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LANDING OF ECONOMY: DAS

NEW DELHI, SATURDAY JULY 23, 2022; PAGES 12 ₹3

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LG pushes for CBI probe into Delhi Excise Policy

Sisodia's role likely to be investigated; Kejriwal cries political vendetta

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

The Delhi Government's liquor policy has become a new flashpoint between the Centre and the AAP Government after Lieutenant Governor Vinai Kumar Saxena on Friday recommended a CBI probe into the "Delhi Excise Policy 2021-22" for alleged violations and "deliberate and gross procedural lapses".

The role of Deputy Chief Minister Manish Sisodia is under scanner as he is holding the charge of the Excise Department and played a major role in formulating a new excise policy 2022. The LG recommendation for a CBI probe said the excise policy led to "deliberate and gross procedural lapses to provide post tender undue benefits to liquor licensees for the year 2021-22..." and causing huge losses to the exchequer.

Lambasting the LG's decision, Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal said the move to initiate a CBI probe in Delhi's Excise Policy is part of

political vendetta and described it a completely fake case. He defended Sisodia as a "hard-core" honest man and said he knew it months in advance that Sisodia would be implicated in some case and arrested.

According to sources, the LG recommended a CBI enquiry on the base of Delhi Chief Secretary's report filed earlier this month, showing prima facie violations of the GNCTD Act 1991, the Transaction of Business Rules (ToBR)-1993, the Delhi Excise Act-2009 and the Delhi Excise Rules-2010. A copy of the report was also sent to the Chief Minister.

At an online Press briefing, Kejriwal also said he has known Sisodia for 22 years and he is a "hardcore honest" man. "It is a completely fake case. There is not even an iota of truth in this case," Kejriwal said. "This case will not hold in court. Manish is a hardcore honest man and he will walk free," he said.

Kejriwal alleged the LG's recommendation is part of a political vendetta against the Aam Aadmi Party and speculated that Sisodia could be arrested soon. "I know he (Sisodia) will be arrested soon. I knew this months ago. The country has a new system now. They decide who to send to jail



and then a made-up case is presented," the Delhi CM said.

Kejriwal compared the AAP to Bhagat Singh and alleged that there was so much similarity between the BJP and Hindutva ideologue VD Savarkar who wrote apology letters to the British. "You are all Savarkar ki aulaad who fear jail. We are Bhagat Singh ki aulaad, we don't fear jails," Kejriwal said.

"When he (Sisodia) became Minister, Delhi Government schools were in poor condition. He worked day and night to bring them to the level where a judge's child and a rickshaw driver's child sit together to study," he said.

Meanwhile, Delhi CM skipped the weekly meeting with the LG on health grounds. The meeting was scheduled

today at 4 pm at Raj Niwas. AAP leaders have claimed that the LG too had skipped one such meeting recently. However, Raj Niwas sources refuted the AAP claim that the LG had skipped one such meeting. "He (LG) was in Jaipur that day to attend the Northern Zonal Council Meeting. DCM Manish Sisodia was also there," Raj Niwas sources added.

Sources said when Chief Secretary Naresh Kumar, who was appointed in April, took notice of loopholes in the excise policy and raised questions, the illegal decisions taken in the past were attempted to be legalised by getting the stamp of a post facto Cabinet decision on July 14, which in itself, was in violation of the rules and procedures, sources added.

Continued on Page 2

₹20 cr seized in ED raid on house of Bengal Min's aide

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ KOLKATA

In a major blow for the ruling Trinamool Congress in Bengal, the ED on Friday recovered at least ₹20 crore from the house of Arpita Mukherjee, a close aide of Bengal Industries Minister Partho Chatterjee, sources said.

The count of notes could go further up, sources added.

The ED raided 14 locations in Bengal, including the houses of senior Trinamool Congress (TMC) leader and Industries Minister Partho Chatterjee, his Ministerial colleague Paresw Adhikari, party MLA Manik Bhattacharya and a bevy of former senior education department officials.

The raids are linked to the recruitment scam in the West Bengal School Service Commission and West Bengal Primary Education Board.

The recovered cash is suspected to be proceeds of crime of said SSC Scam. The search

team is taking the assistance of bank officials for the counting of cash. Apart from the currency notes, 20 I-phones, gold and other ornaments have also been recovered, sources added saying three counting machines had been employed to count the notes.

"Initially Mukherjee's house was not in the list of premises to be raided ... But after finding her name in one of the documents during a raid at Chatterjee's house the officials raided her house and recovered the notes," ED sources said, adding documents related to huge amount of properties too have been recovered.

The ED raids came barely a day after Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee asked her party men to boldly face the Central agencies when they go calling at their doors as a part of the BJP Government's alleged conspiracy to harass and malign the TMC.

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Huge cash recovered from the residential premises of Arpita Mukherjee, a close associate of Bengal Minister Partha Chatterjee

Denied Agnipath debate, Opp MPs walk out of Def panel meeting

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

After protesting in Parliament against the Agnipath recruitment policy in the armed forces for the last five days, Opposition members on Friday walked out of a meeting of the Parliamentary Committee on Defence claiming they were not allowed to discuss the new policy.

The Agnipath policy termed as "transformative" was rolled out on June 14. Protests against it broke out in several parts of the country and several Opposition parties demanded its rollback. The Government, however, ruled out scrapping it.

Sources said that at the meeting, the members of the Congress and the BSP urged committee chairman Jai Oram to allow a discussion on the Agnipath, arguing it has huge implications and required Parliamentary scrutiny, but were denied from doing so.

They added that Congress MPs KC Venugopal and Uttam Kumar Reddy, besides BSP's Danish Ali, who are members of the panel, argued with the chairman that the Agnipath scheme has already been discussed in the Consultative Committee on Defence and Defence Minister Rajnath Singh and the three service chiefs have made a presentation before it. These three members later walked out, sources said.

The members said not allowing a discussion on



Agnipath amounted to an insult to Parliament and not informing the committee about the scheme was a breach of privilege. They urged the chairman to list the issue for discussion in the next meeting, but the chairman denied permission, sources said.

Venugopal later tweeted, "We urged the Chairman to clarify why the Parliament Standing Committee on Defence was kept in dark on the Agnipath recruitment scheme? Why was the scheme not taken up in the committee's budget scrutiny meetings despite involving financial implications? The Chairman turned a deaf ear to these crucial questions and the scheme was not discussed. No discussion in Parliament, no deliberations in the Parliament Standing Committees, thus goes the way of bulldozing legislations in the Modi era."

The Opposition members highlighted that the Agnipath scheme was the biggest change in the armed forces since

Independence and needed to be discussed in the Parliamentary Committee on Defence. They also claimed that they raised the issue in the meetings of the business advisory committees of both Houses, but the Government was not ready to discuss the issue, sources said.

Oram is learnt to have said the issues to be discussed at the Parliamentary Standing Committee meetings are decided in advance at the beginning of the year and hence this request cannot be entertained now, sources said, adding after almost half an hour of discussion in the panel meeting, the three Opposition members staged a walkout in protest. Issues concerning ordinance factory boards and DRDO had been listed for discussion at the meeting.

Meanwhile, the Government on Friday said it has not formulated any scheme for the mandatory service of youth in the armed forces.

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Kerala reports 3rd monkeypox case, patient hospitalised

PNS ■ THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

Kerala has reported a third case of monkeypox, a serious viral infection that leads to onset of high fever, swollen lymph nod, and rashes all over the body. A 35-year old man, who came to Kerala from the UAE earlier this month, has tested positive for monkeypox, making him the third case of the virus from the country as well as the State.

Health Minister Veena George said the Malappuram native arrived in the southern State on July 6 and had fever since July 13. He was undergoing treatment at the Manjeri Medical College there and his health condition is stable, she said. The Minister also said all those who were in close contact with the patient are being closely monitored and their health condition is also stable.

"Everybody should be aware about the disease... Isolation facilities have been arranged in all districts. Surveillance has been intensified after setting up help desks in airports," she said after a high level meeting of health department officials here.

India had last week reported a second confirmed case of monkeypox from Kerala's Kannur district. The patient was undergoing treatment at the Pariyaram Medical College there.

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Noida girl Yuvakshi Vig scored perfect 100 in all subjects in CBSE Class XII examinations. (In photo) Successful students celebrate their results. The pass percentage in the CBSE Class XII exams has gone up by over 9 percentage points against the pre-pandemic academic session of 2018-19 while a significant jump has been seen in the number of candidates scoring above 95% and 90% marks. Girls outperformed boys in the CBSE Class X exams, which saw the pass percentage of the candidates dipping by 4.64, even as the number of students scoring above 90 per cent and 95 per cent witnessed a jump as against last year's figure. The board has also decided against publishing merit lists to avoid "unhealthy competition" among students

Photo by Ranjan Dimri | Pioneer

BSY hints at quitting politics after SC relief

PNS ■ NEW DELHI/BENGALURU

In a major relief for former Karnataka Chief Minister BS Yediyurappa, the Supreme Court on Friday stayed a Karnataka High Court order refusing to quash criminal proceedings against him under Prevention of Corruption of Act on charges of de-notifying several acres of land in 2006-07.

Soon after the SC relief, the four-time Karnataka Chief Minister hinted at quitting active politics by declaring that his second son BY Vijayendra will contest the upcoming State Assembly elections from their family stronghold Shikaripura in Shimoga district. Yediyurappa has won from this constituency eight times since 1983. "I request you, just like the way you have supported me, I request you all to support Vijayendra as well. We have to ensure he garners more than a lakh votes," he appealed

to the people of the constituency. Staying the High court order, a SC bench of Chief Justice NV Ramana issued notice to the Karnataka Government on a special leave petition filed by Yediyurappa.

The bench, also comprising Justices Krishna Murari and Hima Kohli, passed the order after hearing senior advocate KV Viswanathan, representing Yediyurappa.

Viswanathan contended that when the HC had quashed the very same FIR registered against the first accused on October 9, 2015, how could investigation proceed against Yediyurappa on the same FIR. Yediyurappa has challenged the validity of the HC's order passed in December 2020. In February 2015, a Bengaluru district court had asked the Lokayukta police to investigate the charges levelled in a private complaint filed by Vasudev Reddy.

National Film Awards

Soorai Pottru best film; Ajay Devgn, Suriya best actors

PTI ■ KOLKATA

Tamil film "Soorai Pottru" won the National Award for Best Feature, Best Actor and Best Actress at the 68th National Film Awards for 2020 announced on Friday.

The second big winner of the day was Ajay Devgn-starrer "Tanhaji: The Unsung Warrior" which bagged the awards for Best Actor for Devgn and Best Popular Film Providing Wholesome Entertainment.

Directed by Om Raut, "Tanhaji..." is based on the life of Tanaji Malusare, the military leader of Maratha king Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj. Set in the 17th century, the film won the Best Costume Designer for Nachiket Barve and Mahesh Sherla. Devgn

shared the Best Actor award with Suriya, who got it for "Soorai Pottru". The film, inspired by the life of Air Deccan founder Capt GR Gopinath, won Aparna Balamurali the Best Actress prize.

Devgn, who has previously won the National Film Award for Best Actor for his performances in "Zakhm" (1998) and "The Legend of Bhagat Singh" (2002), said he was elated to receive the honour for the third time. "I'm elated to win the Best Actor Award for 'Tanhaji—The Unsung Warrior' at the 68th National Awards along with Suriya who won for 'Soorai Pottru'.

"I thank everyone, most of all my creative team, the audience and my fans. I also express my gratitude to my parents &

the Almighty for their blessings. Congratulations to all the other winners," Devgn said in a statement.

"Soorai Pottru" also won Best Screenplay for Shalini Usha Nair and director Sudha Kongara as well as Best Music Direction (Background Score) for GV Prakash Kumar.

The late Malayalam filmmaker Sachidanandan KR was posthumously named Best Director for "Ayyappanum Koshiyum", which also won Best Supporting Actor for Biju Menon, Best Action Direction (Stunt Choreography) and Best Playback Female Singer for Nanchamma.

The Best Playback Singer Male was given to Rahul Deshpande for Marathi film "Mi Vasantrao".

Continued on Page 2

Mamata took U-turn, had pledged support to VP pick: Opp leaders

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

West Bengal Chief Minister and TMC supreme Mamata Banerjee has claimed she was not consulted by the Opposition for picking up Margaret Alva as the joint Opposition candidate for the post of Vice-President, but Opposition leaders claim the opposit.

Shocked by Mamata's refusal to back Alva, Opposition leaders, including those from the Congress, claim that three days before Alva's name was announced by NCP chief Sharad Pawar, TMC chief had assured Congress president Sonia Gandhi of her support to any common Opposition candidate for the VP's post.

Alva's name was finalised at a meeting of Opposition parties hosted by Pawar in Delhi. Significantly, TMC skipped the meeting and Pawar could not



reach out to Mamata as she was too preoccupied to take his call.

Opposition sources claimed that the Congress president called Mamata on July 15 in the afternoon to discuss the Vice-Presidential election.

"The TMC chief told Sonia that she (Mamata) did not have any candidate in mind and she would support any common opposition candidate. But after the NDA announced West Bengal Governor Jagdeep Dhankhar as its VP candidate

on July 16, Sonia sent a message to Mamata to discuss the VP elections. But the TMC chief did not get back," sources said.

They said when no TMC leader showed up at Opposition leaders' meeting at Pawar's residence on July 18 to decide the name of the common candidate for the VP's post, Pawar called up Mamata. But she did not come on line even though Pawar waited for nearly 30 minutes.

Continued on Page 2

Strengthen Har Ghar Tiranga movement: PM

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Ahead of the 75th Independence day, Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Friday appealed to people to strengthen the 'Har Ghar Tiranga' movement by hoisting or displaying the national flag in their homes between August 13-15. The "Tiranga campaign" aims at hoisting national flags in about 20 crore houses across India. In a series of tweets, Modi said this movement will deepen our connect with the Tricolour and noted that it was on July 22 in 1947 that the Tricolour was adopted. "Today, we recall the monumental courage and efforts of all those who dreamt of a flag for free India when we were fighting colonial rule. We reiterate our commitment to fulfil their vision and build the India of their dreams," he said. He said, "This year, when we are marking 'Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav', let us strengthen the 'Har Ghar Tiranga' movement. Hoist the Tricolour or display it in your homes between 13th and 15th August. This movement will

deepen our connect with the national flag," Modi also posted details of official communications leading to the adoption of the Tricolour as the national flag. He also posted a picture of the first Tricolour unfurled by India's first Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru. The Government has envisioned the 'Har Ghar Tiranga' exercise in the run up to the 75th anniversary of India's independence. Union Home Minister Amit Shah also appealed to people to join the 'Har Ghar Tiranga' movement. "With this campaign, the Tricolour will be hoisted on about 20 crore houses across the country, which will work to further brighten the unbroken flame of patriotism in the minds of every citizen, especially the youth," he said. "I appeal to everyone to join this campaign," he said, with the hashtag #HarGharTiranga. "With this," the Home Minister said, people will be able to increase the respect and attachment for the tricolour among the younger generation

and tell them about the sacrifice of the heroes who fought for freedom. Shah said the national flag not only unites every citizen but also strengthens the spirit of devotion towards the nation among people. It was on July 22 in 1947 that the national flag was adopted. Hours after the Prime Minister's appeal, Congress leader Rahul Gandhi on Friday said the RSS "did not hoist the Tricolour at its headquarters for 52 years" and people coming from that organisation are now talking about the tricolour's history and planning 'Har Ghar Tiranga' campaign. "These people steeped in propaganda should just answer a few questions -- Why did RSS not hoist the tricolour at its headquarters for 52 years? Why is the livelihood of those who make the national flag out of khadi being destroyed? Why was the import of machine-made, polyester flags allowed from China?" the former Congress chief said in his Facebook post.

₹253 cr movable assets of Nirav's companies in Hong Kong attached

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Enforcement Directorate (ED) has provisionally attached 'proceeds of crime' in the form of movable properties like gems, jewellery and bank balances amounting to the tune of \$30.98 million and HKD 5.75 million, equivalent to Rs 253.62 crore (as on date) in the case of Nirav Modi group of companies in Hong Kong. Besides attachment of his assets worth over Rs 2,650 crore, the extradition proceeding against fugitive Nirav Modi is at final stage in London, UK, the agency said. "During the money laundering probe, some assets of Nirav Modi group of companies in Hong Kong were identified in the form of gems and jewellery lying in private vaults and bank balances in accounts maintained at Hong Kong, which is provisionally attached vide instant attachment order of Rs 253.62 crore under PMLA," the ED said in a statement. Earlier, the ED had attached movable and immovable assets of Nirav Modi and associates to the tune of Rs 2,396.45 crore in India and

abroad. With the present attachment, total attachment/seizure of assets of Rs. 2,650.07 crore has been effected in the case against Nirav Modi by ED. Further, movable and immovable assets of Nirav Modi and his associates worth Rs 1,389 crore have been confiscated under provisions of Fugitive Economic Offenders Act, 2018 by Special Court (FEOA), Mumbai. Process of physical handing over of confiscated assets is in progress and part of the confiscated assets has already been physically handed over to victim banks. Earlier in this case, two Prosecution Complaints (chargesheets) under PMLA have already been filed by the ED against Nirav Modi and associated entities before Special Court (PMLA). On the basis of a CBI under Indian Penal Code (IPC) Sections relating to cheating, forgery and criminal conspiracy besides relevant provisions of the Prevention of Corruption Act, the ED had initiated investigation by recording a case under Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA) in connection with PNB Bank fraud of Rs 6,498.20 crore.

Rahul slams Govt for not giving rail ticket concessions to the elderly

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Former Congress president Rahul Gandhi on Friday lashed out at the BJP-led Centre for not granting rail ticket concessions to the elderly and alleged that while it can even reach for the stars for its "friends", it will make the common people yearn for every penny. He also listed out the money spent by the government on advertisements, a new aeroplane and tax concession to "friends". "Advertising expenses: Rs 911 crore. New plane: Rs 8,400 crore. Tax exemption for capitalist friends: Rs 1,45,000 crore per year. But the government does not have Rs 1,500 crore to give concessions in rail tickets to the elderly. Will even reach for the stars (tare tak tod kar layenge) for friends, but will make people yearn for every penny," he said. The government used to provide up to 50 per cent concessions to senior citizens in rail tickets but the facility has been suspended ever since the outbreak of COVID-19.

CM meets Abhijit Banerjee to discuss key issues pertaining to Delhi's economy

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal met with Nobel Laureate Professor Abhijit Banerjee on Friday and discussed key issues pertaining to Delhi's economy, employment & water security. According to a statement issued by the AAP government in the national capital, they explored possibilities of mutual support and collaborating upon the mission of taking Delhi forward. Kejriwal and Prof Banerjee exchanged ideas of generating more employment in Delhi by setting up innovation clusters in existing industrial areas of the national capital. At the same time, the CM expressed his willingness to document his government's work in healthcare and education as models for governments across India and the world to adopt for the greater good of society, read the statement. During the meeting, Deputy Chief Minister Shri Manish Sisodia and Dialogue and Development Commission of Delhi Vice Chairperson Jasmine Shah were also part of the meeting. Banerjee is the Director of Abdul Latif Jameel Poverty Action Lab (J-PAL), a global research centre.

₹20 cr seized in ED raid...

From Page 1

The raids that started early in the morning simultaneously on residential premises of junior Education Minister Adhikari at Mehkhilanj in North Bengal, Chatterjee's house at Naktala and Bhattacharya's residence at Jadavpur in Kolkata were still continuing 14 hours later when reports last came in. Bhattacharya who was ordered to resign his post earlier by the Calcutta High Court is the former chairman of the primary teachers' recruitment board. The ED staff had blocked entry and exit of all the residents of the respective premises and had temporarily seized the mobile phones of the police personnel on duty at the residence of the Ministers. According to sources, the investigating agency was interrogating Adhikari's wife and daughter Ankita who had last month lost her teaching job in a Government-aided higher secondary school following a High Court order that faulted her for usurping the job belonging to Babita Sarkar, the petitioner who had scored higher marks than the Minister's daughter. Former CBI Joint Director Upen Biswas, who had cracked the animal husbandry case earlier, had told the High Court how he had been approached by agents "selling" school jobs for anywhere between Rs 10 lakh and Rs 25 lakh for various categories. A judicial committee appointed by the High Court led by Justice AK Bag too had indicted the Ministers, former officials recommending criminal cases against them for selling thousands of posts and depriving thousands of genuine candidates. The Justice Bag committee had even termed the "advisory committee" created by Chatterjee as "illegal" as the Minister had no authority to superimpose a committee on the SSC which itself was an autonomous body responsible for conducting recruitment. While the Court had already dismissed about 800 people for illegally securing their appointments on various posts the total worth of the scam could involve several thousand crores, sources in the CBI said. Thousands of successful candidates who had their names on the merit lists but failed to get a call had been sitting on dharna for the past several months seeking early appointment. Meanwhile, the Left Front and the Congress questioned the timing of the Friday's raids wondering why the ED swung into action barely a day after Mamata decided to abstain from taking part in the vice presidential elections.

PUBLIC NOTICE
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The following borrower/s have defaulted in the repayment of principal and interest of the loans facility obtained by them from the Bank and the loans have been classified as Non-Performing Assets (NPA). A notice was issued to them under Section 13 (2) of Securitisation and Re-construction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act-2002 on their last known addresses, however it was not served and hence they are hereby notified by way of this public notice.

Sr. No.	Name of the Borrower/ Co-Borrower/ Guarantor/ (Loan Account Number) & Address	Property Address of Secured Asset/ Asset to be Enforced	Date of Notice Sent/ Outstanding as on Date of Notice	NPA Date
1.	Elwyn Jacob Pinheiro, Amy Elwyn Pinheiro, VI-L-33 Ridgewood Estate DLF Phase-IV Gurgaon Haryana, A/c No.LBKAN0001266071	Fiat No.303, Link Tejas Apartment, At Pal Layout, Property Bearing SY. No. 58/2, 58/3 & 58/4, Benniganahalli, K.R Puram, Hobli, Bangalore, Karnataka	07/06/2022, Rs. 98,69,189/-	02/05/2009

The steps are being taken for substituted service of notice. The above borrower/s and/or their guarantors (as applicable) are advised to make the payments of outstanding within period of 60 days from the date of publication of this notice else further steps will be taken as per the provisions of Securitisation and Re-construction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002.

Date : July 22, 2022
Place : Gurgaon

Authorized Officer
Secured Creditor

कार्यालय नगर पालिक निगम, भोपाल
यांत्रिक विभाग (मुख्यालय)
स्मार्ट सिटी परिसर गोविंदपुरा भोपाल
निविदा आमंत्रण घोषणा-पत्र

क्र. 82/यां.वि./2022

भोपाल, दिनांक 21.07.2022

निम्नलिखित निर्माण कार्य हेतु दो लिफाफा पद्धति के अनुसार म.प्र. लोक निर्माण विभाग में केन्द्रीकृत व्यवस्था के अंतर्गत पंजीकृत रेक्रेडर परसेन्टेज मोहर बंद निविदायें निधारित प्रपत्र पर ऑनलाईन आमंत्रित की जाती हैं।

S. No.	Tender No	Name of Work	Probable Amount of Contract (In Rs.)	Earnest Money Deposit (EMD) (In Rs.)	Period of Completion (in Months)
1	2022_UAD_207783_2	LADIES PARK NEAR SHANTINIKETAN, BHARTI NIKETAN, KAILASH NAGAR, ZONE 12, BHOPAL (SECOND CALL)	31473038/-	Rs. 157365/-	12 months (excluding rainy season)

1. Interested bidders can view the NIT on website <https://mptenders.gov.in/>
2. The Bid Document can be purchased only online from **10:30 A.M. (time) 22.07.2022 (date) to 17:30 P.M. (time) 22.08.2022 (date).**
3. The bidders who bids in the tender will have to submit the document of participating firm. Document of other firm viz any other partnership firm/sister concern ect. will not be valid.
4. Amendments to NIT, if any, would be published on website <https://mptenders.gov.in> only, and not in newspaper.

The Initial period of 5 (Five) year after completion shall be treated as Defect Liability Period (DLP).

In. Chief Engineer
Municipal Corporation Bhopal

क्र.क्र. 394/022/023

म.प्र. गृह निर्माण एवं अधोसंरचना विकास मण्डल

रेडी फॉर पोजेशन

रायसेन शहर में पूर्णतः निर्मित आवासीय भवनों का एकमुश्त आधार पर सम्पत्ति खरीदने का स्वर्णिम अवसर
(जहाँ है, जिस स्थिति में है, का एकमुश्त आधार पर विक्रय)
“रेरा अधिनियम लागू होने के पूर्व निर्मित भवन”

ई-ऑफर
22.08.2022
(रात्रि 23:59 बजे तक)
आमंत्रित

आवासीय भवन							
क्र.	कॉलोनी का नाम	उपलब्ध भवन क्रमांक	भूखण्ड का क्षेत्रफल (वर्गमी. में)	निर्मित क्षेत्रफल (वर्गमी. में)	अपसेट मूल्य (रुपये)	घरोहर राशि (रुपये)	आवेदन शुल्क (रुपये)
1.	कृषि उपज मंडी के पास रायसेन	ई.डब्ल्यू.एस. 23, 28, 35, 36, 37, 38, 39, 66, 67, 68, 69, 70, 71, 72, 73, 74, 76, 77, 78, 79, 80, 87, 88, 89, 91, 92, 93 (27 भवन)	32.40	20.28	6,11,000/-	1,22,200/-	590/-
2.	जिला रायसेन।	ई.डब्ल्यू.एस. 32, 33, 84, 86, 94, 95, 96, 97, 100, 101 (10 भवन)	32.40	20.28	6,20,000/-	1,24,000/-	590/-
3.		ई.डब्ल्यू.एस. 21, 31, 40, 65, 81 (05 भवन)	32.40	20.28	6,30,000/-	1,26,000/-	590/-
4.		ई.डब्ल्यू.एस. 82 एवं 101-ए (02 भवन)	32.40	20.28	6,35,000/-	1,27,000/-	590/-

नोट : (1) शासन/मण्डल नियमानुसार लीजनेन्ट पृथक से देय होगा। ऑफर स्वीकृति उपरांत ऑफरकर्ता द्वारा ऑफर निरस्त करने पर घरोहर राशि की 50 प्रतिशत राशि जब्त कर ली जावेगी। ऑफर प्रस्तुत करने के पूर्व स्थल/संपत्ति का अवलोकन कर लें। शासन/मण्डल द्वारा निर्धारित लीजनेन्ट एवं अन्य कर/शुल्क पृथक से देय होंगे। (2) आवेदन फार्म का मूल्य एवं घरोहर राशि ONLINE /RTGS से जमा होगी। (3) रजिस्टर्ड मोबाइल पर BID-ID जमा होगी। (4) मण्डल/शासन के नियम/शर्त लागू। (5) योजना की विस्तृत जानकारी वेबसाइट www.mphousing.in पर उपलब्ध। (6) आवेदन घरोहर राशि जमा करने की अंतिम तिथि 22.08.2022 रात्रि 11.59 बजे तक। (7) ऑफर डालने की अंतिम तिथि 24.08.2022 सायं 5:00 तक। (8) ऑफर दिनांक 25.08.2022 को सायं 4:00 बजे खोले जावेंगे।

सम्पर्क

अशोक गुप्ता (सहायक यंत्री) मो. 9406912005, अभिषेक इन्दौरा (उपयंत्री) 9406639465, श्रीमती राजकुमारी मालयान (संपदा प्रबंधक) मो. 9826853657, आर.एस. यादव (सहायक संपदा प्रबंधक) मो. 9993829251, प्रदीप कुमार हेडाऊ (संपदा अधिकारी, प्रक्षेत्र-2, भोपाल), MPOOnline Help Line 0755-6720200

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म.प्र. माध्यम/105567/2022

PUBLIC NOTICE

General public is hereby informed that I Anupama Khanna w/o Late Shri Pramodh Khanna, R/o D53/94 A, Varanasi-10 have disowned my son Daanish Khanna along with his wife Esha Khanna from all mine movable and immovable properties. I'm not responsible for any of their actions.

Purendu Shukla
(Advocate)
Deewani kacheri Varanasi.

THANKSGIVING

Thankyou Holy Spirit for all blessings, CELINE.
PD(90135)C

CHANGE OF NAME

I Navita Singh daughter of Ex- MWO (HFO) Karan Singh and smt. Late Saroj Rani R/o N-624, Sector 25 Jalavayu Vihar, Noida, Gautam buddh Nagar 201301, have changed my name from Navita to Navita Singh for all future purposes. Navita and Navita Singh both are same person.
PD(90136)A

M.P. HOUSING & INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT BOARD

SYSTEM TENDER No. 2022_MPHID_211979

Madhya Pradesh Housing & Infrastructure Development Board (MPHIDB) hereby invites online proposals through E-tender mode from reputed consultants for "Selection of Consultant for Supervision and Quality Control (SQC) for Re-densification work at Kila Chowk, Baggi Khana, Datia under Re-densification policy of Govt. of MP" Selection process would be as per RFP terms and conditions. Online bids are invited from interested bidders as per following details :-

Name of work	Cost of Tender Document I/C GST	Earnest Money Deposit (EMD)
Selection of Consultant for Supervision and Quality Control (SQC) for Re-Densification Work at Kila Chowk, Baggi Khana Datia, under Re-densification Policy of Govt. of M.P. (Estimated cost of Government Facilities Rs. 43.91 Crore)	Rs. 17700.00	Rs. 1,00,000/-

1. The bid document can be purchased online only at <https://mptenders.gov.in> as per schedule 26-07-2022 at 10:30 A.M. to 25.08.2022 at 5.00 P.M. 2. Interested bidders can view the detailed NIT on website <https://mptenders.gov.in> 3. Key Dates are available on e-tender website. 4. Amendments to NIT if any would be published on website Only And not in newspapers.5. MPHIDB reserves the right to cancellthe tender at any time without assigning any reason.

Visit us: www.mphousing.in
M.P. Madhyam/105571/2022

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/mphidb

(RAJENDRA TIWARI)
EE, Div.1, Gwalior (M.P.)
Mob. 9406912119

Denied Agnipath debate...

From Page 1

The Government also said more than 2,000 trains were affected due to protests which broke out in some States after the Agnipath policy was rolled out on June 14. Minister of State for Defence Ajay Bhatt said in the Lok Sabha there was no plan for mandatory service for youth in the armed forces. He also said there is no role of the Sainik schools in the implementation of the Agnipath scheme. He also said the recruitment rallies are held by the armed forces with an aim to 'cover all the districts, inter-alia, including the tribal areas of the country. Bhatt gave this information in a written reply.

Soorarai Pottru best film; Ajay Devgn, Suriya best actors

From Page 1

Tamil artiste Lakshmi Priya Chandramouli was named the Best Supporting Actress for her performance in Tamil movie "Sivaranjanium Innum Sila Pengallum", which also received the Best Editing award for Sreekar Prasad. The Best Hindi Film prize went to "Toolsidas Junior", directed by Mridul Toolsidas. The Ashutosh Gowariker production, which was the last film appearance of late actor Rajiv Kapoor, also received a Special Jury Mention for child actor Varun Buddhadev. In the music category, Thaman S won the Best Music Direction (Songs) for Allu Arjun's Telugu hit "Ala Vaikunthapuramuloo", while Best Lyrics was given to Manoj Muntashir for Hindi film "Saina". Telugu movie "Natyam" won awards for Best Make-up Artist (TV Rambabu) and Best Choreography

(Sandhya Raju). Filmmaker Madonna Ashwin won the Indira Gandhi Award for Best Debut film of a Director for his Tamil venture "Mandela". He was also given the Best Dialogue writer prize for the film. Best Cinematography award went to Supratim Bhol for the Bengali movie "Avijatrik". The winners for the 68th National Film Awards were selected by the 10-member jury headed by Hindi filmmaker Vipul Shah. The awards were announced by jury member Dharam Gulati. The prize for Most Film Friendly state went to Madhya Pradesh, with Special Mention for Uttarakhand and Uttar Pradesh. Author Kishwar Desai's "The Longest Kiss", based on 10 years of research and 400 letters written by cinema icon Devika Rani, received award for Best Book on Cinema.

Claims, counter-claims fly as LG opens Pandora's Box

'Chief Secy's report highlights discrepancies in Delhi's Liquor Policy'

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

The Delhi Liquor Policy has become a new flashpoint between the BJP and the ruling AAP Government in the national Capital. In his report Delhi Chief Secretary Naresh Kumar, who took charge in April, has highlighted several discrepancies and irregularities in the liquor policy of the Delhi Government.

Sources said that the Delhi Government's Cabinet decision No. 2,994, on April 15, 2021 and a subsequent Cabinet decision No. 3,003, on May 21, 2021 was taken with the sole aim of benefiting private liquor barons in lieu of financial benefits to individuals in the highest echelons of the Government, leading up to the Excise Minister Manish Sisodia.

"The note from the Chief Secretary to the Chief Minister under Rule 57, the illegal decisions taken in the past were



attempted to be legalised by getting the stamp of a post facto Cabinet decision as recently as on July 14, 2022 which in itself was in violation of laid down rules and procedures. This hurriedly-convened 'urgent' meeting of the Cabinet on July 14 was called at 2.00 P.M. with a notice reaching the Chief Secretary, who is also the ex-

officio Secretary to the Cabinet, at 9.32 A.M. on the same day without circulating any Cabinet Note", sources said.

According to officials, this was in blatant violation of laid down provisions that enjoins that a Cabinet Note and Agenda of the Cabinet must reach the Lieutenant-Governor 48 hours before any Cabinet

meeting. This prerequisite can only be relaxed in an eventuality that justifies an urgent meeting. However, in this case the Cabinet Note/Agenda were received in the L-G Secretariat at 5.00 P.M., well after the meeting had happened and decided to bail out Sisodia.

It is underlined additionally, that any decision by the Cabinet involving a policy matter should be brought to the advance information of the L-G and would hold ground only after a subsequent approval by the L-G. This meeting was convened to deliberate and decide upon a policy matter and was not of an emergency nature.

The sources further said the Excise Department on the direction of Manish Sisodia, decided to refund the Earnest Money Deposit (EMD) amounting to Rs 30 crore to the L-1 bidder for the licence of the Airport Zone which failed to obtain an 'NOC' from the air-

port authorities.

"However, the Government in apparent cahoots with the liquor mafia chose to refund the EMD obviously for a kick-back, when it should have actually forfeited the EMD," sources stated.

"The Excise Department vide an order dated November 8, 2021 without approval of the competent authority, revised the formula of calculation of rates of foreign liquor and removed the levy of import pass fee at the rate of Rs. 50 per case on beer," they said.

"This made foreign liquor as well as beer cheaper for retail (L7Z) licences at the cost of loss of revenue to the State exchequer. Clearly, extension of such benefit after the tender has been awarded, amounts to extending undue favor to licensees," sources said.

"The Excise Department yet again convolutedly relaxed provisions of the tender document to provide undue finan-

cial favors to the L7Z licensees, when it should have actually taken coercive action against them for default in payment of licence fee, interest and penalty for non-genuine reasons," official sources said.

According to a note from the Raj Niwas, this was done despite the fact that no specific provision for compensation in the form of reduction in tendered licence fee was available in the tender document and resulted in blatant undue benefit to the licensee and a loss of Rs 144.36 crore to the exchequer. "Without any increase in the tendered licence fee and with an obvious intent of extending financial benefits to the licensees, the operational period for L7Z licensees and L1 licensees was extended first from April 1, 2022 to May 31 and then from June 1 to July 31 without taking approval of the competent authority that is the Cabinet and subsequently the L-G," the sources said.

Cong welcomes LG's decision for CBI probe into liquor policy

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

The Delhi Congress on Friday welcomed Lieutenant-Governor Saxena's decision to recommend a CBI probe into the Delhi Government's Excise Policy, 2021-22, as it accused the AAP dispensation of being "knee-deep in corruption".

Delhi Congress president Anil Kumar alleged that there has been a lot of corruption following the implementation of the new liquor policy and said his party has been raising this issue for a long time.

The Delhi Congress had given a written complaint to Delhi Police Commissioner

Rakesh Asthana in June seeking a probe into the "corruption", but no action was taken, he alleged.

"The truth cannot be hidden and the truth is that the AAP Government in Delhi is knee-deep in corruption," Kumar said.

"The L-G, in his recommendation for a CBI probe into the new excise policy, has stated that Minister Satyendar Jain, who is in jail for the past two months in a money laundering case, was the frontman for Arvind Kejriwal's corrupt deals. Deputy Chief Minister Manish Sisodia and Transport Minister Kailash Gahlot will be the next to go to jail," he claimed.

Sisodia a honest man, being framed and will be arrested in a fake case: Kejriwal

'BJP targeting AAP as we are their upcoming challengers'

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal on Friday defended his deputy Manish Sisodia after Lieutenant Governor Vinai Kumar Saxena called for a Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) probe into the Delhi Government's excise policy and accused Sisodia of procedural lapses.

"Manish Sisodia is a 'hard-core honest' man and will be framed in a 'completely fake case' by the CBI and arrested in a few days," Kejriwal predicted.

At an online press briefing, Kejriwal said he has known Sisodia for 22 years.

"I came to know that a case has been sent to the CBI against Manish Sisodia and the agency is going to arrest him in a few days. It is a completely fake case. There is not even an iota of truth in this case," the national convenor of the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP)



Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal addresses an online Press briefing in New Delhi on Friday.

said.

"This case will not hold in a court. Manish is a hardcore honest man and he will walk free," he said, adding that "AAP leaders are not afraid of going to jail as they have done no wrong."

He alleged that the BJP was targeting his party for three reasons. "It is also worth understanding why they are targeting the AAP like this. First, it is because we are honest and the whole nation believes in our clean image. So they want to frame false cases against us to prove to the world that we are also just like them, corrupt, lying and deceitful," Kejriwal said. "But nobody is buying this strategy and they know that the cases are false," he added.

"Second, they want us to stop expanding our party. They want to defame us because they are scared as we are their up-and-coming challengers. But no one can stop the idea whose time has come, and AAP's time has come," he added.

"Third, they want to stop the good work being done in Delhi. The whole world is praising our work, and the Government of Singapore called us to show the world how we transformed the education system," Kejriwal said.

Coming down hard on the BJP, Kejriwal said: "You are sons of Savarkar, who apologised to the Britishers while we follow Bhagat Singh, who chose to die rather than bow before the foreign powers. You should know that we are not

scared of prison like you."

"Manish Sisodia worked hard day and night to make the Delhi public schools such that even poor people's kids can afford the same quality of education as a rich person's child. This could not be imagined before the AAP came to power that the children of industrialists and doctors will sit alongside the children of rickshaw drivers and labourers and obtain the same quality of education," he said.

Kejriwal said that the Delhi model of governance was garnering international fame because of its transformational healthcare and education policies, that was the reason that the Central agencies first targeted the NCT's Health Minister Satyendar Jain and were now going after Sisodia, who also holds the education portfolio.

Earlier, AAP chief spokesperson Saurabh Bhardwaj alleged that the CBI probe was recommended by the L-G at the behest of the BJP-led Centre to implicate Sisodia in a fake case and keep the Kejriwal-led party at bay in the upcoming Assembly polls.

He also alleged that the Centre has been making efforts to "somehow" implicate all the Ministers in the Delhi Government in fake cases as Prime Minister Narendra Modi is scared of the growing popularity of the AAP and Kejriwal. He, however, assert-

ed that nothing will come of it and people will eventually understand everything and wonder why Modi is after the AAP leaders.

Rajya Sabha MP Sanjay Singh said that Prime Minister's ED and CBI are clueless about how to bring fugitive offenders like Nirav Modi, Vijay Mallya, Nitin Sandesra, who fled the country after looting thousands of crores. "These investigating agencies only know how to harass and humiliate Manish Sisodia and Satyendar Jain who gave the Education and Health model to the country. Sushmita Sen could find Lalit Modi but the Prime Minister cannot find him and his other friends Mehul Choksi, Nirav Modi and Nitien Sandesra," he added.

AAP MLA Atishi said that the BJP is accusing Sisodia of causing a loss to the exchequer, while, the new excise policy has generated a profit of Rs 1,300 crore to the exchequer in just four months.

"Manish Sisodia, whom the BJP is accusing of corruption, has transformed the future of 20 lakh children by revolutionising the education system of Delhi. Under the new excise policy, the Delhi Government earned a revenue of Rs 5,446 crore, while, on the basis of the excise policy of the old Governments, a revenue of only Rs 4,109 crore was generated in 2019-20," she said.



Union Minister Meenakshi Lekhi addresses a press conference in New Delhi on Friday

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Hours after Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal repeated a huge claim that the Deputy Chief Minister of Delhi Manish Sisodia would be arrested soon the BJP hit back and gave details of the allegations against Sisodia. The trading of allegations and sharp attacks comes as Lieutenant-Governor (L-G) Vinai Kumar Saxena recommended a Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) probe into the Kejriwal Government's new liquor policy.

This is not the first time that Kejriwal has alleged that his deputy would be arrested. He had made similar comments earlier, too, before Delhi Minister Satyendar Jain was arrested over a money laundering case filed by the Enforcement Directorate (ED). Addressing a press confer-

ence, Union Minister Meenakshi Lekhi said that the AAP Government violated rules and procedures to promote cartelisation to benefit liquor companies in Delhi. She claimed that a waiver of over Rs 144.36 crore was given to licensees and earnest money deposit worth Rs 30 crore of one company was refunded without following rules and processes. The BJP MP said that the people of Delhi were deceived. "The liquor policy was adopted in Delhi illegally. Kejriwal should give a logical explanation with all the details," she said.

Lekhi added: "Kejriwal should tell that on October 25, 2021, the Excise Department had given notice to those companies, which were given liquor licences. What was the action taken in this matter? On July 14, 2022, without a Cabinet note, a rebate of Rs 144.36 crore was given to the same companies

without following the law?"

She further said that an earnest money deposit of Rs 30 crore was returned, causing a huge loss to the State exchequer.

Leader of the Opposition in Delhi Assembly, Ramvir Singh Bidhuri said that the issue was first raised by the BJP and their stand was justified today after the L-G recommended a CBI probe into the new excise policy. He said the Kejriwal Government had announced the opening of liquor contracts in all 272 wards of Delhi, but Sisodia had said in the Assembly that there were 100 such wards in the Capital where liquor shops can't be opened as it would lead to violation of the Master Plan. In such a case, why were these shops opened in all wards? He alleged that it was said in the Assembly that the State Government would tell Delhiites how to drink or serve liquor and that five schools would be opened for this purpose. Bidhuri said that the excise policy framed by the Delhi Government is a big fraud and this policy has benefited the liquor mafia.

Delhi BJP president Adesh Gupta also alleged that the Government's decision had "benefited the liquor mafia". He said that when this new policy came into force, at that time 2.5 per cent commission was given to liquor contractors, which was later increased to 12.5 per cent. This means that 10 per cent of the profit was passed on to the liquor mafia, he charged.

City's pass percentage for Class 12 dips to 96.29%

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Delhi's Class 12 pass percentage came down to 96.29 from 99.84 last year, but both the Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) regions in the city are among the top five in the results announced on Friday. The national Capital overall was behind Trivandrum (98.83 per cent), Bengaluru (98.16 per cent) and Chennai (97.79 per cent).

The CBSE has divided the country into 16 regions with Delhi having two — Delhi East and Delhi West. In the results announced on Friday, Delhi East is ranked at the fourth position and Delhi West at the fifth. The pass percentage of both these regions was 96.29 and the CBSE has not explained why they were placed at different positions despite having the same percentage. Delhi's neighbouring

Noida (90.27 per cent) was at the 14th spot in terms of pass percentage.

The results last year were declared on the basis of a special assessment scheme as exams could not be conducted due to the pandemic. The exams this year were conducted in two terms. Overall, Delhi's pass percentage in 2020 was 94.39, while it was 91.87 the year before, the CBSE said.

According to official data, out of a total of 2,98,395 students who took the exam this year, 2,87,326 have cleared it.

This year, girls outshone boys in both Delhi East and Delhi West regions. In Delhi East, the pass percentage for girls stood at 97.06 while for boys it was 95.55 per cent.

In Delhi West, the numbers were 96.73 per cent (girls) and 95.88 per cent (boys). Delhi East

has a total of 4,175 students in the compartment exam category, while the west region has 2,658 students. Noida has 6,574 such students.

The Board said that the compartment exams would be conducted from August 23 and will be held on the basis of syllabus of Term II exams.

Overall, girls outperformed boys in the Class 12 CBSE exam even as the overall pass percentage dipped from last year's 99.37 per cent to 92.71 per cent, officials said on Friday.

In a statement, R.D Public, Senior School, Krishna Vihar, said that Khushi a Class 12th student has secured 95.8 per cent and Deepanshi scored the second highest 88.8 per cent marks.

It further said that Anish Solanki and Karan have also secured with 87 per cent and 86.8 per cent marks respectively.

Class 10 girls outshine boys but pass percentage tanks

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Delhi recorded 86.55 per cent pass percentage in Class 10 Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) exams this year, a steep decline from 98.19 per cent in 2021. The CBSE on Friday announced Class 10 results, which showed that 94.40 per cent of students cleared the exam with girls outperforming boys by a margin of 1.41 per cent.

In 2020 and 2021, the results were declared on the basis of a Tabulation Policy in view of the Coronavirus pandemic. The exams this year were conducted in two terms.

The CBSE has divided the country into 16 regions with Delhi having two — Delhi East and Delhi West.

Of the 16 CBSE regions,



Students of Class 10 celebrate at St Thomas' School, Mandir Marg, in Delhi on Friday after getting their results.

Delhi East and Delhi West were ranked at 14th and 15th position with pass percentages of 86.96 per cent and 85.94 per cent respectively below the Noida region, that was at the ninth spot with 96.08 per cent.

The top three regions are Trivandrum (99.68 per cent), Bengaluru (99.22 per cent)

and Chennai (98.97 per cent). In Delhi East and Delhi West regions, girls outshone boys. In Delhi East, 89.36 per cent of the girls passed as against 84.82 per cent of boys while in the Delhi West region, 87.57 per cent of girls cleared their exams as opposed to 84.52 per cent of boys.

Police ground all flying objects till August 16

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Delhi Police Commissioner Rakesh Asthana on Friday issued an order prohibiting the flying of objects like paragliders, hang-gliders, and hot air balloons, ahead of Independence Day celebrations. This order shall remain in force in the national Capital for a period of 26 days from Friday till August 16 for security reasons, officials said.

According to the order, it has been reported that certain criminal, anti-social elements or terrorists inimical to India may pose a threat to the safety of the general public, dignitaries and vital installations by using "sub-conventional aerial platforms" like paraglid-

ers, paramotors, Unmanned Aerial Vehicle (UAVs), micro-light aircrafts, remotely piloted aircrafts, hot air balloons, small sized powered aircraft, or even by para-jumping from aircraft etc. Therefore, the Delhi Police Commissioner has prohibited the flying of such aerial platforms over the national capital on the occasion of Independence Day celebrations and doing so shall be punishable under Section 188 of the Indian Penal Code, the order said.

This order shall come into force with effect from Friday and shall remain in force for a period of 26 days till August 16 (both days inclusive) unless withdrawn earlier, the order stated.

Cop found dead in his car, suicide suspected

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

A Delhi Police Head Constable allegedly shot himself dead on Friday with his service revolver in east Delhi's Laxmi Nagar area, officials said. Deputy Commissioner of Police (east) Priyanka Kashyap said around 12:45 P.M. the city police's Crime Branch staff inside the Laxmi Nagar Police Station premises noticed that

Head Constable Narender had shot himself in his car that was parked in the parking lot of the Laxmi Nagar Police Colony.

The crime team was called to the parking area, which is behind the police station, and the body of the deceased was shifted to the hospital, police said. However, he was declared dead on arrival by the hospital staff. Further proceedings are on in the case, police said.

Pass percentage of Govt schools 3.58% higher than rest of India

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Following the declaration of the CBSE Board exam results of Class 10th and 12th, the Delhi Government on Friday said that Government schools recorded the pass percentage of 96.29 per cent, which is 3.58 per cent higher than the rest of India.

According to a senior official, Delhi Government schools recorded the pass percentage of 96.29 per cent for Class 12, which is higher than overall pass percentage of the country that is at 92.71 per cent.

"However, Class 10, Government Schools have recorded the pass percentage of 81.27 per cent this year. Overall

pass percentage for India is 94.40 per cent which is lower than that of last year. Last year's pass percentage for Class 10 was 99.04 per cent," he said.

"This year Rajkiya Pratibha Vikas Vidyalayas (RPVVs) run by the DoE recorded a pass percentage of 99.80 per cent and the School of Excellences (SoEs) recorded the pass per-

centage of 99.69 per cent for Class 12th. For Class 10th, RPVVs recorded the pass percentage of 99.72 per cent and SoEs recorded the pass percentage of 100 per cent," he said. Speaking about the performance of students, Deputy Chief Minister Manish Sisodia said that this year, for Class 12-160 Delhi Government schools

have recorded 100 per cent pass percentage and 876 schools have recorded more than 90 per cent. "This year there has also been an improvement in the results of private schools in Delhi, where the passing percentage of private schools across India has been 93.38 per cent, while the passing percentage of private schools in

Delhi has been recorded at 97.65 per cent. Prior to Covid, the pass percentage of private schools in 2018-19 was 93 per cent, which has seen an increase of 4.65 per cent this year," Sisodia said.

He said, "The Covid-induced school closure had a serious impact on studies and wellbeing of children."

SC ALLOWS CENTRE TO CONTINUE SECURITY COVER FOR MUKESH AMBANI, FAMILY

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Friday quashed the order of Tripura High Court and allowed the Centre to continue with the security cover for industrialist Mukesh Ambani and his family members in Mumbai. A bench comprising Chief Justice NV Ramana and Justices Krishna Murari

and Hima Kohli allowed the appeal of the Central Government challenging the Tripura High Court's direction on a PIL.

A vacation bench, on June 29, had stayed the orders of the Tripura High Court on a PIL challenging the grant of security cover to the industrialist and his family members in Mumbai. Solicitor General Tushar Mehta, appear-



ing for the Centre, had said that the PIL petitioner (Bikash Saha) in Tripura has nothing to do with the security of individuals provided in Mumbai.

The Tripura High Court had on a PIL filed by one Bikash Saha passed two interim orders on May 31 and June 21 and directed the Central Government to place the original file maintained by the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA)

regarding threat perception and assessment report of Ambani, his wife and children based on which security has been granted to them.

The Centre approached the Supreme Court after the Tripura HC ordered files from the Union Home Ministry regarding the security cover provided to Mukesh Ambani and family.

SC sets aside HC's bail conditions on Azam Khan



PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Friday set aside a part of the Allahabad High Court order concerning bail conditions imposed on Samajwadi Party MLA Azam Khan by which the District Magistrate of Rampur was directed to take possession of land attached to the Jauhar University campus. The apex court observed that it is "disturbed about this trend" where the High Court has referred to a matter which is unrelated to the consideration of prayer for bail.

While setting aside the bail condition imposed by the High Court directing the District Magistrate to take possession of the land, a bench of Justices A M Khanwilkar and J B Pardiwala retained the other conditions which were relevant for the grant of bail to Khan, who is the Chancellor of Jauhar University. "This is yet another matter where we find that the

High Court has referred to matters which are unrelated to the consideration of prayer for bail relating to the crime registered against the concerned accused," the bench said.

The apex court noted that Additional Solicitor General SV Raju, appearing for the state, has urged the court to impose additional conditions that Khan be directed to refrain from entering Rampur district during the bail period. "We are not impressed by this submission," the bench said.

The apex court said the authorities, acting upon the observations made in the high court judgment, had initiated action including sealing of certain premises as noted in a May 18 communication. "All actions taken by the revenue authorities or state authorities in reference to the observations made in the impugned bail order dated May 10, 2022, be deemed to have been effaced from the record," it said.

SC closes hearing on pleas seeking enquiry into Dubey encounter

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Friday closed the hearing on pleas seeking relief, including the re-constitution of a commission, to inquire into the encounter of gangster Vikas Dubey and others and directed the Uttar Pradesh Government to act upon the recommendations of the panel.

A bench, headed by Chief Justice N V Ramana, also directed that the report of the three-member inquiry panel headed by Justice (retd) BS Chauhan of the apex court be put in the public domain and uploaded on its website.

The bench, also comprising Justices Krishan Murari and Hima Kohli, agreed to the submissions of the Uttar Pradesh Government that under the Commissions of Inquiry Act, 1952, the panel has run its course, its report has been filed and laid on the floor of the Assembly and it cannot be appealed or assailed as happened in the case of a judgement.

"Now the inquiry commission has submitted its report. The counsel appearing for the State says that the



report of the inquiry was placed on the floor of the House for further action... And if the (PIL) petitioners are still aggrieved then the course is to pursue the remedy under the law.

"We direct the State Government to take appropriate action as per the recommendations given by the inquiry

commission. The copy of the report be kept in the public domain and on the Supreme Court website. With the above observations, the writ (petitions) are closed," the apex court said in its order.

The Justice Chauhan panel, in its report, had said there is no suspicion

or doubt about the police version of the killing of gangster Dubey and other members of his gang in encounters after the Bikru ambush in Kanpur in July 2020 as nobody from the public or the media came to contradict the police claim and no evidence was filed in rebuttal. The other two members of the inquiry commission were - former High Court judge Justice (retd) Shashi Kant Agarwal and retired Director General of Police of Uttar Pradesh K L Gupta.

Eight policemen, including DSP Devendra Mishra, were ambushed in Bikru village in the Chaubeypur area of Kanpur when they were going to arrest Dubey and fell to bullets fired from rooftops shortly after midnight on July 3, 2020.

Dubey was killed in an encounter on the morning of July 10, 2020, when a police vehicle carrying him from Ujjain to Kanpur met with an accident and he tried to escape from the spot in the Bhauti area, the police had said. Prior to Dubey's encounter, five of his alleged associates were killed in separate encounters.

LS passes Indian Antarctic Bill amid din, adjournments

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Lok Sabha, which witnessed repeat adjournments with Opposition members protesting against the price rise and the Modi government, on Friday passed amidst din the

Indian Antarctic Bill, 2022, which seeks to extend the application of domestic laws to research stations set up by India in the Antarctic region.

Soon after the Bill was passed, the House was adjourned for the day to meet

again on Monday at 2 PM to facilitate members to attend the swearing-in of Droupad Murmu as the next President in the Central Hall of Parliament.

Earlier, as soon as the House assembled at 11 am, opposition members belonging to the Congress and Left parties came to the well and staged protests. They were shouting slogans and displaying placards against the Modi government.

Speaker Om Birla appealed to them to go back to their respective seats and take part in the proceedings of the House which was taking up questions related to different ministries and departments.

Parliamentary Affairs Minister Pralhad Joshi also appealed to the opposition members to take part in the proceedings, saying the government is ready to discuss the issue of price rise and it will be done once Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman recovers from her illness.

However, opposition members continued their protests. As soon as the House reassembled at 2 pm on Friday following the second adjournment of the day, the Indian Antarctica Bill, 2022 was taken up for discussion after Earth Sciences Minister Jitendra Singh moved it for consideration.

Slogans mar Question Hour in RS

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Rajya Sabha for the fifth consecutive day on Friday witnessed a din by the Opposition over issues including price rise and the Agnipathi recruitment policy forcing adjournments. The Question Hour was conducted amidst sloganeering and agitated members displaying placards.

Irked over the uproar, Union Minister for Food and Public Distribution Piyush Goyal said the government was ready to discuss all issues including price rise but the Opposition was not willing to do so. He also said as the entire world was concerned about food security now India was comfortably placed in this regard. The Minister, who was replying to questions related to wheat purchase, said the entire world is discussing food security and India is the only country which has balance.

"Even in such conditions, our opposition is not ready for discussion. The majority of us want a discussion. Even the government wants discussion on this," said Goyal. As the pandemonium marred Question Hour was about to end, Leader of Opposition Mallikarjun Kharge said the Opposition wanted a discussion under rule 267 on price rise. However, the government was not ready for it, he said. Rule 267 entails suspending business for the day to discuss the issue raised by the members. The Opposition made its intentions clear as soon as the proceedings commenced for the day at 11.00 am. Chairman M Venkaiah Naidu said he was not allowing discussion under rule 267 on price rise and Agnipathi adding he was ready for a discussion on price rise later.

The Opposition did not relent and raised slogans besides displaying placard. Asking members not to bring placards, Naidu said, "I will take a serious view. Don't do it". Naidu also rued that a week has been wasted. As some protesting members wanted to raise a point of order, Naidu said the House is not in order. "There is no point in raising a point of order when the House is not in order," the Chairman said. Later, he adjourned the proceedings till 12 pm.

When the House reassembled at 12 pm, Deputy Chairman Hariyansh Narayan Singh conducted the Question Hour amid protest by the Opposition.

Minister of State for Agriculture and Farmer Welfare Kailash Choudhary, Minister for Communication Ashwini Vaishnav, Minister of State for Commerce and Industry Anupriya Patel and Union Minister Piyush Goyal replied to the questions in the uproar.

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IN SHORT

SC JUNKS PLEA TO INCREASE SMOKING AGE

NEW DELHI: The Supreme Court on Friday junked a plea seeking a direction to increase the smoking age from 18 to 21, and ban the sale of loose cigarettes. A bench comprising Justices S K Kaul and Sudhanshu Dhulia rejected the plea filed by two advocates. "If you want publicity, argue a good case...don't file publicity interest litigation," the bench said while dismissing the plea.

MIN MEETS COP26 PREZ, ASKS FOR SUPPORT

NEW DELHI: Union Environment Minister Bhupendra Patel on Friday met COP26 President Alok Sharma and stressed the need for effective and timely delivery of finance and technology support to developing countries to combat climate change.

SC SEEKS RESPONSE ON MARATHI NAME DISPLAY

NEW DELHI: The Supreme Court Friday sought responses from Maharashtra and others on a plea challenging a Bombay High Court which refused to quash the state government's rule mandating shops and establishments to display their names in Marathi (Devanagari script) language.

INDIA, THAILAND TO BOOST ENGAGEMENT

NEW DELHI: The armies of India and Thailand have prepared a roadmap to boost engagement, especially to enhance cooperation in training and carrying out joint drills. The roadmap was finalised at the fourth Army staff talks held in Thailand on July 21 and 22.

Choose subject of your interest and passion: PM to students

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Friday advised students who passed their CBSE class 12 exams to follow their inner calling and pursue subjects they are passionate about. Congratulating the students, he said, "The grit and dedication of these youngsters is commendable. They prepared for these exams through a time when humanity faced a monumental challenge and achieved this success". Modi also had a word of motivation for those who may not be happy with their results, saying they must know that one exam will never define who they are. He expressed confidence that they will find more success in the times to come. He also posted the video of this year's "Pariksha pe charcha" where he spoke about different aspects related to exams. "There are innumerable opportunities that await our young Exam Warriors, who passed the CBSE Class XII exams. I urge them to follow their inner calling and pursue subjects they are passionate about. My best wishes," Modi tweeted.

Consult doctor before denying boarding to disabled flyer: DGCA

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) on Friday said if an airline feels a disabled passenger's health is likely to deteriorate during a flight, it must consult a doctor at the airport and take an "appropriate decision" on whether boarding should be denied to the flyer or not, aviation regulator.

If the airline then decides to deny boarding to the disabled passenger, it will have to immediately inform the passenger in writing and mention the reasons in that note, the DGCA said in a statement.

The regulator had proposed the aforementioned regulations on June 3, six days after it had imposed a fine of Rs 5 lakh on IndiGo for denying boarding to a disabled boy at Ranchi airport on May 7.

IndiGo had on May 9 said the boy was denied permission to board the Ranchi-Hyderabad flight as he was visibly in panic. After the boy was prohibited from boarding, his parents also decided not to enter the plane.

The DGCA had asked the public to send their comments on the proposed amendments by July 2.

In a statement on Friday, the DGCA said it has amended its regulations to improve the accessibility of boarding and flying for disabled people.

The amended regulations stated that the airline must not refuse boarding to any passengers on the basis of disability or reduced mobility.

"However, in case, an airline perceives that the health of such a passenger may deteriorate in-flight, the said passenger will have to be examined by a doctor in person - who shall in his/her



opinion, categorically state the medical condition and whether the passenger is fit to fly or not," the amended regulations mentioned.

After obtaining the medical opinion, the airline shall take an appropriate decision on the carriage of such passenger, it noted.

"In case of refusal of carriage by the airline, it shall inform the passenger in writing with the reasons therein immediately," it mentioned.

IndiGo CEO Ronjoy Dutta had on May 9 expressed regret over the May 7 incident and offered to buy an electric wheelchair for the disabled boy.

Dutta had said the airline staff took the best possible decision under difficult circumstances.

Aviation Minister Jyotiraditya Scindia had on May 9 said on Twitter that no human being should have to go through this and he himself was investigating the Ranchi incident.

PUBLIC NOTICE

The Public at large is hereby informed that Late Sh. Satbir Singh S/o Late Sh. Sewak Singh R/o, B-1/408, Janakpuri, Janakpuri B-1 S.O, West Delhi, Delhi-110058 was having commercial property in our project along with Joint Ownership with Mr. Sarabjit Singh S/o Sh. Surinder Singh R/o B-172, Ashok Vihar Phase-I, Delhi in Vatika Towers, Tower-A/ Golf Course Road, Gurgaon Flat no. GF-10 admeasuring 1000 sq.ft. which his/her legal heirs (Mrs. Jaspal Kaur/Mrs. Ameet Kaur & Mr. Harmeet Singh Sareen) requested the company to be transfer to his/her Son (Harmeet Singh Sareen) Any person having any objection on this please may contact the company officer details as under within 15 days, after which No Claim would be accepted. Vatika Limited Unit No. A-002, Ground Floor, Block A, Vatika INXT City Centre, Sector-83, Gurgaon, Haryana 122012 M: 09555930930

PUBLIC NOTICE

By virtue of this Public notice it is hereby declared to the public at large that my Clients, Sh. Rajendra Ram S/o Late Sh. Ramei Ram & Smt. Kailashwati W/o Sh. Rajendra Ram. Both R/o H. No. 687, Pocket -1, PaschimPuri, Delhi-110063 and have instructed me to notify for general information that they have severed all their ties with their daughter namely Mrs. Khushboo. My clients out of the free will and consent have disowned/debarred their above mentioned daughter from all his movable and immovable properties due to her disobedient and disrespectful acts are bringing disrepute to the family and towards her parents i.e. my clients. My aforesaid clients shall not be responsible in any manner whatsoever for any future acts, deeds and conduct of Mrs. Khushboo.

Ravi Rai (Advocate)
Chamber No.516-A, 2nd Floor, Western Wing, Tis Hazari Courts, Delhi-110054.

PUBLIC NOTICE

General public is hereby informed that Smt. Prem Lata W/o Shri Jai Singh, is intending to sell of Residential Vacant Plot No. WZ-690, area measuring 53 Sq. Yards i.e. 44.32 Sq. Meters, Khazra No. 177, Situated in Old Lal Dora 1906-1908, Village Palam Delhi, to Smt. Srinati Devi W/o Shri Madan Sah, to be financed by M/s. KIFS Housing Finance Ltd. The Original Sale Deed dt. 29.12.2004, vide doc. No. 12272, pertaining to the aforesaid property has been lost and NCR LR no. 05119/2022 has been registered on 21.07.2022 with Delhi Police. Any person(s) found in possession of aforesaid original sale deed, then kindly contact the undersigned along with original property document, within 14 days from date of this notice on below address, failing which, the claim as per aforesaid sale deed shall be treated as null and void in respect of the subject property.

Raghav Tiwari (Advocate)
Ch. 830, Patiala House Courts, New Delhi - 110001
Mob.: +91-9078168326

PUBLIC NOTICE

General Public is hereby informed that my client Mrs. Veena Sharma wife of Late Shri Ramesh Sharma resident of Flat No. 58-B, DDA Janta Flat, Village Chilla, Mayur Vihar, Phase-I, Delhi-110091, has disowned and disinherited his son Mr. Om Prakash, daughter in law Mrs. Priyanka Sharma and granddaughter Bhavya Sharma, due to their unacceptable behavior and untrustworthy attitude from her moveable and immovable properties which she have or she may acquire in future and also she has no any relation with them. Any person dealing with them any manner shall be doing so at his own risk and responsibility and my client will not be responsible for the same. Place: Delhi
Dated: 21-07-2022

(Y. L. Sachdeva)
Advocate
56, Pratap Nagar, Mayur Vihar-I, Delhi-91

Office of the Engineer-in-Chief (Civil), Odisha
NIRMAN SOUDHA, UNIT-V, BHUBANESWAR
INVITATIONS FOR BIDS (IFB)
File No. B-II-Rev.-SIDM-03/2017
28059 / Bhubaneswar, the 20th July, 2022
Invitation for Bids
1st Corrigendum
Tender Reference No. OSD C.E. (B) – 11 / 2022-23
Name of the Work – “Construction of Phase-II Buildings of State Institute of Disaster Management (SIDM) within the ROTI Campus at Gothapatna, Bhubaneswar under SDRF”.
The following changes have been made in Bid Identification No. OSD C.E. (B) – 11 / 2022-23
1. Bid documents such as DTCN / BOQ etc. can be seen / downloaded from the Govt. Website i.e. www.tendersorissa.gov.in, during the period dt.05.08.2022 to 17 hours of dt.19.08.2022 instead of dt.20.07.2022 to dt.05.08.2022 for ONLINE BIDDING respectively.
2. Online bids shall be received till 17.00 Hours of dt.19.08.2022 instead of dt.05.08.2022.
3. The technical bids will be opened at 11.30 A.M. of dt.20.08.2022 instead of dt.06.08.2022.
All other terms and conditions remain unchanged.
Sd/-
OSD C.E. (Buildings),
Odisha, Bhubaneswar
OIPR-34117/11/0037/2223

Physical Possession Notice
Whereas
The undersigned being the Authorized Officer of ICICI Bank Limited under the Securitisation, Reconstruction, 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.
Sr. No. Name of the Borrower/ Loan Account Number Description of Property/ Date of Physical Possession Date of Demand Notice/ Amount in Demand (Rs.) Name of Branch
1. Sanjay Gupta/ Parul Gupta LBEDEL00002999992 Dda LIG Flat No- 405, 4th Floor Pocket- C, Block- E, Molar Bandh, Delhi- 110076. July 18, 2022 June 25, 2021 Rs.35,28,233/- Delhi
The above-mentioned borrowers(s)/ guarantors(s) are hereby given a 30 day notice to repay the amount, else the mortgage 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 22, 2022 Place : Delhi/ NCR Authorized Officer ICICI Bank Limited

Day after meet, Khatik skips Yogi function

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

When junior Jal Shakti Minister Dinesh Khatik met Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath, it was believed that the meeting was aimed at placating the Minister. However, a day after the talks, Khatik skipped an official function on Friday, sparking speculations that all was not well in the Yogi cabinet.

Sources said Khatik did not attend the office on Friday and even boycotted the official Groundwater Week function where Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath was the chief guest. Cabinet Minister of Jal Shakti Swatantra Dev Singh and Minister of State Ramkesh Nishad were also present in the function.

“There is no information whether the minister will come to the office today. We are waiting for the directives from the minister,” Khatik’s personal secretary told this reporter. The behaviour of Khatik has flummoxed all because the way he had drafted his resignation letter, it was clear that



his intention was to create political storm rather than look for redressal. He had addressed the letter to Union Home Minister Amit Shah and not to Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath or Governor Anandiben Patel. After the meeting with the chief minister, it was expected that Khatik would start regular government functioning because while coming out of the CM’s residence, he had told reporters that everything would fall into place. “I have told the chief minister everything. He has assured redressal of the problems,” Khatik said. “It seems Khatik is waiting for his pound of flesh and will not budge till he gets it,” a senior BJP leader said.

UP Govt accords ‘Y’ category security cover to OP Rajbhar

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

The Uttar Pradesh Government has accorded ‘Y’ category security to Suheldev Bharatiya Samaj Party (SBSP) president Om Prakash Rajbhar, an alliance partner of the Samajwadi Party. Under this category, a protectee is provided 11 security personnel, including two personal security officers (PSOs).

The development has come days after Rajbhar’s party broke ranks with the SP and voted for Droupadi Murmu, who was the NDA’s candidate in the July 18 presidential election and beat her rival Yashwant Sinha.

In a letter to the additional director general of police (security), Joint Secretary of Home department Vinay Kumar Singh said it has been decided to extend ‘Y’ category security to SBSP president and Zahurabad MLA Om Prakash Rajbhar provisionally in anticipation of a decision in this regard, a senior official said. Singh also asked the ADG to complete the necessary formalities in the matter. When contacted, SBSP national spokesperson and Rajbhar’s



son Arjun confirmed that the party president is being provided ‘Y’ category security. The SBSP had contested the Uttar Pradesh assembly elections held earlier this year in alliance with the SP. However, the ties between the two parties turned sour after the bypolls to Azamgarh and Rampur Lok Sabha seats.

SP president Akhilesh Yadav did not invite Rajbhar to a meeting convened in Lucknow in support of Yashwant Sinha early this month while another ally and Rashtriya Lok Dal chief Jayant Chaudhary attended it. Later, Rajbhar announced that the SBSP would support Murmu but maintained that his six-MLA party was still part of the opposition that fought the Uttar Pradesh Assembly elections together.

Akhilesh: Y security to Rajbhar a return gift for backing Murmu

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

Samajwadi Party president and leader of Opposition in UP Assembly, Akhilesh Yadav has made a jibe over the ‘Y’ security cover given to his ally Om Prakash Rajbhar, terming it as a “return gift” for supporting National Democratic Alliance presidential candidate Droupadi Murmu.

Suheldev Bhartiya Samaj Party is an ally of the Samajwadi Party and Om Prakash Rajbhar is its president. The development comes a day after Droupadi Murmu was elected President of India. Rajbhar had voted for Murmu.

A letter dated July 15 has gone viral which states that a decision has been made by the government to provide ‘Y’ category security cover to Rajbhar. The SBSP chief had also attended a dinner hosted by Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath in honour of Murmu after which Rajbhar had announced that his MLAs would vote in her favour.

Reacting on his upgraded security status, Rajbhar said: “There was already discussion about my security as I was attacked earlier and there are nine FIRs. The legal process is going on and this letter came today.

I thank Yogiji for giving me ‘Y’ category security by seeking a report from the Home department.” Rajbhar has been upset with Samajwadi Party chief Akhilesh Yadav after he was not invited to the meeting convened by him for opposition presidential candidate Yashwant Sinha.

Rajbhar had then termed his omission as an “insult”, saying, “Only Akhileshji can tell why they (SBJP) were not invited despite being an ally. If there was respect in the Samajwadi Party, why didn’t they invite us? We were not invited



just to be insulted.” Rajbhar had earlier advised Akhilesh Yadav to “get out of air-conditioned rooms” in order to win elections. Reacting to the statement, the SP chief had said: “I don’t know from where our allies are being operated.

However, we don’t need any kind of advice from anyone,” Rajbhar has been at loggerheads with Akhilesh Yadav since the SP lost the Azamgarh and Rampur bypolls. Attacking the SP chief, Rajbhar said Yadav was surrounded by his “yes men” who were continuously misguiding him.

“Akhilesh Yadav’s ‘Navratna’ gave him the wrong advice and did not let him meet people. Anurag and Udayveer had fought with each other in front of me.

In the Azamgarh by-election, Akhilesh’s close friends were getting votes on the phone just sitting in the AC room, but Rajbhar was fighting on the ground. Right now we are in alliance with Samajwadi Party and will think about “next marriage” after “divorce” with them,” Om Prakash Rajbhar said.

Yogi Govt transfers 18 IPS officers

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

The Uttar Pradesh Government on Friday transferred 18 IPS officers, including those who were earlier promoted to the rank of Deputy Inspector General (DIG) in the State force.

Sabharaj, who was the SP of State Crime Records Bureau (SCRB), was promoted as DIG at the same place. Swami Prasad, who was the SP of Special Investigation Cell in Lucknow, was made the DIG at the same place.

Saumitra Yadav, who was the SP (Railway), was promoted and transferred to the UP-112 as DIG. Ramesh, who was working as the SP, Intelligence Headquarters (Lucknow), was made the DIG at the same place. SP, EOW (Kanpur), Baburam was posted as the DIG of CBCID (Lucknow) while SP, Food Cell (Lucknow), Dayanand Mishra as the DIG at the same place.

Commandant of 25th battalion PAC, Rae Bareilly, Yogesh Singh was posted as the DIG of Women and Child Protection Organisation in Lucknow after promotion. SP, CBCID (Lucknow), Geeta Singh was shifted to post of DIG, Prosecution (Lucknow).



People belonging to the Muslim community shower flower petals on Kanwariyas as they carry holy water from the Ganga river during the ‘Kanwar Yatra’ in the month of ‘Shravan’, at Maujpur in East Delhi on Friday

BJP’s Joshua is Deputy Speaker of Goa Assembly

PTI ■ PANAJI

Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) legislator Joshua De Souza was on Friday elected as the Deputy Speaker of Goa Legislative Assembly as he defeated Congress candidate Delialah Lobo by 12 votes.

The election for the post was held on the last day of the monsoon session of the assembly, which had commenced last week. The Congress had fielded Lobo - its only woman legislator in the state - against De Souza of the ruling party.

While De Souza polled 24 votes, Lobo bagged 12 votes - 11 of the Congress and one of the Goa Forward Party (GFP). De Souza, 33, represents the Mapusa assembly constituency in North Goa. He was first elected as the MLA in 2019 following the death of his father, Francis De Souza, who was then a minister in the state cabinet. Two MLAs of the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) and the lone MLA of the Revolutionary Goans Party (RGP) - both



belonging to the opposition benches - abstained from voting. AAP legislators had earlier in the day said that they had no idea whom the opposition has fielded as its candidate for the post.

Before the election, the Congress had admitted that the opposition camp does not have enough strength to win the post, but also maintained that “anything can happen during voting”. Assembly Speaker

Ramesh Tawadkar and others congratulated De Souza on his win. In the 40-member Goa Assembly, the ruling BJP has 20 MLAs, and the Government led by it enjoys the support of five others-two from the Maharashtrawadi Gomantak Party (MGP) and three Independents. The Congress had won 11 seats in the assembly polls held in February this year. The GFP and the RGP had won one seat each, while

the Arvind Kejriwal-led AAP had bagged two seats.

Talking to reporters earlier in the day, AAP MLAs Venzy Viegas and Cruz Silva said they had no idea who was fighting the election for the post from the opposition side and therefore they would abstain from voting. “No one has contacted us to seek our support. We don’t know who is contesting the election from opposition camp,” Viegas said.

Centre invites bids for construction of bullet train terminus at Bandra Kurla complex

T N RAGHUNATHA ■ MUMBAI

Less than a month after it formed the Government in Maharashtra in alliance with the Shiv Sena faction led by current chief minister Eknath Shinde, the BJP-led Government at the Centre on Friday put the stalled Bullet Train Project on a high-speed mode, as it called for tenders for the construction of an underground railway station at Bandra-Kurla Complex (BKC) in north central Mumbai.

The Shiv Sena-led MVA Government, which came into existence on November 28, 2019, had put Prime Minister Narendra Modi’s pet Bullet Train immediately after it assumed office.

However, the Narendra Modi government has revived the Bullet Train project in little over three weeks after Eknath Shinde of the rebel Shiv Sena faction and senior BJP leader Devendra Fadnavis were sworn in as the chief minister and deputy chief minister respectively on June 30.

In a tender published in Central Public Procurement Portal, the Centre has called for quotations for “design and Construction of Civil and Buildings Works including Testing and Commissioning on Design-Build Lump Sum Price basis for Double Line High Speed Railway for Mumbai Underground Station, Cut & Cover Tunnel and Shaft-1 from MAHSR Km. -0.255 to Km. 0.775 at Bandra-Kurla Complex in the State of Maharashtra for the Project for Construction of Mumbai-Ahmedabad High Speed Rail”. The last date for submitting the tenders is October 20, 2022. The tenders will be opened on October 21, 2022. The Government of India-run



National High Speed Rail Corporation (NHSRC) will execute the project. Maharashtra’s deputy chief minister Devendra Fadnavis had on July 14 given indications of the restart of the work on the bullet train project when he said that all clearances have been given for the Mumbai-Ahmedabad bullet train in the state.

In February this year, Prime Minister Narendra Modi pushed for early completion of the Mumbai-Ahmedabad high-speed rail project when he said that the ambitious bullet train project was the need of the hour as it would strengthen infrastructure capacity building and reinforce Mumbai’s identity as “the city of dreams”.

It may be recalled that in September 2017, Modi and his then Japanese counterpart Shinzo Abe had laid the foundation stone for India’s first bullet train project in Gujarat.

The 508 km-long Mumbai-Ahmedabad High Speed Rail Project (Standard Gauge) at an estimated completion cost of Rs 1,10,000 crore. Out of this Rs 1,10,000 crore, Japan is giving a loan of Rs 88,000 crore. Interest on this loan is minimal i.e. 0.1%, and this loan is to be repaid to Japan in 50 years. Loan repayment period of 50 years with 15 years grace.

In the first phase, the bullet train will cover 508 kilometres between Mumbai and Ahmedabad.

There are 12 stations proposed between Mumbai and Ahmedabad- Mumbai, Thane, Virar, Boisar, Vapi, Bilimora, Surat, Bharuch, Vadodara, Anand, Ahmedabad and Sabarmati. If the bullet train stops at 12 stations then it will cover the distance within 2 hours and 58 minutes.

The distance between Mumbai and Ahmedabad will be covered in 2 hours and 07 minutes by the bullet train if it stops at four stations namely Ahmedabad, Vadodara, Surat and Mumbai. The operating speed of the bullet train will be 320 kilometers per hour and maximum speed will be 350 kilometers per hour.

Of this route, 92 per cent of the route will be elevated, 6 per cent in tunnels and the rest 02 per cent will be on the ground. That is, 508 will have 468 kilometers of track elevated, 27 kilometers of the route within the tunnel and the remaining 13 kilometers on the ground.

Initially, it was also proposed to convert it into a 10-car bullet train. This train will have the capacity to accommodate 750 people. In future, it is also proposed to convert it into a 16-car bullet train.

Congress takes jibe at Yogi over irregularities

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

The Uttar Pradesh Congress on Friday took a jibe at the much-publicised 100-day celebration by the Yogi Adityanath government 2.0 and claimed that his own cabinet colleagues were now exposing the “truth behind those achievements”.

“Crores of rupees have been spent by Yogi Adityanath on the completion of 100 days but the much-publicised achievements are now coming out one by one, and that too by his own minis-

terial colleagues,” Uttar Pradesh Congress Committee (UPCC) spokesman Sanjay Singh said here on Friday.

“The 100-day celebrations and achievements are nothing but a bundle of lies presented by Yogi Adityanath as his own ministers, including a deputy chief minister, are talking of corruption and irregularities in their respective departments and seeking action by the chief minister,” Singh said. “It is interesting that the ministers are levelling charges of corruption

and irregularities and it is being endorsed by Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath.

Action against senior officers, including the OSD of PWD Minister Jitin Prasad, by the chief minister himself clearly endorsed the allegations of rampant corruption in the government,” Singh pointed out while questioning why no action was taken against Prasad as he personally brought a officer from the Centre and posted him as his OSD as they had a ‘good coor-

dination’. The OSD was sacked but Prasad went scot-free, he added. “Deputy CM Brajesh Pathak wrote a letter to the chief minister and informed him how the transfers were made in his department in violation of government policy and the CM ordered a probe into the matter.

The report of the committee headed by the chief secretary has already been submitted but no action against any officer has been taken, clearly indicating that the government

is trying to save its blue-eyed officers. If the committee has found no irregularities, why does the CM not say publicly that the allegations levelled by his own deputy CM were baseless and transfers in the Health department were carried out as per rules,” Singh questioned. He pointed out that Dinesh Khatik, yet another minister of Yogi Adityanath, sent his resignation to Union Home Minister, highlighting corruption and how he was ignored because as he is Dalit.

Damage by unauthorised desiltation work at Nalanda varsity complex irks ASI

PTI ■ PATNA

Patna circle of the Archeological Survey of India (ASI) has taken umbrage at government engineers who allegedly carried out unauthorised desiltation work in the prohibited part of the Nalanda University, a world heritage site, causing damage to a brick wall of the Pala period that lay buried there.

Goutami Bhattacharya, the superintending archaeologist of ASI-Patna circle told PTI, said that the desiltation work was carried out without having procured a no-objection certificate from the agency.

“Despite repeated requests by field officials of the ASI and bringing the matter to the notice of the district magistrate, desiltation work of Dehar pokhar—behind temple site 14 of ancient Nalanda University—was carried out by a junior engineer of the minor water resources department of the Bihar Government. “As a result, ancient brickwork of ‘Pala’ period (8th to 12th century) was exposed at the site,”

she said.

The exposed structures “show evidence of vandalism” by heavy-duty machinery, Bhattacharya stated. “Such blatant disregard of established procedures and deliberate destruction of heritage structure in the vicinity of a world heritage site is unpardonable.

Strict action must be taken against the official concerned for violation of the Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Sites and Remains (AMASR—Amendment and Validation) Act, 2010,” she explained.

Bhattacharya also said that she wrote to Parmar Ravi Manubhai, the additional chief secretary (ACS) of the Minor Water Resources Department, raising the issue and seeking against the engineer concerned

Manubhai, when approached, said he had already sought an explanation from the officials. “The matter will be thoroughly examined. If officials concerned are found guilty, appropriate departmental action will be initiated against them,” he added.

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[See proviso to rule 8(6)]
Notice for sale of immovable assets

E-Auction Sale Notice for Sale of Immovable Assets under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 read with proviso to Rule 8 (6) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002.

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(A)	(B)	(C)	(D)	(E)	(F)	(G)
1.	Mr. Rajesh Kumar (Borrower), Mrs. Ratnavali (Co-Borrower) LBBWD00002987335	Plot No-178, Plot- S Khasra No- 556 557 558 559, Shree Paras Residency Vill Patan Kala The Tijara, Bhiwadi Rajasthan. Area: 908.55 Sq. Ft	Rs. 7,08,353/- as on July 18, 2022	Rs. 6,50,000/- Rs. 65,000/-	August 01, 2022, From 12:00 Noon to 02:00 PM	August 16, 2022, From 11:00 AM Onwards

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The Authorised Officer reserves the right to reject any or all the bids without furnishing any further reasons. For detailed terms and conditions of the sale, please visit www.icicibank.com/n4p4s

Date: July 22, 2022
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PAPER WITH PASSION

Let's make it India!

While the Centre is trying hard to boost manufacturing, states' response is not as enthusiastic

That manufacturing is not languishing is quite well-known. Something or the other comes up every day telling us that industry is not doing good in the country, notwithstanding the well-intentioned Make in India and production-linked incentives. Now there is a media report that information technology (IT) companies account for around 43 percent of the forex revenues of listed firms. A decade ago, this was 22 percent. While the listed IT services companies earned nearly ₹4.2 lakh crore through exports in 2021-22, a rise of 15 percent over the previous fiscal, the forex revenues or exports of the rest of the BSE500 companies were down 11.9 percent to ₹5.6 lakh crore in FY22. Minister of State for Commerce & Industry Som Parkash said in Parliament on Wednesday that the Department for Promotion of Industry & Internal Trade (DPIIT), which is under his Ministry, is spearheading the next phase of Ease of Doing Business which is aimed at reducing the compliance burden on businesses and citizens. Parkash said. "The exercise is an ongoing effort, aimed at achieving a conducive regulatory environment."



He went on to list the important government initiatives: simplification of procedures related to applications, renewals, inspections, filing records, etc.; rationalization of laws; digitization by creating online interfaces eliminating manual forms and records; and decriminalization of minor violations.

The DPIIT also interacts regularly with Central Ministries Departments and industry associations "to understand concerns of the industry and facilitate resolutions of these issues." Then there is the Business Reform Action Plan (BRAP) exercise which began in December 2014, he said. Parkash said. "BRAP covers reform areas such as access to information and transparency, the single window system, land administration, transfer of land, property, etc." Industry representatives appreciate the approach and efforts of the Central government; the problem, however, is at the state level. It is here that business persons face the real challenge.

Not all state governments are as eager about industrialization as they should be, given the benefits it entails — faster higher growth, augmented economic activity, greater revenue to the state, employment generation, general prosperity, and better electoral prospects as a result. It is not within the powers of the Centre to order states to adopt a particular course, but it can encourage and nudge them. The DPIIT, for instance, ranks states on the initiatives taken by them to develop the startup ecosystem for promoting budding entrepreneurs. In its recent ranking, Gujarat and Karnataka topped the list. Meghalaya was adjudged to be the best performer among smaller states. While nudging is good and may have yielded some good results as well, a lot more needs to be done. And that has to be at the political rather than governmental level. Leaders in states must be made to realize that good economics can also be good politics.

PICTALK



A man walks on a breakwater in front of wind turbines in Bath, Netherlands

AP

A timely decision

The Supreme Court decision to allow abortion to unmarried women is both progressive and timely

The Supreme Court decision allowing abortion at 24 weeks to an unmarried woman is both timely and apt. It will go a long way in giving autonomy to women over their bodies. This is even more progressive and in keeping with the times than the US court's position on abortion which is conservative and orthodox to the core.

Giving the landmark ruling the bench of Justices DY Chandrachud, Surya Kant, and AS Bopanna said. "We are of the view that allowing the petitioner to suffer an unwanted pregnancy will go against the parliamentary intent and the benefits under the Act cannot be denied to her only on the basis of her being unmarried."

The supreme court decision is in sync with the changing social mores of the society as many couples, especially in metros are in live-in relations which sometimes end abruptly leaving the woman to bear the brunt of the relationship if she is expecting. The decision would go a long way for such women



The matter came up for hearing after a northeast woman approached the Delhi High court to terminate her pregnancy after her live-in relationship did not work and left her 24 weeks pregnant. The Delhi high court in keeping with the present law denied her the right to abort the fetus as it is not permitted for unmarried women. She then approached the apex court for relief saying she would be stigmatized and would be under tremendous financial strain as well. The Supreme Court overturning the Delhi High court order said that she could not be denied the right to terminate the pregnancy. This indeed opens a new chapter in women's liberty as Supreme Court decisions are a law unto themselves.

Most of our laws are archaic and predominantly male-centric giving little elbow to the fair sex. It is interesting to note that till the 1960s it was illegal to abort a fetus and a woman found guilty of it could be sentenced to three years in jail and a fine. The Medical Termination of Pregnancy (MTP) Act, 1971 came into force on 1 April 1972 changed but it was only for married women and up to 20 weeks beyond which two doctors had to give their consent. This was later modified in 2021 when only seven categories of women could terminate the pregnancy. These categories included minors, rape survivors, mentally ill women, physically challenged women, etc. but did not include unmarried women.

However for pregnancy to be terminated between 20-24 weeks the opinion of two doctors is required to ensure if the termination would be safe for the mother and child.

Sir please mind your language!

Debate is to parliament what air is to humans. Gagging it would kill the democracy itself but certain restraints are need of the hour

A controversy of the sort has erupted just before the onset of the monsoon session of Parliament when the Lok Sabha Secretariat released a 50-page booklet that listed words like "ashamed", "abused", "jumlajeevi", "tanashahi", "betrayed", "corrupt", "drama", "dictator", "hypocrisy", "liar", "murder", "shame" etc. as unparliamentary expressions. Although even during the tenure of the Congress-led UPA government, many derogatory words had been considered unparliamentary and often expunged from the proceedings of the Parliament, but, now, the opposition parties considered this act of the Government as an attempt to silence them. They termed it as a "Gag order issued on MPs", "an attempt to restrict their vocabulary" and commented that the "MPs will be left with no other option but to use sign language". They felt that this sensitive matter should have been discussed with the opposition parties and put up in the Rules Committee where all political parties are represented.

Defending the decision, the Lok Sabha secretariat stated that putting together a list of unparliamentary words has been a tradition since 1954. The latest list merely compiles words that have been found undignified in a specific context and expunged from the records of various state assemblies and two houses of Parliament. The government argued that this list is at best only "instructive" and not "definitive". The content of the document indicates that the context in which these words are used is far more important than the words themselves. Moreover, the onus of deciding whether a word is "unparliamentary" or not would rest on the Presiding Officer of the concerned House. The Lok Sabha speaker, Mr. Birla, came forward to clarify that no words have been banned and members are free to express their views. He emphasized the point that no one can snatch the right of a free and fair expression of the members, but, it should be as per decorum of the Parliament.



Going by the records, there is no denying the fact that many of the words uttered may look harmless, but, in a heated exchange between Parliamentarians, they may not be uttered in a virtuous tone or manner.

In democracies, illuminating debates and eloquent speeches are considered the soul of the proceedings of the Parliament. It has been a practice that the ruling party MPs highlight and defend the policies, programs, and proposed laws of the government whereas the members of the opposition, if not convinced, put forth their argument against them, both sides substantiating their respective views with the decent point of views and reasoning. The records of Parliamentary proceedings of the 50s and 60s clearly indicate the real spirit of "give and take". The arguments put forth by the leaders like the first Prime Minister of the country, Jawahar Lal Nehru and his cabinet colleagues and the Socialist leader Ram Manohar Lohia and other distinguished MPs are a case in point. In the 70s and 80s, even though the exercise tended to become heated and noisy, the leaders had mutual respect and were



MANY OF THE WORDS UTTERED MAY LOOK HARMLESS, BUT, IN A HEATED EXCHANGE BETWEEN PARLIAMENTARIANS, THEY MAY NOT BE UTTERED IN A VIRTUOUS TONE OR MANNER.

polite in dealing with each other. They followed House etiquette. The debates initiated and conducted in the House by Atal Bihari Vajpayee, Chaudhary Charan Singh, Morarji Desai, Chander Shekhar and other political luminaries are the case in point.

However, the situation started deteriorating in the 90s when the debates started turning into shouting matches, hurling abusing language at each other, and using slanderous remarks and offensive outbursts became a new normal.

At this stage, the need for expunging the unparliamentary remarks from the record of the house was felt. There is little scope for constructive discussion in the House. Initially, during the first two decades after independence, English was the primary language used for Parliamentary work in the Indian Parliament. The social composition of the Parliament started changing in the 70s. At present, 30 languages are used by Parliamentarians during the proceedings and deliberations in Parliament and many of them insist on speaking their mother tongue during crucial debates.



BRIJENDER SINGH PANWAR

Shortly, the need may be felt to expunge the derogatory words in the regional languages as well. The situation started changing with the introduction of modern digital technology and the practice of broadcasting the proceedings of both houses of Parliament. In many cases due to utterance of unparliamentary remarks, the live transmission was halted by the Chair, but, the order of the Chair is often relayed by late evening to reporters, and video clips have already been circulated. Undoubtedly, we need to improve the standards of Indian political discourse. The elected representatives should realize that they represent the responsible citizens of the country and their utterances in and out of Parliament are being reported by the media and analyzed by the people. The government should consult the opposition before initiating any change which affects the freedom of expression of the elected representatives, thereby, allowing space to enable a dialogue.

(The writer is a senior journalist and Chairman, Panwar Group of Institutions, Solan, Himachal Pradesh. The views expressed are personal.)

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

GST IS MAKING LIFE MISERABLE

Sir — The increase in the Goods and Services Tax (GST) on several essential commodities like flour, pulses, dairy products, and hospital rooms is bound to further skewer the economy, make prices even more unaffordable for common people and take the inflation rate to unsustainable levels.

This is at a time when jobs are scarce, incomes are down and thousands of small businesses, which used to account for a lot of employment in this country, have gone belly up. To rub salt into their wounds, Union ministers are heard saying that inflation impacts the rich worse, not so much the poor (this was even seen in a recent government economic review report).

How does consumption data, the apparent basis of this surmise, miss the effect of the increase in prices of rice, milk, curd, flour, and other such essentials on low-income groups? GST has broken the backbone of the common people who are struggling for survival and have almost become miserable under the present regime.

Bhagwan Thadani | Mumbai

ENSURE MATERNAL HEALTH

Sir — Gradually but surely the maternal mortality rate (MMR) is rising. This is indeed a cause of concern. Several mothers die from complications in pregnancy. Maternal Mortality Ratio (MMR) of India for the period 2016-18, as per the latest report of the national Sample Registration system (SRS) data is 113/100,000 live births. Even the health of women in pregnancy is alarming. The situation is worrisome on many counts as it affects the health of the women but also the newborn baby. There is a need to strengthen the health care system which is responsive and accessible to all. Reduction of MMR can occur by improvements in access to contraceptives, antenatal care, post-delivery health care, reduction of higher order births, and births at higher ages. This intense action can reduce eminently preventable deaths.

Anushka Panwar | Madhya Pradesh

Welcome Madam President



As expected, NDA's presidential candidate Draupadi Murmu was declared the winner by a huge margin of votes. This is the beauty of Indian democracy that in the world's largest democracy, a woman from a tribal community has been elected to the highest constitutional position. She has become the first tribal leader and the second woman (after Pratibha Patil) to be elected President of India. Her elevation to the top constitutional post is a landmark in the country's post-Independence history. Let us hope that this victory is not symbolic but significant.

Let us expect that her victory would bring about a big change in the lives of the Dalits, deprived women, and the tribal society of the

country. Marginalized and victimized over the decades, more than 700 Scheduled Tribes with a total population of around 10 crores can now hope that their pressing issues will be highlighted and addressed at the highest level.

The tribal community has been grappling with poverty, denial of rights, loss of agricultural land and traditional livelihoods, displacement triggered by industrialization, deforestation and mining operations, and lack of access to the government's welfare schemes.

In a country full of cultural, social, and religious diversities, it was a natural curiosity as to whether a person from a marginalized sector of society can ever be in the highest office.

It is no secret that even after seven decades of independence, the marginalized sections have to go through various levels of struggle to gain representation and participation. Now after Draupadi Murmu was elected as the President, it can be said that the country has strengthened its democratic nature and has taken concrete steps toward ensuring everyone's participation in it.

Abhijit Roy | Jamshedpur

FALLING INDIAN CURRENCY

Sir — The Indian currency (rupee) is perpetually falling against the US dollar. The foreign exchange rates are decided by the market forces and factors like demand and supply. The major reason for the falling rupee is capital outflows, ascending oil prices, and current account deficit which denotes that the exports are not ascending at the same speed as imports. But the situation in India is not the worst because, after the Russia Ukraine war, and the crises, Bangladesh's currency has fallen by 8.2% and the Chinese Yuan by 5.7% whereas the Indian rupee is at 5% currency depreciation. The Government can make it more captivating for people outside India to buy Indian products so that they pay dollars to buy more Indian rupees.

Sambhav Jain | Ujjain

THE UNEVEN RAINS ARE PLAYING HAVOC

Sir — The rainfall is so uneven this monsoon that in some parts of the country people are clamouring for rain while in other areas they are praying to stop it. There are some states with too much rainfall, whereas there are some states with absolutely low rainfall. The states like Assam are facing excessive rains and its vast areas are submerged. This is a very problematic situation for the administration that has to deal with it. Late monsoon had its ramifications and farmers are facing issues with it. The distribution of rainfall is creating trouble and all this is due to anthropogenic reasons. Man must change his lifestyle to heal the environment and mother earth.

Kirti Wadhawan | Kanpur

Send your feedback to: letterstopioneer@gmail.com

SOUND BITE

Hearty

Congratulations to Smt. Draupadi Murmu on being elected as the President of India.

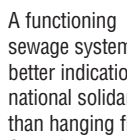
Your role in giving voice to hopes & aspirations of people is exemplary.

Speaker Lok Sabha —Om Birla



Ukraine's military has the potential to make gains on the battlefield and inflict major losses on Russia.

Ukraine President —Volodymyr Zelenskyy



A functioning sewage system is a better indication of national solidarity than hanging flags. Care about your neighbors? Pay your taxes to get public infrastructure built.

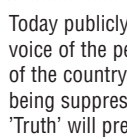
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—Yuval Noah Harari



I don't fight to win, I fight for excellence, I fight to get better. Gold is the goal, so I put in the hard work consistently and focus on getting better.

Athlete —Neeraj Chopra



Today publicly, the voice of the people of the country is being suppressed. 'Truth' will prevail over this arrogance and dictatorship

Congress leader —Rahul Gandhi

FIRST COLUMN

SUKHA AND DUHKHA ARE TEMPORARY


Pleasure, misery are forever coming and going. Peace is what we need



AJIT KUMAR BISHNOI

I have used Sanskrit words to convey what I wish to state, because ‘sukha’ is mostly misunderstood and ‘duhkha’ has many manifestations. Sukha is neither enjoyment of our senses nor abundance of comforts. They constitute sukha only. But real sukha must have peace. That is why Lord Krishna states in the Bhagavad-Geeta, “From where could there be any sukha for one who is not peaceful?” (2.66) Unfortunately, we lull ourselves to think that we are sukhi when we are enjoying our senses and possess lots of comforts and facilities. If it was so, why would the rich class be so prone to serious problems like depression?

Duhkha has many sides. There are many kinds of suffering. Beginning with the physical kind, they are mental, emotional and others. The physical kind is pain from the body. The mental sufferings are accounted for by fears, anxieties, depression, and so on. Emotional sufferings also come from the sense of hurt due to perceived humiliation, injustice, etc. Examples will make the matter clearer. Enduring physical pain in some parts of the body and miserable living conditions are prime examples of physical duhkha. Severe financial losses and loss of livelihood are examples of great mental suffering. Untimely death of a near and dear one, being informed about a terminal disease, verbal humiliation by a close relative, fire of hate, rejection by someone who one loves, and failure to gain what one wants dearly are examples of emotional duhkha. Similarly, there are many types of sukha/happiness. But sukha with peace as its main ingredient can only be obtained by a good connection with God.



Whether sukha or duhkha, they are forever coming and going. Lord Krishna has stated, “Pleasure and misery, being temporary, they come and go.” (2.14) No one can escape sufferings in this world, because they are results of earlier impious acts, in this life and earlier ones. However, all suffering is temporary, while some may extend to the next life, but they ultimately cease. Lord Krishna has guided in the Geeta on a way to deal with sufferings and transcend them.

Similarly, there are pleasures in everyone’s life, because Earth is not a concentration camp where only miseries are heaped upon its inhabitants. There are many more pleasures in our lives than we realize. But our uncontrolled minds force us to keep our focus on miseries only. If detailing of all the enjoyment is done, one may be pleasantly surprised, as scales of pleasures will be heavier.

Fortunately, we, human beings, have been given the opportunity to enhance sukha and minimize duhkha. Lord Krishna has guided, “One whose eating and recreation are appropriate; of one who strives appropriately in activities; of one who sleeps and stays awake as required; there will be reduction in his duhkha.” (6.17) These instructions take care of physical health. Similarly, the Lord has guided about mental health in verse no. 6.35, “The mind can be brought under control by practice and detachment from harmful sense objects.” However generous help is required from God, because our minds are fickle, strong, obstinate, etc. (6.34) God is prepared to help if we take His shelter as He has instructed, “Take shelter of God. By His mercy you shall achieve supreme peace.” And peace is what we need for gaining sukha — the real thing, as mentioned earlier.

The Bhagavad-Geeta has detailed instructions about enhancing sukha and reducing duhkha. Spiritual health can be strengthened by developing a good connection with God. Similarly, intellectual health benefits by supplementing material knowledge with spiritual learning. Both sukha and duhkha have permanence. That is why Lord Krishna stresses on tolerance. (2.14)

(The author is a spiritual teacher.)

A yatra to understand ancient Indian science

Vijnana Yatra envisages journey through scientific heritage to ignite minds to further build greater edifice of discoveries

The word pilgrimage carries immediate connotations. It is a trip undertaken to offer thanks. We embark on it to experience a higher state, an elevation — sometimes physically represented by a hill summit. The determined spiritual seekers go into deep forests and remote mountain caves, while the more ordinary among us visit major and lesser shrines that honour deities, saints, or ascetics. Likewise, our scientific teams go as far as Antarctica or dive under sea to study ancient port cities. They journey to remote places to study the grammar structure in isolated dialects as spoken currently. So we too ourselves can undertake modest but stimulating itineraries.

The benefits of a Vijnana Yatra are closely comparable to any Teerth Yatra or trips to holy sites. Let’s make the comparison in some details. Science has given our lives many things we can be thankful for — life saving medicine, effort saving appliances, entertainment devices, speedy transport, and when we look to our history — Ayurveda, astronomy, semantics, calisthenics with a holistic approach, textiles, manuscripts on constructing structures, mathematics and many more.


It takes us to a higher plane of knowledge — through particle physics, the study of genes, molecular structure, carbon compounds, life cycle of stars, and marine biology. It powerfully harnesses wind, solar, hydel, hydrocarbon and atomic energy. There are modern plants and installations where hundreds of megawatts are generated and distributed.

Our scientific research, like our pilgrimages, connects us with the larger forces and mysteries of Nature. Like scripture, it gives us an opportunity to ally with a tradition of belief and dedication. Science has an organised body of updated theory and ongoing saga of rigorous research. It is a fine example of proceeding with established knowledge and determinedly pursuing new results. The struggles of scientists, their perseverance and steadfastness can serve as lessons for us.

Exploring our scientific heritage in an intensive and educative way is vastly different from forwarding vainglorious WhatsApp messages about fortress designs, and rust-free columns. A Vijnana Yatra can be empowering to give insights, while also being inspirational — a pilgrimage that helps us develop and apply a scientific approach to more aspects of our lives.

We need better curated walk-throughs of Ayurveda and ancient astronomy. The emphasis has to be on how the knowledge was obtained, how it was applied, and the extent of proof or results obtained. An input from today’s scientists can be of help to us in connecting ancient records with the current frontiers of knowledge and application.

Scientific knowledge quite often has



EXPLORING OUR SCIENTIFIC HERITAGE IN AN INTENSIVE AND EDUCATIVE WAY IS VASTLY DIFFERENT FROM FORWARDING VAINGLORIOUS WHATSAPP MESSAGES ABOUT FORTRESS DESIGNS, AND RUST-FREE COLUMNS. A VIJNANA YATRA CAN BE EMPOWERING TO GIVE INSIGHTS, WHILE ALSO BEING INSPIRATIONAL

(The writer is a creative director, advertising faculty.)



economic and cultural implications. An institution such as the Calico Museum in Amdavad conveys information on the manual, technical, chromatic, aesthetic, social, commercial and historical aspects of weaving in an inter-related manner. Our prominent science museums help us understand basic laws in physics through their apparatus displays. The planetariums create a mind-expanding experience by helping us conceive how vast the galaxies and nebulae are. The Jantar Mantar in various cities tells us a fascinating story of how techniques and implements were devised to measure distances to celestial bodies with remarkable accuracy.

Our manuscript museums and preservation centres in Pune, Thanjavur, Tirupati, Varanasi, Guwahati, Shrivaranabelagola, Samthalpur, Nalanda, Gaya, Kolkata, Guwahati and elsewhere hold centuries-old commentaries and detailed debates on methods, rules of evidence, atoms and states of matter, and the experiencing of eternity.

To really cherish something we have, we should actually feel thankful for it. Without such a felt gratitude, we merely take all that long legacy for granted, which we can wave airily at and swagger about. When we sincerely treasure knowledge, we have an idea of how it is gleaned, refined and transmitted. We can actually appreciate the human attentiveness and diligence required for these processes.

Isaac Newton said that he saw because he stood on the shoulders of giants, and we have more reasons than anyone to be grateful to so many savants, sages, scholars and scribes for adding to the wealth in

almost every generation to the extent the general circumstances allowed.

Tours need promoters. Traditional bus tour operators typically offer religious tours of a week or two, and similarly the online travel portals should be able to easily market Vijnana Yatras to colleges, where they can do an informative three-hour pre-tour orientation. Not only would such a trip be relevant to science and engineering students, it’s easy to chalk out customised itineraries for life science or mathematics or linguistics students. The idea of relating concepts to actual places, objects, history and people, is to take the successors physically closer to their vast legacy in enquiry and systematic knowledge.

To extend support and encourage such Vijnana Yatras, the railways can subsidise these bookings or have the fare partially borne by the Ministry of Science and Technology. Over time, various student groups can be safely expected to assemble and edit video clips from their tour and upload the content to an online platform, which itself would be richly informative to all students. Labs, factory floors, power stations, observatories, botanical hothouses, sanctuary parks, heritage institutions, museums, archives have lessons to offer about nature, society and scientific principles. Not only young students, other types of visitor groups — families, corporate groups, media teams, bureaucrats, science publishers and others — could find them appealing and useful.

In our country especially, pilgrims derive satisfaction from a dip in a lake or river, or from wearing

certain clothes during the journey. To satisfy such needs, it shouldn’t be difficult to develop selfie points and suitable souvenirs to celebrate these Vijnana Yatras.

There is a true saying that you can take a fellow pilgrim to the river bank, but it’s up to him or her to take a dip. Science itself is a body of evidence about a unifying supreme principle as there is an unmistakable similarity of structure across the basic laws operating in Nature. The spirit of science is to share and explore patterns in the vast universe around us, and not to thrust limiting conclusions or narrow dogmas. Its message is always to foray towards a further frontier.

The common faith that drives both the Teerth as well as the Vijnana Yatra is that with an openness and a seeking, we receive glimpses and have insights by the hour and by the day. Over a few years, they add up to a vision of what is true and properly aligned with the universal principle. Thus, pilgrimages are cumulative. They begin in the very first step of the journey and are not only about a grand culmination at the end.


This is why inculcating a scientific outlook in our everyday living does so much for us as it encourages an active intellect and alert senses and reasoning in every individual. Underestimating the place of science can make us rely heavily on some revelation experiences of a few. Taking sound guidance where it’s available can be advantageous. Placing our trust could also serve us. However, a detailed understanding of a masterpiece in its outer and inner dimensions is the best tribute and salute to its creator, and reached only through scientific knowledge.

National Rural Livelihood Mission: a game changer

The women-led SHGs, supported by the NRLM, are successful, but they need to work with startups

Rural unemployment remains a crucial factor responsible for lower income and skills and bad socio-economic conditions. Data released by the Center for Monitoring Indian Economy (CMIE) in May 2022 showed that rural unemployment has risen to 7.8 percent from 7.12 percent out of the total workforce, while World Bank estimates that the majority of the Indian population about 65.07 percent lives in rural areas.

According to the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, the Indian agriculture sector in the current scenario provides livelihood to about 70 percent rural population, out of which 82 percent of people belong to the category of small and marginal farmers. Deendayal



RAVI KUMAR GUPTA AND UDIT MAHESHWARI

(Ravi Gupta is Assistant Professor and Maheshwari is Research Assistant at the Department of Humanities and Management Science, Madan Mohan Malaviya University of Technology, Gorakhpur, UP.)

Antyodaya Yojana - National Rural Livelihood Mission (DAY-NRLM) is a scheme that relies on three supporting structures -- financial inclusion, enhancement of livelihood and social mobilization at the universal level of the rural poor people. A major focus of this scheme is the empowerment of rural poor women by including at least one woman from every rural household in a Self Help Group (SHG). According to the Ministry of Rural Development, DAY-NRLM is operating in 6,769 blocks in 706 districts in 30 states and six Union Territories. This scheme relies on SHGs for the elimination of rural poverty. The SHGs are groups formed by rural people, involving about 10 to 20 members and

the rising participation of women in political parties, improved financial literacy, knowledge and awareness of administrative facilities and support, more involvement in decision-making of important issues and improved mobility.

According to the World Bank, this scheme has also supported rural women to become a part of the workforce and resulted in larger participation by women members in SHGs under DAY-NRLM, a 20.4 percent rise in various self-employment activities was noticed during 2011-2017. The NRLM has also improved financial literacy among rural women and helped them avail institutional credit facilities. This scheme employs social capital, micro institutional loans and skill

enhancement, which resulted in enhanced family income of beneficiaries, while boosting saving habits. It is also noticed that members of SHGs under DAY-NRLM and their family members are giving more preference to various kinds of insurance schemes related to disability, health and life.

The scheme, however, has faced several challenges, as the majority of SHGs are still giving preference to the farm sector and they are engaged in agricultural activities, making them less productive as the primary sector is already facing disguised unemployment. This blocks adoption of various latest technologies to improve efficiency of the enterprise. The majority of SHGs have not become vibrant and are just acting as micro-

finance units with lesser traits of business enterprises. A huge constraint in the effective implementation of this scheme is unwilling female members and their cooperative family members in rural areas as rural women are not even allowed to go outside their homes for business activities. According to beneficiaries, they have less freedom to involve themselves in any decision-making process at their discretion as everything is mostly pre-decided in the scheme. The DAY-NRLM has received a smaller allocation of funds compared to other employment generation schemes like MGNREGS.

The scheme should focus on both the agricultural and non-agricultural sectors and simultaneously give attention

to the enhancement of livelihood through rising income earning opportunities and expanding entrepreneurship skills. The DAY-NRLM may also expand its scope towards the private sector and start-up business entities to empower them for employment generation in rural areas. In the current financial year, more budget has been allocated towards DAY-NRLM which shows a more promising future for beneficiaries.

This scheme has helped the rural people through sustainable development with help of the creation of jobs, skill enhancement and other livelihood enhancement facilities irrespective of gender while providing larger support to female members of the households.

School in east Ukraine hit by Russian strike, bodies found



AP ■ KYIV

Ukrainian emergency workers recovered three bodies from a school hit by a Russian strike in the east of the country, officials said Friday, as attacks continued in several parts of the nation.

The reported casualties follow a barrage Thursday on a densely populated area of Ukraine's second-largest city, Kharkiv, that killed at least three people and wounded 23 others. In a rare sign of light, the signing was expected Friday of an accord that would allow Ukraine to resume its shipments of grain across the Black Sea and Russia to export grain and fertilizers.

Beyond that, however, there was no indication of relief from the grinding war. Russia this week has reiterated its plans to seize territories beyond eastern Ukraine, where the Russian military has spent months trying to conquer the Donbas region.

The Ukrainian president's office said that in Kramatorsk, in Donetsk province, Russian shelling destroyed a school and damaged 85 residential buildings.

Ukraine's state emergencies agency

said it has completed work at the school, which was hit on Thursday, and found three bodies.

"Russian strikes on schools and hospitals are very painful and reflect its true goal of reducing peaceful cities to ruins," Donetsk Gov. Pavlo Kyrylenko said in televised remarks, repeating his call on residents to evacuate.

Russian Defence Ministry spokesman Lt. Gen. Igor Konashenkov, however, said that the Russian strike had killed over 300 Ukrainian troops who used the building of School No. 23 in Kramatorsk as their base. He said another strike destroyed a munitions depot in the industrial zone of the southern city of Mykolaiv.

Konashenkov also said that Russian forces destroyed four HIMARS multiple rocket launchers supplied by the U.S. Between July 5 and 20. The U.S. Said it has supplied 12 HIMARS systems and will deliver four more. The claims could not be independently verified.

The Ukrainian military has used HIMARS, which have a higher range and better precision compared with similar Soviet-era systems in the Russian and

Ukrainian inventory, to strike Russian munitions depots and other key targets.

In the Dnipro region of central Ukraine, three schools were destroyed in the latest Russian strikes, Ukrainian authorities said. Seven Russian missiles hit the small town of Apostolove in the Dnipro region, wounding 18 residents.

Regional governor Valentyn Reznichenko decried the "senseless" attack, saying that "there are no military goals behind it and this shelling could only be explained by their desire to keep people on edge and sow panic and fear."

In other developments Friday:

■ The British Defense Ministry said it believes that Russia is experiencing "critical shortages" of dedicated ground-attack missiles and has increased its use of air-defense missiles "in secondary ground attack mode" because of that. It said that Russia has "almost certainly" deployed S-300 and S-400 strategic air defense systems that are designed to shoot down aircraft and missiles at long range, and that there is a "high chance" of them missing their intended targets and causing civilian casualties.

Ukraine, Russia set to sign deal on resuming grain exports

AP ■ ISTANBUL

Russia and Ukraine were expected to sign separate agreements with Turkey and the UN on Friday that would allow Ukraine to resume grain shipments to world markets and Russia to export grain and fertilisers, ending a standoff that threatened world food security while the two countries are at war in Ukraine.

Ukrainian and Russian military delegations reached a tentative agreement last week on a UN plan that would enable Ukraine to export 22 million tons of desperately needed grain and other agricultural products that have been stuck in Black Sea ports due to the war.

UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres and Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan planned to take part in a signing ceremony in Istanbul.

Russian Defence Minister Sergei Shoigu and Ukraine's infrastructure minister, Oleksandr Kubrakov, were the expected signatories, according to their governments.

Mykhailo Podolyak, an adviser to Ukraine's president, said Ukraine and Russia would sign separate agreements.

"Ukraine does not sign any documents with Russia," Podolyak wrote on Twitter, adding that his country would sign an agreement with Turkey and the UN, with Russia signing a separate "mirror agreement".

Ukraine is one of the world's largest exporters of wheat, corn and sunflower oil, but Russia's invasion of the country and naval blockade of its ports have halted shipments.

Some grain is being transported through Europe by rail, road and river, but the prices of vital commodities like wheat and barley have soared during the nearly five-month war.

The deal makes provisions for the safe passage of ships. It foresees the establishment of a control centre in Istanbul, to be



staffed by UN, Turkish, Russian and Ukrainian officials, to run and coordinate the process, Turkish officials have said. Ships would undergo inspections to ensure they are not carrying weapons.

Podolyak insisted that no Russian ship would escort vessels and that there would be no Russian representative present at Ukrainian ports. Ukraine also plans an immediate military response "in case of provocations", he said.

Guterres first raised the critical need to get Ukraine's agricultural production and Russia's grain and fertilizer back into world markets in late April during meetings with Russian President Vladimir Putin in Moscow and Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy in Kyiv.

He proposed a package deal in early June amid fears that the war was endangering food sup-

plies for many developing nations and could worsen hunger for up to 181 million people.

Russian and Ukrainian officials have blamed each other for the blocked grain shipments. Moscow accused Ukraine of failing to remove sea mines at the ports to allow safe shipping and insisted on its right to check incoming ships for weapons.

Ukraine has argued that Russia's port blockade and launching of missiles from the Black Sea made any shipments unviable.

Ukraine has sought international guarantees that the Kremlin wouldn't use the safe corridors to attack the Black Sea port of Odesa.

Ukrainian authorities have also accused Russia of stealing grain from eastern Ukraine and deliberately shelling Ukrainian fields to set them on fire.

On Thursday evening, a spokesperson for Ukraine's Foreign Ministry, appeared to lay out Kyiv's conditions for backing the plan.

Ukraine's delegation "will support only those decisions that will guarantee the security of the southern regions of Ukraine, the strong position of the armed forces of Ukraine in the Black Sea and the safe export of Ukrainian agricultural products to world markets", the spokesperson, Oleh Nikolenko, told reporters.

In Washington, State Department spokesman Ned Price said the US welcomes the agreement in principle. "But what we're focusing on now is holding Russia accountable for implementing this agreement and for enabling Ukrainian grain to get to world markets. It has been for far too long that Russia has enacted this blockade," Price said.

Russia defends veto of aid to northwest Syria for one year



AP ■ UNITED NATIONS

Russia defended its veto of a UN resolution that would have extended humanitarian aid deliveries to 4.1 million Syrians in the rebel-held northwest from Turkey for a year, insisting that its demand for only a six-month extension was essential and accusing Western nations of using "sly tactics and trying "to govern the world".

Russia's deputy ambassador Dmitry Polyansky had to defend Moscow's veto on July 8 of a resolution before the General Assembly for only the second time since the 193-member world body adopted a resolution on April 26 requiring any Security Council member that casts a veto to explain its reasoning during an assembly debate on the issue.

Polyansky insisted that a resolution should be limited to six months, with a new resolution needed for another six months, in order to assess progress on Russia's demands.

He said these include stepped up aid deliveries across conflict lines within Syria, more early recovery programs in the country, greater transparency in aid operations, and stopping "international terrorists" from receiving aid deliveries. He accused Western supporters of a year-long extension of failing to make progress on cross-line aid deliveries and early recovery projects. These demands were included in last year's resolution extending aid deliveries from Turkey for a year, he said.

US deputy ambassador

Richard Mills shot back, accusing Russia of abusing its veto power for the 17th time on a Syria resolution, this time on a measure aimed at facilitating humanitarian help for millions of people suffering from 11 years of war.

To avert a shutdown of aid deliveries through the Bab al-Hawa crossing point in Turkey, the Security Council approved a six-month extension on July 11 but Mills stressed the consequences: A second resolution will be needed in January when humanitarian needs, which are now greater than they have ever been, "will be greatest".

"That timeline risks leaving Syrians without blankets, without heating fuel, depriving them of a steady supply of basic food items during the coldest of months if the resolution confirming the second sixth-month extension is not adopted," he warned.

Mills urged the international community to come together "and firewall any further politicisation of what is a purely humanitarian issue".

Northwest Idlib is the last rebel-held bastion in Syria and a region where an al-Qaida-linked militant group, Hayat Tahrir al-Sham, is the strongest. The UN said recently that the first 10 years of the Syrian conflict, which started in 2011, killed more than 300,000 civilians, the highest official estimate of civilian casualties.

Polyansky accused Western countries of "supporting international terrorists who they trained and equipped to oust the legitimate Syrian authorities".

Transnistria's FM: Integration with Russia remains possible

AP ■ MOSCOW

The foreign minister of Moldova's separatist Transnistria region said on Friday that it is committed to achieving independence and possible unification with Russia, and that Moldova's becoming a candidate for European Union membership effectively ends any possibility of cooperation. Transnistria, a sliver of land lying between Ukraine and the rest of Moldova, has hosted a contingent of Russian peacekeeping forces since the 1992 end of a separatist war.

Since Russia sent troops into

Ukraine in February, speculation has risen that Russia would aim to take control of the territory. In April, a series of explosions in the territory of 470,000 people caused tensions to soar.

Vitaly Ignatyev, the unrecognised government's foreign minister, told a news conference in Moscow that Transnistria will pursue the goals determined in a 2006 referendum: "The independent development of Transnistria and the subsequent free entry into the Russian Federation. ... The subsequent free accession to Russia is a process that probably



requires significant decisions, political preparation and much more. The main priority, obviously, is independence." Moldova is constitutionally neutral and thus not a potential NATO member, but is showing a growing Western orientation.

In June, the EU granted it candidate status, with full bloc membership conditional on reforms such as tackling corruption and strengthening rule of law.

"Having received the status of a candidate for EU membership, Moldova has thus crossed a certain Rubicon," Ignatyev said.

Kids among 7 killed in Russian strike in Syria

AP ■ BEIRUT (LEBANON)

A monitoring rights group says a Russian warplane struck a house on Friday in northwestern Syria near the Turkish border, killing seven civilians, including four children.

Syrian Civil Defence volunteers rushed to the house to remove the bodies under the rubble.

The Syrian Observatory for Human Rights and opposition media outlet Orient TV say the airstrike in Idlib's town of Jisr al-Shoghour was carried out by a Russian warplane following four other Russian airstrikes in a town further north.

The sources of the airstrikes on Idlib could not be independently verified.

The northwestern region of Syria is home to the country's last rebel enclave.

The province of Idlib is under the control of Hayat Tahrir al-Sham, an al-Qaida-linked group, while northern Aleppo province is under the control of Turkish-backed rebel groups.

More than 90 per cent of the population in that area live in extreme poverty, relying on humanitarian aid to survive.

The Syrian government in Damascus, alongside key ally Russia, frequently launch airstrikes in the area.

Japan warns of rising global tension, Russia-China arms ties



AP ■ TOKYO

Japan warned of escalating national security threats stemming from Russia's war on Ukraine and China's tensions with Taiwan as an annual defence paper issued Friday, as Japan tries to bolster its military capability and spending.

The annual defence white paper, approved by Prime Minister Fumio Kishida's Cabinet on Friday, highlights the need for Japan's military buildup to address security concerns and seeks to gain public support for a stronger military and increased budget, which Kishida's governing party aims to double in coming years.

The report comes months ahead of a revision to Japan's national security strategy that is expected to include a pre-emptive strike capability, which critics say would go beyond the limitations of Japan's pacifist constitution.

China, Russia and North Korea top Japan's security concerns in the 500-page report.

Defense Minister Nobuo Kishi, in a statement in the report, said the Indo-Pacific region is "at the center" of international strategic competition. The report calls Russia's war on Ukraine a "serious violation of international law" and raises "concerns that the effects of such unilateral changes to the status quo by force may extend to the Indo-Pacific region."

Strategic competition between states has intensified amid a changing global power balance and is "further complicated by factors such as China's broad and rapid military buildup," the report said.

The paper doubled its contents on Taiwan from a previous edition last year. It raised concerns over Russia's invasion of Ukraine and its impact on Asia, possibly setting a prece-

dent for what may happen between China and Taiwan.

The report noted growing tension between Washington and Beijing over Taiwan, as the US continues to send warships through the Taiwan Strait and sell arms to Taipei, while Chinese warplanes have increasingly entered Taiwanese airspace. China claims self-governing Taiwan as its own territory to be annexed by force if necessary. Tokyo is also concerned about China's "relentless" unilateral attempts to change the status quo "by coercion" near the Japanese-controlled East China Sea island it calls Senkaku, which Beijing also claims and calls the Diaoyu.

China aims to build a "world-class military" and has been ramping up the fusion of military and civilian resources, the report said.

In a new chapter devoted to Russia's war on Ukraine, the report said that Russia's international isolation and fatigue from the war may increase the importance of Moscow's political and military cooperation with China. The report said military cooperation between the two countries should be closely watched because it could have a "direct impact" on Japan's security. China and Russia are stepping up joint operations and exercises involving their warships and military aircraft around Japan, while Beijing is threatening to use force over Taiwan and escalating regional tensions, Kishi said.

Israel aims to stop Russian move against Jewish nonprofit



AP ■ JERUSALEM

Israel's prime minister on Thursday said he would send a delegation to Moscow in hopes of halting a Russian order to shutter the operations of a major nonprofit organisation that promotes Jewish immigration to Israel.

Yair Lapid's decision came after a spokeswoman for a Moscow District Court was quoted as saying that Russia's Justice Ministry aims to "shut down" the Russian branch of the Jewish Agency. A court hearing in the case is scheduled for July 28.

The Jewish Agency is a nonprofit that works closely with the Israeli government to bring Jewish immigrants from around the world to Israel. Under the country's law of return, anyone with at least one Jewish grandparent is automatically eligible for Israeli citizenship.

The Jewish Agency has been active in Russia since

1989, according to the Interfax report. Well over 1 million immigrants have come to Israel from the former Soviet Union, and an estimated 150,000 Jews still live in Russia.

According to the agency, immigration has picked up since Russia's invasion of Ukraine in February, with 17,000 Russians taking Israeli citizenship and as many as 40,000 others coming to Israel and expected to apply. In comparison, some 7,700 Russian Jews immigrated to Israel last year. Lapid's office said the delegation heading to Russia would include representatives from his office, the Foreign Ministry and other government ministries.

"The Jewish community in Russia is deeply connected with Israel. Its importance arises in every diplomatic discussion with the Russian leadership," Lapid said. "We will continue to act through diplomatic channels so that the Jewish Agency's imp

Dinesh appointed Lanka's PM as 18-member Cabinet swears in

PTI ■ COLOMBO

Dinesh Gunawardena, a veteran politician and a close ally of the Rajapaksa family, was appointed on Friday as Sri Lanka's prime minister as President Ranil Wickremesinghe swore in his 18-member Cabinet in the hope of ending the political instability and the unprecedented economic crisis in the country.

The Cabinet was sworn in on Wickremesinghe's first day in office.

Apart from Prime Minister Gunawardena, there are 17 other ministers in the Cabinet.

Ali Sabry, who earlier headed the finance ministry, was appointed as foreign minister.

Prime minister Gunawardena has been given an additional portfolio of Public Administration Home Affairs, Provincial Councils and Local Government.

The rest of the ministers were retained with their same portfolios while President Wickremesinghe continues to hold the ministry of finance.

Wickremesinghe said he was taking steps to form an all-party government to handle the island's worst-ever economic crisis.

The crisis and its public revolt ousted former President Gotabaya Rajapaksa, paving way for Wickremesinghe to be appointed through Parliament for the rest of his term.

A stalwart of Sri Lankan politics, Gunawardena, 73, earlier served as the foreign minister and education minister. He was appointed as Home Minister in April by then President Gotabaya Rajapaksa.

The prime minister's post fell vacant after



Wickremesinghe, 73, was on Thursday sworn in as the country's eighth president after Gotabaya Rajapaksa fled the country and then resigned as president.

A schoolmate of President Wickremesinghe, Gunawardena, has held various Cabinet posts in the past.

Born in 1949, Gunawardena is the leader of the Trotskyist majority nationalist Mahajana Eksath Peramuna (MEP), a constituent party of the ruling Sri Lanka Podujana Peramuna (SLPP) party.

He succeeded his father Philip Gunawardena in 1979 to lead the party after returning from the Netherlands where he completed his higher studies.

His father was a prominent figure in the leftist socialist movement in the British era prior to the country's independence in 1948. The MEP became the ruling alliance in 1956.

Lankan security forces raid anti-Govt protest camp at Prez Secretariat; nine held

PTI ■ COLOMBO

Sri Lankan security forces raided the main anti-government protest camp at the President's Secretariat here early on Friday, arresting nine people and injuring several others, as the protesters continued to occupy the sensitive area despite the resignation of Gotabaya Rajapaksa as president.

The decision to evict the anti-government protesters came a day after Ranil Wickremesinghe was sworn in as president after ex-president Rajapaksa fled the country last week.

Separately on Friday,

Dinesh Gunawardena — a senior politician considered to be a long-time Rajapaksa loyalist — took the oath as new prime minister, as President Wickremesinghe tried to form a government to address the worst economic crisis faced by the island nation.

The police, with the help of three armed forces and the Special Task Force, arrested the suspects aged between 26 and 58 as it evacuated the protesters staying in the Presidential Secretariat office, its main entrance, and around the offices in the Colombo Fort, The Daily Mirror Lanka reported.

Liz holds commanding lead over Sunak in race to be next UK Prime Minister: Survey

PTI ■ LONDON

Foreign Secretary Liz Truss has extended a commanding 28 lead over British-Indian ex-minister Rishi Sunak in the race to be the UK's next Prime Minister, according to the latest YouGov survey.

On Thursday, Conservative Party members voted to send both Sunak and Truss through to the final stage of the party's leadership contest in the race to replace Boris Johnson.

One of them will now be selected as the next Prime Minister by the party membership in a ballot running from August 4 until early September, according to the YouGov survey.

YouGov is a leading British international Internet-based market research and data analytics firm. Earlier this week, figures suggested that Truss, 46, would beat the 42-year-old former Chancellor in a hypothetical head-to-head by 19 points. Now, with the final two announced and the summer campaign just beginning, a new YouGov poll of Tory members suggests Truss retains her strong advantage.

According to the survey of 730 Conservative Party members on Wednesday and Thursday, 62 per cent said that they would vote for Truss and 38 per cent opted for Sunak, excluding those who said they wouldn't vote or did not know. Truss has a 24 percentage point lead, up from a 20-point lead two days before.

The current size of the Conservative membership is unknown, but at the last leadership election in 2019 there were around 160,000 members, and insiders expect it to have



grown, meaning the polling is not representative of the party.

Truss beats Sunak in every age category, amongst men and women and amongst those who voted Brexit, Sky News reported. The only category where Sunak beats Truss is among 2016 Remain voters. This is a striking reverse, given the foreign secretary supported Remain during the referendum while the ex-chancellor campaigned for Brexit, the UK's withdrawal from the European Union.

It marks a remarkable turnaround for Sunak. He was the frontrunner during all five rounds of voting by Tory MPs, but polling suggests he is now the underdog amongst the party membership, the Sky News report added.

A source in the Sunak campaign said: "In the last Conservative leadership contest, polls were well over 10% out. They can be wrong — and this is only day one of our focus turning to members, the Huffington Post reported.

"Rishi is going out to the membership and set out a positive vision for our country — and there is everything to play for," the Huffington Post report added. Sunak was the parlia-

mentary party's favourite, winning 137 votes to Truss's 113 among Tory MPs.

But bookmakers placed the foreign secretary as the frontrunner, with early indications suggesting she is more popular with Tory members ahead of a summer of campaigning. The pair battled to win the support of local politicians on Thursday when they took part in private hustings for the Conservative Councillors' Association.

They will then tour the UK to take part in 12 hustings for the Tory members who will vote for their next leader, with the result being announced on September 5.

Johnson, who addressed his final Prime Minister's Questions (PMQs) session in the House of Commons on Wednesday, will remain caretaker Prime Minister until the new leader is elected on September 5 and addresses his or her PMQs soon after on September 7.

Around 160,000 members were eligible to take part in the previous leadership election in 2019 that saw Johnson defeat Jeremy Hunt, but that number is expected to have increased since then.

Sunak's 'privileged' upbringing becomes UK media target in PM contest

PTI ■ LONDON

Rishi Sunak's personal wealth as a perceived barrier in his path to connecting with the wider British electorate suffering from post-pandemic economic turmoil is in focus among sections of the UK media on Friday.

The 42-year-old former Chancellor, who is now facing off Foreign Secretary Liz Truss in the last stretch of the campaign to replace Boris Johnson as Conservative Party leader and British Prime Minister, has faced down similar jibes related to a so-called "privileged" upbringing and wife Akshata Murty's family wealth associated with her Infosys shares.

On Thursday, 'Channel 4 News' aired an investigation entitled 'Rishi Sunak: Inside the Tory Leadership candidate's fortune', which questioned the Sunak camp's references to his "humble" and "modest" background and has been picked up by other publications on Friday.

"I think financially it was quite a huge commitment for us because the fees at Winchester [College] are double what you would pay if you went to the local school in Southampton. So, it was quite a large financial commitment," the report quoted Sunak's father, Yashvir, from a BBC interview from 2000.

However, while the channel highlights the Sunak's camp's claims of him being a scholarship student to the prestigious private school, the former finance minister himself has declared that his time at Winchester was the outcome of his family's hard work and sacrifice. "I had the privilege of going to an incredible school. But I wasn't a scholarship child.

S Korea to lift ban on N Korea TV, newspapers despite tensions



AP ■ SEOUL

South Korea plans to lift its decades-long ban on public access to North Korean television, newspapers and other media as part of its efforts to promote mutual understanding between the rivals, officials said on Friday, despite animosities over the North's recent missile tests.

Divided along the world's most heavily fortified border since 1948, the two Koreas prohibit their citizens from visiting each other's territory and exchanging phone calls, emails and letters, and they block access to each other's websites and TV stations.

In a policy report to new President Yoon Suk Yeol on Friday, South Korea's Unification Ministry said it will gradually open the door for North Korean broadcasts, media and publications to try to boost mutual understanding, restore the Korean national identity and prepare for a future unification.

Ministry officials said South Korea will start by allowing access to North Korean broadcasts to try to encourage North Korea to take similar steps. The ministry refused to provide further details, saying the plans are still being discussed with relevant authorities in South Korea.

Jeon Young-sun, a research professor at Seoul's Konkuk University, said North Korea is unlikely to reciprocate because the flow of South Korean cultural and media content would pose "a really huge threat" to its authoritarian leadership.

Ruled by three generations of the Kim family since its 1948 foundation, North Korea strictly restricts its citizens' access to outside infor-

North Korea warns of security instability over US-S Korea drills

AP ■ SEOUL

North Korea has warned that the US and South Korea will face "unprecedented" security challenges if they don't stop their hostile military pressure campaign against the North, including joint military drills.

North Korea views any regular US-South Korean military training as an invasion rehearsal even though the allies have steadfastly said they have no intention of attacking the North.

The latest warning came as Washington and Seoul prepare to expand their upcoming summertime training following the North's provocative run of missile tests this year.

mation, though many defectors have said they watched smuggled South Korean TV programmes while living in the North.

In 2014, North Korean troops opened fire when South Korean activists launched balloons carrying USB sticks containing information about the outside world and leaflets critical of the Kim family toward North Korean territory.

Relations between the two Koreas remain strained over North Korea's torrid run of missile tests this year.

Yoon, a conservative, has said he would take a tougher stance on North Korean provocations, though he said he has "an audacious plan" to improve the North's economy if it abandons its nuclear weapons.

Jan 6 hearing probes Trump actions as Capitol was attacked



AP ■ WASHINGTON

The House Jan. 6 committee plunged into its second prime-time hearing on the Capitol attack Thursday night, vowing close scrutiny of Donald Trump's actions during the deadly riot, which the panel says he did nothing to stop but instead "gleefully" watched on television at the White House.

The hearing room was packed for what could be the last hearing this summer. The panel is diving into the 187 minutes that Trump failed to act on Jan. 6, 2021, despite pleas from aides, allies and even his family.

The panel is arguing that the defeated president's lies about a stolen election and attempts to overturn Joe Biden's election victory fuelled the attack and have left the United States facing enduring questions about the resiliency of its democracy.

"A profound moment of reckoning for America," said Rep. Jamie Raskin, D-Md., a member of the committee.

With live testimony from two former White House aides, and excerpts from the committee's more than 1,000 interviews, the Thursday night session will add a closing chapter

to the past six weeks of hearings that at times have captivated the nation and provided a record for history.

Ahead of the hearing, the committee released a video of four former White House aides — press secretary Kayleigh McEnany, security aide Gen. Keith Kellogg, White House Counsel Pat Cipollone and executive assistant to the president Molly Michael — testifying that Trump was in the private dining room with the TV on as the violence unfolded. "Everyone was watching television," Kellogg said.

Returning to prime time

During riot, Trump kept glued to Fox News

AP ■ WASHINGTON

The Latest on the hearing Thursday by the House committee investigating the Capitol riot (all times local): 8:45 pm.

What was Donald Trump doing in the White House as a mob of rioters breached the Capitol on Jan. 6, 2021?

According to a member of the House committee investigating the insurrection, Trump stayed in the dining room at

the White House, facing a television that was tuned to Fox News, for more than 2 1/2 hours.

Democratic Rep. Elaine Luria of Virginia says there is no official record of Trump placing or receiving a call for that entire afternoon, and there are no photos of him until after he surfaced in the Rose Garden after 4 p.m.

Luria says that despite the lack of an official record, the committee has learned what

Trump did that day.

The committee played snippets of a recorded interview it conducted with a former White House national security staffer.

That staffer, whose voice was obscured to conceal his identity, said White House officials were "in a state of shock" over what was happening at the Capitol on Jan. 6.

Luria says Trump "did not call to issue orders. He did not call to offer assistance."

for the first time since the series of hearings began, the panel intends to explain just how close the United States came to what one retired federal judge testifying this summer called a constitutional crisis. The events of Jan. 6 will be outlined "minute by minute," said the panel's vice chair, Rep. Liz Cheney, R-Wyo.

"You will hear that Donald Trump never picked up the phone that day to order his administration to help," Cheney said.

"He did not call the military. His Secretary of Defense received no order. He did not call his Attorney General. He did not talk to the Department of Homeland Security," Cheney said. "Mike Pence did all of those things; Donald Trump did not."

The hearing will show

never-before-seen outtakes of a Jan. 7 video that White House aides pleaded for Trump to make as a message of national healing for the country.

The footage will show how Trump struggled to condemn the mob of his supporters who violently breached the Capitol, according to a person familiar with the matter and granted anonymity to discuss it ahead of its public release.

Japan Cabinet sets Abe state funeral amid mixed public view



AP ■ TOKYO

Japan's Cabinet on Friday formally decided to hold a state funeral on Sept 27 for assassinated former Prime Minister Shinzo Abe amid national debate over the plan, which some criticise as an attempt to glorify a divisive political figure.

Abe was gunned down earlier this month during a campaign speech in the western city of Nara, shocking a nation known for safety and strict gun control. The alleged gunman was arrested immediately after the shooting and is being detained for interrogation as authorities seek to formally press murder charges.

Chief Cabinet Secretary

Hirokazu Matsuno said a state funeral is appropriate because of Abe's "distinguished contributions" as the longest-serving Japanese leader and his "outstanding leadership and decisive actions" in broad areas including economic recovery, the promotion of diplomacy centered on the Japan-US alliance, and reconstruction following the 2011 tsunami disaster.

Matsuno said the funeral will be a non-religious ceremony held at the Nippon Budokan, an arena originally built for the 1964 Tokyo Olympics that has since become a popular venue for sports, concerts and cultural events. The government also holds an annual memorial service on August 15.

UN court to rule on jurisdiction in Rohingya genocide case



AP ■ THE HAGUE

The United Nations' highest court is ruling on Friday on whether to proceed with a landmark case that accuses Myanmar's rulers of genocide against the country's mainly Muslim Rohingya minority.

The International Court of Justice is set to deliver its decision on Myanmar's claims that the Hague-based court does not have jurisdiction and that the case filed by the tiny African nation of Gambia in 2019 is inadmissible.

If judges reject Myanmar's objections, they will set the stage for court hearings airing evidence of atrocities against

the Rohingya that rights groups and a UN probe say amount to breaches of the 1948 Genocide Convention. In March, US Secretary of State Antony Blinken said that violent repression of the Rohingya population in Myanmar amounts to genocide.

Amid international outrage at the treatment of the Rohingya, Gambia filed the case with the world court alleging that Myanmar is breaching the genocide convention. The nation argued that both Gambia and Myanmar are parties to the convention and that all signatories have a duty to ensure it is enforced.

Lawyers representing Myanmar argued in February that the case should be tossed out because the world court only hears cases between states and the Rohingya complaint was brought by Gambia on behalf of the Organisation of Islamic Cooperation.

They also claimed that Gambia could not bring the case to court as it was not directly linked to the events in Myanmar and that a legal dispute did not exist between the two countries before the case was filed.

UJVN Limited
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CIN No. U40101UR2001SGC025866, Website: www.ujvn.l.com

R.O. No. 449

e-Tender Notice

Dt. 21.07.2022

Office of the Dy. General Manager (Civil-SHP), Srinagar Garhwal invites online bids from interested parties. Brief summary of tender is given below:
Tender No.: 01/DGM (SHP-Civil)/2022-23
Name of work: Finishing work at Powerhouse building and other Miscellaneous works at Madhyamaheshwar SHP (3x5) MW in District-Rudraprayag.
Estimated cost : Rs. 182.53 Lakh (Plus GST Extra).
Date of availability of bid document on website: 22-07-2022 from 16:00 hrs.
Last Date for submission of bids on website: 19-08-2022 upto 17:00 hrs.
For fuller & further details, kindly visit "e-procurement portal <http://uktenders.gov.in>".
Dy. General Manager (Civil-SHP), SHP, Srinagar Garhwal
"Avoid wasteful use of Electricity"

The Project Manager Construction Unit
Uttarakhand Peyjal Nigam Ranikhet (Almora) 263645

Letter No. 1589 / Nivida / 226

Date: 20-07-2022

NATIONAL COMPETITIVE BIDDING

The Project Manager Construction Unit Uttarakhand Peyjal Nigam Ranikhet (Almora) 263645, on behalf of Chairman Uttarakhand Peyjal Nigam invites sealed item rate tender on e-Government Procurement System (e-GPS) portal i.e. <http://www.uktenders.gov.in>, for the following works.

Sl. No.	Name of Work	Cost of Work
1	Construction of Food Godown at Saraikeht, District-Almora.	48.45 Lacs.

The tender form can be downloaded from e-Government Procurement System (e-GPS) portal i.e. <http://www.uktenders.gov.in> from 20.07.2022 at 17:00 hrs. to 04.08.2022 at 17:00 hrs. Other information can be seen in tender form or office notice board or obtained from office or phone no. 05966 220690 of office of tender inviting authority.

Project Manager

RBI will ensure soft landing of economy: Das

PTI ■ MUMBAI

Reserve Bank of India Governor Shaktikanta Das on Friday said the central bank will ensure that the economy has a soft landing wherein inflation is closer to 4 per cent, with minimal impact on growth.

Das said retail inflation appears to have peaked and the Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) in its upcoming meeting in August will review the inflation projection of 6.7 per cent for the fiscal 2022-23.

"Our endeavour shall be to ensure a soft landing for our economy where inflation is brought down to closer to the target of 4 per cent over a period of time. At the same time, the growth sacrifice is also within manageable limits," the governor said at a banking conclave organised by Bank of Baroda.

Das said the country had reached a kind of soft landing till the war broke out in Europe. This has resulted in new challenges such as rise in commodity, crude prices and their impact on the country; monetary policy tightening by other central banks and their spillovers; capital outflows and currency depreciation, which are beyond RBI's control.

The governor said any decision of RBI with regard to liquidity and policy rates always takes into consideration the kind of impact it is going to have on growth and revival of economic activity.

However, in sequence of priorities, RBI's focus currently is on inflation followed by growth, Das said.

Speaking on the flexible inflation targeting framework, Das said the regime has worked very well for the country.

Under the flexible inflation targeting framework, RBI is expected to



maintain retail inflation at 4 per cent (+/- 2 per cent).

"So far as India is concerned, the framework has worked well before the pandemic, during the pandemic and even now, I would say that we are very much in line with the requirements of time in terms of steps that need to be taken," he said.

The governor also said that since the adoption of the inflation-target-

ing framework in 2016 till the onset of Covid in February 2020, the average CPI (Consumer Price Inflation) was 3.9 per cent.

"We had a huge shock coming from Covid, and because we have flexibility inbuilt into the (inflation) target of 4 per cent (plus/minus 2 per cent), the MPC decided to use that flexibility to tolerate a slightly higher inflation.

"It is that flexibility, which is built into the inflation targeting framework, which allowed the MPC and RBI to reduce policy rates, inject huge amount of liquidity and several other measures to fight the impact that the Covid was producing on the financial sector as well as on the real economy," the governor said.

He also said higher inflation leads to negative interest rates which will act

as a big disincentive to savers and have an impact on the entire investment climate of any country.

He said the crisis such as Covid and the current war in Europe have produced a lot of consequences on the real sector, and hence having an inflation target and trying to achieve it ensures that the aspect of financial stability is maintained not only in India but the world over.

"Therefore, I feel that the (inflation targeting) framework has worked well and needs to continue. My personal opinion and also it is the opinion of all of us in the RBI that let us not shift the goal post to suit our convenience because the larger requirement of the economy and the financial sector is to have such a framework," he said.

Das said in the upcoming policy, MPC will review the inflation projection of 6.7 per cent for FY 2023, announced in the June policy as there is softening of retail inflation.

"As it would appear, inflation appears to have peaked. Please mind my words, it appears to have peaked and it has moderated from 7.8 per cent to 7.04 per cent, and now it is 7 per cent," Das said.

On the macroeconomic situation, the governor said the Indian economy remains relatively better placed, drawing strength from its macroeconomic fundamentals.

The financial system is well-capitalised, asset quality indicators have improved, balance sheets are stronger, and banks have returned to profitability.

There is a healthy pickup in credit demand and the external sector is well-buffered to withstand the ongoing terms of trade shocks and the portfolio outflows, he added.

Wheat stocks likely to be 80% higher than buffer requirement by April 1 next year: Govt



PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The government on Friday said wheat stocks in FCI godowns is expected to be 134 lakh tonnes at the start of next fiscal, 80 per cent more than the buffer norm.

In a written reply to Rajya Sabha, Food and Consumer Affairs Minister Piyush Goyal said the central pool stock of wheat as on July 1, 2022 is well above the foodgrains stocking norms.

"As on July 1, 2022, Food Corporation of India (FCI) and state government agencies have 285.10 lakh tonnes of wheat stock under central pool against the stocking norm of 275.80 lakh tonnes," he said.

In the current 2022-23 marketing year, Goyal said the procurement of wheat has been about 188 lakh tonnes. "...It is expected that even

after meeting out the requirement of Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Anna Yojana (up to September 2022) and Public Distribution System, the projected wheat stock as on April 1, 2023 would be 134 lakh tonnes against the stocking norm of 74.6 lakh tonnes," the minister said.

Under the Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Anna Yojana (PM-GKAY), 5 kilograms free of cost foodgrains per person is distributed to around 80 crore people covered under the National Food Security Act (NFSA). This is over and above regular distribution of subsidised NFSA foodgrains (i.e. 35 kg per Antyodaya Anna Yojana family per month and 5 kg per month for priority household beneficiary).

The scheme, which was introduced first in April 2020, has been extended till September this year.

Sensex extends gains for 6th day to reclaim 56,000 mark

Bank, finance stocks shine

PTI ■ MUMBAI

Equity benchmark Sensex stretched its winning run to the sixth straight session on Friday to reclaim the 56,000-level due to robust gains in banking and financial stocks amid a largely positive trend in overseas markets.

The 30-share BSE benchmark rose 390.28 points or 0.70 per cent to settle at 56,072.23. During the day, it advanced 504.1 points or 0.90 per cent to 56,186.05.

The broader NSE Nifty climbed 114.20 points or 0.69 per cent to 16,719.45.

Among the Sensex constituents, UltraTech Cement, HDFC Bank, Axis Bank, ICICI Bank, Titan Company, Kotak Mahindra Bank and Hindustan Unilever were the lead gainers.

Infosys, NTPC, Power Grid, Wipro and IndusInd Bank were the major laggards.

The market breadth was in favour of the bulls, with 18 of the 30 Sensex stocks closing in the green.

In the broader market, the BSE smallcap gauge went higher by 0.21 per cent, while the midcap index dipped by 0.17 per cent.

A total of 1,781 stocks advanced, while 1,541 declined and 147 remained unchanged.

Among the BSE sectoral indices, bank jumped 1.49 per cent, followed by finance (1.36 per cent), basic materials (1.26 per cent) and realty (0.37 per cent).



Power, teck, telecom and IT were among the laggards.

"Equities witnessed strong rally this week with benchmark indices like BSE-30 and Nifty-50 index posting returns of 4 per cent. The market rally was broad-based with positive returns seen in BSE Midcap, BSE Smallcap and the majority of sectoral indices. BSE Metal, BSE IT and BSE Capital Goods indices moved higher by more than 5 per cent this week.

"Equity markets seem to have received support from the hope of peaking inflation amid a decline in commodity prices and the slowdown in FII selling. In fact, FIIs have been buyers for some days so far in July 2022...." Shrikant Chouhan, Head of Equity Research (Retail) at Kotak Securities, said.

In the near term, markets will be tracking the upcoming Fed Reserve meeting, currency movement and quarterly

results, he added.

The rupee, meanwhile slipped, 5 paise to 79.90 against the US dollar.

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

Markets in Europe were trading in the green during mid-session deals. The US equity markets had ended higher on Thursday.

"Increased foreign investment and solid quarterly results are increasing domestic demand. Among broad-based buying, banking stocks outshined due to healthy quarterly earnings. European markets traded with modest gains, while investors digested the latest ECB monetary policy as it joined the global peers in policy tightening," said Vinod Nair, Head of Research at Geojit Financial Services.

Meanwhile, international oil benchmark Brent crude dipped 0.51 per cent to USD

103.33 per barrel.

"Falling crude oil prices and rebound in FII inflows into the domestic market helped benchmark Sensex to close above the psychological level of 56,000. The fear of aggressive rate hikes by both the US Fed and RBI seems to be moderating, which is giving investors some room to lap up stocks of companies with good fundamentals.

"Extending the rally for the sixth straight session, investors bought banking and select automobile stocks," Amol Athawale, Deputy Vice President - Technical Research, Kotak Securities Ltd, said.

Foreign institutional investors were net sellers on Friday, offloading shares worth Rs 675.45 crore, as per exchange data.

"Markets extended gains and rose over half a per cent, in continuation of the prevailing trend. After the initial uptick, the benchmark oscillated in the range but finally settled around the day's high.

"Gains in banking, realty and auto supported the surge while IT, pharma and energy witnessed profit-taking. Meanwhile, the broader indices traded mixed," said Ajit Mishra, VP — Research, Religare Broking Ltd.

Markets ended on a bullish note for the sixth day in a row, as jubilant investors took heart from this week's signs that foreign funds (FIIs) have trickled back into Indian stock markets. FIIs have been net buyers on all the trading days of this week, according to Prashanth Tapse, Vice President (Research), Mehta Equities Ltd.

Sebi to auction 11 properties of Arise Bhoomi Developers on August 26

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Sebi on Friday said it will auction properties of Arise Bhoomi Developers and its directors on August 26 for a reserve price of Rs 52.28 crore.

The move is a part of Sebi's effort to recover investors' money.

Arise Bhoomi Developers had mobilised over Rs 8 crore during 2013-14 from the public in the name of 'purchase of agricultural land' through its various investment schemes, promising them an expected sum at the end of the contract.

The schemes, as per Sebi, qualified to be a CIS which requires compulsory registration from the regulator. However, the company launched the schemes without obtaining necessary approvals from the regulator.

In a notice, the Securities and Exchange



Board of India (Sebi) said it will auction 11 properties belonging to the company and its directors at a reserve price of Rs 52.28 crore.

The auction will be conducted online in August.

The properties that have been put on sale include land parcels, shop and a plot, located in Uttar Pradesh and Maharashtra.

Sebi said Adroit Technical Services Ltd has been engaged by it to assist in the sale

of the properties/vehicles through e-auction platform.

In April 2021, the market watchdog had auctioned 12 properties belonging to the company and its directors at a reserve price of Rs 4.8 crore.

In June 2016, Sebi had ordered Arise Bhoomi Developers and its directors to refund investors money in three months.

Besides, they were barred from the securities market for four years.

However, they failed to pay investors' money and consequently, Sebi attached their bank and demat accounts in October 2016 to recover pending dues worth over Rs 8 crore.

In November 2018, Sebi had levied a fine totalling Rs 1 crore on the firm and its directors for mobilising funds from small investors through unregistered collective investment scheme (CIS).

Rental properties witnessing high demand in major metros: Report

PTI ■ MUMBAI

Rental properties are seeing high demand in major metros and many of them are getting rented out within six hours of posting advertisements online, according to a realty portal.

The trend also comes amid many companies embracing both work from home as well as office post the coronavirus pandemic, it said in a report. Nobroker offers rental properties in Delhi-NCR, Mumbai, Bengaluru, Hyderabad, Chennai and Pune. It claims to have over 1.8 crore registered users.

The portal, which does not charge brokerage, gets over 2.5 lakh rental postings every month, its Co-Founder and Chief Executive Officer Amit Agarwal told PTI. Data available with the portal for the April-June period showed that properties are getting rented out within six hours of being listed on the Nobroker platform since April, led by Bengaluru, where the rental occupancy has grown five times from the pre-pandemic level.

In the other five cities, the occupancy growth rate is three times since April, as per the data.



When it comes to Bengaluru, the platform has seen 18,000 new rental properties being rented out in the tech city in less than 24 hours after being listed in April.

The number of such deals was 7,000-8,000 for Chennai, 5,000 each for Pune and Hyderabad. Around 40 per cent of the deals were closed in less than 6 hours after posting of the rental advertisements, Agarwal said.

As many companies still have a work from home policy in select residential markets in Bengaluru, there has been a massive demand for apartments in gated communities, the report said.

Sugar output in 2022-23 may dip slightly 355 lakh tonnes: ISMA

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

India's sugar production may fall slightly to 355 lakh tonnes in the 2022-23 marketing year starting October, due to diversion of sugarcane towards ethanol manufacturing, according to industry data.

Indian Sugar Mills Association (ISMA) on Friday released the preliminary estimates for sugar production for 2022-23 marketing year (October-September).

As per the ISMA, the sugar production in 2022-23 is estimated at 355 lakh tonnes as against 360 lakh tonnes in the current marketing year ending September.

Net sugar production before considering diversion towards ethanol is estimated to be higher at 399.97 lakh tonnes in 2022-23 as against 394 lakh tonnes in the current 2021-22 marketing year.

ISMA estimates that the diversion of cane juice and B-molasses to ethanol will reduce sugar production by about 45 lakh tonnes in the next marketing year. In the current 2021-22 mar-



keting year, about 34 lakh tonnes diversion has been estimated.

The annual domestic demand is seen at around 275 lakh tonnes in the 2022-23, which will leave a surplus of about 80 lakh tonnes for exports. In May, the Centre capped sugar exports at 10 million tonnes in the current 2021-22 marketing year to maintain the domestic availability and price stability.

ISMA said that estimates have been made assuming normal rainfall and other optimum conditions during the remaining period.

18 Manav Sthali School students secure 100% mark in CBSE Class X

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Eighteen students of Manav Sthali School secured 100 per cent mark in Class 10 CBSE examinations results of which were announced on Friday. Of them six did it in Science, 5 in Mathematics, 4 in Sanskrit, 1 in Information Technology, 1 in Artificial Intelligence and 1 in German. School toppers were Nidhi Bansal, Aryan Ghai, Mohisha Mongia.

In Class XII result (2021-22), school toppers are: Vasvi Verma, Anusha Talwar, Devansh Betala and Ganeev Kaur Chhabra.

Sebi to re-investigate alleged manipulative trades involving former TV anchor

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Markets regulator Sebi on Friday disposed of a show cause notice issued to a former TV anchor and his family in February for alleged manipulative trades and decided to re-investigate the matter.

"Sebi shall endeavour to complete the investigation within six months... And thereafter, to conclude the matter expeditiously," the order passed by Whole Time Member SK Mohanty said.

The Securities and Exchange Board of India (Sebi) observed a high correlation between the recommendations made by Hemant Ghai (noticee no 1) in the show 'Stock 20-20' that was being co-hosted by him on CNBC Awaaz, during

the period January 2019 to May 2020, and the trades of his wife Jaya Hemant Ghai (noticee no 2) and his mother Shyam Mohini Ghai (noticee no 3) executed during the period.

Pursuant to a preliminary examination of the activities of the noticees, an interim order was passed in October 2020 in the matter wherein it was prima facie observed that the noticees were indulging in front running activities in the stocks that were being recommended by Hemant Ghai in the show during that period.

Collectively, Ghais are referred to as noticees.

Consequently, certain directions were issued against the three persons, including restraining them from securities market till further direc-

tions.

Later, a confirmatory order was passed in September 2021 in the matter, wherein the directions of the interim order were confirmed against the noticees. Sebi also noted that in compliance with direction issued under the interim order, Rs 2.95 crore have been deposited in an escrow account by them.

"Since all things having been considered, including the pattern of the impugned trades executed from the trading accounts of noticees no. 2 and 3 and the role of the TV shows hosted by noticee no. 1, based on which a re-investigation has been ordered in the matter, I find no reason to disturb the extant position at this stage," Mohanty said.

Olectra to supply 300 electric buses to Telangana

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI/HYDERABAD

Olectra Greentech Limited (OLECTRA) has bagged another prestigious order from Telangana State TSRTC to supply 300 Electric buses. The value of this order is approximately Rs 500 crores.

The MEIL group company, Evey Trans Private Limited (EVEY), has received the Letter of Award (LoA) from TSRTC. The order is to supply 300 Electric Buses under the FAME-II scheme of the Government of India.

Commenting on this occasion, KV Pradeep, Chairman and Managing Director, Olectra Greentech Limited said, "We feel happy to receive another prestigious order."

ONE & DONE FOR NEERAJ

Tokyo Olympics Gold medallist Neeraj Chopra qualifies for maiden World C'ships final with 88.39m throw

PTI ■ EUGENE

Olympic champion Neeraj Chopra qualified for his maiden World Championships final with a stunning first attempt throw of 88.39m as India witnessed a historic day at the event with two of its javelin throwers making it to the medal round here.

The 24-year-old Indian superstar, the hot favourite for a medal, opened the Group A qualification round by sending his spear to 88.39m for his third career-best throw, here on Thursday.

Chopra finished second best overall behind defending champion Anderson Peters of Grenada, who topped Group B with his opening round effort of 89.91m.

"It was a good start. I'll give my 100% in the final. We'll see. Every day is different. I'll just give my best. We don't know who can throw far on any given day," Chopra said after his event.

"There is a little bit of zigzag in my run-up. I shook a little bit, but it was a good throw. There are so many throwers in good shape now. Five-six throwers have thrown PBs this year. They are all in excellent shape," he added.

Chopra's qualification round lasted a few minutes as he did not need to take the remaining two throws after breaching the automatic qualification mark on his first attempt. A competitor gets three throws in the qualification round.

Another Indian in the fray, Rohit Yadav also made it to the finals after finishing sixth in Group B qualification round, and 11th overall, with his first round throw of 80.42m.

His second throw was a foul and he managed a modest 77.32m in his last attempt. The 21-year-old Indian had recorded a season's and personal best of 82.54m while winning a Silver at the National Inter-State Championships last month.

Those who cleared 83.50m or the 12 best performers across two



qualification round groups qualified for the final to be held on Sunday (7:05am IST).

Chopra, who has a personal best of 89.94m, had competed in the 2017 London World Championships with the hope of at least making it to the finals but managed only 82.26m to fall short of the automatic qualification mark of 83m.

He had missed the 2019 World Championships in Doha as he was recovering from an elbow surgery.

In other events, Eldhose Paul became the first Indian to qualify for the triple jump final at the World Championships with an effort of 16.68m. He finished sixth in Group A qualification round and 12th overall to make the cut for Sunday's final (6:50am IST).

The 25-year-old Paul, who reached here just a few days ago due to visa issues, has a season's and personal best of 16.99m which he had recorded while winning Gold in the Federation Cup in April.

The two other Indians, Praveen Chithravel and Abdulla Aboobacker, disappointed as they failed to make



it to the finals after below-par jumps of 16.49m and 16.45m respectively. Chithravel finished eighth in Group A, and 17th overall, while Aboobacker ended at 10th in Group B, and 19th overall. Those who cleared 17.05m or the 12 best performers across two qualification round groups qualify for the finals. Chithravel had produced the



third male javelin thrower to follow Olympic success with World Championship Gold after Norway's Andreas Thorkildsen (2008-09) and world record holder Jan Zelezny of Czech Republic in 2000-01 and 1992-93.

Chopra had become the first Indian track and field athlete to bag an Olympic Gold last year and is also the reigning Commonwealth Games and Asian Games champion.

He has been in tremendous form this season having broken his own national record twice. He did that first in his season-opening outing at the Paavo Nurmi Games at Turku in Finland with a throw of 89.30m on June 14.

He bettered his national mark again during the prestigious Diamond League Meeting in Stockholm on June 30 with an effort of 89.94m, just 6cm shy of 90m, the Gold standard of the javelin world.

In between, he won Gold at the Kuortane Games in Finland in a world-class field with a throw of 86.79m.

Chopra's best coming into this season was the 88.07m he had produced at the Indian Grand Prix series in Patiala in March 2021.

Lyles defends 200m title, Jackson trumps Fraser-Pryce

AP ■ EUGENE

Noah Lyles defended his world 200m title in electric fashion in a second US sprint cleansweep on Thursday, while Shericka Jackson thwarted Jamaican teammate Shelly-Ann Fraser-Pryce's bid for a sprint double in the women's race.

Close on the heels of Fred Kerley leading a 1-2-3 for Team USA in the men's 100m, Lyles made no mistake over the longer sprint, racing home in 19.31 seconds in Eugene.

It was the fourth fastest 200m ever run: only Jamaicans Usain Bolt and Yohan Blake have run faster.

Lyles's teammates Kenny Bednarek and teenager Errion Knighton took Silver and Bronze in 19.77 and 19.80sec respectively, to repeated chants of "U-S-A" from home fans at Hayward Field.

There were similar fireworks in the women's 200m on a balmy, clear night with perfect conditions for sprinting.

Jackson set a championship record of 21.45sec, the second fastest time ever run over the distance, for the first individual world title of her career. Only the late Florence Griffith-Joyner, whose 1988 world record of 21.34sec still stands, has run faster.

"I am feeling great once I came out and put on the show," said 28-year-old Jackson.

"The fastest

woman alive, the national and championships record, I cannot complain!"

Newly-crowned 100m Gold medallist Fraser-Pryce took Silver in 21.81sec.

But there was no Jamaican cleansweep, as there had been in the blue riband event, as defending champion Dina Asher-Smith of Britain claimed Bronze in 22.02sec.

Olympic champion Elaine Thompson-Herah, the third part of Jamaica's 100m sweep, eventually came in seventh in 22.39sec.



Djokovic completes 'Big Four' dream team at Laver Cup



AP ■ LONDON

Novak Djokovic confirmed on Friday that he will join Rafael Nadal, Roger Federer and Andy Murray in a dream Team Europe line-up at the Laver Cup that reunites the former "Big Four".

Bjorn Borg's European team

will take on John McEnroe's Team World in the fifth edition of the event at London's O2 Arena from September 23 to 25.

Seven-time Wimbledon champion Djokovic will be appearing at the Laver Cup for the first time since 2018, when it was held in Chicago.

"It's the only competition

where you can play in a team environment with guys that you're normally competing against and to be joining Rafa, Roger and Andy -- three of my biggest all-time rivals -- it's going to be a truly unique moment in the history of our sport," said the 21-time Grand Slam champion.

The four players have dominated men's tennis for nearly two decades, capturing 66 of the past 76 Grand Slams and winning every Wimbledon title since 2003.

Two roster spots have yet to be announced to complete the six-player Team Europe line-up, while McEnroe's Team World so far consists of Canada's Felix Auger-Aliassime, US player Taylor Fritz and Argentina's Diego Schwartzman.

Team Europe are bidding for a fifth successive triumph at the three-day event, named after Australian great Rod Laver.

Nunez scores four goals in Liverpool's friendly win

AP ■ LEIPZIG

Jurgen Klopp said "Pandora's box" opened as new Liverpool signing Darwin Nunez scored four goals in a 5-0 friendly thrashing of RB Leipzig on Thursday.

The Reds brought striker Nunez to Anfield from Benfica last month for a transfer fee which could rise to a club-record 100 million euros (£85 million, \$105 million).

The Uruguayan, who scored 34 goals last season, had been criticised by some supporters after failing to score in Liverpool's first pre-season games against Manchester United and Crystal Palace.

But he came on at half-time against Leipzig in Germany with Liverpool leading 1-0 thanks to a Mohamed Salah goal and scored a penalty before going on to net another three times.

"Mo gives Darwin the penal-



ty and Darwin, Pandora's box was open," Klopp told liverpoolfc.com.

"That's of course a perfect night for him.

"We always think that if you pay a lot of money then the players feel no pressure or whatever.

"They are all completely normal human beings and the first touch is not perfect then all of a sudden... This generation of players read social media, which is really not smart, but they do.

"All of a sudden you get in a rush and these kinds of things. That's the best way obviously to stop all these discussions."

Liverpool, who won the FA Cup and League Cup titles last season but finished as runners-up in the Premier League and Champions League, face Manchester City in the Community Shield curtain-raiser next weekend.

The 23-year-old Nunez will be expected to be a key member of Klopp's squad after the departure of Sadio Mane to Bayern Munich.

Ten Hag tells Maguire to win over critics

AP ■ PERTH

New Manchester United coach Erik ten Hag told skipper Harry Maguire on Friday that it is up to him to win over the fans by performing better.

The Dutchman also said that he is still in the market for new players and needs "more options", with United chasing Barcelona midfielder Frenkie de Jong.

Ten Hag has stamped his mark on United during the pre-season tour of Asia and Australia, but kept Maguire as captain despite the England centre-back struggling last year and being booed by fans.

The jeering has followed the 29-year-old to Australia, where Maguire was targeted by a smattering of fans in their 3-1 victory over Crystal Palace in Melbourne.

"We heard," Ten Hag told reporters in Perth ahead of United's friendly against Aston Villa on Saturday.

"But you see, if you perform, it slows down. It's about how can we change it.

"The team and Harry can by performing, and that is the only focus."

United have impressed in their first games under disciplinary Ten Hag with convincing friendly victories over Liverpool, Melbourne Victory and Palace.

Their attacking play, hallmarks of Ajax during Ten Hag's reign, has led to renewed confidence ahead of the new Premier League season following their disappointing sixth-placed finish last season.



Kashyap, Tanisha lose in Taipei Open

PTI ■ TAIPEI

Indian campaign ended at the Taipei Open badminton tournament after Parupalli Kashyap and Tanisha Crasto suffered narrow defeats in the quarterfinals of the singles and doubles competitions respectively, here on Friday.

Third seed Kashyap's impressive run ended with a 12-21, 21-12, 17-21 loss to Soong Joo Ven of Malaysia in a 55-minute match of the Super 300 tournament.



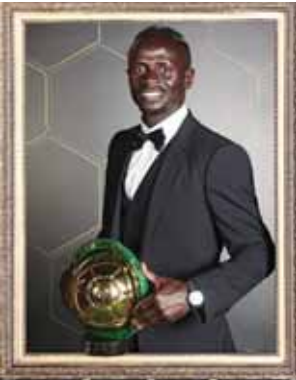
Tanisha also had a disappointing day as she suffered defeats in both the mixed and women's doubles competition. Tanisha and Ishaan Bhatnagar, seeded sixth, lost 19-21, 12-21 to Malaysia's Hoo Pang Ron and Toh Ee Wei in the mixed doubles match that lasted 32 minutes. The 19-year-old Dubai-born Tanisha then produced a gallant fight with her women's doubles partner Shruti Mishra but couldn't go past Hong Kong's Ng Tsz Yau & Tsang Hiu Yan.

Mané named African footballer of the year

AP ■ DAKAR

Sadio Mané was named African Player of the Year on Thursday after a season in which he kicked the winning penalty for Senegal as they claimed their first Africa Cup of Nations title and repeated the feat when they secured World Cup qualification.

Mané finished ahead of Egyptian forward Mohamed Salah, his former Liverpool teammate, and fellow Senegalese Edouard Mendy in



the voting for the award given by the Confederation of African Football.

It was the second time the 30-year-old Mané, who last month joined German champions Bayern Munich, has won the award after receiving it in 2019.

The Confederation of African Football did not give the award in 2020 and 2021. It now recognises a player's accomplishments over a season rather than during a calendar year.

Germany reach women's Euro 2022 semis

AP ■ LONDON

Germany rema88in on course for a ninth women's European Championship title but were made to work hard for a 2-0 win over Austria to reach the semi-finals of Euro 2022 on Thursday.

Austria hit the woodwork three times in London, but goals from Lina Magull and Alexandra Popp sent the Germans through to meet France or the Netherlands in the semi-finals.

Germany had cruised through what appeared to be the toughest group with con-



vincing victories over Denmark, Spain and Finland to reach the last eight in style.

But they were made to sweat until Popp's bizarre 90th

minute goal, when she charged down Manuela Zinsberger's clearance, gave Martina Voss-Tecklenburg's side breathing space.

WOULDN'T TERM AUSTRALIA A BIG TEAM, SAYS MANDHANA

PTI ■ BENGALURU

Nemesis Australia await India in their Commonwealth Games opener but senior batter Smriti Mandhana is in no mood to lose sleep over that and make their rivals "feel good about it".

Days before women's cricket makes its debut at the multi-sport event, Mandhana refused to call the five-time T20 world champions a big team.

The Harmanpreet Kaur-led side will open its campaign against Australia on July 29, and Mandhana said they have their plans in place for each opposition.

"We have played them (Australia) in the openers in quite a lot of tournaments.

"In a T20 tournament, any team can beat any team. I wouldn't term Australia as a big team and make them feel good about that. Definitely in our heads, Australia, Pakistan and Barbados matches are important. We will go as they come and will look to win all of them," Mandhana said.

For the record, India lost to Australia in their last T20 World Cup game.

India, though, will enter the Birmingham CWG after winning the T20I and ODI series in Sri Lanka recently, and Smriti said,



"Our preparations have been really good and I hope it will lead us to the medal."

'AIMING FOR GOLD'

Javelin thrower Neeraj Chopra's Gold medal winning feat at the Tokyo Olympics last year gave her

goosebumps, and Mandhana and her teammates will look to take inspiration from that when they compete in their first multi-sport event.

As the sport marks its return to the Commonwealth Games for the first time since Kuala Lumpur 1998

in the form of women's T20 cricket, the star India opener said they would strive to win no less than a Gold medal.

"We all have watched the Olympics and the CWG, when the Indian flag goes high and we hear the National Anthem, we know the

kind of feeling it evokes," the left-hander said during a virtual media interaction on the eve of the team's departure for UK.

"Definitely we are aiming for the Gold. I don't think we will just look for a podium finish because when the flag goes higher, and the National Anthem is played, that's the best feeling you have.

"I literally got goosebumps when Neeraj got the Gold at the Tokyo Olympics. We have an opportunity to be there, try and do that -- of course not for the Olympics but for CWG. So, we all are really excited."

On taking part in the CWG, she further said: "It's something very new for me and also the whole team, we never experienced a multi-sport event.

"Definitely looking forward to it and catching up with a few athletes at the Games Village and interacting about their training regimen. It would be a good experience for us."

Eight teams will vie for the top honours across 16 matches at Edgbaston and India are grouped with Australia, Pakistan and Barbados.

Group B will feature England, New Zealand, South Africa and Sri Lanka. The two teams will make the semi-finals and all the medal rounds will be decided on August 7.

"We are looking to win every match. Not one match and then think of what will happen. We have our plans ready for the three teams. We will try to win all the three matches," the 26-year-old said.

'LOT OF MATCH-WINNERS'

The best thing to have happened to the Indian women's team in the recent past is the development of a lot of match winners.

"Luckily we have developed a lot of match-winners in T20 cricket. So even if 2-3 batters or bowlers click on that day, it would be our day.

"That's one good thing that has happened over the years. We now have a lot of match winners in our team."

She further said that the team boasts of multiple wicketkeeper-batters with Yastika Bhatia as the first-choice stumper and Taniya Bhatiya as back-up.

"We have 2-3 people who can keep and bat, that's something we really wanted. I think we are heading towards a good direction as far as comp for the spots in the team is concerned," she signed off.

TWIN BLOW FOR SA

Two players from South Africa's tour of England are returning home and are in doubt for the Birmingham Commonwealth Games.

After missing the first T20I, Marizanne Kapp and Tumi Sekhukhune will miss the remainder of the series and are in doubt for the Games, which begin on July 28, the ICC said in a press release.

Sekhukhune re-injured her groin earlier on tour and will recuperate at home, while Kapp returns to Gqeberha to attend a family matter.

While a Cricket South Africa statement did not disclose the matter, Kapp's wife and Proteas teammate Dane van Niekerk confirmed via social media that their brother-in-law had been involved in an accident that had left him in intensive care.

Batter Tazmin Brits was called to the squad for the rest of the T20I series, though a final Commonwealth Games squad is yet to be determined, and must go through the South African Sports Confederation and Olympic Committee as per Games requirements.

With Kapp and Sekhukhune unlikely to return, it leaves South Africa at risk of missing out on a medal at the Games, having already lost Lizelle Lee (retired from international cricket) and van Niekerk, who is still nursing an ankle injury sidelined her before the ICC Women's Cricket World Cup earlier in the year.



ODI cricket is dying a slow death: Khawaja

PTI ■ BRISBANE

Australian Test opener Usman Khawaja believes ODI cricket is witnessing a slow death because of the proliferation of T20 leagues around the world and a hectic international calendar.

Khawaja is the latest cricketer to join the debate over the existence of 50-over cricket after England superstar Ben Stokes on Monday snuffed the cricketing world by announcing his sudden retirement from ODI cricket at the age of 31.

"I think personally one-day cricket is dying a slow death," Khawaja, who has represented Australia in 40 ODIs since making his debut in the format in 2013, told reporters in Brisbane on Friday.

"There's still the World Cup, which I think is really fun and it's enjoyable to watch, but other than that, even myself personally, I'm probably not into one-day cricket as much either."

Khawaja argued that 50-over format has lost its relevance, of late, as the T20 World Cup in knocking on the doors.

"Right now it feels like it's not really that important because of the T20 World Cup," Khawaja said.

"Something has to give, because you can't have all three formats all together playing all the games; you're going to have to decide and choose."

However, the 35-year-old was of the opinion that despite a choc-a-bloc international calendar, Test cricket will continue to remain the pinnacle of the sport.

"You've got Test cricket, which is the pinnacle, you've got T20 cricket which obviously has leagues around the world, great entertainment, everyone loves it, and then there's one-day cricket, and I feel like that's probably the third ranked out of all of them," he said.

Khawaja feels while it is not impossible for any cricketer to be a three-format player, it is gradually becoming quite exhausting for all and sundry.

McCullum backs Ben Stokes' decision to retire from ODIs

PTI ■ LONDON

England's Test coach Brendon McCullum views Ben Stokes' abrupt decision to retire from ODIs as an "absolute positive" but is not sure if this would become a trend for other players, given cricket's taxing schedule.

The 2019 World Cup final hero Ben Stokes on Monday made a surprise announcement to retire from the 50-over format, saying playing three formats has become "unsustainable" for him.

"Yeah of course I am," McCullum told SENZ Breakfast when asked if he was happy with Stokes' decision.

He was asked if Stokes' move could become a trend for other players around the world. "There are not too many all-format players," the former New Zealand captain said. "He's probably in a luxurious position that he's able to do that, but also with the demands of the schedules and with his heightened schedule as Test captain, it would've become too much. He also has a young family and there's a lot going on."



"I don't know if it's symbolic of where the game itself is at around the globe, but I see it as an absolute positive to be honest."

"I'm looking forward to being able to spend even more time with 'Stokesy' trying to get this thing cracking."

It came as a shock to many given his age -- he is only 31 -- but McCullum looked at Stokes one-day retirement differently.

"Obviously we would've loved to see Ben Stokes playing in three forms of the game, he's an out and out superstar and we've seen what he's been able to achieve, but sometimes things have to give way and I look at it as a positive that he's going to have the time to really immerse himself in the Test side."

Stokes' ODI career will forever be remembered for his Player-of-the-Match performance in the World Cup final against New Zealand at the Lord's three years ago.

McCullum said, "Stokes is the skipper of our Test side and the job that I've seen him do with this team in a very short period of time really excites me about what he can do with this side, particularly now that he'll have more available time rather than jumping from series to series to series."

DC's Chetan Sakariya, CSK's Mukesh Choudhary set for T20 Max series debut

PTI ■ BRISBANE

Two Indian fast bowlers — Chetan Sakariya and Mukesh Choudhary — will ply their trade in the inaugural edition of the T20 Max series starting here next month.

Both Sakariya and Choudhary represented Indian Premier League sides Delhi Capitals and Chennai Super Kings respectively in the past and will spend time in Brisbane as part of an exchange programme

between MRF Pace Foundation and Cricket Australia.

"Player and coaching exchanges between the MRF Pace Foundation and Cricket Australia have been in place for almost 20 years, with the two Indian players marking the resumption of the relationship that was paused due to COVID," Cricket Australia said in a statement.

While Sakariya had made his ODI and T20I debuts last year against Sri Lanka, Choudhary had a break-



through season in this year's IPL under Mahendra Singh Dhoni at CSK, picking up 16 wickets in 13 games.

In the competition in Australia, Sakariya will play for the Sunshine Coast, while the 26-year-old Choudhary will feature for Wynnum-Manly.

Apart from taking part in the competition, the Indian duo will train at the Bupa National Cricket Centre and also join the Queensland Bulls pre-season preparations.

Afridi out of 2nd SL Test

AP ■ GALLE

Pakistan's first-Test star fast bowler Shaheen Afridi has a bruised knee and won't play in the second Test against Sri Lanka starting Sunday.

The 22-year-old Afridi was the pick of the seamers from either side in the first Test, finishing with four wickets in the first innings that Pakistan won by four wickets in Galle.

Pakistan team officials confirmed on Friday that he would not play in the second Test. Afridi finished on 99 Test wickets at the end of Sri Lanka's first innings and hopes of him completing the milestone of 100 wickets in the second Test ended with the injury.

Afridi, fielding at mid-wicket, dived in an attempt to cut off a Dinesh Chandimal boundary on day three and was seen hobbling off the field. He was



taken for scans and although there was no fracture, swelling and pain ruled him out.

Pakistan has uncapped quick Harris Rauf or seam bowling all-rounder Faheem Ashraf as replacements.

Sri Lanka, meanwhile, brought in uncapped off-spinner Lakshitha Manasinghe after Maheesh Theekshana was ruled out of the match. Theekshana sustained a cut on his right

index finger during the first Test.

The hosts also recalled Pathum Nissanka, who had tested positive for COVID-19 during the Australia series.

Although Sri Lanka has not called up a replacement wicketkeeper, a team spokesman said that Dinesh Chandimal is set to take over wicketkeeping duties from Niroshan Dickwella.

'Pak's win against SL at par with 1987 B'lore Test victory'

PTI ■ KARACHI

PCB chairman Ramiz Raja has lauded the national team for its recent win against Sri Lanka in the Galle Test, saying the victory is at par with Pakistan's historic triumph over India in the 1987 Bangalore Test.

Pakistan chased down a stiff 342-run target on the final day to register a four-wicket win over Sri Lanka in the opening Test in Galle to go 1-0 up in the two-match series.

"From a difficulty point of view I would say this is one of Pakistan's best Test wins in a run-chase probably the best. In terms of difficult conditions I would say the Galle win is at par with the victory we achieved in Bangalore against India on a turning pitch," Ramiz told a

Pakistani news channel.

The former Test captain was part of the team led by Imran Khan that beat India in a low-scoring Test at Bangalore in 1987.

Ramiz feels giving a free hand to Babar helped him to build a strong team.

"The team is his property and I am happy to say that not only he as captain but other players also took full ownership of the team and performances," he said.

"I have never tried to interfere in team matters although as chairman I can and we have given Babar a free hand and he has made a good team."

"We should internally also give respect to this team they don't get the same respect internally that they get internationally,"

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

ICC Elite Panel member Nitin Menon is among 10 officials grouped in the newly introduced A+ category of BCCI umpires.

The others in the A+ category include four international umpires — Anil Chaudhary, Madangopal Jayaraman, Virender Kumar Sharma and K N Ananthapadmabhanan.

Rohan Pandit, Nikhil Patwardhan, Sadashiv Iyer, Ulhas Gandhe and Navdeep Singh Sidhu are also part of the A+ category.

Twenty umpires including C Shamshuddin form the A group, 60 are in Group B, 46 in Group C and 11 in Group D which falls in the 60-65 age bracket. The complete list was tabled at the Apex Council meeting on Thursday following the work done by former international umpires K Hariharan, Sudhir Asnani and Amiesh Saheba, and members of BCCI umpires' sub-committee.

Umpires in A+ and A cate-

BCCI introduces A+ category for umpires



gory are paid ₹40,000 a day for a first-class game while ₹30,000 a day are paid in the B and C category.

Though the list was presented as 'gradation of umpires', a BCCI official clarified that the board has created groups.

"It is not grading. There are groups with A+ being the new category. A+ and A, one can say form the cream of Indian umpires. Umpires in B and C category are also good."

"When it comes to assigning duties across domestic events starting at the top with Ranji Trophy, preference will be given group wise. The grouping has been done after reviewing the performances of the 2021-2022 season," said the official.

The board has not added to its umpires' list since 2018. With the threat of COVID-19 reducing, the BCCI has decided to conduct a full fledged domestic season after two years. The board plans to organise as many as 1832 games across age groups in men and women's cricket, a massive exercise.