

OPINION 6
EASTERN EUROPE
BATS FOR UKRAINE**WORLD 9**
'EX-PREZ GOTABAYA TO RETURN TO
LANKA FROM SINGAPORE'**MONEY 10**
5G AUCTION: ₹1.45 L CR
BIDS BY JIO, AIRTELDELHI LUCKNOW BHOPAL BHUBANESWAR
RANCHI RAIPUR CHANDIGARH
DEHRADUN HYDERABAD VIJAYWADALate City Vol.32 Issue 206
*Air Surcharge Extra if Applicable

NEW DELHI, WEDNESDAY JULY 27, 2022; PAGES 12 ₹3



the pioneer

www.dailypioneer.com

NEERAJ
PULLS OUT
OF 2022 CWG
11 SPORT

19 MPs suspended from RS for week

Decision to deepen
Govt-Opp face-off;
call taken with
heavy heart: BJPPIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■
NEW DELHI

In a major development that could lead to complete washout of the Monsoon Session, 19 Opposition Rajya Sabha members, including seven from the TMC and six from the DMK, were suspended on Tuesday from attending the sitting of the Rajya Sabha till Friday for disrupting the proceedings of the House.

This was the highest number of MPs suspended in one go. Earlier, 12 Opposition members were suspended in November last year after some of them had climbed on the table and flung papers towards the Chair.

The BJP said the decision to suspend the MPs was taken with a "heavy heart" as the penalised members repeatedly ignored Deputy Chairman Harvansh's appeals to let the Upper House of Parliament function.

Four Congress Lok Sabha MPs — Manickam Tagore, TN Prathapan, Jothamani and Ramya Haridas — were suspended on Monday for disrupting proceedings, deepening the standoff between the Opposition and the Government.



Opposition members protest in the Rajya Sabha during ongoing Monsoon Session, in New Delhi on Tuesday

PTI

The Opposition MPs, who stalled the proceedings since the start of the Monsoon Session of Parliament last Monday over price rise and the levy of the GST on daily essentials, entered the Well of the House shouting slogans.

The protesting MPs were raising slogans in various languages, including English, Hindi, Tamil and other regional languages. "Modi ji jawab do"; "GST wapas lo"; "Gujarat CM resign karo" were some of the slogans being raised by the Opposition members.

Deputy Chairman Harivansh repeatedly asked

the protesting MPs to return to their seats but when they refused, he asked the treasury benches to move a motion for their suspension.

Minister of State for Parliamentary Affairs V Muraliedharan moved a motion to suspend 10 MPs for the remainder of the week for their "misconduct" by showing "utter disregard to the House and authority of the Chair".

But when Harivansh put the motion to vote, he read out the names of 19 members. The motion was passed by a voice vote.

When some Opposition

MPs demanded a division of votes, the Chair said he would do so if the members returned to their seats and the House was brought to order.

With the MPs refusing to budge, he said it seems they are not interested in the division and declared that the motion has been adopted.

The suspended MPs refused to leave, squatting on the floor of the House, leading to three adjournments — first for 15 minutes by Harivansh, then for an hour and finally, for the day by Bhubaneswar Kalita, who was in the Chair.

Continued on Page 2

India slams invite to nations to CPEC projects in PoK

Invitation by China, Pak infringes on India's sovereignty, territorial integrity, says New DelhiPIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■
NEW DELHI

India on Tuesday strongly opposed China and Pakistan inviting other countries to participate in their economic corridor passing through Pakistan Occupied Kashmir (POK) and termed it as "illegitimate and illegal."

In a sharply worded response on the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), Ministry of External Affairs Spokesperson Arindam Bagchi said, "We have seen reports on encouraging a proposed participation of third countries in so-called CPEC projects. Any such actions by any party directly infringe on India's sovereignty and territorial integrity."

"India firmly and consistently opposes projects in the so-called CPEC, which are in Indian territory that has been illegally occupied by Pakistan. Such activities are inherently illegal, illegitimate and unacceptable, and will be treated accordingly by India."

New Delhi has all along opposed projects in the CPEC falling in India's territory illegally occupied by Pakistan.

The latest reaction by India came after a July 21 meeting of the CPEC Joint Working Group (JWG) on International Cooperation and Coordination where Pakistan and China decided to welcome interested third countries to join the flagship CPEC initiative.



The CPEC was launched in 2013 to improve Pakistan's road, rail and energy transportation infrastructure, besides connecting its deep-sea port of Gwadar with China's Xinjiang province.

The CPEC is part of China's ambitious Belt and Road Initiative (BRI).

During the virtual meeting co-chaired by Pakistan's foreign secretary Sohail Mahmood and China's Assistant Foreign Minister Wu Jianghao, both the countries sought the participation of "interested third parties" in mutually beneficial cooperation opened up by the economic corridor.

China and Pakistan described the economic corridor as "an open and inclusive platform", and "welcomed interested third parties to benefit from avenues for mutually beneficial cooperation opened up by CPEC", according to a statement issued by Pakistan's Foreign Office.

The meeting reviewed the implementation of the CPEC and its "expansion to jointly agreed priority areas". Mahmood emphasised the centrality of the "time-tested Pakistan-China all-weather strategic cooperative partnership" in Islamabad's foreign policy and said the "vitality and dynamism of the CPEC reflected the deep-seated mutual goodwill that lay at the heart of the bilateral relationship".

The two sides said the CPEC's development has reached a "new point, with increasing emphasis on high-quality development of industry, agriculture, IT, and science and technology", and has also "broken new ground in strengthening international and regional connectivity, especially in the context of its extension to Afghanistan".

The CPEC was launched as a flagship venture under Chinese President Xi Jinping's Belt and Road Initiative.

Two Indian peacekeepers killed in Congo

PTI ■ UNITED NATIONS

India on Tuesday condoled the death of two Indian peacekeepers deployed with the UN mission in Democratic Republic of the Congo and called for the perpetrators of the "outrageous" attack to be brought to justice.

Two Border Security Force personnel, who were part of the UN peacekeeping mission in Congo, were killed on Tuesday during violent protests.

"Deeply grieved at the loss of lives of two valiant Indian peacekeepers of the BSF in the Democratic Republic of Congo. They were part of the MONUSCO. The perpetrators of these outrageous attacks must be held accountable and brought to justice," External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar said in a tweet.

Continued on Page 2

CAPSULE

GUJARAT HOCH DEATH TOLL CLIMBS TO 28

Ahmedabad: The death toll due to the consumption of spurious liquor in Gujarat's Botad district has gone up to 28, a senior police official said on Tuesday.

JKCA PMLA CASE: FAROOQ IN ED CHARGESHEET

New Delhi: The Enforcement Directorate on Tuesday said it has filed a chargesheet against former J&K Chief Minister Farooq Abdullah and some others in connection with its money laundering probe linked to irregularities in the Jammu & Kashmir Cricket Association (JKCA). The complaint was filed before an special Prevention of Money Laundering Act court in Srinagar on June 4.

₹29K-cr proposal for bulletproof jackets, rifles cleared to gear up frontline troops

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■
NEW DELHI

In an effort to provide modern weapons and protection gear to the frontline troops, the Defence Ministry on Tuesday approved procurement proposals worth ₹28,732 crore for rifles, bulletproof jackets and drones.

With tension persisting at the Line of Actual Control (LAC) in Ladakh for the last two years, the Defence Acquisition Council (DAC) gave the go ahead for buying four lakh automatic rifles for the soldiers deployed all along the 4,000-km long border stretching from Ladakh in the west to Arunachal Pradesh in the east. The troops guarding the 750-km long Line of Control (LoC) will also be equipped with these rifles.

The DAC chaired by

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh here also gave the go ahead for procurement of armed drones. The DAC is the apex body to approve projected requirements of the armed forces.

Officials said the main focus of the procurements was on self-reliance and most of the weapons will come under Buy (Indian IDDM) and Buy (Indian) categories giving a further boost to "atmanirbharta".

Considering the demand of enhanced protection against the threat of enemy snipers to Indian troops deployed along the LoC in Jammu & Kashmir, and in close combat operations in counter-terrorism scenario, the DAC gave the nod for bulletproof jackets with Indian Standard BIS VI level of protection.

To combat the current

complex paradigm of conventional and hybrid warfare and counter-terrorism at the LAC and other borders, including the LoC, the DAC approved the induction of four lakh close quarter battle carbines.

This is set to provide a major impetus to the small arms manufacturing industry in India and enhance atmanirbharta in small arms, they said.

As regards unmanned aerial vehicles (UAV), they said in the recent conflicts across the world, drone technology proved to be a force multiplier in military operations.

Accordingly, to augment the Indian Army's capability in modern warfare, the DAC gave the nod for procurement of Autonomous Surveillance and Armed Drone Swarms under Buy (Indian-IDDM) category.

Continued on Page 2

Kargil Vijay Diwas



Union Defence Minister Rajnath Singh, with MoS Ajay Bhatt, Army Chief General Manoj Pande, IAF Chief Air Chief Marshal VR Chaudhary, Navy Chief Admiral R Hari Kumar and Defence Secretary Ajay Kumar, pays homage at the National War Memorial on the occasion of Kargil Vijay Diwas, in New Delhi on Tuesday

PTI

SC wants Centre to act against 'irrational freebies' promises

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Terming as "serious" the promise of "irrational freebies" made by political parties during elections, the Supreme Court on Tuesday wondered why the Centre was hesitant about taking a stand on the issue. The court also asked the Centre whether the view of the Finance Commission can be sought to deal with the issue after the Election Commission said it cannot regulate political parties on it.

"Why don't you say that you have nothing to do with it and the Election Commission has to take a call. I am asking whether the Government of India is considering it a serious issue or not? Why are you hesitating to take a stand? You take



a stand and then we will decide whether these freebies are to be continued or not. You file a detailed counter (affidavit)," Chief Justice of India NV Ramana told Additional Solicitor General KM Natraj.

The bench, also comprising Justices Krishna Murari and Hima Kohli, was hearing a PIL against the practice of political parties promising freebies during elections.

Continued on Page 2

Low turnout for Covid booster worries Centre

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■
NEW DELHI

The tepid response to the precaution doses of the Covid-19 vaccine among the targeted beneficiaries has become a cause of serious concern for the Centre, which extended the umbrella of the booster jab to all adults more than four months ago. Only 11 per cent of the nearly 69 crore eligible beneficiaries aged 18 years and above took the precaution dose of the Covid-19 vaccine till July 25.

The officials feel that complacency and waning of coronavirus fear were the factors behind the lack of interest for the booster shot.



Underlining the need for the precaution dose, officials pointed out that studies conducted by the Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) and other international research institutions have suggested that antibody level goes down after around six months after both doses and giving a booster increases the immune response.

Continued on Page 2

Sonia grilled for 6 hours by ED in Herald case, called again today

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■
NEW DELHI

The Enforcement Directorate (ED) on Tuesday questioned Congress president Sonia Gandhi for over six hours on the second day of her appearance in a money laundering case linked to the National Herald newspaper and asked her to appear again on Wednesday for further questioning in the case.

While Sonia's questioning was underway at the ED office, her son and party leader Rahul Gandhi and several other MPs were detained by the police at Vijay Chowk after they staged a protest against her questioning by the agency.

The Congress chief reached the ED office around 11 am with her Z+ security



Police detain Congress leader Rahul Gandhi during a protest march from Parliament to Rashtrapati Bhawan against ED's interrogation of the party's president Sonia Gandhi in the National Herald case, in New Delhi on Tuesday

Ranjan Dimri | Pioneer

contingent and accompanied by her children Rahul and Priyanka Gandhi Vadra.

She left the ED office around 2 pm and returned an hour later around 3.30 pm in

what was likely a lunch break. The questioning and recording of the statements of the 75-year-old Congress president under Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA) began at 11.15 am after initial formalities like marking the attendance sheet.

She left the agency's office in Central Delhi just before 7 pm on Tuesday after recording her statement.

While Priyanka stayed back at the ED office, Rahul left soon after and joined the protest against his mother's questioning, at Vijay Chowk.

Priyanka was in another room at the ED office so she could meet her mother to provide her medicines or medical assistance if necessary, officials said.

Continued on Page 2

LG OK's withdrawal of cases against migrants for lockdown violations

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Delhi Lieutenant Governor Vinai Kumar Saxena has approved the withdrawal of 15 cases against 64 migrant labourers for violating lockdown measures during the pandemic. These cases were registered by the Delhi Government's Directorate of Prosecution.

According to the statement, Saxena has also directed the Delhi Police to file a closure report in 10 similar cases involving more than 100 migrant labourers.

Taking a humane and reasoned view that these violations committed by poor migrants were essentially petty in nature and in a situation of extreme

distress, the LG believed this decision will save them from "unnecessary harassment and running around", an official said. In line with the Supreme Court's judgment dated June 9, the LG has taken this view keeping in mind the helpless condition of the migrants in the national Capital during the pandemic, many of whom had lost their livelihoods and could not afford their rents and existential needs, he said.

Forty-three such cases under Section (51) of the Disaster Management Act, 2005, and other offences were filed against the migrant labourers for allegedly violating measures of the lockdown by moving on the roads.

Continued on Page 2

NCR-PULSE

NDMC VC INSPECTS PALIKA MATERNITY HOSPITAL
New Delhi: The New Delhi Municipal Council (NDMC) Vice Chairman Satish Upadhyay on Tuesday inspected Palika Maternity Hospital to review healthcare facilities being provided to the people of the area, under its jurisdiction. During the inspection, Upadhyay said that the Palika Maternity Hospital was redeveloped by the NDMC in the year 2014 aiming to facilitate the citizens with Maternity, Gynae and Pediatric facilities on a single rooftop.

TPDDL SIGNS MOU WITH SIEMENS FOR TRAINING
New Delhi: The Tata Power Delhi Distribution Limited (TPDDL) has signed a pact with Siemens for training its personnel in various power distribution equipment and technologies. The Memorandum of Understanding was signed between Praveen Agrawal, chief HR and IR, TPDDL and KN Sreekumar, vice president and head of digitalization and sustainability, smart infrastructure, Siemens Limited, the official said.

GAUTAM FLAGS OFF PLANTATION DRIVE AT GTB HOSPITAL
New Delhi: Delhi Social Welfare Minister Rajendra Pal Gautam on Tuesday inaugurated a tree plantation drive at the state-run GTB Hospital. Saplings of various trees, including fruit bearing ones like mango, guava and amla, were planted during the programme.

YASIN MALIK BEING GIVEN INTRAVENOUS FLUIDS
New Delhi: Kashmiri separatist leader Yasin Malik, who is on a hunger strike in Tihar Jail here for five days, is being given intravenous fluids and his health is being regularly monitored by doctors.

30-YR-OLD MAN ARRESTED FOR THREATENING WOMAN
New Delhi: Delhi Police on Tuesday arrested 30-year-old jacket maker for allegedly threatening a married woman on social media and professing his one-sided love. According to a senior police official, the accused has been identified as Rizwan Ansari, a resident of Chand Bagh, Bhajanpura, they said.

COURT SEEKS ACTION REPORT FOR 2020 RIOTS
New Delhi: A court has sought a concrete report of action taken for segregation of various complaints related to the alleged riots on February 24, 2020, at Gokulpuri in north-east Delhi that were clubbed in a single FIR and summoned the police officials overseeing the case.

SCHOOL SHARES 100 PERCENTERS' PERFORMANCE
New Delhi: KR Mangalam World School, Vaishali has congratulated students for the exemplary performance in X & XII exams. It was a moment of sheer pride and delight for the entire school to have mentored such meritorious students, culminating 100 per cent result performance, it said. This has only been possible with the utmost support of the management.

L-G OK's withdrawal of cases against...

From Page 1
Of these, 18 have already been disposed of and decided upon by the courts. In 15 cases where chargesheets have already been filed in the courts, the LG has ordered the

withdrawal of prosecution, and in the remaining 10 cases where chargesheets are yet to be filed or accused are untraced, the LG has asked the Delhi Police to file a closure report.

Low turnout for...

From Page 1
The precaution dose coverage among the 64,89,99,721 eligible population was 8 per cent till July 14. India had on April 10 begun administering precaution doses of Covid-19 vaccines to all aged above 18 years.

To persuade people to go for the third jab, the Union Government launched a special 75-day drive on July 15 to administer precaution doses to all aged 18 years and above at government vaccination centres free of cost. The drive "Covid Vaccination Amrit Mahotsava", aimed at boosting the uptake of Covid precaution doses among the eligible population, is being held as part of the government's Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav to celebrate the 75th anniversary of India's Independence.

Official sources further said 29 per cent of the 10.43 crore eligible individuals aged 60 years and above have been administered precaution dose of Covid-19 vaccine till July 25.

At an informal briefing, officials pointed out that around

4 crore people have not yet taken the first dose, while about 7 crore are due for their second dose. "Of 68,97,62,152 people eligible for precaution dose, only 7,30,96,284 have taken it so far. In a few days, the number of eligible people will increase to 93 crore," they said.

Officials said with the decline in the number of Covid-19 cases and reduced mortality, "Complacency has set in among people. Also, the fear of Covid is no more there as people have now become familiar with the disease". Asserting that coronavirus was not yet over, officials said people who are eligible for the vaccine doses concerned should take them to limit the spread of the infection in the community. "With almost two-and-a-half years into the pandemic, there is an increased level of fatigue amongst health care workers, field staff, and in the community, necessitating a need to collectively reinvigorate the system, strengthen public and private hospitals, and remove any sense of complacency and fatigue.

THE PIONEER CLASSIFIEDS

LOST AND FOUND

I, Aditi P Khankhane, D/o. P. J. Khankhane, R/o. SF-3, Royal Green Apartments, Block-A, Andheria Mode, Mehrauli, New Delhi-110030 have lost my original marksheet of class 10th, Roll No.14126933 (CBSE year 2020).

PD(90138)A

CORRIGENDUM
ICICI Bank
Branch Office: ICICI Bank Ltd, 3rd Floor, Plot No-23, New Rohtak Road, Karol Bagh, Delhi-110005
Reference to publication of ICICI Bank for case of Loan Account No. LBFDB00003334292, **Roop Narain Kaushik (Borrower), Chanchal Kaushik and Frames Twenty Four Communications Pvt Ltd (Co-borrower)** property address **Plot No A 10A, Basement Front Side And, 2nd Floor Rear Side With Terrace, Green Park, Delhi 110016** was published in newspaper **THE PIONEER (English) & THE PIONEER (Hindi)** dated **July 25, 2022**. We wish to mention that inadvertently and unintentionally a typographical error has occurred in the said publication and Area of the property was not mentioned. We therefore, request you to please read the same as **Plot No A 10A, Basement Front Side, Green Park, Delhi 110016; Area- 800 sq. fts. and Plot No A 10A, 2nd Floor Rear Side With, Terrace Green Park, Delhi 110016; Area- 1150 sq. fts.** Other details mentioned in the said Notice dated will remain same. We sincerely regret the inconvenience caused to you in this regard.
Date : July 27, 2022
Place: Delhi NCR
Authorized Officer
ICICI Bank Limited

Although every possible care and caution has been taken to avoid errors or omissions, this publication is being sold on the condition and understanding that information given in this publication is merely for reference and must not be taken as having authority of or binding in any way on the writers, editors, publishers, and printers and sellers who do not owe any responsibility for any damage or loss to any person, a purchaser of this publication or not for the result of any action taken on the basis of this work. All disputes are subject to the exclusive jurisdiction of competent court and forums in Delhi/New Delhi only. Readers are advised and requested to verify and seek appropriate advice to satisfy themselves about the veracity of any kind of advertisement before responding to any contents published in this newspaper. The printer, publisher, editor and any employee of the Pioneer Group will not be held responsible for any kind of claim made by the advertisers of the products & services and shall not be made responsible for any kind of loss, consequences and further product-related damages on such advertisements.

Printed and published by **Narendra Kumar** for and on behalf of **CMYK Printtech Ltd., No. 6, Behind Gulab Bhawan, Bahadur Shah Zafar Marg, New Delhi-110 002**, Phone: 011-40110455, **Communication Office: F-31, Sector 6, NOIDA, Gautam Budh Nagar-201301, U.P. Phone: 0120-4879800 & 4879900** and printed at **Jagran Prakashan Ltd, D-210, 211 Sector-63, Noida (U.P.)**. Executive Editor: **Navin Upadhyay**. **AIR SURCHARGE of ₹ 2.00 East: Calcutta, North: Leh West: Mumbai & Ahmedabad South: Bangalore & Chennai. Central : Khajuraho. Lucknow Office: 4th Floor, Sahara Shopping Centre, Faizabad Road, Lucknow-226 016. Telephones: 0522-2346443, 2346444, 2346445.**

Meghalaya BJP leader accused of running brothel held in UP

PTI ■ SHILLONG/NEW DELHI

Meghalaya BJP vice president Bernard N Marak, who is accused of running a sex racket at his farmhouse in the north-eastern State, was arrested in Uttar Pradesh on Tuesday; senior police officials said.

Marak, a former militant leader, had gone absconding following a police raid — which started Friday night and ran till Saturday morning — at the farmhouse at Tura in Meghalaya's West Garo Hills district. Police said they arrested 73 people from the farmhouse and rescued six minors — four boys and two girls.

West Garo Hills District Superintendent of Police Vivekanand Singh told PTI

Tuesday, "Bernard N Marak alias Rimpu has been arrested in Uttar Pradesh. A team is being sent there to bring him to Tura. Singh said Marak was arrested from Uttar Pradesh's Hapur by the police of that state hours after the authorities in Meghalaya issued a look out notice against him. Hapur Superintendent of Police Deepak Bhuker said Marak will be taken to Tura. "A police team from Meghalaya is coming here. He will be handed over to the Meghalaya police."

Another senior police officer in Hapur said the district's Pilkhuwa police and Special Operations Group (SOG) took Marak into custody near a toll plaza at the Ghaziabad border upon learning that a look out notice was issued against him.

A look out notice is issued to make sure that a wanted person is not able to leave the country. A court in Tura had on Monday issued a non-bailable warrant against the BJP leader. The BJP is a part of the state's ruling Meghalaya Democratic Alliance (MDA), led by Chief Minister Conrad K Sangma of the NPP.

The police in Meghalaya said the BJP vice president was instructed to cooperate with the investigation and surrender at the Shillong Sadar Police Station but he had been evading arrest.

Marak, a militant-turned-politician, has claimed he was innocent and alleged he is the target of political vendetta by the chief minister and fears for his life. The state BJP also backed his claim. Rejecting the allegation,

Deputy Chief Minister Prestone Tynsong said the government allows the police to act as per their wisdom. "Law is law irrespective of any party and whether or not he is part of the government. Unpleasant things have happened and we will let the law take its own course," Tynsong said. Police earlier said they rescued the minors based on a tip-off, and seized hundreds of liquor bottles and condoms, besides dozens of cars from the farmhouse 'Rimpu Bagan'.

Marak is facing charges under various sections of the IPC and the Immoral Trafficking (Prevention) Act, 1956. He has more than 25 criminal cases registered against him since the early 2000s across the north-eastern state.

DUSIB suspends 2 officers for irregularities in work record

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

The Delhi Urban Shelter Improvement Board (DUSIB) on Tuesday suspended two officers and issued show cause notices to seven officers after irregularities were found in their work record. The disciplinary actions are being taken on the directions of DUSIB chief executive officer K. Mahesh.

The DUSIB has suspended P. Saraswat, Executive Engineer, C-04 division. He is accused of irregularities in parking site at Shivaji Palace, West Dist. Centre, Raja Garden. He is also accused of defying the High Court order 21.02.2022 and



failed to take appropriate action to take back the possession of the parking site, resulting in loss of revenue to the department.

"The second officer suspended is Surender Singh, AD. He has been taking unauthorised leaves from the office and

was wilfully absenting himself with effect from 30.05.2022 and not responding properly to SCN issued by the Administration branch of the board. The board's employees are accountable to the people of Delhi, for the salaries that they draw and cannot take their salaries for granted," he said.

"Seven other officers have been issued with Show Cause notices on 15th July 2022 regarding parking sites at C-Block Market, Jahangirpuri, 2. A-Block, Jahangirpuri, adjacent to plot no. 5, A-1 Block Market, A-Block Jahangirpuri, G/H Block, Jahangirpuri near Kushal Cinema, Nand Nagri near Gagan Cinema, D Block, Gokulpuri," he added.

19 MPs suspended from RS for...

From Page 1

While seven of the suspended MPs belonged to the TMC, six were from the DMK, three from the Telangana Rashtra Samithi (TRS), two from the Communist Party of India (Marxist) and one from the Communist Party of India (CPI).

Sushmita Dev, Mausam Noor, Shanta Chhetri, Dola Sen, Santanu Sen, Abir Ranjan Biswas and Nadimul Haque of the TMC were suspended.

DMK's M Mohamed Abdulla, Kanimozhi NVN Somu, M Shanmugam, S Kalyanasundaram, R Girirajan and N R Elango were also suspended. B Lingaiah Yadav, Ravichandra Vaddiraju and Damodar Rao Divakonda (TRS), V Sivadasan and A A Rahim (CPI-M) and Santosh Kumar (CPI) were the other MPs who were suspended.

Reacting to the suspension of MPs, the TMC lashed out at the Narendra Modi Government, alleging Parliament has been turned

into a "deep, dark chamber". "Democracy has been suspended in India. Parliament has been turned into a deep, dark chamber," TMC leader Derek O'Brien told reporters here.

"Prime Minister Narendra Modi is afraid of Parliament. I ask him to come and answer one question in Parliament," said O'Brien, the leader of the TMC in Rajya Sabha.

Members of the AAP and the TMC entered the well, holding placards and raising slogans against the Government. Opposition MPs have been demanding an urgent discussion under Rule 267, by suspending other business, on price rise and the GST hike for the past many days, leading to disruptions in the House. Earlier, in the morning Chairman M Venkaiah Naidu, who was presiding, had adjourned the House till noon without transacting any business as the Opposition parties sought to raise the hooch tragedy in the "dry State" of Gujarat as well as the issue of price rise.

From Page 1

The petitioner wanted the EC to invoke its powers to cancel their registration. The bench, during the brief hearing, sought the views of senior advocate Kapil Sibal, who was in the courtroom in connection with another matter, on the issue of freebies made during and after polls.

"This is a serious matter. Truly serious! The solutions are very difficult but the issue is extremely serious. It is the Finance Commission which gives out allocation to the States... They can take into account the debt of a State and the quantum of freebies. Finance commission is the appropriate authority to deal with it. Maybe we can invite the commission to look into this aspect. We cannot expect the Government of India to issue directions to states. This is not

possible and this will create a political issue," Sibal said.

Sibal said the Finance Commission can take an informed view with regard to freebies, their quantum and the financial condition of the State where the promises are sought to be implemented.

"Please find out from the Finance Commission as to whether this takes place. You find out who is the authority where we can initiate a debate or something. I will list it next week. We direct the Government of India to get instructions in this matter..." the CJI told the ASG.

At the outset, the counsel for the Election Commission referred to the reply filed in the matter and said that offering freebies before polls and their execution after the results are the policy decisions of political parties, and the Central

Sonia grilled for 6 hrs by ED on 2nd day in...

From Page 1

Earlier on July 21, the Congress president was questioned for over two hours when she replied to 28 questions posed to her by the agency.

The Lok Sabha MP from Rae Bareilly is understood to have been asked questions pertaining to her involvement with the National Herald newspaper and the company under scanner in the case -- Young Indian Pvt Ltd.

Rahul and party MPs and cadres had gathered at the Vijay Chowk to march towards the Rashtrapati Bhavan to draw the President's attention to the alleged misuse of Central agencies by the Government, but were stopped by the police.

Gandhi was put in a police bus but officials did not disclose where he was being taken. Other Congress MPs were also detained and taken away in separate police buses.

"India is a police State, Modi is a king," Rahul alleged.

He said even discussions were not being allowed in Parliament.

"I am not going anywhere. We wanted to go towards the President's house. But the police are not allowing us," Rahul said.

"All Congress MPs stopped at Vijay Chowk and prevented from marching to Rashtrapati Bhavan. Forcibly arrested. Now we are in police buses being taken to a place only the PM and HM know..." Congress Rajya Sabha MP Jairam Ramesh tweeted.

"The Delhi Police harassed us. They have taken almost all the Congress MPs under detention and are taking them to unknown places," said party MP Manickam Tagore.

"We were holding a peaceful protest to give a petition to the President of India, but were attacked by the police. All the MPs, including Rahul Gandhi, have been arrested and taken to police stations," Ernakulam MP Hibi Eden said.

The Congress MPs met earlier in the Parliament complex to decide on a strategy as party chief Sonia appeared before the ED for questioning in the money laundering case.

Maha pips 5 States to bag ₹2 L cr outlay by Vedanta-Foxconn

T N RAGHUNATHA ■ MUMBAI

Edging out at least five States in a fierce competition, Maharashtra has walked away with a massive investment of Rs 2.06 lakh-crore investment by Vedanta Group-Foxconn partnership in the sunrise semi-conductors chips and display fabrications sector at Talegaon near Pune.

The deal, which incidentally is the single biggest investment of its kind received by Maharashtra was signed in the presence of Chief Minister Eknath Shinde and Deputy CM Devendra Fadnis on Tuesday. The states of Gujarat, Tamil

Nadu, Karnataka, Telangana and Himachal Pradesh are eyeing for this investment, but ultimately Maharashtra had its way.

Earlier this year, Vedanta Group – a mining giant based in Mumbai – had partnered with the Hon Hai Precision Industry (Foxconn) with plans to invest USD 15 billion in phases over the next five-ten years to manufacture semi-conductor chips and displays in India.

Accordingly, Vedanta-Foxconn will invest Rs.166,800 crore and Rs.40,000 crore from other sources for its 1,000-acre proposed manufacturing facility at Talegaon near Pune.

Two Indian peacekeepers...

From Page 1

Deputy Spokesperson for UN Secretary General Antonio Guterres, Farhan Haq, said at the daily press briefing on Tuesday that violence against the UN peacekeeping mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo is "continuing to escalate".

He said at the United Nations Organisation Stabilisation Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (MONUSCO) base in Butembo Tuesday, violent attackers snatched weapons from Congolese police and fired upon the UN uniformed personnel. "Sadly, one military Peacekeeper and two UN police personnel were killed and another was injured. We add our voice to the acting head of MONUSCO Khassim Diagne to condemn the killing of our colleagues and to express our deep-

est sympathy to their families and colleagues." In response to a question by PTI on the killing of the Indian peacekeepers, Haq said, "This is something that should not have happened. It is unacceptable action. And we condemn the killing of our colleagues. We do express our deepest sympathies to the families and colleagues and of course we send our sympathies as well to the Government of India for this. I believe we've been in touch with the Indian Mission on the fallen peacekeepers," he said.

Haq said Diagne has described the violence against the UN as "absolutely unacceptable and counterproductive" given that the UN mission is in the country to work alongside local authorities, to protect civilians, deter armed groups and build the capacity of state institutions and services.

₹29K-cr proposal...

From Page 1

The apex body also approved the Navy's proposal to procure an upgraded 1,250KW capacity Marine Gas Turbine Generator for power generation application onboard Kolkata class of ships through Indian Industry. This will give a major boost to the indigenous manufacturing of gas turbine generators. In order to enhance the security in the coastal region of our Country, the DAC also approved the proposal of procurement of 14 Fast Patrol Vessels (FPVs) for the Indian Coast Guard.

Meanwhile, the Defence Ministry said it has fast-tracked the process of indigenisation of software-defined radios (SDRs) at the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) and the Indian Institute of Technology in Kanpur. The process was speeded up to fulfill the increasing demand by the Armed Forces across a broad spectrum of operations, it said.

"Defence Secretary Ajay Kumar, while according high priority to the indigenisation of SDR technology, stated that it will be an important milestone towards achieving the goals of Aatmanirbhar Bharat (Self-Reliant India) in the field of secured radiocommunication," the Ministry's statement noted.

Man kills friend over monetary dispute; arrested

PNS ■ GURUGRAM

A 30-year-old man has been arrested for allegedly killing his 27-year-old friend over a monetary dispute, the police said on Tuesday.

According to the police, the victim, identified as Awadhesh, had lent money to the accused who has been identified as Mahender alias Chhotu.

The victim had reportedly asked the accused to return his money which led to an argument during which the accused allegedly strangled the victim to death. According to the police, they had received information on July 20 that a man was lying unconscious in Sarhau village area.

On receiving this information, the police team rushed to the spot and took the victim to the government hospital for treatment where he was declared brought dead by the doctor.

On July 21 the deceased's cousin filed a police complaint after he found injury marks on the deceased body and a case of murder was registered at Sector-17/18 police station.

submissions of senior advocate Vikas Singh, appearing for Upadhyay, that a law was required to be framed and steps taken for seizure of party symbols or cancellation of registration of parties or both as ultimately it is the citizens who have to pay up.

The plea urged the court to declare that the promise of irrational freebies from public funds before elections unduly influences the voters, disturbs the level playing field and vitiates the purity of the poll process.

"Petitioner submits that the recent trend of political parties to influence voters by offering freebies with an eye on elections is not only the greatest threat to the survival of democratic values but also injures the spirit of the Constitution," said the plea.

"This unethical practice is just like giving bribes to the

electorate at the cost of the exchequer to stay in power and must be avoided to preserve democratic principles and practices," it said.

The petition has also sought a direction to the EC to insert an additional condition in the relevant paragraphs of the Election Symbols (Reservation and Allotment) Order 1968, which deals with conditions for recognition as a state party, that a "political party shall not promise/distribute irrational freebies from the public fund before the election".

The petitioner has urged the apex court to declare that the promise or distribution of private goods or services, which are not for public purposes from public funds, before the elections, violates several articles of the Constitution, including Article 14 (equality before law).

India is a police state, Modi is a king, says Rahul

Cong MPs detained by police, stopped from marching towards Prez's house to protest Sonia's grilling by ED

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

Top Congress leaders including former party chief Rahul Gandhi and several party MPs were detained by police on Tuesday after they staged a protest against party chief Sonia Gandhi's questioning by the Enforcement Directorate (ED). It was the second day of the Congress president's questioning by the ED in an alleged money-laundering case pertaining to the National Herald-Associated Journals Limited case. She was earlier questioned by the agency on Thursday. Rahul Gandhi and the other MPs had assembled in Parliament and marched towards Vijay Chowk on their way to Rashtrapati Bhavan to draw President's attention to alleged misuse of central agencies by Government, but were stopped by the police. "India is a police state, Modi is a king," Rahul Gandhi said while he was being pulled by the police into



Police detain Congress leader Rahul Gandhi during a protest march from Parliament to Rashtrapati Bhavan against the ED's interrogation of the party's interim president Sonia Gandhi in the National Herald case, in New Delhi on Tuesday
RANJAN DIMRI | PIONEER

a bus. Rahul Gandhi was also questioned by the ED in the same case last month in several rounds totaling 50 hours over five days. The Congress leaders were later taken to the Kingsway Camp police station, where they used the time of their detention to brainstorm on the party's strategy in

Parliament after Opposition MPs were suspended from the House. Leader of Opposition in the Rajya Sabha Mallikarjun Kharge alleged that he, along with other Congress MPs, was manhandled by police, adding that this was being done at the instance of Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Union

Home Minister Amit Shah. "This is a conspiracy by the Modi-Shah duo," Kharge said as he was being taken away by the police. On the occasion Rahul Gandhi said that discussions are not being allowed in Parliament. "I am not going anywhere. We wanted to go towards the President's house



Police detain Congress workers during a protest march from Parliament to Rashtrapati Bhavan, in New Delhi on Tuesday
RANJAN DIMRI | PIONEER

but the police are not allowing us," the former Congress chief said as police stopped him from marching towards the Rashtrapati Bhavan. "Look at the dictatorship. We cannot hold peaceful demonstrations, cannot discuss inflation and unemployment. By misusing the police and agencies, even by

arresting us, you will never be able to silence us. Only 'Truth' will end this dictatorship," Rahul Gandhi wrote on Twitter while sharing pictures of his protest. In another tweet in Hindi, Rahul Gandhi said, "The country's 'King' has ordered — whosoever asks questions on unemployment, inflation,

Identifying policemen who manhandled Youth Cong chief during protest: Delhi Police

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

The Delhi Police on Tuesday said it was in the process of identifying the personnel who allegedly manhandled Indian Youth Congress president Srinivas BV during a protest. A video of Srinivas being pulled by his hair went viral on social media with several users condemning the police action. Deputy Commissioner of Police (New Delhi) Amrutha Guguloth said disciplinary action would be taken against the erring policemen.

"We are trying to identify the staff and disciplinary action would be initiated against the staff after identification," Guguloth said. Srinivas said he was beaten up by three to four policemen before being detained. "When we were protesting, some three to four police personnel hit me. They also pulled my hair and forcefully dragged me inside a car. The police first took us to Sarojini Nagar and later to the Vasant Kunj police station. We are yet to be released," he said on Tuesday evening.

wrong GST, Agneepath — put them in jail. Even though I am in custody now, even though it may be considered a crime to raise voice of people in country now, they will never be able to break our spirits." Party MP Manickam Tagore claimed Delhi Police harassed almost all the 75 party MPs under detention. "We were holding a peaceful protest to give a petition to President, but were attacked by police. All MPs, including

Rahul Gandhi, have been arrested and taken to police stations," Ernakulam MP Hibi Eden said. Congress General Secretary Priyanka Gandhi Vadra said, "The dictatorship of BJP is now out in open as neither can important issues be discussed in Parliament nor can people's voice be raised on streets." "This is a fight for truth, we will neither bow down nor be afraid. We will fight and win," she said.

L-G Saxena orders suspension of six MCD officials for corruption



STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Delhi's Lieutenant-Governor Vinai Kumar Saxena ordered the suspension of six officials of the BJP-run Municipal Corporation of Delhi (MCD) for "gross negligence," "abusing official position," and receiving "illegal gratification." The Lieutenant-Governor also gave sanction to the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) to prosecute a Sub-Registrar for allegedly regularising unauthorised constructions in Karol Bagh. Top sources said that the MCD Commissioner, on the directions of the L-G, has suspended the six officials, which includes Superintendent Engineer AS Yadav, Administrative Officer, Manish Kumar, Deputy Controller of Accounts Anju Bhutani, South Zone Inspector Vijay Kumar, Junior Engineer (Narela) Sankhya Mishra and Assistant Engineer (Narela) Srinivas. The sources also said complaints of corruption against officials of the MCD, the Government and the Delhi Development Authority are being decided singularly on merit. They said Srinivas and Mishra have been suspended for failing to prevent an unau-

thorised warehouse from coming up. The structure, which was under construction in Alipur's Bakauli village, collapsed killing five people and injuring several others. Bhutani has been suspended for not following up with banks in matters related to clearance of pension cases. Yadav has been suspended for financial irregularities in the sanitary landfill site in Bhalswa while Manish Kumar and Vijay Kumar are suspended for delaying the processing of papers for mutation of properties in the south zone. In a separate decision, the L-G also gave sanction to the CBI to prosecute a Sub-Registrar at the revenue department for "illegally regularising" at least 50 unauthorised constructions in Karol Bagh zone. "Raj Pal, posted as Sub-Registrar-III at Asaf Ali Road, is accused of registering unauthorised properties without the requisite stamp of unauthorised construction on the sale deeds. He had allegedly registered 50 such properties from July 21, 2015, to September 26, 2018," a source said. Pal was also accused of registering commercial properties in the residential category in Karol Bagh zone "in lieu of illegal gratification" and thus causing loss to the Government, he said. "The District Magistrate (central) and Principal Secretary (revenue), in their separate reports, had recommended the prosecution sanction to CBI to investigate the wrongdoings of Raj Pal," the source said.

'Adhere to Centre's guidelines on management of monkeypox'

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

International travellers arriving in Delhi with monkeypox symptoms such as high fever and back pain will be sent to the Lok Nayak Hospital from the airport. Meanwhile, one of the contacts of the monkeypox-infected resident of Delhi has complained of body ache and is being monitored to check for any other symptoms, sources said on Tuesday. Sources said that the Delhi Government has asked district authorities and officials concerned to adhere to the Centre's guidelines on management of the infection, which also state that referral arrangements from airport/port to identified link hospital need to be established or strengthened. The sources said that those travellers having symptoms like high fever, back pain and joint pain at the IGI Airport will be sent to the isolation ward at LNJP Hospital, which

has a special 20-member team to deal with such patients. The samples of suspected patients will be sent to the National Institute of Virology, Pune, while the district administration will quarantine the family members and carry out contact tracing of such suspected patients, they said. Meanwhile, the first patient of monkeypox in the national Capital is currently recovering in the isolation ward of the Lok Nayak Hospital. His vitals are stable but his lesions will take at least a week to recover. Sources said there are 14 primary contacts of the patient. Four of his family members are in isolation at their west Delhi residence and have not shown any symptoms till now. One of his friends, who came in contact with him, has said he was experiencing body ache and is self-monitoring himself. He has not shown any other symptoms till now, they said.

BJP wants to bring Guj Model of illegal liquor business in Delhi: AAP

NEW DELHI: The AAP on Tuesday alleged that the BJP is up against the Delhi Government's excise policy as it wants the business of spurious liquor to thrive in the national Capital and cause revenue loss to the public exchequer. It said the saffron party wants to replicate the "Gujarat Model" of illegal liquor business in Delhi, latching on to the latest hoodoo tragedy in the State where 28 people have so far died after consuming spurious liquor. The AAP also demanded the resignation of Gujarat Chief Minister Bhupendra Patel in view of the incident. Earlier, Delhi Lieutenant-Governor VK Saxena sought a report from the Delhi Chief Secretary on allegations of "cartelisation, facilitating monopolies and favouring blacklisted firms" in awarding liquor licences under the Excise

Policy 2021-22 of the Arvind Kejriwal-led city Government, which has asserted that there was no truth in the claim. Addressing a press conference, AAP chief spokesperson Saurabh Bharadwaj said, "There are few people who want that the business of spurious liquor continue and thrive in Delhi as well. Since 2021 when the Delhi government brought the new excise policy, these people have been perturbed." "They (BJP) say the number of liquor shops have gone up to 850 to 1,000 in Delhi from the previous 250 after the new excise policy was brought in," the AAP spokesperson said, adding, "the BJP is spreading lies." These shops were closed down for various reasons. Many of vendors closed down their shops either due to losses or BJP's intimidation," Bharadwaj claimed.

Sisodia reviews progress of health infra projects

New Delhi: Delhi Deputy Chief Minister Manish Sisodia on Tuesday reviewed the progress of various health infrastructure projects sanctioned by the Expenditure Finance Committee. Sisodia directed the officials to ensure the best quality work at these upcoming hospitals and expedite the construction process. The major projects discussed during the meeting were construction of four new hospitals in various areas with 3237 bed capacity, construction of Indira Gandhi Hospital in Dwaraka, and semi-permanent ICU hospitals with 6836 beds is expected to provide best health facilities. He also asked the officials to complete the



construction work of new hospitals within the stipulated deadline. According to a statement issued by the Delhi government, the construction of 1,241-bed Indira Gandhi Hospital in Sector 9, Dwarka, is almost complete and it is expected to become functional by end of this year. The four new hospitals with "state-of-

the-art facilities" are being constructed in Jwalapuri, Madipur, Hastals, and Siraspur. The 11-storey hospital in Siraspur will have the capacity of 1,164 beds, while others, each 10-storeyed, will have the capacity of 691 beds each, the statement said. The Public Works Department (PWD) said that more than 50 per cent work has been done in Jwalapuri and Madipur hospitals. Siraspur hospital is 40 per cent complete and work at Hastals is going at a fast pace, the PWD officials said. All these hospitals will be completed in 2023, they said. The government is also coming up with seven new ICU hospitals to deal with the emergency

and critical cases. These semi-permanent hospitals will have a combined capacity of 6,836 beds, the statement said. Under the project, a four-storey hospital will be built in Shalimar Bagh with a capacity of 1,430 beds, a five-storey hospital in Kirari with a capacity of 458 beds, a four-storey hospital in Sultanpuri with a capacity of 527 beds, and a five-storey hospital in GTB complex with a capacity of 1,912 beds. The project will also see the construction of a two five-storey hospitals, one each at Chacha Nehru Children's Hospital in Geeta Colony and in Sarita Vihar, with capacity of 596 and 336 beds, respectively. SR

ED approaches Delhi HC to get Jain examined at AIIMS

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

The Enforcement Directorate on Tuesday approached the Delhi High Court seeking to get Delhi Minister Satyendra Jain, arrested in a money laundering case, medically examined at hospitals like AIIMS, RML, or Safdarjung, instead of the State Government-run Lok Nayak Jai Prakash (LNJP) Hospital where he is presently admitted. The petition was listed for hearing before Justice Yogesh Khanna on Tuesday, but the proceedings could not take place. While seeking to shift Jain either to All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS), Ram Manohar Lohia (RML) Hospital, or Safdarjung Hospital, the ED submitted that there is a need for independent evaluation of his health as before his arrest he was holding the portfolio of Delhi's Health Minister. Further, the probe agency claimed that on June 27, the Investigating Officer (IO) of the case had gone to LNJP Hospital where he found that Jain was sleeping on the patient bed without any cannula on his hand and even the multipara patient monitor was switched off and he was not being monitored by any medical instrument and his wife was present in the room. "When the IO reached the room, the respondent immediately wore the oxygen mask, the BP apparatus belt, and the monitor was switched on. It was under these suspicious circumstances and the fact that prima facie the condition of the respondent was not such which



required hospitalisation, an application was preferred (before the trial court) seeking a direction that he may be admitted to any independent hospital like the Ram Manohar Lohia Hospital or AIIMS Hospital at New Delhi for an independent evaluation of his health," it said, adding that the application was dismissed by the trial court. The Enforcement Directorate has challenged a trial court's July 6 order by which the special judge had rejected the agency's prayer to get the accused medically evaluated by any independent hospital such as Ram Manohar Lohia Hospital or AIIMS, instead of LNJP Hospital. The agency said Jain, who was holding the portfolio of Health Minister in the Delhi government, continues to be shown prominently on the Home Page of the website of LNJP Hospital as well as on the plaque in the hospital commemorating the inauguration by him as the guest of honour. It has also challenged the trial court's July 19 order passed in the interim bail application of Jain in which the issue of shifting him to some other hospital for proper evaluation was raised. The trial court had adjourned the matter for arguments on July 29 and had sought a detailed medical report from LNJP Hospital."

3 FOBs to be built at New Ashok Nagar RRTS station

90-metre-long, 6-metre-wide FOB to connect RRTS station to Metro station: NCRTC

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

The National Capital Region Transport Corporation (NCRTC) on Tuesday announced that three Foot-Over Bridges (FOBs) will be constructed at New Ashok Nagar Regional Rapid Transport System (RRTS) station.



them being merely 100 metres. To integrate both modes, the NCRTC will provide a 90-metre-long and 6-metre-wide FOB to connect the RRTS Station and Metro station. The height of the FOB will be around eight metres from the ground. "The height of the New Ashok Nagar RRTS station is about 22 metres. This FOB will connect the concourse level of the Metro station to the floor below the concourse level of the RRTS station. The area between the AFC gate of the

Metro station and below the concourse level of the RRTS station where the FOB is connecting will be a non-paid area," official said. "To provide better connectivity and access to the station with the adjoining areas, the NCRTC is constructing two more FOBs at this station. On one side of the RRTS station, a 42-metre-long and 6.5-metre-wide FOB will be built to provide connectivity to the nearby areas of Chilla Village and the Mayur Vihar Extension. Apart from this, on the other side of the RRTS station, a 45-metre-long and 8-metre-wide FOB will be provided near the Ancient Shiv Temple for ease of access to the people residing in the New Ashok Nagar area," he said. "A large number of commuters are coming from Noida through the New Ashok Nagar Metro Station. They will benefit from the FOB between

New Ashok Nagar RRTS and the Metro station. Instead of going to Anand Vihar or Sarai Kale Khan, they will get the direct rapid rail to Meerut from New Ashok Nagar or to the airport, Gurugram or Panipat in future when all the three RRTS lines will be constructed. The interoperability of the RRTS corridors will allow commuters to travel from one corridor to another without the hassle of changing the train," he stated. "This FOB will help the commuters to change and commute through either of these transport modes without exiting the station premises. This not only helps commuters travel seamlessly and stress-free but also helps prevent the overcrowding and traffic congestion caused by it, around the transport hubs. It will especially be a boon for women, the elderly and children and commuters travelling with sufficient luggage," he added.

WORLD HEPATITIS DAY ON JULY 28 'Chronic hepatitis affects around 170 mn Indians'

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Ahead of World Hepatitis Day, a leading gastroenterologist Dr Kunal Das said on Tuesday that chronic hepatitis affects around 170 million Indians or approximately 15 per cent of the Indian population of 130 crore. Talking on the subject, Das said the liver is the second-largest organ of the body and weighs around 1.5 kg. It is referred to as the laboratory and factory of the body as it has many enzymes that are vital for the functioning of the body. "The most common causes of chronic hepatitis are Viral Hepatitis - Hepatitis B and Hepatitis C, Alcoholic Hepatitis and Fatty liver also known as Non-Alcoholic Steatohepatitis (NASH). Viral hepatitis is a big health problem in India as approximately 40 million are



infected with Hepatitis B and 6-12 million with Hepatitis C," said Dr Das, who is Head of Department, Gastro and Liver Department, Yashoda Hospital, in Ghaziabad. Dr Das said it is estimated that 16-32 per cent of general population in India (nearly 120 million) has Non-alcoholic fatty liver disease (NAFLD) and among them nearly 31 per cent are diagnosed with NASH. The most common causes of fatty liver

disease (NAFLD/NASH) are diabetes, hypothyroid and hyperlipidemia. He further mentioned the complications of chronic hepatitis include water in the belly, vomiting of blood, hepatic coma, liver cancer, jaundice due to liver failure etc. Elaborating further Dr Das said the best strategy against Chronic Hepatitis is to "nip the devil in the bud" by prevention. "Hepatitis B can be simply prevented by vaccination (3 doses). Currently Hepatitis B

vaccination is a part of Universal Child Immunization programme by the Government. The WHO recommends that Hepatitis B can be given to anybody and anytime to the unvaccinated. NAFLD/NASH can be prevented by promotion of proper lifestyle changes including diet and exercise programmes. We should strive for a Hepatitis Free World by 2030 and it is achievable," he said talking to *The Pioneer*.



‘Govt misusing ED’, Opp writes to Murmu

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■
NEW DELHI

Leaders of several Opposition parties on Tuesday wrote to newly appointed President Droupadi Murmu, alleging the "intensifying misuse" of probe agencies by the Modi Government against its political opponents and sought her immediate intervention in the matter.

In a letter to the President, the leaders also raised the issue of the "stubborn attitude" of the government, which is not allowing an urgent discussion on the issue of price rise and GST hike that has impacted the proceedings in the Monsoon session so far. The letter to Murmu comes on a day Congress chief Sonia Gandhi is being questioned for the sec-

ond time by the Enforcement Directorate in a money laundering case related to the National Herald newspaper, leading to massive protest by the Congress.

"We are writing to bring to your attention the continued and intensifying misuse of investigative agencies by the Modi Government as part of a systematic vendetta campaign against its political opponents," said the letter, signed by the leaders of the Congress, DMK, SP, AAP, RJD and CPI-M among others. "We request for your immediate intervention in the matter," the leaders added.

Noting that the "law is the law and must be enforced without fear or favour", they said, "It cannot be used, as it is presently being done, arbitrarily, selectively and without any

justification whatsoever against prominent leaders of numerous opposition parties." "The sole aim of this campaign is to destroy reputations and weaken the forces fighting the BJP ideologically and politically," the opposition leaders said.

It is also being carried out to divert the attention of the people of our country from their most urgent day-to-day concerns of price rise of essential commodities, increasing unemployment and loss of livelihoods and mounting insecurity of life, liberty and property, they alleged.

The leaders, who signed the letter, included Congress' Mallikarjun Kharge, AAP's Sanjay Singh, RJD's Manoj Jha, RJD, CPI-M's Elamaram Kareem (CPI-M) and Ram Gopal Yadav from the SP. On

the Government not allowing a discussion on price in Parliament, they cited instances in the past when such a discussion was allowed.

"Most, unfortunately, the monsoon session of Parliament has been stalled so far entirely because of the stubborn refusal of the Government to have an urgent debate on the pressing issue of price rise and increase in GST rates on essential food items.

There are many precedents for such an urgent debate but this time Government is adamant and is not allowing it," the opposition leaders said.

The Opposition has been protesting in both houses of Parliament while demanding an urgent discussion on price rise and GST hike, leading to frequent disruptions ever since

the Monsoon session started on July 18. "All opposition parties have sent a memorandum to the the newly appointed President expressing grave concern that Parliament has not been able to function since the 18th because of the government's continued refusal to have an urgent discussion on price rise and GST on food items.

So we want the most important issue today is price rise, unemployment, a growing insecurity and of course, this senseless GST on food items.

The Government has refused to have a discussion on this and that's why, all opposition parties have protested," said Congress General Secretary and chief spokesperson Jairam Ramesh at a Press conference.

MHA gives security clearance to Air India CEO-designate Campbell

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Ministry of Home Affairs has given the security clearance to Air India CEO-designate Campbell Wilson, paving the way for him to take charge of the airline. The appointment of Wilson as the Chief Executive Officer and Managing Director of Air India was announced by Tata Sons on May 12. Tata Sons took over the loss-making carrier on January 27. Under civil aviation rules, clearance of the home ministry is mandatory for the appointment of key personnel at airlines, including foreigners. Weeks after taking over the carrier, Tata Sons, on February 14, named Turkish Airlines' former Chairman

Lyker Ayici as Air India's MD and CEO. However, Ayici, who was to take over on April 1, declined to join the group amid concerns expressed over his appointment in certain quarters.

Wilson was the CEO of Singapore Airlines' wholly-owned subsidiary Scoot Air. Singapore Airlines is a joint venture partner of Tata Group in full-service carrier Vistara.

He then worked for the carrier in Canada, Hong Kong and Japan before returning to Singapore in 2011, as the founding CEO of Scoot, which he led until 2016. An aviation industry veteran with over 26 years of experience, he started off as a management trainee with Singapore Airlines.

LS adjourned as Opp disrupts House proceedings on 7th day

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Lok Sabha proceedings for the seventh day remained disrupted with Opposition members on Tuesday yet again forcing adjournments in the Lok Sabha over the issue of price rise and the "misuse" of central agencies by the centre.

Lok Sabha, however, passed a bill to grant statutory cover to family courts set up in Himachal Pradesh and Nagaland and retrospectively validate all actions taken by them, with Law Minister Kiren Rijiju saying that he would requests all state governments to set up one family court in every district.

The house for the better part of the day remained derailed with opposition protests.

Minutes after the House assembled in the morning and Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla paid tributes to soldiers on 'Kargil Vijay Diwas' opposition members trooped to the Well of the House raising slogans and waving placards on the issue of high inflation and the Goods and Services Tax on some essential commodities leading to adjournment till 11:45 AM.

The issue of alleged misuse of agencies figured on a day when Congress president Sonia Gandhi is being questioned by the Enforcement Directorate in



a money laundering case linked to the National Herald newspaper. A few placards carried by opposition members had the picture of Sonia with 'Satyameva Jayate' written on it.

"The rule of ED will not be tolerated," some opposition members shouted. Congress members were in the well carrying placards seeking roll back of GST rates and prices of essential commodities and petroleum products.

"I will allow you to speak during Zero Hour. Please go back to your seats and take part in the proceedings," the speaker said.

As the House re-assembled, DMK members moved to the Well of the House raising slogans demanding revocation of suspension of four Congress members. NCP member Supriya Sule was seen raising slogans from her seat.

Congress members had later walked out of the House and participated in a march to

Rashtrapati Bhawan against the "misuse" of central agencies to target opposition leaders.

BJP member Rajendra Agarwal, who was in the chair, took up the Question Hour and later allowed laying of papers on the table of the House. As the protests continued, the House was adjourned till 2 pm.

The opposition has been protesting and disrupting the proceedings since the beginning of the Monsoon Session of Parliament on July 18.

Four Congress members — Manickam Tagore, Ramya Haridas, T N Prathapan and S Jothimani — were on Monday suspended for the rest of the session for protests and carrying placards inside the House.

The Lok Sabha proceedings later went on without much of the opposition present as the house discussed the Family Courts (Amendment) Bill, 2022, which was moved for consideration by Law Minister Kiren Rijiju.

Media must confine itself to honest journalism, not use influence to expand business: CJI Ramana

New Delhi: Media must confine itself to honest journalism and not use it as a tool to expand its influence and business interests, said Chief Justice of India (CJI) NV Ramana on Tuesday. Ramana said a media house with "other business interests" becomes vulnerable to external pressures and often business interests prevail over the spirit of independent journalism which compromises democracy.

Asserting that independent journalism is the "backbone of democracy", the CJI — a former journalist — also urged the stakeholders to introspect why the standards here are not considered good enough for international recognition and laurel in the field of journalism.

He was speaking at launch of Gulab Chand Kothari's book titled 'The Gita Vijnana Upanishad'. Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla presided over event. Last week, the CJI had raised similar concerns and said "agenda driven debates" and "kangaroo courts" being run by media are detrimental to health of democracy.

These recent remarks by Ramana assume significance following backlash to a verdict earlier this month on former BJP spokesperson Nupur Sharma's comments on Prophet Mohammad, which Supreme Court said stoked communal tension across country. *PTI*

No Kashmiri Pandit resigned from J&K Govt after targeted killings, Centre informs LS

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Centre on Tuesday informed Lok Sabha that no Kashmiri Pandit resigned from their J&K Government job under the Prime Minister's Development Package (PMDP) after targeted killings in Kashmir valley. It also said that 28 migrant workers, including seven from Bihar, were killed in Jammu and Kashmir since 2017.

Union Minister Nityanand Rai told the house that no Kashmiri Pandit working under the Prime Minister's Development Package (PMDP) has resigned in protest against the killings of fellow community members in the Valley by Terrorists.

Rai also said that a total of 5,502 Kashmiri Pandits have been provided government jobs in different departments of Jammu and Kashmir administration in the Kashmir Valley under the PMDP.

"As per the information provided by the government of Jammu and Kashmir, no Kashmiri Pandit working under the Prime Minister's Development Package has resigned in protest against the killing of a Kashmiri Pandit in Kashmir Valley," Rai said replying to a written question.

The minister of state for home said the government has approved construction of 6,000 transit

accommodations for the Kashmiri migrant employees engaged or to be engaged in different departments of the Jammu and Kashmir government in the Valley.

Rai last week had said that as many as 118 civilians, including five Kashmiri Pandits and 16 other Hindus and Sikhs, were killed in Jammu and Kashmir since the abrogation of Article 370 in August 2019.

He had also said no Kashmiri Pandit migrated from the Valley since August 2019. The Minister, in a separate written reply, also informed that twenty-eight migrant workers, including seven from Bihar, were killed in Jammu and Kashmir since 2017, the government informed Parliament on Tuesday.

Rai also said there has been a substantial decline in the number of terrorist attacks in Jammu and Kashmir — from 417 in 2018 to 229 in 2021. However, the minister said, there have been a few targeted attacks on people belonging to minority communities and migrant workers by terrorists sponsored from across the border. "As per the information provided by the government of Jammu and Kashmir, 28 migrant workers have been killed since 2017, out of which two belonging to Maharashtra, one from Jharkhand and seven from Bihar," he said. *com*

NDA's VP candidate Dhankhar withdraws from SC's chamber allotment race

New Delhi: NDA candidate for vice presidency Jagdeep Dhankhar has withdrawn himself from the process of seeking a chamber in the Supreme Court premises here as a lawyer, the SCBA said on Tuesday. In a letter to the registrar concerned of the apex court, Supreme Court Bar Association (SCBA) President Vikas Singh has said Dhankhar's name be excluded from the process.

"Keeping the interest of the Bar at heart, Jagdeep Dhankhar Ji has conveyed his wish to voluntarily withdraw from the process of chamber allotment so that other lawyers in need of a chamber may be allotted the same," SCBA president said in the letter.

Singh said the list of the lawyers to be considered for allotment of chambers should be reworked.

Dhankhar, a former Governor of West Bengal, is the National Democratic Alliance's candidate for vice president and is certain to win the election given the overwhelming support the ruling alliance has in the electoral college.

The allotment of chambers at Supreme Court has become a vexatious issue with several lawyers voicing grievance over the proposed twin-sharing arrangement. When matter came up before Supreme Court on Monday. *PTI*

IN SHORTS

NAXAL-HIT DISTRICT NUMBERS DOWN: RAI
New Delhi: Union Minister of State for Home Affairs Nityanand Rai on Tuesday said that the number of Naxal-affected districts in the country has gone down from 70 in 2014 to 46 in 2021. Rai, who was replying to a query raised by BJP MPs Sushil Kumar Singh and Sudarshan Bhagat in Lok Sabha, informed that incidents of Left Wing Extremism have also been reduced from 1,091 incidents in 2014 to 509 incidents in 2021.

'NEWSPRINT IMPORT IN PANDEMIC DIPPED BY 50%'
New Delhi: Import of newsprint dipped by 50 per cent during COVID-19 years when compared to 2018-19. In a written reply to a question in Lok Sabha, I&B Minister Anurag Thakur on Tuesday said the newspaper industry had imported 13,84,056 kg of newsprint in 2017-18, which declined to 6,48,620 kg in 2020-21, a drop of nearly 46 per cent. The import of newsprint further declined to 5,97,766 kg in 2021-22, he said.

ITBP COMMANDANT HELD OVER GRAFT
New Delhi: The CBI has booked an ITBP commandant Ashok Kumar Gupta and his two subordinates for alleged corruption in purchase of heating oil and other items for an outpost at Indo-China LAC in Uttarakhand.

FCRA LICENCES OF 1,811 NGOS CANCELLED
New Delhi: FCRA licences of 1,811 NGOs were cancelled by the Government for the violation of provisions of the law in the last three years, Union Minister of State for Home Nityanand Rai said here on Tuesday. FCRA licence renewal applications of 783 NGOs were also denied by the government in 2019, 2020 and 2021, he informed.

11.4L CASES PENDING IN FAMILY COURTS IN COUNTRY
New Delhi: Lok Sabha MPs on Tuesday flagged that over 11.4 lakh cases are pending in family courts across the country and called for their speedy settlement. The issue came up during a debate in the Lok Sabha on the Family Courts (Amendment) Bill, 2022, which was moved for consideration by Law Minister Kiren Rijiju.

PM MODI TO VISIT GUJ, TN ON JULY 28-29



New Delhi: Prime Minister Narendra Modi will visit Gujarat and Tamil Nadu on July 28-29 to attend various events, including inauguration and laying the foundation stone of several projects, the PMO said on Tuesday. Modi will launch multiple projects of Sabar Dairy at Sabarkantha in Gujarat on Thursday and will then travel to Chennai to declare open the 44th Chess Olympiad at the JLN Indoor Stadium in the evening.

IDEX SIGNS ITS 100TH CONTRACT
New Delhi: In a major boost to promote ingenuity in defence manufacturing, the IDEX (Innovations for Defence Excellence), the flagship initiative of the Department of Defence Production, Ministry of Defence, ceremoniously embarked upon the milestone of signing its 100th contract on Tuesday. The 100th contract was signed by Additional Secretary (Defence Production) and CEO, DIO Sanjay Jaju with CEO Pacific Medical Technologies Pvt Ltd Sairprasad Poyarekar.

2,399 BANGLADESHI GOT DOCUMENTS ILLEGALLY
New Delhi: As per reports received from the Bureau of Immigration, 2,399 Bangladeshi nationals were intercepted and found using fraudulently obtained Indian documents at Bureau of Immigration controlled ICs, from the year 2017 to 2022, the MHA informed the Lok Sabha

FILL POSTS IN CONSUMER COMMISSIONS: SC
New Delhi: The Supreme Court on Tuesday directed States and Union Territories to initiate the process of filling the posts in consumer commissions six months before a vacancy is about to arise. A bench of Justices S K Kaul and M M Sundresh noted the status of vacancies at consumer commissions in various states and granted them two months to complete the process of filling the vacant posts.

Sena-rebel feud: SC to hear on Aug 1 Uddhav faction's plea against EC proceedings

PTIN ■ NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Tuesday agreed to hear on August 1 a fresh plea by Shiv Sena's Uddhav Thackeray faction against Election Commission proceedings on a petition by the Maharashtra Chief Minister Eknath Shinde-led group for recognition as the real Shiv Sena.

A bench comprising Chief Justice N V Ramana and justices Krishna Murari and Hima Kohli was urged by senior advocate Kapil Sibal, appearing for the Uddhav Thackeray faction, that the ongoing proceedings before the poll panel needed to be stayed as it would impact the hearing here in the case.

The top court said it would tag the fresh plea and hear it together with pending ones on August 1. Recently, the poll panel 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.

SC dismisses plea of Pvt tour operators seeking exemption from GST for Haj, Umrah tours

New Delhi: The Supreme Court Tuesday dismissed a batch of petitions filed by various private tour operators seeking exemption from the Goods and Services Tax (GST) for the Haj and Umrah tours offered by them.

The petitions seeking exemption had alleged discrimination against the pilgrims travelling to Saudi Arabia. A bench comprising Justices A M Khanwilkar, A S Oka, and C T Ravikumar dismissed the petitions on both the grounds of exemption and discrimination. The bench said that the argument raised by the petitioners regarding the extra-



territorial application of GST for services given outside India is kept open, as it is pending consideration before another bench. The tour operators had challenged the levy of GST on Hajis who avail themselves of services offered by registered private tour operators because no tax law can be applicable on extra-territorial activities as per Article 245 of the Constitution. *PTI*

SC seeks details from States about funds made available, disbursed by them for judiciary

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court Tuesday asked the states to apprise it about the funds, which have been made available to them under the centrally-sponsored scheme, and the amount disbursed by them for the state and district judiciary.

The apex court asked the law secretary to the state governments to file affidavits giving details, including the amount that remains to be provided to the state and district judiciary and which were diverted for other projects.

A bench of Justices D Y Chandrachud and Surya Kant said this exercise be completed within four weeks by the law secretaries. "At the present,



what we will do is, let the high courts, as well as the states, respond to this and we will also ask the states to make a disclosure of how much money the states actually spent, which they receive from the centrally sponsored scheme, for the judiciary in the last five years," the bench orally observed.

The apex court was dealing with a matter about the report of the National Court Management System Committee (NCMSC). The bench also asked the registrar

generals of all the high courts to respond to a note, submitted by the Additional Solicitor General (ASG) K M Nataraj who is representing the Centre, concerning the position of infrastructure and strength of judicial officers. "The law secretaries to the state governments shall also submit their responses on affidavit specifically clarifying...the extent of funds which have been made available to the state under centrally

sponsored schemes; the amount which is actually been disbursed by the state governments for the state and district judiciary..." said the bench, which posted the matter for hearing in the first week of September.

Nation pays tributes to bravehearts on 23rd anniversary of Kargil Vijay Diwas

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■
NEW DELHI

The nation on Tuesday paid tributes to the bravehearts on the occasion of the 23rd anniversary of Kargil victory with Defence Minister Rajnath Singh hailing the armed forces personnel who fought valiantly in extremely harsh conditions to defend the country's territory during the conflict in 1999.

The Rajya Sabha observed silence for a brief while to pay respects to the martyrs of the Kargil war with Chairman M Venkaiah Naidu saying their valour will continue to inspire generations. When the House met for the day, Naidu said this July 26 marked the 23rd anniversary of the Kargil Vijay



Diwas — the day in 1999 when Indian soldiers threw out enemy forces occupying peaks of Kargil. This resulted "in a momentous victory for our country", he said. "The exemplary courage, selfless dedication, and unflinching determination displayed by our soldiers in adverse conditions will always be remembered.

"Their unparalleled valour and gallantry will continue to inspire generations after generations to dedicate themselves to the cause of the nation," Naidu said. Rajnath said the act of valour and indomitable spirit by the armed forces would remain etched forever as a defining moment in India's history. "On Kargil Vijay Diwas, India salutes the bravery, courage and sacrifice of our

armed forces. They fought valiantly in extremely harsh conditions to defend our motherland. Their act of valour and indomitable spirit will remain etched forever as a defining moment in India's history," he tweeted.

To mark the day, Rajnath, minister of state for defence Ajay Bhatt, Defence Secretary Ajay Kumar, Army Chief General Manoj Pande, Navy Chief Admiral R Hari Kumar and IAF Chief VR Chaudhari laid wreath at National War Memorial here.

In a message in the visitors' book of National War Memorial, Rajnath recalled the valour and sacrifices of the Armed Forces personnel during the war, which protected the unity and integrity of the

Nation. "The Nation will forever be grateful to the sacrifices made by the Armed Forces. With their memories in our hearts, we will keep energising ourselves and continue to move forward on the path of nation building," he wrote.

Various events, remembering the fallen heroes of the Kargil war, were organised across the country, including at Kargil War Memorial in Dras to mark this momentous occasion.

During the Kargil conflict, the gallant soldiers of the Indian Army, with the help of Indian Air Force, overcame insurmountable odds, hostile terrain and inclement weather to win against the enemy that had occupied dominating heights.

ED files charges against Farooq in JKCA money laundering case

PNS/MOHIT KANDHARI ■ NEW DELHI/JAMMU

The Enforcement Directorate (ED) on Tuesday said it has filed a chargesheet against former Jammu and Kashmir (J&K) Chief Minister Farooq Abdullah and some others in connection with its money laundering probe linked to alleged irregularities in the Jammu and Kashmir Cricket Association (JKCA).

The prosecution complaint (chargesheet in police parlance) was filed on June 4 before a special Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA) court in Srinagar, the ED said in a statement.

The ED has also arraigned Ahsan Ahmad Mirza and Mir Manzoor Gazanffer, both for-



mer treasurers of the JKCA, and some others as accused in the chargesheet.

The court has summoned the accused persons to appear before it on August 27, it said.

Mirza was arrested by the ED in September, 2019, and a chargesheet was filed against him in November that year. The trial is underway.

Abdullah has been questioned multiple times by the agency in this case.

The agency has attached assets belonging to Abdullah and others worth Rs 21.55 crore under three separate orders issued by it in the past.

"The case relates to the siphoning off the funds of Jammu and Kashmir Cricket Association by way of transfer to various personal bank accounts of unrelated parties, including those of office-bearers of JKCA and by way of unexplained cash withdrawals from JKCA bank accounts," the ED said.

The agency's case is based on a 2018 chargesheet filed by the CBI against these accused persons.

The CBI chargesheet, that also names former accountants Bashir Ahmad Misgar and Gulzar Ahmad Beigh, alleged the "misappropriation

of JKCA funds amounting to Rs 43.69 crore" from grants given by the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) to promote the sport in the erstwhile State between 2002 and 2011.

The ED had earlier said its probe found that JKCA received Rs 94.06 crore from BCCI in three bank accounts during the financial years 2005-2006 to 2011-2012 (up to December 2011).

It had alleged that several other bank accounts were opened under JKCA into which the funds were transferred.

The new bank accounts as well as the previously existing ones were later used for laundering JKCA funds and the proceeds of crime identified in the case is to the tune of Rs 51.90 crore, it added.

ED attaches Prajapati's 'benami' property; STF grills SP Maurya

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

Former Minister in the Akhilesh Yadav Cabinet Gayatri Prajapati, already in jail in an alleged rape case and also for large-scale irregularities in the Mining Department, found himself in trouble again as the Enforcement Directorate (ED) on Tuesday attached his 'benami' property worth several crore.

Sources said that the ED took possession of the benami land in Inderjit Kheda locality of Mohanlalgarh here on Tuesday. The land was taken by Prajapati in the name of his servant Ram Sahay. Significantly, on Monday too, the ED had taken possession of a large part of the land.

So far, the ED has attached assets worth Rs 90 crore of Prajapati in Mumbai, Amethi,

Sultanpur, Lucknow and Kanpur. The action is being taken against Prajapati in connection with the money-laundering case. A notice has also been put up stating that the property is in the possession of the Enforcement Directorate, Government of India, under Section 8(4) of the Money Laundering Act 2002. Any transfer on this land will be illegal and strict legal action will be taken against the trespasser. This notice has been put on behalf of the Deputy Director of ED. On this the address of Lucknow zone office of ED has also been written.

Meanwhile, sleuths of the Special Task Force (STF) questioned former Cabinet Minister and SP MLC Swami Prasad Maurya in his office for three hours. Maurya was served a notice in connection

with the alleged involvement of his former private secretary Arman Khan in duping unemployed youth.

Five people, including Arman, were arrested by the STF on April 21 last. Sources said that Maurya avoided answering many questions of the STF.

He continued to claim that he did not have any information. Arman had allegedly called the unemployed youth while he was the personal secretary of Maurya, the then cabinet minister both in the BSP government and later in the BJP government.

He was alleged to have collected Rs 10-12 lakh from each candidate in the name of facilitating them government jobs. Many people were given appointment letters and also undertook training but it later turned out that they were

forged letters. When the youth staged a protest, they were threatened by Arman. Later, when the government learnt of the forgery, they constituted a probe under the STF which finally arrested Arman and his four accomplices Faizi, Vishal, Asghar and Amit from Gorakhpur. A senior official, on the condition of anonymity, said that if needed, Maurya would be called again for a detailed interrogation.

It may be mentioned that Maurya left the BJP and joined the Samajwadi Party during the last assembly elections.

Prior to that, Swami had been in the BSP for a long time. This time Maurya contested from Fazilnagar in Kushinagar but was defeated. He was later elected unopposed as MLC on the SP ticket.

Sack Partha, Cong tells Didi as ED summons another MLA

SAUGAR SENGUPTA ■ KOLKATA

A day after Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee pleaded innocence in the school recruitment scam saying she had never encouraged corruption, Pradesh Congress president Adhir Chowdhury on Tuesday asked her to walk the talk by sacking arrested Trinamool Congress secretary general Partha Chatterjee from the State Cabinet.

In his letter to the Chief Minister the PCC president wrote the "Teacher Recruitment Scam was an open secret and everyone in Bengal knows about this. It was only after the court's intervention that investigation agencies started acting upon it. It is a huge blot on the government of West Bengal. I urge you to sack Partha Chatterjee from Ministership immediately."



Industries and Parliamentary Affairs Minister, Chatterjee, considered the second man in the State Cabinet was the Education Minister between 2014 and 2021 when the scam — that allegedly runs into several hundred crores — took place.

The TMC reacted sharply to Chowdhury's letter holding the him guilty of "double standards" even as its spokesperson Kunal Ghosh said "the same Congress cries conspiracy against the Enforcement Directorate when it summons Sonia Gandhi and Rahul Gandhi ...

but it rejoices when the same agencies are used against the other parties."

The Congress leader's letter to the Chief Minister comes at a time when another Trinamool Congress MLA Manik Bhattacharya was on Tuesday summoned by the ED officials. Bhattacharya a former chairman of the Primary Teachers Recruitment Board — before he was removed by the Calcutta High Court a few weeks ago — has been asked to appear at the ED office on Wednesday.

He is likely to be questioned about the seizure from Chatterjee's residence of a long "revised list" of "successful candidates" who had appeared in the Teachers Eligibility Tests (TET). According to sources the irregular appointment procedures in the TET followed the same pattern as in the other categories of school level appointments.

Meanwhile skeletons continued to tumble off Chatterjee's cupboard with the ED getting reports of more than 50 landed properties including bungalows, apartments, resorts, farmhouses, international schools, beauty parlours, nail art parlours etc from various locations of Bengal including Kolkata, Hooghly, Jhargram, South 24 Parganas and North Bengal.

The ED is also trying to understand how much money had been siphoned off to other States and countries through hawala after stumbling upon some clues indicating Chatterjee's links with some garment traders and professors with Bangladesh connections, source said.

The ED is known to have found information about one hundred dumpers (trucks) belonging to Chatterjee. These dumpers were used to carry sands from districts to the

upmarket Rajarhat-New Town area of Kolkata. The ED sources were also trying to find out whether Chatterjee had any connection with illegal mining --- a charge on which some other leaders including TMC Birbhum district president and strongman Anubrata Mandal is already being questioned.

According to sources the ED has stumbled upon property deeds and documents related to joint accounts in the names of Chatterjee and his close aide a part time model-cum actress Arpita Mukherjee from whose residence the officials recovered about Rs 21.90 crore in cash and Rs 1 crore worth foreign currency and jewellery.

Both are presently in ED custody. Sources in the Agency on Tuesday said that while Mukherjee had revealed some information, Chatterjee was proving to be hard to crack.

Son kills elderly parents, 3-yr-old niece with hammer over property dispute

PNS ■ ALIGARH

A psycho killer brutally executed a triple murder on Monday evening in Vikas Nagar Colony of Gandhipark area of Aligarh, for the sake of property and money. He surrendered himself in the police station after killing his elderly parents in the house and grievously injuring his three-year-old niece, who later succumbed to her injuries.

The accused killed all three with a hammer and a stone lying in the house and later surrendered to the police.

There was panic in the area as the news of the killing of the two elderly people spread. The injured girl who was found crying in pain in the house was rushed to the JN Medical College, but she was declared "brought dead"



there. Police said that the retired ADO Panchayat Omprakash (62) lived behind SJD School in Vikas Nagar street number one with his wife Somvati (57), and two sons. The elder son, Rameshwar is married and the younger one Saurabh, is unmarried.

Saurabh had a long running feud with his father and elder brother over property distribution and money. There were fights every day in the

family because of this.

In a fit of rage Saurabh first killed his parents on Monday evening and also Rameshwar's younger daughter Falguni alias Shiva (3), who was playing near her grandparents at that time.

All the three bodies were sent for post-mortem and the accused is in custody.

Meanwhile, further interrogation of the accused is going on in the case.

BSP not keen on alliance with SBSP chief Rajbhar

Rajbhar had earlier accused Akhilesh of bias in the distribution of tickets in the recent Assembly elections

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

The Bahujan Samaj Party (BSP) seems to have firmly closed its door on Suheldev Bharatiya Samaj Party (SBSP) president Om Prakash Rajbhar.

BSP national convener and BSP chief Mayawati's nephew Akash Anand took a jibe at Rajbhar and said there was a need to beware of such

"selfish people."

"The whole world appreciates the governance, administration, discipline of the BSP president and former UP Chief Minister Mayawati. Some opportunists are trying to run their political shops in the name of 'Behenji. One needs to beware of such selfish people," Anand said in a tweet.

Earlier, a BSP leader, on the condition of anonymity, had said, "In fact, Rajbhar's image has become that of a leader on whom trusting too much can prove to be fatal. In such a situation, whether Mayawati will trust him or not is a big question."

"Rajbhar's track record is such that it will not be easy to trust him. Sometimes he stays with the BJP and then he is seen with Shivpal and Owaisi. His presence remains in every court. We don't think the BSP chief will be in a rush to forge an alliance with Rajbhar at the moment. Besides, there are no elections in days ahead," the BSP leader further said.

If BSP sources are to be believed, the biggest hurdle in the alliance between Rajbhar and Mayawati will be the closeness of Rajbhar with the BJP.

"The way he is seen playing at the behest of the BJP,

forming an alliance with him is fraught with danger. Mayawati is also aware that the BJP can plant leaders like Rajbhar in the BSP, hence the statement of Anand also holds significance and it is almost clear that the BSP at present is not in favour of an alliance with him," they said.

Ever since Rajbhar's relations with the SP soured, he is indicating an alliance with the BSP. However, the BSP has not given him any positive response.

"The SBSP and even the Bhim Sena have been talking about an alliance with the BSP from time to time. Both the parties have tried to snatch

our voters but failed miserably," the BSP sources said.

Meanwhile, after Rajbhar was attacked indirectly by Anand, SBSP spokesperson Arun Rajbhar said on Tuesday that they had neither contacted the BSP nor had any talks about an alliance.

When asked about Anand's statement, Arun Rajbhar told reporters, "Whatever he has to say is his own opinion. We have only talked about our priorities. We have neither gone to the BSP nor talked to its leadership. Our leader Om Prakash had worked with Kanshiram."

However, he added that nothing is certain in politics

and political equations keep changing. On the SBSP's strategy, Arun Rajbhar said, "We will be holding a meeting of the Basti division and after two-three days, we will disclose our strategy."

Asked about the SBSP's chances of allying with the BJP, he said, "It's not the right time to say anything."

Om Prakash Rajbhar had on Sunday said that BSP chief Mayawati spent more time in the field as compared to SP chief Akhilesh Yadav. "Some party leaders are of the view that we should go with the BSP. I also feel the same. The BSP performed well in the recent bypolls held in



Azamgarh," he had said.

Rajbhar had earlier accused Akhilesh Yadav of

bias in the distribution of tickets in the recent assembly elections.

Shivpal terms Akhilesh as 'politically immature'

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

Pragatisheel Samaj Party (Lohia) president Shivpal Yadav lashed out at his nephew Akhilesh Yadav and termed him politically immature. The remark comes days after the Samajwadi Party sent a letter to Shivpal, telling him he was free to go wherever he thought he would get more respect. It was an apparent jibe at Shivpal's growing proximity with the BJP.

Taking a swipe at his nephew and SP chief Akhilesh Yadav on Tuesday, Shivpal said: "His political immaturity led to the SP's defeat in the recent Uttar Pradesh assembly elections." It was Shivpal's first reaction in the public after the SP's letter.

The SP had also issued the same letter to another ally, Suheldev Bhartiya Samaj Party (SBSP) president Om Prakash Rajbhar. "I came to know about the SP letter through the media. It is indicative of the political immaturity of Akhilesh Yadav and nothing else. It would have been better had I been expelled from the party," Shivpal said.



"You have seen where the party was and where it has reached now. Had that maturity been there, the party would have formed the government in 2022 and Akhilesh would have been the chief minister," Shivpal said.

"It would have been better had I been given 'mukti' (liberation) from the party. When such letters are being written to me, I am not invited to the legislature party meetings and my suggestions are not accepted, there would have been no heartburn if I was given 'mukti,' he added.

Shivpal had contested the recent state assembly elections on the SP ticket and won from his traditional Jaswant Nagar seat in Etawah.

In 2018, Shivpal had formed his party after he was

marginalised in the SP by Akhilesh.

The fresh row erupted after Shivpal and Rajbhar supported the National Democratic Alliance's (NDA) presidential candidate Draupadi Murmu, who defeated Yashwant Sinha, the Opposition nominee, also supported by the SP.

The 'chacha-bhatija' duo had patched up ahead of the recent Uttar Pradesh assembly polls at the behest of Mulayam Singh Yadav. However, the bonhomie between the two did not last long and they drifted apart after suffering a defeat at the hands of the BJP.

When asked about Rajbhar, Shivpal said, "I have not yet had any talks in this regard though I have had a courtesy meeting with him."

Shivpal, however, appeared soft on senior SP leader Azam Khan, saying, "I will stand by him, whenever required."

The relationship between Khan, the Muslim face of the SP since the days of Mulayam Singh Yadav, and Akhilesh also hit a rough patch since the assembly elections.

CCPA to challenge HC stay on eateries' 'no service' charge



PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Consumer protection regulator CCPA on Tuesday said it will challenge the Delhi High Court's decision to stay the recent guidelines issued by the Government, prohibiting restaurants and hotels from levying service charges automatically on food bills.

Central Consumer Protection Authority (CCPA) Chief Commissioner Nidhi Khare said the court has stayed the guidelines of July 4, 2022, related to service charges and the matter is listed for further hearing on November 25.

"We are going to challenge

before that. We are examining and will take appropriate steps so that we are heard," Khare told reporters.

Hearing a petition filed by the National Restaurant Association of India (NRAI) and Federation and Restaurant Associations of India that challenged the CCPA's July 4 guidelines, the Delhi High Court on July 20 ordered a stay on it.

Justice Yashwant Varma, while hearing the petition, had said the issue requires consideration and directed the CCPA to file its reply and listed the matter for further hearing on November 25.

The July 4 guidelines issued by CCPA barred hotels and restaurants from levying service charges automatically or by default in food bills and allowed customers to file complaints in case of violation.

Restaurants and hotels generally levy a service charge of 10 per cent on the food bill. The guidelines said there should not be any collection of service charges by any other name.

Branch Office: ICICI Bank Limited, 3rd Floor Shal Tower, New Rohtak Road, Karol Bagh, Delhi- 110005

PUBLIC NOTICE - TENDER CUM E-AUCTION FOR SALE OF SECURED ASSET

[See proviso to rule 8(6)]

Notice for sale of immovable assets

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

Notice is hereby given to the public in general and in particular to the Borrower(s) and Guarantor(s) that the below described immovable property mortgaged/charged to the Secured Creditor, the Physical possession of which has been taken by the Authorised Officer of ICICI Bank Ltd. will be sold on "As is where is", "As is what is", and "Whatever there is", as per the brief particulars given hereunder:

Sr. No.	Name of Borrower(s)/ Co-Borrowers/ Guarantors/ Loan Account No.	Details of the Secured asset(s) with known encumbrances, if any	Amount Outstanding	Reserve Price/ Earnest Money Deposit	Date and Time of Property Inspection	Date & Time of E-Auction
(A)	(B)	(C)	(D)	(E)	(F)	(G)
1.	Jitender Kumar Chhabra (Borrower)/ Ram Devi (Co Borrower) LBNOD00002116807	Flat No A-2002, Tower A, Springview Floors, Crescent Parc Township, Nh-24, Ghaziabad, UP Area: 1243 Sq.ft.s	Rs. 63,24,307.89/- as on July 20, 2022	Rs. 39,60,000/- From Rs. 3,96,000/-	August 03, 2022, From 01:00 PM to 03:00 PM	August 19, 2022, From 01:00 PM to 02:00 PM
2.	Sanjeev Chandel (Borrower)/ Pallavi Chandel (Co Borrower) LBNOD00002114485	Flat No A-2103, 2nd Floor Tower A, Springview Floors, Crescent Parc Township, Nh-24, Ghaziabad, UP Area: 1243 Sq.ft.s	Rs. 65,73,984.84/- as on July 20, 2022	Rs. 39,60,000/- From Rs. 3,96,000/-	August 03, 2022, From 01:00 PM to 03:00 PM	August 19, 2022, From 01:00 PM to 02:00 PM

The online auction will be conducted on website (URL.LINK-https://disposalhub.com) of our auction agency **M/s NexXen Solutions Private Limited**. The Mortgagors/ noticee are given a last chance to pay the total dues with further interest till **August 17, 2022 before 05:00 PM** else these secured assets will be sold as per above schedule. The Prospective Bidder(s) must submit the Earnest Money Deposit (EMD) Demand Draft (DD) (Refer Column E) at **ICICI Bank Limited, 3rd Floor Shal Tower, New Rohtak Road, Karol Bagh, Delhi- 110005** and thereafter they need to submit their offer through the above mentioned website online or before **August 17, 2022 before 05:00 PM** along with scan image of Bank acknowledged DD towards proof of payment of EMD. Kindly note, incase prospective bidder(s) are unable to submit their offer through the website then signed copy of tender documents may be submitted at **ICICI Bank Limited, 3rd Floor Shal Tower, New Rohtak Road, Karol Bagh, Delhi-110005** on or before **August 17, 2022 before 05:00 PM**. Earnest Money Deposit DD/PO should be from a Nationalised/Scheduled Bank in favour of "**ICICI Bank Limited**" payable at Delhi.

For any further clarifications with regards to inspection, terms and conditions of the E-auction or submission of tenders, kindly contact **ICICI Bank Limited on 8126013708** or **M/s NexXen Solutions Private Limited on 9810029926/01244233933**

Please note that Marketing agencies **1. M/s NexXen Solutions Private Limited. 2. Augeo Asset Management Pvt Ltd** have also been engaged for facilitating the sale of this property.

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

Date: July 27, 2022
Place: Delhi/ NCR

Authorized Officer
ICICI Bank Limited



www.dailypioneer.com

facebook.com/dailypioneer | @TheDailyPioneer | instagram.com/dailypioneer/

PAPER WITH PASSION

Opposition helps govt

The opposition leader are barred from attending the parliament because of their theatrics

Pandemonium is the new normal for our Parliament—not very new actually, for this has been going on for quite a while. Entire sessions were lost to it in the past. The words that occur frequently in news reports on parliament proceedings are din, commotion, shouting, sloganeering, etc. So, the recent spurt of barring parliamentarians from attending didn't come as a surprise; even those who attend rarely make speeches that illuminate the nation. On Monday, four Lok Sabha members from the Congress were suspended for the entire monsoon session ending August 12. The next day, a record 19 Rajya Sabha members from Opposition parties were suspended for this week. LS members were protesting with placards inside the House over inflation. They ignored Speaker Om Birla's warning not to display placards inside the House, leading to their suspension. Commerce & Industry Minister Piyush Goyal rightly slammed the Opposition leaders for disturbing the proceedings on Tuesday. "The [RS] Chairman has decided to suspend a few members of Opposition parties. We have repeatedly stated that we are ready for discussion on any issue including price rise and have agreed to their demand for a discussion on the issue... [But] they are continuously disturbing the proceedings of the House," Goyal, who is the Leader of the House in the Rajya Sabha, told reporters. Birla also made a similar point on Monday: "If you want to show placards, do it outside the house. I am ready for discussions..." It is an inexplicable situation: the Narendra Modi Government is open to the idea of a discussion on inflation; the LS Speaker also allows that; but the Opposition, which



could have exposed the inadequacies of economic policy, runs away from debate and discussion. And what does it do? Shouting, screaming, placard displaying—essentially grabbing photo-ops from the issue of price rise, transmogrifying political dialogue into an unedifying spectacle, an event. And these are the folks who accuse the government of having reduced governance into event management! Quoting government sources, PTI reported in August last year, "Rocked by protests from Opposition parties on Pegasus snooping and other issues since the start of the Monsoon session, Parliament has only functioned for 18 hours out of the scheduled time of 107 hours, resulting in a loss of more than Rs 133 crore of taxpayers' money." It is not the money lost because of continuous tumult in Parliament that is the issue; the real issue is the Opposition's abdication of its duty to act as a check on executive authority. Instead of subjecting various ministries and departments to scrutiny and highlighting the failings in policies and decisions, Opposition leaders seem to be more interested in having their pictures printed in newspapers or shown on news channels. They may think that they are doing a great job, but in reality they are just helping the government, which gets a free pass because of the Opposition's theatrics.

PICTALK



Srinagar: Kargil Vijay Divas victory flame being carried to commemorate the victory over Pakistan in Kargil war

AP

Admit Medical Students

Medical students who returned from Ukraine and china are distressed as they can't get admission in their own country

The future of thousands of children studying medicine in Ukraine and China hangs in balance. When Russia attacked Ukraine these children had no choice but to return home. Though they made it to the home country in the middle of their studies thanks to operation Ganga are now in a quandary as they can neither go back to their college to complete their studies nor join Indian universities as they would not allow them admissions.

When they were evacuated they were promised that they would be able to continue their studies in Indian universities but after months of waiting, they are still waiting for admission.

After trying all channels they have not received any assurance from anybody regarding their future studies. They cannot return for obvious reasons and cannot study at home. Most of them were pursuing medical science which requires a certain amount of practical training. After exhausting all channels these desperate students sat on a 5-day hunger strike in Delhi.

They have made a poignant appeal to Prime Minister Narendra Modi to consider their request for admission to any Indian university. Even last month these students had sat on a dharna in a Jantar Mantar but to no avail, More than 40,000 students studying in Ukraine and China had to abandon their medical courses mid-way due to pandemics and war. While China has agreed to take back students on a case-by-case basis the future of students who were in Ukraine is uncertain. The war is still going on in Ukraine and even if it stopped it is very unlikely that the college they were studying in would resume its normal functioning.

In this situation, the government should be considerate enough to give them some respite by admitting them to the university as a special case. The biggest stumbling block in admitting these students has been the National Medical Commission which has ruled out transfer or accommodation to any foreign medical students in any Indian medical institute or university since there are no such provisions in the Indian Medical Council Act 1956 and the National Medical Commission Act, 2019

These children have already gone through a lot of trauma and if they are denied education in their own country their life would be ruined. Rules must be amended to accommodate these children. Definitely, some special arrangements can be made by which these students could complete this course and pursue their careers.



Eastern Europe bats for Ukraine

The Russian invasion of Ukraine has not gone down well with the erstwhile Soviet Bloc which is now drifting towards NATO



ASHOK K MEHTA

For the last three weeks, I have been traveling in former Czechoslovakia (the Czech Republic and Slovakia now) and areas south including Hungary and Serbia. What stands out is that except for Serbia which has maintained strong ties with Russia and China, other countries in Europe especially those from the former Soviet Bloc have become united in their wholehearted support for Ukraine which has strengthened Nato and united European Union.

Scorching summer temperatures make climate change hazards inevitable. But for now, all eyes are on Ukraine as its flag and mostly women and children have found space in some of these anti-migrant countries. Take Praha (Prague) in the Czech Republic with a population of 1 mn. It has taken 400,000 Ukrainian refugees but none from Afghanistan and Syria. To its credit and unlike many other countries, it brought along 150 Afghans (and families) who were helping its military contingent there after Kabul was overpowered by the Taliban last year.

It is unspoken anti-Muslim and the reason why it is free of any form of terrorism. Entry for anyone with an Islamic name, even from friendly countries like India, is not easy. One of the grandest crown jewels of Europe it hosts more tourists than its residents. Public transport of high excellence is free for all including tourists above 60. Bratislava, the capital of Slovakia, is an hour by train from Vienna which runs to the minute. What is noticeable is Soviet/Russian influence in Hungary, Bulgaria, Poland, former Czechoslovakia, and other countries which were part of the Soviet Union and Warsaw Pact. Their economies are not as developed as west Europe but the EU and the democratic spirit and values, they say, will certainly help their rise. Bulgaria is the poorest, struggling to weed out corruption and lethargy. Their Soviet connection makes



them relevant and important for India's legacy Russian military equipment still in its inventory.

Russia has made India highly dependent on not just equipment and armaments but also spare parts, maintenance, and equipment upgrades. Although these countries are gradually converting from Russian to Nato standard equipment, they still have a high number of Russian weapons. They have taken hold of blueprints of Soviet equipment and continued to manufacture the ammunition and accessories that India is importing. Indian military delegations visit these countries to test and examine spares and maintenance equipment at the source for quality and reliability. Slowly we are weaning away from Russian equipment in favor of western, especially the US, Israeli and European armament.

Serbia was the heart and glue of former Yugoslavia. It is a very special country in this region. Under its dynamic leader Tito, it initiated and navigated the nonaligned movement along with India, Egypt, Indonesia, and others. It is the only country that balances its relations effectively

BESIDES THEIR PREOCCUPATION WITH COVID AND CLIMATE CHANGE, THE WAR IN UKRAINE DOMINATES THE MIND-GAME, ESPECIALLY AMONG FORMER SOVIET REPUBLICS

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

DIGITAL CURRENCY IS ON THE CARDS

Sir — The reserve Bank of India is in the process of implementing the central bank digital currency in a phased manner for the wholesale and retail segments, an official said. CBDC is a digital currency. It's an electronic record issued by the monetary Authority of a country. And a survey has revealed that 86 % of Central Bank is ready to adopt the CBDC. The cost of using paper currency is coming down, now RBI wants to make it electronic form more popular. Digital currency cannot be burned or damaged. The payment will be the final payment and the financial system will eliminate the risk of settlement especially in bank.

Muskan Prajapat | Ujjain

NATIONAL COUSINS' DAY

Sir — National Cousins' Day is a perfect day to send some love to those family members we call cousins. Whether they were our first best friend or first antagonist, cousins are the people who made family get together fun -- or at least more tolerable and less awkward - when we were kids. Whether close cousins or distant cousins, friends or foes, those of us who are lucky enough to still have cousins around should think about celebrating them today.

Every year, National Cousins' Day is celebrated on July 24. For people who do not know what the term cousin means, this word is referred to as someone who is a part of your wider extended family. National Cousins' Day is a day to thank our cousins for all that they do for us.

Jubel D'Cruz | Mumbai

CLIMATE CHANGE MEANS CLIMATE CRISIS

Sir — We should poise climate change as 'climate crisis' to emphasize the degree of importance. Global warming is major reason for global catastrophes as it has ecological and geophysical affects also escalating health risks. Ecosystems are the cornerstone of human life. We as a major economy and continent are taking major steps to grapple

Kargil Vijay Diwas



26 July is celebrated as Kargil Vijay Diwas to recollect India's triumph over the Pakistani Army at the heights of Kargil. The withdrawal by the Pakistani army commenced on 11 July. On 14 July, the Indian Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee promulgated Operation Vijay (the codename given to the Kargil War). The European Union invigorated

Sambhav Jain | Ujjain

with the carnage. We have comprehended that banishing plastic is not an elixir vitae for the mess.

The major goal is to eliminate the carbon footprints. Now our cynosure is firstly by increasing the forest cover area, secondly by anchoring renewable energies like thermal and solar by making it more efficient, thirdly erecting cool roofs on buildings to prune CFCs, and cutting heat trap emissions. 80% of India's GDP depends on climate and we have narrow window to decide India's future trajectory. We need to realise our potential and develop sustainably.

Tashi Baheti | Maharashtra

CONGRESS MUST INTROSPECT

Sir — The Congress has its own take on less number of corporators being elected compared to the BJP. The number this time is

India on the conflict.

Indian soldiers were exalted for exhibiting astonishing restraint by not crossing the LoC and turning the situation into an all-out war between the two nuclear states. Let us recollect those who sacrificed their lives for our safety and security.

one-and-a-half times more compared with the elections in 2015. While the Congress alleges that the State machinery worked for the BJP, but Congress has some soul-searching to do as well. The BJP has won in nine, the Congress in five, while AAP and an independent candidate got one seat each out of 16 Municipal Corporation seats. In 347 civic bodies, the BJP registered a lead in 256 out of 347 bodies. The emergence of AAP and the AIMIM has further complicated matters for the Congress, a possibility their spokespersons did not deny. While BJP learned a lesson Congress needs to be constructive if they wish to improve their performance.

CK Ramaniam | Trichy

Send your feedback to: letterstopioneer@gmail.com

SOUND BITE

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.



Prime Minister —Narendra Modi

I humbly beg forgiveness for the evil committed by so many Christians against the Indigenous peoples.

The Pope —Francis

Thank you for this incredible honour. "Marengo To Wahin Jaakar" has won the National Award for Best Music Direction in Non Feature Films.

Filmmaker & Music Composer —Vishal Bhardwaj

It's okay, not everyone can get what they want. Except cricket fans, they can even choose their commentators on the FanCode app.

Cricket Commentator —Ravi Shastri


BJP leaders, who talk about culture, have repeatedly used objectionable language against women of the country, especially the 75-year-old president of a national party.

Congress Leader —Jairam Ramesh

FIRST COLUMN

KICK-START ECONOMY WITH MIGRANT WORKERS

Economy should focus on migrant workers



SHIVAJI SARKAR


Cut in pay or allowances exacerbates a crisis. It hits the purchasing power and recoils back on the economy. The crisis has been brewing and instead of sending a grim signal to government employees, the Centre could have deferred payment or as in the past credited it to provident fund.

The actual deferment due to DA freeze would be ₹38,000 crore for 48 lakh central employees and ₹82,000 crore for 1.6 lakh crore state staff. As it is not deferred payment, it would hit all future payments, calculations and retirement benefits. It will be a major loss to the economy.

It signals contraction as the corporate also either cuts salaries or reduces the number of employees, hitting about 10-40 crore people. In reality, the government would get back about ₹40,000 crore as income tax and at least ₹25,000 crore as indirect taxes if the DA is paid.

The unorganized sector has already thrown out at least five crore people out of job, leading to the largest exodus of migrant workers since the 1947 partition. It is straining MGNREGS.

It is the beginning of a severe downturn. About five percent of companies are hopeful of revival in 12 to 24 months, reveals a study by Wills Towers Watson. The optimistic 57 percent expect moderate to large negative business impact in the next six months due to corona lockdown. While 46 percent organisations expect the gloomy phase to be over in 12 months, 19 percent expect it to last for two years.



Official doles for 80 crore expose that the country's claim for the number of people below poverty line at 21.9 per cent as per Asian Development Bank or 23.6 per cent of World Bank, 28 crore, needs revision.

Economic Surveys have recorded that 50 largest companies were the biggest defaulters leading to the collapse of the banking system and its huge NPAs since 2008-09. In reality, the large organisations do not need any support at this stage.

If the government is expecting that these would create jobs, it is a daydream. In 2008-09, they did not do and even they are not likely to do it now. Interest rate cut is to hit the savers and geriatric. The sudden lockdown hurt the economy severely. It is virtually the second major blow since the 2016 note-ban blow. The total loss might be more than presumed due to lingering effects of lockdown and the 23 per cent fall, \$20 billion, in NRI remittances.

The challenge is how to win back the confidence of migrant workers. The rural and farm economy has to be strengthened. Post-corona a new model is needed. Villages have to sustain India; decentralised cash economy was discussed by the RSS in its revival of village clusters, gram sankulyojana, in April 2015.

The system has to respect the human capital. It is they who make an economy. Through toil they earn and by spending they sustain. Their wage suppression and harassment has to be replaced by giving the real cost to honour dignity of labour and sustainable livelihood.

The revival plan for the economy has to target the common man and his free movement. An essential is to reduce and remove unnecessary costs like highway tolls, fast tag, many cess, fees, irrational charges, city entrance taxes and cut in GST.

The poor have to be empowered and banks have to honour their savings with higher interest payments. It would help the banking sector bolster its cash reserves.

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

Is Nehru family above Constitution?

The first family mobilised its cadres and leaders to protest outside the ED office during interrogation of Sonia Gandhi



The entire politics of the Congress party, which has been in power for more than five decades, has been confined to the Nehru family, which has treated themselves as a monarchy, above the law and the Constitution of democratic India. This disregard for the country's constitution was in full display again when Congress stalwarts Rahul Gandhi and Sonia Gandhi were back-to-back summoned by the Enforcement Directorate for interrogation in the National Herald case.

In both cases, the 'first family' of the Congress mobilised its cadres, Members of Parliament, MLAs, and party office bearers to protest outside the office of the ED during the interrogation. The protest continued despite the imposition of Section 144. The Congress leaders left no stone unturned in portraying themselves as the trustees of the Nehru family.

Six and a half years ago, on December 19, 2015, when Sonia Gandhi and Rahul Gandhi were to appear before the Patiala House Court in Delhi in the same case, they staged a march from the Congress Party office to the court.

Not surprisingly, people are asking why, despite being in the Opposition, the Congress never showed so much solidarity for the problems of people? The protests against the so-called persecution of the Gandhis, however, are not new. The foundation was laid 47 years ago-on June 12, 1975, to be precise-when the Allahabad High Court scrapped the then prime minister Indira Gandhi's election from Rae Bareilly for the misuse of state machinery. After the court barred her from contesting elections for six years, the family puppets coined the slogan 'Indira is India and India is Indira'.

Whenever any action is taken against the Nehru family, the Congress makes fun of the process of law. Take the case of October 23, 1977, when Indira Gandhi was arrested over corruption charges. Or when she was arrested on December 19, 1978, and sent to the Tihar Jail on charges of breach of privilege and contempt of the House. Or when her son Sanjay Gandhi was sent to the Tihar Jail by the Supreme Court in 1979 on charges of forced sterilisation, interference in government work, the Maruti company controversy, and burning of the prints of the film Kiss Kursi Ka during the Emergency, and pressurising the witnesses of the trial. In all these cases, the entire Congress took to the streets in defence of the accused Nehru family.

The questions to be asked are: When other senior Congress ministers and leaders are arrested, why doesn't the party stage any protest? Why is it only with the Nehru family?

The Congress Party and its leaders forget how, as Gujarat chief minister, Narendra Modi cooperated with the investigating agencies when he appeared



THE QUESTIONS TO BE ASKED ARE: WHEN OTHER SENIOR CONGRESS MINISTERS AND LEADERS ARE ARRESTED, WHY DOESN'T THE PARTY STAGE ANY PROTEST? WHY IS IT ONLY WITH THE NEHRU FAMILY?

(The author is the vice-president of BJP in Bihar and a member of the Bihar Legislative Council. Views expressed are personal.)



before the Special Investigative Team in March 2010 in connection with the Gujarat riots cases. The head of this SIT and former CBI director R.K. Raghavan wrote in his autobiography, A Road Well Traveled, that in a day, Modi was asked more than 100 questions during his interrogation that lasted for about nine hours. During the investigation, when the interrogating officers wanted to take a lunch break, Modi refused to do so, saying that he would not take any breaks during the legal proceedings.

In situations like these, the basic difference between Modi and the Nehru family has to be understood. At that time, Modi, while addressing the media before going to the interrogation, had reiterated, "The Constitution of India, the law of India is supreme. As a citizen and chief minister, I am bound by the Constitution of India, by the law of India. No person can be above the law."

On the other hand, Rahul Gandhi, before his interrogation, was planning with his party colleagues as to how to remain in the limelight by protesting violently in the name of Satyagraha.

Amit Shah was arrested in 2010 while serving as the home minister of Gujarat, and was called for interrogation several times by the Central Bureau of Investigation. Even after getting bail from the Supreme Court, he was not allowed to go to Gujarat

because of pressure from the Congress government.

Former Union minister and Bharatiya Janata Party national president Murli Manohar Joshi, former Madhya Pradesh chief minister Uma Bharti, and Vishwa Hindu Parishad leader Ashok Singhal were also called for interrogation by the special CBI court on several occasions. In all these cases, neither the BJP questioned the CBI over questioning nor did it organise protests and demonstrations against the Congress government. Everyone fully cooperated with the administration in their respective investigations.

By compromising with criminals and the corrupt, the Congress also brought them up under its umbrella. For example, after the arrest of Indira Gandhi on December 20, 1978, Bhola Nath Pandey and Devendra Pandey, flying from Lucknow to Delhi at 5:45 pm, hijacked the Indian Airlines plane Boeing 737 with 132 passengers in it and made a landing in Varanasi. They demanded her release and the withdrawal of all the cases against her and her son Sanjay Gandhi.

After coming to power, the Congress withdrew all the cases against these two devoted followers who worshipped the Nehru family, and gave tickets to both of them as their reward, making them MLA and MP; this was deplorable politics by any reckoning.

The Congress did not stop with this. The Defamation Bill, 1988, was introduced by its government in the Lok Sabha on August 29 when the name of the then prime minister Rajiv Gandhi came up in the Bofors scam. A nationwide protest started after the Bill was passed by the Lok Sabha on August 30, 1988; this forced him to withdraw the Bill.

The Nehru family has long since been pursuing their selfish interests by bypassing the Constitution to grab power. Imposition of Emergency and tampering with law and order machinery went with impunity in the Congress regime. It was not for nothing that the Supreme Court in 2013 had called the country's largest investigative agency a 'caged parrot'.

The Nehru family keeps confusing the public by adding the title Gandhi in their name. This is a well-thought-out strategy for political gains. Doing petty politics in the name of Father of the Nation, Mahatma Gandhi, is an insult to his deeds.

In times like these, when the prince of the family, Rahul Gandhi, talks about democracy, nation, and the cultural heritage of India, he sounds ridiculous. Therefore, when someone like Rahul Gandhi vents his frustration against Prime Minister Modi, the people of India give two hoots because they are aware of the past and present of the family and its prince.

POINT COUNTERPOINT

THIS REWRICULTURE IS DANGEROUS FOR THE DEVELOPMENT. TOGETHER WE HAVE TO REMOVE REWRI CULTURE FROM THE POLITICS OF THE COUNTRY. —PRIME MINISTER NARENDRA MODI



TO GIVE FREE EDUCATION TO THE CHILDREN AND TO PROVIDE FREE TREATMENT TO THE PEOPLE - THIS IS NOT CALLED DISTRIBUTING FREE REWARI. —DELHI CHIEF MINISTER ARVIND KEJRIWAL

Monkeypox is no pandemic, not as deadly as Covid

But there will be much worse pandemics coming down the road in the future, and the world needs to be better prepared

Monkeypox is very unpleasant and it spreads very fast, but it's not a real killer: 16,000 cases in 75 countries in just a couple of months is impressive, but there have been only five deaths.

Yet the World Health Organisation (WHO) has just declared monkeypox a global health emergency, which is a big deal. The only other infectious diseases in that category are Covid-19, which has already killed 6.4 million people, and polio (which is trying to make a comeback). Targeting monkeypox seems disproportionate, but there's a reason.

"Covid-19 is broadly viewed as being a 'once in a lifetime' or 'once in a century' pandemic. Modeling work



GWYNNE DYER

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

based on historical data shows that this is not necessarily the case," reported the epidemiological start-up Metabiota last year. That's because "the frequency of 'spill-over' infectious diseases like Covid is steadily increasing."

It's increasing because quick-killer pandemic diseases only started thriving in human societies when we began living together in large numbers. Lethal viruses and bacteria probably always 'spilled over' into human populations from time to time, but if they infected little hunter-gatherer groups of 50 or 100 people they just died out along with the victims.

The natural home of those diseases were birds and animals that lived in big flocks and herds: lots of potential victims to sustain the transmission. But

when human beings started living in big civilisations and domesticated some of those animals, the pandemic diseases happily transferred across and thrived amongst us too.

For most of the history of civilisation, successful transfers didn't happen all that often: big new killer pandemics only came along every five hundred years or so. However, now that there are eight billion people and millions criss-cross the planet every day, the disease vectors have more opportunities to spread and they move much faster.

At the moment, according to Metabiota's calculations, it's even odds that we will have another new pandemic on the scale of Covid-19 in the next 25 years. More precisely, they estimate the probability of another

global pandemic as deadly as Covid to be between 2.5-3.3 per cent each year. It could even arrive next year.

Monkeypox is not that disease. Despite its rapid spread to so many countries, it is transmitted mainly between men who have sex with men. There is an existing, fully effective vaccine for it (the same one that eradicated smallpox, which no longer exists in the wild). And hardly anybody dies from it.

So WHO Director-General Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus had some explaining to do when he broke a stalemate at his 'emergency committee' and decreed that monkeypox is a global emergency.

He explained that it was to speed up research on "the new modes of transmission that have allowed it to spread", and to press countries to use vaccines and other measures to limit the numbers infected. These are all sensible things to do, but they really don't justify declaring a global health emergency.

What he carefully avoided saying is that he really intends it as a reminder of our peril and a spur to action. The whole pandemic response system needs an exercise that incorporates all the lessons learned from our stumbling response to Covid, and monkeypox provides an excuse to do it.

Ghebreyesus is manipulating the system in a well-meant attempt to persuade the world to build better systems for containing dangerous emergent diseases in general, and he may come under serious fire for doing so.

But you can see his point, because we haven't learned enough from our harrowing experience with Covid. The vaccines were developed faster than in any previous pandemic, and two-thirds of the world's population has been fully vaccinated in about sixteen months, but the rate of immunity in the poorest countries is abysmal.

That leaves reservoirs of high infection that serve as breeding grounds for new variants of the virus, some of which may be able to evade the vaccines. This is an issue of distribution and organisation, not a medical issue, and doing it on a smaller scale for monkeypox could improve the system for the next time something truly dangerous appears.

The same goes for the initial phases of detection and containment, which were badly bungled with Covid. There will be much worse pandemics coming down the road in the future-WILL BE, not 'may be'-and the world needs to be better prepared.

Just spending one-hundredth of what the world spent on fighting Covid to improve global readiness for dealing with the next pandemic-building local vaccine production facilities, regional labs with good analytical capabilities, and stronger reporting networks-could spare us another two years of the misery and loss we had with this pandemic.

If that's Ghebreyesus's real goal with this monkeypox business, it's all right with me.

Ukraine pushes to try war crimes as fighting rages



AP ■ KYIV

The appeal of Ukraine's first war crimes conviction was adjourned on Monday, as prosecutors keep pushing to hold Russia legally accountable for atrocities even as fighting rages in the south and east of the country.

Thin and subdued, Vadim Shishmarin, a 21-year-old captured Russian soldier who pleaded guilty to killing a civilian and was sentenced in May by a Ukrainian court to life in prison, sat in a glass box in the courtroom as he faced news cameras. The hearing was postponed until July 29 due to his lawyer's ill health.

Around Ukraine's capital region, where Russian forces pulled out four months ago, much of the work of documenting crime scenes and interviewing witnesses has been done. Now a more difficult phase in the search for accountability is underway: Finding those responsible.

"While conducting searches in the previously occupied region, we regularly find documents, passports and lists with names of participants of the units, with their complete data, including sites

of birth and dates of births," Andrii Nebytov, head of the Kyiv regional police, told The Associated Press.

"All of this information is being transferred to the relevant law enforcement. The investigators are working with the victims, trying to identify the people who committed crimes against them."

Shishmarin's case is unusual in that Ukrainian authorities quickly found evidence to link him with the shooting of a 62-year-old man in the northeastern Sumy region on Feb. 28. That's not the case for most war crimes cases now under investigation.

Ukrainian prosecutors have registered over 20,100 potential war crimes, and police in the Kyiv region have exhumed more than 1,300 bodies.

But as of July, prosecutors in Ukraine have only been able to identify 127 suspects, according to the prosecutor general's office. Fifteen of them are currently in Ukraine as prisoners of war while the rest remain at large. Those suspects include three accused of sexual violence and 64 accused of willful killing or ill-treatment of civilians.

Shishmarin is one of 10 people to face war crimes trials so far in Ukraine,

haphazardly. All those bodies had to be dug up for forensic examination. Kyiv regional police have exhumed 1,346 bodies, but more than 300 people are still missing, according to Nebytov.

"Concerning the exhumations, I am sure that we are far from finishing it," he said in an interview Thursday. "This week we found a man who was executed with his hands tied behind his back and a hat over his head. The expert says that during the execution the man was on his knees."

More than half of the victims police have found so far were shot dead; 38 of them were children. Kyiv police have found 13 mass graves in the region.

Nebytov said he has documented a litany of horrors: babies shot dead as their families tried to escape in civilian convoys, a man kidnapped as he gathered wood to make a fire and executed, civilians taken in for interrogation by Russian forces whose bodies were found with hands and eyes bound with tape, shot in the knees and shot in the head.

"With the intelligence at my disposal, I can say that there's no specific military strategy in sight. It is not a military strategy but rather terror," he said. "It is a concentration of evil, violence and cruelty."

Ruslan Kravchenko, chief regional prosecutor in Bucha, which lies just north of Ukraine's capital, told AP that he has sent over 2,000 cases to Ukraine's security services for further investigation and that new cases continue to come in every day — now, mostly for property damage.

Bucha, once a desirable, leafy town outside Kyiv, has become a symbol of the carnage of the war started by Russia in February. Kravchenko said of the 327 murder victims in Bucha his office has documented, just three were soldiers and one was a police officer.

"I have never seen so many bodies," said Kravchenko, who worked in Crimea, which Russia annexed in 2014, and the Donbas, where Russia-backed separatists have been fighting the Ukrainian government since 2014, before moving onto Bucha. "I can see only one pattern: Where Russians saw civilians, they shot them immediately without explanation."

Russia aims new air strikes at Black Sea coastal targets



SUSIE BLANN / AP ■ KYIV

Russia targeted Ukraine's Black Sea regions of Odesa and Mykolaiv with air strikes on Tuesday, hitting private buildings and port infrastructure along the country's southern coast, the Ukrainian military said.

The Kremlin's forces used air-launched missiles in the attack, Ukraine's Operational Command South said in a Facebook post.

In the Odesa region, a number of private buildings in villages on the coast were hit and caught fire, the report said.

In the Mykolaiv region, port infrastructure was targeted.

Hours after the renewed strikes on the south, a Moscow-

installed official in the southern Kherson region said the Odesa and Mykolaiv regions will soon be "liberated" by the Russian forces, just like the Kherson region further east.

"The Kherson region and the city of Kherson have been liberated forever," Kirill Stremousov was quoted as saying by Russian state news agency RIA Novosti. The developments came as Ukraine appeared to be preparing a counteroffensive in the south.

Russia previously attacked Odesa's port at the weekend. The British military said Tuesday there was no indication that a Ukrainian warship and a stockpile of anti-ship missiles were at the site, as Moscow

claimed.

The British Defence Ministry said Russia sees Ukraine's use of anti-ship missiles as "a key threat" that is limiting its Black Sea Fleet.

"This has significantly undermined the overall invasion plan, as Russia cannot realistically attempt an amphibious assault to seize Odesa," the military said.

"Russia will continue to prioritise efforts to degrade and destroy Ukraine's anti-ship capability."

It added that "Russia's targeting processes are highly likely routinely undermined by dated intelligence, poor planning, and a top-down approach to operations".

Medic in heels commands respect on Ukraine's front lines

AP ■ DONETSK REGION

All over the Donetsk region, close to the front lines of Russia's war in Ukraine, Nataliaia Voronkova turns up at Ukrainian field positions and hospitals wearing high heels. A colleague bought her running shoes, but Voronkova gave them away.

A helmet and a protective vest aren't part of her uniform, either, as she distributes first-aid kits and other equipment to Ukrainian soldiers and paramedics. She is a civilian, the founder of a medical non-profit, and looking like one is something no one can take from her, even in a combat zone.

"I am myself, and I will never give up my heels for anything," Voronkova said of the red strappy sandals, beige pumps and other elegant footwear she typically pairs with



full skirts and midi dresses as she makes her dangerous rounds.

The former adviser to the Ukrainian Defense Ministry with graduate degrees in banking and finance is a familiar sight to officers and troops in eastern Ukraine.

For eight years after Moscow seized Ukraine's Crimean Peninsula in 2014, Voronkova dedicated her life to providing tactical medical training and equipment for Ukrainian forces fighting pro-Russia separatists. Russia's invasion of Ukraine in late February has created exponentially more need for her organization, Volunteers Hundred Dobrovolia, and new challenges.

Working on their own, Voronkova and her assistant, Yevhen Veselov, drive a van filled with donated supplies — everything from night vision goggles and battlefield

staplers to the advances equipment needed for brain surgery — swiftly through checkpoints, irrespective of curfews. Servicemen recognise

Although she manages 20 people and lives in Kyiv, Voronkova has been in eastern Ukraine since the Russians focused their attention there in April, and she insists on delivering first-aid kits to the front line herself. "A woman is like the neck of the head. She moves everything," she said. Voronkova grew up loving medicine, but her family did not want her to pursue it. They were bankers and thought she should take the same career path. The separatist conflict that started in 2014 persuaded her to study combat medicine, and she eventually received certification as an instructor.

From 2015 until Russia invaded Ukraine, the Ukrainian Defence Ministry tasked her with finding solutions to problems encountered by army units in the Donbas. Now, she uses her own teaching techniques

to help the units protect themselves and their comrades in battle.

"I still remind my mother that when I was in 10th grade, I had a box filled with (over-the-counter) pills, and all my friends at school knew I had medicine for everything," she said. "Unfortunately, I could not pursue my dream. But today I am implementing it by giving aid."

Martial law has swelled the ranks of Ukraine's defenders, but many of the people who have joined the military during the war entering its sixth month do not have combat experience or the supplies they need.

"It feels like 2014. We need first-aid kits and uniforms for the territorial defence. I think it was created with hardly any time to allocate a budget for them. Therefore, they need support from volunteers," Voronkova says.



Guatemala's Prez visits Ukraine, expresses solidarity

AP ■ GUATEMALA CITY

Guatemalan President Alejandro Giammattei visited Ukraine on Monday and expressed his solidarity with Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy.

Giammattei met with Zelenskyy in the capital, Kyiv, becoming the first Latin American president to make the trip. Many Latin American leaders have avoided taking a stance on the Russian invasion of Ukraine. That reflects in some cases decades-old ties to Russia and in others a wariness of US foreign policy goals.

"We stand in solidarity with the Ukrainian people, who have resisted with courage," Giammattei said at a joint news conference. "As long as human lives are lost, we cannot silence our voices."

"Let it be clear that since the beginning of this conflict, Guatemala has raised its voice," he said. "We will always be consistent with our words. Guatemala does not and will not remain silent."

Zelenskyy thanked Giammattei for his support for sanctions on Russia and Guatemala's support for an international tribunal on crimes committed during the war. Ukraine's president noted that Latin America, like many other parts of the world, has suffered from higher prices due to the fighting in Ukraine, which is a big producer of agricultural and other commodities. "Only together can we protect our world," Zelenskyy said.

Critics of Giammattei's government said the president has more pressing issues he should be dealing with at home, including corruption and human rights.

"The entire world knows the way in which President Alejandro Giammattei has been eroding democracy and promoting impunity in his country," said Carolina Jiménez, president of the Washington Office on Latin America.

PARADIP PORT AUTHORITY
e-Tender Call Notice

No.EMIOHP/GIW-18/18(PJ)-467 Date:15.07.2022

Work: Design, Manufacture, Supply, Erection & Commissioning of 3200TPH Capacity Ship Loader at IOB". Estimated cost: Rs.30,12,50,000/- Last date & time of submission of bid: UP TO 1800 Hrs. on 08.08.2022. Refer our website https://procure.gov.in/procure/app_for_details.

EE(Mech), IOHP
Paradip Port Authority

PPA/PR/176/22-23 dtd.26.07.2022

PUBLIC NOTICE

This is to inform to all concerns that Sh. Subedar Jagmal Singh S/o Sh. Laxman Singh R/o A-172, Sector-26, Noida, Distt. G.B. Nagar U.P. has a property in Noida: Shop No-3, Block-B, Market Sector-26, Noida G.B.Nagar (U.P.). Will is Registered at Sub Registrar office-1st Noida in Bahi No. 3, Jild No.416, at Page No.41-50 at Serial No.2348 on Dated-19.10.2013. So above property is being transferred to the name of Sh. Praveen Kumar Singh S/o Sh. Jagmal Singh R/o A-172, Sector-26, Noida (U.P.) on the basis of registered Will. So all the related people are informed that if someone has any objection about the transfer of above property, then they can submit their objection in Noida Authority Commercial department with all document proof within 30 days from the publishing date of this information. Praveen Kumar Singh

PUBLIC NOTICE

The general Public hereby informed that my client, Shubham Jain S/o Sh. Parveen Kumar Jain R/o 247, Second Floor, Gujranwala Town 3rd, Delhi-110009, have decided to sever all the relations with his father Mr. Parveen Kumar Jain alongwith his other family i.e., wife and other children from all their moveable and immovable properties due to their quarrelsome character and bad behaviour towards my client. My client shall not be at all responsible of any act done by them in what so manner in future.

NAZIA PARVEEN (Advocate)
18, Hargovind Enclave,
Bhartendu Harish Chandra Marg, ND-110092
Mobile: 9278693021

PUBLIC NOTICE

By this Notice General public is hereby informed that our Clients, Ashok Kumar Gupta and Savita Gupta resident of D-39, 3rd Floor, Ashoka Road, Adarsh Nagar, Delhi-110033 disown/dissent their son Anuj Kumar Gupta from all their assets and properties, movable as also immovable wherever situated because of the various acts done by him and his wife Riddha Gupta which have deeply hurt them. Any person dealing with Anuj Kumar Gupta shall be doing so at their own risk and that our Clients shall not be responsible for any of his acts in any manner whatsoever.

Maneesh Kumar (Advocate),
Chamber No. E-314,
Karkardooma Courts, Delhi-110032.

PUBLIC NOTICE

Be it known to all that I, Sh. K.L. Krishna alias Kosaraju Leela Krishna son of Late Sh. K. Lakshmayya R/o 97, Munirka Enclave, New Delhi-110067, is the original allottee of SFS Flat No. 97, Ground Floor, CAT-III, Munirka Enclave, New Delhi-110067. That the original documents issued by DDA i.e., original Allotment/ Allocation Letter, Possession Letter and Possession Slip, NOC for water and Electricity and Bank Challans have been lost/untreated, A Lost Report(LR) to this effect has been lodged vide LR No. 629388/2022 in Police Station, Crime Branch Delhi.

Any person (s) claiming any rights, interest, having any objection or found in possession of original documents, may write/contact with above named person at the above address/phone No. 9871086770 within 15 days from the date of publication of this notice. The person claiming any right, interest, objections with respect to this property can personally inform or write to Dy. Director (LAB) H SFS or Director (H)-1, D Block, 3rd Floor, Vikas Sadan, New Delhi.

PUBLIC NOTICE

The general Public hereby informed that my client, Vaibhav Jain S/o Sh. Parveen Kumar Jain R/o 247, Second Floor, Gujranwala Town 3rd, Delhi-110009, have decided to sever all the relations with his father Mr. Parveen Kumar Jain alongwith his other family i.e., wife and other children from all their moveable and immovable properties due to their quarrelsome character and bad behaviour towards my client. My client shall not be at all responsible of any act done by them in what so manner in future.

NAZIA PARVEEN (Advocate)
Bhartendu Harish Chandra Marg, ND-110092
Mobile: 9278693021

PUBLIC NOTICE

This is to inform to all concerns that Sh. Subedar Jagmal Singh S/o Sh. Laxman Singh R/o A-172, Sector-26, Noida, Distt. G.B. Nagar U.P. has a property in Noida: B-74, Sector-23, Noida U.P. Will is Registered at Sub Registrar office-1st Noida in Bahi No. 3, Jild No.416, at Page No.41-50 at Serial No.2348 on Dated-19.10.2013. So above property is being transferred to the name of Sh. Praveen Kumar Singh S/o Sh. Jagmal Singh R/o A-172, Sector-26, Noida (U.P.) on the basis of registered Will. So all the related people are informed that if someone has any objection about the transfer of above property, then they can submit their objection in Noida Authority Residential department with all document proof within 30 days from the publishing date of this information. Praveen Kumar Singh

SOUTH EAST CENTRAL RAILWAY
1ST CORRIGENDUM

Corrigendum to Notice No. SEC/R/HQ/Engg/G-3/Consultants/22-23/01, Dated 24.06.2022, is as follows:

Originally Last Submission Date & Time: 26.07.2022 at 16.00 Hours.

Modified Last Submission Date & Time: 11.08.2022 at 16.00 Hours.

Other term & Condition will remain same.

For Principal Chief Engineer
CPRI/10/147 **S.E.C.Rly., Bilaspur.**
f South East Central Railway @secrail

EU reaches deal to ration gas amid Russian cut-off fears

AP ■ BRUSSELS

European Union governments agreed Tuesday to ration natural gas this winter to protect themselves against any further supply cuts by Russia as Moscow



PUBLIC NOTICE

The general public is informed that the cars with the following car numbers which have completed their life Petrol Cars 15 Years Diesel Cars 10 Years. The MCD drive was confiscated by Pine View Technology Pvt Ltd and has not been claimed by anyone till now. All these vehicle owners are informed to come to the company's office and claim the scrap value of the vehicle. Otherwise, all these vehicles will be scrapped in the next three days.

HR20T95912,	DL8SA60810,	DL1LC5522,
RJ414C0004,	DL8S20716,	DL9SS3099,
DL9CG6710,	DL8SV3329,	DL7SAQ0166,
DL12CB1493,	DL8SV9772,	DL8SG3273,
DL8SN8247,	UP12G1073,	DL8SE7592,
DL1SE5718,	DL8SAB9815,	DL8SC9176,
DL6SP2018,	DL8SE2170,	DL8SAE5806,
KA03EY9840,	PV0120669,	DL9CR3128,
DL3CAF9206,	DL6SO6122,	DL8SNA1952,
DL2CAD7085,	DL8SAE5624,	DL2SE4045,
JK02ACR054,	DL6SF1901,	DL2CAF1048,
DL4CS8172,	DL1CQ1004,	DL26AF1439,
DL10CA6154,	DL4J530,	DL3CAP0289,
DL2CAF7691,	DL1ST7285,	HR26AK5017,
DL4CP0231,	DL8SW8781,	DL26R7325,
DL7CD0213,	DL6SV7935,	DL8CN7052,
DL9CK5939,	DL8SP3300,	DL8CJ1511,
DL4CS8172,	DL1CQ1004,	HR26AK7823,
HR01N4825,	DL2CV3235,	DL9CF1439,
DL9CQS9163,	HR06H5501,	DL6C11951,
UP16AD1549,	DL2FEN0063,	DL8CF6451,
DL8CL3849,	DL3CAK8627,	DL2CM3333,
HR00CL9212,	DL3CSA936,	DL8CN6561,
NOREG19,	DL2CL4262,	DL8CK4828,
DL6CM3955,	DL3CAA6874,	DL8CQ2468,
DL7SAV7754,	DL9CD5540,	DL3CAAS494,
DL6SK2282,	DL2CP4132,	DL9CT4446,
DL1S1833,	DL4CF9957,	DL4CU7398,
DL6SV4275,	DL9CE5977,	
DL8SK1477,	DL8GL0056,	

pursues its invasion of Ukraine.

EU energy ministers approved a draft European law meant to lower demand for gas by 15 per cent from August through March. The new legislation entails voluntary national steps to reduce gas consumption and, if they yield insufficient savings, a trigger for mandatory moves in the 27-member bloc.

European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen welcomed the move, saying in a statement that "the EU has taken a decisive step to face down the threat of a full gas disruption by (Russian President Vladimir) Putin."

On Monday, Russian energy giant Gazprom said it would limit supplies to the EU through the Nord Stream 1 pipeline to 20 per cent of capacity, heightening concerns that Putin will use gas trade to challenge the bloc's opposition to the war in Ukraine.

"The winter is coming and we don't know how cold it will be," said Czech Industry Minister Jozef Sikela, whose policy portfolio includes energy. "But what we know for sure is that Putin will continue to play his dirty games in misusing and blackmailing by gas supplies."

The ministerial agreement was sealed in less than a week. It's based on a proposal last Wednesday from the European

Commission, the EU's executive arm. Keen to maintain a common EU front over a conflict that shows no sign of ending, the commission said coordinated rationing would enable the bloc as a whole to get through the winter should Russia stop all gas deliveries.

Since Russia invaded Ukraine in February and the West protested with economic sanctions, 12 EU countries have faced halts to, or reductions in, Russian gas deliveries.

Although it has agreed to embargo oil and coal from Russia starting later this year, the EU has refrained from sanctioning Russian natural gas because Germany, Italy and some other member states rely heavily on these imports.

"Germany made a strategic error in the past with its great

dependency on Russian gas and faith that it would always flow constantly and cheaply," said German Economy Minister Robert Habeck, who is also responsible for energy and serves as the country's vice chancellor. "But it is not just a German problem."

The disruptions in Russian energy trade with the EU are stoking inflation already at record levels in Europe and threatening to trigger a recession in the bloc just as it was recovering from a pandemic-induced slump. The energy squeeze is also reviving decades-old political tests for Europe over policy coordination. While the EU has gained centralized authority over monetary, trade, antitrust and farm policies, national sovereignty over energy matters still largely prevails.

Bookie odds, Tory voters favour Truss over Sunak in UK PM race

PTI ■ LONDON

British Foreign Secretary Liz Truss on Tuesday extended her bookmaker odds as the favourite to win the Conservative Party leadership race, with former Chancellor Rishi Sunak also trailing in a poll among Tory voters.

While the outcome of their first head-on BBC television debate clash on Monday night was less than decisive, betting odds aggregator Oddschecker sees Truss pulling ahead in the race to succeed Boris Johnson as British Prime Minister with a 75 per cent chance of winning compared to Sunak's 25 per cent. The odds in favour of a Truss victory have risen sharply

after the debate, with some bookies offering as much as 1/4 odds.

Meanwhile, a YouGov survey of 507 Tory members, who will be among the estimated 180,000 to vote for the final winner, also favoured the Foreign Secretary. Almost two-thirds or 63 per cent believed Truss came across as being more in touch with the electorate while 42-year-old Sunak was picked by just 19 per cent.

Amid allegations from the Truss camp of Sunak "mansplaining" during the debate – or a man explaining something, typically to a woman, in a condescending or patronising manner – 54 per cent said that Truss came across



as more likeable, compared to 35 per cent for Sunak.

On who was the better overall performer during the BBC debate, around 50 per cent among the Tory respondents said it was Truss while 39 per cent picked Sunak. The survey also found that Tory members believed the 47-year-old Foreign Secretary had performed better than the former Chancellor in every area covered during the debate, ranging from the Ukraine war to taxation to Brexit.

"I think he's passionate about these issues, he cares about it," said David Davis, a former Brexit minister, dismissing mansplaining allegations.

"He really does care about the fact that either us or our children will face phenomenal costs on this policy, life-destroying, you'd have to sell your house, move out. I think it actually reflects well on him that he's that passionate about the policy," he told 'Sky News'.

However, Truss supporter and Tory minister Simon Clarke accused Sunak of being "extremely aggressive" in the early part of the debate, when he interrupted his opponent and both candidates spoke over each other at times.

"I am not going to attach labels to the approach that Rishi took. Ultimately everyone has to account for their own performance in these debates

and make their points passionately. There are important issues at stake here. But I can see why it got some people's backs up," he told LBC Radio.

Meanwhile, the Ready4Rishi campaign team said the British Indian former minister is winning the argument on the economy.

"Her [Truss] plans would leave our children and grandchildren with billions of pounds worth of debt. That is not what the Conservative Party is about," the campaign said in a post-debate statement.

"We need someone that has the consistency and courage of their convictions. And that's what Rishi will bring as Prime Minister," it said.

‘Ex-Prez Gotabaya to return to Lanka from Singapore’



PTI ■ COLOMBO

Sri Lanka's former president Gotabaya Rajapaksa is not in hiding and is expected to return to the country from Singapore, Cabinet spokesman Bandula Gunawardena said on Tuesday.

Rajapaksa, 73, fled Sri Lanka after the July 9 uprising when people broke into the President's House after months of public protests against him for mishandling the country's worst economic crisis since 1948.

Rajapaksa first fled to the Maldives on July 13 and from there he proceeded to Singapore the next day.

When asked about Rajapaksa at a weekly Cabinet media briefing, Cabinet Spokesman Gunawardena told reporters that the former president was not in hiding and he is expected to return from Singapore.

Gunawardena, who is also the Minister for Transport and Highways and Mass Media, said he does not believe the former president fled the country, and is in hiding.

He, however, did not offer any other details of Rajapaksa's possible return.

Singapore has granted a 14-day short-term visit pass to the former president as he entered the country on a "private visit" on July 14.

A spokesman of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Singapore earlier said that Rajapaksa has not asked for asylum and neither has he been granted any asylum.

Singapore's Immigration and Checkpoints Authority (ICA) has said that visitors from Sri Lanka who enter Singapore for social visits will generally be issued with a short-term visit pass (STVP) with a duration of up to 30 days.

Those who need to extend their stay in Singapore have to apply online for an extension of their STVP. Applications will be assessed on a case-by-case basis, said the ICA.

Meanwhile, commenting on the request made to the Singapore Attorney General to detain the Former Sri Lankan President, the Cabinet Spokesperson said that if there is a situation, the responsible officials in the country will take steps to ensure no harm is done to the former president, the Daily Mirror newspaper quoted Gunawardena as saying.

Lawyers from South Africa-based International Truth and Justice Project (ITJP) have submitted a criminal complaint to the Attorney General of Singapore requesting the immediate arrest of Rajapaksa for war crimes.

Gotabaya Rajapaksa served as the defence secretary during his elder brother Mahinda Rajapaksa's tenure as president from 2005 to 2014.

Though dubbed as the "war hero", his role in ending the conflict with the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) with the death of its supreme Velupillai Prabhakaran in 2009 is quite divisive as he stands accused of violating human rights, a charge he vehemently denies.

The case was withdrawn when he was elected President in 2019 and acquired immunity from prosecution as the head of state. That immunity no longer applies now he has resigned from office. This is believed to be the first criminal complaint against him.

Indonesia's leader invites Chinese counterpart to G20 summit

AP ■ BEIJING

Indonesian President Joko Widodo on Tuesday formally invited Xi Jinping to the Group of 20 summit in Bali this fall, although it's unclear whether the Chinese leader would attend in person.

The invitation came during a meeting between the two in Beijing, where they discussed issues ranging from trade to maritime cooperation.

"President Xi expressed his thanks and wished complete success for the summit," China's state broadcaster CCTV said, without giving further details. The summit is to be held on the Indonesian resort island on Nov. 15-16.

Xi has not left China since 2019 because of the COVID-19 outbreak, choosing instead to attend major events via video. It is also unclear whether he will attend the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation forum in Bangkok shortly after the G-20 summit. The G-20 is considered a valued grouping for China because it includes not only the rich Western countries but also the voices of major middle-income nations such as China, India and Brazil.

State Councilor Yang Jiechi and Foreign Minister Wang Yi have acted as Xi's proxies over the recent years, even while China's foreign and economic policies, including its tacit support for Russia in the Ukraine conflict, have put its relations with the US, Europe



and other countries under heavy stress. Indonesia and China enjoy generally positive ties, although Jakarta has expressed concern about Chinese encroachment on its exclusive economic zone in the South China Sea, which China claims virtually in its entirety.

Widodo arrived in Beijing on Monday night on the first stop of a trip that will also take him to Japan and South Korea later this week. A statement from Widodo's office said he described China as Indonesia's "comprehensive strategic partner." "We must fill this partnership with cooperation that is beneficial for our country, and at the same time for the region and the world," the statement quoted Widodo as saying. CCTV said the two leaders touched on cooperation battling the pandemic and committed to boosting trade and investment.

A delayed project to build a high-speed rail line from Indonesia's capital Jakarta to the city of Bandung would be completed as scheduled and other flagship projects launched, it said.

Myanmar executions of 4 spur global outrage

AP ■ BANGKOK

International outrage over Myanmar's execution of four political prisoners intensified Tuesday with grassroots protests and strong condemnation from world governments, as well as fears the hangings could derail nascent attempts to bring an end to the violence and unrest that has beset the Southeast Asian nation since the military seized power last year.

Myanmar's military-led government that seized power from elected leader Aung San Suu Kyi in February 2021 has been accused of thousands of extrajudicial killings since then, but the hangings announced Monday were the country's first official executions in decades.

"We feel that this is a crime against humanity," said Malaysian Foreign Minister Saifuddin Abdullah, speaking at the side of the United Nations' Special Envoy on Myanmar Noeleen Heyzer at a press conference in Kuala Lumpur.

He said the executions would be a focus of the upcoming meetings of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations foreign ministers, which begin in Cambodia in a week.

Myanmar is a member of the influential ASEAN group, which has been trying to implement a five-point consensus it reached on Myanmar last year calling for dialogue among all concerned parties,



provision of humanitarian assistance, an immediate cessation of violence and a visit by a special envoy to meet all parties.

With the executions, he said, "we look at it as if the junta is making a mockery of the five point process."

Heyzer said that the U.N. Sees the executions as a "blatant violation" of a person's "right to life, liberty and security." In Bangkok, hundreds of pro-democracy demonstrators protested outside neighboring Myanmar's embassy, waving flags and chanting slogans amid a heavy downpour.

"The dictators used their power arbitrarily," yelled a young man through a bullhorn to the crowd, some of whom waved pictures of Suu Kyi or the four executed men. "We can't tolerate this any more."

Myanmar's government spokesman, Maj. Gen. Zaw Min Tun, firmly rejected the criticism, saying the executions were carried out in line with the country's law and not

for "personal" reasons.

"We knew that there may be criticism when the death penalties were handed down and conducted in line with domestic law," he told reporters. "However, we did it for reasons of domestic stability, for the rule of law and order, and security."

He said the executed men were convicted of crimes involving supporting violent "terrorists" and acts — allegations denied by their defenders — and said their punishment was "appropriate."

"If we considered leniency for those who committed such crimes it would have been cruel and without sympathy for the victims," he said.

Among the four executed was Phyo Zeya Thaw, a 41-year-old former lawmaker from Suu Kyi's party, and Kyaw Min Yu, a 53-year-old democracy activist better known as Ko Jimmy. All were tried, convicted and sentenced by a military tribunal with no possibility of appeal.

Indiana abortion debate draws protest crowds

AP ■ INDIANAPOLIS (US)

Thousands of people arguing the abortion issue surrounded the Indiana Statehouse and filled its corridors Monday as state lawmakers began consideration of a Republican proposal to ban nearly all abortions in the state and Vice President Kamala Harris denounced the effort during a meeting with Democratic legislators. Harris said during a trip to Indianapolis that the abortion ban proposal reflects a health care crisis in the country. Despite the bill's abortion ban language, anti-abortion activists lined up before a legislative committee to argue that the bill wasn't strict enough and lacked enforcement teeth.

Indiana is one of the first Republican-run state legislatures to debate tighter abortion laws following the US Supreme Court decision last month overturning Roe v Wade. The

Supreme Court ruling is expected to lead to abortion bans in roughly half the states.

"Maybe some people need to actually learn how a woman's body works," Harris said Monday, eliciting murmurs and laughs from the Democratic legislators. "The parameters that are being proposed mean that for the vast majority of women, by the time she realizes she is pregnant, she will effectively be prohibited from having access to reproductive health care that will allow her to choose what happens to her body."

Confrontations erupted periodically between anti-abortion and abortion-rights demonstrators around the Indiana Statehouse. One person carrying a message on cardboard — "Forced Birth Is Violence" — followed a man, who carried a fake red fetus in a plastic bag over his shoulder, and tried to obscure his sign that read



"Save Our Babies." Some people had virulent arguments encircled by other demonstrators "You think you should dictate my life and my kids' lives. That's what you're saying," Kait Schultz, who wore

a dark gray "Pregnant and Pissed" shirt, shouted to Christopher Monaghan. "You don't want to have a conversation," Monaghan replied as they spoke over each other. He held a ver-

tical sign that read "Babies Lives Matter." Elsewhere Monday, Lawmakers in West Virginia's Republican majority hurried to advance legislation that would criminalize abortion with few exceptions. A bill introduced Monday makes providing an abortion a felony carrying up to 10 years in prison. It provides exceptions only in cases where there is an ectopic pregnancy, a "nonmedically viable fetus" or a medical emergency.

West Virginia Gov Jim Justice abruptly added state abortion law to the state's Legislature's agenda for a special session he called for Monday to focus on his income tax cut plan.

In his announcement, Justice asked legislators to "clarify and modernize" the state abortion laws in the wake of the Supreme Court ruling. A week ago, a Charleston judge blocked enforcement of the state's 150-year-old

abortion ban, saying the recent laws enacted by the West Virginia Legislature "hopelessly conflict with the criminal abortion ban."

In Tennessee, meanwhile, the attorney general's office said it's still unknown when the state's anti-abortion "trigger ban" will go into effect, but some state lawmakers are raising alarm that the ban has no exceptions for victims of rape or incest.

Tennessee has been limiting abortion as early as six weeks into pregnancy — when most women don't know they're pregnant — ever since the U.S. Supreme Court's abortion decision last month. Republican Gov. Bill Lee refused last week to answer questions from reporters on he supported tweaking the trigger law, particularly sidestepping on whether he supported exempting children who were raped and then became pregnant.

Israel demolishes homes of suspected Palestinian attackers



AP ■ JERUSALEM

The Israeli military demolished the homes on Tuesday of two Palestinians suspected of killing an Israeli security guard in a West Bank settlement in April. Vyacheslav Golev was killed in a shooting at the entrance of a Jewish settlement in the occupied West Bank on April 29. The Palestinian militant group Hamas claimed responsibility for the attack.

The Israeli military later apprehended two Palestinians suspected of carrying out the attack. On Tuesday, the army said it demolished their residences in the northern West Bank village of Qarawat Bani Hassan. In a statement, the military said forces faced a violent protest, with firebombs and burning tires thrown at the troops. Israel routinely demolishes the homes of slain or captured Palestinian assailants who killed Israelis, saying it serves as a deterrent against future attackers. The Palestinians and rights groups say the practice amounts to collective punishment.

Israeli troops have been carrying out near-daily raids across West Bank for months in the aftermath of a string of deadly attacks in which Palestinian attackers killed 19 Israelis.

Trump lacked 'courage to act' during Jan 6 riot, says Biden

AP ■ WASHINGTON

President Joe Biden decried his predecessor for failing to try and stop last year's deadly mob attack on the Capitol, saying Monday that "Donald Trump lacked the courage to act" as hours of "medieval hell" unfolded.

"Every day we rely on law enforcement to save lives. Then, on Jan. 6, we relied on law enforcement to save our democracy," Biden said in a prerecorded speech to the National Organization of Black Law Enforcement Executives' annual conference in Orlando, Florida.

Biden, who remains in isolation in the family quarters of the White House after testing positive for COVID-19 last week, has previously slammed Trump for helping to incite the mob on Jan. 6, 2021, with a "web of lies" about the 2020 presidential election being marred by widespread voter fraud that never actually occurred.



But his comments to the conference were the clearest link Biden has made between Trump and the insurrection since a House committee investigating the attack on the Capitol began holding hearings in June as part of its work to get to the bottom of all that occurred.

"You saw what happened. The Capitol police, the D.C. Metropolitan police, other law enforcement agencies were attacked and assaulted before our very eyes.

Speared, sprayed, stomped on, brutalized," said Biden, whose voice is still raspy and deeper than usual as he recovers from the effects of the coronavirus. "Lives were lost. And for three hours, the defeated former president of the United States watched it all happen as he sat in the comfort of the private dining room next to the Oval Office."

He added that while Trump was "doing that, brave law enforcement officers are subject to the medieval hell for three hours."

That referenced Cassidy Hutchinson, a former Trump administration White House aide, testifying before the House Jan. 6 committee about Trump's temper as he sat in his dining room and watched TV as his plans to overturn the election fell apart.

Biden didn't mention the committee's work specifically during the taped address and has previously largely avoided the topic.

Hundreds of firefighters battle blazes in Germany, Czechia



AP ■ PRAGUE

Hundreds of firefighters were battling wildfires in eastern Germany and neighbouring Czechia on Tuesday as tourist regions and residential areas were being evacuated.

A large wildfire was spreading quickly in the eastern German state of Brandenburg in a region with

lots of bone-dry pine forests where firefighters have to be especially careful because of old World War II ammunition that's still buried there, German news agency dpa reported.

The large fire in the Elbe-Elster district has already destroyed an area of about 850 hectares and continued to spread quickly because of gusty winds blowing from changing

directions.

Seven firefighters were injured, four of whom had to be treated in a hospital for smoke inhalation. No residents were injured, but a pig breeding farm burned down and several animals died.

The state's explosive ordnance disposal service has designated a small area near the village of Rehfeld as a site where old ammunition could be buried, deputy forest fire protection officer Philipp Haase told dpa.

Two German military firefighting helicopters were on site trying to extinguish the flames from the air because firefighters were not allowed to access the area for fear that the ammunition could explode.

5G auction: 4 in fray, Jio may lead spends



Airtel, vodafone, Adani are other three companies

New Delhi: India's first auction of 5G spectrum, that powers ultra-high data speeds, is currently underway with a total of 72 GHz (gigahertz) of radiowaves worth at least ₹4.3 lakh crore up for bidding. Billionaire Mukesh Ambani's Reliance Jio, Sunil Mittal-led Bharti Airtel, Vodafone Idea and a unit of billionaire Gautam Adani's flagship Adani Enterprises are in the race to bid for 5G spectrum, that offers speeds about 10 times faster than 4G, lag-free connectivity, and can enable billions of connected devices to share data in real-time.

Gold falls ₹28; silver by ₹203



New Delhi: Gold in the national capital on Tuesday fell by ₹28 to ₹51,192 per 10 grams, according to HDFC Securities. In the previous trade, the yellow metal finished at ₹51,220 per 10 grams. Silver also declined by ₹203 to ₹55,297 per kg from ₹55,500 per kg in the previous trade. "Following weaker global prices, spot gold prices for 24-carat gold in Delhi fell by ₹28 per 10 grams," Dilip Parmar, Research Analyst at HDFC Securities said. In the international market, gold was quoting lower at USD 1,727 per ounce while silver was flat at USD 18.64 per ounce. **PTI**

AUDI to focus on electric vehicles from 2033: Official

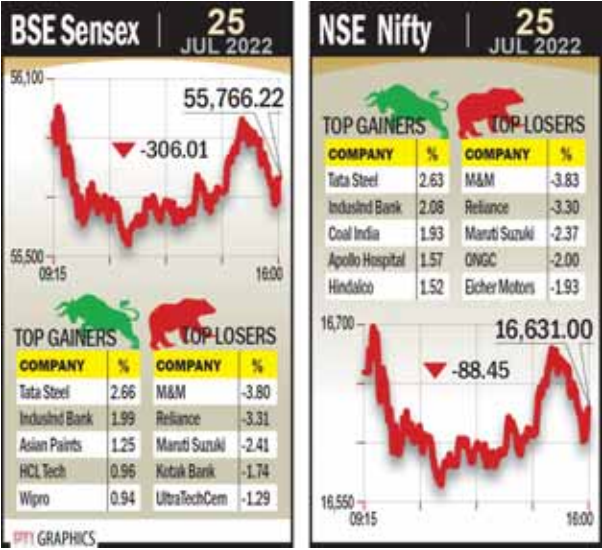
Coimbatore: German luxury car maker Audi would be focusing only on electric vehicles by 2033 and would stop making cars run on international combustion engines (ICE), a top official said on Tuesday. Audi India Head Balbir Singh Dhillon said the auto major would stop production of current models powered by ICE and would commence transition to sell only electric vehicles from 2033 onwards. Dhillon clarified that the company would manufacture all the existing models fitted with petrol engine and would retail till 2032 for its transition to electric vehicles. Responding to a query about incidents of battery operated vehicles going up in flames, he said all the compo-

Auto component industry to see 9-11% of revenue from EV parts by 2027: Report

Mumbai: Auto component industry is expected to see 9-11 per cent of its revenue coming from EV (Electric Vehicle) parts by 2027 amid increasing electrification, according to Crisil. This growth will come even as the supply of parts for the conventional internal combustion engine-driven vehicles will also grow during the period, it said. EV components' share in the sector's overall revenue during last fiscal stood at a meagre 1 per cent. Revenue of the electric vehicle components is likely to rev up at a compound annual growth rate of around 76 per cent to Rs 72,500 crore in fiscal 2027 from Rs 4,300 crore last fiscal, it said. As much as 60 per cent of this revenue is expected to come from the battery segment

into the next day, if there exists a demand for spectrum and bidders are putting in bids. The number of days the auction ultimately stretches to will depend on the actual demand for radiowaves and the strategy of individual bidders, although the broad industry consensus is that it may last up to two days. While a total 72 GHz (gigahertz) of spectrum worth at least ₹4.3 lakh crore has been put on the block for the auction, market watchers do not expect an intense bidding given that plenty of spectrum is on the block, and there are four participants in the race. Department of Telecom's own internal estimates put the 5G auction mop up at ₹70,000 crore to ₹1,00,000 crore. Jio, it is expected, will lead the spends, followed by Bharti Airtel, while analysts see limited participation from Vodafone Idea and Adani Group. Reliance Jio has submitted an earnest money deposit (EMD) of ₹14,000 crore, the highest amongst the four players in fray for spectrum bidding. The EMD amount of Adani Data Networks stood at ₹100 crore, indicating a muted and limited spectrum demand from its side. Bharti Airtel has put in ₹5,500 crore as EMD, while for Vodafone Idea the amount stands at ₹2,200 crore. **PTI**

Sensex, Nifty drop nearly 1% on global recession fears



Mumbai: Benchmark BSE Sensex and Nifty closed lower by nearly 1 per cent on Tuesday amid fresh foreign fund outflows and mixed global trends. The 30-share BSE benchmark fell by 497.73 points or 0.89 per cent to settle at 55,268.49, extending its losses for second straight day. During the day, it tanked 562.79 points or 1 per cent to 55,203.43. The broader NSE Nifty declined by 147.15 points or 0.88 per cent to 16,483.85. Among Sensex constituents, Infosys, Axis Bank, Hindustan Unilever, Dr Reddy's Lab, Wipro, Kotak Mahindra Bank and Larsen & Toubro were the biggest laggards.

Bajaj Finserv, Bharti Airtel, Power Grid and Bajaj Finance were among the gainers. The Fed's meeting commencing today, which is expected to maintain its aggressive rate hike of 75 bps (basis points), and recession fears, especially in western markets, weighed on market sentiment, said Vinod Nair, Head of Research at Geojit Financial Services. "Even though the domestic market is showcasing strength, the spillover effect from the western market is inevitable," Nair added. In Asia, markets in Tokyo ended marginally lower, while Shanghai, Seoul and Hong Kong settled higher. **PTI**

123 GW of solar capacity either commissioned or in pipeline: Govt

New Delhi: India has commissioned 57.71 GW of solar capacity while another 48.71 GW was in the pipeline at June end against the target of achieving 100 GW capacity by December 2022, Parliament was informed on Tuesday. Minister of State for New and Renewable Energy Bhagwanth Khuba in a written reply to the Rajya Sabha stated that a solar energy capacity of 123.11 GW has either been commissioned or is in the pipeline. The Government has set a target of achieving 100 GW solar power capacity by December 2022 in the country, Khuba said. Solar projects commissioned (including off-grid) are 57.71 GW while 48.71 GW solar capacity is under implementation. Solar projects with a total capacity of 16.69 GW are under tendering as of June 30, 2022. **PTI**

Tata Motors joins hands with Indian Bank for car loans

New Delhi: Tata Motors on Tuesday said it has tied up with Indian Bank to facilitate easy financing for its passenger vehicles customers. As part of the partnership, Tata Motors' customers would be able to avail car loans from over 5,700 branches of Indian Bank across the country. "...Such partnerships will make the car purchasing process seamless for customers and positively impact their overall buying experience of Tata cars," Tata Motors Passenger Vehicles Senior General Manager - Network Management & EV Sales Ramesh Dorairajan said in a statement. **PTI**

Sun Pharma expands tie-up with Cassiopea for acne cream to 6 countries

New Delhi: Sun Pharmaceutical Industries on Tuesday said it has expanded the scope of its partnership with Cassiopea regarding a medication to treat acne. It has inked addendums to the licence and supply agreements for WINLEVI (clascoterone) cream 1 per cent, expanding the territory to include Japan, Australia, New Zealand, Brazil, Mexico and Russia. As per the tie-up, the company will receive from Cassiopea the exclusive right to develop and commercialise WINLEVI in Japan, Australia, New Zealand, Brazil, Mexico and Russia, Sun Pharma said in a statement. Cosmo will be the exclusive supplier of the product while Cassiopea will receive an

India's steel output grows 6% to 10 MT in June: Worldsteel

New Delhi: India's crude steel production rose over 6 per cent year-on-year to 10 million tonnes in June 2022, according to World Steel Association. As per the World Steel Association (worldsteel) data, India is the only country which has registered a positive growth in its steel output during June. The country had produced 9.4 million tonnes (MT) crude steel during the same month last year, the global industry body said in its latest report. India is world's second largest producer of crude steel after China which produced 90.7 MT in June 2022, down 3.3 per cent over its 93.9 MT production in June 2021. The production in the



United States fell by 4.2 per cent to 6.9 MT last month from 7.1 MT in the same month of 2021. Russia -- which has been engaged in a conflict with Ukraine -- is estimated to have produced 5 MT, down 22.2 per cent over 6.4 MT a year ago. Russia has registered the highest fall among top 10 steel producers.

While South Korea registered a 6 per cent fall to 5.6 MT, Germany produced 3.2 MT, down 7 per cent year-on-year. In June 2022, Turkey produced 2.9 MT crude steel, down 13.1 per cent, and Brazil is estimated to have produced 2.9 MT, registering a fall of 6.1 per cent. Iran is estimated to have produced 2.2 MT, down 10.8 per cent. Brussels-headquartered worldsteel having members in every major steel-producing country, represents steel producers, national and regional steel industry associations, and steel research institutes. Worldsteel members represent around 85 per cent of global steel production. **PTI**

Rupee settles flat at 79.78 against US dollar



Mumbai: The rupee pared its initial gains to settle flat on Tuesday amid muted domestic equities, firming crude oil prices and concerns over the hawkish US Fed. At the interbank forex market, the local unit opened at 79.73 against the greenback and finally settled at 79.78 (provisional), unchanged from its previous close. During the day the local unit witnessed an intra-day high of 79.72 and a low of 79.81 against the American currency. On Monday, the rupee rose by 12 paise to close at 79.78 against the US dollar. According to Dilip Parmar, Research Analyst, HDFC Securities, forex markets registered a wait-and-see approach ahead of Wednesday's Federal Open Market Committee (FOMC) meeting, which could favour a lower volatility environment in dollar-crosses. Moreover, weaker domestic equities and higher crude oil prices also weighed on the domestic unit. **PTI**

"Dollar traders are cautious as the market is eager to see if the softer economic data has changed the Fed's hawkish rate path. Traders are giving renewed attention to energy prices after Russia once again reduced the flow of piped gas to Germany," Parmar said, adding that Spot USD/INR is expected to trade in the range of 79.30 to 80.10. The dollar index, which measures the greenback's strength against a basket of six currencies, was up 0.31 per cent at 106.81. Brent crude futures, the global oil benchmark, rose 1.71 per cent to USD 106.95 per barrel. On the domestic equity market front, the BSE Sensex ended 497.73 points or 0.89 per cent lower at 55,268.49, while the broader NSE Nifty declined 147.15 points or 0.88 per cent to 16,483.85. Foreign institutional investors remained net sellers in the capital market on Monday, offloading shares worth Rs 844.78 crore, as per exchange data. **PTI**

Infosys to hire 300 Singaporean workers

Bengaluru: Infosys said on Tuesday it has committed to hiring 300 Singaporean workers over the next three years across a variety of roles. To support Singapore government's ongoing programmes to create employment opportunities for freshers and mid-career professionals, Infosys has collaborated with Infocomm Media Development Authority of Singapore (IMDA), a statutory board, under the Ministry of Communications and Information, the Bengaluru-headquartered IT services company said. Infosys will aim to hire technology professionals, mature PMETs (Professionals, Managers, Executives, and Technicians) from tech and



non-tech backgrounds, as well as fresh graduates from polytechnics and universities to create a skilled and future-ready workforce in Singapore, it said in a statement. Infosys, along with Infosys Compaz (iCompaz) - a joint venture between Infosys Limited and Temasek Holdings - will hire these individuals as part of IMDA's TechSkills Accelerator (TeSA) Company-Led Training (CLT) programme, it was stated. **PTI**

Union Bank first qtr net profit up 32% at ₹1,558 cr on lower bad loans

New Delhi: Union Bank of India on Tuesday reported a 32 per cent rise in standalone net profit to ₹1,558.46 crore for the quarter ended June 2022, helped by a fall in bad loans. Its core interest income also rose at a healthy rate. The bank had posted a standalone net profit of ₹1,180.98 crore in the year-ago quarter. Its total income during the April-June period rose to ₹20,991.09 crore against ₹19,913.64 in the same quarter of 2021-22, Union Bank of India said in a regulatory filing. The core income generated from interest earned increased by 6.1 per cent to ₹18,174.24 crore in Q1 FY23 from ₹17,134.23 crore in Q1 FY22, it added. However, the total expenditure (excluding provisions and contingencies) of the bank rose for the quarter to ₹15,543.53 crore compared to ₹14,732.29 crore. The lender improved on its bad assets as the gross non-performing assets (NPAs or bad loans) were trimmed to 10.22 per cent of the gross advances by the end of June 2022 from 13.60 per cent a year ago. In value terms, the gross NPAs fell to ₹74,500 crore at the end of Q1 FY23 from ₹87,762.19 crore. Net NPAs too were reduced to 3.31 per cent (₹22,391.95 crore) from 4.69 per cent (₹27,437.45 crore). **PTI**

Powergrid executives complete CPE Certification in ML/AI

New Delhi: The first cohort comprising 47 executives of Power Grid Corporation of India Ltd. (POWERGRID), a Maharatna CPSU under Ministry of Power, received their Continuing Professional Education certification in the area of Machine Learning and Artificial Intelligence (ML/AI) from Prof. Debabrata Das, Director, IIIT Bengaluru, at the Institute campus. The Chief Guest of the event V.K. Singh, Director - Personnel, Powergrid distrib-



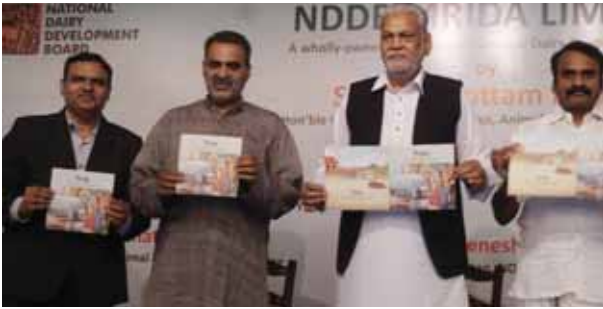
uted medals to the high achievers, and highlighted that the learning imparted by IIIT

Bengaluru is future-driven and steers the way for a digital and data driven Powergrid. **PNS**

Union Min Parshottam Rupala launches NDDB Mrida Ltd

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

In order to boost income of dairy farmers through optimum use of cow dung, Union Minister Parshottam Rupala on Monday unveiled NDDB Mrida Ltd, a new subsidiary firm of National Dairy Development Board. National Dairy Development Board (NDDB) is a statutory body, under the Union Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying, which manufactures, markets and sells milk, dairy products, edible oil



and fruits and vegetables. Rupala, who is in-charge of the ministry, said NDDB has set up this new firm at right time. The country has huge cat-

tle population and abundant supply of cow dung. The new company will help optimise use of cow dung for making biogas, compost and other products,

he said. NDDB's Sudhan trademark was also unveiled on the occasion. Minister of State for Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying Sanjeev Balyan said there are 30 crore cattles in India. About 50 per cent of domestic gas requirement can be met through biogas made from cow dung and even some percentage of NPK fertilisers can be replaced with this. Monetising cow dung will help increase the income of dairy farmers, which is the priority of the government, he added.



PTI ■ BIRMINGHAM

In a huge setback for India, strong medal contender Neeraj Chopra on Tuesday pulled out of the upcoming Commonwealth Games due to a groin strain he developed during his historic silver medal-winning campaign at the recent World Championships.

The 24-year-old Olympic champion was to defend his men's javelin throw title in Birmingham, where the Games are set to begin on Thursday.

The development means that Chopra's much-anticipated clash with Grenada's World Champion Anderson Peters will not happen now.

IOA Secretary General Rajiv Mehta said Chopra underwent an MRI scan on Monday in the USA and has been advised one-month rest.

NEERAJ PULLS OUT OF BIRMINGHAM CWG

Defending champion Chopra will not take part in upcoming games due to groin strain

"Team India javelin thrower Mr. Neeraj Chopra had called me earlier today from the US to convey his inability to take part in the Birmingham 2022 Commonwealth Games owing to fitness concern," Mehta said.

"Following his participation in the 2022 World Athletics

Championships in Eugene, Mr. Chopra had had an MRI scan done on Monday and, based on it, he has been advised a month's rest by his medical team," Mehta added.

According to sources close to the athlete, it's a minor groin strain but as a precautionary measure he has been asked to take rest.

Chopra had become only the second Indian athlete to win a medal at World Championship in Eugene on Saturday evening after Anju Bobby George, who had won a bronze in long jump in 2003 in Paris.

After his silver medal-ensuring 88.13m throw in the fourth attempt, Chopra had

CHOPRA HAD BECOME ONLY THE SECOND INDIAN ATHLETE TO WIN A MEDAL AT WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP IN EUGENE ON SATURDAY EVENING AFTER ANJU BOBBY GEORGE

felt some unease in his right thigh and his worst fears have come true.

"I thought even the fourth throw could have gone farther. After that, I felt something on my thigh and could not do my best in next two. I had strapping (on thigh).

"I will know the status tomorrow morning because my body is still warm after the event. I hope there should not be any issue for the upcoming events," Commonwealth Games," Chopra had said after his event.

Athletics Federation of India (AFI) President Adille Sumariwalla said they are in touch with Chopra to assist his recovery.

"Neeraj has said that since he is not 100 per cent fit to compete at the Commonwealth Games, he would not be the flag bearer of the Indian contingent at the athletes' parade in the opening ceremony," Sumariwalla said.

"Neeraj appeared to be struggling on Sunday during the finals at the World Championships. We are in constant touch with him to assist his recovery."

India team's chef de mission Rajesh Bhandari told PTI, "We have a meeting later in the day to decide the new flag-bearer."



Russia eyes 2024 Paris Olympics despite sports ban

AP ■ PARIS

With two years to go until the Paris Olympics open, Russia is making plans for its athletes to live and compete in the French capital even though many remain barred from upcoming qualification events because of the war in Ukraine.

Russian Olympic Committee president Stanislav Pozdnyakov wrote on the Telegram messaging app Tuesday that the country was working to get its athletes access to qualification events and already making plans for the Olympic village in 2024.

Most Olympic sports have suspended athletes from Russia and Belarus since the invasion of Ukraine began in February, following a recommendation from the International Olympic Committee. However, the IOC has not suspended the Russian Olympic Committee, the body which enters Russian teams for the Games.

"In exactly two years, the Olympic Games start in Paris. Despite all of the cir-

cumstances, the Russian Olympic Committee is a full-fledged participant in the Olympic movement," Pozdnyakov wrote.

"We are continuing our systematic preparations for the Games and are also carrying out work to ensure qualifying opportunities and equal presence of our athletes in the Olympic village and at the venues, their participation in events during the Games."

Qualifying for some Olympic sports has already begun, but others won't start until next year. If sports federations lift bans on Russian athletes competing in international events such as Olympic qualifiers, that could lead to boycotts by Ukraine.

The International Judo Federation has allowed Russia's team to keep competing as neutral athletes without their flag or anthem. In response, Ukraine refused to participate when Olympic judo qualifying began last month, in particular because it said that 11 of 24 athletes on the Russian team at the event were members of the military.

Bayern sign Mathys Tel

AP ■ MUNICH

Bayern Munich signed French teenager Mathys Tel from Rennes on Tuesday for a reported fee of up to 30 million euros (\$30.6 million).

The 17-year-old Tel, who plays as a forward, had a contract with Rennes through 2024.

Bayern did not specify the length of the contract or disclose the transfer fee. Kicker magazine reported the German club was paying 15 million euros (\$15.3 million) up front, with the rest conditional on appearances and achievements.



"He's a very young talented player, he can play in many positions, center forward, wing forward. He's very quick, strong, with his whole body, good at defending the ball ... also good, deep runs," Bayern coach Julian Nagelsmann said on the team's US Tour last week.

"I hope he will be comfortable with then group as soon as possible. He may score some goals," Nagelsmann said Tel was not a direct replacement for Bundesliga top-scorer Robert Lewandowski, who left for Barcelona in the offseason.

"He's not a one-on-one for Lewy," Nagelsmann said.

ISSF, NRAI to re-launch national-level coaching course

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

In what can open a window of opportunity for the shooting enthusiasts and coaches in India, the International Shooting Federation (ISSF) and the National Rifle Association of India (NRAI) on Tuesday joined hands to launch a redesigned national-level coaching course.

The "ISSF Coaches Programme", which was first launched in late 2019 and is equivalent to the former ISSF C license, was prematurely halted in 2020 because of the COVID-19 pandemic.

According to officials of NRAI, the redesigned programme has undergone some major changes and will regularly see top instructors from ISSF flying down to India to conduct the course.

Two ISSF instructors, Ahmed Sief El Din Daoud of Egypt for Pistol and Natalya Zhukova of Russia for Rifle are currently in India to conduct the course. They are closely working with the likes of Samareh Jung and Manoj Kumar.

India aim to break singles jinx in CWG

PTI ■ BIRMINGHAM

Aiming for that elusive singles CWG medal, Saurav Ghosal and Joshna Chinappa will make one last-ditch effort to break the jinx even as the Indian squash contingent, packed with country's best performers, has landed in Birmingham with a target to earn podium places in all categories.

The trio of Dipika Pallikal, Joshna and Saurav have been carrying the Indian team on their shoulders for the last 15 years. Heading towards the end of their glorious careers, all three are working overtime to give their all in their fourth and probably last Commonwealth Games.

Indian players have managed to win only three medals since the sport's introduction to the Commonwealth Games in 1998.

One of them was the path-breaking Gold medal won by the celebrated duo of Joshna and Dipika Pallikal in the Glasgow edition eight years ago.

They return to the UK as favourites to win the women's doubles title, having won the world title earlier this year.

Now a mother of twins, Dipika had also won the mixed doubles title alongside Ghosal at the World Doubles Championship in April to complete a sensational comeback.

Barring Egypt, all top squash playing nations, including England, are part of the Commonwealth. India have so far drawn a blank in singles but Joshna and Ghosal will be making one final push to change that record. Dipika has not yet resumed playing singles after comeback



from motherhood.

"Hope so," said Ghosal when asked if 2022 was India's best chance of winning a singles medal.

"We have come leaps and bounds since we started playing 20 years back. We all have progressed as players.

Everyone is in with a shot in all the categories. The execution will happen over the course of the next two weeks.

"The CWG has always had a strong field. Winning medal is a big deal here."

Ghosal was seeded third in the pre-

IOA advises Indian contingent to limit public appearances

PTI ■ BIRMINGHAM

The Indian Olympic Association (IOA) on Tuesday advised country's contingent taking part in the upcoming Commonwealth Games to curtail their public appearances and stay indoors in view of the ongoing threat of the COVID-19 pandemic.

"The Indian Olympic Association has requested the players of the Indian contingent at the Birmingham 2022 Commonwealth Games to not spend much time in public places because of the threat of COVID-19 & can jeopardize the health and participation of the players," the IOA said in a statement. The governing body also requested the Indian athletes to employ all precautionary measures whenever needed.

The CWG are scheduled to be held from July 28 to August 8.



Lovlina's coach Sandhya receives CWG accreditation

PTI ■ BIRMINGHAM

Lovlina Borgohain's personal coach Sandhya Gurung on Tuesday received her accreditation for the Commonwealth Games, a day after the Olympic Bronze medalist claimed her preparation for the event was getting affected due to "continuous harassment" of her coaches.

Gurung, who is also Indian team's assistant coach, was added to the Indian contingent, just days before the event.

On arrival here on Sunday, she was not allowed to enter the Village as she did not have an accreditation, triggering the controversy.

"Sandhya was brought to the boxing village today morning and given accreditation. She is with the team now," an Indian Olympics Association (IOA) official said.

Gurung has also been assigned a room at the Games village. In a long social media post on Monday, Lovlina said she was feeling mentally harassed because it was a struggle to get coach added to the squad.

Lovlina, who won a Bronze in the Olympics last year, credits Gurung for pulling her out of a difficult mental place before the Tokyo Games. Gurung was with Lovlina during the 15-day training camp in Ireland ahead of the CWG.



Ronaldo arrives at Man Utd training ground

AP ■ MANCHESTER

Cristiano Ronaldo arrived back at Manchester United's training ground on Tuesday ahead of talks with new manager Erik ten Hag over his Old Trafford future.

The 37-year-old, who missed the club's pre-season tour to Thailand and Australia for personal reasons, wants to leave the club he rejoined last year.

He arrived at United's Carrington training base with his agent Jorge Mendes. Former United manager Alex Ferguson was also seen arriving.

Hag said earlier this month that Ronaldo was "not for sale".

The former Real Madrid and Juventus player finished as United's top-scorer last season with 24 goals.

But the campaign was a huge disappointment for the club, who finished sixth in the Premier League, missing out on Champions League qualification.

United start their Premier League campaign at home to Brighton on August 7 after final pre-season games this weekend against Atletico Madrid in Norway and Rayo Vallecano at Old Trafford.

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Pr Sreejesh feels his chequered international career resembles Malayali staple 'Avial' - a mixed curry of 13 vegetables.

At 34 and in the twilight zone, all that is left for Sreejesh is to tick a couple of boxes in a career that has been filled with numerous ups and a few downs.

A second Olympic medal wrapped around his neck with the gigantic Eiffel Tower looming over him is an ultimate dream but for now, he wants to be that safe 'check-post' in what will be his third and last Commonwealth Games.

"The life was always not the same. It was always full of ups and downs. I had some really good matches as well some real bad outings. I had a bad start to my career, then gradually, I have risen up the ranks to become India's No.1 keeper," Sreejesh said.

"From witnessing the low of 2012 London Olympics to winning Bronze in Tokyo, in between I captained the national team and then in

2018, my career was almost over due to an ACL (Anterior Cruciate Ligament) injury. In Kerala, we have a famous dish called 'avial'. It's a 13-vegetable curry. I can relate my career to avial."

At the 2014 Asian Games in Incheon, South Korea, Sreejesh starred in India's Gold medal win, when he saved two attempts in a shoot-out against Pakistan in the final. At the 2014 and 2018 Champions Trophy, he was adjudged "Goalkeeper of the Tournament". At this stage of his career, Sreejesh prefers short targets.

"As a youngster, I always used to play for four years. Now, I always prefer short-term goals. Now my priority is CWG, then my next step is World Cup for sure. When you are keeping short targets that always helps you to focus more on your performance, fitness and mental strength."

So he basically plans to carry on till the Paris Olympics.

"Looking forward, Paris is feasible. I can see the Eiffel Tower but that road is not going to be easy. I believe



these small steps will help me reach there," the lanky goalkeeper said.

"Another Commonwealth

Games is a tricky one because in another four years, I don't think I will be able to sustain (my fitness) but who knows

there you can see me as a coach."

Sreejesh believes goalkeepers are like vintage wine, which gets better with age, as he reflected on his illustrious career, where he started by warming the bench and went on to become one of the best in the world.

He said the setbacks in the early part of his career taught him lessons to use failures as building blocks for success.

"When I started my career, I used to concede a lot of goals. The best part of a goalkeeper is that when you are the second choice, you get to gain a lot of experience by sitting outside and watching. I learned the game by watching the likes of Devesh Chauhan, Adrian D'Souza, Bharat Chhetri.

"Over a period, I had seniors, who corrected me and covered for me. If I would have been drafted straightaway in the main team, I would have finished by now because the pressure is too high at the international level and youngster might find it difficult to handle at the onset," Sreejesh said.

"That's why we always say

goalkeepers get better as they get older. Goalkeepers are like vintage wine because with age, their maturity level goes high, their pressure-handling gets better and they take decisions wisely."

Talking about the upcoming CWG, Sreejesh believes India have the potential to finish on the podium but overcoming the mighty Australians would be key in deciding the colour of the medal.

"The team is capable of reaching the final for sure. The way we are performing, we can definitely come up with a better result than 2014. But it's about how you are handling that particular day when you are playing the semifinal and final. Definitely, this team is capable of finishing on the podium," he said.

"Australia is one of the best teams in the world. We saw their performance in the Tokyo Olympics as well. So it's not going to be really easy to beat them but the way our team is performing now we are confident of giving them a tough competition. We are not going to make it easy for any team," he signed off.

TARGET: CLEAN SWEEP

Men in Blue aim to continue winning run & whitewash West Indies in ODI series

West Indies vs India

Live from 7:00pm IST

FANCODE & DD SPORTS

PTI ■ PORT OF SPAIN

A ruthless Indian team is unlikely to take its foot off the pedal as it aims to top up a world-record winning feat with another clean sweep against the West Indies on Wednesday.

India created a world record on Sunday by sealing their 12th consecutive series win in the ODI format against the West Indies -- the most against a team.

In this backdrop, head coach Rahul Dravid might be tempted to try out some of his reserve players but he will have to maintain a fine balance between keeping the momentum and testing his bench strength.

In the batting department, it is unlikely that Ruturaj Gaikwad would be preferred over Shubman Gill, who after two innings of 64 and 43 would not like to sit out.

Gaikwad had got a full South Africa series where he looked distinctly uncomfortable against quality pace. While his IPL credentials have kept him in the mix, chances of Indian



Saini dazzles for Kent with 3 for 45

PTI ■ MANCHESTER

India pacer Navdeep Saini returned with figures of 3 for 45 to put his county side Kent in a commanding position against Lancashire on the rain-affected first day.

On a day when only 34.2 overs were bowled, Saini registered figures of 3/45 in 11 overs as Lancashire reached 112 for 4 before play was abandoned due to rain.

India all-rounder Washington Sundar (6 not out) was at the crease



along with skipper Steven Croft (21 not out).

Saini's scalps included that of openers Luke Wells (35) and Keaton

Jennings and Rob Jones, who was trapped leg before by the Indian off the very first ball he faced.

The 29-year-old Saini took two wickets from the fifth and sixth balls of the 28th over but was denied a hat-trick by Croft.

Saini has slipped off the radar as far as national reckoning is concerned. He was a net bowler for the Indian team ahead of its rescheduled fifth Test against England in Birmingham at the start of this month.

cricket establishment investing in him on short term basis look dim. Shreyas Iyer and Sanju Samson have also hit the straps with fifties in last game and Suryakumar Yadav is not expected to cool his heels at the expense of Ishan Kishan despite his twin failures in the first two games.

Kishan is seen as a timer of the ball who can use the Powerplay overs well by hitting over the in-field. He isn't a power hitter who can force the pace after 35th over and hence Samson is a better option despite him being a left hander.

Ravindra Jadeja as the designated vice captain was the first choice all-rounder in this series before he was ruled out of the first two games due to a knee niggle.

It is still not certain whether Jadeja will be available for the final game as Axar Patel after his match-winning knock of 64 in the second game could feel hard done by.

However if Dhawan wants two play two left-arm spinners, then Yuzvendra Chahal could be asked to rest but that will be at the cost of sacrificing variety in bowling attack.

Arshdeep Singh had a groin issue during the England ODIs but since he is a left arm seam bowler, he could be tried out in place of Avesh Khan, who was a tad expensive in the second ODI. He leaked 54 runs in his six wicket-less overs.

Avesh and Prasidh Krishna have a similar type of hit the deck bowling style, getting deliveries to rear up from back of length or good length.

It only warrants that one among the two should start in the eleven.

As far as West Indies is concerned, they have capable players but as a unit, they have failed to fire. They depend too much on individual brilliance of Shai Hope, Nicholas Pooran, Rovman Powell or Romario Shepherd.

More importantly, the team hasn't shown resilience to win important moments that can impact the outcome of the match. West Indies could do well to use the experience of Jason Holder in the final game of the series.

The hosts would aim to put an end to their losing streak in ODIs, which has now stretched to eight matches, including a 0-3 loss to Bangladesh in the preceding rubber.



BCCI set to bid for 2025 Women's WC hosting rights

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

India in all likelihood will host the Women's 50-over World Cup in 2025 as the BCCI is set to bid for the mega event.

If India wins the bid, the ICC flagship event will return to the country after more than a decade.

The last time a women's 50-over World Cup was held in India was back in 2013 when Australian emerged champions after beating the West Indies by 114 runs in the final in Mumbai.

The ICC's Annual Conference is being held in Birmingham and it has been learnt that the bids for the four big women's ICC events for the next cycle will be accepted during the meet.

India will be favourites to host the 2025 edition of the global ODI event.

"Bids are being accepted for four women's events. The prominent amongst them are 2024 and 2026 ICC T20 World Cup and the 2025 edition of the ODI World Cup," an ICC Board member said.

The last big mega women's global cricket event held in India was the 2016 World T20 but that was primarily because ICC used to organise both men's and women's event simultaneously.

However, the system has changed with popularity of

women's game increasing exponentially and ICC has segregated the events to procure the proper value for women's game with separate broadcast deal and exclusive coverage.

The 50 over Women's World Cup however has been a stand-alone event since its inception in 1973, two years before the men's mega event started in England in 1975.

India have hosted the event thrice -- in 1978, 1997 and 2013.

Those in the know of things in the ICC felt that it was prudent call by the BCCI if they are bidding for the 2025 ODI event.

"Since BCCI is bullish about starting the Women's IPL from next season, I think they wouldn't like to hold any other marquee T20 women's event right away. Hence the decision to bid for the 2025 World Cup seems logical," the source said.

In the 2025 Women's World Cup, the hosts and five top nations from ICC Women's Championship (IWC) 2022-2025 will get direct entry into the tournament.

The remaining two teams will be identified through a global Qualifier comprising six teams. Out of six teams in the Qualifier, four will be from the IWC (rankings after top five teams) and the other two will be selected according to the ICC Women's ODI Team Ranking.

Report finds Cricket Scotland 'institutionally racist'

AP ■ GLASGOW

An independent review into allegations of racism at Cricket Scotland has found the governance and leadership practices of the organisation to be "institutionally racist".

The report, which was described as a "wake up call for Scottish sport", found 448 examples of institutional racism.

A review was commissioned by sportscotland, the national funding body, last year after Scotland's all-time leading wicket-taker Majid Haq and former teammate Qasim Sheikh said they had suffered racist abuse.

As part of the review, an anonymous survey was carried out, with 62 percent of those who responded saying they had experienced, witnessed or had received reports of incidents of racism, inequalities or discrimination.

Allegations include racial abuse, use of inappropriate language, favouritism towards white children from public schools and a lack of a transparent selection process.

The investigation, carried out by consultancy firm Plan4Sport, found Cricket Scotland failed in 29 out of 31 indicators of institutional racism.



As a result of the findings, the governing body has been placed into special measures until at least October 2023, with sportscotland effectively taking control of the organisation. "Governance and leadership practices of Cricket Scotland have been institutionally racist," said Louise Tideswell, managing director of Plan4Sport.

"The reality is that the leadership of the organisation failed to see the problems and, in failing to do so, enabled a culture of racially aggravated micro-aggressions to develop."

On Sunday, the board of Cricket Scotland resigned en masse.

Interim chief executive Gordon Arthur said: "The racism and discrimination that has taken place in the sport that we all love should never have been allowed to happen, or to go unchallenged for so long.

"I would like to again issue a heartfelt apology to all those who have been the victims of racism and discrimination in Scottish cricket." Among the recommendations of the review are for the new board to be comprised of no more than a

60-40 gender ratio either way and a minimum of 25 percent of members should come from black, south-east Asian, or other mixed or multiple ethnic groups. The chief executive of sportscotland, Stewart Harris, described the findings as "deeply concerning and in some cases shocking".

"Today should also act as a wake-up call for all of Scottish sport," he added.

"Racism is a societal problem and it is no longer good enough to simply be non-racist, Scottish sport must now be actively anti-racist."

Karunaratne, De Silva take SL's lead past 300 in Pakistan Test

AP ■ GALLE

Skipper Dimuth Karunaratne battled through back pain to extend Sri Lanka's second-innings lead to 323 after key strikes by Pakistan's bowlers in the second Test on Tuesday.

The hosts reached 176-5 when bad light stopped play early on day three, with stumps called in Galle after more than half an hour's wait for conditions to improve.

The left-handed Karunaratne, on 27, and Dhananjaya de Silva, on 30, were batting in an unbeaten stand of 59.

Sri Lanka were in trouble at 117-5 when Karunaratne, who stayed off the field during Pakistan's innings, and De Silva got down to the grind.

De Silva took on the opposition bowlers and hit six boundaries with Karunaratne happy to play anchor. The skipper got help from the physio in between his knock.

Karunaratne rotated the strike and also hit two boundaries including a reverse sweep for four off leg-spinner Yasir Shah.

Pakistan had earlier rattled the Sri Lankan batting with key wickets including Angelo Mathews in his 100th Test after the former captain, who made 35, attempted to rebuild the innings with Dinesh Chandimal.

Off-spinner Agha Salman got Mathews out for his maiden Test wicket after Pakistan reviewed the umpire's call, with ultra-edge technology confirming a spike when the ball passed the bat and into the hands of slip.



Mathews walked back shaking his head after failing to capitalise on another good start in his landmark Test, after he made 42 in the first innings.

The in-form Chandimal, with scores of 206 not out, 76, 94 not out and 80 in his last four innings, looked good on 21 but fell caught behind off fast bowler Naseem Shah soon after tea.

Naseem, who took three wickets in Sri Lanka's first innings, had struck first with

the wicket of Niroshan Dickwella, who fell for 15 after opening in place of the ailing Karunaratne.

Pakistan's innings ended after the tourists resumed the day on 191-7, in reply to Sri Lanka's first innings of 378.

Off-spinner Ramesh sent back Nauman Ali and then trapped overnight batsman Yasir lbw for 26 to record a third five-wicket haul in his 10th Test to wrap up the innings.

2 women cricketers stay back in India after testing COVID +ve



PTI ■ BIRMINGHAM

Another member of the Indian women's cricket team has tested positive for COVID-19 and has stayed back in the country ahead of the side's opener against Australia in the Commonwealth Games here on Friday.

The India squad left on Sunday morning for Birmingham without the two players.

BCCI president Sourav Ganguly had earlier confirmed that one member of the tour-

ing party tested positive. The squad trained at the National Cricket Academy (NCA) ahead of the Games.

Women's cricket is making its debut at the Commonwealth Games.

"A second player has tested positive for COVID-19 and it happened before departure. Both the players remain in India," an Indian Olympic Association official said.

A BCCI source added: "As per protocol, both players can only join the team once they test negative."

Considering the situation,

the two players are unlikely to feature in the opener against Australia. The second game is against arch-rivals Pakistan on July 31 and final league match against Barbados on August 3.

All games, including the final, will be played at the Edgbaston.

The organisers have said that tickets for the semifinals and final are already sold out.

Ahead of the team's departure, India skipper Harmanpreet Kaur had spoken about how much playing in the Commonwealth Games meant to her and the team.

'India 'B' team capable of podium finish in Chess Olympiad'

PTI ■ CHENNAI

The youthful India 'B' team can finish on the podium in the Open section of the 44th Chess Olympiad if the players perform to their potential, the side's coach Grandmaster R B Ramesh said.

The 'B' team, seeded 11th comprises Nihal Sarin, D Gukesh, R Praggnanandhaa, B Adhiban and Raunak Sadhwani, all Grandmasters, and Ramesh believes if the players can keep their focus during the 11 rounds of the Olympiad, beginning at nearby Mamallapuram on July 28, they can finish on the podium.

Barring Adhiban, who is 29, the rest of the squad are in their teens.

"The preparations have gone very well. The men's second team (B team) which I am coaching has got very good chances of a podium finish. We (team) have to play well throughout the tournament," Ramesh said.

"The players need to keep their focus during the entire duration of the Olympiad.



The youngsters have been in good form. Praggu and Gukesh have done well in recent times and that should give them confidence. We have had two preparatory camps and they were fruitful."

Ramesh said the legendary Viswanathan Anand interacted with the players and shared his expertise.

The 46-year old Ramesh, a former Commonwealth chess champion and a

renowned coach now, said all the three teams fielded by India in the Open section were strong.

"The three Indian teams are strong and we could be competing against each other at some stage of the Olympiad," he said, adding that even in the women's section, the host would be fielding three teams with the 'A' squad being the top-seed.

The absence of powerhouses

es like Russia and China have boosted India's chances, he said, but cautioned against taking any opponent lightly.

Speaking about the players in his team, Ramesh said Gukesh, who won four tournaments in Spain and breached the 2700 ELO barrier in live rating, and Praggu, having won an event in Serbia recently, would be the ones to watch out for.

"Gukesh and Praggu are in good form and will be expected to do well. Adhiban has played in the Olympiad previously and with his experience can handle the pressure. Nihal (Sarin) and Raunak Sadhwani are playing to their strengths and add value to the team," he said.

"The 'B' team is capable of beating stronger teams and there are definitely medal chances. Everyone knows his role. It all depends on how the players play on a given day."

The India 'A' team is seeded second behind formidable USA.

The Chess Olympiad is being held in India for the first time and will run from July 28 to August 9.

'Anand's absence will be felt'

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

India's top-ranked chess player P Harikrishna on Tuesday said while legendary Viswanathan Anand's absence from the Indian team will make a big difference, the young players are ready to carve out a niche for themselves at this year's Chess Olympiad.

Five-time world champion Anand decided not to participate this time but he will be guiding the Indian team at the showpiece event to be held from July 28 to August 10.

"India has a very good team this time around. Obviously, not having (Viswanathan) Anand is going to make a big difference. That said, this side has a perfect mix of young and experienced players and we are capable of doing really well," said Harikrishna during a virtual press conference.