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THE LONG SHADOW
OF BLASPHEMY LAWS

MONEY 10

RUPEE FALLS 20 PAISE TO
CLOSE AT RECORD LOW

WORLD 8

'ENOUGH PROOF UNCOVERED
TO INDICT TRUMP'

NEW DELHI, TUESDAY JUNE 14, 2022: PAGES 12 ₹3

the pioneer

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INDIA TAKE
ON PROTEAS IN
3RD T20I TODAY
12 SPORT

CAPSULE

SENSEX SINKS 1,457 PTS
AMID GLOBAL ROUT

Mumbai: Equity benchmarks had another rough day on Monday, with the Sensex plummeting 1,457 points and the Nifty tumbling to the 15,774 level, mirroring an extremely weak trend in global markets along with unrelenting foreign fund outflows.

P10

INFLATION EASES TO 7%
AS FOOD PRICES DOWN

New Delhi: Retail inflation eased to 7.04 per cent in May, mainly on account of softening food and fuel prices as the Government as well as the RBI stepped in to control spiralling price rise by way of duty cuts and repo rate hike.

P10

RARE DINOSAUR 'EGG-IN-EGG' FOUND IN MP

New Delhi: A team of researchers from Delhi University has discovered an "egg-in-egg" dinosaur egg from Madhya Pradesh, which is probably the first time in the fossil history, a statement issued by it said. According to the researchers, the discovery is a "rare and important find" as no "ovum-in-ovo" egg was found in reptiles until now. The findings have been published in the latest issue of the journal Scientific Reports.

PROPHET ROW COULD BE
HANDLED BETTER: CHINA

Beijing: China on Monday waded into the furor over the controversial remarks by two now-suspended BJP functionaries against Prophet Mohammad, expressing the hope that the incident can be properly handled. China faces serious allegations of a mass crackdown on Uyghur Muslims in Xinjiang.

Rahul's ED grilling to continue today

Senior Congress
leaders, workers
march in solidarity,
hold protests

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■

NEW DELHI

Congress leader Rahul Gandhi, who was questioned by the Enforcement Directorate (ED) on Monday in a money laundering probe linked to the National Herald newspaper, was asked to appear before it again on Tuesday, officials said. They said the questioning on Monday continued well past 9 pm.

Rahul reached the agency's headquarters, accompanied by party leaders and a large number of supporters, around 11am. He was questioned for almost 20 minutes in the first round of questioning. Rahul was allowed by the ED to leave for lunch around 2 pm and he returned for the questioning around 3.30 pm.

Sources said Rahul wrote down his statement under section 50 of the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA) during the first round of questioning.

When Rahul left the Congress headquarters he was accompanied by party leaders, including Priyanka Gandhi



Congress leader Rahul Gandhi leaves for ED office for questioning in the National Herald case, in New Delhi on Monday
Ranjan Dimri | Pioneer

Rahul, Priyanka meet
Sonia at hospital

New Delhi: Congress leaders Rahul Gandhi and Priyanka Gandhi Vadra visited party president and their mother Sonia Gandhi at the Sir Ganga Ram Hospital here on Monday, a day after she was admitted to the facility.

Vadra, Rajasthan Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot, Chhattisgarh Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel and former Union Finance Minister P Chidambaram.

Priyanka sat with Rahul in a vehicle as the convoy of seven SUVs, escorted by armed CRPF personnel, entered the ED office on APJ Abdul Kalam Road. The probe pertains to alleged financial irregularities in the party-promoted Young Indian that owns the National Herald newspaper. The National Herald is published by the Associated Journals Limited (AJL) and owned by Young Indian Pvt Limited.

At a Press conference later in the day, the Congress said the 1937-established AJL faced huge debts and the party during 2002-11, gave ₹90 crore to the National Herald to pay the salaries of the journalists and staffers who worked there.

Continued on Page 2

Booster must as Covid wave likely every 6 months: WHO

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■

NEW DELHI

Any hope that Covid-19 could soon be a nightmare of the past may be entirely misplaced. The World Health Organization (WHO) has warned that countries are likely to witness waves of Covid-19 infection every four to six months.

Making this prognosis, WHO chief scientist Soumya Swaminathan has said that there is a need to get the booster shots to deal with the situation. "Boosters are important to boost waning immunity, especially in the vulnerable age groups," she said.

"One is likely to see waves every four to six months, the intensity depends on how many susceptible people are there in the population," she told a TV channel.

She emphasised that booster dose was particularly important for vulnerable people.

After registering a lull period for a few months, India has been again registering an upward trend in Covid infections

Swaminathan outlined several reasons behind the current rise in the number of Covid-19 cases in India. Waning immunity, more transmissible sub-variants like BA.4 and 5, and crowding with no masks are some of the reasons behind the spike, she said.

She said the Government must explain to the people the booster shot is needed for a



Women walk past a graffiti on a wall urging people to wear face masks in Mumbai, on Monday

PTI

strong long-lasting immunity.

Meanwhile, three cases of BA.4 and one of BA.5 Omicron sub-variants of coronavirus were found in Mumbai on Monday. Amid a surge in Covid-19 cases in Mumbai

and other parts of Maharashtra, medical experts say most of the patients are showing mild symptoms and fatality is low in the present "mild wave", and also no new virus variant of concern has been observed.

The patients were being administered paracetamol, and not Remdesivir drug, which was used for patients in the first and second Covid-19 waves, they said.

Meanwhile, with 8,084 new coronavirus infections being reported in a day, India's tally of Covid-19 cases rose to

4,32,30,101 while the daily positivity rate was over three per cent after nearly four months, according to the Union Health Ministry data updated on Monday.

The death toll climbed to 5,24,771 with 10 fatalities, the data updated at 8 am stated. The active cases comprise 0.11 per cent of the total infections, while the national Covid-19 recovery rate was 98.68 per cent, the Ministry said.

An increase of 3,482 cases has been recorded in the active Covid-19 caseload in a span of 24 hours.

The daily positivity rate was recorded at 3.24 per cent and the weekly positivity rate was recorded at 2.21 per cent, according to the Ministry.

Continued on Page 2

Nuke numbers to grow in next decade: Report

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■

NEW DELHI

Nuclear weapons will increase in the next decade and India, one of the nine nuclear States, will continue to modernise its nuclear arsenal, the prestigious Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI) said on Monday in its annual report.

The report assessed the current state of armaments, disarmament, and international security and said despite a marginal decrease in the number of nuclear warheads in 2021, nuclear arsenals are expected to grown over the next ten years. It signals that post-cold war decline in nuclear arsenals is ending.

The SIPRI report said the nine nuclear-armed States —



the United States, Russia, the United Kingdom, France, China, India, Pakistan, Israel and the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (North Korea) — continue to modernise their nuclear arsenals. Although the total number of nuclear weapons declined slightly between January 2021 and January 2022, the number will probably increase in the next decade, it said.

Russia and the USA

together possess over 90 per cent of all nuclear weapons. The other seven nuclear-armed States are either developing or deploying new weapon systems, or have announced their intention to do so.

India had 160 nuclear warheads as on January 2022 and it appears to be expanding its nuclear arsenal, the report said. Similarly, Pakistan also appears to be expanding its nuclear arsenal, it said.

"China is in the middle of a substantial expansion of its nuclear weapon arsenal, which satellite images indicate includes the construction of over 300 new missile silos," the SIPRI statement noted.

China had 350 nuclear warheads in January 2021 as well as January 2022, it said.

Continued on Page 2

NCLAT rejects Amazon plea against CCI's order suspending Future deal

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■

NEW DELHI

In a major setback to Amazon, the National Company Law Appellate Tribunal (NCLAT) on Monday rejected the US e-commerce giant's appeal against an antitrust suspension of its investment deal with Future Group, saying the retailer had not made full disclosures at the time of seeking approval.

The NCLAT upheld a ₹200 crore penalty on Amazon by the Competition Commission of India (CCI) and asked the e-commerce giant to deposit the same in 45 days.

The appellate tribunal ratified the CCI findings that Amazon didn't make full disclosures regarding the deal with Future Retail subsidiary — Future Coupons Pvt Ltd.

In its order, NCLAT said,



"Amazon has not made full, whole, forthright and frank disclosures of relevant materials. It had furnished only limited disclosures pertaining to acquiring its strategic rights and interest in FRL (Future Retail Ltd)" and executing the commercial contract.

"In this regard, this appellate tribunal is in complete agreement with the view arrived at by the first respondent (CCI)," said the NCLAT bench comprising Justice M

Venugopal and Ashok Kumar Mishra.

The CCI on December 17, 2021, levied a ₹200 crore penalty on Amazon and suspended its deal with Future, stating that the US firm deliberately suppressed the actual scope and purpose of the 2019 investment and made false and incorrect statements.

Amazon had challenged the decision, arguing that it had not concealed any information.

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Lanka electricity chief quits after taking back remark on Adani deal

PTI ■ COLOMBO

A top Sri Lankan official, who claimed before a parliamentary panel that Prime Minister Narendra Modi allegedly influenced President Gotabaya Rajapaksa to award a wind power project to the Adani Group in this island nation, resigned on Monday, a day after retracting his earlier statement.

The resignation of MMC Ferdinando, the chairman of state-owned power entity Ceylon Electricity Board (CEB), has been accepted, Energy Minister Kanchana Wijesekera said on Monday.

Ferdinando, during a hearing of the Committee On Public Enterprises (COPE) on Friday, said that President Rajapaksa had summoned him after a meeting in November

last year and told him that the wind power project be awarded to the Adani Group of India's billionaire Gautam Adani as Prime Minister Modi had urged him to do so.

However, President Rajapaksa on Saturday categorically denied Ferdinando's statement before the parliamentary panel.

Rajapaksa tweeted: "I categorically deny authorisation to award this project to any specific person or entity".

On Sunday, Ferdinando wrote to the COPE chair in Parliament Professor Charitha Herath that he was withdrawing his comment, saying it had been done under stress, and that he was not influenced by either President Rajapaksa or the Indian High Commission here to retract it.

Continued on Page 2

Kuwait to deport expats for Prophet row protests

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE/
AGENCIES ■ NEW DELHI/
KUWAIT

Kuwait has said it will deport expatriates who reportedly took part in a demonstration against remarks made by the now-suspended BJP spokespersons against Prophet Mohammad. The deported people will not be allowed to enter Kuwait again.

The action was initiated against the protesters on Monday as they violated the law of Kuwait prohibiting demonstrations or sit-ins, reports said. The local authorities are in the process of "arresting expats and referring them to the deportation centre to be deported to their countries", news agency ANI reported, quoting the Arab Times. The expats will be banned from entering Kuwait again, it said.

Instructions have been issued to arrest expats from the Fahahel area which saw a demonstration after Friday prayers, Arab News, an English-language daily news-

paper published in Saudi Arabia, quoted sources as saying. All expatriates must respect Kuwait laws and not take part in any type of demonstrations, the report said, quoting the instructions to authorities. However, the nationality of the protesters was not disclosed in the report.

Incidentally, Kuwait along with Qatar and Iran were the first countries in the Arab world to summon Indian envoys to their respective countries to register official protest against remarks criticizing the Prophet.

According to latest statistics, the number of Indian nationals legally residing in Kuwait has crossed the 10-lakh mark in 2019. The Indian community in Kuwait continues to grow at 5-6 per cent per annum.

The Indian community remains the largest and the most preferred community in Kuwait, the second largest expatriate community being the Egyptians, according to the Indian Embassy in Kuwait.

Don't advertise online betting platforms: I&B Min to media

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■

NEW DELHI

Asserting that betting and gambling are illegal in "most parts" of the country and pose significant financial and socio-economic risk for consumers, the Information and Broadcasting Ministry on Monday issued an advisory directing print, electronic and digital media to refrain from advertising online betting platforms in India.

The Ministry said that the advisory was issued in larger public interest and comes in the light of instances of a number of advertisements of online betting websites/platforms appearing in print, electronic, social and online media.

On May 26, the Delhi High Court sought Centre's response on a petition seeking banning of online gambling and betting in India. Similar cases are pending in Gujarat, Karnataka and Kerala High Court awaiting Centre and State



Government's response.

The petitions pointed out that many online betting websites have made people addicted and even students now largely have access to mobile phones and the internet. Division Bench of Acting Chief Justice Vipin Sanghi and Justice Sachin Data issued notice to Centre and Delhi State seeking response.

The I&B Ministry advised the print and electronic media to refrain from publishing advertisements of online betting platforms. It has also advised the online and social

media, including online advertisement intermediaries and publishers, to not display such advertisements towards the Indian audience.

"Betting and gambling, illegal in most parts of the country, pose significant financial and socio-economic risk for the consumers, especially youth and children, the advisory states. These advertisements on online betting have the effect of promoting "this largely prohibited activity", according to a Ministry statement.

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History is history, how can one change it, says Nitish

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■

NEW DELHI

Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar has distanced himself from yet another pet agenda of the Sangh parivar: Rewriting history.

"History is what it is, how can anyone change it?" He said on Home Minister Amit Shah's assertion that it's time to revisit history books as historians have focussed only on Mughals so far, ignoring other glorious empires.

When a reporter asked what he thought of Shah's suggestion, the Bihar CM said, "Will you change history then? I don't understand how one can change it. History is history."

Language is a different issue but you can't change the fundamental history, he said.

This is yet another stance of the Bihar CM differing with the BJP on ideological issues. Kumar has already shot down the demand for removing loud-speakers from mosques.



Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar during the send-off ceremony for the first batch of Haj pilgrims, at Haj Bhawan, in Patna

PTI

He has also opposed the CAA in its present form and all together rejected the need for implementation of the NCR. Nitish has brushed aside the demand for implementation of Uniform Civil Code in India.

Last week, Shah urged historians in the country to revive the glory of the past for the present, saying it will help in building a bright future.

"Most of the historians in India have given prominence to recording the history of Mughals only, ignoring the

glorious rules of many empires like Pandays, Cholas, Mauryas, Guptas and Ahoms," Shah had said at a recent book launch.

"The Mauryas ruled the whole country — from Afghanistan to Lanka for 550 years. The Satvahanas ruled for 500 years. The Guptas ruled for 400 years and (Gupta emperor) Samudragupta had for the first time visioned a united India and established an empire with the whole country. But there is no reference book on them," he had said.

INBRIEF

DSEU ORGANISES 3-DAY JOB UTSAV
New Delhi: The Delhi Skill and Entrepreneurship University (DSEU) organised a three day 'Job Utsav' for the students graduating from different programs from 13 campuses of the University. Present at the Job Utsav, organised in partnership with Nandi Foundation, were over 26 companies with 3000 vacancies including Bajaj Motors, Caparo Maruti, Hindustan Unilever, LG Electronics, Paramount Surgimed, JTEKT, Policy Bazaar, Knorr-Bremse, amongst others.

GOVT TO ORGANISE WHOLESALE SHOPPING FESTIVAL
New Delhi: Delhi Deputy Chief Minister Manish Sisodia said that the government will organise a "Wholesale Shopping Festival" for iconic wholesale markets of Delhi to give them a new identity across the world. In this direction, the first round of stakeholder consultations was held on Monday. The consultation was chaired by Sisodia.

5 PEOPLE HELD FOR SMUGGLING LIQUOR
Noida: Five people were arrested over the weekend in Noida for allegedly smuggling liquor from Delhi into Uttar Pradesh. Over 15 cartons of liquor were also seized on Saturday and Sunday and three vehicles in which the alcohol was being transported were also impounded, officials from the Gautam Buddha Nagar excise department said. Two people in one vehicle were arrested on Saturday during inspection at the Noida-Delhi border. Three people in two different vehicles were arrested on Sunday.

WOMAN STABBED TO DEATH BY HUSBAND
New Delhi: A 28-year-old woman was stabbed to death allegedly by her husband near her house in south Delhi's Neb Sarai area on Monday. The deceased has been identified as Renu, a resident of Harijan Basti in Neb Sarai. A fight between the two led to the stabbing of the woman by his husband, a senior police officer said. The husband fled after allegedly killing his wife.

GEETA CHANDRAN GETS NRITYA PERUNJYOTHI AWARD
Chennai: Delhi-based renowned Bharatanatyam dancer Geeta Chandran has received the Nritya Perunjyothi award for 2021. The award recognises her invaluable contribution to dance in north India and beyond, and in developing a new pedagogic theory to teach Bharatanatyam to GenNext. At a glittering function in Chennai attended by almost the entire Bharatanatyam fraternity, renowned dancers Chitra Visweswaran and Lakshmi Vishwanathan received the prestigious NATYA KALANIDHI Awards for 2021 and 22 respectively.

LABOUR OFFICE SLAMS SLOW CESS COLLECTION
New Delhi: The national capital's labour commissioner has taken a serious view of the 'slow progress' of cess collection and issuance of notices, said the officials. As per the letter issued from the office of the additional labour commissioner to all the district heads in the labour department, it has been said that the labour department headquarters, with the purpose of increasing cess collection and cess assessment, 'had issued user ID and password to district labour officers (Cess Collectors) in the year 2019 under the philosophy of ease of doing business'.

NDMC COMPLETES PHASE-1 DE-SILTING DRIVE
New Delhi: With the aim to prevent the water logging in the national capital, the New Delhi Municipal Council (NDMC) has on Monday informed that the council has completed its Phase-1 de-silting drive. Addressing the media, the member of the NDMC, Kuljeet Singh Chahal said that NDMC has set up six control rooms in its area to prevent any water logging during heavy rain, in any case. Chahal also stated that 278 rain water harvesting pits are functioning all over in the NDMC area.

GOVT DIRECTS HOSPITAL STAFF TO WEAR UNIFORM
New Delhi: The Delhi government on Monday directed the medical staff in its hospitals to wear their designated uniforms, after they were found not wearing it despite getting the allowance for it, according to an official order. The order issued by Amit Singla, secretary, Health and Family Welfare, said action will be initiated against those not following the directions. It also stated that the staff members draw an allowance for the uniform.

JNU, JMI STUDENTS PROTEST IN SUPPORT OF FATIMA
New Delhi: Several student groups on Monday held demonstrations at the Jawaharlal Nehru University (JNU) and Jamia Millia Islamia (JMI) in support of former JNU student Afreeen Fatima, whose house was razed by Uttar Pradesh authorities. Dozens of activists of the All India Students' Association (AISA) marched from the Sabarmati hostel to JNU gate raising slogans against the Yogi Adityanath government in Uttar Pradesh. The Delhi Police violently detained several people but the protest continued, the students' group claimed.

MAN HELD BY CISF FOR CARRYING ARMS IN METRO
New Delhi: A man from Bihar was apprehended by CISF personnel at a Delhi Metro station in neighbouring Faridabad on Monday for carrying a country-made pistol and bullet in his luggage. The passenger was intercepted during security checks around 7 AM at the Escort Mujesar station. The passenger has been handed over to the local police who will conduct further investigation, officials said. Carrying arms and ammunition inside the metro network is banned.

China hopes India would deal with Prophet row protests in better way

PTI ■ BEIJING
China on Monday waded into the furore over the controversial remarks by two now-suspended BJP functionaries against Prophet Mohammad, expressing the hope that the incident can be properly handled. China, which faces serious

allegations of a mass crackdown on Uyghur Muslims in the volatile Xinjiang province, said: "China always believes that different civilisations and religions should respect each other and live together as equals."
"We have noted relevant reports and hope that the situation will be handled properly,"

India's first RRTS train set reaches Duhai depot

Trials to be carried out on RRTS trains before operations begin, say NCRTC officials

SAURAV GUPTA ■ NEW DELHI

India's very first Regional Rapid Transit System (RRTS) train set reached 'Duhai depot' on Monday on a trailer from the manufacturing plant located in Savli, Gujarat. All the six coaches of the train set were loaded on six separate trailers. "The train set will be assembled in the depot itself," said a National Capital Region Transport Corporation (NCRTC) official.

As the coaches arrived at the Duhai depot, the NCRTC officials said that the testing phase would begin and various trials would be carried out on RRTS trains.

"To ensure safe travel for commuters, the NCRTC will be testing the coaches through various processes to ensure proper signalling, rolling stock and continuous power supply," said the official.

"After the success of all the testing procedures, a pre-operational trial will be conducted.

Only then will the train be made operational for passengers," the official added.

According to officials, the trials runs are expected to commence by the end of this year while it will be operational for passengers from 2023. "The first trial run will be on the 17-km long priority section constructed between Sahibabad to Duhai," said the official adding that installation of roof shed for trains, construction of underpass and boundary wall in Duhai Depot are being carried out at a brisk pace.

"The installation work of OHE for the power supply for trains is also to commence soon. Poles and cantilevers have already been installed for the installation of OHE in the Depot. Soon, the entire Depot will be ready for the operation of trains," said the official.

"The construction of the viaduct connecting the Duhai RRTS station with the Duhai Depot is also going on at a pace. With the completion of this viaduct, the line will be ready



for the trains to exit the depot. The track laying and installation of OHE in the priority section are also in progress," the official added.

Giving details about the testing and maintenance of the recently procured coaches, the official said that 11 stabling lines, two workshop lines, three Internal-Bay Lines (IBL) and one Heavy Internal Cleaning (HEC) line are being constructed.

"The construction of one

workshop and one IBL line is in the final stage, while the construction of the rest of the lines has been completed. Stabilizing lines are used to upload and park the trains," he said.

Puneet Vats, the spokesperson of NCRTC said that this project is going to be the harbinger of change in the national capital region. Such high-speed seamless connectivity in the NCR will drive balanced and sustainable urban development in the region.

At 46 deg C, Delhi continues to witness major heatwave

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

With no respite in scorching heat, the Delhiites on Monday witnessed maximum temperature over 46 degrees Celsius while the minimum temperature settled at 31.6 degrees Celsius.

However, some relief from the heatwave is expected after two days. Pre-monsoon activity is expected to pick up by June 16 and the maximum temperatures are predicted to dip by seven to eight notches in the subsequent two-three days.

On Monday, the maximum temperature settled at 46.6 degrees Celsius at the Najafgarh weather station, making it the hottest place in the city.

The Safdarjung Observatory, Delhi's base station, recorded a maximum temperature of 43.7 degrees Celsius, four notches above normal. On Sunday, the city had recorded the highest night temperature on a June day in four years at 32.8 degrees Celsius.

Sports Complex, Mungeshpur and Ridge stations recorded a high of 46 degrees Celsius, 46.3 degree Celsius and 45.5 degrees Celsius, respectively.

The minimum temperature, which indicates the temperature at night, has been high over the past two days, set-



ting above 30 degrees Celsius on June 12 and 13. While the minimum temperature was 32.8 degrees Celsius, five degrees above the normal, on Sunday, on Monday it was 31.6 degrees Celsius, four degrees above the normal. It is likely to remain at around 32 degrees Celsius till June 16, and is likely to drop to around 26 degrees by June 19, the forecast indicates.

Delhi has recorded a maximum temperature of 42 degrees Celsius and above on 26 days so far this summer season, the highest number of such days since 2012, according to India Meteorological Department (IMD) data.

In 2012, the city recorded a maximum temperature of 42 degrees Celsius or above on 30 days. The number of such days was 35 in 2010, the highest in the 1951-2022 period, the data showed.

The city has seen six heat-

wave spells this summer, the deadliest being in mid-May when the maximum temperature soared to 49 degrees Celsius at some places.

The latest heatwave spell began on June 2 amid the absence of strong western disturbances and an onslaught of hot and dry westerly winds.

The IMD has predicted partly cloudy skies and a drizzle in Delhi on Tuesday. The maximum temperature is expected to settle around 43 degrees Celsius.

The mercury will dip to 41 degrees Celsius by Wednesday and a major respite from the scorching heat is likely from June 16, according to the IMD.

Thundershowers, cloudy sky, gusty winds and light rainfall are predicted on the coming weekend.

The maximum temperature at the Safdarjung Observatory may dip to 36 degrees Celsius by Sunday.

Def Min calls for greater synergy between civil adm and armed forces

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh on Monday called for greater synergy between civil administration and the armed forces to enhance national security and deal with future challenges that may emanate from the ever-evolving global situation.

He also described the Russia-Ukraine situation and other similar conflicts as proof that the world is witnessing challenges far beyond conventional warfare.

Making these points while addressing the participants of the 28th Joint Civil-Military Training Programme at Lal Bahadur Shastri National Academy of Administration (LBSNAA) in Mussoorie, Uttarakhand, he said the concept of national security has broadened. It took place as many non-military dimensions have been added to the more general aspect of protection from military attacks, the minister said.

On the Ukraine conflict, Rajnath also said "War and peace are no longer two exclusive states, but a continuum. Even during peace, war continues on many fronts. A full-scale war is lethal to a country as much as it is for its enemies. Therefore, full scale wars have been avoided in the last few decades."

Delhi court extends Jain's custody by another 14 days

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

A Rouse Avenue court on Monday has extended Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) leader and Delhi Minister Satyendar Jain's judicial custody by another 14 days in connection with a money laundering case. Special Judge Gitanjali Goel will on Tuesday hear Jain's bail application. The Enforcement Directorate (ED), which had filed its reply to the bail application, sought a day's time to argue the matter citing voluminous records in the case.

Jain was arrested by ED in connection with an alleged hawala transaction related to a Kolkata-based company.

The ED filed a money laundering case against the AAP leader based on an FIR filed by the CBI in August 2017 against him and others on charges of alleged possession of disproportionate assets.

On the last date of hearing, when Jain was produced, the Delhi minister claimed that he felt suffocated. It was stated that he was a sleep apnea patient



and required a CPAP (continuous positive airway pressure) machine to help aid in his breathing but despite his request, ED officials took him to the office instead of the hospital. The court said in such circumstances, the ED medically examines him and, if advised, takes him to a hospital. The Central Bureau of Investigation had registered a case in 2017 under Section 13(2) read with 13(1)(e) of the PC Act, 1988 against Jain, his wife Poonam Jain, Ajit Prasad Jain, Sunil Kumar Jain, Vaibhav Jain and Anshuk Jain, following which, the ED had initiated investigation into the case.

Rahul's ED...

From Page 1
The agency has already questioned senior Congress leaders Mallikarjun Kharge and Pawan Bansal in April as part of the investigation. The questioning of the senior Congress leaders and the Gandhis is part of the ED's investigation to understand the share holding pattern, financial transactions and role of the promoters of Young Indian and AJL, officials had said.

Congress president Sonia Gandhi and Rahul are among the promoters and shareholders of Young Indian. Prominent among those detained during the protest march on way to ED office with Rahul were Bhupesh Baghel, Randeep Surjewala, K C Venugopal and Adhir Ranjan Chowdhury.

This is the first time that Rahul appeared before a Central probe agency for questioning in a case. Raising slogans in support of Rahul, Congress workers started a march towards the ED office. They were stopped by the police which had put up barricades all around the AICC office. Some Congress workers also mounted barricades. A large number of workers were taken in preventive custody for violating the provisions of Section 144 CrPC banning assembly of more than four persons, which was imposed in central Delhi.

Nuke numbers to grow in...

From Page 1
"Even though SIPRI's estimate of China's total inventory is the same as for January 2021, the number of stockpiled warheads potentially available for use has changed because new launchers became operational during 2021," it noted.

While India's nuclear stockpile increased from 156 in January 2021 to 160 in January 2022, Pakistan's nuclear stockpile has remained at 165 in January 2021 and January 2022, the SIPRI said. "India and Pakistan appear to be expanding their nuclear arsenals, and both countries introduced and continued to develop new types of nuclear delivery system in 2021," it claimed.

India does not share official data on its nuclear arsenal. "The availability of reliable information on the status of the nuclear arsenals and capabilities of the nuclear-armed states varies considerably...India and Pakistan make statements about some of their missile tests but provide no information about the status or size of their arsenals," the SIPRI's statement said.

NCLAT rejects...

From Page 1
Amazon.com NV Investment Holdings LLC (Amazon), a direct subsidiary of Amazon.com Inc, had in 2019 acquired 49 per cent shareholding in FCPL, which in turn held 9.82 per cent interest in FRL. Citing its indirect shareholding in FRL, Amazon had opposed the sale of its retail assets to Reliance Industries for Rs 24,713 crore. The CCI order had stated that Amazon had not disclosed its interest in FRL while seeking approval for its investment in FCPL.

Amazon has been directed to pay the penalties and file a fresh Form 2 within 45 days. In August 2019, Amazon had agreed to purchase 49 per cent in unlisted Future Coupons, which owns 7.3 per cent equity in listed Future Retail through convertible warrants, with the right to buy into the flagship Future Retail after a period of 3 to 10 years.

Lanka electricity chief quits...

From Page 1
There was no immediate reaction from the Government of India on the issue.

Meanwhile, the Adani Group issued a statement on Monday on the controversy,

saying: "Our intent in investing in Sri Lanka is to address the needs of a valued neighbour. As a responsible corporate, we see this as a necessary part of the partnership that our two nations have always shared."

Don't advertise online...

From Page 1
In its advisory, the Ministry noted that advertisements of online betting are "misleading" and they do not "appear to be" in strict conformity with the Consumer Protection Act 2019, Advertising Code under the Cable Television Networks Regulation Act, 1995, and advertisement norms under the Norms of Journalistic Conduct laid down by the Press Council of India under the Press Council Act, 1978.

The Ministry said it had issued an advisory to private satellite TV channels on December 4, 2020 asking them to adhere to the Advertising Standards Council of India (ASCI) guidelines on advertisements of online gaming, "which contained specific Do's and Don'ts for static/print and audio-visual advertisements of online gaming."

The ASCI guidelines, which came into effect from December 15, 2020, stipulated that no gaming advertisement would depict any person, under the age of 18 years or the person who appears to be under the age of 18, engaged in playing a game of "online gaming for real money winnings", or suggest that such persons can play these games.

"The advertisements should

not present 'online gaming for real money winnings' as an income opportunity or an alternative employment option," the guidelines said, adding, "The advertisement should not suggest that a person engaged in gaming activity is in any way more successful as compared to others."

The ASCI guidelines also said that every such "gaming advertisement" must carry a disclaimer which in case of print media should read as "this game involves an element of financial risk and may be addictive. Please play responsibly and at your own risk". Such a disclaimer should occupy no less than 20 per cent of the space in the advertisement, the ASCI guidelines noted.

In case of the gaming advertisements in audio-video format, ASCI guidelines said, the disclaimer should be run as "this game involves an element of financial risk and may be addictive. Please play responsibly and at your own risk". "For audio-visual mediums, the disclaimer needs to be in both audio and visual formats. Such a disclaimer must be placed in normal speaking pace at the end of the advertisement. It must be in the same language as the advertisement," the guidelines added.

By E-Mail/e-Despatch
E-Mail ID : sources@pioneerindia@gmail.com
Ph-No-06792-261343/261344
Gangraj, Baripada

**OFFICE OF THE CHIEF CONSTRUCTION ENGINEER
RURAL WORKS CIRCLE, BARIPADA**
"e" Procurement Notice for Bridge Work

Identification No.- Online Tender- Bridge N.C.B. No. 231 for 2022-23.
Letter No. 1964 / Date, 10.06.2022 //

1.	Name of the work	:- Construction of H.L Bridge over river Kantakhairai at 1.90km on PWD Road to Nuabada via Bangroposi in the District of Mayurbhanj under BSY.				
2.	Total No. of work	:- 01 No. (One)				
3.	Estimated Cost	:- Rs. 840.16 lakhs (approximately).				
4.	Eligible Class of Contractor	:- As per annexure				
5.	Period of Completion	:- As per annexure				
6.	Other details	:-				

Procurement Officer	Bid Identification No.	Availability of tender On-line for bidding	Last Date & Time of seeking Tender Clarification	Date & Time of Opening of Tender in O/O C.C.E.R.W. Circle, Baripada	Technical Bid	Financial Bid
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Chief Construction Engineer, Rural Works Circle, Baripada	Bridge On-line N.C.B. No. 231	At 11.00 A.M.	At 5.00 P.M.	At 5.00 P.M.	At 11.00 A.M.	Will be intimated later

- Further details can be seen from the website: www.tendersorissa.gov.in
- Any Corrigendum / Addendum will be displayed in the above e_tender website only.

OIPR-25181/11/0020/2223

Chief Construction Engineer, R.W. Circle, Baripada.

Cops remove Congmen protesting outside ED's office



Mild baton charge results in injuries to senior leaders Chidambaram, Chowdhury

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Delhi Police on Monday used mild force to remove the Congress workers protesting outside the Enforcement Directorate's (ED) office in the national Capital. Several senior leaders of the party, including Rajasthan Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot, Leader of Opposition Mallikarjun Kharge, Harish Rawat, Randeep Singh Surjewala, Adhir Ranjan Chowdhury, KC Venugopal, Deepender Singh Hooda and Pawan Khara were detained by the police as the former Congress president Rahul Gandhi was being questioned by the financial probe agency in connection with the National Herald case.

The leaders were kept at different police stations. Some of them were taken to Mandir Marg Police Station while some were held at Fatehpur Beri and Tughlaq Road Police Station. Videos and pictures of

Police personnel try to remove Congress workers protesting near the ED's office, against the summoning of party leader Rahul Gandhi in the National Herald case, in New Delhi on Monday

RANJAN DIMRI | PIONEER

Venugopal being dragged by Delhi Police and later sitting in a police station in a haggard state emerged on social media during the day.

AICC general secretary Priyanka Gandhi Vadra met Venugopal later at the Tughlaq Road Police Station, where Harish Rawat, former Uttarakhand Chief Minister, was also present.

Senior Congress leader, Adhir Ranjan Chowdhury alleged that he was manhandled by police personnel. Chowdhury also filed a police complaint in which he stated that he got injuries on his upper jaw.

"May I request you to treat my letter as an allegation against these police personnel and do the needful," Chowdhury wrote in his complaint addressed to the Station House Officer (SHO), Tuglaq Road Police Station. Meanwhile, senior Congress leader P Chidambaram also alleged that he was manhandled by the police personnel.

"When three big, burly policemen crash into you, you

are lucky to get away with a suspected headline crack! Doctors have said that if there is a hair-line crack, it will heal by itself in about 10 days. I am fine and I will go about my work tomorrow," Chidambaram wrote on Twitter.

The Congress workers were also detained from Akbar Road, Q Point APJ Kalam Road and Man Sing Road and taken to Mandir Marg Police Station. The police had also put up posters of the order on the barricades outside the AICC's office.

Security was also beefed up because of the proposed march by the Congress leaders despite being denied permission by the police to hold the rally.

All the routes leading to their proposed destination were heavily barricaded with adequate deployment of forces as a precautionary measure. Police had put up three layers of barricades near the ED's office.

The Congress Party workers were stopped at least one km before the ED's office but they broke through the barricades prompting Delhi Police to use

mild baton charge and detain several people, including senior Congress leaders.

According to police, the Secretary, AICC in a letter to the police had assured that the gathering would not accompany the VIP to the ED's office.

But as soon as Rahul Gandhi left from 24 Akbar Road many Congress leaders and workers started moving with him in a procession.

"15 members of Lok Sabha including Leader of Opposition Adhir Ranjan Chowdhury, 11 Members of Rajya Sabha including KC Venugopal and Leader of Opposition Mallikarjun Kharge, 5 MLAs of different State Assemblies and other functionaries/workers of the Congress Party were among the 459 detained under Section 65 DP Act for not following lawful directions of police for maintenance of law & order," said the police in a statement.

"All woman workers/functionaries detained by police have been released. Intimation regarding detention of the MPs/MLAs

Central Delhi sees massive traffic jams as Cong protests

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Congress protests over Rahul Gandhi's appearance before the Enforcement Directorate (ED) led to a massive traffic jams in several parts of Central Delhi on Monday. According to Delhi Traffic Police, the Claridges Roundabout, Akbar Road, Motilal Nehru Marg, Rajesh Pilot, APJ Abdul Kalam Road and Mulana Azad road were the most affected stretches due to the protest.

"Police teams with special traffic arrangements were on the ground to ensure that commuters do not face any inconvenience. But still traffic remains affected at certain roads where there is slow vehicular movement. We have also diverted the vehicles accordingly," he said.

Taking to Twitter, several commuters complained about the traffic snarls. Gaurav Tyagi, a Twitter user said in his tweet, "What is happening in Delhi today. Traffic at every crossing and no one to manage @dtpttraffic. Stuck at Yamuna Vihar crossing from last 30 minutes."

The Delhi Traffic Police in a tweet responded that the complaint had already been forwarded to the Traffic Inspector concerned for taking necessary action. The officer said, "Though they (Congress workers) were denied permission. We still have our plan of action ready and special traf-

fic arrangements were made. We had already issued the advisory in this regard."

The Delhi Traffic Police earlier in the day had issued an advisory about the traffic arrangements in a series of tweets to prevent any inconvenience to commuters taking certain routes.

In a tweet they said, "...Inwards movement of buses will be restricted in New Delhi beyond Gol Dak Khana Junction, Patel Chowk, Windsor Place, Teen Murti Chowk, Prithviraj Road."

The traffic police urged commuters to avoid certain routes till 12 P.M. due to the protest. "Kindly avoid Motilal Nehru Marg, Akbar Road, Janpath & Man Singh Road between 0700 hrs & 1200 hrs. Due to special arrangements traffic movement will not be possible on these roads," the tweet said.

A day before the scheduled march, the protesters were denied permission but the Congress workers on Monday gathered for the agitation were detained from Akbar Road, Q Point, APJ Kalam Road and Man Sing Road and taken to Mandir Marg police station.

"Section 144 CrPC is imposed here. It is requested to all of you that do not violate the Act 144 CrPC otherwise strict legal action will be taken," said an order from the Deputy Commissioner of Police, New Delhi district of Delhi Police.

is being sent to respective competent authority. Some detentions have also been made in other parts of Delhi. "Suitable legal action is being taken for violation of orders promulgated under Section 144 CrPC," the statement added. "Some complaints have been received at

Tughlak Road Police Station regarding injuries to Congress leaders/workers during police action but no such incident of use of force by police took place as per our knowledge and no MLC case has been reported so far," the statement by the police concluded.



Congress activists stage a protest against summoning of party leader Rahul Gandhi in the National Herald case, outside AICC office in New Delhi on Monday

RANJAN DIMRI | PIONEER

If there is no FIR how can ED summon Rahul, asks Cong

Gave ₹90 crore to bail out debt-hit newspaper: Party

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

On a day its former president was to be questioned by the Enforcement Directorate (ED), the Congress said that the AJL that was established in 1937, faced huge debts and the party, during the 2002-11 period, gave Rs 90 crore to the National Herald newspaper to pay the salaries of the journalists and staffers who worked there. "We're the protectors of the Constitution, we will not bow down or get scared. By deploying a large police force, it has been proven that the Modi Government is shaken by the Congress," party's chief spokesperson Randeep Singh Surjewala said on Monday. The Congress dubbed it undecleared emergency.

Chhattisgarh Chief Minister Baghel said: "I have been arrested...You should ask the Delhi Police why I have been arrested. This is a dictatorship. Several Congress workers have been detained because they wanted to carry out a peaceful march. I am

also being detained. This is unprecedented that Congress workers were not allowed to enter the Congress headquarters. If there is no FIR how can the ED summon him," Baghel said. The police said that he was being detained and not arrested as he refused to leave.

Leader of Opposition Mallikarjun Kharge accused the Government of misusing agencies. "They are misusing agencies and they are harassing people," he said at a press conference at AICC HQs. Surjewala said Congress leaders had done nothing wrong and alleged that "Godse's descendants fear the truth and they will not be able to suppress the truth". Rajasthan Chief Minister Gehlot also alleged that the Government was misusing central probe agencies and this was nothing but "political vendetta". Former Uttarakhand Chief Minister Harish Rawat said, "This is a fight for democracy. The Government is trying to muzzle the voices of politicians who are trying to raise their voices."

He alleged that the ED had earlier cleared the name of Rahul Gandhi and asked why he was being targeted now. "Now Satyagraha will take place at every corner and nook," he said.

Govt names 5 city markets for facelift

Lajpat Nagar, Kamla Nagar, Sarojini Nagar, Khari Baoli and Kirti Nagar to get world-class facilities

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

In a big move to boost the local economy at a time when the country is crawling back from the coronavirus pandemic-induced slowdown, the Delhi Government on Monday announced the redevelopment of five prominent markets in the national Capital - Lajpat Nagar, Kamla Nagar, Sarojini Nagar, Khari Baoli and Kirti Nagar. All these markets are located at strategic locations in Delhi and draw lakhs of visitors on a daily basis.

In a virtual address on Monday, Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal announced that the Delhi Government has finalised the names of five markets to be redeveloped in the first phase and the Government will

make them world-class.

This is in accordance with the announcement in the 'Rozgar Budget' to create more job avenues. "We have finalised the names of five markets to be redeveloped in the first phase. We have also listed out their USPs," the Chief Minister said.

The move will not only amp up struggling businesses, but also generate lakhs of jobs in the country as it battles a high unemployment rate.

The Kamla Nagar market is popular as a youth hangout zone, while Khari Baoli is famous for top quality spices and traditional products from the Mughal era.

The Lajpat Nagar market is known as a high-end street fashion hub and a one-stop destination for wedding planners. The Sarojini Nagar market is famous for its street fashion collections, while the Kirti Nagar market is a popular destination for furniture and house decor.

Kejriwal said the five markets will be redeveloped with

world-class designs. The Delhi Government will now hold a design competition and invite ideas from architects as well as the public. The schedule for the competition is likely to be announced in a couple of weeks, with the competition expected within the next six weeks.

"The next step would be a design competition in which the country's best designers and architects will participate. We will announce this design competition in the next six weeks.

These markets will be redeveloped on the basis of best designs from the competition," Kejriwal said. Other major markets in the Capital will be taken up for redevelopment in the next phase.

The traders' associations of five markets in Delhi, which have been chosen for redevelopment, welcomed the announcement by the AAP Government, saying it was a long-pending demand and will help in improving their businesses. Traders expressed the hope that the beautification

of the markets will start soon so that customers, as well as businessmen, can reap the benefit of it. A representative of the Sarojini Nagar market said the market is in dire need of a revamp as it has seen no repair works for many years.

"We are thankful to the Delhi Government. Our market was in dire need of repair work. The tiles are broken and electrical fittings are in a disarray. Most importantly, toilet facilities are lacking," said Ashok Randhawa, the president of the Sarojini Nagar Mini Market Traders' Association.

The Kamla Nagar Market Association hoped that revamping work will begin soon. "This is the first time any Government has thought about the wishes of the traders.

The Kamla Nagar market is an old bazaar and has remained unchanged since 1950. We hope that the work to rejuvenate the market will begin and it will look like foreign markets," the association said.

LG asks officers to remain vigilant over Covid spread

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Expressing concern over increasing coronavirus cases in the national Capital, the Lieutenant-Governor Vinai Kumar Saxena, on Monday directed officials to remain vigilant and not let guard down to prevent the spread of the disease.

He also emphasized upon need for enforcement and also appealed to people of city to voluntarily adhere to Covid appropriate behaviour. The meeting was chaired by LG a meeting to review COVID situation in national capital along with Deputy Chief Minister Manish Sisodia. During meeting, LG who is also Chairperson of Delhi Disaster Management Authority (DDMA) also discussed about persistent cases of Dengue and other vector borne diseases which are being reported despite season not being favorable to its spread. As per

statement released by LG office, underlining need of enhanced testing coupled with focus on strategy of test, track, treat and vaccinate to successfully fight pandemic, the LG also instructed officials to ensure genome sequencing of cases being reported so as to proactively address prevalence of any new variant.

614 fresh Covid cases reported

NEW DELHI: The national Capital on Monday reported 614 fresh Coronavirus cases with no death, while the positivity rate climbed up to 7.06 per cent, according to the reports released by city health department. With the new cases, Delhi's COVID-19 tally has increased to 19,13,412 while the death toll stood at 26,221. SR

Govt sets up oxygen plant at Pant Hosp with help of UNDP

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Delhi Government in partnership with the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) India, has set up an oxygen generation plant at GB Pant Hospital (Gobind Ballabh Pant Institute of Post Graduate Medical Education and Research), to augment the facility's oxygen supply capabilities.

The hospital is a leading super-specialty tertiary care center and manages referrals from across the country. Ms. Kanni Wingraja, United Nations (UN) Assistant Secretary-General and Director, Regional Bureau for Asia and the Pacific, United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), launched the oxygen plant in the pres-



ence of Ms. Shoko Noda, Resident Representative, UNDP India, Dr. Anil Agarwal, Medical Director GB Pant Hospital, and other senior officials from the hospital and the government.

The oxygen plant utilises pressure swing adsorption (PSA) technology to produce up to 1,050 liters of oxygen per minute. It will serve approximately 750 hospital beds, including those supported by ventilators and the intensive care unit.

Rare dinosaur 'egg-in-egg' found by DU researchers in MP

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

A team of researchers from Delhi University (DU) has discovered an abnormal titanosaurid dinosaur egg from Madhya Pradesh (MP), which is probably the first time in fossil history.

According to the researchers, the discovery is a "rare and important find" as no 'ovum-in-ovo' egg was found in reptiles until now. The findings have been published in the latest issue of the journal Scientific Reports.

The abnormal egg was discovered from Bagh area in MP's Dhar district, and could provide important insights into whether dinosaurs had a reproductive biology similar to that of turtles and lizards, or crocodiles and birds, their immediate cousins, said researchers.

The Upper Cretaceous Lameta Formation of Central India has been long known for discovery of dinosaur fossils (both skeletal and egg remains). The authors documented a large number of titanosaurid



sauropod nests near Padlya village close to Bagh town. While studying these nests, the researchers came across one 'abnormal egg'.

The research team found a sauropod dinosaur nest consisting of 10 eggs including the abnormal egg which had two continuous and circular eggshell layers separated by a wide gap reminiscent of ovum-in-ovo (one egg inside another egg) pathology of birds, read the statement issued by researchers.

The microstructure of the pathological egg as well as that of an adjacent egg in the same nest identified it with that of

titanosaurid sauropod dinosaurs. Until this find, no egg-in-egg abnormal fossil egg was found in dinosaurs and for that matter in other reptiles like turtles, lizards, and crocodiles, it said.

In the past, it was suggested that dinosaurs had a reproductive function similar to that of turtles and other reptiles, in contrast to the segmented reproductive tract of crocodiles and birds with separate regions of membrane and shell deposition, the statement said.

Although crocodiles have separate regions of shell membrane and mineralised shell

deposition, they ovulate and release all the eggs simultaneously like turtles and other reptiles, as opposed to sequential ovulation of birds, which lay one egg at a time, it added.

"The finding of ovum-in-ovo egg from a titanosaurid nest opens up the possibility that sauropod dinosaurs had an oviduct morphology similar to those of crocodiles or birds and they may have adapted to a mode of egg-laying characteristic of birds," said DU researcher Dr Harsha Dhimani, lead author of the paper.

Professor Guntupalli VR Prasad, who is the corresponding author of the published article, concurred with his colleague.

"The new pathological egg is a rare and important find as no ovum-in-ovo egg was found in reptiles until now and as it brings out significant information on whether dinosaurs had a reproductive biology similar to that of turtles and lizards or their immediate cousins crocodiles and birds," he added.

Govt ties up with Denmark for power, groundwater recharge from stubble

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

The Delhi Government in collaboration with Denmark will explore the methods of power generation and groundwater recharge from stubble in Delhi, said Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal after meeting with the Ambassador of Denmark. A presentation regarding the matter was also given by the experts led by the Ambassador of Denmark to CM.

The delegation also apprised the CM of modern technologies for recharging groundwater through rainwater and generating power from paddy stubble that can be put to use in Delhi.

Addressing the media, Kejriwal said that Delhi government is working on a war-footing to provide 24x7 water supply to every household of Delhi. We are keen to implement new solutions to aug-

ment our water supply capacity. "The state government will soon implement state-of-the-art solutions to enhance the groundwater level and extraction infrastructure.

The national capital depends on neighbouring states for raw water. We want to make the city self-sustainable by radically increasing the water table by recharging groundwater," CM said.

"A delegation of experts led by the Ambassador of Denmark to India Freddy Swain met with CM Arvind Kejriwal at the Delhi Secretariat.

The delegation had come to present Denmark's solutions on groundwater recharge and power generation from stubble to the CM and held an extensive discussion with him on ways in which they can be adapted in Delhi," he said.

"It was decided that Delhi and Denmark will further explore avenues of collabora-



Delhi CM Arvind Kejriwal with Ambassador of Denmark to India Freddy Swain during a meeting, in New Delhi on Monday

PTI Photo

tion in the sectors of groundwater recharge and power generation from stubble.

This presentation came in the backdrop of a recently held meeting between CM and Danish Ambassador where the CM had sought a presentation from Danish experts on their successful sustainability solutions in the

fields of water, pollution and power," Kejriwal said. Kejriwal thoroughly studied and analysed how groundwater recharge, groundwater extraction and sewage management takes place in Denmark. During the meeting Deputy CM Manish Sisodia and DDC vice chairperson Jasmine Shah were also present.

Nupur effect: Violence continues in Nadia

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ KOLKATA

Though life limped back to normalcy in parts of Howrah and Murshidabad where the Internet services were still suspended in many places the Prophet row continued to burn some other parts of Bengal including Nadia district where the protesters on Monday resorted to bombing and vandalizing shops even as the police had a hard time to contain the unruly mobs.

Large contingent of police forces led by Nadia SP Rashid Munir Khan did the rounds of the National Highway 34 linking Kolkata to Siliguri and the North East where the protesters assembled intermittently often hurling bombs and damaging passing vehicles, sources said.

Though the situation was normal during the noon,



crowds assembled towards the evening and started hurling bombs and damaging the shops along the NH 34 forcing the police to fire tear gas shells, locals said. About 15 people had been arrested.

Bethuadahari, more famous for housing a national park came in the news on Monday when violent mobs attacked local trains injuring

passengers.

Section 144 was clamped in large parts of the area. Most shops had been closed in the area following a 72-hour shutdown call given by the local business community. Meanwhile, ADG Law and Order Javed Shamim said more than 200 people have been arrested and 42 FIRs filed in the violence.

AMU students slam house demolition in Prayagraj

PNS ■ ALIGARH

Students took out a protest smarch in Aligarh Muslim University on Sunday late evening in protest against the demolition of Afreen Fatima's residence in Prayagraj. During this, the students also raised slogans and demanded the arrest of Nupur Sharma. Afreen Fatima of Prayagraj won the president's post in the year 2018 in the student union elections held in the Women's College of Aligarh Muslim University. Afreen graduated from AMU. Afreen Fatima went to JNU after that. Afreen's father Javed Mohammad alias Pump is the mastermind of the violence spread in Prayagraj. Javed's residence in Prayagraj has also been demolished by the government on charges of nuisance.

The protest march consisted of hundreds of students and these students raised slogans of Islam Zindabad and Modi, Yogi, Shah Murdabad. Student leader



Zaid said that the former student has completed her graduation here and she was the President of Women's College. Afreen Fatima's house has been demolished. Today in India there is no court, no judge, no lawyer, everything is done by the government. We have come to protest that today the government has done a lot wrong and we want the government to return whatever money it will cost for the house which has been ruined.

The student leader said that the question is why Nupur Sharma is not being arrested? Because of this, the atmosphere of the whole of India is getting

spoiled. Nupur Sharma is responsible for the murder of two innocent girls yesterday. She further asked to arrest her and punish her. Only after that there are chances of controlling the atmosphere in India. I don't think the atmosphere will be under control. The biggest accused is Nupur Sharma and the government who is supporting her and it is visible to everyone. We appeal to the President to get her arrested as soon as possible. Our only appeal here is that if the atmosphere of India is to be normalized, then we are appealing to the President that Nupur Sharma should be arrested at the earliest.

At the same time, AMU Proctor Waseem Ahmed told that the students have taken out a protest march. They have taken out a protest march from Duck Point to Bab e Syed. However, no memorandum has been given. The students just came till Baba Syed Gate and left from there.

Calcutta HC orders CBI probe into TET scam, dismisses 269

SAUGAR SENGUPTA ■ KOLKATA

Hearing a writ petition regarding large scale corruption in the appointment of primary teachers the Calcutta High Court on Monday not only sacked 269 teachers "illegally" appointed by-passing the merit list but also directed the Central Bureau of Investigation to probe the alleged irregularities in the primary Teachers Eligibility Test.

The Court of Justice Abhijit Gangopadhyay also directed the central agency to question the Chairman and Secretary of the PTET board, Manik Bhattacharya and Dr P Chakrabarty Bagchi. The two senior officials had appeared before the CBI officials and were being questioned when reports last came in.

The Court also directed the respective boards and schools to immediately stop

disbursement of salaries of the sacked teachers and asked them not to enter the school premises. It was the eighth CBI investigation ordered by the High Court in the past more than a month into the various transactions of the State government. The same Court had earlier ordered CBI investigations into the appointments of para-teachers in Secondary, Higher Secondary (Plus-2) level directing the central agency to summon and question the then Education Minister Partho Chatterjee and his Deputy Paresh Adhikari.

Latter's daughter Ankita Adhikari who was appointed as a teacher in a higher secondary school bypassing eligible candidates was also dismissed from service. Last months the Court had also ordered CBI probe into the appointment of Group D and C level staff.

More cases registered for hurting religious sentiments, one held

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

The hate campaign is showing no signs of receding as two persons, including a woman, have been booked for allegedly passing derogatory remarks against Prophet Mohammed in Bareilly.

Another person, belonging to the minority community, was also booked for his alleged remarks against a Bharatiya Janata Party leader on social media.

As a precautionary measure, extra police personnel has been deployed near every place of worship and local leaders have been advised to spread a message of peace to maintain communal harmony.

One of the accused booked by police at Prem Nagar police

station is Kuldeep Kumar, who is a history sheeter and has been arrested on several occasions by the police. He shared an objectionable post on social media.

The second FIR was registered for sharing a similar social media post against Prophet Mohammed under Section 295A (deliberate or malicious act intended to outrage religious feelings of any class) while the third FIR was registered against Rehan Khan, who shared an inflammatory content against suspended BJP leader Nupur Sharma.

Bareilly's Senior Superintendent of Police Rohit Singh Sajwan said, "We have booked three persons and will take action against everyone who is sharing this objection-

able content, regardless of religion or caste."

In Ballia, a youth was arrested in the Rasra area for allegedly posting objectionable content against Prophet Mohammed on a social media site, a police official said on Monday. Krishna Kumar, who posted the objectionable Facebook post on Sunday, was arrested, Circle Officer (Rasra) Shiv Narain Vaish said.

The case has been registered against him on the complaint of Sheikh Huzaifa, a member of Jamiat Ulama-i-Hind, who in a tweet on Sunday urged the police to take action against the accused. Taking cognisance of the complaint, the police on Monday arrested Krishna Kumar, the circle officer added.

Lawyers' group moves HC against razing of violence accused's house

PTI ■ PRAYAGRAJ

A group of lawyers has approached the Allahabad High Court against the demolition of the house of Javed Ahmad, the alleged mastermind of the violence that took place following Friday prayers on June 10 here.

Violence had taken place in parts of the state following a row over now-suspended BJP spokesperson Nupur Sharma's remarks against Prophet Mohammed.

The Prayagraj Development Authority (PDA) had demolished Ahmad's house on Sunday, with an official of the agency saying the building plan of the structure had not been approved by the PDA. The move came a day after the authorities bulldozed

two houses of violence accused in Saharanpur.

Five advocates belonging to the Zila Adhivakta Manch claimed in their petition to the Allahabad High Court chief justice that the house demolished on Sunday was owned by Javed's wife Parveen Fatima.

The house was given to Fatima by her parents before her marriage, so Ahmad had no ownership over it and on the plot, hence the demolition was against the law, claimed the plea which was e-mailed to the chief justice.

The petition said to justify the demolition, the PDA pasted a notice on the house on June 11, mentioning about a show-cause notice of a previous date. Neither Ahmad nor his wife had got the show-cause notice, it claimed.

Govt creating atmosphere of fear, terror: Mayawati

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

Bahujan Samaj Party chief Mayawati, on Monday, attacked the Yogi Adityanath government over the demolition of the house of an accused in the Prayagraj violence case.

The BSP chief said that an atmosphere of "fear and terror" had been created by the government through unlawful action and the courts should take cognisance of it.

The former chief minister of Uttar Pradesh also demanded the arrest of suspended functionaries of Bharatiya Janata Party, Nupur Sharma and Naveen Kumar Jindal, whose remarks against Prophet Mohammed sparked protests.

In a series of tweets in Hindi, Mayawati said, 'By tar-



Development Authority (PDA) demolished the house of the alleged mastermind of the June 10 violence there amid heavy police deployment. The building map of the house of the accused, Javed Ahmad, had not been approved by the PDA, according to an official of the agency.

getting a particular community, doing demolition using bulldozer, other malicious aggressive actions, crushing the protest, an atmosphere of fear and terror has been created. This is unfair and unjust. The court must take cognisance of the faulty action of targeting the entire family by demolishing the houses," she said.

Her remarks came a day after the Prayagraj

Mayawati further said, "The root cause of the problem are Nupur Sharma and Naveen Kumar Jindal, due to which the honour of the country has been affected and violence broke out. Why has no action been initiated against them, and why has the government ridiculed the rule of law? Not sending both the accused to jail yet is grossly biased and unfortunate. Immediate arrest is required."

Slogans raised against Pinarayi Vijayan in aircraft by Congress workers

KUMAR CHELLAPPAN ■ KOCHI

The protest marches being held across Kerala by workers of the Indian National Congress took a turn for the worse on Monday as the Kannur-Thiruvananthapuram IndiGo flight saw Congress activists raising slogans against Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan who was travelling in the aircraft. This is the first of its kind protest seen in Kerala's political history as a reigning chief minister had to face protest while on a flight.

The IndiGo flight from Kannur to Thiruvananthapuram was thoroughly checked by the police as the chief minister was scheduled to travel in the aircraft. Each of the passengers were individually questioned by the cops before allowing them inside the aircraft. The two Congress leaders, one of them wearing black shirt, reportedly told the police that they were on their way to the capital city to call on an associate who was admitted to a leading hospi-

tal in a critical stage. Both have been taken into custody by police at the capital city.

Once the plane was airborne, the two Congress leaders stood up and shouted slogans demanding the resignation of the aircraft. Video images released by vernacular news channels showed E P Jayarajan, the CPI-M strongman who is also the convenor of the LDF, rushing to the Congress activists and pinning them down. "They were intoxicated and inebriated and were shouting non sense causing inconvenience to the travellers," Jayarajan told reporters after the aircraft landed at Thiruvananthapuram.

But police in Kannur airport told media persons that both the Congress activists were known to them personally and they were allowed to board the aircraft only after the cops made sure that they were bonafide passengers. "How come Jayarajan who rushed to the Congress workers and pushed them down knew that they were intoxicated? Even the police in the airport had given them clear-

ance to travel by the flight," said V D Satheshan, leader of the Opposition.

The demand for the resignation of Vijayan as Chief Minister is the fall out of the disclosures made by Swapna Suresh, the prime accused in the infamous Gold Smuggling scam that Vijayan had "smuggled out" a suitcase stuffed with currency notes during his official trip to West Asia in 2016 with the active help rendered by the UAE Consul General. Swapna was the liaison officer of the Consulate General Office at that time and she claimed it was she who played the role of facilitator in transporting the suitcase through diplomatic channel.

Since the disclosures made by Swapna last week, the Opposition Congress and the BJP were on a warpath against the CPI-M led Government demanding Vijayan's resignation though the latter had categorically denied the allegations.

Since Saturday, the Congress and the BJP were demonstrating across the State demanding the resigna-

tion of Vijayan. On Saturday and Sunday, a heavy posse of police men had succeeded in keeping the protestors away from the venues where the chief minister made his appearance to attend public functions. People in Kottayam, Kochi and Thavanur (in Malappuram district) where the chief minister attended public meetings were put to a lot of hardship by the police who insisted that those wearing black shirts and even black masks change the costume.

Though Anil Kant, the State Police Chief had denied reports that persons wearing black dress or face masks were asked to remove the same, Jayarajan had asked media persons why the people were insisting that they would wear only black costumes. The capital city resembled a war zone as Congress and BJP workers fought pitched battle against the heavy security blanket by the police who used water canons and tear gas shells to keep the demonstrators away from the vicinity of chief minister's motorcade.

Bengal passes Bill replacing Guv with CM as Chancellor

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ KOLKATA

The Raj Bhavan-Nabanna (Secretariat) conflict hit a new low as for the first time post Independence the Bengal Assembly on Monday passed a Bill replacing the State Governor by Chief Minister as the Chancellor of the Universities.

The Assembly passed the Bengal University Laws (Amendment) Bill, 2022 with 182 members supporting it and 40 members voting against it. The State Cabinet had approved the decision early this month. While there was no reaction from Governor Jagdeep Dhankhar whose office perennially had been at loggerheads with the State Secretariat --- on issues of violence, corruption etc --- he had earlier said that he would take appropriate steps when the Bill would be sent to him for consideration. State Opposition Leader Suwendu Adhikari who along with five BJP leaders had earlier been suspended for one year from entering Assembly and was sitting outside the House in protest for a large part of the day said "as Education

comes in Concurrent List ... I will request the Governor to send the Bill to the President of India for his consideration."

Experts said the Governor could either reject the Bill or re-send it to the Assembly for or send it to the President for consideration. "If there is a conflict between the State and the Centre the Centre's stand will prevail," experts said adding "Governor himself being a lawyer of repute will take appropriate decision."

Earlier a badge of Bengal civil society members including, poets, painters, cine artists, educationists etc had wrote a letter to the Government requesting appointment of a member from the intelligentsia as the Chancellor.

Following frequent clashes between the Governor and the Chief Minister over crucial policy matters, the Government had earlier decided not only to replace Governor as the Chancellor but also the Visitor of the private universities. The Cabinet has also decided to replace the Governor who is also the Visitor of the private universities with the Education Minister.

Cong workers detained while trying to take out march to ED office

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

Hundreds of Congress leaders and workers, trying to march to the Enforcement Directorate to stage a 'satyagrah' against alleged harassment of party president Sonia Gandhi and Rahul Gandhi, were taken into custody and later released in the evening. Interestingly, to avert any law and order problem arising out of the demonstration, the local administrations across the state had put senior leaders, including Congress Legislative Party leader Aradhana Mishra 'Mona', under house arrest since Sunday night. They prevented the movement of the Congress leaders throughout the day on Monday.

Prominent amongst those taken into custody while trying to take out 'satyagrah march' included former UP Congress president Ajay Kumar Lallu, former MLAs Shyam Kishore Shukla, Akhilesh Pratap Singh, and senior leaders Virendra Madan, Amarnath Agarwal, Siddharth Priya Srivastava, Ved Prakash Tripathi, Mukesh Singh Chauhan and others.



Lallu later tweeted a video and wrote, "Delhi Police's dictatorship is at its peak in the course of Rahul Gandhi's visit to the ED office. The attempt to suppress the opposition on the basis of power is the desperation of the Modi government. Whatever the outcome, we will not back down from the struggle."

Meanwhile in Delhi, the ED questioned Rahul Gandhi in connection with the investigation of a money laundering case related to the National Herald newspaper. He reached the agency's headquarters in Delhi along with party leaders and supporters. After an interrogation of about two-and-half hours, Rahul was allowed to leave the ED headquarters for lunch at around 2:10 pm, officials said.

World day against child labour has no meaning for kids and labour department of Aligarh

PNS ■ ALIGARH

World Day Against Child Labour is observed every year on June 12 as a day dedicated to creating awareness about the menace of child labour and human trafficking. The theme of world day against child labour, 2022 was "Universal Social Protection to End Child Labour." But in Aligarh 15000 children including 5000 working on Dhabas, 3000 street children and others are engaged in lock and hardware industry out of which 80% are muslim children who are

deprived from education as well. Despite of the fact that world day against child labour was celebrated all over the world, the children of Aligarh working in lock and hardware industry have no hope for the betterment of their life. These children lost their childhood due to poverty and the circumstances as they were forced to do child labour by their own parents.

Despite the right to education being a fundamental right under Indian Constitution. Yet we know of many underprivileged children forced into child labour

by their own parents due to certain circumstances, stripped of their childhood and their right to education.

Aligarh is the town historically famous for the Aligarh Muslim University and is world famous for its education. But at the same time, the surrounding areas like purani chungti gate, shamshad market, dodhpur, zakariya market etc are all sprawled with a number of tea stalls, or dhabas where a lot of children works. These tea stalls and dhabas operate from 8:00 am to 11:00 pm. The owners of these tea stalls and

dhabas pay only Rs100 to Rs120 per day to the children and make them work for more than 12 hours a day. Not only this, Aligarh is a hub of education, which has 3 main universities including AMU, Mangalaytan University and Raja Mahendra Pratap Singh university. Apart from this there are many graduate and post graduate colleges present here. Despite of this fact many children in Aligarh are deprived of education and are engaged in child labour. Majority of them are willing to go to school if an opportunity is given.




A yellow-footed green pigeon feeds her squabs, in New Delhi on Monday

PTI

FIRST COLUMN

ANTI-DEFECTION LAW MUST BE MADE MORE EFFECTIVE

What is needed is the political will; all parties should look at the law afresh



KALYANI SHANKAR

Elections and defections go together despite a stringent anti-defection law in the country. The law proves ineffective as legislators are lured by money and position. Lawmakers skirt around the rules, find loopholes to their advantage, and defy them. In last week's Rajya Sabha polls, Rajasthan's BJP legislator Shobharani Khushwaha, Congress's Haryana MLA Kuldeep Bishnoi, and JD (S) lawmaker from Karnataka Srinivas Gowda are classic examples. Cross-voting occurs even in presidential and vice-presidential elections. Vice-President M. Venkaiah Naidu recently commented that the anti-defection law must be amended to rectify the loopholes. Naidu, also the Chairman of the Rajya Sabha, said there was no clarity about the time-frame for the Speaker or Chairman of the Rajya Sabha to decide on anti-defection cases. "There are certain loopholes in the anti-defection law. It allows wholesale defection. But retail defection is not allowed. Amendments are required to plug the loopholes," Naidu said. Instead of formally "crossing the floor" or voting against their party in a confidence motion, they resign from the party. Some of them come back in the bye-elections. In the past, there have been some bizarre cases. Gayalal, an independent MLA in Haryana, first joined the Congress Party in 1967; by evening, he shifted to the United Front, and within nine hours, he rejoined the Congress. What was more, he returned to the United Front within a fortnight. This case is known as 'Ayaram, Gayaram' in political circles. The 2003 amended law prescribed the penalty for shifting political loyalties: the loss of membership and a bar on becoming a minister. The law has been contested in courts multiple times. Under the anti-defection law, unlimited powers are given to every political party to put down dissent or an alternative view. However, recent developments in many states show that it does not check defections. To keep the flock together, parties often play resort politics by shepherding them to some resort, sometimes outside the state. Defectors have shown this trend many times-Rajasthan (2020), Maharashtra (2019), Karnataka (2019 and 2018), and Tamil Nadu (2017).

In March 2020, Jyotiraditya Scindia and 22 Congress MLAs resigned, resulting in a Government change in Madhya Pradesh. In Rajasthan, six BSP MLAs merged their party with the Congress, and in Sikkim, 10 of the 15 MLAs of the Sikkim Democratic Front have joined the BJP in 2019. The list goes on. Initially, the decision of the Presiding Officer was not subject to judicial review. The Supreme Court struck down this condition in 1992. The apex court intervened again in July 2019 when ten Congress MLAs and two Maharashtrawadi Gomantak Party MLAs defected to the BJP and were rewarded with ministries. The court prescribed a maximum of three months for deciding on anti-defection cases in 2020. Parliament needs to look at the law afresh because of the continuing trend of horse-trading. The Supreme Court observed recently, "It is time that Parliament has a rethink on whether disqualification petitions ought to be entrusted to a Speaker as a quasi-judicial authority when such Speaker continues to belong to a particular political party either de jure or de facto. Parliament may consider amending the Constitution to substitute the Speaker of the Lok Sabha and Legislative Assemblies as an arbiter of disputes concerning disqualification under the Tenth Schedule." The Presidential polls were announced last week, and there are apprehensions about cross-voting. The best way is to tweak the law. Defectors should be barred from holding public office for a reasonable period, and the vote cast by a defector should be considered invalid. The electorate should also have a right to recall the representative. Resort politics should also be banned.

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

Ipta: A revolution that redefined art, culture

SOMEN SENGUPTA

It began as the cultural front of the Communist Party of India's cultural front but excelled in its own right

Having committed a plethora of gargantuan blunders from the late 1930s, the Communist Party of India in 1942-43 took itself to a near non-acceptable position in India's politics. By opposing the Quit India Movement, supporting the Muslim League's Pakistan demand, castigating Netaji Bose, slamming other Congress leaders, and supporting Britain's war effort after Russia was attacked by Nazi Germany, it was fast losing its mass base, especially among the educated urban middle class.

Puran Chand Joshi, the general secretary of the CPI who was busy in making a nexus with Muslim League, slowly understood that enough is not done to make a strong base of the party among farmers, daily wage-earners, and factory workers. He felt that for mass awakening and implanting the idea of communism, the shortest route is cultural entertainment through which a message of nation building can also be sent across.

It was at this time that Joshi played a masterstroke that no one ever thought of in Indian politics. Understanding the scope of capturing people's interest in cultural entertainment, he formed a cultural front of the CPI on May 25, 1943. A bunch of extraordinarily talented creative minds, young in age and over energetic in spirit, assembled at the Marwari Vidyalaya Hall of Bombay and formed the Indian People's Theatre Association (Ipta). It included poets, singers, musicians, theatre workers, cinema directors, music composers, shadow artists, and painters from across India but largely from Bengal, Bombay, Assam, UP, Punjab and Andhra Pradesh. It was a cultural-political unit of CPI.

It was the first of its kind in India. The name of the organisation was given by Homi Jahangir Bhaba the noted scientist. Jawaharlal Nehru congratulated the initiative by sending a message.

The idea of Ipta was not an overnight thought that crossed Joshi's mind; it had a long history dating back to June 1935.

On June 21, 1935, an Anti-Fascist International Conference of cultural activists was held in Paris in which the Indian writer Mukul Raj Anand, who was later associated with Ipta, took part. Its replica conference was held on April 19, 1936, in Lucknow under the chairmanship of Munshi Premchand. The conference saw the birth of All India Progressive Writers' Association and it was fully backed by the CPI.

In 1937, another cultural front named the League Against Fascism & War was formed in Calcutta and in 1941, as soon as the Soviet Union was attacked by Germany in the Second World War, another intellectual front of intellectuals named Friends of Soviet Union also came up.

Though many non-communist cultural workers joined these organisations, they were all largely motivated and mobilised

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(The views expressed are personal.)



by the members of CPI and the socialist party.

Many other such groups were formed in Bombay and even one by the name Ipta came up in Bangalore in 1942.

In May 1943, during the first congress of the CPI, Joshi worked for an amalgamation of all these cultural fronts and asked the workers to take the cultural heritage of India among the masses. Ipta workers were asked to shape up their creative expression in simple language and tell the reality of common people's life, exposing pain and pangs.

Ipta's purpose was a cultural resurgence of mass struggle against social inequality and oppression. It was born as the voice of the downtrodden but with the purpose of promoting the CPI's political agenda. It had its first head office in Bombay which was later shifted to Calcutta in 1946. The motto of the organization was 'People Theatre Stars the People.' N.M. Joshi was its first president. Chitta Prasad, the famous artist, designed the logo of Ipta that features a man beating the drum, symbolising the oldest form of communication in India.

The time was ripe for Ipta to come to the street as Bengal was devastated in a manmade famine and the city of Calcutta became a city of moving skeletons. Then came the Japanese bombing and cyclone. These all inspired a group of young talented artists to express their creativity with a strong social message. 'Bhukha hai Bangal' was one of the earliest street plays produced by the Punjab squad of Ipta. It created a massive sensation in the Hindi belt of north India.

Ipta soon attracted a galaxy of young talents. There were writers like Ismat Chughtai, Krishan Chander, Mulk Raj Anand, Prem Dhawan, Bhisam Sahni, and

Manik Bandopadhyay. Theatre personalities: Shambhu Mitra, Habib Tanvir, Prithviraj Kapoor, Utpal Dutt, Tapas Sen. Musicians: Pt Ravi Shankar, Salil Chowdhury, Sachin Dev Burman, Timirbaran. Poets: Shailendra, Kaifi Azmi, Sahir Ludhianvi, Majrooh Sultanpuri. Singers: Hemant Kumar, Bhupen Hazarika, Hemanga Biswas.

Then there were film directors: Ritwik Ghatak, K.A. Abbas, Chetan Anand, Basu Chatterjee, Rishikesh Mukherjee. Dancers: Uday Shankar, Zohra Sehgal, Kameshwar. Actors: Balraj Sahni, Deena Pathak, Harindranath Chatterjee, A.K. Hangal, Karuna Bandhopadhyay. In a nutshell, some of the finest talents in the field of art and culture enthusiastically joined Ipta, though it was backed by a political ideology.

Though Raj Kapoor, V. Shantaram, Saddat Hasan Manto, and Dev Anand were never official members of Ipta, all of them were very closely associated with it at many levels.

These superbly gifted men and women, apart from making their career in their respective field, had the dream of a classless, socialistic society for a new India which was awaiting its freedom.

One of the earliest works of Ipta was the music composition of Iqbal's famous poem 'Sare jahan se Achha' by Pt Ravi Shankar. Ipta popularized this song by singing it at all its functions, street plays and conferences, making it almost a national anthem.

From the beginning, Ipta took out its live performance on streets by mingling with common people, walking on pavements, travelling in local trains, and assembling at marketplaces. Ipta used the marketplace, factory gate, slums, railway platform, etc., its stage for performance, gathering a huge crowd. By doing things unconventional-

ally and in a most creative way, Ipta made waves across India. In Bombay and Calcutta's industrial zones, Ipta became hugely popular with its street plays, theatre and pro-people songs. In their presentation, they tactfully inserted political messages and a huge number of people were influenced. By the end of 1944, the CPI, which was a marginalised party not long ago, again gained ground.

It performed in almost all public functions, especially in Bombay's Marine Drive on the occasion of the Marathi Stage Centenary Festival. Such was the success that The Times of India wrote on May 10, 1944, "There was nothing pointless or unnecessary in the performance at the People's Theatre. With the limited facilities at their disposal the organisers achieved much."

The heading of the news item was crowned with 'Real Thing'. The message of every single presentation of Ipta—whether it was street play, shadow dance, poetry, cinema, choir, or painting—was about communal harmony, socialism, concord, cosmopolitan culture, and social awareness.

'People's Theatre Show: Unity Main Theme,' a report published in The Times of India on October 25, 1947, said, "The message of Hindu Muslim unity was the central theme of a programme on variety entertainment staged on Friday by the Indian People's Theatre Association."

Meanwhile Ipta entered the world of cinema as well. By 1946, Ipta members had done two films. Neecha nagar, released on September 29, 1946, was directed by Chetan Anand. The other was Dharti ke laal; released on August 30, 1946, it was directed by K.A. Abbas.

(The second part of the article will be carried tomorrow)

POINT COUNTERPOINT

WE ARE NOT COMPROMISING ON ANY ISSUE INVOLVING THE HONOUR OF PROPHET MUHAMMAD. — BANGLADESH INFORMATION MINISTER HASAN MAHMUD



INDIA ACCORDS THE HIGHEST RESPECT TO ALL RELIGIONS. THE REMARKS DO NOT REFLECT THE VIEWS OF THE GOVERNMENT. — MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS SPOKESPERSON ARINDAM BAGCHI

Let us donate blood because we can

Today is World Blood Donor Day

It is unfortunate that in our country over 12,000 persons die daily in accidents or during delivery because blood could not be transfused immediately despite easy availability at the regional or national level.

Blood and blood products are essential resources for women suffering from bleeding in pregnancy and childbirth, children rendered severely anaemic due to malaria and malnutrition, persons with disorders of blood or bone marrow, haemoglobin and immune system. Victims of emergencies, trauma, and accidents and those undergoing surgical procedures may direly need it. The need for blood is universal, but access to blood for all those who need it is not.



HARISH BARTHWAL

(The writer is a blogger and senior journalist. The view expressed are personal.)

About 800 women die from pregnancy or childbirth-related complications every day all over the world. Most of these deaths occur in developing countries. The risk of maternal mortality is highest for adolescent girls under 15 years of age. Blood shortages are particularly acute in low- and middle-income countries. The issue of safety of blood is very important.

Every year just 1 per cent of eligible persons donate blood in India. The World Blood Donor Day on 14 June each year seeks to enhance awareness of the need for safe blood and blood products for transfusion, educate the lay people on the vital role of voluntary, unpaid blood donors in strengthening national health systems, and support country's



blood transfusion services, blood collection bodies and similar organisations by expanding blood donation programmes and campaigns.

This year's slogan of the World Blood Donor Day is, 'Donating blood is an act of solidarity. Join the effort and save lives' giving' draws attention to the seminal role voluntary blood donations play in saving lives and enhancing solidarity within communities.

Blood cannot be manufactured in vitro, so it has only to be retrieved from a donor. A major difficulty with blood is our inability to segregate the components of blood since the patient may require only one of its components. Then, there are several taboos; blood or organ donation is just not acceptable to certain mindsets.

Blood donors are mostly student groups; others in the society also need to come to the fore. Worldwide, developing countries suffer from blood shortages. India has a shortage of 41 million units.

To build a sound structure for collection, storage and supply of safe blood to the needy, the National Organ & Tissue Transplant Organisation website (www.notto.nic.in) provides updated information and

online facility for registering pledges for organ donation.

There are certain visceral fears and myths: blood donation can impinge upon health or cause blood deficit in the body; it can lead to infections; one with diabetes, blood pressure, etc., or the elderly must avoid it. In reality, blood donation prevents accumulation of excess iron from the body, thus reducing the possibility of developing cardiovascular diseases.

The human body has on average 5-6 litres of blood and formation of new blood is an ongoing process so that at any point of time around one-tenth of it (350-450 ml) can always be spared. The quantum of blood donated quantitatively restores to normal level within 48 hours. Any

healthy individual can donate blood four times a year within an interval of three months. After blood donation one can immediately resume work, the only advice is, (i) take 10 -12 glasses of water within 24 hours, (ii) avoid driving, excessive exposure to smoking or sun for three to four hours, and (iii) avoid alcohol for a couple of days.

All religions and faiths proclaim the act of giving as one of the greatest virtues, many faiths endorse blood donation as a noble deed. The Hindu call it the greatest gift (Rakt daan mahadan); among Christians organ and tissue donations are ethically acceptable as expressions of love, charity. Let each of us contribute to the noble cause of donating blood.

‘Enough proof uncovered to indict Trump’

JAN 6 PANELISTS

AP ■ WASHINGTON



Members of the House committee investigating the Capitol riot said Sunday they have uncovered enough evidence for the Justice Department to consider an unprecedented criminal indictment against former President Donald Trump for seeking to overturn the results of the 2020 election.

The committee announced that Trump's campaign manager, Bill Stepien, is among the witnesses scheduled to testify at a hearing Monday that focuses on Trump's effort to spread his lies about a stolen election.

"I would like to see the Justice Department investigate any credible allegation of criminal activity on the part of Donald Trump," said Rep. Adam Schiff, D-Calif, a committee member who also leads the House Intelligence Committee.

"There are certain actions, parts of these different lines of effort to overturn the election that I don't see evidence the Justice Department is investigating."

The committee held its first public hearing last week, with members laying out their case against Trump to show how the defeated president relentlessly pushed his false claims of a rigged election despite multiple advisers telling him otherwise and how he intensified an extraordinary scheme to overturn Joe Biden's victory.

Trump called him a "never-Trumper," and Chris Stirewalt, the former political editor for Fox News.

The committee members on Sunday also reiterated they would present clear evidence that "multiple" GOP lawmakers, including Rep. Scott Perry, R-Pa, had sought a pardon from Trump, which would protect him from prosecution. Perry on Friday denied he ever did so, calling the assertion an "absolute, shameful, and soulless lie."

"We're not going to make accusations or say things without proof or evidence backing it," said Rep Adam Kinzinger, R-Ill. Lawmakers indicated that perhaps their most important audience member over the course of the hearings may be Attorney General Merrick Garland, who must decide whether his department can and should prosecute Trump. They left no doubt as to their own view whether the evidence is sufficient to proceed.

"Once the evidence is accumulated by the Justice Department, it needs to make a decision about whether it can prove to a jury beyond a reasonable doubt the president's guilt or anyone else's," Schiff said. "But they need to be investigated if there's credible evidence, which I think there is."

Rep Jamie Raskin, D-Md., said he doesn't intend to "browbeat" Garland but noted the committee has already laid out in legal pleadings criminal statutes they believe Trump violated.

Chinese, US envoys pledge support to help Lanka mitigate economic crisis

PTI ■ COLOMBO

In a significant development, the Chinese Ambassador to Sri Lanka Qi Zhenhong met his US counterpart Julie Chung here on Monday and held discussions on "broad topics of mutual interest" and pledged support in helping the island nation mitigate its crippling economic crisis.

Sri Lanka is currently facing its worst economic crisis since independence from Britain in 1948.

The economic crisis has prompted an acute shortage of essential items like food, medicine, cooking gas and other fuel, toilet paper, and even matches, with Sri Lankans being forced to wait in lines lasting hours outside stores to buy fuel and cooking gas.

"Ambassador Qi Zhenhong met with the US Ambassador Julie Chung at the Chinese embassy on June 13 and had a friendly discussion on broad topics of mutual interest. China and the United States could work



together to help Sri Lanka overcome current difficulties," a tweet from the Chinese Embassy in Sri Lanka said.

Commenting on the meeting, US Ambassador Chung said discussions centered on the current political and economic situation in Sri Lanka and asserted that there was an exchange of ideas on trade investment and development.

Both envoys agreed on the need to jointly come forward in helping Sri Lanka weather through the current economic and political crisis. The meeting assumes sig-

nificance and comes at a time when Sri Lankan Prime Minister Ranil Wickremesinghe said last week that his government could not tap on the USD 1.5 billion credit line from China and is yet to hear back from Beijing on the USD 1 billion loans.

In a media briefing last week, Chinese foreign ministry spokesman Zhao Lijian said that Beijing had earmarked humanitarian aid worth USD 73 million to Sri Lanka.

Last month, Samantha Power, the US Agency for

International Development (USAID) administrator, held a telephone conversation with Wickremesinghe to discuss how USAID is responding to the country's political and economic crises.

Meanwhile, India has provided a USD 55 million Line of Credit to Sri Lanka for the import of fertilisers, in a bid to help the island nation tide over its food scarcity, the Indian High Commission said last week.

Addressing the Parliament recently, Wickremesinghe said Sri Lanka will need USD 5 billion to ensure that the people's daily lives are not disrupted for the next six months.

The nearly bankrupt country, with an acute foreign currency crisis that resulted in foreign debt default, announced in April that it is suspending nearly USD 7 billion foreign debt repayment due for this year out of about USD 25 billion due through 2026.

Sri Lanka's total foreign debt stands at USD 51 billion.

al-Qaida, ISIS attacks mount in Burkina Faso despite junta's efforts

AP ■ OUAGADOUGOU (BURKINA FASO)

The mutinous soldiers who ousted Burkina Faso's democratically elected president early this year vowed they would do a better job at stopping the jihadist violence rocking the country. Five months later, however, attacks are increasing and patience with the junta appears to be waning.

Many in Burkina Faso supported the military takeover in January, frustrated with the previous government's inability to stem Islamic extremist violence that has killed thousands and displaced at least 2 million. Lt. Col. Paul-Henri Sandaogo Damiba, who led the coup and was later installed as interim president, vowed to restore security.

But violence linked to al-Qaida and the Islamic State increased nearly 7 per cent during the junta's first three months of rule compared with the three months prior, according to the Armed Conflict Location & Event Data Project.

UK to introduce law unilaterally changing post-Brexit rules

AP ■ LONDON

Britain's government is expected to introduce legislation Monday that would unilaterally change post-Brexit trade rules for Northern Ireland amid opposition from lawmakers who believe the move violates international law.

The legislation would let the government bypass the so-called Northern Ireland Protocol, which requires the inspection of some goods shipped there from other parts of the United Kingdom. The protocol, designed to preserve free trade on the island of Ireland, is part of the broader trade deal that Prime Minister Boris Johnson negotiated with the European Union when Britain left the 27-nation bloc.

But the arrangement has proved politically damaging for Johnson because it treats Northern Ireland differently from the rest of the United Kingdom, potentially weakening the province's historic links with Britain. Northern Ireland's Democratic Unionist Party has refused to return to the region's power-sharing government until the protocol is amended to address those concerns.

The opposition Labour Party, and even some members of Johnson's Conservatives, say unilaterally changing the protocol would be illegal and would damage Britain's standing with other countries because its part of a treaty considered binding under international law.

"Breaking international law to rip up the Prime Minister's own treaty is damaging to everything the U.K. And Conservatives stand for," opponents of the bill said in a note being circulated among



Conservative lawmakers, according to the Financial Times.

Arrangements for Northern Ireland - the only part of the U.K. That shares a land border with an EU nation - have proved the thorniest issue in Britain's divorce from the bloc, which became final at the end of 2020.

The 1998 Good Friday agreement that ended decades of violence in Northern Ireland was underpinned by the fact that both the U.K. And Ireland were EU members, allowing goods and people to flow freely across the border.

While both sides are committed to keeping the border open, other competing interests have made that difficult to achieve.

The EU, focused on protecting its internal market, wants to ensure that all goods flowing into the bloc meet its standards. Britain is trying to assert its newly won independence from the EU while preserving the union of England, Northern Ireland, Scotland and Wales.

After a conversation with British Foreign Secretary Liz Truss, European Commission Vice President Maros Sefcovic said "unilateral action is damaging to mutual trust and a formula for uncertainty."

Virus cluster at nightclub sets off new Beijing clampdown

AP ■ BEIJING

China's capital has put school back online in one of its major districts amid a new COVID-19 outbreak linked to a nightclub, while life has yet to return to normal in Shanghai despite the lifting of a more than two-month-long lockdown.

China has stuck to its "zero-COVID" policy requiring mass testing, quarantines and the sequestering of anyone who has come into contact with an infected person in concentrated locations where hygiene is generally poor.

A total of 228 cases have been linked to the Heaven Supermarket club in the downtown Workers Stadium nightlife area after an infected person visited there Thursday.

Of those, 180 were customers, four were staff and 44 were people with whom customers had later contact.

The entire area, along with the adjacent Sanlitun shopping and dining complex, was shut down until further notice.

The outbreak prompted authorities in the sprawling Chaoyang district to put school back online, with the exception of students taking middle and high school placement exams. Sports gatherings in the city have also been put on hold.

Chaoyang, home to more than 3 million people, has ordered three consecutive days of mass testing, with long lines forming and wait times of two hours or more in some places.

In the city of Shanghai, 502 people have been linked to three positive tests detected Thursday among patrons of the Red Rose Beauty Salon.

The individuals involved come from 15 districts across the city of 25 million people, prompting the first large-scale restrictions since the lockdown



was formally ended June 1.

With mass testing and restrictions on movement back in force, streets and supermarkets emptied again over the weekend.

Failure to undergo testing will lead to a yellow code on a person's health status app, forbidding them access to all public places.

Most students remain at home and all but a few restaurants are open only for takeout. Many customers simply partake of their food and drink on the steps beside flower bushes outside the establishments.

While 22 million Shanghai residents were released from lockdown almost two weeks ago, 220,000 people are still restricted to their homes under a rule requiring that no positive cases are found within their residential compounds for more than 10 days.

Another 600,000 are in control zones, where their movements are restricted within their compounds.

Corrugated steel fences and other barriers continue to block off neighborhoods and businesses, leading to further discontent and complaints from residents who remain in lockdown.

The strict implementation of lockdowns, along with a lack of information and poor distribution of food and other daily necessities, has led to rarely seen displays of anger and desperation.

Residents have confronted workers and police who have become known as "big whites" for the protective gear they wear, circulated protest videos online and coordinated nightly screaming and pot-banging events to let off steam.

The loosening of restrictions led to an exodus of non-Shanghai residents, including foreigners, who had found themselves trapped in the lockdown. Despite the recent outbreak, Beijing reported just 51 new cases on Monday, 22 of them asymptomatic. City residents are still undergoing regular testing — mostly every other day — and must wear masks and swipe a mobile phone app to enter public places and facilitate case tracing.

China has maintained its "zero-COVID" policy despite considerable economic costs and an assertion from the head of the World Health Organization that the policy isn't sustainable.

North Korea plans crackdown as Kim pushes for internal unity

AP ■ SEOUL

North Korean leader Kim Jong Un and his top deputies have pushed for a crackdown on officials who abuse their power and commit

other "unsound and non-revolutionary acts," state media reported Monday, as Kim seeks greater internal unity to overcome a COVID-19 outbreak and economic difficulties.

It wasn't clear what specific

acts were mentioned at the ruling Workers' Party meeting on Sunday. But possible state crackdowns on such alleged acts could be an attempt to solidify Kim's control of his people and get them to rally behind his leadership in the face of the domestic hardships, some observers say.

Kim and other senior party secretaries discussed "waging more intensive struggle against abuse of power and non-revolutionary acts including abuse of power and bureaucracy revealed among some party officials," the official Korean Central News



Agency said.

Kim ordered the authority of the party's auditing commission and other local discipline supervision systems to be bolstered to promote the party's "monolithic leadership" and "the broad political activities of the party through the strong discipline system," KCNA said.

Kim has previously occasionally called for struggles against "anti-socialist practices" at home in the past two years amid outside worries about his country's fragile economy that has been battered by pandemic-related border shutdowns, U.N. Sanctions and his own mismanagement.

The North's elevated

restrictions on movement's in the wake of the COVID-19 outbreak could cause a further strain on the country's economic difficulties, some experts say. North Korea on May 12 admitted the omicron variant of the coronavirus had infected people, and it subsequently has said about 4.5 million people — more than 17% of its 26 million people — have fallen ill with fevers and only 72 have died.

Foreign experts widely doubt the outbreak was North Korea's first, and they believe the statistics being disclosed in state media are manipulated to prevent political damage to Kim while bolstering internal control and promoting his leadership.

GOVERNMENT OF JAMMU AND KASHMIR
Directorate of Sheep Husbandry Department Kashmir
Lal-Mandi, Srinagar 190008
Tel. No: 09194-2310604. Fax No: 0194-2311063, Email id: kashmirmirmerino.sheep@gmail.com
e-Nit No:-DSHK/ACCTTS/22-23/2839-50 Dated:-11-06-2022
Subject: E-Procurement Notice for the supply of Livestock(Sheep/Goat).
For and on behalf of Lt. Governor of Jammu & Kashmir, Union Territory of India, expression of interest tenders in two bid system (Technical-1 and Financial bid-2) through Chairman State Level Purchase committee, Sheep Husbandry Department, J&K, Kashmir (Directorate of Sheep Husbandry Department, Kashmir) are invited from Interested Persons from Himachal Pradesh for establishment of units under ISDS
1. The bidding documents consisting of qualifying information, eligibility, criteria, specifications, bill of quantities (B.O.Q), set of terms and conditions of supply/contract and other details can be seen/downloaded from the e-procurement website www.jktenders.gov.in as per schedule of dates given below.
1. **Date of Issue of Tender Notice :- 11-06-2022**
2. **Period of downloading of bidding documents :- 11-06-2022 to 04-07-2022**
3. **Bid submission start date :- 11-06-2022**
4. **Bid submission end date :- 04-07-2022 upto 4:00 p.m**
5. **Date and time of opening of technical bids (online) :- 04-07-2022 2:00p.m**
2. **Instructions for bidders regarding e-tendering process:-**
i. Bidders are advised to download bids submission manual from the "Downloads option as well as from Bidders Manual kit" on the website www.jktenders.gov.in to acquaint themselves with bid submission process.
ii. To participate in bidding process bidder has to get a Digital Signature Certificate (DSC), as per Information Technology ACT-2000. Bidders can get Digital Certificate from an approved vendor.
iii. The bidder has to submit their bids online in electronic format with the Digital Signature. No bidding will be accepted in physical form.
iv. Bids will be opened online as per the schedule mentioned at Para-1.
v. Bidders must ensure to upload scanned copy of all necessary documents with the technical bid.
3. The department will not be responsible for delay in online submission due to any reason.
(Note: Scan all the documents on 100dpi with Black and White option.)
Sd/- Chairman State Level Purchase Committee
Sheep Husbandry Department Jammu & Kashmir
No. DIPK-3888/22
Dated: 13.06.2022

GOVERNMENT OF JAMMU AND KASHMIR
Directorate of Sheep Husbandry Department Kashmir
Lal-Mandi, Srinagar 190008
Tel. No: 09194-2310604. Fax No: 0194-2311063, Email id: kashmirmirmerino.sheep@gmail.com
e-Nit No:-DSHK/ACCTTS/2022-23/2764-74 Dated:- 09.06.2022
Subject: E-Procurement Notice for the supply of Foot & Mouth Disease (FMD) Vaccine.
For and on behalf of Lt. Governor of Jammu & Kashmir, Union Territory of India, e-Tenders in two bid system (Technical-1 and Financial bid-2) through Chairman State Level Purchase committee, Sheep Husbandry Department, J&K, Kashmir (Directorate of Sheep Husbandry Department, Kashmir) are invited from Original manufacturers/companies of repute and firms in line possessing valid authorization of principals, for fixing the rate contract for supply of Foot & Mouth Disease (FMD) Vaccine.
COMPOSITION:- Trivalent FMD Oil adjuvant vaccine with the following strains:-
1. Serotype O: Strain IND/R2/1975 (O/ME-SA Topotype, Lineage Branch B)
2. Serotype A: Strain IND40/2000 (Genotype 18, non-deletion group)
3. Serotype Asia 1: Strain IND63/1972 (Genotype 1, Lineage B)
The bidding documents consisting of qualifying information, eligibility, criteria, specifications, bill of quantities (B.O.Q), set of terms and conditions of supply/contract and other details can be seen/downloaded from the e-procurement website www.jktenders.gov.in as per schedule of dates given below.
1. **Date of Issue of Tender Notice :- 09-06-2022**
2. **Period of downloading of bidding documents :- 10-06-2022**
3. **Bid submission start date :- 10-06-2022**
4. **Bid submission end date :- 04-07-2022**
5. **Date and time of opening of bids (online) :- 05-07-2022**
1. **Instructions for bidders regarding e-tendering process:-**
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ii. To participate in bidding process bidder has to get a Digital Signature Certificate (DSC), as per Information Technology ACT-2000. Bidders can get Digital Certificate from an approved vendor.
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iv. Bids will be opened online as per the schedule mentioned at Para-1.
v. Bidders must ensure to upload scanned copy of all necessary documents with the technical bid.
2. The department will not be responsible for delay in online submission due to any reason.
(Note: Scan all the documents on 100dpi with Black and White option.)
Sd/- Chairman State Level Purchase Committee
Sheep Husbandry Department Jammu & Kashmir
No. DIPK-3870/22
Dated: 13.06.2022

PHYSICAL 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 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 Physical Possession	Date of Demand Notice/ Amount in Demand Notice (Rs.)	Name of Branch
1.	Simranjeet Singh/ Kawaljeet Kaur Arora/ Manjeet Singh Arora. LBDEL00004931196 & LBDEL00005341290	DDA CSA, Shop-45, Ground Floor, Pocket- B, Ashok Vihar, Phase - III, Delhi June 09, 2022	June 19, 2021 Rs. 31,05,965/-	Delhi
2.	M/s Universal Journeys India Private Limited/ Geetanjali Alamshah/ Journeys & Destinations India Private Limited/ Stephen Alamshah LBDEL00002082106	Office Space No-DPT534 Parking No- PB1001, 5th Floor Block-F, Prime Tower, Plot No. 79 And 80 Okhla Industrial Area Ph-1, Delhi. June 10, 2022	June 19, 2021 Rs. 63,41,264/-	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 14, 2022
Place: Delhi NCR
Authorized Officer
ICICI Bank Limited

PHYSICAL 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.
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Date : June 14, 2022
Place: Delhi NCR
Authorized Officer
ICICI Bank Limited

Battle of Donbas could prove decisive in Ukraine war

AP ■ KYIV

Day after day, Russia is pounding the Donbas region of Ukraine with relentless artillery and air raids, making slow but steady progress to seize the industrial heartland of its neighbour.

With the conflict now in its fourth month, it's a high-stakes campaign that could dictate the course of the entire war.

If Russia prevails in the battle of Donbas, it will mean that Ukraine loses not only land but perhaps the bulk of its most capable military forces, opening the way for Moscow to grab more territory and dictate its terms to Kyiv. A Russian failure could lay the grounds for a Ukrainian counteroffensive - and possibly lead to political upheaval for the Kremlin.

Following botched early attempts in the invasion to capture Kyiv and the second-largest city of Kharkiv without proper planning and coordination, Russia turned its attention to the Donbas, a region of mines and factories where Moscow-backed separatists have been fighting Ukrainian forces since 2014.

Learning from its earlier missteps, Russia is trading more carefully there, relying on longer-range bombardments

to soften Ukrainian defences.

It seems to be working: The better-equipped Russian forces have made gains in both the Luhansk and Donetsk regions that make up the Donbas, controlling over 95% of the former and about half of the latter.

Ukraine is losing between 100 and 200 soldiers a day, presidential adviser Mykhailo Podolyak told the BBC, as Russia has "thrown pretty much everything non-nuclear at the front." President Volodymyr Zelenskyy earlier put the daily death toll at up to 100. Ukrainian Defense Minister Oleksii Reznikov described the combat situation as "extremely difficult," using a reference to an ancient deity of sacrifice by saying: "The Russian Moloch has plenty of means to devour human lives to satisfy its imperial ego."

When the war was going badly for Russia, many thought President Vladimir Putin might claim victory after some gains in Donbas and then exit a conflict that has seriously bruised the economy and stretched its resources. But the Kremlin has made clear it expects Ukraine to recognize all the gains Russia has made since the start of the invasion — something Kyiv has ruled out.

Russian forces control the



entire Sea of Azov coast, including the strategic port of Mariupol, the entire Kherson region — a key gateway to Crimea — and a large chunk of the Zaporizhzhia region that could aid a further push deeper into Ukraine, and few expect that Putin will stop.

Unlike earlier battlefield failures, Russia appears to be using more conservative tactics. Many had expected it to try to encircle Ukrainian forces with a massive pincer movement from the north and south, but instead it has used a series of smaller moves to

force a retreat and not overextend its supply lines.

Keir Giles, a Russia expert at London's Chatham House think-tank, said Russia was "concentrating all of its artillery on a single section of the front line in order to grind its way forward by flattening every-

thing in its path."

Western officials still praise the ability of Ukrainian forces to defend their country, fighting back fiercely and similarly relying on artillery and retreating in some sections while launching frequent counterattacks.

"Ukraine has been pursuing a policy of flexible defense, giving ground where it makes sense to do so instead of holding on to every inch of the territory," Giles said.

A senior Western official who spoke on condition of anonymity because he wasn't authorized to discuss the sensitive issue in public said the Russian campaign "continues to be deeply troubled at all levels," noting that Moscow's forces are taking "weeks to achieve even modest tactical goals such as taking individual villages."

Last month, the Russians lost nearly an entire battalion in a botched attempt to cross the Siverskyi Donets River and set up a bridgehead. Hundreds were killed and dozens of armored vehicles were destroyed.

"There is a sense of strategic improvisation or muddling through," the official said, predicting that over the summer the Russian military could

reach a "point where they can no longer effectively generate offensive combat power."

Russia has a clear edge in artillery in the battle for Donbas, thanks to a bigger number of heavy howitzers and rocket launchers and abundant ammunition. The Ukrainians have had to be economical in using their artillery, with the Russians constantly targeting their supply lines.

Ukraine has begun to receive more heavy weapons from Western allies, who have provided dozens of howitzers and are now planning to start delivering multiple rocket launchers.

Putin has warned that if the West gives Kyiv longer-range rockets that could hit Russian territory, Moscow could hit targets in Ukraine that it has spared until now. Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov also said that Russia would respond by seizing more land as a buffer zone from such weapons.

Moscow's earlier territorial gains in the south, including the Kherson region and a large part of the neighboring Zaporizhzhia region, have prompted Russian officials and their local appointees to ponder plans to fold those areas

into Russia or declare them to be independent, like the so-called "people's republics" of Donetsk and Luhansk.

Ukrainian officials and Western analysts voiced concern that Moscow could try to press its offensive into the heavily populated and industrialized Dnipro region farther north, an advance that could potentially slice Ukraine in two and raise a new threat for Kyiv.

"Russian objectives in the context of this war are shifting in relation to the situation on the ground," said Eleonora Tafuro Ambrosetti, an analyst with the Milan-based Italian Institute for International Political Studies.

"Their goals are sort of flexible enough to be adaptive to context on the ground," she said, noting that Russia could try to damage Ukraine's economy by seizing the entire coastline to deny access to shipping.

A top Russian general already has spoken of plans to cut off Ukraine from the Black Sea by seizing the Mykolaiv and Odesa regions all the way to the border with Romania, a move that would also allow Moscow to build a land corridor to Moldova's separatist region of Transnistria that hosts a Russian military base.

Moscow-backed officials try to solidify rule

AP ■ KYIV

Kremlin-installed officials in occupied southern Ukraine celebrated Russia Day on Sunday and began issuing Russian passports to residents in one city who requested them, as Moscow sought to solidify its rule over captured parts of the country.

At one of the central squares in the city of Kherson, Russian bands played a concert to celebrate Russia Day, the holiday that marks Russia's emergence as a sovereign state after the collapse of the Soviet Union, according to Russia's state news agency RIA Novosti.

In the neighboring Zaporizhzhia region, Moscow-installed officials raised a Russian flag in Melitopol's city center.

Ukrainian media reported that few, if any, local residents attended the Russia Day festivities in the two cities.

Russia Day was also celebrated in other occupied parts



of Ukraine, including the ravaged southern port of Mariupol, where a new city sign painted in the colors of the Russian flag was unveiled on the outskirts and Russian flags were flown on a highway leading into the city.

Also, the Russia-aligned administration in Melitopol started handing out Russian passports to those who applied for Russian citizenship. RIA Novosti posted video of a Moscow-backed official congratulating new Russian citizens and telling them: "Russia will not go anywhere. We are

here for good."

President Vladimir Putin earlier this year issued a decree fast-tracking Russian citizenship for residents of the Kherson and Zaporizhzhia regions. In captured cities in the south and east, Moscow has also introduced the ruble as official currency, aired Russian news broadcasts and taken steps to introduce a Russian school curriculum.

The Kremlin's administrators in the Kherson and Zaporizhzhia regions have voiced plans to incorporate the areas into Russia, despite protests and signs of an insurgency among local residents.

Russian-installed officials Sunday in Melitopol reported an explosion in a garbage bin near the city's police headquarters and said two residents were injured.

Another blast was reported at an electrical substation in the city of Berdyansk, which is also under Russian control. The Kremlin-backed adminis-

tration pronounced it a terrorist attack, and officials said electricity was shut down in parts of the city.

On the battlefield, Russia said it is used missiles to destroy a large depot in western Ukraine that contained anti-tank and air-defense weapons supplied to Kyiv by the US and European countries.

It said the attack took place near the city of Chortkiv in the Ternopil region.

Ternopil Gov Volodymyr Trush said four Russian missiles damaged a military installation and four residential buildings in Chortkiv. More than 20 people were wounded, including a 12-year-old girl, Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy said.

"This strike had no tactical or strategic sense, just like the absolute majority of other Russian strikes. It is terror, just terror," he said in a video address.

In light of the strike,

Zelenskyy made another plea for modern missile defense systems from the US and other Western countries, saying, "These are lives that could have been saved, tragedies that could have been prevented if Ukraine had been listened to." Also, heavy fighting continued for control of Sievierodonetsk, an eastern city in Luhansk province with a prewar population of 100,000 that has emerged as central to Russia's campaign to capture the Donbas, Ukraine's industrial heartland.

Russian forces shelled a Sievierodonetsk chemical plant where up to 500 civilians, 40 of them children, were holed up, Luhansk Gov Serhii Haidai said.

An official with the pro-Moscow, self-proclaimed Luhansk People's Republic, Rodion Miroshnik, said 300 to 400 Ukrainian troops also remained inside the plant. He said that efforts were underway to evacuate the civilians.

Japan philanthropic group begins fund raising for Ukrainians



AP ■ TOKYO

A Japanese foundation announced Monday it is launching a fundraising drive to provide more than 1,200 Ukrainian evacuees in Japan with additional financial support for language studies and other needs. Jumpei Sasakawa, executive director of the Nippon Foundation, said it aims to raise 1 billion yen (\$7.4 million) through cooperation with the U.S. And Ukrainian ambassadors.

The foundation has already pledged 5 billion yen (\$37 million) for the transportation and living costs of Ukrainian evacuees.

Japan has so far accepted more than 1,200 war-displaced Ukrainians since Russia invaded in late February.

Sasakawa said he was approached by U.S. Ambassador to Japan Rahm Emanuel, who asked him to enable ordinary Japanese to help support Ukrainian evacuees.

Ukrainian Ambassador to Japan Sergiy Korsunsk, who joined Sasakawa and Emanuel at a news conference, urged Japanese to see donations to the fund as an "investment by Japan in a nation that will be always be friends with you."

He said Ukrainians in Japan will be "a bridge between our countries" when Ukraine

is ready to rebuild itself.

Japan quickly joined the United States and other major industrialised economies in imposing sanctions on Russia and supporting Ukraine because it fears a similar development in East Asia, where Beijing has become increasingly assertive and has threatened to take military actions against Taiwan if it refuses to unite with China.

Acceptance of the Ukrainian evacuees is unusual for Japan, which has extremely strict refugee and immigration policies despite its own shrinking labour force.

Advocates have expressed hope that its support for the Ukrainians will lead to a more lenient immigration policy.

Human rights groups have criticised Japan for neglecting displaced people from other countries such as Afghanistan and Myanmar, who have not received such a warm welcome or a nationally-organised support system.

"I would say, this is a win-win situation. Japan could use the help on its labour shortage and Ukraine people or evacuees can bring their skill set and find work and contribute to their temporary new home," Emanuel said.

The Nippon Foundation was founded by Sasakawa's grandfather, Ryoichi Sasakawa, a far-right politician and businessman, to distribute money earned from motorboat racing, a popular gambling pastime.

PUBLIC NOTICE

General Public is hereby informed that Smt. Munesh Devi W/o Late L/NK Rajendra Singh R/o VILL&P.O. Khekra, Near Police Station, Distt. Bhagpat (U.P.) is owner in possession of residential property bearing Flat No. 389, Second Floor, Block-C, Vijay Awas Yojna, CV Block, Sec-18, Dwarka, New Delhi-110078, has lost original documents pertaining to the said property, viz Allotment Letter, Possession Letter and Registration Paper. Having regard to the loss of Original Documents Smt. Munesh Devi, W/o Late L/NK Rajendra Singh lodged an online complaint dated 2.2.04.2022 vide L.A.R. No. 20220000171320, PS Indrapuram, Ghaziabad, U.P. General Public is hereby cautioned and advised to desist from entering into any Transaction/Dealing in any manner in respect of aforesaid property on the basis of lost original documents referred above and shall be doing so at his/her/their own cost, risk and peril.

-sd/
Milind M. Bhardwaj
Advocate
807, Lawyers Chamber,
Patiala House Courts,
New Delhi-110 001.
Mob.: 9818331266
E-mail: milindmadhab@yahoo.co.in
Dated: 13.06.2022

PUBLIC NOTICE

This is to inform the Public at large that Sh. Surender Kumar Nagia S/o. Sh. Kewal Ram is the 'Title Holder' in possession of 'Residential House/ Plot No. 377, Block-G, Sector-Alpha-II, Greater Noida, Distt. Gautam Budh Nagar, Uttar Pradesh admeasuring 60 sq. mtrs.', hereinafter referred to as 'Schedule Property' vide Transfer Deed dated 29.02.2012, registered as Bahi No. 1, Zild No. 10401, pp. 357-420, Par Kramank No. 4197,.... on 29.02.2012 in the Office of Sub Registrar-Sadar, Greater Noida, Uttar Pradesh. That Original Documents w.r.t. the Schedule Property i.e. (i) Allotment Letter (of Specific Plot) & (ii) Possession Certificate dated 02.06.1998 have been lost/ misplaced and are untraceable, hence unavailable for verification in original, in lieu of which Information Report dated 11.06.2022 is filed with Delhi Police bearing I.R. No. 488609/2022. Thus this notice is issued to Public at Large, i.e. any Person(s), Company(ies), Authority(ies), Society(ies), Organisation(s), Financial Institution(s), Bank(s), HUFs etc., having knowledge, custody or possession of lost/ misplaced/ untraceable documents as mentioned herein above or otherwise having any claim, right, title, interest, possession in the Schedule Property, by way of Ownership, Succession, Inheritance, Sale, Mortgage, Exchange, Charge, Lien, Gift, Trust, Encumbrance etc., or objection to the sale/ transfer of the Schedule Property, may come forward with supporting documents, to be delivered to the undersigned within 14 days from the date of this Publication, post expiration of which, any claim(s) or objection(s), if raised or received, shall be treated as null & void and such claims or objection shall be treated as waived, and the Title Holder shall proceed to sell/ transfer the Schedule Property as per Law, as presently intended.

Naaveen Kumar Sharma (Advocate)
Regd. No.: D/3083/99
Lawyers Chd. No.: 22, Tehsil Sadar,
Ghaziabad (U.P.)

PUBLIC NOTICE
Notice is hereby given to the General Public on behalf of our client i.e. Fullerton India Credit Company Limited that Mr. Rajeev Kumar Gupta and Mrs. Sanita Gupta are the owners of Property No. 10, area 50 Sq.Yds., Kharko No. 304/212, 305/212, 307/212, 216/214, 224, 227, 303/215, 308/221, 227, 310, 219 and 222, in Block-A, Ganesh Nagar, Village Shakra Pur, Ilaga Shahdara, Delhi by virtue of Conveyance Deed dated 09/04/2002. Doc. No. 2153. All persons are hereby informed that above mentioned owners want to mortgage the said property and intend to obtain a loan in the name of Mr. Rishab Gupta from our client against the said property. If anybody has any objection(s) upon the ownership of above owners over the said property, its mortgage/litigation, & any other objections, kindly inform the undersigned in writing on the below mentioned address within 07 days of the present.

PUBLIC NOTICE
To be known to all that Sh. Shiv Nandan S/o Late Sh. Murali Lal Sharma and Smt. Shashi Devi W/o Sh. Shiv Nandan, both R/o Flat No. 145, Plot No. 65, New Surya Kiran Apartment, 1/2 Extension, Plot Par Ganji, Delhi-110092 have applied for conversion of House No. 407, Block C, Pocket 5, Sector 34, Rohini, Delhi from lease hold to free hold vide File No. F16(20462)2012/RH-N in DDA. The original documents i.e. Handing over possession letter and Site possession slip of the above said plot has been lost. A NCR/LR no. 492176/2022 dated: 13.06.2022 to this effect has been lodged in PS. Crime Branch Delhi.

Any person(s) claiming any right, interest, having any objection or found in possession of original documents, may write/contact with above named person at above address/phone no. 8376002945 within 15 days from the date of publication of this notice. The person claiming any right, interest, objection with respect to this property, can personally inform or write to Deputy Director (L&D) Rohini or Director (L&D), DDA Vikas Sadan, New Delhi.

PUBLIC NOTICE

It is informed to the general public that the original document i.e. allotment letter, possession certificate, letter of clearance and possession etc. of Flat No. L-151, Jalvayu Vihar, Sector 25, Noida has been misplaced somewhere, whose complaint has been filed on 16.03.2022 in the P.S. Crime Branch Delhi.

Whereas, the allottee Sh. G.S. Bal is selling the said Flat No. L-151, Sector-25, Noida to Mr. Satpal Girotra and Mr. Sanjay Girotra (jointly) and the transfer/sale papers has been initiated to the competent authorities to transfer of said property.

Therefore it is informed to the general public that, if the above documents are found by any person or if have any right, claim or objection in selling of said property, then he/she should be lodged its claim within 15 days from the date of publication of Notice, either to group housing department of Noida Authority or AFNHB New Delhi. Failing which the claim, right on the said documents/property will be considered completely free and abandoned.

Air Cmde G.S. Bal
L-151, Jalvayu Vihar, Sector 25, Noida

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

PUBLIC NOTICE - TENDER CUM AUCTION FOR SALE OF SECURED ASSET
[See proviso to rule 8(6)]
Notice for sale of immovable assets
E-Auction Sale Notice for Sale of Immovable Assets under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 read with proviso to Rule 8 (6) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002.
Notice is hereby given to the public in general and in particular to the Borrower(s) and Guarantor(s) that the below described immovable property mortgaged/charged to the Secured Creditor, the Physical possession of which has been taken by the Authorised Officer of ICICI Bank Ltd. will be sold on "As is where is", "As is what is", and "Whatever there is", as per the brief particulars given hereunder;

Sr. No.	Name of Borrower(s)/ Co-Borrowers/ Guarantors/ Loan Account No.	Details of the Secured asset(s) with known encumbrances, if any	Amount Outstanding	Reserve Price/ Earnest Money Deposit	Date and Time of Property Inspection	Date & Time of Auction
(A)	(B)	(C)	(D)	(E)	(F)	(G)
1.	Vikrant Singh (Borrower), Ritu Singh (Co-Borrower) LBGUR00002386632	Flat No. B1-1802, 18th Floor, JKG Palm Court, Gh-1D, Sector 16C, Greater Noida West, UP. Super Builtup Area- 1765 Sq. Ft.	Rs. 86,38,492/- as on May 18, 2022	Rs. 65,60,000/- Rs.6,55,000/-	June 20, 2022 From 11:00 AM to 2:00 PM	July 07, 2022 From 11:00 AM Onwards
2.	Ganesh Sharma (Borrower), Kamla Katiwal (Co-Borrower) LBDEL00002947887	Flat No 1804, (18th Floor), JKG Palm Court, Tower B2, Plot No. GH-1D, Sector 16C, Greater Noida, Uttar Pradesh- 201307. Super Builtup Area- 1635 Sq. Ft.	Rs. 85,10,872/- as on May 18, 2022	Rs. 60,60,000/- Rs.6,06,000/-	June 20, 2022 From 11:00 AM to 2:00 PM	July 07, 2022 From 11:00 AM Onwards
3.	Nanishka (Borrower), Santosh Kumari (Co-Borrower) LBGUR00002372750	B-2-1303, 13th Floor, JKG Palm Court, Plot No. GH-1-D, Sector 16C, Greater Noida West, UP. Super Builtup Area-1395 Sq. Ft.	Rs. 73,80,952/- as on May 18, 2022	Rs. 52,00,000/- Rs. 5,20,000/-	June 20, 2022 From 11:00 AM to 2:00 PM	July 07, 2022 From 11:00 AM Onwards
4.	Aditya Prakash (Borrower), Prem Shashank (Co-Borrower) LBGHZ00002441728	Flat No 1408, 14th Floor Tower-A2, JKG Palm Court, Situated At Plot No GH-1D Sector-16C, Greater Noida, Noida. Super Builtup Area- 1185 Sq. Ft.	Rs. 53,64,547/- as on May 18, 2022	Rs. 44,00,000/- Rs.4,40,000/-	June 20, 2022 From 11:00 AM to 2:00 PM	July 07, 2022 From 11:00 AM Onwards
5.	Vijay Grover (Borrower), Reena Grover (Co-Borrower) LBDEL00002365295	Flat No B1 1301, JKG Palm Court, Plot No GH 1D, Sector 16C, Greater Noida West, UP. Super Builtup Area- 1765 Sq Ft.	Rs. 84,43,954/- as on May 18, 2022	Rs. 65,50,000/- Rs.6,55,000/-	June 20, 2022 From 11:00 AM to 2:00 PM	July 07, 2022 From 11:00 AM Onwards
6.	Vijay Grover (Borrower), Reena Grover (Co-Borrower) LBDEL00002371601	Flat No B1 1302, JKG Palm Court, Plot No GH 1D, Sector 16C, Greater Noida West, UP. Super Builtup Area- 1765 Sq. Ft.	Rs. 8,409,273/- as on May 18, 2022	Rs. 65,50,000/- Rs.6,55,000/-	June 20, 2022 From 11:00 AM to 2:00 PM	July 07, 2022 From 11:00 AM Onwards
7.	Neera Sharma (Borrower), Ankur Mohan (Co-Borrower) LBGUR00002313398	Flat No B1 1304, JKG Palm Court, Plot No GH 1D, Sector 16C, Greater Noida West, UP. Super Builtup Area- 1635 Sq. Ft.	Rs. 8,304,923/- as on May 18, 2022	Rs. 60,60,000/- Rs.6,06,000/-	June 20, 2022 From 11:00 AM to 2:00 PM	July 07, 2022 From 11:00 AM Onwards
8.	Sandeep Kumar Upadhyay (Borrower), Shipil Upadhyay (Co-Borrower) LBDEL00002275165	Flat No B2 1704, 17th Floor, JKG Palm Court, Plot No GH 1D, Sector 16C, Greater Noida West, UP. Super Builtup Area- 1635 Sq. Ft.	Rs. 7,834,678/- as on May 18, 2022	Rs. 60,60,000/- Rs.6,06,000/-	June 20, 2022 From 11:00 AM to 2:00 PM	July 07, 2022 From 11:00 AM Onwards
9.	Sanjin Lamba (Borrower), Madhu (Co-Borrower) LBDEL00002935333	Flat No 1603, 16th Floor, A2 Palm Court, Plot No.GH-01D Sector-16C, Greater Noida, Gautam Buddha Nagar 201301. Super Builtup Area- 1185 Sq. Ft.	Rs. 6,387,173/- as on May 18, 2022	Rs. 44,00,000/- Rs. 4,40,000/-	June 20, 2022 From 11:00 AM to 2:00 PM	July 07, 2022 From 11:00 AM Onwards

The online auction will be conducted on website [URL Link-https://disposahub.com](https://disposahub.com) of our auction agency **M/s NexXen Solutions Private Limited**. The Mortgagors/ noticees are given a last chance to pay the total dues with further interest till **July 06, 2022 before 05:00 P.M** else these secured assets will be sold as per above schedule.

The Prospective Bidder(s) must submit the Earnest Money Deposit (EMD) Demand Draft (DD) (Refer Column E) at **ICICI Bank Limited, 3rd Floor Shal Tower, New Rohtak Road, Karol bagh, Delhi-110005** and thereafter they need to submit their offer through the above mentioned website only on or before **July 06, 2022 before 05:00 P.M** along with scan image of Bank acknowledged DD towards proof of payment of EMD. Kindly note, incase prospective bidder(s) are unable to submit their offer through the website then signed copy of tender documents may be submitted at **ICICI Bank Limited, 3rd Floor Shal Tower, New Rohtak Road, Karol bagh, Delhi-110005** on or before **July 06, 2022 before 05:00 P.M**. Earnest Money Deposit DD/PD should be from a Nationalised/Scheduled Bank in favour of **"ICICI Bank Limited"** payable at Delhi.

For any further clarifications with regards to inspection, terms and conditions of the auction or submission of tenders, kindly contact **ICICI Bank Limited on 8584874809/ 9599281817** or **M/s NexXen Solutions Private Limited on 9710029933/ 9810029926/ 01244233933**

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

The Authorised Officer reserves the right to reject any or all the bids without furnishing any further reasons. For detailed terms and conditions of the sale, please visit www.icicibank.com/n4p4s

Date: June 14, 2022
Place: Delhi/ NCR

Sd/- Authorized Officer
ICICI Bank Limited

Sensex nosedives 1,457 points amid global rout

Nifty crashes below 15,775

PTI ■ MUMBAI

Equity benchmarks had another rough day on Monday, with the Sensex plummeting 1,457 points and the Nifty tumbling to the 15,774 level, mirroring an extremely weak trend in global markets along with unrelenting foreign fund outflows.

Index majors ICICI Bank, Infosys and Reliance Industries bore the brunt of heavy selling. The 30-share BSE Sensex tumbled 1,456.74 points or 2.68 per cent to settle at 52,846.70. During the day, it plummeted 1,776.36 points or 3.27 per cent to 52,527.08. The Nifty tanked 427.40 points or 2.64 per cent to close at 15,774.40.

Bajaj Finserv, Bajaj Finance, IndusInd Bank, Tech Mahindra, ICICI Bank, TCS, NTPC, Infosys and State Bank of India were the major lag-



gards in the Sensex pack.

The BSE benchmark had ended 1,016.84 points or 1.84 per cent lower at 54,303.44 on Friday. The broader NSE Nifty had plunged 276.30 points or 1.68 per cent to 16,201.80. Elsewhere in Asia, markets in Seoul, Tokyo, Hong Kong and Shanghai settled with deep cuts. Markets in Europe were also facing heavy selling pressure in mid-session deals.

Stock exchanges in the US ended sharply lower on Friday. "Weak global cues ahead of the Fed meet painted benchmark indices here in a sea of red as

street awaits CPI data today on a day when the rupee hit a new low.

The risk off mode in equities globally after the US inflation print raised fears of an aggressive rate hike..." said S Ranganathan, Head of Research at LKP Securities.

Meanwhile, international oil benchmark Brent crude fell 0.98 per cent to USD 120.75 per barrel. Foreign institutional investors (FIIs) remained net sellers in the capital market, as they sold shares worth Rs 3,973.95 crore on Friday, as per exchange data.

Retail inflation eases to 7.04% in May on softening food, fuel prices

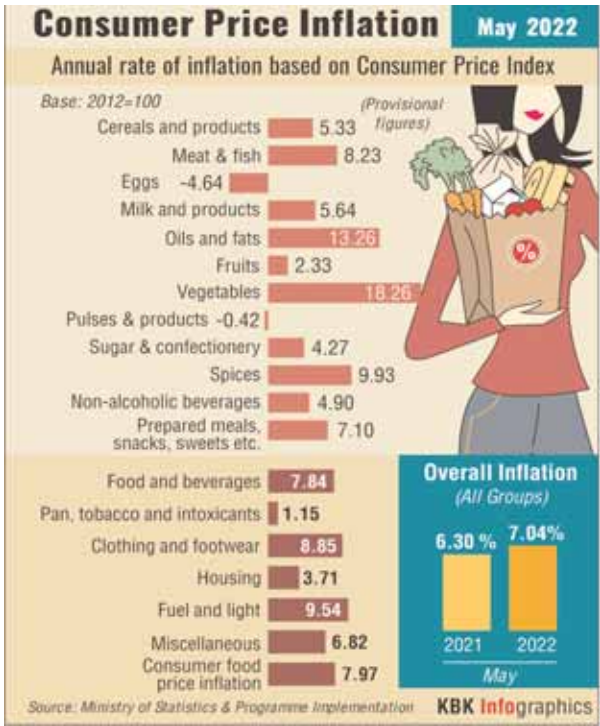
PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Retail inflation eased to 7.04 per cent in May, mainly on account of softening food and fuel prices as government as well as RBI stepped in to control spiralling price rise by way of duty cuts and repo rate hike.

However, the inflation print stayed above the Reserve Bank's upper tolerance level of 6 per cent for fifth month in a row. The Consumer Price Index (CPI) based retail inflation was 7.79 per cent in April. In year-ago month of May 2021, retail inflation stood at 6.3 per cent.

Inflation in the food basket in May 2022 was at 7.97 per cent, down from 8.31 per cent in previous month, as per data released by National Statistical Office (NSO) on Monday.

The food basket has weightage of 39.06 per cent in the overall Consumer Price Index. As per data, the inflation print in 'cereals and products' segment eased to 5.33 per cent in May as against 5.96 per cent in the preceding month, while that for 'oil and fats' softened to



13.26 per cent from 17.28 per cent. The rate of price rise for fruits slowed to 2.33 per cent from 4.99 per cent. However,

vegetable prices accelerated 18.26 per cent as against 15.41 per cent in April. Among others, the prices of eggs and



LIC shares tumble nearly 6%; down over 29% from issue price

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Shares of Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC) continued to fall for the tenth day running on Monday and tumbled nearly 6 per cent.

The stock tanked 5.85 per cent to settle at Rs 668.20 apiece on the BSE. During the day, it plunged 6 per cent to Rs 666.90. On the NSE, it tumbled 5.66 per cent to end at Rs 669.50 apiece.

Shares of the company have been falling for the past ten days, losing 20.17 per cent. LIC got listed on the bourses on May 17.

Rupee falls 20 paise to close at record low of 78.13 against US dollar

PTI ■ MUMBAI

The rupee plunged 20 paise to close at an all-time low of 78.13 against the US dollar on Monday, as a lacklustre trend in domestic equities and stronger greenback overseas weighed on investor sentiments.

Forex traders said weak Asian currencies and persistent foreign capital outflows were the other major factors that dragged the local unit down.

At the interbank foreign exchange market, the local currency opened at 78.20 and witnessed an intra-day high of 78.02 and a low of 78.29 against the US dollar.

The local unit finally settled at its all-time low of 78.13, down 20 paise over its previous close. On Friday, the rupee had tumbled 19 paise to close at a record low of 77.93 against the



US dollar. "The Indian rupee, taking cues from weaker regional currencies plummeted to a life low.

The dollar extended gains on Monday as US treasury yields rose after Friday's inflation shock raised speculation of a more aggressive rate hike from the Federal Reserve this Wednesday," Dilip Parmar, Research Analyst, HDFC Securities.

Parmar further noted that after Friday's US inflation data, money markets are pricing a 175 bps hike by its September decision, implying two half points and one 75 bps hike.

"The last 75 bps hike by the Fed was made in November 1994." Spot USD/INR is expected to trade higher and a cross above 78.30 will pave way for 78.50 and 78.70 while on the downside 77.70 acts as support," Parmar noted. The dollar index, which gauges the greenback's strength against a basket of six currencies, rose 0.55 per cent to 104.71. Brent crude futures, the global oil benchmark, declined 1.58 per cent to USD 120.08 per barrel.

On the domestic equity market front, the BSE Sensex ended 1,456.74 points or 2.68 per cent lower at 52,846.70, while the broader NSE Nifty tanked 427.40 points or 2.64 per cent to 15,774.40. Continuing their selling spree, foreign institutional investors offloaded shares worth a net Rs 3,973.95 crore on Friday, as per stock exchange data.

Government IT spending in India to reach \$9.5 bn this year

IANIS ■ NEW DELHI

The government IT spending in India is likely to reach \$9.5 billion in 2022, an increase of 12.1 per cent from last year, a new report said on Monday. Software will continue to be the highest growing segment in India this year, followed by IT services.

"Contrary to the worldwide spending, all segments will experience growth in 2022 in India," said Apeksha Kaushik, principal analyst at Gartner.

Now, governments are executing innovative activities by harnessing technology to streamline digital services, advance automation processes and evolve citizen experiences and building a data fabric.

Global government IT spending is likely to reach \$565.7 billion in 2022, an



increase of 5 per cent from 2021. Continuing the trend from 2021, software is forecast to record the strongest growth across all segments in 2022.

As legacy modernization continues to be a priority in government organizations, growth in the data center systems segment will continue to slow though the forecast period, the report mentioned.

"Governments are executing innovative activities by harnessing technology to streamline digital services, advance automation processes and evolve citizen experiences," said Daniel Snyder, director

analyst at Gartner.

Spending on telecom services is set to decrease in 2022 as governments reduce spending on expensive legacy systems in favour of digital service delivery models.

Anything-as-a-Service (XaaS) is gaining popularity across government organizations as it provides better return on investment normalising IT spend over time making budgeting for IT more predictable. "The pandemic sped up public-sector adoption of cloud solutions and the XaaS model for accelerated legacy modernization and new service implementations," said Kaushik.

With the ongoing talent challenges facing organizations, XaaS makes it easier for government organizations to find the right talent via XaaS operating models.

RenewX 2022 ends in Hyderabad

PNS ■ NEW DELHI/HYDERABAD

The 6th Edition of South India's largest Renewable Energy Expo, RenewX 2022 concluded in Hyderabad, which is emerging as the Clean Technology hub of the country.

India has set an ambitious target of meeting half of its energy needs, which is 500 GW, from renewable resources by 2030 and reach the net zero emission levels by 2070.

Curated on the theme, 'Unlocking the Era to Net Zero Emissions', the Expo stressed on the increase in the penetration of renewable energy adoption and geared up the stakeholders to progress towards sustainable development goals.

Speaking on the side-lines of the Expo, N. Janiaiah, VC and Managing Director, Telangana State Renewable

Energy Development Corporation Ltd, said, "TSREDCO is committed to help people set up rooftop panels, who will approach societies and educate consumers about the installation process, savings, and cost per month.

Cost comparisons will also be made with 3 to 4 consumers to arrive at optimum costing. Consumers have welcomed this initiative as it provides them with a one-stop shop advantage and will only have to pay the bill."

Ajay Mishra, Director General - RESI and Former Special Chief Secretary, Telangana, said: "Today the cost of Hydrogen is about \$5-6/unit, and as per the prediction of industry captains the cost of green hydrogen will come down to \$1/unit in the next 4-6 years, which will make it viable for the consumer."

Punjab CM assures farmers to provide regular power supply during paddy season

PTI ■ CHANDIGARH

Punjab Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann on Monday assured farmers to provide regular and uninterrupted power supply during the paddy season.

According to an official statement, Mann said the state government has taken a conscientious decision to conserve the state's precious natural resource in terms of groundwater by allowing paddy transplantation in a phased manner across the state from June 10 to 17.

Resultantly, the chief minister said Punjab State Power Corporation Limited (PSPCL) had already been directed to ensure a minimum of eight



hours of power supply to farmers during the ongoing paddy season. Showing deep concern over the fast depleting groundwater level, the chief minister urged the farmers to make judicious use of water.

Mann has already given detailed instructions to PSPCL to make sure that the power supply to other categories of consumers, especially the households, should not be

hampered and ensure they too get regular power supply during the peak summer season, the statement said. Elaborate arrangements have already been made by PSPCL to meet total expected demand of 15,000 megawatt, which includes farm sector requirement for paddy, it added.

To meet this demand, the transmission capacity to procure from outside the state has been enhanced to 8,500 MW as against 7,100 MW in last season and remaining power of 6,500 MW is being arranged from its sources within state, as per statement. According to estimates of the state agriculture department, farmers are likely to sow paddy over an area of nearly 29 lakh.

Live reporting for health tests

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Healthians, a leading diagnostic services provider and the pioneer of the health-test-at-home concept, has launched diagnostic tests live reporting that starts just 4 hours after sample collection.

The service has been launched in Delhi, Gurgaon, Noida, Mumbai, Bengaluru, Ahmedabad, Hyderabad, Ghaziabad, Faridabad, and Greater Noida. "Making India, and eventually the world, healthier is what we are working for, and this service is another step in that direction," said Deepak Sahni, founder & CEO, Healthians.

India's coal import may drop 11% to 186 MT in FY'23

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

India's coal import is likely to decline by 11.4 per cent to 186 million tonnes (MT) in the current financial year, even as the state-owned firm has issued import tenders to source the dry fuel from overseas.

Coal India Ltd, which accounts for over 80 per cent of domestic coal output, last week issued tenders to import coal in a bid to build up the stock of fossil fuel at the indigenous power plants, as mandated by the government.

The country imported 210 MT of coal in the 2021-22. According to the medium-term projections of the ministry of coal, of the 186 MT of coal that the company is expected to import in the ongoing fiscal, 130 MT is non-coking coal and 56 MT is coking coal. Non-coking coal is mainly used as thermal coal for power generation. India is likely to import 172 MT of coal in

2024-25, 173 MT in 2027-28, and 170 MT in 2029-30. The country imported 215 MT of coal in FY'21 and 249 MT of coal in FY'20, the coal ministry said.

Coal India last week floated its maiden tender to import 2.416 million tonnes of coal and also floated two international competitive bidding e-tenders of 3 million tonnes each to source coal from overseas.

The import tender was floated after the government asked the company to build up stock of fossil fuel to avoid the reoccurrence of power outages, which happened in April on account of shortage of the fuel.

Though CIL is on its full steam in augmenting the production to meet the domestic demand of the country, this is a step towards a state of readiness to combat futuristic coal supply crunch if any, the PSU said.

OVL says oil movement from Sakhalin-1 project disrupted due to sanctions

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

ONGC Videsh Ltd, the overseas investment arm of state-owned Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC), is facing temporary disruptions in moving its share of oil from the Sakhalin-1 project in Far East Russia due to sanctions against Russia, its Managing Director Alok Gupta said.

OVL holds a 20 per cent stake in Sakhalin-1 where ExxonMobil's Russian subsidiary, Exxon Neftegas, is the operator. Exxon has announced its exit from project following Russia's invasion of Ukraine and has reportedly begun withdrawing expatriates from project.

Sakhalin-1 produced around 271,000 barrels of oil per day in January and February 2022, according to Russian Energy Ministry data, against average of 227,000 bpd last year. Output has slipped after sanctions against Russia

made it difficult to ship oil from project. Production slipped to just over 60,000 barrels per day between May 1 and 15, Moscow-based news agency Interfax reported.

"There are temporary disruptions because of force majeure taken in case of Sakhalin-1," Gupta said at an investor call post-ONGC's FY22 earnings. "This situation is going to be normalized over next two-three weeks, as we are finding out alternative measures."

He did not elaborate on alternatives being explored. The ExxonMobil-led Sakhalin-1 consortium declared force majeure on its scheduled oil export shipments to Asia after it faced difficulties in chartering ice-resistant tankers to ship oil from De-Kastri marine export terminal located on Sakhalin Island in Russia's Khabarovsk region. These tankers are operated by Russian state-owned shipper

Sovcomflot that is subject to sanctions from US and Europe. Shipowners are facing difficulty in arranging insurance coverage. Gupta said sea between Khabarovsk region and Sakhalin usually clears of ice by June and so the ice-class vessels and ice-breaking support are needed before that.

According to the transcript of the call, he termed Exxon's exit from Russia as a result of a "grandstanding or let's say high moral stance taken not exactly in terms of energy sanctions which have been imposed, but (due to) high moral grounds."

"The refusal to provide production and indemnity cover for ice-class vessels has led to an inability to move crude from terminal to transfer point which is in South Korea, he said. "This disruption is going to be there for a couple of months because of which we are having suppressed production from Sakhalin."



StartUps for Railways launched

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Policy aims to leverage innovative technologies developed by Indian Startups/MSMEs/Innovators/Entrepreneurs to improve operational efficiency and Safety of Indian Railways Grant up to Rs 1.5 crore to innovator on equal sharing basis with provision of milestone-wise payment Indian

Railways, the National transporter has taken an important initiative in field of innovation through participation of startups and other entities. Minister of Railways, Communications and Electronics & Information Technology, Ashwini Vaishnav has launched "StartUps for Railways" today in Rail Bhavan, New Delhi.

This policy will bring scale

and efficiency in field of operation, maintenance and infrastructure creation through participation of very large and untapped startup ecosystem. Speaking at event, Ashwini Vaishnav said that long going discussions over integration of technology into Indian Railways have taken today the firm shape in form of this initiative launched today.

HAALAND ‘PROUD’ TO MAKE MAN CITY MOVE

AP ■ MANCHESTER

Erling Haaland said his transfer to Manchester City from Borussia Dortmund is a "great move" for his career as the Norwegian aims to fire the Premier League champions to more silverware.

City announced last month they had beaten off competition from Europe's top clubs to agree a deal with the German giants after triggering Haaland's reported £51 million (\$63 million) release clause.

The 21-year-old's move was officially completed on Monday with Haaland penning a five-year contract to follow in the footsteps of his father Alfie Inge Haaland, who played for City between 2000 and 2003.

"This is a proud day for me and my family. I have always watched City and have loved doing so in recent seasons," said Haaland. "I want to score goals, win trophies, and improve as a footballer and I am confident I can do that here. This is a great move for me, and I can't wait to get started in pre-season."

The arrival of one of world football's biggest talents end City's search for a specialist striker to succeed Sergio Agüero, who left the club last year.

City's attempt to sign



Liverpool agree 75mn-euro deal for Nunez

AP ■ LIVERPOOL

Liverpool have reached a deal with Benfica to buy the Uruguay striker Darwin Nunez for an initial 75 million euros (£64 million), the Portuguese club said on Monday.

The transfer could eventually rise to 100 million euros, Benfica said in a statement, eclipsing Liverpool's club-record £75 million paid to Southampton for Dutch centre-back Virgil van Dijk in 2018.

Nunez scored 26 goals in 28 league appearances last season in Portugal.

The 22-year-old, who was left out of Uruguay's squad for Saturday's 5-0 friendly victory over Panama, was expected to begin a medical on Monday which could take two days to complete.

Personal terms are not anticipated to be a problem, with the player having



expressed his desire to play for Reds manager Jurgen Klopp despite interest from Manchester United.

Nunez is set to sign a reported six-year contract with Premier League and Champions League runners-up Liverpool, who have been in talks with Benfica for several weeks.

He netted in both legs of Benfica's Champions League quarter-final defeat against Liverpool in April, earning praise from Klopp.

Nunez is likely to arrive at Anfield as a direct replacement for Sadio Mane after Bayern Munich stepped up their pursuit of the Senegal forward.

Liverpool have rejected two offers from the Bundesliga champions and are holding out for a fee in excess of £40 million for Mane, who has one year left on his contract.

England captain Harry Kane from Tottenham fell short last summer, but Pep Guardiola's men still had enough to pip Liverpool by a point to win a fourth Premier League title in five seasons.

Haaland has scored 23 goals in 19 Champions League appearances for Dortmund and RB Salzburg and will be expected to get City over the line when it matters most in Europe.

"There are so many world-class players in this squad and Pep is one of the greatest managers of all time, so I believe I am in the right place to fulfil my ambitions," he added.

"You can't help but admire their style of play, it's exciting and they create a lot of chances, which is perfect for a player like me." Haaland had almost his pick of Europe's top clubs thanks to a buyout clause below his

market value and a stunning record of 86 goals in 89 games for Dortmund.

He rejected Manchester United's advances when moving from Salzburg to Dortmund in January 2020 and his decision to choose the Etihad as his destination is a coup for City's rising status.

"His rise has been remarkable, but he is still only 21. His best years are ahead of him, and

we are confident he can get even better working with Pep," said City's director of football Txiki Begiristain.

"He is a huge talent and has been one of the best strikers in Europe over the last few seasons.

"His goalscoring record is exceptional and his performances at Borussia Dortmund and in the Champions League in particular have proved he can succeed at the highest level."

Djoker slips to 3rd as Medvedev tops ATP rankings



AP ■ PARIS

Daniil Medvedev returned to the top of the ATP rankings on Monday, ahead of Alexander Zverev, with Novak Djokovic slipping out of the top two for the first time in nearly four years.

The 26-year-old Russian, who was surprisingly beaten by Tim van Rijthoven

in the final at 's-Hertogenbosch on Sunday, briefly occupied the number one spot for two weeks at the end of February and the beginning of March.

But with Djokovic losing in the quarter-finals at the French Open, where he was defending champion, the door opened for Medvedev to rise again to top spot.

World No. 205 Rijthoven shocks Daniil

AP ■ 'S-HERTOGENBOSCH

Tim van Rijthoven made the most of a rare main tour berth as he claimed a first title by sweeping aside Daniil Medvedev 6-4, 6-1 in the final of the grass court tournament in 's-

Hertogenbosch. The 25-year-old Dutchman, ranked 205th in the world, took 1hr 5min to crush the Russian. Van Rijthoven, who was invited into the Dutch event as a wild card, had spent this season, like most of his career, on the second tier Challenger Tour.

champion.

It is the first time since October 2018 that Djokovic is not in the top two.

Rafael Nadal, who beat the Serb at Roland Garros and went on to take the title for the 14th time, stays at number four, now only 245 points behind his great rival.

Casper Ruud reached his best career ranking of fifth in the world, up one place ahead of Stefanos Tsitsipas.

Former world number one Andy Murray climbed 21 places to 48 following his journey to the final in Stuttgart at the weekend while Medvedev's conqueror Van Rijthoven jumped 99 places from 205 to 106.



Spain celebrate as Portugal fall

AP ■ MALAGA

Spain won a second successive UEFA Nations League match on Sunday with a 2-0 win over the Czech Republic while rivals Portugal conceded a goal after just 57 seconds to lose to Switzerland.

Spain went in front in Malaga after 24 minutes when a perfectly-weighted pass by Marco Asensio released Carlos Soler to score.

Pablo Sarabia added the second on 75 minutes as Spain got the better of a Czech side against whom they had drawn 2-2 in Prague last week.

Despite the win, Spain were indebted to some fine saves by Athletic Bilbao goalkeeper Unai Simon.

He thwarted an 18th-minute strike from Václav Cerný and, two minutes later, denied Jan Kuchta.

In Geneva, Switzerland took the lead after just 57 sec-

onds against a Portugal side playing without Cristiano Ronaldo when Haris Seferovic scored from Silvan Widmer's pass. Portugal's stand-in skipper Pepe made his 128th international appearance and they were unlucky not to get something from the game with Swiss keeper Jonas Omlin saving from Danilo and Bernardo Silva.

Victory was a welcome boost for a Swiss side who went into the game having lost their previous three matches.

Spain stay top of League A Group 2 with eight points from four games with Portugal a point further back.

Erling Haaland scored twice and set up the third as Norway beat neighbours Sweden 3-2 in Oslo in League B. "I'm speechless!" the 21-year-old striker told Norwegian television, before adding: "To win against Sweden in the last match of the

season, it's beautiful."

Haaland, who is heading for Manchester City from Borussia Dortmund this summer, gave Norway the lead in the 10th minute heading in a near-post cross.

He added a penalty in the 54th minute after Hjalmar Ekdal fouled Alexander Sorloth.

It was Haaland's 20th international goal in 18 Norway appearances.

Sweden replied eight minutes later when Emil Forsberg smashed home a pass from Dejan Kulusevski.

Haaland then crossed for Sorloth to head home and restore the host's two-goal lead after 77 minutes.

Viktor Gyokeres gave the Swedes brief hope by rifling home a shot five minutes into added time.

"This tasted great," said Norway coach Ståle Solbakken.



Weightlifter Gurunaidu Sanapathi becomes Youth World Champion

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Gurunaidu Sanapathi has become India's first weightlifter to win a Gold at the IWF Youth World Championships in Leon, Mexico.

The 16-year-old claimed the yellow metal with a total effort of 230kg (104kg+126kg) in the boy's 55kg event late on Sunday night.

While Sanapathi, the 2020 Asian Youth Weightlifting Championships Bronze medalist, stood on top of the podium, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia's Ali Majeed 229kg (105kg+124kg) came in second and Yerassyl Umrov of Kazakhstan 224kg (100kg+124kg) third.

Besides Sanapathi, compatriot Soumya S. Dalvi bagged the Bronze in her event on the second day of competitions.

Maharashtra's Dalvi, a two-time Khelo India Youth Gold medalist, heaved 148kg (65kg+83kg) to claim the third spot in the 45kg girl's event behind Rose J Ramos of Philippines 155kg (70kg+85kg) and Venezuela Kerlys M. Montilla 153kg (71kg+82kg).

The other Indian in the fray, R Bhavani finished eighth with a best effort of 132kg (57kg+75kg).

India's tally at the word event now stands at four medals. On the opening day of competition, Akansha Kishor Vyavhare and Vijay Prajapati had won Silver medals in their respective events.

Kazakhstan Curling Cup WCT medal winners felicitated

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The 21st Kazakhstan Curling Cup WCT (World Curling Tour) Mixed Doubles 2022 was held between May 26 to May 29. The Indian team bagged the runners-up position in the tournament.

Rashmi Saluja, President of the Curling Federation of India felicitated the winning team at a glittering ceremony in New Delhi.

She also presented kits to the Indian Curling team set to represent India in the



upcoming Indo-Kazakhstan Curling Championship 2022. The Indian Curling Team

Jersey was also unveiled by her at the event.

The Kazakhstan Mixed

Need to train Indian athletes to handle mental pressure at big events: Nikhat



PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Handling "mental pressure" at the highest level is something Indian athletes lack, according to reigning world champion boxer Nikhat Zareen, who feels specialised training should be given to overcome this hurdle at big-ticket events.

Indian athletes have a ten-

should be given training to handle the mental pressure.

"Once you reach the big platforms a lot of athletes become nervous, they aren't able to perform," added Zareen.

Zareen, who was crowned the world champion in the flyweight event last month, has also sealed a berth for the Birmingham Commonwealth Games, starting on July 28.

Zareen has had to wait long for a chance in the flyweight category which veteran Indian boxer MC Mary Kom has made her own but the Telangana boxer feels the wait increased her hunger to do well. "Not only for me but other boxers in that category, they too wanted a chance. But you have to prove yourself and I have done that by becoming world champion."

"If I hadn't struggled and if Mary Kom wouldn't have been in my weight category I might not have worked so hard."

"And if I hadn't worked hard I wouldn't be a world champion today. So I will take it in a positive way. Maybe I had more hunger because I got a chance so late."

Sindhu, Sen eye consistency as focus shifts to Indonesia Open



PTI ■ JAKARTA

Two-time Olympic medalist P V Sindhu and rising star Lakshya Sen will seek consistency as they lead the Indian charge at the Indonesia Open Super 1000 badminton tournament beginning here on Tuesday.

Sindhu has managed to secure two Super 300 titles — the Syed Modi International and the Swiss Open — this year but she has looked vulnerable against

top players, facing defeats at the hands of Thailand's Ratchanok Intanon, China's Chen Yu Fei and Korea's An Se Young.

However, the former world champion is known to up her game in big events and she will look to gear up for next month's Commonwealth Games with another good show at the Istora Gelora Bung Karno when she opens against China's He Bing Jiao.

If Sindhu, seeded seventh, can cross the opening two rounds, she is likely to face the third seeded An Se Young, who has an over-

whelming 5-0 record against the Indian.

In men's singles, eighth seed Sen and HS Prannoy — the two architects of India's epic Thomas Cup win — will cross sword in an all Indian contest.

Sen has been in good touch for the last few months. His World Championships Bronze was followed by a maiden Super 500 title win at India Open and a final appearance at the All England Championship and German Open Super 300.

World Championship Silver medalist Kidambi Srikanth, who was in sensational form at the Thomas Cup, will meet Chinese Taipei's Wang Tzu Wei in his opener.

Former Singapore Open champion B Sai Praneeth, who hasn't been in the best of form, is pitted against Denmark's Hans-Kristian Solberg Vittinghus in his opening match.

Top men's doubles pair of Satwiksairaj Rankireddy and Chirag Shetty, who had skipped the Indonesia Masters last week, will open their campaign against Korea's Choi Sol Gyu and Kim Won Ho.

In women's doubles, Ashwini Ponnappa and N Sikki Reddy, Treasa Jolly and Gayatri Gopichand, and Ashwini Bhat and Shikha Gautam, will also be in the fray.

Ashwini and Sumeth will also pair up in the mixed event, while Ishaan Bhatnagar and Tanisha Crasto will also look to go deep in the draw.



DRITI ATRI

After suffering back-to-back defeats in the first two matches of the five-match T20I series against South Africa, India can't afford to lose anymore if they want to win the home assignment against the Temba Bavuma-led side. The South Africans made a mockery of the Indian bowling attack in the open-

ing two matches and easily chased down the targets to go 2-0 up. For the Men in Blue, things have gone from bad to worse in the last few days. After losing skipper KL Rahul and star spinner Kuldeep Yadav ahead of the start of the series, India failed to put up a strong show in the familiar conditions to keep the visitors at bay. The poor performance of the Indian spinners — Yuzvendra

DO-OR-DIE GAME FOR INDIA

After suffering back-to-back defeats in first two matches, India take on SA in must-win tie

Chahal and Axar Patel — has been a cause of concern. The duo have picked up a total of two wickets in two matches and have conceded 134 runs in 11.1 overs. They leaked runs in the middle orders that allowed Proteas batters to settle down at the crease and play big shots at will. Chahal's performance is a big shocker for the Indian team as the leg-spinner was in top-form in the recently concluded 2022 season of the Indian Premier League and finished as the leading wicket-taker of the season. In the batting, Ishan Kishan has done well up till now, but his opening partner, Ruturaj Gaikwad, is yet to make any significant contribution. He hasn't looked comfortable in either of the games. Shreyas Iyer, at three, has tackled Tabraiz Shamsi with ease but is yet to find a solution against the short ball.

The Indian team management will be hoping that the star middle-order trio of skipper Rishabh Pant, all-rounder Hardik Pandya, and veteran Dinesh Karthik will come good and go, all guns blazing, in the must-win match in Vizag. In the second T20I, which was played at Cuttack's Barabati Stadium, in a surprise call, Axar Patel was promoted to bat ahead of Karthik, who made his comeback to the national set-up on the back of an outstanding IPL season. The team's decision has been heavily criticised by fans and former cricketers alike, and in the upcoming matches one can expect Karthik at six. Pant's captaincy has also been under scanner after the first two matches. The 24-year-old has failed to make the most of the resources available and his decision to hold Axar till the 12th over on Sunday

India vs South Africa
Live from 7:00pm IST
STAR SPORTS 1 NETWORK

was a bizarre call. In the first match, he was slammed for not allowing Yuzvendra Chahal to complete the quota of four overs. Going into the third game, it will be interesting to see if India make any changes to the playing eleven. Even though the chances are quite low, it won't be a surprise if one of Umran Malik or Arshdeep Singh makes his India debut on Tuesday. The duo have received their maiden call-up on the back of a good performance in this year's IPL. While Umran has impressed with his pace and wicket-taking abilities, Punjab Kings' pacer Arshdeep has established himself as one of the best death bowlers in the country as far as T20 cricket is concerned. As for South Africa, they are on the cusp of winning their first T20I series in India and would like to continue the good show in the remaining three matches as well. After getting bashed by Indian batters in Delhi, their bowlers bounced back in Cuttack and restricted the hosts to 148 runs. However, they will hope that the spin duo of Tabraiz Shamsi and Keshav Maharaj come up with a better display. Aiden Markram, who tested positive for COVID-19 ahead of the first T20, is likely to miss out, and there is no update on Quinton de Kock's hand injury either. De Kock's replacement at Barabati Stadium — Heinrich Klaasen — starred in the second match with his 46-ball 81 and would like to continue the ace form.

‘Axar sent ahead of DK to rotate strike’

.PTI ■ CUTTACK

It may have looked odd to send Axar Patel ahead of India's 'designated finisher' Dinesh Karthik in the second T20 against South Africa but top-order batter Shreyas Iyer defended the strategy, saying the need of the hour was to "rotate strike". India were struggling to get going and were 112/6 when Axar Patel got out in the 17th over as it was mainly due to the veteran Karthik's pyrotechnics while batting at No 7 that they could get post a respectable 148/6. "It's something we had strategised earlier as well. We had seven overs left when Axar went in, and he's someone who can take the singles and keep rotating the strike," Shreyas said at the post-match media interaction on Sunday. "Also, at that point in time, we didn't require someone to go in and start hitting from ball one. DK can obviously do that, but he has been a really good asset for us after 15 overs, where he can go in and start hitting straightaway."



Promoted at No 6, Axar scored 10 off 11 balls before being cleaned up by Anrich Nortje, while Karthik slammed an unbeaten 30 from 21 balls. Shreyas argued that even Karthik had struggled to get his timing right like many others on the day on a two-paced wicket. "Even he was finding it a little bit difficult at the start. The wicket played a huge role in this game. And as for that strategy, we can and we will be going with it in the next matches as well," Shreyas said. As a matter of fact, Karthik took 15 balls to score eight runs but then he broke free in the next six, smashing two sixes and two fours. On hindsight, it may have felt that India could have notched 160-plus had the in-form Karthik got more time in the middle. Shreyas however agreed that they fell short by about 12 runs in the end. "If I look back I think 160 would have been a really good score on this wicket to put them under a little bit of pressure. But we were like 12 runs short," he added.

SQUADS

India: Rishabh Pant (c & wk), Ruturaj Gaikwad, Ishan Kishan, Deepak Hooda, Shreyas Iyer, Dinesh Karthik, Hardik Pandya, Venkatesh Iyer, Yuzvendra Chahal, Axar Patel, Ravi Bishnoi, Bhuvneshwar, Harshal Patel, Avesh Khan, Arshdeep, Umran Malik. **South Africa:** Temba Bavuma (c), Quinton de Kock (wk), Reeza Hendricks, Heinrich Klaasen, Keshav Maharaj, Aiden Markram, David Miller, Lungi Ngidi, Anrich Nortje, Wayne Parnell, Dwaine Pretorius, Kagiso Rabada, Tabraiz Shamsi, Tristan Stubbs, Rassie van der Dussen, Marco Jansen.

Kotak, Bahutule to be part of Laxman's support staff for Ireland tour



PTI ■ NEW DELHI

National Cricket Academy coaches Sitanshu Kotak, Sairaj Bahutule and Munish Bali will be part of India cricket team's support staff, which will be headed by VVS Laxman, on the short tour of Ireland later this month. Kotak, who has been part of the India A set up earlier, will be the batting coach while Bali and Bahutule, who were part of the victorious U-19 World Cup campaign in the Caribbean earlier this year, have been handed the fielding and bowling duties. NCA head Laxman will coach the team in Ireland with

the games scheduled on June 26 and June 28 in Malahide. With head coach Rahul Dravid and the other senior team support staff set to depart for England with the Test squad later this week, the trio of Bali, Kotak and Bahutule has already joined the squad currently playing South Africa at home. "After the senior support staff departs for the England tour, Bali, Bahutule and Kotak will take over the duties for the remaining T20 against South Africa in Rajkot and Bengaluru. "They have already been with the limited overs squad for a while and by the time the senior support staff leaves for England, they will be ready for the task," a BCCI official said. The squad for the Ireland series is yet to be announced. The short tour coincides with the tour of England where India are supposed the rescheduled fifth Test against England from July 1. India lead the series 2-1. Before that, India will play a four-day warm up against Leicestershire from Jun 24-27. India will field a team of primarily T20 specialists against Ireland but a full strength squad is expected for the white ball leg of England tour comprising three T20s and as many ODIs from July 7.



AP ■ NOTTINGHAM

James Anderson claimed his 650th Test wicket as England reduced New Zealand to 27-1 in their second innings at lunch on the fourth day of the second Test. Anderson was gifted his landmark wicket as New Zealand opener Tom Latham left a straight ball that clattered into his stumps. The 39-year-old fast bowler is just third man ever to reach the landmark after spin legends Shane Warne and Muttiah Muralitharan. Restored to the team by new captain Ben Stokes, Anderson looks as good as ever and his experience will be crucial if England are to win their first Test series since January 2021. England are locked in an



intriguing battle with New Zealand after being dismissed for 539 in Monday's morning session at Trent Bridge.

Klaasen hopes Barabati knock prolongs his career

PTI ■ CUTTACK

South Africa wicketkeeper-batter Heinrich Klaasen hopes his match-winning effort against India in the second T20 helps him prolong his international career. Dropped after the T20 World Cup last year, Klaasen also found himself out of the ODI side and also lost his central contract. He would not have got a look-in had Quinton de Kock not injured his wrist before the game on Sunday as the 30-year-old finally got a chance. He took the game away from India with his fiery 46-ball 81, his career-best T20 score. "It was difficult (pitch) to bat. I found myself struggling up front.

IT'S A BLESSING FROM ABOVE THAT THIS INNINGS CAME AT THIS TIME FOR ME IN MY CAREER... THAT PUTS ME ON THE MAP AHEAD OF INT'L CRICKET. SO HOPEFULLY THIS WILL JUST PROLONG MY CAREER A LITTLE BIT LONGER

Then I decided if I go out today I would rather go my way and try to be positive. It's just one of those days that it came off," he said at the post-match media interaction. "It's a blessing from above that this innings came at this time for me in my career... That puts me on the map ahead of international cricket. So hopefully this will just prolong my career a little bit longer." He said he got an indication about playing a couple of days back after de Kock injured his hand and it was on the eve of the match he was confirmed a place in the XI. "Quinny came up to me two days back on the team bus and said he had injured his wrists. I thought he is a strong character and he would be

fine. But yesterday again, he said his hand is not fine. Yesterday morning, we came to training and the coach told me I might play," he said. From four off 12 balls, Klaasen stepped it up against the spinners and completed his fifty in 32 balls. To his advantage, Bhuvneshwar Kumar, who returned with magical figures of 4/13, was taken out of the attack after giving a triple blow up front. Bhuvneshwar returned only in the 18th over and by then Klaasen innings virtually sealed it for the visitors. "I also knew we needed to target the spinners. The seamers had a little bit up and down so we can take a little bit less risk against them and it came off today," he added.

Anderson takes 650th Test wicket

Mumbai face Uttar Pradesh in Ranji Trophy semifinal

PTI ■ BENGALURU

Record champions Mumbai, who are back to their ruthless best, face a high on confidence Uttar Pradesh in what promises to be an intriguing semifinal of the Ranji Trophy, beginning here on Tuesday. The in-form Mumbai batters will be up against a varied UP attack, which will be bolstered by the addition of pacer Mohsin Khan. The 41-time Ranji champions made it to the last four with a world record 725-run hammering of Uttarakhand and will aim to carry the momentum into the game. UP decimated Karnataka by five wickets. Mumbai will once again rely on their batters to set the tone. All eyes would be on Prithvi Shaw, who will have to be at his best against Mohsin and Co. The two other big impact players are Yashasvi Jaiswal and an in-form Sarfaraz Khan who would be oozing with confidence after their hundreds in the last game. Sarfaraz has pummelled opposition attacks into submission at will. And thus it will indeed be a challenge for the UP bowling unit to stop him. Debutant Suved Parkar, who scored a double hundred, will look to add runs in his kitty while Armaan Jaffer would also be eyeing a bigger knock. Mumbai will however, be forced to make a change as wicket-keeper Aditya Tare has been ruled out due to an injury and Hardik Tamore could make the playing XI.



But this time they would be facing the likes of left-arm pacer Yash Dayal, Ankit Rajpoot and tweaker Saurabh Kumar, who can spin a web around the opposition. Kumar, who picked up seven wickets in the quarter-final, could well be the go-to man for skipper Karan Sharma. Mumbai are unlikely to tinker with their bowling combination. And left-arm spinner Shams Mulani, who has been taking fivers at will, will look to recreate his magic. Add to it the experience of Dhawal Kulkarni, Mohit Awasthi, Tushar Deshpande and young off-spinner Tanush Kotian, Mumbai have the nec-

essary fire-power to get the better of the UP batters. UP also have a relatively inexperienced batting line-up and are reliant on one or two batters. Their top-order would need to fire in unison and skipper Sharma will have to lead from the front. Two other batters who can make an impact are Priyam Garg and Rinku Singh. But the others like Aryan Juwal, Samar Singh, Dhruv Jorel would need to stand up and take greater responsibility. While Mumbai would be keen to get a step closer to their 42nd title, UP have the wherewithal to pull off a major upset.

ODI Rankings: Pakistan pip India to 4th spot



PTI ■ DUBAI

Pakistan have pipped India to climb to fourth spot in the latest ICC men's ODI team rankings after completing a clean sweep over West Indies in a recently concluded home series. New Zealand with 125 points are on top of the table while England are a point below at 124 and Australia are placed third at 107.

Before the start of the series, Pakistan were placed fifth in the rankings with a rating of 102 points but it must be mentioned that India haven't played any ODIs since the home series against the West Indies few months back. With a 3-0 victory over the Windies, Pakistan leapfrogged to No 4 with rating of 106, leaving India behind a notch below at 105. India, though, will have a chance to

Mathews wins ICC 'Player of Month' award

PTI ■ DUBAI

Sri Lanka's Angelo Mathews and Pakistan's debutante spin sensation Tuba Hassan were on Monday voted the ICC's 'Player of the Month' for May in their respective categories. Mathews was selected the stand-out male player after piling on runs over the course of his side's impressive ICC World Test Championship series victory against Bangladesh. Amassing 344 runs at an average of 172 over the course of the two Tests, Mathews registered a huge score of 199 in the draw at Chattogram, and a supreme 145 not out in Mirpur. His epic innings in the second Test

enabled his side to post an imposing total of 506 and complete a 10-wicket victory, gaining valuable points in the ICC WTC standings. Mathews becomes the first Sri Lankan player to be named the Player of the Month since its inception in January 2021, scooping the award ahead of fellow nominees Asitha Fernando (Sri Lanka), and Mushfiqur Rahim (Bangladesh). Mathews said, "I am absolutely honoured and delighted to be the ICC Men's Player of the Month. I would like to congratulate Asitha Fernando and Mushfiqur Rahim who were front runners for this award, on their spectacular performances. all their ODI series, including 2-1 series wins against Zimbabwe and South Africa. They defeated Australia by the same margin when they came to visit Pakistan for the first time since 1998. West Indies stood no chance against Pakistan as they were rampaged 3-0.