilling can also be instrumental in ensuring that a person remains relevant and effective in their current and future roles.

To stay ahead of the curve, businesses need to identify the right skill sets that will keep their workforce proficient and in sync with evolving technologies such as AI automation and SaaS-driven activities. Flexible training courses that allow learners to attend sessions as per their comfort, and choose offline, on-campus, or online learning options are being preferred by corporates.

Executives themselves feel the need to retain their competitive edge and acquire skills that will help them take up new and more complex leadership roles in the times ahead. By joining learning and development programs aimed at specific areas, employees can acquire skills that make them leaders in their areas of expertise and achieve better growth in terms of corporate hierarchy and remuneration. To achieve greater diversity, equity and inclusivity advantages, organizations should focus on providing opportunities for employees to learn skills that the company finds necessary for its future growth. Executive learning programs can provide deeper analytical insights apart from the skills that are in demand.

In conclusion, executive education is necessary to keep up with the ever-changing business landscape. Organizations must identify the right skill sets and provide flexible training courses to keep their workforce proficient and in sync with evolving technologies. Executives themselves need to focus on upskilling and reskilling to retain their competitive edge.

(The writer is Vice Chancellor, Mahindra University)

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

SUPREME COURT NOD TO RSS MARCH

Sir — The tussle between the Tamil Nadu Government and the RSS began when the former denied permission to organise route marches and public gatherings to the latter in September 2022. The government cited that since the Government of India's decision to ban PFI under the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act (UAPA), the law-and-order situation is not conducive to organising marches. The single-judge Bench also reprimanded the Tamil Nadu police as it observed that there was nothing adverse in the intelligence reports cited by them. The Supreme Court has given a green signal to the RSS Route March in Tamil Nadu.

CKR Nathan | *Trichy*

CONSOLATION FOR YASH DAYAL

Sir — It is really heartening to see that left-arm pacer Yash Dayal, who was hammered for five consecutive sixes by Rinku Singh in the final over to seal the game for KKR, has been receiving consolation messages from all around, including from his father. It is all the more encouraging that the entire KKR team reached out to the GT bowler with a moving post, backing him to bounce back from the setback. KKR's message for Dayal read: "Chin up, lad. Just a hard day at the office happens to the best of players in cricket." No doubt, these words will lift the morale of the bruised bowler and come up strongly in the remaining matches. Yash Dayal can take solace from England's Stuart Broad, who is still respected as one of the great fast bowlers in the world despite he was taken to the cleaners by Yuvraj Singh in the 2007 T20 world cup. Sport is a great leveller, and it always gives a second chance for a player to come good.

Ranganathan Sivakumar | *Chennai*

SACHIN ON PILOT'S FLIGHT ROUTE?

Sir — Now that Sachin (the pure) Pilot is set on steering the Rajasthan Congress aircraft to his own chosen course against instructions of central control, it is likely that he has laid his hands on the same route map taken earlier by Jyotiraditya Scindia. And his landing destination may well be the same. In which case, it befits Pilot to be left to handle Civil Aviation and for Scindia to take over the Shipping portfolio. After all, he is from the lineage of the Maharaja of Gwalior who set up the Scindia Shipping way back in 1914. The BJP is decidedly generous in disbursing landing rights to carriers flying colours other than their own.

R Narayanan | *Mumbai*

CROREPATI, TAINTED LEADERS AS CM

Sir — The citizen is not at all surprised to read that 29 of the current 30 Chief Ministers are crorepatis, or 13 (43 per cent) have declared serious criminal cases against them. Based upon the Association for Democratic Reforms (ADR) report, it was revealed that money power and muscle power have a large bearing on the outcome of the election results. If not, then how Andhra Pradesh CM YS Jagan Mohan Reddy is the richest CM in the country with ₹510 crore assets, whereas he with 38 cases, including 35 serious offences (non-bailable offences with over five years of imprisonment), stood third among the CMs with the highest number of cases booked against him? Telangana CM K Chandrashekar Rao faces the highest number of criminal cases (64), including 37 serious offences and financial liability.

Actually, being a crorepati is not a huge thing as any property even in a village will command close to ₹1 crore. Moreover, it may be true in case of white money, but as soon as you talk about total money, I'm sure West Bengal's Mamata Banerjee is the only CM (who is not a crorepati) would move close to other crorepati CMs. Interestingly, we are talking about the current 30 CMs, but what about all the Ministers who are not in power or who have already made the loot and are now sitting silently? Unfortunately, our law is so blind that in the defamation case a lawmaker, if found guilty, not only lost his seat but also won't contest an election for the next eight years. But politicians with huge money and muscle power rule the country freely. Truly, '*Mera Naya Bharat Mahan*'!

Bidyut Kumar Chatterjee | *Faridabad*

Ambedkar's views on religion

Dr BR Ambedkar had asserted "I tell you, religion is for man and not man for religion". Perhaps his words have turned "antique" and so immediately require to be junked! Currently, man is for religious shrines, epic and mythological figures, mythical unseen rivers urgently in need of "rejuvenation", "holy" animals and "sacred" books! Today, religion is not for married couples even, rather matrimonial bonds are for religion; with divine love getting interpreted as "jihad" of sorts!

So by ignoring all "stories" revolving around poverty-malnutrition-hunger-illiteracy-child labour-human trafficking-unemployment; let's invest all our energy, time and resource to commemorate epic figures monopolised by the "religious" brigade and revolve our precious lives around myths, rituals and "sanctity" of animals! Grand temples and glittering corridors should be our "national pride"; never mind if billions of fellow citizens remain deprived of minimum dignity and rights entitled to human beings!

Kajal Chatterjee | *Kolkata*

Send your feedback to:
letterstopioneer@gmail.com

FIRST COLUMN

MANAGING EMPLOYEE EXPERIENCE IS THE KEY

Companies must invest in staff, listen to feedback and prioritise work-life balance

KARAN **JAIN**

The success or failure of a business ultimately hinges on the productivity and work quality of its workforce. The workforce is truly the foundation of every corporate and industry, and understanding their experiences within an organization is crucial. This is where employee experience comes into play, as it enables organisations to gain valuable insights into the needs and sentiments of their people.

The unprecedented changes the world of work has gone through have severely impacted and shaped how employees act and what they expect. The workforce is fluid and diverse which makes each of them have a different 'want'. There exists a common underlying tone to their expectations making work-life balance, employee engagement and productivity vital elements for HR to decide what kind of experience they are gaining.

If it becomes complex and opaque, employee experience management (EXM) could become the key to improving the overall situation.

Build better understanding for the employees: The pillar of EXM is based on how much HRs or CXOs understand their people or teams. Build a workspace where your employees feel much appreciated and assured.

Bring dynamic leaders: Dynamic leaders know the way, go the way, and show the way to their people — a famous quote by author John C Maxwell. Without good leaders, it is more challenging to establish a great company culture and a more positive working atmosphere.

Create more learning opportunities: A workplace should be a place for learning and development for the employees. Offer your employees more learning, skilling, and reskilling opportunities. These opportunities give more confidence to your employees to take on new challenges, improve their skill set, and get career maturity within an organisation.

Continuous feedback and evaluation: Employee experience management is an ongoing process. The HR department should continuously identify the issues and improve them regularly to ensure employee satisfaction and a transparent workplace setting.

Offer smooth onboarding: Onboarding is a vital period for both; new employees and HR. Offer an optimised and smooth onboarding to new hires by providing information regarding their job and tasks, the right tools and software, and a lot of training and guidance to avoid frustration.

Accept inclusion and diversity: If an organisation has a diverse workforce, its culture, policies and hiring practices must support diversity and inclusion. Ignoring these critical components could lead to stereotyping, disrespect among employees, and stress.

Priority to work-life balance: Employees have realised the essentiality of work-life balance. An organisation must necessitate changes in their office programs and policy to offer flexible workspace, remote work options, more breaking hours, and prioritise employees' mental and physical health.

Notice the departing employees: Employees leave organisations regardless of what kind of employee experience they get. It is necessary to know what motivates them to quit.

Recognise and reward performers: Reward and recognition are salient components of employee experience. It is a good way to motivate other employees by gratifying the performers with gifts or rewards. It imbues gratitude and inspiration.

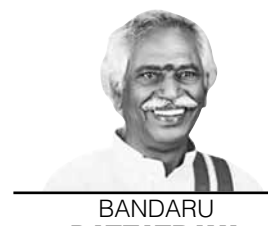
Get rid of micromanagement: The less micromanagement, the more employee experience. Employees don't feel very comfortable with nagging from seniors or management. Micromanagement spreads a feeling of insecurity among the workforce.

Focus on employee retention: An organisation should keep high-performers and talented workers for success and avoid frequent turnovers. To make employees stay, compensate them fairly, focus on engaging them.

Organisations can start investing in their employees, listening to their feedback, bridging the gap between leaders and team members, and prioritising work-life balance.

(The writer is founder, HROne)

Importance of being Dr BR Ambedkar



BANDARU **DATTATRAYA**

Our true homage on his jayanti would be to resolve to end poverty and ensure justice and equality for all by sharing national opportunities and facilities

For centuries, we as a nation struggled to cope with untouchability and caste-based discrimination. Such inhuman practices demeaned a vast section of Hindus, who were categorized as untouchables. From time to time, great souls tried to salvage us from the repercussions of various social evils. Some of them were Sant Shiromani Ravidas, Sant Chokhamela, Sant Kabir Das, Swami Dayanand Saraswati, Swami Ram Krishna Paramhans and Sant Tukaram to name a few.

At the fag-end of the 19th century, a boy full of promises was enjoying his classroom teaching the school. One day he was made to sit at the back of the classroom when it was found that he was untouchable. Once he was travelling to his maternal uncle's village along with his brother and cousin. The cart man dropped them midway when he came to know that they were untouchables. One day the boy was going somewhere. In between, he stopped to drink water from a public tap. He was beaten as untouchables were not allowed to use the facility.

The boy was none other than Dr Bhimrao Ramji Ambedkar, popularly known as Babasaheb Ambedkar, born to Ramji Maloji Sakpal, father, and Bhimabai Murbadkar Sakpal, mother, on April 14, 1891, in Mhow Army Cantonment. He was the 14th child of his parents. His tryst with social evils as worse as untouchability, caste-based persecution and discrimination during his childhood left an indelible mark on his life and thought process.

His own experience from the incidents in his life made him realize how deeply casteism, untouchability, insults and humiliation were rooted in Hindu society. Even the cruelty of fate did not spare him. He lost his mother when he was just six years old. Notwithstanding the trauma of discrimination and discrimination, he did not give up and continued his struggle and studies against all odds. It was an incredible example of exemplary grit, determination and a never-say-die spirit.

Dr Ambedkar did his matriculation in 1908 from Elphinstone High School. His father gave him good sanskar and used to share stories and thoughts of great saints like Tukaram, Gyaneshwar, teachings of the Ramayana and the Mahabharata. He studied Economics and Political Science at Elphinstone College. In 1912, he got a degree from Bombay University. With a scholarship from Maharaja of Baroda, he went to Columbia University, New York City where he got a Master's degree in June 1915 after successfully completing his thesis on 'Ancient Indian Commerce.'

In 1916, he went to the London School of Economics and worked on his doctoral thesis – 'The problem of the Rupee: Its Origin and its solution.' He took Rs 5000 as a loan from Chhatrapati Shahu ji Maharaj for his further studies. In 1920, received the D Sc from London University! He also went to the University of Bonn, Germany. In June 1927, he was awarded a Doctorate by the University of Columbia. He was a rare Indian politician of his time who studied at Columbia University, LSE and the University of Bonn.

Dr Ambedkar was worried about the fate of poor people, and untouchables. Dr Ambedkar wanted them to be independent. He established the Depressed Classes Society under the presidency of Baroda Maharaj. In 1920, he started The Mooknayak, a Marathi publication that enabled him to criticize the rigid Hindu beliefs and Bahishkrit Bharat, also a Marathi magazine in 1927, to highlight the issues and aspirations of depressed sections of society. He was so passionate about eradicating the practice of caste discrimination in India that led him to establish Bahishkrit Hitakarni Sabha. In 1936, he founded the Independent Labour Party. It contested the 1937 Bombay election to the Central Legislative Assembly for 13 reserved and four general seats and won 11 reserved and three seats respectively. For him, democratic values were of paramount importance!

> DR AMBEDKAR WAS WORRIED ABOUT THE FATE OF POOR PEOPLE AND UNTOUCHABLES. HE WANTED THEM TO BE INDEPENDENT

(The writer is the Governor of Haryana. The views expressed are personal)

After completing his studies and defying all hardships, Dr Ambedkar dedicated his life to the cause of the downtrodden, their emancipation and empowerment. Hence, the struggle became an integral part of his life. In 1927, Dr Ambedkar led a peaceful agitation by drinking water from Chowdar tank in Mahad, Raigad district in Maharashtra along with thousands of his followers when untouchables were not allowed to access water from the tank despite a 192 resolution moved by CK Bole and adopted by the Bombay government, allowing all untouchables to use public watering places, wells and Dharamshala, which were maintained through public funds.

Dr Ambedkar led a movement on March 3, 1930, to secure the entry of all Hindus to Kalaram temple in Nasik. He was in favour of a complete overhauling of Hindu society and Hindu theology and securing equal rights for all Hindus. He was a votary of inclusivity. Casteism and untouchability go against the spirit of Hinduism, the Vedas. Its essence lies in quality, justice, fraternity and brotherhood. He was surprised that Hinduism is so accommodating and yet treats a vast chunk of Hindus as untouchables, even worse than animals. This was his pain.

He was not inimical to Hindutva. He had resentment against Hinduism but he was not opposed to Hinduism. His acceptance of Buddhism on October 14, 1956, is a case in point as Buddhism is very much rooted in Bharatiya culture. He did not embrace any other religion though Islamic and Christian scholars tried their best to influence him. It is said that when Dr Ambedkar met Mahatma Gandhi during the second Round Table Conference, he told him that he could not accept a religion that treats humans as cats and dogs, and he will embrace a religion that is less harmful to Hinduism.

The versatility of Dr Ambedkar's personality was matchless. His ability to listen to his critics was simply brilliant. Notwithstanding his differences with Veer Savarkar and Mahatma Gandhi on a number of issues, they were unanimous in their views of achieving the goal of social equality and freeing society from abominable evils such as untouchable. Dr Ambedkar did never support armed struggle but always favoured unity among oppressed social groups to get their socio-political and economic rights. He wanted downtrodden and oppressed sections of society to stay united and acquire knowledge and education so that they are not oppressed.

As the architect of our Constitution, Dr Ambedkar has given us the mantra and roadmap to build a stronger, healthier and more inclusive society. His commitment to the cause of social equality and social justice is a guiding force for all those who are part of public life. He is not only the leader for the oppressed and depressed. He is the leader of 135 crore people in our country – India. He was a true nationalist leader, a true patriot. He has achieved an eternal place in people's hearts. His contributions cannot be estimated but can only be felt and lived by all.

Our true homage to Dr BR Ambedkar on his Jayanti would be to resolve to end poverty and ensure justice and equality for all by sharing national opportunities and facilities. We have rejected untouchability but still, a lot needs to be done to end social disparities in totality. Those who are deprived have to be holistically empowered. By rising above the petty considerations of caste, creed, region and religion, we have to make India Vishwa Guru. Let noble thoughts come from all sides, and let us spread them across the globe in Amrit Kaal!

The top MedTech trends to watch out for in 2023

Increased demand for treatment facilitated by technology is driving the innovation in the MedTech industry as it would improve access to health equity

CHANDRA **GANJOO**

The combination of rapid advances in revolutionary healthcare technology and increased demand for treatment has continued to spur innovation in the MedTech industry.

Many leading healthcare experts predict 2023 to be a pivotal year for the Medtech Industry, as the rapid adoption of virtual care and demographic fads, such as an ageing population, rising chronic diseases, and health worker shortages, sustain demand for MedTech-enabled solutions.

Recent research indicates that the market for medical technologies is valued at around $19.65 billion. The market is anticipated to reach $22.84 billion by 2027, with a CAGR of 3.83 per cent.

Innovators and regulators in life sciences and healthcare are also looking to MedTech to improve access to care and health equity. From Robotics to Next-Gen Sequencing, let's delve into the list of MedTech trends offering new chances in this dynamic business. The field is rapidly advancing, and new trends and innovations are emerging each year. Here are some of the top MedTech trends to expect in 2023:

Telemedicine: Telemedicine, or remote medical consultations, is becoming increasingly popular due to the comfort and accessibility it offers. With telemedicine, patients can acquire medical care from the convenience of their own homes. In 2023, telemedicine is expected to become more prevalent as tech improves and more healthcare providers adopt this mode of care.

Artificial Intelligence (AI): AI is transforming the healthcare industry in numerous ways. It is used to analyse patient data, diagnose and develop personalised treatment plans. In 2023, we can expect AI to become even more advanced, and it will likely play a bigger role in healthcare decision-making. AI will also be used to develop new drugs and therapies.

Next-Gen Sequencing (NGS) technology: It is a rapidly evolving field that has revolutionised the way genetic information is analysed. In 2023, the trend in NGS is expected to continue to advance with an emphasis on improving sequencing speed, accuracy, and cost-effectiveness. The use of NGS in precision medicine is expected to grow as the technology provides a way to analyse large amounts of genetic information quickly and accurately to inform the development of targeted treatments for individual patients. Additionally, the integration of NGS with other technologies, such as CRISPR-Cas9, will continue to expand the possibilities for genetic research and biotechnology.

Newborn Screening (NBS): It is a diagnostic test performed in newborns or infants who are tested for certain genetic or metabolic disorders shortly after birth. In 2023, the trend in newborn screening is expected to continue to focus on improving these tests' accuracy, speed, and cost-effectiveness. This will likely involve implementing new, more advanced screening technologies to develop new, more comprehensive screening panels. Additionally, there may be a growing emphasis on incorporating genomic information into newborn screening to enable earlier detection and diagnosis of genetic disorders.

Another trend in newborn screening is the increasing use of digital technologies, such as electronic health records (EHRs) and telemedicine, to improve the efficiency and accessibility of screening services. This will likely involve the integration of screening results into EHRs and telemedicine to provide remote consultations and follow-up care to families and infants. Overall, these trends aim to ensure that all newborns have access to high-quality, effective, and timely screening services to detect and treat genetic and metabolic disorders as early as possible.

Surgical robots: Investments in robotic surgical firms have been one of the primary drivers of the increase in venture capital funding for medical technology. In addition, many experts assert that the employment of robotic technology during COVID-19 is particularly advantageous because it helps reduce human-to-human physical contact.

As MedTech evolves, the industry will face both obstacles and possibilities. Better patient care solutions that can enhance outcomes and lower costs will face fewer impediments to implementation. Consequently, this will create further chances to deliver value to healthcare services worldwide and challenge the status quo for inpatient and outpatient care standards.

Providing a more promising future for healthcare: Trivitron Healthcare, a leading global MedTech organisation, is establishing sustainable goals and has created numerous advancements in Medical Imaging, In-vitro Diagnostics, Next Generation Sequencing, Newborn Screening, Critical Care, and Radiation Protection. Following the mission to deliver efficient and advanced care, Trivitron positively influences people's lives through collaboration, advancement, and innovation.

(The writer is Group Chief Executive Officer, Trivitron Healthcare)

Japan to counter China with like-minded countries

PTI ■ BEIJING

Japan has unveiled a new plan to provide "like-minded" countries especially in Asia with military aid as it looks to expand its influence in the Indo-Pacific region to counter China's aggressive push over Taiwan and the South China Sea issues.

The guidelines announced by Tokyo early this month included a new programme to strengthen the militaries of like-minded countries by providing "official security assistance" - a move that breaks with its previous policy of avoiding the use of development aid for military purposes other than disaster relief, the Japan Times reported.

Japanese Foreign Ministry officials said the Philippines will be one of the first beneficiaries of Overseas Security Assistance (OSA), with Malaysia, Bangladesh and Fiji also among those being considered, the report said.

Japan, a member of the Quad alliance consisting of the US, India and Australia, is actively pursuing the Indo-Pacific strategy which China claims aimed at countering its rise.

Tokyo's decision to use international aid for military purposes is a 'paradigm shift' but won't lead to an arms race in Asia, the Hong Kong-based South China Morning Post reported on Thursday.

The move will not only build up the defence capabilities of Asian nations amid 'changing security dynamics', but boost the competitiveness of Japan's defence sector, it said.

Japan's new policy of defence aid to neighbours was announced after this month's visit of Japanese Foreign Minister Yoshimasa Hayashi to China.

In his talks with Hayashi on April 2, Chinese Foreign Minister Qin Gang said Japan should not "help a villain do evil", apparently referring to Tokyo's close ties with Washington.

This was the first visit by the Japanese Foreign Minister to China since 2019.

China and Japan have a long-festering dispute over uninhabited East China Sea islands controlled by Japan but claimed by China.

The islands are known as the Senkakus by Japan, while China named them as Diaoyu.

Taiwan also claims the islands but has forged agreements with Japan to avoid any conflict as Tokyo maintains close defence ties with Taipei.

The purpose of Tokyo's new initiative is to "contribute to the creation of a desirable security environment for Japan," while maintaining Japan's "basic principles as a peaceful nation," according to the Japanese ministry statement.

The OSA is being presented as an expansion of Japan's official development assistance (ODA) - one of the world's largest foreign aid programs - to cover projects "for the benefit of armed forces and other related organisations," the Japan Times report said.

The new framework was revealed as Tokyo moves away from a strict non-military approach to ties with its neighbours and looks to realise its vision of a Free and Open Indo-Pacific (FOIP), it said.

According to its fiscal 2023 budget, the Japanese government has set aside two billion Japanese Yen (USD15 million) for OSA. Funding will be separate from the Yen 570.9 billion in economic and social development assistance that Tokyo provides to developing countries.

While this year's modest OSA budget appears largely symbolic, especially compared with the ODA funds, experts say the decision to launch the program is significant, as it marks another step in Japan's march toward a more robust and proactive defence posture that could ultimately allow it more leeway in defence transfers, Japan Times report said.

China rolls out new wartime military recruitment rules

Beijing (PTI): China has released a new set of revised rules for military recruitment in wartime, including giving priority to the veterans, drafting high-calibre soldiers and optimising conscription procedures, which an analyst described as combat readiness for a war over Taiwan.

A set of revised rules regarding military recruitment has been released by the State Council and the Central Military Commission (CMC) - the high command of the Chinese military headed by President Xi Jinping - aiming to provide institutional guarantees for consolidating national defence and building strong armed forces, state-run Xinhua news agency reported on Wednesday. The new regulation, with 74 articles in 11 chapters, focuses on recruiting more high-calibre soldiers, standardising and optimising conscription procedures, and improving the system's efficiency, it said in a brief report. The new rules will come into effect next month.

The regulations said recruitment should "focus on preparing for war" and increase efficiency by calling up "high calibre" recruits, the Hong Kong-based South China Morning Post newspaper reported. For the first time, a separate chapter on wartime recruitment has been included in the regulations, which state that ex-servicemen would be prioritised and expected to join their original units or similar positions.

China's exports see unexpected growth in March

Beijing (AP): China's exports rebounded unexpectedly to growth in March despite a decline in US and European demand following interest rate hikes to cool inflation.

Exports rose 14.8 per cent over a year earlier to USD 315.6 billion, recovering from a 6.8 per cent decline in January and February, customs data showed Thursday. Imports sank 1.4 per cent to USD 227.4 billion, a smaller contraction than the 10.2 per cent slide in the previous two months.

China's politically sensitive global trade surplus widened by 82 per cent over a year earlier to USD 88.2 billion.

Exports to the United States and the 27-nation European Union, China's biggest foreign markets, declined after the Federal Reserve and other central banks raised rates to slow consumer and business activity.

That was offset by double-digit gains in sales to Canada, Indonesia, Russia and other markets. "The current external environment still is severe and complex," said a government spokesperson, Liu Daliang, at a news conference.

Trade weakness adds to complications for President Xi Jinping's government, which is trying to revive economic growth that sank last year to 3 per cent, the second-weakest rate since the 1970s. The ruling Communist Party set this year's growth target at "around 5 per cent."In the first three months of the year, exports edged up 0.5 per cent over the same period of 2022 to USD 821.8 billion, the General Administration of Customs of China reported. Total imports contracted 7.1 per cent to USD 617.1 billion.A revival in Chinese demand would be a boost to global suppliers, replacing weak US, European and Japanese sales. China is the biggest export customer for its Asian neighbors and a key consumer market.

Retail sales and other activity are gradually improving after anti-virus restrictions that kept millions of people at home and temporarily shut down Shanghai and other industrial centers were lifted in December.

The economy also is under pressure from tighter controls on the use of debt in China's vast real estate industry, which triggered a slump in mid-2021.

Exports to the United States slid 7.7 per cent in March from a year earlier to USD 45.9 billion, an improvement over the 21.8 per cent contraction in January and February.

Imports of US goods gained 5.6 per cent to USD 16.1 billion, rebounding from a 5 per cent decline in the first two months of the year. The Chinese trade surplus with the United States shrank by 14 pr cent compared with a year earlier to USD 27.6 billion.

Imports from Russia, mostly oil and gas, surged 40.5 per cent over a year ago to USD 11 billion, accelerating from a 31.3 per cent increase in January and February.

China, the biggest global energy consumer, has stepped up purchases from Russia to take advantage of price discounts after Washington, Europe and Japan cut imports to punish President Vladimir Putin's government for its attack on Ukraine. China can buy Russian oil and gas without triggering Western sanctions. That helps to buoy the Kremlin's foreign revenue, but President Joe Biden has warned Beijing against helping Moscow's military.Exports to Russia more than doubled to USD 9 billion. China's trade deficit with Russia narrowed by 50 per cent to USD 2 billion.

NY fraud lawsuit: Trump set to give 2nd deposition

New York (AP): Former President Donald Trump was expected to visit the offices of New York's attorney general Thursday for his second deposition in a legal battle over his company's business practices.

The Republican was scheduled to meet with lawyers for Attorney General Letitia James, who sued Trump last year. Her lawsuit claims Trump and his family misled banks and business associates by giving them false information about his net worth and the value of assets such as hotels and golf courses. The lawsuit is unrelated to the felony criminal charges filed against Trump by the Manhattan district attorney, which led last week to his historic arraignment, the first for a former president.

Trump and his lawyers have said the Democrat's lawsuit against him is politically motivated and legally baseless. He and the company have denied doing anything wrong. James declined to answer a question about the planned deposition at a news conference on an unrelated matter Wednesday.

Trump previously met with James' lawyers Aug. 10, but refused to answer all but a few procedural questions, invoking his Fifth Amendment protection against self-incrimination more than 400 times.

"Anyone in my position not taking the Fifth Amendment would be a fool, an absolute fool," he said in the session, which was recorded on video and later released publicly. Trump predicted a "renegade" prosecutor would try to make a criminal case out of his answers, if he gave them. "One statement or answer that is ever so slightly off, just ever so slightly, by accident, by mistake, such as it was a sunny, beautiful day, when actually it was slightly overcast, would be met by law enforcement at a level seldom seen in this country, because I've experienced it," he said. A trial for the lawsuit is scheduled for October.

North Korea fires missile that may have been new type of weapon

Seoul (South Korea): North Korea on Thursday conducted its first intercontinental ballistic missile launch in a month, possibly testing a new more mobile, harder-to-detect missile for the first time, its neighbours said, as it extends its provocative run of weapons tests.

Japan briefly urged residents on a northern island to take shelter in an indication of its vigilance over North Korea's evolving missile threats.

The missile was launched on a high angle from near the North Korean capital of Pyongyang and fell in the waters between the Korean Peninsula and Japan following a 1,000-kilometre (620-mile) flight, South Korea's Joint Chiefs of Staffs said in a statement.

It described its range as medium or longer. The US National Security Council called it a long-range missile and Japan's government said it likely had an intercontinental range. South Korea's military believes North Korea launched a new type of ballistic missile, possibly using solid fuel, a defense official said under the condition of anonymity because of office rules.

A TV screen is seen reporting North Korea's missile launch with file footage during a news program at the Seoul Railway Station in Seoul, South Korea, on Thursday.

If the launch involved a solid-fuel ICBM, it would be the North's first test of such a weapon. North Korea's known ICBMs all use liquid propellants that must be fuelled before launches.

But the fuel in a solid-propellant weapon is already loaded, allowing it to be moved easier and fired faster.

A solid-fuel ICBM is one of the key high-tech weapons that North Korean leader Kim Jong Un has vowed to build to better cope with what he calls US military threats.

He also wants a multiwarhead missile, a nuclear-powered submarine, a hypersonic missile and a spy satellite. Kim Dongyub, a professor at the University of North Korean Studies in Seoul, said the launch may have involved a new intermediate- or long-range missile powered by solid propellants, or be linked to North Korean preparation to launch a spy satellite. *AP*

Syria, Saudi move toward restoring embassies, flights

AP ■ BEIRUT

Syria and Saudi Arabia are moving toward reopening embassies and resuming flights between the two countries for the first time in more than a decade, the countries said on Thursday in a joint statement. The announcement followed a visit by Syria's top diplomat to the kingdom, the first since Saudi Arabia cut off diplomatic relations with Syria in 2012.

Syria was widely shunned by Arab governments over Syrian President Bashar Assad's brutal crackdown on protester,s and later civilians, in an uprising turned civil war that began in 2011.

The breakdown in relations culminated with Syria being ousted from the Arab League. However, in recent years, as Assad has consolidated control over most of the country, Syria's neighbors have begun to take steps toward rapprochement.

The overtures have picked up pace since the massive February 6 earthquake in Turkey and Syria, and the Chinese-brokered reestablishment of ties between Saudi Arabia and Iran, regional rivals that had backed opposing sides in the Syrian conflict.

A delegation headed by Syrian Foreign Minister Faisal Mikdad, at the invitation of Saudi Foreign Minister Faisal bin Farhan Al Saud arrived in Saudi Arabia on Wednesday for talks about bilateral relations between the two countries, state media from the two countries reported.

Biden to stress shared ties in address to Irish Parl

AP ■ DUBLIN

After spending most of a day on a whirlwind countryside tour of his ancestry, President Joe Biden is turning back to diplomacy on Thursday, with an address to the Irish parliament and meetings with the country's leaders, with Ukraine high on the agenda.

On his first stop of the day, Biden will meet with President Michael D. Higgins at the president's Dublin residence and will ring the Peace Bell, unveiled in 2008 to mark the 10th anniversary of the Good Friday Agreement, which ended decades of violence in Northern Ireland.

Biden also will participate in a tree planting ceremony, with his Irish oak close to the one planted by then-President Barack Obama.

Biden will also meet with Taoiseach Leo Varadkar, Ireland's prime minister, before a speech to parliament in which "he'll be reflecting on the long, close and shared history between the United States and Ireland," said Amanda Sloat, the National Security Council's senior Europe director.

In the meetings with leaders, Ireland's continued support of the US-led effort to help Ukraine in the war against Russia will be a focal point, particularly on humanitarian and security assistance. Biden arrived in the Republic of Ireland after an appearance Wednesday in Northern Ireland. Crowds lined five-deep and waited for eight hours to catch a glimpse of Biden in the towns of Carlingford and Dundalk, where the Democratic president toured a castle, gazing out over the sea where his ancestors sailed, and gave an address in a local pub.

Along the streets of Dundalk, photos of the president and huge welcome signs were plastered along shop fronts.

Children hung out of windows to wave at the president and display the US flag.

From inside a packed old pub with a sticky wooden floor, Biden acknowledged that his ancestors emigrated to the United States to escape famine, but he added, "When you're here, you wonder why anyone would ever want to leave."

And he jokingly delivered bad news, saying: "We'll be back. There's no way to keep us out." Biden's mother's family comes from County Louth, and the president was elated by the dive into his Irish heritage, which he often cites as a driving force in his public and private life.According to the Irish Family History Centre, Biden "is among the most Irish' of all US Presidents."

GOVERNMENT OF GOA
Medical Store Depot (MSD),
Directorate of Health Services, Campal,
Panaji, Goa 403 001
Email: msddhsgoa@yahoo.in Ph. Nos. 2225646/5540/5668

NO. 96/DHS/MSD/PT/2023-24/40 dated,12/04/2023
E-tendering mode only

E-tenders are invited on behalf of the Governor of Goa for purchase of **laboratory reagents/chemicals/ consumables kits/drugs and surgicals** for Directorate of Health Services, Campal, Panaji Goa.

The Tender Notice with Terms and Conditions are available online on the website: https://eprocure.gov.in The last date for uploading the tender documents is 10/05/2023 upto 5.00 p.m. and the Tenders (Technical Bids) will be opened on 12/05/2023 at 10.30 a.m.

The right to reject any tender is reserved.

Sd/-
Dr.Rupa Naik
Dy. Director (Public Health)/
I/c MSD

Di/Advt/2022-23/88/210

HSBC

THE HONGKONG AND SHANGHAI BANKING CORPORATION LTD.

E-Auction Sale Notice for Sale of Immovable Assets under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 r/w Rule 8(6) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules 2002

Notice is hereby given to the public in general and in particular to the Borrower(s) that the below described immovable property, mortgaged with THE HONGKONG AND SHANGHAI BANKING CORPORATION LTD., the physical possession of which has been taken by the Authorized Officer of THE HONGKONG AND SHANGHAI BANKING CORPORATION LTD, will be sold by way of an E-Auction, on "As is where is", "As is what is" and "Whatever there is" basis, on 8th May 2023

The said E-Auction is for the recovery of 19,78,786.23 **due** as on 10-Apr-23 to THE HONGKONG AND SHANGHAI BANKING CORPORATION LTD. from Gaurav Panwar & Sakshi Gandas.

Name of the Borrowers.	Description of Property with Sq. Ft.	Reserve Price	EMD (10% of Reserve Price)
Gaurav Panwar and Sakshi Gandas	**Apartment K-801, admeasuring about 1226 Square Feet Super area alongwith open parking No. 241 in Umang Monsoon Breeze (Earlier Known as Canary Residency), Sector 78 Gurgaon, Haryana**	42,66,480/- (Forty Two Lakh Sixty Six Thousand Four Hundred Eighty only)	426648/- (Four Lakh Twenty Six Thousand Six Three Hundred Forty Eight Only) EMD Date & time: 2nd May 2023 before 4 pm Account Detail: A/C Number 010 909968 042 Beneficiary Name - E-Auction EMD Suspense account number IFSC Code: HSBC0400002
Inspection Date & time	Inspection Date & time: 25th Apr 2023 12:30 PM to 4:00 PM		

Notice is hereby given that the said property shall be sold by e-auction and bidding shall take place through "Online Electronic Bidding" through the website https://www.bankeauctions.com (E Auction house website) on **8th May 2023.** The detailed terms and conditions of sale are available on the E Auction house website (www.bankeauctions.com)/ HSBC website (www.hsbc.co.in)

The property will be sold on an "As is where is" "As is what is" and "Whatever there is" condition. The e-Auction advertisement does not constitute and will not be deemed to constitute any commitment or any representation of the Bank. The intending bidders are required to do their own due diligence. The Authorized Officer has the absolute right to accept or reject any bid or adjourn/postpone the sale without assigning any reason thereof.

For any details, support, help regarding the procedure of online biding by way of the-auction, prospective bidders may contact: **Mr. Vinod Chauhan, Mobile No. 9813887931,** Email Id :delhi@c1india.com

Date: 14th April 2023
Place: Delhi

Authorised Officer

US Prez to expand migrant access to health plans

Washington: President Joe Biden is set to announce that his administration is expanding eligibility for Medicaid and the Affordable Care Act's health insurance exchanges to hundreds of thousands of immigrants brought to the US illegally as children, according to two US officials briefed on the matter.

The action will allow participants in the Obama-era Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals program, or DACA, to access government-funded health insurance programs.
The officials spoke on the condition of anonymity to discuss the matter before the formal announcement on Thursday.

The 2012 DACA initiative was meant to shield from deportation immigrants brought to the US illegally by their parents as young children and to allow them to work legally in the country. However, the immigrants were still ineligible for government-subsidised health insurance programs because they did not meet the definition for having "lawful presence" in the US That's what Biden's Department of Health and Human Services will aim to change by the end of the month.

The White House action comes as the DACA program is in legal peril and the number of people eligible under the program is shrinking.

An estimated 580,000 people were still enrolled in DACA at the end of last year, according to US Citizenship and Immigration Services. That number is down from previous years. Court orders currently prevent the US Department of Homeland Security from processing new applications. The DACA program has been mired in legal challenges for years, while Congress has been unable to reach consensus on broader immigration reforms. DACA recipients can work legally and pay taxes, but they don't have legal status and are denied many benefits available to US citizens and foreigners living in the USIn recent years, millions of people in the US signed up for Medicaid, the program that provides health care coverage for the poorest Americans, during the COVID-19 pandemic. *AP*

Oxford Univ, SII tie-up delivers 'high efficacy' malaria vaccine

London (PTI): A University of Oxford developed and Serum Institute of India (SII) manufactured and scaled up "high efficacy" malaria vaccine has been licensed for use in Ghana by Africa's Food and Drugs Authority, the university announced here on Thursday.

The R21/Matrix-M vaccine, leveraging Novavax's adjuvant technology, has been approved for use in children aged 5 to 36 months – the age group at the highest risk of death from malaria. It marks the first regulatory clearance for the R21/Matrix-M malaria vaccine for use in any country. "This marks a culmination of 30 years of malaria vaccine research at Oxford with the design and provision of a high efficacy vaccine that can be supplied at adequate scale to the countries who need it most," said Professor Adrian Hill, Chief investigator of the programme and Director of the Oxford University's Jenner Institute at the Nuffield Department of Medicine.

Norway expels 15 Russian diplomats for 'spying'

AP ■ COPENHAGEN

Norway's government said Thursday that it was expelling 15 Russian diplomats from the country, saying they were suspected of spying while working at the Russian Embassy in Oslo. Foreign Minister Anniken Huitfeldt said the move was "an important measure to counter and reduce the scope of Russian intelligence activities in Norway, and thereby secure our national interests."

The Russians declared persona non grata "must leave Norway within a short time," Huitfeldt said, adding: "We will not grant visas to intelligence officers who apply for a visa to Norway."

The minister declined to say whether the government was acting in response to a specific incident, referring questions to Norway's domestic security agency PST for details. The government said the activities of the expelled diplomats were "incompatible with their diplomatic status."

"We are not talking about regular diplomats, but intelligence officers under diplomatic cover. Their activities are a threat to Norwegian interests," Huitfeldt said.

The Russian Foreign Ministry said Moscow would respond in kind to Norway's action, Russia's Tass and RIA Novosti news agencies reported. Huitfeldt reacted during an afternoon news conference, saying: "Russia has no reason to respond. We have Norwegian diplomats stationed in Russia, but none of them are undercover intelligence officers." She called Russia "an unpredictable neighbor" and "many European countries in the past year have expelled hundreds of Russian intelligence officers under diplomatic cover."

At the same time, she stressed that the government in Oslo wants "normal diplomatic relations with Russia, and that Russian diplomats are welcome in Norway"

"We do not want people who claim they are diplomats and who are actually are intelligence officers," she said. "We cannot accept that."

NATO-member Norway has a 198 kilometer-long (123-mile) border with Russia in the Arctic. Norwegian newspaper VG said expulsions would reduce the number of staff members at the Russian missions in Norway – the embassy in Oslo and the consulates in Kirkenes and Barentsburg from about 40 people to about 25.

Ukraine stands firm on Crimea

AP ■ KYIV

Ukraine's foreign minister said Thursday his country wouldn't budge from its demand that Russia withdraw its forces from Crimea, as well as from other parts of Ukraine that Moscow illegally annexed more recently. Calling the war in Ukraine "a bleeding wound in the middle of Europe," Foreign Minister Dmytro Kuleba said all his country's territory must be treated equally in dealing with the Kremlin after its full-scale invasion more than 13 months ago.

"We are united by UN charter principles and the shared conviction that Crimea is Ukraine and it will return under Ukraine's control," said Kuleba, speaking by video link to a gathering in the Romanian capital, Bucharest.

"Every time you hear anyone from any corner of the world saying that Crimea is somehow special and should not be returned to Ukraine, as any other part of our territory, you have to know one thing: Ukraine categorically disagrees with these statements," he said at the Black Sea Security Conference.

Ukrainian soldiers chat in war-hit Bakhmut Ukraine on Wednesday. AP/PTI

The Kremlin wants Kyiv to acknowledge Russia's sovereignty over Crimea and also recognise September's annexation of the Ukrainian provinces of Donetsk, Kherson, Luhansk, and Zaporizhzhia.Ukraine has rejected those demands and won't hold talks with Russia until Moscow's troops pull back from all occupied territories.

Though there is no sign of possible peace talks, the two countries have sporadically exchanged prisoners of war and have engaged in a wartime deal for the export of Ukrainian grain and Russian grain and fertilisers.

Imran Khan gets interim bail till May 4 in 3 cases

Lahore (PTI): An anti-terrorism court in Pakistan on Thursday extended interim bail to Imran Khan till May 4 in three cases related to the clashes between his supporters and the police during an operation to arrest the former premier in the Toshakhana corruption case last month. Lahore's Anti-terrorism court (ATC) granted one-time permission to Khan, the chairman of the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI), to appear for the hearing via video link in the case. Khan had filed petitions for bail in three FIRs registered with the Race Course police station under anti-terror laws.

Khan, 70, has been repeatedly claiming that his life is under threat because of which he was abstaining from attending court hearings. ATC judge Ejaz Ahmad Bhutta asked Khan's lawyer Salman Safdar what he had done for which he was facing threats to his life. To this, Safdar said those who were behind a gun attack on his client (in last November) could answer this."If Imran Khan is assassinated Pakistan will descend into chaos like what had happened after the murder of former premier Benazir Bhutto," he said.

"There are credible reports that Mr Khan can be targeted by snipers on his way to courts and these can be verified from the law enforcement agencies," he said. In November last year, Khan survived an assassination attempt on his life.

After hearing arguments, the judge allowed Khan to mark his attendance in court through a video link and extended his pre-arrest bail till May 4, a court official said.

The Lahore police had booked Khan and hundreds of his party workers in three terrorism cases during clashes with police last month in an operation to arrest him in the Toshakhana case.

Khan has been in the crosshairs for buying gifts, including an expensive Graff wristwatch he had received as the premier at a discounted price from the state depository called Toshakhana, and selling them for profit. He was disqualified by the Election Commission of Pakistan in October last year for not sharing details of the sales. The election body later filed a complaint with the district court to punish him, under criminal laws, for selling the gifts he had received as prime minister of the country.

US lawmakers write to USCIS on immigrants impacted by job layoffs

APTI ■ WASHINGTON

Expressing concern over the large-scale layoffs in the tech industry, a group of lawmakers from Silicon Valley has written to the US immigration agency to ensure that the highly-skilled immigrants on H-1B visas, the most sought-after by Indian IT professionals, can remain in the country even after losing their jobs.

Thousands of highly skilled foreign-born workers, including Indians, in the US, have lost their jobs due to the series of recent layoffs at companies like Google, Microsoft and Amazon. According to US media reports, nearly 200,000 IT workers have been laid off since November last year.

Industry insiders say that between 30 to 40 per cent of them are Indian IT professionals, a significant number of whom are on H-1B and L1 visas.

In their letter Ur Mendoza Jaddou, the Director of US Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS), the lawmakers noted that this group of immigrants possess skills that are highly valuable in today's knowledge-based economy and "forcing them to leave the US is harmful to our nation's long-term economic competitiveness."

SC notices to Pakistan government, political parties on Chief Justice bill

PTI ■ ISLAMABAD

Pakistan's Supreme Court on Thursday heard petitions against the bill curtailing the country's chief justice's power and issued notices to the federal government and political parties, amidst a raging row between the ruling coalition and the judiciary.

The apex court adjourned the hearing till next week, saying that the date for the proceedings will be announced as per the availability of the judges.

At the hearing, Chief Justice Umar Ata Bandial said the independence of the judiciary was an important matter but at the same time noted that he had the utmost respect for parliament, the Dawn newspaper reported.

An eight-judge bench of the apex court heard the petitions against the Supreme Court (Practice and Procedure) Bill, 2023, which seeks to curtail the Chief Justice of Pakistan's powers to initiate suo motu proceedings and constitute benches on his own.

Besides Chief Justice Bandial, the larger bench comprises Justice Ijazul Ahsan, Justice Muneeb Akhtar, Justice Mazahar Ali Akbar Naqvi, Justice Muhammad Ali Mazhar, Justice Ayesha Malik, Justice Hasan Azhar Rizvi and Justice Shahid Waheed.

During the hearing on Thursday, the court issued notices to the political parties, the federal government, Attorney General for Pakistan (AGP) Mansoor Awan, Pakistan Bar Council (PBC), the Supreme Court Bar Association of Pakistan and other respondents in the case.

As the hearing commenced, AGP Awan and the petitioner's lawyers Advocate Azhar Siddique and Advocate Imtiaz Rashid Siddiqui were present in the courtroom.

Advocate Imtiaz said that in the current scenario, the case held a lot of importance. He stated that ever since the National Assembly was restored in April last year, the political divide and crisis had increased.

He further argued that the federal government and the Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) were not willing to hold elections, thus the court itself had to take notice of the matter and order the ECP to conduct polls.

"On April 3, the court ordered elections, however, after the court's directives to follow the Constitution, more problems were created.

The court and judges were criticised personally," he said.

Russia identifies suspect in war blogger's killing

AP ■ KYIV

Russia's top security agency on Thursday accused a Ukrainian man of involvement in a bombing that killed a well-known Russian military blogger at a St. Petersburg cafe. Vladlen Tatarsky, 40, an ardent supporter of the war in Ukraine who filed regular reports on the fighting from the front lines, was killed on April 2 as he led a discussion at a riverside cafe in the historic heart of St. Petersburg, Russia's second-largest city. Over 50 people were injured.

A 26-year-old St. Petersburg resident, Darya Trepova, who was seen on video moments before the blast presenting Tatarsky with a statuette that contained explosives, was quickly arrested.

Sweden shuts down Pak embassy

Islamabad (PTI): Sweden has announced closing its embassy in Pakistan "indefinitely" due to the prevailing "security situation" in the crisis-hit country's capital. The embassy did not elaborate on the nature of the threat, but Pakistan's political situation is getting worse amid growing tension between the government and the Supreme Court. Pakistan's Supreme Court was hearing a petition to annul a bill aiming at curbing the powers of the chief justice to form panels of his choice for different cases. "Due to the current security situation in Islamabad, the Embassy of Sweden is closed for visitors. The Migration Section is not, at the moment, able to handle requests of any kind," a notice on the embassy's website reads. "Also, we cannot send any documents to our consulates, Gerry´s, or to your home address. We understand that this will cause inconvenience. However, the safety of our applicants and staff members is of the highest priority," it said.

कार्यालय : अधिशासी अभियन्ता,
उत्तराखण्ड जल संस्थान, खटीमा

पत्रांक : 478/ई–निविदा/2023–24 दिनांक : 13.04.2023

ई–निविदा संशोधन सूचना

इस कार्यालय के पत्रांक 352/ई–निविदा/2022–23 दिनांक 23.03.2023 द्वारा खटीमा नगरीय पेयजल योजना के अन्तर्गत वार्ड नं0–7 एवं 8 (अमाउ) में पेयजल योजना के निर्माण हेतु नलकूप छिद्रण, ऊर्ध्वजलाशय निर्माण, पाइप लाईन एवं तत्सम्बन्धी कार्य हेतु आमंत्रित ई–निविदा (टू बिड सिस्टम) में उत्तराखण्ड जल संस्थान एवं उत्तराखण्ड पेयजल निगम में पंजीकृत फर्म/ठेकेदार प्रतिभाग कर सकते हैं।

निविदा की शेष शर्तें एवं नियम पूर्ववत् रहेंगी।

अधिशासी अभियन्ता

PARADIP PORT AUTHORITY
e-TENDER CALL NOTICE
No.CE/R&B/ACCTS-77/22/107
Date:11.04.2023

Name of the Work: "Widening of Existing Bitumen Road from Cabin Market Square to Central School Square". Estimated cost put to tender: **₹.1,28,31,999.94.** Last Date and time of submission of Bid **02.05.2023 at 17.00Hrs.** For further details, please refer our website **https://eprocure.gov.in/eprocure/app.**

Sd/- Executive Engineer
Road & Building Division
Paradip Port Authority

PPA/PR/03/2023-24 dtd.13.04.2023

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) ASHOK_LEY_AL_1214
UP37AT2456 -YOM 2019
MINIMUM RESERVE PRICE 6,97,388.94

UNDER HYPOTHECATION WITH M/S KOTAK MAHINDRA BANK IS UNDER SALE IN ITS "AS IS WHERE IS CONDITION" INTERESTED PARTIES CAN GIVE THEIR QUOTATIONS (ONLINE/ OFFLINE) WITHIN 15 DAYS FROM THIS PAPER PUBLICATION I.E. ON OR BEFORE 28.04.2023 (PLEASE NOTE THAT CLOSING AUCTION DATE WOULD NOT BE A WEEKLY OFF / HOLIDAY).

BRANCH ADDRESS:
KOTAK MAHINDRA BANK LTD., PLOT NO.7 INSTITUTIONAL AREA, SECTOR-125 NOIDA NEAR DELL CAMPUS NOIDA (U.P) UP-201313
OR CONTACT : GUNJAN SINGH KOTAK MAHINDRA BANK LTD.
CONTACT /+918510032426
EMAIL-gunjan.singh1@kotak.com

NORTHERN RAILWAY
TENDER NOTICE
Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav

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

1.	N.I.T. No.	GSU-DLI-NIT-02-2023-24
2.	Name of work with its location	Extension of diesel Shed Bogie Shop including track and other allied works in c/w development of infrastructure facilities for maintenance of Electric Locomotive at TKD Shed.
3.	Approx. Cost of work	Rs. 5,04,53,492.18/-
4.	Earnest Money	Rs. 4,02,300.00/-
5.	Completion period of Work	8 Months
6.	Date and time for submission of tender and opening of tender	Upto 15:00 hrs on 04.05.2023 Opening of tender at 15:00 hrs. On 04.05.2023
7.	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

No.128-W-269-O.E.T-GSU/DLI/02/2023-24 (NIT-02) Dated : 12.04.2023

SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE 1105/23

Public Notice

My clients Mr. Pramod Kumar Jain S/o Late Sh. Mohan Lal Jain & Smt. Neelam Jain W/o Pramod Kumar Jain both R/o A-205, Jyoti Super Gardenia, AhinsaKhand-II, Indirapuram, Ghaziabad, U.P.-201014 have debarred their son Vasu Jain and his wife Swati Jain from their all movable immovable properties due to their misconduct, misbehaviour. They are living separately and have no concern with my clients since just after their marriage on 12.02.2023
Any person dealing with them, then they will be self-responsible.

BHARTI GUPTA
Advocate
Enrl No. D/631/2012 55, Lawyer's Chamber Supreme Court Buildings New Delhi-110001

Public Notice

My clients Mrs. Anu Jain W/o Sh. Anshul Jain D/o Sh. Pramod Kumar Jain R/o 7/118, Sector-2, Rajendra Nagar, Sahibabad, Ghaziabad, U.P.-201005 has debarred her brother Vasu Jain and his wife Swati Jain due to their misconduct, misbehaviour and she has no concerned with the matrimonial life of her brother and his wife.
Any person dealing with them, then they will be self-responsible.

BHARTI GUPTA
Advocate
Enrl. No. D/631/2012 55, Lawyer's Chamber Supreme Court Building; New Delhi-110001

PUBLIC NOTICE

Notice is hereby given on behalf of **Mrs. Madhu & Mrs. Geeta** who are purchasing the Built Up Third Floor with roof rights ("Floor") of Property bearing No.8452 Khasra No.715, Plot No.92, area measuring 68 Sq. Yards, situated in Arya Nagar, Mohalla Qadam Sharif, Delhi; from **Mr. Kedar Nath**, who is owner of the aforesaid property vide Relinquishment Deed dated 27.05.2011, which is duly registered vide Document No.4748, at SRO-III, Delhi, on 02.06.2011, after demise of his mother Mrs. Ram Dulari W/o. Mr. Ram Kishore; and same to be finance & mortgage by **Vastu Housing Finance Corporation Limited.** To comply the requirements of BANK/NBFC, we give this public notice that if any Person having any type of claim / right / title / interest / creating mortgage over the said property, may inform in writing, at the address mentioned below, about his objections, within **7 days** from today, failing which it shall be presumed that the said property is free from all type of Encumbrances, lien etc.

Lucem Legal LLP
Plot no.136, (Basement) Uday Park, New Delhi-110049; Contact # 011-40046316

IN THE COURT OF THE ADD. DISTRICT JUDGE OF HOSUR
O.S. No: 435/2022

Prakash S/o Beerappa@ Veerappa, Hindu aged about 57 years residing at Upparapalli Village, Madhagondapalli Post, Denkanikottai Taluk, Krishnagiri Dist. TN
/Vs/
M/s Hema Engineering Industries, Register office at Sachidanand Farm House, Krishnagarh Villagem In front of Swimming pool (near DDA Sports Complex), Lane Green Avenue, Vasanth Kunj, New Delhi- 110070 .....Defendents No:1

NOTICE

Please take notice that the above Petitioner/Plaintiff has filed a suit against you for the relief of Vacate the Suit Property and delivery of vacant possession as Parties defendant no 1 in the suit against in the above Hon'ble court. The above case is posted on **27.04.2023** for the appearance of Defendant You are hereby directed to appear on **27.04.2023 at 10.00 am** before this Hon'ble Add- District Judge, Hosur. either in person or through a pleader and state your objections if any in the above case, failing which the Hon'ble court will be pleased to pass exparte order against you.

//By order of the Court//
D.YAMUNA, B.A, B.L.,
Advocate, Hosur

NORTHERN RAILWAY
(E-Auction Notice)
Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav

The Sr. Divisional Commercial Manager/PS, Northern Railway, Delhi division, New Delhi invites e-Auction through IREPS **(https://ireps.gov.in/)** for allotment of contracts of Advertisement/Parking at following railway stations/locations:

E-Catalogue No.	Type of Media	Location/Station	Date & Time for e-auction
DLIADVT APR23-01	Advertisement-Glow Ball Towers	New Delhi, Delhi, Ghaziabad, Sonipat, Delhi Sarai Rohilla = (5 Lots)	Start: 01.05.2023 at 10:00 hrs
	Sleeping Pods	Delhi Jn., Sonipat- Total (2) Lots	
	RDN- 51" LED TV	Delhi Jn. - 1 Lot	
	RDN-Digital-Videowalls	Ghaziabad, Delhi Cantt., Rohtak, Faridabad (2), Faridabad New Town, Ballabhgarh, Palwal, Panipat, Karnal=(10 Lots)	
	Out of Home Sites-Hoarding/ Unipole	New Delhi (1), Delhi (3), Faridabad (1), Meerut (1), Hazrat Nizamuddin (1)- Total (7) Lots	
	Outsource- Pay & Use- Waiting Rooms	Karnal, Sonipat, Rohtak (3 Lots)	
Parking-17-2023	Parking Sites	New Delhi (NDLS) Access Control Rights (For 18 Months), Adarsh Nagar PRS (ANDI), Madipur PRS, Naya Ghaziabad (GZN) and Delhi Cantt (DEC) = Total 5 Sites	Start: 28.04.2023 at 12:00 hrs

Website particulars where complete details of E-Auction can be seen	**https://ireps.gov.in/ (E-Auction-Leasing)**

All contractors who intend to participate in the e-auctions conducted through E-Auction Leasing module of IREPS should fulfil following mandatory requirements before they can submit their bids:
- Registration on IREPS for E-Auction Leasing module -Active IREPS User Account for E-Auction Leasing Module
- Payment of One Time Registration Fee; Current Account in State Bank of India; Integration of SBI Bank Account with IREPS Account; Lien Marking of Funds; Updation of Turnover Details
- A new mechanism namely **Virtual Account Number (VAN)** has been introduced now for E-Auction Leasing module, which can be used by the bidders as an alternative to Lien Marking Mechanism.

The bidders are free to switch between Lien Marking Mechanism (if activated) and VAN mechanism at any point of time, before entering the bidding room. VAN mechanism does not require the bidder to have a current account in State Bank of India. The users are free to transfer money from any of their existing bank accounts in any bank to their VAN account, which enables them to participate in IREPS E-Auctions.
- Contractors who do not have IREPS account for any module of IREPS can submit their online request for registration by clicking on New Vendors / Contractors (E-Tender /E-Auction Leasing) link on IREPS Home page.

Railway Authority to contact, in case of any query	**Divisional Railway Manager's Office, Commercial Branch, State Entry Road, New Delhi 110055; Email:publicitycelldli@gmail.com Tel: 011-23743084**

No.: 7PUB/NR-DLI0COMM(PUB)/9/2022 Dated: 13.04.2023 **1119/2023**
SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE

Public Notice

It is informed that the applicant Nikhat Khatoon wife Mohammad Ali, resident of Address B-6, Sector-108, Noida, District Gautam Budh Nagar U.P. The registry of the said plot has been executed on date 31.12.2018 in the same No.-1, Volume No.-2278, Page Number-431 to 480, Number 9545 in Deputy Registrar-II, Noida. Whose original Lease deed has been lost somewhere and could not be found even after a lot of searching. In future, if I get the said original documents, I will not misuse them.

Nikhat Khatoon

PUBLIC NOTICE

General public is hereby informed that Late Mr. Inder Pal Singh was the owner of the property House area measuring 129.83 Sq. Yds., i.e., 108.59 Sq. Meters, out of Khasra No. 698, situated at Village Anvarpur, Tehsil & Distt. Hapur, by virtue of Sale Deed dated 28.01.1997, regd. at doc. No. 296, and the same is to be financed & mortgaged with my client i.e. Piramal Capital and Housing Finance Ltd and the legal heirs of Late Mr. Inder Pal Singh namely Mr. Adarsh Kumar & Mr. Prashant, have no objection regarding mortgage of aforesaid property by Mr. Mukesh Kumar. If any person(s) have any objection(s) or claim in this property, then contact the undersigned within 7 days from date of this notice on below address, failing which, it will be assumed that there are no claims or issues in respect of the aforesaid property.

Raghav Tiwari (Advocate)
Ch. 830, Patiala House Courts, New Delhi-110001 Mob.: +91-8076188328

Public Notice

This is to inform general public that Smt. Satwant Kaur has acquired the Ground Floor without roof rights, built-up Property bearing no. WZ-7-A-/1, Plot no. 46, area measuring 62 sq. yards., out of rectangle no. 15, Killa no. 23/1, situated in the area of Village Chaukhandi, Colony known as Sant Garh Extn, New Delhi-110018 vide Sale Deed dated 09.08.2016, Document No. 7664. That, Smt. Satwant Kaur has misplaced the below mentioned documents. a)Original Sale Deed dated 22.12.2005 executed by Sh. Mangaljit Singh & Sh. Amarjit Singh in favour of Smt. Manjit Kaur in respect of Built-up Ground Floor without roof rights, Plot bearing no. 46, New no. WZ-7-A-/1, area measuring 62 sq. yards., out of rectangle no. 15, Killa no. 23/1. B)Original Sale Deed dated 09.08.2016 executed by Smt. Manjeet Kaur in favour of Smt. Satwant Kaur in respect of Ground Floor without roof rights, built-up Property bearing no. WZ-7-A-/1, Plot no. 46, area measuring 62 sq. yards., out of rectangle no. 15, Killa no. 23/1 and the same was dully registered with the sub-registrar- II Basai Darapur New Delhi, as Document No. 7664, Volume No. 22842, Book no. 1, Page No. 178-188, on 11.08.2016.Anyone who find the above said documents shall handover the same to the Manager of Suryoday Small Finance Bank. Now, Smt. Satwant Kaur is intending to sell the said property to Mrs. Renu Kaur and further Mr. Manjeet Singh and Mrs. Renu Kaur are mortgaging the above said property with Suryoday Small Finance Bank & in case anyone has any objection, the same may be raised within 07 days of this publication to Mr. Muneesh Dhawan/Mr. Sudhir Jain (Advocates), Law Veritas North, Unit no 907, 9th Floor, GD-ITL Tower, (B-08), Netaji Subhash Place, Delhi-110034 or contact at 9066707172/9818228636 (M).

Public Notice

This is to inform General Public that M/s Anita Builders Pvt Ltd acquired the Second Floor (Without Roof Rights), "Said Floor", Built on Property Bearing No. D-267, Land area measuring 153.28 Sq. mtrs. i.e 183.33 Sq. yds. in Block-D, situated in the Layout Plan of The Railway Board Employees Co-Operative House Building Society Ltd, Colony Known as "Anand Vihar", New Delhi vide Sale Deed dated 02.06.2020, (Doc. no. 2019). Now, M/s Anita Builders Pvt Ltd has intending to sell the above said property to Mr. Lalit Bhararamji Choudhary and further Mr. Lalit Bhararamji Choudhary agreed to create mortgage in respect of the said property in favour of our client IDFC FIRST Bank Limited. Further, if any person, body, individual, institution having any claim, title, interest and /or objection in respect of or against or relating to or touching upon said property or part of the property by way of sale, exchange, lease, lien, mortgage, charge, encumbrance, gift, trust, easement, maintenance, inheritance, testamentary deposition or otherwise or having in their custody any title, documents pertaining the said property shall communicate the same to the undersigned at below mentioned address within 14 days from the publication of this notice with documentary evidence in support thereof, failing which all the claim, of such person shall be considered to have been waived and or abandoned. Any objections raised after the completion of the 14 days shall not be binding upon the said property or my Client & in case anyone has any objection, the same may be raised within 14 days of this publication to Mr. Muneesh Dhawan/ Mr. Sudhir Jain (Advocates), Law Veritas North, Unit no 907, 9th Floor, GD-ITL Tower, (B-08), Netaji Subhash Place, Delhi-110034 or contact at 9066707172/9818228636 (M).

NOTICE

SRF LIMITED (SRF)
Selenium Tower-B,6th Floor ,Plot No31 & 32 , Gachibowli ,Financial District, Hyderabad - 500 032 (Telangana State)

Notice is hereby given that the Certificate(s) for the under mentioned Equity Shares of the Company have been lost / misplaced and the holder(s) / purchaser(s) of the said Equity Shares have applied to the Company to issue duplicate Share Certificate(s). Any person who has a claim in respect of the said Shares should lodge the same with the Company at its Registered Office within 21 days from this date else the Company will proceed to issue duplicate certificate(s) to the aforesaid applicants without any further intimation.

Sl. No.	Folio No.	Name of the Holder/Claimant	Share Certificate No.	Number of Shares	Distinctive Nos. From	Distinctive Nos. To
1	SRF0147720	Seema Das Kundu	90143421	50	10001170	10001219
2	SRF0147720	Seema Das Kundu	90143422	50	10001220	10001269
3	SRF0147720	Seema Das Kundu	90143423	50	10002030	10002079
4	SRF0147720	Seema Das Kundu	90143424	50	10002080	10002129
5	SRF0147720	Seema Das Kundu	90143425	50	10002130	10002179
6	SRF0147720	Seema Das Kundu	90143426	50	10002180	10002229
7	SRF0147720	Seema Das Kundu	90206680	50	15580200	15580249
8	SRF0147720	Seema Das Kundu	90206681	50	15580250	15580299
9	SRF0147720	Seema Das Kundu	90206682	50	15580300	15580349
10	SRF0147720	Seema Das Kundu	90206683	50	15580350	15580399
11	SRF0147720	Seema Das Kundu	90206684	50	15580400	15580449
12	SRF0147720	Seema Das Kundu	1131386	2200	310592646	310594845

Place : -New Delhi Date : 14-04-2023
Name of Applicant/Holder : Seema Das Kundu

INDIAN RAILWAYS
GOVERNMENT OF INDIA (BHARAT SARKAR)
MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (RAIL MANTRALAYA)
(RAILWAY BOARD)

No. 2022/RS(WTA)-149/TENDER/532 **New Delhi, dated 13/04/2023**

CORRIGENDUM NO.7 to the Tender No. WTA-532

Sub :- E-Tender No. WTA-532 due on 27.04.2023 for "Manufacturing cum Maintenance of 100 nos. of New Generation Energy Efficient Vande Bharat Trainsets with Concentrated Power System including upgradation of the Government Manufacturing Units & Trainset Depots."

The due date of the subject tender is postponed from 27.04.2023 to **30.05.2023 (Tuesday).** The prospective Bidders are requested to visit website- **https://ireps.gov.in** for more details.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, RAILWAY STORES (RS)
MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS
(RAILWAY BOARD)
RAIL BHAWAN, RAISINA ROAD, NEW DELHI-110 001
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1112/2023

SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE

NORTHERN RAILWAY
Invitation of Tenders through E-Procurement system

Principal Chief Materials Manager, Northern Railway, New Delhi-110001, for and on behalf of the President of India, invites e-tenders through e-procurement system for supply of the following items:-

S. N0	Tender No.	Brief Description	Qty.	Closing Date
01	07223464	RUBBER PAD FOR LONGITUDINAL BUMP STOP	15312 NOS	08-05-23
02	19230994	GEAR BOX CASE (MACHINED) FOR WAP-5 LOCO	19 NOS	08-05-23
03	07223452A	SECONDARY SPRING (INNER)	657 NOS	11-05-23
04	09232218	BRAKE CYLINDER 355 MM	529 NOS	11-05-23
05	08231504	RELAY, NON AC IMMUNE, PLUG IN TYPE, STYLE QNI	3449 NOS	11-05-23
06	08235045	YELLOW ASPECT MAIN LED SIGNAL	4070 NOS	12-05-23
07	08235081	LED SHUNT SIGNAL LIGHTING	6161 NOS	15-05-23
08	77236008	RUNNING CONTRACT FOR PROCUREMENT OF VARIOUS TYPES OF GROOVED RUBBER SOLE PLATES	113920 SET/NOS	15-05-23
09	19230632	ELASTIC RING ACLATHAN RING FOR WAG-9,	269 NOS	05-06-23

NOTE -1. Vendors may visit the IREPS website i.e. www.ireps.gov.in for details.
2. No Manual offer will be entertained.

Tender Notice NO. 05/2023-2024 Dated : 13.04.2023 **1109/2023**
SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE

Markets extend gains for 9th session on fag-end buying

PTI ■ MUMBAI

Benchmark equity indices Sensex and Nifty ticked higher for the ninth straight session on Thursday, buoyed by fag-end buying in banking, financial and realty stocks amid encouraging domestic retail inflation data.

Weak trends in IT counters and fall in the overnight US equity markets triggered by fresh concerns over recession, however, put a check on market's uptrend.

In a largely subdued session, the 30-share BSE Sensex went up marginally by 38.23 points or 0.06 per cent to settle at 60,431. During the day, it hit a high of 60,486.91 and a low of 60,081.43.

The broader NSE Nifty climbed 15.60 points or 0.09 per cent to finish at 17,828.

"After the flat start, pressure in the IT majors pushed the Nifty lower however buying in select heavyweights especially from the banking pack trimmed all the losses and helped index to close flat," said Ajit Mishra, VP - Technical Research, Religare Broking Ltd.

Among the Sensex firms, IndusInd Bank, Power Grid, Axis Bank, Bajaj Finserv, Kotak Mahindra Bank, ICICI Bank, State Bank of India and Tata Motors were the biggest winners.

Infosys, Tech Mahindra, HCL Technologies, NTPC, Tata Consultancy Services, Larsen & Toubro, Wipro and UltraTech Cement were among the major laggards.

Shares of Infosys fell by nearly 3 per cent ahead of its quarterly earnings announcement later in the day.

The country's largest IT services exporter TCS on Wednesday reported a 14.8 per cent increase in March quarter net profit at Rs 11,392 crore but flagged worries from its key market of North America.

"Indian shares experienced a downturn, weighed down by IT stocks following weak quarterly earnings and a cautious outlook from the top IT firm, which flagged apprehensions over deferred spending and uncertainty in its BFSI segment.

"The decrease in CPI inflation to 5.66 per cent in India, coupled with the moderation of core inflation, supports the decision of the MPC to keep policy rates on hold. While US inflation cooled to 5 per cent, anxieties grew globally after the Federal Open Market Committee (FOMC) minutes hinted at a possible "mild recession" due to the impact of banking turmoil," said Vinod Nair, Head of Research at Geojit Financial Services.

In the broader market, the BSE smallcap gauge climbed 0.33 per cent and midcap index advanced 0.16 per cent.

Bankex rallied 1.38 per cent, realty jumped 1.17 per cent, financial services climbed 0.97 per cent and auto went up by 0.35 per cent.

However, IT fell by 2.05 per cent, teck (1.94 per cent), capital goods (0.57 per cent), oil & gas (0.55 per cent), energy (0.32 per cent) and telecommunication (0.23 per cent).

In nine trading days, the BSE benchmark has jumped 2,817.28 points or 4.88 per cent.

In Asian markets, Seoul, Japan and Hong Kong ended in the green, while Shanghai settled lower.

European equity markets were trading on a mixed note during the afternoon trade. The US markets had ended lower on Wednesday.

"Global stock markets were mixed on Thursday as investors digest key inflation data out of the US released on Wednesday and prediction of the US Fed members about a mild recession in the US later this year," said Deepak Jasani, Head of Retail Research, HDFC Securities.

Direct tax mop up skyrockets 173% to over ₹19.68 lakh cr

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

India's gross direct tax collection increased 173 per cent to over Rs 19.68 lakh crore in 10 years to 2022-23.

On a net basis, after adjusting refunds, direct tax collection zoomed 160 per cent since the 2013-14 fiscal to over Rs 16.61 lakh crore in 2022-23.

The Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT) has released Time-Series data as updated up to fiscal 2021-22 and also provided provisional data for 2022-23.

Direct Tax Buoyancy at 2.52 in FY 2021-22 is the highest Direct Tax Buoyancy recorded over the last 15 years. The direct tax to GDP ratio has increased from 5.62 per cent in 2013-14 to 5.97 per cent in 2021-22.

'India's exports up 6% to $ 447 billion in 2022-23'

PTI ■ ROME

The country's exports rose by about 6 per cent to a "record" USD 447 billion during 2022-23 on account of healthy growth in the outbound shipments of sectors such as petroleum, pharma and chemicals and marine, Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal said on Thursday.

The country's imports also grew by 16.5 per cent to USD 714 billion in 2022-23 as against USD 613 billion in 2021-22.

He said that the exports of goods and services together scaled "new heights" and has increased by 14 per cent to USD 770 billion in 2022-23 as against 676 billion in 2021-22.

"I am delighted to share with you the outstanding export performance for 2022-23, with India's overall exports scaling new heights at USD 770 billion, registering 14 per cent growth over the previous year and all-time high record growing from USD 500 billion in 2020-21 to USD 676 billion in 2021-22," the minister told reporters here.

Goyal is on a three-day visit to France and Italy from April 11-13 to hold a series of meetings with leaders and top CEOs in these two countries to further boost trade and investment ties.

India's services exports too have increased by 27.16 per cent to USD 323 billion in 2022-23 as compared to USD 254 billion in 2021-22.

"This is truly a sign of India's expanding our international footprints," he added.

The overall imports of goods and services have touched USD 892 billion and it reflects that the country's economic activities are growing and that has supported the exports.

Talking to reporters here, Goyal said that the growth in exports would help in containing the current account deficit.

In the services sector, there is a healthy growth in areas including IT, accounting and business processing. In the goods segment, sectors which recorded growth include oil meals, electronic goods, tobacco, oil seeds, rice, coffee, fruits and vegetables, leather goods, ceramic, pharma, marine products, chemicals, and ready-made garments of textiles.

Services imports are estimated at USD 178 billion in 2022-23 as against USD 147 billion a year ago.

Goyal said that the exports of goods and services has increased by about USD 100 billion to cross USD 770 billion in such challenging times, when the world is seeing softening and slowing of international trade, recessionary conditions in the developed world, and unprecedented high inflation in many developed countries.

IN BRIEF

MARUTI SIGNS MOU WITH IDFC

New Delhi: Maruti Suzuki India Limited has announced the signing of a MoU with IDFC FIRST Bank Limited. As part of this collaboration, the bank will offer personalised finance options across New Car Loans, Pre-Owned Car Loans and Commercial Vehicle Loans to customers looking to purchase Maruti Suzuki vehicles. The MoU was signed in the presence of senior management from Maruti Suzuki and IDFC FIRST bank, from MSIL Shashank Srivastava, Senior Executive Officer, Marketing and Sales amongst others and from IDFC FIRST bank V Vaidyanathan, MD and CEO and firms top executives were present.

ANDAMAN CHAMBER OBSERVES BANDH

New Delhi: Andaman observed a full-day bandh, under which all shops, establishments, and transportation along with auto, jeep & private buses were non-functional. The call for this trade bandh was given by the Joint Action Committee of the Andaman Chamber of Commerce & Industry (ACCI) comprising all trade, industry, and commercial establishments. ACCI said that the strike was called over several issues, including a steep hike in power tariff, arbitrary increase in circle rates of land, non-registration of flats, and demand for better infrastructure and ease of doing business.

NATIONAL MISSION FOR CLEAN GANGA MOU

New Delhi: Union Ministry of Jal Shakti signed an MoU with Amity University, Uttar Pradesh, for National Mission for Clean Ganga (NMCG) efforts in the presence of Minister Gajendra Singh Shekhawat, NMCG DG G Asok Kumar, AICTE Chairman TG Sitharam, and , Amity Education Group founder president Ashok K Chauhan.

TRAINING IN AVIATION SECURITY IN NE

New Delhi: Central Association of Private Security Industry (CAPSI) has decided to set up eight "Centres of Excellence" for training in State Capitals of North-East. CAPSI chairman Kunwar Vikram Singh the organisation also plans to start three Drone Pilot Training Academies in the N-E. The Centre of Excellence will impart training in Aviation Security as per global standards, Singh said.

PATIENT GETS TREATMENT IN DELHI HOSPITAL

New Delhi: CK Birla Hospital in Punjabi Bagh area successfully treated a 33-year-old Australian patient suffering from cervical spinal stenosis for the past two years under the guidance of Dr Ashwani Maichand, Director Department of Orthopaedics. Vipul Jain, Chief Business Officer, CK Birla Hospital said the hospital is committed to achieve the goal of providing global standards of healthcare by using advanced medical innovations and techniques. The hospital said it is committed to achieve goal of providing global standards of healthcare.

P-notes investment declines to ₹88,398 cr in Feb

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Investment in the Indian capital markets through participatory notes dropped to Rs 88,398 crore month-on-month in February amid higher valuation of domestic markets.

This was the third consecutive monthly decline in the investment level. Before this, investment through the route had been on an increasing trend since July 2022 because of a slump in the oil and other commodities prices and the relative outperformance of Indian equity markets.

Participatory notes (P-notes) are issued by registered Foreign Portfolio Investors (FPIs) to overseas investors who wish to be a part of the Indian stock market without registering themselves directly. They, however, need to go through a due diligence process.

According to Sebi data, the value of P-note investments in Indian markets — equity, debt, and hybrid securities — stood at Rs 88,398 crore at the end of February compared to Rs 91,469 crore in January-end.

Prior to that, the investment level through the route was Rs 96,292 crore at the end of December 2022 and Rs 99,335 crore at the end of November 2022. It was Rs 97,784 crore at October-end last year.

Investment via P-notes normally moves in line with FPI investment. When there is a global risk to the environment, investment through this route increases and vice-versa.

"Last several months have seen a steady decline in investments through P-notes. This is because Foreign Portfolio Investment has seen outflows, particularly since the beginning of 2023. P-notes normally follow the trend in FPI flows. The trend through P-note investment may increase in April since FPI inflows have started looking up," VK Vijayakumar, Chief Investment Strategist at Geojit Financial Services, said.

Market experts said FPIs are finding Indian markets as expensive compared to other emerging markets. Indian market could probably be the only one where they would have made profits last year. Now, it is a good opportunity for them to book profits and look for cheaper valuations elsewhere.

Of the total Rs 88,398 crore invested through this route till February this year, Rs 78,427 crore was invested in equities, Rs 9,851 crore in debt and Rs 119 crore in hybrid securities.

Meanwhile, FPIs pulled out Rs 5,294 crore from the Indian equities in February and Rs 28,852 crore in January.

Insolvency resolution requires innovation; over regulation not solution: IBBI chief

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Amid instances of long delays in insolvency resolution process of various companies, IBBI chief Ravi Mital on Thursday said resolution requires innovation and "over regulation is not a solution".

Around 650 resolutions of debt-ridden corporates have happened since the implementation of the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code (IBC) in late 2016. While acknowledging that the IBC has issues related to delays and haircuts, among other things, Mital said the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Board of India (IBBI) did an analysis which showed that the IBC is for resolutions but it is being evaluated on the basis of performance or haircuts.

Resolution is a thing which requires innovations. Resolution professionals are the best to do such innovations with the help of the Committee of Creditors (CoC).

"We should encourage innovation and desist from over-regulation and writing everything in the Act," he said.

Mital said the Chennai bench of the National Company Law Tribunal (NCLT) recently passed an order where it said a part of Hindustan Photo Films can go into resolution and another part can go into liquidation. "This is an innovation... I am not saying that it can be done in every case but that is an innovation that we should encourage," he added.

IBBI is the key institution under the IBC.

He was speaking at the conference on 'Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code - Evolving Paradigms and Reforms' organised by industry body CII along with National Foundation for Corporate Governance (NFCG) and the IBBI in the national capital.

In the last six-and-a-half years, Mital said the IBC has done about 650 resolutions, adding that the IBC has led to the settlement of cases even without resolution or without admission or with withdrawals.

The IBBI Chairperson said IIM Ahmedabad has been asked to conduct a study to find out whether these resolutions have led to a change in the economy, adding that the report is expected to come out in the next two months.

"I have seen the preliminary figures that they have collected and I find that sales (of companies) have increased or turnover has increased manifold after the resolution, EBITDA, Profit after tax, market cap have increased manifold... These things have not been documented, these things are not in public domain.

"So, I hope that in next two months, once this report comes out, we will have a better understanding of what the IBC has achieved in terms of resolutions," Mital said.

EBITDA refers to Earnings Before Interest, Taxes, Depreciation and Amortisation.

Wagering barred in all forms, be it game of skill or chance: MoS IT

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Online gaming rules do not need to get into the nuances of chance or skills as wagering is barred in all forms of games irrespective of the nature of the game, Union Minister Rajeev Chandrasekhar said in a tweet on Thursday.

The minister of state for electronics and IT was responding to an editorial, which said that the online gaming rules avoid dealing with nuances of games of chance versus games of skill.

Chandrasekhar said that wager is a well-defined expression in contract law, and decisions have clearly held the meaning of wager.

"There is no need in this framework to get into "nuances" of chance or skill, bcz the harm of wagering is directly being prohibited - regardless of the nature of the game," the minister tweeted.

The Centre had last week notified norms to regulate the online gaming sector, wherein real money games involving wagering or betting have been prohibited.

"The ITRules for OnlineGaming hv been developed after extensive consultation, are quite clear n deal wth every aspect. This framework liberates startups from multiple conflicting state laws, court decisions etc n establishes clarity n growth," Chandrasekhar said. The government has opted for a self-regulation model for the online gaming sector and will initially notify three self-regulatory organisations that will approve the games that can operate in the country as per the rules.

Under the notified rules, SROs will have to publish a framework to safeguard users against the risk of gaming addiction, financial loss and financial fraud on its website.

Chandrasekhar said real money games, involving prize money, are permitted, but real money games with wagering are not.

"SROs will evolve framework on how to deal wth addictive n harmful gaming as they develop capacity," the minister said. As per the rules, the online games will be regulated by SROs, which will include the industry, gamers and other stakeholders and not the government.

The SROs, as per the rules, should also include an educationist, an expert in the field of psychology or mental health, an individual who is or has been a member or officer of an organisation dealing with the protection of child rights etc.

The online gaming rules have been included as an amendment in the IT Rules of 2021.

According to the rules, the online gaming self-regulatory body may declare an online real money game as a permissible online real money game if "the online real money game does not involve wagering on any outcome".

'Rupee trade arrangement to help cut transactions cost'

PTI ■ ROME

International trade in the domestic currency will help reduce transaction cost for the industry and several countries are in discussion with the RBI on this, Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal said on Thursday.

Last year, the RBI and finance ministry asked the top management of banks and representatives of trade bodies to push export and import transactions in the rupee. They want banks in India to connect with their foreign counterparts for opening special rupee vostro accounts to facilitate cross-border trade in the Indian currency rather than the popular mode of the US dollar.

Goyal said that today several countries are realising that in trade, there is a need for change in currency for that and it involves a conversion cost, which in turn increases transactions cost also.

"We can address these issues through rupee trade (arrangement)," he told reporters here, adding that several countries are under discussions with the RBI on the subject.

Several banks, including HDFC Bank and UCO Bank, have opened special vostro accounts as of date to facilitate overseas trade in the rupee.

Sberbank and VTB Bank — the largest and second-largest banks of Russia, respectively — are the first foreign lenders to receive the approval after the RBI announced the guidelines on overseas trade in the rupee in July last year.

Another Russian bank Gazprom, which does not have its unit in India, has also opened this account with Kolkata-based UCO Bank.

The move to open the special vostro account clears the deck for settlement of payments in rupee for trade between India and Russia, enabling cross-border trade in the Indian currency, which the RBI is keen to promote.

SAT reduces Sebi's penalty on former Maars Software MD to ₹10 lakh in GDR case

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The Securities Appellate Tribunal (SAT) has slashed the penalty imposed on the former MD of Maars Software International to Rs 10 lakh from Rs 1 crore in a case related to manipulation in the issuance of global depository receipts. Maars Software International Ltd (MSIL) came out with a global depository receipts (GDRs) issue on August 10, 2007.

Pravin Champalal Jain was the former managing director of MSIL.

"While affirming the order of Sebi's Adjudicating Officer (AO) for the violations committed by the company, we reduce the penalty from Rs 1 crore to Rs 10 lakhs.

"In our opinion, the penalty imposed is excessive and disproportionate to the violation and is also discriminatory," the tribunal said in its ruling on Tuesday.

The verdict came after Jain challenged the order passed by Sebi in July 2020.

Sebi's AO had imposed Rs 10.25 crore on MSIL, Rs 1 crore on Jain and Rs 10 lakh each on Harshawardhan S Rathore and Nikunj Babulal Choradiya for flouting Prohibition of Fraudulent and Unfair Trade Practices rules. Rathore and Choradiya were also the directors of MSIL.

'India Inc's topline growth in Q4FY23 to halve to 10-12%'

PTI ■ MUMBAI

India Inc is likely to report a halving of revenue growth in the fourth quarter of FY23, a credit rating agency said on Thursday, as companies start reporting their financials.

The revenue growth will come down to 10-12 per cent as against 22.8 per cent for the January-March period in the year-ago, Crisil's Market Intelligence and Analytics arm said.

For the full fiscal FY23, revenue is estimated to have grown 19-21 per cent, which is slower than over 27 per cent growth registered in FY22, it said, adding that operating margin is likely to have moderated by 3 percentage points.

The continuing headwinds to exports which have had an impact on volume growth, and the high-base were cited as the main reasons which will cause the sharp slowdown in topline growth for Q4FY23, Crisil, which analysed 300 companies across 47 sectors to arrive at the expectations, said.

It said revenues of commodities and export-oriented sectors such as textiles, gems and jewellery, and information technology-enabled services, declined on-year.

Coal India boosts coking coal output, production up 17%

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Coal India Ltd, the world's largest coal miner, on Thursday reported a 17.2 per cent rise in production of coking coal, helping cut on imports of the fuel that is an essential input for production of iron and steel.

In a statement, Coal India said coking coal production has risen to 54.6 million tonnes in 2022-23, up 17.2 per cent year-on-year growth compared to 46.6 million tonnes in FY'22 (April 2021 to March 2022).

"The quantum leap in the year was a whopping 8 million tonnes," it said, adding the output was 107.3 per cent of the target. This assumes significance at a time when the Ministry of Coal has asked the company to raise the output of this category of coal to 105 million tonnes by 2030 in a bid to reduce its imports and forex outgo.

BCCL and CCL, the two Jharkhand-based subsidiaries of CIL, are major producers of coking coal and together accounted for almost the entire output of 54.3 million tonnes in 2022-23.

"BCCL alone produced nearly 62 per cent or 33.7 million tonnes during the year, posting 16 per cent growth over 29 million tonnes of FY'22. Whereas, CCL clocked around 20 per cent growth at 20.6 million tonnes," it said.

Mineable reserves of coking coal, which is an important feedstock in steel making, in India are scarce. Also its quality inadequacy for direct use in steel making necessitates washing. This forces imports.

During FY'23 coking coal imports were 56 million tonnes, down by 1.1 million tonnes compared to 57.1 million tonnes in FY'22.

Apart from the meagre availability, Indian coking coal has high ash content requiring washing for use in steel mills.

GT RESTRICT PBKS TO 153-8

PTI ■ MOHALI

Medium pacer Mohit Sharma marked his return to the IPL with excellent figures of 2/18 as holders Gujarat Titans restricted Punjab Kings to 153 for eight here on Thursday.

Playing in his first game in the league since 2020, Mohit was exceptional in the penultimate over, giving away as little as six runs. Matthew Short top-scored with a 24-ball 36, but it was Masood Shahrukh Khan's nine-ball 22 that helped PBKS cross 150.

Sent in to bat after the coin landed in favour of the returning Gujarat Titans skipper Hardik Pandya, PBKS lost Prabhsimran Singh in the second ball of the over when his attempted flick off a length ball from Mohammed Shami went straight to Rashid Khan at short midwicket. Prabhsimran departed without scoring.

Short walked in at number three and he got off the mark with a boundary, striking the ball through point. The next ball was short, and Short pulled the seasoned India seamer through the square leg region for another four.

Sharing the new ball with Shami, Joshua Little was welcomed with two boundaries by the in-form Shikhar Dhawan. While the first one was lofted over cover, Dhawan produced a delightful shot in the next ball, caressing the ball past mid-off in what was a high-class cover drive.

Australia's Short, who has done well for Adelaide Strikers in the Big Bash League back home, took on Shami and hit him for back-to-back fours including an authoritative boundary through mid-off.

However, just when PBKS seemed to be putting GT under pressure Little gave his team a huge breakthrough, dismissing the dangerous Dhawan (8) who came down the track to play the lofted shot, only to end up giving a catch to Alzarri Joseph.

Defending champions Gujarat Titans got another big wicket when the ever-reliable Rashid (1/26 in 4 overs) foxed a well-settled Short with a googly with PBKS's score reading 55 for three in the seventh over.

Having struck a flurry of fours and a massive six off Joseph, Short had settled down nicely but looked clueless when Rashid decided to bowl the wrong'un.

Short's dismissal set PBKS a bit, and it became trickier when Jitesh Sharma (25 off 23 balls) was sent back by Mohit, thanks to a smart piece of work by Wriddhiman Saha behind the wickets. Sam Curran (22) struck a much-needed six — a big maximum over deep midwicket after star leg-spinner Rashid missed his length.

Sri Lankan Bhanuka Rajapaksa did not convince in his 26-ball 20, until his stay in the middle was cut short by Joseph. Shahrukh Khan smashed the first ball he faced for a six over deep midwicket, before picking up another maximum off Shami.

KKR eye hat-trick of wins

PTI ■ KOLKATA

On a high after Rinku Singh's phenomenal knock, Kolkata Knight Riders will be gunning for a hat-trick of victories when they face a resurgent Sunrisers Hyderabad in the Indian Premier League here on Friday.

Having started off their campaign with a reversal against Punjab Kings at Mohali, KKR found two unlikely heroes in two matches to get their campaign up and running.

First, it was Shardul Thakur's storm with the bat that took a star-studded Royal Challengers Bangalore by surprise as the pace bowling allrounder's 29-ball 68 led KKR to their first win of the season, a dominant 81-run victory. Then the low-profile Rinku has become the flavour of the season after pulling off the greatest heist in T20 history by scoring 31 runs in the last over to win a match.

KKR defeated the reigning champions Gujarat Titans by three wickets in their den, the Narendra Modi Stadium in Ahmedabad, courtesy Rinku's astonishing power-hitting.

The two-time former champions, who were hit hard by the absence of their skipper Shreyas Iyer and star allrounder Shakib-Al-Hasan and were written off by many following a low-key auction, suddenly have become the side to beat this season.

That the two wins have come without any significant contribution from their star power-hitter Andre Russell and skipper Nitish Rana, make them an even more dangerous side.

While Shardul and Rinku have undoubtedly provided the finishing options, KKR think-tank would be keen to prove that these two wins were not a fluke.

By his standard, Russell, the fearsome Jamaican power-hitter, has looked a shadow of his past, barring a 19-ball 35 in their rain-hit loss to Punjab Kings in their season opener.

With scores of 0 and 1 in the next two matches, Russell would be keen to prove his credentials as he sweated it out during practice ahead of the match on Friday. KKR have tried out different opening combinations in the three matches so far and it is likely to be changed again against SRH, with England opener Jason Roy likely to be included in place of Rahmanullah Gurbaz.

The Afghanistan player has impressed with a fighting fifty against RCB, but with Roy being included as a replacement for Shakib, the Englishman is likely to be included, while Narayan Jagadeesan may don the wicketkeeping gloves.

As for SRH, the Aiden Markram-led side looks strong on paper after some big buys like Harry Brook, Mayank Agarwal and Heinrich Klaasen at the auction.

Overflowing with white-ball specialists, SRH, however, have failed to impress in their first two matches. However, a Rahul Tripathi special — 48-ball unbeaten 74 — led them to their first win of the season when they defeated Punjab Kings by eight wickets. The high-profile Brook, who has been signed for Rs 13.25 crore, has so far managed scores of 13, 3 and 13.

A member of the England side that won the T20 World Cup last year, Brook has looked out of sorts in the opener's role, and it would not be a bad idea to bring him down the order.

They also have a potent spin attack in Washington Sundar and Mayank Markande, fresh from his 4/15 against Punjab Kings, while the pace attack, led by Bhuvneshwar Kumar and Marco Jansen, will give KKR a tough fight. A win for KKR, currently placed third, may take them to the top of the table.

It is too late to change action: Bishop's advice to Bumrah

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Someone who has endured multiple back injuries himself, former West Indies fast bowler Ian Bishop can imagine what a "generational" talent like Jasprit Bumrah is going through at the moment.

The 29-year-old underwent a surgery in New Zealand last month following recurring back issues that have kept him away from the game since September 2022. Bumrah is now racing against time to get fit for the ODI World Cup at home in October-November.

Bumrah's "unique" action has worked wonderfully for him but it has also put a lot of load on his back, making him susceptible to injuries.

Bishop, who could have played a lot more than 43 Tests and 84 ODIs if it wasn't for injuries, feels it is too late for Bumrah to change his action at this stage of his career and he can only be "managed" by picking and choosing tournaments amid the relentless schedule.

"Any fast bowler worth his soul can play all formats of the game all year and maintain his cutting edge pace, it is just too demanding. The sprint up and and down, the hamstring, the workload of the body. It has to be managed," Bishop told PTI in an interview.

"I don't think there is any one recipe (to manage workload). Because we don't decide on the minds and bodies of these outstanding athletes. That decision has to be made by the individual and administrators close to him but I will throw one thing out for governing bodies, it is just an advice. You can't play these guys (Bumrah and Co.) in every tournament," he said.

The 55-year-old from Trinidad is not only worried about Bumrah's future, he is equally concerned for the likes of Jofra Archer, Anrich Nortje and Shaheen Afridi who too have battled injuries.

"With so much cricket going on, the players will have to start choosing most important tournaments. It is about how can a player secure his financial future and at the same time play enough to secure his cricketing legacy and help his country.

"You want guys like Bumrah and Jofra playing at their best with cutting edge pace. That is what when they have great value. Be very meticulous and specific with when you want them to play," he said.

In 2020, the great Michael Holding had expressed his doubts over Bumrah's longevity considering he generates a huge amount of pace with a short run-up and a unique action.

For Bishop, changing action following injuries did not work and he believes Bumrah is past that stage too.

"Everybody has got a unique way in how they formulate their action and Jasprit is more unique than most others so I think he has got to use the physical gifts he was blessed with and fine tune it as he goes along.

AXIS BANK

AXIS BANK LTD.
Asset Sales Centre, 2nd Floor, Chawla chambers, Opp. New Bus Stand, Jeevan Bima Marg, Pandri, Raipur 492004
Controlling office: Axis House, Bombay Dyeing Compound, Pandurang Budhkar Marg, Worli, and Mumbai - 400025.

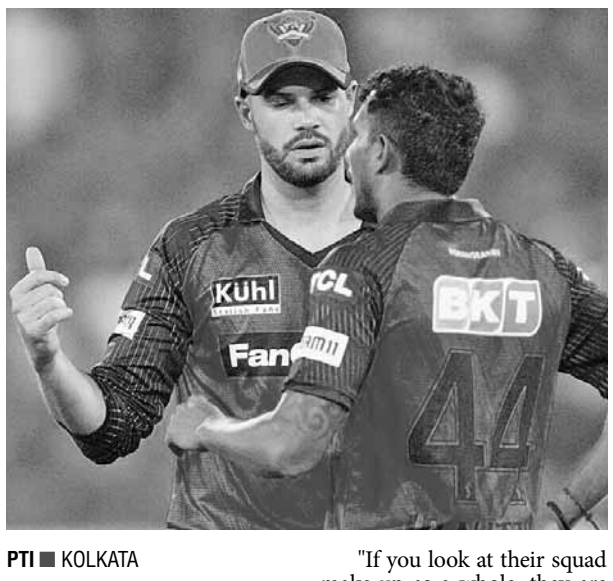
APPENDIX –IV [Rule 8(1)] POSSESSION NOTICE

WHEREAS:
The undersigned being the Authorized Officer of the **AXIS BANK LTD.**, Under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act , 2002 and in exercise of the powers conferred under section 13(12) read with Rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 issued, a demand notice, dated **22.11.2022** calling upon the borrowers **Mr. SWAPNIL MITTAL S/O SURESH KUMAR MITTAL & Mrs. GARIMA SHARMA W/O MR. SWAPNIL MITTAL** to repay the amount mentioned in the notice being **Rs. 1,01,35,351/- (Rupees One Crore One Lakh Thirty Five Thousand Three Hundred and Fifty One Rupees only (Amount outstanding as on 22.11.2022) under Loan A/c. No. PHR013906716505** respectively due as on **22.11.2022**, being the amount due on termination of the agreement (this amount includes interest till **22.11.2022** within **60 days** from the date of receipt of the said notice.
The borrowers and guarantor having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the borrowers and guarantor and the public in general that the undersigned has taken **symbolic possession** of the property described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on him/her under section 13(4) of the said Act, read with Rule 8 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 on this **12th day of April of the year 2023.**
The borrowers and guarantor in particular and the public in general is hereby cautioned not to deal with the property and any dealings with the property will be subject to the charge of the AXIS BANK LTD., for an amount **Rs. 1,01,35,351/- (Rupees One Crore One Lakh Thirty Five Thousand Three Hundred and Fifty One Rupees only (Amount outstanding as on 22.11.2022) under Loan A/c. No. PHR013906716505** respectively due as on **22.11.2022**, being the amount due on termination of the agreement (this amount includes interest till **22.11.2022** and further interest thereon, till the date of payment.
The borrower's attention is invited to the provisions of Sub Section (8) of Section 13 of the SARFAESI Act, 2002 in respect of time available, to redeem the secured assets.

SCHEDULE SECURED IMMOVABLE ASSETS
All that piece & parcel of Land PLOT NO 14, MAUJA-KOTA, KH.NO. 46/3, SHAHID MANMOHAN SINGH BAKSHI WARD NO. 20, PH.NO.- 107/51, R.N.M- RAIPUR- 03, TEHSIL & DISTRICT – RAIPUR, STATE-CHATTISGARH, PINCODE - 493221, INDIA. BOUNDRIES: //North: ROAD// South: ROAD// East: PLOT NO – 15// West: PLOT NO – 13//

Date: 14.04.2023
Place: Raipur
Authorised Officer
AXIS Bank Ltd

Markam pins hopes on death bowlers



PTI ■ KOLKATA

Sunrisers Hyderabad are not intimidated by the sensational batting display of Rinku Singh and Shardul Thakur in KKR's last two IPL matches, and skipper Aiden Markram on Thursday said he is confident of their bowlers executing their plans at the death.

Kolkata Knight Riders posted consecutive 200-plus totals courtesy the duo's power-hitting en route to securing splendid wins over Royal Challengers Bangalore and Gujarat Titans in their last two matches.

"If you look at their squad make-up as a whole, they are going to play aggressively and an attacking brand of cricket. On each one's given day, they can certainly be a massive threat for us," Markram told reporters on the eve of their match.

"It's about sticking to our strengths out in the middle, that will give us the best chance to execute whatever plans we have. Guys have been doing very well for KKR, they (Shardul and Rinku) have been finishing well.

"But we are going to have some good plans in place, we have some good experience in our camp, some really good death bowlers as well, we are confident in them. Hopefully we can execute nicely, on the night (tomorrow)."

SRH have Indian veteran Bhuvneshwar Kumar to lead the pace attack, which is bolstered by the addition of Markram's fellow South African Marco Jansen, and they will also have the fiery Umran Malik in a three-pronged pace attack.

Having released Rashid Khan, SRH have the spin duo of Washington Sundar and Mayank Markande.

Starting the season with back-to-back losses, SRH got their campaign back on track when they rode on an unbeaten 74 from Rahul Tripathi to defeat Punjab Kings by eight wickets.

A former KKR player, Tripathi will look to give his valuable inputs to the team.

"It's always nice having someone in your team who has been a part of the team who you are going to play against. Definitely, we will use Rahul's experience, knowledge as best as we can.

"It's great to see a player like Rahul in form, he's really entertaining to watch and the way he goes about his work. It's great to have him in that frame of mind at the moment," Markram said.

SYMBOLIC POSSESSION NOTICE

ICICI Bank | **Branch Office:** ICICI Bank Ltd, Landmark Building, 4th Floor, 228A, AJC Bose Road, Kolkata 700020 CIN No: L65190GJ1994PLC021012, www.icicibank.com

Whereas
The undersigned being the Authorized Officer of ICICI Bank Limited under the Securitisation, Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 and in exercise of the powers conferred under section 13 (12) read with Rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) rules 2002, issued demand notices upon the borrowers mentioned below, to repay the amount mentioned in the notice within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said notice.
As the borrower failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the borrower and the public in general that the undersigned has taken Symbolic possession of the property described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on him/ her under Section 13(4) of the said Act read with Rule 8 of the said rules on the below-mentioned dates. The borrower in particular and the public in general is hereby cautioned not to deal with the property and any dealings with the property will be subject to the charge of ICICI Bank Limited.

Sr. No.	Name of the Borrower/ Loan Account Number	Description of Property/ Date of Symbolic Possession	Date of Demand Notice/ Amount in Demand Notice (Rs.)	Name of Branch
1.	Sanjay Wadhwani/ Rajesh Wadhwani/ Komal Wadhwani/ Sanjana Wadhwani/ No.136 Gitanjali Nagar Near Sai Mandir Sector 2, Raipur Chhattisgarh Raipur-492001/ LBRPR00002902204/ LBRPR00004168943	Plot No.136, Khasra No.311/1, P.H. No.113, Gitanjali Nirman Sahakari Samiti, Mouza Telibandha, Tahasil and District Raipur, Chhattisgarh. Admeasuring an Area of 50x60=3000 Sq. Ft. /278.81 Sq. Mtr./ Date of Symbolic 11.04.2023	December 22, 2022 Rs. 74,84, 477/-	Raipur
2.	Firdous Hussain/ Asgar Hussian/ B 41 Housing Board Colony Ward No.2 Opp Priyadarshani School Kota, Raipur Chhattisgarh Raipur- 492010/ LBRPR00003762415	Lig 2bhk Flat In Phase Ii of Indraprastha- Raipura Yojana, City Development Authority Under Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana, Raipur Development Authority City Development Plan 1, Indraprastha Phase Ii-raipura, Flat No. A 711, 7th Floor, Block A, Raipur, Chhattisgarh.admeasuring An Area of 513.79. Sq. Ft./ Date of Symbolic 11.04.2023	October 31, 2022 Rs. 2,70,932/-	Raipur
3.	Rajendra Sarkar/ Block 7/23, Ward No.8, Near Hari Mandir Mana Camp Chhattisgarh Raipur- 492015/ LBRPR00005359381	Plot No. Lig 416 (L/416), Khasra No. Part of 162/5, Sejbahar Dindayal Awas Yojna, Mouza Sejbahar, P.h. No. 82, R.N.M. Raipur 18, Tahsil & District Raipur, Chattisgarh. (admeasuring an Area of 83.62 Sq. Mtr. or 900 Sq. Ft/ Date of Symbolic 11.04.2023	December 23, 2022 Rs. 11,93,090/-	Raipur
4.	Muskan Jaswani/ Sanjay Jaswani/ Dheeraj Panjwani (Guarantor)/ Ward No.46 Sai Vista Amlidih Chhattisgarh Raipur- 492001/ LBRPR00005141345/ LBRPR00005178652	Sai Vista, Residental Unit No. Wing A, Flat No.407, Block II, 4th Floor, Mouza Amlidih, P.H. No.114/45, Khasra No.128/90 (old) & 128/96 (New), Circle Raipur 02, Ward No.46, Dr. Rajendra Prasad Ward, Clause No.32 Near Rajat Buildtek, Tahsil & District Raipur, Chhattisgarh. (admeasuring an Area of Carpet Area 446.91 Sq. Ft./ 41.52 Sq. Mtr. & Super Built Up Area 740 Sq. Ft./ 68.77 Sq. Mtr. Along With an Undivided Proportionate Share/ Date of Symbolic 11.04.2023	December 30, 2022 Rs. 19,85,898/-	Raipur

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 : April 14, 2023
Place : Raipur
Authorized Officer
ICICI Bank Limited

AXIS BANK

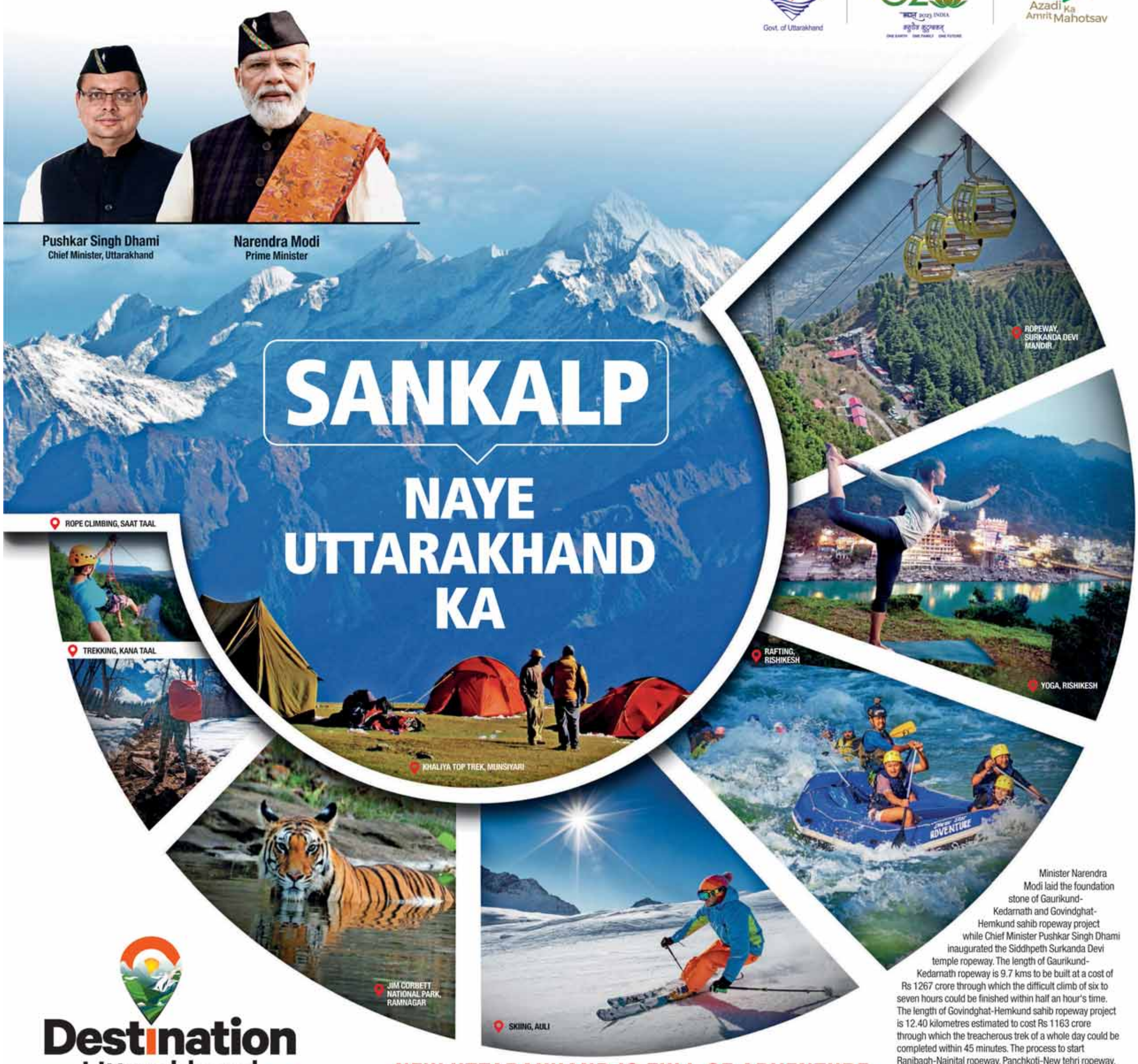
AXIS BANK LTD.
Asset Sales Centre, 2nd Floor, Chawla chambers, Opp. New Bus Stand, Jeevan Bima Marg, Pandri, Raipur 492004
Controlling office: Axis House, Bombay Dyeing Compound, Pandurang Budhkar Marg, Worli, and Mumbai - 400025.

APPENDIX –IV [Rule 8(1)] POSSESSION NOTICE

WHEREAS:
The undersigned being the Authorized Officer of the **AXIS BANK LTD.**, Under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act , 2002 and in exercise of the powers conferred under section 13(12) read with Rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 issued, a demand notice, dated **10.11.2022** calling upon the borrowers **Mr. VIKRAM KUMAR SINGH, S/O Mr. RAMASHRAY SINGH & Mrs. NEHA SINGH W/O MR.VIKRAM KUMAR SINGH** to repay the amount mentioned in the notice being **Rs. 50,37,983/- (Rupees fifty lakh thirty seven thousand nine hundred eighty three only (Amount outstanding as on 05.11.2022) under Loan A/c. No. PHR013906470420,** due as on **05.11.2022** respectively due as on **5.11.2022,** being the amount due on termination of the agreement (this amount includes interest till **5.11.2022** within **60 days** from the date of receipt of the said notice.
The borrowers and guarantor having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the borrowers and guarantor and the public in general that the undersigned has taken **symbolic possession** of the property described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on him/her under section 13(4) of the said Act, read with Rule 8 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 on this **12th day of April of the year 2023.**
The borrowers and guarantor in particular and the public in general is hereby cautioned not to deal with the property and any dealings with the property will be subject to the charge of the AXIS BANK LTD., for an amount **Rs. 50,37,983/- (Rupees fifty lakh thirty seven thousand nine hundred eighty three only ((Amount outstanding as on 05.11.2022) under Loan A/c. No. PHR013906470420,** respectively due as on **5.11.2022,** being the amount due on termination of the agreement (this amount includes interest till **5.11.2022** and further interest thereon, till the date of payment.
The borrower's attention is invited to the provisions of Sub Section (8) of Section 13 of the SARFAESI Act, 2002 in respect of time available, to redeem the secured assets.

SCHEDULE SECURED IMMOVABLE ASSETS
A Residential House with land bearing the house no. E1-2, Plot No. E-2, kh. No. 15000/3, area 1876 Sqft. Constructed area 1246 Sqft. In the Ground Floor, and 831 Sqft, in the 1st floor, Situated at Celebrity Home Mouja Heerapur, Ramkrishna Paramhansh Ward, Ward No.02. P.C. No. 35, RIC-Raipur-1, Tah & Dist-Raipur CG. BOUNDRIES: //North: Road // South: E2-5, (Plot E/5)// East: E1-1, (Plot E/1)// West: E1-3, (Plot E/3)//

Date:14.04.2023
Place: Raipur
Authorised Officer
AXIS Bank Ltd



Destination Uttarakhand

INCREDIBLE & AMAZING UTTARAKHAND

Besides being 'Devbhoomi', the 'Abode of Gods', Uttarakhand, is a land blessed with nature's bounties — those of fast flowing rivers, lakes, and majestic mountains, where the aspirations of tourists from world over for adventure activities are taken care of. With the advent of double engine governments at the state as well as at the centre, there have been tremendous improvements in the facilities and infrastructure of tourism in Uttarakhand. This is the reason that the number of tourists visiting the state has increased manifold

PARAGLIDING, PITHORAGARH

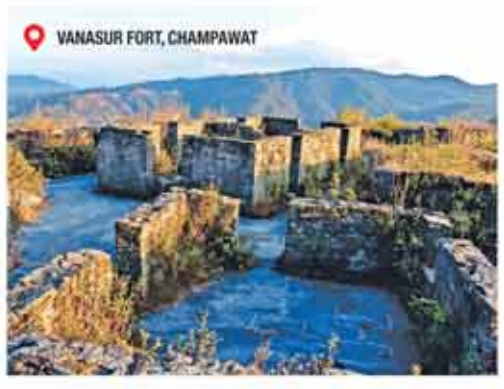
NEW UTTARAKHAND IS FULL OF ADVENTURE

EMPOWERED UTTARAKHAND @ 25

Prime Minister Narendra Modi has predicted that the third decade of the 21st century would be of Uttarakhand. Uttarakhand Chief Minister Pushkar Singh Dhami has been leading the state and working on the road map to make an empowered Uttarakhand @25 Multi-faceted development of tourism facilities is part of the proposed roadmap.

ADVENTURE TOURISM

Uttarakhand which has a unique place on the tourism map of the world has become a focal point of adventure tourism activities. The state government besides promoting religious tourism has taken several initiatives in adventure tourism also. The tourists visiting Rishikesh in the state can enjoy bungee jumping, flying fox, river crossing and para-gliding and other adventure tourism activities. The Tehri Lake nestled in the mountains has become a favourite tourist destination, being liked by tourists. The tourists can


VANASUR FORT, CHAMPAWAT

enjoy floating house, Shikara boat and cruise ride, boating, jet speed boating, water skiing, banana boat ride, bandwagon boat ride, hot air balloon ride and paragliding at Tehri Lake.

ENJOYING HIMALAYAN CULTURE WHILE STAYING AT A HOMESTAY

There are many tourist places situated in the remote rural areas which are known for their natural beauty and cultural heritage. These places are now being enjoyed by local and foreign tourists through homestay facilities at these places. The state Tourism department through its Deen Dayal Upadhyaya Homestay Development Scheme has granted 50 per cent subsidy (maximum Rs 15 lakh) in the hills and 25% subsidy in the plain areas (maximum of Rs 7.50 lakh) for development of homestay facilities. A total of 530 persons have been provided subsidy under the scheme. More than 4680 units have also been registered under Guest House registration Scheme and more than 14,000 people have been provided employment directly or indirectly.

HOMESTAYS ON TREKKING ROUTE

To give a new experience, Uttarakhand government has started Trekking Traction centre Homestay Scheme. This

HOMESTAY, CHAMOLI

unique initiative has given home-like facilities and sense of security to the tourists on the trekking routes besides giving self-employment and a gift of development to the local people. Under the Trekking Traction centre Homestay Scheme, 15 such Trekking Traction centres have been notified in Uttarkashi, Tehri, Bageshwar, Pithoragarh, Chamoli and Rudraprayag districts of the state. Till date 215 beneficiaries have been chosen. The Pushkar Singh Dhami led state government is giving financial help for building homestay facilities in the villages within two kilometres of the Trekking Traction centres.

JIM CORBETT TRAIL

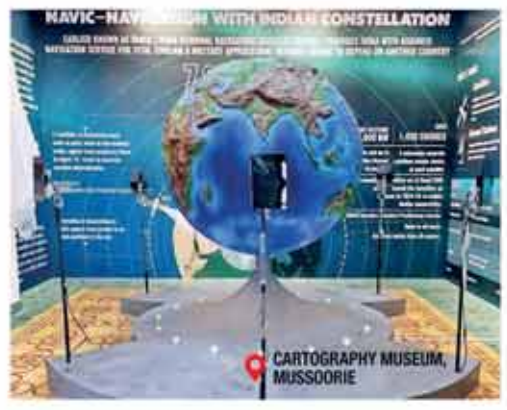
The world-famous Jim Corbett National Park of Uttarakhand gives a special kind of experience to lovers of jungle safari. To make jungle safari more adventurous and secure, the Uttarakhand government has started developing Jim Corbett Trail in Champawat Forest division. This trail is being developed in Champawat, Bagh Barudi, Talla Desh, Khet Baman Goan, Thulakot, Boom-Kaldunga -Chuka-Tak, Devidhura-Pati-Dhunaghat, Panar Valley, Durga Pipal-Ladhia and Durga Pipal-Chalthi. The presence of variety of animals, flora and fauna makes it an ideal eco-tourism destination.

ROPEWAY AS A FACILITY & ADVENTURE ALSO

The 'Parvatmala' project describes aptly the vision of Prime Minister Narendra Modi. To develop ropeway facilities in the mountains, Parvatmala Project has been initiated. Prime Minister Narendra Modi laid the foundation stone of Gaurikund-Kedarnath and Govindghat-Hemkund sahib ropeway project while Chief Minister Pushkar Singh Dhami inaugurated the Siddhpeth Surkanda Devi temple ropeway. The length of Gaurikund-Kedarnath ropeway is 9.7 kms to be built at a cost of Rs 1267 crore through which the difficult climb of six to seven hours could be finished within half an hour's time. The length of Govindghat-Hemkund sahib ropeway project is 12.40 kilometres estimated to cost Rs 1163 crore through which the treacherous trek of a whole day could be completed within 45 minutes. The process to start Ranibagh-Nainital ropeway, Panchkoti-New tehri ropeway, Khalia Top-Munsiyari ropeway, Rishikesh-Neelkanth ropeway projects are underway.

THE FIRST CARTOGRAPHIC MUSEUM OF THE COUNTRY

The first cartographic museum of the country is ready to attract tourists at hill resort of Mussoorie. Built at a cost of Rs 4.55 crore at Sir George Everest House, this modern cartographic museum, houses the papers of Sir George Everest used to decipher the height of Mount Everest and other equipment. The documents of great cartographer


CARTOGRAPHY MUSEUM, MUSSOORIE

Nain Singh Rawat, surveyor Kishan Singh Negi and mathematician Radhanath would be on display. The tourists would also be able to know about working of modern GPS systems and other geographical information through globe installed at the museum.

BEST FILM-FRIENDLY STATE

Uttarakhand provides best destination for film shooting besides being a tourist destination. The state government in a bid to attract film makers to shoot their films in exotic location of the state has come up with Film policy 2022. The policy provides special incentives/ awards/recognition to the film makers and actors. The film makers have been provided with single window facilities with financial incentives. The Pushkar Singh Dhami Government has decided to build a film city in Dehradun. During the 53rd International Film Festival knowledge series held at Goa, a discussion on "Shooting in Uttarakhand" was also held. Prasoon Joshi, Chairman of the Central Film censor Board said that Uttarakhand has a positive climate for film making and the state is being prepared as a film destination under the leadership of Chief Minister Pushkar Singh Dhami. The music, art, and culture of 'Devbhoomi' Uttarakhand is different from others and the number of films being shot in Uttarakhand are on the rise.

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