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'GOVT COMMITTED TO 6.4% FISCAL
DEFICIT TARGET FOR 2022-23'

NEW DELHI, TUESDAY JULY 5, 2022; PAGES 12 ₹3

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**ARSENAL SIGN
GABRIEL JESUS
FROM MAN CITY**
11 SPORT

Shinde wins trust; bids on to snatch Sena from Uddhav

Thackeray camp's strength reduced to 15 as another MLA shifts loyalty

TN RAGHUNATHA ■
MUMBAI

The Shiv Sena hit an all-time low in its 56-year-old history on Monday as its rebel leader and Maharashtra's Chief Minister Eknath Shinde not only won convincingly on the floor of the Maharashtra Assembly but he also began systematically to dismantle the very edifice of the Uddhav Thackeray-led parent party Sena and usurp the legacy of late Bal Thackeray.

Hours before Shinde won the confidence vote on the floor of the Assembly, Speaker Rahul Narwekar had reinstated Shinde as the Shiv Sena Legislature Party leader in place of Ajay Chaudhary who had replaced the rebel Sena leader earlier, removing all technical glitches for the new Chief Minister seeking a trust vote in the Assembly.

In a confidence vote held nearly a fortnight after Shinde rebelled against his party president and then Chief Minister Uddhav Thackeray, as many as 164 MLAs voted for the motion of confidence brought in by the



Maharashtra Chief Minister Eknath Shinde and Deputy Chief Minister Devendra Fadnis, along with MLAs, after a special session of the Assembly at Vidhan Bhavan in Mumbai on Monday

new Chief Minister, while 99 voted against it.

As many as 21 MLAs — including Congress' two former Ministers Ashok Chavan and Wadettiwar — were absent during the trust vote, while three MLAs refrained from voting in a 287-member Assembly (the strength of the

288-member Assembly has come down to 287, following the death of a Shiv Sena MLA).

Coming as they did a day after the rebel Sena faction led by Shinde had virtually taken over the party's legislature party office at Vidhan Bhavan by sealing the office, Monday's developments established that

the new Chief Minister is going about in a clinical manner to dismantle the parent party Shiv Sena layer by layer.

The Uddhav-led Shiv Sena suffered one more jolt on Monday as yet another Shiv Sena MLA Santosh Bangar joined the Shinde-led camp.

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Ajit Pawar is LOP

Mumbai: NCP leader Ajit Pawar was on Monday named the leader of Opposition in Maharashtra Assembly. He succeeds BJP's Devendra Fadnis, who was sworn in as Deputy CM on June 30.

Detailed report on P2

Eateries can't slap service charge

Section of industry slam guidelines by Central Consumer Protection body

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■
NEW DELHI

Hotels and restaurants can no longer impose service charge on customers. Amid rising consumer complaints, the Central Consumer Protection Authority (CCPA) on Monday issued guidelines for "preventing unfair trade practices and violation of consumer rights due to levying of service charge in hotels and restaurants."

"No hotels or restaurants shall add service charge automatically or by default in the bill. No hotel or restaurant can force a consumer to pay service charges. They have to clearly inform the consumer that service charge is voluntary, optional and at consumer's discretion," the guidelines said.

Meanwhile, several restaurant and bar owners in Delhi on Monday opposed the CCPA guidelines barring them from levying service charges automatically or by default on food bills, saying it is "completely illegal and baseless".

Restaurant owners asserted that service charge was not levied discreetly as it is mentioned on the menu and the bill as well.

In a statement, the Union Ministry of Consumer Affairs,



Food and Public Distribution said, "The guidelines issued by the CCPA stipulate that hotels or restaurants shall not add service charge automatically or by default in the food bill. No collection of service charge shall be done by any other name."

As per the guidelines, the consumers can ask the hotel or restaurant concerned to remove the service charge from the bill amount. "If any consumer finds that a hotel or restaurant is levying service charge in violation of the guidelines, a consumer may make a request to the hotel or restaurant to remove service charge from the bill amount," the statement said.

Restaurants and hotels generally levy a service charge of 10 per cent on the food bill. The guidelines said there should not be any collection of

service charge by any other name. "No restriction on entry or provision of services based on collection of service charge shall be imposed on consumers," the guideline said.

Further, service charge cannot be collected by adding it along with the food bill and levying GST on the total amount.

If any consumer finds that a hotel or restaurant is levying service charge in violation of the guidelines, s/he can request the concerned establishment to remove it from the bill amount.

The consumers can also lodge a complaint on the National Consumer Helpline (NCH), which works as an alternate dispute redressal mechanism at the pre-litigation level, by calling 1915 or through the NCH mobile app. *Continued on Page 2*

Teen who fired fatal shot at Moose Wala, accomplice arrested

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

The Delhi Police's Special Cell has arrested a 19-year-old, Ankit, who fired the lethal shots at popular Punjabi singer Sidhu Moose Wala from close range. The police also arrested Ankit's partner-in-crime Sachin Bhiwani (25) in what is being seen as a major breakthrough in the case.

The police recovered two loaded pistols, three police uniforms of the Punjab Police, and two mobile handsets from their possession. Both Ankit and Sachin are wanted criminals belonging to Lawrence Bishnoi and Goldy Brar gang alliance.

The two were apprehended on Sunday around 11.05 pm by a team of Special Cell from



Undated photo of Ankit Sirsa

Mahatma Gandhi Marg, Near Kashmiri Gate Bus Adda.

According to police, Ankit was one of the shooters involved in the killing of Moose Wala while the other accused Sachin was responsible for harbouring four of the shooters.

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Freedom struggle not history of some people: PM

Modi unveils 30-ft statue of legendary freedom fighter Alluri Sitarama Raju in Andhra

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■
NEW DELHI

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Monday unveiled a 30-ft bronze statue of legendary freedom fighter Alluri Sitarama Raju on his 125th birth anniversary at Bhimavaram, Andhra Pradesh, and asserted the history of the country's freedom struggle is "not about a few years or some people".

Addressing a large public meeting at Pedamirram, Modi paid glowing tributes to those who fought to free the country from colonial rule.



Prime Minister Narendra Modi with Union Minister G Kishan Reddy, Andhra Pradesh Governor Biswabhusan Harichandan, Chief Minister YS Jagan Mohan Reddy and other dignitaries, during the celebrations of the 125th birth anniversary of freedom fighter Alluri Sitarama Raju, in Bhimavaram, on Monday

The 15-tonne statue was moulded at a cost of ₹3 crore and installed by the Kshatriya Seva Samiti in the Municipal

Park at ASR Nagar in Bhimavaram, as part of Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav celebrations.

"As we celebrate the 75th anniversary of Independence, the responsibility is on every citizen to fulfil the dreams of

the freedom fighters. Our New India should be an India of their dreams. Such India, where the poor, farmers, workers, backward classes, Adivasis and oppressed have equal opportunities," the PM said.

"The fight for freedom is not the history of a few years, a few regions or some people. This is the history of every nook and corner of the country, the history of sacrifices and martyrdom of people of all corners," Modi remarked.

Recalling Alluri's war cry to the British, "Dum hai to mujhe rok lo" (Stop me if you have the guts), the PM said people of the country were now using a similar slogan, "Dum hai to hamein rok lo" as they were bravely confronting many challenges and difficulties.

"The 130 crore citizens of the country, in unison and capability, are daring the challenges and saying 'stop us if you have the guts,'" Modi said.

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Cong workers release black balloons in PM's flight path

PTI ■ AMARAVATI

In what the Special Protection Group (SPG) saw as a major breach of security, Congress protesters released black balloons into the flight path of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's Mi-17 helicopter as he took off from the Vijayawada International Airport (VIA) for Bhimavaram on Monday.

State police, however, denied there was any breach of security but said one Congress worker has been apprehended in this connection, while three other party workers were arrested for trying to enter the airport with black balloons.

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CAPSULE

DON'T NUDGE US TO SEEK INDEPENDENT TN: RAJA

Chennai: DMK leader A Raja has implored Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Union Home Minister Amit Shah to provide 'state autonomy' to Tamil Nadu, and not push them to seek an independent country. Though the icon of the Dravidian movement, Thanthai Periyar stood for an independent Tamil Nadu, the DMK moved away from it, Raja said on Sunday addressing a party meet of representatives of urban local bodies. The conference was held in Namakkal in western Tamil Nadu.

'BRUTAL' DANISH SHOOTING NOT TERROR

Copenhagen: A gunman who killed three people when he opened fire in a crowded shopping mall acted alone and apparently selected his victims at random, Danish police said on Monday, all but ruling out that the attack was an "act of terrorism." Authorities filed preliminary charges of murder and attempted murder against a 22-year-old Danish man.

In a first in Army, docs place auditory brainstem implant

Perform 12-hr-long rare surgery to cure deafness in 4-year-old child

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■
NEW DELHI

Army doctors have performed a rare surgery lasting more than 12 hours to cure profound deafness of a four-year-old daughter of a serving soldier. She has become the first child in the armed forces or any Government organisation to receive an Auditory Brainstem Implant (ABI).

Giving details of the complex medical procedure, Army officials said on Monday the surgery was performed at the Army Hospital Research and Referral here.

Explaining the significance of the operation, they said most childhood deafness wherein the defect is in the



cochlea is addressed with a cochlear implant.

However, this child had no cochlea or the auditory nerves at birth, thus the only option to rehabilitate her was to surgically place an ABI at the seat of hearing within the brain.

The cutting edge technology of auditory brainstem implantation is still at its nascent stages across the world.

The team of ear, nose and throat (ENT) surgeons, neurosurgeons, neuro anesthesiologists

and audiologists completed this surgery in around 12 hours.

The device will be switched on six weeks post surgery. This will be followed by intense rehabilitation. With that, the child will gain auditory awareness and hopefully develop speech.

This will help the child in integration with mainstream schooling thereby becoming a productive member of society in years to follow, they said.

This face mask can kill coronavirus

PTI ■ WASHINGTON

Researchers have developed a new N95 face mask that can not only reduce Covid-19 spread but also kill the SARS-CoV-2 virus upon contact with it. The mask can potentially be worn longer, causing less plastic waste as it does not need to be replaced as frequently, the researchers said.

"We think the work is a first step toward longer-lasting, self-sterilising personal protective equipment, such as the N95 respirator," said Edmund Palermo, from Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute in the US.

"It may help reduce transmission of airborne pathogens in general," Palermo said.

In research recently published in the journal Applied ACS Materials and Interfaces, the team successfully grafted broad-spectrum antimicrobial polymers onto the polypropylene filters used in N95 face masks.

"The active filtration layers in N95 masks are very sensitive to chemical modification. It can make them per-



form worse in terms of filtration, so they essentially no longer perform like N95s. They are made out of polypropylene, which is difficult to chemically modify.

"Another challenge is that you don't want to disrupt the very fine network of fibres in these masks, which might make them more difficult to breathe through," Zha added.

The team, including researchers from Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) in the US, attached antimicrobial quaternary ammonium

polymers to the fibre surfaces of nonwoven polypropylene fabrics using ultraviolet (UV)-initiated grafting.

"The process that we developed uses a really simple chemistry to create this non-leaching polymer coating that can kill viruses and bacteria by essentially breaking open their outer layer," said Zha.

"It's very straightforward and a potentially scalable method," Zha noted. The team used only UV light and acetone in their process, which are widely available, to make it easy

to implement.

The process can be applied to already manufactured polypropylene filters, rather than necessitating the development of new ones, the researchers said.

The team did see a decrease in filtration efficiency when the process was applied directly to the filtration layer of N95 masks, but the solution is straightforward, they said. The user could wear an unaltered N95 mask along with another polypropylene layer with the antimicrobial polymer on top, according to the researchers.

In the future, manufacturers could make a mask with the antimicrobial polymer incorporated into the top layer, they said. "Hopefully, we are on the other side of the Covid pandemic. But this kind of technology will be increasingly important," said Zha. "The threat of diseases caused by airborne microbes is not going away. It's about time that we improved the performance and sustainability of the materials that we use to protect ourselves," Zha added.

NCR-PULSE

20-YR-OLD DIES AFTER BEING ATTACKED WITH KEY
New Delhi: In a case of road rage, a 20-year-old man died after he was allegedly attacked with a key outside a wine shop in east Delhi's Samaspur. Police said that the victim and his friend had earlier also got into an altercation with another rider after they touched a two-wheeler. The deceased was identified as Patparganj resident Nikhil Sharma.

APPLICATION DEADLINE FOR SPORTS SCHOOL EXTENDED
New Delhi: To accommodate more budding sports talents from all over the country, the Kejriwal Government's Delhi Sports University has extended the application deadline for its sports school. Students willing to take admission in the Delhi Sports School can now send in their applications till July 12, 2022. Deputy Chief Minister Manish Sisodia said, "We want to accommodate more and more young sports talent in our Delhi Sports School. For this not only we have extended the deadline for application but have also relaxed the age criteria by six months."

GOVT TO IMPART TRAINING TO ECO-CLUB MEMBERS
New Delhi: To spread awareness about the recently implemented ban on single-use plastic (SUP) items, Delhi Government will impart training to the members of various eco-clubs in the Capital. This training programme, to be conducted on July 19, is being conducted in collaboration with the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP). There are around 2,000 eco-clubs in Delhi. The members of the eco clubs will further help create awareness across the capital about the impact of SUP on the environment and its available alternatives.

INTERNATIONAL POLICE EXPO IN DELHI ON JULY 6-7
New Delhi: With a focus on new technologies and weapons for a robust internal security ecosystem, better policing, creating secure cities and enabling police forces to recover from future turmoil, an International Police Expo will be held in the national Capital from July 6 to 7. Over 350 world-class companies from 18 countries to showcase latest innovations including mob controlling, anti-drone gun, narco drug test, advanced firearms, mobile forensic technology, cyber security, armoured vehicle, and a lot more to be demonstrated in front of over 3000 police and defence personnel's.

DIAGNOSTIC CENTRE GETS CARESTREAM DRX COMPASS
New Delhi: Adding to its diagnostic capabilities, Shri Anandpur Trust – Charitable Diagnostic Centre in Krishna Nagar became the first diagnostic centre in National Capital Region (NCR) to add the Carestream DRX Compass to its diagnostics portfolio. The event was inaugurated by Managing Director of the trust and was attended by doctors, technicians and other members of the trust.

LG, POLICE CHIEF INAUGURATE 75 FACILITATION BOOTHS
New Delhi: Lieutenant Governor Vinai Kumar Saxena and police chief Rakesh Asthana on Monday inaugurated 75 'Integrated Facilitation Booths' and announced the installation of Automatic Number Plate Recognition (ANPR) cameras in the city. The inauguration took place as the Delhi Police held its first Commissionerate Day ceremonial parade at the New Police Lines, Kingsway Camp Ground, with Saxena taking the salute and inspecting the parade as chief guest.

MAN HELD FOR RAPING WOMAN ON MARRIAGE PROMISE
Gurugram: A man was arrested by Gurugram police on Monday for allegedly raping a woman from Delhi on the pretext of marrying her. The two had first come in contact with each other on a dating app in 2021. According to police, the accused was identified as Paras Munjal (31), resident of Sector 51 here. He was arrested on Monday, a day after the woman, a resident of Delhi and working with a private company, filed a complaint against him. Munjal was produced in a city court on Monday and sent to judicial custody.

Ajit Pawar elected Leader of Opp in Maha Assembly

TN RAGHUNATHA ■
MUMBAI

In a role reversal that came after the change in the Government in Maharashtra, senior NCP leader and former deputy Chief Minister Ajit Pawar was on Monday was elected as the new Leader of Opposition (LoP) of the Maharashtra Legislative Assembly.

The NCP has got the LoP's post as a natural consequence, as the Sharad Pawar-led now has the largest number of MLAs (53) as against the Congress' strength of 44 MLAs and Shiv Sena's reduced strength of 15 MLAs in the in 288-member State Assembly. The Sena earlier had a strength of 55 MLAs.

Earlier, in the NCP's Legislature party meeting, State party president and state legis-



lature party leader Jayant Patil proposed the name of Pawar for the post of the LoP. The party later proposed Pawar's name in the House and was elected to the post.

A six-time MLA, one time MP and a commerce graduate Ajitdada – as Ajit Pawar is popularly known in the state political circles – is the nephew of NCP President Sharad Pawar. Ajitdada is the cousin of Baramati MP Supriya Sule, and Rohit R. Pawar, an MLA from Karjat-Jamkhed con-

stituency.

In 62-year-old Maharashtra where there have been nine deputy chief ministers so far, Ajit dada – interestingly enough --had in the past held the DCM's post record four times—from November 2010 to September 2012, December 2012 to September, 2014, from November 23-28, 2019 and from December 2019 to June 2022. He was the deputy chief minister in the Maha Vikas Aghadi (MVA) government headed by Chief Minister Uddhav Thackeray.

Ajitdada has long been aspiring to be the chief minister of Maharashtra, a desire he has never hidden.

An aggressive and non-sense leader, Ajitdada began his political career under the guidance of his uncle Sharad Pawar by engaging himself in sugar

cooperative politics way back in 1982. He was elected to Lok Sabha from Baramati constituency for the first time in 1991, but vacated his LS seat immediately there for his uncle Sharad Pawar who had then become the Defence Minister in the Narasimha Rao government. He was subsequently elected to the State Assembly from Baramati constituency.

Ajitdada was subsequently elected to the State Assembly from Baramati in 1995, 1999, 2004, 2009, 2014 and 2019. He has worked in different governments in the past.

Speaking in the House after assuming the LoP, Ajitdada urged the Speaker to give adequate time to the Opposition to raise issues in the House. "I will assure you that no bill would be passed without healthy discussions," the new LoP said.

Manipur landslide: 4 more bodies retrieved, death toll mounts to 46

PTI ■
IMPHAL

The death toll in the landslide that struck a railway construction camp at Tupul in Manipur's Noney district rose to 46 on Monday as four more bodies were retrieved from under the debris on the fifth day of the search and rescue operations, officials said.

The bodies were yet to be identified, even as 20 people, including three army personnel and 17 civilians, were accounted missing till Sunday, they said.

The bodies are becoming increasingly difficult to identify as they are decomposing rapidly, they said.

Personnel of the 107



Territorial Army and civilians involved in the construction of the 110-km Jiribam-Imphal railway line lost their lives in the worst natural disaster to have struck the northeastern state in recent times.

A massive landslide hit the railway construction site on Wednesday night. The debris blocked the Ijei river below, creating a reservoir that threatens to inundate the low-lying areas. At present, work is underway to clear the debris to let the water flow out.

Lakhs of fish die in Najafgarh drain upstream

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

A huge number of fish have mysteriously died in the upstream stretch of the Najafgarh drain along the Delhi-Haryana border in the last few days, prompting the Delhi Government to rush teams to the area to probe the incident.

Residents in the nearby Jhuljhuli village say fish in a pond in their village, around 150 meters from the drain, have also died.

The incident came to light on Saturday when a team of the forest and wildlife department was conducting a survey for tree plantation in the area. "The number of dead fish could be in lakhs. It could be due to the release of an excess

sive amount of pollutants in the drain," a forest department official said on condition of anonymity.

The fish have died only in a five-kilometre upstream stretch of the drain between Rawta village in Delhi and Dhansa dam in Haryana. The banks of the drain are littered with dead, rotten fish and the stench has filled the area, a spot inspection by PTI revealed.

No such incident has been reported at Najafgarh Jheel, the second largest water body in Delhi-NCR after the Yamuna.

Praveen Kumar, a resident of Jhuljhuli, said they have never seen something of this sort in the past.

"A massive number of fish

have died. All the fish in the pond (in the village) have died too. It's been happening for the last three to four days," he said, pointing at the dead fish in the water body.

"We saw snakes scurrying out of the water and entering houses. We do not know what led to it. It's a mystery," Kumar, who works with the Delhi Police, said.

A senior official of the Delhi Pollution Control Committee (DPCC) told PTI that a team collected water samples from the drain on Sunday morning.

Tests are being conducted to ascertain biological oxygen demand and dissolved oxygen levels and a report will be available in four to five days.

Biochemical oxygen

demand (BOD) refers to the amount of oxygen consumed by bacteria and other microorganisms while they decompose organic matter in the water.

High BOD levels mean there is a high level of microorganisms in the water, and a high content of organic material that is broken down by the organisms.

If the BOD of a waste is high enough, the microbial population will quickly deoxygenate the water and render it unsuitable for other forms of marine life.

"However, it appears to be a natural event due to turbulence in water due to rain," the official said.

The locals, however, are not convinced.

Shinde wins trust, bids on to snatch Sena from...

From Page 1

Ironically enough, Bangar had voted the Opposition Maha Vikas Aghadi (MVA)'s nominee Rajan Salvi of the Sena in the Speaker's election held on Sunday. After Bangar switched sides, the Shiv Sena found itself in a miserable state, as it was reduced to a 15-MLA party in the State Assembly.

Shinde could not have dealt such a severe body blow to the Shiv Sena in more opportune time than now as the Uddhav Thackeray-led Sena prepares to retain power for the crucial Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation (BMC), the richest civic body

in the country. The Shinde camp has already made inroads into the party's civic set up by wooing a sizeable number of party sitting, former corporators and workers at the gross-root level. Together with the Shinde camp, the BJP -- which till a few years ago ruled the BMC in alliance with the Shiv Sena - will whole hog try to capture power in the BMC, from where the Shiv Sena has been deriving its strength for years on end.

Finding it difficult to come to terms with his new position of being the leader of a party with markedly eroded strength, the once-power-

ful Shiv Sena president Uddhav Thackeray appeared bitter when he charged that the BJP - which worked in tandem with Shinde in dislodging the MVA Government in the State - had made up its mind to "finish" it in the State.

Addressing the Sena cadres at the Shiv Sena Bhavan, Uddhav dared the Shinde camp-BJP combine to go in for mid-term polls in the State "BJP wants to finish the Shiv Sena. Instead of fighting like this (engineering rebellion and splitting the Sena), let's go to the people's court. If we are wrong, then people will make us sit at

home and vice versa in your case," the former Chief Minister said.

On his part, Shinde expressed that the Shiv Sena, led by him, and the BJP - which would form an electoral alliance for the 2024 - would jointly win more than 200 seats in the 2024 Maharashtra Assembly polls. "If we do not win 200 seats, then I would go to my village and do farming," he said.

In his speech delivered after winning the confidence vote in the State Assembly, Shinde charged that he had taken the extreme step of rebelling against Uddhav after being "suppressed" for a long

time. "I was suppressed for a long time...what happened did not happen in a just one day," he said. He said that he had repeatedly opposed the Sena's "unnatural alliance" with the NCP and the Congress.

Fifty-eight-year-old Shinde, who invoked the names of late Bal Thackeray and Shiv Sena's late strongman from Thane Anand Dighe, broke into tears when he recalled his association with late Dighe. "My father is alive, while my mother is no more. I could not give much time to my parents. They would be asleep when I came and would go to work when

I slept. I could not give much time to my son Shrikant. When my two children drowned in a boat mishap, I had gone into depression.

At that time, it was Dighe who brought me out of it and encouraged me to take up party work. I owe a lot to Dighe. He mentored me right from the beginning".

"I am a simple Shiv Sainik, a simple karyakarta...I never aspired for any post...I don't believe that I am the CM," Shinde said.

While speaking about his agenda as the Chief Minister, Shinde said: "We will establish aam aadmi's Raj...public Raj...people's

Raj... we are for Hindutva and development...that is the agenda that would be carry forward".

Earlier during the trust vote, MLAs Abu Azmi and Rais Shaikh (both of the Samajwadi Party) and Shah Farukh Anwar (AIMIM) abstained from voting.

Eleven Congress MLAs - Ashok Chavan, Vijay Wadettiwar, Dheeraj Deshmukh, Praniti Shinde, Jitesh Antapurkar, Zeeshan Siddiqui, Raju Awale, Mohan Hambarde, Kunal Patil, Madhavrao Jawalgaonkar and Shirish Chaudhary -- were absent during the floor test. (Chavan and Wadettiwar

came late and were unable to enter the House at the time of the vote).

The NCP legislators who remained absent from the House were Anil Deshmukh, Nawab Malik (both of whom are currently in the custody of Enforcement Directorate (ED), Dattatray Bharane, Anna Bansode, Babandada Shinde and Sangram Jagtap. The two ailing BJP MLAs -- Mukta Tilak and Laxman Jagtap, also could not come to the House, while BJP's Rahul Narwekr could not vote as he is the Speaker. AIMIM MLA Mufti Mohammad Ismail also did not attend the session.

Teen who fired fatal shot at...

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Addressing a Press conference, HGS Dhaliwal, the Special Commissioner of Police, Special Cell, after the initial arrests made in the case, multiple teams were working extensively to nab those involved in providing logistical support, weapons and hide-out facilities to them.

"Police teams conducted raids in six States -- Madhya Pradesh, Jharkhand, Uttar Pradesh, Haryana, Gujarat and Delhi. Our teams continued to work on the leads received and developed them diligently," said the Special CP.

"On July 3, specific inputs were received that two members of Bishnoi gang would come to ISBT Delhi for executing some heinous crime.

The police team arrested both Ankit and Deepak in a swift operation," said the Special CP.

"Sachin provided the shooters all support before and after the incident. Ankit, a resident of Sersa village in Haryana, is also named in two other cases of attempt to murder in Rajasthan. A 9 mm pistol along with 10 live cartridges, a 30 mm pistol with nine live cartridges, three police uniforms of Punjab Police and two mobile handsets along with a dogle and SIM card have been seized from their possession," said the Special CP. "Ankit alias Chhota fired on Moose Wala with two pistols. He was closest to Moose Wala's vehicle while firing," said a senior police official.

Cong workers release black balloons in PM's...

From Page 1

Incidentally, a strong police force of 800 personnel was deployed at the airport for the Prime Minister's security. The Andhra Pradesh Congress Committee gave a call to organise protests during the PM's visit to the state on Monday, to unveil the statue of freedom fighter Alluri Sitarama Raju, in protest against the "broken promises", including grant of special category status to AP.

Some Congress workers climbed a building under construction in a village far away from the VIA at Gannavaram and released black balloons, ostensibly filled with hydrogen. A video clip released by the

Congress showed the balloons being released as the Mi-17s took off from Gannavaram and entered the flight path over the village. The balloons were floating high in the air as the two choppers flew past but it could not be established whether they were anywhere close.

The Prime Minister's trip ended without incident, much to the relief of everyone but the SPG that is in charge of his security is said to have taken a serious view of it and sought an explanation from the state.

The SPG apparently asked the state police what if they were drones and not just balloons.

Eateries...

From Page 1

They can also file complaints with the Consumer Commission.

The complaint can be filed electronically through the e-daakhil portal for its speedy and effective redressal. Moreover, the consumer can submit a complaint to the District Collector of the concerned district for investigation and subsequent proceedings by the CCPA.

The complaint can also be sent to the CCPA by e-mail.

"Further, service charge is being levied in addition to the total price of the food items mentioned in the menu and applicable taxes, often in the guise of some other fee or charge," it added.

Freedom struggle not history of some people...

From Page 1

Paying glowing tributes to Alluri, popularly called the "Manyam Veerudu" (Hero of the Forest), Modi pointed out that the legendary freedom fighter was a symbol of "Ek Bharat, Shresth Bharat" (one nation, great nation).

"Alluri's 125th birth anniversary and Rampa Rebellion's centenary will be celebrated through the year.

Renovation of Pandrangi village, Alluri's birthplace, and the Chintapalli police station that he first attacked and construction of Alluri Dhanya Mandir at Mogallu village were symbols of our lasting emotions," Modi said.

A museum was being built in Lambasingi for Alluri and other Adivasi warriors. The Prime Minister said Andhra Pradesh was a land of

patriots and legends like Pingali Venkaiah, who designed the National Flag as well as Kannegani Hanumanthu, Kandukuri Veeresalingam, Potti Srimamulu and Uyyalavada Narasimha Reddy, the first revolutionaries. The legacy of the land was inspirational, he said and paid his tributes to all of them.

Modi arrived in

Vijayawada International Airport by a special aircraft from Hyderabad and flew by helicopter to Bhimavaram. After unveiling the statue of Alluri, he felicitated Alluri Srirama Raju, Alluri's nephew, and Bodi Dora, son of Alluri's close lieutenant Mallu Dora.

According to a PTI report, the regular patriotic discourse during the freedom struggle had a strong

influence on Alluri since his childhood. Following the death of his father, his schooling got disrupted and he went on a pilgrimage and toured the western, northwestern, north and northeastern India during his teens. The socio-economic conditions in the country under the British regime, particularly in the tribal areas, deeply moved him.

Pet barks at man, neighbours get into dog fight

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

In a bizarre incident, a man in Paschim Vihar injured three members of a family in his neighbourhood with an iron rod allegedly after their pet dog barked at him. The man also hit the dog on the head with the iron rod and injured it grievously. According to eyewitnesses, the man first threw a brick at the family and then hit them with the rod. The entire incident was also caught on a CCTV camera.

A video of the incident shows the infuriated man heading home, followed by a woman. Both of them can be seen fighting as he picks up a rod. Then a disturbing stand-off ensues as the woman holds on to the man's foot as he attacks her with the rod. Once the attacker leaves two men come to her aid. Later, the man



(Left) In the video grab, Dhaiya can be seen beating the dog Scooby with an iron rod on his head. (Right) Dhaiya beats a woman with the rod during the fight with his neighbours over the dog



PNS photo

comes back to attack the family and the dog. The dog falls

on the ground but comes to and runs around writhing in

pain due to the concussion. The footage shows a second woman

being thrashed by the attacker after she grabs him and pins

him to the ground. Amid the mayhem, onlookers arrive at

AAP, BJP trade charges over city's waterlogging woes

Ruling party says flooding result of MCD not cleaning drains, BJP holds PWD responsible

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

The AAP and the BJP on Monday traded barbs over the issue of waterlogging in the national Capital in the Delhi Assembly, with the ruling party saying the problem was a result of the Municipal Corporation Delhi (MCD) not cleaning drains and the latter holding the Public Works Department (PWD) responsible.

During the discussion on the first day of the Delhi Assembly session, Deputy Chief Minister Manish Sisodia said people are facing problems due to waterlogging in the city and the issue should not be politicised. The BJP rules the MCD the PWD is a Delhi Government agency.

He said nearly 2,000 km of the city drains come under the jurisdiction of the PWD and the remaining are maintained by the MCD and other agencies. "There is confusion among people over the jurisdiction of agencies. We cannot justify the PWD and the MCD in this House. It's a crime if any agency claims to have desilted a drain without actually having done it. If I come to know that this happened in case of any PWD drain, action will be taken against the guilty," Sisodia said.

He also said that a "very poor system" has come up in MCD due to the unification of three municipal corporations. "Earlier, there used to be a director of local bodies of the Delhi Government but now, after making some new rules, they (unified MCD) have abolished that arrangement. Later, they said that Assembly cannot ask questions (on issues pertaining to MCD)," he added.



Deputy Chief Minister of Delhi Manish Sisodia arrives to attend the Monsoon Session of the Delhi Legislative Assembly, in New Delhi on Monday
RANJAN DIMRI | PIONEER

AAP MLAs including Rituraj Govind, Kuldeep Kumar, Sanjeev Jha and Rakhi Birla also spoke on the issue of waterlogging and blamed the MCD for it. They alleged that the MCD has not been properly desilting the drains under its jurisdiction, which leads to waterlogging.

Countering the AAP, BJP MLA Jitendra Mahajan said the PWD is to be blamed for waterlogging in Delhi as it is responsible for maintaining all the big nullahs but does not clean them. "The MCD has managed to clean smaller drains despite adverse financial conditions. There is corruption in desilting of drains (byPWD). A joint committee should be set up to ensure proper desilting of drains and there should be no politics over it," he said. BJP legislator Abhay Verma said,

"Why are only PWD roads waterlogged? The rainwater from smaller drains flows into bigger drains managed by the PWD that are clogged. As a result, the water spills over onto roads and underpasses."

According to Government data, there are about 2,846 drains in Delhi and their total length is about 3,692 km. The PWD manages around 1,100 drains with a length of 2,050 km along 1,260 km of roads across 17 divisions in the city.

Delhi received its first monsoon showers on Thursday after which many areas including newly-inaugurated Pragati Maidan tunnel, ITO, Pul Prahladpur underpass, Barapullah corridor, Delhi-Meerut Expressway and Sarai Kale Khan were waterlogged, resulting in hours-long traffic jams.

'Centre obstructing edu of our students'

Govt transferring senior officers in education department after snatching Services Department from AAP, says Sisodia

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Delhi's Deputy Chief Minister, Manish Sisodia on the first day of the Monsoon Session of Delhi Assembly, lashed out at the Central Government and held it responsible for obstruction in the working of the elected Government and its depart-

ments, including higher education. Sisodia alleged that the Centre had been forsaking public interest to toy around with the senior officers of the Higher Education Department.

Sisodia reaction came after Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) MLA Saurabh Bhardwaj had initiated a discussion on the situation arising out of the unconstitutional working of the Services Department which is refusing to even reply to the Assembly and its committees.

During the discussion, Sisodia said that the Central Government is playing with the future of six lakh children of

Delhi by repeatedly transferring senior officers after unconstitutionally stanching away the Services Department from the Kejriwal Government.

"Admissions are going on in Delhi Government's universities at present but no one has been appointed to the post of Director of Higher Education 22 days after the transfer of the previous Director," said Sisodia. "After snatching away the Kejriwal Government's powers, the Centre is abusing those powers by transferring officers without cause or justification," said Sisodia.

Delhi Assembly passes 5 Bills to hike salaries of its members

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

The Delhi Assembly on Monday passed five Bills to increase the salaries and allowances of Ministers, MLAs, and others by 66.67 per cent. The proposal will now be sent to the President and once it is approved, the salaries of the legislators and others will increase from Rs 54,000 to Rs 90,000, including all allowances.

The basic pay of the MLAs and Ministers will now increase from Rs 12,000 to Rs 30,000 and allowances like travelling, telephone bills and others will go up to Rs 90,000.

About five different Bills were tabled on the first day of the two-day Delhi Assembly session to increase the salaries of the Chief Minister, MLAs, Chief Whip, Speaker, Deputy Speaker, and the Leader of Opposition. The Bills were passed after three hours of debate and discussion by the members of the Legislative Assembly. The decision to increase the salary was backed

by all members, including the Leader of Opposition Ramvir Singh Bidhuri. "Today, @DelhiAssembly passed five Bills to increase the salary & allowances of Ministers, MLAs, Chief Whip, Speaker & Dy. Speaker and Leader of Opposition after 11 long years since the last increase.

These Bills will come into force after approval of President of India," Revenue Minister Kailash Gahlot said in a tweet. During the debate, the members stressed that salaries should be commensurate with rising prices and work done by the Legislators.

The Assembly members also said that the Legislators in Delhi are the lowest paid in the entire country. The Bill was also backed by Transport Minister Kailash Gahlot, AAP Legislator and Delhi Jal Board (DJB) vice-chairman Saurabh Bhardwaj and others.

Speaking on the Bill, Deputy Chief Minister Manish Sisodia said, "The proposal is to increase the basic salary of the members from Rs 12,000 to

Rs 30,000. The success of any institution depends on talent and their salary is an integral part of this talent. We get our salaries from the taxpayers, so we should thank the public for the increment in the salaries from Rs 54,000 to Rs 90,000." BJP MLA and Leader of Opposition in the Delhi Assembly, Ramvir Singh Bidhuri also supported the pay hike.

Earlier, the Delhi Assembly also condoled and paid tributes to those who died in several incidents. The Assembly condoled the brutal beheading of a tailor in Udaipur and the victims of the Mundka fire, the Manipur landslide and a bus accident in Himachal Pradesh. Delhi Assembly Speaker Ram Niwas Goel extended condolences to the families of those killed in the Mundka fire and the Manipur landslide.

The BJP MLAs staged a walk out during debate Special Mention under Rule 280 following a furore over alleged closure of schools by the Arvind Kejriwal dispensation.

15 'Special 26' wannabes raid house in Shahdara

Posing as I-T Dept officers criminals decamp with gold ornament, cash; four held, manhunt on for rest

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Inspired by the Bollywood movie Special 26, a gang of 15 people, posing as officers of the Income Tax Department 'raided' a house in Shahdara area, in the national Capital and decamped with a handbag containing one gold ornament and Rs 15,000 cash. The incident took place on Sunday.

According to Delhi Police, they have arrested four of the accused, including a woman, while a manhunt has been initiated to nab the remaining criminals.

The accused have been identified as Gurjant Singh (31), a resident of district Fatehgarh in Punjab, Navjot Singh (30), a resident of Chandigarh, Satpal (28), a resident of sector- 24, Mandi Gobindgarh near Fatehgarh and the woman, Gurpreet (30), a resident of Ludhiana, Punjab. According to a senior police officer, on June 3, around 6 PM a police control room (PCR) call was received that some

Income Tax officials have conducted a raid without the presence of the police and have seized the mobile phones of all the family members.

"The complainant has alleged that her husband is engaged in currency exchange at Chandni Chowk. At about 6 PM about 15 men and women managed to enter the house forcibly.

They introduced themselves as Anti Corruption officials and asked for house raid," said the senior police officer. "On being asked about the search warrant, they told the family that they have arms and threatened them.

CCTVs installed to check waterlogging

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

The Delhi government has installed CCTV cameras for constant monitoring of critical waterlogging areas in the national capital. The Public Works Department (PWD) has identified 147 waterlogging-prone areas, including seven critical locations from where report heavy flooding is reported every rainy season.

According to officials, there will be round-the-clock monitoring of the critical waterlogging points as the CCTV feed will be sent to the PWD control room and necessary

instructions will be issued to the staff on the ground to tackle the situation.

These seven critical locations are -- IP State Ring Road near the WHO building, the underpasses at Minto Bridge, Pul Prahladpur, Zakhira, Okhla, Azadpur and the Jahangirpuri metro station road.

In view of the India Meteorological Department's (IMD) "orange" alert for heavy rains on Wednesday, authorities said elaborate arrangements such as constant monitoring of critical locations, strengthening of drains, instal-

lation of pumps and digging of recharge pits have been made to ensure that there is no waterlogging on the city roads.

An official claimed that except for Pul Prahladpur, no waterlogging was reported from the six other locations on June 30, when the city witnessed the first monsoon showers of the season.

According to government data, there are about 2,846 drains in Delhi and their total length is about 3,692 km. The PWD manages around 1,100 drains with a length of 2,050 km along 1,260 km of road across 17 divisions in the city.

the scene and try to stop the fight. The dog Scooby, has a blood clot in its head and is being treated by a veterinarian. Sameer Sharma, Deputy Commissioner of Police (DCP), Outer district said a police control room (PCR) call regarding the quarrel was received on Sunday morning at the Paschim Vihar East police station.

"During enquiry it was found that one person namely Dharamvir Dahiya was strolling when the pet dog of a resident of A Block started barking. At that Dahiya picked the dog by its tail and threw it.

When the owner of the dog, Rakshit (25), saw this, he immediately intervened which led to a minor scuffle between Dahiya and the dog owner. During this scuffle, the dog also bit Dahiya. After some time Dahiya came back with an

iron rod and brutally hit the dog on its head.

He also hit Rakshit and another man Hemant (53) and with the rod," the DCP said. Later on, Dahiya barged into Rakshit's house to take back the rod used in the assault. He also hit Renu (45). All the injured persons have been medically examined while Dahiya went to the Park Hospital, Khayala to get treated for dog bites.

Accordingly, the police registered an FIR under Sections 308 (Attempt to commit culpable homicide), 323 (Punishment for voluntarily causing hurt), 341 (Punishment for wrongful restraint) and 451 (House-trespass in order to commit offence punishable with imprisonment) of the Indian Penal Code read with section 11 of the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act.

JNU approves exit option for students of dual-degree prog

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

The Academic Council of the Jawaharlal Nehru University (JNU) has approved the exit option for the students of the dual-degree programme in the School of Engineering. The facility is now available for students who have been admitted to the four-year BTech, one-year MTech, MS programme from the 2018-19 batch onwards. The decision was taken at the 160th meeting of the Academic Council, which is the main academic authority of the university and is in line with the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020.

The students who have taken admission in the dual degree programme of JNU engineering courses and have successfully completed the course are eligible for the exit option. The exit option for students from any degree courses was introduced by the central government through the new National Education Policy 2020. Under NEP 2020, students of undergraduate degree courses can exit the course and enter within a stipulated period without missing the credits earned during the previous session.

In a notification dated July 1, Deputy Registrar (Evaluations) Manoj Kumar Manuj noted that the students who have successfully completed their BTech degree can avail the exit option. "Acting in the spirit of the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020, the Academic Council in its 160(A) meeting held on 01.06.2022, vide item No.3(xii), has approved to offer the exit option to the students of dual degree (four-year B.Tech and one-year M.Tech/MS) programme in the School of Engineering admitted from 2018-2019 batch onward," the notification read.

This year, Jawaharlal Nehru University will admit students through Common University Entrance Test, or CUET 2022. The entrance examination for undergraduate courses is slated to commence from July 15, 2022. The admit card for the same is likely to be released by the National Testing Agency (NTA) shortly on the official

650 applications from foreign students: IP Varsity

New Delhi: The Guru Gobind Singh Indraprastha University (GGSIU) on Monday said it has received around 650 applications from foreign students — the highest so far — for admission to various programmes ranging from undergraduate to PhD level for the academic session 2022-23.

The university received around 650 applications from foreign students till June 15, the last date of submission of applications for such students. Eighteen applications have been received for admission to PhD course, the university said in a statement.

Apart from SAARC nations, the applications were also received from students from countries like South Africa, Mauritius, Iran, Russian Federation, Indonesia, Mongolia, Germany and South-East Asia.

The university has been receiving 100-200 applications from foreign students every year for many years. "The reason behind this quantum surge of applications of foreign students is the continuous impetus of the University on the enrolment of foreign students. The university took support from the Indian Council of Cultural Relations and 'Study in India' - a programme of the Educational Consultants India Ltd (EdCIL)," the statement read.

SR websites- cuet.samarth.ac.in and nta.ac.in. Aspirants waiting for the CUET admit card 2022 would be required to enter their login credentials to download the admit card online from the official site. The NEP, approved by the Union Cabinet, replaced the 34-year-old National Policy on Education framed in 1986. It is aimed at paving the way for transformational reforms in schools and higher education systems to make India a global knowledge superpower.

LG seeks suggestions to make city self-sufficient in drinking water

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Delhi Lieutenant-Governor Vinai Kumar Saxena on Monday invited suggestions from the public to make the national Capital self-sufficient in meeting drinking water demand. "Instead of blaming others, let us together make the Capital self-sufficient by conserving water and augmenting our groundwater. Your suggestions & participation only will help us achieve this," the L-G tweeted.

The Lieutenant Governor said Delhi's water demands are unsustainable and there is a shortage of around 280 million gallons a day (MGD) of drinking water in the city. The capital depends on neighboring states for raw water: It gets 675 MGD of water from Haryana through two canals -- Carrier-

Lined Channel (368 MGD) and Delhi Sub-Branch (177) - and the Yamuna (65 MGD). Besides, 253 MGD of water is received from Uttar Pradesh through the Upper Ganga Canal, and the rest is drawn from ranney wells and tube wells installed across the city.

The Delhi Jal Board supplies 990 MGD of water to city residents. Delhi faced a severe water shortage this summer season with Haryana releasing less water in the Yamuna and the two canals.

Between April 30 and June 18, the DJB wrote to the Haryana Irrigation Department nine times, urging it to release additional water in the river. Earlier, Saxena had invited suggestions from the public on clearing "mountains of garbage" in Delhi, cleaning the Yamuna and improving air quality.

Central Vista getting final touches

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Union Housing and Urban Affairs Minister Hardeep Singh Puri on Monday said that finishing touches are being given to the redeveloped Central Vista Avenue stretching from Vijay Chowk to India Gate in Lutyens' Delhi. Puri, who visited the stretch along with officials, also shared some pictures of the redeveloped Central Vista Avenue. "With finishing touches being given to infra-



structure at #CentralVistaAvenue, I went there to personally assess the work status. People of #Delhi who have warm memories of the place will be pleasantly surprised to see how it is being

totally transformed!," Puri tweeted. In another tweet, the Minister also said that redeveloped Central Vista Avenue will have underpasses, vending zones, public amenities, pathways and green spaces, among other features. "#CentralVistaAvenue, Delhi's favourite picnic spot & tourist destination where all of us have spent time with our families will now be greener, cleaner & uncluttered..." Housing and Urban Affairs Ministry said.

DTC GM grilled by CBI accuses MLAs of interference

AAP Legislators say it was their duty to raise grievances of public

New Delhi: Questioning of arrested Delhi Transport Corporation (DTC) General Manager Shakil Ahmed has resulted in two Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) MLAs coming under the CBI's scrutiny for allegedly influencing transfers and posting of drivers in the State-run organisation. Ahmed,

arrested in a bribery case, claimed during questioning that many MLAs used to interfere in the transfer and posting-related issues of drivers and other DTC staff.

Ahmed is understood to have told the investigators that two MLAs -- Mukesh Ahlawat from Sultanpur Majra and Sanjeev Jha from Burari -- had written letters to him to influence the postings, the officials claimed. "Whether there was a quid pro quo in such recommendations is a matter of probe

for the CBI. Their alleged roles will be investigated as the case progresses," agency officials said. Both MLAs have denied any wrongdoing on their part and asserted it was their duty to raise grievances of the aggrieved public. Ahlawat said that as a public representative, if people had come to him with their problems, he might have called up the officials.

"I might have spoken to officials to transfer people close to their place of residence if anyone had approached me.

Academy for Public Order to train RPF in crowd control

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

Hit by huge losses due to mob fury during violent agitations, including the recent protests against the Centre's Agnipath scheme for recruitment in armed forces, the railways has approached Meerut-based Rapid Action Force (RAF) Academy for Public Order (RAPO) to train the Railway Protection Force in crowd control, public order management and mob psychology.

This is the first time that the Railway Protection Force (RPF), which is responsible for protecting railway property, will be trained to control mobs.

Officials said the responsibility has fallen on the force which has had to deal with large protesting crowds on several occasions over the last year. The training for the first batch of 182 personnel began at the academy on Monday, officials said. "At RAPO, we have trained state police and BSF jawans deployed for the United Nations mission, and we train



personnel after we receive a request from their organisations. We received a request from the railways and have started training their men. We primarily focus on training personnel on how to maintain public order and the use of non-lethal weapons. We discuss global and domestic case studies and also analyse mob psychology," said RAPO

Deputy Inspector General (DIG) Akhilesh Kumar Singh. RAPO is an institute under the Ministry of Home Affairs and is the only riot control and public order management institute in the country. During the training focus is given on how to manage a mob in railway premises and prevent damage, he said. In recent years, the national transporter has suffered

huge losses during the Citizenship Amendment Act (CAA) protests, farmers protests, protests by students against anomalies in railway recruitment board exams. Barely a month ago, trains were set on fire in protest against the Centre's Agnipath scheme. During the schedule of the course, the personnel will be trained in crowd control,

public order management, mob psychology, police vs public behaviour, communal harmony, fire fighting equipment, new age weapons, special vehicles like Vajra, Varun and fire

tender, riot control drill, human rights, use of less lethal weapons, equipment, ammunition and new trends in public order management. In addition, all the trainees will also be

taken to the firing range for giving practical firing exposure of less lethal weapons and munitions. These trainees have been specifically selected from various zones and divisions of

railways, mainly from Delhi, Lucknow, Varanasi, Tinsukia, Howrah, Hyderabad, Gorakhpur, Guwahati, Kolkata, Jaipur, Bhubaneswar, Visakhapatnam and Mumbai.

SC to hear pleas against Agnipath scheme next week

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Monday said that it would hear next week pleas challenging the Centre's Agnipath scheme for recruitment in the armed forces.

A vacation bench of Justices Indira Banerjee and JK Maheshwari said that petitions will be listed next week before an appropriate bench upon reopening of the apex court after summer vacation. There are more than five petitions filed in the apex court against the new Agnipath scheme.

A counsel, who filed a plea against the scheme, said Indian Air Force aspirants have undergone training and were

waiting for appointment letters but now their career will be cut short from 20 years to four years. "This is an urgent matter, kindly list it. The careers of several aspirants are at stake", the counsel said.

Advocate ML Sharma, who has also filed a PIL challenging the scheme, said he seeks cancellation of the Government's notification pertaining to the scheme as more than 70,000 aspirants who have undergone training were waiting for their appointment letters before the pandemic and now their career has been shortened by scheme.

The bench said that when you (Sharma) have waited for more than two years then why you are coming before the vacation bench. It listed

Sharma's plea before the appropriate bench along with other matters.

In the PIL, Sharma has alleged that the government has quashed the century-old selection process for the Armed forces which is contrary to the constitutional provisions.

The Agnipath scheme, announced on June 14, provides for the recruitment of youths between the age of 17-and-a-half and 21 for only four years with a provision to retain 25 per cent of them for 15 more years.

Protests have erupted in several states against the scheme. Later, the Government extended the upper age limit to 23 years for recruitment in 2022. The plea

also referred to the protests all over the country against the scheme. Earlier, several petitions have been filed in the top court seeking a direction to set up a Special Investigation Team (SIT) to probe the damage to public properties, including that of Railways, during violent protests against the scheme.

The plea has also sought directions to the Centre and Uttar Pradesh, Telangana, Bihar, Haryana, and Rajasthan Governments to submit a status report on the violent protests. It has sought a direction to set up an expert committee under the chairmanship of a retired apex court judge to examine the scheme and its impact on national security and the Army.

BJP slams Sinha over 'India does not need a rubber stamp Prez' jibe

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The BJP on Monday hit out at Yashwant Sinha, the joint Opposition candidate in the presidential polls, for daring his NDA opponent Draupadi Murmu to take a pledge that she will not be a rubber stamp to the Government and will speak out against attempts at communal polarisation of the country.

BJP national general secretary CT Ravi said harbouring a feeling that an adivasi woman is not suitable for the position depicts one's "nasty mindset". "Certainly the country doesn't need a rubber stamp Rashtrapati, but also, in the same way, the mindset of indulging in a false propaganda against a self-made adivasi woman, who has proved her capability, is dangerous.

"The state of mind that feels oneself alone to be worthy is dangerous," Ravi said. Talking to reporters, he said, "Murmu, an adivasi woman, has already proved her capabilities as the Governor of Jharkhand, as a minister and an MLA in Odisha and as a lecturer in a college. A feeling that an adivasi woman is not capable of the position itself depicts one's nasty mindset."

Sinha took a pledge to serve as an impartial custodian of the Constitution and not be a 'rubber stamp' to the government, as also to uphold the country's plural nature, and said he will protect the rights of people, including the right to



freedom of speech and expression. He also pledged that he will work for the repeal of the sedition law. "To ensure a better future for all Indians, the Rashtrapati must work conscientiously. I pledge that, upon being elected as President,

I'll serve as an impartial custodian of the Constitution; not a rubber stamp for the government. I urge the BJP's candidate to make the same pledge," Sinha wrote on Twitter.

Posting the pledge to the people of the country, he said, "I hereby affirm that India needs a Rashtrapati who serves as the impartial custodian of the Constitution and not a silent or a rubber-stamp Rashtrapati. Will the BJP's candidate make the same pledge?"

Alleging that the ruling dispensation has unleashed "a poisonous communal propaganda to divide India's multi-religious society", Sinha said, "I promise to all Indians that if elected as President, I shall uphold India's plural nature and the Constitution. I urge the BJP's candidate to make the same pledge." The Presidential polls are scheduled for July 18.

SC to hear Uddhav faction's plea on Speaker's decision

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Monday agreed to hear on July 11 a fresh plea of the Uddhav Thackeray faction challenging the decision of the newly-elected Speaker of the Maharashtra Legislative Assembly to recognise the new party whip of Shiv Sena rebels led by Chief Minister Eknath Shinde.

A vacation bench headed by Justice Indira Banerjee said the fresh plea would be heard by the same bench after the summer break on July 11 along with other pending pleas. "The Speaker has no jurisdiction to recognise whips. This is changing the status quo of proceedings before this court. The



Speaker yesterday at the stroke of pen at midnight elected the whip," senior advocate AM Singhvi, appearing for the Thackeray group, said. "I do not have the papers in front of me. Let all of this come up together on July 11," Justice Banerjee said.

In a major blow to the Uddhav Thackeray faction ahead of the crucial trust vote of the Eknath Shinde-BJP Government, the newly-appointed Speaker of the

Maharashtra Assembly on Sunday night removed Shiv Sena MLA Ajay Chaudhary as the legislative party leader.

A letter issued by the office of Speaker Rahul Narvekar reinstated Shinde as the Shiv Sena's legislative party leader and also recognised the appointment of Bharat Gogawale from the Shinde camp as the chief whip of the Sena, removing Sunil Prabhu, who belongs to the Thackeray faction.

Earlier on July 1, the top court had agreed to hear on July 11 the plea of Shiv Sena chief whip Sunil Prabhu seeking suspension from the assembly of Shinde and 15 rebel MLAs against whom disqualification pleas are pending.

Navy to develop, induct 75 new techs, products

RAHUL DATTA ■ NEW DELHI

In an effort to achieve self-reliance in Defence manufacturing, the Navy has proposed to develop and induct at least 75 new technologies or products in the coming year. It will be part of the 'Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav' to celebrate the 75th year of independence.

A Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) has been signed between the Defence Innovation Organisation (DIO) and the Naval Innovation and Indigenisation Organisation (NIIO) to work on a collaborative project named SPRINT (Supporting Pole-Vaulting in Research and Development through iDEX,

NIIO and TDAC), navy officials said here on Monday. The Navy in conjunction with the DIO will unveil the problem statements for Indian Industries as part of iDEX (SPRINT) during the NIIO Seminar 'Swavlamban 2022' scheduled on July 18-19 at Dr. Ambedkar International Centre, New Delhi.

The purpose of the Seminar is to engage the Indian Industry and Academia towards achieving 'Self-reliance in Defence Sector'. Giving details about the NIIO, they said the Defence Acquisition Policy (DAP 2020) envisages creation of 'Innovation and Indigenisation Organisations (IIOs)' within Service Headquarters. Accordingly, the

NIIO was launched on August 13, 2020 by Defence Minister Rajnath Singh. The NIIO is a three-tiered mechanism headed by Vice Chief of Naval Staff. At apex level, the Naval Technology Acceleration Council (NTAC) has been constituted to bring together twin aspects of innovation and indigenisation and accelerate induction of disruptive combat technology into Navy so as to enhance war fighting capabilities.

The NTAC meets every six months and gives apex level directives. It consists of ex-officio members as well as nominated members of technical expertise and standing, both from within Navy and civilians, scientists and industry.

India for effective execution of UN plan on illegal arms



RAHUL DATTA ■ NEW DELHI

Expressing concern over illicit trade in small arms and light weapons, India has urged effective implementation of the United Nations (UN) action

plan for curbs and tracing mechanism particularly their significance in dealing with the threat of terrorism as an important global challenge. India also stressed upon the importance of international cooperation

and assistance, particularly support to developing countries, in implementation of these instruments.

These issues were flagged by India at the eighth biennial meeting of States on the implementation of the UN Programme of Action to prevent, combat and eradicate the illicit trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons (SALW) and the International Tracing Instrument for illicit SALW.

Giving details of the meeting held from June 27 to July one in New York, the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) said here on Monday, India emphasized the importance of full and

effective implementation of the UN Programme of Action and the International Tracing Instrument, particularly their significance in dealing with the threat of terrorism as an important global challenge.

India urged strengthening the implementation of these instruments, including through improved national efforts in controlling illicit trade in SALW, and developing a mechanism for tracing of illicit SALW, to make it more effective. The meeting adopted an outcome document aimed at strengthening the implementation of the programme of action as well as the

International Tracing Instrument against illicit trafficking of SALW, the MEA statement said.

The outcome document of the meeting recognised the adverse effects of the illicit arms trade in exacerbating terrorism and emphasized the role of these UN instruments in addressing the threat posed by terrorism, it said.

It also affirmed the resolve of states to enforce and apply adequate national controls to the entire lifecycle of SALW, the statement said. States also agreed to strengthen tracing measures for illicit small arms and explore means for enhancing

international cooperation in tracing them with the involvement of the UN, it said.

The meeting considered the implications of recent technological developments in the field of SALW, illicit trafficking concerns and ways to address their aggravating effects on the instruments. Towards the fourth review conference in 2024, the outcome document agreed on a comprehensive analysis of trends, challenges and opportunities in the implementation of these two UN instruments and consider recommendations on their effective implementation, the MEA said.

Shah: Cooperatives can play important role in making Atmanirbhar Bharat

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Cooperation Minister Amit Shah on Monday said that the Co-operative model is a middle path between Capitalism and Communism and is best suited for India as both Capitalism and Communism are extreme forms of governance.

He said the cooperative sector can play an important role in making India self-reliant as well as ensuring economic prosperity of 70 crore poor who are aspiring to lead better lives. Shah, also the Union Home Minister, asked the cooperatives to channelise these 70 crore people and make them financially self-reliant.

Addressing a conference to commemorate the 100th International Day of Cooperatives here, the minister highlighted that the Modi Government in the last eight years has launched many programmes for the uplift of the poor and to ensure they get electricity, cooking gas, housing and health insurance.

Shah noted that these 70 crore people are now aspiring for better lives and this can only be fulfilled by the cooperative sector. While addressing a con-



ference on the theme 'Cooperatives Build An Atmanirbhar Bharat and Better World', he attacked the Congress party for only giving slogans of 'Garibi Hatao' and not doing enough to eliminate poverty.

He said that the Cooperation Ministry is working on various aspects to strengthen the cooperative sector by making them professional and multi-dimensional. Noting that the Ministry is taking many pro-active steps, he said a cooperative university will be set up to provide skills training and offer courses in subjects like accounting, marketing and management.

The trained manpower can be absorbed in the cooperative societies and this will also eliminate nepotism in appointments, he added. He also said

there is a need to make changes in laws as well but stressed on self-regulations among cooperatives.

Further, Shah highlighted that the government recently decided to undertake computerisation of all functional 63,000 Primary Agriculture Credit Societies (PACS) with an outlay of Rs 2,516 crore and said the move will bring transparency in accounting and bookkeeping.

The Government has also come out with draft model bylaws which will enable PACS to diversify from their core business. As PACS is a state subject, he said suggestions of state governments are being sought.

There are 8.5 lakh cooperative societies in India and around 12 crore people are linked directly with this sector. While mentioning about the contribution of cooperatives in many businesses like milk, fertilisers, sugar, fisheries, agri-credit and procurement of foodgrains, he pitched for diversification of cooperatives into other sectors. Globally also, Shah said the cooperative sector is big and its size is bigger than the economy of France.

FIR against Rathore, Pathak over fake video of Rahul

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Congress on Monday said an FIR has been registered against BJP MPs Rajyavardhan Singh Rathore and Subrat Pathak on its complaint related to a fake video of its former president Rahul Gandhi, allegedly aimed at disturbing communal harmony.

The FIR against the MPs and three others were registered in Bilaspur in Chhattisgarh.

AICC media and publicity head Pawan Khera said the Congress has lodged complaints against them in Delhi, Jharkhand, Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan and Uttar Pradesh. Khera was accompanied by party's social media in-charge Supriya Shrinete at AICC Press conference.

The complaints follow Congress general secretary Jairam Ramesh writing to BJP president J P Nadda to say the party should initiate action against its leaders for spreading fake news against Rahul Gandhi and get the doctored video removed from their Twitter timelines.

Shrinete accused Rathore of sedition. If an attempt is made by a former Union minister to spread fake news with the intention of disturbing

communal harmony in the country, it amounts to sedition, she alleged.

"Why are these people spreading this fire of hate all over the country? We ask the prime minister why he has converted MPs and former ministers to 'two-rupee trolls'. The problem is those who peddle fake news get promotions in the BJP. Everyone knows what the current I&B minister said during Delhi riots and he was promoted," Shrinete said.

The prime minister spoke for nearly half an hour at Hyderabad but did not make a single appeal for peace, she said. A TV channel has issued a public apology for airing the fake video of Rahul Gandhi. "Peddling fake news on social media is one thing but using social media in cahoots with terrorists will not be accepted. At such a sensitive time in the country, how can they dare to spread a fake video involving Rahul Gandhi. Apart from fake news, this is also a conspiracy because even if Twitter posts are deleted, WhatsApp messages would remain in circulation and disturb peace," Shrinete said.

She also warned the BJP against attempting to "link Rahul Gandhi and other party leaders with terrorists".

ED attaches land, houses worth ₹137 crore of Dreamz Infra India Ltd in PMLA case

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Enforcement Directorate (ED) on Monday said it has attached land and residential houses worth more than Rs 137 crore in Bengaluru as part of a money-laundering probe linked to a case for allegedly duping investors through Ponzi investment scheme by fraudulently promising them affordable flats in the metropolises.

The assets are held in the name of Dreamz Infra India Limited, its managing director (MD) Disha Choudhary, TGS Constructions Private Limited, its MD Mandeep Kaur and others, the ED said in a statement. A provisional order for seizing 16 immovable properties was issued under the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA) on June 27, the agency said in its statement.

The total worth of these assets is Rs 137.6 crore, it further said. The agency filed a money-laundering case against the accused, including a company called Gruha Kalyan and Sachin Naik alias Yogesh, after taking cognisance of 125 FIRs registered against them. The

accused "duped" the public by taking huge amounts of money from them, promising affordable apartments in and around Bengaluru, the agency said. "From 2011-12 to 2016-17, the accused entities collected more than Rs 722 crore from more than 10,299 customers and misappropriated the said funds for their own benefits and deceived/cheated the gullible customers without handing over the flats and without refunding the deposit amounts to them," the ED said. The accused neither returned the money to the depositors nor handed over the apartments to them and "threatened" the customers with dire consequences when they asked about it, the agency alleged. The ED said the main accused — Sachin Naik, Disha Choudhary, Mandeep Kaur and others — "layered" the depositors' money into various bank accounts and subsequently withdrew it in cash and "diverted" it to other unrelated businesses.

The ED further alleged that the accused spent these funds for their "personal benefits like making Bollywood movies, investing in IPL teams.

IN SHORTS

PM MODI TO VISIT VARANASI ON JULY 7

New Delhi: Prime Minister Narendra Modi will visit his Lok Sabha constituency of Varanasi on Thursday during which he will inaugurate and lay the foundation stone of multiple development initiatives worth over Rs 1,800 crore focussed on improving infrastructure and enhancing ease of living.

NCW SEEKS ACTION AGAINST SP FOR HATE

New Delhi: The National Commission for Women on Monday asked police in Uttar Pradesh to take action against Samajwadi Party chief Akhilesh Yadav for allegedly instigating hatred and ill-will against suspended BJP member Nupur Sharma. Yadav had said on Twitter: "Not only face but the body should also apologise and should also be punished for disturbing harmony of country."

SC TO HEAR PLEA OF EX-TN CM EPS ON JULY 6

New Delhi: The Supreme Court Monday said that it would hear on July 6, a plea filed by former Tamil Nadu CM Edappadi K Palaniswami (EPS) challenging the Madras HC order staying passing of any unannounced resolutions in meeting of AIADMK General and Executive councils concerning issue of single leadership of party.

13 killed, 2 injured as bus falls into gorge in Kullu

PTI ■ SHIMLA/MANALI

Thirteen passengers were killed and two others injured after a bus fell into a gorge in Himachal Pradesh's Kullu district on Monday, officials said.

Initial reports had put the death toll at 16.

The bus was on its way to Kullu from Shainsher when it fell into the gorge at a hairpin bend near Jangla village around 8.30 am, the officials said.

Dead Jhablu Devi's brother-in-law Tej Prakash alleged callous attitude on the part of the authorities in rescuing the victims.

"It took almost three hours to take Jhablu Devi from the accident site to the hospital. Had the administration acted swiftly, some lives could have been saved," he said.

Twelve of the 13 dead have been identified as Tanu, Prem Chand, Fateh Chand, Anita Devi, Susheel Kumar, Khim Dasi, Roshi Devi, Parvati Devi, Jhablu Devi, Amit Kumar Rajak, Aakash and Rakhi Maya. The injured were admitted to the Kullu regional hospital for treatment.

The president and the prime minister have condoled the loss of lives in the accident.

President Ram Nath Kovind said he was distressed to learn about the death of students and other people in the accident.

Condoling the loss of lives, Prime Minister Narendra Modi announced Rs 2 lakh each for the next of kin of those who died. The injured will be given Rs 50,000 each, the Prime Minister's Office said in a tweet.

Himachal Pradesh Chief



Minister Jai Ram Thakur also expressed grief

over the tragic bus accident. Thakur said a magisterial inquiry has been ordered and the Kullu ADM will probe the whole incident.

The CM said Rs 5 lakh will be provided to the next of the kin of the each dead whereas

Rs 15,000 will be provided as immediate relief to the each injured. He said free treatment will also be given to the injured persons. Thakur thanked Prime Minister Narendra Modi for approving an ex gratia of Rs 2 lakh for the kin of the each dead and Rs 50,000 for the each injured.

Property of ex-BSP MLC worth crores demolished in Saharanpur

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

After the seizure of properties worth crores of rupees, the police demolished former Bahujan Samaj Party MLC and mining mafia Haji Iqbal's house in New Bhagat Singh Colony under Janakpuri police station of Saharanpur.

In May 2022, Rs 21 crore worth property belonging to Haji Iqbal but in the name of his associate was seized by the Saharanpur police under provisions of the Gangsters Act. On May 12, Iqbal's son, Alishan, was apprehended in a joint operation by the Saharanpur police crime branch and Mirzapur police from Lajpat Nagar area of Delhi.

He was arrested under the Gangsters Act and a Fortuner car was also recovered from him. Alishan was later taken to Behat Kotwali

police station of Saharanpur.

Several cases have been registered against Haji Iqbal's family in connection with land fraud and other charges.

An associate of the former BSP MLC, Rao Laik, and his servant, Naseem, are already in jail in Mirzapur.

Apart from Haji Iqbal's associate and servant, his sons Javed, Wajid and Afzal are also allegedly involved in many cases of fraud and are still absconding.

Iqbal was a Bahujan Samaj Party MLC from 2010 to 2016. In a joint operation of the police and the Revenue department in May, an alleged illegal property worth Rs 21 crore was confiscated under

the Gangsters Act, according to local officials in Saharanpur. The property was registered in the name of Naseem, Iqbal's servant.

The then Senior Superintendent of Police Akash Tomar had said that Iqbal was involved in grabbing government and non-government land and properties, smuggling wood, illegal mining and threatening people. Iqbal registered the properties in the names of his aides, friends and family members.

The SSP added that the mining baron had amassed a huge amount of wealth and purchased a number of properties in Behat area of



Saharanpur.

In another development in the same case, Iqbal's associate Amit Jain alias Dadu wrote a letter to the district administration that he no longer had any business relationship with Haji Iqbal. He accused Iqbal and his family members of forgery.

'Unethical Shinde Govt won't win hearts and it will fall'

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ KOLKATA

Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee on Monday presaged an early fall of the newly-formed Eknath Shinde Government in Maharashtra saying the BJP and the Shinde faction of Shiv Sena might have won by fabricating an "unethical and undemocratic" Government but they would fail to win the people's heart leading to their ultimate fall.

Speaking at a media house conclave Banerjee said "this (Shinde) Government will not continue ... It's an unethical undemocratic government. They might have won the confidence vote, but they did not win the heart of the people of Maharashtra."

Alleging that the rebel Sena MLAs were given "money and other things by the BJP in Assam," where they were hosted in a five star hotel after they rebelled against Uddhav Thackeray, the Bengal Chief Minister said the BJP-led "unethical" alliances "can bulldoze democracy by misusing your power, but the people of this country will bulldoze you (them) using democratic means."

She said in the coming elections



(2024) elections would take place not to elect someone but to reject the BJP.

Apparently taking Home Minister Amit Shah head on for accusing her of running a dynastic government which would be uprooted by the BJP, Banerjee offered the example of Bangladesh Prime Minister Sk Hasina wondering who other than her could have been a better option to rule Bangladesh after Sk Mujibur Rahman.

"What is this dynasty that they (read BJP) are talking about? After Sheikh Mujibur Rahman's death, Sheikh

Handbasin took over the reins of Bangladesh. Who else could have done that," she said justifying the rise of her nephew Abhishek Banerjee the two-time Trinamool Congress

MP and party national general secretary. "What is the harm (in his being her successor)" she asked saying it was on the younger generations to take charge after the older generations.

In an apparent reference to Shah she wondered how his son could become the BCCI secretary. "When someone becomes the top boss no one talks of dynastic politics but when rises up by working in the grassroots people start talking about dynastic culture."

On post poll violence in Bengal the Chief Minister said that there was no post poll violence in the State adding whatever violence that had taken place in the State was during when the administration was in the hands of the Election Commission of India.

She said "21 people died when ECI was administering the state ... but no one goes to Tripura when there is violence there ... how many persons went to Hathras in UP" she asked.

Trespasser into Mamata's house formally arrested

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ KOLKATA

Hafizul Mollah, the trespasser who had sneaked into Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banner's house on Saturday midnight before being detained on Sunday morning by her security staff was formally arrested by the Kolkata Police. The accused was produced before a Kolkata court which on Monday ordered police custody for him till July 10, sources said adding the man was from Narayanpur village in Hansnabad block of North 24 Parganas bordering Bangladesh.

"He had entered the CM house at around 1.40 am on Sunday and was apprehended at about 8.30 am on the same day," sources said adding the Chief Secretary had asked the Director General Security to explain the big lapse.

UP emerging as growth engine of country's economy: Yogi

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath said that Uttar Pradesh was emerging as the growth engine of the country's economy and would substantially contribute to Prime Minister Narendra Modi's vision of a five-trillion-dollar economy by itself becoming a one-trillion-dollar economy in the next five years.

Addressing a press meet on completion of 100 days of the second term of his government here on Monday, the chief minister said that it was because of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's leadership and concern for the people, especially the deprived section, and his development-oriented policies that people had reposed faith in him, and the Bharatiya Janata Party swept the election for the second time in a row.

In this context, Yogi mentioned the rout of the opposition parties mainly, the Samajwadi Party, the Bahujan Samaj Party and the Congress in the recent election to the UP Legislative Council, noting that the upper House had finally become "Congress mukt" (free of Congress).

He also mentioned the debacle of the opposition in the parliamentary bypolls held in Rampur and Azamgarh, saying it was a clear indication that the people wanted development not those who believed in dynastic politics.

The chief minister said that soon after assuming office for the second time in a row, his cabinet selected 10 sectors to push growth of the state. He said presentations of projects were made by the ministries and relevant departments and subsequently, Prime Minister Modi launched projects worth

more than Rs 80,000 crore to accelerate the development of UP.

Highlighting his government's commitment to implement schemes the BJP had promised during assembly election, the chief minister said 95 out of the 130 promises made in the party's Sankalp Patra were fulfilled in the first budget pegged at Rs 6.15 lakh crore.

Reiterating his commitment to maintain law and order in the state, Yogi said that illegal properties worth Rs 844 crore that were acquired by the mafia had either been seized or demolished in the first 100 days of his second term.

He said that pursuing its zero tolerance policy against crime and criminals, the UP government had freed 68,784 encroachment sites and 76,196 illegal parking places from



the clutches of mafia and criminals. He added that 2,273 criminals involved in crime against women had also been penalised under Protection of Children from Sexual Offences Act (POCSO Act).

Yogi said that 1.20 lakh loudspeakers had been removed from different places. He said communal harmony was witnessed in the state whether it was Ram Navami or Eid, the festivals were cele-

brated peacefully and no public function was held on the streets.

Yogi said that the state government's initiatives had also led to significant increase in investments in the state and the government planned to provide direct and indirect employment to 25 lakh people in five years.

"Government jobs have been provided to 10,000 youths in the last 100 days. Because of the government's initiative, the unemployment rate of UP has dropped from 18 per cent in 2016 to 2.9 per cent," Yogi said.

As for farmers and the farm sector, Yogi said that Rs 47,265 crore had been transferred to the bank accounts of 2.55 under the PM Kisan Samman Nidhi while Rs 12,535 crore had been paid to cane farmers for the sugarcane procured by sugar mills.

NC, PDP may jointly contest Assembly elections in J&K

MOHIT KANDHARI ■ JAMMU

The two main Kashmir based regional political parties- the National Conference and the Peoples Democratic Party are toying with the idea of jointly contesting the Assembly polls in Jammu and Kashmir.

Though no formal consultation process has been initiated or any roadmap has been finalised with regard to any seat sharing arrangements between the two main constituents of the People's Alliance for Gupkar Declaration (PAGD) yet the top ranks of both the parties are cozying up to each other in the run up to the forthcoming polls in the Union Territory later this year or early next year.

"We will contest the elections together", National Conference president Farooq Abdullah, who heads the PAGD, told reporters here on the sidelines of a tribute ceremony organised in the memory of Santoor player Pandit Bhajan Sopori. Dr Abdullah was commenting on the exit of a PAGD constituent. "There is a political party that said that they have left the alliance. The truth is that they were never part of the alliance. They had come to break us from within," said Dr Abdullah.

Significantly, PDP president and former chief minister Mehbooba Mufti also echoed the similar sentiments. "We intend to contest the elections together as it is the will of the people that we should strive together for the

restoration of our lost dignity," Mehbooba said.

Responding to a question, Abdullah said elections can be held whenever the Government wants.

"Elections were held when we had floods. Why can't elections be held now? The question is how they want to contest the polls," the former chief minister added. The Election Commission has already set in motion the preparations for holding assembly polls in the Union Territory. It has initiated the revision of electoral rolls following the delimitation exercise in J&K. The Election Commission will publish the finalised electoral rolls of J&K on October 31, the union territory's first voters' list after the boundaries of the assembly seats were redrawn.

ADR: No UP MLA crossed expenditure limit in polls

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

When the cost of every item, including election material, is soaring due to rising inflation, one will be shocked to know that now contesting the Assembly election no more requires a hefty sum.

The recent Assembly polls in Uttar Pradesh showed that none of the Legislators in the Vidhan Sabha had crossed the election expenditure limit fixed by the Election Commission of India (ECI).

Interestingly, the Congress, with just two legislators in the present Vidhan Sabha, had made the highest average expenditure while Bahujan Samaj Party, with

one legislator, remained on the bottom. Two of the Samajwadi Party MLAs made just a little over Rs 1 lakh expenditure to win the polls.

The above sensational facts were brought to notice in a report made public by the Association of Democratic Reforms (ADR) here on Monday. The report said that none of the newly-elected legislators in the UP assembly had breached the Rs 40 lakh limit of expenditure during elections.

Only three MLAs spent more than Rs 35 lakh. They are Jai Kumar Singh Jaiki of Apna Dal, Ramesh of NISHAD Party and Sushil Singh of the Bharatiya Janata Party.

PUBLIC NOTICE					
		Branch Office: ICICI Bank Ltd, 3rd Floor, Plot No- 23, New Rohtak Road, Karol Bagh, Delhi- 110005			
The following borrower/s have defaulted in the repayment of principal and interest of the loans facility obtained by them from the Bank and the loans have been classified as Non-Performing Assets (NPA). A notice was issued to them under Section 13 (2) of Securitisation and Re-construction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act-2002 on their last known addresses, however it was not served and hence they are hereby notified by way of this public notice.					
Sr. No.	Name of the Borrower/ Co-Borrower/ Guarantor/ (Loan Account Number) & Address	Property Address of Secured Asset/ Asset to be Enforced	Date of Notice Sent/ Outstanding as on Date of Notice	NPA Date	
1.	Om Parkash, Shanta, Kotli No- G-3 41st Floor, Sector- 56, G.B. Nagar, Noida Noida 201301, A/c No: LBDEL00000965954	Flat Type B, Cgewho, Sector-82, Nodia Noida 201301	28/12/2020 Rs. 6,60,276.16/-	08-04-2014	
2.	Arvind Kumar Mishra, Harendra Kumar Mishra, 880/31, Laxman Vihar, Gali No.1, opposite Apna Enclave Gurgaon 122051, A/c No: LBNOD00001950278	Flat No- Ld1- 16- 503, The Kove Jaypee Greens, Sports City Noida Noida 201301	28/12/2020 Rs. 2,56,077/-	31-07-2018	
3.	Rajeev Dwivedi, Rashmi Dwivedi, G-266 Phase No-06, Kh No. 1529, Adarsh Enclave, Aya Nagar Exct, Delhi Delhi 110047, A/c No: LBFDB00002734519	Flat No.302, 14th Floor, Sector-7, Type- Blower B3, Srs Palm Homespalwal, Haryana Faridabad 121001	27/01/2021 Rs. 10,27,206/-	31-12-2018	
4.	Subhash Chander Luthra, Chand Rani, D-18, II nd Floor Ajay Enclave, Delhi 110018, A/c No: LBDEL00001623787	Flat No. D-18, 2nd Floor, Ajay Enclave Delhi 110028	18/07/2017 Rs. 33,67,154/-	05-08-2009	
5.	Sukhpal Singh, Rekha Singh, J-191, (Gamma 2nd)Y- Int, Greater Noida, Uttar Pradesh, Noida 201301, A/c No: LBDEL00000379476	Plot No.191, Block J, Sector- Gamma, Delhi, Delhi 201301	18/07/2017 Rs. 11,46,198/-	26-09-2003	
6.	Suraj Kumar, Rajeev. F 3/108 A, First Floor, Sangam Vihar, Delhi 110062, A/c No: LBDEL00002305585	Flat No- UDNA010002, Tower-A-01, Udaan Apartment, Group Housing-Pocket- Gh 6,sector-22, at Jaypee Greenssports City East Mirzapur, Uttar Pradesh, Noida 201301	27/11/2020 Rs. 8,08,179/-	02-03-2022	
7.	Sushil Kumar, Vimala.201-B Pocket C Sidhartha Extn Near Jeevan Hospital, New Delhi Delhi 110014, A/c No: LBDEL00001513088	Regd No- 22420, Scheme Code No-2006-07 (H)(02), Lig Flatnew Okhla Development Authority, Uttar Pradesh, Noida 201301	18/06/2019 Rs. 6,05,149.28/-	11-05-2019	
8.	Trilok Dixit, Rajendra Prasad Dixit, Flat No- 3091 Block No- 8, Sector 4 A Vasundhara, Ghaziabad, Uttar Pradesh Ghaziabad 201010, A/c No: LBGHZ00001414949	Flat No.3091, Sector-4A, Vasundhara, Ghaziabad, Uttar Pradesh, Ghaziabad 201010	31/03/2022 Rs. 6,43,795/-	02-08-2022	
9.	Vinod Pathak, Anita Pathak, E- 513, Jalvayu Tower, Sector 56, Haryana Gurgaon 122003, A/c No: LBDEL00000611278	Flat No. E-513, Jalvayu Tower, Sector- 56, Gurgaon, Haryana, Gurgaon 122002	22/07/2017 Rs. 10,30,494/-	02-05-2009	
10.	Asit Mittal, Navita Mittal, D-102, Sector 55 Noida, 201301, A/c No: LBDEL00000359297	Flat No-C, Shivkala Apartment, Shiva Sahakri Awas Samiti Ltd, B-9/11, Sector- 62 Noida, Noida	28/12/2020 Rs. 34,70,014.79/-	26-09-2010	
11.	Kanhiya Lal Sharma, Radha Sharma, H No- 108 A, Ground Floor, Back Portion, Sector- 11d Faridabad, Faridabad 211006, A/c No: LBFDB00001035933	Plot No-108A, G.F. (Rear Side), Sector-11, Block D, Dlf Model Town, Faridabad, Faridabad 121003	10/12/2015 Rs. 10,54,251/-	05-10-2021	
12.	Munendra Dikshit, Jyoti Dikshit, Flat No- 12A, Block-WP, Pitam Pura, Delhi 110088, A/c No: LBGUR00001378121	Flat No.3020, 3rd Floor, Type-C, Srikrishna Lok, Vrindavan Mathura, Mathura 281204	16/04/2022 Rs. 7,10,683.03/-	03-10-2022	
13.	Soma Ray, Ila Ray, Flat No- A-419 Gaur Galaxy, Apartment Vaishali Sector- 55th Floor, Uttar Pradesh, Ghaziabad 201010, A/c No: LBDEL00000584895	Flat No- A-419, 4th Floor, Plot No.5, Sector -5 Gaur Galaxy, Vaishali, Uttar Pradesh Ghaziabad 201010	11/05/2022 Rs. 2,20,222.6/-	03-07-2022	
14.	Spash Gupta, Manoj Kumar, HNo 65 Sec 30 Old Faridabad Faridabad, Haryana Faridabad 121002, A/c No: LBFDB00003669864	Flat No-707, Type B, Tower 77th Floor, Auric City Homes, Village Bhatola, Sector-82, Haryana Faridabad 121001	07/06/2021 Rs. 4,95,360/-	31-03-2022	
15.	Vinay Kumar, Sunita, E-6 Balaji Aptplot No-7, Sec-3 Dwarka Delhi110045, A/c No: LBDEL00000646625	Flat No- E-6, Balaji Aptt., Plot No-7, Sector-3, Dwarka, Delhi 110078	05/07/2021 Rs. 3,37,437/-	31-12-2020	
16.	Aman Kumar, Rakesh Kumari, H No-90, Vill Tilang Pur, Kotla, New Delhi Delhi 110041, A/c No: LBDEL00002272931	Flat No- 811, 8th Floor, Tower- Life Suites Gayatri Li, Tower- Breeze A Life Suites, Plot No- Gh-01, Sector-16 Noida 201303	18/09/2015 Rs. 3,16,369/-	31-05-2015	
17.	Aman Kumar, Rakesh Kumari, H No-90, Vill Tilang Pur, Kotla, New Delhi Delhi, 110041, A/c No: LBDEL00002094434	Flat No- 811, 8th Floor, Tower- Life Suites Gayatri Li, Tower Breeze A Life Suites Plot No- GH-01, Sector-16 Noida 201303	18/09/2015 Rs. 43,22,637/-	31-05-2015	
18.	Brijesh Kumar Sharma, Shakuntala Sharma, H.No.17, Gali No. I, Shivpur, New Vijay Nagar, Ghaziabad 201001, A/c No: LBDEL00000362377	Plot No R -216, Hig Duplex, Pratap Vihar, Ghaziabad 201301	22/04/2016 Rs. 6,72,711.71/-	29-02-2016	
19.	Brijesh Kumar Sharma, Shakuntala Sharma, H.No.17, Gali No. I, Shivpur, New Vijay Nagar, Ghaziabad, Ghaziabad, 201001, A/c No: LBDEL00000376913	Plot No R -216, Hig Duplex, Pratap Vihar, Ghaziabad 201301	22/04/2016 Rs. 2,87,557.01/-	29-02-2016	
20.	Brijesh Kumar Sharma, Shakuntala Sharmah, No.17, Gali No. I, Shivpur, New Vijay Nagar, Ghaziabad Ghaziabad 201001, A/c No: LBNOD00000563607	Plot No R- 216, Hig Duplex, Pratap Vihar, Ghaziabad 201301	22/04/2016 Rs. 2,73,257/-	29-02-2016	
21.	Mohit Nakra, Shweta Nakrase 417 LVL4, 530 Little Collinist, Melbourne Vic3000 Melbourne530 Little Collinist Melbourne Vic3000 Melbourne, 3000, A/c No: LBNOD00001987531	Plot No- T6 - 504, Park Generations, Sector 37 D, Gurgaon 201301	18/12/2018 Rs. 4,48,074/-	31-10-2018	
22.	Mohit Nakra, Shweta Nakrase 417 LVL4, 530 Little Collinist, Melbourne Vic3000 Melbourne530 Little Collinist Melbourne Vic3000 Melbourne, Melbourne 3000, A/c No: LBNOD00001981408	Plot No- T6- 504, Park Generations, Sector 37 D, Gurgaon 201301	18/12/2018 Rs. 97,59,087.42/-	31-10-2018	
23.	Ambika Sharma, Vikas Kumar C 1053, Tower- 14, River Height Raj Nagar Extn Ghaziabad 201001, A/c No: LBGHZ00002390510	Flat No- 1632, 15th Floor, Plot No- Gh-05C Tower- Sharon Gaur Saundaryam, Block- Sharon, Sector- Technozone IV, Noida 201307	10/07/2021 Rs. 1,93,856/-	07-01-2021	
24.	Ambika Sharma, Vikas Kumarc 1053, Tower- 14, River Height Raj Nagar Extn Ghaziabad 201001, A/c No: LBGHZ00002352988	Flat No- 1632, 15th Floor, Plot No- Gh-05C, Tower- Sharon Gaur Saundaryam, Block- Sharon, Sector- Technozone IV, Noida 201307	10/07/2021 Rs. 14,19,377/-	07-01-2021	
25.	Rajeev Dhaka, Mukesh Kumari H No S-2, A-202, Govind Puram, A Block Uttar Pradesh Ghaziabad 201013, A/c No: LBGHZ00002608194	S-2, 2nd Floor, Block C, Lhs A-202, Govindpuram, Uttar Pradesh, Ghaziabad 201001	16/04/2022 Rs. 4,10,312/-	03-05-2022	
26.	Rajeev Dhaka, Mukesh Kumari H No S-2, A-202, Govindpuram, A Block Uttar Pradesh Ghaziabad 201011, A/c No: 3 LBGHZ00001168468	S-2, 2nd Floor, Block C, Lhs A-202, Govindpuram, Uttar Pradesh, Ghaziabad 201001	16/04/2022 Rs. 5,51,841.68/-	03-05-2022	
27.	Subir Kumar, Priti Prabha Plot No- A- 2455 Gf Green Field Colony Near Evergreen School Haryana Faridabad 121001, A/c No: LBNOD00000989014	Plot- No- A- 2455, Ground Floor, Green Field Colony, Near Evergreen School, Haryana, Faridabad 121001	10/07/2021 Rs. 4,37,994/-	05-06-2021	
28.	Subir Kumar, Priti Prabha Plot No- A- 2455 Gf Green Field Colony Near Evergreen School Haryana Faridabad 121001, A/c No: LBDEL000005047540	Plot-No-A-2455, Ground Floor Green Field Colony Near Evergreen School Haryana Faridabad	10/07/2021 Rs. 3,39,271/-	05-06-2021	
29.	Ramesh Gupta, Neeru Gupta, H-3/97, Sector 18 Rohini, Delhi 110085, A/c No: LBDEL00001842438	Plot No.97, Block-H, Pocket-3, Sector-18, Rohini, New Delhi, Delhi 110085	23/03/2021 Rs. 27,42,543/-	02-01-2010	
30.	Ramesh Gupta, Neeru Gupta H-3/97, Sector 18 Rohini, Delhi 110085, A/c No: LBDEL00001636232	Plot No.97, Block-H, Pocket-3, Sector-18 Rohini, New Delhi, Delhi 110085	23/03/2021 Rs. 5,21,77,276/-	02-01-2010	
The steps are being taken for substituted service of notice. The above borrower/s and/or their guarantors (as applicable) are advised to make the payments of outstanding within period of 60 days from the date of publication of this notice else further steps will be taken as per the provisions of Securitisation and Re-construction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002.					
Date : July 05, 2022				Authorized Officer	
Place: Delhi/ NCR				ICICI Bank Limited	

BJP marches on

As the saffron juggernaut rolls on, the Oppn must do better than just making speeches

Senior BJP leader Amit Shah's claim that the next 30-40 years will be the era of the saffron party should not be dismissed or downplayed by opponents as pure hyperbole or an assertion suggesting complacency. The BJP juggernaut under Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Shah seems unstoppable; indeed it is gaining momentum. This is extremely disconcerting for the Opposition and a large section of the intellectual class; for them, it's a nightmare come true. There have been highs (too numerous to be mentioned) and lows (eg, West Bengal last year) in the BJP's journey; but its rise has been secular — no pun intended. Some political and thought leaders may even try to see complacency in Shah's statement, though there is none. He is not among those who like to rest on their laurels; for him, laurels are never enough; there is always need for more. Winning a State is not enough; the number of BJP's MLAs and MPs from the State should rise further; and after every rise, the Modi-Shah duo look for another rise. They fight for not just the 543 Lok Sabha seats, but also every Rajya Sabha seat, every State, even municipalities. The duo has excised complacency from the BJP genes. It is a new BJP, not that of Atal Bihari Vajpayee and LK Advani. This is not to say that the Vajpayee-Advani BJP was lethargic and laidback; quite the contrary, it has always been extremely

active, vocal and enthusiastic. Even in the late 1980s, when the saffron party was reduced to two seats in the Lok Sabha, there was no let-up in its activity; its leaders continued to make their presence felt even though the Congress had over 400 members in the Lok Sabha. Whatever else the BJP's opponents say about it, they can't fault it for being slack or slothful. Under Modi and Shah, the saffron party has been further galvanised. Not many parties show the kind of energy, purpose and drive when out of power that the BJP does; and the Congress, which can boast of all-India presence, is certainly not that party. It bounced back to power in 1980 because the Janata Party fell under the weight of its own contradictions. Ditto with another experiment, involving Janata Dal, which was repeated a decade later. In 2004 too, the 'grand old party' came to power not because its leaders sweated it out on streets to win a landslide against the BJP — in fact, it got just seven seats more than the BJP's — but because the saffron party's messaging was awful and it could not get the RSS' support during campaigning. Against this backdrop, Shah's claim doesn't seem improbable. If the GOP and other Opposition parties want to oust the BJP, they must do more than making fiery speeches and viral tweets. They must come up with something that is politically feasible and electorally possible. They have to stir out of their complacency.



Sellers with decorated camels at a livestock market ahead of Eid al-Adha, on the outskirts of Islamabad

Clear & present danger

Five types of extreme weather events are linked to human-induced climate change

If any further proof of the omnipresent climate change conditions playing havoc with our planet's ecology and nature was needed, here it is! For some time, the science of attribution has led to major advances in linking the impacts of extreme weather and human-caused climate change, but large gaps in published research still obscure the full extent of damage from climate change. A new report published last week in the first issue of *Environmental Research: Climate*, a new academic journal, quoted researchers from the University of Oxford, Imperial College London and the Victoria University of Wellington reviewing the impacts of five different types of extreme weather events and to what degree these damaging events could be attributed to human-induced climate change. To do this, they combined information from the latest Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) reports and results from a fast-increasing body of attribution studies — where weather observations and climate models are used to determine the role that climate change played in specific weather events. They found that for some extreme weather events, such as heat waves, the link with climate change is clear and unequivocal across the world, and that the extent of the impacts is likely being underestimated by insurers, economists and Governments across the globe. For others, such as tropical cyclones, the study shows that important differences exist between regions and the role that climate change plays in each event is more variable than for heat waves. There is an urgent need for more data from lower- and middle-income

countries, where the impacts of climate change are more strongly felt. Research on these impacts is hampered when national weather data is not publicly available — examples include South Africa and India. A case in point would be the ongoing southwest monsoon. While it has staged a smart recovery and the Indian Meteorological Department has predicted enhanced rainfall alert in Konkan, Goa, Gujarat and Odisha, several States still have not been able to cover the shortfall due to a weak start in rains. These are largely concentrated in the central, north-western parts of the country, and Bihar and Jharkhand in east India, besides parts of Tamil Nadu and Kerala, the last named being usually the first State in the Indian subcontinent to welcome the southwest monsoon. It's time to wake up to this very real danger which affects everybody. Everybody!

Legal panacea for ills of sex workers

Even after the Supreme Court judgment uphold the dignity of sex workers, a lot more needs to be done on the ground to ensure they really lead a dignified life

The Supreme Court recently upheld 'sex work' as a profession and issued a slew of directions to uphold the dignity of sex workers. However, the term 'sex worker' quoted in the landmark judgment as well as used otherwise appears to be impolite and offensive. Being one of the oldest professions, there are hundreds of names globally associated with the 'disgraced' professionals, to mention a few: courtesan, *tawaif*, drab, hooker, hustler, moll, tart, *kasbi*, *randi*, *kunchni*, *paatar*, *patariya*, *beswa*, *vaishya*, *kaveri* and *ganika*.

Not branding them as 'sex workers' or 'prostitutes', I would prefer to call them with some lighter term such as 'Bobby' or at the most '*tawaif*' for the simple reason that if you intend to give dignity to a profession, you need to begin that expression with a suitable title or nomenclature, not only to redefine the nature of job but to remove the prevalent 'scarlet letter'.

The landmark judgment, besides being historic, was necessary because India is no stranger to sex work. It is a historically prevalent profession, albeit under unsafe conditions. Leonard William King, in the *Code of Hammurabi*, says, in 1780 BC, out of 282 Hammurabi codes, six codes (178, 179, 180, 187, 192, 193) mentioned the rights of a prostitute or her children. In 1075 BC, the *Code of Assura* distinguished prostitutes from other women by prescribing a dress code. Sarah B Pomeroy in *Ancient Greece — A Political, Social and Cultural History* (1999) mentions: "Hetaira ..., a 'female companion'was the term normally used for courtesans by classical Athens."

WC Firebaugh, who translated Petronius Arbiter's work, *The Satyricon*, referred therein Roman Regulation of 80 BC, which states: "Rent from a brothel was legitimate source of income... Procuration also had to be notified before the Aedile (Government regulator)." In 180 BC, Caligula inaugurated a tax upon prostitutes (*vectigal ex caputis*).

In ancient India, there was the



practice of rich people asking for '*Nagar vadhu*' (bride of the town) to sing and dance. The State courtesans were described as 'Vaishali ki nagar vadhu'. Amrapali was one such example. Writing about 19th century Awadh (Lucknow), Adrian McNeil of Macquarie University observed that courtesans had royal patronage and were "well provided for". There were many examples in Lucknow where *tawaifs* left their profession and married respectable persons. However, a man in love with a prostitute had to shell out a hefty amount to the owner of the brothel for the release of his beloved.

Over the years, people have debated whether this profession should be legally sanctified. In India, nearly three million *tawaifs*, with an overwhelming majority in the age group of 15-35 years, are operating. The demand for minors increases year on year and such demand is highest among older clients. To address these nightmarish phenomena, the Supreme Court took a lead in regulating and humanising sex work in the case of *Budhadev Karmaskar Vs The State of West Bengal & Others* dated May 19, 2022. In July 2012, the court while appointing a broad-based committee had formulated three questions:



DESPITE THE APEX COURT'S BEST INTENTIONS, THERE ARE STILL MANY GAPS THAT REMAIN TO BE ADDRESSED, FOR WHICH THE IMMORAL TRAFFIC (PREVENTION) ACT, 1956, NEEDS COMPLETE OVERHAULING IN A TIME-BOUND MANNER

Prevention of trafficking; rehabilitation of sex workers who wish to leave the work; and conditions conducive for sex workers who wish to continue, with dignity. The order dated May 19, 2022, adds: "After conducting a detailed discussion with all the concerned stakeholders, the panel submitted a comprehensive report on the terms of reference. When the matter was listed in 2016, this court was informed that the recommendations made by the panel were considered by the Government of India and a draft legislation was published incorporating the panel's recommendations. Thereafter, periodically adjournments were taken by the Union of India on the ground that a Bill is on the anvil. As the legislation has not been made to date even though the recommendations have to be implemented, we were exercising our powers conferred under Article 142 of the Constitution. In the catena of decisions of this court, this power has been recognised and exercised if need be, by issuing necessary directions to fill the vacuum till such time the legislature steps in to cover the gap or the executive discharges its role." This matter has been listed for July 27, 2022.

The exercise started after the judgment dated August 2, 2011, headed by Justice



HASAN KHURSHID

Markandey Katju, initiating its order dated February 14, 2011. By that order, the court dismissed the appeal of the appellant, who was convicted for murdering a sex worker in a red light area in Kolkata. The court *suo moto* converted the case into PIL in order to address the problems of sex workers.

In its order of February 14, 2011, the court observed: "This is a case of brutal murder of a sex worker. Sex workers are also human beings and no one has the right to assault or murder them. A person becomes a prostitute not because she enjoys it but because of poverty. Society must have sympathy towards sex workers. They are also entitled to a life of dignity in view of Article 21 of the Constitution." However, despite the court's best intentions, there are many gaps to be addressed for which the Immoral Traffic (Prevention) Act, 1956, needs complete overhauling in a time-bound manner. Also, the order is silent on the issues of call girls and hetero-male prostitution (gigolos). Such issues have not been discussed in the judgment.

(The writer is a legal journalist and author. The views expressed are personal.)

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

WILL KCR MEET UDDHAV'S FATE?

Sir — Several BJP leaders at the BJP's executive meet at Hyderabad said they will topple the TRS Government just like they did in Maharashtra. They have drawn a parallel between Telangana CM K Chandrashekar Rao and Shiv Sena chief Uddhav Thackeray. KCR rightly countered: "I am waiting for that. I will become free and then topple your Government." Moreover, Union Minister Anurag Thakur said TRS belongs to dynasty politics. These Ministers should know that KCR has led the people's movement for Telangana's statehood and became Chief Minister by winning their hearts.

KT Rama Rao and Kavitha participated in the statehood stir, so the dynasty rule accusation doesn't arise. Anurag Thakur has forgotten that he himself is the son of a former CM of Himachal Pradesh. A jubilant BJP may be thinking it is easy to topple the Telangana Government. But it should be advised to stop day-dreaming about toppling the TRS Government. Try to win majority seats in the next Assembly election and form the Government, if you can. The BJP leaders should realize that members of the public are watching them and will give them a befitting reply when the right time comes.

Zeeshaan | Kazipet

AT ODDS WITH MAN'S OWN GENIUS

Sir — The first man-made plastic was created in 1862. It has taken 150 years to wake up to the serious damage it causes and will take maybe another 50 to stop its use. We explore and create new things but are not prescient enough to its outcomes and far less earnest to rectify our errors in time. But man's genius would continue to drive his curiosity and innovation. We already are into human genetic intervention and modification. In a lesser time scale than the likes of plastics, we may meet bigger consequences with little idea as to where it would take us.

We then leave it to the future generations to suffer the consequences and seek

Battle lost, but war is on



The Eknath Shinde Government in Maharashtra won the floor test and the Shiv Sena moved the Supreme Court against the election of the new Speaker even before the pending case on the disqualification of 16 rebels is to be heard next week. The Sena is demoralised and in disarray even as a Thackeray loyalist warned of blood on the streets. Bhaskar Jadhav, close to Uddhav Thackeray, accused the new Chief Minister of

not just betrayal but blindness in his inability to spot what the BJP was actually doing. Uddhav Thackeray is determined to make things as difficult as possible for the BJP and the new Government. After the dramatic prophecy of "blood on the streets", there will of course be action.

Uddhav seems to have taken the criticism of his inaccessibility to his party men seriously and now occupies the Shiv Sena Bhavan in Dadar frequently where there seems to be an outpouring of support for him from the Shiv Sainiks. There will now be two battles that the Shiv Sena is gearing up to fight earnestly — the saving of the Aarey forests and the election to the Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation. Aaditya Thackeray, the former Environment Minister in his father's Cabinet, has already declared his intention of protecting the ecosystem in Aarey. One battle has been lost. But the war has begun for the original Shiv Sena.

Bhagwan Thadani | Mumbai

remedies that are rendered harder to devise and implement by deliberate delay. Man, though gifted with brilliance, is as cursed with lack of farsight. His eagerness to pander to his creativity overrides his sense of equilibrium. And now we are into Artificial Intelligence. We might in the process create an all-pervasive adversary and yet blissfully go about feeding it with greater might and reach. It would then be a battle between man's own twin genius for creation and destruction.

R Narayanan | Mumbai

GUARD AGAINST FOOD WASTAGE

Sir — Food is the basic necessity of humans. It is a mixture of different nutritional items such as carbohydrate, protein, fat, vitamins and minerals. These all are essential for growth, development and maintenance of good health. Food is the third most important thing for living beings after air and water. Foods are direct-

ly related to our body and mental and social health. The importance of food is obvious and essential. But sadly, one-third of all food globally goes to waste; it would be enough to feed 3 billion people.

If food waste were a country, it would be the third largest greenhouse emitter on the planet. As per data, an average person in India wastes 137 gm food every day. In India, 40 per cent of food is wasted, which is equivalent to ₹92,000 crore a year. When food is wasted, natural resources as well as physical resources applied to prepare food for eating are wasted. So, every single person should try not to waste food; only then can we could make our country a better place to live in. We must make saving food a daily habit. We can save ourselves and our planet by stopping food wastage.

Ranu Pandya | Ujjain

Send your feedback to: letterstopioneer@gmail.com

SOUND BITE

The BJP in power empowers the poor. The Opposition in power empowers only families.



BJP president —JP Nadda

These strikes are conscious, deliberately targeted...and not some sort of error.



Ukraine President —Volodymyr Zelenskyy

Whether you're a public figure or not, the battles in our lives are similar.



Actor —Bhumi Pednekar

We'd be focused on our performance. Our players want to challenge their goalkeeper.



Women's hockey goalkeeper —Savita Punia

Modi has grown arrogant. He's pulling down Govts which oppose his rule.



Telangana Chief Minister —K Chandrashekar Rao

FIRST COLUMN

COMPLAINING IS TOXIC;
IT HURTS US, OTHERS

We must accept that good
and bad co-exist



AJIT KUMAR BISHNOI

Aren't we used to complaining about people we have to deal with? It could be a family member or an employer or a neighbor. What did we expect? That we will be brought together with only good people. Lord Krishna has made the position clear in the Geeta. "In this world, there are two types of living beings, possessing either divine or demonic qualities. (16.6) Each person will have either the preponderance of divine or demonic qualities. Some of the divine qualities are purity of heart, charity, austerity, truthfulness, not given to anger, peacefulness, uncomplaining, modesty, hygienic and non-violent. (16.1-3) Demonic qualities are deceitful behaviour, arrogance, sense of being doer, anger, cruelty and ignorance. (16.4)

So, there will be people with dominant bad qualities. They cannot be avoided. Then, what should we do? Reform the bad ones. This is not possible, because everyone has individual nature based on qualities. One will only change when one wants to. This is the reality of life, and complaining gets us nowhere. How do you manage? Firstly, accept that there will be bad people one has to deal with. This is the reality of this world, which is an impermanent place of miseries. (8.15) The other reality is that they won't change because you wish for them; they are driven by their faulty natures, with which they have been born. Yes, they will change if they have a desire. Till then, you have to live with the fact. Complaining gives us heartache and takes us away from finding a solution, which is to find ways to deal with them. There will be some ways to do so, because no one will have one hundred percent bad qualities, as we don't have one hundred present good qualities. By accepting them as they are is a good beginning. And we should abandon hopes of seeing them punished, because that is in the domain of the divine authority. Lastly, pray to God, because God can change hearts. Yes, God has such a power, and He does exercise it for the benefit of His devotees.



Same goes for miseries, which will surely come. Lord Krishna has made this very clear in the Geeta, when He stated, "The contact between senses and their objects are givers of cold, heat, pleasures, and misery. They, being temporary, come and go; tolerate them (2.14) And we know that we cannot avoid contact between our senses and their objects. What will give relief is not to get agitated or complain about them when sufferings do come, but use superior intelligence to do something about them. (2.56) What is this intelligence? Follow the wise counsel of Lord Krishna when He stated, "One, whose eating and recreation are appropriate; who strives appropriately in activities; who sleeps and stays awake, as required." (6.17) This will reduce suffering. Because no one can escape suffering in this material world. However, all sufferings are temporary only. Lord Krishna has guided on ways to reduce and transcend it.

Honour and dishonour are also similar; they come and go. In the verse 14.24, Lord Krishna encourages us not to get disturbed when criticism comes, which will surely come. Complaining about it is surely a sign of being disturbed. We should rather aim for equanimity in honour and dishonour; we will become dear to God. (12.18)

Complaining is a very serious drawback unless it is occasional venting and expression, which may help in minimising stress reactions. It is toxic not only to self but also to others around, if it is habitually done. It reinforces negativity, which takes us away from positivity—our desired goal.

(Bishnoi is a spiritual writer. The views expressed are personal.)

Stable trading worse than horse-trading

A handful of party leaders cannot be allowed to trump the wishes of people and remove MPs, MLAs from the Houses



RAVI SHANKER KAPOOR

The recent political drama in Maharashtra brought the anti-defection law into focus. Some analysts want it to be made more effective or stronger. The truth, however, is that this is one of the most illiberal pieces of legislation ever enacted; and it has done immense harm to democracy.

The votaries of the anti-defection law say that there should be an end to what is derogatorily called Aaya Ram-Gaya Ram politics. How can a Member of Parliament (MP) or of legislative assembly (MLA) vote against the party on whose ticket he or she won the election? Isn't it a betrayal of the party that had reposed its trust in him or her?

Yes, it is, and the party has all the rights to deal with the disobedient lawmaker; it can expel them. But it has no right to expel them from the Lok Sabha or the Vidhan Sabha, for it was the people who sent them there, not the party. The mandate of the people cannot be nullified by the whims and fancies of party bosses, however high and mighty they might be. The legislators enter the legislature because people, not the top party leaders, want them there. A handful of party leaders and managers cannot be allowed to ride roughshod over the wishes of people.

The supporters of the anti-defection law say that horse-trading is an abomination, and it should be stopped. The much bigger and far uglier abomination, however, is stable trading. This is what we have seen after the enactment of the law.

To put it in other words, horse-trading is far less bad than stable trading. If your MP or MLA doesn't represent you properly in the legislature, you can question them, but if they have to follow the party whip on important issues, you can't blame them because blame presupposes free will, which they are deprived of by top party leaders.

The anti-defection law is evil because, by disempowering MPs and MLAs, it has killed the very idea of representation in a parliamentary democracy. An illustration will make it evident: A major issue, say, extreme water pollution plagues your area. People in your locality campaign for a corrective measure; they tell the MLA about the problem; and they promise to help you. In the legislative assembly, the issue is brought up, but the MLA is forced—whipped—to vote against the corrective measure.

When you confront the MLA, they tell you that they were bound to obey the whip; they couldn't vote for you because that would have breached party discipline. What kind of representativeness is this in which your elected representative can't take your problems to the government which, by the way, exists because of the support of elected representatives like yours?

Technically, in the parliamentary form of democracy, the executive is responsible to the executive; in practice, though, it is the other way around. MPs and MLAs have to obey the dictates of their respective party



FLOCK, HERD, POACHING, SHEPHERDING, POACHING, WHIP — IT IS THE LEXICON OF ANIMAL TRAINERS. YET, JOURNALISTS AND OTHER OPINION MAKERS FREQUENTLY USE THESE TERMS, BLISSFULLY UNAWARE OF THE SUBCONSCIOUS ACCEPTANCE OF THE DEGRADATION OF ELECTED MEMBERS AND DEMOCRACY

(The writer is a senior journalist associated with The Pioneer.)



leaderships. Democracy stands on its head: while lawmakers are directly elected by the people and thus should be answerable to them (the people), in practice they become answerable to, indeed servants of, party managers. And servants, like slaves and sheep, can be herded or shepherded around as per the convenience and requirements of apparatchiks.

This has been going on for decades; the English language continues to betray the fact that democracy is being degraded. Such expressions as 'the chief minister is trying to keep his flock together so that the Opposition doesn't poach on them', 'MLAs have been herded to a resort', and 'the party has issued whip to the MLAs' are regularly used in political parlance. By the way, in no other democracy in the world whips are so deadly as in India; nowhere else do the legislators lose membership of the house by defying whips.

Flock, herd, poaching, shepherding, poaching, whip—this is the lexicon of animal trainers, not of political commentators. Yet, top journalists and other opinion makers frequently use these terms, blissfully unaware of the subconscious acceptance of the degradation of elected representatives and democracy.

How did we reach here? The original sin was the 52nd amendment to the Constitution in 1985, the anti-defection law in common parlance; it made MPs and of MLAs the slaves of party bosses. The Statement of Objects and Reasons of the Fifty-second Constitution Amendment Bill, 1985 read: "The evil of political defections has been

a matter of national concern. If it is not combated, it is likely to undermine the very foundations of our democracy and the principles which sustain it"

The new legislation, ostensibly enacted to end "legislative anarchism," provided that a lawmaker would cease to be a member of the legislature: if he resigns from the party on whose ticket he was elected; if he votes, or abstains from voting, in the House "contrary to any direction" issued by the political party to which he belongs; or if he has been expelled from such political party "in accordance with the procedure established by the Constitution, rules or regulations" of such party.

The author of the law, the then law minister Asoke Sen, claimed that it would "cleanse the political life of this country of the dirt accumulated over the years." Corruption in politics will end with this law.

One need not be a political analyst to know that venality and unscrupulousness have increased since the law was enacted. The remedy has proved to be infinitely worse than the malady. Indeed it engendered another malady: the enslavement of elected representatives.

It is interesting to notice that the Opposition at that time resisted the Bill. L.K. Advani of the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) was prophetic in his lamentation that this would "muffle dissent forever in a party like the Congress(I)..."

It is another matter that when his party was in office in 2003, and he was deputy prime minister, the BJP-led government decided to

make the law even more stringent. The 1985 law recognized a "split" in a party if at least one-third of members of the legislature party decided to form or join another political party. The BJP-led government, however, introduced the 91st amendment to the Constitution in 2003, making the requirement for split or merger stiffer: since then, at least two-thirds of members of a legislature party need to leave the party. Evidently, Advani & Co forgot the 'muffle dissent' rhetoric.

Hypocrisy, however, is not the monopoly of the BJP. Speaking at the Kerala Literature Festival in Kozhikode, Kerala, on February 5, 2017, Congress MP and former Union minister Shashi Tharoor said the anti-defection law negatively impacted democracy as it diminished the voting power of people's representatives. "The anti-defection law has a negative impact on democracy. A people's representative does not have the right to vote according to his conscience. He has to vote on what his party says," PTI quoted him in its report.

Kapil Sibal, a senior leader who recently quit Congress, also wants the anti-defection law to go. Alas, it didn't occur to him when held the law portfolio.

The same old story: introduce illiberal laws when in power, and slam such legislation when in the Opposition. Meanwhile, liberty gasps for breath in politics—as elsewhere.

Tagore aspired that his country should awaken into the "heaven of freedom." India, where even the legislators are enchained, is certainly not that country.

POINT COUNTERPOINT

RIYAZ AKHTARI WAS PRESENT AT THE EVENTS OF BJP LEADERS. THEY REFERRED TO HIM AS 'BHAIR'.
—CONGRESS LEADER PAWAN KHERA



CONGRESS SHOULD STOP FOOLING AROUND WITH TERROR AND NATIONAL SECURITY... YOU ARE PEDDLING FAKENEWS.
—BJP IT CELL CHIEF AMIT MALVIYA

Single use plastic ban success is suspect without options

Single use plastic ban has come in force, but lack of viable alternatives suggests that past lessons aren't learnt

Single use plastic ban has come into force in India from July 1. In its commitment towards global climate goals, the government has implemented its notification banning identified 19 single use plastic (SUP) items. The violation of the ban is expected to invite penalties and jail terms as well under the Environment (Protection) Act 1986. Single use plastic items are those that are used once and discarded. They have high littering potential and high degree of non-biodegradability. The government has issued immediate directions to all States to curb supply of the banned finished goods and prohibit the petrochemical industries from supplying raw materials such as polystyrene used in producing SUPs.



KOTA SRIRAJ

(The writer is an environmental journalist. The views expressed are personal.)

The blanket ban on the 19 SUP items is a welcome move that promises to deliver relief to the environment and wildlife. The styrofoam cups, plates and plastic spoons and forks have long been an eyesore all around our cities, parks, beaches, railway tracks and even wildlife sanctuaries. In fact, the landfills across India are replete with SUPs that will not biodegrade even in the next 400 years. India generates 3.5 million tonnes of plastic waste a year, which is 3 kg of per capita plastic waste per year. During 2020-21, India generated 41,26,997 tonnes of plastic waste. Considering these staggering figures, it is apt for the government to launch the initiative. But is India ready, and more importantly, will the ban work this time?

Restrictions on SUPs have been attempted in India as long back as 1999 when the sale of polythene bags was prohibited. Since then a plethora of national and state level laws have been enacted and implemented. However, the last 22 years are a testament to the fact that we still have plastic cutlery and many other SUP items freely available in the market. Till date, the centre had encouraged the states to phase out the SUPs but the states' efforts were largely ineffective and SUPs thrived as always. The cause of the earlier SUP futile ban is always attributed to lax enforcement which took place in fits and starts. The current ban seeks to address this loophole and may to a large extent resolve the ineffective enforcement issue. But the real



cause for failure of the SUP ban in the past has not been lax enforcement alone. The lack of sustainable alternatives to SUPs has been the major cause for the ban to remain ineffective and before long one could see resurgence of the SUP items in daily life.

The government seems to have put its weight behind enforcement of the SUP ban

notification and its rules and paid less attention to the impact and viable alternatives for the industry and the people. Consequently, there's a serious gap on ways and means of replacement of the single use plastic, which stands prohibited in a large part of the country, barring a few days of relaxations given at some of the places. An unrealistic time frame given for phasing out these single use plastic products means that the industrial houses in the country have been unable to research and develop practical and affordable solutions for the single use plastics. As a result, there is a dearth of manufacturing capacities of the alternatives to the single use plastics and no set supply chains are available for their raw materials either. The gov-

ernment could have opted instead to stagger the ban and used the time to develop a parallel line of eco-friendly products that would seamlessly have taken over the SUP slots. This would not only make the ban more successful but would have also saved the employment of scores of people engaged in production of SUPs and the capital of industries that has been invested into the production machinery.

India needs to move towards a complete plastic free future and this cannot be possible in a short time. The government cannot and must not directly or indirectly support the plastic industry, while it bans SUPs as this will tantamount to taking two steps forward and one step backward. The Indian plastic industry

must be slowly diverted towards adopting alternative materials on one hand and incremental staggered ban on plastic items must be applied in every quarter on the other hand to discourage the production and use of plastic items. In this balanced manner the government can actually phase out plastic from daily life. Some exceptional uses can be allowed such as for medical and defence purposes.

For a better environment, the people will fervently hope for the latest ban on SUPs to succeed. But there are lessons from the past failures, which must not be repeated. The government should enforce the ban effectively, while also making available the affordable alternatives to the shopkeepers and the consumers.

No fuel, no cash: Lanka keeps schools closed



AP ■ COLOMBO

Cash-strapped Sri Lanka on Sunday extended school closures for one week because there isn't enough fuel for teachers and parents to get children to classrooms, and the energy minister appealed to the country's expatriates to send money home through banks to finance new oil purchases.

A huge foreign debt has left the Indian Ocean island with none of the suppliers willing to sell fuel on credit. The available stocks, sufficient for only several days, will be provided for essential services, including health and port workers, public transport and food distribution, officials said.

"Finding money is a challenge. It's a huge challenge," Power and Energy Minister Kanchana Wijesekera told reporters.

He said the government has ordered new fuel stocks and the first ship with 40,000 metric tons of diesel is expected to arrive on Friday while the

first ship carrying gasoline would come on July 22.

Several other fuel shipments are in the pipeline. But he said authorities are struggling to find \$587 million to pay for the fuel. Wijesekera said that Sri Lanka owed about \$800 million to seven fuel suppliers. Last month, schools were closed nationwide for a day due to fuel shortages and had remained closed for the last two weeks in urban areas. Schools will remain shut until Friday.

Authorities also announced countrywide power cuts of up to three hours a day from Monday because they can't supply enough fuel to power generating stations. Sweeping power cuts have been a blight on Sri Lanka's economy for months, along with severe shortages of essentials including cooking gas, medicine, and food imports.

Wijesekera said the main problem is the lack of dollars and appealed to some 2 million Sri Lankans working abroad to send their foreign exchange

earnings home through banks instead of informal channels.

He said workers' remittances, which usually stood at \$600 million per month, had declined to \$318 million in June. According to the Central Bank, the remittances — the nation's main foreign exchange earner — dropped from \$2.8 billion in the first six months of 2021 to \$1.3 billion in the same period this year for a decline of 53 per cent.

The drop came after the government last year ordered the mandatory conversion of foreign currency. It said that black-market premiums have led people to hoard foreign currency. Sri Lanka's has been getting most of its fuel needs from neighbouring India, which provided it with a credit line. The government said it

was also negotiating with suppliers in Russia and Malaysia.

Sri Lanka has suspended repayment of about \$7 billion in foreign loans due this year out of \$25 billion to be repaid by 2026. The country's total foreign debt is \$51 billion.

The economic meltdown has triggered a political crisis with widespread anti-government protests erupting across the country. Protesters have blocked main roads to demand gas and fuel, and television stations showed people in some areas fighting over limited stocks.

In the capital, Colombo, protesters have been occupying the entrance to the president's office for more than two months to demand President Gotabaya Rajapaksa's resignation.

Lanka's Opp JVP asks Govt to share details on alleged bomb threat

PTI ■ COLOMBO

Sri Lanka's opposition S Janatha Vimukthi Peramuna (JVP) on Monday urged the government to share the details of an alleged bomb threat as outlined in a reported communication between the police chief and the defence ministry secretary ahead of the Black Tiger day marked by the LTTE on July 5.

JVP leader Anura Kumara Dissanayake told reporters that Police chief CD Wickremaratna had addressed Defence Ministry Secretary Kamal Gunaratne by a letter dated June 27 and alerted him to the alleged threat.

Dissanayake claimed that an unidentified foreign intelligence service was to carry out an explosion in either the north and east regions or in the south to mark the Black Tiger day on either July 5 or 6. He, however, did not name the foreign agency.

Accordingly, all employees of foreign establishments located in Jaffna and VIPs have been advised to stay indoors on the two days, according to the information provided by the police chief to the defence ministry secretary in the said letter.

Dissanayake urged the government to provide full details as to how the information came to be gathered or if this was an attempt by the government to curb the raging public protests against it over the current economic and fuel crisis.

The Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) during their 30 year campaign to set up a separate Tamil state in the north and east regions commemorated the Black Tiger Week early July marking their first suicide bomb attack by their cadre termed 'Captain Miller' on July 5, 1987.

Several dead in Denmark mall shooting; suspect held



AP ■ COPENHAGEN

A gunman opened fire inside a busy shopping mall in the Danish capital on Sunday, killing several people and wounding several others, police said.

A 22-year-old Danish man was arrested after the shooting, Copenhagen police inspector Søren Thomassen told reporters, adding there was no indication that anyone else was involved, though police were still investigating.

He said it was too early to speculate on the motive for the shooting, which happened in the late afternoon at Field's, one of the biggest shopping malls in Scandinavia, located on the outskirts of the Danish capital.

"We have several dead and several injured," Thomassen said, though he gave no specific casualty count. He said the suspect was an "ethnic Dane," a phrase typically used to mean someone is white.

Danish broadcaster TV2 published a grainy photo of the alleged gunman, a man wearing

knee-length shorts and a tank top and holding what appeared to be a rifle in his right hand.

Images from the scene showed people running out of the mall, and TV2 posted a photo of a man being put on a stretcher. Witnesses said people were crying and hid in shops. After the shooting, an enormous contingent of heavily-armed police officers patrolled the area, with several fire department vehicles also parked outside the mall.

Copenhagen Mayor Sophie H Andersen tweeted: "Terrible reports of shooting in Fields. We do not yet know for sure how many were injured or dead, but it is very serious."

Laurits Hermansen told Danish broadcaster DR that he was in a clothing store at the shopping centre with his family when he heard "three, four bangs. Really loud bangs. It sounded like the shots were being fired just next to the store."

The shopping centre is on the outskirts of Copenhagen just across from a subway station for

a line that connects the city centre with the international airport. A major highway also runs adjacent to the mall.

Singer Harry Styles was scheduled to perform Sunday night at the nearby Royal Arena, but it was not clear it would go ahead.

On Snapchat, Styles wrote: "My team and I pray for everyone involved in the Copenhagen shopping mall shooting. I am shocked. Love H."

Shortly after the shooting, the royal palace said a reception with Crown Prince Frederik connected to the Tour de France cycling race had been cancelled. The first three stages of the race were held in Denmark this year. The reception was due to be held on the royal yacht that is moored in Soenderborg, the town where the third stage ended.

The shooting came a week after a mass shooting in neighbouring Norway, where police said a Norwegian man of Iranian origin opened fire during a LGBTQ festival, killing two and injuring more than 20.

Jan 6 panel: More people turn up with evidence against Trump

AP ■ WASHINGTON

More witnesses are coming forward with new details on the Jan. 6 U.S. Capitol riot following former White House aide Cassidy Hutchinson's devastating testimony last week against former President Donald Trump, says a member of a House committee investigating the insurrection.

The panel already has subpoenaed former White House counsel Pat Cipollone, who investigators remain hopeful will appear Wednesday for a deposition, and said it would also welcome follow-up details from Secret Service members with Trump that day.

Rep. Adam Kinzinger, R-Ill., cited Hutchinson's testimony that Trump wanted to join an angry mob that marched to the Capitol on Jan. 6 where they rioted as particularly valuable in "inspiring" more people to step forward as the committee gets set for at least two public hearings this month. "Every day we get new people that come forward and say, Hey, I didn't think maybe



this piece of the story that I knew was important," he said Sunday. "There will be way more information and stay tuned."

The committee has been intensifying its yearlong investigation into the attack on Jan. 6, 2021, and Trump's efforts to overturn the 2020 election. The next hearings will aim to show how Trump illegally directed a violent mob toward the Capitol on Jan. 6, and then failed to take quick action to stop the attack once it began. Over the weekend, Rep. Liz

Cheney, R-Wyo., the committee's vice chair, made clear that criminal referrals to the Justice Department, including against Trump, could follow.

The committee also has been reviewing new documentary film footage of Trump's final months in office, including interviews with

Trump and members of his family. Kinzinger, in a television interview, declined to disclose the new information he referred to and did not say who had provided it. He said nothing had changed the committee's confidence in her credibility.

"There's information I can't say yet," he said. "We certainly would say that Cassidy Hutchinson has testified under oath, we find her credible, and anybody that wants to cast propagandisms on that, who were firsthand present, should also testify under oath and not through anonymous sources."

In a separate interview, another committee member, Rep. Adam Schiff, D-Calif., said: "We are following additional leads. I think those leads will lead to new testimony."

In Hutchinson's appearance before the committee,

she painted a picture of Trump as an angry, defiant president who was trying to let armed supporters avoid security screenings at a rally on the morning of Jan. 6 to protest his 2020 election defeat to Democrat Joe Biden.

According to Hutchinson, Cipollone was concerned that Trump would face criminal charges if he joined his supporters in marching to the Capitol. Legal experts have said Cassidy's testimony is potentially problematic for Trump as federal prosecutors investigate potential criminal wrongdoing.

Cheney said in an interview aired Sunday that the committee was still considering whether to issue recommendations to the Justice Department, indicating "there could be more than one criminal referral."

Germany, Ireland slam UK move toward overriding Brexit deal

AP ■ LONDON

Germany and Ireland have condemned the UK government's move towards unilaterally rewriting parts of the post-Brexit deal with the European Union.

German Foreign Minister Annalena Baerbock and Irish counterpart Simon Coveney said there was "no legal or political justification" for overriding the agreed trade rules in Northern Ireland.

Writing in British newspaper The Observer on Sunday, the ministers say Britain will be breaking an international agreement just two years old which it hadn't engaged in with "good faith."

The so-called Northern Ireland Protocol within the deal maintains an open border with EU member Ireland and free of customs posts.

British Prime Minister Boris Johnson's administration wants to remove the checks on goods such as meat and eggs arriving in Northern Ireland from the rest of the UK, which protect the European Union's single market.

Lawmakers in London passed legislation which permits the move last week.

Johnson's critics, opponents and some members of his own party, along with European observers, have said the plan breaks international law. The government argues it is justified because of the "genuinely exceptional situation."

Baerbock and Coveney said the bill wouldn't fix the "challenges" around the protocol.

"Instead, it will create a new set of uncertainties and make it more challenging to find durable solutions," they wrote.

The foreign ministers also argued the move jeopardises peace in Northern Ireland under the Good Friday Agreement, which helped end decades of sectarian violence and has stood since 1998.

Johnson's government has hoped to pass the legislation, which will be debated again in Parliament on July 13 by the time its summer break begins later in the month.

उत्तराखण्ड लोक सेवा आयोग
हद्विहार
पिन कोड:- 249404

पत्रांक : 426/06/E-4/DR(F.R.O.)/2021-22 दिनांक : 04 जुलाई, 2022
वन क्षेत्राधिकारी परीक्षा-2021

विज्ञापित
एतद्वारा सूचित किया जाता है कि विज्ञापन संख्या: A-1/E-4/2021-22 दिनांक 11 अगस्त, 2021 एवं तत्संबंधी विज्ञापित संख्या : 142, दिनांक 17.09.2021 द्वारा विज्ञापित वन क्षेत्राधिकारी के पदों पर सीधी भर्ती द्वारा चयन हेतु विज्ञापित संख्या : 76, दिनांक 09.02.2022 द्वारा घोषित प्रारम्भिक (वस्तुनिष्ठ प्रकार) परीक्षा के परिणाम में मुख्य (लिखित) परीक्षा दिनांक 23.07.2022 से 27.07.2022 तक आयोजित किये जाने का उल्लेख किया गया है। कांश्च यात्रा के दृष्टिगत सम्यक् विचारोपरान्त उक्त मुख्य (लिखित) परीक्षा की तिथि संशोधित करते हुये दिनांक 11.09.2022 से 15.09.2022 तक पुनर्निर्धारित की जाती है। (कर्मेंन्द्र सिंह) सचिव।

कार्यालय नगर निगम, देहरादून
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पत्रांक:- 1090/भूमि-14022 शुद्धि पत्र दिनांक 04.07.2022

नगर निगम क्षेत्रान्तर्गत स्थित बुद्धा चौक से घन्टाघर, दिलाराम चौक, नैनी बेकरी किशनपुर तक तथा हरिद्वार बाईपास दीप नगर चौक से शास्त्रीनगर ढाल तक रोड ड्रिवाईडर के मध्य स्थित कुल 304 डेकोरेटिव विद्युत पोलों पर दिनांक 01.08.2022 से दिनांक 31.07.2024 तक 02 वर्ष के लिये पोल क्योस्क के माध्यम से विज्ञापन प्रदर्शित किये जाने हेतु निविदा प्रकाशन की तिथि से दिनांक 19.07.2022 की अपराह्न 2.00 बजे तक ई0 निविदायें आमंत्रित की गयी हैं। उक्त निविदा से पूर्व निविदा की शर्तों के समन्वय में चर्चा किये जाने हेतु निविदा तिथि से पूर्व दिनांक 15.07.2022 की सांय 4.00 बजे निविदा सम्बन्धी प्री-बिड मीटिंग आहूत की जाती है।
अतः जो भी फर्म/व्यक्ति निविदा में प्रतिभाग करने के इच्छुक हैं वह दिनांक 15.07.2022 की सांय 4.00 बजे प्री-बिड मीटिंग हेतु नगर आयुक्त कार्यालय में उपस्थित होने का कष्ट करें। नगर आयुक्त नगर निगम, देहरादून

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PUBLIC NOTICE
Notice under Section 91 of the Companies Act, 2013, read with Rule 10 of Companies (Management & Administration) Rules, 2014 and provisions of SEBI (LODR) Regulations, 2015 is hereby given to general public that Register of Members and Share Transfer Books of the Company shall remain closed from 16-07-2022 to 18-07-2022 (both days inclusive) in connection with 36th Annual General Meeting ("AGM") of the Company scheduled to be held on Thursday, 18th August 2022 at 10.00 A.M through video conferencing/other audio visual means.
The process of sending notices of the AGM to the registered email id of only those members who have provided their email ids is expected to be completed by 22-07-2022. The notice will contain detailed instructions for participating in the AGM and for e-voting. Any member who does not receive the Notice may download a soft copy of the same from Company's website www.jaschindustries.com or from website of BSE www.bseindia.com.
Advance opportunity is hereby given to the members who are holding shares in physical form to register their email id with the Company on or before 16-07-2022 by sending an email to ramap@alankit.com with the subject line "Unit – Jasch - Updation of email id" and attaching therewith signed and scanned request letter and self-attested copies of PAN Card, Aadhar Card and both sides of share certificates. Such members are also requested to dematerialize their shares at the earliest. Members holding shares in demat form, who have not provided their email ids to their DP or whose email ids have changed, are requested to provide/update their email ids through their respective DPs. Such members may also temporarily update their email id with the Company by providing scanned copies of the above documents (except share certificates) and their client master, to the above email id by 16-07-2022.

for Jasch Industries Ltd
Sonipat, 04-07-2022 sd/- (S.K. VERMA) COMPANY SECRETARY

PUBLIC NOTICE
Notice is hereby given to the General Public on behalf of our client i.e. HDFC Bank Ltd. that Pawan Saxena is the owner of Shop No. D-01/49/2A, Ground floor without roof situated at DLF Dishaad Extra-II, Ghaziabad, Tehsil and Distt. Ghaziabad Uttar Pradesh vide a Sale Deed dated 07-02-2022, registration no. 919. All persons are hereby informed that above mentioned owner wants to mortgage the said shop and intend to obtain loan in the name of Mrs FAIRBIZPS from our client against the said shop and that Original Sale Deed dated 09-03-1999 (Doc No. 1887) and Original Buyer Agreement and Possession certificate in respect of said shop have been lost / misplaced. If anybody has any objections upon the ownership of above owner over the said shop, its mortgage/litigation, and any other objections, kindly inform the undersigned in writing on the below mentioned address within 07 days of the present.
Kumar & Associates (Advocates & Consultants)
208, 1st Floor, 23, Shivaji Park, Moh Nagar, N. Delhi-15
Ph. 011-23112527-28. kumarad@advocatesdelhi@gmail.com

PUBLIC NOTICE
The general public is informed that the cars with the following car numbers which have completed their life Petrol Cars 15 Years Diesel Cars 10 Years. The MCD drive was confiscated by Pine View Technology Pvt Ltd and has not been claimed by anyone till now. All these vehicle owners are informed to come to the company's office and claim the scrap value of the vehicle. Otherwise, all these vehicles will be scrapped in the next three days.

DL9CE7851,	DL2CAC2328,	DL1CW7964,
DL8CL7352,	DL2CK5486,	DL9CM5580,
DL8CM80704,	DL7CF4352,	DL9CB9370,
DL4CAF7748,	DL8CH5988,	DL5C4521,
DL6CH3358,	DL6CJ2447,	DL4CS1076,
CH03A1983,	DL5CB9502,	HR12H8230,
DL2CAD2452,	DL7CF7487,	DL9CM3995,
DL7C7681,	UP80AM6135,	NOREG14,
DL2CAA3651,	DL4CA7387,	DL2CAC8569,
DL2CAF4832,	HR12D9324,	DL3CA20166,
UP16K1347,	DL8CK1423,	DL6CB1479,
DL9CH4770,	DL9CB6461,	DL3CAK6821,
DL8CK5459,	DL6CC5762,	UP14AE0044,
DL9CM6151,	DL8CH8821,	DL4CAG6439,
DL4CAG7305,	UP80AK6812,	DL2FC20030,
DL2CAD07037,	DL6CH6917,	DL2FA29939,
DL9CH3841,	DL4CL0797,	UP14J2161,
DL1M0818,	DL2CZ1132,	PB02B9002,
DL8CN2208,	DL6CD9577,	DL4CAP3900,
DL7CF3278,	DL8CH6512,	DL3CS0135,
DL8CJ3639,	DL1C2416,	

101-year-old German appeals conviction in Nazi guard case

AP ■ BERLIN

A 101-year-old man who was convicted last week as an accessory to murder for serving as a guard at a Nazi concentration camp during World War II has appealed, a German court said Monday.

The man, whom local media have identified as Josef S., was convicted last Tuesday of more than 3,500 counts of accessory to murder and sentenced to five years in prison. He had denied working as an SS guard at the Sachsenhausen camp and aiding and abetting the murder of thousands of prisoners. But the Neuruppin state court concluded that he did in fact work at the camp on the outskirts of Berlin between 1942 and 1945 as an enlisted member of the Nazi Party's paramilitary wing.

Prosecutors had based their case on documents relating to an SS guard with the man's name, date and place of birth, as well as other documents.

UK military probes hacks on Army social media accounts



AP ■ LONDON

British military authorities are trying to find out who hacked the army's social media accounts over the weekend, flooding them with cryptocurrency videos and posts related to collectible electronic art.

The investigation was launched after authorized content on the army's YouTube account was replaced with a video feed promoting cryptocurrencies that included images of billionaire Elon Musk. The Army's Twitter account retweeted a number of posts about non-fungible tokens, unique digital images that can be bought and sold but

have no physical counterpart. "Apologies for the temporary interruption to our feed," the army said in a tweet posted after the Twitter account was restored on Sunday. "We will conduct a full investigation and learn from this incident. Thanks for following us, and normal service will now resume."

The Ministry of Defense said late Sunday that both breaches had been "resolved."

While internet users were unable to access the Army's YouTube site on Monday, a spokesperson said the site was down for standard maintenance. The Twitter feed was operating normally.

Sandstorm shuts offices, schools in Tehran, region

AP ■ TEHRAN

Schools and government offices closed in Iran's capital and several other cities in the country on Monday, after yet another sandstorm blanketed Tehran and the surrounding region.

State-run TV warned of poor air quality and advised the elderly, those sick and children to take precautions. Banks and the Tehran Stock Exchange would remain open, the report said.

This is the second time that Tehran shuttered schools and government offices and the fourth bad sandstorm since mid-April. Schools and government offices in Tehran were closed for the first time on account of a sandstorm in May. However, the country's west, along the border with Iraq, has seen frequent closures of schools and offices due to sandstorms.

Tehran is among the most polluted cities in the world. Experts blame poor government policies, desertification and low water levels, as well as climate change, for the frequency and intensity of recent sandstorms.

Putin declares victory in Ukraine’s Donbas

AP ■ POKROVSK

Russian President Vladimir Putin on Monday declared victory in the eastern Ukrainian region of Luhansk, one day after Ukrainian forces withdrew from their last remaining bulwark of resistance in the province.

Russia’s Defense Minister Sergei Shoigu reported to Putin in a televised meeting Monday that Russian forces had taken control of Luhansk, which together with the neighbouring Donetsk province makes up Ukraine’s industrial heartland of Donbas.

Shoigu told Putin that “the operation” was completed on Sunday after Russian troops overran the city of Lysychansk, the last stronghold of Ukrainian forces in Luhansk.

Putin, in turn, said that the military units “that took part in active hostilities and achieved success, victory” in Luhansk, “should rest, increase their combat capabilities.”

Putin’s declaration came as Russian forces tried to press their offensive deeper into eastern Ukraine after the Ukrainian military confirmed that its forces had withdrawn from Lysychansk on Sunday.

Luhansk governor Serhii Haidai said on Monday that Ukrainian forces had retreated from the city to avoid being surrounded.

“There was a risk of Lysychansk encirclement,” Haidai told the Associated Press, adding that Ukrainian troops could have held on for a few more weeks but would have potentially paid too high a price.

“We managed to do centralised



withdrawal and evacuate all injured,” Haidai said. “We took back all the equipment, so from this point withdrawal was organised well.”

The Ukrainian General Staff said Russian forces were now focusing their efforts on pushing toward the line of Siversk, Fedorivka and Bakmut in the Donetsk region, about half of which is controlled by Russia.

The Russian army has also intensified its shelling of the key Ukrainian strongholds of Sloviansk and Kramatorsk, deeper in Donetsk.

On Sunday, six people, including a 9-year-old girl, were killed in the Russian shelling of Sloviansk and another 19 people were wounded, according to local authorities. Kramatorsk also came under fire on Sunday.

An intelligence briefing Monday from the British Defense Ministry supported the Ukrainian military’s assessment, noting that Russian forces will “now almost certainly” switch to capturing Donetsk. The briefing said the conflict in Donbas has been “grinding and attritional,” and is

unlikely to change in the coming weeks.

While the Russian army has a massive advantage in firepower, military analysts say that it doesn’t have any significant superiority in the number of troops. That means Moscow lacks resources for quick land gains and can only advance slowly, relying on heavy artillery and rocket barrages to soften Ukrainian defenses.

Russian President Vladimir Putin has made capturing the entire Donbas a key goal in his war in Ukraine, now in its fifth month. Moscow-backed separatists in Donbas have battled Ukrainian forces since 2014 when they declared independence from Kyiv after the Russian annexation of Ukraine’s Crimea. Russia formally recognised the self-proclaimed republics days before its Feb. 24 invasion of Ukraine.

In his nightly video address, Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy acknowledged the withdrawal, but vowed that Ukrainian forces will fight their way back.

“If the command of our army withdraws people from certain points of the front where the enemy has the greatest fire superiority, in particular this applies to Lysychansk, it means only one thing: We will return thanks to our tactics, thanks to the increase in the supply of modern weapons,” Zelenskyy said.

Since failing to take Kyiv and other areas in Ukraine’s northeast early in the war, Russia has focused on Donbas, unleashing fierce shelling and engaging in house-to-house combat that devastated cities in the

region.

Russia’s invasion has also devastated Ukraine’s agricultural sector, disrupting supply chains of seed and fertilizer needed by Ukrainian farmers and blocking the export of grain, a key source of revenue for the country.

In its Monday intelligence report, Britain’s defense ministry pointed to the Russian blockade of the key Ukrainian port of Odesa, which has severely restricted grain exports. They predicted that Ukraine’s agricultural exports would reach only 35 per cent of the 2021 total this year as a result.

As Moscow pushed its offensive across Ukraine’s east, areas in western Russia came under attack Sunday in a revival of sporadic apparent Ukrainian strikes across the border. The governor of the Belgorod region in Western Russia said fragments of an intercepted Ukrainian missile killed four people Sunday. In the Russian city of Kursk, two Ukrainian drones were shot down, according to the Russian Defense Ministry.

In other developments: Ukrainian soldiers returning from the front lines in eastern Ukraine’s Donbas region — where Russia is waging a fierce offensive — describe life during what has turned into a grueling war of attrition as apocalyptic.

Two Russian airplanes departed Bulgaria on Sunday with scores of Russian diplomatic staff and their families amid a mass expulsion that has sent tensions soaring between the historically close nations, a Russian diplomat said

Swiss NGO calls out Govt as it hosts meeting on Ukraine



AP ■ LUGANO (SWITZERLAND)

A leading Swiss nongovernmental group on Monday called out Switzerland as a “safe haven” for Russian oligarchs and as a trading hub for Russian oil, grain and coal.

Public Eye called on the Swiss executive branch to “use all levers at its disposal to stop the financing of this inhuman aggression,” a reference to Russian President Vladimir Putin’s war in Ukraine that has killed untold thousands of people, driven millions from their homes and rippled through world economy by driving up food and fuel prices.

It spoke out on the day that the Swiss president was due to host a conference on Ukraine’s eventual recovery from Russia’s war involving government officials, advocacy groups and U.N. Institutions.

Ignazio Cassis was hosting leaders, including Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy by video message, at the Ukraine Recovery Conference in the bucolic lakeside town of Lugano. Swiss diplomats say the meeting aims try to map out a way forward for the world to help the war-battered country to recover and rebuild when Russia’s war ends one day.

Cassis was set to welcome Ukrainian Prime Minister Denys Shmyhal, leading a delegation of scores of Ukrainian ministers, lawmakers and others.

Public Eye said that “as a

safe haven for oligarchs close to the Kremlin and as a trading hub for Russian oil, grain and coal, Switzerland bears a big political responsibility.”

It said Switzerland has been over the years a “popular refuge” for Russian business magnates to park their assets. The group said firms use Switzerland as an “unregulated commodity trading hub” and exploit a lack of transparency about financial dealings in the country.

There was no immediate response from the Swiss government.

The group welcomed Switzerland’s “humanitarian engagement” for Ukraine through the conference but called on the government to strictly implement international sanctions on Russian elites and their government, and better regulate its trading hub.

Switzerland is a major international financial center and its government has traditionally touted Swiss “neutrality” — which is enshrined in law — and Switzerland’s role as an intermediary between hostile countries and as a host of many international and U.N. Institutions.

The Swiss Bankers Association has estimated that the assets of Russian clients deposited in Switzerland’s banks total 150-200 billion Swiss francs (about USD 155-USD 210 billion), making the country a key repository of Russian money abroad.

‘Hell on earth’: Ukrainian soldiers describe eastern front

AP ■ BAKHMUT (UKRAINE)

Torched forests and cities burned to the ground. Colleagues with severed limbs. Bombardments so relentless the only option is to lie in a trench, wait and pray.

Ukrainian soldiers returning from the front lines in eastern Ukraine’s Donbas region — where Russia is waging a fierce offensive — describe life during what has turned into a grueling war of attrition as apocalyptic.

In interviews with The Associated Press, some complained of chaotic organization, desertions and mental health problems caused by relentless shelling. Others spoke of high morale, their colleagues’ heroism, and a commitment to keep fighting, even as the better-equipped Russians control more of the combat zone.

Lt. Volodymyr Nazarenko, 30, second-in-command of the Ukrainian National Guard’s Svoboda Battalion, was with troops who retreated from Sievierodonetsk under orders from military leaders. During a month-long battle, Russian tanks obliterated any potential defensive positions and turned a city with a prewar population of 101,000 into “a burnt-down desert,” he said.

“They shelled us every day. I do not want to lie about it. But these were barrages of ammunition at every building,” Nazarenko said. “The city was methodically leveled out.”

At the time, Sievierodonetsk was one of two major cities under Ukrainian control in Luhansk province, where pro-Russia separatists declared an unrecognized republic eight years ago. By the time the order to withdraw came on June 24, the Ukrainians were surrounded on three sides and mounting a defense from a chemical plant also sheltering civilians.

“If there was a hell on Earth somewhere, it was in Sievierodonetsk,” Artem Ruban, a soldier in Nazarenko’s battalion, said from the comparative safety of Bakhmut, 64 kilometers (40 miles) to the southwest of the since-captured city. “The inner strength of our boys allowed them to hold the city until the last moment.”

“Those were not human conditions they had to fight in. It is difficult to explain this to you here, what they feel like now or what it was like there,” Ruban said, blinking in the sunlight. “They were fighting until the end there. The task



was to destroy the enemy, no matter what.”

Nazarenko, who also fought in Kyiv and elsewhere in the east after Russia invaded Ukraine, considers the Ukrainian operation in Sievierodonetsk “a victory” despite the outcome. He said the defenders managed to limit casualties while stalling the Russian advance for much longer than expected, depleting Russia’s resources. “Their army incurred huge losses, and their attack potential was obliterated,” he said. Both the lieutenant and the soldier under his command expressed confidence that Ukraine would take back all occupied territories and defeat Russia. They insisted morale remained high. Other soldiers, most with no combat experience before the invasion, shared more pessimistic accounts while insisting on anonymity or using only their first names to discuss their experiences.

Oleksiy, a member of the Ukrainian army who started fighting against the Moscow-backed separatists in 2016, had just returned from the front with a heavy limp. He said he was wounded on the battlefield in Zolote, a town the Russians also have since occupied.

“On the TV, they are showing beautiful pictures of the front lines, the solidarity, the army, but the reality is very different” he said, adding he does not think the delivery of more Western weapons would change the course of the war.

His battalion started running out of ammunition within a few weeks, Oleksiy said. At one point, the relentless shelling kept the soldiers from standing up in the trenches, he said, exhaustion visible on his lined face.

Pope denies resignation rumours, hopes to visit Kyiv, Moscow

AP ■ ROME

Pope Francis has dismissed rumours he plans to resign anytime soon and that he hopes to visit Moscow and Kyiv after travelling to Canada later this month.

Francis also told Reuters in an interview published on Monday that the idea “never entered my mind” to announce a planned retirement at the end of the summer, though he repeated he might step down some day as Emeritus Pope Benedict XVI did in 2013.

He revealed that his knee trouble, which has caused him to use a wheelchair for over a month, was caused by a “small fracture” that occurred when he stepped awkwardly while the knee ligament was inflamed.

He said it is “slowly getting better” with laser and magnet therapy.



Francis was due to have visited Congo and South Sudan this week but had to cancel the trip because doctors said he needed more therapy. He said he was on board to travel to Canada July 24-30 and said he hoped to visit Russia and Ukraine sometime thereafter.

Lebanese PM criticises Hezbollah over drone provocation

AP ■ BEIRUT

Lebanon’s caretaker prime minister on Monday criticised the militant group Hezbollah for sending three unmanned aircraft over an Israeli gas installation last week, saying it was an unnecessarily risky action.

Najib Mikati’s comment came two days after Hezbollah launched three drones over the Karish gas field in the Mediterranean Sea.

The Israeli military said on Saturday said that it has shot down the three drones, before Hezbollah issued a statement saying they were unarmed and were sent on a reconnaissance mission. “The mission was accomplished and the message was received,” Hezbollah said.

Lebanon claims the Karish

gas field is disputed territory under ongoing maritime border negotiations, whereas Israel says it lies within its internationally recognized economic waters.

“Lebanon believes that any actions outside the state’s framework and diplomatic context while negotiations are taking place is unacceptable and exposes it to unnecessary risks,” Foreign Minister Abdallah Bouhabbib said, citing Mikati’s statement.

Israel and Hezbollah are bitter enemies that fought a monthlong war in the summer of 2006. Israel considers the group its most serious immediate threat, estimating it has some 150,000 rockets and missiles aimed at Israel.

The incident in the Karish gas field took place soon after

U.S. Mediator Amos Hochstein recently visited Lebanese and Israeli officials, as talks were advancing.

Mikati on Saturday told reporters that Lebanon had received “encouraging information” regarding the border dispute, but refused to comment until after he receives a “written official response to the suggestions by the Lebanese side.”

Negotiations between Lebanon and Israel to determine their maritime borders commenced in October 2020, when the two sides held indirect U.S.-mediated talks in southern Lebanon. Since taking over the mediation from late 2021, Hochstein has resorted to shuttle diplomacy with visits to both Beirut and Jerusalem.

Japan spots Chinese, Russian warships near disputed islands

AP ■ TOKYO

Japan protested to Beijing after spotting Chinese and Russian warships just outside its territorial waters around the disputed East China Sea islands on Monday.

Japan’s Defense Ministry said a Chinese frigate sailed inside the “contiguous zone,” just outside Japanese territorial waters around Senkaku Islands, which Beijing also claims and calls the Diaoyu, for several minutes Monday morning.

The Chinese warship’s presence was confirmed about 40 minutes after a Russian frigate had entered the waters for more than an hour, the ministry said.

It was not immediately clear what was behind the latest

Chinese-Russian military activity in the area. Japanese defense officials mentioned a possibility that the ships may have been there to avoid a typhoon.

Deputy Chief Cabinet Secretary Seiji Kihara said Japan lodged a protest expressing “grave concern” to Beijing over the incident. “The Senkaku islands are an inherent part of Japan’s territory historically and under international law.

“The government will deal with the matter calmly but firmly to protect the Japanese land, territorial waters and air space,” Kihara said. There was no violation of the territorial waters, he said.

In Beijing, China justified the frigate’s entry and criticized Tokyo’s protest. Chinese Foreign

Ministry spokesperson Zhao Lijian said the islands are Chinese territory.

“The activities of Chinese vessels in waters nearby are lawful and justified,” he said at a regular news conference. “Japan has no right to make such irresponsible remarks.”

Japan sees China’s increasingly assertive military activity in the East and South China seas as a threat to regional stability. Toyo is especially sensitive to Chinese activities near the disputed islands.

Kihara said that Monday’s incursion into the contiguous zone, which is between the territorial sea and the wider exclusive economic zone, by the Chinese warship was a fourth such event since June 2016.

PUBLIC NOTICE							
It is hereby notified for information of all concerned that the following members of the society resigned from society membership after the draw of lots conducted by the DDA on 30.03.2004 for allotment of flats, as per details below:							
1. Details of members who resigned from the Society Membership:-							
S. No.	M. No.	Name of Member	Father's / Husband's Name	Date of Resignation	Date of MC Approval	Date of Refund of Share Money	
1	125	Mrs. Sumitra Devi & Sumer Singh	Sumer Singh & Daya Nand	01.04.2004	02.04.2004	20.04.2004	
2	141	Ranbir Singh	Late Sh. Lekh Ram	01.04.2004	02.04.2004	31.05.2004	
3	147	Satvir Singh Shokeen	Late S.K. Shokeen	02.04.2004	02.04.2004	14.04.2004	
4	180	Waryam Kaur & Sh. Amarjeet Singh	Amarjeet Singh	13.06.2004	15.06.2004	23.07.2004	
5	102	Tejinder Singh Kohli	Joginder Singh Kohli	11.07.2004	12.07.2004	20.08.2004	
6	105	Ravinder Kumar Girdhar	Mohan Lal	28.08.2004	29.08.2004	22.09.2004	
7	157	Vivek Madan	S.L. Madan	11.09.2004	15.09.2004	25.11.2004	
8	160	Sonia Arora	Sanjay Arora	13.10.2004	15.10.2004	28.10.2004	
9	90	Dina Nath Bhayana	Hans Raj	17.11.2004	20.11.2004	20.12.2004	
2. The details of members enrolled in the society during 2004-05 against the above members who resigned from the society membership:-							
S. No.	M. No.	Flat No.	Name of Member	Father's / Husband's Name	Date of Application	Date of MC Approval	Date of Issuance of Share Certificate
1	181	904	Ashwani Kumar Arora	Late Sh. Bishamber Nath	23.04.2004	25.04.2004	01.05.2004
2	182	801	Smt. Bimla Nermal	Sh. Partap Singh	10.07.2004	12.07.2004	15.07.2004
3	183	106	Partap Singh Solanki	Late Sh. Raghubir Singh	10.07.2004	12.07.2004	15.07.2004
4	184	406	Shiv Shankar Dev	Sh. MadhBendra Dev	24.08.2004	25.08.2004	01.09.2004
5	185	407	Bhupender Kumar	Sh. Sowarn Dass	23.09.2004	25.09.2004	28.09.2004
6	186	302	Satpal Mittal	Sh. Deep Chand Mittal	05.10.2004	15.10.2004	01.11.2004
7	187	802	Smt. Janak Puri	Sh. Pawan Kumar Puri	05.11.2004	08.11.2004	08.11.2004
8	188	704	Rakesh Verma & Ms. Raji Verma	Sh. Rajiv Verma & Sh. Rakesh Verma	30.12.2004	08.01.2005	10.01.2005
The above information is being published for regularization of membership of the above-mentioned members of the society as per rules and onward transmission to the RCS/DDA for necessary action in the matter. Objections, if any, along with proper evidence in this regard, can be filed in writing duly addressed to the President/Secretary, at the office of he society in the Society premises.							
PRESIDENT - SAKSHAM APARTMENTS, NIJI CO-OP. GROUP HOUSING SOCIETY LTD. Mobile: 98715414430 Plot No. 40-B, Sector-10, Dwarka, New Delhi -110075							

INDAG

INDAG RUBBER LIMITED
(CIN: L74899DL1978PLC009038)
Regd. Office: 11, Community Centre, Saket, New Delhi - 110017.
Ph. No. 011-26963172/73, E-mail Id.: info@indagrubber.com, Website: www.indagrubber.com

NOTICE OF THE 43RD ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING AND REMOTE E-VOTING INFORMATION

Notice is hereby given that the 43rd Annual General Meeting ("AGM") of the members of the Company will be held on Thursday, July 28, 2022 at 03:00 P.M. through Video Conferencing ("VC") Other Audio Visual Means ("OAVM") facility only including e-voting/remote e-voting without the physical presence of the members at a common venue to transact the business as set out in the Notice of AGM dated April 23, 2022; in compliance with all the applicable provisions of the Companies Act, 2013 and the Rules made thereunder and SEBI (Listing Obligations and Disclosure Requirements) Regulations, 2015 ("Listing Regulations") read with General Circular Nos. 14/2020, 17/2020, 20/2020, 02/2021, 19/2021, 21/2021 and 2/2022 dated 8th April 2020, 13th April 2020, 5th May 2020, 13th January, 2021, December 08, 2021, December 14, 2021 and May 05, 2022 respectively, issued by the Ministry of Corporate Affairs ("MCA Circulars") and Circular No. SEBI/HO/CFD/CMD1/CIR/P/2020/79, Circular No. SEBI/HO/CFD/CMD2/CIR/P/2021/11 and Circular No. SEBI/HO/CFD/CMD2/CIR/P/2022/62 dated 12th May 2020, January 15, 2021 and May 13, 2022 respectively, issued by the Securities and Exchange Board of India ("SEBI Circulars") (collectively referred to as "relevant circulars").

In compliance with the relevant circulars, the Company has sent the Notice of AGM along with Explanatory Statement and Annual Report for the Financial Year 2021-2022 on July 04, 2022 through electronic mode to all the members whose name appear in Register of Members as on July 01, 2022 and whose email addresses are registered with the Company/Registrar and Share Transfer Agent (RTA)/Depository Participant(s). The Notice of AGM and Annual Report for the Financial Year 2021-2022 are also available on the website of the company www.indagrubber.com under the head "Investors Relation" and on the website of BSE Limited at www.bseindia.com and on the website of NSDL at www.evoting.nsdl.com. Members can attend and participate in the ensuing AGM through VC/OAVM only and such Members shall be reckoned for the purpose of quorum under Section 103 of the Companies Act, 2013.

The Register of Members and Share Transfer Books shall remain closed from Friday, July 22, 2022 to Thursday, July 28, 2022 (both days inclusive) for the purpose of AGM and determining entitlement of the Shareholders for Final Dividend for the Financial Year 2021-2022.

REMOTE E-VOTING

In accordance with the provisions of Section 108 of the Companies Act, 2013 read with Rule 20 of the Companies (Management and Administration) Rules, 2014 and Regulation 44 of the SEBI (LODR) Regulations, 2015, the Company has availed services of National Securities Depository Limited (NSDL) to provide Electronic Voting Facility to its members. Members may please note below with respect to the remote e-voting services as availed by the Company -

(i) the ordinary and the special business as set out in the Notice of AGM may be transacted through remote e-voting which shall commence from July 25, 2022 at 9:00 am and end on July 27, 2022 at 5:00 pm.

(ii) A person whose name appears in the Register of Members/ Beneficial Owners as on the cut-off date of July 21, 2022 only shall be entitled to avail the facility of remote e-voting as well as voting electronically at the AGM by selecting EVEN number of the company.

(iii) Any person who have acquired shares and become members of the company after sending of AGM Notice in electronic form but before the cut-off date of July 21, 2022, may obtain their user ID and password for remote e-voting from the Company RTA at admin@skylinertea.com or NSDL at evoting@nsdl.co.in. However, if the person is already registered with NSDL for remote e-voting then the existing user ID and password can be used for casting vote.

(iv) The remote e-voting shall be disabled by NSDL after July 27, 2022 at 5:00 pm and no voting shall allowed after the said time and date.

(v) The facility of e-voting will also be made available at the AGM on all the resolutions as set out in the Notice of 43rd AGM. The procedure to cast the vote through e-voting system of NSDL has been described in the Notice of AGM.

(vi) Those members, attending the AGM through VC/OAVM facility and who have not casted their vote on the Resolutions through Remote e-voting shall be eligible to vote through e-voting system during the AGM.

(vii) A member may participate in the AGM after exercising his vote through remote e-voting but shall not be allowed to vote again in the AGM.

(viii) The documents as may be required for members' inspection will be available electronically for inspection without any fee during the AGM.

(ix) In case of any queries, members may refer the Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) for Shareholders and e-Voting user manual for Shareholders available at the download section of www.evoting.nsdl.com or call on toll free no.: 1800 1020 990 and 1800 2244 30 or send a request at evoting@nsdl.co.in or contact Ms. Pallavi Mhatre, Manager or Ms. Soni Singh, Asst. Manager, National Securities Depository Limited, Trade World, 'A' Wing, 4th Floor, Kamala Mills Compound, Senapati Bapat Marg, Lower Parel, Mumbai - 400 013, at the designated email id - evoting@nsdl.co.in or pallavi@nsdl.co.in or SoniS@nsdl.co.in or at telephone nos.: +91 22 24994545, +91 22 24994559, who will also address the grievances connected with voting by electronic means. Members may also write to the Company Secretary at info@indagrubber.com

The details of the said meeting are also available on the website of the Company www.indagrubber.com and the website of BSE Limited www.bseindia.com.

For Indag Rubber Limited
Sd/-
Manali D. Bijlani
Company Secretary

Place: New Delhi
Date: July 04, 2022

Govt committed to 6.4% fiscal deficit target for 22-23: Sources

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

India's macroeconomic fundamentals are strong to deal with global challenges and the central government is committed to sticking to the fiscal deficit target of 6.4 per cent of the GDP for the current fiscal, official sources said on Monday. The government is taking steps to deal with the spiralling crude oil prices in the international market, the sources said.

India meets nearly 85 per cent of its oil demand through imports and a weaker rupee makes imports costlier.

Commodity prices, including of crude oil, are ruling high due to the ongoing Russia-Ukraine war and have led to inflationary pressures across countries, including India.

The government is committed to adhering to the fiscal consolidation path and the Budget this year has pegged the fiscal deficit at 6.4 per cent of the GDP, sources said, adding that steps are being taken to address the situation arising out of rising crude oil prices.

While acknowledging that there are strong global headwinds, the sources said the country's macroeconomic fundamentals are strong enough to deal with challenges.



Sources said that the current account deficit (CAD) is expected to be high as crude oil prices are high.

For the past several years, sources said, India had low CAD but this year there is headwind on that front. However, the macroeconomic situation and forex reserve are better than in the past.

On the rupee depreciation, sources said the dollar is appreciating vis-a-vis all other currencies and appreciation vis-a-vis rupee has been the

least among the peers.

There is no comfortable level for the rupee in mind but market forces would decide the stable value, sources said, adding that monetary authority does intervene in the forex market to smoothen out sharp volatility.

Asked about the government's recent measures to impose taxes on fuel and gold, sources said the government is taking a part of the windfall profit from unexpectedly high prices. The government

imposed a Rs 23,250 per tonne tax levied on crude oil produced domestically.

The domestic crude producers sell crude to domestic refineries at international parity prices. As a result, domestic crude producers are making windfall gains. Taking this into account, a cess of Rs 23,250 per tonne has been imposed on crude. Import of crude oil would not be subject to this cess.

Additionally, a Rs 6 per litre tax on the export of petrol

and ATF and Rs 13 per litre tax on the export of diesel is effective from July 1.

On the revenue mobilisation from these measures, sources said, it is difficult to put a number.

Calculations are based on assumption, sources said, adding that no one can say what would be the price of crude oil tomorrow.

Sources also said that curbs on exports of some items have been imposed to cool down prices in the domestic market.

Sensex snaps 3-day losing run amid firm global cues; bank, FMCG stocks shine

PTI ■ MUMBAI

Equity indices regained footing on Monday after a three-session losing streak as investors snapped up banking, FMCG and IT stocks amid a positive trend overseas.

However, a lacklustre rupee and unabated foreign fund outflows capped the gains.

Overcoming a choppy start, the 30-share BSE Sensex gained momentum as the session progressed to close 326.84 points or 0.62 per cent higher at 53,234.77.

Similarly, the broader NSE Nifty rose 83.30 points or 0.53 per cent to 15,835.35.

Hindustan Unilever topped the Sensex gainers' chart with a leap of 4.03 per cent, followed by IndusInd Bank, ITC, ICICI Bank, PowerGrid, Axis Bank and SBI.

In contrast, TCS, Tata Steel, Mahindra & Mahindra, Dr Reddy's, Tech Mahindra and Wipro closed with losses of up to 2.46 per cent.

Market breadth was in favour of the bulls, with 24 of the 30 Sensex counters logging gains.

"Bulls rebounded sharply in the late session after firm European market sentiment coupled with fall in crude oil prices... Cheered investors. Despite the recovery, bearish-to-volatile sentiment will continue to prevail as FII outflows have remained buoyant, which is creating nervousness amongst the investors," said Shrikant Chouhan, Head of Equity Research (Retail), Kotak Securities Ltd.



Vinod Nair, Head of Research at Geojit Financial Services, said, "As we step towards the new earnings season, the prime focus of the market will turn towards quarterly numbers and updated guidance for the new financial year."

In the broader market, the BSE midcap gauge gained 0.82 per cent and the smallcap index climbed 0.59 per cent.

Among the BSE sectoral indices, FMCG gained the most by 2.49 per cent, followed by bank (1.08 per cent), capital goods (0.97 per cent), consumer durables (0.82 per cent) and industrials (0.74 per cent).

Energy, healthcare, IT, auto, metal, oil & gas and tech were the laggards. Global markets began the

second half of 2022 on a firm note, despite overhanging concerns about inflation, economic recovery and rate hikes by central banks.

In Asia, markets in Tokyo and Shanghai ended in the green, while Seoul and Hong Kong settled lower.

European bourses were trading in the positive zone in mid-session deals. The US markets were closed for a holiday.

Meanwhile, international oil benchmark Brent crude dipped 0.50 per cent to USD 111 per barrel.

The rupee paired its early losses and settled on a flat note at 78.94 (provisional) against the US dollar on Monday.

Foreign institutional investors (FIIs) remained net sellers in the capital market, as they sold shares worth Rs 2,324.74 crore on Friday, as per exchange data.

Highest 28% GST on luxury, sin goods to continue: Revenue Secy

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The Government intends to continue with the top GST slab of 28 per cent for luxury and sin goods, but is open to discuss narrowing down the three slabs of 5, 12 and 18 per cent into two, Revenue Secretary Tarun Bajaj said on Monday.

Addressing the industry leaders, Bajaj said the rate rationalisation exercise of the GST Council is a result of introspection of GST, five years after its rollout, and the policymakers do not have a "fetish" to raise the tax rates to the revenue-neutral level of 15.5 per cent.

On the industry demand for bringing petroleum products under GST net, he said since fuel constitutes a larger part of their revenues, both the Centre and states have some apprehension. "We will have to wait for some time."

"Of the 5, 12, 18 and 28 per cent, we would have to continue with 28 per cent because in a developing economy, in an economy with so much of income disparity, there would be some luxury and sin items

that would and should attract a higher rate of taxation.

"But, whether on 5, 12 and 18 (per cent), we can bring down to 2 rates to start with and then see how the country grows and whether there is a capacity to bring it to one rate or not is something to be seen. It is a very difficult challenge," Bajaj said at an ASSOCHAM event.

Under the GST, a four-rate structure that exempts or imposes a low rate of tax of 5 per cent on essential items and a top rate of 28 per cent on cars is levied. The other slabs of tax are 12 and 18 per cent.

Besides, there is a special 3 per cent rate for gold, jewellery and precious stones and 1.5 per cent on cut and polished diamonds.

Also, a cess is levied on the highest tax slab of 28 per cent on luxury, sin and demerit goods. The collection from the cess goes to a separate corpus - Compensation fund - which is used to make up for revenue loss suffered by the state due to the GST rollout.

The GST Council has set up a Group of Ministers (GoM), under Karnataka Chief Minister



Basavaraj Bommai, to suggest rationalisation in tax rates, merging of slabs, reviewing the exempt list and correcting duty inversion in cases where taxes on final output in lower than that in inputs. The GoM has been given 3-month more time to submit a final report.

As per an RBI study, the weighted average tax rate under the Goods and Services Tax (GST) has come down to 11.6 per cent, from 14.4 per cent at the time of its launch.

The revenue-neutral rate under the GST should be about 15.5 per cent, as per the

Subramanian Committee report, submitted before the GST launch.

The GST Council, based on the interim GoM report last month, had removed tax exemptions on a host of items, including pre-packed and labelled wheat flour, paneer,

curd, and lassi, while correcting inverted duties on items like LED lamps, solar water heaters.

"We keep talking of RNR at 15.5 per cent and the present rate being 11.6, may be gone up to 11.8 or 11.9 per cent with inverted duties being removed. What is it? are we looking at we should reach a rate of 15 per cent? I really do not think there is any fetish in the minds of policymakers that we have to reach that particular rate," Bajaj said.

The secretary said this is the time after five years to introspect and see how the GST rate structures have panned out, whether there is a need to lessen the number of rates than what they presently are and what are the commodities that can go into higher rates and which can come into lower rates.

"I think, we as policymakers and states now are looking at GST from this eye and not having this objective that I have to somehow increase rates in some commodities to reach that 15 per cent odd rate," Bajaj added.

Guj, K'taka best States in providing strong ecosystem for startups

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Gujarat and Karnataka have been ranked as the best performers in developing startup ecosystem for budding entrepreneurs, according to the ranking of states and Union territories by the department for promotion of industry and internal trade (DPIIT).

Among smaller states having population of less than one crore, Meghalaya has been adjudged as the best performer.

The rankings are based on the initiatives taken to develop the startup ecosystem for promoting budding entrepreneurs.

For the third time in a row, Gujarat was ranked as the best performer.

The exercise is aimed at supporting states and Union territories (UTs) in developing their startup ecosystem and learning from each other's best practices.

A total of 24 states and 7 UTs participated in the exercise, which ranked them under five categories -- best performers, top performers, leaders, aspiring leaders and emerging startup ecosystems.

The states and UTs were also ranked under these five

categories based on the population of less than one crore.

Kerala, Maharashtra, Odisha, Telangana and Jammu and Kashmir were categorised as the top performers.

Punjab, Tamil Nadu, Uttarakhand, Uttar Pradesh, Andaman and Nicobar Islands, Arunachal Pradesh, and Goa are in the leaders category.

States and UTs in the aspiring leaders' category include Chhattisgarh, Delhi, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan, Chandigarh, Puducherry and Nagaland. According to the ranking, the emerging startup ecosystems category includes Andhra Pradesh, Bihar, Mizoram and Ladakh.

They were evaluated across seven reform areas consisting of 26 action points, ranging from institutional support, fostering innovation, access to market, incubation and funding support.

DPIIT Secretary Anurag Jain said that the exercise plays a crucial role in easing the business environment for startups in the country.

The states' startup ranking 2021 was released by Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal here.

Govt to review oil export, windfall tax based on forex rate, int'l oil prices every fortnight

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The government will review the just introduced windfall tax on domestically produced crude oil and fuel exports every two weeks based on foreign currency rates and international oil prices, but no levels have been fixed for its recall, top officials said on Monday.

Revenue Secretary Tarun Bajaj said the USD 40 per barrel level of oil prices being talked about for a rollback of the levy is unrealistic, considering the international oil rates currently.

The review is based on the premise that if crude prices fall, then windfall gains will cease and new taxes would be rollback.

"There is a way we will monitor it every 2 weeks, depending on the foreign currency rates and depending on



where the international prices are," Bajaj said.

"What is the dollar to rupee, the international price of diesel, crude, what is the domestic cost of crude, will keep reviewing it. You can decipher it yourself once we review it."

The government last week slapped an export tax on petrol, diesel and jet fuel (ATF) and imposed a windfall tax on crude oil produced locally.

'Green' contactless management app

New Delhi: With the world going digital, businesses are inventing new ways to engage on a reliable resource which is helpful for not only businesses to grow but should be environment friendly. Navinn Kapur, MD and co-founder, said, CardByte is India's first

contactless contact management and networking platform that aims to streamline business networking & CRM processes by leveraging the power of Artificial Intelligence. Till date more than 20,000 people have downloaded the app and availed its services.

DoT warns e-commerce firms on illegal sale of wireless jammers, network boosters

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The Department of Telecom has warned e-commerce platforms against selling some telecom gears like wireless jammers and network boosters that require government permission for sale, an official statement said on Monday.

The DoT has raised the issue several times in the last 4-5 years and even conducted raids to check illegal sales of these equipment.

"It has been stated that the

use of cellular signal jammers, GPS blocker or other signal jamming devices is generally illegal, except specifically permitted by the government of India. Private sector organizations and/or private individuals cannot procure or use jammers in India," DoT said in a statement.

It has also been stated that it is unlawful to advertise, sell, distribute, import or otherwise market signal jamming devices in India, except as permitted under the guidelines men-



Exports rise 16.78% to USD 37.94 bn in Jun; trade deficit at record USD 25.63 bn

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

India's merchandise exports in June rose by 16.78 per cent year-on-year to USD 37.94 billion while the trade deficit ballooned to a record USD 25.63 billion, according to the government's preliminary data released on Monday.

Imports expanded by 51 per cent to USD 63.58 billion in June compared to the year-ago

month, the data showed.

The trade deficit stood at USD 9.61 billion in June 2021.

Cumulative exports in April-June 2022-23 rose by about 22.22 per cent to USD 116.77 billion while imports increased 47.31 per cent to USD 187.02 billion during the period. The trade deficit during the first three months of this fiscal widened to USD 70.25 billion from USD 31.42 billion in the year-ago period.

GST on pre-packed labelled food items to increase traders' compliance burden, raise prices: CAIT

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Traders' body CAIT on Monday said the decision to levy 5 per cent GST on pre-packed and labelled food items will cause loss of business to foodgrain traders, increase compliance burden and raise the prices of unbranded everyday essentials.

Confederation of All India Traders (CAIT) said it will appeal to Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman and the GST Council to reconsider the decision.

Pre-packed and labelled food items like meat, fish, curd, paneer and honey will now attract GST.

This comes after the GST Council last week accepted most of the recommendations of a group of ministers from states on withdrawing exemptions to rationalising the levy.

CAIT Secretary General Praveen Khandelwal said that to protest against this decision of the GST Council, the traders' delegation will meet state finance ministers and hand over a memorandum to them.

He said there is a lot of anger and outrage among the foodgrain traders on the recommendation of the GST Council for bringing all types of pre-packed and pre-labelled foodgrains and other items under the GST tax slab of 5 per cent, which will cause a huge loss of business to foodgrain traders across the country.

"This decision will empower big brands to capture the market at the cost of small manufacturers and traders. Special food items, cereals, etc, which were not branded till now, were

exempted from GST. "With this decision of the council, pre-packaged and pre-labelled retail packs, including pre-packaged, pre-labelled curd, lassi and buttermilk, will now attract GST tax and will cause huge damage to the business of foodgrain traders in more than 6,500 grain markets across the country," Khandelwal said.

Addressing a press conference here, CAIT's National President BC Bhartia said this decision will not only increase the burden of compliance and cost to the traders.

DJOKER IN 13th WIMBLEDON QF

Sania, partner in last 8



AP ■ LONDON

Six-time champion Novak Djokovic overcame a mid-match blip to defeat Dutch wild card Tim van Rijthoven and reach his 13th Wimbledon quarter-final on Sunday.

Top seed Djokovic, looking to equal Pete Sampras as a seven-time champion at the All England Club, downed his 104th-ranked opponent 6-2, 4-6, 6-1, 6-2.

The Serb will face 10th seeded Jannik Sinner for a place in the semi-finals after the Italian knocked out Spanish teenager Carlos Alcaraz.

Djokovic cruised through the opening set under the Centre Court roof with breaks in the second and eighth games.

However, Van Rijthoven stunned the 20-time Grand Slam title winner by levelling the contest, pocketing the second set with his 13th ace of the tie.

Normal service was resumed, however, in a 30-minute third set on the back of a double break for the champion.

Two further breaks against the wilting Dutchman, who ended the contest with 53 unforced errors, proved enough for Djokovic in the fourth set.

SINNER STUNS ALCARAZ

Italy's Jannik Sinner stunned Spanish teenager Carlos Alcaraz to reach the Wimbledon quarter-finals for the first time.

The 20-year-old triumphed 6-1, 6-4, 6-7 (8/10), 6-3 to become the youngest man in the last-eight since Nick Kyrgios in 2014.

Sinner had never won a grass court match until this year's Wimbledon.

But now he goes on to face defending champion Novak Djokovic for a spot in the semi-finals.

The 10th-seeded Italian needed six match points to seal the deal while 19-year-old Alcaraz was left to regret failing to convert six break points in the fourth set.

"Carlos is a very tough opponent and a nice person. It's always a huge pleasure to play him," said Sinner after making the quarter-finals of a Grand Slam for the third time.

Sinner swept through the first two sets and appeared on course for a routine win until Alcaraz played a thrilling third set tie-break.

The Spaniard saw three set points come and go before having to save two match points, the second of which came courtesy of

Sinner taking a wild swipe off a second serve.

He converted a fourth set point, much to the delight of the Centre Court crowd.

Goffin, who also made the quarters on his last appearance in 2019, came out on top 7-6 (7/3), 5-7, 5-7, 6-4, 7-5 after four hours and 36 minutes on Court Two.

The world number 58 fired 18 aces and a total of 59 winners past the 23rd-seeded Tiafoe.

Goffin missed Wimbledon in 2021 after suffering an ankle injury before a knee problem forced him to shut down his season after the US Open.

"For me, it's almost like a back-to-back quarter-final because I didn't play last year and 2020 was closed with Covid," said Goffin.

Before this year, his most recent match at Wimbledon was a sobering quarter-final defeat to eventual champion Novak Djokovic, who allowed him just six games.

"Last year was a tough year for me with some injuries. I stopped for four or five months at the end of the year," said the 31-year-old, a former world number seven player.

"At the beginning of the year I had to fight to stay positive to come back to my best level.

"The last few months were much better. To reach a quarter-final again this year in Wimbledon means a lot."

Goffin goes on to meet Britain's Cameron Norrie for a place in the semi-finals.

Arab and African players.

"I wish I could really give that message to the young generation not just from my country but from the African continent," she said.

"I want to see more players here. I want them to believe more in themselves and believe they can be here.

"I don't come from a rich family so you have to stop finding excuses and just go for it, enjoy it."

LONGEST MATCH

Belgium's David Goffin defeated Frances Tiafoe of the United States in the longest match at this year's Wimbledon to reach the quarter-finals.

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Goffin goes on to meet Britain's Cameron Norrie for a place in the semi-finals.



AP ■ LONDON

Indian tennis ace Sania Mirza and her Croatian partner Mate Pavic reached the Wimbledon 2022 mixed doubles quarterfinals after receiving a walkover in their Round of 16 match.

Sania and Pavic, one-half of the Tokyo 2020 men's doubles champions, were set to face Ivan Dodig and Latisha Chan in the pre-quarters. They will now take on either the Australian-Canadian pair of John Peers and Gabriela

Dabrowski or Brazil's Bruno Soares and Beatriz Haddad Maia in the quarterfinals.

The Indian and her Croatian partner had beaten Spain's David Vega Hernandez and Ntela Dzalamidze of Georgia 6-4, 3-6, 7-6(3) in the first round.

Elsewhere, Venus Williams and Jamie Murray's mixed doubles run at 2022 Wimbledon came to an end after losing to the all-British pairing of Alicia Barnett and Jonny O'Mara.

In a battle between two wildcard teams, the all-British pairing of Barnett and O'Mara edged former Doubles World No 1 players Williams and Murray, 3-6, 6-4, 7-6(18-16) in a two-hour and 12-minute clash on No 2 Court. The fledgling partnership had five match points in an epic deciding tie-break but ended up losing it 18-16.

Williams, 42, had not played competitively since last August but asked for a wild card to appear at the Gland Slam for the 24th year.

In other mixed doubles results from Sunday, Americans Coco Gauff and Jack Sock reached the quarterfinals with a 6-4, 7-6(3) win over No 3 seeds Zhang Shuai and Nicolas Mahut. Gauff and Sock never encountered a breakpoint in their one-hour and 15-minute victory.

And Samantha Stosur was a first-round winner, as she and her fellow Aussie Matthew Ebden defeated Ulrikke Eikeri and Joran Vliegen 4-6, 7-6(6), 6-4.

Novak sees Sinner in himself

AP ■ LONDON

Novak Djokovic admits he can see a lot of Jannik Sinner in himself as the pair face off for a place in the Wimbledon semi-finals on Tuesday.

Six-time defending champion Djokovic is in familiar territory, targeting an 11th semi-final at the All England Club and 43rd at the Slams.

Italian 20-year-old Sinner is yet to get past the quarter-finals of a major.

"I kind of see a little bit of myself in his game from the back of the court, playing flat backhand, constantly staying on the back of the line, trying to put pressure on opponents," said Djokovic.

The Serb easily won the pair's only previous meeting in straight sets on clay in Monte Carlo last year.

But beanpole Sinner impressively dismissed Spanish teenager Carlos Alcaraz in the last 16 on Sunday, saving all seven break points faced.

Sinner has been breaking new ground since his teens.

In 2021, he became the youngest player in the year-end top 10 since Juan Martin del Potro in 2008.



Earlier in the year, still 19, he became the first teenager to win an ATP 500-level event in Washington.

He was also the first Italian finalist in the history of the Miami Masters last year.

Physical frailties, however, are never far away.

He had to retire from his fourth-

round match against Andrey Rublev at the French Open last month with a knee injury.

In Miami, foot blisters forced a pull-out when facing Francisco Cerundolo while illness in Indian Wells meant he handed a walkover to Nick Kyrgios.

By making the last eight at

Wimbledon, Sinner follows in the footsteps of Matteo Berrettini, who was runner-up to Djokovic last year.

Berrettini was the first Italian man to reach the Wimbledon quarter-finals since Davide Sanguinetti in 1998.

"It's going to be a tough match against Novak, of course. I mean, he's playing very, very good. I will try my best. That's the minimum I can do," said Sinner.

Djokovic will hope the Wimbledon schedulers are kind to him after he hit out at having to play the last match on Centre Court on Sunday.

His four-set win over Tim van Rijthoven ended just in time to avoid the 11:00 pm local curfew.

Had the match gone on, Djokovic would have had to return on Monday.

"I don't see a reason why there wouldn't be an earlier start," said Djokovic of a Centre Court programme that starts at 1:30 pm.

"If you're scheduled last on the Centre, you're going to end up a match under the roof, which changes the conditions, the style of play, the way you move on the court.

Arsenal sign Gabriel Jesus from Man City



AP ■ LONDON

Arsenal have completed the signing of Manchester City forward Gabriel Jesus for a fee of around £45 million (\$54 million), the London club announced on Monday.

Jesus, who scored 95 goals in 236 appearances for City, has signed a "long-term contract" with Arsenal after deciding to leave the Premier League champions in search of more regular first-team action.

The Brazil international is reunited with Arsenal manager Mikel Arteta, who was Pep Guardiola's assistant at City before he took charge at the Emirates Stadium.

"I'm very excited. The club has done a tremendous job to recruit a player of this stature," Arteta said.

"This is a position that's been on our radar for a long time now and we have managed to get a player that we all wanted, so I'm really happy."

Jesus was expected to fall down the pecking order at City had he stayed for the final year of his contract as the champions have bolstered their striking options with the signings of Erling Haaland and Julian Alvarez.

Admitting Arteta's presence at the Emirates was influential in his decision to join the Gunners, Jesus said: "We spoke a couple of times about the club, the players, the project and the future.

"I believe 100 percent in Mikel. I had a very good time with him before, he's a very good guy and a very good coach as well.

"He's a very intelligent guy and was an amazing player, so if he knows something he can teach me or the young players."

Arsenal have let senior strikers Pierre-Emerick Aubameyang and Alexandre Lacazette leave the club for free in the past six months.

Despite handing Eddie Nketiah a new five-year deal, Jesus is expected to lead the line for Arteta's men as the Gunners aim to end a six-year absence from the Champions League.

CR7 MISSES FOR 'FAMILY REASONS'

Manchester: Cristiano Ronaldo missed training with Manchester United on Monday due to "family reasons", just days after the Portugal star reportedly told the club he wants to leave.

United players who had been away on international duty over the close-season were scheduled to meet up with the rest of the squad on Monday.

But, according to British media reports, Ronaldo did not attend, with his reason for failing to appear at United's training ground accepted by the club.

However, the 37-year-old's absence will be interpreted as the latest salvo in his bid to engi-

neer a move away from Old Trafford.

KESSIE JOINS BARCA

Barcelona: Barcelona on Monday announced the signing of Ivory Coast midfielder Franck Kessie on a free transfer from Italian champions AC Milan.

"The player will sign a contract until 30 June 2026 and his buy out clause will be set at 500 million euros (\$523 million)," Barcelona said in a statement.

Kessie, 25, spent the past five years in Milan after first arriving in Italy when he joined Atalanta in 2015.

Kalvin Phillips joins Citizens

AP ■ MANCHESTER

Manchester City have signed Leeds midfielder Calvin Phillips in a £45 million deal (\$53 million), the Premier League champions confirmed on Monday.

City agreed an initial fee of £42 million for the England international, with a further £3 million to be added in potential bonuses.

Phillips, who has signed a six-year contract with Pep Guardiola's side, said: "I am absolutely delighted to have joined Manchester City."

Guardiola has picked Phillips to bolster his midfield after the departure of long-serving Brazilian Fernandinho at the end of last season.

City negotiated a deal in principle to sign Phillips in June and the transfer has now been officially completed.

Phillips, who came through the youth ranks at Leeds, moves to the Etihad Stadium after making 235 appearances for his hometown club over the past eight seasons.

"City have again proved to be the best team in the country with an amazing squad and a manager in Pep Guardiola who is rightly considered to be the finest in the world," Phillips said.

"To be able to play under Pep and learn from him and his



coaching staff as well as be part of such a fantastic squad is a prospect that I am incredibly excited about

"City are a world-class club with world-class staff and facilities and it's a dream come true to have joined the club."

Phillips is City's third close-season arrival after the signings of Borussia Dortmund striker Erling Haaland and Arminia

Bielefeld goalkeeper Stefan Ortega Moreno.

The 26-year-old came through the youth ranks at Leeds and played a key part in their promotion back to the Premier League two years ago.

He went on to establish himself as an England international, featuring in the run to the European Championship final last year.

F1 salutes FIA and 'halo' for saving two lives at Silverstone



AP ■ SILVERSTONE

In a season of technical strife and tension, Formula One United on Monday and saluted the sport's ruling body and its 'halo' device for saving two lives in horrific accidents during the British Grand Prix.

In a spectacular race won by Ferrari's Carlos Sainz, Chinese rookie Zhou Guanyu survived a high-speed opening lap crash in which he was sent bouncing and scraping upside down across asphalt and gravel into the barriers.

His Alfa Romeo car was severely damaged, but the 23-year-old driver survived unhurt and conscious thanks to the once-controversial 'halo' cockpit protection device, made from titanium, which had earlier also saved the life of a Formula Two driver.

Zhou's remarkable survival, without a scratch, enabled the sport to push aside arguments over 'ground effect' technology, bumpy and porpoising cars and mid-season threats of looming rule changes in praise of something more important.

The 'halo' was pioneered by the International Motoring Federation (FIA), led by Charlie Whiting, the long-serving race director and safety delegate, who died suddenly at the Australian Grand Prix in 2019.

He overcame opposition from traditionalists, including seven-time world champion Lewis Hamilton and Mercedes team chief Toto Wolff who wanted to retain the purity and danger of open cockpits.

Wolff said he wanted to "take a chain saw" to the device, introduced in 2018, but both men have since changed their views.

Before Sunday's stunning evidence, the 'halo' had helped save several other drivers from serious injury or worse in recent years including Charles Leclerc at the 2018 Belgian Grand Prix, Romain Grosjean at the 2020 Bahrain Grand Prix and Hamilton at last year's Italian event when he collided with title rival and eventual champion Max Verstappen.

At Silverstone, it was Zhou who escaped after being trapped in his car just seconds after the race had started as it landed on its side in the fencing at the 240-kph Abbey Curve.

"I'm ok, all clear," he tweeted. "Halo saved me today. Thanks everyone for your kind messages."

Man Utd agree deal to sign Eriksen

AP ■ LONDON

Manchester United have agreed a deal in principle to sign Denmark midfielder Christian Eriksen on a free transfer, according to reports on Monday.

United manager Erik ten Hag made the three-year contract offer to Eriksen after the Dane's impressive comeback with Brentford.

The 30-year-old is reported to have a verbal agreement with United and will officially complete his move to Old Trafford after a medical.

Eriksen's impending switch to United completes an incredible return after his brush with death last year.



He had a cardiac arrest on the pitch in Copenhagen while playing for Denmark at the European Championship and was forced to leave Inter Milan after recovering due to Serie A health regulations.

Eriksen, fitted with a implantable cardioverter defibrillator, proved his form and fitness during a loan spell at Brentford in the second half of last season.

He played 11 times in the Premier League for Brentford, scoring once and providing four assists.

Eriksen was also targeted by his former club Tottenham, but was impressed by Ten Hag after training with Ajax as part of his return to football following the cardiac arrest.

India 7 wkts away from win, Eng 119 runs

PTI ■ BIRMINGHAM

Joe Root and Jonny Bairstow put England on course for a ground-breaking run chase against India despite Jasprit Bumrah's brilliance on day four of the rescheduled fifth Test, setting up a fitting series finale here on Monday.

Skipper Bumrah brought India back in the game with wickets on either side of the lunch break after England openers Alex Lees (56 off 65) and Zak Crawley (46 off 76) finally found form and shared a 107-run stand chasing a record 378-run target.

From 107 for loss, it soon became 109 for three before the dangerous duo of Root (76 batting off 112) and Bairstow (72 batting off 87) frustrated the Indians with a commanding 150-run partnership off just 197 balls.

England were 259 for three at stumps on day four, needing a very gettable 119 runs for a series levelling victory.

Though the wicket did not offer much help, Indian bowlers were unable to maintain pressure on the English batters who played with the aggression that has become hallmark of the Ben Stokes-Brendon McCullum's school of cricket.

It also helped that India deployed very defensive spread out field, letting England batters rotated the strike with elan.

Bairstow, who is in the form of his life, was dropped on 14 by Hanuma Vihari and he made India pay dearly for it.

With Ben Stokes and Sam Billing still to come, India will need something special to pull off a win from here. India's bowling performance in the second innings was reminiscent of their struggles in South Africa where they failed to defend target twice after winning the series opener.

India could have made England



chase in excess of 400 on day five if it was not for some poor shot selection. After starting the day at 125 for three, India were all out for 245 in the second innings.

India had very little going for themselves in the final session barring

with the first two overs. Bumrah had Ollie Pope caught behind before Lees was run out after Root went for a single that was not for the taking.

After that, it was Root and Bairstow show as they scored runs at will.

Under-fire England openers Lees and Crawley had also displayed a lot of positive intent to take England to 107 for one at tea.

India managed to get the breakthrough towards the end of session with Bumrah cleaning up Zak

Crawley (46 off 76), who misjudged a leave, when a delivery darted in from length.

India could only consume 8.5 overs after lunch. The tail did not wag compared to first innings but specialist batters gifting their wickets away prevented India from getting a lead in excess of 400.

Chasing a record target, England came out all guns blazing and raced to 53 for no loss in nine overs with Lees collecting two fours off Ravindra Jadeja in his very first over. He stepped out of the crease to hit the first one past mid-off while the second came from a reverse sweep.

Crawley got going with a flick towards square leg off Jasprit Bumrah before a crisp straight drive off Mohammad Shami.

Lees got to his second Test fifty in the following over with a classy back foot punch off Mohammad Siraj.

Siraj resorted to bowling with a scrambled seam but that also did not put the openers in any sort of discomfort.

Earlier, India gifted easy wickets to England but Rishabh Pant's half-century allowed them to extend their lead to 361 runs by lunch session.

Overnight batters Cheteshwar Pujara (66 off 168) and Pant (57 off 86) made a confident start.

Shreyas Iyer (19 off 26) joined Pant in the middle and after a playing a few shots, fell to the short ball yet again. England laid the trap for Iyer and he fell right into it by pulling a short ball straight to mid-wicket.

Pant completed his fifty with a tickle off the pads, becoming the first Indian wicket-keeper to score a hundred and a half-century in an overseas Test.

After sweeping Jack Leach for a boundary, Pant went for a reverse pull in the following over but was caught at first slip by Joe Root, leaving India at 198 for six.



Harshal stars in India's win

PTI ■ NORTHAMPTONSHIRE

India will enter the upcoming limited overs series against England on a positive note, having beaten Northamptonshire by 10 runs after an impressive display by the bowlers in their second warm-up match here on Sunday.

India had earlier defeated Derbyshire by seven wickets.

After Harshal Patel lifted India from a precarious position to 149 for eight with a 36-ball 54, the visiting bowlers fired in unison to bowl out the county side for 139 with three balls to spare.

Arshdeep Singh, Avesh Khan, Yuzvendra Chahal and Harshal picked up two wickets apiece as Northamptonshire failed to overcome India's total.

Earlier, asked to bat first, India were off to a disastrous start losing Sanju Samson in the very first delivery of the match, the successful bowler being skipper Joshua Cobb.

One-down bat Rahul Tripathi, too, did not last long

but more trouble awaited India as pacer Brandon Glover sent back Suryakumar Yadav to leave the visitors tottering at 8/3 in the third over.

Glover two wickets in quick succession put Northamptonshire on top before a partnership of 43 runs for the fourth wicket steadied the ship. However, Ishan Kishan, having laboured to 16 off 20 balls, fell to left-arm spinner Freddie Helderich to bring to an end the brief partnership.

That signalled the arrival of Dinesh Karthik and the seasoned campaigner straightaway got into the groove with a few boundaries and a six.

However, Karthik got out after making a brisk 34 off 26 balls as India slipped to 72 for five at the start of the 12th over.

Venkatesh Iyer scored a sedate 20 off 22 balls, but it was Harshal who did the bulk of the scoring when India needed runs to put up a challenging total. Harshal struck five fours and three sixes during his breezy knock.

West Indies beat B'desh by 35 runs in 2nd T20I



AP ■ ROSEAU

Contrasting half-centuries by Rovman Powell and Brandon King highlighted a formidable West Indies batting effort on the way to a 35-run victory over Bangladesh in the second T20I in Dominica on Sunday.

Powell's blistering 61 not out off 28 balls and opener King's more measured 57 from 43 deliveries paced the home side to 193 for five batting first in ideal conditions.

Despite an unbeaten 68 from Test captain Shakib Al Hasan, the visitors lacked urgency through their innings and were limited to 158 for six in reply.

Seamers Romario Shepherd and Obed McCoy claimed two wickets each while spinners Akeal Hosein and

Hayden Walsh proved the most economical as their variations made it difficult for Bangladesh to develop any sort of batting rhythm.

West Indies lead the series 1-0 following the no-result in the rain-ruined opening fixture at the same venue on Saturday.

Guyana National Stadium at Providence hosts the final match on Thursday with Bangladesh needing to win to share the honours in the series ahead of the three-match ODI duel at the same venue.

Powell's innings, highlighted by six sixes and two fours, earned him the man-of-the-match award.

"My plan is very simple at the crease," said Powell. "I look to get a start, even if it takes a while because I know I can make up for it later on in the innings."

Harman to play for Renegades again

PTI ■ BENGALURU

India captain Harmapreet Kaur will return in Melbourne Renegades colours for a second season in the Women's Big Bash League (WBBL) during the eighth edition of the T20 tournament later this year.

Harmanpreet, who has represented India in over 200 matches across all formats, is an all-rounder, renowned for her destructive batting and handy off-spin.

The 33-year-old was Renegades' leading run-scorer and wicket-taker in the WBBL last year.

She scored 406 runs at an average of 58 — including 18 sixes, the most in the competition — and also claimed 15 wickets.

"I'm excited to be coming back to the Renegades," Harmanpreet was quoted as saying by the Renegades' website.

"I really enjoyed being part of the team environment last season and feel like that helped me produce some of my best cricket. Personally, I just wanted to play my role for the team and it was pleasing to be able to do that."

Batting primarily at number four, Harmanpreet was a match-winner for the Renegades on multiple occasions throughout last season.

Openers seal ODI series for India W

PTI ■ PALLEKELE

The Indian women's team dominated from start to finish, with both the bat and ball, to hammer Sri Lanka by 10 wickets in the second ODI and take an unassailable 2-0 lead in the three-match series here on Monday.

It is worth mentioning that the Indian team's openers fired for the first time on the tour, sharing a partnership of 174 runs to see the visitors home in just 25.4 overs and finally managing to silence their detractors after being pilloried for their below-par show.

It is the highest target successfully chased without losing a wicket in women's ODIs.

The bowlers set it up for the tourists by dismissing Sri Lanka for 173, and after that, Smriti Mandhana's stroke-filled 94 off 83 balls and Shafali Verma's run-a-ball 71 paved the way for the convincing win.

The experienced Mandhana struck 11 boundaries and a six in her blazing knock, while Verma found the fence four times and cleared it once.

After having won the first ODI comfortably, the Indians came into the second game as firm favourites against a wobbly Sri Lankan side. Adding to the visitors confidence was the fact that they also triumphed in the preceding three-match T20I series.

After winning the toss, Indian skipper Harmanpreet Kaur asked



Sri Lanka to bat first on a surface in favourable conditions for the bowlers.

The hosts soon found themselves in all sorts of trouble as pacer Renuka Singh was on point with her lengths from the word go.

The 26-year-old reigned supreme with the ball, with a career-best 4 for 28, rattling the Sri Lankan top-order with three quick strikes.

Even as wickets fell at regular intervals, lower-order batter Ama Kanchana held fort for the hosts with an unbeaten 47 off 83 balls.

Seasoned off-spinner Deepti Sharma's two wickets off the last two balls helped India bowl out the Lankans.

"We have been talking about long partnerships. We discussed that we need to give 100 percent. The partnership was outstanding. It is important to have bowling options," Harmanpreet said after the game.

India won the first ODI by four wickets and will look to complete a 3-0 sweep when they meet the home team in the final match on Thursday.

Alfiya, Gitika clinch Gold in Elorda Cup

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Reigning Youth World champions Alfiya Pathan and Gitika produced sensational performances to win Gold medals at the inaugural edition of the Elorda Boxing Cup in Nur-Sultan, Kazakhstan on Monday.

Two other female boxers — Kalaivani Srinivasan and Jamuna Boro — signed off with Silver medals. With the addition of two Gold, two Silver and 10 Bronze on the final day, the 33-member Indian contingent concluded its campaign with an overall tally of 14 medals.

Alfiya did not have to break a sweat and got an unanimous 5-0 verdict as she proved too strong for her opponent, the 2016 world champion, Lazzat Kungeibayeva, in the women's 81kg final. Gitika, on the other hand, clinched a thrilling 4-1 victory over compatriot Kalaivani in an intense all-Indian women's 48kg final.

India eye China scalp in women's hockey WC

PTI ■ AMSTELVEEN

Their defensive prowess on display in the 1-1 draw against Olympic Bronze medallist England, India would look to plug holes in the attacking department and register their first win of the women's hockey World Cup in their second game against China here on Tuesday.

The Indians produced a superlative defensive performance, spearheaded by skipper and goalkeeper Savita Punia, in the drawn game against England in their opening Pool B match on Sunday.

The likes of vice-captain Deep Grace Ekka, Nikki Pradhan, Gurjit Kaur and Udita dished out an excellent performance, denying England a single penalty corner in the entire 60 minutes.

Their only blemish was the ninth minute goal they conceded when Isabella Petter neatly deflected in a pass from outside the 'D'.

Barring that, it was a near perfect effort from the Indian backline against England, who fielded almost the same set of players from the Great Britain side that featured in Tokyo Olympics.

Savita, as usual, was brilliant at the goal, making a couple of fine saves



with her quick reflexes.

However, India were found wanting in the penalty corner conversion as they could score just once from the

seven PCs they got, with Vandana Katariya getting the equaliser from a rebound in the 28th minute.

India also created a lot of chances

against England but the forwardline failed to utilise most of them, barring the equaliser.

In the 56th minute, Sharmila Devi wasted a golden opportunity as he failed to get her stick on to a fine pass from a team-mate.

The Indians would look to address their attacking woes and beat world number 13 China, who held New Zealand to a 2-2 draw in the other Pool B match on Sunday.

Chief coach Janneke Schopman would be eyeing a more clinical performance from the forwardline, consisting of the likes of Vandana, Lalremisiami and Shamila.

Going by form and rankings, world number eight India will definitely start as favourites against China but complacency is something the Savital-led side would look to avoid.

It was India who came out on top in the last two meetings between the two sides.

India had thrashed China 7-1 in their first outing in the FIH Pro League tie before winning the second match of the double-header 2-1 in Muscat, Oman.

In the other Pool B match on Tuesday, England will face New Zealand.

Sindhu, Prannoy lead Indian challenge at Malaysia Masters

PTI ■ KUALA LUMPUR

Star shuttlers P V Sindhu and HS Prannoy will look to sustain their momentum when they spearhead the Indian challenge at the Malaysia Masters Super 500 badminton tournament, starting here on Tuesday.

Sindhu and Prannoy had suffered contrasting defeats at the quarterfinal stage of the Malaysia Open Super 750 last week and will look to make amends this week even though there was hardly any time to iron out the flaws.

While Sindhu has claimed two Super 300 titles at Syed Modi International and Swiss Open this year, Prannoy is desperate to end a five-year long wait for a title win.

Sindhu, a two-time Olympic medallist, has been consistently reaching the quarters and semis of the world tour events but she has looked slightly vulnerable against the top players.



Her losses against Thailand's Ratchanok Intanon, China's Chen Yu Fei and He Bing Jiao, Korea's An Se Young and nemesis Tai Tzu Ying from Chinese Taipei have exposed her weaknesses, which she will look to address ahead of the upcoming Commonwealth Games.

In the opening round, the former world champion will face the formidable Bing Jiao, who had shown her door at the Indonesia Open Super 1000 last month.