

OPINION 6

QUAD: INDIA'S
OUTREACH BOOSTER

WORLD 9

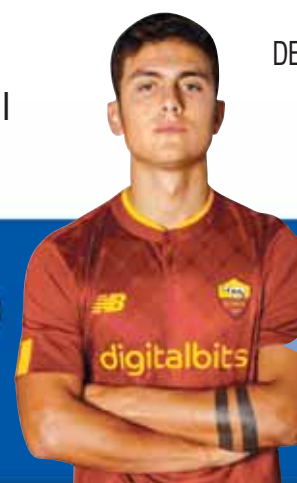
UKRAINE STRIKES KEY BRIDGE
IN RUSSIAN-OCCUPIED SOUTH

MONEY 10

PHASED IMPLEMENTATION OF
DIGITAL CURRENCY AT WORKS: RBI

the pioneer

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PAULO DYBALA
JOINS SERIA A
SIDE AS ROMA
11 SPORTMoosewala shooters
killed in encounter2 accused shot
in fierce 5-hour
gun-battle in
Attari: Police

MONIKA MALIK ■ CHANDIGARH

More than a month after Shubhdeep Singh Sidhu, popularly known as Sidhu Moosewala, was shot dead by a "gang" following alleged support of his manager to the killers of a youth Akali leader, the Punjab Police on Wednesday gunned down two "shooters" said to be involved in the Punjabi singer's murder after a fierce five-hour gun-battle in a village in Amritsar's Attari — just about 10 kilometre from Indo-Pak border.

With this, the main accused in the globally-renowned Punjabi singer-rapper and Congress leader Moosewala's murder case have either been arrested or killed.

The killed gangsters were identified as Jagroop Singh, alias Roopa, and Manpreet Singh, alias Manu Kusa — two of the total six "shooters" who had gunned down Moosewala on May 29 in Mansa. The two had been evading the police since then, and are reported to have been changing hideouts within Punjab only.

It has been found during the police investigation that



Punjab Police personnel at the site of an encounter in which two gangsters Jagroop Singh Roopa and Manpreet Singh, suspected to be involved in the killing of singer Sidhu Moosewala, were killed, in Amritsar on Wednesday

PTI

Roopa and Manu, by the end of June, were hiding in a village in Tarn Taran — Roopa's native place. It has been learnt that another gangster had provided them with a hideout in his farm house.

Police had identified six shooters who were part of the two modules allegedly involved in Moosewala's killing. The Delhi Police's Special Cell had earlier nabbed three shooters — Priyavrat Fauji, Kuldeep,

alias Kashish, and Ankit Sersa. Roopa and Manu were part of the second module, the police said. One more shooter Deepak Mundi, part of the first module, is absconding.

As per the preliminary investigations and interrogation of those arrested, it is believed that Manu was the first one to fire at Moosewala with an AK-47 rifle. Manu and Roopa were in a Corolla car that was trailing Moosewala's Thar at

Jawahar Ke village. After committing the crime, the duo abandoned the Corolla car, and snatched another car (Alto) which was later found abandoned in Moga district.

Other than the main "shooters", the police have also made 18 arrests in the matter, including the persons providing logistic support to the attackers, and those who conspired.

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SC: Sena, rebel MLAs' pleas
need larger bench scrutinyIssue raises
Constitutional
questions
related to
defection,
merger: CourtPIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court is all set to refer to a "larger" bench the issue of the merger (of a political party), defection, and disqualification arising out of the petitions filed by the Shiv Sena and its rebel MLAs during the recent Maharashtra political crisis.

The court on Wednesday ordered the legislature secretary for safe custody of the Maharashtra Assembly records and observed that petitions filed by the Shiv Sena and its rebel MLAs raise many Constitutional questions, which may require consideration by a larger bench.

A bench headed by Chief Justice NV Ramana directed the parties to formulate the issues that require examination by a larger bench by July 27 after more than an hour long arguments from all sides.

"After hearing the counsels, it has been agreed that some issues may, if necessary, be referred to a larger bench also. Keeping in mind the same, to enable the parties to frame the issues, let them file the same preferably by next Wednesday," the bench, also comprising justices Krishna Murari and



Hima Kohli, said. The apex court asked the parties to the case to frame issues by July 27 for consideration by a larger bench and the matter would be heard on August 1.

The bench was hearing five pending cases related to the recent political crisis in Maharashtra that led to the fall of the Maha Vikas Aghadi (MVA) Government in the State. Senior advocate Kapil Sibal, appearing for the Uddhav Thackeray faction of the Shiv Sena, told the bench that the Speaker of the Assembly recognising a whip other than the official whip nominated by the party is malafide. "What happens to the verdict of people? The 10th schedule is turned topsy-turvy and used to instigate defection," argued Sibal.

He said that the Governor could not have sworn in an individual (Eknath Shinde) who had sought to separate himself from the party elected to power by people and thus, was disqualified under the 10th schedule of the Constitution.

Continued on Page 2

SC orders civic
polls with OBC
quota in Maha

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Wednesday directed the Maharashtra State Election Commission and all the State authorities to ensure that process for local bodies' election is "immediately commenced" in accordance with the recommendation made by the dedicated commission for reservation to OBC.

Earlier, the SC had set aside the quota for OBC in local bodies' polls in Maharashtra for lack of empirical data. The SC, which was informed by the SEC that as of today election programme in respect of 367 local bodies has already commenced, said that the poll process be taken forward on the basis of the to court's May 4 order which had said that poll programme be notified within two weeks.

CAPSULE

BENGAL HOCH TRAGEDY:
7 DIE, SEVERAL TAKEN ILL

Howrah: Seven people died and several fell ill allegedly after consuming country liquor from a hooch den in West Bengal's Howrah district, a police officer said on Wednesday. Though the cause of the deaths is yet to be ascertained, police have arrested the owner of the liquor shop, Pratap Karmakar.

CHECK COVID UPSURGE:
CENTRE TO STATES, UTs

New Delhi: Amid an upsurge in Covid cases and positivity rate in 115 districts of nine States, the Centre on Wednesday urged the States and Union Territories to strictly monitor the home isolation cases so that these patients do not intermingle in the community. The Centre also stressed on spreading awareness regarding home-test kits through the rapid antigen test (RAT) for a timely identification of the disease. The States were advised to conduct surveillance.

'OVER 9L POSTS VACANT
IN CENTRAL GOVT DEPTS'

New Delhi: There are around 9.79 lakh vacant posts in Union Government departments against the sanctioned strength of 40.35 lakh, as on March 1, 2021, the Lok Sabha was informed on Wednesday.

ESHWARAPPA ABSOLVED
OF CONTRACTOR SUICIDE

Bengaluru: Karnataka BJP leader KS Eshwarappa, who had resigned as Rural Development and Panchayat Raj Minister following a suicide by a contractor accusing him of charging 40 per cent commission on a public work, on Wednesday said the police have come up with a closure report absolving him of any wrongdoing.

Yogi's Dalit Min sends resignation
letter to Shah, alleges 'sidelined'PWD Min Jitin
too believed to
be upset with
Government

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

The 100-day celebrations of the Yogi Adityanath Government 2.0 were marred by a controversy when UP Minister of State for Jal Shakti Dinesh Khatik reportedly sent in his resignation letter to Union Home Minister Amit Shah, alleging that he was "sidelined because of being a Dalit".

PWD Minister Jitin Prasada too is believed to be upset with the Government over the transfer of his officer on special duty (OSD) Anil

Kumar Pandey. Five other officers have been suspended following allegations of irregularities and corruption in the PWD.

Dinesh Khatik claimed in his letter that he was not assigned any work for 100 days. "I am resigning because I am hurt," he said in the letter while alleging irregularities in departmental transfers.

"I was not given any importance because I am a Dalit. I have no authority as a Minister. My working as a Minister of State is a waste for the Dalit community. I am not called to any meeting and not told anything about my Ministry. This is an insult to the Dalit community," Khatik wrote in his two-page letter that has gone viral.

The Pioneer does not independently verify the authenticity of the letter.

The letter is addressed to Shah rather than Yogi, which in political circles is seen as a way to keep the option open to withdraw his resignation.

Khatik, a two-time legislator, is a prominent Dalit leader of western Uttar Pradesh and represents Hastinapur Assembly constituency of Meerut. Last year also, during the Yogi Government 1.0, he had threatened to resign over police action against a trader in Meerut's Ganganagar and the reluctance of the local police officials to act on his directions.

In his letter, without naming Jal Shakti Minister (Cabinet) Swatantra Dev Singh, Khatik claimed that he was not assigned any work. "I am given an impression that the Minister of State should not expect anything more than an official car," he wrote in his letter.

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Commuters take a ride in heavy monsoon rain in national Capital on Wednesday

Ranjan Dimri | Pioneer

Ranil elected
Lankan Prez

PTI ■ COLOMBO

Acting President Ranil Wickremesinghe was on Wednesday elected as Sri Lanka's new President by Parliament, following a high-voltage political drama which saw his predecessor Gotabaya Rajapaksa fleeing the country and resigning after a popular uprising against his government for mismanaging the economy.

The 73-year-old six-time former prime minister secured 134 votes in the 225-member House while his nearest rival and dissident ruling party leader Dulas Alahapperuma got 82. Leftist Janatha Vimukthi Peramuna leader Anura Kumara Dissanayake secured just three votes.

Speaker Mahinda Yapa Abeywardena announced the

result.

Wickremesinghe thanked Parliament for upholding democratic practices and sought support from both the presidential rivals as well as former presidents Mahinda Rajapaksa and Maithripala Sirisena. He also asked Tamil leaders to join him.

"Now that the election is over we have to end this division... From now on I am ready to have a dialog with you," he said. He said the country was in a perilous state and the youth crave for a change.

Wickremesinghe, who has been leading the crucial talks with the International Monetary Fund, last week said that negotiations were nearing conclusion, and discussions for assistance with foreign countries was also progressing.

Continued on Page 2

Zubair released after SC
grants bail in all UP FIRs
Court orders
disbanding
of UP SITPIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■
NEW DELHI

Alt News co-founder Mohammad Zubair was released from Tihar prison on Wednesday night after the Supreme Court granted him interim bail in all FIRs lodged against him in Uttar Pradesh for alleged hate speech.

Zubair was arrested by the Delhi Police on June 27 for allegedly hurting religious sentiments through his tweets. Subsequently, multiple FIRs were lodged against him in UP — two in Hathras and one each in Sitapur, Lakhimpur Kheri, Muzaffarnagar, Ghaziabad, and at Chandauli police station for hurting religious sentiments.

Continued on Page 2

Delhi HC stays guidelines
prohibiting service charge
levied by eateries, hotels

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The Delhi High Court on Wednesday stayed the recent guidelines prohibiting hotels and restaurants from levying service charge automatically on food bills.

Justice Yashwant Varma, while dealing with petitions by the National Restaurant Association of India (NRAI) and Federation of Hotels and Restaurant Associations of India challenging the Central Consumer Protection Authority (CCPA)'s July 4 guidelines, said the issue requires consideration and directed the authorities to file their reply.

"The matter requires consideration. Consequently, until the next date of listing the directions as contained in para 7 of the impugned guideline of July 4, 2022 shall remain

stayed," the court ordered.

The court said that the stay is subject to the members of the petitioners ensuring that the levy of service charge in addition to the price and taxes and obligation of customer to pay the same is duly and prominently displayed on the menu or other places.

Further, the members will also undertake not to levy service charge on any take-away items, it added.

"If you don't want to pay, don't enter the restaurant. It is ultimately a question of choice. I have stayed the para 7 guidelines subject to these two conditions," the court said.

The court listed the matter for further hearing on November 25. The NRAI has claimed in the petition that the prohibition under the July 4 order was "arbitrary, untenable and ought to be quashed."

Sunak races ahead with 137
votes, to face Liz Truss in
final leg of British PM race

PTI ■ LONDON

Rishi Sunak on Wednesday clinched his place for the final leg of the race to succeed Boris Johnson and will go head-to-head with Foreign Secretary Liz Truss as one of two finalists to take charge as Conservative Party leader and British Prime Minister.

Sunak won the fifth and final voting round of Tory MPs with a resounding 137 votes, while second-placed Truss won the support of 113 MPs. Trade Minister Penny Mordaunt was knocked out of the race after coming in third with 105 votes.

The 42-year-old British Indian former Chancellor, who has topped every voting round so far, added 19 votes to his Tuesday tally of 118 and comfortably crossed the 120 MPs mark seen as the threshold to



confirm a place in the final showdown.

Sunak and Truss are now set for their first head-on clash in a live televised debate scheduled on the BBC for Monday.

Earlier, outgoing Prime Minister Johnson used his last Prime Minister's Questions (PMQs) in the House of Commons to bid farewell to the top job with the Spanish phrase "hasta la vista, baby".

Continued on Page 2

China plans to build
new highway along
LAC near Tibet

PTI ■ BEIJING

China plans to build a new highway along the Line of Actual Control (LAC) with India as part of Beijing's efforts to strengthen its strategic position and project its power, a media report said on Wednesday.

The highway, spanning from Lunzuo county in Tibet to Mazha in Kashgar, Xinjiang region, is among 345 construction plans proposed in the new national programme, which aims to build a total of 461,000 kms of highway and motorway by 2035, as China seeks to revive its faltering economy with infrastructure investment, the Hong Kong-based South China Morning Post reported.

Lhunze county, according

to reports, formed part of Arunachal Pradesh, which China claims as part of South Tibet.

Under the plan released last week, the highway known as G695 is expected to run through Cona county, which lies immediately north of the LAC, Kamba county bordering Sikkim and Gyirong county near the border with Nepal, the report said.

The planned road would also go through Burang county between Tibet, Nepal and India as well as Zanda county in Ngari prefecture, parts of which are held by India, it said.

The details of the new construction remain unclear, but the highway, when completed, may also go near the hotly contested areas.

Continued on Page 2

Over 9.7 L posts vacant in Central Govt depts: Singh

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

There were around 9.79 lakh vacant posts in central government departments against the sanctioned strength of 40.35 lakh, as on March 1, 2021, the Lok Sabha was informed on Wednesday.

According to the annual report of pay research unit of department of expenditure, there were 40,35,203 sanctioned posts under various ministries/departments of the central government, as on March 1, last year, according to a written reply by Union Minister of State for Personnel Jitendra Singh. As many as 30,55,876 central government civilian employees were in a position on the date against the sanctioned strength, it said.

“Creation and filling up of posts in the central government is the responsibility of the ministry/department concerned, and it is a continuous process,” Singh said. Vacancies in various ministries/departments of

the central government, and their attached or subordinate offices arise due to retirement, promotion, resignation, death, among others, he said.

“All ministries/departments of the central government have been requested to take action in a mission mode for filling up of vacant posts in a time bound manner,” the minister added.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi had last month asked various government departments and ministries to undertake the recruitment of 10 lakh people on a “mission mode” in the next year-and-a-half.

In another reply, Singh said according to the census of central government employees brought out by the Directorate General of Employment and Training, Ministry of Labour, the total number of permanent employees in various central ministries/departments was 30,87,278, out of which 3,37,439 employees were women as on March, 2011. **PTI**

Arms recovery case: NIA raids 9 places in Kashmir valley

PTI ■ SRINAGAR

The National Investigation Agency (NIA) on Wednesday conducted searches at nine locations in the Kashmir valley in connection with a case related to the recovery of a huge cache of arms and ammunition here, an official said.

Two local “hybrid” militants of proscribed terror outfit Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT) were arrested in the Chanapora area of Srinagar on May 23, and 15 pistols, 30 magazines, 300 rounds and a silencer were seized from them.

Two more accused were arrested later, and a vehicle was seized.

A spokesperson of the NIA said the searches were conducted at nine locations in Kashmir - five in Pulwama district of south Kashmir and four in Srinagar district - in the case related to a conspiracy of carrying out terror activities in and around Srinagar. **PTI**

NIA RECOVERS DIGITAL DEVICES AND OTHER INCRIMINATING MATERIALS

The case was registered initially at the Chanapora police station on May 23 and re-registered by the NIA on June 18 for a thorough investigation.

The NIA said the searches were conducted at the premises of the accused and other suspected persons, leading to the recovery and seizure of digital devices and other incriminating materials.

“Further investigations in the case are in progress,” the spokesperson said.

“Hybrid” militants is a term coined by the security forces in Jammu and Kashmir to describe those ultras who carry out a subversive task assigned to them by their handlers before slipping back into normal life. **PTI**

Man involved in propagating ‘jihad’ arrested from Bihar: NIA

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

A “highly radicalised” individual involved in propagating “jihad” against India was arrested from Bihar by the National Investigation Agency (NIA), an official said on Wednesday.

Ali Asgar alias Abdullah Bihari, a resident of Siswaniya village, was the seventh accused arrested in connection with a probe into the activities of banned Jamaat-ul-Mujahideen Bangladesh (JMB), the official said. Asgar was arrested during searches conducted in the east Champaran area of Bihar on Tuesday, a spokesperson of the NIA said.

The spokesperson said the case is related to arrest of six active cadres of proscribed organization JMB, including three illegal immigrants of Bangladesh, from Aishbagh, Bhopal in Madhya Pradesh who were found involved in propagating the JMB plans or ideology and motivating youth to carry out “jihad” against India. **PTI**

With \$87 billion, India top remittance recipient in 2021, says UN report

United Nations: India received 87 billion dollars in remittances in 2021, the top remittance recipient, and way ahead of countries like China and Mexico, according to a World Health Organisation report released on Wednesday.

The first WHO World report on the health of refugees and migrants said that today about one in eight people in the world, some one billion, are migrants.

The report by the specialised agency of the United Nations responsible for international public health said that in 2021 the top five remittance recipients in current US dollars were India, China, Mexico, the Philippines and Egypt.

With USD 87 billion, India was the top remittance recipient among low- and middle-income countries, as per 2021 estimates, way ahead of China and Mexico’s 53 billion dollars, the Philippines (36 billion dollars) and Egypt (33 billion dollars). The United States was the largest source country for remittances in 2020, followed by the United Arab Emirates, Saudi Arabia and Switzerland. Remittances increase or maintain consumer spending and soften the blow of economic hardship, such as during the Covid-19 pandemic.

“Remittances are expected to continue growing in 2022, but there are challenges, such as the Covid-19 crisis, which still poses one of the greatest risks to flows to low- and middle-income countries, especially as fiscal stimulus programmes in migrant destination countries cannot continue indefinitely,” the report said.

It said remittances are an “important and positive” economic result of migration for migrants themselves and for family and friends remaining in their home countries.

NCRPULSE

MCD HOLDS DRIVE AGAINST MOSQUITO BREEDING
New Delhi: With an aim to curb the vector-borne diseases in the national capital, Municipal Corporation of Delhi (MCD) on Wednesday organised a special awareness campaign against breeding of Aedes Mosquito. Aedes mosquito is a container breeder and during rainy season it starts breeding at multiple small containers containing clean rain water like cap, kabad, tyres, and any container where clean water gets stagnant for seven days.

DU FORMS COMMITTEE TO FRAME SYLLABUS
New Delhi: The Delhi University (DU) on Wednesday constituted a six-member committee for framing syllabus and other modalities for a course on patent laws. The committee is headed by Daman Saluja, Professor at Medical Biotechnology Laboratory, DU’s B R Ambedkar Center for Biomedical Research, the varsity said in a notification.

DELHI CONG PAYS TRIBUTE TO SHEILA DIKSHIT
New Delhi: Delhi Congress leaders paid tributes to former chief minister late Sheila Dikshit on her death anniversary at the Delhi Congress office here on Wednesday. Her son Sandeep Dikshit, along with Delhi Congress president Anil Kumar and former MLA Anil Bhardwaj paid homage, they said. Several other leaders, including Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal, Congress MPs Gaurav Gogoi and Shashi Tharoor, took to social media to remember the former chief minister on her death anniversary. (With Pic)

DELHI GOVT LAUNCHES 2ND DSEU LIGHTHOUSE CENTRE
New Delhi: In order to provide job oriented skill education and soft skills training to youth of low income communities, the Kejriwal Government on Wednesday launched the second DSEU Lighthouse Centre in Malkaganj. The center will address the needs for skill development of youth living in slum clusters in and around the area. It was inaugurated by the Deputy Chief Minister and Education Minister Manish Sisodia along with the community members.

DELHI METRO ISSUES 300 PERMITS FOR E-AUTOS
New Delhi: The Delhi Metro has awarded 300 permits for electric autos that will be driven by women to provide last-mile connectivity to commuters. The permits have been issued to electric mobility solutions and services provider ETO Motors and under the first phase, a fleet of over 50 e-autos would start operations in August.

RAJAT SHARMA GETS THREAT CALLS
New Delhi: Senior TV journalist Rajat Sharma has approached the Delhi Police saying he received threat calls and demanded security. Police said they are investigating the case and threat assessment. This is not the first time the journalist has received such a threat, sources said.

DU RESUMES OFFLINE CLASSES
New Delhi: Delhi University began on Wednesday physical classes for a section of students of colleges. Scores of students were happy to be back on the campus. Classes for the fifth and seventh semesters of the new academic year have begun.

NEW BATCH OF IAS & IPS OFFICERS FELICITATED
New Delhi: A new batch of IAS and IPS officers were felicitated at a glittering ceremony in the national Capital by the Indian Civil Services Association, a think tank of retired bureaucrats. Over 40 successful candidates who were coached by IAS Gurukul were honoured by the institute in the presence of noted economist Sanjeev Sanyal and retired bureaucrats Wajahat Habibullah and PC Halder.

Fire onboard INS Vikramaditya, no casualties reported

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

An incident of fire onboard Aircraft carrier INS Vikramaditya took place on Wednesday while it was at sea. The blaze was brought under control and no casualties were reported. A mandatory board of inquiry was ordered to ascertain the cause of the fire.

Giving details of the mishap, Navy officials said here during a planned sortie for conduct of trials at sea, an incident of fire was reported onboard INS Vikramaditya. The ship was operating off

Karwar. The fire was brought under control by the ship’s crew using onboard firefighting systems.

It weighs more than 45,000 tons and is 284 metres in length. The ship accommodates MIG-29 fighter jets besides helicopters. The aircraft carrier was formally inducted into the Indian Navy in June 2014.

The ship had witnessed mishaps in the past with one incident reported on June 10, 2016. A sailor and a civilian worker were killed when a sewage plant they were repairing leaked.

China plans to...

From Page 1

There was no official reaction here to the news report in the Hong Kong media.

India has said previously that it keeps an eye on all the activities along its border.

The report of the new highway plan along the LAC comes at a time when India and China made efforts to resolve the over two-year eastern Ladakh standoff.

The two countries have so far held 16 rounds of talks to disengage troops at different points. At Sunday’s 16th round

of talks between the top military commanders of the two countries, it was learnt that the Indian delegation sought resolution of pending issues in Depsang Bulge and Demchok.

India has been consistently maintaining that peace and tranquillity along the LAC were key for the overall development of the bilateral ties.

Last month External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar asserted that India will not allow any unilateral attempt by China to change the status quo or the LAC.

At his meeting with Chinese counterpart Wang Yi on the side-lines of recent G20 foreign ministers in Bali, Jaishankar conveyed to Wang the need for early resolution of all the outstanding issues in Eastern Ladakh.

The eastern Ladakh border standoff erupted on May 5, 2020, following a violent clash in the Pangong lake areas.

PUBLIC NOTICE
I, Navneet S/o Shri Prem Pal Singh, holder of Indian Passport No. 50613416 issued at Ghaziabad on April 18 2018, permanent resident of B-113 Rajhans Apartment, Indirapuram, Ghaziabad-201014, Uttar Pradesh, India and presently residing at 22103 Doctrine Way, Cary, North Carolina-27519,USA do hereby add Surname “Singh” and change my name from “Navneet” to “Navneet Singh” with immediate effect.

PUBLIC NOTICE
LOST OF DOCUMENTS
To be known to all that I, **SUNDER SINGH S/o Sh. Amar Singh, R/o F-16, Rajouri Garden, Delhi-110027**, have lost his original property Documents i.e. Demand Letter and Possession Letter in respect of the Property Bearing No.- **16, TRANSPORT CENTRE, NEW ROHTAK ROAD, NEW DELHI** have been lost, an NCR Vide LR No: 6/10311/2022 against this effect has been lodged in Crime Branch Police Station Delhi.
Any person claiming any right, interest, having any objection or found in possession of original documents may write contact with the above named person at above address within **15 days** from the date of publication of this notice.

PUBLIC NOTICE
It is to inform to the public at large that **Mr. Anil Kumar S/o. Late Mr. Mahender Singh Dahiyia** who is owner of the Property bearing No.4/44, area admeasuring 250 Sq. Yards, carved out of Khana No.44/10, situated in the revenue estate of Village Nangloi Jat, and the abadi is known as Ashok Mohalla, Delhi, vide Relinquishment Deed dated 18.07.2012 (vide Document No. 3861, registered at Sub-Registrar, IIA, Punjabi Bagh, Delhi) and same to be finance & mortgage by **Vastu Housing Finance Corporation Limited**. To comply the requirements of BANK/NBFC, we give this public notice that if any person having any type of claim/right/title/interest/creating mortgage 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 etc.

Lucem Legal LLP
269, Rama House, Ground Floor, Masjid Woth, Opp. Uday Park, South Ext.-II, New Delhi-110049
Contact # 011-4004616

PUBLIC NOTICE
It Is Brought To The Notice Of All Concerned That My Client Mrs. Jasreen Kaur Wife Of Mr. Ranjot Singh R/o House No. F-406 Sarita Vihar, New Delhi Having Intended To Purchase The Entire Residential Properties Bearing No(S). House No. 308 & House No. 309, Situated In Sector-21-A, Faridabad Haryana With All Construction, Fitting, Furniture And Fixtures From The Owners Shri Prashant Pandey, S/o Dr. Narendra Kumar Pandey. However Original Documents of Property No. 309, Sector-21-A, Faridabad are not available as same Have Been Lost/Misplaced By The Previous Owners, Due Intimation Has Already Been Given To The Concerned Police Station And Concerned Government Authority Inclusive Of HUDA/HSVP, Faridabad. In View Of This Any Persons(S) Claiming Any Right Or Interest Or Claim On The Aforesaid Properties Or Any Part Thereof, By Way Of Any Document Of Any Nature Inclusive Of Not Limited To Sale Exchange, Agreement, GPA, MOU, Family Settlement, Award, Court Order, Mortgage, Lease, Sub-Lease, Gift, Trust, Inheritance, Bequest, Possession, Lien, Easement Or Otherwise, Is/Are Hereby Required To Communicate The Same In Writing Alongwith Copies Of All Documents To Support His/Her Claims/Right/Interest In any of the Aforesaid Property To The Undersigned At His Office Within 7 (Seven) Days From The Date Hereof. As Otherwise The Said Sale/Transfer Will Be Completed Without Any Reference Or Regard To Any Such Purported Claim Or Interest, Which Shall Be Deemed To Have Been Waived For All Intents And Purposes.

DILIP KUMAR RANA ADVOCATE
C-124-B, Greater Kailash-I
New Delhi-110048

Moosewala...

From Page 1

In the encounter that broke out in the afternoon and lasted till 4 pm, three police officials and a journalist also sustained injuries. The police have recovered one AK-47, a pistol, and a bag - which would be opened in the presence of the forensic team.

“Heavy exchange of fire took place today, two gangsters involved in Moosewala case - Jagroop Singh Roopa and Manpreet Singh - were killed. We have recovered an AK47 and a pistol.

A bag has also been recovered but it will be examined by a forensic team,” Punjab ADGP and Anti-Gangster Task Force head Promod Ban informed the media after the encounter.

Ban said the AGTF team tried to surround the gangsters at a building with the help of the local police, and “they died in the exchange of fire.”

“It is a matter of investigation that from where they procured the AK-47, and it would also be forensically examined whether this weapon was used in the Moosewala’s killing,” he added.

During the encounter, three of the policemen were injured in the encounter, “and they are out of danger,” he added.

Ban said Roopa and Manu were hiding at a building in Bhakna village near the India-Pakistan border in Amritsar. They were absconding after Moosewala’s killing.

“We have been keeping a track of the accused in Moosewala murder case...Our Task Force noticed some movement in this area, and we acted upon it. Our forensic team is at the spot for further investigation,” said ADGP Ban. Ban said the police team had repeatedly asked the two gangsters to surrender but they started firing, in which three policemen were also injured.

The encounter lasted for about four and a half hours.

Ban said it is a message to all the gangsters that Punjab Police will never tolerate gangsterism in the State.

At the same time, Ban added that every policeman and officer involved in this encounter will be honoured.

Eyewitnesses to the encounter said the gangsters

arrived at the abandoned building in a Thar vehicle, and the police were chasing them. When they entered the abandoned house, the police surrounded them.

A police official maintained that they had such modern weapons that they did not let the police come near for four hours and continued firing. Sources maintained that the police had earlier planned to nab the two a day before. However, things didn’t work out. On Wednesday, the police surrounded the gangsters at around 11 am. There was heavy exchange of fire from both sides during the first two hours, with the gangster-duo firing on the police team with AK-47 and other weapons.

It has been learnt that they were having the same weapons used in Moosewala’s murder. For the encounter, members of the Anti-Gangster Task Force, Special Operation Cell, Organized Crime Control Unit were involved. Apart from this, Punjab police’s best shooters and quick reaction team were also present on the spot.

During the encounter, the police had sealed an area of about two-kilometres around the building where gangsters were hiding. The locals, civilians were also asked to stay indoors.

Yogi’s Dalit Min...

From Page 1

His letter, which repeatedly refers to the fact that he is a Dalit, alleges that he is not kept in the loop by the officials in matters related to the Ministry, or invited to any departmental meeting.

“On July 9, I enquired about transfers in the department after receiving complaints of irregularities and corruption but did not get a response despite speaking to the top officials of the government and the department. I also sought details about the transfers made in the department in 2022-23 but the details were not provided to me,” Khatik said in his letter.

“When I sought clarification, my phone was bluntly disconnected midway by the principal secretary of the department,” Khatik said in his letter.

He also alleged corruption in transfer of officials say-

Wickremesinghe’s name was proposed by the Leader of the House and minister Dinesh Gunawardena and MP Manusha Nanayakkara seconded it. Dissanayake’s name was proposed by MP Vijitha Herath and MP Harini Amarasinghe seconded it.

Wickremesinghe, who has been in Parliament for nearly five decades, was appointed as prime minister in May, nearly two years after his United National Party (UNP) was routed and failed to win a single seat in the general election held in August 2020.

Widely accepted in political circles as a man who could manage the economy with policies, Wickremesinghe is struggling to fix the economy which, he said, had collapsed at the time of his appointment in May.

He was sworn-in as acting president on July 13 after President Rajapaksa fled to the Maldives and then to Singapore from where he resigned in the face of public revolt against his government’s mishandling of the country’s economy.

ing money changed hands during transfer which was a violation of Yogi’s commitment of clean administration.

“If you want you can verify my charges through an independent agency,” he said.

Later in the day, Khatik refused to confirm or deny whether he had resigned from the council of Ministers.

“Koi vishay nahi hai (there is no issue),” Khatik, told reporters in Hastinapur.

Meanwhile, downplaying the controversy over the alleged resignation of Khatik, Singh said the issue had been blown out of proportion and no one was angry with him.

“I am in touch with Khatik regularly. In fact, we talk almost daily. He is not angry,” Singh, who is also the BJP State president, told reporters here on Wednesday.

“If there is any issue, we both will sit down and settle it,” he said.

Singh said Khatik had full respect in the party and the Government. “Whatever he says is taken seriously. Despite this, if there is any issue, it will be discussed and a solution will be found,” he said.

Zubair...

From Page 1

“How can a journalist be restrained from tweeting and writing? If he violates any law by tweeting or for that matter any citizen speaking in public or private, then he can be proceeded as per the law,” the bench said ordering Zubair’s release by Wednesday 6pm itself. “It is a settled principle of law, that the existence of the power of arrest must be distinguished from the exercise of arrest and the exercise of the power of arrest must be pursued sparingly,” said the apex court. The court said the directions for the transfer of investigations of the FIRs which have been registered in Uttar Pradesh to the special cell of Delhi Police shall apply to all the existing FIRs forming the subject matter of the tweets as noted earlier and to any future FIR to be registered against him under the same subject matter.

Fairness to Zubair would require that the entirety of the investigation into all the FIRs be clubbed together and should be handled by one and the same investigating authority, it added. The apex court said the overlap between the allegations in the FIRs, emanating as they do, from the tweets of the petitioner (Zubair) would only go to emphasise the need for a consolidated as opposed to a piecemeal investigation by a diverse set of law enforcement agencies. It said that essentially, the gravamen of allegations against the petitioner pertains to tweets that have been put out by him.

“Having found from the record that the petitioner has been subjected to a fairly sustained investigation by the Delhi police, we find no reason or justification for the deprivation of the liberty of the petitioner to persist any further. Consequently, we are of the view that the petitioner shall be released on interim bail in each of the FIRs which form the subject matter of these proceedings under Article 32 of the Constitution,” it said.

The top court, which did not upload the detailed order on its website but the operating part only said that it would take some time to transcribe the judgment and directed that Zubair be released on interim bail in all the FIRs lodged in UP after depositing a bail bond.

Heavy rain, wind pummel Delhi

Strong winds uprooted trees, snapped power, internet cables

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Moderate to heavy rain and gusty winds pummelled Delhi on Wednesday, inundating low-lying areas. Strong winds uprooted trees and snapped power and internet cables in several areas, throwing parts of the national Capital into chaos.

The heavy showers provided a much-needed respite from the heat, but brought the familiar sight of snaking lines of vehicles stuck on waterlogged roads for interminable minutes. People shared pictures and videos of rainwater gushing into residential areas and vehicles wading through waterlogged roads. However, the maximum temperature in the city slipped to 35.1 degrees Celsius, which is normal for this time of the year.

The Safdarjung observatory, Delhi's primary weather station, recorded 52.4 mm of rainfall, and maximum temperature of 35.1 degrees Celsius, normal for this time of the year. The weather stations at Palam, Lodhi Road, Ridge, Ayanagar, Delhi University, Pusa and Sport Complex (near Commonwealth Games Village) logged 92.4mm, 64mm, 21mm, 46.9mm, 21mm, 32mm and 19 mm of precipitation, respectively. The relative humidity in the Capital was recorded 84 per cent at 8:30 A.M. and 94 per cent at 5:30 P.M.

According to the reports by the Municipal Corporation of Delhi (MCD), a total of 11 complaints of flooding were received by the civic body across

the Capital in the areas including, Satya Niketan, Vishnu Garden, Janakpuri, Dwarka sector 3, Nehru Nagar, Prem Nagar Market Near the Tyagraj stadium, Karol Bagh, Inderpuri, Mansarovar Garden, Tank road and West Patel Nagar.

"Apart from the waterlogging, total five complaints of trees falling or parts of trees falling were received by the municipal corporation in Dwarka sector -1, Tughlakabad village, Delhi Gate, Paschim Vihar and Netaji Subhash Palace area," the statement further read. "As per the IMD's report, thundershowers with moderate intensity to heavy intensity rain with gusty winds would occur over Delhi and adjoining areas. Commuters are advised to plan their journey accordingly," it tweeted. Generally cloudy sky, moderate rain or thundershowers are predicted in the city over the next three days.

The national Capital recorded a minimum temperature of 28.2 degrees Celsius, a notch above normal.

The IMD has predicted "enhanced rainfall activity" over northwest India for two-three days. The monsoon had covered the entire country on July 2, six days ahead of schedule. However, rains in Haryana, Punjab, Delhi, Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Jharkhand and West Bengal have remained subdued.

Meteorologists attribute the rain deficit in the north and northwest India to the formation of back-to-back low-pressure areas in the Bay of Bengal in July which kept the monsoon trough over central India for an unusually long period. Before Wednesday's showers, the Safdarjung Observatory had recorded 189.6 mm of rainfall against a normal of 201 mm since the start of the monsoon season on June 1.

7 flights diverted, services delayed

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

At least seven flights were diverted and 40 services were delayed at Delhi airport due to heavy rains. According to sources, at least 25 flight departures and 15 flight arrivals were delayed due to bad weather on Wednesday. Vistara said on Twitter that its two Mumbai-Delhi flights were diverted to other cities—one to Jaipur and another to Indore — due to heavy rains in Delhi. Sources said at least seven flights, including the aforementioned two of Vistara, were diverted to other cities from the Delhi airport.



A man tries to protect himself from the rain in the national Capital on Wednesday

Ranjan Dimri/Pioneer

Waterlogging causes major traffic snarls

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Heavy rains caused waterlogging across the national Capital, leading to traffic jams. The vehicles were moving at snail's pace at ITO, Ashram, Dhaula Kuan, Mehrauli, the Barapullah flyover towards DND flyover, the Dwarka-Palam road towards the airport, Samalkha Crossing towards Kapashera Border, Palam flyover to Sadar Bazar metro station road, Delhi Cantt, Timarpur and among others.

The Delhi Traffic Police took to Twitter to alert commuters. In a series of tweets it informed, "Traffic is affected on NH8 in both the carriageways from Dhaula Kuan towards Gurgaon and vice-versa due to waterlogging near GGR/PGR. Kindly avoid the stretch."

Traffic is affected on the Najafgarh Road near Tooda



Vehicles ply on a flooded road during monsoon rain

Ranjan Dimri/Pioneer

Mandi, on Ring Road in both the carriageways from Naraina to Moti Bagh and vice-versa due to waterlogging under the Dhaula Kuan flyover, the traffic cops tweeted.

Traffic is affected on Mahipalpur Chowk, on the Rangpuri Chowk and on the Najafgarh Phirni road due to waterlogging near Dhansa Stand and Bahadurgarh stand, it said.

"Traffic is affected on

the New Rohtak Road in the carriageway from Anand Parbat towards Zakhira due to waterlogging opp. Gali No. 10, Anand Parbat. Kindly avoid the stretch," the police tweeted.

Following the heavy rainfall and waterlogging, several vehicles were also reported to have broken down leading to traffic jams across the city.

"Traffic is affected in the carriageway from Dwarka Mor towards Uttam Nagar due to breakdown of a bus near Dwarka Mor Metro Station. Kindly avoid the stretch," the Traffic Police tweeted.

In another tweet, they asked the commuters to avoid the Aurbindo stretch from INA to AIIMS, Moolchand Underpass on Ring Road, Aurbindo marg from IIT to Adhchini and MB Road near Vayusenabad due to waterlogging and vehicle breakdown in the south district.

Sonia's ED grilling protest, kanwar may hit traffic: Police

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Delhi Police on Wednesday said that traffic movement was likely to be affected in parts of the national Capital on Thursday due to the anticipated protests over the questioning of Congress chief Sonia Gandhi by the Enforcement Directorate (ED) and an increase in the number of *Kanwariyas* passing through the city.

The ED has asked Sonia Gandhi to depose before it on July 21 for questioning in the *National Herald* newspaper-linked money-laundering case. "In view of the ongoing Parliament session, adequate security and traffic arrangements have been made to deal with any 'contagious situation' which may arise due to the protests over the Congress chief's questioning," said a senior police officer.

"Some roads near the Congress office have already been barricaded by police in anticipation of the protests on Thursday," said the sources in the Delhi Police.

Due to the nationwide *Kanwar yatra* that kicked off on July 14 and will conclude on July 26, *Kanwariyas* have been arriving in the city over the last few days, and their numbers are likely to increase from Thursday onwards, police said.

Due to this, traffic is likely to be affected on some roads in east and outer Delhi, police said, adding that adequate arrangements have been made to avoid jams.

A total of 1,925 police personnel have been deployed for traffic regulation and more than 56 cranes and motorcycles are also present on the route which the *Kanwariyas* will be taking, according to officials.

Commuters or *kanwar yatris* needing any assistance can check the Delhi Traffic Police Facebook page or Twitter handle for updates or call on 8750871493 and helpline number 1095/011-25844444 for queries, a state-



ment issued by the Traffic Police said.

The Shiva devotees are expected to pass through Apsara Border, Shahdara flyover, Seelampur, ISBT flyover, Boulevard Road, Rani Jhansi Road, Faiz Road, Upper Ridge Road, Dhaula Kuan, National Highway 8 and exit from Rajokri Border for Haryana, the statement said.

Wazirabad Road, Wazirabad Bridge, Outer Ring Road, Mukarba Chowk, National Highway 1 and exit from Singhu Border or Madhuban Chowk, Peeragarhi and exit from Tikri Border for Haryana, Maharajpur Border, Road number 56, Ghazipur Border, Ring Road, Mathura Road and Badarpur Border exit are some of other points expected to be affected, it said.

Kanwariyas movement in smaller numbers is also observed at several locations across Delhi, police said.

A senior officer advised that motorists and road users should follow traffic rules and drive in dedicated road lanes.

Police said that in addition to the arrangements by the traffic police, security has been beefed up at *kanwar* camps and on important routes of the *yatra* while regular patrolling is being carried out.

Police officials said they are working closely with the *kanwar samitis* to ensure that the *yatra* concludes smoothly without any untoward incident.

'Har ghar Tiranga' campaign to begin from July 22

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Beginning from July 22, the national Capital is to be painted in the colours of the national flag to mark 75 years of Independence. Main roads, markets, flyovers, roundabouts and all municipal schools and hospitals will also be painted in the colours of the national flag.

All employees of municipal bodies shall wear the Tricolour on their shoulder/chest. Delhi Lieutenant-Governor Vinai Kumar Saxena on Wednesday issued directions for "Har Ganga Tiranga" campaign starting from July 22.

Besides the L-G's office, the Delhi Government, too, plans to conduct a two-week-long cultural festival across the national Capital from August 1 to 15 this year.

A mega event with concerts and small programmes in different parts of the city will be organised. Apart from the

events, Tricolours will be flown atop offices and residential buildings in the city as has been planned by the Delhi Government to celebrate the special occasion.

"The preparations are also underway for the 75th anniversary of India's Independence. Prominent roads in the city, markets, flyovers, roundabouts, schools and hospitals of civic agencies will be decked up in the colours of the national flag," said a statement from the L-G's office, adding that "all employees of urban local bodies (ULB) will have the Tricolour pinned on their lapels."

The directives come following a meeting chaired by Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Sunday which was attended by all Governors, Lieutenant-Governors, Chief Ministers and administrators of Union Territories.

The New Delhi Municipal Council (NDMC) and the Municipal Corporation of

Delhi (MCD) will identify prominent roads like Sardar Patel Marg and Shanti Path, and important market areas in their respective jurisdictions to be decorated with the Tricolour to give a celebratory look to the entire city from August 13- 15.

The Delhi Development Authority (DDA) will carry out a similar exercise in the markets owned and controlled by it. The flyovers in the NDMC area will be illuminated in the colours of the national flag during this period, and municipal schools and hospitals will hoist the flag in their premises at a prominent location from August 13-15.

ULBs will identify important roundabouts in their area for the display of the Tricolour through different means like floral boards, flags, and illumination in the colours of the national flag, said the statement.

All the departments of the Delhi Government, apart from the MCD, NDMC, DDA and

Delhi Police, have been asked by Saxena to make concerted efforts for popularising the 'Har Ghar Tiranga' initiative by ensuring maximum people's participation.

To ensure this, a special

Work to convert mined-out pits at Bhati mines into water bodies has begun: L-G

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Delhi Lieutenant Governor (L-G) V K Saxena on Wednesday said the work to develop mined-out pits at the Bhatti Mines reserve forest area into water bodies has begun.

"Small steps initiate enduring changes! Had directed officials during a visit to Bhatti Mines to identify waterlogging sites in vicinity & use pipes to pump rainwater into deep mined pits. Glad this exercise

to create a waterbody, raise water table & prevent waterlogging has begun," the L-G tweeted.

The lieutenant governor had in June directed officials to develop mined-out pits in the rain shadow area of the Bhatti mines reserved forest into water bodies by linking them to neighbouring areas which persistently face waterlogging issues.

He had asked the officials to undertake a contour survey of the area to ascertain and map the flow of water in the catch-

these, Saxena has also issued directions to ensure that the National Flag appears on the home page of all websites of various Government departments and undertakings, with effect from July 22.



ment which would help in the laying of channels leading up to the pits.

The district magistrate of South Delhi was directed to identify waterlogging hotspots in the vicinity so that connecting lines could be laid leading up to the pits.

2 new hostels to house 1K students at DTU

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Two new hostels with capacity to accommodate 1,000 students were inaugurated at the Delhi Technological University (DTU) on Wednesday. With the inauguration of the new hostels, DTU can now house 1,105 girls and 1,605 boys. The hostels -- Dr APJ Abdul Kalam Boys Hostel and Virangana Laxmibai Girls Hostel-- were inaugurated by Delhi Deputy Chief Minister Manish Sisodia.

"The number of students in DTU has gone up from 6,000 in 2015 to 15,000 in 2022. In such a situation, it is important for us to expand our facilities to accommodate more and more students," Sisodia said during the inauguration ceremony.

The newly-constructed

hostels are said to be equipped with fully furnished and air conditioned rooms, a TV Room, a gymnasium, indoor games area, a reading and internet room, a dining room, a parlour, an activity room, and a guest room. Sisodia said that the expansion will further bolster the "world-class education" being provided by DTU and help the university nurture its students better.

The Kejriwal Government aims to provide world-class higher education and professional education to all the students who are joining State universities and facilitating good accommodation for them is a very important part of it, Sisodia said.

It is to be noted that Dr APJ Abdul Kalam Boys hostel has facilities to accommodate more than 300 students. It has 12 floors with 107 rooms.

Whereas Virangana Laxmibai Hostel is a 12 storey building with 227 rooms and can accommodate over 600 students.

"There are many other hostels at the campus named after various researchers and scientists. DTU now has the facility to accommodate over 2,600 students in its hostel. Apart from this DTU will soon get two new academic blocks for more than 3,000 students, which are currently under construction. The total cost of construction of two new hostels and two academic blocks is Rs 291.88 crore," said an official.

Meanwhile, Sisodia said that this expansion in facilities to students will further support the world-class education being provided by DTU and help the university nurture its students better.



Yogesh Singh, the Vice-Chancellor of University of Delhi and former Vice Chancellor of DTU, who arrived as a special guest on this occasion, in his address said that there was a lot of problem of hostel in DTU which has been completed to a great extent after the inauguration of these new hostels.

He said that projects worth about Rs 400 crore were started in DTU, out of which construction works worth about Rs 300 crore have been completed.

BJYM stages protest demanding sacking of Satyendra Jain

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Delhi unit of the Bharatiya Janata Yuva Morcha (BJYM) led by MPs Ramesh Bidhuri, Manoj Tiwari, leader of the opposition in Delhi Assembly, Ramvir Singh Bidhuri and state unit president Adesh Gupta staged a protest at Chandgi Ram Akhara against Kejriwal government to demand sacking of minister Satyendra Jain. Led by morcha's president Shri Vasu Rukhar, the protestors numbering over 3000 raised slogans in support of their demand.

Addressing protestors, Bidhuri said the minister purchased land worth thousands of crores in unauthorized colonies where agricultural activity was taking place. Later, roads and drains were developed there



due to which the prices of land shot up there. If it was Rs 500 for a sq metre earlier it now rose to Rs 50000 for that.

Jain is presently under judicial custody in a money-laundering case registered by the Enforcement Directorate (ED). "Jain is in jail for nearly two months and yet, Kejriwal has kept him as a minister in his government. He should be sacked by Kejriwal as he did in the case of another minister for corruption simply on the basis of video-recording," Delhi BJP president Adesh Gupta said.

Mayors spent MCD's ₹270 cr on luxuries: AAP

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Hitting out at BJP-ruled MCD, the Aam Aadmi Party of Wednesday claimed that, MCD's Mayors have spent Rs 270 crores on personal luxuries in five years. Meanwhile refuting the claims made by AAP, BJP said, "We challenge Durgesh Pathak to prove if any single Mayor or Councillor of BJP has misused civic fund or apologise to BJP or else be prepared to face legal action."

The AAP MLA and MCD in-charge Durgesh Pathak claimed that, "MCD has no funds to pay salaries to employees but Mayors didn't hesitate once in splurging Rs 270 crores on themselves. Even despite these senseless spendings the MCD employees could have very well been paid their

salaries. Certain that Delhiites will take revenge by making BJP leaders forfeit their deposits in MCD polls."

"This is a textbook example of moral bankruptcy and corruption in the system run by BJP and its mayors, AAP alleged.

City BJP Spokesperson Praveen Shankar Kapoor said that Pathak has done false propaganda that during last five years Rs. 270 crores have been spent on three Mayors of dissolved three MCDs. "First of all this figure of 270 crores has not been officially issued, even if we believe it to be correct then on an average it comes to Rs. 1.5 crores per month on each of three Mayors. This includes salary of Mayor's office Staff, expenses on salary, computers, furnitures and petrol for the car," said Kapoor.

Monitor home isolation cases, States told amid surge in Covid cases

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Amid an upsurge in COVID cases and positivity rate in 115 districts of nine States, the Centre on Wednesday urged the States and Union Territories to strictly monitor the home isolation cases so that these patients do not intermingle in the community. The Centre also stressed on spreading awareness regarding home-test kits through the rapid antigen test (RAT) for a timely identification of the disease.

The States were advised to conduct surveillance and report district-wise SARI (Severe Acute Respiratory Illness) and ILI (Influenza-like Illness) cases on a daily basis and also to send these for genome sequencing to the mapped INSACOG laboratories.

They were advised to undertake test indicated proportion of international arrivals with genome sequencing of all the positive cases and identify sentinel sites for the

Indian SARS-CoV-2 Genomics Consortium (INSACOG) network to send samples for whole genome sequencing, according to a statement issued by the health ministry.

These directions were issued by Union Health Secretary Rajesh Bhushan as he chaired a high-level meeting on Wednesday to review the Covid situation in nine states - Kerala, West Bengal, Tamil Nadu, Maharashtra, Assam, Andhra Pradesh, Himachal Pradesh, Mizoram and Arunachal Pradesh. Dr Vinod Paul, Member (Health), NITI Aayog was also present at the meeting.

These states are either reporting a surge in the number of fresh Covid cases or a rise in the positivity rate, the statement said.

The public health measures for surveillance, containment and management of COVID-19 were also reviewed, it stated.

While Bhushan underlined the critical Covid control and management strategies, Paul expressed



concern over the surge in the number of cases in these states in the last one month. "We need to be mindful that Covid is not gone. Looking at the global scenario, we need to be at high alert. There is poor surveillance, poor testing and below-

average vaccination in many states undergoing the present surge," Paul said.

He urged the states to improve the testing in areas reporting a high positivity rate, increase surveillance in accordance with the revised

surveillance strategy and speed up vaccination, the statement said.

All districts reporting a high positivity rate need to undertake adequate testing with a higher proportion of RTPCR tests. Any laxity will result in deterioration of the

situation in these districts, Bhushan said adding there is a need to effectively and strictly monitor the home-isolation cases so that these patients do not intermingle in their neighbourhoods, community, village, mohalla, ward etc. and spread the infection.

The states were also urged to send positive samples from large clusters and outbreaks in the community and unusual events for whole genome sequencing.

They were asked to create added awareness regarding reporting of those who opt for home test kits through the RAT for a timely identification of those cases that need clinical management. All such positive patients to be advised for home isolation to prevent the infection spread in the community, the statement said.

The states were also urged to accelerate the free Covid vaccination for the first, second and precaution doses.

Begin Maha civic poll process within two weeks: SC to SEC

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Wednesday directed the Maharashtra State election commission (SEC) and the State authorities to ensure the process for local bodies' election is commenced within two weeks.

The apex court, which was hearing the case related to OBC quota in Maharashtra local body elections and was apprised that the poll process for 367 local bodies has already started, observed the election cannot be deferred anymore.

"We want elections to be held and we are making it loud and clear to all of you. Let the election process commence. Let it be taken to the logical end," a bench headed by Justice A M Khanwilkar said, while directing that the poll process be commenced within two weeks.

The bench, also comprising justices A S Oka and J B Pardiwala, was hearing an application related to local bodies' elections in Maharashtra.

The top court noted that the counsel appearing for the SEC has pointed out that the election programme for 367 local bodies has already commenced and the same will be continued and taken to its logical end in due course.

"As regards the remaining local bodies referred to in the chart filed in the status report, we direct the election commission and all the state authorities to ensure that the election process in respect of each of those local bodies is immediately commenced and taken forward on the basis of the direction given by this court in an order dated May 4, 2022....." the bench said.

In its May 4 order, the apex court had directed the SEC to notify the programme for local bodies elections within two weeks.

"Accordingly, the election programme of such local bodies must proceed and the State Election Commission is obliged to notify the election programme within two weeks from today in respect of such local bodies including to continue with the process from the stage as on March 10, 2022, on the basis of the delimitation done prior to coming into force of the amendment Act(s) with effect from March 11, 2022," it had said in its May 4 order.

During the hearing on Wednesday, the counsel appearing for the SEC said they have filed a compliance report and gave details about the status of the election process.

IN SHORT

CENSUS DATA WON'T BE USED FOR NRC: GOVT

NEW DELHI: The Union home ministry on Wednesday said individual information collected for the census is not made public or used for preparation of any other database including the National Register of Citizens (NRC) and only aggregated data at various administrative levels is released.

SC COLLEGIUM NOD FOR ELEVATION AS JUDGES

NEW DELHI: The Supreme Court Collegium headed by Chief Justice N V Ramana has approved the proposal for the elevation of 21 Judicial Officers as Judges in the different High Courts.

'200-CR VAX MILESTONE CHANGING FACE OF INDIA'

NEW DELHI: India crossing the 200-core milestone in administering vaccination doses against COVID-19 reflects the "changing face of Bharat", BJP president J P Nadra said on Wednesday, and asserted that the country had to wait for about 20 years to get vaccines for polio and other diseases.

MMR IN 448 DIST HIGHER THAN UN SDG TARGET

NEW DELHI: Maternal mortality ratio (MMR) in 448 of India's 640 districts are higher than the target set under UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDG), according to the first mapping of India's maternal deaths at the district level. Arunachal Pradesh fares the worst of all states and Maharashtra the best, says the study published in the journal PLOS Global Public Health on Tuesday.

SC RELIEF TO MAN IN TRIAL FOR RAPING WIFE

NEW DELHI: The Supreme Court on Wednesday came to the rescue of a man by granting an interim stay on his criminal trial for allegedly raping his wife. A bench comprising Chief Justice N V Ramana and Justices Krishna Murari and Hima Kohli stayed the judgement of the Karnataka High Court which had allowed the trial of the man in a rape case lodged by his spouse.

EAM HOLDS TALKS WITH NAMIBIAN DEPUTY PM

NEW DELHI: External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar on Wednesday held extensive talks with visiting Namibian Deputy Prime Minister Netumbo Nandi Ndaitwah focusing on further broadbasing the overall bilateral ties. The two sides also signed three agreements.

SC JUNKS PLEA AGAINST PARAM CASE TRANSFER

NEW DELHI: The SC Wednesday dismissed the plea filed by the Maharashtra Govt seeking a review of its order transferring the probe to the CBI against former Mumbai police commissioner Param Bir over allegations of misconduct and corruption.

Rahul has disrespect for Parl procedures: BJP

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Attacking Congress leader Rahul Gandhi, the BJP on Wednesday alleged that his political life had been dotted with a "show of disrespect to Parliamentary procedures and tradition" and he is now adamant to bring down the Monsoon session's productivity even as it asserted the Government is not running away from the debate in parliament

"The government is not running away from debate on price rise and Goods and Service Tax (GST) (levied on new items) and the issues can be taken up in Parliament once Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman recovers from COVID-19," said Union Minister Piyush Goyal and slammed the Congress for disrupting proceedings in the parliament.

"Congress has a destructive attitude towards democracy. It was exposed from Jairam Ramesh's tweet that Congress was successful in not allowing the House to function," Goyal, who is the Leader of House in Rajya Sabha, told newsmen outside parliament.

He alleged there was a competition among opposition parties on who would disrupt parliament most.

Responding to queries from reporters outside parliament, Goyal said that the government is not running away from debate. The minister concerned Nirmala Sitharaman is suffering from COVID-19 and once she recovers, the debate on price rise and GST can take place, he said. The Opposition is demanding the rollback of five per cent GST that has kicked in on pre-packaged and labelled food items such as cereals, pulses and flour weigh-

ing less than 25 kg. For a commodity measured in litres like curd and 'lassi, the limit is 25 litres

Goyal pointed out that the ministers of the Congress-ruled states were part of the GST council, which gave the nod for the levy. Earlier in the day, Union Minister and BJP leader Smriti Irani hit out at Rahul saying as an Amethi MP between 2004 and 2019, he never posed any question in Parliament and when he "abandoned" the constituency and became the MP of Wayanad, his attendance in Lok Sabha was less than 40 per cent in the winter session in 2019. He has also never proposed any private member's bill, she added. Irani had defeated Gandhi in Amethi in the 2019 Lok Sabha polls. She also took a dig at him over his frequent foreign visits and said this has become a matter of worry for his own party.

Parl disrupted again over Opp's protest over GST, price rise

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Proceedings in both the Houses of Parliament were disrupted for the third day due to continued vociferous protests by Opposition members who were demanding an urgent and immediate discussion over price rise and the imposition of the Goods and Services Tax (GST) on some daily-use items.

A defiant opposition has not allowed the Question Hour to be run in two houses with members continuously shouting slogans and carrying anti-government placards. In Rajya Sabha a member was also seen to be clicking pictures.

When the Lok Sabha began proceedings in the morning, Speaker Om Birla told the protesting members that he would give them an opportunity to raise the issues during the Zero Hour.

"This House is for discussions and not for shouting slogans. This kind of conduct is not appropriate for the decorum of the House and there is a process to be followed by the members," the Speaker said.

Parliamentary Affairs Minister Pralhad Joshi said it was not right for the members to enter the well of the House and protest despite the Speaker assuring them that they will be allowed to raise the issues later.

"Are the protesting members interested in discussions or not?" Joshi asked. As the din continued, Birla adjourned the

proceedings till 2 pm but the opposition resumed its protests when the House met again.

The House was then adjourned till 4 pm. P V Midhun Reddy, who was in the chair, took up matters of urgent public importance under Rule 377 when the proceedings resumed. After a few members spoke amid the din, the Chair adjourned the House for the day.

In the Rajya Sabha proceeding washed out completely and it was adjourned for the day amid continued protest by the Opposition parties led by the Congress over price rise and levy of GST on daily essentials. As soon as the House resumed in the afternoon, Deputy Chairman Harivansh called Congress member Shaktisinh Gohil to speak on the Weapons of Mass Destruction and their Delivery Systems (Prohibition of Unlawful Activities) Amendment Bill, 2022. All this while, the opposition parties led by the Congress continued their protest and sloganeering in the House.

Unwilling to heed the request of the deputy chairman for restoring order in the house, some members trooped into the well. He also took note of Randeep Singh Surjewala taking pictures in the House and asked him not to do that saying it was against the rules. Even Piyush Goyal pointed out that some members were taking pictures.

'Govt unparliamentary', says Cong over Govt's refusal to Opp demand for discussions

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Congress on Wednesday dubbed the government as "unparliamentary" and alleged the functioning of Parliament is being affected because of its obstinacy to not allow the Opposition's demand for a discussion on hike in GST on food items.

Leader of Opposition in Rajya Sabha Mallikarjun Kharge said the government is not allowing the discussion on GST hike on essential food items under Rule 267 after suspending all other business, and accused it of running away from a debate.

"The most 'unparliamentary' government in India's history isn't allowing a discussion on common man's issues of price rise and GST on essential food items. Modiji, why are you running away from answering for your failures," Kharge asked.

Congress general secretary and chief whip in Rajya Sabha Jairam Ramesh said the Opposition has been demanding an urgent discussion on inflation and hike in GST rates but is being denied. "This morning in the Rajya Sabha the Opposition led by the Congress demanded an URGENT debate on price rise and senseless GST rates on food items. This was denied. The House was adjourned till 2 pm. Modi Sarkar's obstinacy continues. Business in Parliament is suffering," Ramesh said on Twitter.

"This afternoon too Modi Sarkar refused an urgent debate on price rise and shocking increase in GST rates on essential food items. The Rajya Sabha got adjourned for the day. If only the PM shows some sensitivity to address people's issues in Parliament....," Ramesh said in another tweet.

India inks pact with Namibia to reintroduce cheetah declared extinct in country 50 yrs ago

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Fifty years after it was declared extinct in the country in 1952, Cheetahs will formally make an entry in India next month before Independence Day.

India and Namibia on Wednesday signed a crucial memorandum of understanding (MoU) for the reintroduction of Cheetahs, with the first batch comprising four male and as many females arriving from Namibia in August.

Namibia has the world's largest population of Cheetahs. According to the pact, the two countries will share and exchange expertise and capacities to promote cheetah conservation in their ranges.

"Talks are on with South Africa too. An MoU will be signed with them as soon as we get approval," a senior environment ministry official said. The fastest land animal in the world will find a new home in the Kuno-Palpur National



Park in Madhya Pradesh's Sheopur district. The Cheetahs are likely to be brought to India before August 15.

The Cheetah is the only large carnivore that got completely wiped out from India, mainly due to over-hunting and habitat loss. The last spotted feline died in 1948 in the Sal forests of Chhattisgarh's Koriya district.

They will collaborate in areas of climate change, environmental governance, envi-

ronmental impact assessments, pollution and waste management etc and undertake an exchange of personnel for training and education in wildlife management, including sharing of technical expertise, wherever relevant.

At the first wildlife board meeting of Independent India in 1952, the government had "called for assigning special priority for the protection of the cheetahs in central India" and a "bold experimentation to pre-

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Suspended Jharkhand IAS officer Pooja Singhal was paid "commission" by the subordinate staff from MGNREGA funds of Khunti district which she and her husband subsequently utilised for acquiring various properties.

"Investigation by ED revealed that the commission was paid to Pooja Singhal (IAS) who was then Deputy Commissioner of the District Khunti by Ram Binod Sinha and other Engineers, in respect of the sanctioning of funds," the agency said in a statement.

The allegations against the former Jharkhand mining secretary have come after a special PMLA court in Ranchi took cognizance of a chargesheet filed against her and five others on July 5.

The charge sheet names Singhal, a 2000-batch Indian Administrative Service (IAS) officer, her businessman husband Abhishek Jha, government officers like Executive Engineers Jai Kishore Chaudhary and Shashi Prakash besides Assistant Engineer R K Jain and the Chartered Accountant of the Singhal couple, Suman Kumar.

The bureaucrat and CA Suman Kumar were arrested by the ED in this case that is linked to alleged irregularities in Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA) funds when Singhal was the



Deputy Commissioner of Khunti.

Another accused arrested by the agency earlier, former Junior Engineer Ram Binod Prasad Sinha, was posted in that district.

"The accused- Pooja Singhal and her husband Abhishek Jha- have also deposited huge amounts of cash in their bank accounts during the period of scheduled offence which was subsequently utilised for the purpose of acquisition of various properties," the agency alleged.

CA Suman Kumar was found to be involved in the "collection of illicit money on behalf of Pooja Singhal," the agency said.

"The accused have also invested huge proceeds of crime acquired by Pooja Singhal, IAS, in various immovable properties."

The ED had searched the premises of Singhal and others in May and the IAS officer, who was holding the charge of Jharkhand Mining Secretary, was suspended by the State government following her arrest by the ED.

serve the Cheetah" was suggested.

Subsequently, negotiations commenced with the Shah of Iran in the 1970s for bringing the Asiatic cheetah to India in exchange for Asiatic lions. Keeping in view the small Asiatic cheetah population of Iran and the genetic similarity between the Iranian and the African cheetah, it was decided that the latter would be introduced in India.

As many as 10 sites were surveyed between 2010 and 2012. Kuno National Park (KNP) in Madhya Pradesh was considered ready for receiving cheetahs with the least management interventions since a lot of investments had been done in this protected area for reintroducing Asiatic lions, which are also endangered species.

Spread over 748 square kilometres, KNP has an adequate prey base. It is devoid of human settlements, forms a part of the Sheopur-Shivpuri

deciduous open forest landscape and is estimated to have a capacity to sustain 21 cheetahs.

Once restored, the larger landscape can hold about 36 cheetahs. The carrying capacity can be further enhanced by including the remaining part of the Kuno Wildlife Division (1,280 sq km) through prey restoration.

The action plan for cheetah translocations in KNP has been developed in compliance with International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) guidelines and considering site assessment and prey density.

current cheetah carrying capacity of the national park, among other criteria, the Union environment ministry said.

The financial and administrative support to the cheetah reintroduction programme in India would be provided by the ministry through the National Tiger Conservation Authority.

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

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

Sr. No.	Name of the Borrower/ Loan Account Number	Description of Property/ Date of Physical Possession	Date of Demand Notice/ Amount in Demand Notice (Rs.)	Name of Branch
1.	Shafkat Ahmed Qadri/ Atfa Qadri LBDEL00001056903	Flat No. II-F/95, Second Floor, Lajpat Nagar-2, Delhi. July 16, 2022	July 06, 2021 Rs.18,62,664/-	Delhi

The above-mentioned borrowers(s)/ guarantors(s) are hereby given a 30 day notice to repay the amount, else the mortgaged properties will be sold on the expiry of 30 days from the date of publication of this Notice, as per the provisions under the Rules 8 and 9 of Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules 2002.

Date : July 21, 2022
Place : Delhi/ NCR

Authorized Officer
ICICI Bank Limited

Didi to reveal TMC's path ahead at mega rally today

SAUGAR SENGUPTA ■ KOLKATA

Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee is likely to announce her party's future course of action till 2024 general elections in a mega rally scheduled to be held on Thursday to commemorate the Trinamool Congress Martyrs' Day.

According to party national general secretary Abhishek Banerjee the mega show of strength held every year on July 21 — with the exception of 2020 and 2021 when it had to be canceled on account of the corona pandemic — “will witness a record footfall crossing all our expectations.”

On whether the Chief Minister was likely to announce anything new or whether there would be some more defections from other parties on Friday, Banerjee who is also the nephew of the Chief Minister said “whether there are new joinings in the TMC will be made clear on Friday ... but more important thing is that the Chief Minister will announce the party's future course of action for the coming panchayat elections and the 2024 general polls

which we the common party men will try to make happen by employing all our might.”

He said about one lakh people had already arrived in Kolkata and many more were likely to come by the night. Massive arrangements had been made for the rallyists coming from various parts of the State.

Accordingly the Geetanjali Stadium in South Kolkata and Central Park in Salt Lake had been requisitioned by the party to host the visitors.

The TMC organises a Sahid Diwas rally annually to commemorate the 1993 Kolkata Police firing 13 that saw 13 people dead during a controversial rally led by then State Youth Congress president Mamata Banerjee on 21 July 1993. The police opened fire after nearly one lakh tried to charge at the Writers' Buildings the State's seat of power to unsettle the then Jyoti Basu government. She had been demanding Voter's Identity Card to be made the sole required document for voting.

Banerjee who has thus far maintained a studied silence on her party's stance in regard to the vice-presidential elections is



likely to take a stand on Friday. She has already been under severe criticism from State Congress president Adhir Chowdhury for not only making her stand clear but also secretly meeting NDA vice presidential nominee and then Bengal Governor Jagdeep Dhankhar at Darjeeling Raj Bhavan. The “informal meeting” took place for more than two-and-a-half-hours in presence of Assam Chief Minister Hemant Biswa Sarma. “If someone tells even an ass that the BJP did not share the information -- of making Dhankhar the Vice President --- with Mamata Banerjee then even the animal would not believe it,” Chowdhury said. CPI(M)'s Sujan Chakrabarty said “the

Chief Minister was lamenting about not being informed about Draupadi Murmu's candidature so this time she was taken into consideration ... after they are close friends of long years ... we have repeatedly told that Mamata Banerjee too takes inspiration from Nagpur ... she is only befooling the secular people of the country.” Meanwhile, the Calcutta High on Thursday gave a conditional permission to the BJP to hold a parallel rally at Uluberia near Howrah. While the BJP had asked for a permission for a day-time rally almost at the time when TMC's meeting and rallies would take place the Court allowed the saffron party to hold a rally late in the evening between 8 and 10 pm.

Hooch kills 7 in Howrah; 30 critical

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ KOLKATA

Days after the hooch tragedy claiming 8 people in Burdwan, at least seven people died and several others fell seriously ill after drinking hooch in Howrah district.

The incident occurred at Ghusuri in industrial regions of Howrah not far from the Grand Trunk Road, sources said. Howrah Police Commissioner PK Tripathi said “about 7 people died and some others have fallen seriously ill after consuming spurious liquor,” at Malipachghara area of Ghusuri adding some other people whose conditions were said to be critical had been rushed to the hospital.

Locals said about 30 people had been taken to the hospital out of who the conditions of seven were said to be serious.

While there was confusion whether the number of people dead was seven or nine sources identified the dead as Amit Kumar Burma, Anil Chaurasia, Ranjit Gupta, Lakshman Shau, Tribhuban Pandit, Sukumar Chowdhury, Prakash Mitra, Biskut Roy and Rajeshwar Roy, taking the number of casualties to nine.

The owner of the liquor

shop Pratap Karmakarhas been arrested and was being questioned, police said.

Political slugfest started soon after the tragedy with Congress MP Adhinar Chowdhury accusing the TMC Government of “nurturing a variety of mafias from coal mafia to cattle mafia to sand, stone, building, arms and bomb mafia and this one the hooch mafia ... it is a shame.”

CPI(M) central committee member said as liquor was the only source of revenue for a cash-starved state government devoid of investment the people including TMC leaders were investing hugely in liquor, particularly illegal liquor trade “so, such illegal hooch-joints are mushrooming across the state under the direct patronage of local administration and local ruling party leaders ... the people do not want this government but in a polarised atmosphere the fear of BJP is forcing the people to bear with Mamata Banerjee.”

Bengal has witnessed repeated incidents of hooch deaths with about 140 people dying after consuming spurious liquor in December 2011. Subsequently hooch tragedies continue to take place almost on a routine basis.

Khatik issue blown out of proportion: UP Jal Shakti Min

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

Downplaying the controversy over the alleged resignation of Minister of State for Jal Shakti, Dinesh Khatik, the UP Jal Shakti Minister Swatantra Dev Singh said the issue had been blown out of proportion and no one was angry with him.

“I am in touch with Khatik regularly. In fact, we talk almost daily. He is not angry,” Singh, who is also the Bharatiya Janata Party state president, told reporters here on Wednesday.

“If there is any issue, we both will sit down and settle it,” he said. Khatik, in his two-page letter, has alleged that he is being ignored because he is a Dalit. He sent his resignation letter to Union Home Minister Amit Shah instead of sending it to Chief Minister Yogi

Adityanath. Singh said that Khatik had full respect in the party and the government.

“Whatever he says is taken seriously. Despite this, if there is any issue, it will be discussed and a solution will be found,” he said. The BJP state chief said that the party represented all sections and was working on Prime Minister Narendra Modi's basic mantra of Sabka Saath, Sabka Vikas, Sabka Vishwas and Sabka Prayas.

Attacking Samajwadi Party chief Akhilesh Yadav, Singh said that as the opposition had no issue it was trying to create a mountain out of a mole.

“The SP chief has no issue to talk about. The government has successfully registered many achievements during its tenure of 100 days. Frustrated by this, the SP chief is making fabricated allegations,” he said.

Akhilesh flays Yogi Govt for humiliation of Khatik

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

Samajwadi Party chief and Leader of Opposition in Uttar Pradesh Assembly, Akhilesh Yadav, on Wednesday latched on to the controversy over Yogi Adityanath's Minister Dinesh Khatik making his displeasure public. Minister of State for Jal Shakti Dinesh Khatik has conveyed his grievances to Union Home Minister Amit Shah. Akhilesh Yadav flayed UP Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath for the alleged humiliation of Dinesh Khatik, the Minister of State from the Dalit community.

Commenting over Dinesh Khatik's resignation letter, Akhilesh said in a tweet in Hindi, “Where there is no

honour for a Minister but a Dalit getting humiliation, tendering resignation is the right step to keep the respect of one's community.” Dinesh Khatik has written in a two-page letter to the Union Home Minister which went viral on social media. Taking a jibe at the ongoing trouble in the Bharatiya Janata Party Government, the SP chief said in a tweet in Hindi, “Understand the chronology of corruption and misgovernance in the BJP-led UP Government: First rebellion in the Ministry of Public Works Department, then a rebellion in the Health Ministry and now rebellion in the Jal Shakti Ministry.” He added,

Woman ASI crushed to death by cattle smugglers

PNS ■ RANCHI

A woman police official engaged in a vehicle checking drive near Ranchi was run over by a pickup van allegedly involved in the cattle smuggling early on Wednesday.

Sandhya Topno, a 32-year-old Assistant Sub Inspector of Police (ASI), was conducting the vehicle checking drive at Tupudana on the outskirts of Ranchi when the speeding vehicle carrying cattle knocked her down and fled.

The ASI was rushed to Rajendra Institute of Medical Sciences hospital where the doctors declared her brought dead. Police have nabbed accused Nigaar Khan and seized the vehicle, said the Ranchi SSP.

Search is on for another accused, who was inside the vehicle. Former Jharkhand Chief Minister Raghubar Das has demanded a CBI enquiry in the ASI Sandhya Topno murder case. Das said a syndicate of cattle smugglers is active in Jharkhand, which needs to be checked. Targeting the JMM-Congress alliance Government, the former Chief Minister said that after the coming of this government, the morale of animal smugglers has increased.

Das also demanded a compensation of Rs 1 crore to the

kin of the victim. He further said that another courageous daughter of State has become a victim of the criminals. Das said, “The incident indicates that the spirits of criminals have become high that even policemen are not safe in the state. Under the rule of JMM/Congress government, the courage of the cow smugglers has increased. The matter is related to vote banks. Therefore, like the Roopa Tirkey case, the murder of Sandhya Topno ji should not remain a mystery.”

Echoing the views of Das, State BJP President and MP Deepak Prakash in a video message said that the business of cow smuggling has increased under the JMM-Congress government. The smugglers have the support of the state government.

This incident shows that the state is on the side of Jungle Raj. Prakash demanded the state government to take strict steps immediately to stop cow smuggling. BJP legislative party leader, Babulal Marandi said that the murder of SI Sandhya Topno by cattle smugglers shows that despite ban illegal cattle smuggling is going in state. Marnadi said that it appears that a big gang of cattle smugglers is working in the State.

IIT-B, Eros team up to make AI-based script making tool

TN RAGHUNATHA ■ MUMBAI

Eros Investments, a leading Global Media, Entertainment & Technology portfolio of ventures, has teamed up with Indian Institute of Technology-Bombay, to design and develop Kurosawa, an AI-based tool for automatic script generation.

Named after the celebrated Japanese film director Akira Kurosawa, Kurosawa is a ground-breaking attempt to empower the entertainment industry with cutting-edge technology to generate a full-length feature film script.

The software will assist film makers in developing the plot and the script of movies. IIT Bombay will also create a whitepaper on Kurosawa for academic and research purposes. Kurosawa is based on Deep Learning and Natural Language Processing. The IIT Bombay will develop a whitepaper on Kurosawa and use it for academic and research purposes.

The teams from IIT Bombay and Eros have been collaborating on Kurosawa for over a year. Kurosawa will help identify the right genre, output log-line, and synopsis and deliver a potentially hit script that can be customized further as required.

BJP Govt sidelining a Dalit Minister is very unfortunate, says Mayawati

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

Bahujan Samaj Party supremo Mayawati reacted strongly to the alleged resignation of Minister of State for Jal Shakti, Dinesh Khatik, from the Bharatiya Janata Party Government, saying sidelining of a Dalit Minister was very unfortunate and condemnable.

“The government should give up its casteist mindset and fulfill its responsibility towards Dalits,” she said.

The BSP supremo on

Wednesday tweeted that the neglect of Dalit minister even within the council of ministers was highly condemnable and unfortunate. “Such news is in national discussions. The government must fulfill the responsibility of taking care of their safety and respect by abandoning its casteist mentality and neglect, disdain, exploitation and injustice towards the Dalits,” she said. Dinesh Khatik has allegedly offered to resign in a letter to Union Home Minister Amit

Shah, alleging neglect and disrespect. Khatik, however, denied any resignation letter and claimed to be going to Delhi just to meet Shah. Meanwhile, Mayawati held an important meeting with senior party leaders of Himachal Pradesh, Jammu and Kashmir and Punjab on Wednesday.

New Okhla Industrial Development Authority
Main Administrative Building, Sector-6, Noida, G.B. Nagar, (U.P.)
Website: www.noidaauthorityonline.com

E-TENDER NOTICE

E-Tender are invited from firms/contractors registered with UPCL Lucknow for the following jobs against which bids can be uploaded and same shall be opened / downloaded as per schedule mentioned. The details and conditions of all tenders are available on NOIDA Authority's official website: www.noidaauthorityonline.com & <http://etender.up.nic.in>. Please ensure to see these websites for any changes/ amendments & corrigendum etc.

(A) 1. 32/CGM/AO/SM(JAL-OA)/21-22- M/O STP (S/F 500 KVA DG Set with shed & Platform for 54 MLD SPS in STP-Compound, Sector-54) Noida.
Cost. 48.98 Lac

Which can be uploaded by date 28.07.2022 upto 5:00 PM. Pre-qualification shall be opened/downloaded on date 29.07.2022 at 11:00 AM.

Principal General Manager
NOIDA

CLEAN, GREEN, SAFE & SECURE NOIDA

<div></div> <div>SUNIL HEALTHCARE LIMITED Registered Office:- 38E/252-A, Vijay Tower, Shahpurjat, New Delhi-110049 Email:- info@sunilhealthcare.com; Website:- www.sunilhealthcare.com CIN No. L24302DL1973PLC189662</div>									
Extract of Statandalone and Consolidated Unaudited Financial Results for the Quarter Ended 30th June 2022 (Rs. in Lakhs)									
S. No.	Particulars	Standalone				Consolidated			
		3 Months ended 30.06.2022	3 Months ended 31.03.2022	3 Months ended 30.06.2021	Year Ended 31st March 2022	3 Months ended 30.06.2022	3 Months ended 31.03.2022	3 Months ended 30.06.2021	Year Ended 31st March 2022
		Unaudited	Audited (Refer note. 3)	Unaudited	Audited	Unaudited	Audited (Refer note. 3)	Unaudited	Audited
1	Total Income from Operations	3,441.64	3,138.60	2,641.67	11,792.71	3,432.32	3,253.25	2,680.28	12,083.96
2	Net Profit / (Loss) for the period (before Tax, Exceptional and/or Extraordinary items)	610.00	550.55	37.09	957.11	582.43	566.43	31.81	926.47
3	Net Profit / (Loss) for the period before tax (after Exceptional and/or Extraordinary items)	610.00	550.55	37.09	957.11	582.43	566.43	31.81	926.47
4	Net Profit/(Loss) for the period after tax (after Exceptional and/or Extraordinary items)	446.75	386.77	27.50	677.68	418.50	401.07	20.84	642.06
5	Total Comprehensive Income for the period (Comprising Profit/(Loss) for the period (after tax) and Other Comprehensive Income (after tax))	446.75	380.80	27.50	671.71	407.38	386.49	14.60	623.76
6	Paid-up equity share capital (Face value Rs.10/- each)	1,025.48	1,025.48	1,025.48	1,025.48	1,025.48	1,025.48	1,025.48	1,025.48
7	Reserves (excluding Revaluation Reserve) as shown in the Audited Balance Sheet of the previous year	-	-	-	4,453.49	-	-	-	3,970.01
8	Earnings Per Share (after extraordinary items) (of Rs.10/- each)								
	(a) Basic (Rs.)	4.36	3.71	0.27	6.55	3.97	3.77	0.14	6.08
	(b) Diluted (Rs)	4.36	3.71	0.27	6.55	3.97	3.77	0.14	6.08
Notes: <p>1. The Above is an extract of the detailed format of Quarterly/Year ended Financial Results filed with the Stock Exchanges under Regulation 33 of the SEBI (Listing and other Disclosure Requirements) Regulations, 2015. The Full Format of the Quarterly/Year ended Financial Results are available on the Stock Exchange websites. (www.bseindia.com) and the company's website (www.sunilhealthcare.com).</p> <p>2. As the Company's business fall within a single primary business segment viz. sale of capsule, the disclosure requirement of Indian Accounting Standard (Ind AS-108) "Operating Segments" prescribed under Section 133 of the Companies Act, 2013 read with the relevant rules issued thereunder, is not applicable.</p> <p>3. The figures for the quarter ended March 31, 2022 are the balance figures between audited figures for the full financial and published year to date figures up to the third quarter of the previous financial year.</p> <p>4. The figures for the previous periods have been regrouped/ rearranged, wherever considered necessary, to conform current period classifications.</p> <p>5. The above results were reviewed by the Audit Committee and approved by the Board of Directors in their respective meetings held on July 20, 2022</p>									
<div>Place :- New Delhi</div> <div>Date :- 20.07.2022</div> <div>Anil Khaitan Chairman Cum Managing Director DIN 00759951</div>									

RLF LIMITED					
Regd.Office:- 14Kms, Gurgaon Pataudi Road, Jhund Sarai Veeran, Distt. Gurugram, Haryana.					
CIN :- L74999HR1979PLC032747, Website:- www.rlf ltd.com , Email id:- investorrelations@rlf ltd.com , Phone:- 011-49075251.					
Statement of Unaudited Financial Results for the Quarter Ended June 30, 2022 (Rs. in lacs, except per share data)					
Sl. No.	Particulars (Refer Notes below)	Quarter Ended			Financial Year Ended
		30.06.2022 [Unaudited]	31.03.2022 [Audited]	30.06.2021 [Unaudited]	31.03.2022 [Audited]
1.	Total Income from Operations	21.76	22.4	9.19	70.10
2.	Net Profit/(Loss) for the period before tax and exceptional items	-1.3	(84.77)	-4.71	(87.64)
3.	Net Profit/(Loss) for the period before tax after exceptional items	-1.3	(84.77)	-4.71	(87.64)
4.	Net Profit/(Loss) for the period after tax	-1.3	(84.77)	-4.71	(87.64)
5.	Total Comprehensive Income	-	-	-	-
6.	Paid-up equity share capital	980.08	980.08	980.08	980.08
7.	Earning Per Share of Rs.10/- each (not annualised)				
	a) Basic	(0.01)	(0.86)	(0.05)	(0.89)
	b) Diluted	(0.01)	(0.86)	(0.05)	(0.89)
Notes :- <p>1. The above is an extract of the detailed format of UnAudited Financial Results for the Quarter ended June 30, 2022 filed with the Stock Exchange under Regulation 33 of the SEBI (Listing and Other Disclosure Requirements) Regulations, 2015. The full format of the Un-audited Financial Results for the quarter June 30, 2022 are available on the Bombay Stock Exchange website www.bseindia.com and on Company's website www.rlf ltd.com.</p> <p>2. Figures of the above Previous periods have been regrouped/reclassified/ restated wherever necessary.</p>					
					For RLF Limited Sd/- Aditya Khanna Managing Director DIN : 01860038
Place : Gurugram, Haryana Dated : 20 July, 2022					

ICICI Bank

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

Whereas

The undersigned being the Authorized Officer of ICICI Bank Limited under the Securitisation, Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 and in exercise of the powers conferred under section 13 (12) read with Rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) rules 2002, issued demand notices upon the borrowers mentioned below, to repay the amount mentioned in the notice within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said notice.

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

Sr. No.	Name of the Borrower/ Loan Account Number	Description of Property/ Date of Symbolic Possession	Date of Demand Notice/ Amount in Demand Notice (Rs.)	Name of Branch
1.	Anurag Malik/ Reema Maan/ LBFDB00004960893	Flat No-803, 8th Floor, Tower- T- 5, Village- Mujeri, Aagman, Sector-70, Faridabad, 121001/ July 14, 2022	February 28,2022 / Rs.11,87,600/-	Delhi/ NCR
2.	Mukul Singhal/ Saroj Jain/ Navneet Singh/ LBDEL00001217465	House No-72, Main Chowk Old Arya Nagar, Ghaziabad Uttar Pradesh/ July 18, 2022	October 31, 2020 Rs. 3,34,701/-	Delhi/ NCR
3.	Shravika Kumari/ Awnish Rathour/ LBDEL00003122238/ LBDEL00003122240	Flat No- 304, 3rd Floor, With Roof Right, Tower-B4, Ebony Greens Crescent Park, Ghaziabad/ July 18 2022	September 27, 2021 Rs. 27,39,774/-	Delhi/ NCR
4.	Shankar Mishra/ Geeta Devi/ LBDEL00005650064	Unit No E-106, 1st Floor, Tower E-T7, Happy Homes, Sector-36, Faridabad, Village Budhena, Haryana/ July 16,2022	January 31, 2022/ Rs.1,891,431/-	Delhi/ NCR
5.	Leena Batra/ Nitin Batra/ LBGHZ00003091275	Unit No 22, Ground Floor, Block A, Indrapuram Habita, T Centre Plot No 16, Ahinsa Khand 1, Ghaziabad, Uttar Pradesh/ July 18, 2022	June 19, 2021/ Rs. 2,186,167/-	Delhi/ NCR
6.	Suman Singhal/ Mohit Singhal/ LBGHZ00002865036/ LBGHZ00002891317	Plot No III-F-1/21, Ground Floor, Nehru Nagar, Ghaziabad/ July 18, 2022	December 17, 2021 / Rs.30,41,459/-	Delhi/ NCR
7.	Vivek Kumar/ Suman/ LBGUR00003024502	Flat No. 1304, 13th Floor, Block B, JNC Greenwoods, G.H.1, Sector 3, Vasundhara, Ghaziabad/ July 18, 2022	October 31, 2018 / Rs.61,29,556/-	Delhi/ NCR
8.	Amit Kumar Meena/ Nisha Jhanvali/ LBGUR00002145465	Flat No.A- 3102, First Floor, "Springview Floors" At Crescent PARC Township New Indirapuram, NH 24, Ghaziabad/ July 18, 2022	January 28, 2020/ Rs.50,40,817/-	Delhi/ NCR

The above-mentioned borrowers(s)/ guarantors(s) are hereby given a 30 day notice to repay the amount, else the mortgaged properties will be sold on the expiry of 30 days from the date of publication of this Notice, as per the provisions under the Rules 8 and 9 of Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules 2002.

Date : July 21, 2022
Place : Delhi/NCR

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PAPER WITH PASSION

Cancer of illegal mining

Illegal mining is rampant in the country and the mafia is ruling the roost. High time they are dealt with strictly.

So far, the murder of 57-year-old Haryana Police DSP Surender Singh at Tauru in Haryana's Nuh district has evoked Pro-forma responses from those who matter. The Pioneer reported, "Haryana ADGP (law and order) Sandeep Khirwar said a case under IPC sections 302 (murder), 307, 333, 186, 353 along with 379 and 188 has been registered, and the police will come out with full progress report very soon." Reacting to the incident, the report added,

Chief Minister Manohar Lal Khattar said in the case of murder of the Tauru DSP, orders have been given to take strict action. He announced a relief of Rs 1 crore to the family of the fallen cop and a job to one of his family members. Meanwhile, Leader of the Opposition Bhupinder Singh Hooda called the incident shameful: "Mining mafia is going out of hand. Law and order situation is deteriorating.

MLAs are being threatened, police are also not safe. How will the public feel safe? The Government needs to act."

Everything said and done by everyone is routine. But illegal mining is a much bigger menace to be tackled with routine reactions — not just in Haryana but also in other parts of the country. In March 2012, a young Indian Police Service officer Narendra Kumar Singh was mowed down in a similar fashion in Madhya Pradesh's Morena district. The culprits, in this case, were members of an illegal mining gang.

In 2013, a 2009-batch Indian Administrative Service officer Durga Shakti Nagpal took on Noida's illegal sand mining mafia, filing 66 police cases, arresting 104 people, and seizing 81 vehicles engaged in the operations between February and July. She was fortunate that she didn't meet the fate of Narendra Kumar Singh, but she did face the consequences. The state government suspended her, though the suspension was revoked a couple of months later.

Two points need to be made here. First, gone are the days when even the most dreaded criminals and mafia dons were reluctant to physically eliminate cops. For they knew that the police don't just enforce the Indian Penal Code but also their own code, and in the latter the greatest crime is cop killing. Now even the foot soldiers in mining gangs have the temerity to murder not just constables but also senior officers.

Second, gone are also the days when Pro-forma statements like 'culprits won't be spared' and routine measures like compensation to the dead cop's family will suffice. There is something rotten in the statecraft of India. Mining gangs and other mafias are not some deranged psychopaths or some outlandish villains like Mogambo of the movie Mr. India; they are very much part of our society and, worse, political economy. They are not an external enemy; they are like cancer, debilitating the body-politic and occasionally causing big pain, such as the murder of Tauru DSP. The treatment of cancers is cut, poison, and burn. Are our political masters ready for that?

PICTALK



People visit the Golden Gate Bridge in San Francisco

AP

Nothing neat about it!

The National Test Agency that conducts NEET must apologize to the female students

What happened to the female students in Kerala at the NEET examination is indeed disturbing. Allegedly female students were asked to remove their innerwear and write the exam without it. It is more shocking as it happened in the most literate and socially aware state makes it even more alarming.

As per the reports, female candidates appearing for the NEET exam were forced to remove their bras to enter the examination hall in Kerala over 'security. The incident came to light after a student's parent filed a complaint with the Kollam Rural police, alleging that his daughter and other female students were made to write the exam without their innerwear.

Now that many other students have also spoken about it, it appears a rule rather than an exception or an isolated incident. NEET aspirants have said that they were allowed to write the exam after removing bras before entering an exam center as they were told that the metal hooks were a 'security concern'. Even after the exam the students were not allowed to wear them but hold them, making them even more miserable.

This is an outrageous and ridiculous argument and smacks of gender insensitivity as the persons belong to the national testing agency, NTA that conducts the exam. The Mar Thoma Institute of Information Technology, Ayur where the exam center was located has said that the persons frisking the students were sent from the NTA, and were not assigned by the college. Though gender insensitivity prevails at the social level at least the institutions must be sensitive to it.

Equally outrageous is the response of NTA which says that nothing of this sort ever happened as they have not received any complaint. In spite of going into a denial mode, they could have well set up an internal inquiry to establish the fact. We live in a society where even rape cases go unreported so it is very unlikely that such an incident would be brought to their notice.

After the incident made headlines the police registered a case against the officials under sections 354 (Assault or criminal force to woman with intent to outrage her modesty) and 509 (Word, gesture, or act intended to insult the modesty of a woman) and made arrests/ Nonetheless it would not suffice as the NTA must apologize and adequately compensate the students who must have distressed during the exam and failed to write their exam properly.

Quad: India's outreach booster

India has a great opportunity at hand as it is the only nation along with the US to be part of two Quads

Recently, the leaders of India, the United States, Israel and the United Arab Emirates (UAE) came together for the first Heads of State summit meet for I2U2 or the West Asia Quad. The Indo-Pacific Quad which comprises India, the US, Japan, and Australia are the other Quad that today has become an important tool of India's foreign policy. Interestingly both these 'Quad' groupings have the US and India as common members. While for the US this is more of a re-assertion of its desire to once again engage with the world actively and also to reclaim its mantle of a world leader, for India, this is a new kind of global positioning. It also offers India a great opportunity to then showcase its prowess as a strategic partner and emerging global leader not just in the Indo-Pacific but also in the Middle East region.

Much has been written about the Indo-Pacific Quad and how it brings together the four nations, in a bid to foster greater ties between themselves, and to counter and check on a China that seems to have no limits to its assertion of economic and military dominance. But the I2U2 or the West Asia Quad is still a new concept and exciting in the sense that it offers India an opportunity to build on its excellent bilateral ties with both Israel and the UAE. The strength here is also more tilted in favor of economics and the outcome of the first Summit with its emphasis on food security and clean energy point in the same direction.

U.S. National Security Adviser Jake Sullivan on board Air Force One, en route to Israel with U.S. President Joe Biden, recently was asked as to what the objective was in bringing India "into so many issues" such as the Indo-Pacific Economic Framework, the Quad and I2U2.

He said India was one of the most 'strategically conse-



quential countries' in the Indo-Pacific and therefore 'should' play a central role in U.S. strategy. "India also had a long-standing relationship with the Gulf countries and Israel, he said, adding that the U.S. was looking forward to Mr. Modi's participation in the I2U2 summit."

His remarks indicate that the US is ready to accept a greater role and participation by India on the global scale.

India's role in the Indo-Pacific Quad gets a little constrained since every member is fudging its bets against China. While the US looks at India, Japan, and Australia as an alternative to providing security in the region, the other member states have their own calculations to make vis-a-vis China. India prefers to play cautious and diplomatic despite the Chinese aggression on its borders.



FOR INDIA, THE BIGGEST ADVANTAGE IN THE WEST ASIA QUAD IS ITS BILATERAL TIES WITH ISRAEL AND THE UAE

Japan and China share an uncomfortable history and Japan is still struggling to come to terms with its own pacifist agenda post the Second World War. Australia is also unsure of how much to push against China, given that China is Australia's biggest trading partner for both the export and import of goods.

For India, the biggest advantage in the West Asia Quad is its bilateral ties with Israel and the UAE. With a bilateral trade of \$59bn, the UAE is already India's third-largest trading partner after China and the US for 2019-20, as per the latest government data. India is also looking at concluding a free-trade pact with Israel. Both these factors make the West Asia Quad stronger and give a boost to the grouping.

For India, the membership in both the Quads then offers it a unique opportuni-

ty to assert its position as a global leader. India has been arguing about the need for a change in reforms in the United Nations Security for quite some time now. India wants it to be more representative of the new global order. India should get its rightful seat in the UNSC. But despite the promises of support from major world powers that does not seem to be happening in a realist world. However, what is happening and what is interesting is to see India emerge as a key member and player in two of the most significant groupings lately. The influence of course extends from the Indo-Pacific to the Middle East, giving India an edge that few other nations today can boast of.

(The author, a Delhi-based journalist and foreign affairs analyst, holds a Masters in International Relations from the American University in Washington DC. The views expressed are personal.)

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

THEY DON'T DESERVE OUR VOTES

Sir — It refers to "Legislators grow up please!" What we have seen in the Kerala assembly is not shocking because it has happened in the past in various other states' assemblies. What CPI (M) leader MM Mani uttered for KK Rema was disgusting, to say the least. I agree with your editorial that hypocrisy has to end now, on one side these same parties are up against the Lok Sabha speaker for categorizing certain words as unparliamentary and on another side, their party leaders are putting the temple of democracy to shame. What an irony that it is happening in a state which is known for its very high literacy rates in the country. The opposition has all the right to criticize the government's policies and ask to debate and discuss, but crossing the line of decency now and then destroys the already poor image of our politicians. If they can not be mindful of their behavior and words then they don't have any right to represent their voters.

Bal Govind | Gautam Budh Nagar

GUIDE SRI LANKA IN TRYING TIMES

Sir — Sri Lankan parties appear divided on their preferred Presidential candidate as Mr. Gotabaya's successor. There is a need to embark on a new, constructive course. Together, it is time to commit and guide Sri Lanka towards the path of economic revival while upholding rule of law and maintaining ethnic solidarity. For six-time premier and Acting President Mr. Wickremesinghe, this is arguably the closest he has been to clinching the Presidency.

However, with Mr. Premadasa pulling out of the race and throwing his weight behind Mr. Alahapperuma, the contest may have just gotten harder for him. The last time Sri Lanka elected its President through Parliament was in 1993, following the assassination of then President Ranasinghe Premadasa. D.B. Wijetunga was then unanimously elected to the top office to complete Mr. Premadasa's term.

CK Subramaniam | Chennai

The future is 5G



According to Qualcomm, by 2035 there will be around \$12 trillion worth of 5G-related services, including mission-critical services, enhanced mobile broadband, and industries such as retail, healthcare, education, transportation, and entertainment. 5G technology is the fifth generation of mobile networking systems that are proposed but not-yet-implemented.

Although the technologies to be used in 5G are still being figured out, it is expected

to enable self-driving cars, drones, and the download of movies in the blink of an eye. 5G is set to be the fusion of high-speed data collection and computation with billions of devices. 5G is believed to have an average speed of 800 Gbps and will have a vast array of applications ranging from the automotive sector to big data and VR.

In the Medical sector Instead of patients approaching doctors for treatment, with 5G networks, patients and doctors can be connected worldwide. Digital imaging and scan reports can be sent anywhere across the globe for expert analysis, widening the access for patients who live far away from healthcare providers and reducing the cost of getting a second opinion. Right now, the dream of 5G is just a fantasy on the horizon. But in just a couple of years, the 5G vision will come true — and innovative breakthroughs are paramount in leading the world to an unimaginable high-tech future.

Faizan Khan | Ujjain

PANDYA'S TRIPLE ROLE IN T-20

Sir — excellent series win by India over England in both T-20 and ODI. Thanks to Hardik Pandya's triple role. He excelled as a bowler, batsman, and fielder. Pandya is always focused. He avoids quarrels, and arguments on the field. Indeed a thorough gentleman!

His terrific all-around performance proves that he is the man to watch and learn. His secrets to batting success are: straight bat hitting, coming forward and hitting when necessary, and not losing sight of the ball. His bowling success was elucidated in bowling consistently many short-pitched balls but rising to shoulder height, to exasperate the batsmen to lose temper and patience, then err to give away the wicket. Champs Virat Kohli, Rohit Sharma, and other players must watch his game recordings, along with coaches, to overcome errors in batting and bowling. Then the next world T-20 cup is almost achieved with ease.

Ashritha Nivriti Sreshta | Secunderabad

JUSTICE DENIED INDEED!

Sir — This refers to the edit 'Justice denied', the 121 Adivasis who languished in jail for no fault is an example of how the police can get away with anything. While the sheer number of prisoners, in this case, makes it stand out, there are thousands of individual cases, where many innocent have been rotting in prison with no hope of relief.

The courts are too willing to accept the version of the police while denying bail. Unless a top-notch lawyer is representing the accused, more often than not courts will readily grant police judicial custody of the accused. This also makes it easy for the police to fix anybody who has fallen afool of the political authority. The role of civil society too is questionable. Has anybody spoken for those who have been unfairly jailed?

Anthony Henriques | Mumbai

Send your feedback to: letterstopioneer@gmail.com

SOUND BITE

To benefit the trillionaire friends of Modi, electricity will be expensive. The poor people are being maligned by saying "Rewari culture".



Congress leader —Priyanka Gandhi Vadra

It is my humble and earnest request to Honorable PM Shri Narendra Modi, political parites and to the people of India to keep helping mother Lanka and it's people to come out of this disaster.

Sri Lanka opposition leader —Sajith Premadasa

It's highly disrespectful and offensive to spread rumors about women's bodies or speculating pregnancy. Women are scrutinized in ways that men cannot even fathom.



Actor —Kareena Kapoor Khan

It was like a roller-coaster of emotions, but managed to win! Thank you for all your support,

Badminton player —PV Sindhu

Lessons from Sri Lanka are very very strong. They are of fiscal prudence, responsible governance and that there should not be a culture of freebies.



External Affairs minister —S Jaishankar

FIRST COLUMN

INDIA TAKES G20
PRESIDENCY

India has chance to restore world order
amid fast-changing world order



KUMARDEEP BANERJEE

One of the most discussed photo opportunities from the last week was President Joe Biden's fist bump with Saudi Arabian crown prince Mohammed Bin Salman. The gesture, however awkward, was seen to be a major turnaround for the US foreign policy goals under President Biden, as the world's largest economy gradually eases to its new role in the changing geopolitical order.

President Biden's reluctant fist bump came in the backdrop of him vowing in the past to isolate Saudi Arabia in the Middle East following the killing of a journalist by the Saudi secret service. However, the changing dynamics in the geopolitical space, with Russian invasion of Ukraine leading to skyrocketing fuel and commodity prices, post-pandemic recovery hiccups, growing intimacy between Russia and China and a crucial midterm mandate for President Biden in US, seems to have weighed heavily, during his visit to the Middle East leading to the now famous photo op.

The next opportunity for President Biden to make such a statement on a multilateral stage could be in Bali in November during the upcoming G20 leaders' summit. However, there are slim chances that President Biden would be in Bali, as the Russian president Vladimir Putin has already signalled to physically attend the summit. That brings us to what happens when India takes over the G20 presidency from December 1, 2022, till November 2023. India after missing out on two early presidencies would be at the steering wheel and host a leader's summit in Delhi next year.

As run up to the G20 presidency, India has set up a secretariat headed by ex-foreign secretary and changed its key interlocutor or sherpa



from Commerce Minister Piyush Goyal to ex-Niti Ayog CEO, Amitabh Kant. The G20 is an important multilateral forum for economic cooperation between developed and developing nations, which together constitute 85 percent of global GDP and 75 per cent of international trade. India would also host the G20 secretariat during its yearlong presidency and the work stream is divided into the sherpa track and finance track.

According to data provided by the Ministry of External Affairs, India is likely to host 100 meetings under the Sherpa track on "employment, health, digital economy, trade, investment, industry, environment, climate, energy, anti-corruption, agriculture, tourism, culture, socio-economic development, education, and women empowerment". The finance track of discussions is likely to see around 40 meetings related to "international financial architecture, financial inclusion and sustainable finance, financing for infrastructure, climate finance and tax matters."

There will be further room of nearly 100 other meetings for academia, cultural showcases, workshops and seminars promoting socio-cultural diversity of India. This means a packed year ahead for the hospitality sector, civil aviation and professionals engaged in the MICE (meetings, incentives, conferences and exhibitions). Already one may be reading the headlines regarding India's choices of key venues around the country, from Kashmir to Varanasi to showcase a new digitally savvy, democratic, peaceful India to the world.

It will be crucial for India to steer the global economic dialogue platform in a manner which is most beneficial for the region, and the country in decades to come. The global leaders from the G20 countries already recognise India's growing importance in Southeast Asia and in overall world order. India is already in some form of bilateral, plurilateral or multilateral dialogue with most of G20, except for China, with which the relationship has turned frosty post the physical clashes in India's North-western boundaries. The redeeming feature is that many G20 partners share similar concerns about China.

(The writer is a policy analyst. The views expressed are personal.)

KCR goes ballistic against Modi Govt

Telangana Chief Minister K Chandrashekhar Rao is all geared up to launch national campaign against Modi government

VANAM JWALA
NARASIMHA RAO
AND
VJM DIVAKAR

There is a vibrant message in Valmiki Ramayana's Sundara Kanda. Hanuman, after finding and conversing with Goddess Sita in Ashoka Vatika, disclosed loudly and made it public about her captivity that was kept as a guarded secret. If a government or the leader heading it keeps the policies and decisions that go against the people's wellbeing as secret for long, it would lead to his steep fall. Another message is that no one can survive in power for long by empty rhetoric. If the remarks made by Telangana Chief Minister K Chandrashekhar Rao on Prime Minister Narendra Modi are intensely observed, analysed, and understood, there are several messages worth decoding.

KCR did not mince words. With courage and confidence-the virtue often missing among many political leaders-he labeled Modi as the most inefficient PM in Independent India. The Chief Minister also asserted that the government at the Centre for the past eight years has been the most corrupt and there have been scams all over the country. KCR substantiated each and every charge he made against PM Modi in his exceptional and inimitable style.

KCR said that the one and only Raj Dharma Modi and his BJP government at the center know is destabilising and then dislodging the duly-elected opposition party headed state governments by dishonesty. Under the Modi regime, there is a capital drain where several NRIs and international companies have withdrawn their investments. The arrogance of Modi governance is unparalleled and the way they were threatening the judges, journalists and those speaking against the regime had amply proved it. In addition, said KCR, PM Modi is behaving like the salesman of certain corporate houses.

KCR during his two and a half hours' media conference on July 10, 2022 in Pragathi Bhavan, Hyderabad, exposed and revealed to the nation several harsh realities about the Modi regime. The inference is that the present dispensation at the Centre shall not be allowed to continue in power for long.

KCR's media conference was in the backdrop of PM Modi's inability to answer even one question that the Chief Minister had raised while hosting the joint candidate of the Opposition in the President's election Yashwant Sinha on July 2.

KCR's questions focused on Modi's large-scale corrupt practices, scams running into several lakh crore rupees, economic and financial problems the country is facing due to wrong economic policies, etc. KCR said he would, however, not leave Modi, but chase him till he gets an answer.

KCR, armed with data and statistics, explained in detail several innovative schemes, programs and policies that his government in Telangana has implemented and also showed how the Central government and its agencies have praised the programs from time to time. In this con-



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INDIA

(The authors are
senior journalists.)



text, he repeatedly challenged PM Modi to come out with at least one policy and program of his government, which is worth mentioning. His words touched the hearts of people. He gave a clarion call to youth, intellectuals, journalists, writers, poets, and artists to march ahead to bring in a qualitative change on the Central governance. He also expressed anguish over the illegal, unconstitutional and unethical practices of the Modi government.

There were several messages from KCR's media address. Firstly, the BJP cannot govern the country. It was also clear that the BJP-led government at the Centre had not done even one program, one policy that benefitted any section of the society in the past eight years. The Modi government is so inefficient that it could not provide electricity, water for irrigation or even drinking water to the people. Prices of all the essential commodities have touched the sky. There is an abnormal increase in the prices of petrol and diesel. Unemployment is at its peak. Inflation touched the new highs. The Rupee's value is falling on a daily basis. Foreign exchange reserves are fast depleting. Hence, the present BJP-led Central government should go and there should be a change at the Centre, come what may.

Despite all this, KCR seems to be not in a hurry to dislodge the BJP government at the Centre immediately. KCR said the arrogance of the BJP leaders should reach its peak by leaps and bounds, and they should

commit more and more mistakes. For such a day, if need be, TRS will play a major national role. He warned the BJP national leadership that if they try to dislodge the duly-elected governments, either in Tamil Nadu or Telangana on the lines of Maharashtra through Eknath Shinde, the people would revolt.

KCR also stated that the BJP and Congress are indulging in blame games. He said that the country needs to be pulled out from the routine politics that are at play for the past 75 years. He wanted the sort of leadership of Singapore and China for India too, which works for the welfare and development of people round the clock. He said that instead of properly utilizing the abundant youth power available in the country, the BJP is using it to flare up communal fanaticism. The BJP proved that it lacked the vision, commitment, dedication, proper attitude and leadership to take the country on the path of progress and development. There is a need to launch a peaceful revolution in the country after explaining to the people the need for a qualitative change. In that direction, KCR said the TRS, if need be, will take a national form. He is determined that the BJP should be removed from the country's politics. Only then the country will progress.

People are wondering at the way the Modi government is misruling the country and they are stunned when KCR told how respected photographs of senior journalists N Ram and Pranay Roy are circulat-

ed in social media by the BJP supporters, describing the duo as the urban Naxalite. Referring to the BJP's poll campaign slogan of the 'Double Engine government', KCR said that there is a need for a double engine government at the center on the lines of Telangana government. KCR also revealed how a group of retired judges under pressure from the BJP wrote a letter against Supreme Court Judges Justice Suryakant and Justice Pardiwala when the Apex Court Judges made relevant observations against a BJP ex-spokesperson's derogatory remark, which led to India tendering apology to several nations.

KCR also made startling revelations that all the bank scams were done under the nose of PM Modi and the PM knew about the wrongdoings. He said he would reveal all the facts and proofs on this in the days to come. The BJP government at the Centre is unable to stop the black money being stashed away in the foreign banks. KCR said that the Modi government had no awareness about the international marketing network or its impact in the country. KCR's critical observations, revelations and challenges in the media conference raise hope for an alternative leadership.

Supreme Court senior counsel Prashant Bhushan appreciated KCR for boldly exposing Modi. In his tweet, he praised KCR for digging into the corrupt practices of Modi. KCR's media conference also went viral on social media with posts from umpteen political analysts.

POINT COUNTERPOINT

"FOR THE FIRST TIME ARMY IS ASKING CASTE OF CANDIDATES. MODIJI DO YOU WANT TO MAKE AGNIVEER OR JAATIVEER?"
—RAJYA SABHA MP
SANJAY SINGH



THE RECRUITMENTS IN THE ARMY ARE NOT DONE ON THE BASIS OF CASTE AND RELIGION. THE OPPOSITION IS DELIBERATELY SPREADING CONFUSION AND MALIGNING THE ARMY.
—BJP SPOKESPERSON
SAMBIT PATRA

Nuclear Iran is a disappointment but not a disaster

Possible Iranian nuclear weapons at some point in the future are less threatening than real North Korean nukes in the present

About six weeks ago Rafael Grossi, the head of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), warned that the attempt to revive the 2015 deal that restricted Iran's ability to enrich uranium was on the brink of collapse. Three or four weeks more without an agreement, he said, would deal the talks a "fatal blow".

The problem was that since ex-president Donald Trump unilaterally trashed the deal in 2018, imposing 'maximum pressure' US sanctions against Iran in the hope of extracting further concessions, the Iranians have been gradually discarding the controls they agreed to in the original deal.

The three European countries that guaranteed the deal, Britain, France and Germany, backed the IAEA chief up, warn-



GWYNNE DYER

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

ing that "the more Iran is advancing and accumulating knowledge with irreversible consequences, the more difficult it is to come back to that deal."

In other words, once the Iranians have learned all they need to know to enrich uranium to weapons-grade, they cannot promise to forget it again. They will have that knowledge forever, which sort of defeats the whole purpose of the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA), the ridiculous official name of the 2015 deal.

In fact, it's worse than that. On July 9, Tehran announced that it has installed new centrifuges that will let Iran enrich uranium up to 90 per cent purity-enough for nuclear warheads.

They are adjustable centrifuges that can easily be switched between different lev-



els of enrichment, and Iran says they are currently set for only 20 per cent purity. But the JCPOA set the maximum permitted enrichment at 3.67 per cent, so Iran is already way beyond the limit.

To make matters worse, enrichment gets easier as the purity levels increase. To go from

uranium ore to 3.67 per cent takes a lot of time and energy. To go from there to 20 per cent takes much less-and to go from 20 per cent to 90 per cent even less. The Iranians can cross the last hurdle whenever they want.

Moreover, the rest of the world will just have to take their word that they haven't gone to 90 per cent because 27 of the special cameras that the IAEA installed to verify that Iran is not exceeding the agreed enrichment level were turned off in June. The remaining 40 can be turned off whenever Tehran wants.

And what's the rest of the world going to do about this? Not much. In fact, it seems in retrospect that neither Washington nor Tehran really expected to resurrect the 2015 deal: too much time had passed,

and they were just going through the motions.

When Joe Biden entered the White House in January 2021, his previous statements about the JCPOA obliged him to try to repair the damage done by Donald Trump. However, he put more effort into placating anti-Iran hawks in Congress than into talks with the regime of reformist Iranian president Hassan Rouhani (the man who originally signed the deal).

Biden would have known that Rouhani's presidency had only six months left, and that he was likely to be followed in office by the hard-liner Ebrahim Raisi. (Rouhani could not run again, and the Supreme Leader's people were disqualifying rival candidates.) Yet Biden barely lifted a finger to restart serious negotiations.

Then, after Raisi replaced Hourani at the beginning of August last year, the US and Iran agreed on a five-month timeout, allegedly to give Raisi's new administration time to get up to speed on the issue. Why did Biden consent to that? Because he knew it was already a lost cause.

2021 was the year when Iran's enrichment levels rose to levels far above the JCPOA's limits. When negotiations finally restarted last December, everybody knew that the deal's original purpose had been overrun by events. Iran has become a 'nuclear threshold' power, able to build actual bombs within six months of the word 'go' at any time in the future.

That is the reality, which is why subsequent talks have been rather lackadaisical. Iran

is clearly in no rush to build actual nuclear weapons, and nobody gains by abandoning the talks completely, but they aren't going anywhere and everybody knows it.

This is a disappointment, but not a disaster. Possible Iranian nuclear weapons at some point in the future are less threatening than real North Korean nukes in the present, and the Far East has learned to live with that. The Middle East is a tougher neighbourhood, and there were few signs of panic during President Bidens recent tour of the region.

He didn't even have to promise that American nuclear weapons would be available to deter a potential nuclear-armed Iran. Israel's several hundred unadmitted nuclear weapons are quite sufficient for that.

Lankan protesters to continue demanding resignation of Ranil

PTI ■ COLOMBO

The anti-government protesters in Sri Lanka, who forced President Gotabaya Rajapaksa to flee the country and quit, on Wednesday demanded the resignation of his successor Ranil Wickremesinghe who has been elected as the new President.

The 73-year-old Acting President and six-time former prime minister secured 134 votes in the 225-member House while his nearest rival and dissident ruling party leader Dulas Alahapperuma got 82. He will take the oath of office on Thursday.

The anti-government protesters had called for the res-

ignation of Wickremesinghe, who was appointed prime minister in May. The protesters burnt down his private home and also stormed his prime ministerial office in Colombo in demonstrations against his leadership early this month.

"He has been elected against the will of the people. The Rajapaksa have brought him in," Father Jeewantha Peiris, a spokesman for the protest group 'Aragalaya', told reporters. "We will continue our protest campaign until Wickremesinghe resigns," he stressed.

Meanwhile, Colombo Fort Magistrate Thilina Gamage issued an order barring people from entering or gathering



within a 50 meter radius of the Bandaranaike Statue located in Galle Face in the heart of Colombo.

Sri Lanka Police told the court that there is a possible attempt being made to cause harm to the statue of the former prime minister which is situated closer to the protest site near the office of the president. The protesters had blocked one entrance to the presidential office on April 9.

Although the protesters did vacate three other key government buildings after Gotabaya Rajapaksa resigned last week they continue to be at the presidential office gate.

Wickremesinghe did refer to the demands of the protesters after accepting his office and called for bipartisanship to address the issues raised by them including the handling of the economy.

Rajapaksa was ousted for

his mishandling of the economy when the island suffered its worst meltdown since 1948.

The economic crisis also

sparked a political crisis in the country after a popular uprising against the government.

Sri Lanka needs about USD 5 billion in the next six months to cover basic necessities for its 22 million people, who have been struggling with long queues, worsening shortages and power cuts.

ISIL-K has increased presence in northern, eastern Af: UN report

PTI ■ UNITED NATIONS

ISIL-Khorasan has increased its presence in northern and eastern Afghanistan and if the terror group regains lost territory in the eastern part, it may prove difficult for the Taliban to reverse such gains and ISIL-K would then be positioned to develop a global threat capability from Afghanistan, according to a UN report released on Wednesday.

The 30th report of the Analytical Support and Sanctions Monitoring Team submitted pursuant to resolution 2610 (2021) concerning ISIL (Da'esh), Al-Qaida and associated individuals and entities said that the situation in Afghanistan remains complex. "International terrorist organisations based in the country view the victory of the Taliban as a motivating factor for disseminating their propaganda in the neighbouring regions of Central and South Asia, and globally," it said.

"ISIL-K has increased its presence in northern and eastern Afghanistan. It also includes fighters from Central Asia, who have increased activities in the north," the report said.

However, the report said that it was unclear whether ISIL-K can regain lost territory in eastern Afghanistan.

"It is unclear whether ISIL-K can regain lost territory in eastern Afghanistan. Should they succeed, it may prove difficult for the Taliban to reverse such gains.

According to one Member State, ISIL-K would then be positioned to develop a global threat capability from Afghanistan," the report said.

It added that ISIL views Afghanistan as a "base for expansion" in the wider region for the realisation of its 'great caliphate' project. "ISIL-K seeks to strengthen its capabilities by recruiting members from other terrorist groups, as well as by attracting disaffected Taliban fighters and dissatisfied local ethnic minorities." It noted that in April 2022, ISIL-K claimed it had fired rockets into Tajikistan and Uzbekistan.

Although both countries denied that rockets had reached their territory, the risk of similar attacks remains. "The aims were to undermine the credibility of Taliban security forces by demonstrating their inability to control the borders, and to attract new recruits from the region."

Further, it said Al-Qaida enjoys greater freedom in Afghanistan under Taliban rule but confines itself to advising and supporting the de facto authorities.

"Al-Qaida in the Indian Subcontinent (AQIS) is reported to have 180 to 400 fighters, primarily from Bangladesh, India, Myanmar and Pakistan. AQIS fighters are represented at the individual level among Taliban combat units," the report added.

The report said Tehrik-e Taliban Pakistan (TTP) con-

stitutes the largest component of foreign terrorist fighters in Afghanistan (between 3,000 and 4,000). One Member State reported that current TTP leader Mufti Noor Wali Mehsud has "united the group, which is now more cohesive, presenting a greater threat in the region."

On June 3, TTP announced it would extend its temporary ceasefire with Pakistan following talks brokered by the de facto Afghan authorities. "It remains to be seen whether the ceasefire leads to a more durable peace agreement." The report said that Al-Qaida leadership reportedly plays an advisory role with the Taliban, and the groups remain close.

Aiman Mohammed Rabi al-Zawahiri increased outreach to Al-Qaida supporters with a number of video and audio messages, "including his own statement promising that Al-Qaida was equipped to compete with ISIL, in a bid to be recognised again as the leader of a global movement."

"Al-Qaida members reportedly remain in the south and east of Afghanistan, where the group has a historical presence.

Some Member States noted a possible shift of core members further to the west to the Farah and Herat Provinces. One Member State reported that Al-Qaida intended to establish a position in northern Afghanistan, mobilize new fighters and generate increased resources," it said.

European Parliament VP urges renewed dialogue between China, Taiwan

AP ■ TAIPEI

European Parliament Vice President Nicola Beer met with Taiwan's leader Tsai Ing-wen on Wednesday and called for China to open a "mutual and respectful dialogue" with the self-governing island democracy it claims as its own territory. Beer emphasized Taiwan's importance "on a global scale" and called for the island to be allowed to participate in the World Health Assembly and for the European Union to upgrade its representation in Taipei.

She reaffirmed support for Taiwan's right to determine its own future amid Chinese threats to annex the island by force, saying Beijing should "refrain from its threatening gestures" and not destroy the island's prosperity. "Taiwan deserves to play this role as a global, strategic, responsible and reliable international partner to the full," Beer told Tsai.

"Only the Taiwanese people can decide on Taiwanese future," Beer said, adding that China should "take an active and constructive part in maintaining and securing the current status quo based on mutual and respectful dialogue."



Clashes, bidding, rigging: Vote to pick final 2 in UK PM race heats up

PTI ■ LONDON

The hottest day in history may be over but the heat of the Conservative Party leadership battle intensified on Wednesday as Tory lawmakers cast their last round of votes to determine the final two candidates in the race to replace Boris Johnson as British Prime Minister. Rishi Sunak is holding firm as the frontrunner with 118 votes from Tuesday's secret ballot, but the fact that he gained just three votes from Tom Tugendhat's camp after the Tory backbencher's elimination has triggered intense speculation over tactical voting and even rigging.

While the British Indian former Chancellor is almost confirmed as one of the final two candidates, the battle for second spot between Trade Minister Penny Mordaunt and Foreign Secretary Liz Truss has become increasing-



ly heated as questions arise over how the latter gained 15 more votes to hit 86. In contrast, Mordaunt increased her tally by 10 to hold on to second place with 92 votes.

"There is vote-rigging going on. There is no way that Truss picked up 15 votes from Tom Tugendhat. Someone is moving votes around," one baffled Tory MP told The Daily Telegraph newspaper.

"Rishi only went up by three votes. That does not make any sense. They want Rishi versus Liz," the MP said. A leading pro-Sunak MP admitted to the newspaper that it was "entirely possible" that individual MPs had acted on their own initiative - but there was no central direction from Sunak. "It's entirely possible that individual members of Parliament have chosen to do things for their own

outcomes, but as a campaign we've been very clear that we've encouraged every colleague that wants Rishi to win to vote for him. Colleagues have been lobbied very hard to vote for other people on a 'lend me your vote' basis. We haven't been doing that," the MP said.

David Davis, a former Brexit minister and Mordaunt supporter, claimed that the Sunak camp had reallocated votes from Tugendhat to Truss to stop the trade minister reaching the final two as the Foreign Secretary's economic plans are seen as easier to counter for the former finance minister.

"Some [votes] went to Liz Truss. There's no doubt about it... I think about [10], maybe a few more, went to Rishi and then Rishi just reallocated some... He wants to fight Liz, because she's the person who will lose the debate with him," Davis told LBC.

Amnesty Intl says Myanmar army has laid landmines in Kayah



AP ■ BANGKOK

Myanmar's military has laid landmines that have killed and injured people in and around villages in Kayah, a conflict-affected region near the border with Thailand, Amnesty International said Wednesday.

The human rights groups said its researchers who visited the region found that landmines laid around people's homes and churches have killed at least 20 people and maimed many other civilians.

The researchers interviewed villagers in an area where the army has been fighting ethnic Karenni armed groups after the military seized power from Myanmar's elected government in February 2021.

Various international agreements including the 1997 Ottawa Convention ban the use of antipersonnel mines with the

intention of eliminating weapons that have killed and maimed thousands of people around the world, often long after hostilities have ended.

"The Myanmar military's use of landmines is abhorrent and cruel. At a time when the world has overwhelmingly banned these inherently indiscriminate weapons, the military has placed them in people's yards, homes, and even stairwells, as well as around a church," Matt Wells, Amnesty International's Crisis Response deputy director for thematic issues, said in a statement.

Amnesty's report said landmines have been deployed in at least 20 villages in Kayah. The report backed earlier allegations made by ethnic groups.

The Karenni Human Rights Group earlier this month also accused army forces of planting landmines in villages and settlements in Kayah state.

US Army cuts force size amid unprecedented battle for recruits

AP ■ WASHINGTON

The Army is significantly cutting the total number of soldiers it expects to have in the force over the next two years, as the US military faces what a top general called "unprecedented challenges" in bringing in recruits.

Army officials on Tuesday said the service will fall about 10,000 soldiers short of its planned end strength for this fiscal year, and prospects for next year are grimmer. Army Gen. Joseph Martin, vice chief of staff for the Army, said it is projecting it will have a total force of 466,400 this year, down from the expected 476,000. And the service could end 2023 with between 445,000 and 452,000 soldiers, depending on how well recruiting and retention go.

With just two and a half months to go in the fiscal year, the Army has achieved just 50% of its recruiting goal of 60,000 soldiers, according to Lt Col Randee Farrell, spokeswoman for Army Secretary Christine Wormuth. Based on those numbers and trends, it is likely the Army will miss the goal by nearly 25% as of Oct 1. If the shortfalls continue, Martin said, they could have an impact on readiness.

"We've got unprecedented challenges with both a post-COVID-19 environment and labour market, but also competition with private companies that have changed their incentives over time," Martin told a



House Armed Services subcommittee on Tuesday. Asked if the Army will have to adjust its force structure to meet national security and warfighting missions around the world, Martin said: "We don't need to do that immediately. But if we don't arrest the decline that we're seeing right now in end strength, that could be a possibility in the future."

Cutting the size of the Army is the best option, said Wormuth. "The Army is facing our most challenging recruiting environment since the inception of the all-volunteer force. This is not a one-year challenge. We will not solve this overnight," she said, adding that the service is looking at a wide range of steps to recruit more soldiers without lowering standards or sacrificing quality.

"We are facing a very fundamental question," she added. "Do we lower standards to meet end strength, or do we lower end strength to maintain a quality,

professional force? We believe the answer is obvious — quality is more important than quantity."

The Army's recruiting problems are the most severe across the military, but the other services are also having a tough time finding young people who want to join and can meet the physical, mental and moral requirements.

Senior Air Force, Navy and Marine Corps leaders have said they are hopeful they will meet or just slightly miss their recruiting goals for this year. But they said they will have to dip into their pool of delayed entry applicants, which will put them behind as they begin the next recruiting year.

The services bring in recruits all year around, but usually send them to basic training and boot camp over a spread-out period of time. The delay can help recruits prepare for entry-level training, particularly the more physical demands.

Turkish strikes in north Iraq kill 8 tourists, wound over 20

AP ■ BAGDAD

Turkish airstrikes killed eight tourists in northern Iraq and wounded over 20, Iraqi Kurdish officials said on Wednesday.

At least four missiles struck the resort area of Barakh in the Zakho district in the semi-autonomous Kurdish-run region, district mayor Mushir Mohammed told The Associated Press. All the casualties were Iraqi citizens.

Hundreds of Iraqi tourists come to the Kurdish region from the south during the peak summer months because the weather is relatively cooler.

The touristic sites in Zakho is nearby military bases set up by Turkey.

Prime Minister Mustafa al-Kadhimi dispatched a delegation to the area lead by Foreign Minister Fuad Hussein.

Turkey regularly carries out airstrikes into northern Iraq and has sent commandos to support its offensives targeting elements of the outlawed Kurdistan Worker's Party or PKK.

Wednesday's attack marked the first time that tourists had been killed in the frequent attacks by Turkey in the area, the officials said.



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36TH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING & E-VOTING
The process of sending emails containing link for Annual Report 2022 (AR) and notice of 36th Annual General Meeting (AGM) of the Company, scheduled to be held on 18-08-2022 at 10.00 hours through Video Conference/Other Audio Visual Means ("VC/OAVM") has been completed on 19-07-2022. Members who have not provided their email id or did not receive our email, may download the same from the above website of the Company under the link "Filings & Disclosures/Annual Reports" or that of BSE.

Information as to user id & password and instructions for participating in the AGM through VC/OAVM and remote electronic voting (e-voting), are contained in the aforesaid notice and are equally applicable to persons who have become Members of the Company after despatch of notices.

Only those persons, whose names are recorded in the register of members or in the register of beneficial owners maintained by the depository as on cut-off date 05-08-2022, are entitled to remote e-voting. E-voting will commence at 10:00 hours on 15-08-2022 and will not be allowed beyond 17:00 hours on 17-08-2022. A member may participate in the AGM even after exercising his right to vote through remote e-voting, but shall not be allowed to vote again in the meeting. Result will be declared within the time permitted by law and will be posted at the above website of the Company under the link "Notices". Grievances, if any, relating to non-receipt of the above notice or e-voting may be sent to by email to ramap@alankit.com.

for Jasch Industries Ltd
Sd/- (S.K. VERMA)
COMPANY SECRETARY
Sonipat,
20-07-2022

**J&K POLICE DISTRICT POLICE HEADQUARTERS JAMMU**
0191-2561578 (O), 0191-254780 (F), email- sspjammu@jkpolice.gov.in

LOOK OUT NOTICE
SDPO Domana, vide communication No. SDD/2022/9709 dated 09/07/2022 has intimated that one **Mukesh Kumar S/O Chuni Lal R/O Udhewala, Jammu was missing since 08.05.2022.** Accordingly, his missing report was entered at P/S Domana vide DDR No. 25 dated 08.05.2022. Despite thorough search his whereabouts are still unknown.

As such photograph of missing **Mukesh Kumar S/O Chuni Lal R/O Udhewala, Jammu** is being published for the information of Police establishments/public in general and if anybody having any clue related to his whereabouts / present location, kindly communicate the same on the below mentioned contact/Telephone numbers.

Description Roll :-
Name : **Mukesh Kumar**
S/O : **Chuni Lal**
Address : **Udhewala, Jammu**
Age : **32 years**
Height : **5' 3"**
Colour : **Wheatish**
Built : **Normal**
Eyes : **Black**
Wearing : **Jean Pent, Shirt**
Contacts/Telephone Numbers:-
1. DPO, Jammu : **0191-2547807, 0191-2561578**
2. SSP Jammu Mail I.D : **sspjammu@jkpolice.gov.in**
3. PCR Jammu : **0191-2542000**
4. SP Rural : **0191-2605949**
5. SDPO Domana : **0191-2604220**
6. P/S Domana : **0191-2604214**
7. Mobile No. of legal hairs : **979758025**



No: DIP/J-5429/22
Dated: 20.07.2022
Sd/- For Sr. Superintendent of Police
Jammu

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

Letter No.: 1417/Nivida-Anubandh/Ranikhet/180
Date : 20-07-2022

E-Tender Notice

1. **Name of the work:-** Construction of multilevel parking at Government Girls Inter College Almora, District- Almora.
2. **Estimated Cost:-** Rs. 436.58 Lakh
3. **Period of Completion:-** 12 Month
4. **Date and Time of availability of Bid documents in the portal:-** 21-07-2022(10.00 hrs)
5. **Online Bid submission: End date :-** 10-08-2022 (17.00 hrs)
6. **Date & Time of Technical bid Opening :-** 16-08-2022 (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:-** 26-07-2022 (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

GENERAL MANAGER

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

Letter No.: 1418/Nivida-Anubandh/Ranikhet/181
Date : 20-07-2022

E-Tender Notice

1. **Name of the work:-** Construction of multilevel parking at Molekhal Almora, District-Almora.
2. **Estimated Cost:-** Rs. 398.14 Lakh
3. **Period of Completion:-** 12 Month
4. **Date and Time of availability of Bid documents in the portal:-** 21-07-2022(10.00 hrs)
5. **Online Bid submission: End date :-** 10-08-2022 (17.00 hrs)
6. **Date & Time of Technical bid Opening :-** 16-08-2022 (11.00 hrs)
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GENERAL MANAGER

UKRAINIAN FORCES STRIKE KEY BRIDGE IN RUSSIAN-OCCUPIED SOUTH

AP ■ KYIV

Ukrainian forces have struck and seriously damaged a bridge that is key for supplying Russian troops in southern Ukraine, a regional official said Wednesday, as Russian shelling killed civilians including a 13-year-old boy in the embattled country's northeast. Kirill Stremousov, deputy head of the Moscow-backed temporary administration for the Russia-controlled southern Kherson region, said the Ukrainian military struck the Antonivskyi Bridge, which crosses the Dnieper River, with missiles Wednesday, scoring 11 hits. He said in remarks carried by the Interfax news agency that the 1.4-kilometer (0.9-mile) bridge sustained serious damage but it wasn't closed for traffic.

Stremousov said that the Ukrainian forces used the U.S.-supplied HIMARS multiple rocket launchers, adding that some of them were intercepted by Russian air defenses.

"The bridge wasn't closed, traf-

fic across it is still continuing, but the situation is serious," Stremousov said, according to Interfax.

The bridge is the main crossing across the Dnieper River in the Kherson region. Knocking it out would make it hard for the Russian military to keep supplying its forces in the region amid repeated Ukrainian attacks.

The head of the Moscow-appointed Kherson administration, Vladimir Saldo, said in a video message that passenger vehicles were allowed to continue driving across the bridge, but truck traffic was halted to allow quick repairs. He noted that trucks could cross the river using a dam about 80 kilometers (50 miles) away.

Wednesday's shelling of the bridge was the second in as many days. It was lightly damaged by Ukrainian shelling a day earlier, according to the Moscow-backed authorities in Kherson.

Early in the war, Russian troops quickly overran the Kherson region just north of the Crimean Peninsula that Russia annexed in 2014. They



have faced Ukrainian counterattacks, but have largely held their ground.

Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov said in an interview with the state-controlled RT television and RIA Novosti news agency released Wednesday that Russia has expanded the scope of its "special military

operation" in Ukraine from the Moscow-backed Donetsk and Luhansk regions in the east to the Kherson and Zaporizhzhia regions and other territories.

He noted that when Russia and Ukraine in March discussed a possible deal to end the hostilities, "our readiness to accept the Ukrainian

proposal was based on the geography of March 2022."

"Now it's a different geography," he said, as he also repeated earlier claims by Moscow that the U.S. and Britain were interested in expanding hostilities.

Lavrov said that "they want to turn it into a real war and provoke

a clash between Russia and European countries."

He claimed that the U.S. Was preventing Ukraine from engaging in talks on a possible settlement with Russia. "They are keeping them from any constructive steps and not only pumping in weapons but forcing them to use those weapons in an increasingly risky way," Lavrov said.

Meanwhile, in a sign of the crippling economic impact of the war on Ukraine, a resolution by its government said the country will ask investors to allow it to postpone foreign debt payments for two years.

The Ukrainian attacks on the bridge in Kherson come as the bulk of the Russian forces are stuck in the fighting in Ukraine's eastern industrial heartland of Donbas where they have made slow gains facing fierce Ukrainian resistance.

Russian Defense Minister Sergei Shoigu inspected the troops in the east, ordering them to act more aggressively to down Ukrainian drones and prevent Ukraine's army from shelling the areas that have been taken by Russian forces.

Russia's ground advance has slowed, in part because Ukraine is using more effective U.S. Weapons and in part because of what Russian President Vladimir Putin has called an "operational pause." Russia has been focusing more on aerial bombardment using long-range missiles.

Ukrainian officials voiced hope that Kyiv could drain the Russian military resources in the fight for Donbas and then launch a counteroffensive to reclaim control of the Kherson region and parts of the Zaporizhzhia region that the Russians seized early in the war. With indications that Ukraine is planning counterattacks to retake occupied areas, the Russian military in recent weeks has targeted the Black Sea port of Odesa and parts of southern Ukraine where its troops captured cities earlier in the war.

Kherson — site of a major ship-building industry at the confluence of the Dnieper River and the Black Sea near Russian-annexed Crimea — is one of several areas a US Government spokesman said Russia is trying to annex.

Ukrainian refugees forced to escape to enemy soil in Russia

AP ■ NARVA (ESTONIA)

For weeks Natalya Zadoyanova had lost contact with her younger brother Dmitriy, who was trapped in the besieged Ukrainian port city of Mariupol.

Russian forces had bombed the orphanage where he worked, and he was huddling with dozens of others in the freezing basement of a building without doors and windows. When she next heard from him, he was in tears. "I'm alive," he told her. "I'm in Russia."



Zadoyanov was facing the next chapter of devastation for the people of Mariupol and other occupied cities: Forcible transfers to Russia, the nation that killed their neighbors and shelled their hometowns almost into oblivion.

Nearly 2 million Ukrainians refugees have been sent to Russia, according to both Ukrainian and Russian officials. Ukraine portrays these transfers as forced journeys to enemy soil, which is considered a war crime. Russia calls them humanitarian evacuations.

An Associated Press investigation has found that while the picture is more nuanced than the Ukrainian government suggests, many refugees

are indeed forced into Russia, subjected to abuse, stripped of documents and unclear about their futures — or even locations. It starts with a poisoned choice: Die in Ukraine or live in Russia. They are taken through a series of what are known as filtration points, where treatment ranges from interrogation and strip searches to being yanked aside and never seen again. Refugees described an old woman who died of the cold, her body swollen, and an evacuee beaten so severely that her back was covered in bruises.

Those who "pass" the filtrations are invited to stay and often promised a payment of about 10,000 rubles (\$170) that they may or may not get.

Ukraine graft concerns resurface as Russia war goes on



AP ■ WASHINGTON

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy's dismissal of senior officials is casting an inconvenient light on an issue that the Biden administration has largely ignored since the outbreak of war with Russia: Ukraine's history of rampant corruption and shaky governance.

As it presses ahead with providing tens of billions of dollars in military, economic and direct financial support aid to Ukraine and encourages its allies to do the same, the Biden administration is now once again grappling with longstanding worries about Ukraine's suitability as a recipient of massive infusions of American aid.

Those issues, which date back decades and were not an insignificant part of former President Donald Trump's

first impeachment, had been largely pushed to the back burner in the immediate run-up to Russia's invasion and during the first months of the conflict as the U.S. And its partners rallied to Ukraine's defense.

But Zelenskyy's weekend firings of his top prosecutor, intelligence chief and other senior officials have resurfaced those concerns and may have inadvertently given fresh attention to allegations of high-level corruption in Kyiv made by one outspoken U.S. Lawmaker.

It's a delicate issue for the Biden administration. With billions in aid flowing to Ukraine, the White House continues to make the case for supporting Zelenskyy's government to an American public increasingly focused on domestic issues like high gas prices and inflation. High-profile supporters of Ukraine in both parties also want to avoid a backlash that could make it more difficult to pass future aid packages.

US Officials are quick to say that Zelenskyy is well within his right to appoint whomever he wants to senior positions, including the prosecutor general, and remove anyone who he sees as collaborating with Russia.

Jill Biden, Ukraine's first lady meet again, this time at WH

AP ■ WASHINGTON

Jill Biden and Olena Zelenska, the first lady of Ukraine, met again Tuesday, this time at the White House, following up after their first-ever meeting in eastern Europe on Mother's Day.



President Joe Biden, who has said the United States will support Ukraine in its fight against Russia for "as long as it takes," helped his wife welcome Zelenska, the wife of President Volodymyr Zelenskyy, as her black SUV rolled to a stop on the driveway. He gave her a bouquet that included sunflowers, Ukraine's national flower.

The women embraced and posed for press photos before going inside, where the administration briefed Zelenska on how the U.S. is trying to help Ukrainians who are suffering mentally and emotionally from

the war.

Zelenska is on a high-profile visit to Washington this week. "It's so nice to see you again, since I last saw you," Jill Biden said. She recalled their May 8 meeting, held when the U.S. First lady was traveling in eastern Europe and drove from Slovakia into western Ukraine to meet with Zelenska, who at that point had not been seen publicly since Russian President Vladimir Putin launched his

attack on Ukraine in late February.

Biden visited Romania and Slovakia in May in a public show of support for Ukrainians, mostly women and children, who had fled to those countries after Russia's invasion. "When I came back, one of the things that I said was you cannot go to a war zone and come back and not feel the sorrow and pain of the people that I met," Biden said, recalling that Zelenska had introduced her to many refugees.

"You asked me then to talk about mental health issues, and so I came back and I talked to my team," Biden said. She said she had sent Zelenska a letter outlining "what we're doing to help with mental health for the mothers and the children who have really, clearly suffered such tragedy, and the atrocities."

PUBLIC NOTICE
Loss of ID card
This is to bring to the notice of the general public that one ID Card of Ms Kavita passed by ICICI Bank Ltd. having ID card no. 2225151 has been found missing and/or lost on 18.07.2022. Anyone, who finds the said ID card, is requested to return the said ID card to the Manager Debt Services & Management Group, ICICI Bank Limited, 200, 1st floor, 23, Shree Nagar, New Delhi-110027. Therefore, all the customers of ICICI Bank Limited are hereby notified not to make any payment to any unauthorised person holding the said ID card no. 2225151. Please Note that the ID card, if anybody making payment to any person holding the said ID card shall be so at his/her own costs, risk and peril and ICICI Bank shall not be bound and/or responsible for any payment.
Date: 21/07/2022 For ICICI Bank Limited

PUBLIC NOTICE
Notice is hereby given to the general public on behalf of our client, i.e. HFC Bank Ltd. that Mr. Neeraj Jain is the owner of Plot No. 77 situated in the layout plan of Vardhaman CHS Ltd. Situated at Arhant Nagar, Village Madipur, Punjabi Bagh, Rohatki Road, New Delhi vide a Relinquishment Deed dated 27.08.2018. Registration No. 4027 has Intimidated SMC Certificate stating legal heirs of late Mr. Raj Kumar. All persons are hereby informed not to deal or carry out any transaction with anyone on the basis of the said missing document. If anyone has already carried out or being carried out kindly inform the undersigned in writing on the below mentioned address within 07 days of the present.
Kumar & Associates (Advocates & Consultants)
200, 1st floor, 23, Shree Nagar, New Delhi-110027
Ph: 011-4112527-28 kumarassociatesadvocates@gmail.com

Public Notice
SARV PRIYA MAHAJAN CO-OPERATIVE GROUP HOUSING SOCIETY LTD 202, Vardhaman Avon Shopping Plaza, LSC, C-Block Market, Saraswati Vihar, Pitampura, Delhi-110034.
In pursuance to rule 19(2) of DCS rules, 2007, it is to inform publicly that following members of Sarv Priya Mahajan CGHS Ltd. (Regd. No. 1384) have resigned from the membership of the society i.e. 1) Smt. Vibha Singh (M.No.523) 2) Sh. Hitesh (M.No.623) and 3) Ms. Simran (M.No.624). Further they have been issued account payee cheque for their deposited amount. If anyone have any objections he/she may file his/her objection in the office of the RCS, Parliament Street, New Delhi or at society office i.e. 202, Vardhaman Avon Shopping Plaza, LSC, C-Block Market, Saraswati Vihar, Delhi-110034 within 7 day from the date of publication of the public notice.
President-Sarv Priya Mahajan CGHS Ltd

Putin, in Tehran, gets strong support from Iran over Ukraine



AP ■ TEHRAN

Russian President Vladimir Putin won staunch support from Iran on Tuesday for his country's military campaign in Ukraine, with Supreme Leader Ali Khamenei saying the West opposes an "independent and strong" Russia.

Khamenei said that if Russia hadn't sent troops into Ukraine, it would have faced an attack from NATO later, a statement that echoed Putin's own rhetoric and reflected increasingly close ties between Moscow and Tehran as they both face crippling Western sanctions.

NATO allies have bolstered

their military presence in Eastern Europe and provided Ukraine with weapons to help counter the Russian attack.

In only his second trip abroad since Russia launched the military action in February, Putin conferred with Iranian President Ebrahim Raisi and Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan on the conflict in Syria, and he used the trip to discuss a U.N.-backed proposal to resume exports of Ukrainian grain to ease the global food crisis.

Turkey, a NATO member, has found itself opposite Russia in bloody conflicts in Syria and Libya. It has even sold lethal

drones that Ukrainian forces have used to attack Russian troops. But Ankara hasn't imposed sanctions on the Kremlin, making it a sorely needed partner for Moscow. Grappling with runaway inflation and a rapidly depreciating currency, Turkey also relies on the Russian market.

Speaking to Erdogan at their meeting began, Putin thanked him for his mediation to help "move forward" a deal on Ukrainian grain exports. "Not all the issues have been resolved yet, but it's good that there has been some progress," Putin added.

Erdogan praised what he described as Russia's "very, very positive approach" during last week's grain talks in Istanbul. He voiced hope a deal will be made, and "the result that will emerge will have a positive impact on the whole world."

U.N., Russian, Ukrainian and Turkish officials reached a tentative agreement on some aspects of a deal to ensure the export of 22 million tons of desperately needed grain and other agricultural products trapped in Ukraine's Black Sea ports by the fighting.

उत्तराखण्ड लोक सेवा आयोग
हरिद्वार
पिन कोड:- 249404
संख्या:-133 (1)/06/गोपन-2/महाका0ए0पी0एस0/2022-23,
दिनांक: 20 जुलाई, 2022
विज्ञापित
एतद्वारा सूचित किया जाता है कि उत्तराखण्ड लोक सेवा आयोग द्वारा दिनांक 29 जून, 2022 को आयोजित महाधिवक्ता कार्यालय (अधिष्ठान) में अपर निजी सचिव परीक्षा-2021 के हिन्दी व अंग्रेजी टंकण (Typing) एवं हिन्दी व अंग्रेजी आशुलेखन (Short Hand) परीक्षा के आधार पर दिनांक 20 जुलाई, 2022 को अंतिम चयन परिणाम घोषित कर दिया गया है। अंतिम चयन परिणाम, प्रारंभिक परीक्षा में सफल अभ्यर्थियों के हिन्दी व अंग्रेजी टंकण (Typing) एवं हिन्दी व अंग्रेजी आशुलेखन (Short Hand) परीक्षा में स्थिति, समस्त अभ्यर्थियों के प्रारंभिक परीक्षा के प्रस्ताव, कट ऑफ मार्क्स एवं संशोधित उत्तर कुंजी उत्तराखण्ड लोक सेवा आयोग की वेबसाइट www.psc.uk.gov.in पर उपलब्ध है।
(कर्मन्द् सिंह) सचिव

OFFICE OF THE GENERAL MANAGER, CONSTRUCTION WING, UTTARAKHAND PEYJAL NIGAM
E-32, JUDGE FARM, HALDWANI, DISTT.- NAINITAL(PIN 263139)
Letter No.: 1415/Nivida-Anubandh/Ranikhet/178 Date: 20-07-2022
E-Tender Notice
1. Name of the work:- Construction of multilevel parking at Kumaon Motor Owner's Private Limited(kmou) Almora, District -Almora.
2. Estimated Cost:- Rs. 290.33 Lakh
3. Period of Completion:- 12 Month
4. Date and Time of availability of Bid documents in the portal:- 21-07-2022(10.00 hrs)
5. Online Bid submission: End date :- 10-08-2022 (17.00 hrs)
6. Date & Time of Technical bid Opening :- 16-08-2022 (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:- 26-07-2022 (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
GENERAL MANAGER

OFFICE OF THE GENERAL MANAGER, CONSTRUCTION WING, UTTARAKHAND PEYJAL NIGAM
E-32, JUDGE FARM, HALDWANI, DISTT.- NAINITAL(PIN 263139)
Letter No.: 1416/Nivida-Anubandh/Ranikhet/179 Date: 20-07-2022
E-Tender Notice
1. Name of the work:- Construction of multilevel parking at Government Inter College Almora, District -Almora.
2. Estimated Cost:- Rs. 441.50 Lakh
3. Period of Completion:- 12 Month
4. Date and Time of availability of Bid documents in the portal:- 21-07-2022(10.00 hrs)
5. Online Bid submission: End date :- 10-08-2022 (17.00 hrs)
6. Date & Time of Technical bid Opening :- 16-08-2022 (11.00 hrs)
7. Name and Address of the Officer inviting bid:- General Manager (Kumaon), Nirman Wing, Uttarakhand Pey Jal Nigam, Haldwani.
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GENERAL MANAGER

M.P. MADHYA KSHETRA VIDYUT VITARAN CO. LTD.
(Govt. of M.P. Undertaking)
NISHTHA PARISAR, BIJALEE NAGAR, GOVINDPURA, BHOPAL-23
Phone No. : 0755-2602033-36, Fax : 2589821, 2586636
Ref. : MD/MK/04/Abgd.NIT/1014 Date : 20.07.2022
TENDER NOTICE
MPMKVVCL, Bhopal, invites following bids from Manufacturers only through e-tendering.

Tender Specification Number	Particulars	Approx. Value (Rs. Lakh)	Tender Fee inclusive of GST (in Rs.)	Date of Opening of Tender
MD/MK/04/797	Procurement of Sky Lift (Hydraulic Access Platform) of 11 Meter Long Boom length fitted on LCV	360.00	11800.00	17.08.2022 03:30 PM

Other details are available on Company website <https://portal.mpcz.in> & <https://mptenders.gov.in>
M.P. Madhyam/105539/2022 **CHIEF GENERAL MANAGER (PROC.)**

SOUTH EAST CENTRAL RAILWAY
TENDER NOTICE FOR MISCELLANEOUS WORK
Srl. No. Tender Notice No.: CEC/BSP/22 -23/17 Date: 08.07.2022 (Open Tender)
Name of Work :- "Conducting Final Location Survey, including collection of field details for geotechnical investigation, preparation of GADs and other drawings and preparation of Survey report & estimate etc. for the work of New B.G. line between Dharamjaigarh - Puthaigaon - Lohardaga (240 Km)."
Tender Value :- ₹ 3,04,50,968/-
EMD:- ₹ 03,02,300/- Cost of Tender Document: NIL. Completion period of Work: 11 (Eleven) months, from the date of issue of acceptance letter.
Date & Time of Tender Closing: Up to 15:00 Hours on 03.08.2022.
For further details related to tender document, eligibility criteria & the complete details for the above work, please contact office of the Chief Administrative Officer/Con./ South East Central Railway/Bilaspur, Pin: 495004 or Dy. Chief Engineer (Con.)South East Central Railway/ Raipur, Pin: 492009 or Chief Engineer/Con./South East Central Railway/ Nagpur, Pin: 440001 refer on our website: www.ireps.gov.in.
Dy. Chief Engineer (Con.) CPR/10/120 S.E.C. Railway, Bilaspur.
f South East Central Railway | t @secrail

FORM NO. INC-26
(Pursuant to rule 30 of the Companies (Incorporation) Rules, 2014
Advertisement to be published in the newspaper for change of registered office of the Company from one state to another)
Before the Central Government (Regional Director) (Northern Region), New Delhi
In the matter of sub-section (4) of Section 13 of the Companies Act, 2013 and clause (a) of sub rule(5) of Rule 30 of the Companies (Incorporation) Rules, 2014 AND
In the matter of DIZO INNOVATION PRIVATE LIMITED (Formerly known as AIBOT INNOVATION PRIVATE LIMITED) having its registered office at C-84, Sector-33, Noida, Gautam Buddha Nagar, U.P. 201301
.....(Petitioner)
Notice is hereby given to the General Public that the Company proposes to make an application to the Central Government under section 13 of the Companies Act, 2013, seeking confirmation of alteration of the Memorandum of Association of the Company in terms of the special resolution passed at the Extra Ordinary General Meeting held on Thursday, 26th May, 2022 to enable the company to change its Registered office from the "State of Uttar Pradesh" to the "State of Haryana".
Any person, whose interest likely to be affected by the proposed change of the Registered office of the Company may deliver either on the MCA-21 portal (www.mca.gov.in) by filling investor Complaint form or cause to be delivered or send by registered post of his/her objections supported by an affidavit stating the nature of his/her interest and grounds of the opposition to the Regional Director, Northern Region at B-2 Wing, 2nd Floor, Paryavaran Bhawan, CGO Complex, New Delhi-110003 within Fourteen days of the date of Publication of this notice with a copy to the applicant at its registered office at the address mentioned below:
DIZO INNOVATION PRIVATE LIMITED (Formerly known as AIBOT INNOVATION PRIVATE LIMITED) (CIN:U31904UP2020PTC127610)
Reg Office: C-84, Sector-33, Noida, Gautam Buddha Nagar, U.P.
Email: subodhgupta@dizo.net
For and on behalf of the DIZO INNOVATION PRIVATE LIMITED
Sd/-
(Subodh Kumar Gupta)
Director
Date: 20th July, 2022
Place: Noida
DIN: 08196288

Windfall tax on fuel export, domestic crude oil slashed

New Delhi: The Government on Wednesday scrapped a three-week-old tax on the export of petrol and cut windfall taxes on overseas shipment of diesel and ATF as well as the one imposed on domestically produced crude oil after global oil prices fell.

While the Rs 6 a litre export duty on petrol was scrapped, the tax on the export of diesel and jet fuel (ATF) was cut by ₹2 per litre each to ₹11 and ₹4 respectively, government notifications showed.



The tax on domestically produced crude was also cut to ₹17,000 per tonne from ₹23,250, a move that will benefit producers like ONGC and Vedanta Ltd.

Also, overseas shipments from refineries located in export-focused ones were exempted from the levies that were imposed on July 1.

On July 13, PTI had reported that the windfall tax review was expected following a sharp fall in global oil prices.

India imposed windfall taxes on July 1, joining a growing number of nations that taxes super normal profits of energy companies. But international oil prices have cooled since then, eroding profit margins at both oil producers and refiners.

While international crude prices slumped on concerns of a potential global recession, cracks or margins on diesel, petrol and ATF crashed.

The July 1 export duties of

₹6 per litre on petrol and ATF translated into USD 12 per barrel, while ₹13 a litre tax on diesel was equivalent to USD 26 a barrel. The ₹23,250 per tonne windfall tax on domestic crude production equalled USD 40 per barrel.

Post windfall tax, the realised spread on diesel and petrol fell to near loss-making levels while the realisation on aviation fuel (ATF) and crude had also gone below 15-year averages.

The realised spread on petrol after considering USD 12 per barrel windfall tax was near a loss-making level of just USD 2 per barrel. Similarly, the diesel spread too was a meagre sum after considering the USD 26 per barrel export tax.

The cut in windfall tax will benefit Reliance Industries Ltd, which operates two oil refineries at Jamnagar in Gujarat with one focused only on exports.

Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC), as well

as Vedanta Ltd, would benefit from the cut in the tax on domestic oil producers.

The refining spread for diesel almost halved from the USD 55-60 per barrel peak seen in June to USD 30 a barrel. Similarly, ATF spreads crashed from USD 50-55 per barrel to USD 25-30. Gasoline spreads have also been slashed from USD 30-35 per barrel last month to USD 10-15.

At the same time, the Brent crude price has also cooled off by USD 15-20 per barrel in the past 2-3 weeks to about USD 100 per barrel.

When the taxes were introduced, it was estimated that they would bring over Rs 1 lakh crore additional revenue in the full year.

The windfall tax on crude production alone was estimated to generate revenue of ₹65,600 crore and tax on export products another ₹52,700 crore if they were to be continued for the full year. **PTI**

Sensex, Nifty spurt over 1% on gains in energy, IT shares

Rise for 4th day

Mumbai: Benchmark BSE Sensex rallied nearly 630 points while Nifty closed above the 16,500 mark on Wednesday after sharp gains in IT and energy shares amid positive global market trends.

Buying in index majors Reliance Industries, Infosys and Tata Consultancy Services and FII inflows bolstered the sentiment.

Shares of firms related to oil exploration and refineries were in heavy demand, with Reliance Industries rallying 2.47 per cent and ONGC by 4 per cent, as the government slashed windfall tax on petrol, diesel, jet fuel and crude oil.

The 30-share BSE Sensex rallied 629.91 points or 1.15 per cent to settle at 55,397.53. During the day, it jumped 862.64 points or 1.57 per cent to 55,630.26. The broader NSE Nifty climbed 180.30 points or 1.10 per cent to 16,520.85.

Among the Sensex constituents, Tech Mahindra, Tata Consultancy Services, HCL Technologies, Reliance Industries, Infosys, State Bank of India, Wipro and Hindustan Unilever were the biggest gainers.

Mahindra & Mahindra, Sun Pharma, Kotak Mahindra



Bank and Asian Paints were among the laggards.

In Asia, markets in Tokyo, Seoul, Shanghai and Hong Kong ended significantly higher following overnight gains in US markets.

Markets in Europe were trading mostly higher during mid-session deals.

"The sharp 8 per cent pull-back in Nifty from June lows of 15,183 is all set to continue aided by a flood of good news. First, the US markets have rebounded sharply driven by impressive corporate earnings. Second, FPI selling appears to have bottomed out. FPIs have bought 5 days this month.

"Third, the relief announced by the government for the petroleum sector through reduction in windfall tax and cuts in duties on exports will be a major boost for the sector, particularly for RIL," said V K Vijayakumar, Chief Investment Strategist at Geojit Financial Services. **PTI**

Phased implementation of digital currency for wholesale, retail segments at works: RBI

New Delhi: The Reserve Bank of India is in the process of implementing the Central Bank Digital Currency (CBDC) in a phased manner for the wholesale and retail segments, an official said on Wednesday.

The introduction of CBDC was announced in the Union Budget 2022-23, by Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman and necessary amendments to the relevant section of the RBI Act, 1934 has been made with the passage of the Finance Bill 2022, Ajay Kumar Choudhary, Executive Director (Fintech), Reserve Bank of India (RBI) said.



The passage of the bill has enabled the RBI to conduct a pilot and subsequent issuance of CBDC, he said.

"RBI is also working on phased implementation of a central bank digital currency (CBDC) in both wholesale and retail segment," Choudhary said while delivering a keynote address at the 'PICUP Fintech Conference & Awards' by FICCI.

CBDC is a digital or virtual currency but it is not comparable to the private virtual currencies or cryptocurrency that have mushroomed over the last decade. Private virtual currencies do not represent any person's debt or liabilities as there is no issuer.

India's official digital currency is likely to debut by early 2023, which will mirror any of the currently available private company-operated electronic wallets. The CBDC will

be a sovereign-backed digital currency.

Touching upon the role of fintechs in the fast evolving digital payments space, the official said that the RBI has fostered innovation and it is keeping a close eye on the benefits and risks associated with innovative products and services offered by fintechs.

As fintech adoption picked up in the country, the Reserve Bank issued guidelines regulations for emerging areas such as payment banks in 2014, account aggregator in 2016, pre-paid instruments in 2017, peer-to-peer lending in 2017, invoice discounting 2018 to facilitate the industry in digital and for facilitating onboard- ing of consumers, individuals as well as KYC documentation, the official said.

He said fintech has already made a mark in the digital payment space with the invention of UPI (Unified Payments Interface) in the country.

Citing data, he said so far

this year, India's UPI transaction has seen participation of 323 banks and has recorded 5.9 billion monthly transactions worth over USD 130 billion.

The revolution which the QR code brought along and the interoperability features ensured that the banking on the fingertip phase came through, the official said.

"I have also observed that most of the younger generation now avoid carrying a physical wallet as everything they need is in their mobile phones.

The contribution of fintech in digital payment can also be observed by usage of prepaid payment instruments.

"The fintech companies are also transforming the very definition of banking and finance with their role played in the digital segment, through their innovative credit models using AI, ML, tools...They are able to give credit to customers who do not have credit history to get credit," Choudhary said. **PTI**

Rupee closes below 80 mark for first time against dollar, drops by 13 paise

Mumbai: The rupee declined 13 paise to close below the 80 mark for the first time against the US currency on Wednesday due to strong dollar demand from importers amid high crude oil prices.

At the interbank foreign exchange market, the local currency opened at 79.91 and later slid to a low of 80.05 to a dollar.

The rupee traded in a range of 79.89 to 80.05 in the day trade. It finally settled at the day's low level of 80.05, showing a loss of 13 paise over the previous close.

On Tuesday, the rupee recovered from its all-time low of 80.05 to close 6 paise higher at 79.92 against the US dollar following forex inflows and suspected RBI intervention.

Forex traders said significant dollar demand from oil importers, firm crude oil prices as well as concerns about



swelling trade deficit weighed on investor sentiments.

"Overall gains in crude in the last few days where Brent has risen again above USD 105 and lack of intervention from RBI has kept the rupee hovering around 80.00. Going ahead rupee will be seen in the range of 79.75-80.25," said Jateen Trivedi, VP Research Analyst at LKP Securities.

The rupee is broadly in downtrend even after measures from the RBI on international payment gateways or import duty hikes on commodity products, Trivedi said. **PTI**

Wipro Q1 net profit falls nearly 21% to ₹2,563.6 crore

New Delhi: IT services company Wipro Ltd on Wednesday reported about a 21 per cent year-on-year fall in its consolidated net profit to Rs 2,563.6 crore for the first quarter ended June 2022.

The profit for the period (attributable to the equity holders of the company) stood at Rs 3,242.6 crore in the year-ago period.

The net profit was down 20.6 per cent on a year-on-year basis, according to a filing.

The Bengaluru-headquartered company's revenue from operations rose nearly 18 per cent year-on-year to Rs 21,528.6 crore during the just-ended quarter.

For the September quarter, the company expects revenue from the IT services business to be in the range of USD 2,817 million to USD 2,872 million.

This reflects a sequential growth of 3-5 per cent.

Its CEO and Managing Director Thierry Delaporte said: "We have made significant investments in Wipro's growth engine and are very pleased with the outcomes".

"Our order bookings grew 32 per cent YoY in Total Contract Value terms, powered by large transformational deals, and our pipeline today is at an all-time high. We continue to reinforce the investments that allow us to grow our business, remain agile in the market and be efficient as an organisation while staying focused on serving our clients even better," Delaporte added.

The company's Chief Financial Officer, Jatin Dalal said, "At 15 per cent of operating margins, we believe that we have bottomed out". **PTI**

Higher customs duty to hit gold jewellery demand this fiscal: Report

Mumbai: India's gold jewellery demand is likely to fall by 5 per cent to 550 tonnes this fiscal, mainly due to the hike in customs duty, according to a report.

Rating agency Crisil on Wednesday said the hike in customs duty on gold by 5 per cent to 12.5 per cent on June 30 is likely to result in flat revenue growth for gold jewellery retailers in the current financial year compared to the exceptional demand witnessed in the year-ago period.

Retailers will have to pass on the hike to customers, which will curtail demand and wean away discretionary buyers, it added.

According to the report, the customs duty hike is likely to lead to higher gold prices for end consumers and may curtail demand in terms of volume, which is likely to fall by 5 per cent this fiscal to 550 tonnes. In the year-ago period, the same stood at 580 tonnes.

GOLD JEWELLERY RETAILERS WILL HAVE TO ADOPT INNOVATIVE SALES METHODS TO PUSH SALES

After the pandemic-led disruptions abated in the first quarter of last fiscal, pent-up demand and an import duty cut of 5 per cent in February 2021, had triggered a sharp rebound in sales, which continued into the first quarter of this fiscal.

Though higher gold prices will compensate for the volume loss and ensure the industry's revenue remains flat compared to last year, operating margins would be impacted, the report said.

"With gold prices increasing due to the import duty hike, gold jewellery retailers will have to adopt innovative sales methods and launch promotional schemes to push sales.

"Inventory mix will see a

shift towards lower-grammage ornaments to make products more affordable, while discounts could be offered on making charges. This will shave off operating margins by 50 basis points to 6.4-6.8 per cent this fiscal," Crisil Ratings Director Rahul Guha said.

Typically, as the festive season approaches, stores stock up on products and in the current fiscal ending March 2023, addition of new showrooms is expected to rise 10-12 per cent.

Together, this will increase retailers' working capital requirement by Rs 3,000-3,200 crore through the fiscal, which would mark a 35-40 per cent surge over the year-ago period, the report said.

"Gold jewellery retailers had reduced their leverage by limiting new store additions amid cautious funding stance by banks... Credit profiles will still be stable," Crisil Ratings Director Himank Sharma said. **PTI**



New Delhi: Gold in the national capital on Wednesday rose by ₹20 to ₹50,202 per 10 grams, according to HDFC Securities.

In the previous trade, the precious metal finished at ₹50,182 per 10 grams.

Silver also gained ₹35 to ₹55,467 per kg from ₹55,432 per kg in the previous trade.

"Spot gold prices for 24-carat gold in Delhi were up by ₹20 per 10 grams supported by weak COMEX gold prices," said Tapan Patel, Senior Analyst (Commodities) at HDFS Securities.

In the international market, gold was quoting lower at USD 1,708 per ounce while silver was flat at USD 18.80 per ounce. **PTI**

FPIs, mutual funds increase stake in Paytm

New Delhi: Foreign portfolio investors and mutual funds have marginally increased stake in Paytm's parent company One97 Communications, according to a regulatory filing.

The shareholding pattern of One97 Communications for June quarter 2022-23 shows that the number of shareholders as foreign portfolio investors (FPIs) rose from 54 to 83, taking the number of shares held by them to 3,53,72,428 from 2,86,80,948 in the previous March quarter.

With this, the shareholding of FPIs in the company has gone up from 4.42 per cent to 5.45 per cent.

The number of shareholders as mutual funds also went up from just 3 to 19. **PTI**

Tata Steel ropes in Australia's BHP to jointly study low-emission steelmaking technology

New Delhi: Homegrown Tata Steel has partnered with Australia-based BHP to jointly explore low carbon iron and steelmaking technology.

The partnership aims to help both companies progress toward their climate change goals, and support India's ambitions to be carbon neutral by 2070, the domestic steel major said on Wednesday.

Tata Steel has signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with BHP, a leading global resources company, with the intention to jointly study and explore low carbon iron and steelmaking technology, it said in a statement.

Under the partnership, Tata Steel and BHP intend to collaborate on ways to reduce



the emission intensity of the blast furnace steel route, via two priority areas – the use of biomass as a source of energy and the application of carbon capture and utilisation (CCU) in steel production.

The new technology is to reduce the emission intensity of integrated steel mills by up to

30 per cent.

More importantly, these projects demonstrate how abatements applied to the blast furnace iron-making process, which contributes to more than 60 per cent of India's steel production, can materially reduce the carbon intensity of the existing capacity. **PTI**

'India's exports grow 25% in FY-22; imports fall 1.68%

New Delhi: The exports of finished steel from India jumped over 25 per cent to 13.49 million tonne (MT) in 2021-22, Union Minister Faggan Singh Kulaste said Wednesday.

During the preceding 2020-21 fiscal, the exports stood at 10.78 MT, the Minister of State for Steel said in a reply to the Lok Sabha.

The imports fell to 4.67 MT in 2021-22 from 4.75 MT a year ago, a fall of 1.68 per cent, according to Kulaste.

"Government has taken various steps to increase the availability of iron ore and make them available at reasonable prices," he said.

Citroen drives in all-new C3 in India with price starting at ₹5.7L

New Delhi: Automaker Citroen India on Wednesday launched its all-new model C3 with introductory prices starting at ₹5.7 lakh (ex-showroom). The company, which is a part of the Stellantis group formed by the merger of two global auto majors FCA and Groupe PSA, has forayed into the fast-growing sub-4 meter segment with its new offering.

The C3 comes powered with a 1.2 litre petrol powertrain tagged between ₹5.7 lakh and ₹8.05 lakh. The company has introduced the model with two trims -- 1.2 Puretech 82 mated with five speed manual transmission and 1.2 litre Puretech 110 with six speed manual transmission. **PTI**

Reliance Industries shares climb over 4%; ONGC jumps 7%

New Delhi: Shares of firms related to oil exploration and refineries were in heavy demand on Wednesday, with Reliance Industries and ONGC rallying after the government slashed windfall tax on petrol, diesel, jet fuel and crude oil.

Reliance Industries shares jumped 4.25 per cent to Rs 2,545.05 on the BSE.

Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC) rallied 7 per cent to Rs 136.40.

Among others, Chennai Petroleum Corporation jumped 11.38 per cent, Oil India climbed 8.82 per cent and Mangalore Refinery and Petrochemicals advanced 4.95

per cent.

"The relief announced by the government for the petroleum sector through reduction in windfall tax and cuts in duties on exports will be a major boost for the sector, particularly for RIL," said V K Vijayakumar, Chief Investment Strategist at Geojit Financial Services.

In the equity market, the 30-share BSE Sensex was trading 714.52 points or 1.30 per cent higher at 55,482.14. The government on Wednesday slashed the windfall tax on petrol, diesel, jet fuel and crude oil following a decline in international rates. **PTI**

Maruti Suzuki unveils mid-sized SUV 'Grand Vitara'

New Delhi: Maruti Suzuki India on Wednesday unveiled its new model 'Grand Vitara' as it looks to expand presence in the fast growing mid-sized SUV segment.

The model, which comes with a 1.5 litre petrol powertrain mated with strong and mild hybrid technology, would compete with the likes of Hyundai Creta, Kia Seltos and Tata Harrier, among others.

With the Grand Vitara, Maruti Suzuki India (MSI) is looking to expand its presence in the mid-sized SUV segment, where it currently lags



Hisashi Takeuchi (L), MD & CEO of Maruti Suzuki India Limited, and Shashank Srivastava, Senior Executive Director, Marketing & Sales of Maruti Suzuki India Limited, during the global unveil of the Maruti Suzuki 'Grand Vitara' SUV, in Gurugram on Wednesday **PTI**

the competition.

The production of the model would begin in August and actual sales would start in September. Speaking at the model unveil, MSI MD and CEO Hishashi Takeuchi said the Indian automobile industry is undergoing transformational changes in terms of technology, customer preferences and purchasing power.

"In the last few years, we have seen a growing preference for SUVs. The segment contributes to almost 40 per cent of the total industry sales. **PTI**

ITC will continue to deliver robust growth, says CMD Puri

Kolkata: Diversified conglomerate ITC Limited on Wednesday said that the company will continue to deliver robust growth despite key concerns such as inflation. Speaking at the company's AGM virtually, CMD of ITC Sanjiv Puri said that in the FMCG space, the firm has nurtured 25 brands and the newer ones will garner an annual consumer spend of ₹24,000 crore.

The company will also fortify and scale up new mega brands while investing in categories of the future, he said. "Today, it is immensely encouraging that your company's newer FMCG Businesses have garnered an annual consumer spend of ₹24,000 crore. The carefully selected portfolio, with the newer ones will grow, is estimated to have a total addressable market

potential of ₹5,00,000 crore by 2030, which is amongst the highest in the Indian FMCG space," he said.

ITC launched 110 products during the year, Puri said adding that the company's future-ready and purpose-driven businesses and brands are well poised to seize the opportunities and make a meaningful contribution to the national priorities. **PTI**

CPP's Make in India initiative

New Delhi: Chemical Process Piping (CPP), a premiere industrial piping solutions company, has announced the implementation of FRP stack in FGD plant set up by BIFPCL — Bangladesh India Friendship Power Company Ltd, which is a joint venture of 50:50 sharing by India state-owned National Thermal Power Corp and Bangladesh Power Development Board. CPP plans annual turnover of ₹300 cr by 2024 in the FRP segment. CPP MD Vijay Rajpurohit said, "With the Make in India initiative, Indian FRP manufacturers are in a position to bring in foreign exchange and boost the economy." **PTI**

PM Modi interacts with CWG-bound athletes

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Wednesday highlighted the struggle, grit and determination of the Commonwealth Games-bound athletes in a light-hearted interaction as he urged them to forget expectations and focus only on giving their best at the Birmingham multi-sport event.

"Kyun pade ho chakkar mei, koi nahi hai takkar mei. You have to play with this attitude there," Modi said during a virtual interactive session.

Well aware of their back stories, Modi asked the athletes how they overcame the hurdles in their lives.

"I joined Indian Army in 2012 and did normal duty for four years. After that I took up athletics. The hard army training and the tough Siachen Glacier posting helped me a lot during competitions," 3000m steeple chaser Avinash Sable said.

"In my event there are a lot of obstacles, we have to jump through hurdles similar to how army training is, like crawling."

Modi asked the 27-year-old Sable about his weight loss.

"When I was in army, my weight was quite high. But my unit motivated me to get into sports. But even for running I was quite heavy, I was 74kg but they supported and I used to get extra time for training. It took me 3-4 months and now my weight is 53kg."

From cyclist David Beckham, the PM wanted to know if he ever thought about playing football professionally or if he ever played football with his teammate Ronaldo Singh, who is also named after a popular footballer.

"We don't play football. Most of the time goes in training for track cycling," said a shy David, aware that the PM was making a reference to his namesake and former England football captain David Beckham.

David, hailing from Andaman and Nicobar Islands, had lost his father during the 2004 Tsunami and mother a year later.

During the interaction, Modi jokingly asked shutter Treesa Jolly how she and her women's doubles partner Gayatri Gopichand will celebrate after returning from the Games.

"P V Sindhu had decided to eat ice cream after the Olympics, what are your plans?" he asked a grinning Treesa.

He further enquired how the 19-year-old chose badminton when Kannur where she comes from is



famous for football and farming.

"My father motivated me to take up sport. Volleyball and football are more popular but at the age of 5, badminton was more convenient," she said.

Modi sought to make the athletes feel at ease before the CWG, where expectations from them will be high.

"Those who have played at such marquee events before will have a chance to test themselves again and I'm sure the ones who are participating for the first time will also leave a mark."

"I will just say, give it your all and play without any tension, have fun. If everyone does that, the medals will come," he said.

The PM asked para shot putter Sharmila about her inspiration to start a career in sport at the age of 34.

"I wanted to play since childhood but my family was poor, my mother was blind. We are three sisters and a brother. I was married at a young age. I have two daughters but all three of us had to face a lot of atrocities," Sharmila said.

"Then my parent brought me back home. After my second marriage, one

India end Changwon campaign with most medals

PTI ■ CHANGWON

India finished yet another ISSF Shooting World Cup campaign by topping the medal's tally with a haul of 15 medals, including five gold, six silver and four bronze here on Wednesday.

On the final day of competitions, the Indian trio of Anish Bhanwala, Vijayveer Sidhu and Sameer won the silver in the men's 25m Rapid Fire Pistol team event.

The Indians were all set to top the podium and, at one point, were leading 10-2 against the quality Czech side of Martin Podhrasky, Tomas Tehan, and Matej Rampula.

But the Indians lost their nerve as



they went down 15-17 to settle for second place.

In the skeet mixed team event, the Indian pair of Mairaj Ahmad Khan

and Mufaddal Deesawala finished ninth out of 17 teams with a score of 138 out of 150.

India had won all five ISSF World Cup stages in 2019, one in the curtailed 2021 season and yet again this year in the first stage in Cairo.

The next big assignment for the Indian rifle and pistol shooters will be the much-awaited ISSF World Championship scheduled in Cairo in October this year.

A good performance by the Indian shooters at the World Championships means they will have a chance to represent India at the 2024 Olympic Games in Paris.

The shotgun squad will take part at the ISSF Shotgun World Cup.

ed together.

The interaction was also attended by Sports Minister Anurag Thakur and coaches of the athletes.

Barca thrash Beckham's Miami 6-0

AP ■ BARCELONA

Raphinha marked his Barcelona debut with a goal and two assists as the Spanish giants kicked off their four match US tour with a comprehensive thrashing of David Beckham's Inter Miami on Tuesday.

The Brazilian, signed from Premier League Leeds United earlier this month for around \$60 million, capped a promising first outing for his new club with a well taken first-half strike after Pierre-Emerick Aubameyang had given the La Liga giants the lead at a sold-out Drv Pnk Stadium.

With fellow new signing Robert Lewandowski not involved ahead of his official unveiling in Miami on Wednesday — following his move from Bayern Munich — it was left to Raphinha, 25, to get the thousands of Barcelona fans in attendance excited about the future.

The Brazilian was making his debut alongside fellow newcomer Andreas Christensen, who left Chelsea at the end of the season, and both were impressive against



Phil Neville's side.

Predictably, Barcelona dominated possession against the MLS team and former Arsenal forward Aubameyang went closest on 15 minutes to opening the deadlock when his close range effort flashed past the post.

And on 25 minutes it was Raphinha's turn to get on the

scoresheet, the Brazilian expertly guiding home an Alejandro Balde cross to double Barcelona's lead.

It was completely one way traffic and Raphinha capped a good night's work with another assist just before half-time, teeing up Ansu Fati who expertly smashed home from close range.



Messi shines in PSG's win

AP ■ TOKYO

Lionel Messi scored but Paris Saint-Germain were made to work hard for a 2-1 win over Kawasaki Frontale on Wednesday in the first match of their pre-season Japanese tour. Star forwards Messi, Neymar and Kylian Mbappe all started in new PSG manager Christophe Galtier's first game in charge of his full squad in front of a crowd of 65,000 at Tokyo's National Stadium.

Messi opened the scoring with a 32nd-minute shot but a much-changed PSG line-up in the second half could manage only one more goal through substitute Arnaud Kalimuendo.

J-League champions Kawasaki pulled a goal back in the 84th minute when Kazuya

Yamamura headed home unmarked to set up a nervy finish.

PSG will play two more J-League sides on their Japanese tour, taking on Urawa Reds in Saitama on Saturday and Gamba Osaka in Osaka the following Monday.

Messi found a way through shortly after, guiding a shot into the corner from just inside the box.

Neymar and Mbappe departed at half-time. Messi bowed out soon after as Galtier, newly arrived from Nice, rung the changes.

Substitute Kalimuendo doubled PSG's lead when he turned home Juan Bernat's low cross in the 58th minute, before Yamamura pulled one back with six minutes left to play.

Serena, Djokovic named in Cincinnati draws: Organisers

AP ■ CINCINNATI

Serena Williams will play in next month's Cincinnati Open WTA tournament as she builds towards a possible US Open appearance, organizers said on Tuesday.

The 23-time Grand Slam singles champion, who last week was named in the field for next month's Canadian Open, joins a star-studded field for the hardcourt tournament.

Williams, winner of the tournament in 2014 and 2015, entered the tournament using her protected ranking.

The former world number one — who played her first singles match in a year during a first round defeat at Wimbledon last month — is stepping up her comeback ahead of the US Open next month.

Joining her in the field for the August 13-21 tournament in Cincinnati will be world number one Iga Swiatek and former champions including Victoria Azarenka, Madison Keys, Garbine Muguruza and Karolina Pliskova.

Wimbledon champion



Elena Rybakina, four-time major champion Naomi Osaka and reigning US Open champion Emma Raducanu are also in the line-up.

The men's draw meanwhile includes newly minted Wimbledon champion Novak Djokovic, but unless the Serbian star changes his stance over refusing to take the Covid-19 vaccine, he will not

play. Current US regulations forbid entry to the country by non-vaccinated foreign visitors, and Djokovic has previously said he has no plans to back down from his stance.

Earlier this month he acknowledged he was unlikely to play in the United States unless entry requirements changed.



Qatar's WC final stadium to host first match in Aug

AP ■ DOHA

The first official match at the Lusail stadium that is to host this year's World Cup final will be held next month, Qatar's national federation said Tuesday.

Al Rayyan and Al Arabi will dispute a Qatar Stars League game in the 80,000 capacity stadium on August 11.

Lusail is the biggest of the eight stadiums built or refurbished for the World Cup and

will host the final on December 18.

A spokesperson for Qatar's World Cup organisers said the match would be a "test event" and that an official inauguration would be held later.

Lusail, whose futuristic design was inspired by the decoration on Arab bowls, will stage 10 World Cup matches in all, including several group matches, a quarter-final and semi-final as well as the final.

Bayern sign 'top target' de Ligt from Juve

AP ■ MUNICH

Bayern Munich announced the signing of Juventus defender Matthijs de Ligt on a five-year deal on Tuesday with the Dutch international expected to become "a mainstay" as the German champions embark on the post Robert Lewandowski era.

"Matthijs de Ligt was a top target for us. With signings like this, the big aims that we have are achievable. The future face of our team is increasingly taking shape," said Bayern president Herbert Heiner.

Juventus say securing the Dutch central defender has cost Bayern 67 million euros with 10 million in bonuses (\$78 million in total).

It constitutes the second biggest transfer deal in Bayern's history after the 80 million required to capture another defender, Lucas Hernandez, in

2019.

Bayern will use the proceeds from the transfer of Polish striker Lewandowski to Barcelona, estimated at more than 45 million euros, to help finance the move.

"This transfer is an important building block in the overall concept that we're gradually putting into place. De Ligt should become a mainstay at FC Bayern" added Hainer.

His arrival follows that of Sadio Mane from Liverpool, and Ajax duo Ryan Gravenberch and Noussair Mazraoui at a combined cost estimated by German media of 120 million as Bayern dig deep in their pockets to invest in their future.

De Ligt joined the Ajax academy at nine years of age, making his debut for the record Dutch champions at 17.

He became their youngest ever captain and in 2019, after 117 appearances (13 goals) and



the league and cup double, he moved to Juventus for 85 million. Alongside the likes of Frenkie de Jong, Donny van de

Beek and Hakim Ziyech, De Ligt lifted Ajax to within seconds of the 2019 Champions League final.

Paulo Dybala joins Roma

AP ■ ROME

Roma on Wednesday announced the signing of Paulo Dybala on a three-year contract after the Argentina forward's deal with Juventus expired.

"I arrive at a team that is growing, with a club that continues to lay an increasingly solid foundation for the future and a coach, Jose Mourinho, with whom it is a privilege to work," Dybala said in a statement.

Sky reported that the contract was worth six million euros (\$6.08m) per sea-



son including bonuses.

Dybala spent a trophy-laden seven years in Turin, scoring 115 goals for Juve, but has been dogged by injuries over the last two seasons.

He joined Juve from Palermo in 2015, going on to win five Serie A titles and four Italian Cups.

A goal in the sixth minute of injury time in that 2019 semi-final saw Tottenham dash that dream.

His time with Juve earned him more silverware, with a Serie A title, an Italian cup and Super Cup.

INDIA NEED TO HELP KOHLI: PONTING

PTI ■ DUBAI

Australia legend Ricky Ponting believes frequent changes in his batting order was responsible for Virat Kohli's prolong lean patch and fears if omitted from the T20 World Cup squad, the star batter might find it difficult to regain his place.

Kohli has struggled for runs during this year's IPL and hasn't scored a century for India in any format for almost three years.

Ponting said instead of changing Kohli's position in the playing XI frequently, the Indian team management needs to give him confidence to get his touch back.

"They probably should be trying to find new ways to get him back into the form and help him out," the former skipper told 'The ICC Review'.

"That (moving him up the order) quite often comes at the expense of someone else as well, you are moving someone else around trying to find a spot for Virat. He has opened the batting, he's batted at No.3 in the IPL in the last couple of years and done the same for India.

"Moving him around will make him feel that people are worried about him, and he will be more unsettled."

Ponting feels Kohli should be given a set position in the batting order.

"I will be going the other way. I'll be telling him, 'This is your spot, this is where you're batting, it's not



"If you leave Virat out of the eve of the World Cup, and someone comes in and has a reasonable tournament, it will be hard for Virat to get back in it," he said.

"If I was India, I will keep pushing with him, because I know the upside. If they actually get him back confident and playing as well as he can, that upside is better than most.

"So I think if I was a captain or a coach around the Indian set up, I will be making life as easy as possible for him to feel as comfortable as possible, and just wait for him to flick the switch and start scoring runs again."

Ponting, who captained Australia to two World Cup triumphs in 2003 and 2007, believes the 33-year-old Indian is worth persisting with at international level as he is still a fearsome player for any opposition.

"I think if I was an opposition captain or an opposition player, I will be fearing playing an Indian team that has Virat Kohli in it, more than I would be one that doesn't have him in it.

"I know there have been some challenges for him, it's been a difficult time. But every great player that I have seen in this game has been through it at some stage, whether that's a batsman or a bowler, they have all been through it," he said.

"And somehow, the best (players) find a way to rebound and respond, and it's only a matter of

Bumrah drops to 2nd in ICC ODI rankings

PTI ■ DUBAI

India pace spearhead Jasprit Bumrah dropped to second among bowlers while Hardik Pandya rose a whopping 13 places to eighth in the all-rounders' list after his strong show against England in the latest ICC ODI rankings issued on Wednesday.

While India clinched a narrow 2-1 triumph in what was a thrilling ODI series, star pacer Bumrah was forced to miss the final match owing to back spasms, which cost him his top spot.

New Zealand quick Trent Boult reclaimed the top spot with 704 rating points as against Bumrah's 703.

Among other Indians, Yuzvendra Chahal, who picked



seven wickets during the ODI series against England, jumped four spots to 16th.

Pandya was rewarded with for his impressive show with bat and ball against England. He took six scalps and made a total of 100 runs.

He also jumped eight spots to 42nd in the batting rankings, following his excellent series.

Star India wicketkeeper-batter Rishabh Pant, who scored a brilliant unbeaten 125 during the final, was rewarded for his strong form with a rise of 25 spots to 52nd.

Pakistan skipper Babar Azam remains on top in the list for batters, with the Indian duo of Virat Kohli (fourth) and Rohit Sharma (fifth) and South Africa opener Quinton de Kock (sixth) all dropping a spot.

PUJARA HITS TON ON HIS SUSSEX CAPTAINCY DEBUT

PTI ■ LONDON

Cheteshwar Pujara continued his fine form and hit a century on captaincy debut for Sussex to put his side in a commanding position against Middlesex here on Wednesday.

Pujara, who was overnight 115, was batting on 143 from 263 balls, studded with 13 fours and one six to help Sussex post 412 for six against Middlesex at lunch on day two at the Lord's.

Pujara was made interim captain of Sussex following Tom Haines' injury. The India Test mainstay slammed his fifth century from seven county games this season.

Pujara shared a 219-run third wicket partnership with Tom Alsop (135; 277 balls; 15x4) after Sussex were reduced to 99 for 2 inside 35 overs.

Alsop got out near the close of play on day one. Sussex lost another quick wicket Archie Lenham (0) in space of three deliveries but Pujara held fort for his team.

Representing Middlesex, India pacer Umesh Yadav was wicketless and conceded 58 runs from 23 overs.



India to tour Zimbabwe for three-match ODI series in August

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The Indian cricket team will travel to Zimbabwe for the first time in six years for a three-match ODI series, next month.

The three ODIs will be played on August 18, 20 and 22 in Harare, the Zimbabwe Cricket announced.

KL Rahul is expected to lead the Indian side.

The series is part of the ICC Men's Cricket World Cup Super League, a 13-team competition serving as the main route for direct qualification for the 50-over World Cup to be staged in India next year.

Zimbabwe are currently placed 12th in the 13-team pool, with just three wins in 15 matches.

The last time the 'Men in



Blue' were in Zimbabwe when a Mahendra Singh Dhoni-led side played three ODIs and as many T20Is in June-July 2016.

India recently finished their tour of England with series victories in T20Is and ODIs.

A young Indian team, under the leadership of Shikhar

Dhawan, will next play a three-match ODI series against West Indies followed by five T20Is that finish on August 7.

Before the series against India, Zimbabwe will host Bangladesh for three T20s from July 30.

They will tour Australia

ahead of the marquee-event for three ODIs from August 28.

MANAGER FROM DDCA

DDCA's former director Vikas Katyal has been appointed as the manager for the Indian Cricket Team for its tour to the West Indies.



Shastri calls for reduction of bilateral T20I matches

PTI ■ LONDON

As cricket grapples with a massive scheduling problem, former India coach Ravi Shastri has called for reduction in T20 bilateral series, saying franchise cricket can be encouraged instead.

As per ICC's next Futures Tours & Programme's (FTP) draft, there is set to be a massive increase in T20s and the IPL is also set to have a two-and-a-half-month exclusive window.

With the increasing number of matches, multi-format players are feeling the load. England's premier all-rounder Ben Stokes shocked everyone by announcing retirement from ODIs on Monday.

The 31-year-old said playing three formats had become "unsustainable" for him.

Earlier this month, Cricket South Africa had decided to pull-out of their ODI series against Australia to ensure their players would be available for their new domestic T20 competition.

"I would be a little careful of the number of bilateral

splits, especially in T20 cricket. There's a lot of franchise cricket which can be encouraged, whichever country it's in - India, West Indies, or Pakistan," Shastri said on a Telegraph's Sport's podcast.

"You play less bilaterals and then you get together for the World Cups. So the emphasis on ICC World Cup events becomes paramount. Then people look forward to them," he added.

Former England skipper Nasser Hussain has also slammed the crammed cricket calendar.

Shastri also suggested a two-tier Test set up to save the longest format from extinction.

"I think two tiers are needed, otherwise Test cricket will die in 10 years time.

"You need six teams at the top, and then six teams in the second and then you qualify. And those top six play against each other more often because of the corridor you open up by having less bilateral T20 cricket and just franchise cricket. That's the way all formats of the game can survive," he explained.

Not in a position to host Asia Cup T20, Sri Lanka Cricket tells Asian Cricket Council

PTI ■ KARACHI

Sri Lanka Cricket (SLC) on Wednesday informed the Asian Cricket Council (ACC) that the board will not be in a position to host the upcoming edition of the Asia Cup T20 because of the economic and political crisis in the country. The development comes after the SLC recently postponed the third edition of the Lanka Premier League (LPL) due to the ongoing crisis.

"Sri Lankan cricket has conveyed that due to the existing political and economic situation

in their country specially where foreign exchange is concerned it is not an ideal situation for them to host such a mega-event of six teams in the island," an ACC source said.

The official stated that the SLC officials conveyed that they would like to host the tournament in the UAE or some other country.

The official also added that the ACC is likely to make an announcement in the next few days, given the Asia Cup is slated to be held in August and September this year before the T20 World Cup in Australia.

Proteas deny Stokes a farewell ODI win

AP ■ CHESTER-LE-STREET

Rassie van der Dussen's century helped South Africa spoil Ben Stokes's farewell to one-day international cricket as the Proteas won by 62 runs on the England star's Durham home ground to go 1-0 up in a three-match series.

Van der Dussen's career-best 134 was the cornerstone of South Africa's 335-5, their highest ODI total in England.

He also shared stands of 109 with opener Janneman Malan (57) and 151 with Aiden Markram, who made a stylish 77.

Test captain Stokes did not have a fairytale finish to a 50-over international cricket career that peaked with a player of the match display in England's 2019 World Cup final triumph.

The struggling 31-year-old paceman took an expensive 0-44 in five overs amid searing heat, after being cheered by his



loyal home fans as he led England onto the field.

Stokes then made just five with the bat

before he was lbw to off-spinner Markram, having missed a reverse sweep.

Stokes had announced on Monday that this game would be his 105th and last match at this level, with the dynamic all-rounder saying a congested England fixture schedule meant he had to jettison ODIs in order to still give of his best in Tests and Twenty20s.

'WE WILL MISS STOKES'

Fellow World Cup-winner Jos Buttler, now England's white-ball captain, thanked Stokes for his ODI efforts.

"Three years ago (the 2019 World Cup final) will live long in the memory but every day he turns up, whether that be for training or in a match, he puts in 100 per cent.

"He has been a fantastic ambassador for us in ODI cricket. We will miss him."

The series continues at Old Trafford on Friday.

Fencer Bhavani Devi loses in Cairo World Championship

PTI ■ CAIRO

India's first Olympian fencer Bhavani Devi bowed out of the World Championships after losing in the second round of senior women's individual sabre event here on Wednesday.

Bhavani gave a tough fight to her German opponent Larissa Eifler, seeded 8th, before going down 12-15 in the round of 32.

The 28-year-old from Chennai made history at the Tokyo Olympics by becoming the first Indian to compete in the sport at the Games.

Bhavani, currently ranked 39th in the world, had recovered from 4-11 to beat Gabriella Page of Canada 15-14 in her opening round match.

FIH appoints Egypt's Seif Ahmed as acting president

PTI ■ LAUSANNE

The International Hockey Federation (FIH) on Wednesday appointed Egypt's Seif Ahmed as its acting president following Indian administrator Narinder Batra's resignation from the post.

Batra on Monday resigned as FIH president and also quit as Indian Olympic Association (IOA) chief. He also gave up his International Olympic Committee (IOC) membership which was directly linked with his IOA position.

In a statement, the FIH said its Executive Board has officially accepted Batra's resignation and unanimously appointed Ahmed as its interim chief till fresh elections are held on November 5 during its two-day virtual Congress.

"...The Members of the Executive Board (EB) of the International Hockey Federation (FIH) have officially accepted the resignation of Dr Narinder Dhruv Batra," the world body said.

Batra became president of FIH in 2016 and reclaimed the position last year for a second term till 2024.

"Unanimously appointed FIH EB Member and President of the African Hockey Federation Seif Ahmed (Egypt) as Acting President until the next Presidential elections.

"...The upcoming FIH Congress will be held virtually, as planned, on 4-5 November 2022, with the Presidential election taking place on 5 November," it added.

Pakistan break Galle record to beat SL

AP ■ GALLE

Abdullah Shafique hit an epic 160 to anchor Pakistan's record chase of 342 at Galle as the tourists won a thrilling opening Test against Sri Lanka on Wednesday.

The opener capped his marathon display with the winning runs in the final session on day five, jumping for joy and pumping his fist as Pakistan triumphed by four wickets for a 1-0 lead in the two-match series.

Left-arm spinner Prabath Jayasuriya took a match haul of nine wickets but his efforts were in vain as the visitors battled past the previous best chase in Galle of 268 by Sri Lanka against New Zealand in 2019.

The 22-year-old Shafique excelled with his second Test ton. He built crucial partnerships including a 101-run third-wicket stand with skipper Babar Azam, who made 55 after his 119 in the first innings on a tricky pitch to bat on.

"We know how to play spin so we



believed," Azam said after the tense win. "When I was batting with Abdullah Shafique we were just trying to build a partnership. He has shown his class."

Shafique, who was named man of the match, said: "It was difficult but with time it was easier. Babar is one of the best in the world. We have learnt so much from him. I enjoyed batting with him in the middle."

The unbeaten Shafique finally combined with Mohammad Nawaz, 19 not out, to take the visitors home after a brief rain interruption halted their charge. The teams had taken early tea before returning for the third session of play.

The second Test starts Sunday, also in Galle, after it was moved from Colombo due to the political unrest in Sri Lanka.

Reliance to acquire franchise in SA's T20 league

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Expanding its international footprint in cricket, Reliance Industries Ltd on Wednesday said it will acquire a franchise in Cricket South Africa's upcoming T20 league.

"Based in Cape Town the new franchise will take forward the Mumbai Indians brand and comes close on the heels of acquiring the UAE-based International League T-20 team," the firm said in a statement.

Reliance, the owner of the Mumbai Indians IPL franchise, had previously announced that it will own one of the teams in the UAE T20 League.

The firm has played a crucial role in evolving the sports ecosystem through ownership of cricket franchises, football league in India, sports sponsorship, consultancy, and athlete talent management, and bringing in industry best practices.