

OPINION 6
OIC REMAINS JUST
A RELIC OF THE PAST**WORLD 8**
BIDEN TALKS GUN CONTROL,
EXTREMISM WITH NZ'S PM**MONEY 10**
AUTOMAKERS REPORT ROBUST
DOMESTIC DISPATCHES IN MAY

NEW DELHI, THURSDAY JUNE 2, 2022; PAGES 12 ₹3

the pioneer

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11 SPORT

ED summons Sonia, Rahul in Herald money laundering case

Cong chief asked to appear before agency on June 8, Rahul on June 2

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Enforcement Directorate (ED) on Wednesday summoned Congress president Sonia Gandhi and her Parliamentarian son Rahul Gandhi for questioning in a money laundering case linked to the National Herald newspaper. While Rahul has been asked to appear on Thursday (June 2), his mother Sonia, 75, has been summoned to appear before the ED headquarters here on June 8.

Congress leader Abhishek Manu Singhvi told at a press conference that Sonia will comply with the summons.

Rahul, 51, has written to the anti-money laundering probe agency to postpone the date to post-June 5 as he is not in the country, Singhvi and another Congress leader Randeep Surjewala told reporters. "The Modi Government should know that by registering such fake and fabricated cases, they cannot succeed in their cowardly conspiracy," Singhvi said.

The case to probe alleged financial irregularities in the party-promoted Young Indian that owns the National Herald newspaper was registered

recently.

The agency, officials said, wants to record the statements of Sonia and Rahul under the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA). The National Herald is published by Associated Journals Limited (AJL) and owned by Young Indian Pvt Ltd.

The agency recently questioned senior Congress leaders Mallikarjun Kharge and Pawan Bansal as part of the money laundering investigation in this case. The questioning of the senior Congress leaders and the Gandhis is aimed at understanding the shareholding pattern, financial transactions and role of the promoters of Young Indian and AJL, officials said.

The agency registered a fresh case under PMLA after a trial court here took cognisance of an Income Tax Department probe against Young Indian Pvt Ltd on the basis of a private criminal complaint filed by BJP MP Subramanian Swamy in 2013.

Sonia and Rahul are among the key promoters and shareholders of Young Indian.

After the ED examined Kharge last month, Congress' whip in Lok Sabha Manickam Tagore accused the Centre of "harassing" him.

BJP MP Swamy had accused Sonia, Rahul and others of conspiring to cheat and misappropriate funds with Young Indian Pvt Ltd paying only ₹50 lakh to obtain the right to recover ₹90.25 crore that AJL owed to the Congress.

Continued on Page 2

Congress president Sonia Gandhi receives sand and water of various States from 'padyatris' during the concluding programme of the party's Azadi Gaurav Yatra, at Rajghat in New Delhi, on Wednesday

Ranjan Dimri | Pioneer

Won't be cowed by such vendetta: Cong

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

The Congress on Wednesday said it is not afraid of any summons by the Enforcement Directorate (ED) to its leaders in the National Herald case and will not be cowed down by any such "vendetta" by the BJP Government.

"The Modi Government should know that by registering such fake and fabricated

cases, they cannot succeed in their cowardly conspiracy," Congress leaders Abhishek Manu Singhvi briefed the media at the AICC Press conference.

"Neither will the ED be able to stop the National Herald, the voice of the freedom movement, nor will it be able to scare Sonia Gandhi and Rahul Gandhi. The Congress leadership is fearless and ready to present itself before the

probe agency. We will not be afraid of such tactics, we will not bow down, but we will fight hard legally, socially, and politically," Singhvi added.

Party chief spokesman Randeep Surjewala said under the leadership of Sonia and Rahul the entire party and its workers would stand shoulder to shoulder with them, and "we will fight and win this attack on the country's democracy".

Continued on Page 2

Decks cleared for caste census in Bihar after all-party consensus

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ PATNA

Decks were cleared on Wednesday for conducting caste census in Bihar after an all-party meeting unanimously approved the proposal. Since the Centre has ruled out any nationwide caste census, the Bihar Government will have to fund it from its own coffers.

Bihar will be the first State to carry out such an exercise. States like Karnataka, Odisha, and Telangana have also conducted similar exercises but in the name of a "socio-economic survey". The BJP, which at the national level does not endorse caste census, also backed the move after Chief Minister Nitish Kumar and RJD leader Tejashwai Yadav came together



on the issue and isolated the saffron party.

"All nine parties unanimously decided to go ahead with caste census. We would soon get it approved by the Cabinet and also allocate funds for the purpose. We would duly advertise the process and set a deadline to complete the process," Nitish Kumar said after the meeting.

"Since the Centre has made it clear that nationwide caste census could not be done, we decided to go with State census. There is complete unanimity on it," he said. Last year a delegation of political parties from Bihar met with Prime Minister Narendra Modi with the request of conducting a nationwide caste census.

Nitish said the proposal will now be placed before the State Cabinet and the census will be completed in a time-bound manner. While the Modi Government is opposed to the nationwide caste survey, the UPA II carried out this exercise but due to some inaccuracies, the Government did not release the data.

Continued on Page 2

Prime Minister Narendra Modi with Women's World Boxing Championships 2022 gold medalist boxer Nikhat Zareen and bronze medalist boxers Manisha Moun and Parveen Hooda in New Delhi on Wednesday

PTI

KK autopsy scotches murder suspicion

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ KOLKATA

The preliminary autopsy reports of Bollywood singer Krishnakumar Kunnath (53), popularly known as KK, on Wednesday ruled out any "unnatural cause" behind his death. It suspected some underlying heart conditions that might have triggered the "attack" soon after he came out of a Kolkata music concert on Tuesday evening.

This, while the local medical fraternity expressed strong views about the "gas chamber-like" environment provided to the Mumbai star inside the Nazrul Manch. They also said vital hours were lost in the process of driving KK to his



hotel instead of a top-class medical facility just a stone's throw from the concert venue.

According to sources in the Government-run SSKM hospital, while there was no unnatural cause in his death, the main autopsy report would be made available after three days during which some chemical tests will be conducted by experts.

Continued on Page 2

Har Ghar Dastak 2.0 to boost Covid vax reach

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

The two-month-long second leg of the "Har Ghar Dastak" campaign 2.0 began on Wednesday in a mission mode to boost the country's vaccination rate.

The campaign started last year and is aimed to conduct door-to-door vaccination programmes in order to reach all of the eligible demographic groups for the first, second and precautionary doses. The States have been advised to ensure that there is no wastage of Covid vaccines at any cost.

The objective of the "Har Ghar Dastak 2.0" campaign is to vaccinate and saturate the eligible population groups for first, second and precaution doses through door-to-door campaigns, with focussed campaigns for old age homes, schools and colleges, including the out-of-school children (for

focussed coverage of children aged 12-18 years population), prisons, brick kilns, etc.

Union Health Secretary Rajesh Bhushan recently communicated to all States and UTs in a video conference on May 20 regarding the considerably slow pace of Covid-19 vaccination and urged to expedite the pace towards full vaccination coverage by saturating all eligible beneficiaries.

Efforts will also be made to improve the precaution dose's sub-optimal coverage of people



greater than or equal to 60 years old, as well as the significantly slower rate of coverage in the 12-to-14-year-old cohort, through targeted campaigns in nursing homes, schools, colleges, and other institutions.

Pointing out that the supply of vaccine doses has been made to States and Union Territories according to their demand since December 2021, the States have been advised to first use the unused doses.

"HarGharDastak" vaccina-

tion campaign was inspired by the successful strategy of Mission Indradhanush, which included mobilisation, awareness, and vaccination activities to reach all the missed and dropped out eligible beneficiaries of the first and second dose through House-to-House visits from November 3, 2021, onwards.

The programme's effectiveness was greatly aided by the effort, which reached out to the last-mile recipients, including the elderly, the disabled, and even those who were unwilling to get vaccinated.

The Government said that its vaccination campaign has achieved an unprecedented level of success because of its meticulous planning and aggressive efforts.

193.57 crore doses have been given around the country thus far. All adults over the age of 15 have gotten at least one dose of the vaccination.

GST revenues up 44% at ₹1.41L cr in May

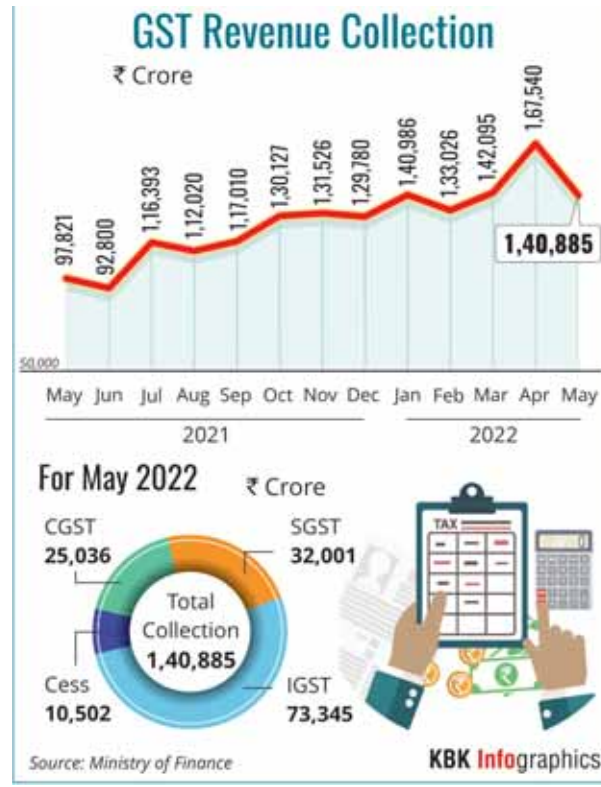
PTI ■ NEW DELHI

GST revenues bucked the two-month rising trend in May and stood at nearly ₹1.41 lakh crore, registering a year-on-year increase of 44 per cent. Although the May Goods and Services Tax (GST) revenues came in lower than the record high collection in April at ₹1.68 lakh crore and ₹1.42 lakh crore in March, it is still the fourth highest collection since the rollout of the new tax regime on July 1, 2017.

In February, revenues from taxing sale of goods and services was at ₹1.33 lakh crore, while in January it was ₹1,40,986 crore.

"The gross GST revenue collected in the month of May 2022 is ₹1,40,885 crore of which CGST is ₹25,036 crore, SGST is ₹32,001 crore, IGST is ₹37,345 crore (including ₹73,469 crore collected on import of goods) and cess is ₹10,502 crore (including ₹931 crore collected on import of goods)," the Finance Ministry said in a statement.

The revenues for the month of May 2022 are 44 per



cent higher than the GST revenues in the same month last

year at ₹97,821 crore.

This is the fourth time

The total number of e-way bills generated in the month of April 2022 was 7.4 crore, which is 4 per cent less than 7.7 crore e-way bills generated in the month of March 2022.

Deloitte India Partner MS Mani said the stability demonstrated by GST collections exceeding ₹1.4 lakh crore over the past three months is a good indicator of the growth of the economy and ties in with the other macroeconomic indicators including the GDP.

Continued on Page 2

Delhi Police busts kidney buy/sale racket, arrests 10

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

With the arrest of 10 people, the sleuths of Delhi Police on Wednesday busted an illegal 'kidney sale and purchase' racket operating in South Delhi's Hauz Khas area. Police said that the gang used to target the poor and needy people after promising to pay them huge sums of money.

Police said that after a medical test from a lab in Hauz Khas area, without any prescription, the gang members used to take the victims to a facility in Gohana, Haryana for kidney transplant.

The accused has been identified as Sarvjeet Jaiwal, Shailesh Patel, Mohammad Latif, Bikas alias Vikas, Ranjit Gupta, Dr Sonu Rohilla

(Quack), Dr Sourabh Mittal, Kuldeep Ray Vishvakarama, Om Prakash Sharma and M a n o j Tiwari.

According to Benita Mary Jaiker, the Deputy Commissioner of Police (DCP), South district, on May 26, specific inputs were received regarding an illegal kidney transplantation racket operating in the Hauz Khas area.

“Inputs further revealed that the gang sold it to the persons who are in need of a kidney at a very high price. Police located a victim who was being taken by the racket members in a lab for Pre Anaesthesia Check-up (Medical Tests) in Hauz Khas area,” said the DCP.

“The victim, Pintu Kumar

Yadav told police that he was taken to the lab by two men, Sarvjeet and Vipin, for treatment but instead they took him there for kidney donation. He had arguments with them and they went away from there,” said the DCP.

On Yadav's instance, the police team arrested Sarvjeet Jaiwal where one more victim, Raghu Sharma told police that his kidney had already been taken by Sarvjeet and the other gang members.

Another gang member Shailesh Patel was arrested. Three victims, Diwarkar Sarkar, Ashwini Pandey and Rizwan were found at the house of the accused. Police team also recovered medical test reports and documents of these three from the spot,” said the DCP.

15 DAYS AFTER MUNDKA FIRE

Family members still wait for remains of loved ones

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Nearly 15 days after the Mundka fire tragedy which claimed 27 lives, the family members of the deceased held a protest on Wednesday and demanded that the remains of their loved ones should be immediately be handed over to them.

At least 27 people were killed and more than 19 were injured in the massive blaze that ripped through a four-storey building in outer Delhi's Mundka on May 13. Of the 27 bodies that were recovered, only eight bodies have been identified.

“Why are we being punished?” asked brother of Asha, a victim, as he along with other families gathered outside the building where the fire erupted to protest against the

“inaction” of authorities.

Family members said it been over two weeks since the incident took place but the remains of several victims have not been handed over to their families.

The family members held placard that read — 'Stop playing with the life of labour' and 'It was a tragedy not a accident'.

The Delhi Police had earlier said it has collected biological samples of 26 people, whose family members are believed to be killed in the fire, for DNA profiling.

The protestors demanded that the remains of their loved ones who died in the incident should be handed over to them immediately.

The family members asked why it was taking so much time for DNA profiling.

Over 50 farmhouses demolished in Noida

STAFF REPORTER ■ NOIDA

In a major anti-encroachment drive on Wednesday, over 50 farmhouses that had come up illegally along the Yamuna floodplains in Noida in Uttar Pradesh were razed down.

According to the officials of the Noida Authority, the demolished properties were located in an area spanning 1,45,000 sq metre and estimated to be costing around Rs 55 crore.

The Chief executive officer of the Noida Authority Ritu Maheshwari also took it to Twitter and tweeted in Hindi, "Any type of construction is prohibited in the (Yamuna) floodplains area in Noida. Today, seven illegal and unauthorised farmhouses/constructions demolition proceedings were carried out on

25,000 square metres of land in Gulawali village. In today's action, a total of 145,000 sq. Land, cost Rs 55 crore was removed from encroachment."

Noida Authority's Officer on Special Duty (Land) Prasun Dwivedi said besides Gulawali, illegal farmhouses and constructions in Tilwada village were also demolished during the operation that started at 9 am on Wednesday.

"Altogether 55 farmhouses and some other illegal constructions were razed during the anti-encroachment drive. For the entire process, about 150 employees of Noida Authority including senior officials were on the ground along with police and PAC personnel," Dwivedi said.

He said nine JCB machines and eight dumpers were engaged for the demolition drive.

Delhi LG visits Bhatti Mines reserved forest

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Delhi's Lieutenant Governor, Vinai Kumar Saxena on Wednesday visited the Bhatti Mines reserved forest area in South Delhi. He directed the officials to link the pits by neighbouring areas that persistently faced the problem of overflowing and waterlogging. He inspected two sites in the reserved forest area along with officials. He observed that the large bowl shaped pits with depths reaching up to 80 feet, had a huge capacity to hold water which was not being utilized.

Regarding the low water level in the pits which is not even reaching four feet, he directed officials to recharge water in the area by linking it to neighbouring areas facing waterlogging and to create channels leading up to pits.



कार्यालय नगर पालिक निगम, भोपाल

केन्द्रीय कर्मशाला (मैके. शाखा)

निविदा सूचना

क्र.366/के.कर्म./2022

भोपाल, दिनांक 01.06.2022

नगर निगम भोपाल (परिवहन शाखा) के द्वारा भोपाल शहर के 05 विभिन्न स्थानों पर सी.एन.जी. टैंक की स्थापना हेतु ऑनलाइन निविदा निम्नानुसार आमंत्रित की जाती है।

क्र.	निविदा क्र.	सामान का विवरण	अनुमानित लागत	घरोर राशि	निविदा फार्म का मूल्य
1.	2022_UAD_208896_1	ESTABLISHED FOR C.N.G. TANK AT 05 VARIOUS PLACES	30000000/-	300000/-	15000/-

BID SUBMISSION END DATE- 29.06.2022 TIME- 03:00 PM

BID OPENING DATE- 30.06.2022 TIME- 03:00 PM


निविदा से संबंधित अन्य विस्तृत जानकारी वेबसाइट mptenders.gov.in पर देखी एवं केन्द्रीय कर्मशाला (मैकेनिकल) से कार्यालयीन समय में प्राप्त की जा सकती है।

उपायुक्त

परिवहन शाखा

नगर निगम भोपाल

नि.क्र. 300/022/023



कार्यालय नगर पालिक निगम, भोपाल

यांत्रिक विभाग (मुख्यालय) गोविंदपुरा (बी.एच.ई.एल.)

निविदा आमंत्रण घोषणा-पत्र

क्र. 51/यां.वि./2022

भोपाल, दिनांक 01.06.2022

निम्नलिखित निर्माण कार्य हेतु दो लिफाफा पद्धति के अनुसार म.प्र. लोक निर्माण विभाग में केन्द्रीकृत व्यवस्था के अंतर्गत पंजीकृत ठेकेदार परसेन्टेज मोहर बंद निविदायें निर्धारित प्रपत्र पर ऑनलाइन आमंत्रित की जाती है।

S. No.	Tender ID	Name of Work	Probable Amount of Contract (Rs. in lakh)	Earnest Money Deposit (EMD) (In Rs.)	Cost of Bid Document (In Rs.)	Period of Completion (In Months)	SOR
1	2022_UAD_208906_1	UPGRADATION AND MAINTENANCE WORKS (EMPANELMENT BASIS) FOR DEVELOPEMENT OF URBAN HEALTH AND WELLNESS CENTER AND POLYCLINICS IN AREA UNDER BHOPAL MUNICIPAL CORPORATION, ZONE 01 TO 19	350.80	1,75,404	15000	12 months (including rainy season	MPUADD ISSR 2021

1. Interested bidders can view the NIT on website <https://mptenders.gov.in/>

2. The Bid Document can be purchased only online from 10:30 A.M. (time) 02.06.2022 (date) to 17.30 P.M. (time) 04.07.2022 (date).

3. The bidders who bids in the tender will have to submit the document of participating firm. Document of other firm viz any other partnership firm/sister concern ect. will not be valid.

4. **For electrification related works:** It is mandatory for bidder should have own "A" Class electrical registration or agreement with "A" Class electrical registration Holder (**Attach as per**)

5. E. M. Deposit will not be refunded till the end of contract Period.

6. **Contract will be awarded to top 08 contractors (L1to L08) only.**

7. **Minimum Rate Quoted (L1) by any Bidder will be Applicable to all the Empanelled Contractors.**

8. Site/Place of Construction may be changed as per the requirement.

9. Amendments to NIT (if any) would be published on website <https://mptenders.gov.in/> only, and not in newspaper.

The Initial period of 3 (Three) year after completion shall be treated as Defect Liability Period (DLP).

In. Chief Engineer

Municipal Corporation Bhopal

District Bhopal

नि.क्र. 309/022/023

Format C-7		
Information regarding individuals with pending criminal cases, who have been selected as candidates, along with the reasons for such selection, as also as to why other individuals without criminal antecedents could not be selected as candidates.		
(As per the Commission's direction issued in pursuance of the order dated 13.02.2020,of the Hon'ble Supreme Court in contempt petition (C) no. 2192 of 2018 in WP(C) no. 536 of 2011)		
Name of Political Party : AAM AADMI PARTY		
*Name of the Election : ASSEMBLY BYE- ELECTION		
Name of the Sate/UT : DELHI		
Sl.No	Name of the Constituency : Rajinder Nagar	
1.	Criminal antecedents :	
	Name of the Candidate : DURGESH KUMAR	
	a) Nature of the offences	U/s- 499/500/34 IPC
	b) Case No.	CT C.No.-02/21 "Chhail Bihari Goswami vs Satyendra Jain & Ors."
	c) Name of the Court	LdACMM Rouse Avenue Court
	d) Whether charges have been framed or not:Yes/No	NA
	e) Date of conviction (if any):	NA
	f) Details of punishment undergone, if any	NA
	g) Any other Information required to be given	NA
2.	The reasons for the selection of the candidate. Selection shall be with reference to the qualifications, achievements and merit of the candidate, and not mere "winnability" at the polis	
	He has given up his civil services aim to serve the nation. An active social worker. He raises issues of common people and works for the deprived & needy. The case against him are politically motivated.	
3.	Reasons as to why other individuals without criminal antecedents could not to be selected as candidate	
	There is no other candidate as accomplished as him. The party didn't find any reason to deny the ticket.	

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

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Notice Inviting e-Tenders

Bhopal Municipal Corporation

N.I.T. No. C/34/HFA/2022

Bhopal, Dated 01.06.2022

Online Percentage Rate Tenders are invited for the following work based on UADD SOR 2021 w.e.f. 02/08/21 and amendments till date date from Contractors/Reputed firms who have successfully executed works of similar nature and magnitude.

Tender ID	Name of Work	Probable Amount of Contract (In Lakhs)	Earnest Money Deposit (In Rupees)	Cost of Bid Document (In Rupees)	Period of Completion (In Months)
2022_UAD_208288_1	Construction of Houses and Development of Infrastructure for Affordable Housing in Bhopal, under PMAY at plot no 47 and 49 commercial cum residential plan Bhopal.	11000.00	5500000	50,000.00	24 Months (Including Rainy Season)

1. The interested bidders may view the Detailed Notice Inviting Tenders on website <https://mptenders.gov.in/>

2. The bid documents can be purchased online from 12:00 Noon of 01/06/2022 to 5:30 PM of 30/06/2022.

3. Amendments to this NIT would be published on website only, and not in newspapers.

Additional Commissioner (HFA),

Bhopal Municipal Corporation

T.N.290/022/023



Notice Inviting e-Tenders

Bhopal Municipal Corporation

N.I.T. No. C/31/HFA/2022

Bhopal, Dated 31.05.2022

Online Percentage Rate Tenders are invited for the following work based on UADD SOR 2021 w.e.f. 02/08/21 and amendments till date date from Contractors/Reputed firms who have successfully executed works of similar nature and magnitude.

Tender ID	Name of Work	Probable Amount of Contract (In Lakhs)	Earnest Money Deposit (In Rupees)	Cost of Bid Document (In Rupees)	Period of Completion (In Months)
2022_UAD_208482_1	Construction of Houses and Development of Infrastructure for Affordable Housing in Bhopal, at Mahabadiya Site, Under PMAY, Bhopal M.P.	16261.63	8130815/-	50,000.00	24 Months (Including Rainy Season)

1. The interested bidders may view the Detailed Notice Inviting Tenders on website <https://mptenders.gov.in/>

2. The bid documents can be purchased online from 12:00 Noon of 31/05/2022 to 5:30 PM of 30/06/2022.

3. Amendments to this NIT would be published on website only, and not in newspapers.

Additional Commissioner (HFA),

Bhopal Municipal Corporation

T.N.289/022/023



Notice Inviting e-Tenders

Bhopal Municipal Corporation

N.I.T. No. C/30/HFA/2022

Bhopal, Dated 31.05.2022

Online Percentage Rate Tenders are invited for the following work based on UADD SOR 2021 w.e.f. 02/08/21 and amendments till date date from Contractors/Reputed firms who have successfully executed works of similar nature and magnitude.

Tender ID	Name of Work	Probable Amount of Contract (In Lakhs)	Earnest Money Deposit (In Rupees)	Cost of Bid Document (In Rupees)	Period of Completion (In Months)
2022_UAD_208436_1	Construction of Houses and Development of Infrastructure for Affordable Housing in Bhopal, Jamuniya Chhitr Site, Under PMAY, Bhopal M.P.	16765.56	8382828/-	50,000.00	24 Months (Including Rainy Season)

1. The interested bidders may view the Detailed Notice Inviting Tenders on website <https://mptenders.gov.in/>

2. The bid documents can be purchased online from 12:00 Noon of 31/05/2022 to 5:30 PM of 30/06/2022.

3. Amendments to this NIT would be published on website only, and not in newspapers.

Additional Commissioner (HFA),

Bhopal Municipal Corporation

T.N.288/022/023

**ODISHA JOINT ENTRANCE EXAMINATION-2022
(OJEE-2022)**

No: OJEE / 246

Date: 01.06.2022

SCHEDULE OF OJEE 2022

Exam Date	Shift 1 9.00 AM – 11.00 AM	Shift 2 12.30 PM – 2.30 PM	Shift 3 4.00 PM – 6.00 PM
04.07.2022	LE Tech (Diploma)	LE Tech (Diploma)	LE Tech (Diploma)
05.07.2022	MCA / M.Sc. (Comp Sc.)	MCA / M.Sc. (Comp Sc.)	M. Tech (11 Subjects) + M. Arch + M. Plan + M. Pharm + B.CAT (1 hour) (Cinematography and Sound Recording & Design)
06.07.2022	MBA	MBA	(1 Hour Duration) Integrated MBA + LE Pharm + LE Tech (B.Sc.) + B.CAT (Film Editing)
08.07.2022	B. Pharm	B. Pharm	- - -

Admit cards will be available for downloading with effect from 27.06.2022.

Sd/-
Chairman, OJEE, Odisha

Decks cleared...

From Page 1

BJP state president Dr Sanjay Jaiswal and deputy CM Tarkishore Prasad attended the meeting. The RJD was represented by the leader of the Opposition Tejashwi Prasad Yadav and Rajya Sabha MP Manoj Kumar Jha. AIMIM Bihar head Akhtarul Iman also attended the meeting.

Trying to steal the show and grab the credit for persuading the State Government to go ahead with the caste census, RJD leader Tejashwi enlisted the benefits of the caste census in identifying people living on the margin of society. “The exercise will help the government initiative specifics programmes for the welfare of particular castes,” he said.

Calming that it was the RJD that first made the demand for caste census more than a decade ago, he said, “We had long been demanding caste census. A nationwide census would have been ideal. But we are satisfied that Bihar is conducting its own caste census.”

ED summons...

From Page 1

In February 2021, the Delhi High Court issued a notice to the Gandhis for their response on Swamy's plea seeking to lead evidence in the matter before the trial court.

The Gandhis had secured separate bails from the court in 2015 after they furnished personal bonds of Rs 50,000 and one surety.

However, the Gandhis contended in the Delhi High Court that the plea by Swamy was “misconceived and premature”.

The other accused in this case are Sonia's trusted aide Suman Dubey and technocrat Sam Pitroda.

GST revenues up 44%...

From Page 1

“Significant efforts in audits and analytics have also led to a drive against tax evaders, inculcating a tax compliance culture,” Mani said.

ICRA Chief Economist Aditi Nayar said the high year-on-year growth reflects the low base of the second wave.

“Nonetheless, the May 2022 GST collections are robust compared to the Q4 FY2022 trends, benefitting from improved compliance, market share gains by the organised sector as well as the transmission of higher commodity

prices into output prices,” Nayar said.

Given the trends for April-May 2022, and the anticipation of a sustained healthy momentum of activity in absence of another wave of COVID and major disruptions, we expect the CGST inflows in FY 2023 to exceed the Budget Estimates level by `1.15 trillion, helping to absorb a part of the higher subsidy bill.

Tax Connect Advisory Partner Vivek Jalan said these are early days, but it seems that the stage is set for the government for achieving its ambitious `1.5 trillion a month GST collection target.

KK autopsy scotches...

From Page 1

“It seems that there were some heart issues ...but things will be clearer after a few days,” said a doctor requesting anonymity.

KK's personal manager Hitesh Bhatt said he was feeling uncomfortable while he was performing and that's why he took a 10-minute break. He was repeatedly wiping his face too on account of heavy sweating. After the performance, he complained that he was feeling cold and turned off the air conditioner in the car. After reaching the hotel when I opened the door he fell down.”

According to sources, the singer had left the venue past 8.30 pm and reached the hotel at around 9.30 pm.

Won't be cowed...

From Page 1

The two Congress leaders said the main mantra of the newspaper which became the “voice of the freedom movement” was: “Freedom is in danger, protect it with all your might.” “Today again, the ideology supporting the British rule is conspiring to suppress the ‘voice of the freedom movement’. Prime Minister Narendra Modi is at the head of this conspiracy, and his ‘favourite and pet weapon’ to implement it is the ED,” Surjewala claimed.

He said the summons have been issued to mislead the country as the Modi Government specializes in the politics of diverting issues and has been blinded by the feeling of revenge. The ED issued the summons to Sonia and Rahul on Wednesday.

On Jain jail, BJP puts heat on Kejriwal

Why is Chief Minister protecting health minister Satyendar Jain, asks Union Minister

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Keeping up the heat on Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal, the BJP on Wednesday sought to elicit several answers from him in the money laundering case allegedly involving his Health Minister Satyendar Jain and wondered if corruption amounts to "gaddari" why the latter was being protected by him.

Addressing a press conference here, Union Minister Smriti Irani listed a number of questions at Kejriwal, who had a day ago denounced the Enforcement Directorate (ED) case of money laundering against Jain as forged and politically motivated.

Irani said the Chief Minister has given a clean chit to a "corrupt man" by assuming the role of a judge.

Latching on to Kejriwal's comment that corruption was tantamount to "gaddari" (betrayal) with the country, the Union Minister went on to ask why the AAP national convener was giving protection



to a "gaddar" (traitor) who allegedly deceived the treasury and the people.

Naming four shell companies allegedly owned by Jain and his family members, Irani asked Kejriwal if it was true that Jain laundered over Rs 16.39 crore with the help of hawala operators.

The Income Tax Department had rejected Jain's contention that it was his associates' money, and held that the "ill-gotten" money belonged to him, she said.

A Division Bench of the Delhi High Court in 2019 agreed with the IT Department's findings, she noted, asking Kejriwal why he hadn't acted against Jain since

then. "He (Jain) is under his direct protection," she said.

Lashing out at Kejriwal over his charge that the case against Jain was politically motivated, Irani asked him if he believed that the court was a political party.

Under the Income Disclosure Scheme of 2016, she claimed, Jain had himself admitted that Rs 16.39 crore was laundered and his firm had offered to pay tax on it. She asked the AAP supremo if such a person should continue to be a Minister in his Government.

Jain was arrested by the ED in a case of money laundering on Monday.

The Union Minister also cited the allegation that the shell firms owned by Jain bought 200 bighas of land in the vicinity of some unauthorised colonies in Delhi with the laundered money, and asked the Chief Minister to explain if the charge was true or not.

She asked if the Delhi Government's move to regularise these colonies was linked to Jain's investment.

Jain gave Mohalla Clinic model, should get award: CM

Why has ED woken up now to pick up Himachal incharge of AAP right before polls: Sanjay Singh

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal on Wednesday said Satyendar Jain, arrested by the Enforcement Directorate (ED), should be awarded the Padma Vibhushan for giving the Mohalla Clinic model that treats people free of cost.

Kejriwal defended Jain as a "hardcore honest and patriot" person who was being framed in a "false case" and hoped the Minister will come out clean after the ED probe.

"The country should be proud of him as he gave the



model of Mohalla Clinics that are being visited by people from around the world, including the former Secretary General of the UN.

He gave a health model that treats people free of cost. I think, he should be given top awards like the Padma Bhusan or Padma Vibhushan," Kejriwal said.

Noting that the CBI gave a clean chit to Jain, the Delhi CM said now the ED can also conduct its probe and the Minister will come out clean.

"I have always maintained that Jain is a staunchly honest



deshbhakt, and that he has been framed in a false and baseless case. The ED can continue to investigate as much as it wants, we have no objection.

I am sure that he will emerge spotless out of this unjustified and fabricated case. The CBI and I-T Department have already conducted their investigation and found him clean on all accounts.

In fact, Satyendar Jain is a man that our entire nation should feel proud of," Kejriwal said. AAP senior leader and Rajya Sabha MP Sanjay Singh

alleged that the Centre is trying to divert attention from the killings of Kashmiri Pandits in the Valley by opening an old case against Jain. "Instead of worrying about sending Jain to jail, the Centre should think of ways to wipe out terrorists in Kashmir," he said.

"Satyendar Jain walked scot-free out of the CBI's five-year-long slander campaign; the ED, too, will release him with a certificate of extreme honesty. Why is it that the ED woke up from its sleep to pick up Himachal in-charge Jain after eight years, right before the elections?"

"Security of Kashmiri Pandits is a matter of national concern but the BJP only cares about slinging mud at the AAP Prime Minister Narendra Modi got over 400 files investigated only to be forced to give a clean chit to CM Kejriwal after seeing his honesty; Jain, too, will get a clean chit," Singh said. "At a time like this,

when the nation is worried about the brutal murders of Kashmiri Pandits by the terrorists in the Valley, and when the leaders of this nation should not be able to sleep because of these brutal murders, the Central Government and the BJP have forced agencies to file this false case against Satyendra Jain. This has only been done to divert the attention of the public from the incidents in Kashmir," Singh added.

"It would have been good had the Centre held a Cabinet meeting and discussed ways to wipe out terrorists, protect Kashmiri Pandits and save their lives.

It is shameful that the BJP-led Centre is worried about the Himachal Pradesh elections, how to send Jain to jail and defame the AAP. Kashmir is burning and Kashmiri Pandits are being murdered. Please wake up and worry about their security," he said.

Buying property in Delhi set to get costlier

MCD to increase transfer duty by 1% on properties priced over ₹25 lakh

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Buying property in Delhi is set to get expensive as the unified Municipal Corporation of Delhi (MCD) has decided to hike transfer duty by one per cent on properties priced above Rs 25 lakh across the city.

After the hike, the transfer duty will be four per cent for men and three per cent for women buyers. For instance, if a person buys a property of Rs 50 lakh in the city, then he would have to pay Rs 2 lakh. If a woman buys the same property, she would have to pay Rs 1.5 lakh.

The decision was taken in a meeting on Tuesday where a proposal to increase the transfer duty by one per cent was moved. It is a first major deci-



sion after the three civic bodies — north, east and south — were unified last month.

The proposal was passed by the Special Officer (SO) of the MCD, who has been entrusted with the power to run the civic body till the new House is elected.

The move comes in the backdrop of the poor financial condition of the civic body as it has been struggling even to pay salaries of its employees. "A proposal was moved before

the Special Officer in capacity of the standing committee to hike transfer duty on properties priced above Rs 25 lakh by one per cent.

The proposal was approved by Special Officer. After the hike, transfer duty will be four per cent for men and three per cent for women," the official said. "The move will increase revenue and strengthen the MCD's coffers which will be used for overcoming the financial challenges and providing

best services to the people," officials said.

Authorities said the hike in transfer duty will affect only those buyers who are to purchase property having the registered value over Rs 25 lakh.

Properties are divided into eight categories A, B, C, D, E, F, G and H depending on their location and the Delhi Government collects stamp duty on sale and purchase of properties. Posh and upscale colonies fall in the category of A and B such as Golf Links, Vasant Vihar, Sunder Nagar and Jor Bagh.

Middle income group neighbourhoods fall in the C and D category areas which include localities like Lajpat Nagar, Alaknanda, Bhogal, Amar Colony, among others. Localities such as Geeta Colony, Anand Parbat, Sheikh Sarai fall in E, F, G, H category areas.

Civic officials said transfer duty is collected in addition to the stamp duty. The hike will be applicable only on transfer duty and it will not impact buyers aiming to purchase properties priced below Rs 25 lakh.

Do not disrupt Delhi's Constitutional framework, Atishi appeals to L-G

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Senior AAP leader Atishi on Wednesday appealed to Delhi LG Vinai Kumar Saxena to "not disrupt Delhi's constitutional framework and let Delhi government run departments which fall under its purview".

She claimed that Saxena called a meeting of Delhi Jal Board (DJB) officials and issued them instructions despite subject of water being responsibility of Delhi Government. During a media briefing, she said since LG was new, he might not have been aware of constitutional provisions. "On May 30, Delhi LG called a meeting of DJB officials and issued them directions. Since he is new to

system, he might not be knowing constitutional provisions.

"Land, law and order, police and now with (MCD) also being unified and brought under Centre... It will come under him since he is a representative of Centre. But education, electricity and water are subjects that come under the Delhi government," the AAP leader said.

She said such developments could lead to a chaotic situation. "The new LG is attacking Delhi's constitutional sanctity by coercing the Kejriwal Government's officers to work on his directions. I appeal to the LG to not try to disrupt Delhi's constitutional system, and let the Government run the departments which fall under its purview," she said.

Bishnoi withdraws 'fake encounter fears' plea

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Jailed gangster Lawrence Bishnoi on Wednesday withdrew from the Delhi High Court his plea in which he had sought necessary safeguards as he apprehended a fake encounter by the Punjab Police.

Bishnoi is suspected to have been behind the killing of Sidhu Moosewala near Jawarke village in Punjab on May 29.

At the outset, his counsel submitted before Justice Swarana Kanta Sharma that he wishes to withdraw the petition and wants to file it before the Punjab and Haryana High Court. The court said, "the petition is dismissed as withdrawn". Delhi Government Standing Counsel (criminal) Sanjay Lau said the petition was not maintainable in Delhi. The plea, in the Delhi High Court, had sought direction to the Tihar Jail authority and the

Delhi Police to ensure that necessary safeguards, including videography, are taken for his safety before giving his custody to any other state police, including the Punjab Police.

Bishnoi had earlier approached a district court here which refused to entertain his plea.

He was lodged in Tihar Jail in connection with a case lodged under the stringent Maharashtra Control of Organised Crimes Act (MCOCA) and was on Tuesday remanded in three-day custody of the Delhi Police Special Cell after it arrested him in an Arms Act case.

Bishnoi, in his petition filed in the high court through advocate Vishal Chopra, sought a direction to Central Tihar jail authorities to give prior intimation to his advocates before giving his custody to any other state police.

Sexual harassment case probe on: JNU



STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

The Internal Complaints Committee (ICC) of the Jawaharlal Nehru University (JNU) said a probe into an alleged sexual harassment case has been initiated and stringent action will be taken against the guilty.

In a statement, the ICC on Tuesday said it has taken serious cognisance of the case reported to its office. However, the committee did not reveal any details. "As soon as the

complaint was lodged and received on 27th May 2022 at 7.46 pm, the inquiry of the case was started following due process," the notification read.

"ICC is committed to ensuring a free, fast and fair trial of the case and providing justice to the complainant. Stringent action will be taken against those found guilty," it said. The ICC asserted that it observes a zero-tolerance policy toward any kind of sexual harassment on the campus. An activist of the All India

Students Association (AISA) was last week accused of sexually harassing a woman inside the campus.

The victim had complained to the ICC to take prompt action to save her from any more mental trauma and intimidation". The AISA has said that the accused is not affiliated to them.

In a separate incident, a student affiliated with the National Students Union of India was held responsible for molesting a female student of the northeast, according to reports.

The Delhi Police said in a tweet, "A case has been registered U/S 354A/509 IPC at PS Vasant Kunj North following a complaint of molestation from a JNU 3rd yr student.

Accused, who is her known college mate, has joined the investigation. Further probe is on." It was not immediately clear which of the two cases is being probed by the ICC.

Several student outfits, including the Akhil Bharatiya Vidyarthi Parishad recently staged a protest demanding action against those found guilty in sexual harassment cases.

JNU appoints chairperson, health services

NEW DELHI: JNU has notified the appointment of a chairperson, health services, who will now be responsible for the Health Centre on its campus. As of now, the Health Centre comes under the Dean of Students. Several complaints regarding the functioning of the Health Centre have been given to the administration in the past, both by students and teachers, especially after the pandemic. SR

Kashmiri Pandits should be given adequate security: CM

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Following the targeted killing of many Kashmiri Pandits, the Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal on Wednesday demanded that they should be given adequate security and their voices should not be quelled.

In an online press briefing, he also said that terrorist forces don't want communal amity in Jammu & Kashmir as members of the Kashmiri Pandit community are being "targeted and killed", in a reminder of what

happened in the 90s. He also said that 16 Kashmiri Pandits have been killed this year. "I demand that the innocent Kashmiri Pandits are given adequate security so that they do not feel compelled to leave their homeland.

Their voices should not be curbed, for Kashmir is their Janambhoomi, and they reserve the right to build a life on the land where they were born," said Kejriwal. "It is my humble request to the Central Government that they work towards providing a safe haven

to the Kashmiri Pandits in their homeland — to work together with all concerned authorities," said Kejriwal.

"The Delhi Government is ready to contribute in whatever capacity we can to ensure the Kashmiri Pandits lead a peaceful life in their Janambhoomi," said the chief minister.

Protests against the killing of a Hindu schoolteacher in Kulgam continued to rock several parts of Jammu, Samba and Kathua districts of Jammu and Kashmir on the second consecutive day on Wednesday.

NDMC works hard to remove uprooted trees



STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

The efforts to clear uprooted trees and fallen branches

continued in Lutyens' Delhi on Wednesday with several teams of the New Delhi Municipal Council (NDMC) at work, according to officials.

Delhi lost over 290 trees, some of them decades-old, during Monday's fierce thunderstorm, prompting the civic agencies to launch special drives to clear the city roads.

Lieutenant Governor Vinai Kumar Saxena called for a thorough review of the reasons for the uprooting of trees to ensure that this does not happen again.

"The work is being done on a war footing to clear the uprooted trees and branches from the roads to ensure vehicular movement is not affected," a senior NDMC official said. According to data shared by the NDMC's

Horticulture Department, Lutyens' Delhi lost at least 77 trees and 58 big branches broke off in the fierce thunderstorm and heavy rains in the national capital.

The department fears that some of the uprooted trees might be those tagged as 'heritage trees' by the NDMC.

A damage report is yet to be compiled. The uprooted trees include neem (seven), peepal (six), jamun (five), arjun (four), and seemal, pilkhan and bargad (two each). One tree each of imli, kadalia, khusum, kekan, balaam, bheda and eucalyptus were also lost during the storm. The

NDMC's Horticulture and Enforcement departments are responsible for clearing uprooted trees and debris.

Other roads where trees were uprooted and traffic movement was affected include Mother Teresa Crescent, Ashoka Road, Shankar Road, Firozshah Road, Jantar Mantar Marg, Kasturba Gandhi Marg, Copernicus Marg, Tilak Marg, Purana Quila Road, Pandara Road, Subramanyam Bharti Marg, Janpath, Mansingh Road, Sardar Patel Marg, K Kamraj Marg, Krishna Menon Road, Tolstoy Road, Thyagraj Marg and Sunehri Bagh Road.

ED attaches PFI's 23 bank a/cs under PMLA

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Enforcement Directorate (ED) has provisionally attached 23 bank accounts of the radical Popular Front of India (PFI) having collective balance of Rs 59,12,051 besides 10 bank accounts of PFI's front organization Rehab India Foundation (RIF) having collective balance of Rs 9,50,030 in the ongoing money laundering investigation against the outfit and frontal organizations.

A total amount of Rs 68,62,081 has been provisionally attached under Prevention of Money Laundering Act, the ED said in a statement.

"The ED investigation has revealed that huge amounts of money including cash from questionable sources have been received by PFI and RFI.

An amount of more than Rs 60 crore has been deposited in the accounts of PFI which includes cash deposits of more than Rs 30 crore since 2009.

Similarly, around Rs 58 crore have been deposited in the accounts of RIF since 2010,"



it said. Further, investigation by ED revealed that PFI, in active collusion with other associated accused persons, has indulged in laundering of 'proceeds of crime' in terms of Section 3 of PMLA.

Proceeds of crime mobilized in the form of cash have been deposited in PFI's bank accounts by falsely projecting them as cash donations from sympathizers / members, it said.

"In order to obliterate the fund trail and circumvent the regulatory rigour, proceeds of crime were mobilized in the form of cash and deposited by PFI leaders in the bank accounts of various individuals and immediately thereafter

these funds were transferred from bank accounts to PFI's bank account," the ED further said.

The ED investigation also revealed that PFI was covertly mobilizing funds through well-organized network in Gulf countries as part of criminal conspiracy and these proceeds of crime were secretly and clandestinely sent to India through underground and illegal channels and by way of foreign remittances into the bank accounts of sympathizers / office bearers / members and their relatives / associates in India.

Thereafter, these funds were transferred to the bank accounts of PFI, RIF and other

individuals / entities. "In this way, the proceeds of crime have been placed, layered and integrated and therefore projected as untainted money in the bank accounts of PFI as well as RIF.

This has been done as a part of a larger criminal conspiracy of PFI and its related entities to raise funds within the country and abroad to carry out various unlawful activities which have resulted in the registration of numerous FIRs / complaints against them for commission of scheduled offences over time and the filing of chargesheets and conviction of its members / office-bearers," it said.

The ED has already filed a Prosecution Complaint (charge sheet) on February 6, 2021 and a Supplementary Prosecution Complaint on May 6, 2022 against members / office-bearers of PFI and Campus Front of India before the Special PMLA Court, Lucknow. The Court has taken cognizance of the offence of money laundering against all the accused persons.

Chhattisgarh tribals' min edu for CRPF job relaxed

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

The Union Cabinet on Wednesday approved a proposal to relax the minimum educational qualification to recruit native tribal youths from interior areas of Bijapur, Dantewada and Sukma in Chhattisgarh as constables in the CRPF.

Cabinet meeting chaired by Prime Minister Narendra has approved a proposal of the Ministry of Home Affairs to relax requisite minimum educational qualification from 10th class pass to 8th Class for the recruitment of 400 candidates as constable (general duty) in the CRPF from three districts of south Chhattisgarh namely Bijapur, Dantewada and Sukma, an official release said.

Apart from issuing advertisement in local newspapers and adopting all means for wider publicity of this rally in these interior areas of the three districts, the CRPF would subsequently impart formal education during the probation period to these newly recruited trainees, it said.

As many as 400 tribal youths from interior areas of these three districts will get employment opportunities. Appropriate relaxation in physical standards for recruitment

will also be given by Ministry of Home Affairs, the statement added. The recruits will be confirmed in service only after acquiring the prescribed minimum educational qualification of standard 10th pass, thus formal education will be given to these recruits and the CRPF would extend all possible support like providing study material, books and coaching assistance during their probation period, it said.

The probation period may be extended suitably, if required, to facilitate new recruits to acquire prescribed education qualification.

In order to facilitate them to take 10th standard exam, these recruits will be registered with National Institute of Open Schools recognised by central and state governments, it said.

The CRPF during 2016-2017 had raised one Bastariya Battalion by recruiting Scheduled Tribe candidates from four districts namely, Bijapur, Dantewada, Narayanpur and Sukma of Chhattisgarh.

However, it could not yield optimum results as native youths from interior areas could not compete in recruitment process due to non-filling of requisite educational qualification i.e. 10th pass, the release said.

Procurement by cooperatives via GeM portal allowed

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

The Union Cabinet on August 9, 2016, by the Commerce Ministry to create an open and transparent procurement platform for Government buyers.

At present, the platform is open for procurement by all government buyers -- central and state ministries, departments, public sector enterprises, autonomous institutions and local bodies.

Allowing cooperative societies to register on GeM as buyers would help cooperatives in getting competitive prices through an open and transparent process.

The validated list of cooperatives to be onboarded on GeM - for the pilot as well as subsequent scale-up - will be decided by the Ministry of Cooperation in consultation with GeM special purpose vehicle (SPV).

ers) can be from across all segments - government or private.

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Non-state actors can get access to biological weapons: India



PNS ■ AGENCIES/NEW DELHI/UNITED NATIONS

India has warned the international community about the possibility of terrorists and non-state actors getting access to biological agents and Weapons of Mass Destruction (WMD) and called for immediate steps to meet this threat.

Making this point, India also cautioned all the stakeholders about the "heightened" threat of misuse of biological agents and chemicals as weapons against the backdrop of the COVID-19 pandemic.

This note of caution was sounded by A Amarnath, a counselor at India's United Nations (UN) Mission late

Tuesday at the open consultations of the UN Security Council 1540 Committee on the proliferation of nuclear, chemical and biological weapons.

He said new and emerging technologies may increase the risk of Weapons of Mass Destruction (WMD) access by terrorist groups and other non-state actors.

"The access to these weapons of mass destruction by terrorists and other non-state actors adds a serious dimension to threats posed by these weapons to international peace and security," Amarnath said.

He also underlined the need for focus on rapid evolu-

tion of proliferation risks. "New and emerging technologies may increase these risks of WMD access by terrorist groups and other non-state actors. The growing capabilities of terrorists and other non-state groups to access delivery systems like missiles and unmanned /uncrewed aerial systems have compounded the risks of terrorism using WMDs.

"Similarly, in the COVID-era, the threat of misuse of biological agents and chemicals as weapons, combined with advances in chemistry and biology, has heightened.

The open consultations would be a useful forum to deliberate on these issues and how the Committee can assist member states in this area," he said.

He stressed that India accords great importance to the implementation of resolution 1540. "With our longstanding commitment to global non-proliferation, we have established a strong law-based, national system to implement the provisions of resolution 1540," Amarnath said.

He said recognising the role of the industry, academia and other key stakeholders in facilitating the States' implementation of resolution 1540, India has been organising outreach events involving these stakeholders at the national level, and in the region.

Jaishankar to visit Slovakia and Czech Republic from June 2-6

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

In an effort to further strengthen ties with Eastern European countries, External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar will pay an official visit to Slovakia and the Czech Republic from June 2-6.

During his visit to Bratislava from June 2-4, he will call on Prime Minister of Slovakia Eduard Heger and will hold bilateral discussions with his counterpart Ivan Korcok, the ministry of external affairs said here on Wednesday.

Giving details of Jaishankar's schedule, the ministry said he will also attend the GLOBSEC 2022 Forum and speak on topic 'Taking Friendship to Next Level: Allies in Indo-Pacific Region'. Jaishankar will also meet Minister of European and International Affairs of Austria Alexander Schallenberg, on

sidelines of GLOBSEC 2022 Forum. During his visit to Czech Republic from June 4-6, Jaishankar will hold discussions with Minister of Foreign Affairs of Czech Republic Jan Lipavský.

The discussions will provide an opportunity for a comprehensive review of bilateral cooperation. The Czech Republic will be taking over European Union Presidency from July one.

In addition to meeting political leadership of the two countries, Jaishankar will also interact with a cross-section of our diaspora, including Indian students in Slovakia and Czech Republic, the ministry said.

India has traditionally enjoyed close and friendly ties with both Slovakia and Czech Republic.

His visit will impart further momentum to bilateral relations with two Central European countries, the ministry statement said.



Dr Sujoy Lal Thaoson, Indian Police Service (IPS), took over as 21st Director General, Sashastra Seema Bal (SSB) succeeding Sanjay Arora on Wednesday. A Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) from Ujjain University, Madhya Pradesh, Thaoson is an IPS officer of 1988-batch of Madhya Pradesh cadre. He was holding the post of Special Director General, Border Security Force, before taking over the charge of DG SSB

PNS

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

The BJP is set to hold its national executive for two days from July 2 in Hyderabad, Telangana, which has become

Tomar, Gajendra RS polls incharge in Raj, Haryana

New Delhi: The BJP on Wednesday appointed Union Ministers Narendra Singh Tomar and Gajendra Singh Shekhawat as its in-charge for Rajya Sabha polls in Rajasthan and Haryana respectively, two states which are headed for a keen contest with the entry of party-backed independents as it also appointed . The party also appointed Union minister Ashwini Vaishnaw in-charge for Rajya Sabha elections in Maharashtra, another state headed for a contest. Union minister G Kishan Reddy has been appointed in-charge for the polls in Karnataka.



a focus state for the party and is currently governed by the Telangana Rashtra Samithi (TRS) of K C Rao who has taken head on the BJP's ongoing political aggression against his government.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi had recently visited Hyderabad and launched a fusillade against the 'KCR dynasty' and its alleged "misrule".

Through the National Executive, which is one of the top decision-making bodies of the BJP, the party hopes the BJP cadres will be galvanized in the state and it will turn the heat on the ruling party. Telangana is

to elect a new Assembly, next year. All top leaders including Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Home Minister Amit Shah and BJP president JP Nadda will attend the meeting.

The last meeting of the BJP national executive was held in New Delhi on November 21 ahead of assembly elections in five states including Uttar Pradesh.

The Covid19 situation blocked the holding of the quarterly meet of the key staff body. In the National Executive meeting, the top leadership may also discuss the preparations in the run up to the 2024 Lok Sabha polls.

Govt may have to intervene if small poultry farmers are exploited: Balyan

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI



Union Minister of State for Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying, Sanjeev Balyan on Wednesday expressed concern over low price realisation of poultry farmers and warned that Government may have to intervene in case of their exploitation by private companies. The Minister of State for Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying also directed his department to soon call a meeting of all stakeholders to address this issue. The minister also

pulled up National Dairy Development Board (NDDB) for not being able to set up a cooperative outside Gujarat, which is as successful as Amul.

Addressing an event, Balyan said, "We (Government of India) have to intervene if small poultry farmers are exploited. The issue of market integration

of poultry farmers with companies needs to be addressed". Poultry farmers, having a broiler farming contract with private companies, are getting lower realisation. Even a 2005 study by Ludhiana-based Guru Angad Dev Veterinary and Animal Science University has found that the poultry farmers were paid way below the cost of production, he said.

While total cost incurred by a farmer was Rs 11.15 per kg, the return was only Rs 6.41 per kg, incurring a loss of Rs 4.75 per kg, he said and asked if private companies want to operate like an East India Company.

UJJAIN SMART CITY LIMITED
Mela Office, Kothi Road, Ujjain (M.P.) 456001 Ph. 0734-2525856
NIT No.: USCL/165 Tender ID : 2022_UAD_207268_1 Date 26.05.2022

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Ujjain Smart City Limited invites proposal for "Public Relation Agency and Communication Outreach Agency for CITIIS/Ujjain Smart City Limited". Interested and eligible bidders may submit their proposals online at www.mptenders.gov.in

Earnest Money Deposit	Rs. 2,00,000/-
Cost of Document	Rs. 25,000/-
Pre bid meeting date and time	08.06.2022 15:00 hrs USCL Office
Last date for submission of Technical and Financial Bid (Online)	27.06.2022 up to 17:00 hrs

For more details please visit <https://mptenders.gov.in>. Any Corrigendum or amendments shall be published on this website only.
For, Ujjain Smart City Limited

PUBLIC NOTICE

Fiat no A 602 super built-up area 121.32 Sq. Mtr. in Mayank Co-Op Group Housing Society Ltd. Situated at plot no: 21, Sector - 6 Dwarka, New Delhi is available for re-allotment having Drawing, Dinning, Kitchen, 3 Bedroom, 2 Bathroom and 3 Balconies.

THE PROPERTY IS EVALUATED AT:
(1) Fair Market Value:- Rs 1,63,53,000/-
(2) Realisable sale Value @ 90% - Rs 1,47,17,700/-
(3) Distress Value @ 85% Rs 1,39,00,000/-
(4) Circle Value:- Rs.1,06,53,000/- Dues: (1) Property Tax Valued as Rs. 1,93,903/- (2) Maintenance and Society charges Rs. 28,80,828/- Earnest money to be deposited to apply for membership of the Society is 20% of Fair Market Value.

Online and physical Applications are invited from 23.05.2022 to 16.06.2022.
Col. K.S. Solanki (Retd.) President, Mayank Co-Op Group Housing Society Ltd. (M): +91 98739 27205

<div> SC AGROTECH LIMITED (FORMERLY KNOWN AS: SHEEL INTERNATIONAL LTD.) CIN No. : L01122DL1990PLC042207 Regd. Address : RZ-1484/28, Ground Floor, Tughlakabad Extn., New Delhi-110019</div>					
EXTRACT FROM THE STANDALONE AUDITED FINANCIAL RESULTS FOR THE QUARTER AND YEAR ENDED ON 31.03.2022					
Amnt In lakhs					
S. No.	Particulars	Quarter ended on 31st March, 2022	For the year ended on 31st March, 2022	Corresponding 3 Months Ended on 31st March, 2021	For the previous year ended on 31st March, 2021
1	Total Income From operation	34.61	72.25	18.69	18.48
2	Total Expenses	30.71	71.07	16.35	17.08
3	Net profit/(loss) for the period (before tax, Exceptional and /or Extraordinary items	3.90	1.18	2.34	1.40
4	Net profit/(loss) for the period (before tax, after Exceptional and /or Extraordinary items	3.90	1.18	2.34	1.40
5	Net profit/(loss) for the period after tax and Exceptional and /or Extraordinary items	3.90	1.18	2.34	1.40
6	Total comprehensive Income for the period (Comprising profit/(loss) for the period (after tax) and other comprehensive (after tax)	3.90	1.18	2.34	1.40
7	Paid up equity Share capital(face value of Rs 10/- each)	599.50	599.50	599.50	599.5
8	Earning per share (of Rs 10/- Each)				
	BASIC and Diluted Earning per share (in Rs)	-	-		-
1. The above is an extract of the detailed format of financial results filed with Stock Exchange under Regulation 33 of the SEBI LODR 2015, the full format of the Financial result are available on the Stock Exchange website (www.bseindia.com) and on the Company website (www.scagrotech.com)					
2. The result of the Quarter ended on 31st March 2022 were reviwed by the audit committee and approved by the Board of Director at its meeting held on 30th May 2022.					
By Order of The Board FOR SCGAORTECH LTD					
Sd/- NETRAPAL Director (Din: 09259717)					
Place: New Delhi Date : 30.05.2022					

Public Notice

NOTICE is hereby given that Mrigendra Kumar Priye (hereinafter referred to as the said Mortgagee/Borrower) has acquired First floor, without roof Rights, "Said Floor" Property bearing No. 48, area measuring 411 Sq. yds., Block-I, Residential colony known as Eros Garden Colony, Situated in Village, Jaispur, Tehsil, Badli, District Fardabad, Haryana from Mr. Alul Pandhir and Vileta Pandhir vide Sale Certificate dated 10.08.2017, Doc. No. 1300, Now Mr. Alul Pandhir and Vileta Pandhir is intending to sell the above said property to Mrigendra Kumar Priye vide Sale Deed. Further Mrigendra Kumar Priye is mortgaging the above said property with our client DCF FIRST Bank Limited. Further, if any person, body, individual, institution having any claim, title, interest and/or objection in respect of or against or relating to or touching upon said property or part of the property by way of sale, exchange, lease, lien, mortgage, charge, encumbrance, gift, trust, easement, maintenance, inheritance, testamentary disposition or otherwise or having in their custody any title, documents pertaining to the said property shall communicate the same to the undersigned at below mentioned address within 10 days from the publication of this notice with documentary evidence in support thereof, failing which all the claims, of such person shall be considered to have been waived and or abandoned. Any objections raised after the completion of the 10 days shall not be binding upon the undersigned. If no objection is received, the same shall be deemed to have been waived and or abandoned. The same may be raised within 10 days of this publication to Mr. Muneesh Dhanwan/ Mr. Sudhir Jain (Advocates), Law Veritas, Unit no 807, Vileta Pandhir, C/O L1 Tower, 081, Badli, Subhash Place, Delhi-110034 or contact at 9066707172/9818226636 (M).

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

Three doses of the same Covid-19 vaccine or a combination of different jabs work well in preventing infections, even against different variants, according to a largest study of its kind published in the British Medical Journal.

It suggests that the number of vaccine doses seems to be the key to improving immunity rather than the combinations of vaccine types, and should help inform future public health decision making.

While the effectiveness of individual vaccines for Covid-19 is well known, the effectiveness of vaccine combinations is less clear, especially for particular groups,



such as older people and those who are immunocompromised, the researchers said. Despite a rapid decline in Covid-19 infections and deaths, concerns about waning vaccine immunity and new variants make it important to understand which vaccine combinations are most effective, they said.

The researchers from the Chinese University of Hong Kong (CUHK) analysed 38 World Health Organization (WHO) Covid-19 databases for published studies and preprints on a weekly basis

from March 8, 2022. They identified 53 studies involving over 100 million participants with 24 combinations of approved Covid-19 vaccine courses and seven different vaccine types for analysis.

"While a three dose mRNA regimen seems to be the most effective in preventing Covid-19 infections, any heterologous and homologous three dose regimens work comparably well in preventing Covid-19 infections, even against different variants," the authors of the study said.

Receiving three doses of the same vaccine is known as a homologous regimen, while getting a third dose that differs from those given as primary shots is known as a heterologous regimen. The researchers found that three doses of any mRNA vaccine appear to be

most effective (96 per cent) against non-severe Covid-19 infections and most effective (95 per cent) in reducing Covid-19 related hospital admission.

Using an mRNA booster after two doses of adenovirus vector vaccines also has a satisfactory effectiveness of 88 per cent, they said.

The results also show that any three dose regimen -- heterologous or homologous -- induces higher immunity in all age groups, even in the over 65s, than a two dose homologous regimen, according to the researchers.

The study found that in immunocompromised patients, a third mRNA booster dose, as part of a heterologous or homologous regimen, greatly improves protection compared with two doses.

J&K LG sets deadline to ‘relocate’ migrants

Manoj Sinha has set the deadline of June 6 to ‘relocate’ Kashmiri migrants employed under Prime Minister’s package and others belonging to the Jammu division to safer places in the Kashmir Valley

PNS ■ JAMMU

The Union Territory Administration headed by Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha in Jammu and Kashmir has set a deadline of June 6 to ‘relocate’ Kashmiri migrants employed under Prime Minister’s package and others belonging to the Jammu division to safer places in the Kashmir valley.

The move was necessitated in the wake of growing unrest among the migrant employees. Majority of them have not

been attending to their duties and holding protest demonstrations inside transit camps in support of their demands including relocation to safer places after the merciless killing of Rahul Bhat inside his office in the Budgam district on May 12.

The killing of school teacher Rajni Bala on May 31 in the Kulgam district had further triggered a sense of insecurity among them.

Highly placed official sources confirmed to The Pioneer, the UT administration has already set the ball rolling and formal orders would be issued placing these employees in safer zones by June 6.

Meanwhile, Lt Governor Manoj Sinha is expected to visit New Delhi on June 3 to attend a monthly security review meeting in the Union Home



Ministry where he is expected to apprise the Union Home Minister about the steps being taken to ensure safety of migrant employees and others deployed in the Kashmir valley.

In addition to a special cell within the Lieutenant Governor’s secretariat, the General Administration Department has set up a dedicated cell for resolving grievances of minority employees in Kashmir. The employees can register their issues at jk.minoritycell@gmail.com or call at 0194-2506111, 2506112.

BJP leaders surrounded by locals at village of teacher killed by terrorists

MOHIT KANDHARI ■ JAMMU

The native village of Rajni Bala, a schoolteacher killed by terrorists in the South Kashmir district of Kulgam, on Wednesday witnessed high voltage drama as large number of local residents and members belonging to the teaching community cornered the Bharatiya Janata Party leaders, who arrived there to pay tributes to her, for making tall claims of restoring normalcy in the Kashmir region.

The BJP leaders including J&K Unit Chief Ravinder Raina, Member Parliament Jugal Kishore Sharma and former Minister Chander Prakash Ganga faced rough weather as anti BJP slogans were raised by the angry people/ government employees in their presence.

Angry employees present there warned the ruling party leaders not a single soul would stay back in Kashmir valley to get killed at the hands of terrorists. “We had gone there to earn our livelihood but not at the cost of losing our lives” the employees said categorically.

The employees also charged, “no one in Kashmir valley is paying heed to their grievances. The local employees are not standing with us. They are maintaining a criminal silence. We really don’t know from where we will get justice under these circumstances”.

“We want the UT administration to immediately issue transfer orders of Raj Kumar, husband of Rajni Bala. Under the prevailing circumstances he cannot go back with his daughter and serve there. “We also want all Jammu based employees posted in the Kashmir valley to be immediately transferred and posted in their respective district headquarters”.

The employees claimed the UT administration has totally failed to protect them and they are no longer prepared to become sitting ducks.

While the close relatives and family friends were preparing for the last rites and performing rituals a group of employees led by local politicians disrupted the traffic on the Jammu-Pathankot National

Highway demanding assurances from the UT administration in support of demands put forward by the Jammu based employees working in the Kashmir valley.

Division Commissioner Jammu Ramesh Kumar along with ADGP Jammu range Mukesh Singh patiently listened to their demands and assured them all possible help would be extended to the employees. After breaking the deadlock the last rites of Rajni Bala were performed by the family in their native village. The mortal remains of Rajni Bala, wrapped in the Tricolor were taken in a large funeral procession to the cremation ground. Senior government and police officers also walked on foot and participated in the funeral procession.

Patriotic slogans were raised while her funeral procession passed through the area. In the valley the Kashmiri pandit migrant employees also continued to hold protest demonstrations in support of their demand to relocate them to safer areas outside Kashmir valley.

New train to cement India-Bangladesh people-to-people ties

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

To further strengthen people-to-people connectivity through the railways between India and Bangladesh, the two countries started a new passenger train service, Mitali Express, via the recently-restored Haldibari-Chilahati rail link on Wednesday.

The third passenger train service between India and Bangladesh, which was virtually inaugurated by the prime ministers of the two countries on March 27 last year, was flagged off virtually by Railway Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw and his Bangladeshi counterpart Mohammad Nurul Islam Sujan. The train service could not be started earlier due to COVID-19 restrictions.

Speaking on the occasion, Vaishnaw said Mitali Express will be yet another milestone in strengthening the bond between the two neighbouring countries. The train will run bi-weekly (departure from New Jalpaiguri at 11.45 am on

Sunday and Wednesday, arrival in Dhaka at 10.30 pm on the same days and departure from Dhaka at 9.50 pm on Monday and Thursday and arrival in New Jalpaiguri at 7.15 am on Tuesday and Friday) and cover a distance of 595 kilometres (of which a 61-kilometre stretch is in India).

The new passenger service, Mitali Express, will give a boost to both countries’ tourism since it connects Bangladesh with north Bengal as well as the northeastern region of India. It will also provide access to Nepal to Bangladeshi citizens via India by rail.

The new train is in addition to two existing passenger train services — Kolkata-Dhaka-Kolkata Maitree Express (five days a week) and Kolkata-Khulna-Kolkata Bandhan Express (two days a week) — between India and Bangladesh. The services of the above two trains, which were suspended due to Covid restrictions, were resumed on May 29.

EOW of Mumbai Police books BJP leader Kamboj



T N RAGHUNATHA ■ MUMBAI

In a surprising development that came hours after the Economic Offences Wing (EOW) of the Mumbai Police booked BJP’s influential leader Mohit Kamboj and three others for an alleged Rs 52 crore bank fraud based on its complaint, the Indian Overseas Bank (IOB) on Wednesday withdrew the complaint against Kamboj saying that it had lodged a complaint against the BJP leader with the CBI.

The development raised eyebrows in the state political circles considering that the MRA Marg police booked Kamboj at 11.45 pm Tuesday had registered a case against the BJP leader sections 406, 409 (criminal breach trust), 420 (cheating), 465, 468, 471 (forgery), 471 (Using as genuine as forged document or electronic record) and 477 (fraudulent cancellation, destruction etc, of will, authority to adopt, or valuable security) of Indian Penal Code (IPC).

After the MRA Marg police booked in the IOB fraud case and transferred the case to the EOW of the Mumbai police, Kamboj posted a letter written on Wednesday by the bank’s Chief Regional Manager IOB withdrawing the complaint registered against him by the city police.

“Just Got This Letter Through Sources. Fabrication Don’t Last, Bank has withdrawn complaint Against Me And If any Fraud That is Matter of CBI to INVESTIGATE Not Mumbai Police. Misuse of Power And Fabrication Of FIR Can Be Seen. I Will Fight All War Legally,” Kamboj tweeted.

Through his tweet, Kamboj made it obvious that he is comfortable being investigated by the CBI, which is an investigating agency that works directly under the Narendra Modi-led BJP government at the Centre, than the Shiv Sena-led MVA government.

In a news released to the media earlier in the afternoon, Senior Inspector of EOW had K V Parab had said that his organisation had registered an FIR against Kamboj, M/s Nissidh Venture Private Limited, its chairman and Managing Director Kamboj, its directors Siddanth Rajendra Bagla, Jitendra Gulshan Kapoor and others in the bank fraud case.

The FIR alleged that M/s Nissidh Venture Private Limited, Kamboj Bagla and Kapoor and other unknown persons, including a public servant and bank officials, had

caused a huge loss to the tune of Rs 52.89 crore to the IOB.

According to the FIR, Kamboj and other accused had – during the period from 2011 to 2015 had allegedly conspired with other unknown bank officials and public servants in committing acts of criminal conspiracy, cheating, criminal breach of trust, falsification of records, thus causing a wrongful loss to the tune of 52.89 crore.


In a letter written to the Joint Commissioner of Mumbai police, EOW, IOB’s Chief Regional Manager Anjani Kumar quoted an RBI circular dated July 1, 2016 and said: “As per the RBI directives, the complaint on a fraud of R 32 crore and above needs to be filed with the CBI. Since the aforesaid complaint is already filed with the CBI, there is no necessity of filing a complaint with your good office. Hence, we hereby withdraw our complaint dated 27.05.2022 filed by us”.

The question that arises is: why did the IOB lodge a complaint with the Thane police in the first place as late as May 27, 2022, when the RBI’s directives on fraud classification and reporting by the commercial bank existed as early as on July 1, 2016. The possibility of the IOB coming under the pressure of Kamboj, who is an influential BJP, is not being ruled out.

It may be recalled that the name of former Mumbai BJP president Mohit Kumbhokar aka Bhartiya had figured in the developments relating to the much-discussed mid-sea drug bust case in which Bollywood super star Shah Rukh Khan’s son Aryan Khan and others were arrested during a raid on the Goa-bound Cordelia Cruises’ Empress ship, off the Mumbai coast on October 2-3, 2021.


NCP chief spokesperson and minister Nawab Malik had alleged immediately after Aryan Khan’s arrest that one Rishab Sachdeva, the brother-in-law of former Mumbai BJP youth wing president Mohit Kumbhokar aka Bhartiya, and two others were let off by the Narcotics Control Bureau (NCB) after their detention in the mid-sea drug bust case.

A native of Varanasi, Kamboj aka Bhartiya, a native of Varanasi, lives in Mumbai. He came to Mumbai in 2004. He is a gold and diamond merchant. He was also the national president of the Indian Bullion and Jewellery Association (IBJA) from 2012 to 2019. He had changed his last name to Bhartiya in January 2019.



हरियाणा सरकार

75
आज़ादी का
अमृत महोत्सव





पराक्रम और शौर्य की प्रतिमूर्ति

महाराणा प्रताप जी

की जयंती पर शत-शत नमन


2 जून, 2022



“वीरता और पराक्रम के पर्याय महाराणा प्रताप जी को उनकी जयंती पर सादर नमन। उनके साहस और संघर्ष की गाथा देशवासियों को सदा प्रेरित करती रहेगी।”

- नरेन्द्र मोदी

सूचना, जन सम्पर्क एवं भाषा विभाग, हरियाणा

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Tightening screws

The Govt should focus on education and economy rather than on plans to control population

Union Minister Prahlad Singh Patel's statement that there would soon be a law to control population, may revive the debate over the issue. It is undeniable that rapid population growth undermines economic development, especially the efforts to eradicate poverty as raising per capita income becomes difficult. Per capita income of a nation is reached by dividing its national income by its population. It is the average amount of money every national earns. It is a major economic indicator. India's per capita income was hovering around \$2,000 before the novel Coronavirus hit the world. India figures very low in the global per capita ranking, around 145. After the COVID pandemic, and the lockdowns that ensued, it fell further, going below even that of Bangladesh, the country which is widely known for its poverty and misery. Rise in population adversely affects the rise in per capita income. It is, therefore, imperative that the growth in population is reined in. Thankfully, there is some good news on this front. The total fertility rate (TFR) — that is, the average number of children born to any woman in her lifetime — came down from 2.2 in 2015-16 to 2 in 2019-21. This was one of the major findings of the fifth round of the National Family Health Survey, or NFHS-5. The survey, which began in 2019, was conducted for over two years. In fact, India's current TFR is below the replacement level of fertility of 2.1. The replacement level fertility means zero population growth: in a generation, a population exactly replaces itself.

The slowdown is the result of decades of Government efforts, economic development and modernisation. NFHS-5 underlined a few trends. For instance, there was a correlation between high population growth and poverty. The TFR in Bihar was 2.98, followed by Meghalaya (2.91), Uttar Pradesh (2.35), Jharkhand (2.26) and Manipur (2.17). Incidentally, the five States are also among the poorest in the country. Another interesting aspect was that the number of children per woman declines with women's level of schooling. Further, the education levels among women are inversely related to the number of children they are likely to bear. The TFR for unschooled females was 2.8 children, whereas it was 1.8 children for women with 12 or more years of schooling. Evidence clearly shows that economic growth and education are the best cures for high population growth rate. So, while the Minister's concern about population control is genuine, the way out that the Government seems to be contemplating, a law to check the growth rate, may not be quite needed. Worse, such a law can also be construed or misconstrued as a move targeting Muslims — something an aspiring economic power can ill afford. It must also be noted that while population growth among Muslims is higher than that in other religious groups, it is declining, as among other religious communities. It would be better to let the trends continue and increase focus on education and economic growth.



Now, people in Germany can use a nine-euro ticket for public transport, which is valid for a whole month

Tough love

Elon Musk has unequivocally told his staff to resume working physically in Tesla's offices

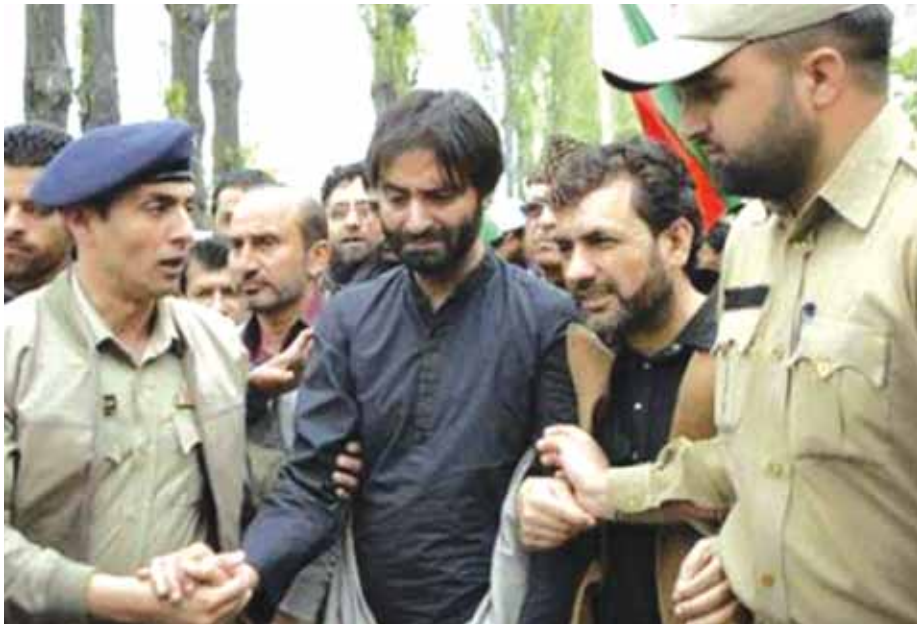
Elon Musk, the world's richest man and chief executive officer of Tesla Inc, is apparently fed up with the work-from-home concept. His sudden outburst against the electric-carmaker's executive staff members who have (habitually) taken to working for the offices from remote locations surprised many, shocked a few and wowed just a handful, too. Musk waded into the now-warming-up return-to-office debate on Twitter by elaborating in an email, under the subject line "Remote work is no longer acceptable", that "anyone who wishes to do remote work must be in the office for a minimum (and I mean *minimum*) of 40 hours per week or depart Tesla. This is less than we ask of factory workers". Musk also strongly responded to a follower asking him to address people who think going into work is an antiquated concept: "They should pretend to work somewhere else." But you can't really hold his terseness against the guy. After all, he is not the world's richest man for nothing. He is a thinker, a visionary, a performer, a doer and an achiever (though his promise in 2011 of "putting a man on Mars in the next 10 years" is still not fructified, and doesn't seem likely any time soon!). Also, it's not for the first time that Musk has treated his employees with a whiplash. A Silicon Valley venture capitalist recently recorded an anecdote regarding the man's management style belonging to the period just before Musk reached a deal to acquire Twitter Inc. According to it, Musk once noticed a gang of interns at the Space Exploration Technologies Corp hanging around a coffee machine at work. Obviously, he didn't like it and threatened to fire all the interns if it happened again. To show he meant it, he had security cameras installed to monitor compliance. Musk's email to Tesla's executive staff suggests Twitter's lenient work policy will also change once he takes over. The above-mentioned venture capitalist has already predicted that employees at Twitter, one of the most prominent companies to allow permanent remote work, are "in for a rude awakening". Twitter employees are already worried about losing jobs once Musk takes over as their boss in the months to come. However, there are still people who think that coming physically to office is an antiquated concept. Well, not really, if Musk is your boss!

OIC remains just a relic of the past

The OIC's hypocrisy on even unremorseful terrorists like Yasin Malik is the main reason it has not been able to call a spade a spade when required

The Organisation of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) is predicated on restrictive and exclusivist-religio concept of 'the collective voice of the Muslim world', or the Ummah. Religion as the only criteria, as opposed to geography, scale of development or mutual interest binds the limited membership of 57 member States. Fundamentally, it violates the universalist and politico-theological concept of Ummah by recognising independent nation States === but beyond this genealogical fracture, it has failed to showcase any significant unity, espousal and, above all, any solution to any meaningful challenge facing the Islamic world. From Algeria to Malaysia, the swathes of Ummah trickling down to Nigeria, Somalia, Mozambique and above to Turkey and the Central Asian Republics have remained mired in violence, turmoil and wars for decades. Mostly, the bloodbath in OIC countries is within themselves ie, Saudi-Iran, UAE-Yemen, Turkey-Kurds, Iraq-Kuwait and Syria-Lebanon.

The sectarian and divisive undercurrents of Arab versus Ajam (a slur, literally translating to 'mute', applicable to non-Arabic speakers of Ummah) have traditionally split the OIC at its seams, beyond other contradictions, divisions and intrigues within. A haunting video of Libyan dictator Muammar Qaddafi warning chuckling and giggling Arab leaders in Syria 2008, shows him blowing the hypocrisy of OIC unity: "A foreign force occupies an Arab county and hangs its leader while we are looking and laughing." He then adds chillingly, "In future, it is going to be your turn too." Telling of the disunity, insincerity and empty posturing of the OIC, it certainly came true for him and many others within years! The group's inefficacy in jointmanship extends to its supposed joint military arm, Islamic Military Counter Terrorism Coalition (inked by only 41 OIC members), headed by former Pakistani Army chief Gen Raheel Sharif.



Financially beholden to some Sheikhdoms, OIC is susceptible to their traditional positions and fixations (howsoever regressive, revisionist and illiberal), which ensures 'bloc' mentality within, and stymies progressive evolution. Despite unbelievable financial-energy clout of OIC, its track record in the foundational case of Palestine against Israel (with a population of 9.5 million, against the OIC's population of 1.9 billion) is a most glaring failure. Shameful selectivity of Ummah causes espoused depends on the sovereign conveniences of the main powers — so issues pertaining to Kurds, Ahwaz, Ahmediyas, Hazaras, Berbers, Houthis or even on the systematically persecuted Uyghurs remain dubiously mealy-mouthed. Crucially, it ensures that OIC's discredited position on 'terrorism' is invariably blurred, often contextualised, and given to unpardonable justifications.

While it remained very vocal on the West/'Others' for their supposed insensitivity, mishandling and denial of migrants from Iraqi-Syrian lands or the Rohingyaas, but even with their trillion-dollar treasuries, none of these



FUNDAMENTALLY, IT VIOLATES THE UNIVERSALIST AND POLITICO-THEOLOGICAL CONCEPT OF UMMAH BY RECOGNISING INDEPENDENT NATION STATES. IT HAS FAILED TO SHOWCASE ANY UNITY, ESPOUSAL OR SOLUTION TO ANY MEANINGFUL CHALLENGE

Sheikhdoms offered to rehabilitate the fleeing migrants into their own lands and economies. One such realm of recurrency and manufactured outrage has been the issue of Kashmir — never viewed from the prism of hard facts, history or terrorism, but from emotive blindness of co-religiosity. Aided immeasurably by the hyperventilating Pakistanis whose existential logic is premised on two-nation theory of religious denomination, the constantly pinged issue sustains and binds Pakistan, an otherwise failing and imploding country. Like Palestine, which is given to occasional noise and theatrical chest-beating with no consequences === Kashmir meets similar fate, albeit with even more disinterest and perfunctory statements (save for the Pakistanis and their newly anointed wingman, Turkish President Recep Erdogan).

With Abraham Accords normalising relations of most Sheikhdoms with Israel, and with Pakistanis getting embarrassed with the Israeli President confirming the visit of a 'Pakistani delegation', the no-bite reality of OIC is getting increasingly exposed. India's own bilateral and strategic



BHOPINDER SINGH

relations with powers like Saudi Arabia, the UAE and Iran (in contrast to the fickle and often flaring relations with Islamabad) are making parallel noises from the meaningless platform of OIC even more irrelevant.

The irony of OIC's dodgy observation on Kashmir is magnified by two other observations; one preceding and the other succeeding the one made on Kashmir. The earlier statement condemns blasts in Kabul without suggesting any names or reason, and the latter applauds formation of 'Committee on Girl's Secondary School' in Afghanistan by the de facto authorities === rather careful not to use words like terrorism, Taliban, ISIS-Khorasan etc. Meanwhile, it sweepingly and specifically expressed "concern" over the pronouncement of life imprisonment to Yasin Malik, a self-confessed wrongdoer! Such hypocrisy and protection offered even to unremorseful terrorists like Yasin Malik is the principal reason that OIC has not been able to call a spade a spade when required, and resorted to platitudinous 'concerns' simply owing to co-religionists. This does immense disservice to the real cause of global perceptions and peace within Ummah in the long run.

It is no one's case that OIC cannot express contrarian views from that of the dispensation of any country, but the rules of expression must be fair, consistent and based on international law. OIC's 'concern' was rightfully slammed by India, in the full know that beyond the rote positions taken by outdated platforms like OIC, the bilateral equations with major powers within Ummah are on solid foundation, and that OIC remains a grandstanding relic of the past.

(The writer, a military veteran, is a former Lt Governor of Andaman & Nicobar Islands and Puducherry. The views expressed are personal.)

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

SINGER KK'S DEATH IS A MAJOR LOSS


Sir — It's saddening to learn about the sudden and untimely demise of Bollywood singer Krishnakumar Kunnath, aka KK (53). After a concert in Nazrul Manch, Kolkata, a video showed him looking unwell while being rushed out. He went back to his hotel where he was "almost mobbed" by fans where he stumbled and fell to the floor (he had injuries on the left side of his forehead and on his lips). He reportedly suffered from chest pain and died on the way to hospital. One is unable to understand why the organisers did not rush him to a hospital as soon as he felt unwell, instead of taking him to the hotel. A fit person's sudden death, that too of a cardiac arrest, surely indicates KK was a victim of mismanagement. KK began his career by singing 3,500-odd advertisements and jingles before breaking into Bollywood and made his film debut with an AR Rahman soundtrack. The postmortem report may reveal the real reason for his death, but the nation has lost one of the young popular singers whose many songs linger on in the mind. My deep condolences to the family of the talented singer!

Bidyut K Chatterjee | Faridabad

TERROR HITS THE VALLEY AGAIN

Sir — In yet another incident of targeted attack on minorities in Jammu and Kashmir, a Hindu schoolteacher was fired at by terrorists in Kulgam district of Kashmir. Barely a week ago, 35-year-old social media influencer Amreen Bhat was shot dead by Lashkar-e-Taiba terrorists. The killing of non-Muslims in Kashmir since October 2021 has refused to stop. This is 13th such incident. The organisation of Kashmiri Pandits has given a 24-hour ultimatum to the Government to shift them outside the Valley, otherwise there will be collective decapment. A spate of killings of innocent civilians in recent days in Kashmir has again led to widespread unease, particularly among the regions with religious minorities and

The Queen's platinum jubilee



returned in 1983 also, when President Giani Zail Singh hosted them at Rashtrapati Bhawan where they presented Mother Teresa with an honorary Order of Merit.

In 1997, as India celebrated the 50th anniversary of Independence, the Royal couple was invited but faced protests over the Jallianwala Bagh massacre. The Queen in her banquet address, however, admitted: "It is no secret that there have been some difficult episodes in the past. Jallianwala Bagh is a distressing example." And the following day, she reached Jallianwala Bagh amid protests where she bowed her head and placed a wreath at the memorial. Queen Elizabeth also hosted three Indian Presidents: Radhakrishnana (1963), R Venkataraman (1990) and Pratibha Patil (2009). Also, she allayed many Britishers' fears about passing on her crown to heir Prince Charles, when she declared that "Camilla will be known as Queen Consort".

Azhar A Khan | Rampur

brought the Government's claims of peace in question. There were around 3,50,000 Pandits in late 1980s in the Valley and now only 2,764 are left. The Government must take strict steps against terrorism and again plan for the return of minorities in the Valley without any casualties. The Government must establish peace in the most beautiful part of our country and give a fitting answer to the terror-mongers.

Ishita Patidar | Ujjain

A TOAST TO CARTOONISTS

Sir — Cartoonists are creative people with exceptional courage. Their work on politics, corruption and other sensitive issues gives them a witty look, laced with satire, and that calls for a great amount of intrepidity. The critical voice of a cartoonist, especially a political cartoonist, can provide a vital safety valve for a society. By mocking politicians for their excesses and failings, cartoonists hold them accountable. A caricaturist provides insights into

power relations, key social issues and events. Many powerful political figures have been skewered by a cartoonist's sharp pen over lies, machinations and crimes. Cartoons are both a strong plea and a stress test for freedom, tolerance and a society's ability for conducting a dialogue. And it doesn't matter whether you live in a dictatorship or a democracy. As history repeats and patterns emerge, two popular aphorisms fortify the independent voice: 1) "The pen is mightier than the sword"; and 2) "A picture is worth a thousand words." Said Jen Sorensen, the American cartoonist and illustrator who was named a Pulitzer finalist in editorial cartooning in 2017: "Cartoons are a great medium for demonstrating just how absurd something is, without ever having to say it directly."

Ranganathan Sivakumar | Chennai

Send your feedback to: letterstopioneer@gmail.com

SOUND BITE

The country is getting out of the vicious cycle of corruption, scams...and nepotism.



Prime Minister — Narendra Modi

We will not give Ukraine missiles that could be used to target Russia.



US President — Joe Biden

I think the State Govt and the police have failed... They removed his (Moosewala's) security.



Singer — Ashok Mastie

I have an unbelievable feeling. I was so nervous in the end but I'm happy now.



Danish tennis player — Holger Rune

Satyendar Jain was arrested to prevent him from going to Himachal (for poll strategy).



Deputy Chief Minister — Manish Sisodia

FIRST COLUMN

WHERE THE BIG 3 STAND IN TELANGANA POLLS

BJP buoyant, TRS incumbent, and Congress finds votes intact



RAMACHANDRA MURTHY KONDUBHATLA

Whenever the next elections to Telangana Assembly are held, it could be as early as May-June next year or December 2023 as scheduled, it is going to be a three-cornered contest. TRS has a whopping 103 out of the total of 119 MLAs in Telangana Assembly. It won 88 seats in the 2018 elections. Congress had got 19, AIMIM bagged seven, TDP two and the BJP won only one. Later, 12 Congress MLAs, two TDP MLAs and one independent MLA joined the ruling TRS bulging its strength.

The BJP claims it can win 70 seats. The confidence comes from its wins in the by-election to Dubbaka seat and Huzurabad constituencies. Etala Rajendra, former health and finance minister, who left the TRS and joined the BJP won against heavy odds. The TRS used all its forces and resources under the leadership of Harish Rao, known for his political abilities. The saffron party's remarkable show in the elections to Greater Municipal Corporation of Hyderabad added to its glamour. With the Congress in a quagmire with endless dissensions and seniors in the party not reconciling to the appointment of Revanth Reddy, a young leader who came from the TDP, as the PCC president, the BJP thought its time has come. However, the Congress may have quarrelling leaders but its vote bank appears to be intact.



TRS for the first time in recent months trained its guns at the Congress. Harish Rao, Minister for Finance and Health, called Rahul Gandhi inefficient and incapable of running the party. K Taraka Rama Rao (KTR), KCR's son and Minister of IT and Municipal Administration, of late, has been very vocal in his attacks against Narendra Modi and the BJP. KCR, on his part, has been taking on Modi and the NDA government. KCR was ignoring the Congress as though it is not going to be a player in 2023 elections. But the huge crowds at Warangal at the recent Rahul Gandhi rally forced the TRS to attack Rahul and the Congress. Congress leaders are acutely happy that the TRS leaders have started to take notice of their presence.

Rahul's meetings gave a boost to the sagging morale of the Congress leaders and workers. He said he would follow the Warangal meet with another gathering of tribals to discuss their specific problems. If the Congress can clear the mess at the top and concentrate on States such as Telangana, it can hope to gain in 2024.

The BJP has been trying assiduously to build upon the work done by RSS leaders in the constituencies reserved for dalits and adivasis. There are 19 seats for dalits and 12 for adivasis in Telangana. Whoever wins majority of them would come to power.

If the Congress and the BJP have the same pull on the voters, it will be advantageous to the TRS since both the opposition parties will share anti-incumbency vote equally thus giving an edge to the ruling TRS. If either Congress or the BJP becomes weak, it will go against the TRS since the majority of anti-TRS vote will be hogged by the second-best party. It is a matter of fact that most of the TRS MLAs are unpopular, as reportedly suggested by poll strategist Prashant Kishor (PK). As of now, the BJP is not in a position to field candidates in some of the constituencies in districts like Nalgonda and Khmmam. If KCR followed PK's formula and changed the candidates in some of the seats where the sitting MLAs are perceived to be weak, the BJP would welcome the disgruntled MLAs, give them party tickets and try its luck.

(The writer is a senior journalist and Editor, primepost, a news website based out of Hyderabad. The views expressed are personal.)

Israel ties sharpen India's military edge

Through its multi-alignment policy, India has de-hyphenated relations with Palestine, and gets cooperation from Israel in a range of Defence measures

Bilateral relations with Israel are thirty years old, one aspect of which, sources indicate, is that country extending military help to India even during the Cold War period, especially during the 1971 war with Pakistan. Its no-strings-attached help with ammunition and laser-guided missiles during the Kargil conflict years later had transformed the battlespace in India's favour. The contribution of Israel can be assessed just by the Phalcon air radar system and the joint production of the Barak missile defence system.

Previous governments could not strike a balance between Israel and Palestine and hence always saw Israel from the prism of the Palestinian issue. On the other hand, Prime Minister Narendra Modi in 2017 and 2018 visited Israel and Palestine, respectively, and this marked the first-ever visit of India's political leadership. In 2018, the then Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu paid an official visit to India. Since then, the relations between the two countries have seen an upward trajectory.

The security and the foreign policy acknowledged that India's pursuit of politico-strategic equilibrium remains incomplete without Israel. Through the multi-alignment policy, India has de-hyphenated its relations with Palestine, and hence has moved much ahead with Israel in terms of cooperation in counter-terrorism measures, including intelligence sharing and missile supplies. The use of precision-guided Spice bombs in the non-military surgical strikes strongly indicates the choice of weapons that Israel can offer to India. As Israeli Defence Minister Benny Gantz is on an upcoming visit, it becomes essential to analyse the possible contours of coordination between the two countries.

The Quad Joint Leaders' Statement 2022 condemned the Mumbai and the Pathankot attacks and pledged to "take concerted action against all terrorist groups, including those individuals and entities designated pursuant to the UNSC Resolution 1267(1999)". This is a significant development as the perpetrators of 26/11 continue to be shielded by Pakistan. The statement might indicate a crucial upcoming development. Is it possible that the CIA, Mossad and RAW can actively coordinate to use different coercion tools against the terror groups that harmed the joint interests of the three?

Possible coordination between the three agencies is necessary from another perspective. The recent use of Rocket Propelled Grenade Launchers (RPG) in the Mohali terror attacks and the findings that the US military hardware left in Afghanistan is now landing in Kashmir expands the horizon of Pakistan's proxy war against India. The shrinking foreign exchange reserves and mounting external debt apart from the Baloch and the Tehrik-e-Taliban Pakistan attacks on the military establishment might lead to a full-blown



IF ALL GOES WELL, THE ALLIANCE BETWEEN ISRAEL, THE US, SAUDI ARABIA AND UAE WOULD BE IN PLACE, AND INDIA CAN JOIN IT FOR ENERGY AND SECURITY REQUIREMENTS. LAST YEAR, THE LOGIC OF INDIA'S STRATEGIC ALLIANCE AXES GOT A STRONGHOLD WITH THE FIRST CLOSED-DOOR VIRTUAL MEETING

(The writer is an Assistant Professor at Central University of Punjab, Bathinda. The views expressed are personal.)



civil war in Pakistan. To divert attention, Rawalpindi might resort to terror attacks against the Indian interests to escalate the tensions that might endanger the South Asian peace and security. The next few months are all the more critical for India's security. In such a scenario, India's operational preparedness should be high.

To defeat terror, India should integrate its available and new technologies with the help of Israel and the US. There can be active cooperation between the two countries for technology transfer or the direct purchase of the Iron Dome Air Defense System to protect military installations prone to attacks by Pakistan-based proxies. Rafael Advanced Defence Systems have developed the Iron dome. Its Active cooperation with ISRO and DRDO can be sought to collaborate on futuristic weapons based on Artificial Intelligence and precise weaponry for external and internal security purposes. If made possible, it can significantly defeat Pakistan's sinister objectives.

Israel has also gained expertise in weaponising intelligence where the adversary's military and proxies' build-up are internationally exposed. The exposure of the covert 2010 military deployment of Hizbollah and the 2018 secret atomic warehouse in Tehran are examples wherein Israel has actively used its intelligence to avoid escalation. Intelligence weaponisation sends strong signals that the covert operations have been exposed and need to be halted immediately; failing which surgical strikes can soon follow. Also, it serves as an essential tool in perception management and psychological warfare, which play an essential role in building up the narratives in the home country

and the international community apart from the adversary population. Coordination in intelligence can be helpful for India, wherein it can expose the terror launch pads from across the LOC. Such measures can also have the sword of being blacklisted in FATF hanging over Pakistan. Nevertheless, the use of strategic communication witnessed in the post-Pulwama non-military surgical strikes can be clubbed with intelligence weaponisation to restrict the scope of Pakistan's terror manoeuvring.

Concerning energy security, it has to be recalled that India could not materialise its TAPI and IPI pipeline dream because of the Pakistan factor. However, to overcome the geographical constraint of Pakistan, apart from the other geopolitical competing interests like the Pak-Turkish alliance, Modi has crafted the 'Act West' policy. Other strategic interests include intelligence sharing, defence, cyber, and maritime security. From a futuristic perspective, the emergence of multilateral Mediterranean "security architectures" has become profound with the discovery of natural gas fields in Israel's Eastern Mediterranean offshore Tamar (2009) and Leviathan (2010), apart from Cyprus's Aphrodite (2011) and Egypt's Zohar (2015).

The rise of the EastMed energy alliance that intends to take natural gas to Europe can be an essential natural gas source for India. If the Abraham accord, which is already in place, can be extended to include Saudi Arabia, the natural gas can be brought to India too via underwater pipelines. The same week Benny Gantz would be in India, Israel's NSA Eyal Huleta is scheduled to meet his US counterpart Jake Sullivan in Washington to nor-

malise relations between Israel and Saudi Arabia. If all goes well, the alliance between Israel, the U.S., Saudi Arabia and U.A.E. would be in place, and India can join the alliance for its energy and security requirements. Last year, the logic of India's strategic alliance axes got a stronghold with the first closed-door virtual meeting between foreign ministers of India, Israel, UAE and the US. India is on its path to be a part of the formulation of a structural framework that could be a win-win situation for the regional and the extra-regional players to push back the terror-sponsoring countries apart from the expansionist forces.

As President Joe Biden has decided to retain the Iranian Revolutionary Guards on the US list of sanctioned terror organisations, it might negatively affect the prospects of a new nuclear deal with Iran. This will lead to the sharpening of the strategic polarisations in India's western neighbourhood, and China's influence over Iran is bound to increase. Simultaneous geopolitical convergences between India, Israel and the US to fight terror will also increase the threat factor. India and Israel have to be cautious concerning the attempts of the various proxy groups to harm the Israeli diplomats in India. For instance, Tal Yehoshua-Koren, wife of the Israeli defence attaché to India, was targeted in 2012 while an explosion took place near the Israeli Embassy on the 29th Anniversary of the establishment of the bilateral relations. It is only through joint efforts in human and signal intelligence that such attacks can be averted. Overall, the future is bright for India's overwhelming presence in West Asia.

POINT COUNTERPOINT

SONIA J/ PERSONALLY COMMITTED TO ACCOMMODATE ME IN THE RS IN 2003/04... I ASK, AM I LESS DESERVING? —MAHILA CONGRESS GENERAL SECRETARY NAGMA



GETTING BLINDED BY PERSONAL AMBITION IS A LUXURY YOU AND I CAN'T AFFORD IN THIS FIGHT. IT'S A BIGGER FIGHT. —CONGRESS SPOKESPERSON PAWAN KHERA

March to 2047: BJP targets poor, ease of living

The party's stress is more on man-to-man contact by lakhs of party workers in the most remote villages

The BJP is setting goals to work continuously till India's independence centenary in 2047, riding on the strength of its strong eight-year of reign 'ensuring ease of living' for the poor and the middle classes.

The goal is set by Prime Minister Narendra Modi in his address to party workers in Jaipur and the strategy finalized for "Sewa, Sushashan and Gareeb Kalyan" campaign. The party and the government carved out an intense blitzkrieg of publicity, one-to-one contact with a view to capturing all the states that are not in its fold. Too ambitious but with 744 central schemes and 72 sponsored programmes and millions of cadre across the states it finds the task tough but not difficult.



SHIVAJI SARKAR

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

Even the march to Dakshin - the South - is part of its yatra. Its senior leaders are carving out strategies in Chhattisgarh, Telangana and Andhra. Modi launched projects worth ₹31,500 crore to target Tamil Nadu. The massive campaign is to make all believe in its economic feat, improvements in living standards, digital economy inclusion of the poor, a caring government for a grand success by 2024 in Lok Sabha and at least 16 states that go to the polls in the next two years.

The thrust of the BJP in government or the party would be to focus on the wider benefits that the programmes like DBT, PM Kisan and Swachha Bharat, universal vaccination, various pension and employment schemes, including Mahatma Gandhi National



Rural Employment Guarantee. The core would be nine-plus programmes that have touched the neo-aspiree classes. They reach the households and is said to make qualitative difference to the living conditions. It is not aspiration but the basic needs like Har Ghar Jal, Har Ghar Shauchalay (Swach Bharat Mission), Har Ghar Bijli (Saubhagya Yojana), Har Ghar Gas Cylinder (Ujjwala Yojana), Har Ghar Ration (Gareeb Kalyan Yojana),

Har Ghar Bank account (Jan Dhan Yojana), Har Ghar Swasthya (Ayushman Yojana), Har Ghar Teeka, Har Ghar Pakka Ghar. The schemes are reaching grass root levels and stated to better lives of the poor. Even separate meets with different caste and dalit groups are planned. The BJP claims such strategies led to shifting of the 8 percent extreme poor minority votes in UP elections. The income of the com-

mon man has also almost doubled. It's not untrue but a recent PM's Economic Advisory Council report mentions that five to seven percent of the country's income comes from the top one percent, while 15 percent earn less than ₹5000 a month. The report card says that MSP for wheat in 2014 was ₹130 per quintal and rice ₹1310 per quintal, in 2022 wheat is ₹2015 and rice 1940; farmers' monthly income has risen to ₹10428 from ₹6426 in 2014. Employment rate was 42.8 core and now 39.98 crore; 3.4 percent were unemployed and now it is 8.7 percent. According to Pew research, the middle class shrank by 35 million while the number of people who were pushed to poverty was 75 million because of Covid-19

pandemic-led recession. It may be one of the longest canvassing and campaigning for a party that has to capture a number of states held by the opposition. Some like Telangana chief minister K Chandrashekar Rao has posed a challenge. Parties like AAP are eyeing Himachal and Gujarat. Ten states will form new governments in 2023 and four states that are to have elections by June 2024 may cast vote with the Lok Sabha elections. An election is a tough game so the party is taking its blitz to booth level, according to BJP president JP Nadda. The BJP stress is more on man-to-man contact by lakhs of party workers in the most remote villages to explain to the people what the party has done for

them beyond the free food dole. Thousands of groups would carry on the re-education of the masses in all states. How big is the campaign splash is anybody's guess. The UPA government too had splurged Rs 2658 crore as per official statements on publicity. During the eight years the BJP has also spent a substantial sum. The early start by the BJP will pressurise its opponents to match the splurge to remain relevant. The central government spent ₹1698 crore on publicity and advertisements between 2018 and 2021 for print and electronic media. The party has separate state-wise budgets. The campaign for the next 25 years is ambitious, not easy, and aims at changing the gamut of Indian politics.

Biden talks gun control, extremism with NZ's PM

AP ■ WASHINGTON

President Joe Biden praised New Zealand Prime Minister Jacinda Ardern on Tuesday for her success in curbing domestic extremism and guns as he tries to persuade a reluctant Congress to tighten gun laws in the aftermath of horrific mass shootings in Uvalde, Texas and Buffalo, New York.

The long-planned talks between Biden and Ardern were to center on trade, climate and security in the Indo-Pacific, but the two leaders' starkly different experiences in pushing for gun control loomed large in the conversation.

Ardern successfully won passage of gun control measures in her country after a white supremacist gunman killed 51 Muslim worshippers at two Christchurch mosques in 2019. Less than a month later all but one of the country's 120 lawmakers voted in favor of banning military-style semiautomatic weapons.

Biden told reporters at the start



of his meeting with Ardern that he "will meet with the Congress on guns, I promise you," but the White House has acknowledged that winning new gun legislation will be uphill climb in an evenly divided Congress.

The U.S. President praised Ardern for her "galvanizing leadership" on New Zealand's efforts to curb the spread of extremism online, and said he wanted to hear more about the conversations in her country about the issue. Ardern and French President Emmanuel Macron in 2019 launched an effort to work

with tech companies on eliminating terrorist and violent extremist content online. Then-President Donald Trump declined to join the effort, but the Biden administration has since joined the Christchurch Call to Action.

Biden over the weekend traveled to Uvalde, Texas, to grieve with a community that he said made clear to him they want to see Washington tighten gun laws in the aftermath of the shooting rampage that killed 19 children and two teachers. Biden heard similar calls for an overhaul of the nation's gun laws earlier this month when he met with families of 10 Black people who were killed in a racist attack at a Buffalo supermarket.

Biden and Ardern also discussed a May 15 shooting at a lunch banquet at a Taiwanese church in Laguna Woods, California that killed one person and wounded five others. "The pain is palpable," said Biden, recalling his anguished conversations Sunday with families of

victims of the Texas elementary school shooting.

Ardern offered condolences and said she stood ready to share "anything that we can share that would be of any value" from New Zealand's experience.

"Our experience demonstrated our need for gun reform, but it also demonstrated what I think is an international issue around violent extremism and terrorism online," Ardern told reporters following her more than hour-long meeting with Biden. "That is an area where we see absolutely partnership that we can continue to work on those issues."

It's unclear what, if anything, from New Zealand could be applicable to the United States, which hasn't passed a major federal gun control measure since soon after the 2012 Sandy Hook Elementary School shooting in Connecticut that left 26 dead. Ardern, in comments to reporters, said the two countries' political systems are "very different."

Lanka's rights body delays summoning ex-PM Mahinda over attacks on protesters

PTI ■ COLOMBO



Sri Lanka's top human rights body has decided to delay summoning former Prime Minister Mahinda Rajapaksa and ask him to appear before it after obtaining statements from police and prison personnel in connection with the deadly attack on peaceful anti-government protesters last month, according to a media report on Wednesday.

On May 9, violence erupted in Sri Lanka after supporters of the 76-year-old former premier attacked peaceful anti-government protesters demanding his ouster over the country's worst economic crisis that led to acute shortages of staple food, fuel and power. Nine people were killed and over 200 people injured in the violence in Colombo and other cities. The Human Rights Commission of Sri Lanka (HRCSL) had earlier decided to summon Rajapaksa before it on Wednesday, News First, an online news portal said.

However, Rajapaksa could not be summoned as statements could not

be obtained from all police officers and prison department officials on the incident. Now, it has decided to summon Rajapaksa after obtaining statements from these officials on the May 9 attack on the protesters.

In addition, the HRCSL said that further statements would be recorded from the victims. Thereafter, statements will be obtained from Mahinda Rajapaksa and other politicians regarding the incident.

Sri Lanka has been witnessing large-scale protests against the government's handling of the debt-ridden economy -- the worst-ever economic crisis in the country's history. The country of 22 million people is grappling with unprecedented economic turmoil since its independence from Britain in 1948.

After mass shooting, NYC explores gun detectors in subways

AP ■ NEW YORK

In the aftermath of a mass shooting on a New York City subway train, the mayor floated a high-tech idea: deploy scanners that can spot someone carrying a gun into the transit system before they have a chance to use it.

The technology to scan large numbers of people quickly for weapons does exist, and is used now to screen people at places like sports stadiums and theme parks.

But security experts say installing such a system in the city's sprawling, porous subway system in a way that would make a difference would be difficult, if not impossible.

The problem wouldn't necessarily be the technology — but rather the reality that scanners need to be accompanied by human operators to confront people carrying firearms illegally.

Rumblings within Lanka Govt over 21st Amendment to Constitution

PTI ■ COLOMBO

Sri Lankan Prime Minister Ranil Wickremesinghe's plan to introduce the 21st Amendment to the Constitution to empower Parliament over the executive president has met with resistance within the ruling SLPP coalition, party sources said on Wednesday.

Wickremesinghe on Sunday battled for the 21st Amendment to the Constitution, saying it will curb the president's unlimited powers while enhancing the role of Parliament in governing the debt-ridden country which is also facing an unprecedented political turmoil.

The 21st Amendment is

expected to annul the 20A to the Constitution, which gives unfettered powers to President Gotabaya Rajapaksa after abolishing the 19th Amendment that will strengthen Parliament. The proposal met with opposition from the loyalists of the Rajapaksa family, particularly from the supporters of Basil Rajapaksa, the former finance minister.

Basil Rajapaksa, the younger brother of President Gotabaya Rajapaksa and former prime minister Mahinda Rajapaksa, is a dual American and Sri Lankan citizen and the 21A seeks to bar dual citizens from holding any top public office.

At the meeting held on Monday evening, President

Gotabaya Rajapaksa told ruling Sri Lanka Podujana Peramuna (SLPP) parliamentarians that he was fully backing the 21A.

Some parliamentarians, who are believed to be Basil Rajapaksa's supporters, told Wickremesinghe that granting economic relief to people in the worst-ever economic crisis was more important than constitutional reforms, according to sources. However, another group of MPs had felt that constitutional reforms too were necessary for the government's bid to win international support to tackle the economic crisis.

Wickremesinghe was appointed Sri Lanka's prime minister by President Gotabaya Rajapaksa after the resignation of his elder brother

Mahinda Rajapaksa.

Wickremesinghe told the ruling coalition parliamentarians that they were free to talk to him on the clarification over the 21st Amendment.

With the current economic crisis snowballing into a political crisis in April, over 50 parliamentarians of the ruling SLPP coalition broke ranks to remain independent. This resulted in the government losing its majority in the 225-member assembly.

Sri Lanka's economic crisis has created political unrest with a protest occupying the entrance to the president's office demanding his resignation continuing for more than 50 days.

Israel simulates long-range air strikes over Mediterranean

AP ■ JERUSALEM

The Israeli military on Wednesday said dozens of its aircraft conducted a drill simulating airstrikes on long-range targets, a thinly veiled reference to a possible attack on regional rival Iran.

The army said the exercise took place a day earlier over the Mediterranean and "involved long-range flight, aerial refuelling and striking distant targets". It provided no additional information. The announcement came as negotiators representing world powers and Iran have held months of talks in a bid to hash out a new agreement to rein in Tehran's nuclear programme, four years after a deal struck in 2015 collapsed after the Trump administration unilaterally withdrew.

Israel considers Iran its greatest threat and was staunchly opposed to the 2015 JCPOA accords signed by Iran and world powers, saying it didn't have enough safeguards to keep Iran from developing a weapons capability or address other Iranian military threats in the region. It has said it opposes a return to a new nuclear agreement. Iran has long insisted that its nuclear program is solely for peaceful purposes.

Israel is widely believed to be the only nuclear-armed state in the Middle East, but has never publicly acknowledged having such weapons.

German court convicts ISIS returnee who took daughter to Syria

AP ■ BERLIN

A German woman who took her young daughter to Syria, joined the Islamic State group there and allegedly took advantage of an enslaved Yazidi woman was convicted Wednesday of membership in a terrorist organisation and other offenses.

The state court in Celle said the 34-year-old, who has been identified only as Romiena S. In line with

German privacy rules, was sentenced to three years and three months in prison. She was also convicted of being an accessory to a crime against humanity, abducting a minor and breaching her duties of welfare and education.

Judges said that she travelled to Syria in 2014, taking her 4-year-old daughter against the wishes of the child's father. She then successively married a number of IS members,



enabling them to fight by running their households.

The defendant brought up her daughter and two Syrian-born sons in line with IS ideology, taking the girl to the stoning of a woman when she was 6 and showing her execution videos, the court said. At one point, it added, she exploited an enslaved Yazidi woman at the home of a slave trader for a few days and guarded her as

she went into town.

The defendant also posted messages on Twitter supporting extremist attacks in Nice, France, and Wuerzburg, Germany, in 2016.

She was arrested at Frankfurt airport when she arrived in October among a group of women and children repatriated from a camp in northeastern Syria where suspected IS members were held.

The court said the defendant largely admitted to the allegations against her and has now "distanced herself credibly" from IS. It said in a statement that judges also took into account the fact she wasn't a "hard-liner" and that joining IS was in part "an escape from her previous life situation." It didn't elaborate.

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EXTRACT OF AUDITED FINANCIAL RESULTS FOR THE QUARTER AND YEAR ENDED MARCH 31, 2022						
Particulars	Quarter Ended			Year Ended		(Rs. in Lakhs)
	31.03.2022	31.12.2021	31.03.2021	31.03.2022	31.03.2021	
Total income from operations	447.30	596.95	507.41	1774.12	1235.43	
Net Profit/(Loss) for the period before tax	0.16	1.04	(1.61)	3.82	2.83	
Net Profit/(Loss) for the period after tax	(0.54)	0.27	(7.07)	2.19	(5.17)	
Total Comprehensive Income for the Period						
(Comprising Profit/(Loss) for the period (after tax) and Other Comprehensive Income (after tax))	(0.51)	0.36	(9.25)	2.50	(4.79)	
Equity Share Capital	300.00	300.00	300.00	300.00	300.00	
Reserves (excluding Revaluation Reserve) as shown in the Audited Balance Sheet of the previous year				741.32	738.82	
Earnings Per Share (of ₹ 2/- each)						
(1) Basic	(0.02)	0.01	(0.31)	0.07	(0.17)	
(2) Diluted	(0.02)	0.01	(0.31)	0.07	(0.17)	
Note:						
1. The figures of the quarter ended March 31, 2022 and March 31, 2021 are the balancing figures between the audited figures in respect of the full financials year and the published year to date figures upto third quarter of the respective financial year.						
2. The above is an extract of the detailed format of Quarterly/Annual Financial Results filed with the Stock Exchanges under Regulation 33 of the SEBI (Listing obligations and Disclosure Requirements) Regulations, 2015. The full format of the Quarterly/Annual Financial Results are available on the website of the Stock Exchange, www.bseindia.com and on the Company's website, www.unitedtextileslimited.com.						
Place : Hisar			For United Textiles Limited			
Date : 30th May, 2022			Vivek Agarwal			
			Whole Time Director			
			DIN No. 07079208)			

LICENSE NO. 04 of 2021 DATED 02.03.2021	HARERA REG. NO. 36 of 2021 DATED 16.07.2021
DRAW OF FLATS	
General Public is hereby informed that e-Draw of flats, under Haryana Affordable Housing Policy 2013 amended from time to time, of the project "Landmark The Homes 81" Sector 81, Gurugram (Project ID - 84), being developed by SRV Automotives Private Limited, shall be conducted on 03/06/2022 at 04:45 PM at HSVP Gymkhana Club, Sector 29, Gurugram, Haryana-122006.	
We have received 111 applications against 165 numbers of units available for draw.	
As per MHA guidelines, draw shall be conducted with the maximum strength of 50 persons including draw committee and the staff at site. Remaining applicants shall participate in the draw online through below provided link of Youtube live.	
YouTube Live link: https://youtu.be/_IEqf5LKBds	
M/s SRV Automotives Private Limited, CIN: U70100DL2005PTC134174 Corp. Office: Landmark House, Plot No. 65, Sector 44, Gurgaon, Haryana – 122003 Please Contact – 8929887878	

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OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER	
JAL SHAKTI (PHE) HYD DIVISION BANDIPORE	
NOTICE INVITING TENDER	
Fresh E-NIT No. 17/PHE/Hyd/Bpr OF 2022-2023 Dated: 28-05-2022	
For and on behalf of Lt. Governor of UT of J&K, Executive Engineer, Jal Shakti (PHE) Hydraulic Division Bandipore invites e-tenders from reputed and resourceful Bidders/ Firms/Companies/ of all classes registered in JKPWD/CPWD/Railways or any other state Government for below mentioned works at various Water Supply schemes of PHE Hydraulic Division Bandipore of Kashmir Province of UT of J&K, under Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM).	
The bidding process shall be completed online on https://jktenders.gov.in in two covers viz. Cover 1st consisting of General Terms and Conditions and Technical Specifications and Cover 2nd consisting of Financial Bid on overall percentage rate basis, in the prescribed BQ.	
Sr.No 1. Particulars of the work :- Laying & Fitting of Delivery and Distribution Mains consisting of GMS Tubes and Ductile Iron Pipes of different Nominal Bores along with pipe fittings and control valves Construction of Ground Service Reservoirs (GSRs), Execution of ancillary civil works like Spring Covers, Boundary walls, Protection Works etc. at various Water Supply schemes of Division Bandipore of Kashmir Province of UT of J&K, under Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM).	
Estimated Cost (Lacs) :- As per ANNEXURE-I to this bid document.	
Tender fee (in Rs) :- Rs. 500/-	
Earnest money Deposit :- 02% of the estimated cost	
Bid Validity :- 90 Days	
Time of Completion of work (days) :- As per ANNEXURE-I to this bid document.	
Position of funds: Approved Under Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM)	
The tender inviting authority is Executive Engineer, Jal Shakti (PHE) Hydraulic Division Bandipore.	
The awarding authority is District Jal Jeevan Mission (DJJM).	
Critical Dates:	
I) Publish Date :- 30-05-2022 at 10:00 AM	
II) Document Download/sale start Date :- 30-05-2022 at 10:00 AM	
III) Clarification Start date :- -----	
IV) Clarification End date :- -----	
V) Bid submission Start date :- 30-05-2022 from 10:00 AM	
VI) Bid submission End date :- 07-06-2022 at 4:00 PM	
VII) Date and time of Bid opening:- 08-06-2022 at 4:00 PM	
1. Bid documents can be accessed and downloaded from the website https://jktenders.gov.in	
2. The whole bidding process shall be completed online on tender portal https://jktenders.gov.in . The intending bidders can download the bid document from the tender portal and can submit their bids by uploading them on the tender portal.	
3. The valid bids received shall be opened online in the office of the Executive Engineer PHE Hydraulic Division Bandipore. Bids must be accompanied by bid security and cost of Tender Document as specified in column 4 & 5 of the table and shall be payable at Bandipore.	
a. The cost of tender documents should be in form of DD/TR/e challan in favour of Executive Engineer PHE Hydraulic Division Bandipore.	
4. The hard copies of cost of tender document in shape of TR/e-challan, Earnest money in shape of CDR/FDR/BG and other relevant documents shall be obtained from the bidder who is declared as L1 after opening of financial cover.	
5. The bid shall remain valid for a period of 90 days from the last date of submission of bids. If any bidder withdraws his bid before the said period or makes any modifications in the terms and conditions of the bid, the same shall be considered to be in violation of bid security declaration and shall be dealt with accordingly and the bid shall be declared non-responsive.	
6. Other details can be seen in the bidding documents from the website https://jktenders.gov.in	
7. Queries by email if any should be made at xenhdydbpr@gmail.com	
ANNEXURE I	
SCHEME WISE LIST OF WORKS	
S. No. 1, Name of Water Supply Scheme :- WSS Numbardarpati, Description of work :- Construction including successful testing and commissioning of 0.02MGD Slow Sand Filtration Plant and 0.10 lac Gallon Capacity RCC service reservoir with sluice chamber, Laying/ Fitting of pipe network, construction of protection wall, chain link fencing Anchor blocks and intake/spring chamber for WSS Numbardarpati, Jal Shakti (PHE) Division :- Bandipore, Estimated cost (in Lacs) :- 76.39, Time of completion (Days) :- 90, Class of Contractor :- AAY	
S. No. 2, Name of Water Supply Scheme :- WSS Chandaji, Description of work :- Construction including successful testing and commissioning of 0.024 MGD Slow Sand Filtration Plant and 0.12 lac Gallon Capacity RCC service reservoir with sluice chamber, Laying/ Fitting of pipe network, construction of protection wall, chainlink fencing, Anchor/ saddle blocks for WSS Chandaji, Jal Shakti (PHE) Division :- Bandipore, Estimated cost (in Lacs) :- 80.48, Time of completion (Days) :- 90, Class of Contractor :- AAY	
S. No. 3, Name of Water Supply Scheme :- WSS Paswalpatti Kudara, Description of work :- Construction including successful testing and commissioning of 0.030 MGD Slow Sand Filtration Plant and 0.15lac Gallon Capacity RCC service reservoir with sluice chamber, Laying/ Fitting of pipe network, construction of protection wall, chainlink fencing, Anchor/ saddle blocks, intake/ collection chamber for WSS Paswalpatti Kudara, Jal Shakti (PHE) Division :- Bandipore, Estimated cost (in Lacs) :- 77.85, Time of completion (Days) :- 90, Class of Contractor :- AAY	
S. No. 4, Name of Water Supply Scheme :- WSS Tilmath Pardaywala, Description of work :- Construction of 0.15 lac Gallon Capacity RCC service reservoir with sluice chamber, Laying/ Fitting of pipe network, construction of protection wall, chainlink fencing, Anchor/ saddle blocks, spring protection works for WSS Tilmath pardaywala, Jal Shakti (PHE) Division :- Bandipore, Estimated cost (in Lacs) :- 53.59, Time of completion (Days) :- 90, Class of Contractor :- AAY	
No. DIPK-3104/22 Dated: 01-06-2022	
Sd/- Executive Engineer Jal Shakti (PHE) Hydraulic Division Bandipore	

Shanghai starts coming back to life as Covid lockdown eases

AP ■ SHANGHAI

Traffic, pedestrians and joggers reappeared on the streets of Shanghai on Wednesday as China's largest city began returning to normalcy amid the easing of a strict two-month Covid lockdown that has drawn unusual protests over its heavy-handed implementation.

Shanghai's Communist Party committee, the city's most powerful political body, issued a letter online proclaiming the lockdown's success and thanking citizens for their "support and contributions."

The move came amid a steady rollback in compulsory measures that have upended daily life for millions while severely disrupting the economy and global supply chains.

While defending President and Communist Party chief Xi Jinping's headline "zero-COVID" policy, the country's leadership appears to be acknowledging the public backlash against measures seen as trampling already severely limited rights to privacy and participation in the workings of government.

In one such step, the Cabinet's Joint Prevention and Control Mechanism issued a letter Tuesday laying out rules.

UK PM Boris forced to explain actions in fresh partygate row

PTI ■ LONDON

British Prime Minister Boris Johnson has been forced to explain, by his own independent ethics adviser, why he believed

that the partygate fine issued to him by Scotland Yard did not breach the country's Ministerial Code. Lord Christopher Geidt, who reports directly to the Prime Minister in an advisory capacity, said in an annual report on ministerial interests released on Tuesday that a "legitimate question" has arisen as to the fixed penalty notice issued by the Metropolitan Police over a COVID lockdown-breaching birthday party at the Downing Street in June 2020.

The report notes that Johnson must set out his "case in public."

"I did not consider that the circumstances in which I received a fixed-penalty notice were contrary to the regulations," Johnson said in a letter of explanation to Geidt, which has been made public. "I have accepted the outcome and paid it in compliance with legal requirements. Paying a fixed-penalty notice is not a criminal conviction," he said. Geidt was also critical in his report about having repeatedly counselled the Prime Minister's advisers that he must offer a public comment on his obligations under "his own" Ministerial Code, a

breach of which usually leads to a minister's resignation.

"That advice has not been heeded and, in relation to the allegations about unlawful gatherings in the



Downing Street, the Prime Minister has made not a single public reference to the Ministerial Code," said the ethics adviser, who, according

to "The Times", was on the verge of resigning over the issue.

While Johnson has vehemently defended his actions and blamed the delay in his addressing the Ministerial Code on a "failure of communication" between offices, it marks yet another push towards a slow but steady build-up of discontent over his leadership. Several of his own Conservative Party members of parliament have been openly critical of his actions over partygate and many have also called for him to step down as leader and the Prime Minister.

For Tory MPs to topple their leader, 15 per cent of them have to write to the chair of the party's powerful 1922 Committee of backbench MPs. The current number stands at 54 MPs and only the chair, Sir Graham Brady, is aware of the exact number of letters before revealing that the threshold has been met to trigger a vote of no confidence.

Western nations vow to send more, better arms to Ukraine

AP ■ KYIV

Western nations promised more and more advanced arms to bolster Ukraine's defence as its troops battled a grinding Russian offensive that was closing in on capturing a key city in the east.

Germany said Wednesday it will supply Ukraine with modern anti-aircraft missiles and radar systems, and the US will unveil a new weapons package later in the day that will include high-tech, medium-range rocket systems.

The Kremlin spokesman told reporters Wednesday that the U.S. is "pouring fuel on the fire."

Western arms have been critical to Ukraine's success in stymieing Russia's much larger and better equipped military - thwarting its initial efforts to take the capital and forcing

Moscow to shift its focus instead to the eastern industrial Donbas region.

But as the war drags on and Russia bombards towns in its inching advance in the east, Ukraine has repeatedly pleaded for more and better weapons. Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy has occasionally criticized the West for moving too slowly in shipping arms - and military analysts have said Russia is hoping to overrun the Donbas before any weapons that might turn the tide arrive.

Germany has come under particular fire, both at home and from allies abroad, that it isn't doing enough.

Scholz told lawmakers that the IRIS-T SLM missiles it will send are the most modern air defense system the country has.

"With this, we will enable



Ukraine to defend an entire city from Russian air attacks," he said.

Scholz said Germany is in talks with the United States to coordinate the supply of rock-

et systems Kyiv has asked for.

In addition to the rocket systems it has promised, the US package will include helicopters, Javelin anti-tank weapon systems, tactical vehi-

cles, spare parts and more, two senior administration officials said Tuesday. The officials spoke on the condition of anonymity to preview the package before it is formally

unveiled.

One official noted that the advanced rocket systems will give Ukrainian forces greater precision in targeting Russian assets inside Ukraine.

Moscow views the U.S. Plans to supply more weapons "negatively," Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov told reporters Wednesday, saying the Kremlin doesn't trust Kyiv's assurances that the rocket systems will not be used to attack Russia. "We believe that the US is deliberately and diligently pouring fuel on the fire," Peskov said.

The announcements come as a regional governor said Russian forces now control 70% of Sievierodonetsk, a city that is key to Moscow's efforts to complete their capture of the Donbas, where Ukrainian and Russian-backed separatists have fought for years and where the separatists already held

swaths of territory.

Luhansk Gov. Serhiy Haidai said in a post on the Telegram messaging app that some Ukrainian troops have pulled back from the city, though he later told The Associated Press that the troops who remained were battling it out in the streets.

The only other city in Luhansk that the Russians have not yet captured, Lysychansk, is still "fully" under Ukrainian control, he said - but it would likely be next.

"If the Russians manage to take full control over Sievierodonetsk within two to three days, they will start installing artillery and mortars and will shell Lysychansk more intensively," Haidai said.

Zelenskyy, meanwhile. Said the country is losing between 60 and 100 soldiers a day in the fighting and that another 500 are wounded.

He told the U.S. TV channel Newsmax on Tuesday night that "the most difficult situation is in the east of Ukraine and southern Donetsk and Luhansk," two regions that make up the Donbas.

In southern Ukraine, a regional governor sounded a more positive note, saying Russian troops are retreating and blowing up bridges to prevent a possible Ukrainian advance. Vitaliy Kim, governor of the Mykolayiv region, said in messages on Telegram on Wednesday that Russia was on the defensive.

"They are afraid of a counterattack by the Ukrainian army," Kim wrote. He didn't specify where the retreat was happening. The parts of the Mykolayiv region which have been held by Russian forces in recent days are close to the large Russia-held city of Kherson.

Ukraine Gov warns of toxic acid leak

AP ■ KYIV

A regional Ukrainian governor on Tuesday said the Russian bombardment has caused a leak of toxic nitric acid from an industrial facility.

Luhansk Gov. Serhiy Haidai said a Russian air strike on Sievierodonetsk hit a tank with nitric acid at a chemical factory, causing a massive leak of its fumes.

He posted a picture of a huge rose cloud hanging over the city and urged residents not to leave their homes and wear gas masks or make improvised masks from fabric soaked in soda solution.

Sieverodonetsk has been the focus of Russia's offensive in Ukraine's eastern industrial heartland of Donbas.

It has come under intensive artillery barrage and airstrikes as the Russian forces fought Ukrainian troops for control of the city in violent street battles.

Italy imports more Russian oil despite impending embargo

AP ■ MILAN

Even as the European Union decided to reduce Russian crude oil imports by 90% by the end of the year, Italy has become the only country in Europe to increase them, an unintended consequence of EU sanctions against Russia.

Meant to punish Russia for invading Ukraine, the EU oil embargo is now putting at risk one of Italy's largest refineries, located in Sicily, which would deal an economic blow to the depressed region's economy.

Italy agreed with its EU partners to cut Russian crude imports by 2023, a move that Premier Mario Draghi called "a complete success," that "just a couple of days ago wouldn't have been believable."

But Rome also has to deal with the fate of the refinery in Sicily owned by Russia's Lukoil. As a result of previous sanctions against Russia, ISAB Srl has paradoxically gone from processing 15% of Russian crude to 100%.

That's because banks have refused to take the risk of



extending credit to Russia-controlled ISAB that would allow it to buy oil from non-Russian sources, even if not specifically barred from doing so, said Matteo Villa, an energy analyst at the ISPI think tank in Milan. Ships continue to arrive at the port-side refinery with crude oil from the Russian parent company.

Italy in May received about 400,000 barrels of Russian oil a day in May, four times the pre-invasion levels, according to the Kpler commodity data company. Of that total, ISAB received 220,000 barrels a day from Russia.

"Italy is the only country in Europe increasing oil imports," Villa said, going from the sixth-largest importer of Russian oil to the largest in the three months since the invasion.

The plant employs 3,500 people at three production sites, including a refinery, gasification and electricity cogeneration plant, in Sicily's Syracuse province, and risks closure if a solution isn't found before the embargo kicks in. The plant and related activities generate half of the provincial gross domestic product and 8% of the region's economic activity, processing one-fifth of

Italy's crude oil imports.

The refinery's future was already at risk in the longer term, due to Italy's energy transition to more sustainable sources. The embargo has only increased the sense of urgency to find a solution.

"The mood today is even worse than yesterday," said Fiorenzo Amato, the secretary general of the Filitem Cgil union in Syracuse. "The industrial hub ... Employs many people, giving families the chance to live."

Since learning of the embargo, refinery workers are growing more concerned about their future. "It will be a disaster," said Marco Candelariu. "We hope they find a solution. You cannot destroy a province. The choice was made a long time ago to base the economy prevalently on the refinery."

Villa said one solution would be for Italy to temporarily nationalize the refinery, a move permitted for energy emergencies under Italy's Constitution, but a week of discussions has yielded no agreement.

4 killed, 14 hurt as quake hits Sichuan province

PTI ■ K J M VARMA

Four people were killed and 14 others injured after a powerful earthquake of 6.1-magnitude jolted the city of Ya'an in southwest China's Sichuan province on Wednesday afternoon, according to the city's earthquake relief headquarters.

The quake rattled Lushan County of Ya'an in Sichuan at 5:00 pm local time, according to the China Earthquake Networks Centre (CENC).

The epicentre, with a depth of 17 km, was monitored at 30.4 degrees north latitude and 102.9 degrees east longitude, the CENC said.

Sichuan province suffered China's deadliest 7.9-magnitude earthquake in 2008 in which 90,000 people were killed Wednesday's earthquake was followed by another 4.5-magnitude jolt in Baoxing County, also under the city of Ya'an.

Four people were killed and 14 others injured in the quake, the state-run People's Daily reported.



All the casualties were reported from Baoxing County, the state-run Xinhua news agency reported, quoting Ya'an city's earthquake relief headquarters.

Ya'an has activated the second-highest level of emergency response for the earthquake and is conducting damage assessments.

More than 800 personnel from emergency rescue, the armed police, the fire department, the medical sector and the public security bureau were immediately dispatched to the earthquake-hit areas to search for and rescue the

injured, repair roads and relocate affected residents.

The Ministry of Emergency Management said an A level-III national emergency response has been activated to conduct the relief operations.

A work team has been dispatched to guide and assist the local emergency rescue efforts, the ministry said.

Local firefighters have reached the epicentre, while quake rescue teams of Sichuan and other neighbouring regions are on standby for relief operations, the ministry added.

Africans see inequity in monkeypox response elsewhere

AP ■ OSUN

As health authorities in Europe and elsewhere roll out vaccines and drugs to stamp out the biggest monkeypox outbreak beyond Africa, some doctors acknowledge an ugly reality: The resources to slow the disease's spread have long been available, just not to the Africans who have dealt with it for decades.

Countries including Britain, Spain, Portugal, Italy, Switzerland, the United States,

Israel and Australia have reported more than 250 monkeypox cases, many apparently tied to sexual activity at two recent venues in Europe. No deaths have been reported.

Authorities in numerous European countries and the US are offering to immunize people and considering the use of antivirals. On Thursday, the World Health Organization will convene a special meeting to discuss monkeypox research priorities and related issues.

Meanwhile, the African

continent has reported more than five times as many cases this year.

There have been more than 1,400 monkeypox cases and 63 deaths in four countries where the disease is endemic — Cameroon, Central African Republic, Congo and Nigeria — according to the ACDCP.

The Project Manager Construction Unit
Uttarakhand Peyjal Nigam Ranikhet (Almora) 263645

Letter No. 992 / NIVIDA / 127

Date: 31-05-2022

NATIONAL COMPETITIVE BIDDING

The Project Manager Construction Unit Uttarakhand Peyjal Nigam Ranikhet (Almora) 263645, on behalf of Chairman Uttarakhand Peyjal Nigam invites sealed item rate tender on e-Government Procurement System (e-GPS) portal i.e. <http://www.uktenders.gov.in>, for the following works.

Sl. No.	Name of Work	Cost of Work
1	Construction of Food Godown at Sraikhet, District - Almora	48.45 Lacs.

The tender form can be downloaded from e-Government Procurement System (e-GPS) portal i.e. <http://www.uktenders.gov.in> from 31.05.2022 at 17:00 hrs. to 16.06.2022 at 17:00 hrs. Other information can be seen in tender form or office notice board or obtained from office or phone no. 05966 220690 of office of tender inviting authority.

Project Manager

PUBLIC NOTICE

Notice is hereby given on behalf of Axis Bank Ltd that Mr. Santosh Bahukhandi intends to purchase & mortgage the Unit bearing No. D-508, on 5th floor, measuring 125 sq. ft., Situated at Jalvayu Vihar, Sector- 21, Noida, Distt. Gautam Budh Nagar, U.P., with our client against the financial assistance Whereas Mr. S.P. Choudhary S/o Ram Vijay and Mrs. Savita Malhotra W/o Rajesh Malhotra have jointly acquired the above said property by way of Transfer Deed dt. 11.03.2014. After the death of Mr. Sai Pal Choudhary, his son i.e. Mr. Vijay Choudhary becomes the joint owner of above said property on the basis of Mutation Letter dated 07.12.2018 issued by Noida. Now, Mrs. Savita Malhotra and Mr. Vijay Choudhary without obtaining Surviving Member Certificate, intend to sell the same to Mr. Santosh Bahukhandi (if any person/s) having objection with regard to ownership/mortgage of the said property is/are requested to intimate in writing to undersigned within 15 days from the date of issue of this notice at below address. In the event no information is received within 15 days from date hereof, our Client i.e. Axis Bank Ltd will proceed with the mortgage process.

DEEPAJYOT SINGH ADVOCATE
A-13, 1st, South Extn-II, New Delhi-110049
#011-40587824, 26262610, 11, 12

PUBLIC NOTICE			
TO WHOMSOEVER IT MAY CONCERN			
This is to inform General Public that following share certificate(s) of ADF Foods Limited having its Registered Office 63/86 G 1 D C INDUSTRIAL AREA NAJAFPUR, Gujarat 387001 IN registered in name of the following Shareholder/s has been lost by them:			
Sr. No.	Name of the Shareholder	Folio No.	Distinctive No. of Shares
1.	Guneet Bhasin	0060718	1860 185271 185276
2.	Guneet Bhasin	0060918	253224 253177 253178

PUBLIC NOTICE

Shri Ram Dev Co-operative Group Housing Society Ltd. H.No.125, 1st Floor, Phase-4, Bharat Nagar, Ashok Vihar, New Delhi-52

In pursuance to rule 19(2) of DCS rules, 2007, it is to inform publicly that Sh. Ram Dev (M.No.223) member of Shri Ram Dev CGHS Ltd. has resigned from the membership of the society and he had refunded through account payee cheque for his contributions. If anyone has any objections he/she may file his/her objection in the office of the RCS, Parliament Street, New Delhi or at society office i.e. House No.125, 1st Floor, Phase-4, Bharat Nagar, Ashok Vihar, New Delhi-52 within 7 days from the date of publication of the public notice.

Place: New Delhi
Date: 01st June, 2022

Guneet Bhasin

INDIAN RAILWAYS

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS
(RAILWAY BOARD)
E-TENDER NO.2022RS18743TC

Executive Director, Railways Stores (S), Ministry of Railways, Railway Board, Government of India invites e-tender for procurement of 32,697 Nos. AAR approved Cartridge Taper Roller Bearings (CTRB) Class E(6"x11") for use on Freight Stock for Indian Railways to RDSO specification No. AB/RB-40-2016 (Rev. 1) of August, 2018 & latest amendments.

2.0 The interested tenderers are advised to visit the website <http://ireps.gov.in> for details of the tender and submission of their e-bids

3.0 No manual offers will be accepted against e-tender.

4.0 Tender will closed at 15:00 hours on 05.07.2022.

Director, Railway Stores (W)
Ministry of Railways, Railway Board, New Delhi,
for and on behalf of the President of India.

SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE

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

PUBLIC NOTICE - TENDER CUM AUCTION FOR SALE OF SECURED ASSET

[See proviso to rule 8(6)]
Notice for sale of immovable assets

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

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

Sr. No.	Name of Borrower(s)/ Co-Borrowers/ Guarantors/ Loan Account No.	Details of the Secured asset(s) with known encumbrances, if any	Amount Outstanding	Reserve Price	Date and Time of Property Inspection	Date & Time of Auction
(A)	(B)	(C)	(D)	(E)	(F)	(G)
1.	Deepak Jain (Borrower), Raj Bala Jain (Co-borrower) Lan No. LBDEL00004913056, LBDEL00004947064	Prop No- 231 and 232, Block-C Sector-6 Pkt-5, Third Floor With Roof Rights, Rohini, Delhi 110085 Plot Area: 682 Sq. fts	Rs. 67,60,882/- as on May 30, 2022	Rs. 71,25,000/- May 30, 2022	June 16, 2022 From 12:00 Noon to 02:00 PM	July 17, 2022 From 12:00 Noon to 01:00 PM

The online auction will be conducted on website (URL Link-<https://disposalhub.com>) of our auction agency M/s NexXen Solutions Private Limited. The Mortgagors/ noticee are given a last chance to pay the total dues with further interest till July 08, 2022 before 05:00 PM else these secured assets will be sold as per above schedule.

The Prospective Bidder(s) must submit the Earnest Money Deposit (EMD) Demand Draft (DD) (Refer Column E) at ICICI Bank Limited, 3rd Floor Shal Tower, New Rohtak Road, Karol Bagh, Delhi-110005 and thereafter they need to submit their offer through the above mentioned website only on or before July 08, 2022 before 05:00 PM along with scan image of Bank acknowledged DD towards proof of payment of EMD. Kindly note, incase prospective bidder(s) are unable to submit their offer through the website then signed copy of tender documents may be submitted at ICICI Bank Limited, 3rd Floor Shal Tower, New Rohtak Road, Karol Bagh, Delhi- 110005 on or before July 08, 2022 before 05:00 PM. Earnest Money Deposit DD/PO should be from a Nationalised/Scheduled Bank in favour of "ICICI Bank Limited" payable at Delhi.

For any further clarifications with regards to inspection, terms and conditions of the auction or submission of tenders, kindly contact ICICI Bank Limited on 8126013708 or M/s NexXen Solutions Private Limited on 9710029933/9810029926/01244233933

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

The Authorised Officer reserves the right to reject any or all the bids without furnishing any further reasons.

For detailed terms and conditions of the sale, please visit www.icicibank.com/n4p4s

Date: June 02, 2022
Place: Delhi/ NCR

Authorized Officer
ICICI Bank Limited

JASCH INDUSTRIES LIMITED

Regd. Off. : 502, NDM-II, NSP, Pitampura, Delhi 110034 CIN : L24302DL1985PLC383771
Website : www.jaschindustries.com, Email : accounts@jasch.biz

Extract of Audited Ind AS Financial Results for the Quarter & Year Ended 31st March, 2022.
Standalone and Consolidated Financial Results under Regulation 47(1)(B) of SEBI Listing Regulations (₹ in Lakh)

Sl No	Particulars	Standalone					Consolidated	
		Quarter Ended		Year Ended			Quarter Ended	Year Ended
		31.03.22	31.12.21	31.03.21	31.03.22	31.03.21	31.03.22	31.03.22
		Audited	Unaudited	Audited	Audited	Audited	Audited	Audited
1	Total Income from Operations.	6265.973	6351.96	4984.58	21607.460	13567.63	6265.973	21607.460
2	Profit before Interest, Depreciation & Taxes (EBITDA)	954.930	984.53	754.17	3073.628	1909.27	954.930	3073.628
3	Net Profit for the period (before Tax & Exceptional Items)	867.485	894.45	669.93	2728.179	1561.97	867.485	2728.179
4	Net Profit for the period before Tax (after Exceptional Items)	867.485	894.45	669.93	2728.179	1560.44	867.485	2728.179
5	Net Profit for the period after Tax (after Exceptional Items)	642.319	664.37	493.37	2024.413	1135.20	642.319	2024.413
6	Total Comprehensive Income for the period [(Comprising Profit) for the period (after tax) and Other Comprehensive Income (after tax)]	642.319	664.37	493.37	2024.413	1135.20	642.319	2024.413
7	Equity Share Capital	1133.000	1133.00	1133.00	1133.000	1133.00	1133.000	1133.000
8	Reserves	7843.250	6536.57	5818.84	7843.250	5818.84	7843.250	7843.250
9	Earnings Per Share (of ₹10/-each) Basic & Diluted:	5.669	5.86	4.35	17.868	10.02	5.669	17.868

Notes:

1. The above is an extract of the detailed format of quarterly & yearly financial results filed with BSE under regulation 33 of the SEBI (Listing Obligations & Disclosure Requirement) Regulations 2015. Full format of said aforesaid results are available on the website of BSE i.e. <http://www.bseindia.com> and also on website of the Company <http://www.jaschindustries.com>.

2. The financial results of the Company have been prepared in accordance with Indian Accounting Standards (Ind AS).

3. Figures for the previous periods have been regrouped, wherever necessary, to conform to the current period classification

Sonipat, 28th May 2022 **sd/- (J. K. GARG) CHAIRMAN & MANAGING DIRECTOR**

Automakers report robust domestic dispatches in May

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Leading carmakers Maruti Suzuki, Hyundai and Tata Motors reported robust dispatches to dealers in May on the back of strong demand for passenger vehicles across regions, even as the global semiconductor shortage continued to impact production.

Mahindra & Mahindra, Kia India, Toyota Kirloskar Motor, Honda Cars and Skoda also witnessed strong demand for their models last month.

The month of May also witnessed Tata Motors race ahead of Hyundai in terms of domestic wholesales.

The country's largest carmaker Maruti Suzuki India (MSI) said its domestic sales stood at 1,34,222 units in May.

The company had dispatched just 35,293 units in May 2021 amid the second wave of COVID-19 pandemic in the country.

The period saw massive disruptions which impacted both production and sale of cars.

"The basic parameters of demand in terms of enquiries, bookings remain robust. However, supply chain issues remain and there is no clear visibility by when things will normalise," MSI Senior Executive Director (Marketing and Sales) Shashank Srivastava told PTI.

Elaborating on the market scenario, he noted that the passenger vehicle industry, which had shrunk to 1.03 lakh units last May, has rebounded to 2.94 lakh units in May this year.

"The April-May numbers are at about 5.88 lakh unit mark for the industry as compared with 3.9 lakh units last year...First quarter should touch 9 lakh units which is a good indication for the industry," Srivastava stated.

Last month, sales of the company's mini cars, comprising Alto and S-Presso, jumped to 17,408 units, compared to 4,760 in May 2021.

The company said sales in the compact segment, including models such as Swift, Celerio, Ignis, Baleno and Dzire, was at 67,947 units in May this year. In the corresponding period last year it was at 20,343 units.

Utility vehicle sales, including Vitara Brezza, S-Cross and Ertiga, [was at 28,051 units, while in the year-ago month it was 6,355 vehicles, MSI said.

"The sales figures of May 2022 are not comparable with that of May 2021 as the operations of the company in



May 2021 were significantly affected due to COVID-19 related disruptions," the automaker stated.

Taking the second spot in terms of domestic dispatches last month, Tata Motors reported passenger vehicle wholesales of 43,341 units.

This is the company's highest-ever monthly sales since inception PV and EV domestic combined -- led by robust dispatch of Nexon, Harrier and Safari.

The automaker also reported the highest-ever dispatches of electric vehicles (EVs) last month at 3,454 units, up from 476 units in the same period last year.

Hyundai Motor India said its domestic wholesales stood at 42,293 units in May 2022.

Both company plants in Chennai observed the scheduled biannual maintenance shutdown, leading to no production for six days in the month (May 16-21), the automaker noted.

This reduced the vehicle availability in the month, thus affecting May sales numbers (both domestic as well as exports), it added.

"Starting June 2022, production will be enhanced to cater to the high demand for domestic and export markets ensuring timely deliveries of long waiting customers," the company stated.

Mahindra & Mahindra said its domestic passenger vehicle sales stood at 26,904 units last month.

"With sales of 26,632 SUVs in May, we continued the growth momentum with all our brands performing well, including XUV700 and Thar," M&M President (Automotive Division) Veejay Nakra said.

The company is witnessing strong bookings and has a robust pipeline, he added.

The automaker is closely monitoring the supply chain related issues, which continue to constraint volumes and is taking appropriate actions to mitigate the impact, Nakra noted.

Kia India reported sales of 18,718 units in May. It had dispatched 11,050 units to dealers amid the second wave of COVID-19 in May 2021.

Similarly, Toyota Kirloskar Motor (TKM) said its wholesales stood at 10,216 units in May.

The company had dispatched just 707 units to dealerships in May 2021.

"Demand continues to peak as we have very encouraging booking orders and enquiries for all our models," TKM Associate Vice President (Sales, and Strategic Marketing) Atul Sood said.

Honda Cars India said its domestic sales last month stood at 8,188 units.

"The demand for Honda cars continued to stay strong as positive sentiments prevailed in the market but the prolonged supply chain-related issues still remain a hindrance and we are making all efforts to cater to the demand effectively," Honda Cars India Director (Marketing and Sales) Yuichi Murata noted.

Skoda Auto India said its wholesales stood at 4,604 units in May. The company had sold 716 units in the COVID-hit May last year. MG Motor India said its retail sales stood at 4,008 units in May. It had sold 1,016 units in the same month last year.

In the two-wheeler segment, Bajaj Auto reported total domestic sales of 1,12,308 units. It had dispatched 60,830 units in May 2021.

Similarly, TVS Motor Company said its domestic two-wheeler sales stood at 1,91,482 units last month, compared to 52,084 units in May 2021.

The semiconductor shortage has impacted the production and sales of premium two-wheelers, the company said.

"We are working aggressively with alternate sources and taking every effort to improve supplies at the earliest...We are optimistic that volumes will revive to normal levels once the semiconductor supplies improve," it added.

'Hike in transfer duty by 1% in Delhi to put additional burden on property buyers'



PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The decision taken by the unified Municipal Corporation of Delhi to hike transfer duty by 1 per cent on properties priced above Rs 25 lakh across the city will put additional burden on buyers and adversely impact transactions in secondary property market, according to real estate consultants.

Buying property in Delhi is set to get expensive as the unified Municipal Corporation of Delhi has decided to hike transfer duty by 1 per cent on properties priced above Rs 25 lakh across the city, official sources said on Wednesday.

After the hike, the transfer duty will be 4 per cent for men and 3 per cent for women buyers.

Commenting on the development, Amit Goyal, CEO, India Sotheby's International Realty, said, "We are surprised by the decision of the unified MCD to increase transfer duty by 1 per cent on purchase of properties priced above Rs 25 lakh at this juncture. This move puts additional burden on the property buyers."

"At a time when home loan interest rates have already started inching up and the Reserve Bank has indicated further increase in policy rates to tame the stubbornly high inflation, the decision to enhance transfer duty will jeopardise the much-needed recovery of the sector," he added.

Ashutosh Kashyap, Director, Advisory Services, Colliers India, said the proposed increase in the transfer charges, will increase the incidence of transaction cost on transfer cases.

"This move would imply an additional landed cost for secondary purchase. This move will marginally add to the lucrativeness of property purchases in the primary market from the developer, which might slightly sweeten the purchase in the primary market," he said.

However, Kashyap said the money collected on account will imply better funds with urban local bodies to undertake betterment of infrastructure and civic services within the city.

Currently, the transfer duty on sale and purchase of property in the national capital is 3 per cent for men and 2 per cent for women buyers.

In Delhi, properties are divided into eight categories A, B, C, D, E, F, G and H depending on their area location and the Delhi government collects stamp duty on sale and purchase of properties.

Posh and upscale colonies fall in the category of A and B such as Golf Links, Vasant Vihar, Sunder Nagar and Jor Bagh. Middle income group neighbourhoods fall in the C and D category areas which include localities like Lajpat Nagar, Alaknanda, Bhogal, Amar Colony, among others.

Localities such as Geeta Colony, Anand Parbat, Seikh Sarai fall in E, F, G, H category areas.

Transfer duty is collected in addition to the stamp duty. The hike will be applicable only on transfer duty and it will not impact buyers aiming to purchase properties priced below Rs 25 lakh.

Sensex extends losses for 2nd day in choppy trade; IT, FMCG counters top drags

PTI ■ MUMBAI

The Sensex and Nifty nursed losses for the second straight session on Wednesday, pressured by steep declines in IT, FMCG and pharma counters amid a mixed trend overseas.

High crude oil prices, lacklustre macroeconomic data and foreign fund outflows also played spoilsport.

The 30-share BSE Sensex declined 185.24 points or 0.33 per cent to settle at 55,381.17 in a see-saw session.

On similar lines, the broader NSE Nifty dipped 61.80 points or 0.37 per cent to finish at 16,522.75.

Nestle India was the top loser among the Sensex components, skidding 2.99 per cent, followed by Tech Mahindra, Bajaj Finserv, Sun Pharma, HCL Tech, HUL, PowerGrid and UltraTech Cement.

In contrast, M&M topped the winners' chart, climbing 1.32 per cent, after the home-grown auto major posted a multi-fold jump in total sales in May.

HDFC rose 0.94 per cent after the mortgage lender announced a 5 basis points (bps) increase in its benchmark

lending rate.

Kotak Mahindra Bank, Tata Steel, HDFC Bank, ITC and NTPC were among the other gainers.

The market breadth was negative, with 20 of the 30 Sensex stocks closing in the red.

"Continuous rise in crude oil prices due to EU's decision to partially ban Russian oil hindered global market. Indian economy registered a growth of 8.7 per cent in FY22 but is expected to slow down in FY23 to 7.2 per cent, as per the latest RBI forecast.

"Auto sales data, posted by major manufacturers, witnessed growth in passenger and commercial vehicle segments due to pick up in the construction sector. However, two-wheeler and tractor segments continued to remain under pressure," said Vinod Nair, Head of Research at Geojit Financial Services.

The Indian economy grew at its slowest pace in a year during January-March at 4.1 per cent, pulling down the GDP growth in the full fiscal 2021-22 to 8.7 per cent, as per official data released post market hours on Tuesday.

Economists said the outlook for the current fiscal year remains

Gold declines by ₹353; silver drops ₹123

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Gold in the national capital on Wednesday declined by Rs 353 to Rs 50,509 per 10 grams amid muted global trends along with rupee appreciation, according to HDFC Securities.

In the previous trade, the precious metal finished at Rs 50,862 per 10 grams.

Silver dipped Rs 123 to Rs 60,834 per kg from Rs 60,957 per kg in the previous trade.

On Wednesday, the rupee recovered from its record low to close 20 paise higher at 77.51 (provisional) against the American currency.

In the international market, both gold and silver traded flat at USD 1,836.44 per ounce and USD 21.62 per ounce, respectively.

"Gold prices traded steady with spot prices at COMEX trading almost flat near USD 1,836 per ounce on Wednesday. Gold prices capped upside on stronger dollar and firm US bond yields," said Tapan Patel, Senior Analyst (Commodities) at HDFC Securities.

Have urged multi-national companies to set up R&D centres in India: DPIIT Secretary

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

India has urged multi-national companies to set up research and development (R&D) centres in the country as it is going to be the hub of innovation and knowledge for the next two-three decades, a top government official said.

Secretary in the Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT) Anurag Jain said he asked for this during a series of

meetings with global firms on the sidelines of the World Economic Forum (WEF) meet in Davos, which concluded recently.

"I have urged them to open R&D centres in India as we are going to be the hub of knowledge and innovation for the next 2-3 decades. Given the success of digital India, a vibrant startup ecosystem, improving infrastructure and a stable macro-economic policy regime,

India has emerged as the most attractive investment destination," Jain told PTI.

During May 23-25 at WEF meet, the secretary also participated in multiple sessions including on Green Public Procurement, and Joint Governors Policy Meeting on Net Zero Infrastructure.

In addition to this, he also chaired sessions at the India Lounge on transforming the country's energy ambitions to action; realising its digital econ-

omy; and building unicorns in India.

MNCs with which the secretary held one-on-one meeting included Marsh McLennan, Procter, Nokia, UPS, Royal Philips, Prosus/ Naspers, and Anheuser-Busch InBev, Roche Diagnostics, LEGO, Schneider Electric, Generali, Vestas, Michelin, and Signify.

Jain said the WEF put forward the India story in a single voice with the central, state and the business leaderships

coming together to project India as an attractive investment destination.

In a session on startups, he stated that India has a strong startup ecosystem with third highest unicorns.

He emphasized that India was a hub for frugal innovation and for the next 2-3 decades, it was going to be an attractive investment destination.

At the WEF, there was a DPIIT lounge and 6 state lounges of Madhya

eMudhra shares settle on flat note; jump over 1% on BSE

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Shares of digital signature certificate provider eMudhra Ltd on Wednesday listed with a premium of nearly 6 per cent against the issue price of Rs 256 and settled with over 1 per cent gain on the BSE.

The stock made its debut at Rs 271, registering a gain of 5.85 per cent over the issue price on the BSE. During the day, it jumped 8.98 per cent to Rs 279. Shares of the firm later trimmed most of the early gains and settled at Rs 258.85

apiece, up 1.11 per cent.

On the NSE, it listed at Rs 270, with a premium of 5.46 per cent. It ended at par with the issue price at Rs 256 apiece.

In volume terms, 5.54 lakh shares were traded on the BSE and over 73.83 lakh shares on the NSE during the day.

The Initial Public Offer (IPO) of eMudhra was subscribed 2.72 times last month. The Rs 412.79 crore-IPO had a price range of Rs 243-256 per share. eMudhra is the largest licensed certifying authority in India.

Reliance Brands to acquire 40% stake in toy manufacturing biz

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Reliance Brands Ltd (RBL) on Wednesday announced that it has entered into a JV with Italian toy manufacturing company Plastic Legno SPA by acquiring a 40 per cent stake in its India business for an undisclosed amount.

This investment would help RBL in bringing in vertical integration for its toy business and diversify the supply chain with a long-term strategic interest in building toy manufacturing in India, a joint statement said.

Delhi airport introduces RFID baggage tag

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

The Delhi airport has on Wednesday introduced personalised baggage tag, enabled by radio frequency identification (RFID) technology, which will give passengers real-time information about when and on which belt is their check-in luggage arriving in the terminal.

According to the statement released by the Delhi Airport International Limited (DIAL), the unique BAGG TRAX tags will soon be commercially launched for flyers at Delhi airport. Presently, as part of the pilot project, BAGG TRAX tags are given to select frequent flyers at Terminal 3 only.

Once commercially launched, flyers can buy it at the Departures. "A passenger can purchase this tag at the Delhi airport, scan the QR code on it and register it on website bag.Hoi.In," the statement mentioned. Once

the tag is registered, all a passenger has to do is to tie the tag or place it into their check-in luggage," it noted. "It is yet another passenger-friendly initiative by DIAL that will significantly enhance the passenger experience at the airport.

BAGG TRAX will not only help the domestic and international arrival passengers but also those in transit to track their checked-in baggage," it stated. Passengers will start receiving SMS alerts with the details of baggage on their registered mobile number when their baggage arrives at the Delhi Airport, it said. "They will get the message on their mobile that their luggage is ready to be picked up at the designated baggage belt," it noted.

BAGG TRAX will not only help the domestic and international arrival passengers but also those in transit to track their checked-in baggage, it said.

Korea Fair in India inaugurated

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Over 60 exhibitors are showing products from segments like cosmetics, electronics and jewellery at the fourth edition of the five-day Korea Fair in India inaugurated in the national Capital on Wednesday.

Bilateral trade between the two countries has reached USD 23.7 billion in 2021 which is the highest-ever trade volume between the two countries, representing a 40 per cent increase over the previous year's total of USD 16.9 billion (year 2020), as per data sourced from Korea's Ministry of Trade,

Industry, and Energy (MOTIE). Speaking at the inauguration, Ambassador of the Republic of Korea to India, Chang Jae-bok said, "There are over 60 Korean exhibitors, showcasing a wide range of products, including cosmetics, household appliances, kitchenware, toiletries and other daily-life products".

The fair is being organised by KOTRA, the commercial section of the Embassy of the Republic of Korea. The products being showcased include cosmetics, electronics, utility, confectionary, pet products, and jewellery, among others. Among these, over 40 products

are being introduced to the market for the first time.

Talking to *The Pioneer* on range of business opportunity including supply chain and automotive chips, the Ambassador said that Korea is working extensively to engage itself and create a huge platform across world including India to minimise disruptions like the one world witnessed during the pandemic.

"We have excellent technology and would be looking forward to partner with exciting country led by Prime Minister Narendra Modi," Chang Jae-bok told *The Pioneer*.

CAPSULE

NTPC RELEASES BIODIVERSITY POLICY

New Delhi: NTPC Ltd, India's largest integrated energy producer has issued renewed Biodiversity Policy 2022 to establish a comprehensive vision and guiding principle for conservation, restoration, and enhancement of biodiversity. This Biodiversity Policy is an integral part of NTPC's Environmental Policy. Its objectives are aligned with environmental and sustainability policies.

BANK OF MAHARASHTRA TOPS PSU LENDERS CHART

New Delhi: State-owned Bank of Maharashtra (BoM) has emerged as the top performer among public sector lenders in terms of loan and deposit growth in percentage terms during 2021-22. The Pune-headquartered lender recorded a 26 per cent increase in gross advances at Rs 1,35,240 crore at the end of March 2022. It was followed by State Bank of India and Union Bank of India with 10.27 per cent and 9.66 per cent growth, respectively.

RELIANCE POWER OF CHOICE IN HEALTH INSURANCE

New Delhi: Reliance General Insurance Company Ltd (RGI(IGL)), one of India's leading private general insurance companies, has launched the most flexible and customisable health insurance policy named Reliance Health Gain, which comes loaded with 38 industry leading features like double cover that provides twice the amount of sum-insured to be used during same claim.

ANAMORPHIC SCREEN IN DLF CYBER HUB

Gurugram: Catering to evolving consumers' needs, vivo, the innovative global smartphone brand, has installed an anamorphic screen in DLF Cyber Hub in Gurugram. The anamorphic screen features an intriguing advertisement of the vivo's recently launched flagship X80 series products. Vivo is the first technology brand in India to advertise using an anamorphic screen. Yogendra Sriramula, Director, Brand Strategy, Vivo India, said, "Vivo aims to be on the forefront of innovation whether it is in our offerings or marketing practices."

K Sreekanth, CMD, POWERGRID has won Icon of the Year award by the Institute of Cost Accountants of India for being a role model for the profession & achieving success in business enterprises by contributing for the cause of business, society and the nation.



KING OF CLAY

Nadal downs Djokovic in late-night epic to reach 15th French Open semi-final

AP ■ PARIS

Rafael Nadal edged a late-night classic against old rival Novak Djokovic in the early hours of Wednesday in four sets to reach his 15th French Open semi-final.

The 13-time Roland Garros champion won the pair's 59th career meeting 6-2, 4-6, 6-2, 7-6 (7/4) after a four-hour-and-12-minute quarter-final on a raucous Court Philippe Chatrier.

Nadal sealed his eighth victory in 10 French Open matches against last year's winner Djokovic at 1:16 am local time (23:16 GMT Tuesday) to set up a last-four clash with third seed Alexander Zverev on Friday.

"I'm very emotional. For me it's incredible to play here," said Nadal.

"Playing against him is always an amazing challenge... To win against Novak, there is only one way, to play your best from the first point until the last."

The 35-year-old has lost just three of his 113 matches on the Paris clay since his 2005 title-winning debut and now only trails Djokovic 30-29 in their career head-to-head.

The Spaniard, seeded fifth, remains on course for a record-extending 22nd Grand Slam title after lifting this year's Australian Open, which Djokovic missed after being deported from the country over his Covid vaccination status.

Djokovic overturned a double-break deficit to take an 88-minute second set and missed two set points when serving for the fourth to force a decider.

The world number one will rue those missed chances while he waits until Wimbledon for his next opportunity to



Mirza-Hradecka pair knocked out

PTI ■ PARIS

Sania Mirza and her Czech partner Lucie Hradecka displayed fearless brand of tennis but much younger and superior American singles players Coco Gauff and Jessica Pegula prevailed in the women's doubles third round of the French Open, here on Tuesday.

Despite a combined age of 72 years, Mirza and



Hradecka produced some high quality tennis but lost 4-6, 3-6 to Pegula, ranked 11th in the singles and world number 23 Gauff.

Mirza was impressive with her lower and angled forehands while Hradecka's power-packed backhand hitting from the baseline was a treat to watch but the Americans got those crucial points that dictated the outcome of the match.



India beat Japan 1-0 to clinch Asia Cup Bronze

PTI ■ JAKARTA

The young Indian men's hockey team produced a spirited performance to beat Japan 1-0 and clinch the Bronze medal in the Asia Cup here on Wednesday.

After missing out on a place in the title clash on goal difference following an exciting 4-4 draw with South Korea on Tuesday, defending champions India came out with purpose and scored a field goal through Raj Kumar Pal as early as in the seventh minute of the game and then defended in numbers to seal the deal.

South Korea clinched a record fifth Asia Cup title by beating Malaysia 2-1 in the summit clash.

Manjae Jung (17th) and Taeil Hwang (52nd) scored two field goals for Korea. Malaysia's lone goal came from the stick of Syed Cholan in the 25 minute.

Earlier in the day, India started brightly and pushed hard in the first five minutes of the match but their attacks fizzled once out inside the opposition D.

The Indians, however, broke the deadlock in the seventh minute from a brisk counter-attack with Uttam Singh doing all the hardwork on the right flank to set it up for Rajkumar Pal, who neatly pushed it past the Japanese goalkeeper Takashi Yoshikawa.

Three minutes later, the Indians secured two back-to-back penalty corners but squandered both.

In the last five minutes of the first quarter, Japan pressed hard in search of the equaliser and mounted numerous raids but the Indian defence stood firm to hold on to their lead.

Trailing by a goal, Japan continued to attack and in the process earned two consecutive penalty corners in the 20th minute but the Indians defended in numbers to keep their lead intact.

Both Japan and India had a few more chances in the second quarter but both the teams faltered.

Japan came out attacking after the change of ends and secured two more penalty corners in quick succession but they failed to break the resolute Indian defence.

In between India had a golden chance to extend their lead but Rajkumar shot over from close quarters off an SV Sunil pass.

In the 48th minute, Japan secured three successive penalty corners but couldn't breach the Indian backline. Japan earned another penalty corner in the 51st minute but the Indian defence once again foiled the chance.

While Japan pressed hard in the remaining minutes, the Indians put numbers at the back to successfully defend their one goal lead and secure a podium finish.

US investment fund RedBird to buy Serie A club AC Milan

AP ■ MILAN

AC Milan on Wednesday said that its current owners, investment fund Elliott Management, have agreed to sell the newly-crowned Italian champions to rival US fund RedBird for 1.2 billion euros (\$1.3 billion).

"The transition to new ownership will take place over the summer, with an expected closing no later than September 2022," the club said in a statement, adding that, under the terms of the deal, Elliott will "retain a minority financial interest in the club and seats on the board of directors."

"RedBird's priority is to work with the club's title-winning sporting and club management team to continue Milan's journey back to the summit of world football," added the statement.

Milan last month won their first Serie A title since 2011, the 19th in their history, as they pipped city rivals, and last year's champions, Inter by two points.

RedBird's move comes after they bought a minority stake last year in Fenway Sports Group, the owners of Liverpool and of Major League Baseball's Boston Red Sox.



Their acquisition of Milan follows their purchase of a majority stake in French club Toulouse in 2020.

Toulouse this year won promotion back to France's Ligue 1.

"We are honoured to be a part of AC Milan's illustrious history and are excited to play a role in the club's next chapter as it returns to its rightful place at the very top of Italian, European and world football," said Gerry Cardinale, RedBird's founder and managing partner.

Competing against strong teams in Pro League will help us at World Cup: Ekka

PTI ■ BENGALURU

Indian women's hockey team defender Deep Grace Ekka says competing against strong teams in The Netherlands during the upcoming away leg of the FIH Pro League will help the side adapt to the conditions and also prepare for the World Cup in July.

India is set to play against Belgium, Argentina, Netherlands and the United States this month at the FIH Hockey Pro League.

"We have a busy schedule ahead of us in the lead-up to the FIH Hockey Women's World Cup 2022, and we are looking forward to it because the more games we play against the stronger teams, the better prepared we will be for the tournament," Ekka said.

"Everyone is focusing on their fitness and paying more attention to the post-match recovery process to be prepared for the tournament."

"The upcoming FIH Hockey Pro League 2021/22 games are a great platform as they will also assist us in adapting to the conditions there."

India is placed in Pool B alongside England, China, and New Zealand at the hockey World Cup in Netherlands and Spain



scheduled to begin on July 1.

India will kick off its campaign against England on July 3 in Amstelveen, Netherlands and the anticipation is high among the players at the national camp at the SAI Centre here.

"The camp is buzzing with excitement and positive energy. The players are training together and there is a real sense of unity among the younger set of players and the senior ones," goalkeeper Savita said.

"Everyone is looking forward to the upcoming away matches of the FIH Pro League Games in

World No. 1 Swiatek extends winning run to reach semis

AP ■ PARIS

Iga Swiatek powered into the French Open semi-finals on Wednesday as a comfortable victory over American Jessica Pegula extended the world number one's winning streak to 33 matches.

The Polish star cruised to a 6-3, 6-2 win on Court Philippe Chatrier to set up a last-four meeting with Daria Kasatkina on Thursday.

Swiatek will equal Venus Williams' record for the longest unbeaten run for a women's player in the 21st century if she wins a second Roland Garros title this week.

But she said she still feels nervous before big matches despite appearing in almost unbeatable form.

"I do (feel nervous)," said Swiatek. "If I stop feeling nervous than something weird is going on..." "Sometimes stress is a positive thing as it makes you more tense and more active."

The top seed, who turned 21 on Tuesday, won her only Grand Slam title so far in Paris two years ago.

She has won five consecutive tournaments this year, including four WTA 1,000 titles. Despite not being at her best, Swiatek still hit 30 winners in an ultimate-



take his Slam tally to 21.

"Congratulations to Rafa, he was better in the important moments," said Djokovic.

"He showed why he was a great champion. Well done to him and his team, he deserves it."

Nadal was a slight underdog heading into the match after being taken to five sets in the previous round by Felix Auger-Aliassime and he had even hinted it could be his last appearance in Paris due to a persistent foot injury.

The colder, slower conditions of the night session were also expected to favour Djokovic.

But the 'King of clay' smashed 57 winners in a trademark performance to delight the crowd as he gained revenge for his semi-final loss to the same opponent 12 months ago.

'NOT SURPRISED'

Novak Djokovic hailed Rafael Nadal as a "great champion" after losing an epic quarter-final, but added he was "not surprised" by his rival's recovery from a debilitating injury.

For world number one Djokovic,

ly one-sided match.

The 11th seed Pegula has also enjoyed a fine season but is still waiting to reach a maiden major semi-final after also losing in the last eight at the previous two Australian Opens.

Earlier, Daria Kasatkina reached her maiden Grand Slam semi-final with a 6-4, 7-6 (7/5) victory over fellow Russian, Veronika Kudermetova.

The 25-year-old Kasatkina, ranked at 20, playing in her third career quarter-final at the Slams but first since 2018, has made the semis without dropping a set.

Kudermetova was in her first quarter-final at the majors and the tension was apparent as she committed 50 unforced errors and had to save 12 of 17 break points.

defeat was his eighth in 10 meetings with Nadal at the French Open.

Nadal had hinted that defeat to Djokovic could signal the end of his Roland Garros career.

"I didn't see any problems," said Djokovic.

"It's not the first time that he is able to — a few days after he's injured and barely walking — to come out 100% physically fit."

"He's done it many times in his career, so I'm not surprised."

'HAVEN'T WON ANYTHING'

Rafael Nadal insisted he still has work to do to win a 14th French Open despite knocking out Novak Djokovic and said it was "too late" to be playing after their quarter-final ended in the early hours of Wednesday.

"In the end it has been a very emotional night for me," said Nadal. "I'm still playing for nights like today."

"But it's just a quarter-finals match? So I didn't win anything. I just give myself a chance to be back on court in two days. Playing another semi-finals here in Roland Garros means a lot to me."

India handed easy draw in CWG mixed team event

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Defending champions India will have an easy entry into the knockout stage of the badminton event of the Commonwealth Games as they have been drawn against Australia, Sri Lanka, and Pakistan in Group 1 of the mixed team competition.

The badminton competition at the quadrennial event, which will be held in Birmingham from July 29 to August 8, consisting of the mixed team event followed by the individual event.

The final of the mixed team event will be held on August 2.

A total of 16 teams will be competing in the mixed event and they have been drawn into four groups with the top two nations progressing to the knockout stage.

Each tie in the team event



consists of best-of-five matches with men's and women's singles and three doubles — men's, women's and mixed, which will test the overall strength of the team.

"The Commonwealth Games have a unique feel. While it features some of badminton's tradi-

India's TT squad for CWG announced

PTI ■ BENGALURU

The selectors of the Indian table tennis team on Tuesday named a four-member women's squad for the Commonwealth Games, subject to clearance from the Sports Authority of India, after Archana Kamath was included in the side despite not meeting the existing criteria.

Kamath is the second highest-ranked Indian player at 66 after Manika Batra (39) but she was not among the top four players going by the existing selection criteria which also factors in domestic performance.

The Committee of Administrators (CoA) plans to tweak the selection guidelines in the future.

The chosen players are Manika, Archana, Sreeja Akula (rank 66), Reeth Rishya (100), with Diya Chitale (129) as the standby.

Experienced players like Ayhika Mukherjee and Sutirtha Mukherjee were ignored.

Explaining the reasons behind awaiting concurrence from SAI, S D Mudgil, CoA representative and chairperson of the selection committee said,

"Under the existing selection criteria, one of the members (Archana) falls outside the top four."

"The selection committee is convinced that the existing guidelines are "flawed" and has moved to make necessary course-correction, with new guidelines effective from October 1."

"However, in this transitional phase, with an eye on a rich medal haul in Birmingham, we have included the said player in the team. She (Archana) is one half of the doubles pair (Manika the other) that is ranked No 4 in the world and which will be the top seeds at the Commonwealth Games."

"Therefore, the selection committee feels that this is a case worthy of consideration by SAI."

The men's team which has been picked is a more straightforward one, consisting of the great Sharath Kamal, G Sathiyan and Harmeet Desai. Manush Shah will be the standby.

Mudgil also made it clear that all the 15 players (eight men and seven women) at the camp will be fielded at the ensuing World Table Tennis Tour events in Zagreb, Otocet and Budapest.

Bavuma open to slot Miller at No. 5

PTI ■ JOHANNESBURG

Backing David Miller to carry his confidence from the IPL to the away series against India, South Africa white-ball skipper Temba Bavuma said he is open to having a conversation with the southpaw regarding his batting position in the national T20 team.

Miller enjoyed a fabulous IPL season with the bat where he was a vital cog in the Gujarat Titans team that went on to win the title in its maiden season.

"It's always nice to see guys in form. A guy like David lifting the trophy with the Gujarat Titans — the confidence that he will bring into the team, we look forward to that," Bavuma told reporters at the pre-departure press conference on Tuesday ahead of the series against India.

"David has performed exceedingly well at the IPL and I'm sure that will do a world of good for his confidence and whatever feelings of insecurity that might be there.

"The conversations that I have had with David, he has never expressed those types of feelings to me. David is still an integral member within our team and we trust his performances will continue well into the future," he added.

The big-hitting Miller has struggled to score runs in the limited overs format with the national team in the past few years.

But batting mostly at number five, as opposed to his usual six with South Africa, in the IPL this season, Miller scored 481 runs with the best average in the competition of 68.71 at a strike rate of 143.

"In terms of him batting a bit longer, that has always been the conversation over the years when David has done well. He understands where he fits in within the team.

"If he feels he can add more value in a different position, a conversation can be had in that regard.

"There is no way we are going to stifle him or restrict David in any manner. That's how we try to treat all the players. We try to set them up in positions where they can succeed and make strong plays for the team."

Talking about another South African Dewald Brevis who had a



decent outing in the IPL for the Mumbai Indians, Bavuma said the youngster should be given "time and the space to hone his game" before being pushed into international cricket.

"In all fairness to him, he hasn't played a first-class game. In terms of expectation but also allowing the boy to grow within his game, it would be fair to allow him to play a couple of first-class games where he can really get an understanding of his game," he said.

Batting mostly at No. 5 in IPL this season for Gujarat Titans, Miller scored 481 runs with the best average in the competition of 68.71 at a strike rate of 143

"It will be a lot of pressure to throw him into the international set up and expect him to make plays. He will be treated like any other exciting young prospect that comes onto the scene.

"He should be given time and the space to hone his game within the system and ease into the international side of things."

South Africa are set to take on India in five T20Is, starting from June 9 to 19.

The hosts will be without sever-

al key players. While regular skipper Rohit Sharma and senior players Virat Kohli and Jasprit Bumrah have been rested for the five-match series, Deepak Chahar, Ravindra Jadeja and Suryakumar Yadav have been ruled out because of injuries.

But Bavuma still expects it to be a competitive series.

"Even though India are resting their main players, it will still be a competitive series. The guys in that squad can walk into the Indian

Only play T20Is in World Cup: Shastri



PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Former India coach Ravi Shastri reckons that T20 format is not meant for bilateral series between international teams and the slam-bang style of cricket should be restricted to just World Cup.

Shastri, one of the most successful India coaches, also feels that franchise cricket together with a biennial T20 World Cup is best way forward when it comes to shortest format, considering fans' appetite for it.

Shastri's comments have come, days before India's five-match T20 series against South Africa.

"...There's too much of bilateral stuff going on in T20 cricket. I've said that (before), even when I was the coach of India, I could see it happening in front of my eyes," Shastri told *ESPNCricinfo*.

"It should go the football way, where, in T20 cricket, you just play the World Cup. Bilateral

tournaments — no one remembers."

Shastri, whose tenure as India coach ended last year, said he doesn't "remember a single (T20) game in the last six-seven years as coach of India, barring the World Cup."

"A team wins the World Cup, they will remember it. Unfortunately, we didn't, so I don't remember that either.

"Where I am coming from is: you play franchise cricket around the globe; each country is allowed to have their franchise cricket, which is their domestic cricket, and then, every two years, you come and play a World Cup."

The IPL media and broadcasting rights for the next five-year cycle are going to go up for sale in June.

Discussing the future of IPL, former India opener Akash Chopra said: "I actually foresee there might be two editions of the IPL in every calendar year. And that's not too far away."

Shastri agreed with Chopra. "That's the future," he said.

"It could be tomorrow — 140 games, split 70-70. In two seasons. You never know. That's the way it's going to go. That's the way it's developed as a beast of a property. And you cannot hide away from that.

"You might think that's overdose, but nothing is overdose in India. I have been sitting outside the bubble, I have been watching people, how they have seen, how they have reviewed these last few months, especially [after coming] out of Covid. And they are loving every bit of it, and they are almost having withdrawal symptoms."

The 2022 season of IPL ended on Sunday with newcomers Gujarat Titans lifting the trophy.

Oz coach McDonald tests Covid +ve, will miss start of SL tour

PTI ■ MELBOURNE

Australia head coach Andrew McDonald has tested positive for COVID-19 and will miss the opening week of his side's tour of Sri Lanka, starting Tuesday.

The 40-year-old, who returned a positive test for the virus a day before Australia's T20 squad's departure to Sri Lanka on Wednesday, will isolate for a week in Melbourne and is likely to link up with the team in Colombo ahead of the second T20 on June 8. "Australian men's team head coach Andrew McDonald has tested positive for COVID-19 and will be delayed in travelling to Sri Lanka for the start of the T20I series," Cricket Australia said on Wednesday.

In his absence, assistant coach Michael Di Venuto will guide the T20 side.

"Michael Di Venuto will coach the Australian men's T20 side before Andrew McDonald re-joins the squad at the conclusion of seven days isolation," CA added.

Eng recall Broad, Anderson for 1st NZ Test

AP ■ LONDON

England have recalled veteran pace bowlers James Anderson and Stuart Broad to their side for the first Test against New Zealand at Lord's starting Thursday while giving a debut to Durham quick Matthew Potts.

Anderson, 39 and Broad, 35, England's two most successful bowlers of all time, with a combined 1,177 wickets between them, were both controversially left out of the squad for a 1-0 series loss in the West Indies earlier this year.

But they return for the first match under England's new leadership duo of captain Ben Stokes and coach Brendon McCullum, the former New Zealand captain, in an XI named a day ahead of schedule on Wednesday.

Potts gets his chance ahead of fellow squad member Craig Overton, after an injury crisis deprived England of several fast bowlers including Mark Wood, Chris Woakes, Ollie Robinson, Jofra Archer, Saqib



Mahmood, Matt Fisher and Ollie Stone.

The 23-year-old Potts has been selected on the back of a fine start to the county season, having taken 35 wickets for Durham in his opening six County Championship matches.

England had previously removed some of the doubt surrounding their side for this

opening match of a three-Test series by indicating Jonny Bairstow would bat at number five, with Ollie Pope pencilled in at first-wicket down.

That means the in-form Harry Brook, a Yorkshire colleague of Bairstow, must wait for his Test debut.

Brook has scored 840 runs at a colossal average of 140 so far this campaign but has been unable to find a place in a familiar-looking top six.

England are currently bottom of the World Test Championship table following a woeful run of one win in 17 games.

New Zealand, who've yet to name their team, are the reigning World Test champions after defeating India in last year's inaugural final at Southampton.

England team: Zak Crawley, Alex Lees, Ollie Pope, Joe Root, Jonny Bairstow, Ben Stokes (capt), Ben Foakes (wkt), Matthew Potts, Jack Leach, Stuart Broad, James Anderson. Coach: Brendon McCullum.

Ganguly hasn't resigned as BCCI President, confirms Jay Shah

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Former India skipper Sourav Ganguly on Wednesday issued a cryptic tweet about his "new journey" that raised speculations about his continuation as BCCI President, prompting the cricket board secretary Jay Shah to clarify that he has not resigned from his post.

Ganguly in his tweet said he is embarking on a new journey, although without revealing any further details.

"2022 marks the 30th year since the start of my journey with cricket in 1992. Since then, cricket has given me a lot. Most importantly, it has given me the support of all of you. I want to thank every single person, who has been part of the journey, supported me, and helped me reach where I am today," he wrote in a brief statement.

"Today, I am planning to start something that I feel will probably help a lot of people. I hope you continue your support as I enter this chapter of life."

Ganguly was elected BCCI

Ganguly on Wednesday issued a cryptic tweet about his 'new journey' that raised speculations about his continuation as BCCI President

President in October 2019 and still has four months left in his three-year tenure.

Ganguly's tweet took the social media by storm as many, including media outlets, started speculations about his future.

"The rumours doing rounds about Mr Sourav Ganguly stepping down from the post of BCCI President are factually incorrect," BCCI secretary Jay Shah said in a statement issued to PTI.

"We have some exciting times in the form of media rights coming up and my colleagues and I are completely focused on the upcoming opportunity and safeguarding the interest of Indian cricket," Shah further stated.

It has been learnt that Ganguly's tweet was related to his upcoming project.

I am past the phase of assessing my performance after every game: Ashwin

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Ravichandran Ashwin, one of the sharpest thinkers in world cricket, feels that he has reached a stage in his career where he is not bothered about assessment of his own performance after every game.

While the COVID-19 pandemic has been hard on a lot of people, the wily off-spinner feels, that the last two years has been kind to him with continued success in Tests at home and a productive tour of Australia, where India made history by winning back to back series.

The 35-year-old, who has taken 442 wickets in 86 Tests, also made a white-ball comeback after four years and featured in last year's T20 World Cup in the UAE.

However, he has been rested from the T20 home series against South Africa later this month and will link up with the squad in the UK for the 'fifth' Test of the last series against England.

"If you want a realistic answer, I am not assessing my performance at all. I am not in that phase of my life where I am thinking about what happened there and what happened here. Like I told you, I am living it by the day.

"The last two years have been hard on a lot of people but it has been very very kind and good to me. So just enjoying my game. I don't know if it is evident enough on the ground or not. I am in totally in a very good space of mind," Ashwin said.

Ashwin, who has just got done with the two-month long IPL, will next be seen during India's tour of England in June-July when the rescheduled fifth Test will be completed with the visitors leading 2-1.

En route to the historic triumph in Australia in January 2021, Ashwin contributed both with bat and ball. Having suffered severe back spasms on day four of the Sydney Test, Ashwin turned up on day five and batted alongside Hanuma Vihari as they both consumed 128 balls each to pull off a draw that felt like a win.

Ashwin recalled that partnership with a lot of fondness. He was ruled out of the final Test as injury-ravaged India struggled to field an eleven for the game.

"The other game I played the game injured was in Southampton (2018) and it did not go on the right side of the coin for us. Again in Sydney, day four day of the game I had a severe back spasm I was not sure if I could really get through the game but somehow wanted to.

"I prayed for a bit of luck, that I had lesser pain the next morning, that the painkillers worked and all of that, I was praying quietly.

"Somehow I got through day four, took a couple of wickets, bowled non-stop spells even though it was hard. Harder than what Southampton (2018 England Test) was but I think a lot of it was destiny as well.

Pogba to leave Man Utd

AP ■ MANCHESTER

French World Cup-winning midfielder Paul Pogba is to leave Manchester United at the end of June, the club said on Wednesday, bringing the curtain down on a largely disappointing second spell.

The 29-year-old's departure at the end of his contract will see United recoup none of the then record £89 million (\$112 million) he cost them when they bought him from Juventus in 2016.

He flourished initially under Jose Mourinho and was part of the sides that won the League Cup and Europa League in 2017.

However, his subsequent performances rarely matched those he produced for France in their 2018 World Cup campaign.

Fitness problems limited him to 27 appearances last season in an unimpressive campaign for both player and club as United had to be content with a Europa League spot.

"The club can announce that Paul Pogba will leave



Manchester United at the end of June, upon the expiry of his contract," read the club statement. "The last of his 233 United games ended in the 10th minute of a defeat at Anfield in April 2022.

"It was a low-key end to a United career that brought so many individual high moments.

"So many beautiful goals, assists and pieces of skill.

"For a boy that joined the Academy at 16 to make over 200 United appearances and lift the Youth Cup, along with two major pieces of silverware, is something that should be applauded and celebrated."

Bale bids farewell to Real Madrid

AP ■ MADRID

Gareth Bale wrote a farewell letter to Real Madrid on Wednesday, the Welshman bringing an end to his nine-year spell at the Spanish club, where he said his "dream became a reality".

Bale will leave Real Madrid when his contract expires at the end of June, with the 32-year-old yet to confirm what he will do next.

His future is likely to depend on whether Wales qualify for the World Cup in Qatar, with retirement a possible option if they miss out.

"I write this message to say thank you to all my teammates, past and present, my managers, the backroom staff and to the fans that supported me," Bale wrote in a letter to Real Madrid, posted on social media in both English and Spanish.

"I arrived here nine years ago as a young man who wanted to realise my dream of playing for Real Madrid. To wear the pristine white kit, to wear the crest on my chest, to play at the Santiago Bernabeu, to win titles and to be part of what it's so famous for, to win the Champions League.

"I can now look back, reflect and say with honesty that this dream became a reality and much, much more.

"To be a part of this club's history and to achieve what we achieved while I was a Real Madrid player has been an incredible experience and one I will never forget.



"I also want to thank president Florentino Perez, Jose Angel Sanchez and the board for giving me the opportunity to play for this club. Together we were able to create some moments that will live forever in the history of this club and football. It has been an honour."

After joining Madrid from Tottenham for 100 million euros in 2013, Bale went on to win 16 major trophies with Real Madrid, including five Champions Leagues, three La Ligas and one Copa del Rey.

He also won three Club World Cups, three UEFA Super Cups and a Spanish Super Cup.

More than his trophies, Bale will be remembered for a handful of spectacular moments, including his two goals scored off the bench against Liverpool in the 2018 Champions League final in Kiev, the first coming from a stunning bicycle kick.

He scored another hugely important goal in the 2014 Champions League final in Lisbon, his header at the back post giving Real Madrid the lead against Atletico Madrid in extra-time, as they went on to win the club's long-awaited 10th European Cup.

Perhaps most memorable was Bale's incredible solo goal at Metastalla to win the 2014 Copa del Rey final against Barcelona.

Bale's popularity with the Real Madrid fans, though, has plummeted in recent years as injuries and a perceived lack of commitment pushed him to the fringes of the first team. He was barely on speaking terms with Zinedine Zidane by the end of the 2017-18 season and hopes that Cristiano Ronaldo's departure might revive his Real Madrid career were never realised.

Last season, Bale played only five times in La Liga and seven minutes in the Champions League, again saving his best for Wales, as he scored a hat-trick against Belarus in September and then twice against Austria in March to keep their World Cup qualification hopes alive.