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Ukraine war dominates Modi-Biden discussion

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

Prime Minister Narendra Modi and US President Joe Biden in a virtual meeting on Monday agreed that the US and India will continue to hold close consultation on how to deal with the situation arising out of the Russia-Ukraine war.

Biden said India and the US share a strong and growing major defence partnership and hailed India's "humanitarian support" towards the people of war-ravaged Ukraine. On his part, PM Modi said as the world's two largest and oldest democracies, the two countries are natural partners.

"Our talks today are taking place at a time when the situation in Ukraine remains very worrying," Modi said, adding that India hopes that ongoing talks between Russia and Ukraine will pave way for peace.

Modi said India has appealed to Russia and Ukraine to have direct talks between the



Cars drive near a damaged bridge following a Russian attack in the previous weeks in the town of Makariv, Kyiv region, Ukraine, on Sunday AP

Presidents of the two countries and expressed concern over the killing of innocent citizens in Bucha in Ukraine. Making this assertion Modi also said, "We condemned the incident and also demanded an impartial probe."

Enunciating India's stand in the ongoing conflict, Modi told Biden, "I have spoken with Presidents of both Ukraine and Russia over the

telephone, several times. I not only appealed to them for peace but also suggested President Putin to hold direct talks with the Ukrainian President. Detailed discussions were held over Ukraine, in our Parliament."

The two leaders, who met in person in Washington last year for the Quad heads of State summit, will meet again on May 24 in Japan this year.

Modi's talks with Biden took place hours before the all-important two plus two dialogue between the Defence and Foreign Ministers of the two countries commenced in Washington. Defence Minister Rajnath Singh and External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar will review the bilateral strategic and defence relations with their US counterparts Lloyd Austin and Antony Blinken in the fourth annual two plus two.

Amid criticism in the West about India not taking a stand against Russia on the Ukraine issue, Modi told Blinken the recent news of the killing of innocent citizens in Bucha city was very concerning.

"We immediately condemned it and also demanded an impartial probe. We hope that through the talks between Russia and Ukraine, a path for peace would come out," the PM said. Incidentally, Biden some days back said India's position on the conflict is "somewhat shaky."

Will end eco crisis like we crushed LTTE: Lankan PM

PTI ■ COLOMBO

Sri Lanka's embattled Prime Minister Mahinda Rajapaksa on Monday said his Government was confident of overcoming the unprecedented economic crisis in the same way it crushed the LTTE over a decade ago.

In a televised address to the nation, Mahinda, who is under growing pressure to quit due to the worst economic crisis facing the island nation, said that he understands the people's sufferings.

"We have to strengthen the economy. We will take the responsibility to resolve the economic issue in the same way we ended the 30-year war," the prime minister said, referring to his military victory over the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) in 2009.

The LTTE, which led a separatist war for a separate Tamil homeland, was crushed by the Lankan military in 2009.

Mahinda, the elder brother of President Gotabaya Rajapaksa, said the Government is working round-the-clock to overcome the economic crisis.

"The government is spending every second of the day to resolve this problem. My family is being slandered, we can tolerate it," Mahinda said.

Pak new PM Shehbaz rekindles Kashmir rant

Uncertainty over oath as docs advise 'unwell' Pak Prez rest for a few days

PTI ■ ISLAMABAD

Pakistan Parliament on Monday elected unopposed Shehbaz Sharif as 23rd Prime Minister of the country, bringing to an end the political uncertainty that had gripped the nation since a no-confidence motion was introduced against his predecessor Imran Khan on March 8.

Shehbaz in his inaugural speech on Monday raised the issue of abrogation of Article 370 in Kashmir and alleged that the people in the Valley were bleeding and Pakistan will provide them with "diplomatic and moral support" besides raising the matter at every international fora.

Shehbaz, 70, was the only candidate left in the race after former Foreign Minister Shah Mahmood Qureshi announced that his Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf party will boycott the voting and staged a walkout.

However, after Pakistan President Arif Alvi on Monday



Supporters of deposed Prime Minister Imran Khan's party participate in a rally to condemn the ouster of their leader's government, in Karachi on Sunday PTI

complained of "discomfort", hours before he was scheduled to administer oath to Prime Minister-designate Shehbaz, it was not immediately clear when the oath ceremony will take place.

"President Dr Arif Alvi has complained of discomfort. The physician has examined him thoroughly and has advised him rest for a few days," said a brief statement issued on the official Twitter handle of the 72-year-old President, who was a member of the ousted Prime Minister Imran's party.

The new Prime Minister would have to face not only the unruly PTI taking to the streets but a brittle economy that needs a very careful handling. There are a lot of expectations of the masses from the new leadership to control inflation,

which is a tough task. Shehbaz said neighbours are not a matter of choice, it is something we have to live with and unfortunately Pakistan's ties with India were never good since its inception. He attacked Khan for not making "serious and diplomatic efforts" when India abrogated the Article 370 in August 2019.

"When the forceful encroachment was done in August 2019 and Article 370 was abrogated, what serious efforts did we make...What serious diplomacy did we try...Kashmir's blood is flowing on roads of Kashmir and the Kashmir Valley is red with their blood," said Shehbaz, the younger brother of former three-time Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif.

Ram Navami clashes in parts of country, 1 killed in Gujarat

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ BHOPAL/AHMEDABAD/RANCHI/PATNA

Violence erupted in several parts of the country during the Ram Navami celebrations, claiming the life of one person in Gujarat and leaving scores injured elsewhere.

In Gujarat, police arrested nine people for violence and stone-pelting during a Ram Navami procession at Khambhat in Anand district, while CrPC Section 144 was imposed in Himmatnagar town of Sabarkantha district following a similar incident there.

A similar stone-pelting incident was reported during a Ram Navami procession in Sindhwa town of MP's Barwani district where a police station in-charge and five others were injured. The situation was later brought under control, according to officials.

In Lohardaga in Jharkhand, one person died and 12 people suffered injuries following clashes between

members of two communities near Hirhi village on Sunday evening after a group of miscreants pelted stones on a Ram Navami procession, district officials said.

Internet services have been suspended in Lohardaga town and prohibitory orders under Section 144 CrPC imposed in the entire district, sub-divisional officer Arbind Kumar Lal said.

Ten bikes and a pick-up van were set on fire during the violence, the officials said. It took district officials and the police at least an hour to bring the situation under control.

In Madhya Pradesh's Khargone city, police had to fire tear gas shells to control the situation after stone-pelting took place at a procession on Ram Navami.

Curfew was clamped in the entire city on Sunday evening following the incident, as per an order issued by the office of Khargone Collector Anugrah P.

2 die in Deoghar ropeway accident, scores trapped



ROSHAN KUMAR ■ RANCHI

Two persons died and several others sustained injuries in a ropeway accident at Chitrakoot Hills in Deoghar in Jharkhand on Sunday. Scores of people are still hanging precariously from the ropeway cabins for more than 30 hours after cable cars collided with each other, sources said.

As the family members of those stuck in the cable cars are panic-stricken, the State Government has intensified the rescue operation.

Deoghar Deputy Commissioner Manjunath Bhajantri and Superintendent of Police Subhash Chandra Jat have been camping at the spot since Sunday.

The accident occurred due to a technical snag resulting in the collision of cable cars, an official said, adding, however, the exact cause is yet to be ascertained.

CAPSULE

ANTI-TANK MISSILE 'HELINA' TEST-FIRED
New Delhi: Giving a boost to firepower, scientists on Monday successfully test-fired anti-tank guided missile 'Helina' from an indigenously developed helicopter.

SIX WORKERS KILLED IN FACTORY BLAST
Ahmedabad: Six workers were killed in a blast which triggered a fire in a chemical factory in Gujarat's Bharuch on Monday, officials said. The incident took place around 3 am in the unit located in Dahej industrial area, some 235 km from Ahmedabad.

MAN KILLS SELF AS BOSS SEEKS WIFE FOR NIGHT
Lucknow: An employee of the Uttar Pradesh power department died by suicide, allegedly after a senior official asked him to "send his wife for a night" if he wanted a transfer. Upset and humiliated, 45-year-old Gokul Prasad poured diesel over himself outside the junior engineer's office in Lakhimpur and set himself on fire.

38 COWS PERISH IN GZB GOSHALA INFERNO
Ghaziabad: Thirty-eight cows were charred to death after a fire broke out at a dumpyard here and engulfed a cow shelter nearby, officials said.

State government demolishing houses of rioters in Khargone

STAFF REPORTER ■ BHOPAL

A day after stones were hurled at a Ram Navami procession that triggered arson in Khargone city of Madhya Pradesh, the state government on Monday started demolition of houses of those involved in pelting stones.

So far, 84 people have been arrested in the matter and a curfew has been clamped in the entire Khargone city, officials said on Monday.

Visuals showed the demolition being conducted in the presence of senior police officials and personnel in Khargone. Khargone's Superintendent of Police Siddharth Choudhary received bullet injury in the violence and besides him, at least 24 people, including six policemen, were also injured, they said.

Police had to fire tear gas shells to control the situation after the stone-pelting took place at the Ram Navami procession on Sunday.

Chief Minister Shivraj



Singh Chouhan termed the incident as unfortunate and said the damages caused to public and private properties will be recovered from rioters.

The rioters have been identified and will not be spared. Strict action will be taken against them. There is no place for rioters in Madhya Pradesh, he said.

"We have passed the Damage to Public and Private Property Recovery Act. We are constituting a claim tribunal under the

Act and after assessing the loss, its recovery will also be done from rioters," Chouhan said in a statement.

Besides, speaking about the violence earlier in the day, Madhya Pradesh Home Minister Narottam Mishra had said that houses from where stones were hurled will be turned into rubble. Following this, the district administration started demolishing the houses belonging to the accused persons.

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Jal Abhishek Abhiyan to be run on a large scale

STAFF REPORTER ■ BHOPAL

Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan has said that our culture is water culture and ponds are an integral part of our culture. Water has had a special significance in Indian culture for thousands of years. Our great rulers built ponds, wells, stepwells in their states. Today it is our duty not only to preserve them but also to carry forward that tradition.

Chouhan said that as per the resolve of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, this year more than 5000 Amrit Sarovars will be built in the state. Their work will be completed by the month of June this year or by the month of March next year. Rs 350 crore plan has been made to save 10,000 old ponds in the state. For water conser-



vation, the work of conserving a large number of small water structures will also be done. The Chief Minister on Monday launched Jal Abhishek Abhiyan at Jal Sansad organized in Kahula village of Garatganj tehsil of Raisen district. He virtually

launched 5,000 Amrit Sarovars in 52 districts of the state and 10 thousand works in Pushkar Dharohar Samridhi Abhiyan. Chouhan also released the Mukhya Mantri Jal Shakti Abhiyan Ayojana. He honored three out of 551 water warriors who built ponds in their fields for

water harvesting. Chouhan also administered oath to everyone in the Jal Sansad to save water.

Chouhan said that it is necessary to save water in order to save the earth. Natural imbalance is being caused due to excessive exploitation of ground water. If water exists without water no one will exist. Our biggest duty is to stop the rain water and increase the water level of the earth by planting more and more trees. We must make people aware about water conservation. In order to procure everyone's cooperation in this work, a massive Jal Abhishek Abhiyan is being launched in the state from today.

Chouhan said that pipelines are being laid in the state to provide water in every household through taps. In the coming two-three years, every

household will have access to tap water. Water has reached 48 lakh houses in the state from taps so far. In the coming time, water will be supplied to more than one crore houses through taps.

The Chief Minister said that today every panchayat of the state is involved in this programme. I request everyone with folded hands to join the Jalabhishek campaign to save water in your village. In this work, Jan Abhiyan Parishads, social organizations, all panchayats, self-help groups and all other sections should contribute. The coming two months are very important to work in this direction. All of you must take a pledge that you stand with the government in this noble work of water conservation and water promotion.



Senior journalist and writer Ved Pratap Vaidik, Devendra Pratap Singh Tomar, General Secretary of Interactive Forum on Indian Economy and others talking to media persons ahead of the Champions of Change Madhya Pradesh award ceremony organised by Interactive Forum on Indian Economy (IFIE), in Bhopal on Monday. Pioneer photo

Various teams showcasing talents in senior Men's hockey championship

STAFF REPORTER ■ BHOPAL

In the 12th Hockey India National Senior Men's Hockey Championship-2022 organized under the joint aegis of Hockey India and Sports and Youth Welfare Department, various teams of India are showcasing their talent.

Teams Hockey Punjab, Hockey Rajasthan, Delhi Hockey, Uttar Pradesh Hockey, Telangana Hockey, Chhattisgarh Hockey, Hockey Karnataka, Hockey Andhra Pradesh, Hockey Uttarakhand, Hockey Maharashtra, Hockey Bihar, Kerala Hockey, Hockey Chandigarh, Hockey Jharkhand, Hockey Jammu and Kashmir, Dadra and Nagar Haveli and Daman and Diu Hockey, Hockey Bengal, LE Puducherry,

Hockey Gujarat, Hockey Teams from Arunachal, Hockey Unit of Tamil Nadu, Hockey Madhya Pradesh, Hockey Himachal, Hockey Haryana, Hockey Association of Odisha, Assam Hockey and Goa Hockey are participating.

On Monday, five matches were played under the competition. The first match was played between Hockey Chandigarh and Dadar and Nagar Haveli and Daman and Diu Hockey. In this match, Hockey Chandigarh defeated Dadar and Nagar Haveli and Daman and Diu 6-4.

The second match was played between Hockey Jharkhand and Hockey Jammu and Kashmir. Jharkhand won this match by 5-0. The third match was played between Hockey Bengal and Hockey

Arunachal. Hockey Bengal won this match 7-2.

Fourth match was played between Puducherry Hockey and Hockey Gujarat. Puducherry Hockey won this match 13-2. Fifth and final match was played between Assam Hockey and Goa Hockey. Assam Hockey won this match 6-0.

The competitions are being played from April 6 to 17 at Major Dhyan Chand Hockey Stadium.

In the second match Hockey Jharkhand Vs Hockey Jammu and Kashmir both the teams could not score any goal in the first quarter of this match. Both the teams could not score any goal in the fourth quarter of the match. Hockey Jharkhand won this match by 5-0.

In the third match between the teams of Hockey Bengal and Hockey Arunachal. In the 8th minute of the first quarter of this match, Arunachal's team player Deepak scored a penalty stroke to make the score 1-0. In the 15th minute of the match, Bengal captain Kishore Lakra scored a field goal to level the score at 1-1. In the 54th minute of the fourth quarter of the match, Bengal player Saurabh Kumar Singh scored a field goal to give his team a 7-2 victory.

In the fourth match between Puducherry and Hockey Gujarat. Gujarat captain Shubham Yadav scored a field goal in the 59th minute of the last minute of the match. Puducherry team won the match 13-2.

Ratibad police bust six-member gang of blackmailers, robbers, kidnappers

STAFF REPORTER ■ BHOPAL

Ratibad police have busted a gang of six members along with woman mastermind of the gang involved in blackmailing, looting, kidnapping; gang members took cue from the crime serials in television.

On March 27, last month a complaint was made by Arun Rai regarding an unknown woman who took a lift in her car near Bhadbhada along with her friends and later assaulted him and took his car at deserted area.

After receiving the information about police stations of the state capital were informed about the incident, the miscreants fled leaving the car in an abandoned condition near Habibganj Masjid

The woman member of the gang used to take lift from car drivers and leave after some distance on the pretext of some trouble

Govindpura, which was recovered by the police.

During the investigation by the Ratibad police station, Shyamala Hills, TT Nagar, Kamla Nagar, Ratibud, Kolar, Chunabhatti, Habibganj, Bageevania were alerted and informed.

Later police established the identity of the female

accused roaming on the Nehru Nagar intersection, on which she was questioned and accepted the involvement of 5 other boys in the incident.

It was told by the woman accused that she used to take lift from car drivers and leave after some distance on the pretext of some trouble. Finding darkness, his other accomplices surrounded the car and threatened to defame the driver of the vehicle by accusing the accused and extort money.

The accused were identified as Akash Lodhi, Deepak Singh Vishit, Hrithik Rakwar, Prince Malviya while Akash Panwar is absconding and other boys and girls were also involved in crime.

Four houses of anti-socials demolished

PNS ■ MHOW

Complying the Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan instructions against mafias, Mhow SDM Akshat Jain consecutively demolished four big houses of the anti-social elements in this week.

Three houses of Ram Chouhan were demolished in Gujarkeheda gram panchayat area which were built on river land and government land and on Saturday one house which was a two storey building was demolished of Mahesh Rajput in joshi guradiga gram panchayat area. On Ram chouhan 13 cases were registered in Mhow police station area and on Mahesh Rajput 13 cases were registered in simrole police station area.

UMC selected for environmental award

Ujjain: The Municipal Corporation has been selected for the Madhya Pradesh Annual Environment Award for the year 2020-21, award will be presented by Environment Minister Hardeep Singh Dang to Corporation Commissioner Anshul Gupta in a program organized at Brilliant Convention Center Vijay Nagar Indore on Wednesday.

Noably, in order to reduce the pollution of the city and to keep the environment clean, work is being done by the Municipal Corporation to improve the level of pollution through various efforts. Cleaning of roads is also being done by getting the cleaning work done through night sweeping and big machines, so that there are no dust particles in the environment.

To keep the city clean and clean, a C & D plant is being operated for the disposal of the materials from the construction of buildings and construction work is being done by installing green net.



Senior BJP leader and former Chief Minister Uma Bharti offers prayer in a Shiv Temple situated in the Fort, in Raisen, Madhya Pradesh on Monday. The Temple is opened only once in a year on Maha Shivratri, after the ASI locked the temple after a controversy, in 1970. Pioneer photo

Talैया police arrest vehicle lifter, recover two scooters from him

STAFF REPORTER ■ BHOPAL

Talैया police nabbed a vehicle-lifter near Budhwara and recovered two scooter worth Rs 1 lakh from his possession on Sunday; permanent warrant was issued against accused from year 2014 and remained absconding.

According to the police, acting on a tip off a on Sunday Talैया Police got a nabbed Shabbir Ali alias Anna alias Andhra (32) of Sanjay Nagar. Police arrested Irani Dera police station Hanumanganj Bhopal in front of 6 railway station.

Talैया police station in-charge Rakesh Sahu received information that a vehicle thief and robber is roaming in

The parking spaces were used to park the stolen bike and which were to be sold later. Police would search for other crimes committed during the period of absconding

Budhwara area with stolen activa and many stolen vehicles can be found with him and Aishbagh police station also has a permanent warrant.

On the information police searched Budhwara area and arrested accused. Scooter

recovered from the parking near Yunus Motor Garage, the value of both the seized Activas is about Rs 1 lakh and a permanent warrant was issued by Aishbagh police station. Shabbir Ali is also a watch list criminal of Hanumanganj police station.

The friends and family members would be questioned in the investigation which could help in obtaining more details of earlier crimes and involvement in other crimes. Police said that the parking spaces were used to park the stolen bike and which were to be sold later. During the investigation police would search for other crimes committed during the period of absconding.

Teen India 2022, Northeast India bags its first national teen title

STAFF REPORTER ■ BHOPAL

On a glittering ceremony, at the Flying Dutchman, Noida, Sahara Hangma Subba from Sikkim, was crowned Teen India 2022.

Sahara is the first North East Indian beauty to win a national teen pageant title in India. Sara Naikwadi, Aastha Kashyap, Yashika Dudeja, Ananya Kubde were the respective first to fourth runner-ups. The main winners were crowned by outgoing queens, Mannat Kaur (Teen Universe Asia 2020) and Anjali Sharma (Teen India Runner Up 2020).

Jasmeet Kaur, CEO of Teen India and National Director of India for many prestigious international pageants, led a spectacular event along with her daughter Srishti Kaur, who is India and Asia's first Teen Universe winner.

The event was graced by the honourable presence of KL Ganju (Consul General); the valuable presence of Chandra Rekha Gulabani, Ratan Kaul, Asma Gulzar, Om Praakash, Piyush Chaturvedi, Chef Sunil Soni; and Richa, Tulika Jain, Sharmila Ahuja, Sahiba Singh



and Rubinder Kaur came on board as the respected jury.

The three-day event involved the contestants enjoying an array of 22 sub-contests, group dynamics, photoshoots, charity events, online and on-ground sessions.

The contestants interacted with students of the charity school 'Apna Ghar' a venture by Srishti Kaur. The girls stood up together in their sisterhood for Cancer Awareness by creating skits and awareness jingles. Melvyn Noronha, pageant mentor of Srishti Kaur and many other international beauty queens, directed and choreographed the girls towards a great learning and self-discovering experience.

Swastika Investmart acquires business of Safal Capital

STAFF REPORTER ■ BHOPAL

Leading stockbroker, Swastika Investmart Ltd. (BOM: 530585) has signed an agreement to acquire the business of Safal Capital, a 100 years vintage entity of India.

This acquisition will enhance the customers base of Swastika by around 5%. While on the other side, Safal Capital's customers will get the advantage of Swastika's stock research team, technology platform, compliances, and customer support service.

Swastika Investmart Ltd is a member of NSE, BSE, MSEI & Depository participant of CDSL & NSDL. The company is also registered with SEBI as a Category Merchant Banker. Swastika Group has a membership of commodity exchanges viz MCX, NCDEX & ICEX.

The Swastika has been awarded for great contribution in SME listing - 2017 by NSE, Best Brokerage House Central India 2016 - 2019 by MCX & multiple awards by NCDEX and NSDL. Safal Capital (India) Limited is a subsidiary of MPSE Securities Limited.

Gautam addresses 8th conference of CPA (India Region) at Guwahati

STAFF REPORTER ■ BHOPAL

Madhya Pradesh Vidhan Sabha Speaker Girish Gautam said that better implementation of the resolutions passed in the convention of Commonwealth Parliamentary Association (CPA) India Region should also be ensured.

Gautam said this while addressing the 8th Conference of Commonwealth Parliamentary Association (CPA) India Region held in Guwahati, the capital of Assam. Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla, Speaker of Assam Legislative Assembly Vishwajit Daimary, Deputy Speaker Dr. Numal Momin, Assam Chief Minister Dr. Himanta Biswa Sharma, Presiding Officers of other states and Principal Secretary of Madhya Pradesh Legislative Assembly AP Singh were also present on the occasion.

Speaker of the Vidhan Sabha Gautam said that in this conference we are discussing the issue of contribution to the national development and welfare of the youth. It is also being discussed how the energy of the youth can be used for



the betterment of the country. This is a better idea. At the conclusion of the conference, resolutions regarding this will certainly be passed, but with this it is also a questionable question whether the implementation of the resolutions passed in the conference will be ensured in a better way. We should also emphasize that the resolutions passed should be implemented in a concrete manner. If the proposals are not implemented well, then it is a matter of concern.

According to the information provided by the Vidhan Sabha, Gautam started his speech by paying homage to the famous Kamakhya Peeth (Mother Kamakhya Devi Temple) which is situated in the hilly area of Guwahati. Gautam will also be in Guwahati on Tuesday.



A vendor sells lemons which turn dearer in Bhopal on Monday. The prices of lemons skyrocket to Rs 200 per Kg due to short supply and heavy demand during the ongoing summer season. Pioneer photo

Tomar meets Railway Minister Vaishnav

STAFF REPORTER ■ BHOPAL

Energy Minister Pradyuman Singh Tomar called on Union Railway Minister Ashwini Vaishnav and Civil Aviation Minister Jyotiraditya Scindia in New Delhi. He urged Vaishnav to provide at least 12.5 rakes per day for the supply of coal for thermal power plants operating in Madhya Pradesh. Scindia also requested the Railway Minister to take necessary

action in this regard.

Energy Minister Tomar said that the thermal power plants in the state have a generation capacity of 4570 MW. For these 26 days coal storage requirement is fixed. He told the Union Railway Minister Vaishnav that sufficient coal is available with the coal companies, but due to shortage of railway rakes for transportation, adequate lifting is not being done.

For transportation of coal in Madhya Pradesh,

12.5 rakes are required per day, whereas at present only 8.6 rakes are available. Due to shortage of rakes, 15 thousand 600 metric tonnes less coal is being received per day. Tomar has urged that it is necessary to ensure availability of coal for uninterrupted quality power supply in the state. He said that if sufficient coal is available, it will be easier to provide electricity to the farmers as per their demand in the upcoming Kharif season.

Aware last consumer of end about energy conservation

STAFF REPORTER ■ BHOPAL

Governor Mangubhai Patel has said that the consumers who are at the end in the link should be made aware about energy conservation. Public awareness activities should be conducted for them. He called upon the children to make their family members aware of small discretion for saving fuel.

Patel was addressing the Conservation Capacity Festival, Saksham 2022 at Model School TT Nagar. He flagged off the publicity vehicle. Released balloons in the sky. On this occasion, a street play presented the measures to be adopted for saving petroleum products and the adoption of green clean energy by the government and the

message of the Azadi ka Mahotsav.

General Manager GAIL PN Rai and Deputy General Manager BPCL Atul Bele were also present.

The Governor said that it is natural to have problems due to consuming more than the production. It is wise to use as much as is produced. Therefore, economy in the use of petroleum products is necessary to reduce their import. Big savings can be made by stopping small misuses that happen in every household. He said that the development of coming tomorrow rests on the right use and conservation of energy.

Petroleum products directly affect the economy. Therefore, proper use of various energy options is necessary

for economic reasons as well as in controlling the challenges of climate change like global warming. The visionary Prime Minister Narendra Modi has made five commitments through Panchamrut to pass on the legacy of a pleasant, protected environment to our future generations.

To increase the country's non-fossil energy capacity from 150 gigawatt to 500 gigawatt by 2030, meet 50 percent of energy demand from renewable energy, reducing the carbon intensity of the economy to less than 45 percent, while meeting 50 percent of energy demand from renewable energy, reducing total projected carbon emissions by one billion tones, the work of public awakening should be done with hard work

by connecting with the group of consumers to meet the goal of Net Zero by 2070 because only hard work gives results. The Governor was presented with a memento. He inaugurated the programme by lighting the lamp.

The Executive Director of Indian Oil Corporation Limited, Madhya Pradesh, Deepak Kumar Basu informed that the Conservation Capacity Festival is being organised in various sectors like agriculture, industrial areas, schools, homes and transport etc. He said that India is at the forefront of efforts to control carbon emissions. It is the first country in the world to go directly from B.S.-4 to B.S.-6. He said that efforts are being made for self-reliance through the net-

work of compressed gas and compressed biogas in all the districts.

New opportunities for entrepreneurship and employment will be created in rural and urban areas. Saksham Mahotsav is being celebrated to promote clean and green energy. General Manager Sharad Kumar Barnwal informed that annual expenditure of Rs 412 thousand crore is made on petroleum products in the country. Energy conservation efforts are necessary in view of the continuous increase in demand as compared to production. He said that during the festival, public awareness efforts would be made through pad yatras, cycle, CNG rally, LPG activities, farmers fair and industrial activities.



Governor Mangubhai Patel lights a ceremonial lamp to inaugurate a campaign 'SAKSHAM-2022' for fuel conservation of the Petroleum Conservation Research Association (PCRA) at Government Model higher secondary school in Bhopal. Pioneer photo



BJP Mahila Morcha State President Maya Naroliya and BJP State Vice President Seema Singh light lamp to inaugurate Mahila Morcha State body meeting at BJP State headquarters in Bhopal on Monday. Pioneer photo

CM pays tribute to Mahatma Phule

STAFF REPORTER ■ BHOPAL

Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan paid homage to Mahatma Jyotiba Phule, the pioneer of social equality, women's education and founder of Satyashodhak Samaj, on his birth anniversary.

Chouhan paid floral tributes by garlanding his picture in the auditorium at his residence office. Chouhan has said that by following the path shown by the great social worker Mahatma Jyotiba Phule for untouchability, women's education and farmer's welfare, we are determined to uplift every needy person.

Mahatma Jyotiba Phule was born on April 11, 1827 in Pune. Jyotiba established

'Global Socio Economic Foundation' launched

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

On the launch of the Global Socio Economic Foundation, President MC Gupta (IAS, Rtd.) and former Chief Secretary, Haryana said, "It is a noble endeavour to promote different welfare causes under one roof with the motto of Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam. GSEF will be focusing on promotion of art and culture also sustainable development, green energy, green transportation, eco villages, eco city in sync with concept of circular economy. It will also promote health & wellness : yoga, meditation, sports and games particularly for girls and women along with strengthening governance,

Governor discusses with the officials

STAFF REPORTER ■ BHOPAL

Governor Mangubhai Patel has directed for early implementation of PESA rules for the empowerment of Scheduled Tribes. He said that the draft rules for 89 notified scheduled tribe development blocks of the state should be finalized promptly.

All the procedures related to making of rules should be completed by fixing the time limit. Governor Patel was discussing with the officials of Panchayat and Rural Development Department at Raj Bhavan on Monday. The Governor was informed about the proposed Madhya Pradesh Panchayat Provisions Extension to Scheduled Areas Rules 2022. Principal Secretary to Governor D.P. Ahuja was also present.

Principal Secretary Panchayat and Rural Development Umakant Umrao told Governor Mangubhai Patel through a power point presentation that provisions related to 12 departments have been made under the proposed rule. He said that the work of making rules has been done on a large and comprehensive level.

Severe heat conditions prevail in Madhya Pradesh, Gohad record 45.4 degree C

STAFF REPORTER ■ BHOPAL

Severe heat conditions with intense heat wave prevailed in the state, intense heat and humid conditions are witnessed for past two weeks and still unbearable weather conditions are likely in next week.

Gohad in Bhind recorded 45.4 degree celsius which was followed by Anuppur recording 44.7 degree celsius, Vidisha recorded 44.1 degree celsius.

Severe heatwave conditions were observed in Bhind while heatwave conditions were witnessed in Vidisha, Shivpuri, Ashoknagar, Gwalior, Guna, Damoh, Sagar, Chhatrapur, Katni, Chhindwara, Shahdol and Anuppur districts.

The highest maximum temperature in Madhya Pradesh today is Bhind, Anuppur, Khajuraho, Vidisha, Shivpuri and Ashoknagar while the highest night temperature in

Rioters of Khargone will not be spared, stringent action will be taken against them: Chief Minister

STAFF REPORTER ■ BHOPAL

Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan and Home Minister Narottam Mishra condemned the communal clashes that broke out in Khargone district during a Ram Navami procession. CM Shivraj Singh said that the rioters have been identified and strict action would be taken against them.

While talking to the media on Monday, the CM said, "An unfortunate incident has occurred in Khargone but the rioters will not be spared. Stringent action will be taken as there is no place for rioters on MP's soil and they are meant to be in jail. The rioters have been identified. Those who have pelted stones will be punished but along with it they will be made to pay for the losses to both public and private properties."

Chouhan further pointed out that a Prevention of Damage to Public and Private Property and Recovery of Damages Bill has been passed by the government and a claims tribunal is being formed. "All rioters will be punished and all damages after assessment will be recovered from them," he added.

Meanwhile, Home

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Meanwhile, Home



Minister Narottam Mishra said that the situation is under control at Khargone. All rioters are being identified and 77 have been arrested so far.

Home Minister Mishra further informed that the Superintendent of Police was in the leg and six more cops were also injured during the violence.

Mishra, sending out a

warning to the rioters, said: "Jis ghar se pathar aae hai. Us ghar ko hi patharon kaa dher banaenge (the house where the stones have come from will be turned into a pile of stones itself)." He also said that similar clashes were reported in the adjoining Sindhwa block of neighbouring Barwani district, but the situation is under control.

The Collector said the Talab Chowk clash led to clashes in Qazipura and other parts of the city and several vehicles were torched. Close to 60 km away from Khargone city, similar clashes and stone pelting took place in communally sensitive Sedhwa block of adjoining Barwani district.

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Balaghat, Shivpuri, Jabalpur, Raisen, Neemuch and Bhopal.

In these 14 days, there has been a heat wave 4 times, but not a single warm night happened, which means that the night temperature could not exceed 4.5 degrees above normal for a single day providing relief in the nights and early mornign hours.

It is very rare when the temperature in the first 10 days of April has been continuously 40 degrees or

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Vishwas Sarang inaugurates Knowledge Exchange Program

STAFF REPORTER ■ BHOPAL

Medical Education Minister Vishwas Kailash Sarang launched the Medical Knowledge Exchange Programme from the Gandhi Medical College Auditorium. He also released the brochure. Minister Sarang announced that the auditorium of GMC would be made air-conditioned. Re-creation centers will be set up in all medical colleges for the convenience of the students.

Sarang said that the emergency department of Hamidia would be made number one. Sarang addressed the doctors and students of all government and private medical colleges online through the programme.

The Minister said that through the Knowledge Exchange Programme, the intellectual potential of each other will be exchanged. He said that just as wealth grows by accumulation, in the same way knowledge increases by sharing. Medical education is an important department. A doctor is a living God, he is ordained to serve the suffering humanity.

Sarang said that every doctor will have to take a pledge for social service. Work not for yourself, not for the family, but for building the society. He said that value based education is must. The youth of the country is ready to become Swami Vivekananda, but for this they need a guru like Ramakrishna

Paramhansa.

The Minister said that the state government is continuously making efforts to make better arrangement in medical education. By making new innovations, better facilities are being made available to the students and teachers. Work is being done in the direction of student welfare. The student insurance plan is an example of this. There is a continuously increasing number of seats in the medical field. New courses are being introduced. MBBS education in Hindi has been started. Hindi books of 3 subjects will come in the month of April. It will be a parallel arrangement.

Sarang said that research and development is the need of the day. For this knowledge sharing is being started. Through this, MoU is also being signed with specialist doctors including the institute, who will share the knowledge through their disciplines. He appealed to the young doctors to connect more and more through MPGov and knowledge sharing portal. He said that digital technology is the need of today's.

Sarang said that machine learning is a big science. In this, new research can be done through data analysis. About 3D printing he said it produces what we dream of. He said that Madhya Pradesh would be the first state to start Medical Incubation Centre. This center will be started with IIT Indore.



Youth Congress activists stage a unique protest against the alleged corruption in the Profession Examination Board (PEB) in Bhopal on Monday. Pioneer photo

Urban Development Minister Singh congratulates four winning cities of the Eat Smart City Challenge

STAFF REPORTER ■ BHOPAL

Urban Development and Housing Minister Bhupendra Singh has congratulated the winning cities of Madhya Pradesh-Sagar, Jabalpur, Indore and Ujjain in the Eat Smart Cities Challenge competition.

He said that these cities, which have met stringent standards of cleanliness and quality, have achieved this success



through their tireless efforts. With this success, the name of Atal Park of Sagar has got

recognised all over the country.

A total of 104 cities from across the country participated in the Eat Smart Cities Challenge competition. Out of this, only 11 cities from different states were declared winners. Maximum 4 cities of Madhya Pradesh have increased the stature of Madhya Pradesh in the entire country by winning the Eat Smart Cities Challenge competition. Thus Madhya Pradesh

stands first in the country in the Eat Smart City Challenge.

Minister Bhupendra Singh has informed that in the Eat Smart Cities competition organised by Food Safety Standards Authority of India and Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs, the winning city will get prize money of 50 lakhs. In addition, these cities will also have the opportunity to participate in Birmingham England in July 2022.

Kamor-Bichhe collected from 2008 of Santhal community exhibited



STAFF REPORTER ■ BHOPAL

The tribal communities have a tradition of decorating and ornamenting their bodies which is a part of their distinct identity and style.

In some communities it signifies seniority, special status, individual wealth, and possessions. Ornaments are made for every part of the body from toe to hair. The present object is such an ornament used to decorate the waist. It is a waist ornament locally known as "Kamor-Bichhe".

It is used by the Santhal ladies. It is made of seven white metallic chains attached with the help of five clips to keep them together in position.

Both the ends of this ornament are attached through a small hinge. This locking hinge has three bunches of chain like pendent. It is worn by the women during festivals and celebrations along with finest cloths and other ornaments to decorate themselves.

Under the latest and popular online series of Indira Gandhi Rashtriya Manav Sangrahalaya entitled 'Exhibit of the Week' the "Kamor-Bichhe" (Waist Ornament of Santhal ladies) collected from 2008. The Community of Santhal, Birbhum, West Bengal, displayed in the audience as the second Exhibit of the month of April, 2022 through official website, Facebook, Instagram and twitter page of the IGRMS.

In this regard Praveen Kumar Mishra, Director, IGRMS said that Traditionally jewellery holds a special place in Indian culture and Bengal is no exception.

In West Bengal, the filigree work on gold and silver jewellery is extremely delicate, while usage of brass, copper and even zinc alloy is prevalent among the tribal communities.

Scientists test 'Helina' missile

Flight trials for the anti-tank guided missile were conducted from an ALH and the missile was fired successfully engaging a simulated tank target

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

Giving a boost to firepower, scientists on Monday successfully test fired anti-tank guided missile 'Helina' from the Dhruv indigenously developed

helicopter at high altitude ranges.

The flight-test was jointly conducted by the teams of scientists of Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO), Indian Army and Indian Air Force, as part of the user validation trials, officials said here.

The flight trials were conducted from an Advanced Light Helicopter (ALH) and the missile was fired successfully engaging a simulated tank target. The missile is guided by an Infrared Imaging Seeker (IR) operating in the Lock on Before Launch mode. It is one of the most advanced Anti-Tank weapons in the world.

The fire and forget missile

has a range of more than six kilometers and can hit a target in all kinds of weather thereby giving the field commanders the edge in the battlefield.

In continuation to validation trials conducted at Pokhran, proof of efficacy at high altitudes paves the way for its integration on the ALH. The trials were witnessed by senior Army commanders and senior scientists of DRDO.

The Defence Research and Development Laboratory (DRDL), Hyderabad has developed the missile. Successful user trials of the missile have been conducted since 2018.

Helina can engage targets both in direct hit mode as well

as top attack mode. In the top attack mode, the missile is required to climb sharply after launch and travel at a certain altitude and then plunge on the top of the target. In the direct hit mode, the missile travels at a lower altitude, directly striking the target.

The anti-tank guided missile systems are now covered under the import ban list. The list has more than 300 items.

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh congratulated the DRDO and the Indian Army for the maiden achievement through joint work. Chief of DRDO G Satheesh Reddy congratulated the teams for the commendable job performed in difficult conditions.

Cong convenes meet to plan 'Chintan Shivir'

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Congress has convened a meeting of its general secretaries and in-charges on Tuesday to work out the modalities for the Chintan Shivir, which could either be held in Rajasthan or Chhattisgarh.

The senior leaders of the party will meet the general secretaries for the coordination of the much talked about conclave likely later this month to decide the future course of the grand old party which has been failing to prove in successive elections since the 2014 general elections.

After the party's drubbing in the recent assembly elections in five states, top Congress leaders will soon meet at a 'Chintan Shivir' to deliberate on measures

for reviving the organisation at the grassroots level and address fresh challenges.

Both, the Rajasthan Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot and his Chhattisgarh counterpart Bhupesh Baghel have offered to host the conclave in their respective states. AICC sources said the party leadership may finally settle for Jaipur because of its proximity to Delhi.

During the last meeting of the Congress Working Committee, when the party leadership faced fresh demands for organisational overhaul in the wake of defeat in five states, it was decided that the party will hold another CWC meet after the Parliament session and finalise details of the Chintan Shivir.

The CWC had said that the recent results in assembly elections are a "cause of serious concern" for the party.

The brainstorming session at conclave will chalk out a strategy for course correction to reverse the trend of electoral defeats as the party is now in power in only two states of Rajasthan and Chhattisgarh and is part of the ruling coalition in Maharashtra and Jharkhand.

The continuous tussle between the old guard and the younger generation has also taken a toll and the issue is likely to be discussed.

Several leaders have suggested immediate corrective measures to revamp and re-strengthen the organisation at all levels. Congress chief Sonia Gandhi also held several meet-

ings with party leaders in the past few days, including those of the G23 who have been critical of the leadership and have demanded organisational overhaul.

The Congress' nationwide membership drive that started on November 1st, 2021, ended on March 31, 2022, but the leadership decided to continue the enrolment of fresh members till April 15 without disturbing the schedule of organisational elections.

The conclave will look forward way for the organisational polls to have a new party president between August 21 and September 20 this year and thereafter, elections to the CWC would be held by October at the All India Congress Committee Plenary session.

Govt must file official replies to court first, not to media: CJI

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ GUWAHATI

Expressing displeasure, Chief Justice of India NV Ramana on Monday remarked that official replies should be filed and submitted before the Court first before it is sent to media houses and journalists. The Bench was hearing a batch of

CJI Ramana was a journalist himself before practising law, and had earlier remarked that there were very few investigative reports being done by the Indian media now

petitions seeking lifting of the ban on mining and export of iron ore in Karnataka.

"Please submit the reply in court first and then in media. My PRO tells me this reply appeared in a media yesterday itself," CJI told Additional Solicitor General (ASG) KM Nataraj on a reply from the Union Ministry of Steel. "It shall not happen from our end," the ASG replied.

CJI Ramana was a journalist himself before practicing law, and had earlier remarked that there are very few investigative reports done by the Indian media at present.

"As a person whose first job was of a journalist, I am taking the liberty to share a few thoughts on present day media. The concept of investigative journalism is unfortunately vanishing from the media canvas. It is true at least in the Indian context," he said earlier.

BJP terms Rahul Gandhi a 'Chunavi Hindu'

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Describing former Congress president Rahul Gandhi a "chunavi Hindu", the BJP on Monday accused him of questioning the existence of Lord Ram and alleged that "petty politics" of the Congress leader and Maharashtra Chief Minister Uddhav Thackeray and their "inciting" remarks have played a role in the recent violence in several states during Ram Navami processions.

The BJP attack came after communal clashes broke out in Himmattnagar and Khambhat cities of Gujarat during Ram Navami processions, leaving one person dead, and also violence in the JNU campus over alleged serving of non-vegetarian food on the festival.

On Monday, Rahul urged all Indians to stand together to secure a just and inclusive India, saying hate and violence are weakening the country. The Congress leader also spoke about his conversation with a Dalit youth who had tried to commit suicide after violence against Dalits in Una in Gujarat. Citing the conversation, he reportedly said, "If

BJP's attack came after communal clashes broke out in Himmattnagar and Khambhat cities of Gujarat during Ram Navami processions

my sister had been assaulted I would have stabbed and killed her tormentor before dying," he added.

Speaking to newsmen, BJP's national spokesperson Sambit Patra described Rahul a "chunavi Hindu" and alleged that he pretends to be a Hindu. The BJP leader thereafter went on asking if Rahul does not believe in reincarnation, then how can he believe in Ram.

Patra said the purported conversation of Rahul (with dalit) showed that the Congress leader has faith neither in the Constitution nor in the judiciary, he said.

On violence in a number of states during Ram Navami processions, he said it is natural that such incidents will happen when senior leaders like Rahul and Thackeray make remarks linked to their "appeasement"

politics.

On Rahul claiming that he had no interest in power despite being born in its midst, the BJP spokesperson said these remarks are aimed at "provoking" people and "questioning" Ram's existence underline his desperation.

The "family" can go to any extent to get power, he alleged. "The way some leaders are questioning the existence of Lord Ram and are inciting people... This should not have happened. Rahul Gandhi seems to be unable to tolerate that people in India have faith in Lord Ram. This shows the character of the Congress," he said.

On Rahul being termed as "janu-dhari Hindu", Patra said that by "attacking" Ram's existence, the Congress leader had shown himself to be someone who pretends to be a Hindu for electoral benefits.

Patra also condemned Thackeray for his jibe at the BJP that what issue the ruling party would have raised if Lord Ram was not born. Opposition leaders can find thousands of reasons to attack the BJP but this is "petty politics", he said.

BJP forms three teams for Karnataka polls

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The BJP, which faces a tough challenge from the Congress-JDS combine in next year's Assembly elections in Karnataka, has constituted three teams to assess ground situation in its only southern bastion. The teams will be headed by BJP General Secretary and state-in-charge Arun Singh, Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai and the State president Nalin Kumar Kateel. They will start their "tours from Tuesday itself", sources said. The three teams would travel to different parts of Karnataka to gauge public mood and receive their feedback.

Among the states which would go to polls next year, Karnataka is key to BJP's strategy to increase its political footprints in the other Southern States.

The BJP had earlier replaced veteran and elderly Lingayat leader BS Yeddyurappa to make way for a relatively younger Bommai to reboot the State organization and to minimize the factional fighting among various leaders who were earlier vying with each other to claim the top post.

ED grills Kharge in AJL money laundering probe

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Enforcement Directorate (ED) on Monday examined senior Congress leader and Leader of Opposition in the Rajya Sabha, Mallikarjun Kharge here in connection with a money laundering probe against the Associated Journals Limited (AJL), publisher of the National Herald newspaper.

Kharge, 79, was summoned to appear before the ED here for deposition in the AJL/National Herald case. He arrived at the ED headquarters early in the day and deposed in the money laundering case, officials said, adding, his statement was recorded under the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA).

Kharge is an office-bearer of Young Indian and AJL and his questioning was necessary in the ongoing money laundering probe, they said.

The ED has been probing AJL and the role of various Congress leaders under PMLA since 2016 after registering a case under the anti-money laundering law on the basis of a CBI FIR.

The agency had alleged that the accused in this case, that includes former Haryana Chief Minister and Congress leader Bhupinder Singh Hooda and

late Congress leader Motilal Vora, "used the proceeds of crime" in the form of a land plot allotted "illegally" to AJL in Panchkula and pledged it to avail loan from a Syndicate Bank branch (Bahadur Shah Zafar Marg) in Delhi for constructing a building in Mumbai's Bandra area.

This property, valued at Rs 16.38 crore, was attached by the ED in 2020.

On Sunday, Kharge said all Opposition parties should unite against the BJP to relieve people of its "oppression".

BJP MP Subramanian Swamy, in a private criminal complaint filed before a trial court here, had accused Congress chief Sonia Gandhi, her MP son Rahul Gandhi and others of conspiring to cheat and misappropriate funds by paying only Rs 50 lakh, through which Young Indian Pvt Ltd (YI) obtained the right to recover Rs 90.25 crore that Associate Journals Ltd owed to the Congress.

The Delhi High Court in February last year had issued a notice to the Gandhis for their response on the plea of Swamy.

However, Gandhis contended in the Delhi High Court that the plea by Swamy was "misconceived and premature".

PUBLIC NOTICE
This is to inform public in general that Kotak Mahindra bank Ltd has organized an auction in below mention respect of Vehicles.

VEHICLES FOR SALE

- 1) FORCE TTFBP FORCE UP16C75742- YOM 2017
MINIMUM RESERVE PRICE 420314
- 2) FORCE TTFBP FORCE UP16GT7962- YOM 2020
MINIMUM RESERVE PRICE 750066
- 3) FORCE TTFBP FORCE UP16DT1585- YOM 2015
MINIMUM RESERVE PRICE 324724
- 4) FORCETTFFB FORCE DL1VC2104 -YOM 2019
MINIMUM RESERVE PRICE 257401
- 5) FORCETTFFB DL1VC2247- YOM 2015
MINIMUM RESERVE PRICE 214502
- 6) FORCETTFFB HR58B7576- YOM 2015
MINIMUM RESERVE PRICE 312559
- 7) CB MAHINDRA FURIO 11 FULLY BUILT-UP14HT8805 YOM 2019
MINIMUM RESERVE PRICE 800805
- 8) EICHER 10.95 UP14GT3720- YOM 2017
MINIMUM RESERVE PRICE 366461
- 9) FORCETTFFB UP17AT0240- YOM 2016
MINIMUM RESERVE PRICE 607601
- 10) CB_SML SARTAJ UP15DT7330- YOM 2018
MINIMUM RESERVE PRICE 442546
- 11) BOL_MT BS4 MAH HR55AF4338- YOM 2019
MINIMUM RESERVE PRICE 364585
- 12) PRO 2110 EICHR VECV HR38AB3917- YOM 2021
MINIMUM RESERVE PRICE 1058585
- 13) TATA MOTOR LPT 2518 UK17CA2506- YOM 2012
MINIMUM RESERVE PRICE 167300
- 14) TLPT1109FB UP14HT7369- YOM 2019
MINIMUM RESERVE PRICE 667472
- 15) TATAMOTORSLPT709CHP DL1LAC5022- YOM 2019
MINIMUM RESERVE PRICE 488750
- 16) EICHR_VECVVE1110FB UP81CT5745- YOM 2019
MINIMUM RESERVE PRICE 910637
- 17) BOLERO MUV UP14JT5634- YOM 2020
MINIMUM RESERVE PRICE 308675
- 18) SM_SAMRAT UP14JT0863- YOM 2019
MINIMUM RESERVE PRICE 660929

UNDER HYPOTHECATION WITH M/S KOTAK MAHINDRA BANK IS UNDER SALE IN ITS "AS IS WHERE IS CONDITION" INTERESTED PARTIES CAN GIVE THEIR QUOTATIONS (ONLINE/OFFLINE) WITHIN 15 DAYS FROM THIS PAPER PUBLICATION I.E. ON OR BEFORE 26.04.2022 (PLEASE NOTE THAT CLOSING AUCTION DATE WOULD NOT BE A WEEKLY OFF / HOLIDAY).
BRANCH ADDRESS: KOTAK MAHINDRA BANK LTD., PLOT NO.7 INSTITUTIONAL AREA, SECTOR-125 NOIDA NEAR DELL CAMPUS NOIDA (U.P) UP-201313 OR CONTACT : ABHINAV LAL KOTAK MAHINDRA BANK LTD. CONTACT / 7798988481 EMAIL- abhinav.lal@kotak.com

PUBLIC NOTICE
This is to inform general public that Smt. Roop Wati Devi has acquired the Property Bearing No. 1/1649/44 area measuring 60 Sq. yds. out of Khaska No. 190 Situated in the area of Village- Chandrawali Alias Shahdara, Delhi- 110032 on POA basis vide Notarized GPA, ATS & Will dated 13.11.2001, executed by Smt. Maya Devi, and Now, Smt. Roop Wati Devi is intending to sell the above said property to Mr. Bhim Singh vide Sale Deed. Further Mr. Bhim Singh is mortgaging the above said property with Fullerton India Home Finance Co. Ltd. & in case anyone has any objection, the same may be raised within 07 days of this publication to Mr. Muneesh Dhawan/ Mr. Sudhir Jain (Advocates), Law Veritas, Unit no 907, 9th Floor, GD-ITL Tower, (B-08), Netaji Subhash Place, Delhi-110034 or contact at: 9066707172/ 9818228636 (M).

PUBLIC NOTICE
To be known to all that I, Pratima Sood W/o Ashok Sood Cort. 9888370344, Email: soodnitin76@gmail.com, R/o. Flat No. M-31, Vikas CGHS Ltd, Pitam Pura, Delhi, has applied conversion of aforesaid property from lease hold to free hold in DDA. Original Share Certificate of Flat No. M-31, Vikas CGHS Ltd, Pitam Pura, Delhi, issued by DDA, of aforesaid property have been lost. An F.I.R to this effect has been lodged in police station on dated 08/04/2022. Any persons claiming any right, having any objection or found in possession of original document may write/contact with above named person at above address within 15 days from the date of publication of this notice & can personally contact: Deputy Director (GH) C-Block, 2nd Floor, Vikas Sadan, INA, New Delhi.

PUBLIC NOTICE
Known to all that my client Ravinder Bhat is mortgaging Plot No-4 Khaska No-3489 Min. Naven Kuri, Paragana Toni, Ghaziabad UP with New Habitat Fin. Dev. Ltd. Ravinder Bhat has lost original sale deed executed by Sh. Parkishan Das, Rampreet Das, Sh. Jagdish Das and Sh. Kushehar Das in favour of Aparna Jaina, registered with SR-V, Ghaziabad, registered vide doc. no. 12883 dt. 27.06.2008. Police complaint was lodged with Delhi Police dt. 11.04.2022. It is informed that any deal with said lost deeds by any person except my said client with said institution regarding said property, shall be deemed as null and void. If any person found said deeds or is having right in said property then he may contact and handover the same and apprise his claim to undersigned and within 15 days of this notice, no. 760, Dwarka Court Sector-10, Dwarka New Delhi-75. Ch. No. 760, Dwarka Court Sector-10, Dwarka New Delhi-75. Tel:- 98999013918

NORTHERN RAILWAY
Invitation of tender through E-Tendering (E-Procurement Systems)
N.I.T.No. 03-22-23-WE
Name of work with its location (a) Repair & up gradation of EDP Centre at Baroda House, New Delhi in the s/o SSE/WIBH under ADE/UE-III
Approx cost of work (a) Rs. 54,32,275.29
EMD amount (a) Rs. 1,08,700.00
Completion period of work (a) 05 Months
Date and Time for submission of tender and opening of tender Closing date of tender on 06.05.2022 at 1500 hrs.
Website particular notice board location complete details of tender can be seen and address of the office from where the tender form can be purchased etc. Above tender available on website i.e. www.reps.gov.in
128-W/269/OET/NIT No.03-22-23-WE Dated: 11.04.2022 805/2022

SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE

NORTHERN RAILWAY
E-TENDER NOTICE No. ELS_SRE_T-26 dtd. 09.04.2022
Open tender through E-tendering are invited by Sr. Divisional Electrical Engineer (TRS, Electric Loco Shed, Khanalpura Yard, Northern Railway, Saharanpur (Ambala Division) for and on behalf of the President of India from the registered tenderer on web site www.reps.gov.in for the following work upto 11:00 hrs on the date of closing shown against the work and will be opened thereafter:-
Open Tender No. ELS_SRE_T-26
Name of work Routine overhauling of complete Hitachi Traction Motor (Type HS 13250A) of conventional Electric Locomotives for a period of one year.
Date of Closing/Opening 02.05.2022
Approx. Cost Rs. 45,73,638.00/-
Earnest Money Rs. 91,500/-
Completion period 01 Year
Validity period 45 days
Cost of tender form "Free of Cost"
1. Tenderer(s) should have Class-III Digital Signature Certificate to participate in E-Tendering of Works Tenders.
2. Tenderer(s) are required to upload self-attested scanned copies of all related eligibility documents as per conditions.
3. Taxes & Charges will be applicable as per extant rule.
4. For details, please log on IREPS website www.reps.gov.in 804/2022

SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE

Pollution causes 1 lakh premature deaths in cities: Study

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

Citing how rapid degradation in air quality is taking a toll on human lives, a study has said that exposure to air pollution has been linked to 100,000 excess premature deaths in the Indian cities of Mumbai, Bangalore, Kolkata, Hyderabad, Chennai, Surat, Pune and Ahmedabad between 2005 and 2018.

The international team of scientists which aimed to address data gaps in air quality

researchers found significant annual increases in pollutants directly hazardous to health of up to 14 per cent for nitrogen dioxide (NO2) and up to 8 per cent for fine particles (PM2.5).

The study, published last week in the journal Science Advances, shows rapid degradation in air quality and increases in urban exposure to air pollutants which are hazardous to health. The

researchers found significant annual increases in pollutants directly hazardous to health of up to 14 per cent for nitrogen dioxide (NO2) and up to 8 per cent for fine particles (PM2.5). They also found an increase in the level of up to 12 per cent for ammonia and up to 11 per cent for reactive volatile organic compounds. The team, including researchers from the Harvard University in the US, attributed this rapid degradation in air quality to emerging industries and residential sources like



road traffic, waste burning, and widespread use of charcoal and fuelwood.

"Open burning of biomass for land clearance and agricultural waste disposal has in the past overwhelmingly dominated air pollution in the tropics," said study lead author Karn Vohra from University College London (UCL) in the UK.

"Our analysis suggests we are entering a new era of air pollution in these cities, with some experiencing rates of degradation in a year that

other cities experience in a decade," said Vohra, who completed the study as a Ph.D. Student at the University of Birmingham, UK.

The study found that the increase in the number of people dying prematurely from exposure to air pollution was highest in cities in South Asia.

Dhaka, Bangladesh, saw a total of 24,000 excess premature deaths, while the Indian cities of Mumbai, Bangalore, Kolkata, Hyderabad, Chennai, Surat, Pune and Ahmedabad had 100,000 excess deaths.

Centre launches intelligent traffic software

ODAWS software aims to improve highway infrastructure as number of vehicles and speed on roads has increased, exacerbating safety concerns

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

For a futuristic traffic system across the country, an indigenous Onboard Driver Assistance and Warning System — ODAWS, Bus Signal Priority System and Common Smart IoT Connectiv (CoSMiC) software have been launched under the ambitious Intelligent Transportation System Endeavor for Indian Cities by the Centre.

The joint initiative of the Road Transport and Ministry of Electronics and Information

Technology involves development of sub-modules such as the navigational unit, driver assistance console, and mmWave radar sensor.

The positional and dynamic characteristics of surrounding vehicles are probed using mmWave radar sensors. The navigational sensor provides a precise geo-spatial orientation of the vehicle as well as trends in driving behaviour. The ODAWS algorithm is used to interpret sensor data and offer real-time notifications to the driver, boosting road safety as per MoRTH, in around 84 percent of cases, "driver error" was cited as the cause of the accident.

Common Smart IoT Connectiv (CoSMiC) software were developed as a joint initiative by Centre for Development of Advanced Computing (CDAC) and

Indian Institute of Technology Madras (IIT-M). Mahindra and Mahindra was the industrial collaborator for the project, the Government said in a statement. The Government further said that ODAWS aims to improve the highway infrastructure as the number of vehicles, speed on roads has increased, exacerbating safety concerns.

"The system assumes significance in the context of potential for technology applications for assisting and warning drivers in minimising driving errors," the statement says.

The ODAWS algorithm is used to interpret sensor data and offer real-time notifications to the driver, boosting road safety. The Government said that the "ODAWS incorporates vehicle-borne sensors for monitoring driver propensity

and vehicle surroundings to deliver acoustic and visual alerts for driver assistance".

Further, people opt for personal vehicles due to poor reliability of public transport system. The Ministry said that improving this is essential to attract more travellers to public transport, thus leading to a more sustainable traffic solution. Besides, 'Bus Signal Priority System' will modify normal traffic signal operations to better accommodate in-service public buses. The developed system will minimize person delay by providing priority to public transport buses, either through Green extension or Red truncation, said the government statement.

In addition, Common Smart IoT Connectiv (CoSMiC) will facilitate users and application service providers in various vertical domains to use open interfaces for end-to-end communication with well-defined common service functionalities, the ministry said.

"The horizontal silo architecture ensures interoperability and data exchange between different IOT devices and applications and avoids vendor lock-in," the statement said. The statement further informed that CoSMiC complies with 12 common service functions which are Registration, Discovery, Security, Group Management, Data Management & Repository, Subscription & Notification, Device Management, Application & Service Management, Communication Management, and Delivery Handling, Network Service Exposure, Location, Service Charging etc.

SC won't interfere in probe against Vyapam scam whistle-blower

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The SC on Monday refused to interfere with the probe in the case involving a doctor, a whistle-blower in the Vyapam scam, for his social media post on an alleged question paper leak. The SC gave liberty to Anand Rai, to approach the HC if a chargesheet is being filed in the case of an alleged defamatory post against the Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister's under secretary.



A bilateral meeting between Defence Minister Rajnath Singh and US Secretary of Defence Lloyd Austin underway in Pentagon on Monday. Pioneer photo

KCR gives 24-hour ultimatum to Modi

Govt must meet T farmers' demands on procurement of paddy: CM

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Telangana Chief Minister K Chandrashekar Rao on Monday gave a 24-hour ultimatum to the Modi Government to decide whether it will buy parboiled rice from the State or not, failing which he threatened a fresh round of farmers' protest across the country.

Staging a protest along with his TRS party leaders at Telangana Bhawan here against the Centre's paddy procurement policy, Rao warned Prime Minister Narendra Modi, "Don't play with the sentiments of our farmers, they have power to topple the Government."

"Farmers are not beggars, they have the right to seek minimum support price (MSP) for their produce. Modi Government seems to have underestimated the power of farmers. With folded hands, I urge Modiji and (Piyush) Goyal ji to respond to the State's demand on paddy procurement within 24 hours. After that, we will take a call," Rao said, adding that if the Centre does not respond, he



Telangana CM K. Chandrashekar Rao with BKU spokesperson Rakesh Tikait during a sit-in protest in New Delhi on Monday

to buy parboiled rice in the current rabi season. The Centre is saying that it can procure only raw rice and not the parboiled ones which are not consumed largely in India.

Denying any discrimination with any state for the procurement of paddy, Secretary, Food & Public Distribution Sudhanshu Pandey said, "Last year, we purchased more than half of the country's total procured paddy from Telangana. There has been exponential growth in paddy procurement from Telangana by the central government."

The TRS has intensified the protest and reached Delhi after the Central Government refused Telangana's request

to buy parboiled rice in the current rabi season. The Centre is saying that it can procure only raw rice and not the parboiled ones which are not consumed largely in India. Denying any discrimination with any state for the procurement of paddy, Secretary, Food & Public Distribution Sudhanshu Pandey said, "Last year, we purchased more than half of the country's total procured paddy from Telangana. There has been exponential growth in paddy procurement from Telangana by the central government."

TRAI for 35% cut in prime 5G spectrum reserve price



PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Telecom regulator Trai on Monday recommended a 35 per cent cut in the reserve price for prime 5G spectrum frequencies in 3300-3670 MHz band, at ₹ 317 crore per MHz. Releasing its much-awaited recommendations, Trai said that all available spectrum in the existing bands of 700 MHz, 800 MHz, 900 MHz, 1800 MHz, 2100 MHz, 2300 MHz, 2500 MHz and the new spectrum bands of 600 MHz, 3300-3670 MHz and 24.25-28.5 GHz, will be put to auction.

"To provide flexibility to the telecom service providers, block size of 10 MHz for 3300-3670 MHz band and 50 MHz for 24.25-28.5 GHz band recommended. Spectrum to be assigned in a contiguous manner," Trai said in a statement.

In all, the reserve price across various bands works out to be nearly 39 per cent lower than that suggested last time, sources said. For the prime 5G

frequency of 3300-3670 MHz band, all-India reserve price adds up to Rs 317 crore per MHz, which is over 35 per cent lower than the Rs 492 crore/MHz suggested by Trai last time. The base price for coveted 700 Mhz band works out to be Rs 3,927 crore per Mhz, which is 40 per cent lower than that proposed last time. The Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (Trai) said that for the long-term growth and sustainability of the telecom sector, infusing liquidity and encouraging investment, the telecom service providers should be allowed easy payment options, including part payment with flexibility of moratorium.

The spectrum auctions are slated to be conducted in 2022, to facilitate the rollout of 5G mobile services within 2022-23, by private telecom providers. The next generation 5G will usher in ultra high-speeds and spawn new-age services and business models.

Didi questions veracity of Nadia gang-rape case

SAUGAR SENGUPTA ■ KOLKATA

In what the Opposition parties called "height of insensitivity" Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee on Monday questioned the veracity of a heinous crime as rape a day after the news of the death of a 14-year-old gang-rape victim from Hanskhali block in Nadia district became public.

Lambasting the opposition parties for "finding politics in every small incident" the Chief Minister said "some people have developed a habit of raising a hue and cry over every small incident like they are doing in the case of Nadia where a minor was allegedly gang-raped... but who would say whether she was raped or whether she was pregnant or whether she had been slapped by someone or things like that ..."

"while the incident happened last Monday and the girl died next day why was it reported on Saturday when she had already been cremated ... and why no postmortem was done ... why are these questions raised when all evidences are gone ... is it because you can create theories ... still we have arrested the person named in the FIR."

Banerjee also claimed quoting the police that she had information that the victim had an affair with the accused and "the police cannot do anything if you fall in love because this is not Hathras."

Curiously, the girl was not only not taken to a hospital and no postmortem was done after



her death but also she was cremated without any death certificate.

The Opposition parties immediately hit back recalling how the Chief Minister had made similar insensitive statement after the Park Street rape case when about a decade ago when she called it a state-managed drama and her party colleagues it an affair between a "service provider and her client."

Bengal Pradesh Congress president Adhir Chowdhury immediately hit back wondering why the Chief Minister was defending the rapists. "Is Mamata Banerjee the advocate of the rapists ... is she trying to save them as they are from the TMC ... it has already been proved in Bengal that all crime is linked to TMC and all theft is done in her name ... she is the crown of the thieves and the empress of all the thieves."

The incident took place last Monday in the Shyamnagar locality of Gagna panchayat of Hanskhali block in Nadia district when the girl was invited to a party ... at the house of the accused. She was allegedly drugged and then gang-raped by her tormentors.

Brajgopal who raped the 14-year-old minor along with his friends is the son of Gajna Gram Panchayat member Samar Gowla and was arrested on Sunday evening.

Hours after the rape the victim was dropped at her house with a warning that her house and family members would be burnt alive if a thing was revealed to the police, sources said.

The ordeal would not stop there. After the severely bleeding girl succumbed to her injuries in the wee hours of Tuesday the henchmen of the accused returned and hurriedly cremated her at the nearby funeral ground, her relatives who informed the police as late as on Saturday said.

On why the family did not call up the police or why they would not visit a hospital, locals who raised a hullabaloo after coming to know about the incident, said the perpetrators of the crime had warned them against doing so.

"They told the family that they were free to call a doctor but should not go to a hospital or call the police or else the whole family would be burnt alive ... so the petrified kin refrained from taking to a hospital," said a local adding that they gathered courage to lodge a police complaint after an NGO supported them.

Meanwhile, even as the State witnessed protests at various places more gang-rapes were reported from Kakdwip in South 24 Parganas and Raiganj in North 24 Parganas sources said.

Kerala jolted by four suicides on account of debt trap

KUMAR CHELLAPPAN ■ KOCHI

A day after the conclusion of the 23rd party congress of the CPI(M) at Kannur where the party general secretary Sitaram Yechury described Kerala as far better than any developed economies in Europe, the State was shocked by four suicides, all because of debt trap and the callousness of the official machinery.

Rajeev, a 45 year old farmer at Niranam in Thiruvalla took his own life faced with mounting debts because of three successive crop failures. "He had debts running to Rs six lakh and his efforts to get compensation for the crop loss ended in failure. He had borrowed from the CPI(M)-owned primary cooperative bank and the self help groups. What he got as compensation for crop failure in eight acre farm was a mere Rs 2,000/-," said Rajeev Madhusoodanan Pillai, his

friend and fellow farmer. According to Pillai, there are hundreds of farmers in Niranam, a region known as Kerala's Rice Bowl, who face mounting debt traps on account of crop failure.

Ernakulam woke up to a black Monday as a three-member family was found dead in the morning hours. Police team that rushed to the house suspect it to be a suicide as they got a suicide note left by the head of the family in which it has been stated that they were forced to resort to the extreme measure because of debts. "They have even left the names of persons to whom they owe money and have asked to sell of the house to repay the loans," said a member of the investigating team.

R V Giri, president, Consortium of Indian Farmers Associations, an umbrella organisation of farmers in the country, while expressing shock over the suicide of Rajeev said



that many such suicides have been reported from various places in Kerala, especially in the districts of Idukki, Wynadu and Alappuzha. "The authorities in the State, particularly the district administration, could have solved these cases with compassion," Giri told The Pioneer.

Last week saw a farming family, having lost all their money because of crop failure

getting evicted from their home during night hours by officials of the district cooperative bank in Muvattupuzha as part of discharging the house on charges of unpaid loans.

Mathew Kuzhalnadan, MLA, rushed to the Bank the next day and paid back the amount due to the bank from the family thereby saving the five-member family from a sure case of suicide.

About 8L pilgrims expected at Amarnath yatra

MOHIT KANDHARI ■ JAMMU

The Union Territory administration in Jammu and Kashmir is gearing up to welcome 6 to 8 lakh pilgrims awaiting their turn to perform Amarnath pilgrimage after a gap of two long years.

Due to Covid-19 pandemic the pilgrimage to the cave shrine remained suspended for two consecutive years.

This year the 43 day-long yatra is scheduled to begin from June 30 from both the Pahalgam and Baltal routes.

Meanwhile, the registration for the annual pilgrimage to the cave shrine of Amarnath in south Kashmir commenced across the country on Monday.

In Srinagar, Secretary, Ministry of Information & Broadcasting, Government of India, Apurva Chandra also convened a meeting with senior officials of the Union territory regarding wide publicity to be carried for the upcoming yatra.

During the meeting CEO, Shri Amarnathji Shrine board, Nitishwar Kumar shared an

overview about the preparedness for the yatra. "We are expecting a two fold increase in yatra this year and similarly we have also done two fold preparations to make it successful," he said. He urged the media units to highlight the advisories for the yatrists from time to time and added that Radio Frequency Identification (RFID) tags will be used this year to keep a track of the location of the pilgrims. He also emphasized that misconceptions about the journey being a difficult one also need to be thwarted.

Chief Secretary Arun Kumar also expressed hope that this year's Amarnathji Yatra will be the record high-riding owing to better facilities and seamless journey experience for yatrists.

At present the UT administration is focusing on completing construction work of three Yatri Niwas to provide better boarding and lodging facilities to pilgrims on their way to the Holy cave.

These include Chandarkote Yatri Niwas com-

ing up at District Ramban, which would provide accommodation to around 3200 yatrists, besides Jammu Yatri Niwas and Srinagar Yatri Niwas with capacity of accommodation of 3000 and 2250 yatrists, respectively.

The Yatri Niwas at Chandernore in Ramban district is nearing completion. A hefty amount of over 32 crores was spent on readying the facility near 900 MW Baglihar hydel power project along the Jammu-Srinagar National Highway. The yatri niwas complex at Jammu is getting a major facelift ahead of the yatra. The complex caters to basic needs of pilgrims starting from basic screening, boarding, lodging, refreshment, and transport facilities. Meanwhile, work is going on the new yatri niwas near Pantha chowk in Srinagar.

The Yatri Niwas at Ramban consists of 17 blocks and in each block 216 pilgrims can be accommodated in six dormitories. The Yatri Niwas is also equipped with 500 commodes and 250 wash points. The pro-

ject will also help in facilitating people travelling on Jammu-Srinagar National Highway in case of traffic breakdowns.

Besides organising accommodation facilities at these transit locations the shrine board is also gearing up in a big way to augment health care facilities for the pilgrims along the yatra routes. Work has been initiated on the ground to upgrade slippery yatra tracks and clear snow accumulated at high altitude points. The board is also working out a plan to ensure better telecommunication facilities, Heli Services, and hassle free functioning of SASB App.

Around 60 companies of paramilitary forces needed to protect the pilgrims. The UT administration is most likely to demand at least 60 companies of paramilitary to ensure incident free conduct of the yatra in a safe and secure environment. At least two companies of women and services of sniffer dogs are also requisitioned to carry out routine security drills of detecting explosives and IED's along the yatra route.

Arms, drug haul: ED attaches ₹3.59 cr assets of 4 Lankan nationals

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Enforcement Directorate (ED) has provisionally attached properties worth Rs 3.59 crore including six landed properties 12 vehicles, cash and bank deposits belonging to four accused in a money laundering case related to seizure of drugs and arms from Sri Lankan nationals in a boat of that country. This apart, the ED has also arrested two accused persons on money laundering charges for allegedly operating 'unions' on "PP Poker Online Gaming App" and placing illegal bets and gambling on the same platform.

On March 18, 2021, the Indian Coast Guard intercepted one Sri Lankan fishing boat named 'Ravihans' near Minicoy Island, Lakshadweep within the territorial waters of India.

On rummaging the boat, it was found that the boat was carrying a huge quantity of contraband articles (300.323 kilograms Heroin) along with five assault rifles and one thousand ammunition of 9 mm calibre. Subsequently NIA, Kochi took over the investigation and registered an FIR and filed a charge sheet against Sri Lankan nationals and others. The properties of Suresh Raj A. Satkunam alias Sabeshan,

Ramesh A and Soundararajan alias Sounder have been attached under Prevention of Money Laundering Act.

The ED initiated a money laundering investigation on the basis of FIR registered by the NIA. The probe also revealed that the sale proceeds of the said drugs was intended to be used for purchasing the next consignment of drugs and also for revival of proscribed terrorist organization LTTE, the ED said in a statement.

Investigation further revealed that Suresh and Satkunam were involved in similar crime earlier with the active support of Ramesh and Soundarajan.

Through these activities, the accused allegedly siphoned huge money through secret networks, causing loss to the Government exchequer.

Meanwhile, Hardeep Singh and Ankur alias Rahul Khanna, the accused in the drugs and arms case, were produced before the Special Court, PMLA, Mapusa and the court granted 8-day ED custody.

Investigation by ED revealed that Singh and Khanna, are operating two-three Unions namely, Checkraise, Mini-India and Russian Poker on PP Poker Online Gaming App.

Our democracy guide for other nations: Birla

PNS ■ GUWAHATI

Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla Monday said that the primary responsibility of the legislature is to fulfill the hopes and aspirations of the people and therefore, it is important that laws should be made after thorough debate and discussions incorporating the needs of the aspirational sections of the society. He was inaugurating the eighth Commonwealth Parliamentary Association (India Region) Conference at Assam Legislative Assembly in Guwahati. Calling for active participation of the youth and women in democratic processes, Birla said that democratic institutions, from Panchayat to Parliament, should keep the youth and women at the centre of policy making. This will ensure greater accountability of the Executive. The Speaker said that Indian democracy is a guide for other democratic countries. He added that Commonwealth Parliamentary Association (CPA) is working for strengthening democratic institutions in the world and bringing positive changes in people's lives. Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma, Deputy Chairman, Rajya Sabha Hariwansh; Speaker of Assam Legislative Assembly Biswajit Daimary; CPA Acting Chairperson Ian Liddell-Grainger also spoke on the occasion.

SSC recruitment scam: Top officials implicated

PNS ■ KOLKATA

With the news of yet another big scam — this time involving the State education department — unfolding a judicial inquiry team created by the Calcutta High Court on Monday reported "massive irregularities" in the appointment procedure of school-level Group D staff and stopped short of implicating the then State Education Minister and Trinamool Congress general secretary Partho Chatterjee.

Opining that an advisory committee formed by Partho Chatterjee — to advice the School Service Commission an

autonomous authority responsible for recruitments — was itself an illegal act the commission has named five top officials including the chairman of the said advisory committee SP Sinha and a top officer of the West Bengal Board of Secondary Education to be proceeded against as per the Indian Penal Code.

The judicial committee led by a retired High Court judge was set up by the Calcutta High Court to probe into the matter. A CBI investigation was already going on in the case.

More than 600 people were illegally employed in Group D posts by-passing the candidates whose names had figured in the

designated panel that had been created after the SSC conducted an eligibility test.

A Secretary and a Joint Secretary level officer and of course the Minister could also be in trouble if the criminal proceedings were to be allowed to reach its logical end a member of the committee said adding that "the whole system of appointment is ultra vires the law ... one wonders what could have been the interests in making such appointments."

A parallel investigation was being conducted by the CBI in the recruitment procedures of secondary teachers also conducted by the SSC.

Azam Khan's supporters target Akhilesh

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

Close on the heels of CSamajwadi Party MP Shafiqur Rahman Burq accusing his party of not working for the cause of Muslims, supporters of Mohammad Azam Khan, the Muslim face of the party, have accused SP chief Akhilesh Yadav of ignoring the Rampur MLA.

They also accused Akhilesh Yadav of occupying the post of Leader of Opposition instead of choosing Azam Khan, a ten-term MLA, for the coveted post.

Akhilesh Yadav, who won from Karhal in Mainpuri in his maiden assembly election, was appointed leader of opposition in the Uttar Pradesh assembly in March after he was unanimously elected leader of the SP

Legislature Party. "Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath's comment was right that Akhilesh Yadav does not want Azam Khan to be out of jail. Azam Khan was instrumental in making Mulayam Singh Yadav chief minister of UP three times and also Akhilesh Yadav. What has Azam Khan got in return after his over four decade long association with the SP?" said Fasahat Khan while addressing a meeting at Rampur on Sunday night.

Fasahat Ali is close aide and media incharge of Azam Khan in Rampur.

Accusing Akhilesh Yadav of ditching Azam Khan in his hour of crisis, Fasahat said, "Azam Khan is in jail for over two years but Akhilesh Yadav visited him in jail only once."



He alleged that the Yogi Adityanath government had unleashed a reign of terror against Azam Khan, his wife and son as all were sent to jail, but Akhilesh Yadav did not utter a word against the UP chief minister in last two years over this issue.

"Moreover, Akhilesh Yadav specifically ignored Abdullah Azam, son of Azam Khan during the assembly elections," Fasahat Khan alleged. He claimed the SP would

have got a clear majority in UP assembly had Akhilesh Yadav trusted and deployed Abdullah Azam as a star campaigner of the party.

"Samajwadi Party wants Muslims to vote for it en block and also work as party cadre and do all kinds of jobs during the elections. When the Muslims are unfairly targeted by the police and they are framed in false cases and sent to jail, then Akhilesh Yadav maintains a conspicuous silence," Fasahat Khan alleged.

Fasahat claimed that one the direction of Azam Khan, the Muslims not only in Rampur but also in several districts, voted for the SP, but Akhilesh Yadav was hesitant in fighting for the cause of the Muslims when they were in trouble.

1 Pak mercenary among two terrorists killed in Kulgam encounter



PNS ■ JAMMU

A self styled Pakistani commander and a 'hybrid' terrorist were killed by the joint team of security forces in Khurbatpora area of Kulgam on Monday evening.

According to police, "an encounter was launched in Khurbatpora area of South Kashmir district of Kulgam on Monday evening in which one Pakistani terrorist code name 'Chacha' and one hybrid terrorist has been killed. Two police personnel have also received injuries during the encounter, police said. Till the time of filing the report the encounter was still going on in the area.

So far 49 terrorists have been eliminated in the anti-terrorist operations since January 1, 2022.

Two foreign terrorists belonging to Lashkar-e-Toiba (LeT) were killed in an encounter with security forces at Bishembar Nagar area of Srinagar on Sunday. They were involved in the recent attack on the Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) in Maisuma area of Srinagar.

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PAPER WITH PASSION

Left alone?

Faced with a shrinking footprint, the Left Front is trying to reinvent itself

Is it the beginning of the last hurrah for the famous symbol of Soviet-Chinese communism in India? The reference is to the All India Forward Bloc — a constituent of India's Left Front — deciding to remove the hammer and sickle from its party flag. The party founded by Subhas Chandra Bose inserted the communist symbol in the flag in 1948. Till then, it was a red flag with the image of a leaping tiger. Its National Council admitted that people noticed the symbol and mistook it for a communist party rather than a socialist party. The propaganda may have blocked the Bloc's growth as an independent socialist party, the Council felt. The decision is a silent acknowledgement of a growing realization within the Left that the basic character of the Indian working class has changed, thanks to technology and personal aspirations of the capitalist kind. The Bloc's decision is perhaps the inevitable result of the Left's introspection as it licks the political wound of its near-decimation electorally in 2019. The Left Front, which won 59 seats in 2004, was reduced to 12 in 2014 and just five in 2019. It was wiped out from West Bengal and Tripura for the first time. It barely managed to survive in Kerala. With a vote share of barely seven per cent, it is no surprise that the Left Front is talking about course-correction. The dismal performance in 2019 led CPI general secretary Sudhakar Reddy to call for a merger of the two biggest Left parties — the CPM and CPI. The Front faces marginalisation and reunification is the alternative, he said.



The merger idea was first voiced in 1986, but there is an edge of desperation to it now. Two Front constituents, Forward Bloc and Revolutionary Socialist Party, are already part of the Congress-led UDF in Kerala. The CPM, which resists the merger idea, is jettisoning communism, at least in Kerala where Nava Keralam, the new doctrine of Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan, talks about wooing investors and private capital and disciplining trade unions. So, where did the Left go wrong? Was it the loyalty to the Soviet Union or China that it could not convince the Indian masses about? Was it the lack of a meeting point between the imported communist doctrine and the Indian socio-cultural reality? Did it get caught between a classless utopia and caste-influenced realism? Some say the Left united people by raising fundamental issues but failed to convince them about its ideological position. Now, it is distanced from imported communism and faces an uproariously nationalist right-wing onslaught. The Left has its relevance but has to reinvent itself — not as a doctrinal platform — as one to lead the lower class aspirations against the vagaries of caste, patriarchy, social inequalities and the cold capitalist order. A practical Left is in the making already, if the inclusion of a Dalit in the CPM politburo for the first time ever is anything to go by.

PICTALK



Demonstrators dressed as 'Planet Medics' carry an inflatable earth in Hyde Park, London

PTI

The glue

The CPM must take Congress along for stitching together a strong Oppn alliance

Teachers of yore used to recite a mantra from the Taaittiriya Upanishad to their disciples: *Satyam Vada, Dharmam Chara; Swaadhyayan Ma Pramaad* (Speak the truth, abide by dharma and never be idle in your studies). Those who followed this verse in letter and spirit led a good, happy life. It seems the CPM, which recently held at Kannur its 23rd Party Congress, the triennial all-India congregation of party members, is yet to imbibe this advice. There is no need to search for an answer to the party's stagnation. The CPM, which ruled three States at one stage, is now confined only to Kerala. Even its Kerala success can be attributed to the absence of a strong Congress leadership in the State. The political resolution introduced and discussed threadbare at the party congress is proof of its failure to make inroads into India's hinterland. The party commissars have failed to identify the root cause of the CPM's rot. While they lament about the growth and consolidation of "Hindutva Fascist forces" in the country, the leadership is clueless about means of preventing it. Allegations like communal-corporate nexus, imperialism, "legalising political corruption" and "imposing full-fledged authoritarianism" have lost their sheen.

It is time the comrades approached the people with a concrete action plan to defeat the "communal" elements. While the party welcomes an alliance featuring Left, secular, democratic and socialist forces to take on the "communal" party, it is silent on the role of the Congress in such an arrangement. No political force in India is capable of taking the BJP by the horns without the help of the 'grand old party'. If the CPM is sincere in its efforts to defeat the BJP, it should forge an alliance under the leadership of the Congress. The INC is the only political party in the country which has not aligned even once with the so-called Hindutva forces. The Congress might have lost a few polls since 2014 but that is no proof of the party's weakness. If there is one political entity in the country with a pan-India presence, it is only the Congress. The CPM, which has declared that it would "go to any extent" and "shake hands with even the devil" to forge an alliance against the BJP, should judge the ground reality well before venturing out to fight the "communal" BJP.

Stalin's TN is in a league of its own?

Going by his arbitrary demands list to the Centre, it seems that MK Stalin doesn't consider Tamil Nadu to be part of the Indian Union



KUMAR CHELLAPPAN

Tamil Nadu Chief Minister MK Stalin was in New Delhi last week for shopping, making friends and influencing people. Fresh after holidaying in petro-rich West Asian countries, Stalin carried a shopping list in the form of a memorandum to the Prime Minister. The Thalpathi (Tamil for Commander) wanted the Centre to provide essential commodities and life-saving drugs to Sri Lankan Tamils, who have been severely hit by an economic crisis. He also wanted the Modi administration to ensure political and civil rights to Eelam Tamils.

The retrieval of Katchatheev islet, which was handed over to Sri Lanka by former Prime Minister Indira Gandhi, also figures in the memorandum. The islet's transfer saw the international maritime boundary between the countries undergo a change. The treaty had stipulated that Indian fishermen could use Katchatheev to take rest and dry their fishing nets. But Tamil Nadu fishermen started misusing the islet by fishing (bottom trawling) which made the Sri Lankan fishers furious.

Stalin's demand that the Centre provide free medical and food aid to Tamils in north and northeast Sri Lanka brought back memories of Operation Poomalai (Flower Garland in Tamil). On June 4, 1987, a fleet of the IAF's AN-31 military transport aircraft airdropped food and medicines in the Jaffna peninsula, much to the anguish of Sri Lanka. Tormented by terrorism unleashed by the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE), Sri Lanka's defence forces had laid siege to Jaffna peninsula, the stronghold of LTTE. Colombo had declared a total blockade over Jaffna to flush out the terrorists. Then Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi ordered Operation Poomalai to mark India's solidarity with the island nation's Tamil population. The Sri Lankan Government accused India of violating its sovereignty. The incident exposed India's links with LTTE, which was out to disintegrate the island nation. The relations between New Delhi and Colombo plunged to an abyss and old mutual trust is yet to be



restored. Is the Tamil Nadu leader on a mission to make the Centre undertake another misadventure?

When the LTTE took control of Elephant Pass, the narrow route that links mainland Sri Lanka to Jaffna, the Indian Government didn't do anything to help Colombo. A Sri Lankan presidential aide had told this reporter that at all critical moments, it was either Pakistan or China that offered military hardware free of cost to the island nation.

The DMK's dream project of a separate Dravidian Nation incorporating Tamil Nadu, the north and northeast of Sri Lanka is still on agenda. If more southern States join the DMK, it would make Stalin happy. Though the Katchatheev islet was ceded to Sri Lanka in 1976, neither the DMK nor M Karunanidhi, the party's president till he breathed his last in 2017, spoke against it. It was Jayalalithaa who approached the Supreme Court in 2011 to challenge the Centre's decision and, not to be left behind, Karunanidhi too filed a petition. Mukul Rohatgi, then attorney general of India, told then Chief Justice RM Lodha on August 26, 2014, that Katchatheev could be retrieved from Sri Lanka only by waging a war! The Indian Coast Guard is on record telling the Madras High Court

that there was no instance of Tamil Nadu fishermen getting arrested by Sri Lankan Navy from the Indian side of the maritime boundary.

These two instances prove the fallacy of the DMK's politics over Sri Lanka issues. Members of the Sri Lankan defence forces are not allowed in Indian defence establishments in Tamil Nadu. Cadets and officers from Sri Lankan Army, Navy or Air Force are not welcome in elite establishments like Officers Training Academy, Chennai, Flight Instructors Training Institute at Tambaram and the Defence Services Staff College, Wellington. The brotherhood among the uniformed fraternity has taken a beating because of the policies being pursued by regional forces like DMK and AIADMK. "The forces-to-forces ties are a must for mutual security and safety," said Captain Hariharan Balakrishnan of the Indian Navy.

The DMK's insistence that the Union Government should go ahead with the construction of the Sethusamudram Shipping Channel through Palk Bay itself was enmeshed in mysteries. Only ships with 25,000 Dead Weight Tonnage could sail through this narrow channel once it is built but such ships have become museum pieces as shippers are interest-

ed only in super carriers with 1.5 lakh tonne DWT or more. Ships with 25,000 DWT could be used only for gun-running and drug trafficking, according to veteran mariners.

Yet another demand by Stalin was for doing away with the National Eligibility Cum Entrance Test (NEET) for admission to undergraduate and postgraduate courses in medical and dental colleges in Tamil Nadu. The NEET was introduced by the Supreme Court's Constitution Bench following the decision of the UPA Government in which the DMK was the second largest constituent. Nobody has bothered to ask Stalin what is so unique about Tamil Nadu that the State be excluded from the ambit of NEET?

Is the DMK trying to convert Tamil Nadu into a Kashmir of South? It has asked the Prime Minister not to accord approval for Karnataka's proposal to build the Mekedatu dam deep inside that State across the Cauvery. Tamil Nadu also wants the Centre to not heed Kerala's wish to build a new dam in place of the 126-year-old Mullaperiyar Dam. If the existing dam bursts, 35 lakh people across five southern districts of Kerala would perish.

(The writer is a senior journalist with The Pioneer. The views expressed are personal.)



THE ESTABLISHED POLICY OF BROTHERHOOD AMONG THE UNIFORMED FRATERNITY HAS TAKEN A BEATING BECAUSE OF THE POLICIES BEING PURSUED BY REGIONAL FORCES LIKE THE DMK AND AIADMK

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

A GLORIOUS CHAPTER FOR US JUDICIARY

Sir — With the elevation of Justice Ketanji Brown Jackson as the first black woman justice of the Supreme Court, the US has added a significant chapter. It is touted to be a bold and positive step not only towards realising the country's ideals but also diversifying the court. She will be sworn in when Justice Stephan G Breyer retires this summer. By nominating her, President Joe Biden has fulfilled his vow to bring in a black woman at the helm. At a time when the US is beset by racial bias, lack of diversity and under-representation in courts, it marks a significant departure from established norms.

There have been only two black judges in the Supreme Court so far. Jackson also becomes only the sixth woman to become a Supreme Court judge, making it the most gender inclusive Bench in the top court's history. Her nomination has come at a critical time, when contentious issues such as gun rights, affirmative action, gender, religion, climate change issues and abortion issues are at stake. Her presence can bring a fresh perspective as there is every likelihood that she will evaluate the cases through the prism of a black woman.

Vijay Singh Adhikari | Nainital

URGENT NEED TO CHECK AIR POLLUTION

Sir — Air pollution is becoming a serious global issue. Among various kinds of health hazards, one we rarely consider is our exposure to particulate matter in the air we breathe. The most hazardous particulate matter, or PM, is the result of combustion from burning wood, coal, gasoline and other fossil fuels. These small particles that make dust motes are present even when we look out and see clear blue skies. And, for people around the world, such as in India and China, they are even more common, from traffic, industrial air pollution and cooking fires.

There is emerging evidence that PM also affects neurological functions, such

CPM must have a wider reach



The CPM has given a third term to Sitarum Yechury as general secretary. It has taken pride in inducing a Dalit in Ram Chandra Dome of West Bengal to the Politburo for the first time. It took 58 years for a dalit to find a place in the Politburo. Now the CPM seems to have realised the significance of dalit votes. The prominent States where CPM had its pres-

ence were West Bengal, Tripura and Kerala. The CPM in West Bengal lost ground to the TMC and in Tripura to BJP. The lone State now under CPM is Kerala. The party needs to rise above its one-point agenda of defeating BJP.

Before chalking out its plan of defeating the BJP, the CPM needs to regain ground in West Bengal and Tripura and overcome its existential threat first. It needs to spread out to other States if it has to emerge as a force to reckon with. The Congress dug its own grave by opposing Hindutva earlier. Now it is trading soft Hindutva to wean away the Hindu votes from the BJP. In a democracy, the numerical majority matters. The communists have been consistently opposing the US-India relationship but are silent on Chinese hostility towards India. The voters are not unwise to ignore the attitude of any party when it comes to national interest.

KV Seetharamaiah | Bengaluru

as autism and Alzheimer's disease, especially among children. In fact, a detailed study on air pollution made by *The Lancet* journal a couple of years ago reveals that air pollution is potentially damaging the health of children across the world. As the world experiences a steady rise in climate-driven migration, children's lives and their future will be the most disrupted. Unless the world acts forcefully to stem air pollution now, the danger is bound to escalate.

OUR YOUTH MUST PRACTICE YOGA

Sir — Today's youth face constant pressure to excel in studies, getting a job, managing relationships and dealing with other problems. Armed with yoga and meditation, youth say that sailing through turbulent times is as easy as sitting calmly for 20 minutes. Yoga is an ancient art that connects the mind and the body. It is an exercise that we perform by balancing the elements of our

bodies. In addition, it helps us meditate and relax. Moreover, yoga helps us keep control of our body and mind. It is a great channel for releasing stress and anxiety.

Yoga has gained popularity and is now spread across the world. It unites people in harmony and peace. In short, yoga has several benefits. Everyone must practice it to maintain good health as it is the secret to living a healthy and long life without using any artificial means like medicine or any other shortcut. A necessary fallout of addictions and sedentary lifestyle is the loss of good health. Regular practice of yoga techniques, along with the intake of healthy food, can help restore people's health. Yoga can aid in alleviating illnesses as it helps increase immunity.

CK Subramaniam | Navi Mumbai

Send your feedback to: letterstopioneer@gmail.com

SOUNDBITE

Corona may have taken a pause, but we never know when it will resurface.

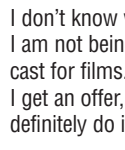


Prime Minister — Narendra Modi



It's (federal elections) a choice between a strong future and an uncertain one.

Australia Prime Minister — Scott Morrison



I don't know why I am not being cast for films. If I get an offer, I'll definitely do it.

Actor — Sudha Chandran



The car was incredible today. What a race and what a pace!

Australian Grand Prix winner — Charles Leclerc



Since BJP is bereft of issues, it's talking about religion and (spreading) hatred.

Maharashtra CM — Uddhav Thackeray

FIRST COLUMN

CAUSES OF SRI LANKAN ECONOMIC CRISIS

The island nation needs an export-oriented approach for revival



RAVI KUMAR GUPTA SARTHAK KANSAL

Sri Lanka is facing its worst economic crisis since its independence. It is in dire need of foreign exchange reserves to repay the past debt and import essential goods. There is a state of chaos with power cuts extending upto 12 hours, a shortage of essentials in hospitals, a lack of paper to conduct school examinations, and no fuel at gas stations. From 1983 to 2009 the 25 years of civil war in Sri Lanka caused a massive impact on its foreign exchange reserve. The war was predicted to have cost \$00 billion which is nearly five times as much as the Sri Lankan GDP (2009). The shortage of foreign exchange reserves in the country is due to the short-sightedness of the ruling Government. Sri Lanka has a huge public debt of about 110 per cent of its GDP. The Sri Lankan rupee has gone to a record low value against the US dollar. This is due to large tax cuts



by the government, which affected government revenues and fiscal policies. To cover the deficit in the budget the government started to print more money, which further increased its inflation rate from 15.1 per cent to 18.7 per cent. Sri Lankan rupee was 299.95 vs US dollar on April 5, 2022. Experts conclude that the country's higher imports of essential goods (sugar, pulses, cereals, and pharmaceuticals) are one of the reasons for the falling foreign exchange reserve. In 2019 the then newly-formed government promised to revive the growth of the Sri Lankan economy and reduce Value Added Tax (VAT) on the ground that a lesser tax rate would attract more consumer expenditure which would pay the incurred deficit to them. But the pandemic disturbed the cycle of increasing consumption expenditure and led to a failure of tax cuts in VAT.

This caused a severe reduction in government revenue. In April 2021, in order to revive the falling foreign exchange reserve, President Gotabaya Rajapaksa announced a complete shift to organic farming banning all chemical and inorganic fertilizers. A part of the nation's economy is spent on importing chemical fertilizers. Instead, it caused a negative effect on the economy, causing huge economic losses. The decision to shift organic farming in the coming decade was a good idea but the overnight shift impacted negatively. Transforming the production of tea and other agricultural products to organic farming led to lower yields that resulted in a loss of \$425 million. Sri Lanka which was self-sufficient in rice production ended up importing rice within six months. Tea was a major item of export which contributed 16.57 per cent of total export income, but no longer. Negative effects on the economy, continuous protests and rising food prices made the government reverse its decision in November 2021. The Easter Sunday bombings in 2019 and the Covid pandemic led to a downturn in tourism that accounts for 12.9 per cent of GDP. The sector did not show any signs of recovery till November 2021, when the government removed the quarantine measures for vaccinated visitors. The war between Russia and Ukraine further accelerated the weakening economy as 25 per cent of the tourists come from Russia and Ukraine. Sri Lanka is also facing a labour shortage. In 2018, Malik Fernando, head of the industry body of the Tourism Skills Committee said the country needs 100,000 more tourism sector employees within the next three years. At present, Sri Lanka has \$2.3 billion foreign reserves. This is insufficient to pay foreign debt obligations of \$7 billion and the International Sovereign Bond (ISB) payment of \$1 billion for 2022. The World Bank, however, hopes the economy will revive although there will be many challenges.

(Gupta is Assistant Professor, Department of Humanities and Management Science, and Kansal is in the Computer Science First year, Madan Mohan Malaviya University of Technology, Gorakhpur. The views expressed are personal.)

GST: Should States' compensation stay?



UTTAM GUPTA

The worst phase of pandemic over, GST collections are expected to touch record highs and both the Centre and States can expect to perform better

Less than three months from now June 30, 2022 will be an important milestone under the national Goods and Services Tax (GST) regime that was launched on July 1, 2017.

In the follow-up to The Constitution (One Hundred and First Amendment) Act, 2016, that introduced the GST, the Union Government had also introduced The GST Compensation Act, 2017. It provides for compensation to the States for five years (2017-18 to 2021-22) for the loss of revenue to be calculated as the difference between their actual collection (including transfer of their share in indirect tax collected by the Centre) and the amount they would have got with annual growth at 14 per cent over the 2015-16 level under the erstwhile dispensation (Central Excise Duty (CED)/service tax/sales tax/Value Added Tax (VAT) plus other local taxes).

To discharge this obligation, the Centre also passed an amendment to the GST Compensation Act (2018) to levy a cess on the so-called demerit goods (those which fall in the highest tax slab of 28 per cent - other slabs being five per cent, 12 per cent and 18 per cent besides the exempt category) such as automobiles, tobacco, drinks and so on with a proviso to use the proceeds for compensating States. The cess was to remain in force for a period of five years in sync with the commitment to compensate States for that period.

The rationale behind keeping these arrangements in place for five years was that at the end of this transition, i.e., June 30, 2022, the GST dispensation would have acquired the much-needed "vitality" and "resilience" to yield sufficient resources for the States to meet their budgetary requirements within a prudential limit set under the Fiscal Responsibility and Budget Management Act (FRBM) thereby obviating the need for any extra support beyond this deadline.

Even as this deadline is few months away, States have been pestering the Central Government to continue the compensation for five years (earlier they had made a similar request to the 15th Finance Commission). The grounds on which their demand is based are: (i) they continue to face shortfall in tax revenue and (ii) COVID - pandemic has severely impacted their revenue - both their own tax collection as well as transfer from the Centre - pushing them behind the curve.

At the outset, let us get a sense of the quantum of shortfall in tax revenue experienced by the States during these five years and the extent to which collections in the cess plugged it. During July 2017-March 2018, the shortfall was ₹41,150 crore. Against this, the cess collection was ₹62,600 crore leaving a surplus of ₹21,450 crore in the pool. During FY 2018-19, the shortfall was Rs 69,000 crore but the cess collection was higher at ₹95,000 crore leaving a surplus of ₹26,000 crore.



THE ABERRATION OF 2021-22 SHOULD NOT BE ALLOWED TO OBLITERATE THE VIEW OF THE GOVERNMENT/GST COUNCIL IN REGARD TO THE FUTURE. HAVING ALREADY BEEN UNDER THE NEW REGIME FOR FIVE YEARS (ALBEIT WITH SUPPORT) AND TAX COLLECTIONS UNDER GST IMPROVING AND THE ECONOMY EXPECTED TO GAIN MOMENTUM, THERE IS NO JUSTIFICATION TO CONTINUE WITH THE COMPENSATION

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



At the beginning of FY 2019-20 thus, there was a surplus of about ₹47,500 crore (21,450+26,000) in the cess pool. During 2019-20, the shortfall was ₹165,000 crore against which the cess proceeds were ₹95,000 crore. This resulted in a deficit of ₹70,000 crore. Even after using surplus from the previous two years, the unmet deficit carried forward to the next year was ₹22,500 crore.

During FY 2020-21, the shortfall in tax revenue zoomed to ₹300,000 crore; courtesy, the devastating effect of Covid pandemic on economic activity and resultant dip in tax collection of both the States and the centre. Against this, cess proceeds were only ₹65,000 crore (a plunge of almost 40 per cent over the previous year), leading to an unmet deficit of ₹235,000 crore. To make up for this gap as also the unmet deficit of 2019-20, the Centre, in consultation with Reserve Bank of India (RBI) set up a special window for borrowings at "low" rate of interest and transfer the funds to states as back-to-back loans. Under this window, ₹270,000 crore was borrowed, ₹110,000 crore during 2020-21 and ₹160,000 crore during 2021-22.

Meanwhile, during FY 2021-22, the States' shortfall in tax revenue is estimated to be about Rs 150,000 crore. Against this, the cess collection till February, 2022 was ₹90,000 crore; for the whole year, it won't exceed ₹100,000 crore. The resultant unmet deficit of ₹50,000 crore will also have to be plugged by borrowings under

the 'special window' for transfer to the States. This takes the total borrowings to ₹320,000 crore which could increase further to accommodate any mismatch during April - June, 2022.

In view of above, even though as per the extant law, the compensation arrangement has to end on June 30, 2022, it will have to continue if only to service this loan. In turn, this requires that the cess on demerit products will have to continue till such time all loan-related liabilities are fully extinguished. This will require further amendment to the GST Compensation Act (2018) to provide for levy of the cess for the extended period.

While, this part has been agreed upon (in fact, this is 'built into' the arrangement for borrowings under the 'special window'), the States want that compensation should continue for another five years to 'make up for the shortfall in tax revenue that they would face during this period, i.e., upto June 30, 2027'. This is an abhorrent proposition.

The reason d'être behind giving the States a buffer (read: compensation) over a fairly long period of 5 years was to ensure that they get adjusted to the new dispensation and are in a position to garner enough revenue thereby obviating the need for any further support. If, even at the end of this transition, they need crutches and that too for another five years, it points towards something fundamentally wrong with the way they have worked through.

The pandemic argument does

not cut ice as 2021-22 being almost free from the COVID (thanks to a mammoth vaccination covering almost all age-groups) has been exceptionally well in terms of GST collections which are expected to touch a record ₹1500,000 crore. From hereon, both the Centre and the States should look forward to better the performance; hence no need for support.

But, even during 2021-22, the States faced shortfall of ₹150,000 crore which the Centre is compensating. This is baffling. It may have to do with the formula for determining the shortfall. Under it, the target revenue (TR) is arrived at by applying annual growth at 14 per cent over the 2015-16 level of tax revenue under the erstwhile dispensation. TR gets unduly inflated due to (i) the base itself being high (that regime was characterized by high tax rate); (ii) compounding effect of the percentage growth which is maximum in the fifth year (for instance, @14 per cent, ₹100 will become ₹193).

The aberration of 2021-22 should not be allowed to obliterate the view of the Union government/GST Council in regard to the future. Put simply, having already been under the new regime for five years (albeit with support) and tax collections under GST - both by the Centre and States - improving and the economy expected to gain momentum in the coming years, there is no justification to continue with the compensation.

Instead, the GST Council should now focus on measures to make tax collection more 'robust' and 'buoyant'.

POINT COUNTERPOINT

A MAN FACING CORRUPTION CASES ...FOR HIM TO BE THE PM, THERE CANNOT BE A BIGGER INSULT TO THE COUNTRY. — PAKISTAN TEHREEK-E-INSAF LEADER IMRAN KHAN



I RECALL HOW OUR PARTY LEADERS WERE HOUNDED, STIGMATISED & PUT BEHIND BARS.... THIS ALLIANCE WILL REBUILD PAKISTAN. — PAKISTAN PRIME MINISTER SHEHBAZ SHARIF

Gene-edited plants for food sustainability

Introduction of high-value crops produced through genetic modification helps augment our agricultural chain

The Union Government has allowed genome-edited plants for regulation with the exemption of Site-Directed Nuclease (SDN) 1 and 2 genomes with no foreign DNA. This gives an exemption to genome-edited plants falling under SDN1 and SDN2 categories from the Rules, 1989. These rules relate to manufacture, use, import, export and storage of hazardous micro-organisms, genetically engineered organisms or cells. The genome-edited plants would be now treated as any other plants developed through conventional breeding approaches.

Plant breeding has been a process of trial and error for many years, producing new varieties by mating between parent plants or by self-pollination. This method is based on iden-



BIJU DHARMAPALAN

(The writer is a science communicator and columnist. The views expressed are personal.)

tifying the desired trait of a plant (for example, higher resistance to a particular disease) and mating it with another plant. This allows the desired trait to appear in the offspring. However, many unwanted traits are also transmitted, so some more breeding cycles need to be replaced with the desired traits. This form of breeding can take years, but this is a very long time given the need to address issues related to climate change and food security quickly. New ways are needed to speed up the process and achieve greater accuracy and efficiency. Several new breeding technologies (NBT) have already been developed, including Site-Directed Nuclease (SDN) technology.

SDN is superior to traditional breeding techniques because it is faster and more targeted.



This allows plant breeders to address some of the significant obstacles in plant genomics. The plant genome is diverse in size, ploidy level, heterozygous, and contains highly repetitive genomic regions. In addition, the traits of many plants are determined by multiple genes, making access to some regions of the genome extremely difficult, which poses a significant challenge for plant breeders and scientists. Many important crops are polyploid. They contain a set of two or more pairs of chromosomes from the same (i.e., self-polyploid) or related (i.e.,

allopolyploid) species. In allopolyploid plants, multiple homoeologs (pairs of genes produced by speciation and recombined by allopolyploidization within the same genome) independently contribute to the phenotype. Induced random mutagenesis performed by irradiation or treatment with chemicals to create random mutations produces only plants with a single mutation in one or another homoeolog. It is doubtful that a double mutation will occur in a particular region of the genome. Time-consuming mating and backcrossing procedures require combining different mutations into one genotype. SDN can target multiple gene copies or gene variants (such as alleles) simultaneously. This is especially useful for polyploids. SDNs can also be specially

designed to target specific nucleases to individual alleles. Site-Directed Nuclease techniques are of three types, SDN-1, SDN-2 and SDN-3. Out of these SDN-1 and 2 don't contain any trace of foreign DNA. However, in SDN-3 foreign DNA may be present. To alter market-oriented traits, site-specific nucleases (SDNs) are increasing rapidly. SDN has expanded the potential for researchers and breeders worldwide to alter the genome of a target organism in very difficult or impossible ways achievable with traditional breeding techniques. Conventional breeding relies primarily on the crossing and selecting offspring with the desired characteristics, sometimes combined with induced non-targeted mutations. Genome editing research

activities are constantly expanding around the world, and more and more plants with market-oriented characteristics are being developed. Companies have already released the first genome-edited crops to the market. Since September 2021, the Sicilian Rouge tomatoes, which are genetically edited to contain high amounts of gamma-aminobutyric acid (GABA), have been sold directly to Japanese consumers by Tokyo-based Sanatech Seed. The company claims oral intake of GABA can help support lower blood pressure and promote relaxation.

With the approval of genome-edited plants, India joins the very few world countries that have brought legislation for Gene-Edited crops. The new order that envisages gene-edited plants par with the conventionally bred

plants will boost the morale of our scientific community, who have developed many genetic modifications in plants at the lab-scale using the CRISPR/Cas technique. But they could not bring them to the public sphere due to the rules that forbid the cultivation of genetically modified plants. We need to find ways to feed the future generation in the changing global scenario. With urbanization going on in every nook and corner of the country, the arable land area is dwindling at a faster pace. In such a scenario feeding the population will be a challenging task. Conventional breeding programmes and agricultural practices may be insufficient. Food security for the next century can be achieved only if we incorporate new molecular breeding techniques.

Russia hits Ukraine's air defences ahead of eastern push



AP ■ KYIV

Russia said on Monday that it destroyed air defense systems in Ukraine over the weekend, in what appeared to be a renewed push to gain air superiority and take out weapons Kyiv has described as crucial ahead of a broad new offensive in the east. Moscow's initial invasion stalled on several fronts as it met with stiff resistance from Ukrainian forces, who prevented the Russians from taking the capital and other cities. The failure to win full control of Ukraine's skies has hampered Moscow's ability to provide air cover for troops on the ground, limiting their advances and likely exposing them to greater losses. Russian Defense Ministry spokesman Maj. Gen. Igor Konashenkov said the military used cruise missiles to destroy four S-300 air defense missile launchers on the southern outskirts of the central city of Dnipro. He said about 25 Ukrainian troops were also hit

by Sunday's strike. Konashenkov said Ukraine had received the air defense systems from a European country that he didn't name. Last week, Slovakia said it handed over Soviet-designed S-300s to Ukraine - but Slovakia said it had no evidence that its system was hit. With their advance in many parts of the country thwarted, Russian forces have relied increasingly on bombarding cities. The war has flattened many urban areas, killed thousands of people and left Russia politically and economically isolated. Ukrainian authorities accuse Russian forces of committing war crimes against civilians, including a massacre outside Kyiv, airstrikes on hospitals and a missile attack that killed at least 57 people at a train station. Now, Russia is regrouping for a renewed push in the eastern Donbas region, where Moscow-backed separatists have been battling Ukrainian forces since 2014 and have declared independent states. Both sides

are digging in for what could be a devastating war of attrition. Russia has appointed a seasoned general to lead the effort, according to U.S. Officials, though they do not see one man making a difference. Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy is meanwhile pleading for more Western aid, saying his forces need heavier firepower to resist the coming onslaught and push Russian forces back. Echoing his remarks in an AP interview, Zelenskyy said Sunday that the coming week could be crucial, with Western support to his country - or the lack thereof - proving decisive. "To be honest, whether we will be able to (survive) depends on this," Zelenskyy said in a "60 Minutes" interview. "Unfortunately, I don't have the confidence that we will be receiving everything we need," Zelenskyy said he was grateful to U.S. President Joe Biden and other Western leaders for military aid to date but said he had "long ago" forwarded a list of specific items Ukraine desperately needs.

Zelenskyy asks S Korea to provide arms to fight Russia

AP ■ SEOUL

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy urged South Korea on Monday to provide his country with arms to help it fight Russia's military. Zelenskyy made the request in a video address to South Korean lawmakers that came hours after Seoul's Defense Ministry confirmed it had rejected a Ukrainian request for anti-aircraft weapons during a call between the countries' defense ministers last week. The ministry cited the South Korean government's principle of limiting its military help to Ukraine to non-lethal supplies. "The Republic of Korea has

tanks, ships and various equipment that can block Russian missiles and we would be grateful if the Republic of Korea could help us fight back against Russia," Zelenskyy said, using South Korea's formal name. "If Ukraine is able to receive such weapons, it will not only help us save the lives of our ordinary citizens but also provide Ukraine an opportunity to survive as a nation, and also help prevent other countries from being attacked by Russia," said Zelenskyy, whose comments were dubbed over by a translator during the televised speech. Joining U.S.-led international sanctions against Moscow, South Korea has already banned the export of



strategic materials to Russia and ended transactions with key Russian banks and sovereign wealth funds. Zelenskyy thanked South Korea for those efforts but said sanctions alone haven't been enough to meaningfully stop the Russian aggression. "Russia doesn't care how many people die," he said. Zelenskyy highlighted

Russia's takeover of Mariupol, where he said at least tens of thousands of citizens were likely killed. He briefly stopped his speech to play a graphic video showing buildings hit by rockets, Russian tanks firing as they rolled through destroyed streets and people waiting over dead relatives at overwhelmed hospitals. He said Ukrainian forces haven't been able to enter Mariupol since the start of March and that Russian forces have cut off humanitarian shipments. "This war is far from over," Zelenskyy said. "Russia is aiming to end Ukraine's independence and separate the country. It is trying to eliminate the culture and language of the Ukrainian nation."

Pak court dismisses treason plea against Imran, others as inadmissible

PTI ■ ISLAMABAD

Top Pakistani court here on Monday dismissed a petition to register a treason case against former prime minister Imran Khan and various ministers, saying it was inadmissible. Chief Justice Athar Minallah of the Islamabad High Court delivered a reserved verdict during which he also fined the petitioner Maulvi Iqbal Haider Rs100,000, the Express Tribune newspaper reported. Request to put the names of ex-premier and other former ministers on the no-fly list was also rejected by the court



along with the plea to probe the diplomatic dispatch which alleges 'foreign conspiracy to oust Imran Khan's government'. The court dismissed the petition on Monday, seeking to register a treason case against former prime minister Khan and various ministers, as inadmissible, the report added. Earlier, it was reported that

despite serious concern from the legal wing, former prime minister Khan sent the Foreign Office diplomatic letter to Chief Justice of Pakistan Umar Ata Bandial, claiming that a foreign country sent a threatening message through Pakistan's envoy. Sources told The Express Tribune that there is a possibility that the CJJ may not read the diplomatic letter. It was being reported that a US official had warned that there could have been implications if Khan had survived the opposition's no-confidence motion in the National Assembly.

'Nawaz to return to Pak after Eid'

PTI ■ ISLAMABAD

Deposed Pakistan prime minister Nawaz Sharif is expected to return from London next month after Eid, a senior PML-N leader has said, amid a whirlwind of political developments that have embroiled the country following Imran Khan's ignominious ouster from power. Mian Javed Latif said a decision on PML-N supreme and the three-time prime minister Sharif's anticipated return will be discussed with the coalition partners.

Biden to nominate new ATF director to end ghost gun rule

AP ■ WASHINGTON

President Joe Biden is nominating an Obama-era US attorney to run the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives, as his administration unveils its formal rule to rein in ghost guns, privately made firearms without serial numbers that are increasingly cropping up at crime scenes, it was announced on Monday. The White House in a Monday afternoon event confirmed that Biden is announcing the nomination of Steve Dettlebach, who served as a US attorney in Ohio from 2009 to 2016. The administration is



also releasing the finalised version of its ghost gun rule, which comes as the White House and the Justice Department have been under growing pressure to crack down on gun deaths and violent crime in the US. Dettlebach's confirmation is

likely to be an uphill battle for the Biden administration. Biden had to withdraw the nomination of his first ATF nominee, gun-control advocate David Chipman, after the nomination stalled for months because of opposition from Republicans and some Democrats in the Senate. Both Republican and Democratic administrations have failed to get nominees for the ATF position through the politically fraught process since the director's position was made confirmable in 2006. Since then, only one nominee, former US Attorney B. Todd Jones, has been con-

firmed. Jones made it through the Senate in 2013 but only after a six-month struggle. Jones was acting director when President Barack Obama nominated him in January 2013. The Biden administration's plan was first reported by Politico. For nearly a year, the ghost gun rule has been making its way through the federal regulation process. Gun safety groups and Democrats in Congress have been pushing for the Justice Department to finish the rule for months. It will probably be met with heavy resistance from gun groups and draw litigation in the coming weeks.

Israel troops kill Palestinian in West Bank, fourth in 24 hours

AP ■ JERUSALEM

Israeli forces have shot and killed a Palestinian man near the city of Bethlehem in the occupied West Bank, the Palestinian health ministry said early Monday, the latest in a growing wave of violence that has erupted during the Islamic holy month of Ramadan. The Israeli military said it opened fire at a man throwing a firebomb at an Israeli vehicle driving on a West Bank highway late on Sunday. The shooting raised to four the number of Palestinians killed in the past 24 hours, among them an unarmed woman who was shot and killed at a military checkpoint near Bethlehem. Ramadan this year converges with major Jewish and Christian holidays. Protests and clashes in Jerusalem during Ramadan last year boiled over into an 11-day war between Israel and Gaza militants. Israel has stepped up its military activity in the West Bank after Palestinian assailants killed 14 Israelis in four deadly attacks inside Israel in recent weeks. At the same time, it has taken a series of steps to try to calm the situation, including granting thousands of



Palestinians from the Hamas-run Gaza Strip permits to work inside Israel. Palestinian health officials identified the man killed in the latest shooting on Sunday as 21-year-old Muhammad Ali Ahmed Ghoneim. The official Palestinian news agency Wafa reported that Mohammed Zakarna, 17, died on Monday after he was wounded by Israeli fire in the West Bank city of Jenin a day earlier. Israeli forces patrolled Jenin, considered a stronghold of Palestinian militants, on Sunday as soldiers investigated the home of an attacker who killed three Israelis in a mass shooting last week. The army said soldiers came under fire from a gunman on a motorcycle and shot him.

French duel: Macron vs Le Pen fight for presidency

AP ■ PARIS

French President Emmanuel Macron may be ahead in the presidential race so far, but he warned his supporters that "nothing is done" and his runoff battle with far-right challenger Marine Le Pen will be a hard fight. And she's ready for it. The duel is starting Monday, after the two came out on top in Sunday's first-round vote. The centrist Macron is heading to an economically depressed area of northern France where a majority of voters chose Le Pen, close to her electoral stronghold of Henin-Beaumont. Meanwhile, Le Pen's National Rally officials will meet Monday to plan strategy for the second round, scheduled on April 24. Le Pen summed up the standoff by saying voters are faced with "a fundamental choice between two opposing visions of the future." Macron already faced Le Pen in the presidential runoff five years ago. But all opinion polls show the leader of the National Rally is much closer this time to a potential win. Macron said he wants to court those who voted for the "extremes" or opted to stay at home. That's what he sought to



do in the northern town of Denain Monday by campaigning on his rival's home ground. Le Pen garnered over 41% of votes there as opposed to 14% for Macron. Macron met with area residents, many of whom criticized his proposed pension changes which include raising the minimum retirement age from 62 to 65. Denain's mayor, Anne-Lise Dufour-Tonin, told reporters she will vote for Macron "with no hesitation" in the second round, but intends to push for him to adopt more "leftist proposals." On her third attempt to become France's first woman president, Le Pen was rewarded Sunday for her years-long effort to rebrand herself as more pragmatic and less extreme. Macron has accused Le Pen of pushing a dangerous manifesto of racist, ruinous policies.

Russia's war to shrink Ukraine economy 45%: World Bank

AP ■ LONDON

Ukraine's economy will shrink by 45.1 per cent this year because of Russia's invasion, which has shut down half of the country's businesses, choked off imports and exports, and damaged a vast amount of critical infrastructure, the World Bank said. Unprecedented sanctions imposed by Western allies in response to the war, meanwhile, are plunging Russia into a deep recession, lopping off more than a tenth of its economic growth, said the World Bank report on Sunday. The war is set to inflict twice the amount of economic damage across Europe and Central Asia that the COVID-19 pandemic did, the Washington-based lender said in its "War in the Region" economic report. "The magnitude of the humanitarian crisis unleashed by the war is staggering," said Anna Bjerde, the World Bank's vice president for the Europe and Central Asia region. "The Russian invasion is delivering a massive blow to Ukraine's economy and it has inflicted enormous damage to infrastructure."

PHYSICAL POSSESSION NOTICE

ICICI Bank Branch Office: ICICI Bank Ltd, 3rd Floor, Plot No- 23, New Rohtak Road, Karol Bagh, Delhi- 110005

Whereas The undersigned being the Authorized Officer of ICICI Bank Limited under the Securitisation, Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 and in exercise of the powers conferred under section 13 (12) read with Rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules 2002, issued demand notices upon the borrowers mentioned below, to repay the amount mentioned in the notice within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said notice.

As the borrower failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the borrower and the public in general that the undersigned has taken possession of the property described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on him/her under Section 13(4) of the said Act read with Rule 8 of the said rules on the below-mentioned dates. The borrower in particular and the public in general is hereby cautioned not to deal with the property and any dealings with the property will be subject to the charge of ICICI Bank Limited.

Sr. No.	Name of the Borrower/ Loan Account Number	Description of Property/ Date of Physical Possession	Date of Demand Notice/ Amount in Demand Notice (Rs.)	Name of Branch
1.	Sunil Kumar Tripathy/ Rama S Tripathy/ A/c No. 244805000856	S4, Second Floor, Green Park Extension, New Delhi- 110016/ April 07, 2022	October 05, 2021/ Rs. 1,94,08,212/-	New Delhi

The above-mentioned borrowers(s)/ guarantors(s) are hereby given a 30 day notice to repay the amount, else the mortgaged properties will be sold on the expiry of 30 days from the date of publication of this Notice, as per the provisions under the Rules 8 and 9 of Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules 2002.

Date : April 12, 2022
Place : Delhi NCR
Authorized Officer
ICICI Bank Limited

PHYSICAL POSSESSION NOTICE

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Sr. No.	Name of the Borrower/ Loan Account Number	Description of Property/ Date of Physical Possession	Date of Demand Notice/ Amount in Demand Notice (Rs.)	Name of Branch
1.	Vogue Crafts and Designs Pvt Ltd/ Bhupesh Mahajan/ Ravinder Lal Mahajan/ LBDEL00003154946/ LBDEL00005317157/ LBDEL00003163987	Flat No B-63, 6th Floor, Modest Kетки Co-operative Group Housing Society, Plot No 8B, Sector-11 Dwaraka, Delhi/ April 07, 2022	June 23, 2021/ Rs. 1,76,33,237/-	Delhi

The above-mentioned borrowers(s)/ guarantors(s) are hereby given a 30 day notice to repay the amount, else the mortgaged properties will be sold on the expiry of 30 days from the date of publication of this Notice, as per the provisions under the Rules 8 and 9 of Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules 2002.

Date : April 12, 2022
Place : Delhi NCR
Authorized Officer
ICICI Bank Limited

Corporate profitability set to fall in Q4: Report

Mumbai: Companies are not able to pass on the pressure from rising input costs to buyers, and this is likely to result in a compression in corporate profit margins for the March quarter, a report said on Monday.

Operating profit margins for companies are set to fall by as much as 3 percentage points compared to the year-ago period, and up to 0.60 per cent as compared to the preceding December quarter, the research firm said in a report.

The report comes ahead of the earnings season when major companies start reporting their profits.

The report said this will be only the second quarter in the last three years when profit margins have narrowed against

the year-ago period.

For the entire fiscal (FY22), Earnings Before Interest, Taxes, Depreciation and Amortisation (EBITDA) or operating profits are likely to shrink by up to 0.40 per cent to 21-23 per cent, its director Hetal Gandhi said.

"Companies were unable to fully pass on soaring input cost, especially prices of key metals and energy," Gandhi said, adding that given the Russia-Ukraine conflict and its impact on commodity prices, there will be a further 1 percentage point shrinkage in the profit margins in FY23.

In March quarter, margins in construction-linked sectors are likely to have fallen the most at up to 6 percentage points, followed by export-linked and industrial commodities sectors where margins

are likely to have eroded by 4 percentage points.

There is likely to be a moderate expansion in the profit margins in the consumer discretionary services sector, on the back of tariff hikes by telcos, and in the consumer staples services where the hospital sector's show is set to be helpful.

"In absolute terms, revenue of most sectors and segments rose above their pre-pandemic levels last fiscal," its associate director Sehul Bhatt said, adding that construction, consumer staple services and agriculture sectors have recovered the fastest.

Companies are set to report a revenue jump of 26 per cent in FY22, which will slow down to 14 per cent, the agency said. **PTI**

India's fuel sales hit 3-year high in March

New Delhi: The country's fuel demand soared 4.2 per cent to a three-year high in March as petrol and diesel consumption rose above pre-pandemic levels, according to official data released on Monday.

Total petroleum product consumption in March stood at 19.41 million tonnes, the highest since March 2019, data from the Petroleum Planning and Analysis Cell of the oil ministry showed.

As the economy continued to rebound from the deep impact of the third wave of the COVID-19 pandemic, demand for transport fuel rose in March.

Diesel, the most used fuel in the country accounting for almost 40 per cent of all petroleum product consumption,

saw the demand rising by 6.7 per cent to 7.7 million tonnes. Petrol sales, which crossed the pre-Covid levels a few months ago, were up 6.1 per cent at 2.91 million tonnes.

Demand for both the fuels in March was above pre-pandemic levels.

Diesel consumption was higher due to strong demand from agriculture sector as well as stocking up by consumers and petrol pumps in anticipation of a price hike.

Cooking gas (LPG) demand grew by 9.8 per cent to 2.48 million tonnes in March.

Fuel demand in the fiscal year ending March 31, 2022 was up 4.3 per cent at 202.71 million tonnes, the highest since FY20. While auto and cooking fuel consumption rose,

there was a de-growth in industrial fuel.

Petrol consumption was up 10.3 per cent at 30.85 million tonnes in 2021-22 while diesel sales were up 5.4 per cent at 76.7 million tonnes.

The demand for petrol in FY22 was the highest ever while the diesel sales were the highest since 82.6 million tonnes of consumption in 2019-20.

Consumption of LPG was up 3 per cent at 28.33 million tonnes. Jet fuel or ATF demand soared 35 per cent to 5 million tonnes but was less than 8 million tonnes consumption in the pre-pandemic year.

This was mainly because full aviation services resumed only towards the end of the last month. **PTI**

Sebi comes with new guidelines to evaluate risk value of gold, gold-related instruments

New Delhi: Sebi on Monday came out with a new framework for evaluating risk level of commodities -- gold and gold-related instruments -- in which mutual funds are permitted to invest on risk-o-meter.

In a circular, the markets regulator said it has been decided that investment in such commodities will be assigned a risk score corresponding to the annualized volatility of the price of such commodities.

The annualized volatility will be computed quarterly based on past 15 years' prices of benchmark index of a commodity and risk score for such commodity will be categorized in four levels ranging from "moderate" to "very high", Sebi said in a circular.

Annualized volatility of

less than 10 per cent, 10-15 per cent, 15-20 per cent and more than 20 per cent, will have risk score of 3 (moderate), 4 (moderately high), 5 (high) and 6 (very high), respectively.

Explaining with an example, Sebi said if the price of gold has annualized volatility of 18 per cent based on the price of gold of the past 15 years, then gold and gold related instruments will have a risk value of 5 (high) on risk-o-meter.

In October 2020, the regulator had said investment in gold and gold-related instruments by schemes will be valued at 4 from risk perspective.

This new framework will come into force with immediate effect, the Securities and Exchange Board of India (Sebi) said. **PTI**

ICRA expects stable outlook for office, retail real estate segments

New Delhi: Credit rating agency ICRA on Monday said it expects the outlook for commercial real estate segment to remain stable during the current fiscal year.

"ICRA expects the outlook of commercial real estate, both of the office segment and the retail mall segment to be stable for FY2023. The revision in the outlook for retail malls from negative to stable factors in the improvement in the

rental incomes backed by contractual escalations in rentals and strong rebound in trading density," it said in a statement.

The demand drivers for retail malls stem from the relaxation in permitted occupancies of multiplexes and release of multiple big budget films and improved footfalls and sharp recovery in retail consumption, the rating agency said.

ICRA noted that the outlook for office space continues to be stable.

The stable outlook is supported by the resumption of back-to-office plans and robust hiring in the tech sector.

"The footfalls are expected to reach pre-Covid levels in FY2023, however, the average spend per footfall is likely to witness some moderation when compared to FY2021-FY2022," said Mathew Kurian Erant, Vice President and Co-Group Head, ICRA.

The rental income of malls in FY2023 is expected to surpass FY2020 levels by around 4-6 per cent. **PTI**

Domestic air passenger traffic up 59% in FY22, 40% lower than pre-pandemic level: IcrA

Mumbai: India's domestic air passenger traffic is estimated to have grown by around 59 per cent year-on-year to 84 million in FY22, although it is still about 40 per cent lower as compared to the pre-pandemic level, credit ratings agency IcrA said on Monday.

It also expects elevated Aviation Turbine Fuel (ATF) prices, aggravated by geo-political issues, to remain a near-term challenge for the industry and will be a key determinant of profitability for the sector.

On a sequential basis, domestic passenger traffic spiked about 37 per cent to 10.6 million in March, driven by a near to normalcy in airline operations owing to waning of impact of the pandemic, IcrA said.

The passenger traffic on local air routes was 7.7 million in February 2022, it added.

Traffic growth in March this year stood at 35 per cent as compared to over 7.8 million in the year-ago month, it said.

Airlines' capacity deployment for March 2022 registered a growth of 12 per cent at 80,217 departures as compared to over 71,548 departures clocked in the same month of last year, ICRA said.

Domestic departures logged 42 per cent growth in March this year over the previous month, driven by increased pace of vaccination and rapid abatement of the third wave of COVID-19, which allowed for quick lifting of travel restrictions, the ratings agency said.

"Domestic passenger traffic for FY2022 is estimated at around 84 million, y-o-y growth of 59 per cent, marginally higher than our estimate of 80-82 million, although it is around 40 per cent lower than pre-COVID levels," Vice



President and Sector Head of IcrA Suprio Banerjee said.

For March this year, the average daily departures were at around 2,588, higher than the average daily departures of around 2,308 in March 2021, and notably higher compared to around 2,023 in February 2022, he said.

The average number of passengers per flight during March this year was at 132, against an average of 135 passengers per flight in February, Banerjee said.

According to IcrA, one major positive development is resumption of scheduled international operations from March 27 after a hiatus of almost two years.

ATF prices have surged by around 93 per cent year-on-year in April this year, given the elevated crude oil prices, geo-political issues arising from Russian-Ukraine war, the ratings agency said. The rising ATF prices continue to play a spoilsport for the industry and will pose a serious threat to the sector's earnings in FY23, it said. **PTI**

Sensex plunges nearly 483 pts on sell-off in IT, banking stocks

Mumbai: Benchmark BSE Sensex tumbled by nearly 483 points on Monday due to selling in IT, capital goods and banking shares following losses in global equities on worries over high-interest rates.

The 30-share index tanked 482.61 points or 0.81 per cent to close at 58,964.57 with 23 of its constituents closing in the red. During the day, it tumbled 552.78 points or 0.92 per cent to 58,894.40.

The 50-issue Nifty of the National Stock Exchange declined by 109.40 points or 0.62 per cent to finish at 17,674.95 as 29 of its stocks declined.

"Negative sentiment across Asian equities had a bearing on local stocks, as investors followed suit and trimmed their positions in risky counters," Shrikant Chouhan, Head of Equity Research (Retail), Kotak Securities Ltd, said.

HCL Tech fell the most by 2.73 per cent while the other two IT majors Infosys and Wipro also declined by 2.67 per cent and 2.16 per cent, respectively.

"Investors, especially, shunned technology stocks



ahead of TCS results because of fears that any subdued outlook for the next quarter earnings could ignite further selling in the sector going ahead," Chouhan said.

TCS, ahead of its quarterly financial results scheduled for release after market hours on Monday, bucked the trend to close higher by 0.26 per cent.

Among major Sensex losers, Larsen & Toubro declined by 2.72 per cent, Asian Paint by 1.54 per cent, HDFC by 1.39 per cent, HDFC Bank by 1.25 per cent, Axis Bank and Dr Reddy's by 1.2 per cent each.

Reliance Industries, HUL, Titan, Tata Steel, Bajaj Finserv, Power Grid and Airtel also dropped.

"The market is wary ahead of the ECB meeting, the release of US inflation data, and the start of the domestic Q4 result season. Indian IT sector dragged due to weak result expectations on a QoQ basis. In this shortened week, the market is cautious as trading at the upper side of the trend and momentum has shifted from broad to stock-specific," Vinod Nair, Head of Research at Geojit Financial Services, said. **PTI**

Rupee pares initial gains, settles almost flat at 75.94 against US dollar

Mumbai: The rupee pared initial gains to settle almost flat at 75.94 (provisional) against the US dollar on Monday as weak domestic equities negated the impact of easing crude oil prices.

At the interbank foreign exchange market, the rupee opened at 75.94 against the American dollar and oscillated between a high of 75.79 and a low of 76.09 during the session.

The rupee finally settled at 75.94 against the dollar, down 1 paise from the previous close.

On Friday, the rupee appreciated 10 paise to settle at 75.93 against the US dollar.

Meanwhile, the US dollar index, which measures the greenback's strength against the basket of six currencies, fell 0.09 per cent to 99.71.

Brent crude futures, the global oil benchmark, fell 2.37 per cent to USD 100.34 per barrel.

On the domestic equity market front, the BSE Sensex ended 482.61 points or 0.81 per cent lower at 58,964.57, while the broader NSE Nifty declined 109.40 points or 0.62 per cent to 17,674.95.

Foreign institutional investors were net sellers in the capital market on Friday, as they offloaded shares worth Rs 575.04 crore, as per stock exchange data. **PTI**

CreditAccess Grameen disbursements up 25% to ₹2,257 cr in March

New Delhi: Microfinance lender CreditAccess Grameen on Monday said its total disbursements in March 2022 rose 25 per cent to Rs 2,257 crore.

The company's disbursements were of Rs 1,806 crore in the year-ago same month. In February 2022, CA Grameen had disbursed Rs 1,746 crore worth loans.

The gross loan portfolio grew 22.2 per cent from a year ago to Rs 16,601 crore in March 2022, the company said in a release.

In a break-up, the company said CA Grameen's gross loan portfolio (GLP) was up 21.1 per cent year-on-year to Rs 13,732 crore and for Madura Micro Finance Ltd (MMFL), it rose 27.7 per cent to Rs 2,869 crore.

Branch network grew 15 per cent year-on-year to 1,638

branches in March 2022, it said, adding 214 new branches were opened in financial year 2022, primarily across newer markets.

As many as 1,24,787 new borrowers were added during the month. There was cumulative addition of 5,05,300 new borrowers in the last two quarters.

Among others, collection efficiency of the micro lender stood at 95 per cent (excluding arrears) and 96 per cent (including arrears).

Excluding non-paying NPA (non-performing assets) customers, collection efficiency was 99 per cent (excluding arrears) and 100 per cent (including arrears) in March FY22.

CA Grameen stock settled at Rs 920.25 on BSE, down 0.34 per cent from the previous close. **PTI**

Gujarat tops NITI Aayog's State Energy and Climate Index-Round 1 among larger states

New Delhi: Gujarat has topped Niti Aayog's State Energy and Climate Index-Round 1 (SECI) among larger states, which is aimed at ranking states and Union territories (UTs) on six parameters including discoms' performance, energy efficiency and environmental sustainability. Gujarat was followed by Kerala and Punjab, according to the government think tank's report. States like Chhattisgarh, Madhya Pradesh and Jharkhand were placed at the bottom. Among the smaller states, Goa topped the Aayog's index, followed by Tripura and Manipur.

Among union territories (UTs), Chandigarh topped the index, followed by Delhi and Daman & Diu/Dadra & Nagar Haveli (D&D & D&N). Punjab was the best performer in discom performance parameter among larger states, while Kerala emerged as top performer in access, affordability and reliability category among larger states.

Likewise, Haryana was the best performer when it comes to clean energy initiative among larger states, while Tamil Nadu emerged as top performer in the energy efficiency category. **PTI**

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Sr. No.	Name of the Borrower/ Loan Account Number	Description of Property/ Date of Symbolic Possession	Date of Demand Notice/ Amount in Demand Notice (Rs.)	Name of Branch
1.	Pal Ghanshyam Ramanand/ Kamala Devi/ LBDEL00002096486	Flat No-E/5, 1st Floor, Yogi Darshanamli Silvassa Valsad Valsad/ April 06, 2022	June 19, 2021 Rs. 4,36,104/-	Delhi/ NCR
2.	Poonam Vijay Kumar Mishra/ Vijay Kumar Deonath Mishra/ LBDEL00004913462/ LBMUM00002907494	Flat No- 402, 4th Floor, Plot Srv No- 537 & 538, Cosmo City Silvassa Khanvel Road, Dadra Nagar, Silvassa/ April 06, 2022	June 19, 2021 Rs. 15,41,667/-	Delhi/ NCR

The above-mentioned borrowers(s)/ guarantors(s) are hereby given a 30 day notice to repay the amount, else the mortgaged properties will be sold on the expiry of 30 days from the date of publication of this Notice, as per the provisions under the Rules 8 and 9 of Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules 2002.

Date : April 12, 2022 Place: Delhi/ NCR Authorized Officer ICICI Bank Limited

SYMBOLIC POSSESSION NOTICE

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Sr. No.	Name of the Borrower/ Loan Account Number	Description of Property/ Date of Symbolic Possession	Date of Demand Notice/ Amount in Demand Notice (Rs.)	Name of Branch
1.	Deepak Bawaja/ Poonam / LBPNP00005130571/ LBPNP00005130574 / LBDEL00005335489	Khwat No 1760 Khata No 2045 Khasra No N76 Killa No 29 Shiv Colony Safidon Jind/ April 07, 2022	August 30, 2021/ Rs. 29,53,979/-	Delhi

The above-mentioned borrowers(s)/ guarantors(s) are hereby given a 30 day notice to repay the amount, else the mortgaged properties will be sold on the expiry of 30 days from the date of publication of this Notice, as per the provisions under the Rules 8 and 9 of Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules 2002.

Date : April 12, 2022 Place: Delhi/ NCR Authorized Officer ICICI Bank Limited

NORTHERN RAILWAY E-TENDER NOTICE

Sr. DEE-TRS-GZB acting for and on behalf of President of India invites E-Tender against Tender No. 230-TRS-GZB-2020-21-14. The details are as under:

1. Name of the work:	Overhauling of Air Dryer of Trident make of Electric Locomotive
2. Approx. cost of work:	Rs. 47,87,984.52
3. Earnest Money to be deposited:	Rs. 95,800.00
4. Last Date & Time of Submission of tender bid of tender:	29.04.2022 (11:00 Hrs.)
5. Date & Time of opening of tender document:	29.04.2022 (After 11:00 Hrs.)
6. Website particulars where complete details of tender documents can be seen:	www.ireps.gov.in

Note: (i) The tenderer/s must be registered on the Indian Railway E-Procurement System (IREPS) site i.e. www.ireps.gov.in for participating in e-tender system. (ii) For all terms and conditions please refer tender document. (iii) No manual offers are acceptable. (iv) Cost of Tender document and Earnest money will be acceptable through net banking or payment gateway only.

No. 230-TRS-GZB-2020-21-14 Dated: 06-04-2022 798/22

SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE

Office of the Project Manager, Construction Unit Uttarakhand Peyjal Nigam
Lohaghat (Champawat)

Letter No. 323/Nivida/7 Date : 11.04.2022

E-Tender Notice

1. Name of the work:- CONSTRUCTION OF SCIENCE LAB AT G.G.I.C. KHETIKHAN, DISTRICT - CHAMPAWAT.

2. Estimated Cost:- Rs. 58.87 Lakh

3. Period of Completion:- 12 Month

4. Date and Time of availability of Bid documents in the portal:- 12-04-2022 (17.00 hrs)

5. Last date/Time of receipt of bids in the portal:- 04-05-2022 (17.00 hrs)

6. Date & Time of Technical bid Opening :- 06-05-2022 (11.00hrs)

7. Name and Address of the Officer inviting bid:- Project Manager, Construction Unit, Uttarakhand Pey Jal Nigam, Lohaghat (Champawat).

8. Pre-bid meeting details (if required) Date & Place:- 18-04-2022 (11.00 hrs) Project Manager Construction Unit, Uttarakhand Peyjal Nigam, Lohaghat (Champawat).

9. For further details, details of subsequent Amendment / correction documentation etc. may be obtained from the e-Procurement portal www.uktenders.gov.in PROJECT MANAGER

Office of the Project Manager, Construction Unit Uttarakhand Peyjal Nigam
Lohaghat (Champawat)

Letter No. 324/Nivida/8 Date : 11.04.2022

E-Tender Notice

1. Name of the work:- Construction of Lab at Atal Utkrishi G.I.C. Chamuel, District - Champawat.

2. Estimated Cost:- Rs. 34.31 Lakh

3. Period of Completion:- 8 Month

4. Date and Time of availability of Bid documents in the portal:- 12-04-2022 (17.00 hrs)

5. Last date/Time of receipt of bids in the portal:- 04-05-2022 (17.00 hrs)

6. Date & Time of Technical bid Opening :- 06-05-2022 (11.00hrs)

7. Name and Address of the Officer inviting bid:- Project Manager, Construction Unit, Uttarakhand Pey Jal Nigam, Lohaghat (Champawat).

8. Pre-bid meeting details (if required) Date & Place:- 18-04-2022 (11.00 hrs) Project Manager Construction Unit, Uttarakhand Peyjal Nigam, Lohaghat (Champawat).

9. For further details, details of subsequent Amendment / correction documentation etc. may be obtained from the e-Procurement portal www.uktenders.gov.in PROJECT MANAGER

Elon Musk decides not to join Twitter board: Parag Agrawal

New York/ New Delhi: In an unexpected turn of events, Elon Musk, the world's richest man and the biggest shareholder of Twitter, has decided not to join the board of the micro-blogging platform.

The decision of Musk -- who has made a raft of suggestions in recent days for Twitter, even wondering whether its headquarters should be turned into a homeless shelter -- was made public by the platform's India-origin CEO Parag Agarwal in a tweet on Sunday evening.

With a 9.2 per cent stake, Musk is currently the biggest shareholder of Twitter, which had entered into an agreement with the billionaire whereby he will get a seat on the platform's board till the 2024 annual

shareholders' meeting. He was to join the board on April 9.

In a sudden turn of events, Agrawal tweeted saying, "Elon has decided not to join our board."

While the specific reason for the abrupt decision was not known, Agrawal said he believed Musk's decision "is for the best" and that Twitter will "remain open to his input".

Musk, a tempestuous and extremely vocal billionaire, has also posted several suggestions, some radical, for the micro-blogging platform.

"Elon's appointment to the board was to become official effective 4/9, but Elon shared that same morning that he will no longer be joining the board," Agrawal tweeted. **PTI**

MG Motor India to invest ₹4,000 crore for a second manufacturing plant

New Delhi: MG Motor India plans to invest around Rs 4,000 crore on a second manufacturing unit, for which it is in talks with several state governments, including Gujarat where its first facility is located, according to a top company official.

The company, which is expanding the annual production capacity of its current plant at Halol in Gujarat to 1.25 lakh units by 2023, is looking to add another 1.75 lakh units capacity from the second plant and take its overall capacity to 3 lakh units a year in the next two years.

"Beyond 1.25 lakh (at Halol), we need a second plant. It can be at Halol, and we are in touch with the Gujarat government for some additional land. **PTI**



Soaring Pollution

The second COVID-19 wave not only unleashed unprecedented devastation of human life but also some worst air pollution episodes in Delhi despite the lockdown during March-May 2021, a new study has revealed



POST-TREATMENT
COUNSELLING IS BENEFICIAL



Good speech therapy and neuro rehab treatment are critical in all cases of aphasia

recovery. Children and young adults have a better chance at fully recovering, says DR SACHIN KANDHARI

After the recent incidence of Hollywood actor Bruce Willis being diagnosed with a medical ailment called Aphasia Disorder, and deciding to step away from his acting profession, the disorder has taken the netizens by a storm. This is a disorder involving the specific area of the brain's cognitive functions to diminish, causing partial speech/language impairment. People usually tend to lose track of what they want to say, form complete sentences, or unintentionally utter irrelevant words, resulting in gibberish. Due to their jumbled statements, such people also have difficulty in understanding others or have trouble comprehending others. Aphasia is a cognitive condition that affects a person's ability to comprehend language and express themselves verbally and in writing. This is caused by disorders that damage the brain's language centres (or their connections), which is normally the left side of the brain in the dominant hemisphere.

What causes aphasia?

The condition is caused due to an injury, trauma or any other medical condition that damages one or more areas in the brain. While it is a known fact that stroke is one of the most common and prevalent reasons for brain injury, where a clot, ruptured blood vessels cut off the blood supply to the part of the brain, leading to loss of brain cells. Other causes of brain injury include severe head injuries, brain tumours, gunshot wounds, brain infections, and degenerative neurological diseases like Alzheimer's disease.

What are the red flags?

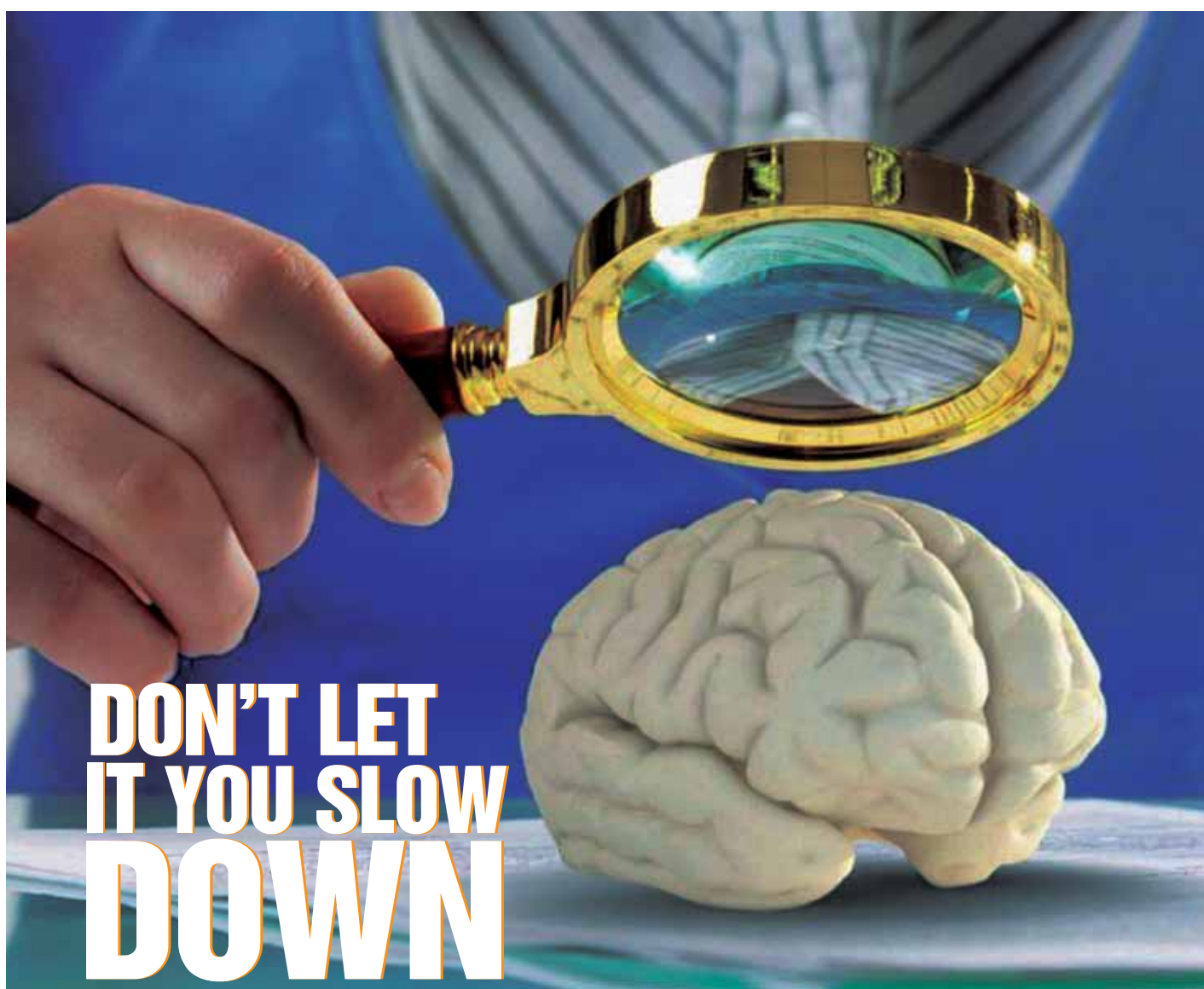
The red flags of Aphasia disorder includes when a person speaks in short, jumbled or respond with incomplete sentences, which is difficult for the responder to understand. Apart from speech impairment, patients may also face complications in writing sentences and relevant words, and usually end up drafting something that doesn't make sense and that too in the wrong order. In such conditions, the patient should seek immediate medical consultation to prevent further brain damage or future complications.

Is it treatable?

In patients with Aphasia Disorder, the treatment is determined by the underlying cause of the problem. For instance, in those with a history of stroke attack, brain infection, or dementia, patients need to be investigated for the root cause and get the right treatment, and speech treatment benefits the patients greatly.

Good speech therapy and neuro rehab treatment are critical in all cases of aphasia recovery. Children and young adults have a better chance than adults at fully recovering. In persons suffering with aphasia, prompt identification, early intervention, and proper medical management, combined with good post-treatment counselling, can help to reduce damage and improve recovery possibilities.

Senior Neurosurgeon and Managing Director, IBS Hospital, New Delhi



Presently, there is no cure for Parkinson's, but one should not lose heart as with proper care, few changes in the lifestyle and medicines, it can be managed well and progression can be slowed down, says DR M V PADMA SRIVASTAVA

The World Parkinson's Day is observed on April 11 every year to disseminate information about the health condition and understand the disease better. Parkinson's Disease (PD) or also called Parkinson's is a progressive nervous system disorder that affects movement. Currently, it afflicts more than 10 million people worldwide. India is home to nearly 0.58 million persons living with PD as estimated in 2016, with an expected major increase in prevalence in the coming years. This is expected to cause enormous strain on the economy as well as the already overburdened healthcare services in the country.



Dr M V Padma Srivastava
Chief, Neurosciences Centre,
AIIMS, Delhi

The PD symptoms usually emerge slowly, and as the disease worsens, non-motor symptoms become more common.

Presently, there is no cure for this neuro-generative disease, but one should not lose their heart as with proper care, few changes in the lifestyle and medicines, it can be managed well and progression can be slowed down, says Dr M V Padma Srivastava, Chief, Neurosciences Centre, AIIMS, Delhi.

Talking to The Pioneer Health, she said that since PD majorly impacts those above 60 years old and given that the life expectancy is on increase, the disease is projected to affect over 12 million people by 2040.

Younger people — aged below 40 — are also reporting the disease

Early-onset forms of PD are often, but not always, inherited, and some forms have been linked to specific gene mutations, she pointed out.

Dr Srivastava explained that the disease occurs when nerve cells in the basal ganglia, an area of the brain that controls movement, become impaired and/or die. Normally, these nerve cells, or neurons, produce an important brain chemical known as dopamine. When the neurons die

or become impaired, they produce less dopamine, which causes the movement problems of PD. Various researches are going on to know what causes cells that produce dopamine to die, she adds.

There's more. People with PD also lose the nerve endings that produce norepinephrine, the main chemical messenger of the sympathetic nervous system, which controls many functions of the body, such as heart rate and blood pressure. The loss of norepinephrine might help explain some of the non-movement features of Parkinson's, such as fatigue, irregular blood pressure, decreased movement of food through the digestive tract, and sudden drop in blood pressure when a person stands up from a sitting or lying-down position.

She says that symptoms start gradually, sometimes starting with a barely noticeable tremor in just one hand. Tremors are common, but the disorder also commonly causes stiffness or slowing of movement.

In a nutshell, there are over 40 symptoms, from tremors and pain to anxiety and every individual's experience is different.

"Tremor in hands, arms, legs, jaw or head, small handwriting, loss of smell, trouble sleeping, dizziness or fainting, stooping or hunching over, trouble moving or walking, constipation, a soft or low voice. For instance, sometimes you might think other people are losing their hearing, when really

you are speaking more softly. Or masked faces are some of the major signs."

Also, PD can change the way a person walks. One may experience motor symptoms like freezing and trouble balancing. So if one sees more than two signs, it's time to consult the doctor.

Dr Srivastava says that like any other disease, management of PD is very similar — like exercise, disciplined lifestyle, healthy diet and stress free life. Like we know exercise is an important part of healthy living for all, but for people with PD exercise and diet are like medicine, help them live a fuller — maintain and improve mobility, flexibility, strength and gait speed. It is advised that people with PD should perform exercises 45 minutes to one hour after medications when they are at their best.

Surgery to place microelectrodes for deep brain stimulation (DBS) has been used to reduce motor symptoms in severe cases where drugs are ineffective, says Dr Srivastava.

She also suggested the patients of PD try building a few hobbies into their routine that will give them a break from dwelling on the disease. Or find some activities to keep themselves busy. On our part as a society, she said, it's time people start discussion to demystify and humanize the disease. More the people understand the PD, the more dignified the people with Parkinson's will feel, she concluded.

DOCYARD

DR GURDEEP SINGH RATRA

Consultant —
Orthopaedics

MANIPAL HOSPITAL, GURUGRAM



Industrial mishaps on rise



Workers at construction sites, crowded warehouses, manufacturing plants, and metalworking plants use a variety of tools and machinery to complete their tasks. These machines, ranging from table saws and nail guns to forklifts and compactors, help workers complete a variety of tasks more quickly, efficiently, and safely when used properly. However, if employees are not properly trained, fail to follow necessary safety precautions, or machine malfunctions can result in serious injuries, and in the worst-case scenario, the injuries can be fatal.

According to the Geneva-based IndustriALL Global Union, which signifies more than 50 million workers in 140 countries in the mining, energy, and manufacturing sectors, seven accidents per month in 2021 will result in permanent disabilities and severe injuries. Last year, more than 162 workers died in industrial accidents in India, highlighting the recent rise in the number of accidents in industrial and commercial establishments.

Factory accidents are quite common in Delhi/NCR. Workers' limbs getting caught in the machines are unfortunately common, causing people to lose limbs and may even be fatal in some cases. Amputation of a bodily part, such as a finger, toe, hand, foot, arm, or leg, can be a life-changing trauma that impacts the capacity to move, work, socialise, and maintain independence. Persistent pain, phantom limb sensation, and psychological and emotional stress may all impede recovery.

Limb-salvage surgeries in such cases are complicated and require clinical expertise where surgical treatment is used to save an injured, often crushed limb which involves fixing broken bones, and repairing injured blood vessels and muscles, tendons and nerves. The fundamental goal of a limb salvage surgery is to preserve sensation, viability, and function and minimise disability. A combination of orthopaedic, plastic, and reconstructive surgeries is required.

A similar case of an Industry accident was brought at Manipal Hospital, Gurugram where a 34-year-old industry worker's right forearm was caught up in a machine at a factory in Gurugram. It was a case of near-total amputation of the forearm with an open fracture of both forearm bones along with damaged radial and ulnar arteries and all extensor and flexor tendons cut. A team of doctors from orthopaedic and plastic & reconstructive departments performed an 8-hour surgery wherein they fixed the bone fractures and repaired the arteries, veins, tendons, nerves and covered the skin loss raw areas with skin grafting. Timely intervention and treatment saved his limb from amputation.

These surgeries can be complicated and require a lot of precision and experience because repairing the bones and injured blood vessels during the critical period is a race against time. Not only was this patient's forearm saved from amputation but he also regained useful functioning and hopefully should be able to return to work soon.

But with timely intervention and clinical expertise, these cases can be addressed, and the limb and livelihood of these injured workers can be saved. We also hope factory owners take measures to make workplaces a safe space for their workers.

These injuries also result in loss of wages, exorbitant medical bills, and pain and suffering. Many of these workers are the sole breadwinners of their families, loss of a limb can mean loss of livelihood. This can affect the mental health of the worker and their families. Stress responses can develop over time, and some workers may require additional support. After the first debriefing session, perspectives may shift, and additional sessions may be required to focus on new aspects of the incident or stress reactions.

Critical incidents are also known to bring up a variety of personal issues for workers. To avoid further difficulties, short-term counselling may be required. Where counselling sessions reveal additional or more complex needs, it may be necessary to refer a worker to an appropriate service for additional assistance.

Workplaces should focus on preventing hazardous situations rather than performing band-aid fixes every time one occurs. Preventing workplace accidents by providing thorough training to all new employees, regardless of experience can help. Even if it takes a little longer for workers to start generating work, they will be protected from harm.

SUMMER COOLER

BERRIES: Antioxidants like anthocyanins are abundant in berries, and they may protect your cells from free radical damage. Berries, whether eaten with high-carb dishes or blended into smoothies, may help to improve blood sugar and insulin responsiveness. Berries contain fibre, which can help you feel fuller while also lowering your crav-



ings and the number of calories you take in from mixed meals. Berries are low in calories but high in vitamin C and manganese, among other vitamins and minerals. They may lower your risk of heart disease and other health issues by reducing inflammation. Berries have been proven to lower LDL (bad) cholesterol levels.

Keeping community in mind

At the recent event of Karnataka Health Promotion Trust, its CEO, HL MOHAN speaks with SUPRIYA RAMESH about importance of people's movement in TB elimination

◆TB eradication has been talked about for years. Why can't we tackle it yet?

There are two things that need to be enhanced. First, stigma is still playing a huge part as a hindrance to TB eradication. If we have to address this, the health system alone can't be held responsible. Second, in order to eliminate the disease, we have to involve many departments — at the district and panchayat levels. Earlier, this was not the case. Now, the stakeholders are thinking of joining hands.

◆Why are we always dependent on the Governments to solve our problems?

It is not as if people are not going for TB treatment. It may be another thing that they may go to a quack or a private hospital for their treatment. The TB tests are free of cost. The problem arises when the patients end up going to a quack and there are wrong diagnoses. This delays the treatment.

Historically, TB patients were kept outside the villages or in sanatoriums. This is still ingrained in the minds of people and is hampering proper



HL Mohan
Karnataka Health Promotion
Trust, CEO

treatment. But all this will change in the coming months. With advancement in treatment today, the disease can now be cured within six months.

◆How to tackle the problems facing the Government?

It is very important to keep the community in mind. Their mindset needs to change, not just one or two people but the entire village needs to be involved. When it comes to diseases like HIV and TB, people's perception about the disease has to be changed. We were able to do this with HIV since there were so many programmes that were introduced to create awareness. All stakeholders came

IT IS VERY IMPORTANT TO KEEP THE COMMUNITY IN MIND. THEIR MINDSET NEEDS TO CHANGE, NOT JUST ONE OR TWO PEOPLE BUT THE ENTIRE VILLAGE NEEDS TO BE INVOLVED. WHEN IT COMES TO DISEASES LIKE HIV AND TB, PEOPLE'S PERCEPTION ABOUT THE DISEASE HAS TO BE CHANGED. WE WERE ABLE TO DO THIS WITH HIV SINCE THERE WERE SO MANY PROGRAMMES THAT WERE INTRODUCED TO CREATE AWARENESS. THE SAME HAS TO BE DONE FOR TB ELIMINATION

together. The same has to be done for TB elimination.

◆Are we lacking in creating awareness about TB?

It is time that we involved all the departments. We can no longer be working in isolation. The Panchayat, the district level and even the state healthcare officials need to be on one single platform. The NGOs need to come together as well. Each state must share real-time information too.

◆What does people's movement perspective mean when it comes to TB?

It entails people's participation, people's involvement when it comes to TB eradication. Everyone needs to be involved — irrespective of whether the person is a patient or caregiver or a neighbour. In other words, it has to be a people's movement rather than a health department's. Take polio for example. Each and every member of the society was involved from the health departments across the country to even Rotary Clubs and Asha workers. Everyone was involved and came together to help each other. This is what we need for TB elimination.

IN BRIEF

IHW Council holds its 2nd Diabetes in Pregnancy summit

Doctors, healthcare experts, and noted diabetologists stressed on the fact that Gestational Diabetes Mellitus, a form of diabetes occurring during pregnancy in women, poses a major health problem in India.

They took part at the Integrated Health and Wellbeing Council's 2nd virtual edition of Diabetes in Pregnancy Summit. The e-summit was hosted by the IHW Council supported by Asian Research and Training Institute for Skill Transfer (ARTIST for Her).

Celebrated diabetologist Prof (Dr) V Seshiah, who, way back in the 1970s, first coined the concept of Spot Test for pregnant women, meaning, any pregnant woman coming to the hospital at any stage of pregnancy, fasting or non-fasting, should be subject to a blood sugar test, says, "We have reached a point where the diabetes can be termed as an epidemic. It is estimated that by 2045, 783 million people around the world will have diabetes, a whopping 54 per cent increase from 463 million in 2019. Currently, every one in seven adults living in India have diabetes. The ever-increasing prevalence of diabetes points to the fact that every pregnant woman must be screened when she is hospitalised."



BARCA WIN 5-GOAL THRILLER

AP ■ BARCELONA

Luk de Jong headed in a 92nd-minute winner on Sunday as Barcelona prevailed in a five-goal thriller against Levante to return to second in La Liga.

De Jong's late goal, his sixth in the league for Barca, proved the decisive moment in a 3-2 victory in Valencia but it was the introduction of the 19-year-old Pedri off the bench that turned the momentum of the contest.

Asked if the team are too reliant on Pedri, Barcelona coach Xavi Hernandez said: "I wouldn't put it like that but he is an extraordinary player. I don't hold back any praise, he is a player who excites people and makes a difference."

A frantic 11 minutes early in the second half saw Levante score one penalty in the 52nd minute through Jose Luis Morales before missing a second in the 55th, this time Roger Marti stepping up, only to be denied by Marc-Andre ter Stegen.

Pedri came off the bench in the 56th minute and three minutes later Barcelona equalised, Pierre-Emerick Aubameyang heading in Ousmane Dembele's cross to score his 10th goal for his new club.

A FRANTIC 11 MINUTES EARLY IN THE SECOND HALF SAW LEVANTE SCORE ONE PENALTY IN THE 52ND MINUTE THROUGH JOSE LUIS MORALES BEFORE MISSING A SECOND IN THE 55TH, THIS TIME ROGER MARTI STEPPING UP, ONLY TO BE DENIED BY MARC-ANDRE TER STEGEN.

Then in the 63rd minute, Pedri fired Barca in front with a first-time finish into the corner, only for Levante to level again after being awarded a third penalty, Gonzalo Melero this time making no mistake.

Levante looked set to claim a point but De Jong snatched the win, meeting Jordi Alba's cross and heading in at the near post. "When we don't play well and we pull through, it shows we have that winning mentality," said Xavi.

Barca climb back above Sevilla into second, still 12 points behind Real Madrid, who eased to a 2-0 victory over Getafe on Saturday.

Xavi's side have a game in hand over Real Madrid, Sevilla and Atletico Madrid, with Atletico three points behind in fourth after losing on Saturday away at Mallorca.

Pedri scored a brilliant winner against Sevilla last weekend and while the midfielder was initially rested against Levante, Barcelona were transformed after he came on.

Aubameyang, meanwhile, continued his own rich vein of form since leaving Arsenal in January. The Gabon striker now has 10 goals in 14 games for his new club.



Chelsea face 'incredibly high' challenge to stay in CL: Tuchel

AP ■ MADRID

Chelsea manager Thomas Tuchel said his team need a "fantastic script" to overturn a two-goal deficit against Real Madrid on Tuesday and qualify for the Champions League semi-finals.

Reigning European champions Chelsea have been destabilised by the enforced sale of the club after the British government sanctioned owner Roman Abramovich for his close links to Russian President Vladimir Putin following the invasion of Ukraine.

Chelsea's 3-1 defeat in the first leg at Stamford Bridge last week followed a surprise 4-1 home defeat to Brentford in the Premier League, although Chelsea got back on track with a 6-0 thrashing of Southampton this weekend.

"It is one of the biggest challenges to perform away at the Bernabeu," Tuchel said.

"It is even more difficult if you have to earn a certain result, if you need to win with a minimum of two goals or better or maybe a three-goal difference, that makes it almost impossible and very, very difficult but still it is worth trying.

"We need nothing else than a fantastic script if we want to overcome this," the German said.

"The task is incredibly high and the challenge is incredibly high given the circumstances of the first leg and where we play and against whom we play and at what stage we play this kind of match.

"It's always allowed to dream and it is sometimes important to imagine things and to dream about it but it will not shift the focus from the fact that we need to deliver and we need to be ready tomorrow."

Tuchel said he believed Chelsea face a "huge disadvantage" as 13-times European champions Real have been able to make five substitutions throughout their domestic season.

He said he believes that difference was one of the reasons his players failed to show the physical edge to their game in the first leg when Karim Benzema dominated the Chelsea defence to score his second hat-trick of this season's competition.

"We face a huge disadvantage in terms of physicality because Real Madrid has a whole year with five changes and we play the most demanding league, we play the most matches throughout the season and throughout 2022 so it is not always easy to play a physical game," Tuchel said.

"We are a team that needs the physicality, the sharpness, the commitment and the investment to be a special team. We could not implement that enough in the last match."

Five substitutions will be allowed in the Premier League from next season.



Leipzig brush aside Hoffenheim 3-0

AP ■ LEIPZIG

Christopher Nkunku overtook Erling Haaland among the Bundesliga's top scorers after the French winger netted Sunday to help resurgent RB Leipzig defeat Hoffenheim 3-0.

Nkunku bagged his 17th league goal this season to give hosts Leipzig an early lead, then set up Dominik Szoboszlai as Leipzig consolidated fourth place.

Midfielder Marcel Halstenberg scored Leipzig's second goal as he netted for the first time after missing most of the season with injury.

Nkunku's strike - a superb finish from a free kick - saw him move up to third among the leading scorers.

Robert Lewandowski of Bayern Munich is the league's top marksman after scoring his 32nd league goal on Saturday in a 1-0 home win

over Augsburg.

Nkunku now has one more goal than Norway star Haaland, who has not scored in his last five games for Dortmund.

Sunday's home win continues Leipzig's great form under head coach Domenico Tedesco who has lifted the team from 11th when he replaced Jesse Marsch last December.

"That was a good performance from the start," said Tedesco, who leapt for joy after Halstenberg's goal.

"I was just so pleased for him, especially as he wasn't able to play football for so long and he has worked so hard in training."

Leipzig have picked up 29 points in the second half of the season - three more than league leaders Bayern.

They are now just a point behind third-placed Leverkusen who they face away next Sunday.

Milan play another goalless draw

AP ■ TURIN

AC Milan missed a chance to cement their position as Serie A leaders on Sunday after only managing a goalless draw at Torino which left them just two points ahead of the chasing pack.

Pioli's side had the chance to extend their lead to four after Napoli slumped to a 3-2 home defeat at the hands of Fiorentina but once again underwhelmed against modest opposition.

The draw not only let third-placed Napoli off the hook but gave Milan's local rivals Inter Milan the upper hand in an enthralling race for the Scudetto, as the champions also sit two back in second after their 2-0 win over Verona on Saturday but with a game in hand.

Also big winners this weekend are Juventus, who looked out of



the picture after being defeated by Inter last weekend but are now six points back in fourth with six matches still to play.

"Torino are tough for everyone to score against. We battled hard but we're missing that little

moment of magic," said Pioli to DAZN.

"Three weeks ago we were the favourites, then it was Napoli, then Inter... I think it's going to be close right up until the final day."

Milan have kept six straight

clean sheets but have had trouble finding the net in recent weeks and, hampered by last-minute injuries to Zlatan Ibrahimovic, Ismael Bennacer and Ante Rebic, on Sunday did little to suggest they are a title-winning side.

A combination of rock-solid Torino defending led by the unflappable Bremer and poor finishing, exemplified by Sandro Tonali's weak shot in a great position with 15 minutes remaining, enabled Torino to gain another home point against one of the big boys after similar results with Inter and Juventus.

In fact it was Milan goalkeeper Mike Maignan who made the best save of the match five minutes after the break from Mergim Vojvoda, while Fikayo Tomori had to be at his best to block a powerful effort from Andrea Belotti 15 minutes later.

India face England in Bronze-medal match

PTI ■ POTCHEFSTROOM

Their dream of winning a maiden FIH Junior Women's Hockey World Cup title shattered, India need to lift their morale quickly to match their best-ever third place finish when they take on England in the Bronze medal tie here on Tuesday.

India had a memorable campaign in the tournament till the semifinals, where they lost 0-3 to three-time champions, the Netherlands.

India had an unbeaten run in the pool stages, which include a 2-1 win over Germany, a side which will play the Dutch in the title clash.

But the title chance now out

of their grasp, the Indians would look to at least finish on the podium, like they did in the 2013 edition in Monchengladbach, Germany.

Back in the 2013 women's Junior World Cup, it was the Netherlands who had defeated India 3-0 in the semifinals and the Indian team, led by Sushila Chanu, then had faced England in the Bronze medal tie, which they eventually won after a tense shootout.

But it remains to be seen whether the Salima Tete-led side can recreate the 2013 script on Tuesday.

Tete was visibly disappointed with the team's effort against the Netherlands.

"We are quite disappointed



from our match against Netherlands. We created so many chances but could not convert. It just felt like it wasn't our day," she said.

But the skipper said the semifinal is a thing of the past now.

"There is no point thinking about what's happened in the past. Now we need to be focused on the upcoming match against England."

"Getting off to a good start against them will definitely give us the right momentum and that is what we will be looking for against them," Tete said.

India would be banking heavily on Lalremsiami, Sharmila Devi and Mumtaz Khan, who is India's top-scorer

with six goals, to deliver the goods upfront.

England, on the other hand, will be low on confidence after the 0-8 drubbing at the hands of Germany in the semifinal.

But vice-captain Ishika Chaudhary reiterated that India can't afford to let go off chances against England.

"England is a good side and we watched videos from their previous matches. I just feel it is important for us to be focused on our game and ensure we score from the chances we create and be tight in our defending."

"It's important we don't allow space for them and we must play to our strengths," said Chaudhary.

Bencic tops Jabeur for Charleston title

AP ■ CHARLESTON

Belinda Bencic won three of the last four games to outlast Ons Jabeur 6-1, 5-7, 6-4 and win the Credit One Charleston Open for her first clay-court championship.

Bencic won her sixth career WTA title and first since the Tokyo Olympic.

Bencic lost her opening match in Indian Wells last month and wasn't sure what direction she was headed. Things began to turn in Miami where she reached the semifinals before losing and she built on that positive momentum in Charleston.

"I feel like it is the tournament that you breakthrough and then it goes the right way," she said. "So I'm happy about it."

Bencic, of Switzerland, reached the semifinals here in her first visit in 2014 and hadn't advanced that far until this year. She earned \$158,000 for winning the season's opening clay-court tournament.



event a year ago, then made the finals of a companion tournament here a week later.

Jabeur wasn't thinking about the big picture. She broke out in tears at the trophy ceremony and in media interviews. This was her fifth WTA final

with the only win coming in Birmingham, England last year.

"Too many emotions today," Jabeur said. "But hopefully, I can get past this. It's a very tough loss, I think one of the toughest of my career. But I'll keep going, you know."

Sania-Hradecka lose in final

PTI ■ CHARLESTON

Veteran Indian tennis player Sania Mirza and her Czech partner Lucie Hradecka's splendid run at the Charleston Open ended after they lost the title clash to Andreja Klepac and Magda Linette.

The unseeded Mirza and Hradecka went down 2-6, 6-4, 7-10 in one hour 24 minutes to the fourth seed Polish-Slovenian duo on Sunday.

Mirza and Hradecka had a stunning run at the WTA 500 event, reaching the women's doubles final after pulling off a major upset by stunning top



seeds Zhang Shuai and Caroline Dolehide in the semifinals.

In the quarterfinals, they got the better of third seeds Alexa Guarachi and Jessica Pegula.

Mirza and Hradecka had also reached the semifinal of the Dubai Tennis Championships in February.

Opelka beats Isner for 1st clay trophy

AP ■ HOUSTON

Reilly Opelka beat fellow American John Isner 6-3, 7-6 (7) to win the US Men's Clay Court Championship in the tallest matchup in an ATP Tour final.

The 6-foot-11 Opelka won his fourth tour title and first on clay. He improved to 5-1 against the 6-10

Isner. The 24-year-old Opelka, seeded third has won all his titles in the United States, taking the first in 2019 in an indoor event in New York and following at Delray Beach in 2020 and Dallas this year.

The 36-year-old Isner, seeded fourth, won in Houston in 2013. He has 16 ATP Tour titles.

Djoker motivated to compete again for biggest titles

AP ■ MONACO

Novak Djokovic is ready to move on from the controversy surrounding his refusal to get vaccinated against Covid-19.

"I miss competition," the Serbian tennis star said on Sunday on the opening day of the clay-court season at the Monte Carlo Masters.

"I still feel motivation to be on the tour and compete... and try to challenge the best players in the world for the biggest titles."

The 20-time Grand Slam champion has played only one tournament so far in 2022, losing to Jiri Vesely in the quarterfinals of the Dubai Championships.

Djokovic could not defend his Australian Open title in January after he was deported from the country for not being inoculated.

It has been a turbulent start to 2022 for Djokovic, who went through detention and a court case during an 11-day saga in Australia before he was sent home and not allowed to defend his title at Melbourne Park.

Rafael Nadal went on to win the Australian Open for his



21st major trophy, breaking a tie with Djokovic and Roger Federer.

At the end of February, Djokovic lost his No 1 ranking for the first time in two years, sliding to No 2 behind Daniil Medvedev, before reclaiming top spot.

And on March 1, Djokovic announced that he and coach Marian Vajda were splitting after 15 years together.

"The last four, five months have been really challenging for me mentally and emotionally but here I am and I try to leave

all that behind and move on," Djokovic said on Sunday.

Djokovic said what happened in Australia has not impacted his ability to win.

"I don't feel like it has left huge scars on me that I'm unable to train or participate in tournaments or live my life," Djokovic said.

"I will try to use that as a fuel for what's coming up."

His opening match in Monaco is scheduled for Tuesday.

With his French Open title in 2021 still fresh in his mind, Djokovic proclaimed that the clay in Monaco is the best surface to stage his comeback even though "historically it has not been my most successful surface."

"I will try to use (the French Open title) as an inspiration to kick-start the clay court season the best possible way," Djokovic said.

He added that "it will take some time, some matches to really get in the groove."

The French Open starts on May 22 in Paris.



INDIAN PREMIER LEAGUE 2022

CHAHAL IS SOMEONE WHO CAN BE GIVEN THE BALL ANYTIME FROM OVERS 1-20. HE'S THE GREATEST LEG-SPINNER, IF I CAN SAY, THAT INDIA'S SEEN IN THE PRESENT. — SANJU SAMSON

Hardik takes GT to 162

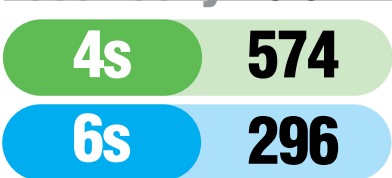
CSK search for 1st win against RCB



points table

Po.	TEAM	M	W	L	NR	Pts	NRR
1.	RR	4	3	1	0	6	0.951
2.	KKR	5	3	2	0	6	0.446
3.	GT	3	3	0	0	6	0.349
4.	RCB	4	3	1	0	6	0.294
5.	LSG	5	3	2	0	6	0.174
6.	DC	4	2	2	0	4	0.476
7.	PBKS	4	2	2	0	4	0.152
8.	SRH	3	1	2	0	2	-0.889
9.	MI	4	0	4	0	0	-1.181
10.	CSK	4	0	4	0	0	-1.211

boundary meter



Aiden Markram for his only maximum over cow-corner but Hardik was devoid of partners, as SRH kept striking at regular intervals. The SRH attack largely kept Hardik at bay, as they did not allow him to free his arms in the last five overs and as a result it was Hardik's slowest fifty in the IPL. Earlier, opener Matthew Wade earned his first boundary, courtesy a thick outside edge in the first over, where Bhuvneshwar Kumar (2/37) conceded 17 runs, 12 of them extras.

But Gujarat lost Wade (19), Shubman Gill (7) and one-down batter Sai Sudarshan (11) cheaply.

Gill was undone by a stunning one-handed diving catch by Rahul Tripathi at cover, off Bhuvneshwar, in the third over. Sudarshan, who was looking rusty, became Natarajan's first victim, after ballooning to Kane Williamson at mid-off. Wade, who hammered three boundaries, was trapped in front of the wicket, after he missed a flick, off a fuller delivery by Malik in the eight over. Then it was Hardik and Manohar show as Gujarat added 82 runs in the final 10 overs.

Chennai vs Bangalore
Live from 7:30 pm IST
STAR SPORTS 1

PTI ■ NAVI MUMBAI

Defending champions Chennai Super Kings would need to lift themselves after a night-marish start to the season and play a "complete" game when they take on a high-flying Royal Challengers Bangalore in the IPL here on Tuesday.

In words of head coach Stephen Fleming, the team's self-belief is shaken after four losses in a row.

The four-time champions haven't played the cricket they are known for under skipper Ravindra Jadeja, who has not been able to lead from the front.

The seniors in the team including 'Thala' Mahendra Singh Dhoni, Robin Uthappa, Ambati Rayudu and Dwayne Bravo need to step up in this crisis situation.

CSK have only posted one 200 plus score so far while scoring sub-par totals in the other three games.

The CSK batters will have to face a potent RCB bowling attack including the likes of spinner Wanindu Hasaranga, David Willey and Mohammed Siraj.

Young Ruturaj Gaikwad, who has had a miserable season so far, will need to step up and deliver and also all-rounders Moeen Ali and Shivam Dube will have to take more responsibility.

Fleming admitted that the side is facing two-fold problems -- unavailability of Deepak Chahar due to injury and a below-par show in all departments.

"There has been issues of player availability and we have been pretty much below par in all departments -- batting, bowling and fielding. We have been distant second in all games and we need to improve in all departments - that's pretty much it," Fleming had said summing up his team's show.

A buoyant RCB, however, are ticking all the boxes.

Opener Anuj Rawat, who hit his maiden



IPL fifty, came to the party against Mumbai Indians, while Virat Kohli also got much needed runs.

Skipper Faf Du Plessis can take any attack to cleaners and the top-three too are in good form.

Dinesh Karthik is the firing finisher for RCB and engineer-turned cricketer Shahbaz Ahmed has also impressed with his batting so far.

Apart from veteran Dwayne Bravo, CSK bowlers have been way off the mark.

They need to get the bowling combination right having tried many options.

Another key weak-link is Mukesh Choudhary, who has been leaking runs. Unless CSK find the right combination, RCB would be expected to run away with the game.

PTI ■ NAVI MUMBAI

Captain Hardik Pandya's responsible 50 not out off 42 balls helped Gujarat Titans post a competitive 162 for 7 after a top-order failure in their IPL game against Sunrisers Hyderabad here on Monday.

Invited to bat, Hardik first forged a 40-run stand for the fourth wicket with David Miller (12) to rally the innings after the top three batters

failed to convert their starts as Gujarat were in a spot of bother at 64/3 after eight overs.

Hardik then added 50 runs with Abhinav Mahonar, who justified his ₹2.60 crore price tag with his quick fire 35 off 21 balls, to ensure that the Titans crossed the 150-run mark.

Manohar, who got three lives, hit five boundaries and one six in his short stay and particularly launched into T Natarajan (2/34) in the 18th over,

where Gujarat amassed 13 runs.

However, it was an unusual Hardik knock, as he mixed caution with aggression to anchor the innings.

The 'all-rounder' announced his arrival with a straight-drive off Natarajan to fetch his first boundary and then was brutal on Umrans Malik (1/39), whom he hammered two successive boundaries in the eight over, which fetched nine runs.

In the next over, he clobbered

सभी को वैक्सीन सबको सुरक्षा

मुफ्त वैक्सीन

धन्यवाद मोदी जी

नरेंद्र मोदी, प्रधानमंत्री

शिवराज सिंह चौहान, मुख्यमंत्री

कुल 11 करोड़ 67 लाख 70 हजार 844 डोज पूर्ण

प्रथम डोज - 95 प्रतिशत

द्वितीय डोज - 89 प्रतिशत

12 वर्ष से अधिक आयु के पात्र नागरिकों का कोविड टीकाकरण

लोक स्वास्थ्य और परिवार कल्याण विभाग, मध्यप्रदेश शासन