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Uddhav woos rebels, son threatens them

TN RAGHUNATHA ■ MUMBAI

Not having lost all hopes about the possible return of a section of rebel Shiv Sena MLAs who are currently campaigning at Guwahati, Maharashtra chief minister Uddhav Thackeray once again appealed to them to come back to Mumbai and hold talks with him so that a solution could be found to tide over the political crisis within the Sena.

However, within hours after the chief minister held out an olive branch to the rebel MLAs, the breakaway faction leader of the Sena and former minister Eknath Shinde tweeted a reply: "On one hand, your son (Minister Aditya Thackeray) and Spokesperson (MP Sanjay Raut) called the revered Balasaheb Thackeray's Shiv Sainiks as pigs, gutter-muck, dogs, cattle, morons, zombies, and even brought in the names of their fathers, and on the other hand, he (Uddhav) is making a call to save the anti-Hindutva MVA government by making an appeal to the same MLAs to return…What does this mean?"

Talking to the media, Uddhav appealed to all Shiv SENA MLAs to return to the parent camp. He said that as the head of the Sena family, he respected their views and made it clear from his heart that till date "nobody is out of the party" though the (rebels) are stuck in Guwahati with all kinds of speculation.

"I appeal to you all… Come to me…Let's talk it out. Let's remove all the misconceptions among the minds of the people and the Shiv Sainiks," Thackeray appealed.

Uddhav said that the parent Sena would accord respect and dignity to the Sena rebels "Come in front of me and present your views, let's work out a solution," he said..

This is at least the third direct appeal made by the CM to the rebels since the party crisis exploded on the night of June 21-22. "Many of you are in contact with us and are still emotionally connected with the Shiv Sena… The families of several have also got in touch with us and conveyed your sentiments to us," Uddhav said.

The ruling MVA was plunged into turmoil, when that night around 39 Sena MLAs and 11 others sneaked out to Gujarat and then to Assam to join the rebel faction herded by Shinde.

"Many of you are in contact with us and are still emotionally connected with the Shiv Sena… The families of several have also got in touch with us and conveyed your sentiments to us," Uddhav said.

The CM said, "If we all sit together, we can definitely come up with a solution to the political turmoil and cautioned them saying that the rebel group had fallen prey to any kinds of wrong measures, hinting at a possible tie-up with the Opposition BJP."

Rebel Shiv Sena leader Eknath Shinde arrives to address media at a hotel where he is staying with other supporting MLAs, in Guwahati on Tuesday PTI

Man beheads tailor for insult to Islam, curfew in Udaipur

Killers post video, arrested

PTI ■ UDAIPUR

Two men with a cleaver murdered a tailor here, saying in a video post on social media that they are avenging an insult to Islam and triggering communal tension in the Rajasthan city, part of which was placed under curfew.

Within hours, prohibitory orders banning the assembly of people were imposed across the state for a month and mobile internet services suspended for the next 24 hours. At 8 pm, curfew was declared till further orders in seven police station areas of Udaipur city.

The men who allegedly carried out the daylight murder posted three videos online admitting to the crime and were soon arrested.

In a video clip, one of the purported assailants declared that they had "beheaded" the man and went on to threaten Prime Minister Narendra Modi, saying their knife will get him as well.

Indirectly, the assailants also referred to Nupur Sharma, the BJP leader suspended from the party over a remark on Prophet Mohammad.

Kanhaiya Lal, the tailor, was recently arrested by the local police over some remarks made on social media by him. A BJP leader said the victim feared for his life and had sought police protection, but the authorities did not act on his appeal.

Ghos Mohammad and Riyaz. Riyaz beheaded a tailor named Kanhaiya Lal in Udaipur, while Ghos filmed the crime, according to officials PTI

The assailants entered his shop in the city's Dhan Mandi area posing as customers. As the tailor took the measurements, one of them — who later identified himself as Riaz Akhtari — attacked him with a cleaver, nearly severing his neck. The other man shot the brutal murder with his mobile phone.

The two men fled from the scene and later uploaded this clip on social media. In another video, the alleged assailant said they "beheaded" the tailor and threatened the Prime Minister for lighting "this fire".

Yet another provocative video was recorded on June 17, in which Akhtari said he will post it the day he carries out the murder. He asked other members of the community to continue with similar attacks.

As the videos circulated on social media, tension escalated. Local shopkeepers downed shutters. Shopkeepers stopped police from taking away the body, saying they will allow the removal of the corpse only after the murderers are arrested and compensation — Rs 50 lakh and a government job — given to the victim's family.

On Twitter, CM Ashok Gehlot appealed for calm and asked people not to share the videos. "The guilty will not be spared. The entire police team is working on it with full alertness. I can imagine the anger which is there among people due to the murder. We are taking action accordingly," he told reporters in Jodhpur.

CAPSULE

18 KILLED IN MUMBAI HOUSE COLLAPSE

Mumbai: As many as 18 persons were killed and 14 others injured after a ground-plus—three storey building collapsed at Kurla (East) in north-central Mumbai shortly before midnight on Monday. There were 32 residents at the building "Nayaknagar Cooperative Co-operative Housing society" when the structure caved in at around 11.53 pm.

ONGC CHOPPER CRASHES INTO ARABIAN SEA,4 DEAD

New Delhi/Mumbai: A brand new Pawan Hans' Sikorsky chopper with 9 people on board crashed into the Arabian Sea, about 50 nautical miles from the Mumbai coast on Tuesday, killing four people -- including three ONGC employees.

COUNCIL OK'S GST RELIEF, E-WAY BILL BY STATES

Chandigarh: The GST Council on Tuesday approved changes in tax rates on some goods and services while allowing states to issue an e-way bill for intra-state movement of gold and precious stones, officials said.

ED ISSUES FRESH SUMMONS TO RAUT

New Delhi: The Enforcement Directorate (ED) has issued fresh summons to Shiv Sena MP Sanjay Raut asking him to appear on July 1 for questioning in a money laundering case linked to alleged irregularities in the re-development of a Mumbai 'chawl' and related financial property transactions involving his wife and alleged associates.

Fadnavis meets Shah, Nadda to discuss plan for Govt formation

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Amidst the ongoing political turmoil in Maharashtra, former State Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis met Union Home Minister Amit Shah and BJP president JP Nadda here on Tuesday to consult on the next step to bring back the BJP in power in the State with the help of the Shiv Sena rebels.

Fadnavis, who has met the top leadership at least three-times in the last seven days, was joined by BJP MP and senior lawyer Mahesh Jethmalani in the meeting with Union Home Minister Amit Shah.

BJP leaders are understood to have deliberated on the options available with the party after the Supreme Court provided interim relief to Sena rebels. They focused on the legal steps to be taken ahead of the party's next possible political move to establish a BJP Government in the State backed by rebel Sena and independent MLAs.

After meeting Shah, Fadnavis drove to Nadda's residence and briefed him about the unfolding political developments in the western State.

Notwithstanding BJP's repeated denial of any role in the Sena rebellion, Fadnavis is widely seen as making moves to re-establish a BJP Government and known to be in constant touch with Sena rebel Eknath Shinde. Shinde may be made deputy-Chief Minister in the new BJP-led dispensation, sources said.

Alt News founder sent to 4-day police custody for 2018 tweet

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

A Delhi court on Tuesday remanded Alt News co-founder Mohammed Zubair in four-day police custody in the 2018 tweet case in which he had posted a derogatory message against a Hindu deity. The police had sought a five-day custody of Zubair.

During the hearing, advocate Vrinda Grover, appearing for Zubair, argued that Zubair was being "maliciously targeted" and that the entire case "borders on absurdity." He said the photo which the accused used in the tweets is of an old Hindi film from 1983 by Hrishikesh Mukherjee, "Kissi Se Na Kehna", and that the film was not banned.

Rebutting Zubair's counsel's arguments, the Delhi Police counsel argued that Zubair's "deliberate act of outraging religious sentiments was on record" and therefore his police remand was required. The Delhi Police also told the court that Zubair allegedly "used controversial tweets to hurt religious feelings in an effort to get fame."

Chief Metropolitan Magistrate Snigdha Sarvaria passed the order after hearing arguments. Zubair was produced before the court on the expiry of his one-day custodial interrogation.

Modi, UAE President discuss bilateral ties

In spl gesture, UAE President receives Indian PM at airport

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE/AGENCIES ■ NEW DELHI/ABU DHABI

India and the United Arab Emirates (UAE) on Tuesday reviewed the entire spectrum of their bilateral ties in the sphere of security, education and investment during the talks between Prime Minister Narendra Modi and UAE President Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan.

Signifying the robust relations with India, the UAE President in a special gesture personally received and then gave a warm send-off to Modi at the Abu Dhabi airport.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi with UAE President and Abu Dhabi Ruler Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan upon his arrival, in Abu Dhabi PTI

Expressing gratitude, Modi tweeted, "I am touched by the special gesture of my brother, His Highness Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan, of coming to welcome me at Abu Dhabi airport. My gratitude to him."

Mukesh hands Jio over to elder son Akash in Reliance succession plan

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

Setting in place the succession plan in India's most valuable company, Reliance Group chairman Mukesh Ambani stepped down from the board of Reliance Jio and handed over the firm's reins to elder son Akash. Reliance Jio is valued at $217 billion and is a unit of Reliance Industries Ltd, whose business spans from oil refining and petrochemicals to retail, media and new energy.

In a stock exchange filing, Reliance Jio Infocomm Ltd on Tuesday said the company's board at a meeting on June 27, "approved the appointment of Akash M Ambani, non-executive director, as chairman of the board of directors of the company."

7-year-old girl trapped in escalator, railway staff saved

STAFF REPORTER ■ BHOPAL

A 7-year-old girl, who got trapped in the escalator at Bhopal railway station, was saved safely. His hand got stuck while descending as she was playing. The hand got stuck in the empty space below at the time of landing on the platform.

The incident took place at Bhopal railway station's platform at around 3 pm on Tuesday. As soon as the information was received, the railway staff and officials started trying to take out the hand of the child. The child was taken out safely. His hand is injured. The child's mother reached Nishatpura Railway Hospital.

DRM Bhopal Division Saurabh Bandopadhyay said that a 7-year-old child was on the escalator playing towards the railway platform. According to the information, the child was probably descending upside down. He was holding the side wall of the ladder by the hand and when he came down, his right hand got stuck in the gap between the wall and the escalator. Hearing his scream, the passengers from nearby reached there.

As soon as the information was received, the Railways started rescue and relief work. After about half an hour, the child was taken out safely. In view of the medical emergency, the team of doctors was also called from Nishatpura Railway Hospital. The child was taken to the hospital with a hand injury. The child was alone during the incident.

After the incident, the child was identified as Vishal Ahirwar. His mother Priyanka Ahirwar also reached the hospital after getting information from the people around at night. She does a private job near the station.

Railways has started investigation in the matter. DRM Bandopadhyay told that this is the first such incident that has come to light in front of him in Bhopal. Investigation is being done as to how the child's hand got stuck in it. Technical check will be done. Also, do not leave children alone in the electronic system.

87% Indians trust social media posts: Study

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE/AGENCIES ■ NEW DELHI

Despite concerns around misinformation and false claims, social media users around the world continue to believe that the information they read and share on platforms like Twitter, Instagram, and Facebook is factually correct, with levels of trust highest in emerging economies. The study by Oxford University Press (OUP) has mentioned about 54 per cent of people in India turn to social media looking for factual information.

Further, as many as 87 per cent of people in India who share information from social media are confident in its truthfulness, slightly above the global average of three quarters, OUP research has suggested. OUP India MD Sumanta Datta said with over 87 per cent of Indians placing their trust and confidence in information circulating on social media, there is a need to understand the potential impact of factual inaccuracies and misinformation.

"We hope to continue to provide and increase access to tools that allow individuals to be more confident to engage in debates and discussions in their pursuit of knowledge.

Cabinet increases CM's Discretionary grant to Rs 200 cr

STAFF REPORTER ■ BHOPAL

The State Cabinet here on Tuesday approved to increase the annual limit fixed for the Chief Minister's Discretionary grant from Rs 150 crore to Rs 200 crore for the financial year 2022-23 and the coming financial years.

The Cabinet has decided to increase the MLA Area Development Fund Scheme (Capital) of Rs 1 crore 85 lakh by Rs 65 lakh in under MLA fund making it Rs 2 crore 50 lakh and Rs 35 lakh in MLA Discretionary grant of Rs 15 lakh making it Rs 50 lakhs.

The Cabinet has decided to sanction a special ex-gratia amount of Rs. one crore to the heirs of Sub-Inspector Late Rajkumar Jatav, Acting Head Constable Late Neeraj Bhargava and Constable Late Santram Meena Aron police station, Guna district.

The Cabinet has granted in-principle approval to establish medical college with 100 MBBS seats admission capacity and 500-bed affiliated hospital, besides setting up of a nursing college of 60 seat admission capacity for nursing courses and a paramedical college of 60 seat admission capacity for paramedical courses in Budni Tehsil located in Sehore district.

Similarly, the Cabinet gave in-principle consent with the purpose of increasing the 100 seats of undergraduate courses for setting up a new medical college in Ujjain. With the establishment of a medical college, medical facilities are available to the people of the area, along with 100 more MBBS seats in the medical field for students of the state.

Approval was given for the establishment of 23 new ITIs in development blocks of the state without ITIs, creation of 437 instructor posts and 253 administrative posts proposed for the year 2022-23 and ratified the financial provision of expected non-recurring expenditure of about Rs.32 thousand 499 lakh and recurring expenditure for five years is about Rs.9,890 lakh. At present, 238 government ITIs are operating in 213 development blocks in 52 districts in the state, with an admission capacity of 44 thousand 552.

The Cabinet has approved to allocate land Khasra number 44, total area 5.115 hectares and Khasra number 45 allot 6.073 hectares (15 acres) out of total area of ??6.082 hectares government land located at Berkheda Bondar village, Huzur tehsil, Bhopal district, to the university at free premium and one rupee as annual land rent under the conditions of the government for the establishment of the 'National Forensic Science University (NFSU) Gandhi Nagar campus. The entire responsibility of developing the campus of NFSU will be with the University.

The Cabinet gave its approval for setting up of Rural Technology Park at Morena. Approval was given to create posts for the operation of Rural Technology Park. Decision was also taken to approve Rs 50 lakh 88 thousand for the payment of salary and allowances for the operation of the park and expenditure of Rs. 1 crore 10 lakh 46 thousand for recurring / training expenses, making provision in the head available for allied organizations / training institutes of the department.

The Cabinet gave revised administrative approval to Chheetakhudri Medium Irrigation Project of Jabalpur district, cost amount Rs 434 crore 21 lakh, irrigation area 16 thousand 875 hectare and Kundalia Multipurpose Major Irrigation Project, Rajgarh district cost amount Rs 4614 crore 73 lakh, irrigated area 1 lakh 39 thousand 600 hectare.

The Cabinet has given revised approval of 25 group water supply schemes worth Rs 11 thousand 100 crore 72 lakh in different districts of the state under Jal Jeevan Mission. Through these water supply schemes of the mission, arrangements will be made to provide tap water to the rural population of 6223 villages at their homes.

A cow sanctuary is being operated in Cow Sanctuary Research and Production Center, Salaria district Agar Malwa in Animal Husbandry and Dairying Department.

BJP Mayoral candidate Malti Rai during an election campaign for local bodies election at Ambedkar Nagar in Bhopal on Tuesday. Pioneer photo

Summer megal children's book collection being put up at Vivekananda Library

STAFF REPORTER ■ BHOPAL

Summer Mega Children's Books Collection will be put up in Swami Vivekananda Library. The latest books from the Judy Moody and Dork Diaries series are at Junior Books.

This is the special collection. The collection of Mega Children's Books in Swami Vivekananda Library has many such titles. which are included in this collection.

This collection is being launched by Swami Vivekananda Library keeping in mind the summer vacation of children. This type of mega collection has been launched from time to time with the aim of increasing the interest of reading in children. Junior members of the library are also encouraged to sit and study.

This collection is being launched by Swami Vivekananda Library keeping in mind the summer vacation of children

This is why it has been included in the collection. The total number of books in this collection is 30. The collection includes the Children's Classics series of books and the Austrix series, and other new books by Karadi Tales.

Manager Yatish Bhatele told that Holiday Stories Author Ruskin Bond, Comics, Roald Dahl, The Ghost Road Author Cheris Kotter and other books are being included in this collection. Similarly, children should also be encouraged to read books from childhood. This time a very attractive series is being launched in the library.

Judy Moody in a Monday Mood, The Girl Who Drunk the Moon Author Kelly Burnhill, The Higher Power of Lucky, A Year Down Under, Bud not Buddy, When You Trap a Tiger, Hole's author Louis Sacher, Naxia Upcoming Author Scott Roentgen, A Single Shard, The One and Only Ivan, Rose in Bloom, The Unstoppable Letty Pegg author Issie Lawrence, Grit the Major Story Author Major DP Singh.

Monsoon activities resume in Madhya Pradesh

STAFF REPORTER ■ BHOPAL

After monsoon activities resumed in the state, it started raining heavily in many parts of the state; on Tuesday, two people died due to lightning in Berasia area of Bhopal.

It rained in some areas, while it was drizzling in some places. Heavy rain may occur at isolated places in Bhopal, Raisen, Betul, Shivpuri, Ashoknagar, Agar, Ashoknagar, Datia, Sagar, Damoh, Datia, Niwari, Seoni, Satna, Rewa, Shivpuri, Singrauli and Anuppur in next 4 to 5 hours.

The Met department has issued an alert of rain and thundershowers at isolated places in Rewa, Shahdol, Indore, Gwalior, Chambal and Ujjain divisions till Wednesday morning.

Two people have died due to lightning in Berasia. Raghunath Jatav, a resident of Barai village, was working on his farm. During this, he died due to lightning with rain. Daulat Singh of Dhaturia village also died due to electrocution while working on the field. In the month of June this year, more than 10 people have lost their lives due to lightning across the state.

Heavy rain started in Guna in the afternoon. Chhindwara and Tikamgarh, witnessed heavy rainfall while it rained in Bhopal, Sagar, Satna and Rajgarh.

In Bhopal, there was heavy rain at around 2 pm in some areas including the depot intersection. Apart from this, there was light rain in other areas.

Monsoon has become active in Madhya Pradesh, but the cyclone formed on Tuesday in the Bay of Bengal has not become active. Because of this it is not raining much. Due to the arrival of moisture from the Arabian Sea, light rain is happening in some areas of the state. Due to this, the temperature remained elevated across the state on Tuesday.

The maximum temperature in Gwalior reached 42. Apart from this, the mercury also crossed 40 in Khajuraho and Tikamgarh. Bhopal recorded a maximum temperature of 35, Jabalpur 36 and Indore 33 degree Celsius.

Nuvoco Vistas solidifies its position

STAFF REPORTER ■ BHOPAL

India's fifth-largest cement group and the leading cement company in the east, Nuvoco Vistas Corp Ltd has expanded its presence in the North region with the introduction of its premium cement portfolio. Revenue in the north region specifically Haryana, Western UP, Punjab, Delhi, and Madhya Pradesh focus on trade channel and brand building through a strong dealer network.

To address to growing needs of infrastructure sector, Nuvoco Vistas Corp Ltd plans to set up a grinding unit with a 1.2 million tonnes per annum capacity at its existing Plant at Bhiwani, Haryana. This is the first step towards the company's expansion in the North region. This grinding unit willaid fulutilization of the clinker production in the region.

Currently Nuvoco's product portfolio addresses to the complete spectrum of customerswith Ordinary Portland Cement (OPC), Portland Slag Cement (PSC), Portland Pozzolana Cement (PPC) and Portland Composite Cement (PCC), which are among the best in the industry based on BIS standards and premium raw material quality. Its flagship brands Concreto, Duraguard and Double Bull offers a right-mix across the price points. Double Bull is the fastest growing cement brand in the countrythat has been indigenously developed and has achieved a sale of over 5 million tons in a short span of five years. Concreto, a premium product offering remains a frontrunner in Eastern India and has a specialized variant for Northern India. Duraguard offers a vast range of productsthat are technologically advanced and meet the modern construction requirements.

Under the Teerth Yatra Yojana, the first batch of the pilgrims leaves for their annual Amarnath Yatra after a gap of two years due to coronavirus pandemics, at railway station in Bhopal on Tuesday. Pioneer photo

CIRC Bhopal of ICAI hosts a seminar on MSME

STAFF REPORTER ■ BHOPAL

Bhopal Branch of CIRC of ICAI hosted a Seminar on MSME at ICAI Bhawan.

The Programme was inaugurated by lighting the lamp by the Chief guest Shri. P Narahari, (IAS), Principal Secretary, MSME and Chairman, Bhopal Branch. Afterwards CA Ankur Jain Chairman of Bhopal Branch has given the inaugural speech. The programme has been conducted by branch secretary CA Parul Shrivastava.

The Speaker of the Session was Anup Kumar Shrivastava and Shri Akhilesh Kumar, Assistant Director (KVIC) shared his thoughts on Policies on MSME.

He talked about Ease of Doing Business for MSMEs, Intergovernmental Role and Responsibility, Legislation/Regulatory Framework for MSMEs in India, Access to Finance/ Financial assistance for MSME, Technology Upgradation, Knowledge Management, Ease of Doing Business and Skill Development.

The event was also attended by Bhopal Branch Management Committee along with other members: CA Samank Mohabe Vice Chairman, CA Aditya Srivastava, Treasurer and MCM CA Pradeep Mutreja and CA Suchita Goel. About 75 eminent CA Members of City and Non Member participated in the Training program.

AAP alleges tax exemption to Jai Ambe vehicles is illegal, demands action

STAFF REPORTER ■ BHOPAL

Madhya Pradesh transport commissioner waived off tax of Jai Ambe company which has been awarded ambulance operation with 800 vehicles evading tax worth crores of rupees as vehicles are registered in Chhattisgarh.

District Vice President AAP Bhopal Pradeep Khandelwal has alleged collusion and said that he would take matters with the Special Police Establishment (SPE) of Lokayukta.

Nothing is impossible, if state agrees to any task as in the case of evasion of tax in vehicle registration of ambulance by Jai Ambe company, he added.

Today a letter was issued from office of Transport Commissioner Madhya Pradesh in which exemption of tax was provided to the company.

In the big fraud in ambulance operation in the form of evasion of tax in vehicles registration was found as according to the Transport Act, 10 percent of the cost of the vehicle is deposited in the form of tax in the registration of ambulance.

In this present case, all the vehicles are registered by the company in Chhattisgarh and Central Tax was evaded of the state government, as per the rules of the transport department, no vehicle coming from other states can be driven in the state border for more than 6 months.

Today a letter was issued from office of Transport Commissioner Madhya Pradesh in which exemption of tax was provided to the company

A total of 1292 ambulances are being operated in Madhya Pradesh in which around 800 are new and the rest are old. The state has incurred losses on two fronts one is RTO tax and along with the sale of vehicles to the state, there has also been a lot of loss of GST.

The fleet operator should bring NOC from Chhattisgarh and state share tax be made. There was a loss to the state of around Rs 2 lakh on every vehicle.

RTO Indore still waiting for action on plying of unfit vehicles

PNS ■ INDORE

Even six days after the tragic road accident reported under Simrole police station area, the Indore RTO failed to take any action in the incident.

The Indore Khandwa passenger bus was running without the fitness

The accident had taken place at Bherughat where the Indore Khandwa passenger bus MP09 F A 3676 was running without the fitness from Indore to Khandwa daily. In the preliminary investigation, it was found that the vheicle did not have any fitness certificate issued by Indore RTOdepartment. Six people died in this accident and dozens were injured in this unfit bus MP09 FA 3676. People of Indore district are raising question that why the IndoreRTO Jitendra Singh Raghuvanshi and ARTO Archana Mishra and ARTO Hridesh Yadav did not do any efforts to stop this unfit dangerous bus.

Free health camp at Greenwood Public School, A sector, Deendayal Nagar,

PNS ■ GWALIOR

Rajputana Social Service Organisation, a social service society run by noted social activist Keshav Pandey conducted a free health camp for the needy at the Greenwood Public School, Sector A, Deendayal Nagar, Gwalior on Sunday.

A team of doctors, nurses, lab technicians and volunteers provided free medical check-ups to 248 patients suffering from various ailments. The team of doctors also gave the necessary advice to patients.

Cardiologist Dr Ashish Chauhan, MD, DM and his team addressed cardiac problems of patients while Gynaecologist Dr Jyotsana Singh conducted gynecological tests and advised women about the need for hygiene in maintaining proper health. Physician Dr Pratap Singh Chauhan and Orthopedist, DR Rajendra Singh also conducted tests on patients suffering from bone related problems. Dentist, Dr Piush Pratap Singh Chauhan and his team examined the teeth of the visitors and gave useful tips for maintaining proper dental hygiene and health. Mammography test, ECG and blood pressure tests were also conducted by the medical experts.

Speaking to media persons during the camp, Keshav Pandey said that Rajputana Social Service Organisation recognizes the challenges of the poor and the underprivileged in accessing primary healthcare and has been putting in efforts to address this issue. He added that the society has been organizing free medical camps that include thorough checkups by expert doctors, distribution of free medicines along with tests of BP, sugar, ECG and hemoglobin.

The medical camp was conducted with the cooperation of the Greenwood Public School, FPI and SR Pathology.

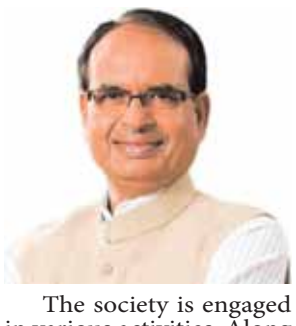
The health camp was also attended by the Chairperson of Greenwood Public School, Kiron Bhadouria, Deepak Tomar, Surendra Pal Singh Kushwaha, Amar Singh Parihar, PS Kushwaha, Ramesh Singh Tomar and Prof PBS Bhadouria of Rajputana Social Service Organisation among others.

Madhya Pradesh Congress Committee (MPCC) Media In-charge KK Mishra talking to media persons at PCC headquarters in Bhopal on Tuesday. Pineer photo

Chouhan plants Neem, Banyan and Moulshree saplings

STAFF REPORTER ■ BHOPAL

Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan planted Moulshree, Banyan and Neem saplings along with the representatives of Jeevan Deepti Charitable Society in the Smart City Garden. Anil Khare, Suresh Rai, Shrikant Vale, Leeladhar Batham, Sunil Mahurkar, Sarita Sharma and Mamta Nigam of the society participated in the plantation.



The society is engaged in various activities. Along with serving people it motivates the public for environment-protection activities, provide them with the necessary resources and believes that "service to people as service to God.

Moulshree is called Kesava in Sanskrit and Molsari in Hindi. It is a medicinal tree, which has been used in Ayurveda for centuries. Banyan has religious significance and according to Ayurveda, it is the means to cure numerous diseases. Similarly, Neem abounding in antibiotic elements is known for its medicinal qualities.

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Pilot project of artificial intelligence will start in MP

STAFF REPORTER ■ BHOPAL

Finance and Commercial Tax Minister Jagdish Deora has said that in view of the high production of cotton in Malwa and Nimar South-West region of Madhya Pradesh, the clarification regarding non-liability of GST on storage and warehousing of cotton will give relief to the cotton industry.

In his address on various issues in the 47th meeting of the GST Council in Chandigarh today, Minister Deora supported the proposal of the Fitment Committee that there would be no liability of GST on the sale of all types of plots. He said that this proposal would be useful in clearing the confusion between the real estate sector and the persons buying the plots. It will also help in the development of the real estate sector. The meeting was presided over by the Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman. On behalf of the state, Principal Secretary Commercial Tax Deepali Rastogi and Commissioner Commercial Tax Lokesh Jatav were also present.

Finance Minister Deora said that animal husbandry activities are conducted on a large scale in Madhya Pradesh. According to the 20th Animal Census 2019, Madhya Pradesh is ranked third in the country's animal husbandry activities. Animal husbandry is an important part of the rural economy in the state.

Finance Minister Deora informed that the task force constituted to increase GST revenue on the instructions of Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan has recommended how the registration process should be made favorable from the point of view of Ease of Doing Business, so that it could further strengthen business.

Minister Deora said that it would be appropriate in this regard that the information given at the time of registration of the digitized database of land records, electricity bill, lease agreement, lease deed, property ID and property details in the urban local body is verified through API. This will prevent getting bogus registrations. The use of artificial intelligence for this has also been suggested by the task force. Discussions have been held with the Ministry of Revenue, Government of India to start its pilot project in Madhya Pradesh.

Minister Deora supported the reduction in GST rate on Ostomy devices from 12 percent to 5 percent on account of it being a health utility item and being used repeatedly by critical patients for a long period of time. Minister Deora said that IVF is a ray of hope for childless couples in the present times. He supported the clarification regarding IVF treatment being tax free services as recommended by the Fitment Committee.

In order to remove the confusion arising out of having different tax rates on different articles of similar nature under the same head, the Finance Minister has supported the hike in the tax rate on all orthopedic implants to 5 percent.

Madhya Pradesh State Congress President Kamal Nath offers prayer at Mahakaleshwar Temple in Ujjain, Madhya Pradesh on Tuesday. Pioneer photo

AIMIM chief Asaduddin Owaisi campaigned for his candidates in Ashoka Garden of Bhopal

STAFF REPORTER ■ BHOPAL

Owaisi is in the state to campaign in their favour from Monday. He also sought votes for their candidates in wards 41, 42 and 71

Asaduddin Owaisi's party All India Majlis-e-Ittehadul Muslimeen (AIMIM) has also entered the urban body elections in Madhya Pradesh. The party has fielded candidates in seven districts. Owaisi himself is in the state for publicity.

Along with the 16 municipal corporations, the process of elections to other urban bodies has intensified. Owaisi's party candidates are contesting elections in seven districts. Owaisi is in the state to campaign in their favour from Monday. He also sought votes for their candidates in wards 41, 42 and 71. Police is on alert due to Owaisi's election meetings.

Owaisi's All India Majlis-e-Ittehadul Muslimeen is contesting elections in seven municipal corporations of the state - Indore, Bhopal, Jabalpur, Khargone, Burhanpur, Khandwa and Ratlam.

Let us inform you that Home Minister Narottam Mishra had also retaliated against Owaisi's public meeting and said that the people of Madhya Pradesh know very well how Owaisi does the politics of division. He further said that people know how the rest of the parties are part of his tukde-tukde gang.

State Congress's media department president KK Mishra said that Asaduddin Nadda is coming to Bhopal, Congress has taunted AIMIM chief Asaduddin Owaisi's visit to Madhya Pradesh and said that it should be clear from Asaduddin Owaisi's speech in Jabalpur yesterday. It has been said that he has come to help BJP in the state. KK Mishra said that Asaduddin only speaks the language of BJP.

During his public meeting in Jabalpur on Monday, Owaisi had targeted the Congress Party and said that if Muslims and tribal people were in trouble in Madhya Pradesh, then only the Congress party was responsible for that.

All India Majlis-E-Ittehadul Muslimeen (AIMIM) Chief Asaduddin Owaisi addresses a public meeting during an election campaign in support of party candidates for local bodies elections, in Bhopal on Tuesday. Pioneer photo

Congress releases manifesto for Mayor's election in MP

STAFF REPORTER ■ BHOPAL

On becoming the mayor of Congress in Bhopal Municipal Corporation, the house tax and water bill of the people here will be halved. Women and men above 60 years of age will be given a rebate of 5 percent in property tax. Tourists, students, working women etc. will get free WiFi facility in public places.

These promises have been made in the Congress Sankalp Patra issued for Bhopal Municipal Corporation. State Congress President Kamal Nath released this resolution letter on Monday. Mayor candidate Vibha Patel, former Union Minister Suresh Pachauri, MLA PC Sharma were present on the occasion.

On the occasion of Sankalp Patra release, Kamal Nath said that the people of Madhya Pradesh have made it clear that the people are with the Congress in the Panchayat elections itself. Despite the misuse of police, money and administration by the BJP government, the public has come with the Congress in the Panchayat elections. The work that the people of the village have done, the same work is going to be done by the people of the cities of the entire state.

In the resolution letter, it has been said to give relief to the public by rationalization of property tax and water rate and mainly to solve the problem of drinking water and sewerage in a planned manner. Regarding the water supply system, there has been talk of connecting the water supply network from Upper Lake and Kolar to the network of Narmada water, so that the water supply network will be strengthened.

In the resolution letter, the issue of resolving the problems of the citizens by starting the Mayor Helpline has been mentioned. Along with the promise of all possible solutions to the problem of water logging that occurs at places during rains, legalising illegal colonies etc. have been mentioned. It was also promised to charge only 50 rupees per month water charges from EWS houses. A separate resolution letter was issued for slum settlements.

NORTH CENTRAL RAILWAY

No.: JHS/Comm/e-Auction/22/01 — Office of DRM(C) NCR, Jhansi
Date: 25/06/2022

NOTICE INVITING E-AUCTION

On Behalf of The President Of India, The Divisional Railway Manager, (Commercial) Jhansi invites e-auction as per categories given as under:-

Category	Catalogue No.	Asset Details	Auction Start	Auction End
Parcel	JHS-LEASING-01	1.01 SLR unit in Train no. 04119 2. 03 SLR unit in Train No. 04120.	12/07/2022 at 10.30 hrs	12/07/2022 at 11.30 hrs
Advertising	JHS-OOH-RGU	1. Advertisement right in the circulating area of Bharwa Sumerpur Railway Station (BSZ) 2. Advertisement right in the circulating area of Ragaul (RGU) Railway Station.	12/07/2022 at 10.00 hrs	12/07/2022 at 10.40 hrs
Pay & Use	JHS-Pay&Use-1	1. Manning of Pay & Use on O&M basis at ChitrkootDham Karwi Railway Station 2. Manning of Pay & Use on O & M basis at Morena Railway Station.	12/07/2022 at 14.00 hrs	12/07/2022 at 14.40 hrs
ATM	JHS-ATM-01	1. Supply, Operation & Maintenance of ATM at Orai Railway Station. 2. Supply, Operation & Maintenance of ATM at Veerangana Lakshmibai Railway Station.	12/07/2022 at 11.30 hrs	12/07/2022 at 12.10 hrs

Note:- Prospective bidders are requested to **visit e-Auction Leasing module** on **IREPS** website (**www.ireps.gov.in**). The Lot-wise details are available therein under the above mentioned Catalogue Number. **776/22 (A)**

f North central railways | www.ncr.indianrailways.gov.in | @northcentralrailway | @CPRONCR

NORTH CENTRAL RAILWAY, PRAYAGRAJ

E-Tendering Tender Notice

Dy. Chief Engineer/workshop/Jhansi for and on behalf of President of India invites"Open Tender" through On line E-Tendering (One Packet) for the following work. **E-Tender No.:** DyCE-JHSW-45, **Description of Work:** Repairs to C.C. ramp, floor and damaged G.I. Sheets due to incident taken place at gas manifold Cylinder Godown in Wagon Repair Workshop Jhansi, **Approx Cost:** ₹11,69,426.85, **Bid Security:** ₹ 23,400/-, **Cost of Tender Form:** Nil, **Date of closing Tender:** 28.07.2022 at 15:00 Hrs, **Date of Completion/Period from issue acceptance letter:** 4 Months. **Note-** • E-Tender online can be submitted upto 15:00 hrs on 28.07.2022, • For full details and submission of bid please see the Indian Railways website **www.ireps.gov.in** **771/22(R)**

MOBILITY IS OUR HALLMARK

कार्यालय कलेक्टर, जिला इन्दौर (म.प्र.)

क्रमांक/115/अ.क.री./का. से./2022 — इन्दौर, दिनांक 14/06/2022

:: विज्ञप्ति ::

मध्यप्रदेश पंचायत राज एवं ग्राम स्वराज अधिनियम 1993 (क्रमांक 1 सन् 1994) और उसके अधीन बनाए गए मध्यप्रदेश ग्राम पंचायत (कॉलोनियों का विकास) नियम 2014 के अधीन एतद् द्वारा ग्राम-बुढ़ानिया तहसील-हातोद जिला-इंदौर में आवासीय भूखण्डीय विकास प्रयोजन हेतु कॉलोनी विकसित करने की अनुज्ञा दी जाती है :

अ क्र.	कॉलोनाइजर का नाम व पता	स्थान जहाँ के लिये विकास अनुमति जारी की गई है	धरोहर के रूप में बंधक रखे गये भूखंडों का विवरण
1	2	3	4
1.	मेसर्स अग्रवाल रियल इन्फ्रा एल. एल.पी. तर्फे भागीदार श्रीमती नीनादेवी अग्रवाल पति श्री विनोद कुमार अग्रवाल पता:- 05-यशवंत कॉलोनी, अग्रवाल हाउस, इन्दौर (म.प्र.) कॉलोनी का नाम **एमराल्ड कॉरिडोर**	ग्राम-बुढ़ानिया तहसील-हातोद जिला-इंदौर स्थित भूमि खसरा नंबर 403/2 रकबा 1.291 हे. में से 1.123 हे., खसरा नंबर 404/2/1 रकबा 1. 497 हे. में से 1.220 हे कुल रकबा 2.788 हे. में से 2.343 हे. भूमि पर।	भूखण्ड क्रं. 09 लगायत 15 तक, 19 लगायत 21 तक, 33 लगायत 54 तक, 84, 85 एवं 124 इस प्रकार कुल 35 भूखण्ड जिनका कुल क्षेत्रफल 4155 वर्गमीटर बंधकनामा पंजीकरण क्रमांक एमपी179 152022ए1548033 इंदौर दिनांक 26.05.2022

उपरोक्त कॉलम नंबर-4 में उल्लेखित 35 भूखंड इस कार्यालय में धरोहर के रूप में बंधक रखे गये है अत: सर्व साधारण को सूचित किया जाता है कि उपरोक्त भूखंडो का क्रय, विक्रय आगामी आदेश तक नही किया जावेगा। **(कलेक्टर महोदय द्वारा अनुमोदित।)**

प्रभारी अधिकारी
कॉलोनी सेल, इन्दौर

कार्यालय कलेक्टर, जिला इन्दौर (म.प्र.)

क्र./609/अ.क.री./का.से./2022 — **विज्ञप्ति** — इन्दौर, दिनांक: 24.03.2022

मध्यप्रदेश पंचायत राज एवं ग्राम स्वराज अधिनियम 1993 (क्रमांक 1 सन् 1994) और उसके अधीन बनाए गए मध्यप्रदेश ग्राम पंचायत (कॉलोनियों का विकास) नियम 2014 के अधीन एतद् द्वारा **ग्राम तिल्लौर खुर्द, तहसील-बिचौली हप्सी, जिला इंदौर** में आवासीय भूखण्डीय विकास प्रयोजन हेतु कॉलोनी विकसित करने की अनुज्ञा दी जाती है:-

अ क्र.	कॉलोनाईजर का नाम व पता	स्थान जहां के लिए विकास अनुमति जारी की गई है	धरोहर के रूप में बंधक रखे गये भूखण्डों का विवरण
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)
1.	आवेदक **श्री निर्मल पाटीदार पिता श्री मांगीलाल पाटीदार** पता: 109-बी, सुदामा नगर, इंदौर कॉलोनी का नाम **'सरदार पटेल नगर'** कॉलोनी	ग्राम-तिल्लौर खुर्द, तहसील-बिचौली हप्सी, जिला-इंदौर स्थित भूमि सर्वे नं. 422/2, रकबा 0.817 हैक्टे.में से 0.778 हैक्टे., सर्वे नं. 422/3 रकबा 0.073 हैक्टे. में से 0.064 हैक्टे., सर्वे नं. 428/2, रकबा 1.288 हैक्टे., सर्वे नं. 428/3 रकबा 0.040 हैक्टे., कुल रकबा 2.218 हैक्टे. में से 2.170 भूमि पर	भूखण्ड क्र. 102 से 118 तक, 126 से 131 तक, 133 से 157 तक इस प्रकार कुल 48 भूखण्ड जिनका कुल क्षेत्रफल 3776.14 वर्गमीटर बंधकनामा पंजीकरण क्रमांक एमपी179092022ए1227765 इंदौर, दिनांक: 04.03.2022

उपरोक्त कॉलम नंबर-4 में उल्लेखित 48 भूखंड इस कार्यालय में धरोहर के रूप में बंधक रखे गये हैं। अत: सर्वसाधारण को सूचित किया जाता है कि उपरोक्त भूखंडों का क्रय-विक्रय आगामी आदेश तक नहीं किया जावेगा।
(कलेक्टर महोदय द्वारा अनुमोदित)

प्रभारी अधिकारी
कॉलोनी सेल शाखा, जिला-इंदौर

केनरा बैंक Canara Bank — A Government of India Undertaking — Syndicate Bank

Regional office -1st floor, Sai Baba complex, Near GDA building, Phool Bagh, Gwalior Ph. 0751-2423126

E-AUCTION SALE NOTICE

Appendix-IV-A {See provisio to rule 8(6)}

SALE NOTICE FOR SALE OF IMMOVABLE PROPERTIES

E-Auction Sale Notice for Sale of Immovable Assets under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 read with provision to Rule 8 (6) of The Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002. Notice is hereby given to the public in general and in particular to the Borrower (s) and Guarantor (s) that the below described Immovable property mortgaged/charged to the Secured Creditor, the Symbolic / Physical possession of which has been taken by the Authorised Officer the **Canara Bank (Secured Creditor)** will be sold on "AS IS WHERE IS BASIS, AS IS WHAT IS BASIS" & WHAT EVER THERE IS" on **30.07.2022** for recovery of bank dues to the **Canara Bank (Secured Creditor)**

Name of Branch Name and address of the Borrower & Guarantors	Demand Notice Dt. / Possession Dt. / Outstanding Amt.	Description of Properties & Name of Property Owner	Reserve Price / EMD Amt. / Bid Increment Amt.
Canara Bank, LIC City Center (17781) Branch, Gwalior Tel.: 0751-2343566, 9425602306			
Borrower : **M/S SHIV SHANKAR FRUIT MERCHANT** Proprietor : **Shiv Shankar Pachouri S/o Ram Krishna Pachouri** Add : Girraj Colony Gol Pahadiya Bizli Ghar Gali No. 2 Gwalior (M.P.) **Guarantor & Mortgagor – Smt. Anita Pachouri W/o Shiv Shankar Pachouri** Add: Girraj Colony Gol Pahadiya Bizli Ghar Gali No. 2 Gwalior.	06.01.2022 / 06.04.2022 / ₹ 11,29,280.41 +Interest & other Charges	House property situated at behind bijlighar Harkota Taraganj, lashkar Gwalior **AREA 800 SqFt. Boundaries:** NORTH: Plot no 4, SOUTH: common passage, EAST : House no 11,12,13, West: Open Space	₹ 16,00,000/- / ₹ 1,60,000/- / ₹ 10000/-
Canara Bank, Makronia II (17881), Sagar, Ph. 9406916123			
Borrower - **M/S THE PLAY BOY JEANS (pro. Jitendra Dixit S/o Keshav Prasad Dixit)** **Mortgagor & Guarantor – Smt. Rani Dixit** Rajakhedi, rajnagar, Makronia, District Sagar	27.07.2018 / 15.11.2018 / ₹ 13,44,731.42 +Interest & other Charges	House Situated At Rajnagar Colony, Brindawan Ward No. 11, Rajakhedi (old Shankergarh Ward No, 12) Sagar District, **Area 1200 SqFt.**, Boundaries : North – Road and House of Rakesh, South- House of Sharma Ji, East: Drainage then Govt Land, West: House of Durga	₹ 34,85,000/- / ₹ 3,48,500/- / ₹ 10000/-
Canara Bank, Panna, Branch(4114) Tel.: 8989989249			
Borrower - **Shri Dilip Raikwar S/o Sukhdeo Raikwar,** Add : Near shri nut ke Hanuman Mandir, Agra muhalla, Panna 488001 **Guarantor: Smt. Radha Raikwar W/o Sandeep Raikwar,** Add : Near shri nut ke Hanuman Mandir, Agra muhalla Panna 488001	19.10.2020 / 14.01.2021 / ₹ 11,36,009.00 +Interest & other Charges Due From 27.06.2022	Property situated at part of survey no. 695/1/1/1/5/3 ward no. 11 agra muhalla Panna. **Area : 800 sq ft. Boundaries :** North : Plot of Sureya bano, South : Plot of Arun kori, East: Plot of Kasoor mohammed, West : Road left by seller	₹ 14,85,000/- / ₹ 1,48,500/- / ₹ 10000/-
Canara Bank, Guna, Branch (2860) Tel.: 07542-254961			
Borrower - Shri Bhogiram Sen S/o Ramratan Sen Add: Banshkhedi, Ward No 30 Near Railway Fatak Guna **Co Borrower & Mortgagor: Baby Bai Sen W/o Bhogiram Sen** Add: Banshkhedi, Ward No 30 Near Railway Fatak Guna	11.10.2021 / 07.01.2022 / ₹ 5,12,903.79 +Interest & other Charges Due From 27.06.2022	Property Situated At P.H. No. 76, Survey No. 663, Ward No. 30 Banshkhedi Guna, **Area 450 SqFt., Boundaries :** North : Land of Afsar Ali, South : Part of Sellers Land, East : Road 10 Ft., West : Land of Sakun Bai,	₹ 8,25,000/- / ₹ 82,500/- / ₹ 10000/-

Date & Time Of e-auction: 30.07.2022, 11.30 AM to 12.30 PM (With unlimited extension of 5 minutes duration each)

Other terms and conditions :

1) The Property will be sold in "AS IS WHERE IS" condition including encumbrances, if any. (There are no encumbrances to the knowledge of the Bank. For details of encumbrances, contact the undersigned before deposit of the Earnest Money Deposit referred to in Clause 9(d) below). Auction/ bidding shall be only through " Online Electronic Bidding" through the website: **www.indianbankseauction.com** Bidders are advised to go through the website for details terms before taking part in the e-auction sale proceedings.
2) The Property will be sold only for a price above the Reserve Price.
3) The property can be inspected with prior Appointment with Authorised Officer, on any working day **between 3.00 PM to 5.00 PM before 29.07.2022**
4) The intending bidder shall submit Earnest Money Deposit (EMD) being 10% of Reserve Price by way of DD favouring, Authorised Officer, Canara Bank, Concerned Branch OR shall be deposited through RTGS/NEFT/Fund Transfer to credit of account of Canara Bank (Mentioned above in the table) on or before **29.07.2022 upto 5.30 PM.**
5) Sale shall be confirmed in favour of the successful bidder, subject to confirmation of the same by the secured creditor.
6) Intending bidders shall hold a valid digital signature certificate and e-address. For details with regard to digital signature please contact the service provider **M/S Canbank computer service LTD., Help Line No. 9480691777 and 8553643144, Help Line e-mail ID: eauction@ccsl.co.in**, Immediately on the same date of payment of the EMD amount the bidders shall approach the said service provider for obtaining digital signature (If not holding a valid digital signature) The intending bidder should register their names at portal **www.indianbankseauction.com** get their User ID and password free of cost. Prospective bidder may avail online training on E-auction from the service provider **Canbank computer service LTD., Help Line No. 9480691777 and 8553643144, Help Line e-mail ID: eauction@ccsl.co.in**
7) The successful bidder shall deposit 25% of the sale price (including of EMD already paid), immediately on the allotment of bid in his/her favour and balance within 15 days from the date of confirmation of sale. If the successful fails to pay the price as stated above, the deposit made by him shall be forfeited.
8) All charges for conveyance, stamp duty and registration charges etc., as applicable shall be borne by the successful bidder only.
9) For proceeds of Rs.50 (Rupees Fifty) lacs and above, the successful bidder will have to deduct TDS at the rate 1% on the sale proceeds and sumit the original receipt of TDS certificate to the bank.
10) For further details contact Recovery & Legal Section, Canara Bank Circle Office, Bhopal Phone No. 0755-2671005, CRM Section Regional office Gwalior 0751-2423126, **Canbank Computer Service LTD., Help Line No. 9480691777 and 8553643144 Help Line e-mail ID: eauction@ccsl.co.in**, **Special Instruction/Caution :** Bidding in the last minutes /seconds should be avoided by the bidders in their own interest. Neither Canara Bank nor the service provider will be responsible for any lapses/failure (Internet failure, Power failure, etc.) on the part of bidder or vender in such cases. In order to ward off such contingent situation bidder are requested to make all the necessary arrangement/alternatives such as back-up, power supply and whatever else required so that they are able to circumvent such situation and are able to participate in the auction successfully.

Place: Gwalior, **Date : 28/06/2022** **AUTHORISED OFFICER CANARA BANK**

Geeta wishes to be self-reliant and live in India only

STAFF REPORTER ■ BHOPAL

Having made a dramatic return from Pakistan years ago, thirty-year-old Geeta, now wishes to become self-reliant by teaching deaf and dumb children.

Hearing-and-speech-impaired Geeta, who returned to India in 2015 after staying in Pakistan for 15 years, was in the city on Tuesday.

While tlaking top media perosns here at MP Government Railway Police (GRP) headquarters, Geeta said that she has become more adept in sign language after her return to India and that she is learning Marathi, the language of her family. "I don't like illiteracy. I want to make people literate," she said in sign language, with the help of an interpreter, Gyanendra Purohit from Anand Service Society, Indore.

Notably, Geeta was found at the Karachi Railway Station in the year 2000 when she was 8. She was taken under care by Edhi Welfare Trust, a Pakistan-based NGO. As she did not remember her name, she was named Fatima. When the Trust realized that she was a Hindu, she was renamed, Geeta. A small temple was also constructed there at her request.

She expressed her wish to stay in India. "I like India because in Pakistan the people eat non-vegetarian food," she said sarcastically.

Geeta, who was united with her family in the Parbhani district of Maharashtra in 2021, said that she doesn't want to get married. She lives with her mother Meena Pandhre and her sister in her village in Parbhani.

Geeta expressed her gratitude towards the Madhya Pradesh GRP and Anand Service Society, Indore, where she stayed till her parents were located. She said that the then External Affairs Minister Sushma Swaraj had helped her a lot. "Sushma's death shattered me. I could not stop crying," she said.

IG (Rail), MP, MS Shikarwar said that Geeta had come to Bhopal to thank the GRP, Indore police and the NGOs which helped her during her stay in the state.

The IG said that the GRP managed to locate Geeta's family with the help of only two clues given by her in sign language - that there was a railway track and a hospital near her home. "Our men visited many states with her to locate her parents. But still, it took six years," he said. SP (Rail), Bhopal Hitesh Chaudhary was also present. Representatives from Pahal, a Maharashtra-based NGO, which is teaching sign language to her, also spoke to the media persons.

Mishra for withdrawal of Padamshri from Teesta Setalvad

STAFF REPORTER ■ BHOPAL

Madhya Pradesh Home Minister Narottam Mishra has demanded the withdrawal of Padmashri from controversial social activist Teesta Javed Setalvad, arrested on charges of conspiring for riots. He said that it would be appropriate to withdraw this honour from the one against whom the Supreme Court has commented and who is in jail. Mishra has also called the arrest of Mohammad Zubair, who ran an agenda against the country under the guise of journalism, as a right step.

Home Minister Narottam Mishra said that Teesta Javed is actually a member of 'Tukde Tukde' Gang. He accused that Congress had given other honours including Padma to such people. He said that Padma honours are given to those people who are ideal for the society, but the Congress government at the Center gave this honour to people like Teesta Javed. To what extent did the Congress government misuse the honours, is evident from the fact that Teesta was honored with the Rajiv Gandhi Sadbhavna Award. On the opposition of Congress to the arrest of Zubair, who is running an agenda against the country and society under the guise of journalism, Home Minister Mishra has said that Congress always stands with the 'Tukde Tukde' gang. Be it Teesta Javed or Mohammad Zubair, it is natural for the Congress to to feed the pain whenever action is taken against them.

NORTH CENTRAL RAILWAY, PRAYAGRAJ

Tender No. JHS/DYCEE/WS/T/01/2022-23 — Dt. 21/06/2022

E-TENDER NOTICE

Name of work : Electrical work for the Extension of NTWS Shop Bay No. 1, 2, & 3 in Jhansi Workshop.

Description of work	Electrical work for the Extension of NTWS Shop Bay No. 1, 2, & 3 in Jhansi Workshop.
Tender no.	JHS/DYCEE/WS/T/01/2022-23
Approx. Cost	Rs. 1738995/- (Rs. Seventeen Lakhs Thirty Eight Thousand Nine Hundred Ninty Five only)
Earnest Money	Rs. 34800/- (Rs. Thirty Four Thousand Eight Hundred only)
Completion Period	04 months
Date of Closing & opening	26/07/2022 at 15:00 Hrs. and opening 15:30 hrs

1- Tender will be closed at 15:00 Hrs on 26/07/2022 and is available on Indian Railway E-Tendering website **www.ireps.gov.in 2-** For Detailed information please visit Indian Railway E-Tendering website **www.ireps.gov.in** . **772/22 (SP)**

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कार्यालय कलेक्टर, जिला इन्दौर (म.प्र.)

क्र./573/अ.क.री./का.से./2022 — **विज्ञप्ति** — इन्दौर, दिनांक: 28.02.2022

मध्यप्रदेश पंचायत राज एवं ग्राम स्वराज अधिनियम 1993 (क्रमांक 1 सन् 1994) और उसके अधीन बनाए गए मध्यप्रदेश ग्राम पंचायत (कॉलोनियों का विकास) नियम 2014 के अधीन एतद् द्वारा **ग्राम-मगरखेड़ा, तहसील-मल्हारगंज, जिला-इंदौर** में कॉलोनी विकसित करने की अनुज्ञा दी जाती है:-

अ क्र.	कॉलोनाईजर का नाम व पता	स्थान जहां के लिए विकास अनुमति जारी की गई है	धरोहर के रूप में बंधक रखे गये भूखण्डों का विवरण
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)
1.	**मेसर्स श्री बालाजी डेव्हलपर्स तर्फे भागीदार श्री सुरेन्द्र जैन पिता श्री राजेन्द्र जैन** पता- प्रथम मंजिल, सुभाष चौक पार्किंग कॉम्प्लेक्स, इंदौर कॉलोनी का नाम **पदमावती प्राईम**	ग्राम-मगरखेड़ा, तहसील-मल्हारगंज, जिला-इंदौर स्थित भूमि खसरा नंबर 268/1/1 रकबा 0.645 है., खसरा नंबर 268/2/1 रकबा 0.923 है., खसरा नंबर 268/2/2 रकबा 0.506 है., खसरा नंबर 268/2/7 रकबा 0.253 है., खसरा नंबर 268/2/8 रकबा 0.327 है., खसरा नंबर 261/2 रकबा 0.145 है., खसरा नंबर 265/1 रकबा 1.263 है., खसरा नंबर 278/2/2 रकबा 1.492 है. में से 0.305 है. कुल खसरे 8 कुल रकबा 5.554 है. में से 4.367 है. भूमि पर।	भूखण्ड क्र. 2 से 4 तक, 28 से 35 तक, 41, 50, 51, 54 से 60 तक, 62, 63, 66, 67, 70, 100, 101, 120 से 122 तक, 126, 136 से 143 तक, 151, 152, 154, 155, 174, 175, 188, 193, 199 से 207 तक, 215 से 219 तक, 233, 234, 236 से 238 तक, 242, 243, 246, 247, 249 इस प्रकार कुल 72 भूखण्ड जिनका कुल क्षेत्रफल 7648.92 वर्गमीटर बंधकनामा पंजीकरण क्रमांक एमपी 179092022ए1026529 इंदौर , दिनांक: 10.01.2022

उपरोक्त कॉलम नंबर-4 में उल्लेखित 72 भूखंड इस कार्यालय में धरोहर के रूप में बंधक रखे गये हैं। अत: सर्वसाधारण को सूचित किया जाता है कि उपरोक्त भूखंडों का क्रय-विक्रय आगामी आदेश तक नहीं किया जावेगा।
(कलेक्टर महोदय द्वारा अनुमोदित)

प्रभारी अधिकारी
कॉलोनी सेल शाखा, जिला-इंदौर

ED issues fresh summons to Sanjay Raut under PMLA

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Enforcement Directorate (ED) has issued fresh summons to Shiv Sena MP Sanjay Raut asking him to appear on July 1 for questioning in a money laundering case linked to alleged irregularities in the re-development of a Mumbai 'chawl' and related financial property transactions involving his wife and alleged associates.

The Rajya Sabha member was issued the first summons for Tuesday, but he sought more time citing official commitments and a meeting he was supposed to attend at Alibaug in Raigad district of the State during the day.

Raut's lawyers met ED officials at the agency's office in Mumbai on Tuesday and sought about two weeks' time for his appearance. However, the agency granted him relief only till this month-end.

"The ED summons was served late Monday afternoon, so we made an application to seek time because the ED has demanded a few documents," Raut's lawyer told reporters after meeting agency officials at their regional office in south Mumbai. Through Raut's questioning, the agency is seeking to record his statement under the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA).

The agency is also seeking to know Raut's "business and other links" with Pravin Raut and Patkar and also about the property deals involving his wife.

The development comes as the Shiv Sena battles rebellion from a group of its MLAs, leading to a question mark on the future of Maha Vikas Aghadi (MVA) Government in Maharashtra. In April, the ED provisionally attached assets worth over Rs 11.15 crore of Raut's wife Varsha Raut and two of his associates as part of this investigation.

The attached properties are in the form of land held by Pravin M Raut, Sanjay Raut's aide and a former director of Guru Ashish Construction Pvt Ltd, at Palghar, Saphale (town in Palghar) and Padgha (in Thane district).

The attached properties also include a flat in Mumbai's suburb Dadar held by Varsha Raut and eight plots at Kihim beach in Alibaug jointly held by Varsha Raut and Swapna Patkar, wife of Sujit Patkar, a "close associate" of Sanjay Raut, the ED had earlier said.

Centre to go ahead with single use plastic ban

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

India is all set to go ahead with its notification banning identified 19 single use plastic (SUP) items from July 1, 2022, The Centre on Tuesday said there was no plans to postpone the notification as sufficient time was given to the industry. The Government warned that violators will invite punitive action, including a fine or a jail term.

Single-use plastics are those items that are used only once and discarded. "The ban aims to curb pollution caused by single use plastic items which have low utility, high littering potential. We had given enough time to the industry to prepare for the implementation of ban," Union Environment Minister Bhupendra Yadav told reporters on Tuesday two days ahead of the enforcement of the notification. The Minister's statement comes in the wake of several representations made by various industries either seeking more time or urging the Government to impose the ban in a phased manner.

A senior official from the Central Pollution Control Board said that while directions have already been issued to all states to curb the supply of banned items, petrochemical industries have been asked to stop the supply of plastic raw materials to those engaged in the production of the banned items. As per the notification, the manufacture, import, stocking, distribution, sale and use of single-use plastic, including polystyrene and expanded polystyrene commodities will be banned from July 1, 2022.

Other prohibited items include plastic sticks that are used in ear buds, balloons, candy, ice-cream; cutlery items such as plates, cups , glasses, forks, spoons, knives, trays; packaging / wrapping films such as that used for sweet box, invitation cards, cigarette packets, and other items such as plastic flags, PVC banners of less than 100 microns, polystyrene for decoration. So far about 200-odd brand owners, including several MNCs, and 26 importers of plastic have already registered for Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) for plastic packaging under the amended Plastic Waste Management Rules 2016, said an official from the Ministry.

As per the data from Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB), for year 2022-23, as many as 198 brand owners (BOs), and 26 importers (Is) have registered under the PIBO registration; the process is ongoing for 26 BOs, 29 producers (Ps) and 48 Is, while 76 BOs, 17 Ps and 38 Is have submitted their applications for registration. The EPR, i.e. the Extended Producer Responsibility, means responsibility of a producer for environmentally sound management of the product until the end of its life.

The Union Environment Ministry had notified the EPR guidelines vide Fourth Amendment to Plastic Waste Management Rules 2016 on February 16.

SUP ban aims to make wildlife sanctuaries plastic-free: DGF&SS

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

With rampant littering of plastic along the National Highways passing through tiger reserves in the country posing a threat to wildlife, the National Tiger Conservation Authority (NTCA), an autonomous body under the Union Environment Ministry is banking on the eco development committees composed of locals among others to keep the regions plastic-free.

Chandra Prakash Goyal, Director-General of Forests & Special Secretary (DGF&SS) from the Ministry said that the move aims to make the habitat of the big cats and other wildlife free from plastic which is negatively impacting wildlife.

There have been instances where wild animals have been found eating plastic waste thrown by the tourists. A few of them also died. Union Environment Minister Bhupendra Yadav, too, expressed concern at growing piles of plastic garbage in protected forest areas and shared how during his visit to Sariska Tiger Reserve in Rajasthan recently, he was shocked to see a black buck chewing a plastic bag.

He said this at a press conference held on Tuesday while talking about the ban on single use plastic items being imposed nationwide from July 1. Later, NTCA member secretary and Addl DG(Project Tiger) SP YADAV explained that the ETC members have been deployed in at least 50 tiger regions or sanctuaries where National Highways are passing through to keep a check on plastic menace. "It is difficult to keep a check on commuters of the vehicles who casually throw away plastics items such as bags or plastic straws on the roads. This harms the health of the animals who ingest them, thinking it as food," he said.

Apart from the National Highways, there are temples inside many forest areas including Sariska Tiger Reserve, Ranthambore National Park and Jhalana Forest Reserve where efforts to keep the regions plastic-free is not so easy.

Yadav said that the ETC members are asked to recycle the collected plastic waste. "This provides livelihood to the locals as well as keeps the tiger reserves, sanctuaries and reserve forest areas plastic free particularly at a time when our focus is on banning the single use plastic items.

In tiger reserves where no National Highways exist, the visitors are provided a textile bag to carry their non-plastic items for which they have to deposit Rs 50 at entry gate.

31% RS MPs declared criminal cases against them, says ADR

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

About 31 per cent of sitting Rajya Sabha MPs have declared criminal cases against them, according to a report released by ADR-National Election Watch. As per the report, while the average assets of the Upper House members are Rs 79.54 crore,

Association for Democratic Reforms (ADR) and National Election Watch have analyzed the criminal, financial and other background details of 226 out of 233 sitting MPs.

In the current Rajya Sabha, one seat is vacant. Two MPs have not been analysed as their affidavits were unavailable and four seats of Jammu and Kashmir are undefined, the report said. Of the 226 sitting Rajya Sabha MPs, 197 (87 per cent) are 'crorepatis' and the average assets per Rajya Sabha MP are Rs 79.54 crore, the report said.

Of 226 Rajya Sabha members, 71 (31 per cent) have declared criminal cases against themselves and 37 (16 per cent) have declared serious criminal cases. According to the report, two Rajya Sabha MPs have declared cases related to murder (IPC Section 302) and four MPs have declared cases related to attempt to murder (IPC Section 307).

Four Rajya Sabha MPs have declared cases related to crimes against women and out of these four MPs, one namely K C Venugopal (Congress) from Rajasthan has declared case related to rape (IPC Section 376), the report said. According to the report, 20 (24 per cent) out of 85 Rajya Sabha MPs from BJP, 12 (39 per cent) out of 31 MPs from Congress, three (23 per cent) out of 13 from AITC, five (83 per cent) out of six from RJD, four (80 per cent) out of five from CPI(M), three (30 per cent) out of 10 from AAP, three (33 per cent) out of nine from YSRCP and two (50 per cent) out of four Rajya Sabha MPs from NCP have declared criminal cases against themselves in their affidavits.

The report said nine (11 per cent) out of 85 Rajya Sabha MPs from BJP, eight (26 per cent) out of 31 MPs from Congress, one (8 per cent) out of 13 Rajya Sabha MPs from AITC, three (50 per cent) out of six MPs from RJD, two (40 per cent) out of five from CPI (M), one (10 per cent) out of 10 from AAP, three (33 per cent) out of nine from YSRCP and one (25 per cent) out of four Rajya Sabha MPs from NCP have declared serious criminal cases against themselves in their affidavits.

Giving state-wise details, the report said that seven (23 per cent) out of 31 Rajya Sabha MPs from Uttar Pradesh, 12 (63 per cent) out of 19 MPs from Maharashtra, six (33 per cent) out of 18 from Tamil Nadu, three (19 per cent) out of 16 from West Bengal, six (67 per cent) out of nine from Kerala and 10 (63 per cent) out of 16 Rajya Sabha MPs from Bihar have declared criminal cases against themselves in their affidavits.

SC miffed over registry not listing matters

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Tuesday expressed its dismay over the registry not listing matters despite orders from its vacation benches and said that cases will be listed as per the set procedure. A vacation bench of Justices Surya Kant and JB Pardiwala said that it has on Monday directed a matter to be listed for Tuesday but the registry has said that it will not be listed.

"We didn't want to say it in open court but it's a fact. Yesterday, we made an exception. We had directed a matter to be listed for today but the registry said that it will not list the case. We don't want to say anything more", the bench told senior advocate Abhishek Manu Singhvi, who was seeking urgent listing of a plea filed by Adani Ports and Special Economic Zone (Adani) against the Bombay High Court order.

The bench said that there is a set procedure in place for the listing of matters during vacations and asked Singhvi to approach the mentioning registrar for urgent listing and if the request is denied then it could look into it. Singhvi said that the court's discretion cannot be circumscribed by the registry and it can make an exception for urgent listing of the matter.

Significantly, the same vacation bench on Monday had ordered the listing of the Centre's petition for hearing on Tuesday against the Tripura High Court order passed on a PIL challenging the grant of security cover to industrialist Mukesh Ambani and his family members in Mumbai. Despite the order of the bench passed after the matter was mentioned by Solicitor General Tushar Mehta, the matter was not listed for Tuesday.

Singhvi urged the bench to list the matter saying the Bombay High Court order was given to them on Monday in which it had dismissed a plea filed by Adani Ports and Special Economic Zone (Adani) challenging the disqualification of its bid in a tender issued by the Jawaharlal Nehru Port Authority (JNPA) for up-gradation of a container terminal in Navi Mumbai. The Bombay High Court has on Monday directed Adani to pay a cost of Rs five lakh for bringing to court an "unmeritorious case." Of this, Adani already deposited Rs 4,24,800 with JNPA at the time of submitting its bid.

Govt seems keen to sell off PSUs to its cronies: Cong

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

Congress on Tuesday accused the BJP Government of reckless privatisation of public sector assets and alleged that its plan is to hand over land parcels of strategic PSUs to its select crony capitalist friends.

Congress spokesperson Supriya Shrinate said going by its plans the Government seems keen to completely sell off all public sector banks to private hands which would have serious consequences for the economy.

She also dubbed the BJP as "Beche Jao Party " and accused it of "double-speak". On the one hand, it was talking of providing jobs to 'Agniveers' in defence PSUs. and on the other, it was privatising them, she said.

She also claimed that the Congress has helped stall privatisation of four PSUs including Bharat Petroleum Corporation, Container Corporation of India, Pawan Hans and Central Electricals Limited. "The Narendra Modi government's reckless privatisation and its plans to put India on sale now poses huge risks to the Indian economy and our people.

The Modi government is now all set to completely exit public sector banks being privatised - an ill thought out strategy with dangerous repercussions," she said at AICC Press conference. "Given its sinister plans to put India on sale BJP should now be called the 'Beche Jao Party' - but the Congress will oppose this reckless sale of strategic profit making assets including the complete exit from public sector banks being sold," she claimed. Shrinate said after listing LIC at a wrong time, it led to loss of nearly USD 18 billion (one-third of its valuation) and the government has been forced to stop its "reckless privatisation" of four PSUs in last two months.

She said BPCL sale was called off after two of the three investors withdrew, deterred by faulty fuel pricing policies and uncertainties, and sale of Pawan Hans now on hold after 51 percent stake was sold to a company that had failed to honour a previous bid for an insolvent company, and the NCLT Kolkata had ruled against it.

The Congress leader claimed that Central Electronics Limited is a Ministry of Science and Technology PSU that provides critical materials and services for strategic sectors such as defence, railways and energy.

It was severely undervalued and 100 per cent equity was sold to a financial company with no scientific background that had links to BJP politicians, she claimed, adding that it is now on hold.

The sale of Container Corporation of India (Concor), a unit of Indian Railways, was put on hold over Congress party's charges of how the government was using "backdoor arrangement" to hand over railway land acquired from farmers at a concessional rate or free of cost to a private party for commercial use, she alleged. "The privatisation of three PSUs has been delayed because of issues over the valuation of lansd.

CONCOR has land around railway stations, Shipping Corporation of India has land in Maharashtra (especially Mumbai) while Bharat Earth Movers (land in WB and Karnataka).

It is clear the single minded objective is to hand over these ventures and the lakhs of acres of land they hold to Mr Modi's chosen few crony capitalist friends," she alleged.

BJP raps Congress for protesting against arrest of Teesta Setalvad

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

BJP on Tuesday alleged a nexus between the Congress party and behind-the-scenes hate-mongers against Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

The party hit out at the Congress for protesting against the arrest of activist Teesta Setalvad saying they were working as part of a "poisonous ecosystem" where one offender protects another if anyone is caught.

Taking a dig at Congress and asking "Ye rista kya kahlata hain" for the opposition party joining the protest against Setalvad's arrest, BJP spokesperson Gaurav Bhatia accused it of opposing judicial actions as per its convenience.

In the backdrop of the Supreme Court's clean-chit to Modi and 62 others in the 2002 Gujarat riots case, he asked if the opposition party has any faith in the judiciary or not. He said Setalvad did not know the content of "false affidavits" she filed in Gujarat riot cases as they were tailored to suit the designs of the political masters. Attacking Setalvad, Bhatia said despite objections by NCERT, the Congress-led- UPA government gave Rs 1.40 crore to Setalvad's trust which she allegedly used for her own comforts and foreign travels.

Pointing –out that the Gujarat Police action against Setalvad was following the Supreme Court's strong denunciation of her and others for "keeping the pot boiling" and levelling false charges against people, including Prime Minister , over the 2002 riots in the state, Bhatia alleged that she had been acting at the behest of the Congress to end Modi's political career. "Setalvad was a small branch for fanning communal hate.

Its headquarters was in the Congress and its president Sonia Gandhi was the CEO," he told a press conference. Citing the recent agitation of the Congress against its leader Rahul Gandhi's questioning by the Enforcement Directorate in the National Herald case, he said for some people Gandhi is innocent until proven guilty but their standard for Modi is that he is guilty even if proven innocent.

"This hypocrisy will not be tolerated," he said. To questions about journalist Zubair Ahmed's arrest and opposition leaders' protest against it, he said one cannot become a fact-checker only by proclaiming himself to be one.

He has a chequered past and has posted tweets which have hurt religious feelings of a large section of Hindu society, Bhatia said. All major opposition parties and media organisations have condemned Zubair's arrest on Monday by the Delhi Police for allegedly hurting religious sentiments through one of his tweets, officials said.

The Editors Guild of India on Tuesday termed it "extremely disturbing" and demanded his immediate release. Criticising Zubair, Bhatia said if somebody is doing fact-checking, then he can't be selective.

NIA arrests two for terror funding in J&K

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The National Investigation Agency (NIA) on Tuesday said it has arrested two accused in Jammu and Kashmir in the cross-LoC trade and terror funding case.

The agency arrested the two accused persons—Tanveer Ahmad Wani of Achagoza under Rajpora police station of Pulwama district and Peer Arshad Iqbal alias Ashu of Khwaja Bagh, Baramulla in the 2016 cases linked to terror funding via cross-LoC trade.

The case pertains to the generation of extra profits through cross-LoC (Line of Control) trade mechanism between Jammu and Kashmir and Pakistan-Occupied Kashmir (POK) and using those funds for fomenting terrorist activities in Jammu and Kashmir, the agency said in a statement.

The said trade was started in the year 2008 via two Trade Facilitation Centres (TFCs) located at Salamabad, Uri in Baramulla District and Chakan-da-Bagh in Poonch District. As per the Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) of the trade mechanism, 21 articles were allowed to be traded between POK and Jammu and Kashmir and were based on a barter system.

"During investigation, it has been revealed that extra profit was generated by over-invoicing of export articles and under-invoicing of import articles by the traders," the NIA said.

The arrested accused are cross-border LoC traders and were handling several cross-LoC trade firms registered in their own names or in the names of their friends, family members and relatives.

They used to provide funds to the members of various terrorist organisations, over ground workers (OGWs) and stone-pelters. Further investigation in the case is continuing, it added.

KK Venugopal may get another term as India's Attorney-General

New Delhi: Senior advocate KK Venugopal may get a fresh term as Attorney General of India, sources in the Government said on Tuesday. Venugopal's current one year term ends on June 30.

The Attorney General usually has a tenure of three years. When Venugopal's first term as AG was to end in 2020, he had requested the Government to give him a one-year tenure keeping in mind his advanced age. He is 91. Last year too, Venugopal was reappointed for one year. In view of high-profile cases Venugopal is handling in the Supreme Court and his experience at the Bar, the government may reappoint him again. The Law Ministry has informed government that his term ends on June 30 and the post needs to be filled. He first took over as Attorney General, the top law officer of the Union Government, on July 1, 2017, succeeding Mukul Rohatgi.

'Ensure people at gatherings are vaccinated for Covid'

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

As Covid case counts show fluctuating trends in the past few days, the Centre has asked States and Union Territories to ensure that people taking part in mass gatherings and undertaking pilgrimage are asymptomatic and preferably fully vaccinated against Covid-19 as such congregation may facilitate transmission of the infectious disease

In a letter to States and UTs on Tuesday, Union Health Secretary Rajesh Bhushan said mass gatherings in context of various festivities as well as yatras are likely to be held in different parts of the country in the coming months, and that such congregations may potentially facilitate transmission of infectious diseases, including Covid-19. While trajectory of Covid-19 cases has declined significantly from levels that were observed in earlier part of this year, a few States and UTs across country are witnessing a sustained upswing in the cases currently. On Tuesday, till 8 A.M. India recorded 11,793 new coronavirus infections, pushing country's tally to 4,34,18,839, while the active cases rose to 96,700.

The death toll climbed to 5,25,047 with 27 new fatalities. India on Monday had logged 17,073 new coronavirus infections, a 45% jump from Sunday when 11,739 people tested positive for Covid. The Ministry fears that upcoming religious events may spike Covid cases as usually people do not follow Covid norms during such gatherings. "During many such events/yatras lakhs of individuals undertake intra- and inter-state journeys spanning hundreds of kilometres with halting points arranged by volunteers and community-based social/religious organisations.

Such congregations may potentially facilitate transmission of infectious diseases, including Covid-19," Bhushan said. "All states and UTs where such mass gatherings are proposed to be held should widely publicise that all individuals planning to participate in such gatherings/events are asymptomatic and preferably fully vaccinated against COVID-19.

Middle-aged, elderly Indians are more susceptible to Covid: Study

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

Covid-related hospitalisations claimed lives of middle-aged to elderly Indians more frequently than people of the same age groups in other regions of the world, according to a study conducted on 5,313 patients in 40 hospitals from 23 countries.

The study, led by the World Heart Federation in association with the Public Health Foundation of India, also revealed that a higher prevalence of diabetes and hypertension among Indians are the major drivers of the increased mortality. The findings, published in the journal Global Heart, showed that during the pandemic Indians had nearly three times higher mortality due to Covid hospitalisation, than the European population. However, the number was less than the Hispanics and Blacks.

"South Asians (Indians) in the middle-aged to elderly group died more frequently than other regions due to Covid hospitalisations, owing to significantly greater background prevalence of diabetes and hypertension," D. Prabhakaran from the PHFI, told a news agency.

The study demonstrated that patients were relatively younger as compared to previous research (where the average age was 57 years), predominantly middle aged men, with high prevalence of cardiovascular risk factors such as hypertension diabetes and high mortality up to 30 days.

Patients of Asian, Hispanic or Black ethnicities had higher death rates both within the hospital and after discharge as compared to white Caucasians, Prabhakaran said, as per the agency report.

Another finding was that patients with HIV had increased death at 30 days but not during hospitalisation.

Various studies have shown that Covid pandemic increased death among patients with heart disease or their risk factors.

18 people killed, 14 hurt in Mumbai building collapse

T N RAGHUNATHA ■ MUMBAI

As many as 18 people were killed and 14 others injured after a ground-plus—three storey building collapsed at Kurla (East) in north-central Mumbai shortly before midnight on Monday.

There were 32 residents at the building "Nayaknagar Cooperative Co-operative Housing society" when the structure caved in at around 11.53 pm.

The rescue and relief operation that began immediately after the mishap continued till late on Tuesday. Of the 14 injured, nine were treated and allowed to go, while the remaining five persons are undergoing treatment at The injured were rushed to Rajawadi Hospital at Ghatkopar and LTMG Hospital at Sion, both located in north-central Mumbai.

The building that collapsed was old and it was in a dilapidated condition. Today's was the first building collapse in the metropolis during the current year.

The teams of State Disaster Management Authority, Mumbai Fire Brigade, police officials and besides local volunteers, who joined the rescue efforts there had expressed a potential risk to the adjoining second wing of the same building which could also collapse anytime.

The fire brigade personnel identified eight of those killed in the mishap Ajayy M. Pasnor (28) Ajinkya Gaikwad (34) Kumar Prajapati(20) Sikandar Rajbhor (21) Anoop Rajbhor (18). Arvind R. Bharti (19) Anil Yadav (21) Shyam Prajapati (18) while ten other deceased had not been identified till late on Tuesday evening.

Meanwhile, chief minister Uddhav Thackeray announced an assistance of Rs 5 lakh to each of the bereaved families.

Maharashtra Minister Aaditya Thackeray visited the mishap site twice – once immediately after the mishap on Tuesday night and second time on Tuesday. Industry Minister Subhash Desai, senior officials of the Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation (BMC) and police officials visited the mishap site. In all 15 residents were rescued from the debris of the building Two pigeons have been rescued alive from the debris at the Kurla crash site. Two pigeons were rescued alive from under the debris.

Post 2 bypoll losses SP allies question Akhilesh's leadership

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

"The SP owes an explanation to its rank and file and the allies as to why its candidates fared poorly in Rampur and Azamgarh bypolls."
— OP Rajbhar

Trouble is brewing for the Samajwadi Party as its allies have started questioning the political competence of Akhilesh Yadav following the debacle in the Rampur and Azamgarh bypolls.

"The Samajwadi Party cannot afford to lose Azamgarh. Chaudhary Charan used to call Azamgarh as the centre of Samajwadi politics and that he could afford to lose Baghpat, but Azamgarh never," Om Prakash Rajbhar, president of Suheldev Bhartiya Samaj Party, an ally of the SP.

"Akhilesh Yadav should come out of the comfort of air-conditioned rooms and hit the ground running. For the BJP, politics is a 24X 7 engagement and the SP chief should also borrow the idea from the ruling party — take the plunge and catch the bull of electoral politics by its horn," Rajbhar said.

"Akhilesh Yadav must have campaigned in Rampur and Azamgarh. If the engine remains stationary, how will the train move? Akhilesh visited Azamgarh nine times during the recent assembly elections and conducted 13 public meetings. But in the Lok Sabha bypolls, he did not visit the twin constituencies even once. The debacle in Rampur and Azamgarh will have ramifications for the SP in the 2024 Lok Sabha elections. Akhilesh should be more accessible to his party cadre and focus on strengthening the organisation at the grassroots level," Rajbhar added.

He said that the SP owes an explanation to its rank and file and the allies as to why its candidates fared poorly in Rampur and Azamgarh.

Shivpal Yadav, the estranged uncle of Akhilesh Yadav, advised the SP president to honour the mandate given by the people of Rampur and Azamgarh.

"Nobody from the Samajwadi party contacted me for the Rampur and Azamgarh byelections and I have been sitting idle since UP assembly elections concluded in March," he said.

Sanjay Chauhan of Janwadi Socialist Party also slammed the SP chief. Questioning the style of functioning of Akhilesh, he said: "Akhilesh Yadav prefers to conduct his politics through social media, particularly through Twitter . He should respond to the need of the hour and hit the ground running. Instead of relying on a kitchen cabinet comprising rootless wonders, he should rely more on people who have their ears close to the ground."

Chauhan also criticised Akhilesh for nominating Swami Prasad Maurya to the UP Legislative Council.

"It was an imprudent move by Akhilesh Yadav to oblige a turncoat who defected to the SP from BJP ahead of the UP assembly elections and lost from Kushinagar, and yet nominated to the council. As long as the non-Yadav OBCs are firmly mobilised behind the BJP, the SP can never win the UP assembly elections. Akhilesh has failed to comprehend this ground reality of UP's electoral politics," Chauhan said. President of Mahan Dal and former ally of the Samajwadi Party Keshav Dev Maurya said: "The electoral strategy of the SP for Rampur and Azamgarh was full of loopholes without addressing which the party can never win any election."

Maurya added: "Akhilesh Yadav is a reluctant leader and is shy of hard work. How can he win an election?"

Dismissing the charges leveled by Akhilesh against the BJP government about the misuse of official machinery in Rampur and Azamgarh, Maurya said: "During the 2017 UP assembly elections. The SP was in power, yet the BJP and its allies won 325 out of 403 seats. Such allegations lack conviction are only for public consumption."

Two associates of terrorists gunned down in Keran sector

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ JAMMU

Ahead of the flag off ceremony of the first batch of Amarnath-bound pilgrims from the Jammu-based *yatri niwas* troops of the Indian Army, deployed along the Line of Control in the Keran sector of North Kashmir's Kupwara district, on Tuesday gunned down two terrorist associates while they were waiting to receive a consignment of arms and ammunition besides facilitating group of infiltrators inside the Indian territory.

The duo have been identified by the police as Majid Chechi and Samsudin Beigh.

In a written statement a police spokesman said, "It is believed they had come to receive a cache of arms and narcotics and to facilitate infiltration of terrorists in the general area of Rauta Nar at fence".

Meanwhile, Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha is scheduled to flag off the first batch of pilgrims from Jammu on Wednesday. The registered pilgrims have been provided with Radio frequency Identification tags to ensure their safety. The first batch will be escorted to the base camps in Baltal and Pahalgam under tight security arrangements.

Sharing details of the incident, police spokesman said, "alert troops of the Indian army had reported suspicious movement around 12.15 a.m close to the fence in general area India Gate – Bichu in Keran sector of Kupwara".

"The suspected movement was challenged by the Army's patrol party. On being challenged, fire was drawn on the troops from the fence side which was retaliated. On search, two individuals were found dead near the fence (inside the Indian territory). According to a police spokesman, "04 AK rifles, 08 Magazines and 02 packets of narcotics were recovered from their possession whereas 02 more AK rifles along with magazines and 04 grenades were found on the other side of fence". "War like stores have been recovered in the operation which include AK 47 & 56 rifles - 05, AK rifle Shotgun – 01, Magazines-15, 7.62mm API rds – 128 rounds, 7.62mm Ball rounds - 177 rounds, Grenades- 04 and Narcotics - 2 packets", police spokesman added.

Assam flood situation improves as rivers start receding

PTI ■ GUWAHATI

The overall flood situation in Assam showed signs of improvement on Tuesday with most of the rivers showing a receding trend even though 21 lakh people remained affected by the deluge and most localities of Silchar town in Cachar district were still under water, officials said.

The death toll due to this year's floods have increased to 134 with five more deaths recorded in the last 24 hours, while one person was missing, as per a bulletin issued by Assam State Disaster Management Authority (ASDMA).

Most of the rivers were showing a receding trend, except for Kopili and Barak, which were flowing above the danger level in Nagaon and Barak Valley respectively.

Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma visited an embankment breach spot at Kuwara in Bajali district to take stock of the flood situation.

"Visited Kuwara at Patacharkuchi, Bajali to understand the current flood situation and damage caused by overflowing of Kaldia river along with my Cabinet colleague Shri @RanjeetkrDass," Sarma tweeted.

He also interacted with the affected people and assured all possible assistance to them.

Silchar remained under water for more than a week, with efforts underway to air-drop essential items to people who are yet to be reached.

Deputy Commissioner Keerthi Jalli said the ASDMA has initiated drone survey in Silchar for damage assessment of areas such as Dudh Patil, Chamra Gudam, Silchar Railway station and other places.

She said the district administration along with Silchar Municipal Board and others are working to clean up the city's garbage, but people are dumping filth on the streets after cleaning their houses and shops.

Jalli requested people to refrain from throwing garbage on streets that have been cleaned to avoid spread of diseases. Medical personnel have been deployed in 28 wards of the town.

Water packets and water purifying tablets have been distributed

among the affected people and temporary toilets set up in two relief camps.

Meanwhile, work is underway to repair damaged portions of the dyke at Bethukandi that led to the flooding in the town.

Chief Secretary Jishnu Barua held a virtual meeting with deputy commissioners of three flood-affected districts in Barak Valley and Dima Hasao and other stakeholders to take stock of restoration of communication.

He said assessment of all rehabilitation grants in Cachar district must be completed before July 10.

A total of 2,254 villages in 61 revenue circles remain affected by floods, while 1,91,194 people have taken shelter in 538 relief camps.

Floodwaters have damaged 79 roads and five bridges while six embankments have been breached.

A total of 349 houses have been fully damaged while 573 have been partially damaged due to the floods. Farmlands over 74,656 hectares are under water, while 2,774 animals have been washed away.

Large scale erosion was reported in Barpeta, Bongaigaon, Chirang, Hailakandi, Morigaon, Nalbari, Sonitpur, and Udalguri districts.

A landslide has been reported in a tea garden in Hailakandi district, while urban flooding continued in Cachar and Morigaon districts.

Didi slams Teesta's arrest, says Nupur won't be spared

SAUGAR SENGUPTA ■ KOLKATA

Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee on Tuesday launched a scathing attack on the BJP Government saying the powers that be in Delhi was destroying democracy by suppressing the voices of opposition.

"They are gagging the popular voice … they are suppressing the voice of dissent … What wrong Teesta Sitalvad and Md Zubair had done so that they had to be arrested … couldn't this Government give some space to democracy … what is happening to the hailed democratic culture of India," Banerjee told a large audience at Asansol.

Banerjee's remark came a day after Sitalvad a social activist and Zuvair a journalist were arrested by an anti terror squad of the Gujarat Police for fighting the cases for the victims of the Gujarat riots.

Without naming the top saffron politicians Banerjee said peddlers of hatred were roaming free whereas "those who tried to bring forth the truth are being arrested … is it a crime to tell the truth … is it an offence to expose facts… those who speak out against the Government are harassed by the ED and CBI" she said in an apparent reference to the Gujarat riot cases in which the Supreme Court gave a clean chit to Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

Incidentally a galaxy of TMC leaders including the Chief Minister's own nephew and party national secretary Abhishek Banerjee and his wife Rujira Narula Banerjee have been under the ED and CBI scanner for their alleged roles in the money laundering cases which had reported links to cattle and coal smuggling.

Attacking the Centre for dishing out yet another "Jumla" in the name of Agnipath scheme Banerjee said "they are dangling lollipops before the country's youth Banerjee said "it is a big scam and another example of Jumla politics … after the 2024 elections every such recruitment jumla will go and the youth will be left with nothing in their hands."

Saying that she had recently received a communication where "I was requested to offer jobs to the Agniveers after four years … but why we should clear the mess created by the Centre … it is their mess and they will have to clean it. We will not take the onus," she said.

Banerjee had earlier suggested that the retirement age of Agniveer soldiers be extended to 60 years. Speaking before an audience with a sizeable population from the minority communities Banerjee attacked the Centre for doing nothing to BJP leader Nupur Sharma for her remarks on Prophet Mohammad.

"Those who are spreading hatred and creating animosity among communities in the country are let off … they are not being touched and even getting protection whereas those who are criticizing such acts are being arrested," she said apparently in reference to Nupur Sharma case and warned her Government would never let her go free.

"Our Government has taken action and registered cases against these people and we will not spare them … our police have summoned them and they will have to face the music."

Banerjee whose party won the Asansol parliamentary seat for the first time --- thanks to the presence of a large number of minority votes --- reminded how "the TMC has made the BJP Khamosh (silent) from Asansol because the people of this place have understood their real character." Cine star Shatrughna Sinha recently won the seat for her party.

Suvendu promises Maha encore in Bengal; TMC speaks to Guv

SAUGAR SENGUPTA ■ KOLKATA

The Trinamool Congress has raised strong views against Bengal Opposition Leader Suvendu Adhikari's suggestions that after Maharashtra it was the turn of Jharkhand and Bengal where the Governments would be toppled through 'operation lotus'.

Even as the TMC leadership continued sustained movement in the State demanding the arrest of Adhikari named in a number of scams including Sharada chit fund and Narada pay-off cases the BJP leader earlier said that his party was going to do a Maharashtra in Bengal. "Just it is a matter of time that Bengal too will fall by 2024," Adhikari who had joined the BJP just ahead of the 2021 Assembly elections said.

A former powerful TMC Minister and Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee's points-man in Nandigram movement that catapulted her to power had recently been facing a tirade from the Bengal ruling outfit which had been agitating at various ED and CBI offices demanding his arrest.

In an apparent reaction to the recent developments Adhikari said, "The Uddhav Thackeray Government is almost on the verge of collapse and it is a matter of time that Maharashtra will go into the hands of the BJP … it is almost certain … now the next target is Jharkhand and then Bengal … by 2024 Bengal will fall," to operation lotus he said.

The TMC reacted sharply with its spokesperson Kunal Ghosh saying if what Adhikari was saying was true and if they were really up to playing the Maharashtra game in Bengal then it was dangerous for democracy. "What Suvendu Adhikari has said is dangerous the democratic-federal structure of the country… they are spending hundreds of crores to topple Governments in various states … as they are now doing in Maharashtra ... the statement is itself dangerous," Ghosh said adding however that getting Bengal would remain a pipedream for the BJP.

"Today he is Suvendu Dada (brother) … he is dreaming of getting Bengal through operation lotus … let his bosses try it … I can assure you they will not get Bengal even in 2056 … by when he will become a Dadu (a grandfather)."

Meanwhile, in a related development a group of Trinamool leaders led by Bengal Education Minister Bratya Basu on Tuesday met Governor Jagdeep Dhankhar urging him to recommend the arrest of Adhikari who had been named in the FIRs in Sharada and Narada cases.

"He is an FIR-named person and the main accused in the Sharada case Sudipto Sen has written a letter to the agencies that Adhikari had blackmailed him and squeezed crores from him … so why the CBI is not arresting him," Basu said.

Construction of chariots in the final stages for the annual 'Rath Yatra' festival of Lord Jagannath, in Puri on Tuesday. (PTI Photo)

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PAPER WITH PASSION

G7 & the war

The grouping must act swiftly and effectively against Russia's barbaric invasion of Ukraine

UK Prime Minister Boris Johnson has rightly accused Russia of war crimes after a missile strike on a crowded shopping centre in Ukraine which killed 18 people and wounded over 59. He lashed out at Russian President Vladimir Putin's "cruelty and barbarism". In a joint statement issued on Monday, G7 leaders also remained "steadfast in our solidarity with Ukraine, and reaffirm our unwavering commitment to support the Government and people of Ukraine in their courageous defence of their country's sovereignty and territorial integrity, and in their fight for a peaceful, prosperous and democratic future". This will enthuse Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy who, along with other Ukrainians, has been fighting valiantly against the much bigger and more powerful Russia. The US-led West's support for the besieged eastern European nation has been admirable; so also is the way they weaponised their financial dominance and used it against Moscow. Besides, their support to Ukraine by way of arming it with the latest arms and armaments is praiseworthy. The same, however, cannot be said about its effectiveness. Despite months of debilitating sanctions against Russia, its war machine is still buzzing. After over a century, Russia has defaulted over a $100-million payment — not because it doesn't have money but because it is not allowed to pay its creditors. The default is likely to hurt the creditors rather than Moscow; it won't surely hurt Putin enough to force him to call off the war.

G7 leaders are deploying other means to augment pressure on the Kremlin. They have agreed to study placing global price caps on imports of Russian energy to curb Moscow's ability to fund its invasion of Ukraine and to contribute up to $5 billion to address global food insecurity, according to a *Reuters* report. However, they cannot be absolved of their role, though indirect, of enriching and thus emboldening Putin to such an extent that he could dare to attack Ukraine. Rich nations, swayed by the rhetoric of climate activists, became so obsessed with checking the use of fossil fuels that they discouraged production in their own jurisdictions. Under US President Joe Biden, for instance, the US has become a net energy importer, though his predecessor Donald Trump had ensured energy independence. This happened because Biden's Democratic Party has increasingly been influenced by the radical Left. Last year, Biden had also allowed Russia to sell oil to Europe. This is not to say that concerns about the environment should be ignored, but the action should be calibrated, not rash. Developed nations didn't realise that though climate change can end the world in a century, a nuclear war can do that in a day. Yes, that's a possibility! Frustrated that a small nation is not surrendering, Putin may decide to escalate his war. That may have calamitous consequences, not just for Ukraine and Europe but the entire world. G7 must ensure that its actions against Russia are not just effective but also non-escalatory.

PICTALK

A reveller at the annual NYC Pride March, in New York. AP

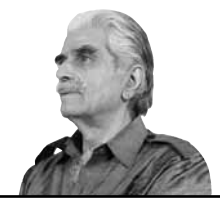
Disintegrating?

The power tussle in the AIADMK threatens to break up the party and thrust it into oblivion

Modern-day politics in Tamil Nadu is intertwined with its films and cine stars. Starting with first DMK Chief Minister CN Annadurai to AIADMK's J Jayalalithaa and reigning CM MK Stalin, all had their moorings in films. The script and storylines of politics have a lot of similarities with films "assembled" in the studios of Kollywood. The tussle for power in the AIADMK, which is in a state of chaos following the demise of Jayalalithaa in 2016, resembles a comedy film. It has three leaders pulling the party in different directions and all of them are on a State-wide tour to drum up support. Last week's general council meeting in Chennai had a funny end with the participants unanimously shouting down the 23 resolutions introduced by party coordinator O Panneerselvam, who is out to take control of the AIADMK. Edappadi Palaniswami, leader of the Opposition and the party coordinator, wants a single leader to head the party and end the existing dual leadership system since it has not done the party any good since being introduced in August 2017. The AIADMK has not won any election since 2019, substantiating Palaniswami's reservations on dual leadership.

EPS, who was the CM from 2017 to 2021, has proved his mettle and capability. Panneerselvam's liaising with VK Sasikala, the former interim general secretary who was eased out of the AIADMK along with her family members in 2017 to facilitate unity between EPS and OPS, is being viewed with suspicion by party leaders. Sasikala, a close aide to late Jayalalithaa who was convicted with four-year imprisonment in a disproportionate assets case, is out to hijack the 50-year-old AIADMK. Sasikala is on a *Puratchi Payanam* (revolutionary journey) to influence party cadres and bring them over to her side. Chinnamma, as she is called by acolytes, had declared in 2012 that she would never aspire for any position or power in the party. In 2017, she was about to be sworn in as the CM but the Supreme Court verdict upholding her four-year term saved Tamil Nadu from that predicament. If these leaders fail to sail together, the golden jubilee year of the party could see the burial of the AIADMK. *The Pioneer* had forecast as early as December 11, 2016, that the AIADMK would disintegrate into fragments faster than it was formed. Is the AIADMK leadership reading this?

Stop messing with our military



ASHOK K **MEHTA**

It is the one institution the nation trusts; any efforts to tinker with its soul & ethos will certainly not go down well with the aspirants, the regulars or even the veterans

Thank the Almighty for minor mercies on Agniveer. After five days of avoidable all-India arson and damage (railways alone suffered losses of ₹1,000 crore), the Government has backpedalled. Some concessions have been made to Agnipath Yojana: One-time age waiver (21 to 23 years); unwritten reservation in Government jobs; promises of public and private sector employment for demobilised Agniveers, and skilling and higher education schemes — in short, they've been promised the moon when it is a distant crescent. The anger among youth is understandable as many have passed physical and medical tests. For IAF, aspirants had cleared even written examinations but were not called up. The charade of COVID was used to suspend regular recruitment and replaced with Agnipath. The youth were cheated.

Now that Agnipath has become irreversible, the merit of the scheme as youthful infusion into an aging Army was marked by colossal criticism including masking the real reason for its imposition, ie reduction of salary and pension bills. Hundreds of veterans including Param Vir Chakra winner, Capt Bana Singh, denigrated the project. He tweeted: 'save the country from Agnipath scheme as it would badly damage the youth'. Later, it seems he was forced to delete the tweet. Most former service Chiefs adopted *maun vrat*. Only former Naval Chief, Adm Arun Prakash, had the temerity to expose its infirmities. These days, it is dangerous to speak out or speak up lest you're targeted by one or the other public/private agencies. Not many veterans detected or objected to forcing down All India All Class (AIAC) recruitment on single class/caste regiments. But those who did made passionate appeals to spare the high-value regimental system in the fighting arms.

In final briefings to media by Additional Secretary (Department of Military Affairs) Lt Gen Anil Puri and Vice Chief of Army Staff, Lt Gen BS Raju, and NSA Ajit Doval allayed concerns about dismantling the regimental system. This seems to be one more concession by the Government after the uproar. Lt Gen Raju told newspapers that Agnipath is in fact a pilot project and in response to pleas that it should be test-bedded, he said in four years Agniveer would be tweaked. This means the four year-engagement could be increased and the number of re-enlisted could also be increased. The pay package offered to Agniveers is in fact less than what regular soldiers receive after enlistment. There are other anomalies, including severance package, which need to be scrutinised. Listening to youth on social media and TV, it is clear they cannot be duped as they are questioning all aspects of the project, including why not Agniveers for officers also?

In his briefing, Lt Gen Puri let the cat out of the bag. He said: "In the last two years, we got an opportunity and we stopped the recruitment process." So COVID was used as a pretext to stop recruitment when in fact Agnipath was being prepared. He also said: "The AIAC recruitment model will remain unchanged. 75 per cent of the Army is already AIAC except single-class regiments like Sikh, Dogra, Garhwal, Gorkha, Jat and the like. The regimentation (presumably meaning regimental system) will remain unchanged."

> THE PAY PACKAGE OFFERED TO AGNIVEERS IS IN FACT LESS THAN WHAT REGULAR SOLDIERS RECEIVE. IT IS CLEAR THE YOUTH CANNOT BE DUPED AS THEY ARE QUESTIONING ALL ASPECTS OF THE PROJECT, INCLUDING WHY NOT AGNIVEERS FOR OFFICERS ALSO?

Doval said: "The policy on the recruitment will not affect the current regimental system. The concept of regiments, nobody is tinkering with. The regimental system has not ended." Doval insisted there will be no rollback of Agniveer. The good news is that a few single-class regiments which in 2032 will have 50 per cent Agniveer and 50 per cent regulars will continue and be exempt from AIAC. Doval is the highest-ranking Government official to confirm this and put worries of regimental diehards at rest.

In the future, when Agniveers are enlisted to full capacity of 125,000 annually and 100,000 will be demobilised, second careers will have to be found for the latter. Current assurances by all and sundry are unreliable. The problem is: Agniveers will not only be competing among themselves for re-enlistment, they will also be competing with fulltime regulars. Sporting their Agniveer badges (some are calling it a new rank?), singling out this group will create bad blood creating different types of soldiers. This is a bad idea and should be dropped.

As in the British military from whose sinews the Indian system is derived, a military covenant is necessary between soldiers and the nation. The country should commit to taking care of them and their families through thick and thin as they put their lives on the block. Will the Agniveers qualify for this as the regulars do? The biggest challenge for Agniveers is their effective integration into the military system and assimilation into combat units imbued with regimental ethos, tradition and motivation which underline the ultimate test on the battlefield.

Varun Gandhi is the only parliamentarian who is deriding the new scheme. One has not seen such an enormous upheaval against what is ostensibly a transformative defence reform. Agnipath Yojana requires a transformation to ensure defence of the realm is not compromised. Given the backlash to Agnipath, Government is unlikely to pick a CDS anytime soon. It has turned it into a modern *swayamvar* with 150 people in the contest.

(The writer, a retired Lt Gen, was Commander, IPKF South, Sri Lanka, and founder member of the Defence Planning Staff, currently the Integrated Defence Staff. The views expressed are personal.)

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

US APEX COURT'S REGRESSIVE RULING

Sir —The US Supreme Court's ruling that abortion is no longer a constitutional right is a backward step. It represents an infringement of liberty to make personal choices; it strikes a blow against women's reproductive and physical autonomy. No wonder popular opinion in America is overwhelmingly against the ruling. US President Joe Biden has termed it a 'tragic error' and warned that it risks the 'health and life of women'. Alas, American women are being denied the basic freedom to end a pregnancy. It is not explicitly stated if pregnancies resulting from rape and incest and detection of life-threatening or incurable deformities put no bar on women to seek an abortion.

Sometimes pregnancy poses a health risk to the mother and abortion is needed to save her life. There is also the danger of abortion going underground. The issue is far more complex and complicated than the six court justices have assumed it to be. Liberals look at the anti-abortion ruling as the beginning of a rightward shift in judicial pronouncements on issues that significantly affect the lives of millions. Laws governing modern societies need not be commensurate with religious fundamentalism or obscurantism.

G David Milton | *Kanyakumari*

NEXT STEP FOR SHINDE & CO.?

Sir — The question is being asked that why were the Shiv Sena rebels taken away to Assam and not to the BJP-ruled States of Goa, Karnataka or Madhya Pradesh? Why couldn't they stay in the BJP's citadel of Gujarat? And, finally why is Eknath Shinde still reluctant to return and demand a floor test? With parts of Assam reeling under floods, these MLAs in a five-star hotel come across as insensitive. The longer they stay there, the more the distance grows between them and their constituents. With Shinde facing much loss of face and capital, there is also the suspicion that many of the rebel MLAs may actually vote with Uddhav Thackeray in the House.

The political drama enters the second week, possibly a decisive week, with time running out for the rebels. And with Sharad Pawar saying openly that it is his duty to protect his friend Bal Thackeray's son and political heir, emotions on the street are running high, something that the rebels will have to contend with. With this, it is sure that their political career is finished and they have become the enemy of the people of Maharashtra. Seemingly, they have dug their own grave.

Bhagwan Thadani | *Mumbai*

HISTORIC WIN FOR MADHYA PRADESH

Sir — History doesn't just happen by itself. The passion and drive of history makers write their own script. June 26, 2022 ... This date has become historic for cricket in Madhya Pradesh. For the first time, the Ranji team of Madhya Pradesh State has won the prestigious Ranji Trophy. The meaning of this achievement is even bigger because this team entered the field without its five key players. Come to think of it, there was no famous player in the team. The final match was against a much stronger team like Mumbai, who have won the Ranji Trophy multiple times.

However, as they say, who can stand in front of an indomitable spirit? The passion to play the best, the will to win and the resulting stubbornness make players great. The team of Madhya Pradesh has proved this. Be it bowling or batting, the players proved their superiority on both fronts. The Madhya Pradesh cricket team has made a dream come true by winning the Ranji Trophy, which has been seen in the eyes of our State continuously for many years. After this victory, it is now expected that cricket will be taken more seriously in the State. This victory is historic.

Divyansha Sharma | *Ujjain*

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A bridge to development

The Padma Bridge inaugurated by Bangladesh Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina is the country's biggest development project since the country's birth in 1971. It symbolises the country's transition from a poor country to a progressing one and substantiates Sheik Hasina's commitment to public welfare and the country's development. The bridge, connecting India directly to Dhaka, will definitely boost Bangladesh's development. It is expected to impact the lives of 30 million people. What is so special about the bridge is that it was built entirely with domestic financing. It is a symbol of the country's capacity, strength and dignity. Over the years, Bangladesh has made significant progress in different sectors.

Industrialisation, less poverty, improvement in human development, measures for gender equality, empowerment of women === all these achievements have changed the country. The opening of the Padma Bridge signifies the country's economic development. Bangladesh is smaller than India. On the other hand, the country is ahead of India in several development domains. India must take a leaf out of Bangladesh and take measures for her overall progress. One may argue that the construction of a bridge is only a small part of progress. However, the country's index of development substantiates the progress it has made. The success of Bangladesh shows that by focusing on infrastructure, education, gender equality, manufacturing and exports, a country can make great progress.

Venu GS | *Kollam*

SOUNDBITE

I would reach out to my former colleagues in the BJP seeking their support (in the presidential poll).

Joint Opposition candidate
—Yashwant Sinha

Russia cannot and should not win the war in Ukraine, as its terrible toll is in full view.

French President
—Emmanuel Macron

Nothing has got delayed. No one needs to pick anyone up. I am a woman, not a parcel.

Actor
—Alia Bhatt

It's everyone's worst fear that you get your period at Wimbledon. It shouldn't be embarrassing, but white makes it so.

Canadian tennis player
—Rebecca Marino

We are in Shiv Sena... taking it forward. There should not be any doubt about it.

Maharashtra rebel
—Eknath Shinde

FIRST COLUMN

LOT NEEDS TO BE DONE FOR EASE OF LIVING

Challenge of living is a superset of ease of living

VINAYSHIL **GAUTAM**

Life is in a continuous dynamic mode. Among the more significant elements in the dynamic flow, there is the physical and the cognitive system. The periodic changes inside and outside the body are obvious indicators of change. Simultaneously, the intellectual and the emotional systems undergo a change. As it happens, most communities have little or no formal systems in assisting people to transit through this change.

Thus, the role of an individual in their own growth is a critical aspect of their coping with reality. This they learn through informal processes and from the environment in which they are embedded. This is an important element to keep in mind in studying how formal education through schools and colleges and informal learning from the context and the environment mutually support each other.

Thus, it is that learning that becomes a very important attribute of the act of living. The changes which one goes through physically, intellectually, and emotionally are significant to the very art of survival. This process is embedded in other features.

One grows up and gets married. Children are born out of marriage and the unit of reference changes. Like everything else, this too is a passing phase; children grow up and parents become again a unit of two.

All this is enmeshed in a dynamic social environment. The external governance systems evolve. This raises two important questions in the creation of civil society. One is access to resources and the other is opportunities for growth.

If there are too many moving parts then the challenge of living becomes bigger.

The challenge of living is a superset of the ease of living. Ease of living has to do, among other things, about forms and formats, screenings and verifications. The challenge of living has to do with the very act of availability of inputs such as energy, water, and security. In all this, the act of healthcare is fundamental.

Once this distinction between the challenge of living and ease of living is recognised, progress becomes simpler and therefore amenable to solutions to a higher degree.

Both the above issues, the challenge and the ease of living, cannot be handled without understanding the unit of reference. The unit of reference is often undefined. It can vary from community to community.

Consider the basic act of garbage collection. It is so basic that most people take it for granted. This is an oversimplification. In an upmarket colony of New Delhi, a little over a decade ago it was found that the sewerage pipe was laid parallel to the water pipe and during the monsoons, contamination of the flow in the water pipe took place from the flow in the sewerage pipe. Illness flowed.

Then proper garbage collection was started. One was the segregation of garbage, between the biomass type and the non-biodegradable type. Disposal of segregated garbage was recommended. This practice is yet to take root in many colonies of even the more evolved cities.

This recognition has to go hand in hand with which agency is charged with the level of collection of what type of garbage.

Illustrations can be many. The solutions will have to do with the recognition of the unit of reference: How is the agency for garbage collection decided? Who will be responsible for ensuring the fair distribution of energy, say, electricity? How will water supply be ensured? Put simply, there is a need to focus on identifying the basic unit of reference of understanding and operation of all systems at a local level, just as much as at any other level. Some work has begun, much more is needed.

(The writer is a well-known management consultant of international repute. The views expressed are personal.)

Control mindset hurts privatisation process

UTTAM **GUPTA**

The strategic sale of BPCL couldn't be carried out because the Government wants to regulate fuel prices

After over three years of having initiated the sale of its entire 53.29 per cent shareholding in Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited (BPCL)—a Central public sector undertaking (PSU) in the sector of refining and marketing of petroleum products—the Government has decided to put it on hold. What could be the reason behind this move?

Adopted a big-bang approach to privatisation (when government sells its majority stake in a PSU and transfers control to a private entity) in the Budget for 2021-22, Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman had divided Central PSUs in two broad categories—i.e. strategic and non-strategic.

The former is subsumed under four subgroups: atomic energy, space and defense; transport and telecommunications; power, petroleum, coal and other minerals; and banking, insurance and financial services. The non-strategic category includes all other sectors such as hotel and tourist services, industrial and consumer goods, trading, and marketing.

As per the plan, the government's intent was to privatise all undertakings in non-strategic sectors (all loss-making enterprises in this category will be closed). In the case of CPSUs in the strategic sector, it would undertake privatisation with the caveat that at least one (and a maximum of four) will be retained in the public sector.

BPCL being an undertaking in the subgroup 'power, petroleum, coal and other minerals'—considered vital for maintaining the country's energy security—the Government might be contemplating to retain it in sync with energy security. But this was at variance with the decision of BPCL privatisation in 2019-20, much before the 2021-22 Budget announcement. Perhaps there was a retrospective change of policy.

A second major reason could be the lengthy and cumbersome process of approvals and red tape. Under the extant procedures for granting approval, the Niti Aayog identifies companies for strategic disinvestment which are then considered by the Core Group of Secretaries on Divestment (CGD), a long-drawn process by itself. It then goes to the Alternative Mechanism (AM)—a group of ministers including those of Finance and Road Transport & Highways—for approval.

After the AM's approval, the Department of Investment and Public Asset Management (Dipam) moves a proposal for in-principle approval of the Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA).

In short, strategic divestment involves around 12 steps, which inevitably lead to delays in starting the process. And when the Government enters the market, the conditions may not be favorable.

In a case like BPCL, the challenge is even bigger as it needs bidders with deep pockets. For instance, during 2019-20, it needed a strategic investor who could pay around Rs 60,000 crore (prevailing share price multiplied by the number of shares corresponding to 53.29 per cent holding).

> PRIVATE PLAYERS CAN'T MATCH THE PRICES OFFERED BY HPCL, IOCL AND BPCL. EVEN THE LATTER WON'T BE ABLE TO ABSORB THE UNDER-RECOVERIES BEYOND A POINT, WHICH WILL MANIFEST IN REDUCED SUPPLIES FROM THEM SOONER RATHER THAN LATER

The author is a policy analyst. (www.uttamgupta.com)

In that year, the market environment was favorable even as the international price of crude oil (fortunes of oil companies move in tandem with it) was hovering around $70 per barrel. The Government could have got strategic investors willing to put the required sum for buying its entire stake. But the bureaucrats were not ready.

During 2020-21, thanks to the Covid pandemic causing large-scale destruction of demand globally, the average price of crude declined to just about $40 per barrel (in April 2020, it had plummeted to a low of $20 per barrel). This made the market environment highly unfavorable.

That apart, the entire Government machinery was too preoccupied with mitigating the consequences of the pandemic—protecting both lives and livelihoods of people.

During 2021-22, the price recovered and ruled above $70 per barrel, most of the time leading to significant improvement in the market environment. But the officials were not ready yet again, leading to deferment of the sale to 2022-23.

During the current fiscal, the international crude price has zoomed because of the Ukraine war, economic sanctions imposed by the US and the European Union on Russia, and the resulting disruption in supplies of oil and gas. With crude price hovering around $120 per barrel (at one point, it had even touched $140 per barrel) and substantially higher valuations of oil companies, this was a propitious time for carrying out the sale. But it was not to be.

The Government's decision to put BPCL sale on hold at this juncture—when market conditions are favorable and all procedures needed to conduct the sale already in place—may sound a bit puzzling. To unravel the puzzle, let us look at the following:

In theory, petrol and diesel prices were deregulated in June 2010 and November 2014, respectively, as the oil companies were given the freedom to fix their retail price, using a formula that combines their respective import parity price (IPP) and export parity price (EPP) in the ratio of 80:20.

But, in practice, political control over the retail prices of petroleum products is still there. The Government can do this because of the three oil marketing Central PSUs—Indian Oil Corporation Limited (IOCL), Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Limited (HPCL), and BPCL—which account for around 90 per cent of the domestic fuel retail network. Well, technically HPCL is a subsidiary of the Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC), but then ONGC is itself a Central PSU.

The managements of ONGC/HPCL, IOCL, and BPCL receive tacit instructions from their bosses to maintain the prices at the desired levels—that is, the levels that top politicians desire. These are often unrelated to the market determined-prices. For instance, the current pump price of petrol in Delhi is Rs 97 per liter which corresponds to a crude benchmark of $90 per barrel—as against the current crude price of $115 per barrel for the Indian basket. If these undertakings were really free to fix the price based on the formula (linked to $115 per barrel), the pump price would have been Rs 110 per liter.

Against this backdrop, if one of these oil PSUs (that is, BPCL), accounting for about 25 per cent of the retail outlets, goes into private hands, the Government's ability to influence fuel prices will be diminished significantly.

In the current scenario, when the international oil price is projected to remain high, Prime Minister Narendra Modi can't afford to allow an unrestrained hike in the retail prices of fuels—especially in view of a number of impending state elections. He would like to keep the leverage to influence fuel prices. Hence the decision to put the sale of BPCL on the backburner.

But this is a patently unwise move. Already, an artificial cap on retail prices has led to a drastic cut in fuel supplies from private firms such as RIL and Nayara Energy. They can't match the prices offered by HPCL, IOCL, and BPCL. Even the latter won't be able to absorb the under-recoveries beyond a point, which will manifest in reduced supplies from them sooner rather than later.

Besides, it will impact the valuation of BPCL as and when it is taken up for strategic sale in the future.

A big bottleneck that comes in the way of strategic sales is the desire of the establishment to remain in the driver's seat eternally. Until there is a change in the mindset, privatisation of BPCL or, for that matter, of any other PSU won't happen. And if it happens, it won't fetch a good price.

POINT COUNTERPOINT

WE SHOULD NEVER FORGET THAT DREADFUL PERIOD OF EMERGENCY.... WE MOVE FORWARD, LEARNING FROM EVERY IMPORTANT STAGE OF HISTORY.
—PRIME MINISTER
NARENDRA MODI

THERE'S COMPETITION BETWEEN THE GOVERNMENT AND THE RUPEE AS TO WHOSE VALUE IS FALLING FASTER? ATTENTION MUST BE PAID TO GOVERNANCE.
—CONGRESS LEADER
RAHUL GANDHI

Agnipath good for modernisation but needs relook

The scheme is advantageous for youth and national defence but it should be changed with inputs from armed forces

PK **VASUDEVA**

The Government announced on June 14 that all soldiers below the officer ranks of the three wings of the military would be recruited through the Agnipath Scheme. The Government has taken this decision to keep the armed forces young, making the youth disciplined, and rendering them highly skilled after four years of service, besides of course saving money for the modernisation.

The Scheme has been praised by a large number of experts and veterans, but many in the defence community and also the Opposition parties and political observers have expressed their reservations about the scheme, resulting in protests and violent demonstrations all over the country. It is sad that the government property like railways, buses and cars have been burnt by the youth who should be debarred from the recruitment at one and made to pay for the damage to the public property. Nobody can be allowed to indulge in arson whatever the cause.

As opposed to the existing 15 plus years' service, followed by a lifelong pension, the new recruits, Agniveers, will have a four-year tenure, including six months' training. On completion of four years of service, 25 per cent of them will get the permanent cadre, while the rest will be given opportunities in other organisations at the national and state levels.

They will exit with a tax-free purse of approximately Rs 11.71 lakh and return to civil life. Excellent army training, food, clothing, boarding and lodging, a regimented life of four years, a disciplined lifestyle, and a matured mindset will be the hallmarks for the Agniveers.

Over the years, Agniveers would emerge as a strong second line of defence in the country.

The government has announced 10 per cent reservation packages for the retiree Agniveers in Police, Central Armed Police Forces (CARF), Ministry of Defence Undertakings, and Railways after the completion of four years term.

Overall, the scheme is excellent for nation building. It will help build a younger, healthier, and fitter defence military, highly skilled in the changing technological environment. It will also inculcate military discipline, ethos and skilling as a value addition, improving the prospects for those who return to civil society. It will encourage youth to become entrepreneurs for the economic growth of the country.

Yet, it seems that the Centre was not thorough in its homework before launching this scheme. A study known as 'Tour of Duty' (TOD) was carried out about two years ago at the Training Command; all stakeholders gave their inputs.

The scheme needed to be launched as India is emerging as a major pivot in the global order, being a key nation in two security arrangements—one in the Indo-Pacific and another with the US, the UAE, and Israel. The Indian military has to adapt to the changing strategic interests keeping in view the threat perception from across the borders.

The presentations were made at the Ministry of Defence (MoD) level; the blueprint of the Agnipath Scheme was drawn out for implementation at a suitable time. The army recruitment methodology of leading military nations was kept in mind while framing it. The main planners of this scheme were Training Command, the late CDS General Bipin Rawat, NSA Ajit Doval, Raksha Mantri Rajnath Singh, and Defence Secretary Ajay Kumar, along with the Finance Ministry.

The three service Chiefs had a very limited role to play in formulating the scheme. The committee so constituted was bureaucratic in nature, which gave the recommendations for a younger and leaner force with reduced financial liability for modernisation.

The Cabinet Committee on Security (CCS) approved this Scheme. However, it was not put up in Parliament. The NSA, who is highly capable in security issues may not be well-versed with the nuances of the armed forces, represented the three services and CDS.

The whole scheme needs to be refurbished by an expert committee which must have members from the armed forces too. The government is making amends to the scheme in a piecemeal manner. The youth of the country is completely confused.

Instead of strengthening the armed forces, the scheme will weaken their strength if not implemented properly. The committee must go through the pensions of the defence civilians who get one-third of the total defence pensions. They need to be replaced by armed forces personnel.

Politician's pensions have a serious flaw. These also need to be looked into and pruned.

The violent reactions by the youth in the country could have been avoided and a number of lives saved if had been passed by Parliament and discussed at length at the Armed Forces Commanders Conference, before announcing it piecemeal.

The interest of the armed forces cannot be compromised at any cost.

(The author is a retired senior professor, International Trade.)

18 KILLED AS RUSSIAN MISSILE HITS CROWDED SHOPPING MALL IN UKRAINE

AP ■ KREMENCHUK

Rescuers searched through charred rubble of a shopping mall on Tuesday looking for more victims of a Russian missile strike that killed at least 18 and wounded scores in what Ukraine's president called "one of the most daring terrorist attacks in European history."

President Volodymyr Zelensky said many of the more than 1,000 afternoon shoppers and workers inside the mall in the city of Kremenchuk managed to escape. Giant plumes of black smoke, dust and orange flames billowed from the wreckage as emergency crews combed through broken metal and concrete for victims. Drones whirred above, clouds of dark smoke still emanating from the ruins several hours after the fire was extinguished.

Casualty figures rose as rescuers sifted through the smoldering rubble. The regional governor, Dmytro Lunin, said at least 18 people were killed and 59 others sought medical assistance, of whom 25 were hospitalised. The region declared a day of mourning Tuesday for the victims of the attack.

"We are working to dismantle the construction so that it is possible to get machinery in there since the metal elements are very heavy and big, and disassembling them by hand is impossible," said Volodymyr Hychkan, an emergency services official.

At Ukraine's request, the UN Security Council scheduled an emergency meeting in New York on Tuesday to discuss the attack.

In the first Russian government comment on the missile strike, the country's first deputy permanent representative to the United Nations, Dmitry Polyansky, alleged multiple inconsistencies that he didn't specify, claiming on Twitter that the incident was a provocation by Ukraine.

Russia has repeatedly denied it targets civilian infrastructure, even though Russian attacks have hit other shopping malls, theaters, hospitals, kindergartens and apartment buildings in the four-month war.

Ukrainian State Emergency Service firefighters work to take away debris at a shopping center burned after a rocket attack in Kremenchuk, Ukraine, Tuesday, June 28
AP Photo | Efrem Lukatsky

On Tuesday, Russian forces struck the Black Sea city of Ochakiv in the Mykolaiv region, damaging apartment buildings and killing two, including a 6-year-old child. A further six people, four of them children, were wounded. One of them, a 3-month-old baby, is in a coma, according to local officials.

The missile strike on Kremenchuk occurred as Western leaders pledged continued support for Ukraine and the world's major economies prepared new sanctions against Russia, including a price cap on oil and higher tariffs on goods.

Meanwhile, the US appeared ready to respond to Zelenskyy's call for more air defense systems, and NATO planned to increase the size of its rapid-reaction forces nearly eightfold - to 300,000 troops.

Zelenskyy said the mall presented "no tphreat to the Russian army" and had "no strategic value." He accused Russia of sabotaging "people's attempts to live a normal life, which make the occupiers so angry."

In his nightly address, he said it appeared Russian forces had intentionally targeted the shopping center and added, "Today's Russian strike at a shopping mall in Kremenchuk is one of the most daring terrorist attacks in European history."

He said Russia "has become the largest terrorist organisation in the world."

Russia has increasingly used long-range bombers in the war. Ukrainian officials said Russian Tu-22M3 long-range bombers flying over Russia's western Kursk region fired the missiles, one of which hit the shopping center and another that struck a sports arena in Kremenchuk.

The Russian strike echoed earlier attacks that caused large numbers of civilian casualties - such as one in March on a Mariupol theater where many civilians had holed up, killing an estimated 600, and another in April on a train station in eastern Kramatorsk that killed at least 59 people.

"Russia continues to take out its impotence on ordinary civilians. It is useless to hope for decency and humanity on its part," Zelenskyy said.

The United Nations called the strike "deplorable," stressing that civilian infrastructure "should never ever be targeted," UN spokesman Stephane Dujarric said.

Group of Seven leaders condemned the attack in a statement late Monday saying "indiscriminate attacks on innocent civilians constitute a war crime. Russian President Putin and those responsible will be held to account."

G-7 leaders pledge to hurt Russia economically

AP ■ ELMAU, GERMANY

Leaders of the world's wealthiest democracies struck a united stance to support Ukraine for "as long as it takes" as Russia's invasion grinds on, and said they would explore far-reaching steps to cap Kremlin income from oil sales that are financing the war.

The final statement Tuesday from the Group of Seven summit in Germany underlined their intent to impose "severe and immediate economic costs" on Russia.

It left out key details on how the fossil fuel price caps would work in practice, setting up more discussion in the weeks ahead to "explore" measures to bar imports of Russian oil above a certain level.

That would hit a key Russian source of income and, in theory, help relieve the energy price spikes and inflation afflicting the global economy as a result of the war.

"We remain steadfast in our commitment to our unprecedented coordination on sanctions for as long as necessary, acting in unison at every stage," the leaders said.

Leaders also agreed on a ban on imports of Russian gold and to step up aid to countries hit with food shortages by the blockade on Ukraine grain shipments through the Black Sea.

The price cap would in theory work by barring service provides such as shippers or insurers from dealing with oil priced above a fixed level. That could work because the service providers are mostly located in the European Union or the U.K. and thus within reach of sanctions.

To be effective, however, it would have to involve as many consuming countries as possible, in particular India, where refiners have been snapping up cheap Russian oil shunned by Western traders. Details on how the proposal would be implemented were left for continuing talks in coming weeks.

The U.S. has already blocked Russian oil imports, which were small in any case. The European Union has decided to impose a ban on the 90% of Russian oil that comes by sea, but that does not take effect until the end of the year, meaning Europe continues to send money to Russia for energy even while condemning the war.

Meanwhile, higher global oil prices have softened the blow to Russia's income, even as Western traders shun Russian oil.

Energy themes were front and center at the summit throughout. Europe is scrambling to find new sources of oil and fresh supplies of gas as Russia dials back gas supplies in what leaders say is a political move. Meanwhile high energy prices are a headache for G-7 countries' consumers.

The summit host, German Chancellor Olaf Scholz defended the G-7's decision to soften commitments to end public support for fossil fuel investments, saying the war in Ukraine means time-limited support for new natural gas extraction projects may be necessary.

The G-7 nations said in a statement Tuesday at the end of their three-day summit that "in these exceptional circumstances, publicly supported investment in the gas sector can be appropriate as a temporary response."

Before the summit's close, leaders joined in condemning what they called the "abominable" Russian attack on a shopping mall in the town of Kremechuk, calling it a war crime and vowing that President Vladimir Putin and others involved "will be held to account."

The leaders of the U.S., Germany, France, Italy, the U.K., Canada and Japan on Monday pledged to support Ukraine "for as long as it takes" after conferring by video link with Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy.

Macron: Russia cannot, should not win Ukraine war

AP ■ KREMENCHUK (UKRAINE)

French President Emmanuel Macron said Tuesday that Russia "cannot and should not win" the war in Ukraine, as its terrible toll was on full view the day after a Russian missile strike hit a shopping mall, killing 18 people.

Speaking at the end of the Group of Seven summit in Germany, Macron said the seven industrialised democracies would support Ukraine and maintain sanctions against Russia "as long as necessary, and with the necessary intensity."

He added: "Russia cannot and should not win."

His comments came as rescuers searched through the charred rubble of the shopping mall, looking for more victims of what Ukraine's president called "one of the most daring terrorist attacks in European history."

President Volodymyr Zelenskyy said more than 1,000 afternoon shoppers and workers were inside the mall in the city of Kremenchuk. Giant plumes of black smoke, dust and orange flames billowed from the wreckage as emergency crews combed through broken metal and concrete for victims.

Officials: US sending advanced missile systems to Ukraine

AP ■ WASHINGTON

The US is planning to buy and send more medium- to long-range missile systems to Ukraine, a move officials hope will help Ukrainian forces hold onto the last remaining segments of land in the eastern Donbas that Russia has not yet been able to capture.

A senior defense official said Monday that Ukrainian forces are already effectively using advanced rocket systems, and that more of those will go into Ukraine with trained troops soon. A new plan for the U.S.

To buy and send NASAMS, an advanced surface-to-air missile system, to Ukraine, is also in the works and would add to its longer-range rocket and missile strike capabilities.

President Joe Biden is expected to announce soon that the U.S. Is purchasing NASAMS, a Norwegian-developed anti-aircraft system, to provide medium- to long-range defense for Ukraine, according to an administration official familiar with the matter.

NASAMS is the same system used by the U.S. To protect the airspace around the White House and Capitol in Washington.

Both the defense official and the administration official spoke on condition of anonymity to discuss U.S. Military assessments and plans that have yet to be announced.

Russia has been mounting an all-out assault on the last Ukrainian stronghold in the eastern Luhansk region - the city of Lysychansk - from the ground and air, the local governor said Monday.

Luhansk Gov. Serhiy Haidai said Russian forces were pummeling Lysychansk after capturing the neighboring city of Sievierodonetsk in recent days.

It's part of a stepped-up Russian offensive to wrest the broader Donbas region from Ukrainian government control in what Western experts say has become the new main goal of President Vladimir Putin's war in Ukraine, now in its fifth month.

The defense official said the U.S. Continues to see morale and other command and control problems among the Russian forces, and that some local Russian officials in Ukraine have been assassinated in recent days.

The U.S. Has sent four High Mobility Artillery Rocket Systems, or HIMARS, into Ukraine, which already are being used. Four more will go in soon.

US, French companies to supply fuel to Czech nuclear plant

AP ■ PRAGUE

The Czech Republic has signed deals with Westinghouse Electric Co. And France's Framatome to deliver fuel supplies for a nuclear power plant, reducing the country's dependence on Russia.

The Czech state-controlled power company CEZ said on Tuesday that Pennsylvania-based Westinghouse and Framatome will contribute to the country's energy security by supplying the Temelin nuclear fuel for more than 10 years, starting in 2024.

The deal is worth several billion Czech crowns (hundreds of millions of dollars), it said.

The plant's current supplier is Russia's TVEL, part of Russian energy giant Rosatom. CEZ said it has fuel enough for the plant for about two years.

"Our goal was to diversify the number of suppliers in order to minimise the risk of possible supply failures for any reason," Ladislav Stepanek, director at CEZ's fuel cycle department said. CEZ operates two 1,000-megawatt reactors at the Temelin plant. Westinghouse had provided fuel supplies to Temelin for 10 years until 2010.

Russia bans Biden's wife, daughter from entry

SAP ■ MOSCOW

Russia on Tuesday announced that it was banning the wife and daughter of US President Joe Biden from entering the country, in response to widening sanctions against Russia.

The Foreign Ministry said 25 names were being added to the country's "stop list" including Biden's wife Jill and daughter Ashley.

It also banned entry to four senators whom it identified as "responsible for the formation of the (US)

Russophobic course:" Republicans Mitch McConnell, Susan Collins and Ben Sasse and Democrat Kirstin Gillibrand.

The list also includes prominent academics including Francis Fukuyama, noted for his book "The End of History and the Last Man" that posited the spread of liberal democracies could mark the ultimate development of society.

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NATO holds Summit with gaze on Russia and China

AP ■ MADRID

Russia's invasion of Ukraine has shocked NATO back to first principles.

Seven decades after it was founded, the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation is meeting in Madrid this week with an urgent need to reassert its original mission: preventing Russian aggression against Western allies.

Leaders of the world's most powerful military alliance are aiming to increase support for Ukraine's fight against Russian invasion, boost forces on NATO's eastern flank and set priorities for the coming decade - with a new emphasis on checking China's growing international ambitions.

But the gathering will also showcase the difficulties in keeping 30 nations - from tiny Iceland and Luxembourg to huge Turkey and the United States - aligned in an organisation that must make decisions by consensus.

FOCUS ON UKRAINE

NATO was formed after World War II to counter the threat from the Soviet Union and foster cooperation in a shattered Europe. In the years after the collapse of the USSR, the alliance recast Russia not as an adversary but as a "strategic partner."

No longer.

Russia is NATO's dominant issue and main adversary, and the Madrid summit will be dominated by how to support Ukraine and bolster defences along the bloc's eastern borders, where countries from Romania to the Baltic states worry they may be next in Russian President Vladimir Putin's sights.

Until late last year, only around 5,000 NATO troops were deployed in the Baltic states and Poland on a rotational basis. Now hundreds of thousands of troops are on heightened alert, with 100,000 US troops in Europe, and 40,000 under direct NATO command, supported by air and naval power.

The summit is set to agree to stockpile weapons and equipment in eastern Europe and to dramatically increase the number of troops based in the region or on standby in their own countries as a rapid-reaction force. There will also be more support for Ukraine to upgrade its military, still reliant on Soviet-era equipment, to modern NATO-standard gear.

The alliance is trying to strike a

delicate balance, letting its member nations arm Ukraine without sparking a direct confrontation between NATO and nuclear-armed Russia.

That's one reason Ukraine will not be joining NATO in the foreseeable future, despite being put on the pathway to membership, along with Georgia, in 2008.

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy is scheduled to address the summit by video, but he has acknowledged joining NATO is a distant prospect and is instead focusing on seeking European Union membership.

Expansion of the alliance is on the cards, however. Finland and Sweden have both abandoned their nonaligned status and asked to join NATO as protection from Russia.

TURKEY AS SPOILER?

But Turkey, which has NATO's second-largest army after the US, is set to play spoiler to the aspirations of Sweden and Finland - at least for now.

Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan has insisted that he will only allow the Nordic pair to enter NATO if they change their stance on Kurdish rebel groups that Turkey considers terrorists.

NATO Secretary-General Jens Stoltenberg hosted talks with Turkey, Sweden and Finland last week to work toward a breakthrough, and will meet with the three countries' leaders on Tuesday, but there's no guarantee the breakthrough will come in Madrid.

"Turkey has legitimate security concerns over terrorism that we need to address," Stoltenberg said. "So we will continue our talks on Finland and Sweden's applications for NATO membership, and I look forward to finding a way forward as soon as possible.

46 MIGRANTS FOUND DEAD IN ABANDONED TRAILER IN SAN ANTONIO

AP ■ SAN ANTONIO

Forty-six people were found dead after being abandoned in a tractor-trailer on a remote back road in San Antonio in the latest tragedy to claim the lives of migrants smuggled across the border from Mexico to the U.S. Sixteen people were hospitalized, including four children.

A city worker heard a cry for help from the truck shortly before 6 p.m. Monday and discovered the gruesome scene, Police Chief William McManus said. Hours later, body bags lay spread on the ground near the trailer and bodies remained inside as authorities responded to the calamity.

San Antonio Mayor Ron Nirenberg said the 46 who died had "families who were likely trying to find a better life."

"This is nothing short of a horrific human tragedy," Nirenberg said.

It's among the deadliest of the tragedies that have claimed thousands of lives in recent decades as people attempt to cross the U.S. border from Mexico. Ten migrants died in 2017 after being trapped inside a truck parked at a Walmart in San Antonio. In 2003, the bodies of 19 migrants were found in a sweltering truck southeast of San Antonio.

The home countries of all of the migrants and how long they were abandoned on the side of the road were not immediately known.

Among them, 22 are from Mexico, seven are from Guatemala and two are from Honduras, Roberto Velasco Álvarez, head of the North America department in Mexico's Foreign Relations Department, said on Twitter.

"Our condolences," he tweeted. "All responsible will be brought to justice."

South Texas has long been the busiest area for illegal border crossings. Migrants ride in vehicles through Border Patrol checkpoints to San Antonio, the closest major city, from which point they disperse across the United States.

Officers arrived to find a body on the ground outside the trailer and a partially opened gate to the trailer. Three people were taken into custody, but it was unclear if they were definitively connected with human trafficking, McManus said. The trailer was gone Tuesday morning, but access to the area where it was found remained blocked.

Of the 16 taken to hospitals with heat-related illnesses, 12 were adults and four were children, said Fire Chief Charles Hood. The patients were hot to the touch and dehydrated, and no water was found in the trailer, he said.

"They were suffering from heat stroke and exhaustion," Hood said. "It was a refrigerated tractor-trailer, but there was no visible working AC unit on that rig."

Those in the trailer were part of a presumed migrant smuggling attempt into the United States, and the investigation was being led by U.S. Homeland Security Investigations, McManus said.

Big rigs emerged as a popular smuggling method in the early 1990s amid a surge in U.S. border enforcement in San Diego and El Paso, Texas, which were then the busiest corridors for illegal crossings.

Before that, people paid small fees to mom-and-pop operators to get them across a largely unguarded border. As crossing became exponentially more difficult after the 2001 terror attacks in the U.S., migrants were led through more perilous terrain and paid thousands of dollars more.

Heat poses a serious danger, particularly when temperatures can rise severely inside vehicles. Weather in the San Antonio area was mostly cloudy Monday, but temperatures approached 100 degrees Fahrenheit (38 degrees Celsius)

Some advocates drew a link to the Biden administration's border policies. Aaron Reichlin-Melnick, policy director at the American Immigration Council, wrote that he had been dreading such a tragedy for months.

"With the border shut as tightly as it is today for migrants from Mexico, Guatemala, Honduras and El Salvador, people have been pushed into more and more dangerous routes. Truck smuggling is a way up," he wrote on Twitter.

Stephen Miller, a chief architect of former President Donald Trump's immigration policies, said, "Human smugglers and traffickers are wicked and evil" and that the administration's approach to border security rewards their actions.

Texas Gov. Greg Abbott, a Republican running for reelection, was blunt in a tweet about the Democratic president: "These deaths are on Biden. They are a result of his deadly open border policies."

Migrants - largely from Mexico, Guatemala, Honduras and El Salvador - have been expelled more than 2 million times under a pandemic-era rule in effect since March 2020 that denies them a chance to seek asylum but encourages repeat attempts because there are no legal consequences for getting caught. People from other countries, notably Cuba, Nicaragua and Colombia, are subject to Title 42 authority less frequently due to higher costs of sending them home, strained diplomatic relations and other considerations.

U.S. Customs and Border Protection reported 557 deaths on the southwest border in the 12-month period ending Sept. 30, more than double the 247 deaths reported in the previous year and the highest since it began keeping track in 1998. Most are related to heat exposure.

CBP has not published a death tally for this year but said that the Border Patrol performed 14,278 "search-and-rescue missions" in a seven-month period through May, exceeding the 12,833 missions performed during the previous 12-month period and up from 5,071 the year before.

Abortion battles in State courts after US Supreme Court ruling

AP ■ NEW ORLEANS

Abortion bans were temporarily blocked in Louisiana and Utah, while a federal court in South Carolina said a law sharply restricting the procedure would take effect there immediately as the battle over whether women may end pregnancies shifted from the nation's highest court to courthouses around the country.

The US Supreme Court's decision on Friday to end constitutional protection for abortion opened the gates for a wave of litigation. One side sought quickly to put statewide bans into effect, and the other tried to stop or at least delay such measures.

Much of the initial court activity focused on "trigger laws," adopted in 13 states that were designed to take effect swiftly upon last week's ruling. Additional lawsuits could also target old anti-abortion laws that were left on the books in some states and went unenforced under Roe. Newer abortion restrictions that were put on hold pending the Supreme Court ruling are also coming back into play.

"We'll be back in court tomorrow and the next day and the next day," Nancy Northup, president and CEO of the Center for Reproductive Rights, which argued the case that resulted in the high court ruling, said Friday.

Rulings to put trigger laws on hold came swiftly in Utah and Louisiana on Monday, and a hearing was scheduled for Tuesday as Texas clinics seek assurances they can resume services for at least a few more weeks without risking prosecution.

A Utah judge Monday blocked that state's near-total abortion ban from going into effect for 14 days, to allow time for the court to hear challenges to the state's trigger law. Planned Parenthood had challenged the law, which contains narrow exceptions for rape, incest or the mother's health, saying the law violates the equal protection and privacy provisions in the state constitution.

"I think the immediate effects that will occur outweigh any policy interest of the state in stopping abortions," Utah Judge Andrew Stone said.

In Louisiana, a judge in New Orleans, a liberal city in a conservative state, temporarily blocked enforcement of that state's trigger-law ban on abortion, after abortion rights activists argued that it is unclear. The ruling is in effect pending a July 8 hearing.

At least one of the state's three abortion clinics said it would resume performing procedures on Tuesday.

"We're going to do what we can," said Kathaleen Pittman, administrator of Hope Medical Group for Women, in Shreveport. "It could all come to a screeching halt."

Louisiana Attorney General Jeff Landry, a Republican and staunch abortion opponent, vowed to fight the judge's ruling and enforce the law.

"We would remind everyone that the laws that are now in place were enacted by the people through State Constitutional Amendments and the LA Legislature," Landry tweeted Monday.

In South Carolina, a federal court lifted its prior hold on an abortion restriction there, allowing the state to ban abortions after an ultrasound detects a heartbeat, usually around six weeks into a pregnancy, before many women know they are pregnant. There are exceptions if the woman's life is in danger, or if the pregnancy is the result of rape or incest.

Planned Parenthood said after the ruling that it will continue to perform abortions at its South Carolina clinics within the parameters of the new law.

Also Monday, abortion rights advocates asked a Florida judge to block a new law there that bans the procedure after 15 weeks with some exceptions to save a mother's life or if the fetus has a fatal abnormality, but no exceptions for rape, incest or human trafficking. The ACLU of Florida argued that the law violates the Florida Constitution. A ruling on that is expected Thursday - a day before the law is scheduled to take effect.

UN: More than 3 lakh civilians killed in Syria's conflict

AP ■ GENEVA

The first 10 years of Syria's conflict, which began in 2011, killed more than 300,000 civilians, the United Nations said Tuesday - the highest official estimate to date of conflict-related civilian deaths in the country.

Syria's conflict began with anti-government protests that broke out in March 2011 in different parts of the country, demanding democratic reforms following Arab Spring protests in Egypt, Tunisia, Yemen, Libya and Bahrain that removed some Arab leaders who had been in power for decades.

However, it quickly turned into a full-blown civil war that has killed hundreds of thousands and destroyed large parts of the country.

Tuesday's report published by the UN Human Rights Office followed what it said were rigorous assessment and statistical analysis of available data on civilian casualties.

According to the report, 306,887 civilians are estimated to have been killed in Syria between March 1, 2011, and March 31, 2021, because of the conflict.

The figures released by the UN do not include soldiers and insurgents killed in the conflict; their numbers are believed to be in the tens of thousands. The numbers also do not include people who were killed and buried by their families without notifying authorities.

"These are the people killed as a direct result of war operations. This does not include the many, many more civilians who died due to the loss of access to healthcare, to food, to clean water and other essential human rights," said UN High Commissioner for Human Rights Michelle Bachelet.

The report, mandated by the UN Human Rights Council, cited 143,350 civilian deaths individually documented by various sources with detailed information, including at least their full name, date and location of death.

Also, statistical estimation techniques were used to connect the dots where there were missing elements of information. Using these techniques, a further 163,537 civilian deaths were estimated to have occurred.

"The conflict-related casualty figures in this report are not simply a set of abstract numbers, but represent individual human beings," Bachelet said.

She added that the work of civil society organisations and the UN in monitoring and documenting conflict-related deaths is key in helping families and communities establish the truth, seek accountability and pursue effective remedies.

Germany: Former Nazi guard, 101, jailed for aiding murder

AP ■ BERLIN

A 101-year-old man was convicted in Germany of 3,518 counts of accessory to murder on Tuesday for serving at the Nazis' Sachsenhausen concentration camp during World War II.

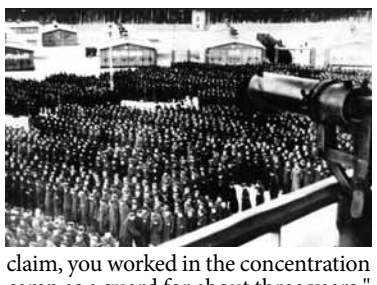
The Neuruppin Regional Court sentenced him to five years in prison.

The man, who was identified by local media as Josef S., had denied working as an SS guard at the camp and aiding and abetting the murder of thousands of prisoners.

In the trial, which opened in October, the man said that he had worked as a farm labourer near Pasewalk in northeastern Germany during the period in question.

However, the court considered it proven that he worked at the camp on the outskirts of Berlin between 1942 and 1945 as an enlisted member of the Nazi Party's paramilitary wing, the German news agency dpa reported.

"The court has come to the conclusion that, contrary to what you



claim, you worked in the concentration camp as a guard for about three years," presiding Judge Udo Lechtermann said, according to dpa, adding that in doing so, the defendant had assisted in the terror and murder machinery of the Nazis.

"You willingly supported this mass extermination with your activity," Lechtermann said. Prosecutors had based their case on documents relating to an SS guard with the man's name, date and place of birth, as well as other documents.The five-year prison sentence was in line with the prosecution's demand. However, the defendant can appeal the court's ruling.

New Yorker convicted of importing illegal controlled substances from India

PTI ■ WASHINGTON

A federal grand jury on Monday convicted a New Yorker of importing illegal controlled substances from India and money laundering, a US attorney said.

Ezhil Sezhian Kamaldoss, from Queens in New York, faces up to 50 years of imprisonment.

"The defendant is now a convicted drug dealer. He lined his pockets off the black-market sales of millions of illegal opioids and misbranded prescription pills without regard for the harm caused by the abuse of these highly addictive and dangerous drugs," United States Attorney Breon Peace stated.

"With today's verdict, the defendant is held accountable for having a hand in every aspect of his pill mill, from the importing of unapproved medications from India to personally filling orders for these drugs for customers throughout the country," he said.

According to federal prosecutors, between May 2018 and August 2019, Kamaldoss participated with others in a transnational drug-trafficking conspiracy, which involved the importation of misbranded prescription drugs, including Tramadol, a synthetic opioid, into the US from India, repackaging the drugs at a pill mill operating out of a warehouse in Jamaica, Queens, and shipping the drugs via the United States mail to customers throughout the US.

During the course of the charged conspiracy, Kamaldoss and the men who worked for him distributed millions of Tramadol pills, sometimes purchasing hundreds of thousands of pills at a time.

Additionally, Kamaldoss conspired to launder the proceeds of the drug-trafficking operation by using the illicit profits to reinvest in the business, including by paying shipping costs incurred by his co-conspirators - including nearly USD 200,000 in Federal Express costs paid off in exchange for additional pills, it said.

Jordan promises inquiry into deadly blast at Red Sea port

AP ■ AQABA (JORDAN)

Jordan's prime minister on Tuesday said he has instructed authorities to launch an investigation into the deadly blast the previous day at the Red Sea port of Aqaba that killed at least 13 people.

A crane loading chlorine tanks onto a ship on Monday dropped one of them, causing an explosion of toxic yellow smoke. Along with those killed, some 250 were sickened, authorities said.

Prime Minister Bisher al-Khasawneh visited the site on Tuesday and, citing civil defence and environmental authorities, said the gas concentration in the area had returned to normal.

He said that most movement at the port has resumed, except for the exact site of the incident which was being cleaned and inspected.

Al-Khasawneh said "other nationalities" were among the dead, without elaborating. He said many of those in hospitals were being discharged.

Video carried on state TV showed the moment the tank exploded, sending dockworkers scrambling to escape the toxic cloud. Some 200 people were hospitalised.

The Public Security Directorate, which initially described it as a gas leak, said authorities sealed off the area after evacuating the injured and sent specialists in to address the situation.

State-run Jordan TV said 13 people were killed. Al-Mamlaka TV, another official outlet, said 199 were still being treated in hospitals.

The Public Security Directorate said a total of 251 people were injured.

Aqaba is on the northern tip of the Red Sea, next to the Israeli city of Eilat, which is just across the border. Both are popular beach and diving destinations.

Navalny appeal rejected; another Kremlin critic jailed

AP ■ MOSCOW

A Russian court has rejected an appeal by imprisoned opposition leader Alexei Navalny, who contended that prison authorities illegally prevented his lawyers from bringing necessary equipment including voice recorders and laptop computers to a court session held in a prison.

Navalny testified at the Tuesday session by video, the first time he has been seen since being moved to a maximum-security prison. A lower court had previously rejected his complaint about the recording devices ban.

Close associates of Navalny have faced criminal charges and many have left Russia. Authorities shut down his group's political infrastructure - an anti-corruption foundation and a nationwide network of offices - by labeling it extremist.

On Tuesday, prominent opposition politician Ilya Yashin was sentenced to 15 days in jail on charges of failing to obey police.

He was detained late Monday while walking in a park, and police said he had grabbed one officer by the uniform and vulgarly insulted them.

Germany: Over 2,700 antisemitic incidents reported in 2021

AP ■ BERLIN

A group tracking antisemitism in Germany said on Tuesday it documented more than 2,700 incidents in the country last year, including 63 attacks and six cases of extreme violence.

In a report, the Department for Research and Information on Anti-Semitism (RIAS) said the coronavirus pandemic with its anti-Jewish conspiracy narratives and the Middle East conflict with antisemitic criticism of Israel were the main drivers of the 2,738 incidents it documented.

The incidents include both criminal and non-criminal incidents, the group said.

The German government's commissioner to combat antisemitism, Felix Klein, called the number of incidents - more than seven per day - frightening, but also said that "at the same time, each of the reported incidents is also a step toward reducing the dark figures".

Right-wing extremists were responsible for 17 per cent of the incidents, but more than half of all the antisemitic incidents could not be assigned to a specific political view, the report said.

Among cases of "extreme violence," RIAS included an attack on a Jewish participant in a vigil for Israel in Hamburg and a shooting at a Jewish community centre in Berlin.

Altogether, 964 people - both Jews and non-Jews - were directly affected by antisemitic incidents, Benjamin Steinitz, the head of RIAS, told reporters in Berlin.

Scottish leader to give route map to new independence vote

AP ■ LONDON

Scottish First Minister Nicola Sturgeon is set to deliver a statement on Tuesday setting out how she believes a new referendum on Scottish independence could be held.

Scottish voters rejected independence in a 2014 referendum, with 55 per cent of voters saying they wanted to remain part of the United Kingdom.

But Sturgeon, who leads the Scottish National Party and the devolved government in Scotland, has said it's time to revisit the matter because of changes brought about by Brexit. She wants a new vote on independence before the end of 2023.

That would need a green light from the UK-wide government of Prime Minister Boris Johnson, who opposes a new referendum and has said the issue was settled in the 2014 vote. Sturgeon maintains that her party's success in local elections last year gives her a mandate for a fresh referendum.

Hinckley says he's sorry for shooting that wounded Reagan

AP ■ WASHINGTON

The man who wounded President Ronald Reagan in 1981 apologised for his actions Tuesday and said he doesn't remember what he was feeling when he fired the shots that also wounded three others.

John Hinckley Jr. Told CBS Mornings in his first televised interview since he was freed from all court oversight this month that he feels sorry for all the lives his actions affected.

"I feel badly for all of them. I have true remorse for what I did," Hinckley said. "I know that they probably can't forgive me now, but I just want them to know that I am sorry for what I did."

Asked about what feelings led him to commit the act, Hinckley said he can't remember those emotions and doesn't want to.

"It's such another lifetime ago. I can't tell you now the emotion I had right as (Reagan) came walking out. I can't tell you that," he said, later adding: "It's something I don't want to remember."

Council OK's GST relief, e-way bill by States

Chandigarh: The GST Council on Tuesday approved changes in tax rates on some goods and services while allowing states to issue an e-way bill for intra-state movement of gold and precious stones, officials said.

The Council, chaired by Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman and comprising state counterparts, also cleared a host of compliance procedures for GST-registered businesses along with a GoM report on high-risk tax payers to check evasion.

The discussion on the crucial issues of extension of compensation to states beyond June 2022 and the imposition of 28 per cent GST on casinos, online gaming and horse racing, will take place on Wednesday.

Opposition-ruled states have been pressing for either extension of the GST compensation regime or increasing states' share in revenue from the current 50 per cent.

In the meeting on Tuesday, the Council accepted the interim report of the group of state finance ministers, headed by Karnataka Chief Minister Basavaraj S Bommai, on rate rationalisation, including correction of inverted duty structure and removing tax exemption on some items, to simplify the rate structure.

The GoM had suggested withdrawal of GST exemption on a host of services including on hotel accommodation of less than ₹1,000 per day and replacing it with a 12 per cent tax. It also recommended a levy of 5 per cent GST on room rent (excluding ICU) charged for hospitalised patients where the hospital room charges are above ₹5,000 per day.

It wanted all post office services other than postcards and inland letters, book post and envelopes weighing less than 10 gm, to be taxed. Also, cheques, loose or in book form should be taxed at 18 per cent, the GoM recommended. ***PTI***

Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman chairs the 47th meeting of Goods and Services Tax (GST) Council, in Chandigarh on Tuesday PTI

Opp States for continuation of GST compensation

Chandigarh: States ruled by Opposition parties have demanded that either the revenue sharing formula under the GST regime should be changed or the compensation period should be extended by five years, amid concerns over revenue losses.

The Goods and Services Tax (GST) was introduced on July 1, 2017, and states were assured of compensation for the revenue loss till June 2022, arising on account of the GST rollout.

As the GST Council commenced here on Tuesday, the states have also cited a recent Supreme Court ruling that decisions made by the Council are not binding and states need not stick to them.

The ruling by the court has been seen by some as states having powers to determine taxation. ***PTI***

Credit card spend crosses ₹1.13 L cr in May: RBI data

Mumbai: Credit card spending has crossed ₹1.13 lakh crore in May compared to ₹1.05 lakh crore in the previous month according to official data.

The month-on-month rise in spending through cards indicates a pick-up in economic activity.

The latest data from the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) showed that 7.68 crore credit card holders spent about ₹71,429 crore for buying online, while the amount was spent through swipes at Point of Sale (PoS) machines stood at ₹42,266 crore in May.

In terms of the number of transactions, credit card payments were marginally lower online at 11.5 crore against 12.2 crore offline or at PoS machines.

The trend also indicates that cardholders are making higher value transactions online on an average than through offline means.

Credit card holders spent ₹65,652 crore for buying online, while the amount spent through Point of Sale (PoS) machines was ₹39,806 crore in April.

As far as the debit card is concerned, the spending through PoS and online together was ₹65,957 crore during the month.

The spending through PoS was ₹44,305 crore against e-commerce spending of ₹21,104 crore through the debit card in May.

During the month, there has been an addition of about 20 lakh credit cards. The number of the card was 7.51 crore in April.

HDFC Bank had the highest number of credit cards at 1.72 crore in May as the RBI lifted the ban on the issuance of new credit cards in March.

In terms of credit cards, HDFC Bank was followed by the State Bank of India (1.41 crore) and ICICI Bank (1.33 crore) at the end of May 2022.

The RBI had imposed a ban on HDFC Bank in December 2020, asking the lender to stop all launches of its upcoming digital business-generating activities and sourcing of new credit card customers after repeated outages at its data centre, which impacted operations.

The ban was partially lifted in August last year and fully in March this year. ***PTI***

Sensex, Nifty close slight up amid markets recovery

Mumbai: Benchmark stock indices Sensex and Nifty rebounded from early lows to close marginally up on Tuesday following fag-end buying in oil and gas, IT and auto stocks amid a recovery in global equities.

Posting gains for a fourth session in a row, the 30-share BSE Sensex settled up 16.17 points or 0.03 per cent at 53,177.45. The index opened lower and dropped nearly 390 points to hit a low of 52,771.53 points due to persistent FII selling and weak global trends.

However, a late recovery in Asian markets and early gains in European exchanges helped the index cut losses. The index recovered by nearly 405 points from the day's low to end with gains.

The NSE Nifty gained 18.15 points or 0.11 per cent to 15,850.20. It hit a low of 15,710.15 and a high of 15,892.10 during the day. As many as 32 of its constituents advanced while 17 declined.

"After a gap down opening, domestic indices were lifted by positive global peers while oil prices rose over renewed supply concerns," Vinod Nair, Head of Research at Geojit Financial Services said.

The weakened rupee and rising bond yields limited domestic investors' risk appetite, Nair said, adding that gains in commodity-linked stocks and optimism over easing Covid restrictions in China aided the global up-move.

Among Sensex stocks, Mahindra & Mahindra rose the most by 2.78 per cent, followed by index heavyweight Reliance Industries which advanced 1.49 per cent. Dr Reddy's rose by 1.41 per cent, Tata Steel by 1.34 per cent, and Tech Mahindra by 1.26 per cent.

Gains in Larsen & Toubro, Infosys, ITC, Axis Bank, SBI, and HCL Tech helped the index close in green.

On the other hand, Titan fell the most by 3.54 per cent, Asian Pants by 3.25 per cent, Bajaj Finserv by 1.94 per cent and Kotak Bank by 1.32 per cent.

ICICI Bank, Bajaj Finance, IndusInd Bank, HDFC, Bharti Airtel and HDFC Bank also retreated.

"Markets witnessed a roller coaster ride in intra-day trade, but selective buying in IT, metal, auto and oil & gas stocks helped the key benchmark indices recover at fag-end to log modest gains. Early upturn in European markets and recovery in other Asian gauges also provided an impetus to local markets," said Shrikant Chouhan, Head of Equity Research (Retail), Kotak Securities Ltd.

In the broader market, the BSE smallcap gauge ended with 0.24 per cent gain and midcap index advanced 0.18 per cent.Among the BSE sectoral indices, oil & gas jumped 2.54 per cent, energy by 2.45 per cent, metal by 1.97 per cent, auto by 1.26 per cent and basic materials by 0.74 per cent. ***PTI***

Global Surfaces files IPO draft papers with Sebi

New Delhi: Global Surfaces Ltd, which is engaged in the business of processing natural stones and manufacturing engineered quartz, has filed preliminary papers with Sebi to mop up funds through an initial public offering (IPO).

The IPO comprises fresh issuance of 85.20 lakh equity shares and an offer-for-sale (OFS) of up to 25.5 lakh equity shares by promoters ---- Mayank Shah and Sweta Shah, according to the draft red herring prospectus (DRHP).

Funds raised through fresh issuance of equity shares will be used for setting up the company's proposed facility -- Global Surfaces FZE-- in Dubai.

For FY22, the company posted a profit after tax of Rs 35.63 crore as compared to Rs 33.93 crore in FY21 and its total income was at Rs 198.35 crore as against Rs 179 crore in FY21. Unistone Capital is the sole book running lead manager to the issue. The equity shares of the company will be listed on the BSE and NSE. ***PTI***

'Slowing exports, rising cost likely to limit home textile cos' profitability to 13% 2023'

Mumbai: Lower export demand and a sharp increase in raw material and transportation costs are likely to result in moderate operating profitability for home textile makers at around 13 per cent in this financial year, according to a report.

"Slowing exports growth and high cotton prices will hit the operating margins of home textile exporters by 150-200 bps or around 13 per cent this fiscal.

The rupee's depreciation against the dollar and sustenance of the China+1 policy by global buyers will cushion the hit on profitability to some extent," Crisil Ratings Senior Director Mohit Makhija said.

The second half of this fiscal should gradually restore demand momentum and market share for Indian home textile exporters as freight and raw cotton costs moderate, and ease pressure on profitability, he added.

Exports account for 60-70 per cent of the Indian home textile industry's revenue, of which over 58 per cent shipments are sent to the US, according to the Crisil Ratings report.

The report stated that global demand for home textiles is expected to be impacted in the near-term by inflationary headwinds, with big-box retailers pruning inventory and consumers cutting down on discretionary spends.

A slowdown in the sales of key US retailers in the past 3-6 months has led to an on-year decline of 5-6 per cent in overall home textile exports from India between January and April 2022, it noted.

Adding to the demand challenge, the price of raw cotton, a key input in home textiles, has more than doubled year-on-year in May to Rs 1,00,000 per candy (about 356 kg), it said.

This will remain a challenge for exporters till the new cotton crop arrives starting October, the report said.

Supply-chain disruptions leading to volatility in ocean freight rates will also impact profitability, it added.

Overall, the report said that the Indian home textile industry's revenue is expected to grow 11-12 per cent this fiscal, primarily because of higher price realisations.

Domestic demand (comprising 30-40 per cent of Indian home textile industry's revenue) is expected to grow at a healthy 13 per cent, driven by sharp demand recovery in the domestic hospitality industry and continued focus on health and hygiene, it said. ***PTI***

Mandaviya reviews preparations for India-Chem event

New Delhi: Chemical and Fertiliser Minister Mansukh Mandaviya on Tuesday reviewed the preparation for the upcoming 12th edition of India-Chem to be held in October.

The three-day event beginning October 6, 2022 will be organised in association with industry body FICCI.

Mandaviya also launched a brochure with the theme 'Vision 2030 – Chemicals and Petrochemicals Build India, an official statement said.

Minister of State for Chemicals and Fertilizers Bhagwant Khuba, Secretary Arti Ahuja and members of FICCI were present in the review meeting.

"The event will showcase tremendous potential and supportive government policy for sustainable growth in the sector. It will also provide a platform for domestic and international investors and other stakeholders to interact and forge alliances...," Mandaviya said. While the government has been providing a favourable ecosystem for global investors with its "ease of business" policies and incentives, the upcoming global event will showcase India as a favourable destination for investors and stakeholders in the chemicals sector, he added.

Currently, the market size of the Indian chemicals and petrochemicals sector is USD 178 billion. India is the sixth largest chemicals producer in the world and exports to more than 175 countries. It accounts for 13 per cent of India's total exports. ***PTI***

Gold rises ₹52; silver falls ₹60

New Delhi: Gold price in the national capital rose by Rs 52 to Rs 50,770 per 10 grams on Tuesday, according to HDFC Securities.

In the previous trade, the yellow metal settled at Rs 50,718 per 10 grams.

Silver, however, slipped by Rs 60 to Rs 60,128 per kg from Rs 60,188 per kg in the previous trade. The rupee plunged by 46 paise to close at record low of 78.83 (provisional) against the US dollar on Tuesday, weighed down by persistent foreign capital outflows and a surge in crude oil prices. In the international market, gold was trading higher at USD 1,827 per ounce while silver was flat at USD 21.27 per ounce. "Gold prices have held bound range trading on mixed global cues on slowdown worries and larger rate hike expectations from US Federal Reserve," said Tapan Patel, Senior Analyst (Commodities) at HDFC Securities. ***PTI***

'India needs 115 GW RE power to meet 5 mn tonnes green hydrogen target by 2030'

New Delhi: India will need 115 GW of renewable power generation capacity and 50 billion litres of demineralised water supply to achieve the goal of five million tonnes of green hydrogen by 2030, as per the EY India-SED Fund report.

In this decade, industrial feedstock-based applications will drive the demand for green hydrogen, a statement said.

Price parity between green and grey hydrogen production will determine the speed and scale of transition, said the EY-SED Fund report titled 'Accelerating Green Hydrogen Economy', released at the CII's conference on 'Green New Energy for a Net Zero India' in Bengaluru.

The report highlights that India's ambition to produce 5 million tonnes of green hydrogen by 2030 will need 115 GW of renewable power generation capacity and 50 billion litres of demineralised water supply.

To get a sense of this scale, the current all-India installed capacity of renewable power generation is 113 GW as of May 2022.

"The impact of the COVID-19 pandemic and the ongoing global conflict are stark reminders of how India's dependence on energy imports and other commodities linked to global supply chains can threaten its strategic interests. The emergence of green hydrogen as a promising low carbon feedstock and energy carrier for industrial applications is a boon for India's long-term energy security, sustainability and self-reliance," Somesh Kumar, Partner and National Leader, Power & Utilities, EY India, said.

The levelised cost of green hydrogen production and storage (LCOH) is currently Rs 400/kg.

Around 40-50 per cent of this cost can be attributed to the renewable energy power plant, 30-40 per cent for electrolyser stack and balance of system, including demineralised water supply and 20-30 per cent for compressed storage, the report said. ***PTI***

PTC completes consulting assignment for HPCL

New Delhi: Power trading solution provider PTC India on Tuesday said it has completed a consulting assignment for HPCL for the latter's Visakh Refinery Modernization Project.

HPCL intends to expand the refining capacity from 8.5 mmtpa to 15 mmtpa under the project , a company statement said. Mmtpa refers to Million Metric Tonne per Annum.

PTC has completed the transmission and GIS (geographic information system) consulting assignment for HPCL, it said.

To facilitate the new units, for a reliable grid power supply at 220kV level, HPCL intends to evacuate 220kV power supply from the nearest grid pooling substation at Kalapaka, Andhra Pradesh, it said.

PTC was involved in this project since conceptualization, carrying out the feasibility study, detailed engineering and estimation, package designing, bid process management and subsequently providing project management advisory services to HPCL.

PTC along with its consortium partner WAPCOS has jointly taken up project management consultant works. It is involved in supervision of survey works, detailed engineering, drawing review and approvals, inspection of equipment/material and issuing dispatch clearances, among others. ***PTI***

Rupee tanks 46 paise to close at record low of 78.83 against USD

Mumbai: The rupee plunged by 46 paise to close at record low of 78.83 (provisional) against the US dollar on Tuesday, weighed down by persistent foreign capital outflows and a surge in crude oil prices.

At the interbank foreign exchange market, the rupee opened lower at 78.53 against the greenback and finally settled at 78.83, down 46 paise over its previous close.

During the session, the rupee touched an all-time low of 78.85 against the American currency.

"The Indian rupee touched an all-time low against the US Dollar amid weak domestic equities and a surge in crude oil prices. Sustained selling by foreign investors also put downside pressure on Rupee," Anuj Choudhary - Research Analyst at Sharekhan by BNP Paribas said.

The rupee is expected to trade on a negative note on risk aversion in domestic markets and continued selling pressure from foreign institutional investors (FIIs). Elevated oil prices may also weigh on the domestic currency, Choudhary said.

Meanwhile, the dollar index, which gauges the greenback's strength against a basket of six currencies, was trading 0.01 per cent higher at 103.95.

Markets are reassessing their expectations of Fed rate hike. Traders may also take cues from the US consumer confidence data, which is expected to worsen from the previous month. ***PTI***

ONGC chopper crashes into Arabian Sea, 4 dead

New Delhi/Mumbai: A brand new Pawan Hans' Sikorsky chopper with 9 people on board crashed into the Arabian Sea, about 50 nautical miles from the Mumbai coast on Tuesday, killing four people -- including three ONGC employees.

The helicopter, was about 4-5 minutes away from its destination - ONGC's Sagar Kiran rig - when the incident took place, company officials with direct knowledge of the matter said.

The chopper went down around 1145 hrs, just 1 nautical mile away from Sagar Kiran, but managed to stay afloat with the help of the attached floaters, helping rescuers pull out all the nine, including two pilots, after ONGC and Navy/Coast Guard scrambled in one of the fastest rescue missions in the western offshore.

Four of the nine pulled out were unconscious and airlifted in a Navy chopper to a hospital in Mumbai, where they were declared dead, an official said.

Three of the dead are employees of Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC), the state-owned firm which had hired helicopter service from Pawan Hans to support its oil and gas exploration and production operations in the western offshore.

The fourth person belongs to a contractor working for ONGC.The circumstances that led to the incident were not immediately known but western offshore had inclement weather and there was a swell in the sea.

Officials said ONGC has already instituted an inquiry into the incident.

The Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) is also likely to order a separate inquiry. Detailing sequence, officials said the chopper took off from Juhu helibase this morning just like any other day but 1 or 1.5 km from the landing zone on the rig, it went down into the sea.

Rescue operation underway after an ONGC helicopter carrying nine persons, including two pilots, fell into the Arabian Sea off the Mumbai coast PTI

SRM IHM records 100% placement for its 2021- 22 batch

Kattankulathur: SRM Institute of Hotel Management (IHM) at SRM Institute of Science and Technology (SRMIST), Kattankulathur is proud to announce that the 2021-22 outgoing batch has been 100% placed.

IHM recently conducted the Cruise Lines Campus Recruitment Drive 2022 for the present and previous batches. Over 100 students took part in this exciting job offer. Of those place, one alumni Mr. Rathinavel Pandian (2020-21 batch) has received a job offer with the highest package of 845 US$ per month.

This was announced at a press meet organized at SRM Hotel. The meet was chaired by SRMIST's Vice Chancellor C. Muthamizhchelvan, Registrar S. Ponnusamy and IHM Director D. Antony Ashok Kumar.

Speaking at the press conference, Antony said, "This year we have done 100% placement along with the highest package offered. We not just prepare our students for hotels, they are simultaneously prepared for cruises and airlines among other things.

Addressing the media, C. Muthamizhchelvan said, "Students always look for Colleges that offer placements. This is our specialty. Good Health and wellbeing is one of the UNESCO's eight Sustainable Development Goals. And we at IHM promote this.

Students have been placed under various cadres like Junior Sous Chef, Sous Chef, CDP, Assistant CDP, Pastry Bakery Chefs, Galley Utility, Housekeeping, and Restaurant utility. This recruitment drive remained as a great source of job and experience provider to the candidates. ***PNS***

Swiatek wins 36th match in a row

AP ■ LONDON

From the red clay of the French Open to the green grass of Wimbledon, the wins keep coming for Iga Swiatek.

The top-seeded Pole won her opening match on Centre Court on Tuesday, beating Croatian qualifier Jana Fett 6-0, 6-3.

The victory was Swiatek's 36th in row and includes all seven matches she played at this year's French Open in winning her second title at Roland Garros. It's the longest winning streak on the women's tour since 1997, when Martina Hingis won 37.

"It's my first match on grass this season, so I knew it's going to be tricky," Swiatek said on court.

"I'm just figuring out how to play here and trying to implement all the stuff that we were practicing on."

Even with seven-time champion Serena Williams in the draw at the All England Club, Swiatek is the woman to beat. She won five tournaments before heading to Paris in May, earning consecutive titles in Doha, Indian Wells, Miami, Stuttgart and Rome.

Swiatek, again wearing a pin with the colors of Ukraine on her hat, started out like she left off in her last match at the French Open. But she went down 3-1 in the second set before recovering.

"The second set, at the beginning I lost my focus a little bit and she used that pretty well," Swiatek said.

Coco Gauff, who lost to Swiatek in this year's French Open final, also won her opening match. The 11th-seeded American beat Elena-Gabriela Ruse of Romania 2-6, 6-3, 7-5.

Gauff got the go-ahead break in the third set at 5-5 on her sixth break point of the game when Ruse double-faulted.

In her two previous appearances at the All England Club, Gauff reached the fourth round.

Barbora Krejcikova, who won the French Open in 2021 to split Swiatek's two titles there, also advanced to the second round. The 13th-seeded Czech defeated Maryna Zanevska of Belgium 7-6 (4), 6-3.

No. 4 Paula Badosa, No. 5 Maria Sakkari, No. 12 Jelena Ostapenko and No. 33 Shuai Zhang of China also advanced.

Among the seeded player to lose was Olympic champion Belinda Bencic. The 14th-seeded Swiss player lost to Qiang Wang of China 6-4, 5-7, 6-2.

No. 18 Jil Teichmann of Switzerland, No. 20 Amanda Anisimova of the United States and No. 27 Yulia Putintseva of Kazakhstan also lost.

In the men's draw, No. 18 Grigor Dimitrov of Bulgaria retired from his match with an apparent injury. He was leading Steve Johnson of the United States 6-4, 2-5 when he stopped.

No. 15 Reilly Opelka of the United States, No. 19 Alex De Minaur of Australia, No. 29 Jenson Brooksby of the United States, No. 31 Sebastian Baez of Argentina and unseeded Nick Kyrgios of Australia also won.

'THAT ONE'S FOR YOU'

Nick Kyrgios came out on top in a fiery Wimbledon five-setter on Tuesday and told rowdy critics in the crowd: "That one's for you — you know who you are."

The Australian defeated British wildcard Paul Jubb 3-6, 6-1, 7-5, 6-7 (3/7), 7-5 on the back of 30 aces and 67 winners.

Kyrgios was unhappy with some fans on a packed and raucous Court Three and demanded they be removed from the stadium even as early as the first set.

"There were a couple of people not shy of criticising me — that one's for you," said the 27-year-old, ranked 40th in the world. "You know who you are."

Kyrgios, who stunned Rafael Nadal on his way to the quarter-finals at the All England Club in 2014, arrived at the tournament after semi-final runs in grass-court events in Stuttgart and Halle.

However, he was out of sorts in the first set.

As well as his displeasure with a section of the crowd, he also called a line judge "a snitch with no fans".

"The crowd was pretty rowdy," said Kyrgios. "He was a local wildcard with nothing to lose. But it was a lot of fun."

Berrettini out due to Covid

AP ■ LONDON

Italy's Matteo Berrettini, the 2021 Wimbledon runner-up and a title favourite this year, pulled out of the tournament on Tuesday after testing positive for coronavirus.

"I am heartbroken to announce that I need to withdraw from @wimbledon due to a positive COVID-19 test result," the 26-year-old Italian wrote on Instagram.

Berrettini was widely regarded as one of the biggest threats to defending champion Novak Djokovic at the All England Club, having captured back-to-back grass-court titles in Stuttgart and Queen's.

He is the second man to withdraw from Wimbledon with Covid in two days after 2017 runner-up Marin Cilic of Croatia also tested positive.

"I have had flu symptoms and been isolating the last few days," Berrettini said in his statement.

"Despite symptoms not being severe, I decided it was important to take another test this morning to protect the health and safety of my fellow competitors and everyone else involved in the tournament.

"I have no words to describe the extreme disappointment I feel. The dream is over for this year, but I will be back stronger."

Berrettini was a potential semi-final opponent of two-time champion Rafael Nadal.

Instead his place in the Wimbledon first round will be taken by Sweden's Elias Ymer, a lucky loser from qualifying.

Mumbai Indians organise 3-week UK exposure trip for Indian domestic players

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

After a disastrous IPL-15 campaign, the Mumbai Indians are all set to start their preparations in earnest for the next edition, with a three-week exposure tour of England in July for their uncapped Indian players.

Apart from enjoying training at various state-of-the-art facilities, the Indian youngsters of MI will be playing at least 10 T20 games against top club sides across multiple counties.

"NT Tilak Varma, Kumar Kartikeya, Ramandeep Singh, Hrithik Shokeen are some of the players who will get exposure playing against top T20 club sides in trying conditions.

"Arjun Tendulkar, who is also in UK and South African younngster Dewald Brevis are also likely to join the touring party," an IPL insider privy to the development said.

The MI support staff headed by chief coach Mahela Jayawardene will be in England to oversee the progress of the Indian players.

"Look, the Indian domestic season has come to an end. While the top players like skipper Rohit Sharma, premier pacer Jasprit Bumrah will be now on the road with the national team, our international stars will also be busy with their respective commitments," the source indicated.

"The ones who need to be monitored are our younger crop of players as they won't be having any match practice for three and half months before the next domestic season starts.

"So effectively, we can't call it a pre-season trip as IPL is still nine months away. But it is trying to monitor the progress of our core group of youngsters going forward," he added.

For this trip though, MI doesn't need any BCCI permission unless the team is playing exhibition games against other franchises or overseas T20 sides.

"This trip isn't a commercial one where there will be tickets sold or the match will be broadcast on a particular channel or streamed on some app. Since the trip isn't a revenue generator, we don't need to apply for any permission from BCCI," he informed.

"We are only taking those players to UK who are not associated with any national team activities or have been summoned for any of the BCCI conducted camps or playing in any league (like TNPL)."

Prannoy advances as Sameer, Praneeth exit Malaysia Open

PTI ■ KUALA LUMPUR

India's HS Prannoy faced stiff resistance before prevailing against local hero Daren Liew as the Indian shuttler progressed to the men's singles second round of the Malaysia Open, here on Tuesday.

A former top-10 player, Prannoy, who had reached the semifinals of Indonesia Open Super 1000 earlier this month, emerged a 21-14, 17-21, 21-18 winner in 62 minutes.

The 29-year-old from Kerala, ranked 21st currently, will face fourth seeded Chou Tien Chen of Chinese Taipei next at the Super 750 badminton tournament.

Prannoy's win brought some cheers to the Indian camp after B Sai Praneeth and Sameer Verma made early exits.

While Praneeth went down to world number six Anthony Sinisuka Ginting of Indonesia, Sameer lost to world number 8 Jonatan Christie, also from Indonesia.

The 30-year-old Praneeth, currently ranked world number 19, lost 15-21, 21-19, 9-21 to Ginting in a 50-minute men's single match.

This was eight meeting between the two players with the Indonesian now leading the head-to-head record 5-3. They last played at the 2020 Asian Team championships where Ginting won the contest after Praneeth retired due to an injury.

Sameer, who is making a comeback from injury, fought for 49 minutes before losing 14-21, 21-13, 7-21 in another match.

In doubles, women's pairing of Ashwini Ponnappa and N Sikki Reddy also bowed out of the tournament after losing 15-21, 11-21 to Japanese duo of Nami Matsuyama and Chiharu Shida, seeded sixth.

Prannoy was slow off the mark but opened up a healthy 11-7 lead at the break. His strokes penetrated the defence of his opponent, who looked little passive as Prannoy was rewarded for his alertness and better control in the rallies.

The Indian kept putting the shuttles on the right areas and with Liew making some uncharacteristic errors meant Prannoy's lead was not threatened.

In the end, it was another return at the baseline which gave Prannoy the bragging rights.

After the change of sides, Liew took a 7-4 advantage with Prannoy going to the nets repeatedly. The Indian soon turned the tide with his smashes on his rival's forehand.

After the break, Prannoy tried to play at a good pace but a series of unforced errors, mainly at the net, handed four game points to Liew and he sealed it with a smash.

In the decider, Prannoy moved up 6-3 but Liew again clawed his way back with three points, including an excruciating rally which left Prannoy flat on the ground.

The duo played with electrifying pace and Prannoy managed to eke out a three point cushion at the interval.

The second half of the decider was a roller-coaster ride as Liew kept breathing down Prannoy's neck but the Indian ensured he had the last laugh, sealing the contest with another powerful smash which Liew sent wide.

Olympic medallist hockey player Varinder Singh dies

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Olympic and World Cup medallist Varinder Singh, who was an integral part of some of India's memorable victories in the 1970s, died in Jalandhar on Tuesday morning.

He was 75.

Singh was part of the Gold-medal winning Indian team at the 1975 men's Hockey World Cup in Kuala Lumpur. This remains India's only Gold medal at the prestigious tournament where the country had beaten arch-rivals Pakistan 2-1 in the final.

Singh was also part of the Bronze medal-winning team at the 1972 Munich Olympics and Silver medal at 1973 World Cup in Amsterdam.

He also had to his credit a Silver medal at the 1974 and 1978 Asian Games, respectively. The Indian hockey stalwart also featured in the 1976 Montreal Olympics.

LAFC confirms 12-month Bale deal

AP ■ LOS ANGELES

Wales captain Gareth Bale has signed a 12-month contract with Los Angeles FC that features options through 2024, the Major League Soccer squad announced on Monday.

Bale confirmed his plans on social media over the weekend after his departure from Spanish giants Real Madrid.

"I am extremely excited for this move to LAFC," Bale said.

"This is the right place for me and my family and the right time in my career and I cannot wait to get started working with the team and getting ready to win more trophies in Los Angeles."

The 32-year-old forward, a five-time UEFA Champions League winner, spent nine years with Real Madrid.

"Gareth is one of the most dynamic and exciting players of his generation," LAFC co-president and general manager John Thorrington said. "Adding a player who brings his talent and experience at the highest levels is an incredible opportunity to improve our club.

"It's clear that Gareth is highly motivated to continue to win trophies and we are elated that he has made the choice to join LAFC and help lead us in our ultimate goal of winning championships."

Bale has made 105 appearances for Wales since 2006, scoring 28 goals and contributing 22 assists. He sparked Wales into this year's Qatar World Cup, their first appearance in 64 years.

The Cardiff native made his professional debut at age 16 in 2006 for Southampton in the English Championship before joining Premier League side Tottenham Hotspur in 2007, scoring 42 goals in 146 appearances through 2013, when he joined Real Madrid.

With the La Liga club, Bale scored 106 goals and assisted on 67 others in 258 appearances as Real Madrid made a stunning trophy haul, collecting hardware 19 times.

Bale is expected to attend an LAFC home match on Wednesday against Dallas and a likely debut match would be the Black and Gold's July 8 home game against the Los Angeles Galaxy in the local derby.

Fernandinho returns to Brazil with Athletico Paranaense

AP ■ SAO PAULO

Former Manchester City captain Fernandinho has returned to his first club and signed for Athletico Paranaense, the Brazilian club said on Monday.

The 37-year-old midfielder, who left City at the end of last season following a trophy-laden nine-year stint in England, signed a two-and-a-half year contract.

"It is with great satisfaction that I return home... Knowing that I can apply a little bit of everything I achieved in these years playing in Europe," said Fernandinho in a press conference to unveil his arrival in the southern city of Curitiba.

Born in Parana state, whose capital is Curitiba, Fernandinho began his career at Athletico as a teenager in 2002 before moving to Ukraine to join Shakhtar Donetsk in 2005.

After eight years in Donetsk that saw him win six Ukrainian league titles, four Ukrainian cups and the UEFA Cup, the precursor to the Europa League, in 2009, Fernandinho caught the eye of City scouts.

By then he was already a Brazil international and would go on to win more than 50 caps, helping the Selecao lift the 2019 Copa America and playing in two World Cups.

At City he won five Premier League titles, the FA Cup, six League Cups and played in the 2021 Champions League final.

Was extremely keen to go up against Tentoglou in Diamond League, says M Sreeshankar

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

India's premier long jumper M Sreeshankar on Tuesday rued his withdrawal from the upcoming Diamond League owing to visa-related issues, saying he was "extremely keen" to go up against Olympic champion Miltiadis Tentoglou in Stockholm.

Sreeshankar was forced to pull out of the prestigious tournament, starting June 30 in Sweden, as his passport was held up at the US Embassy in New Delhi for visa processing for next month's World Championship at Oregon.

The national record holder has said that while participation in the Diamond League would have allowed him to fine-tune his preparations for the World Championships, not being there wouldn't necessarily affect him, since the Worlds is his first priority. "Unfortunately, the visa situation meant that I had to withdraw from the upcoming Diamond League in Stockholm. I was extremely keen on taking part in that event, especially against the current Olympic champion Miltiadis Tentoglou," Sreeshankar said.

Interestingly, both Sreeshankar and Tentoglou achieved a jump of 8.36m this year.

"Participation in the Diamond League would have definitely placed me in a better position before the World Championships in July. That said, on the flip side, I am now going to get more time for preparing myself for the World Championships which has always been my first priority and also the Commonwealth Games," he added.

The 23-year-old Kerala athlete had won a Gold medal earlier this month with a sensational jump of 7.95m at Venizeleia-Chania 2022 Athletics Meet in Greece. He said that the focus right now is to better his personal record and give his absolute best at the World Championship.

"Despite the fact that I had to withdraw from the Diamond League, I have been working hard and I am extremely confident of bettering my own personal record at the World Championship. The event will have several high-profile athletes but I am ready to give my best," Sreeshankar said.

The 18th edition of the World Championship is scheduled to be held from July 15-24.

STOKES' ENG SET SIGHTS ON INDIA

AP ■ LEEDS

England captain Ben Stokes has insisted there will be no let-up from his side when they face India just days after whitewashing Test world champions New Zealand.

A first series under the new leadership duo of Stokes and red-ball head coach Brendon McCullum, a former New Zealand captain, ended with an emphatic seven-wicket win in Leeds on Monday that sealed a 3-0 triumph over the Black Caps.

For the third time in as many matches, England made light of a potentially tricky run chase, with Jonny Bairstow ending a pursuit of 296 by smashing a six on his Headingley home ground.

England, however, have just a few days to savour their success before facing India at Edgbaston in a match starting Friday.

The fifth Test was rescheduled after the fixture was postponed last September following a Covid outbreak in the India camp.

India are currently 2-1 up in a five-match series following a 157-run win at the Oval but are now set to face a revitalised England side likely to feature only four survivors at most from that match — Ollie Pope, Joe Root, Bairstow and James Anderson — later this week.

"Regardless of the opposition, we're still going to have the same mindset," Stokes told reporters after stumps in Leeds on Monday.

The dynamic all-rounder, on a mental health break from cricket at the time of the fourth Test against India, added: "Obviously, it's going to be a completely different... different opposition, with their attack and players as well.

"We'll be concentrating on what we've done well over these last three games and look to continue that against India on Friday."

England had won just once in 17 Tests prior to the New Zealand series, albeit many of those matches were played under mentally-draining coronavirus restrictions that no longer apply.

'NEW MENTALITY'

But the shackles have been lifted in an exhilarating start to life under McCullum, one of the most attacking players of his generation.

"I knew that everyone would buy into the new mentality me and Brendon set out, but I didn't think it would go this well to be honest," said kindred spirit Stokes.

In the space of just over a week, Bairstow struck two remarkable Test hundreds, his 136 in a run chase at Trent Bridge was followed by an astounding 162 which rescued England from the depths of 55-6 in the first innings at Headingley.

Monday witnessed more blazing hitting from Bairstow, who struck England's second-quickest Test fifty of all time, off just 30 balls, on his way to an unbeaten 71.

Former England captain Joe Root played second fiddle while making 86 not out as he shared an unbroken stand of 111 with his Yorkshire teammate.

Root was named England's player of the series after scoring 396 runs at an average of 99, in a continuation of the form that has taken him top of the Test batting rankings.

McCullum, however, has had a more immediate impact upon Bairstow.

"I've never heard a bloke get 130-odd off 90 balls like he did at Trent Bridge and then ask his head coach how to go out and play," said Stokes.

"Baz McCullum basically just said, 'Go and get your Sudoku book, sit next to me and shut up. Whatever you did last week, go out and do it again.'

"With Jonny, it's just about making sure he knows what he's in the team to do."

New Zealand arrived in England with questions over how they would replace the retiring Ross Taylor and BJ Watling only for their effective replacements — Daryl Mitchell and Tom Blundell — to share four century partnerships.

But omitting frontline spinner Ajaz Patel — who in December became only the third bowler in Test history to take all 10 wickets in an innings, against India in his birthplace of Mumbai — for the last two matches of this series proved costly, with off-break bowler Michael Bracewell thrashed for 109 runs in 15.2 overs during England's run-chase at Headingley.

"We opted for the balance of the side to go with three seamers," said New Zealand captain Kane Williamson. "We were curious to whether it would turn but it's just one of those things."

India to tour NZ for limted overs series after T20 WC

PTI ■ WELLINGTON

India will be touring New Zealand for a white-ball series comprising three T20Is and as many ODIs after the World T20 in Australia, New Zealand Cricket (NZC) said on Tuesday.

The series will be held between November 18 to 30 and New Zealand will return to India for a white-ball series in January next year.

"India will arrive in New Zealand at the conclusion of the world cup to play the Black Caps in three T20s at Wellington, Tauranga and Napier, and three ODIs at Auckland, Hamilton and Christchurch," NZC said in a release.

"The Black Caps will then depart for the sub-continent for a tour of Pakistan and a short form series in India, before returning in early February to prepare for the two Tests against England — at Tauranga (D/N) and Wellington."

India will be playing a rescheduled one-off fifth Test against England beginning on Friday, besides featuring in three T20Is and as many ODIs at the Old Blighty.

India will then tour the West Indies for a white-ball series comprising three ODIs and five T20Is in July-August in the run-up to the T20 World Cup.

In a jam-packed international schedule, New Zealand will also play a day-night Test against England, while six teams will be touring the country in the 2022-23 home summer.

Besides India, the other touring teams include Pakistan, Bangladesh, England and Sri Lanka men's teams, and Bangladesh women.

FIXTURES

DATE	GAME	VENUE
November 18	1st T20	Sky Stadium, Wellington
November 20	2nd T20	Bay Oval, Mount Maunganui
November 22	3rd T20	McLean Park, Napier
November 25	1st ODI	Eden Park, Auckland
November 27	2nd ODI	Seddon Park, Hamilton
November 30	3rd ODI	Hagley Oval, Christchurch.

Radha Yadav moves up in Women's T20 rankings

PTI ■ DUBAI

On the back of her splendid performance in the just-concluded T20 series against Sri Lanka, India's left-arm spinner Radha Yadav has moved up to the 13th spot in the ICC Women's T20 players rankings.

As per the latest rankings released by the ICC, Yadav has progressed seven places to the 13th among bowlers after bagging four wickets in the series against Sri Lanka, which India won 2-1.

In batting chart, Sri Lanka captain Chamari Athapaththu has moved up one place to a career-best seventh position after aggregating 139 runs in three matches. She had struck a match-winning 80 not out in the final T20I in Dambulla.

Athapaththu has also gained two slots to reach seventh in the all-rounders' list.

Indian batters Smriti Mandhana (fourth), Jemimah Rodrigues (14th) and captain Harmanpreet Kaur (18th) have retained their places in the batting list.

The other Indian bowlers who have advanced in rankings are Pooja Vastrakar, who has moved up 30 places to the 32nd spot, and Renuka Thakur, who has jumped 83 places to reach the 97th spot.

Vastrakar clinched only two wickets in the T20 series, while she also scored 27 runs. Thakur was also able to clinch only two wickets in the three-match T20 series.

Meanwhile, Sri Lanka's Anushka Sanjeewani has moved up four places to 60th among batters.

Sri Lanka spinners Oshadi Ranasinghe (up 11 places to 26th), Sugandika Kumari (up nine places to 40th) and Inoka Ranaweera (up16 places to 47th) have also improved their rankings.

Hooda's 105 takes India to 227-7

PTI ■ MALAHIDE

Deepak Hooda produced a master-class knock, becoming only the fourth Indian to hit a T20 International century, as the visiting side posted a mammoth 227 for 7 against Ireland in the second and final match here on Tuesday.

During his maiden T20I ton (104 off 57 balls), Hooda showed he belonged to the big stage with his scintillating stroke play, both off the front and back-foot.

While Hooda was elegant and at ease on the frontfoot, he was equally good on the back-foot, dispatching the ball over the midwicket boundary for a few sixes.

Hooda decorated his knock with nine fours and six hits over the fence.

He was ably supported by Sanju Samson, who, opening the batting in place of injured Ruturaj Gaikwad, played second fiddle but grabbed his opportunity with both hands.

Samson made 77 off 42 balls with the help of nine boundaries and four sixes.

Both Hooda and Samson's strokeplay down the ground were a treat for the eyes.

But India did not have the best of starts as they lost Ishan Kishan (3) early. The left-handed opener once again wasted an opportunity, nicking a Mark Adair delivery to Lorcan Tucker behind the stumps in the third over.

Hooda and Samson joined hands and the duo batted effortlessly, albeit handing two difficult chances, to share 176 runs off just 85 balls to lay the foundation for India's huge total.

It was a one-way traffic after Kishan's dimissal as Hooda and Samson toyed with the Irish bowlers and did not let them settle down.

Except for a difficult chance which Paul Stirling dropped at extra off in the eight over, Hooda played a perfect knock.

Samson too was handed a life in the ninth over when leg-spinner Gareth Delany dropped a difficult caught-and-bowled chance.

Samson too played some delightful strokes, particularly off the backfoot during his hallf-century knock. He, however, was cleaned up by Adair in the 17th over.

Hooda brought up his maiden T20I century off 55 balls with a single to join the likes of Rohit Sharma, KL Rahul and Suresh Raina in the elite club of only four Indian centurions in the format.

Once Hooda departed at the team score of 212, Surya Kumar Yadav (15) and skipper Hardik Pandya (15) tried to accelerate the scoring but failed as India lost three wickets for the addition of just 14 runs in the last two overs.

कार्यालय कलेक्टर, जिला इन्दौर (म.प्र.)

क्रमांक/509/अ.क.री./का.से./2021 — इन्दौर, दिनांक 11.01.2022

:: विज्ञप्ति ::

मध्यप्रदेश पंचायत राज एवं ग्राम स्वराज अधिनियम 1993 (क्रमांक 1 सन् 1994) और उसके अधीन बनाए गए मध्यप्रदेश ग्राम पंचायत (कालोनियों का विकास) नियम 2014 के अधीन एतद द्वारा ग्राम-नैनोद तहसील-मल्हारगंज जिला-इन्दौर में कालोनी विकसित करने की अनुज्ञा दी जाती है :-

अ क्र	कालोनाईजर का नाम व पता	स्थान जहां के लिये विकास अनुमति जारी की गई है।	धरोहर के रूप में बंधक रखे गये भूखण्डों को विवरण
1	2	3	4
1	**आवेदक मेसर्स स्वप्न इन्फ्रा डेवलपर्स तर्फे डायरेक्टर राजेश शर्मा पिता श्री रमेशचन्द्र शर्मा पता- 510, महात्मा गांधी मार्ग टोरी कार्नर, इन्दौर कॉलोनी का नाम "स्वप्न विहार कॉलोनी"**	ग्राम-नैनोद तहसील-मल्हारगंज जिला-इन्दौर, स्थित सर्वे नंबर 295/2/1 रकबा 2.163 हे., सर्वे नंबर 295/2/2 रकबा 0.046 हे., सर्वे नंबर 295/2/3 रकबा 0.046 हे., सर्वे नंबर 295/2/4 रकबा 0.046 हे., सर्वे नंबर 295/2/5 रकबा 0.046 हे., सर्वे नंबर 295/2/6 रकबा 0.046 हे., सर्वे नंबर 295/2/7 रकबा 0.046 हे., सर्वे नंबर 295/2/8 रकबा 0.046 हे., सर्वे नंबर 295/2/9 रकबा 0.046 हे., सर्वे नंबर 295/2/10 रकबा 0.046 हे., सर्वे नंबर 295/2/11 कुल रकबा 2.577 हे. भूमि पर भूमि पर।	भूखण्ड क्रं. 25 से 47 तक (23 भूखण्ड), एस-48 से एस-55 तक (8 भूखण्ड), 56 से 62 तक (7 भूखण्ड) इस प्रकार कुल 38 भूखण्ड जिनका कुल क्षेत्रफल 3356.22 वर्गमीटर बंधकनामा क्रमांक एमपी179152021ए1407179 **इंदौर दिनांक 07.06.2022**

उपरोक्त कालम नम्बर-4 में उल्लेखित 38 भूखण्ड इस कार्यालय में धरोहर के रूप में धरोहर के रूप में बंधक रखे गये है अत: सर्व साधारण को सूचित किया जाता है कि उपरोक्त भूखण्डों का क्रय, विक्रय आगामी आदेश तक नही किया जावेगा।

(कलेक्टर महोदय द्वारा अनुमोदित।)

प्रभारी अधिकारी,
कालोनी सेल इन्दौर

WEST INDIES WIN BY 10 WICKETS, SEAL SERIES 2-0

AP ■ GROS ISLET

West Indies beat Bangladesh by 10 wickets in the second Test and took a one-sided series 2-0 at Daren Sammy Stadium.

Both Tests were won well inside four days.

A wet field washed out the first two sessions on Monday, but when Bangladesh resumed on 132-6, needing 42 more runs to make West Indies bat again, play lasted less than 12 overs.

Bangladesh's second innings extended nine more overs and 54 more runs before it was all over on 186. Nurul Hasan was stranded on 60 not out from 50 balls.

Needing 13 runs to win, West Indies openers John Campbell and captain Kraigg Brathwaite took 17 balls.

Bangladesh's 100th Test loss came after it scored 234 and 186 and West Indies 408 and 13 not out.

When the day's play got underway, Mehidy Hasan Miraz got off with a mark with a boundary then was out next ball trying to block an Alzarri Joseph bouncer and edging behind.

Bangladesh's 100th Test loss came after it scored 234 and 186 and West Indies 408 and 13 not out

Jayden Seales bagged in the one over Ebadot Hossain and Shoriful Islam for ducks.

Seales, Joseph and Kemar Roach each took three wickets.

Khaled Ahmed was run out for a duck from the non-striker's end when Nurul wasn't looking for a run.

Nurul resumed from 16 overnight and blasted two sixes and five boundaries for his third Test fifty — all against West Indies — and four runs short of his career best.

They start three T20Is and three ODIs from Saturday.

कार्यालय कलेक्टर, जिला इन्दौर (म.प्र.)

क्रमांक/425/अ.क.री./का.से./2021 — इन्दौर, दिनांक 09.12.2021

:: विज्ञप्ति ::

मध्यप्रदेश पंचायत राज एवं ग्राम स्वराज अधिनियम 1993 (क्रमांक 1 सन् 1994) और उसके अधीन बनाए गए मध्यप्रदेश ग्राम पंचायत (कालोनियों का विकास) नियम 2014 के अधीन एतद द्वारा ग्राम-हरसौला तहसील-डॉ. अम्बेडकर नगर (महू) जिला-इन्दौर में कालोनी विकसित करने की अनुज्ञा दी जाती है :-

अ क्र	कालोनाईजर का नाम व पता	स्थान जहां के लिये विकास अनुमति जारी की गई है।	धरोहर के रूप में बंधक रखे गये भूखण्डों को विवरण
1	2	3	4
1	**मेसर्स वसुन्धरा डेवलपर्स तर्फे पार्टनर श्रीमती खुशबू शर्मा पति श्री कपिल शर्मा पता- 92, सच्चिदानन्द नगर अन्नपूर्णा रोड, इन्दौर कॉलोनी का नाम "ओम आंगन"**	ग्राम-हरसौला तहसील-डॉ. अम्बेडकर नगर (महू) जिला-इन्दौर, स्थित भूमि खसरा नंबर 1557/1 रकबा 0.330 हे., खसरा नंबर 1558/1 रकबा 0.060 हे., खसरा नंबर 1562/5 रकबा 0.059 हे., खसरा नंबर 1563/4 पैकी रकबा 0.079 हे., खसरा नंबर 1556/1/6 रकबा 0.180 हे., खसरा नंबर 1556/1/1/भिन-1 रकबा 0.445 हे., खसरा नंबर 1555/1/ रकबा रकबा 0.190 हे., खसरा नंबर 1556/1/2/भिन-1 रकबा 0.446 हे., खसरा नंबर 1562/1 रकबा 0.446 हे., खसरा नंबर 1556/1/3 रकबा 0.400 हे., खसरा नंबर 1556/1/4 रकबा 0.446 हे., खसरा नंबर 1562/3 रकबा 0.082 हे., खसरा नंबर 1556/1/5 रकबा 0.400 हे., खसरा नंबर 1562/4 रकबा 0.612 हे कुल रकबा 4.959 हे. में से पैकि रकबा 4.581 हे. भूमि पर।	भूखण्ड क्रं. 31 से 89 तक, 261 से 308 तक इस प्रकार कुल 107 भूखण्ड जिनका कुल क्षेत्रफल 6760 वर्गमीटर बंधकनामा क्रमांक एमपी179092021ए1714669 **इंदौर दिनांक 23.08.2021**

उपरोक्त कालम नम्बर-4 में उल्लेखित 38 भूखण्ड इस कार्यालय में धरोहर के रूप में धरोहर के रूप में बंधक रखे गये है अत: सर्व साधारण को सूचित किया जाता है कि उपरोक्त भूखण्डों का क्रय, विक्रय आगामी आदेश तक नही किया जावेगा।

(कलेक्टर महोदय द्वारा अनुमोदित।)

प्रभारी अधिकारी,
कालोनी सेल इन्दौर