

## OPINION 6

LANKA NEEDS A  
NEW APPROACH

## WORLD 9

LANKANS DEMAND  
RAJAPAKSA FAMILY'S EXIT

## MONEY 10

'TESLA ALLOWED IF IT  
PRODUCES EVS IN INDIA'

NEW DELHI, WEDNESDAY APRIL 27, 2022; PAGES 12 ₹3



the pioneer

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CHIELLINI  
TO SAY 'CIAO'  
TO ITALY  
12 SPORT

## CAPSULE

LIC IPO: ₹902-949 A  
SHARE FOR ₹21,000 CR

**New Delhi:** Insurance giant LIC has fixed the price band at ₹902-949 per share for the ₹21,000 crore public offer that is likely to open on May 4, sources said. Life Insurance Corporation (LIC) would offer a ₹60 discount for policyholders and ₹40 for retail investors and employees. The issue is likely to open for subscription on May 4 and is expected to close on May 9, and the bid lot would be 15. Anchor investors can subscribe to the shares of the insurance company on May 2.

SUSPEND JAKHAR, OUST  
THOMAS: CONG PANEL

**New Delhi:** The Congress Disciplinary Committee on Tuesday recommended the suspension of its former Punjab unit chief Sunil Jakhar for two years and the removal of Kerala leader KV Thomas from all party positions for anti-party activities, sources said. The panel has also recommended that Jakhar be removed from all party posts.

TEMPLE DEMOLITION:  
RAJ SUSPENDS STAFF

**Jaipur:** The Rajasthan Government has suspended two senior officials of Rajgarh municipality in Alwar following a backlash over the demolition of two temples as part of an anti-encroachment drive to widen a road in the municipal town.

TOP REWARD CARRYING  
GANGSTER HELD IN DELHI

**New Delhi:** A gangster carrying the highest reward, ₹2 lakh by the Delhi Police was arrested along with three of his aides from Chhatrapur area.

## Denied free hand, Kishor rejects offer to join Cong

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

A week of hype and a sense of positivity within the Congress over the prospect of election strategist Prashant Kishor joining the grand old party to change its fortunes crashed on Tuesday after PK himself said "no" to the offer.

Sources said Kishor declined to join as the party was not willing to give him a free hand. Offered a slot on Congress president Sonia Gandhi's "Empowered Action Group", Kishor declined with pointed remarks about the Congress's need for leadership and "collective will to fix deep-rooted structural problems".

Kishor was asked by Sonia to join the party and be a part of the Empowered Action Group-2024 and take care of its election strategy for upcoming polls.

Congress chief spokesperson Randeep Surjewala said Kishor has declined the offer and the party appreciates his efforts and suggestions.

Kishor had made a detailed presentation before top Congress leaders, which was discussed at length by the senior leadership of the party, after which an offer was made to him.

Within a few minutes of the Congress saying that Kishor has declined the offer, he took to Twitter and said the party needs a collective will to fix deep-rooted structural problems through reforms.

"I declined the generous offer of the Congress to join the party as part of the EAG and take responsibility for the elections. In my humble opinion, more than me the party needs leadership and collective will to fix the deep-rooted structural problems through transformational reforms," Kishor said in a tweet.



Kishor was keen to join the Congress and had desired to do so without any expectations. He had also made a presentation to the party on which its top leaders deliberated during the last week.

"Following a presentation and discussions with Kishor, the Congress president constituted the Empowered Action Group-2024 and invited him to join the party as part of the group with defined responsibility. He declined. We appreciate his efforts and suggestions given to the party," Surjewala said on Twitter announcing that Kishor has declined the offer.

There is speculation that the Congress was not happy with the pact signed by Kishor's company I-PAC with the Telangana Rashtra Samithi (TRS) for the

Telangana Assembly elections. But sources said the talks failed over the issue of supremacy in poll-related decisions.

"He desired and expressed in all the seven rounds of meetings with party leaders that he be given free hand for his ideas but the party wanted him to work with a team. Perhaps as he mentioned in one of the meetings that he felt very uncomfortable in the 2017 UP Assembly elections as the Congress tied up his hands," said a senior leader.

Besides Sonia, Rahul Gandhi and Priyanka Gandhi were also interested in taking Kishor on board but senior party leaders apparently expressed uneasiness for outsiders calling the shots in one of the world's oldest parties.

## Jaishankar shows West the mirror

## Minister hits back at criticism of India's stand on Ukraine war

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Facing criticism from various quarters over India's stand on the ongoing Russia-Ukraine conflict, External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar on Tuesday hit back at the Western countries and charged them with remaining oblivious to developments in Asia, including events in Afghanistan.

Enunciating New Delhi's position, he also said there was continuous pressure on rules-based order in the region for the last one decade. This was in obvious reference to China and the continuing stand-offs at the border in Ladakh for the last two years. He was also referring to terrorism emanating from Pakistan and targeted against India.

Speaking at the Raisina Dialogue, Jaishankar said Ukraine could be a "wake-up call" for Europe to also look at what has been happening in Asia, saying it has not been an "easy part" of the world for the last 10 years.

Answering a specific question by Foreign Minister of Norway Anniken Huitfeldt on the need for respecting the sovereignty and territorial integrity



External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar with his Norwegian counterpart Anniken Huitfeldt during a meeting in New Delhi

PTI

along called for an urgent cessation of fighting and a return to the path of diplomacy and dialogue.

"I think where the conflict in Ukraine is concerned, we have a very clear position that has been articulated. A position which emphasises the urgent cessation of fighting, which urges a return to diplomacy and dialogue and stresses the need for respecting the sovereignty and territorial integrity

of States," he said.

"You spoke about Ukraine. I remember, less than a year ago, what happened in Afghanistan where an entire civil society was thrown under the bus by the world," he said.

"I would say quite honestly, all of us would like to find the right balance of our beliefs and interests, of our experience, and that is what all really try to do.

*Continued on Page 2*

## JD(U) differs with BJP on UCC, syllabus change

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

Janata Dal-United has strongly differed from the BJP on the implementation of the Uniform Civil Code (UCC). Nitish Kumar-led party is also not on the same page with the saffron party over the proposed changes to the school curriculum.

"There is no question of implementing the UCC in Bihar and as long as Nitish Kumar is on the throne, it won't be implemented," announced JD(U) leader and party's parliamentary board chairman Upendra Kushwaha.

Describing the UCC implementation as the agenda of the BJP, Kushwaha said it is not necessary that every decision of its alliance partner should be implemented in the

States under the NDA rule.

"The JD(U) has its own political ideology which doesn't match with the certain agendas of the BJP. UCC is one of them and our party just can't compromise with its principles," asserted Kushwaha, a former Union Minister in the Modi Government.

He dismissed the speculation that the BJP might put pressure on the JD(U) to implement the issue adding the country was being run by its Constitution.

The BJP-ruled States like Uttarakhand, Uttar Pradesh and Himachal Pradesh have publicly expressed their intent to implement the Code which seeks to bring one law for all religious communities on divorce, inheritance and adoption. The BJP-ruled States are framing the UCC draft which

may be given a green signal at the earliest, sources said.

The JD(U) has also expressed reservations about the Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) deciding to delete chapters on the Non-Aligned Movement, the Shimla Agreement, the Mughal era in India, and more from the history and political science syllabi of Classes 11 and 12.

The Opposition parties have criticised the move describing it as yet another attempt by the BJP-led Government at the centre to distort India's history and push its own political narrative.

Bihar Education Minister Vijay Kumar Choudhary on Monday expressed reservations about the move and said it was an "impractical and illogical idea".

*Continued on Page 2*

## 3 Chinese killed in Bloch fidayeen blast in Karachi varsity

PTI ■ KARACHI

A burqa-clad woman suicide bomber struck a van inside the premises of the University of Karachi in Pakistan's financial capital, killing three Chinese nationals and their local driver, in what is believed to be the latest targeted attack against Chinese citizens.

The banned Baloch Liberation Army claimed responsibility for the attack that took place near China-built Confucius Institute — a non-profit institute teaching Chinese language to local pupils — in the university.

A spokesperson for the university said that three of the victims were Chinese nationals. They were identified as Confucius Institute Director Huang Guiping, Ding Mupeng, Chen Sa and Khalid, the Pakistani driver. CCTV footage showed a burqa-clad woman standing outside the entrance of the institute.

*See P8*

## 5,000 AIIMS nurses on strike return to work after HC order

## Nurses stopped work to protest their union head's suspension

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

A day after the All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS) suspended a Nurses' Union president Harish Kumar Kajla, almost 5,000 nurses went on an indefinite strike on Tuesday morning in the national Capital, demanding immediate revocation of the suspension.

Taking note of the strike that affected services, the Delhi High Court directed the AIIMS Nurses' Union to ensure that its member nurses immediately rejoin work. Following which they called off strike at night.

Dealing with the petition filed by AIIMS, the court



AIIMS nursing staff during a strike after the suspension of AIIMS nursing officer Harish Kajla, at AIIMS in New Delhi on Tuesday

Ranjan | Pioneer

observed that the strike would seriously impede the working of the institution.

According to AIIMS director Randeep Guleria, a few days ago without any notice, mem-

bers of the AIIMS Nurses' Union marched into the main OT complex of the AIIMS and disrupted the services.

He said patients who were there for surgery could not be

operated upon because the nurses' union forced their members not to perform their duties.

"I appeal to the nurses to join their duties. Nursing profession is all about elevating the suffering of the needy, so please come back and keep the flag of your profession high," Guleria had appealed to nurses.

According to the general secretary of the Nurses' Union, Dr Famer CK, all the 5,000 nurses are on the strike.

According to the order issued by the AIIMS administration, a disciplinary proceeding is being contemplated against Harish Kumar Kajla, nursing officer, for allegedly heading a protest by a group of nurses over staff shortage and misbehaving with the resident doctor on April 23 which led to the cancellation of around 50 planned surgeries.

## CM House attack: Police ask BJP MP Tejasvi to join probe

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

The Delhi Police has issued a notice to BJP MP Tejasvi Surya, asking him to join the investigation into the attack on the residence of Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal on March 30. According to Delhi Police, the notice under CrPC Section 41A has been sent to Surya on WhatsApp.

"A notice has been issued to Surya to join the investigation and he has assured to meet us once he is in the national Capital," said a senior police official.

Surya is also the national president of BJP Yuva Morcha (BJYM). The BJYM had protested against the Kejriwal for his comments on "The Kashmir Files".

On March 30, during an agitation, some protesters had breached the barricades outside the Delhi CM's residence.

The police arrested eight people from Delhi in connec-



tion with the incident. A total of 26 people, including the eight arrested ones, have been interrogated in connection with the incident. They were identified through technical sources, police said.

The Delhi High Court on Monday directed Delhi Police Commissioner Rakesh Asthana to look into the matter. The division bench headed by Acting Chief Justice Vipin Sanghi and Justice Navin Chawla noted that the interim status report filed by the Delhi Police shows that the police force failed to prevent miscreants from reaching the residence of the Chief Minister and vandalising the area.

## Restro-bar staffers beat customer to death in Noida mall over bill

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

A 30-year-old man died after he sustained fatal injuries in a brawl at Lost Lemons resto-bar in the Garden Galleria mall in Noida over a bill payment dispute.

According to Additional Deputy Commissioner of Police (Noida) Ranvijay Singh, the incident occurred on Monday night and the deceased has been identified as Brajesh Rai, who hailed from Bihar.

He is survived by two children and wife.

"He had gone to the resto-bar with his colleagues for a party. Around 11 pm, an argument broke out between these people and the bar staffers over the payment of a bill," Singh said.

"It quickly turned into a brawl in which Brajesh received serious injuries. He was rushed



to a nearby hospital by his colleagues, where he died," Additional DCP said.

After reviewing the CCTV footage, the police have detained 16 to 17 staff members of the Bar, including eight identified suspects who were involved in the brawl, the interrogation is still going on and further necessary legal action is being taken accordingly," he said.

"As soon as the police got the information, an FIR under section 302 (punishment for murder) of the Indian Penal Code (IPC) was registered at Sector 39 police station," the Additional DCP said.

## MHA seeks report from Maha Govt on Rana's treatment

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI/MUMBAI

Union Home Ministry has sought a report from the Maharashtra Government over Independent Lok Sabha member Navneet Rana's allegation about her "inhumane treatment" by the Mumbai Police.

Reacting to the Home Ministry, Mumbai Police Commissioner Sanjay Pandey uploaded the video on social media of Navneet and her husband Ravi MLA in a police station sipping tea, saying "do we need to say anything more".

The video clip shows the Rana couple sitting on chairs and sipping tea in front of police officials at Khar police station. Bottles of mineral water are also seen on the table in front of them.

The Amaravati MP was arrested on Saturday along with her MLA-husband Ravi for giving a call for the chant-

ing of the Hanuman Chalisa outside Chief Minister Uddhav Thackeray's private residence Matoshree in Mumbai.

The Home Ministry sought a factual report from the Maharashtra Government on Navneet's allegation about "inhumane treatment" allegedly meted out at Mumbai's Khar police station, a Home Ministry official said. The move came after the Lok Sabha Privilege and Ethics Committee asked the Home Ministry to seek a report from the Maharashtra Government.

Navneet, who won as Congress-NCP backed Independent candidate against Shiv Sena, was recently indicted by the Maharashtra High Court for submitting a fake Scheduled Caste certificate. Amaravati is a Scheduled Caste reserved constituency and Navneet had submitted fake caste certificates and educational certificates.

## Corbevax for 5-12 years, Covaxin for 6-12 yrs OK'd



PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

The Drug Controller General of India (DCGI) has granted emergency use authorisation (EUA) for Biological E's Covid-19 vaccine, Corbevax, for those aged 5 years to 12 years and Bharat Biotech's Covaxin for children in the age group of 6 years to 12 years.

The approval by the country's top drug regulator comes following recommendations by the Subject Expert Committee (SEC) on Covid-19. The SEC

had last week reviewed the application of both the companies seeking emergency use authorisation of the vaccine for children in 5-12 age group and 6-12 age group, respectively.

Biological E's Corbevax is being used to inoculate children against Covid-19 in the age group of 12 to 14 years. Covaxin was granted Emergency Use Listing (EUL) by the DCGI for the age group of 12 to 18 years on December 24, 2021.

*Continued on Page 2*



NCR PULSE

GOVT INVITES FRESH TENDERS FOR LIQUOR SUPPLY



New Delhi: The Delhi government's excise department has invited fresh tenders for wholesale supply of country liquor for retail vends (L-8) in bottles of 750 ml, 375 ml and 180 ml in the ratio of 3:4:3 for the year 2023-23. Now, the holders of an L-3 license will also be required to obtain an L-34 license for the bonded warehouse. Delhi Tourism and Transportation Development Corporation (TTDCC) owned L-8 vendors will receive country liquors by the licensees.

WANTED CRIMINAL, 3 ACCOMPLICES ARRESTED

New Delhi: The Special Cell of Delhi Police has arrested a 28-year-old wanted criminal along with three of his accomplices from Chhatrapur area. Police said that he was carrying a reward of Rs 2 lakh and was involved in 10 criminal cases of murder, attempt to murder, and extortion, among others. Shahruckh had been released on parole in May 2020 under an emergency measure during COVID-19 pandemic. While he was out, his mentors Hashim alias Baba and Rashid were arrested after which he dropped from the police radar in order to take control of the syndicate.

CISF ARRESTS MAN FOR CARRYING GUN IN METRO

New Delhi: The Central Industrial Security Force (CISF) has apprehended a 20-year-old man at the Shahdara metro station on Tuesday for carrying a country-made pistol in his luggage. The passenger is a resident of Uttar Pradesh's Shamli district. According to a senior CISF official, he was intercepted around noon during security check. Carrying arms and ammunition is not allowed inside the metro network.

45 YEAR OLD WOMAN STABBED TO DEATH

New Delhi: Following a dispute over minor issue, a 45-year-old woman was stabbed to death while her husband was injured by their 30-year-old neighbour in southwest Delhi's Vasant Kunj area on Tuesday morning. Police said that they have arrested the accused. The deceased has been identified as Shyamkala while her husband Ramesh Kumar, is undergoing treatment at Safdarjung Hospital and he had injuries over his left arm. Police said that the accused Arjun Bhahadur (30), victim's neighbour who was absconding since the incident has been arrested.

SDMC REMOVES ILLEGAL ENCROACHMENTS

New Delhi: The South Delhi Municipal Corporation (SDMC) undertakes action to remove illegal encroachments from government land especially road side areas, pavements and footpaths in all four zones. During the course of action, SDMC teams removed vehicles lying unattended from road sides, illegally erected temporary structures while several as well as arterial roads were made free from encroachment.

NOTICE INVITING TENDER  
E-NIT No. 05 OF 2022-23 Dated: 23.04.2022

For and on behalf of Lt. Governor of UT of J&K, Executive Engineer Jal Shakti (PHE) Division Budgam invites e-tenders from reputed and resourceful Bidders/ Firms/ Companies/ of all classes registered in JKPWD/CPWD/Railways or any other state Government for below mentioned works at various Water Supply schemes of PHE Division Budgam of Kashmir Province of UT of J&K, under Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM).

The bidding process shall be completed online on [www.jktenders.gov.in](http://www.jktenders.gov.in) in two covers viz. **Cover 1** "consisting of General Terms and Conditions and Technical Specifications and **Cover 2**" consisting of Financial Bid on over all percentage rate basis, in the prescribed BOQ.

**S. No 1. Name of Water Supply Scheme :-** WSS Syed Yaqoob, **Description of work :-** Laying fitting of pipes (GI Distribution) and WSS syed Yaqoob under JJM, **Jal Shakti (PHE) Division :-** Budgam, **Estimated cost (In Lacs) :-** 147.05, **Time Of completion (Days) :-** 60 Days, **Class of Contractor :-** A.

**S. No 2. Name of Water Supply Scheme :-** WSS Raiyar, **Description of work :-** Laying fitting of pipes (GI Distribution) for WSS Raiyar under JJM, **Jal Shakti (PHE) Division :-** Budgam, **Estimated cost (In Lacs) :-** 146.08, **Time Of completion (Days) :-** 60 Days, **Class of Contractor :-** A.

**S. No 3. Name of Water Supply Scheme :-** WSS Kachwari, **Description of work :-** Laying fitting of pipes (GI Distribution) for WSS Kachwari under JJM, **Jal Shakti (PHE) Division :-** Budgam, **Estimated cost (In Lacs) :-** 145.59, **Time Of completion (Days) :-** 60 Days, **Class of Contractor :-** A.

**S. No 4. Name of Water Supply Scheme :-** WSS Sheikh Noor Din Wali (RA), **Description of work :-** Laying fitting of pipes /RCC Jacketing of 5no water Returning Structure and Revamping of 0.40 MGD RSFP, Chainlink fencing, Headwork by creat protection work, for WSS Sheikh Noor Din Wali (RA) under JJM, **Jal Shakti (PHE) Division :-** Budgam, **Estimated cost (In Lacs) :-** 143.73, **Time Of completion (Days) :-** 60 Days, **Class of Contractor :-** A.

**S. No 5. Name of Water Supply Scheme :-** WSS Alamar Doodhpathri, **Description of work :-** Laying fitting of pipes RWM/Supply Main, Construction of Intake Chamber,Chainlink Fencing of Various Structure ,Chowkidar Quarter,Returning wall /Brest wall,Anchor Block/Saddle Block for WSS AlamarDoodhpathri (Retro) under JJM, **Jal Shakti (PHE) Division :-** Budgam, **Estimated cost (In Lacs) :-** 141.68, **Time Of completion (Days) :-** 60 Days, **Class of Contractor :-** A.

**S. No 6. Name of Water Supply Scheme :-** WSS Syed Salleh, **Description of work :-** Laying fitting of pipes RWM /Supply main ,RCCJacketing of 5 no existing SR Revamping of 0.30 MGD RSFP for WSS Syed Salleh under JJM, **Jal Shakti (PHE) Division :-** Budgam, **Estimated cost (In Lacs) :-** 128.07, **Time Of completion (Days) :-** 60 Days, **Class of Contractor :-** A.

**S. No 7. Name of Water Supply Scheme :-** WSS Syed Yaqoob, **Description of work :-** Laying fitting of pipes Supply main of 100/80mm Dia D.I/G.I pipesand Construction of hokwedkar quarter at SR site,RCC Jacketing to old Existing SR WSS Syed Yaqoob under JJM, **Jal Shakti (PHE) Division :-** Budgam, **Estimated cost (In Lacs) :-** 122.22, **Time Of completion (Days) :-** 60 Days, **Class of Contractor :-** A.

**S. No 8. Name of Water Supply Scheme :-** WSS Kachwari, **Description of work :-** Laying fitting of pipes RWM /Supply main Construction of chowkidar quarter,chainlink fencing for WSS Kachwari under JJM, **Jal Shakti (PHE) Division :-** Budgam, **Estimated cost (In Lacs) :-** 92.14, **Time Of completion (Days) :-** 60 Days, **Class of Contractor :-** A.

**S. No 9. Name of Water Supply Scheme :-** WSS Rayar, **Description of work :-** Laying fitting of ples RWM/ Supply main Construction of 0.40 Lac G capesity SR, Approach Road, and Chaining Fencing for WSS Rayar under JJM, **Jal Shakti (PHE) Division :-** Budgam, **Estimated cost (In Lacs) :-** 57.71, **Time Of completion (Days) :-** 60 Days, **Class of Contractor :-** A.

**Position of funds: Approved Under Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM)**  
The tender inviting authority is Executive Engineer, Jal Shakti (PHE) Division Budgam  
The awarding authority is District Jal Jeevan Mission (DJJM).

CRITICAL DATES	
i. Publish Date :-	24-04-2022 at 10 am
ii. Document Download Start Date :-	24-04-2022 at 10 am
iii. Clarification Start date :-	25-04-2022 from 10:00 A.M
iv. Clarification End date :-	28-04-2022 up to 6:00 P.M
v. Bid submission Start date :-	29-04-2022 from 10:00 A.M
vi. Bid submission End date :-	13-05-2022 at 4:00 P.M.
vii. Date of Bid opening :-	14-05-2022 at 4:00 P.M.
1. Bid documents can be accessed and downloaded from the website <a href="http://www.jktenders.gov.in">www.jktenders.gov.in</a>	
2.The whole bidding process shall be completed online on tender portal <a href="http://www.jktenders.gov.in">www.jktenders.gov.in</a> . The intending bidders can download the bid document from the tender portal and can submit their bids by uploading the month e tender portal.	
3. The valid bids received shall be opened online in the office of the Executive Engineer PHE Division Budgam. Bids must be accompanied by bid security and cost of Tender Document as specified in column 4 & 5 of the table and shall be payable at Srinagar.	
a. The cost of tender documents should be in form of DD/TR/e challan in favour of Executive Engineer PHE Division Budgam.	
4. The hard copies of cost of tender document in shape of TR/e-challan, Earnest money in shape of CDR/FDR/BG and other relevant documents shall be obtained from the bidder who is declared as L1 after opening of financial cover.	
5. The bid shall remain valid for a period of <b>90 days</b> from the last date of submission of bids. If any bidder with draws his bid before the said period or makes any modifications in the terms and conditions of the bid, the same shall be considered to be in violation of bid security declaration and shall be dealt with accordingly and the bid shall be declared non-responsive.	
6. Other details can be seen in the bidding documents from the website <a href="http://www.jktenders.gov.in">www.jktenders.gov.in</a> .	
7. Queries by email if any should be made at <a href="mailto:phedivisionbudgam@gmail.com">phedivisionbudgam@gmail.com</a>	
Sd/- Executive Engineer, Jal Shakti (PHE) Division Budgam	
No. DIPK-1098/22 Dated: 25-04-2022	

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Noida int airport to have biz zone, Olympic City

STAFF REPORTER ■ NOIDA

The Noida International Airport will have a world-class business zone with a 500 hectare park on the lines of New York's famous Central Park, an 'Aerotropolis' like New Delhi's Aerocity and an 'Olympic City', as per the Master Plan-2041.

The master plan, presented to the Board of the Yamuna Expressway Industrial Development Authority (YEIDA) on Tuesday, shows the proposed planning of the region along the 165-km length of the Yamuna Expressway near Noida.

According to the proposed plan, the region is also estimated to inhabit 41.7 lakh people by 2041, and to cater to this growth there will be a need of eight lakh homes, 1,200 hectares of commercial space and 4,000 hectares of industrial land.

YEIDA, which functions under the Uttar Pradesh government, manages the land and development works along the expressway.

The upcoming Noida International Airport remains the focus point of the master plan, the area surrounding which is being developed with commercial and residential facilities. The local authority has estimated that the population in the area under its control would reach 41 lakh by

2041, according to the plan.

"The total YEIDA planning area phase-1 is 604 sq km with 321 sq km as 'Urbanisable' area. Total population of the existing planning area as per census 2011 is 3, 74,431 in which 19.3 per cent is urban population and 80.7 per cent is rural population," the plan noted.

According to the plan, YEIDA has various opportunities and development potential because of its location, connectivity and other advantages.

The vision is "a sustainable, efficient, well-connected, and globally recognized City that capitalizes on the economic opportunity surrounding the Noida International Airport and economic corridors while ensuring the highest living standards for its citizens", it stated.

Some major proposals include Aerotropolis, Central Business District, Olympic city, transportation sector, according to the Master Plan-2041.

"The area of the Aerotropolis is 10,542 hectares out of which airport area is 4,752 hectares, and the remaining area is 5,790 hectares. It is a multi-modal commercial core. It will accommodate corporate suits, flex offices, business meetings, support services, retail and airline services etc," the plan noted.

It added that the connectivity in an airport city-side is

through airport expressway links while the highway corridors effectively and efficiently connect the airport to the core city and major regional business and residential concentrations.

"Smart infrastructure for logistics, E-commerce, Intermodal Freight Hub, Office Parks and Corridors, Hotels, entertainment, retail clusters, wellness and medical centers, mixed use residential clusters are the key components of the airport city-side development," the plan stated.

The master plan also proposed a 'Central Business District', defining it as a new zone expected to create "a high density district with a distinct character and a clearly identifiable urban form".

"The land uses in this central commercial core would include a mix of offices, retail and other business uses, along with some residential developments. The Central Business District also has a central park in its centre which is city-level park proposed with a point of view of recreational facility. This area of 503 hectare is proposed to be developed in the likes of Central Park, New York," it stated.

The plan stated that an 'Olympic City' will be developed in two parts -- one will be Olympic Park and the other will be Olympic Village which would spread over 390 hectares and 52.4 hectares, respectively.

Suspend Jakhar, sack Thomas from all posts, says Cong panel

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

The Congress Disciplinary Committee on Tuesday recommended the suspension of its former Punjab unit chief Sunil Jakhar for two years and the removal of Kerala leader K V Thomas from all party positions for anti-party activities.

The panel has also recommended that Jakhar be removed from all party posts. The disciplinary committee of the Congress also recommended the suspension of five party MLAs in Meghalaya,

who had supported the ruling Meghalaya Democratic Alliance (MDA) in the state, while defying the party's directives. The committee has given its recommendations to Congress president Sonia Gandhi, who will take necessary action soon. The five-member committee is chaired by senior party leader A K Antony and Tuesday's meeting was attended by panel members Tariq Anwar, J P Aggarwal and G Parameswar, besides Antony. Ambika Soni was not present during the meeting on Tuesday.

Soon after the Congress disciplinary panel's recommendations, Jakhar wished his party "good luck" while refusing to reveal his own plans.

"I wish the Congress good luck," Jakhar said when reporters sought his reaction to the panel's recommendation. He refused to comment when asked what would be his next step.

Ahead of the Congress disciplinary committee meeting, Jakhar had said those who still have a conscience will be punished.

"Aaj, sar kalam honge unke jinme abhi

zameer baaki hai. (Today, those with a conscience will be beheaded). (My apologies to Javed Akhtar Saheb)," Jakhar said in a tweet.

Jakhar had criticised former Punjab chief minister Charanjit Singh Channi and termed him a liability for the party after the Congress lost to the AAP in the state.

He has also been critical of the party leadership in the run-up to assembly elections, which the Congress lost to the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP).

Thomas, a former union minister and senior leader from Kerala, had attended a seminar organised by the CPI(M) on April 9 in the state against the party's wishes and local state leaders had been seeking action against him.

Sources said the five Congress MLAs in Meghalaya had joined the BJP-backed ruling alliance in the state, for which a show-cause notice was sent to them and an explanation sought from them.

The state unit of Congress had also sought strict action against the MLAS for supporting a BJP government in the state, they said.

The legislators had joined the MDA in February, which brought the two arch foes together in a ruling coalition, and left Congress leaders fuming.

The disciplinary panel had issued a show cause notice to Jakhar, Thomas and the five MLAs, and had asked them to explain why action should not be initiated against them for their actions. While Thomas had explained, Jakhar preferred not to reply to the panel's show cause notice.



HSVP demolishes Banjara Market



PNS ■ GURUGRAM

Following a direction given by Haryana Chief Minister Manohar Lal Khattar, the enforcement team of the Haryana Shahari Vikas Pradhikaran (HSVP) has demolished more than 260 illegal makeshift shops at the popular Banjara Market, located in Sector 56, the official said. The officials said the drive will continue till April 27. Gurugram's Banjara Market, famous for affordable home decor, traditional handicrafts and furniture items had come up illegally around 15 years ago on the government's 25-acre land and despite several notices, the illegal occupier was not vacating the land.

Estate officer-2 of HSVP (Gurugram) Jitender Kumar said that most of the shops and slums have been cleared on 25

acres of HSVP land and the remaining illegal encroachment will be cleared within two days. The demolished land is a part of a total of 25 acres of land where various projects from college to official accommodations for the Income Tax department are proposed to be set up.

The market is located adjacent to an under-construction housing complex for judicial officers.

An official said that shopkeepers were given time to relocate and the action was taken after they ignored several notices to remove encroachments. Chief Minister Manohar Lal Khattar during his recent visit to Gurugram to chair the district grievance committee meeting had directed officials to clear encroachments from HSVP land and demolish Banjara Market.

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

To monitor the welfare and protection of rights of women living in an ashram founded by self-styled spiritual preacher Virender Dev Dixit, the Delhi High Court on Tuesday formed a committee under the supervision of retired IPS officer Kiran Bedi.

A bench of headed by Acting Chief Justice Vipin Sanghi, which was hearing pleas concerning the state of affairs at the Adhyatmik Vidhyalaya in Rohini, said the institution will be free to pursue its religious and spiritual practices, and the committee will ensure no woman inmate or child, if any, in the ashram is subjected to treatment that is in breach of their fundamental or legal rights.

The district judge concerned will be the committee's chairperson and the local district magistrate, the deputy commissioner of police (crime against women cell), the district legal service authority's secretary, a nominee of the Delhi Commission for Women (DCW) and the woman and child development department's district officer will be its members, it ordered.

"The functioning of the committee shall be supervised by Kiran Bedi... The committee shall function to see and ensure that no woman inmate or child if any in respondent institution is subjected to any such treatment which may tantamount to breach of their fundamental or other legal right," the bench, also comprising Justice Navin Chawla, said.

JD(U) against...

From Page 1

The CBSE's move to drop lessons on the Cold War era, the rise of Islamic empires in Afro-Asian territories, the chronicles of Mughal courts, and the industrial revolution, and translated excerpts from two poems in Urdu by Faiz Ahmed Faiz in the "Religion, Communalism and Politics - Communalism, Secular State" section has also been censured by the Congress.

The CBSE has also dropped from the course chapters on democracy and diversity. Former Congress President Rahul Gandhi has called the national level board of education "Central Board of Suppressing Education" in a tweet.

Asked about the rationale behind the choice of topics or chapters being dropped, officials maintained that the changes are part of the rationalisation of the syllabus and are in alignment with recommendations by the National Council of Educational Research and Training, PTI quoted them as saying.

Incidentally, the JD(U) had extended support to the Modi-Government on the controversial Citizenship (Amendment) Act, 2019, which was then seen by a section of political parties as "discriminatory" to Muslims. The JDU had then backed the bill in the Lok Sabha and the Rajya Sabha.

Political strategist Prashant Kishore had then criticized Kumar on his support to the CAA and later in January 2020 he and another senior leader Pavan Verma were expelled from the JD(U).

Jaishankar shows...

From Page 1

It looks different from different parts of the world. The priorities are different and that's quite natural," he added.

The Minister was responding to a series of questions from his counterparts from Norway and Luxembourg as well as by former Prime Minister of Sweden Carl Bildt on the Ukraine crisis.

"Quite candidly, we have been hearing for the last two months a lot of arguments from Europe saying things are happening in Europe and Asia should worry about it because this could happen in Asia," Jaishankar said.

"Things have been happening in Asia for the last 10 years. Europe may not have looked at it. So this could be a wake-up call for Europe, not just in Europe, it could be a wake-up call for Europe to also look at Asia," he said.

"This has not been an easy part of the world for the last decade and this is a part of the world where boundaries have not been settled, where terrorism is still practiced often sponsored by States," he said.

Centre to SC: Horrible crowd situation in court corridor

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Centre on Tuesday told the Supreme Court that issues such as lack of proper infrastructure to cater to the growing need of the judiciary and the bar in the national capital can be looked into in consultation with the apex court registry. A bench comprising Justice Vinet Saran and JK Maheshwari termed as "horrible" the crowd situation in the apex court corridor, and said something can be done by the Central Government. The apex court was a hearing a petition for creating Judicial Vista. "We do not go around in the corridors. It is horrible. Something has to be done by the Centre," the SC said, adding it's not for the court to solve the problem. The SC took note of the submissions and said the problems pointed out in the petition can be looked into by the Centre in consultation with the SC registry and petitioner lawyer and listed the PIL for hearing on July 20.

From Page 1

India began inoculating children aged 12-14 on March 16.

The Union Health Ministry or the Covid working group of the National Technical Advisory Group (NTAG) on Immunisation will further decide on the expansion of the Covid vaccine. All above 12 years of age are eligible for Covid vaccination in India as of today.

The Government has permitted only Corbevax for use in the 12 to 14 years age group under the nationwide Covid vaccination programme. The DCGI had last year on December 25 approved Bharat Biotech Covaxin for EUA in the 12 to 18 age group.

The countrywide vaccination drive was rolled out on January 16 last year with healthcare workers getting inoculated in the first phase while vaccination of frontline workers started on February 2 last year.

Public Notice		
Notice is hereby given that the certificates for 337 Equity Shares under certificates		
Certificate No.	Distinctive No.	Share
00027385	5457333-5457382	50
00031923	8152670-8152744	75
00050694	21376422-21376533	112
00013165	2037701-2037800	100
Karpur Pestigach Ltd. standing in the name of Vasu/ Khen. I Ans Khen R/o E-39, Okhla Vihar, Jamsil Nagar, New Delhi-25 have been lost/misplaced and applied to the Company to issue duplicate certificate(s) for the aforesaid shares.		
Any person who has a claim in respect of the said shares should lodge such claim with the company at its Registered office 019-20, Panki Industrial Area P.O. Udyog Nagar, Kanpur, Uttar Pradesh 208022 within 21 days from this notice date else the company will proceed to issue duplicate certificates.		

THE PIONEER CLASSIFIEDS

CHANGE OF NAME

I, Manohar Lal Pawar S/o Bhagwan Dass Pawar R/o E-158 Madipur Colony, New Delhi-110063 hereby declare that my name is written as Manohar Lal B Pawar. Manohar Lal and Manohar Lal Pawar are the name of one and only person. Henceforth he shall be known as Manohar Lal Pawar for all future purposes.

PD(9187)C

I, Prakash Dulhadinomal Hirani S/O Dulhadinomal Hirani R/O A-72, Sector 19, NOIDA have changed my name from Prakash Hirani to Prakash Dulhadinomal Hirani for all future purposes.

PD(9188)C



# CBSE Class 10, 12 Term 2 Board examinations begin

The exams were held across India and abroad after 2 years of disruptions due to Covid pandemic

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

The CBSE class 10 and 12 Board exams for the second term began on Tuesday across India and abroad after two years of pandemic-induced disruptions. The first-term exams were conducted in November in a truncated format with multiple-choice questions. The duration of the exam was one-and-a-half hours. On Tuesday, class 12 students had exams on entrepreneurship and beauty and wellness while for class 10 exams on six sub-

jects -- painting, Rai, Gurung, Tamang, Sherpa and Thai -- were held. "The class 10 examination will be conducted for 29 days and conclude on May 24. The class 12 examination will be held for 51 days and will be over on June 15. For class 10, the CBSE will conduct examination for 75 subjects and in class 12 it will be 114 subjects. The total subjects for examination conducted by the CBSE would be 189," a senior Board official said.

The official added that while over 21.16 lakh candidates will appear for class 10 Board exams at 7,406 centres, 14.54 lakh candidates will appear for class 12 Board exams at 6,720 centres. The number of students permitted in each classroom has been capped at 18 and schools have

been asked to provide separate rooms to students suffering from Covid. "The CBSE has made elaborate arrangements for the conduct of examinations in India and 26 countries.

Since the exams are being conducted after Covid, the Board has made all arrangements for its smooth conduct. Because of Covid, these examinations are being conducted in April, May and June 2022," the official said.

The Board has also decided that for students who were absent in their first-term exams, their results would be based on the second term. It is still working on modalities for computing the results of those who missed both term exams. "As of now, these students will have to appear next year either as regular or private candidates

but we are still working on modalities to see if any solution can be provided to such students," the official added.

The CBSE is paying Rs 5,000 to each examination centre for buying an infrared thermometer. It is also paying Rs 5 per candidate each day for sanitisation of school every day and also for arranging masks, sanitisers and soaps to ensure cleanliness at the examination premises.

The Board has written to the students and parents to follow the Covid protocols strictly. "To ensure that all important information conducting the examinations is communicated to all responsible officials at the centres, it conducted a webinar on Monday which was attended by over 26,000 schools," the official added.

## As cases rise, Govt forms 70 enforcement teams

Teams will ensure compliance of Covid-appropriate behaviour, including wearing of masks at public places in 11 districts of Delhi

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

With the rise in Covid cases across the national Capital, the Delhi Government has formed over 70 enforcement teams in all the 11 districts of the city so far to check violations. They will ensure compliance of Covid-appropriate behaviour, including wearing masks at public places, said officials. Mass awareness campaigns have also been

launched to sensitise people about Covid-appropriate behaviour and encourage them to take the booster dose of the vaccine, officials said.

A senior official from the South district said people had become complacent towards wearing masks after the fine on it was removed earlier this month, but it has been reimposed by the Government and a close vigil will be kept on violators. On April 2, the Delhi Disaster Management Authority (DDMA) had lifted the penalty of ₹500 for not wearing face masks in public places as cases were fairly under control for a few weeks before that.

However, Covid cases and the positivity rate have been on



the rise for the past few days in the national Capital. Within three weeks of lifting its mask mandate, the Delhi Government on April 22 made masks mandatory at public places, and imposed a fine of ₹500 for violators.

Another official at the southeast district said eight enforcement teams have been formed to ensure compliance of Covid-appropriate behavior and they are also conducting mass awareness campaigns. "These awareness campaigns are being conducted at crowded public places such as local markets, shopping centres

among others. In these campaigns we not only sensitise people to wear masks and follow social distancing norms but also request them to take Covid vaccine," the official said.

He also added that civil defence volunteers are being deployed in districts to keep a watch on violators. According to the health department, Delhi on Monday had reported 1,011 fresh Covid-19 cases and one death, while the positivity rate rose to 6.42 per cent. The infection tally in the national Capital now stands at 18,75,887 and the death toll at 26,170, the health bulletin stated on Monday.

## Delhi, Punjab ink knowledge-sharing pact



CM Arvind Kejriwal and Punjab CM Bhagwant Mann after signing an MoU during a joint press conference, in New Delhi on Tuesday

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

A knowledge-sharing agreement was signed between Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal and his Punjab counterpart Bhagwant Mann where in the two States will "cooper-

ate for framing and implementing public welfare programmes in various fields on the basis of reciprocity and mutual benefit." According to Mann, education, health and power are his Government's priority and Punjab can learn

The States will cooperate for framing, public welfare schemes

from Delhi where a lot of work has been done in these fields. He also said 117 schools and mohalla clinics will be developed in Punjab, while Delhi can learn from Punjab about agriculture. Mann, while referring to Kejriwal as a "krantikari" CM, said, "I am willing to go anywhere to learn anything that will help my State grow."

The two leaders announced that this historic pact would allow a free flow of ideas for growth of both States. They said that since Independence, no State has learnt from another but kept reinventing its own plans for

growth and development. "We propose to change that," said Kejriwal in a press conference held jointly with Mann, adding that his Government was willing to share its "Delhi model" with any State willing to replicate it.

Kejriwal said India will progress if every State starts learning from others. "It will be wrong to say that only we have done good work. There are several islands of excellence across India but there were divisions of parties and States, and nothing was learnt from that," he said.

Citing Indore as the cleanest city of India, Kejriwal said he will visit it with his officers if the AAP wins the Municipal Corporation of Delhi (MCD). The BJP, which ruled MCD, should have learnt from Indore, which is ruled by their party, to keep Delhi clean, he said.

### 3 held for trying to promote communal disharmony in city

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Delhi Police has arrested three men for allegedly trying to promote communal disharmony in the city's Khajuri Khas and Noor-e-Ilahi areas.

The incident at Khajuri Khas was reported on Sunday night. Police said that the accused identified as Aman and Jeeshan (both aged 20) have been arrested and booked under Sections 153A (hate speech) and 34 (acts done by several persons in furtherance of common intention) of the Indian Penal Code (IPC) on Monday.

According to a senior police official, a Police Control Room (PCR) call was received on Sunday night regarding a group of people in Khajuri Khas making communally provocative statements and talking about riots in Delhi.

A police team rushed to the spot at street number 13, F-Block, and controlled the situation.

According to the complainant Sonu Kumar, he was out for a walk with his friend Nirdesh. When the duo reached street number 13, Aman, Jeeshan and Sameer allegedly threatened them, the official said.

"The trio made derogatory remarks against the complainant's religion and talked about riots in Delhi. The alleged act of these persons was an attempt to promote communal disharmony and disturb public tranquility in the area.

In the current scenario, such acts of promoting enmity between two communities on the grounds of religion can adversely affect the peace and tranquility of the area," police said.

Meanwhile, a 23-year-old man has also been arrested for allegedly promoting religious hatred after a viral social media video purportedly showed him making communally-sensitive remarks.

Police said that they have also filed a case against Sohail Choudhary under Section 153A (promoting enmity between different groups on grounds of religion, race, place of birth, residence) of the Indian Penal Code (IPC) at the Bhajanpura police station.

## Four fire incidents reported in Delhi

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Four fire incidents were reported in the national capital on Tuesday. In one incident, a fire broke out in the Transport Bhawan on Parliament Street here while in another, a shop was engulfed in fire at the Lajpat Nagar market in south east Delhi on Tuesday afternoon.

A Delhi Transport Corporation (DTC) bus also caught fire on Tuesday afternoon on Vikas Marg area here while a fire was also reported at Outer north Bhalwa Dairy dumping ground (khatta) on Tuesday evening. No injuries have been reported in all the incidents.

According to the fire department, a call was received at 4:10 pm regarding a fire at Transport Bhawan following which four fire tenders were rushed to spot. "The fire started from an air-conditioner in one of rooms of the Transport Bhawan," a senior official said, adding that the fire has been extinguished. Meanwhile, in another incident, a fire broke in a hop in Lajpat Nagar area on Tuesday afternoon. According

to Atul Garg, the Director of the Delhi Fire Service (DFS), a call about the fire was received around 2.40 PM at C 15, Amar Colony, Main Market, Lajpat nagar following which 10 fire tenders were immediately pressed into service.

"The fire was in one Dhaba (small restaurant) on the ground floor and later it spread to a grocery store on the first floor of the same building. The situation came under control at 3.20 PM," said Garg adding that the fire men have started the cooling process.

In third incident of fire, A DTC bus caught fire on Tuesday afternoon and fire department received information about blaze around 2.25 PM following which a fire tender was rushed to the spot to douse flames. The fire was brought under control at 2.50 PM and no one was injured in incident.

In fourth fire incident, a fire was reported at Bhalwa Dairy's dumping ground (khatta). According to Garg, a call regarding the fire was received around 5: 48 PM following which 10 fire tenders rushed to the site.

## Woman dies, two injured in Manesar blaze

**Gurugram:** A massive fire broke out in a pile of scrap spread over 32-35 acres in Sector-6 of Manesar in Gurugram. The incident took place on Monday night around 10.45 pm in which a woman was reportedly burned alive while two people including a kid were seriously injured.

The fire officials said due to strong winds on Monday night the fire also engulfed the nearby slums. The woman used to live with her family in the slums. The fire officials assumed that this fire started when the storm started in Gurugram last night. Due to this, the fire took a formidable form insight and even after 10.30 am, the fire could not be controlled completely.

The official said they have recovered the body of a woman and further rescue operation is underway. "Soon we received an information about massive

fire incident, fire tenders from Gurugram fire stations and fire brigade vehicles from all over Haryana and Delhi had reached the spot to extinguish the fire," Lalit a fire official said.

The land on which a pile of scrap was spread is being told by the farmer of Kakrola village. The search is on for the person collecting rent from the slums located here.

Due to the fire in slums, the cylinders kept here also exploded due to which the fire caught on further. "The actual reason behind the incident is not yet known. Apart from this, the information about the damage caused by this is yet to ascertain. At present, fire brigade personnel are working to douse the fire," he said. **SR**



## Change names of SGES schools by May 1, says HC

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

The Delhi High Court has directed the schools of Sanjay Gandhi Educational Society (SGES) not to use the name of a prominent Delhi school, "The British School."

Asking defendants to change name of their schools from May 1 and apply to CBSE affiliation along with copy of this order for changing name of their schools, the court also noted that the colonial influence on the education system in India has taken a distinct dimension in the present case which has a reference to 'the British'.

In its order, the court has asked that the SGES (defendants) change the name of their schools by May 1, 2022 and apply to CBSE along with copy of this order for changing the name of their schools which are currently affiliated to the CBSE. The order came on a

petition filed by the British School Society running The British School in New Delhi, attached to the High Commission of the United Kingdom against SGES which runs a chain of schools in places like Panchkula, Mohali, Chandigarh and Ferozepur.

Justice Prathiba M' Singh held that appropriation of the mark 'The British School' by the defendant school chain was with the intention to cause misrepresentation and confusion to the public.

The High Court observed that the continued use of the mark 'The British School' for schools belonging to the defendants would constitute misrepresentation in the course of rendering educational services to the effect that their schools are in some way connected or affiliated with the plaintiff.

"This Court has no doubt in concluding that continued use of the mark 'The British

School' for schools of defendants would constitute misrepresentation in the course of rendering educational services to the effect that Defendants' schools are in some way connected or affiliated with the plaintiff."

"Further, such continuous use may cause irreparable prejudice and damage not merely to the plaintiff's goodwill alone but to various students who may be enrolled and studying in the said school," the court said. The order said that the process shall be undertaken in an expeditious manner so that no inconvenience is caused to students studying in schools of the defendants.

Certificates, prizes, medals, etc. to be given to students studying in the defendants' schools shall be issued in the name of "The British School" only till the end of academic year 2021-2022 and not beyond.

## L-G nod to project to facilitate improved access to SAARC University

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

The Lieutenant-Governor Anil Bajjal on Tuesday gave in principal approval to the proposed project to facilitate improved access to SAARC University and other institutions in the area.

The decision was taken at the 65th governing body meeting of Unified Traffic and Transportation Infrastructure (Planning and Engineering) Centre (UTTIPEC) with Vice Chairman of Delhi Development Authority (DDA) and Officers from stakeholder Departments.

According to a senior DDA official, after detailed deliberations in principle approval was accorded to the proposed alignment of Integrated Transit Corridor Development and street Network and Connectivity Plan for approach roads from Chattarpur Road. The proposed project will facilitate improved access to SAARC University and other



institutions in the area. "Walkability Plan was approved for Inderlok Metro Station Area; Old Delhi Railway Station; Lakshmi Nagar; Nehru Place; Bhikaji Cama Place and Saket- Malviya Nagar," he said.

"Multi Modal Integration (MMI) Plans were approved for Metro Station of Inderlok; Chandni Chowk; Lakshmi Nagar," he said.

"Also reviewed the status of implementation of MMI Plans of Metro Stations and advised concerned officers for pro active and coordinated action for timely completion of the projects to remove congestion and facilitate mobility of citizens," he said.

## Govt to redevelop four city forests

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Delhi's Environment Minister, Gopal Rai on Tuesday said that the Delhi Government will develop four world-class city forests in the national Capital where people can enjoy in the lap of nature. There are 19 city forests in Delhi, of which four have been selected for further development.

Addressing a press conference at the Delhi Secretariat, Rai said that these are Mitraon city forest (98 acres) in west Delhi, Alipur city forest (48 acres) in north Delhi, Garhi Mandu city forest (42 acres) in northeast Delhi, and Jaunapur city forest (98 acres) in south Delhi.

Rai further said that a considerable rise in the green cover of Delhi has been witnessed as a result of the Delhi Government's measures and the green cover in city has increased from 20 per cent in 2013 to 23.06 per cent in 2021 "One of the 14 points of the

Summer Action Plan is to develop Delhi's city forests. In this direction, the Forest and Wildlife Department has set a goal of developing 19 city forests in Delhi, in addition to boosting the city's green cover," said Rai.

"In the first phase, the aim is to develop the four main city forests located in the four corners of Delhi. These include Mitraon City Forest in South West Delhi, Alipur City Forest in North Delhi, Garhi Mandu City Forest in East Delhi and Jaunapur City Forest in South Delhi," said Rai.

"These forests will be developed on an eco-friendly model. Their physical structure will not be tampered with. Muram paths, drinking water, public facilities, meditation huts, and amphitheatres will be available to the public in these forests, as well as opportunities to do research and improve the forest based on their findings. The forests may be developed into an open museum or a living lab," Rai added.



# Hope India will be on same page as Europe on Ukraine: Polish Min

RAHUL DATTA ■ NEW DELHI

Poland on Tuesday hoped India will be on the same page as the European nations on the Ukraine issue while Luxembourg and Lithuania stressed on the need for weapons delivery to Ukraine. Elaborating his country's opinion, Polish Foreign Minister Zbigniew Rau expressed confidence that going forward India would be on the same page as the European nations on the Ukraine issue, noting that there can be different reactions for a certain period due to various reasons, including domestic politics. Participating in a session at the Raisina Dialogue, Rau asserted that India for Europeans is the "biggest democratic partner" in the world which means that "we share the same values, principles and



that we stand for the same political judgements and political solutions." Asked what message he has for the Indian prime minister to make him see from the European point of view the urgency for Ukraine to prevail, Rau cited the example of the five principles of peaceful co-existence signed between India and China, also known as Panchsheel, and claimed that they point to supporting the victim of Russian aggression. "We can react in a different way till a certain period of time

for various reasons, including domestic politics, but in terms or values and therefore in terms of our future cooperation, I am sure we are going to be on the same page," he said. Foreign ministers of Luxembourg and Lithuania -- Jean Asselborn and Gabrielius Landsbergis -- stressed on the need for weapons delivery to Ukraine. "We have a discussion in Europe, should we deliver weapons or not, what kind of weapons is also under discussion. In Germany, very intensive discussions are on about heavy weapons..In EU, we have never been confronted with such a challenge," Asselborn said. Lithuanian Foreign Minister said if Russian President Vladimir Putin is successful in his war in Ukraine then he will "export it further," therefore it is important that Ukraine wins

this war and "we have to do our part". On the issue of weapons delivery, he noted that at the beginning of the war, it was not clear how long the war would take and this perception is changing. He said now there was increased confidence that Ukraine can win this war. On the issue of sanctions against Russia, Asselborn said there was no alternative as in the UN Security Council, China and Russia would have blocked it, so they had to go the way of European sanctions along with 40 countries. "This was our only way to say to Putin, 'if you do this you would be excluded, not only for a short time but for a long time, out of international community,'" he said. The Lithuania foreign minister said it is a reality that Ukraine is fighting for "all of us in Ukrainian territory."

# UNHCR lauds India for opening borders for refugees

## Assistant Commissioner Triggs says India has a long history of humanitarian gesture

RAHUL DATTA ■ NEW DELHI

The United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) on Tuesday praised India for helping refugees and opening its borders to lessen their problems. The UN body said India has a long history of humanitarian gesture. Making this point here, Assistant Commissioner of UNHCR Gillian Triggs said people who are forced to flee from their homes or are displaced need to be treated with dignity and lauded India's efforts in opening its borders to refugees. Triggs, who is on a four-day visit to India, was speaking at the inauguration of the Charkha exhibition at the National Gandhi Museum. She praised India's efforts to protect the Tibetans and Sri Lankan Tamils. "One of the first reasons that I wanted to come to India was the fact that India has a

very long history of support for refugees. India opened its borders and it protected many people over many centuries," Triggs said. Linking Mahatma Gandhi's use of the spinning wheel (charkha) to self-reliance, Triggs said people who are forced to flee from their homes, who are displaced to be treated with dignity and a part of that search for dignity is self-reliance. "I understand that this was very much behind Mahatma Gandhi's thinking that to be able to spin this, the concept to do this yourself, was a way of empowering them (people) and of showing that they could be independent and self-reliant," she said. "We both value India's contribution to protection for people in need. But we also value the contribution that they make as refugees to the communities... there are many examples of the support that India has



given more recently to the people of Afghanistan and people fleeing from Myanmar," she added. Triggs said the UNHCR has the mandate to offer protection to those who have been forced to flee. "We understand that this recalls the spirit or adds to the concept to uplift the poorest and the most deprived of people that are, sadly in these

very troubled times, very vulnerable." "But we'd suggest that all too often, those who are displaced, who are refugees are among the most vulnerable in any country because they fled with nothing and they depend on all of us to gain or regain self-reliance or self-sufficiency, that's so important," Triggs said.

# Rajnath, UK Def Procurement Min Quin hold talks

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Days after Prime Minister Narendra Modi and visiting British Prime Minister Boris Johnson firmed up a new roadmap in developing weapon systems including fighter jets, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh on Tuesday held talks with British Minister of Defence Procurement Jeremy Quin here. The talks focused on bilateral cooperation in areas such as aviation and shipbuilding. Rajnath later said, "Had a wonderful meeting with the UK Minister of Defence

Procurement, Mr. Jeremy Quin. We discussed opportunities available in areas pertaining to aviation, ship building and other defence industrial programmes for both countries." The talks between Singh and Quin took place days after Modi and Johnson agreed on a new and expanded India-UK defence partnership. During his visit to India last week, Johnson announced that UK is creating an Open General Export Licence (OGEL) for India to "reduce bureaucracy and slashing delivery times" for defence procurement.

# 26 premises of ABG Shipyard raided in 22.8K cr loan scam

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Enforcement Directorate (ED) on Tuesday conducted searches at multiple premises in Mumbai, Pune and Surat in connection with a money laundering probe against Gujarat-based ABG Shipyard Ltd in an alleged ₹22,842 crore bank loan fraud case.

The ED searched as many as 26 premises in these cities under Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA), officials said. The searches were conducted to gather documents relating to financial transactions and related information of the company and its former promoters and linked persons, they further said. The ED had filed a money laundering case in February after taking cognizance of a CBI FIR against the former promoters of the ship building company apart from a forensic audit report prepared on the operations of the group. The CBI had booked ABG Shipyard



Ltd and its then chairman and managing director Rishi Kamlesh Agarwal along with others for allegedly cheating a consortium of banks to the tune of over ₹22,842 crore. The CBI had also named the then executive director Santhanam Muthaswamy, directors Ashwini Kumar, Sushil Kumar Agarwal and Ravi Vimal Nevatia and another company ABG International Pvt Ltd for alleged offences of criminal conspiracy, cheating, criminal breach of trust and abuse of official position under the Indian Penal Code (IPC) and relevant provisions of the Prevention of Corruption Act. The ED, officials said, is looking into the charges of alleged "diversion" of bank

loan funds, creation of shell firms to launder public money and the role of the executives of the company and others in such offences. Instances of "huge investments" being made in the overseas subsidiary of the company by "diverting" the loans will also be covered in the money laundering probe. Once the charges of money laundering and layering of funds are established, the agency can attach such assets of the accused treating them as 'proceeds of crime'. The loans exposure to the Group was in the form of CC (cash credit) loan, term loan, letter of credit and bank guarantee among others. The CBI FIR came after the State Bank of India (SBI) first filed a complaint with it on November 8, 2019 after which the agency sought some clarifications on March 12, 2020. The bank then filed a fresh complaint in August, 2020. After over one-and-a-half years, the CBI filed an FIR on February 7 this year.

# CAA narrowly-tailored law to provide relaxation to specific communities: MHA

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

With more than two years of pendency in implementation, Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) in its annual report termed the Citizenship (Amendment) Act (CAA) is a limited and narrowly-tailored legislation that seeks to provide a relaxation to specific communities from specified countries with a clear cut-off date, taking a compassionate and ameliorative view. The CAA, which was enacted in 2019 but is yet to be implemented, aims to grant citizenship to those members of the Hindu, Sikh, Buddhist, Jain, Parsi and Christian communities who faced persecution in Afghanistan, Bangladesh and Pakistan. The Ministry has sought five time extension from Subordinate Legislation Committee of Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha to create Rules of CAA. As per the norms when a Act is passed, the Rules have to be formulated within six months and if not formulated approval for extension has to be obtained

from Subordinate Legislation Committees. The enactment of the law triggered protests, leading to about 100 deaths in various parts of the country. The protesters claimed that law violates Constitution as it aims to grant Indian citizenship on the basis of religion -- barring Muslims. "The CAA is a limited and narrowly tailored legislation which seeks to provide a relaxation to aforesaid specific communities from specified countries with a clear cut-off date. It is a compassionate and ameliorative legislation," the MHA annual report for 2020-21 said. It said the CAA does not apply to Indian citizens and therefore, does not in any way take away or abridge their rights. MHA's annual report said that Pakistan-sponsored terrorism forced 64,827 Kashmiri Pandit families to leave the Kashmir valley in early 1990s and settle in Jammu, Delhi, and some other parts of country. According MHA for 2020-21, as many as 14,091 civilians and 5,356 security force personnel lost their lives to militancy in Jammu and Kashmir between

1990s, when militancy first reared its head in valley, and 2020. "Militancy in Jammu and Kashmir is intricately linked with infiltration of terrorists from across the border," the report said. Besides Kashmiri Pandits, militancy forced some Sikh and Muslim families too to migrate from Kashmir Valley to Jammu, Delhi, and other parts of the country, it said. Nearly 1,054 families from the hilly areas of Jammu migrated to Jammu plains, added the report on the affairs of Kashmir. As per the records of registration available with the Relief and Migrant Commissioner, J&K, at present 43,618 registered Kashmiri migrant families are settled in Jammu, 19,338 families are settled in Delhi and NCR, and 1,995 families in a few other states and UTs in the country, the report said. With a view to resettle Kashmiri migrants in the valley, the MHA has approved 3,000 jobs in J&K government under Prime Minister's Reconstruction Package - 2008, and an additional 3,000 jobs under Prime Minister's Development Package - 2015 (PMDP-2015).

# Hold DPCs for promotions in various ranks, fill all posts by June 30: MHA to paramilitary

RAKESH K SINGH ■ NEW DELHI

Following inordinate delays in convening departmental promotion committee meetings for putting in place a panel of officers for promotion to the next level, the Union Home Ministry has directed all the paramilitary forces to conduct such meetings at the earliest so that no post remains vacant. The Ministry has also directed the forces to complete the exercise latest by June 30 for the vacancy year 2022 and furnish fortnightly progress reports with regard to DPCs due and DPCs convened for the vacancy year 2022. "...it has been observed that a large number of DPCs for promotion to various ranks are still pending finalization," the Ministry noted in its order issued on Wednesday. It further said, "The matter has been reviewed and the competent authority has directed that the DPCs for promotion in various ranks for the vacancy year 2022 pending finalization may be convened immediately and the entire exercise be completed by June, 2022. It has also been directed that a fortnightly progress report n 1st May, 15th MAY, June 15th and 30th June, 2022 with regard to DPCs due and

convened may be furnished to the Ministry." It also directed the paramilitary forces to ensure that all the pending DPCs for promotions in various ranks for the vacancy year 2022 are conducted and finalized by June 30, 2022. The Police II Division of the Union Home Ministry circulated the letter t Inspector General (personnel) of Central Industrial Security Force (CISF), Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF), Border Security Force (BSF), Indo-Tibetan Border Police (ITBP) and Sashastra Seema Bal (SSB) and Brigadier (Personnel) of Assam Rifles. The Home Ministry had issued an office memorandum dated May 8, 2017 prescribing time lines in the Model Calendar for Departmental Promotion Committees (DPCs) for promotion in various ranks for a vacancy year and followed up with a similar letter on February 23 this year for convening such meetings in a timely manner. "But the tussle between the deputatationist IPS officers blocked such DPCs to demoralize the cadre officers who have been awarded organized service status by constitutional courts," said a senior cadre officer on condition of anonymity.

# MoU inked for construction of 7 ropeway projects

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Ropeway projects of about 57 km worth ₹3232 crore have been given the go ahead with the National Highways Logistics Management Limited (NHLML) and the Himachal Pradesh Government on Tuesday signing a memorandum of understanding (MoU) for construction of seven ropeway projects in the State under the Parvatmala Yojana. Union Minister of Road, Transport and Highways, Nitin Gadkari and Chief Minister of Himachal Pradesh, Jai Ram Thakur were present on the occasion. The Ministers also reviewed the ongoing developmental projects in the State.

Parvatmala is a National Ropeways Development Programme proposed to create a modern system of transportation and connectivity on the mountains. In February 2021, the Government of India (Allocation of Business) Rules 1961 were amended, and enabled the Ministry of Road, Transport and Highways to look after the development of ropeway and Alternate Mobility Solutions. Union Finance Minister, Nirmala Sitharaman, while presenting Union Budget for 2022-23 announced Parvatmala project that will be taken up on PPP (Public Private Partnership) mode.



Maharashtra Environment & Tourism Minister Aadiya Thackeray called on Railways Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw at Rail Bhavan in Delhi on Tuesday. Thackeray requested Vaishnaw to expedite the process of integrating railways in Mumbai under the National Common Mobility Card that has been introduced for BEST buses and metro stations in the country

# 'Pathogens reaching oceans through microplastics'

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The disease-causing pathogens found on land are making their way to the ocean through microplastics - tiny plastic particles - thus contaminating the water, according to a study from the University of California, Davis. In normal circumstances, these land pathogens can never travel so far. The study, published in the journal Scientific Reports, is the first to connect microplastics in the ocean with land-based pathogens. It found that microplastics can make it easier for disease-causing pathogens to concentrate in plastic-contaminated areas of the ocean. The researchers found that the pathogens—Toxoplasma gondii, Cryptosporidium (Crypto) and Giardia—can infect both humans and animals. They are recognized by the World Health Organization (WHO) as underestimated causes of illness from shellfish consumption and are found throughout the ocean.

"It's easy for people to dismiss plastic problems as something that doesn't matter for them, like, 'I'm not a turtle in the ocean; I won't choke on this thing,'" said corresponding author Karen Shapiro, an infectious disease expert and associate professor in the UC Davis School of Veterinary Medicine. Microplastics are tiny plastic particles smaller than 5 millimeters, no bigger than a grain of rice. The study's findings indicate that, by hitchhiking on microplastics, pathogens can disperse throughout the ocean, reaching places a land parasite would normally never be found. T. gondii, a parasite found only in cat poop, has infected many ocean species with the disease toxoplasmosis. UC Davis and its partners have a long history of research connecting the parasite to sea otter deaths. It's also killed critically endangered wildlife, including Hector's dolphins and Hawaiian monk seals. In people, toxoplasmosis can cause

life-long illnesses, as well as developmental and reproductive disorders. Crypto and giardia cause gastrointestinal disease and can be deadly in young children and people who are immunocompromised. "This is very much a problem that affects both humans and animals," said first author Emma Zhang, a fourth-year veterinary student with the UC Davis School of Veterinary Medicine. For the study, the authors conducted laboratory experiments to test whether the selected pathogens can associate with plastics in sea water. They used two different types of microplastics: polyethylene microbeads and polyester microfibers. Microbeads are often found in cosmetics, such as exfoliants and cleansers, while microfibers are in clothing and fishing nets. The scientists found that more parasites adhered to microfibers than to microbeads, though both types of plastic can carry land pathogens.

Microplastics that float along the surface can travel long distances, spreading pathogens far from their sources on land. Plastics that sink may concentrate pathogens in the benthos environment, near the bottom of the sea. That's where filter-feeding animals like zooplankton, clams, mussels, oysters, abalone and other shellfish live, increasing the likelihood of their ingesting both plastic and pathogens. Co-author Chelsea Rochman, a plastic-pollution expert and assistant professor of ecology at the University of Toronto, said there are several ways humans can help reduce the impacts of microplastics in the ocean. She notes that microfibers are commonly shed in washing machines and can reach waterways via wastewater systems. Additional co-authors include Minji Kim, Lezlie Rueda, and James Moore of UC Davis, and Elizabeth VanWormer of University of Nebraska.

# 6 in 10 hit by Covid year ago still have one symptom



PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Six in 10 people who had been infected with SARS-CoV-2 a year ago still have at least one symptom of long Covid, with fatigue, shortness of breath and irritability being the most common, according to a study presented at the European Congress of Clinical Microbiology and Infectious Diseases (ECCMID) in Portugal. It found that Covid

symptoms that don't clear up after 15 weeks are likely to last at least a year. An estimated 25-40 per cent of people with Covid-19 develop long Covid, persisting symptoms that can affect multiple organs and include mental health problems. Most of the data to date, however, is based on patients who were hospitalised with Covid virus and it isn't clear how it applies to infection

cases more generally. To find out more, Aurelie Fischer and colleagues at the Luxembourg Institute of Health in Luxembourg, surveyed almost 300 people a year after they were diagnosed with Covid. The 289 participants (50.2 per cent women) had an average age of 40.2 years and were divided in three groups, based on the severity of their initial infection: asymptomatic, mild and moderate/severe Covid-19. They were asked to fill in a detailed questionnaire about whether they were experiencing 64 common long Covid-related symptoms. A third (34.3 per cent) were experiencing fatigue a year on, 12.9 per cent said respiratory symptoms were affecting their quality of life and more than half (54.2 per cent) had ongoing sleep problems. Participants who had mod-

erate/severe Covid-19 were twice as likely to still have at least one symptom a year on than those whose initial infection was asymptomatic. Having had moderate/severe Covid-19 was also associated with more sleep problems after a year than being asymptomatic (63.8 per cent vs. 38.6 per cent). "Participants with a mild form of the acute illness were more likely than those who'd been asymptomatic to have at least one symptom at one year, and to have sleep problems, but to a lesser extent than those with a moderate or severe acute illness," Fischer said. One in seven participants (14.2 per cent) said they could not envisage coping with their symptoms long-term. Further, the analysis also revealed that some groups of symptoms tend to occur together, suggesting that there are multiple different types of long Covid.



# UP buys power at high rate to meet increased demand



**PNS ■ LUCKNOW**

With a sharp rise in demand for power due to heatwave conditions across the State, the UP Power Corporation Limited (UPPCL) is buying power from Power Exchange India Ltd (PXIL) at the rate of Rs 8 per unit.

The UPPCL is Trading and Self-Clearing Member (TSCM) of Power Exchange India Ltd (PXIL) and Proprietary Member of Indian Energy Exchange Ltd (IEX) since 2013. This has enabled the UPPCL to trade energy on a daily bidding basis directly from power exchanges to ensure better power availability in UP.

All-India Power Engineers' Federation chairman Shailendra Dubey said that the UPPCL was imposing power cuts in rural areas and small towns as the gap between the demand and supply remained at 4,000 MW. He said that the supply was only 19,000 MW against the demand of 23,000 MW.

Dubey said that coal shortage in the state has been affecting power generation and slump in generation has forced the UPPCL to order emergency load shedding in villages and smaller towns. He claimed that Uttar Pradesh Rajya Vidyut Utpadan Nigam Ltd (UPRVUNL)'s thermal plants

at Harduaganj, Parichha and Obra lost over 13 million units of generation on April 22 due to inability of plants to run on full steam due to dearth of back-up coal.

While thermal power generating plants are grappling with coal shortages and there is a rush among them to import coal, the UP Electricity Regulatory Commission has sought clarifications on procurement of imported coal by private gencos in the state. The Power Consumer Forum has demanded a high-level probe into the dependence of private sector thermal plants on imported coal.

A PCF office-bearer said that the significant reason for the power crisis was the closure of imported coal based thermal power plants. He said that the coal import in the last five years has shot up one and a half times. He said that private sector imported coal-based plants with a total installed capacity of 18,310 MW were lying closed which triggered the crisis.

The power regulator has sought information from private sector companies -- Lalitpur Power Generation Company, Rosa Power

Company and others whether the consent of beneficiary (which in this case is UPPCL and its discoms), has been taken in advance for procuring imported coal and whether they had obtained approval from their board of directors.

The power regulator's mis-sive comes after Union Power minister RK Singh asked all states and private thermal plants or IPPs to use 10 per cent imported coal for blending purposes to ensure maintaining adequate coal stocks and many states, including Gujarat, Maharashtra, Karnataka and Tamil Nadu, have already allowed the cost of imported coal as a pass-through.

The regulator also asked the generating companies to specify whether there was a shortage of administered priced coal and whether the shortage was at the coal mine end or due to rail wagon availability for transportation.

This comes at a time when Lalitpur Power Generation Company and Bajaj Energy Limited - both Bajaj group companies, have invited bids for procurement of 3.20 lakh metric tons of imported coal last week.

# Mumbai and satellite towns face power cuts

People went without power for hours after a high voltage 400 KV line tripped

**T N RAGHUNATHA ■ MUMBAI**

Several areas of the country's commercial capital and neighbouring satellite towns on Tuesday went without power for periods ranging from one to two hours, following tripping in a 400 KV Extra High Voltage (EHV) transmission line carrying power to the metropolis and other places.

Tuesday's was the third major power outage in Mumbai in the recent past. The metropolis had witnessed similar outages in October 2020 and February 2022.

The state-run Maharashtra State Electricity Distribution Company Limited (MSEDCL) attributed Tuesday's power outage to the tripping of the EHV transmission line of



Padaga near Mumbai.

"Apart from Mumbai, there is major power supply disruption in Bhiwandi, Kalwa, Thane, Vasai and Ulhasnagar," a MSSEDCL spokesperson said.

The power disruption started at 10.15 am and continued till 12.30 pm.

The MSSEDCL said that power was restored in various affected areas in a phased manner.

In a related development, M/s Tata Power which supplies power to many parts of the city, said: "As per initial assess-

ment, Tata Power would like to inform that some parts of Mumbai experienced electricity failure due to MSETCL line tripping as part of the 400KV Kalwa Grid which supplies power to Mumbai and suburban areas.

"In order to maintain grid balance, load shedding might be initiated. Power will be restored once the MSETCL line gets energised. Tata Power is working with the teams to restore power to its customers at the 'earliest,'" Tata Power added.

## Maurya for entrepreneurship in food processing

**PNS ■ LUCKNOW**

Deputy Chief Minister Keshav Prasad Maurya directed officers of the Horticulture and Food Processing department to organise and impart training in cookery, bakery, confectionery etc related to food processing and develop 1,250 entrepreneurs within the next 100 days.

Maurya said that a grant of Rs 20 crore will be transferred to 58 approved units under Uttar Pradesh Food Processing Industries Policy-2017.

Director, Horticulture and Food Processing department, Dr RK Tomar said prompt action would be initiated in this regard. As per information received from the department of Horticulture and Food Processing, construction work of 14 incubation centres will be started in the next 100 days under Prime Minister's Micro Food Upgradation Scheme, for which a fund of Rs 37 crore has been approved.

Besides, new machines will also be launched at Regional Food Research and Analysis Centre.

# Arrest warrant issued against Kerala MP for molesting woman professor

**KUMAR CHELLAPPAN ■ KOCHI**

The Judicial First Class Magistrate, Thiruvananthapuram on Tuesday issued arrest warrant to A A Rahim, the newly elected Rajya Sabha member of the CPI(M) and 13 party activists on charges of molesting and abusing a lady professor of the University of Kerala.

The arrest warrant was issued following the refusal of Rahim and his comrades to present themselves available before the Court despite repeated summons. The charges against the MP and others is that they abused, molested and verbally attacked Prof T Vijayalakshmi, director, students services who is also the head of the International Organisation for Tamil Malayalam Cultural Research on 2017, March 30.

Rahim and his colleagues were annoyed with Prof Vijayalakshmi for her insistence that the students submit

the vouchers and bills of Rs 23 lakh they have availed from the fund belonging to students services account. But Rahim and his colleagues refused to submit the bills and threatened the professor with dire consequences if she does not toe the line of the party.

With Dr Vijayalakshmi refusing to yield to their demand, Rahim and friends numbering around 30 persons gheraoed the woman professor and abused her using the filthiest language. "Though I speak Tamil, I have the basic knowledge to identify obscene words. They not only used obscene languages, but assaulted me py bullying my hair and stabbing me with pens and pencils. That's why I filed a complaint with the police chief," said Dr Vijayalakshmi.

Though the CPI(M) led government tried to save the students and approached the court with a request to withdraw the case, Prof Vijayalakshmi stood her ground and said that she wanted

to go ahead with her case. Meanwhile Rahim, party ideologue and a popular TV star, was elected as MP from Kerala Legislative Assembly last month.

Quality of student politics has deteriorated in Kerala as students often stage demonstrations against teachers who do not tow their political line. Teachers are frightened because the students remain aggressive and fearsome.

The CPI(M) led students' politics had staged shocking protest marches all over Kerala against teachers who do not subscribe to the Marxist ideology. In 2016, students of Government Victoria College in Palakkad witnessed a massive grave being laid for Surasu, principal, on the day of her retirement from service. Similarly, activists of the SFI had burnt the chair of the principal of Maharaja's College, Ernakulam in 2017 for asking the students to observe decorum in college campus.

**SAUGAR SENGUPTA ■ KOLKATA**

BJP MP Arjun Singh has reiterated his strong views against the Centre's pricing policy of raw jute saying he would descend on the streets if need be demanding an upward revision of raw jute prices that has been capped by the Centre at Rs 6,500 per quintal.

As many a Trinamool Congress leader saw in Singh's statement a lead up to his "Ghar Wapsi" ahead of the 2024 general elections the BJP strongman said apart from being a saffron MP he was a people's representative and was there in parliament to represent his voters' concerns.

Singh a former TMC MLA who switched sides to join the BJP ahead of 2019 parliamentary elections represents Barrackpore parliamentary seat in North 24 Parganas which is dotted with more than a dozen jute mills and which thrives directly or indirectly on jute economy.

"It is not the question of party discipline only ... because apart from being a BJP MP I am also a people's repre-

sentative and it is my duty to take up their cause ... this is the reason I have written to Union Textile Minister Piyush Goyal seeking a revision of declared jute prices which is far less than the market price ... this is leading the owners to purchase jute at a higher price from the market ... they are incurring loss and many jute mills have either shut down or on the verge of shutting down ... I cannot let the jute workers and jute farmers suffer ... so if need be I will descend on the streets to agitate even against the BJP Government," he said.

He also reminded that he would extend full support to what Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee said recently in her letter to the Centre seeking a revision of jute prices.

Singh had won the Barrackpore seat defeating the then TMC MP Dinesh Trivedi. But the saffron euphoria was short lived as the BJP lost six out of seven Assembly segments to the TMC in last year's State elections that saw Banerjee roaring back to power with overwhelming majority.

Not only this in the last one



year, the BJP has lost its ground to the Left also which has steadily come up to the second place in the recently concluded municipal elections throughout the State. Even Singh's family members like his nephew and brother in law who had once joined the BJP have shifted to the TMC.

Against this backdrop a section of the TMC leadership say that "it is just a matter of time for Arjun Singh to return to the Trinamool Congress."

When asked to comment on Singh's possible return to the TMC, party leader Kunal Ghosh said "why to talk about

Arjun Singh ... there are many leaders in the BJP who are waiting to join us ... but being the party supreme all decisions are taken by Mamata Banerjee."

Meanwhile, in an unrelated development at least 10 saffron workers were injured as hundreds of BJP cadres led by State party president Sukanto Majumdar and senior leader Tejaswi Surya jostled with the police near Vikas Bhawan that houses the Ministry of Education. The BJP workers had taken out a rally against corruption in the recruitment process in the School Service Commission examinations.

Following a High Court order the CBI is investigation the role of several persons including former Education Minister and senior leader Partho Chatterjee and his PA.

Speaking on the issue Majumdar said that the "probe could finally lead to the 14th floor of a Government building where all the entries of illegal appointments for Rs 15 lakh each have been entered ... soon many big TMC leaders will be questioned." He would however stop short of naming the Chief Minister who has her office on the 14th floor of State secretariat Nabanna.

# Yogi asks his Ministers, IAS officers to declare assets

**PNS ■ LUCKNOW**

Aiming to keep its record clean and ensure a corruption-free government, Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath directed all public servants and his ministers to declare their assets in the next three months. At a special meeting of the council of ministers in Lucknow on Tuesday, Yogi Adityanath said, "Transparent conduct of public representatives is very important for a healthy democracy. Keeping with this spirit, all honorable ministers should declare their movable and immovable prop-

erties as well as that of their family members within the next three months. The code of conduct prescribed for ministers should be followed in letter and spirit while ensuring the compliance of provisions of the Representation of the People Act."

Besides, the chief minister said that all public servants IAS/IPS/PCS officers should make public declaration of all their movable and immovable assets as well as that of family members. The details have been made available on the online portal in 90 days.

Yogi also directed that all

ministers should ensure that there was no interference of their family members in government work. "We have to set an example by our conduct," he said. Well placed sources said that the order came in reference to Fisheries Minister Sanjay Nishad's son Pravin Nishad, who is an MP, but carried out an inspection of the Fisheries department in Deoria.

Yogi said that with the presentation of the work plan for the next 100 days, six months, one year, two years and five years being completed, it was time to make the action plan a reality. "All the

ministers should guide the departmental officers to ensure quality and punctuality in maintenance of projects. Under the guidance of Prime Minister Narendra Modi all of us will have to mobilise our resources to fulfill the spirit of Antyodaya," he said.

The CM said that one month has been completed since the formation of the BJP government.

"Our future action plan has been prepared. Now the government will reach the doors of the people. They should feel that this government is serious about their welfare," said Yogi.

# Student among 3 hurt in clash, exchange of fire in Gorakhpur

**PNS ■ LUCKNOW**

Three persons, including a student, were injured when two groups came to a head leading to firing near Tarang crossing on Durgabari road in Gorakhpur. The incident sent shockwaves in the area causing bystanders and passersby to scamper to safety. In the meantime, the warring students took advantage of the chaos and fled waving a pistol. Later personnel from Kotwali police station rushed to the spot and shifted the injured to BRD Medical college where the condition of one of the students was stated to be critical. The police also launched a search for the accused. As per reports, Shani (17) of Jatashankar Pokhara, was returning home from a coaching centre at Durgabari on Monday night when a rival group of stu-

dents intercepted him and started assaulting him. On being informed, Shani's father Shankar Chaudhary rushed to his son's rescue. Meanwhile, the group of students called Abhishek Yadav, who runs an egg shop near the coaching centre. Later they were joined by another student identified as Aniket Singh of Kazipur. The matter took an ugly turn when Abhishek took out a pistol and started firing in which Aniket Singh, Shankar Chaudhary and Shah Nawaz suffered bullet injuries. The firing triggered a panic and as locals fled the scene, the prime accused slipped from the scene.

While the condition of Aniket was critical, the police conducted raids to nab Abhishek, but he was found missing from his home.

Meanwhile, Alok Paswan was arrest-

ed for the murder of three persons after being rejected by a girl at Gorakhpur on Monday night. The incident took place when Preeti - her mother Sanju Nishad (38) and her father Gama Nishad (42) were going to attend a marriage ceremony in Raiganj. Paswan stopped them midway and slit their throats with a sharp weapon.

But acting swiftly, the police arrested Paswan soon after the incident. The bodies were sent for autopsy. Initial investigations revealed that the gruesome murder was the result of a love affair gone wrong.

"A few days back, Alok proposed to Preeti but she refused. The jilted lover couldn't accept the refusal and hence killed her close kin to avenge the humiliation," said SSP, Gorakhpur, Vipin Tada.

# Caste conflict claims life of a Dalit youth in Firozabad

**PNS ■ LUCKNOW**

Caste conflict claimed the life of a Dalit man after members of upper caste allegedly attacked the victim and his family members in Ferozabad on Monday. The incident took place when the victims were feeding cattle in their fields.

As per reports, Omveer, Avadesh and Dharmveer Singh of Jodhpur Mudaiya village were pressuring Jai Singh, a Dalit, to vacate a plot he had purchased from a local resident in 2021. The trio tried to forcibly occupy the land tract in February and even threatened to kill Jai's father if their sinister wish was not met. Jai's daughter Sonam said that they had

informed police about the incident, but no action was initiated. She further said that due to the police inaction, the miscreants became emboldened and continued terrorising her family. She said on Tuesday morning the trio backed up by other aides approached them on the fields and launched a brutal attack on her father and others working with him. This resulted in Jai's death while others were injured and had to be hospitalised.

Later, an FIR was registered against six people, including three unidentified men and two of the accused were arrested. An alleged video of the incident had also gone viral on social media.

Meanwhile in Maharajganj, a BSc student alleged that she was molested by

two unknown persons inside a wash-room on the college campus.

A case of attempted rape was registered against the accused and investigations were on. The victim complained that the two men were wearing masks and hence she could not identify them but she bit one of the perverts on his hand.

She alleged that they tried to strip her and rape her but she somehow managed to escape. After her escape from the scene, the victim fainted in the campus after which the police reached there.

A case was later registered against the accused. A police spokesman said that investigations have been initiated and the two accused have been arrested.

# Water bodies around NMIAL to be preserved

**T N RAGHUNATHA ■ MUMBAI**

The Adani Group-controlled upcoming Navi Mumbai International Airport Limited (NMIAL) has incorporated the Bombay Natural History Society (BNHS) India's suggestions to protect the water bodies in the neighbourhood in the interest of air safety.

Acting on a finding by BNHS that "any changes in the current state of these areas (the wetlands) will result into more erratic movement of the birds in the landscape between feeding and roosting sites, which may jeopardise the air safety of

NMIA," the NMIAL has incorporated the suggestions made by the animal welfare body Adani-controlled project firm said in its Environment Impact Assessment (EIA) study submitted to the Union Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Control, quoted the suggestion made by the BNHS.

The EIA study, done by Hyderabad-based Vimta Labs Limited, had said out that BNHS "strictly suggests" that proponent should protect and conserve the biologically important habitats - Wetlands at - NRI (Non-Residential Indian) complex, Delhi Public School (DPS), Training Ship Chanakya (TSC),

Panje, NSPS (Nhava Sheva Police Station) and Jasai where large aggregations of birds are observed. Sunil Agrawal of Save Navi Mumbai Environment forum, a body that fought and won a High Court battle to save the twin wetlands of NRI and TS Chanakya from getting converted into a golf course, said that the admission made by the Adani-controlled NMIAL was "a positive development that vindicates our stand" to save the biodiversity properties.

The EIA study acknowledged the fact that the golf course has been cancelled.

"It is our earnest request to the government to declare these

wetlands as conservation properties and allow the Mangrove Foundation to take care of them," Agrawal said.

The project has since been granted extended Environmental Clearance, based on the EIA study.

CIDCO has been appointed by CIDCO to do the periodic baseline survey of avian fauna and quarterly as well as annual reports placed on CIDCO's website. CIDCO and BNHS have also signed a 10-year MOU, which is valid till 2028, to track bird movements and advice regarding overall development of Navi Mumbai to ensure adequate habitats are maintained.



## The right age

Parents must to first see that their child is fit for school, mentally and physically

School admission time is crisis time in India. The one question that we hear year after year is what is the minimum age for admission to class one. This year, the controversy is over the Kendriya Vidyalayas fixing six years as the minimum age for admission instead of five. Several parents protested against the change that was announced close to the admission process and moved the courts. Hearing the petition, the Supreme Court wondered why the parents are “in a kind of rush” to send children to schools. The two-judge bench said: “Parents want to start as soon as their children are two years old. This may not be conducive to their psychological health.” The judges had some advice for the parents: “Don’t push the child too much. It may impact his ability to grasp and read. There could be psychological impact.” Before tempers flay and rights from freedom to privacy are raised, one should take stock of the situation first. Children are pushed into the education system the moment they can stand on their feet and utter a few words. They go through the grind in creches, montessoris, kindergartens, waldorfs to be ready to enter class one by the time they are five. Given the kind of system we have in our schools, are we sure that these tiny tots are ready to take on the mental challenge? There is no way of assessing the stress levels of the first grader because every school has its own method of teaching.



There is no system to monitor the quality of the teachers and their methods. You will be surprised that some schools teach tables in in UKG and class one. It is only in a few private schools with liberal thoughts, and, importantly, liberal grants, that teaching the first graders centers around their personality development. In these schools the students

do not stare at a black board when entering the class. Rote is not the rule. They are given time and space to feel their way around their environment, form relationships, and learn while playing. Many other schools are only now beginning to give up the rote system and humanising primary school education. These changes are welcome, but the question remains. What is the correct age to for class one? Five or six? There is no uniformity even abroad, with children being admitted between ages of five and seven. But their systems are much more evolved. We are still debating which is a better medium of instruction - English or mother tongue. More than the minimum age, the parents must be encouraged to first see that their child is ready for school, mentally and physically, instead of joining the race for admissions. There are umpteen number of cases where parents plead with schools to admit even underage children as they fear that the latter may lose out on one year. Enrolling children not ready for schooling will only make life difficult for them.



PICTALK

People not adhering to social distancing norms at Narwal wholesale vegetable market in Jammu

PTI

## Not all is well in Bihar NDA

BJP reaches out to Nitish, but the JD(U) leader keeps everyone guessing about his next move

The NDA in Bihar is beset with serious problems. One of its allies, Vikasheel Inssan Party, (VIP), led by the so-called son of mallah Mukesh Sahni, is out of the alliance after the BJP poached its three MLAs and persuaded the Chief Minister to sack Sahni from the cabinet. Sahni played a big role in ensuring the defeat of the BJP candidate in the prestigious Bochahan assembly by-polls. Its second ally, the Hindustani Awam Morcha is giving the BJP headache by the day. HAM supremo and former chief minister Jeetan Ram Manjhi has serious differences with the ideology and beliefs of the Saffron outfit. Manjhi misses no chance in taking pot-shots at Lord Ram and his followers, saying “Ram was not a God and those who want to worship him are free to do so, but I’ll never do so.”



Then came the third and most important ally, the Janata Dal (U). The BJP and JD(U) leaders have frequently attacked each other during the past few weeks. While JD(U) leaders have said the continuation of Nitish Kumar as the chief minister was the

pre-condition for the existence of the NDA, the BJP state unit has given mixed signals and the Central leadership remained silent on speculations that the saffron party wants Nitish to vacate the CM’s chair for a BJP nominee. Nitish Kumar’s presence at an Iftar party hosted by RJD leader Rabri Devi and his decision to vacate the CM’s residence at 1 Anne Marg have rightly given grist to the rumor mills. As YouTubers started predicting an imminent divorce between the JD(U) and BJP, Nitish sprang another surprise by driving to Patna airport to receive Home Minister Amit Shah, who was on his way to Jagdishpur to attend a party function to commemorate the birth anniversary of freedom fighter Veer Kunwar Singh. Needless to say that the political developments of the past few weeks have completely derailed Bihar’s administration. At this juncture, BJP reached out to Nitish when his former deputy Sushil Kumar Modi on Monday came out with a series of tweets, stressing that there was no question of any change of guards in Bihar and such talks have harmed the NDA. However, with poll strategist Prashant Kishor reportedly engaged in wooing Kumar to the Opposition camp, it’s not clear whether Sushil Modi’s categorical announcement will close the debate on Nitish Kumar’s future move.

# Lanka needs a new approach

Has Premadasa’s party thought through the country’s problems or are they merely reacting to a crisis, economic as well as ethical?



PRAFULL GORADIA

Sri Lanka’s main Opposition Samagi Jana Balavegaya (SJB) last week presented a constitutional amendment bill that seeks to abolish the 44-year-old presidential system of governance and replace it with a system that reinforces constitutional democracy. Presumably, SJB supremo Sajith Premadasa has the vision of a parliamentary system like the one we have in New Delhi. Premadasa’s party attributes the cause of the current acute economic crisis to inadequate control of the members of parliament over President Gotabaya Rajapaksa. The implication is that the President has too many free wings whereby he had a free flight and Sri Lanka’s economy crashed.

The USA is the first constitution that was truly presidential and based on the theory of the separation of powers. The three powers were legislative, executive, and judicial. The working of the British Parliament was critically observed by the creators of the USA constitution of 1781, on the morrow of the American War of Independence won by General George Washington in 1776. The distinguished constitutionalists like Alexander Hamilton, James Madison, and others found that the British worked their governance well, but it was possible because of their faithful character and not due to the written down document. Such a written effort was essential because the distances in the United States were considerable and the means of communication were limited. The fastest in the eighteenth century was horseback.

The oddities, as practiced in Westminster by the unwritten constitution, were quite a few. The members elected to Parliament were primarily tasked with making laws, but soon they set about forming the Government, which then depended on parliamentary support. The law-making took a back seat. The upper house, namely the House of Lords, helped to form the Privy Council — the highest law court



and, therefore, the highest level of judiciary where a suit could be appealed to. It was also India’s apex court until Independence. We in India practice what we have borrowed from Westminster.

There is no doubt, however, that the USA constitution has helped to provide an excellent system of governance. It has given minimum Government with the country achieving a fabulous record of development. In the course of these two and a half centuries or less, the American constitution has been amended only 26 times. We, in India, have amended our national document some 140 times. The less one amends, the message is that the constitution suits the needs of the country. The more the amendments, the less suitability.

Has Premadasa’s party in Colombo thought through the country’s problems or are they merely reacting to a crisis, economic as well as ethical? Have the country’s rulers been sincere in the performance of their duties? Or have they been frivolous? The experience of many a small nation has been they begin their association with



CHINA INCREASED ITS FOOTPRINT SIGNIFICANTLY FROM 2010 TO 14 IN SRI LANKA EVEN WHEN A HUGE AMOUNT OF DEVELOPMENTAL ASSISTANCE CAME FROM INDIA, MAINLY IN THE FORM OF GRANTS, AND NOT LOANS.

China by buying out the leaders of the junior partner. Thereafter, the Yellow Giant imposes conditions; there is a restaurant in Nairobi, I have been reliably told, wherein Kenyans are not allowed to enter. Mao Zedong used to say that power grows out of the barrel of a gun. Its more modern version is authority flows from the pocket of the master. No constitution can be a solution to such a problem.

Sri Lanka has been unfortunate in having to face a series of crises. The Easter terrorism and the Covid, to name a few, Such happenings are enemies of tourism which brought in handsome foreign exchange. Before this, the country faced a prolonged and violent civil war centered around Jaffna. Still, the country went for massive borrowing to build excellent highways, and upgrade its ports. But the fundamental of the economy was weakened considerably. Then came the Russo-Ukraine war and Sri Lanka battled to ward off its consequences on its economy, especially the spike in petroleum prices. For a small country with a struggling economy, these blows were

difficult to withstand.

It is interesting to note that China increased its footprint significantly from 2010 to 14, even when a huge amount of developmental assistance came to Sri Lanka from India, a large portion of which were in the form of grants, not loans. The affinity of the then Rajapaksa administration with China for readily extending financial loans to fulfill Mahinda Rajapaksa’s developmental vision for the country without questioning the human rights records or progress of the political reconciliation in the post-war period had helped China strengthen its strategic presence in Sri Lanka.

Regardless of these misfortunes as well as mistakes, how would a constitutional change help to cure these economic problems? If anything, what should help is a financial discipline, reining in the executive, say the President’s power to spend, and not writing a new national document when the economy is in hospital.

The writer is a well-known columnist, author, and former member of Rajiya Sabha. The views expressed are personal.

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### INDIA NEEDS BRIDGE BUILDERS, NOT BULLDOZERS

Sir — Giant bulldozers are known to bring down sturdy concrete structures with ease. But thanks to the ruling BJP, in a morbid twist, bulldozers in India are now being used to raze down long-cherished ideals of religious harmony and peaceful co-existence.

The instant justice apparatus is diametrical to any modern legal system. But such tactics were close to the hearts of all varieties of fascists rulers across the world. Hitler used this manoeuvre to terrorize the Jews, Israel demolished numerous villages to horrify the Palestinian Muslims, and Pakistan’s General Zia resorted to it to crush political opponents. And the right-wing forces in the second-largest democracy are now boosting majoritarian anarchy by using these methods. Unsurprisingly, in most cases, the victims belong to the minority community. India needs bridge-builders for religious unity and not bulldozers to tear apart communal and social fabric.

Ranganathan Sivakumar | Chennai

### MORE NEEDED TO BE DONE FOR J&K

Sir — Gifting projects worth over ₹20000 crore to the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir at Jammu’s Palli village on National Panchayat Raj Day, Prime Minister Narendra Modi claimed that for the people of the region the ‘days of misery are over and that Article 370 was an obstacle to the region’s economic development. I would politely disagree for valid reasons. Certainly, the raft of projects will give a development push to the Union Territory, but they cannot be a substitute for what the people aspire to on the political front. There is no dichotomy between special status with some semblance of autonomy and development.

It would be delusional to think that the projects announced by the Prime Minister are enough to reverse discontent and disaffection accumulated over the decades and resolve the conflict. The Union government has to think in terms of how best it can fulfill the legitimate political aspirations of the people. The assessment that

## Hold JK polls to restore normalcy



While addressing the people of Jammu and Kashmir on the occasion of Panchayati Raj Day on April 23, Prime Minister Narendra Modi once again raised the hopes of the people for a better future. The PM promised investments, increased connectivity, and all-round development, even as business leaders from U.A.E. also proposed investments to the tune of ₹3000 crore. This was the PM’s first visit to the Union territory since the Abrogation of Article 370, which granted special status to the state. Naturally, the PM was expected to apply balm to the section of people who feel the removal of the special status and bifurcation of the state was undemocratic. Despite periodic strife, violence, and instability arising out of lockdown and Covid

crisis, the recent pick up in tourism and the economy has generated considerable hope for the future of J&K. However, the moot question remains whether new investment and a new administrative landscape can create fresh employment and development opportunities while keeping the Pak-sponsored terrorism at bay. It is no secret that the panchayats, as they exist today in the turbulent Union territory, are affected by violence and instability. The situation is far from normal given the killing of more than one panchayat representative and several cases of security breaches.

Empowerment of the people has been a recurring theme of the BJP Government at the Centre after it pulled out of the ruling coalition led by P.D.P. in 201 setting the stage for the abrogation of Article 370 and bifurcation of the state in August 2019. The Centre should hold Assembly Elections, and go for restoration of statehood so that the citizens feel truly empowered. For this smooth transition, the delimitation process must be fast-tracked, as putting off elections anymore will be to the detriment of democratic institutions.

Vijay Singh Adhikari | Nainital

the abrogation of Article 370 has reduced the anger and alienation in the Kashmir Valley is not realistic. Restoration of Article 370 and full statehood, reduction in army deployment, initiating dialogue with Jammu and Kashmir’s leaders, and implementation of the delimitation exercise without favouring Jammu over Kashmir, and harassment of Muslims in the rest of the country are likely to go a long way towards political normalization. These will help in winning the hearts and minds of people and providing a sense of belonging to the nation.

G.David Milton | Tamil Nadu

### BORIA MAZUMDAR DESERVES THE BAN

Sir — It’s good to see the Board of Control for Cricket in India cracking the whip on journalist Boria Mazumdar. Boria was

getting bigger than his boots. No one is above the law in this country. Culprits in cricket must confront the laws of the land. He has gone too far and paid the price for the same.

It is time to ban such critics of Indian cricket once in for all. He was trying to play with the career of dedicated players in the circuit. Let this be an example to other journalists, too, who threaten the players. Boria’s behaviour is boorish and arrogant. The tone and tenor of communication are mean and disdainful. He, who has never donned a pair of wicket-keeping gloves, speaks ill about a seasoned wicket keeper.

Nikhi Krishnamani | Mumbai

Send your feedback to: [letterstopioneer@gmail.com](mailto:letterstopioneer@gmail.com)

## SOUND BITE

No question of any change of guard in Bihar. Nitish Kumar had the “mandate till 2025 and there are no ifs and buts”.



BJP leader — Sushil Kumar Modi



European Commission President — Ursula von der Leyen

Chiru sir, you look good, you dance well, you act well, and despite being a megastar, you don’t have the charisma of my ‘RRR’ hero Ram Charan

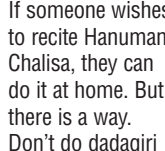


Film Director — SS Rajamouli



India will be the next big sporting powerhouse, be it in Olympics, Paralympics or Deaflympics

Union I&B Minister — Anurag Thakur



If someone wishes to recite Hanuman Chalisa, they can do it at home. But there is a way. Don’t do dadagiri

Maharashtra Chief Minister — Uddhav Thackeray



FIRST COLUMN

FINLAND, SWEDEN TO JOIN NATO?

May increase security in Baltic Sea region but Russia not amused



PK VASUDEVA

The Finland government has submitted a report to Parliament on “fundamental changes” in the foreign and security policy environment following Russia’s invasion of Ukraine, as part of a process that is expected to lead to a decision on whether or not to join North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO). The publication of the report has been broadly viewed as the beginning of the official debate about Finland’s potential membership in the military alliance. The report outlines the advantages of joining NATO, which include security guarantees from member states and increased co-operation, alongside the risks - which mainly relate to Russia’s reaction to any Finnish move to join the alliance. The main advantage is increasing the cost Russia might pay for any military action in the region. “Should Finland and Sweden become NATO



members, the threshold for using military force in the Baltic Sea region would rise, which would enhance the stability of the region in the long term,” says the report. President Sauli Niinistö said that such important decisions (NATO membership) require a “thorough analysis”. “The publication of the report launches a parliamentary phase, during which Parliament will discuss the report. Now we must set a clear course for Finland’s direction. This is a matter of Finland’s own security. It is without detriment to anyone,” Niinistö said. Foreign Minister Pekka Haavisto says one half of the report deals with foreign security and defence policy issues, while the other half looks into economic implications, security of supply and Finland’s level of preparedness. The report calls Russia’s invasion of Ukraine a “blatant violation of international law and jeopardises the security and stability of the whole of Europe”. In a section entitled “Strengthening Resilience,” the report examines the potential threat posed by Russian hybrid attacks, cyber espionage or any other attempts to influence the NATO discussion. “If Finland applied for NATO membership, it should be prepared for extensive efforts to exercise influence and risks that are difficult to anticipate, such as increasing tensions on the border between Finland and Russia,” the report noted. Finland may also face increased Russian activity on its eastern border, such as military training drills, although Defence Minister Antti Kaikkonen (Cen) said on 12 April that the military situation in the region currently remains calm. The changed situation calls for a reassessment of Finland’s security policy, the report said.

“Finland will strengthen its preparedness for becoming a target of wide-ranging hybrid influence activities and in order to prevent and respond to such efforts to exercise influence.” Swedish Prime Minister Magdalena Andersson was in Stockholm on April 12 to discuss the security situation in Europe following Russia’s invasion of Ukraine. Speaking to reporters before the talks began, Finland’s counterpart Sanna Marin said that Finland will likely make a decision on membership of NATO within weeks, not months. Marin noted the impact Russia’s war on Ukraine has had.”Of course everything changed when Russia invaded Ukraine. I think people’s mindsets, in Finland, also in Sweden, changed and shifted very dramatically.” President Niinistö said in an interview that Finland would likely make a decision on NATO membership well before the alliance’s summit in Madrid, set to take place at the end of June. Russia violently reacted on the idea of Finland and Sweden joining NATO and warned both the countries against joining NATO, arguing the move would not bring stability to Europe. Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov told reporters “the alliance remains a tool geared towards confrontation”. Russia also warned of nuclear build up if Finland and Sweden join NATO because it will be a direct threat to the existence of Russia, which may result in the third war.

*(The writer is former Senior Professor, International Trade and Member, Vivekananda International Foundation. The views expressed are personal.)*

Climate change affects women, girls

It is imperative for all women to have the absolute right to their bodies and easy access to health services for their sexual and reproductive well-being



DEBANJANA CHOUDHURI

A study by the United Nations mentions that 80 per cent of the time, women and girls are often dislodged from their homes due to changes in climatic conditions which lead to human-made disasters, affecting them disproportionately.

During human-made or natural disasters like floods, tsunamis, earthquakes, pandemic, etc., women and girls face far graver challenges to safety, security, access to health services, access to education, and even a safe space to stay. Needless to say, they are more vulnerable to exploitation, poor health, social taboos, and also unintended pregnancies.

While it is not surprising that extreme changes in the climate have a direct bearing on the health and wellbeing of women and girls, the linkages between sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR) and climate action have not been studied enough. It is high time we researched direct correlations between climate change, inaction to climate change, and its impact on women and girls. If a path for just transition is to be carved in India, then it is imperative that women and girls be involved in the decision-making process, be involved in community-level actions, and are empowered to be the flag bearers of just transitions.

Climate Justice: how far are we? Climate justice is a concept that addresses the fair division and equal distribution of gains and burdens of climate change and the responsibilities that come with dealing with the changes. It is a fundamental aspect of SDG 13 under UN Agenda 2030.

Climate justice is a utopian concept given our historic baggage of social, cultural, economic, and gender inequities. Poverty, illiteracy, social backwardness, and gender inequality put a fairly large population of women in developing countries like ours at an intersection where they are constantly battling basic survival issues like water shortage, food security, poor nutrition, lack of employment, access to education, and clean hygiene and access to basic healthcare facilities. And, climate change often multiplies these issues further deepening the vulnerability of women and girls. Most Indian women who belong to this milieu lack basic rights to sexual and reproductive health, a key to their health leading to unintended pregnancies, and larger families, thereby further jeopardising their socio-economic conditions.

There are enough and more examples globally to showcase how women and children are most severely impacted by climate change-induced extreme weather conditions. Unfortunately, India’s policies do not reflect any kind of gender sensitivity and this is primarily because of a lack of awareness on the whole issue of gender and social aspects of climate change. It is essential to study that different genders respond differently to climate-induced extreme weather changes, and

CLIMATE JUSTICE ADDRESSES THE FAIR DIVISION AND EQUAL DISTRIBUTION OF GAINS AND BURDENS OF CLIMATE CHANGES AND THE RESPONSIBILITIES THAT COME WITH DEALING WITH THE CHANGES



*(The writer is a gender and climate justice specialist. The views expressed are personal.)*



this is exaggerated because of existing social inequalities and inequities.

There are some studies that have shown that disaster-related death rates are much higher for women than for men primarily because of gendered differences in their response and capacity to cope with such eventualities and limited access to information and early warnings make them even more vulnerable. Some recent examples supporting this, women alone accounted for close to 70-80 per cent deaths due to the 2004 Indian Ocean tsunami, and nearly 91 per cent of fatalities in the 1991 cyclone in Bangladesh were again women. If when we look closer home, in India, for instance, in Odisha, most households along the coasts are run by women, as young men between the ages 20-45 have been forced to move to nearby cities for work as the aftermath of repeated cyclones. A 2021 study on gendered vulnerabilities linked with annual flooding in Bihar, showed how households with more daughters were most vulnerable and mapped how they suffered both physically and financially.

Climate Action Network South Asia’s recent report shows that climate-induced displacement and migration in India leads to at least 12-14 hours of added work for women that includes farmland work and household chores, which includes cooking food, securing water, taking care of young ones and elderly and for young girls dropping out of schools and helping in day to day work. These situations caused due to climate related disasters also leads to an increase in cases of sexual abuse among women and girls, early marriages, etc.

The recent IPCC report reiterated India’s need for climate justice, and gender and social equity, importantly for sustainable development. The report emphasised on the urgent need for building resilience and decreasing risks and vulnerability to the debilitating impact of climate change. The assessment report also flagged gender disparities, mental health, loss and damage of property and lives and the idea of compensation for the poor and vulnerable due to the climate related damage was also discussed.

How can climate justice be achieved in India? Increasingly, there is a requirement for fostering a more gender-transformative climate action by concentrating on identifying the existing linkages between climate change and SRHR all along the climate action process - namely the Gender Action Plan under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change or the Women and Gender Constituency, part of the UNFCCC.

We also need to start setting ourselves targets for a more gender-inclusive, multi-sectoral stakeholder involvement in putting together a policy to handle the aftermath of climate imbalances. There is also an overarching need for enhanced investments in furthering research in the studying the gaps, also integrating existing data sets on SRHR and climate to help us find more conclusive and far-reaching solutions. And, like always there is always more and more areas to invest in healthcare systems across geographies, more in the poorer regions to strengthen them help counter the exiting gaps and making them more accessible for the women.

It is imperative for all women to have the absolute right to their bodies and easy access to health services for their sexual and reproductive well-being. For them to be empowered, they need to be educated, to be able to take decisions, particularly with regard to reproductive rights. It is important to prioritise women’s health more in the context of SRHR and bring it to the centre of conversations. We believe that it is like the building blocks to the very foundation of gender equality and that India could add \$770 billion to its GDP by 2025, simply by giving equal opportunities to women (estimates by McKinsey Global Institute Study) adds even more impetus.

Intersection of Climate Justice, SRHR and gender equity may sound like a far-fetched concepts but for India’s sustainable and upward growth it is important that we start taking the first steps now as this will automatically translate into better participation and contribution by women across all sectors of the society, and hence a direct contribution to India’s commitment on inclusive growth for women shaping them as a potent contributors to the Indian society and the economy. We must not lose any more time and take remedial steps without any further delay.

POINT COUNTERPOINT



“THE DANGER (OF WW III) IS SERIOUS, IT IS REAL, YOU CAN’T UNDERESTIMATE IT.”  
— RUSSIAN FOREIGN MINISTER  
SERGEI LAVROV



“WE WANT TO SEE RUSSIA WEAKENED TO THE DEGREE THAT IT CANNOT DO THE KINDS OF THINGS IT HAS DONE IN INVADING UKRAINE.”  
— US DEFENSE SECRETARY  
LLOYD AUSTIN

Easing PK into the Congress, Sonia style?

The Congress circles are already debating whether he would be an asset or a liability

Congress chief Sonia Gandhi has taken a conciliatory step by not confronting the rebels in the party (G-23) by postponing her decision on poll strategist Prashant Kishor’s entry into the party. It, however, does not mean that it will not happen, as she is biding time and preparing the ground for the admission of controversial Kishor. In politics, timing is crucial, and Sonia knows better than others when and how Kishor should be brought in.

After many poll defeats, restlessness within Congress is at its peak. Sonia wants to mollify the rebels. Since last August, the G-23 has been demanding a revival of the party and collective leadership. They have no objection if he advises Congress as a consultant, but being inducted at the top is a ‘no-no’ to them.



KALYANI SHANKAR

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

Why is Kishor controversial? The Congress circles are already debating whether he would be an asset or a liability. The old guard feels that the Gandhi family ignores the in-house talent and looks elsewhere, while their suggestions were not different from Kishor’s presentation. That is why she has included members of G 23 in important committees announced on Monday.

However, the indications are clear, as Sonia has started implementing Kishor’s strategy. On Monday, she formed an empowered committee to prepare the party for the 2024 polls - one of Kishor’s leading suggestions in his presentation to the Congress top brass last week. Sonia has shown that she has no intention of outsourcing the party leadership to a rank outsider. G-23 leaders included former chief ministers Ghulam Nabi Azad, Bhupinder Singh Hooda, Veerappa Moily, Rajinder Kaur Bhattal, and former Union ministers Anand Sharma, Kapil Sibal, Manish Tewari, Shashi Tharoor, Mukul Wasnik, Milind Deora, and Renuka Chaudhari.

At the same time, she has also included most of the G 23 rebels in committees to prepare the proposed ‘Chintan Shivir’ (brainstorming session) in Udaipur in May. The earlier sessions in Pachmarhi and Shimla had clarified the party’s thinking on the alliance.

Meanwhile, eyebrows are raised at Prashant Kishor’s I-Pac inking a poll strategy pact with the Telangana Rashtra Samithi (TRS) on Sunday, even as he is expected to enter Congress.

Kishor has publicly distanced himself from I-Pac, but his presence in Hyderabad on Sunday at the chief minister’s official residence proves otherwise. His test would be at the time of the Telangana elections next year. The state Congress has been fighting the TRS since the united Andhra Pradesh was bifurcated in 2014. Since then, the TRS has replaced Congress. Kishor has been working with many other parties opposed to Congress. Some senior leaders like former Madhya Pradesh chief minister Dig Vijay Singh have expressed doubt about Kishor’s commitment to Congress.

Once admitted, Kishor will be walking on a razor’s edge as he is a newcomer to the Congress culture. His earlier experiment to help the poll campaign in UP in 2017 was not very pleasant for both sides. He might resist the G-23 lobby with the support of the Gandhis but not the deep-rooted party system. The old guard has come through the system fighting it - sometimes joining it - and survived for decades. Even Rahul Gandhi has not been able to resist the system. That is why he wants to bring in new faces loyal to him.

Last August, the rebel group blocked his entry when Kishore almost joined it. Even Indira Gandhi, Sanjay Gandhi, and Rajiv Gandhi came through the organization and electoral route. Only Sonia, Rahul, and Priyanka Gandhi Vadra have been lateral entrants. It is not the first time there has been a rift in the party. Since Independence, there have been about 70 splits. The major one was when Indira Gandhi split the Congress in 1969 over differences with the powerful old guard called Syndicate. She was successful because she outmanoeuvred the old guard and went on to rule. Since then, there have been many splits, but most Congressmen remained with the Gandhi family.

The G 23 is at a disadvantage because none of the rebels is in a position to break the party individually or in a group as they do not have pan-Indian visibility. But they have nuisance value. Sonia has tackled the issue very carefully by showing that Kishor will not have a free hand as he has insisted.

But she needs Kishor for the upcoming polls in Gujarat and Himachal Pradesh later this year. So, Kishor’s entry, if at all, is sooner than later, as the Gandhis are keen to avail of his services. We will wait for the drama to unfold.



# Lankans demand Rajapaksa family's exit

## Sri Lankans intensify anti-Govt protests, set up camp outside PM office

PTI ■ COLOMBO

Sri Lankan protesters, who have been camping at the main beachfront outside Sri Lankan President's Secretariat here, have now extended their protest to Prime Minister Mahinda Rajapaksa's office, as they intensified their demand for the government led by the Rajapaksa family to step down. Thousands of demonstrators have hit the streets since April 9, as the government ran out of money for vital imports; prices of essential commodities have skyrocketed and there are acute shortages in fuel, medicines and electricity supply. The street protest opposite the presidential secretariat entered its 18th day on Tuesday, demanding the resignations of President Gotabaya Rajapaksa and Prime Minister Mahinda Rajapaksa, his 76-year-old elder brother.

The protesters have set up the 'Gota go home village' there.

To give impetus to the protest, the protesters have now set up a protest site 'Mahinda go home village' near Prime Minister Mahinda Rajapaksa's office-cum-residence known as 'Temple Trees'.

Earlier, the Colombo magistrate court had refused to issue a police order preventing protests near the Temple Trees.

The Rajapaksas are under pressure to resign for their mishandling of the forex crisis which landed the island nation into its worst economic crisis.

President Gotabaya Rajapaksa had to drop his older brother Chamal and the eldest nephew Namal from the Cabinet in response to the protests which called for accountability from the family. He is also under increasing pressure to form an interim



government.

President Gotabaya Rajapaksa had said that he would hand over the government to any group that could muster 113 seats in the 225-member Parliament but would not step down from the presidency. Prime Minister Mahinda Rajapaksa also last week

stressed that there was no need for him to resign or to allow the formation of an interim government without his leadership.

The Rajapaksa brothers are also facing calls for the restoration of the 19A Constitutional amendment which was adopted in 2015 to curb the power of the president.

With Gotabaya's ascendancy to the presidency in 2020, the 19A was annulled to make the presidency more powerful over parliament.

On Thursday, Sri Lanka's principal Opposition party, Samagi Jana Balawegaya (SJB), presented a constitutional amendment bill that

among other provisions seeks to abolish the presidential system of governance, in existence in the country since 1978, and replace it with a system that reinforces constitutional democracy.

Sri Lanka needs at least USD 4 billion to tide over its mounting economic woes, and talks with international institutions such as the World Bank as well as countries like China and Japan for financial assistance have been going on.

Sri Lankan officials were in Washington last week to negotiate with the International Monetary Fund for a bailout.

India has agreed to extend an additional USD 500 million credit line to help Sri Lanka import fuel.

India has already agreed to defer USD 1.5 billion in import payments that Sri Lanka needs to make to the Asian Clearing Union.

Last week, the Sri Lankan government said it would temporarily default on USD 35.5 billion in foreign debt as the pandemic and the war in Ukraine made it impossible to make payments to overseas creditors.

# Poverty in Sri Lanka to spike this year: WB

PTI ■ COLOMBO

More Sri Lankans will slip into poverty this year, the World Bank has warned, as it urged the debt-ridden island nation to undertake urgent policy measures to address the high levels of debt, trim the fiscal deficit, and mitigate the adverse impacts on the poor and vulnerable. Sri Lanka is currently in the throes of an unprecedented economic turmoil since its independence from Britain in 1948.

The crisis is caused in part by a lack of foreign currency, which has meant that the country cannot afford to pay for imports of staple foods and fuel, leading to acute shortages and very high prices.

"Around 11.7 per cent of people in Sri Lanka earn less than USD 3.20 per day, the international poverty line for lower-middle income countries, up from 9.2 per cent in 2019," the Bank said in its

Spring Update on the South Asian region.

The other reason for the increase in poverty rates in the country was because the government's Samurdhi programme, which covers around 1.2 million poor families in the country, remained inadequate.

"Less than half of the poor were beneficiaries of the Samurdhi," Sri Lanka's social safety net programme, "and benefit amounts remain largely inadequate," it said.

Due to the pandemic, the Sri Lankan economy has contracted by 3.6 per cent in 2020, it stated.

The World Bank's April 2022 update of Macro Poverty Outlook for Sri Lanka asserted that the heightened fiscal and external risks as well as the challenging political situation pose significant uncertainty to the economic outlook and the country faces an external financing gap in 2022 and beyond.

# Lankan EC urges all parties to come together to end political crisis

PTI ■ COLOMBO

Sri Lankan election commission has urged all political parties to come together to form an all-party government or a similar body to end the political impasse prevailing in the country, amidst fierce public protests demanding the resignation of President Gotabaya Rajapaksa for mishandling the country's worst economic crisis.

Debt-ridden Sri Lanka is grappling with an unprecedented economic turmoil since its independence from Britain in 1948. The crisis is caused in part by a lack of foreign currency, which has meant that the coun-

try cannot afford to pay for imports of staple foods and fuel, leading to acute shortages and very high prices.

"It is the view of the election commission that an all-party cabinet or a similar body must set up an interim government," said Commissioner General of Elections Saman Sri Ratnayake.

The election commission advocates constitutional reform be implemented within a specific time frame and the creation of special ministries to gain foreign exchange and to provide essential services to the public. It also calls for legislation to allow electronic voting with restrictions on political parties for election



spending.

President Rajapaksa is coming under increasing pressure to set up an interim administration as an immediate step to resolve

the economic and political turmoil in the country. Mass anti-government protests demanding the resignation of the entire Rajapaksa family have been

going on for more than two weeks.

President Rajapaksa has said he would hand over the government to any group that could muster 113 seats in the 225-member Parliament but would not step down from the presidency.

His brother and Prime Minister Mahinda Rajapaksa also stressed last week that there was no need for him to resign or to allow the formation of an interim government without his leadership.

In his bid to stave off resignation pressure, the prime minister on Tuesday met the local council members of the ruling

SLPP coalition. They urged Rajapaksa to continue as the prime minister.

In recent weeks, prominent businesses and other professional organisations have repeated the call for an interim government.

A senior Buddhist monk claimed on Monday that President Rajapaksa had agreed to form an interim government to tackle the unprecedented economic crisis.

Rajapaksa has said his offer for the opposition parties to join him in a unity government did not yield any results and therefore he was compelled to form a cabinet of his own.

The ongoing street protest opposite the presidential secretariat entered its seventeenth day on Tuesday. The protesters demand the resignation of the president and his elder brother who is the prime minister.

The ruling dispensation had reached out to the opposition parties and protesters for talks, but all efforts were rebuffed with agitators saying they want the government to resign.

A group of over 40 parliamentarians from the ruling coalition has declared independence and demanded the formation of an interim government comprising all political parties to tackle the economic crisis.

Sri Lanka needs at least USD 4 billion to tide over its mounting economic woes, and talks with international institutions such as the World Bank as well as countries like China and Japan for financial assistance have been going on.

Sri Lankan officials were in Washington last week to negotiate with the International Monetary Fund for a bailout.

India has agreed to extend an additional USD 500 million credit line to help Sri Lanka import fuel. New Delhi has also already agreed to defer USD 1.5 billion in import payments that Sri Lanka needs to make to the Asian Clearing Union.

# 3 Chinese nationals among 4 killed in blast inside premises of University of Karachi

PTI ■ KARACHI

A burqa-clad woman suicide bomber struck a van inside the premises of the University of Karachi in Pakistan's financial capital, killing three Chinese nationals and their local driver, in what is believed to be the latest targeted attack against Chinese citizens. The banned Baloch Liberation Army claimed responsibility for the attack that took place near China-built Confucius Institute - a non-profit institute teaching Chinese language to local pupils - in the university.

A spokesperson for the university said that three of the victims were Chinese nationals. They were identified as Confucius Institute Director Huang Guiping, Ding Mupeng, Chen Sa and Khalid, the Pakistani driver.

The spokesperson added that two others, Wang Yuqing and Hamid, were injured in the incident. Counter-Terrorism

Department official Raja Umar Khattab said that the suicide attack was carried out by a woman, adding that ball bearings were found at the site of the blast, Dawn newspaper reported. He said the van was properly guarded as a Rangers team was escorting it. Four Rangers who were behind the van on motorcycles were also injured. However, their condition is stable.

CCTV footage of the attack showed a burqa-clad woman standing outside the entrance of the Confucius Institute. The woman detonated herself just as the van neared the institute's entrance, the paper said.

Karachi police chief Ghulam Nabi Memon said that it was unfortunate that teachers had been targeted.

Asked whether a threat had been issued prior to the attack, the senior officer said that there was "always a threat".

He said tight security arrangements were already in

place at the varsity.

Earlier, there were conflicting reports about the blast.

Senior police official Muqquadas Haider said that the explosion took place at the van's right side at the institute's entrance. When asked to comment on the nature of the blast, he said it was too early to say anything definitively. Haider said CCTV footage was being analysed and the nature of the blast would only be confirmed after the bomb disposal squad submitted its report.

Urdu language Jang newspaper reported that the van was bringing the foreign nationals who used to teach Chinese at the IBA institute inside the Karachi University from their guesthouse when the blast took place. Videos of the blast-hit van were also posted on social media with flames of fire completely destroying the vehicle as police and paramilitary rangers reached the scene immediately and cordoned off the areas.

AP ■ GENEVA

A United Nations team has landed in China ahead of a long-delayed visit by the UN human rights chief to Xinjiang, where rights groups and some Western governments allege the Chinese government is committing genocide and serious abuses against Uyghurs and other Muslim minorities.

The UN human rights office said Tuesday its staffers arrived in southern China on Monday to prepare for the visit by High Commissioner for



Human Rights Michelle Bachelet, expected in May. "The advance team of five is initially spending time in Guangzhou, where they are

# Boy chosen as Lama by Dalai leading a 'normal life' as Chinese citizen: China

PTI ■ BEIJING

China on Tuesday said a Tibetan boy, who disappeared 27 years ago after being incarnated as Panchen Lama by the Dalai Lama is leading a "normal life" as a Chinese citizen and dismissed the US' concerns about his whereabouts as "political manipulation" to smear the country.

"We firmly oppose the US using religious freedom as a cover and interfering in China's domestic affairs by taking advantage of the issues related to Tibet," Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesman Wang Wenbin said, responding to a US statement calling on Beijing to disclose the whereabouts of the Tibetan boy, Gedhun Choekyi Nyima, who went missing in 1995.

## Israeli parliament sanctions critic of PM Bennett, his party

AP ■ JERUSALEM

An Israeli parliamentary committee has sanctioned a breakaway member of Prime Minister Naftali Bennett's party, handing a small political victory to the Israeli leader as he seeks to stabilise his fragile Government and deter any other rebel lawmakers. The Knesset committee voted 7-0 on Monday to declare Amichai Chikli a "defector," a status that bars him from joining a rival party in the current Parliament.

## N Korea's Kim vows to bolster nuke capability during parade

AP ■ SEOUL

North Korea says leader Kim Jong Un has vowed to bolster his country's nuclear capability "at the maximum speed." The North's official Korean Central News Agency said Tuesday that Kim made the remarks during a military parade the previous night.

KCNA cites Kim as saying North Korea will "continue to take steps to further bolster and develop its nuclear forces at the maximum speed." Kim's speech came as North Korea



remains locked in a long-running diplomatic standoff with the United States over the North's nuclear programme.

In recent months, Kim carried out a spate of missile tests in what experts say was an attempt to pressure the U.S. To win sanctions relief and other concessions.

North Korea began a much-anticipated military parade in its capital on Monday to mark the 90th anniversary of its army's founding, with outside experts saying it was likely to display powerful missiles and other weapons capable of targeting the United States and its allies.

South Korea's military said the march began late Monday evening in Pyongyang after a pre-parade ceremony.

It didn't immediately provide other details, such as whether North Korean leader Kim Jong Un was present.

NK News, a North Korea-focused news site, cited unidentified sources as saying that 12 illuminated flying objects, possibly drones or helicopters, were seen in the sky above Pyongyang, followed by the sounds of fireworks. In past parades, North Korea has often displayed newly built nuclear-capable missiles and goose-stepping soldiers in an attempt to intimidate its rivals and bolster internal unity.

**PUBLIC NOTICE**  
On behalf of MAXHEIGHTS TOWNSHIP & PROJECTS PVT. LTD having its corporate office at 50-85, Tower Apartment, Pitampura, New Delhi, the general public is hereby informed that on the basis of documents submitted by Sh. Harish Kumar S/o Sh. Om Parkash R/o Near Ladies Park 77, the Mail Road, Shimla Himachal Pradesh-171001. The developer M/s. Maxheights townshp & Projects Pvt. Ltd. is transferring flat in favor of the following class 1 legal heirs left behind by Sh. Suman Agarwal:-  
1.Harish Kumar (Husband)  
2.Kushagra Agarwal (Son) 3.Devesh Agarwal (Son)  
If any person has any objection /claim on the said property they may file his/her claim / objection within 10 days to the company failing which no such objection /claim will be entertained after the expiry of said period.  
Kshiti Sharda Advocate  
01151612008

**PUBLIC NOTICE**  
The General Public is hereby informed that, My client Smt. Kaali W/O Late. Nalru Ram R/O J270, Shakurpur, Saraswati Vihar, North West, Delhi-110034 have served all their relations with her Daughter in Law Smt. Chanda Kumari/ Geeta Kumari W/O Late Vimal Kumar, her Grandson Deepak Kumar S/O Late Vimal Kumar and her Grand Daughter Suman D/O Late Vimal Kumar due to their bad habits. My Client has also disowned and debarred her Daughter in Law and Grand children from all her movable immovable properties. Anyone dealing with them will do at his/her/their own risk. My client will not be responsible for their any act, deed or dealing done by them.

**PUBLIC NOTICE**  
Notice is hereby given to the General public on behalf of Fullerton India Home Finance Company, that, Mr. Chuni Lal is claiming owner /attorney holder of Property bearing No. 2, area measuring 50 sq., Yds, out of Khasee No. 11/20, Situated in the area of Village Khureji Khas, in the state of India Para Extn., Tilga Shahdara, Delhi (he said property), by virtue of GPA, Agreement and will all dated 14/07/1997, executed by Mr. Baldev Raj. All persons are hereby informed that above mentioned claiming owner/attorney holder want to sell the said property to Mr. Rajen Kumar who is taking loan from Fullerton for purchase of the said property, if anybody has any objection/s upon the ownership of above owner /attorney holder over the said property, its sale /Mortgage/Litigation, and any kind of objections, kindly inform the undersigned in writing on the below mentioned address within 07 days of the present.  
Kumar & Associates (Advocates & Consultants)  
206, 2nd Floor, 23, Shivaji Marg, Moti Nagar, N. Delhi-15 Ph: 011-4113257-58 kumarassociatesadvocates@gmail.com

**SYMBOLIC 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 Symbolic possession of the property described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on him/ her under Section 13(4) of the said Act read with Rule 8 of the said rules on the below-mentioned dates. The borrower in particular and the public in general is hereby cautioned not to deal with the property and any dealings with the property will be subject to the charge of ICICI Bank Limited.

Sr. No.	Name of the Borrower/ Loan Account Number	Description of Property/ Date of Symbolic Possession	Date of Demand Notice/ Amount in Demand Notice (Rs.)	Name of Branch
1.	Mohd Yameen/ Afsana Begum/ LBDEL00001512765	Flat No. 141, Ground Floor, Pocket- D, Sector-B-2, Narela, Delhi/ April 22,2022	June 19, 2021/ Rs. 9,10,871/-	Delhi/ Ncr
2.	Sachin Kumar/ Malkhan Singh/ LBDEL00002378832	Flat No- 5, LIG, 1st Floor, Block B7, Sector- G8, Pocket 3, Narela, Delhi / April 22,2022	July 06, 2021/ Rs.11,84,724/-	Delhi/ Ncr
3.	Gursamarjit Singh/ Nina Singh/ Brain Reserve Marketing Services (P) Ltd/ LBNO000001685562 / LBNO000001685566	Flat No- A - 15/26, Basement & Ground Floor Vasant Vihar, New Delhi, Delhi/ April 22, 2022	November 26,2021 / Rs. 4,25,04,694/-	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 27, 2022**  
**Place: Delhi/NCR**

**Authorized Officer**  
**ICICI Bank Limited**

**उत्तराखण्ड लोक सेवा आयोग**  
**हरिद्वार**  
**फ़ोन कोड :- 249404**

**संख्या :: 06/12/DR/E-2/CJ-JD/2021-22**      **दिनांक :: 26 अप्रैल, 2022**

**विज्ञप्ति**  
उत्तराखण्ड न्यायिक सेवा सिविल जज (जू0डि0) (मुख्य) परीक्षा–2021 (Uttarakhand Judicial Service Civil Judge (J.D.) (Main) Examination- 2021) एतद्वारा सूचित किया जाता है कि उत्तराखण्ड न्यायिक सेवा सिविल जज (जू0डि0) परीक्षा–2021 हेतु प्रकाशित विज्ञापन संख्या– A-5/E-2/CJ-JD/2021, दिनांक 31 दिसम्बर, 2021 के सापेक्ष दिनांक 13 मार्च, 2022 को आयोजित प्रारम्भिक परीक्षा का परिणाम, विज्ञप्ति संख्या– 03/24 /गोपन–2 /CJ-JD (pre)-2021 / 2021–22, दिनांक 19 अप्रैल, 2022 द्वारा घोषित किया गया है।  
02. उक्त परीक्षा परिणाम में औपबन्धिक रूप से सफल घोषित अभ्यर्थियों को मुख्य परीक्षा हेतु परीक्षा शुल्क जमा करने हेतु ऑनलाइन आवेदन का लिंक आयोग की वेबसाइट **www.ukpsc.gov.in** पर दिनांक 27 अप्रैल, 2022 (बुधवार) से खोला जा रहा है। अभ्यर्थियों द्वारा मुख्य परीक्षा हेतु ऑनलाइन आवेदन पत्र (जिसमें अनुक्रमांक अंकित हो) तथा अभिलेखों की चैकलिस्ट आयोग की वेबसाइट **www.ukpsc.gov.in** से डाउनलोड कर, समस्त शैक्षणिक, आराक्षण इत्यादि अभिलेखों की स्वहस्ताक्षरित छायाप्रति सहित आयोग कार्यालय में जमा किया जाना है। अभ्यर्थी लिफाफे के ऊपर परीक्षा का नाम "उत्तराखण्ड न्यायिक सेवा सिविल जज (जू0डि0) (मुख्य) परीक्षा–2021" एवं अनुक्रमांक अवश्य अंकित करें। उक्तानुसार समस्त अभिलेख सचिव, उत्तराखण्ड लोक सेवा आयोग, हरिद्वार–249404 के कार्यालय में डाक द्वारा अथवा अन्य किसी भी माध्यम से जमा किये जाने की अंतिम तिथि 17 मई, 2022 (मंगलवार) (सायं 06:00 बजे तक) निश्चित की गयी है।  
अभ्यर्थी उक्त के सम्बन्ध में विस्तृत विज्ञप्ति एवं चैकलिस्ट का आयोग की वेबसाइट **www.ukpsc.gov.in** पर अवलोकन करना अवश्य सुनिश्चित कर लें।  
(कर्मन्ध्र सिंह) सचिव।

**कार्यालय कार्यपालन अभियंता, लोक स्वास्थ्य यांत्रिकी खण्ड कोण्डगांव जिला – कोण्डगांव (छ0ग0)**  
**(Phone No. 07786-296071, Email id - eekon-phe-cg@gov.in)**

**ऑनलाईन निविदा संशोधन सूचना क्रमांक – 01**  
**जी क्रमांक – 68124, 68122, 68517, 68519, 68896**  
इस कार्यालय द्वारा नीचे दर्शित कॉलम अनुसार निम्नलिखित ऑनलाईन निविदा आमंत्रण सूचना में अपरिहार्य कारणाों से निविदा के स्थितियों में संशोधन किया जाता है:-

स.क्र.	निविदा क्रमांक एवं दिनांक	निराकरण निविदा क्रमांक	ग्राम का नाम	आवृत्तिलेख करने की अंतिम तिथि
01	230, 231, 232, 233, 234, 235, 238, 237, 238, 239, 240, 241, 242, 243 / 14.02.2022	93034, 93038, 93055, 93056, 93058, 93059, 93064, 93065, 93066, 93068, 93092, 93093, 93095, 93100	बाहोबार, देवगढ़, कोकनकुमान, कुसुर, पदमार, छकड़ी, कोरौल, पौवा, हादगढ़, चकोडाबाग, गढरी, बार, कोकनाडा, कन्हाबाग	
02	248, 249, 251, 257 / 17.02.2022	93364, 93369, 93372, 93374	सोनपुर, नवागं, पौवा, कुटवालागं	
03	260, 265, 268, 270, 271, 276 / 03.03.2022	94520, 94535, 94540, 94546, 94547, 94564	खण्णार, छेड़गांव, मरौ, जोडेगा, रेवेकुलनगर, केरागांव	04.05.2022
04	278, 280, 283, 284, 286, 289, 290, 293, 294, 295 / 04.03.2022	94556, 94582, 94583, 94597, 94605, 94608, 94609, 94612, 94613, 94615	पेरगं, बालसर, सिगांव अ, कुदालसर, सिगांवबी, हसनगर, हाकनी, पाला, पेड़ानगर, सैना	
05	297, 299, 301, 304, 308, 310, 311, 312, 313, 314, 315, 316 / 11.03.2022	95488, 95500, 95510, 95525, 95470, 95471, 95473, 95474, 95475, 95476, 95477, 95478	आगांव, पवडा, विनार, सिधुपुर, चोरीडाडा, ब्रह्मरी, मोहलसर, चांदेडा, निगुपुर, ननवाड, कालेडा, टेकासर	

उक्त निविदा की शेष नियम व शर्तें यथावत रहेंगी।

**हस्ता –/ कार्यलय अभियंता लोक स्वास्थ्य यांत्रिकी खण्ड कोण्डगांव (छ0ग0)**

**Ro.No - : 90600/3**  
**Ro.Date - : 26/04/22**



# Russia pounds eastern Ukraine as West promises Kyiv new arms

AP ■ TORETSK (UKRAINE)

Russia pounded eastern Ukraine on Tuesday as the U.S. Defense secretary promised to “keep moving heaven and earth” to get Kyiv the weapons it needs to repel the new offensive even as Moscow warned such support risked widening the war.

Two months into the devastating conflict, Western arms have already helped Ukraine stall Russia’s invasion — but its leaders have said they need more support fast.

U.S. Defense Secretary Lloyd Austin said that help was on the way, as he convened a meeting of officials from around 40 countries at the United States’ Ramstein Air Base in Germany to pledge more weapons. Germany announced it cleared the way for delivery of Gepard anti-aircraft guns to Ukraine.

“This gathering reflects the galvanized world,” Austin said in his opening remarks. He added that he wanted officials to leave the meeting “with a common and transparent understanding of Ukraine’s near-term security requirements because we’re going to keep moving heaven and earth so that we can meet them.”

After fierce defence by Ukrainian forces thwarted Russia’s attempt to take Ukraine’s capital early in the war, Moscow now says its focus is the Donbas, the mostly Russian-speaking industrial region in eastern Ukraine. That move is already having a devastating effect on civilians trapped in the conflict.

In the small city of Toretsk, residents are struggling to survive, collecting rainwater for cleaning and washing up and fervently hoping for an end to the fighting.

“It’s bad. Very bad. Hopeless,” said Andriy Cheromushkin. “You feel so helpless that you don’t know what you should do or shouldn’t do. Because if you want to do something, you need more money; and there is no money now.”

With the potentially pivotal battle for the Donbas underway, the U.S. And its NATO allies are scrambling to get artillery and other heavy weaponry to that area in time to make a difference.

German Defence Minister Christine Lambrecht said her government decided on Monday to clear the delivery of Gepard self-propelled armored anti-aircraft guns to Ukraine, though she didn’t give details. German Chancellor Olaf Scholz has faced mounting pres-



sure, including from within his governing coalition, to approve sending heavy weapons such as tanks and other armored vehicles to Ukraine.

Austin also noted Tuesday that more than 30 allies and partners have joined the U.S. In sending security assistance to Ukraine and more than USD 5 billion worth of equipment committed. The meeting in Germany comes after Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov, speaking on Russian television, warned weapons supplied by Western countries “will be a legitimate target,” and accused NATO of “pouring oil on the fire” with its support for Ukraine, according to a transcript on the Russian Foreign Ministry’s website.

Lavrov also warned against provoking World War III and said the threat of a nuclear conflict “should not be underestimated.”

Russian President Vladimir Putin has cited NATO’s expansion and the risk that Kyiv could join the alliance as reasons for his invasion.

U.K. Armed Forces Minister James Heapey rejected Lavrov’s accusations of NATO aggression as “utter nonsense.”

He said “the reason there is a war in Ukraine right now is because Russia rolled over the borders of a sovereign country and started to invade their ter-

ritory.” Heapey also said Russia was making “unsound” military decisions and giving away tactical advantages because of Putin’s desire to secure some kind of victory by May 9, when Russia marks its victory in World War II. Amid the talk of arms shipments, diplomatic efforts to seek an end to the fighting also continued. United Nations Secretary-General António Guterres met Lavrov on Tuesday and called again for a cease-fire. The U.N. Chief is scheduled to meet Putin later.

Elsewhere, International Atomic Energy Agency Director General Rafael Mariano Grossi visited the Chernobyl nuclear plant to deliver equipment, conduct radiological assessments and restore safeguards monitoring systems after tanks and troops churned up highly contaminated soil there in the early hours of Russia’s invasion in February. His visit comes on the anniversary of the disaster at the plant in 1986, the world’s worst nuclear accident.

In its latest assessment of the fighting, the British Defense Ministry reported Russian advances and heavy fighting in the Donbas region, with one town, Kreminna, reportedly falling after days of street-to-street fighting.

Ukraine’s General Staff said Russian forces shelled Kharkiv, the country’s sec-

## Ukraine city Kreminna falls to Russia

AP ■ LVIV

The British Defense Ministry says Russian forces have taken the Ukrainian city of Kreminna.

Street-to-street fighting had been going on for days in the city in Ukraine’s Luhansk region, with civilian evacuations there made impossible by the war.

In a tweet early on Tuesday, the British military said: “The city of Kreminna has reportedly fallen and heavy fighting is reported south of Izium as Russian forces attempt to advance towards the cities of Sloviansk and Kramatorsk from the north and east.”

There was no immediate response from the Ukrainian government. Russia claimed days earlier to have taken the city. Kreminna is some 575 kilometers (355 miles) southeast of the Ukrainian capital, Kyiv.

The United Kingdom has been providing daily intelligence reports publicly since the start of the war. The British military did not say how it knew that Kreminna had fallen.

ond-largest city that lies outside the Donbas but has seen significant attacks as Moscow seeks full control of the region. Ukrainian forces struck back in the Kherson region in the south.

A senior Russian military official has said that Russia’s goal is full control of Ukraine’s east and south, which would give it a swath of land that lies between Russia and Crimea, which Moscow seized in 2014.

Four people died and nine more were wounded on Monday in the Russian shelling of the Donetsk region of the Donbas, its governor Pavlo Kyrylenko said on Telegram. He said a 9-year-old girl and a 14-year-old boy were among those killed.

The city council and mayor of Mariupol said a new mass grave was identified about 10 kilometers (6 miles) north of the port city, which is key to the battle of the Donbas. Mayor Vadym Boychenko said authorities were trying to estimate the number of victims.

## UN chief calls for ceasefire on Moscow visit

AP ■ MOSCOW

UN Secretary-General António Guterres has called for a cease-fire in Ukraine at his meeting with Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov. Guterres is visiting Moscow and is then scheduled to visit the Ukrainian capital, Kyiv, this week. “We are extremely inter-

ested in finding ways in order to create the conditions for effective dialog, create the conditions for a cease-fire as soon as possible, create the conditions for a peaceful solution,” Guterres said, speaking in televised comments at the start of the meeting.

Guterres also said he wanted to reduce the impact of fighting in Ukraine on

food security in other parts of the world. Lavrov said they would discuss “the situation around Ukraine that acts as a catalyst for a great number of problems which had piled up over recent decades in the Euro-Atlantic region.”

Guterres is also expected to meet with Russian President Vladimir Putin later Tuesday.

## Turkey seeks top-level Russia, Ukraine talks

AP ■ ISTANBUL

Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan has urged Russian President Vladimir Putin to agree to direct talks with his Ukrainian counterpart.

The call comes in the wake of Turkish diplomatic efforts to defuse the crisis over Russia’s war in Ukraine, including by hosting Ukrainian and Russian negotiators for talks in Istanbul late last month.

The Turkish presidency said in a statement on Tuesday that Erdogan proposed taking the “Istanbul process to the level of leaders, a crucial threshold in the Russia-Ukraine negotiations.” It sought to continue the “positive progress of the Istanbul talks” toward peace.

Talks stalled after Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy accused Russian troops of committing war crimes. Putin later said peace efforts were at a dead end.

Ankara, which maintains close ties to both Kyiv and Moscow, has presented itself as a neutral broker in a bid to end the fighting.



## Kyiv wants UN to seek Mariupol evacuation

AP ■ KYIV

Ukraine’s foreign minister on Monday urged the UN chief to press Russia for an evacuation of the besieged port of Mariupol, calling it something the world body is capable of achieving.

Foreign Minister Dmytro Kuleba told The Associated Press in an interview he was concerned that by visiting Moscow on Tuesday before travelling to Kyiv, UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres could be vulnerable to falling into a Kremlin “trap” in the war.

“Many other foreign officials were trapped visiting Moscow and played around just to show the supremacy of usian diplomacy and how great they are and how they dictate the world how to behave,” he said.

Guterres “should focus primarily on one issue: evacuation of Mariupol,” Kuleba said, referring to the seaside city where an estimated 100,000 people are trapped while a contingent of Ukrainian fighters hold out against Russian forces in a steel mill where hundreds of civilians also are taking shelter.

“This is really something that the UN is capable to do. And if he demonstrates political will, character and integrity, I hope that will allow us to make one step forward,” he said. In New York, deputy UN spokesman Farhan Haq said Guterres would be bringing many initiatives and suggestions, adding, “I don’t want to give too many details at this stage of the sort of proposals he will have,” calling it “a fairly delicate moment.”

As for going to Moscow before Kyiv, Haq said the itinerary was worked out with both sides and there was “no particular significance in him visiting one country ahead of the other. ...I don’t think anyone can say that he is being, as you had put it, pandering to a side on this”.

## Russia’s war heats up cooking oil prices in global squeeze

AP ■ ISTANBUL

For months, Istanbul restaurant Tarihi Balicka tried to absorb the surging cost of the sunflower oil its cooks use to fry fish, squid and mussels.

But in early April, with oil prices nearly four times higher than they were in 2019, the restaurant finally raised its prices. Now, even some longtime customers look at the menu and walk away.

“We resisted. We said, Let’s wait a bit, maybe the market will improve, maybe (prices) will stabilise. But we saw that there is no improvement,” said Mahsun Aktas, a waiter and cook at the restaurant.

“The customer cannot afford it.”

Global cooking oil prices have been rising since the COVID-19 pandemic began for multiple reasons, from poor harvests in South America to virus-related labour shortages and steadily increasing demand from the biofuel industry.

The war in Ukraine — which supplies nearly half of the world’s sunflower oil, on top of the 25% from Russia — has interrupted shipments and sent cooking oil prices spiralling.

It is the latest fallout to the global food supply from Russia’s war, and another rising cost pinching households and businesses as inflation soars. The conflict has further fuelled already high food and energy costs, hitting the poorest people hardest.

The food supply is particularly at risk as the war has disrupted crucial grain shipments


from Ukraine and Russia and worsened a global fertiliser crunch that will mean costlier, less abundant food.

The loss of affordable supplies of wheat, barley and other grains raises the prospect of food shortages and political instability in Middle Eastern, African and some Asian countries where millions rely on subsidised bread and cheap noodles.

**MAHARISHI MARKANDESHWAR UNIVERSITY**  
KUMARHATTI-SOLAN (HP), 173-229  
(Established under HP Govt. Act No.22 of 2010 and approved U/S 22 of the UGC Act, 1956)

**ADMISSION NOTICE-MD/MS (NRI) (2021-22)**  
Applications are invited for admission to MD/MS course Mop-up round (NRI Seats) counselling 2021-22 in M.M. Medical College & Hospital, a constituent institute of M.M. University, Kumarhatti, Solan from NEET qualified NRI eligible candidates from All India as per the Guidelines of Hon’ble Supreme Court of India in W.P (C) No. 689/2017 dated 22/08/2017.  
The application form and instructions are available on the websites [www.mmusolan.org](http://www.mmusolan.org) and [mmmch.mmusolan.org](http://mmmch.mmusolan.org). The application form along with NEET score card, NRI Documents and Non-Refundable Registration Fees of Rs.20,000/-and Refundable Security of Rs.2,00,000/- is to be submitted online on the Website latest by 28.04.2022, 5:00 P.M. Counselling of registered candidates will be done in the Administrative Office of the M.M. University, Kumarhatti-Solan on 29.04.2022 from 12:00 P.M. The candidates should attend the counselling physically with all original documents and the fees. After the seat allotment, the fee is to be deposited on the spot in Foreign Currency as per rules.

**REGISTRAR**  
**Ph. 01792-268267** Website: [www.mmusolan.org](http://www.mmusolan.org)  
Email: [info@mmusolan.org](mailto:info@mmusolan.org)

**ICICI Bank**

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

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

Sr. No.	Name of the Borrower/ Loan Account Number	Description of Property/ Date of Symbolic Possession	Date of Demand Notice/ Amount in Demand Notice (Rs.)	Name of Branch
1.	M/s Vashisht Road Carriers Private Limited/ Sunil Sharma/ Sangeeta Devi A/c no:- 695605500151	House No-259 Sector-23 Sonapat Haryana 22-Apr-2022	26-Aug-2021 Rs. 16,29,684/-	Sonepat/ Haryana

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 27, 2022**  
**Place : Delhi/ NCR**  
**Authorized Officer**  
**ICICI Bank Limited**

**MUNICIPAL CORPORATION AURANGABAD**  
EXECUTIVE ENGINEER (Building & Garden)

जा.अ.म.पा. / उपवास्ति / जर्नि / २ / 24 / 2022 दिनांक: 22 / 04 / 2022  
Tel.No. (0240) 2333536-40 Address: Municipal Corporation Aurangabad, Executive Engineer (Building & Garden)  
Fax.No. (0240)-2331213 Head office : Town Hall Pin 431001  
E- Tender Call AMC (For Help) : Shaikh Masseer Cell No. 9860509968  
No/AMC/DyEng/Drainage/B/24/2022  
Date : 22/04/2022

Sr.No.	Work Name	Last Date of Tender Submission
	Renovation of General Body Meeting Hall (Sabhagruha) at Aurangabad Municipal Corporation, Aurangabad	
1.	Amount put to Tender <b>Rs.04,99,02,518/-</b>	<b>20/05/2022</b>

**Note:-** 1. For the above stated work is available on web site: [www.mahatenders.gov.in](http://www.mahatenders.gov.in)


**Sd/**  
**Executive Engineer**  
**(Building & Garden)**  
**Municipal Corporation Aurangabad**

**DEBTS RECOVERY TRIBUNAL-1, DELHI**  
4TH FLOOR, JEEVAN TARA BUILDING,  
PARLIAMENT STREET, NEW DELHI- 110001  
**O.A. NO. 427/2019**

Bank of India ..... Applicant  
Versus  
Vivek Singh Negi & Ors. .... Defendants

To,  
(1) **Vivek Singh Negi**, C- 802, Dwarka Dham Apartments, Sector-23 Dwarka New Delhi- 110077 **Defendant 1**  
(2) **Amrita Sarang**, C-802, Dwarka Dham Apartments, Sector-23 Dwarka New Delhi-110077 **Defendant 2**  
(3) **M/s AVJ Developers (India) Pvt. Ltd.**, 84-1, F.I.E, Industrial Area Patparganj Delhi-110092, **Also At:** Plot No. Community Centre Opposite Yamuna Sports Complex Anand Vihar Delhi- 110095, **Also at :** D-237, 1st Floor, Phase-1 Vivek Vihar Delhi-110095, **Also At:** AVJ Heights GH-12/2 Sector Zeta 1, Greater Noida UP **Defendant 3**

Whereas the above named applicant has instituted a case for recovery of **Rs. 57,02,789.78/- (Rupees Fifty Seven Lakhs Two Thousand Seven Hundred Eighty Nine & Paise Seventy Eight Only)** against you and whereas it has been shown to the satisfaction of the Tribunal that it is not possible to serve you in ordinary way. Therefore, this notice is given by advertisement directing you to make appearance before DRT, Registrar on **30.05.2022 at 10.30 A.M.** (for further details kindly visit DRT website [www.drtbunal.gov.in](http://www.drtbunal.gov.in), Phone Number: 011-23748473). Take notice that in case of your failure to appear on the above mentioned day  
**Due to ongoing Pandemic Situation, all the matters will be taken up through Video Conferencing and for that purpose:-**  
(i) All the advocates/Litigants shall download the "Cisco Webex" application/Software;  
(ii) "Meeting ID" and "Password" for the next date of hearing qua cases to be taken by "Registrar/Recovery Officer-I/ and Recovery Officer-II shall be available one day prior to the next date at DRT Official Portal i.e. "drt.gov.in" under the Public Notice Head.  
(iii) In any exigency qua that, the Advocates/ Litigants can contact the concerned official at **Ph. No. 011-23748473**.  
**Given under my hand and seal of the Tribunal on this 28 March of 2022**  
**Respondent may contact under mention Phone Number for further enquiry.**  
Mr. Amit K. Dar, Ld. Registrar DRT-1, New Delhi. By Order of this Tribunal  
Phone No. 011-23748473 Email : [drt1delhi-dfs@nic.in](mailto:drt1delhi-dfs@nic.in) For Registrar

**MAHARISHI MARKANDESHWAR UNIVERSITY**  
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The Counselling for already subjudice 36 MD/MS seats will be conducted as per the outcome of writ petition: CWP 1886/2022 in the Hon'ble High Court of Himachal Pradesh  
The application form and instructions are available on the websites [www.mmusolan.org](http://www.mmusolan.org) and [mmmch.mmusolan.org](http://mmmch.mmusolan.org). The application form along with NEET score card and Non-refundable Registration Fees of Rs.20,000/-and Refundable Security of Rs.2,00,000/- is to be submitted online on the Website latest by 28.04.2022, 5:00 PM. Counselling of registered candidates will be done in the Administrative Office of the M.M. University, Kumarhatti-Solan on 29.04.2022 from 10:00 AM. The candidates should attend the counselling physically with all original documents and the fees. After the seat allotment, the fee is to be deposited on the spot.  
**REGISTRAR**  
**Ph. 01792-268267** Website: [www.mmusolan.org](http://www.mmusolan.org)  
Email: [info@mmusolan.org](mailto:info@mmusolan.org)

**उत्तराखण्ड जल स्थान**  
लेन नं.-1, तरुण बिहार, मोघरोवाला रोड, देहरादून-248001  
Phone No: 0135-2671940, E-mail - [eeumdu@rediffmail.com](mailto:eeumdu@rediffmail.com)

पत्रांक: 363/ई-निविदा/2022-23 दिनांक: 26.04.2022

**ई-निविदा सूचना**  
मुख्य महाराष्ट्र, उत्तराखण्ड जल संस्थान, देहरादून की ओर से जलजीवन मिशन कार्यक्रम के अन्तर्गत निम्नलिखित पेयजल योजनाओं के कार्यों हेतु ई-निविदा, टू-बिड सिस्टम (तकनीकी बिड एवं कॉमर्शियल बिड) आधार पर निम्नानुसार आमंत्रित की जाती है:-  
पत्रांक: 363/ई-निविदा/2022-23 दिनांक: 26.04.2022

निविदा क्र.सं.	विकास खण्ड	कार्य विवरण	घरोघर धनराशि	निविदा का मूल्य	कार्य पूर्ण करने की अवधि
1	2	3	4	5	6
1	सहस्रपुर	हडियावाला कर्जो पेयजल योजना का सुदृढीकरण एवं पाइप लाइन बिछाने एवं तलसम्बन्धी कार्य	350600.00	₹4000 +GST	12 माह
2	सहस्रपुर	जर्जलहास निर्माण, राइजिंग मेन, पाइप लाइन बिछाने एवं पम्पिंग प्लांट की आपूर्ति अधिष्ठान एवं तलसम्बन्धी कार्य	146500.00	₹4000 +GST	09 माह
3	सहस्रपुर	रामपुर कर्जो पेयजल योजना में नलकूप अधिष्ठान, जर्जलहास निर्माण, राइजिंग मेन, पाइप लाइन बिछाने एवं पम्पिंग प्लांट की आपूर्ति अधिष्ठान एवं तलसम्बन्धी कार्य	338300.00	₹4000 +GST	09 माह
4	विकास नगर	लोहा पेयजल योजना में स्रोत संवर्धन, सहाई जलाशय निर्माण, राइजिंग मेन, पाइप लाइन बिछाने एवं तलसम्बन्धी कार्य	84100.00	₹3000 +GST	06 माह
5	विकास नगर	कुंजा एवं कुंजा झरना पेयजल योजना में नलकूप अधिष्ठान, जर्जलहास निर्माण, राइजिंग मेन, पाइप लाइन बिछाने एवं पम्पिंग प्लांट की आपूर्ति अधिष्ठान एवं तलसम्बन्धी कार्य	260900.00	₹4000 +GST	12 माह
6	विकास नगर	हेमपुर पेयजल योजना में नलकूप अधिष्ठान, जर्जलहास निर्माण, राइजिंग मेन, पाइप लाइन बिछाने एवं पम्पिंग प्लांट की आपूर्ति अधिष्ठान एवं तलसम्बन्धी कार्य	384900.00	₹4000 +GST	12 माह
7	विकास नगर	बाबनगढ़ पेयजल योजना स्रोत संवर्धन, सहाई जलाशय निर्माण/सम्मत, पाइप लाइन बिछाने एवं तलसम्बन्धी कार्य	116500.00	₹4000 +GST	09 माह
8	कालसी	सैज पेयजल योजना में स्रोत संवर्धन, सहाई जलाशय निर्माण, राइजिंग मेन, पाइप लाइन बिछाने एवं तलसम्बन्धी कार्य	73500.00	₹3000 +GST	06 माह
9	डोईवाला	कालुवाला बढोवाला पेयजल योजना में नलकूप अधिष्ठान, जर्जलहास निर्माण, राइजिंग मेन, पाइप लाइन बिछाने एवं पम्पिंग प्लांट की आपूर्ति अधिष्ठान एवं तलसम्बन्धी कार्य	223500.00	₹4000 +GST	09 माह

**निविदा समायोजन सारणी (मुख्य तिथियाँ) निम्नस्त हैं।**

क्र.सं.	कार्य विवरण	अनुसूची
1	ऑनलाइन प्रकाशन की तिथि	04.05.2022 at 11:00 Hrs
2	निविदा प्रश्न डाउनलोड करने की तिथि	05.05.2022 at 11:00 Hrs
3	प्री-बिड मीटिंग की तिथि	09.05.2022 at 11:00 Hrs
4	बिड ऑनलाइन जमा करने की प्रारम्भ तिथि	13.05.2022 at 11:00 Hrs
5	बिड ऑनलाइन जमा करने की अन्तिम तिथि	19.05.2022 up to 17:00 Hrs
6	ऑफ लाइन रूप से जमा किये जाने वाले प्रश्न (निविदा प्रश्न निर्धारित शुल्क, बिड सिक्कोरिट, स्टॉम्प पेपर एवं अन्य सम्बन्धित दस्तावेज)	19.05.2022 up to 17:00 Hrs
7	तकनीकी बिड खोलने की तिथि	20.05.2022 at 11:00 Hrs
8	वित्तीय निविदा खोलने की तिथि	सूचना पृथक से दी जायेगी

**ई-निविदा से सम्बन्धित समस्त जानकारी एवं शर्तें उत्तराखण्ड राज्य की वेबसाइट [www.uktender.gov.in](http://www.uktender.gov.in) पर ऑन लाइन देखी/प्राप्त की जा सकती हैं।**  
**“जल संयोज-जीवन संयोज”**  
के.सी. चैन्सली  
अधिकांशी अधिवक्ता







# Villarreal ‘made for CL’, warns Klopp

AP ■ LIVERPOOL

Jurgen Klopp has dismissed the idea that Liverpool have a dream Champions League semi-final draw as they prepare to face Villarreal in the next stage of their quest for an unprecedented quadruple.

The Reds, who host the Spaniards for the first leg at Anfield on Wednesday, are potentially nine games away from becoming the first side to win the Champions League, Premier League, FA Cup and League Cup.

Victory over the Yellow Submarine would mean a third Champions League final in five seasons for Klopp's men.

The German urged his players and the Anfield crowd to show the same level of desire they demonstrated in a famous 4-0 win against Barcelona in the second leg of the 2019 semi-final -- the last time they lifted the trophy.

"So many coaches, so many players out there try and work their socks off their whole life and have no chance to be in a Champions League semi-final," Klopp said on Tuesday.

"We are there so we have to cherish that, we have to appreciate of course but we have to enjoy it as well."

Villarreal sit seventh in La Liga, nine points adrift of the top four with just five games to play.

## SHOCKS

However, Unai Emery's men have shocked Juventus and Bayern Munich to reach the last four and won their first ever-major trophy



Liverpool vs Villarreal  
Live from 12:30 am IST  
SONY TEN 2 & 3

when beating Manchester United in last season's Europa League final.

"They're made for this competition to be honest because the way they set it up it's really, really good," warned Klopp.

"Maybe you (the media) underestimated them, but that has never happened to us and especially after these four games (against Juventus and Bayern) there's no chance. They're a really good football

team who obviously wants to make history as well. It will be the first time for them to get to a final, which is a massive thing for Villarreal.

"That is for us the same. The same importance. We want to be there and that's what we have to show them."

Liverpool have been stung by Emery in the past -- his Sevilla side won the Europa League final 3-1 in

Klopp's first season in England.

Since then, the Reds have lifted their sixth European Cup and ended a 30-year wait to win the English top-flight title.

Jordan Henderson, who was in the Liverpool squad for the Europa League final in Basel, believes it was an important step on their journey under Klopp.

"It felt as though he knew that this was the beginning and the start

of something special," said Henderson.

"As a player, it's very difficult to think that when you've just lost the final, but I always felt he was very different to what I would have ever seen before.

"He sort of knew what was coming in the next few years and I feel as though with what he has produced, it is proven that was the beginning of something special."



## Villarreal can beat Liverpool: Parejo

AP ■ LIVERPOOL

Villarreal captain Dani Parejo said on Tuesday his team are convinced they can spring another surprise and beat Liverpool in the Champions League semi-finals.

After knocking out Juventus in the last 16 and Bayern Munich in the quarters, Villarreal are looking to pull off another shock by defeating Liverpool, the six-time European champions and favourites for this year's tournament.

Villarreal sit seventh in La Liga but have a knack for upsetting Europe's biggest teams, after also prevailing against Arsenal and Manchester United to win the Europa League last year.

"We have complete confidence," said Parejo in a press conference ahead of the first leg at Anfield.

"On the basis of the teams we have beaten, not only this year, but also last year in the Europa League, and now the journey we have had in this Champions League.

"We are calm and we look at the

group we have -- we have good individuals but our greatest strength is the team.

"Knocking out Juventus and Bayern was very important for us because it showed we can reach a level where we can compete with these teams."

With Real Madrid up against Manchester City in the other semi-final, Villarreal are certainly the underdogs of the last four.

"We're playing the favourites but we want to be us and to play on the front foot," said Villarreal coach Unai Emery.

"The journey does not have to end, we want to be in charge, to create chances.

"In normal conditions they are superior to us but we have our own ideas, individually and as a team, to allow us to compete."

Emery said Villarreal will no longer be an unknown to Liverpool after their victories over Juve and Bayern.

## Kean's strike lifts Juve

AP ■ ROME

Moi Kean's late goal gave Juventus a hard-fought 2-1 win at Sassuolo in Serie A on Monday, allowing them to close the gap on third-placed Napoli to one point.

Sassuolo had done more than enough to claim a share of the points when Kean struck two minutes from full-time.

A long ball out of defence from Leonardo Bonucci ended with Kean, a 67th minute substitute for Alvaro Morata, turning Vlad Chiriches and firing the ball between goalkeeper Andrea Consigli's legs at the near post.

The last-gasp win keeps Juve in fourth place, eight points adrift of leaders AC Milan but, perhaps more significantly, eight points clear of Roma, who are chasing them for the final Champions League spot.

It was a frustrating loss for Sassuolo who were the better team for most of the game, posing problems from the outset when Davide Frattesi's header at the near post from a Domenico Berardi corner kissed the crossbar on its way over.

Sassuolo broke the deadlock for a deserved lead in the 39th minute. Berardi produced a delightful backheel to send Giacomo Raspadori clear.

Raspadori's powerful shot



gave Szczesny no chance, but Juve were level on the stroke of half-time.

Dybala made light of an awkward angle to thrash the ball into the roof of the net despite Sassuolo's claims that Morata fouled Giorgos Kyriakopoulos in the build-up.

That set the stage for Kean's last-gasp heroics as Juve consolidated their place in the top four.

## Dennerby names 33 players for U-17 WC camp

PTI ■ JAMSHEDPUR

Indian women's football team head coach Thomas Dennerby on Tuesday named 33 players for a national coaching camp as part of its preparation for the FIFA U-17 Women's World Cup to be held in the country later this year. The players, who have assembled here, include 12 from the side that won the SAFF U-18 Women's Championship title earlier this year.

Bhubaneswar's Kalinga Stadium, Margao's Jawaharlal Nehru Stadium and Navi Mumbai's DY Patil Stadium will host the FIFA U-17 Women's World Cup in October.



**Goalkeepers:** Monalisa Devi, Anjali Munda, Hempriya Seram, Keisham Melody Chanu.

**Defenders:** Salima Kumari, Sudha Ankita Tirkey, Astam Oraon, Purnima Kumari, Julia Devi Yangle, Bhumika Bharat Mane, Kajal, Varshika, Kajol Dsouza, Ngashepam Pinku Devi, Hemam Shilky Devi.

**Midfielders:** Payal, Kalpana, Shailja, Moirangthem Ambika Devi, R Madhumathi, Loktongbam Shelia Devi, Babina Devi, Gladys Zonunsangi, Shubhangi Singh, Nitu Linda.

**Forwards:** Neha, Lavanya, Anita Kumari, Reshma, Vinothini, Dharshini, Laishram Rejya Devi, Lynda Kom Serto.

## Chiellini to say 'ciao' to Italy

AP ■ MILAN

Giorgio Chiellini will bring down the curtain on his international career this summer after Italy face Argentina in the so-called 'Finalissima' at Wembley, the site of his greatest career triumph.

The 37-year-old was one of the key figures of the Azzurri's Euro 2020 victory, captaining his country to a dramatic win over England at the iconic stadium where he will lead out his countrymen on June 1. The Finalissima is a new match which

pits the European and South American champions against each other in a one-off encounter.

"I'll say goodbye to the national team at Wembley, where I reached the highest point of my career by winning the Euro," he told DAZN after Juventus' 2-1 Serie A win at Sassuolo on Monday night.

"I'd like to say goodbye to the Azzurri with a nice memory. It will definitely be my last game for Italy." Chiellini, who has been capped 116 times, was hoping to take part in one more World Cup before saying 'ciao' to fans, but

Italy missed out on the 2022 tournament in Qatar, hastening the centre-back's departure from the international game.

He has had a mixed Italy career, reaching the Euro 2012 final - where Italy were outclassed by Spain losing 4-0 - but had a difficult time at World Cup finals. Italy exited in the group stage both in 2010 - when they were the defending champions - and 2014 before slumping to a historic play-off defeat to Sweden in 2017 which cost them a place in the 2018 tournament.



## Djoker can play at Wimbledon; no vax required



PTI ■ LONDON

Novak Djokovic will be allowed to defend his title at Wimbledon, despite not being vaccinated against COVID-19, because the shots are not required to enter Britain, All England Club chief executive Sally Bolton said on Tuesday.

Djokovic, a 34-year-old Serb who is ranked No 1, missed the Australian Open in January after being deported from that country because he was not vaccinated against the illness caused by the coronavirus which has led to the deaths of millions during the pandemic that began in 2020.

During the annual spring brief-

ing ahead of Wimbledon, which starts on June 27, Bolton said that "whilst, of course, it is encouraged" that all players get vaccinated, "it will not be a condition of entry to compete" at the grass-court Grand Slam tournament this year.

Djokovic, in addition to being unable to defend his championship at Melbourne Park after an 11-day legal saga over whether he could remain in Australia, had to sit out tournaments at Indian Wells and Miami because he couldn't travel to the United States as a foreigner who is unvaccinated.

The US Tennis Association has said that it will follow whatever governmental rules are in place regarding COVID-19 vaccination status

## Wimbledon chiefs say 'no viable alternative' to Russia player ban

AP ■ LONDON

Wimbledon was left with "no viable alternative" to banning Russian and Belarusian players from this year's Championships, tournament chiefs at the All England Club said on Tuesday.

Organisers of the Grand Slam last week announced the move in response to Russia's invasion of Ukraine, meaning stars such as Daniil Medvedev, Andrey Rublev, Aryna Sabalenka and Victoria Azarenka cannot play at the event, which starts in late June.

The decision was criticised by the ATP, which runs the men's tour, and women's tour

organisers the WTA, while Rublev labelled it "complete discrimination" and defending Wimbledon champion Novak Djokovic said it was "crazy".

But All England Club (AELTC) chairman Ian Hewitt defended the move, saying the decision was made after careful consideration, taking into account UK government guidance.

"We have considered at length the options available," he told reporters.

"These are in effect two options -- declining entries or allowing entries but only with specific declarations (against the invasion of Ukraine) from individual players.

when the U.S. Open is held starting in late August.

Djokovic -- who has said he got COVID-19 twice, once each in 2020 and 2021 -- owns 20 Grand Slam singles titles, tied with Roger Federer for the second-most for a man. They trail Rafael Nadal, who won his 21st at the Australian Open.

Six of Djokovic's trophies came at Wimbledon, including victories each of the past three times the tournament was held -- in 2018, 2019 and 2021.

After what happened in Australia, Djokovic said he would be willing to sit out other Grand Slam tournaments if getting vaccinated were a requirement to compete. The next major event is the French Open, which begins on May 22, and tournament director Amelie Mauresmo said last month there was nothing preventing Djokovic from defending his 2021 title in Paris.

The Italian Open, a clay-court tune-up for Roland Garros, also has said Djokovic can play there.

## Federer will play Basel tourney in Oct

AP ■ PARIS

Former men's tennis world number one Roger Federer, plagued by recurring knee problems for the last two years, will play singles at the ATP Basel indoor tournament in October, organisers said.

Federer, who hasn't played competitively since losing last July in the quarter-finals at Wimbledon to Pole Hubert Hurkacz, replied to the organisers' Instagram announcement with the message: "Looking forward to playing back home."

The tournament, like the 10-time winner, will be making its return after an enforced break having not taken place for the past two years due to the Covid-19 pandemic.

"After a two-year break due to the pandemic, the Swiss Indoors Basel will return to the ATP Tour in the fall of 2022," organisers said in a statement.

"10-time singles champion and hometown hero Roger Federer has announced his comeback to the stadium at St. Jakobshalle," adding that "the worldwide interest...is expected to be tremendous".

Federer, who turns 41 in August, is also due to play in the three-day team event Laver Cup with long-time rival Rafael Nadal in London in September.

The duo teamed up to play doubles at the inaugural event in 2017.

Federer withdrew from the Olympics last year and underwent his third bout of knee surgery in 18 months, to "suture" his right internal



## VALENCIA JOINS 3 OTHER CITIES AS HOSTS OF DAVIS CUP GROUPS

**Madrid:** Valencia in eastern Spain has been selected as the fourth host city for the group stage of this year's Davis Cup Finals, organizers said on Tuesday. Bologna, Glasgow and Hamburg were previously named as hosts of the group phase to be played from September 14-18. The southern Spanish city of Málaga

will host the quarterfinals, semifinals and final from November 21-27.

The entire competition between men's national teams will be played on indoor hard courts.

The tournament, which was revamped in recent years by organizing group Kosmos Tennis, centered its last two editions in Madrid.

AP

meniscus and "treat (his) cartilage".

Federer played just 13 matches in 2021, having played only six times in 2020.

Federer has 20 career Grand Slam titles, tied for second with Novak

Djokovic and one behind recordholder Rafael Nadal, who won the season-opening Australian Open.

Federer's most recent Grand Slam title came at the 2018 Australian Open.





## 'Always believed Mukesh destined for bigger things'

PTI ■ MUMBAI

When a gangly teenager named Mukesh Choudhary, all of 16 back in the day, bowled for the first time at the 22-yards academy, there was some spark which convinced former national selector Surendra Bhave to believe that his newest ward will make it big.

Eight years hence, 25-year-old Choudhary has grabbed opportunities provided by Chennai Super Kings with seven wickets from seven games, including a man-of-the-match winning 3/19 against Mumbai Indians.

"When I saw him at our academy in the first week, I immediately told our coach Rajesh Mahurkar that I could 100 percent visualise a first-class player in him. They (academy coaches) still can't believe that what I predicted came true," Bhave said.

What worked for Choudhary was his good

physique, coupled with a very smooth action. It wasn't long before Bhave laid the first platform for the Rajasthan boy which enabled him to showcase his talent in-front of Maharashtra selectors.

Bhave is happy that despite having a couple poor games, CSK persisted with him and that yielded results when he removed Rohit Sharma and ishan Kishan first up in their match against Mumbai Indians.

"He (Mukesh) got a good platform in terms of CSK. He didn't have two great games (but still CSK backed him). He is in right hands and a guy like MS to guide him from behind the stumps, it is like a stuff of dreams (for Mukesh)," Bhave, one of the finest domestic coaches, said.

Nikhil Dixit, his coach at Deccan Gymkhana, insisted that the rookie pacer was taking wickets at ease in the invitational tournaments and that paved the way for him.

# Royals back at No. 1

### Riyan Parag, Ashwin, Kuldeep Sen shine in Rajasthan's 29-run win over RCB

PTI ■ PUNE

Riyan Parag (31-ball 56 not out and 4 catches), Ravichandran Ashwin (17 from 9 balls and 3/17) and Kuldeep Sen (4/20) shine as Sanju Samson and Co. beat Royal Challengers Bangalore by 29 runs on Tuesday at MCA Stadium in Pune to reclaim the number one spot in points table.

Chasing the target of 145 runs to win, RCB batters disappointed once again as they could only manage to score 115 runs in 19.3 overs to suffer its fourth defeat of this year's campaign.

Earlier after winning toss and inviting RR to bat first, Royal Challengers Bangalore dished out an incisive bowling show to restrict in-form Rajasthan Royals to a modest 144 for 8.

Josh Hazlewood (2/19), Wanindu Hasaranga de Silva (2/23) and Mohammed Siraj (2/30) picked up two wickets each to stifle the Royals' batting line-up.

Riyan Parag was the lone bright spot for RR with an unbeaten 56 off 31 balls.

RCB's decision to bowl first yielded great results as they picked up wickets at regular intervals, not allowing RR any scope of building a big partnership.

Devdutt Padikkal (7) and Jos Buttler (8) failed to give RR a good start and the decision to promote Ravichandran Ashwin (17) also backfired.



Siraj accounted for both Padikkal and Ashwin in his successive overs, while Hazlewood picked up the all-important wicket of Buttler, caught by Siraj inches above the ground as the batter failed to get over a short delivery, looping his pull to mid-on.

Sanju Samson (27 off 21 balls) and Daryl Mitchell (16) tried to forge a partnership, sharing 35 runs for the fourth wicket before de Silva went through the gates of RR skipper as the batter went for an extravagant reverse sweep.

Mitchell failed to get going and tried to play the role of an anchor, holding one end up and together with Riyan Parag added 31 runs.

But the New Zealander's struggle was cut short by Hazlewood as in a desperate effort to break the shackles, he gave a simple catch to Glenn Maxwell at long-on.

At 100 for 5 after 15 overs, RR's effort to post a decent target received yet another jolt in the form of Shimron Hetmyer (3), who fell to de Silva caught in the deep while going for a slog sweep. Trent Boult (5) was the next to depart, courtesy a stunning catch from Virat Kohli at midwicket off Harshal Patel.

RR's struggle can be gauged from the fact that they failed to find the fence for seven consecutive overs from 12 to 18th. Parag finally broke it in the 19th over by lifting Hazlewood over the extra cover fence. Parag hit Patel for a four and two sixes in the final over to not only bring up his fifty but also give RR bowlers

#### ► pointstable

Po.	TEAM	M	W	L	NR	Pts	NR
1.	RR	8	6	2	0	12	0.561
2.	GT	7	6	1	0	12	0.396
3.	SRH	7	5	2	0	10	0.691
4.	LSG	8	5	3	0	10	0.334
5.	RCB	9	5	4	0	10	-0.572
6.	PBKS	8	4	4	0	8	-0.419
7.	DC	7	3	4	0	6	0.715
8.	KKR	8	3	5	0	6	0.080
9.	CSK	8	2	6	0	4	-0.538
10.	MI	8	0	8	0	0	-1.000

#### ► boundarymeter

4s	1085
6s	568

something to defend.

#### 'HEATED EXCHANGE'

Rajasthan Royals all-rounder Riyan Parag and RCB Harshal Patel were involved in a fiery exchange of words after the former battered the RCB pacer for 18 runs in the final over. Soon after Parag clobbered a Patel delivery over deep mid-wicket boundary, both the players had heated exchange, forcing one of RR players to calm down the bowler.

Some words were also exchanged between a few players of both the teams as they left the ground.

## Gujarat Titans face stern Sunrisers test

PTI ■ MUMBAI

The speed gun radar will be functioning overtime when Lockie Ferguson's 150 click thunderbolts meet their match in rising pace sensation Umran Malik's toe-crushers as table toppers Gujarat Titans clash with close-on-heel Sunrisers Hyderabad in the IPL here on Wednesday.

The IPL newcomers are currently in the midst of a dream inception year with six wins from seven games at the halfway stage and are placed on top of the table.

Interestingly, the only loss that Titans suffered in their campaign so far was against Sunrisers in an earlier meeting and Hardik Pandya wouldn't mind a sweet revenge for that defeat.

However, the 'Orange Army's' bowling attack especially their four-prong fast bowling unit has been exceptional as one saw when they demolished RCB for 68 in their previous encounter.

The disconcerting bounce and movement created by



Marco Jansen (6 wickets from 5 games) is ably complemented by Umran's (10 wickets from 7 games) fiery pace, T

Natarajan's (15 from 7 games) deceptions off the track and Bhuvneshwar Kumar (9 from 7 games) balancing it all with his

Gujarat vs Hyderabad  
Live from 7:30 pm IST  
STAR SPORTS 1

experience.

So much so that a light-weight spin department manned by left-arm spinner Jagadeesha Suchith in absence of an injured Washington Sundar, till now hasn't been a cause of worry for Kane Williamson and his band of men.

In fact, the rub of the green has gone SRH's way in this particular season as they now have five consecutive wins from five games where they have chased targets after the bowlers intimidated the rival batting unit.

For Pandya though, his bowling unit is no inferior to SRH as Mohammed Shami's artistry (10 from 7 games) and Ferguson's (9 wickets from 7 games) aggression has brought them a lot of success, not to forget Rashid Khan's (8 wickets from 7 games) ability to be more than decent even in a quiet year by his standards.

However, one area where Titans need to lift their game is Powerplay batting as Shubman Gill (207 from 7 games) has gone off the boil after his 96 and Wriddhiman Saha, replacing Matthew Wade, has been downright mediocre.

For skipper Pandya, it will be important that he isn't plagued by a dodgy hamstring which led to his absence from one game and also created some degree of discomfort against KKR the other day.

However, Titans' bowling attack has the ability to catch the SRH batting unit off-guard considering that it hasn't been tested a lot with young Abhishek Sharma (220 in 7 games) and No.3 batter Rahul Tripathi (212 from 7 games) doing bulk of the scoring in easy phases.

If Titans could breach through the Sunrisers top-order, most of the middle-order batters including the dangerous Nicholas Pooran haven't yet got a decent hit in the middle and the rustiness under pressure could keep Titans interested.

## Once we get going, KKR will be unstoppable: Iyer

PTI ■ MUMBAI

Kolkata Knight Riders are enduring a torrid time this IPL but skipper Shreyas Iyer on Tuesday expressed optimism for a turnaround, saying the former champions would be "unstoppable as a team" once they get into their groove.

KKR have lost five out of eight games, including four on the trot, and are currently placed eighth in the 10-team standings.

"We got off to a really good start with three wins out of four games but after that things didn't go pretty well for us but I still believe in the team," Iyer told the official website of the team.

"We are ticking all the boxes to get on to the field and win matches. It's just the execution part (where we are lacking). It's just a matter of time once we get going, we will be unstoppable as a team," he said.

KKR would be looking to emulate their 2021 turnaround when they won five out of their last seven games after managing just two wins in the first seven to storm into the qualifiers and finished as the runner-up side.

"We just got to know the qualifiers are at the Eden Gardens so we'll put in our 100 per cent efforts to see to it that we win the games and go out there and entertain the fans," Iyer said.

"The atmosphere has been amazing right from the start. The results are part and parcel



of the game and definitely, the way we have been preparing as a team it is simply outstanding and people are putting in hard yards to see to it we win matches.

"It is unfortunate that the results aren't going our way and as Sam (Billings) said, we have built the foundation really well. It's just time to execute the right things at the right time."

## KIYG 2021 from June 4 to June 13

PTI ■ CHANDIGARH

Haryana Chief Minister Manohar Lal Khattar on Tuesday said the Khelo India Youth Games-2021, which were postponed multiple times due to the COVID-19 pandemic, will be organised in the state from June 4 to June 13.

The Games will be held in Shahbad, Ambala, Chandigarh and Delhi apart from Panchkula. Around 8,500 players will participate in these games, he said.

The Chief Minister shared detailed information regarding the event with the Union Sports Minister Anurag Thakur through video conference during the meeting of organizing and co-ordination committee of Khelo India Youth Games 2021 held on Tuesday, an official statement said here.

Khattar said said that 2-3 multipurpose halls, synthetic track, athletic track have been constructed for the event.

Safety protocols will be followed in the event to reduced the threat of COVID-19.

## Asia Championship: Chirag-Satwik pair sails to 2nd round

PTI ■ MANILA

India's top doubles pairing of Satwiksairaj Rankireddy and Chirag Shetty cruised to the second round of the Badminton Asia Championships with a straight game win here on Tuesday.

The world number 7 and third seeded Indian duo hardly broke a sweat to register a 21-13, 21-9 victory against the Thai pair of Apiluk Gaterahong and Natchanon Tulamok in 27 minutes.

Satwik and Chirag will next lock horns with Japan's Akira Koga and Taichi Saito in the second round.

Ishaan Bhatnagar and Tanisha Crasto also advanced to the second round of the mixed doubles event. The Indian duo got the better of Hong Kong's Law Cheuk Him and Yeung Nga Ting 21-15, 21-17.

However, it was the end of the road for the men's doubles duo of Krishna Prasad Garaga and Vishnuvardhan Goud Panjala.

Prasad and Pranjala fought hard but eventually conceded the first round tie to Kang Minhyuk



and Kim Wonho of South Korea 10-21, 21-19, 16-21.

They will take on the winners of the tie between South Korea's Kim Wonho and Jeong Na Eun and the seventh seeded pairing of Tan Kian Meng and Lai Pei Jing of Malaysia.

Later in the day, MR Arjun and Dhruv Kapila will take on fourth seeds Fajar Alfian and Muhammad Rian Ardianto of Indonesia in the men's doubles, while the mixed doubles Venkat Gaurav Prasad and Juhi Dewangan will be pitted against Praveen Jordan and Melati Daeva Oktavianiti of Indonesia.

## Was confident of hitting six sixes against Rajasthan Royals: Powell

PTI ■ MUMBAI

Delhi Capitals power hitter Rowman Powell was hoping that the controversial third delivery of the final over against Rajasthan Royals be called a no-ball for height as he felt confident to smash six sixes in a row.

The West Indian, however, wants to concentrate at the games ahead rather than think about the past.

Needing 36 runs for a win off the final over, Powell hit three successive sixes from the first three deliveries, including the third ball which was a hip-high full-toss from Obed McCoy, to bring the equation down to 18 runs from the final three balls.

However, the DC camp demanded that the third ball be called a no ball for height but the umpires stood their ground, saying the delivery was legal.

Skipper Rishabh Pant then asked his batters - Powell and Kuldeep Yadav to walk out and assistant coach Pravin Amre stepped on to the playing arena to speak to the umpire.

"It is something we have to put behind us very fast. We have a lot of games coming up, and we have no time to dwell in the past," Powell was quoted as saying in a media release.

"You know, we have to always



look to the future because some important games are coming up. Important games for us to win to qualify for the next round of the competition. We have no time to sit and think about what happened in the past," said the West Indian.

The new-recruit, who has been struggling all season with the bat, had kept Delhi's hopes of winning the tie alive by smashing the three consecutive sixes.

The game had resumed after a 15 minute break and Powell reiterated assistant coach Shane Watson's comments that the umpire's decision is final.

"To be honest, I was pretty confident (at hitting six sixes in an over). After I got the first two, I was like what can happen from here, and then I got the next one. I was just hoping that it was a no-ball, but the umpire's decision is final, and we as cricketers take that and move on."

In the six innings this season, Powell has scores of 0, 20, 3, 8, 0 and 36.

Speaking about his current form, Powell said, "It felt good. I've been searching for that for the last few games, and it's finally good to see a few come out in the middle. It's just for me to take the confidence from that game leading up to the rest of the matches, and just transfer it to the next phase of the competition."

Delhi are currently seventh on the points table with three wins in seven outings.

The Capitals will take on Kolkata Knight Riders in their next match at the Wankhede Stadium on Thursday.



## BCCI will keep no stone unturned to tap talent from NE region: Jay Shah

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The National Cricket Academy is organising a camp in Bengaluru to help players from the north eastern states and those in the plate group upgrade their skill-sets under the tutelage of renowned coaches including Ashes winning bowling coach Troy Cooley.

Close to 150 cricketers from the region are taking part in the camp and they will also get to interact with NCA head and India great VVS Laxman.

The BCCI wants to ensure that players from Mizoram, Manipur, Meghalaya, Arunachal Pradesh, Sikkim get the best coaching and infra-structural facilities to be on par with the best domestic teams.

"This initiative by BCCI will give young and budding talents equal opportunity to hone their skills and represent India across formats. NE has enormous potential in sports and the board will keep no stone unturned to ensure that we are able to tap the best talent for the country," BCCI secretary Jay Shah tweeted.

The fast bowlers are being trained by one of the world's acclaimed pace bowling coach Cooley while batters are working under guidance of U-19 World Cup winning coach Hrishikesh Kanitkar.