



# Row over hotel leased out by B'swar civic body

While lease extension plea denied after expiry, now another man claims as owner of land

**UBACHAK MOHANTY**  
■ BALESWAR

A controversy erupted over the ownership of a prominent hotel in Baleswar located between FM Circle and Station Square. With the Hotel Kalinga having been sealed on Thursday by the Tehsildar, Sadar, the matter headed for a legal battle between the municipality and a private party.

According to reports, the hotel was given on lease to one Shantilata Das for 22 years by

the Baleswar Municipality. The lease period expired on May 31, 2022. Das applied to the municipal authorities to extend it to another three years pleading that she had sustained losses for the last three years for Covid, but the civic body declined the request.

As Das moved the Orissa High Court over the issue, the court directed her to approach the appropriate authority, citing it to be the municipality Executive Officer (EO). The previous EO had refused to consider Das's petition stating the municipal council had decided to either demolish or renovate the existing structure of the hotel and build a new one in its place. The EO had formed a committee to look into the matter and take a



decision whether to demolish or renovate the existing structure.

However, a week ago, the municipality had served a notice to Das (the lease) to vacate the building. And, as

soon as she vacated the structure on Wednesday, a private person, Sujit Dev, a resident of the town came and locked the entrance, claiming the property belonged to him, stating he has the ROR of the

land and the municipality's claim on the land was illegal and the lease it had executed was unauthorised. He was waiting for the vacation of the building, he said.

However, on Thursday, the

Sadar Tehsildar, as a magistrate, broke open the lock and put another lock and sealed the hotel. Reports further added that Sujit's father, who belonged to the Zamindar family (Raja Baikunthanath Dev) had donated the contended piece of land in favour of the municipality. And mutation of the land was not made by the municipality subsequently.

Dev said he possessed the patta of the land and he had been paying the taxes too, though for the last few years, he had defaulted in paying them. And he was ready to clear all previous dues.

Notably, Sujit's wife was Vice-Chairperson of the municipality during the previous council. She had also unsuccessfully contested for Chairperson post in BJP ticket.

## IN BRIEF

**2 GANJA SMUGGLERS HELD IN KALAHANDI**  
Bhawanipatna: Two persons were arrested on Thursday for transporting 42 kg of ganja in a car under the Golamunda police limits in Kalahandi district. The accused persons, identified as Abhay Behera and Prakash Meher, were forwarder to court. Both are natives of Baldiamal village under the Junagarh PS. Police also seized a car and two mobile phones from their possession.

## NURSING STUDENT FOUND HANGING IN CLASSROOM IN G'PATI

Paralakhemundi: A First Year BSc student of the Gajapati School and College of Nursing at Ranipentha here was found hanging in her classroom on Thursday morning. The reason behind her taking the extreme step was yet to be ascertained. The deceased, identified as Akhela Behera, was a resident of Gopalpur village in Ganjam district and was staying in the college hostel. Police along with a scientific team reached the spot and began a probe into the incident.

## DIARRHOEA CLAIMS 1 IN MOHANA; 4 INFECTED

Paralakhemundi: After Rayagada district and Dasmantpur of Koraput district, diarrhoea broke out at Mohana block of Gajapati district. While a girl child died of the disease in P Govindpur of Mohana block on Thursday, four others were under treatment at the CHC, Mohana. The deceased was identified as Lipi Nayak (9). Led by Medical Officer Dr Nibedita Panda, a medical team rushed to the village to take stock of the situation and find out cause of the infection. Water and stool samples were collected for test, said Dr Panda.

## P'KHEMUNDI SKILL DEV CENTRE UNVEILED

Paralakhemundi: Gajapati district Collector Lingaraj Panda and Zilla Parishad Chairman G Tirupati Rao inaugurated a skill training centre for the unemployed local youths. The Vignyan Bharati Charitable Trust (VBCT) has set up the centre. A director of the Trust Er Rupesh Panigrahi and a host of officials and PRI members were present on the occasion. District Collector Panda thanked the VBCT for taking up the skill training project. ZP Chairman Rao thanked chairman of the trust Dr Tirupati Panigrahi.

## CHAMPUA KEMS SHINES IN CBSE EXAMS

Champua: The students of KEMS at Champua came out with flying colours in the CBSE 10th board exams. The school has registered 100% pass results. A total of 193 students appeared for the exam and all came out successful. Six students scored above 95% of marks. Tanisha Kashyap scored highest of 96.8% followed by Rischita Kaur (96.4%). Total 31 students scored more than 90% marks, 53 students scored above 80%, 44 above 70% and 35 above 60%. The students of the school also showed 100% results in 12th board. Founder chairman Dr Raj Mohan PS, secretary Uma Raj Mohan, Principal BK Bharati, Dr B Rama Raju and SS Jha congratulated the toppers and other successful students.

## BIJILI MAHOTSAV OBSERVED IN CHAMPUA

Champua: As part of the country wide celebration of Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav, marking the 75th year of Independence, the Bijili Mahotsav was organised at Champua in Keonjhar district in collaboration with the State Energy Department and NTPC. Its main objective was to make electric consumers aware of energy sector. Sub Collector Pratap Pritimay was the chief guest of the event, while Tehsildar Dr Sai Sasmita Hota, BDO Jyotshna Nayak, NAC Chairman Girija Shankar Sahu, SE Narayan Das, EE Manoranjan Jena, AGM-NAPCL Vivek Jain and DGM-OPTCL Subash Singh attended as guests.

## CUO REMEMBERS EX-VC RAMABRAHAMM

Koraput: The Central University of Odisha (CUO) Koraput paid rich tribute to its former Vice-Chancellor Prof I Ramabrahmam at its campus on the occasion of his first death anniversary. Along with staffs, Vice-Chancellor Prof SK Palita garlanded the portrait of Prof Ramabrahmam. A meeting was held under the chairmanship of Prof Palita, who said, "Prof Ramabrahmam was a man of action, a true leader, a prominent educationist and a great social thinker and policymaker and tried his best to develop this university during his short tenure."

## In Sambalpur +2 student ends life over poor marks

**PNS** ■ SAMBALPUR

A Plus II student of the GM College in Sambalpur hanged himself to death at his house at Dhipapada village under the Burla police station in Sambalpur district on Wednesday.

While no exact reason for his death was known immediately, family members said he took the extreme step because of securing less than expected marks in his examination.

The deceased was identified as Rohan Gurung (18).

According to sources, Guru hanged himself using a rope

in a pole near his house. Family members found him hanging and rushed to Burla-based VIMSAR. However, doctors at the hospital declared him dead.

A case was registered in this connection and the body was sent for postmortem.

'My name is Johan. My brother was studying very hard. But, he was broken after he just secured 49 per cent in Plus Two. So, he took the extreme step. We searched for him when he did not come home on Wednesday night. Later, we found him hanging near our house,' said Johan, brother of the deceased.

Police said a probe was on.

## Film dir from Hinjili invited to Tunisia fest

However, money is barrier

**KRISHNA CHANDRA PANDA**  
■ BRAHMAMPUR

Hinjili-based Nriyam Kala Gabeshana Kendra (NKGK) chief and renowned short film producer and director Krishna DK has been invited to participate in international FIVS film festival at Tunisia in North Africa.

Sending an invitation to Krishna DK, the director of the international festival Walid Ben Hassan said, "We are happy to invite him (Krishna DK) in our country Tunisia. We and our team are happy to meet him." Notably, Krishna DK who hails from Hinjili has made a number of short films, bringing national and international awards for the State of Odisha in general and Ganjam district in particular. His most popular short film "Ananya", which is based on awareness for Swachh Bharat, had influenced the jury at the Tunisia film festival. The film was cast by Madhusudan Mishra and Sonam Sahu, while Krishna DK was the director.

Krishna DK will be the first person or artist to attend the Tunisia festival. He will be making his first trip as a film director from Odisha. However, the only barrier is funds problem. Krishna, therefore, has appealed to the State Government to sponsor his trip and hopes that the State Government would consider his request.

## N'pada Bijli Mahotsav on importance of power

**PNS** ■ NUAPADA

Bijli Mahotsav was celebrated on the occasion of Aazadi ka Amrit Mahotsav - Power-2047 at Rajiv Gandhi Seva Kendra in Sarabang Panchayat, Nuapada district recently.

The guests expressed their opinion on how electricity is necessary for human life. Vice President of Nuapada Zilla Parishad Deepika Kausal highlighted the fact that through various schemes of the Center and the State Government, electricity has reached the homes of the poor and human society has improved after the arrival of electricity.

DRDA, PD cum Executive Officer of Zilla Parishad, Nuapada, Madhuchhanda Sahu opined that electricity has played an important role in daily life of human beings.

Sarabang Panchayat Sarpanch Radhabhai Patel, Samiti Member Jagriti Sahu, Amanara Samita Member Nutan Nayak were present and highlighted how rural areas have developed after the introduction of electricity.

DG of PGCIL Suresh Kisan introduced the guests and gave information about the electrification plan of the Government and opined that the Bijli Mahotsav is a means to create public awareness about the various people-oriented schemes.



## Distant kin rapes minor in B'swar

**PNS** ■ BALESWAR

Parents of a minor girl lodged an FIR with the Nilgiri police that their daughter was sexually assaulted by a distantly-related brother. The accused Jagannath Singh of Agiria village under Dhoasila GP was arrested by police on Wednesday.

The accused had gone to the house of the victim when her family members were away

and allegedly committed the offence. He also threatened the victim of dire consequences if she disclosed the matter to anyone. However, the girl mustered courage and narrated her ordeal before her parents. The parents along with the sarpanch of the village went to the Nilgiri police station and lodged the complaint. Following investigation, the accused was apprehended and forwarded to court.

## In Baleswar Notorious criminal shot dead in encounter

**PNS** ■ BALESWAR

A hardcore criminal, who was wanted in multiple cases, was shot dead in a police encounter in the Soro area of Baleswar district on Thursday. The deceased was identified as Rundu Mallik.

As per reports, Rundu, a habitual offender was on the radar of police for his involvement in several criminal cases in the region. Police said Rundu after committing crimes would often go into hiding in the sea

beach area making it difficult to track him.

However, a police team acting on a tipoff regarding the presence of Rundu near Jageswarpada sea beach raided the area to nab the criminal. But spotting the cops, Rundu opened fire at the police team forcing them to retaliate in self-defence.

Rundu suffered severe bullet injuries and was immediately rushed to the Soro Government hospital. However, the doctor pronounced him dead.

## Blind persons get white canes in K'pada

Thanks to good gesture of Jagannath Trust

**PNS** ■ KENDRAPADA

The members of Shri Jagannath Charitable Trust of Kendrapada led by its president Daman Kumar Mohanty donated white cane (locally called Ashabadi) to some visually-impaired persons of the district who were roaming in the streets, for their daily uses.

According to sources, Mohanty recently came across five visually impaired persons moving in the streets helplessly. They were carrying bamboo lathis. He later met them and promised them to provide white cane for their smooth movement. Recently, the members of the trust purchased five white canes and donated them to the blind persons of the township area by organizing a function. They also provided meals to them.

The good gesture of the trust members has been appreciated by the people in the district.



## VD College NCC holds Kargil Divas Rally, seminar organised

**PNS** ■ JAYAPORE

India is celebrated the 23th anniversary of the Kargil Vijay Divas on Tuesday. On this day in 1999, the Kargil War, also known as the Kargil conflict, formally came to an end, with Indian soldiers successfully recapturing mountain heights that had been seized by Pakistani intruders.

On the occasion, the NCC wing of VD College led by ANO Dr Lt Lakshman Patro organised a rally and a

seminar. Patro motivated the students to follow the footsteps of the martyrs and dedicate their life for the nation while Principal Gopal Halder attended as chief guest.

Halder said Kargil Vijay Divas was a symbol of pride and glory. Francis Barla attended as the chief speaker.

The programme was attended by Md Sharif, Santoshi Munda, alumnus Nishan Pattanaik, staff, students and the NCC cadets of first Orissa and second Orissa girls battalions.

## Bargarh fest boosts traditional instrument 'Mahuri'

Artists felicitated

**ASUTOSH RATHA** ■ BARGARH

Mahuri is an important part of 'Gandavaja', a folk art of western Odisha. The Mahuri is a vocal instrument whose melodious sound mesmerises the listener. This sweet folk instrument is slowly disappearing. That's why with a new initiative to save it, the 'Bodasambar Mahuri Festival' was organised in the Rajaji Town Hall, Padmapur, on July 24 by the Sangeet Samiti.

Mahuri musicians and fellow artistes from different rural areas took out a procession from the local Bandurga temple and went around the city to reach the festival venue. Playwright and Professor Kesharanjan Padhan was the chief guest of the event, while NAC Chairperson Savitri Bag, Vice Chairperson Bharti Pattnaik, Niroj Dora, former Information and Public Relations Officer Purunchandra Panigarahi, former Block Chairman Kumarmani Naik, playwright-director Ashok Kumar Bohidar attended as the guests of honor.

President of the Music



Society Rajesh Kumar Gurla gave the welcome address, while secretary Ramesh Gurla spoke about the purpose of the programme. The guests opined that the festival would help protect tradition, simplicity and harmony of the traditional instrument of Gandabaja 'Mahuri'.

Both senior and junior Mahuri musicians were presented certificates and awards from the institute. Later, Mahuri musicians performed music based on different rhythms of Gandabaja. The Gandabaja performance style of the children artists of Deuli village on the stage mesmerized everyone present.

Soumaranjan Patnaik, Gopabandhu Sika, Bishram Meher, Ashwini Patel, Rajkumar Sahu, Giridhari Sahu, Sudam Mahanand, Anjali Parida, Anil Gurla, Anil Biswal, Lalu Naik and Tuna Barik contributed greatly to the entire programme. Finally, Govardhan Chhatar offered the vote of thanks.

# C'garh starts buying cow urine, CM gets 5 liters

STAFF REPORTER ■ DURG

Chhattisgarh on Thursday became the first state in the country to start buying cow urine, with Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel procuring five liters for Rs 20.

He commenced the government procurement of cow urine at a Kisan Sammelan in village Karsa in Durg district. He purchased the urine from Rajeshwari Vaishnav and Janki Sahu and paid them Rs 20 from his pocket.

Speaking on this



occasion, the Chief Minister said organic farming was promoted in Chhattisgarh in a bid to bring prosperity to farmers and for people's better health.

Chhattisgarh has become the first state in India to buy cow urine at Rs 4 a litre after purchasing cow dung at Rs 2 a kg, he said.

The cow urine will be used to make pest control products and 'Jeevamrut' (liquid organic pesticide).

The organic pesticide will be made available to farmers at nominal prices to help them escape the expensive chemical pesticides.

# CM launches innovations in farm equipment

STAFF REPORTER ■ DURG

To mark Hareli on Thursday, Chhattisgarh Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel dedicated to the farmers two new innovations of the Agriculture Engineering College.

At the Kisan Sammelan at Karsa, he launched cattle-driven battery-operated cultivator and planter machines.

With the launch of the new machines, the farmers will benefit, he said.

The two machines will also reduce the load on the cattle used for ploughing, he said.



The Agriculture Advisor key role in suggesting the to the Chief Minister, invention of the new equipment. Pradeep Sharma, played a

# CM flags off 'Mahtari Nyay Rath'

STAFF REPORTER ■ RAIPUR

Chhattisgarh Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel on Thursday administered the oath of protection, justice and empowerment of women as he flagged off the 'Mukhyamantri Mahtari Nyay Rath Yatra' here.

In the first phase, the "rath" will cover the districts of Durg, Raipur, Rajnandgaon, Balodabazar-Bhatapara, Mahasamund, Janjgir-Champa, Gariaband, Dhamtari and Kanker.

The remaining districts will be covered in the next phase, Chhattisgarh State Commission for Women Chairperson Dr Kiranmayee Nayak said.

She said the event was an initiative of the Chhattisgarh



State Commission for Women for spreading legal awareness among every woman, educated or uneducated.

The vehicle will play short films, messages and brochures related to especially women aware about various legal provisions and their

constitutional rights.

Nayak added that each vehicle will have two advocates. They will hear the grievances of women, guide them and provide advice. Women can also submit applications for resolution of their grievances to the Women's Commission.

# CM celebrates 'Hareli' festival

STAFF REPORTER ■ RAIPUR

Chhattisgarh Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel and family members on Thursday celebrated 'Hareli', the farm related festival of the state.

Baghel and his wife Mukteshwari as well as other family members jointly offered prayers to the rural deities, a tulsī plant, a wooden plough, agriculture implements, 'gedi' and a cow at his official residence here.

He greeted the people of the state on the occasion and prayed for a good harvest.

On the occasion, Chhattisgarhi folk music,



folk dance, traditional Gadwa Baja, Raut dance, Gedi dance, games and raichuli events were

organized. Traditional cuisines were served.

The Chief Minister participated in the 'Gedi

dance with the artists and tried his hand on a spinning top. He also enjoyed 'Rachuli' (wooden spinning

wheel) with his daughter. Hareli marks the commencement of the sowing season in Chhattisgarh.

# Three Naxals surrender in Dantewada

STAFF REPORTER ■ DANTEWADA

Three Naxalites carrying a total of Rs 18 lakhs on their heads surrendered the police on Thursday in Dantewada district in Chhattisgarh.

Ramesh Hemla (24), Santu Hemla (28) and Ritesh Hemla (30) turned themselves in citing their disillusionment with the Maoist ideology, Dantewada Superintendent of Police

Siddharth Tiwari said. The first two carried a bounty of Rs 5 lakhs each while the last Maoist had a reward of Rs 8 lakhs on his head, the officer said.

The first two were members in a Maoist battalion. Ritesh Hemla was a member in the Maoist Company Number 2, the police said. They were involved in several Maoist violent incidents.

So far, 549 Naxalites have quit violence in the district since June 2020.

# Siddiqui emphasizes digitalization in banking

STAFF REPORTER ■ RAIPUR

The Indian Bank's Executive Director, Imran Amin Siddiqui, has laid emphasis on digitalization in banking and updated the staff on the latest developments in the sector.

He was on tour of Chhattisgarh on Tuesday and Wednesday. At a meeting at New Circuit House, the official stressed on better customer services for the bank's growth as well as economic development of general public and the state of Chhattisgarh.

The meeting was held in the presence of Manoj Das, Field General Manager (Bhubaneswar), and Rajender Kumar, Zonal



Manager (Raipur).

Later, a mega loan disbursement camp was held under MSME, Agriculture and Retail segment on Wednesday at a hotel in Nava Raipur. A total of Rs.90 cr was distributed to the applicants.

# Nine arrested after clash over last rites

STAFF REPORTER ■ JANJIGIR-CHAMPA

Chhattisgarh Police on Thursday arrested nine persons including a village sarpanch after a clash over the use of a crematorium by members of a Scheduled Caste community in Janjgir-Champa district.

The arrested were sarpanch Jagdish Uraon, Sahdeo Uraon, Sipahi Uraon, Kamlesh Uraon, Lalpai Uraon, Vishram Uraon, Amritlal Uraon, Rajkumar Uraon and Umashankar Uraon, all from Baradwar village, Janjgir-Champa Superintendent of Police Vijay

Agrawal said.

The accused disrupted the cremation which finally took place a day later in police presence, the officer said.

Pradip Patle of Baradwar Basti village, who belonged to an SC community, on Wednesday committed suicide by hanging himself.

As per a complaint filed by his father Bhaiyalal, the family took the body to their traditional cremation ground but decided to shift to another facility which has a roof as it was raining.

After the funeral pyre was lit, the village sarpanch and eight others who hail from a tribal

community arrived and said the crematorium was supposed to be used by only a certain caste. They allegedly kicked the pyre and doused the flames by pouring water. They also allegedly tried to throw off the body, the complaint said.

The incident led to a clash between the two groups, Agrawal said. A police team reached the spot and brought the situation under control.

A section of villagers blocked a road demanding the arrest of those who disrupted the cremation. The cremation finally took place on Thursday.

# C'garh's culture showcased in Delhi

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI/RAIPUR

Chhattisgarh came alive in Delhi on Thursday when the Hareli festival was celebrated with pomp and show.

Hareli, the agricultural festival, was celebrated at the Chhattisgarh Bhawan as part of Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel's initiative of preserving the state's culture and tradition.

The aroma of Chhattisgarhi delicacies and foot-tapping music of traditional folk songs filled the air, connecting people with the state's culture.

The visitors enthusiastically took part in the traditional game of climbing 'Gedi' (long bamboo poles with a



footrest) which requires a lot of concentration and balance.

The people of Chhattisgarh settled in Delhi appreciated the Chief Minister's initiative and said that such events keep them

close to their culture and tradition even while being away from their state.

People gathered in large numbers at the Bhawan.

Hareli is considered the first festival of the year in the region. After sowing paddy,

the farmers worship all the agricultural and iron tools on the day of Hareli and pray for good harvest and health.

Chhattisgarh Resident Commissioner Ajeet Vasant and other dignitaries were present on the occasion.

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Whereas, The undersigned being the Authorised Officer of the Bank of Baroda under the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 and in exercise of powers conferred under section 13(2) read with Rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 issued a Demand Notice to the following borrowers / guarantors calling upon the Borrowers to repay the amount mentioned in the respective notices within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said notice.

S. N.	Branch Name/Ph.No.	Name of Borrower / Guarantor	Description of Property	Demand Notice Date, Amount & Symbolic / Physical Possession Date
01	Choubey Colony Branch, Raipur 9752098095	Mr Balmiki Prasad Dubey S/o Mr. C. L. Dubey, Kapil Nagar, Beside Little Step Play School Mukti Dham Road, Sarkanda, Ward No. 57 (Kapil Nagar Ward), Bilaspur (C.G.) - 495001	Property situated, at part of Kh. No. - 488, P.H. No. 22, Mouza Sarkanda, Shastri Nagar Ward, Bilaspur, C.G., standing in the name of Mr. Balmiki Prasad Dubey, admeasuring 2175.00 sqfts. Boundary: North: Land of Anita Sahu, South: Seller remaining land, East: Seller own road, West: Land of Bangali.	05.05.2022 Rs. 1,83,22,511.50 + interest + other charges 28.07.2022 Symbolic Possession
02	Choubey Colony Branch, Raipur 9752098095	Mr. Chandramani Pandey S/o Mr. Shyam Shankar Pandey, 982, Sanjay Nagar, Kumhari, Ward -6, Kumhari Dhamdha, Durg	Shop No. 12 situated at Third Floor, Koram Tower, Rajendra Prasad Ward No. 46, Telibandha, at part of Kh. No. 615/22, 615/23, 615/27, P.H. No. 64, Raipur, C.G., standing in the name of Mr. Chandramani Pandey, Admeasuring 921.94 sqfts. Boundary: North: Office No C-13, South: Office No. C-11, East: Open Space of Koram, West: Open space of Koram.	05.05.2022 Rs. 1,83,22,511.50 + interest + other charges 28.07.2022 Symbolic Possession
03	Choubey Colony Branch, Raipur 9752098095	Mr. Sarvesh Kumar Pandey S/o Mr. Triveni Pal Pandey, A 506, Aviansh Ashiyana, Kabir Nagar, Raipur (C.G.) - 492001	1. Diverted residential open plot situated at Plot No. B-106, part of Kh.No. 2/2, area - 1501 Sq.Ft. situated at Mouza Village - Amleshwar, P.H.No.- 05, RIC Bhilai, Tah. Patan, Dist. Durg, C.G. standing in the name of Mr. Sarvesh Kumar Pandey. Boundary: North: Plot No. B-107, South: Road, East: Road, West: Plot No. B-105. 2. Diverted residential open plot situated at Plot No. B-107, part of Kh.No. 2/2, area - 1501 Sq. Ft. situated at Mouza Village - Amleshwar, P.H. No. 05, RIC Bhilai, Tah. Patan, Dist. - Durg, C.G. standing in the name of Mr. Sarvesh Kumar Pandey. Boundary: North: Plot No. B - 108, South: Plot No. B-106, East: Road, West: Plot No. B - 104.	05.05.2022 Rs. 1,83,22,511.50 + interest + other charges 27.07.2022 Physical Possession

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The Borrower's attention is invited to provision of sub-section (8) of section 13 of the Act, in respect of time available, to redeem the secured assets.  
Date: 28.07.2022, Place: Raipur, Chhattisgarh  
Authorised Officer, Bank of Baroda





## Time to liberalise

The government must expedite economic reforms to boost growth and create employment

The rush for government jobs is directly proportional to the severity of the unemployment crisis. The severity has increased badly in the last eight years. As many as 22.05 crore applications were received from 2014-15 to 2021-22 for Central government jobs, but just 7.22 lakh people got them. This is one out of around 300 aspirants becoming successful. These figures have not been compiled by some think tank or private body which the government functionaries or Bharatiya Janata Party leaders can dispute; the government itself released these numbers in the Lok Sabha on Wednesday.

Therefore, no amount of spin or sophistry would make these numbers vanish from political debate. To be sure, there is nothing surprising about these numbers; there is enough anecdotal evidence to suggest that the situation is pretty bad. For a handful of jobs, any government department announces, lakhs, if not millions, of applications, are received. The intensity of the agitation against the Agniveer scheme was also partly because of the lack of job opportunities for the youngsters. Since the unemployment problem is real, the solution ought to be real; and this can happen only if economic growth is accelerated. It is here where the shoe pinches. The International Monetary Fund has estimated that growth in India will be 7.4 percent for this fiscal and 6.1 percent for 2023-24. For both years, these are lower by 80 basis points from the IMF's earlier estimates. The international situation is badly hurting our economy, with higher crude prices, constrained supply chains, and general decline.

Because of these very reasons, the IMF has also lowered its global growth forecast for 2022 by 40 basis points to 3.2 percent. By 2033, it has pegged it further down, at 2.9 percent. "The outlook has darkened significantly since April. The world may soon be teetering on the edge of a global recession, only two years after the last one," top IMF economist Pierre-Olivier Gourinchas wrote in an article accompanying the release of an update to the IMF's World Economic Outlook report. Against this backdrop, India has to protect itself from not just external shocks but also the problems joblessness brings forth.

The only way out is the broadening and deepening of economic reforms, especially in areas, like agriculture and labor laws. Thankfully, the Narendra Modi government has shown intent to do that. It has recommended the privatisation process, and the sale of Air India is a testimony to that. It also brought three excellent laws to help the farm sector a couple of years ago but had to backtrack. Its emphasis on infrastructure will also help boost growth and development. Ditto with PM Modi's attitude against the freebie culture. Therefore, now is the time to expedite reforms and translate a prudential mindset into policy-making and implementation. All this will accelerate growth and create jobs.

### PICTALK



Moradabad: Students take part in a programme organised on the eve of the International Tiger Day, at a school. PTI

## Judicial killings in Myanmar

By executing political activists, Myanmar army wants to instill a sense of fear among protestors demanding democracy

The execution of four political activists is shocking. It shows that the army generals in Myanmar have scant regard for human rights and are in no mood to restore democracy in the country. The four persons executed include highly popular Phyto Zeya Thaw, a 41-year-old lawmaker, and Kyaw Min Yu, a 53-year-old democracy. The military tribunal that gave them a death sentence did not give any scope for appeal.

The road to freedom is neither easy nor short. Myanmar which has been under the grip of the army since February when it usurped power by a coup is in turmoil. The people are on the streets to protest against the army rule and for the restoration of democracy. The judicial murders are an attempt to instill a sense of terror in the hearts of protestors. According to reports in the last year it has given a death sentence to 117 political activists that it had arrested.



The Tatmadaw, as the army of Myanmar, is called has also jailed Aung San Suu Kyi for 11 years to ensure she does not become a rallying point. Nonetheless, the democratic movement in the country is getting stronger and stronger. More than 14,000 people have courted arrests and over 2,000 civilians have lost lives protesting against the army and its generals.

Now, as the people's patience is wearing thin, the peaceful protests are now turning violent. Meanwhile, the sanctions and mismanagement of the economy have led to the economy taking a nose dive and it has shrunk by almost 20% causing widespread unemployment and a rise in inflation.

Indeed no regime can last long no matter how regressive or powerful it might be if it loses people's trust and legitimacy. Tatmadaw has lost both. The corrupt and repressive army generals are more focused on preserving their authority rather than the welfare of the country. They unleashed a reign of terror on Rohingyas to polarize the Buddhist majority but now the same majority has taken cudgels against it.

What is most disturbing is that the world powers aren't doing enough to press the army for early elections and restoration of democracy. The lip service to democracy is not enough some concrete steps must be taken to end the most regressive and ruthless army regime in Myanmar. Indeed it would have been better had India played a role in giving democracy a push in the neighborhood rather than maintaining a stoic silence.

# Tipu was my saviour, sibling

Who says animals don't have emotions, in fact they are far more sensitive than maybe we humans. I have experienced it firsthand



AMIT KANWAR

Tipu, our pet, a medium-sized black Himalayan sheepdog, was my first true friend. With my brothers away to pursue their studies, Tipu was my sibling. My parents were working, and I was in the care of Amma, my grandmother. In rural Himachal, those were not the days when children were admitted to school at the earliest eligible age. Amma was in no hurry to expose me to formal education as avenues of informal education were many. I lived, experienced, and savored the simple village life.

I would roam in fields with Tipu in the toe and watch the crops sown, weeded, bloom, and harvested. In summers, we would sneak into mango orchards, tasting the best of the produce. Exploring the muddy meandering streams with paper boats was our favorite pastime during the rainy season. Misty winter mornings were spent in the greens of sprouting wheat decked up with shiny dew drops. Springs took us through sprawling yellow fields of mustards to the sugarcane plots, where I feasted on the sweetest of the cane. The beautiful balmy autumn was spent watching the leaves turn orange.

Tipu would often follow me, and he possessed a real sixth sense. Being an alert bodyguard of a five-year-old, he would overtake me if he felt the need to check the area for any danger before I venture. Whenever the hill trails grew narrow and steep, Tipu would always lead the way. He chased stray dogs and cattle away from my path and always sensed the people I did not like. One of Amma's friends regularly complained to her about my mischiefs, and I did not like her. Tipu sensed the same. Violently barking, he would chase her away.

Close to my sixth birthday, I was admitted into the neighborhood government school, an understaffed, dingy, single-story block of classrooms, crying for repairs. I wouldn't say I liked the school, but the prospect of learning was overwhelming. Tipu started accompanying me to school. He found a resting cor-



ner under a banyan tree on the school premises, where he would spend his day, waiting for the dispersal bell. My school-going excitement was somehow short-lived; the routine, punctuality, rules, and lack of independence were enough to dampen my spirits. Finally, my patience gave away, and one day I planned to bunk the school.

Collecting my bag, I managed to sneak out of the class. Tipu loved this pleasant surprise, and his hurried stretch and enthusiastic tail wagging signaled that he was happy. Tip-toeing quietly, we managed to move around fifty meters from the school periphery, undetected. Breaking the silence of the hot summer's noon, I heard the shrill voice of one of the dreaded teachers. He was calling out my name, and without looking back, I got into a sprint, with Tipu leading the way. Enraged at my audacious escape, the teacher mustered three boys to follow me, catch me, and get me back to school. Midway, the trio was able to catch up, and they asked me to return, to which I refused and continued on my way. Irritated by my indifferent

and intrepid reaction, one of them tried to pull me by the arm to force me to return to the school. Tipu, a silent spectator till now, flew into a wild rage and started barking violently. Sensing that the dog may bite, the arresting party withdrew quietly. I do not know what happened to them when they returned to school, but Tipu became the talk of the town from that day onwards. The scene was repeated on a few more occasions, and finally, the teacher had to request my grandmother to ensure that Tipu did not accompany me to the school. Poor Tipu was put on a leash during school hours. After some time, I changed school, and the chances of Tipu accompanying me diminished. Even being reserved with the display of emotions, he could not hold back his excitement on my return from school. He would vigorously wag his tail and would stay by my side for the rest of the day. Tipu was the undisputed king of the neighborhood. A guard dog breed, he was unfriendly and reserved. One day, a neighbor got a pet, a ferocious, large-sized Gaddi

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Dog, Moti. This started the war for turf between the canines. Observing that the skirmishes between Tipu and Moti grew violent, we tried to keep Tipu away from Moti. But one day, Moti ambushed Tipu. Tipu fought back bravely but got seriously injured. Timely evacuation and hospitalization saved his life.

Tipu was back to his original self within a fortnight. As the injuries were internal and had not healed well due to old age, Tipu's health deteriorated, and visits to the doctor did no good. Tipu got bedridden with failing health, and his drooping ears, limped walking, and wet eyes said it was all the pain of an ailing being. No amount of medication helped. On a sultry summer afternoon, after suffering for about a week, Tipu, my friend, my savior, my co-explorer, left us for his heavenly abode. Pained, I cried for days. Tipu is gone a long time back, but his memories linger on in my consciousness, reminding me of the meaning of true friendship, loyalty, and selfless love.

(The writer pens down stories of human interest and his travels. He also likes to click portraits.)

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### NOW MADE IN INDIA MONKEYPOX VACCINE

Sir — Serum Institute of India is planning to develop a vaccine against monkeypox and is in talks regarding this with partners. It clearly shows how India is leading in the field of medical science and vaccination research and development. Also, the institute exports vaccines globally which will elevate India's role in the vaccine industry and will lead to a collaboration with global pharma companies. The world has already seen India's prowess in vaccine development when Serum Institute's covishield was not only used to vaccinate Indians but has been exported to other countries as well. Thus it will lead to India becoming a global leader in the field of vaccine research.

Ashwini Tomar | Ujjain

### MEDICAL STUDENTS MUST BE HELPED

Sir — Refer The Pioneer (27th July, 22), Admit Medical students The government of India has fulfilled its obligation by 'Operation Ganga' - an evacuation process and brought back home Indians safely from Ukraine when Russia launched the invasion of Ukraine on February 24. Around 22,500 Indian nationals - mostly students - have returned from war-hit Ukraine to India since February.

The Centre government should come to the aid of these youngsters who are in serious distress and who already have spent large money for their admission in Ukraine and China, and had to return mid-way from their courses amid the war in Ukraine and the Pandemic in China. The government should make a special plan to admit these medical students to various government colleges and private medical colleges in the country by relaxing the rules "in the interest of the country and public at large.

India has a large medical education infrastructure with 612 medical colleges with 90695 seats for MBBS courses, more than 300 are Govt. medical colleges, 49 are deemed medical colleges and the remaining are private medical colleges.

## Dravidian-Aryan debate



Tamil Nadu Governor KN Ravi has revived the Dravidian-Aryan construct with his contention that the distinction is geographical and not racial. Even though the theory that they are not distinct has been already debunked by archeological, linguistic, and genetic evidence, it is deliberately being propagated to create an entirely spurious impression that the Indo-European language speakers who called

themselves Aryans have been the original inhabitants and validating their claim of India being their pithrbhoomi (fatherland) and Punyabhoomi (holy land).

Nevertheless, it is a vain attempt to deny the fact that the Dravidians were well-settled in India long before the arrival of the Aryans sometime between 2000 BCE and 1000 BCE. The Hindutva scholars and ideologues may try hard to equate Indian culture with 'Aryan', 'Sanskrit' or 'Vedic' culture. But they are bound to fail because a part does not make the total. No amount of falsehoods and fake histories will alter the fact that India is a multi-source civilization enriched by a variety of heritages and migration histories. Trifling with lineages to suit a particular political narrative or perpetuate domination by a section of society is not a virtue.

G David Milton | Kanyakumari

Even if the Russian-Ukraine conflict ends which looks unlikely, these students can not go back as already massive damage is done to the infrastructure of various medical colleges and institutions in Ukraine in the Russian attack.

Hence, in the interest of these youngsters, the Government can amend by ordinance the National Medical Commission (NMC) rules, which do not allow the transfer of students who are pursuing medical courses abroad and have to return home midway, in medical colleges here between academic sessions.

Even the government can add one more semester in their courses for the clinical training for these returning students so they can match Indian education standards.

Ramesh G Jethwani | Bangalore

### THE STORY OF WASHED BRIDGES

Sir — According to the reports, three hundred bridges, small and big, were damaged and about five hundred kilometers of roads were dilapidated this Monsoon. The

six bridges of Gwalior-Chambal were broken, and their construction has not started to date. Earlier the government was not in a position to provide funds, so the proposal got stuck.

But when the approval of the fund was received, the process got entangled. These matters cannot be ignored, because, along these roads, the public's trust in the government is also broken, like a bridge-culvert, the expectations of the common man also collapse, which he keeps from the government for development.

The government routinely suspends some officials and blacklists companies

People are now beginning to understand that suspension is not a punishment and how will the loss of crores caused by blacklisting the company be compensated?

The government should ensure better quality and speedy delivery of infra projects.

Divyansha Sharma | Ujjain

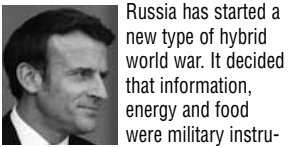
Send your feedback to: letterstopioneer@gmail.com

## SOUNDBITE

Connectivity brings opportunities, progress and prosperity. Cabinet decision on enhancing connectivity in uncovered villages is going to transform lives of people in these areas.



Prime Minister — Narendra Modi



Russia has started a new type of hybrid world war. It decided that information, energy and food were military instruments put at the service of a continental imperialist war against Ukraine

French President — Emmanuel Macron

There are many facts about the Kohinoor that I didn't know & these revelations took me by surprise.



Actor — Manoj Bajpayee

'Sindhu can play upto 40 years even - if she wants'

Fitness Trainer — Srikanth Varma

I extend my heartiest greetings to all on World Nature Conservation Day. Let us take pledge once again to work unflinchingly towards conservation of Mother Nature for protecting the environment and sustaining all forms of life on earth.



West Bengal CM — Mamata Banerjee

FIRST COLUMN

UKRAINE WAR CAUGHT US ON THE WRONG FOOT

India has to walk a tightrope amid a fluid world order



KUMARDEEP BANERJEE

The ongoing monsoon session of Parliament has briefly halted high-level foreign visits by ministers, while uncertainty prevailing in India's neighbourhood, as well as G7 partners are equally at play. War in Ukraine has also entered six months and the world is preparing for a harsh winter! All of these have major implications for India.

What was almost unthinkable in February this year, when Russia sent its troops into Ukraine is now turning out to be a living nightmare, impacting billions of people around the globe. When Russia went into Ukraine, everyone thought it would be a matter of a few days before a complete takeover. However, what wasn't factored in was the sudden western unity and throwing in of 'all it takes' by US and Europe to win a moral war against Russia.

Western nations led by the US hardened the sanctions regime against Russia, reviving Cold War era power blocs. It also forced many powerful European countries such as Germany to reinvestigate their military programmes, thereby diverting funds from other pressing sectors such as climate change. The most significant outcome of the war is perhaps a working template for China for its future road to global dominance.

China is Russia's most powerful global ally and has not restricted any trade with Russia, thereby reiterating the stated objective of 'friendship beyond any limits'. China has even come out with statements as late as last month condemning and challenging the western allied Cold War era sanctions regime against Russia. What China is closely analysing are the challenges Russia faces at present and in future, and how can China insure itself from these threats, if it decides to push for unilateral military aggression in any part of the globe.



India has been caught on the wrong foot geopolitically. It has a historic relationship with Russia, stretching more than six decades and is one of the largest buyers of Russian weapons. However, it may be noteworthy that in case of a large-scale military flare up with China, the weapons on both sides would be of Russian origin. It could also mean Russia may have to make a tough call between a powerful global ally (China) and an old trusted friend (India) on the global stage.

Chances are Russia would choose the former. Meanwhile, India and China negotiations on border related issues haven't progressed significantly in the past six months. On the contrary both sides have made the north-western border points permanent military zones developing key infrastructure in the fragile Himalayan terrain. The winters of 2022 and many more to come are most likely to be tense, given China's heightened aggression.

Meanwhile, at multilateral forums such as the BRICS summit China is aggressively trying to push for a reserve currency, which is aimed to scale down the importance of a dollar denominated trade. China is also pushing for trade transactions in Renminbi and wants to establish an alternative to current international Interbank Payment Systems, which is another dent towards Europe and US-led order. It may be mentioned that India too has allowed Rupee denominated international trade settlements, and has been working on an alternate, to cross border interbank settlements.

These trends could have established an alternate financial system, provided India and China could have come to the negotiating table to discuss the regulations, standards, and governing principles. India, China with their other BRICS partners, Russia and Brazil, could have persuaded many smaller economies to join the new financial system. However, that seems currently out of place due to the prevailing geopolitical canvas.

(The writer is a policy analyst. The views expressed are personal.)

Need babus for knowledge based India

At a time when India aspires to be a \$5-trillion economy, existing bureaucracy needs a radical transformation



SUMET BHASIN

India is aspiring to be a \$5-trillion economy in a short span of time. By 2030, the target of the government is to hit the \$10-trillion economy size, and take off from thereon for qualitative and quantum jump in the socio-economic space of the country. The government may have a robust action plan to execute the economic aspirations.

But the plans are executed by the men and women in various domains who are the faces of the government on the ground. If the administrators prove to be enablers, India will reach the target economic size within the time frame. But if they prove not to be adequately equipped with the skillsets, India may falter, and that calls for urgent steps for the much needed administrative reforms in the country.

The Narendra Modi-led National Democratic Alliance government at the Centre is taking various measures to equip the administrative officials with the skills that are required to build 'New India'. The exercise at the various levels seeks to address the issues concerning the capacity-building challenges. The National Programme for Civil Services Capacity Building is one such exercise which is addressing the skill set challenges at the individual and institution levels. There are other digital modes of interventions to reorient the civil servants to the required knowledge sets. The State governments are also embarking on the path of administrative reforms.

The focus as of now is clearly seen to be on bridging the gap between the government and the citizens for various services. But the pace with which technology is evolving may herald a stage where the citizens can self-source such services with the digital eco-system as has been the case mostly in getting passports made, which in the previous years and decades used to be arduous tasks.

If the current thrust to reorient the bureaucracy for timely and speedy delivery of the services to the citizens are met with the interplay of technology, India may have a huge army of civil servants who would be least productive and also liability to the national exchequer and also the hard-earned money of the tax-payers.

If we look back, it's hard to find thought leaders from among the bureaucracy, who by their innovations would have changed the face of the socio-economic domains of the country. This must be on account of the Indian bureaucracy not yet shedding its British era outlook. The civil servants just need to crack one examination, and afterwards they can lord over their subjects.

'New India' cannot have any space for such bureaucratic resources. Administrative reforms in the country have been attempted for several decades, and the first such commission was headed by none other than Morarji Desai in 1966, who later became Prime Minister of the coun-



A FEW EXPERIMENTS TO REFORM THE BUREAUCRACY INCLUDED LATERAL ENTRY AND WEEDING OUT NONPERFORMERS BUT RADICAL CHANGES NEED TO BE ADOPTED IF INDIA INDEED WANTS TO REACH THE GOAL OF A \$10-TRILLION ECONOMY BY 2030.

(The author is Director, Public Policy Research Centre.)



try. Later, Veerappa Moily also headed one such commission in 2006.

But the outcome has just been incremental, with focus on downsizing of the bureaucracy to save the expenses. The recent report of the Reserve Bank of India on the indebtedness of the States has shown an alarming scenario. Many of the States are reeling under the burden of salary and pension to its employees. This is despite the fact that the States have been downsizing their bureaucracies since the 1990s. That means that India is still stuck in the cobweb of the old age bureaucracy, which is essentially seen as a measure to offer jobs at the expense of the state exchequer.

The Modi government has done a few experiments to reform the bureaucracy, which included lateral entry, weeding out nonperformers by giving them compulsory retirements, and so on. But it appears that radical changes need to be adopted if India indeed wants to reach the goal of a \$ 10 trillion economy by 2030 and triple the size by 2050.

India will need people at key positions, at policy formulation stage, and in fields to execute them, with speed that would be unseen, and scale that would be the best in the world. The interventions would essentially be at the entry levels, and the time may have come to write an obituary for generalists.

That an IAS officer can be at one time a revenue secretary, and another time he could be handling the affairs of road and transport is

just an idea of the time that has lost its relevance. India must say a goodbye to the culture that generalists can do all roles, as if they are blessed with some divine skills to acquire the know-how of the new tasks with the change of the departments.

The basis of the biggest reforms in the Modi government is the use of data with the digital interplay, which essentially banked on the skills of data mining and data analysis. That saved India several thousands of crores of rupees. This makes it clear that we need to create a manpower powerhouse of specialists, who can man areas of their expertise. A specialist will be better equipped to innovate, and innovations will accelerate India in scaling up its socio-economic depth.

We are no more in the 20th century that the people will be patient with incremental progress of the bureaucracy. Technology is making things irrelevant which were in vogue previously. Indeed, such specialists cannot appear on the horizon on their own. We get the skill sets only from our institutions, and the time has just come to overhaul our education system, and make them tuned to the needs of specialized skills in diverse spheres — economy, commerce, technology, social and political sciences, bio-technology, cutting edge management and so on.

Besides, it's also worth debating why bureaucrats should have career spans of 30 years and more. Why cannot they come in for

about 10-15 years, and take up assignments in other spheres, including the private sector. The Agniveer scheme in this aspect is a harbinger of a change that may have spillover effects in the other domains. Let the government avail of the best of the time of the professionals working in its ranks, and when the fire in their belly gets extinguished they should be respectfully retired, which can be institutionalized with a career span of about 10-15 years.

Such an ecosystem will also make available a trained talent base for the private companies, who in the end have to expand their capacities to take India to the \$ 30 trillion economy by 2050. The best of the talent shouldn't be just with the government, and an easy flow with the private sector can help bring in better convergence of the ideas for 'New India'.

Indeed, India is essentially a welfare state, and the time has come for the private sector to share the burden of the government to care for the poor of the country. This again can be achieved if there is a flow of the talent pool from the government to the private sector. Corporate social responsibility and its various other modes in diverse areas will also require new age managers, who cannot bank on the graduates of the management institutions, as their hands-on training would only be possible with stints in the government services. That calls for urgent administrative reforms, and time is ticking.

POINTCOUNTERPOINT

TO ADDRESS THE PRESIDENT OF INDIA IN THIS WAY NOT ONLY DEMEANS HER POST BUT ALSO THE RICH TRIBAL LEGACY THAT SHE REPRESENTS.

—BJP LEADER SMRITI IRANI



JUST ONCE, I SAID "RASHTRAPATNI". THEY (BJP) ARE CREATING A FURORE BECAUSE OF THIS. I MADE A MISTAKE, JUST ONCE AND IN ONE WORD.

—CONGRESS LEADER ADHIRANJAN CHOWDHURY

Tokenisation in interest of plastic money users

At a time when data theft is on rise, it's worthwhile to follow advice of RBI to opt for tokenisation in card usages

Even people, including the manager of a Noida software firm, were arrested in February 2022 for allegedly stealing and misusing credit cards of about 100 people across the country. In October 2019, the RBI asked banks to secure their customer card data after a website reported that nearly 1.3 million debit and credit card data of Indian banks are on sale on the dark web, potentially causing losses of millions of dollars.

There are millions of people using credit and debit cards on a regular basis. As a measure to safeguard the interest of cardholders, the Reserve Bank of India proposed a process called 'tokenisation'. Credit and debit card tokenization is the process of replacing sensitive data with a token, a randomly generated,



KALYANASUNDARAM

(The writer is a retired banker. The views expressed are personal.)

one-of-a-kind placeholder, from the company's internal network.

The Reserve Bank of India on June 24 extended the timeline for tokenisation of debit and credit cards by three months till September 30, 2022 "to avoid disruption and inconvenience to cardholders". Originally, the RBI mandated that after December 31, 2021, entities other than card networks and card issuers cannot store card data. This timeline was subsequently extended to June 30, 2022.

Now after September 30, no entity in the card transaction or payment chain, other than the card issuers and card networks, should store the CoF (Card-on-File data or storage of actual card data) and any such data stored previously will be purged.

"On a review of the issues involved and after detailed dis-

cussions with all stakeholders, it is observed that considerable progress has been made in terms of token creation. Transaction processing based on these tokens has also commenced, though it is yet to gain traction across all categories of merchants," the RBI said in a circular to payment system providers.

In its press release issued on June 24, 2022, the RBI also urged credit and debit card holders to opt for tokenisation on a voluntary basis. It will be worthwhile for credit and debit card holders to try this sane advice of RBI for a smooth transition, when it is made compulsory in course of time.

Currently, many entities, including merchants, involved in an online card transaction chain store card data like card number,



expiry date, etc., [Card-on-File (CoF)] citing cardholder convenience and comfort for undertaking transactions in future. While this practice does render convenience, availability of card details with multiple entities increases the risk of card data being stolen/misused. There have been instances where such

data stored by merchants, etc., have been compromised.

Under the present system as an additional factor of authentication is not mandatory, there is always a possibility of fraudsters using the stolen data and the cardholders may be put to monetary loss. It is possible that social engineering techniques can be employed to perpetrate frauds using such data.

The RBI has issued a framework for CoF Tokenisation (CoFT) services. Under this framework, cardholders can create "tokens" (a unique alternate code) in lieu of card details; these tokens can then be stored by the merchants for processing transactions in future. Thus, CoFT obviates the need to store card details with merchants and provides the same level of convenience to cardholders.

To create a token under the CoFT framework, the cardholder has to undergo a one-time registration process for each card at every online/e-commerce merchant's website/mobile application, by entering the card details and giving consent for creating a token. This consent is validated by way of authentication through an Additional Factor of Authentication.

Thereafter, a token is created which is specific to the card and online / e-commerce merchant, i.e., the token cannot be used for payment at any other merchant. For future transactions performed at the same merchant website/mobile application, the cardholder can identify the card with the last four digits during the checkout process. Thus, the cardholder is

not required to remember or enter the token for future transactions. A card can be tokenised at any number of online/e-commerce merchants. For every online/e-commerce merchant where the card is tokenised, a specific token will be created.

The RBI has also said that 19.5 crore tokens have been so far created. Opting for CoFT (i.e., creating tokens) is voluntary for the cardholders. Those who do not wish to create a token can continue to transact as before by entering card details manually at the time of undertaking the transaction.

The Reserve Bank of India encourages cardholders to tokenize their cards for their own safety. Cardholders' payment experience will be enhanced through an added layer of security by way of tokenisation.





AFRICA'S ALONE IN MONKEYPOX DEATHS BUT HAS NO VACCINE DOSES

AP ■ NAIROBI (KENYA)

Africa still does not have a single dose of the monkeypox vaccine even though it's the only continent to have documented deaths from the disease that's newly declared a global emergency...

and 75 people have died, the Africa CDC director said.

Although monkeypox has been established in parts of central and west Africa for decades, it was not known to spark large outbreaks beyond the continent or to spread widely among people until May...

Now the global race is on to obtain monkeypox vaccine doses. The European Commission, the European Union's executive arm, has secured the purchase of 160,000 doses of vaccines for the disease.

On Wednesday, US health regulators said nearly 800,000 doses of the monkeypox vaccine will soon be available for distribution after what they described as weeks of delays.

Such delays are far more pronounced on the African continent, where the painful disease has been endemic in some countries for years.

Ogwell said the Africa CDC has engaged with international partners in attempts to obtain



vaccines, and while he said "good news" is expected in the coming days, "we cannot be able to give you a timeline."

Even doses of the smallpox vaccine, which has shown effectiveness against monkeypox, are not available in Africa, Ogwell said.

"The solutions need to be global in nature," he said, in a warning to the international community. "If we're not safe, the rest of the world is not safe."

The COVID-19 pandemic and the global hoarding of vac-

cine doses were a jolt to African leaders, who quickly joined together in an unprecedented effort to obtain doses and establish the production of more vaccines on the continent.

Now, to their dismay, the monkeypox outbreak is again showing how the world's richer countries hurry to protect their own people first.

WHO has said it is creating a vaccine-sharing mechanism for protection against monkeypox, but the organisation has released few details, so there's no

guarantee that African countries will get priority. No countries have yet agreed to share any vaccines with the WHO.

WHO officials have emphasised that monkeypox can infect anyone in close contact with a patient or their contaminated clothing or bedsheets.

Researchers are still exploring how it spreads but believe it's mainly through close, skin-to-skin contact and through contact with bedding and clothing that touched an infected person's rash or body fluids.

In Africa, monkeypox mainly spreads to people by infected wild animals like rodents in limited outbreaks that typically have not crossed borders.

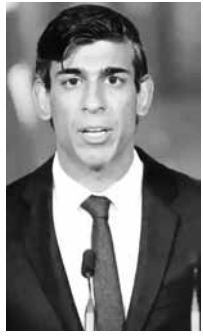
In Europe, North America and elsewhere, however, monkeypox is spreading among people with no links to animals or recent travel to Africa.

In the US and Europe, the vast majority of infections have happened in men who have sex with men, though health officials have stressed that anyone can contract the virus.

Sunak less unpopular with swing voters in UK PM race, survey finds

PTI ■ LONDON

Former Chancellor Rishi Sunak has an edge over his rival, Foreign Secretary Liz Truss, in the race to be elected the next Conservative Party leader and British Prime Minister among swing voters, a new survey revealed on Thursday.



The British Indian ex-minister, who has been trailing Truss among the hardcore Tory members who will vote for their favourite in postal ballots from next week, is favoured among voters who had voted Conservative for the first time in the 2019 general election.

"While there is little to separate the two leadership candidates among for example those who currently intend to vote [Opposition] Labour (minus 59 for Sunak, minus 62 for Truss) or those who voted Conservative in 2019 (0 and +3 respectively), the crucial difference between Truss and Sunak comes among swing voters," YouGov said in a statement.

"Net favourability among those who voted Conservative in 2019 but now tell us they plan to vote Labour stands at minus 25 for Sunak and minus 45 for Truss. Equally, scores among those who voted Labour in 2017 but Conservative in 2019 register at minus 6 for Sunak and minus 19 for Truss," it said.



1971 Liberation War: 6 members of 'Razakar Bahini' get death in Bangladesh

PTI ■ DHAKA

Bangladesh's International Crimes Tribunal on Thursday sentenced six members of the infamous paramilitary force 'Razakar Bahini' to death for collaborating with the Pakistani Army for 'crimes against humanity' during the 1971 Liberation War.

"They shall be hanged by neck until their death," Islam pronounced, with five of the convicts faced the trial in person, while one convict was tried in absentia. The six accused include Amjad Hossain Howladar, Sahar Ali Sardar, Atiyar Rahman, Motachim Billah, Kamal Uddin Goldar, and Nazrul Islam.

The convicts were present on the dock as the judgment was delivered after which they were brought to Dhaka Central Jail.

"All the six convicts were charged on four counts of crimes against humanity," prosecution lawyer Mokhlesur Rahman told reporters.



A richer, stronger China warns Pelosi not to visit Taiwan

AP ■ BEIJING

Beijing grumbled but swallowed its irritation in 1997 when then-Speaker Newt Gingrich of the US House of Representatives visited Taiwan, the island democracy claimed by the mainland's ruling Communist Party as its own territory.

China had other priorities. President Jiang Zemin's government was preparing to celebrate Hong Kong's return and wanted to lock in Beijing's emergence from diplomatic isolation after its 1989 crack-down on pro-democracy demonstrations in Tiananmen Square. Gingrich, a booster of closer US-Chinese ties, had just helped that campaign by meeting Jiang in Beijing.

A quarter-century later, conditions have changed drastically. Chinese President Xi Jinping's government is richer, more heavily armed and less willing to compromise over Taiwan following news reports in the current speaker, Nancy Pelosi, might become the most senior US official since Gingrich to visit the island.

Beijing sees any official contact with Taiwan as recognition of its democratically elected government, which the mainland says has no right to conduct foreign relations.



Attacks in central Mali kill 15 soldiers, 3 civilians

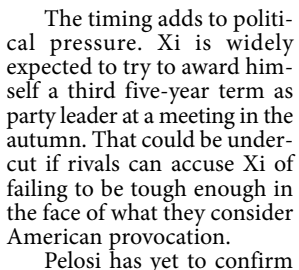
AP ■ BAMAOKO

At least three civilians and 15 soldiers have been killed in separate attacks in central Mali, the army said, the latest round of attacks as insecurity worsens in the West African nation.

Two attacks Wednesday targeted Mali army positions in the center of the country, and the army fought back killing at least 48 assailants, said army spokesman Col. Souleymane Demele.

"Malian Armed Forces repelled terrorist attacks targeting positions in Sévaré, Sokolo and Kalumba early this Wednesday," he said in a statement. The soldiers killed include "six dead in Sokolo" and "12 dead, including 3 civilians, in Kalumba, in the Nara region," the statement said.

No group has claimed responsibility for the attacks, but they bear the mark of jihadi groups linked to al-Qaida which are present in those areas and whose local leader, Amadou Koufa, sent a message a few weeks ago urging his fighters to intensify attacks against the Malian army.



The timing adds to political pressure. Xi is widely expected to try to award himself a third five-year term as party leader at a meeting in the autumn. That could be undercut if rivals can accuse Xi of failing to be tough enough in the face of what they consider American provocation.

Pelosi has yet to confirm whether she might visit, but Beijing is warning of "forceful measures" including military action if she does.

The United States "must not arrange for Pelosi to visit Taiwan," a Chinese Ministry of Defense spokesman, Tan Kefei, said Tuesday.

"If the United States goes ahead with this, the Chinese military will never watch and do nothing," Tan said. "It will take strong measures to thwart any external interference and separatist plans for Taiwan independence" and resolutely defend national sovereignty and territorial integrity.

Tan referred to Pelosi as "No. 3 in the US government," after her place in the line of succession to become president.

PUBLIC NOTICE

The public in General is hereby inform that Late Sh. P. M. Bhojwani S/o Late Sh. Murlidhar Bhojwani who was the allottee of Plot No.516, Sector-37, Pusa Road, New Delhi-110005, Haryana allottee from Haryana State Industrial and Infrastructure Development Corporation Limited (H.S.I.I.D.C.)...

Table with financial data for Delton Cables Limited, including columns for Quarter ended, Particulars, and Year Ended.

CAPRI GLOBAL CAPITAL LIMITED

APPENDIX - IV - A [See proviso to rule 6 (E)] Sale notice for sale of immovable properties

Table with columns for SR. NO., BORROWER(S) NAME, DESCRIPTION OF THE MORTGAGED PROPERTY, DATE & TIME OF E-AUCTION, and RESERVE PRICE.

Japan discusses regional defence in rare visit to Taiwan

AP ■ TAIPEI



could happen, what kind of laws and agreements we should prepare, and what kind of armaments we could use," he said in prepared remarks at the Presidential Office. "We need to work together to reach consensus on this ahead of anything that could happen."

Ishiba noted that Japan is also working closely with the U.S to prevent conflict in the Indo-Pacific, saying the defense allies "had no choice" but to prepare.

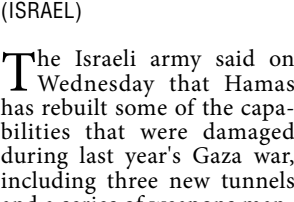
Tensions in the region have risen amid increasing assertiveness from China, whose authoritarian ruling Communist Party considers democratic, self-ruling Taiwan its own territory, to be annexed by force if necessary.

The group of Japanese lawmakers was welcomed by President Tsai Ing-wen and will also meet with Su Tseng-chang, president of the Executive Yuan, and representatives from Taiwan's Defense Ministry.

Advertisement for UJVN LIMITED, featuring a logo and text about e-TENDER TIME EXTENSION NOTICE-1.

Hamas rebuilding capabilities in Gaza, says Israeli army

AP ■ EREZ MILITARY BASE (ISRAEL)



The Israeli army said on Wednesday that Hamas has rebuilt some of the capabilities that were damaged during last year's Gaza war, including three new tunnels and a series of weapons manufacturing and storage sites.

The army published aerial imagery and maps showing what it said are tunnels, weapons factories and arms depots. It said the installations were near al-Azhar University in Gaza City, a Pepsi factory, mosques, United Nations facilities and hospitals elsewhere in Gaza. Hamas spokesman Hazem Qassem said the army's claims are "pure lies and fabrications."

Advertisement for Indiabulls Housing Finance Limited, featuring a logo and text about a sale notice for immovable property.

Advertisement for Capri Global Capital Limited, containing detailed terms and conditions for an e-auction sale.

Saugata: RBI to hike rates by 0.35-0.50% at Aug 5 review

PTI ■ MUMBAI The Reserve Bank's rate setting panel will hike the key repo rate by 0.35-0.50 per cent at the next week's review meeting...



Bhattacharya said the MPC will go into the internal surveys like household inflation expectations and consumer confidence while deciding the quantum of the rate hike.

inflation given the import reliance, and also added that off-late, there has been some softening of the commodity prices.

Sensex soars 1,041 pts, Nifty nears 17k as bulls regain footing

PTI ■ MUMBAI Extending gains for the second straight session, equity benchmark Sensex jumped by nearly 2 per cent to soar past the 56,000-mark on Thursday...



al markets. European shares came off session highs on Thursday, as a slew of downbeat earnings took the shine off a global rally driven by easing worries about the future pace of US interest rate hikes.

He said the headline inflation will continue to breach the 6 per cent threshold for many more months, and is likely to cool-off after spiking in September on a low base.

The average CPI for FY23 will be 6.7 per cent, the chief economist said, adding it will come below the 6 per cent mark only in March.

5G telecom auction stretches to 4th day; ₹1,49,623 cr worth bids received so far

PTI ■ NEW DELHI The auction of 5G spectrum for telephony services will stretch to the fourth day on Friday after 16 rounds of bidding fetched bids worth Rs 1,49,623 crore.

Govt launches 11th agricultural census 2021-22; to use smartphones, tablets for data collection

PTI ■ NEW DELHI Agriculture Minister Narendra Singh Tomar on Thursday launched the eleventh agricultural census to collect data on various parameters, including operational holdings.



menting an agriculture census scheme from 1970-71. The tenth edition of the census was conducted with the reference year 2015-16.

Biogas plant using cow dung generates cooking gas for 120 families

PNS ■ NEW DELHI A biogas plant with a capacity of 200 cubic meter, that utilises around 5,000-kilogram cow dung per day, has been commissioned at Akauri village of Chandauli district in Uttar Pradesh.

the village which can be used as cooking gas. The project was inaugurated by Atul Chaturvedi, Secretary, Department of Animal Husbandry and Dairying in the presence of NDDDB Chairman, Meenesh Shah on Wednesday.

BRIEF

- MODI TO CHAIR NITI AAYOG'S GOVERNING COUNCIL MEETING New Delhi: Prime Minister Narendra Modi will chair NITI Aayog's Governing Council meeting on August 7, where issues related to agriculture, health and economy will be discussed.

India's power deficit slips from 2% in April to 0.6% in June

PTI ■ NEW DELHI Power deficit came down from 2 per cent in April to 0.4 per cent in May and 0.6 per cent in June despite significant rise in demand of electricity, Parliament was informed on Thursday.

requirement and energy supplied had been reduced considerably...To 0.4 per cent and 0.6 per cent during the months of May 2022 and June 2022 respectively, despite the significant increase in energy requirement during these months as compared to the corresponding months of May 2021 and June 2021.

Macrotech Developers inks 3 pacts for housing projects worth ₹6,200 cr in April-June

PTI ■ NEW DELHI Realty firm Macrotech Developers has formed three joint ventures with landowners during April-June quarter to develop housing projects with an estimated sales value of Rs 6,200 crore and is exploring for more tie-ups.

quarter sales during April-June 2022 despite interest rate hikes. He said the company is looking to form more partnerships across its three focus markets - Mumbai Metropolitan Region (MMR), Pune and Bengaluru - to expand its business in a asset-light manner and achieve higher growth.

National Urban Co-operative Bank Ltd. C-3/84, New Kondli, Mayur Vihar, Phase-III, Delhi-110096

BALANCE SHEET AS ON 31ST MARCH 2022 (Amount in INR) Table with columns for Schedule, AS ON 31.03.2022 (CURRENT YEAR), and AS ON 31.03.2021 (PREVIOUS YEAR).

As per our Report of Even Date annexed For AVA & ASSOCIATES CHARTERED ACCOUNTANTS Firm Regn No. 004017N

PROFIT AND LOSS ACCOUNT FOR THE YEAR ENDED ON 31ST MARCH 2022 (Amount in INR) Table with columns for Schedule, YEAR ENDED ON 31.03.2022 (CURRENT YEAR), and YEAR ENDED ON 31.03.2021 (PREVIOUS YEAR).

As per our Report of Even Date annexed For AVA & ASSOCIATES CHARTERED ACCOUNTANTS Firm Regn No. 004017N

AVA & ASSOCIATES CHARTERED ACCOUNTANTS 4 - F, 4th Floor, Gopala Tower, 25, Rajendra Place, New Delhi - 110008

SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES AND NOTES TO ACCOUNTS ARE INTEGRAL & FORMING PART OF FINANCIAL STATEMENTS-NOTE NO. 18

- Notes forming part of the Balance Sheet as at March 31, 2022 and Profit and Loss Account for the year ended March 31, 2022. 1. Background: The NATIONAL URBAN CO-OPERATIVE BANK LTD was incorporated in 1999 and provides a complete suite of corporate and retail banking products.

Independent Auditor's Report To The Members, National Urban Co-operative Bank Ltd Report on the Financial Statements

AS-15 RETIREMENT BENEFITS Table with columns for SR. No., PARTICULARS, and GRATUITY (FUNDED). Includes details for Discount rate, Salary escalation rate, etc.

AS-29 PROVISIONS, CONTINGENT LIABILITIES AND CONTINGENT ASSETS Table with columns for Particulars, 31.03.2022, and 31.03.2021. Includes details for Bills for Collection, Depositor Education and Awareness Fund scheme, etc.



# INDIA AIM FOR WINDIES DOUBLE



PTI ■ TAROUBA

Full-strength Indian team will be looking to overwhelm West Indies in its bid to record a second successive clean sweep in the three-match T20I series starting Friday.

place in the playing XI. The preceding England series has shown that India's white ball players have that imposing alpha-male like presence out there in the middle even if their best player Kohli is on the wane.

### CAN HOODA CHALLENGE KOHLI'S POSITION?

Thus the five-match series against West Indies, technically being played in three different countries (Trinidad & Tobago, St Kitts & Nevis and USA) will also give us a clear picture whether Kohli's days of invincibility are over or not.

With less than three months left for the T20 World Cup, skipper Rohit Sharma and coach Rahul Dravid will get around 16 games (5 vs WI, 5 in Asia Cup (if India play final), 3 vs Australia, 3 vs South Africa) to firm up their core team that will then play unchanged going into mega event.

Deepak Hooda, whatever little amount of T20Is that he has played, has shown that belongs to this level. He has a hundred opening the innings against Ireland and in the only T20 that he played against England, he looked the part before being forced to relinquish his place to Kohli.

With his tight off-breaks adding to his skill-set, at least three to four good matches in this series will certainly increase Rohit's headache and

also put Kohli under pressure when he returns for Asia Cup in the UAE.

Number three will be the only position that will be a bone of contention as far as India's batting order is concerned going into the T20 World Cup.

The other factor will be regular vice-captain KL Rahul's return to the squad and where does one fit this prolific IPL performer although his way of constructing a T20 innings could be debated.

### ROHIT-PANT PAIR COULD BE WAY FORWARD

In terms of sheer numbers, the Pant-Rohit opening pair didn't set the stage on fire against England but statistics often do not provide the bigger picture.

The left-right combination has shown intent to dominate and with their kind of range could prove to be a nightmare for any opposition on a given day.

On tacky West Indies tracks where spinners could operate in Powerplay, the duo

could be even doubly dangerous and as far as Australian wickets are concerned, their ability to effortlessly play horizontal bat shots would keep them in a good stead.

### WILL ASHWIN GET A LOOK-IN FOR T20 WC?

With Jadeja's fitness being an issue and also his growing focus on being a batting all-rounder, Ravichandran Ashwin is still India's best slow bowler in Powerplay overs with his variations that include the lethal carrom ball.

There is Kuldeep Yadav also in the squad and Ravi Bishnoi, who has been more of a glorified traveller since Chahal found his mojo.

Yuzvendra Chahal's place is non-negotiable in first XI and Washington Sundar will be back in the set-up any day which effectively makes it last chance for Ashwin to stake his claim for a place in playing XI.

### CHOICE OF 3RD PACER

If they remain injury-free, Jasprit Bumrah and Bhuvneshwar Kumar are sure-

shot starters in the playing XI on October 23 when India meet arch-rivals Pakistan.

With Hardik Pandya also bowling full tilt, India would be looking to finalise their third specialist pacer and if Harshal Patel does well in this series, there will be lot of pressure on Deepak Chahar, who is likely to be back for Asia Cup.

### SQUADS

**India:** Rohit Sharma (C), Ishan Kishan, Shreyas Iyer, Deepak Hooda, Suryakumar Yadav, Hardik Pandya, Rishabh Pant, KL Rahul, Dinesh Karthik, Ravindra Jadeja, Ravichandran Ashwin, Kuldeep Yadav, Bhuvneshwar Kumar, Avesh Khan, Harshal Patel, Ravi Bishnoi, Axar Patel, Arshdeep Singh

**West Indies (Probable):** Nicholas Poonar (C), Shamar Brooks, Brandon King, Rovman Powell, Keacy Carty, Kyle Mayers, Jason Holder, Gudakesh Motie, Keemo Paul, Shai Hope, Akeal Hosein, Alzarri Joseph, Jayden Seales.

## India complete clean sweep

PTI ■ PORT OF SPAIN

Shubman Gill was unlucky to miss out on his maiden century but India rode on his sublime 98 to outclass West Indies by 119 runs and complete a 3-0 rout in the ODI series here.

In a rain-affected final ODI, India scored 225 for 3 in 36 overs, courtesy Gill's career-best knock and another half-century from skipper Shikhar Dhawan (58 off 74 balls).

The revised DLS target of 257 from 35 overs was a tricky one and Mohammed Siraj's (2/14 in 3 overs) near-perfect first over with the new ball set the tone as West Indies could finally manage only 137 in 26 overs.

Spinners Yuzvendra Chahal (4/17 in 4 overs), Axar Patel (1/38 in 6 overs) and seamer Shardul Thakur (2/17 in 5 overs) also performed their role admirably on a slowish surface as Brandon King (42 off 37 balls) and Nicholas Poonar (42 off 32 balls)'s counter-attacking resistance was never going to be good enough.

While all the three ODIs were played at the same venue, Dhawan and his men



deserve full credit for making most of the opportunities, showing good game awareness in crunch situations throughout the series.

If they defended well under pressure in the first game, the second one saw the lower middle-order accomplish a tricky chase after a not-so-great show from top-order.

The third game posed a different challenge as rain-break could have caused a decisive shift in momentum but the stylish Gill and the talented Shreyas Iyer (44 off 34 balls) changed the complexion of the game post rain-break.

## India maintain 3rd spot in ODI team rankings

PTI ■ DUBAI

India maintained their third position in the latest men's ODI Team Rankings following the 3-0 series whitewash of the West Indies in their own backyard.

Despite missing a slew of first-choice players, the Shikhar Dhawan-led India showed they have plenty of depth waiting in the wings as they completed a sweep over the Caribbean side on Wednesday with an emphatic 119-run victory in the



third and final match.

The triumph was India's third ODI series victory on the T20I and saw them boost their rating to a total of 110 and some four rating points clear of arch-rival Pakistan (106), who is in the fourth place.

New Zealand sit alone at the top of the team ODI rankings with a rating of 128, while England (119) remain in second place despite their recent series loss to India and drawn series against South Africa.

### NOTICE

आवाहन निम्न व्यापारिक संस्थाएं... 1. राजकुमार प्रसाद... 2. श्री अशोक प्रसाद... 3. श्री अशोक प्रसाद... (Notice text continues with details of the auction and legal provisions.)

## Allen, Sodhi star as NZ rout Scotland in 1st T20I

AP ■ EDINBURGH



Finn Allen and Ish Sodhi both produced format-best displays as New Zealand overwhelmed Scotland by 68 runs in the 1st T20I at Edinburgh on Wednesday.

Allen's 101, his maiden T20I hundred, was the cornerstone of New Zealand's 225-5, the opener sharing a first-wicket stand of 85 with the experienced Martin Guptill (40).

Scotland were rarely in the hunt in reply, with leg-break bowler Sodhi taking a career-best 4-28 from his four overs, while fellow spinner Mitchell Santner, the New Zealand captain, weighed in with 2-23 as the hosts were held to 157-8 in their 20 overs.

Calum MacLeod top-scored for Scotland with 33 as New Zealand went 1-0 up in this two-match series.

**Karnataka Bank Ltd.** Your Family Bank. Across India. Head Office, Mangaluru - 575 002. Asset Recovery Management Branch. B-8, First Floor, Rajendra Park, Pusa Road, New Delhi-110060. Website: www.karnatakabank.com

**APPENDIX IV A** [See proviso to Rule 8(6)] Sale Notice for sale of immovable property. E-Auction sale notice for sale of immovable assets under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 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 CFM Asset Reconstruction Private Ltd. [CIN:U67100GJ2015PTC083994] ("Secured Creditor"), the physical possession of which has been taken by the Authorised Officer of the Secured Creditor, will be sold on "as is where is", "as is what is", "whatever there is" and "withoutanyrecourse" basis on 30.08.2022 from 02.00 P.M. to 04.00 P.M.

**AU SMALL FINANCE BANK LIMITED** A SCHEDULED COMMERCIAL BANK. Regd. Office: 19-A, Dhuleshwar Garden, Ajmer Road, Jaipur - 302001 (CIN:L36911R1996PL011381). Demand Notice Under Section 13(2) of Securitisation Act of 2002.

Name of the Borrower/ Co-Borrower / Mortgage / Guarantor / Loan A/C No. Date and Amount of Demand Notice Under Sec. 13(2). Description of Mortgaged Property. (Table with 4 columns and multiple rows of borrower details and property descriptions.)