

## OPINION 6

THE RISE AND FALL OF  
POLITICAL DYNASTIES

## WORLD 9

RISHI SUNAK HITS THRESHOLD FOR UK  
PM RACE AS NOMINATIONS OPEN

## MONEY 10

RUPEE DOWN 15 PAISE TO ALL-TIME  
LOW OF 79.60 AGAINST US DOLLAR

NEW DELHI, WEDNESDAY JULY 13, 2022; PAGES 12 ₹3



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# Sena to support NDA's Prez nominee Murmu

We are not narrow-minded and did it for nation's good, says Uddhav

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

A day after majority of his AMPs asked Uddhav Thackeray to support the NDA's presidential candidate Droupadi Murmu, the embattled Shiv Sena chief decided to break rank with the Opposition and cast his lot with the BJP. Though Uddhav denied he had come under pressure, it was obvious that his decision was a desperate attempt to prevent further division in the Shiv Sena.

The Shiv Sena has 19 MPs in the Lok Sabha, including 18 from Maharashtra. It has three MPs in the Rajya Sabha.

Uddhav said the Sena is announcing support for Murmu without any pressure while acknowledging that this is the first occasion wherein a tribal woman is getting the opportunity to become the President.

"Nobody pressured me in the



meeting of Sena MPs," Thackeray said, referring to the meeting of Sena MPs held at his residence in Mumbai a day earlier. It was widely reported that majority of the 15 MPs who attended Monday's meeting, advocated that Shiv Sena should back the NDA candidate.

With the Sena's support, the presidential election has now become a mere formality as Murmu is expected to gain over 60 per cent votes against the Opposition's candidate Yashwant Sinha. In addition to the BJP, the

NDA nominee has been assured support from several regional parties such as the BJD, YSR-CP, BSP, the AIADMK, TDP, JDS, Shiromani Akali Dal and now Shiv Sena.

"I am clarifying my stand. Tribal leaders of my party told me that this is the first time that a woman from the tribal community is getting the chance to become the President. Respecting their views, we have decided to back Droupadi Murmu's candidature," Uddhav said. Thackeray admitted that

several party leaders, especially from the tribal community like MLC Aamshya Padvi, former MLA Nirmala Gavit and Eklavya Sanghantana's Shivajirao Dhavale had urged him to back Murmu. The Sena chief said he also got representations from Nomadic Tribes and Scheduled Tribes communities to back Murmu.

"I am again saying there is no pressure on me to back Droupadi Murmu. Going by the present political atmosphere, I should not have backed her (Murmur) because she is a candidate of the Bharatiya Janata Party. But we are not narrow-minded," Thackeray said.

Uddhav pointed out that the Sena had backed the United Progressive Alliance's (UPA's) nominees Pratibha Patil and Pranab Mukherjee in the Presidential polls held in 2007 and 2012, respectively, even though the Sena was a constituent of the BJP-led NDA at that time.

"Even at that time, the Shiv Sena had thought beyond politics and did what is good for the country," Thackeray said.

The Congress, which is part of the MVA along with Sena and NCP, is not amused by Uddhav's decision on backing Murmu.

Continued on Page 2

# Will he? Won't he? Lanka on edge over Prez's resignation

Bids by Gotabaya, wife and brother Basil Rajapaksa to flee nation foiled

PTI ■ COLOMBO

Sri Lankans were on the edge on Tuesday as they waited to see whether embattled Gotabaya Rajapaksa will honour his offer to resign as President, amid reports that key members of the erstwhile powerful ruling family were attempting to flee the nation in the face of massive public anger against them for mis-handling the economy that has bankrupted the country.

Rajapaksa, whose whereabouts are not known since Friday, was blocked from departing Sri Lanka on Monday after refusing to join a public queue at the Colombo airport in order to have his passport checked by immigration. CNN reported, citing a high-ranking military source.

It said Rajapaksa's aides arrived at the airport with 15 passports belonging to the President and members of his family - including First Lady Ioma Rajapaksa - who had booked seats on a Sri Lankan Airlines flight leaving for Dubai at 6:25 P.M. local time on Monday, according to the military source. Immigration officers



People walk past a poster showing defaced portraits of president Gotabaya Rajapaksa and his brother Basil at the ongoing protest site outside the President's office three days after it was stormed in Colombo, Sri Lanka on Tuesday. AP/PTI

declined to process the passports given to them by presidential aides, as Rajapaksa and his family were not physically present for cross checks and, eventually, the flight departed without the President and his family on board, the source added.

Earlier, 73-year-old Gotabaya Rajapaksa's younger brother and ex-Finance Minister Basil Rajapaksa tried to leave Sri Lanka but was stopped by immigration officials at the airport. Basil, the 71-year-old leader who

is being widely held responsible for the country's worst economic crisis which has heaped misery on the people, tried to leave the country on Monday night through the VIP terminal of Colombo airport.

The Sri Lanka Immigration and Emigration Officers Association said the immigration officials objected to serving him at the VIP clearance line and even the passengers of the Emirates flight to Dubai had objected to his leaving.

Basil, a US passport holder, resigned as Finance Minister in early April as street protests intensified against shortages of fuel, food and other necessities and quit his seat in Parliament in June. Hours later, a petition was filed in the Supreme Court seeking an interim order restraining former Prime Minister Mahinda Rajapaksa and other influential officials of the Rajapaksa regime from fleeing the country without the prior approval of the apex court. Continued on Page 2

# Opp parties, BJP spar over ferocious lions

Graceful Ashoka lions replaced by menacing ones, says Opp; frustrated parties, retorts Puri

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■

NEW DELHI

A day after Prime Minister Narendra Modi unveiled the massive Ashoka emblem on the roof of the new Parliament building, Opposition parties hit the roof challenging the "character" and "look" of the Ashoka Lions. Parties like RJD and the TMC hit out at the Modi Government for allegedly distorting the national emblem by replacing the "graceful and regally confi-



The bronze national emblem atop the new Parliament building was unveiled by Prime Minister Narendra Modi in the national Capital on Monday. Ranjan Dimri/Pioneer

dent" Ashoka lions with those having menacing and aggressive posture.

While Union Housing and Urban Affairs Minister Hardeep Singh Puri clarified that the new emblem is a "replica" of the one at Sarnath, the BJP hit back at the Opposition saying the real reason behind such criticism is their "frustration" over India

creating its own Parliament building under Modi replacing the one by the British over 150 years back.

The verbal duel escalated after the Opposition leaders questioned the Prime Minister, as a head of Executive, inaugurating the emblem and not inviting them at the unveiling ceremony of the national emblems.

Continued on Page 2



Prime Minister Narendra Modi with Union Minister for Civil Aviation Jyotiraditya Scindia and Jharkhand Chief Minister Hemant Soren flags off a flight to inaugurate the Deogarh Airport on Tuesday. PTI

# India will not allow unilateral bid to alter LAC, says Jaishankar

PNS ■ THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar on Tuesday said efforts were on to resolve the boundary issues between India and China through discussions but asserted that India will not "countenance" any unilateral attempt to change the Line of Actual Control (LAC).

Jaishankar was responding to queries with regard to former Congress chief Rahul Gandhi's tweet claiming that there was "increasing Chinese infiltration" into Indian territory. "As to what has happened in the last two years, we have been very clear and very effective in ensuring that no attempt to change the status quo unilaterally on the Line of Actual Control will be countenanced by us," Jaishankar said.

Giving it back to Rahul, he said the boundary issue was a legacy of the past and referred to Chinese occupying large parts of India, including Ladakh, in 1962.

"I did not see anything particularly new in what his tweet said, because you all know that a large part of the problem we have on the boundary is because in 1962, the Chinese came and occupied large areas, including Ladakh."

"Many of these are strategic areas which obviously create challenges for our border forces," Jaishankar added.

He said that discussions were going on between the two sides involving military commanders and also diplomats to resolve the current impasses on the LAC.

Continued on Page 2

# NASA's new telescope shows star death, galaxies

AP ■ NEW DELHI

NASA released never-seen-before images taken by the new and powerful James Webb Space Telescope on Tuesday, heralding a new era of astronomy as the images take us back to early universe, almost 13 billion years ago.

"Every image is a new discovery," said NASA administrator Bill Nelson.

NASA images include a foamy blue and orange shot of a dying star. The first image from the \$10 billion James Webb Space Telescope was released Monday at the White House - a jumble of distant galaxies that went deeper into the cosmos than humanity has ever seen. Tuesday's four photos included more cosmic beauty shots. With one exception, the latest images showed parts of the universe seen by other telescopes. But Webb's sheer power, distant location off Earth and use of the infrared light spectrum showed them in new light.

# SC to hear plea on control of services

Constitution Bench to go into scope of Centre, Delhi Govt's powers

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■

NEW DELHI

A five-judge Constitution Bench of the Supreme Court will go into the scope of Legislative and Executive powers of the Centre and the National Capital Territory (NCT) Government over control of services in Delhi for an "authoritative pronouncement". On May 6, the top court had referred to a five-judge Constitution Bench the issue of control of services in Delhi.

The SC agreed to hear the matter on an urgent basis after senior advocate AM Singhvi, appearing for the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) Government,



urged a Bench comprising Chief Justice NV Ramana and Justices Krishna Murari and Hima Kohli that the issue needed an urgent hearing.

In a relief to the Centre, which was seeking the issue of control of services in Delhi to a larger Bench, the apex court had said the limited issue of control over services was not dealt by the Constitution Bench which "elaborately dealt with" all legal questions.

"The limited issue that has

been referred to this Bench, relates to the scope of Legislative and Executive powers of the Centre and NCT Delhi with respect to the term 'services'. The Constitution Bench of this court, while interpreting Article 239AA(3)(a) of the Constitution, did not find any occasion to specifically interpret the impact of the wordings of the same with respect to Entry 41 in the State List.

"We, therefore, deem it appropriate to refer to the above-limited question, for an authoritative pronouncement by a Constitution Bench..." it had said. Sub Article 3 (a) of 239AA (which deals with the status and power of Delhi in the Constitution, deals with the law-making power of the Delhi Legislative Assembly on the matters enumerated in the State List or the Concurrent List. The Bench had reserved its order on April 28 on the Centre's submission that the dispute over the control over services be referred to a five-judge Bench, a plea which was strongly opposed by the AAP-Ledhi Government.

The Central Government had also sought a joint hearing of two separate petitions of the Delhi Government on control over services and challenging the constitutional validity of the amended GNCTD Act, 2021 and the Transaction of Business Rules, which allegedly give more powers to the Lieutenant-Governor respectively, saying they are prima facie correlated.

Continued on Page 2

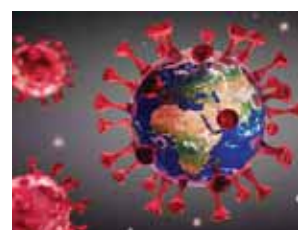
# 'Omicron BA.5 most easily transmissible'

Experts: It can evade immunity induced by jabs, prior infections

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

It has been a common assumption during the pandemic that being infected with a Covid variant provides a natural immune boost, enabling one's immune system to better recognise and fend off infection in the future. But not so with the BA.5 Omicron sub-variant, which could evade immunity induced both by vaccines as well as prior infection.

That means even if you were infected in 2020 with Delta or even Omicron BA.1 last winter, you can still get BA.5. Your previous immunity does not protect you from the latest strain. Global researchers said the



BA.5 Omicron sub-variant has the potential to reinfect the Covid survivor with the virus again "within weeks". BA.5, together with BA.4 and other sub-variants, are said to be behind the current surge in infections seen in several countries. "Omicron BA.5 proves to be different, with several researchers terming it as "the most easily transmissible Covid variant to date," said the researchers.

"The main reason this variant has become the predominant one that is now circulating is that it is able to evade previous immunity," said Dean Blumberg. Contd on Page 2

# CAPSULE

POPULATION MAY GIVE INDIA CLOUT: UN OFFICIAL

**United Nations:** India's claim for permanent membership in the UN Security Council may get strengthened if it surpasses China and becomes the world's most populous nation in 2023, according to a top UN population official.

6 DEAD IN GUJARAT AS HEAVY RAIN CONTINUES

**Ahmedabad:** Heavy downpour continued in various parts of Gujarat on Tuesday and six people died in rain-related incidents in the last 24 hours, raising the toll to 69 since June 1, officials said. A total of 27,896 people were evacuated from flood-affected areas and 18,225 of them remained in shelters while others returned home.

SOCIAL WORKER AVDHASH KAUSHAL PASSES AWAY

**Dehradun:** Noted social worker and Padma Shri awardee Avdhash Kaushal died at a private hospital here early on Tuesday following a prolonged illness. He was 87.



# PM launches projects worth ₹16K cr in J'khand

Modi says these will give impetus to development in eastern India

PRANAV PRATYUSH ■ RANCHI

Prime Minister, Narendra Modi, today gifted 25 important projects worth ₹16,835 crore to Jharkhand.

In the presence of Governor Ramesh Bais and Chief Minister Hemant Soren, the Prime Minister dedicated 13 projects to the nation, including the development of Deoghar Airport, Deoghar AIIMS and Baba Dham, built at a cost of ₹10,271.

At the same time, the PM laid the foundation of 12 projects including re-development of Ranchi railway station and elevated corridor from Kachari Chowk to Piska More in Ranchi. ₹6,565 crores will be spent on these projects.

The PM said on the occasion that it was a pleasure to visit Baba Dham. "Today, I am getting the good fortune to accelerate the development of Jharkhand from here. These projects will give a new impetus to the development of eastern India including Jharkhand, Bihar and West Bengal. This



Prime Minister Narendra Modi wave to supporters during a public rally alongwith State BJP president Deepak Prakash, Legislative party leader Babulal Marandi and Union Minister Arjun Munda in Deoghar on Tuesday

Pioneer photo

will make life easier and many opportunities will be created in many other sectors including employment, self-employment business, health and tourism.

Modi said that today, Jharkhand is getting its second airport. This will lead to tremendous ease for devotees of Baba Baidyanath. In the context of making air travel

affordable for the common man through the UDAN scheme, the PM noted that today the benefits of the efforts of the government are visible across the country. About 70 new locations have been added through airports, heliports and water aerodromes in the last 5-6 years under the UDAN scheme. Today, ordinary citi-

zens are getting the facility of air travel on more than 400 new routes. More than 1 crore people have experienced very affordable air travel, many for the first time. He expressed happiness that the flight from Deoghar to Kolkata started today and flights for Ranchi, Delhi and Patna will start soon. Work is on for airports in

Bokaro and Dumka, he said. The PM said that the government is following the mantra of Sabka Saath, Sabka Vikas, Sabka Vishwas and Sabka Prayas.

New avenues of development, employment-self-employment are being discovered by investing in infrastructure. "We have laid emphasis on aspiration for development, focused on aspirational districts," he said, underlining the benefits of these initiatives for Jharkhand.

He said most of the 18,000 villages which were electrified so long after independence are in inaccessible and remote areas. Government has worked in mission mode in the last 8 years to bring tap water, roads and gas connection, he said.

Union Civil Aviation Minister Jyotiraditya Scindia said on the occasion that a plan has been prepared to increase air connectivity in Jharkhand. Jamshedpur, Dumka and Bokaro will also join the aerial map soon. Apart from this, rapid initiative is being taken to start air service on 14 new routes in the State.

The PM inaugurated the Deoghar-Kolkata-Deoghar flight by presenting flying flags to the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of IndiGo Company, Rono Dutta and the Chief of Flight Operations, Ashu Mishra. Earlier, Governor Ramesh

Bais presented a Rudraksh garland and a book to the Prime Minister on the occasion. The Chief Minister honoured the Prime Minister by giving him a model form of Baba Vaidyanath Temple.

Union Civil Aviation Minister Jyotiraditya Scindia, Union Tribal Affairs Minister Arjun Munda, Union Minister of State for HRD, Annapurna Devi, State Ministers Badal and Hafizul Hasan, Godda MP Nishikant Dubey and MLA Narayan Das were present on the occasion.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi today termed "shortcut politics" as a challenge for the country, urging people to be cautious and avoid falling in trap of those who make false promises. Modi, who was in Deoghar (Jharkhand), addressing a rally at Deoghar college ground said, "It is easy to fetch votes through shortcuts, but shortcut politics can destroy the country. It is easy to get votes by making tempting promises, adopting shortcuts. But those who make such a shortcut will never build airports, highways, AIIMS and medical colleges and other infrastructural projects."

Though Modi didn't name any political parties, he was referring to political parties which have come to power riding on making such tempting announcements.

# India mother of all democracies: Modi

## PM participates in centenary celebrations of Bihar Assembly

Patna: Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Tuesday asserted that India was the "mother of all democracies", drawing upon the legacy of ancient republics like Vaishali, and expressed satisfaction over the nation's march towards becoming a "mature democracy".

Modi made the remark at a function here organised on the occasion of centenary celebrations of Bihar Assembly as part of which he unveiled a commemorative pillar, planted a sapling of 'Kalpataru' tree and laid foundation stones of a guest house and a library.

"India is a democracy because we believe in saaman-jasya (harmony).... We are often told that India is the largest democracy. I would like countrymen to remember that we are not just the largest; India is the mother of all democracies," Modi said.

Expressing delight over being "the first prime minister to have visited the Assembly of Bihar", Modi recalled that the

state was home to Vaishali, said to be the oldest republic in the world.

"Many people say that democracy came to India because of western influence. By doing so they undermine the legacy of Bihar," said Modi, recalling events like Champaran Satyagrah of Mahatma Gandhi to make his point.

"It is not a mere coincidence that the centenary celebrations of assembly premises are being held simultaneously with the Amrit Mahotsav (75th anniversary) of the Independence," said the PM. He also stated that the nation was "on its way to becoming a mature democracy" which was evident from "better attendance of lawmakers inside Parliament and state assemblies" and "discarding of obsolete laws".

Modi also spoke of the "glorious past" of the state Assembly, which became the first in the country to bring in a zamindari abolition law and reservation for women in panchayats.

The PM's address was preceded by speeches of Chief Minister Nitish Kumar, Assembly Speaker Vijay Kumar Sinha and Leader of Opposition Tejashwi Yadav. PTI

# Another SpiceJet flight delayed; this time due to nose wheel malfunction

PNS ■ DELHI

A SpiceJet flight from Dubai to Madurai was delayed after the Boeing B737 Max aircraft's nose wheel malfunctioned on Monday. This is the ninth incident of technical malfunction on a SpiceJet aircraft in 24 days.

On July 6, the Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) issued a show-cause notice to SpiceJet following eight incidents of technical



malfunction in its aircraft since June 19. According to the DGCA officials, on Monday, the Boeing B737 Max aircraft with registration number VT-SZK operated the Mangaluru-Dubai flight. After the aircraft

landed, an engineer did a walk-around inspection and found the nose wheel strut was compressed more than usual. The engineer, therefore, decided to ground the aircraft and SpiceJet sent another aircraft from Mumbai to Dubai to operate the return Dubai-Madurai flight, officials said.

Asked about the matter, a SpiceJet spokesperson said, "On July 11, 2022, SpiceJet flight SG23 operating from Dubai to Madurai was delayed due to a last-minute technical issue. Alternate aircraft was arranged immediately which brought passengers back to India."

"Flight delays can happen with any airline. There has been no incident or a safety scare on this flight," the spokesperson added.

Interestingly, SpiceJet's occupancy rate has remained high in July despite multiple technical malfunction incidents reported in its aircraft during the last 24 days.

# Cong accuses Govt of 'interfering, intimidating, influencing' judiciary

New Delhi: The Congress on Tuesday attacked the government over its approach towards judiciary, alleging there was "interference, intimidation and influence", and also an attempt to "sabotage and subjugate" the important pillar of democracy.

Congress spokesperson Abhishek Singhvi told a press conference that these have unfortunately have become the insignia and spikes of this government, which is deplorable.

"The Modi government's approach towards the judiciary smacks of three 'I's': influence, interference and intimidation. The ruling party in this government can equally be accused of three 'S's', an attempt to 'sabotage, subjugate and subvert' the judiciary. This deadly combination of 3 Is along with 3 Ss is deplorable," he told reporters.

There was no official comment from the BJP on the charge.

Singhvi alleged it is now the worst kept secret for many years in legal circles and outside that "this control freak, micro management and dossier-loving sarkar" and its ruling party have indulged in several "manipulative tactics" towards the most trusted third organ of governance, the judiciary.

The Congress leader said the relevance of the Supreme Court's clear observation that lack of speed in dealing with bail as also hesitation or obstruction in their grant, would make India look "like a police state".

"The Congress believes that this is much needed guidance from the apex court, especially where the ruling dispensation seeks to rule through fear, control through coercion. PTI

# Alt News founder Zubair's interim bail extended by SC in UP case

New Delhi: The Supreme Court on Tuesday extended till further orders the interim bail of Alt News co-founder Mohammed Zubair in a case lodged against him in the Sitapur district of Uttar Pradesh for allegedly outraging religious sentiments.

A bench of Justices DY Chandrachud and AS Bopanna was told by Additional Solicitor General SV Raju, appearing for the Uttar Pradesh government, that it wants to file a counter affidavit to Zubair's plea seeking quashing of the FIR lodged in the case.

Raju said that since Zubair has already been granted bail in the matter, there should not be any objection from his side to grant time to file the affidavit.

Senior advocate Colin Gonsalves, appearing for Zubair, said he has already been granted interim bail till Tuesday by the vacation bench of this court and they would also like to file their reply to the counter affidavit to be filed by the state government.

The bench then asked the Uttar Pradesh government to file its response in four weeks and listed the plea for a final hearing on September 7.

It said that rejoinder, if any needs to be filed by Zubair's side, then it should be filed in two weeks thereafter.

The relief granted by the top court for Zubair will not have any effect as he is in judicial custody as per the order of a Delhi court in another case.

# Will he? Won't...

From Page 1

The petitioners also sought an order to take legal action against those responsible for financial irregularities and mismanagement of the Lankan economy, a news portal dailymirror.UK reported.

Besides Mahinda, the petition urged travel restrictions on Basil, former Central Bank governors Ajith Nivard Cabraal and W D Lakshman, and former finance secretary S R Atyangale.

The employees of SriLankan Airlines withdrew from their duties from noon in a bid to prevent responsible officials involved in the country's present crisis from leaving, the Daily Mirror newspaper reported.

President Rajapaksa has informed both Speaker of Parliament Mahinda Yapa Abeywardena and Prime Minister Ranil Wickremesinghe that he will resign on July 13, days after protesters stormed his official residence in rage over the island nation's worst economic crisis.

**PUBLIC NOTICE**  
It is to inform to the public at large Mr. Subodh Kumar S/o Mr. Laxman Narayan who is purchasing the RESIDENTIAL PLOT NO. 7A, TOTAL AREA MEASURING 58.11 SQ. YARDS I.E. 49.42 SQ. METER OUT OF KHASRA NO. 2384A SITUATED AT METRO CITY-1, IN THE VILLAGE HANAPURULLA PARAGANA & TEHSIL DADRIB DIT, GAUTAM BUDDH NAGAR, 12 From G. Ramesh Sharma W/o Mr. Narendra Kumar Sharma, who had owner through Sale Deed Dated 05.12.2018, and same to be financed & mortgaged by Vastu Housing Finance Corporation Ltd. However, Original Sale Deed Dated 29.09.2006 (Doc. No. 13932) and Sale Deed Dated 25.02.2011 (Doc. No. 34593), also Sale Deed Dated 20.06.2017 (Doc. No. 3353) have been lost and not available and an e-FIR has lodged on dated 12.07.2022 with AIR No. 2022000035255 for loss of document. If any Person having any type of claim/right/title/interest over the said property, may inform in writing, at the address mentioned below, about his objections, within 7 days from today, failing which it shall be presumed that the said property is free from all type of Encumbrances, lien, disputes etc.

**Lucem Legal LLP**  
B-93B, Second Floor, Opp. SBI Bank, Sector 2, Noida, UP-201301

**PUBLIC NOTICE**  
My Client Mohan Jha S/o Late Sh. Sahab Jha R/o K/1 Extension 92, Mohan Garden, Utlam Nagar-110059 have purchased a property bearing No. Nova East/1003 Project Supernova address Plot no.3, Sector-84, Noida and sell/transfer the above property to Mrs. Yashoda Sharma W/o Manoj Kumar R/o C-2/25A and M/S Supertech Realtors Pvt Ltd had issued Allotment letter in her favour due to some financial reason Mrs. Yashoda Sharma got to cancelled sell/transfer deal and hand-over to Mohan Jha all original documents. Mohan Jha has lost the original allotment letter of the above property, he has requested to M/S Supertech Realtors Pvt Ltd to restore above property in his name without original allotment letter and Receipt, if any body or financial institutions have objection, he/she may contact to M/S Supertech Realtors Pvt Ltd office plot no. C-2, Sector 96, Noida-201303 UP, within fifteen days.

**Tushar Sharma-Advocate # B-1/103**  
St No.4 Sant Nagar Burari New Delhi-84 Ph.: 9999592027

**PUBLIC NOTICE**  
My Client, Smt. Neeti Ojha W/o Sh. Sanjay Kumar Ojha R/o Flat No. 1332, Vinayak Tower, Mahaganpuram Society, NH. 24, Ghaziabad 201001 is Registered owner of property bearing address - UGF without roof rights. Property on Plot Bearing No. 64 presently known as A-64-B Land Measuring 50 Square Yards, out of Khassra No. 848 & 850 situated in the Village, Noida. Abadi known as Anand Vihar, Block A, Uttam Nagar, New Delhi vide Registered Sale Deed, dated 10.06.2022. Doc. No. 13543 executed by Mehender Sharma. The said property is under sale which is going to be mortgaged with IFIL Home Finance Limited by the purchaser. Any person/bank/financial institution having any claim right, lien any objection whatsoever in regard to above property, should notified to the undersigned/Adv. Vishal Mehra, E-713, Karkardooma Court, Delhi-110092 along with documentary evidence under address through registered A/D within 15 days from the date of publication of this notice failing which any claim, lien or objection shall be deemed to have been waived.

**Dheeraj Tiwari (Advocate)**  
Ch. No. E-713, Karkardooma Court, Delhi-110092

**PUBLIC NOTICE**  
Notice is hereby given on behalf of Mrs. Urmila Garg who is owner of Property bearing No. 125, area admeasuring 76 Sq. Yds. (63.54 Sq. Mtrs.), carved out of Khassra No. 196, situated in the area of Village Mouj Pur, in the abadi of Netaaji Gali, Mouj Pur, Shahdara, Delhi; by virtue of Relinquishment Deed 03.05.2013, which is registered as Doc. No. 909 in the office of Sub Registrar-IV, Seelampur, Delhi and intend to mortgage the same against the financial assistance from **Utkarsh Small Finance Bank Limited**. That, Surviving Member Certificate (SMC) of Late Mr. Tukki Ram Garg are/is not available. To comply the requirements of BANK/NBFC, we give this public notice that if any person(s) having any objection regarding ownership and/or creating mortgage of the said property is/are hereby requested to intimate in writing to the undersigned within 7 days at below address.

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269, Rama House, Ground Floor, Masjid Moha Opp. Uday Park, South Ext.-II, New Delhi-110049 Contact # 011-40048316

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**CHANGE OF NAME**  
**I, Neeraj Kumar Gupta S/o Suresh Chandra Gupta, R/o 158, Sector 3A, Rachna, Vaishali, Ghaziabad declare that the correct spelling of my minor son's name is Moksh Gupta & not "Moksha Gupta" as recorded inadvertently in the school records.**  
**PD(90126)C**

# Sena to...

From Page 1  
Congress leader Sanjay Nirupam has said that Uddhav succumbed to pressure from his MPs. "If Shiv Sena supports Draupadi Murmu, will it be a historic decision of the party? Do you know why? Because earlier MPs used to follow the

orders given by Balasaheb (Thackeray). This time the party will obey the order of the MPs. This will be the height of the internal democracy of Shiv Sena," Nirupam tweeted. Meanwhile, a Shiv Sena Members of Parliament Hemant Godse has told news agency PTI that several party MPs have urged Uddhav Thackeray to mend ties with the rebel Sena faction led by Chief Minister Eknath Shinde and former ally BJP. Godse said that in the Monday meeting the MPs conveyed to Thackeray that the BJP was a "natural ally" of the Shiv Sena unlike the "unnatural alliance" of the Maha Vikas Aghadi (MVA).

# SC to...

From Page 1  
The plea by the Delhi Government arises out of a split verdict of February 14, 2019, in which, a two judge-Bench of Justices AK Sikri and Bhushan, both retired since had recommended to the Chief Justice of India that a three-judge bench be set up to finally decide the issue of control of services in the national capital in view of its split verdict. In the 2018 judgement, a five-judge Constitution bench had unanimously held that the Lieutenant Governor of Delhi is bound by the "aid and advice" of the elected government, and both needed to work harmoniously with each other. embattled President Gotabaya

# Opp parties, BJP spar over...

From Page 1  
They also objected to the performance of a religious ceremony at the site of the unveiling. They also charged the Government with "modifications" in the original lions. The designers of the massive sculpture, however, claimed that there is "no deviation". Parties like RJD and TMC hit out at the Modi Government for allegedly distorting the national emblem by replacing the "graceful and regally confident" Ashoka lions with those having menacing and aggressive posture. Amid the rising row Hardeep Singh Puri lashed out at the Opposition, claiming that if the exact replica of the original

emblem from Sarnath is placed over the new Parliament, then it would be hardly visible beyond the peripheral rail. He also added that there is no difference between the original Sarnath and the new one except for the difference in size.

Puri, whose Ministry has been tasked with constructing the new Parliament building under the Central Vista redevelopment project, said one needs to appreciate the impact of angle, height and scale when comparing the two structures. If one looks at the Sarnath emblem from below, it would appear as calm or angry as the one being discussed, the Minister said on Twitter. The Minister also tweeted a picture of the Sarnath emblem. "Sense of proportion & perspective. Beauty is famously regarded as lying in the eyes of the beholder. "So is the case with calm & anger. The original #Sarnath #Emblem is 1.6 mtr high

whereas the emblem on the top of the the #NewParliamentBuilding is huge at 6.5 mtrs height." BJP media incharge and Rajya Sabha member Anil Baluni said the real reason behind the Opposition's allegation is its frustration over India creating its own Parliament building under the Modi Government, replacing the one created by the British over 150 years back. "The Opposition is totally due to political reasons. Opposition parties want to target Modi for one reason or another. It is just a conspiracy to vitiate the atmosphere by misleading people," he said. Meanwhile, leader of the Congress in the Lok Sabha, Adhir Ranjan Chowdhury, said on Twitter, "Narendra Modi, please observe the face of the Lion, whether it is representing the statue of Great Sarnath or a distorted version of GIR lion. Please check it and if it is needed, mend the same."

# India will not ...

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"These (discussions) relate to friction points where we are very very closely deployed vis-a-vis each other and the focus is to see whether disengagement at these friction points was possible.

"In the last year there has been very substantial disengagement. There are still some issues... There are ongoing discussions. I have myself raised the issue with the Chinese Foreign Minister when I met him in Bali (G20 Foreign Ministers' Meeting)," Jaishankar said.

"So, I think we have been very clear and very open about it. So, I really don't know what the confusion is," he added while responding to the query regarding Rahul Gandhi's tweet. Gandhi in his tweet had alleged that Prime Minister Narendra Modi was afraid of China, hides the truth from the public, just protects his own image, lowers the morale of the Army and plays with the security of the country.

On whether the China-Pakistan maritime exercises -- Sea Guardians -- pose a threat to Indian maritime security, the minister said security was always given a priority and was at the top of the country's foreign policy.



# CUET date, intimation slip for students issued: V-C



STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Delhi University's Vice-Chancellor Yogesh Singh on Tuesday informed the students to avoid any confusion regarding the Central Universities Entrance Test (CUET) examination date and advance intimation slip for the examination has already been issued to all the candidates.

According to Singh, a huge number of applications have been made by the students for admission under the new admission policy for Central universities starting from this year. In such a situation, considering the large number of subjects for all classes, a specific datesheet has been created for each applicant.

Singh said to avoid any confusion, the date of examination and advance intimation slip for the examination has

already been issued to all the candidates and the provision for the same has been made on candidates' dashboard too at [cuetsamarth.ac.in](https://cuetsamarth.ac.in).

Singh said according to the public notice of National Testing Agency (NTA), the admit cards for the first phase examinations that are going to be held on July 15th, 16th, 19th and 20th, 2022 have been made available on the dashboard of the candidates from 6.00 pm on July 12th, 2022.

Since there are a large number of subjects and combinations available, different sets of dates have been created to meet the needs and choices of each applicant. "More than 1.4 million students have applied for admission in 90 universities with different subject combinations. Maximum flexibility has been provided to the applicants to exercise the

options for taking admission in the programs of their choice," he said. "The purpose of the announcement of city and dates is to avoid any confusion and reduce the anxiety and apprehension of the applicants.

The information related to the admit card is completely attached with the dashboard of the candidate. It is important to provide the right information at the right time with maximum privacy and security," Singh added.

As per the public notice issued by the NTA, it will be conducting CUET (UG) 2022 from 15 July 2022 to 20 August 2022 (excluding days of other undergraduate Examinations) at different Examination Centres located in 500 cities across India and 10 cities outside India. "The CUET (UG) 2022 has been scheduled for approximately 14,90,000 can-

## No idea about new exam pattern, say students

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

With Universities entrance exams round the corner, the students seeking admission to Central universities including the Delhi University (DU) said they have "no idea" about the new exam pattern. The Common University Entrance Test (CUET), or CUET-UG, will be conducted from July 15 to August 10, the National Testing Agency (NTA) announced last week.

Over 11 lakh candidates have registered for the first edition of CUET. The NTA released the admit cards for CUET UG on Monday -- "too late," students said.

Delhi-based Ramya Shukla, 18, who is aiming to get into Delhi University, said there is panic among the students regarding the pattern of the examination.

"We don't know what will come, what we should study, what we should not. No sample papers were provided to us. Admit cards came very late and it is the first time such

exams are being conducted. "I have no idea what kind of paper will come. We are just hoping that whatever we have studied comes," Ramya said.

When asked how she is preparing for the examination in the absence of any sample papers, Ramya said: "I am just revising whatever I have studied in class XII. I have no other options and I am hoping that the exams will come from within the syllabus."

Ramya is not the only one wrecking her brains. Many of her peers share her anxiety.

Akash Gupta, 17, from Faridabad, who is also nursing a dream to get into the prestigious Delhi University, said the delay in issuing of the admit cards was a "little unfair."

"Only after admit cards are released, do students take their studies seriously.

For us, admit cards have come too late. Moreover, we have no idea what will come in the exams which is the most important exam of our life. It is a little unfair to us considering we are giving such an

examination for the first time," he said. As is expected in such cases, several students have turned to coaching institutes for help. "I have enrolled into a coaching centre, as I was unaware of what will come and what will not. Now I feel a little secure but the pattern should have been clarified earlier as we don't know what will come," said Jaishree, another university aspirant.

A total of 44 central universities, 12 state universities, 11 deemed universities, and 19 private universities have applied to adopt the CUET for UG admissions in the 2022-23 academic session.

Meanwhile, some teachers also expressed concerns over the lack of clarity around CUET, and accused the government of blocking admission to all central universities and many State Universities of repute.

Abha Dev Habib, an associate professor at DU's Miranda House, believes that the admission process will stretch up to November with the CUET.

## 5K Govt school students provided free preparatory classes: Sisodia

NEW DELHI: In an unique initiative to provide students all the required support in preparation for Common University Entrance Test (CUET), many Delhi Government schools recently concluded their free preparatory classes for around 5,000 aspirants.



With the CUET exam round the corner, the Deputy Chief Minister Manish Sisodia also interacted with students at Kautilya Sarvodaya Vidyalaya, Chirag Enclave to know their experiences and boost their confidence.

"Many of Delhi Government school students wanted to prepare for entrance, but were not in a situation to afford high coaching fees. For them, the Kejriwal Government under an unique initiative is ensured that all aspiring students are provided sufficient support at school level itself, so that they do not consider giving up dreams because of financial reasons," said Sisodia. Appreciating the efforts of schools in the south-east district, the Deputy Chief Minister said that recently Delhi Government schools in

this district conducted 20 days CUET preparatory classes for nearly 5000 students, which is an important step towards taking these students closer to their dream colleges.

Sisodia said that under this initiative of Kejriwal Government's students were guided in preparation of over 13 subjects.

"Along with this they were given exposure to 'Computer Based Test' through online mock test series. Individual mock tests were designed for each stream- arts, science and commerce. This helped students develop skills of time-management and stress management during exams," said Sisodia. **SR**

Biology is taken to Phase II, keeping in view the NEET (UG) 2022 being held on 17 July 2022, the public notice said.

## Stephen's undermined its own constitution in fighting legal battle with DU: Professor

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

At Stephen's College faculty member on Tuesday said the college undermined its own constitution when it entered into a legal battle with the Delhi University without consulting the college governing body.

The charge was levelled by Nandita Narain, an Assistant Professor at St Stephen's College, who in a letter to the governing body chairperson, called the move by the college a "gross violation" of its constitution.

In a letter to Bishop Prem Chand Singh, Narain, also a member of the college governing body, also questioned whether the college followed the procedure for the reappointment of Principal John Varghese. The college had recently filed a writ petition challenging a Delhi University's letter to it asking it to withdraw

its prospectus for the undergraduate courses for the academic year 2022-23. As per the newly-brought entrance-based admission system, the college was asked to admit students giving 85 per cent weightage to CUET and 15 per cent weightage to college interview for its unreserved seats.

The Common University Entrance Test, or CUET-UG, will be conducted from July 15 to August 10, the National Testing Agency (NTA) announced last week.

St Stephen's College and Delhi University have been at loggerheads over the admissions process with the former insisting on retaining its right to conduct interviews for admission of all categories of students. Narain in her letter called it surprising that the governing body was not informed by the college about its decision to file a writ petition against the university.



## Aesthetic upgradation work of Dhaula Kuan-IGIA road begins

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Delhi Lieutenant Governor Vinai Kumar Saxena on Tuesday launched the 'aesthetic upgradation' work on the road between Dhaula Kuan and Indira Gandhi International (IGI) airport and directed officials to complete the first stretch by August 15.

The aesthetic upgradation work will include plantation of flowering plants as well as installation of fountains and marble statues, an official statement said. Being carried

out by the Municipal Corporation of Delhi, Public Works Department and the Delhi Jal Board, these works were conceptualized after the LG visited the stretch right after taking over on May 26, it said.

Saxena issued instructions to officials to ensure enhanced aesthetics, symmetry in design and horticultural overhaul of area by planting suitable all weather flowering plants in a landscaped pattern on this stretch of road traversed by every visitor, tourist or dignitary coming to Capital, it said.

## 'Security arrangements made for Kanwar Yatra'

NEW DELHI: Delhi Police has made adequate security arrangements ahead of the 'Kanwar Yatra', which will start from July 14. A total of 1,925 police personnel are being deployed for traffic regulation. Besides, more than 56 cranes and motorcycles are also deployed at main roads and stretches of Kavar Yatra.

Meanwhile, Delhi police on Tuesday issued advisory to this effect. The yatra is being held after a suspension of two years due to COVID-19 pandemic.

Geeta Rani Verma, the Additional Commissioner of Police, Traffic said that a large number of Kanwariyas reach Delhi and some of them go to Haryana and Rajasthan via Delhi borders. This year the expected number is about 15 to 20 lakh.

The Delhi Traffic Police has made elaborate arrangements to segregate the movement of Kanwariyas and other road users to minimise inconvenience to the general public and devotees. "The motorists and road users should follow traffic rules and go through



their dedicated road lanes," Verma said. "A total of 1,925 police personnel are being deployed for traffic regulation, more than 56 cranes and motorcycles are also deployed at main roads and stretches of Kavar Yatra," said the additional CP. "If any devotee or public person seeks any information related to

traffic, he may approach Delhi Traffic Police Facebook page, Twitter handle @DelhiTrafficPolice, Whatsapp number 8750871493 and helpline number 1095/011-25844444, it said, adding that updated information at these platforms is available on 24x7," she said. **SR**

## Illegal liquor, meat shops on Kanwar Yatra route to remain shut

NOIDA: The Gautam Buddha Nagar administration has asked its departments to ensure that no illegal liquor or meat shops operate on the Kanwar Yatra route while drones will be used to monitor the law and order situation, amid adequate police personnel deployment on the routes.

The administration through multiple inter-department meetings chaired by District Magistrate Suhas L. Yathiraj has asked officials to also ensure that there is no waterlogging on the roads and that they are well-lit and free of potholes. "All officials have been instructed to ensure compliance with the Uttar Pradesh government's guidelines on preparations for the Kanwar Yatra like every year," a senior administration official said.

## Gang war averted with arrest of man tasked to kill gangster: Police

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

With the arrest of a man, the Delhi Police's Crime Branch on Tuesday claimed to have averted a possible gang war in the national Capital. Police said that the 30-year-old man was allegedly directed to eliminate gangster Neeraj Bawania and his gang members.

The accused identified as Rohit alias Lamba, is associated with the Ashok Pradhan-Neetu Dabodiya gang. He is involved in 20 criminal cases in Delhi, Uttar Pradesh and Haryana, police said.

Police also claimed that Lamba was also involved in the 2017 killing of gangster Kala Aasodiya, the uncle of Bawania, while being produced in a Bhajjar court. Ashok Pradhan, who is currently in jail, had got the weapon delivered to Lamba through his associates. They had plans to kill Bawania or any of his gang members while being produced in court, a senior police officer said.

According to Rohit Meena, the Deputy Commissioner of Police (DCP), Crime Branch, based on the secret inputs received, Lamba, a resident of Najafgarh, was apprehended on July 7 from the Uttam Nagar area. A pistol and two cartridges were seized from the

accused and an investigation is underway to find the source of the weapon, he said, adding Lamba was also allegedly involved in an attempt-to-murder case in the Najafgarh area.

On January 12, Lamba along with his associates had fired upon one Durga Singh, a resident of Najafgarh. The local police had arrested four accused, but Lamba and his associate were absconding, said the DCP.

"Lamba used to extort money from satta (gambling) operators in Najafgarh and Uttam Nagar areas. Since he changed location frequently, technical surveillance was mounted.

Lamba was finally traced near Vipin Garden in Uttam Nagar area," the DCP said.

The officer said that most of the members of the gang, including its leader Ashok Pradhan, have been arrested but Lamba was absconding till now.

"Our investigation revealed that Vikram, a member of Ashok Pradhan's gang was killed in 2016 by the rivals. So, Pradhan and Lamba were planning to kill rival gangster Neeraj Bawania and his associates during their production in courts," DCP added. Bawania is presently lodged in Tihar jail in an MCOCA case.

## Gangaram Hospital docs successfully perform auto-kidney transplant

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

Doctors from Sir Ganga Ram Hospital in the national Capital have successfully performed a challenging 'Auto-Kidney transplant' in a young patient, who had the history of a stone in left ureter, the pipe connecting kidney and urinary bladder.

'Auto-Kidney Transplant', means taking the normal kidney out from the left side of the body of the patient and bringing it close to the bladder on the right side and connecting it with blood vessels going from the abdomen to the right leg (External Iliac Vessels). Now both the kidneys are on the right side, said the doctors.

The hospital's Department of Urology & Kidney Transplant last month received a 29-year-old patient from Punjab who had a history of stone in left ureter.

A local doctor from Punjab tried to remove stone but during process 25-26cm of left ureter also came out along with stone, said medical experts from Sir Ganga Ram Hospital. "In a normal patient there is one kidney on left and one on right side and two ureters connecting these kidneys to bladder. But in this case we were surprised to see left kidney lying alone without any con-

nection with the bladder," said Dr. Vipin Tyagi, Senior Consultant, who operated the patient. "Since the patient was young and the intestine is not the ideal substitute for the ureter reconstruction. We decided to perform 'Auto-Kidney Transplant'.

Dr Tyagi further added: "The kidney was close to the bladder but with a gap of 4-5cms. So, we decided to reconstruct a tube of 4-5cms using the wall of the urinary bladder. As soon as this reconstructed tube was connected to the bladder, the blood flow to this kidney restarted and immediately urine started coming out through this tube."

"The options before us were either to remove the kidney or remake missing connection between kidney and bladder by using intestine or perform kidney autotransplant," Dr. Sudhir Chadha, Co-Chairperson, Department of Urology, added.

Meanwhile, the patient has recovered well and was discharged with both functioning kidneys on one side of body (right side). Dr. Harsha Jauhari, Chairman, Department of Kidney Transplant, Sir Ganga Ram Hospital explained, "There are three kinds of organ transplants: Auto-Transplant, Allo-Transplant and Xeno Transplant.

## After 15 years of corruption in MCD, BJP now increasing property taxes: AAP

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

The Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) on Tuesday alleged that after 15 years of corruption in Municipal Corporation of Delhi (MCD), the BJP is now increasing property taxes to increase the kitty from which they can loot further. The AAP termed the property tax hike as unjustified, tyrannical and burden on the public.

Addressing a Press conference, AAP spokesperson Saurabh Bhardwaj said that when all the three MCDs were unified, people of Delhi were conned by the BJP by making them believe that funds will be brought from the Union Government.

"On July 4, top brass of the MCD held a meeting to finalize the revised structure of property tax. This is a blueprint to make a bigger hole in the pockets of the common man and it has been handed over to the Lieutenant Governor," said Bhardwaj.

"In a few days, the people of Delhi will face the heat of revised property tax. The LG has given another gift to the common man by levying one per cent education cess on the property tax in East and North Delhi Municipal Corporation. We staunchly oppose this move," said Bhardwaj.

## Rain brings respite, waterlogging, traffic snarls

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Bringing respite from the muggy weather, the heavy showers on Tuesday brought down the mercury but caused traffic snarls and waterlogging in parts of the city. Budget airline Spicejet announced that departures and arrivals of flights have been affected due to heavy rains in the national capital.

However, Delhiites again felt the sweltering heat on late Tuesday afternoon after the mercury rose to 32.5, three notches lower than the normal for this season, with humidity reaching to 66 per cent at 5:30 in the evening. The minimum temperature settled at 26.2 degrees Celsius, a notch below normal, and relative humidity at 8:30 am was 93 per cent, the weather department said.

According to India Meteorological Department data, Delhi recorded 2 mm of rains in 24 hours till 8:30 am on Tuesday. Five districts in Delhi have reported deficient rainfall this monsoon so far due to poor distribution of rains, stated IMD data. On average, Delhi has record-



ed a rainfall deficiency of 23 per cent, gauging 90.4 mm of rains as against a normal of 116.9 mm since June 1, when the monsoon season starts.

## DMRC to soon start its first e-auto service

NEW DELHI: In a move to boost last mile connectivity for commuters, the Delhi Metro will soon roll out its first e-auto service in the national Capital, with a batch of 50 such vehicles to be launched from Dwarka Sector-9 station.

The Delhi Metro officials said that the decision has also been taken as the Delhi Metro Rail Corporation (DMRC) is finding running of its feeder buses less viable due to under utilisation. "The e-auto service would be launched soon, first from Dwarka sub-city. The first batch of 50 e-autos will be launched from Dwarka Sector-

9 station, and a total of 136 such autos will serve the sub-city. This is a step to boost last mile connectivity for metro commuters," DMRC chief Vikas Kumar said.

In his first interaction with journalists after assuming charge as the DMRC chief at the Metro Bhawan here, he also said that running DMRC feeder buses in inner areas is "less viable" due to "under utilisation" buses. And, the plan now is that DMRC feeders buses would be taken up by the Delhi government's transport department for operations, officials said. Besides, 136 e-autos planned for

the Dwarka sub-city, another 663 e-autos would be gradually rolled out in different areas later, a senior official said. The first batch of 50 e-autos are likely to be launched from Dwarka Sector-9 station in first week of August, he said. Charging point and other arrangements are being made at station. It will be run via a concessionaire, Kumar said.

Dwarka sub-city has 13 stations, including Dwarka Mor, Dwarka (interchange with Grey Line), Dwarka Sector-14 and Dwarka Sector-21 (interchange with Airport Line) on Blue Line.



# Joint projects, economy top agenda at I2U2 meet

Modi, Biden, UAE and Israeli leaders to participate in virtual summit

**RAHUL DATTA ■ NEW DELHI**



Prime Minister Narendra Modi will discuss ways to forge joint projects and further strengthen economic ties during the summit level talks with heads of States of Israel, the United States of America (USA) and the United Arab Emirates on Thursday. The virtual summit will also see the leaders take stock of food and energy shortages arising out of the ongoing Ukraine conflict.

This first conclave called I2U2 (India-Israel-UAE-USA) Leaders' Virtual Summit will comprise Prime Minister Modi, Prime Minister of Israel Yair Lapid, President of the UAE Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan and US President Joe Biden. The summit will take place during Biden's visit to Israel and Saudi Arabia.

Giving details of the upcoming high profile event, the ministry of external affairs(MEA) said here on Tuesday, the I2U2 Grouping was conceptualized during the meeting of the Foreign Ministers of the four countries on October 18 last year.

Each country also has Sherpa- level interactions regularly to discuss the possible areas of cooperation. The Leaders of the four countries

will discuss the possible joint projects within the framework of I2U2 as well as the other common areas of mutual interest to strengthen the economic partnership in trade and investment in our respective regions and beyond.

These projects can serve as a model for economic cooperation and offer opportunities for our businesspersons and workers, the MEA said. The I2U2 is aimed to encourage joint investments in six mutually identified areas such as water, energy, transportation, space, health, and food security.

It intends to mobilize private sector capital and expertise to help modernize the infrastructure, low carbon development pathways for our industries, improve public health, and promote the development of critical emerging and green technologies.

Besides the I2U2 Summit, Biden will participate in an in-person summit in Jeddah of the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) + 3, which will bring together leaders of Bahrain, Kuwait, Oman, Saudi Arabia, Qatar and the UAE, plus Iraq,

Jordan and Egypt. As regards the I2U2 grouping, sources said the four countries have assured there are no military objectives for this combine and the stakeholders are pushing a constructive agenda focused on the economy, especially infrastructure projects.

The new group is informally referred to as the 'West Asia Quad.' The original Quad combine in the Indo-Pacific includes India, US, Japan and Australia.

The I2U2 assumed formal shape following the Abraham Accords between Israel and the UAE. The I2U2 addresses marine security, infrastructure, and transportation challenges in the region.

Elaborating upon the significance of this grouping, sources said given the growing importance of the Western Indian Ocean (WIO), the four countries will enhance greater engagement in the region to secure their interests.

The WIO, the region lying between India, the Suez Canal and South Africa, is strategically critical as it contains the key maritime chokepoints of the Bab-el-Mandeb and the Suez Canal.

Also, the threat of maritime piracy, smuggling of narcotics and weapons and terrorism has increased the importance of this region where India has lot of stakes, they said. The I2U2 nations have common interests and their capabilities are complementary to each other and the grouping will give a boost to the engagement in the region.

## ICMR launches national registry to collect data, conduct research on multiple sclerosis

**PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI**

The Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) has launched the much-awaited national registry of multiple sclerosis (MS) and Indian Multiple Sclerosis and Allied Demyelinating Disorders Registry and Research Network (IMSRN) to create an organised system for data collection, storage, retrieval, analysis, management and outcomes in the sector.

It is the first Indian nationwide dedicated database research network of MS and allied demyelinating disorders. The IMSRN (www.imsrn.icmr.org.in), was started last October, with AIIMS New Delhi as the national coordinating centre and 24 participating centres spread across the country. Multiple Sclerosis is a neurological disorder typically affecting young individuals between the ages of 20 to 40 years, but may also occur in children and adolescents. MS affects the central nervous system, especially the brain, spinal cord, and optic nerves and comes with a wide range of symptoms.

Females are affected more from this disease than males. It is estimated that the MS affects about 20 persons per lakh population and neuro=myelitis-optica spectrum disorders (NMOSD) affects about 2.7 per lakh population although this may be an underestimation. As this disease presents with a gamut of manifestations, most

of the patients are either under diagnosed or misdiagnosed. Treatment is case based, depending on the patient and his/her various investigation parameters. Steroids, injectable and oral medications help in controlling the disease, said the doctors. Those present on the occasion were Professor Dr. Subrata Sinha, Dean Academics of AIIMS, Delhi and Dr Satish Chandra, former Director, NIMHANS, Bengaluru. Neurologists from different parts of the country and ICMR officials attended the inauguration.

Dr. Balram Bhargava, Secretary, DHR and DG, ICMR, said, "There is a major need to get an insight into disease profile and outcomes of our patients as well as plan research in various domains of pathophysiology, causation, management and rehabilitation on these disorders. There are new approved medications called "disease modifying therapies" which are seen to be effective, among them autologous hematopoietic bone marrow transplantation is an advancement in the treatment of MS in selective cases."

Dr. R S Dhaliwal, Head of division of the Non-communicable diseases, ICMR added that as of now, more than 1000 patients have been recruited for the registry. This will help estimate and understand disease burden, disease phenotypes, disease behaviour, drug efficacy, adverse effects, pregnancy outcomes, and long-term disease outcomes of our patients.

## Cong appoints Gehlot, Baghel as senior observers for poll-bound Guj, Himachal

**PNS ■ NEW DELHI**

Congress on Tuesday appointed its two Chief Ministers — Ashok Gehlot of Rajasthan and Bhupesh Baghel of Chhattisgarh — as senior observers of Gujarat and Himachal Pradesh, where Assembly elections are scheduled later this year.

The grand old party also received a shot in the arm as former Himachal Pradesh BJP president Khimi Ram joined the Congress.

The move to rope in both the chief ministers is aimed at sending a signal that the party is serious about the two state elections. The party had lost all five states — Uttar Pradesh, Goa, Punjab, Uttarakhand and Manipur — which had gone to polls earlier this year.

According to a Press statement by the Congress, Gehlot will be the senior observer for Gujarat, a state where he was in charge as general secretary in the past.

He will be assisted by Chhattisgarh minister T S Singh Deo and former Union minister Milind Deora as observers. Raghu Sharma, who was a minister in the Gehlot cabinet, is the All India Congress Committee in-charge of Gujarat.

Baghel, meanwhile, will be in charge of Himachal Pradesh. He will be assisted by senior Rajasthan leader Sachin Pilot and leader of the Opposition in Punjab assembly Partap Singh Bajwa.

Khimi Ram, a former minister and deputy speaker in the state, said he takes pride in joining the party that helped

## Rahul leaves for abroad, to return by Sunday

**PNS ■ NEW DELHI**

Former Congress president Rahul Gandhi on Tuesday left for a short personal visit abroad. Sources said the former Congress president left this morning and is likely to return by Sunday, ahead of the Presidential election and the Monsoon session of Parliament on July 18.

The party did not disclose any details of his visit and termed it personal. Rahul will, however, not be making it to the crucial party meeting for preparations of the 'Bharat Jodo Yatra' and internal elections of the Congress on Thursday, where all general secretaries, in-charges and PCC presidents have been invited.

Rahul has been often criticised by the BJP for his frequent visits abroad. In early May, Rahul was spotted in a nightclub in Kathmandu at a time when the party was in the midst of a crisis. After the BJP



raked it up, the Congress said he had gone to attend the wedding of a friend.

His visit to the UK at the end of May also triggered a row when it was claimed that the trip did not have requisite political clearance from the Government. The Congress responded by saying that such a clearance was required only when an MP visited a foreign country as part of an official delegation.

Moreover, Rahul's remarks in the United Kingdom at an event had also led to a controversy as he claimed that Indian diplomats, of late, had become arrogant.

## Puri lauds CPWD's contribution in Central Vista



**PNS ■ NEW DELHI**

Union Housing and Urban Affairs Minister Hardeep Singh Puri on Tuesday said the Central Public Works Department (CPWD) is making a significant contribution to governance through the ambitious Central Vista redevelopment project which includes construction of a new parliament building, Vice President Enclave and Common Central Secretariat.

Speaking at an event on the 168th foundation day of the CPWD, the minister said that India is witnessing an urban renaissance. The CPWD, which comes under the HUA ministry, has been executing the government's ambitious Central Vista redevelopment project. The project also includes construction of a new PMO and prime minister's residence.

idence. Puri said that the CPWD has steered important public works over the years, and has become a leading enterprise in the field of construction management.

The CPWD developed the National Capital Region in New Delhi with the execution of projects such as Rashtrapati Bhawan, North and South Block, and Parliament House, among other equally iconic projects, he said.

"Even today, it (CPWD) is making a significant contribution to governance through the rejuvenation of the Central Vista project, with the development of the New Parliament Building, VP Enclave, and Common Central Secretariat," he said.

Speaking at the event, HUA Secretary Manoj Joshi said that the agency should also focus on quality contractors and new technology. Last week, Puri had said that the redevelopment project of the Central Vista Avenue, stretching from Vijay Chowk to India Gate, would be completed by July 18.

He had said some minor works are currently being carried out at one or two underpasses, which are likely to be completed soon.

## Gadkari for desi construction equipment manufacturing industry to do research

**PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI**

Union Minister for Road Transport and Highways Nitin Gadkari on Tuesday called for an organisation specially for the Indian construction equipment manufacturing industry which can do research and give appropriate technology for the future as futuristic planning is very important.

Gadkari said there has to be an organisation similar to the automobiles sector specific ARAI. Addressing ICEMA's Annual Session 2022 Gadkari said the ministry will support in making of this organisation which can be qualitatively helpful for development of futuristic technology.

According to a Government Press release, the Minister emphasised on research and development of equipments. He said innovative

entrepreneurship science technology research skill and successful practice we name as knowledge and the conversion of knowledge into wealth is the future. He said without economic viability technology is not useful and asked manufacturers to concentrate on the fuel efficiency.

Gadkari also stressed on the importance of bio LNG, Bio CNG and Hydrogen as alternate fuels for cost saving and reduction in pollution. Talking about innovation and Electric vehicles he said its time to change and manufacturing of JCBs on electric should be started.

On the occasion, Gadkari also emphasised on skilled manpower, appropriate training and road safety for long term planning. He said this industry is giving strength to Indian economy and in making atmanirbhar bharat.

## SKM to hold panchayat to protest against MSP, Agnipath, Lakhimpur



**PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI**

The Samyukta Kisan Morcha (SKM) will hold a panchayat on August 22 to protest against the Government over the issues of legal Minimum Support Price for food grains, Agnipath scheme and Lakhimpur violence.

According to SKM, A panchayat will be held on August 22 at the Jantar Mantar.

A meeting of the SKM, which had spearheaded the agitation against the now-scrapped farm laws, was held here and it was decided that the farmers' collective will not allow any political outfit to associate with it and will remain completely apolitical," the SKM said after

meeting with farmers' leaders. The SKM claimed that some people had written to the Centre over the MSP issue without taking the other SKM members into confidence.

"After this came out, we decided to have no relation with them. They tried to sell out the movement. Today, the whole SKM is here," an SKM leader said. According to sources, the SKM will hold 'Vishwasghaat Seminars' across the country protesting against the Centre. The protest will begin on July 18, the commencement of the Monsoon Session of Parliament and last till July 31, the day freedom fighter Udhham Singh was hanged by the British.

SKM will also hold a 75-hour mass dharna in Lakhimpur Kheri from August 18 to August 20, demanding the sacking of Uttar Pradesh home minister Ajay Mishra. The dharna will be conducted on the occasion of the 75th anniversary of India's Independence.

## Controlling population not challenge for particular caste, community: Naqvi



**New Delhi:** Maintaining that population control is not a challenge for a "particular caste-community" but it is a "mammoth challenge" for the entire country, senior BJP leader and former Union Minister Mukhtar Abbas Naqvi on Tuesday said here that no country can ignore or afford the problem of population explosion.

While replying to questions of newsmen here, Naqvi said we all have to work together to find a way for its solution.

"Increasing this problem by making religion a security cover is neither in the interest of the country nor the society", he said. The former Minister, the only Muslim face in the Modi-cabinet who made his

exit from it recently with reports of a new "weighty" assignment waiting for him, said that effective measures taken by most of the countries of the world to control population have yielded positive results.

"People of these countries have supported their respective governments and administrations in efforts to control increasing population," he said. Naqvi said that some people want to create "unlimited problems on the pretext of Allah's wish" on the issue of population control.

## IN SHORTS

**TICKETS BOOKED FOR BALLOT BOXES**



**New Delhi:** Ballot boxes for the presidential election are 'flying' as passengers and have been allotted an aircraft seat each as they make their way to most State capitals where they will be used for the July 18 poll. Separate tickets are booked for the ballot boxes in the name of 'Mr Ballot Box' and 'he' is seated in the front row of aircraft beside the seat of the officer transporting the poll material such as ballot papers and special pens to mark votes.

**EXPUNGE REMARKS AGAINST ACB: SC**

**New Delhi:** The Supreme Court on Tuesday asked Karnataka High Court's Justice H P Sandesh, who made some "adverse" remarks against the Anti-Corruption Bureau and its ADGP Seemant Kumar Singh while taking up a bail plea in a bribery case, to defer the hearing in the matter for three days. The ADGP had sought expunction of adverse remarks of Justice Sandesh, who had called the ACB a "collection centre" and Singh a "tainted officer", and a stay on the proceedings in the high court.

**SC ACQUITS MURDER ACCUSED**

**New Delhi:** The Supreme Court on Tuesday acquitted three accused of murder charges in a case, in which a person had died after being assaulted following a verbal altercation over overtaking of vehicle, saying there was no pre-mediation of mind to commit murder.

## India to have new envoys in Bangladesh, UK, Japan, Canada, South Korea

**PTI ■ NEW DELHI**

Seasoned diplomat Pranay Verma is set to be appointed as India's new High Commissioner to Bangladesh, considered an important posting in view of fast expanding bilateral ties.

Verma, a 1994-batch Indian Foreign Service officer and currently serving as India's envoy to Vietnam, will succeed incumbent Vikram Doraiswami in Dhaka, people familiar with the development said on Tuesday.

Doraiswami is set to assume charge as Indian High Commissioner to the UK. The overall ties between India and Bangladesh witnessed a major expansion during his tenure that began in October 2020.

High Commissioner to the UK Gaitri Issar Kumar retired from service on June 30. The people cited above said Indian Ambassador to Kuwait Sibi George is likely to be appointed as the new envoy to Japan, considered another key position as cooperation between the two countries

have assumed greater significance in the last few years. The incumbent in Japan, Sanjay Verma, is being appointed as high commissioner to Canada. The post is lying vacant after Ajay Bisaria retired last month, the sources said.

George earlier served as ambassador of India to Switzerland. Neeta Bhushan, currently serving as additional secretary in the Central Europe division in the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) will be the new envoy to New Zealand.

India's current envoy to New Zealand, Muktesh Pardeshi, is set to be back at the headquarters of the MEA in New Delhi.

It is learnt that India's Consul General to Chicago Amit Kumar is set to be appointed as the new ambassador to South Korea.

Kumar will succeed Sripriya Ranganathan in Seoul. India's Deputy Chief of Mission in Nepal Namgya C Khampa is likely to be appointed as the new envoy to Kenya.

## DCGI grants marketing authorisation to SII's qHPV vaccine against cervical cancer

**PNS ■ NEW DELHI**

The Drugs Controller General of India (DCGI) on Tuesday granted market authorisation to Serum Institute of India (SII) to manufacture indigenously-developed India's first Quadrivalent Human Papillomavirus vaccine (qHPV) against cervical cancer.

DCGI's approval comes following recommendation by the Subject Expert Committee (SEC) on COVID-19 of the CDSCO on June 15 over the same Prakash Kumar Singh, director (government and regulatory affairs) at Serum Institute, had applied to the DCGI seeking market authorisation of qHPV after the phase 2/3 clinical trial was completed with support of the Department of Biotechnology to ensure its early availability, official sources said.

The Government advisory panel NTAGI had recently also approved the qHPV after reviewing the clinical trial data of the vaccine.

In the application to the DCGI, Singh is learnt to have stated that qHPV vaccine CERVAVAC has demonstrated



robust antibody response that is nearly 1,000 times higher than the baseline against all targeted HPV types and in all dose and age groups.

In the application, Singh had mentioned that lakhs of women are diagnosed every year with cervical cancer as well as few other cancers and the death ratio is also very high.

Cervical cancer in India ranks as the second most frequent cancer among women

between 15 and 44 years of age. "Also, it is noteworthy that presently our country is fully dependent on foreign manufacturers for the HPV vaccine.

In line with the philosophy of our group & under leadership of our CEO, Dr Adar C Poonawalla, It has always been our endeavour to make available high quality 'Made in India' vaccines at affordable prices for people of our country and world at large," Singh mentioned in the application.

## CBI books Lakshadweep MP Faizal in dry Tuna fish export scam case

**PNS ■ NEW DELHI**

The CBI has booked Lakshadweep MP Mohammed Faizal on corruption charges for alleged irregularities in export of Laskmeen (dry tuna fish) to a Sri Lankan company represented by his nephew.

The NCP MP's nephew Abdul Raziq Thangal and a Colombo-based company that he represented, SRT General Merchants Importers and Exporters and Managing Director of Lakshadweep Cooperative Marketing Federation Ltd., MP Anwar have also been named as accused in the FIR.

On Tuesday, the agency conducted searches at the residence of Faizal in Delhi, Calicut and Lakshadweep, officials said.

It was alleged some public representatives and public servants colluded with each other to facilitate the export of tuna fish, carrying an average international price of Rs 400 per kg.

The fish was procured from local fishermen through Lakshadweep Cooperative



Marketing Federation (LCMF) and exported to SRT General Merchants.

It is alleged that no payments were made by the company to LCMF, resulting in a huge revenue loss to the federation and local fishermen to the tune of Rs 9 crore.

The case is related to irregularities/corruption in the procurement of dry tuna fish in 2016-17 by the accused persons by giving fake assurance of higher rate to the fishermen and exported the same through Lakshadweep Cooperative Marketing Federation Ltd. to Sri Lanka through a private party.



# 6 dead as heavy showers continue in Gujarat

Over 27K people evacuated, CM visits rain-hit areas

PTI ■ AHMEDABAD

Heavy downpour continued in various parts of Gujarat on Tuesday and six people died in rain-related incidents in the last 24 hours, raising the toll to 69 since June 1, officials said.

A total of 27,896 people were evacuated from flood-affected areas and 18,225 of them remained in shelters while the others have returned home, state Disaster Management Minister Rajendra Trivedi said.

Chief Minister Bhupendra Patel visited the rain-hit Bodeli town in Chhota Udepur district and also conducted an aerial inspection of some flood-affected areas, his office said.

While heavy rains continue to lash districts in south Gujarat since the last few days, parts of Kutch and Rajkot in the Saurashtra region also witnessed heavy showers since Monday night, officials said.

According to the State Emergency Operation Centre (SEOC), Anjar taluka in Kutch received 167 mm rainfall in six hours since 6 am on Tuesday, while Gandhidham taluka in the district got 145 mm rainfall.

Narmada, Surat, Dang, Valsad and Tapi districts of



Vehicles wade through the waterlogged Ring Road after monsoon rains, in Rajkot on Tuesday

PTI

south Gujarat, and Panchmahal and Chhota Udepur in central part of the state witnessed heavy rains over the last one day. The India Meteorological Department has issued a red alert for heavy to very heavy rains in Valsad, Navsari, Surat, Tapi, Dang, Narmada, Chhota Udepur districts, as well as Kutch, Rajkot, Jamnagar, Devbhumi Dwarka and Morbi in the Saurashtra region till Wednesday morning.

As heavy downpour continued in Navsari district, the Purna and Ambika rivers over-

flowed and caused flooding in some of the low lying areas.

A total of 9,500 people have so far been evacuated from the affected areas in Navsari district, an official said.

In Navsari city, fire department personnel rescued around 20 people, including a five days old child, from a residential society affected by flooding, he said.

Besides, 21 people stranded on the Karjan river bank near Rajpipla in Narmada district after a sudden water surge

rescued on Monday night in a joint operation by the National Disaster Response Force and the State Disaster Response Force. They carried out the rescue operation in the night darkness without waiting for helicopters, the government said in a statement. Heavy rainfall also disrupted normal life in Rajkot city as it received 196 mm showers within a few hours on Tuesday, the SEOC said.

Several residential areas were inundated and flooded roads posed problems for commuters.

Rajkot taluka in the district received 115 mm rainfall in just six hours from 6 am on Tuesday, the SEOC said.

Dediapada in Narmada district received 534 mm rainfall in the 24-hour period till 6 am on Tuesday, while Tilakwada and Sagbara talukas recorded 508 mm and 422 mm rainfall, respectively.

Umarpada in Surat received 427 mm rainfall, while Kaprada in Valsad received 401 mm rainfall during the same 24-hour period, the SEOC said. **PTI**

## Heavy rain lashes parts of Maha: Three dead, 95 evacuated

PTI ■ MUMBAI

Heavy rains continued to lash parts of Maharashtra, leading to the death of three persons in related incidents over the past 24 hours and the evacuation of 95 people from flooded places, the state government said on Tuesday.

Thirteen teams of the National Disaster Response Force (NDRF) and three of the State Disaster Response Force were deployed in vulnerable districts of the state, a disaster management department report said.

Heavy rains and strong winds lashed Mumbai and suburbs on Tuesday morning and flooded many parts of the city within a couple of hours, throwing road traffic out of gear at some places, officials said.

The Met department has issued a red alert of extremely heavy rains at isolated places for Nashik, Palghar, and Pune districts for the next three days.

Schools and colleges remained closed in Nashik city on Tuesday following heavy rains over the last few days and people in flood-prone areas were asked to shift to safer places, officials said.

Nashik city received 97.4



Commuters wade through a waterlogged road during monsoon rain in Thane, on Tuesday

PTI

mm rainfall in the 24 hours till 8.30 AM on Tuesday, but the rains later took a break, bringing some respite to residents, they said.

On Monday, very heavy rains were witnessed near the Saptashrungi temple in the district. Six devotees received minor injuries during flooding on the temple steps, authorities said.

Palghar district neighbouring Mumbai received 109.9 mm of rainfall in the past 24 hours ending 8:30 AM on Tuesday but there is no flooding. A team of the National

Disaster Response Force (NDRF) has been stationed in the Palghar district as a precautionary measure, the report said.

Thane district received 106.3 mm of rainfall in the last 24 hours ending 8:30 AM on Tuesday but no river is flowing above the warning level. Two teams of NDRF are deployed in the Thane district, which is part of the coastal Konkan region.

A portion of a house collapsed in the Rabodi area of Thane on Tuesday, but no one was injured in the incident, a civic official said. **PTI**

## Jaishankar should focus on external affairs instead of Kerala: Vijayan

KUMAR CHELLAPPAN ■ KOCHI

Minister for External Affairs MS Jayashankar earned the wrath of Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan for the former's statement on Monday about the role of the UAE Consulate General at Thiruvananthapuram in the infamous Gold Smuggling Scam.

While speaking to media on Monday, the External Affairs Minister said that the Centre was aware of the gold smuggling scam and related incidents. "Since it is sub-judice to speak about it, I would not speak about it.

Whatever happened at the Consulate General office should not have happened," said Dr Jayashankar.

Chief Minister Vijayan who took umbrage over the statements made by Dr Jayashankar, told the Legislative Assembly on Tuesday that the Minister should focus on external affairs instead of dabbling in affairs of Kerala. "We all know why he has come to Kerala.

This is part of the BJP's 2024 election agenda. The external affairs minister has no role to play in the State," said Vijayan while responding to a calling attention motion by the Leader of the Opposition V D Satheeshan.

The Chief Minister said that Minister Jayashankar's visit was reportedly to oversee the progress of a fly-over in the National Highway connecting Thiruvananthapuram and Kollam.

## Police action is response to ED questioning TMC GS: BJP

SAUGAR SENGUPTA ■ KOLKATA

Amid ongoing fierce turf war between the BJP and the ruling Trinamool Congress the Bengal police on Tuesday arrested Gopal Singh the driver of Soumendu Adhikari the brother of Opposition Leader Suwendu Adhikari in connection with a land scam at Contai in East Midnapore district. Contai is Adhikari's home town.

A notice to appear before the police has also been served to Sutapa Adhikari the sister in law of the State Opposition Leader in connection with a separate graft case.

Singh a municipal worker and the driver of Soumendu Adhikari the former chairman of the Contai municipality was arrested in connection with the "illegal" grabbing of a local crematorium land and "illegal" distribution of stalls constructed there.

A notice to appear was also sent to Krishnendu Adhikari and Sutapa Adhikari two relatives of Suwendu Adhikari in a separate case related to construction of trident lamp posts in the municipal area, sources said.

According to sources the above-mentioned cases had links with the Sharada scam. Very recently the arrested Sharada chit fund boss Sudipto Sen had mentioned about a letter he wrote to the CBI and ED about how he was extorted by Adhikaris for allowing them to pursue their real estate business at Kanthi and other areas of East Midnapore.

Singh's arrest was made

on the basis of complaint filed by Subal Kumar Manna, TMC leader and the present chairman of the Contai municipality, sources said.

The BJP promptly called the police action against the Adhikari family a ploy to neutralise the central agencies from pursuing the coal and cattle smuggling cases where TMC national general secretary Abhishek Banerjee and his wife Rujira Banerjee Narula had been repeatedly questioned by the central agencies. Abhishek a TMC MP is also the nephew and probable successor of the Chief Minister.

Suwendu who was in Kolkata immediately alleged "vendetta politics" by the Mamata Banerjee Government saying there was no point using threats to him. "This is a kind of threat by the TMC but they must know that I am made of a different mettle... they are welcomed to do whatever they can.

They have arrested a poor and innocent man and are using him as a pawn... We will prove our case in the court," Adhikari who on Tuesday met Governor with a picture of Mother Kali to register his protest against the offensive remarks made by Trinamool MP Mahua Moitra about the Goddess.

Adhikari led a group of about 200 seers to the Raj Bhavan where he complained against Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee for not taking any action against Moitra who had made "offensive" statements against the Goddess. The Opposition Leader had on Monday taken out a huge rally at Krishnagar from where Moitra is an MP.

Soon after meeting Adhikari the Governor attacked the TMC Government for taking recourse to appeasement politics. He said, "Although certain comments were made about Goddess Kali

recently, there was no attempt to restrain those comments. This is because appeasement-politics is going on in West Bengal.

## Adhikari convoy hit again by truck

PNS ■ KOLKATA

Within a fortnight of a vehicle of his convoy being hit by a truck an escort vehicle in Bengal Opposition Leader Suwendu Adhikari's convoy was once again hit by another truck, this time near Kolkata's Kalikapur area.

The accident took place late on Monday night. Ram Narayan Ram the driver of the truck had been arrested Police said adding none was injured while the truck grazed past the rear of the police vehicle.

## Police officer martyred, 2 cops injured in terrorist attack in Srinagar

PNS ■ JAMMU

A police officer was martyred while two cops were injured after 'unidentified' terrorists targeted three policemen in the Lal Bazar area in Srinagar from a close range late on Tuesday evening

Initially, three policemen were rushed to the nearest hospital and the entire area was cordoned off to track down the footprints of the terrorists behind the attack.

According to a Kashmir zone police tweet, "Assistant Sub Inspector identified as Mushtaq Ahmad succumbed to his injuries while two other policemen were undergoing treatment in the hospital".

Terrorists active in Srinagar possibly carried out the attack, sources said.

## Disqualification petitions against Cong MLAs Lobo, Kamat admitted: Speaker

**Panaji:** The disqualification petitions filed by the Congress against two of its MLAs has been admitted, Goa Assembly Speaker Ramesh Tawadkar said on Tuesday.

The Congress leadership in the coastal state had alleged that its MLAs Michael Lobo and Digambar Kamat were trying to split the party in connivance with the ruling BJP.

The Congress had announced it was removing Lobo as Leader of Opposition, while Kamat was absent from a meeting of the party held on Monday night.

Speaking to reporters on the second day of the monsoon session of the state Assembly, Tawadkar said, "I have received two disqualification petitions filed by the Congress party against Leader of Opposition Michael Lobo and Congress MLA Digambar Kamat."

"Goa Congress president

## Goa Cong manages to avert split for now, 10 MLAs attend party meet

PTI ■ PANAJI

Ten out of the total 11 Congress MLAs in Goa attended a meeting chaired by senior leader Mukul Wasnik here as the party managed to avert a split in its fold for the time being.

Except former chief minister Digambar Kamat, all the other Congress MLAs, including Michael Lobo, were on Monday night present in the

Amit Patkar filed the disqualification petitions on Monday. However, since I was not available yesterday, I met the petitioner today.

The petitions will be taken up for consideration after the

meeting which went on for over two hours at the state party headquarters.

Congress Goa desk in-charge Dinesh Gundu Rao and state party president Amit Patkar were also present during the meeting. Wasnik claimed some people with "bad intentions" were trying to create a rift in the Goa Congress, but the legislators scuttled it by showing they are united.

He said during the meet-

current Assembly session gets over," he added.

Tawadkar said Lobo continued to be LoP as of now because the Congress Legislative Party was yet to inform him about who it

wished to name for the post. Lobo and Kamat have been accused of anti-party activities by Congress' Goa desk in-charge Dinesh Gundu Rao and state unit chief Amit Patkar. **PTI**

## Bombs hurled at RSS office in Kerala

**Kannur:** Bombs were hurled at a Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS) office in Payannur area of this northern district of Kerala on Tuesday with the party accusing CPI(M) of carrying out the attack. The incident occurred around 1.00 AM, police said.

The number of attackers is not yet known and CCTV footage of the area was being examined to ascertain the same, they said.

An FIR under relevant provisions of the Explosives Act has been registered and the investigation was going on to trace the culprits.

It also said that RSS has accused CPI(M) workers of carrying out the attack.

According to CCTV visuals of the attack several explosions could be seen within the boundary wall of the RSS office with many of its windows damaged in the incident. **PTI**

## Murmu meets BJP lawmakers from Bengal, assured of support in Presidential poll

**Kolkata:** NDA presidential nominee Droupadi Murmu met BJP lawmakers from West Bengal on Tuesday to seek their support for the July 18 election.

BJP state president Sukanta Majumdar and Suwendu Adhikari, the leader of the opposition in the West Bengal assembly, along with central leaders of the party were present at the hour-long meeting held at a hotel.

According to sources of the state BJP unit, the party lawmakers assured her of the support in the poll. Murmu is visiting various states to garner support from lawmakers.

Earlier in the day, she visited the ancestral house of Swami Vivekananda in north Kolkata.

West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee had recently said that Murmu, a tribal BJP leader from Odisha, could have



NDA's presidential candidate Droupadi Murmu receives a 'Chhau' mask from State BJP President Sukanta Majumdar (R) and party leader Suwendu Adhikari during a meeting, in Kolkata on Tuesday

PTI

been a consensus candidate had the saffron camp discussed with the opposition parties before fielding her.

Major non-BJP parties of the country, including the Congress and the TMC, have

named former union minister Yashwant Sinha as the joint nominee for the presidential election.

The BJP presently has 17 Lok Sabha MPs from West Bengal. **PTI**

## Gyanvapi mosque: Muslim side completes arguments on maintainability of case

**Varanasi:** The Muslim side on Tuesday completed its arguments on the maintainability of the Gyanvapi mosque-Shringar Gauri complex case in the district court here.

District Government Counsel Rana Sanjiv Singh said after Muslim side completed its arguments, the Hindu side started its arguments that will continue on Wednesday.

Madan Mohan Yadav, the counsel for the Hindu side, said the Muslim side demanded from the court to dismiss the case.



The district court had on July 4 fixed the hearing for July 12 as the Muslim side sought more time to present their arguments.

Earlier, five women had filed a petition seeking permission for daily worship of Hindu deities whose idols are located on an outer wall of the mosque.

A lower court had ordered a videography survey of the complex. The survey work was completed on May 16 and the report was presented in the court on May 19.

The Hindu side had claimed in the court that a Shivling was found during the videography survey of the Gyanvapi mosque-Shringar Gauri complex.

On the order of the Supreme Court later, the matter is now being heard in the district judge's court from May 23. **PTI**

## Big conspiracy made to sabotage State's security: Yogi

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ LUCKNOW

Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath on Tuesday said he had realised that a big conspiracy was made to sabotage the State's security.

"Conspiracies were made to eliminate the Provisional Armed Constabulary (PAC) force of UP, after which 54 companies were terminated. While watching the parade today, I realised what a big conspiracy to sabotage the security of UP was made... with an

attempt to deprive the youth of this service," Yogi said without taking the name of any political party. He was addressing the 'Convocation Parade Ceremony-2022' of PAC Recruit Reserves at Reserve Police Line here on Tuesday.

Congratulating the newly-recruited PAC constables on their successful training, the chief minister said, "We all know how a huge number of police and PAC posts were pending for recruitment when the new government was formed in 2017. In the past five



years, we have succeeded in recruiting and training more than 1.62 lakh constables."

Terming the 'shutdown' of at least 54 companies as a conspiracy to hamper the security in Uttar Pradesh, Yogi said he realised the conspiracy only after witnessing the parade.

"I am satisfied that within

five years, we have recruited and connected more than 1.62 lakh youth of UP to the state police by enhancing the capacities of training centres, providing them the most successful training, by taking important steps to modernise the police force," the CM said.

Welcoming and congratulating the trained constables, he said, "Because of the six months of successful training, the convocation parade is being organised in 87 centres in UP.

On this occasion, I wel-

come the brave youth, congratulate their families and pray for their delightful future."

The chief minister also said that the decade-long pending promotions of police officers had also been taken further by the government in a time-bound manner.

Emphasising on the improved image of the state, he reiterated his faith in a strong and well-trained police force and asserted that people's outlook towards the people of UP had changed a lot in five years.



# Dividend, not a curse

That India may become the most populous country in 2023 isn't necessarily bad news

The 27th edition of the United Nations' World Population Prospects 2022, which projects India to become the most populous country surpassing China in 2023, brings focus on the subject in the country. Population has been a major issue in India. Children were taught in schools that rising population was a big, if not the biggest, problem. Successive Governments carried out programmes to check its growth, which became coercive during the Emergency in the mid-1970s; the infamous vasectomy drive played a role in the fall of the Indira Gandhi Government in 1977. After liberalisation in 1991, however, the population issue receded from public discourse as well as political debate, though politicians, mainly from the Bharatiya Janata Party, intermittently raised the issue. In fact, top leaders, including Prime Minister Narendra Modi, have even talked about 'demographic dividend'. One reason for the declining importance of population as a political and public issue has been the progress made by our country in checking its growth. The total fertility rate (TFR) — or the average number of children born to any woman in her lifetime — declined to two in 2019-21 from 2.2 in 2015-16, as per the fifth round of the National Family Health Survey, or NFHS-5. Since the replacement level of fertility (suggesting no population growth) is 2.1, a TRF of 2 indicates a decline in population in the future. In other words, population is no longer a threat to prosperity as it was decades ago when rapid rise in numbers was eroding the gains of economic growth and development.

Indeed it was growth and development that made population a non-problem, thus suggesting a great national feat: India has managed to escape the vicious circle of extreme poverty and fast-growing population. So, the report by the population division of the UN's Department of Economic and Social Affairs, saying that both China and India would have over 1.4 billion people in 2022 doesn't ring any alarm bells. India's feat is more impressive than China's, which also succeeded in controlling its population, because it was done by persuasion, the excesses during the Emergency being an exception. India should stay the course and not come with a law to control population, which the Government may be planning, as a Union Minister said a few weeks ago. Such an endeavour would be worse than unnecessary, for discussion about population in our country often turns divisive; Muslims are accused of being careless about the number of children. While it is true that the population growth rate among them is higher than that of the national rate, it is declining, which is a good sign. At the same time, the Government has to ensure that the demographic dividend doesn't become a liability. It must strive harder to do away with the supply-side constraints which are impeding economic growth. For only growth can generate the conditions to make the dividend to work for national advantage.



Children play in a waterlogged street after monsoon rains, in Rajkot

# At a crossroads

Under EPS, the AIADMK stands stronger but it must proceed with caution

The election of Edappadi Palaniswami as the interim general secretary of the AIADMK and expulsion of O Panneerselvam along with four associates are on expected lines. Panneerselvam, who had been the coordinator of the party steering committee since September 2017, wanted to seize the party apparatus despite losing hold over the 1.5 crore-strong cadre. His rival Palaniswami was working overtime winning friends and influencing people by hard work. Panneerselvam's fate was sealed the day he approached the courts with complaints against Palaniswami and his associates for taking control of the party. The AIADMK bylaw states that no member should challenge the party dikats in courts. Though Panneerselvam tried to stall the general council meeting, the Madras High Court made it unequivocally clear that it cannot interfere in inner-party squabbles. Palaniswami and Panneerselvam, who were in opposite camps, came together in September 2017 to preempt the move by VK Sasikala and her family to hijack the AIADMK.



The cadre stood behind Panneerselvam and Palaniswami because of their strong reservations against Sasikala and company, who were trying to convert the AIADMK into a family-run enterprise.

The 'Mannargudi Mafia', as the Sasikala clan is known, had usurped control of *Jaya TV* and *Namathu MGR*, much to the cadres' chagrin. Had it not been the Supreme Court verdict of February 2017 which upheld the sentencing of Sasikala, her relations Elavarasi and Sudhakaran, Tamil Nadu would have seen Puratchithai Chinnamma (as Sasikala describes herself) subverting the popular mandate received by Jayalalithaa, and anointing herself the Chief Minister.

Despite the party's general council easing her out, Sasikala moves around claiming to be the AIADMK general secretary. If it was servility that elevated Panneerselvam to the Chief Minister's chair thrice, Sasikala succeeded to a great extent in annexing the party structure through palace coup. Palaniswami, who became Chief Minister by default in February 2017, proved to be a good administrator and tactician. His candidness won many a heart. Though the AIADMK did not win the 2021 Assembly election, it put up a commendable performance under his leadership and endeared Palaniswami to people. The AIADMK developments prove that the days of dynasty politics are coming to an end in India. If the cadres understand the emergence of Panneerselvam-Sasikala-Stalin axis to speed up the AIADMK's disintegration, it might survive longer.

# The rise and fall of political dynasties

The debate in Sri Lanka was: What should take priority — economics or politics? The message from Aragalaya protestors is: fix politics first

Sri Lanka has witnessed its Arab Spring moment. Accused of enjoying extra-constitutional authority and with 27 military-led task forces in governance, the Sri Lankan Army (SLA) has steered clear of intervention in support of Rajapaksa. The writing was on the wall...literally.

What we've seen happen in Sri Lanka on July 9 is nothing short of revolution but protestors have targeted only corrupt politicians. Street power on this scale has not been witnessed in South Asia. After the economic melt-down, the aim of leaderless mobs was removal of Rajapaksa clan. Both brothers, the heroes of the war against Prabhakaran's Tamil Tigers, were in the dock since March for political and economic mismanagement. Elder brother, Prime Minister Mahinda Rajapaksa, was forced to resign in May, replaced by Ranil Wickremesinghe whose United National Party had been decimated in the elections. The protestors had continued their 'Gota Go Home' campaign on the iconic Galle Face Green. Ignoring their voices, Gotabaya, a former Colonel, began consolidating his power with the help of Wickremesinghe.

Gotabaya had promised to install an all-party interim Government, order fresh elections and curb powers of the President with the 21st amendment. In an interview, he said he will not go as "a failed President, run his full term but not stand for a second term". He admitted he had made mistakes over tax cuts, chemical fertiliser ban and delay in approaching IMF. He pointedly mentioned that as part of any austerity programme, he will not cut defence spending but reduce only recruitment. The Rajapaksa put the military on a pedestal after the 2009 war victory when there were calls to downsize the army. The 100,000 army can be reduced by half. Facing no threats, military expenditure at 1.93 per cent GDP is one of the highest in south Asia.

July 9 saw the biggest countrywide protests with people storming presidential palace and Wickremesinghe's private home



becoming collateral damage. Like Mahinda, Gotabaya was whisked off to a military base from where he announced he would step down as President today, a full moon day considered auspicious for Buddhists. BBC reported that Gotabaya and Mahinda were on two Sri Lankan Navy ships, ready to flee but the army reported they are in Sri Lankan territorial waters and Gotabaya will return on July 13. Defence Secretary former Maj Gen Kamal Gunaratne had earlier said, according to Constitution, it was the duty of the military to protect a former President. More than six weeks after Wickremesinghe took over, he too will resign for failing to evolve an economic recovery plan. Another Rajapaksa, former Finance Minister Basil, was prevented from flying out.

Last month, NGOs like Proposal for Change by Bar Association Sri Lanka, March 12 Movement, National Movement for Social Justice, Direction Sri Lanka, Way Forward for Young Leaders — altogether some 12 entities met with parliamentarians. The expectation of a watered down 21st Amendment that would have allowed Gotabaya to continue in office all powers intact, forced the exit of Gotabaya and Ranil.



THERE IS LITTLE CLARITY ON HOW SRI LANKA'S COLLAPSED ECONOMY WILL BE REBUILT. FOREIGN EXCHANGE IS NEEDED IMMEDIATELY. THE TWO BIGGEST CRISES ARE FUEL AND FOOD SHORTAGES

Parliament Speaker Mahinda Yapa Abeywardene is likely to become the interim President. His term will run 30 days until a new President is elected. He will ask Parliament to elect a new Prime Minister. But a change of guard alone will not lower the mercury as Wickremesinghe on July 5 announced that the country was bankrupt and economy in a hole.

There is little clarity on how the collapsed economy will be rebuilt. Foreign exchange is needed immediately. The two biggest crises are fuel and food shortages. On July 6, Colombo announced it was suspending interest payment on \$175mn sovereign guaranteed bonds of Sri Lanka Airlines and would be unable to pay interest on loans taken to build a China-backed airport and expand a runway. Foreign residents and tourists have been asked to fill out forms for fuel. Most petrol stations are dry as the country awaited a fuel tanker on July 10. Critical surgery is on hold as hospitals are facing long power cuts.

Tamils did not take part in these protests but Muslims did. This is a turning point in Sri Lanka's history. The debate from the start was: What should take priority — economics or politics? The mes-

sage from Aragalaya protestors is: fix politics first. Soon after the 2006 Maoist revolution, Mahinda visited Kathmandu. Nepalese feared that he had come to save King Gyanendra and monarchy as Rajapaksa, translated in Nepali, means "*Raja ko paksa*" — in favour of King. Mahinda did not know he and his clan would shortly meet a similar fate. Thankfully SLA has stayed out of politics. Its loyalty to the Rajapaksa had been overestimated. Gota was always a reluctant politician and ran for President due to 20th Amendment which prevented Mahinda from a third term. The political demise of the Rajapaksa will make a good study on the rise and fall of political dynasties.

India must play its cards cautiously. It has reiterated its policy is dictated by interests of Sri Lankan people and humanitarian concerns. There is no quick fix to the national crisis but for India, while it is time to wait, certainly not just to watch.

(The writer, a retired Lt Gen, was Commander, IPKF South, Sri Lanka, and founder member of the Defence Planning Staff, currently the Integrated Defence Staff. The views expressed are personal.)

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### IGNORING THE COMMON CITIZEN

Sir – In the furore over the Maharashtra revolt, Nupur Sharma's controversial comments on the Prophet, the gruesome retaliatory killings, arrests over tweets, bulldozer actions and so on, the bread-and-butter issues that trouble the beleaguered common man have been pushed to the sidelines. And whenever the issues of livelihood flare up, people's emotions are stirred up by invoking the 'wrongs' in history and cruelties of Muslim rulers! Sadly, the strategy causes more problems than it solves. Yet, it is necessary to talk aloud about the current state of India's economy: Gross Domestic Product at constant prices, which was ₹140 lakh crore in 2018-19, increased marginally to ₹146 lakh crore in 2019-20 and stayed flat at ₹147 lakh crore in 2021-22.

Also, data show that the growth has not been even across India, with the southern States constantly increasing their share in the GDP. Inflation continues to be above seven per cent. A LPG cylinder weighing 14.2 kg now costs anywhere between ₹1,000 and ₹1,092 after the latest hike, against ₹417 and ₹452 in 2014. The exchange rate of rupee is inching towards ₹80 a dollar, the lowest ever. It is not the time to ruminate on the perceived wrongs in history.

Haridasan Rajan | Kozhikode

### TACKLE NARCO-TERROR EXPEDITIOUSLY

Sir – The effects of Pakistan's narco-terrorism in Kerala, Maharashtra, Goa, Punjab and Jammu & Kashmir have been catastrophic. Without action, India's border vulnerability is costing the nation a lot. The number of drugs traded and ingested in India has dramatically increased during several years. With rising heroin, marijuana and brown sugar consumption, the formerly chronic problem of drug misuse has now reached epidemic proportions. Trafficking and usage like this have detrimental effects on border terrorism. Drug terrorism is a long-standing issue. It is well known that Pakistani factions have histor-

## Lanka must turn over a new leaf



Eventually, the long-ruled empire of President Gotabaya Rajapaksa in Sri Lanka has been toppled by the exasperated citizens because they were left with no option but to resort to rampage and arson of royal presidential building and office after being fed up with anarchy, deep financial blunders and corruptible dynastic leadership which was going on for several generations. It has now landed the island nation on the cusp of an unprecedented future without an able and competent political leadership. However, there's hope that the interim Government formed by all the

Opposition parties could make headway from the scratch for the goodwill of people and tame the runaway economic crisis and inflation, which doomed the Rajapaksa Government, including the citizens.

Although the gutted Sri Lankan public has finally shown the exit door to its long-serving incompetent rulers and leaders, and possibly spent their anger and frustration, but how will things improve when the country is already enmeshed in a deep debt trap and surviving on bailout packages from the IMF, besides India and Japan. It's time that the improbable functional Government as directed by the Chief Justice and Central bank's chief must come up with rather convincing and monumental reforms to tide over the political crisis. Also, it must woo the investors and IMF and take the nation ahead on the path to prosperity..

Janga Bahadur Sunuwar | Jalpauri

ically given separatists money obtained through the drug trade.

Former Pakistani PMs have accepted that the country's security service sells heroin, marijuana and brown sugar to fund clandestine military operations. Large drug shipments with militants are seen often in Kashmir and other border States of India. However, the trend has changed and drugs are now being transmitted right across the Line of Control. The current trend is for militants from Pakistan to transport drugs directly in addition to weapons and ammunition. Terrorists from Pakistan are engaging in the same nefarious behaviour in India that they did in Punjab, where they first provided weapons training before drugging the youth.

Vijaykumar HK | Raichur

### POPULATION EXPLOSION IS A THREAT

Sir – I wish to draw the attention of the authorities concerned about the population explosion in India. Every day, the global population is increasing rapidly and the rate of increase is alarming. Humanity

is now confronted with this critical problem. This population explosion is swiftly increasing the strain on Earth's population. If the prevailing rate of birth boom goes on unchecked, the global population will touch an extreme figure and it will create an acute problem. The growing pressure on land will create serious instability in the economy, political and environment from which no one will get rid of.

The trouble might lead to invasion of agricultural land and forests for construction of new townships, resulting in much less food manufacturing and ecological disturbances. As a result, scarcity of food and dwelling places will occur. Various pandemic diseases will spread across the world. In view of all this, I think that the Government should take necessary steps and introduce family planning as a strict law as early as possible to solve this problem, else the public grievance at any time may lead to dire consequences.

Divyansha Sharma | Ujjain

Send your feedback to: letterstopioneer@gmail.com

## SOUND BITE

This mass movement (natural farming) will also be widely successful in the coming years

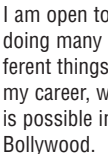


Prime Minister —Narendra Modi



I haven't spent the last few turbulent years plotting or briefing against the Prime Minister.

Boris Johnson loyalist —Grant Shapps



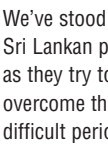
I am open to doing many different things in my career, which is possible in Bollywood.

Actor —Emily Shah



Every single time, it gets more and more meaningful and special.

Wimbledon champion —Novak Djokovic



We've stood with Sri Lankan people as they try to overcome this difficult period.

MEA spokesperson —Arindam Bagchi



FIRST COLUMN

DIABETES, HIGH BP CAN CAUSE KIDNEY FAILURES

Diabetes and high BP mostly cause kidney disease



SAURABH PAUKHARIYAL

Healthy kidneys in a human body are responsible for filtering of excess fluid and waste from blood. But conditions of diabetes and high blood pressure can affect functioning of kidneys, and cause loss of function over time. This medical condition is referred to as Chronic Kidney Disease (CKD).

If left unchecked, the disease can progress further and may eventually lead to kidney failure. In such events when the functioning of the kidney is compromised, processing of waste gets affected. This leads to the conditions where the patients require extrinsic support to facilitate cleansing of the blood via a recurring therapy termed as dialysis. This makes it evident that kidneys are critical body parts. The wellbeing of the people is incumbent upon maintaining healthy kidneys.

The interplay of diabetes, high blood pressure and kidney diseases is at times hard for people to understand. This interplay is a vicious cycle. Diabetes and high blood pressure are both to a large extent lifestyle diseases and directly cause kidney malfunction. This in a time span causes progressive worsening of kidney disease.

Yet, it must be understood that this vicious circle doesn't take shape in a human body overnight, and rather the process is slow and mostly taking place without the understanding of the patients. It is a slow-paced deterioration, which may go undetected for a long time as the disease manifests itself at quite an advanced stage for most individuals, making it difficult to treat the disease.

The symptoms of CKD include loss of weight, poor appetite, fatigue, swollen ankles, hands and feet, blood in urine, insomnia, itchy skin, muscle cramps, and headache.

Accounting for 17 per cent of the total global diabetic burden, India is referred to as the 'diabetic capital of the world'. The country has around 80 million diabetic people and the number is likely to increase to 135 million in the next 25 years.



High blood pressure is also not far behind, which has been ranked the third-highest health risk factor in Asia. In India, about 33 per cent of the urban population and 25 per cent of those in the rural areas are said to be suffering from the conditions of high blood pressure.

Additionally, the burden of such non-communicable diseases has been rising in India. This is evident from a growing incidence of high blood pressure and diabetes and the resultant kidney diseases due to their interplay. According to a report, more than three per cent of the total deaths in India between the age group of 15-69 occur every year due to renal failure or kidney diseases. In addition, around 1.5 lakh new cases of kidney failure are reported in India each year and a lot of them succumb to the disease either due to the lack of awareness or due to the shortage of dialysis units. This rate is only going to further increase with the increasing number of patients suffering from diabetes and high blood pressure.

If detected timely, the progression of kidney disease can be slowed down. Symptoms of the disease can be managed through medications and regular consultations with a nephrologist.

Yet, most important is to make lifestyle changes, including maintaining an optimum weight, exercising, meditating, consuming less salt and alcohol, and quitting smoking. This is indeed key to maintaining a healthy lifestyle. It must be noted that regular exercise is advised to stay away from most of the ailments.

For the diabetic, monitoring blood glucose level regularly and controlling it with medicines as well as following a diet chart recommended by a nutritionist is essential.

(The author is Co-founder, VitusCare Dialysis Centres)

Telangana's Rythu Vedikas truly empowering farmers

VANAM JWALA  
NARASIMHA RAO

Telangana's Rythu Vedikas are helping the collective might of farmers; delivery of support is streamlined with better outcomes

Telangana Chief Minister K Chandrashekhara Rao had conceived and inaugurated the first of the 2,601 Rythu Vedikas (Farmers' Platforms) in the state two years ago in 2020. They are now yielding desired results. The initiative is proving to be a path-breaking role model in the areas of agriculture, while being hailed by many for being a revolutionary step that would change the contours of the farming sector.

Agriculture is a way of life and tradition that has shaped the culture and economic life of the people of Telangana. It continues to be the focal point to all the strategies for planned socio-economic development of Telangana. Agriculture plays an important role in the economy of Telangana and its better performance is vital for inclusive growth. For boosting agriculture production, Telangana Government deployed one Agriculture Extension Officer (AEO) for every 5,000 acres (Cluster) and then felt the need to create a platform for the farmers to assemble, share their ideas and experiences, while also assimilating knowledge on latest technologies.

Accordingly, the Government of Telangana decided to construct 2,601 Rythu Vedikas (2,462 in rural areas and 139 in urban parts of the state) in all the Agriculture Extension Officer's clusters. Government earmarked an amount of Rs 22 Lakhs for each Rythu Vedika towards the construction cost. Rythu Vedikas are the first of its kind in India where a platform is created for the farmers to organize themselves in groups for attaining their ultimate objectives to get the remunerative prices for their crops, better marketing facilities, higher productivity and ultimately making the agriculture profitable. They will also help the farmers to organize themselves into a formidable group to protect their rights. As on date construction of all the Rythu Vedikas has been completed.

The Rythu Vedikas are provided with tap water, electricity, furniture, while the state government also bears the maintenance costs. The Government of Telangana proposes to connect all Rythu Vedikas across the state through the optical fiber network of T-Fiber by ITE&C department. The AEOs are working from the Rythu Vedikas and are utilizing the Rythu Vedikas as AEOs office. Rythu Bandhu Samithi members are also working from Rythu Vedikas. Rythu Vedikas function through three verticals manned by qualified staff. They are -- Delivery of Services, Capacity Building and Knowledge Dissemination. They also get farmer advisories, besides linkages with service centers for all the Government schemes.

Delivery of services include: Crop Booking, Enrolment of farmers under Rythu Bandhu, Rythu Bhima, PM Kisan, etc., and implementation of various state and centrally sponsored schemes by selection of farmers. Capacity building includes region specific and crop oriented training



CHIEF MINISTER RAO HAS UNVEILED HIS VISION FOR THE RYTHU VEDIKAS' ROLE IN TELANGANA BY ASSERTING THAT THEY SHOULD BECOME A FORMIDABLE FORCE NOT ONLY IN AGRICULTURE BUT ALSO FOCAL CENTERS TO DETERMINE CHANGE IN GOVERNANCE

The author is Chief Public Relations Officer to Chief Minister, Telangana



programs to create awareness among the farmers. Also, training of the farmers on identification, advantages of natural risks and timely application of inputs to harness the higher yields are provided. The emphasis is to empower the farmers by adopting good agricultural practices, duly emphasizing the critical stages of a crop and decision making in his own field, and also helping to minimise the pesticide and insecticide usage. As part of knowledge dissemination, training and field diagnostic visits and demonstrations take place.

Besides, timely farm advisories to farmers on pests and disease outbreak, weather updates, market prices, availability of seeds, fertilizers, etc., at Rythu Vedikas in Coordination with Agriculture University, IMD, TSDPS, etc., are provided to the farmers. Rythu Vedikas are serving as service centers for all Government schemes at cluster level by disseminating the latest guidelines, feedback of farmers and for making the schemes more reachable to the farmers thereby achieving the ultimate objective of making Rythu Raju (Farmer the King).

Agriculture and Horticulture Universities, National level institutes like WALAMTARI, DRR, DOR as well as State and National Institutes on Agriculture and allied departments are utilizing the Rythu Vedikas for their programs.

The formal inauguration of the initiative was accompanied with passion, courage, vision, determination and devotion of CM KCR to usher in a qualitative, quantitative and expressive farm policy that would eradicate all problems, adversities and ill effects of the farm sector

and make it a profitable sector forever. More than the stated aims and objectives, the Rythu Vedikas ably supported by the government policies would become instrumental to bring in a transparent, people-friendly and progressive change in the governments to come.

Chief Minister Rao has unveiled his vision for the Rythu Vedikas' role in Telangana by asserting that they should become a formidable force not only in agriculture but also focal centers to determine change in governance. He also wanted farmers to utilize the Rythu Vedikas to stall attempts by the Centre to thrust upon the anti-farmer and pro-corporate Farm Acts that were brought in forcibly and later withdrawn by the union government.

Inaugurating Rythu Vedika, the Chief Minister made a passionate plea to farmers to utilize the Rythu Vedika and the opportunity provided by the government to become a united force and charter the course of their profession in the way it is profitable and comfortable. He envisaged that through Rythu Vedikas, farmers at a later stage would be able to determine which crops they should cultivate, what price they should fix for their produce and how to market them for greater profitability.

Referring to the concept of Rythu Vedika, CM KCR said that nowhere in the world or in the country, farmers were organized and this Telangana Model is the first of its kind step to make farmers united and a formidable force since the farmers by and large in our country and worldwide were left to themselves.

He compared the situation of agriculture before and after the

formation of the state. Apart from an increase in the extent of cultivation by leaps and bounds, the output also reached dizzy heights. He also said that no other state in the country, not even the Centre, is implementing a slew of programs, projects, policies and schemes for the agriculture sector and farmers as was being done in the State. In fact, the pro-farmer and pro-agriculture schemes like Rythu Bandhu, Rythu Bhima, Rythu Vedikas, and 24-hour free power supply and host of other schemes were initiated by KCR government without any one asking for it or making a demand for them.

KCR's vision and dream was to see that one day the Rythu Vedikas should become catalysts for a better change. The Chief Minister made it abundantly clear that he wanted every farmer in the state with the extraordinary support provided by the government to rise to the occasion, and reach a stage where he should be able to clear all his dues and have about Rs 2 to 3 lakh with him as savings to invest into his cultivation on his own without taking any external financial support. "It is then that the real Bangaru Telangana is achieved," the CM remarked.

No doubt, the Rythu Vedikas in the days to come will become a hub for all the farmer related activities, Agriculture Knowledge Sharing and Dissemination Centers at cluster level duly serving the objective of the Government to provide services at doorsteps of the farmers to make farming sustainable and profitable. Why aren't these replicated all over the country to benefit farmers?

POINTCOUNTERPOINT

IT'S A REAL HONOUR AND PLEASURE TO MEET AMIT SHAH. A TRUE STATESMAN... HIS VISION FOR INDIA IS AWE-INSPIRING.  
—HARYANA CONGRESS MLA  
KULDEEP BISHNOI



HE IS FREE TO MAKE HIS OWN DECISION (TO JOIN THE BJP), BUT HE SHOULD RESIGN FROM THE POST OF MLA BEFORE DOING SO.  
—HARYANA EX-CHIEF MINISTER  
BHUPINDER SINGH HOODA

How a band of brothers destroyed Sri Lanka

Gota made elder brother Mahinda Prime Minister, his other brothers Basil and Chamal Ministers of Finance and Irrigation

How did you go bankrupt?" Bill asked (in Ernest Hemingway's 1926 novel The Sun Also Rises). "Two ways," Mike said. "Gradually and then suddenly." Sri Lanka is much the same.

The James Brothers robbed banks. The Marx brothers made people laugh. The Rajapaksa brothers wreck countries. Well, only one country, actually, but they have done a spectacular job on it.

After twenty years with the Rajapaksa brothers in power most of the time, Sri Lanka today is bankrupt. There is no money left to import food, fuel, or medicines. There are daily power outages, and the economy has ground to a halt. Even domestic food production has crashed, and the poor are starting to starve.



GWYNNE DYER

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

At the time of writing the middle brother, Gotabaya Rajapaksa, is still president, but after months of mostly peaceful mass protests huge mobs occupied the presidential palace on Saturday. The 'Terminator', as he used to be called, has reportedly taken refuge on a naval vessel in Sri Lanka's coastal waters for safety, and promises to resign on Wednesday.

Not everybody is convinced that 'Gota' will keep his word, for he is a former general who still has great influence in senior military circles, but even if he does quit he leaves the country in ruins. And although corruption played a big part in the disaster, the real causes were arrogance and ignorance.

Five years ago, Sri Lanka

was the most prosperous and developed part of South Asia: almost twice the per capita GDP of India, only one-fifth of India's infant mortality rate, the same average lifespan as the United States—and clean streets. Then, in 2019, Gotabaya Rajapaksa won the presidential election.

He made his elder brother Mahinda prime minister, his other brothers Basil and Chamal ministers of finance and irrigation, respectively, and gave Mahinda's sons Namal and Yoshitha other ministries. But apart from Mahinda (who had been president twice already), they collectively knew as much about running a country as the average traffic cop.

"Monetary policy under Rakapaksa and his band of jokers was completely irresponsible," said economist and opposition member of parliament Harsha De Silva in April, when the crisis was just getting underway. "It was driven by stupidity and arrogant idio-

cy."

"If you rob a man and take his car or his money, the police will throw you in jail for twenty years. But this man robbed every person in Sri Lanka of half their wealth and he's still the president."

How did these clowns get to run an entire country? Because there was a long civil war, and they got the credit for winning it.

The war was about ethnicity and religion. Most of Sri Lanka's people are Buddhist and speak Sinhala, but a 30 per cent minority, concentrated in the north and east, speak Tamil

and are mostly Hindu in religion (with significant Christian and Muslim minorities).

Tamils have been in Sri Lanka for at least 2,000 years, but the Buddhist majority sees them as alien and even as newcomers. The Tamils did well under British colonial rule, when most Buddhist Sinhalese refused to collaborate with their new political masters, so there was revenge-taking after independence in 1948.

Buddhist-dominated governments removed the official status of the Tamil language and imposed restrictions on higher education for Tamils. There were even anti-Tamil pogroms, and in 1987 the Tamil minority started to fight back in a guerilla and terrorist war that sought an independent Tamil state.

Up to 100,000 people died in the war, which ended with an orgy of killing in the final five months of battles in 2009. Mahinda Rajapaksa was the president who directed those battles, and he emerged from the war as a national hero.

Even after the Tamil surrender, Mahinda's government went on torturing and 'disappearing' opponents, and his family grew rich from corrupt deals. (His youngest brother Basil was known as 'Mr. Ten Percent'.) By 2015 it got so bad that they lost the election.

When the brothers (all now in their 70s) won power back on an even more extreme ethno-populist platform in the 2019 election, it was Gotabaya Rajapaksa who became president, but it was actually Basil who ran the economy. Almost

completely ignorant of financial matters, he ran it into the ground.

The Rajapaksa government ran up \$61 billion in foreign debt, stole some, and wasted much of the rest on enormous white-elephant projects. It cut taxes and printed money to cover the shortfall. It even banned artificial fertilisers on the advice of Indian eco-evangelist Vandana Shiva, whereupon food production collapsed.

The bill came due a few months ago, and Sri Lanka defaulted. The Rajapaksas will probably flee abroad, and Sri Lanka will be able to borrow some money and start to rebuild. But it may be the end of the decade or longer before the population sees its old living standards again.



# UKRAINIAN ROCKET STRIKE TARGETS RUSSIAN AMMUNITION DEPOT



AP ■ KYIV

Russian ammunition depot was apparently targeted by Ukrainian forces overnight, resulting in a massive blast captured on social media.

The Ukrainian military's southern command said the rocket strike targeted the depot in Russian-held Nova Kakhovka, about 35 miles (55 kilometers) east of the important Black Sea port city of Kherson, which is also occupied by Russian forces.

Video on social media showed a massive explosion. The nature of the strike suggested that Ukrainian forces used US-supplied multiple-launch High Mobility Artillery Rocket Systems, or HIMARS, to strike the area.

Russia's Tass news agency offered a different account, saying that the target was a mineral fertilizer storage facility that exploded, and that a market, hospital and houses were damaged.

Some of the ingredients in fertilizer can be used for ammunition.

Ukrainian authorities also said that Russian fire struck the southern city of Mykolaiv on Tuesday morning, hitting two medical facilities and residential buildings. Four people were wounded in the shelling attack, Mykolaiv regional governor Vitaliy Kim said on Telegram.

Air raid sirens sounded early Tuesday morning in the western city of Lviv and other areas of Ukraine as Russian forces continued to make advances.

According to a Tuesday intelligence briefing from the British military, Russia is continuing to make "small, incremental gains" in Ukraine's eastern Donetsk region, where heavy fighting led the province's governor last week to urge its 350,000 remaining residents to move to safer places in western Ukraine.

Yet many in the Donbas, a fertile industrial region in eastern Ukraine made of the Donetsk and Luhansk provinces, refuse - or are unable - to flee, despite scores of civilians being killed and wounded each week.

The death toll in a Russian rocket attack that struck an apartment building in eastern Ukraine on Saturday has risen to 34. The head of the Donetsk regional military

administration, Pavlo Kyrylenko, made the announcement on social media, saying nine wounded people had been recovered from the building in Chasiv Yar.

The British intelligence briefing said Russia had seized the Ukrainian town of Hryhorivka and continued to push toward the Donetsk province cities of Kramatorsk and Sloviansk.

"Russian forces are likely maintaining military pressure on Ukrainian forces whilst regrouping and reconstituting for further offensives in the near future," the intelligence briefing said.

However, Russia may be relying more heavily on private forces, like the Wagner mercenary group, to avoid a general mobilization, the British said.



## Ukraine granted extra EU aid of 1 billion euros

AP ■ BRUSSELS

European Union nations on Tuesday approved fresh aid for Ukraine as the country faces growing economic damage from Russia's invasion.

Finance ministers from the 27-nation EU gave the go-ahead on Tuesday to 1 billion euros (\$1 billion) in loans to the Ukrainian government.

The sum brings to 2.2 billion euros the total amount of EU macro-financial assistance to Kyiv this year. An initial 1.2 billion-euro EU loan package got the green light from the bloc's finance chiefs days before Russia's full-scale Feb 24 attack.

The European Commission, the EU's executive arm, in mid-May proposed extra assistance of up to 9 billion euros to Ukraine. The planned 1 billion-euro payout is part of this initiative, which comes as Russia makes advances in eastern Ukraine and casualties mount on both sides.

"This will give Ukraine the necessary funds to cover urgent needs and ensure the operation of critical infrastructure," said Zbynek Stanjura, finance minister of the Czech Republic, which currently holds the EU's rotating presidency, in a statement.

Ukraine said last week that its post-war reconstruction would cost \$750 billion. Meanwhile, the govern-

ment in Kyiv is estimated to need around 5 billion euros a month to keep the economy afloat.

Group of Seven countries, including the United States, have pledged to help Ukraine meet its short-term financing requirements in addition to providing military aid to Kyiv and imposing wide-ranging economic sanctions against Russia.

The five-month-old war is having worldwide economic and social reverberations, ranging from possible food shortages in Africa to energy-supply disruptions in the EU. These in turn are raising the risk of a global recession.

The EU on Thursday is expected to lower its forecast of bloc-wide economic growth in 2022 for the third time this year.

In May, the European Commission projected that EU gross domestic product would expand 2.7% in 2022, downgrading a forecast made in February of 4% growth. The February outlook was itself weaker than a November projection of 4.3% EU GDP growth this year.

Over the past two months, Russia has cut off or reduced natural gas deliveries to more than 10 EU countries and inflation in Europe has continued to surge. In June, inflation in the 19 countries that share the euro currency reached a record 8.6%.

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| Branch Office:- F/F, Plot No.17, Sanjay, Nagar, District Center, Near Vishal Mega Mart and PNB Bank, Sanjay Nagar, Ghaziabad  |   |  |                               |                                |                   |
| (For Immovable Property) (Under Rule 8 (1) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002)  |   |  |                               |                                |                   |
| Whereas the undersigned being the authorized officer of M/S Mahindra Rural Housing Finance Ltd. (hereinafter referred to as "MRHL"), Having its registered office at Lucknow and Branch office at Meerut, Noida, Ghaziabad under Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 (54 of 2002), and in exercise of powers conferred under Section 13 (12) read with Rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 issued Demand Notice under Section 13(2) of the said Act calling upon you being the borrowers (names and addresses mentioned below)to repay the amount mentioned in the said notice being within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said notice. |   |  |                               |                                |                   |
| The borrower mentioned herein above having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the borrowers mentioned herein above and to the public in general that undersigned has taken possession of the property described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on me under sub section (4) of section 13 of the Act read with the Rule 8 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 on this 7 day.   |   |  |                               |                                |                   |
| The borrowers mentioned herein above in particular and the public in general are hereby cautioned not to deal with the said property and any dealings with the property will be subject to the Charge of M/S Mahindra Rural Housing Finance Ltd. for an amount and interest thereon.  |   |  |                               |                                |                   |
| The Borrower's attention is invited to provisions of sub section (8) of Section 13 of the Act, in respect of time available, to redeem the secured assets.  |   |  |                               |                                |                   |
| S.N.  | Name of the Borrower(s) / Guarantor(s)  | Description of Secured Asset (Immovable Property)  | Demand Notice Date and Amount | Date of Possession             |                   |
| 1.  | (LC No. 1265133 MEERUT Branch) MOHD KADEER (Borrower) SHABEENA (Co Borrower) MOHD WASI (Guarantor)                  | PART OF PLOT NO-1003 KHASRA NO-786, MOHALLA BHAGIYATPURA, MEERUT, UTTAR PRADESH -250002 East:-RASTA 12 FT WIDE West:- PROPERTY OF SALEEM North:- PROPERTY OF OWNER South:- PLOT OF OTHER   | 23/2/2022 Rs.16,77,894/-      | 08-07-2022 SYMBOLIC Possession |                   |
| 2.  | (LC No. 528805 MEERUT Branch) HIMANSHU KUMAR (Borrower) DURGA PRASAD, SHEELA DEVI(Co Borrower)                      | 266/2 JAGRATI VIHAR YOJNA NO 06 GARIH ROAD MEERUT-250001 East:-HOUSE NO.267/2 RASTA 20 FEET WIDE West:- PLOT NO.25 North:- RASTA 12 MT WIDE South:- HOUSE EWS  | 23/2/2022 Rs.17,14,057/-      | 07-07-2022 SYMBOLIC Possession |                   |
| 3.  | (LC No. 507949 MEERUT Branch) SANGEETA DAVI (Borrower) PRAMOD KUMAR (Co Borrower)                                   | HOUSE NO 110,KHASRA NO 292, RAMA GARDEN, VILLAGE MURLIPUR GULABA, DIST:-MEERUT-250001 East:- HOUSE NO.11 OF MOHIT CHAUHAN West:- PLOT NO.99 North:- RASTA 20 WIDE South:- KHET HERPRASAD   | 23/2/2022 Rs.18,53,316/-      | 07-07-2022 SYMBOLIC Possession |                   |
| 4.  | (LC No. 742276 MEERUT Branch) SHAFIKAN (Borrower) ROSHAN, ASIF (Co Borrower)  | PART OF PLOT NO 16,17,18 KHASRA NO 2630, KHUSHAL NAGAR,MEERUT,UTTAR PRADESH -250002 East:- RAST 20FT WIDE West:- PLOT NO. 25 North:- BALANCE PART OF EXIST PLOT South:- PLOT NO. 16* 17* 18                                      | 23/2/2022 Rs.8,98,666/-       | 08-07-2022 SYMBOLIC Possession |                   |
| 5.  | (LC No. 490070 MEERUT Branch) SUKARAMAPAL JAGABIR (Borrower) VISHAL DESHWAL, SANTOSH SUKARAMAPAL (Co Borrower)      | P NO A-38,KHASRA NO 57KA & 57KHA, GANPATI VIHAR GALI NO 3/4 REVNUJ, KASAMPUR PARAGANA,DIST MEERUT 250001 East:- RASTA 20 FEET WIDE West:- PLOT NO.A-49 North:- PLOT NO.37* ANJU SOM South:- PLOT NO.39                           | 09-03-2022 Rs.9,45,465/-      | 09-07-2022 SYMBOLIC Possession |                   |
| 6.  | (LC No. 554904 MEERUT Branch) IQBAL MOHAMMAD (Borrower) ANJUM PARAVIN, MOHD JAVED IQBAL, RIZIYA BEGAM (Co Borrower) | QUARTER NO. 10 & 11, KHASRA NO.3628 PART OF NAGAR NIGAM NO.365/11,GALI NO.14, ZAKIR HUSSAIN COLONY,MEERUT, UTTAR PRADESH -250002 East:- PLOT OF OTHER West:- RASTA 10 FEET WIDE North:- QUARTER OF SABIR South:- HOUSE OF HANEEF | 23/2/2022 Rs.11,80,580/-      | 09-07-2022 SYMBOLIC Possession |                   |
| 7.  | (LC No. 638262 MEERUT Branch) MITHLESH (Borrower) BABBAL KUMAR, VARUN KUMAR (Co Borrower)                           | KHASRA NO 1319 JASWANT SHUGAR MIL, MALIYANA MEERUT,UTTAR PRADESH -250002 East:- PLOT NO172 West:- PLOT NO.73 North:- OTHERS PLOT South:- 35 FIT ROAD   | 23/2/2022 Rs.8,47,538/-       | 07-07-2022 SYMBOLIC Possession |                   |
| 8.  | (LC No. 1013390 GREATER NOIDA Branch) KUNDAN KUMAR KASHYAP (Borrower) BABLU KUMAR KASHYAP, (Co Borrower)            | PLOT NO. 154 KHASRA NO. 550, SAVITRIVIHAR, SUTHIYANA,DADRI, GAUTAM BUDDH NAGAR ,UTTAR PRADESH -201301 East:- ROAD 18 FEET West:- OTHER:- 5 PLOT North:- OTHERS:- PLOT South:- ROAD 25 FEET                                       | 23/2/2022 Rs.9,55,740/-       | 08-07-2022 SYMBOLIC Possession |                   |
| 9.  | (LC No. 1299019 GREATER NOIDA Branch) KULDEEP SHARMA (Borrower) MANJU SHARMA (Co Borrower)                          | PLOT NO K-124 C (LIG) GF PRATAP VIHAR SEC-12, NEAR SANTOSH MEDICAL STORE,GAUTAM BUDDH NAGAR ,UTTAR PRADESH -201009 East:- PLOT NO-125 West:- 40 FIT ROAD North:- ROAD 30 FIT South:- OTHER PLOT                                  | 23/2/2022 Rs.14,89,936/-      | 08-07-2022 SYMBOLIC Possession |                   |
| 10.   | (LC No. 1315295 GHAZIABAD Branch) PRAVIN PRATAP SHARMA (Borrower) JYOTI SHARMA (Co Borrower)                        | KHATA NO. 185 KHASRA NO. 647,, VILLAGE ROZA JALALPUR,DADRI, GAUTAM BUDDH NAGAR ,UTTAR PRADESH -203207 East:- ROAD 18 FEET West:- VACANT PLOT North:- ROAD 18 FEET South:- VACANT PLOT  | 03-01-2022 Rs.11,21,860/-     | 08-07-2022 PHYSICAL Possession |                   |
| 11.   | (LC No. 714435 MEERUT Branch) MOHD ISRAR (Borrower) IMRAT JAHAN (Co Borrower)                                       | KHASRA NO. 2630 - KHUSHAL NAGAR, MEERUT CITY ,UTTAR PRADESH -250002 East:- PLOT NO 32 AND 33 SAHZAD West:- RASTA 30 FEET North:- PLOT OF AZAHAR South:- PLOT OF DILSHAD  | 13-08-2021 Rs.9,99,195/-      | 09-07-2022 PHYSICAL Possession |                   |
| Place :- Meerut, Noida, Ghaziabad Date:-13.07.2022 Sd/- Authorised Officer Mahindra Rural Housing Finance Limited   |   |  |                               |                                |                   |

## UN to monitor Ukraine war for violations against children

AP ■ UNITED NATIONS

The United Nations has announced it will start monitoring the war in Ukraine and conflicts in Ethiopia, Mozambique and Africa's central Sahel region for violations against children, including killings, injuries, recruitment, rape and other forms of sexual violence.

Secretary-General Antonio Guterres said in his annual report to the Security Council on children and armed conflict Monday that those four new conflicts have been added to 21 conflicts that the U.N. Already is monitoring for violations of the rights of children. He said the latter conflicts saw "a high number of grave violations" in 2021.

The U.N. Chief said the protection of children was severely affected by escalating conflicts,



the multiplication of armed groups, land mines and improvised explosive devices, explosive weapons in populated areas, intensified humanitarian crises, and violations of humanitarian and human rights law.

Virginia Gamba, the U.N. Special envoy for children and armed conflict, said at a news conference that "forays of extremely violent armed groups, military coups and instability, and violent electoral processes in fragile states, left 19,100 child victims of grave violations during 2021 in the 21 country and regional situations we monitored."

The U.N. Said it verified nearly 24,000 "grave violations" against children in 2021, including over 1,300 committed previously.

The highest numbers of violations last year were the 2,515 killings and 5,555 injuries involving children, followed by the recruitment and use of 6,310 youngsters in conflicts, the report said.

Last year, it said, the number of child abductions rose by over 20% and cases of sexual violence against children continued to rise, also by over 20%.

The highest number of "grave violations" verified by the U.N. Were in Afghanistan, Congo, Israel, the Palestinian territories, Somalia, Syria and Yemen, it said.

## Putin set to visit Iran next week



AP ■ MOSCOW

Russian President Vladimir Putin will visit Iran next week, the Kremlin said Tuesday, a day after the U.S. Warned that Tehran could provide Moscow with drones for its action in Ukraine.

During a trip to Tehran next Tuesday, Putin will attend a bilateral meeting with the leaders of Iran and Turkey, the so-called Astana format of meetings for Syria-related talks, Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov said. Putin's visit to Iran will follow U.S. President Joe Biden's trip to Israel and Saudi Arabia this week, where Iran's nuclear programme and malign activities in the region will be a key subject of discussion.

Peskov told reporters that on the visit to Tehran, Putin will also have a separate meeting with Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan.

## Some Ukrainians won't flee areas caught in crosshairs

AP ■ KRAMATORSK (UKRAINE)

Burned-out cars and splintered trees smolder in the aftermath of a missile strike on Kramatorsk, a city in eastern Ukraine. A body lies on the ground, covered by a sheet. Wounded residents sit dazed and covered in blood. A crater has been gouged in the centre of a once-calm, sunlit courtyard. Across the beleaguered city, Valerii Ilchenko sits under the shade of the trees, working on a crossword puzzle. The 70-year-old widower now has difficulty walking, and this daily ritual in the fresh air gets him through the day.

Just last week, the governor of Donetsk province urged its 350,000 remaining residents to move to safer places in western Ukraine. But like many other civilians who have come under fire in the nearly 5-month-old war, Ilchenko has no intention of leaving - no matter how close the fighting gets.

"I don't have anywhere to go and don't want to either. What would I do there? Here at least I can sit on the bench, I can watch TV," he told The



Associated Press in an interview in his one-room apartment where he lives alone.

Moscow and Kyiv are battling for control of the Donbas, a fertile and industrial region in eastern Ukraine where a conflict with Russia-backed separatists has raged since 2014. In recent weeks, Russia has made significant gains and is poised to fully occupy Luhansk province, which along with Donetsk province makes up the region. Attacks on key cities like Kramatorsk and Sloviansk have increased dramatically, killing and wounding scores of civilians weekly.

Since the war began, Ilchenko has been unable to call his son and grandson, who live in Moscow. Although he is still somewhat self-sufficient, Ilchenko is nearly immobile. Volunteers make sure he gets regular supply of food.

## US, Japan vow joint efforts on Ukraine, trade, food crisis



AP ■ TOKYO

U.S. Treasury Secretary Janet Yellen and Japan's Finance Minister agreed Tuesday to cooperate in dealing with challenges from the war in Ukraine and promoting free trade, sustainable energy and food security.

Yellen was visiting Tokyo on Tuesday for talks ahead of a meeting of the Group of 20's financial leaders on the Indonesian island of Bali later in the week.

Before beginning her meeting with Finance Minister Shunichi Suzuki, she stressed the importance of effective sanctions against Russia for its invasion of Ukraine and said she hoped to gain the support of Japan and other nations in seeking a price cap on Russian oil that would limit funding going to Moscow's military.

"Our governments have common viewpoints and inter-

ests on many of the most pressing priorities affecting our national interests as well as global stability and prosperity. And when we work together, we are each more effective," she said.

Suzuki welcomed Yellen, saying: "At this time, when the international community faces so many challenges, it is more important than ever for the U.S. And Japan to work together."

A joint statement issued Tuesday after the talks pledged support for Ukraine in coping with its economic challenges. It also said both sides had welcomed efforts to pursue price caps "where appropriate."

A price cap would be aimed at curbing the war's impact on gas and energy prices. Japan, which imports almost all its oil, has suffered an energy crunch recently partly because of the war in Ukraine and a weakening of the yen against the U.S. Dollar.

## Ukraine gets \$1.7B in fresh aid to pay healthcare workers

AP ■ WASHINGTON

Ukraine is getting an additional USD 1.7 billion in assistance from the US government and the World Bank to pay the salaries of its beleaguered health care workers and provide other essential services.

The money coming Tuesday from the US Agency for International Development, the Treasury Department and the World Bank is meant to alleviate the acute budget deficit caused by Russian President Vladimir Putin's "brutal war of aggression",

USAID said in a statement. While many medical staffers have left Ukraine, some hospitals have shut down and other hospitals have been bombed. The health workers who remain in Ukraine do their jobs under dire circumstances.

Viktor Liashko, Ukraine's minister of health, said paying health workers' salaries is becoming more difficult each month "due to the overwhelming burden of war". "USD 1.7 billion is not just yet another financial support; it is an investment that makes us a step closer to victory," Liashko said in a statement.



# RISHI SUNAK HITS THRESHOLD FOR UK PM RACE AS NOMINATIONS OPEN

PTI ■ LONDON

Former UK Chancellor Rishi Sunak on Tuesday emerged as one of the early candidates to hit the threshold of 20 supporting Conservative Party members of Parliament for his nomination to compete for the post of leader and the next British prime minister, to be announced on September 5.

The 42-year-old British Indian MP for Richmond in Yorkshire maintains his lead in the race to replace Boris Johnson as nominations formally opened for the contest. The prime ministerial hopefuls have until 6 pm local time to get their nominations in, with Trade Minister Penny Mordaunt, new Chancellor Nadhim Zahawi and Tory backbencher Tom Tugendhat the others in the running to hit the requisite 20-MPs mark.

Others expected to run include: Indian-origin Attorney General Suella Braverman, Foreign Secretary Liz Truss, Nigerian-origin Kemi Badenoch, former Foreign Secretary Jeremy Hunt, Transport Secretary Grant Shapps, Foreign Office Minister Rehman Chishti and former Health Secretary Sajid Javid.

Priti Patel, the Indian-origin Home Secretary, is said to be still considering a bid and could be a late entry to the



race with a considerable backing within the hardline Brexit wing of the Conservative Party.

On Monday, the 1922 Committee laid out the timetable for the leadership race and confirmed that the new prime minister will be elected on September 5 and address their first Prime Minister's Questions in Parliament on September 7. The first round of voting by Tory MPs is scheduled for Wednesday, when each candidate will require the backing of 30 colleagues - or just under 10 per cent of Tory MPs - in total to progress to round two.

A second ballot on Thursday will

narrow down the field further as candidates with the least votes keep getting knocked out. There is provision for further ballots next week if the race to get to the final two candidates does not conclude by the end of this week.

The deadline to narrow down the shortlist to just two remaining candidates is July 21, when the 1922 Committee Chair Sir Graham Brady will also seek an assurance that both finalists will remain in the race to face the wider party membership ballot.

In 2019, the last-minute withdrawal of Andrea Leadsom from the race had meant that Theresa May was

elected unopposed by MPs, without having to face the Tory membership base. The party is keen to avoid a repeat of such a scenario in this election.

After the field is whittled down to the final two candidates, they will tour the UK for hustings to campaign the estimated 200,000 Tory party members who will then cast postal ballots for the winner based on a one member, one vote system. The candidate who receives the most votes will win the race and be declared the new Tory leader and UK prime minister.

Meanwhile, a vote of Tory party members carried out by the Conservative Home website put Penny Mordaunt in the lead, indicating an appetite for change within the grassroots of the party. Former equalities minister Kemi Badenoch emerges as the second favourite, followed by Sunak and Braverman at third and fourth.

Among the MPs, most Johnson loyalists are expected to endorse Truss, who will be seen as a continuity candidate. Many of the Conservative Party's 358 MPs are yet to openly throw their weight behind any of the candidates yet and there will be intense activity as the week progresses and the remaining candidates on the shortlist vie for the support of those previously backing unsuccessful hopefuls.



## Six Indian fishermen held for allegedly fishing in Sri Lankan waters: Navy

PTI ■ COLOMBO

Six Indian fishermen have been arrested for allegedly poaching in Sri Lanka's territorial waters, the country's Navy said on Tuesday, the second such incident involving Indians this month.

According to a statement, the Navy conducted a special operation "to chase away Indian trackers poaching in northern waters of the island on July 11".

The Indian fishermen were allegedly poaching off the Kovilan light house in the International Maritime Boundary Line (IMBL) when they were arrested, the statement said. Their trawler was also seized by the authorities, it added.

The six fishermen were brought to the Kankesanthurai port and handed over to the fisheries inspectorate in Jaffna.

On July 3, at least 12 Indian fishermen were arrested by the Sri Lankan

Navy for allegedly poaching in the country's territorial waters.

The fishermen were arrested near Point Pedro, Sri Lankan Navy spokesman Captain Indika de Silva told PTI, adding that they were being brought to Myladi in the northern Jaffna peninsula to be handed over to the fisheries directorate.

In the recent weeks, the northern fishermen have been complaining of increased poaching in the Sri Lankan waters by Indian fishermen.

The fishermen issue is a contentious one in ties between the two countries.

There have been periodic instances of Indian fishermen being apprehended by Sri Lankan authorities for allegedly crossing the IMBL and fishing in Sri Lankan waters.

There have been several alleged incidents of the Lankan Navy personnel even firing at Indian fishermen in the Palk Strait and seizing their boats.

## Another US appeals court upholds rights to record police

AP ■ DENVER

People have a right protected by the First Amendment to film police while they work, a Western U.S. Appeals court ruled Monday in a decision that concurs with decisions made by six of the nation's other 12 appeals courts.

The 10th Circuit Court of Appeals in Denver ruling came in the case of a YouTube journalist and blogger who claimed that a suburban Denver officer blocked him from recording a 2019 traffic stop. Citing decisions from the other courts over about two decades as well as First Amendment principles, the 10th Circuit said the right to record police was clearly established at the time and reinstated the lawsuit of the blogger, Abade Irizarry.

A three-judge panel from the court said that "Mr. Irizarry's right to film the police falls squarely within the First Amendment's core purposes to protect free and robust discussion of public affairs, hold government officials accountable, and check abuse of power." While bystander video has played a vital role in uncovering examples of police misconduct in recent years, including in the killing of George Floyd, whether or not it is a right is still being determined in courts and debated by lawmakers.

The nation's five other appeals



courts have not ruled yet on the right to record police and the U.S. Supreme Court would likely not get involved in the issue unless appeals courts were on opposite sides of the issue, said Alan Chen, a University of Denver law professor and one of the First Amendment experts also urged the appeals court to rule in favor of the right of people to record police.

Meanwhile, Arizona's Republican governor last week signed a law that makes it illegal to knowingly video record police officers 8 feet (2.5 meters) or closer without an officer's permission. In the Colorado case, a lower court had said there was a right to record police but did not think it was clearly established in 2019 so it blocked the officer from being sued because of the controversial legal doctrine called "qualified immunity." It shields police officers from misconduct lawsuits unless lawyers can show that the officers were on notice that their actions violated the law at the time.

## January 6 panel probes Trump's 'siren call' to extremists

AP ■ WASHINGTON

The January 6 committee is preparing to highlight the way violent far-right extremists answered Donald Trump's "siren call" to come to Washington for a big rally, as some now face rare sedition charges over the deadly US Capitol attack and effort to overturn the 2020 presidential election.

The panel investigating the January 6, 2021, Capitol siege is set to convene Tuesday for a public hearing probing what it calls the final phase of Trump's multi-pronged effort to halt Joe Biden's victory.

As dozens of lawsuits and false claims of voter fraud fizzled, Trump tweeted the rally invitation, a pivotal moment, the committee said. The far-right Proud Boys, Oath Keepers and others now facing criminal charges readily answered.

"We will lay out the body of evidence that we have that talks about how the president's tweet on the wee hours of December 19th of Be there, be wild," was a siren call to these folks," said one panel member, Rep. Stephanie Murphy, D-Fla., over



the weekend on "Meet the Press." In fact, Trump tweeted, "Be there, will be wild!"

This is the seventh hearing in a series that has presented numerous blockbuster revelations from the January 6 committee. Over the past month, the panel has created a stark narrative of a defeated Trump "detached from reality," clinging to his false claims of voter fraud and working feverishly to reverse his election defeat. It all culminated with the deadly attack on the Capitol, the committee said.

What the committee intends to probe Tuesday is whether the extremist groups,

including the Proud Boys, Oath Keepers and QAnon adherents who had rallied for Trump before, coordinated with White House allies for January 6. The Oath Keepers have denied there was any plan to storm the Capitol. The panel is also expected to highlight new testimony from Pat Cipollone, the former White House counsel, who "was aware of every major move" Trump was making, said Rep. Jamie Raskin, D-Md., who will lead the session.

It's the only hearing set for this week, as new details emerge. An expected prime-time hearing Thursday has been shelved for now.

**PUBLIC NOTICE**  
This is to certify that my client Smt. DASHANA DEVI, resident of L-1, Kalkaji, Ground Floor, New Delhi-110019, disown & disinherit her son Sanjay Dureja and her daughter in law Archana Dureja from her movable and immovable properties on 04.07.2022.

That at times my client Smt. DASHANA DEVI was in very anger and there is some old reasons that she disown & disinherit her son Sanjay Dureja and her daughter in law Archana Dureja, now my client is regret her old words and accept with full respect and grace her son Sanjay Dureja and her daughter in law Archana Dureja, both have full rights in my clients movable and immovable properties.  
(SANYOGITA) Advocate  
Registration No.: 7517

**PUBLIC NOTICE**  
The General Public is hereby informed that my client Smt Veena Kumari W/o Sh Rakesh Kumar, R/o House No. 805, Main Market, Kapashera, South west district, Delhi 110037 has severed all relations with her son Sh Monbir, Daughter-in-law Smt Shivani W/o Sh Monbir and her Grand Daughter Ms Trishika D/o Sh Monbir due to their ill treatment and being out of her control. My client has also disowned and debarred the said son Sh Monbir, Daughter-in-law Smt Shivani W/o Sh Monbir and Grand Daughter Ms Trishika D/o Sh Monbir from all her movable and immovable properties. Anybody dealing with Sh Monbir, Smt Shivani and Ms Trishika will do so at his/her their own risk and responsibilities and my clients will not be responsible for any act, deed or dealing done by the above mentioned persons.

**P.Pradeep (Advocate)**

**DEBTS RECOVERY TRIBUNAL, DEHRADUN**  
Government of India, Ministry of Finance, (Department of Financial Services) 2nd Floor, Paras Tower, Mazra, Saharanpur Road, Dehradun, UK. 248171

**PUBLICATION NOTICE**  
IN O.A. No. 48 OF 2020  
SUMMONS UNDER SUB-SECTION (4) OF SECTION 19 OF THE RECOVERY OF DEBTS AND BANKRUPTCY ACT, 1993.  
READ WITH SUB-RULE (2A) OF RULE 5 OF THE DEBT RECOVERY TRIBUNAL (PROCEDURE) RULES, 1993 AS AMENDED FROM TIME TO TIME  
Dy. No. 671 Dated: 27.06.2022

**ICICI Bank Ltd. V/s. Virendra Sharma & Ors.**

To,  
1. Virendra Sharma S/o Sehdeep Sharma R/o D-33, Old Gupta Colony, Delhi 110009  
2. Aarti Bahugunath Singh, W/o Virendra Sharma, R/o RM 14 Murgan Chawli Indira Nagar Gaon Devi Vokala Pipeline Santacruz East, Mumbai 400055  
3. M/a Paratus Real Estates Pvt. Ltd. Through its Authorized Signatory Tariq Nazab, Registered Office at D-266, Defence Colony, New Delhi 110024

**2nd Address:** Office b-11, Sector 1, Noida 201301 UP.

Whereas the above named Applicant Bank has instituted **OA No. 48 of 2020** against you for recovery of debts of **Rs. 43,52,142/-** in which Hon'ble Tribunal was pleased to issue Summons/Notice U/s 19(4) of the Recovery of Debts and Bankruptcy Act, 1993 and was listed before the Hon'ble Presiding Officer on **15.06.2022**.

Whereas, it has been shown to the satisfaction of the Tribunal that it is not possible to serve you in ordinary way. Therefore, this notice is given by way of this publication directing you to appear in person or through your duly authorized agent or legal practitioner before the Tribunal on **01.09.2022**. Further, you are required to show cause as to why the relief(s) prayed for in OA should not be granted and to file reply, if any, in your defence in a paper book form in sets and produce all the documents and affidavits under which your defence or claim for set off, counter claim, in this Tribunal personally or through your duly authorized agent or legal practitioner within 30 days from the date of the publication of this notice.

Take notice that in case of default of your appearance on the specified day and time before the Tribunal, the case shall be heard and decided in your absence.

Given under my hand and seal of this Tribunal on this **27th day of June, 2022**.

**By order of Tribunal Registrar Debts Recovery Tribunal Dehradun**

**UJVN LIMITED**  
H.O.: "UJJWAL", Maharani Bagh, GMS Road, Dehradun-248006,  
Telephones: 0135-2763808, Fax: 0135-2763508,  
CIN No. U40101UR2001SGC025866, Website: www.ujvn.com

**Tender Notice** Rd: 12.07.2022

Office of the Executive Engineer (Civil-II) SHP, Maneri, Uttarkashi invites sealed tenders from interested parties. Brief summary of tenders is given below:

**Tender No :03/EE(Civil-II)/SHP/Maneri/2022-23**  
**Name of work:** Repair and Maintenance of Pilangat colony Internal road and other miscellaneous works at SHP Pilangad Uttarkashi.  
**Estimated cost :** Rs. 9.64,215.00 (Excluding GST)  
**Date of availability of bid document on website :** 13.07.2022  
**Last Date for submission of bids :** 05.08.2022 upto 11:00 AM  
For fuller & further details, kindly visit our website. The tender document can be downloaded from the nigan website "www.ujvn.com"

**Executive Engineer (Civil-II) SHP Maneri**  
"Avoid wasteful use of Electricity"

**OFFICE OF THE GENERAL MANAGER, CONSTRUCTION WING, UTTARAKHAND PEYJAL NIGAM**  
E-32, JUDGE FARM, HALDWANI, DISTT.- NAINITAL (PIN 263139)

**Letter No.: 1296/Nivida-Anubandh/Ranikhet/139 Date : 12-07-2022**

**E-Tender Notice**

1. **Name of the work:-** CONSTRUCTION OF GOVERNMENT INTER COLLEGE MAIN BUILDING AT MACHOD, DISTT.-ALMORA.  
2. **Estimated Cost:-** Rs.198.98 Lakh  
3. **Period of Completion:-** 8 Month  
4. **Date and Time of availability of Bid documents in the portal:-** 12-07-2022 (17.00 hrs)  
5. **Online Bid submission: End date :-** 27-07-2022 (17.00 hrs)  
6. **Date & Time of Technical bid Opening :-** 29-07-2022 (11.00 hrs)  
7. **Name and Address of the Officer inviting bid :-** General Manager (Kumaon), Nirman Wing, Uttarakhand Pey Jal Nigam, Haldwani.  
8. **Pre-bid meeting details (if required) Date & Place:-** 18-07-2022 (11.00 hrs) Project Manager Construction Unit Uttarakhand Peyjal Nigam, Ranikhet.  
9. For further details, details of subsequent Amendment / correction documentation etc. may be obtained from the e-Procurement portal [www.uktenders.gov.in](http://www.uktenders.gov.in)

**GENERAL MANAGER**

**NORTHERN RAILWAY**

**Tender Notice**

Invitation of tender through E-tendering (e-Procurement Systems)

|  |  |
|--|--|
| NIT No.  | 6-S/E-file-130619/Tender/2022-23/RCNK/SNP  |
| Name of Work and its location  | Tender for "Quality Management, Inspection and Testing Services for Bogie shop and Coach Furnishing activities at RCNK/SNP as per scope of work" |
| Approx. Cost of work   | Rs. 1,62,13,200/- (Rs. One Crore Sixty-Two Lacs Thirteen Thousand Two Hundred only) Including GST @18%   |
| Earnest Money  | Rs. 2,31,100/- (Rs. Two Lac Thirty-One Thousand One Hundred Only)  |
| Completion period of work  | 12 Months i.e. Twelve months from the date of issue of LOA   |
| Cost of Tender document on cash/by post  | Rs. 5,900/-  |
| Date and Time for submission of tender and opening of tender                     | Upto 11:00 hrs. on 26.07.2022 Opening of Tender at 11:30 hrs.  |
| Website particulars notice board location complete details of tender can be seen | Above tender available on IREPS site i.e. <a href="http://www.ireps.gov.in">www.ireps.gov.in</a>   |

No.: 6-S/E-file-130619/Tender/2022-23/RCNK/SNP Dated: 12.07.2022 1728/22

**Serving Customers with a Smile**

**PUBLIC NOTICE**

**RIDGECRAFT HOMES PRIVATE LIMITED**  
Registered Address: 3rd Floor, Next Door, U-Block, BPTP Parklands, Sector-76, Faridabad 121001 • Website: [www.ridgecraft.in](http://www.ridgecraft.in)

This Public notice is being issued in compliance of Memo No. LC-3846/AD(NK)/2022/18972 dated 06.07.2022 issued by The Director Town & Country Planning, Haryana Chandigarh ("DTCP").

Whereas Ridgecraft Homes Private Limited is in the process of undertaking the development of an Affordable Residential Plotted Colony under DDJAY, 2016 in Sector 86, Faridabad over an area measuring 7.7625 Acres in accordance with the provision of License No. 81 of 2019 dated 30.07.2019 granted by DTCP

And whereas, the earlier approved Layout plan bearing drawing no. DTCP-7237 dated 13.11.2019 for the said Colony is now proposed to be revised.

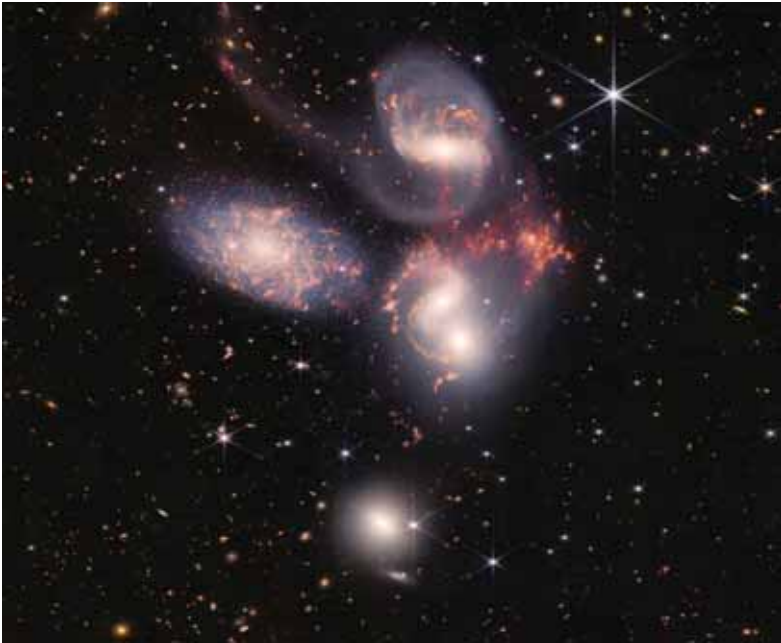
And whereas, the office of Director, Town & Country Planning, Haryana, Chandigarh vide Memo no. LC-3846/AD(NK)/2022/18972 dated 06.07.2022 has required seeking of objection against the revision of Layout plan from the existing allottee as a pre-condition for allowing such revision in the Layout plan.

Accordingly, vide this notice objections are hereby invited on the proposed revision of the Layout Plan of the said Colony. From the allottees of the 7.7625 Acres DDJAY colony falling in Sector-86, Faridabad as approved vide License no. 81 of 2019. A copy of the earlier approved Layout Plan bearing drawing no. DTCP-7237 dated 13.11.2019 and the revised "In Principle" approved Layout Plan vide memo no. LC-3846/AD(NK)/2022/18972 dated 06.07.2022 along with drawing no. DTCP-8452 dated 07.07.2022 are available for perusal on our website [www.ridgecraft.in](http://www.ridgecraft.in). The said Layout Plan can also be perused at the office of the undersigned at 3rd Floor, Next Door, U-Block, BPTP Parklands, Sector-76, Faridabad 121001 as well as in the office of District Town Planner (Planning), HSPV Complex, Sector-12, Faridabad.

Any allottee having any objection to the revised Layout plan may file his/her objection in the office of District Town Planner (Planning), HSPV Complex, Sector-12, Faridabad within a period of 30 days from the date of publication of this notice, failing which it shall be assumed that there are no objections to the said revised Layout Plan of the Colony.

Place: Faridabad  
Date: 12.07.2022

**Rohit Mohan**  
For Ridgecraft Homes Pvt. Ltd.



This image provided by NASA on Tuesday shows Stephan's Quintet, a visual grouping of five galaxies captured by the Webb Telescope's Near-Infrared Camera (NIRCam) and Mid-Infrared Instrument (MIRI). This mosaic was constructed from almost 1,000 separate image files, according to NASA.

## Report: UK soldiers killed dozens of Afghan detainees

AP ■ LONDON

A BBC investigation alleged Tuesday that British special forces killed dozens of detainees in suspicious circumstances during counterinsurgency operations in Afghanistan a decade ago.

Citing newly obtained military documents, the broadcaster alleged that one SAS unit may have unlawfully killed 54 people in the southern Helmand province in 2010 to 2011. It also alleged that the former head of UK special forces knew about the alleged killings, but didn't pass on the evidence to a murder inquiry.

The Ministry of Defense said the report "jumps to unjustified conclusions from allegations that have already been fully investigated."

The Ministry said two independent investigations have looked into the conduct of British forces in Afghanistan and that neither found sufficient evidence to prosecute.

"Insinuating otherwise is irresponsible, incorrect and puts our brave Armed Forces personnel at risk both in the field and reputationally," it said in a statement. "The Ministry of Defense of course stands open to considering any new evidence, there would be no obstruction," it added.

British forces were deployed to Afghanistan since 2001 as part of a NATO-led international coalition after the September 11 attacks. Thousands of British troops were sent to Helmand from 2006 to help with providing security for reconstruction projects, but they were soon drawn into combat operations.



# Sensex tumbles for 2nd day

## Tech selloff deepens, Infy top drag



PTI ■ MUMBAI

Equity indices nursed losses for the second consecutive session on Tuesday as investors continued to dump IT, banking and FMCG stocks amid a bearish trend in global markets.

Unabated foreign fund outflows and the rupee dropping to another record low against the US dollar added to the woes, traders said. Participants were also in wait-and-watch mode ahead of release of retail inflation and factory output data.

The 30-share BSE Sensex opened on a weak note and fell 508.62 points or 0.94 per cent to end at 53,886.61. The broader NSE Nifty declined 157.70 points or 0.97 per cent to settle at 16,058.30.

Infosys was the top laggard in the Sensex pack, slipping 2.33 per cent, followed by Nestle India, PowerGrid, HUL, M&M, HCL Tech and Kotak Mahindra Bank.

Only three counters closed in the green -- NTPC, Bharti Airtel and Bajaj Finance, rising up to 1.87 per cent.

"Rate hike fears are back in focus in the global markets ahead of the release of CPI numbers. Inflationary pressures along with strong US jobs data would keep the Fed on the path of aggressive rate hikes...Demand concerns amid the rebound of virus cases in China compelled crude to trade lower," said Vinod Nair, Head of Research at Geojit

Financial Services.

In the broader market, the BSE smallcap and midcap indices dropped 0.52 per cent and 0.51 per cent, respectively.

Among BSE sectoral indices, IT fell by 1.29 per cent, followed by tech (1.21 per cent), metal (1.16 per cent), auto (1.13 per cent), FMCG (1.03 per cent), bank (0.94 per cent), consumer discretionary goods & services (0.93 per cent) and capital goods (0.91 per cent).

Telecom, utilities, power and realty ended higher.

World stocks were under pressure on renewed concerns over policy tightening by central banks and its impact on global growth.

Elsewhere in Asia, markets in Shanghai, Tokyo, Seoul and Hong Kong ended in the red.

Bourses in Europe were also trading lower in the afternoon session. Wall Street had closed with losses on Monday.

Meanwhile, international oil benchmark Brent crude fell 2.37 per cent to USD 104.6 per barrel.

The rupee declined 15 paise to close at a new lifetime low of 79.60 (provisional) against the US dollar on Tuesday as a strong greenback overseas and weakness in domestic equities weighed on investor sentiments.

Foreign institutional investors remained net sellers on Monday as they offloaded shares worth Rs 170.51 crore, as per exchange data.

# ‘Housing prices rise in 41 cities in FY22’

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Housing prices increased in 41 cities during 2021-22, while the rates of residential units fell in five cities and remained stable in four cities, according to price index RESIDEX released by National Housing Bank (NHB).

All of the eight major metros of the country viz., Ahmedabad (13.8 per cent), Bengaluru (2.5 per cent), Chennai (7.7 per cent), Delhi (3.2 per cent), Hyderabad (11 per cent), Kolkata (2.6 per cent), Mumbai (1.9 per cent) and Pune (0.9 per cent) recorded increase in the index on an annual basis, NHB RESIDEX said.

The annual change varied widely across the cities, ranging from an increase of 13.8 per cent (Ahmedabad and Bhubaneswar)

to a decline of 5.9 per cent (Navi Mumbai), it said.

On a sequential (quarter-on-quarter) basis, the 50-city index registered an expansion of 2.6 per cent in January-March 2022 as against 1.7 per cent in the previous quarter.

The index shows an increasing trend on Quarter-on-Quarter (Q-o-Q) basis since June 2021, suggesting revival of housing market post Covid-induced lockdown, it said.

The NHB, which launched housing price index 'NHB RESIDEX' in 2007 to track the movement in housing prices on quarterly basis, has revamped the system by changing the base year to 2017-18.

The market price for under-construction properties, comput-



ed using the quoted prices for under-construction and ready-to-move unsold properties, also recorded an annual increase of 4.8 per cent in quarter ended March 2022 as against 1 per cent a year ago.

The variation in market price ranged from an increase of 23.9 per cent (Bhubaneswar) to a contraction of 10.8 per cent (Indore).

On a sequential basis, the 50-city index witnessed a change of 1.9 per cent during the January-March 2022 quarter compared to 0.9 per cent in the previous quarter, suggesting an uptick in the asking prices for properties, which is likely to continue due to rise in demand because of preference of owning a house among millennials and rising cost of construction.

## Rupee down 15 paise to all-time low of 79.60 against US dollar



PTI ■ MUMBAI

The rupee declined 15 paise to close at a new lifetime low of 79.60 (provisional) against the US dollar on Tuesday as a strong greenback overseas and weakness in domestic equities continued to weigh on investor sentiments. At the interbank forex market, the local unit opened weak at 79.55 against the greenback and witnessed an intra-day high of 79.53 and a low of 79.66.

It finally settled at 79.60 (provisional), down 15 paise over its previous close of 79.45.

The dollar index, which measures the greenback's strength against a basket of six currencies, advanced 0.48 per cent to 108.54.

On the domestic equity market front, the BSE Sensex ended 508.62 points or 0.94 per cent lower at 53,886.61, while the broader NSE Nifty fell 157.70 points or 0.97 per cent to 16,058.30.

Brent crude futures, the global oil benchmark, fell 2.27 per cent to USD 104.67 per barrel.

# Retail inflation eases a tad to 7.01% in June

## Above RBI's comfort zone for 6th straight month

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Retail inflation dropped marginally to 7.01 per cent in June mainly due to slight easing in prices of vegetables and pulses, though it still remained above the Reserve Bank's comfort level for the sixth month in a row.

The consumer price index (CPI) based inflation stood at 7.04 per cent in the preceding month of May and 6.26 per cent in June 2021.

Inflation in the food basket in June 2022 was 7.75 per cent, compared to 7.97 per cent in the previous month, as per the National Statistical Office (NSO) data released on Tuesday.

The RBI has the mandate to ensure that inflation remains at 4 per cent, with a margin of 2 per cent on either side. However, retail inflation is ruling above the RBI's upper tolerance limit of 6 per cent since January 2022.

As per the data, the inflation print in vegetables eased to 17.37 per cent during the month from 18.26 per cent in May, while for 'pulses and products' it slowed to (-) 1.02 per cent against (-)0.42 per cent.

However, the rate of price rise in 'cereals and products'



moved up to 5.66 per cent, from 5.33 per cent in the preceding month. Inflation in the 'fuel and light' category rose to 10.39 per cent as against 9.54 per cent, while that for fruits increased to 3.10 per cent from 2.33 per cent.

Last month, the Reserve Bank in its bi-monthly monetary policy review raised the benchmark repo rate -- at which it lends short-term money to banks -- by a sharp 0.50 per cent to 4.90 per cent to rein in spiralling prices. It followed an off-cycle meeting on May 4, when the central bank hiked the repo rate by 0.40 per cent.

Governor Shaktikanta Das had said the global geopolitical situation remains fluid and commodity markets remain on the edge, rendering heightened uncertainty to the domestic inflation outlook.

However, certain positive developments such as expectations of a normal south-west monsoon and kharif agricul-

tural season, recent supply side measures taken by the government as well as lifting of palm oil export ban by Indonesia may help ease the acute price pressures to some extent, he had said.

The RBI also raised its retail inflation forecast for the current financial year to 6.7 per cent from its previous estimate of 5.7 per cent.

On Saturday, the RBI Governor while speaking at the Kautilya Economic Conclave exuded confidence that the price situation will gradually improve in the second half of the current fiscal.

He also said the central bank would continue to take monetary measures to anchor inflation with a view to achieving strong and sustainable growth.

The Governor said price stability is key to maintaining macroeconomic and financial stability and the central bank will undertake necessary measures for the same.

# ICRA expects hotel industry revenues, margins to return to pre-Covid levels in FY23

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The hotel industry's revenues and margins are expected to return to pre-COVID levels in 2022-23 despite potential impact on demand in case of further waves of the pandemic, according to ratings agency ICRA.

Domestic leisure and transient travel will be the main demand drivers, although there will be a gradual recovery in business travel and foreign tourist arrivals (FTAs), ICRA said in a statement.

Pan-India premium hotel occupancy is expected to be at 68-70 per cent for FY2023, it said adding the average room rate (ARR) is expected to hover around Rs 5,600-5,800.

"The improved operating leverage along with sustenance of cost-optimisation measures will support margins and accruals for hotels," it said.

Notwithstanding the potential impact on demand with further COVID waves, if any, ICRA said it expects the industry's revenues and margins to return to pre-COVID levels in FY2023.

ICRA Vice President and Sector Head Vinutaa S said the hotels industry witnessed a healthy start to FY2023, with 56-58 per cent occupancy in premium hotels in the first quarter of FY23.

It was up from 40-42 per cent in FY2022 and closer to pre-COVID occupancy of 60-62 per cent in Q1 FY20, she



added.

"Pan-India ARR stood at around Rs 4,600-4,800 in Q1 FY2023, as against Rs 4,200-4,400 in FY2022. It still remains at a 16-18 per cent discount to pre-COVID levels on an average, although a few high-end hotels and leisure destinations witnessed ARRs spike to higher than pre-COVID levels in the last few months," Vinutaa S said.

The demand recovery was aided by leisure, transient passengers, MICE/weddings and gradual pickup in business travel and foreign tourist arrivals (FTAs), while some cities also witnessed traffic from specific events.

MICE refers to meetings, incentives, conferences, and exhibitions.

"While leisure destinations and gateway cities witnessed healthy occupancy, cities largely dependent on business travellers, like Bengaluru and Pune will take a few more months to recover," she added.

# Banks to report mark-to-market losses of ₹13,000 crore on rising bond yields, says report

PTI ■ MUMBAI

Rising bond yields will force banks to report mark-to-market losses of up to Rs 13,000 crore on their investment portfolios in the April-June quarter, a report said on Tuesday.

Profits will moderate for the quarter, but improved loan growth and operating profits will ensure that the banks' bottom lines remain "steady" for FY23, the report by domestic rating agency Ibra said.

The agency estimated the system will report an incremental credit growth of 10.1-11 per cent or Rs 12-13 lakh crore in FY23.

The banks have a higher holding of government securities, especially the ones with longer tenors, in their investment portfolios due to which the rising bond yields pose headwinds from a profitability perspective.

The MTM (Mark-To-Market) losses on bond portfolios will come at Rs 8,000-10,000 crore for public sector banks and Rs 2,400-3,000 crore for private banks in Q1 FY23, the report said.

"Despite these expected MTM losses, we expect the net profits of the banks to remain steady, given the expected growth of 11-12 per cent in their core operating profits in FY23, which will more than offset the MTM losses," Ibra vice president Anil Gupta said.

Gupta, however, added that if the yields harden substantially going forward, there could be a sequential moderation in the net profits in FY23.



growth for banks has remained significantly positive in Q1 FY23, contrary to the usual trend of negative incremental credit during that period in the past, it said, adding that growth was supported across all segments.

With rising bond yields and reducing investor appetite for corporate bonds, corporate bond issuances stood at the lowest level in four years in Q1 FY23, prompting large borrowers to shift from debt capital market to banks for their funding requirements, it said.

The agency admitted that rising interest rates may moderate credit demand going forward, but expects the system to close FY23 with a credit growth of up to 11 per cent as against 9.7 per cent in FY22.

Rate transmission is expected to be faster in this cycle for banks as 43 per cent of the floating rate loans of banks are linked to external benchmarks, it said, adding that 77 per cent of loans are floating for banks.

This, coupled with the lag in the upward repricing of

deposits and improved credit growth, will aid the improvement in the operating profits of banks, it said.

Slippages could continue to moderate and remain at 2.5-2.7 per cent of standard advances in FY23 on reducing bounce rates and overdue loans across most banks, the agency said, adding the gross Non-Performing Asset (NPA) ratio will improve further to 5.2-5.3 per cent by the end of March 2023.

"Notwithstanding the improving headline asset quality numbers, the stressed assets (net NPAs and standard restructured loans) stood at 3.8 per cent of standard advances as on March 31, 2022, higher than the pre-Covid level of 3.1 per cent," Gupta said.

The agency said incremental capital requirements remain limited for most of the public banks and large private banks.

It maintained its outlook for banks at 'stable' for FY23 on steady earnings, asset quality improvements and capitalisation.

# Need better synergy between Govt, pvt players for harnessing PPP model in agriculture: Agri Secy

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Agriculture secretary Manoj Ahuja on Tuesday called for better synergy between the government and private players for harnessing the public-private partnership model in agriculture.

"Several players are working in silos. Being in the government, we can play the role of a conductor in a symphony orchestra. Can we bring about the synergy and work together," Ahuja said addressing an event organised by the industry chamber Ficci here.

For harnessing Public-Private Partnership (PPP) in agriculture, he said the government first expects the industry to have a shared understanding and intention to improve the farm sector.

Secondly, the government expects to have "frameworks"

for scaling up interventions in the farm sector and thirdly to work jointly depending on the need, and fourthly to see if agri schemes can be converged to make things viable, he said.

Lastly, the secretary called for synergy between the government and industry in sharing information on agriculture, which at present is partly with either of them.

"There is a lot of information available, but it is disparate. Something is with the government and something with the private. Can we bring that together to help everybody. A lot of people are doing crop estimates, can we share this info so that we have stronger results," he said. Joint secretary in agriculture ministry Vijaya Lakshmi Nadenla said inputs, infrastructure, institution and investment are the crucial "four Is" in agri PPP.

# Computer skills programme for CRPF personnel launched

Kattankulathur: SRM Institute of Science and Technology (SRMIST) inaugurated short-term training programme on computer skills for Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) personnel.

The event was inaugurated by M Dhinakaran Deputy Inspector General of Police (DIG), CRPF. Also present were SRMIST's Vice-Chancellor Dr C Muthamizhchelvan. Dean (CET) Dr TV Gopal presented a welcome address.

In his address, Dr C Muthamizhchelvan said,

"Training, skilling, upskilling and reskilling is very essential. It is always a pleasure to get ourselves upskilled whenever we get opportunities. SRMIST has opened up our resources to train CRPF them in the necessary fields."

In his inaugural address, M Dhinakaran explained the CRPF foundation, its function throughout the decades and its effective action in several social issues. SRMIST's chairperson, School of Computing, Dr RevathiVenkataraman proposed the vote of thanks for the function.

# Western Australia invites Indian investors in mining, energy transition, agri-food sectors



PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The government of Western Australia on Tuesday urged the Indian investors to invest in sectors like mining, energy transition, equipment technology services, agri-food among others.

Roger Cook, Deputy Premier of Western Australia, said the trade between his state and India currently stands at 4.6 billion Australian dollar (AUD) and "I see this growing significantly with time as there is immense business opportunities in Western Australia." It catulates to 17 per cent of the total trade in goods between Australia and India.

Cook, who is also the state development, jobs, trade and tourism minister of Western Australia, an Australian state, was speaking to PTI on the side lines of an event in the national capital.

Cook said he is leading "the largest ever business delegation" of Western Australia to India comprising over 100 delegates, from July 12 to 19 and will be visiting Delhi, Mumbai, Visakhapatnam and Chennai.

When asked about the list of companies Cook will meet as part of the delegation, the Deputy Premier replied he will be meeting various Indian business houses across sectors including the Tata Group to showcase the opportunities Western Australia has in sectors like mining, energy transition, equipment technology services, agri-food, education, tourism etc.

"We have reserves of iron ore, all elements of lithium ion batteries and India is going to be a big EV (e-vehicles market)," Cook said, adding the investors can explore options like becoming equity partners or go for joint ventures.

India's NMDC through Legacy Iron Ore Limited is already doing well there, he said.

Cook ensured his full support to the players looking to invest in his state.

According to NMDC's CMD Sumit Deb, his company holds 90.05 per cent equity in Perth-based Legacy Iron Ore Limited and has invested more than 40 million in Western Australia. The company is into mining of iron ore.

# INDIA EXPORTED \$44 BILLION TEXTILES AND HANDICRAFTS: SECY

New Delhi: NCR GH India 2022, India's most well-established trade show, opened its doors for business on Tuesday at the India Expo Centre, Greater Noida, to over 35,000 retailers from 500 cities and towns, across the country.

Union Minister of State for Textiles & Railways Darshana Vikram Jardosh inaugurated the event. Products from over 400 leading brands and manufacturers from all over India and 26 other countries will be exhibited over the next 4 days.

It's a matter of satisfaction that last financial year, India exported more than \$44 billion worth of textiles and handicrafts, which is an all-time record, said UP Singh, Union Textiles Secretary.

Arun Roongta, MD of GH India, said with growing incomes and aspirations, Indian consumers spend on high quality and branded home products continues to grow rapidly.

# OLA ELECTRIC UNVEILS INDIGENOUSLY MADE LI-ION CELL

New Delhi: Ola Electric on Tuesday unveiled the country's first indigenously developed lithium ion cell.

The Bengaluru-based two-wheeler maker said it will begin the mass production of the cell -- NMC 2170, from its Chennai-based Gigafactory by 2023. The use of specific chemistry and materials enables the cell to pack more energy in a given space and also improves the overall life cycle of the cell, the company said in a statement. The cell has been developed keeping the indigenous conditions at the core, it added.

"A cell is the heart of the EV revolution. Ola is building the world's most advanced cell research center that will enable us to scale and innovate faster,"



# CAPTAIN FANTASTIC

## Savita's heroics hand India first win in Women's Hockey World Cup

PTI ■ TERRASSA

Slipper Savita starred in front of the goal as India defeated Canada 3-2 in the shootout after both teams were tied 1-1 at the end of regulation time in their classification match of the FIH Women's Hockey World Cup here on Tuesday.

Madeline Secco (11th) handed Canada the lead before Salima Tete (58th) left it late to equalise for India. But it was Savita's heroics in front of the goal that gave India their first win of the tournament.

The Indian captain led from the front and pulled off as many as six saves in the shootout, while Navneet Kaur, Sonika and Neha converted their chances in the ninth to 16th place classification match.

Smarting from their disappointing loss to Spain, India started the match on an attacking note.

After soaking up the initial pressure from the Indians, Canada managed to put the ball into the India net, but it was disallowed as the referee awarded a penalty corner and Natalie Sourisseau's attempt was off target.

Canada went one better a few minutes later as they won another penalty corner. This time the variation created confusion in the India defence, and Kathleen Leahy passed it to Secco for the final touch to stun the Indians.

India once again came out stronger in the second quarter and penetrated the Canadian defence on numerous occasions.

Monika, in particular, used her array of 3D skills to get past the Canada defence as goalkeeper Rowan Harris urged her team to maintain focus.



As the game moved towards half-time, India upped the ante.

Navneet Kaur, Neha and Vandana Katariya moved with freedom as Canada looked very much on the back foot.

In the 25th minute, Navneet and Vandana combined to create a fine chance but the shot was kept out by Canadian goalie Harris, as India trailed by a goal at half-time.

After the change of ends, India continued to pile on the pressure, with Lalremsiami making some speedy forays into the Canada circle.

But Canada held firm, with Sara

THE INDIAN CAPTAIN LED FROM THE FRONT AND PULLED OFF AS MANY AS SIX SAVES IN THE SHOOTOUT, WHILE NAVNEET KAUR, SONIKA AND NEHA CONVERTED THEIR CHANCES IN THE NINTH TO 16TH PLACE CLASSIFICATION MATCH

McManus and Hannah Haughn displaying stellar performance at the backline to break down the India attacks.

India had a glorious opportunity to level the score just minutes into the third quarter but Navjot Kaur's shot from inside the circle went over the bar.

Minutes later, Savita was called to the action as she made a brilliant save from a penalty corner to deny a second goal to the Canadians.

As has been the case in the tournament so far, India yet again cut a sorry figure with penalty corners.

They earned back-to-back penalty corners in the dying minutes of the third quarter but failed to utilise the chances.

In the final minute of the third quarter, Lalremsiami's diving attempt off Salima Tete's pass from the right flank missed the target by a whisker.

Barring the early goal, Canada did not have much to show for in the match as the Indians completely dominated the proceedings, mounting attacks after attacks.

The Canadian defence was made to toil as India continued their relentless raids in the fourth and final quarter in search of the equaliser.

The Indians created numerous chances in the form of penalty corners but Gurjit Kaur failed to convert a series of set pieces. The shots had the usual power but they flew either wide or were chased down by Canada's number one runner Sourisseau.

India's persistence finally paid off when Salima Tete punched home a rebound after Gurjit's flick from a penalty corner was saved by the Candian goalie.

Karli Johansen had one more chance to regain lead for Canada but her penalty corner shot went wide and the game went to shoot-out.

India will play Japan in the ninth-12th place play-off match on Wednesday.



## BAI to organise week long practice camp for CWG-bound shuttlers

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The Commonwealth Games-bound Indian shuttlers will take part in a week-long practice camp in Hyderabad from July 18, the Badminton Association of India (BAI) said on Tuesday.

The strong 10-member Indian contingent will depart for CWG on July 25.

The 22nd edition of CWG will take place in Birmingham from July 28 to August 8.

"It's very important to bring together all the players ahead of the Commonwealth Games. Such training sessions always help teams to get into the rhythm before any big event and also plan and work on various strategies as a team," said BAI secretary Sanjay Mishra in a release.

In the last CWG held in Gold Coast, India clinched a maiden mixed team gold and finished at the top with six medals — two Gold, three sil-

ver and one bronze. It includes a historic men's doubles Silver by Chirag Shetty and Satwiksairaj Rankireddy.

"We are the defending champions and our objective will be to continue to play with the same zeal and momentum in Birmingham. We have a very strong team and the players have experience and ability. I'm confident they will put on their best show in Birmingham," Mishra added.

Two-time Olympics medallist PV Sindhu will lead the Indian women's side that consist of the likes of Aakarshi Kashyap, Treesa Jolly, Gayatri Gopichand and Ashwini Ponappa.

The men's team will feature the likes of 2021 World Championships Silver medalist Kidambi Srikanth, Bronze medallist Lakshya Sen, B Sumeeth Reddy and the star doubles pair of Shetty and Rankireddy.



## England reach Euro quarters with 8-0 win

AP ■ BRIGHTON

England recorded the biggest win in European Championship history as Beth Mead's hat-trick inspired an 8-0 demolition of Norway that booked the hosts' quarter-final place on Monday.

Sarina Wiegman's side scored six in the first half on route to smashing their own women's Euro record margin of victory set when they beat Scotland 6-0 in 2017.

No team, either male or female, had ever scored eight at a European Championship until England's incredible goal spree against the overwhelmed Norwegians in Brighton.

Georgia Stanway's 12th-minute penalty opened the floodgates and Lauren Hemp struck three minutes later.

Ellen White and Mead both netted twice in the first half to leave Norway reeling.

Underling their status as leading contenders to win the tournament on home soil, England showed no mercy after the interval.

Alessia Russo bagged the record-breaking seventh goal and Mead completed her hat-trick to cap an astonishing performance from the Lionesses.

England's win guaranteed they will finish top of Group A with one match still to play.

They face Northern Ireland in Southampton on Friday in a dead rubber before returning to Brighton a week on Wednesday to play the runners-up in Group B, which features Germany and Spain, in the quarterfinals.

A crowd of 28,847 lapped up the blistering display, chanting 'Football's Coming Home' as England's unbeaten run under Wiegman extended to a 16th match, including 14 victories.

Northern Ireland, who lost 2-0 against Austria earlier on Monday, have now been eliminated.

Third-placed Norway, expected to be among the title contenders, and second-placed Austria both have three points after two games.

They will meet on Friday in a shootout to decide the other quarterfinal qualifier from the group.

## Mehuli Ghosh & Tushar Mane ensure second medal for India in ISSF WC

PTI ■ CHANGWON

The mixed team pair of Mehuli Ghosh and Shahu Tushar Mane sealed India's second medal at the ISSF Shooting World Cup, here on Tuesday, by setting up the Gold medal match against Hungary.

In-form Mehuli and Shahu topped the 10m Air Rifle Mixed Team qualifiers with a score of 634.4 after 60 shots to finish well ahead of the strong Hungarian pair of Istvan Peni and Eszter Meszaros, who finished second with 630.3.

India and Hungary will lock horns on Wednesday to decide the

winner.

Meanwhile, in the 10m Air Pistol mixed team event, Shiva and Palak shot 574 and qualified for the Bronze medal match.

Shiva and Palak finished behind the Greek pairing of Anna Korakaki and Dionysios Korakakis, who scored 579.

The top spot was claimed by Olympic champion Zorana Arunovic and Damir Mikec of Serbia, who shot 584.

India will take on Kazakhstan's in the bronze play-off.

Two other Indian pairs — Naveen and Rhythm Sangwan in 10m air pistol mixed team and

Arjun Babuta and Elavenil Valarivan in the corresponding rifle competition — could not make the grade after both the teams scored 570 and 627.8 respectively to finish in the eighth position.

Earlier in the day, India missed out on about five medals as none of the top qualifiers in men's and women's 10m Air Pistol as well as in the men's trap, could make their opportunities count.

In the men's 10m Air Pistol discipline, India had three qualifiers in the top eight ranking round but Naveen finished fourth with an effort of 250.7. Shiva

Narwal was fifth with 199.7 and was followed by Sagar Dangi (199.2).

In the women's 10m Air Pistol event, India's lone ranking round qualifier Yuvika Tomar ended seventh with 147.1 points.

In the men's trap event, young Vivaan Kapoor shot a brilliant 122 out of 125 to qualify third among eight qualifiers but ended fourth in his match to miss out on the medals.

India has won one Gold through Arjun Babuta (10m Air Rifle) so far in the tournament and is currently placed fourth on the medal tally.



## Lewa arrives for pre-season Bayern Munich medical

AP ■ MUNICH

Robert Lewandowski arrived for his pre-season medical at a Munich hospital along with other Bayern stars on Tuesday, even as Barcelona continued to be linked to the Polish striker.

At the end of May, Lewandowski said "it is certain that my story with Bayern has come to an end."

Barcelona have expressed an interest in the 34-year-old striker, twice voted FIFA men's player of the year.

"We have made an offer for the player, we are waiting for the response, we will see if it is positive," Barcelona president Joan Laporta said on July 7.

According to German media, Barcelona made an initial offer worth a guaranteed 40 million euros but have since increased it.

On Tuesday, Lewandowski arrived by car at the city's Barmherzige Brueder hospital, preceded by German internationals Manuel Neuer, Thomas Mueller and Leroy Sane.

The medical preceded the start of pre-season training in the afternoon.

He joined Bayern in 2014, He has



scored 344 goals in 375 competitive matches and broke the Bundesliga single-season scoring record.

Lewandowski won the Bundesliga in each of his eight seasons with the club as well as the Champions League, the Club World Cup and three German Cups.

He has one year left on his Bayern contract.

"A contract is a contract," Bayern president Herbert Hainer said.

On Saturday, the German champions will hold the official presentation of their squad at their Allianz Arena.

### NANI JOINS MELBOURNE VICTORY

Former Portugal and Manchester United winger Luis Nani has signed for Australian side Melbourne Victory in one of the A-League's biggest coups in years.

The 35-year-old will join on a two-year deal from Italian club Venezia, following stints in the United States, Spain and Turkey since he left United in 2015.

Nani, who was capped 112 times for Portugal and won the Premier League four times with Manchester United after joining the Old Trafford club in 2007, is arguably the biggest name to play Australian club football since Alessandro Del Piero in 2012.

"I'm excited to be coming to the A-League with Melbourne Victory and I'm looking forward to the challenge ahead," said Nani, who was part of Portugal's Euro 2016 winning side.

## We have great chance of winning medal in doubles at CWG: Chinappa

PTI ■ CHENNAI

India's top woman squash player Joshna Chinappa on Tuesday said the country has a great chance of winning a medal in doubles at the upcoming Commonwealth Games in Birmingham.

"This is one of the best Indian teams. Saurav Ghosal and myself have been playing on the pro tours for a number of years. We are still in the top-20 in the world. We (India) definitely have a great chance of winning a medal in doubles," Chinappa told reporters.

"This time, we are also trying to push for a medal in singles as well."

While Chinappa is ranked 17 among women, Ghosal is No 15 among men.

The 35-year squash ace, who recently won the women's

doubles title at the World Doubles championship in Glasgow, also said she and Dipika Pallikal Karthik (with whom she triumphed in the worlds) were a very strong team.

"To be honest, she (Dipika) has had one of the greatest comebacks. When we started playing after a gap of three years, I was quite surprised that she was playing really well. I expected her to be a little rusty. She has been putting in a lot of effort into her training. We are a very strong team. Hopefully, we can show that on court," Chinappa said. India have won a Gold in women's doubles at the Commonwealth Games in Glasgow in 2014 apart from two Silvers (in women's doubles and mixed doubles) in the previous Games in Gold Coast in 2018.

## Bale at LAFC 'to win trophies, not to retire'

AP ■ LOS ANGELES

Gareth Bale wants the world to know Los Angeles FC is not the 18th hole of his football career.

The golf-loving Welsh forward intends to keep playing for club and country for several more seasons, and he hopes to fill those years winning trophies with his new stateside team.

"I'm up for everything here," Bale said on Monday.

"I still have many years to come. I haven't come here to just be here for six months, 12 months. I've come here to try and be here for as long as possible. I want to do as well as I



can. I want to try to make my mark on this league, on this team. I look forward to the future."

Bale's declaration of his long-term intentions undoubtedly will please his new Los Angeles Football Club (LAFC) fans, who were hoping the longtime Real Madrid forward wasn't simply using the team atop the Major League Soccer standings as a place to get fit for Wales' landmark return to the World Cup in Qatar this fall after a 64-year absence.

The 32-year-old Bale also gave a thrill to his home nation when he confirmed his intention to play in the 2024

European Championships, keeping his place among the greatest group of Welsh football talent in decades.

"It's not just a short-term thing," Bale said.

"(LAFC) also gives me the best opportunity to go to the next Euros, maybe further. So my plan is to really work hard. ... We've got a great plan going forward to get me up to speed, and hopefully it lasts as long as possible."

LAFC formally introduced Bale to an extensive media gathering inside Banc of California Stadium, but the club's fans already met Bale outside on the field three days earlier.

## Farah was trafficked to UK, forced to be child servant

AP ■ LONDON

Olympic great Mo Farah was illegally trafficked to Britain at the age of nine from Djibouti and forced to work as a child servant, he has revealed, saying his real name is Hussein Abdi Kahin.

The distance runner was flown to the UK from the east African country aged eight or nine by a woman he had never met, given the name Mohammed Farah, and then made to look after another family's children, he tells a BBC TV documentary "The Real Mo Farah" to be aired Wednesday.

Farah, who completed the 5,000m-10,000m double at both the London 2012 and Rio 2016 Olympics, has previously said he came to the UK as a refugee from Somalia with his parents.

But in stunning revelations the 39-year-old now says his parents have never been to the UK — his father was killed in civil unrest in Somalia when Farah was four years old and his mother and two brothers live in the breakaway state of Somaliland, which is not internationally recognised.

"The truth is I'm not who you think I am," says Farah.

"Most people know me as Mo Farah, but it's not my name or it's not the reality."

The woman who flew with him to the UK told him he was being taken to live with relatives and to say his name was Mohamed as she had fake travel documents that showed his photo next to the name 'Mohamed Farah'.

"I've been keeping it for so long, it's been difficult because you don't want to face it and often my kids ask questions, 'Dad, how come this?' And you've always got an answer for everything, but you haven't got an answer for that," he said.



# Bumrah takes 6 in India's win

Jasprit's career-best figure of 6/19 helps Men in Blue humiliate England by 10 wickets in 1st ODI

PTI ■ LONDON

Jasprit Bumrah produced a devastating display of fast bowling on way to career best six-wicket haul to set up India's 10-wicket hammering of England in the first ODI here on Tuesday.

Bumrah ended with envious figures of six for 19 in 7.2 overs as India skittled out England for 110, their lowest against the visitors, after opting to bowl in overcast conditions.

Skipper Rohit Sharma (76 not out off 58) and Shikhar Dhawan (31 not out off 54), who was playing his first competitive game since the IPL, steered India home with an unbeaten 114-run stand off just 18.4 overs.

While Dhawan understandably took time get into rhythm, Rohit regaled the crowd with some sublime shots, including the two front foot pulls off Craig Overton that went for a six and four.

Earlier, considering the overcast conditions and grass on the pitch, India decided to put the opposition in and the pacers exploited the conditions perfectly. Bumrah ended with dream figures to become the first Indian pacer to take five or more wickets in an ODI in England.

The ball was swinging and seaming around at good pace, making Bumrah and Mohammed Shami (3/31) all the more lethal.

Jason Roy's (0) struggle continued as he played on while attempting an expansive drive from a full and wide ball off Bumrah. Roy had little idea about the booming inswingers Bumrah unleashed before getting his number.

Two balls later, the in-form Joe Root (0) was expecting another fast inswinger but Bumrah got one to rise outside the off-stump that took an edge on way to wicketkeeper Rishabh Pant



for a double wicket maiden over.

Shami too got into the act from the other end and surprised Ben Stokes (0) with a back of length delivery that seamed back in sharply to take the inside edge and Pant took a spectacular one hand catch.

It turned out to be a busy day for the India wicketkeeper who took his second one handed catch to get rid of

the dangerous Jonny Bairstow (7), giving Bumrah his third wicket.

Bumrah soon made it 26 for five as Liam Livingstone (0) charged down the track to upset the bowler's rhythm but ended playing around a fast and swinging yorker on the leg stump.

England skipper Jos Buttler (30 off 32) showed positive intent to get his team out of the hole but played one too

many considering the game situation.

Brought back into the attack, Shami went for a short ball and Buttler mistimed the pull to be caught at deep square leg, leaving England tottering at 59 for seven.

India playing four pacers including Hardik Pandya and Prasidh Krishna also helped the visitors maintain the pressure.

A ninth wicket partnership for 35 runs between David Willey (21 off 26) and Bryson Carse (15 off 26) allowed England get past their lowest total, 86, made against Australia back in 2001.

Bumrah came back into the attack to pick his second five-wicket haul in ODI cricket. It was not surprise that he got to the milestone with a yorker that was too good for Carse.



## Gavaskar slams seniors for frequent breaks

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Batting great Sunil Gavaskar has questioned the commitment of the senior India players, saying he 'doesn't agree' with cricketers skipping international series but playing the IPL without a break.

Gavaskar's remarks came after senior players Virat Kohli, Rohit Sharma, Jasprit Bumrah, Hardik Pandya and Rishabh Pant were rested for the upcoming ODI series against the West Indies.

"See, I do not agree with this concept of players resting. Not at all. You don't take rest during IPL, then why ask for it while playing for India? I don't agree with it. You will have to play for India. Don't talk about rest," Gavaskar said on Sports Tak.

"There are only 20 overs in an innings in T20. That does not take any toll on your body. In Test matches, the mind and the body take a toll, I get that. But I don't think there is much problem in T20 cricket," he added.

The former captain said

the BCCI will be better off intervening into this "rest policy".

"I honestly feel that the BCCI needs to look into this concept of rest. All the Grade A cricketers have received very good contracts. They receive payment for every match. Tell me if there is any company whose CEO, or MDs get so much time off? "I feel that if Indian cricket is to become more professional, a line needs to be drawn. If you want to be rested, you need to reduce your guarantees.

"Then you take rest, because you don't want to play. But how can anyone say that I don't want to play for the Indian team. Which is why I do not agree to the concept," Gavaskar said.

The Windies tour will also comprise five T20Is.

Shikhar Dhawan was named captain for the three ODIs against in absence of regular skipper Rohit.

The games in the West Indies are the only ODIs India will play before the T20 World Cup in Australia.

## Harman, Mandhana rise in rankings

PTI ■ DUBAI

Indian women's team captain Harmanpreet Kaur climbed one place to 13th while her deputy Smriti Mandhana was placed ninth in the ICC Women's ODI rankings released on Tuesday.

Harmanpreet scored 119 runs at an average of 59.50 and picked three wickets in India's 3-0 sweep of Sri Lanka in the recently- concluded ODI series. She was also named the Player of the Series for her solid all-round performance.

Mandhana also had a decent show against the Lankans, having scored 104 runs in three matches at an average of 52.

The other Indian batters who have progressed in the rankings chart are Shafali Verma (three places to 33rd), Yastika Bhatia (up one place to 45th) and bowling-all rounder Pooja Vastrakar (up eight places to 53rd).

Among the bowlers, Rajeshwari Gayakwad was up three places to joint-ninth while Meghna Singh (up four places to 43rd) and Vastrakar (up two places to joint-48th) have also made some



progress.

Veteran Indian pacer Jhulan Goswami, who did not feature in the white-ball assignments against Sri Lanka, held on to her sixth position in the bowler's list.

The batting chart is headed by Australian Alyssa Healy followed by England's Natalie Sciver, while Englishwoman Sophie Ecclestone and South African Shabnim Ismail continue to take the first and second spots respectively in bowling.

## Pak stand good chance of doing well at T20 WC: Waqar

PTI ■ DUBAI

Pace legend Waqar Younis is backing Pakistan to win the upcoming T20 World Cup in Australia, saying the pitches Down Under could favour the team's batters and potent bowling attack.

The T20 showpiece is scheduled to be held in October-November.

"We (Pakistan) stand a really good chance of doing well at this World Cup," Waqar told ICC Digital.

The former Pakistan head coach was of the opinion that the pitches in Australia will favour their batters.

"The pitches in Australia are generally very good batting pitches and Pakistan do have



good batters who can really play well in these conditions," he said.

Pakistan, who are currently ranked third on the ICC Men's T20I team rank-

ings, have had a string of good results in the shortest format over the last 12 months.

Waqar, who is Pakistan's second-highest wicket-taker in both Test and ODIs, said that star batter Babar Azam will play a key role in the top-order.

"Babar (Azam) is definitely going to be the key batter at the top of the order," he said.

"I think he (Babar) will have the impact that he has always had and then of course Rizwan is playing very well and the bowling attack they have got it one of the best in the world," he added.

Pakistan's bowling attack includes the likes of speedsters Shaheen Shah Afridi and Haris

Rauf, with spinners Shadab Khan and Mohammad Nawaz complementing them.

"We have tried about six or seven fast bowlers in the last year or so and they are all going really well," Waqar noted.

"Pakistan's fast bowling attack is very good and they can mix it up with Shadab and Nawaz as they are good spinners also," he added.

Pakistan will kick off their T20 World Cup campaign on October 23 when the Babar Azam-led side takes on India at the iconic Melbourne Cricket Ground.

Pakistan won the T20 World Cup in 2009, and reached the semi-finals of the 2021 edition in the UAE.



## Aus lose top spot in Test C'ship rankings

AP ■ GALLE

Australia lost their top World Test Championship position to South Africa on Tuesday after they were defeated by Sri Lanka in the second match of their series.

The island nation completed a stunning innings and 39-run victory over captain Pat Cummins' Australia in Galle on Monday to end the two-match series level at 1-1.

The result shook up the championship table with Sri Lanka climbing to third as the race to make the final heats up.

"South Africa take over as the new leader on the latest standings with a win-loss percentage of 71.43 percent, while Australia drop to second with 70 percent after their first Test loss in the current period," the International Cricket Council said.

"Sri Lanka are now firmly in the mix for the World Test Championship final next year, with their win helping them jump in front of Pakistan, India and West Indies."

Sri Lankan spinner Prabath Jayasuriya had a dream debut with a match haul of 12 wickets and veteran batsman Dinesh Chandimal stood out with an unbeaten 206 — his maiden Test double ton.

Cummins termed the loss a "reality check" for a team that won the opener inside three days but were then bundled out on the fourth day of the second match.

"The reality is some of our players haven't been here before. So you could call it a reality check, because it's a first experience," Australian coach Andrew McDonald said, agreeing with the skipper.

"It's a sample size of one. We have the opportunity to learn from that. And we'll take that. But we learned a hell of a lot in the first game too.

"You can learn through winning and you can learn through defeat too."

Australia's next Test outing is at home against West Indies in November, while Sri Lanka host Pakistan for a two-match series starting Saturday.

## Learning from playing in Pakistan, Sri Lanka will help us in India: Cummins

PTI ■ SYDNEY

Australian Test captain Pat Cummins says his team has learnt "a heap" during the tours of Pakistan and Sri Lanka and getting a taste of sub-continent conditions should help his relatively inexperienced players in next year's marquee series in India.

After notching a comprehensive 10-wicket win in the series opener, Australia lost by an innings and 39 runs in the second Test as Sri Lanka drew the series 1-1 on Monday and Cummins feels the defeat was a "reality check."

Before Sri Lanka, Australia had toured Pakistan, beating the hosts 2-0 in the three-match Test series in March.

"I think half our batting lineup and half our bowling lineup hasn't played a lot over here in the subcontinent. So the experience on these two vastly different wickets, I think we got a lot of lessons out of it to take to India next year," Cummins was quoted as saying by 'Sydney Morning Herald'.

"We turned up knowing it's a tough place to win series and games over here,



So to come away with a series draw - the same team that won last week - we grinded it out in Pakistan to come through with a series win.

"It might be a reality check that it's tough playing away from home in different conditions to what we've grown up playing in. And [it] makes for more learning than after a win," he added.

### Thank you Sri Lanka for hosting us: Warner

PTI ■ COLOMBO

Explosive Australian opener David Warner has thanked Sri Lanka for hosting his team during an "extremely difficult time" and also said he would never forget this tour to the island nation.

Sri Lanka is currently in the grip of an unprecedented economic and political turmoil and is facing acute shortage of fuel and other essentials. But despite that the fans turned out in large numbers for the month-long series against Australia.

Taking to Instagram, the left-hander posted an emotional message

Australia are scheduled to tour India next year where they will play four Tests, as part of the Border-Gavaskar Trophy in February-March.

"In Australia most likely you only play one spinner, so in the background you're trying to prepare a couple of

for Sri Lankan people and the fans.

"Thank you Sri Lanka for hosting us here during what is an extremely difficult time. We are so grateful to be able to come here and play the game we love and know you all love supporting," Warner wrote.

"You have opened your arms up to us and we will never forget this trip. What I love about your amazing country is no matter the circumstances you always have a smile on your face and are always so welcoming. Thank you and I can't wait to one day visit for a holiday with my family," added the 35-year-old Warner, a veteran of 96 Tests.

other guys so they get the chance over in India. The last two tours we've learned a heap, we've come a long way in how we've played.

"[We'll] try to park that to one side and try to re-remember it in six months."

## Eng Test side not a finished product yet: McCullum

PTI ■ LONDON

His reign off to an excellent start, red-ball coach Brendon McCullum said England are not a "finished product" yet, adding that winning in all conditions should become a norm for the team.

Playing an ultra-aggressive brand of cricket, England have won all four Tests since the new head coach took over last month.

"We're not a finished product first and foremost," McCullum told 'SENZ

Breakfast'.

"We're a month into it and we've had some great results and we've seen the cricketing world put them on notice a little bit, but we need to ensure that this becomes a norm for us.

"That this style of play and what we're trying to achieve is completely authentic to us in any given situation and that will be the real challenge," he added.

England, who endured a dismal run over the last 18 months, looked a completely transformed outfit in the 3-0 series win over New Zealand



and the record chase in the rescheduled fifth Test against India.

The former New Zealand skipper hoped England can replicate the success at home in overseas conditions.

"Obviously conditions around the world will mean that we'll have to be relatively adaptable as well but look, I think that's one of the beauties of this group. I think there were times throughout the two series that we've played where we've had to absorb pressure as well.

"Much has been made of the

destruction that we were able to operate with the ball in hand particularly and our hunt for wickets with the ball, but there's times where we had to absorb pressure.

"When that was needed, the guys really did it, which was really satisfying too.

"It's early days but it's certainly a nice changing room to be around; a wonderful group of guys and clearly an immense amount of talent and ability within the dressing room and really well led by the skipper in Ben Stokes too."