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ROHIT SCORES HIS FIRST TEST TON AS SKIPPER
11 SPORT

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UK flags radicalisation in Britain on Kashmir, Khalistan

Rhetoric from Pakistan impacting UK Muslims; Islamist extremism 'primary threat' to UK, says Govt review

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE | AGENCIES ■ NEW DELHI | LONDON

Radicalisation of the UK Muslims on the issue of Kashmir and "potentially toxic" pro-Khalistan extremism are major concerns for the country, a review into the UK's Government scheme set up to prevent terrorism has flagged. It also made recommendations for improvements to tackle Islamist extremism as the "primary threat" to the country.

The review into the Government's counter-terrorism early intervention "Prevent" strategy published this week warned that rhetoric from Pakistan is impacting UK Muslim communities when it comes to "inflaming anti-India sentiment, particularly around the subject of Kashmir".

The review carried out by Commissioner for Public Appointments William Shawcross also warns against a false narrative being disseminated by a tiny number of pro-Khalistan groups operating in the UK.

"There is an element of



crossover between those who seek to impose limits around blasphemy with those who voice incendiary rhetoric on Kashmir.

"I have seen evidence of UK extremist groups, as well as a Pakistani cleric with a UK following, calling for the use of violence in Kashmir. I have also seen evidence demonstrating that flashpoints related to Kashmir lead to a significant surge in interest from UK Islamists," says Shawcross in the review. It noted that there is no reason to believe this issue will disappear as a grievance that Islamists will seek to exploit in years to come.

"This has potential relevance to 'Prevent', as there are examples of those convicted of terrorism offences in the UK who had first fought in Kashmir. This includes those

who subsequently joined al-Qaeda."

On the issue of pro-Khalistan extremism, the report adds, "Prevent should also be mindful of pro-Khalistan extremism emerging from the UK's Sikh communities. A false narrative is disseminated by the tiny number of pro-Khalistan groups operating in the UK that the Government is colluding with its counterpart in India to persecute Sikhs."

"Such groups' narratives glorify violence carried out by the pro-Khalistan movement in India. While the current threat is low, praise for violence overseas and a simultaneous belief in a State-led campaign of repression domestically is a potentially toxic combination for the future."

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UN hails 'Delhi Declaration on Terrorism'

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE | AGENCIES ■ NEW DELHI | UNITED NATIONS

The "Delhi Declaration on Terrorism" last year has come in for praise by the United Nations Security Council (UNSC) which said it offers a "solid basis" to counter the use of new and emerging technologies for terrorist purposes and symbolises the Council's "shared determination" to address the challenge.

The 15-nation Council, under the Presidency of Malta for the month of February, late on Thursday held a meeting on "Threats to international peace and security caused by terrorist acts" during which the 16th report of the Secretary-General on the threat posed by ISIL (Daesh) to international peace and security and the range of United Nations efforts in support of member-states in countering the threat was presented by Under-Secretary-General of the United Nations Office of Counter-Terrorism Vladimir

Voronkov. On October 28-29 last year, the Security Council Counter-Terrorism Committee (CTC), chaired by India in 2022, organised the Special Meeting in New Delhi and Mumbai on the overarching theme of "Countering the use of new and emerging technologies for terrorist purposes".

As an outcome of the special meeting, the Committee adopted the "pioneer document" "Delhi Declaration" on countering the use of new and emerging technologies for terrorist purposes.

Malta's UN envoy and Council President for February Vanessa Frazier told the council meeting on Thursday that she was pleased to attend the special meeting of the Counter-Terrorism Committee in India last year, and welcomed the adoption of the Delhi Declaration, "which symbolises the Council's shared determination to address this challenge."

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SC: Investors' interests need to be protected

Consider expert panel to boost protection against market volatility, court tells Centre

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

With aim to protect interests of Indian investors against market volatility against the backdrop of the Adani stocks rout, the Supreme Court on Friday asked the Centre to consider setting up a panel of domain experts headed by a former judge to look into strengthening the regulatory mechanisms.

It also sought the views of the Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) and the Centre as to how to ensure putting a robust mechanism in place since the capital movement now is "seamless" in the country.

Noting that the stock market is not the place where only high value investors invest, the court said with the changing financial and tax regime the investments are being made by "the wide spectrum of middle class".

It noted that as per some reports the total loss suffered by Indian investors due to the recent Adani stocks rout was in the range of several lakh crores of rupees.

The top court, which was hearing PILs alleging exploitation of innocent investors and "artificial crashing" of the



Adani Group's stock value, assured the officials of the SEBI that it was not "planning any witch hunt" and would tread with "very great caution" as its observations would affect the stock market which "goes largely by sentiments".

"We have indicated to the Solicitor General (Tushar Mehta) the concerns with regard to ensuring that the regulatory mechanisms within the country are duly strengthened so as to ensure that Indian investors are protected against certain volatility, the kind of which has been witnessed in the recent two weeks.

"That in turn would require due assessment of existing regulatory framework, the relevant causal factors, need for strengthening the regulatory framework in the interest of the investors and the stable operations and development of the securities market," the Chief Justice DY Chandrachud-led bench said.

On the issue of strength-

ening existing regulatory regime, the bench, also comprising justices PS Narasimha and JB Pardiwala, mooted an expert committee which can comprise experts from the securities areas, the international banking sector and a "wise guiding figure in the form of a former judge".

"We have also suggested to the Solicitor General, if they are willing to accede to forming a committee to see the overall situation. If the Union Government is so inclined to accept the suggestion, the necessary submissions can be urged on the constitution of the committee to that end," it said in the order.

The bench asked the top law officer to place a brief note on both factual and legal aspects to take the deliberations further on February 13, the next date of hearing.

One PIL filed by lawyer Vishal Tiwari sought a direction to the Centre to constitute a committee monitored by a retired apex court judge to inquire into the Hindenburg Research report which has made a slew of allegations against the business conglomerate led by industrialist Gautam Adani.

Another PIL filed by advocate M L Sharma sought prosecution of short-seller Nathan Anderson of the US-based Hindenburg Research and his associates in India and the US for allegedly exploiting innocent investors and the "artificial crashing" of the Adani Group's stock value in the market.

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Cong MP suspended for filming ruckus during PM's speech in RS

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

Rajya Sabha Chairman Jagdeep Dhankhar on Friday suspended Congress MP Rajani Ashokrao Patil for remainder of the Budget Session for filming House proceedings on Thursday during Prime Minister Narendra Modi's speech.

Dhankhar, who had earlier in the day indicated that action would be taken against those who had filmed a ruckus during the Prime Minister's speech, asked leaders of political parties to express their views on the issue. He termed filming as an "unwholesome activity".

Thereafter, a motion was adopted to suspend Patil for the remainder of the Budget Session, pending a report from the Parliamentary Privileges Committee on the issue.

The Privileges Committee will probe the matter and Patil will remain suspended till the committee submits its report.



Congress MP Rajani Ashokrao Patil speaks to the media after Rajya Sabha Chairman Jagdeep Dhankhar suspended her for remainder of the Budget Session for filming proceedings of the House, at Parliament House complex during Budget Session, in New Delhi on Friday. PTI

Dhankhar said the matter will not be handed over to any outside agency in order to keep Parliament's sanctity.

"The entire matter will be probed by the Privileges Committee and till we have the benefit of the recommendation of the Privileges Committee for consideration of this august House, Patil is suspended for the current session," he said.

Dhankhar said, "In public domain on Thursday on Twitter, there was dissemina-

tion of a video relating to proceedings of this House. I took a serious view of it and did all that was required. As a matter of principle and to keep sanctity of Parliament, no outside agency's involvement could be sought. But since the matter concerned the proceedings of the House, we had primary material. I'd not name the senior members with whom I interacted this morning."

"But I invited them to my chamber and sought guidance that if such a situation happens what should be the way out," he said. "Rajani engaged in this unwholesome activity and what has been seen is a matter that must engage our attention," Dhankhar said.

Leader of House Piyush Goyal said, "An unfortunate incident happened yesterday. It has been found that on social media we're seeing videos recorded in this august House showing senior Members of Parliament unauthorisedly being recorded."

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UP has become a hope: Modi



Prime Minister Narendra Modi with Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath at an exhibition organised during the Uttar Pradesh Global Investors Summit 2023, in Lucknow on Friday (Above: PTI Photo). After inaugurating the "Uttar Pradesh Global Investors Summit", Modi said, "Today UP has become a hope. If India is a bright spot for the world, then it is UP, which is driving the growth of India. Within 5-6 years, UP has established a new identity for itself. Now, UP is being identified by good governance. Now, UP is being identified by better law and order, peace and stability. Now, wealth creators here will get new opportunities." See P5, P10

CAPSULE

HERE AS FAMILY MEMBER: MODI AT BOHRA EVENT

Mumbai: Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Friday recalled the decades-old bond he shared with the Dawoodi Bohra community. "I am here as a family member, not as prime minister," Modi said after inaugurating the fourth campus of Aljamea-tus-Saifiyah Arabic Academy. Modi said visiting the campus is like visiting his own family.

PAK DRONE DROPS ARMS, DRUGS IN PUNJAB

Chandigarh: A Chinese pistol, five cartridges, a magazine and three kilogram heroin airdropped by a Pakistani drone near the international border in Punjab's Tarn Taran district were seized in a joint operation by BSF and police personnel, officials said on Friday.

CURBS ON DG SETS USE TIGHTENED IN DELHI-NCR

New Delhi: The Commission for Air Quality Management (CAQM) on Friday said diesel generator (DG) sets of capacity up to 800 kilowatt can be permitted for industrial and commercial operations in Delhi-NCR from May 15 only, after their conversion to the dual fuel system (gas and diesel).

Viscera samples go missing from police station, rats blamed

PTI ■ INDORE (MP)

The Indore police in Madhya Pradesh on Friday ordered a probe after a few viscera samples went missing from a police station, with its staff claiming that the internal organs were eaten away by rats, an official said.

Viscera comprises body parts like the lungs, heart, and the organs of the digestive, excretory, and reproductive systems. Viscera samples are preserved in many murder and unnatural death cases where autopsy findings might not be conclusive.

"We got information that a few viscera samples kept at Vijay Nagar police station have gone missing. We were told (by the staff) that they have been eaten away by rats," Deputy Commissioner of Police Sampat Upadhyay told PTI. Police have been asked to probe the missing viscera case, said the DCP.

The samples had been preserved in a salt solution in plastic containers, he said. "So it is possible for the rats to damage it (containers). However, a conclusion will be drawn only after a thorough probe," said the official.

Swearing-in of 2 judges to raise SC strength to full 34 on Mon

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The swearing-in of Justice Rajesh Binal and Justice Aravind Kumar as Supreme Court judges will take place on February 13. With these two appointments, the SC will have its maximum strength of 34 judges, including the CJI.

According to a circular issued by the administrative branch of the SC, the CJI will administer the oath to Justices Binal and Kumar at 10.30 am on Monday. Earlier in the day, the Government elevated Allahabad High Court Chief Justice Binal and Gujarat High Court Chief Justice Kumar to the Supreme Court.

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Techies' relief! Renewal of H1B, L1 visas in US itself soon

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE | AGENCIES ■ NEW DELHI | WASHINGTON

India professionals seeking H1B and L-1 visas for working in the US are likely to benefit from a US plan to resume "domestic visa revalidation" in certain categories on a pilot basis with the goal of scaling it up in the next few years.

The pilot project, to be launched later this year, when fully implemented, would be a big relief to thousands of Indian tech professionals in the United States.

Until 2004, certain categories of non-immigrant visas, particularly the H1B, could be renewed or stamped inside the US. After that, for renewal of these visas, in particular, those



within the US. Restamping can only be done at any US consulate. This was a big inconvenience for foreign guest workers and also for their employers, particularly at a time when the visa wait time is more than 800 days or more than two years. The much-sought-after H-1B visas are issued for three years at a time. The H1B visa is a non-immigrant visa that allows US companies to employ foreign workers in speciality occupations that require theoretical or technical expertise. Technology companies depend on it to hire tens of thousands of employees each year from countries like India and China.

Continued on Page 2

SC rejects plea for ban on BBC India operation

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Friday dismissed a plea seeking to impose a complete ban on the British Broadcasting Corporation (BBC) in India in wake of a controversial documentary regarding the 2002 Gujarat riots, terming it "entirely misconceived" and "absolutely meritless".

A bench comprising Justices Sanjiv Khanna and M M Sundresh passed the order while hearing a plea filed by Vishnu Gupta, president of the Hindu Sena, and Beerendra Kumar Singh, a farmer. "The writ petition is entirely misconceived and has no merit and is accordingly dismissed," the bench said.

Continued on Page 2

AWBI withdraws 'cow hug day' appeal ahead of Valentine's Day

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

The Animal Welfare Board of India (AWBI) on Friday said it has withdrawn the appeal to celebrate February 14 as "Cow Hug Day" following directions from the Government amid widespread criticism on social media.

The withdrawal of the appeal comes just a day after Union Minister Parshottam Rupala said it will be good if people respond positively to the call given by the board to celebrate February 14 as "Cow Hug Day".

February 14 is observed as Valentine's Day across the world.

Gender disparity being shattered, says Prez

'Women capable of shouldering any responsibility'

PTI ■ BHUBANESWAR

President Droupadi Murmu on Friday noted that woman have excelled in every sphere of life, be it politics, space science, technology, sports, literature and music.

"Women have proved that they are capable of shouldering any responsibility, involving the society as well as the country as a whole, she said, addressing the second convocation ceremony of her alma mater, the Rama Devi Women's University (RDWU), here.

"Murmu, who is in her home state on a two-day visit, said, "Gender discriminations that created social disparities have been shattered. Be it politics, defense, space science, technology, sports, literature,



music or arts, women have excelled in every realm of life. For the first time in the history of Parliament, there are more than 100 MPs," the President pointed out.

"Walking down the memory lane, the President, who hails from remote Rairangpur area in trial-dominated Mayurbhanj district, stated that the lessons she learned and experiences she gained in her college has helped her become a better human being.

"I managed with the food sold by hawkers just outside the college boundary. Getting a handful of groundnuts at 25 paise was good enough for me. I was happy," Murmu recalled, turning emotional as she spoke.

"Maintaining that she was overwhelmed by the love and affection of RDWU's students and faculty members," Murmu said she was proud to be a student of the institution, "where all students are treated equally".

"On the occasion, she handed over doctorate degrees to four women achievers of different fields. "Later, while leaving the campus, Murmu found some girls anxiously waiting to greet her. She immediately got off her car and shook hands with them.

Pvt member resolution in RS seeks Sachar report implementation

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

A private member resolution seeking that the government implement the recommendations of the Sachar Committee report and other reports that have discussed the educational and social backwardness of Muslims in India is worse than SCs (Scheduled Castes) and STs (Scheduled Tribes)," Wahab said.

"One-fourth of the Muslim children in the age group of 6-14 years have either never attended school or are dropouts, he said, citing the Sachar Committee report.

"Wahab also pointed out that for children above the age of 17 years, the educational attainment of Muslims at higher education is 17 per cent against the national average of 26 per cent.

as a form of collective and arbitrary punishment against the Muslim minority and low-income communities".

"Sachar Committee Report, 2006 and Ranganath Mishra Commission Report, 2007 reveal that the condition of Muslims in India is worse than SCs (Scheduled Castes) and STs (Scheduled Tribes)," Wahab said.

"During the private members' business in the Upper House of Parliament, Abdul Wahab of the Indian Union Muslim League (IUM) moved the resolution and demanded the formation of a Joint Parliamentary Committee (JPC) or a judicial commission headed by a retired Supreme Court judge "to study the evictions that have been carried out

ED attaches properties worth ₹26.60 crore in Sahakari bank scam

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Enforcement Directorate (ED) has provisionally attached properties worth Rs 26.60 crore in the case of Shivajirao Bhosale Sahakari Bank fraud in which the total proceeds of crime 'is to the tune of Rs 494 crore.

The attached assets include 23 immovable properties belonging to Anil Shivajirao Bhosale, his equity holdings, Suryaji Pandurang Jadhav and Nusrat Shanur Mujawar, the ED said in a statement.

The ED had initiated money laundering investigation based on the FIR registered by Shivajinagar Police Station, Pune, in 2020 based on a complaint lodged by the Statutory Auditor of Shivajirao Bhosale Sahakari Bank.

"ED investigation has revealed the financial fraud was done by the Accused persons in multiple ways viz. cash siphoned off from Bank on oral instructions without any official entry/record in the Core Banking System; misappropriation of funds of the bank by transferring huge funds to themselves and related parties; fraudulent disbursement of loans and diversion of such loans by the Key Managerial Persons of the Bank and others; bogus cheque discounting facility done to reduce the status of NPA of the Bank," the agency said.

India jumps to 55 in global aviation safety list

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

India has jumped to the 55th position from 112th place in the ranking of oversight capability of global aviation Safety. According to the Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA), after the final report India's safety oversight capability ranking has climbed from 112 to 55.

The ICAO had last month audited the DGCA to check its effective implementation (EI) of critical safety elements. The ICAO undertakes audit of all the contracting states under this programme. "It may be noted that this ranking is dynamic and is contingent upon the outcomes of various Audits undertaken by ICAO," it said.

Under its Universal Safety Oversight Audit Programme (USOAP) Continuous Monitoring Approach, an ICAO Coordinated Validation Mission (ICVM) was undertaken in India from November 9 to 16, 2022. According to the statement, as the scope of the mission did not include the areas of AIG and ANS, the updated overall EI of 85.65 per cent is calculated based on the latest USOAP results on record for these two areas. AIG is Aircraft Accident and Incident Investigation, and ANS is Air Navigation Services.

Admission for EWS/DG seats in pvt schools begins

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

The registration process for admission of Economically Weaker Sections/Disadvantaged Group and children with disabilities at the private-level classes in Delhi's private schools began on Friday.

The last date to submit online applications is February 25 and the first computerised draw of lots will be conducted on March 3. An applicant can access the website of the Directorate of Education (DoE) (www.Edudel.Nic.In) and click on "EWS/DG Admission" link

available on the home page for applying, the officials said.

According to the DoE, it is mandatory for the applicants to submit their Aadhaar numbers to "avoid duplicity" of the application. The private schools (up to primary level) recognised by the Municipal Corporation of

Delhi (MCD) have been also included in the computerised online admission system for EWS/DG category admissions at the entry level.

"Single application shall be filed by an individual applicant for online admission process," a DoE circular said.

SC gives reasons for dismissal of pleas against judge Gowri

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court, which had on February 7 refused to entertain two pleas seeking

to restrain Victoria Gowri from taking oath as an additional Judge of the Madras High Court, on Friday pronounced the reasons for the dismissal of the petitions.

Op Dost teams working day & night to help quake-devastated Turkey: PM

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

Prime Minister Narendra Modi said on Friday Indian teams are working day and night as a part of "Operation Dost" to help the relief and rescue operations in the earthquake-hit Turkey. "They will keep giving their best to ensure maximum lives and property are saved. In this critical time, India stands firmly with the people of Türkiye," he tweeted.

Techies'...

From Page 1

"We are working in earnest on plans to restart this service for certain petition-based NIV categories, and we hope to have a pilot up and running later this year. This would eliminate the need for these applicants to travel abroad to renew visas," a State Department spokesperson told PTI.

The State Department facilitated domestic visa revalidation until 2004 for applicants who were physically present in the US and renewing a visa in certain petition-based nonimmigrant visa (NIV) categories, the official said.

"We cannot comment on how many visa holders would be initially eligible, but the pilot would begin with a small number of cases before scaling over the following 1-2 years," said the State Department

spokesperson in response to a question.

Over the past few months, the Biden administration has taken several steps to streamline the visa processing system and reduce inconveniences.

Notably, this was one of the recommendations of the President's Advisory Commission on Asian Americans, Native Hawaiians, and Pacific Islanders, which now seems to have been implemented by the State Department.

Under the existing rule that came into force in 2004, the procedure for restamping H1-B and L visas is to visit the home country and submit their H1, and L1 visas, passports, and documents by way of a dropbox or interview.

People have to wait months or years for H1-B visa stamping or sometimes they get no response after submitting all documents and get stuck for over 2 years in their home country.

Swearing-in of 2 judges to raise SC strength to...

From Page 1

Law Minister Kiren Rijiju took to Twitter to announce the fresh appointments to the top court and extended his best wishes to them. Once they take the oath, the top court will achieve its full strength of 34 judges, including the Chief Justice of India, after a gap of nine months. Their names were recommended by the Supreme Court Collegium on January 31.

The Department of Justice in the Union Law Ministry issued separate notifications announcing their appointments. All six members of the Collegium, led by CJI D Y Chandrachud, were unanimous in recommending the name of Justice Bindal, while Justice K M Joseph had a reservation about the name of Justice Kumar, according to a resolution uploaded on the apex court website. After the elevation of these judges, Justices Pritinker Diwaker and Sonia Giridhar Gokani were appointed as acting chief justices of Allahabad and Gujarat High Courts respectively.

Cong MP...

From Page 1

It has been demonstrated and distributed through social media."

He said, "Even though it is showing Opposition Members in poor light, I think any such action done by any member is something of very serious concern. MPs have

already complained to you about this incident. They had requested you to have the matter investigated and examined."

"I'll consider this misconduct of the House, a blatant and flagrant disregard for the rules of the House...I would urge you (chairman) to name the member who was involved in this act and appropriate actions should be taken in this case," Goyal said.

SC rejects plea for ban on...

From Page 1

At the outset, Justice Khanna observed, "It is completely misconceived, absolutely meritless. How can you even argue this. I feel it is absolutely misconceived".

Senior advocate Pinky Anand, appearing for the petitioners, urged the apex court to see the background when the documentary came out and said on Friday, there is a position when you have an Indian as the prime minister of the United Kingdom. She said India is rising as an economic power and there is ascendency in it as India is the fifth largest economy in the world. "Do you think the documentary will make a difference to that," the bench observed, adding, "What is this? Do you

want us to put a complete censorship?"

Anand argued that same thing had happened in the Nirbhaya case, Kashmir issue and during the Mumbai riots also. "Let us not waste any more time," the bench said while dismissing the plea.

Alleging that the BBC has been biased against India and the Indian Government, the plea alleged that its documentary on Prime Minister Narendra Modi is a "result of deep conspiracy against global rise of India and its Prime Minister".

"The documentary film by BBC relating to Gujarat violence 2002 implicating Prime Minister Narendra Modi is not only reflective of anti-Narendra Modi cold propaganda broadcast to tarnish his image alone but this is anti-Hinduism propaganda by the BBC to destroy the social fabric of India," the plea had alleged.

SC...

From Page 1

Adani Group stocks have taken a beating on the bourses after the Hindenburg Research made a litany of allegations, including fraudulent transactions and share-price manipulation, against the business conglomerate. The Adani Group has dismissed the charges as lies, saying it complies with all laws and disclosure requirements.

At the outset, the bench said, "This is just an open dialogue. They have brought an issue before the court. The point which is really a matter of concern is this, how do we ensure the protection of Indian investors." Referring to the practice of short-selling in the stock market and role of SEBI, it said, "please tell your (SEBI) officers that there is not like a

witch hunt that we are planning."

"As a result of short sale, the value of shares can get depressed depending upon the number of shares which are offered in the market, it said, adding when one stepped into the market to buy the shares, the purchasers then get the benefit of the difference. It said when it happened on a small scale, then nobody was bothered. "But the point is this if it happens on a large scale, then it concerns small investors... As per some reports, the total loss suffered by Indian investors goes in the range of several lakh crores of rupees."

"You have fund inflow and outflow from India. How do we ensure in future that Indian investors are protected... Everybody is now in the market. Even a small lawyer is there in the market. But, they have no control," it said, adding "What role do we envisage for SEBI? For instance, in a different con-

text, you have circuit breakers."

The law officer said it was "a little premature" for him to answer immediately.

"The trigger point was the (Hindenburg) report, which is outside. This was beyond our territorial jurisdiction. There are regulations which deal with the concerns. We are also concerned," Solicitor General Tushar Mehta said, adding the market regulator was closely monitoring the situation. The bench said it was not casting any doubt on SEBI or the regulatory agencies.

"You may get some inputs from the Government and perhaps then you can take a call whether modification of our statutory provisions are required. Then again this is a matter for the government. Beyond a certain stage we cannot enter into the policy domain but we can at least use our own good office to put into place some mechanism to ensure that it does not happen in future."

UN hails 'Delhi...'

From Page 1

United Arab Emirates (UAE) Ambassador and Permanent Representative Lana Nusseibeh said the Counter-Terrorism Committee took a "key step" last year by adopting the Delhi Declaration at the Security Council Counter-terrorism Committee last year.

Ecuador's Permanent Representative Hernan Perez Loose said the use of technology to spread a narrative of violent extremism and the use of drones by terrorist groups constitute new challenges for the international community.

"...The Delhi Declaration on countering the use of new and emerging technologies for terrorist purposes adopted by the Counter-Terrorism Committee in October 2022 is an example of how the Security Council can respond to the changing nature of terrorism."

Noting the focus in the SG report on the growing use of new technologies by ISIL, Swiss Permanent Representative to the UN Ambassador Pascale Baeriswyl said with the "Delhi Declaration", the Counter-Terrorism Committee has a "solid basis to consider this issue further".

The report of Secretary-General Antonio Guterres on the threat posed by ISIL took note of the "Delhi Declaration" and also of the Presidential Statement, adopted under India's Presidency of the Security Council in December 2022 that had welcomed the adoption of the "Delhi Declaration".

"We welcome efforts made last year by India in its capacity as Chair of the CTC, thanks to which the Delhi Declaration was elaborated to counter the

use of new and emerging technologies for terrorist purposes," the Russian envoy said.

Japan's Deputy Permanent Representative to the UN Ambassador Shino Mitsuoka said the recent development of emerging technologies can enrich people's lives, but at the same time poses a threat to international peace and security. "We commend the leadership of India for its timely adoption of the Delhi Declaration at the Security Council Counter-terrorism Committee last year."

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UK...

From Page 1

It comes as the review found that Islamist extremism represents the "primary terrorist threat" to the UK -- "consistently accounting for the majority of terrorist attack plots both carried out and thwarted by the intelligence services". It noted that at present, 80 per cent of the Counter-Terrorism Police network's live investigations are Islamist while 10 per cent are Extreme Right-Wing.

UK Home Secretary Suella Braverman told the House of Commons on Wednesday that she intends to "swiftly implement" all of the recommendations from the review into the Prevent strategy, a UK-wide system set up as an early warning system against terrorist threats.

The review is unflinching. Prevent needs major reform. It needs to better understand the threats that we face and the ideology underpinning them, the Indian-origin Minister told MPs. "The truth is that there is nothing anti-Muslim about tackling Islamism, and we must continue to work closely with Muslim communities if we are to do so effectively," she said.

"While obscuring the Islamist threat, Prevent has defined the extreme right-wing too broadly, encompassing the respectable right and centre-right. The threat from the extreme right-wing must not be minimised. It is serious and it is growing; it must be robustly addressed. But it is not the same, either in nature or in scale, as the threat from Islamism," Braverman added.

FORM NO. 5 DEBTS RECOVERY TRIBUNAL 600/1, University Road, Near Hanuman Setu Mandir, Lucknow-226007 (Area of Jurisdiction-Part of Uttar Pradesh)
Summons for Filing & Appearance by Publication
O.A. No. 951/2022 Date: 07-02-2023
(Summons to defendant under section 19(3) of the Recovery of Debts due to Banks and Financial Institutions Act, 1993 read with Rules 12 and 13 of the Debts Recovery Tribunal (Procedure Rules, 1993)
ICICI BANK LTD. ...Applicant
NIDHI ARORA AND OTHERS ...Defendants

PUBLIC NOTICE
Notice is hereby given to the General Public on behalf of our client that Pawan Kumar Singh is the owner of Built up Property bearing No. 307, area measuring 65 Sq. Yds. out of Kharsa No. 16, Situated in the residential colony Block E, Sudhir Enclave, in the area of Village Hakikari Pur @ Khudabas, Pargana & Tehsil Loni, District Ghazipur, UP, vide Sale deed dated 15.12.2022 document no. 8756. All persons are hereby informed that above mentioned owner want to sell the said property to a person who intends to obtain loan from our client against the said property, if anybody has any objections upon the ownership of above owner over the said floor, its sale/mortgage/litigation, and any other objections, kindly inform the undersigned in writing on the below mentioned address within 07 days of the present.
Kumar & Associates (Advocates & Consultants)
200, Ind Floor, 23, Shivaji Marg, Moti Nagar, N. Delhi-15
Ph: 91-11-4112327-28 kumarassociatesadvocates@gmail.com

ICICI Bank
Branch Office: ICICI Bank Ltd, 3rd Floor, Plot No-23, New Rohtak Road, Karol Bagh, Delhi-110005
PUBLIC NOTICE: Builder Cancellation
This is to bring to your notice that RAHUL/RAM CHANDER (borrower/s) has availed Home loan facility vide facility agreement number LBGUR0000208306 located at FLAT NO-1008, FLOOR-10, TOWER 2, OM APARTMENTS, VILLAGE BAJGHERA, SECTOR 112, JIJIGRAM, HARYANA. The borrower/s has failed to pay the contractual amount to the builder as per the terms and conditions of the agreement.
The Bank has informed the same to the borrower through letter dated February 07, 2023 informing that PAREENA BUILDERS & PROMOTERS PRIVATE LIMITED has cancelled the allotment of the above mentioned property. You are therefore requested to resolve this matter with the builder within 7 days from the date of this publication. Please take further notice that post cancellation of the allotment of the said property ICICI Bank shall not be bound and/or responsible for any other allotment done by the builder.
Dated: February 10, 2023 For ICICI Bank Limited
Place: Delhi/ NCR Sd-

SHRI CHITRA GUPTA SABHA
Registered Under Act XXI of 1860 (Established 1902)
Chitra Gupta Bhawan, 1640, Khirki Patni Mal, Himmat Garh, Bazar Sita Ram, (Behind National & Grindlays Bank, Asaf Ali Road), Delhi-110006
NOTICE
Dear Members of the Sabha, AGM - General Body meeting of the sabha will be held on Sunday the 5th of March, 2023 at 12 noon at the Sabha's premises, 640, Khirki Patni Mal, Himmat Garh, Bazar Sita Ram, Delhi-110006.
The meeting will be followed by HOLI MILAN & GET-TOGETHER and Contributory Lunch at the following rates:
Non-veg - Rs. 600/- per person
Veg. - Rs. 300/- per person
Main Agenda of the AGM is the Election of New Office Bearers & Management Committee Members.
For Shri Chitra Gupta Sabha (Sd/A) Rajan B. Saxena Hony. General Secretary
Date: 09.02.2023

PUBLIC NOTICE
This is to inform to all concern that Mrs. Kanta Sharma W/o Late Sh. Ganga Saran Sharma R/O E-71/22 Amar Colony, Lajpat Nagar, New Delhi, who is the Joint allottee/owner of property No. Plot No. 042, Block-D, Sector 12, Noida (U.P.).
WILL was executed on in favour of Mr. Arun Kumar Sharma S/o Late Sh. Late Sh. Ganga Saran Sharma R/O E-71/22 Amar Colony, Lajpat Nagar, New Delhi which is registered in Sub Registrar Noida-III on dated 15/03/2013. So it is informed to all concern that the said Property No. Plot No. 042, Block-D, Sector 12, Noida (U.P.) is going to be transferred in favour of Mr. Arun Kumar Sharma S/o Late Sh. Late Sh. Ganga Saran Sharma R/O E-71/22 Amar Colony, Lajpat Nagar, New Delhi. If any one has/have any objection he/she may file his/her objection alongwith the sufficient proof in the Residential Department of the Noida Authority within 30 days from the date of publication of this notice.
Name of the transferee
Mr. Arun Kumar Sharma
S/o Late Sh. Ganga Saran Sharma
R/O E-71/22 Amar Colony, Lajpat Nagar, New Delhi.

REGISTRAR Debts Recovery Tribunal, Lucknow
In the above noted application, you are required to file in Paper Book form in two sets along with documents and affidavits (if any), personally or through your duly the authorized agent or legal practitioner in this Tribunal, after serving copy of the same on the applicant or his counsel/duly authorized agent after publication of the summons, and thereafter to appear before the Tribunal on 02/08/2023 at 10:30 A.M. failing which the application shall be heard and decide in your absence.

कार्यालय नगर पालिका परिषद, दमोह (म.प्र.)
क्रं. न.पा./2023/2597 --- निविदा सूचना --- दमोह दिनांक 07.02.2023
एतद् द्वारा सर्वसम्पन्न श्रेणी में पंजीकृत टेक्रेटोरो से अधोलिखित विवरण अनुसार दर पर ऑनलाईन निविदायें आमंत्रित की जाती है।
क्र. टेंडर नं. कार्य का नाम एवं विवरण अनुमानित लागत अमानत राशि समया देक्रेदार की श्रेणी
1 2023_UAD 250665_1 Name of Work:- Operation and maintenance work for 5 years for water supply system including all chemicals (alum, chlorine, lime, etc.) of Nagar Palika Parishad Damoh. Intake well with all civil, mechanical, electrical work, raw water pumps, substation, starters, all cables, raw Water Rising main line with all civil mechanical work, WTP with all civil, mechanical, electrical, component including pump cable, starters, WTP to OHTs and GSRs all clear water rising main line and feeder main line with all civil mechanical work, transformer and substation at intake well and WTP, Pump assembly at intake well, pump assembly at WTP with all civil mechanical electrical work, ESR/GSR, gantry crane, filter plant complete with all unit assembly maintenance and lab testing (all chemicals and apparatus required) work.
1,04,40,000/- 52200/- Five (05 year) Registered under M.P. PWD New Centralized registration scheme Five Year Experience in O & M in Water Supply System in Nagar Nigam/Nagar Palika Parishad
नोट :- 1. इच्छुक निविदादाता विस्तृत निविदा एवं अन्य समस्त जानकारी ई-टेंडरिंग पोर्टल www.mptenders.gov.in पर Key-Date अनुसार देखी जाकर निविदा प्रपत्र ऑनलाईन क्रय किये जा सकते हैं। 2. निविदा में यदि कोई संशोधन होता है तो केवल ऑनलाईन किया जायेगा समाचार पत्र में नहीं। 3. समस्त करों की कटौतियाँ शासन के नियमानुसार की जावेगी।
मुख्य नगर पालिका अधिकारी नगर पालिका परिषद, दमोह

THE PIONEER CLASSIFIEDS
CHANGE OF NAME
I, **Mohammad Omar Siddiqui S/o. Mohammad Ahson Siddiqui, R/o. A-1, Gulmohar Avenue, Jamiya Nagar, Okhla, New Delhi-110025** have declared that my Name has been wrongly mentioned in my daughter's Passport as **Omar Siddiqui** and my correct name is **Mohammad Omar Siddiqui.**
PD(90268)A

HC stays Mehrauli slum demolition drive till hearing on Feb 14

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

The Delhi High Court on Friday directed the authorities — Delhi Urban Shelter Improvement Board (DUSIB) and Delhi Development Authority (DDA) — to maintain the status quo on 400 jhuggis of a slum colony in Mehrauli, which were to be demolished during the day. Meanwhile, the AAP has lashed out at the BJP over the Mehrauli demolition drive and accused it was replicating what British did during their rule.

The high court listed the matter for further hearing on February 14 noting that the counsel for the authorities, including DUSIB and DDA did not have complete instructions on Friday.

"In light of the averments made in the petition that Ghosiya Slum Colony is a jhuggi cluster duly enlisted in the list published by DUSIB on its official website, which records 400 jhuggis, as also the 2015 policy and the fact that the respondents do not have instructions in the matter, the respondents are directed to maintain status quo with respect to the 400 jhuggis verified by DUSIB, until the next date of hearing," Justice Manpreet Pritam Singh Arora said.

Earlier in the day, the DDA has started a demolition drive in the Mehrauli area amid police security. Locals claimed that the drive that started in the morning was demolishing two and three-storeyed buildings

near Aulia Masjid at Andehria More along with shanties.

The land on which the alleged encroachment was done belonged to multiple agencies including DDA, Waqf Board, and ASI, they claimed.

"A demolition drive is being carried out by the Horticulture Department of the Delhi Disaster Management Authority. Police personnel have been deployed on the spot as preventive protection for DDA officials to carry out their duties and also to maintain law and order in the locality. Initially, the localities had staged a protest against the demolition but the situation was later brought under control," said a senior police official. According to the demolition notice, the land on which

the demolition is being carried out is a part of the Mehrauli Archaeological Park and the 'existing unauthorised encroachment' is acting as a hindrance to the development of the park.

Addressing a press conference, AAP leader Durgesh Pathak accused the BJP of renegeing on its poll promises of 'Jahan Jhuggi Wahan Makaan' and said they were demolishing unauthorised colonies and slum areas to exact revenge for losing the Vidhan Sabha and MCD polls.

"Many videos have come from Mehrauli where people are crying and begging in front of police and BJP to stop this atrocity. I don't think this has ever happened in Independent India. This used to happen dur-

ing the British rule. Those who supported freedom fighters in 1857 Mutiny were hanged, their houses demolished. This is being replicated by the BJP," Pathak alleged. He also said they will approach the court in this matter.

"Our party MLAs Naresh Yadav and Somnath Bharti have been detained. Even our councillor has been detained. BJP is taking revenge from people for not choosing them in Vidhan Sabha and MCD polls. They had promised to build houses but they are demolishing jhuggis. We won't allow this to happen," the AAP leader said.

Pathak said that residents of other areas like Tughlakabad and Madipur in Punjabi Bagh have also been served demolition notices. "We are seeing videos from Mehrauli and they are saddening. Women are fainting, people are crying. We will not let this happen. The bulldozers will have to pass over our bodies if they want to carry out the demolition," he said.



A Jhuggi-Jhopri resident being removed from the site during a demolition drive by DDA. Ranjan Dimri/Pioneer

Probe sale of Chinese manjha, HC tells police

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

The Delhi High Court on Friday directed the crime branch of Delhi Police to investigate the manufacturing, sale, purchase and storage of Chinese synthetic "manjha", used for kite flying, in markets and shops.

The high court said such dangerous threads are used by children and young adults for kite flying and it is the duty of authorities to ensure that they are not made available.

It directed the crime branch to file a report giving details of manufacturers, importers, traders and shopkeepers supplying Chinese manjha and the details of markets where this thread is sold. "It is directed that the FIRs lodged in cases of deaths by Chinese manjha shall be investigated by the crime branch. Give details whether such shopkeepers have been arrayed

as accused or not and whether they have been alerted about the ban on sale of Chinese manjha or not.

"What is the status of these FIRs and whether any proceedings have been initiated against officials who are duty bound to stop the sale of Chinese manjha shall also be submitted in the court," Justice Prathiba M Singh said, adding that the deaths of innocents caused due to Chinese manjha will also be considered as dereliction of duty.

The high court, which listed the matter for further hearing on April 12, said the notices which will be issued to traders dealing in Chinese manjha shall also include those who are selling it on e-commerce websites.

The court was hearing four petitions by family members of those who died or got injured by Chinese manjha while riding motorcycles, seeking action

and compensation.

The petitioners' counsel submitted that many people died after their throats were slit by Chinese manjha while riding two-wheelers and added that the law imposing ban on the use of Chinese manjha was already there but the issue was regarding its proper implementation.

The high court said that in addition to paying compensation, more needs to be done to control this problem and added that areas where such dangerous threads are sold need to be identified and police need to identify the shopkeepers selling it and lodge a criminal case against them.

As the court wanted to know how the thread harms a rider while wearing a helmet, the petitioners' counsel said it slits the throat in a barbaric manner. It said that despite the orders of the National Green Tribunal (NGT) as well as



communications issued by various authorities regarding the complete ban on the Chinese manjha, deaths are still being caused in the national capital.

"There needs to be a stricter implementation. It would have to be carried out by officials, including the police authorities, who would have to ensure that the FIRs do not remain paper FIRs and proper investigation is conducted against manufacturer as well as importer and the shopkeepers who would have to be proceeded against as well," the court said.

It asked the police to file a report detailing the status of the FIRs registered for the use of these threads and whether charge sheets have been filed in the cases.

The court directed that district magistrates, sub-divisional magistrates, tehsildars and local police officials be alerted about the ban once again and they shall conduct periodic inspections to ensure that such material is not sold in markets and that consumers are made aware of the exact quality of the threads they may be using.

Waiting for MEA's nod for Harvard visit, Maliwal says she misses Swaraj's touch

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Waiting for the External Affairs Ministry's clearance for her Harvard University visit, Delhi Commission for Women (DCW) chief Swati Maliwal on Friday said she was missing the working style of former foreign minister Sushma Swaraj.

Maliwal has been invited by the United States Harvard University to address their annual conference. The file was sent to the Delhi government on January 16, from where it was sent to Delhi Lieutenant Governor Vinai Kumar Saxena on January 18, the Delhi Commission for Women said in a statement. The LG office, at length, gave its permission for travel on February 8 and asked Maliwal to seek approval from the Ministry of External



Affairs, it said.

The file was then sent to the MEA for political clearance but, according to her, she has not received any response from the ministry.

"Since the conference is on 11 Feb, there is hardly any time left for attending the same," DCW said. Maliwal also raised the matter on Twitter saying she is missing the working style of former External Affairs Minister Sushma Swaraj, who, she added, considered every Indian as her family, and her, as her own daughter.

"It is sad that today's Ministry of External Affairs is sitting on the file and is refusing to approve or reject the same. Had Sushma ji been there, this would never have happened," Maliwal lamented and wondered what the ministry's stance on her visit was.

Delhi BJYM chief expelled for fake kidnapping to abandon baby girl

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Delhi unit Bharatiya Janata Yuva Morcha (BJYM) president Vasu Rukhar was expelled from the organisation on Friday following a controversy over the fake kidnapping of his daughter who was later found abandoned near a temple. It turned out that Rukhar's wife was forced to abandon her baby girl as she was being harassed over having three daughters.

Delhi BJP working president Virendra Sachdeva issued a letter, saying Rukhar's primary membership was terminated and he was expelled from the party.

"In view of your behaviour and activities, you are immediately relieved of your primary membership and immediately expelled from the party," said the letter signed by the Delhi BJP president.

The daughter of the Delhi president of the Bharatiya Janata Yuva Morcha (BJYM) was said to have been abducted from Jhandewalan in central Delhi on Wednesday and abandoned near a temple in Maurice Nagar, police had said. However, sources in the BJP alleged that Rukhar's wife was forced to abandon her one-and-a-half-year-old child as she already had two other daughters before this.

No immediate reaction was available from Rukhar over his expulsion. Sources in the BJP said the decision to expel Rukhar was taken based on the investigation done by police and an in-house probe by the party. A senior police officer said the probe revealed that the mother of the infant girl had "purposely" abandoned the child and later made the PCR call. "We suspect that she must have done this to get rid of the girl child but we are still probing the reason behind her action," he said.

The Delhi Commission for Women had also issued a notice to police in connection with the alleged kidnapping of Rukhar's daughter.

Govt to beautify Pusa Road, give sewer connections in 14 colonies

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

The Delhi Government has decided to revamp and beautify the Pusa Road from Haryana Maitri Bhawan to Parwana Road cut. The strengthening and revamping of Pusa Road will cost Rs 11.28 crore. Deputy Chief Minister Manish Sisodia on Friday approved a proposal to this effect. Besides, the Delhi government has also decided to provide individual house sewer connections in 14 colonies and one village of Badli Assembly constituency.

Sisodia said that the projects include the strengthening of Pusa Road from Pusa Round About to Dayal Chowk, Pusa Institute (IARI), the internal lane from Ratanpuri Chowk to Pusa Employment Exchange Gate and OP Bharti Marg and Road No. 42 from Haryana Maitri Bhawan to Parwana Road Cut



and further to Outer Ring Road.

"After strengthening, half a dozen road stretches including Pusa Gol Chakkar, Dayal Chowk, Pusa Institute, and Pusa Employment Exchange Gate will get a new look. The Delhi Government is working in 'mission mode' to make roads of Delhi world-class under the leadership of Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal," Sisodia said.

Sisodia also directed the officials to follow the global standards of street design and also ensure compliance with all safety and security stan-

dards during the maintenance work of roads. During the process of strengthening, the PWD will use advance machines and technologies to ensure long-lasting roads across Delhi.

It is to be noted that strengthening of Pusa Road from Pusa Round About to Dayal Chowk, Pusa Institute (IARI), the internal lane from Ratanpuri Chowk to Pusa Employment Exchange Gate and OP Bharti Marg will be done at the cost of Rs 8.55 crores. Whereas, Road No. 42 from Haryana Maitri Bhawan to Parwana Road Cut and further to Outer Ring Road will be strengthened at the cost of Rs 2.72 crores.

In another meeting, Sisodia approved a proposal to provide sewer line connections to all the houses in the colonies and villages of the Badli constituency. The project will cover 1.3 lakh people.

Bidhuri asks Kejriwal to regularise 3 lakh Govt contractual employees

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Leader of Opposition in the Delhi Legislative Assembly Ramvir Singh Bidhuri on Friday asked Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal to immediately regularise three lakh contract employees working in various departments under the Delhi Government.

Taking a dig at the Kejriwal, Bidhuri said that Union Home Minister Amit Shah has regularised the over 4500 muster rolls employees of the New Delhi Municipal Council on the request of the Delhi Chief Minister, but the question is when will the Kejriwal government will regularise three lakh contract workers of Delhi government.

He has reminded Kejriwal that you have come to power by promising to make these employees permanent, but now you are not taking any



care of them. Even the employees' salaries have not been paid for the last several months. This is a breach of contract with the contract workers.

"Today the situation is such that 22000 guest teachers are working in government schools, but they are being exploited continuously. Sometimes they are removed from the job.

Similarly, the situation of Anganwadi workers and Asha workers is that they are not even being paid the minimum wages declared by the Delhi

government itself.

When they demanded an increase in their salary, they were terminated."

"Thousands of employees in Delhi Jal Board are working on contract and Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal came to power by promising to confirm them, but not a single employee has been confirmed in eight years. Thousands of employees have passed years while working as drivers and conductors in DTC, but they are still wandering with the demand for confirmation," he said.

Bidhuri said that apart from home guards, civil defence, Mohalla clinics, doctors, nurses, and even junior engineers in various departments are also working on contracts but the Delhi government is not paying any attention to their demands. For the last several months, these employees have not even been paid their salaries.

Sisodia instructs officials to resolve NCC's Okhla centre issues

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Delhi Deputy Chief Minister Manish Sisodia on Friday instructed officials to sort out within 15 days issues plaguing the NCC's Naval Training Centre at Okhla Barrage.

Sisodia had on Thursday felicitated 30 NCC cadets at the Delhi Secretariat for winning various awards in the Annual Republic Day Camp. Some officials of the National Cadet Corps (NCC) had highlighted the problems at the facility during a discussion with the deputy CM.

The NCC cadets get military training, including boating and sailing, at the training centre on the Yamuna river.

On Friday, the deputy chief minister inspected the centre and instructed officials of the Public Works Department and Flood and Irrigation Control Department to fix the route leading to the facility and remove shrubs and bushes along the river so that the cadets could train better.

The minister asked the officials to make an action plan for the work needed to be carried out. He said he would visit the centre again after the 15-day period is over to inspect the work done by them.

"The NCC makes our youth disciplined and inculcates spirit of patriotism in them. I have instructed the officials to solve all the problems here within 15 days so that the cadets do not face any issues during training. Arranging better facilities for the training of youth is the priority of the Delhi Government, we are continuously working in this direction," he added.

MCG fails to take down illegal hoardings in G'gram

PARVESH SHARMA ■ GURUGRAM

A large number of illegal hoardings and banners deface the city's roads and the Municipal Corporation of Gurugram (MCG) has failed to act against violators who put up political posters which stick out like a sore thumb across the city. The lack of deterrent action on the ground by the MCG has only encouraged political parties to deface the city's landscape. The mushrooming of illegal banners and hoardings are seen all over Gurugram as officials are doing little to stop the such illegal practice.

Sources said that either the MCG officials are taken for granted or they are scared to take action against the 'high profile' offenders having political clout. Illegal hoarding came up along the main roads of the city, in front of the local MHA office, MCG office, state highways, sector roads and the national highway.

Local party workers are wishing their leader for getting a new charge in the chief minister's office for violating the rules. A few hoardings also



contain messages from political leaders for birthday wishes. Besides, hoardings of religious functions could also be spotted in the city. City residents say the authorities should remove such illegal hoardings as the earliest. Akhilesh Kumar, joint commissioner zone-1 of the MCG told The Pioneer, "Our encroachment team spots violations in the district from time to time and takes further action against the violators and recently an FIR was also registered against the local councillor for violating the



norms."

But, surprisingly the illegal hoarding of the councillor against whom the FIR was registered can be seen on the city's bus stand road. Banners like political parties have covered the key chowks and roads across the city sans mandatory permission from the MCG.

"Where is the law this is a double standard. The common man is not permitted to put up a banner for free. Why is the same not apply to politicians," Nishant Verma, a Sector-30 resident said?

Haryana RERA issues arrest warrant against firm heads for fraud with buyers

PARVESH SHARMA ■ GURUGRAM

Taking cognizance of the offence of not handing over the possession of the unit to the bonafide allottee, the court of the adjudicating officer (AO) of the Haryana real estate regulatory authority (HARERA), Gurugram, has issued an arrest warrant against the directors of the real estate company Shree Vardhman Infrahome Private Limited. The case is related to Flora Sector 90, residential project and the case was filed before the HRERA court in 2020.

"It is submitted by the learned counsel for decree holder allottee that despite the decree under execution no possession of the unit in question has been handed over to his client. And the counsel of the allottee has requested the court to issue arrest warrants against the directors of Shree Vardhman Infrahome Private Limited," said the order.

The AO court has authorised its bailiff to arrest the directors and produce them before the court on or before the next date of hearing. "And the directors be produced before this court on or before the next date of hearing on March 28," the order said.

The court earlier had issued show cause notice to directors of the real estate company in question in this regard. "On an application of the decree-holder, this court had issued show cause notice to directors for not handing over the possession of the unit in question. But no reply was filed by the directors despite service of notice," said the order.

The court expressed its concern over the respondent company's negligent approach to



complying with the orders of the regulatory authority. "Earlier, on December 6, 2022, it was undertaken on behalf of the respondent real estate company that the possession of the said unit will be handed over to the allottee within 15 days. But possession has not been handed over to allottee till date," said the court in its order. In another case, HRERA in Gurugram has forfeited the bank guaran-

tees of real estate promoter JMS Infra Realty Private Limited as the promoter failed to submit approved service plans and estimates as well as zoning plan of its project completion on time.

RITES LIMITED
(A Government of India Enterprise)
Shikhar, Plot No. 1, Sector-29, Gurugram-122001
CIN : L74899DL1974GOI007227

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Applications are invited from candidates for multiple posts on Contract basis for VC No. 26/23-41/23. For details regarding Vacancies, Positions, remuneration, qualification, age, date & venue, selection process etc., candidates may see the detailed advertisement posted on RITES website www.rites.com under Career Section.

Kharge not allowed to speak, MPs stage walkout in RS

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

The Rajya Sabha on Friday witnessed sharp exchanges between the Treasury and the Opposition benches besides sloganeering from both the sides during the morning session. Congress and some Opposition MPs later staged a walkout when Leader of Opposition M Mallikarjun Kharge was not allowed to speak in the House. It later functioned normally.

Kharge wanted to raise the issue of some of his observations being expunged by the chair, but he was not allowed on the plea that he cannot read the same remarks which have already been expunged.

Opposition members protested in support of the Leader of Opposition who wanted to raise his point, but Chairman Jagdeep Dhankhar

did not accede to their demand. Dhankhar said he had allowed the Leader of Opposition earlier but he cannot be allowed to raise the same points which have already been expunged. Kharge then said Congress members and some opposition MPs, including those from the RJD, were staging a walkout in protest.

Earlier, Leader of the House Piyush Goyal said Kharge should first apologise on behalf of the entire opposition, which created uproar during the Prime Minister's speech in reply to the motion of thanks on the President's address in the Rajya Sabha on Thursday. Sushil Kumar Modi(BJP)suggested that big techs like Facebook, Google and YouTube, should be made to share advertising revenue, they earn from posting news reports, with media companies who are the original content



creators. Raising the matter during the Zero Hour in the House, he said newspapers and TV channels have been losing on advertising revenue after the entry of big technology companies.

He said print and electronic media companies spend thousands of crores of rupees on news content creation. The main source of income of traditional print and electronic media is advertising revenue, he said with the emergence of tech companies, a large chunk of advertising revenue was moving towards them.

Citing data, Sushil Modi said Google India's income from advertisement during 2021-22 was Rs 24,927 crore and that of Facebook was Rs 16,189 crore, which were 75 per cent more over the preceding year.

Budget will enable higher disposable income: FM

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Affirming that the union Budget "astutely balances" the requirement of development imperatives within the limits of fiscal prudence, Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman on Friday said the new tax regime, which offers a rebate on annual income of up to Rs 7 lakh, will leave higher disposable income in the hands of people.

Sitharaman hailed the government's economic policies during the reply to the Budget 2023 debate in Lok Sabha and asserted despite of global slowdown India is still the fastest-growing major economy.

The government chose capex route to revive the econ-



omy as it has a great multiplier effect, she added. "If I can put in a few words the essence of budget 2023-24 it balances the requirement for India's development imperatives within the limits of fiscal prudence," said Sitharaman.

She said the total resources being transferred to states, that is, Central share from taxes and releases under centrally sponsored

schemes put together was estimated to be at 17.98 Lakh Crores and this was higher by 1.55 Lakh crores compared to last year.

Replying to the discussion on Union Budget for 2023-24, Sitharaman said the Budget focuses on the middle class, employment generation, MSME, agri sector, rural population, health and green growth.

The finance minister said the new tax regime announced in the Budget is "very attractive" as the tax exemption limit has been hiked to Rs 3 lakh, from Rs 2.5 lakh earlier. Besides, a standard deduction of Rs 50,000 too has been allowed under the scheme.

This new tax regime will benefit the majority of middle-class taxpayers, she said, adding that the rebate has been provided on an income of up to Rs 7 lakh.

"Since the enhanced rebate limit is unconditional, it leaves higher disposable income in the hands of people," Sitharaman said.

Under the revamped concessional tax regime, which will be effective from the next fiscal, no tax would be levied for income up to Rs 3 lakh. Income between Rs 3-6 lakh would be taxed at 5 per cent; Rs 6-9 lakh at 10 per cent, Rs 9-12 lakh at 15 per cent, Rs 12-15 lakh at 20 per cent and income of Rs 15 lakh and above will be taxed at 30 per cent.

However, no tax would be levied on annual income of up to Rs 7 lakh.

States using Ayushman Bharat funds for healthcare with different names, says Govt

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

The Centre on Friday slammed the States for creating healthcare facilities by utilising Ayushman Bharat funds but giving them different names trying to play politics over welfare policies.

"Several States have created healthcare facilities with the utilisation of Ayushman Bharat funds but given them different names, like 'Mohalla Clinic' in Punjab," Union Health Minister Mansukh Mandaviya told the Lok Sabha on Friday.

He termed the implementation of the scheme by the States in such a manner a "violation" of the memorandum of understanding (MoU) that they signed with the Centre.

"They won't abide by the contract (MoU) and stop the health and wellness centre

scheme, then the Central Government will not be left with any other option. Considering that they have stopped implementing the scheme, the grant that we give from here...," the Minister said.

"We release scheme-based grants. If they don't utilise the scheme and follow its provisions, we are not left with any other option," he added.

The minister was replying to a question asked by YSRC member K Raghu Rama Krishna Raju.

"Several state governments are violating that (MoU), (they) have given their own names (to the scheme)...," he said.

Citing one example, the Minister said health infrastructure has been created in Punjab with utilisation of the funds provided by the central government under the Ayushman Bharat-Health and



Wellness Centre scheme but the state government named these facilities as 'Mohalla Clinics'.

"This should not be done," Mandaviya said while replying to a question in Lok Sabha during Zero Hour.

"I have written to all the State Governments, to Andhra Pradesh also," he added. The Minister appealed to the States to work with the Central Government in tandem, saying there was no need for

Who in India uses maternal grandfather's surname? Congress hits back at PM

PNS ■ NEW DELHI



of using the Nehru surname. "Someone who is sitting on such a responsible position does not know or understand the culture of India... Will speak like this... You can ask any person in the country, who uses maternal grandfather's surname?" Surjewala told a press conference at the party headquarters in the presence of Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge. "If he does not even have this basic understanding of India's culture, then only God can save this country," Surjewala said.

Asking who in India uses their maternal grandfather's surname, the Congress on Friday hit out at Prime Minister Narendra Modi for his remarks on the Gandhis not using the Nehru name and said he doesn't have the basic understanding of Indian culture.

"Only god can save the country," AICC general secretary Randeep Surjewala told reporters a day after Modi, in a speech in the Rajya Sabha, asked why the Gandhis were ashamed

of using the Nehru surname. "Someone who is sitting on such a responsible position does not know or understand the culture of India... Will speak like this... You can ask any person in the country, who uses maternal grandfather's surname?" Surjewala told a press conference at the party headquarters in the presence of Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge. "If he does not even have this basic understanding of India's culture, then only God can save this country," Surjewala said.

Visitors to India no longer required to furnish pre-departure Covid tests report from Feb 13

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI



From February 13, visitors arriving to India from China, Hong Kong, Japan, South Korea, Singapore and Thailand will no longer be required to furnish a pre-departure Covid test report and upload a self-health declaration on the 'Air Suvidha' portal. However, in order to monitor infections due to mutated variants of SARS-CoV-2 among international travellers to India, the present exercise of random testing of two per cent travellers irrespective of their country of origin upon arrival in India shall continue.

The decision to not to seek covid test reports from the said countries has been taken in view of decline in Covid cases in the last four weeks, Union Health Secretary Rajesh Bhushan said in a letter to his counterpart in the Ministry of

Civil Aviation Rajiv Bansal. Bhushan also said his ministry is updating its 'Guidelines for International Arrivals' in view of the decline in coronavirus cases. Further, according to the World Health Organisation's latest situational update on COVID-19, a decline of 89 per cent in the number of newly confirmed cases in the past 28 days has been noted globally as compared to 28 days prior to that, he said. India continues to witness a declining trajectory of coronavirus cases, with less than 100 new cases a day being reported.

ReNew Sun Waves Private Limited
CIN No. : U40300DL2019PTC347300
Regd. Office : 138, Ansal Chambers II, Bikaji Cama Place, Delhi-110066
Corporate Office : ReNew.hub, Commercial Block-1, Zone-6, Golf Course Road, DLF City Phase-V, Gurugram, 122009, Haryana, Phone - 0124-4896 670/ 80
Statement of Unaudited financial results for the quarter and nine months ended 31 December 2022

Particulars	INR in thousands		
	Quarter ended 31 December 2022 (Unaudited)	Quarter ended 31 December 2021 (Unaudited)	Year ended 31 March 2022 (Audited)
Total Income from Operations	454	386	954
Net Profit / (Loss) for the period (before Tax, Exceptional and/or Extraordinary items)	80	32	128
Net Profit / (Loss) for the period before tax (after Exceptional and/or Extraordinary items)	80	32	128
Net Profit / (Loss) for the period after tax (after Exceptional and/or Extraordinary items)	57	35	131
Total Comprehensive Income for the period (Comprising Profit / (Loss) for the period (after tax) and Other Comprehensive Income (after tax))	57	35	131
Paid up Equity Share Capital	30	30	30
Reserves (excluding Revaluation Reserve)	2,733	2,413	2,506
Net worth*	2,762	2,443	2,536
Paid up Debt Capital / Outstanding Debt*	10,010	10,020	10,020
Debt Equity Ratio *	3.02	3.02	3.00
Earnings Per Share (of Rs. 10/- each) (for continuing and discontinued operations)			
1. Basic :	19.28	12.18	44.06
2. Diluted :	19.28	12.18	44.06
Debtenture Redemption Reserve *	420	85	168
Debt Service Coverage Ratio *	1.79	1.58	1.40
Interest Service Coverage Ratio	1.66	1.81	1.64

Disclosures pursuant to Regulations 52(4) and 52(7) Securities and Exchange Board of India (Listing Obligations and Disclosure Requirements) Regulations, 2015.

- Credit Rating : CRISIL A+ Negative
- Change in credit rating : No
- Asset Coverage Ratio : 156% (31 March, 2022 : 150%)
- Debt Equity ratio: mentioned above
- Debt Service Coverage Ratio : mentioned above
- Interest Service Coverage Ratio : mentioned above
- Outstanding redeemable preference shares (Quantity and Value) : Not Applicable
- Net Worth ** (31 December, 2022) : INR 2,762 (31 March, 2022 : INR 2,536).
- Net profit after tax : mentioned above
- Earning per share : mentioned above
- Debenture Redemption Reserve (31 December, 2022) : INR 420 (31 March, 2022 : INR 168).
- There are no material deviation in the use of proceeds of issue of Non Convertible Debentures from the objects stated in the offer document (Regulations 52(7)).

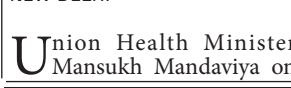
Notes :

- Ratios have been computed as follows :
 - Earning per share (Basic & Diluted) = Profit after Tax / Weighted average number of equity shares
 - Debt Equity Ratio* = Debt (Amount due to Debenture Holders) / Equity (Equity share capital + share premium + quasi equity i.e. Short term borrowing but excluding unamortized fees)
 - Interest Service Coverage Ratio = Profit before interest, prior period items, tax, extraordinary items and depreciation / (Total Interest Expense).
 - Debt Service Coverage Ratio* = ((PAT based on Project Revenues realised (excluding non-cash adjustment, if any) + Depreciation + Interest (Interest, Guarantee Fees, other financing costs payable under Debenture and Project Documents)) / (Interest + Principal Repayment+Guarantee fee).
 - Asset Coverage Ratio = (Total Assets) / Debt (Amount due to Debenture Holders)
- ** Networth represents issued subscribed and paid up capital plus reserves and surplus. Reserves and Surplus includes Capital reserve, General reserve, Debenture redemption reserve, Securities premium account and Profit and loss account balance.
- The above is an extract of the detailed format of quarterly financial results filed with the National Stock Exchange under regulation 52 of the Listing Regulations. The full format of the quarterly financial results is available on the website of the Stock Exchange and the Company - <http://renewpower.in/renew-sun-waves/>
- For the other line items referred in regulation 52(4) of the Listing Regulations, pertinent disclosures have been made to the National Stock Exchange and can be accessed on the URL - <https://www.nseindia.com/companies-listing/corporate-filing-announcements>
- The company is in the business of development and operation of solar power. There is only one segment (business and/or geographical) in accordance with the requirements of the requirements of IND AS - 108 "Operating Segments".
- The above financial results of the Company for the quarter and for the period ended December 31, 2022 have been approved by the Board of Directors of the Company at the meeting held on February 10, 2023. The statutory auditors of the company have carried out the limited review of the above unaudited financial results of the Company for the quarter and nine months ended December 31, 2022.

For and on behalf of the
ReNew Sun Waves Private Limited
(Sd./) **Rahula Kumar Kashyapa**
Managing Director, DIN : 07637489
Place : Gurugram
Date : February 10, 2023

Health Min rules out NEET-PG 2023 postponement

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI



Union Health Minister Mansukh Mandaviya on Friday ruled out postponement of the NEET-PG 2023 examination as demanded by a section of medical aspirants, and said that it will be conducted as per schedule on March 5. This (the decision to not postpone NEET PG 2023) has been taken to streamline the process to avoid further delay in the exam and counselling process caused due to Covid-19, he asserted.

The Minister made it clear that his ministry has extended the cut-off date for all MBBS students who are yet to complete their internship to ensure that no one is left out. "On March 5, the examination has to be conducted and this was declared five months ago. Those students, who had to appear for it (entrance test), are already preparing," the minister said in response to a question posed by Congress leader Gaurav Gogoi during the Question Hour on the issue in Lok Sabha.

Friday ruled out postponement of the NEET-PG 2023 examination as demanded by a section of medical aspirants, and said that it will be conducted as per schedule on March 5. This (the decision to not postpone NEET PG 2023) has been taken to streamline the process to avoid further delay in the exam and counselling process caused due to Covid-19, he asserted.

Durg District Urban Public Service Society
Room no. 48 DDUSS Office
Municipal Corporation Bhilai, GE Road Supela Bhilai
Phone no 0788-2350125, 4040118
Pin 490023, Chhattisgarh Email-dbcitybus@gmail.com

No.427/451 Bhilai, Dated : - 10/02/2023

RFP NOTICE
For
Establishment of Fair Price Outlets for Medicines, Consumables at Chandulal Chandrakar Government Medical college premises Kachandur district durg under state sponsored Shri Dhanwantri Generic Medical Store Yojana (Earlier Mukhya Mantri Sasti Dawa Dukan Yojana)

(2nd Call)

Through this notice DURG DISTRICT URBAN PUBLIC SERVICE SOCIETY (DDUPSS) invites proposal through online Electronic Chhattisgarh Government Procurement System (eGPS) <https://eprc.cgstate.gov.in> as per RFP from Organizations for Establishment of Fair Price Outlets for Medicines, Consumables etc at Chandulal Chandrakar Government Medical college premises Kachandur district Durg under state sponsored Shri Dhanwantri Generic Medical Store Yojana (Earlier Mukhya Mantri Sasti Dawa Dukan Yojana). Interested Bidders should provide information demonstrating that they have the required qualification and relevant experience to perform the relevant tasks.

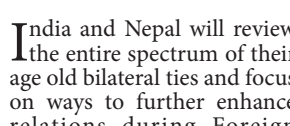
Amendment/Corrigendum in RFP, if any, will only be uploaded on the website and shall not be published in any newspaper.

SlNo	System Tender No.	FDR Amount	Last Date of Bid Submission	Last Date of Physical Submission
1	124239	Rs 50,000.00 (Rs Fifty Thousand, In favour of Secretary, DDUSS & bidder jointly valid for 15 Years)	24/02/2023 Time 5.30 PM	28/02/2023 Time 5.30 PM

Sd/-
Secretary
Durg District Urban Public Service Society

India, Nepal to review entire spectrum of age-old ties during Foreign Secy's visit

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI



India and Nepal will review the entire spectrum of their age old bilateral ties and focus on ways to further enhance relations during Foreign Secretary Vinay Kwatra's two day visit there beginning Monday next.

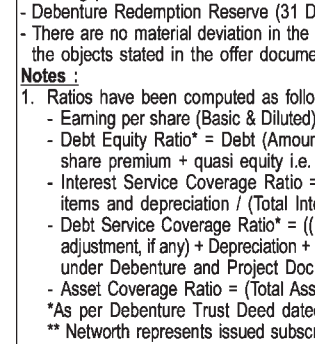
It is expected that Kwatra will also discuss with his Nepalese interlocutors the possibility of a visit to India by Nepal's Prime Minister Pushpa Kamal Dahal 'Prachanda'. In December, the former Maoist leader became Nepal's prime minister for a third time.

The Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) said Kwatra will visit Nepal from February 13 to 14 at the invitation of his

Nepalese counterpart Bharat Raj Paudyal. "This will be the first stand-alone visit of the Foreign Secretary to Nepal since he assumed charge," it said. Kwatra was serving as India's envoy to Nepal before he assumed charge as the foreign secretary on May 1 last year. Nepal is important for India in the context of its overall strategic interests in the region, and the leaders of the two countries have often noted the age-old "Roti Beti" relationship.

'China flexing muscles in Indo-Pacific so US is enhancing ties with India'

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE/AGENCIES ■ NEW DELHI/WASHINGTON



With China flexing its muscle in the strategically important Indo-Pacific region, the US is enhancing defence ties with India to uphold a favourable balance of power there.

This assertion was made by Ely Ratner, Assistant Secretary of Defence, Indo-Pacific Security Affairs told members of the Senate Foreign Relations committee during a Congressional hearing on China.

He said "Earlier this month, the US Government launched the inaugural technology initiative with India, including in-depth discussions about opportunities for co-production of major defence platforms."

"We are making significant investments in our defence ties with India to uphold a favourable balance of power in the Indo-Pacific region," he said.

Deputy Secretary of State Wendy Sherman said the US has invested in the Quad partnership with India, Australia, and Japan.

"We are aligning with like-minded partners around the world to strengthen our shared interests and values -- of democracy, openness, and fairness -- and to address the challenges posed by the PRC (People's Republic of China)," she said.

Senator Roger Wicker, Chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee said Beijing, for decades, has been active and aggressive in expanding its claims of sovereignty and territory.

"In the last 60 years, China almost risked a nuclear

कार्यालय, नगर पालिक निगम भिलाई, जिला-दुर्ग
जोन क्रमांक-05
E mail:-zonefivebhilai@gmail.com

क्र./लोक.वि./जोन क्र. 5/2023/2317/450 भिलाई, दिनांक 09.02.2023

ई-निविदा आमंत्रण सूचना

आयुक्त नगर पालिक निगम भिलाई द्वारा एकीकृत पंजीयन प्रणाली अंतर्गत सहाय श्रेणी में पंजीकृत ठेकेदारों से निम्नलिखित निर्माण कार्य हेतु ई-निविदा आमंत्रित की जाती है-

क्र.	कार्य का विवरण	सिस्टम टेंडर क्र एवं जारी दिनांक	अनुमानित लागत (लाख में)	निविदा खोलने की तिथि
1.	जोन क्र. 05 अंतर्गत वार्ड क्र. 57 सेक्टर 06 (नया वार्ड-64 सेक्टर 10) सिविक सेंटर में जोपन स्पेस रोड साईट में घेव ब्लाक लगाने का कार्य। (द्वितीय निविदा)	124168 08.02.2023	149.92	24.02.2023
2.	वार्ड क्र. 67 (पुराना) सेक्टर 06 सिविक सेंटर में एल.इ.डी. लाइट एवं हाई मास्ट लाइट लगाने का कार्य के स्थान पर 03 नग गेट-ने एवं पार्किंग रोड निर्माण कार्य। (द्वितीय निविदा)	124182 08.02.2023	147.36	24.02.2023

निविदा की शपथ पत्र एवं घोरेर राशि की एफ.डी.अर स्वीड पोस्ट अथवा रजिस्टर्ड बैंक से स्वीकर किये जायेंगे। निविदा हेतु आवश्यक दस्तावेज तथा कार्य हेतु दी जाने वाली दरें ऑनलाइन (Online) दी जायें। उपरोक्त निर्माण कार्य की निविदा की सामान्य शर्तें, घोरेर राशि, विस्तृत निविदा विज्ञापन, निविदा दस्तावेज व अन्य जानकारी नगर पालिक निगम भिलाई की वेबसाईट www.bhilainagarnigam.com, संचालनालय की वेबसाईट www.ued.cg.gov.in एवं चौक की वेबसाईट eprc.cgstate.gov.in से भी खानने की जा सकती है।

हस्ता/-
जोन क्र.-05 सेक्टर-6
नगर पालिक निगम, भिलाई

conflict with the Soviet Union, fought a war with Vietnam and engaged in multiple bloody skirmishes with India as recently as last month to assert their territorial claim," he said.

It continues to make egregious territorial claims in the South and East China Sea, all in the name of expanding the reach of the Chinese Communist Party, Wicker said.

"Americans saw firsthand President Xi's disregard for our own sovereignty over the past week, as a Chinese spy balloon violated US airspace unprovoked for several days -- just the latest in Beijing's string of provocative actions," he told his Senatorial colleagues.

Congresswoman Young Kim, who serves as Chairwoman of the House Foreign Affairs Subcommittee on the Indo-Pacific, claimed that India and other countries have been the target of surveillance balloons from China.

Meaningful change in UP's governance: PM

State has gone from BIMARU to bright spot, says Modi at GIS inauguration

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated the Uttar Pradesh Global Investors' (UPGIS) Summit-2023 in Lucknow on Friday. He also inaugurated the Global Trade Show and launched Invest UP 2.0 during the programme.

"New opportunities for wealth creators are being made here. Very soon UP will be known as the only State with five international airports. Freight corridor will connect the State directly with the sea coast in Maharashtra," Modi said addressing the UPGIS-2023, the flagship investment summit of the UP Government.

The 3-day summit will bring together policymakers, industry leaders, academia, think tanks and leaders from across the world to collectively explore business opportunities and forge partnerships.

"Meaningful change in governance and the Government's thinking is visible in UP, which has ensured ease of doing business. Today, UP has become a source of hope and inspiration. UP has become a bright spot for the nation just like India has become a bright spot on the global stage," he said. He also stressed that initiatives for better infrastructure in UP were



bearing fruit.

Noting the capabilities of the State, Modi drew attention to the unwanted tags such as underdevelopment, BIMARU, and the poor law and order situation attached to UP.

Modi said within 5-6 years, UP had established a new identity. "Now Uttar Pradesh is known for good governance, better law and order situation, peace and stability," he added.

Modi mentioned that UP has emerged as a champion when it comes to developing a new value and supply chain. He noted the vibrant network of tra-

ditional and modern micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs) that were present in the State and gave the example of silk from Bhadohi and Varanasi which had made UP the textile hub of India.

He informed that 60 per cent of India's mobile phones along with maximum mobile components were manufactured in UP. He also drew attention that one of the two Defence Industrial Corridors in the country was being developed in UP. He underlined the commitment of the Government to provide 'Made in India' Defence

systems and platforms to the Indian Army.

Modi welcomed the investor community, industry leaders and policymakers both as a Prime Minister and as a Member of Parliament from UP. He emphasised that the land of UP was known for its cultural splendour, glorious history and rich heritage. The prime minister said that every credible voice in the world was optimistic about the ascending course of the Indian economy as it had not only shown resilience in the face of the pandemic and war but also showed rapid recovery.

ISRO breaks into small satellite launch market with SSLV launch



PTI ■ SRIHARIKOTA

ISRO on Friday tasted maiden success in the small satellite launch vehicle segment, with its SSLV D2 rocket injecting three satellites into an intended circular orbit, months after the maiden mission failed to bring in the desired results. Buoyed by today's success, the premier agency said the launch has "set the tone" for its activities this year, dotted with a number of proposed PSLV and GSLV missions, among others.

The payloads launched by SSLV D2 rocket on Friday included ISRO's earth observation satellite EOS-07. ISRO's first mission in 2023

and SSLV's August 2022 sequel saw a strange coincidence—a 9.18 AM launch, the same time the vehicle lifted off from the Satish Dhawan Space Centre here on August 7 last but could not deliver due to orbit anomaly and flight path deviation.

With the earlier SSLV not living up to the expectations, 'corrective measures' were put in its successor.

A visibly relieved Chairman of the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO), S. Somnath said SSLV in its second flight put the three satellites in the intended orbit accurately.

One of the senior scientists described the SSLV as a "smart kid."

"Congratulations to the space community of India. So we have a new launch vehicle, small satellite launch vehicle SSLV. In its second attempt today, SSLV D2 has placed the EOS-07 satellite into the intended orbit very accurately. Along with EOS-07 two more satellites were placed in the required orbit. Janus-1 through NSIL (NewSpace India Ltd) and from ANTARIS and AzaadiSat through In-Space, realised by SpaceKidz," he said.

Recalling the rocket's maiden flight, SSLV D 1, Somnath said "we had a narrow miss of placing the satellite in the orbit because of the shortfall in velocity."

SSC scam: HC terminates jobs of 1,911 school staff

SAUGAR SENGUPTA ■ KOLKATA

In a landmark order the Calcutta High Court on Friday directed the West Bengal Board of Secondary Education to terminate the jobs of about 1,911 Group D employees illegally appointed in various schools.

The order was passed by the Bench of Justice Abhijit Ganguly who has been hearing a bundle of matters related to school-level recruitment tests. An additional batch of about 900 people may also lose their jobs in a similar fashion.

Apart from ordering the termination of their jobs the HC also directed the terminated staff to return their salaries in tranches.

They have also been barred from appearing in any tests for Government jobs without the permission of the court.

The order came after the HC found that the 1,911 candidates had secured their jobs owing to manipulation of their OMR sheets for the recruitment examination held in 2016. Their names were recommended by the School Service Commission to WBBSE.

Justice Ganguly directed the WBBSE to cancel the appointment of the 1,911 candidates, whose names had been wrongly recommended by the School Service Commission the umbrella authority that conducts recruitment tests for all levels of school services.

While hearing the matter the Court had a few months ago directed the illegally appointed persons to voluntarily tender their resignations so as to avoid returning of their salary. The Judge had then ordered that those who would voluntarily come forward to resign their jobs would not only be allowed to appear in future examinations but also be spared the task of returning their salaries.

However as they would not abide by the earlier Court order "they will now face the harsher consequence," an advocate said.

The court also directed former North Bengal University Vice-Chancellor and the then SSC Chairman Dr Subires Bhattacharya — during whose tenure the scam took place — to disclose the names of the persons who directed him to manipulate the results or else he would be taken to the mastermind of the scam. The court also directed him not to use his doctorate degree till further order.

Meanwhile, senior TMC leader and former Minister Madan Mitra on Friday advised formation of a Control Commission — much in line with the Communist parties — within the outfit to keep a tab and check on illegal activities.

Eye to polls, Gehlot unveils welfare budget

DEEPAK KUMAR JHA ■ JAIPUR

A day after Prime Minister Narendra Modi cautioned against freebies announced by State governments, Rajasthan Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot on Friday unveiled several sops in the State budget for the fiscal year 2023-2024, with the motto of "Bachat, Rahat, Badhat". Given that the State will hold elections for its legislature later this year, this was the last budget of the Congress State administration also ridden by heavy factionalism between Gehlot and his former deputy Sachin Pilot.

From announcing a massive subsidised LPG cylinder at Rs 500 against the Centre's Rs 1,200 Ujjwala scheme, domestic electricity consumers were given a relief of 100 units of free electricity per month as opposed to 50 units per month prior. The subsidy for LPG will assist at least 76 lakh families.

Besides free electricity of up to 2,000 units would be provided to 11 lakh farmers and another



benefit for the farmers they would receive Rs 3,000 crore in interest-free loans from cooperative banks.

Another major health security management, the ambitious Chiranjeevi Swasthya Bima Yojana was announced where Gehlot raised the health coverage amount per household from Rs 10 lakh to Rs 25 lakh annually. Gehlot when asked to comment on freebies in his budget,

mentioned that these are welfare schemes necessary to run a welfare State.

"These are not freebies, but social security schemes. We have kept provisions for all sections of the society including farmers, students, job seekers, Government employees, middle class families. The biggest relief within the mind of citizens today is the announcement of health scheme for family," Gehlot told

The Pioneer.

Gehlot took pride in sharing that there has been a massive improvement in the GDP of Rajasthan which now stands second in the list of States.

Keeping with the agenda of party leader Rahul Gandhi, the State Government emulated its Himachal Pradesh and Chhattisgarh regime and announced that employees of universities, institutions, and autonomous and semi-autonomous bodies recruited after January 1, 2004, will be covered by the Old Pension Scheme.

A provision of Free Chief Minister Annapurna food packets every month along with free rations to about one crore families coming under the purview of the National Food Security Act was also listed in the budget announcement which was marred by a major goof up before the announcements as the Opposition BJP alleged that Budget documents were leaked.

After protests by the BJP led by former CM Vasundhara Raje Scindia, Gehlot regretted by saying it was a "human error" and that it has happened in past also under several governments.

'G-20 presidency shows India's growing power'

PTI ■ GULMARG (JK)

Union Minister Anurag Thakur on Friday said India's G-20 presidency reflects the country's growing power on the world stage. The G-20 presidency will give fillip to the country's image and economy. Fifty-five cities will host 200 meetings of the world's 20 most powerful countries. This is the growing power of India," Thakur said, addressing the inaugural function of the 3rd edition of Khelo India Winter Games here, 55 km from Srinagar. More than 1,500 players from 29 States and Union territories of the country will take part in the five-day event.

Thakur said sports not only was a unifying platform but also reflected the soft power of the country. "Sports is a soft power. When a player wins an international medal, it unites the country. Gold medal by Neeraj Chopra ended India's 121-year wait for athletics gold at the Olympics. This sparked celebrations across the country," he said.

Earlier, the Minister inaugurated 40 Khelo India sports centres which have come up in Jammu and Kashmir (J&K). "It is a moment of pride that what other States could not do J&K has done. All districts of J&K have an indoor stadium and playgrounds have come up across the UT," he said.

"A sports university is coming up in Manipur and a centre of excellence in winter sports will soon come up in Gulmarg," he said. He said the situation has vastly changed in J&K. "Places where stone pelting was common, we now have sports flourishing and see budding players. If you see lights on at night, you will find Kashmiri youths practising their sports. That's how much the situation has changed," he added.

Thakur said sports not only was a unifying platform but also reflected the soft power of the country. "Sports is a soft power. When a player wins an international medal, it unites the country. Gold medal by Neeraj Chopra ended India's 121-year wait for athletics gold at the Olympics. This sparked celebrations across the country," he said.

Earlier, the Minister inaugurated 40 Khelo India sports centres which have come up in Jammu and Kashmir (J&K). "It is a moment of pride that what other States could not do J&K has done. All districts of J&K have an indoor stadium and playgrounds have come up across the UT," he said.

"A sports university is coming up in Manipur and a centre of excellence in winter sports will soon come up in Gulmarg," he said. He said the situation has vastly changed in J&K. "Places where stone pelting was common, we now have sports flourishing and see budding players. If you see lights on at night, you will find Kashmiri youths practising their sports. That's how much the situation has changed," he added.

PM flags off two more Vande Bharat trains in Maha

TN RAGHUNATHA ■ MUMBAI

Less than a month after launching a host of Mumbai-specific infrastructure projects worth Rs 38,800 crore, Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Friday flagged off two Vande Bharat trains at Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj Terminus (CSMT) and dedicated two road projects to the nation in Mumbai. The two Vande Bharat Express trains that Modi inaugurated were Mumbai-Solapur and Mumbai-Sainagar Shirdi trains. He also kick-started two road projects in Santacruz Chembur Link Road and Kurar underpass routes to ease road traffic congestion and streamline the movement of vehicles in Mumbai.

The Mumbai-Solapur and Mumbai-Sainagar Shirdi trains

were the ninth and tenth Vande Bharat trains flagged off in the country.

The first train will improve connectivity between Mumbai and Solapur and will also facilitate travel to important pilgrimage centers like Siddheshwar in Solapur, Akkalkot, Tuljapur, Pandharpur near Solapur and Alandi near Pune. The Mumbai-Sainagar Shirdi Vande Bharat will help improve connectivity to important pilgrimage centers in Maharashtra like Nashik, Trimbakeshwar, Sainagar Shirdi, and Shani Singanapur. Similarly, to ease road traffic congestion and streamline the movement of vehicles in Mumbai, the Prime Minister dedicated the Santacruz Chembur Link Road (SCLR) and Kurar underpass. Having arrived on platform no. 18 of CSMT,



Modi inspected the Mumbai-Sainagar Shirdi Vande Bharat and also interacted with the train crew and the children inside the coach. Addressing a meeting after inaugurating four major projects, Modi said: "It is a huge day for Railways in India, especially for advanced connectivity in Maharashtra as this is the first time that two Vande Bharat trains have been flagged off on the same day"

He said that Vande Bharat

trains would connect economic centers like Mumbai and Pune with the centers of faith, thereby benefiting those traveling for college, office, business, pilgrimage and agricultural purposes. Averring that the Vande Bharat train was a grand picture of modern India, the Prime Minister said: "It is a reflection of India's speed and scale."

Reiterating the need for improving public transport for 21st-century India to usher in massive ease of living for the citizens, Modi said: "The thinking behind the launch of modern trains, the expansion of the Metro, and new airports and ports is to bring about ease of living. The Budget also strengthens this thinking as for the first time, Rs 10 lakh crore has been allocated exclusively for infrastructure development."

I'm here as family member, not as PM, says Modi at Bohra community event

TN RAGHUNATHA ■ MUMBAI

Heaping praise on the Dawoodi Bohra community for its immense contributions to India's progress, development and nation-building, Prime Minister Narendra Modi said here on Friday that the minuscule community had adapted itself to the changing times and kept its "relevance intact". In his address after inaugurating the new campus of Aljamea-tus-Saifiyah (The Saifee Academy) at Marol in north Mumbai, Modi said: "Every community, group or organisation is recognized by its ability to keep its relevance intact with changing times. On the parameters of adaptability to the changing times and development, Dawoodi Bohra Community has proved itself. An institution like



Aljamea-tus-Saifiyah is a living example of this". Aljamea-tus-Saifiyah is the principal educational institute of the Dawoodi Bohra Community. Under the guidance of His Holiness Syedna Mufaddal Saifuddin, the institute is working to protect the learning traditions and literary culture of the community. Modi spoke highly of Syedna Mufaddal Saifuddin — the current leader of the world's Dawoodi Bohras and also the

53rd Dai al-Mutlaq or the "absolute missionary". Talking about his long association with the Dawoodi Bohra Community, Modi said "The Bohra keeps showering affection on me wherever I go... I am not here as a Prime Minister but as a family member who has been associated with this family for four generations. "When I go somewhere not only in the country but also abroad, my Bohra brothers and sisters definitely come to meet me", Modi remarked.

Modi said that before the Dandi movement in the pre-Independence period, Mahatma Gandhi had stayed at the house of the leader of the Dawoodi Bohra Community. "On my request, the house was given to the Government to be commemorated as a museum. Everyone should visit this house at least once," he said.

'Over 90 new Covid variants detected in samples in 60 days'

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

During the last 60 days, more than 90 new variants of SARS-CoV2 have been detected in samples analysed by INSACOG, a national multi-agency consortium of genome sequencing laboratories. Of these, Omicron and its sub-lineages continue to be the dominant coronavirus variants in India. Further, XBB and BQ are the most prevalent lineages circulating in

the country. Minister of State for Health Bharati Pravin Pawar told the Lok Sabha on Friday.

Given the emergence of variants of the novel Coronavirus with variable transmissibility and their possible health implications, the Union Ministry of Health is following the Covid-19 trajectory globally and in the country along with various expert committees.

In addition, INSACOG conducts whole genome seq-

uencing of samples for detection of mutant variants of the virus, she said.

The Union Health Ministry is supporting States in their endeavour to enhance preparedness and response capacities against Covid-19. Various initiatives have been taken by the Government to provide technical guidance and further strengthen health infrastructure, availability of essential logistics, including drugs and medical oxygen supply, to manage Covid-19.

Local level understanding with Tipra Motha may happen: Yechury

PTI ■ AGARTALA

CPI(M) general secretary Sitaram Yechury on Friday said though there is no pre-poll adjustment with the Tipra Motha, there can be local-level understanding with the tribal party, which has emerged as the third pole in the upcoming Tripura elections.

Yechury, however, exuded confidence that the Left-Congress alliance would win the February 16 elections on its own and there would be "no hung assembly".

"At the local level, there can be some understanding, though there is no pre-poll adjustment

with the Tipra Motha," Yechury told reporters here.

Yechury rejected speculations that there could be a hung assembly in the northeastern state, saying that the people will give a "decisive mandate" in favour of secular-democratic forces.

Claiming that the people's mood is for a change in the government in the state, Yechury said "attack on democracy, a reign of terror, misrule and corruption" are bothering citizens of Tripura.

"With a few days to go for the elections, the ruling dispensation will desperately try to use money and muscle power.



Threats and intimidations have already been unleashed," he said.

Yechury also claimed that the armed police forces from other states, like Assam and Gujarat (both BJP-ruled), were

deployed on the pretext that there was a shortage of central paramilitary forces.

"A team will meet the Election Commission in Delhi to request it to take all possible measures to restore democracy

and rule of law. In the past five years, the northeastern state has not only witnessed misrule but also a drastic fall in livelihood," he alleged.

In the 60-member Assembly, the ruling BJP is contesting 55 seats alone while its ally-IPFT has fielded candidates in five seats.

Of the Left parties, the CPI(M) is fighting in 43 seats, and the Forward Bloc, RSP and the CPI are contesting in one each, while the Congress has fielded nominees in 13 assembly segments. The Left Front is supporting an independent candidate in the Ramnagar constituency of West Tripura.



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PAPER WITH PASSION

Yogi means business

With Global Investors Summit 2023, the UP CM is laying out the red carpet for investors

When Prime Minister Narendra Modi says that Uttar Pradesh is driving the growth of New India, he is not just lauding the administration of the largest state which is under his own party; he is highlighting the fact that UP has turned the corner. On December 19, around 50 industrialists from different states met Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath for investment opportunities. And now the roadshows for the Global Investors Summit 2023 attracted investment proposals worth Rs 32.92 lakh crore, Adityanath said on Friday. All proposals may not fructify, but even a fraction of that will go a long way in industrialising the state which has suffered for decades because of ideological squabbling, political sloth, and bureaucratic incompetence.



If businesspersons are showing interest in the state, it is because they feel safer than they did in the last few decades. The law and order situation has improved dramatically. This is not to say that under Adityanath, and the 'double-engine sarkar,' the state has become a Ramrajya; but the situation has improved in the last few years. According to the National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB), the state witnessed a decline in the overall crime rate. There were 6.08 lakh crimes in 2021, which was 7.5 per cent less than 6.57 lakh incidents in 2020 and 3.2 per cent less than 6.28 lakh cases registered in 2019. Some of the measures adopted by the state administration have been criticised as harsh, but they

have proved to be effective.

The condition of law and order as a sine qua non of industrial development often doesn't get acknowledged. However, CM Adityanath laid considerable emphasis on reining in mafia dons, organised crime, and other felons. Also, the state Government complemented and supplemented the Centre's works in infrastructure. "Along with infrastructure, UP has changed its 'Soch and Approach' for ease of doing business," PM Modi said. This is much more than smart coinage; this underlines a paradigm shift in the premises and principles that steer a government's policies. Unlike the previous administrations, the Adityanath Government is not focused on the divisive, caste-oriented agendas, the agendas that were predicated upon the notion of zero-sum game: that one caste, community, group, etc., can thrive only at the expense of another one. For instance, the state Government's One District One Product (ODOP) scheme has benefited people from all sections and communities. In May last year, the state Government found that more than 72 per cent of the total exports from the state in 2021-22 were from the ODOP scheme. In the ultimate analysis, what attracts investors to a state or country is not the promises it makes but how it keeps them. CM Adityanath has shown that he means business. Importantly, his business is letting businesses do business, not setting up public sector enterprises. Hopefully, he stays the course.

PICTALK



A snow-covered road after a fresh spell of snowfall, at Keylong in Lahaul and Spiti district, on Friday

Ballooning crisis

The shooting down of a Chinese balloon by the US could escalate the US-China tension

Almost a direct confrontation between China and the US has sent shockwaves across the world. The US decided to shoot a Chinese balloon which the US claims was a surveillance device hovering over their nuclear facilities in Montana. The incident has sparked outrage in China, with the Chinese government calling the shooting a "provocative act" and demanding an explanation from the US. The latter, on the other hand, has defended its actions, stating that the balloon posed a potential threat to national security. It is not the first time that tension between the two countries have risen over the issue of aerial surveillance. In recent years, both the United States and China have been accused of flying military aircraft and drones into each other's airspace, often leading to diplomatic spat. This latest shooting, however, marks a significant escalation in tensions, as it marks the first time that a Chinese balloon has been shot down over American soil. The incident has also raised concerns over the potential for a military conflict between the two countries. While both sides have publicly stated that they do not want to go to war, the risk of an accidental clash remains high. The United States and China have long been at odds over a range of issues, from trade to human rights, and the shooting of the Chinese balloon has only added to the growing list of tensions between the two nations.



The surveillance balloon over the US territory was indeed a violation of the US airspace and they had all right to neutralize it as it was hovering over the US nuclear facilities and capable of intercepting communications which satellites can't. If it was a weather balloon as the Chinese claim, they should have informed the US administration as it was flying over US soil. Besides, Chinese activities are suspect across the world. Its hegemonistic designs are now skyrocketing. Allegedly the same balloon was blown over India in the Bay of Bengal to collect sensitive strategic information. China must be made aware by the world that it cannot rule the world just with brute power and its newly found economic might. Though the Chinese balloon mission is over, its intentions of world dominance are not. But the escalation of tension is in nobody's interest. It is now up to both governments to work together to find a peaceful solution to this issue and to prevent it from escalating into a larger conflict.

Budget booster for the Insurtech sector

With its multifaceted potential and enticing financial avenues, the Insurtech sector in India is all set to attract significant capital investments in 2023



DEEPAK BHUVNESHWARI UNIYAL

The success of the Insurance Industry is linked to large numbers and the probability of reaching large numbers is directly linked to easy customer acquisition, Policy servicing, cost optimisation, digitization, and superior returns. New technology, new ideas, and dynamic processes are required for the early transformation of the Insurance Industry. This demand has encouraged young professionals to experiment and this demand has given birth to a new Industry, called Insurtech. The industry in India has witnessed remarkable success in recent times. With factors like technological advancements, low insurance penetration, increasing aspirations, and the scope of large numbers, Insurtech has emerged as one of the profitable sectors from the perspective of capital investments. Notably, the commendable growth of the Insurtech ecosystem in India has resulted in a sizable increment of investments by approximately 167%. With the advent of FY 2023-2024, prominent capital investors and eminent investment networks are anticipating investing a substantial amount in industries that can generate revenue surplus. This landscape in India has the potential to promise attractive ROI (Return on Investments) to potential investors.



Several insurance companies are now incorporating technological solutions that enable the flow of data and pave the path for M&A (Mergers & Acquisitions) in the public and private investment sectors. Eminent Insurtech businesses are spending money on technology that automates, maintains, and digitalizes data. The recent technological progression in the Insurtech domain is expected to transcend the Indian fintech sphere to the next level by attracting vital investments in 2023. Notably, the health and general insurance players will boost the capital investment sector by providing lucrative profits on the investment made in the mentioned domains. The digital landscape of the Insurtech sector will drastically transform to accommodate the enormous and

expanding capital investment requirements. Insurtech enterprises will emphasize meticulous resource planning by incorporating the latest technologies of Artificial Intelligence, Data Analytics, Cloud Computing etc., which will eventually establish them as potential avenues for monetary investments. As per seasoned trade analysts, Insurtech will revive the paradigm of capital investments in 2023. Investors are keen to reap the financial benefits that Insurtech can generate by catering to a wide market of policyholders. To increase procedural efficiencies in claim processing, risk assessment, and policy underwriting, Insurtech firms are combining the niche technologies of Predictive Analysis, Machine Learning (ML), the Internet of Things (IoT), physical devices, and Artificial Intelligence (AI). The Insurtech sector in India over the years has evolved as the paradigm for demonstrating the value of networks that connect and manage various sources and forms of data. The soaring popularity of the Insurtech industry can be attributed to the widespread adoption of open banking and payment apps. Major players in the Insurtech industry anticipate the success of various digital apps and online redressal



THE RECENT TECHNOLOGICAL PROGRESSION IN THE INSURTECH DOMAIN IS EXPECTED TO TRANSCEND THE INDIAN FINTECH SPHERE TO THE NEXT LEVEL BY ATTRACTING VITAL INVESTMENTS IN 2023

platforms to gain vital amounts of capital investments. The onset of the union budget 2023 has sparked numerous speculations about the prospects of potential government policies that may encourage investors to invest significantly in the Insurtech industry. The planned modifications to insurance regulations that are predicted to be part of the upcoming budget are expected to result in a significant reformation of the Insurtech sector that will completely alter how the industry functions. Subsequently, most insurance players will be able to offer both general and health insurance policies with enhanced benefits to policyholders. The new industry-specific regulations proposed by the government will generate pivotal opportunities for new players to enter the Insurtech market. Such exponential growth will also provide financial benefits to capital investors. The groundbreaking technology of Blockchain has played an imperative role in the enhancement of the data transaction paradigm of Insurtech. The capacity of blockchain technology to facilitate rapid data sharing, together with security and transparency, are the primary drivers behind its growth. The cryptographic protection tech-

nologies connected with Blockchain make the insurance claims procedures cost-effective. Due to its numerous benefits, the niche technology of Blockchain is perceived as one of the most profitable technological avenues for potential investments in the upcoming financial year. As per market trends, the contribution of new-age technologies towards the overall enhancement of the Insurtech industry will be a significant factor that will draw investments in 2023. The Insurtech sector will continue to thrive multifariously due to the incorporation of the latest technologies like AI, Blockchain, IoT, ML (Machine Learning), etc. throughout the financial year. The integration of these technologies will result in improved claim processing, personalized insurance services, highly reliable data storage and transmission, increased automation, better operational solutions, effective customer services, and increased customer loyalty. Consequently, the rapid growth of the Insurtech domain at the technological forefront will pave the path for significant financial investments in FY 2023-2024. (The writer is a co-founder and CEO at Insurance Samadhan. The views expressed are personal)

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

OPPN MUST ACT RESPONSIBLY

Sir — Breaking a long silence, Prime Minister Narendra Modi in his reply to the motion of thanks on the President's address in the Rajya Sabha came out all guns blazing and took the wind out of the Opposition's sails. Modi-baiting has become a norm for the Opposition after being unable to get the better of him, and it is clear that the looseness of the Opposition in taking up real issues concerning people and problems faced by the country is helping the Government hit back. But the Opposition apparently has only the State elections in mind. Such blind bashing of Modi and attack on big businesses for the Opposition's own political games will do no good for the country where jobs and growth depend on private investments. By and large, Modi made a pertinent point that the Opposition must not take people for granted because they are watching and would vote for a party which is stable and able to focus on delivering governance in the midst of a falling world economy and other burning issues. All in all, people will not be carried away by rhetoric which the Opposition appears to have mastered. KR Srinivasan | Secunderabad

WHERE DO COWS COME INTO V-DAY?

Sir — The Animal Welfare Board of India has asked "cow lovers" to celebrate Valentine's Day as "Cow Hug Day" by cuddling up with the country's cows to "bring emotional richness" and "increase our individual and collective happiness". This follows the recent claims that Indian cows have humps that contain magical powers and their milk has traces of gold, and so on. As the lore goes, St Valentine was a priest in Rome, who was martyred during the persecution under Emperor Aurelian. This is a day for melancholy, and certainly not part of our country's rich legacy. The declaration of February 14 as "Cow Hug Day" is mystifying. India is no stranger to celebrations of love. Holi, as Kamotsava, is celebrated in honour of

Govt must perform better



The ruling BJP is itself responsible for the ruckus going on in both Houses of Parliament since democracy demands consultations among political parties on every important issue. The Opposition's view is that its voice is being suppressed and parts of certain speeches are being expunged from the record. It is expected from the BJP that some sort of assurance should be handed out to the Opposition parties that the alleged Adani fraud matter will be looked into. Earlier too, the BJP

had adopted an adamant attitude on the farmers' agitation issue and the country lost a lot; even the land acquisition Bill had to be taken back. Elections in three Northeastern States will be held this month and even if the party wins all these States, it will not have any impact in other parts of the country. The Karnataka election will be held in May which, as per the media reports, the Congress can win. If that happens, it will be a big problem for the BJP. The main problem with the Government is that none of its departments takes interest in solving even the genuine grievances of common people. Unnecessary conflict is being created with the judiciary. Till now, the BJP has spoken so much against freebies that its own schemes will not garner additional votes. Even Modi's speech was not impressive, being just a repeat of his previous speeches. Yash Pal Raihan | Jalandhar

Radha's divine love for Krishna. Krishna, Radha and other gopis (cowherd girls) had performed Raas Leela in Vrindavan on the full moon night in the month of Sharad (mid-September to mid-November) millennia ago. People still believe that Krishna visits Nidhivan (a mysterious place in Vrindavan) and dances with his beloved Radha and other gopis. Indian rulers should have given some thought to the beauty, serenity and mythic element in the celebration of love in ancient India before taking such a funny decision. US President Joe Biden and his family displayed a large, hand-painted wooden heart in front of the White House before Valentine's Day 2022. The heart quotes: "Three things will last forever — faith, hope, and love — and the greatest of these is love." Haridasan Rajan | Kozhikode

READING THE TEA LEAVES

Sir — Wonder why the cognizanti in the politico-economic sphere is still unable to read the tea leaves. Metaverse, Google, Amazon, Disney and more, the big-tick-

et megaliths, are on to a steady and increasingly perceptible job shedding spree, and that too in huge chunks. This is ominous and the list can only expand as uncertainties of the Ukraine conflict are getting more confounded. This is no longer a North Korea or a Taiwan sitcom being played for a long time now. This is more serious stuff as a proxy war is on with an entrenched military machine of Russia and intransigent West with its rapacious arms lobby. Weather vanes have seldom erred in the past in pointing out direction and even now it's not too late to rally around sanity. The countdown to the 2024 US elections has begun and thus little initiative can be expected from it. The UK is already in a bind. Even China would appear more pragmatic as it would be engaged for quite a while in readjusting its economy in the aftermath of the Covid pandemic. R Narayanan | Navi Mumbai

SOUND BITE

Our Government worked to find long-term and people-friendly solutions to problems. Prime Minister — Narendra Modi

I am not aware of any fleet of balloons... That narrative is probably part of the information and public opinion warfare the US has waged on China. Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesperson — Mao Ning

I had done many odd jobs to survive... I was dejected as I was failing in everything... so one day I tried to commit suicide by jumping into the river Ganga. Singer — Kailash Kher

We are talking about a bowler (Ashwin) who is mentally like a computer - his brain keeps on working always about what he should and should not be doing, how to come up with some new thing that can trouble the batters. Former cricketer — Irfan Pathan

The Prime Minister still talks in the kind of language which puts the country to shame. No, this cannot be the new normal. Congress leader — Pawan Khera

Send your feedback to: letterstopioneer@gmail.com



FIRST COLUMN

GIVING GUARANTEES IS NOT INSURERS' JOB

Banks must protect their business of handing out guarantees



S KALYANASUNDARAM

Transport and Highways Minister Nitin Gadakari has sarcastically commented that the insurance regulator IRDAI did a 'deep study' for three years on a proposal of allowing 'surety bonds' by insurance companies. He was taking a dig at the IRDAI, while launching the country's first surety bond specially designed for highway projects by Bajaj Allianz insurance company.

He said that he got the idea from former SBI chairman Rajnish Kumar on the following lines: "He told me that there is a concept of surety bond in other countries in place of bank guarantees. I took it up with our finance minister. I would thank IRDAI for their deep study for three years before giving the approval. I thank those who expeditiously approved it in three years. It is better late than never."

When banking circles are wondering how a lucrative business from their portfolio is allowed to be taken out, it is strange that the proposal has emanated from the Government and the banking regulator Reserve Bank of India has not objected to such a proposal.

Areas of operation of insurance companies and banking companies are well demarcated. Insurance companies are supposed to do the business of insurance, which means that they are entering into a contract of indemnity.



Section 124 of Indian Contract Act 1872 defines Contract of indemnity as "a contract by which one party promises to save the other from loss caused to him by the conduct of the promisor himself, or by the conduct of any other person". Issue of surety bond does not fit into the business of contract of indemnity.

The issue of surety bond belongs to the category of contract of guarantee. Section 126 of Indian Contract Act 1872 defines Contract of guarantee as a contract to perform the promise, or discharge the liability, of a third person in case of his default.

Since the inception of the banking system in India, issuing bank guarantees has been the domain of banks. Though the definition of guarantee provides for 'performing the promise' banks issue guarantees to discharge the liability and also to pay at agreed terms when the promise is not performed by their clients.

When any guarantee is issued, no outflow of funds are involved. It is a 'non-fund based' business. But the moment the bank is called upon to pay on the basis of guarantee on the failure of its client, it has to discharge the liability and it becomes a fund-based one. Whenever such an eventuality happens, banks pay under the head 'Defaulted Guarantees' and banks have to ultimately recover the amount like any other loan recovery. The RBI has also stipulated various other guidelines for issue of guarantee by banks—(1) It should be for a definite period and definite amount; (2) Maximum period can be 10 years; (3) Claim period should be mentioned; (4) Ceilings for unsecured guarantees; (5) Cannot be repayment of deposits by finance companies, etc.; (6) Provision for confirmation from higher authorities.

In January 2022, IRDAI issued 'Surety Insurance Contracts' guidelines 2022. While the guidelines cover essential features, types of surety contracts, underwriting requirements, etc., it is silent on how the insurance company will recover the defaulted guarantees. It does not contain any stipulation of counter guarantee or collateral security.

When there is strict regulation by the RBI that invoked guarantee should be paid immediately, there does not seem to be any such instruction from IRDAI. Banks do pay for the invoked guarantees immediately so as to keep the trust of the people on the guarantees issued by them.

It is time for the Indian Banks Association and the RBI to retain the business of guarantee with the banks.

(The author is a retired banker)

Delink disinvestment from Budget exercise

The Union Government must set up a holding company where all of its shares in the Central Public Sector Undertakings (CPSUs) are placed



UTTAM GUPTA

In Budget for 2022-23, Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman had set a target of Rs 65,000 crore for proceeds of sale of Union government shareholding in central public sector undertakings (CPSUs). Against this, the revised estimate (RE) is placed at just about Rs 31,000 crore which works out to 47 per cent of the target. For 2023-24, Sitharaman has set a target of Rs 51,000 crore.

During the last eight years since 2015-16 when this government started disinvestment with particular focus on 'strategic' sale (a sophisticated nomenclature for share sale that reduces its holding in the CPSU to below 50 per cent), barring two years viz. 2017-18 and 2018-19 when the actual proceeds exceeded the target, in the remaining six years, the achievement was far short.

Even during those two exceptional years, the good performance was made possible primarily due to two big ticket sales of Union Government shares in one CPSU to another viz. (i) sale of its 51.11 per cent shareholding in Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Limited (HPCL) to the Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC) during 2017-18 yielding Rs 37,000 crore; (ii) sale of 52.63 per cent stake in Rural Electrification Corporation (REC) to the Power Finance Corporation (PFC) during 2018-19 yielding Rs 13,000 crore.

These sales can't be termed as strategic as the purchaser being another CPSU namely ONGC/PFC, the Government continues to have effective ownership and control over the divested entity viz. HPCL/REC. An overarching reason as to why the actual proceeds from disinvestment have fallen short of the target has to do with the very premise of treating these as a source of revenue (albeit for plugging fiscal deficit) which is flawed.

In cases where strategic sale is mooted, the government faces a bigger challenge as it needs bidders with deep pockets. For instance, in case of Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited or BPCL (sale of the entire 53.29 per cent of government's share in this oil refining and marketing CPSU was originally planned for 2019-20), it needed a strategic investor who could pay around Rs 60,000 crore.

The lengthy and cumbersome process of approval and bureaucratic red-tape further undermines the chances of the Government kicking the ball rolling just around the time when the strategic investors are ready to put in their bets.

The Niti Aayog identifies companies for divestment which are then considered by the Core Group of Secretaries on Divestment (CGD), a long-drawn process by itself, which takes it to the Alternative Mechanism (AM) - a group of ministers, including finance, road transport & highways, administrative reforms, etc., - for approval. After AM's approval, the Department of Investment and Public Asset Management (DIPAM) moved a pro-



LIFE INSURANCE CORPORATION (LIC), WHICH IS 95 PER CENT OWNED BY THE GOVERNMENT, HOLDS 6.5 PER CENT IN IOCL. ONGC, WHICH IS 63 PER CENT GOVERNMENT-OWNED, HOLDS 14 PER CENT IN IOCL

(The author is a policy analyst)



posal for in-principle approval of the Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA).

This leads to delay and by the time all approvals are in place, the market scenario becomes adverse. For instance, in case of BPCL, during 2019-20, the international price of crude oil (fortunes of oil companies move in tandem with it) was hovering around \$70 per barrel. But the bureaucrats were not ready.

In 2020-21, Covid-19 spoiled the party as the average crude price plunged to a low of \$20 per barrel in April 2020. During 2021-22, even as the price ruled above \$70 per barrel most of the time, the officials were not ready yet again. During 2022-23, the market turned even more favorable with crude price zooming past \$80 per barrel (courtesy, Ukraine War and resulting disruption in supplies) yet, the government has not pursued; in fact, it seems to have deferred it indefinitely.

Meanwhile, a number of other strategic sales such as Container Corporation or ConCor (30 per cent), Shipping Corporation of India or SCI (63.75 per cent), and IDBI Bank have been under consideration since FY 2019-20. They have been hamstrung due to bureaucratic red-tape and uncertainties of the investment environment. The government now intends to complete all these transactions during FY 2023-24.

In a post-Budget interaction, Sitharaman reiterated that all CPSUs in non-strategic sectors will be privatized (all loss-making enterprises will be closed), whereas in the strategic sector also, the

undertakings will be privatized with the caveat that at least one (and a maximum of four) will be retained in the public sector. To buttress this strategy (as laid down in the Budget for 2021-22), she cited the example of Air India incurring a loss of Rs 20 crore per day when it was under the government's ownership and control.

While this should clear the policy uncertainty, thereby imparting momentum to the process, contrary signals emerge from a statement in FM's Budget speech for FY 2019-20. She had stated the intent was to change the existing policy from "directly" holding 51 per cent or above in a CPSU, to one whereby its total holding, "direct" plus "indirect", is maintained at 51 per cent.

To illustrate this, let us take the case of Indian Oil Corporation Limited (IOCL). In addition to its direct stake of 51.5 per cent, the Union Government holds more than 51 per cent in other CPSUs, which in turn, hold shares in IOCL. Life Insurance Corporation (LIC), which is 95 per cent owned by the GOI, holds 6.5 per cent in IOCL. ONGC which is 63 per cent Government-owned, holds 14 per cent in IOCL. Oil India Limited (OIL), which is 60 per cent owned by the Union Government, holds five per cent shares in IOCL.

The "indirect" stake of the Union Government in IOCL via LIC/ONGC/OIL being 25.5 per cent, it can reduce its direct stake in IOCL to 25.5 per cent (thereby sending a message that it has been privatized) and yet, including the "indirect" control, it will still have majority stake of 51 per cent.

Privatization could also be stymied in case the government asks another PSU to buy the shares of the CPSU up for strategic disinvestment as happened with HPCL/REC. Although there is an order of the Ministry of Finance (MoF) that prohibits such purchase, a caveat in the order "... unless otherwise specifically approved by the Central Government in public interest" can always be relied upon to make it happen if the powers that be so wish.

To conclude, the very act of linking disinvestment with budgetary exercise is a flawed idea. Even while not guaranteeing the intended receipt from the share sale (as we have seen during the last eight years), it undermines the chances of conducting the exercise in an efficient manner and getting handsome proceeds. The process inefficiencies are aggravated by bureaucratic red-tape and a desire of the top brass to remain in the driver's seat.

The government should delink disinvestment from the budget and pursue it as an objective by itself. It must de-bureaucratise the process by setting up a holding company (HC) where all government shares in CPSUs are placed. The HC to be manned by eminent professionals should be fully empowered and given freedom to take all decisions in regard to valuation, quantum of shares, timing of sale, etc., keeping in mind the market conditions.

Under this arrangement, the share sale process will be faster, more efficient and yield much more revenue.

POINT COUNTERPOINT

CHIEF MINISTER ARVIND KEJRIWAL AND MANISH SISODIA SET UP A SEPARATE DEPARTMENT TO SNOOP ON DELHI'S L-G, MPs AND MLAs. — LEADER OF OPNN IN DELHI ASSEMBLY RAMVIR SINGH BIDHURI



THE BJP HAS BROUGHT A NEW ALLEGATION AGAINST ME. THEY ARE AFRAID OF ME... IT SEEMS I HAVE EQUALLED MODI IN STATURE. — DEPUTY CHIEF MINISTER MANISH SISODIA

Rahul's yatra is complete, but road ahead is tough

The Congress must build solid State-level leaders, second-rung leadership and meaningful coalitions

How does one assess the impact of Congress leader Rahul Gandhi's just completed 'Bharat Jodo Yatra'? Has he achieved his goal vis-à-vis himself, his party, and the Opposition? The answer is: yes, he has partially succeeded in his image makeover. But about the party and the Opposition, it is too soon to see any results.

Undoubtedly, Rahul came up with the good old Padayatras from Kanyakumari to Kashmir to connect with the public. He got to know the issues first hand, and achieved an image makeover. Many leaders had undertaken such Yatras earlier for political purposes, like Chandrashekhar and LK Advani, and some of them



KALYANI SHANKAR

gained political dividends. Congress insiders claim that Rahul Gandhi dismissed the initial suggestion of his strategists to go on a bus tour and instead chose a more arduous walking tour, walking thousands of kilometers with blisters on his feet and knee pain, sleeping in a caravan, and roughing it out.

Has the Yatra benefitted Rahul? He claims it was fulfilling. "I've learnt a lot, met lakhs of people, spoken to them. I don't have words to describe it. The goal of the Yatra was to unite India. It was against hate and violence. This has been the deepest and most beautiful experience of my life," he said. He further claimed that the Yatra had opened "shops of love in a market of hate (nafrat ke

bazaar main mohabbat ki dukaan)". Expressing optimism, Rahul said that India now has two paths or ways of living to choose from. One is out to suppress the voices and spread hatred and violence; the other is to join the hearts. "I believe this Yatra is a first step that will impact the country's politics," he said.

Rahul attracted huge crowds, particularly in the South. His interaction with the public and press conferences en route helped present an alternative political option for those against the BJP. Congressmen hope that the people will see him as a serious politician, not "Pappu" anymore.

Rahul raised issues like love and hatred, inequality,

unemployment, rising prices, security on the border and inflation. He did all that the clever politicians do, like carrying children in his arms at times and interacting with youth, women, and seniors as he walked holding their hands.

Now that the Yatra is completed, Rahul should use this experience for his future. But the task ahead is not easy, as more than five months is needed for a complete makeover. Rahul has to keep up the hard work until the 2024 polls for a meaningful result. Also, the most challenging thing is to convert the crowds who came to see him into votes. For this, he needs organization.

As for his second goal of lifting the party's morale,

affected by the continuing electoral slide since 2014, the organization needs to be rejuvenated to face the 2024 Lok Sabha polls in the coming months. Assembly polls are scheduled in nine states this year. Jammu and Kashmir might also go to polls. If Congress can increase the number of winning states to its kitty, credit would go to Rahul.

The third goal was to emerge as the Opposition leader, uniting all non-BJP parties. Here, he had a problem. Many opposition leaders were not willing to accept Rahul's leadership. Rival candidates like Telangana chief minister Chandrababu Naidu mobilized a vast crowd to relaunch his idea of a Third Front last month. Though

Rahul had invited the Opposition leaders to join in the conclusion of the Yatra in Kashmir, this week, only leaders from 11 parties attended it. Even during the Yatra, influential leaders like Akhilesh Yadav and Uddhav Thackeray skipped it.

Rahul has not given up hope. "Sure, there are differences in the Opposition, but they talk to each other. The Opposition will stand together and fight together. This is an ideological fight. On one side, there's RSS-BJP, and on the other, it's the forces opposed to them," Gandhi said.

Overall, the Yatra has given new hope to the Congress and the Gandhi family. As Rahul said, the Yatra was the beginning, and

now it is for the party to take the momentum forward for electoral gains. The Congress must build solid state-level leaders, second-rung leadership, and meaningful coalitions. The following 14 months are crucial to this goal of remaining relevant in politics for Congress and the Opposition. The adage "United you win and divided you fall" says everything.

The question of who will become prime minister comes later. It is common knowledge that the divided Opposition is Modi's secret to returning for the third term. The regional leaders should put aside their egos and prejudices and unite if they want results. It would be an advantage Modi if he could keep it that way.

Under this arrangement, the share sale process will be faster, more efficient and yield much more revenue.

Turkey's lax policing of building codes flagged before quake

AP ■ ISTANBUL
Turkey has for years tempted fate by not enforcing modern construction codes while allowing — and in some cases, encouraging — a real estate boom in earthquake-prone areas, experts say.
The lax enforcement, which experts in geology and engineering have long warned about, is gaining renewed scrutiny in the aftermath of this week's devastating earthquakes, which flattened thousands of buildings and killed more than 20,000 people across Turkey and Syria.
"This is a disaster caused by shoddy construction, not by an earthquake," said David Alexander, a professor of emergency planning at University College London. It is common knowledge that many buildings in the areas pummeled by this week's two massive earthquakes were built with inferior materials and methods, and often did not comply with government standards, said Eyup Muhcu, president of the Chamber of Architects of Turkey.
He said that includes many old buildings, but also apartments erected in recent years — nearly two decades after the country brought its building codes up to modern standards. "The building stock in the area was weak and not sturdy, despite the reality of earthquakes," Muhcu said.
The problem was largely ignored, experts said, because addressing it would be expensive, unpopular and restrain a key engine of the country's economic growth.
To be sure, the back-to-back earthquakes that demolished or damaged at least 12,000 buildings were extremely powerful — their force magnified by the fact that they occurred at shallow depths. The first 7.8 magnitude



quake occurred at 4:17 a.m., making it even more difficult for people to escape their buildings as the earth shook violently. And President Recep Tayyip Erdogan has acknowledged "shortcomings" in the country's response.
But experts said there is a mountain of evidence — and rubble — pointing to a harsh reality about what made the

particularly in Istanbul, a city of more than 15 million that is vulnerable to quakes.
Since the disaster, Erdogan's minister of justice said it will investigate the destroyed buildings. "Those who have been negligent, at fault and responsible for the destruction following the earthquake will answer to justice," Bekir Bozdag said Thursday.
But several experts said any serious investigation into the root of weak enforcement of building codes must include a hard look at the policies of Erdogan, as well as regional and local officials, who oversaw — and promoted — a construction boom that helped drive economic growth.
Shortly before Turkey's last presidential and parliamentary election in 2018, the government unveiled a sweeping program to grant amnesty to companies and individuals responsible for certain violations of the country's building codes. By paying a fine, violators could avoid having to bring their buildings up to code. Such amnesties have been used by previous governments ahead of elections as well.
As part of that amnesty program, the government agency responsible for enforcing building codes acknowledged that more than half of all buildings in Turkey — accounting for some 13 million apartments — were not in compliance with current standards.
The types of violations cited in that report by the Ministry of Environment and Urbanization were wide-ranging, including homes built without permits, buildings that added extra floors or expanded balconies without authorization, and the existence of so-called squatter homes inhabited by low-income families.

Rescues in Turkey offer moments of relief in quake aftermath

Quake has killed more than 22K



AP ■ ISKENDERUN, TURKEY
Rescuers pulled several people alive from the shattered remnants of buildings on Friday, some who survived more than 100 hours trapped under crushed concrete in the bitter cold after a catastrophic earthquake slammed Turkey and Syria, killing more than 22,000.
The survivors included six relatives who huddled in a small pocket under the rubble, a teenager who drank his own urine to slake his thirst, and a 4-year-old boy offered a jelly bean to calm him down as he was shimmied out.
But the flurry of dramatic rescues — some broadcast live on Turkish television — could not obscure the overwhelming devastation of what Turkey's president called one of the greatest disasters in his nation's history. Entire neighborhoods of high-rise buildings have been reduced to twisted metal, pulverized concrete and exposed wires, and the magnitude 7.8 quake has already killed more people than Japan's Fukushima earthquake and tsunami, with many more bodies undoubtedly yet to be recovered and counted.
Four days after the earthquake hammered a sprawling border region that is home to more than 13.5 million people, relatives wept and chanted as rescuers pulled 17-year-old Adnan Muhammed Korkut from a basement in Turkey's Gaziantep, near the quake's epicenter. He had been trapped there for 94 hours, forced to drink his own urine to survive.
"Thank God you arrived," he said, embracing his mother and others who leaned down to kiss and hug him as he was being loaded into an ambulance.
For one of the rescuers, identified only as Yasemin, Adnan's survival hit home hard. "I have a son just like you," she told him after giving him a warm hug. "I swear to you, I have not slept for four days. ... I was trying to get you out."
In Adiyaman, meanwhile, rescue crews pulled 4-year-old Yagiz Komsu from the debris of his home, 105 hours after the quake struck. They later managed to rescue his mother, Ayfer Komsu, who survived with a fractured rib, according to the HaberTurk television, which broadcast the rescue live. The crowd was asked not to cheer or applaud to avoid scaring the child, who was given a jelly bean, the station reported.

PUBLIC NOTICE
Be it known all general public that my client Ms Shri Home and Associates residence of Plot No. 75-B area measuring 252 sq. yds.
We have received Will which is executed by Mr. Umrao Singh in favour of his grandson Mr. Vikas Sheoran in respect of the said land area measuring 1011 sq. yds vide Document No. 14217, Volume No. 448, Pages 163 to 165, Book No. 31 dated 22.11.2023.
Thereafter, Unfortunately, Mr. Umrao Singh died on 02.06.2026 leaving behind Mr. Vikas Sheoran (Grandson) as his legal heirs.
If any person has any objection regarding the above-mentioned property said land area measuring 1011 sq. yds vide Document No. 14217, Volume No. 448, Pages 163 to 165, Book No. 31 contact the undersigned within 07 days from the date of publication.
Sd/- Advocate Amanendra Kr. Dubey, Place: Delhi (Etn. No. D-2002019) 511, 5th Floor, Usha Kiren Bldg, Comm. Complex, Azadpur, Delhi-110 033 M. 9599801188
Sanjay Khanna/Shweta Khanna

2 powerful quakes link Turkey, Japan and Syria in suffering

AP ■ TOKYO
Mountains of rubble and twisted metal. Death on an unimaginable scale. Grief. Rage. Relief at having survived.
What's left behind after a natural disaster so powerful that it rends the foundations of a society? What lingers over a decade later, even as the rest of the world moves on?
Similarities between the calamity unfolding this week in Turkey and Syria and the triple disaster that hit northern Japan in 2011 may offer a glimpse of what the region could face in the years ahead. They're linked by the sheer enormity of the collective psychological trauma, of the loss of life and of the material destruction.
The combined toll of Monday's 7.8 magnitude earthquake rose past 20,000 deaths as regional governments announced the discovery of new bodies Thursday. That has already eclipsed the more than 18,400 who died in the disaster in Japan.
That magnitude 9.0 earthquake struck at 2:46 p.m., March 11, 2011. Not long after, cameras along the Japanese coast captured the wall of water that hit the Tohoku region.
The quake was one of the biggest on record, and the tsunami it caused washed away cars, homes, office buildings and thousands of people, and caused a meltdown at the Fukushima Daiichi nuclear power plant.
Huge boats were dropped miles away from the ocean in the towering jumbled debris of what had once been cities, cars toppled on their sides like playthings among the ruined streets and obliterated buildings.
Many wondered if the area would ever return to what it was before. A big lesson from Japan is that a disaster of this size doesn't ever really have a conclusion. Despite speeches about rebuilding, the Tohoku quake has left a deep gash in the national consciousness and the landscapes of people's lives.
Take the death toll. Deaths directly attributable to the quake in Turkey will level off in coming weeks, but it's unlikely to be the end.
Japan, for instance, has recognised thousands of other people who died later from stress-related heart attacks, or because of poor living conditions.
And despite hundreds of billions of dollars spent in Japan on reconstruction, some things won't ever come back — including a sense of place. Before the quake, Tohoku was filled with small cities and villages, surrounded by farms, the ports filled with fleets of fishing boats. It's one of the wildest, most beautiful coastlines in Japan.



INDIAN RAILWAYS
GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
(BHARAT SARKAR)
MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (RAIL MANTRALAYA)
(RAILWAY BOARD)
No. 2022/RS(WTA)-149/TENDER/529 New Delhi, dated 09/02/2023
CORRIDUM NO.6 to the Tender No. WTA-529
Sub - E-Tender No. WTA-529 due on 15.02.2023 for Manufacturing cum Maintenance of New Generation Energy Efficient Vande Bharat Trainsets with Distributed Power System including upgradation of the Government Manufacturing Units & Trainset Depots.
The due date of opening of subject tender has been postponed from 15.02.2023 to 23.02.2023 (Thursday).
Some other terms and conditions of the tender have also been modified. 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, RAJINDRA ROAD,
NEW DELHI-110 001
Email- drsm@rb.railnet.gov.in
437/2023
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ReNew Akshay Urja Limited
CIN : U40300DL2015PLC275651
Regd. Office : 138, Ansal Chambers II, Bikaji Cama Place, Delhi-110066
Corporate Office : ReNew.hub, Commercial Block-1, Zone-6, Golf Course Road, DLF City Phase-V, Gurugram, 122009, Haryana, Phone - 0124-4896 6701 80
Statement of Unaudited financial results for the quarter and nine months ended 31 December 2022

Particulars	INR in millions		
	Quarter ended 31 December 2022 (Unaudited)	Quarter ended 31 December 2021 (Unaudited)	Year ended 31 March 2022 Audited
Total Income from Operations	342	334	1,447
Net Profit / (Loss) for the period (before Tax, Exceptional and/or Extraordinary items)	125	86	423
Net Profit / (Loss) for the period before tax (after Exceptional and/or Extraordinary Items#)	125	86	423
Net Profit / (Loss) for the period after tax (after Exceptional and/or Extraordinary Items#)	93	68	346
Total Comprehensive Income for the period (Comprising Profit / (Loss) for the period (after tax) and Other Comprehensive Income (after tax))	93	68	346
Paid up Equity Share Capital	133	133	133
Reserves (excluding Revaluation Reserve)	2,909	2,491	2,682
Equity component of compulsory convertible debentures	1,144	1,144	1,144
Net worth**	4,186	3,768	3,959
Paid up Debt Capital / Outstanding Debt*	5,892	6,270	6,079
Outstanding Redeemable Preference Shares * Debt Equity Ratio *	2.18	2.51	2.31
Earnings Per Share (of Rs. 10/- each) (for continuing and discontinued operations)			
1. Basic :	4.09	2.98	15.17
2. Diluted :	4.09	2.98	15.17
Capital Redemption Reserve *			
Debt Service Coverage Ratio *	2.97	2.86	2.70
Debt Service Coverage Ratio **	4.41	0.44	0.53
Interest Service Coverage Ratio	2.25	1.92	2.05

Disclosures pursuant to Regulations 52(4) and 52(7) Securities and Exchange Board of India (Listing Obligations and Disclosure Requirements) Regulations, 2015.
- Credit Rating : IND AA+ (CE)
- Change in credit rating : No
- Asset Coverage Ratio : 174% (31 March, 2022 : 164%)
- Debt Equity ratio : mentioned above
- Debt Service Coverage Ratio : mentioned above
- Interest Service Coverage Ratio : mentioned above
- Outstanding redeemable preference shares (Quantity and Value) : Not Applicable
- Net Worth ** (31 December, 2022) : INR 4,186 (31 March, 2022 : INR 3,959)
- Net profit after tax : mentioned above
- Earning per share : mentioned above
- Debenture Redemption Reserve (31 December, 2022) : INR 297 (31 March, 2022 : INR 270)
There are no material deviation in the use of proceeds of issue of Non Convertible Debentures from the objects stated in the offer document (Regulations 52(7))
Notes :
1. Ratios have been computed as follows :
- Earning per share (Basic & Diluted) = Profit after Tax / Weighted average number of equity shares
- Debt Equity Ratio* = Debt (Amount due to Debenture Holders) / Equity (Equity share capital + share premium + quasi equity i.e. Short term borrowing but excluding unamortize fees)
- Interest Service Coverage Ratio = Profit before interest, prior period items, tax, extraordinary items and depreciation / (Total Interest Expense)
- Debt Service Coverage Ratio* = ((PAT based on Project Revenues realised (excluding non-cash adjustment, if any) + Depreciation + Interest (Interest, Guarantee Fees, other financing costs payable under Debenture and Project Documents)) / (Interest + Principal Repayment+ Guarantee fee)
- Asset Coverage Ratio = (Total Assets) / Debt (Amount due to Debenture Holders)
*As per Debenture Trust Deed dated 20 September, 2017.
** Generation based incentive have been included in computation of Project Revenues realised
** Ratios as mentioned above are not given w.r.t. debts other than Debentures issued on 26 September 2017.
** Network represents issued subscribed and paid up capital plus reserves and surplus. Reserves and Surplus includes Capital reserve, General reserve, Debenture redemption reserve, Securities premium account and Profit and loss account balance.
2. The above is an extract of the detailed format of quarterly financial results filed with the National Stock Exchange under regulation 52 of the Listing Regulations. The full format of the quarterly financial results is available on the website of the Stock Exchange and the listed entity - <http://renewpower.in/renew-akshay-urja-limited/>
3. The company is in the business of development and operation of solar power. There is only one segment (business and/or geographical) in accordance with the requirements of IND AS - 108 "Operating Segments".
4. For the other line items referred in regulation 52(4) of the Listing Regulations, pertinent disclosures have been made to the National Stock Exchange and can be accessed on the URL - <https://www.nseindia.com/companies-listing/corporate-filings-announcements>
5. The above financial results of the Company for the quarter ended December 31, 2022 and year to date from April 1, 2022 to December 31, 2022 have been approved by the Board of Directors of the Company at the meeting held on February 10, 2023. The statutory auditors of the company have carried out the limited review of the above unaudited financial results of the Company for the nine month period ended December 31, 2022.

Russia hits targets across Ukraine

AP ■ KYIV, UKRAINE
Russia used strategic bombers, cruise missiles and killer drones in a wave of attacks across Ukraine early Friday, while Moscow's military push that Kyiv says has been brewing for days appeared to pick up pace in eastern areas ahead of the one-year anniversary of its invasion.
Russian forces launched 71 cruise missiles, 35 S-300 missiles and seven Shahed drones since late Thursday, Ukraine's military chief, Gen. Valerii Zaluzhnyi said.
Ukrainian forces downed 61 cruise missiles and five drones, he said. The cruise missiles were launched by Russian Tu-95 strategic bombers and from Russian navy ships in the Black Sea, Zaluzhnyi said, while the S-300 missiles were launched from the Belgorod region just inside Russia and the occupied part of Ukraine's Zaporizhzhia region.
Ukraine's Prime Minister Denys Shmyhal said Moscow once again targeted the power supply in "another attempt to destroy the Ukrainian energy system and deprive Ukrainians of light, heat, water."
"We have sustained damage to high-voltage infrastructure and generation in the western, central and eastern regions, which may cause power outages," he said.
Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy, who has campaigned for more Western support, said: "This is terror that can and must be stopped."
The Kremlin's forces focused on Ukraine's industrial east, especially the Luhansk and Donetsk provinces that make up the industrial Donbas region where recent fighting has been most intense, the Ukrainian military said. Moscow-backed separatists have been fighting Ukrainian forces there since 2014.
But the barrage went further, also taking aim at the capital, Kyiv, and Lviv, near Ukraine's Western border with Poland. It also struck critical infrastructure in Kharkiv, Ukraine's second-largest city in the northeast. Seven people were wounded there, two of them seriously, regional Governor Oleh Syniubov said.
Air raid sirens went off across much of the country.
Kyiv believes Moscow is planning a ground assault in the east,



region," Gov. Pavlo Kyrylenko said.
In Luhansk province, the Russian army is trying to punch through Ukrainian defenses, according to regional Gov. Serhii Haidai.
"The situation is deteriorating, the enemy is constantly attacking, the Russians are bringing in a large amount of heavy equipment and aircraft," Haidai said.
There has been little change in battlefield positions for weeks.
Also Friday, Moldova's Ministry of Defense said that a missile was detected traversing its airspace near the border with Ukraine. Moldova's foreign ministry said in a statement that the Russian ambassador in Chisinau has been summoned for talks over the "unacceptable violation."
The ministry said that the missile was detected in its airspace at around 10 a.m. and flew over two border villages before heading toward Ukraine.

NORTHERN RAILWAY
Principal Chief Materials Manager
Headquarters Office, Baroda House, New Delhi-110001
Mail ID : salenr365@gmail.com
No. 117-S-Sales-Auction Programme-2022-23 Dated. 07.02.2023
e-AUCTION NOTICE NO. March/2023
E-Auction will be conducted for disposal of Ferrous Scrap, Non Ferrous Scrap, Other Misc Scrap, Condemned Loco, Coaches and Wagons, Scrap Rail and other scrap P Way material. Used lead Acid Batteries/Used oil/Refused oil will be sold only to recyclers registered with State Pollution Control Board. Auction programme is as under.
e-AUCTION DATES FOR 'March, 2023.

S. No	Depot conducting auction	Time	1 st round	2 nd round	3 rd round	4 th round	5 th round	6 th round	7 th round	8 th round	9 th round	10 th round	11 th round
1	Alambagh/Lucknow 0522-2451257	10:00	4	6	11	15	18	23	25	27	28	29	31
2	Shakurbasti 011-27015387	10:00	4	9	11	16	18	22	25	27	28	29	31
3	Jagadhari 01732-252388	10:00	4	7	11	17	18	22	25	27	28	29	31
4	Sr.DMM/LKO 0522-2234756	10:00	2	7	13	17	20	22	24	27	28	29	31
5	Sr.DMM/FZR 01632-244154	11:00	3	10	14	17	21	23	24	27	28	29	31
6	Sr.DMM/UMB 0171-2611203	11:00	2	9	13	16	20	22	24	27	28	29	31
7	Sr.DMM/MB 0591-2413141	10:00	3	10	14	17	21	23	24	27	28	29	31
8	Sr.DMM/DLI 011-23365311	11:00	2	6	13	15	20	23	24	27	28	29	31

- The details of item to be sold in auction will be available in catalogue at www.ireps.gov.in.
- The intending purchasers may inspect the scrap material before the auction during working hours at nominated locations.
- To participate in e-auction, purchasers need to get themselves registered with ireps. The details on last sold rates in auctions are available at www.railnet.gov.in.
- For further details regarding registration and other conditions of e-auction, please visit Railway website 'www.ireps.gov.in'.

(Om Kumar) Dy. Chief Material Manager/S&P
440/2023
SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE

Zelensky to address summit on Russian Olympic involvement
AP ■ LONDON
As Ukraine pushes for Russian athletes to be barred from next year's Paris Olympics and threats of a boycott mount, officials from 30 countries were holding a summit on Friday to discuss how to respond. The International Olympic Committee argues it would be discriminatory to exclude Russia and ally Belarus entirely. With qualifying in many sports already under way, the IOC wants athletes from those countries to compete in a neutral capacity without national symbols.
Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy, who has previously said any neutral flag for Russia would be "stained with blood", is due to address the online summit by video link. Zelenskyy made surprise visits to Britain and France on Wednesday, pushing for fighter jets to battle Russian invaders in a dramatic speech to the British Parliament.
Friday's meeting was taking place on a day of intense missile and drone strikes by Russian forces against Ukraine. "President Zelenskyy told the UK in Parliament this week of the suffering still being felt by many Ukrainians. As he did so the IOC was continuing to ignore the international allies stepping up their efforts for peace and disregard how the Olympics will give (Russian President Vladimir) Putin the perfect platform to promote Russia and legitimise his illegal war," British Culture Secretary Lucy Frazer, who is chairing the meeting, said in a statement on Thursday.

China calls US House resolution 'political manipulation'

China on Friday dismissed a US House of Representatives resolution condemning Beijing over a suspected Chinese spy balloon shot down above US Waters as 'purely political manipulation and hyping up.'

Republicans have criticized the Biden administration for not acting sooner to shoot down the balloon, but both parties' lawmakers came together on the vote, 419-0.



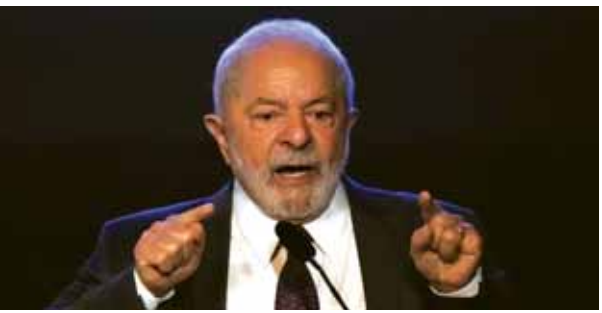
Side's information warfare against China. In the wake of the incident, Secretary of State Antony Blinken canceled a planned trip to Beijing this week that some had hoped would help stabilize bilateral relations, which have tumbled to their lowest level in

decades over trade, human rights, China's threats against Taiwan and the Chinese military's increasing assertiveness in the South China Sea.

The U.S. Has flatly contradicted China's version of events, saying that imagery of the balloon collected by American U-2 spy planes as it crossed the country showed that it was 'capable of conducting signals intelligence collection' with multiple antennas and other equipment designed to upload sensitive information and solar panels to power them.

and interfere with telecommunications. 'It can effectively deal with threats from low-flying targets, cruise missiles and sea targets,' Anhui Daily said a report.

Biden, Lula to put focus on democracy, climate during visit



When President Joe Biden and Brazilian President Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva meet in Washington on Friday, the leaders will share some awareness of what it's like to walk in one another's shoes.

Biden, a centrist Democrat, defeated incumbent Donald Trump in a fraught race, securing victory with thin margins in several battleground states.

Lula, he has everything on the table right now to be a democratic champion, given what happened in Brazil over the past month and a half," said Thiago de Aragao, a senior associate of the Americas program at the Centre for Strategic and International Studies.

Both Trump and Bolsonaro sowed doubts about the vote, without ever presenting evidence, but their claims nevertheless resonated with their most die-hard supporters.

In the US Capitol, Trump supporters stormed the January 6, 2021, insurrection seeking to prevent Biden's win from being certified. Last month, thousands of rioters stormed the

Malaysian leader wants tougher ASEAN pressure on Myanmar

Malaysian Prime Minister Anwar Ibrahim on Friday issued a strong call for fellow members of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations to take new measures to pressure the government of military-ruled Myanmar to end what he called 'atrocities' against its own people.

speech to the Malaysian-Thai Chamber of Commerce that ASEAN members "have to be courageous enough to try and resolve" the crisis in Myanmar, which some U.N. Experts have described as a civil war triggered by the army's seizure of power from the elected government of Aung San Suu Kyi in 2021.



side have displaced more than 1 million people from their homes. In 2017, a brutal counterinsurgency campaign against the Muslim Rohingya minority

drove more than 740,000 to flee across the border to Bangladesh, where they remain in refugee camps.

ASEAN "will have to promote, suggest new mechanisms to make sure that these atrocities committed, perpetrated against their own people must end," Anwar said.

to try and resolve this" because it should not tolerate such abuses and because the crisis drives large numbers of refugees to seek safety in other countries in the region, including Bangladesh, Thailand, Indonesia and Malaysia.

Ethiopia's social media blocked amid church split tensions

Widespread tensions caused by a rift within Ethiopia's Orthodox Christian church have resulted in the suspension of access to social media platforms including TikTok, Facebook and Telegram.

The church, which recently denounced a splinter group in the country's largest region as "illegal," has accused Ethiopia's government of interfering in its affairs.

The division within the church, followed by the majority of Ethiopia's more than 110 million people, came after church members in Oromia declared a new synod on January 22, claiming a need to exercise their faith in local languages.

The church ex-communicated several church officials who participated in the split.

Table with 2 main sections: ADDI INDUSTRIES LIMITED and Consolidated financial results. Includes columns for Quarter ended, 9 Months ended, and Year ended for various financial metrics.

TEMPORARY CANCELLATION / PARTIAL CANCELLATION / RE-SCHEDULING & REGULATION OF TRAINS. It is notified for the information of Railway Passengers that Northern Railway will undertake Traffic and Power Blocks on 12.02.2023 for replacement of T-Beam slabs with PSC slab at bridge no. 204 between Taraori - Bhaini Khurd stations on Delhi - Ambala section.

EU lawmaker held for questioning in corruption scandal

Lawmaker linked to a corruption scandal that rocked the bloc's Parliament in December was detained for questioning Friday as police conducted further raids, Belgium's federal prosecutor's office said.

The office said police searched a banking safe in the city of Liege belonging to Belgian lawmaker Marc Tarabella. Offices in the town hall of Antshines, where Tarabella serves as mayor, were also raided.

Pence subpoenaed by special counsel probing Trump

The extraordinary scenario of a former vice president potentially testifying against his former boss in a criminal investigation comes as Pence considers launching a 2024 Republican presidential bid against Trump.

The two have been estranged since a mob of Trump's supporters stormed the US Capitol building on January 6, 2021, in an attempt to stop Democrat Joe Biden's victory. The subpoena is an aggressive step from a prosecutor who for years led the Justice Department's public corruption section and who overruled indictments against major political figures.

UN says threat from Islamic State extremists remains high

The threat posed by Islamic State extremists remains high and has increased in and around conflict zones, and the group's expansion is "particularly worrying" in Africa's centre, south and Sahel regions, the U.N. Counter-terrorism chief said Thursday.

Voronkov said the high level of threat posed by the Islamic State and its affiliates, including their sustained expansion in parts of Africa, underscores the need for multifaceted approaches to respond - not just focused on security but on preventive measures including preventing conflicts.

MY MONEY SECURITIES LTD. Financial Results for the Quarter and nine months ended 31st December, 2022. Table with columns for Particulars, Quarter Ended, and Year Ended.

The above is an extract of the detailed format of Quarterly/Annual Financial Results filed with the Stock Exchanges under Regulation 33 of the SEBI (Listing and Other Disclosure Requirements) Regulations, 2015.

FINAL AUCTION CUM SALE NOTICE FOR GOLD ORNAMENTS. The borrower(s) (whose details are provided in the table herein below), in particular, and the public, in general, are hereby informed that the below mentioned accounts are overdue, and the borrowers/account holders have not responded/complied with the communication, and notice sent by HDB Financial Services Limited (the "Company") requesting the borrower to clear his/her/their dues as per the documents in respect of the below mentioned loan signed/accepted by the borrower(s) (such documents, collectively "loan agreement") and therefore defaulted in terms thereof.

Table with columns: Loan No, Customer Name, Date of Loan, Overdue Amount Rs., Branch Name. Lists various loans and overdue amounts.

The action shall be conducted on an "AS IS WHERE" and "AS IS WHAT IT" basis and the Company is not making and shall not make any representation or warranties as regards the quality, purity, caratage, weight or valuation of the said gold ornaments. It shall be the sole and absolute responsibility of the potential purchaser to verify, examine and satisfy themselves about the quality, purity, caratage, weight or valuation of the said gold ornaments prior to placing their bid and for such purpose it shall be open to potential purchasers to examine, at their sole cost and expense, and at the address set out herein above, the gold ornaments whether with or without expert advice 45 minutes prior to the time stipulated for the conduct of the auction.

Industrial production growth slips to 4.3%

In Dec

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

India's industrial production growth slipped to 4.3 per cent in December from 7.3 per cent in November 2022, mainly due to subdued performance of the manufacturing sector, according to official data released on Friday.

However, there was improvement on an annual basis as the factory output growth measured in terms of the Index of Industrial Production (IIP) stood at 1 per cent in December 2021.

As per the IIP data released by the National Statistical Office (NSO), the manufacturing sector's output grew by 2.6 per cent in December 2022 from 0.6 per cent a year ago. The growth stood at 6.4 per cent in the preceding month of November 2022.

Mining output rose by 9.8 per cent during the month under review, from 2.6 per cent in December 2021. Power generation increased by 10.4 per cent in December 2022 com-



pared to 2.8 per cent in the year-ago month.

As per use-based classification, the capital goods segment recorded a growth of 7.6 per cent in December against a decline of 3 per cent in the corresponding month of the last fiscal.

Consumer durables output declined by 10.4 per cent compared to a contraction of 1.9 per cent a year ago.

Consumer non-durable goods output expanded by 7.2 per cent, as against a growth of 0.3 per cent earlier.

Infrastructure/construc-

tion goods too posted a growth of 8.2 per cent as against 2 per cent in the same month of 2021.

The data also showed that the output of primary goods logged 8.3 per cent growth in the month as against 2.8 per cent in the same period a year ago. The intermediate goods output growth declined to 0.3 per cent from 1 per cent earlier.

In the nine months of the fiscal (April-December), the growth in IIP works out to be 5.4 per cent, down from 15.3 per cent in the year-ago period.

Most Adani group companies end lower

Adani Enterprises trim early losses to close 4% lower

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Shares of most of the Adani S group companies settled lower on Friday, with flagship company Adani Enterprises registering a 4 per cent slump, after index provider MSCI decision to cut the free-float weight of some companies of the conglomerate in their indices.

Shares of eight of the 10 group firms closed in the red, while two companies settled in the green territory on Friday.

"The Marketcap of Adani group companies fell again by 3.3 per cent on February 10, following the MSCI decision to cut the free float weight of some companies of the conglomerate in their indices. "The market cap of the group is now down by 51 per cent as compared to that on January 24," Deepak Jasani, Head of Retail Research at HDFC Securities said.

The scrip of Adani Enterprises nosedived 4.15 per cent to settle at Rs 1,847.35 apiece on the BSE. During the day, it declined 10 per cent to Rs 1,734.60 — its lower price band on the exchange.

The flagship company's



market valuation dived ₹9,114.31 crore to stand at ₹2.10 lakh crore.

Adani Power settled lower at ₹164.30, Adani Transmission at ₹1,186.15, Adani Green Energy at ₹723.90 and Adani Total Gas at ₹1,258.25. The shares of these companies declined 5 per cent each and their closing levels touched the respective lower circuit levels on the bourse.

During the day, shares of Adani Transmission, Adani Green Energy and Adani Total Gas touched their 52-week low of ₹1,186.15, ₹723.90 and ₹1,258.25, respectively, on the exchange.

Besides, stock of NDTV slipped 3.65 per cent to end at

₹208.65, ACC slumped 1.85 per cent to settle at ₹1,881 and Adani Wilmar fell 0.95 per cent to close at ₹436.10 on the BSE.

However, shares of Ambuja cements jumped 0.85 per cent to settle at ₹361.05 and Adani Ports and Special Economic Zone gained 0.31 per cent to end at ₹583.85.

Meanwhile, the 30-share BSE Sensex benchmark index closed 123.52 points or 0.20 per cent lower at 60,682.70 points on Friday.

After US-based short-seller Hindenburg Research came out with an adverse report about the Adani Group on January 24, shares of the group companies have taken a beating on the bourses.

Sensex snaps 2-day winning run amid weak global cues

Metal, energy stocks weigh

PTI ■ MUMBAI

Equity benchmark Sensex declined 123 points on Friday due to selling pressure in metal and energy stocks amid a bearish trend in global equity markets.

Rising crude prices and continued selling by foreign investors also weighed on market sentiment, traders said.

Snapping its two-day gaining streak, the 30-share BSE Sensex ended 123.52 points or 0.20 per cent lower at 60,682.70. During the session, the index touched a high of 60,774.14 and a low of 60,501.74.

The broader NSE Nifty slipped 36.95 points or 0.21 per cent to finish at 17,856.50.

HCL Tech was the biggest loser on the Sensex chart, shedding 2.79 per cent, followed by Tata Steel, ITCI Bank, Reliance Industries, ITC, Wipro, Infosys and M&M.

In contrast, Tata Motors, L&T, Bharti Airtel, HDFC Bank and SBI were among the



winners, climbing up to 2.05 per cent.

"During this week, the benchmark BSE-30 and Nifty-50 were almost flat. However, the BSE Midcap and BSE Small-cap index saw positive gains during the week.

"Sector-wise, BSE Metal and BSE Power index witnessed sharp correction, whereas Healthcare, IT, capital goods and Realty reported gains this week," said Shrikant Chouhan, Head of Equity Research (retail), Kotak Securities Ltd.

Among sectoral indices, metal declined by 1.51 per cent on Friday, followed by utilities (1.35 per cent), power (0.84 per cent) and energy (0.69 per cent).

Alibaba sells remaining direct stake in Paytm for about ₹13,600 cr

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Chinese company Alibaba is clear to have sold 3.16 per cent direct stake in digital financial services firm One97 Communications, which operates under Paytm brand, for about Rs 13,600 crore in a block deal, according to sources.

With this deal, Alibaba has sold its entire direct stake in the company. Alibaba had 6.26 per cent direct stake in Paytm as of December 2022. Of this, it had sold 3.1 per cent stake in January.

The remaining 3.16 per cent was sold on Friday.

"Alibaba has sold its complete direct stake in Paytm in the block deal today," a source aware of the development said.

Besides Alibaba, its group firm Ant Financial holds around 25 per cent stake in Paytm.

India's forex kitty drops \$1.49 billion to \$575.27 billion



PTI ■ MUMBAI

India's foreign exchange Reserves dropped by USD 1.494 billion to reach USD 575.267 billion as of February 3, snapping a three-week rising trend, RBI data showed on Friday.

In the previous reporting week, the overall reserves had jumped by USD 3.03 billion to USD 576.76 billion.

In October 2021, the country's forex kitty had reached an all-time high of USD 645 bil-

lion. The reserves have been declining as the central bank deploys the kitty to defend the rupee amid pressures caused majorly by global developments.

For the week ended February 3, the foreign currency assets, a major component of the reserves, decreased by USD 1.323 billion to USD 507.695 billion, according to the Weekly Statistical Supplement released by the RBI.

Expressed in dollar terms, the foreign currency assets include the effect of appreciation or depreciation of non-US units like the euro, pound and yen held in the foreign exchange reserves.

After rising for multiple weeks, gold reserves decreased by USD 246 million to USD 43.781 billion, the RBI said.

BHEL Q3 net profit rises 57% to ₹42 crore



PTI ■ NEW DELHI

State-owned engineering firm BHEL on Friday posted a 56.5 per cent rise in its consolidated net profit to Rs 42.28 crore in the December quarter mainly on the back of higher revenues.

The consolidated net profit of the firm was Rs 27.02 crore in the year-ago period, according to a regulatory filing.

Total income rose to Rs 5,353.94 crore in the October-December quarter from Rs 5,219.89 crore in the same period a year ago.

Sebi's SCORES platform disposes of 3,180 complaints in January

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

A total of 3,180 complaints received through SCORES against companies or market intermediaries have been disposed of in January, as per data released by markets regulator Sebi on Friday.

SCORES is a redressal grievance system that was launched by the Securities and Exchange Board of India (Sebi) in June 2011.

At the beginning of January, as many as 2,915 complaints were pending and 2,877 fresh complaints were received during the month.

These complaints were related to refunds, allotment, redemption and interest, among others.

The regulator also noted that there were 11 complaints as of January 2023, which were pending for more than three months. These complaints were



related to research analyst, investment adviser, non-demat, remat and transfer/dividend/rights/redemption.

The average resolution time for a complaint is 31 days, it added.

In a separate public notice, Sebi mentioned eight entities against whom complaints have been pending for more than three months on SCORES as of January 2023.

These include Grovalue Financial Services, Profit Vista Financial Research proprietor Gaurav Agrawal, Anupriya Investment Advisors and Chetan Yashwant Shukla.

Shri Vardhman Overseas Ltd, Rajasthan Breweries Ltd, Life Line Injects Ltd and Kaushal Mehta are also the entities against whom complaints have been pending for over three months.

Govt to revoke ban on fintech firms LazyPay, Kissht

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The Government will revoke the ban imposed on fintech firms LazyPay and Kissht after representations were made by these companies, a senior official said on Friday.

The Government last week ordered the blocking of 232 apps operated by overseas entities, including Chinese, for being involved in betting, gambling and unauthorised loan service.

Sources said that the government will revoke the ban on LazyPay and Kissht that were in the list of banned websites and apps after representations were made by these companies.

A senior government official confirmed the development.

IRB Infra toll revenue grows 36% to ₹374.81 crore in January

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

IRB Infrastructure Developers Ltd (IRB) on Friday said its revenue from toll collection grew 36 per cent to ₹374.81 crore in January 2023.

The toll collection stood at ₹276.44 crore in January 2022, IRB said in a statement.

"The consistently robust growth in toll revenue across all our projects over last year reflects economic stability that the country has achieved post-pandemic, and these corridors are playing a vital role in it," Chairman D Mhaikar, Chairperson & Managing Director of IRB Infrastructure Developers said.

IRB has a track record of constructing, tolling, operating and maintaining around 15,500 lane km across India.

IRB Infrastructure Developers is India's leading and one of the largest integrated infrastructure players in the highways sector.

Rupee falls 4 paise to close at 82.55 against US dollar



PTI ■ MUMBAI

The rupee depreciated 4 paise to close at 82.55 (provisional) against the US dollar on Friday, tracking a muted trend in domestic equities and firm crude oil prices.

Forex traders said the rupee consolidated in a narrow range amid risk aversion in global markets.

At the interbank foreign exchange market, the local unit opened at 82.61 against the American currency and touched a low of 82.64 and a high of 82.34 intra-day.

It finally settled at 82.55 against the greenback, down 4 paise from its previous close of 82.51.

According to Anuj Choudhary, Research Analyst at Sharekhan by BNP Paribas, weak domestic equities and a strong dollar impacted the local unit.

"Dollar strengthened on expectations of a rate hike by the Fed and a weak Pound amid disappointing GDP data from the UK," he said.

"We expect the Rupee to trade with a slight negative bias amid risk aversion in global markets and sharp pullback in crude oil prices. Strong dollar on hawkish tone of Fed may also put pressure on Rupee," Choudhary added.

Market participants may remain cautious ahead of IIP data from India and Michigan consumer sentiment from the US. USD-INR spot price is expected to trade in a range of ₹82 to ₹83.30, Choudhary added.

The dollar index, which gauges the greenback's strength against a basket of six currencies, rose 0.06 per cent to 103.28.

Gold tumbles ₹669; Silver plummets ₹1,026



PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Gold price tumbled ₹669 to ₹56,754 per 10 grams in the national capital on Friday amid weak global trends, according to HDFC Securities.

In the previous trade, the yellow metal had touched ₹57,423 per 10 grams.

Silver also plummeted ₹1,026 to ₹66,953 per kilogram. "Spot gold prices in the Delhi markets traded at ₹56,754 per 10 grams, down ₹669 per 10 grams," Saumil Gandhi, Senior Analyst - Commodities at HDFC Securities, said.

In the overseas market, both gold and silver were quoting lower at \$1,866 per ounce and \$22.12 per ounce, respectively. Comex gold prices traded lower in Asian trading hours on Friday, Gandhi said.

Reliance to invest ₹75K cr in UP in 4 yrs: Ambani

PTI ■ LUCKNOW

Reliance Industries Ltd will invest ₹75,000 crore in rolling out 5G mobile telephony services, expanding retail network and setting up renewable energy capacity in Uttar Pradesh in the next four years, its chairman Mukesh Ambani said on Friday.

Ambani also announced foray of the oil-to-telecom conglomerate into bio-energy business, converting agriculture waste into gas which can be used as fuel in industries, run automobiles or light kitchen stoves.

Speaking at the Uttar Pradesh Global Investors Summit 2023 here, Ambani said his group will set up 10 GigaWatts of renewable energy capacity and roll out 5G services across the state in the next 10 months.

"We plan to invest an additional ₹75,000 crore in UP over the next four years across Jio, retail, and renewable businesses," he said.

"These new investments will create an additional over 1 lakh jobs in the state," he



added. The investment will be in addition to ₹50,000 crore already invested in the state.

Reliance Jio, the nation's largest telecom company by subscribers, will complete its rollout of 5G to cover every town and village in the state by December 2023.

Stating that this will help modernise all areas of business and industry, agriculture, social sector, and governance, he said the company plans to do pilots on its two new innovative initiatives — Jio School and Jio AI Doctor — to bring top-class education and healthcare in the most affordable way to villages and small towns across Uttar Pradesh. Reliance Retail, he said, will revolutionise hundreds of thousands of kiranas and small stores across the State.

GAIL inks adv pricing agreement with CBDT

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

State-owned GAIL (India) Ltd has signed an advance pricing agreement with the Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT) for determining the transfer pricing margin payable on the long-term LNG the firm sources from the US. The pact was signed by Rasmi Ranjan Das of CBDT and R K Jain, Director (Finance), GAIL, the company said in a statement. "GAIL and CBDT entered into a landmark advance pricing agreement (APA) for determining the transfer pricing margin payable on its long-term LNG sourcing contract from USA for the period of five years," it said. "The APA scheme enhances the government's goal of promoting a non-adversarial tax system and improve the ease of doing business in India."

KMB acquires microlender Sonata for ₹537 cr in all cash deal

PTI ■ MUMBAI

Kotak Mahindra Bank (KMB) on Friday announced that it has fully acquired microlender Sonata Finance for ₹537 crore.

The acquisition, which is the second such deal for KMB after acquiring BSS Microfinance in 2017, will give the bank access to 502 branches across 10 states and add 9 lakh women customers to its base, according to a statement.

"The acquisition is for an agree-

gate all-cash consideration of approximately ₹537 crore," it said, adding that Sonata will be a wholly-owned subsidiary of the bank once the transaction gets regulatory approvals.

The two-decade-old Sonata, a registered Non Bank Finance Company-Microfinance (NBFC-MFI), had ₹1,903 crore of Assets Under Management (AUM) as of December 31, 2022.

The deal provides a strong platform to aid the bank in becoming a significant player in the financial

inclusion space, catering to economically weaker and underserved households in a commercially viable manner, it said.

It presents an opportunity before the bank to scale up its operations in the rural and semi-urban markets in the northern states of India, the statement said. The deal is value accretive from inception given the economies of scale and unlocking of efficiencies along with the bank's own distribution footprint and technology, the statement said.

BUSINESS BRIEF

LIC RECORDS 20.65% INCREASE FOR 9 MONTHS
Mumbai: The Board of Directors of Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC) approved and adopted the standalone and reviewed consolidated financial results for the nine months ending Q3. LIC registered an increase of 20.65% in the Total Premium Income at ₹3,42,244 crore as compared to ₹2,83,673 crore for the nine months ending December 31st, 2021 during the previous year. The Profit after Tax (PAT) for the nine months ending December 31st, 2022 was ₹22,970 crore as compared to ₹1,672 crore for the nine months ending December 31st, 2021.

SECL MD GIVEN ISM ALUMNUS AWARD
New Delhi: Chairman-cum-MD of South Eastern Coalfields Limited (SECL) Prem Sagar Mishra was honoured with the Distinguished Alumnus Award instituted by the Indian Institute of Technology (ISM) Dhanbad. The award has been given to acknowledge his exceptional contribution in the mining sector.

VIT-AP INKS MOU WITH USA VARSITY ON DATA SC PROG
Amaravati: VIT-AP University, Amaravati has entered into a MoU on the Data Science program with the State University of New York, Binghamton, USA. The B.Sc.-M.Sc. dual-degree and M.Sc. programme in Data Science is offered by the School of Advanced Sciences, at VIT-AP University, and the MoU will facilitate various academic pathways for VIT-AP students to the System Science programme at SUNY.

EVENTS ON NUTRACEUTICAL MARKET
New Delhi: B2B events organiser Informa Markets in India is all set to host the maiden edition of Vitafoods, a well-recognised global brand with a considerable presence in Europe and Asia. Geo-located for the Indian market, Vitafoods India will cater exclusively to nutraceutical market that is growing in the country, especially after the pandemic.

MOU TO BRIDGE INDUSTRY-ACADEMIA GAP
New Delhi: Grant Thornton Bharat, a professional services firms, and Maharaja Agrasen Technical Education Society on Friday signed an MoU to strengthen their partnership as knowledge partners and to bridge the industry-academia gap. "We believe that this collaboration will help to bring about a positive impact on the future of technical education and industry-academia partnerships in India," said Siddharth Nigam, Partner & National Managing Partner, Growth.

BLUE-COLLAR-JOB SURVEY
New Delhi: An internal analysis by blue and grey collared recruitment platform WorkIndia, comparing 2021 and 2022 and illuminating the departments experiencing significant growth within the blue-collar industry, has revealed that the top departments for both male and female candidates are construction, astrology, law, garment making, and gardening. Nilesh Dugarwal, Co-founder and COO, WorkIndia, said the blue-collar sector is undergoing substantial transformations as a result of recent technological advancements.

TON-UP ROHIT, JADEJA PUT INDIA ON TOP

PTI ■ NAGPUR

Skipper Rohit Sharma conjured up one his most impressive Test hundreds under pressure against a quality Australian attack as India vaulted to a crucial 144-run lead in the series-opener after ending the day two at 321 for 7, here Friday.

Rohit (120) displayed class and composure of the highest order and in the process became the first Indian captain to have scored a century in all three formats.

While Rohit's ninth Test hundred is worth its weight in gold, Ravindra Jadeja's (66 not out) 18th half-century is also priceless. The all-rounder's knock will be equally important in the context of the game.

Jadeja once again showed his true worth by adding 61 runs for the sixth wicket with Rohit and another 81 runs for the unconquered eighth-wicket with Axar Patel (52 batting), who is also playing a fine hand.

It was a battle of attrition for Indian batters, especially Rohit and Jadeja with the home team putting on board 244 runs on the second day.

On a slow track where other batters found the run-scoring extremely difficult, the Indian captain was concentration-personified.

It had the same class as the 161 he scored in against England in 2021 in the Chennai Test. The opener put his best food forward against an attack, led by spinners Nathan Lyon (1/98) and Todd Murphy (5/82), who got a five-for on Test debut.

In fact, both the off-break bowlers came round the wicket against right-handers to stem the



flow of runs and succeeded partially.

It took Rohit 171 balls to reach his hundred. He hit 15 boundaries and two sixes in a knock that spanned more than four and half hours.

But the hallmark of his innings was the rotation of strike and how he traded risk for caution.

Having read the nature of the pitch perfectly, Rohit curbed his natural flair and channelled his "inner Cheteshwar Pujara" and testimony to that was 62 completely out of character runs

that he scored across two sessions on the day.

He had scored 56 runs in half-a-session on Thursday evening.

Pull has been Rohit's go-to shot in every form of cricket he didn't take his opposite number Pat Cummins' (1/74) bait, save one time when he hit him for a maximum behind square.

He didn't try to get to his hundred in a hurry, playing out maidens and taking singles before whipping Cummins to square leg for a boundary that took his score in the 90s.

It was an inside-out lofted drive over extra cover off Murphy that brought up his hundred, and once again reiterated the theory that in adverse situations, individuals with the highest degree of skill prevail.

There wasn't any over-the-top celebrations, no cuss words used or the customary ritual of removing the helmet. He just looked towards the dressing room in acknowledgement.

Once second new ball was taken, Cummins dismissed Rohit with an unplayable delivery that was fast and also moved

away late after pitching.

However Jadeja stood firm and got good support from fellow all-rounder Axar to further consolidate India's position in the game. Virat Kohli (12) along with debutants Suryakumar Yadav (8) and Kona Bharat (8) would be disappointed that they didn't score big.

In the case of Kohli, bespectacled Murphy bowled a similar delivery to the former India skipper that had earlier accounted for Cheteshwar Pujara.

The young spinner bowled on the fifth stump on the leg side

and a faint nick was taken on the second attempt by wicket-keeper Alex Carey.

Surya became Lyon's first victim as the off-break bowler breached his defence.

In the morning, captain Cummins had set the bait for his opposite number with a deep fine leg and deep mid-wicket fielder but bowled fuller during his morning spell.

Scott Boland also toiled manfully but once Carey stood up to the stumps, it was evident that there was no help for fast bowlers on day two.



I'll look back at this feat for rest of my life & be proud of: Murphy

PTI ■ NAGPUR

Todd Murphy has had a "special" couple of days and the bespectacled Australian Test debutant, who resembled more like a professor of history rather than practitioner of finger spin, couldn't be happier for his five-wicket haul against India in the ongoing opening Test here.

Murphy has so far picked up 5 for 82 in 36 overs in India's first innings, with the wickets of KL Rahul, Cheteshwar Pujara and Virat Kohli in his kitty.

"It's been a pretty special couple of days and to top it off with a five-wicket haul on debut is more than I ever hope for and it is going to be something that I'll look back on for the rest of my life and be proud of," Murphy said at the end of the second day's play.

Murphy was all praise for the Indian batters and their ability to use their hands against spinners. "I haven't bowled to a lot of people from around the world but I think

the Indian guys they use their hands really well. They get their hands out in front of their pads and they have got a lot of scoring options too.

"So always a really difficult challenge there. And it was quite tough," he said. Murphy started out as a medium pacer but later found off-breaks to be his calling card.

"I think in all honesty my medium pace wasn't really any good anyway, so it sort of just came a time where I was tinkering in the nets with off-spin bowling and yeah, got some really good feedback that what was coming out of my hand was alright. So, just went from there and kept working at it and it's been the best thing I've ever done. So thankful I have," he said.

It has been one hell of a journey for Murphy, who wasn't even playing first-class cricket a year back and now has five-for in Tests to boast of.

"I think this time last year I was still not in the state side so it sort of has been quite quick progress," he admitted.

Rohit was made to work hard, surface wasn't easy to bat on: Rathour

PTI ■ NAGPUR

Australia made Rohit Sharma "work hard" for his 120-run knock and it was a special effort since it came on a track that wasn't easy to bat on, India batting coach Vikram Rathour said after the hosts strengthened their position in the series-opener.

Rohit's hundred and half-centuries from Ravindra Jadeja and Axar Patel has given India a first innings lead of 144, going into the third day.

"It was a special innings by Rohit and it is a great feeling (to see him score runs). He showed good temperament and it was very important innings as the surface wasn't easy to bat on," Rathour said at the end of the second day's play.

Since he started opening in Test matches, Rohit has played some great knocks but the three hundreds that stand out include his epic 161 on a Chepauk snake pit, a ton at the Oval and Friday's knock on a low, slow turner against Australia.

"That is the quality of his batting," Rathour said.

"He has got runs on seaming tracks in England. But if we talk about this particular innings, he was made to work hard for his runs. Normally, with Rohit when he scores his first few runs, he then pushes the score. But here he had to work hard," the former Test opener said.

India scored 95 runs in the final session, courtesy a 81-run stand between Axar (52 batting) and Jadeja (66 batting) but Rathour didn't want to sound



complacent about the fact that the match is as good as in India's pocket.

"I don't think so. You can't say till the last ball is bowled," he said cautiously.

When asked if Axar's batting came into consideration when he was picked ahead of Kuldeep, Rathour denied emphatically.

"He (Axar) has been exceptional with the ball so that was not even a consideration. Yes, (his) batting is a bonus," he added. Rathour went on to the defensive the moment the question about KL Rahul's form cropped up.

Was he lucky to be considered in the playing XI despite his poor run of form, Rathour replied: "I won't be able to comment on that."

"But he (Rahul) has scored two hundreds in his last 10 Tests — one in England and other in South Africa and also has a couple of fifties. So we are not yet there."

For the record, the century in England came in August, 2021 and the one in South Africa in January, 2022. Rahul has had run of poor scores with one 50-plus knock in his last nine innings and rest of scores were all below 25.

Renshaw returns to field after undergoing knee scans

PTI ■ NAGPUR

Matthew Renshaw returned to the field, much to the relief of Australia after undergoing scans following a knee injury which he suffered during the warm-up session ahead of the second day's play in the ongoing first Test against India here on Friday.

Renshaw, who was picked in the playing XI ahead of Travis Head raising quite a few eyebrows, had left the Vidarbha Cricket Association Stadium for X-rays on his right knee, with Ashton Agar coming on as his substitute. His involvement in the ongoing Test was in doubt following the injury, further compounding Australia's problems in the gruelling series with pacers Josh Hazlewood and



Mitchell Starc also missing the opener due to injuries.

However, the 26-year-old returned to the field later in the afternoon after passing a fitness test. Renshaw, who has so far played 12 Tests, returned to the national setup for the third Test against South Africa at SCG in January and was retained in the

squad for the Border-Gavaskar Trophy.

This is the second time in two months that Renshaw has been hit by bad luck. He was forced to isolate and use a separate change-room during the Test match against the Proteas after returning positive for COVID-19.

Ponting targets Warner's poor run

PTI ■ MELBOURNE

Former Australian captain Ricky Ponting has dropped a hint to his country's selectors that they revisit David Warner's place in the playing XI if he continues to fire blanks in Test cricket in the sub-continent.

The 36-year-old opening stalwart came up with another underwhelming performance on the opening day of the first Test in Nagpur on Thursday with Mohammed Shami bowling him through the gate for one and leaving the visitors two down for just two runs.

Warner's batting record

in overseas Tests isn't flattering with the southpaw accumulating 2,994 runs at a modest average of 33.64. In India, it drops further to 22.88.

"I think he averages 24 in India, something like that, from about eight Test matches," Ponting told ICC Review.

"Nine Test matches — well, eight-and-a-half, he's got another (innings) yet — but that average would've dipped down again today (Thursday). He's one of the players that has come out and said that winning in India, as far as he's concerned, would be maybe even bigger than winning an Ashes series."

Mandhana doubtful starter for India-Pak T20 WC match

PTI ■ CAPE TOWN

India vice captain Smriti Mandhana is likely to miss the Women's T20 World Cup opener against Pakistan on Sunday as she is yet to recover from a finger injury she suffered during a warm-up game.

The 26-year-old opener injured her left middle finger while fielding during the warm-up match against Australia on Monday.

"She suffered an injury in the practice game. We can't say she is out of World Cup yet. But she could miss the Pakistan game," an ICC source said. The southpaw had batted at



number three against Australia instead of her usual opening position. Her innings lasted only three balls.

Mandhana had subsequently missed India's second warm-up game against Bangladesh on Wednesday.

Lucknow franchise of WPL to be known as UP Warriorz

PTI ■ LUCKNOW

The Lucknow franchise of the inaugural Women's Premier League (WPL), owned by Capri Global Holdings Private Limited, will be known as UP Warriorz.

One of the five teams of this year's WPL, the UP Warriorz was bought by Capri Global Holdings Private Limited for Rs 757 crore at an auction hosted by the BCCI.

UP Warriorz's logo comprises four components — a rendition of the sarus crane, a sword, wings that extend out like the rays of the sun, and a

shield to hold it all together.

Former England cricketer Jon Lewis has been appointed as the head coach of the team, while Arjuna awardee Anju Jain will be the assistant coach.

Former Australian cricketer Ashley Noffke will be the bowling coach, while four-time world champion from Australia Lisa Sthalekar will be the mentor.

Lewis, the current head coach of the England women's team, is vastly experienced and has bagged more than 1200 wickets in over 500 games, internationally and domestically.

Well known in the English county circuit, Lewis was the bowling coach for the England men's team in 2021, and worked with an elite group of bowlers like Jofra Archer, Mark Wood and Ben Stokes.

The WPL is set to be played in Mumbai from March 4 to 26.

A total of 22 matches will be played with the Brabourne Stadium and DY Patil Stadium playing host to the marquee tournament.

The Player Auction for the WPL will be held in Mumbai on February 13.

Jackson, Vasavada tons turn it around for Saurashtra

PTI ■ BENGALURU

Sheldon Jackson and skipper Arpit Vasavada struck a century each as Saurashtra turned the tables on Karnataka, posting 364 for 4 in their first innings in reply to the opposition's 407 on the third day of their Ranji Trophy semi-final here on Friday.

Jackson, who started at the overnight score of 27, made 160 off 245 balls and decorated his knock with 23 boundaries and two sixes, while Vasavada remained unbeaten on 112 (219 balls, 15x4s) as the duo shared 232 runs for the fourth wicket to bring Saurashtra back into the contest. Giving Vasavada company at the crease at stumps was Chirag Jani (19 not out).

Saurashtra trail Karnataka by just 43 runs with six wickets in hands and two full days' play remaining. Resuming at the overnight score of 76 for 2,

Saurashtra did not have a good start as they lost Harvik Desai (33) inside five overs, trapped LBW by Vasuki Koushik.

But then came the turnaround as Jackson and Vasavada joined hands and played patiently to build a partnership.

The duo displayed classical Test match temperament, defending the good balls but not hesitating to dispatch the bad deliveries to the boundary.

It was complete frustration for the Karnataka bowlers as they failed to break the partnership or trouble the duo, who looked determined.

Off-spinner Krishnappa Gowtham (1/68) finally broke the partnership in the 98th over, trapping Jackson in front of the wicket but by then it was too late as Saurashtra had already undone the hard work of Karnataka skipper Mayank Agarwal, who scored 249 in the first innings to more-or-less

single-handedly take his side past the 400-run mark.

BENGAL ALL OVER MP

Indore: Bengal pacer Akash Deep bowled a game-changing spell en route to a five-wicket haul to put his team in the driver's seat against defending champions Madhya Pradesh in the semifinal.

Akash Deep (5/42), who played a key role in their win over Jharkhand in the quarter-finals, rattled Madhya Pradesh's recovery act led by overnight batter Saransh Jain (65), claiming two wickets in two balls.

He uprooted Jain's off-stump and in the next ball trapped Kumar Kartikeya leg-before to bring life into Bengal's lacklustre attack, which also has Ishan Porel and Mukesh Kumar.

He grabbed his fourth five-wicket haul in first-class cricket dismissing Avesh Khan before



Madhya Pradesh were bowled out for 170 when their No. 11 batter Gaurav Yadav was run out.

Bengal took a huge first innings lead of 268 runs but skipper Manoj Tiwary did not enforce follow-on.

Bengal ended the third day on 59 for 2, with an overall lead of 327 runs to inch closer to the final.

The two-time Ranji champions last reached the final in 2020 where they lost to Saurashtra. Bengal are yet to win the Ranji Trophy since 1989-90.

Much like the first innings, the opening duo of Abhimanyu Easwaran (19) and Karan Lal (17) departed in quick succession.

First innings centurion duo of Sudip Gharami (12 batting) and Anustup Majumdar (9 batting) were at the crease with two more days to go.

Earlier resuming at the

overnight score of 56 for 2, night watchman Anubhav Agarwal departed with the addition of just two runs after edging one off Mukesh Kumar.

At the other end, Akash Deep cleaned up Rajat Patidar for a duck, while left-arm spinner Shahbaz Ahmed dismissed MP skipper Aditya Srivastava (7) as half of their side were out in the pavilion for 89.

Venkatesh Iyer looked to counter-attack and smashed Akash Deep for a six, but he became Ahmed's second victim.

But the left-right combination of Jain and Shubham Sharma (44 not out) resisted Bengal with their resolute partnership of 54 runs.

Jain made full use of a reprieve on 37 to complete his fifty as they duo looked at ease.

But Akash triggered the collapse after he was brought back into the attack in the post-lunch session.



नरेन्द्र मोदी
प्रधानमंत्री



शिवराज सिंह चौहान
मुख्यमंत्री, मध्यप्रदेश



मध्य प्रदेश

शिवराज सिंह चौहान

मुख्यमंत्री, मध्यप्रदेश
के मुख्य आतिथ्य में

समापन समारोह

11 फरवरी 2023

विशिष्ट अतिथि

अनुराग सिंह ठाकुर

केन्द्रीय मंत्री, खेल और युवा कार्यक्रम, सूचना एवं प्रसारण

गरिमामयी उपस्थिति

निसिथ प्रामाणिक

केन्द्रीय मंत्री (राज्य), खेल और युवा कार्यक्रम, गृह

यशोधरा राजे सिधिया

मंत्री, खेल और युवा कल्याण,
तकनीकी शिक्षा, कौशल विकास एवं रोजगार विभाग, म.प्र.

गगन नारंग

वाइस प्रेसिडेंट, भारतीय ओलम्पिक संघ
खेल रत्न अवार्डी एवं ओलम्पिक पदक विजेता (शूटिंग)

कार्यक्रम

मुख्यमंत्री द्वारा **चैम्पियन्स परेड** का शुभारंभ - सायं 5:30 बजे

स्थान- मुख्यमंत्री निवास से

समापन समारोह - सायं 6:45 बजे

स्थान - मध्यप्रदेश राज्य वाटर स्पोर्ट्स अकादमी, लेकव्यू रोड, भोपाल

आप सादर आमंत्रित हैं!

**ज़ोर से खेले
हम जान से खेले
हिन्दुस्तान के दिल में
हम शान से खेले**



खेल और युवा कल्याण विभाग, मध्यप्रदेश