

WORLD 5

TRUMP KICKS OFF 2024 BID WITH EVENTS IN EARLY VOTING STATES

MONEY 6

'ELECTION BUDGET' TO FOCUS ON JOB CREATION, FARM SECTOR

SPORT 8

ARYNA WINS HER MAIDEN AUSTRALIAN OPEN

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CAPSULE

7 KILLED IN JERUSALEM TERROR SHOOTING

Jerusalem: At least seven people have been killed and three others injured in a terror shooting attack at a synagogue in the Neve Yaakov neighbourhood of Jerusalem, police and medics have said. The shooting took place on Friday evening in the northern part of East Jerusalem, they said.

TALIBAN WARN WOMEN OF VARSITY EXAMS

Islamabad: The Taliban on Saturday doubled down on their ban on women's education, reinforcing in a message to private universities that Afghan women are barred from taking university entry exams, according to a spokesman.

BADRINATH TO REOPEN FOR DEVOTEES ON APR 27

NEW TEHR: Amid uncertainty resulting from the land subsidence in Joshimath — the gateway to Badrinath — the date for reopening of this major shrine to lord Vishnu has been announced. The Badrinath temple will be reopened to the public on April 27 at 7.10 am, authorities said.

TISS CANCELS BBC DOCU SCREENING

Mumbai: Amid protests by the Bharatiya Janata Yuva Morcha (BJYM) activists, the Tata Institute of Social Sciences (TISS)'s student union Progressive Students Forum (PSF) cancelled the scheduled screening of the controversial BBC documentary "India: The Modi Question", on Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Saturday evening.

2 Muslims in BJP's Tripura candidate list

Former CM Biplab Deb left out

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The BJP on Saturday released the names of 48 candidates for the Tripura Assembly election, giving tickets to two Muslim and 11 women candidates. Chief Minister Manik Saha and Union Minister Pratima Bhoumik will contest from Bordowali and Dhanpur respectively. But the party has left out former Chief Minister Biplab Deb, triggering speculation that he may find a place in the Union Cabinet.

The inclusion of two Muslim candidates from a small State like Tripura comes after Prime Minister Narendra Modi recently asked the BJP cadres to reach out to the voters of the minority communities, including Pashmunda Muslims.

Tripura Opposition CPI(M) MLA from Kailashahar Assembly constituency Md Mabashwar Ali, who on Friday joined the BJP, has been fielded from Kailashahar and Taffazal Hossain is the second BJP candidate. He will contest from Boxanagar.

Incidentally, in the past, the BJP did not field even a single candidate from many

States, like Uttar Pradesh and Bihar. The inclusion of two Muslim candidates in the BJP list is also significant as Muslim consist of only 8 per cent of the Tripura population, which is dominated by Hindus (81 per cent).

Except for one, all the Ministers were re-nominated while six sitting MLAs were dropped from the contest this time. Those MLAs denied tickets are — Arun Chandra Bhowmik (Belonia), Biplab Ghosh (Matabari), Subhash Das (Nalchar), Mimi Majumder (Badharghat), Birendra Kishore Debbarma (Golaghati), and Parimal Debbarma (Ambasa).

Elections for the 60-member Tripura Assembly are scheduled for February 16.

Party leaders Anil Baluni and Sambit Patra announced the BJP's candidates at a Press conference here in the party headquarters in the national Capital after BJP's Central Election Committee attended by the Prime Minister, party president JP Nadda, Home Minister Amit Shah, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh and others met on Friday and approved the list of the nominees.

Crash dateline of 'Wolf of the Skies'

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

There is a long history of crashes of SU-30 MKI and Mirage-2000s fighter aircraft. So far, 12 Sukhoi and 14 Mirage fighter jets have crashed in India. The first SU-30 MKI crashed in 2009.

At least 42 Indian Armed forces personnel were killed in 45 accidents involving aircraft and helicopters in the last five years ending 2022. The Indian Air Force (IAF) accounts for 29 of them, while the Army and Navy saw 12 casualties respectively. Five MiG-21 aircraft crashed in 2021, resulting in the deaths of three pilots.

In addition to MiG-21, the other aircraft that crashed in 2021 included a Mirage 2000, two Dhruv Advanced Light

Helicopters, two Mi-17s, and a Cheetah helicopter.

The year 2021 saw the number of accidents jumping to ten from five in 2020. Incidentally, the first Chief of Defence Staff General Bipin Rawat died in a helicopter crash on December 8, 2021.

The SU-30 MKI and Mirage-2000 are frontline fighter jets of the Indian Air Force. The SU-30 is of Russian origin, and Mirage comes from France. The deal for SU-30s was inked in 1996. The induction of these fighter planes started in 1997 and its improved variant SU-30 MKI in 2005. Currently, the IAF has 272 SU-30s — Wolf of the Skies — and 50 Mirage-2000. The deal for Mirage was inked between India and France in 1985.

IAF jets collide mid-air, pilot dies

Sukhoi, Mirage jets crash near Gwalior; 2 SU-30 pilots eject, injured; probe begins



Locals near the wreckage of planes after a Su-30MKI and a Mirage 2000 fighter planes crashed during an exercise, in Morena district on Saturday

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

In one of the worst air mishaps in recent years, two IAF fighter jets — Sukhoi SU-30 MKI and Mirage-2000 — crashed on Saturday morning possibly after a mid-air collision near Gwalior, Madhya Pradesh.

One pilot died and two other pilots ejected safely. They are undergoing medical treatment. The IAF ordered the

mandatory court of inquiry to find out the cause of the accident.

The accident took place at about 5.30 am after the two planes took off from the Gwalior airbase for a routine sortie. The possible collision took place during a simulated combat mission when the jets were flying at speeds of more than 800 km per hour, sources said.

The SU-30 crashed in

Morena, Madhya Pradesh, while part of the wreckage of the Mirage was found 100 km away in neighbouring Bharatpur in Rajasthan. The two pilots of the SU-30 ejected safely while the pilot of the Mirage died. Defence Minister Rajnath Singh was briefed about the accident by senior IAF officials.

Eyewitnesses said people, who assembled at the site, extricated the two pilots from

the thicket and laid them down on the ground till an IAF helicopter arrived and flew them for treatment to Gwalior. Debris from the two aircraft was strewn over an area of 500-800 metres, some four kilometres away from Pahargarh.

The people in the vicinity tried to extinguish the flames engulfing the two aircraft by throwing mud, these eyewitnesses said, adding the area was soon swarming with more

than 1,500 residents of 15 villages nearby.

"I was standing with some people here when we heard a massive noise from above, like a powerful bomb blast. We looked up to see balls of fire descending, some of which landed in a forested path here and some in Bharatpur on the other side," Pahargarh sarpanch Shailendra Shukya told media outlets at the site.

Govt working to empower deprived, neglected: Modi

PTI ■ JAIPUR

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Saturday said his Government is working to empower every section of society that has faced deprivation and neglect, and is moving ahead with the mantra of "Vanchit ko Variyata (preference to the underprivileged)".

Modi is on a visit to Bhilwara district in Rajasthan on the 111th incarnation festival of folk deity Lord Shri Devnarayan, revered by people of the Gurjar community.

Addressing a gathering at Malaseri Dungri village after taking part in a ritual to mark the occasion, the Prime Minister said the world now looks at India with high hopes and the country has shown its strength and power.

Today, India asserts itself on global platforms and is reducing its dependency on



other countries, he added.

Highlighting the contribution of the people of the Gurjar community in the freedom struggle and other movements, the prime minister said it is the misfortune of the country that such personalities did not get the place in history which they deserved.

However, Modi said, the new India is correcting the mistakes done in the past.

Delhi's Mughal Garden renamed Amrit Udyan

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

Continuing with its drive to give Hindi names to Mughal-era heritages, the Centre has changed the name of Rashtrapati Bhavan's Mughal Gardens to Amrit Udyan.

"On the occasion of the celebrations of 75 years of Independence as 'Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav', the President of India has given a common name to the Rashtrapati Bhavan gardens as Amrit Udyan," said a statement issued by the Rashtrapati Bhavan.

President Droupadi Murmu will formally inaugurate the rechristened Amrit Udyan on Sunday.

This time the gardens (Herbal Garden, Bonsai Garden, Central Lawn, Long Garden, and Circular Garden) will be open for about two months — from January 31 to March 26, the statement said.



In the past, the garden was open for public viewing for a month — from February to March. The Government had last year renamed Delhi's iconic Rajpath as "Kartavya Path".

The renaming of the stretch and other institutions is in line with the Centre's effort to remove any trace of the colonial mindset, it has maintained.

Pathan's gross ₹313 cr worldwide, makes history

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Superstar Shah Rukh Khan's "Pathaan" took its total worldwide gross collection to ₹313 crore as the film continued to perform outstandingly at the ticket window.

According to Yash Raj Films (YRF), the SRK-Deepika Padukone starrer raised ₹38 crore nett in Hindi format, while dubbed formats earned ₹1.25 crore nett on the third day. "Pathaan" was also released in Tamil and Telugu on January 25.

"The total India collection on day three was ₹39.25 crore nett (₹47 crore gross). Meanwhile, overseas collection was also astronomical as it collected ₹43 crore gross. The total worldwide collection on day three was an insane ₹90 crore worldwide gross box office," the studio said in a press note.

"Pathaan", which is Shah Rukh's first big screen release in



over four years, had raised Rs 106 crore globally on its opening day, followed by ₹113.6 crore on day two.

The total India gross box office collection after three days stands at ₹201 crore gross and total overseas collection is at ₹112 crore gross.

"It is incredible that 'Pathaan' has registered the biggest all-time opening in India and overseas, considering the collections of the film in the first 3 days of release which is

ing a debilitating attack on India.

Anand said the film's historic performance will inspire him to "create bigger spectacles that can make India proud on the global stage."

"It feels incredible to deliver the biggest 3-day collection in the history of Hindi cinema. For someone, who is passionately committed to his craft, this is simply a phenomenal result that will inspire me to push the envelope of cinema in India even further," the director added.

It is the fourth film in producer Aditya Chopra's ambitious spy universe, following Salman Khan's "Ek Tha Tiger" (2012) and "Tiger Zinda Hai" (2017), and "War", featuring Hrithik Roshan (2019).

"Pathaan", which according to YRF has broken some 21 box office records, also has a guest appearance by Salman as fellow spy Tiger.

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Admin removes encroachment ahead of CM's yatra

PNS : JAMSHEDPUR

Ahead of CM's Khatiyani Johar Yatra on July 31, the district administration on Saturday removed years old encroachment from Rankini Mandir to Uliyan Chowk in Kadma. A joint team of police and Tata Steel UISL carried out the drive. A total of 50 residence-cum-shops were removed after excavators were pressed into service. Though the encroachers had gathered at the spot, no one dared to protest. They claimed that no notice was served to them. The drive

was launched prior to notice.

The officials said that the land on which the unauthorised kiosks and shops existed belonged to Tata Steel. The civic body on behalf of Tata Steel had approached the SDO, Dhalbhum for removing the encroachment. The anti-encroachment drive was carried out on the instruction given by the SDO. Kadma Police officials said that no one came forward to resisting the move.

A senior official of Tata Steel UISL when asked said that the utility company will erect a compound wall to stop encroachment. Kadma, Bistupur, Sakchi

and Jugsalai, which are the busiest areas of the town, over fifty fruit vendors and vegetable sellers have encroached the road and there are always a traffic jam as the fruit vendors have occupied one fourth portion of the road, making difficult to move the heavy vehicles.

The SDO said that similar to the Sakchi operation, they would be clearing encroachments and taking photographs of cleared space and handing it over to the local police stations (Bistupur police in this case) and local civic body (Jamshedpur Notified Area Committee). "This is done to ensure



that squatters do not set up their makeshift kiosks and establishment do not put up extensions once the drive is over. After the drive is over it

would be the onus of the police and JNAC to ensure that roads, pavements and drains remain encroachment free," added the officials.

He hinted that similar drives would be carried out in other commercial areas like Sonari, Kadma, Jugsalai, Golmuri, Burmamines and Mango.

Traders outfit remained silent on the issue and unlike Sakchi preferred to remain away from the scene of the drive on the first day.

"Registered traders have decided not to protest administration's drive as in the long run it would benefit the shopkeepers only. Free passages and enough parking space would bring more customers to the shops," said Singhbhum Chamber of Commerce and Industry

(SCCI). However, shopkeepers preferring not to be quoted said that the drive's real test would be inside the market, especially in the fruit markets which are dominated by influential persons of a particular community.

Encroachments in the city are omnipresent and thriving, much to the discomfort of the ordinary citizen. Be it the road, parks, pavements, markets or public land taken over in the name of religion, the city is known for the encroachments which blot the urban landscape.

Sources informed that several illegal jhuggis and shops have been raised in

areas in Mango, Golpahari, Loco Colony, Karandih, Jugsalai, Sakchi and Bistupur. Though several times the anti-encroachment drives have been carried but due to support of local goons the people are able to intrude the land again.

"The eviction drive is being taken up in view of a plan to widen the road to enable the operation of buses and traffic through it. Encroachment of public land in the city has become an urban eyesore. It has brought traffic movement to a crawl. Steps need to be taken to vacate the illegal constructions," said a district official.

Free mega medical camp organized by BSL under CSR

R SHARMA : BOKARO

One day free Mega Medical Camp was organized by the CSR Department of Bokaro Steel Plant at Utrtit Middle School, Agardih. In this camp, Pediatrician Dr. Nitendra Kumar, Gynecologist Dr. Amrita Pritam, Dr. Hema, General Physician Dr. Santosh Choubey, Dr. Kapil, Dentist Dr. Neelam Kumari, Ophthalmologist Dr. Sushil Kumar, Dr. Pranay Kumar and Mr. Sanjeev Kumar Sinha and Pharmacist Mithlesh Kumar were present. A total of 229 patients were treated in the



camp and 25 patients were identified and referred to BGH for cataract surgery. It is noteworthy that apart from blood tests, other tests and medicines were also distributed free of cost during the camp.

Apart from this, acupressure therapist RK Dutta treated 48 patients and advised them to come to Sarva Swasthya Kendra, Sector 5 for regular treatment.

The team of National

Tuberculosis Eradication has made TB free India, T.B. Harega - Desh Jeetega" Mission Under which 5 T.B. The suspect has been identified. In the successful organization of the camp notably participation of Ashok Kumar, (Assistant Manager) CSR Department, Suraj Chandra Tiwari, Gaurav Mishra and Santosh Kumar including Piramal Swasthya Mobile Medical Unit team played significant roles. The camp was organized under the Amrit Mahotsav of Independence on the occasion of completion of 75 years of independence.

WILD TUSKER WRECKS HAVOC IN GARHWA VILLAGE

NITYANAND DUBEY : GARHWA

A Tusker is wreaking havoc in Kushwar village under the Bhandariya forest range, triggering panic among the local residents. On Friday night, an elephant damaged six houses in Kushmar and Bairiya village. The elephant trampled the crops and killed an animal tied in the cowshed. The tusker was part of group herds and recently got separated.

Sources said the elephants are entering human settlements in search of food and causing large-scale damage in the area. At least six houses have been reportedly damaged in Kushmar village.

Villagers alleged that the jumbos have devoured rice stored in many houses. "We are spending sleepless nights due to the rampaging tuskers. At least six houses and an Anganwadi centre have been damaged by the elephants. Due to inaction of forest personnel, we have suffered huge losses," alleged victims Lalji Korwa and Kuldeep Korwa.

Those houses have been damaged include the names of Kuldeep Lohra, Lalji Korwa, Chanu Korwa, residents of Kushwar village and Sakunti Kunwar, Panchu Nayak and Shivkumar Nayak, residents of Chudharin Tand Tola of Bairiya village.

Vinod Prasad, the head of Baligarh Panchayat, Chandan Kumar, the president of the forest committee and other forest workers investigated the matter. They assured the victims of compensation.



5, including a doctor couple, suffocated to death in Dhanbad

Pankaj Kumar : Dhanbad

Five persons including a doctor couple identified as Vikash Hazra and his wife Prema were suffocated to death in Dhanbad due to fire that broke out in the residential area of their residence - cum - hospital located at telephone exchange road under Bank More police station.

Both happened to be gynaecologists and died due to excessive smoke owing to a fire that broke out in the living area of the building between 2 and 3 am on Saturday.

Others who died in this tragic incident include Hamru, nephew of the doctor couple, maid Tara and one

Sunil who is supposed to be known to the family.

Other members of the family that include his brother Samir, his sister and family members however remained unhurt.

Dr Vikash's son and daughter are studying MBBS at Manipal and Nepal respectively.

Fire tenders that reached spot after half an hour since the incident was reported, doused fire in presence of senior officials.

Bank more police station incharge PK Singh who supervised fire fighting said initial probe suggested they all died due to suffocation but we would probe the incident from all relevant angles.

The bodies were sent to SNMCH for postmortem.

Meanwhile, chief minister Hemant Soren, former chief minister Raghubar Das, health minister Banna Gupta in separate tweets have expressed deep concern over the tragic death of the doctor couple.

Indian Medical Association state president Dr AK Singh and district president Dr (Major) Chandan too expressed deep concern over the tragic incident.

Sources said that both Vikash and Samir who happen to be sons of well known gynaecologist Dr CC hazra had a sour relationship due to property dispute.

VILLAGERS' PROTEST HALTS CONVEYOR BELT WORK IN PANDU

PNS : HAZARIBAG

The work of L&T conveyor belt in Pandu is still stopped illegally by some villagers. Since Friday, some villagers have stopped the work of L&T conveyor belt in Pandu due to their personal interest. They have protested completely due to which the work has stopped. The company is losing crores of rupees due to this protest. The names of those people who have been named in the protest are already named in the remarks. The company is suffering a loss of Rs 80 lakh per day due to the protests. L&T has shown its inability to go ahead with the ongoing protest. L&T has said that if the protest continues like this, the company will have to go back. A few days ago, cranes worth crores working in the L&T conveyor belt were burnt. Due to personal interests of some people, the development of this area is also getting obstructed. The project corporation is fully fulfilling its responsibility in the field of self-employment, health and education of the people under social responsibility. But without thinking about the interests of these poor families, people are being instigated to stop their livelihood.

Tata Steel recognised as Global Diversity Lighthouse 2023

PNS : JAMSHEDPUR

Tata Steel has been recognised as Global Diversity Equity & Inclusion (DEI) Lighthouse 2023 by World Economic Forum (WEF). The Company's efforts towards improving gender diversity at the workplace have been chosen as one of the eight case studies and have been featured in the Global Parity Alliance: Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Lighthouses 2023 report published to coincide with the World Economic Forum 2023 held in Davos, Switzerland between 16 and 20 January. The insights report builds on the work of the Global Parity Alliance - a cross-industry group committed to advancing DEI around the world - and the associated DEI Lighthouse Programme launched to identify proven, effective DEI initiatives from companies across industries and geographies, organised by WEF's centre for the New Economy and Society in collaboration with McKinsey and Company.

T. V. Narendran, CEO & MD, Tata Steel, said: "Developing and nurturing a diverse workforce in the manufacturing sector, particularly in the metals & mining sector, is filled with some unique set of challenges including the cul-



tural and social barriers that we face here. What we have accomplished in terms of diversity in workforce is an outcome of a whole range of systemic initiatives implemented through very effective programmes and solutions. It is also important to acknowledge the role played by our employees and especially the union members who enthusiastically participated and contributed immensely to this ongoing journey. We are both proud and encouraged for being chosen as a success case and for being featured in the Lighthouse Report. We hope the Lighthouses and their stories will inspire employers across the globe to shape the future of workplace."

The 'Lighthouse Report' while highlighting the approach and impact of Tata Steel's efforts in improving diversity and inclusion (D&I) in

the company said: "Tata Steel's case for change centered around the conviction that in order to achieve their aspiration - to be the most valuable steel organisation in the world with a 'future ready' and 'pioneering' workforce - they needed to invest in culture as a key enabler. Tata Steel's leaders identified DEI as a central pillar of that culture because of the importance of diversity and inclusion in fueling innovation." The report while acknowledging the particular challenges faced by Tata Steel because it is operating in the mining and manufacturing sector known for being a largely male-dominated workforce, commended the Company's impact-driven approach to bringing more women and LGBTQIA+ members into its workforce. The launch of the '25 by 25' programme in 2019 aspires to

Students of NHES sprint to success on Sports Day

PNS : JAMSHEDPUR

The Annual Sports Day of Narberham Hansraj English School was held at Gopal Maidan on Saturday. The sports event was declared open by the Chief Guest Premlata Agarwal. She was awarded the Padma Shri by the Government of India in 2013 and Tenzing Norgay National Adventure Award in 2017.

The event began with the march past presented by students of Std.VII, VIII and XI. This was followed by a colourful drill display by the students of Std.III, IV and V on the theme of '75 years of Indian Independence'. Students from Std. I to IX participated in yoga and karate display.

The chain of events continued with many track events ranging from 800 metres to 100 metres race and 4x 100 metres relay race.

The prizes were distributed by the Chief Guest, the Vice Principals and the Management Committee Members. The Overall Champion was AGNI HOUSE (BEST HOUSE), Best March Past - SURYA HOUSE.



BRITISH COLONIAL MINDSET



DRBANSHIDHAR RUKHAIYAR

The British Colonial mindset is still persisting vis-à-vis India even after seventy-five years of India's independence. This is displayed in the BBC documentary on Modiji holding him responsible for the Gujarat riots that flared up after the burning of a railway sleeper coach at Godhra where fifty eight karsevaks returning from Ayodhya were charred to death. Modiji has been exonerated of this much hyped charge by the Apex Court of the country but BBC, the state broadcasting agency of Britain, has come out with a documentary obviously with the intent to tarnish the image of Modi when the general elections are due in the first half of next year. The British PM has condemned the criticism of Modiji in this docu-

mentary which is a damage control exercise. The British colonial hangover is still there.

The opposition in the country saw an opportunity in this documentary and it launched a fresh tirade against Modiji. Panel discussions on TV channels, vandalism in the university campuses over the screening of the documentary which has been banned by the government etc. clearly show this. There is no charge of corruption against Modiji or any of his cabinet ministers, so the opposition has nothing substantial to attack this government. Hence, they view this documentary to break into the citadel of Modiji.

The country which was made pauper by the blatant loot and plunder of the English merchants and the British rule thereafter, has come a long way since her fractured independence in 1947. It has become the fifth largest economy of the world due to the turmoil of Corona and the ongoing standoff with China for almost three years. Above all, India has started calling a spade a spade and talking eyeball to eyeball no matter which country it is talking to. This is very difficult to digest

for our erstwhile master and the west. So, they will do their best to throw spanners on the path of India becoming a powerful nation. Moreover, a strong government in India does not suit them. Just imagine, how much money Britain and other western countries would have made had India not made its vaccine with such wonderful efficacy.

Therefore, every Indian has to be on guard against such a vilification campaign against Modiji. Many more such attempts would be made this year as such forces want a change of guard in India. A lame duck government would suit their scheme of things. The present government defied the western dictat not to import crude oil from Russia and imported huge amounts of Russian crude oil at a great discount and earned a lot of money. The process is still going on. The country is now going to import the Iranian crude, again on a huge discount sidelining the American sanctions. These are Indian actions America and its stooges like Britain are not used to. Their restlessness is logical and hence these mischiefs are being done.

India is now breaking free from the shackles of colonial

aftereffects. In the 1960s, India was depicted as a soft power. This image could not be broken even after becoming a nuclear power as we had a declared defensive policy of 'No first use of nuclear weapons'. This made us vulnerable against Pakistan which always threatened us with its nuclear power and successfully blackmailed us. Modiji called the bluff by conducting a surgical strike in Balakot in Pakistan. This is a paradigm shift in our defence policy which should be taken to its logical end. Why do we wait for the enemy to strike first and make our land a battleground?

India today is an eyesore for the west. We need to be extra cautious to tread the path leading to thumping success. The western agenda in the name of human rights, environment and so many mundane issues would be raised to create trouble for us. But, the nation is strong under an able leadership and no conspiracy can stop the rise of India.

The writer is a noted academician and political commentator. The views expressed in the article are his own.

Mystery shrouds motive behind death of girl by hanging in Palamu

M F AHMAD : DALTONGANJ

Mystery shrouds the motive behind the death by hanging of a 17 year old tribal girl at Chiyanki whose body was found hanging from the Palash tree while her slippers were there early morning of the Republic Day.

The deceased girl had slept in the house of her sister's neighbour as her sister had gone to the post death rites of her father in law and her husband a CRPF jawan too was not at their house since this deceased girl was living with her sister and brother in law following her father being a two time widower. Officer in charge of the Sadar police station Gautam Kumar said the death was by hanging but the motive or immediate cause behind this extreme act is yet to be found out.

There is no suicidal note nor the deceased had any cell phone of her whose call details could have been scrutinised.

As this girl was post mortem in the MMCH Daltonganj, hospital sources said she had 3 months of foetus, samples of which have been preserved for future reference.

Police officer Gautam Kumar said she was a kind of introvert and had limited life since her father had two women, both dead and a widower he was, this young girl lived with her married sister and her husband. This girl was from the first woman that her father had married.

The police are trying to find out exactly what happened on the night that the very next morning she took this extreme step of ending her life in such a manner.

Assistant superintendent of police cum sub divisional police officer Rishabha Garg on being contacted today said police will be investigating this case in all seriousness.

Garg said at first sight it looks like death by hanging but police want to find out if there is any abatement or incitement to commit death by hanging from any side.

When told that hospital sources indicated that the deceased had a few months foetus to which Garg said this has come to the notice of the police which makes police further ascertain if she had any bout of mental distress or depression on account of what if she becomes an unwed mother.

Youth Festival meant to showcase talent: Minister

STAFF REPORTER ■ RAIPUR

Chhattisgarh School Education Minister Dr Preme Sai Singh Tekam on Saturday said the Youth Festival is a platform to showcase talent.

He was inaugurating a three-day Youth Festival at the Science College ground here. It will end on January 30.

The event will also provide an opportunity to know and understand the rich cultural, folk and traditions of the state, an official communication said.

Sports and Youth Welfare Minister Umesh Patel said 38 disciplines were being organized in the Youth



Festival. There are 24 cultural, six sports and seven other disciplines. The inaugural day began with cultural festivity. There were folk dance mainly Panthi and Danda (Durg division), Kaksar (Bastar), Raut Nacha and Danda (Bilaspur), Karma and Sarhul (Surguja) and Karma and Panthi dance (Raipur division). The winners will be selected in team and individual shows.

IIM Raipur sole knowledge partner for Youth20 Summit



STAFF REPORTER ■ RAIPUR

The Indian Institute of Management (IIM), Raipur, will be the sole knowledge partner for the Youth20 Summit 2023. Youth leaders from all G20 nations will participate.

IIM Raipur has signed a MoU with the Department of Youth Affairs and Sports. It will also provide logistical support, coordinate and facilitate seven Youth20 pre-summits across the country.

It will assist the 15 academic partners, an official communication said on Saturday.

The Youth20 consultations will evolve around select themes: future of work; climate change and disaster risk reduction; peacebuilding and reconciliation; and youth in democracy.

10 Maoists surrender on R-Day in Sukma



STAFF REPORTER ■ SUKMA

Sharma said.

Ten Naxalites, including three women, surrendered to security forces on Republic Day in Sukma district of Chhattisgarh, police said on Saturday.

The Maoists laid down arms on Thursday, Sukma Superintendent of Police Sunil

Sharma said those who surrendered included Podiyam Kosa, Podiyam Singa, Sodi Hunga, Kadti Deva, Sodi Muda, Madvi Masa, Podiyam Bheema, Kawasi Pojje, Kawasi Hungi and Nuppo Deve. All lower rung Naxalites were active in Bhejji area in the district.



Different teams performed traditional dances at the three-day Chhattisgarh Youth Festival on Saturday at the Science College Ground, Raipur.



Different teams performed traditional dances at the three-day Chhattisgarh Youth Festival on Saturday at the Science College Ground, Raipur.

Traditional art forms on display



STAFF REPORTER ■ RAIPUR

A Shilpgram is part of the three-day Chhattisgarh Youth Festival inaugurated here on Saturday. Stalls have been allocated to

traditional artisans from across the state to display and sell their products. The products include kosa silk sarees, dress material, cotton bedsheets as well as decorative materials of khadi cloth, bell metal, wood and clay terracotta.

Covid immunity strengthens over time in vaccinated people: Study

■ IANS

The human body's immunity to Covid-19 appears to gather strength with more time between vaccination and infection, a new study has shown.

According to US-based Oregon Health & Science University (OHSU) study, it suggests people, who have had Covid-19, have benefited from vaccination, even if they delayed it.

In this study, researchers measured the immune response in blood samples for people, who gained hybrid immunity by either getting vaccinated before a breakthrough infection or by getting vaccinated after contracting Covid-19.

The researchers measured the immune response in 96 generally healthy employees and found that it was uniformly stronger the

longer the time period between vaccination and infection. The longest interval measured was 404 days. Their findings suggest that vaccine boosters should be spaced no more frequently than a year apart, at least among healthy people, said the study.

"Longer intervals between natural infection and vaccination appear to strengthen immune response for otherwise healthy people," said co-senior author Fikadu Tafesse, PhD, associate professor at OHSU School of Medicine.

Moreover, their findings indicate that the magnitude, potency, and breadth of the hybrid immune response all increased with the length of time between virus exposure - whether through vaccination or natural infection.

"The immune system is learning. If you're going to amplify a response,

what this study tells us is that you might want to boost that response after a longer period of learning rather than early after exposure," said co-senior author Marcel Curlin, MD, associate professor of medicine (infectious diseases) at OHSU School of Medicine. Further, the researchers found that developing hybrid immunity was no different if someone was vaccinated after contracting Covid-19 or after contracting the disease after vaccination. Both groups developed an equally potent immune response. In this study, the scientists suggest that so-called memory cells, which produce antibodies to neutralise viruses and their variants, are long-lasting. Even those who've delayed vaccination due to the SARS-CoV-2 virus stand to benefit from vaccination, according to the authors.

RCI to hold free cancer screening camp from Jan 30



STAFF REPORTER ■ RAIPUR

To mark World Cancer Day on February 4, the Regional Cancer Institute (RCI) in the Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru Memorial Medical College here will hold free cancer screening camps.

Experts will hold the first camp at the Medical College at Mahasamund on January 30 from 10 am to 2 pm.

More camps will follow at the Government Medical College at

Rajnandgaon on January 31 and at the Regional Cancer Institute in Raipur on February 4, an official communication said on Saturday.

To create awareness regarding cancer and its treatment, a marathon will be organised from Marine Drive Raipur (Telibandha) to Regional Cancer Institute Medical College in Raipur on February 4. Regional Cancer Institute chief Dr. Vivek Chaudhary said.

Cancer survivors will be felicitated with prizes and citations.

CM greets Padma Shree awardees

STAFF REPORTER ■ RAIPUR

Chhattisgarh Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel on Saturday greeted Ajay Kumar Mandavi and Domar Singh Kanwar on being selected for the Padma Shree award. He could not connect to the third winner, Usha Barle.

He said their selection has made Chhattisgarh and the art world proud.

For the first time since the formation of the state, three individuals, two from tribal communities, have been chosen for the Padma Awards in a single year, an official communication said.

Kanwar will receive it for



his contributions to dance and social sector. He has aided in the abolition of many evil practices such as tribal marriage. He has also given over 5,000 performances across the country.

Mandavi engraves art on wood. He was involved in

training jailed Naxalites and tribal inmates in the art form.

Barle will receive it for her contribution to Pandwani singing. She is a student of Padma Vibhushan Teejan Bai. Barle has also performed in London and New York.

Outreach programmes help to connect with customers: BoM



STAFF REPORTER ■ RAIPUR

Bank of Maharashtra (BoM) Executive Director Asheesh Pandey on Saturday said the outreach programmes help to meet customers at a common point and connect with them at their comfort zone.

He was addressing an outreach event organized at a hotel in Raipur.

On the occasion, the bank gave Rs 62 crores credit sanctions for housing, education, agriculture and other sectors, an official communication said.

Pandey said the bank was working on the technology-fuelled modernization as it plans to integrate Artificial Intelligence and Machine Learning to give users a better experience.

He said the bank will open its 42nd branch in Chhattisgarh.

The bank is also working on customer service through constant innovation. Zonal Manager Prasanta Kumar Raju said the bank was focussing on retail, agriculture and Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSME).

Govt teacher held for alleged molestation



STAFF REPORTER ■ DHAMTARI

Chhattisgarh Police on Saturday arrested a 43-year-old government teacher for allegedly molesting a teenage schoolgirl in Dhamtari district.

Dhamtari Superintendent of Police Prashant Thakur identified him as Mohan Lal Sahu.

The victim lodged a complaint with the police after Sahu allegedly molested her two days ago.

AXIS BANK LIMITED CANCELLATION OF SALE NOTICE FOR SALE OF IMMOVABLE PROPERTIES

Structured Assets Group - East 1, Shakespeare Sarani, 4th Floor, Kolkata - 700071, Ph - 033-66272047

Cancellation of E-auction Sale Notice for Sale of Immovable Assets under Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 read with the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002.

Whereas, the Authorised Officer of Axis Bank Limited under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 had issued an e-auction sale notice on 09.01.2023 with date of auction as 30.01.2023 and the same was published in two newspapers, namely, The Pioneer (English), Raipur edition and The Chhattisgarh Watch (Hindi), Raipur edition on 09.01.2023 with detailed terms and conditions for the following security mortgaged to the bank:-

Name of Borrower	M/s Hotel Sapphire Inn, Proprietor: Shri Subhash Sharma, Ring Road No. 1, Near Ashoka Millennium, Raipur-492001, Chhattisgarh, also at 1st Floor, GF Palace, Kashiram Nagar, Raipur-492001, Chhattisgarh and also at HIG-C 109 A, Shailendra Nagar, Raipur-492001, Chhattisgarh
Name of Guarantors	Smt. Suman Sharma, w/o Shri Subhash Sharma, HIG-C 109A, Shailendra Nagar, Raipur-492001, Chhattisgarh.
Date and time of auction	30.01.2023 between 01.00 PM to 02.00 PM
Last date and time for submission of EMD along with Bid application and KYC.	27.01.2023 and 3:00 P.M.
Description of security	All that piece and parcel of land and building located at Kharsa No. 370/B & 371/S, PH No. 114, Mouza Gram: Tikrapara, Ward No. 46, Dr. Rajendra Prasad Ward, Ring Road No. 1, Raipur (Chhattisgarh) admeasuring area 8000 square feet in name of Shri Subhash Sharma, North: Ashoka Millennium South: Road East: Governmentland West: Road
Reserve Price	Rs. 4.455 Cr. (Rupees Four Crores Forty Five Lakhs Fifty Thousands only)

Notice is given hereby that the abovementioned e-auction notice which was published on 09.01.2023 and auction was scheduled on 30.01.2023 as described above stands cancelled. Any interested party who may have submitted their EMD to the bank may collect the same from the office of the undersigned, failing which EMD would be sent through registered post at their address mentioned in Bid Application Form/KYC. EMD submitted to the bank would not carry any interest.

Date: 29.01.2023 Place: Kolkata

Sd/-
Authorised Officer
Axis Bank Ltd

Indian Bank E-AUCTION On 17.02.2023 Time: 11 am to 4 pm

Branch - Shyam Nagar, Telibandha, Raipur (C.G.)

APPENDIX- IV-A* [See proviso to rule 8 (6)] Sale notice for sale of immovable properties E-Auction Sale Notice for Sale of Immovable Assets under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 read with proviso to Rule 8 (6) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002

Notice is hereby given to the public in general and in particular to the Borrower (s) and Guarantor (s) that the below described immovable property mortgaged/charged to the Secured Creditor, Symbolic/Physical possession of which has been taken by the Authorised Officer of Indian Bank, Shyam Nagar Branch Secured Creditor, will be sold on "As is where is", "As is what is", and "Whatever there is" basis for recovery of dues in below mentioned account(s). The details of Borrower(s) / Guarantor (s) / Secured Assets/ Dues/ Reserve Price/ e-auction Date & Time, EMD and Bid Increase Amount are mentioned below -

Sl No.	Name & Address of the Borrower(s) & Guarantor(s) / Mortgagee(s)	Detailed description of the Properties & Encumbrances on all property- Not Known	Reserve Price	EMD	Bid Incremental amount	Property ID No.
1.	Borrower:- M/s S H R E E Enterprises, Proprietor- Shri Tarun Marwah S/o Shri Vijay Marwah. Add:- B-38, Opp. Water Tank, New Rajendra Nagar, Raipur.	Property No. 1, Plot no 3 from end, Kh no. 114/127 (part) and Kh no. 114/159, p.h. no.110-140, Plot no.110-140, duplex row houses (behind BSNL office) adjacent to VIP colony & Golden Sabd, Dr. Bhim Rao Ambedkar ward no.27, RIC, Raipur-1. Bounded By: North By: PLOT NO.04, South By: PLOT NO.02, East By: LAND OF NEXUS DEVON, West By: MACADAM ROAD, Encumbrances on Property- Not Known	Rs. 53.30 Lakhs	Rs. 5.33 Lakhs	Rs. 10,000.00	IDIB503-26019862
		Property No. 2, Plot no 4 from end, Kh no. 114/127 (part) and KH no. 114/159, p.h. no.110-140, Plot no 04, duplex row houses (behind BSNL office) adjacent to VIP colony and Golden Sabd, Dr. Bhim Rao Ambedkar ward no.27, RIC, Raipur-1. Bounded By: North By: PLOT NO.05, South By: PLOT NO.03, East By: LAND OF NEXUS DEVON, West By: MACADAM ROAD, Encumbrances on Property- Not Known	Rs. 53.30 Lakhs	Rs. 5.33 Lakhs	Rs. 10,000.00	IDIB503-26019862A
		Property No. 3, Plot no 5 from end, Kh no. 114/127 (part) and KH no. 114/159, p.h. no.110-140, Plot no 05, duplex row houses (behind BSNL office) adjacent to VIP colony and Golden Sabd, Dr. Bhim Rao Ambedkar ward no.27, RIC, Raipur-1. Bounded By: North By: PLOT NO.06, South By: PLOT NO.04, East By: LAND OF NEXUS DEVON, West By: MACADAM ROAD, Encumbrances on Property- Not Known	Rs. 51.80 Lakhs	Rs. 5.18 Lakhs	Rs. 10,000.00	IDIB503-26019862B
		Property No. 4, Plot no 6 from end, Kh no. 114/127 (part) and KH no. 114/159, p.h. no.110-140, Plot no 06, duplex row houses (behind BSNL office) adjacent to VIP colony and Golden Sabd, Dr. Bhim Rao Ambedkar ward no.27, RIC, Raipur-1. Bounded By: North By: PLOT NO.07, South By: PLOT NO.04, East By: LAND OF NEXUS DEVON, West By: MACADAM ROAD, Encumbrances on Property- Not Known	Rs. 51.80 Lakhs	Rs. 5.18 Lakhs	Rs. 10,000.00	IDIB503-26019862C
Outstanding Amount- Rs. 4,52,52,794.00 as on 27.01.2023 + Intt & Other Charges						
Outstanding Amount- Rs. 2,22,75,805.00 as on 27.01.2023 + Intt & Other Charges						

Bidders are advised to visit the website (www.mstcecommerce.com) of our e-auction service provider MSTC Ltd to participate in online bid. For Technical Assistance Please call MSTC HELPDISK No. 033-22901004 and other help line numbers available in service providers' help desk. For Registration status with MSTC Ltd, please contact baplog@mstcecommerce.com and for EMD status please contact bapflin@mstcecommerce.com. For property details and photograph of the property and auction terms and conditions please visit: https://bapi.in and for clarifications related to this portal, please contact help line number 18001025026 and 011-41106131. Bidders are advised to use Property ID Number mentioned above while searching for the property in the website with https://bapi.in and www.mstcecommerce.com.

Date : 29.01.2023, Place : Raipur Authorized Officer, Indian Bank

Cong seeks debate on Chinese incursion in Budget Session

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

The Congress has renewed its demand for a debate on the alleged Chinese incursion across the Line of Actual Control (LAC) in the upcoming Budget Session of Parliament.

The party said for security interest of the nation, the Government should not shy away from talking about China in the Parliament.

The Congress on Saturday said it will seek cooperation from other Opposition parties to press for a discussion on this issue.

The party alleged that the Modi Government did not heed to Congress' demand for a discussion in Parliament on this issue after session and sought to know whether the government will continue to keep the country in the dark or tell the nation the truth about China's "illegal occupation".

"We demand immediate discussion on this issue in Parliament, in the forthcoming Budget session. India's territorial integrity and sovereignty is at stake and we should do everything possible, together to uphold it."



"Enough of 'clean chits' to China, now, the time has come for the Modi government to come clean on China," AICC Media and Publicity chief Pawan Khera said at an AICC Press conference.

Congress claimed that recent reports say that India has lost access to 26 out of 65 patrolling points (PP) which was not the case before May 2020 and the subsequent Galwan clash where 20 brave hearts sacrificed their lives.

"The Congress asks why after 17 rounds of military talks, the Modi government has not ensured the status quo ante even after almost three years of the Galwan clash? Given the fact that a senior police official has flagged this highly sensitive issue, will the Modi government tell the nation why it has conceded India's rightful hold on our territory to China," he asked.

Alleging that the document has exposed the government's "weak-kneed approach" towards China, Khera asked the Prime Minister to spell out if he is still "afraid" of China or still "loves" the country.

The request has come after the Yatra was suspended for a day in view of "security lapse".

Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge on Sunday wrote to Home Minister Amit Shah seeking his intervention in ensuring adequate security to the ongoing Bharat Jodo Yatra in Jammu and Kashmir. Then yatra is scheduled to end on Monday.

Kharge writes to Shah, demands foolproof security in Bharat Jodo Yatra in J&K

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

senior Congress leaders and leaders of other important political parties are attending the culmination function to be held on the 30th of January. I shall be grateful if you could personally intervene in this matter and advise the concerned officials to provide adequate security till the culmination of the yatra and the function on the 30th January at Srinagar," the Congress president said in his letter to the Home minister.

He said he is writing after the "unfortunate security lapse" during the Bharat Jodo Yatra.

On the advice of the security officials in charge of the security detail of Rahul Gandhi, the Yatra had to be suspended, Kharge said.

"We appreciate the Jammu and Kashmir Police and welcome their statement saying they will continue to ensure complete security till the culmination of the journey," he said.

"You will appreciate the fact that a large crowd of common people has joined and walked in the Bharat Jodo Yatra every day. It is difficult for the organisers to provide security, India has already lost two PM's and scores of leaders and we demand better security for the Yatris," he said on Twitter.



Kharge had earlier said that the alleged lapse in Gandhi's security detail in J and K during the Yatra was disconcerting to say the least.

"It is government of India's prime responsibility to provide security. India has already lost two PM's and scores of leaders and we demand better security for the Yatris," he said on Twitter.

ED arrests 4 more in C'garh coal levy scam, gets 3-day remand

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Enforcement Directorate (ED) has arrested four more accused on money laundering charges in the illegal coal levy scam of Chhattisgarh in which several others, including an IAS officer and deputy secretary to Chhattisgarh Chief Minister, were also arrested earlier.

The arrested accused persons were produced before the PMLA Special Court at Raipur that remanded them to three-day ED custody till Monday, the agency said in a statement.

The ED had earlier issued a provisional attachment order attaching 'proceeds of crime' worth Rs 152.5 crore and has filed a Prosecution Complaint or chargesheet under the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA).

Recently, searches were conducted in Chhattisgarh, Delhi, and Pune on specific inputs following which the four accused persons were arrested, it said.

Those arrested are Deepesh Taunk, a close confidant of one of the main accused in the case, Saumya Chaurasia, Deputy Secretary in the Chief Minister's Office (CMO) and "knowingly involved in Money Laundering" and Sandeep Kumar Nayak (Surajpur) and Shiv Shankar Nag (Korba), Mining Officers who knowingly and willingly assisted the syndicate of Suryakant Tiwari in committing extortion and acquisition of the proceeds of crime, the ED said.

Another accused arrested is Rajesh Chaudhary a common man who cheats on people by claiming to work as a middleman to settle cases.

"ED investigation has established that close family members of Sunil Agarwal (an accused arrested by ED and presently in Judicial Custody) were making desperate efforts to secure the release of Sunil Agarwal, soon after his arrest by ED on 12.10.2022. At that time, this self-acclaimed 'liaison', got in touch with the relatives of Sunil Agarwal," it said.

Since Rajesh Chaudhary had acquired part of the proceeds of crime as revealed by investigation, on getting specific intelligence inputs, ED on its own launched an operation. Chaudhary was traced and arrested under PMLA. "During his interrogation, it was discovered that he had also created fake ID Cards of a ED officer and was also declaring himself as an ED employee in various KYC documents submitted to banks," it said.

Meanwhile, in a separate case, the agency on Saturday said it has attached assets worth Rs 24.13 lakh of an Andhra Pradesh-based trader who allegedly under-valued goods imported from China.

The ED has attached some residential premises located in the Prakasam district of Andhra Pradesh and other immovable properties of M Hari Babu, the proprietor of Bhavani Diamond Tools on money laundering charges. Babu evaded customs duty to the tune of Rs 2 crore through Bhavani Diamond Tools, the agency added.



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Jaishankar: Atmanirbhar India sees huge transformation, set to be world's leading power

PTI ■ PUNE

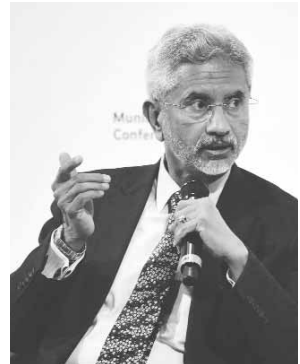
India has seen a huge transformation in the last eight to nine years and the country will be a leading power after it becomes 'atmanirbhar' (self-reliant), External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar said here on Saturday.

In Pune to launch 'Bharat Marg', the Marathi translation of his book 'The India Way', the EAM said the aim was to get people to associate with the nation's foreign policy and not just listen to the "mandarins" (a term generally used for powerful bureaucrats).

He also spoke on China and the challenges the country faces with the ambitious northern neighbour as well as India's ties with Japan and the role in the Indo-Pacific.

"There are eight chapters. I wanted people to be associated with (the country's) foreign policy. I want to involve people from other states as well, not just Delhi. I have written this book in simple language and it is an easy read," he said.

The first chapter is about two nawabs losing Awadh to the British East India Company while playing chess,



the second chapter is about globalisation and the challenges it throws up, and the third chapter is about the "dogmas of Delhi that is traditionally defined and constrained," Jaishankar said.

"The fourth is about foreign policy. Some people allege we are sitting in ivory towers and analysing the world. I feel we should not leave foreign policy to the mandarins. We should also listen to the masses. We should consider the feelings of people while formulating our foreign policy," he said.

Speaking about China, the EAM said it is India's only neighbour which is a global power and may become a superpower in the years to come.

Rare rocks for Lord Ram idol to reach Ayodhya from Nepal on Feb 2: Temple Trust official

PTI ■ AYODHYA



Two rare rocks from which the idol of Lord Ram will be carved out and placed in the sanctum sanctorum of Ram Temple will reach here from Nepal on Thursday, a senior functionary of the temple trust has said.

"Vishwa Hindu Parishad's national secretary Rajendra Singh Pankaj started from Mustang district of Nepal on Wednesday with the consignment of two sacred rocks and is expected to arrive in Ayodhya on Thursday," said Prakash Gupta, office in-charge of Shri Ram Janmabhoomi Teerth Kshetra Trust.

"These Shaligram rocks, that are 60 million-years-old, will reach Ayodhya from Nepal on two different trucks. One rock weighs 26 tonnes and the other weighs 14 tonnes," he said.

Idol of Lord Rama in his child form carved from this stone will be placed in the sanctum sanctorum of the Ram Temple, which is expected to be ready by Makar Sankranti festival in January next year, officials said.

The two rocks were found in the Gandaki river at a place close to Saligrama or Mukthinath (place of salvation) in Nepal's Mustang district, they said. Meanwhile, a two-day meeting of the building construction committee of the Ram Temple began in Ayodhya from Saturday.

The meeting was chaired by construction committee chairman Nripendra Mishra and attended by Trust Secretary Champat Rai and Trustee Anil Mishra.

United Textiles Limited
Regd. Office 7th K.M. Stone,
Barwala Road, Hisar - 125001
(Haryana)
CIN: L17115HR1993PLC032092

Notice
Pursuant to Regulation 29 read with Regulation 47 of the SEBI (Listing Obligations & Disclosure Requirements) Regulations, 2015, Notice is hereby given that the Meeting of Board of Directors of the Company is scheduled to be held on Monday, 13th February, 2023 at 11.00 AM at the Regd. Office of the Company to consider the Unaudited Quarterly Results for the Period Ended 31st December, 2022.

Further as per the Company's Code of Conduct for Prevention of Insider Trading, the trading window for dealing with securities of the Company will remain close from 31.12.2022 to 48 hours after the declaration of the Financial Results. The said information is also available on Company's Website www.unitedtextileslimited.com & also on the website of stock exchanges at www.bseindia.com.

For United Textiles Limited
(Vivek Aggarwal)
Whole Time Director
Dated 24.01.2023 (DIN 07079208)

PUBLIC NOTICE
It is to inform to the public at large that (1) Mrs. Bidvanti Devi Tiwari W/o Mr. Prabhakar Tiwari (2) Miss. Harshita Pathak D/o Mr. Satya Prakash Pathak are the owners of FREEHOLD RESIDENTIAL PLOT AREA MEASURING 100 SQ. YARDS i.e. 83.61 SQ. METERS, OUT OF KHASRA NO. 481, SITUATED IN THE VILLAGE OF SARFABAD PARGANA & TEHSIL DADR, DIST. GAUTAM BUDDH NAGAR, (U.P.) from Sale Deed dated 13.06.2022 Vide Document No. 3671. Is taking the financial assistance from Utkarsh Small Finance Bank Ltd. However, Original Sale Deed dated 29.03.2006 and Original Sale Deed dated 12.07.2019 has been lost and not available and a Complaint has lodged on dated 15.10.2022 with Dairy No. 076 for loss of document. If any Person having any type of claim / right / title / interest over the said property, may inform in writing, at the address mentioned below, about his objections, within 7 days from today, failing which it shall be presumed that the said property is free from all type of Encumbrances, lien, disputes etc.

Lucem Legal LLP
B-93B, Second Floor, Opp. SBI Bank
Sector 2, Noida, UP - 201301
Contact # 0120-4269379

THE PIONEER CLASSIFIEDS

CHANGE OF NAME
I, Bibi Asma Fatma, W/o. Mohd. Kamil Hussain, R/o. B-28/7, Flat No.101, UGE Thoker No.7, Shaheen Bagh, New Delhi-110025 have changed my name to Asma Fatma for all future purposes.

PD(90255)A

PUBLIC NOTICE
Known to all that my client VIRENDRA PRASAD is purchasing property first floor, area 83.61 SQ. Mtrs., property Bearing No. 485-B, Gali No. 6, Out of Khasra No. 600/92, Govind Puri, Kalkaji, New Delhi, from Shikha Bansal and mortgage to the same with Aditya Birla Housing Finance Ltd., and Shikha Bansal Kalkaji not having Originals 1. Death and Survivor Certificate of Kanwaljeet Singh, 2. Succession certificate in favour of Gurddeep Singh and RenuBala. It is informed that any deal with said documents by any person except my said client and said institution regarding said property, shall be deemed as null and void. If any person having any claim/right in said property then he may contact and handover the same and apprise his claim to undersigned within 8 days of this publication.

AD REM LEGAL SOLUTION
Ch. No. 760, Dwarka Court Sector-10, Dwarka, New Delhi-75
M:- 9899013918

Indiabulls Enterprises Limited
(CIN: U71290HR2019PLC07579)

Extract of Consolidated Unaudited Financial Results for the quarter and nine months ended 31 December 2022

(Rs. in Crores)

Particulars	Quarter ended 31-Dec-22	Quarter ended 30-Sep-22	Quarter ended 31-Dec-21	9 months ended 31-Dec-22	9 months ended 31-Dec-21	Year ended 31-Mar-22
	Unaudited	Unaudited	Unaudited	Unaudited	Unaudited	Audited
Total Income from operations	25.30	32.30	56.40	88.30	159.02	209.01
Net Profit / (Loss) for the period (before Tax and Share of Profit) / (Loss), Exceptional and/or Extraordinary items	2.28	(0.98)	(18.00)	(12.95)	(63.22)	(94.85)
Net Profit / (Loss) for the period (after Tax and Share of Profit) / (Loss) (after Exceptional and/or Extraordinary items)	1.51	(3.77)	(14.79)	(16.85)	(65.85)	(98.08)
Total Comprehensive Income for the period (Comprising Profit / (Loss) for the period (after tax) and Other Comprehensive Income (after tax))	1.41	30.28	(16.28)	16.24	(69.68)	(102.68)
Equity share capital	39.67	39.67	39.67	39.67	39.67	39.67
Reserves (excluding revaluation reserve) as shown in the audited Balance Sheet						226.83
Earnings per share (EPS) of Rs.2 each before extraordinary items from continuing operations						
- Basic (Amount in Rs.)	0.08	(0.19)	(0.75)	(0.85)	(3.32)	(4.95)
- Diluted (Amount in Rs.)	0.08	(0.19)	(0.75)	(0.85)	(3.32)	(4.95)
Earnings per share (EPS) of Rs.2 each before extraordinary items from discontinued operations						
- Basic (Amount in Rs.)	-	1.71	(0.07)	1.66	(0.19)	(0.25)
- Diluted (Amount in Rs.)	-	1.71	(0.07)	1.66	(0.19)	(0.25)

1. The above results have been reviewed by the Audit Committee and subsequently approved at the meeting of the Board of Directors held on 28 January 2023.

2. Key Standalone Financial Information: (Rs. in Crores)

Particulars	Quarter ended 31-Dec-22	Quarter ended 30-Sep-22	Quarter ended 31-Dec-21	9 months ended 31-Dec-22	9 months ended 31-Dec-21	Year ended 31-Mar-22
	Unaudited	Unaudited	Unaudited	Unaudited	Unaudited	Audited
Total Income	15.36	32.01	50.06	79.28	131.75	180.96
Profit/(Loss) before Tax	(3.94)	4.08	1.15	0.05	0.12	(13.84)
Net Profit/(Loss) after Tax	(3.94)	2.26	4.70	(2.22)	(1.02)	(15.04)

3. The above is an extract of the detailed format of quarterly / nine months financial results filed with the stock exchanges under Regulation 33 of the SEBI (Listing and Other Disclosure Requirements) Regulations, 2015. The full format of the Quarterly / nine months Financial Results are available on the Company's website (https://www.indiabullsentprises.com) and on the website of BSE (https://www.bseindia.com) and NSE (https://www.nseindia.com).

Registered Office: 5th Floor, Plot No. 108, IT Park, Udyog Vihar, Phase-1 Gurugram, Haryana 122016 For and on behalf of Board of Directors

Place : Gurugram Date : 28 January 2023 Vijay Kumar Agarwal Executive Director & CFO

Tunes based on classical ragas to be flavour of beating retreat

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

Spectators at the Vijay Chowk and television viewers are in for a treat on Sunday when Indian tunes based on classical ragas will be the flavour of Beating the Retreat ceremony. Nearly 3,500 drones will also enthrall the viewers by engaging in some spectacular aerial show.

Giving details of the function, defence ministry officials said on Saturday President and Supreme Commander of the Armed Forces Droupadi Murmu will grace the show along with Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh and the three Services chiefs at the Vijay Chowk.

As many as 29 captivating and foot-tapping Indian tunes will be played by the music bands of the Army, the Navy, the Air Force, the State Police, and the Central Armed Police Force (CAPF).

The ceremony will also witness the country's biggest Drone Show, comprising of 3,500 indigenous drones. The magnificent drone show will light up the evening sky over the Raisina hills, weaving myriad forms of national figures and events through smooth synchronisation. It will depict the success of the start-up ecosystem, the technological prowess of the country's youth and pave the way for future path-breaking trends. The event will be organised by Botlabs Dynamics.



For the first time, a 3-D anamorphic projection will be organised during Beating Retreat Ceremony 2023 on the façade of North and South Block.

The Ceremony will begin with the massed band's 'Agniveer' tune which will be followed by the enthralling tunes like 'Almora', 'Kedar Nath', 'Sangam Dur', 'Queen of Satpura', 'Bhagirathi', 'Konkan Sundari' by Pipes and Drums band.

Indian Air Force's band will play 'Aprajay Arjun', 'Charkha', 'Vayu Shakti', 'Swadeshi', while fairsaying 'Ekla Cholo Re', 'Hum Taiyyar Hai', and 'Jai Bharati' will be played by the band of Indian Navy.

The Indian Army's band will play 'Shankhnaad', 'Sher-e-Jawan', 'Bhupal', 'Agranee Bharat', 'Young India', 'Kadam

Kadam Badhaye Ja', 'Drummers Call', and 'Ae Mere Watan Ke Logon'.

The event will come to a close with the ever-popular tune of 'Sare Jahan se Acha'.

The principal conductor of the ceremony will be Flight Lieutenant Leimapokpam Rupachandra Singh. While the Army band will be led by Subedar Major Digger Singh, the Naval and Air Force band commanders will be M Anthoni Raj and Warrant Officer Ashok Kumar. The conductor of the State Police and CAPF bands will be Assistant Sub Inspector Prem Singh.

The Buglers will perform under the leadership of Naib Subedar Santosh Kumar Pandey, and pipes and drums band will play under the instructions of Subedar Major Baswaraj Vagge.

'Beating the Retreat' ceremony at the Vijay Chowk on January 29th every year marks the culmination of the four-day-long Republic Day celebrations. It has emerged as an event of national pride when the Colours and Standards are paraded.

The ceremony traces its origins to the early 1950s when Major Roberts of the Indian Army indigenously developed the unique ceremony of display by the massed bands. It marks a centuries old military tradition, when the troops ceased fighting, sheathed their arms and withdrew from the battlefield and returned to the camps at sunset at the sounding of the Retreat. Colours and Standards are cased and flags lowered. The ceremony creates nostalgia for the times gone by.

7 killed in shooting at Jerusalem synagogue

PTI ■ JERUSALEM

At least seven people have been killed and three others injured in a shooting incident at a synagogue in the Neve Yaakov neighbourhood of Jerusalem, police and medics have said. The shooting took place on Friday evening in the northern part of East Jerusalem, they said.

"The terrorist arrived by car at a building used as a synagogue in the neighbourhood in the northern part of East Jerusalem and opened fire," police said.

Police located and shot the gunman. A handgun apparently used in the attack was seized, they said.

Seven people were shot and killed and at least three others were wounded in a terror shooting attack, The Times of Israel newspaper said, quoting police and medics.

Police said the terrorist — a resident of East Jerusalem — was shot dead after he exited the car and opened fire on the officers while trying to escape on foot, the report said.

Magen David Adom (MDA) rescue services said its medics declared five victims dead at the scene, and another two victims were declared dead at hospitals in Jerusalem, it added.

Israel Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, speak-



Victims of a shooting attack are covered on the ground near a synagogue in Jerusalem on Friday

ing after visiting the scene, called the attack "one of the most severe we have known in years."

"Our hearts are with the families. We must act with determination and composure. I call on people not to take the law into their own hands," he was quoted as saying in the report.

Defense Minister Yoav Galant was to soon hold a special situation assessment meeting with the Israel Defence Forces (IDF) Chief of Staff, the head of Israel's internal security agency Shin Bet, and other security officials, his office said.

Biden calls Israeli PM after terrorist attack in Jerusalem

Washington: US President Joe Biden spoke with Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, condemning what he called a "horrific terrorist attack" outside a Jerusalem synagogue in which a Palestinian gunman killed at least seven people.

President Biden, who called Netanyahu on Friday, also offered support to Israel's government and people following the attack.

Palestinian teen wounds 2, day after 7 killed in Jerusalem

AP ■ JERUSALEM

A Palestinian attacker in his early teens opened fire in east Jerusalem on Saturday, wounding two people, officials said, a day after another assailant killed seven outside a synagogue in the deadliest attack in the city since 2008.

The shooting in the Palestinian neighbourhood of Silwan in east Jerusalem, near the historic Old City, wounded a father and son, ages 47 and 23, paramedics said. Both were fully conscious and in moderate to serious condition in the hospital, the medics added.

Police said they shot and overpowered the 13-year-old attacker, wounding him. He was taken to a hospital, they said, and there was no further word on his condition. Video showed police escorting a wounded young man, wearing nothing but underwear, away from the scene and onto a stretcher.

Authorities taped off the street and emergency vehicles and security forces swarmed the area as helicopters whirled overhead.

Saturday's events — just a day before US Secretary of State Antony Blinken was set to arrive in the region — raised the possibility of even greater conflagration in one of the bloodiest months in Israel and the occupied West Bank in several years.

'3 dead, 4 hurt in California shooting'



AP ■ BEVERLY CREST

At least three people were killed and four others were wounded in a shooting in California area early on Saturday morning.

Sgt. Frank Preciado of the Los Angeles Police Department confirmed the shooting happened just after 2:30 am in Beverly Crest, an upscale Los Angeles neighbourhood. Of the seven people who were shot, four were standing outside. The three who were killed were in a vehicle.

Their identities were not released. Those who were injured were taken to a hospital and are in critical condition.

Preciado said he did not have information on what led up to the shooting, or if it occurred at a residence.

This is the fourth mass shooting in California this month.

The shooting comes a week after a massacre at a dance hall in a Los Angeles suburb left 11 dead and nine wounded and only days after a gunman opened fire on a pair of mushroom farms south of San Francisco on Monday, fatally shooting seven people and wounding one.

The killings have dealt a blow to the state, which has some of the nation's toughest firearm laws and lowest rates of gun deaths.

Mali defends military ties with Russia

AP ■ UNITED NATIONS

Mali's Foreign Minister defended the military government's cooperation with Russia on Friday and rejected three options proposed by the UN chief to reconfigure the UN peacekeeping force in the West African country where Al-Qaeda and Islamic State extremist groups are driving insecurity.

Abdoulaye Diop told the UN Security Council that security is the country's top priority and Mali will not continue to justify its partnership with Russia, which is providing training and equipment to the military. He did not mention Russia's Wagner Group, the private military contractor with ties to the Kremlin.

But Secretary-General Antonio Guterres' internal review released this week of the 17,500-strong UN mission, known as MINUSMA, noted that Mali's longstanding security partnership with France and others deteriorated over concerns about Wagner Group personnel operating in support of the Malian armed forces, which he said Russian officials have publicly acknowledged.

Trump kicks off 2024 bid with events in early voting States

AP ■ COLUMBIA

Former President Donald Trump is set to kick off his 2024 White House bid on Saturday with visits to a pair of early voting states, his first campaign events since launching his bid more than two months ago.

Trump will be the keynote speaker at the New Hampshire GOP's annual meeting before travelling to Columbia, South Carolina, where he is set to unveil his leadership team at the Statehouse.

The states hold two of the



party's first three nominating contests, giving them enormous power in selecting its nominee.

Trump and his allies hope the events will offer a show of force behind the former president after a sluggish start to his

campaign that left many questioning his commitment to running again.

In recent weeks, his backers have been reaching out to political operatives and elected officials to secure support for Trump's reelection at a critical juncture when other Republicans are preparing their own expected challenges.

"The gun is fired, and the campaign season has started," said Stephen Stepanek, chair of the New Hampshire Republican Party and the co-chair of Trump's 2016 campaign in the state.

PML-N leader Maryam Nawaz returns to Pakistan after almost 4-month stay in UK

PTI ■ LAHORE

Senior Vice President of the PML-N Maryam Nawaz returned to Pakistan on Saturday to strengthen her party ahead of the crucial assembly elections, nearly four months after she fled to London to meet his father and former premier Nawaz Sharif. Maryam, who has been appointed as the party's chief

organiser, landed at Allama Iqbal International Airport here from Abu Dhabi after a one-hour delay in her flight due to a medical emergency on the plane. "Long live Pakistan," she tweeted after her return to Pakistan.

She left Pakistan for London in October last year after she was acquitted in a corruption case. At the time, she had said she was "eager" to see



her father Nawaz, whom she hadn't met since 2019.

The 49-year-old senior Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) leader, on her return

to Pakistan, told Geo News that she would utilise all her energy to strengthen the party.

Earlier, party spokesperson Marriyum Aurangzeb said Maryam was returning to begin the "reorganisation of the party".

Maryam is likely to have a more significant role in the political happenings of the country after her appointment as the PML-N's chief organiser earlier this month.

Czechs select successor to Zeman in Prez runoff

AP ■ PRAGUE

Czech voters were casting ballots on the second day of a presidential runoff election on Saturday, picking a successor to Milos Zeman in the largely ceremonial post.

Retired army Gen. Petr Pavel and populist billionaire Andrej Babis, advanced to a second round of voting because none of the eight initial candidates received an absolute majority in the first round two weeks ago.

The polls favour Pavel, an independent candidate who came a narrow first in the opening round. Three other candidates pledged their support for Pavel ahead of the voting that started Friday.

Pavel, 61, a former chairman of NATO's military committee, is a political newcomer. He has fully endorsed the country's military and humanitarian support for Ukraine in its fight against Russia.

Babis, 68, is a former prime minister whose centrist ANO (YES) movement ended up in opposition after losing the 2021 general election. He is supported by Zeman, with whom he shares eurosceptic views and the habit of using anti-migrant rhetoric.

Zeman was the first president elected by popular vote. His second and final five-year term expires in March. Lawmakers elected the previous two presidents, Vaclav Havel and Vaclav Klaus.

Myanmar's military Government enacts new political party law

AP ■ BANGKOK

Myanmar's military-controlled government has enacted a new law on registration of political parties that will make it difficult for opposition groups to mount a serious challenge to army-backed candidates in a general election set to take place later this year.

The new electoral law, published Friday in the state-run Myanmar Alinn newspaper, sets minimum funding and membership levels for parties participating in the polls.

It also bans participation by parties or candidates deemed unlawful or linked to organizations declared by the military government to be terrorist groups.

The army seized power in February 2021 from the elected government of Aung San Suu Kyi, arresting her and top members of her governing

National League for Democracy party, which had won a landslide victory for a second term in a November 2020 general election.

The security forces suppressed widespread opposition to the military takeover with lethal force, killing almost 2,900 civilians and arresting thousands more people who engaged in nonviolent protests. The savage crackdown triggered armed resistance in much of the country.

The military government deemed major organizations opposed to army rule to be "terrorist" groups, and communication with them was declared illegal.

The new law gives parties two months to re-register with the Union Election Commission and says those that do not will be "automatically invalidated" and considered dissolved.

Deeply pained to see horrific video of beating, death of African American youth: Biden

PTI ■ WASHINGTON

US President Joe Biden has said that he is outraged and deeply pained to see the horrific video of the beating of African American youth Tyre Nichols in Memphis city of Tennessee that ultimately resulted in his death earlier this month.

The release of the graphic video by the Memphis police Friday evening has increased social tension across the country. Protests in New York City were largely peaceful despite the three arrests and some minor clashes between police and protesters in the city.

The White House had a call with Mayors of several cities including those from Atlanta, Aftab Pureval, and the Cleveland Mayor Justin Morris Bibb to calm down tensions.

"Like so many, I was outraged and deeply pained to see the horrific video of the beat-



ing that resulted in Tyre Nichols' death. It is yet another painful reminder of the profound fear and trauma, the pain, and the exhaustion that Black and Brown Americans experience every single day," Biden said on Friday, soon after the video was released.

According to The New York Times, videos of the January 7 incident show Memphis police kicking and beating Tyre Nichols, 29, as he begs them to stop. He was on his way home on January 7, when police pulled him over for alleged reckless driving.

Czechs select successor to Zeman in Prez runoff

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TRADEWELL HOLDINGS LIMITED (Formerly BRAND REALTY SERVICES LIMITED) CIN: L74110DL1995PLC064237 Regd. Off: S-8 & S-2, DDA SHOPPING COMPLEX, OPP. POCKET-I, MAYUR VIHAR-I, DELHI -110091 Tel.: 011-22755819 Email id: info@brandrealty.in Website: https://www.brandrealty.in			
Statement of Unaudited Standalone Financial Results for the Third Quarter & Nine Months ended 31 st December, 2022			
Particulars	(Rs. in Lacs except per share data)		
	Quarter ended 31.12.2022 (Unaudited)	Quarter ended 31.12.2021 (Unaudited)	Nine Months ended 31.12.2022 (Unaudited)
Total Income from Operations	(17.22)	268.51	69.53
Net Profit / (Loss) for the period (before Tax, Exceptional and/or Extraordinary Items)	(40.40)	(30.85)	(4.69)
Net Profit / (Loss) for the period before tax (after Exceptional and/or Extraordinary Items)	(40.40)	(30.85)	(4.69)
Net Profit / (Loss) for the period after tax (after Exceptional and/or Extraordinary Items)	(40.40)	(30.85)	(4.69)
Total Comprehensive Income for the period [Comprising Profit/(Loss) for the period (after tax) and Other Comprehensive Income (after tax)]	(40.40)	(30.85)	(4.69)
Paid up Equity Share Capital (of Rs. 10/- each)	300.44	300.44	300.44
Reserves including Revaluation Reserves (As per previous acc. Year)	-	-	-
Earnings Per Share (for continuing and discontinued operations)-			
Basic:	(1.34)	(1.03)	(0.16)
Diluted:	(1.34)	(1.03)	(0.16)

Notes:
1. The above is an extract of the detailed format of the Unaudited Financial Results for the Third Quarter and Nine Months ended 31st December, 2022 filed with the BSE under Regulation 33 of the SEBI (LODR) Regulations, 2015. The full format of the Financial Results for the Third Quarter and Nine Months ended 31st December, 2022 is available on the BSE website (www.bseindia.com) and Company's website (<https://www.brandrealty.in>).
2. The above unaudited financial results were reviewed by the Audit Committee and approved by the Board of Directors in its meeting held on 28th January, 2023.

For TRADEWELL HOLDINGS LIMITED Sd/-
KAMAL MANCHANDA
(WHOLETIME DIRECTOR)
DIN: 00027889

Place: Delhi
Date: 28.01.2023

Climate activists block main road into Netherlands city

AP ■ THE HAGUE

Hundreds of climate activists blocked one of the main roads into The Hague on Saturday, defying attempts to prevent their protest that have sparked concerns about restrictions on the right to demonstrate in the Netherlands.

The protesters, many waving coloured flags with the symbol of environmental group Extinction Rebellion and one holding a sign saying, in Dutch, "This is a dead end road," gathered on the A12 road near the temporary home of the Dutch parliament. Police and hundreds more demonstrators looked on.

Protesters who ignored police orders to leave the road were picked up and carried away one by one to waiting buses and driven away. Hours after the demon-



stration began it was unclear how many people had been detained. Police said in a tweet that many of the activists left voluntarily when told to by officers.

Earlier this week, six Extinction Rebellion activists were detained by authorities on suspicion of sedition linked to calls to stage the protest. A judge on Friday upheld an order banning another activist from the area for 90 days.

Extinction Rebellion said that he ignored the order and attended the protest. A lawyer

for the group said the order was a way of "taking away the right of climate activists to demonstrate."

The arrests and exclusion order sparked unrest among activists who argue it infringes their right to peaceful protest.

Extinction Rebellion spokesperson Anne Kervers said the large number of participants "shows what society thinks of fossil fuel subsidies and of the intimidation and criminalisation of nonviolent climate activism."

Prosecutors defended their action, saying the suspects were calling for supporters to take part in the "dangerous and disruptive blockade" of the road.

"Calling for a criminal offense — such as blocking a public road — amounts to sedition," prosecutors said in a statement.

2 dead, 2 missing as rain pounds New Zealand's largest city

Wellington: Police said Saturday that two people had died and two more were missing as record levels of rainfall pounded New Zealand's largest city, causing widespread disruption. Authorities declared a state of emergency for the Auckland region and the nation's new Prime Minister, Chris Hipkins, flew to the city on a military plane to assess the damage. Hipkins was sworn in to the top job on Wednesday after Jacinda Ardern resigned.

Hipkins said the rain had hit the city fast. "Aucklanders need to brace for the fact there could be more rain," he said. Earlier, hundreds of people were stranded at Auckland Airport overnight after the airport stopped all flights and parts of the terminal were flooded.

INDIABULLS RURAL FINANCE PRIVATE LIMITED (CIN: U74140MH1993PTC074596)						
Extract of the unaudited financial results for the nine months ended 31 December 2022						
Particulars	Quarter ended 31 Dec 2022	Quarter ended 30 Sep 2022	Quarter ended 31 Dec 2021	Nine months ended 31 Dec 2022	Nine months ended 31 Dec 2021	Year ended 31 March 2022
	Unaudited	Unaudited	Unaudited	Unaudited	Unaudited	Audited
Total income from operations	5.58	5.71	5.15	16.20	16.06	21.01
Net profit for the period (before tax, exceptional and extraordinary items)	2.56	2.97	1.35	7.35	5.17	7.37
Net profit for the period before tax (after exceptional and/or extraordinary items)	2.56	2.97	1.35	7.35	5.17	7.37
Net profit for the period after tax (after exceptional and/or extraordinary items)	1.80	2.18	1.02	5.54	3.69	5.34
Total comprehensive income for the period [Comprising profit for the period (after tax) and other comprehensive income (after tax)]	1.85	2.12	1.02	5.54	3.70	5.36
Paid-up equity share capital	41.80	41.80	41.80	41.80	41.80	41.80
Reserves (excluding revaluation reserve)	30.20	28.36	22.99	30.20	22.99	24.66
Securities premium account	74.83	74.83	74.83	74.83	74.83	74.83
Net worth	146.83	144.99	139.62	146.83	139.62	141.29
Outstanding debt	49.90	49.85	49.70	49.90	49.70	49.75
Debt equity ratio	0.34	0.34	0.36	0.34	0.36	0.35
Earnings per share before extraordinary items (Face Value of Rs.10 per Equity Share) (EPS for the quarter and nine months are not annualised)*						
-Basic (Rs)	*0.43	*0.52	*0.24	*1.33	*0.88	1.28
-Diluted (Rs)	*0.43	*0.52	*0.24	*1.33	*0.88	1.28

Note to financial results:
1) The above results have been reviewed by the Audit Committee and subsequently approved at the meeting of the Board of Directors held on 28 January 2023.
2) The above presentation is an extract of the detailed format of quarterly/ annual financial results filed with the Stock Exchanges under Regulation 52 of the SEBI (Listing and other disclosure requirements) regulations, 2015. The full format of quarterly / annual financial results are available on the company's website (<http://indiabullsruralfinance.com>) and on the website of BSE (<http://www.bseindia.com>).

Registered Office: One International Center, Tower-1, 4th Floor, S. B. Marg, Elphinstone(W), Mumbai, 400013

Place : Gurugram
Date : 28 January 2023

For and on behalf of the Board of Directors
Vijay Kumar Agrawal
Director

'Election Budget' to focus on job creation, farm sector & rural growth

IAN S ■ NEW DELHI

Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman is going to present the last full budget of the second term of the Narendra Modi government in Parliament on February 1. As this will be the last full budget of the Modi government before the 2024 Lok Sabha elections, it is being said that the election glimpse will be apparent in the budget. Former Congress president Rahul Gandhi and other opposition parties are expected to make the budget an issue in the elections. Looking at the preparations and record of the government regarding the budget, it is being said that the Modi government can majorly increase the total amount allocated to welfare schemes. The BJP government,

which has been facing constant attacks from the opposition parties on the issue of unemployment, will be focusing on increasing employment opportunities in its upcoming budget. More emphasis will be placed on increasing employment opportunities in urban and rural areas. For this, along with basic infrastructure, a special announcement can be made for small and medium industries. The funds allocated for the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act, the biggest source of employment in rural areas, will also be increased this year. Along with farming, special announcements for agriculture and other areas related to it are expected. The government will increase its expenditure to ensure that along with the



increase in employment in rural areas, the income of the people also increases, which will boost the economy. The government can make important announcements in the budget to provide relief to the people from inflation. Giving great relief to the taxpayers, along with announcing a reduction in income tax rates, the government can make a big announcement on the GST front in this budget. In view of the upcoming Lok Sabha elections, the government can give some relief to the middle class, employed income tax payers and government employees as well as small and medium businessmen. It may be full of populist schemes and promises to woo voters.

Why's insurance industry largely silent on 100% FDI demand?

IAN S ■ CHENNAI

Strangely not much of noise is being heard from the Indian insurance sector on hiking the foreign direct investment (FDI) to 100 per cent from the current 74 per cent as their budget wishlist. In the past, the sector's top executives would make a high-decibel pitch for their demand to increase the FDI limit. Earlier, the life insurance industry had advocated that the increase in FDI from 26 per cent to 74 per cent would bring in an additional capital of Rs 50,000 crore. Incidentally, not many foreign partners of Indian insurance joint ventures have increased their stakes to the permissible 74 per cent and the touted amount has not materialised. "Among the host of

expectations from the budget, the proposal to increase the FDI limit to 100 per cent in insurance is unlikely to be introduced in the upcoming Budget, especially since the FDI limit has just been recently increased to 74 per cent," Anup Rau, MD and CEO, Future Generali India Insurance on the pre-budget expectations said. He said the industry should nevertheless have this conversation with the policy makers on allowing 100 per cent FDI. According to him, one of the challenges for the global insurers is to find a suitable local partner. "With over 60 insurers between life and general insurance and a large number of them joint ventures, there is really an acute shortage of local partners, who either have the ability or the inclination to get into this space," Rau said.



"In my view, this is not even a demand for the sector participants. The sector currently dominated by the domestic majority players, why would they want 100 per cent FDI," Avinash Singh, Senior Research Analyst, Emkay Global Financial Services, told IANS. Singh noted: "And practically speaking, even 74 per cent has been a non-starter, largely. The ones where any foreign investor would be interested in owning majority are not available as the domestic promoter wouldn't exit or go in minority." He added: "Even the valuation of these entities are demanding. And where FDI of above 50 per cent is welcome are the struggling names where no foreign investor would be interested."

Adani rules out changes in price, dates of FPO; confident of share sales going through

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Billionaire Gautam Adani's group on Saturday ruled out any changes in price or the dates of the Rs 20,000 crore follow-on share sale at the conglomerate's flagship firm despite its stocks being hammered over the course of decades. The group has dismissed the report as malicious and bogus aimed at torpedoing the FPO. Adani Enterprises is selling shares in a price band of Rs 3,112 to Rs 3,276. On Friday, its share price closed at Rs 2,762.15 on the BSE. "All our stakeholders including bankers and investors have full faith in the FPO. We are extremely confident about the success of the FPO," the spokesperson added. The FPO closes on January 31. On Wednesday, Adani

Enterprises raised Rs 5,985 crore from anchor investors. The company allotted 1.82 crore equity shares to 33 funds at Rs 3,276 apiece, taking the transaction size to Rs 5,985 crore, according to a circular uploaded on the BSE website. Foreign investors who picked up the shares included Abu Dhabi Investment Authority, BNP Paribas Arbitrage, Societe Generale, Goldman Sachs Investment (Mauritius) Ltd, Morgan Stanley Asia (Singapore) Pte, Nomura Singapore Ltd and Citigroup Global Markets Mauritius. A slew of domestic institutional investors, including LIC, SBI Life Insurance Company, HDFC Life Insurance Company and State Bank Of India Employees Pension Fund, also participated in the anchor book. Out of the Rs 20,000-crore

proceeds from the FPO, Rs 10,869 crore will be used for green hydrogen projects, work at the existing airports and construction of a greenfield expressway. An amount of Rs 4,165 crore will be utilised for repayment of debt taken by its airports, road and solar project subsidiaries. Adani Enterprises is India's largest listed business incubator and breeds businesses in four core industry sectors -- energy and utility, transportation and logistics, consumer, and primary industry. The current business portfolio includes green hydrogen ecosystem, data centres, airports, digital, mining, defence and industrial manufacturing.



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Index provider MSCI seeks feedback on Adani Group over Hindenburg report

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Index provider MSCI on Saturday said it has sought feedback on Adani group securities after a report by US-based investment research firm Hindenburg alleged stock manipulation and accounting fraud by the conglomerate. The index provider said it is aware of the reports recently published regarding the Adani group and associated securities. "MSCI is closely monitoring publicly available information regarding the situation and the factors that may impact the eligibility of those relevant securities for the

MSCI Global Investable Market Indexes," it said in a statement. The index provider said it welcomes timely feedback from market participants on these issues. At present, there are eight Adani group & associates companies which are part of MSCI Standard Index. Market experts believe any adverse feedback may lead to a reduction in weightage or even exclusion of Adani stocks from the MSCI index. This might further increase the selling pressure faced by Adani group stocks, which took a beating for the past two trading sessions and

lost more than Rs 4.17 lakh crore in the combined market valuation of listed firms. Market experts believe that MSCI will not take any action until the feedback process is concluded. On Wednesday, Hindenburg, which specialises in activist short-selling, made allegations of market manipulation and accounting fraud against Adani Group. The report was released just before Adani group's flagship company, Adani Enterprises' Rs 20,000 crore share offering opened to investors. The disclosure led to shares of Adani Group took a beating on the stock exchanges.

US industry urges FM to rationalise, simplify direct and indirect taxes in India

PTI ■ WASHINGTON

Head of the annual budget presentation, an India-centric top US strategic and business advocacy group has urged Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman to simplify and rationalise direct and indirect taxation system in India, a move it believes would increase the confidence of global investors and yield greater foreign direct investment. Direct taxes can

be in the form of income tax, capital gains tax or securities transaction tax, while indirect taxes such as GST, Customs Duty or VAT are levied on all end-consumers to buy any goods or services. "Rationalise corporate tax rates for foreign companies," said the US-India Strategic and Partnership Forum (USISPF) in its submission to the finance ministry ahead of the annual budget presentations on February 1. It said that the rate for foreign companies, including banks be reduced to bring parity and sought to rationalise tax for

new manufacturing companies. Urging India to simplify capital gain tax reforms, USISPF sought harmonising holding periods and rates of different instruments. "Reiterate India's commitment to the global tax deal," it said and urged the Union Finance Minister to extend the concessional tax regime to Foreign Portfolio Investment (FPI) from investment in securities. USISPF has also suggested tax incentives to specific sectors like renewable energy and R&D investment in the health sector. Among the Forum's recommendations include advocating for a stable and predictable tax environment, improving the ease of doing business environment, ratio-

nalisation of the cost of doing business, and rationalisation of tax rates and tariffs. On indirect taxes, the USISPF sought clarification on customs duty exemptions provided to oil and natural gas companies, reduction in customs duty rates for x-ray



machines from 10 per cent to 7.5 per cent and providing customs duty exemption on all items imported by specified research and development units. USISPF urged the finance minister to roll back the customs duty increase on nutritional products considering the importance and significance of the product and encourage the availability of scientifically designed nutritional food in India.

LG Electronics Q4 operating profit collapses on slumping demand, rising cost

IAN S ■ SEOUL

LG Electronics said its operating profit for the fourth quarter nosedived more than 90 percent on a drop in demand for home appliances and rising promotion cost amid global macroeconomic woes. The tech firm said operating income for the three months ending in December fell 90.7 percent on-year to 69.3 billion won (US\$56.2 million), 74.8 percent lower than the average estimate by Yonhap Infomax, the financial data firm of Yonhap News Agency. It reported a net loss of 212.4 billion won for the October-December period, turning from a profit of 21.3 billion won a year earlier. Sales increased 5.2 percent to 21.85 trillion won. The company said pan-



demically-driven pent-up demand for home appliances, including TVs, has lost steam, and aggressive rate hikes in major economies to tamp down inflation have significantly weakened consumer spending power. Global TV shipments are estimated to have dropped 3.9 percent on-year to a decade low of 202 million units last year, according to industry tracker TrendForce.

ORISSA SPONGE IRON & STEEL LIMITED
(Formerly Orissa Sponge Iron Limited)
(An ISO 9001 & 14001 Certified Company)
CIN: L27102OR1979PLC000819

Regd. Office: OSIL House, Gangadhar Meher Marg, Kitti Bhubaneswar - 751024
Corporate Office: A-201, First Floor, Okhla Industrial Area, Phase-1, New Delhi - 110 020
Site: P.O. Palaspanga, Dist. Keonjhar - 758 031, Odisha
E-Mail: corporate@orissasponge.com; Website: www.orissasponge.com; Tel: +91 11-43742000

POSTAL BALLOT NOTICE AND E-VOTING INFORMATION

The members of "Orissa Sponge Iron and Steel Limited" ("the Company") are hereby informed that in compliance with the provisions of Section 108 and 110 of the Companies Act, 2013 ("the Act") read with Companies (Management and Administration) Rules, 2014, read with General Circular No. 14/2020 dated April 08, 2020, 17/2020 dated April 13, 2020, 22/2020 dated June 15, 2020, 33/2020 dated September 28, 2020, 39/2020 dated December 31, 2020, 10/2021 dated June 23, 2021 and 20/2021 dated December 08, 2021, 3/2022 dated May 05, 2022 and 11/2022 dated December 28, 2022 issued by the Ministry of Corporate Affairs ("MCA Circulars") and Regulation 44 and 47 of the Securities and Exchange Board of India (Listing Obligations and Disclosure Requirements) Regulations, 2015 ("Listing Regulations") and other applicable provisions including any statutory modifications or re-enactment thereof for the time being in force and as amended from time to time, a Postal Ballot Notice ("Notice"), seeking consent of the members for approval of Material Related Party Transaction has been sent electronically to the members whose e-mail address are registered with the Depository Participants/ Registrar & Share Transfer agent i.e. Skyline Financial Service Private Limited ("RTA"), as on Friday, January 27, 2023 (Cut-off Date). The dispatch of the said notice through e-mails has been completed on Saturday, January 28, 2023.

The Postal Ballot Notice ("Notice") is available on the website of the Company at www.orissasponge.com and on the website of the National Securities Depository Limited ("NSDL") at www.evoting.nsdl.com.

Members holding shares either in physical form or dematerialized form, as on the Cut-off date i.e. Friday, January 27, 2023, may cast their vote electronically on the business internet set out in the notice of the Postal Ballot dated Wednesday, January 25, 2023, through electronic voting system (remote e-voting) of National Securities Depository Limited ("NSDL").

The members are further informed that:

- The special business set out in the notice of the Postal Ballot is to be transacted through voting by electronic means.
- The remote e-voting begins at 9:00 a.m. (IST) on Monday, January 30, 2023.
- The remote e-voting ends at 5:00 p.m. (IST) on Tuesday, February 28, 2023.
- The cut-off date for determining the eligibility to vote by electronic means is Friday, January 27, 2023.
- The members may note that i) the remote e-voting module shall be disabled for voting and the voting by electronic means shall not be allowed after the date and time mentioned under point 'c' above; and ii) once the vote on resolution cast by a member, the member shall not be allowed to change it subsequently.
- The manner of remote e-voting for the members holding shares in physical mode or dematerialized mode or who have not registered their email address with the Company/Depository Participant, is provided in the notice of the Postal Ballot as available on the Company's website www.orissasponge.com and NSDL's website www.evoting.nsdl.com.
- Manner of registering/ updating email address:
 - Members holding shares in physical mode, are requested to get their email ids registered by writing to the RTA at compliance@skylinesoft.com or to the Company at corporate@orissasponge.com along with signed request letter mentioning the name and address of the Member, scanned copy of the share certificate (front and back), self-attested copy of the PAN card, and self-attested copy of Address proof.
 - In case shares are held in demat mode, members are requested to register / update their e-mail addresses with the relevant Depository Participant(s).
 - Alternatively, members may send a request to evoting@nsdl.co.in for procuring user id and password for e-voting by providing above mentioned documents. The members may also refer the said Notice.
- In case of any queries, the members may refer to the Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) for shareholders and e-voting user manual for Shareholders available at the download section of www.evoting.nsdl.com or call on toll free no.: 1800 1020 990 and 1800 22 44 30 or send a request to Pallavi Mhatre, Senior Manager, NSDL at evoting@nsdl.co.in. Further, for any grievance regarding e-voting the members may also write to Mr. Darpan Sharma at email id: corporate@orissasponge.com
- The Company has appointed Ms. Riya Luthra, Practising Company Secretary (Membership No. ACS 53802, COP 24472), Managing Partner of M/s. MARG & Associates, Company Secretaries, to act as the Scrutinizer for conducting the Postal Ballot including e-voting process in a fair and transparent manner. The Scrutinizer will submit her report to the Chairman / any other Director / person as may be authorized by the Chairman, on or before Thursday, March 02, 2023. The results of the voting conducted by Postal Ballot along with Scrutinizer's Report will be made available on the website of the Company at www.orissasponge.com and on the website of NSDL at www.evoting.nsdl.com. Additionally, the results will also be displayed at the Registered Office of the Company.

For Orissa Sponge Iron and Steel Limited
Sd/-
Darpan Sharma
Company Secretary and Compliance Officer

Place: New Delhi
Date: January 29, 2023

UJVNL Road
H.O.: "UJJWAL", Maharani, Bagh, G.M.S. Road, Dehradun-248006
Telephones: 0135-2763808, Fax: 0135-2763508
CIN No. U40101UR2001SGC025866, Website: www.ujvnl.com

Letter No: 83 Date: 27/01/2023

e-Tender Notice

Office of the Executive Engineer (P&C) Ganga Bhawan, Dehradun invites online bids from interested parties. Brief summary of tender is given below:
Tender No.06/EE(P&C)/2022-23.
Name of Supply- Procurement of different Tyres & Tubes for various Power House/Sites vehicles of UJVNL Ltd.
Estimated cost: Rs.689836.00 (Excluding Tax)
Date of availability of bid document on website: 27.01.2023 from 16:00 hrs.
Last date for submission of bids on website: 18.02.2023 upto 17.00 hrs
For fuller & further details, kindly visit e-procurement portal "<https://uktenders.gov.in>"
Executive Engineer (P&C)

"AVOID WASTEFUL USE OF ELECTRICITY"

कार्यालय अधिशासी अभियन्ता, अनुसंधान खण्ड, उत्तराखण्ड जल संस्थान, देहरादून की ओर से जलजीवन मिशन कार्यक्रम के अन्तर्गत निम्नलिखित पेयजल योजनाओं में द्वितीय चरण के कार्यों हेतु उत्तराखण्ड जल संस्थान/उत्तराखण्ड पेयजल निगम पंजीकृत ठेकेदारों/फर्मों से मुहूर्तबंद निविदाएं दिनांक 13.02.2023 की सायं 03.00 बजे तक आमंत्रित की जाती हैं, जो उसी दिन सायं 04.00 बजे उपस्थित निविदादाताओं अथवा उनके प्रतिनिधियों के समूह अग्रोहस्ताक्षरी अथवा मनोनीत अधिकारी द्वारा कार्यालय अधिशासी अभियन्ता, अनुसंधान खण्ड, उत्तराखण्ड जल संस्थान, देहरादून में खोली जाएगी, निविदा प्रपत्र किसी भी कार्य दिवस में (राजकीय/सार्वजनिक अयकाश को छोड़कर) निर्धारित शुल्क जमा कर दिनांक 10.02.2023 सायं 5.00 बजे तक अग्रोहस्ताक्षरी कार्यालय से प्राप्त किये जा सकते हैं।

निविदा क्र.सं.	विकास खण्ड	कार्य विवरण	चरोहर धनराशि (रु.में)	निविदा का मूल्य (रु.में)	कार्य पूर्ण करने की अवधि	ठेकेदार की श्रेणी
1	कालसी	लखवाड़ पेयजल योजना में स्रोत संवर्धन, सतही जलाशय निर्माण, पाइप लाइन बिछाने एवं तन्सम्भन कार्य।	33600.00	₹1500 +GST	04 माह	डी. एवं उच्चतर

नोट-निविदा से सम्बन्धित समस्त जानकारी एवं शर्त विभागीय नोटिस बोर्ड पर चरपा है।
सम्बन्धित पाल अधिशासी अभियन्ता
"जल संचय-जीवन संचय"

PUBLIC NOTICE

Before the Regional Director, Ministry of Corporate Affairs Northern Region
In the matter of the Companies Act, 2013, Section 14 of Companies Act, 2013 and rule 41 of the Companies (Incorporation) Rules, 2014 AND
In the matter of M/s Nath Brothers Exim International Limited (Cin: U52110DL1971PLC005626) having its registered office at 42/1, Hanuman Road, New Delhi - 110 001, Applicant
Notice is hereby given to the General Public that the Company intending to make an application to the Central Government under section 14 of the Companies Act, 2013 read with aforesaid rules and its desirous of converting into a Private Limited Company in terms of the Special Resolution passed at the Extra Ordinary General Meeting held on Tuesday, the 27th day of December, 2022, at 11.00 A.M. to enable the Company to give effect for such conversion. Any person whose interest is likely to be affected by the proposed change / status of the Company may deliver or cause to be delivered or send by registered post of his objections supported by an affidavit stating the nature of his interest and grounds of opposition to the concerned Regional Director (Northern Region), Address: B-2, Wing 2nd Floor, Pt. Deendayal Antyodaya Bhawan, 2nd Floor, CGO Complex, New Delhi - 110 003, within fourteen days from the date of publication of this notice with a copy to Nath Brothers Exim International Limited at its registered office at the address mentioned below.

For and on behalf of
Nath Brothers Exim International Limited
(Vishwa Nath)
Date: 29.01.2023 Managing Director
Place: New Delhi Din: 00829358
Regd. Office: 42/1, Hanuman Road, New Delhi - 110 001

NTPC net profit up nearly 5 pc at ₹4,854 cr in Q3

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

State-owned power giant NTPC on Saturday reported a nearly 5 per cent rise in its consolidated net profit to Rs 4,854.36 crore for the December quarter, mainly due to higher revenue. The company's consolidated net profit was Rs 4,626.11 crore in the quarter ended December 31, 2021, as per a BSE filing. The total income rose to Rs 44,989.21 crore in the quarter from Rs 33,783.62 crore in the year-ago period. The Board of Directors also decided to pay an interim dividend at the rate of 42.50 per cent (Rs 4.25 per share) on the face value of paid-up equity shares of Rs 10 each for the financial year 2022-23. The average power tariff of the company during April-December 2022 stood at Rs 4.96 per unit compared to Rs 3.95 per unit a year ago. The plant load factor (PLF or capacity utilisation) of coal-based thermal power plants climbed to 68.85 per cent in the third quarter from 67.72 per cent. The imported coal supply rose to 1.57 MMT in the quarter from 0.52 MMT in the same period a year ago. The domestic coal supply dipped to 52.45 MMT from 54.96 MMT. The coal production from captive mines stood at 5.35 MMT in the quarter against 4 MMT in the year-ago period. The total installed capacity of the NTPC Group (including JVs and subsidiaries) stood at 70,884 MW as on December 31, 2022.

A U S T R A L I A N O P E N

Aryna wins 1st Grand Slam title

AP ■ MELBOURNE

One point away from her first Grand Slam title, Aryna Sabalenka faulted. And then she faulted again. She grimaced. She yelled and turned her back to the court. She wiggled her shoulders and exhaled.

Clearly, this business of winning the Australian Open was not bound to happen without a bit of a struggle Saturday night. Sabalenka knew deep inside that would be the case. She also knew that all of the effort she put in, to overcome self-doubt and those dreaded double-faults, had to pay off eventually. Just had to.

And so, as she wasted a second match point by flubbing a forehand, and a third by again missing another, Sabalenka did her best to stay calm, something she used to find quite difficult. She hung in there until a fourth chance to close out Elena Rybakina presented itself — and this time, Sabalenka saw a forehand from her similarly powerful foe sail long. That was that. The championship belonged to Sabalenka via a 4-6, 6-3, 6-4 comeback victory over Wimbledon winner Rybakina.

"The last game, yeah, of

course, I was a little bit nervous. I (kept) telling myself, like, 'Nobody tells you that it's going to be easy.' You just have to work for it, work for it, 'til the last point," said Sabalenka, a 24-year-old from Belarus who is now 11-0 with two titles in 2023 and will rise to No. 2 in the WTA rankings on Monday.

"I'm super happy that I was able to handle all those emotions," she said, "and win this one."

The only set she has dropped all season was the opener on Saturday against Rybakina, who eliminated No. 1 Iga Swiatek in the fourth round.

It was telling that Sabalenka's remarks during the post-match ceremony were directed at her coach, Anton Dubrov, and her fitness trainer, Jason Stacy — she referred to them as "the craziest team on tour."

"We've been through a lot of, I would say, downs last year," said Sabalenka, who was appearing in her first major final and had been 0-3 in Slam semifinals until this week. "We worked so hard and you guys deserve this trophy. It's more about you than it's about me."

Well, she had a lot to do with it, of course. Those serves



that produced 17 aces, helping erase the sting of seven double-faults. Those hammered groundstrokes and relentlessly aggressive style that produced 51 winners, 20 more than Rybakina's total. And, despite her go-for-broke shotmaking,

somehow Sabalenka limited her unforced error count to 28. One more key statistic: Sabalenka managed to accrue 13 break points, converting three, including the one at 4-3 in the last set that put her ahead for good.

She played really well today," said Rybakina, who has lost all four matches she's played against Sabalenka, all in three sets. "She was strong mentally, physically."

While the latter has long been a hallmark of her game,

even Sabalenka acknowledges that the first has been an issue.

Her most glowing strength was also her most glaring shortfall: her serve. Capable of delivering aces, she also had a well-known problem with double-faulting, leading the tour in

that category last year with nearly 400, including matches with more than 20.

After much prodding from her group, she agreed to undergo an overhaul of her mechanics last August. That, along with a commitment to trying to keep her emotions in check — she used to work with a sports psychologist but no longer, saying she relies on herself now — is really paying off.

"She didn't have great serve last year, but now she was super strong and she served well," said Rybakina, a 23-year-old who represents Kazakhstan. "For sure, I respect that. I know how much work it takes."

With seagulls squawking loudly while flying overhead at Rod Laver Arena, Rybakina and Sabalenka traded serious racket swings for nearly 2 1/2 hours.

The serves were big. So big. Rybakina's fastest arrived at 121 mph (195 kph), Sabalenka's at 119 mph (192 kph).

The points were over quickly. So quickly: Seven of the first 13 were aces.

Sabalenka had been broken just six times in 55 service games through the course of these two weeks, but Rybakina did it twice in the opening set. And never again.

Sabalenka resolved to take the initiative even more, and the payoff for her high-risk, high-reward attitude was too much for Rybakina to withstand over the last two sets.

Sabalenka said ahead of time that she expected to feel some jitters. Which makes perfect sense for anyone: "This was the most important match of her career."

At the end, when it mattered more than ever, Sabalenka was able to steady herself. After the final point, she dropped to her back on the court and stayed down for a bit, covering her face as her eyes welled with tears.

Quite a difference from a year ago at Melbourne Park, when Sabalenka departed after 15 double-faults in a fourth-round loss.

"I really feel right now that I really needed those tough losses to kind of understand myself a little bit better. It was like a preparation for me," Sabalenka said at her post-match news conference, her new trophy nearby and a glass of bubbly in her hand. "I actually feel happy that I lost those matches, so right now I can be a different player and just a different Aryna, you know?"

Australian Open lookaheads: Djokovic meets Tsitsipas in final

AP ■ MELBOURNE, AUSTRALIA

There will be a lot on the line for both players when Novak Djokovic meets Stefanos Tsitsipas in the Australian Open men's final. Djokovic is trying to win a record-extending 10th title at Melbourne Park and a 22nd Grand Slam trophy overall to pull even with Rafael Nadal for the men's mark. It is his 33rd major final. Tsitsipas seeks his first Grand Slam title. And the winner will move up to No. 1 in the ATP rankings. Djokovic, a 35-year-old from Serbia, takes a 27-match Australian Open winning streak into the final, an unbeaten run that was put on pause a year ago when he was deported from the country because he was not vaccinated against COVID-19. Tsitsipas, a 24-year-old from Greece, will be appearing in his second major final after losing to Djokovic in the 2021 French Open title match. Djokovic leads their head-to-head series 10-2, including nine consecutive victories. In the women's doubles final, Barbora Krejčíková and Katerina Siniakova meet Shuko Aoyama and Ena Shibahara.



SATURDAY'S KEY RESULTS

Women's Singles Final: No. 5 Aryna Sabalenka beat No. 22 Elena Rybakina 4-6, 6-3, 6-4.

Men's Doubles Final: Rinky Hijikata and Jason Kubler beat Hugo Nys and Jan Zielinski 6-4, 7-6 (4).

Junior Girls Singles Final: No. 9 Alina Korneeva beat No.

7 Mirra Andreeva 6-7 (2), 6-4, 7-5.

Junior Boys Singles Final: No. 3 Alexander Blockx beat Learner Tien 6-1, 2-6, 7-6 (9).

Junior Girls Doubles Final: Renata Jamrichova and Federica Urgesi beat Hayu Kinoshita and Sara Saito 7-6 (5), 1-6, 10-7.

Junior Boys Doubles Final:

Learner Tien and Cooper Williams beat Alexander Blockx and Joao Fonseca 6-4, 6-4.

Women's Singles Wheelchair Final: No. 1 Diede de Groot beat No. 2 Yui Kamiji 0-6, 6-2, 6-2.

Quad Singles Wheelchair Final: No. 2 Sam Schroder beat No. 1 Niels Vink 6-2, 7-5.

Men's Singles Wheelchair Final: No. 1 Alfie Hewett beat No. 3 Tokito Oda 6-3, 6-1.

Aussies Hijikata, Kubler win Australian Open men's doubles

AP ■ MELBOURNE, AUSTRALIA

The Australian pair of Rinky Hijikata and Jason Kubler defeated Hugo Nys and Jan Zielinski 6-4, 7-6 (4) to win the men's doubles title at the Australian Open on Saturday.

It was the first Grand Slam title for both Hijikata and Kubler — the third Australian team to win a men's doubles title in the last five Grand Slams.

The Australians entered the tournament playing for the first time as a team.

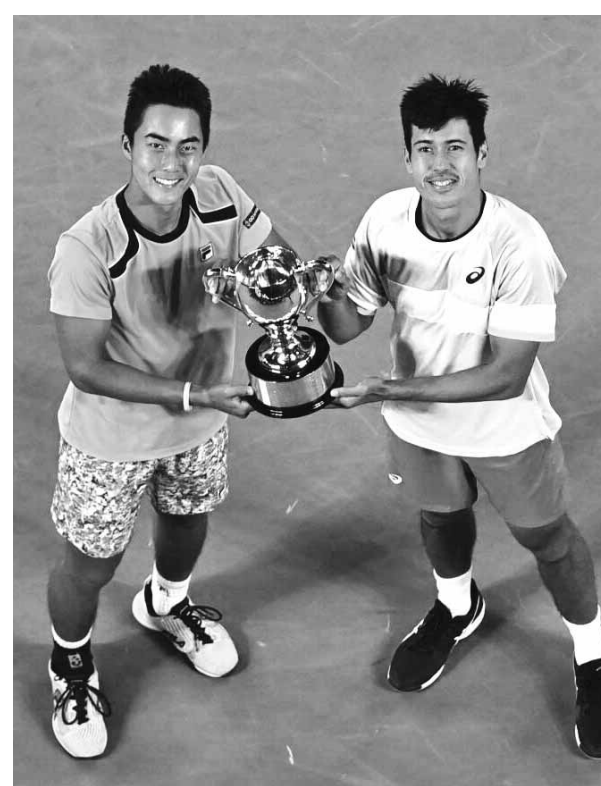
"Rinky and I definitely didn't think this was happening two weeks ago," Kubler said. "A bit of a pleasant surprise I should say."

Kubler, who has battled knee injuries, said Hijikata approached him about playing together.

"He (Rinky) was actually the reason we teamed up for this tournament," Kubler explained. "I wasn't sure I was going to play, then Rinky asked me and I decided to play. Two weeks later, now we've got this trophy."

Nys and Zielinski were also after their first Grand Slam title.

"Play Australians in Australia is never easy,"



Zielinski said in an on-court interview, drawing loud applause from fans at Rod Laver Arena where the match ended just after midnight local time.

Australia has a long history of strong doubles team. This pair was the 16th all-Australian team to win a Grand Slam men's doubles title in the Open era.



Blockx, Korneeva win Australian Open junior titles

AP ■ MELBOURNE, AUSTRALIA

Alexander Blockx of Belgium beat American Learner Tien 6-1, 2-6, 7-6 (9) to win the junior boys championship at the Australian Open on Saturday.

"It was one of my hardest battles of my life," the 17-year-old Blockx said.

In the junior girls singles final, ninth-seeded Alina Korneeva beat seventh-seeded Mirra Andreeva 6-7 (2), 6-4, 7-5 in a 3-hour, 18-minute baseline duel between the 15-year-old Russian doubles partners.

"It's not our last battle," Korneeva said during the trophy presentations. "We will have a lot of good matches."

In the junior girls doubles final, Renata Jamrichova of Slovakia and Federica Urgesi of Italy beat Japan's Hayu Kinoshita and Sara Saito 7-6 (5), 1-6, 10-7.

Tien paired with fellow American Cooper Williams to beat Blockx and Brazilian Joao Fonseca 6-4, 6-4 in the junior boys doubles final on Friday.

Mithali roped in as WPL side Gujarat Giants' mentor

PTI ■ AHMEDABAD

Former India cricket captain Mithali Raj has been roped in as mentor and advisor by Women's Premier League (WPL) side Gujarat Giants ahead of the inaugural season, which will take place in March-April this year.

Mithali, the highest run-getter in women's international cricket, had retired last year from all formats after a 23-year-long career. As mentor of the side, the 40-year-old cricketer will also promote women's cricket and help develop the sport at the grassroots level in Gujarat. The Ahmedabad franchise had emerged the costliest of the five teams during the auction recently, with Adani Sportsline shelling out Rs 1289 crore. Mithali said the new BCCI initiative will help women's cricket grow steadily and encourage young players to take up cricket professionally.

"The inaugural season of the Women's Premier League is a fantastic move for women's cricket and the involvement of the Adani Group is a massive boost for the sport as well," said Mithali on Saturday.

'Brave, offensive and risky hockey can only stop Belgium'

PTI ■ BHUBANESWAR

Germany head coach Andre Henning on Saturday said his side will have to put up a brave effort and play risky hockey to stop the rampaging run of Belgium in the World Cup summit clash on Sunday.

After winning a silver in the 2016 Rio Olympics, Belgium went on to win the 2018 World at the same venue here and then clinched gold in the Tokyo Olympics in 2021.

"We played against them in Pro League in Argentina, one win and one loss. Played them here and it was a draw. Seems to be very close on an eye level. My biggest respect for Belgium with what they have achieved in the last few years. They are clearly the best team in the world at the moment," Henning said at the pre-final press conference.

"So, it will be a tough match, we will have to challenge them. All of their players are world class but we will focus on our strength and qualities." Henning feels Belgium don't have any weakness.

"It does not seem that they are vulnerable at the moment, weak or disadvantaged. They

are still very strong. But we want to challenge them, how long that go (on dominating). We will like to stop that, in a most respectful way.

"We have to be brave, offensive and play risky hockey as well. We have to bring all our qualities on the pitch. Then only we will be able to challenge a team like Belgium."

Henning said his team will try to repeat their strong semi-final performance against Australia, whom they had beaten 4-3, to challenge the defending champions on Sunday.

"Against England (in quarterfinals) we did not play our best hockey for 55 minutes, but that was because of England mostly, they defended extremely well and they had an amazing tournament. Luckily, we played our best hockey in the last five minutes," he said.

"The match against Australia was a little bit different, because we played extremely well and strong. It was a well deserved win. We defended well, had a lot of chances. We would aim to perform like that tomorrow. We will have a chance.

"Our high press was really good against Australia. We have to be good in the first line



and our forwards are working a lot, running metres are amazing against Australia. Running wise one of the best games ever since we have GPS running data."

Germany came back twice in the tournament from two-goal down to force a win against England and Australia

but Henning said it was not an ideal situation.

"I would prefer to be not a goal down two minutes before the end of match. So, there is something to improve," the coach said.

"We have done very well in defending in our zone, that is very strong and we have

improved on that. That is something we want to do, to be kind of typical German tournament team and take steps game by game."

Asked if his team would like to keep the ball against Belgium on Sunday, Henning said defending and counter-attacking will be the main focus.

"Hockey is now about defending, counter-attacking and the game is getting faster and faster. We have a lot of rapid players, our counter attacks are very strong.

"Germany traditionally is or was a team which like to have ball possession and we will not change this culture 100

per cent. It has to be a good mixture. So we will like to have the possession and good build up but our defending has a massive focus this year and also counter attacking."

Belgium head coach Michel van den Heuvel said his team will have to guard against Germany's ability to have a strong finishing.

"We have been playing them a couple of times last couple of months and they have grown game by game. As a natural character, Germany is able to finish well. We had a saying in the past that we always win against German when they are in the bus.

"We also have a strong group which can handle pressure. It will be an interesting clash between two fantastic teams and fantastic individuals. It will be a good advertisement of hockey." Belgium captain Felix Denayer said the success of the side was due to the effort of the team, the support staff and togetherness of the group for a long time.

"This group has been together for a long time even before 2016 (even before winning silver in Rio Olympics). Our best player is the team and that is our strength."

Pandya faces must-win situation against NZ

Time for Ishan, Hooda to fire

PTI ■ LUCKNOW

India will have to raise their game a few notches as the Hardik Pandya-led side faces a must-win situation to level the three-match T20I series against New Zealand, here on Sunday.

India were caught in a spin web on the Ranchi pitch and lost the opener by 21 runs on Friday.

The loss also highlighted India's bowling profligacy, especially by the pace duo of Arshdeep Singh and Umran Malik.

If tearaway pacer Malik conceded 16 runs in one over, Arshdeep leaked 27 runs in the last over, which put pressure on the India batters while chasing.

That expensive over from the young left-arm quick was the turning point as he was smashed for three sixes and a boundary.

India's batters were off to an inauspicious start with the top-three managing just 15 runs. The hosts ended up scoring 155/9, which would have been a par score to defend on the wicket, as indicated by Washington Sundar after the match.

"150 would've been par and we would've been very happy with it," the India all-rounder said.

Skipper Pandya, however, is unlikely to bring in uncapped pace bowler Mukesh Kumar for the second T20I and will probably back Arshdeep to bounce back.



KISHAN, HOODA UNDER SCRUTINY

While Shubman Gill, who has been in red-hot form in the ODIs, has played just four T20Is and is still learning the nuances of the shortest format, the big concern will be the two key batters -- Ishan Kishan and Deepak Hooda.

Occupying the opening spot, Kishan is nowhere near the ominous form he showed while slamming a record-breaking ODI double-century against Bangladesh last December.

Since then, Ishan's scores in the last seven innings in both ODIs and T20Is read 37, 2, 1, 5, 8 n.o., 17 and 4.

If one just considers the T20Is, it's been a while since he last scored a fifty -- against South Africa on June 14, 2022.

Hooda, too, hasn't enjoyed much success as a lower middle-order batter and averages just 17.88 in the last 13 innings, with the highest being the unbeaten 41 against Sri Lanka at the Wankhede.

His innings of 10 runs from 10 balls at No. 7 on Friday lacked impact and the rotation of strike also came under scrutiny, especially when the New Zealand spinners were bowling.

While India are unlikely to try out newcomer Jitesh Sharma in the role of wicket-

keeper-batter in the middle-order on Sunday, time is certainly running out for Hooda and Kishan.

Despite the loss on Friday, there was a huge positive for India in Washington Sundar, who not only bowled a tidy four overs of spin to take two wickets, but also emerged India's topscorer with a 28-ball 50 batting at No. 6.

With No.1-ranked T20I batter Suryakumar Yadav in terrific form, India would need someone at the top of the order to raise their game and do some big hitting, given that the Ekana Stadium here has big boundaries.

The Kiwis, on the other hand, would look for another victory to secure a memorable series win in India. They will once again rely heavily on their in-form duo of Devon Conway and Daryl Mitchell.

Teams (from India: Hardik Pandya (c), Suryakumar Yadav (vc), Ishan Kishan (wk), Shubman Gill, Prithvi Shaw, Deepak Hooda, Rahul Tripathi, Jitesh Sharma (wk), Washington Sundar, Kuldeep Yadav, Yuzvendra Chahal, Arshdeep Singh, Umran Malik, Shivam Mavi and Mukesh Kumar.

New Zealand: Mitchell Santner (c), Finn Allen, Devon Conway (wk), Glenn Phillips, Dane Cleaver (wk), Mark Chapman, Michael Bracewell, Daryl Mitchell, Michael Rippon, Michael Ferguson, Ish Sodhi, Blair Tickner, Jacob Duffy, Henry Shipley and Ben Lister.

'Birthday girl' Shafali in pursuit of WC title for India



PTI ■ POTCHEFSTROOM

Batting sensation Shafali Verma will chase history when she leads India against England in the first-ever ICC U-19 Women's T20 World Cup final here on Sunday.

For all their success at the international stage, the Indian women's cricket team has never won a World Cup at any level and the young batter, who has been part of two World Cup and one Commonwealth Games final with the senior team, will look to bring the elusive title home.

The seniors have made the World Cup final on three occasions across formats only to have returned with bitter memories -- losing to Australia by 98 runs in 2005 and losing to England by 9 runs in 2017 in the ODIs, and in T20Is they went down in the 2020 final to the Aussies by 85 runs.

The youngster from Rohtak has been part of two World Cups across formats and she also witnessed another final defeat when India had settled for a silver medal in last

year's Birmingham Commonwealth Games.

Shafali, however, does not want to let go of the opportunity this time.

"Haan bahut finals khela hai (Yes, I've played a lot of finals and seen it all)," Shafali, who turned 19 on Saturday, said on the eve of the final.

"It's about going out there and enjoying the game. I've told the teammates 'don't stress, just give your 100 percent without thinking of it as the final. Just believe in yourself.'"

"It's all past and that cannot be recreated. We are determined to bring the World Cup this time and are trying to improve day by day," she added.

India suffered one defeat in the Super Six league stage where they lost to their 'nemesis' Australia after being bowled out for 87.

"We had nervous moments and couldn't sleep, thinking about whether we could make the final or not... But we have learnt from the mistakes and here we are."

"Now we're all very confident, clear of our roles.

Everyone is enjoying each other's company and stay normal, we are not thinking much."

Shafali has told her teammates not to think of her as the "senior". "I may be senior to many of them but I've told them 'on the ground we all are equal' it's about keeping everyone comfortable," she said.

In the semifinal, India registered a dominating eight-wicket win after their bowlers restricted a powerful New Zealand side to an under-par 107/9.

Leg-spinner Parshavi Chopra led the bowling show by claiming 3/20, while Shafali went for just seven runs in her four overs, taking one wicket.

In reply, a ruthless half-century from the opening batter and the tournament's leading scorer, Shweta Sehrawat, saw India home. Shweta finished unbeaten on 61 as India cantered home in 14.2 overs.

Personally, Shafali is also living her father's dream. She remembered her father Sanjeev Verma's words that she would one day win the World Cup.

Bolt fires business manager for fraud

AP ■ SAN JUAN (PUERTO RICO)

Jamaican sprinter Usain Bolt told reporters Friday that he is baffled over how USD 12.7 million of his money has gone missing from a local private investment firm that authorities are investigating as part of a massive fraud that began more than a decade ago.

Bolt also said he has fired his business manager, adding that it was not an amicable split.

When asked if he was "broke," the retired star athlete laughed. "I'm not broke, but it's definitely put a damper on me," he said. "It was for my future. Everybody knows I have three kids. I'm still looking out for my parents, and I still want to live very well."

Bolt's attorneys have said the athlete's account with Kingston-based Stocks and Securities Limited dwindled from nearly USD 12.8 million to some USD 12,000. They had given the company until Friday to return the money or face civil and criminal action. It wasn't immediately clear whether any action had been taken as of late Friday. Attorney Linton P Gordon did not return a message seeking comment. He told the Jamaica Observer newspaper that the public should anticipate the "expected and the unexpected" in the case.

"There is nothing to say at this stage, given what is happening," he was quoted as saying. "We have met with persons, and we are dealing with certain matters." Earlier this week, Jamaican Finance Minister Nigel Clarke announced that the director of the Financial Services Commission was stepping down and that the Bank of Jamaica would now be in charge of regulating the island's financial system.

India beat South Africa 5-2 to finish joint ninth in FIH Men's WC

PTI ■ ROURKELA

A dominant India scored twice in the first and fourth quarters to beat South Africa 5-2 in a classification match and finish joint ninth in the FIH Men's World Cup here on Saturday.

World number six India earned six penalty corners in the match and scored one from them while South Africa, ranked 14th, got three PCs without converting any one of them. India had 31 circle penetrations in total while South Africa had 22.

With around 60 per cent ball possession, the home side had 14 shots at goal as against nine by South Africa.

Abhishek, who was named player of the match, opened the scoring for India in the fifth



minute before captain Harmanpreet Singh struck from his drag flick in the 12th minute.

The second quarter did not yield any goal from either side though India kept on attacking and made several circle penetration.

India, who led 2-0 at half time, had 15 circle penetration

as against eight by South Africa at the breather.

In the third quarter, Amit Rohidas was shown a yellow card and India had to play one man short for five minutes.

But once Rohidas came back, India scored a goal in the last minute of the third quarter through Shamsher Singh (45th).

I'm quite tired, exhausted: Warner ahead of Test tour of India

PTI ■ MELBOURNE

An intense home season has left star Australian opener David Warner "tired and exhausted" ahead of the upcoming four-Test series in India, beginning in Nagpur on February 9.

The 36-year-old played in multiple formats in a hectic summer, including ODI series against Zimbabwe, New Zealand, and England and Tests against West Indies and South Africa.

Warner also competed in the T20 World Cup at home besides playing half a dozen games for Sydney Thunder in the Big Bash League (BBL).

"It's been challenging. I'm quite tired and exhausted," Warner was quoted as saying by Cricbuzz.

"A few guys have gone to the UAE League but aren't



attending the Cricket Australia awards. From my perspective, it would have been nice to have had another night at home. But it is what it is."

Warner snapped a poor run of form with a double-century in his 100th Test. He also looked in good touch during

his 20-ball 36 not out for Sydney Thunder in the BBL Eliminator before rain played spoilsport, handing the win to Brisbane Heat.

Warner said the BBL comeback was to help out his franchise.

"You're not really trying to negate the spinning ball, it's a white ball as well," Warner said of the BBL.

"For me, it was about coming back and trying to inject some energy into the Thunder team and trying to put my best foot forward for the team. It hasn't come off this year."

"Hopefully, next year I can come out and be fresher than I am now. It will be a long lead-in to our summer (that includes the ODI World Cup in India). From a personal point of view, I'm going to have to try and work out how to stay nice and fresh," he added.



It was just one-off game: Washington on loss to NZ in T20I opener

PTI ■ RANCHI

India all-rounder Washington Sundar termed their loss to New Zealand in the opening T20I here as a "one-off" defeat and backed the hosts to bounce back in the three-match series.

Chasing a competitive 177, India's top-three, including in-form Shubman Gill (7) were dismissed for just 15 runs inside 19 balls, making the task difficult for the remaining batters with the home team settling for 155 for 9, handing New Zealand a 21-run win, their first victory of the tour on Friday night.

New Zealand were swept 0-3 in the preceding ODI series by India before the new-look home side under Hardik Pandya took over for the T20 leg.

"I think it was just a one-off game," said Washington, who scored a quickfire 28-ball 50, besides returning with tidy figures of 2/22.

"I don't think that just because it was spinning so much, we have to address anything. Just that one-off game. Had we got off to a flier or a better start, things would've been much different. Obviously, it did spin, and you will see such wickets here and there. ... People over here and players in our team have played on such wickets in the IPL and even in the Indian team. So, just that one-off game where certain things didn't go our way," he added.

Will you stop going to a restaurant, if you don't get your favourite biryani?"

But his responses seemed "unconvincing" for a journalist,

who went on to probe further and asked whether they should "change" their top order.

This time, the youngster was at his wittiest best.

"Do you really think a change is needed? If you don't get your favourite biryani in one of the restaurants, you will never go to that restaurant?" "All of them have made so many runs. It's just one day. It happens to anyone -- even New Zealand collapsed in Raipur (108 all out in 34.3 overs in the second ODI)," Washington said.

"It did not mean they had to change their top order. It's a game where anything can happen. We will have to be patient. At the end of the day, it's a sport where both teams cannot win and all 22 players cannot perform. All of them have done well to get to this stage."

The 23-year-old backed left-arm pacer Arshdeep Singh, who registered poor figures of 4-0-51-1 and young pace sensation Umran Malik, who conceded 16 runs in the only over he bowled during New Zealand's innings.

"He (Arshdeep) has taken so many wickets -- for India and in the IPL. We are also human beings, we also want to play the sport. When the competition is very high, and the opposition is of the highest quality such things can happen," Washington said in support of his teammate.

"The way he (Malik) bowled against Sri Lanka and New Zealand (in ODIs) that's why we all know he's here. He's an X-factor, someone who bowls above 150 consistently and that's a rare quality."

Santner currently best spinner in white-ball cricket, lucky to have him: Mitchell



PTI ■ RANCHI

New Zealand all-rounder Daryl Mitchell believes stand-in T20 captain Mitchell Santner is currently one of the best spinners in white-ball cricket after the left-arm twerker's impressive outing against India in the series opener here.

Santner returned with miserly figures of 2/11 from his four overs to set up New Zealand's 21-run win over India in the first T20I of the three-match series on Friday.

Santner bowled a splendid spell and kept India under check by bowling a maiden over to Suryakumar Yadav in power-play.

"He is one of the best spinners in world cricket with the white ball at the moment," Mitchell, who was adjudged man-of-the-match for his 30-ball unbeaten 50, said at the post-match media interaction.

He picked up the wicket of in-form Shubman Gill, who inspired India to a 3-0 sweep over the Kiwis in the preceding ODI series.

"He (Santner) keeps proving his class. It was a very special spell by him that put us in a good position to win. He has done it for a long time now, we are very lucky to have him," Mitchell said.

Put in, New Zealand got off to a fine start with opener Devon Conway smashing 52 off 35 balls, while Finn Allen made a quickfire 35 off 23 balls as the visitors set India a challenging target of 177.

"I thought the partnerships that Finn and Dev (Conway) did early and obviously Glenn (Phillips) and Dev as well allowed us to take the innings deeper and allowed us to put some pressure on India towards the end of the innings," Mitchell said.

"It was about constantly adapting, trying to find ways to put pressure back on their bowlers."

Lack of tactical awareness, non-existent club culture behind India's early exit: Oltmans

PTI ■ BHUBANESWAR

Former India men's hockey head coach Roelant Oltmans has blamed the lack of tactical awareness and a non-existent club culture for India's early exit in the ongoing edition of the FIH Men's World Cup.

India lost the crossover match to New Zealand and failed to make the quarter-finals after going down 4-5 in sudden death. India's current head coach Graham Reid had also voiced concern about the lack of club culture after the Hockey India League (HIL) became defunct in 2017.

"There is no club culture in India, that is for sure. And the players need to continue playing games, that this team is lacking," Oltmans, who was at the helm of affairs of the Indian team from 2015 to 2017, told PTI in an interview.

"These Indians are fantastic hockey players, no doubt about that. But you need to know what to do at which moment of the game. If all of a sudden, you are 11 against 10, what are you going to do?" added the Dutchman, who also served as the High Performance Director of Indian hockey from 2013 to 2015.

India were unable to take



advantage of the circumstances after New Zealand were reduced to 10 men in the crossover match.

After New Zealand made it 3-3 in the fourth quarter, Nick Ross received a yellow card in the 53rd minute and was suspended for five minutes. New Zealand defended doggedly to take the match into penalty shootout and then sudden death.

"India had five minutes before the end of the match when a New Zealand player was out. What were India doing at such a moment? You need to

play tactical games, execute them properly," Oltmans, who was India head coach during the 2016 Rio Olympics, said.

"The Germans scored two goals in three minutes (against England), that is the difference, that is something India still need to work on."

Oltmans was surprised that India did not have a mental-conditioning coach. The Dutchman said that a psychologist was with the team at the Sports Authority of India (SAI) Centre in Bengaluru when he was at the helm.

"Absolutely, it (having a mental-conditioning coach) makes a difference. When I was the head coach prior to the (Rio) Olympics, I had a psychologist in my staff. It is more or less the same as having a mental-conditioning coach."

"For the physical part of the game, we have physical training, for tactical part of the game, we have tactical training, for skill training we have drag-flick trainers. But the mental aspect made a major difference and there we don't have a serious trainer. That is strange," said Oltmans.

I started auditioning when I was about 10 and I didn't get my first job until I was 12, and two years at that age is really hard
— Anna Kendrick



M U S L I M S

A NEW BUZZ IN THE BJP

Prime Minister Narendra Modi's advice to the party to reach out to Muslims like Shia Bohras and 'Pasmanda', the socially backward class in the community, has created a new buzz in the BJP at the ground level, write DIPAK K UPRETI, SAUGAR SEN GUPTA, BISWAJEET BANERJEE

Former Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee was among the few BJP leaders who had somewhat acceptability among Muslims because he kept an unstated channel of communication open with the Muslims and genuinely tried to reach out to them. LK Advani who was largely responsible for the demolition of the Babri masjid, also tried to do a course correction during his Karachi 'Yatra' in 2006 when he visited the 'Mazar' of the founder of Pakistan Muhammad Ali Jinnah. The RSS went all out against Advani for his reverence shown to the man Parivar hated the most. Advani had to pay a heavy political price and humiliation.

The advent of the Narendra Modi era in 2014 set aside all past equations of the BJP with Muslims in the country.

In the last nine years, the ruling BJP has been accused of aggressively cultivating a 'Hindu vote bank' and making the community dispensable which according to the 2011 census constitutes 14.2 percent of the Indian population.

The BJP has roundly refuted the charge arguing that it was 'saving' Muslims from the clutches of "appeasement" and "vote bank politics" of the Congress, Samajwadi Party, Trinamool Congress, Rashtriya Janata Dal, and likes of others and taking them to the path of "Vikas" that eluded them in over 70 years of national politics.

In this backdrop, Prime Minister Modi's concluding address at BJP's National Executive in Delhi on January 17 where he asked his party to vigorously approach Muslims like Shia Bohras and 'Pasmanda', the socially backward class in the community, drew more than casual interest of the observers as well as the party leaders from within.

"We have identified 60 constituencies in 10 states where Muslims are more than 30 percent. Around 5000 people from each of these constituencies who have genuinely appreciated PM Modi's development programmes would be selected and be part of scooter rallies in different states creating awareness among Muslims and taking their feedback", says Jamal Siddiqui, BJP Minority Morcha national president.

The Morcha has appointed a 'Prabhari' for each of the Lok Sabha constituencies selected for the rallies where all key BJP leaders of the region will also be present.

He asserts that PM 'Yojnas' relating to housing, drinking water, 'Garib Kalyan' and scholarships and education, among others, have "convinced" Muslims that they were used all these years for "vote bank politics".

Siddiqui rejected the charges that the BJP has been inimical to Muslims and claimed that 50 percent of Muslims in Gujarat, 20 percent in UP, 22 percent in Delhi, and 20 percent in Assam are now voting for the BJP.

"Muslims voters are not captive to any party now," Siddiqui said.

The BJP leader says the party will organize scooter rallies in 60 constituencies for four months as part of its Muslim outreach. Some important constituencies Congress leader Rahul Gandhi's Lok Sabha seat in Wayanad in Kerala, Rampur in Uttar Pradesh, and Behrampur in West Bengal.

"We will contact social workers and take the message in a door-to-door campaign and communicate with Muslims of all categories", he says.

On February 1 and 2, the Morcha will have its National Executive in Raipur, Chhattisgarh, where it would further discuss and strategize its 'Muslim Approach'.

After four months of scooter rallies in 60 Constituencies, the Muslim representatives will gather in Delhi on the first of May and meet the Prime Minister for dialogue and take the campaign to the next leg.

The whole idea is to connect and communicate with the community and make it aware of PM's welfare programme which benefited it "away from the vote bank politics" which "kept Muslims backward" for "so long."

Muslims in Mamata Banerjee's West Bengal are the "most poor and backward", he goes on to add.

The 'paradigm shift' in the development policies, asserts Siddiqui would leave Congress high and dry as far as minorities are concerned.

"jab tak 2029 LS elections ayenge.. Congress ki arthi lo Kandha Lagane Wala bhi nahin milega..", he hits out at the opposition party and its minority-friendly image

Senior BJP leader and former union Minority Affairs Minister Mukhtar Abbas Naqvi pointed out that the BJP has been winning in the Muslim dominant or majority constituencies like Rampur and Azamgarh.

He maintains that under Modi's leadership, the BJP won 16 percentage of Muslim votes in the 2014 Lok Sabha poll and 20 percent in the 2019 elections.

Annulment of triple talaq has also impacted Muslim women positively, says Naqvi adding Modi's "reform, perform and transform" has done well for the community.

In several parts of the country, BJP has already started the Muslim outreach programme. For example in West Bengal, where Muslims account for nearly 30 percent of total voters, BJP leaders have started to walk Prime Minister Narendra Modi's talk.

An initial sign of the BJP's changing tack came in the form of the January 25 "solidarity march" in support of the Indian Secular Front MLA, Naushad Siddiqui, who is a scion of Furfura Sharief, the largest Muslim congregations of the State.

Naushad was arrested after his followers

clashed with the police in Kolkata where thousands of them had gathered to protest against an attack by the TMC goons.

Siddiqui's ISF --- in alliance with the Left Front --- had won the Bhangar Assembly seat in 2021.

BJP Minority Cell chairman Charle's Nandi's statement assumes importance as he says, "Though we represent different ideologies the brutal attack and arrest of Naushad Bhai an opposition MLA is deplorable ... the BJP demands his immediate release... we will launch a statewide protest against his arrest."

Bengal Opposition Leader Suwendu Adhikari too condemns the arrest of Siddiqui. He says, "apart from the BJP there is only one opposition MLA in the House we allot time to Naushad Bhai from our slot to let him speak ... we will stand by him in distress."

BJP WILL ORGANIZE SCOOTER RALLIES IN 60 CONSTITUENCIES FOR FOUR MONTHS AS PART OF ITS MUSLIM OUTREACH. SOME IMPORTANT CONSTITUENCIES ARE: CONGRESS LEADER RAHUL GANDHI'S LOK SABHA SEAT IN WAYANAD IN KERALA, RAMPUR IN UTTAR PRADESH, AND BEHRAMPUR IN WEST BENGAL

Similarly, former State BJP president Dilip Ghosh says, "Naushad Bhai too is my MLA because I am a resident of his constituency ... ISF is a democratic party ... the police have no right to arrest him like this."

The BJP's pro-ISF stance is not an end in itself. The party has a larger plans to reach out to the Muslim masses.

"We are taking an inclusive approach where the Muslims will definitely play a big role ... Muslim voters impact at least 17-18 parliamentary constituencies ... we are working accordingly," one leader said.

Another leader says how the party is in touch with the youth Muslim leaders. "Many of them are contacting us and are ready to join us ... like the one leader from Hooghly who has

come directly from the Indian Navy," says a leader.

On whether the BJP too wants to pursue the policy of "appeasement," State BJP Yuva Morcha chief Dr. Indranil Khan says, "This is not appeasement ... In Bengal, all parties have exploited the minorities but left them deprived and poor ... the BJP will stop that exploitation"

On whether the party would soft-pedal the CAA issue, another leader Pronoy Roy says, "the Muslims are realizing that CAA will not take away their citizenship and hence they are taking a different view."

Another senior leader says that many Muslims have realized that there is a difference between CAA and NRC "as CAA will not lead to loss of citizenship they will have no problem with it," adding "panchayat elections will give us indications about our future path."

IN UP, the BJP has been actively wooing the Pasmanda Muslims. On October 22, 2022, the Uttar Pradesh unit of BJP held its first state-level Pasmanda Muslim meeting to sharpen its outreach among the socially backward Muslims, who have benefitted from government schemes like free ration and housing.

"Prime Minister had given credence to our efforts when he asked the party workers to reach out to marginalized sections of the society including Pasmanda Muslims, irrespective to the fact that they vote for BJP or not," Uttar Pradesh minister Danish Azad Ansari, who belongs to the community, said.

The Pasmanda community has 41 "castes", including Ansari, Qureshi, Mansoori, Salmani, and Siddiqui. They are in professions such as butchers and weavers and are considered backward in social, economic, and political terms. The party claims it's working for the community's political uplift after their social and economic empowerment.

Azad said that the idea of social justice has reached 85 percent of Muslims, who constitute the Pasmanda community. In his message of outreach, Prime Minister is not only invoking Pasmanda Muslims but also opening the doors of political empowerment and social-economic upliftment for them. This is not influenced by religion but by the larger spectrum of poverty and backwardness.

President of the Uttar Pradesh BJP's minority wing Basit Ali said that BJP plans to give tickets to Pasmanda Muslims in the coming urban body elections. "We have planned that people from different groups of Pasmanda Muslims will hold conferences in their societies and BJP leaders will participate in these to convey to them the party's ideology and government plans," Ali said.

He said the parties like SP, BSP, and Congress have used Muslims as their vote bank, but BJP will empower them by giving them political power.

But the Opposition Congress is not convinced that the BJP will ever shut its distrust and dislike of Muslims.

They are quick to point to the recent hue and cry over the screening of the Bollywood film Pathaan starring megastar Shah Rukh Khan and say it has exposed the diabolical attitude of the BJP towards minorities.

"Perhaps this is for the first time that the country is witnessing such a sharp divide in the screening of films, mainly featuring Muslim actors. Who is behind such a dirty campaign? Citizens are free to watch a movie if they like. But today the Saffron cadres have taken over the role of the Censor board. The way the entire machinery is working to create a hate narrative and divide Bollywood is a serious cause of concern and reveals the BJP's true attitude towards the minorities, particularly the Muslims," said Pranav Jha, AICC Secretary and Coordinator to the Congress President office.

Former Congress president Rahul Gandhi in his Bharat Jodo Yatra had been talking about the palpable 'anger' among the people towards BJP and dismissed Modi's call for Muslim outreach as a deceptive move.

Congress chief spokesman Jairam Ramesh told The Pioneer that Bharat Jodo Yatra has in a true sense made the BJP and RSS nervous and forced them to visit mosques and talk about reaching out to Muslims.

AICC head of Media and Publicity Pawan Kheda said with the tide turning against them, the BJP is forced to reach out to all the minorities.

Kheda asserted that the BJP's attitude towards minorities will never change. He pointed to The BJP's attempt to commercialize the holy pilgrimage centers of Jainism such as Sammed Shikharji, Palitana's Shatrunjaya hills (in Gujarat), Mount Girnar (also in Gujarat) and make them a medium to "fill the State coffers".

"Be it Muslims or Jains, the BJP has equal antipathy for the minorities, or for that all the weaker sections of the society," he said.

"Till so long they (BJP/RSS) accused Congress of appeasement. Now what do we call their so-called course correction and attitude towards the minorities?" asked Kheda.

Congress leaders believe the Bharat Jodo Yatra and further outreach programs of the party will help in bringing together all sections of society including the minorities.

"A party which does not field any Muslim candidate in elections and gives no representation to Muslims in the organization cannot be trusted by Muslims, The BJP has risen by fooling people. The minority outreach programme is another similar attempt—this time to fool Muslims. No one is going to buy this," said a senior Congress leader.

NEGLECT AT YOUR OWN PERIL

"Act now. Act together. Invest in Neglected Tropical Diseases," is the theme of this year's World Neglected Tropical Diseases (NTDs) Day being observed on January 30. The Day is also marked as World Leprosy Day. NTDs is an umbrella term that refers to 20 medically diverse, communicable diseases. India is home to the world's largest absolute burden of at least 11 major NTDs viz. Ascariasis, Hookworm, Trichuriasis, Dengue, Lymphatic filariasis, Trachoma, Cysticercosis, Leprosy, Cystic echinococcosis, Visceral leishmaniasis or Kala-azar and Rabies. THE HEALTH PIONEER talks to two experts in the sector, exclusively focusing on status and elimination progress in Kala-azar and Leprosy (Hansen's Disease), both mostly impacting a large number of poor in the country but often overlooked by policymakers, and so a few resources are made available to address them.

Right Time to take a Stab At Innovations to Sustain Kala-azar Elimination



DR KAVITA SINGH
 Director, South Asia, Drugs for Neglected Diseases initiative

Earlier this month, Union Health Minister, Dr Mansukh Mandaviya shared that Kala-azar (also known as Visceral leishmaniasis, VL) cases in India fell to 834 in 2022 from 44,533 in 2007 — a 98.7 per cent decline. India renewed its commitment of eliminating Kala azar from the country by the end of 2023. VL is an ultimately fatal disease if not treated.

Early and effective treatment has been one of the pillars of the National Kala Azar Elimination Program of India. It is important to remember that in the past we had toxic, long and painful treatments for kala azar patients. The long treatment duration often led to non-compliance and possible emergence of resistance. To provide simpler treatments it was important to provide evidence-based recommendations for policy makers. Therefore a prospective, multicentre study was conducted by Drugs for Neglected Diseases initiative and its partners NCVBDC, ICMR-RMRI, KAMRC, State Health Society Bihar and MSF in the public sector from 2012-2015.

The Government adopted a single dose treatment with Liposomal Amphotericin B which revolutionised the kala azar treatment and helped bring the number down consistently since 2014.

While we celebrate this milestone, it is important to sustain the momentum towards kala azar elimination. It is important we recognise the contribution made by each and every one who worked towards reaching the last mile of elimination including the



policy makers who gave strategic directions to doctors, nurses, ASHAs, vector control officials and the contribution of intersectoral ministries.

Research conducted by the DNDi in India has shown that post-kala-azar dermal leishmaniasis, a skin condition that occurs in 3-5% of treated visceral leishmaniasis patients may be an important reservoir for transmission, as are patients co-infected with HIV and the relapse VL cases. Existing diagnostics & treatments are not optimal for these patients, reminding us that still more need to be done for sustaining progress towards elimination. An outlook of fostering continual innovation of diagnostics and treatment is critical to meet the changing demands of disease elimination programmes.

In fact, Neglected tropical diseases (NTDs) continue to pose significant health burdens on some of the most disadvantaged communities in our country. The task is to have a unifying theme of innovation in diagnostics, treatment, and prevention of NTDs to create solutions that are effective, relevant, locally feasible, and sustainable.

DNDi is continuing to find affordable, safe and easy treatment that will help sustain the elimination and feel an oral drug is the only way to sustain the elimination. We are continuing drug development of a new oral molecule, for VL which is presently in a phase 2 clinical trial. When we

develop drugs for such diseases, it is challenging to interest pharma companies and partners wherein affordability and availability in developing nations are the end goals. Therefore, our efforts have been towards open science, partnering with research institutes taking in-kind support of pharma companies and seeking funding from various sources. So it's a very unique model of doing drug R&D. With our frugal drug discovery and development model we have been successful in engaging Indian and International Pharma companies to be the market authorization holders in the last two decades.

The National Center for Vector Borne Diseases Control includes some of these diseases which are caused by mosquitoes or sandflies, while the Ministry of Health has additional programs focused on leprosy and soil transmitted helminthiasis. The National Center for Vector Borne Disease Control presently has a kala-azar and lymphatic filariasis (LF), both are on the elimination radar of the government, with VL being 2023 and LF being 2030. So there's a lot of implementation happening with a lot of Government and also international support. However, we need to remember that when a disease goes through a distinct programmatic phase, the requirement of the tools, whether it's a diagnostic or treatment tool, keeps chang-

ing. So investments for these resources is the wish list of people who work in this space as we move towards sustaining elimination of VL.

As we progress, it is important to focus on optimal drugs and diagnostics that can help sustain the disease out of bay and are futuristic. As the number of cases go down, health professionals will be out of practice and so would be the availability of drugs at Primary Health care Centers. Looking into these aspects, DNDi is developing Centres of Excellence in two districts of Bihar for the management of complicated leishmaniasis cases where we are training the health professionals in complicated diagnostic procedures and treatment regimens.

Continued vigilance will be required to sustain the gains achieved through kala-azar elimination efforts. Investing in the development of new drugs as well as diagnostics are important areas. Innovative vector control and surveillance strategies and intersectoral ministries continued contribution is crucial to sustain the elimination phase. This will also necessitate proportionate investments in research and development for new tools, training of health workers, and housing infrastructure, continued WASH advancement and quality of primary care. Commitment to eliminating the scourge of kala-azar must continue.

Leprosy: Reach those Out of Reach



DR RAMESH BHAT M
 Dermatologist, Vice Dean, FMCC, Mangalore

Leprosy, a neglected tropical disease (NTD) caused by Mycobacterium leprae, is at least 4,000 years old, making it one of the oldest diseases known to humanity. The transmission occurs through respiratory droplets. Overall, the risk of getting Hansen's disease for any adult around the world is very low. That's because more than 95% of all people have natural immunity to the disease. Prolonged, close contact with someone with untreated leprosy over many months is needed to catch the disease. Due to the slow-growing nature of the bacteria and the long time it takes to develop signs of the disease, it is often very difficult to find the source of infection. When the disease occurs, it mainly affects the skin, the peripheral nerves, mucosa of the upper respiratory tract, and the eyes. Leprosy is curable with a combination of antibiotics

known as Multi Drug Therapy (MDT), available for free across the world. If left untreated, it could lead to disabilities in a small proportion of patients. Visible deformities are one of the leading causes of stigma affecting health-seeking behaviour and social inclusion.

In India and the rest of the world, there has been a tremendous decline in the number of leprosy patients over the past four decades. This was possible due to various elimination programs launched by WHO and the national programs of respective countries. However, one of the major challenges faced by India and other countries like Brazil, Indonesia, Ethiopia, Nepal, Nigeria is the continued occurrence of new leprosy cases.

These countries reported more than 1,000 new cases of Hansen's disease to WHO in 2021-22; Brazil (22,476), Indonesia (12,316), Ethiopia (3,010), Nepal (2,418) Nigeria (1000). Leprosy is endemic in several states and union territories of India, with the annual case detection rate of 4.56 per 10,000 population. The prevalence rate of leprosy is 0.4 per 10,000 population in India. The WHO epidemiological report of 2020-2021 mentions that out of 1,40,546 new cases reported globally, 61,678 (43.8%) are contributed by India. Maharashtra alone recorded more than 12,000 cases during the same time period. Of the new cases detected during 2020-2021, 58.1% were multibacillary, 39% were women, 5.8% were children less

than 14 years of age, and 2.41% had visible deformities. The rate of visible deformities was 1.1 per million population.

However, there has been a massive drop in detection due to pandemic. One of the important factors for it could be the hurried declaration that India had reached the leprosy "elimination" target in 2005, which led to a false sense of security, loss of focus, and to erosion of expertise among program planners and healthcare professionals.

According to National Sample Survey and situational analysis done in 2015 by National Leprosy Eradication Programme (NLEP), India, the major issues to be addressed by the program were delay in case detection, hidden caseloads, low awareness regarding leprosy in the community, and the lack of quality monitoring. In addition, in India, there are more than 3 million people with leprosy deformities needing attention and care. The postelimination annual NCDR was far higher than what is expected in certain states and blocks compared to the national average. It is very high in a few states such as Chhattisgarh (16.2/100,000 population), Bihar, Jharkhand, and Odisha. High NCDR appears to be due to continued transmission of the disease, evidenced by >50% multibacillary cases and more than 9% child leprosy rate in new cases detected in states/union territories (UTs) of India. These trends indicate that despite the successful implementation of MDT, the transmission of leprosy in India

is still a matter of concern.

After 40 years of strategies based almost entirely on early diagnosis and treatment with MDT, it is clear that there is a need to find additional tools to interrupt transmission, while continuing the efforts for vigorous new case finding.

Targets Under Sustainable Development Goals are 2021-22 are:

- Reduce the prevalence rate from 0.2 to <0.6/ million
- Rate of child case with zero disability to be sustained
- Reduce the rate of Grade 2 deformity (visible deformity) from 1.2/million to <1/million

Under Sustainable Development Goal, Government of India is committed to eradicate Leprosy by 2030. The State Government is targeted to eradicate Leprosy by 2025-26. World Leprosy Day is observed on the last Sunday of January every year. This international day is an opportunity to celebrate people who have experienced leprosy, raise awareness of the disease, and call for an end to leprosy-related stigma and discrimination.

This year's theme is "Act Now. End Leprosy" calls attention to three key messages: 1. Elimination is possible: We have the power and tools to stop transmission and defeat this disease. 2. Act now: We need the resources and commitment to end leprosy. Prioritize leprosy elimination. 3. Reach the unreachable: Leprosy is preventable and treatable. Suffering from leprosy is needless.

Docs Fight for Their better Treatment

Last few days have seen the Federation of Resident Doctors Association (FORDA), India, raising a pitch for their demands that range from formation of the Indian Medical Service in line with the Union Public Service Commission, enactment of the Central Protection Act, giving allowance and bond-free medical education, among other demands. THE HEALTH PIONEER brings the report

On National Doctor's Day on July 1, last year Prime Minister Narendra Modi hailed the contribution of doctors in saving lives from the coronavirus pandemic when it was at its peak and swept the country. He asserted, "India saved the lives of lakhs of its people and a big credit for that goes to doctors, healthcare and frontline workers."

However, action speaks more than words, say doctors in the government hospitals as they feel that not much has been done at the ground level as many of their long pending demands are yet to see the light of the day. Now under the umbrella of the Federation of Resident

Doctors Association (FORDA), India, recently they enlisted ten demands including the formation of the Indian Medical Service in line with the Union Public Service Commission, enactment of Central Protection Act, giving allowance and bond-free medical education, among other demands.

FORDA General Secretary Dr Sarvesh Kumar Pandey said that merely showering praises is not enough while leaving the doctors to fend on their own to grapple with many challenges while FORDA president Dr Aviral Mathur said that their demands have been pending for years yet no action has



been taken to address them. "We urge the government to address the issues at the earliest. We find many healthcare workers are often assaulted. We demand that the Central Protection Act should be made," said Mathur.

"Nursing students and nurses are provided risk hazards allowances but doctors are not. We should be given risk hazards allowances," he added. The other demands included creation of permanent posts for doctors, provision of at least six months duration in ad-hoc posts, amendment of residency scheme, provision of uniform stipend for resident doctors and timely conduction of NEET PG exam, among others.

Medical Association and other major associations. Around the first week of February, we expect that we meet these organisations and raise these issues collectively to the government," he said.

One may recall that the Prime Minister during his address to the nation on the Doctor's Day last year had also expressed gratitude to all medicos on behalf of 130 crore Indians. "The way our doctors have served the country is an inspiration in itself... Today, when the country is fighting such a big war against Corona, doctors have saved millions of lives by working hard day and night," he had said.

Dr Pandey said that the doctors' body will invite other medical associations to build more momentum for their demands. "We will invite organisations to discuss these issues. We will invite IMA, FAIMA, DMA and Delhi-AIIMS RDA, All India

Ukraine crisis: Wagner recruits a new twist

The Russia-Ukraine war is just a month away from one year and but there is no sign of resolution as both Kyiv and Moscow are not ready to blink first for a successful negotiation. The top global governance bodies, like the UN, are simply issuing warnings and imposing sanctions on Russia.

But for somebody like the headstrong Vladimir Putin, these sanctions make no sense; what matters to him is nothing but the fulfillment of his agenda: Rewriting the history and redesigning the geography of the Russian Federation.

What has complicated the situation is the world community's support to Volodymyr Zelensky's military resistance to Russian attacks and the sustained supply of weapons to Ukraine. And the consequence is the war getting bloodier.

With the arrival of the 14 Leopard 2 tanks to Ukraine, the conflict has taken a new turn for worse. Under pressure from its Western allies, German Chancellor Ola Scholz agreed to send these tanks, considered to be one of the best for the European war fields.

Initially, Berlin was not ready to send such heavy weapons to Ukraine. According to the International Institute for Strategic Studies (IISS), at present it has more than 300 such battle tanks that Kyiv has been repeatedly demanding for.

Meanwhile, the US has announced it will send 30 M1 Abrams tanks to the Ukrainian battlefield immediately.

Now, Russia has all the excuses to rant about global conspiracies to hit the nation on all fronts. Sergei Nechayev, the Russian Ambassador to Germany, was among the first one to take on Scholz, saying, "Berlin's decision signifies the unequivocal refusal of the Federal Republic of Germany to recognise historical responsibility to our people for the terrible, timeless crimes of Nazism."

The statement coming from the high office also high-



The turret of a destroyed tank is pictured outside Kalynivske, Ukraine, on Saturday, Jan 28

AP

lighted that the supply of these dangerous battle gears would put an end to post-war reconciliation between the Russians and the Germans. Further, Nechayev stated that this step of Germany would take the conflict to a new level of confrontation.

Now Putin's new nightmare has just begun. Thus he launched a new wave of bombing raids over Ukraine. And surprisingly, this time the bombers have come from Russia's Arctic bases. The Russian Army has fired more than 30 missiles at various targets across Ukraine.

The latest barrage of Russian drone and missile attacks killed and wounded many. Defence analysts say that Moscow has probably

decided to go for spoiling attacks across the frontline war zones as a diversionary tactic. Its main purpose is to disperse Ukrainian defence forces as far as possible. In fact, such war efforts would seriously impair frontline forces in the opposite camp and distract them from the main war zones.

The involvement of the Wagner Army by Russia in the Ukraine war fields is again raising eyebrows in the West. According to the US National Security Council, almost 80 per cent of its troops are drawn from prisons all across Russia.

The Ministry of Defence of the UK reports that the Wagner Group now commands nearly 50,000 troops in Ukraine. These forces have become a key component of the Ukraine

invasion. Some other reports say it recruits forces from experienced and retired soldiers. And many of them are from Russia's special forces and elite regiments. Many say the Wagner Group, though registered as a Private Military Company (PMC) and a Russian paramilitary organisation, in reality is none other than a network of mercenaries and a de facto army of President Putin.

Although mercenary forces are completely illegal in Russia, the Wagner Group recruits openly across the country and currently operates from its new headquarters in St Petersburg.

Meanwhile, the US is planning to designate it as a transnational criminal organ-

isation which will also allow Washington to apply stricter sanctions against the group which is already operating in the Central African Republic, Syria and Libya, to name a few.

Sources say the Wagner soldiers deployed in Ukraine at present are largely taken from prisons. Indeed it is becoming a potential source of tension between the regular Russian Army personnel and the Wagner cadres as they come in conflict with each other during their operations in Ukraine.

Simply, Putin's own de facto army is fighting against the national forces of Russia. It's bad news for the Russian Federation as this could mount discord among the regular soldiers who have been fighting and sacrificing their lives in

many frontline and covert battles all across Ukrainian battlefields just to secure more lands and bring back glory to their motherland.

Russia can't come out of the Ukraine imbroglio as Putin is playing on the deeply entrenched imagination that Ukraine is an integral part of their larger empire.

Ukraine is central to Russia's identity and vision for the nation in the outer world. Russia has deep economic, political and cultural bonds with Ukraine which has been existing for centuries.

Further, Ukraine's current capital city Kyiv was once termed the "Mother of Russian Cities" on a par with Moscow and St Petersburg. A survey conducted in

2001 shows that approximately 8 million ethnic Russians are living in Ukraine mostly in South and Eastern oblasts.

Thus Moscow, particularly the regime under Putin, thinks it fit to protect and occupy the entire oil rich Donbas and Crimea (which was taken over by Russia in 2014). So the history and politics of the Ukraine war goes back centuries.

Much more than that Ukraine is a prestige issue for both Russia and NATO led by the US. Since the fall of the USSR, NATO and its eastward expansion has been directly termed as encircling of the Russian Federation by Putin. So why will Putin allow NATO to expand its wing over Ukraine? Instead, he prefers to occupy his neighbour in the name of protecting ethnic Russians and also to propel his global posture as the only leader who could rightly denounce the diktats from Washington and largely, the existing global liberal order.

Finally, what Putin does in the coming months would have a serious impact on the future of the international political order. His bellicosity might prove to be costly for the entire Europe and for the rest of the world.

And the sending of the new weapons to Ukraine by the NATO allies especially by Germany and the US would simply add fuel to the fire.

Knowing fully well that to justify the war, the Russian strongman is already stoking a dark and ugly form of ultranationalism, the latest responses from Berlin and Washington should have been very cautious. If the war continues further, we all would be clearly witnessing a 'Zeitenwende' that is an epochal tectonic shift in the current global power calculus.

It's already under way. Be aware!

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

The involvement of the Wagner Army by Russia in the Ukraine war fields is again raising eyebrows in the West. According to the US National Security Council, almost 80 per cent of its troops are drawn from prisons all across Russia



MAKHAN SAIKIA

PERSPECTIVE

US' real-time advice to Ukrainian troops

On the front lines in Ukraine, a soldier was having trouble firing his 155 mm howitzer gun. So, he turned to a team of Americans on the other end of his phone line for help.

"What do I do?" he asked the US military team member, far away at a base in south-eastern Poland. "What are my options?"

Using phones and tablets to communicate in encrypted chatrooms, a rapidly growing group of US and allied troops and contractors is providing real-time maintenance advice — usually speaking through interpreters — to Ukrainian troops on the battlefield.

In a quick response, the US team member told the Ukrainian to remove the gun's breech at the rear of the howitzer and manually prime the firing pin so the gun could fire. He did it and it worked.

The exchange is part of an expanding US military help line aimed at providing repair advice to Ukrainian forces in the heat of battle. As the US and other allies send more and increasingly complex and high-tech weapons to Ukraine, demands are spiking. And since no US or other NATO nations will send troops into the country to provide hands-on assistance — due to worries about being drawn into a direct conflict with Russia — they've turned to virtual chatrooms.

The US soldier and other team members and leaders stationed at a base in Poland spoke last week to two reporters who were traveling with Army General Mark Milley, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, when he visit-

ed the facility. Because of the sensitivity of the operation, the troops there spoke on condition of anonymity under guidelines set by the US military. Reporters also agreed not to reveal the name or location of the base or take photos.

Fixing a howitzer, the repair team said, has been a frequent request from Ukrainian troops on the front lines. The need for help with weapons has been growing. Just a few months ago, there were just a bit more than 50 members of what they call the remote maintenance team. That will surge to 150 in the coming weeks, and the number of encrypted chat lines has more than tripled — from about 11 last fall to 38 now.

The team includes about 20 soldiers now, supplemented by civilians and contractors, but the military number may dip a bit, as more civilians come on board. And they expect it will continue to evolve as new sophisticated weapons are delivered to the Ukrainians, and new chatrooms set up to handle them.

"A lot of the times we'll get calls from right there on the firing line, so there'll be outgoing or incoming fire at the same time you're trying to help the forward maintainers troubleshoot the best they can," said a US soldier who is part of the maintenance team. Sometimes, he said, the chat has to wait a bit until troops can get to a safer location.

A key problem, said one officer, is that Ukrainian troops are pushing the weapons to their limits — firing them at unprecedented rates and using them long after a US service



In this file photo, Ukrainian soldiers prepare a US-supplied M777 howitzer to fire at Russian positions in Kherson region, Ukraine, on Jan 9, 2023

AP

member would turn them in to be repaired or retired.

Holding up his tablet, the US soldier showed photos of the barrel of a howitzer, its interior ridges nearly worn completely away.

"They're using these systems in ways that we didn't necessarily anticipate," said the officer, pointing to the tablet. "We're actually learning from them by seeing how much abuse these weapon systems can take, and where's the break-

ing point."

The Ukrainian troops are often reluctant to send the weapons back out of the country for repairs. They'd rather do it themselves, and in nearly all cases — US officials estimated 99 per cent of the time — the Ukrainians do the repair and continue on.

Many of the chats are regularly scheduled with depot workers in Ukraine — like the one they call "Coffee Cup Guy," because his chat has a coffee

cup emoji. Other times they involve troops on the battlefield whose gun just blew apart, or whose vehicle stalled.

Sometimes video chats aren't possible.

"A lot of times if they're on the front line, they won't do a video because sometimes (cell service) is a little spotty," said a US maintainer. "They'll take pictures and send it to us through the chats and we sit there and diagnose it."

There were times, he said,

when they'll get a picture of a broken howitzer, and the Ukrainian will say, "This Triple 7 just blew up — what do we do?"

And, in what he said was a remarkable new skill, the Ukrainians can now put the split weapon back together. "They couldn't do titanium welding before, they can do it now," said the US soldier, adding that "something that was two days ago blown up is now back in play."

Doling out advice over the chats means the US experts have to diagnose the problem when something goes wrong, figure out how to fix it, then translate the steps into Ukrainian.

As they look to the future, they are planning to get some commercial, off-the-shelf translation goggles. That way, when they talk to each other they can skip the interpreters and just see the translation as they speak, making conversations easier and faster.

They also are hoping to build their diagnostic capabilities as the weapons systems get more complex, and expand the types and amount of spare parts they keep on hand. For example, they said the Patriot missile system the US is sending to Ukraine will be a challenge, requiring more expertise in diagnosing and repairing problems.

The expanse of weapons and equipment they're handling and questions they're fielding were even too complicated for a digital spreadsheet — forcing the team to go low-tech. One wall in their maintenance office is lined with an array of old-fashioned, color-coded Post-it notes, to help them track the weapons and maintenance needs.

The team in Poland is part of an ever expanding logistical network that stretches across Europe. As more nations send their own versions of weapon systems, they are setting up teams to provide repair support in a variety of locations.

The nations and the manufacturing companies quickly put together manuals and technical data that can be translat-

ed and sent to the Ukrainians. They then set up stocks of spare parts and get them to locations near Ukraine's borders, where they can be sent to the battlefield. Just days before Milley visited the base, Ukrainians traveled to the Poland facility for parts. The visit gave US soldiers a chance to meet someone from their chatrooms face-to-face and swap military patches. "In the next video chat we had he was wearing our patches in his video," the US soldier said.

The hub for the growing logistical effort is at Lucius D Clay Kaserne, the US Army base in Wiesbaden, Germany.

There, in cubicles filling an expansive room, the international coalition coordinates the campaign to locate and identify far-flung equipment, weapons and spare parts in other countries that are needed in Ukraine. They then plan out deliveries — by sea, air and ground routes — to border locations where everything is loaded onto trucks or trains and moved to the war zone.

At least 17 nations have representatives in what's called the International Donor Coordination Center. And as the amount and types of equipment grow, the center is working to better meld the donations from the US and other nations.

"As we send more additional advanced equipment, like Strykers, like Bradleys, like tanks, of course that sustainment activity will have to increase," said Douglas Bush, assistant Army secretary for acquisition.

"I think the challenge is recognised. I think the Army knows how to do it." AP



YOUR WEEK AHEAD

MADHU KOTIYA



ARIES March 21-April 19

The week is favourable for financial gains. Be prepared since there will be business and professional travel. There may be some obstacles in your path, this could be a delay in booking and reservation or financial constraint. You oversee the situation. There will be new possibilities to advance your career. You will feel gloomy this week and will need to recharge. You may receive a love proposal or even a marriage proposal. Married couples should be more concerned about one other. There will be attraction, and they will have a happy relationship. You must review your spending at the end of the week.

Lucky number 12
Lucky colour Peach
Lucky day Tuesday



LEO July 23-Aug 22

This week, you will live the king-size life. You care about the family and go out of your way to make them happy. There is joy in the family, and the children will cooperate with you. Many family concerns will be discussed, and your part will be critical. You are emotionally satisfied. Lady Luck will be on your side. There will be a substantial income, and you intend to build a house or develop your business. Children may study abroad or be invited to an interview for a career. However, towards the end of the week, you must be cautious of your rivals. There is a potential they will plan against you. It is all because of envy. It is best to avoid illegal and controversial issues.

Lucky number 15
Lucky colour Sky Blue
Lucky day Thursday



SAGITTARIUS Nov 22-Dec 21

When things do not go your way, there is always a ray of hope. This week brings rejection, misery, loneliness, and betrayal. As horrible as it may sound, if there is no suffering, there is no challenge, and life is ultimately meaningless. Such difficulties often provide opportunities to learn from your mistakes and become stronger. By mid-week, you strive to find the solution on your own, to rise above your desires and emotions, which are no longer useful in your trip. If someone has deceived you and you believe you can ever love again, confront that entirely. Expect your heart to emerge from the darkness even more capable of loving than before. Behind every cloud is a sun waiting to be revealed to all.

Lucky number 18
Lucky colour Silver
Lucky day Wednesday



TAURUS April 20-May 20

You will get preoccupied with attending to their visitors and hospitalising them. Your siblings and friends will demand your attention and time this week. You will be full of creative energy and will appreciate this phase of your life. You will be content by mid-week. At home, there is peace and harmony, the children are doing well, the health is good, and the finances are in better shape. The environment is filled with good energy. However, the end of the week is not so great. There might be some bad energy affecting your relationship with your partner. Your health may suffer as a result. So be cautious; prevention is better than cure.

Lucky number 14
Lucky colour Green
Lucky day Thursday



VIRGO Aug 23-Sep 22

This week, you are gifted with your natural strength. Your objectives are clear, and you are motivated to attain them. You are well-known for your communication abilities, which you will excel at this week. Because of your established strength, you will feel confident and energised. Those in business will earn significantly. There will be substantial financial returns and timely payment. This week brings pleasant partnerships and friendships, as well as assistance from your family. Destiny will be on your side. Lovers must be patient. Introspection is the subject for you, but you do not need to be secretive or repress your feelings; rather, open yourself to new situations and behave more maturely.

Lucky number 19
Lucky colour White
Lucky day Tuesday



CAPRICORN Dec 22-Jan 19

You require some rest and relaxation. Enjoy your newfound strength and tranquillity. Some of you may need to heal your body and mind after an illness or accident. You may also be placed in a circumstance in which an answer and the truth will be revealed. Such impasses are difficult to resolve and might result in a prolonged period of uncertainty and stagnation. However, the week will conclude on a very favorable note. You are likely to explore a new project that demands speed and courage. It will be time to act and realize your goals. Seize the opportunity and channel its energy to your benefit.

Lucky number 9
Lucky colour Magenta
Lucky day Friday



GEMINI May 21-June 20

This week will witness a dramatic shift. A pay raise, promotion, or other form of recognition is on the horizon. Your goals are clear, and you go forward in life with targeted objectives. This is the time to maximise the impact of your efforts. There is an abundance of prosperity by the mid-week, and you feel enthusiastic, creative, compassionate, and generous. You will be concerned about others. You like helping others. Though there is enough financial bliss, you are also looking for spiritual fulfilment. Those in business must communicate more effectively with their colleagues and partners. Those working in private organisations will be allowed to advance and transfer to desired positions. This is the moment to recognise and capitalise on your abilities.

Lucky number 20
Lucky colour Mauve
Lucky day Monday



LIBRA Sep 23-Oct 22

This week, the number 7 is significant in your life. This number will have a positive impact on several aspects of life. There is a possibility of a relationship breakdown. You are afraid of failing. But by addressing your anxieties and using them to your advantage, you will become even stronger and more prepared to meet the next challenge in your way. Now is the moment to move on with your dreams, toss aside your fears, and to allow nothing to stand in your way. If you feel you haven't done your best, or if what you've accomplished isn't as spectacular as you planned, reconsider your ideas and try something new. By the end of the week, you may have more money, more income, or a lucrative offer.

Lucky number 11
Lucky colour Beige
Lucky day Sunday



AQUARIUS Jan 20-Feb 18

Look for the spark of divinity within yourself that you could not recognize or recognise before. You will have faith in both your own and greater forces. Within yourself, you sense divine inspiration and strength. On the spiritual level, you are given true freedom and authority. So, it is preferable to let go of old ways of thinking and be gifted with new eyes. This is the time when your inner voice will become active in your life and your buried goals and ambitions will have a chance to come true. There are signs of a new connection beginning, one that is full of potential and may eventually lead to genuine love and happiness. Allow the power of love to flow from your heart. So, relax and enjoy the bliss.

Lucky number 2
Lucky colour Pink
Lucky day Sunday



CANCER June 21-July 22

There is a mental fight to solve the challenge. You are worried about your children this week, or you are concerned about their progress. You may be concerned about your children's future schooling or marriage. The results are delayed. Someone in the family's health, your mother's, may disturb you. She wants attention. The cards imply hormonal or psychological issues for women. So, for mental balance, it is best to participate in yoga courses or meditate. It not only increases your mental power but also provides you the courage to tackle the problem. The end of the week marks the start of a new era in your life. You finish the emotional dharma and make some wise life decisions.

Lucky number 6
Lucky colour Purple
Lucky day Friday



SCORPIO Oct 23-Nov 21

This week, the most essential manifestation of your personality is desire with purity. You confront your innermost desires and most irrational anxieties, and instead of rejecting them, you elegantly integrate them into yourself and become stronger. You are confident in your abilities and skills to achieve the desired results. With your abilities, you have control over everything: theory and practice, logic, and emotion, thought and action. Your objectives are clear, and you remind others that a wish alone will not alter anything, but a determination may. A desire to create is meaningless without accompanied by the skill to achieve. So go out into the world, focus your attention on whatever objective you want to achieve, and then step back and watch as everything falls back into place under your leadership.

Lucky number 13
Lucky colour Brown
Lucky day Saturday



PISCES Feb 19-March 20

You are so preoccupied with what you desire that you have no time to think about your life. When you look at the other side of your life, you will notice that there is a lot of love in it. But if you're not careful, it might slip away. A majority of disappointments in life come from those who desire more yet already have all they need. The answer to overcome disappointment is simply to see all the wonderful that currently exists in your life and to thank God for it every day. By midweek, you will notice significant deviations from the normal order in your life. There is the potential of two different beings uniting to function as one. It might be a relationship, friendship, or partnership, and all kinds of compromises.

Lucky number 7
Lucky colour Grey
Lucky day Saturday

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ASTROTURF
BHARAT BHUSHAN PADMADEO

First, purify your mind



I have developed keen interest in spirituality. I spend an hour every day doing yoga, pranayama, and meditation. I have been studying philosophical books. I want to fast-track my spiritual evolution. I have realised that raising Kundalini level is the key to spiritual awakening. Somebody visiting me informed, "Are you pursuing your path under the guidance of a Guru?" I asked, "No. I don't have a Guru. But I have someone in mind, whom I wish to have my Guru." He answered. I am afraid, pursuing any occult practise without due guidance by a realised Guru is fraught with danger. Awakening of kundalini power does raise the energy level in a being. That, however, will be eventually driven by your thought process - which again is another form of energy - according as is inherently oriented. So, with a preconditioned thought process at the drive, trying to awaken kundalini awakening could prove counterproductive. It could even derail you as has happened in large number of cases. If you think that spirituality is about developing psychic power, then you are mistaken. It is rather a process to give a qualitative turn your life. That will not hap-

pen without redefining your thought process. Invariably one's mind is so much cluttered with past imprints and habit tendencies that it hardly leaves space to absorb fresh educative inputs. And spirituality is about realising hard truths of life, often at variance with usual approach to life, which calls for fresh learning. That will happen only when you break the barriers created by your preconditioned mind. Also, there are good number of people proclaiming themselves to be a Guru, some of them seemingly have a wide following. Their words may be intellectually appealing. That, however, doesn't qualify him to be your Guru. If you have the sincere urge to have a Guru, he will appear and take you within his care, if your mental frequency matches with his. An enlightened Guru will first prepare you for the process by putting you through a process to transcend your mental and emotional limitations. Only a purified mind could realise truths of life. Also, if you think of fast tracking your spiritual evolution, then it is your egotistical statement. Spirituality begins where ego ends and will progressively evolve. You can't time it.

"Do you think I am not fit to pursue spirituality?" The fellow countered. Well, you carry the seed potential of spirituality as would clear linkage of the lagna, 5th and 9th cusps imply. But given the state of your mind, you don't seem to be prepared for it. "What is wrong with my thought process? Will you kindly enlighten?" The fellow asked. Fiery Aries as the lagna, you seem to be aggressive, impulsive, irritable, commanding, and impatient, living in a demanding mode. You jump into action without applying proper forethought, often inviting frustrating experiences. Rahu in the lagna makes you erratic, and with Mercury close by, you seem to have a restive mind. You won't like playing second fiddle to others, even if he is your superior. Moon in Gemini sign opposite mischievous Neptune speaks of a vacillating mind. You may be stuck to your illusionary perceptions and not open to look beyond for a reality check. You fail to acknowledge truth on its first appearance, and rather continue following your self-beliefs till pushed to the wall. Also, you wish to live on your own exclusive terms, not realising that life may not necessarily move to your asking. You prefer yes per-

sons. When somebody offers a contrarian view, it becomes difficult to digest. You immediately get put off and go wild on him. Even more because Mars opposite Uranus makes you temperamental. Jupiter placed adverse to Mercury and Rahu accounts for your insensible reasoning and judgment. If that would not be enough, the Sun opposite Saturn brings in nagging tendency, always trying to put the blame on others, rather than trying to figure out one's own fault lines. If you could address the limitations of your mind, that by itself will mean significant spiritual growth, as it may help turn life into a beautiful experience individually and collectively. For, you will have access to the full landscape of mind, which will let you look at things with an open mind without any preconditioning whatsoever. It will enable you to see things in the right perspective to pick up the most appropriate lead, and with obvious consequences. Also, the ground will be laid down to even realise truth, the final call of spirituality. The writer is an astrologer, vastu consultant and spiritual counsellor. Connect with him at Tel: 91-11-9818037273/9871037272 Email: bharatbhushanpadmadeo@gmail.com