

## OPINION 6

HARNESSING ATOMIC  
POWER FOR THE GOOD

## WORLD 9

TRUMP ASSOCIATES' TIES TO EXTREMISTS  
PROBED BY JANUARY 6 PANEL

## MONEY 10

SEBI BEEFS UP TECH TO CRACK  
DOWN ON INSIDER TRADING

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## the pioneer

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ROHIT BACKS  
STRUGGLING  
VIRAT KOHLI  
12 SPORTEPS new ADMK boss;  
OPS, 3 aides expelledParty accuses  
them of  
shaming it  
by mixing  
with the DMKKUMAR CHELLAPPAN ■  
CHENNAI

Former Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu Edappadi K Palaniswami (68) was unanimously elected as the interim general secretary of the All India Anna Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam (AIADMK) in a specially-convened General Council (GC) meeting held on Monday at Chennai.

He will be elevated as the full time general secretary of the party in the election to be held in four months, it was announced in Monday's GC meeting, which is the highest decision-making body of the party.

The GC meeting expelled O Panneerselvam, who was the coordinator of the party steering committee, from the primary membership of the party along with three of his associates for bringing disrepute to the



Security personnel attempt to maintain law and order after two groups of suspected AIADMK workers clashed outside the party headquarters before the General Council meeting in Chennai on Monday

PTI

AIADMK by hobnobbing with the DMK. The GC meeting saw a lot of suspense and action-packed moments. The proceedings began only after Justice Krishnan Ramaswamy of the Madras High Court quashed the petition filed by Panneerselvam challenging the legality of the meeting. "Majority of the AIADMK members are in

favour of conducting the meeting and there are no illegalities in today's meeting. Moreover, the court cannot interfere with the squabbles of a political party," said Justice Ramaswamy.

While the GC meeting began amid much fanfare at a Chennai suburb, Panneerselvam and his associates drove down to the AIADMK headquarters in the

heart of the city. Television channels aired visuals of people vandalising the party headquarters by pulling down the pictures of Jayalithaa and Palaniswami. The main door to the party office was broken open, and it was a free for all for party cadres believed to be loyalists of Panneerselvam.

Continued on Page 2

PM unveils national emblem  
atop new Parliament building6.5 metre high  
bronze statue  
weighs 9,500 kg;  
Modi says nation  
proud of workers  
who made history

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Monday unveiled the national emblem installed on the roof of the new Parliament building here in the presence of Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla. Made entirely of bronze the national emblem weighs 9,500 kg and is 6.5 metres in height.

The inauguration of the emblem marks the first major milestone ahead of the new building's scheduled opening, later this year. Authorities have maintained that the Parliament's Winter Session will be held there. The emblem has been cast at the top of the central foyer of the new Parliament building. A steel structure weighing around 6,500 kg has been constructed to support the emblem.

The concept sketch and process of casting of the national emblem on the roof of the new



Prime Minister Narendra Modi unveils the bronze national emblem cast on the roof of the new Parliament building, in New Delhi on Monday

PTI

Parliament building has gone through eight different stages of

preparation, from clay modeling and computer graphics to bronze

casting and polishing.

Modi was joined by Om Birla, Rajya Sabha Deputy Chairman Harivansh and Urban Development Minister Hardeep Singh Puri at the inauguration. He also attended a religious ceremony at the site.

The Prime minister also interacted with the workers engaged in the building's construction and told them that they should feel proud of their work as they are making a very big contribution to the nation's pride.

"I had a wonderful interaction with the shramjeevis who have been involved in the making of the Parliament. We are proud of their efforts and will always remember their contribution to our nation," he tweeted.

When a worker expressed joy at his visit to the site and likened it to Lord Ram's arrival at Shabri's hut, a reference to the epic Ramayana, Modi said lightly, "Wah, wah, this is your hut!" He then added that every poor person of the country should also feel that this is his hut. "You have said a very good thing," the Prime Minister said. When he asked them if they feel that they are making a building or history, they said in a chorus, "History."

He also asked them about the difference they felt about being part of the construction of the Parliament building and working on some other projects. The group of workers said they felt proud. Continued on Page 2

India to beat China as most  
populous nation by '23: UNYogi, BJP leaders  
say population  
control must go  
ahead but sans  
any imbalancePIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■  
NEW DELHI

With a United Nations (UN) report projecting that India will surpass China as the most populous nation by 2023, there was a clamour for undertaking population control measures in the country. Soon after, Uttar Pradesh (UP) Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath said the population control programme must go ahead successfully but at the same time "population imbalance" should not be allowed to happen.

BJP spokesperson Sudhanshu Trivedi said this issue is not merely his party's but that of



every aware citizen of India.

The World Population Prospects 2022 by the UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs, Population Division report has projected that India will have a population of 1.668 billion in 2050, way ahead of China's 1.317 billion people by the middle of the century. India's population stands at 1.412 billion today as compared to China's 1.426 billion.

The world's two most populous regions in 2022 were Eastern and South-Eastern Asia, with 2.3 billion people, representing 29 per cent of the global population, and Central and Southern Asia, with 2.1 billion, representing 26 per cent of the total world population.

The report suggests that the world's population could grow to around 8.5 billion in 2030.

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## SC gives relief to Uddhav's Sena

Asks Speaker to  
defer plea for  
disqualification  
of Thackeray  
group MLAsPIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■  
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court (SC) has directed the newly-elected Maharashtra Assembly Speaker Rahul Narvekar not to proceed against the MLAs of Shiv Sena's Uddhav Thackeray faction for defying the whip issued by the Eknath Shinde faction during the trust vote and the election of the Speaker. The Shinde group has sought their disqualification.

After winning the trust vote in the State Assembly on July 4, the Shinde faction of the Shiv Sena issued a notice to 14 Legislators from the Uddhav Thackeray camp for violating a whip issued by the Sena whip and Shinde loyalist Bharat Gogawale.

A three-judge Bench com-

prising Chief Justice NV Ramana and Justices Krishna Murari and Hima Kohli gave relief to the Uddhav camp after senior advocates led by Kapil Sibal pointed out that several pleas of the Uddhav faction, which were to be listed on Monday, have not been taken up because a Bench was not set up for the matter.

The court said the matter be listed after Tuesday after setting up the Bench.

"The court had said the petitions would be listed on July 11.

I urge that there should be no disqualification till the matter is decided here," Sibal said, adding that earlier the top court had protected the rebel MLAs when they had approached it.

"Our disqualification petition is listed tomorrow before the Speaker... Either way, there should not be any disqualification till the matter is decided. These matters have to be decided here," the senior lawyer said.

"Mr (Tushar) Mehta (Solicitor-General), you please

inform the Assembly Speaker not to take any hearing. Let us see, we will hear the matter," the Bench said.

The Solicitor-General (SG) who represented Maharashtra Governor Bhagat Singh Koshiyari, said he would convey the message to the Speaker.

The top court is flooded with petitions from the Thackeray faction arising out of the rebellion in Shiv Sena which first led to the downfall of the Maha Vikas Aghadi (MVA) Government led by the Sena supremo and the consequential appointment of Shinde as his successor with the help of BJP.

On July 3, Narvekar of the BJP was elected Speaker of the Maharashtra Assembly. He had polled 164 votes and defeated the Uddhav Thackeray-led Shiv Sena candidate Rajan Salvi, who got 107 votes.

A day before the floor test, Maharashtra Assembly Speaker Narvekar had recognised Gogawale as the Shiv Sena's Chief Whip, removing Sunil Prabhu, who belongs to the Thackeray faction.

Both sides have accused each other of defying the party whip during the Speaker's election.

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## 13 LS MPs ask Uddhav to back Murmu

Mumbai: On Monday the Uddhav Thackeray-led Shiv Sena moved the Election Commission, asking it to hear it out before taking a view on any demands made by the faction led by Eknath Shinde on the party symbol.

Sources said that Shiv Sena leader Anil Desai, in a recent communication to the poll panel, has urged it to give Shiv Sena a hearing in case of claims to the party's election symbol — bow and arrow.

In another significant, yet

unrelated development, a whopping 13 of the 18 Lok Sabha MPs of the Shiv Sena in Maharashtra physically attended a key meeting at 'Matoshree', the private residence of Shiv Sena chief Uddhav Thackeray in suburban Bandra.

During the meeting one of the topics that came up for discussions was the presidential elections and a majority of them suggested supporting the BJP-led NDA's candidate Droupadi Murmu, party leader Gajanan Kiritkar said.

PNS

Honour promise  
to Portugal, free  
Salem on end of  
sentence: SC

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Centre has to honour its commitment given to Portugal and release gangster Abu Salem on completion of his 25-year sentence in the 1993 Mumbai serial blasts case, the Supreme Court ruled on Monday.

The then Deputy Prime Minister LK Advani had given the assurance to Portugal to facilitate Salem's extradition. Salem was extradited from Portugal on November 11, 2005, after a prolonged legal battle. In June 2017, Salem was convicted and later awarded life sentence for his role in the 1993 serial blasts.

A Bench of Justices SK Kaul and MM Sundresh said the Centre is bound to advise the President for exercise of power under Article 72 of the Constitution and the national commitment on completion of his sentence.

Continued on Page 2

5 Cong MLAs who went  
missing attend AssemblyClaim nothing  
wrong with  
party in Goa

PNS ■ NEW DELHI/PANAJI

Five Goa Congress MLAs, who went incommunicado a day before, attended the State Assembly proceedings on the first day of the Monsoon Session on Monday, and claimed there was "nothing wrong" in the Opposition party. The development came a day after Congress accused two of its MLAs, Michael Lobo and former Chief Minister Digambar Kamat of "conspiring and hobnobbing" with the ruling BJP to engineer a split in the grand old party's legislative wing.

The party removed Lobo from the post of Leader of Opposition in the State Assembly, which has 40 members. Lobo, on his part,



however, asserted there was nothing wrong in the party.

"There is nothing wrong. I don't know what the problem is. All Congress MLAs were together. We went to South Goa for a meeting on Sunday.

They (Congress leaders) again wanted to have another Press conference which was not required, so we did not attend it," said Lobo, whose wife Delilah is also a Congress MLA.

Lobo said they won the State

election on the Congress ticket and they stand with the party. On replacing him as the LoP, Lobo said he had told the party that he was not interested to continue as the LoP.

Former Chief Minister Kamat and his Congress colleague Rajesh Faldesai also said they were with the party. The two MLAs said they were not in the party office on Sunday due to personal reasons.

Continued on Page 2

New Lankan Prez to be elected on July 20 as  
Opp initiates steps to form all-party GovtCabinet agrees  
to quit once  
the new Govt  
is in place

Colombo: With embattled President Gotabaya Rajapaksa confirming his intention to resign as promised on Wednesday, Sri Lanka's political parties on Monday initiated steps to form an all-party Government and subsequently elect a new President on July 20 to prevent the bankrupt nation sliding further into anarchy.

President Rajapaksa has officially conveyed to Prime Minister Ranil Wickremesinghe that he will resign on July 13 as previously announced, the PM Office said on Monday, days after protesters stormed both leaders' homes in rage over the



People queue up to visit President Gotabaya Rajapaksa's office on the second day after it was stormed in Colombo, Sri Lanka on Monday

AP I PTI

## India refutes reports on sending troops

Colombo: The Indian High Commission in Sri Lanka has categorically dismissed for the second time in as many months the speculative media reports about New Delhi sending its troops to Colombo, where thousands of angry protesters stormed embattled President Gotabaya Rajapaksa's official residence

and set Prime Minister Ranil Wickremesinghe's house on fire amidst the ongoing economic crisis.

"The High Commission would like to categorically deny speculative reports in sections of media and social media about India sending her troops to Sri Lanka," the High Commission said.

Wednesday after thousands of irate protesters stormed into the President's house in Colombo's high-security Fort area, calling for him to step down.

"President Gotabaya Rajapaksa has officially informed Prime Minister Ranil Wickremesinghe that he will be resigning as previously announced," a statement from the PM's office said.

The Sri Lankan Parliament will elect the new President to succeed Rajapaksa on July 20, Speaker Abeywardena announced on Monday. The decision was taken during a crucial all-party leaders meeting held earlier in the day. After receiving Rajapaksa's resignation on Wednesday, Parliament will convene on July 15 to announce the vacancy and will reconvene on July 19 to accept the nominations for the post, Abeywardena said.

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## NCR-PULSE

**RAI LAUNCHES 15-DAY MEGA PLANTATION DRIVE**  
New Delhi: Delhi Environment Minister Gopal Rai on Monday launched a 15-day mega plantation drive to further increase the green cover in the national capital. The 'Van Mahotsav', which started from the Central Ridge, will culminate with the plantation of one lakh saplings at Asola Bhatti Wildlife Sanctuary on July 25, he said. Around 35 lakh saplings and shrubs will be planted in Delhi this year.

**GOVT'S CHATBOT TO ANSWER ALL QUERIES ON EVs**  
New Delhi: From how to procure e-vehicles to their price range and incentives, the Delhi government's Whatsapp chatbot can answer all possible queries of people of the city looking for information on electric vehicles. "Delhi government has launched a #WhatsApp chatbot for #ElectricVehicles. Find your nearest charging station, know more about electric mobility, models etc. Send a 'hello' at 98103 36008 and let's collectively @SwitchDelhi," said a tweet by Delhi Transport Commissioner Ashish Kundra.

**AISA STAGES DEMONSTRATION OUTSIDE UGC OFFICE**  
New Delhi: The activists of Left-affiliated All India Students' Association (AISA) staged a demonstration outside the University Grants Commission (UGC) office here on Monday against alleged mismanagement in the recently-held National Eligibility Test (NET). Technical glitches were reported from various centres across the country on the first day of the exam on Saturday. The UGC has entrusted the National Testing Agency (NTA) with the task of conducting the UGC-NET.

**LICYPRIYA STARTS 'PLASTIC MONEY SHOP' AT DU**  
New Delhi: In a bid to encourage the public to eliminate single-use plastic items from their daily lives, 10-year-old globally recognised climate activist Licypriya Kangujam has started an initiative called 'plastic money shop' at the Delhi University. People can bring any single-use plastic (SUP) waste from home and collect rice or stationery items or a sapling for free at the 'plastic money shop'. "For every one kg of SUP waste, two kg of rice or two notebooks or a pencil box or a plant sapling will be given for free," said Kangujam.

**2 PERSONS DROWN IN SHIKARPUR DRAIN WHILE FISHING**  
New Delhi: Two persons allegedly drowned while fishing in Shikarpur drain of Dwarka in southwest Delhi on Monday morning. The deceased were identified as Amir Khan (28) and Gopal (27). Police said that around 8am, an information regarding drowning of two persons was received at Chhawla police station. Enquiry revealed that both of them were fishing in Shikarpur drain, Chhawla and got drowned as the helping tube got upside down and consequently, they died, police said.

## Case of cheating and fraud registered against SpiceJet chairman, MD

**PARVESH SHARMA ■ GURUGRAM**

A case of cheating and fraud has been registered against SpiceJet Chairman and Managing Director Ajay Singh and others for allegedly cheating a Gurugram resident by delivering fake share certificates to him.

The complainant Amit Arora, a resident of The Magnolias, Golf Links, Golf Course Road, Gurugram started in his police complaint that Singh had delivered a fake depository instruction slip (DIS) of 10 lakh shares for services provided to him.

The case has been registered under Sections 420 (cheating and dishonestly inducing delivery of property) and 406 (criminal breach of trust) of the Indian Penal Code (IPC) was registered at the

Sushant Lok police station on July 7. The Complainant is in the business of providing non-aeronautical services including airport retail and hospitality services. Arora told the police that in 2015, the erstwhile promoters of Spicejet i.e. Kalanithi Maran and Kal Airways Private Limited entered into a Share Sale and Purchase Agreement with the accused Ajay Singh wherein their entire shareholding was transferred to him. "Singh told him to take over, the company as it was in a dire financial difficulty in terms of fuel charges with various oil companies, pending statutory dues, Pending air fleet parking charges, Pending Salaries other vendor Payments etc. To survive, the said company required a complete overhaul and financial restructuring," Arora told the police.

**T N RAGHUNATHA ■ MUMBAI**

The Uddhav Thackeray-led Shiv Sena on Monday filed a caveat before the Election Commission of India (ECI) seeking it to be made a party in the event of the Sena faction led by Chief Minister Eknath Shinde filing a petition before the ECI over the party symbol "Bow and Arrow".

On a day when the Supreme Court asked Maharashtra Assembly's new Speaker Rahul Narwekar not to decide on the disqualification notices issued to the MLAs belonging to the Uddhav Thackeray-led Shiv Sena, the parent Shiv Sena submitted a

plea before the ECI that it be made a party and be heard if the Shinde faction staked claim over the party symbol.

Confirming the development, senior leader from the Uddhav Thackeray-led Shiv Sena Anil Desai told "The Pioneer": "Yes. We have filed a caveat before the ECI that it should hear us before deciding on a petition – if any – filed by the Eknath Shinde camp seeking the Sena's registered symbol of "bow and arrow".

It may be recalled that on Friday last, Shiv Sena president Uddhav Thackeray had gone to town, saying that no one could take away the Sena's registered "bow and arrow" symbol from the party and the question of

him thinking about the symbol did not arise.

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 had told media persons here: "No can take away 'bow and arrow' symbol from the Shiv Sena. I am saying this after holding consultations with law and constitutional 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 had 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".

## LG launches Sah-bhagita, scheme making RWAs partners in optimal tax collection

**STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI**

Delhi Lieutenant Governor Vinai Kumar Saxena on Monday launched Sah-Bhagita - a scheme making Resident Welfare Associations (RWAs) partners in optimal tax collection and waste management ecosystem in the national Capital.

According to a statement issued by Raj Niwas, the scheme aims at improving efficiency and compliance in tax collection by incentivizing RWAs. "It suggests that once RWA achieves 90 per cent tax collection from total number of properties in their societies or colonies, it can recommend development work in their



areas equivalent to 10 per cent of the tax collection subject to a ceiling of Rs one lakh," said the officials.

"Additionally, if the colony concerned implements 100 per cent waste segregation at source, composting of the wet waste and re-cycling of dry waste, there would be an added incentive of 5 per cent of the tax paid," said the officials.

"This new initiative addresses the long pending rationalization of the property

tax structure and also places importance on solid waste management through community participation. This tax policy will bring in consistency and uniformity in different approaches being adopted by the Municipal Corporation of Delhi (MCD)," said Saxena.

The LG also has expressed hope that these long awaited initiatives, will bring about the much desired community partnership and ensure that each citizen becomes a stakeholder in the MCD.

"These policy initiatives will ensure better delivery of services to the residents of Delhi and encourage people's participation in addressing the problem of solid waste management," said the L-G.

## SC gives relief to...

**From Page 1**

And also during the trust vote on July 3 and 4, respectively, seeking disqualification of the legislators from both sides. Maharashtra legislature secretary has issued show-cause notices to 53 out of the total 55 Shiv Sena MLAs in the state - 39 of the faction led by Shinde and 14 of the Uddhav Thackeray group.

The notices have been issued under the Members of Maharashtra Legislative Assembly (disqualification on grounds of defection) rules. In the trust vote, 164 MLAs voted for the motion of confidence,

while 99 voted against it.

The Shiv Sena has 55 MLAs in the 288-member Assembly, whose current strength is 287 due to the death of a Sena legislator. The Thackeray 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.

It has also filed a plea challenging the decision of the newly-elected Speaker to recognise the new party whip of Shiv Sena rebels led by CM Shinde.

## Honour promise to Portugal, free Salem on end of...

**From Page 1**

"The necessary papers be forwarded within a month of completion of 25 years. In fact, the Government can itself exercise the power of remission under CrPc within the time period of one month upon completion of 25 years," the bench said.

The Centre had told the top court that the question of the Union of India honouring its assurance dated December 17, 2002 will arise only when the period of 25 years is to expire which is November 10, 2030.

On February 25, 2015, a special TADA court had awarded life imprisonment to Salem in another

case for murdering Mumbai-based builder Pradeep Jain in 1995 along with his driver Mehdi Hassan.

The top court had on May 5 reserved its judgement in the matter in which the Centre had argued that the judiciary is independent of the solemn sovereign assurance given to the Portugal Government during the extradition of Salem and it is up to the executive to take a call on it at an appropriate stage.

Appearing for the Centre, Additional Solicitor General K M Nataraj had told the court that the "Government is bound by the solemn sovereign assurance given

by then deputy Prime Minister LK Advani to the Portugal Government and it will abide by it at an appropriate time".

He had argued that the court is not bound by the solemn assurance and it can pass orders as per the law. "Solemn sovereign assurance cannot be forced on the judiciary. The executive will act on it at an appropriate stage. We are bound by the solemn sovereign assurance in this regard. Judiciary is independent, it can proceed as per law," he had said.

The bench had told Nataraj that arguments made by advocate Rishi Malhotra, representing Salem, was that the court should

decide on the solemn assurance and reduce his sentence from life term to 25 years or direct the Government to take a call on the assurance given during his extradition.

The top court had observed that the second issue was of a set-off period as the argument made at the bar was that Salem was arrested in Portugal subsequent to a red corner notice issued on the orders of the court here and he has gone detention there till his extradition to India.

Nataraj had argued that there are judgements to the effect that a life sentence means entire life and there could be no remission.

## EPS new ADMK boss...

**From Page 1**

The Revenue Department of the Tamil Nadu Government took control of the party building and locked it.

Meanwhile the GC meeting passed resolutions elevating Palaniswami as interim general secretary, expelling Panneerselvam and four associates and appointing Natham Viswanathan and Pollachi Jayaraman as election commissioners to hold party general secretary poll.

All regional satraps and former Ministers in the Palaniswami-led Government were present in the GC meeting leaving Panneerselvam alone. Later in the day, V K Sasikala, who rooms around Tamil Nadu claiming to be the general secretary of the AIADMK, told media persons that Monday's meeting was illegal and against the party's ideology.

"But who bothers about what Sasikala is telling? The whole Tamil Nadu is agog with reports that Sasikala and Panneerselvam are hand in glove with Chief Minister M K Stalin to ensure the disintegration of AIADMK," said Kolahala Srinivasu, author and commentator.

He pointed out that Panneerselvam and company gattecrashed into party headquarters and vandalised the premises despite the administration's call for Section 144. "This was done with the connivance of police and revenue officials," he said.

With their expulsion from the membership of the party, Panneerselvam and R Vaithilingam cease to be members of the Legislative Assembly necessitating by-elections in the constituencies they represent.

## New Lankan Prez to be...

**From Page 1**

A parliamentary ballot will be held on July 20 to elect the new President, he said.

Meanwhile, the main opposition party Samagi Jana Balavegaya (SJB) said on Monday that it is ready to lead the next government to bring stability to the bankrupt island nation as it grapples with political and economic crises and any resistance to the move in Parliament will be seen as a "treacherous act".

Prime Minister Wickremesinghe has already said he was willing to resign and make way for an all-party government to take over.

Reacting publicly for the first time after his private house was set on fire by anti-government protesters on Saturday, Wickremesinghe said on Monday that only people with a "Hitler-like mindset" torch buildings and added that there was a "background event" that

led to what transpired that night.

He said a miscommunication by way of a tweet by a Muslim party leader that he had objected to forming an all-party government and refused to resign had triggered the arson attack on his house.

In a special televised statement, 73-year-old Wickremesinghe said that this house was the only one he had in Sri Lanka as well as abroad, and that it has now been burnt down.

"My only house was set on fire. I had 2,500 books in my library, my only asset. There were over 200-year-old valuable paintings. All of them destroyed," he said.

President Rajapaksa appointed Wickremesinghe as Prime Minister in May after his elder brother Mahinda Rajapaksa was forced to resign amidst growing pressure on the government over the mismanagement of the economy.

Wickremesinghe said he accepted the post of Prime Minister as the economy was in disarray. "The cost of living was high, no fuel, there was a foreign exchange crisis. People were losing jobs. I saw the suffering of the people," he said.

He said the International Monetary Fund (IMF) has noted that around four years would be required to stabilise the economy, the first year is the worst.

"This cannot be done in 1-2 days, at least a year would be needed to take the first corrective steps. The IMF said it would take four years," he said.

On Sunday, the Sri Lankan Army dismissed claims that it shot directly at protesters who attempted to enter the President's residence during the weekend.

## 5 Cong MLAs who...

**From Page 1**

"I stayed with the Congress. I led the party from front during the Assembly election (earlier this year), but after the polls, I was not given the post of LoP," Kamat said.

Goa Congress chief Amit Patkar claimed the number of MLAs with the party has risen to seven, two more from Sunday's count from the total strength of 11 legislators in the newly elected Assembly. Senior Congress leader Mukul Wasnik reached Goa and after a meeting with the party MLAs the new LoP will be announced.

"MLA Aleixo Sequeira and another Congress MLA have come to us. We had five MLAs with us on Sunday evening, now we have seven MLAs with us," Amit briefed the media.

A day earlier, the Congress had said five of its 11 MLAs in Goa became "incommunicado". These MLAs are Michael Lobo, Digambar Kamat, Kedar Naik, Rajesh Faldesai and Delialah Lobo.

Goa desk in-charge Dinesh

Gundu Rao had also said five other legislators, excluding those who became incommunicado, are with the Congress. They are Altonne D'Costa, Sankalp Amonkar, Yuri Alemao, Carlos Alvares Ferreira, and Rudolf Fernandes. These five MLAs were present at the Press conference addressed by Rao on Sunday.

He had said the sixth MLA, Aleixo Sequeira, is in touch with the Congress leaders and is very much with the party. Congress leaders also met Assembly Speaker Ramesh Tawadkar to inform him about the removal of Michael Lobo as the LoP.

On Sunday, out of the total 11 Congress MLAs in the State, five -- Lobo, Digambar, Kedar Naik, Rajesh Faldesai and Delialah Lobo -- had gone incommunicado. MLA Rajesh Faldesai also said he was with the party and had informed Goa Congress chief Amit about his absence (from the party office on Sunday), as he was at home due to personal reasons.

## PM unveils national...

**From Page 1**

As Modi unveiled the national emblem atop the new Parliament building, the Congress slammed the Modi Government for not inviting Opposition party leaders to the programme.

Former Congress MP Sandeep Dikshit said it is good that a new Parliament building is being built in the country but the Centre should invite Opposition leaders as well to the events and functions related to the Parliament.

"Parliament does not belong to a single party, Government or a prime minister... It is a temple of democracy and it belongs to every elected member of Parliament and the party he/she is affiliated to," he said.

In a statement, the Polit Bureau of the CPI(M) said the prime minister's action was a "clear violation of the Indian Constitution".

It said the Constitution unambiguously separates the three wings of our democracy - the Executive (government), the Legislature (Parliament and state assemblies) and the Judiciary.

"National Emblem installation

should not be linked to religious ceremonies. It is everyone's emblem." CPI (M) tweeted.

**PUBLIC NOTICE**  
To be known to all that I, Mahindra Kumar Chawla S/o Damodar Dass Chawla, Cont. 9810720499, Email: avocate22@gmail.com, R/o 15/38, 2nd Floor Old Rajinder Nagar, New Delhi, is the owners of DDA Plot No-342, Block-A Pocket-02 Sector-34 Anaruesingr-60.00 Aq Mrs Rohini Delhi in INA Market New Delhi, has applied conversion of aforesaid property from lease hold to free hold in DDA. Original Demand Letter, DDA Possession Letter, Site Possession Slip, of aforesaid property have been lost. An FIR to this effect has been lodged in police station on dated 19/06/2022. Any person(s) claiming any right, having any objection or found in possession of original document may write/contact with above named person at above address within 15 days from the date of publication of this notice & can personally contact:- Deputy Director (L&B Rohini) C- block, 3rd floor, Vikas Sadan, INA, New Delhi

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I, Syed Asif Hussain/S/o Syed Qamrul Hussain R/o Kashana-E-Nehal, Lodikatra, Patna 800008, Bihar, India have purchased a property bearing Unit No. Flat # 1101 (R018N21101) Tower/Block N2/N102 Project Eco Village-1/ dated Plot-08, Sector-1 Greater Noida 201303, I have lost the original allotment letter of the above-said property, I have requested M/s SUPERTECH LIMITED, to issue the duplicate allotment letter of the said property, if anybody or financial Institutions have an objection, he/she may contact to M/s Supertech Limited office Plot no-C-2, Sector 96, Noida 201303 UP, Within Fifteen Day.

**KEY CORP LIMITED**  
CIN No.:L65921UP1985PLC007547  
Regd. Office:16/16-A, Civil Lines, Kanpur - 208001  
email: keycorpiltd@gmail.com  
Ph.0512-3013416, 3010422, 2305416

**NOTICE**  
Notice is hereby given that 36<sup>th</sup> Annual General Meeting of the Company will be held on Saturday the 6<sup>th</sup> August, 2022 at 10.00 A.M. at the Registered Office of the Company at 16/16-A, Civil Lines, Kanpur. The notice is hereby also given that in pursuant to Section 91 of the Companies Act, 2013, The Register of Members and Share Transfer Books of the Company will remain closed from 31<sup>st</sup> July, 2022 to the 6<sup>th</sup> August, 2022 (both days inclusive).

By Order of the Board  
(G.D. MAHESHWARI)  
Place: Kanpur Executive Director  
Date: 11.07.2022

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# Power subsidy to continue: CM

Kejriwal's statement comes after cost of electricity in Delhi goes up further

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal on Monday said the relief being provided to the electricity consumers in the national Capital will be continued further. The CM's statement came after the cost of electricity in Delhi has increased with hike in power purchase adjustment cost (PPAC), imposed by DISCOM on consumers, by 4 per cent from mid June.

"The State Government will continue its electricity subsidy scheme providing 200 units of free electricity to the households opting for it. The Government's relief will continue. Come what may, the relief being given to the people of Delhi will not be affected," he said.

Under the electricity subsidy, utilisation of up to 200 units of electricity remains free, while those utilising between 201 to 400 units of electricity receive approximately 50 per cent subsidy.

According to an official of the electricity department, the rise was implemented by the power distribution companies (discoms) with Delhi Electricity Regulatory Commission (DERC) clearance due to an increase in the cost of fuel such as coal and gas. PPAC is a surcharge given to compensate the discoms for variations in the market-driven fuel costs (additional costs on account of increase in coal and gas prices).

The increase in PPAC has come ahead of the inflated prices of imported coal by the Central coal generating sta-



tions, increased prices of gas, and high prices of power exchanges, which had reached almost Rs 20 per unit before being capped by the Central Electricity Regulatory Commission (CERC) to Rs 12 per unit.

According to officials, since 2002, the cost of buying power for Delhi DISCOMS has increased by around 300 per cent, a cost over which DISCOMS have no control, whereas the retail tariff has risen by around 90 per cent in the corresponding period.

The Power Cost Adjustment on an electricity bill statement is computed by multiplying the amount charged or credited by the number of kilowatt-hours used. For example, if the amount charged is .03540, and 1000 kwh was used during the billing period, the Power Cost Adjustment would be a charge of Rs 2,810.82.

As per DISCOM, timely review of the PPAC is a requirement under the Electricity Act, DERC's own tariff orders and Appellate Tribunal for Electricity (APTEL) orders.

As per the Ministry of Power directions on November 9, 2021, every State Regulatory Commission (DERC in the case of Delhi) has to place a mechanism for Automatic pass through of fuel and power procurement cost in tariff for ensuring the viability of power sector.

## Cong, BJP rap Govt for increasing power purchase adjustment cost



STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Delhi BJP and Congress units on Monday lashed out on the Arvind Kejriwal Government for increasing power purchase adjustment cost (PPAC) that will impact the consumers.

The Delhi Congress demanded roll down the hike and alleged that the Delhi Electricity Regulatory Commission (DERC), in collusion with the Kejriwal Government, was helping the discoms make huge profits at the expense of the people.

Addressing a Press conference, Ch Anil Kumar, president, Delhi Congress said the power consumers of the national Capital will receive a big "shock" in their electricity bills from July onwards, as the DERC has allowed a hike in Power Purchase Adjustment Cost (PPAC), which is a surcharge used to compensate the Power Distribution Companies (discoms) for changes in the rate of fuel in the market. Kumar alleged that Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal in a tacit understanding with the power



distribution companies is allowing the power consumers to be fleeced with this latest PPAC hike in rates, and this rate hike will inflict a major blow on the consumers, who are yet to recover from the devastation caused by the Covid-19 pandemic.

Meanwhile, Delhi BJP president Adesh Gupta described Kejriwal-led Delhi Government's decision to increase power tariff as a fraud with Delhiites. He asked what has the Government done to augment power supply in Delhi despite being in power for over seven years now. "Kejriwal must answer that. Despite coming to power for a third time in a row, the Kejriwal Government neither took any concrete steps nor made a road map in this regard.

He first made Delhi hollow by giving a free lollipop of power and when it was exposed, the entire burden has now been shifted to consumer with six per cent tariff raise. Now Delhi's people are facing this problem of increased tariff," said Gupta. He said in the Capital the average power tariff is Rs 6.85



per unit while in industrial units it is Rs 10.69 and for domestic consumer the tariff is Rs 5.11 per unit.

"But in the Capital, actually the slab rate is a big fraud because the moment units' number crosses 200 one has to pay the entire bill. As far as free distribution of electricity is considered this is the Kejriwal Government's vote bank scheme whose benefit goes to only about 20 per cent of connection holders," alleged Gupta.

Ramvir Singh Bidhuri, the Leader of Opposition, said the fact is that the AAP-led Delhi Government in nexus with private discoms is not committing loot but actually committing dacoity.

"In the Capital 7000 mw electricity is supplied but in the name of that three times more money is taken on pretext of fixed charges. The AAP Government is running only on the basis of falsehood and its main aim is to create confusion among people and loot them. This is the reason why now Kejriwal government has announced a hike of two to six per cent power tariff," said Bidhuri.

## Monuments to be illuminated in Tricolour theme for 75th year of Independence

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

To mark the 75th Independence Day, the Delhi Government has decided to illuminate five major historical monuments with Tricolour lights. These five major monuments are — Birji Khan's Tomb in RK Puram, Baradari Qudsia Bagh, Bara Lao Ka Gumbad at Vasant Udhyan, Gol Gumbaz near Lodhi Flyover and Tomb of Paik at Mukarba Chowk.

Deputy Chief Minister Manish Sisodia on Monday reviewed 71 monuments being maintained by the State Government.

After the review meeting, Sisodia decided to visit these historical sites to review the conservation and maintenance work in progress. "The Delhi Government is working on restoration of these monuments and will organise various cultural events around them to celebrate their historical importance and spread awareness about them," he said.

During the meeting, Sisodia was informed that the Delhi Government has expedited the conservation work of



Dara Shikoh Library and Baradari Qudsia Bagh. Dara Shikoh's library is located in the campus of Ambedkar University at Kashmere Gate. It was in a dilapidated condition for years due to lack of maintenance.

As the library is located in close proximity to the Yamuna, the issue of dampness in the building was always reported here. The work of preserving and reviving this building of historical importance has been given priority and expedited.

The work of preserving the Qudsia Bagh has also been undertaken by the Government. It has not only done the maintenance of the buildings here, but has also given a new look to the garden.

These monuments will soon get a state-of-art museum

each, said a senior official.

Delhi's famous Malcha Mahal will also be getting a makeover soon. The Government is planning to restore this popular monument and highlight its historical importance. "Along with this, the Government is already in the process of restoring the monument Azimganj Serai, located in Sunder Nagar and Phase 1 of restoration has already been completed. "Very soon we will begin the work on Phase 2," said Sisodia.

The Deputy Chief Minister said the historical monuments in the national Capital symbolise country's evolution over period of time. "They have been caused much damage due to neglect. This will help generations to understand our history in a better way," he said.



## Kejriwal announces ₹10L each for families of 2 Delhiites killed in Amarnath cloudburst



STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal on Monday announced a financial assistance of Rs 10 lakh each for the families of two Delhi residents killed in a cloudburst near the Amarnath shrine in Jammu and Kashmir.

Flash floods triggered by heavy rain struck near the shrine on July 8, leaving at least 16 people dead and more than 30 missing.

"Two women from Delhi's Madangir, Virmati and Prakashi went for Amarnath Yatra and an unfortunate disaster took place during their yatra because of a cloudburst. Several people have died and out of all the bodies recovered so far, two of them belonged to Delhi," said Kejriwal.

"I have just talked to their families. They went for a pious cause on this pilgrimage to purify their souls and seek blessing from God, but unfortunately, they were ill-fated.

## Amend new curriculum, members of DU's Executive Council urge V-C

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Two members of the DU's Executive Council have written to the university Vice Chancellor Yogesh Singh urging him to make "amendments" in the structure of the new curriculum which, they claimed, may dilute "academic rigour."

The new curriculum will be implemented from the academic year 2022-23.

The Delhi University's Executive Council — the varsity's top decision-making body — had in February approved an Undergraduate Curriculum Framework-2022, or, UGCF-2022, as formulated by a National Education Policy cell.

A section of teachers have opposed the proposed structure of the UGCF.

In a letter to the VC, two EC members — Seema Das and Rajpal Singh Pawar — argued that the UGCF has been "haphazardly made" by an "extra-statutory" body — NEP cell. "The University of Delhi has been a premier institution, widely acclaimed for a high standard of teaching, learning and research.

"However, based on New Education Policy (NEP) 2020, the Undergraduate Curriculum

Framework (UGCF) 2022 has been haphazardly made by an extra-statutory body, ie NEP Cell leading to the dilution of academic rigour," the letter read.

The members said that the UGCF, as approved, stands to adversely affect the teacher-workload and academic rigour.

They said that the new curriculum will lead to a massive displacement of teachers, especially of those employed on ad hoc basis.

"As per authentic information, the student-teacher ratio is being doubled in comparison to the present student-teacher ratio across subject/discipline by the UGC and hence, the University of Delhi. "This will drastically reduce workload leading to massive displacement of teachers, especially those working in ad hoc capacity," read the letter.

The members also suggested that the DU's recent directives that no ad hoc or guest teacher's appointment will happen till every teacher takes 16 periods per week will lead to a "situation based on drastically underestimating the importance of quality research which ignores the importance of research done by the faculty members."

## Rain brings relief from sultry weather



STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Parts of the national Capital on Monday afternoon received a short spell of rains bringing much needed respite from the muggy weather conditions that had been prevailing over the last few days.

The maximum temperature was recorded at 36.9 degrees Celsius, a notch below the season's average, while the minimum settled at 27.1 degrees Celsius, normal for this time of the year.

The Safdarjung Observatory, considered the official marker for the capital, recorded 1 mm rainfall till 5.30 pm. The Palam observatory received traces of rainfall while Pitampura received 77.5 mm of rainfall. The Delhi University received 11.4 mm rainfall whereas Najafgarh received 4 mm of rainfall.

The weatherman has fore-

cast generally cloudy sky for Tuesday with the possibility of light rain or thundershowers. The maximum and minimum temperatures are likely to settle around 36 and 27 degrees Celsius, respectively.

Following the rainfall in parts of Delhi, waterlogging was reported at some places in the city leading to traffic snarls. The Delhi Traffic Police took to twitter to inform and alert commuters about the congestion and plan their journeys accordingly.

"Traffic is affected on New Rohtak Road in both carriage-ways due to waterlogging at Anand Parbat T-Point. Kindly avoid the stretch," it said in a tweet. In another tweet, the traffic police informed that the traffic was heavy at Najafgarh Firni road due to waterlogging and urged them to avoid the stretch.

Delhiites woke up to a

humid Monday morning and the relative humidity at 8.30 AM was 75 per cent.

However, the sky became overcast in the afternoon and rains descended from the dark clouds. The monsoon embraced Delhi in an impressive manner on June 30 but rains had repeatedly given the capital a miss since then.

The Safdarjung Observatory had recorded just 2.6 mm of rainfall in the last 10 days. It had gauged 144.3 mm of rainfall against a normal of 126.7 mm since June 1, when the monsoon season starts. Of this, 117.2 mm came in just 24 hours ending at 8.30 am on July 1.

While just 2 mm of rainfall occurred in the next three days (July 1-July 3), the Met office on July 4 issued a yellow alert for July 5 and an orange alert for July 6, which was later shifted to July 7.

Earlier, on Sunday, Mahesh Palawat, vice president (meteorology and climate change), of Skymet Weather had said that Delhi would not get any rain on Monday and Tuesday.

Before the rainfall on Monday, the IMD had issued colour-coded alerts on multiple occasions over the last six days, but Delhi remained completely dry. On July 4, the Met office issued a "yellow" alert for July 5 and an "orange" alert for July 6, which was later shifted for July 7.

## Earth Sciences secy: Need high frequency observations for better forecasts

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

The Earth Sciences Secretary M Ravichandran on Monday made a strong pitch for high frequency observations to better understand cloud dynamics.

His comments comes after the weather office missed rainfall predictions for the national Capital for the past few weeks and even on Monday when it had forecast little rain till Saturday.

"Actually, we need more science. We need more high frequency observations for better forecasts, particularly for regions such as Delhi," Ravichandran said.

He said the Delhi region is the convergence point for easterly winds coming from the Bay of Bengal and the low pressure areas and it was always difficult to have an accurate forecast for this border region. The National Capital Region has 80 per cent cloud cover, but did not experience rainfall, Ravichandran



said, adding that similar conditions in hilly areas would have certainly resulted in showers. He said for Delhi, high frequency weather observations and better understanding of cloud dynamics was required for improved forecasts.

The Earth Sciences secretary said there was no science yet to predict highly localised rainfall events that resulted in the tragedy at the Amarnath cave shrine Friday evening when 17 people were killed and several feared washed away due to flash floods.

He said extreme rainfall events were on the rise in the country due to change in climatic conditions and more weather observations were required to understand such processes.

# Dwarka Expressway will be operational in 2023: Gadkari

STAFF REPORTER ■ GURUGRAM

Union Minister for Road Transport and Highways Nitin Gadkari announced in Gurugram on Monday that Dwarka Expressway, also known as the Northern Peripheral Road (NPR) in the Haryana portion which is being developed as the first elevated urban expressway in India, will be operational in 2023.

Gadkari said Dwarka Expressway will reduce pressure on the Delhi-Gurugram Expressway (part of the Delhi-Jaipur-Ahmedabad-Mumbai arm of Golden Quadrilateral) and arterial roads that experience severe traffic congestion, primarily from the commuters of West Delhi. "50 to 60 per cent of the traffic on the Delhi-Jaipur Expressway (NH-48) will be diverted onto the new expressway, thereby improving traffic movement towards



Sohna Road, Golf Course Road and Golf Course extension road. Once operational in 2023, it shall immensely help reducing the air pollution in Delhi-NCR as well, he added.

The Minister said it is a 16-lane access-controlled highway with provision of a minimum 3-lane service road on both sides. The Expressway connecting Dwarka in Delhi to Gurugram in Haryana is being

developed at a total cost of Rs 9,000 Crore with total length of 29 km out of which 19 km length falls in Haryana while the remaining 10 km of length is in Delhi.

Dwarka Expressway would have 4 multi-level interchanges (tunnel/underpasses, at-Grade Road, Elevated Flyover & Flyover above Flyover) at major junctions including construction of longest (3.6 km) and

widest (8 lane) urban road tunnel in India. The expressway begins from Shiv-Murti on NH-48 (Delhi-Gurugram expressway) and ends near Kherki Daula Toll Plaza, through Dwarka Sector 21, Gurugram border and Basai.

"This project plays a pivotal role in the plan to decongest the capital city of Delhi. Once the Dwarka Expressway is completed, it would provide direct access to upcoming India International Convention Centre (IICC) in Sector 25 of Dwarka and will also provide an alternate connectivity to IGI Airport through a shallow tunnel," he said.

Apart from this, the state-of-the-art Intelligent Transportation Systems (ITS) like Advanced Traffic Management systems, Toll Management systems, CCTV Cameras, Surveillance etc. would be part and parcel of this upcoming world-class corridor.

**GURUGRAM:** A six-lane Sohna elevated highway constructed on National Highway 248A between Rajiv Chowk and Badshahpur was opened on a trial basis for traffic on Monday. With the portion between Badshahpur and Sohna already opened on April 1, the entire 25 km road is now accessible. The project will ease travel between Gurugram-Sohna and Alwar, and will also link to Delhi-Mumbai Expressway.

Giving information through tweets, Union Minister for Road Transport and Highways Nitin Gadkari said the opening of this 25-km long Gurugram-Sohna Highway will facilitate the commuters, and save their expensive fuel and time. The Minister said a total of 7 kilometres elevated on this stretch, built at a cost of about



Rs 2,000 crore.

A 6-lane access control corridor has been developed along the section. Three-lane service roads have been constructed on either side of the

highway. In addition, this stretch of highway will also provide connectivity to Delhi and Gurugram through the Delhi-Mumbai Expressway. The construction work of this

entire project was fixed to be completed in 30 months. But due to the interruptions in the construction work during the Pandemic, its deadline was extended till 30 June 2022.



# Opp demands rollback of Agnipath scheme

Submits memorandum to Defence Min, Cong MP Tewari did not sign

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE  
■ NEW DELHI

The Opposition on Monday demanded a rollback or Parliament scrutiny of the Agnipath scheme launched last month for recruiting aspirants for the armed forces. Some Opposition members also submitted a memorandum to Defence Minister Rajnath Singh on the matter.

However, in an embarrassment to the Congress, its MP Manish Tewari reportedly did not sign the memorandum as he has all along backed the scheme despite his party criticising it.

These developments came days ahead of the monsoon session of Parliament commencing July 18. The Opposition expressed its reservations regarding the new recruitment policy here during a meeting of



parliament consultative committee on defence.

Rajnath chaired the meeting where the members were briefed about the Agnipath scheme launched on June 14. Twelve MPs attended the meeting including Sudip Bandyopadhyay and Saugata Roy(TMC), Supriya Sule(NCP), Rajni Patil, Shakti Singh Gohil, and Manish Tewari(Congress), AD Singh(RJD) and Ranjanben Bhatt and Ram Bhai Mokhariya (BJP).

The scheme termed as "transformative" led to mass protests in several states. The government, however, refused to roll back the scheme and said it was aimed at having

youthful, fit and technology savvy armed forces capable of fighting modern day war. The memorandum or letter submitted to Rajnath was signed by six MPs including Shaktisinh Gohil(Congress), Sudip Bandyopadhyay and Sougata Roy(TMC), Supriya Sule(NCP), Rajni Patil(Congress) and AD Singh(RJD).

The Congress said that Tewari's views on the Agnipath scheme are his personal and do not reflect the party's opinion. While Rajnath said it was a "very good meeting," the Opposition was apprehensive about the after affects of the Agnipath. Even though more than seven lakh aspirants have

applied for the IAF in the last few days, the Opposition said it was due to rising unemployment and no other job avenues for the youth. The Opposition members also did not favour a four year stint for the Agniveers and wanted the tenure to be longer to achieve operational readiness.

The government was also criticised for involving the armed forces officers in politics as many senior officers were holding press conferences to highlight the salient features of Agnipath.

The Opposition members said politicians should have addressed such media briefings. They wanted the standing committee of parliament to scrutinise the Agnipath scheme.

Army Chief Manoj Pande and Navy chief Admiral R Hari Kumar besides other senior officials were also present at the consultative committee meeting. Meanwhile, the IAF has closed its registration and will conduct online examination from July 24.

The Army and the Navy registration are on. The Army will hold recruitment rallies from August all over the country while the Navy is planning

to start the training of new inductees in November. More than 10,000 women have

applied under the Agnipath scheme and the Service has earmarked 20 per cent of the

vacancies for women in various wings. Nearly 46,000 jawans or Agniveers will be inducted this

year including 40,000 for the Army and 3,000 each for the IAF and the Navy.

## Nat'l Emblem unveiling: PM slammed for not inviting Opp leaders

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Opposition on Monday hit out at Prime Minister Narendra Modi for unveiling the National Emblem atop the new Parliament Building by "subverting and violating" the principle of Constitutional separation of powers. It also slammed the PM for not inviting Opposition party leaders to the programme.

"The Constitution separates powers of parliament, government & judiciary. As head of the government, the Prime Minister should not have unveiled the national emblem atop the new parliament building," All India Majlis-e-Ittehadul Muslimeen (AIMIM) president Asaduddin Owaisi said. "The Speaker of Lok Sabha represents Lok Sabha which isn't subordinate

to the government. The prime minister has violated all constitutional norms," said Owaisi, who is a Lok Sabha member from Hyderabad. The CPI(M) politburo said the PM's action was a "clear violation of the Indian Constitution". In a statement, it said Constitution unambiguously separates three wings of our democracy - the Executive (government), the Legislature (Parliament and state assemblies) and Judiciary. "President summons Parliament. Prime minister is the head of the Executive. The Legislature has its independent role to perform, amongst others, to legislate laws, keep the Executive accountable and answerable," it said adding "This Constitutional separation of powers between the three wings is being subverted by the head of the Executive".The

CPI(M) also took objection to a religious ceremony organized at the event. "National emblem installation should not be linked to religious ceremonies. It is everyone's emblem, not those who have some religious beliefs. Keep religion separate from national functions," said CPI(M) in a tweet. Former Congress MP Sandeep Dikshit said it is good that a new Parliament building is being built in the country but Centre should invite Opposition leaders as well to the events and functions related to Parliament.

"Parliament does not belong to a single party, government or a prime minister... It is a temple of democracy and it belongs to every elected member of Parliament and the party he/she is affiliated to," he said.

He is always driven by negative mindset, BJP criticises Owaisi

NEW DELHI: The BJP hit back at Owaisi saying he is always driven by a negative mindset and constantly attacks the country's political, moral, social, cultural and constitutional values to run his party. "He does it habitually," BJP spokesperson Sudhanshu Trivedi said replying to a question at a press conference.

Citing a verse, Trivedi said that even the best of doctors have no cure to doubts. Trivedi also added that only those with "official and statutory" positions were involved in unveiling of the emblem. PNS

## CBI searches 10 locations in ₹2,150 cr bank fraud case

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The CBI has registered two separate cases of bank frauds worth nearly Rs 2,150 crore and conducted searches at the premises of the accused individuals and entities at 10 locations in Maharashtra and Gujarat.

On a complaint from State Bank of India (SBI) against a Mumbai-based private company Ushdev International Ltd and its directors Suman Vijay Gupta and Prateek Vijay Gupta besides unknown public servants and unknown others on the allegations of causing loss of Rs1438.45 crore to SBI and four other consortium member banks, the CBI registered a case against them and conducted searches at their premises.

"It was alleged that the said private borrower company(engaged in trading of ferrous & non-ferrous metal) and its Promoter Directors along with unknown entities had caused loss to State Bank

of India and consortium member banks (Central Bank of India, Indian Overseas Bank, Oriental Bank of Commerce(now PNB and Bank of Maharashtra) allegedly by diverting/siphoning off funds, showing sales to overseas dormant entities, manipulating books of accounts, etc.," the CBI said in a statement.

It was also alleged that the accused misappropriated bank funds by giving advances to the entities which had not carried out business during the last five to nine years and provided loans and advances to its related parties.

An alleged loss of Rs.1438.45 crore was caused to SBI and four other consortium member banks. "Searches were conducted at three places at the premises of the accused at Mumbai and Pune (Maharashtra) which led to recovery of incriminating documents/articles," the agency said. The other case was registered against a private compa-

ny Anil Ltd., Ahmedabad, six company directors Amol Shripal Sheth, Kamalbhai R Sheth, Anish Kasturbhai Shah, Indira J Parikh Dipal Palkhiwala, Anurag Kothawala, Shashinrao A Desai and unknown private persons and public servants.

This case was registered on a complaint from Bank of India on the allegations of bank fraud of Rs 710.85 crores to the consortium of banks comprising of Bank of India (as the lead bank), IDBI, SBI, PNB and Shamrao Vithal Cooperative Bank Ltd. as well as to IFCI Ltd., the CBI said.

It was stated that the said private company was engaged in the business activity of production of an entire range of unmodified starch, modified starch from basic maize starch and downstream products like Liquid Glucose, Dextrose Monohydrate, Anhydrous Dextrose and Sorbitol. Searches were conducted at seven locations, including Ahmedabad

and Pune at the premises of the accused which led to recovery

of several incriminating documents, articles, some property

documents and Rs 38 lakh in cash.

## Sonia gets ED notice to appear on July 21

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

In fresh summons to Congress president Sonia Gandhi, the Enforcement Directorate (ED) has asked her to appear before it on July 21 for questioning in a money laundering case linked to the National Herald newspaper..

Sonia was issued a second summons by the ED for appearance on June 23 but she could not turn up due to health issues related to Covid-19 infection.

Sonia, 75, had sought postponing of the June 23 summons by four weeks. Allowing her plea, the ED has now asked her to depose before it on July 21, the officials said. The Congress president was first issued the notice for appear-

ance on June 8, but after she tested positive for Covid. This prompted the agency to issue the summons for June 23. Her son and Congress MP Rahul Gandhi has been questioned by the agency in connection with the case for over 50 hours in sessions spread across five days.

The money laundering probe relates to alleged financial irregularities in Young Indian Private Limited, which owns the National Herald newspaper.

The Young Indian is promoted by the Congress. Sonia and Rahul Gandhi are among the promoters and majority shareholders of Young Indian. Like her son, the Congress president too has 38 per cent shareholding in the company. The move to question the

Gandhis was initiated after the ED late last year lodged a fresh case under the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA). The PMLA case followed a trial court here taking cognisance of an Income Tax Department probe against Young Indian on the basis of a private criminal complaint filed by BJP leader Subramanian Swamy in 2013.

Swamy had accused the Gandhis and others of conspiring to cheat and misappropriate funds, with Young Indian paying only Rs 50 lakh to obtain the right to recover Rs 90.25 crore that Associated Journals Limited (AJL) owed to the Congress. In April, the ED had questioned Congress leaders Mallikarjun Kharge and Pawan Bansal in the case.

## IN SHORTS

### MHA OFFICIALS, OTHERS CHARGESHEETED

New Delhi: The CBI has filed a charge sheet against Home Ministry officials and others arrested over alleged bribery involved in facilitating clearances of global donations to NGOs in violation of India's foreign exchange law. The charge sheet, filed before a special court on Saturday, came within 60 days of the arrests made on May 1. The probe is open into a suspected wider conspiracy.

### 14 JEE CANDIDATES GET 100% SCORE: NTA

New Delhi: Fourteen candidates have got the perfect score (100 per cent) in the engineering entrance exam JEE-Main results of which were announced on Monday, according to the National Testing Agency (NTA). Maximum candidates bagging the top score in the first edition of JEE-Main, 2022 are from Telangana (4) followed by Andhra Pradesh (3). Over 8.7 lakh candidates had registered for the exam while 7.69 lakh had appeared," a senior NTA official said.

### CENTRE'S PLEA FOR CASES TRANSFER REJECTED

New Delhi: The Supreme Court on Monday rejected the Centre's plea to transfer over 140 cases challenging the constitutional validity of the Payment of Bonus (Amendment) Act, 2015, filed in as many as 18 High Courts to the top court or any one High Court saying the likelihood of divergence of views, cannot be a ground for transfer. A bench of Justices Dinesh Maheshwari and Vikram Nath said having regard to the subject matter and the variety of questions likely to arise in matter, it does appear appropriate to have benefit of views of jurisdictional High Courts before questions of law are taken up for consideration in this Court if occasion so arises.

## Cong, BJP lock horns over Chinese 'infiltration'

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

China was back in focus of the Congress and BJP's verbal duel on Monday. The Congress said Prime Minister Narendra Modi's "silence" and the "increasing infiltration" by Beijing was "very harmful for the country".

The BJP wondered if the Opposition party does not have faith in the Army's statement and sought it not to politicize the issue.

The political slugfest on the China-India standoff along the Line of Actual Control again surfaced when former Congress chief Rahul Gandhi

said the "increasing Chinese infiltration" into Indian territory and the PM's "silence" on it are "very harmful" for the country.

The Galwan valley face-off in June 2020 in western Ladakh had triggered frequent opposition attacks on the government for not revealing the details of what it called 'Chinese encroachment' in Indian land, a charge strongly rejected by the Modi government.

The Congress leader while questioning the Prime Minister's "silence" on the issue also shared five "truths" about him, alleging that he is

"afraid" of China and hides the truth, besides protecting his own image.

"Some truths about the prime minister: 1. Is afraid of China. 2. Hides the truth from the public. 3. Just protects his own image. 4. Lowers the morale of the Army. 5. Plays with the security of the country."The increasing infiltration by China and the Prime Minister's silence are very harmful for the country," he said in a tweet in Hindi. The Congress has been alleging that China continues to occupy Indian territory and the government has done nothing to reclaim it.

In a riposte to the Congress on the issue, BJP spokesperson Sudhanshu Trivedi claimed that Congress leader Gaurav Gogoi had also talked about former Chief of Defence Staff Bipin Rawat rejecting such claims.

"I want to ask the Congress if it has trust in the Indian Army or not, or whether it trusts the reply of the Indian Army chief or not? Or do you want to do politics over his statement," he asked here at a press conference.

At a separate presser, Congress leader Gaurav Gogoi asked Modi to take the nation into confidence on the alleged

Chinese transgressions into India and asked him to address the concerns on national security, integrity and sovereignty.

Hitting back at the Congress after Gogoi used the initials (DDLJ) of a popular Hindi film to attack the government, Trivedi invoked the initials of another famous movie (QSQT) to say that this aptly describes the internal situation within the opposition party. "Qayamat ka hal hai" (It is like an apocalypse within the party), he said.

He was apparently referring to internal rebellion plaguing the Congress, most recently in Goa.

## India for addition of riverine species to CITES Appendix I

ARCHANA JYOTI ■ NEW DELHI

With illegal global pet trade, habitat loss and hydrological projects threatening the existence of already endangered Red-crowned Roofed Turtle (Batagur Kachuga) found in Ganga lowlands and Bangladesh, India has submitted a proposal to the United Nation Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species on Wild Fauna and Flora for addition of the riverine species to Appendix I from current Appendix II.

CITES has three appendices. Appendix I has species threatened with extinction. Trade in specimens of these species is permitted only in exceptional circumstances. Appendix III contains species that are protected in at least one country, which has asked other CITES parties for assistance in controlling trade. Batagur Kachuga is protected under Schedule I of the Indian Wildlife (Protection) Act of 1972(amended), according to

which endangered species that may only be hunted under exceptional circumstances, under license from both federal and provincial authorities.

India has sent the proposal ahead of the CITES' nineteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties at Panama City to be held between 14 - 25 November. CITES is an international treaty to ensure that trade in wild animals and plants do not threaten their survival.

Batagur Kachuga is currently part of Appendix II of CITES that has species not necessarily threatened with extinction, but in which trade must be controlled to avoid utilisation incompatible with their survival.

"B. kachuga is or may be affected by trade because live specimens of the species, particularly males, are recorded to have been found in international trade and recent records show that trade is ongoing," India has submitted. Due to the ongoing decline in the species'

population and continued threats to the species, both of which are expected to continue into the future, any trade in the species will have a detrimental impact on its status, it further said.

It is a large, exploited riverine turtle with selective habitat requirements, slow recruitment (generation time estimated over 25 years) and threatened by exploitation for consumption, international pet trade due to its brilliant coloration, and systemic impacts on its main river habitat, which have been documented to have caused steep population declines, India submitted in the proposal.

This species is now only known with certainty to exist in National Chambal Sanctuary, with 50 nests over 100 km. It is likely to be extinct now in Bangladesh. As a main river turtle, the species is highly susceptible to major hydrological projects and their impacts on river flow dynamics, nesting beaches, and water pollution.



Defence Minister Rajnath Singh during the inauguration of Artificial Intelligence in Defence (AIDef) exhibition in New Delhi on Monday RANJAN DIMRI | PIONEER



According to police records, JeM Commander was a categorised terrorist. He was active in the South Kashmir

The security forces have also recovered arms & ammunition including 01 USA made rifle (M-4 Carbine), 01 pistol

In the ensuing encounter, 2 local terrorists of proscribed terror outfit JeM were killed and their bodies were retrieved from the site of encounter, police said.

**PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■**  
**JAMMU**

On the other hand, the jawans belonging to the engineering regiment of the Indian army remained deployed on ground zero to create an alternate route linking the cave shrine after the previous one washed away during incessant rains in the cave shrine area on Friday. A total number of 16 pilgrims lost their lives in the tragedy while search for the missing ones continued without much success.

During the last two days, jawans of the Indian army supported by the teams of NDRF,



## T N RAGHUNATHA ■ MUMBAI

**PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ KOLKATA**

**KAMA HOLDINGS LIMITED**  
(CIN : L92199DL2000PLC104779)  
**Registered Office:** The Galleria, DLF Mayur Vihar,  
Unit No. 236 & 237, 2nd Floor, Mayur Vihar Phase, Noida Link Road,  
Mayur Vihar Phase I Extn, Delhi - 110091  
Tel. No : (+91-11) 49482870, (+91-124) 4354400 Fax : (+91-11) 49482900, (+91-124) 4354500  
**Email:** [info@kamaholdings.com](mailto:info@kamaholdings.com) **website:** [www.kamaholdings.com](http://www.kamaholdings.com)


**PIONEER NEWS SERVICE**   
NEW DELHI

They observed that the lipid, cholesterol, proline, and glucose molecules increased in the cells under viral influence.

**INFORMATION REGARDING TWENTY SECOND ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF KAMA HOLDINGS LIMITED**

**For KAMA HOLDINGS LIMITED**  
**Ekta Maheshwari**  
Whole Time Director, CFO &  
Company Secretary

Date : 11.07.2022  
Place : Gurugram

PUBLIC NOTICE					
		<b>Regd. Office:</b> ICICI Bank Limited, Landmark, Race Course Circle, Vadodra - 390007 <b>Corporate Office:</b> ICICI Bank Towers, Bandra- Kurla Complex, Bandra (E), Mumbai- 400051 <b>Branch Office:</b> ICICI Bank Ltd 2/62, 1to 4, Sadar Bazar Delhi Cantt, Delhi-110010			
A notice is hereby given that the following borrower/s have defaulted in the repayment of principal and interest of the loans facility obtained by them from the Bank and the loans have been classified as Non Performing Assets (NPA). The notice were issued to them under Section 13 (2) of Securitisation and Re-construction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act-2002 on their last known addresses as provided to the bank by them, that in addition thereto for the purposes of information of the said borrowers enumerated below, the said borrowers are being informed by way of this public notice.					
Sr. No.	Name of the Borrower/ Co-Borrower/ Guarantor/ (Loan Account Number) & Address	Description of Secured Asset to be Enforced	Date of Notice Sent/ Outstanding as on Date of Notice	NPA Date	
1.	LAFDB0004028489/ Gurdeep Singh/ HN-3658 Gali No-10 Block-A Sgm Nagar Faridabad, Faridabad-121001	MARUTI/ SANTRO/ HR51BX2711	31/01/2022 Rs. 3,10,310/-	31/10 2020	
2.	LADEL00040765288/ Fashal./ 27/388 Trilok Puri, Block 27 Chilla Sarda Khadar Chilla, Delhi-110091	MARUTI/ Swift/ DL2CBA6365	31/01/2022 Rs.3,16,567/-	14/07 2021	
3.	LADEL00035185556/ Namrata Singh/ G-22/239 Third Floor Sector-7 Rohini, Delhi-110085	MARUTI/ SWIFT DZIRE/ DL1CV7447	31/01/2022 Rs.3,81,616.4/-	16/03 2021	
4.	LAGHZ00037170970/ Shanno./ H- No. 74, Apartkot Main Bazar, Loni Dehat GZB, Ghaziabad- 201102	Hyundai/ I-10 GRAND/ UP14DP6387	31/01/2022 Rs.2,52,795.9/-	13/04 2021	
5.	LAFDB00037819103/ Santosh Kumar Mishra/ S/o. Ganga Dhar Mishra, D- Block Gali No-4 Shiv Mandir Jagmal, Enclave Roshan Nagar Agwanpur Sec-91, Faridabad-121013	MARUTI/ CELERIO/ HR51BU0931	31/01/2022 Rs. 3,54,508/-	31/01 2021	
6.	LADEL00036685385/ Puneet Bhalal/ RZ-53 B RZ-Block New Uttam Nagar Delhi-110059	MARUTI/ SWIFT/ DL8CAS5479	21/02/2022 Rs.3,53,446.09/-	31/01 2021	
7.	LADEL00036924647/ Gagandeep Singh/ WZ- 22 F/ F Prithvi Park Mbs Nagar, Vikas Puri, Delhi-110018	HYUNDAI/ I10 MAGNA/ DL8CAT2420	21/02/2022 Rs.3,37,446.5/-	31/01 2021	
8.	LAGUR00034459655/ Deepak Madhwal/ H. No- D 88 Second Floor Singleton, Apartments South City-11, Sohna Road, Faridabad-122001	MARUTI/ CIAZ/ HR26CW7508	21/02/2022 Rs. 3,17,697.7/-	31/01 2021	
9.	LAGHZ00035573563/ Rahul Kumar/ 59 A LIG Flat Tulsi Niketan Bhupura, Sahibabad Pasonda, Ghaziabad- 201005	CHEVROLET/ SAIL/ UP14GT0413	21/02/2022 Rs. 3,17,933.5/-	31/01 2021	
10.	LANOD00035775461/ Afsana Malik/ H. No. B-45 Dadi Road Sany Nagar Colony, Salarpur Khadar Sector-102, Gautam Buddha Nagar, Noida- 201304	RENAULT/ LODGY/ UP16ET4850	21/02/2022 Rs. 4,13,808.6/-	31/01 2021	
11.	LADEL00041032896/ Vinod Kumar/ A- 46 Road No-4 Street No-12, Mahipalpur U/I Airport, Delhi-110037	MARUTI/ Eeco/ HR26EF0839	21/02/2022 Rs.4,28,387/-	31/01 2021	
12.	LADL00036478465/ Rohit Gupta/ D- 25 Ganesh Nagar Pandav Nagar, Complex Shakar Pur Baramad East, Delhi-110092	MARUTI/ WAGON R/ DL6CQ8789	21/02/2022 Rs. 3,04,090.7/-	31/01 2021	
13.	LADL00036765258/ Praveen Kumar/ H. No-43 G/F Harijan Basti Sector-7, Dwarka Bagdola South West, Delhi-110077	MARUTI/ ALTO/ DL9CAP1650	21/02/2022 Rs. 2,42,204.8/-	31/01 2021	
14.	LADEL00037835766/ Sandeep Sain/ House No-252 Pana Barsan Tikri Kalan, Delhi-110041	MARUTI/ CELERIO/ DL3CCP7581	21/02/2022 Rs.4,03,962/-	16/02 2021	
15.	LADL00037328502/ Aakash Gupta/ X/ 899 Main Road Chand Mohalla, Gandhi Nagar, S/o East, Delhi-110031	MAHINDRA/ KUV 100/ DL7CQ3291	21/02/2022 Rs. 3,40,067/-	30/06 2020	
16.	LADL00037365294/ Awadh Kishor Kumar/ 74 Humayun Pur, Safdurjung Enclave, Delhi-110029	MARUTI/ SWIFT DZIRE/ DL1ZB8544	21/02/2022 Rs.2,86,795/-	31/01 2021	
17.	LAGHZ00037381389/ Saurabh Kumar/ 7/139 Raj Nagar, GZB, Ghaziabad- 201001	MARUTI/ WAGON R/ UP13AT9866	21/02/2022 Rs.2,76,585/-	31/01 2021	
18.	LAFDB00037428408/ Jawala Singh/ 2703 Ward No. 09, Near Subhash Chowk Nangla Enclave, Part 2 Sector 22, Faridabad- 121005	HYUNDAI/ EON/ HR51BT7414	21/02/2022 Rs. 2,49,296/-	31/01 2021	
19.	LADL00037520240/ Sabir Ali/ H No.- 27 KH No-27/11/4 Gali No-10, Brijpuri Extn, Delhi-110051	MARUTI/ SWIFT/ DL2CAY9526	21/02/2022 Rs.4,18,210/-	31/08 2020	
20.	LADL00037720526/ Dharmender Kumar/ House No. C-41 Police Colony, Model Town li, Delhi-110009	MARUTI/ ALTO/ DL1CZ9364	21/02/2022 Rs.3,21,637/-	31/10 2020	
21.	LADL00037727792/ Mohd Faraz/ H No. 12- A-7 K Street No. 7 A, Vijay Mohalla Majupur Bhajan, Delhi-110053	HYUNDAI/ XCENT/ DL1ZC1899	21/02/2022 Rs. 4,24,288/-	31/01 2021	
22.	LAGHZ00037788282/ Kamal Gouswami/ 802 Sewa Nagar, Ghaziabad- 201001	DATSUN/ DATSUN/ UP14DU3827	21/02/2022 Rs.2,79,057.2/-	31/01 2021	
23.	LADL00038336494/ Navin Kumar Tanwar/ Wz-585 B Naraina, Village South West, Delhi-110028	DATSUN/ DASTON GO PLUS/ DL8CA0209	21/02/2022 Rs.4,30,580/-	31/01 2021	
24.	LADL00038472373/ Archana Kanjoli Shop No-18 Central Market, First Floor, Dakshin Puri Dr. Ambedkar Nagar South, Delhi Pushpa Bhawan, Delhi-110062	MAR			








FIRST COLUMN

SRI LANKAN COLLAPSE HAS LESSONS FOR INDIA

Sri Lankan debt collapse calls for fiscal prudence



SHASHANK SAURAV


Sri Lanka is facing an unprecedented economic and political crisis. The economic crisis has been in the making for several years, and the recent geopolitical developments pushed the island nation into chaos and the state of financial bankruptcy.

The Sri Lankan leadership invited this crisis with reckless borrowings, which even exceeded the GDP. The composition of this debt also changed over the years, as concessionary borrowings were replaced with commercial loans, carrying higher interest rates and shorter maturity periods. Besides, the Sri Lankan government announced large tax cuts in 2019 ahead of the Covid-19 breakout as part of populist measures in the run up to the elections.

Tourism was the mainstay of the Sri Lankan economy, but it faced two major back-to-back blows in the forms of the Easter terror attack and the Covid-19 pandemic.

In India we may draw satisfaction from the better financial health of the country. India has a forex reserve of close to \$600 billion, sufficient to cover the merchandise imports of more than a year. As per RBI data from its last annual report, the foreign debt has increased from \$409 billion in 2013 to \$615 billion in December 2021. But, 'External Debt: GDP' ratio has improved from 22.4 percent in 2013 to 20 percent in 2021. This has happened despite contraction in the GDP on account of the Covid-19 pandemic.

Managing inflation, yield on government borrowings, maintaining liquidity in the market and keeping an eye on the benchmark rates to support growth, stable exchange regime, etc., are important tasks of the Central bank. A moderate inflation till the fourth quarter of the previous financial year was considered transitory, but the global scenario has changed very fast. Geopolitical tensions have put three-fourth of the consumer price index at risk.



Manufacturing capacity utilization is still lower than 10-year average due to the supply side constraints. There has been timely policy intervention like putting curbs on exports, reducing taxes on petroleum products, controlling the money supply by increasing the benchmark rates, etc., but they also carry risks. The World Bank, S&P etc., have cut the growth forecast of India primarily due to inflation related concerns. The Government can take solace that India is still one of the fastest growing economies, while inflation remains a global concern.

Rupee depreciation against the dollar has been highlighted as a major failure but there are two important factors which need to be examined. The Indian Rupee has performed well against other currencies like GBP, EUR and a depreciating rupee has some benefits for exporters too. A current account deficit and capital outflow due to rate hike by the US Federal Reserve is impacting fluctuation in the value of Rupee. Also, India has a federal structure and states are equally responsible for economic growth. However, there is a growing tendency to indulge in irresponsible announcements of freebies. This issue was highlighted a few months back, but there is no deterrent for the power-hungry politicians.

Revenue guarantee to states was given under the goods and services tax (GST) for a period of five years. Some of the extravaganza on the parts of the state administrations was funded out of the compensation which they received from the Centre. Now it must be understood that chief ministers can't hold the bargain chip forever to pressurize the Centre and enjoy a free lunch.

Lastly, self-sustainability is the key for developing nations. Some of the previously announced initiatives like Production Linked Incentives (PLIs) for the manufacturing sector and national monetization pipeline have the potential to push the growth on a higher trajectory and the government should stick to them.

*(The author is a CA and policy analyst)*

# Hydrocarbons may give India energy freedom

## Windfall tax on oil firms is justified; a robust ecosystem for hydrocarbons can give India the much-needed relief



UTTAM GUPTA

Amid disruption in the global supply chain and steep spike in the international crude prices, the Union Cabinet last week took two major decisions pertaining to the oil sector—deregulation of the sale of domestically-produced crude oil and imposing a cess or windfall tax of Rs 23,250 per tonne on crude oil and a special additional excise duty (SAED) of Rs 6 per litre, Rs 13 per litre and Rs 6 per litre on exports of petrol, diesel, and jet fuel respectively.

The Covid-19 pandemic and the ongoing Russia-Ukraine war have acutely affected the global supply chains, besides giving legs to the prices of the international crude oil to run briskly.

The government hopes that the Cabinet decision will spur domestic production of crude oil as it offers incentives to exploration and production (E&P) companies like Oil India Limited (OIL) and Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC), Cairn Oil and Gas, etc., thereby cutting down on imports of costly oil from global suppliers. Additionally, the Cabinet decision will help in curbing fuel shortages in the domestic market.

Under the extant arrangements, a condition in Production Sharing Contracts (PSC) (every E&P company which is given right or license to explore oil from a field is required to sign a PSC that lays down the terms and conditions for exploration, production and marketing of throughput) requires the operator to sell crude oil to the government or its nominee or government companies only.

This meant that domestically produced crude could only be supplied to refineries of Indian Oil Corporation Limited (IOCL), Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Limited (HPCL), and Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited (BPCL), which are majority-owned and controlled by the Government. Effective from October 1, 2022, this condition has been waived off, implying that E&P firms will have freedom to sell crude oil to whoever they want.

However, the freedom of marketing to E&P companies will be available only in respect of sales in the domestic market even as exports shall continue to be prohibited.

In view of domestically produced crude, constituting barely 15 percent of India's demand and public sector refineries such as IOCL/BPCL, etc., processing bulk of it, prima facie, E&P firms should have a readily available outlet for their throughput even if their sale is restricted to these government undertakings. But, such sales are generally hamstrung by bureaucratic red tape. Giving them freedom to sell, including to private refineries, will unshackle them, thereby removing a major constraint on increasing production.

The freedom to sell could be extrapolated to cover exports, while this would open up infinite opportunities for the E&P companies for selling their produce. But,



FOR IMMEDIATE CHALLENGES, SHORT-TERM MEASURES SUCH AS IMPOSING ADDITIONAL TAXES AND SLAPPING CESS MAY WORK, AS IS THE CASE WITH DOMESTIC PRODUCERS OF CRUDE, BUT THE GOVERNMENT MUST WORK FOR LONG TERM VISION AND HYDROCARBON IS INDEED FUEL OF FUTURE

The author is a policy analyst



for a country (read: India) which has to import 85 percent of its requirement, this is a bizarre proposition. No sovereign Government would ever permit it. Therefore, prohibition on export of crude rightly continues.

Currently, E&P firms are allowed to sell their crude at parity with its international price without any restriction. The steep increase in the international price has meant corresponding increase in the realization for these firms.

The resulting increase in their profits is due to the fortuitous circumstances (read: Ukraine war), as a big slice of global crude supply got disrupted. These are 'windfall gains', a portion of which is being mopped up by levy of a windfall tax on domestic crude. Against a realization of around US\$ 40 per barrel in normal times, if today producers are getting upto US\$ 80 per barrel more, the Government is justified in taking away a portion of this bonanza - Rs 23,250 per tonne or US\$ 40 per barrel, this comes to 50 percent.

However, a stipulation that "no cess will be imposed on such quantity of crude that is produced in excess of last year's production by a crude producer" was avoidable. It will prompt producers to show more quantity under the 'incremental' head to escape levy of cess, thereby defeating the very purpose.

The freedom of selling crude by itself won't galvanize E&P firms to boost domestic output. This is because the majority of the fields produce both crude oil and natural gas (NG). The NG is subject to controls on pricing and selling.

The Government hands out at

least half-a-dozen prices. The NG flowing from fields given on nomination to ONGC and OIL under pre-NELP (New Exploration Licensing Policy) and NELP is covered under the administered price mechanism. There is a premium price for gas extracted from deep and ultra-deep water fields. Though market determined, this price is subject to a cap; in effect, even this is controlled.

Other categories include market-based price for fields given under the Hydrocarbon Exploration Licensing Policy (HELP) or Open Acreage Licensing Policy (OALP); special price for unconventional stuff like shale gas, coal bed methane (CBM) from fields given under NELP as well as HELP; and for small and marginal fields whose ownership has been transferred from ONGC/OIL to private firms.

Furthermore, marketing (who gets to sell how much gas and from which field) is decided by an inter-ministerial committee, headed by secretary, ministry of petroleum and natural gas (MPNG). It creates a fertile ground for intense lobbying by interest groups to get the best deal in terms of the price and quantity sold. This distracts attention from maximizing production even as E&P firms are focused more on managing the officials.

In view of above, for E&P firms to get enthused, alongside crude, it is also necessary to grant them freedom for marketing and pricing of NG. The freedom should also embrace companies engaged in refining and marketing of petroleum products.

Although petrol and diesel are deregulated, de facto central public sector undertakings (CPSUs) viz. IOCL/BPCL/HPCL (they account for 90 percent of retail outlets) are not free to fix their prices. These CPSUs receive tacit instructions from their bosses to maintain prices at levels desired by the latter. For instance, the current pump price of petrol in Delhi at Rs 97 per liter, Rs 13 per liter less than the international parity price.

This artificial suppression of the retail price by CPSUs has prompted private refiners such as Reliance Industries (RIL) and Nayara Energy to cut supplies to the domestic market as they can't match the prices offered by the former. In turn, this has led to fuel shortages in several states such as Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh and Gujarat.

To alleviate shortage, the Government has come up with a tax on export of these fuels. It also wants exporters to supply 50 percent of the quantity of petrol exported during 2022-23 (30 percent in case of diesel) in the domestic market. It is missing the wood for the trees. While domestic prices are artificially kept below the international prices and a private refiner stands to gain by exporting, merely imposing levy of export tax creates no deterrence, and there may be attempts to fudge data.

To conclude, instead of looking for short-term palliatives, the Modi Government should free up the hydrocarbon sector, covering the entire supply chain from E&P to refining and marketing.

POINT COUNTERPOINT

GOTABAYA'S DECISION TO STEP DOWN WAS TAKEN TO ENSURE A PEACEFUL HANDOVER OF POWER. —SRI LANKA PARLIAMENT SPEAKER MAHINDA YAPA ABEYWARDENA



WE AIM FOR AN INTERIM GOVT OF ALL PARTIES FOR A LIMITED PERIOD AND THEN GO FOR PARLIAMENTARY POLLS. —OPPOSITION SUB GENERAL SECRETARY RANJITH MADDUMA BANDARA

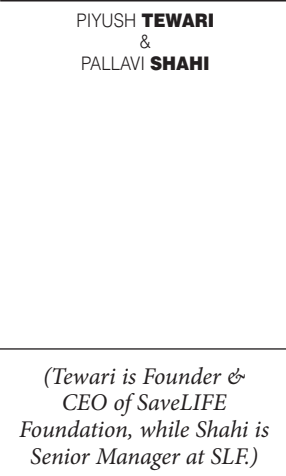


# Global standard vehicle rating good for users, manufacturers

## Disparity in ratings of vehicles sold in international and Indian markets is unjustifiable and it must end immediately

In an incident, which caught the national attention, an SUV on the Chhindwara-Nagpur highway on June 11, 2021, split into two parts, following a crash, resulting in the death of three of the five passengers. The speeding SUV rammed into a bridge, while making an attempt to avoid a collision with a two-wheeler, leading to a structural split.

Interestingly, while the Indian model of this particular SUV received a mere three-star safety rating in the Safer Cars for India campaign under the Global New Car Assessment Program (GNCAP), its Australian counterpart has a five-star rating under the Australian NCAP. As regards child occupant safety, the former received a meagre two stars. This is a jarring example



of the gap that exists between the structural integrity of car models sold in India vis-a-vis those sold in other countries, especially developed nations.

Any road crash scenario entails two main components. The first includes the reasons behind the crash, while the second deals with the causes for injuries or deaths. This is where essential safety equipment like seatbelts, Child Restraint System (CRS), airbags and a secure, stable, crash-tested body of the vehicle come into play. As components of the first line of defence that safeguard against possible injuries and fatality, their absence or inferior quality can prove to be catastrophic. For instance, as witnessed in the SUV split case, a weak car frame, incapable of sustaining the impact of a road

crash, is one that would be unable to ensure the safety of occupants.

Despite being home to only one percent of the world's vehicles, India shoulders 11 percent of the global road crash fatality burden. In 2020 alone, India reported 366,138 road crashes and 131,714 fatalities. As per the National Crime Records Bureau data, crashes caused due to vehicular defects alone claimed over 6,000 lives in the last three years. In India, 59 deaths were recorded per 100,000 registered passenger four-wheelers in 2019. This count was over six times higher than the corresponding number for the United States, which witnessed nine deaths per 100,000 registered passenger four-wheelers.

Thus far, India did not

have a permanent car safety assessment rating system and all new car models were tested under the temporary Safer Cars of India campaign within the Global New Car Assessment Programme. In a historic move, on June 24, 2022 the Ministry of Road Transport and Highways (MoRTH) issued a draft notification, introducing the Bharat New Car Assessment Programme (BNCAP). The program uses a combination of Indian and International parameters to assess the safety standards of M1 category vehicles. Applicable from April 1, 2023 onwards, this currently voluntary assessment will be instrumental towards engineering a shift in consumer behaviour by helping assign a safety rating to both manufactured and imported M1 vehicles.

The M1 category vehicles used for the carriage of passengers and their luggage and comprising no more than eight seats in addition to the driver's seat would be assessed through a robust crash testing process. The assessment would include side-impact, frontal impact and pole side-impact tests. Specifying different requirements for adult and child occupants, the tests within this proposed assessment would also take into consideration potential modifiers such as occupants of different sizes or occupants in different seating positions, among other similar aspects.

The BNCAP rating is expected to assist and have an overall positive impact on consumers, regulators as well as car manufacturers. Consumer

behaviour studies in countries that have their own NCAP ratings have indicated a significant boost in demand for safer vehicles. The rating is bound to make a similar shift in consumer choices in India and the subsequent manufacture and supply of safer cars owing to the demand-pull incentive. A direct outcome may be the reduction in road crash injuries and fatalities involving M1 category passenger vehicles.

A stable structure that provides adequate protection while lowering the probability of life-threatening injuries is the right of every four-wheeler buyer. Irrespective of their geographic locations, all individuals have the right to expect the same high safety standards enjoyed by others buying the same model elsewhere. BNCAP



# Strikes by Russia absolute terrorism, says Ukraine

**Kharkiv:** Russian missiles pounded Ukraine's second-largest city early on Monday, local administrator said, describing the attacks as "absolute terrorism."

Governor of the Kharkiv region Oleh Syniehubov said on Telegram that the Russian forces only hit civilian targets in three missile strikes on the northeastern city.

"All (three were launched) exclusively on civilian objects, this is absolute terrorism!" Syniehubov said.

One of the missiles destroyed a school, another a residential building while the third landed near warehouse facilities, said Syniehubov.

He said latest reports were that three people died and 28 were wounded in the attacks.

The strikes came just two days after a Russian rocket attack smashed into apartment buildings in eastern Ukraine, killing at least 19 people. A total of eight people have been rescued, emergency officials said.

The strike late Saturday destroyed three buildings in a residential quarter of the town of Chasiv Yar, inhabited mostly by people who work in nearby factories. Russian attacks in the east also have continued, with the governor of the Luhansk region saying on Monday that the shelling hit settlements on the administrative border with the Donetsk region.

Russian forces carried out



Iryna Shulimova, 59, weeps at the scene in the aftermath of a Russian rocket that hit an apartment residential block, in Chasiv Yar, Donetsk region, eastern Ukraine on Sunday. At least 15 people were killed and more than 20 people may still be trapped in the rubble. **AP | PTI**

five missile strikes and four massive rounds of shelling in the are, Serhiy Haidai said.

The Luhansk and Donetsk regions together make up Ukraine's eastern industrial heartland known as Donbas, where separatist rebels have fought Ukrainian forces since 2014. Russia earlier this month captured the last major stronghold of Ukrainian resistance in Luhansk, the city of Lysychansk.

After the seizure of Lysychansk some analysts predicted Moscow's troops likely would take some time to rearm and regroup but Ukrainian officials said there has been no pause in attacks.

The British military assessed that Russian troops weren't getting needed breaks.

The Defence Ministry wrote on Twitter on Monday that online videos suggested at least one tank brigade in the

war was "mentally and physically exhausted" as they had been on active combat duty since the start of the war in February.

The British said: "The lack of scheduled breaks from intense combat conditions is highly likely one of the most damaging of the many personnel issues the Russian (Ministry of Defence) is struggling to rectify amongst the deployed force." **AP**

# Putin extends fast-track Russian citizenship to all Ukrainians

**AP ■ KHARKIV**

Russian President Vladimir Putin signed a decree on Monday expanding a fast-track procedure to receive Russian citizenship to all Ukrainians, in yet another effort to expand Moscow's influence in war-torn Ukraine.

Until recently, only residents of Ukraine's eastern Donetsk and Luhansk regions, as well as residents of the southern Zaporizhzhia and the Kherson regions, large parts of which are under Russian control, were eligible for the simplified procedure.

Ukrainian officials haven't yet reacted to Putin's announcement.

Between 2019, when the procedure was first introduced for the residents of Donetsk and Luhansk, and this year, more than 720,000 residents of the rebel-held areas in the two regions — about 18% of the population — have received Russian passports.

In late May, three months after Russia invaded Ukraine, the fast-track procedure was also offered to residents of the Zaporizhzhia and Kherson regions. A month ago, the first Russian passports were reportedly handed out there.

The move by Putin came as Russian shelling of Ukraine's second-largest city killed at least three people on Monday and 31 others were injured, the local administrator said. Hours earlier, Russian troops launched three missile strikes



on Kharkiv which the official described as "absolute terrorism".

Kharkiv regional Governor Oleh Syniehubov said on Telegram that the shelling came from multiple rocket launchers, and those hospitalised for injuries suffered in the attacks included children ages 4 and 16.

"Only civilian structures — a shopping centre and houses of peaceful Kharkiv residents — came under the fire of the Russians. Several shells hit the yards of private houses. Garages and cars were also destroyed, several fires broke out," Syniehubov wrote.

Earlier, he said that one of the missiles the Russian forces launched on Kharkiv overnight destroyed a school, another hit a residential building, while the third landed near warehouse facilities.

"All (three were launched) exclusively on civilian objects, this is absolute terrorism!"

Syniehubov said.

Kharkiv resident Alexander Peresolin said the attacks came suddenly, without warning, causing him to lose consciousness.

"I was sitting and talking to my wife," he said. "I didn't understand what happened. There were two strikes, two or three." Peresolin said neighbours carried him to the basement where he later regained consciousness.

The strikes came just two days after a Russian rocket attack struck apartment buildings in eastern Ukraine, killing at least 24 people. A total of nine people have been rescued, emergency officials said.

The attack late Saturday destroyed three buildings in a residential quarter of the town of Chasiv Yar, inhabited mostly by people who work in nearby factories.

Russian attacks in the east also have continued, with Luhansk regional Governor

Serhiy Haidai saying on Monday that the shelling hit settlements on the administrative border with the Donetsk region.

Russian forces carried out five missile strikes and four rounds of shelling in the area, Haidai said.

The Luhansk and Donetsk regions together make up Ukraine's eastern industrial heartland known as Donbas, where separatist rebels have fought Ukrainian forces since 2014. Earlier this month, Russia captured the last major stronghold of Ukrainian resistance in Luhansk, the city of Lysychansk.

After the seizure of Lysychansk, some analysts predicted Moscow's troops likely would take some time to rearm and regroup, but Ukrainian officials said there has been no pause in attacks.

The British military assessed that Russian troops weren't getting needed breaks.

The Defence Ministry tweeted Monday that online videos suggested at least one tank brigade in the war was "mentally and physically exhausted" as they had been on active combat duty since the start of the war on Feb 24.

The British said: "The lack of scheduled breaks from intense combat conditions is highly likely one of the most damaging of the many personnel issues the Russian (Ministry of Defence) is struggling to rectify amongst the deployed force." **AP**

# Gas pipeline shutdown starts amid German suspicion of Russia

**AP ■ BERLIN**

A major gas pipeline from Russia to Germany was shutting down for annual maintenance on Monday amid German concern that Russia may not resume the flow of gas as scheduled.

The Nord Stream 1 pipeline, Germany's main source of Russian gas, is scheduled to be out of action until July 21 for routine work that the operator says includes "testing of mechanical elements and automation systems." The operator said the gas flow was reduced progressively starting at 6 a.M., German news agency dpa reported.

German officials are sus-

picious about Russia's intentions, particularly after Russia's Gazprom last month reduced the gas flow through Nord Stream 1 by 60%. Gazprom cited technical problems involving a gas turbine powering a compressor station that partner Siemens Energy sent to Canada for maintenance and couldn't be returned because of sanctions imposed over Russia's invasion of Ukraine.

Canada said over the weekend that it would allow the part to be delivered to Germany, citing the "very significant hardship" that the German economy would suffer without a sufficient gas supply.

German politicians have dismissed Russia's technical



Explanation for last month's reduction in gas flows through Nord Stream 1, saying the decision was a political gambit to sow uncertainty and push up prices. German Vice Chancellor Robert Habeck has said he

suspects that Russia may cite "some little technical detail" as a reason not to resume gas deliveries through the pipeline after maintenance.

Germany and the rest of Europe are scrambling to reduce their dependence on Russian energy imports. Germany, which has Europe's biggest economy, has been getting about 35% of its gas to power industry and generate electricity from Russia.

Last month, Habeck activated the second phase of Germany's three-stage emergency plan for natural gas supplies, warning that Europe's biggest economy faced a "crisis" and storage targets for the winter were at risk. **AP**

# Poland marks WWII-era massacre by Ukrainian nationalists

**Warsaw:** Poland's leaders marked the anniversary of the World War II-era Ukrainian massacre of Poles Monday by stressing that only the full truth about the neighbourly violence that Poland describes as genocide can strengthen and serve bilateral ties in the future.

Polish President Andrzej Duda and Prime Minister Mateusz Morawiecki said during the observances of the Day of Memory of the Victims of Genocide that this is the best time to condemn the murder of Polish civilians by Ukrainians during and just after World War II and to build proper graves for them.

"Let this truth in fact serve as a foundation ... For new rela-

tions between our nations and societies, that ... Both our nations and our states need very much for the future in order to turn weakness into strength," Duda said.

Poland is among the staunchest allies of Ukraine in its defense against Russia's aggression, saying Ukraine is fighting also in Poland's interest. Millions of Ukrainian refugees have found shelter in Poland since Russia's Feb. 24 invasion. Poland is providing political support, weapons and routes for Ukraine's exports, especially grain.

The violence that occurred between 1942 and 1945 remains a point of contention, however. For decades under Moscow's control, the violence

was a taboo theme, and it remains hard to discuss between the neighbors.

Historians say that more than 100,000 Poles, including women and even the smallest children, perished at the hands of their Ukrainian neighbours in a nationalist drive in areas that were then in southeastern Poland and are mostly in Ukraine now.

July 11, 1943, marked the peak of the violence, known as "Bloody Sunday," when the fighters of the Organization of Ukrainian Nationalists carried out coordinated attacks on Poles praying in or leaving churches in more than 100 villages, chiefly in the Volhynia region. **AP**

# Japan ruling party wins big in polls in wake of Abe's death

**Tokyo:** Japan's governing party and its coalition partner scored a major victory in a parliamentary election Sunday imbued with meaning after the assassination of former Prime Minister Shinzo Abe amid uncertainty about how his loss may affect party unity.

The Liberal Democratic Party and its junior coalition partner Komeito raised their combined share in the 248-seat chamber to 146 — far beyond the majority — in the elections for half of the seats in the less powerful upper house.

With the boost, Prime Minister Fumio Kishida stands to rule without interruption until a scheduled election in 2025.

That would allow Kishida to work on long-term policies such as national security, his signature but still vague "new capitalism" economic policy, and his party's long-cherished goal to amend the U.S.-drafted postwar pacifist constitution.

A charter change proposal is now a possibility. With the help of two opposition parties supportive of a charter change, the governing bloc now has two-thirds majority in the chamber needed to propose an amendment, making it a realistic possibility. The governing bloc already has secured support in the other chamber.

Kishida welcomed the

major win but wasn't smiling, given the loss of Abe and the hard task of unifying his party without him.

In media interviews late Sunday, Kishida repeated: "Party unity is more important than anything else."

He said responses to Covid-19, Russia's invasion of Ukraine and rising prices will be his priorities. He said he will also steadily push for reinforcing Japan's national security as well as a constitutional amendment.

Kishida and senior party lawmakers observed a moment of silence for Abe at the party election headquarters before placing on the whiteboard victory ribbons next to the names of candidates who secured their seats.

Abe, 67, was shot while giving a campaign speech in the western city of Nara on Friday and died of massive blood loss. He was Japan's longest-serving political leader over two terms in office, and though he stepped down in 2020 was deeply influential in the LDP while heading its largest faction, Seiwakai.

"This could be a turning point" for the LDP over its divisive policies on gender equality, same-sex marriages and other issues that Abe-backed ultra-conservatives with paternalistic family values had resisted, said Mitsuru Fukuda, a crisis management professor at

Nihon University.

Japan's current diplomatic and security stance is unlikely to be swayed because fundamental changes had already been made by Abe. His ultra-nationalist views and pragmatic policies made him a divisive figure to many, including in the Koreas and China.

Following the assassination, Sunday's vote took on new meaning, with all of Japan's political leaders emphasizing the importance of free speech and defending democracy against acts of violence.

Abe's killing may have resulted in sympathy votes. Turnout on Sunday was around 52%, up about 3 points from the previous 48.8% in 2019. **AP**



Abe, wife of Japan's former Prime Minister Shinzo Abe, is seen in the hearse carrying Abe's body as they leave their residence for the funeral wake in Tokyo, Japan on Monday **AP | PTI**

## Kishida calls for unity to achieve Abe's unmet goals

**Tokyo:** Boosted by a new election mandate, Japanese Prime Minister Fumio Kishida on Monday called for party unity for political stability and to achieve the assassinated former leader Shinzo Abe's unfinished goals of strengthening the military and revising the war-renouncing constitution.

Kishida's governing Liberal Democratic Party and its junior coalition partner Komeito secured a solid majority of seats in the parliament's upper house in elections Sunday that were imbued with meaning after Abe was shot to death while campaigning Friday.

Kishida welcomed the victory but also acknowledged that unifying the party will be a hard task without Abe, who even after resigning as prime minister in 2020 had led a powerful party faction.

"Because we've lost a great leader, undeniably we could be affected in many ways," Kishida said. "Our party must unite as we face difficult issues."

At a time of security and economic challenges in and outside Japan, Abe's death is most regrettable, Kishida said. "We will inherit his will and tackle the issues he had to leave unachieved," including an amendment to the US-drafted postwar pacifist constitution. **AP**



US Secretary of State Antony Blinken prepares to speak to the media before boarding his airplane at Yokota Air Base in Fussa on the outskirts of Tokyo on Monday. Blinken arrived on Monday on a previously unscheduled stop to Tokyo to offer condolences in person over the assassination of former Prime Minister Shinzo Abe **AP | PTI**

# Abe's killing haunts Japan with questions on homemade guns

**Tokyo:** The shooting sent shudders through low-crime, orderly Japan: A prominent politician was killed by a man emerging from a crowd, wielding a homemade firearm so roughly constructed it was wrapped in tape.

The 40-centimeter-long (16-inch) weapon used to kill former Prime Minister Shinzo Abe on Friday as he campaigned for his ruling party in western Japan, looked crude, more like a propellant made of pipes taped together and filled with explosives.

A raid of the suspect's home, a one-room apartment in Nara, turned up several such guns, police said. Unlike



Gun used in assassination of Japan's ex-Prime Minister Shinzo Abe **File photo**

standard weapons, homemade guns are practically impossible to trace, making an investigation difficult.

Firearms are rarely used in Japan, where most attacks involve stabbings or dousing a place with gasoline and setting it ablaze, or running haywire on

the street in a vehicle.

Strict gun control laws likely forced the attacker to make his own weapon. Tetsuya Yamagami, who was arrested on the spot, was a former member of Japan's navy and knew how to handle and assemble weapons.

Crime experts say instructions on how to make guns are floating around on the internet and guns can be made with a 3D printer.

Some analysts characterized the attack on Abe as "lone-wolf terrorism." In such cases, the perpetrator plots and acts alone, with the solitary nature of the crime also making it difficult to detect in advance. **AP**



# Two men at heart of Sri Lankan crisis

**New Delhi:** As Sri Lanka's crisis peaked this weekend, two men in the center of the turmoil brought about by the country's economic collapse promised they would heed the call of tens of thousands of angry protesters and resign.

One is President Gotabaya Rajapaksa, the last of six members of the country's most influential family who was still clinging to power. The other is Rajapaksa's chosen prime minister, Ranil Wickremesinghe, a seasoned opposition politician who was brought in to steer the country out of the abyss.

On Saturday, massive crowds descended on the capital, Colombo, broke into Rajapaksa's official residence and occupied his seaside office. Hours later, as leaders of political parties in Parliament called for both leaders to step down, protesters also stormed Wickremesinghe's residence and set it on fire.

The culmination of monthslong protests on Saturday led to both of them agreeing to step down. Rajapaksa, whose whereabouts are unknown, said he would leave office on Wednesday,

according to the parliamentary speaker. Wickremesinghe said he would depart as soon as opposition parties agree on a unity government.

Here is a closer look at their rise and fall:

## Gotabaya Rajapaksa

For decades, the powerful land-owning Rajapaksa family had dominated local politics in their rural southern district before Mahinda Rajapaksa was elected president in 2005. Appealing to the nationalist sentiment of the island's Buddhist-Sinhalese majority, he led Sri Lanka into a triumphant victory over ethnic Tamil rebels in 2009, ending a 26-year brutal civil war that had divided the country. His younger brother, Gotabaya, was a powerful official and military strategist in the Ministry of Defense.

Mahinda remained in office until 2015, when he lost to the opposition led by his former aide. But the family made a comeback in 2019, when Gotabaya won the presidential election on a promise to restore security in the wake of the Easter Sunday terrorist suicide bombings that killed 290



people.

He vowed to bring back the muscular nationalism that had made his family popular with the Buddhist majority, and to lead the country out of an economic slump with a message of stability and development.

Instead, he made a series of fatal mistakes that ushered in an unprecedented crisis.

As tourism plunged in the wake of the bombings and foreign loans on controversial development projects - including a port and an airport in the president's home region - needed to be repaid, Rajapaksa disobeyed economic advisers and pushed through with the largest tax cuts in the country's history. It was meant to spur spend-

ing, but critics warned it would slash the government's finances. Pandemic lockdowns and an ill-advised ban on chemical fertilizers further hurt the fragile economy.

The country soon ran out of money and couldn't repay its huge debts. Shortages of food, cooking gas, fuel and medicine stoked public anger at what many saw as mismanagement, corruption and nepotism.

The family's unravelling began in April, when growing protests forced three Rajapaksa relatives, including the finance minister, to quit their Cabinet posts and another to leave his ministerial job. In May, government supporters attacked protesters in a wave of violence that left nine dead. The anger

of the protesters turned to Mahinda Rajapaksa, who was pressured to resign as prime minister and took refuge on a heavily fortified naval base.

But Gotabaya refused to go, triggering chants in the streets of "Gota Go Home!" Instead, he saw his savior in Ranil Wickremesinghe.

## Ranil Wickremesinghe

A six-time prime minister, Wickremesinghe's latest stint was arguably the most challenging. Appointed in May by Rajapaksa, he was brought in to help restore international credibility as his government negotiated a bailout package with the International Monetary Fund.

Wickremesinghe, who also was the finance minister, became the public face of the crisis, delivering weekly addresses in Parliament as he kicked off difficult negotiations with financial institutions, lenders and allies to fill the coffers and give some relief to impatient citizens.

He raised taxes and pledged to overhaul a government that had increasingly concentrated power under the presidency, a model many said

tipped the country into crisis.

In his new job, he left little doubt about the grave future ahead. "The next couple of months will be the most difficult ones of our lives," he told Sri Lankans in early June, a few weeks before he said in Parliament that the country had hit rock bottom. "Our economy has completely collapsed," he said.


Ultimately, observers say, he lacked both political heft and public support to get the job done. He was a one-man party in Parliament - the only lawmaker from his party to hold a seat after it suffered a humiliating defeat in a 2020 election.

His reputation had already been sullied by his previous stint as prime minister, when he was in a difficult power-sharing arrangement with then-President Maithripala Sirisena. A communication breakdown between them was blamed for intelligence lapses that led to the 2019 terror attack.

With no respite for people waiting in line for fuel, food and medicine, Wickremesinghe became increasingly unpopular. Many

of the protesters say his appointment simply put off pressure on Rajapaksa to resign. But analysts are doubt-

ful whether a new leader can do much more, instead fearing that the political uncertainty will only intensify the crisis.

**PARADIP PORT AUTHORITY**  
**TENDER CALL NOTICE**

No.EM/MM/PMISC-31/2021/127 Date:28.6.2022  
Online tenders in three bid system i.e. (1) EMD Bid (2) Technical Bid (3) Price Bid for the Work: Supply, installation, commissioning and comprehensive Operation & Maintenance of continuous Ambient Air Quality Monitoring Stations (CAQMS) in Paradip Port Authority are invited. The Last date and time of submission of the tender on DL22.07.2022 at 17.15 Hrs. For details, log on to website <https://spcprocure.aai.in/spcprocure/app>

Sr. Dy. Materials Manager  
Paradip Port Authority

PPA/PR/1722/23 dtd.11.07.2022

**PUBLIC NOTICE**

Notice of withdrawal of 'WILL' from the partnership deed dt. 8/9/2016 and dissolution of firm 'M/s J.J Home Decor' situated at SCO-40, Ground Floor, HUDA, Market, Sector-56, Gurugram, Haryana created therefrom; by the applicant, with effect from - 6/7/2022.

The applicant invites for settlement of issues from public, if any.

The applicant shall not entertain any unclaimed issue after 11/8/2022.

For further query contact +91 9996742417.

**Karan Jawa Partner**  
M/s JJ Home Decor  
Advocate  
Sukreet Singh

**PUBLIC NOTICE**

It is to inform the general public that I, Syed Asif Hussain S/o late Syed Qamrul Hussain R/o Kashana E Nehal, Lodikatra, Palna 800008, inform that my father aged 66 passed away on 22-04-2016. I am the main applicant and hereby request Supertech to transfer the ownership of the booked Unit No. Flat # 1101 (R018N21101) in Tower/ Block N2/N2 at the Project Eco Village -1 of SUPRETECH LIMITED is situated at Plot-08, Sector-1 Greater Noida 201303. In my name (Syed Asif Hussain) and the name of my spouse Shagufa Jahan. If anybody has any objections he/she may contact Supertech Limited, E-Square, C-2, Sector-96, Noida within 15 days of this not being published by Mr. Syed Asif Hussain S/o Late Syed Qamrul Hussain.

**Sushil Kumar Singh (Advocate)**

**PUBLIC NOTICE**

For the Information of Public at large, I Geeta Devi W/O Krishna Shanu in my good health and soundness of mind announce that I have 4 children, all my children are loyal and obedient to me except My elder son namely Raju Kumar. He and his wife namely Mrs. Chandani Devi have been extremely harsh on me and have been physically violent to me, hence after understanding the circumstances and being fully aware of the outcome I disown my son and his wife completely from today. They will not have any right, title or interest in any of my self-acquired property both movable and immovable. I will not be held responsible for his conduct in the society.

**Mishal Vij (Advocate)**  
Chamber No.-298, Lawyers Chamber Block-II, Delhi High Court, New Delhi-110003

**PUBLIC NOTICE**

General Public is hereby informed that our client Smt. Munesh Devi W/o Late L/Nk Rajendra Singh R/o Vill & Post-Khekra (Near Police Station), Distt-Baghpat, Uttar Pradesh is owner and in possession of a DDA Flat allotted under Vijay Veer Awas Yojna, Flat No. 389, CAT-A, 1Ind Floor, Sector-18A, Dwarka and is going to sell the same flat to one Mrs. Nitinjeet W/o Sh. Harjinder Singh, R/o Flat No. 389, 1Ind Floor, Veer Awas Apartment, Sector-18A, Dwarka, New Delhi-110075 and if any person has any objection in regard to this sell/transfer of the property, bearing No. 389, CAT-A, 1Ind Floor, Sec-18A, Dwarka, New Delhi-110075, he/she may raise objection/ inform within seven days from the date of publication of this notice before undersigned.

-sd-  
Milind M. Bhardwaj  
Advocate & Legal Consultants  
807, Patiala House Courts,  
New Delhi-110 001, Mob.: 9818331266  
E-mail: milindmadhab@yahoo.co.in  
Dated: 11.07.2022

**PUBLIC NOTICE**

General Public is hereby informed that my client Mrs. Nitinjeet W/o Sh. Harjinder Singh, R/o Flat No. 389, 1Ind Floor, Veer Awas Apartment, Sector-18A, Dwarka, New Delhi-110075 is going to purchase Flat No. 389, 1Ind Floor, Veer Awas Apartment, Sector-18A, Dwarka, New Delhi-110075 from Smt. Munesh Devi W/o Late L/Nk Rajendra Singh R/o Vill & Post-Khekra (Near Police Station), Distt-Baghpat, Uttar Pradesh who have ownership and the possession of the said flat and if any person has any objection in regard to this sell/transfer of the property bearing No. 389, CAT-A, 1Ind Floor, Sec-18A, Dwarka, New Delhi-110075, he/she may raise objection/ inform within seven days from the date of publication of this notice before undersigned.

-sd-  
Milind M. Bhardwaj  
Advocate & Legal Consultants  
807, Patiala House Courts,  
New Delhi-110 001, Mob.: 9818331266  
E-mail: milindmadhab@yahoo.co.in  
Dated: 11.07.2022

**GOVERNMENT OF CHHATTISGARH**  
**WATER RESOURCES DEPARTMENT**  
**OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER**  
**WATER MANAGEMENT DIVISION NO. 1, RAIPUR (C.G.)**  
**CORRIGENDUM NO. 2**

(1) In System Tender No. 100336 N.I.T. No 03/SAC/2022-23. Raipur. Dated 24.05.2022 whose G-Number is 91512 dated 24.05.2022.

(2) In System Tender No. 100709, N.I.T. No 04/SAC/2022-23. Raipur Dated 27.05.2022 whose G-Number is 91643 dated 30/05/2022.

(3) In System Tender No. 100698, N.I.T. No. 05/SAC/2022-23. Raipur. Dated 27.05.2022 whose G-Number is 91642 dated 30/05/2022.

following amendments are made :-

S. No.	Amendments
1.	Online Tenders are invited for the following works up to 19.07.2022 at 17.30 Hour
2.	Bid Open Start Date and time: 20.07.2022,11:30 Hours

**Note:-** All other terms and conditions will remain be unchanged.

**Executive Engineer**  
**Water Management Division No. 1, Raipur**  
**For, Chief Engineer, Mahanadi Project, Raipur. (C.G.)**

R.o. No.:- 92892/5  
Dated:- 11/07/2022

**FORM G**  
**INVITATION FOR EXPRESSION OF INTEREST**

(Under Regulation 36A (1) of the Insolvency and Bankruptcy (Insolvency Resolution Process for Corporate Persons) Regulations, 2016)

RELEVANT PARTICULARS	
1 Name of the corporate debtor	GRD Trucks Private Limited (Formerly known as Karri Motors Private Limited)
2 Date of incorporation of corporate debtor	June 20, 2012
3 Authority under which corporate debtor is incorporated / registered	Registrar of Companies, Jaipur
4 Corporate identity number / limited liability identification number of corporate debtor	U50100RJ2012PTC072555
5 Address of the registered office and principal office (if any) of corporate debtor	Cabin 1, 1st Floor, C-84, Janpath Lal Kothi Scheme, Behind New Vidhan Sabha Jaipur Jaipur RJ 302015 Principal Office: Kharsa 196, 177, Khewat: Khatori No. 16, Qila No. 21, 22, Sohna Pal Road, Fardabad – 121004 (Former Registered Address: 9G – 222, Sanjay Gandhi, TPT Nagar, North West Delhi – 110042 Delhi, India)
6 Insolvency commencement date of the corporate debtor	April 28, 2022
7 Date of invitation of expression of interest	July 12, 2022
8 Eligibility for resolution applicants under section 25(2)(b) of the Code is available at:	Details can be sought by emailing at: <a href="mailto:crp.gr@gmail.com">crp.gr@gmail.com</a>
9 Norms of ineligibility applicable under section 29A are available at:	Norms of ineligibility are available as per section 29A of IBC, 2016 available on the website of BBI and can also be obtained from the following link: <a href="https://drive.google.com/file/d/1DzoywMG0Xy'sG1CjOjCpCjK08n/view?usp=sharing">https://drive.google.com/file/d/1DzoywMG0Xy'sG1CjOjCpCjK08n/view?usp=sharing</a>
10 Last date for receipt of expression of interest	July 27, 2022
11 Date of issue of provisional list of prospective resolution applicants	August 06, 2022
12 Last date for submission of objections to provisional list	August 11, 2022
13 Date of issue of final list of prospective resolution applicants	August 21, 2022
14 Date of issue of information memorandum, evaluation matrix and request for resolution plans to prospective resolution applicants	August 11, 2022
15 Manner of obtaining request for resolution plan, evaluation matrix, information memorandum and further information	Prospective Resolution Applicant(s) included in the provisional/final list will be provided evaluation matrix, information memorandum and request for resolution plan through e-mail as provided under serial 21. The same shall be provided after submission of confidentiality undertaking by such applicant(s).
16 Last date for submission of resolution plans	September 10, 2022
17 Manner of submitting resolution plans to resolution professional	Physical: Copy in sealed envelope, along – with security enabled soft copy in pen-drive
18 Estimated date for submission of resolution plan to The Adjudicating Authority for approval	October 10, 2022
19 Name and registration number of the resolution professional	Prashant Agrawal, Insolvency Professional Reg. No.: IBBI/PA-01/1P – P00053/2017-18/10127 Prashant Agrawal, Insolvency Professional
20 Name, Address and e-mail of the resolution professional, as registered with the Board	Address: F – 106, First Floor, Sumar Complex, Gaudam Marg, Behind Bagadia Bhawan, C-Scheme, Jaipur – 302001 Rajasthan E – mail ID: <a href="mailto:ppagrawal@gmail.com">ppagrawal@gmail.com</a>
21 Address and email to be used for correspondence with the resolution professional	Prashant Agrawal, Interim Resolution Professional Reg. No.: IBBI/PA-01/1P – P00053/2017-18/10127 AFA No. AA/11/0127/20/122/103273 valid up to 30-11-2022 Address: F – 106, First Floor, Sumar Complex, Gaudam Marg, Behind Bagadia Bhawan, C – Scheme, Jaipur – 302001
22 Further Details are available at or with	Same as point no. 21
23 Date of publication of Form G	July 12, 2022

As per Regulation 36A (3)(a), detailed invitation for expression of interest can be requested from the undersigned through details mentioned in point no. 21.

**For GRD Trucks Private Limited (Under CIRP)**  
**Prashant Agrawal (Interim Resolution Professional)**  
Reg. No. IBBI/PA-01/1P – P00053/2017-18/10127  
AFA No. AA/11/0127/20/122/103273 valid up to 30-11-2022  
Address: F – 106, First Floor, Sumar Complex, Gaudam Marg, Behind Bagadia Bhawan, C – Scheme, Jaipur – 302001

Date: 12-07-2022  
Place: Jaipur

## Trump associates' ties to extremists probed by January 6 panel

**Washington:** After members of the far-right Oath Keepers extremist group stormed the US Capitol on January 6, 2021, their leader called someone on the phone with an urgent message for then-President Donald Trump, another extremist told investigators.

While gathered in a private suite at the Phoenix Park Hotel, an Oath Keeper member says he heard their leader, Stewart Rhodes, repeatedly urge the Trump on the phone to tell Trump to call upon militia groups to fight to keep the president in power.

"I just want to fight," Rhodes said after hanging up with the person, who denied Rhodes' appeal to speak directly to the president, court records say.

Federal prosecutors have not said who they believe Rhodes was speaking to on that call, which was detailed in court documents in the case of

an Oath Keeper member who has pleaded guilty in the riot. An attorney for Rhodes says the call never happened.

The story, however, has raised questions about whether the extremist group boss may have had the ear of someone close to Trump on January 6 - an issue that could take center stage when the House committee that's investigating the insurrection holds its next public hearing on Tuesday.

The January 6 committee has said it is looking closely at any ties between people in Trump's orbit and extremist groups accused of helping put into motion the violence at the Capitol.

Top leaders and members of the Oath Keepers and another far-right group - the Proud Boys - have been charged with seditious conspiracy in the most serious cases the Justice Department has brought so far in the January 6 attack. **AP**



Runners fall as another is tossed by a fighting bull during the running of the bulls at the San Fermin Festival in Pamplona, northern Spain on Monday. Revellers from around the world flock to Pamplona every year for nine days of uninterrupted partying in Pamplona's famed running of the bulls festival which was suspended for the past two years because of the coronavirus pandemic.

AP | PTI

## Three runners gored in tense 5th Pamplona bull run

**Pamplona:** A Spanish Red Cross spokesman said three people were gored and three others suffered bruises in a tense fifth bull run at Pamplona's San Fermin Festival on Monday.

It was the first run with gorings in the festival so far this year. There are three more daily runs before it finishes Thursday.

Red Cross worker José Aldaba told Spanish National Television that one man was gored on the street, while two others were stabbed by a bull's horn inside the bullring at the end of the run.

Television images showed one bull repeatedly tossing and butting one runner against the wooden barriers on the edge of the ring and then goring another in the back of the leg.

The spectacle lasted just over three minutes as hundreds of runners, mostly men, ran frantically ahead and alongside six fighting bulls. **AP**

## 1 dead, 5 hurt in shooting outside Kansas bar

**Kansas City:** A shooting outside a bar in Kansas City where off-duty police officers were working security has left one person dead and five others hurt, authorities said.

The shooting happened about 11 pm Sunday following a disturbance inside Westport Ale House, TV stations KCTV and KMBC reported from the scene, citing the Missouri State Highway Patrol.

Three off-duty Kansas City officers were working security at the bar, and they returned fire during the shooting. There were no reports of officers being injured in the shooting. "In a situation like this, you can't really predict something that's going to happen, but there were precautions taken by the Ale House," said highway patrol Sgt Bill Lowe. **AP**

## Biden celebration of new gun law clouded by latest shooting

**Washington:** President Joe Biden is hosting a "celebration" of a new bipartisan law meant to reduce gun violence that, after just 16 days in effect, already has been overshadowed by yet another mass shooting.

The bill, passed after recent gun rampages in Buffalo, New York, and Uvalde, Texas, incrementally toughens requirements for young people to buy guns, denies firearms to more domestic abusers, and helps local authorities temporarily take weapons from people judged to be dangerous.

But the South Lawn event comes a week after an gunman in Highland Park, Illinois, killed seven people at an Independence Day parade. **AP**

## UK PM race widens with Foreign Minister Liz Truss entering fray

**London:** The race to replace Boris Johnson as Conservative Party leader and the next British Prime Minister widened further on Monday as Foreign Secretary Liz Truss became another high-profile contestant entering the fray to go head-to-head with British Indian former minister Rishi Sunak.

Truss' junior minister in the Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office (FCDO), Muzaffarabad-born Rehman Chishty, also entered the contest to become the second Pakistani-origin minister alongside UK-born former Health Secretary Sajid Javid.

It takes the total number of candidates to 11, including Indian-origin Attorney General Suella Braverman, Iraqi-origin Nadhim Zahawi, Nigerian-



origin Kemi Badanoch, Tory backbencher Tom Tugendhat, former foreign secretary Jeremy Hunt, Trade Minister Penny Mordaunt and Transport Secretary Grant Shapps.

Another senior Indian-origin candidate considering a leadership bid is UK Home Secretary Priti Patel, who is expected to pitch herself as a committed Brexiteer and is reportedly looking to bring other Brexit hardliners, like Braverman and Badenoch, into her camp. **AP**

## Father of al-Qaeda operative convicted of conspiring to bomb NY subway in 2009 deported to Afghanistan

**New York:** The father of an al-Qaeda operative convicted of conspiring to bomb the New York subway in 2009 has been deported from the US to Afghanistan by authorities here. Mohammed Wali Zazi, 66, was convicted of visa fraud, obstruction of justice and conspiracy to obstruct justice in February 2012.

The US Immigration and Customs Enforcement's (ICE) Enforcement and Removal Operations (ERO) Denver Field Office removed Zazi from the country on June 13 to Afghanistan via commercial air flights, a statement issued by the agency said Friday.

Zazi's son, Najibullah Zazi, is a member of al-Qaeda and was convicted of conspiring to bomb the New York subway in 2009. Zazi had entered the US in August 1990 and became a

naturalised citizen in October 2007. After a US district judge for the eastern district of New York had convicted him in February 2012, he was sentenced to 54 months in federal prison.

Zazi's naturalisation was revoked in November 2018 by the US magistrate judge in the United States District Court for the district of Colorado, and his Certificate of Naturalisation was cancelled.

He was issued a Notice to Appear in July 2019 in Centennial, Colorado. The immigration judge in Denver denied any relief to Zazi and ordered him removed to Afghanistan in February this year. ERO escorted Zazi on his removal from the U.S, and he arrived in Kabul, Afghanistan, via the Hamid Karzai International Airport. **AP**

## With Biden, Palestinians seeking freedom get permits instead

**Washington:** For more than two years, the Biden administration has said that Palestinians are entitled to the same measure of "freedom, security and prosperity" enjoyed by Israelis. Instead, they've gotten US aid and permits to work inside Israel and its Jewish settlements.

The inconsistency is likely to come up when President Joe Biden visits Israel and the occupied West Bank this week for the first time since assuming office.

Israeli officials will likely point to the thousands of work permits issued to Palestinians in the West Bank and Gaza, allowing them to make far higher wages and injecting much-needed cash into

economies hobbled by Israeli restrictions.

Biden will likely tout the tens of millions of dollars in aid to the Palestinians he restored after it was cut off during the Trump years.

Supporters say such economic measures improve the lives of Palestinians and help preserve the possibility of an eventual political solution.

But when Biden is driven past Israel's towering separation barrier to meet with Palestinians in the West Bank town of Bethlehem, he will hear a very different story - about how Israel is cementing its decades-long military rule over millions of Palestinians, with no end in sight. **AP**

## Clotilda descendants mark anniversary of last slave ship

**Alabama:** Descendants of the last African people abducted into slavery and brought to America's shores gathered over the weekend on the banks of an Alabama river to pay tribute to their ancestors. The descendants of the 110 people aboard the Clotilda, the last known slave ship to bring enslaved African people to the United States, held a ceremony to mark the anniversary of the vessel's arrival.

Dressed in white and walking slowly to the beat of an African drum, the descendants made their way to the banks of the Mobile River near Alabama's coast. A wreath of white, yellow and red flowers was released into the waters. **AP**

## Saudi dissident killed in Lebanon, his brothers detained

**Beirut:** A Saudi opposition party said Sunday that one of its founding members was killed in the Lebanese capital, Beirut.

The National Assembly Party, whose members live in exile, said that founding member Manea Al-Yami was slain in "complicated circumstances."

"Upon the news of the assassination, the party has been trying to verify its details and motives," the statement said.

"The party also holds the Saudi authorities responsible for exposing the people of this country to danger, forcing them to live in exile, and reside in unsafe environments because of their political beliefs or their demands for human

rights." The Lebanese Internal Security Forces issued a statement saying that Al-Yami's two brothers stabbed him to death in the southern Beirut suburb of Dahiyeh on Saturday evening.

The two brothers are in custody and admitted they murdered Al-Yami due to "family reasons," the statement said.

Saudi Arabia's ambassador to Lebanon Waleed Bukhari issued a brief statement on the killing, saying in a tweet that he "highly appreciated the efforts of the Lebanese Internal Security Forces in uncovering the facts and bringing the perpetrators to justice for the murder of a Saudi citizen killed in Beirut's southern suburbs".

## Israeli Ministers to run as partners in upcoming elections

**Jerusalem:** The leaders of two parties in Israel's outgoing government coalition announced Sunday that they would run as political partners in the upcoming parliamentary elections.

The announcement by Gideon Saar and Benny Gantz was the first shift in Israel's political landscape since the Knesset voted to dissolve itself June 30 and send the country back to the polls to elect a new parliament.

Israel will hold its fifth elections in under four years in November after the government headed by Prime Minister Naftali Bennett collapsed last month. **AP**



# Sensex snaps 3-day winning streak

## TCS leads IT pack fall

PTI ■ MUMBAI

Equity benchmarks ended three days of gains to close modestly in the red on Monday, weighed by bearish global cues and robust selling in IT counters following lacklustre Q1 results from TCS.

The rupee dropping to a fresh lifetime low against the US dollar further sapped risk appetite.

The 30-share BSE Sensex, which opened on the backfoot, witnessed strong buying in late-afternoon trade. However, it could not sustain the momentum and closed 86.61 points or 0.16 per cent lower at 54,395.23.

On similar lines, the broader NSE Nifty dipped 4.60 points or 0.03 per cent to end at 16,216.

Bharti Airtel was the biggest loser among the Sensex



constituents, dropping 5.03 per cent, followed by TCS which lost 4.64 per cent after its earnings failed to match market expectations.

The country's largest software exporter TCS on Friday reported a 5.2 per cent rise in June quarter net profit to Rs 9,478 crore, restricted by the impact of annual wage hikes and promotions that took operating profit margins to multi-quarter lows.

Spooked by the results, other IT stocks too suffered strong losses in Monday's session, with HCL Tech, Infosys, Wipro and Tech Mahindra shedding up to 4.10 per cent.

In contrast, Tata Steel, M&M, Dr Reddy's, ICICI Bank, Asian Paints, Axis Bank and Reliance Industries climbed as much as 3.04 per cent.

"As the domestic market

turned its focus towards quarterly results, the weak start of IT earnings wounded the sentiments, forcing benchmark indices to open on a weak note. However, with support from banking, metal and energy stocks, the domestic market managed to pare its losses to close flattish," said Vinod Nair, Head of Research at Geojit Financial Services.

Ajit Mishra, VP - Research, Religare Broking, said amid the mixed global sentiment, the focus should be on the upcoming macroeconomic data (IIP and CPI) and earnings for cues. "We reiterate our positive view and expect Nifty to test 16,500 soon. Participants should align their positions accordingly and continue with the 'buy on dips' approach till the Nifty holds 15,900 levels," he noted.

In the broader markets, the BSE smallcap gauge jumped 1.07 per cent and the midcap index gained 0.63 per cent.

Among BSE sectoral indices, tech fell the most by 3.08 per cent, followed by IT (2.70 per cent), capital goods (0.38 per cent) and telecom

(0.06 per cent). Power emerged as the biggest gainer with a jump of 4.21 per cent, followed by utilities (4.17 per cent), oil & gas (1.97 per cent) and energy (1.84 per cent).

World markets traded lower ahead of release of US inflation data, which will provide clues on further rate hikes by the Federal Reserve.

In Asia, markets in Shanghai, Hong Kong and Seoul settled lower following reports that China has imposed fines on tech giants Tencent and Alibaba. However, Tokyo closed in the green.

Bourses in Europe were trading lower in mid-session deals. The US markets had ended on a mixed note on Friday. Meanwhile, international oil benchmark Brent crude declined 1.48 per cent to USD 106.3 per barrel.

The rupee depreciated by 22 paise to close at a fresh lifetime low of 79.48 (provisional) against the US dollar on Monday. Foreign institutional investors remained net sellers on Friday, offloading shares worth Rs 109.31 crore, as per exchange data.

## Rupee drops 19 paise to record low of 79.45 against US dollar



PTI ■ MUMBAI

The rupee depreciated by 19 paise to close at its fresh lifetime low of 79.45 against the US dollar on Monday amid broad-based dollar demand and foreign capital outflows.

However, receding crude oil prices in the international market restricted the loss for the rupee, which posted its third straight session of decline.

At the interbank forex market, the local unit opened weak at 79.30 against the greenback and witnessed an intra-day high of 79.24 and a low of 79.50.

It finally settled at 79.45, down 19 paise over its previous close of 79.26.

The dollar index, which measures the greenback's strength against a basket of six currencies, advanced 0.56 per cent to 107.60.

## 'Indian pharma industry may rebound to 8-11% growth rate'

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Alkem Laboratories expects the Indian pharmaceutical industry to rebound to 8-11 per cent growth rate with normalcy in activities as the pandemic eases out but feels inflationary pressures and evolving regulatory norms will be key risks to watch out for.

In its annual report for 2021-22, Alkem said the future of the domestic pharmaceutical market continues to hold immense potential led by favourable demographics, growing disposable incomes, increased access to healthcare facilities, growing consciousness towards healthcare, and increasing penetration of medical insurance.

On the outlook for the domestic business, it said, "With easing out of COVID-19 restrictions, resumption of travel, normalisation of supply chain and manufacturing activities, reopening of schools and offices, and a resumption of deferred elective medical treatments, the Indian pharmaceutical industry is expected to rebound to a normalised growth rate of 8-11 per cent."

The company said that globally also, COVID-19 related quarantines and shutdowns led to deferment of elective medical procedures and



patients remaining less engaged with healthcare, resulting in delayed diagnosis and treatment, especially for those conditions which were asymptomatic. However, Alkem said, "inflationary pressures in terms of higher raw material and packaging material prices, increased freight rates, and evolving regulatory norms will be the key risks to watch out for."

Maintaining its positive stance on the Indian pharmaceutical market, Alkem said its "dominance in the acute segment with market-leading mega brands, a large field force, and a widespread supply chain and distribution network puts Alkem on a strong footing in the domestic market."

In the chronic segment, the

company is growing "at a fast clip" to emerge as a significant player. Regular new product launches, including biosimilars, should continue to contribute to its growth and fill portfolio gaps.

On other growth drivers, Alkem said entry into new therapies/sub-therapies would also be an important lever of growth going forward.

On the outlook for the US business, the world's largest pharmaceutical market, Alkem said led by new product launches and USFDA compliant manufacturing facilities, it is positive about its growth prospects there despite the pricing challenges, intense competition, and stricter regulatory compliance requirements.

## Medical device makers' body seeks TDS exemption on free samples given to docs

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The Medical Technology Association of India (MTAI) has asked the government to reconsider TDS provision on free medical samples provided to doctors.

In a statement issued on Monday, the medical device maker's body, which represents training for doctors and clinicians and therefore impact patients' access to life-saving and life-enhancing technologies.

Medical Technology Association of India (MTAI) has also urged the government not to consider the expenses incurred on doctors' travel and stay for product training and application usage as doctors' income because they (doctors) are often required to travel mainly due to difficulties in mobilising medical devices and equipment.

Thus, TDS should not be levied on such expenses, the industry body stated. Introduced in the Finance Act 2022, Section 194R of the Income Tax Act, 1961 regulates the taxability on benefits/perquisites arising to any resident from business or exercise of profession to keep a check on tax revenue leakage.

## Sebi beefs up tech arsenal to crack whip on 'mules' used for front running, insider trading

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Armed with the latest technology tools, watchdog Sebi has unearthed a large number of insider trading and front-running cases where 'mule accounts' were being used and is now in the process of bringing to book the main culprits, many of whom could be big names in the capital market and the corporate world, top sources said.

There has already been a deluge of orders from the Securities and Exchange Board of India (Sebi) on insider trading and front-running related cases in recent months, which has been attributed by some to suspected lapses during the COVID-19 pandemic induced remote work on surveillance front required from market intermediaries like brokers and mutual funds.

The sources, however, said that a lot more orders are to be passed soon and the main reason for that is Sebi's surveillance mechanism has become almost 100-times more effective with the use of the latest technologies.

"We are using high-tech algorithms, artificial intelligence, big data and a lot more. Also, we can now analyse all the data sets much more effi-

ciently and at a lot faster speed. We are able to see very clearly from the data analysis that there has been a case of front running or insider trading, but what is still taking time is pinning the blame on the culprits," one of the sources explained.

"The problem is that fraudsters are also using new technologies, they are not using normal phone calls and messages as call data records can easily establish the links.

"They all are using sophisticated messaging platforms that are fully encrypted and therefore, we have to look for other ways to establish the connection," another source said.

All sources and officials talked on the condition of anonymity, citing confidentiality attached to ongoing investigations.

Another source said it is not so that the cases of insider trading and front running have gone up sharply during the pandemic period alone.

"It is a fact that some of our traditional surveillance measures such as recording of calls or CCTV coverage were not as effective when many market participants started working from home during the pandemic, but that is not the main reason behind the surge in the



number of cases coming to light.

"There has been an entire industry of mule accounts forever and they have become much smarter now. But what has changed now is that we are now in a better position to catch them and therefore you are seeing a surge in cases.

"The challenge now is to connect the culprits to the cases and we are trying new things for that," the source added.

Explaining the trend, a top official said there have been two sides to the trend witnessed during the pandemic, with the remote working culture bringing to fore greater productivity at lesser costs, as also misuse of technology and some lapses on the surveillance front.

"But, on a net-net basis, the remote working has more positives than the negatives," the official said while noting that the online dispute redressal mechanism that Sebi has announced recently is also part of the learnings made during

the pandemic.

"It was also felt that wh everyone needed to come to Mumbai for hearings. Remote hearings are going to continue. There is no point in making everyone come to Mumbai or Delhi or another regional head-quarter for each and every case. This not only helps those being called for a hearing but also improves the productivity at the regulator's level," the official added.

Describing technology as always being a double-edged sword, the sources said if it is helping the regulator to detect the cases easily, it is also helping the fraudsters devise newer ways to escape scrutiny.

"But, what has helped Sebi in the last few years and what would help us bring all the culprits to the book is a big team of talented youngsters working with us who are amazingly good at deploying the latest technologies to catch the miscreants," one of the sources cited above said.

In spite of increased volatility and economic disruption as a result of the pandemic, the capital market turnover has witnessed a healthy uptick, including by over 70 per cent during 2020-21 when the COVID crisis was at its peak. Along with the overall increase in turnover, the participation of

## Maruti Suzuki commences bookings for upcoming mid-size SUV Grand Vitara

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Maruti Suzuki India (MSI) on Monday said it has commenced bookings for its upcoming mid-sized SUV Grand Vitara.

The customers can pre-book Grand Vitara — which would compete with the likes of Hyundai Creta, Kia Seltos and Tata Harrier, among others — with an initial payment of Rs 11,000.

"With the model, we are looking to strengthen presence in the segment where we currently lag behind the competition," MSI Senior Executive Director (Sales & Marketing) Shashank Srivastava told PTI.

He noted that the model is well suited for Indian conditions and would come with multiple trims featuring a mild and strong hybrid system mated to a petrol powertrain.

The model would be produced at Toyota Kirloskar Motor's Karnataka-based plant as per the global collaboration pact inked between Toyota and Suzuki.

Srivastava noted that the new model with strong hybrid technology would deliver class-leading fuel efficiency.

He, however, did not share



the actual figures.

Srivastava noted that unlike the compact SUV segment, which has many models, the mid-SUV segment is less crowded in terms of competition and therefore offered growth opportunities.

"Our market share is already very less in the segment, so with the new model we would like to change that," he added.

The Grand Vitara would be globally unveiled on July 20, with production set to begin in August. The actual launch is expected during the upcoming festive season, Srivastava said.

Leveraging the expertise of Suzuki design and engineering and born from a legacy of SUV capabilities, the Grand Vitara with its bold SUV design, sophisticated interiors, power-trains and segment-leading features is all set to make a strong statement, MSI said.

## Leather exports to cross \$6 bn this fiscal: CLE



PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The country's exports of leather and leather products would cross USD 6 billion in 2022-23 on account of growing demand for these products in global markets, CLE said on Monday.

Council for Leather Exports (CLE) Chairman Sanjay Leekha said that the changes in global market dynamics caused by the pandemic have created huge export opportunities for the sector.

"The emerging business opportunities coupled with the slew of trade agreements signed and in pipeline and the active support of the government will help in sustaining the export

growth in the remaining months of this year," he said.

"Considering these factors, the industry is confident of crossing the export value of USD 6 billion this year," Leekha said, adding the sector is aiming at USD 10 billion by 2025-26.

The shipments from the sector rose by 32.5 per cent to USD 4.9 billion in 2021-22 from USD USD 3.7 billion in the previous year.

Leekha said that healthy export growth witnessed in 2021-22 is continuing this year also, with export of leather, leather products and footwear increasing from USD 621.50 million in April-May 2021 to USD 887.40 million in April -

May 2022.

"Export to USA has registered a growth of about 78.5 per cent, increasing from USD 128.49 million in April - May 2021 to USD 229.40 million in April - May 2022," he said adding shipments to India's largest market - Europe too registered a growth of 44.6 per cent to USD 317.04 million during the first two months of this fiscal.

Further exports to other potential markets like Canada, Australia, the UAE have also grown this year.

The signing of trade pacts with the UAE and Australia would help in further boosting the outbound shipments, Leekha said.

## Paytm Apr-Jun loan disbursal jumps 9-fold to ₹5,554 cr; hits ₹24,000 cr annual run rate

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Digital financial services firm Paytm's loan disbursement jumped nearly nine-fold to Rs 5,554 crore through 84.78 lakh transactions in the April-June quarter, reaching an annualised run rate of Rs 24,000 crore, the company said in a BSE filing.

The company had disbursed 14.33 lakh loans worth Rs 632 crore in the year-ago period.

"Our lending business (in partnership with top lenders) continues to witness accelerated growth with disbursements through our platform now an annualised run rate of over Rs 24,000 crore in June.

"The number of loans disbursed through our platform grew 492 per cent y-o-y to 8.5 million loans in the quarter ending June 2022, while the value of loans disbursed grew 779 per cent y-o-y to Rs 5,554 crore," Paytm said.

The company said that it is seeing increases in average ticket size due to the scale-up of the personal loans business in particular.

"The rapid growth of our lending products brings us an attractive profit pool," Paytm noted.

## TI Clean Mobility to roll out electric three-wheeler, tractor this year

PTI ■ CHENNAI

TI Clean Mobility, part of the diversified conglomerate Murugappa Group, will unveil its electric three-wheelers and tractors under its Montra brand this year, a top company official said on Monday.

TI Clean Mobility is a wholly-owned subsidiary of Tube Investments of India, a Murugappa Group company.

The company has earmarked Rs 200 crore for the new venture, which will manufacture its products locally to serve the domestic market initially, Tube Investments of India Executive Chairman Arun Murugappan said here.

"As Montra electric vehicles are soon to be launched, the three-wheelers will be revolutionary products, a portfolio with many categories, distinctive and superior performance, and customer-centric advanced technology. Our company vision is to improve the quality of life through eco-friendly mobile solutions. Innovative, integrated and affordable solutions have taken up the front seat," he told reporters.

According to Murugappan, the electric three-wheeler market was expected to reach USD 1.7 billion by 2025, making it



one of the fastest-growing sectors globally.

"Electric three-wheelers are a great choice for any commercial as well as passenger last-mile applications. The three-wheeler EVs can reduce carbon emission by 13 tonne per 100 kms..." he said.

The company would produce 75,000 vehicles at its plant near Chennai in the first year. It will expand the capacity going forward and the vehicles will be in the passenger and cargo sector, he said.

"We have existing space in the cycle factory at Ambattur. The launch of these vehicles will be in all states in India, it will be in a phased manner. The three-wheeler will be launched by end of August or September around that time," Murugappan added.

Declining to reveal the price of the vehicle, he said the company was having a distribution network in 40 locations

and it would be expanded to 100 by the end of the year.

So far "price is concerned, we will announce it towards the launch date", he noted.

Asked about retaining the Montra brand, he said, "Montra is the brand that we already have. We have e-bikes under the Montra brand. We continue our Montra brand for the electric platform."

The initial outlay for the electric vehicle business is about Rs 200 crore, Murugappan noted. "We have recently formed a subsidiary TI Clean Mobility to focus on the electric vehicle business. We are exploring more growth opportunities...We will be rolling out three products..."

"This product has been in development for the last three years. It has been designed in-house...And we design this product exclusively based on the needs of customers and environmental concerns," he said. Tube Investments of India has acquired Bengaluru-based Celestial, which makes electric tractors.

"We will be manufacturing electric tractors and three-wheelers and in the future, we will look for other platforms. Celestial Tractors is setting up a plant outside Chennai," he said.

## Pristine opens new facility for production of sterile filtered serum

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Pristine Biologicals NZ Ltd, a subsidiary of Indian Immunologicals Ltd (IIL), on Monday opened a new facility in Dargaville (New Zealand) for the production of sterile filtered serum. The facility was inaugurated by Meenesh C Shah, chairman of Pristine Biologicals NZ Ltd, besides being chairman of IIL and National Dairy Development Board. Mayor of Dargaville Dr Jason Smith, IIL Managing Director Dr K Anand Kumar and IIL's GM and Director Dr Vijay Dasari were present.

Speaking on the occasion, Shah said he is glad that an investment made overseas has come good. He also mentioned that affordable vaccines made in India required a sustainable supply of quality ingredients made by Pristine.

Dr Kumar called Pristine as a success story and said plans are on the way to double the capacity soon as demands have gone up significantly. IIL, a subsidiary of the National Dairy Development Board (NDDB), established Pristine in Dargaville, Kaipara District in 2015 for the production and supply of pharmaceutical grade bovine serum used to produce many vaccines and is considered as a very successful venture.



# DJOKOVIC HOPES TO PLAY US OPEN

AP ■ LONDON

Wimbledon champion Novak Djokovic is hoping US authorities change entry rules in time to allow him to compete at the US Open, even though he refuses to be vaccinated against coronavirus.

The Serbian top seed beat Nick Kyrgios in four sets on Sunday to win his seventh title at the All England Club and 21st Grand Slam crown overall — leaving him just one behind Rafael Nadal.

Now he is targeting a fourth US Open crown after losing to Daniil Medvedev in the final last year.

But as things stand, his unvaccinated status means he will not be allowed into the United States to play in the tournament, which starts next month.

"I'm not vaccinated and I'm not planning to get vaccinated so the only good news I can have is them removing the mandated green vaccine card or whatever you call it to enter United States or exemption," said the 35-year-old.

"I don't think exemption is realistically possible.... I think it's just whether or not they remove this in time for me to get to the USA."

The Serb was deported from Australia over his vaccination status in January, preventing him from defending his Australian Open title.

Djokovic admitted it had been a difficult start to the year and it had taken him months to recover.

"It has affected me definitely in the first several months of the year," he said. "I was not feeling great generally. I mean, mentally, emotionally, I was not at a good place."

"I wanted to play, but at the same time when I went out on the court in Dubai, the first tournament of the year, I just felt so much pressure and emotions happening."

"I wasn't feeling myself on the court. I realised at that point that it's going to take some time, that I have to be patient, and sooner or later I will get myself in the state, optimal state, where I would like to be."



## 'TOUGH YEAR'

Djokovic's coach, former Wimbledon champion Goran Ivanisevic, said it had been a "tough year" for the player.

But he said he never doubted Djokovic would recover, describing him as "heroic".

"People like him you don't doubt," he said. "He's a great champion. They say maybe took him a long time, but it didn't take him a long time."

"It took him the exact time that he needed to recover and to digest all the things that happened to him."

Djokovic, whose Wimbledon triumph was his fourth in succession at the All England Club, said he was now taking a much-needed holiday.

## Krejciakova, Siniakova win second Wimbledon women's doubles title

AP ■ LONDON

Barbora Krejciakova and Katerina Siniakova clinched their second Wimbledon women's doubles title on Sunday with a 6-2, 6-4 win over top seeds Elise Mertens and Zhang Shuai.

It was the Czech pair's fifth Grand Slam doubles title and second this year.

The second seeds also won this year's Australian Open, defeating Anna Danilina and Beatriz Haddad Maia in the final.

Krejciakova and Siniakova won their first Wimbledon in 2018.



"I am on vacation," he said. "Whether or not I'm playing any tournament soon, I'll definitely be resting for the next couple of weeks because it has been quite an exhausting and demanding period for me the last few months."

"A lot of tennis, which I was very happy about. I got what I wanted here. Then I'll wait hopefully for some good news from the USA because I would really love to go there."

The former world number one said he did not feel under pressure to play a certain schedule.

"I achieved that historic No. 1, weeks for No. 1, that I worked for all my life. Now that that's done and dusted, I prioritise Slams and big tournaments really and where I want to play, where I feel good."

Djokovic also said he felt lifted by the Wimbledon crowd on Sunday — he has often faced an uphill battle to win fans over when he has been playing Roger Federer or Rafael Nadal.

"I did definitely feel support and feel love from the crowd today, so I'm very grateful for that," he said.

"Obviously it's not a secret that any player would like to have people backing him during the match because at the end of the day this could make a quite big difference with how you feel mentally."

## Federer unranked for 1st time in 25 years



AP ■ LONDON

Roger Federer dropped out of the ATP rankings entirely for the first time in a quarter-century on Monday, while Novak Djokovic slid four spots to No. 7 a day after winning Wimbledon for the seventh time.

Federer had appeared in the singles rankings every week since he made his debut at age 16 in September 1997, tied for 803rd, and held the record for most time at No. 1 until Djokovic broke it.

Federer was 97th before play began at the All England Club but now has zero points because the rankings are based on a player's results over the previous 52 weeks - and he has not competed at all since reaching the Wimbledon quarterfinals a year ago.

Shortly after that loss, Federer had his third operation on his right knee in a span of about 18 months. Federer, who turns 41 on August 8, intends to make his return to tournament play in his native

Switzerland in October and said during an appearance at Centre Court last weekend that he hopes he can play at Wimbledon next year.

Djokovic's drop and that of runner-up Nick Kyrgios from No 40 to No 45 despite reaching the first Grand Slam final of his career are a result of the decisions by the WTA and ATP to not award any ranking points for Wimbledon in response to the All England Club's ban on athletes from Russia and Belarus over the war in Ukraine.

On Monday, Djokovic, Kyrgios and all other players lost whatever points they earned at Wimbledon in 2021, while not gaining any benefit from how they performed during this fortnight.

So Elena Rybakina's first Grand Slam title did her no good in the WTA rankings; she remained at No 23, where she became the second-lowest women's champion at the grass-court tournament in the professional era, which began in 1968.

The woman she beat in Saturday's final, Ons Jabeur, went from No 2 to No 5, even though this was her best showing at a major.

Last year's losing finalist, Karolina Pliskova, fell eight spots to No 15, and some women who moved ahead of her achieved their career highs on Monday, including Australian Open runner-up Danielle Collins at No 7, US Open champion Emma Raducanu at No. 10, and French Open runner-up Coco Gauff at No 11.

French Open champion Iga Swiatek, whose 37-match winning streak ended in Wimbledon's third round, remained at No 1.

Daniil Medvedev, who is Russian, stayed atop the men's rankings after not being allowed to compete at Wimbledon. He won last year's US Open and was the runner-up at this year's Australian Open.

## Juventus celebrate return of 'champion' Pogba



AP ■ TURIN

French World Cup winning midfielder Paul Pogba has returned to Serie A side Juventus on a free transfer, the Italian giants announced on their website on Monday.

The 29-year-old enjoyed a highly successful first spell at Juventus (2012-16) before Manchester United swooped to sign him for a then record 105 million euros (\$106 million).

"Paul is back in Turin," Juventus said on their website below a photo of a grinning Pogba in a Juventus shirt.

"He left as a boy and returns as a man and a champion."

"But there is one thing that has not changed -- the desire to write unforgettable pages of club history together once more."

"Pogba is back and we couldn't be happier."

Pogba underwent his medical over the weekend and it is believed he has been offered a four-year deal which will earn him a reported eight million euros (\$8.12 million) a season plus a potential two million euros in bonuses.

He rejoins Juve after his contract with Manchester United expired at the end of last month, marking the end of a largely disappointing six years back in England.

Dysfunctional United are further away from the top of English football than when he joined. They have not won a Premier League title in nine years.

The 2017 Europa League and the same season's League Cup are a poor haul for Pogba at one of the world's biggest clubs, especially as they both came under Jose Mourinho, a period when Pogba has said he first suffered from depression.

Pogba is expected to inherit the number 10 jersey from Paulo Dybala, who could join Juve's fiercest rivals Inter Milan after the Argentina forward was let go by the Turin giants.

Pogba wore that jersey in his final season at Juve, joining such iconic playmakers as Roberto Baggio, Alessandro del Piero, Michele Platini and Liam Brady.

He had moved to Juve from United four years previously while still a teenager and made a huge impression in a slick midfield featuring the likes of Andrea Pirlo and Arturo Vidal.

Pogba blossomed when coach Massimiliano Allegri replaced Antonio Conte in 2014. The Frenchman drove a powerful team to the following year's Champions league final, losing to Barcelona.

He won the Serie A title in each of his four seasons at the Old Lady of Italian football and retained his affection for Juve. He was linked with a return on several occasions during his time at United.

Allegri will be hoping that Pogba can help Juve return to their former glories after they finished fourth last season, 16 points behind champions AC Milan.

Pogba is Juve's second notable signing in recent days. The club secured the signature of veteran Argentine winger Angel Di Maria after he was released by French champions Paris Saint-Germain.

## Rooney agrees to return to DC United as coach

AP ■ WASHINGTON

Former Manchester United and England star Wayne Rooney has reached an agreement to coach Major League Soccer team DC United, for which he played between 2018 and 2019, US media reported on Sunday.

The 36-year-old will join the team once visa formalities are finalised, ESPN and The Athletic reported.

A reporter for The Athletic tweeted a photo of Rooney at Dulles International Airport outside Washington on Sunday.

The Englishman will replace Argentine Hernan Losada, who was fired due to poor results only six games into the season.

The team also failed to rebound after Losada's departure and currently occupies the penultimate position in the Eastern Conference with just 17 points in 17 games.

Led by interim coach Chad Ashton, the capital club suffered a crushing 7-0 drubbing at the



hands of the Philadelphia Union on Friday.

Rooney resigned as manager of Derby County at the end of June, gaining plaudits for his efforts in his first managerial role under very trying circumstances.

Rooney was unable to keep them in the Championship after the crisis-torn club were hit by

a 21-point deduction as punishment for financial issues.

However, he had managed to keep their hopes alive of miraculously escaping the drop into the final weeks of the season.

In his spell at DC United as a player he scored 23 goals in 48 games in the 2018 and 2019 seasons.

## Shooting WCup: Arjun Babuta strikes Gold in 10m air rifle final

PTI ■ CHANGWON

Young Indian shooter Arjun Babuta stunned Tokyo Olympics Silver medallist Lucas Kozeniesky to win the men's 10m air rifle event and open the country's account in the ongoing ISSF World Cup here on Monday.

In the Gold medal clash, Arjun humbled USA's Kozeniesky 17-9 in a rather one-sided contest.

This is Arjun's maiden Gold for the senior side. He had bagged the yellow metal at the 2016 Junior World Cup in Gabala, Azerbaijan.

The 23-year-old from Punjab, who has been representing India since 2016, had earlier topped the ranking round with a scintillating 261.1 points to qualify for the gold medal clash.

Kozeniesky shot 260.4 to join him even as quali-



fication leader Sergey Richter of Israel settled for Bronze with a score of 259.9.

The other Indian in the fray, Parth Makhija, who also qualified for the ranking event in fifth place following an impressive show on Sunday, finished fourth with a score of 258.1.

There was no stopping Arjun in the final as he raced to a 10-4 lead after the first seven single-shot series.

The winner of each series gets two points while the points are split in case of a tie and the first to 16 wins the match.

The American did not give up till the end but Arjun pulled out those big high 10s when it mattered most and finished clinically for a convincing score-line to help India open their account with the brightest medal possible.

## Cristiano 'not for sale' insists Man Utd's Ten Hag

AP ■ BANGKOK

New Manchester United manager Erik ten Hag said Monday that Cristiano Ronaldo was "not for sale", despite the Portuguese superstar skipping the pre-season tour of Thailand and Australia.

Ronaldo missed the start of training with the English Premier League giants last week due to a family issue.

The 37-year-old did not make the plane for the pre-season trip, with reports saying he wants to leave after United's failure to qualify for the Champions League.

Speaking before the Old Trafford club's first pre-season friendly against Liverpool in Bangkok on Tuesday, Ten Hag said: "We are planning for Cristiano Ronaldo for the season and that's it and I'm looking forward to working with him."

"I have read it, but what I say is Cristiano is not for sale, he is in our plans and we want success together."

United's new Dutch manager revealed he had spoken to the unsettled striker before the reports emerged last week that he



wanted to leave.

"I spoke with him before this issue came up," said Ten Hag.

"I had a conversation with him and we had a real good talk."

However he refused to be drawn on the substance of the conversation, stating that it was "between Cristiano and me".

Ronaldo reportedly asked to leave after being unhappy with the club's poor form since his return to Manchester last year -- they finished sixth in the English Premier League, condemning them to the second-tier Europa League next season.

Ten Hag only arrived at United in May after finishing his successful spell at Ajax -- but faces a huge challenge to rebuild the Old Trafford club who have not won a trophy since 2017.

Ronaldo scored 24 goals in all competitions last season and was named the club's player of the year.

Ten Hag also said that England defender Harry Maguire would remain as club captain.

## Nottingham Forest sign Neco Williams

AP ■ NOTTINGHAM

Newly promoted Premier League side Nottingham Forest agreed to pay a joint club record fee of £17 million (\$20 million) for Welsh international defender Neco Williams from Liverpool on Monday.

The 21-year-old signed a four year contract with the two-time European Cup winners.

He is their sixth signing since they gained promotion to the Premier League for the first time in 23 years after beating Huddersfield in the Championship play-off.

"Forest are a club with incredible history and the City Ground is a very special venue that I can't wait to experience in full voice," said Williams.

"I'm really excited to join Forest and to help this great club move forwards in the Premier League."

"Having spoken to the head coach (Steve Cooper), there's a huge amount of ambition being shown and I can't wait to join up with my new team-mates and get



ready for the challenge ahead," he added.

The fee for the 21-times capped defender equals that Forest reportedly paid Bundesliga side Union Berlin for Nigerian international striker Taiwo Awoniyi.

Williams featured for Liverpool in the Champions League group stage last term before being sent on loan to Fulham, whom he helped to gain promotion to the Premier League.

Williams also played an influential role this year as Wales qualifying for their first World Cup finals in 64 years.



# KOHLI'S QUALITY CAN'T BE QUESTIONED: ROHIT

PTI ■ NOTTINGHAM

India skipper Rohit Sharma has hit back at "experts" who are questioning Virat Kohli's place in the T20 side, saying the star batter's "quality" is beyond doubt and the team management will continue to back him.

Kohli, who has not scored a hundred across formats since November 2019, failed to make an impact in the couple of T20s against England.

While his form is being questioned in all formats of the games, Kohli was making a return to T20 Internationals after five months.

The likes of Deepak Hooda got opportunities in Kohli's absence and he made the most of it. However, Hooda did not find a spot in the playing eleven after showing sublime form against Ireland and the series opener against England.

Experts, including World Cup winning captain Kapil Dev and former England skipper Michael Vaughan, have spoken about Kohli's prolonged lean patch.

Speaking to reporters after the third T20I on Sunday, Rohit said the experts don't know what is happening inside the team.

"It's not difficult at all for us because we don't listen to outside noise. Also, I don't know who these experts are and why they're called experts. I don't get that," Rohit said when asked about his thoughts on how the team is looking at Kohli's form.

While Kapil said players can't be



picked on reputation and one has to go by current form, Vaughan feels Kohli needs a three-month sabbatical from the game.

"They are seeing from outside, they don't know what's happening inside the team. We have a thought process, we make the team, we debate and discuss it and think a lot about it.

"The players we pick are backed, they are given opportunities. People on the outside don't know about it. So it's more important about what's happening within our team, that's important for me," said Rohit in response to the growing criticism over Kohli's wretched run.

Kohli has 70 international hundreds to his name, only behind Ricky Ponting (71) and Sachin Tendulkar (100) in the game and Rohit feels the star batter's quality can't be questioned.

"Also, if you are talking about form, it goes up and down for everyone. The quality of the player doesn't go bad. We should always keep in mind when such comments are passed around. We're backing that quality.

"It's happened with me, it's happened with XYZ. There's nothing new. When a player has done well so consistently, then 1-2 bad series, his contribution shouldn't be forgotten.

"I might take time for some to understand. But for us, inside and running the team, we know the importance. I'll request those on the outside, yes you have all the right to talk about it, but for us, it doesn't matter a lot," added Rohit.



## Umesh to play for Middlesex

PTI ■ LONDON

Senior India pacer Umesh Yadav will play for Middlesex for the remainder of the English County season replacing Pakistan speedster Shaheen Shah Afridi.

The 34-year-old pacer has represented India in 52 Tests, 77 ODIs, and 7 T20Is and has scalped 273 international wickets across all formats.

The county club sought Umesh's services as Afridi has returned home to join his national team for the tour of Sri Lanka.

"Middlesex Cricket is delighted to announce that Indian international quick bowler Umesh Kumar Yadav has signed terms with the Club and will join for the remainder of the 2022 season," the club said in a statement.

"This morning the Club received this confirmation, and confirmation that he is registered with the ECB, and Yadav has, as a result, now been named as an addition to Middlesex's squad for this week's game."

Middlesex further announced that Umesh will be available to represent the club in both County Championship and Royal London Cup campaigns for the rest of the season.

"He (Umesh) comes to us with a wealth of experience. He is a proven world-class performer, and can not only make a huge difference himself for the remainder of our Championship campaign and to our prospects in the Royal London Cup but will also be a fantastic role model for our younger bowlers to work alongside," said Alex Coleman, Middlesex' Head of Men's Performance Cricket.

"As a bowler, he offers a huge amount. He delivers the ball from wide of the crease, can move the ball both ways, regularly tops 140 kph, and possesses a vicious short ball, so will be a real handful for opposition batters in English conditions," Coleman added.

Umesh is also the latest Indian to join veteran batter Cheteshwar Pujara, and all-rounders Washington Sundar and Krunal Pandya in County cricket.

While Pujara plays for Sussex, Sundar and Krunal have signed for Lancashire and Warwickshire respectively.

## India look to carry T20I template into ODIs

PTI ■ LONDON

India won't go ballistic from ball one but the batters are expected to carry their fearless approach from the shortest format to the ODIs when the three-match series against England begins here on Tuesday.

India's high-risk play helped them win the series against England and considering that the ODIs have become an extension of the shortest format, skipper Rohit Sharma sees no reason why his team should back down from that approach.

England redefined the way ODI cricket was played and their dominant run culminated with the World Cup trophy back in 2019. It won't be an exaggeration to say that India's fresh outlook towards the shorter formats is inspired by the English template.

These three games followed by as



many against West Indies will be the only 50-over contests India will feature in before the T20 World Cup but Rohit asserted they still hold a lot of importance.

"All matches are important for us. We can't play thinking ODIs are not a priority, but we have to keep in mind the workload of each player. We will make changes but our ultimate goal is to win matches. We will not leave that thought process behind," said Rohit on Sunday after the third T20 at Nottingham.

"For us, the aim is to understand white-ball cricket, how to play, new guys are playing, 50 over is an extension of T20. Maybe you take less risk in ODIs as compared to T20 cricket but you have to take it." The team will have an optional training session at The Oval with a quick turnaround time between the T20 and ODI series.

For someone like Shikhar Dhawan,

who only plays only one format and will be captaining the team in the West Indies, it will be a challenge to take on the England attack from the world go.

However, the southpaw has found ways to stay consistent, whether he is playing ODIs for India or the IPL.

The ODI series will be Buttler's first since taking over as white-ball skipper from Eoin Morgan. After the T20 disappointment, the hosts will be eager to bounce back strongly.

Buttler himself will be looking to make the big scores he is known for, having failed in the T20s.

England will be bolstered with the return of their star players Ben Stokes, Joe Root and Jonny Bairstow, the hero of Birmingham Test win of the hosts.

While Root doesn't play T20s, Stokes and Bairstow were rested after the historic triumph in the rescheduled fifth Test.

## Mehidy stars in B'desh 6-wicket win in 1st ODI



AP ■ GUYANA

Spinner Mehidy Hasan and Bangladesh exploited "ideal conditions" to defeat the West Indies by six wickets in Sunday's rain-affected first ODI.

Shoriful Islam's haul of four for 34, his best in ODIs, limited the West Indies to 149 for nine batting first in a fixture reduced to 41 overs-per-side before Mahmudullah's unbeaten 41 saw the visitors to the target with more than nine overs to spare.

After 2-0 losses in both the preceding Test and T20 International series, Bangladesh's ninth consecutive ODI win over the West Indies puts the pressure on the home side going into the second match at the same venue on Wednesday.

Mehidy played his part in a disciplined bowling effort with three wickets.

Senior pace bowler Mustafizur Rahman set the tone for the match when he dismissed dangerous opener Shai Hope for a first ball duck after Bangladesh captain Tamim Iqbal put the home side in to bat.

Mehidy's victims included West Indies captain Nicholas Pooran and earned him the man of the match award.

"This is a really good result for us because rain prevented us from practising properly for the last few days," said the spinner.

"These were ideal conditions for us. I just tried to bowl

in the right areas and everything worked out well for us."

Shamarh Brooks top-scored with 33 for the hosts with the next best effort being an unbeaten 19 from Anderson Phillip in an unbroken last-wicket partnership of 39 with Jayden Seales (16 not out).

Shoriful went one better than Mustafizur in taking the wickets of Brandon King and Brooks in his opening over before adding the Guyanese pair of all-rounder Romario Shepherd and spinner Gudakesh Motie.

With the sun coming out to ease the batting conditions, Bangladesh were always favoured to overhaul the target and 37 from Najmul Hossain together with 33 by Tamim at the top of the order set them on their way.

Tamim was run out and Najmul because the first wicket of ODI debutant Motie, although those were mere stutters on the journey to victory as wicketkeeper-batsman Nurul Hasan joined Mahmudullah in an unbroken fifth-wicket stand of 40 to see their side to victory.

"In hindsight our total today obviously wasn't enough but it was difficult to get more batting first on that track," was Pooran's frank assessment of the conditions at the start of the match.

"Conditions improved later on but having said that, we should have pushed harder for more success at the start of their innings to give ourselves a fighting chance."

## Sri Lanka thrash Australia to level series

AP ■ GALLE

Dinesh Chandimal's double century and bowling heroics by debutant Prabhat Jayasuriya led Sri Lanka to a series-levelling win over Australia on Monday in a second Test affected by protests and Covid.

The hosts hammered Australia by an innings and 39 runs on the fourth day of the match, which had witnessed dramatic scenes outside the Galle stadium amid political unrest in the island nation.

But Chandimal brought the home supporters joy two days later with an unbeaten 206 in Sri Lanka's 554 all out, as the hosts managed a first innings lead of 190.

Jayasuriya, a left-arm spinner, then took six wickets to improve his match haul to 12 and help dismiss Australia for 151 in the final session on day four as the hosts bounced back from their opening loss to end the series level at 1-1.



## Sindhu, HS Prannoy lead India's challenge at Singapore Super 500

PTI ■ SINGAPORE

Indian shuttlers, led by two-time Olympic medallist PV Sindhu and in-form HS Prannoy, will look to hit top gear in the Singapore Super 500 Tournament beginning here on Tuesday.

Being the last tournament before the Commonwealth Games in Birmingham, starting later this month, the duo cannot afford to take it easy.

Sindhu (3) and Kidambi Srikanth (7), who are the only seeded Indians in the main draw of the men's and women's singles competition, have been handed easy draws.

World No. 7 Sindhu, who will open her campaign against lowly-ranked Lianne Tan of Belgium, is the only seeded player in her quarter.

Veteran shuttler Saina Nehwal will begin her campaign against compatriot Malvika Bansod and the winner of the clash could possibly face 2018 Asian Games Silver medallist He Bing Jiao and former world champion Intanon Ratchanok in the second round and quarterfinals respectively.

Making a comeback after the Indonesia Open last month, Srikanth also has an easy draw after the pullout of world No. 1 and Olympic champi-



on Viktor Axelsen.

Srikanth opens his campaign against a qualifier and in the quarter-final he may run into fellow Indian and 2017 champion B Sai Praneeth.

Should he overcome Praneeth, Srikanth could play the semifinal against third seeded Chou Tien Chen of Chinese Taipei, who is coming off a runners-up finish in the Indonesia Masters.

All eyes in the men's singles would be on Prannoy who has been in good

form this year. With two semifinal finishes in the past month — Malaysia Masters and Indonesia Open — he would be eager to go one step further.

Placed in the second quarter of the draw, Prannoy opens his campaign against Thailand's Sitthikom Thammasin in the first round.

He finds himself in the same half as third seed Chou and fifth seed Jonatan Christie, who takes on Parupalli Kashyap in the opening round.



## India's WC dream ends after 0-1 loss to Spain

PTI ■ TERASSA

The Indian women's hockey team was eliminated from the FIH World Cup title race after losing 0-1 to co-hosts Spain in a hard-fought crossover match here on Monday.

After a fiercely-contested three quarters, the Indian defence let in a goal just three minutes from the final hooter when Marta Segu scored from a rebound to exit from the knock-out rounds.

As has been the case so far in the tournament, India fared poorly once again in converting penalty corners.

They earned four in the game against Spain's three but all the chances went in vain.

India captain Savita, in front of the goal, showed why she has such high reputation as she pulled off saves time and again to keep the deadlock intact.

India will next play Canada for the ninth to 16th place classification match here on Tuesday.

In the quarterfinals, New Zealand will play Germany, another co-hosts Netherlands will be up against Belgium, Australia will take on Spain and England will square off against Argentina.