

OPINION 6

LET BENEFITS REACH
ALL THE TRULY NEEDY

WORLD 8

PUTIN TO UKRAINE: RUSSIA HAS
BARELY STARTED ITS ACTION

MONEY 10

GOM FORMED TO SUGGEST
IDEAS FOR GST APPELLATE

NEW DELHI, SATURDAY JULY 9, 2022; PAGES 12 ₹3



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INDIA BEAT ENG
BY 50 RUNS IN
FIRST T20I
12 SPORTAbe assassinated,
world stunnedJapan's ex-PM
Shinzo was shot
during a speech

AP ■ NARA (JAPAN)

Former Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe was assassinated on Friday on a street in western Japan by a gunman who opened fire on him from behind as he delivered a campaign speech — an attack that stunned the nation that has some of the strictest gun control laws anywhere.

Prominent world leaders expressed shock and anguish over the assassination of Abe.

The 67-year-old Abe, who was Japan's longest-serving leader when he resigned in 2020, collapsed bleeding and was airlifted to a nearby hospital in Nara, although he was not breathing and his heart had stopped. He was later pronounced dead after receiving massive blood transfusions, officials said.

Nara Medical University emergency department chief Hidetada Fukushima said Abe suffered major damage to his heart, along with two neck wounds that damaged an artery.

Continued on Page 2



In this image from a video, Japanese former Prime Minister Shinzo Abe is attended on the ground in Nara, western Japan, after being shot on Friday

AP | PTI

Modi takes trip down memory
lane to recall link with AbePIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■
NEW DELHI

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Friday mourned the death of "his friend", slain Japanese ex-PM Shinjo Abe, and said he made an immense contribution to elevating India-Japan relations to the level of a Special Strategic and Global Partnership and making world

a better place.

As a mark of respect for the departed soul, one-day national mourning shall be observed on July 9. Modi said Abe dedicated his life to making the world a better place. Modi said he is shocked and saddened beyond words at the tragic demise of one of his "dearest friends".

Continued on Page 2

Attack shocks
Japan known
for gun control

AP ■ TOKYO

News that former Prime Minister Shinzo Abe had been shot in broad daylight on Friday shocked not only Japan but the entire world, which has come to associate the relatively low-crime nation with strict gun control.

Continued on Page 2

Over dozen die, many missing in
cloudburst near Amarnath cave

MOHIT KANDHARI ■ JAMMU

Over one dozen pilgrims died and several others could not be traced till late on Friday after a cloudburst left behind a trail of death and destruction in the Amarnath cave shrine area. The ongoing yatra was immediately suspended to focus on the rescue and relief measures. Since June 30, over one lakh pilgrims visited Amarnath.

According to preliminary reports, the cloudburst hit the Amarnath cave shrine area around 5.30 pm in which about two dozen tents/langars were washed away. Due to the huge presence of pilgrims in the area, several were washed away in



Rescue operation after a cloudburst that hit near the base camp of the holy cave shrine of Amarnath in south Kashmir Himalayas on Friday

PTI

the flash floods.

Indo Tibetan Border Police (ITBP) PRO Vivek Pandey in a recorded message said, "The

water levels rose abruptly in the cave shrine area after the cloudburst hit the area."

He said at least 20-25 tents

were washed away. Eyewitness reports suggested the final toll is expected to increase as several pilgrims were reported missing in the area.

10 pilgrims who were being shifted to Panjarni have been re-called at Holy Cave due to medical reasons. 13 pilgrims are being treated at Army MI Room, Holy Cave. 25 are being treated at SASB Hosp, Holy Cave.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi personally took stock of the rescue operations launched in the area. In a tweet the Prime Minister said, "Anguished by the cloudburst near Shree Amarnath cave. Condolences to the bereaved families."

Continued on Page 2

₹62 crore FEMA
fine slapped on
Amnesty India,
ex-CEO AakarPIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■
NEW DELHI

The Enforcement Directorate (ED) has slapped a combined penalty of nearly ₹62 crore against Amnesty India and its former head Aakar Patel for contravention of the Foreign Exchange Management Act (FEMA).

Continued on Page 2

India's growth in last 8 years
has no parallel in world: Modi

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Arun Jaitley
memorial lecture

Stressing that "growth cannot take place without inclusion" and "inclusion cannot happen without growth", Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Friday affirmed that India has done this with a speed in the last eight years that has no parallel in the world and continues to pursue in next 25 years.

Delivering the first "Arun Jaitley Memorial Lecture"

(AJML) here at 'Vigyan Bhavan', Modi said "India is seeing growth as well as inclusion" and spoke about the inclusive agenda of his Government.

"I want to ask this question to all of you. Is real growth possible without inclusion? Can inclusion be thought of without growth?" questioned the PM.

Continued on Page 2

CAPSULE

SC GRANTS BAIL TO
ZUBAIR IN UP CASE

New Delhi: The SC on Friday granted five-day interim bail to Ait News co-founder Md Zubair in connection with an FIR against him for allegedly outraging religious sentiments.

SC FORBIDS COERCIVE
ACTION AGAINST ANCHOR

New Delhi: The SC on Friday restrained State authorities from taking coercive steps against TV news anchor Rohit Ranjan over a doctored clip of Congress leader Rahul Gandhi.

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SC to hear fresh plea challenging Shinde’s appointment as CM



PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Friday agreed to hear on July 11 a fresh plea of the Uddhav Thackeray led faction challenging appointment of Eknath Shinde as chief minister of Maharashtra.

A vacation bench of Justices Indira Banerjee and JK Maheshwari said it will be listed before an appropriate bench on July 11.

Senior advocate Devadatt Kamat, appearing for Shiv Sena leader Subhash Desai, said they are seeking listing of the fresh plea along with other pending petitions which are coming up for hearing on July 11. Desai has challenged the Governor's June 30 decision to invite a

coalition of the Shinde faction and the BJP to form Government in Maharashtra. The Thackeray led faction has also challenged the validity of assembly proceedings held on July 3 and July 4 in which a new speaker of the House was elected and subsequent proceedings of floor test in which the Shinde led coalition had proved its majority. Earlier also several petitions have been filed by the Thackeray led faction on various issues related to the Maharashtra political crisis, which are coming up for hearing on July 11. Rebellion by a section of Sena MLAs, led by Shinde, had resulted in the collapse of the Maha Vikas Aghadi (MVA) Government.

ED searches 18 spots in J’khand in PMLA case linked to Soren’s aide

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Enforcement Directorate (ED) on Friday conducted searches at about 18 locations in Jharkhand as part of a money laundering investigation against Pankaj Mishra, the political representative of Chief Minister Hemant Soren, and those linked to him.

The searches are being conducted in Sahibganj district and its towns like Berhait and Rajmahal and the probe relates to alleged irregularities in the award of toll plaza tenders in the State, officials said.

About 18 locations are being searched and the action is being undertaken under the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA), they said. The money laundering case is linked to a State police FIR and the ED is also looking



at purported links between alleged illegal coal mining operatives and those involved in operations of toll plaza tenders in Jharkhand, they said. In May, the ED searched the premises of IAS officer Pooja Singhal, her businessman husband and others as part of a money laundering investigation against them.

The 2000-batch officer, who was holding the charge of Jharkhand mining secretary, was later suspended by State government following her arrest by the ED. A charge sheet was filed against her and others by the agency before a special PMLA court in Ranchi earlier this week.

Modi travels...

From Page 1
Abe was 67-year-old. Abe, one of his nation's most powerful and influential figures, died after being shot during a campaign speech Friday in western Japan, according to NHK public television.

“He (Abe) was a towering global statesman, an outstanding leader, and a remarkable administrator. He dedicated his life to make Japan and the world a better place,” Modi said.

“My association with Abe goes back many years. I had got to know him during my tenure as Gujarat CM and our friendship continued after I became PM. His sharp insights on economy and global affairs always made a deep impression on me,” the Prime Minister said.

Modi said during my recent visit to Japan, he had the opportunity to meet Abe again and discuss many issues.

“He was witty and insightful as always. Little did I know that this would be our last

meeting. My heartfelt condolences to his family and the Japanese people,” Modi said. “Abe made an immense contribution to elevating India-Japan relations to the level of a Special Strategic and Global Partnership. Today, the whole of India mourns with Japan and we stand in solidarity with our Japanese brothers and sisters in this difficult moment,” he said.

The Prime Minister also shared a picture from his most recent meeting with Abe in Tokyo.

“Always passionate about strengthening India-Japan ties, he had just taken over as the Chairman of the Japan-India Association,” he tweeted along with the picture.

The Ministry of External Affairs in its condolences said, “The Government and people of India are deeply saddened by the untimely demise of former Prime Minister of Japan Abe Shinzo, and convey their sincere condolences to his family and friends and the people of Japan.”

SC asks States not to take coercive action against Zee anchor Ranjan

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Friday restrained various State authorities from taking coercive steps against TV news anchor Rohit Ranjan, who is facing multiple FIRs for playing a doctored clip of Congress leader Rahul Gandhi during a programme on July 1.

A vacation bench of Justices Indira Banerjee and J K Maheshwari also issued notice to the Centre, through the office of the Attorney General, on Ranjan's plea seeking quashing of complaints or FIRs related to the telecast.

The apex court was hearing the plea of the anchor who is facing FIRs in some states. Ranjan had later apologised and the news programme was withdrawn.

While issuing notice on the plea which has made the Centre, states of Chhattisgarh, Uttar Pradesh and Rajasthan as

parties, the top court said in the meanwhile, the respondent authorities shall not take coercive steps against the petitioner to take him into custody. Senior advocate Siddharth Luthra, appearing for Ranjan, told the bench that as of now, three FIRs have been registered at Jaipur, Raipur and Noida.

He said an unintentional error was committed in the programme and the petitioner had apologised also.

Luthra said two concerned persons of the company had accepted their fault and have resigned. “Today, my difficulty is, the first FIR is in Jaipur, the second FIR is in Raipur in Chhattisgarh,” Luthra said, adding an FIR is also there in Noida. In his petition filed through law firm Karanjawala and Co, the news anchor has sought relief including the quashing of FIRs or complaints or their clubbing and transfer to one place.

India’s growth in last 8 years...

From Page 1
“In the last 8 years, India has worked rapidly towards inclusion. We have given free gas connections to nine crore women and built 10 core toilets for the poor. Along with that, we have opened 45 crore of Jan Dhan Bank accounts along with giving 3 crore houses to the poor,” said Modi, adding that the speed of inclusion will not find any parallel in the world. “India's recovery from the pandemic is reflective of choosing a people-centric policy and not populist impulse,” the Prime Minister further said.

Remembering late Jaitley, a senior BJP leader, strategist and Finance Minister in the Modi Government who was also his close political associate for decades, Modi praised his tribulation, oratory, and “one-liners” which, he said kept lingering long after they are delivered. The Prime Minister said Jaitley had a vast circle of friends cutting across parties or ideologies.

The AJML was organised by the Department of Economic Affairs, Ministry of Finance, in recognition of the former Union Minister's ‘invaluable contribu-

tion’ to the nation.

The keynote address at the first AJML was delivered by Tharman Shanmugaratnam, Senior Minister, Government of Singapore, on ‘Growth through Inclusivity, Inclusivity through Growth’. Shanmugaratnam lauded India's Adhar and UPI link schemes and described them as remarkable. He said India must aim at 8 to 10 per cent growth to lift average incomes and create more jobs.

On the title theme of the AJML, the Prime Minister said to him “simply put it means sabka saath, sabka vikas”.

In the beginning of his address, Modi paid tribute to former Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe, who was assassinated earlier Friday morning.

“It is a day of irreparable damage and unbearable pain for me today. My close friend and former Japanese PM Shinzo Abe is no longer with us. He was not only my friend but a trusted friend of India,” Modi said, adding during Abe's regime, the India-Japan relationship touched new heights and carried forward a shared heritage”, he said.

NCR-PULSE

MAN ARRESTED FOR OPENING FIRE AT PERSON AT GYM

New Delhi: A 27-year-old man was arrested for allegedly opening fire at a person at a gym in central Delhi. The incident took place after the victim had an argument with the accused's girlfriend.

METRO DELAYED AS PASSENGER JUMPS ON TRACK

New Delhi: A passenger on the tracks at the Badkal Mor station of Delhi Metro's Violet Line led to a delay in services on Friday.

AAP ALLEGES L-G SMEARING PARTY NAME

New Delhi: The Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) on Friday alleged that instead of preventing national Capital from becoming a crime city, BJP's Delhi Police and new Lieutenant Governor, V K Saxena are busy smearing their party.

COURT RESERVES ORDER ON APPEALS BY ANSALS

New Delhi: A Delhi court on Friday reserved its order on appeals filed by real estate tycoons Sushil and Gopal Ansal challenging their conviction and the seven-year jail terms in a case related to the 1997 Uphar cinema fire.

HC DISMISSES PLEA CHALLENGING AAP LEADER ELECTION

New Delhi: The Delhi High Court has dismissed a plea challenging the election of Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) leader Ajay Dutt as an MLA, saying the petitioner has failed to establish his claim that the lawmaker had intentionally given false information .

1 MORE PERSON ARRESTED FOR CALSS 12 GIRL STABBING

New Delhi: Delhi Police have arrested one more person in connection with the stabbing of a Class 12 girl in west Delhi's Tilak Nagar area. .

OCTOGENARIAN FOUND DEAD INSIDE HER HOUSE

New Delhi: An octogenarian woman was found dead inside her house in northwest Delhi's Shalimar Bagh on Friday.

Attack shocks Japan...

From Page 1
Japan, with a population of 125 million, had just 10 gun-related criminal cases last year, resulting in one death and four injuries, according to police. Eight of those cases were gang-related. Tokyo had zero gun incidents, injuries or deaths during that same year, although 61 guns were seized there.

Abe, Japan's longest-serving prime minister, was shot while campaigning in Nara in western Japan for candidates for his ruling party and died later in a hospital. Parliamentary elections are scheduled for Sunday.

Although major universities in Japan have riflery clubs and Japanese police are armed, most Japanese go through life without ever handling, or even seeing, a real gun.

Stabbings are more common as a fatal crime. And so the debate over the right to bear arms is a distant issue in Japan and has been for decades.

“Japanese people are in a state of shock,” said Shiro Kawamoto, professor at the College of Risk Management at Nihon University in Tokyo. The campaign event where the attack occurred drew a huge crowd of people, making security a challenge, Kawamoto said.

“This serves as a wake-up call that gun violence can happen in Japan, and security to protect Japanese politicians must be re-examined,” he said. “To assume this kind of attack will never happen would be a big mistake.”

Adding to the complexity were reports that the weapon used in the shooting may have been homemade, meaning that existing gun controls could be ineffectual. Speculation is already rife that Abe's security personnel may face serious questions. But such an attack is extraordinary in Japan, making relatively light security the norm, even for former Prime Ministers.

₹62 crore FEMA...

From Page 1
Earlier, the ED issued show-cause notices to Amnesty India International Pvt. Ltd (AI IPL) for an impending penalty under FEMA of Rs 51.72 crore and a fine amount of Rs 10 crore against Patel.

The penalty order has been issued on completion of the probe by the adjudicating authority of FEMA, a special director rank officer of the ED.

The agency on Friday alleged that London-based Amnesty International sent a huge amount of foreign contributions to its Indian entities (AI IPL), from November 2013 to June 2018, “in the guise of business activities” to escape FCRA (Foreign Contribution Regulation Act) scrutiny”.

The agency said it initiated a FEMA probe on the basis of information that Amnesty International, UK had been

remitting a “huge amount” of foreign contribution through its Indian entities (non-FCRA companies) following the FDI (foreign direct investment) route, in order to evade FCRA to expand its NGO activities in India. This was sent, it said, despite the “denial” of prior registration or permissions to Amnesty International India Foundation Trust (AIIFT) and other trusts under the FCRA by the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA).

“During the period between November 2013-June 2018, remittance which was received by AI IPL and claimed as a receipt for business/management consultancy and public relation services for export of services to the foreign beneficiary is nothing but amount borrowed from overseas remitter, thereby violating the FEMA provisions,” it said.

Over dozen die, many missing in cloudburst near Amarnath...

From Page 1
Spoke to Manoj Sinha Ji and took stock of the situation. Rescue and relief operations are underway. All possible assistance is being provided to the affected”.

At least six rescue teams of the Indian Army, jawans of the National Disaster Response Force, State Disaster Response Force, BSF, CRPF, Mountain Rescue teams of the Jammu & Kashmir Police, ITBP and volunteers have been pressed into service to look for survivors and extend all possible help to the stranded pilgrims in the area. ALH helicopters have been pressed into service to

shift the injured to the nearest base camps. The rescue teams have also launched massive relief operations for the stranded pilgrims along the yatra route. Several teams have been launched to look after the pilgrims and help them reach the nearest base camps in view of the inclement weather conditions.

The cave shrine area had witnessed a similar incident of cloudburst last year on July 29. In the absence of pilgrims no major loss of life was reported in the area. LG Manoj Sinha said he was personally monitoring the situation. “Spoke to Prime Minister & Home

Minister Amit Shah and briefed them about the incident. The PM and HM assured all the help. Our priority is to save the lives of people. Instructions have been issued to provide all necessary assistance to pilgrims. I am closely monitoring the situation”, the office of LG tweeted. Former Chief Minister Omar Abdullah tweeted, “Deeply saddened by the reports of loss of precious lives coming in from the site of the cloudburst near the Amarnath Cave.

My condolences to the loved ones of the deceased & prayers for those injured in the aftermath of the flash floods.”

Abe assassinated, world...

From Page 1
He never regained his vital signs, Fukushima said. Prefectural police in Nara arrested the suspected gunman at the scene of the attack and identified him as Tetsuya Yamagami, 41, a former member of Japan's navy. Broadcaster NHK reported that he said he wanted to kill Abe because he had complaints about him unrelated to politics.

Dramatic video from NHK showed Abe standing and giving a speech outside a train station in Nara ahead of Sunday's parliamentary election. As he raised his fist to make a point, two gunshots rang out, and he collapsed holding his chest, his shirt smeared with blood as security guards run toward him. Guards leapt onto the gunman, who was face down on the pavement. A double-barreled device that appeared to be a handmade gun was seen on the ground.

Prime Minister Fumio Kishida and his Cabinet ministers hastily returned to Tokyo

from campaign events around the country after the shooting, which he called “dastardly and barbaric.”

He pledged that the election, which chooses members for Japan's less-powerful upper house of parliament, would go on as planned. “I use the harshest words to condemn (the act),” Kishida said, struggling to control his emotions. He said the Government planned to review the security situation, but added that Abe had the highest protection.

Even though he was out of office, Abe was still highly influential in the governing Liberal Democratic Party and headed its largest faction, Seiwakai. Opposition leaders condemned the attack as a challenge to Japan's democracy. In Tokyo, people stopped on the street to grab extra editions of newspapers or watch TV coverage of the shooting.

When he resigned as Prime Minister, Abe said he had a recurrence of the ulcerative colitis he'd had since he was a

teenager.

He told reporters at the time that it was “gut wrenching” to leave many of his goals unfinished. He spoke of his failure to resolve the issue of Japanese abducted years ago by North Korea, a territorial dispute with Russia and a revision of Japan's war-renouncing constitution.

That last goal made him a divisive figure. His ultra-nationalism riled the Koreans and China, and his push to create what he saw as a more normal defense posture angered many Japanese. Abe failed to achieve his cherished goal of formally rewriting the US-drafted pacifist constitution because of poor public support.

Loyalists said his legacy was a stronger U.S.-Japan relationship that was meant to bolster Japan's defense capability. But Abe made enemies by forcing his defense goals and other contentious issues through parliament, despite strong public opposition.

Abe was groomed to follow

in the footsteps of his grandfather, former Prime Minister Nobusuke Kishi. His political rhetoric often focused on making Japan a “normal” and “beautiful” nation with a stronger military and bigger role in international affairs.

Many foreign officials expressed shock over the shooting - especially because of Japan's strict gun laws. With a population of 125 million, Japan had only 10 gun-related criminal cases last year, resulting in one death and four injuries, according to police. Eight of those cases were gang-related. Tokyo had no gun incidents, injuries or deaths in the same year, although 61 guns were seized.

Abe was proud of his work to strengthen Japan's security alliance with the US and shepherding the first visit by a serving US president to the atom-bombed city of Hiroshima. He also helped Tokyo gain the right to host the 2020 Olympics by pledging that a disaster at the Fukushima

nuclear plant was “under control” when it was not.

Abe became Japan's youngest Prime Minister in 2006, at age 52, but his overly nationalistic first stint abruptly ended a year later, also because of his health.

The end of Abe's scandal-laden first stint as Prime Minister was the beginning of six years of annual leadership change, remembered as an era of “revolving door” politics that lacked stability and long-term policies.

When he returned to office in 2012, Abe vowed to revitalise the nation and get its economy out of its deflationary doldrums with his “Abenomics” formula, which combines fiscal stimulus, monetary easing and structural reforms.

He won six national elections and built a rock-solid grip on power, bolstering Japan's defense role and capability and its security alliance with the US. He also stepped up patriotic education at schools and raised Japan's international profile.

Repair damaged roads every week: LG

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

In an apparent game one-upmanship, Lieutenant Governor Vinai Kumar Saxena on Friday issued a statement saying that he has directed the Chief Secretary to issue directions regarding the repair, maintenance and cleaning of "One Road per Zone/Division Every Week".

The statement assumes significance after Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal went public and projected his Government action plan saying the Delhi Government's weekly action plan to make city roads excellent and every Saturday, every agency (PWD, MCD) will work towards making each road under their jurisdiction excellent.

This has led to the Raj Niwas to issue a statement saying the order by the Chief Secretary to all road owning agencies to undertake repair/maintenance/improvisation works of at least one road per zone (end to end -on both sides) along the length



CM Arvind Kejriwal

and breadth including right of way every week preferably on Saturday, was issued on his directions. The L-G said the repair, maintenance and cleaning of "One Road per Zone/Division Every Week" would bring much-needed and long-pending relief to the residents and commuters of the National Capital. The L-G said that he would personally monitor the progress of the works thereon.

The L-G applauded the seamless coordination between various road owning agencies- Municipal Corporation of Delhi (MCD), New Delhi Municipal



LG Vinai Kumar Saxena

Committee (NDMC) and Public Works Department (PWD) by keeping the Chief Minister and Deputy Chief Minister on board. The order came following L-G's meeting with the concerned officials last week.

In a statement, Raj Niwas said that the L-G was deeply concerned over the conditions of maintenance, disrepair and cleanliness of roads and footpaths in the National Capital. Even after launching the cleanliness drive to clear the roads of debris and encroachments he stroved to get all road-owning agencies like MCD, NDMA,



Deputy CM Manish Sisodia

PWD etc. to take up the task of repair and maintenance of roads in a coordinated and effective manner within a set timeframe.

Earlier Delhi Chief Secretary Naresh Kumar directed all road owning agencies to undertake repair/maintenance/improvisation works of at least one road per zone (end to end -on both sides) along the length and breadth including right of way every week preferably on Saturday.

Further, such initiative should also include cleanliness of such roads by ensuring removal of any garbage dumps,

MSW, plastic waste, malba, C&D waste or any other waste, during such repairs, maintenance, improvisation drive," the letter read.

"Market Welfare Associations (MWAs) and Resident Welfare Associations (RWAs) may be involved during such repairs, maintenance, improvisation drives to make it a people's drive," it said.

"All the organizations (MCD, NDMC, PWD, DDA, Delhi Cantonment, NHAI, etc.) should accordingly prepare necessary action plan, including preparation of the roster of the roads for each MCD zone, PWD Division, NDMC Road Division to be covered every week during the months of July and August, 2022 (that is 8 roads in each zone and division to be covered during eight weeks). While finalising roads to be included in the said roster, preference shall be given to such roads, which are relatively in poor state as on date," the letter further read.

In a tweet in Hindi, Kejriwal has said, "Delhi government's weekly action plan to make city roads excellent. Every Saturday, every agency (PWD, MCD) will work towards making each road under their jurisdiction excellent." Delhi Deputy Chief Minister Manish Sisodia, who holds the charge of PWD, said, "The Delhi Government is determined to provide pleasant commuting experience and excellent roads to all the residents of Delhi.

For this PWD is working diligently and round the clock to make the city roads better. But to make all the roads of the city clean, green and well-maintained, all agencies need to work together. This initiative will be helpful in the direction of making the city roads better, safer and beautiful."

"Delhi belongs to everyone who lives in the city. Under this initiative, Delhi Government aims to involve the community in this initiative so that people take ownership of the roads near their residence or place of work and help us keep the city green, clean and well-maintained." Sisodia said.

DJB desilted 3.5 km sewer line: Sisodia

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Delhi Deputy Chief Minister Manish Sisodia on Friday said the Delhi Jal Board (DJB) has desilted Pul Pehladpur, 3.5 km sewer line, which is one of the hotspot during monsoon.

The Pul Prahladpur railway underpass, which gets flooded during monsoon every year and has claimed two lives since July 2021, was shut down for vehicular movement on both the carriageways soon after rains began last week.

"The DJB has again cleaned its 3.5 km long sewer line so that the rain water does not stop on the bridge Prahladpur. Last week, the entire line was blocked by the mud which was washed away by the rain water which has now cleared," Sisodia also tweeted.

Meanwhile, to deal with the water logging issue at Zakhira underpass, amid ongoing monsoon season, the Delhi's Deputy Chief Minister, Manish Sisodia has written a letter to Union Railway Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw urging his intervention to resolve the issue.

Sisodia said that waste from railways is the major reason for Zakhira underpass water logging during monsoon.

"Delhi Government has taken several steps to resolve this long standing problem of waterlogging at the underpass but due to the waste from the existing railway line at the site and no de-silting of the railway downstream pipes, all the waste flows into the underpass which leads to choking of pumps there and extreme waterlogging," said Sisodia.

In this regard, on June 20, a meeting was held under the chairmanship of the Principal Secretary, PWD, city



Government with the officials of other agencies including Railways," said Sisodia.

"Railway officials were asked to get the size of downstream pipes increased, remove the waste on the railway land, de-silt the culverts and pipe drains laid by the railways as well as remove encroachment from the railway land.

"Railways was also requested to remove the encroachment on its land in this respective area," he said.

"Now that the monsoon has already arrived, still no action has been taken by the railways to resolve the issue," said Sisodia.

In his letter to Union Railway Minister, Sisodia had urged him for immediate intervention and timely action, so that the situation of waterlogging can be prevented.

"People face a lot of inconvenience during monsoons here and sometimes it gets life threatening. To solve this problem, the PWD Department of Delhi Government discussed it with other stakeholders including Railways but nothing has changed," said Sisodia in his letter.

"It has been observed that a lot of garbage and rags are spread all around railway land, due to which the size of culvert has decreased from 2 sqm to 0.44 sqm but still the desilting and cleaning has not started," Sisodia wrote in his letter.

11-member panel to probe death of fish in Najafgarh jheel

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

The Delhi Government on Friday set up an 11-member committee to probe the incident of mass fish deaths in Delhi's Najafgarh jheel and one of the areas it is focusing on is fertiliser pollution.

According to a senior member of the committee, the committee includes members from the Delhi Pollution Control Committee (DPCC), Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB), Revenue Department, Forest and Wildlife Department and Animal Husbandry Department.

The Delhi Government team has collected biological oxygen demand (BOD) and the chemical oxygen demand (COD) levels of the drain, which connects the Najafgarh Jheel to river Yamuna.

"We have collected water samples from several spots and these are being tested to ascertain the concentration of dissolved oxygen, heavy metals, ammonia, nitrates and phosphates..." "There is a possibility of fertiliser runoff from the agricultural fields (in near-

by villages)," a panel member said on condition of anonymity. COD is the total measure of chemicals (organics and inorganic) in the water/waste water, while BOD is a measure of the amount of oxygen required for bacteria to decompose organic components present in water.

"Some fish have been collected for dissection. The report will be available in three-four days," the member said.

Another panel member explained that nitrogen and phosphorus pollution can run off from agricultural fields into drains, lakes and rivers and can cause algal blooms.

"As algae blooms, it depletes the water of oxygen and creates a dead zone, killing aquatic plants and animals," he said.

A senior DPCC official said the test results of the water samples collected from the drain on Sunday morning have arrived. The report has been handed over to the committee which will correlate it with their findings.

According to officials, a huge number of fish have mysteriously died in the upstream

stretch of the Najafgarh drain along the Delhi-Haryana border. Residents in the nearby Jhuljhuli village said fish in a pond in their village, around 200 meters from the drain, have also died.

The fish have died only in a five-kilometre upstream stretch of the drain between Rawta village in Delhi and Dhansa dam in Haryana.

No such incident has been reported at Najafgarh Jheel, the second largest water body in Delhi-NCR after the Yamuna. Local residents said they have never seen something of this sort in the past.

The Najafgarh drain enters Delhi near Dhansa village and flows into the Yamuna. It is the largest drain in Delhi and accounts for around 60 per cent of the wastewater discharged from the capital into the river.

The standard for BOD in drains is 30 mg/l. But as per the DPCC's latest monthly report on Delhi drains, compiled on June 1, 2022, the Najafgarh drain has a BOD reading of 70 mg/l and a COD reading of 346 mg/l, as opposed to a prescribed limit of 250 mg/l, DPCC officials said.

Govt guarantees college admissions, startup incubation for successful students from Business Blasters

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

The Delhi Government has announced that it would guarantee college admissions and startup incubations for the successful students from Business Blasters. The Delhi Government will be supporting these students in their entrepreneurial endeavours ahead. Delhi's Deputy Chief Minister and Education Minister, Manish Sisodia took to social media to announce this decision.

Sisodia on Friday announced that the Delhi government will give direct admission to students of class 12 from top 126 Business Blasters team in the State Universities.

The Delhi government's Business Blaster programme is a school start-up initiative being implemented in Delhi government schools. Under this program students of Class 11 and 12 are given seed money of Rs 2000 to set up their businesses and are provided with mentorship from well-known entrepreneurs and experts in the field.

The Directorate of Education had received over 50,000 ideas from around three lakh students, of those only 126 best business ideas made into the finals. The students of



Class-12 from these 126 teams are being given an opportunity to get direct admission in some of Delhi's top universities, which include NSUT, DTU, IGDTUW, DSEU, DPSRU, Ambedkar and IIIT-D.

In the orientation session conducted on Friday Sisodia said, "This is for the first time in the history of India that we have more than 400 students sitting in the auditorium and VCs of top state universities are directly connecting with them. This never happens in IITs, IIMs, Harvard or MIT but it is happening in Delhi".

Sisodia further added that from here onwards the journey of these Business Blasters is very important as whatever step they will take would affect the country's economy.

Keeping in mind the rising rate of unemployment and

decreasing per-capita income, they need to work on improving the economic conditions of the country. They should become job-providers to the crores of people who are unemployed in the nation.

"This team of 400 students is very important for me because I see them as a solution provider for the unemployment and underemployment problem of 39 crore people of India. I need students who can provide jobs to lakhs of people by creating companies like Google, Microsoft in India. We have to resolve all our problems through education by taking the path of entrepreneurship" Sisodia added

Speaking about the courses being offered by universities, Sisodia said that these students are being offered admission in nearly 40 courses such as BBA in Innovation, Entrepreneurship and Venture Development, BBA in healthcare, B.A in digital media and design, B.Sc data analytics, BCA etc.

For most courses the eligibility criterion is basic requiring about 50% marks in class 12th. There are specific added eligibility for a few technical courses, such as science stream requirement for BBA healthcare course at DPSRU.

Kejriwal condoles death of former Japan PM Shinzo Abe



STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal condolated the death of former Prime Minister of Japan Shinzo Abe on Friday, saying the world has lost a great leader.

Abe, one of the most powerful and influential figures of Japan, died after being shot during a campaign speech in western part of the country, according to NHK public television.

"Saddened to know about the demise of former PM of Japan Shinzo Abe. The world has lost a great leader. May the departed soul rest in peace. My prayers are with his family and friends," Kejriwal tweeted.

Abe, 67, was shot from behind minutes after he started his speech in Nara.

He was airlifted to a hospital for emergency treatment but was not breathing and his heart had stopped, according to media reports. He was later pronounced dead despite emergency treatment.

Earlier in the day, the Delhi chief minister termed the attack on Abe "shocking and unfortunate". The local police arrested the suspected gunman at the scene of the attack.



Goat traders wait for customers at a market set up for the upcoming Eid-al-Adha in Delhi on Friday

RANJAN DIMRI | PIONEER

4 drown in Yamuna, 3 bodies retrieved

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

The bodies of three youths, who had drowned in the Yamuna river in north Delhi's Burari, were retrieved on Friday morning. Police said that four people aged between 15 and 20 years had come from Loni to take bath in the river at Sonia Pushta on Thursday.

The deceased has been identified as Wasim (15), Kamal (17) and Iliyas (20), all residents of Loni while search is on to locate 17-year-old Sameer, also a resident of Loni.

According to Sagar Singh Kalsi, the Deputy Commissioner of Police (DCP) North district, at around 1:20 am a police con-

trol room (PCR) call was received at Burari police station in which four persons were reported missing.

"During initial investigation, it was found that around noon of July 07 four persons aged 14-20 year had come from Loni to swim in Yamuna at thokar number 7, Sonia Pushta, Burari," said the DCP. "At instance of one friend, a bike was located at the Yamuna bank and some clothes were found. Search and rescue started at the dawn and so far three bodies have been recovered," said the DCP.

Police said that post mortem of the recovered bodies is being conducted at Mortuary Sabji Mandi.

NEW DELHI: The Delhi Government's 'Electric Vehicle Policy' is moving at a snail's pace with only 279 electric auto-rickshaws have been registered in the national Capital since February against the Delhi Government's intent for purchase of over 4,000 e-autos.

According to the data on the Ministry of Road Transport and Highways' Vahan portal, a total of 279 e-autos, comprising 215 Piaggio and 64 Mahindra Reva Electric vehicles, have been sold till now.

The auto-rickshaw union has blamed the high interest rates for procuring the electric vehicle and misconceptions around e-autos as the reasons behind such a lukewarm response, whereas the government officials have cited "supply issues" as the issue. The

computerised draw of lots for the allotment of 4,261 e-autos was held on February 14 with July 31 as the last date for registration.

"There is an issue of supply chain in the electric vehicles because of some chip issues. The supply is clogged but the issue is likely to be resolved by mid-July or so. The government will take a practical view over the extension of the last date of registration for e-autos," said Ashish Kundra, the Delhi Transport Commissioner.

Rakesh Aggarwal, president of Chaalak Shakti, an auto-rickshaw union, on the other hand, has held the high rate of interest responsible for the low registration. "In the name of a single-window facilitation, Delhi Government has handed over all the responsi-

bility i.e. From sale to financing to insurance along with everything else till the autos are plying on the road to the Convergence Energy Services Limited (CESL).

This company has tied up with only two private financiers whose rate of interest is 15 per cent which is twice the sum that is paid for private cars," he said.

Due to the absence of public and private sector banks, drivers are compelled to turn to private financiers, Aggarwal said. The transport commissioner, however, has maintained that the government is offering subvention on loans on the purchase of e-autos.

A large number of the buyers go to regular financiers who are there in the market. The financing cost for autos is

generally higher in the market and that is why this subvention was introduced. It is a relatively new product and the rate of interest is high across the board," he said. According to the state government, it is providing five per cent interest subvention on the purchase of e-autos on loans along with a

purchase incentive of Rs 30,000 under the Delhi Electric Vehicle Policy. Aggarwal further said that misconceptions regarding e-autos have also deterred drivers from switching to the sustainable mode of transportation, adding that the government should address those misconceptions.



Cong MPs ask Speaker for action

Rahul fake video

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

Many Congress MPs have written to Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla against the "unethical conduct" of BJP parliamentarians Rajyavardhan Singh Rathore, Subrat Pathak and Bhola Singh of sharing a distorted and fake video of Rahul Gandhi and said it could pose a threat to the country's social fabric. They demanded his swift intervention in the matter.

The Congress MPs, 11 in all and including leader of the party in the Lok Sabha Adhir Ranjan Chowdhury, have urged the Speaker to refer their complaint to the Ethics Committee of Parliament for examination and necessary action.

They alleged that Rathore, Pathak and Singh had shared a distorted video of Rahul Gandhi, falsely linking his statement on Kerala SFI

activists for vandalising his Wayanad office to suggest that he had demonstrated sympathy for the killers of tailor Kanhaiya Lal in Udaipur. The video was run by a TV channel which later withdrew it and tendered an apology. The Congress MPs alleged that the video was distorted in order to "mislead, incite and provoke" the public.

It was clear that the doctored clip was designed to create a dangerously false impression in the minds of the viewers regarding his position on the heinous killing in Udaipur, defame him, and incite anger towards him by creating the impression that he was condoning a violent and horrific crime and foment social tensions in an already sensitive and polarised environment, the Congress MPs said.

They alleged that the BJP lawmakers shared the fake and distorted news on their social media accounts.

Cong seeks withdrawal of amendment to National Flag code

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

The Congress on Friday alleged that the ruling BJP has no understanding of the freedom struggle and its symbols and sought the withdrawal of the amendment to the National Flag code that allows the manufacture and import of polyester flags. Congress spokesperson Ajoy Kumar dubbed BJP "pseudo nationalist" and said Prime Minister Narendra Modi has opened the door to mass import of Indian flags from China at a time when the Chinese troops remain in occupation of 1,000 square kilometres of fresh territory in Ladakh.

He also announced Congress' support to the 'Dhwaja Satyagrah' announced by the Karnataka Khadi Gramodyoga Samyukta Sangha on July 30 in support of their demands and withdrawal of the amendment to the law. Kumar said Modi presents himself as the custodian of India's khadi industry and had made a call to Indians to pur-



chase 'khadi' products last year in his 'Mann ki Baat' address.

The prime minister lectures Indians to be 'Vocal for Local', but his decisions are more in the spirit of 'Shanghai ki Mehengai', be it importing the bronze exterior of Statue of Unity or 45 per cent jump in imports from China to a record USD 94 billion in 2021-22, he said. "By permitting the import of machine-made and imported polyester flags, PM Modi has attacked the essence of 'khadi' and the legacy of Mahatma Gandhi. While ensuring that thousands of workers lose their jobs, he has also made a mockery of the 'Har Ghar Tiranga' campaign, making it into 'Har Ghar Mein Cheen Ka Bana Hua Tiranga'. The self-styled champion of

'khadi' will preside over the death of 'khadi', revealing himself to be a 'Polyester Monopolist,'" Kumar said at AICC Press conference. Senior Congress leader Jairam Ramesh tweeted in Hindi saying those who never participated in the freedom struggle will not understand the nation's relationship with the tricolour.

"Those who did not participate in the freedom struggle, did not hoist the tricolour in Nagpur for 52 years, what will they understand about the country's relationship with the tricolour and khadi. By allowing the import of the polyester tricolour, arrangements have been made to install 'Har Ghar China's Tricolour'. Of that, China which has occupied our land," Ramesh said. The BJP Government's decision to amend the National Flag Code on the eve of the 75th anniversary of India's Independence, "...Is another stark reminder that our pseudo-nationalist ruling party has no understanding of our freedom strug-

gle," Kumar alleged. He said the Karnataka Khadi Gramodyoga Samyukta Sangha is the only unit licensed to produce khadi national flags and is staring at a closure as a result of this decision.

"The Indian National Congress agrees with the demand of the Karnataka Khadi Gramodyoga Samyukta Sangha for this amendment to be withdrawn and supports its decision to hold a Dhwaja Satyagraha on July 30, 2022. The Congress fully associates itself at the national and state level with its Dhwaja Satyagraha and urges all nationalist forces to join in," he said. Congress claimed that the Indian tricolour (tiranga) is a symbol of the nation's freedom and sovereignty and its 'khadi' signifies how the people of India defeated the mighty British Empire using the simple 'charkha', a symbol of self-sufficiency, spiritual humility, national integrity, social equality, communal harmony and ahimsa.

India's def export reaches highest ever to ₹13K cr

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

India clocked the highest ever defence exports of ₹13,000 crore in 2021-22 with the country's public sector firms increasing their contribution in it and the US being a major destination.

The other major regions were South East Asia, Middle East and Africa, said Sanjay Jaju, Additional Secretary in the Defence Ministry. While India's defence imports from the US have gone up significantly in recent years, Indian companies have been increasingly becoming part of the supply chains of US defence companies. "The private sector accounted for 70% of the exports while public sector firms accounted for the rest," Jaju said and pointed out that earlier the private sector used to account for 90% but now the share of DPSUs has gone up.

Jaju explained the methodology of accounting the defence exports, saying only the components which need defence authorisation are accounted and listed under the SCOMET 6 category. This means, several aviation components and dual use items which do not come under the list are not counted, he said.

In January this year, India signed a \$374.96 mn deal with Philippines, its single biggest defence export order, for the supply of three batteries of shore-based anti-ship variant of the BrahMos supersonic cruise missile.

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh will inaugurate a symposium and exhibition on July 11 on 'Artificial Intelligence (AI) in Defence' organised by the Department of Defence Production. Defence Secretary



Dr Ajay Kumar said 75 newly-developed AI products and technologies, having applications in defence, will be launched. "The nature of modern warfare is changing. AI will play a significant role in all forms of modern warfare," he said.

The Defence Ministry had in 2018 created a task force to work out an action plan to prepare armed forces for AI and the challenges, he said adding a "lot of work was done" based on the feedback of the task force. "These are products tried and tested, and have been deployed or in the process of being deployed," Dr. Kumar said.

A high-powered council chaired by Defence Minister, Defence AI council, is spearheading the initiative. Over 100 products are also in the process of being developed, Dr. Kumar said.

The products to be launched are in the domains of automation, unmanned, robotics systems; cyber security; human behaviour analysis; intelligent monitoring system; logistics and supply chain management, speech/voice analysis and Command, Control, Communication, Computer & Intelligence, Surveillance & Reconnaissance (CAISR) systems and operational data analytics.

Cong deutes Mohan to probe Maha debacle

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

The Congress on Friday ordered an enquiry into cross-voting in the recent Maharashtra Legislative Council polls and the absence of 11 of its legislators including former chief minister Ashok Chavan during the trust vote moved by Chief Minister Eknath Shinde.

Congress chief Sonia Gandhi deputed senior leader and national spokesperson Mohan Prakash to make an enquiry in the recent political developments in the State. "Congress president has deput-

ed Mohan Prakash to Maharashtra, to make an enquiry and submit a report in the wake of the recent political developments in the state, with immediate effect," read the Press release signed by All India Congress Committee (AICC) general secretary KC Venugopal.

This comes after former minister Naseem Khan and Chandrakant Handore, who lost in the MLC polls, met former party chief Rahul Gandhi on Thursday. "A senior Congress leader Chandrakant Handore was the party's first candidate who was allocated 29 votes against the quota of 26

votes. However, he got 22 votes which means seven legislators indulged in cross-voting. So we demanded probe and action against the concerned legislators," Khan told a section of media in Mumbai.

Khan's demand came after former chief minister and member of G-23 Prithviraj Chavan claimed that seven party legislators indulged in cross-voting and party should take action against them. AICC sources said that Prakash has been tasked to prepare a report which includes the fall of the coalition MVA government with Shiv Sena and NCP as other prime partners.



Union Environment Minister Bhupender Yadav plants a sapling at an event "Hariyali Mahotsav" — Tree Festival on Friday at Talkatora Stadium, New Delhi, celebrating the nation's zeal for planting trees and saving forests. The event was organised in collaboration with the State Governments, police institutions of the Delhi Government for undertaking plantation drives creating awareness about the importance of trees to protect Mother Earth

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

PUBLIC NOTICE: Builder Cancellation

This is to bring to your notice that **ABHISHEK SINGH/ GYANTI SINGH/** (borrower/s) has availed Home loan facility vide facility agreement number **LBDEL0004904357**, located at Apartment no. **FLAT NO: PB-57-GF, GROUND FLOOR, PARKLAND PRIDE, SECTOR: 77-78, FARIDABAD, HARYANA**

The borrower/s has failed to pay the contractual amount to the builder as per the terms and conditions of the agreement.

The Bank had informed the same to the borrower through letter dated **JULY 06, 2022** informing that **BPTP Parklands Pride Ltd** has cancelled the allotment of the above mentioned property. You are therefore requested to resolve this matter with the builder within 7 days from the date of this publication.

Please take further notice that post cancellation of the allotment of the said property ICICI Bank shall not be bound and/or responsible for any other allotment done by the builder.

Dated: July 08, 2022
Place: Delhi/ NCR

For ICICI Bank Limited
Sd-

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

PUBLIC NOTICE: Builder Cancellation

This is to bring to your notice that **FAIRWEALTH COMMODITY BROKING PRIVATE LIMITED/ DHIRENDER GABA/ NAVEEN GABA** (borrower/s) has availed Home loan facility vide facility agreement number **LBDEL00002042025** located at Apartment no. **PROPERTY NO: SKC-112, TOWER-K, DLF THE SKY COURT, SEC-85, GURGAON-122001**. The borrower/s has failed to pay the contractual amount to the builder as per the terms and conditions of the agreement.

The Bank had informed the same to the borrower through letter dated **JULY 06, 2022** informing that **DLF LIMITED**, has cancelled the allotment of the above mentioned property. You are therefore requested to resolve this matter with the builder within 7 days from the date of this publication.

Please take further notice that post cancellation of the allotment of the said property ICICI Bank shall not be bound and/or responsible for any other allotment done by the builder.

Dated: July 08, 2022
Place: Delhi/ NCR

For ICICI Bank Limited
Sd-

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

PUBLIC NOTICE: Builder Cancellation

This is to bring to your notice that **NIDHI/ AMANDEEP SINGH** (borrower/s) has availed Home loan facility vide facility agreement number **LBGUR00004863378** located at Apartment no. **FLAT NO-T5 506, 5TH FLOOR, ARAWALI HOMES-TOWER 5, VILLAGE KAIKA, SECTOR-4, SOHNA, GURGAON-122001**

The borrower/s has failed to pay the contractual amount to the builder as per the terms and conditions of the agreement.

The Bank had informed the same to the borrower through letter dated **JULY 07, 2022** informing that **GLS INFRA TECH PVT.LTD.** has cancelled the allotment of the above mentioned property. You are therefore requested to resolve this matter with the builder within 7 days from the date of this publication.

Please take further notice that post cancellation of the allotment of the said property ICICI Bank shall not be bound and/or responsible for any other allotment done by the builder.

Dated: June 08, 2022
Place: Delhi/ NCR

For ICICI Bank Limited
Sd-

कार्यालय उप महापंचायक (सिविल), निगम खण्ड-सूचीय उपग्रह राज्य औद्योगिक विकास प्राधिकरण
सीईएस सिटी, गाजियाबाद | E-Mail:- cd3@upsidc.com

ई-निविदा सूचना

एतद्वारा सूचित किया जाता है कि प्राधिकरण के विभिन्न जनपदों में स्थित औद्योगिक क्षेत्रों में सिविल कार्य, विकास एवं अनुसंधान रख-रखाव के कार्यों हेतु सरकारी विभागों/सार्वजनिक उपक्रमों/निगमों/प्राधिकरणों/परिषदों/नगर निकायों में पंजीकृत फर्मों/उकेदारों से ई-निविदाये आमंत्रित की जाती है।

क्र.सं.	कार्यों का नाम	मिती का प्रारंभ	संश्लेषण का (लक्ष्य)
1.	Repairing & Maintenance of boundary wall at Border of Sector A-1 to A-5/6 at I.A. Trans Delhi Signature City, GZB.	पूर्ण कालीन	49.94
2.	Repairing & Maintenance of old C.C. Road from Gate No-1 to Gate No-2 at I.A. Trans Delhi Signature City, GZB.	पूर्ण कालीन	46.87
3.	Fixing of R.C.C. Post around aquire land of Village- Pachayra at I.A. Trans Delhi Signature City, GZB.	पूर्ण कालीन	24.37

उपरोक्त निविदा दिनांक 14.07.2022 को 11.00 बजे से दिनांक 28.07.2022 को 18.00 बजे तक अपलोड की जा सकती है जो दिनांक 29.07.2022 को 11.00 बजे या इसके पश्चात खोला जायेगा निविदादाताओं द्वारा शायद पत्रों की मूल प्रतियां दिनांक 02.08.2022 को 18.00 बजे तक पंजीकृत डाक/व्यक्तिगत रूप से कार्यालय में जमा की जा सकती है।

नोट:- 1. निविदादाता अपनी निविदाओं में समस्त कर एवं जीएसटी सहित दरें अंकित करें। अलग से कोई कर देय नहीं होगा। 2. निविदा सम्बन्धी विस्तृत जानकारी वेबसाइट www.upsidc.com पर स्थापित लिंक यूपीएसडीसी की वेबसाइट <https://etender.up.nic.in> पर देखी जा सकती है।

उप महापंचायक (सिविल), उपग्रह राज्य औद्योगिक विकास प्राधिकरण-3, गाजियाबाद।

NORTHERN RAILWAY

TENDER NOTICE

Sub : Invitation of Tenders through e-procurement system

Dy. Chief Materials Manager, Tughlakabad, New Delhi on behalf of the President of India, invites e-tenders through e-procurement system for supply of the following items:-

S. No.	Tender No.	Brief Description	Quantity	Closing Date
1	43225122	Supply of all members in under frame as per Annexure-I attached.	1 Set	05.08.2022

Note:1) Vendors may visit the IREPS website i.e. www.ireps.gov.in for details. 2) No Manual offer will be entertained.

Date: 06.07.2022.

1693/22

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GOVERNMENT OF JAMMU & KASHMIR

DIRECTORATE OF FLORICULTURE (G&P) DEPARTMENT SRINAGAR KASHMIR

Tel-0194-2474234 Fax - 2482032 - email :- kashflori@rediffmail.com

GIST OF e- Tender Notice No. 20 of 2022 Dated:- 07/07/2022

For and on behalf of the Lt. Governor of J&K UT, e-tender is invited from interested parties/persons for **Outsourcing of Entry Ticketing System of Hikers Park, Pahalgam** of Floriculture Department Kashmir as per details given below:-

The participants have to quote their bid amount in the concerned BOQ:-

S. No.	Period of contract	Reserve Bid (Rs. in Lakhs)	Value of security deposit	Cost of Tender Document
1.	(01) one year from the date of award of contract	27,45,000.00	2,74,500.00	1000.00/- in the shape of e-challan

The bidding document (s) consisting of qualifying information, eligibility criteria, terms and conditions and other details can be seen/downloaded through the Departmental website **www.jktenders.gov.in** as per schedule of date given below:-

1.	Period of downloading of bidding document	07.07.2022 from 03:30 PM to 27.07.2022 up to 02:00 PM
2.	Bid submission Start Date	07.07.2022 from 04:00 PM
3.	Bid submission End Date	27.07.2022 up to 02:00 PM
4.	Date and time of Opening of Tenders (Online)	30.07.2022 at 02:00 PM

The security deposit money exceeding 2% shall be adjustable towards approved bid amount in favour of the successful bidder. The CDR's of the bidders who offer below the reserve bid shall be forfeited.

In case of any eventuality, the date of opening will be considered on any other convenient working day.

Sd/- Accounts Officer (Member secretary)

No. DIPK-5683/22 Dated:- 08-07-2022

Government of Jammu & Kashmir

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER MECHANICAL

HOSPITAL AND CENTRAL HEATING DIVISION SRINAGAR

Telefax No. :- 0194-2496089, Email Id:- xenmhchdk@yahoo.in

e-NIT No: MHCHD/TS /2022-23/57/e-tendering

Dated:- 07.07.2022

For and on behalf of the Lt. Governor, J&K UT e-tenders are invited from Authorized dealers of Suggested makes of Split ACs or Registered/ Reputed and experienced firms for the below mentioned work:-

Name of Work:- Supply, Installation, Testing Commissioning of Hot Cold (reversible ACs) atvarious sections/wards of Govt. LD Hospital, Srinagar.

Est. Cost (Rs. in Lacs) :- 20.41, Cost of T/Doc. (In rupees) :- 1000, Time of completion (In days) :- 10, AAA: :- 10-MCS of 2022, Dt: 23-06-2022, TS No.:- MHCHD/TS/27 Dated 07/22, Position of Funds:- Available, EMD Amount (Rs):- 40,000

1. The Tender document Consisting of qualifying information, eligibility criteria, specifications, Bill of quantities (B.O.Q), Set of terms and conditions of contract and other details can be seen/downloaded from the departmental website **www.jktenders.gov.in** from **08.07.2022 (14.00 hrs)**.

2.The bidders shall deposit their bids in electronic format on the above web site from **08.07.2022 (15:00hrs) to 22.07.2022(14:00 hrs)** in two (02) cover.

3.The bids uploaded on the website up to due date and time will be opened on **22.07.2022(16.00 hrs)** or any date convenient to the department in the office of Executive Engineer, MHCHD, Srinagar.

No. DIPK-5747/22
Dated:- 08.07.2022

Sd/- Executive Engineer, MHCHD, Srinagar

Jaishankar holds talks with US Secy Antony Blinken

NEW DELHI: External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar on Friday held talks with US Secretary of State Antony Blinken. The talks that took place on the side-lines of the G-20 foreign ministers' meeting (FMM) in Bali focused on a range of challenges with "greater understanding and openness".

"Continued the conversation with @SecBlinken on global and regional issues, this time at Bali #G20FMM. Our relationship today allows us to approach a range of challenges with greater understanding and openness," Jaishankar tweeted.

"The Ukraine crisis is also believed to have figured in the talks. Jaishankar also held talks with his Russian counterpart Sergey Lavrov in Bali. India has

not yet condemned the Russian invasion of Ukraine and it has been maintaining that the crisis must be resolved through diplomacy and dialogue. In the last few months, India has also increased the import of discounted crude oil from Russia notwithstanding increasing disquiet over it by several Western powers.

India's crude oil imports from Russia have jumped over 50 times since April and now it makes up for 10 per cent of all crude bought from overseas. The G-20 is a leading grouping that brings together the world's major economies. Its members account for more than 80 per cent of the global GDP, 75 per cent of global trade and 60 per cent of the population of planet.

Prez poll: BJP asks party MPs to reach Delhi

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Ahead of the Presidential poll on July 18, the BJP has asked all its MPs to reach the national Capital by July 16 and stay here to ensure full attendance of all the lawmakers for the presidential election.

The BJP will organise a training and demonstration session on how to cast their votes in the presidential elections, they said. The party national president J P Nadda will host a dinner meeting with all MPs of the party on July 16, sources said. The BJP-led NDA has nominated Droupadi Murmu as its presidential candidate who is certain to be elected as the first tribal president of the country. On Friday, as part of her cam-

paign seeking support, Murmu was in Odisha where Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik hosted lunch for her. She also met BJP MLAs from the State. Murmu then flew to Lucknow where she was received warmly by UP Chief Minister Yogi Adityanatha and his Cabinet colleagues.

The Opposition and non-NDA parties like BJD, YSR Congress, JDS and SAD (Badal) have extended their support to Murmu.

The opposition candidate contesting against NDA nominee is former Minister in Vaipayee government Yashwanth Sinha. JMM, the ruling party in Jharkhand- a tribal party- is also considering support to Murmu but has yet not made any official announcement to effect.



Tarballs seen along the Juhu beach in Mumbai on Friday

PTI Photo

Jagan’s mother quits to ‘stand by daughter’

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■
NEW DELHI/AMARAVATI

Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister Y S Jagan Mohan Reddy’s mother Y S Vijayamma on Friday sprang a surprise by resigning from the honorary president’s post of YSR Congress “to stand by my daughter Sharmila,” who is now heading the YSR Telangana party in the neighbouring state.

Announcing her decision to quit the YSRC, at the party’s two-day plenary that began, Vijayamma said, “As a mother, I will always be close to Jagan.”

She lamented that a fake resignation letter in her name was circulated in the social media a few days ago. “How could they release a letter that I have not written or signed? They have created a campaign about the rift in our family. I am quitting the party (YSRC) to leave no scope for such

things,” Vijayamma said.

For some time now, there have been reports that all is not well between Jagan and his sister, ostensibly over property-related issues. The acrimony between brother and sister escalated and the mother had allegedly been staying away from her son.

Vijayamma – and also apparently Jagan – used the YSRC plenary as the platform to portray that nothing was amiss in the family. For over 10 minutes, she spoke extempore in clear terms about the hard times their family went through after the death of YSR and how they were ‘hounded’ by the Congress and the central investigating agencies (CBI and ED).

She recalled the establishment of YSRC and how her son braved odds and rose to become the state CM. She then went on to praise her son for doing well as Chief Minister

and working for the people, like his late father. Vijayamma then read out a letter to announce her resignation.

“Sharmila is waging a lone battle in Telangana, to carry forward her father’s ideals. My conscience says I have to support her. I was in a dilemma whether I could be a member of two political parties (in two states). It is difficult for me to continue as honorary president of YSRC,” Vijayamma pointed out. “I never imagined such a situation would ever arise. I don’t know why it happened, but I feel it is a decision of God,” she remarked. Vijayamma said she stood by Jagan during his troubles.

“If I stay with him when he is happy, I will be doing injustice to Sharmila, which I don’t like. I should not become a (source of) controversy or objection for anyone, hence am quitting,” she said. Vijayamma expressed hope that her son



would win the next election as well “with all your blessings” and do much more.

“In the 2011 party plenary, I told you that I am leaving my son in your hands and asked you to take care of him. I now say that again as I leave him in your hands,” Vijayamma told the YSRC rank and file.

No one can take away ‘bow and arrow’ symbol from Sena: Uddhav

T N RAGHUNATHA ■
MUMBAI

Still to recover from an unprecedented rebellion within his party leading to the exit of the 40 out of its total 55 MLAs, Shiv Sena president Uddhav Thackeray said here on Friday that no one can take away the Sena’s registered ‘bow and arrow’ symbol from the party and the question of him thinking about symbol did not arise.

Talking to media persons at his “Matoshri” residence amid ongoing efforts by the Sena faction led by Chief Minister Eknath Shinde to move the Election Commission to claim the party’s “bow and arrow” symbol, Uddhav said: “No can take away ‘bow and arrow’ symbol from the Shiv Sena.. I am saying this after holding consultations with law and con-

stitutional experts... Hence , the question of the Sena looking for a new symbol does not arise”.

Rubbishing the claims in certain political circles that the original Sena led by him was as good as “finished” after the recent rebellion triggered by Shinde, Uddhav said: “Supposing we had only one MLA, he leaves the party. Does it mean that the party is finished? Even if 100 to 150 MLAs leave the party, the party is not finished. The party will function as before”.

“An effort is being made by our rivals to create a misconception among the people that the parent Sena is as good as over. The Legislature party is different from the registered party. Hence on the basis of the legislature party’s strength, no one can snatch away our party symbol from us,” the Sena pres-

ident said. Uddhav said that with the expiry of their terms, there were no elected bodies in any of the municipal corporations in the state. “Hence those who have left the party are no longer corporators now.... Shiv Sena does not face any threat. No one can run away with the party. The Shiv Sena is a party that has grown on the streets,” the former Chief Minister said.

Alluding to his party’s plea in the Supreme Court challenging the appointment of Eknath Shinde as chief minister of Maharashtra, “The Supreme Court will hear our plea on July 11. The case is important from the point of view of the existence or otherwise of democracy in the country. Its verdict will decide whether the country runs as per the Constitution or not. I have huge faith in the country’s judiciary”.

Murmu meets NDA lawmakers in UP; Yogi confident she will win

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

National Democratic Alliance (NDA) presidential candidate Draupadi Murmu held a meeting with the lawmakers of Bharatiya Janata Party and its allies and sought support in the presidential election to be held on July 18 as Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath exuded confidence that the NDA candidate would comfortably win the election.

Murmu visited Lucknow on Friday and met NDA leaders, including legislators and parliamentarians from UP, and sought their support in the presidential election.

“I am confident that Draupadi Murmu will comfortably win the presidential election. It is a matter of happiness that a tribal woman is running for the highest constitutional post of the country,”



Yogi Adityanath said during the meeting with NDA leaders here on Friday.

Murmu was given a rousing welcome when she reached Chaudhary Charan Singh International Airport here around 3 pm. She was welcomed at the airport by Chief

Minister Yogi Adityanath and his two Deputy Chief Ministers Keshav Prasad Maurya and Brajesh Pathak. Minister Aseem Arun played the dholak at the airport to welcome Draupadi Murmu.

From the airport, Murmu reached VVIP Naimisharanya

guest house where several leaders of Bharatiya Janata Party, including state president Swatantra Dev Singh, were present.

The airport compound was decorated with flowers and the road connecting the airport was dotted with hoardings carrying pictures of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath and NDA presidential candidate Draupadi Murmu while BJP workers lined up along the road outside with party flags to welcome her.

Murmu kicked off her visit by offering floral tributes to the photo of former Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee before meeting the NDA lawmakers at Lok Bhawan.

Uttar Pradesh is going to play an important role in the presidential election as the state has the highest share of

14.86 per cent in the country’s total vote value of 10,86,431 for the presidential election. UP has the maximum 80 Lok Sabha and 403 assembly seats. The value of the vote of MP is 700, which is same across the country, while the value of the vote of the MLA is 208, which is the highest on the basis of population.

The value of one MP’s vote is equal to 700 votes. In such a situation, the value of the vote of the NDA Lok Sabha MPs from UP will be 44,800 as it has 64 out of 80 MPs while in Rajya Sabha the value of votes of BJP is 17,500 as it has 25 MPs.

If the votes of Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha members are taken together, then the vote value of BJP from UP is 62,300.

In the case of Vidhan Sabha, out of its 403 members in UP, there are 273 MLAs from BJP and allies. With the

value of an MLA vote being 208, the value of votes of BJP and its allies would be 56,784.

Thus, the value of the votes of BJP and allies in UP is about 1.21 lakh. “UP will play a big

role to ensure victory of Draupadi Murmu with a record margin,” Yogi said.

Rajbhar, Shivpal in Yogi’s dinner meeting

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

Chinks have appeared in the Opposition unity as Suheldev Bhartiya Samaj Party president Om Prakash Rajbhar and Pragatisheel Samajwadi Party (Lohia) chief Shivpal Singh Yadav attended the dinner hosted by Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath in honour of National Democratic Alliance presidential candidate Draupadi Murmu at his residence here on Friday.

Apart from Rajbhar and Shivpal, independent MLA Raghuraj Pratap Singh alias

Raja Bhaiya also attended the dinner meeting.

When Opposition presidential candidate Yashwant Sinha came to Lucknow to seek votes, Akhilesh Yadav called Rashtriya Lok Dal leader Jayant Chaudhary but did not call Om Prakash Rajbhar.

After being sidelined, Rajbhar said that it appeared that Akhilesh no longer needed him.

AS the SP-SBSP alliance is on the brink of collapse, Rajbhar said that he would wait for divorce from Akhilesh’s side and would not take the initia-

tive to break the alliance from his side. But, by attending the chief minister’s dinner meeting, he has given a clear signal that he would prefer to side with the NDA in the presidential election. Akhilesh’s uncle Shivpal is also angry over the way he has been treated by his bhatija post-elections. He was looking for a role for himself in the SP after the election but was ignored.

As Rajbhar and Shivpal Yadav have decided to walk out of the SP-led alliance as far as this presidential election is concerned, it will be a blow for Akhilesh Yadav.

LG Manoj Sinha cancels J&K police SI recruitment, calls for CBI probe

MOHIT KANDHARI ■ JAMMU

The Lieutenant Governor of the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir Manoj Sinha Friday recommended a probe by the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) after the three-member inquiry panel detected bungling in the written examinations conducted by the Jammu and Kashmir Services Selection Board (JKSSB) for the recruitment of Police Sub-Inspector (PSI).

“JKP Sub-Inspector recruitment has been cancelled and a CBI probe has been recommended into the selection process. Culprits will be brought to justice soon. It’s the first big step towards securing the future of our youth and the government will soon decide on a future

course of action for fresh recruitment”, the office of the Lieutenant Governor tweeted on Friday.

The exam was conducted by the JKSSB on March 27, 2022 for filling 1200 posts of Police Sub-Inspector.

Out of 113,861 candidates, a total number of 97,793 (85.95%) candidates actually participated in the examination. Out of these over 7200 candidates were shortlisted and declared qualified for the physical examination in the first week of June, 2022.

Soon after the results were declared some of the unsuccessful candidates had alleged mass bungling in the written examination. It was alleged that question papers were leaked several siblings who appeared in the examination

figured in the merit list at the top slots. Initially, the UT administration remained firm but as the aspirants intensified their protests seeking a high level probe the administration constituted a three member panel to verify the allegations.

The panel was headed by the Financial Commissioner (Additional Chief Secretary), Home Department, R K Goyal. The other members of the panel were the Principal Secretary, General Administration Department and the Secretary Department of Law, Justice, and Parliamentary Affairs.

After the panel submitted its report LG Manoj Sinha Friday ordered cancellation of the examination and recommended a CBI probe as well.

SP loses LoP post in UP Legislative Council, calls it ‘undemocratic decision’

PTI ■ LUCKNOW

The Samajwadi Party has lost the post of the Leader of Opposition in the Uttar Pradesh Legislative Council after its strength dropped below the required 10 MLCs in the 100-member House.

On May 27, the Samajwadi Party, with its 11 members in the Legislative Council, was the largest opposition party, according to a statement by Principal Secretary Rajesh Singh.

Based on this, Lal Bihari Yadav was recognised as the Leader of the Opposition.

“On July 7, the number of Samajwadi Party members in the Council was reduced to nine, which is one less than the required number of 10 leaders for getting the status of the



main opposition.

“Thus, Lal Bihari Yadav’s recognition as Leader of Opposition is being ended by the chairman with immediate effect. He continues to remain the leader of the Samajwadi Party in the Council,” reads the statement issued on Thursday.

Yadav criticised the decision, terming it undemocratic and against the rules.

“Leader of Opposition is the leader of the entire opposition in the House. Ending its

recognition by quoting wrong rules is an effort to weaken and tarnish democracy. This House is trying to weaken the opposition and muffle its voice.

“This decision of the Chairman appears to be killing democracy and grossly violating the rules and law,” he said in a statement here.

Reacting to the development, Samajwadi Party leader Sanjay Lathar, who served as the Leader of Opposition in the Legislative Council before Yadav, said the leader of the second-largest party in the House gets the post.

“Because the Samajwadi Party is the second-largest party in the legislative council, its leader must be recognised as the Leader of Opposition. We will go to court against this,” he told PTI.

Suvendu writes to TMC to back NDA prez candidate

Prelude to his homecoming, says TMC leader

SAUGAR SENGUPTA ■ KOLKATA

With Bengal Opposition Leader Suvendu Adhikari writing to the Trinamool Congress MLAs to back NDA candidate Droupadi Murmu in the upcoming presidential elections, senior TMC leader Kunal Ghosh said it was a “prelude to his homecoming” plans.

Murmu is scheduled to visit Kolkata on Saturday when she is likely to meet the BJP MPs and MLAs from Bengal.

Adhikari, once a powerful TMC satrap and Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee’s pointsman in the Nandigram movement that brought her to power in 2011, had left his earlier outfit ahead of the 2021 Assembly elections to join the BJP.

Referring to Adhikari’s appeal to the TMC legislators Ghosh said “the letter is nothing but a spade-work being done ahead of homecoming ... one day the content of the let-

ter will change and its signatory will remain the same when he will appeal to the leadership (TMC) for a gharwapsi... in writing this letter he knows that seeking support is a futile exercise but by writing he is refreshing some of his old friendships.”

Ghosh said that Adhikari had gone to the BJP not on his own wish but because he wanted to save himself from the central agencies.

“As there are cases against him about which everyone knows he approached to the BJP central leadership so that he could be let off ... in lieu of that he is working for the BJP in Bengal.”

On Adhikari’s appeal to the TMC MLAs Ghosh wondered why the letter came from him and not from BJP leader Dilip Ghosh who is the national vice president.

“Presidential election is a national issue and a national and not a State leader should deal such issues ... it intrigues me as to why Suvendu and not Dilip da wrote that letter... is it not an attempt to refresh his old contacts in the Trinamool so that his future becomes smoother in the light of steady



decline of the BJP in Bengal,” Ghosh said.

Another senior leader and Bengal Minister Firhad Hakim too said that like the other BJP leaders who were making a beeline to join the TMC “the days are not far when Suvendu Adhikari will too make a formal request seeking a comeback ... it is just a matter of time ... there are already a number of BJP MLAs and other leaders who have joined the TMC and many more are knocking the door.”

Quoting sources close to the Opposition Leader the Hakim said that Adhikari was feeling suffocated in the BJP. “He is feeling suffocated there ... he has expressed his feelings to some of his close aides ... and he does not want to continue like this.” Meanwhile, Murmu who will reach Kolkata

on Saturday morning has no plans to visit the Assembly or meet Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee, a senior BJP leader said adding she would meet the saffron MPs and MLAs in a hotel at New Town in the northern fringes of Kolkata.

Elsewhere senior TMC leader and MP Saugato Roy said that there was no question of his party leaders supporting the NDA presidential candidate. “There is no question of TMC supporting Droupadi Murmu,” he said.

Incidentally Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee had a few days ago said that she could have considered supporting Murmu if she was consulted by the BJP leadership in advance and ahead of her sewing up an opposition unity to field Yashwant Sinha for presidential elections.

Maha reports 2,944 new Covid cases, 7 deaths

PTI ■ MUMBAI

Maharashtra on Friday reported 2,944 new COVID-19 cases, up by 266 from a day ago, and seven more deaths linked to the infection, taking the State’s overall tally to 79,98,673 and the toll to 1,47,971, a health department official said.

The addition to the cumulative tally was 2,678 on Thursday, while the number of deaths was higher at eight.

The fresh COVID-19 deaths were reported from Mumbai, Vasai-Virar (two

each), Thane, Raigad and Aurangabad (one each).

The recovery of 3,499 persons from the infection in the last 24 hours took the number of people discharged so far to 78,31,851, leaving the state with an active tally of 18,851, the official said.

State health department data showed the coronavirus recovery rate at 97.91 per cent and the fatality rate at 1.84 per cent. The number of tests carried out so far rose to 8,23,04,212 after addition of 40,730 tests in the last 24 hours.

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PAPER WITH PASSION

Boris' legacy

Johnson's biggest failing was not that he was a conservative, but that he didn't act much like one

From the Indian perspective, British Prime Minister Boris Johnson's resignation on Thursday as the Conservative Party leader was a little weird. Consider the trigger: he appointed Chris Pincher as the deputy chief whip in charge of the ruling party despite being aware of Pincher's sexual transgressions. The development came after reports that Johnson had attended parties during the COVID pandemic, thus breaking the very rules his own Government had made. In our country, such misdemeanours at the most cause embarrassment, not loss of power. It is routinely reported, for example, how our politicians and their minions thrash toll collectors. Does it bring down Governments? While Johnson's behaviour was reprehensible in such cases, at worst he and his administration could be accused of misconduct; but there wasn't any financial scam or some other major scandal under his watch. Further, the economy is in good shape. Yes, inflation is high but that has a lot to do with pandemic stimulus in circulation which is in the region of £400 billion (\$480 billion). "If the world tips into an energy shock recession, this rainy, small crowded island nation ought to hold up better than most. With full employment, a strong banking sector and robust household and corporate balance sheets — and the ability, despite what the last chancellor said, to add more Government fiscal stimulus — any downturn can be mitigated. The UK's debt-to-gross-domestic-product ratio remains just below 100 per cent, better than many other major economies, so there's room to borrow," Bloomberg reported.



Clearly, Johnson didn't fall because of what he *did* but what he *was*: He was a conservative, not just in name but in his beliefs, in his faith in British exceptionalism, patriotism and open economy. Such beliefs, especially Brexit, are anathema to not just the Left but also the liberal establishment (which, unfortunately, has been badly infected with the Left). Since liberals control almost the entire opinion-making apparatus — the mainstream media, academics, the culture industry, *et al* — he began with a great disadvantage. And they despise anyone who doesn't subscribe to their views and pay obeisance to their dogmas. Even if a Rightwing politician decides to liberals' pet issues like climate change, he or she is not treated with any sympathy. Johnson did try to fashion policies (net-zero greenhouse-gas emissions in a short time) and make decisions (the pandemic lockdown) in accordance with the liberal canons. In fact, his biggest failing was not that he was a conservative but that he didn't act much like a conservative. His other failings, like partying during the pandemic and choosing Pincher, added to that. Yet, the good work Johnson did will be remembered. Brexit is one such achievement. Another one is strengthening the India-UK ties, leading to a "Comprehensive Strategic Partnership". The negotiations for the ongoing Indo-British Free Trade Agreement or FTA are also unlikely to be jeopardised by his resignation.

PICTALK



Palestinians at a livestock market in preparation for Eid al-Adha, in the West Bank city of Bethlehem

AP

Mammoth issue

In a worrying revelation, wild elephants in Uttarakhand are foraging on glass, other trash

Ingesting human waste, including plastic, glass, and even wires, has been discovered in the endangered yet social Asian elephants. According to a study, which was published in the *Journal for Nature Conservation*, researchers in Uttarakhand's forested areas gathered samples of elephant dung from within and surrounding those areas. Nearly one-third of the 75 samples of dung examined contained human waste, plastic packaging and other, far worse, things. Every item that is human-derived has been measured, classified and divided into plastic and anthropogenic waste categories. This is presumably due to the fact that plastic debris is frequently discovered at garbage dumps near the forest margins of villages and human settlements, which elephants frequently approach for grazing or foraging. Once the plastics have entered the forest through the dung of these elephants, these may be consumed by and harm other species as well. Elephants in the area are known to spread seeds through their excrement but, because the food source is tainted with plastics, this natural process spreads the pervasive and harmful pollution into untamed areas. Their actions endanger the health of other forest inhabitants as well.



Once these plastics have entered the forest, these might be eaten by other animals and fill their stomachs, which would result in "mechanical injury". Surprisingly, plastic was discovered in every sample of dung around the dumps and even in the forested areas close to Kotdwar, which is close to the Jim Corbett National Park's edge. Plastic food containers, plastic utensils, plastic bags and plastic packaging made for nearly 85 per cent of the ingested elements discovered in elephant poo. Elephants are exposed to dangerous substances including polystyrene, bisphenol A, and phthalates when they consume plastic. These animals' digestive systems may be endangered by these substances. There were reports earlier this year that in eight years, 20 elephants in Sri Lanka died as a result of ingesting plastic garbage. The only things found during the post-mortem exams were water, polythene, food wrappers, plastic, and other non-digestibles. These cases did not appear to include the typical meal that elephants consume and digest. The government's waste management division must make sure that wildlife doesn't eat trash close to forested regions. Before our mess begins to cause issues for animals who coexist with us, it is our job to thoroughly solve the situation.

Let benefits reach all the truly needy

Focus should be on posting good, honest, pro-poor and pro-active officers in the right posts where antipoverty schemes are implemented and monitored



SANGRAM MISHRA



Poverty is still regarded as an anathema as it immobilises individual progress and a nation's growth. A rigorous and sincere exercise is needed to identify its causes and address those for eradicating poverty. The tools to identify the poverty-stricken are many, starting with an imaginary line to gauge poverty. Dandekar and Rath have emphasised the concept of poverty line as an imaginary line fixing a value for income per day and people whose income comes below that mark are considered Below Poverty Line (BPL). The income so fixed has gone through many changes. Different poverty estimation panels in India, including the Alagh Committee (1979), Lakdowal Committee (1993), Tendulkar Committee (2005), NC Saxena Committee and Rangarajan Committee, all have given their assessment.

The Tendulkar Committee wanted to correct the spatial and temporal issues with the price adjustment procedure (with uniform recall period). Saxena Committee favoured revising the BPL status with systemic inclusion and exclusion. They stated that automatic BPL inclusion was for the homeless, bonded labourers and the destitute and automatic exclusion was for the income tax payers, any member drawing a salary of ₹10,000 or having a mechanised farm and equipment.

The Rangarajan Committee in 2014 favoured a separate poverty line for rural and urban areas. They fixed the poverty line delineating ₹972 per person per month for the rural poor and ₹1,407 per person per month in urban areas, stating that 29.5 per cent of the population was BPL.

As it comes, the poverty line is associated with deprivation and fixed as per income/consumption level. The World Bank has clearly defined poverty as 'deprivation in well-being' and it comprises many dimensions including 'low income and inability to acquire basic goods and services for survival with dignity'. Hence, confining poverty only to economic interpretation may be labelled as a one-sided concept.

In a paradigm shift, Nobel laureate Amartya Sen recognised the multidimensional connotations of the concept and defined poverty as not having enough material possession/income to meet a person's needs. Poverty should include social, economic and political factors in its reflection. Amartya Sen classified it as absolute (complete lack of means to meet basic needs) and relative poverty (where the household income is a certain percentage below median income). For example, the threshold for relative poverty could be set at 50 per cent of the median income.

Amartya Sen stressed that traditional poverty had been defined based on individual levels of income. But a better approach is to see poverty as deprivation of a person's capability to live a valued life. So he stressed for a shift in perception from income, growth, utility to that of increase in emphasis on individual entitlements, capability and freedom of right for addressing poverty and related issues. Nobel laureate Abhijeet Banerjee and Duflo in their book, *Poor Economics — Rethinking poverty and the ways to end it*, wrote: "We have no longer guaranteed to erad-



THE WORLD BANK HAS CLEARLY DEFINED POVERTY AS 'DEPRIVATION IN WELL-BEING' AND IT COMPRISES MANY DIMENSIONS INCLUDING 'LOW INCOME AND INABILITY TO ACQUIRE BASIC GOODS AND SERVICES FOR SURVIVAL WITH DIGNITY'

icate poverty and once we accept that time is on our side, join hands with millions of well-intentioned people across the world — elected officials, bureaucrats, teachers, NGO workers, academicians and entrepreneurs — in the quest for many ideas, that will eventually lead the world where no one has to live on 99 cent a day."

Before enunciating on how to deal with poverty, we may divide it into three categories (Primary poverty means insufficient income to meet basic needs; Secondary poverty means insufficient money to buy basic necessities; Persistent poverty denotes poverty all through, come what may). The million-dollar question is how to eradicate poverty with waxing on the living condition of the impecunious?

The pragmatic approach to end the predicament of the poverty-stricken is to ensure that benefits percolate to the target groups. Though many a Government scheme is good and ingenious but the benefits are not reaching the target groups. The remedy may be in posting good, honest, pro-poor and pro-active officers in the right posts where implementation and monitoring of

the antipoverty schemes take place. Constant monitoring of poverty eradication programmes is to be done by a high-level committee headed by the Development Commissioner. Cases of corruption and malfeasance should be dealt with a heavy hand. Evaluation, monitoring and right implementation of the policies for benefiting the needy would ensure percolation of benefits to the poor to enhance their living standards.

Certain dilemmas and conundrum always confuse the planners about the right approach to emulate and decide as to which comes first — growth or equitable distribution? The sanguine approach should always be the middle path, that is to go for growth with equitable distribution, leaving behind the sophistry and diatribes. While all possible steps should be taken for the growth of the nation in terms of GDP and related parameters, it should be well ensured that equitable distribution goes hand in hand with it.

(This article is the second part of a series.)

(The author is a superannuated senior IAS officer. The views expressed are personal.)

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

FOUR FROM SOUTH GET INTO RS

Sir — It is most gratifying that four noted personalities from southern States have been nominated to the Rajya Sabha from different fields in recognition of their achievements and they fully deserve the honour (July 7). PT Usha, Ilayaraja, Vijayender Prasad and Veerendra Hegde got the best track record in their respective professions. Not only in the country, they have received international recognition, too. They belong to the entire country and are loved by all irrespective of regions, State and language as some media commented that south India got a major share for political purposes. Such comments were, however, unwarranted.

If we go through the history of such nominees, there was some disappointment as many never used to attend Rajya Sabha sessions nor participated fruitfully in discussions. Even though they might be busy in their profession and other regular activities, as a respect to the RS membership, they should have adjusted their schedules to attend the session and participate in debates on important Bills and other issues highlighting people's problems. Let us hope the new nominees will do justice to the RS membership as a show of respect and thankfulness to the President.

JP Reddy | Nalgonda

LET'S BEGIN WITH #PLASTICFREEJULY

Sir — We must begin by avoiding single use plastic such as straws, water bottles and plastic bags; use more reusable products such as glass jars, metal utensils and use metal tin lunch boxes and containers for storage. Avoid highly processed foods and begin using homemade recipes. Learn how to make products like toothpaste, deodorant and mouthwash. Share the next holiday texting your friends online using the hashtag #PlasticFreeJuly and see if you can convince them to join in your efforts to stop using plastic. It is all about encouraging people to be more aware of their plastic use and creating a cleaner world.

Johnson's ouster was looming



British Prime Minister Boris Johnson resigned immediately as leader of his Conservative Party but plans to remain as the Prime Minister while the new leadership is decided. It is a humiliating defeat for Johnson, who succeeded in leading Britain out of the European Union and was credited with rolling out one of the world's most successful mass vaccination campaigns to combat COVID-19. The latest ethics scandal around Johnson's leadership led around 50 senior lawmakers to quit his Government. He

was forced to concede defeat after two more members of his Cabinet quit and one of his closest allies, Treasury chief Nadhim Zahawi, publicly told him to resign for the good of the country.

Johnson led Britain through Brexit and the COVID-19 pandemic, and won a large election victory in 2019. But the perpetually ruffled leader known for greeting critics with bombast and bluster was also dogged by criticism that he was willing to bend, and sometimes break, the rules to achieve his goals. Johnson, 58, managed to remain in power for almost three years despite allegations that he was too close to party donors, that he protected supporters from bullying and corruption allegations, and that he misled Parliament about parties that broke the lockdown rules. With this, Johnson's resignation is a lesson to other leaders who tell lies and mislead people.

Bhagwan Thadani | Mumbai

People can participate in this mission by avoiding all products using plastic in them throughout July. This initiative aims to challenge the material system the world has in place when it comes to its economy, focusing its efforts on a global span as well as the personal. Plastic has become the number one product people use every day, despite the fact that it's very damaging to the environment. #PlasticFreeJuly is dedicated to teaching people about the dangers of plastic and challenges people to avoid plastic for a month.

Faizan Khan | Ujjain

IS MAHUA DIFFERENT FROM NUPUR?

Sir — Much noise was made Nupur Sharma's remarks against Prophet Muhammad. Nobody welcomes blasphemy but nobody tried to ascertain what provoked her to say something that provoked Muslims. Nupur has claimed that it was not a suo motu statement; it was in response to the "continuous insult and disrespect towards our Mahadev". But the

alacrity shown by the BJP in suspending Nupur has not been shown by the TMC for Mahua Moitra insulting Hindu gods. Congress leader Shashi Tharoor was "taken aback by the attack" on Mahua for her comments supporting the depiction of goddess Kaali in poor light.

The actress playing Kaali is shown smoking a cigarette. Denigration of Hindu gods and goddesses has been going on for long. If people involved in the denigration of deities of any religion had been punished severely and quickly, today the matter would not have come to such a pass. Mahua has the temerity to say she has every right as "an individual to imagine goddess Kaali as a meat-eating and alcohol-accepting goddess". Hindu gods are taken for granted by people of other religions more because of some Hindus being at the forefront in insulting Hindu gods.

KV Seetharamaiah | Bengaluru

Send your feedback to: letterstopioneer@gmail.com

SOUND BITE

Even the smallest error hindering safety will be probed and course-corrected.



Civil Aviation Minister —Jyotiraditya Scindia



Former Tory Minister —Tim Loughton

My playback outtings haven't gone down. But yes, the tracks should have quality.

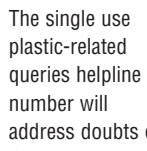


Singer-musician —Kailash Kher



I'm really proud of the way I have just come back out at Wimbledon.

Grand Slam champion —Nick Kyrgios



The single use plastic-related queries helpline number will address doubts of the citizens.

Delhi Environment Minister —Gopal Rai

FIRST COLUMN

OUR FRIEND WHO FORESAW CHINA THREAT

The geopolitical legacy of the Japanese ex-PM will be remembered



NISHTHA KAUSHIKI

The assassination of the former Japanese prime minister Shinzo Abe has sent shock waves not only across Japan but throughout the world, given the peaceful nature of Japan and its citizens. He was the grandson of the former PM Kishi Nobusuke and entered politics in 1982. Abe became a member of parliament in 1993 and was appointed to the post of deputy cabinet secretary in 2000.

Abe specialised in security politics; he was a champion of defence policy reforms. His views on the Korean abductions of Japanese citizens and China's increasing militarisation, apart from his frequent visits to the Yasukuni shrine, made him recognised as a nationalist. He had demanded constitutional revisions, especially to Article 9 of the Constitution, and strengthening of Japan's military capabilities.

His 2006 political manifesto Utsukushii Kuni e (Towards a Beautiful Country), republished in 2013 as Atarashii Kuni e (Towards a New Country), earned him the reputation of a nationalist. In 2006, he succeeded Koizumi as PM and focussed on essential reforms such as the referendum on constitutional revisions and Japan's law of education.

In 2007, Abe had the foresight to envision a hostile China. He strategically crafted the elevation of the Japan Defense Agency to a full-fledged Ministry of Defense. This was followed by an exclusive budget for a missile defence programme, apart from the development of satellite surveillance capabilities.

He had also spoken in favour of the possibilities of Japan developing pre-emptive strike capabilities and hence 'normalisation'. Unfortunately, with controversies surrounding his first tenure, he was defeated in the 2007 upper house elections and resigned. Finally, his party was defeated in the 2009 lower house elections.



In 2013, in his speech 'Japan is Back' at the US-based Center for Strategic and International Studies (CSIS) where he outlined his security reform agenda to normalise Japan and put his country's role as a "rule promoter." This is relevant today as Nato and the West aim for a rules-based order in the Indo-Pacific region.

Under him, two essential developments made Japan closer to a 'normal nation'. First, the passing of the Specially Designated Secrets Act by Diet (parliament) that mandated strict punishments for unauthorised disclosure of national security secrets. Second, the formulation of the National Security Strategy that replaced the 1957 defence policy. The founding principle of the National Security Strategy called for a free and stable international order and promoted "proactive pacifism".

Regarding arms trade, in 2014, Abe oversaw the adoption of the new 'Three Principles on Transfer of Defense Equipment and Technology' that permitted Tokyo to sell arms to those threatened by others, especially countries like India.

In 2016, the Japanese government passed the Legislation for Peace and Security and adopted that the country can use force in a crisis triggered by an armed attack against a close foreign country. This implied that if Japan's partner countries came under attack, it could retaliate using force. Thus, Abe accepted the role of 'proactive contributor to peace' and took measures to enhance the Japan-US security alliance. It also silenced the US critics who termed Japan a 'free rider state'.

Abe would be remembered by Indians for his role in forging close strategic ties between India and Japan. In 2007, he visited India and, in his speech in parliament, without naming China, focused on the factors that could bring India and Japan closer to each other. He stressed the ideas of an "arc of freedom and prosperity" in the "outer ring of the Eurasian continent" and the shaping of a "broader Asia" through the "confluence of the two seas"—the Indian and Pacific Oceans. The idea finally culminated in 2019 into the present-day Quad.

Abe's visit was the first by a Japanese PM in 41 years.

Shinzo Abe's legacy will endure forever

Prime Minister Narendra Modi pens an emotional tribute for his friend and former Japanese Premier, who was a great champion of Indo-Japan friendship



Shinzo Abe — an outstanding leader of Japan, a towering global statesman, and a great champion of India-Japan friendship — is not among us anymore. Japan and the world have lost a great visionary. And, I have lost a dear friend.

I first met him in 2007, during my visit to Japan as the Chief Minister of Gujarat. Right from that first meeting, our friendship went beyond the trappings of office and the shackles of official protocol.

Our visit to Toji temple in Kyoto, our train journey on the Shinkansen, our visit to the Sabarmati Ashram in Ahmedabad, the Ganga Aarati in Kashi, the elaborate tea ceremony in Tokyo, the list of our memorable interactions is indeed long.

And, I will always cherish the singular honour of having been invited to his family home in Yamanashi prefecture, nestled among the foothills of Mt. Fuji.

Even when he was not the Prime Minister of Japan between 2007 and 2012, and more recently after 2020, our personal bond remained as strong as ever.

Every meeting with Abe San was intellectually stimulating. He was always full of new ideas and invaluable insights on governance, economy, culture, foreign policy, and various other subjects.

His counsel inspired me in my economic choices for Gujarat. And, his support was instrumental in building Gujarat's vibrant partnership with Japan.

Later on, it was my privilege to work with him to bring about an unprecedented transformation of the strategic partnership between India and Japan. From a largely narrow, bilateral economic relationship, Abe San helped turn it into a broad, comprehensive one, which not only covered every field of national endeavour, but became pivotal for our two countries' and the region's security. For him, this was one of the most consequential relationships for the people of our two countries and the world. He was resolute in pursuing the civil nuclear agreement with India — a most difficult one for his country — and decisive in offering the most generous terms for the High Speed Rail in India. As in most important milestones in independent India's journey, he ensured that Japan is there side by side as New India accelerates its growth.

His contribution to India-Japan relations was richly recognised by the conferment upon him of the prestigious Padma Vibhushan in 2021.

Abe San had a deep insight into the complex and multiple transitions taking place in the world, the vision to be ahead of his time to see its impact on politics, society, economy and international relations, the wisdom to know the choices that were to be made, the capacity to make clear and bold decisions even in the face of conventions and the rare ability to carry his people and the world with him. His far-reaching policies — Abenomics —



AMONG ABE'S GREATEST GIFTS TO US AND HIS MOST ENDURING LEGACY, AND ONE FOR WHICH THE WORLD WILL ALWAYS BE INDEBTED, IS HIS FORESIGHT IN RECOGNISING THE CHANGING TIDES AND GATHERING STORM OF OUR TIME AND HIS LEADERSHIP IN RESPONDING TO IT

(The author is the Prime Minister of India.)



reinvigorated the Japanese economy and re-ignited the spirit of innovation and entrepreneurship of his people.

Among his greatest gifts to us and his most enduring legacy, and one for which the world will always be indebted, is his foresight in recognising the changing tides and gathering storm of our time and his leadership in responding to it. Long before others, he, in his seminal speech to the Indian Parliament in 2007, laid the ground for the emergence of the Indo-Pacific region as a contemporary political, strategic and economic reality — a region that will also shape the world in this century.

And, he led from the front in building a framework and architecture for its stable and secure, peaceful and prosperous future, based on values that he deeply cherished — respect for sovereign-

ty and territorial integrity, adherence to international law and rules, peaceful conduct of international relations in a spirit of equality and shared prosperity through deeper economic engagement.

The Quad, the ASEAN-led forums, the Indo Pacific Oceans Initiative, the Asia-Africa Growth Corridor and the Coalition for Disaster Resilient Infrastructure all benefited from his contributions. Quietly and without fanfare, and overcoming hesitation at home and scepticism abroad, he transformed Japan's strategic engagement, including in defence, connectivity, infrastructure and sustainability, across the Indo Pacific region. For that, the region is more optimistic about its destiny and the world more confident about its future.

During my Japan visit in May this year, I had the opportunity to meet Abe San, who had just taken

over as the Chair of the Japan-India Association. He was his usual self-energetic, captivating, charismatic and very witty. He had innovative ideas on how to further strengthen the India-Japan friendship. When I said goodbye to him that day, little did I imagine that it would be our final meeting.

I will always be indebted for his warmth and wisdom, grace and generosity, friendship and guidance, and I will miss him dearly.

We in India mourn his passing as one of our own, just as he embraced us with an open heart. He died doing what he loved the most — inspiring his people. His life may have been cut short tragically, but his legacy will endure forever.

I extend heartfelt condolences on behalf of the people of India and on my own behalf to the people of Japan, especially to Mrs Akie Abe and his family. *Om Shanti!*

POINT COUNTERPOINT

HINDU RELIGIOUS SENTIMENTS HAVE BEEN HURT BY MAHUA MOITRA'S STATEMENT... INSULTS TO HINDU DEITIES WILL NOT BE TOLERATED.
—MP CHIEF MINISTER SHIVRAJ SINGH CHOUHAN



BRING IT ON, BJP! AM A KAALI WORSHIPPER. I'M NOT AFRAID OF ANYTHING. NOT YOUR IGNORAMUSES. NOT YOUR GOONS...NOT YOUR TROLLS.
—TRINAMOOL CONGRESS MP MAHUA MOITRA

Boris Johnson fell not because of his stupid lies

He lies frequently, and he clearly has the sociopath's ability to sincerely believe his own lie as soon as he says it

"The sinking ship has left the rat," said Keir Starmer, leader of Britain's Labour Party, as the ruling Conservative Party forced Prime Minister Boris Johnson to resign as party leader. He had told one lie too many, and his own party's patience finally ran out.

There were many other reasons to ditch him. Almost all of his political projects, from 'getting Brexit done' to 'leveling up the country', remained little more than slogans, and he was preparing to launch a new economic war with the European Union that would incidentally restart the war in Northern Ireland.

But what finally brought him down was not the economy, or Brexit, or any of his other failures to perform as advertised. It was the incessant, instinctive,



GWYNNE DYER

(The author's new book is The Shortest History of War)

stupid lies.

His party first cheered his lies, because they won him a landslide victory in the 2019 election. In 2020 they still laughed at them, because he was a great phrase-maker. And he could still rouse the faithful when he launched a full-scale 'culture war' in 2021.

But the peccadillos grew larger (police fines all round for No. 10 Downing Street staff, including Boris himself, over regular boozy parties during lockdown), and the jokes got less funny. By 2022 it was practically one scandal a week, and a thin trickle of resignations began among junior ministers and other appointees.

The straw that broke the camel's back was Johnson's denial last month that he had been warned repeatedly not to

appoint a political ally and alleged sex offender, Chris Pincher, to senior government jobs. It was a typical Johnson lie, heedless of the fact that the people who actually had warned him were bound to speak up.

They did so, and that was the last straw. Two of the most senior ministers in Johnson's cabinet, Rishi Sunak and Sajid Javid, resigned on Tuesday afternoon, and Javid's resignation letter was particularly brutal.

"I can no longer, in good conscience, continue serving in this Government... The tone you set as leader, and the values you represent, reflect on your colleagues, your party, and ultimately the country... This situation will not change under your leadership—and you have therefore lost my confidence."

That opened the floodgates.



In a snap YouGov opinion poll on Tuesday evening, 69 per cent of Britons were saying he should resign. Only 18 per cent thought he should stay in office. Even a majority of the people who voted Conservative in the last election thought Johnson should resign at once.

By Wednesday evening 42

cabinet ministers, junior ministers and other government appointees had resigned. Thursday at lunchtime Johnson came out of his bunker (Number Ten). He announced that he was resigning as Conservative Party leader, and a cheer went up from the crowd outside the gate.

But not a word of apology for all his blunders and lies: his tragedy was the fault of the 'herd' behaviour of the Conservative members of parliament. And then he dropped the other shoe. He would stay on as prime minister until a new party leader was chosen, sometime in the autumn. He's like a limpet stuck to a dead fish.

Johnson may have to be dragged out of Number 10 Downing Street kicking and screaming, but he is on his way out—so now it's time to be

charitable. Johnson lies, but he is a lazy, sloppy, careless liar.

He's not even deterred by the fact that other people will know from personal experience that he is lying. In Chico Marx's deathless words, "Who ya gonna believe? Me or your own eyes?"

This is the behaviour of a sociopath. It refers to people who are usually male, intelligent and charming. They have serial relations with women and leave many children behind. They are solipsistic and manipulative—and frequent, persuasive liars.

Johnson ticks every box except one. He lies frequently, and he clearly has the sociopath's ability to sincerely believe his own lie as soon as he says it. But his lies often fall apart within days, hours or even moments of

being uttered; he just doesn't bother to calculate the probability that they will be believed. He is an incompetent liar.

That, more than any deed or misdeed, is what has now brought him low, but he really can't help it. There's no point in blaming him—but his supporters really shouldn't have voted for him, and now they understand that.

All the rest is unknown. Johnson is busily appointing a new cabinet ('rats joining a sinking ship'), while the bulk of the Conservative Party ponders how to pry him out of office immediately. Most of the likely contenders to succeed him as party leader and prime minister have yet to declare, and the odds-makers have no idea what the odds are.

Welcome to Britain's future.

Ukrainian official warns of ‘catastrophe’ in captured city



AP ■ POKROVSK (UKRAINE)

A Ukrainian regional official warned on Friday of deteriorating living conditions in a city captured by Russian forces two weeks ago, saying Sievierodonetsk is without water, power or a working sewage system while the bodies of the dead decompose in hot apartment buildings.

Gov. Serhiy Haidai said the Russians were unleashing indiscriminate artillery barrages as they try to secure their gains in eastern Ukraine's Luhansk province. Moscow this week claimed full control of Luhansk, but the governor and other Ukrainian officials said their troops retained a small part of the province.

"Luhansk hasn't been fully captured even though the Russians have engaged all their arsenal to achieve that goal," Haidai told The Associated Press. "Fierce battles are going on in several villages on the region's border. The Russians are relying on tanks and artillery to advance, leaving

scorched earth."

Russia's forces "strike every building that they think could be a fortified position," he said. "They aren't stopped by the fact that civilians are left there and they die in their homes and courtyards. They keep firing."

Occupied Sievierodonetsk, meanwhile, "is on the verge of a humanitarian catastrophe," the governor wrote on social media. "The Russians have completely destroyed all the critical infrastructure, and they are unable to repair anything."

Luhansk is one of two provinces that make up the Donbas, a region of mines and factories where pro-Moscow separatists have fought Ukraine's army for eight years and declared independent republics that Russian President Vladimir Putin recognized before he sent troops into Ukraine.

After asserting full control of Luhansk, Putin said Russian forces would have a chance to rest and recoup, but other parts of eastern Ukraine have come under sustained bombardment.

The Russian leader warned Kyiv it should quickly accept Moscow's terms or brace for the worst.

"Everybody should know that largely speaking, we haven't even yet started anything in earnest," Putin said while speaking with leaders of the Kremlin-controlled parliament Thursday.

Ukraine's presidential office said Friday that at least 12 civilians were killed and another 30 wounded by Russian shelling over the last 24 hours. Two cities in Donetsk — the other Donbas province — experienced the heaviest barrage, with six people killed and 21 wounded.

In northeast Ukraine, another four people were killed and nine were wounded in Kharkiv, the country's second-largest city, where Russian shelling hit residential areas.

Commenting on Putin's ominous statement, Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov said the Russian leader was reacting to statements by

Ukraine's government and its Western allies about defeating Russia on the battlefield.

"Russia's potential is so big that just a small part of it has been used in the special military operation," Peskov told reporters Friday. "And so Western statements are utterly absurd and just add to the grief of the Ukrainian people."

In other developments: Germany's parliament overwhelmingly approved Sweden and Finland's requests to join NATO. German Defense Minister Christine Lambrecht said the two countries' accession would greatly strengthen NATO's northern and eastern flanks, noting their strong naval forces in the Baltic Sea and their land forces that know the region bordering Russia well. She suggested that Putin's efforts to divide and destroy NATO had failed.

"He bet on our weakness," she said. "Now he gets the opposite." All 30 member countries must agree before the Western military alliance can admit Finland and Sweden.

Putin to Ukraine: Russia has barely started its action

AP ■ MOSCOW

With Russia's military action in Ukraine in its fifth month, Russian President Vladimir Putin has warned Kyiv that it should quickly accept Moscow's terms or brace for the worst, adding ominously that Russia has barely started its action.

Speaking at a meeting with leaders of the Kremlin-controlled parliament, Putin accused Western allies of fuelling the hostilities, charging that "the West wants to fight us until the last Ukrainian."

"It's a tragedy for the Ukrainian people, but it looks like it's heading in that direction," he added.

"Everybody should know that largely speaking, we haven't even yet started anything in earnest," Putin said in a menacing note.

He declared that Russia remains ready to sit down for talks to end the fighting, adding that "those who refuse to do so should know that the longer it



lasts the more difficult it will be for them to make a deal with us."

"We are hearing that they want to defeat us on the battlefield," Putin said. "Let them try."

Earlier in the conflict, the Kremlin demanded that Kyiv acknowledge Russian sovereignty over the Crimean Peninsula, which it annexed in 2014, and recognize the independence of Moscow-backed separatist regions in eastern Ukraine. Moscow also said it expected Ukraine to bow to the

existing situation on the ground, a reference to other land gains it has made since Russian troops rolled into Ukraine on Feb. 24.

After failing to capture Kyiv and other big cities in Ukraine's northeast early in the campaign, the Russian military shifted its focus to the eastern industrial heartland of Donbas, where Moscow-backed separatists have fought Ukrainian troops since 2014.

Earlier this week, the Russian military claimed control of the Luhansk province, one of the two that make up Donbas, and is preparing to press its offensive into the second one, Donetsk.

In the early stages of the conflict, Russia won control of the southern Kherson region and part of neighboring Zaporizhzhia. Moscow is expected eventually to try to cut Ukraine off from its Black Sea coast all the way to the Romanian border. If successful, it would deal a crushing blow to the Ukrainian economy and also create a corridor

to Moldova's separatist region of Transnistria, where Russia maintains a military base.

Putin reaffirmed his long-held claim that the West is using the conflict in Ukraine to try to isolate and weaken Russia.

"They simply don't need such a country as Russia," Putin said. "This is why they have used terrorism, separatism and internal destructive forces in our country."

He charged that Western sanctions against Russia have failed to achieve their goal of "sowing division and strife in our society and demoralizing our people."

"The course of history is unstoppable, and attempts by the collective West to enforce its version of the global order are doomed to fail," Putin said.

Mykhailo Podolyak, an adviser to the Ukrainian president, responded on Twitter: "There is no plan by the collective West" and only a Russian army entered Ukraine.

‘Dad, that’s it. She’s dead’: Another day of loss in Ukraine

AP ■ KHARKIV

She had gone out to feed the cats when the shelling began.

It was afternoon, a residential neighbourhood, a time to get errands done. But there is nothing routine about life near the front line in Ukraine.

Kharkiv, the country's second-largest city and a short drive from the Russian border, lives with the low thunder of distant artillery and the sickening booms of shells exploding much closer to home.

Natalia Kolesnik, like other residents, learned to live with the risks. Then, in a grassy courtyard on a hot and sweaty Thursday, the shelling caught

her.

She was one of three bodies on the littered ground.

One body appeared unrecognisable.

A second, with a torn yellow dress and a blue slipper blown off, lay beside a splintered wooden bench. Next to it, there was a box of half-eaten fruit, cherries and apples, speckled with blood.

Inside a purse left on the bench, a mobile phone rang.

Kolesnik was nearby.

Her husband, Viktor, arrived in shock. He didn't want to let her go. He stroked her head.

"Dad, that's it," his son Olexander said, watching as first responders waited to close

the body bag. "She is dead. Get up."

"Don't you understand?" his father asked.

"What don't I understand?" the son said. "This is my mother. Dad, please. Dad, please." Kneeling, Viktor embraced what was left of his wife, one arm cradling her shoulder, his stubbled chin pressed against the grit on her face. He picked up her left hand and placed it again, covering it with his own. The pleading continued. Viktor again shoved his son's hand away.

"Dad, go."

"I can't go."

"Look, you are covered with blood. People need to carry her away."

Russia wants to jail Opposition activist, anti-war official

AP ■ MOSCOW

Russian prosecutors on Thursday called for prison sentences for a prominent opposition activist and for a Moscow city council member who opposes the invasion of Ukraine, in a sign the Kremlin's crackdown on dissent continues to gather pace.

Prosecutors asked that Andrei Pivovarov, former head of the Open Russia organization, be given a five-year sentence for "directing an undesirable organization," a criminal offense under a 2015 law, according to his lawyer, Sergei Badamshin.

Pivovarov rejected the charges and pointed out during the court hearing that the criminal case was opened two days after Open Russia shut down.

The group disbanded in an attempt to shield members from prosecution after it was designated an "undesirable" organization.

Pivovarov was pulled off a Warsaw-bound plane at St. Petersburg's airport just before takeoff in May 2021.

He was taken to the southern city of Krasnodar, where he was accused of supporting a local candidate on behalf of an "undesirable" organization. The criminal charge is based on a his social media posts supporting independent candidates in Krasnodar's municipal elections.

Badamshin, the lawyer, said prosecutors also requested that his client be barred from holding office for eight years.

Also on Thursday, a Russian prosecutor asked for a seven-year sentence for a Moscow city council member who spoke up against Russia's actions in Ukraine.

Alexei Gorinov, who was detained in April, is the first Russian elected representative to face prison for spreading "knowingly false information" about the Russian army, a charge that carries a maximum sentence of 15 years in prison.

Gorinov criticized Moscow's military actions in Ukraine at a city council meeting in March, a recording of which is now available on YouTube.

The video shows him voicing skepticism over a planned children's art competition in his constituency while "every day children are dying" in Ukraine.

At a court hearing last month, Gorinov was photographed holding up a sign saying "I am against the war" as he sat in the defendant's cage.

Moscow effectively outlawed independent discussion of its Ukraine operation, including all references to it as a "war" or "invasion," weeks after its troops rolled into Ukraine.

In another development Thursday, Russia issued an arrest warrant for Ilya Kravtsov, an outspoken tech executive and former publisher of a leading independent Russian news site, Meduza.

G20 diplomats face unity headwinds on Ukraine, war’s impact

AP ■ NUSA DUA (INDONESIA)

Top diplomats from the world's richest and largest developing nations are confronting multiple crises as they open talks beset by sharp divisions over Russia's invasion of Ukraine and its impacts on food and energy security, along with climate change, endemic poverty and the lingering effects of the coronavirus pandemic.

Foreign ministers from the

Group of 20 countries begin meeting on the Indonesian resort island of Bali on Friday with little prospect for achieving the kind of lofty consensus on weighty issues that have been a hallmark of past gatherings. And, as they attempt to prepare for a G-20 leaders' summit to be held at the same venue in November, they got a last-minute jolt with Thursday's resignation of British Prime Minister Boris Johnson, one of the champions

of the West's hard line on Russia.

While Johnson's departure is unlikely to dent U.S. And European efforts to promote a tough line on Russia among other G-20 members, it will almost certainly be seen as a sign of weakness by China and Russia, both of which will be represented by their foreign ministers in Bali, Wang Yi and Sergey Lavrov.

They will face off against U.S. Secretary of State Antony

Blinken and his French and German counterparts who had expected to be joined by British Foreign Secretary Liz Truss. She instead left early to return to London to deal with the fallout from Johnson's resignation.

U.S. Officials say they are determined not to allow distractions to divert attention from what they believe should be the primary focuses of the Bali conference: the disruption to world food and energy supplies caused by Russia's war in Ukraine, blaming Moscow for its cause, and marshalling an international response to prevent further shortages that are already wreaking havoc in Africa, Asia and elsewhere.

Yet, with East and West so divided and North-South differences emerging, the potential for a G-20 agreement on a way forward appears negligible. U.S. Officials have said it is less important for the G-20 as a group to present a unified stance than it is for smaller blocs of countries and individ-



ual nations to speak out and take action. In the past, however, the G-20 has produced joint communiqués on key issues like terrorism, transnational crime, climate and economic matters that have been lauded as important international policy blueprints.

Thus, competition for such support among the group has been fierce.

Wang and Lavrov each stopped in various Asian capitals on their way to Bali, drumming up support for various Chinese and Russian positions and fortifying their ties among non-allied nations in the region ahead of the G-20. Blinken, the French, Germans and Brits, meanwhile, all arrived in Bali from two Western-oriented and orga-

nized gatherings in Europe last week: the G-7 and NATO summits at which there was little sign of rancor or debate and unity on Ukraine was assured.

With its broader membership, including countries like host Indonesia and large developing nations like India, Brazil, South Africa and others, the G-20 is far more diverse, skeptical of Western intentions and more open to entreaties and offers from big neighbors like China and Russia and more vulnerable to their threats. Others attending include: Argentina, Australia, Canada, Italy, Mexico, Saudi Arabia, South Korea, Turkey, and the European Union.

Attempting to ply a middle route, this year's G-20 president, Indonesia, has tried to bridge what gaps are possible, laying out an agenda that is not inherently divisive or political.

The country has sought to remain neutral in dealing with Russia's invasion of Ukraine, and President Joko Widodo has been guarded in his comments.

Biden to visit CIA as intelligence plays key role in Ukraine

AP ■ WASHINGTON

US President Joe Biden will visit the CIA on Friday at a time when his administration's support for Ukraine has pushed the work of the normally secretive intelligence agencies into the limelight.

Biden will commemorate the agency's 75th anniversary since its founding after World War II. While at the agency's headquarters in Virginia, Biden will meet with CIA officers who have worked on Ukraine to thank them for their work, according to a US official who requested anonymity to discuss the plans.

Biden has established a more traditional relationship with the CIA and other agencies after former President Donald Trump repeatedly cast doubt on intelligence findings and attacked what he alleged was a "deep state" of opponents.

Still, there were tensions last year stemming from Afghanistan, with finger-pointing across the government during the fall of the American-backed government as the Taliban overran Kabul.

Current and former intelligence officials worked frantically to evacuate Afghans who had helped the US during the two-decade war. The release of predictions that Russia would invade Ukraine in February was a public boost for spy agencies that are



often criticised and facing new pressure to deliver insights on China and Russia. Biden authorised an unprecedented campaign to declassify findings about Russian President Vladimir Putin's intentions to launch a new war. It has been credited with building support for sanctions that crippled the Russian economy and the ramp-up of military support to Kyiv.

Douglas London, a former CIA officer who has criticised the agency's direction in recent years, said the war had shown the CIA was on its way to becoming "an elite spy service again."


"Its path to redemption has really been facilitated by Ukraine," said London,

author of "The Recruiter: Spying and the Lost Art of American Intelligence."

But the intelligence community also underestimated Ukraine's ability to resist the Russian invasion and wrongly predicted Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy's government would fall within weeks. The agencies are reviewing how they assess a foreign government's perceived "will to fight" — an issue the US also badly misjudged in Afghanistan last year when it believed President Ashraf Ghani's government would hold out for months, only for Ghani to flee and the Taliban to take Kabul as the US was trying to evacuate. Sen. Angus King, a Maine independent who sits on the Senate Intelligence and Armed Services committees, said he's pushed intelligence officials to review why there were "two significant breakdowns in a year."

"The quality of the intelligence pre-invasion was excellent and absolutely world-class," King said in a recent interview. "The problem was the assessment of what would happen after the invasion."

Most of the intelligence community's work since the war began has been kept secret. US officials have disclosed that they are providing Ukraine with information that Ukrainian forces have in turn used to hit high-value Russian targets, including the flagship Moskva.



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

Regd. Office: OSIL House, Gangadhar Meher Marg, Kiti Bhubaneswar – 751024
Corporate Office: A-201, First Floor, Okhla Industrial Area, Phase-1, New Delhi - 110 020
Site: P.O. Palaspanga, Dist. Keonjhar – 758 031, Odisha
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POSTAL BALLOT NOTICE AND E-VOTING INFORMATION

The Members of "Orissa Sponge Iron and Steel Limited" ("the Company") are hereby informed that in compliance with the provisions of Section 108 and 110 of the Companies Act, 2013 ("the Act") read with Companies (Management and Administration) Rules, 2014, read with General Circular No. 14/2020 dated April 08, 2020, 17/2020 dated April 13, 2020, 22/2020 dated June 15, 2020, 33/2020 dated September 28, 2020, 39/2020 dated December 31, 2020, 10/2021 dated June 23, 2021 and 20/2021 dated December 08, 2021 and 3/2022 dated May 05, 2022 issued by the Ministry of Corporate Affairs ("MCA Circulars") and Regulation 44 and 47 of the Securities and Exchange Board of India (Listing Obligations and Disclosures Requirements) Regulations, 2015 ("Listing Regulations") and other applicable provisions including any statutory modifications or re-enactment thereof for the time being in force and as amended from time to time, a Postal Ballot Notice, seeking consent of the members on the resolutions as set out in the said Notice has been sent electronically to the members whose e-mail address are registered with the Depository Participants/ Registrar & Share Transfer agent i.e. Skyline Financial Service Private Limited ("RTA"), as on Monday, July 04, 2022 (Cut-off Date). The dispatch of the said notice through e-mails has been completed on Friday, July 08, 2022.

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

Members holding shares either in physical form or dematerialized form, as on the Cut-off date i.e., Monday, July 04, 2022, may cast their vote electronically on the business items set out in the notice of the Postal Ballot dated Wednesday, July 06, 2022, through electronic voting system (remote e-voting) of National Securities Depository Limited ("NSDL"). The members are further informed that:

a) The special business set out in the notice of the Postal Ballot are to be transacted through voting by electronic means.
b) The remote e-voting begins at 9:00 a.m. (IST) on Monday, July 11, 2022.
c) The remote e-voting ends at 5:00 p.m. (IST) on Tuesday, August 09, 2022.
d) The cut-off date for determining the eligibility to vote by electronic means is Monday, July 04, 2022
e) The members may note that i) the remote e-voting module shall be disabled for voting and the voting by electronic means shall not be allowed after the date and time mentioned under point 'c' above; and ii) once the vote on resolution cast by a member, the member shall not be allowed to change it subsequently;
f) The manner of remote e-voting for the members holding shares in physical mode or dematerialized mode or who have not registered their email address with the Company/Depository Participant, is provided in the notice of the Postal Ballot as available on the Company's website www.orissasponge.com and NSDL's website www.evoting.nsdl.com.
g) Manner of registering/ updating email address:
i. Members holding shares in physical mode, are requested to get their email ids registered by writing to the RTA at compliances@skylinert.com or to the Company at corporate@orissasponge.com along with signed request letter mentioning the name and address of the Member, scanned copy of the share certificate (front and back), self-attested copy of the PAN card, and self-attested copy of Address proof.
ii. In case shares are held in demat mode, are requested to register / update their e-mail addresses with the relevant Depository Participant(s).
iii. Alternatively, members may send a request to evoting@nsdl.co.in for procuring user id and password for e-voting by providing above mentioned documents. The members may also refer the said Notice.
h) In case of any queries, the members may refer to the Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) for shareholders and e-voting user manual for Shareholders available at the download section of www.evoting.nsdl.com or call on toll free no.: 1800 1020 990 and 1800 22 44 30 or send a request to Pallavi Mhatre, Senior Manager, NSDL at evoting@nsdl.co.in. Further, for any grievance regarding e-voting the members may also write to Mr. Darpan Sharma, Company Secretary at email id: corporate@orissasponge.com
i) The Company has appointed Mr. Amit K Mangla, Practicing Company Secretary (Membership No. FCS 11450, Practicing No. 23164), Proprietor of M/s. Amit K Mangla & Company, Company Secretaries to act as the Scrutinizer for conducting the Postal Ballot including e-voting process in a fair and transparent manner. The Scrutinizer will submit his report to the Chairman / any other Director / person as may be authorized by the Chairman, on or before Thursday, August 11, 2022. The results of the voting conducted by Postal Ballot along with Scrutinizer's Report will be made available on the website of the Company at www.orissasponge.com and on the website of NSDL at www.evoting.nsdl.com. Additionally, the results will also be displayed at the Registered Office of the Company.

For Orissa Sponge Iron and Steel Limited

Sd/-

Darpan Sharma
Company Secretary and Compliance Officer
M. No. A63328

Place: New Delhi
Date: July 08, 2022

GoM formed to suggest ideas for GST Appellate

Report by month-end

New Delhi: The GST Council has set up a Group of Ministers, chaired by Haryana Deputy Chief Minister Dushyant Chautala, to suggest required changes in the law for setting up the GST Appellate Tribunal (GSTAT).

The GST Council, chaired by Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman and comprising State ministers, had last week decided to constitute a Group of Ministers (GoM) to address various concerns raised by states in relation to constitution of the GSTAT.

As per the Terms of Reference (ToR) of the GoM, the panel would recommend required amendments in the GST law to ensure that the legal provisions maintain the right federal balance and are in line with the overall objective of uniform taxation within the country.

The 6-member GoM



would also ensure that the amendments are in line with various court judgements relating to setting up the tribunal.

The GoM will consult legal experts for formulating its recommendations and will submit report to the Council by July 31.

Besides Chautala, other members of the GoM are Andhra Pradesh Finance Minister Buggana Rajendranath, Goa Industries Minister Mauvin Godinho, Rajasthan Law and Legal Affairs Minister Shanti Kumar Dhariwal, Uttar Pradesh FM Suresh Khanna and Odisha FM Niranjan Pujari. **PTI**

GoM on GST levy on casinos, online gaming to meet on July 12

New Delhi: The Group of Ministers on casinos, online gaming and horse racing will meet on Tuesday to finalise its report on modalities taxing these activities that are akin to gambling.

The GST Council, comprising the Centre and state finance ministers, had referred back the report to the Group of Ministers (GoM) for further discussion and set a deadline of July 15 for the submission of the final report.

Addressing a conference on GST organised by Ficci, Uttar Pradesh Finance Minister Suresh Kumar Khanna, who is a member of the GoM, said the panel will meet on July 12.

The GoM in its report highlighted that horse racing, online gaming or casino, are all part of betting and gambling, and 28 per cent GST should be levied on them.

The Group of Ministers, headed by Meghalaya Chief Minister Conrad Sangma, has recommended that online gaming should be taxed at the full value of the consideration, including the contest entry fee paid by the player on participating in the game. **PTI**



In the case of racecourses, the GoM has suggested that GST be levied on the full value of bets pooled in the totalisators and placed with the bookmakers. In casinos, the GoM recommended that the tax would be levied on the full face value of the chips/coins purchased from the casino by a player. No further GST would apply to the value of bets placed in each round of betting, including those placed with winnings in previous rounds.

While the Council was deliberating the GoM report in its meeting last week, Goa Industries Minister Mauvin Godinho highlighted that there was a need for greater detailing and understanding why casinos require a different treatment in taxation compared to horse racing and online gaming. **PTI**

FinMin exempts excise duty on ATF purchases by Indian carriers for overseas flights

New Delhi: The Finance Ministry has exempted domestic airlines running international flights from 11 per cent basic excise duty on ATF or jet fuel bought from oil marketing companies. In a notification, the ministry said that ATF supplied as fuel to domestic carriers on international routes be exempted from basic excise duty from July 1.

Confusion arose on the leviability of the excise duty on domestic airlines for their foreign flights after the government on July 1 slapped a ₹6 per litre special additional excise duty (SAED) or duty on the export of jet fuel.

Oil companies were of the view that with the levy of export duty, domestic carriers would be liable to pay 11 per cent basic excise duty for the Aviation Turbine Fuel (ATF) they purchase for running overseas flights.

The Finance Ministry's clarification that excise duty would not be applicable on domestic carriers for foreign flights brings them back at par with foreign airlines for which the fuel is exempt from duty as per the Chicago convention. **PTI**

Equity MFs attract ₹15,498 cr in June on strong SIP flows

Mark 16th straight month of positive inflow

New Delhi: Investors continue to back-up equity mutual funds in June as such schemes attracted a net inflow of ₹15,498 crore on strong flows from systematic investment plans despite volatility in the stock market and relentless selling by Foreign Portfolio Investors (FPIs).

This also marked the 16th straight month of positive inflow in equity schemes.

Inflows into equity mutual funds in June was lower compared to the net inflow of ₹18,529 crore seen in May, data from the Association of Mutual Funds in India (AMFI) showed on Friday.

Kavitha Krishnan, Senior Analyst - Manager Research, Morningstar India, believes that continuous FPIs selling impacted the magnitude of flows on the back of concerns over a global recession, the upcoming US midterm elections, and their focus on regu-

lating inflation.

Equity schemes have been witnessing net inflow since March 2021, highlighting the positive sentiment among investors. Prior to this, such schemes had consistently witnessed outflows for eight months from July 2020 to February 2021, losing ₹46,791 crore.

All the equity-oriented categories received net inflows in June with the Flexi-cap Funds category being the biggest beneficiary with a net inflow of ₹2,512 crore. This was followed by the multi-cap fund that witnessed ₹2,130 crore net infusion.

This positivity is in spite of the capital markets regulator Sebi's ban on launch of new mutual fund schemes during the June quarter.

"The decline in the prices of bitcoins and Ethereum, a relatively lower return offered in other traditional investment products and an increased awareness towards long-term investing among investors has likely led to continued flows," Morningstar India's Krishnan said. **PTI**

Govt expects more companies to reduce MRP of edible oils



New Delhi: The Government on Friday said it expects more companies to reduce maximum retail prices of cooking oils by up to ₹15 per litre to pass on the benefit of fall in global commodity prices to consumers.

Amid cooking oil prices ruling high in the domestic market, the government on Wednesday directed edible oil companies to reduce the prices.

Following the directive, Mother Dairy, on Thursday, reduced the prices of soyabean and rice bran oil up to ₹14 per litre. It expects a reduction of MRP of sunflower oil in the next 15-20 days.

Mother Dairy, which is one of the leading milk suppliers in Delhi-NCR, sells edible oils under the Dhara brand. India meets 60 per cent of its requirement of edible oils through imports. **PTI**

Markets maintain momentum for 3rd day; log weekly gains

Mumbai: The Sensex and Nifty marched higher for the third session on the trot on Friday as investors continued to accumulate banking, infrastructure and FMCG stocks despite unabated selling by foreign funds.

The 30-share BSE benchmark Sensex advanced 303.38 points or 0.56 per cent to settle at 54,481.84. The broader NSE Nifty went higher by 87.70 points or 0.54 per cent to 16,220.60.

Larsen & Toubro was the top gainer in the Sensex pack, rising 4.72 per cent, followed by PowerGrid, NTPC, ICICI Bank, Axis Bank, Dr Reddy's, Bharti Airtel and Nestle India.

In contrast, Tata Steel, IndusInd Bank, Maruti Suzuki, TCS, Wipro and Asian Paints were among the laggards, shedding up to 1.62 per cent.

"The present rally is driven partly by expectations that given the steady decline in commodity prices, inflation will start showing a declining

trend enabling central banks to go a bit slow on hiking rates, and partly by short covering," said V K Vijayakumar, Chief Investment Strategist at Geojit Financial Services.

On a weekly basis, the Sensex advanced 1,573.91 points or 2.97 per cent, while the Nifty climbed 468.55 points or 2.97 per cent.

"The higher probability of a global slowdown caused by high inflation and higher rates has been talked about more in the last couple of weeks.

But the recent fall in the prices in commodities, especially oil, and the expectation that central banks may go slow on the interest rate hike, have brought back some confidence in the mind of the investors.

"The rise in the equity markets witnessed in the last few trading sessions of this week was based on this outlook of probable moderation in inflation, and therefore of rates. **PTI**

ONGC, OIL big winners of OALP-VII bid round; govt offers 10 block in OALP-VIII

New Delhi: State-owned ONGC, OIL and GAIL walked away with most of the eight blocks offered for exploration and production of oil and gas in the OALP 7th bid round even as the government launched the next bidding round, expecting USD 600-700 million investment in the 10 areas on offer.

Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC) won three blocks in the OALP-VII round while Oil India Ltd (OIL) won two, according to information posted by the DGH.

GAIL walked away with one block in Rajasthan while Sun Petrochemicals Pvt Ltd won the remaining two blocks.

Separately, the oil ministry said a new policy for finding and producing oil and gas, called the Hydrocarbon Exploration and Licensing Policy (HELP), was promulgated on March 30, 2016.

Since then, seven bid rounds of the Open Acreage Licensing Programme (OALP) have been concluded and 134



exploration and production blocks awarded. These blocks cover 2,07,691 square kilometers of area across 19 sedimentary basins.

"In continuation of its zeal to accelerate E&P activities, the government has now launched the OALP Bid Round-VIII, offering 10 blocks, for international competitive bidding," the ministry said in a statement.

The bids are due by September 6.

"Successful award of Round-VIII Blocks would add a further 36,316 sq km of exploration acreage and cumulative exploration acreage under OALP regime will be increased to 2,44,007 sq km," it said. The 10 blocks under the present bid round are spread across nine sedimentary basins

and include two on-land blocks, four shallow water blocks, two deep water blocks and a similar number of ultra-deep water blocks.

"It is expected that OALP Round VIII would generate immediate exploration work commitment of around USD 600-700 million," the statement said.

HELP provides for a revenue-sharing contract model, where the bidder offering the highest share of oil and gas to the government is awarded the block. It comes with attractive and liberal terms like reduced royalty rates, no oil cess, no revenue share bidding for blocks in Category-II and III Basins, marketing and pricing freedom, round-the-year bidding, freedom to investors for carving out blocks of their interest, a single license to cover both conventional and unconventional hydrocarbon resources, exploration permission during the entire contract period, and an easy, transparent and swift bidding and awarding process. **PTI**

Rupee falls 10 paise to 79.23 against US dollar

Mumbai: The rupee declined by 10 paise to close at 79.23 (provisional) against the US dollar on Friday, tracking the strength of the American currency in the overseas market.

At the interbank foreign exchange market, the local currency opened at 79.20 and finally ended at 79.23, down 10 paise over its previous close of 79.13.

"Gains for the currency were short-lived even after RBI announced forex related measures. Pound held on to its gains after Boris Johnson said he was quitting as prime minister following a rush of ministerial resignations and calls for him to go," said Gaurang Somaiya, Forex & Bullion



Analyst, Motilal Oswal Financial Services.

Focus will be on the non-farm payrolls data and better-than-expected numbers could keep the dollar supported at lower levels, Somaiya said, adding, "We expect the USD-INR to trade sideways but with a positive bias and quote in the range of 79.05 and 79.80."

The RBI on Wednesday raised overseas borrowing limits for companies and liberalised norms for foreign investments in government bonds as it announced a slew of measures to boost foreign exchange inflows in efforts to curb the fall of the rupee.

The central bank had also said it has been closely monitoring the liquidity conditions in the forex market and has stepped in as needed in all its segments to alleviate dollar tightness with the objective of ensuring orderly market functioning.

The dollar index, which gauges the greenback's strength against a basket of six currencies, rose 0.39 per cent to 107.54. **PTI**

IREDA committed to increasing participation of MSMEs in RE by offering more loans

New Delhi: The Indian Renewable Energy Development Agency (IREDA) on Friday said it is committed to increasing participation of MSMEs in the green energy sector by offering more loans, its Chairman and Managing Director Pradip Kumar Das said. He was speaking at the MSME Banking Conclave 2022.

Addressing the conclave organised by MSME Business Forum India, Minister of State for Finance Bhagwat Karad lauded the efforts of the IREDA for the overall developments. **PTI**

PFC inks loan pact of JPY 30 Billion with JBIC

New Delhi: PFC, a Maharatna company and the leading NBFC in Indian power sector has signed a Loan Agreement for JPY 30 Billion with Japan Bank for International Cooperation (JBIC) on 7th July, 2022. JBIC provided this long term facility to PFC under JBIC's initiative titled 'Global action for Reconciling Economic growth and Environmental preservation' ("GREEN"), wherein JBIC provides financing for projects which ensure the effective reduction of greenhouse gas emissions and conservation of the global environment. Thus, the funds under the facility would be used by PFC to finance its renewable energy portfolio.

The loan agreement was signed by Mr. R.S. Dhillion, CMD, PFC and Mr. Kazushige Gobe, Director General, Social Infrastructure Finance Department, JBIC in the presence of Parminder Chopra, Director (Finance), PFC & Mr. R.R. Jha, Director (Projects), PFC and Mr. Toshihiko Kurihara, Chief Representative, JBIC New Delhi Office. During the ceremony, R.S. Dhillion, CMD, PFC commented that this facility from JBIC would be a landmark transaction demonstrating the Quad Partners' strong unity and robust commitment to the Indo-Pacific region, while also enhancing the bilateral cooperation between Japan and India. **PNS**



Union Minister for Youth Affairs and Sports & Information & Broadcasting Anurag Singh Thakur speaks at the launch of the web portal of the revised schemes of cash prizes, national welfare and pension to sportspersons, in New Delhi on Friday **PTI**

Tata Motor global wholesales up 48% in Q1

New Delhi: Tata Motors on Friday said its global wholesales, including that of Jaguar Land Rover, rose 48 per cent to 3,16,443 units in the first quarter of the current fiscal.

The auto major had dispatched 2,14,250 units to dealers in the April-June quarter of FY22.

Global wholesales of all Tata Motors' commercial vehicles and Tata Daewoo range in the first quarter stood at 1,03,529 units as compared with 52,470 units a year ago, the company said in a statement.

The company's global sales of all passenger vehicles were at



2,12,914 units, up from 1,61,780 units in June quarter of FY22. Global wholesales of JLR stood at 82,587 units.

Jaguar wholesale units for the period under review stood at 14,596 vehicles, while Land Rover wholesales stood at 67,991 units.

JLR had sold a total of 97,141 units in the April-June quarter of FY22. **PTI**

NCL dispatches 3.8 LT coal to power houses

New Delhi: CIL arm Northern Coalfields Ltd (NCL) dispatched 3.83 lakh tonne coal to electricity generating plants on Thursday, the highest in a single day, feeding the need of power houses in the wake of sharp increase in the demand for the dry fuel.

Overall, the company dispatched 4.14 lakh tonne of coal on Thursday, the highest ever dispatched in 2022-23, and also the second-highest since the company's inception.

"Fuelling the need of the power sector... Amid the steep rise of coal demand, NCL dispatched 3.83 lakh tonne, the highest amount of dry fuel in a single day since the inception of the company," NCL said in a statement.



CMD Bhola Singh said due to the tireless efforts of team, the company has achieved new records.

The CMD emphasised on safety, environmental, and quality-first approach during mining of coal.

Coal India Ltd (CIL), which accounts for over 80 per cent of domestic coal output, is one of the major suppliers of coal to power houses. **PTI**

Catering to the nation's ever-growing energy demand in the post COVID era, NCL has dispatched 33.54 million tonne (MT) coal to power plants in current fiscal year.

NCL has dispatched 36.89 MT coal to all its consumers, registering 20.30 per cent year-on-year growth. Both figures of coal dispatches are more than the assigned targets till date.

NCL has produced 34.75 MT coal till date in current financial year with yearly growth of 25.26 per cent.

It sent 102 coal rakes on Thursday which includes 40 rakes for upcountry coal consumers and 62 rakes for pit head power plants through dedicated merry-go-round mode. **PTI**

VIT declares VITEEE results

PNS ■ VELLORE

Vellore Institute of Technology (VIT) declared the results for VIT Engineering Entrance Examination (VITEEE) on Friday (July 08, 2022) and applicants can check their results at "www.vit.ac.in". The online counselling for admission commenced on the same day.

VIT Engineering Entrance Examination, "VITEEE", the entrance examination for various B.Tech programmes offered by Vellore Institute of Technology (VIT), was conducted from June 30 to July 6, 2022, as Proctored Computer Based Test in 119 cities in India and 4 cities abroad.

Applicants within 1 lakh rank are eligible to participate in the counselling process scheduled from July 8 to Aug 8, 2022. Specific details are

available in VIT website (www.vit.ac.in). Applicants who secured more than 1 lakh rank are eligible for admission to VIT-AP and VIT Bhopal.

VIT encourages the applicants to participate in online counselling and provide the maximum number of choices to ensure allotment. The classes are likely to commence in the second week of September 2022.

Under the G V School Development Programme (GVSDP), Central and State board class 12 exam toppers would be given 100 percent fee waiver for all four years. Candidates with ranks up to 50 would be given 75 percent tuition fee waiver; those with ranks 51 to 100 would get 50 percent tuition fee waiver and candidates in ranks 101 to 1,000 would be given 25 percent tuition fee waiver.

Banks should step up compliance in issuance of Kisan Credit Cards to poor farmers: Rupala

New Delhi: Urging banks to step up compliance while issuing Kisan Credit Cards, Union Minister Parshottam Rupala has asked them to follow the KCC guidelines properly, and acknowledge and fix the timeline for application clearance.

The Animal Husbandry and Dairying Minister also suggested banks to issue KCCs to poor fishermen who are unable to provide collateral. KCC should also be given to people from Maldhari (Ghumantu) community, who do not stay in one place and have no collateral security to offer, Rupal suggested in the review meeting chaired by Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman on July 7.

These efforts should aim at accelerating the efforts of the Ministry of Fisheries, Animal



Husbandry and Dairying in full saturation of KCC in the country, Rupala added.

The Centre in the Budget 2018-19 had announced the extension of the facility of KCC to fisheries and animal husbandry farmers to help them to meet their working capital needs.

The KCC facility will help fisheries and animal husbandry farmers to meet their short-term credit requirements of rearing animals, poultry birds, fish, shrimp, other aquatic organisms and capture of fish.

"Parshottam Rupala, in the meeting held yesterday, suggested a few measures for compliance by the Banks viz, all Banks must follow the Guidelines of KCC properly, the due acknowledgement for KCC application should be given to the applicants and a timeline decision on the application should be fixed," an official statement said.

The reasons for rejection should be clearly indicated so that field officers could rectify and re-submit the forms, the statement added.

The Department of Fisheries (DoF), the statement said, is trying to explore the possibility of extending KCC to the fishermen, who are not covered at present, such as those who do not own/lease boats or assets, etc. **PTI**

DJOKER IN WIMBLEDON FINAL

AP ■ LONDON

Novak Djokovic fashioned a second consecutive come-back victory at Wimbledon on Friday, this one with a deficit far less daunting, the drama far less possible.

The top-seeded Djokovic beat No. 9 seed Cam Norrie of Britain 2-6, 6-3, 6-2, 6-4 in the semifinals to run his winning streak at the All England Club to 27 matches in a row as he pursues a fourth straight championship there.

On the steamiest afternoon of the fortnight so far, with the temperature reaching 85 degrees Fahrenheit (30 Celsius) and the air still, Djokovic got off to a slow start and often looked displeased, shaking his head or gesticulating toward his guest box. But unlike in the quarterfinals, when he dropped the opening two sets against No. 10 seed Jannik Sinner before winning in five, it took little time for Djokovic to assert his dominance.

When it ended, Djokovic curled his lips as if sending a kiss to someone in the stands who had been backing Norrie during the match.

Djokovic will face first-time major finalist Nick Kyrgios for the trophy on Sunday. The unseeded Kyrgios, a 27-year-old from Australia, did not need to play on Friday because 22-time Grand Slam champion Rafael Nadal withdrew from their semifinal with a torn abdominal muscle.

It will be the 32nd Grand Slam title match for Djokovic, breaking a tie for the men's record he shared with Roger Federer, and gives the 35-year-old from Serbia a shot at a 21st major title and seventh at Wimbledon. Only Federer, with eight, owns more at the grass-court tournament.

1ST-TIME CHAMP

The names and faces of the star players at Wimbledon didn't matter to Elena Rybakina when she was a child. The majesty of the tournament



Nadal out of Wimbledon with abdominal injury

LONDON: Rafael Nadal announced on Thursday that he was withdrawing from Wimbledon after failing to recover from an abdominal injury, ending his hopes of a calendar Grand Slam.

Semi-final opponent Nick Kyrgios will receive a walkover into Sunday's final.

Nadal, a 22-time Grand Slam champion, was visibly in pain during in a gruelling five-set win against 11th-seeded American Taylor Fritz on Wednesday.

Spanish sports daily Marca earlier on Thursday reported that Nadal had a "seven-millimetre" tear to his abdomen but still intended to play.

But the 36-year-old scheduled a press conference later in the day at the



All England Club at which he confirmed he was withdrawing.

"Unfortunately as you can imagine I am here because I have to pull out from the tournament," said the two-time Wimbledon champion.

"As everyone saw yesterday I have been suffering with a pain in the abdominal and something was not OK there. That is confirmed, I have a tear in the muscle."

The Spaniard said he had been weighing up what decision to make all day.

But he said: "It doesn't make sense to go (on), even if I try through my career to keep going. It is very tough circumstances but it is obvious if I keep going the injury will be worse and worse." AP

made pretty a big impression, though.

On Saturday, she'll get a chance to add her name to the pantheon of greats at the oldest and most prestigious tennis tournament of them all.

"As a kid, I don't remember exactly who was playing, but when Wimbledon was on TV, it was always traditional white. I remember this well," Rybakina said. "Strawberries. Champagne. It's something, like, very nice to see."

Rybakina is one match away from winning a Grand Slam tournament for the first time, in her first major final. And so is her opponent, Ons Jabeur - the first Arab woman and first African woman ever to reach this stage at one of the four biggest tournaments in tennis.

Jabeur, who is from Tunisia, advanced to the final by beating Tatjana Maria 6-2, 3-6, 6-1 on Thursday. Rybakina followed that match on the grass of Centre Court and defeated 2019 champion Simona Halep 6-3, 6-3.

"I didn't expect that I'm going to be here in the second week, especially in the final," said Rybakina, who was born in Russia but plays for Kazakhstan. "I believe that I have a game to go far in the Grand Slams. Of course, I believe that maybe one day I can win it."

This year's championship match at Wimbledon will be the first to feature two female first-time Grand Slam finalists since 1962, with Karen Susman beat V'ra Suková in straight sets.

A win for either Rybakina or Jabeur on Saturday will also be a first Grand Slam title won by a player from their respective countries.

Jabeur has been one of the best players on tour in recent months, rising to No. 2 in the rankings and winning a grass-court title in Berlin two weeks ago. Rybakina is ranked 23rd and has 13 victories over top-20 players.

Kyrgios 'finally appreciating where he is', says mother

AP ■ SYDNEY

Nick Kyrgios' mother says she has seen a big difference in her son this year, who is "finally appreciating where he is" and enjoying life.

The richly-talented but deeply divisive Australian is through to the biggest match of his career after Spanish superstar Rafael Nadal pulled out of their Wimbledon semi-final with an abdominal injury.

It thrust the 27-year-old into a maiden Grand Slam decider against either Novak Djokovic or Cameron Norrie -- a remarkable feat after admitting this year he had suicidal thoughts, abused drugs and self-harmed during a dark period in his life in 2019.

Kyrgios blamed his depression on the relentless grind of the tennis tour, being away from family and putting pressure on himself, which frequently resulted in on-court tantrums and fines.

But his Malaysian mother Norlaila, known as Nill, told the Sydney Morning Herald Friday he was finally beginning to enjoy himself, with girlfriend Costeen Hatzi by his side.

"He's finally appreciating where he is, that's the best thing about all this," she said.

"Beforehand it was so hard for us to get him to do anything. He was happy to sit in his room and play video games all the time. His shoulder would hurt him from how much he would play.

"In Beijing we wanted him to walk the Great Wall of China with



us. Who wouldn't, right? But Nick wouldn't go. He was happy to sit in his room and order in, that's what worried me.

"I remember in Canada we said, 'Let's go to Niagara Falls'. He wouldn't even go there. Nick wouldn't want to do those things. Wow, there's such a difference now," she added to the newspaper.

"I see it on his (Instagram) stories. Since the Australian Open this year, he has started doing some things. "Because he now understands that life doesn't revolve around tennis. No one expects him to be like that. You have to enjoy your life. I'm really happy he is now." Kyrgios has been dating Hatzi since late last year and she took to Instagram to congratulate him. "Final of Wimbledon, this is insane. I love you and can't wait to see you out there with all out support," she said. "When you have the right people around you, anything is possible."

Nikhath hopes boxers win 4 Gold at CWG



PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Newly-crowned world champion Nikhat Zareen is hungry to win more medals for the country and expects a record haul of four Golds from the Indian boxing contingent at the Birmingham Commonwealth Games starting July 28.

Indian pugilists' best-ever CWG show has been at the 2018 edition at Gold Coast where six-time world champion Mary Kom became the first woman boxer from the country to emerge champion, as they returned with a record haul of three Gold, three Silver and three Bronze medals.

At Birmingham, the new boxing sensation from Telangana would make its much-anticipated CWG debut and she hoped for "at least eight medals" from the 12-member Indian boxing team.

"I expect at least eight medals, of

which I will take four Gold from the boxers. Let's see what happens," the 26-year-old, who won the 52kg flyweight Gold at the World Championships in Turkey in May, said in a virtual media interaction arranged by the Sports Authority of India.

"We're all experienced boxers. We have World Championship medallists and Olympians. I hope every one gets Gold! I still have the same hunger to win a medal for the country, I'm still hungry.

"It's difficult to predict a medal before the draw is out, as sometimes you're handed a tough draw and get eliminated in the first round."

At Birmingham, India will have a boxing contingent of eight men's and four women's participants.

Apart from Zareen, the Indian women's boxing team will have the Olympic Bronze medallist Lovlina Borgohain (70kg), 2021 Asian youth Bronze medallist Jasmine (60kg) and Nitu, a two-time former youth world champion.

Olympians Amit Panghal (51kg) and Shiva Thapa (63.5kg) will lead the men's boxing team comprising six others — Mohammad Hussamuddin (57kg), Rohit Tokas (67kg), Sumit Kundu (75kg), Ashish Chaudhary (80kg), Sanjeet (92kg), and Sagar (92+kg).

Zareen would make her CWG debut in a new weight division after being forced to switch to 50kg following the announcement of new weight categories for the Paris Olympics.

"I didn't have any other option. It was difficult but not that tough to come to 50kg. I just had to lose 2kg. I prefer losing weight and playing in that category rather than competing in higher weight divisions," she said.



Prannoy in semis, Sindhu once again fails to crack Tai code

PTI ■ KUALA LUMPUR

Fighting HS Prannoy edged out Japan's Kanta Tsuneyama to progress to the semifinals but two-time Olympic medallist P V Sindhu couldn't find a way to get past her nemesis Tai Tzu Ying at the Malaysia Masters Super 500 tournament here on Friday.

Prannoy, a former top 10 player, continued his consistent run and weathered the storm against world number 14 Tsuneyama to emerge victorious 25-23, 22-20 in the 60-minute quarterfinal clash, which ebbed and flowed throughout.

One of the heroes of India's monumental Thomas Cup win in May, Prannoy will face Hong Kong's NG Ka Long Angus, seeded 8th, in the last four.

A week after being outwitted by Tai Tzu Ying at Malaysia Open, seventh seed

Sindhu once again fell short against the world No 2 Taiwanese, losing 13-21, 21-12, 12-21 in a 55-minute contest.

It was Sindhu's 17th career defeat to the Tokyo Olympics Silver medallist, who has prevailed over the Indian in all their last seven meetings. The last time Sindhu had defeated Tzu Ying was en route to her 2019 World Championship Gold in Basel, Switzerland.

The men's singles contest turned out to be a game of cat and mouse as the two highly-skilled players engaged in a battle of one-upmanship, with Prannoy showing better nerves as he saved game points twice to come up trumps against Tsuneyama.

In the women's competition, it was business as usual for Tzu Ying as she rode her precision and deceptive game to get past Sindhu, who once again flattered to deceive.

100 per cent prepared for UEFA Champions League: Manisha Kalyan

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Star striker Manisha Kalyan is 100 per cent "prepared" to make an impression in the UEFA Champions League, a tournament in which no Indian woman footballer has played before her.

The 20-year-old, who shot to fame last year when she scored against heavyweights Brazil in their own den, recently signed a contract with Cypriot club Apollon Ladies FC, which will play in the UEFA Women's Champions League qualification.

"Competitions like the Champions League are what every player would have dreamt of playing, and just the thought of getting a chance to play there is thrilling. From my end, I'm prepared to give my 100 percent to play the Champions League and help my team do well," said Manisha.

Manisha, along with her fellow India winger Dangmei Grace have made their moves abroad earlier this month, with the latter signing for Nasaf FC in Uzbekistan.

Manisha believes that with the kind of progress the country's women's team has made in recent times, more Indian players can make such moves in the future.

"Our girls have improved a lot. I feel there are girls in the



team who can do even better. Such moves will only help the national team to improve further in the future," she told the All India Football Federation.

"I hope that I can inspire some of the younger girls to work harder and make their own moves in the future as well."

She feels that the exposure she has got with the national team in recent times has helped her gain the experience and the confidence to take such steps.

Manisha has already had three training sessions with her new club in the Cypriot capital, and the attacker is looking to adapt to the new environment.

"The playing style is a little different here. It will take a little time to adapt, but I am really enjoying the intensity of training here," she said.

"My teammates have been really friendly and approachable, so I am hopeful that we will all gel together."

Having been a part of the national team setup since her U-17 days, Manisha has got used to staying away from home for long camps.

However, moving to a new country is an entirely new ball game.

"I've been quite used to staying away from home while playing for the national team. What made it easy was that we were all like a second family," quipped Manisha.

"I've only been here in Limassol for a few days now, but life does feel a little different. It's a completely new city, with new people around me. It's a bit difficult at the start, but I'll adjust. The main thing is to do well on the pitch."

Ajax smash Dutch transfer record for Bergwijn

AP ■ AMSTERDAM

Steven Bergwijn has joined Ajax from Tottenham on a five-year deal for a Dutch transfer record of 31.5 million euros (\$31.9 million), the Amsterdam club announced Friday.

The international winger, capped 22 times by the Netherlands, came through the youth ranks at Ajax, but is yet to don a first-team jersey.

Bergwijn signed for Tottenham in 2020, scoring seven goals in 60 appearances for the London club, without properly nailing down a starting berth.

The 24-year-old made it clear in May he wanted to leave Spurs for a club that would allow him more gametime in his bid to make the Netherlands squad for this year's World Cup in Qatar.

Bergwijn's transfer fee smashed the previous highest in Dutch football, the 22 million euros Ajax paid West Ham for Sebastien Haller in 2021. Haller himself left Ajax on Wednesday to sign for Borussia Dortmund for a transfer fee of 31 million euros (\$31.5 million).



Kipchoge to make return at Berlin Marathon

PARIS: Kenyan world record holder Eliud Kipchoge will make his next competitive appearance at the 2022 Berlin Marathon on September 25, his NN Running Team announced on Friday.

Kipchoge, who won back-to-back Olympic Golds at the Rio and Tokyo Games, will be chasing a fourth Berlin Marathon title in the hope of matching Ethiopian great Haile Gebrselassie. "Berlin is the fastest course, it's where a human being can showcase its potential to push the limits," said the Kenyan who set the world record of 2:01:39 in his last appearance in the German capital four years.

Kipchoge, 37, boasts an unmatched record over the marathon, having won 14 of his 16 career outings over the event, including not only his two Olympic triumphs but also nine World Marathon Majors victories. AP

Ronaldo will not travel with Man Utd for pre-season tour

AP ■ MANCHESTER

Cristiano Ronaldo will not travel with Manchester United for their pre-season tour of Thailand and Australia after the Portugal striker was given additional time off to deal with a family issue.

Ronaldo was absent on Monday when new United boss Erik ten Hag welcomed the club's international players to Carrington for the start of pre-season training.

The forward told the club he was dealing with a family matter and remained absent on Thursday.

As a result, Ronaldo will not be part of the group flying to Bangkok on Friday and there is no estimate of when he will link up with United, who face Liverpool in Thailand on Tuesday before flying to Australia.



It emerged over the weekend that the 37-year-old had asked to leave Old Trafford after growing unhappy with their poor form since

his return last year. United missed a Champions League place after finishing sixth in the Premier League.

However, United insist Ronaldo will be part of the squad this season amid reported interest from Chelsea and Napoli.

"Cristiano Ronaldo will not be part of the Manchester United party scheduled to depart for our pre-season tour of Thailand and Australia on Friday. He has been granted additional time off to deal with a family issue," a United spokesperson told the Manchester Evening News.

"Cristiano remains under contract with Manchester United for another season and he is not for sale."

Ronaldo scored 24 goals in all competitions last season and was named the club's Player of the Year, but United's wait for a first trophy since 2017 dragged on.

Sepp Blatter, Platini acquitted in FIFA trial

AP ■ BELLINZONA

Sepp Blatter and Michel Platini, once the chiefs of world and European football, were acquitted on Friday over a suspected fraudulent payment that shook the sport and torpedoed their time at the top.

Switzerland's Federal Criminal Court in the southern city of Bellinzona rejected the prosecution's request for a suspended prison sentence of a year and eight months, following a mammoth investigation that began in 2015 and lasted six years.

Former FIFA president Blatter, 86, and Platini, 67, were tried over a two million Swiss franc (\$2.05 million) payment in 2011 to Platini, who was then in charge of European football's governing body UEFA.

The former French football great "submitted to FIFA in 2011 an allegedly fictitious invoice for

a (alleged) debt still existing for his activity as an adviser for FIFA in the years 1998 to 2002", according to the court.

Blatter insisted before the court that the pair had struck a oral "gentlemen's agreement", with some of Platini's remuneration to be paid at a later date when FIFA's fragile finances would allow it.

Both were accused of fraud and forgery of a document. Blatter was accused of misappropriation and criminal mismanagement, while Platini was accused of participating in those offences.

Blatter and Platini maintained their innocence throughout their trial, which ran from June 8 to 22.

The indictment was filed by the Office of the Attorney General of Switzerland.

Both FIFA and UEFA are headquartered in Switzerland, in Zurich and Nyon respectively.

ROHIT & Co. START WITH WIN

Hardik scores maiden T20I fifty and then picks up 4 wickets to star in India's 50-run triumph

PTI ■ SOUTHAMPTON

Hardik Pandya reigned supreme with one of the finest all-round performances in recent times as India bossed England to emerge winners by 50 runs in the first T20 International here.

The swashbuckling all-rounder led India's aggressive batting display with a blistering 33-ball 51, propelling the visitors to 198 for eight after they opted to bat first.

Hardik then finished with excellent figures of 4/33, destroying England's batting with his full quota of four overs. He became only the fourth player from full member nations to score a fifty and take four wickets in a T20I match.

England's innings ended at 148 in 19.3 overs.

This was Hardik's first T20I half-century, helping India score at a brisk pace in the middle overs after Rohit Sharma (24 off 14 balls), Deepak Hooda (33 off 17) and Suryakumar Yadav (39 off 19) set it up with their enterprising knocks.

Motoring along at 178 for five at the end of 17th over, India failed to finish their innings with a flourish on a belter of a pitch. But that did not matter in the end, despite India spilling a few catches.

Defending 199, India had a dream start as Bhuvneshwar Kumar bowled skipper Jos Buttler with a beautiful inswinger, having tested Jason Roy with four outswingers.

Coming off his fine show with the bat, Hardik delivered with the ball in his very first over not once, but twice, removing Dawid Malan and Liam Livingstone to leave England in a disarray at 29 for three in the fifth over.

Hardik was not done yet as he ended Roy's painstaking stay in the middle



when he had the opener caught at third man after a thick edge. He capped off a memorable outing by taking the wicket of Sam Curran.

Earlier, seeking to make up for the lost time after missing the fifth Test against England owing to COVID-19, Rohit got India off to a brisk start.

First up, Rohit charged down the track to smash Sam Curran towards mid-off and while a diving Chris Jordan got a hand to it, the ball was hit too hard and all the fielder could do was deflect it to the fence.

Reece Topley strayed down the leg and Rohit whipped it off his pads for his second boundary. That was followed by another four as the India captain played it through point, forcing his English counterpart Jos Buttler to introduce spin as early as the third over.

Unperturbed, Rohit went after Moeen Ali straightaway and collected two boundaries off him by employing the sweep shots on both occasions.

However, the experienced off-spinning all-rounder came back strongly to dismiss the India skipper just when he was beginning to look ominous, with a delivery that drifted away for Rohit to snick it to Buttler.

Coming off his maiden century against Ireland, Deepak Hooda started from where he left off in the previous game at Malahide, smashing Moeen high over long-on for two massive sixes. That he opened his account with a maximum showed the kind of confidence that the man from Rohtak carried into Ageas Bowl.

And even though Moeen enjoyed his second breakthrough in the form of Ishan Kishan, who did not look to be in control of his pull shots, India continued with their attacking approach.

While Hooda started with a six, Suryakumar Yadav began his innings with a four, sweeping Moeen over backward square leg.

The man in form, Hooda continued to deal in boundaries, hitting Topley for

three fours in the innings' sixth over as India galloped to 66 for two in the powerplay.

Surya dispatched Tymal Mills over fine leg for a six, and then, comfortably got two fours on the off-side off Matt Parkinson's innocuous leg-spinners.

Amid the flurry of boundaries, India lost Hooda -- a rather soft dismissal -- as he failed to connect to a Jordan delivery that was going down leg.

One big-hitter was replaced by another, as Hardik Pandya joined Suryakumar in the middle to continue the aggression.

In no time, Hardik started dealing in boundaries and even though Suryakumar got out, after getting a six and a four off Mills and Jordan respectively, there was no stopping India's charge.

Hardik kept finding the fence with ease and a missed stumping off Parkinson, when the batter was on 37, compounded England's woes. But they did manage to dismiss Hardik after he had got to his fifty.

My mindset doesn't take me too high, neither low: Pandya



PTI ■ SOUTHAMPTON

Success and failure have stopped influencing star all rounder Hardik Pandya, who has learnt to live a "neutral life" with a lot of clarity.

Battling an injury-ravaged body, it was not easy for Pandya to return to the game. His career was in jeopardy but he made a grand comeback by leading Gujarat Titans to their maiden IPL title and that too in their debut season.

He also led India against Ireland and on Thursday night shone bright with both bat and ball to script India's win in the first T20 against England.

"Hardwork always pays. I always believe that if you do hardwork with good intention, it pays. My point is how to prepare myself best. One day result will go my side, other day it won't," Hardik said at the post-match press conference.

"My mindset doesn't take me too high, neither low. I have learnt to live neu-

tral in life. Today was a good day, tomorrow can be bad but life moves on, so keep laughing and do your hardwork."

Pandya said he is always clear about his life and whenever gets off the track, he has a good support system to bring him in line.

"Clarity has always been there in my life. Whenever I felt that there is no clarity in my life, I always take time off and try to identify and rectify it. I don't like things to do in a hurry. Leave batting and bowling, in general life clarity is important."

"For me my support system is very strong. My family is very important for me. That also bring clarity. When I am little confused there is Krunal, my sister-in-law, my wife is there. Such a strong bonding we share that if I deviate a little they kind of bring me back," he said.

Test cricket is the ultimate test of a cricketer but Pandya said he is currently not thinking much about playing the traditional format as he wants to focus on white-ball cricket.

With the T20 World Cup to be held in Australia in October-November this year and the next ODI World Cup at home next year, the Indian team is also currently prioritising white-ball cricket over Tests.

"Depending on how and what we are playing because right now this is a white-ball season, all focussed on white-ball. Right now it is better for me to play as many white-ball matches for India," said Pandya.

"The opportunity in Tests will come. What to play what not to play, time will only tell but it's simple for me, to play as a 100 per cent cricket in whatever matches I get to play," he added.

"Right now I am not thinking much about what we will be playing in the future or not. Right now I am focussing on making myself available for as many games for India."

"Talking about today's performance, obviously it's always good to perform when actually your team requires. For me it was simple, understanding the situation and what my team requires, just going there and doing what I do."

Labuschagne, Smith hundreds power Oz to 298-5 | McCullum finds all 'bazball' talk silly

AP ■ GALLE

Marnus Labuschagne and Steven Smith posted hundreds to help Australia to 298 for five at stumps on day one of the second Test against Sri Lanka on Friday.

Darren Lehmann in 2004 had been the last Australian batsman to score a hundred at the spinner friendly turning tracks in Galle International Stadium.

Labuschagne, who was given a life on 28 when Niroshan Dickwella missed a stumping chance off Ramesh Mendis, posted his seventh Test hundred and the first overseas while Smith hit his 28th Test hundred and the second against Sri Lanka.

The pair added 134 runs for the third wicket in 223 deliveries as Australia consolidated its position. The stand was eventually broken when Dickwella completed a stump with Laubschagne on 104 to give left-arm spinner Prabath Jayasuriya his maiden Test wicket. He faced 125 deliveries and hit 12 fours.

Australia, which won the toss, lost two quick wickets after Labuschagne's dismissal as Jayasuriya made an impact. The left-arm spinner's first 12 overs had cost 54 runs and fetched no wickets but his next 10 overs produced three wickets for 22 runs as Sri Lanka staged a comeback.

Travis Head was bowled for 12 while Cameron Green, who escaped a stumping chance on one, was trapped leg before wicket for four.

Smith was untroubled, though. The former captain had been run out in his only innings in the first Test and he was determined to make amends. Although the pitch offered extra bounce and turn for the spinners, Smith was solid with his defense. He reached his century with a spectacular cover drive off Kasun Rajitha and was unbeaten on 109 at stumps having hit 14 boundaries. He faced 212 balls and had batted for four and half hours.



Australia has retained the Warne-Murali Trophy having won the first Test and a win in the second will help consolidate their position as world's No. 1 ranked team.

Since Lehmann's century in 2004, Australia had played three Tests here and despite winning two of those none of their batsmen had scored a century - until Friday.

India to tour Australia twice in next FTP cycle, number of Tests increased to 5

PTI ■ MELBOURNE

The Indian team could tour Australia twice in the next Future Tours Programme (FTP) cycle from 2024-2032, with the number of Tests per series increased from the existing four to five.

According to a report in the Age, Cricket Australia (CA) has "recently informed a range of broadcasters, both domestic and international, of the fact that it has secured two full Test tours by each of India and England over the next FTP, with India's tours increased from four to five-match series."

The last two Test tours of Australia, which comprised four matches in each series, were won by India, triumphs that went down in history as two of their greatest.

The current ICC FTP, running from 2018 to 2023, ends with the men's 50-over ICC World Cup, to be played in India in October-November next year.

The full FTP is likely to be formally announced later this month, around the ICC's annual meeting in Birmingham on July 25 and 26.

India has always been a huge draw for Australian crowds more so in recent years, with the last four-match series Down Under giving the financially struggling CA a major boost with an expected revenue of 300 million Australian dollars.

"Seasons without Test-match visits by England or India generally mean a reduction in crowds and broadcast audiences - part of the reason why CA itself works on a multi-year financial model to balance fluctuations in the international schedule," said the report in the leading Australian daily.

McCullum finds all 'bazball' talk silly

PTI ■ MELBOURNE

'Bazball' could be the most abused term in world cricket over the last one month but the inspiration behind it, England Test coach Brendon McCullum, finds the incessant talk around the newly coined word 'silly'.

'Bazball', which is derived from McCullum's nickname 'Baz', has been associated with England's drastic change in approach towards Test cricket since the arrival of the new head coach.

England, who endured a dismal run over the last 18 months, look a completely transformed outfit with 3-0 series over New Zealand and a record chase in the rescheduled fifth Test against India.

Senior Australia batter Steve Smith called England's counter-attacking approach exciting but is not sure about its sustainability, especially till the Ashes in England next summer.

Reacting to Smith's comments, former New Zealand captain McCullum, one of the most aggressive opening batters



to have played for the Kiwis, said a lot of thought has gone into England's fresh approach towards the five-day game and acknowledged the Australian challenge in 2023.

"I saw those (bazball comments) flick up on one of the feeds somewhere," McCullum told Adam Gilchrist on *SEN WA Breakfast* show.

"It's quite right, it is going to be a big challenge when we take on Australia. It's going to challenge our method and it's going to challenge what we're capable of achieving and that's pretty exciting I reckon."

"Isn't that what the game's all about? It is to sort of reinvigorate yourself and then be confronted against the very best. I do believe that both New Zealand and India are two very, very good cricket sides as well," said McCullum.

He added that their style of play might look straightforward but it is far from that.

"Australia is a different kind of challenge because of the history of the Ashes and the rivalry which exists there."

"I'm sure that our guys will try and still maintain a really positive approach. I think the real key is not just the crash and burn if we look at the approach of how the guys have done it," McCullum said.

"That's why I don't really like that silly term that people are throwing out there, because there's actually quite a bit of thought that goes into how the guys manufacture their performances and when they put pressure on bowlers and which bowlers they put pressure on. There's also times where they've absorbed pressure beautifully as well."

Pooran blasts WI to T20I series win

AP ■ GUYANA

Captain Nicholas Pooran was at his devastating best in blazing the West Indies to a comfortable five-wicket win over Bangladesh in the third and final T20I at the Guyana National Stadium on Thursday.

Pooran's unbeaten 74, and 55 from opening batsman Kyle Mayers anchored the home side's pursuit of the visitors' total of 163 for five.

The hosts reached 169 for five with ten balls to spare to take the series 2-0 after the first fixture in Dominica last Saturday had ended in a rain-ruined no-result.

Having come to the crease with the innings at 43 for three in the seventh over, Pooran asserted himself from the outset. With fellow left-hander Mayers following suit, the pair transformed a potentially tough challenge into a relaxed canter by the end in a rollicking fourth-wicket stand of 85 off eight overs.

Responding in the best



manner possible to repeated criticism of his run of low scores and poor shot selection, the home skipper belted five sixes and fours in an innings which occupied just 39 deliveries.

"I definitely love Guyana and love performing here," said Pooran after receiving the "Man of the Match" and "Man of the Series" awards. "I ask my players to trust me, even if they don't always like me."

Mayers, whose stature in all formats continues to grow after being named "Man of the Series" in the preceding two-Test contest, smashed five sixes and two fours in his 38-ball innings before falling to left-arm spinner Nasum Ahmed in the 15th over.

By then the result was a formality. Pooran sealed victory with a towering straight six off his Bangladeshi counterpart Mahmudullah.

India lose 3-4 to New Zealand, to play Spain in crossover for QF berth

PTI ■ AMSTELVEEN

A wasteful India lost 3-4 to New Zealand in their final Pool B match but still remained in contention for a quarterfinal berth of the FIH Women's Hockey World Cup after finishing third in their group here.

New Zealand topped Pool B with seven points ahead of England (4), while India and China finished on two points apiece but progressed on account of a better goal difference.

According to the tournament format, the top four sides from four pools will directly qualify for the quarterfinals, while the second and third placed teams will feature in the crossovers.

The winner of the crossover matches will grab the remaining four quarterfinal spots.

India will play the second placed team of Pool C, co-hosts Spain, in their crossover match at Terassa on Sunday.

Co-hosts Netherlands, New Zealand, Argentina and Australia have directly qualified for the quarterfinals after topping their respective pools.

India should have sealed the game in regulation 60 minutes if not for an uncountable missed chances, including as many as 15 penalty corners, out of which they converted just one.

Vandana Katariya (4th minute), Lalremsiami (44th) and Gurjit Kaur (59th) were the goal scorers for India on Thursday, while New Zealand sounded the board through Olivia Merry's brace (12th, 54th), Tessa Jopp (29th) and Frances Davies (32nd).

The Indians started brightly, enjoying early possession and their efforts bore fruit when a diving Vandana deflected in Lalremsiami's push after a quick turn from inside the D in the fourth minute.



New Zealand secured their first penalty corner in the 12th minute and Olivia Merry found the net with a routine shot through the legs of India skipper and custodian Savita to level the scores.

India were punished by New Zealand for lapse in concentration a minute before half-time when an opportunist Jopp

scored from a goal-mouth melee.

New Zealand came out attacking after the change of ends and secured back-to-back set pieces, the second of which was converted by Davies.

It was all India thereafter as they secured penalty corners in numbers but failed to utilise the chances.

Lalremsiami pulled a goal back for India in the 44th minute neatly deflecting in Sushila Chanu's pass.

New Zealand got their two goal lead back when Merry scored from another set piece.

But Gurjit finally scored from a set piece when she converted India's 13th penalty corner in the 59th minute.