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The poor can dare to dream now: Murmu

My achievement is the success of all the poor in the country, says India's 1st tribal Prez in her swearing-in address

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■
NEW DELHI

Breaking several glass ceilings, Droupadi Murmu on Monday took oath as the 15th President of India at the Central Hall of Parliament. Chief Justice of India NV Ramana administered the oath of office to Murmu in Hindi.

The first tribal and the youngest, 64, to hold the highest Constitutional post, Murmu stepped into the historic Rashtrapati Bhawan on a balmy day followed by a spectacular ceremony which included President's guards escorting her motorcade to and from the Raisina hills.

"This is not only my achievement. It is the achievement of all the poor in the country. The poor can dare to dream now," said Murmu in her first address to a packed Central Hall which reverberated with thumping of desks by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, his Cabinet colleagues, Congress leader Sonia Gandhi, and the members of the two Houses of Parliament.

The first woman President,



President Droupadi Murmu and outgoing President Ram Nath Kovind greet people after the presentation of the guard of honour by Tri-services personnel at the forecourt of the Rashtrapati Bhavan in New Delhi on Monday

Pratibha Patil, and former BJP president Murli Manohar Joshi too attended the swearing-in ceremony. "Your faith in me has given me strength. I have got this responsibility at such an important time as it is India's 75th year of

Independence. I am also the first President to be born after India got its Independence," said President Murmu. "With their blessings and the support of the mothers and daughters of the country I am standing here in front of you now," she

further said flanked by outgoing President Ram Nath Kovind, Vice-president M Venkaiah Naidu, Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla and Chief Justice Ramana.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi took to Twitter to call

Murmu's oath-taking a "watershed moment" in India's history.

Murmu took oath of office in the name of god to "preserve, protect and defend the Constitution and the law."

Continued on Page 2

RS seat, Guv post for ₹100 cr! Racket busted

4 held for luring people into trap, 5th assaults CBI team and flees

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■
NEW DELHI

The CBI on Monday said it has busted a multi-State job racket that falsely promised governorship and Rajya Sabha seats for ₹100 crore and even appointment as Chairman in different Government-run organisations under Central Government Ministries and departments against huge payment.

Prime accused Kamalakar Prem Kumar Bandgar, resident of Latur (Maharashtra), impersonated as a CBI officer posted at the agency's headquarters here to impress upon the clients.

The agency has arrested Bandgar along with three other accused — Mahendra Pal Arora (resident of Delhi) Abhishek Boora (resident of Ghaziabad) and Ravindra Vitthal Naik (permanent resident of Mumbai/Belgaum). Fifth accused Mohammed Aijaz Khan, a resident of Delhi, is yet to be arrested.

The agency had conducted searches at seven locations in Delhi, Uttar Pradesh, Maharashtra and Karnataka recently in connection with the case, officials said.

"Searches were conducted at seven locations, including at Delhi, Uttar Pradesh, Maharashtra and Karnataka, which led to the recovery of incriminating material, including WhatsApp conversations, and other evidence," the agency said in a statement.



The fifth accused, Mohammed Aijaz Khan, escaped during the search operation after allegedly assaulting CBI officers, they said, adding that a separate FIR was filed against him at the local police station in connection with the incident involving assault on public servants.

The agency, in its FIR, has named all five accused in connection with the case.

A special CBI court, however, has granted bail to all the four persons arrested by the agency.

It is alleged that Bandgar, who impersonated a senior CBI officer and flaunted his "connections" with highly placed officials, had asked Arora, Boora, Naik and Khan to bring any sort of work that he could fix in lieu of payment of huge illegal gratification.

They conspired with "the sole ulterior motive of cheating private persons by falsely assuring them of arrangement of seats in the Rajya Sabha, appointment as Governor, appointment as chairman of different Government-run organisations under Central

Government Ministries and departments against huge pecuniary consideration," the FIR alleged.

The agency came to know through its sources that Boora discussed with Bandgar how the latter's purported connections with high-ranking officials playing "pivotal roles" in appointments could be exploited to get the work done.

It surfaced that the accused were attempting to cheat people by falsely assuring them of candidature for the Rajya Sabha against a huge consideration to the tune of ₹100 crore, the FIR stated.

The CBI received information that they would drop names of senior bureaucrats and political functionaries to impress clients approaching them for some work either directly or through a middleman like Abhishek Boora, it stated.

It also emerged that Bandgar threatened police officials of various police stations to grant favours to people known to him for influencing the investigation of ongoing cases, the FIR alleged.

CAPSULE

ZIMBABWE DEBUTS GOLD COINS AS LEGAL TENDER

Harare: Zimbabwe has launched gold coins to be sold to the public in a bid to tame runaway inflation that has further eroded the country's unstable currency. The unprecedented move was announced on Monday **P9**

8 DIE AS BUSES COLLIDE ON PURVANCHAL E-WAY

Barabanki: Eight people were killed and 16 injured when a Delhi-bound bus rammied into a parked bus on Purvanchal Expressway here on Monday, police said.

WHATSAPP PROBE MUST GO ON, CCI URGES HC

New Delhi: The Competition Commission of India (CCI) Monday told the Delhi High Court that WhatsApp's updated privacy policy of 2021 has not been withdrawn and its probe concerning the policy should be allowed to proceed. **P10**

4 protesting Cong MPs suspended for session, party cries 'blot on democracy'

Action follows Speaker's warning to members against displaying placards

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■
NEW DELHI

Four Congress MPs were on Monday suspended from the rest of the Monsoon session for disrupting the proceedings of the House and not allowing it to function during the last week.

The Congress hit back at the Speaker and termed his action as "a blot on democracy." The party accused the Government of trying to "intimidate" it for raising people's issues and said it would

not be cowed down.

The suspended MPs are: Manickam Tagore, TN Prathapan, Jothimani and Ramya Haridas.

Before naming the four MPs, Speaker Om Birla told the protesting members — from the Congress, the TMC and the DMK — that those who continue to shout slogans and display placards will have to do it outside the House after 3 pm. When the disruption continued, Birla named the four Congress MPs.

After the Chair named the Congress MPs for disrupting the House, Parliamentary Affair Minister Pralhad Joshi then moved a resolution to suspend them for the rest of the session. Joshi said that these MPs have shown "utter disregard" for the authority of the

Chair and a "serious note of their misconduct" have been taken by the House.

Flanked by the suspended MPs outside the House, Congress' deputy leader in the Lok Sabha Gaurav Gogoi said, "The Government is trying to intimidate us by suspending our MPs. What was their fault? They were trying to raise the issues which matter to people."

Asserting that the Congress will not be cowed down like this, he said, "The MPs were holding placards raising the issues of rising prices of gas cylinder, imposition of the GST on items such as flour and buttermilk. We moved an adjournment motion demanding a discussion on these issues, but no discussion was held."

Continued on Page 2

I would've chopped maligners' tongues had I not been in politics, says Mamata

SAUGAR SENGUPTA ■ KOLKATA

Two days after the Enforcement Directorate (ED) arrested senior Bengal Minister Partha Chatterjee in connection with the school-level recruitment scam, West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee finally broke her silence on Monday warning her opponents that if they throw ink at her she has large quantities of tar in store for them.

In a blistering attack on those allegedly trying to tarnish her image, she said, "Had I not been in politics I would have chopped off their tongues".

In what the critics called a bid to turn a "criminal and judicial" issue into a political one, Mamata said the Opposition was trying to malign her image and that of her party the Trinamool Congress though she would never allow any corrupt practices during her regime.

Chatterjee — considered number two in the Mamata Cabinet — and his

close aide Arpita Mukherjee were arrested after ₹22.90 crore and a large number of documents pertaining to scores of properties were recovered from the residences of Mukherjee, a part time actress.

Meanwhile, a day after the Minister was admitted in hospital, AIIMS Bhubaneswar said, "Chatterjee is fit and does not need immediate hospitalisation."

In an apparent bid to distance herself from the accused Minister, Mamata said, "If anyone is proven guilty then let him get life imprisonment."

Mentioning that she had full faith in the judiciary "provided it is not influenced by a particular political party as has been happening in many cases", Mamata said, "There has to be a time frame within which the truth and the court's verdict must be out. If anyone is proven guilty, then he or she must be punished. The party, too, will take action. But, I condemn the malicious campaign against me."

Continued on Page 2

Chatterjee called Mamata 4 times during ED grilling

SAUGAR SENGUPTA ■ KOLKATA

The Trinamool Congress is furious with the Enforcement Directorate (ED) for mentioning Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee's name in the arrest memo of her senior Cabinet colleague Partha Chatterjee, who was alleged to have called the CM four times during his interrogation.

The ED arrest memo referred to four calls made by Chatterjee between 2 am and 9 am on Sunday during his interrogation. According to sources, the ED officials asked him whether he wanted to contact any friend or relative — as per the CrPC — at which he tried to call up Mamata in the dead of night, but his calls went unanswered.

Detailed report on P5

India speeds up airfield construction along LAC

3,000 km roads along LAC-LOC already built

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■
NEW DELHI

As stand-offs persist at the Line of Actual Control (LAC) in Ladakh for the last two years, India has ramped up the pace of construction of airfields and helipads along the LAC stretching from Ladakh in the west to Arunachal Pradesh in the east.

In addition, India has also stepped up the pace of building infrastructure, including all weather roads along the border and the Line of Control (LOC) with Pakistan

Approximately 3,000 km



of roads have been constructed in border areas in the last five years and the expenditure incurred is over ₹20,700 crore.

The Border Roads Organisation (BRO) has constructed 2,088.57 km of roads in the last five years along the China front. This effort incurred an expenditure of ₹15,477 crore, Minister of State

for Defence Ajay Bhatt informed the Rajya Sabha on Monday.

He also said the BRO built 1,336.09 km of roads along the Pakistan front at a cost of ₹4,242.38 crore. Similarly, 151.55 km of road was built along the India-Myanmar border at a cost of ₹882.52 crore.

Continued on Page 2

Opp keeps pol interests above India: Modi at SP leader's death anniv

New Delhi: The Opposition keeps their political interests above that of the country, Prime Minister Narendra Modi said on Monday.

"Many times, the Opposition parties put some obstacles in the Government's work as they could not implement the decisions taken by them when they were in power," PM Modi said, addressing virtually a programme on the 10th death anniversary of former Samajwadi Party Rajya Sabha member Harmohan Singh Yadav.

"Now, if they (decisions) are implemented, they oppose it. People of the country don't like it," the Prime Minister added.

Agencies

Nothing can survive even for second in this sea floor lake

New Delhi: One of the most bizarre discoveries made by a team of scientists from the University of Miami is of a brine pool that can immediately kill anything that swims into it.

The team made their discovery using a remotely operated underwater vehicle at a depth of 1,770m, discovering the brine pool during the last five minutes of a 10-hour dive at the bottom of the Red Sea.

A brine pool is a depression in the sea floor which is filled with highly concentrated saltwater which is roughly three to eight times saltier than the surrounding ocean.

Brine pools are sometimes called sea floor "lakes" because the dense brine does not easily mix with overlying seawater creating a distinct interface between water masses.

Professor Sam Purkis, who



was part of the team, explained that the brine pool has no oxygen which means that any fish that swims inside is instantly stunned or killed due to the lethal saline levels which are there in place of oxygen. They also contain poisonous chemicals such as hydrogen sulphide.

Brine pools also have a preservative effect as researchers once found a crab inside a brine pool that had been dead for eight years but

still had its soft tissue intact.

While unlucky for the fish that swim inside, brine pools are great for predators who have a ready meal waiting for them says Purkis.

Brine pools are home to a large number of microbes and are surprisingly rich in biodiversity he explains. The fact that they can survive in harsh environments can help scientists understand the limits of life on Earth and in the solar

system.

Purkis also emphasises that these discoveries are essential as they will ultimately help determine if alien planets can host any living beings.

"At this great depth, there is ordinarily not much life on the seabed. However, the brine pools are a rich oasis of life. Thick carpets of microbes support a diverse suite of animals. Our discovery of a rich community of microbes that survive in extreme environments can help trace the limits of life on Earth and can be applied to the search for life elsewhere in our solar system and beyond."

According to Purkis, "predators" hide near the fatal pool to "feed on the unlucky" species that accidentally swim into it. Fish, shrimp, and eels appear to exploit the brine to hunt.

Agencies

NCR-PULSE

PWD TO START MAINTENANCE OF MAYAPURI FLYOVER
New Delhi: Public Works Department (PWD) will soon start maintenance work on the Mayapuri flyover on the busy Ring Road in west Delhi as the department has floated tender for the repair work, officials said on Monday. According to officials of the Public Works Department, the work will include replacement of the expansion joints and bearings of the flyover and repairing of “spalled and honeycomb concrete.”

GOVT FELICITATES HOSPITALS WITH KAYAKALP AWARDS
New Delhi: Delhi Government on Monday felicitated over 24 hospitals and 82 PHCs with “Kayakalp State Awards” for adhering to the standard protocols cleanliness and quality health services to patients, in the national Capital. While speaking during the award ceremony, Deputy Chief Minister Manish Sisodia, who also holds the portfolio of health, said that the clean hospital environment and quality services, fastens the recovery of the patients and this is the priority of Delhi government hospitals.

NDMC VICE CHAIRMAN INAUGURATES KALANJALI
New Delhi: Ahead of 75 years of India's Independence, The New Delhi Municipal Council (NDMC) Vice-Chairman, Satish Upadhyay on Monday inaugurated Kalanjali-2022, a classical and cultural programme at Awam-e-Ghalib Auditorium. While addressing the gathering Upadhyay said that the programme is dedicated to display the Indian Culture and Diversity by portrayal of Indian Classical Dance Forms and Music.

27 JULY LAST DATE TO APPLY FOR DIPLOMA, BA AT DSEU
New Delhi: The last date to apply for diploma programs and BA in digital media and design at Delhi Skill and Entrepreneurship University is July 27, the varsity said on Monday. Meanwhile, the last date to apply for undergraduate programs is August 15.

DU SETS UP FIRM TO ENCOURAGE START-UPS
New Delhi: The Delhi University has set up a not-for-profit company to promote innovation and encourage new startups. Vice Chancellor Yogesh Singh has said. Meanwhile, another Section 8 firm to generate funds for the company is in the final stage, he said. Section 8 companies are generally those that are set up for charitable objectives and prohibit payment of any dividend to its members, as per the Companies Act, 2013.

ATISHI INSPECTS 4 GOVT SCHOOLS
New Delhi: Education Committee Chairperson Atishi on Monday inspected four Delhi government schools to monitor the progress of academic activities under Mission Buniyaad program. During her visit, AAP legislator Atishi said that teachers should prioritise improving the foundational skills of our students. If their foundation is strong, the quality of our education will automatically improve. This will lay down a strong foundation for their future”.

CONSISTENT IMPROVEMENT IN DELHI'S AIR QUALITY: YADAV
New Delhi: There has been a “consistent improvement” in Delhi's air quality and the annual PM2.5 and PM10 concentrations in the capital have reduced by 22 and 27 per cent, respectively, between 2016 and 2021, Union Environment Minister Bhupender Yadav said on Monday. The number of ‘good’, ‘satisfactory’ and ‘moderate’ days in Delhi has increased to 197 in 2021 as against 108 in 2016. The number of ‘poor’, ‘very poor’ and ‘severe’ days have decreased to 168 in 2021 as against 246 in 2016, the minister told Lok Sabha.

Rahul slams Centre for increase in GST rate on scientific equipment

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Former Congress chief Rahul Gandhi on Monday flayed the Government over the increase in GST rate on scientific equipment, saying "don't let science suffer because of Gabbar Singh Tax". In a Facebook post, he said scientific advancement is the cornerstone for the development of any nation.

The pattern of reduction in the allocation of funds for scientific research by the BJP government is a "worrisome" sign for the research ecosystem in India, he said. "Now,

by increasing the GST rates from 5% to 18% on scientific instruments, the government is displaying its thoughtless approach and further reducing funds and resources available for labs involved in scientific work across the country," he said.

Remember, this government has already cut 3.9% of Union Ministry of Science and Technology's budget this year, Gandhi said. "Don't let science suffer because of your 'Gabbar Singh Tax', Prime Minister. Roll back the GST on scientific equipment," he demanded.

PUBLIC NOTICE

It is to inform to the public at large that **Mr. Mukesh Gupta S/o. Mr. Kishan Gupta** who is purchasing the Residential Plot Land area measuring 90 Sq. yards, out of Khasra No. 54min., situated in Rama Krishna Enclave, in the area of Village Khoda Mekanpur, Ghaziabad, Tehsil & Distt. Ghaziabad, U.P., from Mr. Rohitash Kumar alias Rohitas Nagar & Mr. Rakesh Kumar Nagar who are the co-owner of the aforesaid property along with Mr. Srirani alias Ramesh Nagar (Sons) & Mrs. Kshana Devi (Wife) vide Virasat Inkal for the fiscal year 1412-1417 upon death of Mr. Dhani Ram, who was owner of land measuring 3.676 Hectare, carved out of Khasra No.46, 54min., 66min., & 321min., from revenue records and same to be created mortgage over the said property, may inform in writing, at the address mentioned below, about his objections, within 7 days from today, failing which it shall be presumed that the said property is free from all type of Encumbrances, liens etc.

Lucem Legal LLP
269, Rama House, Ground Floor, Masjid Moh, Opp. Uday Park, South Ext.-II, New Delhi-110049
Contact # 011-40045316

SALE NOTICE

The under mentioned Assets will be sold through auction on **“AS IS WHERE IS BASIS”** and **“AS IS WHAT IS BASIS”** for recovery of dues as per court orders, in the following cases:-

Case Details	Asset Details
ICICI Bank Limited vs Naushad & Anr. Case No-CS (COMM) 2894/2019	Vehicle No-UP14HT8453, Make and Model-TATA 1512, Manu Yr-2019

Auction Date and time: 02.08.2022; from 11:00 am to 02:00 pm
Venue: SAMIL yard, Survey No. 506 and 508,Village Ataria, Subdivision Manawa, Tehsil Sidhauli, Dist Sitapur, Uttarpradesh-261303
Contact Person-Avinash Kumar (8953652366)/ Jitendra Kumar (7304914763)

Terms of Sale

The particulars of the said asset specified herein above have been stated to the best of the information and knowledge of the undersigned, who shall however not be responsible for any error, misstatement or omission in the said particulars. The interested participant/s are therefore requested, to satisfy himself / themselves/ itself with regard to the said asset and other relevant details pertaining to it before submitting the bids. All bidders are required to come at site along with original KYC proofs to participate in the auction.

Successfully approved bidder shall have to deposit sale amount (Excluding EMD amount) within 5 days from the auction date by the way of pay order/demand draft/RTGS/NEFT.

The intending bidders may visit at **ICICI Bank Ltd, Shal Towers, Plot No. 23, New Rohtak Road Karol BaghDelhi- 110005** for details of the said hypothecated vehicle.

Gurugram Police launches E-Beat system to prevent crime

PNS ■ GURUGRAM

Haryana Chief Minister Manohar Lal Khattar on Monday launched the 'Smart E-Beat' system at the office of the Commissioner of Police, Gurugram and flagged off 119 motorcycle riders of the police connected with this system.

With this initiative, the police claimed to improve patrolling, detecting crime, monitoring the police personnel on the beat, improving police-public relations and finding out their real-time location.

According to the police, this is a GIS-based system, with the introduction of this system police riders monitoring will be done more effectively.

Under this system, it would cover all the 33 police station areas in Gurugram and 119 motorcycle riders will be deployed each motorcycle rider will have two policemen and 714 policemen will perform duty in three shifts a day.

The police said, they have identified 2056 sensitive locations or points in the city, which mainly include ATMs, petrol pumps, residences of senior citizens, schools, colleges, religious places, crime-affected areas etc which will be covered by these riders.

These beat points would be visited twice every 24 hours by the police riders debuted on the beat.

This system will be integrated with Emergency Response Sport System in future so that apart from ERV, this rider can also reach for help on calls received on phone number-112.

Gurugram Police Commissioner Kala Ramachandran said that earlier it was implemented as a pilot project in East Gurugram and the Manesar area.

"This month this e-beat system has been expanded and it has been implemented in South Gurugram and West Gurugram also. Under this

new system, every rider has to download the e-beat app on his mobile phone. Those riders mark their attendance by punching on this app by going to the area where their duty has been imposed. The responsibility of identifying and checking sensitive places is given to these riders," she said.

The Commissioner also informed that the data of anti-social elements and stolen vehicles has also been mentioned in this app so that these riders will help find the stolen vehicles.

"This system will work as a secure, digital, smart and real-time patrolling solution. This is a next-generation patrolling application app on which the



monitoring dashboard will display how many points or places the rider has checked, how many they have not visited, how many places the rider has reached," she added.

Partha is fit, says AIIMS Bhuh; SSKM hospital's reputation hit

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ KOLKATA

A day after the Bengal Government-run SSKM Hospital decided to hospitalise minister Partha Chatterjee, arrested in connection with an alleged school level recruitment scam the doctors of All-India Institute of Medical Sciences, Bhubaneswar, said he was fully fit save some chronic heart and kidney related ailments.

"We have conducted a thorough screening (of Chatterjee). He has some chronic diseases related heart, kidney and thyroid he but does not need immediate hospitalisation," AIIMS executive director Ashutosh Biswas said at Bhubaneswar where the Minister was flown in on Monday morning following the orders of Calcutta High Court after the Enforcement Directorate told the Court that he was using his influence to



get medical shield in order to evade interrogation.

The ED on Saturday arrested Chatterjee in connection with a money laundering case linked to the school level recruitment scam.

The AIIMS decision is seen as a blot on the “reputation and integrity” of SSKM erstwhile known as PG Hospital one of the oldest and best health facilities in Asia, senior doctors like Kunal Sarkar said.

UP Govt trying to save some big fish: Maya on transfer row

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

Even as the controversy around the recent transfers in the Health department and PWD in Uttar Pradesh refuses to die down, Bahujan Samaj Party (BSP) chief Mayawati launched a veiled attack on the Yogi Adityanath-led state government claiming that attempts were being made to save “some big fish involved in the game.”

She was addressing a meeting of the BSP office-bearers from Gujarat, Maharashtra, Karnataka, Tamil Nadu and Kerala.

In a press note issued by the BSP chief on her Twitter handle on Monday, she alleged that people in the state were being harassed due to corruption at every level.

“People are now witnessing how the game of corruption is being played in transfers and postings, which has become an industry. The state government has been exposed by



some of the ministers but efforts are on to save some “big fish of this game,” she alleged.

Mayawati further targeted the government, claiming that communal and religious issues were raised regularly to disturb communal harmony and that a distorted picture of development was being presented through costly government advertisements.

“The BJP government in the state is a victim of internal strife and casteist disturbances. For how long will development continue to be affected by casteism, communalism, cor-

ruption and tussle among leaders? Such is the condition of their development claim that the new Bundelkhand Expressway collapsed in just four days,” she said.

The former UP CM said that the way the GST tax had been imposed on essential items of daily use was a glaring proof of the anti-poor policy of the government.

“Barring a handful of wealthy people, the income of most of the people of the country has declined. People are bearing the brunt of inflation. The price of INR is falling at a record level in the international market and the Central government should take some steps,” Mayawati said.

The transfer of doctors in Uttar Pradesh sparked a row after which Deputy Chief Minister Brajesh Pathak had written a letter to the additional chief secretary regarding the implementation of the transfer policy in the department.

4 protesting Cong MPs suspended for session, party cries...

From Page 1

The TMC MPs, who were part of the protesting opposition parties till 2 pm, did not join the protests after the House assembled at 3 pm. They were seen sitting in their seats. As the other Opposition members continued to protest, a visibly peeved Birla told them that the Government was ready to discuss issues raised by them and stressed that people want the House to function.

Birla then adjourned the House till 3 pm.

However, as the House proceedings resumed, waving of placards and sloganeering continued, drowning the voices of members participating in the Zero Hour. Rajendra Agarwal, who was chairing the proceedings, implored the Opposition

members to take note of the warning given by the Speaker.

He said that the members who had been suspended had shown “stubborn behaviour”, “deliberately and continuously disrupted proceedings” and ignored House rules and directions of the Speaker.

The House then passed the resolution by a voice vote and Agarwal announced their suspension. He then asked the members named in the resolution to immediately leave the House. The proceedings were subsequently adjourned for the day.

“Today, when a tribal woman has taken oath as President, a Dalit woman has been suspended from Lok Sabha,” Gogoi said.

He said that the BJP only

wants Parliament to cheer its leaders and its victory. “We were trying to show placards in the House and place them in the camera angles. They say placards are not allowed in Parliament... what is allowed is only cheering for Modi ji,” he said.Asked about the suspension at a press conference at the AICC headquarters here, party spokesperson Shaktisinh Gohil said there is a tradition in Parliament that suspension is done only in exceptional and rarest of the rare circumstances when the member is unruly and there is no other option but suspension of that member.

“When Sukh Ram ji was our Minister, the BJP had not allowed Parliament to function for 17 days alleging corruption against him. Sukh Ram

ji had resigned and we had also allowed debate. There was no suspension,” Gohil said.

“It is a tradition of the Lok Sabha and the Rajya Sabha that the member comes to the well of the House, it gets adjourned, there is a dialogue, a middle path is found and work goes on. Suspension is not the way and in the past, suspension has not happened in this manner,” he said.

He said that when the BJP was in Opposition it had done the same thing repeatedly, and argued that stalling the House is a tactic of the Opposition which is in public interest and running of the House is the job of the party in power.

“Suspension instead of dialogue is a blot on democracy,” he said.

India speeds up...

From Page 1

The BRO also constructed a 19.25 km road along the India-Bangladesh border costing ₹165.45 crore. The total amounted to ₹20,767 crore for all these projects, the minister said in a written reply.

The construction of airfields and helipads along the LAC has added muscle to India's preparedness to deal with any threat from China. These airfields are able to handle fighter jet flying besides landing and takeoff of giant transport aircraft thereby ensuring uninterrupted logistical support to the troops deployed at the front at the LAC, sources said. India can now rush additional

troops, light and heavy weapons and food and clothing at a short notice to the troops there in case of any emergency, they added.

As regards roads, 73 roads were identified as strategic with most of them linking the mainland with the LAC. Some of the important already completed projects include the Darbuk-Shayok-Daulat Beg Oldie Road (DS-DBO) and Atal Tunnel under Rohtang Pass.

Construction is in full swing for the tunnel at the Zojila pass linking the entire country with Ladakh. At present, Ladakh is cut off from the rest of the country for four to five months in the winter due to snow.

The poor can dare to dream now...

From Page 1

Four members of her family, and three representatives from “Brahma Kumari”, an spiritual organisation, which is said to have given Murmu strength to tide over her personal tragedies, also attended the function.

Catapulted into the presidential spotlight, the unassuming Murmu is believed to be deeply spiritual and a keen practitioner of the meditation techniques of the Brahma Kumaris, a movement she embraced after she lost her husband, two sons, mother and brother in the just six years between 2009-2015. She is a complete vegetarian in her food habits.Her daughter Itishree works in a bank in Odisha.

Odisha Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik whose party BJD backed “the daughter of the soil” was present at the function.

“It is the power of India's democracy that a girl born in a poor tribal home could reach the most constitutional post,” she said in her address, marking her journey from Odisha's Mayurbhanj district, one of the most underdeveloped in India, to the Rashtrapati Bhavan.

The country's deprived, poor, Dalits and tribals can see their reflection in her, a matter of immense satisfaction, she said and recalled her growing up years in a small tribal village where even getting primary education was like a dream.

Murmu, who was born in a Santhal family, went on to become the first person in the village to enroll for college education.

In her speech where she spoke about serving humanity as the aim of mankind, the incumbent president touched on various issues including the Government's digital India and “vocal for local” initiatives and its handling of the Covid pandemic.She also paid tribute to India's

freedom fighters, and said the country will have to move quickly on the twin tracks of ‘sabka prayas’ (everyone's effort) and ‘sabka kartavya’ (everyone's duty) to fulfil their expectations.As the supreme commander of three armed forces of the country, the President extended wishes to the Indian army and all citizens of the country on the Kargil Vijay Diwas in advance.

“Tomorrow, 26th July, is also Kargil Vijay Divas. This day is a symbol of both the bravery and restraint of Indian armies. Today I extend my best wishes to the Army of the country and to all the citizens of the country on Kargil Vijay Diwas in advance”, she said amidst clapping and thumping of desks in

the Central Hall.

Outgoing president Kovind and Murmu arrived in a ceremonial procession from the Rashtrapati Bhavan to the Parliament building.

India's new president was given a 21-gun salute after which she signed the oath register amid thunderous applause and thumping of desks.

After the short ceremony, Murmu and Kovind were escorted out of the Central Hall amid the roll of drums and blowing of trumpets.There was a national salute by the President's Bodyguard at Gate No 5 of the Parliament, the new President and her predecessor left in a ceremonial procession back to the Rashtrapati Bhavan.The

caparisoned horses, and men in white lined the route from Parliament up Raisina Hill to the British era presidential palace as the presidential convoy made its way slowly.Outgoing President Kovind and his family, who move to a bungalow in Lutyens Delhi, were given a formal send-off by the Prime Minister and other dignitaries as well as the Rashtrapati Bhavan staff.

Kovind shifted to his new residence at 12, Janpath. Likewise Vice-President Naidu too will move to 1, Tyagraj Marg residence after his term ends on August 10.

Murmu took her first steps in politics in Rairangpur, Odisha, where she was elected as BJP councillor in the Rairangpur

Notified Area Council in 1997. She rose to being a Minister in Odisha's BJD-BJP coalition Government from 2000 to 2004. In 2015, she was appointed Governor of Jharkhand and stayed in the post till 2021.Murmu had contested the 2014 Assembly election from Rairangpur, but lost to the BJD candidate. After completing her tenure as Jharkhand Governor, Murmu devoted her time to meditation and social work in Rairangpur.She was born on June 20, 1958, in Uparbeda village of Mayurbhanj district in Odisha to Birnachi NarayanTudu. Both her father and grandfather were village heads under the Panchyati Raj system.

I would've chopped maligners' tongues had I not been in politics, says...

From Page 1

Stopping short of making a direct reference to Prime Minister Narendra Modi, the Chief Minister asked questions on the “PM Cares Fund” and fugitive scamsters Mehul Chowksi and Nirav Modi whose connection, she said “with some leaders is known to one and all”.

She said showing enough decency she did not raise such questions that would embar-

rass many people.

Mamata was speaking in a Government programme where she distributed Banga Bibhushan awards to successful people from various walks of life.

Offering a brief testimony to the honest lifestyle that she led, a tired-looking Chief Minister said, “I get a pension of Rs 1 lakh from Parliament and Rs 2 lakh as the Chief Minister but I do not accept

that money ... I take care of my expenses by writing books --- some of which are best sellers and provide huge royalty -- and lending music to songs ... I don't need to take questionable means to earn money.”

Warning her political rivals against dragging her name in the scam Mamata said, “Some people are publishing my pictures with the woman in bid to establish a

connection ... this is a bid to tarnish my image ... but I warn them all if you throw ink at me I have large quantities of tar in store for you ... these people who are maligning me should know that had I not been in politics I would have chopped of their tongues.”

She was referring to a video in which she was seen with the Minister and Mukherjee and where she was claiming to know the actress

who had worked in Oriya films too.

Meanwhile, a day after the Bengal Government-run SSKM Hospital decided to hospitalise Chatterjee, the doctors of AIIMS, Bhubaneswar, said he was fully fit save some chronic heart and kidney related ailments.

“We have conducted a thorough screening (of Chatterjee). He has some chronic diseases related to

heart, kidney and thyroid he but does not need immediate hospitalisation,” AIIMS executive director Ashutosh Biswas said at Bhubaneswar where the Minister was flown in on Monday morning following the orders of Calcutta High Court after the the Enforcement Directorate told the Court that he was using his influence to get a medical shield in order to evade interrogation.

L-G orders CS to probe Delhi Excise Policy

VK Saxena seeks report within 15 days from Naresh Kumar

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

After receiving a complaint alleging cartelisation and the involvement of blacklisted firms in liquor retail, Lieutenant-Governor Vinai Kumar Saxena has directed Chief Secretary Naresh Kumar to probe “brazen and blatant corruption” by the Delhi Government in awarding Retail Zonal Licences under the revamped Excise Policy 2022. The Lieutenant-Governor has sought a detailed report within the next 15 days.

This comes after a complaint filed by an organisation of jurists, lawyers and civil society members, the sources said while refusing to divulge the name of the organisation to “protect them from intimidation and harassment”.

The AAP Government has welcomed the Lieutenant-Governor’s decision to probe the matter saying, “We welcome any enquiry or investigation into the matter. We know there’s no truth to the claims.

The Delhi Government will continue working for the welfare of the public unhindered.” The complaint brought out irregularities in auction to the entities related to the Balaji Group of Companies, manufacturer and distributor of liquor. “Clause 4.1.1 and 4.1.2 of the New Delhi Excise Policy

2021-22 clearly states that no entity shall be allotted more than two zones.

However, in complete violation of these clauses, two entities of Balaji Group of Companies, namely, M/s Pixie Enterprises Pvt. Ltd. and M/s Magunta Agro Farms Pvt. Ltd. were awarded Zonal Retail Licences for Zone 32 and Zones 4 and 23 respectively,” it said.

“Further, these clauses also prohibit bidding by the entity which has any manufacturing facilities, directly or through any sister or related concern. But while the Balaji Group of Companies was allotted

licences for three zones by the Delhi Government, it has also emerged that the said company is engaged in manufacturing of liquor which is again in violation of several terms and conditions of the tender document,” it read.

The complaint said, the second violation is auction to the entities of Indospirit Group-Manufacturer and Distributor of Liquor in which Khao Gali Restaurant Pvt. Ltd., the winning bidder of Zone 2, is owned by the father of Geetika Mahendru, who is the blacklisted promoter of Indospirit Group of Companies. A part of the

Earnest Money Deposit (EMD) furnished by the Khao Gali Restaurant Pvt. Ltd. has been provided by Indospirit Group while the other part of the EMD has been provided by Zainab Trading Pvt. Ltd. which is a related party of Pixie Enterprises Pvt. Ltd. and Magunta Agro Farms Pvt. Ltd. of the Balaji Group.

These facts clearly prove that Indospirit Group and Balaji Group acted as a cartel to get Zonal Retail Licence of five zones of Delhi,” it claimed. “The third violation is the auction to the entity of Som Distilleries and Breweries Ltd. manufacturer and distributor

of liquor, the retail license of Zone 13 was awarded to Raisen Marketing Pvt. Ltd., a related group company of Som Distilleries and Breweries Ltd. It is pertinent to mention here that promoters and shareholders of Raisen Marketing Pvt. Ltd. have been blacklisted by Excise Department of Madhya Pradesh for evasion of excise duty, a fact already in the public domain.

Yet, the Kejriwal Government awarded the retail licence of Zone 13 to Raisen Marketing Pvt. Ltd. in contradiction to New Excise Policy of Delhi 2021-22,” the complaint further stated.

Sisodia reviews work on novel double-decker flyover in city

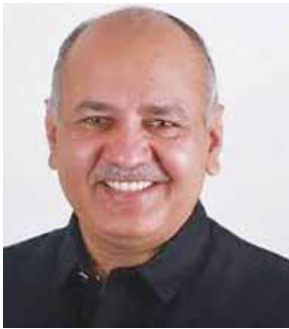
Deputy CM also checks installation of 500 flag poles for hoisting Tricolours across Capital

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Delhi Deputy Chief Minister Manish Sisodia on Monday reviewed the works related to the installation of 115 feet high flag poles that would be needed to hoist the Tricolour at 500 places in the national Capital, and for the double-decker flyover being built between Yamuna Vihar and Bhajanpura in the Maujpur-Majlis Park Metro corridor.

He also reviewed CCTV camera installation across the city and the free Wi-Fi project in the Expenditure Finance Committee (EFC) meeting on Monday. At the meeting, the Delhi Government approved a project for a double-decker flyover between Yamuna Vihar and Bhajanpura.

This unique 1.4 kilometer flyover is being built on the upper deck of the Metro line. Crores of rupees are also being saved due to this unique model of the flyover. Currently, 50 per cent of the work of this flyover has been



completed and it will be ready for use by the end of 2023. The pillars of the Capital’s first double-decker viaduct with a Public Works Department (PWD) flyover below and tracks of Delhi Metro’ upcoming Majlis Park-Maujpur corridor on the upper deck have started taking shape. It is being constructed between Bhajanpura and Yamuna Vihar stations.

The 12.5 km corridor is an extension of the Pink Line (Majlis Park Shiv Vihar) being constructed as part of the Phase-IV project by Delhi Metro. “This upcoming project is an engineering marvel and shows the way for better utilisation of spaces with higher population for public transport and traffic management.

After the completion of this project, the people of the surrounding areas will not have to deal with long traffic jams and their precious time will also be saved,” the Government said in a statement. On the occasion of the

75th anniversary of Independence Day, the Kejriwal Government plans to install 115 feet tall Tricolours at 500 spots across Delhi. Till now 497 mast poles have been installed and other places will be covered before August 15.

Sisodia also reviewed the second phase of the installation of 35,000 more CCTV cameras in the city. At the meeting Sisodia directed the PWD officials to ensure the installation of CCTV cameras on all the roads under its jurisdiction, which is 1,400 kms, by December 2022.

The Deputy Chief Minister said that installation of CCTV cameras on PWD roads will strengthen road safety as well as help in their regular maintenance. He directed the setting up of an Integrated Control Center for monitoring these cameras, from where the feed of all these cameras can be received and used towards improving the roads.

Also the Government has set up Wi-Fi hotspots at 11,034 places in Delhi as part of its plan to provide free Wi-Fi to the people.

Officials said that under this important project lakhs of people are availing free internet connection every day. The maintenance work of these Wi-Fi hotspots is also taken up regularly, the officials said. A live monitoring module has also been made for this.

City gears up for traffic snarls today



STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Major roads in parts of Central, East, Northeast Delhi and its bordering areas may face traffic snarls on Tuesday as kanwariyas head for their native places through the national Capital.

The traffic movement in Central Delhi is also likely to be affected due to Congress leader Sonia Gandhi’s questioning by the Enforcement Directorate (ED) in connection with the National Herald case.

The Kanwar Yatra that kicked off on July 14, will conclude on July 26 and special arrangements have been made by the police in coordination with its traffic and civic bodies across the border and other areas of Delhi. In view of the ongoing Parliament session also, adequate security and traffic arrangements have been made to deal with any “contagious situation” which may arise.

In Shahdara district, adequate arrangements have been made ever since the Kanwar Yatra started and from Tuesday the kanwariyas would return to their native places, hence staff has been deployed along their routes, a senior police officer said. “Most of them (kanwariyas) in our district are expected to come through the Apsara border. Hence there is

heavy deployment there and extra pickets have been placed. Plus, the temple areas where they might offer water are also being taken care of,” he said.

Kanwariyas collect water from the Ganga River at Haridwar in Uttarakhand to offer at Shiva temples across the country. In northeast Delhi, there has been a rise in the number of kanwariyas since Monday as on Tuesday they would start offering water at Shiva temples in the areas while on their way home, another senior police officer said.

“We have strengthened security on the roads through which kanwariyas are passing. Extra forces have been deployed at GT Road and those coming through Wazirabad area. Each and every crossing on these roads is manned by police,” he said.

The officer said that they have also approached the members of the Bhai Chara Committee, Aman Committee and other citizens and civic bodies and asked them to cooperate in order to ensure that no untoward incident takes place.

“We have increased patrolling and are also using drones to keep a check. All senior officer and others have been directed to be alert. The other major movement is expected from the Apsara border and the Bhopura border.

Heavy movement of kanwariyas, ED grilling of Sonia keeps cops on their toes

Light movement is also expected from the Johripur Road,” he said. Traffic is likely to be affected on some roads in east and outer Delhi, police said, adding that adequate arrangements have been made to avoid jams.

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

Commuters or kanwar yatriis needing any assistance can check the Delhi Traffic Police Facebook page or Twitter handle for updates or call on 8750871493 and helpline number 1095/011-25844444 for queries, it said.

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

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

Request Centre to share cost so that air pollution can be controlled

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

The Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) Governments in Punjab and Delhi plan to provide cash incentives to farmers in the border State for not burning stubble and have requested the Centre to share the cost. Paddy straw burning in Punjab and Haryana is a major reason behind the alarming spike in air pollution levels in the national Capital in October and November. Farmers set their fields on fire to quickly clear off the crop

Ensure preventive measures to curb monkeypox, L-G tells officials

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEWDELHI

A day after the national Capital reported its first case of the monkeypox, Lieutenant-Governor Vinai Kumar Saxena on Monday reviewed the disease situation and directed the officials to ensure all preventive measures, to curb the spread of the disease.

He also appealed to Delhiites not to panic and follow all prescribed prevention and treatment protocols. “Reviewed Monkey Pox situation in Delhi along with CS, Secy Health, DGHS & others concerned,” he tweeted.



residue before cultivating wheat and potato. Punjab generates around 20 million tons of paddy straw annually.

“We have prepared a proposal to provide a cash incentive to farmers who desist from burning paddy straw. The plan is that the Centre should bear 50 per cent of the cost and Punjab and Delhi will contribute 25 per cent each,” a senior Punjab Government official said. “Delhi will share

the cost since smoke from farm fires impacts air quality in the national Capital,” he said. “The proposal has been sent to the Centre.

Once it is approved, it will be tabled before the Punjab Cabinet,” the official said. He said the Punjab and Delhi Governments will implement the scheme even if the Centre doesn’t agree. Delhi Government is yet to offer a comment on the proposal.

Govt asks schools to submit action taken report on SUP

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

The Delhi Government on Monday asked all schools in the national Capital to submit an “action taken report” on phasing out single-use plastic (SUP) items and plastic waste management by July 30.

In a circular, the Directorate of Education (DoE) listed actions to be taken by all the schools, including displaying “single-use plastic-free school” on the main gate and at prominent places inside their premises. The DoE has also urged schools to display a bartan bhandar (utensil store) board and the items included in the store set up in the schools. Among the actions,

the directorate has asked schools to list alternatives suggested or used by students after the ban on SUP items.

“All the heads of schools of govt/govt aided/pvt unaided recognized schools of DoE (Directorate of Education) are requested to submit the ATR (action taken report)...To their respective deputy director of education (DDE)-district till 30.07.2022,” the circular read.

“Subsequently, all the DDEs (District) will submit the compiled ATR in format-II, along with the certificate (Annexure-II), in hard copy to the Science & TV Branch, Directorate of Education, Lajpat Nagar-IV, GNCT of Delhi... By 3rd August, 2022 positively,” it added. The Centre

banned manufacturing, import, stocking, distribution, sales and use of identified single-use plastic (SUP) commodities, including polystyrene and expanded polystyrene, from July 1, 2022.

The Delhi Government had earlier asked all schools to set up a separate room, known as bartan bhandar, within their premises to store reusable utensils as part of its plan to phase out SUP items.

The schools should also prepare a list of items suited as the best alternative for SUP commodities found/discovered by students after visiting the three-day fair organised for phasing out SUP at Thyagraj Indoor Stadium, according to the directorate. The govern-

ment has communicated that no flex board made of plastic be used for any activity. In a bid to reduce pollution, India has banned 19 SUP items, including earbuds, plastic sticks for balloons, flags, candy sticks, ice-cream sticks, polystyrene (thermocool), plates, cups, glasses, forks, spoons, knives, straws, trays, wrapping or packaging films around sweets boxes, invitation cards, cigarette packets, plastic or PVC banners of less than 100 microns and stirrers.

Plastic bags of thickness less than 75 microns are also prohibited under the Plastic Waste Management Rules. Their thickness will have to be increased to 120 microns from December 31 this year.

RERA gives builder time till 2023 to finish housing project in Gzb

STAFF REPORTER ■ NOIDA/NEW DELHI

The Uttar Pradesh Real Estate Regulatory Authority (UP-RERA) on Monday extended till December 2023 the completion time of a pandemic-hit group housing project in Ghaziabad which was expected to be ready in 2022.

According to a senior official, the UP-RERA noted that work on Utopia Estate commenced in April 2016 but could not be completed by promoter M/s Sai Adhiraj Land & Promoters Pvt Ltd within the stipulated time which ended on March 28, 2022, according to an official statement.

“As per the site inspection report, the overall physical progress of the project is only 40 per cent,” the UP-RERA



said. Both, the promoter and the association of allottees, had approached UP-RERA to intervene and facilitate the remaining development work of the project under its close supervision so that the allottees could get the possession of their units in the near future.

“The promoter had already availed of the entire permissible extension of registration, one year as per Section 6 of the RERA Act and other extension

due to Covid pandemic, it noted. But on the account of validity of sanctioned maps till August 2022, the Authority considered the request from the promoter and association of allottees of the Utopia Estate project and decided to extend its support for completion of the project under the provisions of Section 8 of the RERA Act read with Section 6, 7 and 37 of the act,” the RERA said. It has authorised the promot-

er to undertake the completion of the remaining development and construction work of the project in a time-bound manner and complete it by December 2023 as per the consent (95 per cent) provided by the association of the allottees, according to the statement.

“The Authority, based on the report of its project management division, was satisfied that the completion plan as submitted by the promoter was worth accepting for the protection of the interest of the allottees,” it added.

The Utopia Estate being developed by M/s Sai Adhiraj Land & Promoters Pvt Ltd is located at Ansai Aquapolis Integrated Township, Dundaheera in Ghaziabad. Out of two towers under this project, only D-13 is registered

with UP-RERA and, as per the promoter, no booking has been made in D-14 tower, according to the statement.

Tower D-13 has 184 residential units and only 48 units have been sold and the rest 136 are yet to be sold, the statement read. “As per the estimate, a sum of Rs 65 crores can be raised from the unsold units of the project and Rs. 8.14 crore is due from the existing allottees and further a sum of Rs. 4.14 cr can be raised through the sale of saleable parking area,” the RERA said.

“Thus, the total cash flow in the project is Rs 77.28 crore and the estimated cost to complete the project is about Rs 35.47 crores. This shows the absolute viability of the project and can be completed by the promoter with the consent of the existing allottees,” it added.

3 women killed, 2 injured after speeding car rams into DTC bus

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Three women were killed and two others, including a 18-month-old baby, were injured after their speeding car rammed into a stationary Delhi Transport Corporation (DTC) bus at a depot in Outer Delhi’s Swaroop Nagar on Monday morning. The deceased were identified as Jyoti Sharma (27), Nisha (32), and Jamna (62).

Deputy Commissioner of Police (Outer North) Brijendra Kumar Yadav said that a PCR call was received at 7.04 A.M at Swaroop Nagar police station regarding an accident on the highway near Nangli Poona. The police rushed to

the spot and found a damaged Hyundai i20 car with a Himachal Pradesh registration plate. The bus driver was waiting for passengers to board the vehicle when the accident took place. The victims were rushed to the Babu Jagjivan Ram Memorial Hospital where the three women were declared “brought dead”.

DCP Kumar said: “All (the victims) were residents of Himachal Pradesh’s Hamirpur district. Nisha’s 18-month-old baby and another relative Sunil were shifted to the Max Hospital. Sunil was driving the car and suffered head injuries. The victims were on their way to Delhi when they rammed into the DTC bus

which was en route to the Azadpur area.” Nisha’s 18-month-old son and the car driver, Sunil, also a relative of the family, were injured. The police said they were going to Delhi from Himachal Pradesh and the DTC bus was on its way from Mukhmelpur to Azadpur.

The car had five persons on board - the three women, the child and the driver, they said. During the preliminary inquiry, it was found that there were no skid marks on road and further legal action will be taken accordingly. The husband of deceased Nisha Sharma, identified as Vijay, has reached the hospital, police said, adding further investigation is underway.

ROW ERUPTS OVER SEATING AT PREZ’S SWEARING-IN

LoP in RS not given seat in line with his position, say leaders; he was seated with Mins, retorts Govt

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

A row erupted over the seating arrangement for the swearing in ceremony of President Droupadi Murmu on Monday with some leaders claiming Leader of Opposition in the Rajya Sabha M Mallikarjun Kharge was not accorded a seat commensurate with his position. Rejecting it, the government said he was offered a seat in the front row on a par with union ministers. The issue flared up after several opposition leaders wrote to the Rajya Sabha chairman claiming Kharge was not accorded a seat matching his



President Droupadi Murmu with outgoing President Ram Nath Kovind, Vice-President M Venkaiah Naidu and CJI Justice NV Ramana during her oath-taking ceremony in the Central Hall of Parliament, in New Delhi on Monday PTI Photo

position. The leaders, including those from the Congress, Nationalist Congress Party, Trinamool Congress, Shiv Sena, Communist Party of India, Communist Party of India (Marxist) and Rashtriya Janata Dal, were signatories to the letter and expressed shock at “deliberate disrespect” shown to Kharge. Jairam Ramesh(Congress) shared the letter on Twitter and said, “Letter

submitted to Hon’ble Chairman, Rajya Sabha by all Opposition Parties (including TMC) just now.” “Today, at the swearing-in ceremony of the Hon’ble President, Shri Mallikarjun Kharge, Leader of Opposition in the Rajya Sabha was made to sit in a seat not commensurate with the position he holds,” the opposition leaders said in their letter. “We are writing to express our shock and protest at this

deliberate disrespect shown to a very senior leader violating the warrant of precedence and not in accordance with protocol courtesies due to him,” the leaders said. Kharge was seated in the front row but at the extreme left corner of the Central Hall during the swearing in ceremony. BJP chief JP Nadda and Maharashtra Deputy Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis had more prominent seats, the Congress alleged, calling it “deliberate insult by the Home Ministry”.

Rebutting the charge, Union Minister of Parliamentary Affairs Pralhad Joshi said, “According to the protocol set by the Union Home Ministry, the seat is given in the third row.” However, at the farewell function, he was offered a seat in the first row instead of the third.

Joshi also said Kharge was provided with a seat in the first row on Monday. When he still complained that it was on the corner, the staff offered to move him to the centre, but he refused. On Saturday, for the

farewell function, Kharge was duly invited. He had been allotted a seat close to the Prime Minister. But he did not show up. In a way, it was an insult to the outgoing President, the Chairman and the Speaker, Joshi said.

Joshi said there was no violation of protocol in the oath-taking ceremony of the President. “In the order of precedence, leader of opposition is after all Cabinet ministers. Strictly going by that his seat comes in third row. But to respect seniority of Kharge ji, he was provided seat in first row itself,” Joshi said.

“Today they are making an issue of a non-issue. In spite of order of precedence, we tried to accommodate them in first row. Majority of Cabinet ministers sat in second row,” Joshi said.

Leader of the House in Rajya Sabha Piyush Goyal charged the Congress with misleading the public with a “baseless” allegation on the seating arrangement for Kharge. Raising this issue in the Rajya Sabha with it reassembled at

three pm, Goyal contested the Opposition’s charge, saying the Leader of Opposition is seated in the third row in the order of precedence of rank, but Kharge was made to sit in the front row.

“When we saw LOP in the front row, we were very happy. As per the order of precedence, he was kept in the front row instead of the third row. When it was observed that he was in the corner, a staff member requested him to shift to the middle. But he rejected,” he said. This shows the “mindset of the Opposition,” he added.

Goyal said the Ministry of Home Affairs had made the seating arrangement at the President’s oath ceremony in accordance with the table of rank and precedence.

Accordingly, the LOP comes in the seventh order after cabinet ministers of the union, principal secretaries to the PM, national security advisor, and chief ministers of the states. Going by this order, the LOP is to be seated in the third row, but he was made to sit in the front row, he said.

Cutting across party lines, leaders congratulate Droupadi Murmu

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Congratulatory messages by political leaders cutting across party lines poured in for the new President of India Droupadi Murmu after she took oath on Monday.

Congratulating Murmu, Vice President M Venkaiah Naidu said her election to the highest office is a testimony to the vibrancy and strength of Indian democracy. “My best wishes to her for a successful and fulfilling tenure as the First Citizen of India,” he said.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi described her oath taking as a “watershed moment” for India, especially for the poor, marginalised and downtrodden. Wishing her the best for a fruitful tenure, Modi said the entire nation watched with pride as she took the oath. Modi said, “The entire nation watched with pride as Smt. Droupadi Murmu Ji took oath as the President of India. Her assuming the Presidency is a watershed moment for India, especially for the poor, marginalised and downtrodden. I wish her the very best for a fruitful Presidential tenure.”

“In her address after taking the oath, President Droupadi Murmu Ji gave a message of hope and compassion. She emphasised India’s accomplishments and presented a futuristic vision of the path ahead at a time when India is marking Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav,” he said.

BJP chief J P Nadda, senior Union ministers and opposition leaders were among those who congratu-

lated Murmu. Her first address to the nation as “people’s president” encapsulated not just the significance of this truly historic moment but the spirit of New India, Nadda said. Union Home Minister Amit Shah congratulated Murmu and hoped that her tenure will take India’s pride to new heights. “Many congratulations to Smt Droupadi Murmu on taking oath as the 15th President of India.

I am sure that your tenure will take the pride of the country to new heights. Today’s historic day is a wonderful example of empowerment and ‘Antyodaya’ of every section following democratic values,” Shah tweeted in Hindi.

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh termed it a remarkable day in the history of the Indian Republic and expressed confidence that her rich legislative and administrative experience will benefit the nation. Several Opposition leaders also took to Twitter to congratulate Murmu. Tamil Nadu Chief Minister M K Stalin greeted Murmu, saying the nation would benefit from her services.

I am sure that the nation would stand to benefit from your services as the President of this great country and I wish you all the very best,” Stalin said in his message. Senior Congress leader and former Union minister P Chidambaram said it is “a proud moment” in India’s history to see a lady born to a tribal family in a remote village of Odisha ascend to the office of President of India.

Overwhelmed by farewell given to me: Former Prez

New Delhi: Former president Ram Nath Kovind, who completed his term Monday, said he was overwhelmed by the heartfelt farewell accorded to him and hoped to he would continue to get people’s blessings.

In his first reaction after demitting the office, he said his successor Droupadi Murmu dropping him off to his new residence was a very touching personal moment as well as an example of high traditions of the Indian democracy.

“I am overwhelmed by the heartfelt farewell accorded to me today at the end of my term as President,” Kovind tweeted. “The presence of President Murmu, the Vice



President, the Prime Minister, the chiefs of the three services and the dignitaries in the farewell ceremony will remain my unforgettable memory,” he said in a series of tweets in Hindi. “I believe that I will continue to get blessings of the people of the country like before,” Kovind said. PTI

Kovind moves to 12 Janpath home

New Delhi: The Government bungalow that was the home of late Ram Vilas Paswan for over three decades is now the new abode of former President Ram Nath Kovind.

Soon after demitting office as India’s President, Kovind on Monday moved to his post-retirement home, 12, Janpath, and was greeted by a host of dignitaries, including Union ministers and BJP chief J P Nadda.

President Droupadi Murmu, who took oath earlier in the day, accompanied her predecessor as part of convention to his new home which was occupied by former Union minister Ram Vilas Paswan till his death. Following an eviction notice, his son Chirag Paswan vacat-



View of the residence where outgoing President Ram Nath Kovind will stay post-retirement, at 12 Janpath in New Delhi. PTI

ed the house in April. Kovind was driven down to his new home from Rashtrapati Bhavan after Murmu took

over as the 15th President of India. The bungalow was readied for him as his post-retirement home. “Met former

President Shri Ram Nath Kovind Ji today and extended my best wishes to him for his future endeavours. As President, he served the Nation with humility, grace and sincerity.

His outreach to marginalised sections & his dignified demeanour will always be fondly remembered,” Nadda said in a tweet.

Union Law Minister Kiren Rijiju tweeted, “As part of convention, honoured to receive former President respected Ram Nath Kovind ji at his new residence, 12 Janpath, New Delhi accompanied by Rastrapati hon’ble Droupadi Murmu ji.” Union ministers Hardeep Puri and V K Singh were also seen receiving Kovind. PNS

RS sees repeated adjournments as Opp firm on price rise debate

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

The Rajya Sabha on Monday continued to witness din and repeated adjournments with the Opposition unrelenting from its demand for a discussion on price rise. Its members stormed into the well of the house for the sixth day when the proceedings commenced late afternoon due to President Droupadi Murmu’s swearing in ceremony.

During the discussion on a bill on the weapon of mass destruction and their delivery systems, Sasmit Patra, chairing the house, adjourned the house after Abir Ranjan Biswas(TMC) refused to heed to his request to stop showing placard behind BJP member Ajay Pratap Singh.

Patra adjourned the house for 10 minutes till five pm. Till five pm, the Upper House saw three adjournments with the Opposition vociferously protesting.

Amid the protest, BJP member Sinkader Kumar, Tamil Maanila Congress (M) GK Vasan and Ajay Pratap Singh spoke in favour of the bill. Vasan and Singh condemned the behaviour of Opposition members for creating disturbance in the House when a bill having impact on national security was being



Opposition members protest in the Rajya Sabha during the ongoing Monsoon Session of Parliament, in New Delhi on Monday SANSAD TV/PTI

discussed. Earlier, when the House met at four pm, it took up the discussion on the Weapons of Mass Destruction and their Delivery Systems (Prohibition of Unlawful Activities) Amendment Bill amid protests by the Opposition members.

GVL Narsimha Rao (BJP) said the legislation is an important tool in controlling financing of terrorist activities. Mahesh Jethmalani (BJP) noted that the genesis of the bill lies in global apprehensions that nuclear weapons could fall into unwanted hands.

He also criticized Opposition members for disrupting the House during the discussion of such an important legislation. Then, when the house functioned for a total of one hour and 40 minutes, a record 14 Points of Order were

raised on the Weapons of Mass Destruction Bill, amidst slogan shouting. Seven Members did so under Rules 110, 238, 239 and 259 relating to ensuring order in the House, making personal charges against opposition members etc.

Patra in the chair said if anything objectionable is found, due action will be taken on examination. Regarding order in the House, he said it’s members’ duty also and not of the Chair alone. Raghav Chadda raised Point of Order 5 times, Derek O’Brien 4 times, Pramod Tiwari, Prof Manoj kr Jha, Binoy Viswam, John Brittas and Sukhendu Sekhar Roy once each.

Dr Patra insisted he would not allow Points of Order if the members continued in the well amounting to lack of order in the House.

SC nixes Azam Khan's plea to quash chargesheet

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Monday junked a plea filed by Samajwadi Party leader Azam Khan challenging an order of the Allahabad High Court refusing to quash the chargesheet in the fake birth certificate case of his MLA son, saying it does not find any reason to interfere with the HC order. The petition was rejected by a division bench comprising Justices Hemant Gupta and Vikram Nath.

“However, any observation and discussion passed by the high court will not prejudice the trial which the appellant is required to face,” the bench said.

Senior advocate Kapil Sibal, appearing for Khan, submitted that the high court wrongly relied on the findings of the Election commission while refusing to quash the charge sheet. The apex court said it was for the trial court to examine the evidence in the case. Azam Khan, his wife Tazeen Fatima and son Abdullah Azam Khan had been in jail in a criminal case registered against them over two allegedly fake birth certificates issued to Abdullah, the sitting MLA from Suar in Uttar Pradesh, through fraudulent means from two different places.

The FIR lodged by BJP leader Akash Saxena at the Ganj police station in Rampur

Linking Aadhaar to voter card: SC asks Surjewala to approach HC

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Monday asked Congress leader Randeep Singh Surjewala, who has challenged the Election Laws (Amendment) Act, 2021 that enables linking of electoral roll data with the Aadhaar ecosystem, to approach the competent high court.

A bench of Justices D Y Chandrachud and A S Bopanna, which asked Surjewala’s counsel as to why he has not moved the high court first, granted the politician liberty to approach the high court.

“Why do not you move the Delhi High Court? You will have the same remedy. You are challenging sections 4 and 5 of the Election Laws (Amendment) Act of 2021. Why have you come here? You can go to the Delhi High Court,” the bench observed.

The counsel representing the Congress leader said three

states will go to elections in the next six months, while underlining the significance of the petition. The bench noted if there are different petitions, the Union of India can file a transfer petition and the apex court might club the matters before one high court. “An efficacious alternative remedy is available before the high court in the exercise of its jurisdiction under Article 226 of the Constitution,” it said.

“In view of the remedy which is available in the law, we grant liberty to the petitioner to move a petition under Article 226 (of the Constitution) before the competent high court,” the bench said.Article 226 empowers high courts to issue writs in various matters to any person or authority, including the government.

The top court was hearing Surjewala’s plea challenging the constitutional validity of section 4 and 5 of the Election Laws (Amendment) Act, 2021.

on January 3, 2019, alleged that Azam Khan and his wife helped their son obtain two fake date of birth certificates - one from Lucknow and another from Rampur. Abdullah Azam was elected to

the state assembly in the previous polls, too, but the Allahabad High Court had cancelled the election on the ground that he was less than the required 25 years of age at the time of filing his nomina-

Real Sena row: Uddhav moves SC on EC’s action on Shinde plea

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The Uddhav Thackeray faction of the Shiv Sena has moved the Supreme Court against the proceedings of the Election Commission on the plea of the Maharashtra Chief Minister Eknath Shinde led group for recognition as the real Shiv Sena.

The development assumes significance as recently the poll panel has asked the rival factions of the Shiv Sena led by Thackeray and Shinde to submit documents by August 8 in support of their claims on the election symbol — bow and arrow—of the political outfit.

The poll panel sources had said the two sides have been asked to submit documents, including letters of support from the legislative and organisational wings of the party and the written statements of rival factions.

The fresh plea has been filed in a pending petition by Subhash Desai, the general secretary of the Shiv Sena and seeks the nod of the top court to make poll panel also a party.

tion. Azam Khan is a 10-term MLA from Rampur Assembly constituency.

IN SHORTS

S-G TUSHAR MEHTA TESTS COVID POSITIVE

New Delhi: Solicitor General of India Tushar Mehta has tested positive for COVID-19 and has mild symptoms. “Since I had mild symptoms from Saturday, I had isolated myself from Saturday only,” Mehta said in the statement.

SC NIXES PLEA ON DUMPING BLACK COATS IN COURT

New Delhi: The Supreme Court on Monday refused to entertain a plea seeking exemption for lawyers from wearing black coats and gowns in the apex court as well as high courts across the country during summer.

INDIA CONDEMNS ATTACK ON IRAQ

New Delhi: India on Monday strongly condemned last week’s attack on a mountain resort in Dohuk region of northern Iraq in which eight tourists were reportedly killed and 20 others wounded. Following the killings last Wednesday, some Iraqi officials claimed that Turkey was behind the attack, but the Turkish foreign ministry rejected the allegations.

PETITIONER TOLD TO GO TO DELHI HC FOR AUDIT

New Delhi: The Supreme Court Monday asked a petitioner, who was seeking an audit of the advertisement expenditure incurred by the Delhi Government, to approach the High Court here. “Why do not you go to the Delhi High Court?,” a bench of Justices D Y Chandrachud and A S Bopanna told the counsel appearing for the petitioner, who is a Delhi resident.

2 LS MPs TO BE CHOSEN AS MEMBERS OF CABA

New Delhi: Lok Sabha on Monday passed a resolution to elect two of its MPs as members of the Central Advisory Board of Archaeology (CABA). Union Culture and Tourism Minister G Kishan Reddy moved the resolution which was passed by a voice vote.

SC STAYS PATNA HC PROCEEDINGS

New Delhi: The Supreme Court Monday stayed the proceedings before Patna High Court which has been passing directions to state government concerning take over of 32-acre ‘private’land of ‘Bihar Vidyapeeth’, which once housed Congress office ‘Sadakat Ashram’, at a prime location in the state capital there.

PUBLIC NOTICE				
ICICI Bank				
Branch Office: ICICI Bank Ltd, 3rd Floor, Plot No- 23, New Rohtak Road, Karol Bagh, Delhi- 110005				
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.	Nakul Agrawal, Payal Mittal, Namita Agarwal, National Academy of Direct Taxes Chhindw Road Nagpur Maharashtra, A/c No. LBAGR00001940226	Apartment No. GDI0092204, Tower No-GDI-09, Garden Isles Apartment, Wishtown, Sector-133, Noida, Uttar Pradesh	07/06/2022, Rs. 69,96,685/-	31/07/ 2017
2.	Nitin Singhal, Vipin Singhal, Sushma Singhal, Ramteerth Singhal, Opp Roadway Bus Depot Hansari, P.S. Premnagar Jhansi Uttar Pradesh, A/c No. LBJHN00001880504	Apartment No. KS2-15-102, Kasia Jaypee Greens Sports City, Gautam Budh Nagar, Noida, Uttar Pradesh	07/06/2022, Rs. 1,15,543/-	30/04/ 2017
3.	Kamlesh Chauhan, Darshan Lal Chauhan, House No. 295, Ward No. 34, Adarash Nagar, Uncha Gaon Ballabhgar Sgesgam Tree, Faridabad Haryana, A/c No. LBBAR00001507700	Plot No. 40, HIG-2(H2) Ramganga Nagar Awasiya Yojna, Bareilly, Uttar Pradesh	07/06/2022, Rs. 8,37,508/-	31/01/ 2017
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 26, 2022 Place: Ghaziabad & Noida & Faridabad			Authorized Officer ICICI Bank Limited	

7 held for murder of man in Bengal post-poll violence

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The CBI has arrested seven persons in connection with the murder of a man in May last year in post-poll violence in West Bengal. Accused Pranab Barkait, Pritam Roy Sarkar, Ratan Roy Sarkar, Liton Shil, Liton Bhaumik, Nakul Roy Sarkar and Biswajit Barman were arrested from Cooch Behar, Jaipur and Kolkata after sustained surveillance, the CBI said.

On the basis of inputs confirming the presence of the accused, the CBI carried out coordinated searches at eight locations in the three districts where they all were nabbed, it

said. The CBI had taken over the case on August 19, 2021 on the orders of the Calcutta High Court.

It was alleged that around 2 pm on May 4, 2021, the victim Sridhar Das was mercilessly beaten with sticks, ‘bat-tam’ and iron rods by unknown people, the agency said in a statement. When the victim’s wife tried to rescue him, the accused attacked her as well, it added.

“After the incident, Sridhar Das was admitted in Dinhat Hospital, and later, in other hospitals/nursing homes in Cooch Behar and died during treatment on June 21, 2021,” the agency said.

Sonia to appear before ED in Herald case today

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Congress president Sonia Gandhi is expected to appear before the Enforcement Directorate (ED) on Tuesday for the second round of questioning in the money laundering case linked to the National Herald newspaper.

She is expected to depose before the agency around noon on Tuesday for recording of her statement under the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA) by the ED investigating officer (IO) of the case, officials said.Initially, she was summoned by the agency for appearance on Monday but it was deferred by a day. The 75-five-year old Gandhi was ques-



tioned for over two hours during her first day of questioning in the case on July 21 where she replied to 28 questions put forth by the IO of the case who is an Assistant Director level officer. The ED is probing alleged financial irregularities in the Congress-promoted Young Indian Private Limited, which owns the National Herald newspaper.

Didi's name in Partha arrest memo irks TMC

Party says it's ED's mischievous propaganda, else why was he allowed to call CM after arrest?

SAUGAR SENGUPTA ■ KOLKATA

The Trinamool Congress is furious at the Enforcement Directorate for mentioning Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee's name in the arrest memo of her senior Cabinet colleague and TMC secretary general Partha Chatterjee.

The ED arrest memo referred to four calls made by Chatterjee between 2 am and 9 am on Sunday during when he was being grilled by the investigators. According to sources the ED officials asked him whether he wanted to contact any friend or relative — as per the CrPC — to which he tried to call up the Chief Minister in the dead of night.



Even Chatterjee later said that he had tried to contact Banerjee but all his calls were went unanswered.

The Opposition parties immediately wondered why Chatterjee who had a married daughter would not call her up and instead make phone calls to the Chief Minister.

According to the arrest memo he made his first call after his arrest at around 1.55 am ... then he called up at 2.33 am. Then again he called up at 3.37 am and subsequently again tried to contact her at 9.35 am.

“He called her but she didn't take his call,” the ED document place before the court said. Reacting sharply to the “ED's mischievous ploys to malign the Chief Minister” TMC spokesperson Kunal Ghosh said “there was no need to refer about it ... it has been

simply done with political motive ... Partha Chatterjee was simply induced to call the Chief Minister.”

However, another senior minister Firhad Hakim said “normally the agencies take away your phone ... then how Partha Chatterjee could call up the Chief Minister ... this is mischievous propaganda.”

Meanwhile, in another development the ED on Monday told the court that it could be a Rs 120 crore scam and that they had recovered three diaries from the residence of Arpita which could yield a number of information.

The ED sources also said that Arpita had worked in Tamil movies during which she had established contacts with six heroines in those movies. All those actresses could be questioned by the agencies sources said adding a lot of scam money could have gone into Tamil and Odia movies through these actresses.

The ED sources also said that they had stumbled upon properties, resorts, bungalows in tourist spots of Shantiniketan,, Kolkata and other places.

SC notice to Centre on plea to conduct delimitation exercise in four North Eastern States

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Monday sought a response from the Centre and others on a plea seeking direction to the Election Commission of India to conduct delimitation exercise in four North Eastern states — Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Manipur, and Nagaland — as per the Representation of People's Act, 1950.

A bench comprising Justices K M Joseph and Hrishikesh Roy issued notices to the Ministry of Home Affairs, Ministry of Law and Justice, Chief Election Commissioner, and others on the plea filed by the Delimitation Demand Committee.

The plea has also sought directions to constitute a Delimitation Commission in terms of the provision under the Delimitation Act, 2002 and Section 8A of the Representation of Peoples (Amendment) Act, 1956.

The petition contended that the delimitation exercise has not been carried out for the last 51 years in the States of Assam, Arunachal Pradesh, Manipur, and Nagaland.

Ahead of Kargil Divas, bikers' rally flagged off in Jammu

MOHIT KANDHARI ■ JAMMU

Ahead of the Kargil Vijay Divas celebrations, enthusiastic Bharatiya Janta Party (BJP) workers Monday painted the entire Lal Chowk in Srinagar in true 'colors of India'.

Senior party leaders led by National General Secretary Tarun Chugh and Bangalore South MP and president, Bharatiya Janata Yuva Morcha (BJYM), Tejasvi Surya flagged off the first ever bikers rally from the busy city centre. Tejasvi later joined the bikers rally which will culminate at the Kargil War Memorial on Tuesday, on the occasion of Vijay Divas.As the bikers made their way the entire city centre witnessed unusual scenes on ground zero.

A large number of party workers from Kashmir valley, holding tricolors in their hands, raised patriotic slogans praising 'Mother India'. It is for the first time a political party organised a public event in the middle of the Lal Chowk after the Abrogation of Article 370 and 35-A.

Previously, the city landmark remained out of bounds

and concertina wires were spread across different lanes and by-lanes ahead of hartal calls and other gatherings.

To ensure smooth conduct of the event elaborate security arrangements were made to prevent entry of miscreants in the close vicinity of Lal Chowk. The local shops in the area remained shut while traffic was diverted to avoid any inconvenience to commuters.

Speaking on the occasion Tarun Chugh targeted the Kashmir based political parties- the National Conference (NC) and Peoples Democratic Party (PDP).

He said the twin families of Abdullah's and Mufti's ruled Jammu and Kashmir for the past 70 years “but made it a terrorism capital, while the Prime Minister has made it a tourism capital and took it on a path of progress”.

Exhausting his lung power, Tarun Chugh thundered, “Mehbooba lives some yards away from here. She used to say that if you revoke (Article) 370, then you will not find hands to hoist the tricolour. I want to tell her to come to Lal Chowk and see



the residents of Kashmir holding the tiranga. Every person has a tiranga in his heart. Targeting Abdullahs and Muftis, Chug said they used to claim that Article 370 cannot be abrogated, but Modi made it possible.

He said Kashmir couldn't move forward in 70 years, but the “properties of these three families increased by many folds”. “Sometime they demand talks with Pakistan and sometimes with China, but I want to tell them that the youth of India will only talk to the youth of India. The central government and the

BJP will meet and listen to the youth of Kashmir”, he said.

Chug said the bikers rally was organised to pay tributes to the fallen soldiers of the Kargil War.

“These youth including the youth from different parts of the valley are going to Kargil where India's sons sacrificed their life but did not budge even an inch of the country's land,” he said. J&K BJP Chief Ravinder Raina along with former minister Sunil Sharma also attended the flag off ceremony before welcoming the Tiranga Bikers rally.

Govt sends special teams to Guj, Raj as 1,000 cattle die of LSD

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

Amid the death of nearly 1000 bovines, the government on Monday sent a special team to Gujarat and Rajasthan to assess the situation and measures taken to control the Lumpy Skin Disease (LSD). The Department of Animal Husbandry and Dairying (DAHD) has also issued advisories to all states and UTs for taking the bio-security measures to contain the spread of this infectious disease.

There have been reports of the spread of LSD in the cattle population in these two states. Union Minister of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying Parshottam Rupala reviewed the situation.

The ministry has deputed central teams to visit Rajasthan and Gujarat for the review of containing and controlling operations of the LSD in cattle in these two states. The teams are holding visits from Monday.

The Gujarat government on Sunday said that a total of 999 cattle, especially cows

and buffaloes, have died in the state due to the disease. Lumpy skin is a viral disease spread by mosquitoes, flies, lice, and wasps by direct contact among the cattle, and through contaminated food and water.

The main symptoms are fever in animals, discharge from the eyes and nose, salivation from the mouth, soft blisters like nodules all over the body, reduced milk production, and difficulty in eating, which sometimes lead to the animal's death.

The official said that the

government is keeping a close vigil on the status of the disease in various states. The LSD was initially reported in Odisha in September 2019.

The disease, since then, has been further reported from 22 states and UTs of Chhattisgarh, Bihar, Jharkhand, Telangana, West Bengal, Kerala, Tamil Nadu, Maharashtra, Assam, Madhya Pradesh, Karnataka, Uttar Pradesh, Gujarat, Manipur, Andhra Pradesh, Goa, Haryana, NCT-Delhi, Himachal Pradesh, Andaman & Nicobar Islands, Rajasthan

and recently in Punjab.

The department has issued regular and repeated advisories with guidelines to states and UTs. Immediate and proactive steps to control LSD have been suggested to the states and diagnostic laboratories.

The states have been apprised of the precautions and actions to be adopted to contain and control the disease by holding meetings and webinars.

The official said that directions were issued to ICAR-NIHSD, Bhopal and

ICAR-NIVEDI Bangalore to carry out the epidemiological investigation in the affected states.

The department has also issued advisories to all states/UTs for taking biosecurity measures and necessary advice to all stakeholders including farmers.

The ring vaccination strategy was communicated to be carried out in and around the affected area with available Goat pox vaccine (Uttarakashi strain) in cattle and buffalo. The centre is also providing assistance to the



affected states for undertaking trainings and vaccination as

per the demand submitted by the states.

Bullet Train project: JICA announces 3rd tranche loan of ₹6,000 cr

TN RAGHUNATHA ■ MUMBAI

Within days after the Centre cleared the decks for expeditious implementation of the ambitious Bullet Train project by inviting tenders for the construction of a railway terminus at Bandra-Kurla Complex, Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) on Monday announced third tranche of Rs 6,000 crore for the Mumbai-Ahmedabad High-Speed Rail (MAHSR) project.

The JICA -- which has been supporting the project for the Bullet Train project --- signed a loan agreement with the Government of India to provide an Official Development Assistance

(ODA) loan of 100,000 million Japanese Yen (approx. INR 6,000 Crore) as Tranche 3 for the Construction of Mumbai-Ahmedabad High-Speed Rail (MAHSR).

The loan agreement was signed between Mr. Rajat Kumar Mishra, Additional Secretary, Department of Economic Affairs, Ministry of Finance, Government of India and Mr. Watanabe Jun, Senior Representative, JICA India.

The JICA had earlier in 2017 extended a loan package of JPY 250,000 million (approximately INR 18,000 crore) package that JICA had committed in 2017. National High Speed Rail Corporation Limited (NHSRL) is the Executing Agency of the Project.

“The MAHSR project has contributed to the development of India's first High Speed Rail initiative. By introducing Japan's High Speed Rail technology, this project has emerged as a symbol of Japan-India collaboration. We have witnessed great progress in civil work so far,” Jun said.

“We believe that the day is approaching when the Shinkansen System adopted in the project will contribute to region-wide economic and social development, which will bring about income generation to local residents,” Jun said.

“With this project, we aim to simplify mobility and ease connectivity with a safe and reliable inter-city transport system. This Japan-India collaboration will ensure Transfer of

Technology from Japan's High Speed Rail system to India, and also give a boost to “Make in India” initiative,” Jun added.

It may be recalled that on June 22 2922, the Centre had 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 on the backburner immediately after it assumed office.

The Narendra Modi government has now 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.

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 kilo-

metres 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.

Another girl commits suicide in TN hostel

PTI ■ TIRUVALLUR

In a tragic incident, a Class 12 girl reportedly died by suicide in Tiruvallur district in her hostel room attached to a government-aided school, police officials said.

The 17-year-old girl's body was taken to the Tiruvallur government medical college and hospital for postmortem. Police claim she reportedly took the extreme step during the wee hours of Monday.

The incident led to protests by a few locals and parents near the school premises amid heavy police deployment.

Deputy inspector general of police (DIG) M Sathapriya and Tiruvallur superintendent of police (SP) Cephas Kalyan were investigating the matter inside the school premises.

On July 13, a 16-year-old girl reportedly died in her hostel premises of a private school in Kallakurichi.The Crime Branch-Crime Investigation Department (CB-CID) is currently investigating the case and the state government has formed an Special Investigation Team (SIT) on the directions of the court.Last week, the Madras high court while hearing the Kallakurichi girl's death case had ordered that any death inside an educational institution must be investigated by the CB-CID.

Trainee pilot hurt as light aircraft crashes near Pune



TN RAGHUNATHA ■ MUMBAI

A lady trainee pilot sustained injuries when a light training aircraft --- in which she was doing a solo sortie --crashed in an open field in Indapur taluka of Pune district.

Trainee-pilot Bhavika Rathod was administered first aid and later taken to nearby private hospital at Shegaon for treatment.

The aircraft involved in the mishap was a Cessna 152 VT-ALI. Owned by Carter Aviation, a flying school in Baramati crashed, following a suspected engine failure.

Meanwhile, the Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) said that the ill-fated aircraft which was on a solo cross-country flight, made a crash landing, around 15 miles from Baramati Airfield, “due to suspected power loss”.

The Pune local police, Carter Aviation officials and others visited the aircraft crash site.

8 killed, 20 injured in mishap on Purvanchal Expressway

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

As many as eight people were killed and nearly 20 others injured when a Delhi-bound double-decker bus rammed into a stationary double-decker bus on Purvanchal Expressway in Barabanki on Monday morning.

The injured were admitted to the Haidergarh Community Health Centre. As per reports, the condition of three of the injured was critical and they were referred to the KGMU Trauma Centre in Lucknow.

The accident occurred near Narendrapur Madraha village of Loniktra police station in Barabanki. Both the buses were going to Delhi from Bihar.

Additional Superintendent of Police (ASP), Barabanki, Manoj Pandey said the bus coming from Sitamarhi in Bihar hit the stationary one from behind. Four of the deceased were identified as Om Prakash Rai (33) of Samastipur, Shivdhari (42) of Madhubani, Chitnarayan (75) of Madhubani and Kamlesh Kumar (23) of Sitamarhi in Bihar. Efforts were on to ascertain the identity of the remaining two deceased, including a child, the ASP said, adding the injured were admitted to a



local hospital from where the critically injured were referred to the KGMU Trauma Centre in Lucknow.

Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath took to Twitter and expressed grief over the loss of lives in the mishap. He directed the officials concerned to ensure proper treatment of the injured. “The loss of lives in a road accident on Purvanchal Expressway is extremely sad. Instructions have been given to the officers concerned to conduct relief and rescue operations expeditiously and provide proper treatment to the injured. May Lord Shri Ram provide peace to the departed souls and speedy recovery to the injured,” the CM tweeted.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi also extended condolences to the families of the

deceased. “The accident on Purvanchal Expressway in Barabanki is extremely sad. I express my condolences to those who have lost their loved ones. Along with this, I wish for the speedy recovery of all the injured. Under the supervision of the state government, the local administration is engaged in all possible help,” the PM tweeted.

Barabanki SP Anurag Vats said, “Eight people have died while 16 have been injured in the Purvanchal Expressway accident. The severely injured have been sent to the KGMU Trauma Centre and those with minor injuries are being treated at the local CHC.”

The SP said that the bodies were sent for autopsy and further investigation was underway.

Public Notice

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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.	Rana Vikram Singh, Simran Kaur Rana, 54 Kishan Nagar Frooti Residency Dehradun Uttarakhand, A/c No. LBDEH00003598339	House No-I/301, Akansha-II, Govind Puram, Tehsil & District Ghaziabad, Uttar Pradesh	07/06/2022 Rs. 7,83,469/-	31/01/ 2021
2.	Rana Vikram Singh, Simran Kaur Rana, 54 Kishan Nagar Frooti Residency Dehradun Uttarakhand, A/c No. LBDEH00003598343	House No- I/301, Akansha-II, Govind Puram, Tehsil & District Ghaziabad, Uttar Pradesh	07/06/2022 Rs. 8,91,835/-	31/01/ 2021
3.	Ranjan Kumar Chodhary, Rakhi Singh, House No.357, 1st Floor, Gali No.14 Mandangir Dda Flats Dr. Ambedkar Nagar South Delhi, A/c No. LBLUC00004006419	Flat No- B- 502, 5th Floor, Allayah Aftek Residency- Block A Situated At Plot No. 498/212, Mahanagar, Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh	07/06/2022 Rs. 66,88,409/-	31/12/ 2018
4.	Sajid Nafees, Faria Naiyer, Sunshine Enterprises, 23, Kariappa Road Cantt, Kanpur Uttar Pradesh, A/c No. LBKAN00001898949	Flat No. Ksi 0120707, In Kasa Isles Jaypee Greens, Noida, Uttar Pradesh	07/06/2022 Rs. 26,40,660/-	31/03/ 2018
5.	Sandeep Mittal, Shailja Sandeep, House No- 28, Meera Enclave, Snc Bhawan, Garh Road, Meerut Uttar Pradesh, A/c No. LBMRT00002026583	Flat No. T-3/ D-114, 14th Floor, Shubhkamba Lords, Kindle Developers Pvt Ltd, Plot No- SC- 01/D-1, Sector- 79, Noida, Uttar Pradesh	07/06/2022 Rs. 21,84,887/-	30/06/ 2019
6.	Sham Sher Ali, Parveen., 526 K Deeg Gate 2 Nai Basti Thana Govind Nagar, Mathura Uttar Pradesh, A/c No.LBMAT00002172205	Flat Built Over on Second Floor On Plot No. 3, Khasra No. 51, Kishan Vatika Colony, Mauza Azampur, District Mathura, Uttar Pradesh	07/06/2022 Rs. 10,43,563/-	09/08/ 2021
7.	Sham Sher Ali, Parveen., 526 K Deeg Gate 2 Nai Basti Thana Govind Nagar, Mathura Uttar Pradesh, A/c No.LBMAT00003772647	Flat Built Over On Second Floor On Plot No. 3, Khasra No. 51, Kishan Vatika Colony, Mauza Azampur, District Mathura, Uttar Pradesh	07/06/2022 Rs. 7,84,885/-	09/08/ 2021
8.	Vijay Dutt Sharma, Manju Sharma, Shri Kishan Sharma, House No. 1, Tehsil Compound Hapur Uttar Pradesh, A/c No. LBMRT00001572348	Plot No 15, Part of Khasra No. 505, Shanti Nagar, Village Chamri, Near Society, Within Limits of Nagar Palika Hapur, Delhi Road, Hapur, Uttar Pradesh	07/06/2022 Rs. 2,21,159/-	30/09/ 2018

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 26, 2022
Place: Ghaziabad & Noida & Delhi

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PAPER WITH PASSION

Putin's unending war

The strikes on the port city of Odessa have smashed the UN-brokered deal aimed at easing global food shortages

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy has rightly called the strikes on the port city of Odessa on Saturday an act of barbarism. The missile strikes smashed the UN-brokered deal that was intended to ease global food shortages by recommencing grain exports from the Black Sea region. Typically, the Kremlin has indulged in prevarication, claiming that the target was military infrastructure. United Nations Secretary General Antonio Guterres looks further diminished. As it is, the world body has lost its raison d'être. When Russian President Vladimir Putin launched the unwanted, brutal needless war against the hapless Ukrainians, Guterres made a fervent but feeble appeal to Putin, "President Putin, in the name of humanity, bring your troops back to Russia". Just like the cornered Hindi film heroine begs a rapacious Prem Chopra or Ranjeet, "Bhagwan ke liye mujhe chhod do!" And now this. After Russia, Ukraine, and intermediary Turkey signed the deal, the UN Secretary General had said the deal



offered a "beacon of hope". The hope has been dashed—withing 24 hours of the signing of the deal. As a CNN report said, "Sadly for Guterres and all those counting on the much-needed food, his months of diplomatic slog—including visits to Moscow and Kyiv to nail the deal—ultimately illuminated the limitations of trusting Russia." For Putin's Russia has increasingly been behaving like a rogue state, indulging in chicanery, acting on it, and threatening and attacking neighbours.

On few moral and rational grounds Putin's belligerence can be justified. He accused Ukraine of genocide, but provided no evidence of mass murders.

He said that he wanted to shield people from bullying; he claimed that he stood for the "demilitarisation and de-Nazification" of Ukraine. But Zelenskyy is a Jew. "How could I be a Nazi?" he asked incredulously. And it's not that anti-Semitism is rampant in Ukraine, and Zelenskyy is just a token President, signifying nothing. The very fact that the Ukrainians elected a Jew as their President underlines the almost complete absence of anti-Semitism in the Eastern European nation. There is no country in the world, other than Israel, whose head of the state is a Jew; in fact, it is hard to find any such nation which ever had a Jewish head of the state or government. Yet, intoxicated with power and irredentism, Putin started the war—and is showing no intent of ending it. Reacting to the Odessa strikes, Ukrainian Member of Parliament Oleksiy Goncharenko said that Russia is "showing they want to continue to threaten the world's food security." US Secretary of State Antony Blinken's reaction also expressed dismay, "The attack cast serious doubt on the credibility of Russia's commitment." UK Foreign Minister Liz Truss, who is among the top two contenders for the post of the prime minister, said, "It shows not a word [Putin] says can be trusted." But the problem is that his man is in-charge of a deadly nuclear arsenal. The world has become a dangerous place.

PICTALK



An air tanker drops retardant while trying to stop the Oak Fire in Mariposa County, California

AP

Dynastic politics must End

No party in the country can say that it is free from dynastic politics, not even the BJP which is most vocal about it

Dynasty politics is a blot on India and it has to be abolished at the earliest to make democracy more vibrant and meaningful. The nation has been witnessing this phenomenon since commencing its journey as a nation in 1947. The Indian National Congress, the 'grand old party', suffered many splits and internal turmoil because of The Family's control over the organization and the Government. The condition of regional parties is no different and things have fallen to ridiculous levels.

The party supremo ensures that all leaders emerging as a threat to him/his family are ousted from the party itself. The DMK in Tamil Nadu, Shiv Sena in Maharashtra, National Conference, and PDP in Jammu & Kashmir are examples of this shameless and unethical practice.

In Tamil Nadu, a party president, whose tenure as Chief Minister was described as an ideal example of scientific corruption, managed to anoint a favorite son as his political heir. Nearly 50 percent of the MPs belonging to this party are either sons/daughters/sisters of party satraps. The situation is no different in several other States. When Prime Minister Narendra Modi spoke about the ill effects of dynasty politics, it brought relief to millions of youth in the country who do not have godfathers or godmothers in political parties to elevate them as lawmakers.

Last Friday saw B S Yediyurappa, the BJP's Karnataka strongman and a former CM, announcing his retirement from electoral politics though he made it clear that he would be around for some more time. Nothing is surprising in the decision of the veteran politician to call it a day from electoral politics as he is nearing 80 and this is not the age for him to undertake hectic journeys soliciting votes.

There is no dearth of leaders in Karnataka who can take up his position. But what surprised many was Yediyurappa's decision to anoint his second son B Y Vijayendra as the candidate from Shikaripur for the assembly election scheduled in 2023. This is dynasty politics at its worst as Yediyurappa is not a monarch to decide the names of candidates.

Even in Ramayana, the great epic on which the BJP swears, King Dasaratha has consulted his peers before announcing the name of Lord Rama as his heir. Yediyurappa is no Dasaratha while Vijayendra is no Rama. And Vijaayendra is an unknown entity in Karnataka but for his father. One should not forget the adage that charity begins at home and one should practice what one preaches.

Lending a helping hand to Sri Lanka

Sri Lanka is precariously unstable and the situation could even further deteriorate which could have serious implications for India.

Amidst Sri Lankan Crisis, India's role stands critical to its Neighbourhood Policy and national security. India has extended holistic assistance to Sri Lanka by offering financial assistance worth USD 3.8 billion in the form of Lines of Credit, oil, medicines, grains, etc. On the security front, India is closely observing the maritime challenges that might cause instability in the Indian Ocean. There are also challenges concerning mass migration from Sri Lanka to India which will not be entirely political. In the past too, India has faced similar instances to Sri Lanka where humanitarian crises grew as a byproduct of political, security, and economic tensions.

As the closest neighbor to Sri Lanka, debates on India's intervention have also caught unwanted attention in the local and international media.

However, India has always stood by the people's aspirations and their democratic demands whether it was the Maoist Insurgency in Nepal or the present Sri Lankan crisis. The criticality of the Sri Lankan crisis, though, can be observed from the All-Party meeting held on July 19, 2022, on the Sri Lankan crisis, where India's Foreign Minister S. Jaishankar briefed on the evolving situation in Sri Lanka, adding that "it is a matter which pertains to a very close neighbor and given the proximity, we naturally worry about the consequences, the spillover it has for us."

Helping beyond Ethnicity and Culture

Despite all the highs and lows in the past, Sri Lankans see India as an immediate helping neighbor. While the refugee crisis will see a cultural base where Sri Lankan Tamils might reach out to the Tamil Nadu government for help, the refugee situation will not have a sole ethnic base. Sri Lanka has already begun to witness legal and illegal migration. For instance, the Sri Lankan Navy had reportedly captured 51 people attempt-



ing to migrate to Australia through sea routes, posing a security threat across the Indian Ocean and beyond. Therefore, India will have to prepare for the humanitarian crisis in the days to come.

Meanwhile, India's economic assistance will have limitations in terms of its convincing viability against the perceived notions of India helping a particular family. India has already denied such allegations; especially, the rumors "circulating in sections of media and social media that certain political persons and their families have fled to India." Therefore, India will have to establish a round-the-clock hotline in addressing these rumors floating on various media platforms including social media.

Balanced Assistance

India has already extended several lines of credit, support, and assistance to Sri Lanka but it will also have to look that these gestures do not overburden India's global assistance program. Hence, multilateral cooperation at the assistance level shall be worked out for a stable and long-term helping presence. India will also have to ensure that its development cooper-



HOWEVER, INDIA HAS ALWAYS STOOD BY THE PEOPLE'S ASPIRATIONS AND THEIR DEMOCRATIC DEMANDS WHETHER IT WAS THE MAOIST INSURGENCY IN NEPAL OR THE PRESENT SRI LANKAN CRISIS.

ation in terms of education, and technical assistance continues so the educational institutions and basic needs of the people of Sri Lanka are fulfilled.

Stable Security Ties

India has pioneered in striking deep-rooted cooperation with the security forces across the world irrespective of circumstances and leadership there. Therefore, cooperation between the Indian and Sri Lankan Security Forces will be in the interest of the two countries for coordinating in humanitarian crises. For instance, Sri Lankan security agencies will be the front-line guardians and any food crisis or natural disaster will require Indian forces to coordinate with their Sri Lankan counterparts. Noteworthy, security forces are considerably more objective in their goals and provide stability in interaction with other countries which seems to be the need of the hour for Sri Lanka and India.

Way Forward

As Rajapaksa and veterans face public uproar, prospects of political and economic stability lie in better policies. With Ranil Wickremesinghe elected as the new President, solutions

will not be too handy as his long-term political career has resulted in his unpopularity. On the external front, India's continuous support to Sri Lanka is looked beyond the formal channels by the people of the island nation. Undoubtedly, China is a major spoiler and contributor to the Sri Lankan crisis and it will remain a distant spectator seeing the downfall of Rajapaksa.

In these circumstances, India must extend help, and must also look for multilateral cooperation based on democratic values to assist Sri Lanka. At the same time, the spillover effects will see instability in the domestic politics of India. To avoid a two-front challenge- externally from Sri Lanka and internally from Tamil Nadu, India will also need a humanitarian approach beyond ethnic and cultural connections. Above all, diplomatic channels must serve as the first and last resort to any pressing issue in Sri Lanka including in the worst-case scenarios where the Sri Lankan Army might take full control of the situation.

(The writer is a former IIS officer and freelance journalist. Views expressed are personal.)

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

NEERAJ CHOPRA, THE GOLDEN BOY

Sir — Neeraj Chopra, a name that needs no introduction now. His popularity has made a tumult in the whole world. Neeraj Chopra who is branded as India's Golden Boy, with back-to-back medals in multiple tournaments and championships, has once again had India finished with a podium stand by clinching silver this time at the World Athletics Championship final held in the USA last Sunday. His 88.13m Silver throw makes him an athlete par excellence. He is absolutely stunning in his performance. And if you observe his performance, he is always improving upon his previous throw and showing grit and determination which is unparalleled.

His performance track is always above 85m and is usually between the range of 86-89 meters with a point difference at every event. We all know that he is someone who has the potential to push his javelin cross 90 or even 100 to create history. Neeraj is stretching himself constantly with the best of the coaching and practice sessions to upgrade his performance to the historic level. Meanwhile, Neeraj had delighted the nation with his cherishing silver moment. It's time to celebrate his victory. And nation wishes him all the very best for more laurels in his kitty in the upcoming championship.

Kirti Wadhawan | Kanpur

RUSSIA IS NOT TRUSTWORTHY

Sir — It is called 'theft from above'. The Russian Foreign Minister, trying to find saving grace for his country, has started a tour of African countries, starting this Saturday. His first stop is Cairo, the capital of Egypt. After that, he is also scheduled to visit Ethiopia, Uganda, and the Democratic Republic of Congo. In a conversation with Egyptian officials in Cairo on Sunday, he said that the attack on Ukraine was not behind the food crisis that has started in some parts of the world. Whereas it is a fact that after this invasion the export of millions of tons of food grains from Ukraine has stopped. The proof of Russia being such

Protect forest rights of tribals



The newly notified Forest (Conservation) Rules will protect 'Forest Rights' and interests of forest dwellers, a 2019 analysis had shown that the Forest Advisory Committee approved 193 of the 240 proposals for diversion of forest land without dwelling too long on 'consent'. The new rules notified on June 29 are the consolidation of various orders issued by the Ministry of Environment to facilitate administration. The

Central Government has defended its action by claiming that the 'consent' part would continue to be dealt with by the states but the Centre has already cleared the proposals.

There is a concern regarding forest policy. First, the remaining natural forests should be well protected and degraded ones should have a chance of renewal and regeneration. Secondly, the forest rights of tribal communities should be protected so that they are not pushed towards poverty and hunger. This is in keeping with the pro-business orientation of the government in general and the environment ministry in particular. The environment ministry has been accused of behaving unlike a ministry set up to protect the environment but rather as a ministry to protect big business interests from existing environmental regulations. The new rule is a disaster for the tribal community and benefits the pro-government business people.

Bhagwan Thadani | Mumbai

a phony country is evident from the fact that in the presence of the Secretary General of the United Nations in the Turkish capital Istanbul, the agreement with Ukraine under which the movement of grain from the ports will not be disturbed was signed. But it was not even 16 hours after this signing ceremony that the Odessa port was attacked by Russia with a missile. Now it is saying that there was a stock of arms & weapons of western countries there, so it was attacked. The Odessa port has been under Russian occupation for months. Is the Kremlin not already aware that there is a stock of weapons there? How did this information come within a few hours of signing? I thought it would have been better if the African countries had refused Sergei Lavrov to come here. Because Russia should no longer be trusted at any cost. It had broken the trust every time.

Jang Bahadur Singh | Jamsheedpur

GANGA NEEDS A PROPER CLEANING PLAN

Sir — The quality of water in the river Ganga is becoming worse and polluted

day by day. Around half of the untreated sewage and effluents continue to discharge into the River Ganga. Many people not only bathe in the river but also drink it as per their traditional beliefs. They don't have knowledge of the polluted and toxic chemicals discharged by factories. While implementing such a river cleaning mission, they should also focus on its compliance. When there is a fair or a festival on the bank of a river, it is cleaned by spending crores of rupees. This is why compliance is also important. The river is a resource, polluting it is hazardous for all the creatures on earth as it is a source of food, water, farming, electricity, etc. Government should penalize all the factories and people polluting the river in a strict manner. Also, next time before spending crores on cleaning river projects, they should check and seal all the drainage and sewage openings which pollute a river.

Swati Pandey | Ujjain

Send your feedback to: letterstopioneer@gmail.com

SOUND BITE

PoK is under unauthorized occupation of Pakistan. We have Baba Amarnath in the form of Shiva, but the Dham of Shakti Swarupa Sharda ji is still on the other side of the LoC

Defense Minister

—Rajnath Singh

The 'Van Mahotsav' was to conclude in the presence of CM and LG Sir, but the police took over the government program and made it a political program.

Environment Minister Delhi Govt

—Gopal Rai

...seeing him happy and healthy standing in front of me was amazing, moments like this motivate me to work harder towards the cause, you realise the ripple effect that one small good deed can do.

Actor, philanthropist

—Sonu Sood

I want to tell about the continuous harassment. The coaches who helped me win an Olympic medal are being sidelined impacting my training.

Boxer

—Lovlina Borgohain

I grew up in a family where if the price of gas went up, we felt it. Gas prices have dropped since mid-June. I know those extra dollars and cents mean something.


The US President

—Joe Biden

FIRST COLUMN

FLUX AND CONSTANCY OF HUMAN NATURE

Excerpts from Life of Reason by philosopher George Santayana (1863-1952)



GEORGE SANTAYANA

Progress, far from consisting in change, depends on retentiveness. When change is absolute there remains no being to improve and no direction is set for possible improvement: and when experience is not retained, as among savages, infancy is perpetual. Those who cannot remember the past are condemned to repeat it. In the first stage of life the mind is frivolous and easily distracted; it misses progress by failing in consecutiveness and persistence. This is the condition of children and barbarians, in whom instinct has learned nothing from experience. In a second stage men are docile to events, plastic to new habits and suggestions, yet able to graft them on original instincts, which they thus bring to fuller satisfaction. This is the plane of manhood and true progress. Last comes a stage when retentiveness is exhausted and all that happens is at once forgotten; a vain, because impractical, repetition of the past takes the place of plasticity and fertile re-adaptation. In a moving world re-adaptation is the price of longevity. The hard shell, far from protecting the vital principle, condemns it to die down slowly and be gradually chilled; immortality in such a case must have been secured earlier, by giving birth to a generation plastic to the contemporary world and able to retain its lessons. Thus old age is as forgetful as youth, and more incorrigible; it displays the same inattentiveness to conditions; its memory becomes self-repeating and degenerates into an instinctive reaction, like a bird's chirp.



Not all re-adaptation, however, is progress, for ideal identity must not be lost. The Latin language did not progress when it passed into Italian. It died. Its amiable heirs may console us for its departure, but do not remove the fact that their parent is extinct. So every individual, nation, and religion has its limit of adaptation; so long as the increment it receives is digestible, so long as the organization already attained is extended and elaborated without being surrendered, growth goes on; but when the foundation itself shifts, when what is gained at the periphery is lost at the centre, the flux appears again and progress is not real. Thus a succession of generations or languages or religions constitutes no progress unless some ideal present at the beginning is transmitted to the end and reaches a better expression there; without this stability at the core no common standard exists and all comparison of value with value must be external and arbitrary. Retentiveness, we must repeat, is the condition of progress.

The variation human nature is open to is not, then, variation in any direction. There are transformations that would destroy it. So long as it endures it must retain all that constitutes it now, all that it has so far gathered and worked into its substance. The genealogy of progress is like that of man, who can never repudiate a single ancestor. It starts, so to speak, from a single point, free as yet to take any direction. When once, however, evolution has taken a single step, say in the direction of vertebrates, that step cannot be retraced without extinction of the species. Such extinction may take place while progress in other lines is continued. All that preceded the forking of the dead and the living branch will be as well represented and as legitimately continued by the surviving radiates as it could have been by the vertebrates that are no more; but the vertebrate ideal is lost forever, and no more progress is possible along that line.

The future of moral evolution is accordingly infinite, but its character is more and more determined at every step...

(The writer is a Spanish American philosopher & writer.)

Let free market discover the price!

Deficiency price payment may be way forward as agri market forces are better placed to judge the value of agir products

Addressing a conference on 'Getting Agricultural Markets Right' (July 6, 2022), Ramesh Chand, who is a Member of the Niti Aayog, proposed the adoption of deficiency price payment system (DPPS) as an alternative to the existing dispensation of procurement of crops from the farmers at minimum support prices (MSPs).

What is the problem with the MSP-based regime? How will DPPS help in alleviating it? Under the existing system, agencies of the government like the Food Corporation of India (FCI) buy agri-produces such as wheat, rice/paddy, coarse cereals, from farmers at the MSP and distribute at a subsidized price of ₹1/2/3 per kg through a network of fair price shops, known as the public distribution system (PDS), to meet the needs of India's poor.

The excess of MSP plus handling, storage and distribution cost (HSD) over ₹1/2/3 per kg is paid as subsidy. Based on the recommendation of the Commission for Agricultural Costs and Prices (CACP), the government fixes MSP of 22-23 crops grown in both Kharif and Rabi seasons. However, purchases by the FCI and other state agencies are restricted primarily to rice and wheat. The other important crops are pulses and oilseeds – these are procured by the National Agricultural Cooperative Marketing Federation of India Ltd (NAFED).

The overarching objective of this dispensation is to ensure 'food security' of over 800 million people by actually making grains available to them at 'affordable' price. That this is done under a law enacted by the Parliament viz. the National Food Security Act (NFSA), 2013 shows the importance attached to it. Giving an attractive price to the farmer for her crop was another but this complement the main objective.

The MSP regime was introduced in the 1960s vide an executive order for encouraging farmers in the 'Green Revolution' region in Punjab, Haryana and western Uttar Pradesh for higher production of rice and wheat. While the intent in those days was to address food shortage, today the country has a food surplus.

Despite this fundamental change, the Government continues with the MSP regime but with a big difference. Whereas, earlier the State agencies used to procure only the quantity required for the PDS plus a 'strategic buffer', now there is a total disconnect.

Today, the Government runs an open-ended procurement scheme whereby the agencies buy the highest possible quantities at ever-increasing MSP. The ruling establishment is driven by a sense that in elections, it will be judged on the basis of 'how much it is purchasing from the farmers' and 'the quantum of hike in MSP allowed during its term'. The drive is pursued with missionary zeal not even caring to assess whether the food thus pro-



WHILE MADHYA PRADESH EXPERIMENTED WITH THE DPPS ON SELECT CROPS EARLIER, HARYANA IS IN THE PROCESS OF ROLLING IT OUT FOR A FEW COMMODITIES. NITI AAYOG MEMBER RAMESH CHAND WANTS THE CENTRE TO CONSIDER PAN-INDIA ROLLOUT

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



cured is needed or not.

The system has given rise to a myriad of problems viz. build up of stock far in excess of the agencies capacity to store; monumental wastages inefficiencies and high cost; large scale diversion and misuse; unsustainable increase in subsidy and added risk of violating India's commitment under the WTO. This is when only 6 per cent of the farmers get MSP benefit covering a select few crops, even as the agencies procure 30 per cent of wheat and rice production.

There is clamor for extending coverage to all the 22-23 crops and 'all' farmers who have surplus produce to sell. If these demands are granted and that too 'guaranteed by law' (as sought by farmers during their year-long protest), this will be a sure invitation to economic disaster and financial bankruptcy of the Central Government.

Under the DPPS, the Government merely compensates farmers for the difference between the MSP for select crops and the price realized from selling in the mandi (a commonly used phrase for the 'local market'). Unlike the existing system wherein the State agencies actually purchase farmers' produce at the MSP, under the proposed system, they need not.

While Madhya Pradesh had experimented with the DPPS on select crops earlier, Haryana is in the process of rolling it out for a few commodities. Ramesh Chand wants the Centre to consider going for pan-India rollout.

Considering that the Government will continue to purchase agri-produce to meet the requirements of the PDS, to that extent, the DPPS will have no relevance. It will substitute only the

quantity that the agencies are currently buying in excess of what is required for the PDS or items such as pulses and oilseeds, they (for instance, NAFED) purchase as price support to the farmers.

To the extent of substitution of these purchases by deficiency price payments, the Government will save money as it doesn't have to incur handling and carrying cost (H&CC), besides avoiding the loss from selling grains in the open market under OMSS (Open Market Sale Scheme) at a price lower than the MSP. For instance, if for a kg of wheat MSP is ₹20 H&CC Rs 10 and the agency sells for ₹15, then the savings would be ₹15 [10 + (20 – 15)].

Having decided in principle to make deficiency price payment, the Government will have to give it to all farmers and cover all crops unlike the existing system wherein MSP support is available 'only to those from whom it buys'. The higher expenditure due to substantially expanded coverage under DPPS will more than offset the savings due to non-purchase. The net result: even under the proposed system, ballooning subsidy outgo can't be avoided.

Under the existing regime, MSP is calculated using an All-India average cost of cultivation (plus 50 percent of the cost towards profit) even as the cost incurred by individual farmers could vary depending on the location. This results in fortuitous gains for farmers whose actual cost is less than the average and vice versa.

If under DPPS also this MSP (as notified by the Centre) is compared with local mandi price

to arrive at the deficiency amount payable, the anomaly will remain. It could be addressed by calculating location specific MSP and comparing the same with the corresponding mandi price. This poses a huge challenge in terms of data collection, analysis and implementation.

Whether it is MSP-based regime or DPPS-, both are open-ended, susceptible to ever increasing subsidy burden and vulnerable to violation under the WTO.

What is the way forward? It is impossible to have a viable state support system which takes care of all farmers and all crops. It should be left entirely to the market forces. PM Modi should create an eco-system in which farmers have multiple options to sell (this will require resurrection of the three Central farm laws) and fetch a remunerative price. If need be, the Government can give direct income support to poor farmers. The assistance given under PM Kisan Samman Nidhi (currently, it covers all farmers) may be restricted to them only with enhanced allocation.

This system will be free from maladies afflicting MPS/DPPS and India won't be questioned at the WTO either. As for the food security objective, the Government can purchase from the market quantity required for the PDS besides 'strategic buffer'. Ideally, it may give subsidies directly to the beneficiary and let the latter buy her needs from the market. For instance, for a kg of wheat, it can transfer ₹28 to her account so that she can pay the full price of ₹30, spending ₹2 from her pocket.

POINT COUNTERPOINT

AKHILESH GAVE US TALAQ, WE ACCEPT THE TALAQ. TALAQ KABOOL HAI. WE WILL CONTINUE TO FIGHT FOR THE MOST BACKWARD, . —LEADER PARTY OM PRAKASH RAJBHAR



THE SP DOESN'T NEED ANYONE'S ADVICE... IF SOMEONE IS ANGRY, WHAT CAN I DO? POLITICS THESE DAYS IS DONE FROM THE BACKGROUND. —SAMAJWADI PARTY LEADER AKHILESH YADAV

BJP narrative for 2024 to be 'dynasty-free Bharat'

The theme would be that while the BJP is devoted to the nation, dynasty-run parties are 'devoted to families'

Dynastic politics is perhaps the antithesis of democracy. Critics say it is amongst many political evils in the Indian democratic setup where most parties, including the Congress, are being run like family enterprises. The paradox is that many regional satraps have emerged in the past 75 years and co-exist in a democracy. More are emerging.

National parties are at the forefront of the phenomenon across all states. Except for a handful like the communist parties, only seven or eight of the fifty relevant parties in India are free from dynastic rule.

During the 42nd Foundation day of Bharatiya Janata Party recently, Prime Minister Narendra Modi observed, "There are still two kinds of politics going on in this

KALYANI SHANKAR

(The writer is a senior journalist. The views expressed are personal.)

country. One is the politics of family devotion (dynasts), and the other (like BJP) is committed to patriotism." While 'Congress-free' Bharat and 'corruption-free' India were prominent BJP slogans in the last two Lok Sabha elections, the narrative for the 2024 campaign would be 'dynasty-free Bharat'.

The theme would be that while the BJP was devoted to the nation, parties were "devoted to families." The narrative covers regional parties also, most of which are family-oriented.

The BJP has now realised that the real threat comes from the family-ruled regional parties in several states. After sidelining the Congress dynasty, the BJP has identified eight prominent families that dominate state politics nationwide; the BJP intends to decimate them politically,

failing which it joins them as an ally. Telangana, Meghalaya, Nagaland, Tripura, Karnataka, Chhattisgarh, Madhya Pradesh, Mizoram, and Rajasthan will hold Assembly elections in 2023. Therefore, eliminating the provincial czars would be Modi's next big project.

The question is whether it is possible to eliminate the dynasts as visualised by the BJP? It is indeed ambitious. From Kashmir to Kanyakumari, there are many dynastic families like the Abdullahs. Tall leaders among them mesmerised their electorate. The Muftis in Kashmir, the Badals and Captain Amerindra Singh in Punjab, the Rajes and Pilots in Rajasthan and Madhya Pradesh, and the Yadavs in Uttar Pradesh and Bihar are such dynasts.

Naveen Patnaik in Odisha, the Gowdas and Bommais in Karnataka, the Gogois in Assam, the Karunanidhis in Tamil Nadu, the Raos and the Reddys in Telangana and Andhra Pradesh, the Sorens in Jharkhand, and the Chautalas and Hoodas in Haryana are notable.

The southern states are currently under the sway of regional satraps—Telangana Rashtra Samithi's K. Chandrashekar Rao, YS Jagan Mohan Reddy in Andhra Pradesh, MK Stalin in Tamil Nadu, and Pinarayi Vijayan in Kerala. The BJP aims to weaken all four of them as their next project.

The party currently has just four MLAs in Tamil Nadu (riding piggyback on the AIADMK) and none in Andhra

Pradesh or Kerala. Telangana has three MLAs, which it has won on its own steam. Therefore, the first step would be to weaken them. There are 120 seats in the five states in the South. Despite all its efforts, the BJP could not find a hold in southern states except in Karnataka.

Now comes the question as to why do these dynastic leaders sway people? Family-oriented parties choose their kith and kin to succeed because they feel they are more an asset than a liability. They find it easy to install and train them to take over when they die. Besides, they see them as more an asset than a liability.

Secondly, family candidates are more likely to get elected than new candidates. Thirdly, some regional czars have

realised that establishing family rule gives them loyalty and confidence. A party like the DMK is also reconciled to dealing with the Karunanidhi dynasty.

On the other hand, the BJP and many others think that dynastic politics is not good in a democracy as it enables only those leaders who have strong connections with the family. New fiefdoms boasting of family rule have emerged all over India.

It discourages new talents from coming forward. But the BJP is not alien to dynastic politics. Critics point out that this does not seem to apply to dynasts such as Jyotiraditya Scindia, Piyush Goyal, Dharmendra Pradhan, Anurag Thakur, and Kiren Rijiju—all Cabinet ministers in the Modi

government. Nor can it apply to the BJP's chief ministers such as Basavaraj Bommai of Karnataka or Pema Khandu of Arunachal Pradesh

It's premature to expect the end of political dynasties as it may take a while because people are stuck with the dynasts for now. The present-day leaders are not ashamed of projecting their family members as political heirs. Dynastic families have three advantages—name capital, cultural capital, and financial capital. Though the BJP wants a dynasty-mukt Bharat, as long as dynasts can attract voters with a coherent narrative and possess the ability to convince them, they will hold on to their fiefdoms. The only consolation is that even the dynasts have come through the electoral process.

LAVROV SAYS RUSSIAN GOAL TO OUST UKRAINE'S PRESIDENT

AP ■ KYIV (UKRAINE)

Russia appears to have reversed itself after the country's top diplomat said Moscow's overarching goal is to topple the government of Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy as Russian artillery barrages and air strikes continue to pummel cities across Ukraine.

The remark from Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov comes amid Ukraine's efforts to resume grain exports from its Black Sea ports, something that would help ease global food shortages, under a new deal tested by a Russian strike on Odesa over the weekend.

Speaking to envoys at an Arab League summit in Cairo late Sunday, Lavrov said Moscow is determined to help Ukrainians "liberate themselves from the burden of this absolutely unacceptable regime."

Lavrov accused Kiev and "its Western allies" of spouting propaganda intended to ensure that Ukraine "becomes the eternal enemy of Russia."

"Russian and Ukrainian people would continue to live together, we will certainly help Ukrainian people to get rid of the regime, which is absolutely anti-people and anti-historical," he said.

Lavrov's remarks contrasted sharply with the Kremlin's line early in the war, when Russian officials repeatedly emphasised that they weren't seeking to overthrow Zelenskyy's government.

Lavrov argued that Russia was ready to negotiate a deal to end hostilities in March when Kyiv changed tack and declared its intention to rout Russia on the battlefield, adding that the West has encouraged Ukraine to keep fighting.

"The West insists that Ukraine must not start negotiations until Russia is defeated on the battlefield," Lavrov said. It was not yet clear when grain ship-



ments would resume following Russia and Ukraine signing identical agreements with the United Nations and Turkey on Friday in Istanbul.

The deals are aimed at clearing the way for the shipment of millions of tons of desperately needed Ukrainian grain, as well as the export of Russian grain and fertilizer.

The Kremlin insisted Monday that the attack on the port of Odesa over the weekend targeted military assets and would not affect grain shipping.

Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov told reporters that the strike had to do "exclusively with the military infrastructure."

"This is in no way related to the infrastructure involved in fulfilling the agreements and exporting grain. So this can't and shouldn't affect the start of the ship-

ment process in any way," Peskov said.

The Kremlin spokesman also said that Moscow has no interest in halting all gas supplies to Europe and that recent restrictions on the flow of Russian gas to European countries "are simply the consequences of restrictions the Europeans have imposed, and the Europeans themselves are suffering from these restrictions."

"Russia is a responsible gas supplier, and no matter what anyone says, the European Commission, in European capitals, in the U.S., Russia has been and continues to be a country that to a large extent guarantees Europe's energy security," Peskov said.

Meanwhile, Ukraine's presidential office said Monday that at least two civilians were killed and another 10 were wounded in the latest Russian shelling

during the last 24 hours.

In the eastern Donetsk region, the focus of the Russian offensive, Russian artillery struck Avdiivka, Kramatorsk and Kostiantynivka. An airstrike on Bakhmut damaged at least five houses.

"The Russians are using the scorched earth tactics across the entire Donbas, they fire from the ground and from the air to wipe out entire cities," Donetsk Gov. Pavlo Kyrylenko said in televised remarks.

The Russians also struck the Kharkiv region. In the city of Chuhuiv, a Russian strike ruined the building of a local club and rescue workers removed several people from under the debris.

Kharkiv Gov. Oleh Sinyubov denounced the attack as "senseless barbarity," saying that "it looks like a deadly lottery when no one knows where the next strike will come and the entire region is dangerous for living."

In the Dnipro region, a 10-year-old girl was wounded by shelling, and a 7-year-old child was wounded in the Russian shelling of the Mykolaiv region.

In other developments, Russia's top domestic security agency said Monday it has thwarted an attempt by the Ukrainian military intelligence to entice Russian military pilots to surrender their combat jets to Ukraine.

The Federal Security Service (FSB), the KGB's successor agency, said Monday that Ukrainians offered Russian pilots cash and European Union citizenship to persuade them to hijack their warplanes. In a video released by the FSB, a man purported to be a Ukrainian intelligence officer, is offering to pay a prospective defector pilot USD 2 million if he would surrender his plane during a combat mission over Ukraine.

Russian state television claimed that Western spy agencies assisted the Ukrainians in the effort. The Russian claims couldn't be independently verified.

Young Ukrainians use techno parties to rebuild villages



AP ■ YAHIDNE (UKRAINE)

In a village in northern Ukraine that was devastated by Russian occupation only months ago, a techno party is in full swing. In a bombed-out building, more than 200 young people have found a novel way to help rebuild their country.

The daytime "clean-up rave" in Yahidne was organised by young Ukrainians who have been using dance parties as a way to contribute to recovery efforts in the country's north, which has suffered major damage from Russian bombardment.

Shovels in hand, the volunteers tackle the remnants of a village cultural centre that was destroyed in March by a Russian rocket strike, tossing piles of debris onto a tractor's loader. A DJ, his turntables mounted on a stack of ammunition boxes, spins techno and house dance music as the volunteers work. Some even take a break from their labour to dance.

"Volunteering is my

lifestyle now," said Tania Burianova, an organiser with the Repair Together initiative. "I like electronic music and I used to party. But now it's wartime and we want to help, and we're doing it with music."

Ukraine's vibrant club scene was brought to an abrupt halt with the Russian invasion on February 24. Now, with a nighttime curfew in effect in Kyiv, the capital, and the threat of more Russian rocket attacks ever present, adherents of Ukraine's party culture have sought to combine the fun and freedom of a music festival with rebuilding the country they love. Burianova said the clean-up raves bring together those who had lost their nightclub community during the war, helping them regain a sense of normalcy and fun while contributing to the recovery of damaged towns.

"We miss (parties) and we want to come back to normal life, but our normal life now is volunteering," Burianova, 26, told The Associated Press.

The damaged cultural cen-

tre sits on the edge of Yahidne, where nearly all of the just over 300 people in the village were confined to a basement for weeks by Russian forces during the occupation of the northern Chernihiv province.

Local resident Nina, 68, said she spent those awful weeks in the basement before the Russian troops withdrew, and that 11 people died there as a result of the poor conditions. She was grateful to see young people coming together to help the village recover.

"They already repaired our windows, doors and entrances," Nina said of the volunteers. "We couldn't do it ourselves with our salaries or pensions. I'm thankful that they helped us."

Most of the volunteers were in their 20s and 30s and came from Kyiv, about two hours' drive away. But others have come from the western city of Lviv and also nearby Chernihiv, while some foreign volunteers arrived from Portugal, the United States, Germany and elsewhere.

UK to host 2023 Eurovision after Ukraine ruled too risky



AP ■ LONDON

Next year's Eurovision Song Contest will be staged in Britain, organisers announced Monday, after concluding it is too risky to hold the much-beloved pop extravaganza in the designated host country, Ukraine.

The U.K. Said the 2023 event would be a celebration of Ukrainian culture and creativity.

Ukraine won the right to host the glitzy pan-continental music competition when its entry, the folk-rap ensemble Kalush Orchestra, won this year's contest in May. Britain's Sam Ryder came in second.

The European Broadcasting Union, which runs Eurovision, said it had concluded that "regrettably, next year's event could not be held in Ukraine for safety and security reasons." It said Britain's BBC had agreed to broadcast the show on behalf of Ukrainian broad-

caster UA:PBC.

"The 2023 Eurovision Song Contest will not be in Ukraine but in support of Ukraine," said Mykola Chernotytskyi, head of the managing board of UA:PBC. "We are grateful to our BBC partners for showing solidarity with us."

The fate of the 2023 contest had featured in talks between Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy and British Prime Minister Boris Johnson.

Johnson said the two had agreed that "wherever Eurovision 2023 is held, it must celebrate the country and people of Ukraine." "As we are now hosts, the U.K. Will honor that pledge directly - and put on a fantastic contest on behalf of our Ukrainian friends," Johnson said.

Ukraine has won the contest twice and hosted Eurovision in 2005 and 2017. The competition has been held in Britain eight times, most recently in 1998, the year after the U.K. Last won.

Sri Lanka's Presidential Secretariat resumes operations after 107 days

PTI ■ COLOMBO

Sri Lanka's Presidential Secretariat, which was stormed by a sea of anti-government protesters in early July, resumed operation from Monday, 107 days after the building's entry gate was blocked, officials said.

The building's entry gate has been blocked by the protesters since April 9. On July 9, the protesters stormed the building and occupied it. In the early hours of Friday last, police and security forces conducted a raid and took back control of the building from the protesters on the order of the crisis-hit island nation's new President Ranil Wickremesinghe.

The presidential secretariat which was occupied by the protesters from July 9 till Friday last is re-opened and the staff reported to work on Monday, officials said.

Security forces had already opened Galle road for traffic in front of the Secretariat.

The protest, also known as the Aragalaya — a Sinhalese word for "struggle", disrupted work for a prolonged period at the Presidential Secretariat, which had gone through heavy damages during the agitation and required necessary renovations. Cleaning and repair work were undertaken over the weekend to ready the Presidential Secretariat for the reopening.

Protesters have been camping outside the presidential office, demanding the resignation of former President



Rajapaksa, and Wickremesinghe, a key Rajapaksa ally. Protesters have blamed Rajapaksa and Wickremesinghe for mismanaging the economy that has left the country's 22 million people struggling to buy fuel, food and basic necessities.

The use of force to evict the protesters was condemned by the international community and the rights groups. However, the government defended the move.

President Wickremesinghe has said he would extend support to the peaceful protesters but would be tough on those who try to promote violence under the guise of peaceful protests.

The government said investigations into the occupation of the presidential secretariat, the damage caused to it by the occupation and alleged stealing of

some valuable items from the building are underway.

In another development, a firearm snatched by protesters from a soldier during an attempt to break into Sri Lanka's parliamentary complex earlier this month has been recovered, police said here on Monday.

The Navy divers found the T56 rifle snatched from a soldier by the protesters on July 13 during a search operation at the Diyawanna bridge within the close proximity of Parliament on Saturday, they said.

A massive protest on July 13 attempted to break into the parliamentary complex in continuation of the popular uprising on July 9, which forced the fleeing of the then president Gotabaya Rajapaksa from the country to the Maldives and then to Singapore.

Lankan court slaps travel ban on 6 protesters

PUBLIC NOTICE
For and on behalf my client Shri Ashok Kumar S/o Late Shri Roshan Lal R/o house no. 1236, Gali Krishna Mandir, Najafgarh, New Delhi-110043, is one of the owner of property bearing no. 1263, Shop No. 1, Gali Krishna Mandir, Najafgarh, New Delhi-110043 through a registered Sale Deed in his favour. That some of the original documents related with the said property has been lost/ misplaced by him and are not traceable in any manner, so that an FIR/NCR has been lodged on online portal of Delhi police. Founder please contact within 15 days from the publication of this notice to the undersigned, thereafter the user/founder shall be sole responsible for the use of the lost documents.

SAHIL SINDHIWANI - ADVOCATE
CH. NO. 424, DWARKA COURT COMPLEX, SEC-10, DWARKA, N.D.-75, (M) 999013077

PUBLIC NOTICE
The Public at large is hereby informed that Late Mr. Anil Kumar Gupta S/o. Late Mahabir Prasad Gupta R/o. Sector 86, TH-50, New Town Heights, DLF, Gurugram-122004 was having residential property in his sole name, in our project (in NIT Khatedari Residential Scheme), VATIKA FOTECH CITY, Jaipur-21, Flat no. CORAL-B-002, admeasuring 1760 sqft, which his legal heirs (1) Mrs. Antonina Gupta, (2) Mr. Hrinik Gupta, (3) Ms. Margarita Gupta has requested the company to transfer to his wife, Mrs. Antonina Gupta. 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.

A-002, Ground Floor, Block-A, Vatika INXT City Centre, Sector-86, Gurugram, Haryana, India -122012

PTI ■ COLOMBO

A magistrate court here on Monday slapped an overseas travel ban on six protesters leading the anti-government demonstrations for months against the Sri Lankan government's mishandling of the worst economic crisis in the bankrupt country.

The six activists, including a trade union leader, were charged with being part of an unlawful gathering in mid-June and were given bail after their arrest.

The police reported to the court that the protest leaders could be making arrangements to flee the country. The six persons are part of the continuous anti-government protest in the island nation since early April, which led to the removal of the erstwhile powerful Rajapaksa family from all positions of power in the country.

Meanwhile, the police on Monday said they arrested three people for stealing items from the President's House, which was earlier occupied by the protesters on July 9.



Archaeologists had earlier visited the site for inspection for the fear of artifacts being either stolen or damaged. A mass protest on July 9 stormed the President's House, forcing the former president Gotabaya Rajapaksa to flee the country and send in his resignation from Singapore. Ranil Wickremesinghe, a key ally of Rajapaksa, was on July 20 sworn in as the country's new President, a decision that failed to put at rest the anger of protesters. The protesters, who had been occupying the President's Office since July 9, were forcibly evicted after Wickremesinghe ordered security forces to vacate the country's most secured building.

Lankan police arrests three people while selling items stolen from President's House

PTI ■ COLOMBO

Three people have been arrested by the Sri Lankan police as they were trying to sell 40 gold-plated brass sockets stolen from the President's House here after angry demonstrators stormed the iconic building during an unprecedented anti-government protest over the severe economic crisis in the country.

On July 9, anti-government protesters occupied the official residence of former President Gotabaya Rajapaksa and the private home of former Prime Minister Ranil Wickremesinghe. The mob also torched the private residence of Wickremesinghe.

Three persons who entered the President's House at Fort on July 9 during protest have been arrested with 40 gold-plated brass sockets that were fixed on the walls to hang window curtains, the online newspaper Daily Mirror reported.



The Welikada police arrested the suspects while attempting to sell the stolen items on Sunday, it said.

The arrested suspects, aged 28, 34 and 37, are residents of Obeysekarapura in Rajagiriya. Police said the three were also suspected drug addicts.

They will be handed over to the Colombo (North) Criminal Investigation Division, which is handling the investigations of the incidents, the report said.



'The money is gone': Evacuated Ukrainians forced to return

AP ■ POKROVSK (UKRAINE)

The missile's impact flung the young woman against the fence so hard it splintered. Her mother found her dying on the bench beneath the pear tree where she'd enjoyed the afternoon. By the time her father arrived, she was gone.

Anna Protsenko was killed two days after returning home. The 35-year-old had done what authorities wanted: She evacuated eastern Ukraine's Donetsk region as Russian forces move closer. But starting a new life elsewhere had been uncomfortable and expensive.

Like Protsenko, tens of thousands of people have returned to rural or industrial communities close to the region's front line at considerable risk because they can't afford to live in safer places.

Protsenko had tried it for two months, then came home to take a job in the small city of Pokrovsk. On Monday, friends and family caressed her face and wept before her casket was hammered shut beside her grave.

"We cannot win. They don't hire us elsewhere and you still have to pay rent," said a friend and neighbor, Anastasia Rusanova. There's nowhere to go, she said, but here in Donetsk, "everything is ours."

The Pokrovsk mayor's office estimated that 70% of those who evacuated have come home. In the larger city of Kramatorsk, an hour's drive closer to the front line, officials said the population had dropped to about 50,000 from the normal 220,000 in the weeks following Russia's invasion but has since risen to 68,000.

It's frustrating for Ukrainian authorities as some civilians remain in the path of war, but residents of the Donetsk region are frustrated, too. Some described feeling unwelcome as Russian speakers among Ukrainian speakers in some parts of the country.

But more often, lack of money was the problem. In Kramatorsk, some people in line waiting for boxes of humanitarian aid said they

were too poor to evacuate at all. Donetsk and its economy have been dragged down by conflict since 2014, when Russian-backed separatists began fighting Ukraine's government.

"Who will take care of us?" asked Karina Smulka, who returned to Pokrovsk a month after evacuating. Now, at age 18, she is her family's main money-earner as a waitress.

Volunteers have been driving around the Donetsk region for months since Russia's invasion helping vulnerable people evacuate, but such efforts can end quietly in failure.

In a dank home in the village of Malotaraniivka on the outskirts of Kramatorsk, speckled twists of flypaper hung from the living room ceiling. Pieces of cloth were stuffed into window cracks to keep out the draft.

Tamara Markova, 82, and her son Mykola Riaskov said they spent only five days as evacuees in the central city of Dnipro this month before deciding to take their chances back home.

"We would have been separated," Markova said.

The temporary shelter where they stayed said she would be moved to a nursing home and her son, his left side immobilised after a stroke, would go to a home for the disabled. They found that unacceptable. In their hurry to leave, they left his wheelchair behind. It was too big to take on the bus.

Now they make do. If the air raid siren sounds, Markova goes to shelter with neighbours "until the bombing stops." Humanitarian aid is delivered once a month. Markova calls it good enough. When winter comes, the neighbours will cover their windows with plastic film for basic insulation and clean the fireplace of soot. Maybe they'll have gas for heat, maybe not.

"It was much easier under the Soviet Union," she said of their lack of support from the state, but she was even unhappy with President Putin and what his soldiers are doing to the communities around her.

Zimbabwe debuts gold coins as legal tender to stem inflation

Harare: Zimbabwe has launched gold coins to be sold to the public in a bid to tame runaway inflation that has further eroded the country's unstable currency.

The unprecedented move was announced on Monday by the country's central bank, the Reserve Bank of Zimbabwe, to boost confidence in the local currency. Trust in Zimbabwe's currency is low after people saw their savings wiped out by hyperinflation in 2008 which reached 5 billion, according to the IMF.



With strong memories of that disastrous inflation, many Zimbabweans today prefer to scramble on the illegal market for scarce US dollars to keep at home as savings or for daily transactions.

Faith in Zimbabwe's currency is already so low that many retailers don't accept it.

The central bank disbursed 2,000 coins to commercial banks on Monday.

The first batch of the coins was minted outside the country but eventually they will be produced locally, according to the governor of the Reserve Bank of Zimbabwe, John Mangudya.

The coins can be used for purchases in shops, depending on whether the shop has enough change, he said.

"The government is trying to moderate the very high demand for the US dollar because this high demand is

not being matched by supply," said Zimbabwean economist Prosper Chitambar.

"The expectation is that... There will also be moderation in terms of the depreciation of the local currency, which should have some kind of stabilising effect in terms of pricing of goods," he said.

Any individual or company can buy the coins from authorised outlets such as banks, according to an announcement by the country's central bank.

People can buy the gold coins from authorized agents such as banks using the local currency or foreign currencies and purchasers can choose to keep the coins at a bank or take them home. Foreigners can only buy the coins in foreign currency, said the central bank.

Called Mosi-oa-Tunya, which in the local Tonga language refers to Victoria Falls, the coins "will have liquid asset status, that is, it will be capable of being easily converted to cash, and will be tradable locally and internationally. The coin may also be used for transactional purposes", said the central bank.

People holding the coins can only trade them for cash after 180 days from the date of buying, the bank said.

The coins, each weighing one troy ounce with a purity of 22 carats, can also be used as security for loans and credit facilities, said the central bank.

The price of the coins will be determined by the international market rate for an ounce of gold, plus 5 per cent for the cost of producing the coin. **AP**

Myanmar executes NLD lawmaker, 3 other political opponents

Bangkok: Myanmar's Government announced Monday it had carried out its first executions in nearly 50 years, hanging a former National League for Democracy lawmaker, a democracy activist and two men accused of violence after the country's takeover by the military last year.



The executions, detailed in the state-run Mirror Daily newspaper, were carried out despite worldwide pleas for clemency for the four political prisoners, including from United Nations experts and Cambodia, which holds the rotating chairmanship of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations.

The four were executed "in accordance with legal procedures" for directing and organizing "violent and inhuman accomplice acts of terrorist killings," the newspaper reported. It did not say when the executions were carried out.

Aung Myo Min, human rights minister for the National Unity Government, a shadow civilian administration established outside Myanmar after the military seized power in February 2021, rejected the allegations the men were involved in violence.

"Punishing them with death is a way to rule the public through fear," he told The Associated Press. **AP**

Among those executed was Phyo Zeya Thaw, a former lawmaker from ousted leader Aung San Suu Kyi's party, also known as Maung Kyaw, who was convicted in January by a closed military court of offenses involving explosives, bombings and financing terrorism.

His wife, Thazin Nyunt Aung, told the AP she had not been informed his execution had been carried out. "I am still trying to confirm it myself," she said.

The 41-year-old had been arrested last November based on information from people detained for shooting security personnel, state media said at the time. He was also accused of being a key figure in a network that carried out what the military described as terrorist attacks in Yangon, the country's biggest city. Zeya Thaw had been a hip-hop musician before becoming a member of the Generation Wave political movement formed in 2007. **AP**

Taiwan holds drills amid Pelosi visit concern, China tension

Beijing: Taiwan's capital staged air raid drills Monday and its military mobilised for routine defence exercises, coinciding with concerns over a forceful Chinese response to a possible visit to the island by US Speaker of the House Nancy Pelosi.



While there was no direct link between China's renewed threats and Taiwan's defensive moves, they underscore the possibility of a renewed crisis in the Taiwan Strait, considered a potential hotspot for conflict that could envelop the entire region.

Air raid sirens were sounded in the capital Taipei and the military was holding its annual multi-day Han Kuang drills, including joint air and sea exercises and the mobilization of tanks and troops.

In Taipei, police directed people to shelters when a siren went off shortly after lunchtime. Streets emptied and shops closed.

"In recent years, Chinese military planes have frequently harassed Taiwan, and the war between Russia and Ukraine broke out in February this year," Taipei Mayor Ko Wen-je told reporters, referencing concerns that a similar conflict could break out in East Asia. "All these things make us understand the importance of being vigilant in times of peace and we need to be prepared if there is war."

Pelosi has not confirmed

when, or even if, she will visit, but President Joe Biden last week told reporters that US military officials believed such a trip was "not a good idea". Administration officials are believed to be critical of a possible trip, both for the problematic timing and the lack of coordination with the White House.

China's authoritarian ruling Communist Party considers democratic, self-ruling Taiwan its own territory, to be annexed by force if necessary, and regularly advertises that threat by staging military exercises and flying warplanes into Taiwan's air defence identification zone or across the centre line of the 180-km (100-mile)-wide Taiwan Strait.

Beijing says those actions are aimed at deterring advocates of the island's formal

independence and foreign allies - principally the US - from interfering, more than 70 years after the sides split amid civil war. Surveys routinely show that Taiwan's 23 million people reject China's assertions that the island is a Chinese province that has strayed and must be brought under Beijing's control.

Pelosi, long a sharp critic of Beijing, is second in line to the White House. She is viewed as a Biden proxy by China, which demands members of Congress follow the commitments made by previous administrations.

Taiwan is among the few issues that enjoys broad bipartisan support among lawmakers and within the administration, with Biden stating earlier this year that the US would defend Taiwan if it came under attack. **AP**

Pak Govt coalition leaders criticise judiciary over handling of Punjab CM re-election case

Islamabad: Top leaders of Pakistan's ruling coalition on Monday expressed distrust in the Supreme Court's handling of a case related to the election of the chief minister in Punjab province, saying "bench-fixing" is a crime similar to "match-fixing", and urged it to avoid constituting a "specific bench" for taking one-sided decisions.

The coalition government leaders, including the Pakistan Muslim League (Nawaz) Vice President Maryam Nawaz, Foreign Minister Bilawal Bhutto-Zardari, JUI-F chief Maulana Fazl ur Rehman and Interior Minister Rana Sanaullah addressed a joint press conference ahead of the significant Supreme Court hearing on Hamza Shehbaz's re-election as the chief minis-

ter of Punjab province.

"Institutions are insulted from within, not outside. One wrong decision blows up an entire case.

Criticism isn't needed where the right decisions are taken," Maryam, the daughter of former Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif and PML-N supremo, said.

The PML-N vice president pointed out that there were many respected judges appointed to the apex court and questioned why they were not involved in hearing the PML-N's cases.

"One or two judges, who have always been anti-PML-N and anti-government, are repeatedly included in the bench," she said, adding that "bench-fixing is a crime just like match-fixing". **AP**

Chinese astronauts enter lab module in orbit for first time after it docks with space station

Beijing: Three Chinese astronauts aboard the country's space station, currently under construction, successfully entered the lab module in orbit for the first time on Monday, a day after the space laboratory was launched, according to the China Manned Space Agency.

China launched its space laboratory called Wentian on Sunday, sending the country's largest-ever spacecraft into Earth's orbit to become part of the space station named Tiangong which is currently under construction.

The Wentian module docked with the front port of the space station in the early hours of Monday after it entered the planned orbit.

It is the first time that China's two 20-tonne-level spacecraft conducted rendezvous and docking in orbit, and also the first time that space rendezvous and docking were carried out during the astronauts' in-orbit stay in the space station, the China Manned Space Agency (CMSA) told official media.

After the docking, the three astronauts who were building the space station entered the lab, Xinhua news agency reported. It was the first time the Chinese astronauts had entered the lab module in orbit. The astronauts will conduct in-orbit work such as the attitude control of the combination of the space station, small mechanical arm crawling and the test of the complex of big and small arms. They will also use the airlock cabin and the small mechanical arm of Wentian to carry out extravehicular activities, the state-run Xinhua news agency reported. **AP**

China's population to see negative growth before 2025: Report

Beijing: China's dwindling population will touch negative growth by 2025 and may continue to shrink for more than a century, a media report said on Monday, as it highlighted the need for improving the overall quality of the population and changing economic development plans to address the problem.

The growth rate of China's total population has slowed significantly and is expected to enter a negative growth during the current 14th Five-Year Plan period (2021-25), Yang Wenzhuang, head of population and family affairs at the National Health Commission, said at the Annual Conference of China Population Association on Thursday.

Chinese demographers predicted that negative population growth will be the dominant trend in the coming years for a long time and improving the overall quality of the population and changing economic development plans are vital to address the problem, the Global Times newspaper reported. "This is an inevitable result of a long period of the low fertility rate," said Huang Wenzheng, a demography expert and senior researcher at the Centre for China and Globalisation.

"It can be predicted that China's birth rate will continue to shrink for more than a century and the birth rate in first-tier cities will continue to fall. **AP**

World leaders congratulate India's new Prez Murmu

Beijing/Moscow: Several world leaders, including presidents of China, Russia, Sri Lanka and Nepal, have congratulated India's new president Droupadi Murmu who assumed office on Monday and expressed their desire to work with her to enhance their respective nations' multifaceted ties with India.

Chinese President Xi Jinping on Monday congratulated Murmu, 64, on assuming office, saying he stands ready to work with her to enhance political mutual trust, deepen practical cooperation and properly handle differences.

In the congratulatory message, President Xi pointed out that China and India are important neighbours of each other, and that a healthy and stable China-India relationship is in line with the fundamental interests of the two countries and their people, as well as conducive to peace, stability and development in the region and across the world.

She is the country's first tribal head of state and the second woman in the post.

Russian President Vladimir Putin also congratulated Murmu and expressed hope that she will further promote bilateral productive cooperation.

"We attach much importance to the relations of a special privileged partnership with India," Putin said in the message.

"I hope your activities as the head of state will promote the further development of the Russian-Indian political dialogue and productive cooperation in different areas for the benefit of our friendly nations and in the interests of stronger international stability and security," he said in his message on Saturday.

Sri Lanka's newly-appointed President Ranil Wickremesinghe congratulated Murmu, recalling the close ties between the two nations and underlining that her leadership offers "fresh impetus" to the joint endeavours to strengthen the cordial ties they enjoy.

Maldivian President Ibrahim Mohamed Solih congratulated Murmu on her "historic election." "I look forward to enhancing the close relations between the Maldives and India under her leadership," he tweeted last week.

Nepal President Bidya Devi Bhandari conveyed her wishes to Murmu and expressed confidence that the cooperation between our two countries will reach new heights during her tenure. **AP**

West Asian nations wake up to climate change

Cairo: Temperatures in the Middle East have risen far faster than the world's average in the past three decades. Precipitation has been decreasing, and experts predict droughts will come with greater frequency and severity.

The Middle East is one of the most vulnerable regions in the world to the impact of climate change - and already the effects are being seen.

In Iraq, intensified sandstorms have repeatedly smothered cities this year, shutting down commerce and sending

thousands to hospitals. Rising soil salinity in Egypt's Nile Delta is eating away at crucial farmland.

In Afghanistan, drought has helped fuel the migration of young people from their villages, searching for jobs. In recent weeks, temperatures in some parts of the region have topped 50 degrees Celsius (122 Fahrenheit).

This year's annual UN climate change conference, known as COP27, is being held in Egypt in November, throwing a spotlight on the

region. Governments across the Middle East have awakened to the dangers of climate change, particularly to the damage it is already inflicting on their economies.

"We're literally seeing the effects right in front of us. ... These impacts are not something that will hit us nine or 10 years down the line," said Lama El Hatow, an environmental climate change consultant who has worked with the World Bank and specializes on the Middle East and North Africa. **AP**

2 killed, 5 injured in Los Angeles shooting: Police

Los Angeles: Two people were killed and at least five others were injured after gunfire erupted on Sunday at a Los Angeles park where a car show was being held.

The LA Police Department said the shooting occurred around 3.50 pm at Peck Park in LA's San Pedro neighbourhood.

The LAPD tweeted it was not an active shooter situation but provided no more infor-

mation. LAPD Capt. Kelly Muniz said during a news conference that the casualties were reported at the baseball diamond.

Police have not identified the victims.

"The original call came out as having multiple shooting victims on the baseball diamond

at Peck Park. As we speak here, this is an ongoing, active crime scene, and we are continuing to clear the park for evidence and potentially additional victims," Muniz said.

"We don't know exactly how many shooters we have at this point." **AP**

PUBLIC NOTICE LOSS OF ID CARD

This is to bring to the notice of the general public that one ID card of Mr. Deepak issued by ICICI Bank Ltd. Having ID Card No. 2210743 has been found missing and/or lost on 04-07-2022. Anyone, who find the said ID Card, is requested to return the said ID Card to The Manager Debt Services & Management Group, ICICI Bank Limited, Plot No. 7, Community Centre, S.D. Tower, Sector-8, Rohini, N. Delhi-85.

Therefore, all the customers of ICICI Bank Limited are hereby notified not to make any payment to any unauthorized person holding the said ID Card No. 2210743. Please take further notice that anybody making payment to any person holding the said ID card shall do so at his/her own costs, risk and peril and ICICI Bank shall not be bound and/or responsible for any payment.

For ICICI Bank Limited
Date: 25.07.2022
Place : Delhi
---Sd---

PUBLIC NOTICE

The Public at large is hereby notified that, I Tribhawan Singh is the owner of Flat No. 151, situated in the layout plan of "The Ras Co-operative Group Housing Society Limited", Known as Ras Vihar Apartments, I.P. Extension, Patparganj, Delhi-110092. It is to inform the general public that the Original Share Certificate issued in the name of Mr. K.M. Singh by the society in respect of the said flat has been lost/misplaced somewhere and not traceable by my best efforts. If anyone found or have any objection/Claim for any type such as any Loan, Mortgage, Surety, Security etc. over the said flat regarding the above said original document, then contact to the undersigned within 10 days of this Notice. Thereafter no body have any right on the said property.

Tribhawan Singh

OFFICE OF THE GENERAL MANAGER, CONSTRUCTION WING, UTTARAKHAND PEYJAL NIGAM
E-32, JUDGE FARM, HALDWANI, DISTT.- NAINITAL (PIN 263139)
Letter No.: 1452/Nivida-Anubandh/Ranikhet/190 Date : 25-07-2022

E-Tender Notice

- Name of the work:-** Supply, installation and commissioning of L.P.G. cremation machine and construction of shed for cremation machine at Vishvanath Ghat Almora, District- Almora.
- Estimated Cost:-** Rs. 119.68 Lakh
- Period of Completion:-** 8 Month
- Date and Time of availability of Bid documents in the portal:-** 26-07-2022(10.00 hrs)
- Online Bid submission: End date :-** 16-08-2022 (17.00 hrs)
- Date & Time of Technical bid Opening :-** 19-08-2022 (11.00 hrs)
- Name and Address of the Officer inviting bid:-** General Manager (Kumaon), Nirman Wing, Uttarakhand Pey Jal Nigam, Haldwani.
- Pre-bid meeting details (if required) Date & Place:-** 01-08-2022 (11.00 hrs) Project Manager Construction Unit Uttarakhand Peyjal Nigam, Ranikhet.
- For further details, details of subsequent Amendment / correction documentation etc. may be obtained from the e-Procurement portal www.uktenders.gov.in**

GENERAL MANAGER

PUBLIC NOTICE
This is to inform that Namokar Nursing Home, B-1/467-70, Sultanpuri, New Delhi-110041 is going to Discard all Inpatients and Outpatients records of year 2012 to 2017, as per organisation document retention policy.
If any patient of this period wants copy of his/her IP or OP Medical record. Pls call on 9278600652 or visit hospital within 30 days of publishing of this advertisement.

**SOUTH EAST CENTRAL RAILWAY
CORRIGENDUM NO. 1**
E-Tender No.: CEC/BSP/22-23/17
Dated 08.07.2022 (Open Tender)
Name of Work: "Conducting final loca-tion survey, including collection of field details for geotechnical investigations, preparation of GADs & other drawings and preparation of Survey Report & Estimate etc. for work of new B.G. Line between Dharamajalgarh - Pathalgaoon - Lohardaga (240 Km)".
Following modifications against the subject Tender have been done, which may please be noted :
Sr. 1 - Description - Financial eligibility criteria. **As Stipulated in NIT/Tender Document -** The tenderer must have minimum average annual contractual turnover of 1.5 V/N Crore. **To be read as -** The tenderer must have minimum average annual contractual turnover of 'V/N' or 'V', whichever is less. Where 'V' = Advertised Value of the Tender in Crores of Rupees. N = Number of years prescribed for completion of work for which Bids have been invited. For details please see www.ireps.gov.in.
Sr. 2 - Description - Closing Date & Time of Tender. **As Stipulated in NIT/Tender Document -** At 15:00 Hours on 01.08.2022. **To Be Read As -** At 15:00 Hours on 08.08.2022. **All other conditions will remain unaltered.**
Dy. Chief Engineer-Construction
South East Central Railway, Bilaspur
CPR/10/41
South East Central Railway @ secrail

SRF LIMITED
Regd. Office: The Galleria, DLF Mayur Vihar, Unit No. 236 & 237, 2nd Floor, Mayur Vihar Phase I, Noida Link Road, Mayur Vihar Phase I Extn, Delhi-110091
Corporate Office: Block-C, Sector 45, Gurugram, Haryana-122 003
Tel. No (Regd office) : (+91-11) 49482870; Fax : (+91-11) 49482900
E-mail: cs@srf.com, Website: www.srf.com; CIN: L18101DL1970PLC005197

NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that Share Certificates pertaining to shares of the Company detailed below have been reported lost and request(s) for issue of duplicate Certificates in lieu thereof have been received by the Company. Shareholder(s)/Claimant(s) shall also be entitled to Bonus Shares in the ratio of (4:1) on these shares from Investor Education & Protection Fund Authority:

Sl. No.	Folio No.	Name of the Share Holder / Legal Heir (Claimant)	Cert-No.	Dist-No. (from)	Dist-No. (to)	Lost Shares
1	M 0002578	MONGA SAROJ	32164	2214201	2214225	25
			69223	3449015	3449025	11
			131428	5461624	5461641	18
			681250-3	57692285	57692379	95
			748928	61805612	61805613	2
2	M 0003415	MOTILAL MALANI (Deceased Shareholder)	776421-2	65759554	65759556	3
			90163714-6	12611585	12611689	105
3	A 0002151	NAND KISHORE MALANI (Deceased Shareholder)	131818	5468713	5468728	16
			976173	18577573	18577605	33
4	SRF0105456	AMARENDRA PRASAD GARG (Deceased Shareholder)	975083	18543415	18543439	25
			975083	18543415	18543439	25
5	SRF0105456	JAMSHED ADI CHINYOY (Deceased Jt. Holder 1) KHORSHED ADI CHINYOY (Jt. Holder 2)	90208217-8	15634010	15634099	90
			90208217-8	15634010	15634099	90
6	J 0001709	SHANKER NARAYAN IYER	516380-1	25024452	25024481	30
			40306	2442051	2442075	25
7	SRF0030956	JAI BHAGWAN (Deceased Shareholder)	64079	3357396	3357403	8
			123112	5203605	5203620	16
8	SRF0030956	NAND KISHORE GARG (Claimant)	90021811	6684642	6684673	32
			90159248	12087735	12087769	35

Any person having any claim /objection in respect of the above requests should lodge such claim/objection with the company at its Corporate Office within 15 days of the publication of this notice, failing which the company will consider to give effect to the above requests.

Public is hereby cautioned against dealing with the aforesaid share certificates.

for SRF LIMITED
Sd/-
RAJAT LAKHANPAL
Vice President (Corporate Compliance)
& Company Secretary

Place: Gurugram
Date: 25-07-2022

Pope lands in Canada, set for apologies to Indigenous groups

Edmonton: Pope Francis began a historic visit to Canada on Sunday to apologize to Indigenous peoples for abuses by missionaries at residential schools, a key step in the Catholic Church's efforts to reconcile with Native communities and help them heal from generations of trauma.

Francis kissed the hand of a residential school survivor as he was greeted at the Edmonton, Alberta, airport by Indigenous representatives, Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau and Mary Simon, an Inuk who is Canada's first Indigenous governor general.

The gesture set the tone of what Francis has said is a "penitential pilgrimage" to atone for the role of Catholic missionaries in the forced assimilation of generations of Native children - a visit that has stirred mixed emotions across Canada as survivors and their families cope with the trauma of their losses and receive a long-sought papal apology.

Francis had no official events scheduled Sunday, giving him time to rest before his meeting Monday with survivors near the site of a former residential school in Maskwacis, where he is expected to pray at a cemetery and apologize.



Francis exited the back of his plane with the help of an ambulant, given his strained knee ligaments have forced him to use a wheelchair. The simple welcome ceremony took place in airport hangar, where Indigenous drums and chanting broke the silence. As Trudeau and Simon sat beside Francis, a succession of Indigenous leaders and elders greeted the pope and exchanged gifts. At one point, Francis kissed the hand of residential school survivor Elder Alma Desjarlais of the Frog Lake First Nations as she was introduced to him.

"Right now, many of our people are skeptical and they are hurt," said Grand Chief George Arcand Jr. Of the Confederacy of Treaty Six First Nations, who greeted the pope. **AP**

WhatsApp privacy probe must go on, CCI urges HC

‘As policy hasn’t been withdrawn’

New Delhi: The Competition Commission of India (CCI) Monday told the Delhi High Court that WhatsApp’s updated privacy policy of 2021 has not been withdrawn and its probe concerning the policy should be allowed to proceed.

The CCI also said the scope of its inquiry has no overlap with the issue of an alleged infringement of user privacy pending before the Supreme Court.

The submissions were made by CCI before a bench headed by Chief Justice Satish Chandra Sharma on appeals by WhatsApp LLC and Facebook Inc against a single-judge order dismissing their challenge to the probe ordered by the CCI into the instant messaging platform’s updated privacy policy.

The bench, also comprising Justice Subramonium Prasad, reserved an order on the appeals after hearing the concerned parties.

In January last year, CCI on its own had decided to look into WhatsApp’s updated privacy policy based on news reports regarding the same.

WhatsApp and Facebook



had subsequently challenged before the single judge CCI’s March 2021 order directing a probe against them, saying that the issue concerning its new policy was already pending consideration before the high court and the Supreme Court.

The single judge on April 22 last year had, however, refused to interdict the investigation directed by the CCI.

Additional Solicitor General (ASG) N Venkataraman, appearing for CCI, argued that the CCI probe into the privacy policy-- which is "still in place and functional" -- should not be deferred any further to await the decision of the Supreme Court, especially in the absence of any stay on the single judge order, and asserted that the messaging platform was still issuing a "pop up" seeking the consent of users who are yet to accept the updated policy.

"Judicial process cannot be used to thwart investigation (Pendency of privacy issue

before Supreme Court) cannot automatically obviate competition law concerns. There is no overlap in facts. We should be allowed to investigate. There is no overlap in law," he argued.

The ASG said that the infraction on the competition law front may still be happening as there are users who have opted for the policy update and "for non-withdrawal period", the policy has to be "examined."

ASG Balbir Singh, also appearing for CCI, defended the initiation of a probe against Facebook as well in connection with WhatsApp’s privacy policy, saying that the former is the holding company of the messaging platform and it can "potentially exploit the data being shared".

ASG Venkataraman contended that the outcome of the Supreme Court proceedings would have no bearing on the proceedings under competition law which concerns the abuse of dominant position by a market player.

He also said that unless there is a lack of jurisdiction or malafides or arbitrariness, the CCI probe cannot be stalled.

Counsel Tejas Karia, appearing for WhatsApp, said that the "status quo" was being maintained for users who have not opted for the policy update and the CCI probe should be deferred in view of the validity of the privacy policy being tested before the Supreme Court and the high court. **PTI**

Sensex, Nifty snap 6-day winning streak on profit booking in energy, auto shares

Mumbai: Benchmark indices Sensex and Nifty snapped their six-day winning run to close lower by over a half per cent after profit booking in oil & gas, automobile and telecom stocks on Monday.

The 30-share BSE Sensex fell 306.01 points or 0.55 per cent to settle at 55,766.22 dragged down by index heavy-weight Reliance Industries.

During the day, the barometer declined 535.15 points or 0.95 per cent to 55,537.08.

The broader NSE Nifty dipped 88.45 points or 0.53 per cent to 16,631 as 31 of its constituents closed in the red.

"Bulls finally lost steam after surging ahead for the last six consecutive sessions as investors booked profit in automobile, oil & gas, and telecom stocks, even though gains in metals and select capital goods stocks capped losses. Investors traded with caution ahead of the Federal Reserve meet on Wednesday," Shrikant Chouhan, Head of Equity Research (Retail), Kotak Securities Ltd, said.

Among the Sensex constituents, Mahindra & Mahindra fell the most by 3.80 per cent. Reliance Industries declined 3.31 per cent after the company’s June quarter earnings failed to cheer investors.

The other laggards from the pack were Maruti Suzuki India, Kotak Mahindra Bank, UltraTech Cement, Tech Mahindra and Nestle.

Tata Steel, IndusInd Bank, Asian Paints, HCL



Technologies, Wipro and NTPC were among the gainers.

"RIL’s results, though impressive on the telecom and retail front, fell slightly below expectations in the refining space," said V K Vijayakumar, Chief Investment Strategist at Geojit Financial Services.

Infosys, which posted a 3.2 per cent increase in its June quarter profit and upgraded its revenue guidance for FY23, declined by 0.23 per cent.

"Fears of global economic slowdown along with reaction to a slew of major quarterly earnings dictated the trend in the domestic market. Recession fears are casting a shadow over the global markets as US and Euro business activity contracted unexpectedly owing to the downturn in manufacturing and service sectors," said **PTI**

Vinod Nair, Head of Research at Geojit Financial Services.

In the broader market, the BSE smallcap gauge dipped 0.13 per cent and midcap index ended marginally higher by 0.03 per cent.

Among the BSE sectoral indices, auto declined by 1.69 per cent, energy by 1.32 per cent, telecom by 0.96 per cent, oil & gas by 0.86 per cent, healthcare by 0.71 per cent and realty by 0.42 per cent.

Basic materials, industrials and metal were among the gainers.

Ajit Mishra, VP - Research, Religare Broking said that indications are in the favour of consolidation and volatility is expected to remain high, due to the prevailing earnings season and upcoming US Fed meeting outcome. **PTI**

Sebi cautions public against dealing in PACL properties

New Delhi: A Sebi-panel on Monday cautioned the public against dealing in the properties of PACL Group and its subsidiaries, saying no one has been authorised to sell the properties.

PACL, also known as Pearl Group, had raised money from the public in the name of agriculture and real estate businesses.

According to the Securities and Exchange Board of India (Sebi), PACL collected more than ₹60,000 crore through illegal collective investment schemes (CIS) over a period of 18 years.

A committee, headed by former Chief Justice of India R M Lodha, is overseeing the process of disposing of properties to refund investors after verifying their genuineness. It has already initiated the process of refund in phases. The panel was set up by Sebi in 2016 following a Supreme Court order.

The fresh advisory came after the committee noticed that an authority letter purportedly issued on behalf of nodal officer cum secretary of the committee, authorizing one Harvinder Singh Bhangoo to sell the properties of PACL in Karnataka is in circulation.

It has been clarified that the committee has not authorised any individual or entity much less Bhangoo, to sell the properties of PACL Ltd



as falsely asserted in the foregoing authority letter, or at all, according to a statement issued on Sebi’s website.

It, further, said that any attempt by individuals or entities to illegally and unauthorisedly take possession of the properties of PACL will invite strict action.

In view of this, the panel has cautioned the public at large against "buying and/or dealing with the properties of PACL or properties wherein PACL Ltd or any of its associates/subsidiaries have any interest/right, directly or indirectly."

In December 2015, Sebi had ordered attachment of all assets of PACL and its nine promoters and directors for their failure to refund the money due to investors.

Sebi had asked PACL, as also its promoters and directors, to refund the money in an order dated August 22, 2014.

The defaulters were directed to wind up the schemes and refund money to the investors within three months from the date of the order. **PTI**

Silver prices plunge by ₹1,331, gold marginally down

New Delhi: Gold prices declined marginally to ₹51,145 per 10 grams while silver plunged by ₹1,331 per kg in the national capital on Monday, according to HDFC Securities. In the previous trade, the precious metal settled at ₹51,150 per 10 grams.

Silver fell sharply by ₹1,331 to ₹54,351 per kg from ₹55,682 per kg in the previous trade.

In the international market, both gold and silver were trading flat at USD 1,726.80 per ounce and USD 18.62 per ounce, respectively.

"Gold prices traded weak with spot gold prices at COMEX trading marginally down at USD 1,726 per ounce," said Dilip Parmar, Research Analyst at HDFC Securities. **PTI**

Rupee rises 14 paise to close at 79.76 against US dollar

Mumbai: The rupee appreciated 14 paise to close at 79.76 (provisional) against the US dollar on Monday tracking strong regional peers and soft greenback.

At the interbank forex market, the local unit opened at 79.86 against the greenback and finally settled at 79.76 (provisional), registering a rise of 14 paise over its previous close.

During the session, the local unit witnessed an intraday high of 79.70 and a low of 79.87 against the American currency.

In the previous session, the rupee had closed at 79.90 against the American currency. The dollar index, which measures the greenback’s strength against a basket of six currencies, was down 0.38 per cent at 106.32.

Brent crude futures, the global oil benchmark, rose 1.25 per cent to USD 104.49 per



barrel.

According to Dilip Parmar, Research Analyst, HDFC Securities, the Indian rupee started the week on the front foot following stronger regional currencies and weaker crude oil prices.

"We have entered the Fed week with markets back to their expectation of a 75 bps move on Wednesday from 100 bps a few weeks back," Parmar said, adding that spot USD/INR is having support at

79.30 and resistance remains around 80.10.

On the domestic equity market front, the BSE Sensex ended 306.01 points or 0.55 per cent lower at 55,766.22, while the broader NSE Nifty declined 88.45 points or 0.53 per cent to 16,631.00.

Foreign Institutional Investors (FIIs) were net sellers in the capital market on Friday as they sold shares worth ₹675.45 crore, as per exchange data. **PTI**

Anupam Rasayan Q1 net profit up 25.56%

New Delhi: Chemicals maker Anupam Rasayan on Monday posted a 25.56 per cent increase in its consolidated net profit at ₹39.69 crore in the first quarter of the 2022-23 fiscal on higher income.

The company had posted a net profit of ₹32.12 crore in the same quarter of previous year, according to a regulatory filing. Total income increased by 25.31 per cent on a consolidated basis to ₹297.14 crore in the April-June quarter of the 2022-23 fiscal when compared with ₹237.96 crore in the year-ago period.

Anupam Rasayan managing director Anand Desai said: "We delivered robust growth in Q1 FY23 against the backdrop of an uncertain global environment." The company’s focus on financial prudence and operational finesse has helped keep the margins at sustainable levels, he said. **PTI**

eBikeGo to set up manufacturing plant through subsidiary Vajram Electric

Mumbai: Electric bike startup eBikeGo on Monday announced it will set up a manufacturing facility through its subsidiary Vajram Electric for its Muvi and Velocipede brand of electric vehicles.

The facility will develop powertrain as well as multiple product portfolios for both domestic and international markets, eBikeGo said in a statement.

Vajram Electric is a special business unit established in order to fulfil the manufacturing requirements of eBikeGo, the company said in the statement.

The company had late last year announced acquiring manufacturing and marketing rights for European e-scooter Muvi as well as manufacturing rights for electric trike Velocipede from Spanish automotive company Tarrot.

With cutting edge technology and business intelli-



gence, Vajram will build an integrated EV (Electric Vehicle) ecosystem. It will develop the two-wheeler powertrain that enables a variety of vehicle configurations, the company said.

eBikeGo also said its subsidiary company will manufacture multiple futuristic product portfolios of vehicles for both India as well as international markets.

"We aim to be India’s first electric mobility company that is building an integrated EV ecosystem. A dedicated quality EV manufacturing unit is the need of the hour and Vajram

Electric is the first and a crucial step towards achieving this goal. Vajram Electric will offer modular, purpose-built EVs to solve the future of mobility," said Irfan Khan, founder-CEO, eBikeGo.

The company said for its product pipeline for different use cases, a contract manufacturing facility will be able to reduce costs and at the same time can work on low volume shifts by optimising platform sharing.

eBikeGo is currently present in seven cities and has more than 2,500 vehicles in EV rental space.

The company is actively working with all the major last-mile delivery companies and is aiming to target 2 per cent of the domestic electric two-wheeler market with plans to bring on the road a fleet of 2,00,000 bikes in about 100 cities across the country, as per the statement. **PTI**

India to be fastest-growing economy, engine of global growth: Kumar Mangalam Birla

New Delhi: India is poised to be the fastest-growing major economy in the world and an engine of global growth despite global headwinds, says leading industrialist and Aditya Birla Group Chairman Kumar Mangalam Birla.

The economic activity in India has witnessed a sharp recovery to pre-pandemic levels on the back of a rapid and widespread rollout of the vaccination programme, Birla said in the latest annual report of UltraTech Cement Ltd.

"A strong digital ecosystem, fiscal and monetary policy and various government schemes helped small and medium enterprises and the worst affected sections of the population to survive while reviving demand and bringing the economy back on track,"



said Birla while addressing UltraTech’s shareholders.

On the global economy, he said it had recovered from the pandemic shock in 2022 on the back of supportive fiscal and monetary policies and mass vaccination programme.

However, at the end of FY22, the war in Ukraine and the subsequent economic sanctions on Russia posed a huge shock.

"It disrupted energy markets and supply chains and added to the already evolving inflationary pressures and con-

cerns over consumer demand," said Birla.

The Indian economy has not remained unscathed by these global developments, he added.

Partly on account of the elevated commodity prices in global markets, India’s inflation pushed higher than the target of the Reserve Bank of India (RBI). To control inflationary risks, and reduce the pressure on the rupee, RBI has been selling reserves and unwinding the extraordinary liquidity support provided by it during the pandemic.

"On the positive side, economic activity in India has witnessed a sharp recovery to pre-pandemic levels on the back of a rapid and widespread rollout of the vaccination programme," he said.

Auto financing startup Moove forays into Indian market

New Delhi: Auto financing start-up Moove on Monday announced its entry into the Indian market with the launch of operations in Mumbai, Hyderabad and Bengaluru.

The company, which is Uber’s largest vehicle supply partner in Europe, the Middle East and Africa, has launched operations in the country as part of its global expansion.

Nigeria-born global start-up Moove provides revenue-based financing to mobility entrepreneurs.

The startup offers accessible vehicle financing exclusively to drivers on the Uber’s platform.

"We’re excited to be expanding our revenue-based vehicle financing model to



enable the sustainable creation of jobs across the country, where there are some of the lowest vehicle ownership rates in the world, in part because of the lack of access to credit.

"We are delighted to be expanding our Uber partnership to solve this problem for our new customers in India," Moove co-founder Ladi Delano

said in a statement.

Moove is bringing its impact-led model to India, its first expansion outside of Africa, as part of its mission to close the finance gap for mobility entrepreneurs globally, the company stated.

The company aims to be a global leader in the electrification of ride-hailing and mobility with a commitment to ensuring that 60 per cent of vehicles it finances globally are hybrid or electric, it added.

Backed by some of the world’s leading investors, Moove has raised over USD 200 million to date, scaled to 13 markets across three continents, and its customers have completed over 5 million trips. **PTI**

Axis Bank profit nearly doubles to ₹4,125 crore in April-June

New Delhi: Axis Bank on Monday said its net profit nearly doubled to ₹4,125 crore in the April-June quarter of FY23, helped by decline in bad loans.

The private sector bank had registered a net profit of ₹2,160 crore in the corresponding quarter of the previous fiscal. Total income of the bank rose to ₹21,727.61 crore during April-June quarter of the current fiscal, compared to ₹19,361.92 crore in the year-ago period, Axis Bank said in a regulatory filing.

The lender’s asset quality improved as gross Non-Performing Assets (NPAs) declined to 2.76 per cent as on June 30 this year, from 3.85 per cent a year ago.

Net NPAs or bad loans slipped to 0.64 per cent of net advances furnished by June-end from 1.20 per cent a year earlier.

As a result, provisions other than tax and contingencies declined manifold to ₹359.36 crore as against ₹3,302 crore in the same period a year ago. **PTI**

Diamond industry to witness 15-20% dip in revenue in FY23: Report

Mumbai: India’s diamond industry is likely to witness 15-20 per cent decline in revenue in this financial year due to falling demand and rising prices of rough gemstone globally, according to a report.

Revenue of the Indian diamond industry is set to be cut 15-20 per cent to USD 19-20 billion this fiscal, compared with a decadal high in the last financial year, following a double blow from falling demand and rising prices of roughs across the globe, Crisil Ratings

said in a report.

"While volatility in rough diamond prices is typically passed on to the polished diamond prices -- albeit with a lag due to the long operating cycle in the trade -- tepid demand has kept polished prices from fully catching up with rough prices this time around.

"This could squeeze the operating profitability of Indian diamond polishers by 75-100 basis points to 4-4.25 per cent this fiscal. Accordingly, interest coverage may weaken mar-

ginally," Crisil Ratings Chief Ratings Officer Subodh Rai said.

According to the report, a surge in Covid-19 cases has led to lockdowns in several regions in China, which is one of the largest consumers of Indian polished diamonds.

Further, it noted that inflation and opening up of other avenues of discretionary spending such as travel and hospitality will dampen demand growth in the US and Europe in the near term. **PTI**

Dyson unveils new vacuum cleaner V15 Detect

New Delhi: British tech firm Dyson on Monday unveiled V15 Detect, its most powerful and intelligent cord-free vacuum cleaner to date.

Engineered to detect hidden dust particles as small as 10 microns and equipped with an acoustic piezo sensor, new Dyson technology which redefines deep cleaning for Indian households, said a company statement.

"Our latest vacuums use adapted laser technology to reveal hidden dust, integrating a diode laser into the cleaner head that is precisely positioned at a 1.5 degree angle, 7.3mm off the ground to create the best contrast between dust and floor," James Dyson, Engineer and Founder, said.

Developed by a team of 370 highly skilled engineers globally, this latest vacuum uses a Dyson Hyperdymium motor which generates up to 240 air watts of suction for the most powerful deep clean. **PTI**

Best Agrolife Subsidiary, Receives ‘A’ Credit Rating from CARE

New Delhi: A wholly owned subsidiary of Best Agrolife Ltd. received "A—Long-term Rating" from India’s top credit rating agency, CareEdge Ratings Ltd.

Best Crop Science India Pvt Ltd (BCSPL) is a wholly owned subsidiary of Best Agrolife Ltd. and it received a credit rating of "A" by CareEdge on 21st July 2022. **PTI**

Record-breaking Duplantis soars at Eugene worlds



AP ■ EUGENE

Armand Duplantis wrapped up the World Athletics Championships in Eugene in stunning fashion on Sunday, setting a new world record in the pole vault as the curtain came down on the 10-day global track and field extravaganza.

The gripping finale could not have been any better scripted for the first world championships ever to be held on American soil -- apart from the fact maybe that the US-born and raised Duplantis was wearing the yellow and blue of Sweden and not representing the Stars and Stripes.

As the furious hullaboo of the frenzied 4x400m relays won by the US men and women died down, all eyes turned on Duplantis.

And the 22-year-old Swede did not disappoint, sailing with ease over 6.21 metres at the second time of asking.

The packed, raucous crowd at Hayward Field went wild as Duplantis sprinted to see his father and coach Greg and plant a kiss on girlfriend Desire Inglander.

"It is great, I cannot complain!" said Duplantis, whose new mark bettered by 1cm his previous best set when winning Gold at the World Indoor Championships in Belgrade in March.

"ACTUALLY, I DID NOT THINK ABOUT THE RECORD THAT MUCH TODAY. USUALLY, IT IS ALWAYS SOMEWHERE IN THE BACK OF MY MIND BUT TODAY, I WAS REALLY FOCUSED ON THE WIN AND I REALLY WANTED TO WIN THE GOLD SO BADLY"

It was his fifth world record, and third this year.

"Actually, I did not think about the record that much today," he said.

"Usually, it is always somewhere in the back of my mind but today, I was really focused on the win and I really wanted to win the



Gold so badly. It was the medal I was missing.

"I love jumping in Eugene and it was amazing here. I cannot figure the next heights right now. I am going to have a bit time off with my family and my friends."

Record for Amusan

Unheralded Nigerian Tobi Amusan had earlier stolen the show with two electric runs on her way to Gold in the 100m hurdles.

In the very first event of a loaded evening of track, people had barely had chance to sit down with their sodas and popcorn before Amusan rocketed to a new world record of 12.12 seconds in the semi-finals.

When she retook to the track later in the session, the Nigerian stormed to victory in 12.06sec, although a tailwind speed of 2.5 metres per second meant it wouldn't go down in the freshly-inked record books.

"The goal was to come out and to win this Gold. I just did it," said Amusan, who finished ahead of

Jamaica's Britany Anderson and Olympic champion Jasmine Camacho-Quinn of Puerto Rico.

"I believe in my abilities but I was not expecting a world record at these championships."

American Athing Mu lived up to her hype by adding the world 800m title to her Olympic crown.

Mu, still only 20 years of age, was forced to dig deep to hold off British rival Keeley Hodgkinson in a thrilling battle down the final straight before taking Gold in a world-leading 1min 56.30sec.

"I'm just glad I made it to the line to finish the race, and thankfully I won Gold. I just physically wasn't where I would like to be," Mu said.

Another Gold medallist from last year's Tokyo Olympics, Malaika Mihambo, won Germany a long-awaited medal as she retained her world long jump title.

But Uganda's Joshua Cheptegei floundered in a 5000m race won convincingly by Norway's Jakob Ingebrigtsen, who bounced back from the disappointment of Silver in the 1500m.

In the absence through injury of Olympic champion Damian Warner of Canada, France's Kevin Mayer seized the moment to claim a second world decathlon Gold.

Mayer accrued 8,816 points after 10 disciplines over two days to follow up on previous world Gold in 2017 in London.

Consolidating their place atop the medals table with a world championship record of 33 (13 Gold, nine Silver, 11 Bronze), the United States claimed emphatic victories in both 4x400m relay finals, much to the delight of the partisan crowd.

Strength in depth saw record-breaking 400m hurdles Gold medallist Sydney McLaughlin anchor the women and individual 400m winner Michael Norman take a leg for the men's quartet.

The women's victory meant the now-retired Allyson Felix bagged a 20th world medal as she was a squad member who ran in Saturday's heats.

‘Player like Shafali born once in a generation’

PTI ■ DUBAI

Shafali Verma belongs to that rare breed of players who emerge once in a generation with an ability to singlehandedly win matches against any opposition, legendary former skipper Mithali Raj said on Monday.

Mithali, who recently announced her retirement from international cricket, is amazed at the kind of "raw power" that the 18-year-old generates in her shots.

"I have been a big fan of her game. I have seen that she's one player who has the ability to win the game single-handedly for India against any attack and any team. She is one of those players that you get to see probably once in a generation," Mithali told ICC's 100 percent 'Cricket Podcast'.

Shafali made an instant impression on Raj on India's domestic circuit.

"When I saw Shafali in a domestic match when she played against Indian Railways, she scored a fifty but I could see a glimpse of a player who could change the entire match just with her innings," said Mithali.

"And when she played for Velocity in the first edition of the Challenger Trophy, she played for my team and I saw that she has the ability and the



raw power that you rarely get to see at that age to clear the boundary and hit a six at will."

Open to playing WIPL

Having finished her illustrious 22-year-old international career with more than 10,000

international runs, Mithali remains open to playing in the inaugural edition of Women's IPL, set to start next year.

"I'm keeping that option open. I've not yet decided," she said.

Boxing asst coach, sports psychologist added to CWG contingent

PTI ■ LONDON

Boxing's assistant coach Sandhya Gurung and sports psychologist Gayatri Vartak have been included in the Indian contingent days before the start of the Commonwealth Games.

Dronacharya awardee Gurung is an assistant coach in the national camp and has been working closely with Tokyo Olympics bronze medallist Lovlina Borgohain.

Vartak is a mental conditioning coach who worked with the Indian table tennis team at the national camp in May.

"Sandhya Gurung and Gayatri Vartak have been included in the Indian contingent," an IOA source told PTI.

Gurung, who is credited with pulling Lovlina out of a

"SANDHYA HAS ALREADY REACHED BIRMINGHAM BUT GAYATRI IS WAITING FOR HER VISA"

difficult mental place before the Tokyo Olympics, had travelled with the boxing contingent to Ireland where the pugilists underwent a 15-day camp.

On arrival in Birmingham, she was stuck at the airport as she was a last-minute addition to India's CWG contingent and her accreditation hadn't arrived. She was checked in to the hotel where the extra officials are staying.

Vartak, on the other hand, is still awaiting her visa.

"Sandhya has already reached Birmingham but Gayatri is waiting for her visa which will arrive by tomorrow," the source said.

A former badminton player, Vartak will be primarily assisting the paddlers at the quadrennial event. However, she has also helped the likes of shuttler Lakshya Sen and squash player Saurav Ghoshal in the past among others.

Her absence from the final TT squad had not got down well with the players last week, with the likes of veteran Sharath Kamal and reigning national champion Sreeja Akula saying her presence would have made a "big difference."

The CWG will begin in Birmingham on Thursday.

CSA T20 League: Klusener named coach of Durban franchise

PTI ■ KOLKATA

Former South African all-rounder Lance Klusener was on Monday named as the head coach of the Durban franchise for the first CSA T20 League.

The T20 league is scheduled to take place in January and February next year.

According to a media release, the RPSG Group, which has acquired the Durban fran-

chise, roped in Klusener as the head coach for the franchise.

"This is a new challenge for me. It makes me very proud. I am looking forward to meet the team," Klusener, who has played 49 Tests and 171 ODIs, said. Klusener had in the past coached the Afghanistan national team.

The RPSG Group also owns the Indian Premier League (IPL) franchise Lucknow Super Giants.



India will find it tough to match Gold Coast high

PTI ■ LONDON

Scaling a new high after the Speak' of 2018 would be tough but the Indian table tennis contingent would be a content lot if it manages to match its record eight-medal tally of Gold Coast at the Birmingham Commonwealth Games.

India had exceeded expectations in Australia by winning three gold, a couple of silver and three bronze medals.

Half of those medals, including two gold, came via Manika Batra whose career graph and popularity sky rocketed thereafter.

The 27-year-old from Delhi stunned Olympic medallist Feng Tianwei of Singapore not once but twice in the competition to secure an individual and team gold for India.

The 35-year-old Singaporean will be looking to settle scores against Manika in

Birmingham.

One can expect her to come better prepared as well for tackling the pimplered rubber that the Indian plays with.

It will be a new look women's team this time around with reigning national champion Sreeja Akula, Reeth Rishya and Diya Chitale joining the 41st-ranked Manika.

India's finest TT player Sharath Kamal, who will be featuring in his fifth and last Commonwealth Games, the seasoned G Sathyan, Harmeet Desai and Sanil Shetty form a formidable men's squad.

The players trained in Portugal before moving to Hungary for competition ahead of the multi-sporting event.

Off the table, it wasn't the smoothest of build ups for the table tennis contingent with three players approaching court against their non selection.

‘Don’t know how to focus at CWG’: Lovlina alleges ‘mental harassment’



PTI ■ BIRMINGHAM

Olympic bronze medallist Lovlina Borgohain on Monday alleged that her preparations for the Commonwealth Games are being hampered because of the "continuous harassment" her coaches are facing from the authorities.

The Indian boxing squad reached the Games Village here on Sunday night after a training stint in Ireland, but Lovlina's personal coach Sandhya Gurung could not enter the Village since she does not have accreditation.

Lovlina, perhaps, wanted her personal coach Amey Kolekar with her during the CWG, but his name did not feature in the long list.

The decorated pugilist expressed her anger in a long twitter post.

"Today with a lot of grief, I want to tell everyone about the continuous harassment going on with me. The coaches who helped me win an Olympic medal are always being side-lined which has severely impacted my training schedule," Lovlina wrote in her twitter post.

"One of the coaches is Sandhya Gurungji, who is a Dronacharya awardee. I had to plead with folded hands to get my coaches included in the contingent. I am feeling mentally harassed because of this ordeal," she posted.

"Right now, my coach Sandhya Gurung is standing outside the CWG village and not being allowed to enter. Just eight days before the start of my event, my training schedule has been hampered. My other coach has been sent back to India," she said.

Reacting to the boxer's allegations, the Sports Ministry said it has directed the Indian Olympic Association (IOA) to resolve the matter at the earliest.

"We have urged the Indian Olympic Association to immediately arrange for the accreditation of the coach of Lovlina Borgohain," the ministry tweeted.

Lovlina alleged that she endured similar treatment before the World Championship in Istanbul and she fears that something similar will happen at the upcoming Birmingham Games.

"I don't understand how will I focus on the Games (CWG) amidst all this? My world championships also suffered because of this. I don't want my CWG to be affected due to politics. Hoping I will overcome this politics and win a medal for my country. Jai Hind," she wrote.

The other coach Lovlina is talking about is her strength and conditioning coach Amey Kolekar, who is also in her personal support staff.

His name was not on the long list. Kolekar was with her in Ireland.

The Indian team already has a strength and conditioning coach for helping out the pugilists during the Games.

Meanwhile, the Sports Authority of India (SAI) said it will ensure that a proper resolution is reached.

"The SAI has taken up the matter with BFI. The Sports Ministry is in talks with IOA to solve the matter and ensure best possible preparation for Lovlina, who is a strong medal contender," a SAI official said.

BFI's defence

The BFI issued a statement

that as per rules only 33 percent (1/3rd) of the playing contingent is allowed as support staff. The Indian boxing contingent has 12 playing members (8 men and 4 women) and as per rules, the number of support staff will be four, which includes travelling coaches.

The BFI further stated that "requirement of boxing with respect to coaches and support staff is a little different as there are multiple bouts, which could be one after another."

"With IOA's help, the number of support staff went up from 4 to 8 for the entire contingent of 12 boxers."

Reacting to Lovlina's allegations that she has to literally beg for inclusion of her coaches for training camps and exposure tours, the BFI said that it "ensured that Sandhya Gurung was at training camp in Ireland."

'Long List' and IOA's interpretation

Normally, before any quadrennial games, all participating nations prepare a 'Long List' of support staff and officials but it doesn't mean that everyone would make the final cut. Gurung's name was apparently there in the long list.

IOA general secretary Rajeev Mehta put the ball on BFI's court as to who all they wanted to include in the list of support staff.

"The 'Long List' was 1200 or so in total but only 215 are going for the Games. As per rules, they (BFI) are entitled four support staff but we still allowed them to have eight support staff on their request. It is respective federation's decision to include whom they want. IOA can't go out of their way," Mehta told.

12 SERIES WIN IN A ROW

Axar Patel's 35-ball 64 help India win 2nd ODI by two wickets and maintain dominance over Men in Maroon

PTI ■ PORT OF SPAIN

Axar Patel smashed a whirlwind unbeaten 35-ball 64, his maiden ODI fifty, to steer India to a series-clinching two-wicket win over the West Indies in a tense second match here.

With the win over Windies in second ODI, India secured 12th consecutive bilateral ODI series win against the Caribbean team, which a new world record.

Set a stiff target of 312, the visitors were tottering at 205 for five in 38.4 overs but Patel rescued India with his six-hitting prowess, taking the visitors home with two balls to spare on Sunday.

Needing six runs off last three balls, Patel clobbered Kyle Mayers straight over his head for a six as India took an unassailable 2-0 lead in the three-match series.

Patel smashed five sixes and three fours in his unconquered innings and added 51 off 33 balls with Deepak Hooda (33).

This was after Shreyas Iyer (63) and Sanju Samson (54) took the chase deep with well-paced fifties.

"It's very special, to get it in a crucial, series-winning cause is amazing. When I went out, I aimed for 10-11 an over. We thought it could be done as we have IPL experience," Patel, who was adjudged man of the match, said.

"We wanted to be calm and keep cover of the rate. This was special as this is my first ODI since 2017, even my first fifty came here."

India skipper Shikhar Dhawan was lavish in his praise for the all-rounder.

"The way Axar played was amazing. Our domestic and



IPL cricket keeps us ready as we play in front of big crowds. As Axar said, he's done it multiple times in IPL. That brings a big stage."

West Indies skipper Nicholas Pooran said his side lost the game "in the last six overs."

"Axar played well and we didn't hold our nerves. We

could not keep things down in the last five overs. We felt that it got easier to hit spinners. One wicket would have opened up things but Axar played brilliantly," he said.

Opting to bat, Shai Hope produced a masterclass 135-ball 117.

Skipper Nicholas Pooran showed his big-hitting prowess

with six maximums and one four during his 74 off 77 balls as West Indies posted an impressive 311 for six.

In reply, Shubman Gill (43) looked in good touch as he hit five boundaries during his 49-ball innings to give India a decent start but captain Dhawan (13) found the going tough at the other end.

Dhawan was the first to depart with Mayers producing a stunning catch at third man off the bowling of Romario Shepherd.

Mayers then pegged India back with two quick wickets, first getting rid off a well-set Gill and then removing Suryakumar Yadav (9), who once again dragged one to his stumps.

Iyer and Samson tried to take the chase deep with a 99-run partnership off 94 balls but once both departed, India still needed 105 runs from 11 overs.

It was the Patel show after that as he kept fighting despite losing Hooda and Shardul Thakur.

Earlier, Hope played the role of an anchor to perfection as he added 65 runs with opener Mayers (39), before forging another 62-run stand with Shamarrh Brooks (35).

Hope then found his perfect ally in skipper Pooran as the two shared a 117-run stand.

Hope, who was dismissed cheaply in first ODI, hit eight fours and three maximums in his 135-ball 115-run knock.

For India, spin duo of Patel (1/40) and Hooda (1/42) were economical but Yuzvendra Chahal (1/69) was expensive as he was smashed for six sixes and two fours.

Mohammed Siraj (0/47) bowled well but Avesh Khan (0/54 in 6 overs) had a forgettable ODI debut, while Thakur (3/54) made amends in the back end with three wickets.

Hope looked in full flow as he played some exquisite shots on the off side before reaching the three figure mark in his 100th ODI game with a six in the 45th over.

West Indies amassed 93 runs in last 10 overs.



Iyer rues not converting fifties into centuries

PTI ■ PORT OF SPAIN

India's Shreyas Iyer has been in impressive form in the ongoing white-ball tour of West Indies but the batter is unhappy with his failure to convert back-to-back half centuries into hundreds.

Iyer made 63 off 71 balls batting at number 3 to play a big role in India's series-clinching two-wicket win over West Indies in the second ODI here on Sunday.

He stitched a 99-run stand with Sanju Samson (54) for the fourth wicket before Axar Patel (64 not out) finished off the match.

Iyer, who had scored 54 in India's three-run win in the first match, said he would look to score a century in the next game.

"I was happy with what I scored today but unhappy the way I was dismissed. I could have taken the team through easily. I was setting up the total and it was unfortunate that I lost my wicket. Hopefully, I can do better and score a century in the next match," he said after the game.

The 27-year-old right-handed batter rued not scoring a hundred.

"Last time also it was a good catch (to dismiss him). Obviously, I can't say I threw away my wicket but I should have converted into hundreds. But I feel good to contribute to the team's win.

"It's really fortunate to get to fifty (back to back) but I should have converted into hundred because I had got a good start. You

don't get these kind of starts again and again in international cricket and converting as many fifties to hundred is very beneficial. I thought today was a great chance to do that."

Iyer has been batting at number three in his last few matches and he said he is enjoying his new role.

"It is one of the best positions to bat at. You go in at a tough situation. If the wickets fall, you go early and you have to see off the new ball and then build the innings.

"And also, if the opening partnership is very good and you have to carry it on and build onto that from where they left. It is a fun position to bat at and I really enjoyed."

He credited his strong form to the extra hard work he has been putting in recently.

"The result I am getting is because of the hard work I am doing. I am doing some extra hard work recently because wickets and conditions are changing and there are back to back matches so I have to keep fit and try to control the controllables."

There were some tense moments during the 312-run chase when India needed six runs off three balls.

Talking about those moments, Iyer said, "It was fun to be honest. Rahul (Dravid) sir was getting very tensed, he was passing messages. But the players were very calm and composed during pressure situations.

Asked about the partnership he had with Samson that re-built the India innings, Iyer said,

Blacks Caps name seasoned squad for Windies tour



AP ■ WELLINGTON

Kane Williamson will captain New Zealand's 15-man squad for T20I and ODI matches in the West Indies next month on the Black Caps' first tour of the Caribbean since 2014, it was announced on Monday.

Alongside Williamson, New Zealand Cricket selectors included bowlers Trent Boult and Tim Southee, who make up an experienced core while Finn Allen and Michael Bracewell were added on the back of strong performances in recent wins over Ireland.

Black Caps coach Gary Stead is using the tour to help

finalise his squad for the ICC T20 World Cup in Australia this October.

"We are getting closer and closer to finalising the squad for the T20 World Cup just on the horizon," Stead told reporters on Monday.

"For Kane, Trent, Tim and Devon (Conway), this will be the first time they have played white ball cricket for New Zealand since last year's T20 World Cup and tour to India - so this trip will be important for them." A tight schedule means New Zealand will play six matches in 11 days, with three T20 matches in Jamaica and three ODIs in Barbados.

"It's always exciting to be

heading somewhere you've not been in a while and I know this group can't wait for the challenge of taking on the West Indies in the Caribbean," he added. "We also have players such as Michael and Finn who are relatively new to the international stage but have really put their hands up for selection when given opportunities."

New Zealand squad: Kane Williamson (capt), Finn Allen, Trent Boult, Michael Bracewell, Devon Conway, Lockie Ferguson, Martin Guptill, Matt Henry, Tom Latham, Daryl Mitchell, Jimmy Neesham, Glenn Phillips, Mitchell Santner, Ish Sodhi, Tim Southee.



Pucovski, 7 others to head to India for 10-day training

PTI ■ SYDNEY

Australian batter Will Pucovski and seven other players will travel to Chennai for a 10-day training camp next month as part of an exchange programme with MRF Pace Foundation.

The 24-year-old Pucovski had made his Test debut against India in January last year but had dislocated his shoulder during the match and had to undergo surgery. He then suffered a concussion last October, which kept him out of action.

He returned at the back end of the summer, making 59 in the Marsh Sheffield Shield final. He was not named in the Australia 'A' squad for Sri Lanka tour but the move to include Pucovski in the camp suggests the Victorian could be in the frame for the Test tour

of India.

Josh Philippe, Teague Wyllie and Cooper Connolly, Henry Hunt and spinners Matt Kuhnemann, Todd Murphy and Tanveer Sangha are the other players who will head to India for the training camp from August 7 to 17.

The 10-day camp is part of a longstanding reciprocal deal between Cricket Australia and the MRF Pace Foundation in Chennai, cricket.com.au reported.

The eight players will integrate with local players in training and in a two-day and one-day match.

Former Sri Lanka all-rounder Thilan Samaraweera is part of the coaching group.

Australia pace legend Glenn McGrath will also be present as a coach as a part his role as a consultant at the MRF Academy.

De Kock warns multi-format cricketers could be on way out

AP ■ LEEDS

Quinton de Kock believes it will become increasingly difficult for leading cricketers to play all three main formats, although he remains confident about the future for ODIs.

The South Africa wicket-keeper-batsman, who made a fine unbeaten 92 before the third ODI against England at Headingley on Sunday was washed out, ended his Test career late last year, shortly before becoming a father for the first time.

Questions regarding a congested global schedule were raised again after the ODI retirement of England all-rounder Ben Stokes following the first match of this series at the 2019 World Cup final star's Chester-le-Street home

ground.

De Kock, speaking after Sunday's rain in Leeds meant a three-game contest ended in a 1-1 draw, told reporters: "It's going to start being tough for players — three formats is a lot and it looks like more games are happening over the calendar.

"Players need to make decisions individually and if they feel they can do it (play Tests, ODIs and T20Is), I am happy for them," the 29-year-old added.

"But guys need to take decisions into their own hands. For me, I am happy where I am."

De Kock though stressed curtailing a 54-match Test career had yet to have the desired effect.

Although he had two months off after returning from maternity leave to play in South Africa's white-ball matches against India

in January ahead of the series against Bangladesh, he has been on the go playing cricket ever since.

De Kock featured for the Lucknow Super Giants in the Indian Premier League before the tour of England, which also includes several further T20Is.

He will then remain in England to play in the Hundred before heading to the Caribbean Premier League prior to another white-ball series in India which precedes the T20 World Cup in Australia.

"(Retiring from Tests) hasn't freed up my calendar — at least not this year," said De Kock.

"I've been roped in to play a couple of leagues but that's my own consequence.

"I am happy to do it. It's still a sacrifice but I'm slowly getting



to an age where I need to think about where I want to be in my career."

South Africa have never won a 50-over World Cup — something they will try to put right in India next year — with De Kock insisting: "The (ODI) game is doing well for itself with the way players are going about it and from a batting and bowling competitiveness.

"There's a future for it and a lot of us still want to win 50-over World Cups." De Kock was just shy of what would have been his 18th ODI century, with the opener 92 not out off 76 balls, including 13 fours, when rain eventually ended play with South Africa 159-2 off 27.4 overs.

"I think obviously it's nice going out there and scoring runs for the guys," he said.

England captain Jos Buttler was left frustrated by a gruelling schedule, as much as the bad weather.

The 50-over world champions are currently nine games into a hectic period of 12 white-ball fixtures in 24 days, with just a solitary training day in that time.

Buttler, who recently succeeded Eoin Morgan as England's limited-overs captain following the 2019 World Cup-winning skipper's international retirement, said: "It's tough.

"To get the highest standard of cricket possible, you need to prepare properly. Hopefully that's something we can look at going forward.

He added: "That's been a frustration to be truthfully honest — it would be nice to have that time to do the work."