

CITY 2
JE DEATH RATE BROUGHT
DOWN BY 95%: YOGI**OPINION 6**
A BAIT TO REGIME
OF BLASPHEMY**WORLD 10**
LANKA SCRAMBLES
FOR AID

LUCKNOW, WEDNESDAY JULY 6, 2022; PAGES 12 ₹3



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DJOKER
BATTLES BACK
TO BEAT SINNER
11 SPORT

Twitter challenges in HC Govt order to delete posts

Social media giant complies with Govt direction on deadline, but says the order violates freedom of speech

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■
NEW DELHI/BENGALURU

The US-based social media giant Twitter on Tuesday moved the Karnataka High Court, challenging the Government's orders to take down content under the new IT rules, saying it is an abuse of power by officials. July 4 was the last day for complying with the Union Ministry of Electronics' directions and the company complied with it on the last day and then moved the court.

Twitter has taken legal recourse after the Union Electronics and Information Technology Ministry warned it of penal action if it refused to comply with the directive to take down controversial tweets flagged by the authorities last year in January and April.

According to news agency PTI, Twitter has filed a case in the HC, saying the several directions placed by the Government are allegedly for action against political content



that has been posted by official handles of political parties and blocking of such information is a violation of the freedom of speech guaranteed to citizen users of the platform.

"The content requested to be blocked does not have any apparent proximate relationship to the ground under Section 69A," said the lawyers who had access to Twitter's petition filed in the court.

Minister of State for Electronics and IT Rajeev Chandrasekhar in a tweet said all platforms have the right to approach court but they have an unambiguous obligation to comply with laws.

"In India, all, including foreign Internet intermediaries/platforms, have the right to court n judicial review. But equally ALL intermediaries/platforms operating here have an unambiguous obligation to comply with our laws n rules," Chandrasekhar tweeted.



According to the Twitter petition, several blocking orders were issued under Section 69A but failed to demonstrate how the content falls within those grounds or how the said content is violative of Section 69A, said the lawyers. "Twitter has sought judicial review of the blocking orders from the court," they said.

The Government in May had asked Twitter to act on content related to Khalistan and accounts eulogising terrorists in Kashmir. Later in June, the Government asked Twitter to act on around 60 accounts. Twitter has taken action on the request and reported compliance.

On June 26, the microblogging site submitted a separate list of over 80 Twitter accounts and tweets that it blocked based on a request from the Government in 2021.

The request from the Government was to block multiple accounts and some tweets

from the international advocacy group Freedom House, journalists, politicians, and supporters of the farmers' protest.

Meanwhile, in Delhi, reacting to a question, Union IT Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw said how to make social media accountable has become a very valid question across the globe. "Self-regulation is a first step in the direction of making social media accountable, followed by industry regulation, and then Government regulations," he said.

"Social media is a very powerful medium. Social media has a big influence on our lives. How to make it accountable has become a very valid question across the globe.

All across the globe, countries and societies are moving in the direction of making social media accountable," he said while interacting with media persons on the sideline of a programme.

SC crossed Laxman Rekha with Nupur jibe: Ex-judges

15 HC ex-judges,
77 former babus,
25 veterans urge
court to erase
'indelible scar on
justice system'

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■
NEW DELHI

A group of former judges, bureaucrats and police officers on Tuesday demanded that the Supreme Court recall its observations against suspended BJP spokesperson Nupur Sharma, alleging that the court crossed the "Laxman Rekha" while making comments that are an "indelible scar on the justice system of the largest democracy".

The group, comprising 15 High Court judges, 77 ex-all India services officers and 25 veterans, alleged that the "unfortunate" comments are not in sync with the judicial ethos and have sent "shockwaves" in the country and outside.

"In the annals of the judiciary, the unfortunate comments have no parallel and are an indelible scar on the justice system of the largest democracy. Urgent rectification steps are called for as these have potentially serious consequences on democratic values and securi-



ty of the country," they said in a signed statement.

The 117 signatories include former Chief Justice of the Bombay High Court Kshiti Vyas, former Kerala High Court judge PN Ravindran, former Gujarat High Court judge SM Soni, former Rajasthan High Court judges RS Rathore and Prashant Agarwal and former Delhi High Court judge SN Dhirga. Former IAS officers Anand Bose, RS Gopalan and S Krishna Kumar, ambassador (retired) Niranjan Desai, former DGPs SP Vaid, former CBI Director M Nageswara Rao and BL Vohra, Lt Gen VK Chaturvedi (retired) and Air Marshall (retired) SP Singh have also signed the statement.

"By no stretch, these observations, which are not part of the judicial order, can be sanctified on the plank of judicial propriety and fairness. Such outrageous transgressions are without parallel in the annals

of Judiciary," it said.

The Supreme Court had on July 1 come down heavily on Sharma for her controversial comments against Prophet Mohammad, saying her "loose tongue" has "set the entire country on fire" and that she is "single-handedly responsible for what is happening in the country".

Refusing to entertain her plea for clubbing of FIRs lodged in various States against her for the remark, the bench held that the comment was made either for cheap publicity, political agenda or some nefarious activities.

Criticising the observations of Justices Suyakant and JB Pardiwala, the statement said, "We, as concerned citizens, do believe that democracy of any country will remain intact till all the institutions perform their duties as per the constitution. Recent comments by the two judges of the Supreme Court have surpassed

the Laxman Rekha and compelled us to issue an open statement."

These "unfortunate and unprecedented" comments have sent shockwaves in the country and outside, it claimed.

"The observations are too serious to be overlooked if the rule of law, democracy has to sustain and blossom and deserve to be recalled with the stance that soothes minds that care for justice," it added.

Noting that Sharma sought access to the justice system before the highest court, the statement said the court's observations have no connect with the issue raised in the petition and "transgressed in an unprecedented manner all canons of the dispensation of justice".

"She was de facto denied access to judiciary and in the process, there was an outrage on the preamble, spirit and essence of the Constitution of India," it alleged.

In the observations, there is the virtual exoneration of the "dastardly beheading at Udaipur in broad daylight," it claimed. It further said, "Legal fraternity is bound to be surprised and shocked at the observation that an FIR should lead to arrest. The observations on other agencies in the country, without notice to them, are indeed worrisome and alarming." The signatories defended Sharma's plea for clubbing all FIRs against her citing previous orders of the SC.

Rahul backs K'taka HC judge against 'transfer threat'

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■
NEW DELHI

Former Congress president Rahul Gandhi on Tuesday targeted the BJP over the statement of a Karnataka High Court judge hearing a matter related to a bribery case that he is being threatened with transfer. Rahul also shared a video of the part of court proceedings during which the judge had said he was threatened with the transfer after his remark against the Anti-Corruption Bureau (ACB) that it had become a "collection centre".

Justice HP Sandesh also said he is unfazed and added, "I will bell the cat, even at the cost of my judgeship."

"A HC judge has been threatened for exposing the BJP's corrupt Government in Karnataka. Institution after institution is being bulldozed by the BJP. Each of us must



stand with those fearlessly doing their duty (sic)," Rahul said on a social media platform.

The Congress has been attacking the BJP Government in Karnataka on the issue of corruption. On Monday, Rahul had demanded the sacking of Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai to ensure a fair investigation in the police recruitment scam.

Continued on Page 9

Outrage over Kerala Min's insult to Constitution

KUMAR CHELLAPPAN ■ KOCHI

Kerala Minister for Fisheries and Culture Saji Cherian has landed himself in trouble by taunting, belittling and humiliating the Indian Constitution and Dr BR Ambedkar, father of the Constitution.

After demands for his sacking poured in from several quarters, including the BJP and the Congress, Cherian did a volte-face and said the media distorted his comments.

Addressing a public meeting at Mallappalli in Pathanamthitta on Sunday, Cherian said the Indian Constitution had nothing for the billions of poor people.

"It is a beautiful Constitution which helps the Government, bureaucracy, and the judiciary to rob the poor people. The Indian Constitution is a document to exploit and harass the billions of poor in the country. Those



who drafted the Constitution had simply copied what was dictated by the British colonial masters and put it as the country's Constitution.

Terms like secularism and socialism are mere hogwash," said Cherian in the speech which went viral on Tuesday.

He blamed the Constitution for the rich becoming richer and the poor becoming poorer. "This is a Constitution for Adani and Ambani. There is nothing for the poor man in this Constitution," said Cherian.

He also blamed the judiciary for the pro-rich policies

being followed by it. The Minister further alleged that the Constitution was a fool-proof mechanism to rob the poor, and this has been going on for the last 75 years.

"This is the Constitution which is quite helpful in stealing and robbing," said Cherian.

Once the Minister's speech went viral and the Opposition launched a State-wide protest demanding his arrest and dismissal from the Ministry, Cherian made a volte-face and blamed the media for distorting his speech.

"The Minister has belittled and insulted the Indian Constitution. He should be dismissed from the council of ministers or he should resign his minister's post," Kumanam Rajasekharan, former Governor of Mizoram, told reporters at Thiruvananthapuram after presenting a petition to Governor Arif Mohammed Khan.

Continued on Page 9

Odisha, UP, AP top givers of Govt's free foodgrains

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■
NEW DELHI

Odisha, Uttar Pradesh and Andhra Pradesh occupied top three places in the ranking of States for the implementation of the National Food Security Act (NFSA), under which the Government provides 5 kgs of foodgrains per person per month at ₹1-3 a kg.

The Centre provides the highly subsidised foodgrains to nearly 80 crore people. The Centre released the "State Ranking Index for NFSA" 2022 on Tuesday. The Index measures the effectiveness of NFSA implementation through operations and initiatives under the Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS).

Union Food and Consumer Affairs Minister Piyush Goyal released the "State Ranking Index for NFSA" 2022 during a conference of State Food Ministers on food and nutrition security in India.

In the special category



States (the North Eastern States, Himalayan States, and the Island States), Tripura has obtained the first rank. Himachal Pradesh and Sikkim are at the second and third positions.

The report stated that despite the logistical limitations in these areas, they displayed a high degree of accomplishment in competing with the

general category States as well.

Odisha is at first position with a score of 0.836, followed by Uttar Pradesh (0.797) and Andhra Pradesh (0.794). Gujarat is at fourth place, followed by Dadra & Nagar Haveli and Daman Diu, Madhya Pradesh, Bihar, Karnataka, Tamil Nadu and Jharkhand.

Continued on Page 9

Noida cops pre-empt Raipur police bid to arrest anchor over fake Rahul video after distress call

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW
DELHI/GHAZIABAD

A massive row erupted over Chhattisgarh Police's attempt to arrest Zee TV news anchor Rohit Ranjan on Tuesday after Noida Police foiled their bid and took Ranjan in their own custody.

Ranjan was booked by the Chhattisgarh Police for playing a doctored clip of Congress leader Rahul Gandhi on the channel during his show on July 1. Drama unfolded outside Ranjan's home in Ghaziabad on Tuesday with the police forces of the two States face to face with each other.

According to Noida Police, the Zee News anchor was picked up from his home for questioning on Tuesday morning by a team of Noida Sector 20 police station in connection



with an FIR lodged under IPC 505 (public mischief) on a complaint by his own channel over a doctored video played during his show on July 1.

In Raipur, Senior Superintendent of Police Prashant Agrawal said a case was registered against Ranjan and others of Zee News on Sunday for allegedly promoting enmity between different groups and outraging religious feelings of people based on the complaint of Congress MLA Devendra Yadav.

Yadav said in his complaint that a video in which Rahul described those attacking his Wayanad office as children against whom he had no ill, was "mischievously" used by the TV channel on July 1 to suggest he was forgiving the killers of Udaipur tailor Kanhaiya Lal.

After Chhattisgarh cops reached out to arrest him, Ranjan reached out to the UP Government and police for help. "Chhattisgarh Police is standing outside my house to arrest me without informing the local police, is it legal?" The Zee News anchor asked and tagged Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath and the State's police in the post.

"There is no such rule to inform. Still, now they are informed. The police team has shown you the court's warrant

of arrest. You should cooperate, join in the investigation and put your defence in court," Raipur Police said in response.

Chhattisgarh cops were not able to arrest him but said it had shown him the arrest warrant and sought his cooperation in the probe. The FIR against Ranjan has been filed in Raipur. On July 2, a day after the video was aired, Ranjan apologised during his TV show for "mistakenly" playing Rahul's statement out of context by linking it with the Udaipur murder case. "It was a human error for which our team is apologetic. We apologise for it," he had tweeted in Hindi.

The controversial video was used by several people including BJP leaders to attack Rahul and the Congress party in the wake of the gruesome killing in Udaipur on June 28.

SpiceJet malfunction causes emergency landing in Karachi

Windshield cracks
mid-air in airline's
another flight

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■
NEW DELHI

Two mid-air incidents on a single day occurred involving SpiceJet aircraft on Tuesday. While a SpiceJet B737 flight SG-11 (Delhi-Dubai) was diverted to Karachi due to an indicator light malfunctioning in the morning, another of its aircraft, flying from Kandla in Gujarat, made a priority landing in the Mumbai airport later in the day after its windshield cracked at 23,000 feet altitude.

With the latest malfunction, there have been seven such incidents on SpiceJet air-



Dubai-bound SpiceJet aircraft after its landing at Karachi Airport PTI

craft in the last 17 days. The other incidents include two door warnings, a bird hit, oil leakage from an engine, and a pressurisation problem in addition to Tuesday's malfunction.

Sources said that the Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) is investigating the two incidents which took place on Tuesday, along with the previous five incidents.

Continued on Page 9

Vaastu guru stabbed to death in K'taka hotel

Hubballi: Self-styled Vastu expert Chandrashekhar Guruji was stabbed to death in a city hotel on Tuesday, police said.

Within hours, two persons — Manjunath Marewad and Mahantesh Sirur — who were allegedly involved in the killing and had fled the scene after committing the brutal murder, were detained at Ramdurg in neighbouring Belagavi district, police added.

"They have been detained and we are bringing them back to Hubballi. Once they are brought in, we will interrogate them," Hubballi-Dharwad Police Commissioner Labhu Ram told PTI.

CCTV footage showed two people, who initially approached him pretending to greet him, repeatedly stabbing him at the reception area of the hotel.

The reason behind the



killing of Guruji of 'Sara Vastu' fame who sustained many stab wounds, is under investigation.

Hailing from Bagalkote, Guruji had started his career as a contractor and later got a job in Mumbai where he settled down. Subsequently, he pursued Vastu business there.

Three days ago, a child in his family had died in Hubballi, for which he had come here to attend a ceremony. Karnataka Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai said all measures would be taken to ensure stringent punishment for the killers of Guruji.

JE death rate brought down by 95%: Yogi

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

On the completion of 100 days of the second term of the BJP government in Uttar Pradesh, Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath highlighted the success of the communicable disease campaign and 'Dastak', saying the death rate due to Japanese Encephalitis (JE) has been brought down by 95 per cent. While addressing people on the completion of 100 days of his government, the chief minister said, "Better public health is not only a result of good treatment but also awareness, inter-departmental coordination and teamwork. As a result of all these elements, eastern UP is moving quickly towards complete eradication of encephalitis."

Aiming to prevent all water-borne and mosquito-borne diseases during the summers and subsequent rainy season, the Yogi government launched a special communicable disease campaign on July 1. He recalled that five years ago as soon as the month of July started, deaths due to encephalitis started occurring in eastern UP. "However, under the BJP government,

Numerous educational reforms in first 100 days

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

From ensuring no child is left out of school to bridging the digital divide by fostering e-learning methods in government colleges, the Yogi Adityanath government 2.0 regime has introduced numerous reforms to transform education in its first 100 days. Ensuring quality education for all the children, enrolment of about 1.88 crore students and more than 1.65 crore Aadhaar cards were made under the 'School Chalo Abhiyan' in the state. With this, development of 'Pahuch' for school mapping of students of far-flung areas, 'Pankh' for career counselling, 'Pragyan' for e-library, 'Parakh' for monitoring, 'Praveen' for skill training, 'Pachhaan' for schools and 'Project Alankar' portal for resource mapping was done.

In the first 100 days of the Yogi government, a provision of Rs 10 crore was made for the appointment of 1,200 lecturers in aided colleges and for



setting up of smart classes in 87 government colleges.

Apart from smart classes, an e-content digital studio is will also come up at the state Directorate of Higher Education at a cost of Rs 1 crore. It will then be used for recording and editing of contents which will later be utilised for conducting virtual classes.

The Yogi government has installed biometric attendance devices at 2273 government colleges. At the same time, the government has also completed the appointment of about 1,200 teachers in 100 days to remove the shortage of teachers.

In addition, a provision of Rs 1,051 lakh has been made for the devel-

opment (upgradation) of laboratories in 36 government degree colleges.

The Yogi government has also made a provision of Rs 203 lakh to provide technical books in 111 government colleges. Moreover, the government has given its approval to facilitate the expansion of sports facilities in 172 government colleges.

Among the biggest achievements of the Yogi government in 100 days, Gorakhpur's Madan Mohan Malviya University of Technology brought laurels to the state by becoming the first state university to get 'A' grade by the National Assessment and Accreditation Council (NAAC).

At the same time, construction of two government polytechnics and 15 women and men hostels was completed. The first 100 days of the Yogi government 2.0 have been full of achievements in terms of placement of students. During this, 2,207 students were selected in TCS in AKTU and affiliated colleges.



NOTICE

My H.No.453 EVS Yojna-40 Barra-4 Kanpur Which Original Allotment Letter Some Where Loss Use will be illegal, Maya Singh w/o Ashok Singh R/O 453 Barra -4 Kanpur

PUBLIC NOTICE

PUBLIC NOTICE

It is reported to the general public that the original copy of Sale Deed in the Name of Smt. Alka Dewivedi of Plot No. 43, Kharsa, No. 496 KA Minjuria, Boli No. 1, Jid No. 1172, Page No. 288 to 312, Serial No. 9229 on registered dt. 15.07.2011 this sale deed has fallen by Ansh Dewivedi R/O 894, Sarwan, Arjunanj, Lucknow. Director of MIS Maisur Projects Pvt. Ltd. Lucknow, Add: 80/973, Gomti Nagar Extension, Lucknow. The F.I.R. has been registered L.A.R. No. 202200035219, Sale Deed on 04.07.2022 from his residence while going to the Gomti Nagar Office has fallen on the way. If any gentleman receive the same, then inform the following address and has created mortgage charged for Credit facility from State Bank of India, Lucknow.

Ansh Dewivedi (Director) MIS Maisur Projects Pvt. Ltd. Lucknow, Add: 80/973, Gomti Nagar Extension, Lucknow

आवश्यकता है

आवश्यकता है ।

मदरसा इरम माडल निस्वां स्कूल, पोरबटावन, बाराबंकी सहायक अध्यापक तहतानिया—02 पद, आयु न्यूनतम 18 वर्ष, शैक्षिक योग्यता आल्लिम अथवा उर्दू से इम्प्टर । पुनरीक्षित वेतन मैट्रिक्स लेवल 6 में वेतन 35400—112400

नोट:— उपरोक्त पद हेतु आवेदन पत्र विज्ञापन के प्रकाशन तिथि के 21 दिवस के अंदर प्रबन्धक इरम एजुकेशनल सोसाइटी, सी—ब्लाक इन्दिरा नगर, लखनऊ—226016 को प्राप्त हो जाने चाहिए । अंतिम तिथि के बाद प्राप्त आवेदन पत्रों पर कोई विचार नहीं किया जाएगा । साक्षात्कार की तिथि सूचित कर दी जाएगी । इस हेतु कोई यात्रा भत्ता देय नहीं होगा । काबलियत /अर्हता मदरसा बोर्ड एक्ट व नियमावली 22 जुलाई 2016 के मुताबिक होगी ।

प्रबन्धक

आवश्यकता है

आवश्यकता है ।

मदरसा आइडियल गर्ल्स स्कूल, मिश्रपुर कुर्सी रोड, लखनऊ

सहायक अध्यापक आलिया—01 पद, आयु न्यूनतम 22 वर्ष, शैक्षिक योग्यता काजिलाल अथवा अरबी /फारसी /दीनियात परम्परागत प्राच्य विषय में न्यूनतम 50 प्रतिशत अंकों सहित स्नातकोत्तर उपाधि तथा मुंशी /मौलवी कक्षाओं का न्यूनतम दो वर्षों का शैक्षणिक अनुभव । परन्तु अरबी /फारसी /दीनियात दुस्तुरा उपाधि धारक के लिए शैक्षणिक अनुभव आवश्यक नहीं है । पुनरीक्षित वेतन मैट्रिक्स लेवल 7 में वेतन 44900—142400

नोट:— उपरोक्त पद हेतु आवेदन पत्र विज्ञापन के प्रकाशन तिथि के 21 दिवस के अंदर प्रबन्धक इरम एजुकेशनल सोसाइटी, सी—ब्लाक इन्दिरा नगर, लखनऊ—226016 को प्राप्त हो जाने चाहिए । अंतिम तिथि के बाद प्राप्त आवेदन पत्रों पर कोई विचार नहीं किया जाएगा । साक्षात्कार की तिथि सूचित कर दी जाएगी । इस हेतु कोई यात्रा भत्ता देय नहीं होगा । काबलियत /अर्हता मदरसा बोर्ड एक्ट व नियमावली 22 जुलाई 2016 के मुताबिक होगी ।

प्रबन्धक



NOTICE

I Abhisek Singh S/o Shiv Singh Parmar R/o H.N. 52 Sainik Nagar koyal Nagar Kanpur have changed my name from Abhisek Singh to Abhisek Singh Parmar vide affidavit no- 65 AE 820232 dated 02/7/2022 before Kanpur Court U.P.

NOTICE

Be it known to all that my daughter's name is wrongly mentioned in school records as Shubhrali Santosh Singh. In future she will be known as Shubhrali Singh. Santosh Kumar Singh R/o 628M/165 Manas Vihar Colony near Shakti Nagar, Indira Nagar, Lucknow.

NOTICE

Be it known to all that earlier my name was KAILASH NARAIN Urf MUKESH ARYA which is now changed to KAILASH NARAYAN ARYA. In future I shall be known as KAILASH NARAYAN ARYA. KAILASH NARAYAN ARYA S/o Raj Kumar Helo 23/3, Stanely Road, Civil Lines, Prayagraj.

NOTICE

Be it known to all that earlier my name was NAEEM KHAM which is now changed to MOHAMMAD NAEEM KHAM. In future I shall be known as MOHAMMAD NAEEM KHAM. MOHAMMAD NAEEM KHAM S/o Munne Khan 49K/12K/1A, Gaus Nagar, Kareli, GTB Nagar, Allahabad.

सूचना

सूचित किया जाता है कि मेरी बैनामा /रजिस्ट्री /जिल्द सं. 2940 पेज न. 241 पृष्ठ सं. 7022 पर बुक न./जिल्द 2992 पेज 297—304 दिनांक 13 जून 1984 पक्ष में श्रीमती विनीता जैन पत्नी अरुण जैन पता — भूखण्ड सं. 41 मानस विहार, सर्वोदय नगर लखनऊ की मूल बैनामा प्रति वास्तव में खो गई है । नवनीत कुमार तिवारी निवासी — 41 मानस विहार, सर्वोदय नगर, लखनऊ

NOTICE

My Original Allotment Letter Dated 27.05.2022 Flat No.Gaya 115, 1st Floor, Block- Gaya Residential Project RATAN PANORAMA at Arazi No.1325M, 1328M, 1329, 1345, 1346, 1347,1348, 1353M, Barasirohi, Kanpur infavour of Sudhanshu Pandey has been lost somewhere. "Sudhanshu Pandey S/o Om Shankar Pandey R/o infront of Kids Garden School , Kishore ganj, Bidhuna,Auraiya.* Mo. 7417315269

Akhilesh launches membership drive

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

Days after dissolving all party fronts, Samajwadi Party president Akhilesh Yadav launched a membership drive at the party headquarters in Lucknow on Tuesday. The drive will be carried out at tehils, zones and districts across the state. The SP chief said he would reveal the number of new party members.

Addressing mediapersons at the SP headquarters in Lucknow on Tuesday, Yadav targeted the Yogi Adityanath government's 100 days celebrations. "The CM should speak about his achievements of five years and 100 days. Even today, this government is cutting ribbons of the projects completed during the Samajwadi Party regime. Whatever is being inaugurated is also incomplete," Yadav said.

Taking a jibe at UP Deputy Chief Minister Brajesh Pathak without taking his name, Yadav said, "In the Yogi Adityanath government, the deputy chief minister is questioning the transfers of doctors even though he goes around raiding hospitals. Who is actually



doing backseat driving in this government?" he asked.

"The deputy chief minister has no control over the officers of his department who ignore his directives. The recent transfers were done without consulting him. This is a deputy CM who is known for his surprise raids. It appears as if someone is running the Yogi government from behind," Yadav said.

Replying to a question, Akhilesh said he did not campaign in the bypolls because he had been assured by his party leaders that they would easily win Azamgarh and Rampur

seats. "We did not know that the administration would play such a major role and prevent people from casting their votes," he said.

Attacking the Congress and the Bharatiya Janata Party, the SP chief said: "The BJP is following the footsteps of the Congress. When the Congress was in power at the Centre, it used the Enforcement Directorate (ED) and Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) to hound the opposition leaders. In Maharashtra, they (BJP) accepted that there was an ED government. The ED government also exists in Madhya

ED summons Azam's son, wife for questioning in money laundering case

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

More trouble is in store for former minister and senior Samajwadi Party leader Azam Khan as the Enforcement Directorate (ED) has issued summons to his wife and son to question them in a money laundering case being probed against him.

Azam Khan (73), who is also the SP MLA from Rampur, is presently out on bail. His son Abdullah Azam Khan, MLA from Swar assembly seat, and wife Tazeen Fatma have been asked to depose separately before the ED in the regional office in Lucknow this week.

The ED seeks to record their statements under criminal sections of the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA) in the case being probed against Azam Khan.

Azam Khan was grilled by the ED when he was lodged in Sitapur jail. He was released from jail in May after 27 months as the Supreme Court granted him interim bail in an alleged forgery case.

The ED had initiated a probe against Khan in 2019 after taking cognisance of at least 26 FIRs filed by the UP Police against him. It was also alleged that a university run by him in Rampur has been constructed over a piece of land under enemy property.

Khan is the chairman of Maulana Muhammad Ali Jauhar Trust, which runs the three branches of Rampur Public School.

He has earlier served as the urban development minister in the erstwhile SP government in UP helmed by Akhilesh Yadav.

Speaker interacts with young MLAs

Lucknow (PNS): Uttar Pradesh Assembly Speaker Satish Mahana, who is working on an innovative idea, interacted with the young MLAs (up to 40 years) on Tuesday. He met the young MLAs cutting across the parties in small groups. Mahana was all ears to their views and also shared his experience with the legislators. Mahana has been an 8-term MLA since 1991. The programme was organised in a local hotel and it lasted for over four hours. As many as 32 MLAs took part in the meeting. Mahana urged the young legislators to be with the people, know about their issues and discuss the same in the state assembly.

"The electorate now keep a close eye on their elected representatives. If people have elected you, they have aspirations and expectations from the elected representatives. The MLAs should never lose connect with people to be able to get elected again," Mahana said. He urged the legislators to give maximum time to the House when the state assembly is in session and also go to the library for regular study.

The young MLAs appreciated the initiative taken by the speaker. They said it was a great learning experience.

The legislators told the speaker that the assembly members should be nominated to different committees of the House as per their orientation and qualification. Mahana assured the legislators that their suggestion would be looked into. Mahana had earlier organised a similar programme for MLAs who are medics.

BJP govt did nothing as promised in 100 days

Lucknow (PNS): Rashtriya Lok Dal's national general secretary Trilok Tyagi said on Tuesday that the Yogi Adityanath government in Uttar Pradesh did nothing as promised in the first 100 days. He termed the success claims of state government as a lies.

"The state government is yet to clear the arrears of sugarcane growers. The state government has failed in bringing the farmers relief from stray animals' menace even as law and order has deter-

riorared," Tyagi said. He said stray animals had caused the farmers to face losses due to crop damage, but the government was looking away. "There has been a spate in incidents of murder, loot, rape and dacoity in UP. It can be said that the system (order) has been destroyed completely in UP," he commented.

Tyagi said the state government overloved the law while implementing its bulldozer policy in UP. "The state government has also forgotten its

promise to halve the electricity bills," he said. With a tongue-in-cheek remark, Tyagi also flayed the Union government and said the PM helped Adani double his profit during the Covid period and now the PM was promoting sale of coal in which Adani deals. "Now, he has implemented the Agnipath scheme for short-term recruitment in the armed forces," he said.

About the growing role of the Enforcement Directorate in the present

ODOP to go global

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath's ambitious scheme ODOP (One District, One Product), launched to take the slogan of 'Vocal for Local' on the ground, is now on the way to going global within four years of its inception and launch.

Be it Dussehra or Holi, Deepawali, New Year or any special event, now only ODOP products are being given to special guests in the form of gift hampers or souvenirs. The chief minister compulsorily gives gift hampers of ODOP products to the special guests who call on him.

Recently, there was tremendous branding of ODOP products of the state when Prime Minister Narendra Modi presented the same to heads of state and prime ministers during the meeting of G-7 countries. This isn't the first time though. Even before that, on the occasion of the inauguration of Kushinagar International Airport, the ODOP product of Siddharthanagar, considered to be the 'prasad' of Lord Buddha, was given away to the guests from Buddhist countries.

On the first Foundation Day of Uttar Pradesh on January 24, 2018, Yogi launched this ambitious scheme in the presence of the then Governor Ram Naik. The objective was the overall development of the state, providing employment at the local level, while preserving and promoting the traditional arts, skills, cultural heritage of the state.

Within four years of its launch, this scheme is scripting a new success story. No wonder the chief minister mentions this scheme in every address.

Recently, in a press conference on the completion of 100 days of the government, the

chief minister said that ODOP is a symbol of heritage. There has been a record increase in the exports of the state due to the effective implementation of this scheme.

In the last five years, the exports increased from Rs 88 thousand crore to Rs 1.56 lakh crore. He also mentioned the G-7 summit where the chief minister pointed out how the PM once again demonstrated his commitment to 'Vocal for Local' by presenting the ODOP products of UP to the heads of the governments present at the G7 Summit held in Germany.

"The ODOP products of Uttar Pradesh will become a brand in the country and the world. The Common Facility Centre will play an important role in this. These will be such centres where all the facilities required for grading, packing, store time of ODOP products of all the districts will be available under one roof," a government spokesman said on Monday.

CFC centres in Sitapur, Agra, Azamgarh, Siddharthanagar and Ambedkar Nagar were inaugurated by the chief minister.

Besides, self-help centres have been established in 35 districts with the help of SIDBI for ODOP. Such centres will be set up in every district.

"This is an era of online market and therefore, ODOP products have also been made available by the government on online platforms. The government is also continuously expanding this platform. For example, recently an MoU has been signed between the government and Amazon. Amazon has set up a digital hub in Kanpur. It will provide a huge platform for ODOP units to sell their products in the country and the world," Additional Chief Secretary, MSME, Navneet Sehgal said.

BJP govt has failed on all fronts: Mayawati



Lucknow (PNS): Bahujan Samaj Party supreme Mayawati on Tuesday attacked the Bharatiya Janta Party for celebrating 100 days of the government's second term. She alleged that the government failed on all fronts, especially the rising prices, unemployment and deteriorating law and order.

She alleged that the Yogi Adityanath government had been "extremely disappointing" as far as ensuring communal harmony and peace is concerned. In a tweet on Tuesday morning, Mayawati made a direct attack on the Yogi government.

"The UP BJP government celebrated 100 days' tenure but it has been indifferent and very disappointing in doing away with the burning problems of poverty, unemployment, inflation etc and improving law & order, and creating mutual brotherhood and communal harmony," Mayawati tweeted.

Earlier on Monday, the Congress and the Samajwadi Party had also attacked the government over its 100-day celebrations.

SP chief Akhilesh Yadav took a jibe at CM Yogi Adityanath saying someone

was running the government from behind. Yadav further said that democracy had been weakened due to misuse of power under the BJP rule.

He termed the achievements claimed by the BJP government as a bundle of lies and alleged that the BJP indulged in fraudulent politics.

Akhilesh said that this government showed people a lot of dreams of development but did not implement a single scheme on the ground.

Former Congress state president Ajay Kumar Lallu also attacked the government claiming that the Yogi Adityanath and his cabinet colleagues were padding their backs on "false propaganda".

He claimed that 100 days of the BJP government would be known for injustice, atrocities, crime, arrogance, loot, murder, pimping, corruption, rising prices and, above all, suicides by farmers. It may be mentioned that Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath, while presenting the report card of the 100 days of his second term, claimed on Monday that his government had lived up to the expectations of people who had completely rejected the SP, BSP and Congress.

NOTICE

This is to inform you that my client Sri Sarvesh Kumar Vishwakarma S/o Sri Rajkumar Vishwakarma is the owner of House No. 124B1, C-Block, Govind Nagar, Kanpur Nagar constructed over plot no. 81 Block C, Scheme First, Govind Nagar, Kanpur Nagar measuring 50 Sq. Yards, or 125.415 Sq. Mtr. and he had lost the Original freehold deed dated 26.11.1998 registered at Serial No. 3259 title deed regarding the said property. In case the documents of title relating to said Property have been mortgaged with any Government Semi Government Department or with any financial institution or any bank or there are others Co-owners of the said Property then within 6 days of the said Publication written intimation in the same be given to me at my office, supported with necessary documents, otherwise after expiry of the above period, if any person or institution set-up any claim with respect to the said property that shall not be maintainable.

Vivek Awasthi Advocate
Mob. No. 7007568625

25 cr saplings planted in a day

Van Mahotsav: Yogi kickstarts massive drive in Chitrakoot

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

The Uttar Pradesh government planted 25 crore saplings in a single day on the start of Van Mahotsav celebrations on Tuesday. The feat was completed five minutes before 6 pm.

In UP, the 'Vriksharopan Janandolan 2022' for plantation of 35 crore saplings, was launched on Tuesday by Governor Anandiben Patel in Kukrail forest area.

In her address, the governor called upon people to plant at least five saplings each. She also suggested that 'Nakshatra' and 'Rashi Van' as well as bonsai gardens and 'Panchatantra' vatikas be established in the state.

The governor also suggested that nature-based songs and poems should be composed for schoolchildren. The governor was all praise for the Amrit Sarovar Yojana and cleanliness campaign in the form of no single-use plastic and called upon people to ensure active cooperation in these campaigns.

Folk singer Malini Awasthi was declared the brand ambassador of the tree plantation campaign by the Forest department. Ministers Surya Pratap Shahi, KP Malik and Mayor Sanyukta Bhatia



among others were present on the occasion.

Highlighting the ill-effects of climate change on agricul-

ture, need for tree plantation and planting of local species was stressed upon by Agriculture Minister Surya

Pratap Shahi. Schoolchildren and NCC cadets also participated in a tree plantation campaign and

planted 2,000 saplings.

In the programme, National Bamboo Mission, Uttar Pradesh Forest Corporation, Turtle Survival Alliance, HCL Foundation and Prithvi Innovation also displayed their products at different stalls. The programme was attended by PCCF Mamta Sanjeev Dubey among others.

Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath kick-started the massive plantation in Chitrakoot on the inaugural of Van Mahotsav celebrations on Tuesday. He emphasised on planting of local species and their protection. The chief minister called upon every section of the society to participate in the plantation campaign so that it could become a mass movement. He also called for planting more and more plants for carbon sequestration to mitigate climate change. He suggested preserving the 'Matdar Forest Block' in its original natural form in the name of 'Kodand Van'. The CM felicitated forest watcher and nature lover Bhairavi Ram for planting 40,000 saplings on 4 ha forest land and converting it into a dense forest by his hard work and dedication. He was also presented a shawl and a memento. In all 75 districts of the state, 50 cabinet ministers, ministers of state, 25 MPs and additional chief secretaries, principal secretaries and other officers planted saplings.

(Top) Governor Anandiben Patel at the tree plantation programme in Kukrail. (Left) Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath waters a sapling in Chitrakoot

Gang mastermind among 7 land in STF net for dacoity

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

With the arrest of seven accused, including the mastermind from BBD police station area on Tuesday, the UP STF claimed to have busted a gang involved in dacoity, with the carriers employed by companies/agencies located in east UP dealing in currency conversion between India and Nepal.

Those arrested were identified as Ram Praveesh Rajbhar, Anil Paswan, Rajnish Mishra, Sanjay Kumar, Chandra Shekhar (all of Gorakhpur) and Praveen Chauhan of Maharajganj. Sanjay Kumar is a former employee of an

agency dealing in conversion of INR in Nepali currency.

The team recovered over Rs 1 lakh looted by the accused in the past. The STF team also recovered a factory-made revolver, a country-made pistol of .32 bore, two country-made pistols, each of 315 bore, live cartridges, a khukri, an SUV, a luxury car, ten mobile phones, 20 ATM cards, Aadhaar/PAN cards and licences.

Ram Praveesh Rajbhar was said to be the mastermind of the gang that was active in Gorakhpur, Maharajganj, Bahraich and Siddharth Nagar districts. The gang was planning to strike in Lucknow and

was nabbed on a tip-off. The STF team was led by CO Deepak Kumar Singh.

The police were tipped off about the movement of the gang near Regulator Point in Juggaur under BBD police station area on Tuesday afternoon. The police said the miscreants were involved in three cases of loot/dacoity in Maharajganj, Gorakhpur and Siddharth Nagar besides several other cases of crime.

About the recovered revolver, Rajnish said he, along with his aide Rahul, had stolen it from Sitamarhi in Bihar. The revolver is owned by Dr Jagdish Prasad, who lost it in a theft at his house in 2018.

Filmmaker booked for hurting religious sentiments through movie poster

Lucknow (PNS): An FIR was registered against Indian documentary filmmaker Leena Manimekalai for the poster of 'Kaali' in which a woman dressed as the Hindu goddess is seen smoking. The case was registered at the Hazratganj police station in Lucknow on the complaint of an advocate, Ved Prakash Shukla.

The complainant said the poster of the movie 'Kaali' released on social media has hurt the religious sentiments of a particular faith. Others named in the FIR included film editor Shrawan Onachan and producer Asha Associates.

Shukla also stated in the FIR lodged on July 4 that he spotted the objectionable photo of the Hindu goddess on social media. "Locals and other Twitter users were infuriated over the movie poster which could vitiate the atmosphere and lead to a riot-like situation," Shukla said.

"Goddess Kaali is revered by all of us but she is shown smoking to hurt our religious feelings," he added. The police said a probe was underway.

The India-born Toronto-based director shared the poster of 'Kaali' on social media on June 2. The woman in the poster can also be seen holding the pride flag of the LGBTQ community. The poster was released at the Canada Film Festival. She has also been booked for hurting religious sentiments in New Delhi while complaints against her have also been lodged in other parts of the country.

Three end lives in separate incidents

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

Three people ended their lives in different parts of the city in the last 24 hours.

A jobless youth ended his life at his house in Aliganj police station area on Monday night. Identified as Rinku aka Karan (32) of Ahiharanpur locality in the area, he was found hanging from the ceiling with a dupatta tied around his neck. The incident came to light around 9 pm. The police sent the body for autopsy and started further investigation.

Elsewhere in Aliganj, a 45-year-old security guard ended his life on the intervening night of July 4 and 5. He was identified as Sanjay Varma of Bada Chandganj. He was found hanging from the ceiling with a saree tied around his neck. Police suspected that he ended his life over family bickering.

Meanwhile, a 48-year-old man ended his life in Nigoha police station area on Tuesday. He was identified as Ramphal of Raghunath Khera. He was staying all alone in the house. Reports said he was found hanging from a tree with a *gamchha* tied around his neck. Ramphal was said to be down with some disease. The body was sent for autopsy while further investigation was underway.

Meanwhile, two people were killed in separate road mishaps in Alambagh and Bijnor. In Alambagh, Gaurav Gupta of LDA Colony (Sector

H) was hit by some speeding vehicle at Loco crossing around 10:30 pm on July 3. Reports said Gaurav was returning from his shop in Aminabad. He was rushed to Civil hospital where he was declared dead.

In Bijnor, an unidentified SUV hit a cyclist, identified as Mithilesh Kumar Pandey of Cantonment police station area, on July 3 night. Mithilesh worked in Bijnor and was returning home when he met the mishap in Sarwan Khera locality. He was rushed to Lok Bandhu Hospital where he died during treatment.

Meanwhile, a youth was accused of forcing a woman of another another faith for marriage in Chinhat police station area. The accused, identified as Mohammed Saeed Sheikh of Barabanki, earlier worked as a carpenter at her father's shop in the area. "Saeed had a nefarious design. He would pass comments and try to trap me in a love affair," she alleged. She said she confronted him on his amorous advances and it made him furious. "He lost his cool and threatened to defame me if I turned down his marriage proposal. He also abused me and threatened to kill me," she alleged. Saeed was fired when the girl's father came to know about his antics. It was alleged that the police did not take the case seriously and booked the accused under Section 151 of CrPC for breach of peace.

Docs raise voice against sale of breast milk

SHARMILA KRISHNA ■ LUCKNOW

Medical experts of the city raised their voices against the practice of breast milk sale in the country which, they said, could lead to malnourishment in poor and underprivileged children if their mothers were enticed by the idea to earn fast bucks.

Paediatrician Dr Piyali Bhattacharya pointed out that breast milk is being sold by private companies across the country. "One should not allow the unregulated sale of breast milk," she said, adding it is sold in foreign countries at exorbitant rates — up to Rs 4,000 for 150-300 ml. Dr Bhattacharya said the modus operandi as it exists shows that the companies normally involve NGOs and give them 20 per cent of the sale amount while 80 per cent goes to the women.

"Normally women are told that they are doing a noble deed in this manner and then making money out of it. As doctors, we are against this practice. If at all it is allowed, the sale should not be regulated while export should be completely stopped. It may entice the poor women to sell the milk and their babies

would get malnourished," she said.

"If the breast milk is on sale for the needy, it should be available on prescription. For this purpose, milk banks have been created in some medical colleges where breast milk can be donated and taken for free," she added.

She pointed out that authorities have cancelled the registration of these companies but they have now approached a different ministry for registration. She said when the milk banks as well as foundations are available to provide breast milk free of cost under CSR activities, the sale of breast milk should not be allowed.

Dr Amita Pandey said when money is the motivating factor, it becomes a dirty game. "There has been a tradition of wet nurse and 'dai' which is a reality in the royal and affluent households. Government-aided and government milk banks have been flourishing for the past few years alone. In Lucknow, there is a milk bank at KGMU which started functioning in 2020-2021. It is very useful when the baby is weak and the mother is very sick or she is a breast cancer patient. However, I agree that as long as

it is altruistic, it is good. When money becomes a factor, it will take the same form like surrogacy wherein women are forced to carry children so that the family can earn some money. Women may well be forced to sell milk," she added.

An activist fighting on the issue said there are two angles to it and one must separate the human milk banks and commercial trading of the milk.

"This battle of neonatal sciences has been going on for years. If the companies selling breast milk claim that they have saved so many babies, it is far from truth. The question should be asked to the government if the regulation is necessary," he said. He added that women also face problems because if they shift from breastfeeding to artificial feeding, the chances of breast and ovarian cancer also go up. "Nobody has examined these things in totality. If you really need human milk bank, develop a support system which includes lactation support, counselling system and a good amount of maternity leaves to all the women and not only those who come from the organised sector. It will increase the supply of breast milk to the human milk bank," he added.

Man arrested in dowry death case hangs self in jail

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

A man arrested in the alleged dowry death case of his daughter-in-law ended his life inside a prison in Mathura, jail officials claimed on Tuesday.

Jail Superintendent Brajesh Kumar Singh said Hari Singh, who was a resident of Mardaura under Baldeo police station area, was in jail since May 23, 2021, in connection with the alleged dowry death of his daughter-in-law.

On Monday afternoon, he hanged himself from a pillar outside barrack number 7, he said. Fellow inmates brought him down and rushed him to the jail hospital. He was referred to the district hospital but he died on the way, the superintendent said.

Hari's son was also lodged in the same jail. Before taking the extreme steps, Hari spoke to his daughter over the phone. The family members claimed that he was upset as the charges against him were fabricated. As he lost hope of getting justice, he decided to end his life, the bereaved family

members claimed. A case was registered in this regard and the body was sent for autopsy.

Meanwhile in Jaunpur, three people died on the spot after a tempo they were travelling in was hit by a speeding truck on the Varanasi-Lucknow Highway in Badlapur Kotwali area on Tuesday morning.

The police sent the bodies for autopsy. On the basis of the driving licence recovered from the pocket of a victim, the police identified him as Parvez Akhtar of Rewasa police station in Chandauli. The identities of two other victims could not be ascertained.

In another mishap in Sambhal, a speeding truck hit the bike of a senior section officer of the Electricity department. He and a local boy who hitched a ride on the bike died on the spot. The section officer (Tanda) was returning home from his workplace in Khaspur village. On the way, he gave a lift to a local boy. As they moved ahead, a speeding truck hit the bike.

Property dealer shot by friend

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

In a shocking incident, a property dealer was killed allegedly by his close friend over some money dispute in Gorakhpur. The victim was shot on Monday evening and he succumbed to injuries on Tuesday morning. Police registered a case in this regard and sent the body for autopsy. A manhunt was launched for the accused who is said to have absconded.

Reports said that Rohit Singh of Kotwali area in Gorakhpur, was into property dealing with his friend Kajal Mishra. Both had a dispute over a money transaction. It was alleged that on Monday evening, both had a heated exchange during which Kajal Mishra whipped out a pistol and shot Rohit before fleeing the scene. Rohit was taken to BRD Medical College but doctors referred him to KGMU Trauma Centre. Rohit was brought to Lucknow late on Monday night but he succumbed on Tuesday morning.

Meanwhile, in a bizarre case in Mainpuri, a man who was called for counselling in connection with another case, lost his temper and beat up a cop inside the police station compound. According to the police, the accused was mentally ill and was called in connection with a domestic violence case.

ASP of Mainpuri Madhuvan Kumar said, "The accused was called following a complaint of domestic violence. He beat up a police officer inside the police station. As per his family, he suffers from mental illness. We will take that into account if they produce supporting documents."

The accused has been booked and detained. A video of the accused attacking the police also went viral on Tuesday.

CITYBRIEFS

DIGITAL INDIA WEEK

The School of Telemedicine and Biomedical Informatics (STBBI), Sanjay Gandhi Post-Graduate Institute of Medical Sciences (SGPGIMS), is a fully equipped telemedicine centre in India supported by the Uttar Pradesh government and Union Ministry of Health and Family Welfare. STBBI under National Medical College Network (NMCN) coordinated 'Digital India Week' 2022 with ERNET-India for live transmission of tele-education sessions. The 'Digital India Week, 2022' was inaugurated by Prime Minister Narendra Modi at Gandhi Nagar in Gujarat. In this programme, 50 medical colleges under National Medical College Network (NMCN) and 52 state medical colleges of Uttar-Pradesh were connected using National Knowledge Network (NKN). "Around 50 lectures from eminent doctors are planned to be delivered by the various medical colleges/super specialty institution till July 6," a doctor said.

ADMISSION OFFER

Uttam Singh, a student of City Montessori School, Kanpur Road, has been offered admission for higher education by four universities of Australia and the United States of America. The University of New South Wales,

the University of Adelaide and RMIT of Australia besides Arizona State University of the United States of America have offered him admission for undergraduate course. Uttam credited his teachers in City Montessori School and conducive environment in the school for his achievement.

VISIT

MD and CEO of Union Bank of India A. Manimekhalai will be in Lucknow on Wednesday (July 6). During her maiden visit, she will carry out the CSR activity of the bank, review the business of various zones and also share the future strategies with senior officials.

SCIENTIFIC ADVISORY BOARD

To keep the pharmaceutical education and translational R&D aligned with the recent trends around the world, the Scientific Advisory Board of the Institute of Pharmaceutical Sciences has been constituted with globally acclaimed eminent personalities from national and international prestigious centres of excellence, academic institutions and pharmaceutical industries. The board is approved by Vice-Chancellor of Lucknow University Prof Alok Kumar Rai.



Deceased donor liver transplant at KGMU successful

Lucknow (PNS): A deceased donor (cadaver) liver transplant performed on a 39-year-old man at KGMU on June 21 was a success and the patient was discharged on Tuesday.

A senior doctor said the patient was suffering from advanced stage liver cirrhosis with complaints of fatigue, loss of appetite and later developed jaundice and bleeding and needed urgent liver transplant for survival.

"Liver was obtained from a 50-year-old male, who sustained head injuries during a road accident and was declared brain dead at Apollomedics Hospital in Lucknow on June 21. Luckily, his liver matched to this patient from Pratapgarh for an emergency transplant. The patient recovered well after the surgery at KGMU and has now been discharged," the doctor said. The transplant team was led by KGMU Vice-Chancellor Dr Bipin Puri.

Liver transplant surgery at present is a complex surgical procedure. It involves multidisciplinary management by a team of more than 100 doctors and staff. More than 2 lakh patients suffer from liver cirrhosis in India every year.

इण्डियन ओवरसीज बैंक
(भारत सरकार का उपक्रम)



Indian Overseas Bank
(A GOVERNMENT OF INDIA UNDERTAKING)

RO: Lucknow | CO: Chennai

Date & Time of Auction-27.07.2022 from 12:00 PM to 4:00 PM,
Venue of Auction-Gomti Nagar Phase II Branch, Kathauta Chauraha, Vinamra Khand, Gomti Nagar, Lucknow
Last Date for submission BID with EMD-26.07.2022 upto 4:00 PM
AUCTION SALE NOTICE FOR SALE OF IMMOVABLE PROPERTY
Auction Sale Notice for the Sale of immovable Assets under the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 read with proviso to Rules 8(6) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002
Notice is hereby given to the public in general and in particular to the Borrower(s) Mortgagor(s), Guarantor(s), Director(s) and Legal Heir(s) that the below described Immovable Property Mortgaged/charged to the Secured creditor, the constructive possession of which has been taken by the Authorised Officer of Indian Overseas Bank (Secured creditor), will be sold on "AS IS WHERE IS", "AS IS WHAT IS" and "WHATEVER THERE IS" on above mentioned date of sale, for recovery of mentioned below amount & future interest and other charges due to the Indian Overseas Bank (Secured creditor) from mentioned below Borrower(s) Mortgagor(s), Guarantor(s), Director(s) and Legal Heir(s). The reserve price and earnest money deposit amount is mentioned below. The auction will be done manually at the concerned branch of the bank.

Name & Address of Borrower/ Guarantors/ Mortgagors/ Directors/ Legal Heirs	Description of Immovable properties	Outstanding Amount	Reserve Price EMD Bid Increase Amt.
Branch-Gomti Nagar Phase II Branch, Kathauta Chauraha, Vinamra Khand, Gomti Nagar, Lucknow, Ph No: 0522-27213001, E mail: lob1728@lob.in			
Borrower-M/s Kaak Enterprises. (Proprietor Advhesh Sharma, Add. L-2/563, Vineet Khand, Gomti Nagar, Lucknow - 226010)	All that part and parcel of the property consisting of Plot no. 25A Khasra no. 414SA and 414 samini(m), Village Rudahi, Pargana Mohana, Tehsil-Bakshi ka Talab Distt- Lucknow, measuring :52.775sq.m.In owned by Ms. Priya Sharma, Bounded By:-East: 22 Feet wide Road, North: Plot No 25B, West: Plot No 30, South: Plot No 24	Rs. 4,51,340.43 as on 30.06.2022 +further interest at contractual rates and rests, Charges etc	Rs. 4,30,200/- Rs. 43,020/- Rs. 5,000/-
EMD Remittance A/c Details:- A/c No.17280113301010 , IFSC Code: IOBA0001728, Branch Code: 1728			
"Bank's dues have priority over the Statutory dues. For detailed terms and conditions of the sale, please refer bank's website https://www.lob.in/tender.aspx ; https://www.publistenders.gov.in For Properties inspection or Participating in bid of the above properties for any clarification interested purchaser may contact above mentioned Branch Manager/Authorised Officer.			
Date: 06.07.2022	Place: Lucknow	Authorised Officer, Indian Overseas Bank	

Preparations going on in full swing for PM's visit tomorrow

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ VARANASI

Preparations are going on in full swing at Dr Sampurnanand Sports Stadium (Siga) where the Prime Minister (PM) Narendra Modi will address a public meeting on Thursday late afternoon apart from inaugurating and laying the foundation stone of multiple projects worth over ₹ 1,800 crore. Final touches are also being given at LT College premises where Modi will inaugurate the Akshay Patra, a centralised kitchen, which has a capacity of cooking mid day meals for around one lakh students. Between these two programmes, around 2.45 pm, the PM will visit the Rudraksh Convention Centre near Siga Stadium to inaugurate Akhil

Bhartiya Shiksha Samagam on implementation of the National Education Policy (NEP). Meanwhile, Air Force helicopters came here and they did the rehearsal by landing at the Police Lines helipad. Besides, the team of Special Protection Group (SPG) has already arrived here and the officers visited all the venues where the PM is scheduled to visit during his stay in his parliamentary constituency. Hectic preparations are going on both inside and outside of Siga Stadium to make all the arrangements complete prior to the arrival of Modi. As per the programme, the PM will land at Lal Bahadur Shastri International Airport, Babatpur by his special plane and then go to the Police Lines

in a helicopter. From there he will reach LT College to inaugurate the Akshaya Patra and then reach Rudraksh to inaugurate three-day Akhil Bhartiya Shiksha Samagam to be organised by the Ministry of Education. It will provide a platform to eminent academicians, policy makers and academic leaders to deliberate and share their experiences and to discuss the roadmap for effective implementation of NEP- 2020. The event is being organised as part of capacity building of more than 300 academic, administrative and institutional leaders from universities (central, state, deemed, private), institutes of national importance (IITs, IIMs, NITs, IISERs) from all over the country.

Various stakeholders would present progress of implementation of NEP in their respective institutions and will also share noteworthy implementation strategies, best practices and success stories. Panel discussions on nine themes identified for higher education under NEP-2020 will be conducted. These themes are multidisciplinary and holistic education; skill development and employability; research, innovation and entrepreneurship; capacity building of teachers for quality education; quality, ranking and accreditation; digital empowerment and online education; equitable and inclusive education; Indian knowledge system; and internationalisation of higher education.

Complete all arrangements on time: CM Yogi

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ VARANASI

In wake of the arrival of Prime Minister Narendra Modi in the city on July 7, Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath arrived here on Tuesday to inspect all the preparations and arrangements. While inspecting the ongoing work in full swing at Dr Sampurnanand Sports Stadium (Siga) where the PM is scheduled to address a public meeting apart from inaugurating and laying the foundation stones of 45 projects worth about ₹ 1,812 crore, Yogi directed the officers to complete all the arrangements and works on time and no laxity should be tolerated in this direction.

The CM landed at the Police Lines helipad where senior officers and Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) leaders welcomed him. Later, he reached Circuit House in a car and held a meeting with the administrative and police officers to discuss the projects to be inaugurated.

He also asked the details about the project whose foundation stones to be laid by the PM during his visit to his parliamentary constituency.

Later, the CM reached Rudraksh Convention Centre where the PM is scheduled to address three-day Akhil Bhartiya Shiksha Samagam



CM Yogi Adityanath inspecting preparations at Siga Stadium for PM's proposed meeting in Varanasi on Tuesday afternoon.

Pioneer

and then reached Siga Stadium where he stayed for some time to make all the arrangements. During his stay there, he gave several instructions to the officers to make the proposed programme a grand success. The PM will give all the projects during the meeting. The PM will also inaugurate Akshay Patra Kitchen at LT College premises where the CM had inspected the arrangements and this centralised kitchen a few days ago during his last visit to the city.

Later, the CM also reached Kashi Vishwanath temple and

offered prayers there. Though the visit of PM to Kashi Vishwanath temple is not confirmed but he may visit there to see the progress of ongoing projects in his 'dream project' Shri Kashi Vishwanath Dham (Corridor). The CM was accompanied by UP Culture and Tourism Minister and Minister In-charge of the district Jaiveer Singh, Mahant Santosh Das of Satua Baba Ashram and other ministers and officers.

In the review meeting at Circuit House UP Minister Ravindra Jaiswal, former min-

ister Dr Neelkanth Tiwari, MLAs Dr Awadhesh Singh and T Ram, Mayor Mridula Jaiswal, Divisional Commissioner Deepak Agrawal, ADG (Zone) Ramkumar, IG (Range) K Satyanarayana, Commissioner of Police A Satish Ganesh, District Magistrate Kaushal Raj Sharma, Vice Chairperson of Varanasi Development Authority Isha Duhan, Municipal Commissioner Pranay Singh, Chief Development Officer Abhishek Goyal and many others were also present.

Modi to give gifts of ₹1,812 cr: BJP

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ VARANASI

Regional Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) president Mahesh Chand Srivastava said that during his visit to his parliamentary constituency, Prime Minister Narendra Modi will give a gift of 45 projects worth about ₹1,812 crore on July 7. Talking to the reporters at Circuit House here on Tuesday, Srivastava said that in the manner a large number of projects were launched by the PM during the last eight years, Kashi model of development has attracted the attention of the entire world. He said that in this mythological city by maintaining its original and traditional shape, modernised infrastructural development was done and the process has continued. "The Banaras is lucky that they have elected an MP who has not only become the PM of the country but also helped India increase its dignity across the world by emerging as a powerful nation", he added. According to him, the



Regional BJP chief MC Srivastava addressing a press conference in Varanasi on Tuesday.

Pioneer

PM has put a lot of focus on infrastructure development in the city, resulting in the transformation of its landscape. The primary focus of this endeavour has been enhancing ease of living for the people. Taking another step in this direction, during the programme at Dr Sampurnanand Sports Stadium, Siga, the PM will inaugurate projects worth over ₹590 crore. Among these are multiple initiatives under Varanasi Smart City and Urban Projects, including re-development of Namoo Ghat in Phase-I along with construction of bathing jetty; conversion of diesel and petrol engines of 500 boats into CNG; redevelopment

ment of Kameshwar Mahadev ward of Old Kashi and over 600 EWS flats constructed in village Harahua, Dasepur; new Vending Zone and urban place prepared under Lahartara-Chowkaghat Flyover; tourist facility and market complex at Dashhashwamedh Ghat; and 33/11 KV Substation at Nagwa under IPDS Work Phase-3.

He further informed that the PM will also inaugurate various projects related to improvement of sewerage and water supply in the district; synthetic athletic track and synthetic basketball court in Dr Bhim Rao Ambedkar Sports Complex, Bada Lalpur and various police and safety fire

projects including non-residential police station building at Sindhaura, construction of hostel rooms, barracks in Mirza Murad, Cholaipur, Jansa and Kapsethi police stations and building of Fire Extinguisher Centre in Pindra.

Besides, during his visit, Modi will also lay the foundation stone of projects worth more than ₹ 1200 crore. To give a fillip to tourism in the region, the PM will lay foundation stone of multiple projects including development work of Sarnath Buddhist Circuit under World Bank aided UP Pro-Poor tourism development project, construction of Paavan Path for Asht Vinakaya, Dwadash Jyotirling Yatra, Asht Bhairav, Nav Gauri Yatra, tourism development work of five stoppages in Panchkosi Parikrama Yatra Marg and tourism development various wards in Old Kashi. Besides, Modi will also lay the foundation of Phase-1 of redevelopment works of Sports Stadium at Siga, he added.

Cong leader accuses BJP govt of misusing power

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ VARANASI

City president of Congress Party Raghvendra Chaube on Tuesday accused the BJP-led Government for misusing the power during the last 100 days and said that the claim of achievements made by the CM in his second term is nothing but a lie and propaganda.

Talking to the presspersons at the party office in Maidagin, here, Chaube blamed that the state government weakened the democracy and Constitution during the last 100 days of its second term and

the failure of the government would be written in black letters. The law and order situation has collapsed, the criminals are roaming freely and the number of unemployment is increasing day by day but the government is busy making false claims of progress and development, he said.

The sewerage system in the parliamentary constituency of the Prime Minister has virtually collapsed and a single rain exposed the tall claim of the development of city despite the maximum ministers of state government belong to the city, he blamed, adding that

the 100 days of second term of BJP-led government would be known for the increasing injustice, crime & corruption and propaganda.

The state secretary of Youth Congress, Chanchal Sharma said that the insensitivity of the state government towards the matters related to youths is not in the interest of state and added that the central government was making injustice by announcing the recruitment of youths in armed forces just for four years.

The government is in fact playing with the future of

youths and it should roll back the Agnipath recruitment scheme in the larger interest of youths, he demanded.

The BJP-led Government has always cheated the youths in the name of providing jobs and the youths were sent to jail when they raised their voices for their rights, he blamed asserting that the government at Centre as well as in the state are completely insensitive particularly youths.

The vice-president of the city unit of the party Fasahat Hussein and other party leaders were also present on the occasion.

Brajesh Pathak inaugurates Kanihar Van Mahotsav

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ PRAYAGRAJ

UP Deputy Chief Minister Brajesh Pathak inaugurated the Van Mahotsav on Tuesday at Kanihar in Jhansi area of Prayagraj.

Pathak planted Trigatra (Banyan, Peepal, Pakad) amidst chanting of vedic mantras in the Kanihar Van Mahotsav. Along with him, MPs, MLAs and officials also planted

saplings. Around 11 hundred saplings were planted in Kanihar rest 80 lakh more saplings will be planted during a three-day campaign.

A three-day massive tree plantation campaign started in Prayagraj district from Tuesday. Around 50 lakh saplings were planted on the first day. The target of Prayagraj district is to plant 80 lakh saplings this time. Anil Kumar,

the nodal officer nominated by the government for the plantation campaign and the city development secretary, managing director of Jal Nigam, had reviewed the preparations on Monday. They visited many places and took stock of the pit dug for plantation. DM Sanjay Kumar Khatri and CDO Shipu Giri also took stock of the venue and other places at Kanihar.

On Tuesday, maximum saplings were planted in Yamunapur. Plantation will be done in 21 pockets of 20 hectares in Bara, Shankargarh, Meja and Koraoan. More than four thousand saplings will be planted in each village. Through this plantation, efforts are being made to bring greenery in the areas facing drought and drinking water crisis.

Dy CM offers condolences to wife of Dr Deependra

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ PRAYAGRAJ

Deputy CM and Medical Health Minister Brajesh Pathak, who reached Prayagraj to launch the plantation campaign, also reached the house of late Dr. Deependra Singh in Allapur to offer condolences.

Deputy Chief Minister Brajesh Pathak met his wife Dr. Abha and expressed grief. He also consoled the family members and said that the one who made a delay or mistake in the transfer would not be spared at all. The government will get it investigated. It is noteworthy that after the death of Dr. Dipendra, his transfer order came while he was pleading for transfer for a long time. When this matter aggravated, the Deputy CM also came to know about it.

The Deputy CM assured Dr. Deependra's wife Dr. Abha Singh of regular adjustment and posting in Prayagraj. He said that if this matter had come to my notice earlier, this tragic incident would not have happened. The Deputy CM expressed affection by hugging Divyansh, the elder son of Dr. Deependra and told



Dy CM Brajesh Pathak meeting the aggrieved family of late Dr Deependra Singh in Allapur.

Divyansh that now he had a big responsibility. He asked the CMO Dr. Nanak Saran, who was present with him, took care of the family.

During this all the office bearers including the President of Allahabad Medical Association Dr. Sujit Kumar Singh were present. AMA recommended to accommodate Dr. Abha in Prayagraj itself.

BJP MLA Harshvardhan Vajpayee also gave a letter of recommendation to the Deputy CM in this regard. District Magistrate Sanjay Kumar Khatri was also present there. The fate of a doctor who spent most of his life in government service was treated in such a way that it is sad to know. Dr. Deependra Singh, a surgeon working in the district

hospital of Chitrakoot for 11 years, kept on asking for his transfer to Prayagraj after correspondence with the government. His wish was fulfilled when he died fighting liver disease. The government transferred Dr. Dipendra, but the order came after his death. It was as if a mountain of sorrow and neglect fell on the victim's family.

NCR registers 21.3% growth in originating freight loading

PRAYAGRAJ (PNS): As the first quarter of the economy ends, North Central Railway (NCR) registers 21.3% growth in originating freight loading. NCR loaded 5.24 million tonnes of cargo during April-June 2022 surpassing all previous records. This is the best ever quarter ending figures for NCR since its inception in 2003. Freight loading of 4.32 million tonnes was achieved in the corresponding period of the previous year. 1.81 mt of loading was achieved in the month of June 2022 which is the best ever loading performance by NCR in a single month. In addition to it, parcel traffic also registered a significant surge as compared to the previous year. Rs 7.66 crores of total parcel earnings have been achieved by NCR during the first quarter against earnings of 4.17 crore for the same period last year, which is a growth of 83.7%. As the passenger traffic bounces back post COVID, NCR's coaching earnings have also touched remarkable figures both in reserved as well as unreserved segments. While earnings from reserved windows (PRS earnings) are Rs 512.27 crores, unreserved ticket sales amount to Rs 138.69 crore during the period from April to June 2022. In addition, earning from ticket checking has been to the tune of 52 crores. Another significant

achievement has been the revenue generated through sale of scrap. Scrap worth Rs 46.57 crore was sold during the said period thereby surpassing the proportionate target of 40 crores set by the Railway Board. While analysing the loading figures of the zone, General Manager Shri Pramod Kumar congratulated the officers for the overall loading performance but expressed concerns over the dip in cement loading. He instructed the officers to put all efforts to pull the cement loading and sustain the momentum throughout the remaining year so that the target set by the Railway Board could be surpassed. GM instructed the DRMs of the three divisions and concerned officers of headquarters to conduct regular freight customer meets and facilitate merchants to use Railway as a preferred mode of transport. "Achievements are laudable, but we have to work hard to sustain the momentum and surpass the targets set by the Railway Board", said the GM.

HOSPITALS HIT BY TRANSFER OF DOCTORS, EMPLOYEES: The transfers of employees and officers in any organisation is for its betterment. However, the recent transfers happening in the health department are turning harmful and have doubled the losses. In the Divisional Hospital, along with the doctors, the office staff has also reduced due to the recent transfers of the employees. Now, the difficulty in front of the hospital administration is how to give satisfactory treatment to the public with less staff. There are 42 posts of doctors in Motilal Nehru Divisional Hospital i.e. Colvin Hospital in Prayagraj but at present 26 posts are vacant. Hopefully some doctors will be recruited soon. In the recent transfers, five doctors of this hospital were transferred to another district while three doctors were posted here. One of the surgeons posted here died a few days back while the other one's posting at Colvin Hospital is still in a state of confusion. The Dentistry Department at Colvin Hospital is completely vacant as there is no staff. Two of its doctors and a hygienic assistant have been transferred to another district. Apart from this, four office staff and store-in-charge of the hospital have been transferred. In Bel Hospital, three posts out of four of the surgeons are vacant. Four doctors and office staff including CMS were transferred in this hospital but the already vacant posts were not filled. Three of the four posts of surgeon in Bel Hospital are vacant.

Crop insurance awareness van flagged off

CORRESPONDENT ■ MIRZAPUR

DM Praveen Kumar Laxkar flagged off the crop insurance awareness van from the Collectorate on Monday. Addressing the gathering he said the van will go to all 12 blocks of the district and through audio will publicise the schemes launched for farmers and describe benefits of crop insurance. He said the farmer who is not interested in crop insurance had to inform the banks concerned in writing and no premium will be deducted from his loan amount. He said to get the facility of crop insurance the last date was July 31 and for that purpose crop insurance awareness programme was on. The DM distributed letters to farmers to get

compensation of last year. Deputy Director Agriculture Ashok Upadhyay and representative of HDFC crop insurance scheme were also present along with farmers. Meanwhile DM Praveen Kumar Laxkar addressed a programme to honour the teachers for their appreciable work to keep the basic schools neat and clean. Eight teachers Neel Kant Pandey, Madhurima Singh, Durga Singh, Prem Veer, Ravi Kant Dwivedi, Jyoti Prakash Pandey, Pramod Yadav and Balwant were honoured with appreciation letters. The village pradhans who provided full support to schools under Kayakalp scheme and honoured were Madhu Singh, M Devi, Parwati Devi, Rashmi Patel, Rinki Singh and Vijay

Bahadur Maurya. On the occasion another 19 were also honoured for their positive performance in different categories during evaluation. The programme was also attended by CDO Srilaxmi VS, DPRO Arvind Kumar and BSA Gautam Prasad.

TAKES CHARGE: The new SP Santosh Kumar Mishra took charge on Monday. After coming to the district the SP first of all visited Vindhyaachal, paid obeisance to Goddess Vindhya vasini and became aware with security arrangements at the place. From Vindhyaachal the SP directly came to SP office and took over the charge. During introduction meeting held at Police Lines meeting hall the SP directed to make all security

arrangements in view of Kanwar Yatra and Bakrid. He became aware with the sensitive issues of the district and gave tips to the officials concerned. At midnight the SP went for patrolling and at Bharuhna police outpost he checked the response time of the police officers concerned. **INSPECTED:** EO Nagar Palika Parishad (NPP) Angad Gupta inspected the garbage dumping site in Taand village on Monday. He found one machine of waste disposal centre was lying non-operational. He directed the working agency to keep all the machines running and dispose of all the garbage dumped at the site. The EO inspected the water treatment plant at Lanka Ki Pahadi.

FIRST COLUMN

SEEKING NEUTRALITY,
DETACHMENT IN WORLD

Neutrality brings balance and fairness in all actions



RAJYOGI BHRAHMAKUMAR NIKUNJ JI

Those who know driving are aware that we need to shift gears to change the speed of the vehicle. And when we stop the car, we bring the gear to neutral position. Just like the car, there is a neutral gear for everything. It is the gear that brings everything to stillness, neutrality, balance and renewal. When things are in neutral gear, they are at rest, and they get aligned properly. Neutrality brings balance and fairness in all actions.

In India at several places, especially in workshops, they have something called 'dharam kaanta', which is basically a device used for weighing goods in commercial vehicles such as trucks. It is believed that weighing at such a place assures accuracy in weighing standards. It is again a way to ensure neutrality and fairness in commercial transactions. Similarly, in political and social affairs, mediators play a vital role. That's because they act neutrally to find a solution for different parties or groups of people involved in a conflict or disagreement. Likewise, there are mediators even in families and communities who help to resolve family disputes.

Meditation helps in looking at a problem or dispute from a neutral perspective, which facilitates a balanced and unbiased decision and choices. In order for things to flow or move smoothly even speed needs to be controlled and brought to a neutral point. That is why we see how traffic signals ensure the smooth flow of traffic on roads. Similarly, a taxi meter is readjusted to neutral or zero and so is the petrol vending machine in order to ensure fair transaction. In the same way, when we need to change the colour of clothes, we have to first bleach and make them white, which is a neutral colour. There is a neutral power above all creation that acts neutrally to bring the creation to its best state.



HE, whom we know by different names, is both loving and detached. HE is always neutral – HE does not act out of bias, likes or dislikes. That is why everyone prays to HIM to solve their problems and to guide them to well-being. Hence, it is important for humans also to be detached whilst performing actions. For, it is only through spiritual awareness that one can act neutrally and be free from the bondage of 'Karma'. And, it is only when we perform neutrally that we can empower others or do welfare and constructive work. Remember! When we are too involved and attached to actions and roles, we cannot do good or empower others in spite of wanting to do so because attachment creates expectations and dependence on people and results.

So, in order to act and live neutrally, we have to come to the zero point, i.e., to a neutral position. We have to detach even from our body and become soul conscious. As souls we are the children of ONE Supreme, hence, we need to live in this world like a trustee who owns nothing. When we act in the remembrance of ONE, we accumulate tremendous power and fortune, which further adds the power of zero to our account of Karma like 10, 100, 1000.... One of the easiest and effortless ways to become neutral is to put a full stop. YES! Throughout the day while playing different roles, we just have to pause and stop thinking about external things and connect to our original state of being peaceful and pure for a minute and then come back to action. These full stops, applied periodically during the day, help us to become neutral, balanced and empowered to do our best. So, let's begin the journey to ZERO.

(The author is a spiritual educator.)

KCR for conscience vote in Prez election

VANAM JWALA
NARASIMHA RAO
& VJM DIVAKAR

KCR has sought conscience vote for Presidential candidate Yashwant Sinha to boost anti-Modi front

A ray of hope for sustenance of democracy and for a bright and prosperous India emerged crystal clear when Telangana Chief Minister and Telangana Rashtra Samithi (TRS) president K Chandrashekhhar Rao attacked the Union government led by Prime Minister Narendra Modi. He pointed out how for the past eight years it has been bulldozing every institution, basic rights of democracy, the secular fabric of the nation, while ruthlessly, arrogantly and unethically trying to silence the opposition, and also immorally and illegally toppling the democratically elected state governments when its inability to face the aggression of the external enemies and becoming an agent of a few crony capitalists and so on. The platform was Hyderabad Jalavihar where a meeting of TRS MLAs and MPs was convened to extend support to the presidential candidate Yashwant Sinha.

Reminding the 1969 Presidential election contest between Congress' official candidate Neelam Sanjiva Reddy and the then Prime Minister Indira Gandhi supported independent candidate VV Giri, when an appeal was made to the electoral college members to vote as per their conscience, KCR urged all MPs and MLAs to once again vote as per their conscience this time irrespective of party affiliations.

KCR argued that Yashwant Sinha would be a better choice when compared to NDA candidate Droupadi Murmu, in view of his ability to bring a qualitative change in politics. And thus, KCR had every reason to make an appeal for a conscience vote in favor of Yashwant Sinha, as he said "nothing in this country is going on in a rightful manner". KCR in his hour-long address to the Electoral College members cited a series of examples in support of his appeal for a conscience vote and also as to why there is a need for qualitative changes and why there is a need for electing Yashwant Sinha to the highest office.

Though PM Modi made tall promises soon after assuming office, pointed out KCR, he failed to fulfill even a single promise. In addition, he enacted three draconian farm laws, forcing the peasant community to sit on protests for over a year. Finally, Modi had to withdraw the farm laws after 700 farmers lost their precious lives. Also, neither the farmers' income was doubled nor Minimum Support Price (MSP) was increased.

KCR was sarcastic when he said that PM Modi thinks he is invincible though the 14 Prime Ministers who preceded him never thought so. Modi is under the false impression that he would be the PM of India permanently despite the fact that political change in a democracy is imminent.

KCR detailed how under PM Modi, the country's image all over the world lowered; how farmers, unemployed and employees have been facing problems; how price rise and inflation are uncontrolled; how the union government is abusing the Constitutional institutions; how opposition



CANDIDATES
OFTEN APPEAL
FOR
CONSCIENCE
VOTE IN THE
PRESIDENTIAL
ELECTION,
AND THE
TELANGANA
CM KCR
ARGUED IN AN
ADDRESS TO
MPs AND MLAs
THAT
YASHWANT
SINHA'S
VICTORY
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HERALD MANY
CHANGES FOR
THE BETTER



parties are harassed and targeted, etc. This according to KCR is nothing but murder of democracy.

Touching upon the aspect of how the BJP rulers are conspiring to destabilize the state governments, KCR said the Modi government has toppled nine Opposition-ruled states.

Taking serious objection to Modi's exerting pressure on Sri Lankan government to allot contract works to his favored persons, which was openly confessed by a Sri Lanka Electricity Board official, KCR demanded a clarification from PM. He also labelled that the present crisis in Sri Lanka is the handiwork of Modi and Sri Lankan economy's collapse hurt India's reputation. KCR hinted at fighting against this. KCR wanted Modi to disclose the inside story of the Sri Lanka crisis.

Criticizing the much-hyped 'Make in India' programme, KCR sought a clarification on job creation due to this, as well as industrial growth in the Modi regime. KCR also suggested to Modi to learn lessons from China where the rulers speak less and work more.

While the country has abundant coal stocks, KCR asked why the Modi government forced Telangana to buy 10 per cent imported coal at a higher price. Charging that Modi is working like a salesman of big traders, KCR said that he should explain why the BJP government is promoting coal imports. KCR sought an explanation from Modi as to why many major international companies like Fiat, Ford, GM motors, Datsun, United Motors, Harley Davidson stopped their businesses in the country.

Asserting that the 130-crore population cannot be a spectator, KCR expressed concerns at black money doubling in the Modi regime, depreciation of rupee to an all-time low, privatization of profit-making public-sector undertakings, including LIC. The inference is that the Modi government played a major role in the decline of all sectors.

Referring to the period of corona crisis, KCR said that while the holy Ganga River was flooded with corpses, while the Modi government failed to provide any succor to the migrant labor, it was Telangana government that did its best in extending relief to one and all. Every policy adopted by the Modi government proved disastrous for the country.

With statistical data, KCR explained how under the Modi regime rankings in many sectors at the international level had fallen, be it Human Development Index, Human Rights, employment, happiness index, environment, etc. It shows the poor performance of the Modi government in the last eight years.

Asserting that the Modi government killed democracy and weakened federal structure, besides harassing state governments, KCR took serious objection to the statement of a Union minister that Telangana government would be toppled. He said if Modi's dictatorial rule dethrones Telangana government, his party would unseat the BJP government at the Center, hinting that Telangana is ready for another big fight.

Among others, KCR also cate-

gorically mentioned that India is being insulted on international platforms due to Modi's decisions and policies; India's Father of the nation is insulted repeatedly by the Modi's men; Modi is unnecessarily interfering in elections of other countries as he supported Donald Trump in the US elections; Harassment of states and exploitation of the constitutional bodies continue.

In his concluding remarks, KCR said that it is time for people in the country to wage another non-violent movement to dislodge the BJP-led government at the Center and pave the way for a new, honest, peaceful, secular, democratic and progressive government. The first step in this direction is to get Yashwant Sinha elected as the President of the country. Hence, he made an appeal for a conscience vote for Sinha. In this context he made the timely reminder of the Presidential contest between Neelam Sanjeev Reddy and VV Giri, when the conscience vote gave India its President.

KCR's address has raised hopes that Modi can be questioned, and his actions can be opposed. KCR's speech may well be the first step in the direction to restore the country back to its glorious past. It also is the beginning to lay a strong foundation for the country to once again stand tall with true democratic and secular values and become once again an economic power in Asia.

Though KCR demanded replies from PM Modi to the points he raised, PM remained silent in his address in the public meeting held after the BJP national executive committee meeting.

POINTCOUNTERPOINT

AS AN ORGANISATION, WE HAVE BECOME
BIGGER THAN THE CONGRESS IN GUJARAT.
IT EXISTS LARGELY ON PAPER HERE.
—AAP NATIONAL CONVENER
ARVIND KEJRIWAL



CONGRESS HAS BEEN WORKING IN GUJARAT WITH
THE PEOPLE... YOU WILL COME ACROSS PEOPLE
WHO BELIEVE IN OUR IDEOLOGY.
—GUJARAT CONGRESS GENERAL SECRETARY
NISHIT VYAS

EPS, OPS slug it out for control over AIADMK

It's a challenge for AIADMK as to how to engage with ally BJP which is trying to use it as a counterforce to DMK

While the Shiv Sena has split in Maharashtra, the AIADMK in Tamil Nadu is engaged in a power struggle with two former chief ministers, E. Palaniswamy (EPS) and O. Panneerselvam (OPS), fighting with each other.

In a fast-developing drama, the EPS camp would like to relieve OPS of his present post of party treasurer and Deputy Leader in the Assembly. After losing the Assembly elections last year, and successive local body polls, the EPS camp feels that the dual leadership has only hampered the working of the party.

Amid its golden jubilee celebrations, the AIADMK cadres are confused. Five years ago, when a relatively unknown EPS was chosen as



KALYANI SHANKAR

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

CM candidate by ex-AIADMK general secretary V.K. Sasikala, EPS and OPS reached a truce in 2017 to establish dual leadership. Together they steered the party and government successfully for four years, braving a pandemic.

After five decades, the AIADMK is facing a bleak future. Carefully built by two former chief ministers—founder M.G. Ramachandran and his protege J. Jayalithaa—it is undergoing a bad patch. There is a disconnect between the leaders and cadres. Some of the party's challenges include factionalism and the approach towards the ally Bharatiya Janata Party, which is trying to replace the Dravidian party as a counterforce to the DMK.

A gradual erosion in the post-Jayalithaa era is amply

clear. The AIADMK's vote share stands at 25.47 per cent in the urban local body election. It got 33.29 per cent of votes in the Assembly.

The charismatic matinee idol MGR established the AIADMK on October 12, 1972, two days after the parent party DMK expelled him. He served as the chief minister from 1977 till his death in 1987. He chose to be on the right side of the Centre and made compromises with the prime ministers, including Indira Gandhi.

The philosophy of DMK founder and former chief minister C.N. Annadurai became the founding principle of the AIADMK. MGR's successor Jayalithaa aligned with BJP and the Congress at different times, and became

chief minister six times with interruptions.

It is not the first time the AIADMK is facing a split. Following MGR's death in 1987, there was a power struggle between one faction headed by MGR's wife Janaki and the other by Jayalithaa. While Janaki succeeded MGR as chief minister for a short period, both sections lost miserably to the DMK in the 1989 polls. Then Janaki withdrew from politics, and Jayalithaa became the sole leader.

OPS and EPS have taken their fight to the general council, which has the power to elect an interim general secretary, not a permanent one. That was how Sasikala donned the post following the death of Jayalithaa. But EPS and OPS removed Sasikala from that

post and created new positions such as coordinator and co-coordinator, which are also temporary.

In the current situation, OPS got a midnight hearing before the Tamil Nadu High Court to restrict discussion points in the general council meeting. He thus stopped the party from elevating EPS as the sole leader at the June 23 general council meeting. However, the discussion turned ugly when clashes broke out between the two camps.

Seventy-five district secretaries, headquarters functionaries, and general council members have moved to the EPS camp in the last few days. OPS has the support of just nine district secretaries and leaders like Manoj Pandian and R. Vaithilingam.

OPS blamed vested interests and asserted that the general council and Monday's meeting of top AIADMK functionaries were illegal. Similarly, a proposed GC on July 11 is also not legal. It is doubtful whether it will take place or OPS will move the court to stop it.

After Jaya, the BJP has remote control over the AIADMK from the Centre. The change was abundantly clear on issues like NEET, New Education Policy, three-language policy (giving the nod first and then withdrawing it after the protests), the CAA, farmers' law, handling of the pandemic, etc.

The BJP is not able to penetrate much because of its ideology. In Tamil Nadu, the Dravidian-Tamil sentiment is

strong. So just like Congress, the BJP is riding piggyback on AIADMK. The Dravidian parties have had tie-ups with the two national parties at different times.

OPS tried to rope in the BJP, which had backed him earlier, but Prime Minister Narendra Modi refused to give him an audience last week. A disappointed OPS came back from Delhi and is resorting to other measures to survive.

In any political party, the cadres decide who gets to lead the party, and, in this case, Panneerselvam is certainly not their first choice. It is about time he accepted the fact and worked towards gaining acceptance of the large number of AIADMK cadre as their leader, as, after all, courts cannot get him back to his workers.

ED searches 44 premises of Vivo under PMLA



PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■
NEW DELHI

The Enforcement Directorate (ED) on Tuesday searched at least 44 premises across the country in a money-laundering investigation against Chinese smartphone manufacturer Vivo and related entities.

The searches were carried out under the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA) at locations in several States including Delhi, Uttar Pradesh, Meghalaya and Maharashtra, officials said.

The ED filed a money laundering case after taking cognisance of a recent Delhi Police (Economic Offences

Wing) FIR against a distributor of the agency based in Jammu and Kashmir where it was alleged that a few Chinese shareholders in that company forged their identity documents. The agency suspects this alleged forgery was done to launder illegally generated funds using shell or paper companies and some of these "proceeds of crime" were diverted to evade the scrutiny of Indian tax and enforcement agencies, they said.

The action comes in the wake of Centre's bid to tighten checks on Chinese entities and the continued crackdown on such firms and their linked Indian operatives that are allegedly indulging in serious

financial crimes like money laundering and tax evasion while operating here. The stepped-up scrutiny against the Chinese-backed companies or entities operating in India comes in the backdrop of the military stand-off between the two countries along the Line of Actual Control (LAC) in eastern Ladakh that is on for more than two years now.

In April, the ED ordered the seizure of Rs 5,551 crore worth of deposits of another Chinese smartphone giant Xiaomi India for alleged contravention of the Foreign Exchange Management Act (FEMA).

The Income-Tax Department searched Chinese telecom company Huawei in February and it claimed to have found alleged manipulation of account books for reducing taxable income in India by the company.

Premises of a number of these Chinese smartphone companies including Xiaomi, Oppo and Vivo, their distributors and linked associates were raided across the country by the I-T department in December last year and it later claimed to have detected alleged unaccounted income

worth over Rs 6,500 crore due to violation of the Indian tax law and regulations. According

to reports, a number of Chinese entities are linked to the Chinese PLA, posing a threat

ED summons Azam's wife, son in money laundering probe

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■
NEW DELHI

The Enforcement Directorate (ED) has summoned the wife and son of Samajwadi Party leader Azam Khan for questioning in an ongoing money laundering probe against him.

Khan, 73, is also a Samajwadi Party (SP) MLA from Rampur seat in Uttar Pradesh. His son Abdullah Azam Khan, MLA from the Suar Assembly seat in Uttar Pradesh and wife Tazeen Fatma have been asked to depose separately before the ED's regional office in Lucknow this week, officials said.

The agency is seeking to record their statements under the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA) in the case being probed against Azam Khan, they said. Azam

Khan has already been grilled by the agency in the case when he was lodged in Sitapur jail. Now, he is out on bail. He was released from jail in May after 27 months following the Supreme Court granting him interim bail in a separate forgery case.

The agency had initiated a probe against Khan in 2019 after taking cognisance of at least 26 FIRs filed by the State police against him including allegations that a university run by him in Rampur district of Uttar Pradesh has been raised over a land that has been grabbed from an 'enemy property'.

Khan is the chairman of the Maulana Muhammad Ali Jauhar Trust which runs three branches of Rampur Public School. He had earlier also served as Urban Development Minister in SP Government.

to the security in the country they operate. Vivo had a 15 per cent market share in the Indian smartphone segment in the first quarter of 2022 with the shipment of 5.5 million devices, according to market research

and analysis firm IDC. According to a Counterpoint research report, Vivo became the top 5G brand in the Rs 10,000-20,000 price bracket segment in the country during March 2022 quarter. A Vivo

India spokesperson said, "Vivo is cooperating with authorities to provide them with all required information. As a responsible corporate, we are committed to be fully compliant with laws."

Mumbai's ex-top cop S Pandey appears before ED in NSE case

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Former Mumbai Police Commissioner Sanjay Pandey appeared before the Enforcement Directorate (ED) here on Tuesday for questioning in a money laundering case linked to the alleged National Stock Exchange (NSE) co-location scam.

The ED recorded Pandey's statement under the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA) after he reached the agency's office in an auto-rickshaw, officials said. The 1986-batch Indian Police Service (IPS) officer retired from service on June 30. Before his four-month stint as Mumbai Police Commissioner, he served as acting Director General of

Police (DGP) of Maharashtra. The agency questioned him in connection with the functioning and activities of iSec Securities Pvt. Ltd, one of the firms that conducted a security audit of NSE around the time the co-location irregularities allegedly took place, officials said.

The company was incorporated by Pandey in March 2001 and he quit as its director in May 2006. Later, his son and mother took charge of the company.

Pandey, an IIT-Kanpur and Harvard University alumnus, is said to have established the company after he resigned from service. His resignation was not accepted by the State government and he rejoined but was not immedi-

ately given a posting. Through his questioning, the ED is seeking to unravel the mandate, operations and results achieved by the company while it worked with the NSE, they said.

The agency has already recorded former NSE Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer Chitra Ramkrishna's statement in connection with the case.

Presently, Ramkrishna is lodged in Tihar jail. She and former group operating officer Anand Subramanian were arrested by the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) in March in the NSE co-location scam case. The ED took cognisance of this CBI FIR to initiate money laundering charges against them.

Ukraine war has no impact on under-construction warships in Russia: Navy Vice-Chief

RAHUL DATTA ■ NEW DELHI

The ongoing Ukraine conflict has no impact on the Indian warships now under construction in Russian shipyards, Navy vice chief S N Ghormade said here on Tuesday.

The deal for two Talwar class stealth frigates was inked in 2018 between India and Russia. The first ship was launched for trials in 2021 and named Tushil. Two more warships of this class are now under construction at Goa Shipyard.

Allying apprehensions of a setback to the ship construction programme due to Ukraine conflict, Ghormade said it has not hampered schedule. He also said an Indian team is stationed in Kaliningrad, Russia to monitor project and assured ships will be delivered to the Navy as per schedule. As regards achieving self-reliance in



defence manufacturing, Ghormade said the plan to build six conventional submarines here is on under Project 75.

On the recent trials of the naval version of French-built Rafale and US-made F-18, he said they were done to prove their capability of operating from aircraft carriers. "Our aim is indigenisation. We have a twin-engine deck-based fighter aircraft plan but it will take some time," the Vice Chief said. The Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) is also working on a Twin Engine Deck Based Fighter.

India, Iran discuss bilateral issues, Afghan situation

RAHUL DATTA ■ NEW DELHI

India and Iran on Tuesday reviewed the entire spectrum of their bilateral ties and the situation in Afghanistan during the talks between Foreign Secretary Vinay Kwatra and Deputy Minister for Political Affairs, Ministry for Foreign Affairs Ali Bagheri Kani. During the parleys on the telephone, the two sides discussed various elements of bilateral relations including progress on the Chabahar Port, the ministry of external affairs (MEA) said here.

Kwatra underscored India's commitment to strengthen bilateral cooperation with Iran in addressing shared opportunities and challenges. Both sides also discussed international and regional issues including Afghanistan, the MEA statement said. The telephonic conversation came nearly a month after Iranian foreign minister Hossein Amir-Abdollahian visited India. Iran has been a key country for India in the Gulf region. India and Iran have been jointly focusing on improving connectivity between South East Asia and Central Asia.

At a connectivity conference in Tashkent in July last year, External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar projected Iran's Chabahar Port as a key regional transit hub including Afghanistan. Located in the Sistan-Balochistan province on the energy-rich Iran's southern coast, the Chabahar port is being developed by India, Iran and Afghanistan to boost connectivity and trade ties. India has been in touch with Iran over the developments in Afghanistan following its takeover by the Taliban on August 15.

Jaishankar lauds PM's Pak policy at DU book launch



Union External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar during a discussion on the book 'Modi@20: Dreams Meet Delivery', at Delhi University in New Delhi on Tuesday
RANJAN DIMRI | PIONEER

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■
NEW DELHI

Prime Minister Narendra Modi's resolve to not allow cross-border terrorism be normalised has helped in shaping India's Pakistan policy since 2014, External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar said here on Tuesday. Making this assertion, he also said Modi is perceived

abroad as "quintessentially Indian" and his intuitive feeling for diplomacy has led him to form a connection with foreign countries and their leaders.

Highlighting these facets at a function in Delhi University, Jaishankar read some excerpts from the chapter written by him in the book 'Modi@20: Dreams Meet Delivery.' Jaishankar said, "When I

first met him (PM Modi) in China in 2011, I was the ambassador. Unlike many other chief ministers, he specifically sought political briefing."

"I recall his (Modi's) emphasis that on the issue of terrorism and sovereignty, we needed to make sure that we speak with one voice abroad, especially in China.

"When it comes to terrorism, especially of cross-border nature, he has been crystal clear that he would not allow it to be normalised. This determination has shaped our Pakistan policy since 2014," Jaishankar added.

The minister highlighted that the Prime Minister looms large on the world stage as his policies and initiatives have had an impact. "Peers perceive him as quintessentially Indian and respond accordingly.

His language, metaphor, appearances and mannerism define a persona that a world has come to recognise," he said, reading another paragraph from the book 'Prime Minister Modi's intuitive feel-

ing for diplomacy has led him to find connect with foreign countries and their leaders with India," he added. Jaishankar was the chief guest at a special discussion organised by the Delhi University on the book. Speaking about the book, Jaishankar noted that a large part of the book has been written by people outside the government.

"Books are written about prime ministers. That is not unusual.... But to have a book where sitting foreign minister and Home Minister (Amit Shah), National Security Advisor (Ajit Doval) have written about the sitting prime minister, that is unusual," he asserted.

Vice-Chancellor Yogesh Singh lauded the prime minister, saying India is lucky to have a leader who commits less and delivers more. Published by Rupa Publications India, 'Modi@20: Dreams Meet Delivery' has contributions from Sudha Murty, Sadhguru, Nandan Nilekani and Amish Tripathi, among others.

Chaiwala among 5 to file papers for Aug 6 V-P poll

New Delhi: Five people, including one who goes by the alias "Ramayani Chaiwala", filed papers on Tuesday, the first day of the nomination process for the August 6 vice-presidential election.

The nomination papers of one candidate were rejected for failing to furnish a mandatory document. July 19 is the last date for filing nominations.

According to the details available with the office of the returning officer, K Padmarajan of Salem district in Tamil Nadu, Paresh Kumar Nanubhai Mulani from

Ahmedabad, Hosmath Vijayanand from Bengaluru and Naidugari Rajasekhar Srimukhalingam from Andhra Pradesh have filed their nominations for the vice-presidential polls.

Anand Singh Khushwaha from Gwalior in Madhya Pradesh, who goes by the alias "Ramayani Chaiwala", was also among those who filed nomination papers at the returning officer's office in Parliament. Though Khushwaha's papers were accepted, he did not submit the security deposit of Rs 15,000. **PTI**

Govt orders clearing of CGHS bills at pvt hospitals

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

Waking up from its slumber as private hospitals across the country threatened to stop cashless treatment under the Central Government Health Scheme (CGHS), the Government on Tuesday ordered clearing of bills within a month.

Sources in the Union Health Ministry said that Union Health Minister Mansukh Mandaviya has reviewed the issue of outstanding CGHS dues of around Rs 1,400 crore and ordered officials to clear those within a month. According to officials, there are

complaints of over 11 lakh bills pending for the last few months, forcing many empanelled hospitals to discontinue cashless treatment of the CGHS beneficiaries. At the three-hour-long review meeting on Monday, Mandaviya ordered the health secretary, the CGHS director and the CEO of the National Health Authority to present a detailed report on the matter and the solutions to it, the official said. He instructed them to clear nine lakh pending CGHS bills within 15 days and repay all pending dues within a month. The Health Minister also ordered officials to increase the number of claim clearance officers immediately to clear the

pendency. Under the scheme, thousands of small, medium and large hospitals are empanelled, majority of which have not received payments since last July. While the Max Group has dues of Rs 200 crore, for Fortis the dues are Rs 100 crore. Likewise, Medanta hospital is waiting for a payment of nearly Rs 60 crore.

The CGHS covers all current and retired Central Government staff and kin. The OPD consultation charge for a CGHS beneficiary at most of the empanelled hospitals, including Max, Fortis, Medanta, etc, is Rs 150 per visit, while non-CGHS rates at these hospitals range from Rs 500 to Rs 2,000.



Women of the 'Varkari' movement run with tulsi plant on their head as they participate in 'Gol Rangan' during Sant Tukaram Maharaj Palkhi procession, in Solapur
PTI Photo

Father-daughter create IAF history

Duo flew Hawk fighter jet sortie in Bidar together on May 30

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■
NEW DELHI

A father-daughter duo created history as they became the first such combine to fly IAF fighter jets together. They are Air Commodore Sanjay Sharma and Flying Officer Ananya Sharma. The duo flew a Hawk fighter jet sortie in Bidar, Karnataka on May 30, the IAF said on Tuesday. The father-daughter duo created history when they flew in the same formation of Hawk-132 aircraft.

"There has not been any previous instance in the IAF where a father and his daughter were part of the same fighter formation for a mission. It was mission where Air Commodore Sanjay and Flying Officer Ananya were more than



Air Commodore Sanjay Sharma, along with his daughter, Flying Officer Ananya Sharma, created history by flying an Indian Air Force fighter jet sortie together
PNS

just father and daughter. They were comrades, who had full faith in each other as fellow wingmen would," the IAF said in the release. The photo shows Air Commodore Sharma and his daughter posing in front of fighter plane. Ananya is currently undergoing her training in Bidar before she graduates

onto faster and more superior fighter aircraft of IAF. As Ananya was growing up, she watched her father nurture this very bond with his fellow squadron pilots. Having virtually grown up in the IAF, there was absolutely no other profession that she could imagine being a part of. As first women

fighter pilots of the IAF entered service in 2016, Ananya saw that her lifelong dream was now a possibility. Having completed her B Tech in Electronics and Communication, she was selected for training for the flying branch of IAF. She was commissioned as a fighter pilot in December 2021.

Accessible India drive: Centre equips just 20 airports with ambulifts for divyangs

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■
NEW DELHI

Even as the deadline for making all the airports in the country accessible expired last month, just 20 airports have been equipped with ambulifts under the Centre's Accessible India campaign. These airports include Vijayawada, Kanpur, Port Blair, Jodhpur, Belgaum, Silchar, Jharsuguda, Rajkot and Hubli.

The ambulifts aim to facilitate passengers with reduced mobility, 'divyang' travellers on wheelchairs and passengers on stretchers during their air travel. However, an official from the Department of Disability Affairs said India's 35 international airports and 55 out of 69 domestic airports are now accessible to 'divyangian' with accessibility features, and 41 airports are fully equipped with aerobridges and 20 airports have been equipped with

ambulifts under the Accessible India campaign. Ambulifts are used as a boarding vehicle for disabled passengers, passengers with reduced mobility or disabled air-travellers, or people using wheelchairs or the elderly with mobility issues.

"An ambulift is fitted with heating ventilation and air conditioning and can cater to six wheelchairs and two stretchers at a time with an attendant.

The ambulifts have been procured for Rs 63 lakh per unit. "...Airports Authority of India (AAI) is providing an ambulift facility at a nominal token charge to the operating airlines at its airports," an official from the Authority had said two months ago. The Ambulift is manufactured domestically under the Make in India policy.

The central advisory board on disability has asked all states/UTs to assess the public buildings by July-end that are

to be made accessible in "shortest possible time" for disabled under Accessible India campaign. The Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities (DEPwD) had launched Accessible India Campaign (Suganya Bharat Abhiyan) as a nation-wide Campaign to serve differently-abled community of country.

Although Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act, 2016 provided a timeline of five years for

making all existing public buildings accessible by June 14 this year, till now 585 state buildings and 1,030 central government buildings have been made barrier-free for disabled. It was launched for achieving universal accessibility for Persons with Disabilities (PwDs) on December 3, 2015. It has three important verticals, namely-theBuild Environment, the transportation sector and the ICT ecosystem.



Study recommends complete transformation of RS Secretariat

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

A study has recommended a complete transformation of Rajya Sabha Secretariat with specific delegation of administrative and financial powers, well defined tasks and output besides reorganization of sections for quick decision making and delivery.

The first ever comprehensive study on 'System Improvement' in the Upper House Secretariat has recommended delivery of services in a transparent, monitorable and accountable manner.

The study report with about 130 recommendations was presented to Rajya Sabha Chairman M Venkaiah Naidu who instituted the study in January this year. The study also covered the functioning of the committee sections and recommended increasing their tenure from present one year to two years.

The Rajya Sabha Secretariat that came into being with about 200 officers and staff in 1952 has expanded to 1,700 personnel now with 10 different services with the needs of the times. The reviews of the working of the secretariat undertaken so far by parliamentary pay committees and a couple of internal committees were limited to staff requirement, their salaries.

Given the importance of field visits by the department related parliamentary standing committees, their field visits have been recommended to be increased from the present two visits for a maximum of 10 days in a year to three visits and 15 days.

Keeping in mind the efforts that go into preparation of reports by the committees and their import and implications, a committee hour has been recommended for consideration to discuss select major reports in Parliament for wider amplification of the content of the reports. The recommendations include clear delegation of administrative and financial powers so that about 75 per cent of the issues are disposed off at the lower and middle level in the 10 layer hierarchy that exists in the Secretariat at present by eliminating 4 to 5 layers as appropriate.



The study conducted by former secretary general P P K Ramacharyulu, Advisor, suggested pathways for quantification of output in respect of every aspect of the functioning of the Rajya Sabha, its committees and the secretariat and corresponding additional mandate for each of the services for presenting a transparent account of their working in the public domain.

The study concluded that most of the decisions could be taken at the lower and middle levels and accordingly, recommended administrative delegation pointing out that such delegation has not been defined and done so far.

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The study concluded that most of the decisions could be taken at the lower and middle levels and accordingly, recommended administrative delegation pointing out that such delegation has not been defined and done so far.

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh on Tuesday urged the French companies to forge joint ventures with Indian firms to make world-class weapon systems here as part of 'Atmanirbhar Bharat' policy of the Government.

He made this suggestion when a high-level delegation of French company Safran Group led by its Chief Executive Officer (CEO) Olivier Andries called on the defence minister here, the defence ministry said.

Safran is one of the leading original equipment manufacturers of advanced aircraft engines for civil and fighter jets.

During the meeting, the CEO briefed Rajnath of their company's plans to set up a Maintenance, Repair and Overhaul (MRO) facility in India for overhaul of LEAP-1A & LEAP-1B engines in use by Indian and foreign commercial airlines.



The MRO facility through direct foreign investment of \$US 150 million in Hyderabad is expected to create 500-600 highly skilled jobs. The facility will be able to overhaul over 250 engines per year in the beginning.

The CEO also briefed the

defence minister of their plan to inaugurate this week Safran Aircraft Engines and Safran Electrical and Power India Pvt Ltd. - both to come up in Hyderabad and Safran-Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL) Aircraft Engines as a joint venture in

Bengaluru.

Safran aircraft engine, Hyderabad, with an investment of Euro 36 million and located on 10 acres land in the Hyderabad SEZ, will produce parts and components for advanced aircraft engines including rotating seals.

Safran Electrical and Power India Pvt Ltd will produce harness for civil and fighter jets. The joint venture between Safran and HAL is for production of rigid piping for aircraft engines including helicopter engines. The joint venture is expected to hire 160 new highly skilled personnel.

The CEO of Safran outlined his company's long-term plan in co-development and co-production of advanced jet engines and transfer of technology as per existing policy of the Indian government. The Defence Minister noted the great importance India attaches to the strategic partnership with France.

Cong questions Modi, Shah on links with ultras

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

The Congress on Tuesday questioned the silence of Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Home Minister Amit Shah on the alleged links of two arrested terrorists with the ruling party. Congress spokesperson Pawan Khera alleged the BJP was indulging in "fake nationalism", remarks coming in the backdrop of alleged links of Udaipur tailor Kanhaiya Lal's killer Riyaz Attari and Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT) terrorist Talib Hussain Shah with the BJP.

At the AICC Press conference, Khera said two incidents in the past week have exposed the "double-faced" BJP, after Attari and Shah, who was captured by villagers in Jammu and Kashmir's Reasi district, were claimed to be associated with the Centre's ruling party. Their photographs with BJP leaders have gone viral on social media.

Khera also asked how Talib Hussain Shah, who was allegedly planning to attack the Amarnath Yatra in Kashmir, was seen in a photograph with Amit Shah. He wondered whether it was not a security breach. A photograph tweeted by the Congress' Jammu and Kashmir unit showed a bearded man standing among people at a meeting attended by Amit Shah which some claimed was Talib, the alleged mastermind of serial bomb blasts in Rajouri.



"It is shocking that the BJP, a party that loses no opportunity to preach to Indians about nationalism, has members and office-bearers who are deeply implicated in violent anti-national activities," Khera said.

Jammu and Kashmir police chief Dilbag Singh had said on Monday Talib Hussain

Shah was briefly associated with a political party and also posed himself as a mediator. The BJP had denied claims that the arrested LeT terrorist was its member.

Party J-K spokesperson Abhinav Sharma had claimed on Monday that Talib Hussain Shah had visited the party headquarters while posing as a reporter of a news portal to conduct reconnaissance at the behest of his handlers across the border to target the BJP leadership. He had also rejected claims that Shah was the minority cell's IT in-charge in J-K.

Khera claimed the NIA had confirmed former BJP leader and ex-sarpanch Tariq Ahmad Mir's association with terrorists. Mir, arrested two years ago for allegedly procur-

ing weapons for Hizbul Mujahideen commander Naveed Babu, was claimed to be an associate of Dy SP Davinder Singh.

Naveed Babu had previously been arrested with Davinder Singh who had himself been accused of supplying weapons to terrorists, he said.

The truth would have come out had the probe in the Davinder Singh case been carried to its conclusion but was halted midway, the Congress spokesperson alleged. "Will the prime minister open his mouth? Will the home minister come out and give a clarification to the country? What were these terrorists doing in the BJP? What were you doing with those terrorists in the BJP?" he asked.

EC warns of strict action against leakage of voters' Aadhaar details

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

The Election Commission (EC) warned of "severe" disciplinary action against electoral registration officers for any leakages of physical forms filled by electors to share their Aadhaar details. This comes after rules were issued allowing linkage of Aadhaar with voters list to weed out duplicate entries. The Commission has also emphasised that submission of Aadhaar by electors is "voluntary".

In a letter sent to chief electoral officers of all states and Union territories on July 4, the poll panel said special camps at cluster level can be

arranged on the dates coinciding with special campaign dates during special summary revision, where the electors can be persuaded to give their Aadhaar number voluntarily in Form-6B in hard copy.

According to a law ministry notification, using the newly-introduced Form-6B, existing voters may share their Aadhaar number with poll authorities.

"In exercise of the powers conferred by sub-section (5) of Section 23 of the Representation of the People Act, 1950 (43 of 1950), the Central Government hereby notifies the 1st April, 2023 as the date on or before which every person whose name is included in the electoral roll

may intimate his Aadhaar number in accordance with the said section," read the notification.

"The notification uses the term 'may' and not 'shall' which makes sharing details voluntary," a senior functionary had explained recently. Asserting that furnishing of Aadhaar number is "purely voluntary", the letter said the electoral registration officer (ERO) "will make it clear to the electors that the purpose of obtaining of Aadhaar number is for authentication of his entries in electoral roll and extending better electoral services to them in future... It is emphasised that submission of Aadhaar by electors is voluntary".

Security breach: Cellphones banned at Nabanna, CM house

SAUGAR SENGUPTA ■ KOLKATA

The Bengal Government has banned using mobile phones by visitors and the police staff, inside the residential premises of Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee. Visitors and policemen on duty will also not be allowed to use their phones at State secretariat Nabanna which houses the Chief Minister's office.

There was no confirmation as yet on whether the journalists too will have deposit their cellphones before entering these two high security places.

The decision was taken in a high-level meeting attended by Chief Secretary HK Dwivedi, Home Secretary BP Gopalika and top police officials including the Kolkata Police Commissioner and State Director General of Police.



There was a serious security breach on Saturday midnight when a trespasser Hafizul Mollah sneaked inside the Chief Minister's residence at Kalighat. The allegedly mentally deranged person has been arrested and is being investigated.

According to sources top bureaucrats are holding mobile addition among the police personnel for such

security lapses. The police men engaged in security duty both at Nabanna and the CM house will have to deposit their handsets before joining work, sources said adding the visitors too will be required to follow the same rule.

After Saturday's incident about 15 police personnel including an inspector, a sergeant and two constables were removed from their duties.

Meanwhile, in an unrelated development Bengal Opposition Leader Suwendu Adhikari has written a letter to Home Minister seeking NIA investigation into some recent "alarming developments" including recovery of thousands of gelatin sticks and loads of explosives from various parts of the State.

"I have written to the Home Minister that Bengal is sitting on powder keg ... I have told him how 81,000

gelatin sticks were recovered by the police in Birbhum district and how a person was killed while making bombs at Domkal in Murshidabad district bordering Bangladesh ... these all indicate towards a serious law and order problem ahead of the panchayat elections ... it is clear that the TMC are preparing for the panchayat elections with bombs," Adhikari on Tuesday said.

Referring to Mamata Banerjee's recent 'Jihad' comments where she allegedly asked her party men to go for a jihad against the BJP Adhikari said, "as you know the Chief Minister has gone on record asking her people to conduct jihad, and subsequent recovery of these gelatin sticks and loads of explosives a time has come to investigate the entire development ... so I have requested the Home Minister for an NIA investigation.

CAA likely before 2024: BJP MP; poll gimmick, retorts Opp

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ KOLKATA

There were ample chances of Citizenship Amendment Act being implemented ahead of the 2024 general elections, Bengal BJP president Sukanto Majumdar on Tuesday said.

The BJP MP from Balurghat in North Bengal said that the "CAA has already been passed only some procedural aspects and rules have to be framed ... I am sure it will be implemented before the 2024 general elections."

Majumdar's statements triggered immediate reactions from the TMC, Left and Congress who linked his remarks to election politics. "It is clear from his statement that the BJP is trying to divert attention from the main issues like unemployment, price rise and general law and order issues in the country," said TMC spokesperson Kunal Ghosh.

CPI(M) central committee member Sujan

Chakrabarty said that the "by saying that the CAA will be brought before the elections the BJP has proved that it is nothing but an election gimmick ... what the CAA will give that is not there presently ... whether it will bring down hardships, improve hunger index, bring back jobs and reduce prices ... if not then the CAA will cut no ice in Bengal."

Congress Lok Sabha leader Adhir Chowdhury said "CAA was already there and they have not been able to frame the rules because there is big technical issues ... they will not be implemented and the BJP is only using this as an electoral plank."



FROM PAGE 1

ODISHA, UP, AP TOP GIVERS OF GOVT'S FREE FOODGRAINS

Kerala has been ranked at the 11th position, Telangana (12th), Maharashtra (13th), West Bengal (14th) and Rajasthan (15th). Punjab is at the 16th position, followed by Haryana, Delhi, Chhattisgarh and Goa.

Goyal said the exercise of ranking the States and UTs was commissioned by the Ministry but carried out by a third party. The ranking will lead to a healthy competition among states under the NFSA, also known as the food law, under which, he said.

The Index denotes only the efficiency of TPDS operations, it does not reflect the level of hunger, if any or malnutrition, or both, in a particular state or union territory, the report clarified adding it focuses on NFSA and TPDS reforms, which can be standardized across the states and union territories. It rests upon three pillars that consider various facets of food security and nutrition. Each pillar has parameters and sub-parameters that support this evaluation. The first pillar measures coverage of NFSA, rightful targeting, and implementation of all provisions under NFSA.

The second pillar analyses the delivery platform, while considering the allocation of foodgrains, their movement, and last-mile delivery to Fair Price Shops (FPS).

The final pillar focuses on nutrition initiatives of the department. The find-

ings from the exercise revealed that most states and union territories have fared well in digitization, Aadhaar seeding, and ePoS installation, which reiterates the strength and scale of the reforms.

"However, States and Union Territories can improve their performance in a few areas. Exercises, such as conducting and documenting social audits thoroughly and operationalising functions of State food commissions across States and Union Territories, will further bolster the true spirit of the Act," the report said.

SPICEJET MALFUNCTION CAUSES EMERGENCY LANDING IN KARACHI

Officials said the Kandla-Mumbai flight of SpiceJet was at 23,000 feet altitude when the windshield's outer pane cracked. The pilots then conducted priority landing at the Mumbai airport, they said.

"On July 5, 2022, SpiceJet Q400 aircraft was operating SG 3324 (Kandla-Mumbai). During cruise at FL230, the P2 side windshield outer pane cracked. Pressurisation was observed to be normal. The aircraft landed safely in Mumbai," said a SpiceJet spokesperson.

Earlier, a SpiceJet flight, which took off from Delhi and was headed to Dubai, landed in Karachi, Pakistan, on Tuesday. The aircraft landed safely at Karachi and passengers disembarked.

The airline spokesperson said that no emergency was declared and the aircraft made a safe and normal landing.

"There were no earlier reports of any malfunction with the aircraft. Passengers have been served refreshments. A replacement aircraft is being sent to Karachi that will take the passengers to Dubai," the spokesperson added.

During the flight the crew observed unusual fuel quantity reduction from the left tank. Though they carried out the checks, fuel quantity kept on decreasing.

On Saturday, the Delhi-Jabalpur flight made an emergency landing as smoke in the cabin triggered panic. All this happened when the plane was flying at 5,000 feet.

On June 19, an engine on SpiceJet's Delhi-bound aircraft carrying 185 passengers caught fire soon after taking off from the Patna airport and the plane made an emergency landing minutes later. The engine had malfunctioned because of a bird hit.

In another incident on June 19, a flight for Jabalpur had to return to Delhi due to cabin pressurisation issues.

Fuselage door warnings lit up on two separate planes while taking off on June 24 and June 25, forcing them to abandon their journeys and return.

RAHUL BACKS K'TAKA HC JUDGE AGAINST 'TRANSFER THREAT'

In the less than two-minute-long video of court proceedings held on Monday, Justice Sandesh also said, "Your ADGP is so powerful... and some person spoke with one of our High Court judges who came and sat with me

and cited an example of transfer of one of another judge to another district. I will not hesitate to mention the name of the judge also. He came and sat by the side and said there is a threat to this court."

Justice Sandesh had made observations against the ACB last week and its functioning while hearing a bail plea of PS Mahesh, a deputy Tahsildar in the office of the Bengaluru City Deputy Commissioner. Two staff members of the office were arrested for receiving a bribe of Rs 5 lakh in exchange for favourable order in a land dispute.

The court had taken objection as to how senior officers were being protected and only junior staffers were being persecuted in the case. In a related development on Monday, Manjunath J, an IAS officer and former Bengaluru City Deputy Commissioner, was arrested in the same case by ACB.

OUTRAGE OVER KERALA MINISTER'S INSULT TO CONSTITUTION

Rajasekhara told The Pioneer that the Kerala Governor would call for comments from Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan about the controversial speech. Khan said he was closely following what was happening as a fallout of the minister's speech. "I understand that the Chief Minister is aware of the happenings. I expect appropriate action by the concerned persons because we are all bound to uphold the sacredness of the Constitution," said the Governor.

The BJP and the Yuva Morcha hit the streets within minutes of the Minister's speech going viral and they demanded Cherian's resignation at the earliest.

"He has committed treachery and violated the oath of secrecy that was administered to him during his swearing-in as minister. Cherian is left with only one alternative and that is to quit on his own," said Rajasekhara who also disclosed that the BJP was consulting legal experts as part of its move to approach the judiciary.

In Delhi, the BJP demanded Cherian's sacking from the Cabinet, saying he cannot hold an office enabled by the Constitution he has disrespected.

Union Minister V Muraliedharan, a BJP leader from Kerala, said CPI(M) leaders such as Sitaram Yechury describe the Constitution as a template of Indian nationalism but choose to ignore this deliberate attempt to disregard it.

This is shameful and proves their "so-called respect for the Constitution is just for show," he said while demanding that Cherian be sacked.

"The @CPIMKerala leaders, including Ministers in @VijayanPinarayi's Cabinet, have crossed all limits of decency in public life. What can we expect from those who toe the Chinese line? CPM never cared or the respected Indian Republic," Muraliedharan said on Twitter.

While Congress workers marched to Cherian's office in Alappuzha, the Congress demanded immediate dismissal of Cherian. Congress general secretary organisation KC Venugopal said,

"He has not only insulted the Constitution he took an oath to, but Baba Saheb Ambedkar and the ideals of India. He must resign or be removed instantly."

Congress' general secretary Jairam Ramesh said on Twitter that Cherian, who made the most "obnoxious remarks" on the Constitution he swore an oath on, should be sacked immediately.

Facing all-round criticism, Cherian said his speech was portrayed in a distorted manner. "I was blaming the Central Government and Narendra Modi for the present state of affairs. I have high regards for the Constitution," said Cherian.

The CPI-M immediately fielded its ideologist M A Baby to defend Cherian. "It was a mere slip of the tongue and there is nothing more to it," said Baby, the polit bureau member of the party.

K Ramkumar, a constitutional expert and leading lawyer, said Cherian has committed an unconscionable sin by insulting the Constitution.

"He has violated and belittled the same Constitution which he had promised to preserve and save. His continuation in the council of Ministers depends on the Governor and Chief Minister. Since Cherian has violated the humiliated Constitution, the Governor has the authority to ask the Chief Minister to drop the former from the council of Ministers. What Cherian said in the Assembly was to save himself from the consequences of the speech. The Minister is in serious trouble," Ramkumar told The Pioneer.

Lanka scrambles for aid

Nation to present debt restructuring programme to IMF by August, says Lankan PM Wickremesinghe

PTI ■ COLOMBO

Sri Lanka will present a debt restructuring programme to the IMF by August to secure a bailout package, Prime Minister Ranil Wickremesinghe told Parliament on Tuesday, but acknowledged that negotiations with the global lender were "more difficult and complicated" than in the past as the country is now "bankrupt."

Sri Lanka is going through the worst economic crisis since its independence from Britain in 1948, and needs to obtain at least USD 4 billion to tide over the acute shortage in foreign exchange reserves. An International Monetary Fund (IMF) team visited Colombo on June 20 to continue discussions on an economic programme that could be supported by an IMF lending arrangement.

The IMF later said it has concluded "constructive and productive" discussions with Sri Lankan authorities, but warned that the crisis-ridden island nation needs to do more on debt restructuring and step up structural reforms to address corruption vulnerabilities before a bailout package is finalised.

"The first round of discussions with the IMF has been a success but the assistance depends on the debt restructuring programme which Sri Lanka has to come up with," Wickremesinghe said in Parliament.



Sri Lanka is currently working on the debt restructuring sustainability being prepared by legal and financial experts. "We hope to submit this report to the IMF by August. Once this is done we will be able to reach an agreement," he said.

The anticipated IMF facility is viewed as being slow to materialise due to the question of the island's debt sustainability.

Wickremesinghe said the economic crisis will be resolved through meaningful reforms and stressed that the support of Parliament, including the Opposition, is of paramount importance. "A return to an open economy, devoid of state monopolies, is a must. Economic integration with the region mustn't be feared, but pursued," he said.

Wickremesinghe recalled that Sri Lanka held negotiations with the IMF on many occasions before, however at those

times discussions were held as a developing country.

"But this time the situation is different from all those previous occasions. We are now participating in the negotiations as a bankrupt country. Therefore, we have to face a more difficult and complicated situation than in previous negotiations," he said.

"Once a staff-level agreement is reached, this will be submitted to the IMF Board of Directors for approval. But due to the state of bankruptcy our country is in, we have to submit a plan on our debt sustainability to them separately.

"Only when they are satisfied with that plan can we reach an agreement at the staff level. This is not a straightforward process. We have been able to end the round of discussion effectively despite these difficulties," Wickremesinghe said.

He said Sri Lanka's economy is currently shrinking and the government was trying to reverse it.

"According to central bank statistics, our current economic growth rate is between negative four and negative five. According to IMF statistics, it is between negative six and negative seven. This is a serious situation," he said.

"By 2025, our aim is to create a surplus in the primary budget. Our effort is to raise the

economic growth rate to a stable level. Our expectation is to establish a stable economic base by 2026," he said.

"It will take till 2026 to go back to the 2018 level. If we make a determined journey along this road map, we can achieve an economic growth rate of negative one by the end of 2023, he said.

He said the total debt burden of the government at the end of 2021 was Rs 17.5 trillion and by March 2022 it has increased to Rs 21.6 trillion.

The Prime Minister also presented the roadmap with proposed solutions to the existing economic problem. He said it was important to stabilise the rupee as soon as possible and strengthen the rupee without letting it fall.

"We have implemented a plan to limit the printing of money in the future. In 2023, we will have to print money with restrictions on several occasions. But by the end of 2024, it is our intention to stop printing money completely."

Wickremesinghe said that Sri Lanka's inflation by the year end would be over 50 per cent. "Our plan is to control inflation. By the end of this year, inflation will rise to 60%. This is mainly due to the increase in the prices of goods in the world and the fall in the value of the rupee," he said.



France brings 51 citizens home from ISIS camps in Syria

AP ■ PARIS

French authorities on Tuesday repatriated 51 women and children from the former Islamic State-controlled areas in Syria, according to a statement from the national antiterrorist prosecutor's office.

It's the single largest return of women and children to France from camps in northeastern Syria since the territorial defeat of the Islamic State group in March 2019. France saw more of its citizens leave to join IS than any other country in Europe.

Tuesday's group comprises 16 women, aged 22 to 39, and 35 minors, seven of whom are coming to France unaccompanied by adults. All but two of the women in the group are French citizens. Twelve women returned with their children and four of the women had previously agreed to the return of their children, according to the prosecutor's statement.

Eight women were taken into custody for questioning and the other eight were detained

on arrest warrants. The children were placed in the care of the child protective services attached to the Versailles Judicial Court.

One of the 35 minors is in police custody on suspicion of participating in activities of a terrorist criminal enterprise, according to the prosecutor's statement. The minor will shortly turn 18, the statement said.

Many European countries were slow to allow the return of women and children for fear they would violently turn on their homelands. France, which saw more of its citizens join IS in Syria than any other European country and suffered multiple deadly attacks beginning in 2015, has been especially reluctant.

French authorities have insisted that adults who fought with IS should be prosecuted in the country where they had committed crimes.

In December, a 28-year-old Frenchwoman with diabetes died in a camp in Syria, leaving her 6-year-old daughter an orphan, according to the family's lawyer, who had been requesting their return since 2019.

6 dead, 30 hurt in shooting at Chicago-area July 4 parade

AP ■ HIGHLAND PARK (US)

A gunman on a rooftop opened fire on an Independence Day parade in suburban Chicago on Monday, killing at least six people, wounding at least 30 and sending hundreds of marchers, parents with strollers and children on bicycles fleeing in terror, police said.

Authorities said a man named as a person of interest in the shooting was taken into police custody Monday evening after an hours-long manhunt in and around Highland Park, an affluent community of about 30,000 on Chicago's north shore.

The July 4 shooting was just the latest to shatter the rituals of American life. Schools, church-



es, grocery stores and now community parades have all become killing grounds in recent months. This time, the bloodshed came as the nation tried to find cause to celebrate its founding and the bonds that still hold it together.

"It definitely hits a lot harder

when it's not only your hometown but it's also right in front of you," resident Ron Tuazon said as he and a friend returned to the parade route Monday evening to retrieve chairs, blankets and a child's bike that he and his family abandoned when the shooting began.

China sees record rain, heat as weather turns volatile

AP ■ BEIJING

From the snowcapped peaks of Tibet to the tropical island of Hainan, China is sweltering under the worst heatwave in decades while rainfall hit records in June.

Extreme heat is also battering Japan, and volatile weather is causing trouble for other parts of the world in what scientists say has all the hallmarks of climate change, with even more warming expected this century.

The northeastern provinces of Shandong, Jilin and Liaoning saw precipitation rise to the highest levels ever recorded in June, while the national average 112.1 millimeters (4.4 inches) was 9.1 per cent high than the same month last year, the China

Meteorological Administration said in a report Tuesday.

The average temperature across the nation also hit 21.3 degrees Celsius (70.34 Fahrenheit) in June, up 0.9 C (1.8 F) from the same period month last year and the highest since 1961. No relief is in sight, with higher than usual temperatures and precipitation forecast in much of the country throughout July, the administration said.

In the northern province of Henan, Xuchang hit 42.1 C (107.8 F) and Dengfeng 41.6 C (106.9 F) on June 24 for their hottest days on record, according to global extreme weather tracker Maximiliano Herrera.

China has also seen seasonal flooding in several parts of the country, causing misery for hundreds of thousands, particularly in the hard-hit



south that receives the bulk of rainfall as well as typhoons that sweep in from the South China Sea.

China is not alone in experiencing higher temperatures and more volatile weather. In Japan, authorities warned of greater than usual stress on the

power grid and urged citizens to conserve energy.

Japanese officials announced the earliest end to the annual summer rainy season since the national meteorological agency began keeping records in 1951. The rains usually temper summer heat,

often well into July.

On Friday, the cities of Tokamachi and Tsunan set all-time heat records while several others broke monthly marks.

Large parts of the Northern Hemisphere have seen extreme heat this summer, with regions from the normally chilly Russian Arctic to the traditionally sweltering American South recording unusually high temperatures and humidity.

In the United States, the National Weather Service has held 30 million Americans under some kind of heat advisory amid record-setting temperatures.

The suffering and danger to health is most intense among those without air conditioning or who work outdoors, further reinforcing the economic disparities in dealing with extreme weather trends.

Nations suffer as aid diverted to Ukraine

AP ■ MOGADISHU

More than two dozen children have died of hunger in the past two months in a single hospital in Somalia. Dr Yahye Abdi Garun has watched their emaciated parents stumble in from rural areas gripped by the driest drought in decades. And yet no humanitarian aid arrives.

Shortly after Russia invaded Ukraine, a donor who was preparing to give a half-million dollars to a Somali aid group told its executive director Hussein Kulmiye it was redirecting the money to help Ukrainians instead. And now, as Somalis fleeing the drought fill more than 500 camps in the city of Baidoa, aid workers make "horrific" choices to help one camp and ignore 10 others, Norwegian Refugee Council Secretary General Jan Egeland said, telling The Associated Press he is "angry and ashamed."

His group's Ukraine appeal was fully funded within 48

hours, but its Somalia appeal is perhaps a quarter funded as thousands of people die.

The war in Ukraine has abruptly drawn millions of dollars away from other crises. Somalia, facing a food shortage largely driven by the war, might be the most vulnerable.

Its aid funding is less than half of last year's level while overwhelmingly Western donors have sent more than USD 1.7 billion to respond to the war in Europe.

Yemen, Syria, Iraq, South Sudan, Congo and the Palestinian territories are similarly affected.

The USD 2.2 billion appeal for Ukraine is almost 80 per cent funded, according to United Nations data, an "exceptional" level for any crisis at the midway point of the year, said Angus Urquhart, humanitarian and crisis lead for the Development Initiatives consultancy. The smaller appeal for Somalia is just 30 per cent funded.

This year's global shift in

money and attention is perhaps most urgently felt in the Horn of Africa, including Ethiopia and Kenya, where some areas could be declared in famine within weeks.

The United States Agency for International Development says regional authorities haven't seen anything on this scale in well over 100 years. Millions of livestock, families' source of wealth and nutrition, have died. People are next.

To the shock of some exhausted Somalis who walk for days through parched landscapes to places like Mogadishu in search of aid, there is often little or none. Hawa Osman Bilal sat outside her makeshift tent holding the clothes of her daughter Ifrah, who like many vulnerable Somalis died after the difficult journey to seek help.

"She was skinny and emaciated, and she died in front of me," Bilal said. The girl was buried nearby, one in a growing number of tiny graves.

The crowded camp's care-

taker, Fadumo Abdulkadir Warsame, told the AP that about 100 families had arrived in the past week alone, swelling the population to 1,700 families. There is no food to give them. "The only thing we can afford for them is bread and black tea," he said.

"There is no aid from the donors yet." At a nearby store-room run by the local organisation Peace and Development Action, supported by the UN World Food Program, the stock has shriveled. "The world has turned its back on Somalia to focus on Ukraine," manager Shafici Ali Ahmed said. The White House acknowledged the problem in a June 28 statement on global food security, saying that "while the entire globe will continue to be affected by Russia's actions, the most immediate needs will present in the Horn of Africa," where Somalia once sourced 90 per cent of its wheat from Russia and Ukraine but now struggles to find supplies amid soaring prices.

"We're really trying to stave off mass deaths at this point," Sarah Charles, assistant to the administrator for USAID's Bureau for Humanitarian Assistance, told the AP, adding that "unfortunately, the nature of these crises is such that they go slow and then go very fast." Nimo Hassan, director of the Somalia NGO Consortium, and several others said they believe donor countries' representatives on the ground understand the urgency, but decision-makers in capitals like Brussels and London appear distracted by the war in Europe. "They're not saying openly, We're focused on Ukraine," but you can see what they're doing in Ukraine," Hassan said.

"It should be based on need, not a political decision, you know?"

Less than 30 per cent of the new arrivals at camps for those fleeing drought in Somalia were receiving immediate food or other assistance as of April, the UN humanitarian agency has said.

Al-Qaida, ISIS attacks kill 22 people in Burkina Faso, say officials

AP ■ OUAGADOUGOU (BURKINA FASO)

Attacks by jihadis killed at least 22 people in northwestern Burkina Faso and also injured others, the government said Monday.

The "cowardly and barbaric" attack occurred late Sunday in the commune of Bourasso in Kossi province, Babo Pierre Pierre Bassinga, governor of Boucle du Mouhoun region, said in a statement.

The West African nation has been overrun by jihadi violence linked to al-Qaida and the Islamic State group in recent years. Violence has killed thousands and displaced nearly 2 million people from their homes.

Mutinous soldiers ousted Burkina Faso's democratically elected president in January promising to secure the country, but since then violence has increased and spread.

More than 530 violent incidents occurred between February and May, which was more than double the level during the same period of 2021, according to the Armed Conflict Location & Event Data Project.

At least 135 people were killed in 12 jihadi attacks during the first two weeks of June, according to an internal security report for aid workers seen by The Associated Press.

In an attempt to stem the violence, last month the junta announced the creation of two military zones in the hard-hit East and Sahel



regions, forcing civilians to leave their homes within two weeks and prompting concerns it would worsen the crisis of displaced people.

Analysts say the Boucle du Mouhoun region where the attacks took place Sunday has become a hub for militants as violence once focused on the east and north regions has expanded west.

"The latest attack in northwestern Burkina Faso is another link to the chain of unsustainable terror that's plagued the Sahel for the past two years," said Laith Alkhouri, CEO of Intelonyx Intelligence Advisory, which provides intelligence analysis. "It should urge the de facto government to act and seek international security support to stem the violence," he said.

Rebel landmine wounds seven soldiers in central Philippines

AP ■ MANILA

A land mine set by suspected communist guerrillas wounded seven soldiers in the central Philippines on Tuesday, in one of the insurgents' first known attacks since President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. Took office last week.

Army troops were checking reports from villagers of anti-personnel mines laid by New People's Army rebels along a village trail in Mapanas town in Northern Samar province when an explosion wounded the seven soldiers, regional army commander Maj. Gen. Edgardo de Leon said.

Two of the wounded soldiers were in critical condition, he said, adding that no villagers were injured.

"Some of the soldiers were tossed away because the rebels have been using really powerful land mines," de Leon said.

The government will file criminal complaints against rebel leaders for the attack and the use of internationally banned types of land mines, de Leon told reporters.

The soldiers were not able to open fire at the rebels, who fled after the attack and were being hunted by government forces, he said.

Ukrainians displaced near Kyiv fear for war-damaged homes

AP ■ BORODYANKA

Valentyna Klymenko tries to return home as late as possible to avoid the darkness of her war-damaged home outside Ukraine's capital. She visits friends, goes to the well for water or looks for a place to charge her phone.

The 70-year-old Klymenko then returns alone to an apartment that used to be noisy and full of life. She is now greeted by dim, damp rooms instead of

the voices of her great-grandchildren.

Klymenko rarely cooks. She drinks fruit compote and eats canned tomatoes, which she prepared last year, so she doesn't waste the gas in her portable stove. She goes to bed quickly, but can't fall asleep for a long time.

Her thoughts revolve around one question: "What will happen to my home?"

Russian troops retreated from the area around Kyiv in

late March. But they left behind 16,000 damaged residential buildings in the Bucha region, where Borodyanka is located, according to the head of the Kyiv regional administration, Oleksiy Kuleba.

The most affected street in Borodyanka, a town with a population of more than 12,000, was Tsentralna, which was still called Lenin Street less than a decade ago. One of the homes on this street belongs to Klymenko.

The shockwave from a Russian airstrike that witnesses say struck the building across the street with two bombs caused a fire in Klymenko's five-story apartment building.

The apartments on the upper floors of Klymenko's building burned. Four months later, there is no electricity, water, or gas. Some residents lost everything and ended up on the street without any means to find a new home.

"I had a sofa here and armchairs here.

"But now there are just the springs," said Tetiana Solohub, pointing to the blackened walls of her home. Nothing is left but a couple of small enamel cups and the suffocating smell of ashes.

Solohub's scorched apartment is located a few floors above Klymenko's. They moved into the building at the same time 36 years ago, when it had just been built.

DJOKER BATTLES BACK TO BEAT SINNER

AP ■ LONDON

Defending champion Novak Djokovic battled back from two sets to love down to defeat Jannik Sinner and reach his 11th Wimbledon semi-final on Tuesday.

Djokovic triumphed 5-7, 2-6, 6-3, 6-2, 6-2 and will face either Britain's Cameron Norrie or David Goffin of Belgium for a place in Sunday's final.

It was the seventh time in the Serb's career that he had recovered from two sets to love at the Slams.

"Huge congrats to Jannik for a big fight, he's so mature for his age, he has plenty of time ahead of him," said Djokovic.

"The first two sets compared to the next three were like two different matches. He was the better player for those first two sets.

"But at the end of the second set I took a toilet break, gave myself a little pep talk, tried to gather my thoughts.

"I broke early in the third set. I saw a little bit of doubt start to come into his movement. I have many years' experience of playing on these courts and coping with the pressure."

Djokovic is bidding to go level with Pete Sampras as a seven-time Wimbledon champion and stand just one off Roger Federer's men's record of eight.

He appeared set for a routine afternoon when he swept into a 4-1 lead in the opener and had a break point for 5-1 against the 20-year-old Italian.

Sinner, the 10th seed, saved it and rallied to move 6-5 ahead, carving out an opportunity to serve for the set.

Djokovic saved a set point but a netted service return gave



HALEP DOWNS BADOSA

AP ■ LONDON

Former champion Simona Halep swept past fourth-seeded Paula Badosa to reach the Wimbledon quarter-finals for the fifth time on Monday.

Halep won 6-1, 6-2 in just one hour as her Spanish opponent's game fell apart with 21 unforced errors.

The Romanian, who was champion in 2019, has yet to drop a set at the tournament.

Halep, 30, had to sit out Wimbledon in 2021 due to a



calf injury that sidelined her for three months.

Her build-up to this year's tournament was compromised by a neck injury.

"It means a lot that I'm back in a quarter-finals after I struggled so much with injuries and self-confidence," said Halep.

"I'm working hard every day. I feel like if I do that, I will get better. I'm really happy with the way I'm playing. I'm really confident. It's a pleasure to be on court."

the Italian the set.

Sinner, relentlessly unleashing winners from all corners of the court, stunned the top seed again with breaks in the third and seventh games on his way to a two-set lead.

However, Djokovic is no stranger to Grand Slam adversity, having twice come back from two sets to love down as recently as last year's French Open.

The second of those stunning recoveries came in the final against Stefanos Tsitsipas.

A break in the fourth game of the third set enabled Djokovic to cut his quarter-final deficit.

In control, the 35-year-old levelled the tie with a double break in the fourth set as Sinner took a worrying tumble on his ankle scrambling to the Centre Court net.

Djokovic carved out two more breaks in the decider, the second off the back of a stunning, cross-court backhand on the stretch to go to 5-2 before calmly serving it out.

MARIA WINS

Germany's Tatjana Maria came from behind to beat compatriot Jule Niemeier 4-6, 6-2, 7-5 on Tuesday and reach her first Grand Slam semi-final.

The 34-year-old mother of two will play either third seed Ons Jabeur or unseeded Marie Bouzkova for a place in the final.

"I have goosebumps everywhere," said Maria, who returned from maternity leave just under a year ago.

"My two little girls, it's a dream to live this with my family, to live this with my two girls. Almost one year ago I gave birth, it's crazy."

She said would like to face world number two Jabeur in the semi-finals.

Sania-Pavic in mixed doubles SF

PTI ■ WIMBLEDON

Indian tennis ace Sania Mirza and her Croatian partner Mate Pavic advanced to the Wimbledon mixed doubles semifinals with a hard-fought win over fourth seeds Gabriela Dabrowski and John Peers.

Mirza and Pavic, seeded sixth, eked out a thrilling 6-4, 3-6, 7-5 win over Canadian-Australian duo in one hour 41 minutes on court 3 on Monday night.

The Indo-Croatian pair will take on the winners of the quarterfinal between Robert Farah and Jelena Ostapenko, the seventh seeds, and second seeds Neil Skupski and Desirae Krawczyk.



This is Mirza's best mixed doubles performance at the All England Club. She had previously reached the quarterfinals in 2011, 2013 and 2015.

A Wimbledon title is the

only mixed doubles Grand Slam missing from her trophy cabinet.

Mirza, a six-time Grand Slam winner, has already announced her retirement at the end of this season.

Rafa into 8th Wimbledon quarters

AP ■ LONDON

Rafael Nadal reached the Wimbledon quarter-finals for the eighth time on Monday with a straight-sets defeat of Botić van de Zandschulp.

Nadal, who has already won the Australian and French Opens to stand halfway to the first calendar Grand Slam since 1969, triumphed 6-4, 6-2, 7-6 (8/6).

Next up for the 36-year-old Spaniard is a clash against American 11th seed Taylor Fritz, who beat him in the Indian Wells final earlier in the year.

"To be back in the quarter-finals after not being here for three years is amazing," said the 2008 and 2010 champion.

"I expect a very tough match against Taylor — he won his first Masters title this year against me in the final.

"The quarter-finals of a Slam are always very tough."



HS Prannoy regains his place in world's top 20

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Star Indian shuttler HS Prannoy on Tuesday regained his place in the world's top 20, riding on his consistent show in the international circuit this season.

The 29-year-old from Kerala, who had played a pivotal role in India's monumental Thomas Cup win in May, improved two places to 19 in the men's singles rankings.

Prannoy, who had reached a career-best ranking of eight in 2018, has been one of the most consistent male shuttlers in the circuit with a series of quarter-finals and semifinals appearance this season.

He is now the third highest ranked Indian male shuttler in the world after Lakshya Sen (10th) and Kidambi Srikanth (11th).

Prannoy, who had reached

the finals of Swiss Open in March, surpassed Tokyo Olympian B Sai Praneeth (20th).

Two-time Olympic medalist P V Sindhu maintained her seventh spot in the latest chart, while Saina Nehwal also stayed static on 24th.

Chirag Shetty and Satwiksairaj Rankireddy were steady on eighth in the men's doubles rankings, while Ashwini Ponnappa and N Sikki Reddy dropped a rung to 24th position.

Among others, 2014 Commonwealth Games champion Parupalli Kashyap jumped three places to reach the World No. 36 ranking, riding on his second round appearance at the Malaysia Open Super 750 event.

The Verma brothers — Sameer and Sourabh — were the other two Indians inside the world's top 50.

Malacia becomes Ten Hag's 1st Man Utd signing

AP ■ MANCHESTER

Manchester United completed their swoop for Feyenoord defender Tyrrell Malacia on Tuesday as Erik ten Hag made his first signing since taking charge at Old Trafford.

United landed Malacia in a reported £12.95 million (\$15.4 million) deal after making a late move for the Netherlands full-back, who had been close to joining French club Lyon.

The 22-year-old has agreed a four-year contract with the option of a further 12 months.

It is a landmark deal for Ten Hag, who had been linked with a host of potential signings before finally making Malacia the first acquisition of his United reign.

Ten Hag arrived at United in May after finishing his successful spell at Ajax, where he had plenty of opportunities to see Malacia's quality with Dutch rivals Feyenoord.

Malacia, who made 136 appearances for Feyenoord, said: "It's an incredible feeling to have joined Manchester United. This is a new chapter for me, a new league with new teammates and a tremendous manager leading us.

"I know from playing against his teams in the Eredivisie, the qualities that he has and what he demands of his players.

"Whilst I know that I am still young and will continue to



ORIGI JOINS AC MILAN

AP ■ MILAN

Divock Origi signed for AC Milan on Tuesday after being let go by Liverpool at the end of last season.

The 27-year-old Belgian international Origi has joined Milan as a free agent after his contract was registered with the Italian top flight.

Origi arrives at the Serie A team after not having played enough matches to trigger an extension to his contract with

Liverpool.

He has reportedly signed a four-year deal which will net him four million euros (\$4.23 million dollars) a season.

He was largely a bit-part player at Liverpool but scored vital goals over his eight years on Merseyside which made him a favourite of fans and manager Jurgen Klopp.

Those strikes include two in an astonishing comeback against Barcelona in the Champions League semi-finals

in 2019, and the second is that year's final as Liverpool lifted their sixth European Cup against Tottenham.

Origi made 176 appearances for the Reds after arriving in 2014, scoring 41 times.

He has been capped 32 times for his country, but all three of his international goals came in 2014. Milan have brought in Origi to bolster a forward line which struggled for goals despite winning last season's thrilling Serie A.

develop, I can promise the United fans that I will leave everything on the pitch every time I pull on the red shirt."

Malacia, who plays largely at left-back, is expected to be part of the United squad that leaves for the pre-season tour of Thailand and Australia on Friday.

Capped five times by the Netherlands, Malacia is likely to compete with England left-back Luke Shaw for a place in United's starting line-up.

ROMA SIGN CELIK

Roma have signed Turkey international Mehmet Zeki

Celik from Lille, the Serie A club announced on Tuesday.

In a statement, Roma said the 25-year-old full-back "has signed a four-year contract with the Giallorossi that runs until 30 June 2026".

The 32-times capped Celik arrives for a reported fee of seven million euros (\$7.2 million) with 15 percent of any future sale also going to Lille.

In his four years at Lille Celik played nearly 150 times in all competitions.

RICHARLISON BANNED

Tottenham forward Richarlison was banned on Tuesday from his new club's English Premier League opening game after throwing a smoke canister when playing for Everton last season.

Richarlison admitted a charge of improper conduct and was banned for one game and fined 25,000 pounds (\$30,000), the English Football Association said in announcing the tribunal verdict.

Tottenham start the league hosting Southampton on August 6. Richarlison should be available to play at Chelsea one week later. Richarlison scored in Everton's 1-0 win against Chelsea on May 1 that helped his then club avoid relegation. But a lit, blue smoke canister was thrown on the pitch by Everton supporters and Richarlison picked it up and threw it away from the field.

Badminton Asia Technical Committee apologises to Sindhu for 'human error'

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Badminton Asia Technical Committee chairman Chih Shen Chen has apologised to two-time Olympic medalist P V Sindhu for the "human error" committed by the referee during the women's singles semi-final match of the Badminton Asia Championships in April.

Sindhu had been left in tears after an "unfair" call by the umpires midway through her semifinal match against Japan's Akane Yamaguchi saw her go down in three games and eventually sign off with a Bronze medal, her second in the continental championship.

"Unfortunately, there is no rectification at this time. However, we have taken the necessary steps to avoid a repetition of this human error," the



official said in the letter to Sindhu.

"We sincerely apologize for the inconvenience caused to you. We believe it is part of the sport and that it is accepted as such."

The incident had happened

while Sindhu was leading 14-11 in the second game after having won the first game when the umpire handed her a one-point penalty for taking too much time to serve between points.

Sindhu, who turned 27 on Tuesday, lost her momentum

Treesa & Gayatri exits

PTI ■ KUALA LUMPUR

India's Commonwealth Games-bound women's doubles duo of Treesa Jolly and Gayatri Gopichand made a first round exit from the Malaysia Masters badminton tournament, losing to local pair of Pearly Tan and Thinaah Muralitharan here on Tuesday.

The Indian pair was outplayed by the Malaysians 14-21, 14-21 in the opening round match that lasted just 33 minutes.

None of the Indians won any match on Tuesday with two other women's doubles pairs also suffering first round

defeats.

The combination of Ashwini Bhat and Shikha Gautam lost 7-21, 10-21 to Yuki Fukushima and Sayaka Hirota of Japan while Pooja Dandu and Arathi Sara went down to Bulgaria's Gabriela Stoeva and Stefani Stoeva 17-21, 17-21.

In the women's singles, Malvika Bansod also suffered a 10-21, 17-21 defeat against host country's Goh Jin Wei in 33 minutes to exit from the Super 500 tournament.

Olympic medalists PV Sindhu and Saina Nehwal will feature in the women's singles first round matches on Wednesday.

after that incident and lost 21-13, 19-21, 16-21.

The Indian was seen having an animated discussion with the chief referee after the chair umpire asked her to hand over the shuttle to Yamaguchi but it all fell on deaf ears.

"The umpire told me you're taking a lot of time but the opponent wasn't ready at that point. But the umpire suddenly gave her the point and it was really unfair. I think that was one of the reasons why I lost," Sindhu had said.

"I mean that is my feeling because at that moment it was 14-11 and could have become 15-11 but instead, it became 14-12 and she took continuous points. And I think it was very unfair. Maybe I would have won the match and played in the final."

Sindhu, who is a member of Badminton World Federation's (BWF) Athletes' Commission, had immediately written a letter to the world body and the Asia badminton confederation, protesting against the decision.

LOCAL EVENTS

FELICITATED



Indian Olympic Association general secretary Rajeev Mehta and treasurer Anandeshwar Pandey on Tuesday felicitated Indian Junior Women's Handball team for their outstanding performance in Under-20 Women's World Handball Championship at Slovenia. Mona Chaudhary, Sheetal Kumari and Afreen Afzal of Uttar Pradesh were also the part of the Indian team.

SELECTION TRIALS

Sports directorate is organising combined selection trials for the seats left in sports hostels of the state on July 14-15 at KD Singh 'Babu' Stadium. The trials for girls will be held in table tennis, basketball and archery while boy's trials will be held for kabaddi.

POMS WIN ‘RESCHEDULED’ TEST, DRAW SERIES

Joe Root and Jonny Bairstow score centuries to help England chase down 378 runs on final day & win match by 7 wickets

PTI ■ BIRMINGHAM

Jonny Bairstow and Joe Root, who have made chasing tricky targets in Test matches fashionable, put famed Indian pace attack to sword with imposing hundreds as England recorded their highest ever chase of 378 runs with minimum fuss to level the five-match series 2-2.

It is fourth straight successful chase for England, having accomplished tricky fourth innings targets of 278, 299, 296 against New Zealand in the previous series.

For India, the ignominy was of not being able to defend their highest fourth innings target. When England were rattled on the fourth afternoon by stand-in skipper Jasprit Bumrah, the two star batters didn't waver from their game plan. The entire Indian attack, except Bumrah, looked pedestrian. All England needed was just under 20 overs to knock off the remaining 119 runs on fifth morning.

What was more embarrassing was England knocking off the runs in 76.4 overs, which isn't even a full day's play and at a run-rate of nearly five runs per over (4.93).

Root (142 not out), who has been in even more sublime form since relinquishing captaincy, scored his 28th century and was involved in an unbroken 269-run stand with Bairstow (114 not out), whose ton count reached a dozen after the completion of this game.

Bairstow, who is in the form of his life, topped up his first innings of 106 with an even more graceful century as



Brendon McCullum's philosophy of deflating teams on flat decks is currently working wonders.

A cursory look at a statistical nuggets reveals the impact Bairstow and Root have made in England's last four victories.

Root has scored 11, 115 not out, 176, 3, 5, 86 not out, 5 and 142 not out in his last eight innings. Bairstow has scored 1, 16, 8, 136, 162, 71 not out, 106

and 114 not out in the same set of games.

Both have played significant role in three chases in the last four games.

INDIA LOST THE PLOT

This is India's third straight Test match defeat in a 'SENA' country (SA, England, NZ, Australia) after back-to-back defeats against South Africa but this will hurt more as they had

a sizeable first innings lead of 132 runs.

The defeat would also significantly dent India's chances of finishing in top-two in the World Test Championship (WTC) table.

Bumrah in his first tryst as captain was very impressive despite the disappointing outcome but what would hurt India badly is the tactics employed by the team that

had so many senior players.

A team that has set a target of 378 couldn't have possibly started with a spread out field, logic of which would need some explaining from head coach Rahul Dravid.

Since he has taken over, India have lost three out of four overseas Tests and for a man, who relies heavily on method and process, that's not a great piece of stat.

Bowling with a deep extra cover, deep mid-wicket, deep fine leg only gave a negative impression about the strategy deployed on the fourth evening.

The singles and doubles were easy pickings as none of the bowlers was able to settle down. It was imperative to keep one batter at one end under a tight leash.

As pressure released, the boundaries flowed from the blades of both the batters. It wasn't a typical 'Bazball' approach which is going for leather but bleeding the opposition with thousand cuts, both practically and metaphorically.

The gaping holes in the field were a testimony of a hollow strategy.

Ravindra Jadeja (18.4-3-62-0), a classical left-arm spinner, bowled over the wicket throughout, negating any chance of trapping the batters in front of the wicket. Not for once did he come round the wicket to pin the batters.

And to make matters worse, India's third and fourth pacers -- Mohammed Siraj (15-0-98-0) and Shardul Thakur (11-0-65-0) -- hardly made in impact. They were guilty of bowling too short or too full.

We let the game slip away after dominating three days: Bumrah

PTI ■ BIRMINGHAM

India stand-in captain Jasprit Bumrah on Tuesday blamed his side's defeat to England in the rescheduled fifth Test here to the batting failure in the second innings, saying they let the match slip away from their hands after dominating major part of it.

England rode on Joe Root and Jonny Bairstow's majestic centuries to thump India by seven wickets and register their highest-ever successful run chase in Test cricket.

England overhauled the 378-run target in the morning session of the fifth and final day with Root and Bairstow remaining unbeaten on 142 and 114 respectively.

"That's the beauty of Test cricket, even if you have three good days. We fell short with the bat yesterday and that is where we let the opposition in to let the match slip away from us," Bumrah said at the post-match presentation ceremony.

"Ifs and buts can always be there. If you go back, if there was no rain in the first match, we could have won the series. But England played really well."

England's win meant that the five-match Test series, which spilled over to this year due to COVID-19 cases in the Indian camp last year, ended in 2-2 draw.

"We have drawn the series and both teams played very good cricket and it was a fair result," Bumrah said.

Bumrah lauded Rishabh Pant and Ravindra Jadeja for their tons in India's first innings.

"Pant takes his chances. He and Jaddu got us back into the game with their counter-attack. We were ahead in the game. He takes his chances, backs himself and very happy for him," he said.

Bumrah said he thorough-



ENGLAND'S WIN MEANT THAT THE FIVE-MATCH TEST SERIES, WHICH SPILLED OVER TO THIS YEAR DUE TO COVID-19 CASES IN THE INDIAN CAMP LAST YEAR, ENDED IN 2-2 DRAW

ly enjoyed the captaincy responsibility and it was a pleasure to lead the national team.

"The captaincy is not what I decide. I like responsibility. It was a good challenge, a new challenge. It was an honour to lead the team and a great experience."

England skipper Ben Stokes said his team was trying to rewrite the way Test cricket is being played in the country with its new-found attacking brand of the game.

"When the lads play like this, it makes my job easier. When you have clarity like we have in the dressing room, it makes chasing totals like this

easier. 378 would have been scary five weeks ago, but now it's all good.

"We are trying to rewrite how Test cricket is played in England. All our plans from the last four-five weeks is what we want to take ahead. Bowling on the top of off isn't important, it is all about taking ten wicket," he said.

"We want to give some new life to Test cricket. Inspiring the next generation is what we want to do. We want to bring in new fans and want to leave a mark on Test cricket," he added.

Stokes was all praise of his batters for pulling off the historic run chase for England.

"Jonny and Root will get all the credit, but the precedent was set up by the way the openers played against Bumrah and Shami with the new ball."

Man-of-the-match Jonny Bairstow, who smashed centuries in both the innings, said he was never afraid of failure and just wanted to put the pressure back on the opposition.

"It is great fun at the moment. I am stripping it back to the basics. The last few years have been tough on me but the last few months have been fantastic.

Mandhana jumps to 8th spot in WODI rankings

PTI ■ DUBAI

India vice-captain Smriti Mandhana moved up a rung to eighth position in the batter's chart in the latest ICC women's ODI rankings released here on Tuesday.

Mandhana, who hit an 83-ball unbeaten 94 in India's 10-wicket win over Sri Lanka in the second ODI on Monday, is the lone Indian in the top 10 of the batting chart which is headed by Australian Alyssa Healey followed by England's Natalie Sciver.

All-rounder Deepti Sharma and opener Shafali Verma have made significant improvements to their positions after helping India take an unassailable 2-0 lead against Sri Lanka in the three-match ICC Women's Championship (IWC) series being played in Pallekele.

Deepti, who grabbed three for 25 and scored an unbeaten 22, has moved up two places to the 29th position among batters and three slots to 16th among bowlers.

In the rankings for all-rounders, she has gained 20 rating points to reach within one point of Australia's Ashleigh Gardner, who is sixth on the list.

Verma, who is leading the run aggregate in the series with 106 runs including an unbeaten 71 in the second match, is up 12 places to a career-best 36th among batters. She is currently ranked fifth in the T20 list. Other Indians to move up the batters' list are Pooja Vastrakar (up three places to 61st), Rajeshwari Gayakwad (up four places to 93rd) and Meghna Singh (up



seven places to 100th).

They have all also moved up the bowlers' list -- Gayakwad from 12th to 11th, Meghna from 58th to 47th and Vastrakar from 57th to 50th.

Pacer Renuka Singh is also a major gainer, her seven wickets has lifted her 38 places to 65th position.

Saha to join Tripura cricket team as player-cum-mentor

PTI ■ AGARTALA

Veteran India cricketer Wriddhiman Saha will join the Tripura team as a player-cum-mentor, an official said on Tuesday.

A veteran of 40 Tests, Saha has already received a NOC (No Objection Certificate) from the Cricket Association of Bengal (CAB).

"We have had talks with Saha and he has agreed to play for the state.

He will also act as a mentor for the senior team to motivate the players," Tripura Cricket Association (TCA) joint secretary Kishore Das said.

TCA expects that Saha, a wicket-keeper-cum-batsman, will sign an agreement by July 15, he said.

Players would be immensely benefited if Saha joins the team, considering his vast experience in international cricket and domestic circuit, Das said. "It is not yet finalised whether he will be made the captain of the team.

This will be decided later," the official said.

He is expected to play Ranji Trophy and Vijay Hazare Trophy matches for Tripura.

Warwickshire to investigate racial abuse charge by Indian fans

PTI ■ BIRMINGHAM

An investigation has been launched into allegations of racist abuse aimed at Indian fans during the fourth day of the fifth Test between India and England at Edgbaston, the ECB and Warwickshire County Cricket Club said.

Several Indian fans took to Twitter to report the racist behaviour they endured during the fourth day's play on Monday night. They claimed that some British fans hurled racial taunts at them.

Former Yorkshire cricketer Azeem Rafiq, whose testimony to a British parliamentary committee last year led to an investigation into claims of institutional racism at Yorkshire and resulted in major reforms, retweeted some of the social media posts describing the racist behaviour.

"Disappointing to read," he wrote. The official Edgbaston Twitter account responded to Rafiq's tweet saying: "We're incredibly sorry to read this and do not condone this behaviour in anyway. We'll be investigating this ASAP."

Warwickshire later released a statement, stating they are investigating the incident.

"I'm gutted by these reports as



we're working hard to make Edgbaston a safe, welcoming environment for all," Stuart Cain, Chief Executive at Edgbaston said.

"Having seen the initial tweets, I've spoken personally to the gentleman who raised them and we're now speaking to the stewards in this area to establish what hap-

pened.

"Nobody should be subject to any form of abuse at Edgbaston. So, once we've got all the facts, we will make sure this issue is addressed swiftly," the statement added. One spectator, who was in the Hollies Stand, alleged that the stewards refused to take any action

despite several complaints.

"Racist behaviour at @Edgbaston towards Indian fans in block 22 Eric Hollies. People calling us Curry C**** and paki b*****. We reported it to the stewards and showed them the culprits at least 10 times but no response and all we were told is to sit on our seats. @ECB_cricket."

"We were also fearful of our safety for women and children but no assistance when we left. This is unacceptable in today's society @BCCI #ENGvIND," a spectator said in a series of tweets.

Bharat Army, the official team India supporters group, said the spectators experienced abuse from a "small minority" of individuals.

"Sad to say many of our members experienced racist abuse from a very small minority of individuals. We will work with @Edgbaston to share all your feedback. Thank you to those England fans who stood by us."

"I'm all for some good banter between fans but today was some of the worst abuse we've ever experienced at a match. Some disgusting racism ('you smelly *****, for example). The stewards actually told the India fans to sit down whilst allowing the abuse to go ahead @Edgbaston," another spectator wrote.

NZ women & men cricketers to get equal pay

PTI ■ CHRISTCHURCH

In a first in world cricket, New Zealand men and women will receive the same match fees across formats and competitions, according to a groundbreaking five-year deal between the sports' governing body in the country and the players' association.

"I want to thank and congratulate the players and the Major Associations for their part in reaching such a significant agreement," NZC chief executive David White said in a statement.

"This is the most important agreement in our sport, as it binds NZC, the Major Associations, and our players at the hip, and sets the foundation to fund, grow and develop cricket.

"It's been a collaborative yet very robust negotiation. Importantly, it represents a significant step forward as we continue to grow our investment in women's cricket."

According to the landmark agreement struck between NZC, the six major associations, and the New Zealand Cricket Players Association, White Ferns and domestic women's players will receive the same match fees as the men across all their formats and competitions.

"Translated, this means the highest-ranked WHITE FERN would be able to receive a maximum of NZD 163,246 a year (up from NZD 83,432), the ninth-ranked, NZD 148,946 (NZD 66,266), and the 17th-ranked NZD 142,346 (NZD 62,833)," the statement said.

The top-ranked women's domestic players in each Major Association would be able to receive a maximum of NZD 19,146 (up from NZD 3,423), the sixth-ranked NZD 18,646 (NZD 3,423), and the 12th-ranked NZD 18,146 (NZD 3,423)."

According to the agreement, total



number of women's domestic contracts will increase from 54 to 72, while the men will earn higher retainers, based on the increased number of matches played, formats contested, and time spent training and playing.

"It's great for the international and domestic women players to be recognised in the same agreement, alongside the men," White Ferns captain Sophie Devine said.

"It's a massive step forward and will be a huge drawcard for young women and girls."

New Zealand skipper Kane Williamson said it was an exciting time for the sport.

"It's really important for the current players to build on the legacy of those who have gone before us, and to support tomorrow's players, both men and women, at all levels.

"This agreement goes a long way towards achieving that."

LLC-2 to have four teams, 110 International players

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Former India cricketers Virinder Sehwag, Irfan Pathan and Yusuf Pathan will be in action when the second season of the Legends League Cricket returns in September with four teams and 110 International players on board, the organisers announced here on Tuesday.

"I love to be in the cricket field. I missed the playing 1st season of LLC but it would be great to go back into the field with the LLC season 2," Sehwag, who missed the last season, said.

Apart from Sehwag, the Pathan brothers have confirmed their participation so far in the tournament.

Former India coach Ravi Shastri, who is the commissioner of Legends League Cricket said: "The carnival of legends is back. Top Cricketers from around the world would be seen coming together.

"These players have contributed immensely to cricket throughout their career. I am looking forward to watching them play the Legends League Cricket second season."

The first season of tournament had former cricketers from India, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, Australia, England divided into three teams representing India, Asia and Rest of the World.

But this time it would follow IPL style with franchises owning four teams.