

WORLD 5
CHINA ANNOUNCES MILITARY
EXERCISE OFF TAIWAN COAST**MONEY 6**
5G SPECTRUM: 71% SPECTRUM
ON BLOCK SOLD IN FIRST 4 DAYS**SPORT 7**
INDIA STEAMROLL
SRI LANKA 5-0

NEW DELHI, SUNDAY JULY 31, 2022; PAGES 12 ₹4

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Guv: Maha nothing sans Gujaratis, Rajasthanis

Koshyari's remark triggers major row; Opp seeks Maha Guv's recall, arrest

TN RAGHUNATHA ■ MUMBAI

Maharashtra Governor Bhagat Singh Koshyari on Saturday stirred up a hornets' nest yet again — this time over his inappropriate comments against Maharashtrians, prompting the Opposition to demand his dismissal from the post and even arrest. The BJP-led ruling alliance distanced itself from his comments.

Less than twelve hours after he said Maharashtra would be left with nothing and Mumbai would cease to be the country's commercial Capital if Gujaratis and Rajasthanis were removed from the State, the Shiv Sena-led Opposition tore the Governor apart for "insulting" the people of the State, while the embarrased ruling alliance chose not to defend Koshyari for his comment.

Speaking at a function held in the city, the Governor had on Friday lauded the contributions of the Gujarati and Rajasthan communities for the State's progress and development and undermined Maharashtrians' ability. "If you remove Gujaratis and Rajasthanis from the State, especially Mumbai and Thane, then nothing will be left... Mumbai will lose its tag of the country's commercial capital without them," the Governor had said at the ceremony.

The Governor found himself in the dock, as the video-clip of his comments made at



a ceremony went viral. The Governor's belated clarification over his comments made at a function organised on Friday to inaugurate a junction held at Andheri in north Mumbai to rename after late Shantidevi Champalalji Kothari, that his comments had been "misconstrued" did not douse the political fire which raged through the day.

Leading the Opposition's charge, Maharashtra's former Chief Minister and Shiv Sena president Uddhav Thackeray slammed the Governor for trying to "divide" a peaceful State on casteist, religion and regional lines and said time had come for the State to decide "to consider whether this parcel named Koshyari should be packed off from here or put behind bars".

Uddhav said the Governor had "insulted" the people of the State and now deserves to be shown 'Kolhapuri chappals (footwear)'. "He regularly keeps

making such controversial statements and does not maintain the dignity of the august office he occupies... Now he is trying to divide communities and even the Hindus by naming Mumbai and Thane where civic polls will be held shortly. It is time to consider whether this parcel named Koshyari should be packed off from here or put behind bars."

Coming down heavily on the Governor for casting aspersions on Maharashtrians, NCP president Sharad Pawar said, "What can I say about this Governor. He had in the past made a horrible statement against social reformers Mahatma Phule and Savitribai Phule. He has repeated his act again. Mumbai and Maharashtra take sections of people along. Mumbai has progressed because of the contributions of the ordinary people. This kind of statement does not augur well for a Governor."

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Anti-social forces create religious animosity: Doval



NSA Ajit Doval, All India Sufi Sajjadanashin Council's Chairperson Hazrat Syed Naseruddin Chishty, Jain religious leader Acharya Lokesh Muni and others during AISSC's 'Interfaith Conference', in New Delhi on Saturday

PTI

Sufi clerics call for ban on PFI, other fronts for divisive agenda

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

An interfaith conference of Sufi clerics on Saturday passed a resolution calling for a ban on "organisations like PFI and any other such fronts indulging in anti-national activities and pursuing a divisive agenda" even as National Security Adviser Ajit Doval warned that there are some anti-social elements who create animosity in the name of religion and ideology which affects the entire nation and to counter this, religious leaders will have to work together.

A unanimous resolution passed at the conference also

underscored that those targeting gods, goddesses and prophets in discussions or debates should be "condemned and dealt with as per law".

Putting forth his assertion at the 'Interfaith Conference for Communal Harmony' organised by the All India Sufi Sajjadanashin Council (AISSC) in Delhi, Doval said, "Some elements are trying to create an atmosphere that's vitiating the progress of India. They're creating acrimony and conflict in the name of religion and ideology, it's affecting the entire country while spilling over outside the country also."

"Organisations in anti-national activities and creating discord among citizens must be banned and action initiated against them as per law of the land," outlined the resolution passed unanimously at the conference in the presence of Doval.

Chanu wins India first gold at CWG



Weightlifter Mirabai Chanu equals the National Record and set the new Games Record and Commonwealth Record in Women's 49kg snatch category with a lift of 88kg

PTI

Lifter Sargar opens India's account with silver, Gururaja bags bronze at Birmingham

PTI ■ BIRMINGHAM

Star weightlifter Mirabai Chanu (49kg) went on a record-smashing spree, claiming four of them in a power-packed performance, to claim India's first gold medal at the

Commonwealth Games here on Saturday.

In a remarkable performance, Chanu smashed the Commonwealth and CWG record in snatch. She obliterated the Games record in clean and jerk as well as total lift.

The former world champion ended with a total lift of 201kg (88kg+113kg), which is far better than her personal best. She equalled her national record lift of 88kg in the snatch section.

Earlier young Sanket

Sargar won a silver medal while Gururaja Poojary won bronze.

The Olympic silver medalist, who has been working on her snatch technique, then attempted the much-anticipated 90kg but couldn't pull it off.

Sporting her famous 'lucky' earrings shaped like the Olympic rings, Chanu lifted more than twice her body weight (109kg, 113kg) in the clean and jerk, in which she holds the world record (119kg).

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CAPSULE

CONG TO GHERAO PM HOUSE ON AUGUST 5

New Delhi: The Congress will hold a march to Rashtrapati Bhavan from Parliament and a 'Prime Minister House Gherao' as part of its big protest against price rise and unemployment on August 5.

DU RAISES UG COURSES FEES FROM 2022-23

New Delhi: The Delhi University (DU) has decided to raise fees for its undergraduate courses from the academic session 2022-23.

RAGHURAM LAUDS RBI FOR INCREASING FER

New Delhi: Former RBI governor Raghuram Rajan on Saturday lauded the Reserve Bank of India for doing a good job in increasing the foreign exchange reserves.

OVER 30K KG DRUG HAUL DESTROYED

Chandigarh: More than 30,000 kgs of seized drugs were destroyed by the Narcotics Control Bureau across 4 locations under the watch of Union Home Minister Amit Shah via video conference from Chandigarh.

2 CHINESE WITH EXPIRED VISAS HELD

Noida: Three more Chinese living in UP's Gautam Buddha Nagar were arrested on Saturday after two of them were found without visas and one with forged Indian documents.

CASE OF MONKEYPOX REPORTED IN K'TAKA

Bengaluru: An Ethiopian national with symptoms of monkeypox has been quarantined at a private hospital here, Karnataka health department said.

WB-MAHA MOU TO END WOMEN TRAFFICKING

Kolkata: The West Bengal Government has inked a MoU with Maharashtra Government to prevent migration and trafficking of women since a lot of movement of people takes place between the two States.

VC resigns after 'humiliation'; outrage against Punjab Min

PNS ■ CHANDIGARH

A day after a prominent surgeon and the Vice Chancellor of the Baba Farid University of Health Sciences (BFUHS) was forced to lie on a dirty mattress at a hospital by Punjab Health Minister Chetan Singh Jouramajra, the issue has triggered a nationwide outrage even as the AAP has said that the issue is being blown out of proportion.

After the "humiliation" meted out to him, Dr Raj Bahadur is learnt to have resigned and requested Punjab Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann to relieve him from service.

The incident took place on Friday when Jouramajra was on an inspection to Faridkot's Guru Gobind Singh Medical College and Hospital, which comes under the BFUHS. A



video clip of the incident that circulated on social media showed Jouramajra place a hand on the veteran surgeon's shoulder as he pointed towards the "damaged and dirty condition" of the mattress inside the hospital's skin department. The Minister is then seen to be allegedly forcing Dr Bahadur to lie down on the same mattress.

Bahadur in the video is

seen explaining to the Minister that he was not responsible for the facilities, to which the AAP leader retorted "everything is in your hands". After the incident, Bahadur reportedly told the Punjab Chief Minister that this kind of atmosphere was not conducive for his work, and requested to relieve him of his duties.

Continued on Page 2

CBI seizes Augusta copter from DHFL accused's Pune property premises

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The CBI on Saturday seized an AugustaWestland AW109SP Grand New Helicopter from the Pune property of one of the accused of India's biggest bank loan fraud worth ₹34,615 crore relating to DHFL.

The helicopter was found parked in a hangar on the premises of Avinash Bhosale at Baner Road, Pune, the CBI said. Bhosale along with Kapil and Dheeraj Wadhawans, DHFL promoters and masterminds, besides others are accused of cheating a consortium of 17 banks led by Union Bank of India.

"During investigation of the CBI case in respect of cheating of over ₹34,000 crore of Union Bank of India-led consortium of 17 banks by DHFL, its promoters (Wadhawan brothers) and others, it has come to light that RKW Developers Pvt Ltd (a company owned by Wadhawan family) allegedly has stakes in Varva Aviation (an Association of Persons) which owns an

AW109SP Grand New Helicopter (AugustaWestland Helicopter) which was allegedly purchased in 2011," the CBI said in a statement.

RKW Developers Pvt Ltd joined the Association of Persons in 2017, contributing towards cost price and maintenance of the said helicopter. ABIL Infraprojects Ltd, a company owned by Avinash Bhosale, has a stake in the said helicopter, the agency said.

"As it was allegedly apprehended that the funds used for making payment towards the stake in Association of Persons, were sourced from loan funds sanctioned by different banks, therefore, today i.e. on 30.07.2022, the CBI has seized the helicopter which has been found parked in a hangar on the premises of Avinash Bhosale at Baner Road, Pune," the agency added.

A couple of days ago, the CBI had seized luxury watches worth over ₹1 crore and paintings worth ₹38 crore from the Wadhawans and others linked to the scam.

7 soldiers jailed for selling army hospital medicines in market

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

Taking a tough stand against malpractices by its personnel, an Indian Army court martial has recommended dismissal of seven jawans from service besides jail sentences to them. The ruling came after the troopers were found guilty of selling medicines of the Armed forces hospital in the open market.

The jail sentences to the jawans range from two to six years, sources said here on Saturday. The malpractice took place in 2017 in the national Capital, they added.

A team of drug inspector and the police had raided a medical outlet in the Bhagirath

Place market and recovered 27 medicines. 'Not for sale' and Research and Referral (RR) Hospital markings were found on the medicines besides clinics run by the ex-servicemen Contributory Health Scheme, they said.

At least, 10 army troopers were initially facing proceedings for misappropriation of medicines and procuring money from civilians to sell them these medicines. The Court Martial proceedings held in the Meerut Cantonment found seven guilty while others were acquitted, they said.

The counsel of the accused jawans Advocate Anand Kumar said he will challenge the court martial decision in the High Court.

3 jawans, dog that tracked ultras lose life in encounter

MOHIT KANDHARI ■ SRINAGAR

Braving a "barrage of bullets" during an encounter in Wanigam Bala area of north Kashmir's Baramulla district, a joint team of security forces on Saturday abortively tried to save their four-legged companion who remained in the forefront of the firefight.

Senior Superintendent of Police Baramulla Rayees Mohammad Bhat told reporters on the sidelines of a police function, "during an encounter one 'unidentified' terrorist was neutralised while three security personnel — including two army jawans and one cop of the Jammu and Kashmir Police — received injuries. A sniffer dog was also martyred during the fierce gunfight".

The dog squad was deployed at the encounter site to track down the foot prints of

the hiding terrorists before launching the operation.

According to reports, one

of the sniffer dogs was caught in the crossfire and succumbed to injuries on the spot. After the



Security personnel at the site of an encounter with terrorists in J&K's Baramulla district on Saturday

PTI

encounter was over, several soldiers paid their tributes. Later the martyred dog was shifted to the nearby unit headquarters for the last rites.

According to ground reports, soon after an encounter broke out between the hiding terrorists and a joint team of security forces comprising jawans of the 29 Rashtriya Rifles, Jammu & Kashmir Police and paramilitary forces near Wanigam Bala area of Baramulla early Saturday morning the supervisory officers directed the jawans to strictly follow standard operating procedures (SOP) in order to minimise any collateral damage.

The road links leading to the village were blocked and local residents were advised to stay indoors to prevent any injury during the exchange of heavy fire.

According to these reports,

local police authorities had received a tip-off about the presence of two to three terrorists in one of the houses in the area.

As the security forces launched a cordon and search operation in the area and were tightening the cordon, the terrorists opened fire from inside one of the houses. Since it was a built up area the security forces exercised utmost restraint and avoided use of heavy weaponry to neutralise the terrorists in the area.

According to police records, Kashmir valley has so far witnessed over 75 encounters in which 126 terrorists have been killed.

Out of these 126 terrorists, 33 were foreigners, mostly from Pakistan. However, 19 civilians have also died in various terror attacks in the valley, while 16 security personnel sacrificed their lives.

3 Cong MLAs from J'khand detained with wads of notes in WB

SAUGAR SENGUPTA ■ KOLKATA

Acting on a specific tip-off, the West Bengal Police on Saturday detained three Congress MLAs from Jharkhand and seized bundles of currency notes from a vehicle they were travelling in.

The vehicle apparently belonged to Jamtara MLA Irfan Ansari, sources said, adding other two MLAs travelling in the same vehicle were Rajesh Kachhap and Naman Biksai.

The black SUV in which the notes were found was intercepted near Panchla Police Station in Howrah district even as it was running past the Durgapur Express Way connecting Kolkata and Jharkhand.

The incident comes days after the Enforcement Directorate arrested Bengal Minister Partha Chatterjee and his associate Arpita from whose apartments it recovered more than ₹50 crore.

Continued on Page 2

Cong to gherao PM’s house over price rise

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

In its continued effort to corner the Modi government, the Congress will hold a massive nationwide protest against price rise and unemployment on August 5. The party will hold a march to Rashtrapati Bhavan from Parliament and a ‘Prime Minister House Gherao’ as part of its big protest. Party sources said the members of the working committee - the highest decision-making body of the

Congress - and senior leadership of the party will gherao the house of Prime Minister Narendra Modi. The members of both the Houses of Parliament - Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha - will hold the "Chalo Rashtrapati Bhavan" march, and in states, the party will organise a "Raj Bhavan Gherao", in which all the MLAs, MLCs, ex MPs and senior leaders are expected to participate and court mass arrest. This comes as both the Houses witnessed multiple disruptions this week over the

issue, leading to a near washout of the proceedings. The Lok Sabha is likely to have a debate on price rise on Monday, followed by Rajya Sabha on Tuesday. The opposition has been raising the issue of rising prices and GST since the beginning of the session on July 18, in both the Houses. All elected public representatives of the Congress from village level to district level, have been asked to protest and court mass arrest in their respective block or district headquarters.

₹100 cr seized drugs destroyed in Guwahati

PTI ■ GUWAHATI

Huge quantities of seized drugs valued at over Rs 100 crore have been destroyed by the police here on Saturday as a part of the ‘Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav’. Guwahati police organised a mass disposal of drugs and burnt down 935 kg of seized drugs at Hatishila Daampara under Pragyotishpur police station in the outskirts of the city, Commissioner of Police Harmeet Singh said. The drugs destroyed include huge quantities of heroin, cannabis and raw methamphetamine, more than 19,00,000 meth tablets and more than 3,70,000 bottles of cough syrup.

The pyre of drugs was lit by Singh along with Joint Commissioner of Police Partha Sarathi Mahanta. The international value of the drugs was estimated to be over Rs 100 crore. A plantation drive was also conducted on the occasion with Singh, Mahanta and other senior officials of the city police planting saplings as part of the Chief Minister’s Institutional Plantation Programme. “The Chief Minister of Assam has given clear instruction to wage this war on drugs until it’s completely cleaned up. I want to take this opportunity to reaffirm our absolute commitment to the war on drugs”, Singh said.

He said that nobody related to the drug trade will be spared and strong legal action shall be initiated against anyone indulging in this illegal trade. Seized drugs were also burnt in Dhubri, Karbi Anglong and Karimganj districts on Saturday as a part of the Drugs Disposal programme. In Dhubri, 1,404 contraband tablets, 4,901 bottles of cough syrup, 1.50 kg of cannabis and 580 gm of brown sugar, valued at over Rs 1.5 crore, were destroyed during the day. In Karbi Anglong, 3.48 kg of heroin, 320.06 gm of cannabis, 2,102 contraband tablets and 26 bottles of cough syrup, valued at Rs 2.72 crore,



were burnt. In Karimganj, 5.185 kg of cannabis, 5,95,366 Yaba tablets, 3,653 kg of heroin and 76,103 bottles of cough syrup, valued at Rs 68 crore, were burnt, according to the police.

India doesn’t have problems like Pak, Lanka, says RBI ex-Guv Raghuram

ANI ■ RAIPUR

India has sufficient foreign exchange (forex) reserves, external debts are low and the country is not having the economic problems like Sri Lanka and Pakistan, former RBI Governor Raghuram Rajan said. “We have sufficient foreign exchange reserves. RBI has done a good job in increasing the reserves. We are not having problems like Sri Lanka and Pakistan. Our foreign debts are also less,” Raghuram Rajan told ANI. According to the latest RBI data, India’s foreign exchange (forex) reserves stood at \$571.56 billion for the week ended July

22. At end-March 2022, India’s external debt stood at \$620.7 billion, as per the latest RBI data. The external debt to GDP ratio declined to 19.9 per cent at end-March 2022 from 21.2 per cent at end-March 2021. According to Raghuram Rajan, low foreign debt and high foreign exchange reserves make Indian economy resilient. The countries like Sri Lanka and Pakistan are facing deep financial troubles due to very low forex reserves and mounting external debts. Usable forex reserves of Sri Lanka recently dipped below \$50 million forcing the country to suspend payments on foreign loans. The situation in Pakistan

is equally bad. Pakistan’s forex reserves dipped by \$754 million to \$8.57 billion for the week ended 22nd July 2022, as per Pakistan central bank’s latest data. On inflation, Raghuram Rajan said the hike in policy rates by the Reserve Bank of India would help in reducing the inflationary pressure. At present, there is inflation all over the world. RBI is increasing interest rate which will help in reducing inflation. Most inflation is in food and fuel. As we can see food inflation is coming down in world & will decrease in India also, he said. The former RBI governor said fuel and food have been

among the major factors for high inflation. He said high food inflation has been due to seasonal factors and are likely to come down. According to Raghuram Rajan, the hike in policy rates by the RBI would help in bringing down core inflation. India’s retail inflation eased to 7.01 per cent in June from 7.04 per cent in the previous month helped by softening crude and edible oil prices, according to data released by the National Statistical Office (NSO) recently. The RBI has hiked the policy repo rate by 90 basis points or 0.90 per cent since the beginning of the current financial year.

Govt, Opp have responsibility for smooth, effective functioning of Houses: Naidu

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

Rajya Sabha Chairman M. Venkaiah Naidu on Saturday said while critique of the Government is always welcome, a protracted disruption as a parliamentary strategy should be avoided. At the orientation event of new Rajya Sabha members, Naidu said both Government and the Opposition have the collective responsibility for smooth and effective functioning of the House. At the backdrop of regular disruptions of the ongoing Monsoon session, Naidu advised them to resort to three-D mantra ‘discuss debate and decide’ and avoid the other ‘D’-disruption. Expressing concern over

the overshadowing of debates and discussions by rising disruption and confrontation in the Parliament, Naidu stated that people especially the youth are justifiably getting impatient and disillusioned with the way democratic institutions are functioning and urged the MPs to put an end to such unpleasant situations in the House in order to sustain the credibility of the parliamentary institutions in public esteem. He stressed that discipline, dignity and decorum in the House are the sine qua non of parliamentary institutions. Naidu offered tips to the newly elected/nominated members of the House which could help them in becoming an effective parliamentarian. He advised the Members to be regular in attending the

Parliament and watch keenly the way senior parliamentarians articulate themselves and put their views in a very organized manner. Highlighting that having a good understanding of the rules and procedures among the MPs would help the proceedings to be more orderly and more purposeful, he advised them to be mindful of the Rules for enhanced productivity. Naidu stressed that adversarial politics should not be allowed to adversely affect the functioning of the Parliament and State Legislatures and urged them to speak in their native languages. The two-day Orientation programme began with a welcome address by Deputy Chairman, Rajya Sabha,



Harivansh. Rajya Sabha MP Jairam Ramesh spoke on “Rajya Sabha: Its role and contribution to Indian polity; Sushil Kumar Modi shared his thoughts on the ‘Importance of Question Hour’; while Vandana Chavan gave a detailed overview on the Committee System. Bhupender Yadav, Minister of Environment, Forest & Climate Change explained the ‘Lawmaking process’. Rajya Sabha Secretary-General, P.C. Mody also presented an overview of the functioning of the Rajya Sabha Secretariat.

India’s first monkeypox patient recovers

PTI ■ THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

A Kerala man, who was India’s first monkeypox patient and was being treated at the Government Medical College here, has recovered from the disease, state Health Minister Veena George said on Saturday. The 35-year old, hailing from Kollam, would be discharged later in the day, she said. As it was the first case of monkeypox in the country, tests were conducted twice at an interval of 72 hours as per the instructions of the National Institute of Virology (NIV), she said. “All samples were negative twice. The patient is physically and mentally healthy. The skin bumps are completely cured. He will be discharged today,” George said. The minister also said the test results of his family members, who were in the primary contact list with him, are also negative.

Guv: Maha nothing sans...

From Page 1
Demanding Koshiyari’s removal from the Governor’s post, Maharashtra Pradesh Congress Committee President Nana Patole said Koshiyari had “insulted” Mumbai and Maharashtra by making an unwarranted statement about the city. “He should not forget the immeasurable contributions made by Marathi people in building Mumbai. Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Home Minister Amit Shah should take serious cognisance of the Governor’s comment and remove him from the post,” Patole said. “In the past, Koshiyari had also insulted Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj, Mahatma Jyotiba Phule, Savitribai Phule, who are the idols of Maharashtra. Governor Koshiyari’s stand has always been anti-Maharashtra,” Patole said. Hitting out at Koshiyari, MNS chief Raj Thackeray said “Koshiyari’s hoshiyari” (Koshiyari’s oversmartness) was unwarranted. He asked the Governor not to keep blabbering if he doesn’t know the state’s history as his comments have pained the people here.

“The Marathi people and others have given their lands and labour, and ensured a conducive environment that attracts people from all over to do business here. Do they get these anywhere else? Ahead of the elections, don’t try to spoil the atmosphere or corner the Marathis, that’s my request,” Raj said. Senior BJP leader and current Deputy Chief Minister Devendra Fadnis - who is known for his close proximity to the Governor, said his party did not support the Governor’s views. “The Marathis are known world over for their achievements in all sectors and fields. Their contributions to the progress of Mumbai and Maharashtra is significant, and even the Governor is aware of this in his heart... We are not with him,” Fadnis said. Dubbing the Governor’s comments as “personal views”, Maharashtra Chief Minister Eknath Shinde said he did not support Koshiyari’s comments and said “the contributions of the Marathis to the State and Mumbai can never be denigrated”. “Mumbai has progressed and got fame as the financial Capital because of the hard work of Marathis. The Governor must ensure that the Maharashtra’s pride and image are not hurt by his utterances,” Shinde said. Meanwhile, Governor Koshiyari clarified that his words had been “misconstrued

as usual” and he reaffirmed the contributions of Marathi to Mumbai which is the pride of Maharashtra and also the country’s commercial capital. “I had no intention to undermine Marathis... they have built Maharashtra by sheer hard work and there are many leading Marathi industrialists here, and are famous not only in the state but all over India and the world. Praising one community does not amount to insulting others,” the Governor said in a statement issued here on Saturday. Koshari reiterated that he was proud of the opportunity to serve the land of Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj and the Maharashtrians as the Governor and he had even learnt Marathi in a very short time. The only leader who came to the defence of the Governor was Vanchit Bahujan Aghadi leader Prakash Ambedkar, who said Koshiyari had actually taken a swipe at the character of the Congress, NCP, Shiv Sena and BJP for ruling for many years without doing anything to give Marathis any business, which is still controlled by the Gujaratis-Rajasthanis. “The people of Maharashtra must open their eyes and think whether to continue supporting these parties... The Governor has spoken out his mind and it’s not an insult to the state,” Ambedkar said.



Telangana Chief Minister K Chandrashekar Rao in a meeting with Samajwadi Party president Akhilesh Yadav and Samajwadi Party national general secretary Ramgopal Yadav in New Delhi

PTI

Kerala boy makes wine by watching YouTube video, friend hospitalised after drinking it

Thiruvananthapuram: A 12-year-old boy here has landed in trouble by making grape wine by watching a YouTube video and serving it to one of his classmates, who started vomiting after consuming it and had to be rushed to a hospital at nearby

Chirayinkeezhu. The boy who drank the wine was discharged from the hospital subsequently and his condition is stated to be stable, police said. The incident took place at a government school on Friday and police registered a case. **PTI**

3 J’khand MLAs detained...

From Page 1
The three MLAs were presently being questioned at Panchla Police Station, Howrah Rural SP said, adding counting machines were being brought in to count the notes which could go beyond one crore mark. Meanwhile, even as the Congress

leadership said the MLAs if found guilty should be dealt with severely, State Trinamool Congress spokesperson Debangshu Bhattacharya said the notes could be connected to BJP’s plans to topple Jharkhand Government by purchasing the Congress MLAs.

Tearful adieu to Lt Bal martyred in MIG-21 crash

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ JAMMU

Tears rolled down the eyes of family, friends and schoolmates of Flight Lieutenant Advitiya Bal when the body was consigned to flames with full military honors in his native village of Jindermelu in Ranbir Singh Pura on Saturday. The 26-year-old fighter pilot was killed along with Wing Commander M Rana of Himachal Pradesh in the MIG-21 crash in Rajasthan’s Barmer area late Thursday night. Draped in the tricolour, the body was brought to his ancestral home in a long procession from Air Force

Station Jammu. Several close family members including mother, younger brother and uncles broke down as his mortal remains were shifted inside their home for the last rites. Since early morning a large number of senior citizens, family friends, residents from nearby villages walked on foot to catch a glimpse of the martyred officer and pay their rich tributes. Bal was regarded as a ‘youth icon’ in the entire area. An alumnus of Sainik School, Nagrota, Bal cracked the NDA examination in 2014 and went on to join the IAF academy in Hyderabad. He was commissioned in the IAF in June 2018.

Chanu wins India first gold at...

From Page 1
Mauritian weightlifter Marie Hanitra Roilya Ranaivosoa (172kg (76kg+96kg) won the silver. Hannah Kaminski of Canada 171 kg (74kg+97kg)

also finished on the podium. With this Chanu added a third CWG medal to her kitty, having won silver and gold in the Glasgow and Gold Coast editions respectively. **PTI**

THE PIONEER CLASSIFIEDS

CHANGE OF NAME

I, Samar Singh S/o Shri Balram R/o House No 343, Sorkha Jahidabad Goutam Budh Nagar U.P. 201304 have declare that Samar Singh and Samar Singh Yadav are one and same person.

PD(90139)C
I, Sher Singh Alias Sher Singh Chamyal S/o Madhan Singh, R/o A-6/252, Paschim Vihar, Delhi - 110063, have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as Sher Singh Bist.

PD(90141)A

DATE OF BIRTH

I, Bansi Lal s/o Lt Sh. Ram Lal r/o Poonch w.no 7 that my actual date of birth is 03/12/1960 in all my service book, pan card & aadhar card and other documents.

PD(90140)A

PUBLIC NOTICE
Notice is hereby given to general public at large that my client, Axis Bank Ltd, having one of its Branch at GE, Aus, Noida House, Sector-128, Noida (U.P) intends to grant Loan facility to Sh. Anandesh Kumar against security of Plot bearing No.095, in Block C, having area measuring 300 Sq. Mtrs, situated at Sector 72, Noida, U.P. (hereinafter referred to as 'Said Property'). Sh. Gyasi Ram Sharma S/o Late Sh. Naurang Sharma was the Lessee/Owner(s) of the Said Property by virtue of Lease Deed duly registered as Document No. 2531 and Musanma No. 2532 on 25.04.2005. Thereafter, Sh. Gyasi Ram Sharma S/o Late Sh. Naurang Sharma died intestate on 05.12.2009 leaving behind only the following legal heirs viz-a-viz: 1) Sh. Mahendra Pal, 2) Sh. Dhanshi Sharma (since deceased), 3) Smt. Usha (Daughter in Law), 4) Smt. Rajni & 5) Smt. Nidam and Sh. Dhanshi Kumar Sharma died on 09.11.2016 leaving behind 1) Smt. Usha Sharma, 2) Sh. Rahul Sharma, 3) Smt. Shubham Sharma, 4) Smt. Nidha Sharma & 5) Ms. Priya Sharma, as his legal heirs, who claim to be the Joint-Owners of the Said Property by way of Hindu Succession Law consequent to the demise of Sh. Gyasi Ram Sharma S/o Late Sh. Naurang Sharma & Sh. Dhanshi Sharma S/o Late Sh. Gyasi Ram Sharma. The Said Property was mutated in the name of 1) Sh. Mahendra Pal S/o Late Gyasi Ram Sharma & 2) Smt. Usha Sharma W/o Late Sh. Dhanshi Kumar Sharma in the records of NDA, vide Mutation Letter dated 22.05.2022 issued by NDA. Any person(s) has/have any objection(s) or claim(s) with respect to right, title or interest in the said property/portion in any manner whatsoever, must immediately contact the undersigned in writing along with all supporting documents in respect of their claim(s)/objection(s). If no such claim is received within a period of 7 days from the date of publication of this notice, then it will be presumed that no one has any paramount right, title, or interest in the said property and even if someone has any claim/objection, he/she/they have given up the same.
Himanshu Ahuja (Advocate)
Contact No.-9810310373, 011-41830049
Email Address - aalegals@gmail.com



ICICI Bank

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Sale notice publication for Loan Account No. LADEL00033893564-Name of the Borrower RIZOO SOOD, Vehicle Reg No- UP14ET9537 published dated July 30, 2022 at The Pioneer (English) & The Pioneer (Hindi) Delhi/NCR. We wish to mention that inadvertently and unintentionally a typographical error has occurred in the **Make & Model and Manu Year as HUYUNDAI MOTORS LTD XCENT and 2018** instead of **General Motors SAUL and Manu Year 2015** We therefore, request you to please read the same as **General Motors SAUL and Manu Year 2015**. Other details of said vehicle will remain same as published on 30th July 22
Date : July 30, 2022
Place: Delhi NCR
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BJP plans to promote Guj-like liquor mafia in Capital: Sisodia

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Hitting at the BJP, Deputy Chief Minister Manish Sisodia who holds the charge of the Excise Department on Saturday alleged that the the BJP of playing dirty politics to promote liquor mafia in Delhi, like it has in Gujarat.

Sisodia accused the BJP leaders of continuously threatening private liquor shop owners and the Delhi Government officials with the enquiry of Enforcement Directorate (ED) and Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) and due to this many shop owners are leaving the business and officials are not ready to do tender for allotting new licences.

“Now that the excise policy of the Delhi Government is expiring on July 31, officials are not ready to take this policy forward. Then there will be no excise policy in Delhi and this will allow the BJP to reestablish their illegal liquor business like Gujarat. “They were running an illegal liquor business in Gujarat and they wanted to do it now in Delhi also. In Gujarat, alcohol is prohibited, but illegal liquor (nakli sharab) worth thousands of crores is sold there, taking the Government for a ride,” he said.

“It is spurious liquor due to which people have died... Ye saara dhandla inke hi log chalte hain (this whole business is run by their people... There are multiple cases of people dying, but this illegal sale of liquor is flourishing despite that. This is the Gujarat model,” Sisodia said at a Press conference while announcing that the Government had to roll back the new excise policy and that from August 1 liquor will be sold only in Government outlets.

“The other is the Delhi model. Our Government brought a new excise policy last year before which alcohol was



sold in Government outlets that were prone to corruption — from brand pushing to many other such things. Some shops were private but that was given to their friends, and a very minimal licence fee was charged from them. We ended this system and started a new policy,” he said.

Sisodia said earlier the revenue from alcohol sales was ₹6,000 crore annually, and under the new policy it was to be ₹9,500 crore. “But because the corruption stopped, a plan was hatched by these people to ensure the failure of the new policy.

“One by one, they threatened private players in the name of the ED and CBI. Many of them shut shop. Under the new policy, there could have been 850 shops (like earlier) but currently, 468 are operational,” he said.

Sisodia also cited data from the BJP-ruled States. He said in Gurugram, there was one alcohol shop for 4,166 people, while in Noida, Bengaluru, and Goa, there was one shop for 1,390, 12,189, and 761 people, respectively.

“In Delhi, even if maximum shops had opened (850), the figure would have been one alcohol shop for 22,707 people. With 468 shops, it is one shop for 41,192 people,” he pointed out. The Delhi Government’s move comes amid an ongoing investigation by the Delhi

Kejriwal Govt returned to old liquor policy for fear of CBI probe: BJP

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

BJP leaders on Saturday Blashed out at the Arvind Kejriwal Government and his deputy Manish Sisodia saying the Kejriwal Government has taken “U” turn on controversial excise policy for fear of a CBI probe.

The BJP leaders alleged that the day Kejriwal started visiting Gujarat such tragedy occurred. The BJP leaders reaction came after Sisodia accused the BJP of playing dirty politics over new excise policy and held the BJP Government in Gujarat responsible for hooch tragedy. Addressing a Press conference, Union Minister Meenakshi Lekhi said while the Kejriwal Government has changed the

excise policy due to fear of CBI, he will sure have to answer for all illegal deeds. Lekhi alleged the Kejriwal Government has indulged in rampant corruption through the excise policy for which he will have to tell the people.

She said just by withdrawing the excise policy is not going to help Kejriwal wash his hands off this as he will have to give description of his Government’s every illegal acts. In a separate Press conference, BJP MP Manoj Tiwari said Kejriwal feared that his deputy Sisodia would go to jail.

The Leader of the Opposition, Delhi Assembly, Ramvir Singh Bidhuri and State president Adesh Gupta also attacked the Government.

Police’s Economic Offences Wing (EOW) and a face-off between Lieutenant Governor Vinai Kumar Saxena who recommended a CBI probe over the new excise policy 2022 which is not notified or approved by the Raj Niwas.

DELHI'S OLD LIQUOR POLICY

- ❖ Delhi had 864 liquor shops, including 475 run by the four Government agencies, and 389 by private players
- ❖ Under this regime, Delhi observed 21 dry days while in a new regime the liquor shops used to be shut for three days only
- ❖ There was no minimum area required to open liquor shops
- ❖ No discounts were offered in the old liquor regime in Delhi

DELHI'S NEW LIQUOR POLICY 2022

- ❖ Implemented on November 16, 2021, the new liquor policy changed the way liquor was sold in the city with the Government withdrawing from the business and allowing private operators to run shops
- ❖ For the first time, the city Government allowed shops to offer discounts to retail customers and reduced the number of dry days to three from 21
- ❖ Under the new liquor policy, the city was divided into 32 zones
- ❖ This policy also had a provision for home delivery of liquor and lowered the drinking age from 25 to 21, but these were not implemented

Govt mulls excise policy extension

Capital stares at liquor shortage

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

As Delhi is staring at a major liquor shortage in the coming days with private wine and beer stores going to shut shop from August 1, the Arvind Kejriwal Government is considering one month extension to its new excise policy.

Hours after Delhi Deputy Chief Minister Manish Sisodia on Saturday announced that only Government run retail store to sale liquor from Monday, sources in the Government said it was almost impossible to complete the administrative formalities before August 1 that is the reason to continue with the existing policy as the Cabinet approval is needed for the same. “However, pre-empting a chaos due to shutting of 468 private liquor shops and time needed for opening government vends, a proposal is likely to be soon presented before



Delhi Cabinet for extension to the 2021-22 policy,” sources added. “It will take at least 48 hours to complete formalities and bring a notification,” sources said.

Sisodia’s announcement forced the the private liquor stores across the city on Saturday to offer heavy discounts and schemes like one plus one free and one plus two free to sell their remaining stock.

With new policy gone, the excise licences issued to hotels, clubs and restaurants having bars, and wholesale operations

will also become redundant apart from private run liquor stores in the city. President of National Restaurants Association of India (NRAI) Kabir Suri said there is “lack of clarity” over the emerging situation and things will be clear only with further instructions from the Delhi Government.

Earlier, addressing a Press conference, Sisodia announced that now that the excise policy of Delhi Government is expiring on July 31, officials are not ready to take this policy forward.

“Then there will be no excise policy in Delhi. From Monday, only government vends will be selling liquor in Delhi. We have decided to end the new policy and have given directions for Government shops to open... I have ordered the Chief Secretary to ensure that there should be no corruption in Government shops and no illegal alcohol sold in Delhi... I have given directions that there should be no chaos during the transition period,” Sisodia said.

However, there was no

clarity on whether dry days will increase to 21 or remain the same that is three only in a year. Besides, there was no clarity on the future of private liquor shop owners.

Expressing apprehensions, Sisodia said there could be shortage of liquor in the city as he did not give a date on when Government vends will reopen. “From August 1, many private players will close their shops. Their aim is to create an alcohol shortage in Delhi.

“Their aim is to keep reducing the quantum of legal liquor being sold in Delhi... They want to encourage the sale of illegal, non-duty paid, and spurious liquor...,” he added.

In 2021, 849 liquor store licences were issued by the Delhi Government, but many liquor shops downed shutters due to financial losses. From 849 shops, they came down to 649 stores in May 2022.

Shops were shut as many license holders were finding it difficult to make a profit after offering discounts due to competition and after paying high license fees.

DU to raise fees for UG courses

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

The Delhi University (DU) has decided to raise fees for its undergraduate courses from the academic session 2022-23 by introducing charges under new heads such as for varsity facilities and Economically Weaker Section (EWS) support fund and revising some other components.

The university has added new sections to the fee structure like University Facilities and Services Charges, Economically Weaker Section Support University Fund and University Student Welfare Fund. Besides this, the DU has also increased the charge under University Development Fund from ₹600

to ₹900.

A Delhi University Teachers’ Association (DUTA) executive has estimated that increase in the annual fee for a student will be around ₹1,000. However, the university has said the fee hike will not be to that extent.

In a notification issued on July 26, the DU said the restructuring has been done to rationalise fees for admissions across various colleges of university and to ensure uniformity in various heads of expenditure.

According to university, there is no change in tuition fee and Delhi University Student Union (DUSU) fund. Meanwhile, certain portions of fee are to be decided by colleges.

Install sprinklers on high-rises to curb air pollution, says LG

NEW DELHI: Delhi’s Lieutenant Governor Vinai Kumar Saxena chaired a meeting to review issues pertaining to air pollution in the national Capital and asked officials to explore the possibility of installing rotating mist sprinklers on high-rise buildings in Delhi to curb air pollution.

At a meeting organised to review issues pertaining to air pollution, the LG asked agencies concerned to immediately start repairing, covering and carpeting of roads, pavements, footpaths and central verges.

This should be completed within a fixed time, he added. On earthen pavements, he said, suitable high-density soil-holding grass and shrub varieties



should be used.

Dust from roads and construction and demolition activities account for 26 percent of the PM2.5 pollution in Delhi.

Saxena also directed the Environment Department to immediately provide sufficient funds to the Municipal Corporation of Delhi so that enough road cleaning machines could be purchased and put to use, a statement said.



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Modi calls for legal help to undertrial prisoners

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Saturday urged the legal service authorities to provide legal assistance and enable early release of undertrial prisoners languishing in jails across the country.

Addressing the All India District Legal Services Authorities Meet here, the Prime Minister highlighted the plight of undertrial prisoners who lack legal assistance and urged district judges to use their position at the district level undertrial review committees to speed up the release of such persons from jails.

"I hope it will be a success by taking help of legal aid," said Modi in a function attended by Chief Justice of India NV Ramana, Supreme Court

judges Justices UU Lalit and DY Chandrachud and Union Law Minister Kiren Rijju.

Modi also said that ease of justice was as important as ease of doing business and ease of living. The Prime Minister noted that the National Legal Services Authority has started a campaign in this matter and urged the Bar Council of India to align more lawyers with this effort.

He said that Article 39A which lays down State's duty to promote free legal aid. "Article 39A of the Constitution gives importance to access to justice. This trust of law and justice ensures citizens that their rights are being safeguarded by the courts," he said.

The Prime Minister also spoke about the initiatives by the Government in improving judicial infrastructure and



increased use of technology in the legal system to help people and fastening delivery of justice.

"We have worked relentlessly to improve the judicial infrastructure over the last 8 years and about 9,000 crores have been spent to bolster judicial infrastructure," he said, adding the prominence of E-courts project and the video

Judiciary should flag issues that hinder its functioning: CJI

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

Chief Justice of India NV Ramana on Saturday said that the judiciary should not camouflage or hide its problems but flag them and discuss the issues which hinder its functioning so that it can serve the people better. He said that if judges don't discuss such issues affecting the judiciary and address the same, the system will be crippled.

The CJI was speaking at the All India District Legal Services Authorities Meet, attended by Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

"If we intend to serve the people better, we need to flag the issues which hinder our functioning. There is no meaning in camouflaging or hiding the problems. If we don't discuss these issues, if matters of pressing concern are not addressed, then the system



will cripple. I fear, we may be unable to fulfill our constitutional mandate of social justice. I urge you therefore, to discuss, debate and decide! This is the principle I have been following all through," said CJI Ramana.

He stressed upon the role of district judiciary and said that it is the "backbone of justice delivery system" in India. "The District Judicial officers are the first point of contact for much of the population. Public opinion about the judiciary is primarily based on their experiences with the district judiciary. This casts a great responsibility on your shoulders. You must undertake multifaceted tasks and roles. You are best placed to understand people's problems and social issues," he said, adding that strengthening the district judiciary is the need of the hour.

Urging for a pro-active role, the CJI said that the district judiciary is the driving force behind

ED attaches ₹110 cr Karvy assets under PMLA

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Enforcement Directorate (ED) has identified additional assets and has provisionally attached properties in the form of lands, buildings, share holdings, cash, foreign currency and jewellery worth Rs 110 crore in the money laundering investigation against Karvy Stock Broking Ltd (KSBL), its Chairman Comandur Parthasarathy and others.

Earlier, the ED had attached assets worth Rs 1,984.84 crore in this case. C Parthasarathy and Group CFO G Hari Krishna were arrested by ED and are presently enlarged on bail. The total attachments in the case stand at Rs 2,095 crore.

The ED initiated money laundering investigation on

the basis of FIRs filed by the CCS Hyderabad Police, on the complaints of lending Banks who complained that the Karvy Group had availed large amounts of loans by illegally pledging their clients' shares worth about Rs 2,800 crore. The said loans turned into non-performing asset (NPA) after the release of the client's securities as per the orders of National Stock Exchange (NSE) and Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI).

Subsequently, the loans were diverted from the stated purpose by a set of high ranking functionaries working under the overall control of the CMD. Funds were diverted to related companies like - KDMSL and KRIL— which were set up for real estate ventures. The diverted loan funds

were routed via multiple defunct Non Banking Financial Companies (NBFCs) to KFSL-NBFC to wash its bad debts and large chunks of loan proceeds were transferred into shell insurance companies which did massive speculative share trading with KSBL as the Stock Broker and ostensibly suffered massive losses, the ED said in a statement.

"Very complex web of financial transactions, using several shell entities and NBFCs. Large amounts of proceeds of crime have been 'invested' by infusing in the form of investments/share capital/short term advances/loans to group companies. This has resulted in enhancement of the value of the subsidiary companies of KSBL. Now the accused are trying to sell these subsidiary businesses at a prof-



it to yield indirect windfall gains to the main accused," it said in a statement.

Parthasarathy had made arrangements through his group companies to pay financial benefits to his sons Rajat and Adhiraj in the garb of salary and reimbursement of household expenses to project

ED attaches assets worth ₹3.92 cr of ex-MLA Biswal in ponzy scam

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Enforcement Directorate (ED) has provisionally attached movable and immovable assets worth Rs 3.92 crore belonging to Pravat Ranjan Biswal, former Cuttack MLA and Media Guru Consultants Pvt Ltd under the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA) in a ponzy scam case.

The attached assets include bank balance of Rs 25 lakh at SBI Cuttack Branch belonging to Pravat Ranjan Biswal and one immovable property belonging to Media Guru Consultants Private Ltd. in NOIDA, Gautam Buddh Nagar, Uttar Pradesh, the ED said in a statement.

Biswal is accused of fraud-

ulent collection of deposits from the gullible public in the guise of issuance of preferential shares by enrolling the depositors as members of cooperative societies. These companies were neither registered as Non-Banking Finance Company (NBFC) with Reserve Bank of India (RBI) nor listed in National Stock Exchange of India (NSEI) and as such not authorised to collect such public deposits, it said.

Subsequently, they suddenly closed down their business and defaulted in return to depositors after maturity and failed to pay even interest on the deposits despite repeated request and approach of the depositors.

India (NSEI) and as such not authorised to collect such public deposits, it said.

Subsequently, they suddenly closed down their business and defaulted in return to depositors after maturity and failed to pay even interest on the deposits despite repeated request and approach of the depositors.

ED attaches HAL ex-GM's assets

In a separate case, the ED has provisionally attached movable as well as immovable assets worth Rs 2,39,38,681 belonging to erstwhile General Manager (Finance) of Hindustan Aeronautics Ltd (HAL) Bhaben Maitra on money laundering charges.

Others whose assets were attached include Bipra Charana Maharana, Sadananda Nayak, Jisudan Khosla, Jayaram Garada Jaganath Apat and late Urdhaba Khosla in the case of misappropriation of funds of HAL to the tune of Rs 18.75 crore.

After his apology, Adhir alleges Irani 'degraded stature' of President

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

Having tendered a written Apology for his 'rashtra-hatni' remark, Congress' leader in the Lok Sabha Adhir Ranjan Chowdhury on Saturday trained his gun at Union Minister Smriti Irani. He alleged Irani was 'yelling' the name of President Droupadi Murmu "without prefixing Madame or Smt" during her address in the House, which "amounts to degrading the stature" of the highest office of the country.

The Congress MP demanded expunging the "way Smriti Irani was addressing the Hon'ble President" from the proceedings of the House.

In a letter to Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla, Chowdhury wrote, "I may also like to point out that the manner in which Smt. Smriti Irani was taking the name of Madam President in the House was not proper and in consonance with the status and position of the President. She was yelling 'Droupadi Murmu' repeatedly without prefixing President or Madame or before the

President's name."

"This clearly amounts to degrading the stature of the office of the President. Therefore, I demand that the way Smriti Irani was addressing the President may be expunged from the proceedings of the House," he added in the letter.

Notably, Irani in Lok Sabha had said the Congress should apologise in Parliament, and on the streets of India, to every citizen of India.

"Sonja Gandhi, you sanctioned the humiliation of

Droupadi Murmu. Sonja ji sanctioned the humiliation of a woman in the highest constitutional post. Sonja ji sanctioned the humiliation of a poor woman who ascends to the highest Office in this country. You sanctioned the insult of every Indian citizen. You through your male Congress workers and leaders continue to demean the Office of the President of India. Apologise to the nation. Sonja Gandhi, apologise to the tribal, poor and woman of the country," she had said in the Lok Sabha.

Cong asks BJP leadership to apologise for crimes against women in NE States

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

The Congress on Saturday asked the BJP's top leadership to apologise to the country over the alleged involvement of party functionaries in crimes against women in the north-eastern states of Meghalaya and Arunachal Pradesh.

"You asked for an apology from Sonja Gandhi but I ask you to apologise to the nation. BJP chief JP Nadda, Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman should apologise, Home Minister Amit Shah should apologise and Minister Smriti Irani should apologise. Under

you, your lawmakers and leaders are violating our girls and trading them," Congress spokesperson Ajay Kumar said at the AICC Press conference.

The comments came a day after the BJP demanded an apology from party chief Sonia Gandhi for allegedly misbehaving with Irani in Parliament. The BJP also demanded an apology from Congress MP Adhir Ranjan Chowdhury over his alleged slip of tongue over President of India Droupadi Murmu.

Citing the recent Meghalaya sex racket case, Ajay Kumar said that on July 22 in the outskirts of Tura West Garo Hills district, 73 people

including 23 women were arrested and five children including a minor girl were rescued after a raid by the police in the farmhouse of the state BJP vice president Bernard Marak. Kumar alleged Marak has a history of charges lodged against him 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.

"This person was the self-styled chairman of the militant outfit, Achik National Volunteer Council (ANVC-B), but even after the disbandment

of the outfit, he had been indulging in criminal activities like extortion from traders of Tura market, criminal intimidation in case of refusal to pay extortion money, arms smuggling, prostitution, illegal sale of liquor, illegal sale of lottery tickets, encroachment on others' property, illegal collection of money for recommending issue of TNT license, etc. the Meghalaya police has claimed," he said.

"But the BJP has termed the move as part of a political vendetta by the National Peoples' Party-led government in the state of which the saffron party is a minor partner," said the former Lok Sabha MP.

PM urges States, UTs to clear pending power dues

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Stressing that health of power sector was not a matter of "politics", Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Saturday urged States and Union Territories to clear pending power dues "as soon as possible."

The Prime Minister asserted that in politics people should have "courage to tell the truth" and sought states to avoid "postponing" it which he said has led the power sector in many states into "huge problems."

Modi was addressing the gathering at the Grand Finale marking the culmination of 'Ujjwal Bharat Ujjwal Bhavishya - Power @2047' via video conferencing.

"This strategy may sound like good politics in the short term. But it is like postponing today's truth, today's challenges, for tomorrow, for our children, and for our future generations.

"This thinking of avoiding solutions to today's problems and leaving them for the future is not good for the country. This thought process has pushed the power sector in many states into huge problems," he said.

During the programme, the PM launched the Revamped Distribution Sector Scheme. He also dedicated and laid the foundation stone



of various green energy projects of NTPC and launched the National Solar rooftop portal.

He wondered if the common man could pay his electricity dues regularly, why was it that some states failed in paying theirs to the discoms. "People will be surprised to know that different states have outstanding dues of more than Rs 1 lakh crore," he revealed.

The Prime Minister said losses in our distribution sector are in double digits whereas in the developed countries of the world it is in single digit.

"This means that we have a lot of wastage of electricity and therefore we have to generate more electricity than we need to meet the demand for electricity Modi said.

He said there is a lack of investment in reducing distri-

bution and transmission losses in many states. "They have to give this money to power generation companies. Power distribution companies are owed more than Rs 60,000 crore from many government departments, and local bodies," said Modi.

He said that these companies are not able to get even the money that has been committed for subsidy on electricity in different states on time and in full.

"This arrear is also more than Rs 75,000 crore. Those responsible for activities ranging from the generation of electricity to the door-to-door delivery, their about two and a half lakh crore rupees are trapped," he said.

The Prime Minister requested the states whose dues are pending, to clear

them "as soon as possible."

He said also, "honestly consider the reasons that even when the countrymen pay their electricity bills honestly, why do some states have arrears again and again?"

Modi said this is not a matter of 'Rajniti' (politics) but pertains to 'Rashtra Niti' and nation building, he said.

He ended by reminding the stakeholders that the health of the electricity sector is everyone's responsibility.

During the function, Prime Minister reminded that work on two big green hydrogen projects in Ladakh and Gujarat is starting today.

The plant being set up in Ladakh will produce green hydrogen for vehicles in the country.

This will be the first project in the country which will

make commercial use of green hydrogen-based transport possible.

Ladakh very soon will be the first place in the country where fuel cell electric vehicles will start to ply. This will help in making Ladakh a carbon-neutral region, he said.

The Prime Minister informed that in the last 8 years, about 1,70,000 MW of electricity generation capacity has been added in the country. One Nation One Power Grid has become the strength of the country today.

About 1,70,000 circuit kilometre transmission lines have been laid to connect the entire country.

Furthermore, by giving 3 crore connections under the Saubhagya Scheme, we are also nearing the saturation goal, he said.

WHO releases new guidelines for CAB-LA use for HIV



PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

The World Health Organisation (WHO) has released new guidelines for the use of long-acting injectable cabotegravir (CAB-LA) as pre-exposure prophylaxis (PrEP) for HIV and called for countries to consider this safe and highly effective prevention option for people at substantial risk of HIV infection.

CAB-LA is an intramuscular injectable, long-acting form of PrEP, with the first 2 injections administered 4 weeks apart, followed thereafter by an injection every 8 weeks. CAB-LA was shown to be safe and highly effective among cisgender women, transgender men who have sex with men, and transgender women who have sex with men in 2 randomized controlled trials.

The guidelines, released ahead of the 24th International AIDS Conference (AIDS 2022), will support countries as they plan for CAB-LA introduction as part of a comprehensive approach to HIV prevention and will facilitate urgently needed operational research.

Centre all set to launch 'Heal in India and Heal by India'

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

The Government is all set to launch a mega plan, 'Heal In India and Heal by India' that aims to help the medical professionals exploit the immense potential offered by the sector.

"This is part of India's health vision for the next 25 years, as desired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, which has been framed after intense deliberations," Union Health Minister Mansukh Mandaviya said here on Saturday while delivering the presidential address at the 4th foundation day cum 21st convocation day of the Atal Bihari Vajpayee Institute of Medical Sciences (ABVIMS) and Dr Ram Manohar Lohia Hospital.

Sources in the Ministry said that the new initiative developed under the Ayushman Bharat Digital Mission, is likely to be announced by Prime Minister Narendra Modi on August 15.

Mandaviya said that under the plan 'Heal in India', services of best doctors will be utilised for the treatment of foreigners who are coming in large num-



bers in the country. "We have the best doctors and an affordable and quality healthcare system. It will provide a huge health opportunity to health professionals under the 'Heal in India' plan. Similarly, under the 'Heal by India' plan, we have a unique vision of how to provide opportunity to our doctors at the global level where they are in huge demand," said the Minister.

A total of 172 medical students of batch 2018-2021 received their degrees and certificates followed by 24 students who received gold medals with certificates of merit and another 6 students who received certification of merit.

Blow to Sunak campaign as former candidate backs rival for UK PM

PTI ■ LONDON

Rishi Sunak's campaign to be Relected the Conservative Party leader and the next British Prime Minister suffered a blow on Saturday as a former candidate endorsed his rival Foreign Secretary Liz Truss.

Tom Tugendhat, the Tory backbencher and chair of the Commons Foreign Affairs

Committee who was in the initial shortlist before being knocked out of the race earlier this month, said he preferred Truss' campaign pitch with its promise of immediate tax cuts.

The former soldier in the British Army said that after watching the candidates go head-to-head in live TV debates, "only one has convinced me she's ready". "Liz has always stood up for British val-

ues at home, and abroad. With her at the helm, I have no doubt that we will move with determination to make this country safer and more secure," he writes in 'The Times' newspaper.

He said both contenders have "huge qualities and many talents" but Truss has an advantage on the world stage because of her Cabinet position. "As foreign secretary, Liz



is starting with a huge advantage. She can make our voice count," he writes. It follows the endorsement of another Tory heavyweight Defence Secretary Ben Wallace, who also threw his support behind Truss - describing her as "authentic, honest and experienced".

Sunak was initially the frontrunner in the race in the ballots of his party colleagues, winning the most support

from MPs in the first few rounds of voting. But since then, polling among the Tory membership that will vote for the winner has shown Truss is more popular.

According to another report in 'The Times', even Sunak's former boss is feeling sorry for him. He told friends he did not think that Sunak, the man he blames for his downfall, was going to make it.

"He almost feels sorry for him," a friend of Johnson's was quoted as saying. "[Rishi] got in with a crowd of malcontents who used him as part of their vendetta against Boris. What future is there for him now?" it said. The two finalists are next scheduled to go head-to-head in the TV debate on Thursday, when the first postal ballot papers will start landing at Tory members' addresses.

China announces military exercise off Taiwan coast

AP ■ BEIJING

China said it was conducting military exercises on Saturday off its coast opposite Taiwan after warning Speaker Nancy Pelosi of the US House of Representatives to scrap possible plans to visit the island democracy, which Beijing claims as part of its territory.

The ruling Communist Party's military wing, the People's Liberation Army, was conducting "live-fire exercises" near the Pingtan islands off Fujian province from 8 a.m. To 9 p.m., the official Xinhua News Agency said. The Maritime Safety Administration warned ships to avoid the area.

Such exercises usually involve artillery. The one-sentence announcement gave no indication whether Saturday's exercise also might include missiles, fighter planes or other weapons. Pelosi, who would be the highest-ranking American elected official to visit Taiwan since 1997, has yet to confirm



whether she will go. President Xi Jinping warned his U.S. Counterpart, Joe Biden, in a phone call Thursday against "external interference" in Beijing's dealings with the island.

China says Taiwan has no right to conduct foreign relations. It sees visits by American officials as encouragement for the island to make its decades-old de facto independence official.

The Ministry of Defence warned Washington this week not to allow Pelosi, who is Biden's equal in rank as leader

of one of three branches of government, to visit Taiwan. A spokesman said the PLA would take unspecified "strong measures" to stop pro-independence activity.

The PLA has flown growing numbers of fighter planes and bombers near Taiwan and has in past fired missiles into shipping lanes to island. Taiwan and China split in 1949 after a civil war that ended with a communist victory on mainland. The two governments say they are one country but disagree over which is entitled to national leadership.

US House passes Bill to ban assault weapons

AFP ■ WASHINGTON

The US House of Representatives, spurred by a series of horrific mass shootings, has passed a bill that would ban assault weapons for the first time in decades.

The legislation was approved by a 217 to 213 vote in the Democratic-majority House and now goes to the Senate — where it is likely doomed to fail. Gun reform remains deeply divisive in the United States — despite the deadly scourge of mass shootings — with only two Republicans joining Democrats to back the assault weapons ban in the House. In the 100-mem-

ber Senate, Democrats have just 50 seats and 10 Republican votes are needed to bring a measure to floor for consideration. Congress passed a 10-year ban on assault rifles and certain high-capacity magazines in 1994 but lawmakers let it expire in 2004 and sales of the weapons have soared since then.

Democratic House Speaker Nancy Pelosi called the latest bill a "crucial step in our ongoing fight against the deadly epidemic of gun violence in our nation. "It would ban the sale, import, manufacture or transfer of certain semi-automatic weapons such as those used in recent mass shootings in



Buffalo, New York, Uvalde, Texas, and Highland Park, Illinois. An avowed white supremacist shot dead 10 African Americans at a supermarket in Buffalo in

May. Nineteen schoolchildren and two teachers were killed by an 18-year-old man at an elementary school in Uvalde that same month and seven people were shot dead at a July 4

parade in Highland Park. After the Uvalde massacre, President Joe Biden appealed to lawmakers to again ban assault rifles or at least raise the minimum age for buying them from 18 to 21.

But Republican lawmakers, who see such a restriction as going against the constitutional right to bear arms, have refused to go along.

In a statement, Biden said "40,000 Americans die from gunshot wounds every year and guns have become the top killer of children in the United States." "We know an assault weapons and large-capacity magazine ban will save lives," he said.

11 killed, 5 hurt in train, bus accident in Bangladesh

PTI ■ DHAKA

At least 11 people, including seven students, were killed when a minibus they were travelling in was hit by a train at an unmanned level crossing in Bangladesh's Chittagong district, according to a media report.

The accident happened on Friday in Mirsharai Upazila where the minibus carrying students and the teachers of a coaching centre was hit by the Dhaka-bound Provati Express train, the Dhaka Tribune reported on Friday.

Kabir Hossain, officer-in-charge (OC) of Mirsharai police station, said that among the deceased seven were students of almost the same age and four of them were teachers. "The express rammed into the microbus, dragging it several hundred metres down the railway track. Among the microbus passengers, 11 were killed on the spot while the rest five were badly injured in the incident," he said.

Anisur Rahman, deputy director of the Chittagong Divisional Office of Fire Service, said the bodies of the deceased were recovered from the scene and later in the evening handed over to the family members.

Russian attacks hit Kharkiv, Mykolaiv, says Ukraine

AP ■ KYIV

Russia launched nighttime attacks on several cities in Ukraine, Ukrainian officials said Saturday as they and officials in Moscow blamed each other for the deaths of dozens of Ukrainian prisoners of war in a separatist-controlled area of the country's east.

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy said the United Nations and the International Committee of the Red Cross have a duty to react after shelling of a prison complex in Donetsk province killed the POWs.

"It was a deliberate Russian war crime, a deliberate mass murder of Ukrainian prisoners of war," Zelenskyy said in a video address late Friday. "There should be a clear legal recognition of Russia as a state sponsor of terrorism."

Both sides alleged the attack on the prison was premeditated and intended to silence the Ukrainian prisoners and to destroy evidence, including of possible atrocities.

Russia claimed Ukraine's military used U.S.-supplied precision rocket launchers to target the prison in Olenivka, a settlement controlled by the Moscow-backed Donetsk People's Republic. Separatist



authorities and Russian officials said the attack killed 53 Ukrainian POWs and wounded another 75. The International Committee of the Red Cross, which has organized civilian evacuations in the war and worked to monitor the treatment of POWs held by Russia and Ukraine, said it has requested access to the prison "to determine the health and condition of all the people present on-site at the time of the attack."

"Our priority right now is making sure that the wounded receive life-saving treatment and that the bodies of those who lost their lives are dealt with in a dignified manner," the Red Cross said in a statement.

Elsewhere in eastern Ukraine, Russian rockets hit a school building in Kharkiv, the country's second-largest city, overnight, and another attack occurred about an hour later, Mayor Ihor Terekhov said Saturday.

Blinken off to Asia, Africa as Russia, China tensions rise

AP ■ WASHINGTON

Secretary of State Antony Blinken is headed to Asia and Africa, the State Department said Friday, as the US and rivals China and Russia intensify their battle for global influence amid deepening divisions over Taiwan and Russia's war in Ukraine.

Blinken will begin a five-nation tour of the two continents next week, starting in Cambodia where he will attend a Southeast Asian regional security forum at which both the Chinese and Russian foreign ministers are also expected to attend. Blinken will then visit the Philippines, South Africa, the Democratic Republic of Congo and Rwanda.

Ranil invites Lankan parties to form national Govt to tide over crisis

PTI ■ COLOMBO

Sri Lankan President Ranil Wickremesinghe has written to members of Parliament, inviting them to form an all-party national Government to help the bankrupt country to recover from the worst economic crisis.

"The Government is currently engaged in great efforts to gradually restore normalcy to the political and social unrest created by the economic crisis that the country is facing today," Wickremesinghe said in letter on Friday. "Accordingly, initial plans required to implement a systematic economic programme are being formulated while preliminary measures are also being undertaken for the creation of economic stability," he added.

Wickremesinghe said a programme could only be implemented with the participation of all political parties represented in Parliament, expert groups and civil society. He also proposed to start a dialogue with parties on the reintroduction of the 19th Amendment to the Constitution. The 19A adopted in 2015 pruned presidential powers by empowering Parliament above the executive president. Wickremesinghe was the main sponsor of the 19th Amendment in 2015.

However, the 19A was scrapped after Gotabaya Rajapaksa won the November 2019 presidential election.

Sri Lankan MPs on July 20 elected Wickremesinghe as the country's new president, with the majority of the vote coming from lawmakers representing ousted President Rajapaksa's Sri Lanka Podujana Peramuna (SLPP) party. There were only two non-SLPP lawmakers in the Cabinet appointment on Friday. Constitutionally, the Cabinet can be extended up to 30 members. The 73-year-old President was appointed for the rest of the term of Rajapaksa who initially fled to the Maldives and then to Singapore.

Rajapaksa is accused of mishandling the economic crisis, the worst since 1948. Wickremesinghe was appointed prime minister by Rajapaksa in mid-May. He was tasked with reviving the economy by giving early solutions to fuel, cooking gas and power shortage problems, which triggered mass agitations against Rajapaksa. The government declared bankruptcy in mid-April by refusing to honour its international debt.



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Pope: Canadian residential schools cultural genocide

AP ■ ABOARD THE PAPAL PLANE

Pope Francis agreed Saturday that the attempt to eliminate Indigenous culture in Canada through a church-run residential school system amounted to a cultural "genocide."

Speaking to reporters while en route home from Canada, Francis said he didn't use the term during his trip to atone for the Catholic Church's role in the schools because it never came to mind.

Canada's Truth and Reconciliation Commission determined in 2015 that the forced removal of Indigenous children from their homes and placement in the residential schools to assimilate them constituted a "cultural genocide." Some 150,000 children from the late 1800s to the 1970s were subject to the forced assimilation policy, aimed at making them fully Christian and Canadian. Physical and sexual abuse were rampant at the schools, and children were beaten for speaking their Native languages.

"It's true I didn't use the word because it didn't come to mind, but I described genocide, no?" Francis said. "I apologized, I asked forgiveness for this work, which was genocide." Francis said he repeatedly condemned the system that severed family ties and attempted to impose new cultural beliefs as "catastrophic" to generations of Indigenous peoples.

In the main apology of his Canada trip, delivered Monday, Francis spoke of "cultural destruction," but he didn't use the term "cultural genocide" as some school survivors had hoped and expected.

PUBLIC NOTICE

It is to notify to the Public that Mr. Puneet Bhassin S/o Sh. Nand Kumar Bhassin and Mrs. Vipra Bhassin W/o Mr. Puneet Bhassin both R/o B-328, First Floor, New Friends Colony, New Delhi-110025, who are present owner of Flat No.06221, Tower-6, on 22nd Floor in ATS One Hamlet, Plot No.GH-01, Sector-104, Noida Gautam Buddha Nagar U.P. have lost original GPA dated 25.01.2016 If the above said original GPA are found please contact Mr. Puneet Bhassin S/o Sh. Nand Kumar Bhassin R/o B-328, First Floor, New Friends Colony, New Delhi-110025

PUBLIC NOTICE

My Clients **Chaman Lal S/o Mansukh Ram & his wife Rajshree W/o Chaman Lal R/o A-4/124,1st Floor,Janta Flat, Paschim Vihar, ND-63** have debarred & disowned their Son **Nitin & his Vandana** from their movable and immovable properties due to their misbehavior to my clients. My Clients have also severed all their relation with them. If anybody deals with them in any manner they do so at their own risk & responsibility.

Ramesh Chander (Adv), Chamber-68, Western Wing, Tis Hazari Court, Delhi

PUBLIC NOTICE

Notice is hereby given to general public at large that my client Mrs. Sarla Devi, having one of its Branch at B-1/653, 2nd Floor, Opposite Metro Pillar No. 566, Janakpuri, New Delhi-110058 intends to grant loan facility to Sh. Narresh Sahra against security of Ground Floor including underwritten privileges in the land underwritten in the land underwritten along with the rights to passage, easement and benefits. Built-up on Plot bearing No. 9A, road No. L-27, having land area measuring 264.075 Sq. Mtrs. i.e 315.83 Sq.Yds. situated in the residential colony known as DLF Outpost Enclave Complex, DLF City Phase-II, Gurgaon, at Village Samhal, Tehsil & Distt. Gurgaon (Haryana)-122002 (hereinafter referred to as "Said Property"). I, Smt. Rachna Dubey W/o Sh. Gaurav Dubey & Sh. Gaurav Dubey W/o Sh. Deepak Dubey are the recorded co-owner(s) of the Said Property by virtue of Sale Deed duly registered as Document no. 2903 on 02.05.2013, with Sub-Registrar Gurgaon (Haryana). Thereafter, Smt. Rachana Dubey W/o Sh. Gaurav Dubey died intestate on 08.03.2017 leaving behind the following legal heirs on the basis of Surviving Member Certificate No. 905600021240 dated 13.10.2017, viz-a-viz Ms. Shanmohini Dubey & Sh. Gaurav Dubey who claims to be the Joint-Owners of 1/5 Undivided Share of the Said Property by virtue of Hindu Succession Law. Any person(s) has/have any objection(s) or claim(s) with respect to right, title or interest in the said property in any manner whatsoever, must immediately contact the undersigned in writing along with all supporting documents in respect of their claim(s)/objection(s). If no such claim is received with in a period of 10 days from the date of publication of this notice, then it will be presumed that no one has any paramount right, title or interest in the said property and even if someone has any claim/objection, he/she they have given up the same.

Himanshu Ahuja (Advocate)
Contact No: 9810310373, 011-41830049
E-mail address: alolegals@gmail.com

PUBLIC NOTICE

This is to inform to all concern that Mrs. Dharam Devi Chawla W/o Late Sh. R. K Chawla R/o House No. D-160, Sector-27, Noida, Distt. Gautam Budh Nagar, (U.P.) who is the original allottee of property No. Plot No. D-160, Sector-27, Noida (U.P.) That my mother executed a WILL in my favour i.e., Mr. Ravinder Chawla S/o Late Sh. R. K Chawla R/o House No. D-160, Sector-27, Noida, Distt. Gautam Budh Nagar, (U.P.) which is registered in Sub Registrar-II, Noida on dated 25-02-2003. So it is informed to all concern that the said Plot No. D-160, Sector-27, Noida (U.P.) is going to be transferred in favour of Mr. Ravinder Chawla S/o Late Sh. R. K Chawla R/o House No. D-160, Sector-27, Noida, Distt. Gautam Budh Nagar, (U.P.) If any one has/have any objection he/she may file his/her objection alongwith the sufficient proof in the Residential Department of the Noida Authority within 30 days from the date of publication of this notice.

Ravinder Chawla

Iraqi security forces clash with followers of cleric

AP ■ BAGHDAD

Iraqi security forces hurled gas canisters and used sound bombs to disperse the thousands of Iraqi demonstrators, the followers of an influential cleric, in the heavily fortified government zone of the capital on Saturday.

One by one, demonstrators used ropes to pull down cement barricades leading to the gate of Iraq's Green Zone, which houses official buildings and foreign embassies.

They had come to protest the formation of the next government by Iran-backed parties. Security forces used gas canisters and sound bombs to repel the protesters as they approached the parliament building. Journalists for The Associated Press saw several people injured. A regular parliament session was expected. "We came today to remove the

corrupt political class and prevent them from holding a parliament session, and to prevent the Framework from forming a government," said Raad Thabet, 41.

"We responded to al-Sadr's call. We will go to the Green (Zone). No matter the cost." The protesters are followers of influential Shiite cleric Muqtada al-Sadr, who called for the demonstrations against the formation of the next government by Iran-backed political groups.

Al-Sadr's party exited government formation talks in June, giving his rivals in the Coordination Framework alliance the majority they needed to move forward with the process. Many protesters wore black to mark the days leading to Ashura, which commemorates death of Imam Hussein, the grandson of the Prophet Mohamed and one of Shiite Islam's most important figures.

Spain reports 2nd death from monkeypox

AP ■ MADRID

Spain has reported a second death in as many days from monkeypox, its health ministry said Saturday.

These are believed to be the first confirmed deaths from monkeypox since its outbreak in the European Union. The ministry gave no details on the deceased. It reported its first death from the disease on Friday.

The global monkeypox outbreak has seen more than 21,000 cases in nearly 80 countries since May. There have been 75 suspected deaths in Africa, mostly in Nigeria and Congo, where a more lethal form of monkeypox is spreading than in the West. Brazil also reported a death linked to monkeypox on Friday. On



Health authorities are administering 5,300 vaccines that Spain received from the joint EU vaccine purchase scheme. Health workers say that's far fewer than the number needed to cover the at-risk groups.

Monkeypox has been endemic to parts of Africa for decades. Its leap to Europe and North America was linked by experts to two raves in Belgium and Spain.

It spreads mainly through skin-to-skin contact, but it can also be transmitted through bed sheets used by someone with monkeypox. Symptoms include fever, body aches, chills, fatigue and hives. The illness has been relatively mild in many men. But people can be contagious for weeks, and the lesions can be extremely painful.

कार्यालय नगर निगम, देहरादून

का०-0135-02714074: फ़ैक्स-0135-2651060: ई-मेल-(nagamnigam.ddn@gmail.com)

पत्रांक:-1175(H) दिनांक:- 30.07.2022

नगर निगम क्षेत्रान्तर्गत स्थित बुद्धा चौक से घन्टाघर, दिलाराम चौक, नैनी बेकरी चौक किशनपुर तक तथा हरिद्वार बाईपास दीप नगर चौक से शास्त्रीनगर दाल तक रोड डिजाईन्डर के मध्य स्थित डेकोरेटिव विद्युत पोलों पर दिनांक 01.09.2022 से दिनांक 31.08.2024 तक 02 वर्ष के लिये पोल क्यूबक के माध्यम से विज्ञापन प्रदर्शित किये जाने हेतु निविदा प्रकाशन की तिथि से दिनांक 20.08.2022 की अपराह्न 2.00 बजे तक ई० निविदायें आमंत्रित की जाती है। निविदा का विवरण निम्नानुसार है:-

कार्य का नाम	डेकोरेटिव पोलों की सं०	नगर निगम द्वारा आरक्षित निविदा धनराशि
बुद्धा चौक से घन्टाघर, घन्टाघर से किशनपुर मसूरी डाईवर्जन तक, बहल चौक से नैनी बेकरी चौक तक तथा हरिद्वारबाईपास दीप नगर चौक से शास्त्रीनगर दाल तक डेकोरेटिव स्ट्रीट लाइट पोल।	304	रुपये 1,97,83,863 /-

उक्त निविदा सम्बन्धी प्री-बिड बैठक दिनांक 10.08.2022 को आहूत की गयी है। तकनीकी एवं वित्तीय निविदाओं सम्बन्धी समस्त दस्तावेजों को दिनांक 20.08.2022 तक www.uktender.gov.in पर उपलब्ध कराना अनिवार्य होगा तकनीकी निविदायें दिनांक 20.08.2022 को सां० 4.00 बजे गठित निविदा समिति के सम्म खोली जायेगी। निविदा की राशें तथा निविदा सम्बन्धी सम्पूर्ण विवरण नगर निगम की वेबसाईट www.nagamnigamdehradun.com पर भी उपलब्ध है तथा ई० निविदा www.uktender.gov.in पर उपलब्ध करायी जायेगी।

नगर आयुक्त, नगर निगम, देहरादून

5G SPECTRUM

Enters 5th day; 71% spectrum on block sold in first 4 days

New Delhi: Auctions for 5G spectrum continued for the fifth day on Saturday, after fetching bids worth ₹1,49,855 crore from players such as Reliance Jio and Bharti Airtel so far.

Continued interest for radiowaves has led to stretching of the auction to Saturday, and according to sources, 24th round of bidding is underway.

About 71 per cent of the total spectrum put on the block has been provisionally sold so far, Telecom Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw had said on Friday, terming it a "good response."

On Friday, seven rounds of bidding took place, and incrementally ₹231.6 crore was recorded. In all, 23 rounds of bidding were conducted till Friday.

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, which offers speeds about 10 times faster than 4G, lag-free connectivity, and can enable billions of connected devices to share data in real-time.

After a flying start on



Tuesday that saw players pouring in ₹1.45 lakh crore on the first day, the numbers inched up incrementally over Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday as Jio and Airtel engaged in intense bidding in UP East circle for 1800 MHz band.

In all, 72 GHz (gigahertz) of radiowaves worth at least Rs 4.3 lakh crore is on the block. The auction is being held for spectrum in various low (600 MHz, 700 MHz, 800 MHz, 900 MHz, 1800 MHz, 2100 MHz, 2300 MHz, 2500 MHz), mid

(3300 MHz) and high (26 GHz) frequency bands.

Besides powering ultra-low latency connections, which allow downloading full-length high-quality video or movie to a mobile device in a matter of seconds (even in crowded areas), the Fifth Generation or 5G would enable solutions such as e-health, connected vehicles, more-immersive augmented reality and metaverse experiences, life-saving use cases, and advanced mobile cloud gaming, among others. **PTI**

PM urges States to clear dues of power sector companies

Launches 2 green hydrogen plants

New Delhi: Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Saturday asked the State Governments to clear power sector companies' dues which are estimated at around ₹2.5 lakh crore.

The Prime Minister regretted that the State Governments are yet to clear subsidy commitments amounting to ₹75,000 crore to power companies. About ₹2.5 lakh crore of companies engaged in electricity generation and distribution are stuck, he said while speaking at the closing function of the 'Ujjwal Bharat Ujjwal Bhavishya - Power @2047' event.

Recalling the days of power shortages, the Prime Minister said that during the last eight years, about 1,70,000 MW of electricity generation capacity has been added. Power is necessary for the development of the nation, he said, adding the country needs "Rashtraneeti" and not "Rajneeti".

India, he added, is among the top 4-5 countries of the world in terms of installed solar capacity and also has one of the world's largest solar plants.

Earlier, the Prime Minister laid the foundation stone of 735 MW Nokh solar project in Rajasthan, Green Hydrogen Mobility Project in Leh and Kawas Green Hydrogen Blending with Natural Gas project in Gujarat. **PTI**



Retail inflation for industrial workers eases to 6% in June

New Delhi: Retail inflation for industrial workers eased to 6.16 per cent in June from 6.97 per cent in May this year due to lower prices of certain food items and petrol.

"Year-on-year inflation for the month stood at 6.16 per cent compared to 6.97 per cent for the previous month (May 2022) and 5.57 per cent during the corresponding month (June 2021) a year before," a labour ministry statement said.

It said the food inflation stood at 6.73 per cent in June against 7.92 per cent in the previous month and 5.61 per cent in June 2021.

The all-India CPI-IW (consumer price index for industrial workers) for June 2022 increased by 0.2 points and stood at 129.2 points. CPI-IW was 129 points in May 2022.

The maximum upward pressure in the current index came from Food & Beverages group contributing 0.20 percentage points to the total change.

Potato, onion, tomato, cabbage, apple, banana, coriander, chilli dry, fish fresh, poultry chicken, vada, idli dosa, cooked meal, cooking gas, kerosene oil, electricity domestic etc. Were responsible for the rise in the index.



However, it said this increase was largely checked by petrol for vehicle, rice, mango, chilli green, lemon, lady finger, parwal, pineapple, soyabean oil, sunflower oil etc, putting downward pressure on the index.

The index is compiled for 88 centres and all-India and is released on the last working day of the succeeding month.

Puducherry centre recorded the maximum increase of 2.6 points followed by Amritsar and Tripura with 2.2 points and 2 points, respectively.

Total 15 centres recorded increase between 1-1.9 points,

33 centres between 0.1-0.9 points. On the contrary, Sangrur recorded a maximum decrease of 2.4 points.

Five centres recorded decrease between 1-1.9 points, 25 centres between 0.1-0.9 points.

Rest of 6 centres' indices remained stationary.

The Labour Bureau, an attached office of the Ministry of Labour & Employment, has been compiling CPI-IW every month on the basis of retail prices collected from 317 markets spread over 88 industrially important centres in the country. **PTI**

Oriental Hotels reports standalone Q1 PAT at ₹11.09 cr

Chennai: Oriental Hotels Ltd, an associate company of The Indian Hotels Company Ltd has reported its highest ever standalone profit after tax at ₹11.09 crore for the quarter ending June 30, 2022 following a resurgence in travel, the company said on Saturday.

The company had reported a standalone net loss at Rs 16.83 crore during corresponding quarter previous year.

The standalone revenue during the quarter under review surged to ₹90.57 crore, from ₹25.40 crore registered same period last year, a company statement said. The Earnings Before Interest, taxes, depreciation and Amortisation (EBIT-DA) during the April-June 2022 quarter was at Rs 26.83 crore.

Oriental Hotels Ltd, managing director and CEO, Pramod Ranjan said, "the increase in revenue is buoyed by the resurgence in travel, and

the hotels have outperformed in both, leisure and business destinations."

"This combined with robust cost optimization and monitoring measures have resulted in a strong margin expansion to 30 per cent in Q1 FY 2022-23 from 10 per cent in Q1 FY 2019-20," he said.

The occupancy at its hotels witnessed a 15 per cent point expansion and ARR (Average Room Rate) has shown a significant growth of 30 per cent the company said.

The Oriental Hotels Ltd has seven hotels including Taj Coromandel in Chennai, Taj Fishermen's Cove Resort and Spa Chennai, Taj Malabar Resort and Spa, Cochin, Vivanta, Coimbatore, The Gateway Hotel, Pasmalai, Madurai, The Gateway Hotel Old Port Road, Mangalore and Gateway Coonoor which is an IHCL SeleQtions hotel. **PTI**

Proposal to hike equity investment limit to 20% not taken up in EPFO trustees meet

New Delhi: Retirement fund body EPFO has not taken up the proposal to hike the investment limit in equities to 20 per cent from the existing 15 per cent, following demand for more deliberation from employees' representatives in its trustees' meet.

Talking to PTI, EPFO trustee Harbhajan Singh Sidhu said, "The proposal to enhance investment in equity or equity-related instruments was not taken up in the Central Board of Trustees 231st meeting on July 29 and 30".

Sidhu informed that the proposal was opposed by employees' representatives in the executive committee meeting of the Employees Provident Fund Organisation (EPFO) earlier this week.

He was of the view that there should be more detailed deliberation on the proposal before going ahead to amend the EPFO's pattern of investment to increase the allocation of investible funds in equity-

related instruments to 20 per cent from the existing 15 per cent in view of its volatile nature of the stock markets.

As per the revised agenda of the 231st CBT meeting, the proposal to hike investment in equity or related schemes was withdrawn.

At present, EPFO can invest 5 to 15 per cent of the investible deposits in equity or equity-related schemes.

The proposal to revise the limit to 20 per cent has been vetted and approved by the EPFO advisory body Finance Audit and Investment Committee (FAIC).

The recommendation of FAIC was to be taken up by the EPFO apex decision-making body CBT for consideration and approval.

Earlier this month, in a written reply to the Lok Sabha, Minister of State for Labour and Employment Rameshwar Teli had said, "FIAC, a sub-committee of CBT, EPF, has recommended

for the proposal to increase investment in equity and related investments in category IV of the Pattern of Investment from 5-15 per cent to 5-20 per cent for consideration of CBT, EPF".

The EPFO started investing in Exchange Traded Funds (ETFs) in August 2015, putting 5 per cent of its investible deposits in stock-linked products. It was raised to 15 per cent for the current fiscal.

Trade unions have been opposing any investment in stock markets by the EPFO as these are not backed by the government guarantee.

In the written reply, Teli had also said the notional return on EPFO equity-related investments rose 16.27 per cent in 2021-22 from 14.67 per cent in 2020-21.

The reply also showed that the notional rate of return on equity-related investment of the EPFO was negative at (-) 8.29 per cent in 2019-20 due to the impact of Covid-19. **PTI**

Mahindra & Mahindra receives over 1-lakh bookings for Scorpio-N SUV



Mumbai: Domestic auto major Mahindra & Mahindra has claimed that it has received over 1-lakh bookings for its all-new Scorpio-N SUV, which commenced on Saturday.

M&M Ltd launched the vehicle on June 27.

The company clocked over 1-lakh bookings within half an hour of its booking commencement on Saturday, it said in a statement.

This translates into an ex-showroom value of ₹18,000 crore, it added.

The deliveries of the vehicle are scheduled to commence on September 26. **PTI**

Shortfall in paddy sowing likely to be covered in kharif season: Tomar

New Delhi: Union Agriculture Minister Narendra Singh Tomar on Saturday said there is a possibility of covering the shortfall in paddy sowing in the ongoing kharif season.

As per the agriculture ministry's latest data, area sown to paddy was down by 35.46 lakh hectare at 231.59 lakh hectare till June 29 of the ongoing kharif season, when compared to 267.05 lakh hectare in the year-ago period.

The paddy sowing is down so far but there is a possibility to cover the shortfall, Tomar told PTI.

The paddy coverage is reported to be down in West Bengal (by 10.62 lakh hectare), Uttar Pradesh (6.68 lakh hectare), Bihar (5.61 lakh hectare), Jharkhand (4.72 lakh hectare), Telangana (4.06 lakh hectare) so far this kharif season, the data showed.

The lower coverage under paddy has been reported in

Odisha, Chhattisgarh, Tripura and Assam as well.

Paddy is the main kharif (summer) crop and more than 80 per cent of the country's total rice production happens during this season.

Sowing of kharif crops, including paddy, begins with the onset of southwest monsoon in June. The India Meteorological Department has projected a normal southwest monsoon this year.

The country as a whole received 10 per cent higher monsoon rains between June 1 and July 27 but 15 per cent deficit was reported in east and north-east India during the same period.

Rains were deficient in Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Jharkhand, West Bengal, Mizoram and Manipur, as per IMD data.

India is the world's second largest producer and top exporter of rice. **PTI**

IDFC First Bank reports highest ever net profit at ₹474 cr in June quarter

New Delhi: IDFC First Bank on Saturday reported its highest ever net profit of ₹474 crore for the quarter ended June 2022, mainly driven by lower provisioning and higher income.

The private sector lender had posted a net loss of ₹630 crore in the year-ago quarter.

Sequentially, the net profit rose by 38.2 per cent from ₹343 crore in the March 2022 quarter.

"We have posted the highest ever profit after tax of Rs 474 crore in Q1FY23. Our return on assets has nearly touched 1 per cent and we expect it to rise from here," V Vaidyanathan, Managing Director and CEO, IDFC FIRST Bank said.

The bank's total income during the April-June period of 2022-23 also rose to ₹ 5,777.35

crore against ₹4,931.76 crore in the same period of 2021-22, IDFC First Bank said in a regulatory filing.

The core interest income grew by 20.4 per cent to ₹4,921.68 crore compared to ₹4,089.29 crore. Income from other sources was marginally up 1.6 per cent at ₹855.67 crore from ₹842.47 crore.

The asset quality of the bank showed improvement as the gross non-performing assets (NPAs) fell to 3.36 per cent of the gross advances in the June 2022 quarter against 4.61 per cent a year ago.

In absolute value, the gross NPAs (or bad loans) declined to ₹4,354.75 crore from ₹4,669.13 crore.

The net NPAs too came down to ₹1,653.82 crore (1.30 per cent) from ₹2,293.18 crore (2.32 per cent).

This helped the lender narrow down the requirement to be parked aside towards provisions and contingencies to ₹307.99 crore for the quarter compared to ₹1,872.31 crore in the year-ago period.

Core operating profit (excluding trading gains) rose 64 per cent to ₹987 crore in the June 2022 quarter, the bank said.

Among others, the bank's net interest income (interest earned minus interest expended) grew by 26 per cent to ₹2,751 crore in Q1FY23. Also, the net interest margin improved to 5.89 per cent from 5.50 per cent.

The lender said its corporate book (non-infrastructure) grew by 12 per cent to ₹23,970 crore, while infrastructure financing reduced by 35 per cent to ₹6,739 crore. **PTI**

OVL in talks to acquire stake in Tullow's \$3.5 bn project

New Delhi: ONGC Videsh Ltd, the overseas arm of state-owned Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC), and Indian Oil Corporation (IOC) are in talks to acquire a stake in Tullow Oil's Lokichar oil field in Kenya.

Kenya's Cabinet Secretary in the Ministry of Energy Monica Juma in a tweet confirmed the talks.

"Received and held a meeting with H.E. Dr. Virander Paul, Indian High Commissioner to Kenya alongside representatives from Indian Oil Corporation Limited, Mr. Hridayesh Baidnail-Executive Director Indian Oil Corporation Ltd, Mr. Sanjeev Tokhi - Executive Director - OVL," she tweeted.

Tullow also confirmed the talks. "Tullow confirms that the Ministry of Petroleum and Mines hosted a meeting with



Tullow and OVL in Nairobi as part of Tullow's ongoing process to secure a strategic investor for Project Oil Kenya. The meeting was positive and the parties agreed to hold further discussions," it said in a tweet.

Besides Tokhi of OVL and Baidnail of IOC, Tullow CEO Rahul Dhir was also present in the meeting, the pictures tweeted by the two showed. Tullow holds a 50 per cent stake in the south Lokichar field and is looking to give up operatorship in favour of a strategic partner.

TotalEnergie of France and Africa Oil Corporation holds 25 per cent each. **PTI**

Bank of Baroda Q1 profit rises 79 pc to ₹2,168 crore

New Delhi: State-owned Bank of Baroda (BoB) on Saturday posted a 79 per cent rise in net profit of ₹2,168 crore for the first quarter of the current fiscal, aided by a decline in bad loans. The lender had earned a standalone profit of ₹1,208 crore in the year-ago period.

Its total income in the first quarter of the current fiscal increased to ₹20,119.52 crore compared to ₹19,915.83 crore, according to a regulatory filing.

The lender's interest income also rose to ₹18,937.49 crore from ₹17,052.64 crore a year ago. Non-interest income during Q1 FY22 improved by 12 per cent to ₹8,838 crore, boosted by fee income that climbed 15 per cent.

However, operating profit for the quarter declined by 19 per cent to ₹4,528 crore from



₹5,707 crore a year ago.

On the asset quality front, the lender's gross non-performing assets (NPAs) improved in the June quarter to 6.26 per cent from 8.86 per cent in the year-ago period.

In absolute terms, the gross NPAs or bad loans declined to ₹52,590.83 crore at the end of

the first quarter of FY23 compared to ₹63,028.78 crore a year earlier. The net NPA too declined to 1.58 against 3.03 per cent a year ago.

As a result, provisions other than tax and contingencies for bad loans declined to ₹1,684.80 crore in the April-June FY23 against ₹4,005.40 crore in the year-ago period.

As of June this year, the Provisioning Coverage Ratio stood at 89.38 per cent while the net interest margin was stable at 3.02 per cent.

Domestic advances of the bank increased to ₹6,95,493 crore, registering a growth of 15.7 per cent.

The capital adequacy ratio (CAR) at the end of the quarter stood at 15.46 per cent with CET-1 at 12.97 per cent on a standalone basis. **PTI**

Jharkhand to have three more airports: Scindia; IndiGo starts Delhi-Deograh flight

New Delhi: Civil Aviation Minister Jyotiraditya Scindia on Saturday said the government was working on three more airports in Jharkhand, after the first direct flight between the national capital and Deoghar was flagged off.

Budget airline IndiGo will operate daily flights between Delhi and Deoghar, and the flight on Saturday was captained by BJP leader and former civil aviation minister Rajiv Pratap Rudy. IndiGo will deploy its A320

neo, the 180-seater twin turbofan engine passenger aircraft, on the route. With the new service, there will be 11 departure flights from Deoghar daily, according to an official release.

The Deoghar airport was constructed at a cost of Rs 400 crore, making it the second airport in Jharkhand after Ranchi.

"We are also working on three more airports in Jharkhand -- Bokaro, Jamshepur and Dumka -- taking the total number of air-

ports in Jharkhand to 5. We have announced 14 new routes connecting Jharkhand," Scindia said in the release.

Out of the 14 routes, flights from Kolkata and Delhi to Deoghar have commenced. In the coming days, Deoghar will be connected with Ranchi and Patna.

"Along with this, we will connect Dumka with Ranchi and Kolkata. Bokaro airport once completed will be connected with Patna and Kolkata," the minister said. **PTI**

"Baba Baidya Nath Dham in Deoghar is an international religious heritage, and it gives me immense pleasure to state that my ministry has helped millions of pilgrims to visit Deoghar..." he added.

Under the regional air connectivity scheme UDAN, as many as 425 routes, 68 airports, heliports and waterdromes have been operationalised.

On Saturday, the flight to Deoghar was virtually flagged off by Scindia and Minister of State for Civil Aviation V K Singh (Retd). **PTI**

Cholamandalam Investment and Finance reports Q1 standalone profit at ₹565.66 cr

Chennai: Cholamandalam Investment and Finance Company Ltd has reported a standalone profit for the quarter ending June 30, 2022 at Rs 565.66 crore, the company said on Saturday.

The city-based company had registered standalone profit at ₹326.80 crore during corresponding quarter previous year.

For the year ending March 31, 2022 standalone profit was at ₹2,146.71 crore.

The standalone total income during the quarter

under review grew to ₹2,770.93 crore from ₹2,478.21 crore registered same quarter last year. For the year ending March 31, 2022 standalone total income stood at ₹10,138.77 crore.

In a statement, the company said consumer confidence continued to improve with the economy growing at 14-15 per cent in Q1 in spite of the higher than expected inflation and tightening of monetary policy by the Reserve Bank.

Aggregate disbursements

in Q1 were at ₹13,329 crore as against ₹3,635 crore registered in same period last year which was impacted due to Covid-19 second wave, resulting in lower disbursements and profitability.

Vehicle finance disbursements were at ₹8,562 crore during the quarter under review as against ₹2,846 crore registered corresponding quarter previous year. Loan against property including affordable segment disbursed ₹2,169 crore in Q1 FY 2023 as compared to ₹386 crore registered same period last year. **PTI**

Digital healthcare launches surgery care facilities

New Delhi: Digital healthcare platform MediBuddy on Saturday announced the launch of Surgery Care services in 60+ elective procedures across its partnered hospitals covering all the major cities, thereby expanding its ever-growing and vast array of digital healthcare services. Satish Kannan, co-founder and CEO, MediBuddy, said, "The launch of Surgery Care is a significant step in providing comprehensive medical solutions all under one roof."

LIFTER SANKET SARGAR WINS SILVER TO OPEN INDIA'S ACCOUNT

PTI ■ BIRMINGHAM

Partially fulfilling the promise he made to himself four years back, young weightlifter Sanket Sargar won a silver medal in men's 55kg category, putting India on the medal tally at the Commonwealth Games here Saturday. He targetted a gold medal but injured his right elbow while attempting to lift 139kg in clean and jerk to eventually settle for a second place. The 21-year-old managed a total of 248kg (113kg+135kg) to finish just one kilogram behind Malaysia's Mohamad Aniq, who smashed the Games record in clean and jerk as he lifted 249kg (107kg+142kg) to win the gold.

Sri Lanka's Dilanka Isuru Kumara 225kg (105kg+120kg) took home the bronze.

Someone who was managing a paan shop with his father in Sangli, Maharashtra it indeed is a feat to cherish. Life has thrown challenges at him and he accepted them with grace and found a way to overcome

them with sheer dedication. "There were no errors committed during the lift. I felt a sudden load on my right elbow so I couldn't control it and there were two clicks I heard," Sargar said at the mixed zone.

"In training, I lift 143kgs. I had to go for it as there was a gold at stake. I am not happy with myself because I have been training for the last four years only for the gold.

"I am a bit happy but mostly feel I could have done better. I did not take the risk to go beyond my national record because completing a lift is important as well," Sargar said he had to take the risk of lifting 139kg as a "gold was on offer".

"Before the last lift, sir (coach Vijay Sharma) asked me whether I wanted to go ahead. He tried to stop me at first but later encouraged me. I lift more than this in practise."

Prime Minister Narendra Modi congratulated the young athlete.

"Exceptional effort by Sanket Sargar! His bagging the



prestigious Silver is a great start for India at the Commonwealth Games. Congratulations to him and best wishes for all future endeavours," Modi tweeted.

The lifter said he would undergo scans to know the extent of his injury.

"I will go for X-ray after the dope samples were collected

and the actual status will be known. Currently I'm in a lot of pain, please let me go fast," he pleaded at the Indian scribes.

"I want to dedicate this medal to all the freedom fighters who didn't care for their lives and gave us independence," said Sargar who became the second Commonwealth medalist from Sangli after

wrestler Bharti Mane.

"Yes people would be happy back home but I'm disappointed of losing out on a gold. Hope to come back stronger," he added.

The three-time national champion opened up a huge gap with his second lift in snatch and virtually sealed it in his third attempt when he

equalled his personal best of 113kg.

At the break, Sargar had the pole position with a lead of six kilograms.

He climbed to the lead spot when he lifted more than double his weight (111kg) in his second attempt, as the Kasdan fell behind.

But the Indian was only able to execute one lift in the clean and jerk section as he looked in agony after he failed to lift 139kg in his second attempt.

The third attempt was worse. He could not even hold for more than one second as he had a brief fall with his right knee, failing to take the load.

In the last edition, Indian lifters brought home a rich haul of nine medals including five golds. This year too they are expected to reign supreme.

Later in the day, P Gururaja (61kg), Olympic silver medalist Mirabai Chanu (49kg) and S Bindyarani Devi (55kg) will vie for the top honours in their respective events.



Gururaja Poojary wins bronze in men's 61kg category weightlifting

PTI ■ BIRMINGHAM

Weightlifter Gururaja Poojary clinched a bronze medal in the men's 61kg category at the Commonwealth Games, adding to India's tally here on Saturday.

Gururaja, a silver medallist at the 2018 CWG at Gold Coast, lifted a total of 269kg (118kg+151kg) to finish in the third place.

Malaysia's Aznil Bin Bidin Muhamad grabbed the gold medal with a Games record lift of 285kg (127+158). Morea Baru of Papua New Guinea bagged the silver with a total lift of 273kg (121+152). It was India's second medal at the ongoing edition of the Games after Sanket Sagar won a silver in the men's 55kg category.



India steamroll Sri Lanka 5-0, qualify for knockouts in mixed team badminton

PTI ■ BIRMINGHAM

Indian shuttlers dished out another splendid show to outclass Sri Lanka 5-0 in their second group A match of the mixed team competition at the 22nd Commonwealth Games here on Saturday.

India were by far the better team on display as they completely dominated the proceedings at the Arena Birmingham.

A day after blanking Pakistan 5-0, India notched up another convincing win to go top of group A and qualify for the quarterfinals with one tie still remaining in the league stage of the competition.

India made a strategic decision to split the mixed and men's doubles pairing as Ashwini Ponnappa and Satwiksairaj Rankireddy were back together for the opening match.

The former world number 19 pair looked rusty initially

before getting past Sachin Dias and Thilini Hendahewa 21-14 21-9 to put India 1-0 ahead.

World Championships bronze medallist Lakshya Sen, who is playing his first match after recovering from a shoulder injury, prevailed 21-18 21-5 over veteran Niluka Karunaratne, who has competed at the Olympics in 2012, 2016 and 2020. Akarshi Kashyap, who had made it to the team after topping the selection trials in April, went past Vidara Suhasni Vidanage 21-3 21-9 in the women's singles to hand India an unassailable 3-0 lead.

While the opening game was a walk in the park, Kashyap was briefly troubled by the Sri Lankan in the second game before she found her bearing to zoom ahead. One half of the mixed doubles pair, B Sumeeth Reddy then combined with Chirag Shetty to beat Dumindu Abeywickrama and Sachin Dias 21-10 21-13 to make it 4-0.

Nataraj books final berth in men's 100m backstroke, Kushagra finishes last

PTI ■ BIRMINGHAM

Indian swimmer Srihari Nataraj has qualified for the finals of men's 100m backstroke after clocking 54:55 seconds in the semi-final of the ongoing Commonwealth Games here.

The 21-year-old finished fourth in his heat and seventh overall to secure a berth in the medal round that will take place on Sunday.

South African Pieter Coetzee, however, was the fastest swimmer across both the semi-finals, clocking 53.67s on day one of the competition.

The Bengaluru swimmer will now set his sights on becoming only the second Indian swimmer to bag a medal in the Commonwealth Games since Prasanta Karmakar's historic bronze in the para-swimming event at the Delhi CWG in 2010.

At the Tokyo Olympics last year, Nataraj had become the first Indian to swim in the classification A heat. The young swimmer had clocked 54:31s to finish 27th in the men's 100m backstroke event.

On Saturday, Kushagra Rawat finished last in his heat in the men's 200m freestyle event.

Rawat clocked 1:54.56 seconds in heat 3, which was won by Elijah Winnington of Australia with a timing of 1:46.87s.

South Africa's Matthew Sates finished second and qualified for the final with a timing of 1:48.25s. The top two from the eight-member field in heat 3 qualified for the final.



Lawn Bowls: Choudhary suffers third loss at CWG

PTI ■ BIRMINGHAM

Tania Choudhary suffered her third successive loss in women's singles competition of lawn bowl event at the ongoing Commonwealth Games here on Saturday.

The 26-year-old Choudhary had suffered twin losses on the opening day of the competition - against Dee Hoggan and Daphne

Arthur-Almond of the Falkland Islands. On Saturday, the Guwahati-born player went down to Laura Daniels 21-10 in another lop-sided contest.

Daniels, who led 7-2 after the sixth end, did not allow Choudhary to make a comeback and eventually won the game without much fuss.

Choudhary, who has represented India at the 2010 and 2014

Commonwealth Games as well, will face Northern Ireland's Shauna O'Neill in her final section B match. Meanwhile, the men's triples team comprising Navneet Singh (lead), Mridul Borgohain (second) and Chandan Kumar Singh (skip) settled for a 16-16 tie against Malta.

The men's triples team had suffered twin losses - against New Zealand and Scotland on the open-

ing day of the competition.

On Saturday, against Malta, they were cruising 11-5 ahead after the 10th end but then allowed their opponent team comprising Peter John Ellul (lead), Tory Lorimer (second) and Shaun James Parnis (skip) to stage a comeback.

From the 13th end, it was a neck-and-neck contest and eventually both the teams settled for a tie.

Boxer Hassamuddin cruises into pre-quarters of 57kg

PTI ■ BIRMINGHAM

Indian boxer Mohammad Hussamuddin cruised into the pre-quarterfinals of the men's featherweight (57kg) category of the Commonwealth Games here on Saturday.

Hassamuddin, a bronze medalist in the last CWG in 2018, defeated young Amzolele Dyeyi of South Africa 5-0 in an unanimous verdict.

Hassamuddin used his quick hands and nimble footwork to overpower his rival.

The Indian kept his shape from the onset and didn't allow his opponent to take the initiative in any of the three rounds.

While the South African tried his



best to unsettle the experienced Indian, Hassamuddin was up to the task to deny any opening to his rival.

Hassamuddin will face Md Salim Hossain of Bangladesh in the next round for a place in the quarterfinals.

Nitendra Singh Rawat finishes 12th in men's marathon

PTI ■ BIRMINGHAM

India's Nitendra Singh Rawat finished 12th in the men's marathon race in the Commonwealth Games here on Saturday.

The 35-year-old Rawat clocked 2 hour 19 minutes and 22 seconds in the race won by Uganda's Victor Kiplangat (2:10:55).

Tanzania's Alphonse Felix Simbu (2:12:29) and Kenya's Michael Mugo Githae (2:13:16) took the silver and bronze respectively.

Rawat has a personal best of 2:16:05 he had clocked at the New Delhi Marathon in March. He was eight minutes 27 seconds behind the gold



winner.

At one point, Kiplangat appeared to be going the wrong way from the race course.

"The people riding the motorcycles were confusing me. They told me to turn back but I still made it to the finish," said Kiplangat.

Rahul injured again, Chahar, Sundar make comeback to ODI fold

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Senior opener KL Rahul has been left out of the India squad which will travel to Zimbabwe for an ODI series next month after aggravating his hamstring injury, a development which could potentially jeopardise his T20 World Cup chances.

India will play 3 ODIs in Zimbabwe on August 18, 20 and 22. Off-spinner Washington Sundar, who has made a stellar start to his English county career with Lancashire is back in the squad along with seamer Deepak Chahar after successful completion of his rehabilitation following hamstring and back injuries.

Chahar has not played competitive cricket for five months now and also missed the 2022 IPL season.

"KL Rahul has recovered from COVID-19 but his hamstring injury seem to have resurfaced. He was supposed to be picked for Zimbabwe but now one can't put a date on his comeback," a senior BCCI source privy to development told PTI on Saturday.

Meanwhile, Virat Kohli, skipper Rohit Sharma, Rishabh Pant, Mohammed Shami, Jasprit Bumrah and Hardik Pandya have all been rested from the tour as ODIs aren't top priority for the side with less than three months left for the World T20.

"Virat had spoken to selectors that he would be available from the Asia Cup onwards. The first team players will hardly get rest from Asia Cup till end of World T20. Hence this is a two-week window after Windies tour when they can rest," the source said.



Indian men, women paddlers record second straight wins in team events

PTI ■ BIRMINGHAM

The Indian men and women table tennis players continued their impressive show at the Commonwealth Games, recording their second straight wins in the team events here on Saturday.

First up, the women's team, led by Manika Batra, outclassed Guyana 3-0 in a Group 2 match while the men's side also thrashed Northern Ireland by an identical margin in a Group 3 game. The women's team, defending the title it had won at Gold Coast four years ago, had enjoyed a winning start to its campaign on Friday after crushing South Africa and Fiji by identical 3-0 margins.

On the second competition day, the first to turn up was the pair of Sreeja Akula and Reeth Tennison

and they steamrolled Natalie Cummings and Chelsea Edghill 11-5 11-7 11-7 to put India 1-0 ahead.

Then, reigning Commonwealth Games champion Batra, who became the first Indian table tennis player to win a gold in the women's singles in the last edition, decimated Thuraia Thomas in straight games 11-1 11-3 11-3.

In another woman's singles match, Reeth fought hard to register a 11-7 14-12 13-11 win against Chelsea Edghill, who put up a spirited show. Reeth's win ensured that India won the tie convincingly.

In the men's team event, veteran Achanti Sharath Kamal paired up with Harmeet Desai to beat James Skelton and Owen Cathcart 11-3 9-11 11-6 11-1 in men's doubles to hand India a 1-0 lead.

India midfielder Navjot to fly back home after testing Covid positive

PTI ■ BIRMINGHAM

India midfielder Navjot Kaur's campaign at the Commonwealth Games came to an abrupt end as she is set to fly back home after testing positive for COVID-19.

The 27-year-old from Kurukshetra had been in isolation for the past two days. Sonika replaces her in the 18-member Indian women's squad. India opened their campaign with a 5-0 win over Ghana on Friday. "She has been kept in isolation. Her CT value is not infectious and she has no symptoms. She tested +ve in the first test but in the second test her CT value improved and she can't infect others. She has been cleared to fly back home by the organisers," said a team source.



Barcelona auctions NFT of iconic Cruyff goal for \$693,000

AP ■ BARCELONA, SPAIN

Barcelona has auctioned off a digital art piece depicting an iconic goal by Johan Cruyff for \$693,000 as it seeks new revenues to battle its way out of massive debt, the Spanish club said.

Barcelona said that the auction run by Sotheby's in New York for the club's first NFT, or non-fungible token, closed at \$550,000 on Friday. The auctioneer's fees increased the final sale price to \$693,000.

The art piece depicts Cruyff's memorable goal from 1973 when the Netherlands great soared through the air with his leg outstretched to score. In the image, Cruyff appears to be dipped in



gold. The NFT is called "In a Way, Immortal," inspired by a quote by Cruyff, who left his mark as both a player and coach at Barcelona.

Barcelona has been searching for new forms of revenue as it struggles to pay down 1 billion euros (\$1 billion) of debt. That has included selling Camp Nou's naming rights to the Spotify audio-streaming service and recently selling off 25% of its Spanish league television rights

for 25 years.

An NFT is a one-of-a-kind digital image that cannot be copied. There is a booming market for collectors and artists interested in this form of digital art.



ARMAAN MALIK

**'SONG TU IS A
BIG THANK YOU
AND A WARM
HUG TO MY FANS'**



Yes, it was planned. I would like to thank my fans who

I am all for music streaming apps. It's a great way for people to discover new artists. I love finding new artists to listen to too, and that's only possible because these spaces allow easy discoverability. Speaking from an

I started singing at the age of 4 and by the age of 8, I had made up my mind that I want to become a professional singer. My musical journey has been quite an exciting one. There have been a lot of ups and downs and major transitions from a child singer to a teenage singer and now an adult vocalist. Moreover, one thing that's remained constant is my love for my craft. I am a student of music and will always be.

Well, there is no written rule to that. Some songs are easy to write and come together almost instantly in one sitting. Others take some time to be developed and structured. I think the melodies and words that come naturally to you without giving too much thought tend to be the real gems.

LOLLAPALOOZA IN INDIA

The star-studded artist line-up for the first-ever India edition of the coveted festival will be announced later this year.

Band Hothon Se (Sasha Ghoshal)

Back in Black (AC/DC)

Masterstroke



Priced at ₹675

— Rohit Chawla, Co-Founder & CEO, Innovist

THE SCIENCE BEHIND SPIRITUALITY

It is out and out 100 per cent pure superstition. But the problem is when you have powerful forces that are selling pseudoscience rather than superstition, as spirituality, then the common man gets a very strong and clear message that spirituality means something nonsensical mumbo-jumbo.

It is really saddening that religion and spirituality have become dirty words now. Religion and spirituality have become words, not at all associated with logic anymore.

Real spiritual men actually went along very nicely with scientists. They never had a bone to pick against scientists. Look at Krishnamurthy's conversations with physicist David Bohm, for example. And remember that a real spiritual man will never contradict science.

*Acharya Prashant, Vedanta
teacher & founder of Prashant
Advait Foundation*

QUIRKYTALE

Deepak Kripal's book *Sense of a Quiet* explores intricate web of relationships



While the story and characters are nuanced and complex, Kripal has kept the narration simple while promising a sense of relatability to the characters and events. Running high on the success of his novel, he told us that it took him four years to finish the book. He even went to a slum for six months

Where will life take these three individuals who seem to be at the crossroads so entwined and complex that all they can do

thoughts he chooses to tell. Both his novels are of totally contrasting genres (first was a fantasy thriller while second one being contemporary drama) and are polar opposites in terms of treatment and story-telling, which is a testament of his versatility and appetite for good stories. He likes to experiment yet stay true to real life issues that concern human existence in varied aspects of life. He credits his love for stories to the bedtime stories told to the imaginative child in him by his late grandfather.

How metaverse is helping education

“Students will be able to reach new levels of understanding concepts like never before and teachers will have a broader bandwidth of creating and bending the reality of a virtual environment to make learning more engaging and interactive. Moreover, metaverse is bound to become the next frontier to improve communication and mitigate location barriers in education. It’s only a matter of time until immersive virtual learning becomes the new normal,” says Diwakar Chittora, CEO and Founder, IntelliPaat.

the pioneer agenda

My whole life I try to
make into a
comedy, so it would
be nice to see that
onscreen
—Saoirse Ronan



This year, the transfer rate in the Sales Tax department was between ₹18-20 lakh for a posting in western UP. In the Labour department, an official is ready to pay between ₹12-15 lakh to get a posting in Hapur, Ghaziabad, and other creamy positions in western UP writes BISWAJEET BANERJEE

The threat to quit the Yogi cabinet by Dalit Minister Dinesh Khatik has exposed the dark underbelly of the transfer industry, which helps the politicians and bureaucrats fill their coffers. Besides Khatik, two other ministers – Brijesh Pathak and Jitin Prasada – are in the eye of the storm over the alleged transfer of officials in their departments in violation of the transfer policy.

Pathak is Deputy Chief Minister in the Yogi cabinet and heads Health Department, while Jitin Prasada is PWD Minister – considered one of the creamy portfolios. The talk of the town is the diary that Ajay Kumar Pandey, OSD of Jitin Prasada maintained. Insiders reveal that the diary contains details of the transfers carried out in the PWD and who recommended them. It even talks about the money that might have exchanged hands.

As it is known, the ‘transfer industry’ is the biggest corruption machine in the state. Money exchanges hands for effecting transfers or stopping them. Government employees prefer postings where the money comes easy – and for this, they pay handsome amounts to their bosses. There is no exact figure for how much money exchanges hands, but a rough estimate suggests that it is no less than ₹20,000 crore industry. A retired Chief Secretary of Uttar Pradesh revealed that this amount depends on demand and supply and varies from department to department. Officials pay money to get posted in a particular district, while others pay money to cancel the transfer if they are posted out of the city.

THE TRANSFER RATE

This year, the transfer rate in the Sales Tax department was between ₹18-20 lakh for a posting in western UP. In the Labour department, an official is ready to pay between ₹12-15 lakh to get a posting in Hapur, Ghaziabad, and other creamy positions in western UP. In the PWD and Health Department, the transfer rate of doctors is ₹10-12 lakh, while for para-medics it is between ₹5 lakh to ₹8 lakh. A doctor is ready to pay anything between ₹10 lakh-12 lakh to get a posting as a Medical Officer (in-charge) of even PHCs, because PHCs is the center of government’s national campaigns and these centers regularly get government funds.

The same is the case with the police department where every transfer carries a price

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tag. One recorded incident is in 2020 when the then SSP of Gautam Buddh Nagar Vaibhav Krishna leaked details as to how money was being paid in the transfer of inspectors. He alleged that ₹80 lakh exchanged hands and also revealed the involvement of senior officials and journalists in this scam.

Some officials recount that in one of the previous government’s regimes, note counting machines were installed in Chief Minister’s residence and some trusted officials, including one posted in the CM office, used to count the currency in the evening hours. A story goes like this--- once an employee was carrying a bag from a car to the note counting center when it fell down and wades of currency notes spilled on the road. The security personnel posted around the CM’s residence collected those notes and passed them on to the official who was counting currency.

The burgeoning transfer industry in Uttar Pradesh is a matter of concern for Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath. It has emerged as a wart in his shining armor of zero tolerance toward corruption. In his first meeting with the legislators after Yogi won elections for the second time, he asked the lawmakers to stay away from transfers because he knew the ramifications this industry can have on his government. He even suggested that legislators and MPs should not suggest the transfer of any officials as it should be left for the officials to carry out the transfer as per the requirement. After a cabinet meeting, the Chief Minister asked ministers not to trust their staff blindly. He directed the ministers to keep a watch on their department officers and their activities. The officials were asked to follow the policy in letter and in spirit while carrying out the transfer.

People are aware of how the game of corruption is being played in transfer-posting.

POLITICAL INTERFERENCE IN THE TRANSFER

The biggest malaise confronting the administration is the undue political interference in transfers, with elected representatives dictating who should be posted to their constituency. Such officers usually end up becoming stooges of the local MLA. Bureaucrats recount as how sometimes they face a piquant situation where one legislator wants the transfer of a government employee while the other advocates his virtues and says how the district will suffer if he is posted out.

All these transfers are carried out after paying bribes. Besides, these officers are always present at the beck and call of the local politicians. This is more pronounced in police as depicted in Ajay Devgan’s starrer Gangajal where the local landlord was controlling the police station and in turn, he was providing these officials administrative immunity.

ADMINISTRATIVE ACTION

In his 1.0 government, the Chief Minister took administrative action against over 1000 officials for their involvement in corruption. In 2018, Chief Minister sought records of over 100 tainted class I officers, including IAS, IPS, PCS, and PPS officers, whose names had figured in corruption cases at any point during their service period. Also, in 2019, the Yogi-led Uttar Pradesh government decided to sack seven Provincial Police Service (PPS) officers on charges of corruption. In 2019, the CM warned over 400 corrupt officials of severe punishment and decided to give early retirement to around 200 employees. He also ordered the registration of FIR against more than a dozen policemen when they were found involved in corruption.

A few days ago, Adityanath ordered the suspension of five Public Works Department (PWD) officials and even ordered the removal of PWD minister Jitin Prasada’s OSD Anil Kumar Pandey. Early this week, four senior officers of the health department were suspended because of their involvement in carrying out transfers in violation of the policy.

The Yogi government announced its transfer policy in June during its fifth cabinet meeting. As per the transfer policy, the officers of Group ‘A’ and Group ‘B’ can be transferred on completion of three years in the district and seven years in the division. Only 20 percent of the present cadre of officers of Group ‘A’ and Group ‘B’ can be transferred. In the case of Group ‘C’ and Group ‘D’ officers, the figure is around 10 percent. The guidelines specified that transfer of Group ‘B’ and Group ‘C’ personnel should be carried out on the basis of merit through an online system.

A RIFT BETWEEN POLITICIANS AND BUREAUCRACY

The reports of discontent among bureaucracy and ministers in the Yogi 2.0 government is emanating for the last few

weeks but they came to the fore during the transfer session. This is no longer a secret that in the majority of the departments the Ministers are not on the same page with officials of their departments. This often leads to rifts and public spat. The turned into a major controversy when Minister of State Jal Shakti Department Dinesh Khatik raised the issue of how he was neglected in the departmental meetings. He accused his departmental principal secretaries Anil Garg and Anurag Srivastava of not listening to his views. He mentioned this in his letter as how a Principal Secretary banged the phone when he was raising a departmental issue.

Not only Khatik, but even the powerful Deputy Chief Minister Brijesh Pathak also got the taste of bureaucratic power when he started conducting raids in hospitals and godowns of the Health Department. During his raids, he crossed swords with Additional Chief Secretary Amit Mohan Prasad, who has been in this department for more than four years. The same is the case with Public Works Department Minister Jitin Prasada and his influential Principal Secretary Narendra Bhushan. Then there is the case of Secondary Education Minister Gulabo Devi, who is not able to keep pace with her Principal Secretary Aradhana Shukla.

The same is the case with Rural Development Department and Panchayati Raj Department where Agriculture Production Commissioner Manoj Kumar Singh is holding the fort. He is often accused of passing orders and ignoring the departmental ministers.

There are allegations that departmental heads do not accommodate the choice of officers in the transfer list leading to conflict. There are reports that Dinesh Khatik wanted his candidates to be included in the transfer list. When this was not done, he played the Dalit card and sent his resignation to Union Home Minister Amit Shah alleging corruption in the transfer of officials.

It will be a tough balancing act for Chief Minister. On one hand, he has to accommodate the demand of his ministers, while on the other he is committed to giving a clean administration. How he manages it, only time will tell.

(The writer is Political Editor, The Pioneer, Lucknow)

MEMOIRES OF AN UNCONVENTIONAL DIPLOMAT

Former Ambassador to Fiji Ajay Singh would have been so happy to see the publication of his fascinating love story with the island. It's a truly remarkable memoir of a man who successfully dabbled in journalism, politics and diplomacy, writes RANA BEHAL

This remarkable, posthumously published book, was incomplete when Ajay Singh, the author, passed away on June 9, 2021. It was finally completed and published by his close friend and collaborator Mahavir Singh. It is a fascinating and absorbing tale of the incredible bond between Fiji, the Pacific Island nation, and four generations of Ajay's family. It is also a rare and exceptional contribution to the distinguished historiography of "girmitiyas", the Indian indentured labourers who were recruited and shipped from India during the nineteenth century to work on British overseas colonial plantations in the Caribbean, Mauritius, Malaya, Fiji and South Africa.

The book is rare and exceptional because out of the hundreds of thousands 'girmitiyas' transported as indentured labourers, Ajay's family maintained very close contacts with Fiji over four generations, despite not settling there permanently. The book presents a history of this long generational relationship with the Fiji, based on family and Fiji National archives documents, personal experiences, oral testimonies, publications and memories relayed from the first to the fourth generation of his family. It helps to understand and learn about the nuances of a colonial plantation society and everyday lives of the migrant labour force in an alien and oppressive labour system. Most significantly it reveals an authentic voice of the "girmitiya" family that is not mediated and inhibited from the colonial official gaze.

Ajay introduced the book as 'my story; the story of my love for the Fiji Islands, its people and of one person in particular'- his Fijian born life partner late Shiromani Singh. The story of four generations of his family is very skillfully woven around their connection with Fiji Islands for more than a century. It began in 1884 when his great grandparents, from the agrarian part of Agra district, Ram Chander and Padam Kaur, were recruited and shipped off as "girmitiyas", indentured labourers, to work in sugar plantations in Fiji Islands. While telling the story of their recruitment and travel to their destination Ajay authentically weaves the narrative of wide spread Arakati system of labour recruitment, based on his great grandparents' experience, and colo-



Standing from left to right are Ajay Singh, SP Malviya, Kartar Singh, Chaudhary Charan Singh with stick in hand and Mulayam Singh Yadav at the other end

nial policies in several parts of British India.

Ram Chand and Padam Kaur experienced hardship and struggle in Fiji plantations that became a part of the folklore of "girmitiya" lives, condemned by the contemporary critics as slavery. They established lifelong friendships as well as adversaries within among "girmitiyas" on the plantations. Ajay's grandfather, Bere Singh, was born in Fiji where he studied in a Catholic school. After successfully fighting the case of his wrongful imprisonment Ram Chand returned to India along with his and 13 year old son on 5 July 1901. Bere Singh, after further higher studies in India, decided to go back to Fiji to join Fijian Civil Service in 1910. His employment in the Fijian Civil Service strengthened and reinforced the family social network among the second

generation of educated children of Indian "girmitiyas". Ajay highlights the emerging situation in Fiji during his grandfather's stay of 16 years there. Growing criticism of the indenture system and Indian nationalist opposition, led to the abolition of indenture recruitment in India in 1917. Bere Singh took premature retirement and returned, like his parents, to his home in India.

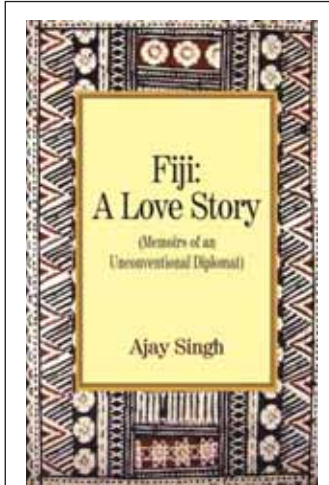
Ajay's father, Bhagwan Singh, born during his father's long leave in India, was raised by his grandparents while his father returned to his job in Fiji. By now the family experienced upward social mobility. Bhagwan Singh studied in college and at the end of his masters, joined the British Indian army as an Indian Commissioned Officer in 1941. Bhagwan Singh's carrier went a nautch higher when he was selected in the India Civil Service



Ajay Singh and Shubha Singh with Father Captain Bhagwan Singh on their first arrival at Nausori Airport



Ajay Singh being administered oath of secrecy as a Minister by Shri R Venkataraman, President of India at Rashtrapati Bhawan, New Delhi



Title: Fiji: A Love Story (Memoirs of an Unconventional Diplomat)
Author: Ajay Singh
Publisher: Shipra Publisher
Cover Price: ₹550/-

in 1944 that was to become Indian Administrative Service, after Independence. The family's Fiji connection was transformed when Bhagwan Singh, a "girmitiya" progeny, was appointed as India's High Commissioner to Fiji in 1971, now an Independent country. Bhagwan Singh distinguished himself as a very successful and respected Indian diplomat in Fiji. He earned diplomatic goodwill for India and reinforced his family and personal contacts among the Indian origin elite as well as with the Fijian indigenous elite. He established strong cultural, social and political

ties between India, where he was born, and Fiji, the land of his father's birth.

The author, Ajay Singh, grew up in Delhi while his father worked in different parts of India on official postings. He studied as a boarder in Modern School and then in St Stephens college for his graduation. He visited Fiji while his father was posted there and did a course on journalism in New Zealand. He met and married Shiromani in Fiji before returning to India. Her parents were a well-established business Fijian family of Indian origins. After returning to India Ajay Singh's life went through dramatic turns from being a successful journalist to a politician and finally a diplomat. He became a Minister of State in VP Singh's short-lived government. The Fijian connections, that were kept alive through correspondence and occasional visits, were reinforced once again in 2005 when he was appointed India's High Commissioner to Fiji. This was an incredible transformation once again, for the fourth generation "girmitiya" family of Fijian plantation connection. Ajay was very pleased with his appointment but also apprehensive of being compared with his father's towering status as the most successful Indian diplomat in Fiji. Ajay gave all credit to Shiromani for allaying his apprehensions and was a great partner and help in his job as the First Lady in India House in Fiji.

The narrative in the book is not confined to his family history alone. Ajay displayed a very deep understanding and knowledge of Fijian society, its political dilemmas and tensions between and Indian origin and indigenous communities. He learnt a lot from his father's experiences and benefitted from the latter's good will as well as family connections. A lot had changed in Fijian political and social world in Fiji since his father's days. He analyzed his own experiences and contributions as India's High Commissioner as critically and dispassionately as possible, given his personal unique situation. He reinforced India's goodwill and restored cultural, political and social ties between the two countries he admired and loved most. It is a book worth reading both by academics of labour history and the lay reader.

A fascinating journey through the changing rural life

Author Siniwali's recently published book "*Gulabi Nadi ki Machhaliyan*" is a collection of nine stories that highlight the different aspects of rural life.



Whenever we think about a typical Indian village, a beatific picture of peace surfaces in our mind: happy people, rippling ponds, greenery, and innocence. But the reality is so different. The villages of India are beset with the same evils that have haunted the country for ages: caste and class differences, economic inequalities, illiteracy, superstition, and religious divides.

The villages are now faced with another problem; that is of old people abandoned to fend for themselves. Now there are many villages where most of the youth have gone forever in search of green pastures.

In this collection, published by Antika Prakashan, different problems of rural areas have been depicted in detail. Her earlier book "*Hans Akela Roy*" was also focused on rural life. In this collection, rural India is again at the center, and each of his stories brings some serious and contemporary topics to the center of discussion.

Commenting on the book, well-known Hindi author Maitreyi Pushpa writes, "In the guise of the democratic system, not only cities, but the villages are also victims of conspiracies, by their own people. If any man does not refrain from being ruined due to his hollow assumptions, then he does not even hesitate in polluting the environment.

A large number of the villagers are being subject to greed and by doing this, they put all the healthy rules on hold. The writer (Siniwali) is seeing all these things and is reflecting these in her stories..."

The author observes closely rural life and brings to the fore the problems of the village, its tricks, and its complexities.

Take the example of a beautiful love story- "*Gulabi Nadi Ki Machhaliyan*" which is the title story of the book. The writer has tried to capture the fulfillment of love and the trauma of separation in this touching story.

"*Dulha Babu*" is about getting older without getting married. Later, the difficulties of the boy who is going to be the groom bring in some comic relief to the readers. . "*Apne Log*" is another story included in the collection. It is a story of a young man who ran away from home to the metropolis because of his father's abusive behavior.

People, who go to big cities in search of work from the village, spend a large part of their meager income on food and shelter.

Similarly "Rahaun Kant Hoshiyar" is another important story in the collection which is based against the backdrop of villages being hit by pollution. Sadly, only a handful of villagers are serious about solving this problem.



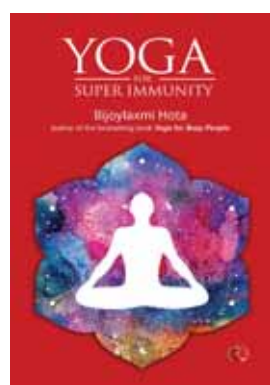
Title: Gulabi Nadi Ki Machhaliyan (Hindi)
Authors: Siniwali
Publisher: ANTIKA PRAKASHAN
Price: ₹300/-



Yoga and Immunity

The last few years have seen a massive upsurge in popularity of Yoga. After the United Nations decided to celebrate International Yoga Day every year on June 21, since 2015, millions of people across the world are taking to Yoga asanas and pranayama as a way of life. This has also seen a phenomenon boom in literature on Yoga. Yoga for Super Immunity, authored by Bijoylaxmi Hota is one such book that hit the stand last month.

The book focusses on yoga practices to boost up immunity, something that has become a buzz among the people in the post-covid ear. The book talks



Title: Yoga for Super Immunity
Authors: Bijoylaxmi Hota
Publisher: RUPA
Price: ₹295/-

about Yoga practices for healing, boosting up energy, cleaning of body and mind, inducing proper sleep, healthy diets among other things.

The book contains techniques to detoxify the system, destress the mind, plant the right belief in subconscious, maintain correct ph value, and improve the function of all the concerned body parts. It also suggest right diet and necessary lifestyle changes to maintain supremely healthy body .

The author Bijoylaxmi Hota is a noted integrated yoga therapists who has written as many as nine books on Yoa and diet. These include bestseller like Yoga for Busy People.

Capitol Hill enquiry: America challenged

Most of the global observers, analysts, media commentators and mandarins are taking a long view of the insurrection which occurred at the Capitol Hill on January 6, 2021. The key motif was that former President Donald Trump refused to accept the electoral victory of candidate Joe Biden who had won at the hustings. Now, the quizzing of Trump's aides at the White House, along with the abortion debate, has touched a raw nerve in the larger political vortex of the US.

Personages such as Steve Bannon, Meadows and former Governor of New York City Rudy Giuliani have been interrogated and have deposed before both the Senate Hearings Committee and a historical enquiry undertaken by the US Justice Department. Interestingly, the US Justice Department states that the enquiry initiated by it has no precedence in the US keeping in view the nature and scope of the posers on the aggrieved ethos of democracy in the US.

After the enquiry in the case study of President Nixon's impeachment, it is the first instance of both the Senate and the Justice Department taking up the task of quizzing the highly seated perch of Trump. Even his daughter Ivanka and Jared Kushner, her husband, have not been spared the exigencies of the Justice Department enquiry. Such is the high pedestalled mandate of the hearings on the Capitol Hill insurrections, which brings yet another tumult in the political circus in the US.

Does the dictum of "no one will be spared if found guilty" work so effectively in the American homestead?

It has been pithily contended by the US Justice Department portal that the extent of personages being interrogated has led to the rise in significance of the ambit of working of the hearings. The Justice Department portal contends, "Three former Justice Department officials — former



Acting Deputy Attorney General Richard Donoghue, former Acting Attorney General Jeffrey Rosen and former Assistant Attorney General Steven Engel — testified before the committee on Thursday."

Donoghue showed handwritten notes he had taken during a call with Trump, in which the former President said, "Just say the election was corrupt and leave the rest to me and the Republican congressmen."

The recent outreach by the Senate and the Justice Department hearings pinpoint the complicity at the highest level at the White House as far as the mayhem which ensued in the Capitol Hill is concerned. Also, as an attendant fact, the entire nation and the

world are looking askance at a daze as one of the sacrosanct symbols of democracy in the American nation was pillaged upon and it has found in the subsequent hearings that the several key officials fled the scene of the insurrection as the protesters ruthlessly stormed the heady portals of the Capitol Hill. How they managed to breach the security establishment has stirred up a hornets' nest for the conspiracy theories to churn out their versions of the ghastly and deplorable incident.

The current tirade is targeted at Trump as he corrected and re-corrected the notes which he had given to his White House aides and nowhere did he completely

belittle the insurrections as he had been informed in advance by some of his aides that the public and shameful carnage was expected in the Capitol Hill. The debate, accusation and counter accusations are being banded about, and the relentless search for truth goes on as a stately continuum in the Capitol Hill's insurrections enquiry. The US Senate releases inform us that even in the past, the ilk of Vice Presidents and even the Presidents have been brought to the cage and interrogated which pinpoints the stately and traditional ideal of "no one is above law" as has been dexterously and assiduously adhered to in the establishment's fray in the US.

One can cite a US Senate

source which pithily informs us that how the process dates back to the 19th century when President Abraham Lincoln was quizzed about a ticklish matter pertaining to the fourth estate. The Senate's portal informs us that, "President Lincoln today voluntarily appeared before the House Judiciary Committee," reported the New York Tribune, and gave testimony in the matter of premature publication in the Herald of a portion of his last annual message.

Lincoln's message to the Congress in December 1861 had been published in the New York Herald on the same morning that it was sent to Capitol Hill. The House Judiciary Committee, chaired

by John Hickman, investigated the leak and called Herald correspondent Henry Wikoff to testify. Wikoff refused to divulge his source, citing "an obligation of strictest secrecy." It can be argued that when the American nation was creating its own "self" through invention, innovation and experimentation through territorial purchases, reviews of the political process and further external inventions in nations such as Spain and the Philippines, then at that point of time the nation spared no one and the posers are a part and parcel of the general narrative of the grandiose march ahead of the American nation and civilisation.

The United States Senate

Resolution number 60 spawned the Senate select Committee on the election campaign activities of President Nixon and it came to be popularly known as the Senate Watergate Committee which shook the entire soul of the American population as the US had just emerged out of the military and diplomatic debacle in Vietnam and the grandiose notion of the entrepreneurial and rules-based America had taken a beating.

The allegations on the American President ranged from campaign finance procedures and the practice of state espionage which cast a dreary shadow at the one-upmanship of the American political system. Sam Ervin chaired the Watergate Committee and indicted around 40 State department officials and its findings played a key role in ushering in the impeachment proceedings of President Nixon in the stupendous seventies when questions were being asked for the first time and the city on Mount Sinai had to look inwards and a stately and timely delving in exercise was comprehended as the political need of the hour.

In the case of the January 6 insurrection, the testimony of Cassidy Hutchinson proves evidence of the complicity of the White House when the secret service guards in and around the Capitol meticulously ignored the scare signals for the portending disturbance at Capitol Hill. Though, those days will historically go down as a blot on the zeitgeist of the grandiloquent American "way", such scuffles and hiccups come and go and are never indelible in nature as America and the rest of the nations steady themselves in the rumbustious lurch of the Ukraine war, the pandemic and other internal challenges asking questions at the American "way."

(The writer teaches at International Relations and International Organisations, IIPA, New Delhi)

The quizzing of Trump's aides at the White House, along with the abortion debate, has touched a raw nerve in the larger political vortex of the United States of America. But the moot point is: Does the dictum of "no one will be spared if found guilty" work so effectively in the American homestead?



MANAN DWIVEDI

PERSPECTIVE

Have AMU and JMI's funds really been cut?

The fact is quite the opposite. The total fund allocation in the last 8 years of the Modi Government, from 2014-15 to 2021-22, was ₹8,223 crore for BHU, while for AMU it was ₹8,424 crore, which is clearly ₹201 crore higher than that of BHU



ANISH GUPTA



ABHINANDAN BASU

The fund allocation to any entity (whether State or educational institutions or sector or any other project) has always been used as a yardstick to measure the priority and preference of any Government.

The issue becomes more sensitive when it is related to higher education institutions, especially in the present context when these institutions have become highly politicised and are perceived to be aligned to particular ideological and party lines.

The case in point is a news item doing rounds in the media that the Central Government has doubled the budget allocation to Banaras Hindu University (BHU) while the fund allocation to Aligarh Muslim University (AMU) and Jamia Millia Islamia (JMI) has been sharply reduced.

It all began with TN Prathapan, a Lok Sabha member, asking an unstarred question (No. 131) related to fund allocation to some of the Central universities in India. The question was "whether the Government has the details of fund allocation to these universities: Jawaharlal Nehru University (JNU); Jamia Millia Islamia (JMI); Aligarh Muslim University (AMU); Rajiv Gandhi University, Itanagar (RGU); Banaras Hindu University (BHU); and if so, the details thereof since 2014?"

The question was replied to on July 18 this year in Parliament, and within a day of replying, a lot of mainstream newspapers and news websites (National Herald, The Wire, Free Press Kashmir, Ground Report, Navjeevan Express, etc., here onwards

called news publications), misreported the reply in a manner which suggested that the Government of India is reducing the budget of only Muslim minority institutions, and is hence completely against the Muslim community.

Even a famous education portal Careers360.com and YouTube channel (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uQSntR4h3Yg) too reported the same thing (see Table-1).

However, a look at the unedited table (table-2) provided by the Ministry of Education in their reply to the unstarred question of said parliamentarian itself reveals the truth. A few points are noteworthy:

■ The sharpest increase in the annual fund in the year 2020-21 compared to the same in 2014-15 was of RGU (143%) followed by AMU (125%), JMI (81%), BHU (69%) and JNU (10%).

■ Even the fund allocation for the year 2021-22 compared to 2014-15 shows that the sharpest increase was noticed in RGU (157%) followed by BHU (94%) AMU (80%), JMI (55%) and JNU (20%).

■ The year-to-year analysis shows a mixed picture. In the year 2014-15, 2015-16, 2016-17 and 2020-21, the fund allocated to AMU had been higher than BHU, while in the years 2017-18, 2018-19, 2019-20 and 2021-22, the fund allocation to BHU was higher than AMU.

■ The budget allocation to JMI and AMU increased by 32.6 per cent and 28.8 per cent respectively in 2020-21 compared to the previous year while the same fell by 10.5 per

FUNDS ALLOCATED/RELEASED (₹ IN CRORE)												
Central University	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23 (upto 30.06.2022)	% Change from 2014-15 to 2020-21	% Change from 2014-15 to 2021-22	Total allocation (2014-15 to 2021-22)
JMI	264.5	293.3	305.9	333.2	363.0	361.9	479.8	411.1	106.0	81.4	55.4	2812.6
JNU	336.9	301.3	332.5	373.5	371.7	416.6	373.5	407.5	124.7	10.9	20.9	2913.4
AMU	674.0	825.0	894.7	1106.0	1009.7	1180.0	1520.1	1214.6	302.3	125.5	80.2	8424.2
BHU	669.5	749.3	892.5	1116.4	1084.4	1271.1	1137.2	1303.0	325.3	69.8	94.6	8223.3
RGU	39.9	69.9	77.4	79.1	61.8	101.3	97.1	102.8	45.3	143.3	157.4	629.3

Source: Unstarred Question No. 131 answered on 18.07.2022 in Lok Sabha

Authors' Calculation

HEADLINES OF VARIOUS NEWS PUBLICATIONS	
PUBLICATION	HEADLINE
Career360	JMI, AMU face sharp decline in funds, BHU grants double: Education ministry data
The Wire	Funds to JMI, AMU Reduced Sharply; Budget for BHU Doubled; Allocation for JNU Stagnant
National Herald	Funds to JMI, AMU reduced in 2021-2022; Budget for BHU doubled
Free Press Kashmir	Budget for Jamia Millia, Aligarh reduced, Banaras Hindu University funds doubled by Govt
North East Now	Funds to Jamia Millia Islamia, Aligarh Muslim University reduced; Budget for Banaras Hindu University doubled
India Tomorrow	Sharp Decline In Funding Of Jamia, AMU; Big Rise For BHU, Rajiv Gandhi University
Muslim Mirror	Budget for Jamia, AMU reduced, fund to BHU doubled

cent for BHU. Interestingly, none of the publications in question ever reported this phenomenon but they produced an incomplete picture by only considering the figures of the very next year when the budget allocation for JMI and AMU decreased by 14.3 per cent and 20.1 per cent respectively while the same increased for BHU by 14.6 per cent.

■ The total fund allocation in the last 8 years, from 2014-15 to 2021-22, was Rs 8,223 crore for BHU, while for AMU it was Rs 8,424 crore, which is clearly Rs 201 crore higher than

that of BHU.

■ The real value (adjusted for inflation) of the total allocation in these 8 years also shows the same result (total allocation to AMU was higher than BHU).

We have confined our analysis to just fund allocation to each of these institutions to determine if BHU is being given preference over or at the cost of others since these news publications have just used this criterion to make comparisons. There are many other factors responsible for the fund allocation i.e. institution of

eminence (IoE), number of new courses introduced, permanent faculty recruitment, scholarships, etc, which we are leaving out for the sake of brevity and understandability.

It raises serious doubts as to why so many news publications have come to the same erroneous conclusion based on the same data set within such a short time. It is important to notice that all of these publications have credited the story to their own reporters or news desks.

More importantly, the headlines used indicate that

they came to the same perverted and wrong conclusion given the same data. It is said while the same correct answer cannot be conclusive proof of copying in an exam, the same wrong answer is a definite proof of collusion.

The biased news publications sow seeds of hatred in the hearts of the youth of the Muslim community against the elected Government of the nation.

They can be seen doing this for a long time, and such acts are only increasing the gap between various religious

groups, doing great harm to the integrity and unity of the nation, apart from tarnishing the image of the country across the globe.

It is also surprising that despite the hard numbers being available in black and white in the public domain, the so-called vigilant fact-checkers have chosen to remain mute spectators in this case.

(Views are personal. Anish Gupta teaches at Delhi University and Abhinandan Basu is a law graduate from Delhi University.)

