

## OPINION 6

TIGHT MONETARY POLICY  
CAN'T TAME INFLATION

## WORLD 8

CHINA, CAMBODIA BREAK GROUND  
ON PORT, DISMISS US CONCERNS

## MONEY 10

SENSEX FALLS 215 POINTS IN  
VOLATILE TRADE POST RBI POLICY

NEW DELHI, THURSDAY JUNE 9, 2022; PAGES 12 ₹3

## the pioneer

www.dailypioneer.com

KL, KULDEEP  
OUT OF SA  
T20I SERIES  
12 SPORTChina's activities along  
Ladakh alarming: USUS General Flynn  
slams Beijing for  
building strategic  
infra along LACPIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■  
NEW DELHI

As face-offs persist at some friction points at the border in Ladakh, China has ramped up its infrastructure capabilities on its side there, and this development is "alarming," and "eye-opening, a top General of the USA said here on Wednesday.

He termed it as "destabilising and corrosive behaviour". These observations by Commanding General, US Army Pacific, General Charles A Flynn came days after *The Pioneer* reported that China was building a second bridge on the Pangong Tso (lake) in Eastern Ladakh to enable its tanks and armoured vehicles to rush to the front quickly.

The first stand-off snowballing into a major crisis in 2020 started from the Pangong Tso.

Taking note of the rapid development of infrastructure including roads, bridges, airfields, and helipads close to the



Line of Actual Control (LAC) on its side in the Ladakh region, Flynn said these activities are "eye-opening". He also said some of the infrastructures under construction created are "alarming".

He described it as "destabilising and corrosive behaviour" by China and said, "I believe that the activity level is 'eye-opening'".

"I think some of the infrastructures that are being created in the Western Theatre Command are alarming. And so much, like across all of their military arsenal, one has to ask the question, why," he said during an interaction with journalists.

Flynn said China's "incremental and insidious path and

destabilising and corrosive behaviour" projected onto the region was "simply not helpful".

"I think it is worthy of us working together as a counterweight to some of those corrosive and corrupted behaviours that the Chinese [demonstrate]," said the General.

Flynn said when one sees China's military arsenal in all domains, one must ask the question why is it needed. "So, I do not have a crystal ball to tell you how it (India-China border standoff) is going to end or where we will be at. I will express to you that it is worthy of asking this question and try to get their response as to what are their intentions" he noted.

Welcoming the ongoing

talks to resolve the dispute at the Line of Actual Control (LAC) in Ladakh, he said behaviour matters here as well. "So, understanding what they are saying is one thing, but the way they are acting and behaving by the way of build-up is concerning. It should be concerning to every one of us," he noted.

Flynn also talked about how the behaviour of China has changed between 2014 and 2022. "I was in this command from 2014 to 2018 as the commander of the 25th infantry division and then the deputy commanding general of my current command (United States Army Pacific) as a two-star general. Then I left and went to the Pentagon to be the operations officer for the Army for three years and I came back a year ago," he noted.

The visiting General said when he looks back on what the CCP and the PRC (People's Republic of China) were doing then to what they are doing today, it can be said they have taken an incremental and insidious path.

"I think it is worthy of us working together as a counterweight to some of those corrosive and corruptive behaviours that the Chinese do," he said.

Continued on Page 2

EMIs to rise as RBI ups  
rate to contain inflationPIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■  
NEW DELHI

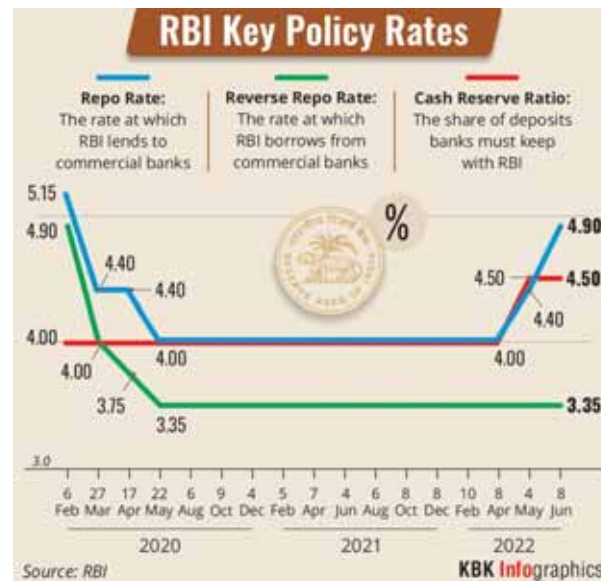
For the second time in six weeks, the Reserve Bank of India on Wednesday hiked the interest Rate — this time by 50 basis points. This would tame inflation but pave the way for rise in home, auto and other loan EMIs.

Haunted by the spectre of inflation which has sustained around 6 per cent mark — way above the RBI's comfort level — the six-member monetary committee of the central bank unanimously voted to raise the lending rate by 50 basis points to 4.90 per cent, Governor Shaktikanta Das said.

The increase follows a 40 bps rise in early May at an unscheduled meeting that kicked off the central bank's tightening cycle.

The rate hike on May 4 and on Wednesday comes after 11 consecutive times of the RBI holding interest rate at a record low of 4 per cent. The RBI cut the repo rate by 250 basis points since February 2019 to help revive the growth momentum. This included a 115 bps cut between March 2020 and May 2020 to soften the blow from the Covid crisis.

The Reserve Bank has the mandate to keep retail inflation at 4 per cent with a bias of 2 per cent on either side. However, retail inflation has been above 6 per cent for the last four months in a row, rising to as high as 7.8 per cent in April.



Addressing a Press conference, Das said the RBI has changed the policy stance to drop the phrase "remains accommodative", and instead opted for "withdrawal of accommodation" for guiding its future moves.

The central bank did not hike the cash reserve ratio contrary to speculation, he said, adding that the liquidity withdrawal will be calibrated and measured. He assured that adequate liquidity will be available for banks to lend for economic growth.

The Indian economy continues to be resilient and is well placed to deal with challenges emerging from the global wor-

ries and will be supported by a banking system having strong capital buffers, low non-performing assets and higher provisioning coverage, Das said.

The RBI's main concern seems to be in ensuring that the inflation did not spiral out of control. The rise in interest rate will discourage borrowing that would impact on availability of liquidity. However, Das said withdrawal of accommodation will be done in a way that growth will continue to get adequate support.

Das mentioned that even after the hikes, the policy rate is below the pre-pandemic level of 5.15 per cent.

Continued on Page 2

SC raps MCC  
for leaving  
1,450 NEET-PG  
seats vacantPIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■  
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Wednesday pulled up the Medical Counselling Committee (MCC) for leaving more than 1,450 seats vacant in NEET-PG-21, saying it will not only put the aspirants in difficulty but would also lead to a dearth of doctors.

The SC gave 24 hours to the Centre and the MCC to file an affidavit indicating the position of total seats which have remained vacant and the reasons as to why they were not filled up by the candidates. The Bench posted the matter for further hearing on Thursday.

Do you even know the stress level of the students and their parents, asked the SC.

Late in the evening, the Centre filed an affidavit, saying that the 1,456 vacant seats cannot be filled by "stray counselling" as software used for NEET 2021 is closed. Stray counselling will lead to disruption of NEET 2022 counselling, it said.

As per the details of the Centre's affidavit published by legal portals, the Centre said that the number of vacant seats went up because counselling for DNB courses was also included in #NEETPG2021 and no seats were reverted back to the respective participating States after completion of the second round of all India counselling.

Continued on Page 2

Govt trashes  
'unscientific'  
Environment  
Index report

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

A day after the Environment Performance Index (EPI) rated India as the worst sustainable country in a list of 180 nations, the Modi Government on Wednesday rejected the claim, arguing that some of the indicators it used are "extrapolated and based on surmises and unscientific methods".

The index, published by the Yale Center for Environmental Law and Policy and the Center for International Earth Science Information Network, Columbia University, used 40 performance indicators across 11 categories to judge countries on climate change performance, environmental health and ecosystem vitality.

"Some of these (EPI) indicators used for assessing performance are extrapolated and based on surmises and unscientific methods," said the Govt.

Continued on Page 2

Iran Foreign Min meets  
Modi, discusses relations

External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar with Foreign Minister of Iran Hossein Amir-Abdollahian in New Delhi on Wednesday

PTI

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■  
NEW DELHI

Amid the ongoing outrage in the Muslim world against remarks against Prophet Mohammad, Iran's Foreign Minister Hossein Amir-Abdollahian held talks here on Wednesday with his Indian counterpart S Jaishankar. He also called on Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

Welcoming the visiting minister, the Prime Minister recalled the long-standing civilisational and cultural links between India and Iran. The two leaders discussed ongoing bilateral cooperation initiatives. The Prime Minister stressed that both countries should work to accelerate exchanges in the post-Covid era, the Ministry of External Affairs said.

The Prime Minister requested the Iran Foreign Minister to also convey his greetings to President Ebrahim Raisi and looked forward to meeting the President of Iran at an early date.

It is the first visit to India by a senior minister of a member nation of the Organisation of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) after the controversial remarks against Prophet Mohammed by now suspended BJP spokesperson Nupur Sharma triggered condemnation by several countries.

His visit comes days after Iran summoned India ambassador to Tehran to register its protest against the remarks. Kuwait and Qatar had also summoned Indian envoys to the respective nations. Several countries, including Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates, Indonesia, Pakistan, Afghanistan, Jordan, Bahrain, the Maldives, Malaysia, Oman, Iraq and Libya denounced the comments.

Continued on Page 2

## CAPSULE

DGCA: DEBOARD FLYERS  
FLOUTING MASK RULE

**New Delhi:** Airlines must de-board any passenger before departure if they refuse to wear face mask inside an aircraft even after being warned, aviation regulator DGCA said on Wednesday. If any passenger refuses to wear mask or follow Covid-19 protocol in a flight mid-air, the airline may bar them from flying for a certain period of time by classifying them as "unruly passenger", the Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) said in a circular.

KEJRIWAL'S ACQUITTAL  
IN CS ASSAULT UPHELD

**New Delhi:** A Delhi court on Wednesday dismissed an application of former Chief Secretary Anshu Prakash against the discharge of Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal and his deputy Manish Sisodia in a case related to the alleged assault on the bureaucrat in 2018.

Paddy MSP raised by  
₹100/quintal for 22-23PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■  
NEW DELHI

The Centre on Wednesday hiked the minimum support price (MSP) for paddy by ₹100 raising it to ₹2,040 per quintal for 2022-23 crop year in order to encourage farmers to bring more area under the crop and boost their income.

The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA), chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, approved the increase in MSPs for all 14 kharif (summer) crops for 2022-23 crop year.

"The Government has increased the MSP of kharif crops for 2022-23 to ensure remunerative prices to the growers for their produce and to encourage crop diversification. The Modi Government has taken several steps from *beej se bazaar tak* (seed to market) that has helped increase



Union Minister Anurag Thakur informs the media about the Cabinet decision on MSP at National Media Centre in New Delhi on Wednesday

PTI

income of farmers," Information and Broadcasting Minister Anurag Thakur said while briefing mediapersons, announcing the MSP hike before the sowing of kharif crops will help the farmers in deciding which crops to grow, he added.

As per the CCEA decision, the MSP of 14 kharif crops has been increased in the range of ₹92-523 per quintal.

Continued on Page 2

Bishnoi masterminded Moose Wala's murder, 5 shooters identified, says Delhi Police

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Gangster Lawrence Bishnoi was the "mastermind" behind the killing of Punjabi singer Shubhdeep Singh Sidhu, alias Sidhu Moose Wala, Special Commissioner of Police (Special Cell) HS Dhaliwal said on Wednesday.

"The Delhi Police Special Cell has been working on the Moose Wala case. Attempts are being made to arrest the accused persons as soon as possible.

"The case is registered in Punjab, but our effort has been to ensure the killers are arrested. Identification of killers is the first step.

"The special cell has been working against organised crime and gangs," Dhaliwal said.

Continued on Page 2

**PATANJALI®**

*Spices should be consumed in moderation but always choose the best quality*

**100% Pure Patanjali Masale Tasty and Healthy**

Our ancestors researched on food science to make food nutritious and tasty thus, they added spices to it. They aid digestion to keep the body healthy and enhance immunity. But these benefits can only be reaped when spices are pure and their formulation is scientific. Patanjali range of spices is prepared with the method inherited from our ancestors.

Hing is the most adulterated among all spices. Patanjali Hing is 100% pure, that aids digestion and provides relief from gas & indigestion and enhances immunity.

It is made from nutmeg, cinnamon, cumin, black pepper, cardamom, clove, mace, coriander ginger, fenugreek, bay leaf, etc. It increases appetite & is excellent for the digestive system.

Made from natural herbs like cardamom, cumin, clove, black pepper, garlic, onion, turmeric, coriander powder, red chilli, bay leaf, ginger etc., such 17 natural herbs enhance the taste of all vegetables and strengthens the digestive system to give a taste full of health.

It is made from anardana, cumin, clove, nutmeg, ginger, ajwain, cinnamon, coriander powder, amchoor, bay leaf, red chilli, black salt etc., such 16 natural herbs provide both health and taste.

Shop Online- [www.patanjaliiyurved.net](http://www.patanjaliiyurved.net) | Customer Care Number - 18001804108 | Email ID - [feedback@patanjaliyurved.org](mailto:feedback@patanjaliyurved.org) | Website - [www.patanjaliiyurved.org](http://www.patanjaliiyurved.org)



# RS polls: Sena keeps MLAs at hotel to avert poaching



TN RAGHUNATHA ■ MUMBAI

Amid the emerging possibility of cross-voting by MLAs in the June 10 Rajya Sabha polls, Maharashtra BJP president Chandrakant Patil on Wednesday caused a stir by visiting Trident Hotel in south Mumbai, where the ruling Shiv Sena MLAs have been lodged by their party leadership to ensure against poaching by the principal Opposition party in the state. Less than 36 hours to go for the Rajya Sabha polls in which it has fielded three

candidates as against its strength to win two RS seats, the BJP unleashed psychological warfare to unsettle ruling Maha Vikas Aghadi – comprising Shiv Sena, NCP and Congress-- ahead of the biennial RS polls for six seats. Patil -- who had earlier in the day met Maharashtra Navnirman Sena (MNS) chief Raj Thackeray and sought the support of the lone MLA in RS polls -- dropped in at Trident Hotel ostensibly to meet and have a cup of tea with a person staying at hotel.

Talking to media persons, Shelar said: “I have come to Trident Hotel for a cup of tea. I am meeting a person who is staying at the hotel with whom I will tea,” Shelar said. Patil’s visit to Trident Hotel came on a day when chief minister Uddhav Thackeray was away in Aurangabad for a public rally. On Tuesday, Uddhav-- along with NCP chief Sharad Pawar and senior Congress leader Mallikarjun Kharge -- had interacted with the MVA legislators at the Hotel Trident. While the Sena MLAs are putting up at the Trident Hotel, the ruling NCP and Congress MLAs are staying at Hotel Renaissance at Powai. The BJP MLAs were scheduled to move into Taj Vivanta at Cuffe Parade in south Mumbai. Patil’s visit to Trident Hotel should be seen in light of Opposition BJP’s desperation to muster required numbers to win third RS seat. Given the strengths of major contending parties in the 288-member Maharashtra Legislative Assembly that is an electoral

college for the polls, the ruling Maha Vikas Aghadi (MVA) – comprising Shiv Sena, NCP and Congress – can win four out of six RS seats, while the BJP can win two seats. Setting the cat among pigeons, the BJP has complicated the RS poll scene in the state by putting up a third candidate Dhananjay Mahadik in addition to its two regular candidates -- Union Minister Piyush Goyal and its other leader Anil Bonde. Together the MVA constituents have fielded four candidates. While the Shiv Sena has re-nominated Sanjay Raut for a fourth term and its Kolhapur district unit chief Sanjay Pawar, the NCP has re-fielded former Civil Aviation Minister Minister and Sharad Pawar’s confidante Praful Patel. On its part, the Congress has sprung a surprise by putting up Imran Pratapgarhi, a Uttar Pradesh-based Urdu poet, as its candidate for the polls. The RS polls from Maharashtra have been necessitated by the impending

retirement of six sitting MPs - Union Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal, former Union Finance Minister and senior Congress Minister P Chidambaram, Shiv Sena chief spokesperson Sanjay Raut, former Union Minister and NCP leader Praful Patel, Vinay Sahasrabudhe and Vikas Mahatme, both from the BJP, on July 4, 2022. They are among the 57 RS members whose terms will end on different dates in the coming weeks. The ruling Maha Vikas Aghadi (MVA) has a strength of 170 MLAs --- Shiv Sena 55 (one MLA Ramesh Latke, died in Dubai last week), NCP 53, Congress 44, smaller parties/groups 10 and 8 Independents. The Opposition BJP has 106 and it enjoys the support of five Independent MLAs and two MLAs from smaller parties. As per the understanding reached among them on the basis of their respective strengths in the Maharashtra Assembly polls, the ruling Shiv Sena is con-

testing two seats, while the NCP and Congress are fielding one candidate each. For winning a RS seat, the approximate number of votes required is 42. After winning one seat each, the MVA will still have additional 44 MLAs with whose support it can win one more RS seat. On their part, the NCP and Congress have decided to transfer their additional votes to the Shiv Sena. On its part, the Enforcement Directorate (ED) has opposed the pleas filed by NCP leaders Anil Deshmukh and Nawab Malik who in their capacity as MLAs have sought permission from the election authorities that they be allowed to vote in the RS polls scheduled for June 10. Both Deshmukh and Malik are currently in judicial custody in two separate alleged money laundering cases. The Opposition BJP has a strength of 113 MLAs (106 MLAs of its own, five Independent MLAs and two MLAs from smaller parties supporting it) in the State Assembly.

# Pradhan calls for a future-ready workforce

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Union Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan on Wednesday called for higher education institutions to target exponential growth towards building a future-ready workforce and leveraging technology to further decolonise education. “The age of incremental change is gone and I call upon higher educational institutes to target exponential growth towards building a future-ready workforce,” he said at a two-day Visitor conference which concluded on Wednesday. Speaking about the challenges and opportunities in the new world propelled by technology, he said, “India has shown its technological prowess in various initiatives like UPI, Direct Benefit Transfer, Aadhaar and we must build upon this strength and make a future-ready workforce to embrace the changes arising out of Industrial Revolution 4.0.” Pradhan pointed out the rising number of Indian start-ups in the unicorn club as an indicator of a thriving entrepreneurial ecosystem and called for preparing the students to be job givers and not just job seekers. The conference deliberated on various topics such as international rankings of higher education institutions, collaboration between academia-industry and policymakers, integrating school, higher and vocational education, and education and research in emerging and disruptive technologies. President Ram Nath Kovind is the Visitor of 161 central institutes of higher education. Out of 161 institutes, representatives of 53 attended the conference physically while the rest joined it virtually.

# SC raps MCC for leaving 1,450 NEET-PG seats vacant

From Page 1

Earlier, a vacation bench of Justices MR Shah and Aniruddha Bose was hearing a batch of petitions seeking a special stray round of counseling to fill the 1456 seats which have remained vacant after the conduct of a stray round of counselling in All India Quota. During the hearing, the bench said, “Even if there is a single vacant seat it should not have gone unfilled. It’s the duty of the Medical Council to see that these seats do not remain vacant. After every round of counselling, this is the same problem. Why cannot the process be streamlined? What do we get by leaving the seats vacant when we are in need of doctors? This will not only create problems for the aspirants but would also encourage corruption”. The apex court told the counsel appearing for the

Centre and the MCC that why can’t there be a stress-less education system, where everything is streamlined. “Do you even know the stress level of the students and their parents? Why during the midst of the counselling, you have been adding the seats. There is already a judgement of this court in this regard. There must be a cut-off date for the number of seats and how many admissions will be given”, the bench said. The bench said that if the students are not given admission, it may pass the order in the matter and direct compensation to the candidates, who have been denied admission. The Judges then asked the counsel as to who is in charge of the admissions to which he replied that it is the Director-General of Health Services (DGHS). “Ask DGHS to remain in the court on Thursday”, the bench orally observed, adding

that some responsibility needs to be fixed. “It is the future of students which is at stake here. First, you have to study hard and then you have to give the examination. Even if you get 99 per cent marks in the examination, there is an admission problem. Then there is the super speciality problem. Do you even understand the situation of the students,” said the Court. When the counsel said that he is being led by Additional Solicitor General Balbir Singh who is in some personal difficulty and sought adjournment of the matter, the bench said these are very serious matters related to the rights of the medical students and said that the Union of India is not represented by only one ASG. The bench asked the counsel to file the affidavit during the course of the day and circulate it to the petitioners and posted the matter for further hearing on Thursday.

# Swamy urges EC to derecognise DMK for Brahmin genocide call

KUMAR CHELLAPPAN ■ CHENNAI

The ruling DMK in Tamil Nadu is in trouble. Dr Subramanian Swamy, president, Virat Hindustan Sangham and former Union Minister for Law and Justice, filed a petition with the Election Commission of India seeking the cancellation of registration of the DMK for the calls made by the party leaders for genocide of Brahmins. Dr Swamy, who was a nominated member of the Rajya Sabha till April 2022, wrote to the ECI that the statement made by R Rajiv Gandhi, the DMK spokesperson through social media that Brahmins should be subjected to genocide was a violation of the Representation of People’s Act (RPA). The DMK spokesperson’s social media message is one of the many recent instances of the Dravidians demanding for the ethnic cleansing of Tamil Nadu of Brahmins in the State. “I write this letter to request you to



apprise the chairman and members of the ECI that a secretary of the DMK, which is a registered and recognized party by the Election Commission has violated the principles laid down by the Commission based on the Representation of People’s Act. The said Secretary has declared that Brahmins should be subjected to genocide as was recommended earlier by the founder of the Dravidian movement led by E V Ramasami Naicker,” said Dr Swamy in his letter. The former union minis-

ter further stated that the threat directly impinged on the fundamental rights of the Brahmin community and could affect also the community’s voting rights out of fear so that they would not go to vote in elections making it easier for the DMK to get elected in several constituencies. “On this matter once the EC takes notice and holds prima facie that this threat of genocide of Brahmins is a violation of the RPA and other consequent circulars issued from time to time by the Election Commission, I would be happy to adduce legal evidence and arguments, submit necessary documents to prove the case for cancelling the registration of the DMK and withdrawing the election symbol, the Rising Sun, allotted to the DMK,” Dr Swamy said in his letter. The call for the genocide of Brahmins was issued by Ramasami Naicker while addressing a public meeting at Karaikudi in the State in 1973.

# Paddy MSP raised by ₹100/quintal for FY 22-23

From Page 1

The maximum hike has been given in sesamum of Rs 523 per quintal, while the lowest Rs 92 per quintal is in case of maize. The MSP of paddy and bajra has been increased by Rs 100 per quintal, while tur, urad and groundnut MSP has been hiked by Rs 300 per quintal each for 2022-23 crop year. The MSP of common grade variety of paddy has been increased to Rs 2,040 per quintal for 2022-23 crop year from Rs 1,940 per quintal in the previous year. The support price for “A” grade variety of paddy has been increased to Rs 2,060 per quintal from Rs 1,960. Paddy is the main kharif crop, the sowing of which has already begun and the Met Department has projected a normal monsoon for the June-September period. Among commercial crops, the MSP of cotton has been raised to Rs 6,080 for medium staple variety from Rs 5,726 per quintal last year, while MSP for long staple variety of cotton has been increased to Rs 6,380 per quintal from Rs 6,025 per quintal. In pulses category, the MSP of tur (arhar) has been increased to Rs 6,600 per quintal from Rs 6,300 last year, while that of moong raised to Rs 7,755 per quintal from Rs 7,275. The MSP of urad has been increased to Rs 6,600 per quintal for 2022-23 crop year, as against Rs 6,300 per quintal last year. Among oilseeds, MSP of soyabean has been increased to Rs 4,300 per quintal from Rs 3,950 last year, while for sunflower seed, support price has been raised to Rs 6,400 per quintal from Rs 6,015. Groundnut support price has been increased to Rs 5,850 per quintal from Rs 5,550 per quintal last year, while sesamum MSP has been increased to Rs 7,830 per quintal from Rs 7,307. Nigerseed MSP has been increased to Rs 7,287 per quintal in 2022-23 from Rs 6,930 per quintal last year. In coarse cereals, the MSP of maize has been increased to Rs 1,962 per quintal from Rs 1,870 last year, while for ragi, support price now is Rs 3,578 per quintal as against Rs 3,377 last year. In case of bajra, the MSP has been increased to 2,350 per quintal, from Rs 2,250 per quintal. The MSP of jowar (hybrid) has been increased to Rs 2,970 per quintal in 2022-23 from Rs 2,738 per quintal, while for jowar (maldani), support price has been increased to Rs 2,990 per quintal from Rs 2,758. Thakur said MSP of eight crops are 1.5 times higher than the cost of production, while the support price of remaining six crops are between 51-85 per cent. He said that increase in the MSP of oilseeds and pulses in the last few years have helped reduce the country’s import dependency. There has also been a sharp increase in the procurement of wheat, paddy, some oilseeds and pulses. Concerted efforts have been made over the last few years to realign the MSP in favour of oilseeds, pulses and coarse cereals to encourage farmers to shift larger areas under these crops and adopt best technologies and farm practices, to correct demand-supply imbalance, he added. He also highlighted several programmes launched during last eight years by the Modi Government to boost farmers’ income and ensure the comprehensive growth of the farm sector. The MSP of all the 14 crops for 2022-23 is higher by 46-131 per cent when compared to 2014-15. For example, the MSP of paddy (common variety) has been increased by 50 per cent to Rs 2,040 per quintal as against Rs 1,360 per quintal in 2014-15.

# China’s activities along Ladakh alarming: US

From Page 1

India and China have held 15 rounds of military-level talks besides several rounds of parleys on the diplomatic level to defuse tension at the LAC in Ladakh for the last more than two years. The two sides held diplomatic level talks last month under the aegis of Working Mechanism for Consultation and Coordination (WMCC) agreeing to continue discussions on outstanding issues and to convene the next meeting of senior military commanders at an early date. During the talks, the two sides reviewed the situation along the Line of Actual Control (LAC) in the Western Sector of the India-China border areas. They recalled that since the last meeting of the WMCC in November 2021,

both sides have held the 14th and 15th meetings of the Senior Corps Commanders in January and March 2022 respectively. Foreign Minister of China Wang Yi had also visited India in March 2022 and held discussions with External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar and the National Security Advisor (NSA) Ajit Doval. Meanwhile, the visiting US General held talks with Army Chief General Manoj Pande on Tuesday and IAF chief VR Chaudhari on Wednesday on ways to boost military cooperation. “Issues of mutual interest and ways to enhance bilateral defence cooperation were discussed,” the Indian Air Force (IAF) tweeted. Flynn also met the Vice Chief of Army Staff, Lieutenant General BS Raju. The two officers discussed various aspects of mutual interest, according to an official.

# Environment Index report unscientific...

From Page 1

“A new indicator in climate policy objective is ‘projected GHG emissions levels in 2050’. This is computed based on the average rate of change in emission of last 10 years instead of modelling that takes into account a longer time period, extent of renewable energy capacity and use, additional carbon sinks, energy efficiency, etc of respective countries,” the Ministry said. Forests and wetlands of country are crucial carbon sinks but have not been factored in while computing projected GHG emissions trajectory up to 2050 given by EPI 2022. Historical data on lowest emission trajectory has been ignored in computation, it said while rejecting the analysis. The Ministry said weight of indicators in which India performed well has been reduced and reasons for such change have not been explained in report. “The principle of equi-

ty is given very low weightage in the form of indicators like GHG emission per capita and GHG Emission intensity trend. The CBDR-RC principle is also barely reflected in composition of index,” it said. Common but Differentiated Responsibilities and Respective Capabilities (CBDR-RC) acknowledges different capabilities and differing responsibilities of individual countries in addressing climate change. The indicators on water quality, water use efficiency, waste generation per capita which are closely linked to sustainable consumption and production are not included in Index, the Ministry said. “The index emphasises extent of protected areas rather than quality of protection that they afford. Management, effectiveness and evaluation of protected areas and eco-sensitive regions is not factored into computation of biodiversity indices.

# UP villagers approach NGT as thermal ash causes diseases

PRADEEP SAXENA ■ ALIGARH

The ash flying from the ash drum of the thermal power project has also become a layer on the lives of the residents of the nearby villages of Kasimpur thermal power station. This ash is entering even the rooms inside the houses in the villages. More than 75% people of the village are in the grip of dangerous diseases like bronchitis, TB, asthma and cancer, causing being the coal ash that is reaching these villages. This has made the air pollution to reach a dangerous level. The villagers have complaint to project manager and administration but no action was taken in this matter. Disappointed with this, the villagers have now knocked on the door of National Green Tribunal (NGT). It may be recalled that a big thermal

power plant is established in Kasimpur town, 13 km away from Aligarh. There are 9 units working here. It’s furnace are run by coal and electricity is produced by coal. 1000 tons of coal is utilised to produce electricity which in turn produce a huge amount of ash that fly along with winds to nearby villages causing respiratory damage to the villagers. Also there is no treatment plant for this ash in the thermal power project. The ash produced is very thin and get accumulated in the lungs as soon as it is inhaled. The thermal project is flowing through pipes from Kasimpur power house along with water to ash drums built near village Nagola. From here the water is filtered and going through pipes into the Ganges Canal and piles of ash keep accumulating in the ground.

# Iran Foreign Min meets...

From Page 1

The Ministry of External Affairs on Monday categorically rejected the criticism of India by the OIC following the comments on the Prophet. As regards the talks here, the foreign ministers of India and Iran reviewed their long-standing bilateral ties in all spheres. The Iranian minister is on a three-day visit to India with an aim to further enhance the bilateral ties as well as to discuss key regional and global developments, including the situation in Afghanistan. “Welcoming FM @Amirabdollahian to New Delhi. Our discussions today will reflect our close and friendly relations,” Jaishankar

said in a tweet ahead of the talks. Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) Spokesperson Arindam Bagchi said the visit by the Iranian foreign minister will further “boost the deep historical ties and partnership” between the two countries. Abdollahian will travel to Mumbai and Hyderabad after concluding his engagements in New Delhi. Iran has been a key country for India in the Gulf region. The two sides have been jointly focussing on improving connectivity between South East Asia and Central Asia. At a connectivity conference in Tashkent in July last year, Jaishankar had projected Iran’s Chabahar port as a key regional

al transit hub, including Afghanistan. Located in Sistan-Balochistan province on energy-rich Iran’s southern coast, the Chabahar port is being developed by India, Iran and Afghanistan to boost connectivity and trade ties. India is in touch with Iran over the developments in Afghanistan following its takeover by the Taliban on August 15 last year. The Iranian national security advisor had attended a regional conclave hosted by India on the Afghan crisis in November last year. The conclave was also attended by the NSAs of Russia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan.

# EMIs to rise...

From Page 1

The Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) raised its inflation forecast for the current fiscal (April 2022 to March 2023) to 6.7 per cent from April prediction of 5.7 per cent but retained its economic growth projection at 7.2 per cent. “Inflation has steeply increased beyond the upper tolerance level,” Das said announcing the policy decisions. “Upside risks to inflation as highlighted in last policy meetings have materialised earlier than expected.” Inflation will likely remain above the RBI’s upper tolerance band until December, he said, adding that 75 per cent of the increase in inflation forecast is on

account of a spike in food prices which are due to war in Ukraine. The rate hike on May 4 and on Wednesday comes after 11 consecutive times of the RBI holding interest rate at a record low of 4 per cent. “We believe that more rate hikes are likely in the next 2-3 policy meetings given that RBI has revised its headline inflation forecast sharply upwards,” d Suman Chowdhury, Chief Analytical Officer, Acuité Ratings & Research, told news agency PTI. “However, the extent of the subsequent hikes will depend on the inflation print over the next few months, the performance of the monsoon and its impact on the food prices as also on the effectiveness of the price control measures taken by the Government.”

# Bishnoi masterminded Moose Wala murder, 5 shooters identified, says Delhi Police

From Page 1

In a joint operation, the Delhi Special Cell police team and Maharashtra Police arrested Siddhesh Hiranman Kamle alias Mahakal, a close associate of the main shooter in the killing of Moose Wala. Following his arrest, Mahakal spilled the beans of Bishnoi’s involvement in masterminding the killing of Moose Wala. Dhaliwal said Mahakal was arrested from Pune and five more suspects have been identified in connection with the murder. Sources said Mahakal may reveal the name of two of the shooters involved in the killing of the Punjabi singer.

Sources said Bishnoi, who is in the Delhi Police’s custody, had planned the killing of Moose Wala while he was in prison. It is suspected that Bishnoi was in touch with the killers. “On his orders the shooting was carried out and earlier also on Bishnoi directions the recce of singer house was conducted by his gang members,” said the sources. “Bishnoi has alleged that Moose Wala was involved in the killing of Akali Dal youth leader Vikramjit Singh alias Vicky Middukhera on August 7 last year which led to a rivalry between him and the Punjabi singer,” said the

sources. “Bishnoi has been very uncooperative so far. But during interrogation, he accepted that he had a rivalry with Moose Wala and claimed that his gang members killed the singer,” said sources. “He has revealed that Goldy Brar was one of the gang members who conspired and executed the killing of Moose Wala, but he has not yet disclosed the names of other associates who were the real conspirators and executioners of the killing,” a police official said. Bishnoi, who is facing nearly 60 cases, was lodged in Central Jail number eight of Tihar.



# L-G, CM brainstorm to keep Delhi free of monsoon woes

Ask officials to put long-term measures in place rather than working in a ‘Crisis Management Mode’

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Delhi Lieutenant-Governor Vinai Kumar Saxena along with Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal and Deputy Chief Minister Manish Sisodia on Wednesday chaired a high-level meeting to assess the plan of action ahead of the monsoon season to ensure least inconvenience to people due to water-logging, flooding, overflowing drains and falling of trees. The meeting was held after an hour-long interaction between the L-G and the CM.

After reviewing a presentation with regards to the efforts and status of de-silting of drains, laying of alternate pipelines to transport water collected at chronic sites, deployment of pumps and vans, the L-G and



the CM asked officials to put in place comprehensive long-term measures to deal with the problems of overflowing and water-logging rather than dealing with the issue in a ‘Crisis Management Mode’ as has been happening till now.

The L-G directed officials to simultaneously start the exercise of creating sink holes 6 to 8 inches in diameter, lined with perforated pipes and covered suitably at the sites prone to waterlogging along roads and drains and DJB sewer lines prone to flooding, so that water could be instantly absorbed and used for recharge of ground water below such locations. Kejriwal seconded the idea and directed officials to comply with it. While Saxena stressed upon proactive preparedness on part of the authorities after putting all



systems in place and deploying Quick Response Teams (QRT) equipped with all instruments that should be seen to be working on the ground, Kejriwal underlined the importance of enhancing and improving upon the work being done by various agencies in the Capital.

It was also decided that the waste taken out of the drains after de-silting should be lifted immediately and transported to designated sites rather than leaving them on the edge of the drains from where they again go into the drain, making the whole exercise fruitless.

The L-G asked for this removal to be photographed, transportation to be video-graphed and updated on the websites of the agencies concerned. For the purpose of de-silting of drains it was directed

that pressurised hosing be undertaken so as to forcefully move the silt downstream and not let it settle down. Similarly, to ensure that caving of roads and pathways does not take place during the rainy season, it was directed that proper compaction be done after completion of all civil works.

In an important move, officials were directed to construct concrete cemented roads at sites that were prone to waterlogging and flooding rather than the prevalent bitumen ones.

For the long-term plan of action, the L-G and CM agreed upon a comprehensive study of the city's drains, gradient and catchment areas so that excess water could be transported to natural/artificial pits, depressions and low lands in the city for long term storage. The L-G and CM directed officials to come up with a time-bound plan for laying of alternate pipelines for storm water drainage. The Drainage Master Plan that had been pending for years was instructed to be expeditiously finalised with the help of experts and domain-specific agencies.

# Mom in soup for leaving kid trussed up on hot roof

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

A five-year-old girl was tied and left on the roof of her house, allegedly by her mother, in northeast Delhi on Wednesday morning. A video purportedly shows the girl struggling under the beating sun on the roof with her hands and legs tied with a rope. The Delhi Police said they have traced the family and initiated an enquiry against the parents. In the video shot by a neighbour, the girl is seen writhing as she tries to free herself and is also heard crying for help.

The preliminary investigation has revealed that the incident took place on June 2 in Khajuri Khas area of the city, police said. As the girl was not doing her homework, her mother tied her hands and legs and left her on the terrace, police said.

Police said the girl's family has been identified and appropriate action initiated.

“After a video of a girl child tied up on the roof of a house surfaced on social media, all possible efforts were made by Delhi Police to ascertain her identity and circumstances.



The family of the child has been identified and appropriate action initiated,” the Delhi Police tweeted.

In the purported video shot from a nearby house, the girl can be heard crying for help and struggling to free herself.

A woman, who shot the around 25-second-long video, claims in the background that the mother of the child tied her hands and legs and left her on the roof in sweltering heat around 2 pm.

Police located the building in Khajuri Khas area and traced the family of the girl. Enquiries

are being done and legal action will be taken against the family, a senior police officer said.

Meanwhile, social media users expressed outrage over the incident and demanded action against the culprits.

One of the users also tagged Delhi Police Commissioner Rakesh Asthana and Delhi Commission for Women chief Swati Maliwal.

“This is horrible. Please take note of this immediately,” said Rahul Singh urging authorities to act on the matter. Another user Anand Verma said, “Please look into this matter immediately.”

2018 assault case: Court nixes then CS’ plea against Kejriwal’s discharge



STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

A city court of Rouse Avenue on Wednesday upheld a magistrate court’s decision acquitting Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal, Deputy Chief Minister Manish Sisodia and nine other Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) leaders in connection with a 2018 case related to the alleged assault on Delhi’s then Chief Secretary Anshu Prakash, during a meeting at Kejriwal’s official residence on February 19.

“The Trial Court had rightly discharged Arvind Kejriwal, Manish Sisodia, Rajesh Rishi, Nitin Tyagi, Praveen Kumar, Ajay Dutt, Sanjeev Jha, Rituraj Govind, Rajesh Gupta, Madan

The alleged assault had triggered a bitter tussle between the Delhi Government and its bureaucrats

Lal and Dinesh Mohania and further correctly did not charge Amanatullah Khan and Prakash Jarwal for the offences under Sections 342/506(ii)/120- B/109/114 IPC.

The revision petition is accordingly without merits and the same is dismissed,” Special Judge Geetanjali Goel said in the order while dismissing the revision petition of Anshu Prakash.

Prakash had challenged the trial court order, contending that it erred in its judgement discharging the politicians in the case.

The alleged assault had triggered a bitter tussle between the Delhi Government and its bureaucrats.

After the court order, Arvind Kejriwal said in a tweet, “God is with us. God’s blessings are upon us. All conspiracies against us fail.”

6, including two women, held for thrashing traffic cop in CR Park

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Delhi Police traffic inspector was thrashed by a group of people, including two women, in the national Capital’s southern area on Wednesday.

Police said that they have detained six people, including two women, for allegedly assaulting a traffic Inspector over issuing challans in south Delhi’s CR Park.

A video of the incident also went viral on social media. In the viral video, three people are seen thrashing the Inspector while two other traffic policemen are trying to rescue him.

In another video, one of the women alleged that the Inspector slapped her first. However, police have refuted the allegations and said the matter escalated over issuing of a fine.

According to a senior police official, three people, including two women, were riding triple on a two-wheeler without helmets when they were stopped by a Head Constable. “The trio was also coming from the wrong side. While the Head Constable issued a challan, the trio started an argument with him,” a senior police officer said.

An Inspector, who was near the spot, intervened, following which the trio assaulted him, he said. The accused then called three others on the spot and obstructed the traffic, police said.

The inspector, who suffered injuries on his head, was rushed to a hospital, police said. Meanwhile, the Delhi Police, in a tweet, informed that the statement of the injured inspector has been taken and legal action initiated.

# DU hikes development fee

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

After a gap of 13 years, Delhi University has decided to increase the annual university development fee (UDF) amounting to ₹300 charged from students from the academic year 2022-23.

“We have decided to slightly increase the UDF from ₹600 to ₹900 in view of the reduction in capital grants by the University Grants Commission (UGC),” DU Registrar Vikas Gupta said.

DU had constituted a university development fund committee to consider the allocation of funds for various activities like construction of new buildings and procurement of laboratory equipments.

The committee’s recommendations were accepted in the meeting of DU’s Executive Council held on December 17 despite dissent by a few members.

The panel comprising former pro-vice-chancellor PC



Joshi and Registrar Gupta said the UGC was not releasing sufficient grant for laboratory and other equipments for the last three to four years and had allocated ₹1.25 crore in financial year 2021-22.

A section of DU teachers termed the fee hike “unfortunate”.

“It shows that DU is not receiving UGC grants it requires for maintenance,” said Abha Dev Habib, a former Executive Council member.

“Unfortunately, fees are being increased and students are being charged for lab facilities to do research. DU cannot progress if the cost of maintenance, apparatus and facilities is put on the students,” she added.

Academic Council member Alok Pandey said: “In the centenary year, when DU is carrying out various activities, it should not raise the fees as it would add to the pressure on students.”

# 115 cases of unfair means during exams reported in DU

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

As many as 115 cases of using unfair means during the ongoing examination at DU were reported till June 7. An official said the number of such cases is “far less” this year as compared to the physical mode examination in 2019.

# 3 drunks held for creating ruckus in Jahangirpuri

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Delhi Police has arrested three men while two juveniles have been apprehended for allegedly creating ruckus and pelting stones causing damages to vehicles in the Jahangirpuri area of north-west Delhi.

Three of the accused were identified as Vishal (18) and Veeru (18), both residents of Lakhi Par in Jahangirpuri, and Zahir (20) from Bhalswa Dairy.

According to police, all five accused were under the influence of alcohol at the time of the incident. A purported video of the incident that took place on Tuesday night showed the accused pelting stones and

damaging vehicles.

According to Usha Rangnani, the Deputy Commissioner of Police (DCP), Northwest district, around 10.45 PM on Tuesday, two police control room (PCR) calls regarding the incident were received at Mahendra Park police station.

Inquiry revealed that Zahir had gone to I Block, Jahangirpuri with some of his friends in search of two men, Sameer and Shoaib, with whom he had an argument two-three days ago, she said.

“They (accused) were allegedly drunk and when they could not find them (Sameer and Shoaib), they pelted stones, causing damages to three vehicles. There is no communal



angle to the quarrel as both the groups belong to the same community. No one was injured in the incident,” Rangnani said. The three accused men have been arrested and two juveniles apprehended in connection with the incident, she said.

“A case under sections 147 (rioting), 148 (rioting, armed

# Delhi Film Policy attracting film fraternity

100 queries received, Garden of Five Senses, Dilli Haat, Red Fort, Qutub Minar, Humayun’s Tomb favourite locations for filmmakers

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

The Delhi Government has received around 100 queries under the Delhi Film Policy so far from people belonging to the film industry. They have enquired about the policy, its benefits, availability of locations for shooting, permission, application process and ways to claim the incentive or subsidy.

According to officials, the Garden of Five Senses, Dilli Haat and Delhi’s world heritage monuments like the Red Fort, Qutub Minar and Humayun’s Tomb are among the favourite locations of film-makers for shooting movies in the city. The Delhi Film Policy 2022, was launched on May 13 and not only have film-makers been asked for details, some have even visited the office of the Delhi Tourism and

Transportation Development Corporation (DTTDC), the nodal agency for the implementation of the policy.

Delhi Deputy Chief Minister Manish Sisodia had launched the policy to promote the city as a hub for movie production through a slew of measures, including setting up of a Rs 30 crore fund to support producers and hosting an international film festival every year.

The policy aims to provide a single-window e-film clearance system facilitating permission for the shoot in 15 days. A portal in this direction has been readied by bringing over 25 agencies for various permissions related to film production.

Under the new film policy, the Government has also made a provision of a subsidy of up to Rs 3 crore with certain rid-

ers such as the number of days of shooting, location and branding of Delhi in the movie, local hiring of actors, among other factors.

The official said the maximum amount one can avail is Rs 3 crore, but film-makers will have to earn points to get scores required to get the subsidy. The official said these points will be based on four criteria which include screen time given to the city in the movie, number of shoot days in Delhi, local artists given work in the film and the line production cost borne in the city. Another official said some prominent film-makers approached the department but did not divulge their names.

“The Delhi Film Policy is gaining momentum. Further information about it needs to be disseminated which we are doing.

# British High Commissioner calls on CM, pacts on health likely

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

British High Commissioner Alex Ellis and Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal on Wednesday discussed the possibility of signing a knowledge-sharing agreement on education and health.

The Chief Minister’s Office tweeted, “British High Commissioner to India H.E. Alex Ellis called upon Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal at the Delhi Secretariat today. Both Delhi & Britain will work together in the fields of education, health & infrastructure for the betterment of their citizens.”

According to a statement, Ellis, accompanied by Barbara

Wickham, Director of British Council India, also held an extensive discussion with Kejriwal on road infrastructure and its sustainability.

“Collaboration on green buildings, solar policy, waste management, road designing and electric buses were other subjects the Delhi Chief Minister discussed with Ellis,” it said.

Underlining education, healthcare, water supply and roadworks as Delhi Government’s priority sectors, Kejriwal told the British delegation that his Government had been spending 25 per cent of its annual budget on education and that ₹85,000 crore had

already been invested in this sector in the last seven years.

“We were able to allocate funds because of our commitment with integrity. This helped further in increasing pace of Delhi’s development,” he said.

The Chief Minister said that his Government is radically working upon enhancing Delhi’s water supply mechanism, reducing air pollution, and making transport more accessible and sustainable.

Drawing a parallel with the London healthcare model, Kejriwal said mohalla clinics have been set up in every locality where anybody can walk in at any point of the day.

# 80 people rescued from Lajpat Nagar building blaze

People came out and stood on parapets while waiting for rescue teams

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Around 80 people were rescued after a fire broke out in the basement of a building in southeast Delhi’s Lajpat Nagar market on Wednesday. According to an eyewitness, as the fire broke out, the people in the three-story building came out of the windows and stood on parapets, while waiting for rescue teams.

The fire started in the electrical panel of the building. A senior fire official said the information about the fire was received at 2.54 P.M. and 10 fire tenders were rushed to the spot. All the people on the other floors of the building were safely rescued.



The ground and first floors of the building housed a private bank and a private company was operating on the second and third floors, the fire officials said.

Around 80 people were rescued safely by Delhi Fire Services personnel from the first, second and third floors. The fire was in the basement only, said the fire official.

According to police, the

fire broke out in the electric switchboard panel installed in the basement below the staircase in the building.

“The four-storied building houses Axis Bank on the ground and first floor and a private office on second and third floor. The fire broke out at around 2.50 P.M. and the around 75-80 people were working inside the building when the incident occurred,”

said a senior police official.

“The police officials including the beat staff, patrolling staff from Lajpat Nagar police station immediately swung into action and started the rescue operation. The glass window panes were broken as people trapped inside started gasping for air,” said the senior police official.

“Police officials climbed over the parapets with the help of ladders and ropes and got people climb down by making human chain. The area was cordoned off and cleared off the hindrances for fire tenders. The rescue operation was further strengthened when fire tenders reached the spot,” said police official.

On June 12 last year, five showrooms were damaged after a massive fire broke out in the Lajpat Nagar market.

Three buildings housing mainly showrooms of garments, watches and crockery caught fire. No one was inside the shops at the time of the incident.

# 83 e-rickshaws gutted in Jamia Nagar Metro parking fire

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

More than 98 vehicles were either damaged or gutted after a fire broke out at a Metro parking area in south-east Delhi’s Jamia Nagar on Wednesday morning. However, no causality was reported in the incident.

According to Atul Garg, Director, Delhi Fire Service, a call regarding a blaze in main Tikona Park in the Jamia Nagar area was received at around 5 A.M. following which 11 fire tenders were rushed to the spot. “Several vehicles including, 10 cars, one motorcycle, two scooters, 30 new e-rickshaws and 50 old e-rickshaws caught fire in the Metro parking,” he said.

The fire was brought under control by 10:30 A.M. The cause of the fire is being ascertained, the official said, adding that the entire parking space has suffered damage.



Police said they were informed about the fire at 5.15 A.M. and suspect that it was caused by a short circuit.

According to a senior police officer, the area inside the Delhi Metro premises has been taken on lease by ETO Motors and is being used as a parking lot and a charging station for e-rickshaws.

“A total of 83 e-rickshaws

were gutted, while 11 cars, four two-wheelers and the air-conditioners of two-three houses in the vicinity got damaged. No casualty was reported,” said the officer.

“A First Information Report (FIR) under Section 336 (act endangering life or personal safety of others) of the Indian Penal Code has been registered at the Okhla Vihar

Metro police station,” said the officer.

“The parking space also included an e-rickshaw charging station and it has been divided into two parts. One was used to charge e-rickshaws while the other was used to park vehicles. I do not know if Metro officials had approved this plan or if they knew about it,” said a resident of the area.

“It could either be a short-circuit or a battery blast at the e-rickshaw charging station that triggered the fire and one by one, all the vehicles caught fire,” he said.

“Visited the site of fire incident at Delhi Metro parking at Tikona Park, Jamia. Instructed MD, DMRC who was present there to ensure putting in place a foolproof system of manning such places so that such incidents do not take place again,” Delhi Lieutenant-Governor, Vinai Kumar Saxena tweeted.



# NHAI creates world record for laying 75-km road in 105.3 hrs

**PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI**

Central road making agency, National Highways Authority of India, (NHAI) has created a Guinness World Record for the longest continuously laid bituminous lane of 75 kilometres in 105 hours and 33 minutes on the national highway between Amravati and Akola districts in Maharashtra.

Mentioning about the record, Road Transport and Highways Minister Nitin Gadkari on Wednesday said the project was implemented by 720 workers including a team of independent consultants who worked day and night.

The total length of the 75 kilometres of single lane continuous bituminous concrete road is equivalent to 37.5 kilometres of two-lane paved shoulder road and the work started on June 3, at 7:27 am and was completed on June 7,



at 5 pm, the minister said in a message. This is the third kind of world record by MoRTH in last one year pertaining to road and highways constructions.

The previous Guinness World Record for the longest continuously laid bituminous was for building 25.275 kilometres of road that was achieved in Doha, Qatar in February 2019 and that task was completed in 10 days.

The Amravati to Akola section is part of NH 53 and this is an important east-east corridor which connects major cities like Kolkata, Raipur, Nagpur and Surat.

According to Gadkari, once completed, this stretch will play a major role in easing movement of traffic and freight on this route. He also congratulated all the engineers, contractors, consultants, workers from NHAI and Raj Path

Infracon Pvt Ltd for efficient implementation of the project that has helped in successful completion of this world record.

Last year also the NHAI achieved a rare feat by completing a single lane of the four-lane stretch of 25.54 km being developed between Vijaypur-Solapur (NH 52) in a record time of 18 hours which was added in the Limca Book of Records. This road was part of the high density traffic corridor Bengaluru-Chitradurga-Vijayapura - Solapur - Aurangabad-Dhule-Indore-Gwalior.

Before this a new World Record was created for the laying of pavement quality concrete (PQC) for a four-lane highway of 2,580 meters length within 24 hours. It was achieved in India during the construction of the country's flagship greenfield expressway, the Delhi-Vadodara-Mumbai project.

# Future belongs to those who invest in healthcare: Modi

**PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI**

Prime Minister Narendra Modi asserted on Wednesday that the coming years will belong to those who have invested in healthcare and said he is proud of the work his Government has done to strengthen the sector in the last eight years.

Modi made the comments while sharing details tweeted by a Government portal on the highlights of his dispensation's measures in this core human development field.

It noted that around 3.26 crore people got free medical treatment under Ayushman Bharat, a health insurance scheme for the poor, six new AIIMS were operationalised, the world's "largest, fastest and first-ever digital" vaccination drive was launched to curb Covid and the number of medical colleges had risen by 55 per cent since 2014.

The establishment of one medical college for every district has also been targeted, it added.

Modi tweeted, "The coming years will belong to those who have invested in healthcare. I am proud of the work our government has done to strengthen the healthcare

sector in India."

The Prime Minister also shared a story from his app, dwelling at length on "gamechangers" driving a futuristic revolution in the healthcare sector.

It said accessible and affordable quality healthcare has become a reality for citizens. Medical expenditure used to be a severe economic burden for low-income households and often led them into debt traps earlier, it said.

"In 2018, the Modi government gave a permanent relief from this burden to nearly 18 crore households by launching the Ayushman Bharat - Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana, the world's largest health insurance programme," it added.

It cited the 'PM-Ayushman Bharat Health Infrastructure Mission' and the 'Ayushman Bharat Digital Mission' as two other important programmes that will build the future of healthcare in India.

"Healthcare is among our key focus areas. The last 8 years have been about augmenting health infrastructure, ensuring affordable and quality healthcare access to every Indian, and integrating technology with this sector," the Prime Minister said on Twitter.



# Liquor licence of vendors can't be nixed on public sentiment on location: SC

**PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI**

The Delhi High Court has said that the licence of a liquor vend cannot be cancelled on account of "public sentiment" being opposed to its location. Justice Yashwant Varma said that the grant of license under the excise law is not subject to "public sentiment" and unless the license is shown to be contrary to the legal provisions, the same cannot be cancelled. "Unless the license of the liquor vend is shown to fall foul of any statutory provision or otherwise established to be in violation of any rule or regulation, the same cannot possibly merit cancellation merely because "public sentiment" may be opposed to its location. Public opinion or sentiment is not a factor relevant or germane under the Act for locating a liquor vend". It was dealing with the excise department's challenge to the restoration of M/S 2 Bandits Restaurant's excise license by the Financial Commissioner. The petitioner Dept challenged the order on the ground that the Delhi Excise Act conferred ample power on the competent authority to cancel a license granted "for any reason whatsoever".

Justice Varma dismissed the petition and said that the expression "for any reason whatsoever" cannot be recognised as empowering the authorities to cancel a license on grounds that are not contemplated under the law and the department, acting as a public authority, is obliged to act fairly and not whims.

# Irani attacks Kejriwal over ED raid on Jain

**PNS ■ NEW DELHI**

Union Minister Smriti Irani on Wednesday launched a fresh attack on Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal seeking his reply on his Cabinet colleague Satyendar Jain, who is in the custody of the Enforcement Directorate in a money laundering case. "I asked ten questions to Kejriwal ji around 12.30 pm on June 1. The eleventh question was whether Kejriwal ji still think that Satyendar Jain did not do theft. Does Kejriwal believe that Satyendar Jain keeps no black money? Does he believe that Jain is innocent? I have not received the reply to any of my questions yet till June 8," the Women and Child Development Irani asked while speaking to news agency ANI.

Mentioning that the ED has recovered around Rs 2.80

crore in cash, and 133 gold coins weighing over 1 kg from the residence of Jain and his aides, Irani asked whether Kejriwal still finds Satyendar Jain "innocent" despite these recoveries.

She reminded "Kejriwal had said that he checked the papers himself", and asked whether he did not check such huge cash processed by Satyendar Jain. "Did not he check gold in such huge quantity as well as illegal property?" asked the minister.

She asked whether Kejriwal checked the order of the Delhi High Court on how Jain collected Rs 16 crore black money with the help of shell companies and Hawala operators.

The ED on Tuesday claimed to have seized 2.85 crore cash and 133 gold coins weighing 1.80 kg from Jain's aides during its day-long raid conducted a day ago.

# Cong plans march to ED office on the day Rahul to answer summons

**PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI**

The Congress will hold a major show of strength in the national Capital on June 13 when former party chief Rahul Gandhi will appear before the Enforcement Directorate in connection with a money laundering case.

The party has convened a virtual meeting of general secretaries, in-charges of various States and State unit presidents on Thursday evening to finalise the protest plans.

Sources said on Wednesday that all party MPs of both Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha and senior leaders have been asked to reach the party headquarters on Akbar Road on Monday morning.

The party plans to take out a march to the ED office on APJ Abdul Kalam Road in a show of support for Rahul when he appears before the agency. The party had put up a similar show of strength earlier when the Gandhis appeared in a court after they were summoned in a related case.

Senior party leaders said the state units should also conduct various campaigns in protest against the ED summons in con-



nection with a money laundering case pertaining to the National Herald-AJL deal. The Congress has termed the charges "fake and baseless" and added the summonses to Rahul Gandhi and party president Sonia Gandhi was part of the BJP's "vendetta politics".

The party reiterated that their leaders party chief Sonia Gandhi and Rahul Gandhi would appear before the ED as they had nothing to hide from the probe agency, and that the BJP should learn lessons from it. Sonia was asked to appear before the ED on Wednesday, but she has sought time from the agency as she is recovering from the coronavirus infection. The Congress president tested positive on

Thursday.

Rahul had earlier been summoned to appear before the agency on June 2 but he sought a fresh date as he was abroad at the time. The case pertains to the probe into the alleged financial irregularities in the party-promoted Young Indian that owns the National Herald newspaper. The paper is published by Associated Journals Limited (AJL) and owned by Young Indian Pvt Limited.

Officials said the agency wanted to record the statements of the Gandhis under criminal sections of the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA).

Congress spokesperson Pawan Khara said at the AICC Press conference, "We are a law-abiding party. We follow rules. So, if they have been summoned, of course, they will go. We have nothing to hide. We are not like them. We remember when the incumbent Home Minister Amit Shah was running around in 2002 to 2013," he said.

"They will learn some lessons from us on what kind of people who adhere to the path of truth are. They should learn from us," Khara said.

# India, Vietnam sign logistic support pact

**PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI**

With China flexing its muscles in the South China Sea and the Indo-Pacific region, India and Vietnam on Wednesday signed a vision document to further broad-base the "scope and scale" of their defence ties by 2030.

The two nations also firmed up a logistics support pact to allow militaries of the two sides to use each other's bases for repair and replenishment of supplies. These two documents were signed after bilateral talks between Defence Minister Rajnath Singh and his Vietnamese counterpart Phan Van Giang in Hanoi.

Rajnath described the interaction as "fruitful".

The Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on mutual logistics support is the first such major agreement that Vietnam has signed with any



President of Vietnam Nguyen Xuan Phuc broke protocol during a meeting and came out to see off Defence Minister Rajnath Singh. Singh is on a 3-day visit to Vietnam **PNS**

country.

Rajnath said the close defence and security cooperation between India and Vietnam is an important factor for stability in the Indo-Pacific region.

"In these times of increasing cooperative engagements between the defence forces of the two countries, this (logistics pact) is a major step towards simplifying procedures for mutually beneficial logistic support and is the first such major

agreement which Vietnam has signed with any country," the defence ministry said in a statement. Rajnath arrived in Vietnam on Tuesday on a three-day visit.

The two defence ministers signed the 'Joint Vision Statement on India-Vietnam Defence Partnership towards 2030' that provides for expansion of defence and military ties in diverse areas, officials said.

In a tweet, Rajnath said the

"wide-ranging discussions" were focused on "effective and practical" initiatives to further expand bilateral engagements. Regional and global issues also figured in the talks, he added.

The vision document came amid growing congruence between the two countries in the maritime security domain amid China's increasing muscle-flexing in the region.

The two ministers also agreed to the early finalisation of the 500 million dollar defence Line of Credit (LoC) extended to Vietnam by India. The implementation of the projects under the LoC will add substantially to Vietnam's defence capabilities and further Prime Minister Narendra Modi's vision of 'Make in India, Make for the World'.

Rajnath also announced gifting of two simulators and monetary grants towards setting up a language and IT laboratory at the Air Force Officers Training School for capacity

building of the Vietnamese armed forces.

Rajnath will also preside over the handing over ceremony of 12 high-speed boats to Vietnam at the Hong Ha yard in Hai Phong, with the boats built by Larsen and Toubro under India's \$100 million defence Line of credit to the south-east Asian country.

Vietnam, an important country of the ASEAN (Association of Southeast Asian Nations), has territorial disputes with China in the South China Sea region.

India has oil exploration projects in the Vietnamese waters in the South China Sea. India and Vietnam are boosting their maritime security cooperation in the last few years to protect common interests.

Ties between the two countries were elevated to the level of 'strategic partnership' during the visit of Vietnam's then Prime Minister Nguyen Tan Dung to India in July 2007.



The top 20 candidates who have cleared the civil services examination 2021 were felicitated by Union Minister Jitendra Singh in Delhi **PNS**

# Physician's pledge in NMC draft

**PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI**

Following a controversy over replacing the Hippocratic Oath with Charak Shapath in medical colleges, the National Medical Commission (NMC) has now proposed the introduction of the Physician's Pledge as per the World Medical Association's Declaration of Geneva. In the draft regulations for the professional conduct of doctors released on May 23, the regulatory body, which looks

into the functioning of medical education and professionals in the country, has a 14-point code of ethics as Physician's Pledge.

The code of ethics will serve as the commitment of the registered medical practitioner toward patients, society, professional colleagues, and self. "NMC Code of Ethics is framed as a self-regulatory set of guidelines reflecting professional as well as social expectations," it adds.

The NMC has posted the draft Registered Medical Practitioners (Professional

Conduct) Regulations 2022 for comments from the public, experts, and stakeholders.

As per the NMC draft, the new pledge includes respect for autonomy and dignity of patients and vows to attend to one's own health and well-being in order to provide care of the highest standard. Unlike the older declaration which stated, "I will maintain the utmost respect for human life from the time of conception", the new one says "will maintain the utmost respect for human life."

# 5K Covid cases a day after 93 days

**PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI**

Continuing with the upward trend in new Covid-19 cases, daily coronavirus infections in India surpassed 5,000 for the first time in 93 days. The total number of Covid-19 cases stood at 4,31,90,282, with 28,857 active cases.

In a 24-hour period, 5,233 infections were registered, while the death toll rose to 5,24,715 with seven new fatalities, according to figures updated early morning on Wednesday.

Maharashtra recorded 2,701 new Covid-19 cases, more than half of the total national tally and the highest in nearly four months in the State, of which, 1,765 patients were from Mumbai. Maharashtra also reported one case of B.A.5 variant on Tuesday. The total active cases in the

country comprise 0.07 per cent of the total infections, while the national Covid-19 recovery rate was 98.72 per cent, the Ministry said.

An increase of 1,881 cases has been recorded in the active Covid-19 caseload in a span of 24 hours.

The daily positivity rate was recorded at 1.67 per cent while the weekly positivity rate was recorded at 1.12 per cent, according to the ministry. The number of people who have recuperated from the disease surged to 4,26,36,710, while the case fatality rate was recorded at 1.21 per cent.

The cumulative doses administered in the country so far under the nationwide COVID-19 vaccination drive has exceeded 194.43 crore. India's COVID-19 tally had crossed the 20-lakh mark on August 7, 2020, 30 lakh on August 23, 40 lakh on

September 5 and 50 lakh on September 16. It went past 60 lakh on September 28, 70 lakh on October 11, crossed 80 lakh on October 29, 90 lakh on November 20 and surpassed the one-crore mark on December 19.

The country crossed the grim milestone of two crore on May 4 and three crore on June 23 last year. The seven new fatalities include five from Kerala and one each from Delhi and Uttar Pradesh.

A total of 5,24,715 deaths have been reported so far in the country including 1,47,866 from Maharashtra, 69,801 from Kerala, 40,108 from Karnataka, 38,025 from Tamil Nadu, 26,213 from Delhi, 23,523 from Uttar Pradesh and 21,205 from West Bengal.

The ministry stressed that more than 70 per cent of the deaths occurred due to comorbidities.

# Deboard mask rule violators: DGCA to airlines

**PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI**

The Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) on Wednesday issued new Covid-19 rules for airports and aircraft, making masks mandatory throughout the journey and allowing mask removal only under exceptional circumstances.

The circular followed a Delhi High Court order of June 3 which said the "DGCA should issue separate binding directions to all staff persons deployed at the airports and in the aircraft, including flight attendants, air hostesses, captains/pilots and others, to take strict action against passengers and others who violate the masking and hygiene norms". Violators of the new rules can

be put on 'no fly list'.

Besides, airport operators must take help of the local police and security agencies and levy fines on people not wearing face masks, the DGCA said in a circular.

The DGCA's Wednesday circular said airlines must ensure the passengers wear masks properly on flights and they are removed from faces only "under exceptional circumstances and for permitted reasons". If a passenger needs an extra face mask, the airline must provide it, it noted.

"The airline shall ensure that in case any passenger does not adhere to above instructions even after repeated warnings, he or she should be de-boarded, if need be, before departure," it said.



In case any passenger refuses to wear mask or violates the COVID-19 protocol even after repeated warnings in flight mid-air, he must be treated as "unruly passenger" as defined in the DGCA regulations, the circular said.

The DGCA regulations give powers to airlines to ban passengers for a certain period of time after they have been declared "unruly".

COVID-appropriate behaviour at all times within the airport premises, it noted.

"In case any passenger does not wear mask or refuses to wear mask and follow COVID-19 protocol, he should be fined as per the respective state law where the airport is located and he may even be handed over to security agencies," it said.

Airport operators must take sanitisation measures at airports and provide hand sanitisers or dispensers at prominent places in the terminal, it noted. "Also, airport operators shall levy fines on those violating COVID-19 protocols in accordance with state regulations with the help of local police and security agencies for violation of COVID-19 protocols," it added.



# Nadda raps Mamata over NREGA

Bengal CM lying, giving her Govt's name on Central projects: BJP

SAUGAR SENGUPTA ■ KOLKATA

The BJP on Wednesday launched a scathing attack on Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee for peddling lies against the Narendra Modi Government and hijacking all its projects to let them pass as her own schemes.

Showing how the Bengal Government had hijacked most of the central projects and implemented them in its own name BJP national president JP Nadda quoting a popular saying and remarked: "A thief may change his profession but will never stop fiddling ... similarly here in Bengal to earn false credit this Government has changed names of Prime Minister Awaas Yojana to Bangla Awaas Yojana ... Prime Minister Garib Kalyan Yojana has become Khadya Saathi, Swacchha Bharat has become Nirmal Bangla and so on ... so it is the duty of BJP workers to go tell people truth of how she (Chief Minister) is claiming false credit." Hitting Banerjee back for alleging how Centre had withheld payment of wages under National Rural Employment Guarantee



BJP national president JP Nadda on his way to Rashbehari Bose Research Institute in Kolkata PTI

scheme Nadda said "no fund is transacted without proper accounting ... for past three years State Government has not accounted for the previous funds paid under NREGA scheme and now they are blaming Centre ... should central government to start misappropriating funds raised from people's taxes by paying them without asking for proper accounting."

Hours before, the Chief Minister told a large audience at Hanshimara in North Bengal how Centre had withheld NREGA funds for past several months making it impossible for her to pay the poor people for 100 days' work. "Before elections they promise you skies and after elections they refuse to keep their promises ...

as in case of Ujala scheme ... today they have stopped giving gas supplies to people ... they are not giving NREGA funds for past several months and they have even stopped providing free wheat to poor whereas they have effected an all-round rise in prices of essential items," Banerjee said.

She had on Tuesday attacked the Centre for running a counterfeit government by flooding country with fake currency notes. In a no-hold-barred attack Nadda who was addressing a meeting of party men in Kolkata said that like former Bihar Chief Minister Laloo Yadav who was taking rounds of law courts one day Chief Minister of Bengal too would have to go to courts. "It is just a matter of 30 years ...

then the people would not even imagine that a powerful person like Laloo ji will have to make rounds of law courts which he has been doing now ... just wait and see how 20 years from now both Pisi (aunt --- read Mamata Banerjee) and Bhaipo (nephew --- read Abhishek Banerjee) will have to make rounds of courts for their actions," Nadda said.

Saying that in the past one decade the Chief Minister had turned Bengal into a crime capital Nadda said that Bengal was the 4th highest in attempted murder cases adding how in 2019 alone the state reported 1069 cases of rape.

Apparently referring to the Chief Minister he said "when the rakshak (protector) becomes bhakshak (destroyer) nothing remains ... when the Chief Minister calls rape incidents as choto ghatna (small incident) then law and order is bound to deteriorate."

Saying how the regional parties which once determined the fate of the central governments had transformed into dynastic outfits Nadda said "From Samajwadi Party --- which is Akhilesh Yadav's party --- to RJD --- which is Laloo and Tejaswi's party --- to DMK --- which Stalin's party --- to TMC --- which is Pisi and Bhaipo's party, all have become dynastic outfits and will obliterate in course of time."



Parents of Punjabi singer Sidhu Moose Wala during his 'antim ardas' and 'bhog' ceremony, in Mansa district on Wednesday PTI Photo

## CPM tells media not to print allegations made in gold scam

KUMAR CHELLAPPAN ■ KOCHI

The CPI-M in Kerala issued a stern warning to the media in the State against publishing the statements made by Swapna Suresh, the prime accused in the infamous "gold smuggling through diplomatic channel" scam that rocked the State in 2020-2021.

On Wednesday, Swapna had called on a magistrate in Ernakulam and gave a statement under section 164 of the Code of Criminal Procedure.

The section deals with recording of any confession or statement made to a judicial magistrate in course of an investigation or at anytime afterwards before commencement of an inquiry or trial.

Speaking to reporters at Kochi after recording her statement Swapna had said that she was asked by M Sivsankar, the then principal secretary to chief minister Pinarayi Vijayan, to send a suitcase packed with currency notes kept in latter's official residence at capital city by diplomatic route to UAE.

"The chief minister and his wife Kamala were at UAE as part of an official visit.

Sivsankar had told me that the chief minister had forgotten to take the particular baggage with him and I was asked to send same through diplomatic route," Swapna had said.

She also alleged that Veena, daughter of Vijayan, whose new husband Mohammed Riyaz is a minister in the Pinarayi Vijayan's cabinet, C M Raveendran, the then private secretary to chief minister, K T Jaleel, the former chief of the outlawed SIMI who was a minister in previous Pinarayi ministry (2016-21) had various business interests in the West Asian oil kingdom.

According to Swapna, the disclosures made by her could be proved by details of entries made at reception of Cliff House, the chief minister's high security bungalow and vehicular movements of UAE consulate. Swapna was liaison officer of UAE consulate at Thiruvananthapuram during period.

## Scheme approved for promotion of PM package staff in J&K



PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ JAMMU

The Union Territory administration headed by Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha on Wednesday announced a slew of measures aimed at streamlining the career progression of employees engaged under the Prime Minister's Development Package.

The Lieutenant-Governor also visited Samba and met the family members of Rajni Bala, a teacher who was killed by terrorists in Kulgam. Offering his deepest condolences to the bereaved family members, the Lt Governor said Rajni Bala was one of the most loved and admired teachers in the valley. The Lt Governor also assured the family members of every possible support and assistance from the UT administration. The government high school, Gopalpora in Kulgam will be named after Smt. Rajni Bala. Assured her husband Rajkumar that all his demands and concerns will be resolved on priority basis.

LG Manoj Sinha also rolled out 'Accidental Insurance Scheme' for employees of the

J&K Government. Under the scheme, Jammu & Kashmir Bank will extend free group personal insurance cover of Rs 15 lakh to all the employees.

According to a statement issued by the Department of Information and Public Relations, "the Administrative Council (AC) which met under the chairmanship of the Lieutenant Governor, Manoj Sinha, Wednesday approved the scheme for promotion of PM package employees".

This will remove the bottleneck in career progression of employees appointed under the PM package. All posts under the PM Package have been re-designated as divisional level posts in Kashmir Division. The new structure will provide avenues for in-situ promotion to all PM Package employees as per eligibility and seniority.

Rajeev Rai Bhatnagar, Advisor to the Lieutenant Governor, Dr. Arun Kumar Mehta, Chief Secretary, J&K and Nitishwar Kumar, Principal Secretary to the Lieutenant Governor attended the meeting.

"The scheme envisages maintaining a separate senior-

ity for Kashmiri Migrant employees appointed under the PM package, by respective appointing departments which will run parallel to the seniority of regular employees and will take effect from the date of appointment against the supernumerary posts under the PM Package" the statement read.

Accordingly, the Administrative Council sanctioned creation of pre-facto supernumerary posts at corresponding higher levels to pave way for timely career progression of Kashmiri Migrant employees, by reducing the supernumerary posts at lower levels in the same ratio. However, these promotions will be based on seniority and eligibility requirements as per the recruitment rules.

During the financial year 2008-09, the Prime Minister's package was rolled out for return and rehabilitation of Kashmiri Migrants to the Kashmir valley. It included various incentives like Housing, Employment, Transit Accommodations etc. The employment component of the package extended employment to 6000 eligible candidates by creating various supernumerary posts in different departments.

On Wednesday the Lt Governor also launched J&K Bank's 'Phone Pe Loan' facility for the government employees.

The Lt Governor said that people-centric initiatives such as 'Phone Pe Loan' & 'Accidental Insurance Cover' will ensure hassle-free credit flow and social security net for employees.

Make Marathi optional subject in UP schools for better job prospects in Maha: Maha ex-Min

T N RAGHUNATHA ■ MUMBAI

Maharashtra's former minister and State BJP vice president Kripashankar Singh on Wednesday urged Uttar Pradesh chief minister Yogi Adityanath to introduce Marathi as an optional language for Secondary and Higher Secondary students in UP.

"In my view, if Marathi is made an optional language in Secondary and Higher secondary students, then that may help students in getting better jobs in Maharashtra," Singh stated in a letter written to Uttar Pradesh chief minister.

Singh - an erstwhile Congress leader who was Mumbai Congress chief from 2008 to 2012, resigned from Sonia Gandhi-led party in run-up to 2019 State Assembly and joined BJP in July last year -said that he had been living in Maharashtra for past 50 years and had links with Purvanchal region in Uttar Pradesh.

"During last 50 years, I found that a big chunk of students who clear their secondary and higher secondary examinations, migrate to Maharashtra for jobs," Singh said. "I have noticed that when they (SSC and HSC pass-outs from UP) come to Maharashtra for jobs, they face a number of problems for not knowing Marathi.

Not only this but there are many vacancies of State government and corporations that require knowledge of Marathi language," BJP leader said.

# BSES

## BSES Rajdhani Power Limited

Regd. Off.: BSES Bhawan, Nehru Place, New Delhi-110019  
Website: www.bsesdelhi.com

### PUBLIC NOTICE

#### CORRIGENDUM TO THE PUBLIC NOTICE DATED 23 NOVEMBER 2019

**Objections / Response to BSES Rajdhani Power Limited's Appeal No. 376 of 2019 filed before the Hon'ble Appellate Tribunal for Electricity against DERC Tariff Order dated 31.07.2019 related to the "True-up of expenses for FY 2017-18 and approval of Aggregate Revenue Requirement & Tariff for FY 2019-20".**

- BSES Rajdhani Power Ltd. ("BRPL") filed Appeal No. 376 of 2019 before the Hon'ble Appellate Tribunal for Electricity ("Hon'ble Tribunal") challenging the Tariff Order dated 31.07.2019 passed by Ld. Delhi Electricity Regulatory Commission ("Ld. DERC") in Petition No. 07 of 2019 with respect to certain specific findings and observations ("Appeal"). The Appeal was admitted on 18.11.2019 with a direction to BRPL to publish a public notice to inform the public of filing of the Appeal. Pursuant to the said directions, a public notice was duly published on 23.11.2019 in The Hindu, The Pioneer and The Indian Express on behalf of BRPL ("Public Notice").
- Subsequent to the issuance of the Public Notice, BRPL preferred I.A. No. 198 of 2020 and I.A. No. 1328 of 2021 seeking permission to urge additional grounds in its Appeal, which are as under:

S. No.	Issue / Ground No.	Particulars of the Issue / Ground
1	52	Arbitrary disallowance of incentive on sale of surplus power.
2	53	Omission to allow carrying cost on cost of power purchase from Anta, Auraiya and Dadri Gas Station for FY 2012-13 to FY 2016-17
3	54	Erroneous allowance of actual water charges

3. Vide Order dated 12.04.2022, the Hon'ble Tribunal was pleased to allow I.A. No. 198 of 2020 and I.A. No. 1328 of 2021 and accordingly permitted BRPL to agitate the aforesaid grounds / issues in its Appeal. The Hon'ble Tribunal also directed BRPL to inter alia issue a corrigendum to its Public Notice.

4. In terms of the directions of the Hon'ble Tribunal, the present corrigendum is being issued on behalf of BRPL informing the public of the additional grounds / issues being raised by BRPL in its Appeal. The Appeal is now posted for further proceedings before the Ld. Registrar of the Hon'ble Tribunal on 05.07.2022 at the Appellate Tribunal for Electricity, 7th Floor, Core IV, SCOPE Complex, Lodhi Road, New Delhi – 110003.

5. The findings of the DERC now stand challenged on the following updated list of issues:

S. No.	Issues
1	Deferment of capitalization based on EI Certificate
2	Disallowance of REL Purchases
3	Impact of Truing-up of first 11 months of FY 08
A	Erroneous computation of depreciation for FY 08
B	Non-revision of O&M Expenses from FY 09 to FY 12 in line with FY 08
4	Revision in distribution loss from FY 08 to FY 11
5	Non-revision of AT&C Loss for FY 13 to FY 14
6	Increase in employee expenses corresponding to increase in consumer base
7	Lower Cost of debt for second Control Period (FY 13 to FY 16)
8	R&M and A&G Expenses for FY 05
9	Re-fixation of AT&C Loss for FY 12
10	Lower rates of carrying cost
11	True-up of interest rates of loans for first control period (FY 08 to FY12)
12	Repayment of loans not considered while computing WACC
13	Efficiency factor for FY 11
14	Computation of AT&C Losses for FY 10 using actual kWh figures
15	Non-considerations of actual units reversed on account of self-consumption
16	Financing cost of LPSC based on SBI PLR (FY 08 to FY 13)
17	Incorrect revision of R&M Expenses by revising "K" Factor
18	Funding of working capital in debt-equity ratio of 70:30 for first control period
19	Re-casting of means of finance based on actual consumer contribution capitalised
20	Disallowance of power purchase cost during period of regulations for FY 2011-12 to FY 2016-17
21	Disallowance on account of overlapping banking transactions
22	Cost disallowed on account of excessive trading at UI above contingency limit
23	Normative rebate of 2% from FY 2012-13 to FY 2016-17
24	Loss due to retirement of assets from FY 2004-05 to FY 2011-12
25	Disallowance of Bank charges/ syndication fees from FY 2007-08 to FY 2016-17
26	Income from street light maintenance business to be considered as other business income
27	Old methodology for computation of financing cost of LPSC continued
28	Wrong computation of carrying cost on outstanding RA by adjusting 8% surcharge during FY 2012-13 and FY 2013-14 against revenue gap of FY 2012-13 and FY 2013-14
29	Wrong computation of Carrying cost on outstanding RA by adjusting carrying cost allowed in Tariffs directly against revenue gap created during FY 2014-15 to FY 2017-18
30	Disallowance on account of monthly billing rebate contrary to its' own affidavit submitted by the Commission in Civil Appeal 6959-60 of 2015 before Hon'ble Supreme Court
31	FY 16-17 claims over and above normative
32	Write-back miscellaneous provisions considered as part of NTI for FY 2007-08 to 2016-17
33	SVRS Pension amount not allowed as part of O&M costs for FY 2016-17
34	Erroneous net worth computation
35	Working Capital not changed for previous period despite of correct treatment for FY 2017-18
36	Enforcement sales not considered on actual basis
37	Disallowance on account of Regulated power for FY 2017-18
38	Consideration of Normative rebate of 2% for FY 2017-18
39	RPO penalty for FY 2016-17
40	Loss on sale of retired assets
41	Treatment of Income-tax contrary to Regulations
42	Commission earned on ED considered as Non-Tariff Income
43	Capping of Equity at 30% and re-opening the statutory Transfer Scheme
44	Incorrect computation of over-achievement on account of T&D loss targets
45A	Pension trust surcharge true-up on revenue billed basis instead of revenue collection basis
45B	Carrying cost on pension trust not allowed for FY 19
45C	Deficit on account of PT Surcharge adjusted in Regulatory Assets instead of surcharge
46	Additional O&M Expenses
a	Impact of GST
b	Impact of Minimum wage revision
c	SMS Charges
d	Legal fees
e	Revision of Bonus of Contractual employees
f	DSM Charges
47	Incorrect truing-up of Working Capital interest rates for FY 2017-18
48	Incorrect truing-up of carrying cost rates for FY 2017-18
49	Disallowance of interest on inter-company loans by considering it as Non-Tariff Income
50	Consideration of Incorrect rate of interest for working capital and carrying cost for FY 2019-20 contrary to Regulations
51	Ratio of fixed to energy charges
52	Arbitrary disallowance of incentive on sale of surplus power.
53	Omission to allow carrying cost on cost of power purchase from Anta, Auraiya and Dadri Gas Station for FY 2012-13 to FY 2016-17
54	Erroneous allowance of actual water charges

6. Copies of the Appeal Paper Books can be obtained from the office Mr. Dushyant Manocha, Advocate, having his office at: M-18, First Floor, Green Park Extension, New Delhi-110016 (011- 47591385) (E-mail: dushyant@mglawassociates.com)

For BSES Rajdhani Power Limited

Sd/-  
Rajul Agarwal  
Head (Regulatory Affairs)

Regd. Off. : BSES Rajdhani Power Limited, BSES Bhawan, Nehru Place, New Delhi-110019 | Corporate Identification No.: U40109DL2001PLC111527

Telephone No. : 19123 (Toll-free) | Fax No. : +91 11 49207888 | Website : www.bsesdelhi.com



www.dailypioneer.com

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

PAPER WITH PASSION

# Blight on the land

In India, unfortunately, politicking trumps environmental concerns

One way of viewing the recently released 2022 Environment Performance Index (EPI), which puts India at the bottom of the ranking, is by dismissing the index as alarmist. The 2022 EPI, prepared by Yale and Columbia University researchers, ranks 180 nations on 40 performance indicators such as climate change, environmental public health and biodiversity. Government supporters can also describe it as erratic, question its methodology, doubt the yardsticks it has used to prepare the index, and so on. Perhaps, India doesn't deserve to be at the 180th place, but by any reckoning its ranking would not be much higher. For, other similar reports too paint a gloomy picture of our environment. Less than a year ago, the University of Chicago's Air Quality Life Index (AQLI) found that air pollution levels could cost the residents of north India over nine years of life expectancy. It is a well-known fact that the air quality index (AQI) in northern States in the beginning of every winter zooms and causes medical problems to a lot of people, especially those with respiratory issues. The World Air Quality Report, prepared by Swiss organisation IQAir in March this year, said New Delhi was the world's most polluted Capital; this was for the fourth consecutive year. Worse, it found that 35 Indian cities, with Rajasthan's Bhiwadi on top, had the worst air quality tag for 2021. "With markedly poor air quality and quickly rising greenhouse gas emissions, India, for the first time, comes in at the very bottom of country rankings," EPI said.



It also accused India and a few other countries of wrong prioritisation: "The lowest scores overall go to countries that are struggling with civil unrest or other crises, including Myanmar and Haiti, or nations that have prioritised economic growth over environmental sustainability, such as India, Vietnam, Bangladesh and Pakistan." What is really wrong about the prioritisation in India is that governance figures (if at all) pretty low in the list of priorities. Emotive issues take the cake, whether it is about changing names of places, the mosque-temple rows, farm loan waivers, reckless populist schemes or caste census. The BJP leaders seem to be devoting more time studying the atrocities perpetrated by Aurangzeb and other Muslim rulers than working on effective measures to galvanise growth and generate employment. The Aam Aadmi Party subsidises pilgrimage. Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar is spending his energies on caste census instead of focusing on the economic development of his State where the per capita income is about 55 per cent of the country's. In the ultimate analysis, the environment is a governance issue, and unless leaders of all parties agree to work and cooperate with each other, we will continue to suffer. Sadly, politicians' sole occupation seems to be politicking. About governance, their procrastination resembles that of Scarlett O'Hara's of *Gone With The Wind*: "I'll think about that tomorrow." But, as they say in Hindi, tomorrow never comes.



An aerial view of Old Delhi area, seen from the Civic Centre in New Delhi

# Tight monetary policy can't tame inflation

A tight monetary policy shall be counter-productive for India since it will impact the investment rate and public income, which the nation can't afford

Unlike developed economies, in India, there is no direct linkage of repo rate with inflation, as is evident from the data available from the past several years. In the developed economies, consumer loan portfolio is too large and the interest rate is much lower. Hence, for controlling inflation, they increase their interest rate for cooling off the consumption demand and the money is diverted to financial savings. In India, however, the interest rate is higher and the financial savings are driven by tax incentives. More so, the major portion of bank deposits is used for meeting the investment needs and the financing fiscal deficit. Hence, tight monetary policy shall be counter-productive, since it would impact the investment rate and public income (GDP) which India can't afford, particularly after the recent sufferings in the COVID-afflicted years. Rather, high interest on the productive sector will add to cost-push inflation.

The key factor for current inflation in India is the "cost-push effect", that too in a compounding manner. For this, the cost of basic inputs such as capital, energy, minerals and logistics must be reduced; that gives a multiplier effect.

India must come out from its past legacy of living with "high cost economy" causing inherent and chronic inflation. This can be resolved only through structural reforms and appropriate policies on the regulatory and fiscal fronts. Eventually, it will also boost exports and arrest weakening of the rupee, which adds to inflation, and vice-versa.

The price of domestic "thermal coal" must be restored almost near to the 2019-20 level which has since increased to more than three times, mainly due to stagnant production clubbed with high price of imported coal. Its major impact is on the core sectors such as power, steel, metal and cements, which travel to the entire gamut of production of goods and services.

Hence, India must immediately increase the domestic production of coal by at least 15-20 per cent through regulatory



easelements. This has been almost stagnant in the past few years despite having huge reserves. India should give incentives by reducing the royalty and auction premium on the incremental production. Eventually, that will cut import of coal and save forex. Particularly, uninterrupted power at cheaper cost shall immediately reduce inflation of all goods and services.

Modern industrial economy is highly dependent upon the availability of minerals at cheaper cost. Allocation of mineral resources and coal through auction is certainly one of the good reforms in 2014-15. But the levy of auction premium percentage on the IBM price (including the auction and royalty) causes compounding and spiralling effect on the selling price. In consequence, the prices of power, steel, metal and cement have inflated to record high levels. Unfortunately, the mineral sector has been over-regulated since long, causing low production with high cost, which must be eased. The prospecting of new reserves of minerals must be done in an aggressive manner for future security.

Logistics cost in India is about two to three times compared to several other countries. Considering our nation's



MODERN INDUSTRIAL ECONOMY IS HIGHLY DEPENDENT UPON THE AVAILABILITY OF MINERALS AT CHEAPER COST. ALLOCATION OF MINERAL RESOURCES AND COAL THROUGH AUCTION IS CERTAINLY ONE OF THE GOOD REFORMS

high dependency on road and surface transport, the taxes on diesel may be rolled back near to the 2014-15 level. As a long-term solution, the Railways must build sufficient capacity and increase the share of goods traffic compared to road transport, which is not so cost efficient. Eventually, that will reduce our dependence on imported fuel. This step is overdue since several years.

Unlike manufactured products, food items are produced in the harvest season and then consumed until the next season arrives. During the interim period, it is to be stored and then used as per the need. Stemming from this reason, the development of warehouses and cold storages at affordable rent shall reduce seasonal inflation. Processing of perishable produce shall also help in curbing any steep hike in the prices of food products during off season. Advance forecast of production and consumption, clubbed with predictable policy for export and import, shall avoid price shocks and motivate farmers to go in for higher production. It will, naturally, help check inflation, too.

Unlike several other nations, India has a vast potential to produce most of the commodities in surplus, in



RP GUPTA

excess over the domestic consumption except in a few cases. This potential must be unlocked through reforms and the surplus production should be exported in a calibrated manner. One believes that the ongoing high inflation of commodities in the world should not be viewed as any sort of impediment. India should convert this challenge into an opportunity for boosting its production and exports. By carrying out this activity, the import of such commodities, which are already in shortage for reasons beyond our control, can be imported in a calibrated manner.

By and large, the "economic efficiency" of India needs improvement through structural reforms surmounting the past legacy. Direct tax such as GST, excise, custom duty, mineral royalty and mineral auction premium also needs rationalisation for reducing the multiplier impact. That will check inflation to an affordable level and also boost the GDP's growth. Yes, if the inflation is arising due to consistent surge in consumption demand, monetary tools must be kicked in till the supply gets back in tune with the demand.

(The writer is an economist and an author. The views expressed are personal.)

## PICTALK

## Staying alive

Revenge tourism may be an actual thing, but so are the lingering variants of COVID

These days, when there's a lot of talk about hatemongers, religious intolerance, fanaticism and taking revenge on the 'wrongs' perpetrated in history with regard to the *mandir-masjid* controversies, there's another type of revenge that is being practised widely, from the mountainous regions to the silvery sand beaches at seashores. Interestingly, sociologists have named it "revenge tourism". In layman's term, such travel is when people travel not for joy or peace but out of vengeance that they were forced to remain confined within the four walls of their encampment and could not move around during the two years when the pandemic scare was at its peak. In expert speak, it is explained as a phenomenon that has people who are tired of mundane everyday routines due to successive lockdowns, rush to travel to nearby destinations for short breaks. This habit stems from the fact that people have spent long, dreary months in lockdowns and are experiencing what has been described as "lockdown fatigue" or exhaustion that escalates on account of the monotony of routine. Not unique to India, this phenomenon has been experienced across the world when the respective Governments eased lockdown restrictions after successive waves of the COVID-19 pandemic.



Just in case you are wondering, it's not just a figment of fertile imagination. There is veritable data to back this theory. For example, Goa crossed pre-COVID-19 air passenger footfalls in December 2021. Even religious towns such as Tirupati, Shirdi, Kishangarh and Prayagraj have recently crossed their pre-COVID-19 passenger numbers. The number of domestic passengers in Goa rose 14 per cent to 815,935 in December 2021 from 715,293 in December 2019, before the pandemic, as per the Airports Authority of India data. These numbers hold out hope for the air travel, tourism and hospitality sectors, which were badly battered by the pandemic. A word of caution, though! Revenge tourism has often led to a fresh round of spurt in the number of novel Coronavirus cases across the world because tourists generally don't follow COVID-appropriate behaviour. They tend to behave like carefree kids out on a picnic, without realising that the threat hasn't yet gone away; it's just hiding from plain sight. So, the next time you book your tickets, don't ignore the face masks and the sanitiser bottle. Your life, and that of your loved ones, may depend on these!

## JUSTICE IS MORE IMPORTANT THAN LAW

Sir — A report quotes advocate Nitya Ramakrishnan opining that a mosque can't be turned into a Hindu temple as per the law. The advocate has invoked 'The Places of Worship Act, 1991', enacted when the Congress was in power at the Centre. Of late, this Act has found wide coverage. Even a layman has come to know that the status quo of places of worship that stood on 15/08/1947 should be maintained. The common sentiment is that Congress has generally not been as considerate to Hindus as to Muslims. The minority votes are considered more important than the majority votes.

Obviously, because minorities have far fewer differences of opinion in voting than in majority Hindus. There are no reports that Christians have demolished temples and constructed churches over temples. They indulge in proselytisation silently but do not indulge in violence. Therefore if rarely at any place a church has been constructed over the temple, it can be ignored and the provisions of the Places of Worship Act can be invoked. But in the case of mosques, it is not so. Countless number of temples has been destroyed by Mughals and mosques have come up on the destroyed temples.

KV Seetharamaiah | Bengaluru

## SEDITION MUST BE FOR STERNER STUFF

Sir — This is with reference to 'Need to protect civil liberties' (June 6). The right to the freedom of expression and the right of the State to secure its citizens have all suffered or thrived on how they are interpreted. In 1644, at the height of the English Civil War, poet John Milton called on the British Parliament to bring to an end the State licensing of newspapers. Free speech, meaning free argument, is at the heart of a self-governing society and cannot be a partisan issue. Dissent is a product of application of sane human intellect to an issue at hand, yet the Government chooses to brand intellectualism *per se* as anti-national.

## Keep religious sanity, sanctity



Our is a religion-dominant nation where people are largely religious even in democracy. They also accord high respect to all religions as well as their religious personalities sans a vestigial trace of any kind of discrimination and, hence, people from all religions, faiths, castes and creeds living peacefully together from time immemorial has been a hallmark tradition of this country. This also has earned India the 'Unity in diversity' epithet at the global stage. Ironically, some vested interests are hell-bent upon tarnishing India's global image for personal aggran-

disement. The sacrilegious attempt by these fringe elements by using beyond the pale remarks against Prophet Mohammad during a programme in Kanpur is the latest despicable example of the same.

Ironically, they are also responsible for the clashes that ensued between two communities that left many injured followed by 29 arrests. That those responsible have been brought to book by the ruling regime is no solace since they hogged international media headlines for all the wrong reasons. All the Gulf countries, including the United Arab Emirates, have registered strong condemnation over the blasphemy against the Prophet while Kuwait, Qatar and Iran on Sunday summoned the Indian ambassadors to register their protest. The hate speeches are at the root of all this and, hence, these need to be nipped in the bud. The sooner, the better!

Azhar A Khan | Rampur

There is a price to pay for sponsoring and pursuing freedom of speech and, sadly, few are prepared to pay it. We never repeal Acts that restrict free speech; we only attempt cosmetic amendments. We seem to have learnt nothing in four centuries, but have found newer ways to keep the lid tight on free speech. A case in point is the RTI Act: Without information, there can be little meaningful dissent and yet Governments are never short on imagination on newer interpretations to sedition.

R Narayanan | Navi Mumbai

## NOROVIRUS IS A COMMUNICABLE DISEASE

Sir — Norovirus is a contagious virus that induces vomiting and diarrhoea. Due to its impact on the gastrointestinal system, the virus is also called 'stomach flu' or 'stomach bug'. Not just kids, but anyone can get affected by it. These viruses are notorious in spreading quickly through contaminated food and surfaces. The food which is grown or harvested with contaminated water

can also spread the virus. The common symptoms of Norovirus are vomiting, diarrhoea, stomach cramps, chills, headache and muscle aches. The symptoms can start appearing within 12 hours of exposure to the virus.

Dehydration is a major health risk during a Norovirus attack. Children, the elderly and those with weak immune systems should not let themselves dehydrate. In order to prevent the Norovirus infection, one should wash hands thoroughly, especially after using the toilet, before eating, before cooking food and before serving food. After each episode of vomiting and diarrhoea, disinfect the entire household. Avoid eating sea food without cooking it properly as contaminated water is one of the main reasons for the spread of Norovirus. Remain isolated for at least three days after your recovery.

Jubel D'Cruz | Mumbai

Send your feedback to: letterstopioneer@gmail.com

## SOUND BITE

The world is looking at us with hope and confidence as a capable, game-changing ecosystem.

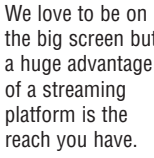


Prime Minister — Narendra Modi



We have been through bumpy times before and I can rebuild trust.

British PM — Boris Johnson



We love to be on the big screen but a huge advantage of a streaming platform is the reach you have.

Actor — Abhishek Bachchan



He (Joe Root) has always looked like a world-class player. He has rhythm and fluency.

Former England skipper — Nasser Hussain



We have sufficient stocks till December. India doesn't need to import any more urea.


Chemicals and Fertilisers Minister — Mansukh Mandavaya



FIRST COLUMN

GIRLS HAVE ALL THE DUTIES;  
BOYS ALL THE RIGHTS

Upbringing of girls is regarded an expensive affair



NISHA DANU

We are stopped from expressing ourselves. We have to muster up courage to put our opinions forth but no one cares. No one values our voices—neither our families nor the society,” said Pooja, a teenager from Kapkot village in Kapkot block of Bageshwar district in Uttarakhand. “They say girls are not supposed to laugh or talk too much.” Eighteen-year-old Kumari Kiran, another young girl from Jakhera village in Garur block of Bageshwar, loves spending time with her friends. “I love eating noodles, but my parents do not allow me to visit the market to eat because there are too many boys and men,” Kiran said with a timid smile. Clearly, public spaces in remote areas are dominated by male members of society. Unicef highlights how girls and boys experience adolescence differently in India. While boys have greater freedom, girls’ movements and decisions are restricted, affecting their lives. The difference is even more visible in several remote, rural areas of the country. The previously mentioned Kapkot and Garur blocks are among such areas. Girls and women are also firmly subjected to social and cultural norms and are supposed to guard their family’s ‘honour.’ Burdened with maintaining the social reputation of their families, they inevitably get deprived of their rights to lead a meaningful life. While girls and women in cities are at least aware of their rights and have agencies to some extent, their rural counterparts are unfamiliar and uninformed of their existence. This



makes it easier for rural girls to get exploited and be controlled. Boys are considered the real assets of the family, but the upbringing of girls is considered an expensive affair. Hence, families often find different ways to do away with the expenses of their girl child. For instance, money received from various State and Central schemes to promote girls’ education is often used to spend on weddings rather than on education. In 2017, the Gaura Devi Kanya Dhan Yojana was launched by the Uttarakhand government for girls belonging to the weaker sections of the state. Financial assistance of ₹50,000 is provided to the girls after completion of class 12, primarily for further studies and to simultaneously save some amount for their wedding. Unfortunately, the parents have grown more interested in using the scholarship for the latter purpose, said Sita Papola, 18, from Jhopara village in Kapkot block. Families do not invest or motivate their girls to complete education, as they believe completing education is of no use since they have to end up doing household chores and look after their husband’s family. With this notion, girls are not motivated to attain any economic independence. A report published by National Commission for Protection of Child Rights states that adolescent girls are disadvantaged given their low enrolment rate in educational institutions. The report said, “Adolescent girls are among the most economically vulnerable groups who typically lack access to financial capital and have more limited opportunities to gain education, knowledge, and skills that can lead to economic advancement.” Whether it is their right to speech, access to public spaces, education or economic advancement, girls are often deprived of exercising these entitlements, especially in rural areas. They often lack social support from their families, as the prevailing social norms in the community create barriers to their personal advancement. Equal rights in all spheres for both boys and girls help in fulfilling their potentials. Yet, what chances girls in rural areas have in accessing and acquiring these rights is imperative to reflect upon. (The writer is a student of class 11 from Kapkot, Bageshwar. The views expressed are personal.)

# Rights issue can help LIC IPO investors



S KALYANASUNDARAM

Neither a bonus issue nor dividend can boost the LIC share, which opened at a discount and is now trading at about 20 per cent less than the issue price

The initial public offering (IPO) of LIC of India was successfully marketed to the public. But the subscribers to the issue are facing the stark reality of a beaten down stock in the stock exchange. As we had discussed earlier, even before the issue was opened to the public as well as after the first day of listing, the reason for drubbing in the market is on account of unrealistic pricing of the issue.

It has not taken into account how the other life insurance companies have been valued in the market for the past couple years in terms of the price-earning ratio or book value-to-price ratio. Any benchmarking should be realistic; arbitrary and irrelevant benchmarking of any IPO is always a disaster. This is what has happened to the IPO of LIC of India.

The closing price of LIC share was ₹738.05 in NSE on 08 06 2022 whereas the issue price was ₹949. This means that the present share price is down by more than 22 percent of its IPO price.

Now on seeing the drubbing in the market, various suggestions emanate to prop up the price in the market. The suggestions include a bonus issue and special dividend by the company. The advocates of these suggestions do not understand that these suggestions cannot increase the intrinsic value of the company and the market price and the intrinsic value are interrelated.

The market price of any company share is decided by the earning potential of the company. The bonus issue or special dividend cannot increase the earning potential of any company. In fact, any dividend outgo will reduce the ability of the company to earn further on the amount.

## Bonus issue

A bonus issue of shares is the stock issued by a company in lieu of cash dividends. Shareholders can sell the shares to meet their liquidity needs. Bonus issues are made available by transferring funds from reserve fund of the company to share capital. A company’s net worth is only its share capital plus free reserves, and hence bonus shares increase a company’s share capital but not its net assets.

The following example will show how bonus issue cannot make any fundamental difference to its valuation.

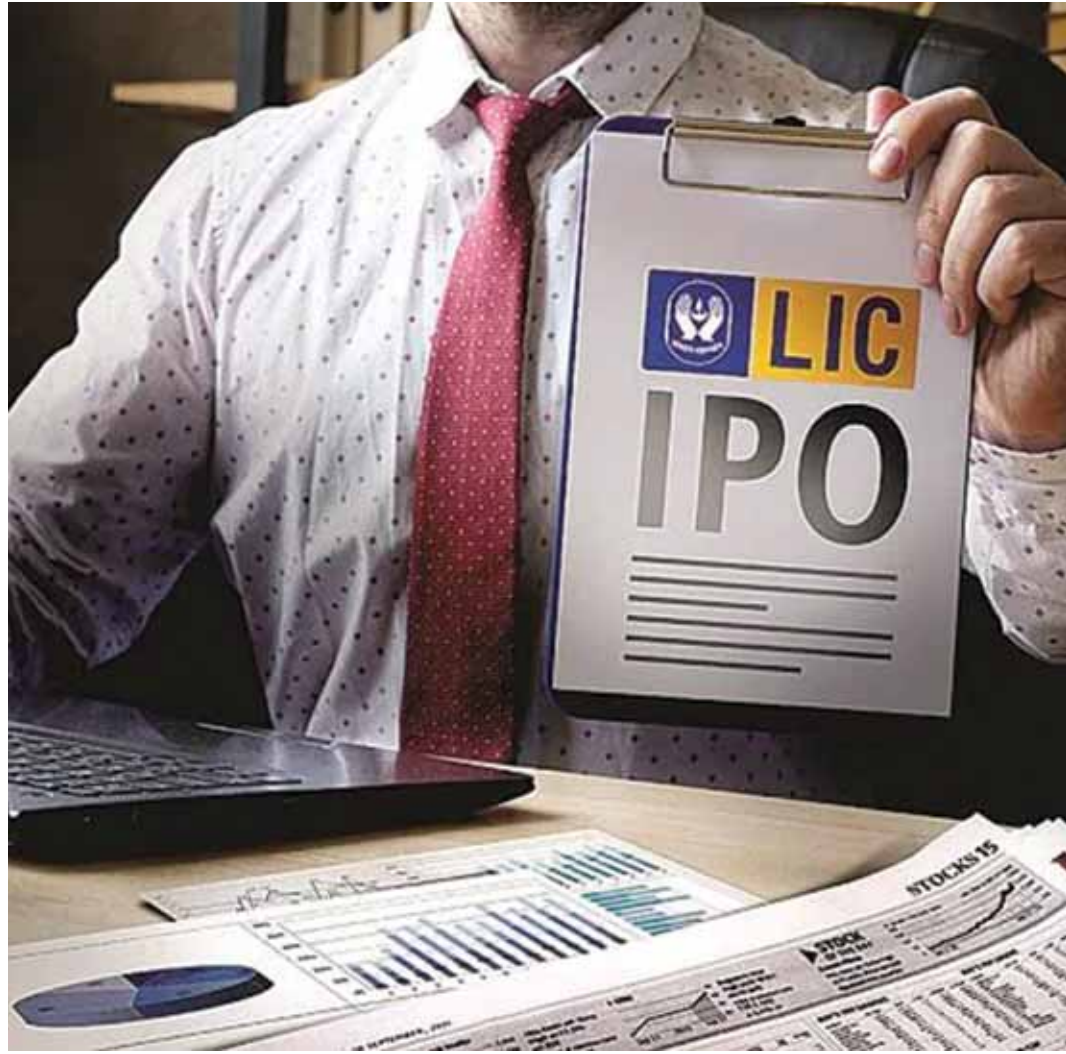
A company with the issued number of shares of 1,000, share capital of ₹10,000, reserves of ₹50,000, and a net profit of ₹6,000 (which is quoted at the PE ratio of 10) issues bonus shares in the ratio of one is to one, the position will be as follows before and after issue of bonus shares:

After the bonus issue, the total number of shares will go up from 1,000 to 2,000, share capital from ₹10,000 to ₹20,000, and reserves from ₹50,000 to ₹40,000. The net worth (capital plus



GOVERNMENT CANNOT LEAVE RETAIL INVESTORS TO FEND FOR THEMSELVES. LEAVING THE RETAIL SHAREHOLDERS TO FEND FOR THEMSELVES MAY NOT BE GOOD FOR THE GOVERNMENT WHICH IS GOING TO DISINVEST IN OTHER GOVERNMENT COMPANIES

(The writer is a retired banker. The views expressed are personal.)



reserves), however, stays the same ₹60,000. Similarly, net profit remains Rs 6,000. The earnings per share declines from ₹6 to ₹3.

The book value comes down from ₹60 to ₹30.

When market capitalization and the price-to-book value ratio do not change, the shareholders’ value stay the same. Of course, sometimes market may view the bonus issue as a positive factor, but that will be false exuberance as fundamentals of the company do not change.

## Dividend

Any dividend declared will be an outflow from the company and to that extent it will reduce its earning capacity. The dividend paid does not make the company earn more; this cannot influence the market price of the share. Hence it will be a futile attempt to declare a dividend by LIC to prop up the share price. If any dividend is declared, the share price will fall after the ex-dividend date.

## Rights issue

Knowingly or unknowingly, LIC of India has made its IPO at an unreasonable price. Being an organisation owned by the government of India, the government now cannot close its eyes to the misery of retail investors who subscribed to its IPO. Leaving the retail shareholders to fend for themselves may not be good for the government which is going to disinvest in other Government companies.

A way out to help the retail investors can be by way of a rights issue. The rights issue will be an invitation to the existing shareholders to buy new shares in proportion to their existing shareholding. The Government has sold just 3.5 per cent of its share in LIC of India.

If a rights issue is made and the Government also opts out from subscribing to the same, all new shareholders can subscribe to the same. If the rights issue is made with a good discount from its prevailing market price, it

can attract a good subscription.

For example, if the market price is ₹800, LIC can offer the rights issue at the ratio of one is to one (1:1) with a price of ₹400. This will compensate the existing shareholders, as their per-share investment will come down drastically and the market can also be upbeat about this issue. Even if any shareholder cannot subscribe for the rights issue, she can renounce the same at a price and make money.

With a rights issue, LIC can get a substantial premium and this will add up to its reserve and book value.

Originally, the government was planning to offload 5 per cent of its holding in LIC, but due to adverse market conditions the issue was only for 3.5 per cent of Government holding.

The rights issue can be an avenue to reduce Government holding further.

Hence with right pricing of the Rights issue, LIC can achieve multiple objectives.

## POINTCOUNTERPOINT

IT’S REGRETTABLE THAT THE OIC SECRETARIAT HAS MADE MOTIVATED, MISLEADING AND MISCHIEVOUS STATEMENTS (ON PROPHET COMMENTS).  
—EXTERNAL AFFAIRS MINISTRY SPOKESPERSON  
ARINDAM BAGCHI



DIVIDED INTERNALLY, INDIA BECOMES WEAK EXTERNALLY. BJP’S SHAMEFUL BIGOTRY HAS ISOLATED...DAMAGED US GLOBALLY.  
—CONGRESS LEADER  
RAHUL GANDHI

# Gandhian philosophy inspires rural development

Gram Swaraj recently got a fillip as Government okayed continuation of Rashtriya Gram Swaraj Abhiyan

One of the unique features of governance in India is that its rural landscape is characterised by a system where in each village and local unit is responsible for upgrading its own administrative structure and executing its developmental activities. This is facilitated, to a large extent, by the existence of panchayati raj institutions, which, as per the Eleventh Schedule of the Constitution, are tasked with “economic development, strengthening social justice, and implementation of Central and state government schemes.”

Here, it would be apt to briefly recount the history of the panchayati raj system in India, which came into effect through the 73rd Constitutional Amendment in 1992. The modern panchayati raj system was



Saurabh Bandyopadhyay is Senior Fellow, Anupma Mehta is Editor, and Laxmi Joshi is Fellow at NCAER. The views expressed are personal.)

subsequently formalised in 1999, on the basis of a study by an amalgam of Indian committees recommending a more decentralised administration, and jointly financed by local body grants as approved by the respective State Finance Commissions, as well as funds devolving from state government coffers and those allocated under Centrally-sponsored schemes.

The roots of this system of local self-governance in rural India, however, lie in Mahatma Gandhi’s dream of building a vibrant and effective democracy in the villages of the country, which would enable the rural population to attain economic and social self-reliance through access to various services within the village itself. Popularised as ‘Gram Swaraj’, which translates as ‘self-rule in the village’,



this concept implies decentralised functioning through adherence to certain human principles and values, such as the right to full employment, social equality, and self-sufficiency deriving from the ethos of Swadeshi or the consumption of only indigenous goods. Hence, if efficiently implemented, Gram Swaraj would transform every village in the country into a self-sufficient and autonomous entity, benefiting from sustainable development within a humanitarian framework that guarantees both personal happiness and

dignified living for the rural residents. Although fructifying Gandhiji’s utopian dream would seem like a tall order, its fulfillment, at least partially, was given a fillip in the form of the launch of the Rashtriya Gram Swaraj Abhiyan (RGSA) or Transformation of Aspirational Districts programme by the Union Ministry of Panchayati Raj on April 24, 2018, by Prime Minister Narendra Modi. It was mandated that the RGSA would be implemented as a core Centrally-sponsored scheme for four years, viz., from 2018-19 to 2021-22, with equivalent state and Central shares.

Further, the selection of districts was to be based on various parameters like gender equality, poverty alleviation, livelihood generation, and access to critical services like public

health, nutrition, education, sanitation, and drinking water, all of which correspond to the UN’s Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and also fall within the jurisdiction of the Panchayats.

The focus on Gram Swaraj has once again gained leverage, with the Cabinet Committee of Economic Affairs recently approving the continuation of the revamped RGSA from fiscal years 2022-23 to 2025-26, co-terminus with the tenure of the Fifteenth Finance Commission, and apportioning a total outlay of ₹5,911 crore for it, comprising the Central and state shares of ₹3,700 crore and ₹2,211 crore, respectively.

In this context, a survey of different levels of stakeholders and panchayat functionaries across 12 major states, undertaken

by the National Council of Applied Economic Research (NCAER) during the reference period 2019-20, assumes critical significance. The NCAER survey covered both the Panchayats Extension to Scheduled Areas (PESA) and the Aspirational Districts. The findings suggest the need for improving training inputs at the village level to ensure optimal effectiveness and outreach of the programme.

The survey also highlighted the challenges confronting the training programmes at the Gram Panchayat (GP) level, which could achieve better outcomes with the provision of more modern infrastructure, training equipment and tools.

In keeping with the adage that ‘practice makes perfect’, the institutional training being imparted to the stakeholders and

functionaries at the Panchayat level needs to be a sustained and intuitive process, supplemented by handholding and mentoring by the elected representatives in the concerned aspirational districts.

Last but not the least, the revamping process of the RGSA must pervade the entire administrative ecosystem, as the changes proposed in the NCAER study are unlikely to become reality unless governance at the grassroots level in the GPs is made more participatory, technology-driven, and performance-oriented. Clearly, a paradigmatic transformation has to be ushered in at all levels to optimise the functioning of the GPs and justify the time and money being invested by the Government in the Gram Swaraj Abhiyan.



# Top Rajapaksa loyalist ex-Minister files application to prevent arrest

PTI ■ COLOMBO

Johnston Fernando, a former Sri Lankan minister and a Rajapaksa loyalist, who was questioned by police on the May 9 violence, has filed a writ application before a court of appeal to prevent his arrest.

The application by the former minister of highways would be taken into consideration in the coming days, the Registrar of the Court of Appeal here said.

“A date for the appeal has not been given yet,” the registrar said.

So far no court order has been received to prevent the arrest of the former minister, EconomyNext news website cited the media division of the police as saying.

The Rajapaksa loyalist, who was questioned by the Criminal Investigation Department (CID) on May 24, according to the court order, had been named as an accused in the case where peaceful anti-government demonstrators were attacked, leading to violence and chaos across the country.

The retaliatory attacks killed 10 persons, including a parliamentary colleague of Fernando.

Another senior parliamentarian is still hospitalised after



receiving serious injuries.

The police have arrested over 2,000 people involved in the "Black Monday" violence. Over 70 ruling party members had faced arson attacks on

their personal properties.

Two members of parliament (MPs) remain in remand custody.

The former minister had been quizzed over an alleged

speech he had made encouraging the government supporters to go and attack the protesters who had been for over a month now calling for the resignation of President Gotabaya

Rajapaksa for his mis-handling of the current economic crisis since the island's independence in 1948.

He was addressing supporters of the then prime minister Mahinda Rajapaksa who had gathered at the official residence of the premier so as to pressure him not to resign from the position.

With the outbreak of violence, Rajapaksa, who had until then refused to resign, stepped down.

The Attorney General on May 17 in a court order summoned 22 people, including Fernando and Sri Lanka Podujana Peramuna (SLPP) MPs Sanath Nishantha and Sanjeeva Edirimanna, as well as Senior Deputy Inspector General (SDIG) of the western province Deshabandu Thennakoon.

The magistrate's court here on June 1 had ordered for the arrest of Fernando for being responsible for an attack on the protesters who blame the Rajapaksas for a crippling shortage of foreign reserves, leading to long queues for fuel, cooking gas, and other essentials.

A travel ban has already been imposed by the court against Fernando and 16 others over the incident.

# US stresses allied cooperation in face of N Korea threats



AP ■ SEOUL

US Deputy Secretary of State Wendy Sherman met with her counterparts from South Korea and Japan on Wednesday, emphasising the US commitment to defend its allies and trilateral security cooperation to confront an accelerating nuclear threat from North Korea.

The latest top-level meetings among the countries came as North Korea apparently presses ahead with preparations for its first nuclear test explosion in nearly five years, which US officials say could occur in the coming days.

After a meeting in Seoul, Sherman and the South Korean and Japanese vice foreign ministers issued a joint statement condemning North Korea's provocative streak in weapons demonstrations this year and pledging closer security cooperation to curb the growing threats.

The statement said Sherman reaffirmed "steadfast" US commitments to the defence of South Korea and Japan, including "extended deterrence," referring to an assurance to defend its allies with its full military capabilities, including nuclear.

"The United States, the Republic of Korea and Japan are fully and closely aligned on the DPRK," Sherman said in a news conference, using the initials of North Korea's official name, the Democratic People's Republic of Korea.

Sherman noted that North Korea since last September has significantly increased the pace and scale of its ballistic launches, posing a "serious threat" to security in the region and beyond, and urged Pyongyang to cease taking "these provocative and destabilising actions and to commit to the path of diplomacy."

Following the meeting, South Korean Foreign Minister Cho Hyun-dong met separately with Japanese Vice Foreign Minister Takeo Mori and they were in agreement about an "urgent" need to improve bilateral relations, their ministries said.

South Korea and Japan had engaged in a highly public feud in recent years over trade and Japan's brutal colonial rule of the Korean Peninsula before the end of World War II, which included wartime industrial and sexual slavery of Koreans.

The Biden administration has been pressing Seoul and Tokyo to repair ties to shore up a united front against the North Korean nuclear threat and China's rising influence in the region.

Mori also held separate talks with Sherman where they agreed to maintain and strengthen sanctions against Russia over its war on Ukraine and work more closely to address challenges related to China, Japan's Foreign Ministry said.

Jolting an old pattern of brinkmanship, North Korea has already set an annual record in ballistic launches through the first six months of 2022, firing 31 missiles over 18 test events, including its first demonstrations of intercontinental ballistic missiles since 2017.

The unusually fast pace in testing activity underscores authoritarian leader Kim Jong Un's dual intent to advance his arsenal and pressure the Biden administration over long-stalled negotiations aimed at leveraging its nukes for economic and security concessions, experts say.

Sherman's visit to Asia came after North Korea in its biggest-ever single-day testing event launched eight ballistic missiles into the sea from multiple locations on Sunday, prompting the US and its Asian allies to respond with tit-for-tat missile launches and aerial demonstrations involving dozens of fighter jets.

A nuclear test would further escalate North Korea's pressure campaign and could possibly allow the country to claim it acquired the technologies to build a bomb small enough to be clustered on a multi-warhead ICBM or on Kim's broad range of shorter-range weapons threatening South Korea and Japan.

South Korean and US officials have said the North has all but finished preparations for a detonation at its nuclear testing ground in the remote northeastern town of Punggye-ri, an assessment backed by the International Atomic Energy, which says there are indications that one of the site's passages has been reopened. The site had been inactive since hosting the country's sixth nuclear test in September 2017, when it claimed it detonated a thermonuclear bomb designed for its ICBMs.

North Korea will likely time the test to maximise political effect and some analysts say it could take place around a major conference of the ruling Workers' Party that has been vaguely scheduled for the first half of June.

North Korea's state media said on Wednesday that Politburo members met a day earlier to discuss the agenda for an upcoming plenary meeting of the party's Central Committee that has been called by Kim to review major state affairs, including national efforts to slow a COVID-19 outbreak. He may also use the meeting to address his nuclear weapons ambitions and external relations with Washington and Seoul, experts say.

Kim's absence from Tuesday's preparatory meeting suggests that he's focused on supervising preparations for North Korea's seventh nuclear test and drafting his speeches for the plenary, said analyst Cheong Seong-Chang at South Korea's Sejong Institute.

The North Korean party's previous plenary in December lasted for a record five days and saw Kim repeat his vow to boost his country's military capabilities and order the production of more powerful and sophisticated weapons systems.

Nuclear talks between the US and North Korea have stalled since 2019 because of disagreements over an easing of crippling US-led sanctions in exchange for North Korean disarmament steps, which underscored Kim's unwillingness to give away an arsenal he sees as his strongest guarantee of survival.

## Report: Iran turns off 2 of UN nuclear watchdog's cameras

AP ■ TEHRAN

Iran turned off two surveillance cameras of the United Nations' nuclear watchdog that monitored one of its atomic sites, state television reported Wednesday.

The report did not identify the site, but it appeared to be a new pressure technique by Tehran as Western nations seek to censure Iran at a meeting this week of the International Atomic Energy Agency.

The Iranian state television report described the two cameras as monitoring "OLEM

enrichment levels and flowmeters". That appeared to refer to the IAEA's Online Enrichment Monitors, which watch the enrichment of uranium gas through piping at enrichment facilities.

Iran currently is enriching at both its Fordo and Natanz underground nuclear sites.

"The Islamic Republic of Iran has so far had extensive cooperation with the International Atomic Energy Agency," state TV said in its report. Tehran said its civilian nuclear arm monitored the shutdown of the cameras.

## China, Cambodia break ground on port, dismiss US concerns

AP ■ PHNOM PENH (CAMBODIA)

Chinese and Cambodian officials broke ground Wednesday on a contentious naval port expansion project, dismissing American concerns it could provide Beijing with a strategically important military outpost on the Gulf of Thailand.

Cambodian Defence Minister Tea Banh, Chinese Ambassador to Cambodia Wang Wentian and other officials donned white gloves before turning over shovels full of dirt to launch the official "modernisation" of the Ream Naval Base, which will include a dry dock for ship repairs, an extended pier, a hospital, a workshop and a "reception building".

Longtime authoritarian leader Hun Sen in 2019 reportedly granted China the right to set up a military base at Ream, but has long denied that, saying Cambodia's Constitution prohibits foreign military facilities.

Dredging is already underway to allow larger ships to use the port. Tea Banh told guests, including the US defense attache, that it would still only be able to accommodate ships of up to 5,000 tons displacement — an improvement from the current 1,000 tons but too shallow for all but the smallest of naval ships.



"Please don't be too worried about this Ream base," Tea Banh said, speaking in front of a sign proclaiming the project is being funded by "grant aid from the People's Republic of China."

"This port is too small and even after upgrading it can't be a port that would threaten any countries," he said.

Tea Banh said he invited the US and other foreign representatives to the base so they could see for themselves "there is nothing here," though he added that once construction is complete the facility will become a restricted military zone with no access for foreign nations.

Following the ceremony, the US Embassy in Phnom Penh reiterated American concerns that a Chinese "military presence at Ream could threaten Cambodia's autonomy and undermine regional security".

"The US and countries in

the region have expressed concern about the lack of transparency on the intent, nature, and scope of this project as well as the role the PRC military is playing in its construction and in post-construction use of the facility," embassy spokesperson Stephanie Arzate said in an email to The Associated Press.

Ream faces the Gulf of Thailand, adjacent to the South China Sea, where China has aggressively asserted its claim to virtually the entire strategic waterway. The US has refused to recognise China's sweeping claim and routinely conducts military maneuvers there to reinforce that they are international waters.

Tea Banh said the port project is expected to take two years to complete. He did not say how much it would cost, but China has given Cambodia hundreds of millions of dollars in grants in recent years for infrastructure projects.

**चालको NALCO**  
National Aluminium Company Limited  
(A Government of India Enterprise)

Nalco Bhawan, Nayapalli,  
Bhubaneswar - 751 013, Odisha  
CIN : L27203OR1981GOI000920  
A NAVRATNA COMPANY

**WALK-IN INTERVIEW FOR ENGAGEMENT OF PART - TIME MEDICAL RETAINER**

National Aluminium Company Limited (NALCO), a Navratna Central PSU is looking for engagement of one Part-Time Medical Specialist on retainer basis for its Medical Centre in NALCO Township, Chandrasekharpur, Bhubaneswar. For further details, visit career section of our website [www.nalcoindia.com](http://www.nalcoindia.com)

**General Manager (H&A)-R&P**

Advt. No.:10220501, Date: 02-06-2022

**INDIAN RAILWAYS**  
GOVERNMENT OF INDIA (Bharat Sarkar)  
MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (Rail Mantralaya)  
RAILWAY BOARD

No. RS (S)/2022/7472 New Delhi, Dated: 08.06.2022

**E-TENDER NO. 2022IS206 FOR PROCUREMENT OF 21.683 MT OF STAINLESS STEEL ITEMS.**

1. On behalf of the President of India, the Executive Director, Railway Stores (S), Railway Board, New Delhi invites e-tender for procurement of 21,683 MT of Stainless Steel items on Running Contract basis.

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

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

4. Tender will be closed at 15.00 hours on 12.07.2022

(Sunil Kumar Tiwari)  
Director, Railway Stores (W)  
Railway Board

1395/22

**SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE**

**UJVN Limited**  
H.O.: "UJJWAL", Maharani Bagh, G.M.S. Road, Dehradun-248006  
Telephones: 0135-2763808, Fax: 0135-2763508  
CIN No.U40101UR2001SGC025966, Website:www.ujvn.com

**Tender Notice** Date: 08/06/2022

Letter No: 308

Office of the Executive Engineer (E&M), Ichari Dam, Ichari via PCM-Dakpathar, UJVN Ltd., Dakpathar (Dehradun), invites sealed tenders from interested bidders. Brief summary of tenders are given below:

**Tender No. 01/EE(E&M)/ICHARI/TN/2022-23** Annual contract for operation & maintenance of LT panels, DG set and lighting systems of Ichari Dam in District Dehradun & **02/EE(E&M)/ICHARI/TN/2022-23** Annual cleaning of trash rack including disposal of trash at Ichari Dam in District Dehradun.

**Estimated value of work:** Rs. 12,37,982.00 & Rs. 12,10,585.00 (GST Extra)

**Availability of tenders on web site:** w.e.f. June 09,2022

**Last date/time for submission of tender:** June 30,2022 Upto 11:30Hrs. For fuller & further details, kindly visit our website. The tender documents of the above works can be downloaded from the Nigam's web site "[www.ujvn.com](http://www.ujvn.com)".

**EXECUTIVE ENGINEER (E&M)**

**"AVOID WASTEFUL USE OF ELECTRICITY"**

**NORTHERN RAILWAY**

**TENDER NOTICE**

The Dy.Chief Electrical Engineer (Const), Northern Railway, Shivaji Bridge, New Delhi for and on behalf of the President of India invites open e-tender for the following work -

1	Name of work and location	Comprehensive Annual Maintenance Contract for three years of Window type and Split type Air-conditioners, Storage type Water Coolers, Refrigerators/Deep Freezers and Desert Coolers installed in the various Construction Offices and Rest Houses in Delhi / New Delhi Area.
2	Completion period of the work	36 months
3	Approx cost of work	₹ 36,82,268.50
4	Bid Security to be deposited	₹ 73,600/-
5	Date, Time for submission of e-tender and opening of tender	Tenders may be uploaded upto 11:30 hrs on 30.06.2022 date on IREPS website i.e. <a href="http://www.ireps.gov.in">www.ireps.gov.in</a> . The bidders can participate in the e-tender, the tender will be opened at 11:30 hrs on 30.06.2022.
6	Detailed Tender Notice & Tender Document	The detailed e-tender notice is available on Northern Railway website i.e. <a href="http://www.nr.indianrailways.gov.in">www.nr.indianrailways.gov.in</a> and tender document is available on <a href="http://www.ireps.gov.in">www.ireps.gov.in</a> . Above tenders document will be available for submission of offer on IREPS website i.e. <a href="http://www.ireps.gov.in">www.ireps.gov.in</a> from 16.06.2022 to 30.06.2022. All other terms and conditions in respect of above tenders are given in tender document. The detailed tender notice also can be seen on the Notice Board of the above office.

Tender No. 17-Elect./DYCEE/CT/135, Dated: 07.06.2022 1390/22

**SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE**

**PUBLIC NOTICE**

Notice is hereby given to the general Public on behalf of our client i.e. Fullerton India Home Finance Company that Mr. Anand Singh Rawal is the owner of Property Bearing No. K-1/4, Kharsa No. 568, Situated Village Ghonda Gurjan Khadar, in the abadi of K Block, Gali No. 5, West Ghonda, Ilaga Shekhara, Delhi (the said property), by virtue of Requisitionment Deed dated 15.03.2022. Registration No. 696. All persons are hereby informed that above mentioned owner wants to obtain a loan from our client against the said property, if anybody has any objections upon the ownership of above owner over the said property, its Sale / Mortgage / litigation, and/or any kind of objections, kindly inform the undersigned in writing on the below mentioned address within 07 days of the present.

**Kumar & Associates (Advocates & Consultants)**  
200, Third Floor, 15/15-1, Shree Mang, Moh Nagar, New Delhi-110028  
Ph: 011-41122523, 41122524, 41122525, 41122526, 41122527, 41122528, 41122529, 41122530, 41122531, 41122532, 41122533, 41122534, 41122535, 41122536, 41122537, 41122538, 41122539, 41122540, 41122541, 41122542, 41122543, 41122544, 41122545, 41122546, 41122547, 41122548, 41122549, 41122550, 41122551, 41122552, 41122553, 41122554, 41122555, 41122556, 41122557, 41122558, 41122559, 41122560, 41122561, 41122562, 41122563, 41122564, 41122565, 41122566, 41122567, 41122568, 41122569, 41122570, 41122571, 41122572, 41122573, 41122574, 41122575, 41122576, 41122577, 41122578, 41122579, 41122580, 41122581, 41122582, 41122583, 41122584, 41122585, 41122586, 41122587, 41122588, 41122589, 41122590, 41122591, 41122592, 41122593, 41122594, 41122595, 41122596, 41122597, 41122598, 41122599, 41122600, 41122601, 41122602, 41122603, 41122604, 41122605, 41122606, 41122607, 41122608, 41122609, 41122610, 41122611, 41122612, 41122613, 41122614, 41122615, 41122616, 41122617, 41122618, 41122619, 41122620, 41122621, 41122622, 41122623, 41122624, 41122625, 41122626, 41122627, 41122628, 41122629, 41122630, 41122631, 41122632, 41122633, 41122634, 41122635, 41122636, 41122637, 41122638, 41122639, 41122640, 41122641, 41122642, 41122643, 41122644, 41122645, 41122646, 41122647, 41122648, 41122649, 41122650, 41122651, 41122652, 41122653, 41122654, 41122655, 41122656, 41122657, 41122658, 41122659, 41122660, 41122661, 41122662, 41122663, 41122664, 41122665, 41122666, 41122667, 41122668, 41122669, 41122670, 41122671, 41122672, 41122673, 41122674, 41122675, 41122676, 41122677, 41122678, 41122679, 41122680, 41122681, 41122682, 41122683, 41122684, 41122685, 41122686, 41122687, 41122688, 41122689, 41122690, 41122691, 41122692, 41122693, 41122694, 41122695, 41122696, 41122697, 41122698, 41122699, 41122700, 41122701, 41122702, 41122703, 41122704, 41122705, 41122706, 41122707, 41122708, 41122709, 41122710, 41122711, 41122712, 41122713, 41122714, 41122715, 41122716, 41122717, 41122718, 41122719, 41122720, 41122721, 41122722, 41122723, 41122724, 41122725, 41122726, 41122727, 41122728, 41122729, 41122730, 41122731, 41122732, 41122733, 41122734, 41122735, 41122736, 41122737, 41122738, 41122739, 41122740, 41122741, 41122742, 41122743, 41122744, 41122745, 41122746, 41122747, 41122748, 41122749, 41122750, 41122751, 41122752, 41122753, 41122754, 41122755, 41122756, 41122757, 41122758, 41122759, 41122760, 41122761, 41122762, 41122763, 41122764, 41122765, 41122766, 41122767, 41122768, 41122769, 41122770, 41122771, 41122772, 41122773, 41122774, 41122775, 41122776, 41122777, 41122778, 41122779, 41122780, 41122781, 41122782, 41122783, 41122784, 41122785, 41122786, 41122787, 41122788, 41122789, 41122790, 41122791, 41122792, 41122793, 41122794, 41122795, 41122796, 41122797, 41122798, 41122799, 41122800, 41122801, 41122802, 41122803, 41122804, 41122805, 41122806, 41122807, 41122808, 41122809, 41122810, 41122811, 41122812, 41122813, 41122814, 41122815, 41122816, 41122817, 41122818, 41122819, 41122820, 41122821, 41122822, 41122823, 41122824, 41122825, 41122826, 41122827, 41122828, 41122829, 41122830, 41122831, 41122832, 41122833, 41122834, 41122835, 41122836, 41122837, 41122838, 41122839, 41122840, 41122841, 41122842, 41122843, 41122844, 41122845, 41122846, 41122847, 41122848, 41122849, 41122850, 41122851, 41122852, 41122853, 41122854, 41122855, 41122856, 41122857, 41122858, 41122859, 41122860, 41122861, 41122862, 41122863, 41122864, 41122865, 41122866, 41122867, 41122868, 41122869, 41122870, 41122871, 41122872, 41122873, 41122874, 41122875, 41122876, 41122877, 41122878, 41122879, 41122880, 41122881, 41122882, 41122883, 41122884, 41122885, 41122886, 41122887, 41122888, 41122889, 41122890, 41122891, 41122892, 41122893, 41122894, 41122895, 41122896, 41122897, 41122898, 41122899, 41122900, 41122901, 41122902, 41122903, 41122904, 41122905, 41122906, 41122907, 41122908, 41122909, 41122910, 41122911, 41122912, 41122913, 41122914, 41122915, 41122916, 41122917, 41122918, 41122919, 41122920, 41122921, 41122922, 41122923, 41122924, 41122925, 41122926, 41122927, 41122928, 41122929, 41122930, 41122931, 41122932, 41122933, 41122934, 41122935, 41122936, 41122937, 41122938, 41122939, 41122940, 41122941, 41122942, 41122943, 41122944, 41122945, 41122946, 41122947, 41122948, 41122949, 41122950, 41122951, 41122952, 41122953, 41122954, 41122955, 41122956, 41122957, 41122958, 41122959, 41122960, 41122961, 41122962, 41122963, 41122964, 41122965, 41122966, 41122967, 41122968, 41122969, 41122970, 41122971, 41122972, 41122973, 41122974, 41122975, 41122976, 41122977, 41122978, 41122979, 41122980, 41122981, 41122982, 41122983, 41122984, 41122985, 41122986, 41122987, 41122988, 41122989, 41122990, 41122991, 41122992, 41122993, 41122994, 41122995, 41122996, 41122997, 41122998, 41122999, 41123000, 41123001, 41123002, 41123003, 41123004, 41123005, 41123006, 41123007, 41123008, 41123009, 41123010, 41123011, 41123012, 41123013, 41123014, 41123015, 41123016, 41123017, 41123018, 41123019, 41123020, 41123021, 41123022, 41123023, 41123024, 41123025, 41123026, 41123027, 41123028, 41123029, 41123030, 411



# Russia draws closer to capture of Donbas

AP ■ KYIV

Russia drew closer to its goal of fully capturing Ukraine's eastern industrial heartland of coal mines and factories as the Kremlin claimed to have taken control of 97 per cent of one of the two provinces that make up the Donbas region.

Russian Defense Minister Sergei Shoigu said Tuesday that Moscow's forces hold nearly all of Luhansk province. And it appears that Russia now occupies roughly half of Donetsk province, according to Ukrainian officials and military analysts.

After abandoning its bungled attempt to storm Kyiv two months ago, Russia declared that taking the entire Donbas is its main objective. Moscow-backed separatists have been battling Ukrainian government forces in the Donbas since 2014, and the region has borne the brunt of the Russian onslaught in recent weeks.

Early in the war, Russian troops also took control of the entire Kherson region and a large part of the Zaporizhzhia region, both in the south. Russian officials and their local appointees have talked about plans for those regions to either declare their independence or be folded into Russia.

But in what may be the latest instance of anti-Russian



sabotage inside Ukraine, Russian state media said Tuesday that an explosion at a cafe in the city of Kherson wounded four people. Tass called the apparent bombing in the Russian-occupied city a "terror act."

Before the Feb. 24 invasion, Ukrainian officials said Russia controlled some 7 per cent of the country, including the Crimean Peninsula, which Russia annexed in 2014, and areas held by the separatists in Donetsk and Luhansk. Last week, Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy said Russian forces hold 20 per cent of the country.

While Russia has superior firepower, the Ukrainian defenders are entrenched and

have shown the ability to counterattack.

Zelenskyy said Russian forces made no significant advances in the eastern Donbas region over the past day.

"The absolutely heroic defense of the Donbas continues," he said late Tuesday in his nightly video address.

Zelenskyy said the Russians clearly did not expect to meet so much resistance and are now trying to bring in additional troops and equipment. He said the same was true in the Kherson region.

Speaking earlier to a Financial Times conference, Zelenskyy insisted on Ukraine's need to defeat Russia on the battlefield but also said he is still open to peace talks with

Russian President Vladimir Putin.

But a former senior US intelligence officer said the time isn't right.

"You're not going to get to the negotiating table until neither side feels they have an advantage that they could push," said Andrea Kendall-Taylor of the Washington-based Center for a New American Security.

The Russians "think they will be able to take the whole of the Donbas and then might use that as the opportunity to call for negotiations," Kendall-Taylor said at an online seminar organized by Columbia and New York universities.

Shoigu, the Russian defense minister, said Moscow's forces

have seized the residential quarters of Sievierodonetsk and are fighting to take control of an industrial zone on the city's outskirts and nearby towns.

Sievierodonetsk and nearby Lysychansk have seen heavy fighting in recent weeks. They are among a few cities and towns in the Luhansk region still holding out against the Russian invasion, which is being helped by local pro-Kremlin forces.

Shoigu added that Russian troops were pressing their offensive toward the town of Popasna and have taken control of Lyman and Sviatohirsk and 15 other towns in the region.

Ukrainian presidential adviser Mykhailo Podolyak urged his people not to be downhearted about the battlefield reverses.

"Don't let the news that we've ceded something scare you," he said in a video address. "It is clear that tactical maneuvers are ongoing. We cede something, we take something back."

Luhansk Gov. Serhiy Haidai conceded that Russian forces control the industrial outskirts of Sievierodonetsk.

"The toughest street battles continue, with varying degrees of success," Haidai said. "The situation constantly changes, but the Ukrainians are repelling attacks"

Moscow's forces also kept up their artillery barrage of Lysychansk. Haidai said Russian

troops shelled a market, a school and a college building, destroying the latter. At least three people were wounded, he said.

"A total destruction of the city is under way. Russian shelling has intensified significantly over the past 24 hours. Russians are using scorched-earth tactics," Haidai said.

Meanwhile, the US military has begun training Ukrainian forces on the sophisticated multiple rocket launchers that the Biden administration agreed last week to provide. The Pentagon said the training is going on at a base in Germany and elsewhere in Europe.

The High Mobility Artillery Rocket System, or HIMARS, is mounted on a truck and can carry a container with six rockets, which can travel about 45 miles (70 kilometers). Officials said it would take about three weeks of training before they could go to the battlefield.

In other developments, Zelenskyy said Ukraine planned to publish a special "Book of Executioners" next week with information about war crimes committed by the Russian army.

"These are specific facts about specific people who are guilty of specific cruel crimes against Ukrainians," he said.

Those named would include not only people who carried out the crimes but their commanders, he said.

# Ukraine presses to buy Israel's Iron Dome



AP ■ JERUSALEM

Ukraine's ambassador is urging Israel to sell its Iron Dome rocket interception system and provide anti-tank missiles to defend civilians against Russia's invasion.

Yevgen Korniychuk on Tuesday stopped short of accusing Israel of blocking the sale of the missile defense system.

But he wants the Israeli government to back up its verbal support for Ukraine with military assistance.

At a news conference in Tel Aviv, he said Ukraine wants to buy the Iron Dome system, contending that the United States would not oppose such a sale.

The United States has been financially supporting Israel's Iron Dome for about a decade, providing about \$1.6 billion for its production and maintenance,

according to the Congressional Research Service.

The system is designed to intercept and destroy short-range rockets fired into Israel.

Korniychuk also said Israel last week declined a U.S. Request for Germany to deliver Israeli-licensed "Spike" anti-tank missiles to Ukraine.

Israel has limited its support for Ukraine to humanitarian aid and was the only country operating a field hospital inside the country earlier in the year.

Israel fears helping Ukraine militarily would inflame Russia, which has a military presence in neighbouring Syria.

Israel, which carries out frequent strikes on enemy targets in Syria, relies on Russia for security coordination.

The Israeli Defense Ministry had no comment.

# Ukrainian forces could pull back from embattled eastern city

AP ■ KYIV

Ukrainian forces battling Russian troops in a key eastern city appeared on the cusp of retreat Wednesday, though the regional governor insisted they are still fighting "for every centimetre" of the city.

The urban battle for Sievierodonetsk testified to the painstaking, inch-by-inch advance by Russian forces as they close in on control of the entire Luhansk region, one of two that make up the industrial heartland known as the Donbas.

After a bungled attempt to overrun Kyiv in the early days of the war, Russia shifted its focus to the region of coal mines and factories. The region has been partly controlled by Russia-backed separatists for years, making supply lines shorter and allowing Moscow to tap separatist forces to back its offensive. But Russia also faces Ukraine's most battle-hardened troops, who have been fighting the separatists for eight years there.

The result is a slow slog with both sides exchanging artillery barrages that seemingly inflict heavy losses and neither appearing to have the clear momentum.

Luhansk Gov. Serhiy Haidai acknowledged the difficulties in Sievierodonetsk on Wednesday, telling The Associated Press "maybe we will have to retreat, but right



now battles are ongoing in the city."

Earlier, on the Telegram messaging app, he said Ukrainian forces were fighting "for every centimeter of the city."

He indicated they could pull back to positions that are easier to defend. The city across the river, Lysychansk, sits on higher ground.

Sievierodonetsk became the administrative capital of the region after the city of Luhansk was taken by separatists in 2014. Both it and Lysychansk are wedged between Russian forces to the east, north and south, and are among a few cities and towns in Luhansk still holding out.

The Kremlin has claimed its forces hold nearly all of the Luhansk region, and about half of Donetsk region that

rounds out the Donbas.

Meanwhile, to the north, Russian shelling of the northern Kharkiv region killed five people and wounded 12 more over the past 24 hours, regional governor Oleh Syniehubov said Wednesday.

The Russian military said Wednesday that Moscow used "air-launched, high-precision missiles" to hit an armor repair plant near Kharkiv. There was no confirmation from Ukrainian officials of such a plant being hit.

On the diplomatic front, Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov held talks Wednesday with Turkish officials on a plan that could allow Ukraine to export its grain through the Black Sea to global markets amid an escalating global food crisis.

Ukraine is one of the

world's largest exporters of wheat, corn and sunflower oil, but the war and a Russian blockade of its ports have halted much of that flow, endangering food supplies to many developing countries. Many of those ports are now also heavily mined.

An estimated 22 million tons of grains are sitting in silos in Ukraine.

Turkey is hoping to negotiate a secure corridor, possibly overseen by the UN, for the shipment of Ukrainian grain — as well as Russian food and fertiliser.

Before Russia's Feb 24 invasion, Ukrainian officials said Russia controlled some 7% of the country, including the Crimean Peninsula, which Russia annexed in 2014, and areas held by the separatists in Donetsk and Luhansk. Last week, Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy said Russian forces held 20% of the country.

While Russia has superior firepower, the Ukrainian defenders are entrenched and have shown the ability to counterattack.

"The absolutely heroic defense of the Donbas continues," Zelenskyy said late Tuesday in his nightly video address. Speaking earlier to a Financial Times conference, Zelenskyy insisted on Ukraine's need to defeat Russia on the battlefield but also said he is still open to peace talks with Russian President Vladimir Putin.

# Lavrov in Turkey to discuss plan to ship Ukrainian grain

AP ■ ANKARA

Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov is due to hold talks Wednesday with Turkish officials on a plan that could allow Ukraine to export its grain through the Black Sea to global markets amid an escalating food crisis.

Ukraine is one of the world's largest exporters of wheat, corn and sunflower oil, but the war and a Russian blockade of its ports have halted much of that flow, endangering food supplies to many developing countries. Many of those ports are now also heavily mined.

An estimated 22 million tons of grains are sitting in silos in Ukraine. Turkey is involved in efforts for the establishment of a UN-led mechanism that would create a secure corridor for the shipment of the Ukrainian grain — and for Russia to export food and fertilizer. Turkey would facilitate and protect the transport of the grain in the Black Sea, Turkish officials have said.

A top Russian official said Tuesday that Ukraine needs to remove sea mines near its Black Sea port of Odesa to allow grain exports to resume.

Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov said the Russian military would need to



their airspace to reach Serbia. Lavrov's plane was able to fly directly to Turkey over the Black Sea.

Lavrov's discussions in the Turkish capital are also expected to focus on Turkey's plans to launch a new cross-border offensive in northern Syria against Syrian Kurdish militia that Ankara considers to be a security threat.

Turkey needs Moscow's approval to continue its presence in northern Syria, despite the two supporting opposite sides in Syria's civil war. In 2020, 37 Turkish soldiers were killed in Russia-backed airstrikes against rebels in Syria's last rebel-held Idlib province.

"Turkey really needs Russia's blessing in order to be able to carry on this operation (in Syria). And so I think they're really going to try to get that kind of a concession out of the Russian side," said Merve Tahiroglu, Turkey program coordinator at Project on Middle East Democracy.

Lavrov's meeting also comes as Turkey — a NATO member — has voiced opposition to Sweden and Finland's bids to join the alliance. Moscow has also objected to the Nordic countries' candidacy — which analyst say may play a role in discussions concerning Syria.

AP ■ KYIV

Ukraine's military intelligence agency says Russia has so far turned over the bodies of 210 Ukrainian fighters killed in the battle for Mariupol. It says most of

them were among the last holdouts in the Azovstal steelworks.

The agency did not specify Tuesday how many more bodies are believed to remain in the rubble of the plant.

Russia now controls the

destroyed port city. It began turning over bodies last week.

Ukraine said Saturday that the two sides had exchanged 320 bodies, with each getting back 160.

It is unclear whether any more bodies have been given

to Russia.

The Ukrainian fighters defended the steelworks for nearly three months before surrendering in May under relentless Russian attacks from the ground, sea and air.

**PUBLIC NOTICE**

Notice is hereby given to the General Public on behalf of our client i.e. Fullerton India Home Finance Company that Mrs. Asha Saxena is the owner of Shop No. 1, on Ground floor, out of Kharsa No.732, Situated in the area of Village Harsau, Pargana Dasna Tehsil & District Ghazalabad, (the said property) by virtue of Sale deed dated 20.08.2014, registration No. 5487. All persons are hereby informed that above mentioned owner wants to sell the said property to person who intends to obtain a loan from client against the said property, if anybody has any objections upon the ownership of above owner over the said property, its sale / Mortgage/lienation, and any kind of objections, kindly inform the undersigned in writing on the below mentioned address within 07 days of the present.

Kumar & Associates (Advocates & Consultants)  
206, 2nd Floor, 23, Shriyati Marg, New Nagaria, Delhi-15  
Ph. : 011-41112277-28 kumarassociatesadvocates@gmail.com

**PUBLIC NOTICE**

This is to inform to all concern that Sh. Anamrath Passi S/o Sh. Wadhwa Ram R/o Sector-60, Noida whose the original allottee of plot no. 02, Block-C, Sector-108, Noida G.B. Nagar (U.P) had sold the said Plot on General power of attorney basis to the following person (s). GPA was executed on in favour of Sh. Gaurav Gaba S/o Sh. Ravinder Gaba R/o A-201, Lagpat Nagar-1, New Delhi. Which is registered Sub Registrar Gwalior (M.P) on dated 08-12-2004. The agreement of sale was not registered or not executed. So it is informed to all concern that the said plot is going to be transferred in favour of Rohit Gaba & Mani Gaba both S/o Sh. Ravinder Gaba R/o A-201, Lagpat Nagar-1, South Delhi-24, if any one has/have any objection he/she may file his/her objection along with the sufficient proof in the Residential Department of the Noida Authority within 30 days from the date of publication of this notice.

Rohit Gaba

**PUBLIC NOTICE**

Notice is hereby given that Vivek Thakur is the absolute owner of Plot No. B-4/B-6, area measuring 50 Sq. Yds, situated in the abadi of Jitar Nagar, Parnva Road, Delhi vide Sale Deed dated 25/5/1971, whereas he has sold the following Document/pertain to the said property:- Sale Deed dated 25-05-1971 duly registered as Document No.8200, in Aditi Book No. 1, Vol. No. 379, on pages from 3 to 4, registered on dated 13-05-1971, before the office of Sub-Registrar-IV, Delhi in favour of Shri Dhani Ram read with FIR dated 5/6/2022

All person/s having any claim against or in respect of the said Property, or any part thereof, by way of sale, exchange, mortgage/equitable/registered or otherwise), gift, trust, inheritance, family arrangement, maintenance, bequest, partnership, possession, lease, sublease, tenancy, license, lien, charge, pledge, easement or otherwise however, are hereby requested to notify the same in writing to us with supporting documentary evidence at the address mentioned below within 7 days from the date hereof, failing which the claim or claims, if any, of such person or persons will be considered to have been waived and/or abandoned.

Kamal Kant Gupta (Advocate)  
Shop No. 5 & 6, Pk-E, CSC, Mayapuri Vihar-I, Delhi-91, Mob. 9810063351

**PUBLIC NOTICE**

Be it known to large that my Clients, Shri Arvind Khosla, son of Shri H. M. Khosla & Smt. Vrinda Khosla, wife of Shri Arvind Khosla, both residents of House No. B 39, Sector 51, NOIDA 201301 U.P. are the joint owners in possession of 5 Flats of which 3 flats are on 1st, 2nd & 3rd Flr of B2 portion measuring 1740 sq. ft. (approx.) each & 2 flats are on 1st & 3rd Flr of B4 portion measuring 1460 sq. ft. (approx.) each in Building / Plot No. A-36 on land measuring 1000 sq. yards bearing Mustali No. 24, Killa No. 19 min in Khasra No. 148 & 149 situated at Village Mehrauli, Tehsil Hauz Khas, known as Shanti Kunj, Vasant Kunj, New Delhi 110070.

The above said 5 flats have been purchased, vide Agreement to Sell and other documents dated 15.06.2017, from Shri Bhupinder Singh, son of Sri Ram Singh, resident of 257 Double Storey, New Rajinder Nagar, New Delhi, through his legal constituted and nominated General Power of Attorney dated 16.01.2014 and vide Collaboration Agreement dated 16.12.2014 with Shri Sanjay Choudhary, son of Shri Bhopal Singh and Proprietor of M/s NISTHA BUILDERS, J-290, 3rd Floor, Saket, New Delhi 110017.

If anybody is dealing with the above said flats is / are doing so at his / their own risk and responsibility.

AJAY SRIVASTAVA  
ADVOCATE  
Office: Chamber No.417, Setalward, Lawyers Chamber, Supreme Court Bhagwan Dass Road, New Delhi-110001

**BSES** **BSES Rajdhani Power Limited, New Delhi**

**TENDER NOTICE** **Date: 09.06.2022**

Sealed tenders under two parts (Un priced & priced) are invited for the supply of following materials from all bidders:-

NIT No.	Brief Tender Description	Estimated Cost (₹)	Cost of EMD (₹)	Due Date & Time of Submission	Date & Time of Opening
CMC/BR/22-23/RB/PR/FH/1036	RATE CONTRACT FOR SUPPLY OF ARMOUR CAST TAPE KIT	2.40 Cr.	4,80,000	29.06.2022 15:00 HRS	29.06.2022 15:15 HRS
CMC/BR/22-23/RB/PR/GP/1035	SUPPLY OF VARIOUS SIZES OF HDPE PIPES	4 Cr.	8,00,000	29.06.2022 15:00 HRS	29.06.2022 15:30 HRS
CMC/BR/22-23/RB/PR/MS/1028	PROCUREMENT OF SERVERS AND STORAGE FOR DATA CENTER IN BRPL	2.16 Cr.	4,32,000/-	29.06.2022 15:00 HRS	29.06.2022 15:45 HRS

Cost of each Tender Document: ₹ 1180/-  
For any query call on 011-49107235 or e-mail on brpl.eauction@reliancecda.com  
For details in respect of Equipment/BOM/Services, Qualifying requirements, Terms & conditions, purchase/submit of tender documents etc. please visit our website [www.bsesdelhi.com](http://www.bsesdelhi.com) **Head (Contracts & Materials)**  
Regd. Off. :- BSES Rajdhani Power Limited, BSES Bhawan, Netaji Place, New Delhi-110019 | Corporate Identification No.: U40109DL2001PLC111527  
Telephone No. :- +91 11 4920 7235 | Website :- [www.bsesdelhi.com](http://www.bsesdelhi.com)

**SYMBOLIC POSSESSION NOTICE**

**ICICI Bank** **Branch Office: ICICI Bank Ltd, 3rd Floor, Plot No- 23, New Rohtak Road, Karol Bagh, Delhi- 110005**

**Whereas** The undersigned being the Authorized Officer of ICICI Bank Limited under the Securitisation, Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 and in exercise of the powers conferred under section 13 (12) read with Rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002, issued demand notices upon the borrowers mentioned below, to repay the amount mentioned in the notice within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said notice.

As the borrower failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the borrower and the public in general that the undersigned has taken Symbolic possession of the property described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on him/ her under Section 13(4) of the said Act read with Rule 8 of the said rules on the below-mentioned dates. The borrower in particular and the public in general is hereby cautioned not to deal with the property and any dealings with the property will be subject to the charge of ICICI Bank Limited.

Sr. No.	Name of the Borrower/ Loan Account Number	Description of Property/ Date of Symbolic Possession	Date of Demand Notice/ Amount in Demand Notice (Rs.)	Name of Branch
1.	Shikhar Varshney/ Shipri Mudgal/ LBNOD00002426050	Apartment No. G- AI 210, 12th Floor "Windsor Court", Situated at GH 04 A, Sector 78, Noida (Admeasuring an area of 1390 Sq. Ft.) June 04, 2022	July 31, 2018/ Rs. 45,75,921/-	New Delhi

The above-mentioned borrowers(s)/ guarantors(s) are hereby given a 30 day notice to repay the amount, else the mortgaged properties will be sold on the expiry of 30 days from the date of publication of this Notice, as per the provisions under the Rules 8 and 9 of Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules 2002.

**Date : June 09, 2022**  
**Place: Delhi/ NCR**

**Authorized Officer**  
**ICICI Bank Limited**

**MAHINDRA RURAL HOUSING FINANCE LIMITED** **Possession Notice**

**Corporate Office:** Mahindra Rural Housing Finance Ltd. Sadhana House, 2nd Floor, 570, P.B.Marg Worli, Mumbai 400 018 India, Tel: +91 22 66523500 Fax: +91 22 24972741  
**Regional Office:** LDA Colony, B2/B70 Kanpur Road, Near Phoenix Mall, Lucknow.  
**Branch Office:-** G S K Palace, 2nd Floor, Choupla Road, Civil Lines, Bareilly Uttar Pradesh 243001

**(For Immoveable Property) (Under Rule 8 (1) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002)**

Whereas the undersigned being the authorized officer of M/S Mahindra Rural Housing Finance Ltd. (hereinafter referred to as "MRHL"), Having its registered office at **Lucknow** and Branch office at **Bareilly** under Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 (54 of 2002), and in exercise of powers conferred under Section 13 (12) read with Rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 issued Demand Notice under Section 13(2) of the said Act calling upon you being the borrowers (names and addresses mentioned below) to repay the amount mentioned in the said notice being within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said notice.

The borrower mentioned herein above having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the borrowers mentioned herein above and to the public in general that undersigned has taken **possession** of the property described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on me under sub section (4) of section 13 of the Act read with the Rule 8 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 on this **7 day**.

The borrowers mentioned herein above in particular and the public in general are hereby cautioned not to deal with the said property and any dealings with the property will be subject to the Charge of M/S Mahindra Rural Housing Finance Ltd. for an amount and interest thereon.

The Borrower's attention is invited to provisions of sub section (8) of Section 13 of the Act, in respect of time available, to redeem the secured assets.

S.N.	Name of the Borrower(s) / Guarantor(s)	Description of Secured Asset (Immoveable Property)	Demand Notice Date and Amount	Date of Possession
1.	(LC No. 804410/ BAREILLY Branch) <b>TAHIR KHAN</b> (Borrower) <b>BILKES BEGAM</b> (Co Borrower)	PART OF RESIDENTIAL KHASRA NO. 632M, AT GRAM- KARAMPUR CHAUDHARY, PARGANA- TEHSIL & DISTT. BAREILLY, Up East- P/O NASIV KHAN <b>West:-</b> RASTA 10 <b>South:-</b> H/O SUBRATI <b>North:-</b> KHET OF SHER MOHD	<b>13-08-2021</b> <b>Rs.7,21,559/-</b>	<b>04-06-2022</b> <b>Symbolic Possession</b>
2.	(LC No. 845541/ BAREILLY Branch) <b>JAMEEL AHMAD</b> (Borrower) <b>HASEEN BANO</b> (Co Borrower)	PLOT NO.11 KHASRA NO.817/818, 798, MOHALLA-BIHAR MAAN NAGALA, PIN CODE-243001 <b>East:-</b> P/OAMAR SINGH, RAM DAS <b>West:-</b> RASTA-16 <b>South:-</b> HOUSE OF MOHAMMAD RAEES <b>North :-</b> P/O RIYAZ	<b>13-08-2021</b> <b>Rs.13,09,933/-</b>	<b>04-06-2022</b> <b>Symbolic Possession</b>
3.	(LC No. 1307317/ BAREILLY Branch) <b>AJAY SINGH</b> (Borrower) <b>SONU, JAYSHRI DEVI</b> (Co Borrower) <b>SANJEEV KUMAR</b> (GUARANTOR)	PART OF KHASRA NO 193 & 195 BANKHEY GRAM ABHAYPUR , CAMPUS,BAREILLY, UTTAR PRADESH -243001 <b>East:-</b> PLOT OF PAL, <b>West:-</b> PLOT OF FHOOL MATI <b>South:-</b> PLOT OF ALLAUDDIN <b>North:-</b> RASTA 12 FT	<b>23-02-2022</b> <b>Rs.7,75,434/-</b>	<b>08-06-2022</b> <b>Symbolic Possession</b>

Place :- **BAREILLY** Date:-09.06.2022 Sd/- Authorised Officer Mahindra Rural Housing Finance Limited



# RBI strikes balance between inflation and growth, say experts on rate hike

**Mumbai:** The RBI has endeavoured to strike the right balance between inflation and growth at this critical juncture, industry experts on Wednesday said after a 50 basis points hike in the key rate by the central bank.

Announcing the credit policy, Reserve Bank Governor Shaktikanta Das said that the Indian economy is resilient, though negative global spillovers continue to weigh on the domestic economic growth outlook.

CII Director General Chandrajit Banerjee said the RBI's decision to raise the policy repo rate by 50 bps has been noted, given the imperatives of anchoring inflationary expectations.

"The RBI has demonstrated restraint and foresight to strike the right balance between inflation and growth," he said.

Industry chamber ASSOCHAM said the RBI decision to raise the repo rate is largely on the expected lines and seemed unavoidable.



"While the MPC has decided to withdraw the accommodative stance to rein in inflation, it also remains cognizant of the growth imperatives of the economy, retaining the policy rate below the pre-pandemic level," said Assocham Secretary General Deepak Sood.

Akhil Saraf, founder and CEO of Reloy, said an increase

in the repo rate will push the lending rates up and eventually it will hit home-buyers' pockets.

"However, given the possibility that interest rate goes up by 50-100 basis points, it will still remain under the comfort zone of below 8 per cent per annum. With other factors and market conditions in favour of home buyers, sales momentum

is expected to continue without any major hiccups," he added.

The second hike in repo rate comes within five weeks of the RBI increasing the key interest rate by 40 basis points in an off-cycle monetary policy review on May 4.

PHD Chamber President Pradeep Multani believed that hard lending from an accommodative policy stance is disappointing as it will have an impact on costs of doing business and production possibilities.

"Any increase in the interest rate increases the costs of doing business, which is already high vis-a-vis high raw material costs amid geopolitical distress," Multani pointed out.

On announcements regarding cooperative banks, Andromeda and Appnapaisa Executive Chairman V Swaminathan said the RBI has considered the cooperative banks as equal partners in the growth, thus raising their lend-

ing limit by 100 per cent.

"This move can be seen as a major boost for the real-estate sector as it will now enhance the availability of easy credit for the residential housing segment," Swaminathan said.

Asked.Com founder and CEO Aarti Khanna said the RBI has increased the existing limits on individual housing loans by cooperative banks both for Urban Co-operative Banks and Rural Cooperative Banks.

"This would give some uplift to the affordable housing segment," Khanna said.

Deloitte India Economist Rumki Majumdar said the 100 bps increase in inflation projection by the RBI is worth noting.

Majumdar said with steps taken to increase the penetration of digital payment systems, it is expected that the velocity of money (the pace at which an average rupee changes hand) will likely be rising in the future. **PTI**

## Sensex falls 215 points in volatile trade post RBI policy

**Mumbai:** Equity benchmarks extended their decline for the fourth straight session on Wednesday, with the Sensex falling 214.85 points after the Reserve Bank raised the key interest rate by 50 basis points.

Continuous foreign fund outflows and surging crude oil prices also weighed on markets.

The 30-share BSE benchmark dropped 214.85 points or 0.39 per cent to settle at 54,892.49. During the day, the benchmark hit a high of 55,423.97 and a low of 54,683.30.

The broader NSE Nifty declined 60.10 points or 0.37 per cent to finish at 16,356.25.

Home, auto and other loan EMIs will rise after the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) on Wednesday raised the key interest rate by 50 basis points, the second increase in five weeks, to rein in rise in prices that it saw continuing to hurt consumers in the near term.

With inflation persistently hovering above the upper tolerance limit of 6 per cent, the



RBI's six-member rate-setting panel voted unanimously to raise the lending rate of the repurchase (repo) rate by 50 basis points to 4.90 per cent, Governor Shaktikanta Das said.

From the Sensex pack, Bharti Airtel, ITC, Reliance Industries, Asian Paints, IndusInd Bank, ICICI Bank and Kotak Mahindra Bank were the major laggards.

In contrast, Tata Steel, State Bank of India, Dr Reddy's,

Bajaj Finance, TCS and Titan emerged as the gainers.

"RBI's projections of GDP growth rate of 7.2 per cent and inflation of 6.7 per cent for FY23 reflect a realistic monetary policy. The higher inflation projection indicates that the central bank recognises the seriousness of inflation and the 50 bps repo rate hike is a message that they are determined to anchor inflation expectations. **RBI**

## 'Govt's enabling policies, proactive steps helped India deal with pandemic'

**New Delhi:** Enabling policies and proactive steps taken by the government -- including corporate tax cuts and digitisation of the economy -- helped the country deal with the unprecedented situation arising due to the pandemic, Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman said on Wednesday.

Speaking at the 'India's Economic Journey@75' event, being jointly organised by the Department of Economic Affairs and Sebi as part of the Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav iconic week celebration, she said India, with its strong fundamentals, has periodically faced challenges and emerged out of it.

The minister said various steps taken by the government since 2014 helped keep the economy and people afloat in difficult times and its

targeted approach during the pandemic helped citizens.

"Even after pulling the economy out, removing all the under-growth (post-2014), you still had challenges and in a way the three major steps which were taken -- reducing the corporate tax, formalisation/digitisation of the economy, IBC code, GST -- the heavy-lifting that happened prepared us for a situation which nobody could imagine," Sitharaman said.

She said over the last 2 years, despite Covid, Indian retail investors have found online means to access the stock market and Sebi has a role to play in investor education. Sitharaman emphasised that the government looks at the targeted approach of providing assistance and takes the input from the ground quickly. **PTI**

## Gold marginally higher by ₹30, silver gains ₹133

**New Delhi:** Gold prices in the national Capital on Wednesday inched up by Rs 30 to Rs 50,818 per 10 grams, according to HDFC Securities.

In the previous trade, the precious metal settled at ₹50,788 per 10 grams.

Silver also zoomed by ₹133 to ₹61,717 per kg from ₹61,584 per kg in the previous trade.

"Spot gold prices for 24 carat gold in Delhi were up by ₹30 reflecting overnight gains in COMEX gold prices," said Tapan Patel, Senior Analyst (Commodities) at HDFC Securities. In the international market, gold was trading slightly lower at USD 1,848 per ounce and silver was trading flat at USD 22.02 per ounce.

Gold prices traded weak with spot gold prices at COMEX trading 0.17 per cent down, Patel added. **PTI**

## Rupee gains 3 paise to close at 77.75 against US dollar

**Mumbai:** The rupee appreciated by 3 paise to settle at 77.75 (provisional) against the US dollar on Wednesday after the RBI raised the interest rate by 50 basis points to 4.9 per cent.

However, weak domestic markets, rising oil prices and persistent foreign capital outflows restricted the rupee's gain, forex dealers said.

The Reserve Bank of India on Wednesday raised the key interest rate by 50 basis points, the second increase in five weeks, to rein in the rise in prices that it saw continuing to hurt consumers in the near term.

The rate hike comes on the back of a 40 bps increase effected by the RBI at an unscheduled meeting on May 4.

At the interbank forex market, the local unit opened strong at 77.70 against the greenback and witnessed an intra-day high of 77.64 and a low of 77.79. It finally settled at



77.75, a rise of 3 paise over its previous close.

In the previous session, the rupee had settled at a lifetime low of 77.78 against the greenback.

On the domestic equity market front, the BSE Sensex ended 214.85 points or 0.39 per cent lower at 54,892.49, while the broader NSE Nifty slipped 60.10 points or 0.37 per cent to 16,356.25. The dollar index, which measures the greenback's strength against a basket of six currencies, rose 0.20 per cent to 102.52. **PTI**

## India's sugar exports at record 8.6 mn tonne till May this year: ISMA

**New Delhi:** Sugar exports from India, the world's largest producer and second biggest exporter of the sweetener, touched a record 8.6 million tonne till May of the ongoing 2021-22 marketing year ending September, said the latest data released by industry body ISMA on Wednesday.

The country had exported total 7 million tonne of sugar in the 2020-21 marketing year, while domestic production stood at 31.19 million tonne in the same period.

Last month, the government capped sugar exports at 10 million tonne to ensure enough domestic supply and check retail prices during festival season in October-November. However, cooperatives have demanded raising the export cap by 1 million tonne.

According to Indian Sugar Mills Association (ISMA), it is reported that around 9.4-9.5 million tonne of export con-



tracts have already been entered into so far. Out of that, about 8.6 million tonne is reported to have been physically exported till end of May 2022.

About 16 million tonne of sugar is estimated to have been sold in the domestic market during the October-April period of the current marketing year, higher by 7,50,000 tonne from 15.26 million tonne in the year-ago period.

Further, domestic sugar sales quota released by the government up to June is higher by 5,50,000 tonne as against

corresponding period last year.

Considering this, ISMA estimates domestic sugar consumption in the current marketing year to be at 27.5 million tonne, as against 26.55 million tonne in the previous year.

According to ISMA, domestic sugar production has reached 35.23 million tonne till June 6 of the ongoing marketing year, as against 30.74 million tonne in the year-ago period.

"Since special season is in progress in Tamil Nadu and Karnataka and cane availability in these states is good for the remaining period up to end of current season, another about 6,00,000 tonne of sugar is expected to be produced collectively by these states," ISMA said.

Accordingly, ISMA has revised its all-India sugar production estimate for 2021-22 marketing year to 36 million tonne after considering diversion of 3.4 million tonne for ethanol. **PTI**

## BPCL winds up data room after Govt puts off privatisation

**New Delhi:** State-owned Bharat Petroleum Corporation Ltd (BPCL) has discontinued all activities associated with the disinvestment of the company after the government dropped plans to privatise the firm for now.

In a stock exchange filing, the company said the government has through a letter dated June 3, 2022, called off the present tender to sell its entire 53 per cent stake in the company.

"Accordingly, all the activities in connection with the disinvestment including the data room are being discontinued," the firm said.

The move by the central government to call off the expression of interest (EoI) followed two out of the three bidders walking out.

BPCL had in April last year opened a virtual data room, mostly containing financial information on the com-

pany, for the qualified bidders signing Confidentiality Undertaking (CU).

A 'Clean Data Room' containing commercially sensitive information on the firm subject to their signing an additional confidentiality agreement was also opened for bidders.

Bidders which included mining-to-oil conglomerate Vedanta and private equity firms Apollo Global and I Squared Capital's arm Think Gas were also allowed physical inspection of assets such as refineries and depots as part of the due diligence process.

The Government was to seek financial bids once bidders completed due diligence and the terms and conditions of the share purchase agreement (SPA) were negotiated. But that stage was never reached.

BPCL had in an earnings call with investors on February 2, 2022, stated that no bidder

had visited the firm's premises in the previous quarter (October-December 2021).

The data room access for due diligence was available for a period of around 8 weeks.

Calling off the bid process, the Department of Investment and Public Asset Management (DIPAM) had stated that multiple pandemic waves and geopolitical situations impacted sectors around the world, especially the oil and gas industry.

"Owing to prevailing conditions in the global energy markets, the majority of QIPs (qualified interested parties) have expressed their inability to continue in the current process of disinvestment of BPCL," it had said last month.

A group of ministers on disinvestment agreed to half the current EoI process and initial bids received from QIPs be cancelled, it had said on May 26. **PTI**

## Solar open access installations grow 22% in Jan-Mar; cumulative capacity hits 5.7-GW mark: Report

**New Delhi:** The solar open access installations in India grew by 22 per cent at 513 megawatt (MW) in January-March 2022, according to a report by Mercom India.

As of March 2022, cumulative installed solar open access capacity in the open access market was over 5.7 GW, the research firm said in its latest report.

Solar power through 'open access' is an arrangement where a power producer establishes a solar power plant and signs a medium/long term power purchase agreement with a consumer.

To further accelerate India's renewable energy programmes, the government on Tuesday notified the Green Open Access Rules 2022.

These rules are notified for promoting generation, purchase and consumption of green energy including through waste-to-energy plants. It

enables a simplified procedure for the open access to green power, the Ministry of Power said.

"In Q1 2022 (January-March), India added 513 MW of solar open access capacity, 58 per cent higher QoQ compared to 324 MW installed in Q4 2021. YoY, the installations increased 22 per cent compared to 422 MW in Q1 2021," the report titled 'Mercom India Solar Open Access Market Report Q1 2022' said.

As of March 2022, the cumulative installed solar capacity in the open access market was over 5.7 GW, the report said, adding that over 2 GW capacity of open access solar projects was under development in the country during the said period.

According to the report, Karnataka topped in additions by accounting for 30 per cent of installations during the quarter. **PTI**

## IBM begins closing business, laying off staff in Russia, says CEO

**New York/Moscow:** IBM has started an "orderly wind-down" of its business and laying off the workforce in Russia with its Indian-origin CEO Arvind Krishna saying the global IT giant will continue to stand by its employees in the country.

In early March, the New York-headquartered multinational technology corporation announced the suspension of its business in Russia after President Vladimir Putin ordered the invasion of Ukraine, prompting the West to impose crippling sanctions on Moscow.

The company on Tuesday issued an update on its business operations in Russia, saying it has made the decision to carry out an orderly wind-down of IBM's business in Russia. **PTI**

## Ather Energy partners with SBI for vehicle financing

**Mumbai:** Electric two-wheeler maker Ather Energy on Wednesday said it has partnered with the State Bank of India (SBI) for vehicle financing for its customers.

The collaboration will enable Ather Energy's customers, having pre-approved loan offers from SBI, to avail instant loans at low interest rates starting from 9.55 per cent per annum, depending on customer credit profile, the company said in a statement. The vehicle loans can be availed through SBI's mobile app YONO as well as offline, it added.

The partnership with the country's largest public sector lender is aimed at leveraging its reach and penetration in accelerating the adoption of electric vehicles (EVs) in the domestic market, Ather Energy said.

It allows customers to avail loans up to 85 per cent of

the on-road price of the vehicle, subject to the loan eligibility of the customer, the company said, adding that upon loan disbursement, the amount will be paid into the dealer's account instantly.

Furthermore, to ensure ease of adoption for the customers, SBI will also extend offline retail financing options from its branch network.

"We understand that financing plays a critical role in the auto sector, and are confident that our partnership with SBI will ensure ease of purchase for customers and attract more people to join the EV revolution," said Ravneet Phokela, Chief Business Officer at Ather Energy. The company will continue to work with major banks, NBFCs, and financial institutions to offer its customers attractive financing options, he added. **PTI**

## Faridabad community health centre gets solar plant

**Faridabad:** A 20 KW solar power unit at the community health centre at Kheri Kalan in Faridabad in Haryana was inaugurated on Wednesday.

The solar plant, set up by Volvo Car India in collaboration with the ASSOCHAM, will supplement the electricity requirements of the 60-bed community health centre.

We plan to install such plants in health centres across India, said Jyoti Malhotra, Volvo Cars India MD. ASSOCHAM secretary general Deepak Sood said appreciated Volvo Cars India for the work.

## Power Grid inks MoU with Mahendragarh admin for library construction in Narnaul

**PNS ■ NEW DELHI**

Power Grid Corporation of India Limited (POWER-GRID) has signed an MoU with District Administration, Mahendragarh on June 1, 2022 for providing financial assistance towards construction and furnishing of a library in Village Surana, Narnaul, Haryana under CSR initiative of Powergrid Northern Region-I. In order to inculcate reading habits amongst rural youth and to provide the best possible facilities and environment for the rural student community, Powergrid under its CSR initiative shall provide for construction and furnishing of the library.

The vision of this library



has been conceptualized as per the need & requirement of the beneficiaries. It also encapsulates creation of a knowledge center for students of the nearby villages preparing for national and state level competitive exams towards defining their career path.

The MoU was signed by

Sh. R.P. Sinha, Sr. GM (HR), POWERGRID and Sh. V.S. Malik, Superintending Engineer (PWD), Rewari, in the company of Ravinder Yadav, H.C.S. along with Sh. Vinayak Chauhan, Sr. GM (CSR) and Sanjay Sinha Sr. GM (Khetri S/S) from POWER-GRID.

## American firm SGTC commences op in Gurugram

**PNS ■ GURUGRAM**

American medical device major Stryker has commenced operations at its new research and development facility in Gurgaon.

The Stryker's Global Technology Centre (SGTC), which has come up on a 1,50,000-square-foot area at the International Tech Park, Gurgaon, will help accelerate innovation in India and globally. It will further support the company's mission to make healthcare better. The SGTC currently employs 1,000 employees for the round-the-clock research and technology development and innovations relating to medical devices and equipment.

## NTPC reinforces its commitment towards environment

**PNS ■ NEW DELHI**

NTPC Ltd, India's largest integrated energy company is celebrating World Environment Day on 5th June across locations by reinforcing the theme of this year - #OnlyOneEarth through several programmes including plantations, pledge taking ceremony, and awareness drives.

As part of the Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav (AKAM), NTPC is undertaking several sustainable initiatives like the inauguration of Smart Township at Solapur, Maharashtra. During the CPSE ICONIC Week celebrations, NTPC is also organizing a massive tree plantation drive at



its various power stations.

In an endeavour to deliver sustainable and affordable energy, NTPC has declared Energy Compact Goals at the UN and become the first energy company in the world to do so. On the eve of World Environment Day, NTPC is reinforcing its commitment towards environment.

## Power Grid bags international CSR excellence award

**Gurugram:** Power Grid Corporation of India Limited (POWERGRID), a 'Maharatna' Company under Ministry of Power has won the coveted International CSR Excellence Award in the campaign for best social responsibility initiatives, while competing amongst more than 500 nominations in the International CSR Excellence Awards 2022.

Powergrid will be bestowed the CSR World Leader status and its winning paper titled "Improving Rural Livelihoods and Protecting Environment through farmer-centric Integrated Watershed Management" will be published in the CSR World Leaders Book. **PNS**



# 50 UP FOR HARRY

Kane completes half-century of goals for Three Lions in 1-1 draw with Germany

AP ■ MUNICH

England captain Harry Kane scored his 50th international goal on Tuesday by converting a late penalty in Munich to seal a 1-1 Nations League draw with Germany.

Germany broke the deadlock when Jonas Hofmann fired the hosts ahead at the Allianz Arena, but Kane levelled from the spot with two minutes left.

Germany defender Nico Schlotterbeck stumbled into Kane in the area and the penalty was given after a VAR review.

The Tottenham striker moved into outright second — just three behind Wayne Rooney — on England's list of all-time leading goalscorers, passing Bobby Charlton's total of 49.

"It's a really nice feeling," Kane told *Channel Four*.

"I had a couple of early chances and thought it could be one of those days."

"It's good to get the goal and it's just a shame we didn't nick it in the end," added Kane, who had earlier been denied by a superb Manuel Neuer save.

Gareth Southgate's side remain bottom of Group A3 after losing 1-0 to Hungary in Budapest last Saturday.

Southgate was "pleased with lots of parts" of the England performance.

"The Germans are the masters of tournaments and this was a good test," he told *ZDF*.

"Most of this (England) team has played a World Cup semi-final and the Euro 2020 final —



they showed the character to fight for a point."

Germany, who visit Hungary on Saturday, are a point above them in third as the Germans'

coach Hansi Flick extended his unbeaten run to 11 games, dating back to September.

"We played a really good game, but weren't rewarded for

the performance," Flick told *ZDF*.

Germany, playing in the shirts of their national women's team, twice breached the England defence in the first half without

reward.

Thomas Müller lobbed the ball over England goalkeeper Jordan Pickford, but the whistle had already gone after an injury to Calvin Phillips, who was replaced by Jude Bellingham.

Hofmann then broke clear and fired past Pickford, but after a VAR check, the effort was ruled offside.

Neuer, who captained Germany for the 54th time to overtake 2014 World Cup-winning skipper Philipp Lahm, made a reflex save to deny Bukayo Saka.

England struggled to get the ball into the box, especially in the first half, when Kane was closely marshalled by the German defence.

Germany were finally rewarded for their pressure early in the second period.

Joshua Kimmich split the defence with a pass into the feet of Hofmann, who drilled in a shot which Pickford could only get a glove to.

Only a fine stop by Pickford prevented Müller marking his 114th international appearance with a goal.

Neuer again came to Germany's rescue with another excellent save from Kane's close-range effort.

However, there was no denying England's captain who sent Neuer the wrong way from the spot.

"It's bitter to concede the equaliser — extremely stupid," Hofmann said. "But we created good chances and it was a decent performance."



## New-look Italy continue unbeaten start

AP ■ CESENA

Italy continued an unbeaten start to their UEFA Nations League campaign on Tuesday after beating Hungary 2-1 with an inexperienced line-up.

First-half goals from Nicolo Barella and Lorenzo Pellegrini in Cesena were enough for the Azzurri to see off Hungary in a largely impressive display blighted by Gianluca Mancini's own goal.

Roberto Mancini selected a host of players who played little or no role in Italy's triumph at Euro 2020, the glow of which has dimmed after failing to qualify for this year's World Cup in Qatar.

Before Tuesday's League A, Group 3 match Italy had won just three of the 11 matches played since being crowned European champions at

Wembley, one of those a meaningless win in Turkey days after being dumped out of the World Cup by North Macedonia.

The hammering Italy took at the hands of Argentina in last week's 'Finalissima' in London seemed to confirm a deep crisis.

But a youthful XI showed signs of life in Saturday's draw with Germany and they took that momentum to Cesena, frequently playing with the style and verve which characterised Mancini's team before the Euro. Barella opened the scoring in the 30th minute, firing home his eighth Italy goal via two slight deflections after great work down the left from Leonardo Spinazzola.

Pellegrini almost laid on teen talent Wilfried Gnonto moments before the break when he scam-

pered in behind and rolled an inviting pass across goal which was well cut out by Loic Nego.

However the Roma captain then doubled the hosts' lead seconds later, making no mistake when meeting Matteo Politano's pull-back to net his second goal in as many Italy games.

Politano crashed a shot off the bar nine minutes after the break and six minutes later Hungary were back in the game when centre-back Mancini, who up to that point had been one of Italy's best performers, turned in substitute Attila Fiola's low cross under no pressure.

From there the away side pushed for a leveller as the home side visibly tired, but beyond a couple of speculative efforts couldn't build on their opening win over England.



## Mane snatches dramatic victory for Senegal

AP ■ JOHANNESBURG

Liverpool star Sadio Mane scored a penalty eight minutes into added time to give Senegal a dramatic 1-0 win over heart-broken Rwanda on Tuesday in 2023 Africa Cup of Nations qualifying.

Forced to play a home match in Senegal because they do not have an international-standard stadium, Rwanda was on the verge of holding a team ranked 116 places higher in the world.

But Mane rescued the Teranga Lions on 98 minutes, with a hard, low penalty that eluded the outstretched hand of goalkeeper Olivier Kwizera.

Mane has starred in the first two matches for the title-holders, scoring four goals, including a matchday one hat-

trick against Benin.

Despite the huge rankings gap, Senegal took no chances against the Rwandan Wasps, who have qualified for the Cup of Nations only once in 13 attempts.

Coach Aliou Cisse chose seven of the team that started the final victory over Egypt in Cameroon four months ago and introduced two more off the bench.

Mozambique, who began their campaign by drawing with Rwanda, could close the gap behind Senegal to two points by winning away to bottom team Benin on Wednesday.

In Group H, Kings Kangwa rifled a free-kick into the net on 88 minutes to give Zambia a vital 2-1 victory over the Comoros in Lusaka.

## Sindhu, Sen enter 2nd round of Indonesia Masters

PTI ■ JAKARTA

Top Indian shuttlers PV Sindhu and Lakshya Sen recorded contrasting victories to make a positive start to their respective women's and men's singles campaign at the \$360,000 Indonesia Masters Super 500 tournament here on Wednesday.

While world championship Bronze medalist Sen, seeded seventh, outwitted Denmark's Hans-Kristian Solberg Vittinghus 21-10, 21-18, two-time Olympic medalist Sindhu had to toil hard to get the better off Line Christophersen of Denmark 18-21, 21-15, 21-11 in a 51-minute match.

Sen will face Denmark's Rasmus Gemke next, while Sindhu plays Indonesia's Gregoria Mariska Tunjung.

In other results, Aakrashi Kashyap went down 12-21, 11-21 to USA's Beiweng Zhang in under 30 minutes to bow out of the competition.

On a comeback trail after recovering from an injury, Sameer Verma couldn't put his best foot forward, losing 17-21, 15-21 to Indonesia's Chico Aura Dwi Wardoyo.

The mixed pairing of Ishaan Bhatnagar and Tanisha Crasto produced a gallant fight before losing 14-21, 21-16, 12-21 to fourth seeds Praveen Jordan and Melati Daeva Oktavianti of Indonesia in an opening round match.



Sindhu, a former world champion, came into the match with a 3-0 head-to-head record against Line but she blew a 11-9 advantage to lose the opening game, primarily due to her unforced errors.

In the second game too, Sindhu squandered a 3-0 lead but Line too couldn't grab the opportunity.

The Danish world number 22 played some superb cross-court smashes but errors put

paid to her hopes. She missed the lines far too many times and also found the nets a lot to undo all her good work.

A wide shot from Sindhu helped Line to grab a slender 11-10 lead but she again went long as the Indian established a three-point cushion and extended it to 17-12 after an enthralling rally.

Sindhu kept things tight and eventually roared back into the contest after wasting three game points.

In the decider, Line was 4-1 up but it went up in smoke, partially due to her unforced errors. Sindhu too tightened the screws as she kept a grip on the rallies to move to 11-7 at the final break.

Sindhu kept pushing the shuttle at the baseline and didn't allow her rival to come near the net. Eventually the Indian moved to 11 match points with a precise return at the back and sealed it when Line went to net again.



## Australian coach wants more from his players

AP ■ AL-RAYYAN

Australia coach Graham Arnold warned his team they must improve to beat Peru and make it to a fifth straight World Cup after Ajdin Hrustic fired a late winner in a nerve-racking 2-1 play-off victory over United Arab Emirates in Doha.

The Eintracht Frankfurt midfielder's deflected volley in the 84th minute decided the feverish Asian playoff on Tuesday in the Ahmad bin Ali Stadium that will host seven games in the World Cup finals in November.

More than 4,000 UAE fans made up the majority of the crowd in the 40,000 capacity arena in the Doha suburbs, where the players were blasted with air conditioning to keep the evening temperatures down.

Australia will take on a

dangerous Peru side in the same stadium in a do-or-die clash on June 13 in their quest to qualify for the finals and Arnold said he expected more from his players.

"We need to improve more. I expect another big improvement after this game," he said.

"Obviously one game at a time and I thought the UAE put in a very good performance, a tight game

But we have had good preparation ... there was more cohesion with our play and after that game I expect we will be even better against Peru.

"My focus has been on our defence because we have been sloppy, conceding goals in the last couple of (FIFA) windows. We could have scored more, but at the same time there are things that we need to tidy up as well defensively to make it tougher."

## Zverev has surgery on torn ankle ligaments

AP ■ BERLIN

Alexander Zverev has had surgery on torn ligaments in his right ankle following his painful exit from the French Open semi-finals.

The German world number three turned his ankle while trailing eventual champion Rafael Nadal in the last four in Paris last week, screaming in pain before retiring from the match.

The 25-year-old did not say when he will be back on court, but looks certain to miss Wimbledon which begins on June 27. The US Open starts on August 29.

"We all have our own journey in life. This is part of mine," Zverev wrote to his 1.8 million followers on Instagram late on Tuesday alongside a picture of him giving a thumbs-up from a hospital bed.

"Next week I'll reach a career-high ranking of number two in the world, but this morning I had to undergo surgery."

"After further examination in Germany, we received confirmation that all three of the lateral ligaments in my right ankle were torn.



as quickly as possible, to ensure all the ligaments heal properly, and to reclaim full stability in my ankle, surgery was the best choice.

Zverev is still waiting for a maiden Grand Slam title, despite winning five Masters trophies and the ATP Finals twice.

Roland Garros last week was his fifth major semi-final. He lost the 2020 US Open final to Dominic Thiem, having led by two sets.

"My rehab starts now and I'll do everything to come back stronger than ever!" he added.

## Anand beats Radjabov in Norway Chess, Carlsen loses

PTI ■ STAVANGER

Indian maestro Viswanathan Anand defeated Azerbaijan's Teimour Radjabov in the Armageddon in the seventh round of the Norway Chess tournament to remain in the second spot behind world number one Magnus Carlsen.

The 52-year old Indian grandmaster has 13 points after the seventh round, half a point behind Carlsen, who was shocked by Norwegian compatriot Aryan Tari in the sudden death tie-break.

Anand and Radjabov drew their Classical match in 42 moves in a Guicco Pianissimo game.

In the subsequent sudden death tie-break (Armageddon), the former world champion needed only 25 moves to beat the Azerbaijani player to secure a win early on Wednesday.

Meanwhile, Carlsen went down to his countryman in 37 moves after the classical match had ended in a stalemate.

## Indian contingent called back after female cyclist accuses coach of inappropriate behaviour

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The Sports Authority of India (SAI) on Wednesday decided to call the entire Indian cycling contingent back from Slovenia after a female cyclist accused chief coach R K Sharma of "inappropriate behaviour" during the training-cum-competition trip.

The Indian endurance contingent, consisting of five male and a female, flew to Slovenia on May 15 and was scheduled to return on June 14.

SAI has already called back the cyclist, who made the allegations, and formed an enquiry committee to look into the matter.

The Cycling Federation of India (CFI) Chairman Onkar Singh said that SAI has made the decision to cut short the training trip.

"SAI official called up CFI this morning and said all the contingent including coach RK Sharma will be called back immediately from Slovenia," Singh said.

The training-cum-competition trip to Slovenia was

arranged to help Indian team prepare well for the Asian Track Cycling Championships, scheduled to be held in the national capital from June 18 to 22.

The female cyclist had apprised the SAI of inappropriate behaviour by coach during her stay in Slovenia and was so terrified that she feared for her life.

The matter had come to light on Monday when SAI issued a statement, saying it has called the cyclist back to ensure her safety.

The complainant claimed that the coach forced her to share a hotel room with him on the pretext that accommodation has been arranged on twin-sharing basis.

Later on her request, SAI arranged for a separate single room for her but the coach did not take her to Germany for an event along with the other members of the contingent for putting up resistance.

The coach threatened the cyclist that he will destroy her career by having her removed from the National Centre of Excellence (NCOE) if she will

## SAI terminates contract of cycling coach RK Sharma

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Sports Authority of India (SAI) on Wednesday terminated the contract of chief cycling coach R K Sharma, acting on a preliminary report of an inquiry committee after a female cyclist accused him of "inappropriate behaviour" during a training-cum-competition tour of Slovenia.

SAI said the inquiry committee, formed by it following the complaint, found the allegations of the female cyclist to be true.

"SAI had constituted an inquiry committee to hear the case of a national level cyclist's complaint against a coach of inappropriate behaviour during

ing a foreign exposure trip in Slovenia which was organised by the Cycling Federation of India. The committee has submitted its preliminary report today and prima facie the case is established and the allegations of the athlete are found to be true," the SAI said.

"The coach who was hired on recommendation of the Cycling Federation of India had a contract with the Sports Authority of India. Following the report, SAI has terminated the contract of the coach with immediate effect," the statement added.

SAI said the committee will continue a detailed investigation into the case and submit a final report.

not sleep with him, according to the complaint. Fearing for her safety, the cyclist had then decided to quit the training camp.

However, it has come to

light that SAI had actually arranged for a separate room for her because she was the only female member of the contingent.



# Cricket legend Mithali announces retirement

DRITI ATRI ■ NEW DELHI

Mithali Raj, the 'Lady Tendulkar of Indian Women's Cricket', brought an end to her 23-year long international cricket career on Wednesday when she announced her retirement from all forms of cricket via a Twitter post.

In a statement posted to her official Twitter account, she said:

*"I set out as a little girl on the journey to wear the India blues as representing your country is the highest honour. The journey was full of highs and some lows. Each event taught me something unique and the last 23 years have been the most fulfilling, challenging & enjoyable years of my life.*

*Like all journeys, this one too must come to an end.*

*Today is the day I retire from all forms of International Cricket.*

*Each time I stepped on the*

*field, I gave my very best with the intent to help India win. I will always cherish the opportunity given to me to represent the tricolour.*

*I feel now is the perfect time to call curtains on my playing career as the team is in the capable hands of some very talented young players and the future of Indian Cricket is bright.*

*I'd like to thank the BCCI & Shri Jay Shah Sir (Honorary Secretary, BCCI) for all the support I have received - first as a player and then as the Captain of the Indian Women's Cricket Team.*

*It was an honour to have led the team for so many years. It definitely shaped me as a person & hopefully helped shape Indian Women's Cricket as well.*

*This journey may have ended but another one beckons as I'd love to stay involved in the game I love and contribute to the growth of Women's*

*Cricket in India and world over.*

*Special mention to all my fans, thank you for all your love & support."*

The 39-year-old cricket icon made her international debut as a 16-year-old against Ireland on June 26, 1999, and scored a century in her first ODI match. She remained unbeaten on 114 and became the youngest cricketer (men and women combined) to score a hundred. And after 23 years, when she ended her playing career, she left as the leading run getter in the 50-over format of the game.

The right-handed batter represented India in 232 ODI matches, which is the highest by any women's cricketer, and scored the most number of 7805 runs at an average of 50.68. Mithali's batting average of 50.68 is the fifth highest of all time. The premier batter also scored the highest number of 50+ scores in women's



THE RIGHT-HANDED BATTER REPRESENTED INDIA IN 232 ODI MATCHES, WHICH IS THE HIGHEST BY ANY WOMEN'S CRICKETER, AND SCORED THE MOST NUMBER OF 7805 RUNS AT AN AVERAGE OF 50.68

cricket (71-64 half centuries and 7 hundreds). The Jodhpur-born cricketer also featured in 38 matches for India in the World Cup and scored 1321 runs (2nd most in World Cup history).

At the age of 21 years and 94 days, Mithali was made the Indian captain and has led the Women in Blue in a record number of 155 WODI matches. During her 18-year-long captaincy career, she won 89 matches as Indian skipper. She led India to the finals of the ICC Women's World Cup in 2005 and 2017, but on both occasions finished as the runners-up.

Raj's last game in international cricket was against South Africa in Christchurch during the ICC Women's World Cup earlier this year and in that she scored 68 runs from 84 balls.

Mithali, who holds the record of playing the most consecutive WODI matches (109) for a team, scored seven back-to-back fifties in 2017, which is a record in women's cricket till date.

Apart from the record number of WODI matches, Mithali also played in 12 Tests and 89 T20I games and holds the record for scoring the most runs for Team India in

T20I matches. She has 2364 runs to her name in the short-format of the game. The veteran retired from the short-format in September 2019 but continued to play in Test and ODI matches. Her last Test was against Australia last year, which ended in a draw. Overall, in 12 red-ball matches, she scored 699 runs at an average of 43.68, with the highest score of 214.

During her long 22-year-and-274-day career at the top, the 39-year-old cricket legend was awarded with the Khel Ratna Award in 2021, the Arjuna Award in 2003, the Padma Shri in 2015, and the Wisden Leading Women's Cricketer of the World in 2017.

Mithali's retirement is an end to the glorious era of women's cricket in general and not just India. Like the great Sachin Tendulkar, she also played for four decades and created numerous records.

## KL, Kuldeep ruled out of SA T20Is, Pant to lead India

India vs SA (1st T20I)  
Live from 7:00pm IST  
STAR SPORTS 1 NETWORK

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

India skipper KL Rahul was on Wednesday ruled out of the five-match T20 International series against South Africa due to a groin injury, a day before the first match here.

Wicket-keeper batter Rishabh Pant, who was named as Rahul's deputy, will lead the side in his absence. All-rounder Hardik Pandya will be the vice-captain in the series.

Left-arm spinner Kuldeep Yadav will also miss the entire T20I series after getting hit on his right hand while batting in the nets on Tuesday.

"Team India captain KL Rahul has been ruled out of the T20I series against South Africa owing to a right groin injury while Kuldeep Yadav will miss out in the T20I series after getting hit on his right hand while batting in the nets last evening," the BCCI said in a statement.

"The All-India Senior Selection Committee has named wicket-keeper Rishabh Pant as captain and Hardik Pandya as vice-captain for the home series against South Africa."

The selection committee has not named replacements for Rahul and Kuldeep. Both the cricketers will now report to the NCA where the medical team will assess them further and decide on the future course of treatment.

It is understood that Ruturaj Gaikwad will open the batting alongside Ishan Kishan in the series-opener on Thursday.

WILL LEAD INDIA WITH MY CHIN UP: PANT

Handed the leadership of the Indian team just a day before the five-match T20I series against South Africa, newly appointed captain Rishabh Pant said he will be taking up the responsibility with his chin up.

"It's a very good feeling although it didn't come in good circumstances. The news just came in for me as well an hour back so I'm also processing it," Pant said on the eve of the first match.



"I haven't even digested the information yet. It is a great feeling getting this opportunity, especially in my hometown," the Delhi cricketer said.

Pant has led the IPL side Delhi Capitals for two seasons. In the just-concluded edition of the league, Pant experimented with his batting position.

Asked if he will continue shuffling his batting order, he said, "My batting order will depend on the conditions. In these conditions, we can't have a float-

ing batting line because we play spinners day in and day out.

"But if we need a floating batting line up we will have it," he added.

"As a captain, it will help me a lot. When you keep doing the same things over a period of time you tend to improve and keep learning from it and I think that will help me."

The 24-year-old feels the DC captaincy stint in the IPL will help him in the series against South Africa.

### South Africa expect 'big player' Nortje to perform accordingly



PTI ■ NEW DELHI

South Africa white-ball skipper Temba Bavuma on Wednesday backed pacer Anrich Nortje to play a major role in the T20I series against India despite an underwhelming IPL stint.

Nortje was out of international action since the T20 World Cup last year due to a hip injury. The express pacer turned out in the IPL for Delhi Capitals after missing the initial few games. However, he was far from his best.

"Anrich is a big player for us, an integral part of the bowling unit. When he joined the IPL he had come off a huge layoff due to injury," Bavuma said on the eve of the first T20I against India here.

"But the more he plays, the closer he will get to the levels he is capable of. He is an important member of the team and we expect him to perform accordingly," he added.

The last time the two sides met, hosts South Africa won five out of the six matches during the tour comprising three Tests and as many ODIs earlier this year.

However, Bavuma and Co. will face a different-looking, younger Indian side.

"It's an exciting series. We faced an Indian team recently but this is a different-looking side. There are a lot of younger fresher faces. Guys who would like to prove themselves and stake a claim to positions within the Indian team."

"Captaining DC will help me a lot. I'm someone who learns from mistakes."

Left-arm pinner Kuldeep Yadav has also been ruled out after he was hit on his right hand while batting in the nets on Tuesday.

"Not much will change in the batting order as KL was to open. There will be one change. We don't have a lot of openers so you can guess what that will be."

With the T20 World Cup in mind, Pant said a lot of changes can be expected in the Indian side.

"As a team, we have thought about certain goals that we want to achieve as a team. We are continuously working on them. We are thinking about the World Cup. In the coming days, you'll see a lot of changes."

The youngster is delighted to be working with head coach Rahul Dravid closely once again.



## Harmanpreet replaces Mithali as ODI captain, no Jhulan for SL series

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Harmanpreet Kaur was on Wednesday named India women's team captain for the white-ball tour of Sri Lanka on a day when her ODI predecessor Mithali Raj announced her international retirement.

Harmanpreet, who remains T20I skipper, and Smriti Mandhana were in the running to replace Mithali in the 50-over format. Eventually, the selectors have gone for the 33-year-old Harmanpreet over the 25-year-old Mandhana.

India will play three T20Is and as many ODIs against Sri Lanka in Dambulla and Kandy, starting June 23. It will be India's first assignment since the early exit from the ODI World Cup in March.

Notable omissions from the ODI squad were veteran Jhulan Goswami, who too like Mithali, was expected to retire after the World Cup, and Sneha Rana.

Opener S Meghana, who had impressed in the ODIs in New Zealand before World Cup, has been included in both the ODI and T20I squads.

Jemimah Rodrigues, who was not included in the ODI

World Cup squad, made a comeback for the T20Is. Radha Yadav, who last played for India in July last year, also made a return.

The three T20Is will be played in Dambulla on June 23, 25 and 27 while the ODIs will be held in Kandy on July 1, 4 and 7.

The timing of the squad announcement was rather interesting as it came soon after Indian legend Mithali called time on her 23-year-old career.

**ODI squad:** Harmanpreet Kaur (Captain), Smriti Mandhana (VC), Shafali Verma, Yastika Bhatia (wk), S Meghana, Deepti Sharma, Poonam Yadav, Rajeshwari Gayakwad, Simran Bahadur, Richa Ghosh (wk), Pooja Vastrakar, Meghna Singh, Renuka Singh, Taniya Bhatia (wk), Harleen Deol.

**T20I squad:** Harmanpreet Kaur (Captain), Smriti Mandhana (VC), Shafali Verma, Yastika Bhatia (wk), S Meghana, Deepti Sharma, Poonam Yadav, Rajeshwari Gayakwad, Simran Bahadur, Richa Ghosh (wk), Pooja Vastrakar, Meghna Singh, Renuka Singh, Jemimah Rodrigues, Radha Yadav.

## Karan, Saurabh script win for UP in match vs Karnataka

PTI ■ ALUR

Young Karan Sharma led from the front with a calm and composed 93 not out as Uttar Pradesh knocked out favourites Karnataka with a five-wicket win in their Ranji Trophy quarterfinals here on Wednesday.

This was UP's first ever win over Karnataka on 13 occasions and it could not have come at a better time. UP are now headed for a semifinal clash against heavyweights Mumbai at the same venue from June 14.

Previously, UP had lost four times and drawn nine times but never won against Karnataka.

Captaining the team in his very first season for UP, the 23-year-old Sharma, playing his fourth first-class match, showed solid temperament in their chase of 213 after Priyam Garg made an elegant 60-ball 52.

Sharma, who scored a second innings century in their win over Maharashtra that sealed their quarterfinals berth here, once again stood like a rock.

The Lucknow Super Giants batter, who faced 163 balls (119 of them dots), paced his innings brilliantly, especially at the fag end of the day.

That the slow pitch had little to offer for the pacers also played a part as Sharma happily took on Ronit More, pulling him in front of square, even on front foot.

He slammed 13 fours and one six in his knock as UP fashioned a mem-

Ranji Trophy quarters  
Live from 9:30am IST  
STAR SPORTS 1 NETWORK



orable win with two days to spare.

The skipper found an able ally in Prince Yadav who played a patient innings of 33 not out from 73 balls (3x4, 1x6) in their unbroken match-winning partnership of 99 runs.

UP had a jittery start to their chase as they lost Aryan Jural and Samarth Singh for 28 but thereafter Garg played a counter-attacking knock and reached to his fifty in 57 balls with a six off Vidhwath Kaverappa.

Just when it seemed that UP had the game on their hands, the home side titled the match in their favour

after off-spinner Krishnappa Gowtham gave the breakthrough by dismissing Garg.

Bowling superbly to his field, Gowtham foxed Garg with a length ball as the Sunrisers Hyderabad batter gave a simple catch to leg slip.

Rinku Singh (4) and Dhruv Jurel (9) were also dismissed cheaply as UP lost three wickets for 27 runs with 114/5 on board in the second session when the young skipper came to take charge of the proceedings.

Sharma had a solid approach upfront without buckling under

pressure and took time to settle down before coming on his own.

Earlier, it was their India 'A' left-arm spinner Saurabh Kumar who returned with a match-haul of seven wickets to turn it around for the Vijay Dahiya-coached UP after they suffered a first innings batting collapse to concede a 98-run first innings lead.

Saurabh returned with 3/36 in the second essay which included the prized-scalps of Mayank Agarwal as Karnataka failed to build on their healthy lead and were bundled out for 114 on the third day morning.

MUMBAI IN FIRM CONTROL

Left-arm spinner Shams Mulani's five-wicket haul was well complimented by opener Yashvi Jaiswal's maiden hundred as the 41-time Ranji Trophy Champions Mumbai put themselves in the driver's seat on the third day of their quarter-final against Uttarakhand.

After the third day's play, Mumbai's overall lead stood at a staggering 794 runs and with that they seemed to have put one-foot in the semi-final.

After Mumbai posted a mammoth 647/8 declared in their first

### Punjab in disarray as MP smell victory

PTI ■ ALUR

Left-arm spinner Kumar Kartikeya ran through the top-order to reduce Punjab to 120 for five in their second innings as Madhya Pradesh continued to enjoy the upperhand in their quarter-final match, here on Thursday.

Opening the bowling, Kartikeya (4/11) picked up four crucial wickets to return with his second best first-class figures.

The 24-year-old accounted for the vital wickets of Punjab skipper Abhishek Sharma (17), Shubman Gill (19), Mandeep Singh (17) and Gurkeerat Singh Mann (10) to single-handedly demolish Punjab's batting line-up in their second essay.

At stumps on the third day, Siddharth Kaul was batting on 16 and giving him company was wicket-keeper Aman Malhotra on 9. Punjab still trail Madhya Pradesh

by 58 runs and it would prove to be a Herculean task for them to save the match from here on.

Earlier, resuming at 238 for two, overnight centurion Shubham Sharma (102) failed to add to his score but Rajat Patidar continued his fine IPL form and hit 85 off 167 balls with the help of 12 boundaries to take Madhya Pradesh forward.

Patidar was ably supported by Akshat Raghuvanshi (69) as the duo shared 99 runs for the fifth wicket to hand Madhya Pradesh a sizeable first innings lead before perishing.

After the departure of the duo, the remaining four Madhya Pradesh batters could add just 14 runs before folding out in 154.5 overs, taking a massive first innings lead of 178 runs.

Left-arm spinner Vinay Choudhary was the pick of the bowlers for Punjab with figures of five for 83.

did not enforce the follow-on and in the second essay, it was a Jaiswal (103) show as the 20-year-old slammed his first first-class hundred only in his second game and pummelled the Uttarakhand attack to submission. Mumbai ended the day at 261/3.