

OPINION 6

ON DEFENCE, GOVT
RUNNING ON EMPTY

MONEY 10

INDIA TO BECOME \$5-TN
ECONOMY BY 2026-27: CEA

WORLD 8

JAN 6 WITNESS: TRUMP 'DETACHED
FROM REALITY' OVER ELECTION

NEW DELHI, WEDNESDAY JUNE 15, 2022; PAGES 12 ₹3



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DEHRADUN HYDERABAD VIJAYWADALate City Vol.32 Issue 164
*Air Surchage Extra if ApplicableAgnipath to make
military youthfulOf 46,000 soldiers
to be recruited
through new
policy, 25% will
be retained for
regular service

RAHUL DATTA ■ NEW DELHI

The Government on Tuesday launched a novel recruitment policy for jawans named "Agnipath" for the three armed forces wherein the soldiers called "Agniveer" will serve a four-year tenure on a contractual basis. On the completion of this period, 25 per cent of them will be retained for regular service of 15 years or more. Nearly 46,000 soldiers will be recruited through the new policy and cut the increasing salary and pension bills. Women recruits will also be covered under it.

Unveiling the much-awaited policy at a news conference, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh termed it a "transformative initiative" aimed at giving a youthful profile to the forces. He also said some State Governments, Central Ministries and Public Sector Undertakings (PSU) will short-

Agnipath Scheme

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Defence Minister Rajnath Singh with three services chiefs General Manoj Pande (Army), Air Chief Marshal VR Chaudhari and Admiral R Hari Kumar (Navy) during a press conference at National Media Centre in New Delhi on Tuesday

PTI

ly announce some vacancies for "Agniveers" coming out of the forces after the four-year stint.

Flanked by three Services chiefs, Rajnath said there is no need to be skeptical about the new policy as it has been firmed up after due delibera-

tion. The new policy will come into force 90 days from Tuesday and all recruitments will now take place through "Agnipath". Recruitment of soldiers has been on hold for the past two years due to the Covid.

Continued on Page 2

Depts asked to
work on 'mission
mode' to achieve
target in 1.5 yrsPIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■
NEW DELHI

In a mega push for job creation in the Government sector, Prime Minister Narendra Modi has directed various Government departments and ministries to recruit 10 lakh people in a "mission mode" in the next year and a half.

"PM Narendra Modi reviewed the status of the human resource in all departments and ministries and instructed that recruitment of 10 lakh people be done by the Government in a mission mode in the next 1.5 years," the Prime Minister's Office said in a tweet.

Employment opportunities have shrunk in the last two years due to a slowdown in economic activities induced by Covid-19 and long-phases of lockdown among several other related factors, economic or otherwise.

Opposition parties have been critical of the Government and alleged that it



Prime Minister Narendra Modi visits the Jagatguru Shrisant Tukaram Maharaj temple in Dehu Pune on Tuesday

PTI

has kept an estimated "two crore jobs" locked by not conducting recruitment in several Government sectors, including railways and the army.

The Government, which is looking at the Assembly elections in Gujarat and Himachal Pradesh by the year-end and seven other States by next year, obviously has the 2024 general election in mind in addressing the unemployment crisis. The PM's timeframe for the job creation will coincide with the timing of the next general elections.

The ruling BJP is increasingly conscious of the fact that

the "Hindutva card" alone may not be enough to mobilise the youth which may turn restless for want of adequate job protection 18 months from now.

India requires to create at least nine crore new non-farm jobs by 2030 if it wants to stay ahead of the rising youth population, according to a 2020 report by McKinsey Global Institute.

Soon after the Prime Minister's announcement, the Union Home Ministry came out with a decision to expedite 10 lakh recruitments in government departments.

Continued on Page 2

Pawar refuses to join
Presidential poll racePIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■
NEW DELHI

A day ahead of the Opposition parties' meeting convened by West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee to find a joint Opposition candidate for the post of President of India, NCP chief Sharad Pawar has refused to jump into the fray for the top constitutional post.

Meanwhile, the Congress and Left parties have decided to attend the meeting convened by the TMC chief at the national Capital on Wednesday. Mamata, who landed in Delhi on Tuesday, had a long meeting with Pawar at the Constitution Club and

expressed hope to the media on bringing all Opposition parties under one umbrella to counter the NDA candidate.

Congress leaders said Mallikarjun Kharge, who is also the leader of Opposition in the Rajya Sabha as well as Jairam Ramesh and Randeep Surjewala are expected to attend the meeting convened by the West Bengal Chief Minister.

Before meeting Mamata, Pawar met CPI(M) general secretary Sitaram Yechury, CPI general secretary D Raja, and NCP leaders Praful Patel and PC Chacko in Delhi and conveyed to them his decision to not contest the election.

Continued on Page 2

ED quizzes Rahul
for 2nd day, to
grill again today

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Enforcement Directorate questioned Congress leader Rahul Gandhi for the second consecutive day on Tuesday for over nine hours in a money laundering case linked to the National Herald newspaper. The Enforcement Directorate (ED) has asked him to appear for the third consecutive day on Wednesday for further questioning in the matter.

Continued on Page 2

Former judges,
advocates write
to CJI against
bulldozer actionPIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■
NEW DELHI

Former judges and senior advocates have written to Chief Justice of India NV Ramana to take suo motu cognisance on reported incidents of illegal detention, bulldozing of residences, and police action on protesters agitating against certain objectionable remarks made by now suspended BJP spokesmen.

Continued on Page 2



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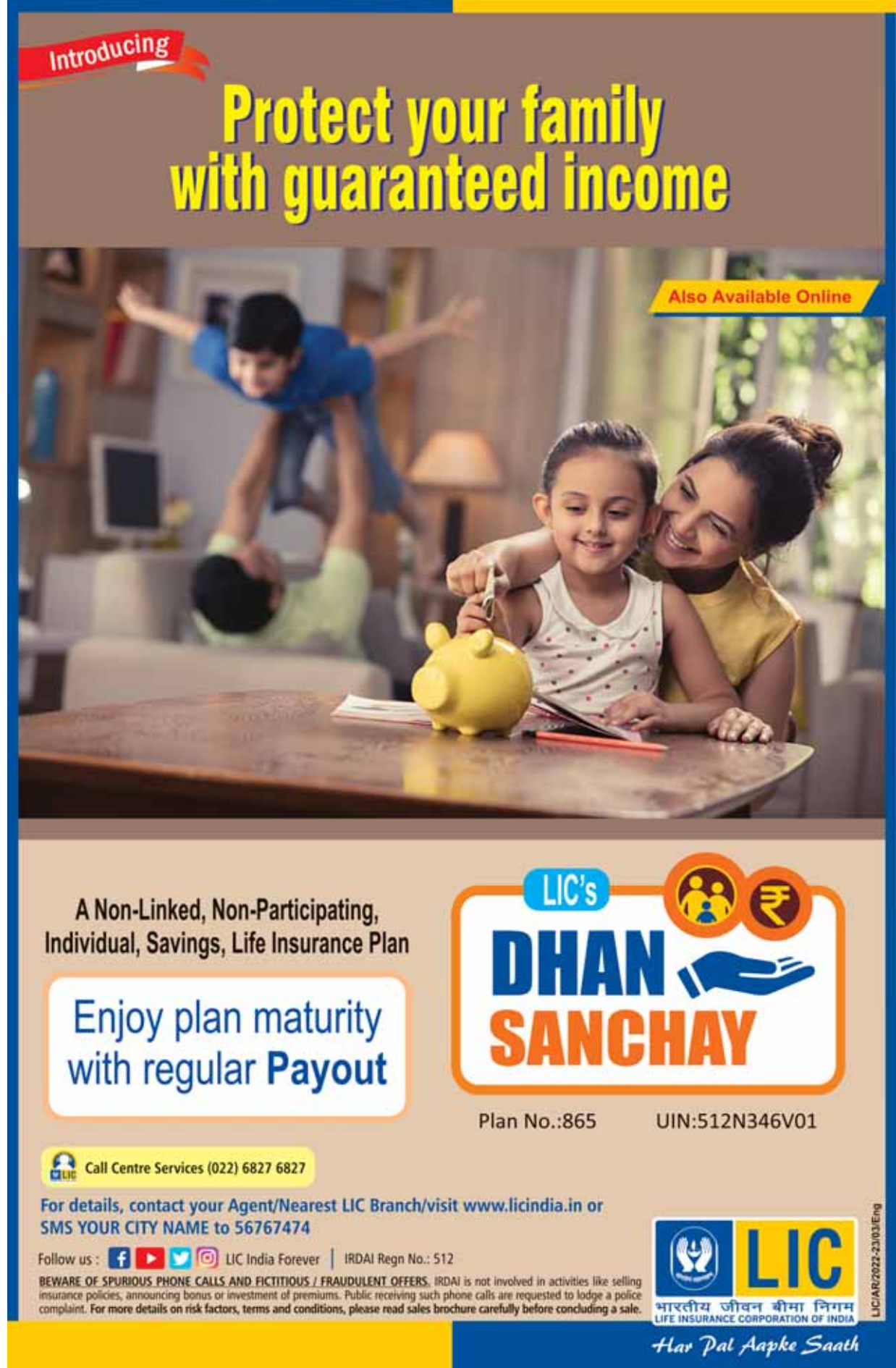
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NCRPULSE

L-G LAUNCHES SPECIAL CLEANLINESS DRIVE IN CITY



New Delhi: Delhi Lieutenant-Governor Vinai Kumar Saxena on Tuesday launched a special cleanliness drive in the city that will be carried out jointly by multiple agencies. As per the statement released by the LG office, this will be carried out for a fortnight in mission-mode, where all concerned Civic Agencies will work in tandem for the first time, this one of its kind cleanliness drives is aimed at providing a decisive push to remove garbage.

GOVT SANCTIONS ₹1.46 CR FOR LIFTS AT 3 FOBS

New Delhi: The Delhi Government has sanctioned Rs 1.46 crore for the installation and operation of lifts at three foot overbridges (FOBs) in east Delhi. The work will be executed by the Delhi government's Public Works Department (PWD), said an official. PWD officials also said that these lifts will be installed at FOBs in Vishwas Nagar, Ramprastha and Hasanpur Depot -- all in east Delhi. An amount of Rs 48.87 lakh has been sanctioned for the installation and commissioning of each lift.

MLA TAKES PART IN BALLIMARAN CLEANLINESS DRIVE

New Delhi: Following the appeal from Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal to launch a special cleanliness drive in the city with public participation, Delhi Cabinet Minister and MLA of Ballimaran, Imran Hussain on Tuesday participated in the special cleanliness drive in his assembly constituency. The minister took to the streets in Ballimaran along with senior officials and took stock of the conditions of the road. He also directed officials to maintain cleanliness and not let the garbage pile up on the corners of the road.

DU EXTENDS LAST DATE FOR CENTENARY CHANCE EXAM

New Delhi: The Delhi University has extended the last date for registration for the 'Centenary Chance Examination', which will allow final year drop-outs to complete their degrees, to June 24. Earlier, the last date of the registration was June 15. 'The last date for registration for Centenary Chance Examination is extended up to 24.06.2022 (Friday) by 5:30 pm,' Dean of Examination DS Rawat said in a statement. In May, Delhi University announced that those who dropped out of college in the final year can register for a one-time chance to appear in examinations and complete their degree.

IIT-DELHI, DELHI POLICE SIGN MOU

New Delhi: A memorandum of understanding (MoU) was signed between Delhi Police and IIT-Delhi on Tuesday. The MoU will pave the way for scouting new technology, evaluation of existing technology based projects, development of technology based solution to meet future challenges and for roping in suitable resource person in Technical Committees of Delhi Police .

DU TO ORGANISE 12 DAY ORIENTATION FOR CUET 2022

New Delhi: Delhi University on Tuesday said that it will organise a 12-day online orientation-cum-guidance programme for Common University Entrance Test (CUET) 2022, especially for SC/ST students. The programme will help the candidates make them familiar with the pattern of CUET, consequently promoting inclusivity. The virtual event is being organised under the aegis of Dean Students' Welfare (DSW) in collaboration with the Institute of Lifelong Learning (ILL) from June 27-July 8, 2022.

DELHI POLICE ADOPTS BLOOD DONATION DRIVE

New Delhi: Delhi Police Commissioner, Rakesh Asthana on Tuesday announced adoption of 'Jeevan Dayini' Blood Donation crusade by Delhi Police at Police Headquarters, on the occasion of World Blood Donor Day. Dr Randeep Guleria, Director, AIIMS and Dr Vanshree Singh, Director, Indian Red Cross Society were also present on the occasion.

GOVT EXTENDS DATE FOR EWS ADMISSIONS

New Delhi: The Delhi government has once again extended the last date for EWS admissions in entry-level classes up to June 24, officials said on Tuesday. The deadline was earlier extended up to June 14. 'The last date for reporting by successful candidates of EWS and DG category in entry-level classes is once again been extended up to June 24,' Yogesh Pal Singh, Deputy Director of Education, said.

Agnipath to make...

From Page 1
The Government will not shy away from spending funds for the armed forces, Rajnath said when asked about the estimated savings from ending pension entitlement for the "Agniveers". Incidentally, one of the main aims of bringing in this scheme is to reduce the huge pension budget and salaries bills.

Also, several veterans have expressed apprehension that the new policy may impact the operational effectiveness of the armed forces as soldiers will serve short stints.

Besides this worry, they also fear that the "Agniveers" leaving the armed forces after

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Nitin Gupta - Advocate

Lawyers ch.57, Patiala House Court New Delhi -01

Contact :- 9826232298

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Capital gets respite from scorching heat after 13 days

STAFF REPORTER ■
NEW DELHI

Delhiites on Tuesday got a respite from the scorching heat after 13 days, as the mercury in the national Capital dipped below the 40 degree Celsius mark and clouds gathered in the sky, for the first time this month. According to the India Meteorological Department (IMD), a cloud cover cocooned Delhi on Tuesday, causing the maximum temperature at the Safdarjung Observatory, the city's base station, to drop below 40 degrees Celsius for the first time this month.

The Safdarjung observatory recorded a maximum

temperature of 39.6 degrees Celsius as against 43.7 degrees Celsius on Monday. The minimum temperature settled at 31.2 degrees Celsius, three notches above normal. All weather stations in the national capital recorded maximum temperatures between 38 degrees Celsius and 42 degrees Celsius.

"The capital city will get a respite from the heatwave till 20th June due to the western disturbance and easterlies. The city on Wednesday will witness the thunderstorm and rains, while the maximum temperature will stay below 40 degrees Celsius," stated Mahesh Palawat, Skymet weather department.

The IMD has issued a yellow alert, warning of thunder-showers or light rain over the next six days. The mercury is predicted to drop to 35 degrees Celsius by Sunday.

Since June 1, when the monsoon season starts, the capital has not recorded any rainfall. Usually, it receives 13.8 mm of rainfall in the first 13 days of the month.

Last year, the IMD had forecast that the monsoon would arrive in Delhi nearly two weeks before its usual date. However, it reached the capital only on July 13, making it the most delayed in 19 years.

The capital 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 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 heatwave 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.

Tihar authorities plan to deploy dog squad to curb drug smuggling

STAFF REPORTER ■
NEW DELHI

The Tihar prison authorities have planned to deploy a dog squad to curb the rise in smuggling of drugs into the high-security prison. The official said the authorities will procure puppies that will undergo training along with two handlers each at the training facilities run by the CRPF, ITBP and the BSF.

According to a senior official, plans are afoot to raise a four-member canine squad for the Tihar jail. Subsequently, it will be expanded to Rohini and Mandoli jails in the national capital.

Following the training, these will be deployed in a first such initiative at the Tihar jail, which have reported instances of inmates car-

rying drugs and tobacco inside their stomach and vomiting them out on reaching the prison. Investigations have also shown that sometimes family members of inmates smuggle the banned items into the jail, said the official.

Soon meetings will be held to work out the modalities for the roll-out of the project.

"We are planning to raise our own dog squad. We may start with four dogs. Dog will be procured and provided full training along with handlers," Director General (Delhi Prisons) Sandeep Goel said.

The idea of having a dog squad was also mooted in 2012 but was rejected owing to its non-feasibility. Those who have seen the jail premises at close quarters say that dog squads are mostly able to sniff out objects buried in the

ground and inmates are unlikely to hide drugs there.

Dog squads of the police have visited the Tihar jail complex whenever there have been instances of escape of prisoners. Sunil Gupta, who had served as the Tihar jail's law officer for 35 years until his retirement in 2015, said that this will be "just a cosmetic" exercise.

"This will not be feasible. Dogs are mostly able to sniff out things hidden on the ground but drugs are mostly smuggled inside the jail by hiding them in body parts. Dogs will not be able to detect those.

Also, dogs are trained by making them sniff a particular drug for 15-20 days. If you enter a barrack, you will find them stinking. In such a scenario, it will be difficult even for a canine to sniff out drugs," he asserted.

Leave of cops posted in Northwest Dist cancelled due to communal strife

STAFF REPORTER ■
NEW DELHI

Citing communal scenario and the prevailing law and order situation in the national Capital, an order has been issued by the Deputy Commissioner of Police, Northwest district in the

national Capital for cancelling the leave of all police personnel. The order, dated June 13, was issued by Deputy Commissioner of Police Usha Rangnani. The order also directed the officers and staff who have gone on leave to join their respective duties. The order comes days after two

groups had allegedly pelted stones at each other after a fight in north-west Delhi's Jahangirpuri on June 7 night.

"In view of the communal scenario and prevailing law and order situation in Delhi, all kind of leaves are hereby stopped with immediate effect. The leaves already

granted/sanctioned are also hereby cancelled. The officer/staff who are already running on leave shall join their place of duty at-once, without fail. No officer shall grant/sanction any kind of leave to their subordinate staff without prior approval of DCP north-west district," the

order read. The order added that all the supervisory officers should ensure compliance, and non-compliance of the order may lead to "stern action" against the staff.

Clashes broke out between two communities during a Hanuman Jayanti procession in Jahangirpuri on April 16, leav-

ing eight police personnel and a local injured. So far, 36 people, including three juveniles, have been nabbed by the police in connection with the incident.

Police have also tightened vigil following protests over controversial remarks by two ex-BJP officials against Prophet Mohammad.

10L Govt jobs by...

From Page 1
"In line with instructions of PM @narendramodi to carry out 10 lakh recruitments in all GOI Depts and Ministries over a period of 1.5 yrs, Ministry of Home Affairs has initiated steps to fill up vacancies in Mission Mode," a Home Ministry spokesperson said in a tweet.

Government officials concede that there has been scarcity of staff as over the years employees have retired many times over and recruitments have not been conducted.

The major ministries and departments like posts, defence, railways and revenue have the most vacancies. It is estimated that against nearly 15 lakh sanctioned posts in the railways, about 2.3 lakh posts are vacant.

The defence (civil) department has approximately 2.5

lakh vacancies against a sanctioned manpower of nearly 6.33 lakh workers. There are over 90,000 openings in the posts department, out of a total sanctioned strength of 2.67 lakh employees, and nearly 74,000 vacancies in the revenue department, out of a total sanctioned strength of 1.78 lakh personnel.

In the Ministry of Home Affairs, against 10.8 lakh sanctioned posts, nearly 1.3 lakh posts are reportedly vacant.

As per data provided by the Centre for Monitoring Indian Economy (CMIE), the unemployment rate in India rose to 7.83 per cent in April from 7.60 per cent in March, according to a report by CMIE, though it also says that 8 million people joined the country's workforce in April --- one of the largest surges since the beginning of the Covid19.

Former judges, advocates...

From Page 1
"The letter petition is being presented as an urgent appeal to the Supreme Court of India to take cognisance of the recent incidents of violence and repression by state authorities on citizens of Uttar Pradesh," they wrote.

The letter petition has been signed by former Supreme Court Judges B Sudarshan Reddy, V Gopala Gowda, AK Ganguly, Delhi High Court former Chief Justice AP Shah, Madras HC's retired Justice K Chandru, Karnataka HC's retired Justice Mohammed Anwar, former Law Minister Shanti Bhushan, noted lawyers Prashant Bhushan, Indira Jaisingh, Sriram Panchu. Chander Uday Singh and Anand Grover.

The detailed letter said, "Instead of giving protesters an

opportunity of being heard and engaging in peaceful protests, the UP State administration appears to have sanctioned taking violent action against such individuals. The Chief Minister has reportedly officially exhorted officials to take such action against those guilty that it sets an example so that no one commits a crime or takes the law into their hands in future."

It added that the Uttar Pradesh CM has further directed that the National Security Act, 1980, and the Uttar Pradesh Gangsters and Anti-Social Activities (Prevention) Act, 1986, be invoked against those found guilty of unlawful protests.

It is these remarks that have emboldened the police to brutally and unlawfully torture protesters, the letter petition

added. "Pursuant to this, the UP police have arrested more than 300 persons and registered FIRs against protesting citizens. Videos of young men in police custody being beaten with lathis, houses of protesters being demolished without notice or any cause of action, and protesters from the minority Muslim community are chased and beaten by police, are circulating on social media, shaking the conscience of the nation," said the petition.

It said that such a brutal clampdown by a ruling administration is an unacceptable subversion of the rule of law and a violation of the rights of citizens, and makes a mockery of the constitution and fundamental rights guaranteed by the State.

he went home. His questioning resumed around 4.30 pm and continued till 9 pm, they said.

As on Monday, Delhi Police personnel were deployed in significant numbers and Section 144 of the Code of Criminal Procedure (CrPC) was imposed around the agency's office before the arrival of Gandhi who is a "Z+" category protectee of the Central Reserve Police Force.

Rahul, an MP from Wayanad in Kerala, was grilled for over eight hours on Monday

in multiple sessions and his statement was recorded under the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA).

Rahul was summoned again on Tuesday as his questioning could not be completed on Monday, officials said.

Rahul recorded his statement and checked its transcript minutely before putting his signatures on them, sources said. An assistant director-rank officer of the ED is the investigating officer (IO) of the case.

Israel, Hry sign declaration for water resources management and capacity building

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■
NEW DELHI

A joint declaration was signed by Ambassador Eynat Shlein, Head of MASHAV- Israel's Agency for International Development Cooperation, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the State of Israel, and the Irrigation and Water Resources Department, Government of Haryana.

On this occasion, Ambassador Eynat Shlein said, "This is a significant milestone as our countries are celebrating 30 years of full diplomatic relations and water security has always been one of the most important pillars of our relations. We are very happy to share our advanced and cutting-edge water technologies,

know-how and expertise with the Government of Haryana, and work closely with all our partners in India as we continue enhancing the strategic partnership between our two nations".

Through this declaration, both sides expressed their willingness to strengthen their existing friendly relations in the water management sector, preserve water resources in public water areas in Haryana, improve public health in the region, and cooperate and coordinate efforts to protect the water resources. As part of this joint declaration, MASHAV will share knowledge, capacity building and Israeli technologies for the development of Haryana in the water management sector.

Govt to launch English speaking course for teachers across Delhi

STAFF REPORTER ■
NEW DELHI

In order to empower educators, the Delhi Government is set to launch an intensive English-speaking training course for teachers of its schools across the national Capital.

Under the programme, which will be open to all regular teachers, vice-principals and principals, the participants will undergo two hours of face-to-face training every day for a total of 160 hours.

"The Directorate of Education (DoE) provides opportunity for English as a medium of instruction for students in its schools. Hence, acquisition of communication skills in English is widely critical for teachers for prolific and engaging interactions with students," read the official notification.



"Teachers are responsible for comprehending and breaking down complex information themselves, conveying this information clearly to their students (both verbally and in written form), presenting it in a manner that sustains their attention, improving their listening skills and resolves their problems," the notification further stated.

"It is anticipated that this project will result in a paradigm shift in your existing dexterity regarding the use of the English

language in schools and otherwise. It is envisioned that this continuous professional development opportunity will be a highlight of your whole teaching-learning journey," it added.

The classes will be held for two hours a day either before or after the regular classes at designated centres within the districts.

Teachers who undergo the programme will have to appear in an internationally valid test such as the GESE (Graded Examinations in Spoken English) or the APTIS.

"Those who opt for this programme will also be invited to be part of Specialised School of Excellence, Delhi model virtual school, the core academic unit and Delhi Board of Secondary Education. They will be sent for national and international training and exposure visits," the notification further added.

‘Kin biggest perpetrators of elderly abuse’

44% daughters-in-law, 35% sons named as abusers by elders, says HelpAge India

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

A significant 74 per cent elderly witnessed abuse in society, out of which 12 per cent were themselves victims of it. Unfortunately, in a majority of cases, the abusers were their near and dear ones, i.e. sons and their daughters-in-law.

Elder abuse can be defined as “a single, or repeated act, or lack of appropriate action, occurring within any relationship where there is an expectation of trust which causes harm or distress to an older person”.

“Sons (35 per cent) and daughters-in-law (44 per cent) were named as the biggest perpetrators of abuse by the elders,” says a recent study conducted by the NGO HelpAge India even as it noted that 83 per cent of the elderly stated that they ‘stopped talking to family’ while 52 per cent of the elderly said that their

income was adequate, while 48 per cent said it was inadequate.

The report, which was released on Tuesday, focuses on the serious social problem considered mostly a private matter. It also talks about the financial status of the elderly, reflecting their social security. It found that the elders, during their sunset years, were dependent on others.

“In Delhi, 57 per cent of the elderly are dependent on their family, while 63 per cent depend upon pensions and cash transfers. It means that a large number of elders in Delhi have both – family as well as pension support.” Rohit Prasad, CEO, HelpAge India, said the report is a dip-stick study to understand overarching gaps in income and employment in old age, health and wellbeing, elder abuse and safety and social and digital inclusion of the elderly. It is based on a sample size of 4,399 elder respondents and 2,200 young adult caregivers



across 22 cities in India. Talking about their financial position, the report said that in Delhi, 87 per cent of the elders are not working, even as 40 per cent say they have access to employment opportunities.

The study reveals that 44 per cent of Delhi elders are willing to work after their retirement. Similarly, 52 per cent of the elderly say that their income is adequate, while 48 per cent say it is inadequate. Overall about 71 per cent elders

say they have financial security. There are key aspirations that the elderly have cited that are needed to create an enabling environment for employment opportunities for them.

While 45 per cent suggested ‘work from home’ as the best means, 34 per cent have asked for ‘more respect to be given to the working elderly’ and 29 per cent have asked for ‘increase in retirement age’ and ‘jobs exclusively for elderly’. “It is time for

Government to act on its promise of supporting and strengthening family structure, to take better care of elderly. The insurance sector and schemes - both Government and private - need to better address health insurance needs of elderly. It’s time for employers to take off their ageing glasses and give elderly a chance to prove their mettle,” said Anupama Datta, head (policy and research) at HelpAge India.

Empower civic bodies to curb noise, proposes Govt

Proposal to designate SHOs as authority to prosecute violators also sent to Union Govt

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Aiming to effectively control and curb noise pollution in the national Capital, the Delhi Government has proposed to empower officials of civic bodies to take action against violators.

The Delhi Government’s Environment Department has also submitted a proposal to the Union Environment Ministry to designate Station House Officers (SHOs) as an authority to prosecute violators under noise pollution rules.

Under the Noise Pollution (Regulation and Control) Rules, 2000, Deputy Commissioners, Sub divisional Magistrates, Assistant Commissioners of Police (Traffic), sub-divisional police officers -- including of railways and airports -- and Member Secretary and Chairman of the

Delhi Pollution Control Committee have been designated as an authority to take action against violators. In Delhi, the local and civic bodies – Municipal Corporation of Delhi, New Delhi Municipal Council and Delhi Cantonment Board -- are not empowered to initiate legal action under Noise Pollution (Regulation and Control) Rules.

The only option available to them is to report the violation to the designated authorities. A committee set up by the National Green Tribunal (NGT) to monitor compliance of the noise rules said that noise pollution cannot be effectively controlled and curbed in Delhi without the active participation of local bodies.

It asked Law Department of the city Government to initiate a proposal to empower the officials of local and civic bodies under the Noise Pollution (Regulation and Control) Rules. The proposal is pending with xLieutenant-Governor. The committee also noticed that the Delhi Police procured 244 sound level

meters and distributed them among ACPs/sub-divisions and SHOs. However, “very few actions” have been reported utilising the sound level meters. The reason for inaction is that SHOs are not designated as an authority to prosecute violators under the noise pollution rules, according to the panel headed by Justice (retired) SP Garg.

The panel then asked the Environment Department to prepare a proposal for delegation of authorities to all SHOs in Delhi. The proposal is pending with Union Environment Ministry, a senior official of the department said.

The Justice Garg committee has also asked local bodies and SHOs to hold regular meetings with office-bearers of religious institutions for self-regulation of noise instruments.

The panel has directed Delhi Government to issue a notification making the installation of sound limiters in sound systems mandatory. Besides, the DPCC has been asked to prepare guidelines to prevent noise pollution at construction and demolition sites.

DDA’S BHARAT VANDANA PARK PROJECT IN DWARKA

Forest Dept restrains construction citing illegal cutting of trees

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

The Delhi Government’s Forest Department has issued an order restraining any construction activity in a portion of Delhi Development Authority (DDA)’s ambitious Bharat Vandana Park project here, saying “illegal cutting of trees” has been reported.

Spread over 220 acres of land in Dwarka sub-city, the park will be a major tourist attraction as it will have replicas of important monuments from different States, an eco-forest zone and lakes.

Delhi Lieutenant-Governor VK Saxena on June 11 had visited the site of the upcoming park, and directed



officials to ensure the “highest standards” of construction in the project. DDA officials on Tuesday said that Delhi’s forest

and wildlife department issued two orders in connection with the park, one dated June 9 and the other on June 10, which was

a “revised version” of the previous order. The June 10 order reads: “This office is in receipt of a complaint regarding violation of Delhi Preservation of Trees Act 1994 at Bharat Vandana Park, Dwarka, New Delhi. In this regard, the site has been inspected by the official of West Forest Division, Department of Forests & Wildlife, GNCTD, and it has been reported that illegal cutting of trees at a parcel of the land at Bharat Vandana Park has been found.”

“Prima facie this violation of Trees Act 1994 is being done due to construction work. Therefore, it has been directed to “cease all excavation and

construction work at the said parcel of land (map annexed as A) so that no further damage to the trees shall be done or no harm is done to the evidence in the said area,” it says. No construction activities should be done on the said parcel of land without the permission under relevant law, the order added. “It is also directed to Neeraj Kumar (Forest Guard) to cordon off the above mentioned area within three days,” the June 10 order said.

However, the June 9 order had said that “it had been reported that illegal cutting of many number of trees at Bharat Vandana Park, Dwarka, New Delhi, has been found”.

And, forest authorities in

the old order had directed to “cease all excavation and construction work at the said land, so that no further damage to the trees shall be done”.

DDA officials further said, “The work has resumed, leaving only a certain water body area, about five per cent of the total area”. The revised order of the Forest Department issued on June 10 mentions this change vis-a-vis the old one, they said.

In August 2021, the then Delhi L-G Anil Baijal had directed officials to “strictly adhere” to timelines laid down for the Bharat Vandana Park project. The park is expected to be ready ahead of the 75th anniversary of Independence.

L-G, Delhi CM meet over water related issues



STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Delhi’s Lieutenant-Governor, Vinai Kumar Saxena on Tuesday chaired a meeting along with Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal, Deputy CM Manish Sisodia and top officers of concerned Departments to address various water related issues. The L-G also directed the officers to make the 800 water recharge pits operationalised owned by different agencies.

In a meeting last week the L-G and CM directed officers to come up with a concrete and time-bound plan of action to solve the problem of water scarcity in Delhi. As per the statement released by the L-G office, in separate presentations made by the Delhi Jal Board, Irrigation and Flood Control

Department, Public Works Department (PWD), New Delhi Municipal Council (NDMC) and Delhi Development Authority (DDA) projections and plans for water retention and conservation aimed at the dual purpose of raising the city’s water level as also ridding it of the problem of waterlogging were presented. “The following decisions were taken and directions issued to concerned departments for their speedy implementation, preferably before the onset of rains in areas where water table was below 10 meters under the ground,” it read.

“Recharge pits at about 800 locations owned by different agencies identified by DJB to be operationalized. While, agencies and departments like

MCD and PWD would undertake the work themselves, DJB would do the work for the others,” it stated. “Dysfunctional and abandoned and sealed tube-wells owned by various agencies to be converted into water recharging and retention pits,” the statement said.

“About 700 identified water bodies to be dredged and deepened to a depth of at least 2 meter and their catchment area to be made encroachment free by the Irrigation and Flood Control Department,” it said.

“The possibilities of digging water sink holes in storm water drains at regular distances, which did not carry sewer mixed water to be explored within a fortnight.

A long term strategy based on geological and hydrological survey of ground, to address these issues will be evolved wherein a common design using modern technology could be utilized for creation of such sink holes for utilisation next year onwards,” it stated.

“The L-G also took an update on instructions issued in last meeting about dredging, removal of hyacinth and plantation along embankment of Najafgarh drain,” it said.

City court grants Bishnoi’s custody to Punjab Police

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

A city court on Tuesday allowed Punjab Police to take into its custody gangster Lawrence Bishnoi so that they can question him in the case registered to probe the murder of Punjabi singer Sidhu Moosewala. The court has also granted transit remand.

Describing Bishnoi as a key conspirator, the Punjab Police said that his custodial interrogation is necessary. Bishnoi’s counsel opposed the custody to Punjab Police saying that there is an apprehension that he may be killed in a fake encounter.

Earlier, Punjab Police on Tuesday informed the court that Bishnoi is a key conspirator of singer’s murder while seeking gangster’s transit remand to produce him before the court of the Chief Judicial Magistrate (CJM) Mansa in accordance with the law.

“As per the confession made by the arrested accused, Bishnoi had given the task to co-accused to carry out the murder of Sidhu Moosewala. Delhi Police had questioned Bishnoi and they have clearly stated that Bishnoi was the key



conspirator in the planned murder of Punjabi singer via press conferences,” said Punjab Police counsel.

“The accused arrested by Punjab Police had also stated that they were in direct touch with Satwinder Singh alias Goldy Brar, a close associate of Bishnoi,” said Punjab Police counsel said.

“All the accused arrested so far are closely associated with Lawrence Bishnoi and his associates and they have been involved together in multiple FIRs,” Punjab Police told the court.

“The motive for Sidhu Moosewala murder was to avenge the killing of Vikramjeet Singh alias Vicky Middukhera, in which there was an alleged

involvement of Shagundee Singh, manager of Shubhdeep Singh,” said the Punjab Police counsel.

According to Advocate Vishal Chopra representing Lawrence Bishnoi, the court has granted transit remand with conditions which states that Punjab Police will get his medical test done before taking him away, all safety measures will be kept in mind and he will be handcuffed and shackled.

“He will be taken in bullet proof vehicle. There will be complete videography right from him being taken away to being presented before the court.

Court has passed a detailed order that Punjab Police will be completely responsible for his life and security and that no mishappening should take place with him,” said Chopra.

On Tuesday, the Delhi Police had brought Bishnoi to the Patiala House Court after his detention period ended in connection with an Arms Act prosecution.

Earlier, Special Cell of Delhi Police had said that the gangster, Lawrence Bishnoi, was the ‘mastermind’ behind the killing of Moosewala.

Jain to remain behind bars till June 18

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

The Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) leader and Delhi Minister Satyendar Jain, arrested by the Enforcement Directorate (ED) in a money laundering case, will continue to remain behind bars till June 18 as a court on Tuesday reserved its order on his bail plea.

Special Judge Geetanjali Goel reserved the order till June 18 after hearing arguments from Jain as well the ED. On Monday, Jain’s custody to the Enforcement Directorate (ED) has been extended by two weeks.

Seeking bail for Jain, Hariharan argued that the AAP leader meets the triple test for bail as he is not a flight risk and also the evidence is mostly documentary in nature and can not be tampered with.

Jain’s counsel also submitted that witnesses have not raised any allegation of threat against him. Apprising the court that Jain has sleep apnea, his counsel also sought bail on medical grounds. Opposing the bail, ASG SV Raju argued that the investigation is still ongoing in the case and if he is granted bail, it will hinder the probe.

During the argument, the ED counsel said that Satyendar Jain cited memory loss due to Covid-19 when he was confronted with documents to show his association with entities in connection with a money laundering case.

The ASG argued that Jain had first said that he had no clue about trust in question but later changed his version to say he had nothing to do with it. “He said he hasn’t heard of this



trust. He then said no family member is involved...First hide, then say nothing to do with this trust. He was confronted with documents to show, what he is telling to ED, is false. From denial he’s become a little better.

He then says he had Covid-19 that’s why he lost his memory. When confronted with documents he comes with a defence of memory loss,” added Raju.

On May 31, a day after Jain’s arrest, a special CBI court judge Geetanjali Goel sent him to agency’s custody till June 9 which was further extended to five days ending on Monday.

He was rushed to a nearby hospital after he complained of uneasiness while leaving Rouse Avenue Court, just after court hearing on June 9.

The ED case is based on CBI one and was registered soon after CBI booked Jain and others under the Prevention of Corruption Act. The ED has recorded statements of Kolkata-based shell company operators allegedly stating that they had met in office of a CA with Satyendar Jain regarding providing accommodation entries in his companies.

The ED had arrested Satyendar Jain on May 30 in an Enforcement Case Information Report (ECIR) registered by it on basis of a case lodged by CBI in August 2017 under Prevention of Corruption Act.

Slow vehicular movement in parts of Central Delhi

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Vehicular movement was slow in parts of Central Delhi as Congress leader Rahul Gandhi appeared before the Enforcement Directorate (ED) for the second consecutive day in a money laundering probe.

In a series of tweets, Delhi Traffic Police posted information about the routes to be avoided even as it mentioned that necessary arrangements had been made as a precautionary measure.

“Arrangements have been made to ensure smooth flow of traffic for public transport as well as people commuting to Delhi so that they are not affected. As yesterday, we ensured that traffic flow was smooth. We will ensure it will remain smooth today as well,” said a senior police official.

The special traffic arrangements restricted inward movement of buses in New Delhi beyond Gol Dak Khana Junction, Patel Chowk,

Windsor Place, Teen Murti Chowk and Prithviraj Road.

“Kindly avoid Gol Methi junction, Tughlak Road junction, Claridges Junction, Q-point Junction, Sunehri Masjid Junction, Maulana Azad Road Junction & Man Singh Road Junction between 0700 hrs & 1200 hrs. Due to special arrangements there will be heavy traffic movement on these roads,” the Traffic Police tweeted in the morning.

It also informed commuters via Twitter to avoid Motilal Nehru Marg, Akbar Road, Janpath and Man Singh Road between 7 A.M. and 12 P.M. “Kindly avoid SP Marg, Dhaula Kuan Flyover and Gurgaon road between 10.45 hrs & 11.15 hrs due to special traffic arrangements,” another tweet from the Delhi Traffic Police read.

Gandhi was questioned by Enforcement Directorate (ED) for over 10 hours on Monday in a money laundering probe linked to National Herald.

15 MPs among 217 Congmen detained by cops on day 2 of Rahul’s grilling

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Delhi Police on Tuesday detained 217 Congress leaders and workers for violating prohibitory orders outside the heavily-barricaded party headquarters in the national Capital as their leader Rahul Gandhi was questioned by the financial probe agency, the Enforcement Directorate (ED) in connection with the National Herald case for the second day running.

Ahead of his questioning by the ED on Tuesday, Gandhi joined senior party leaders and party MPs and workers on a “dharna” at the Congress

headquarters, where the Chief Ministers of Rajasthan and Chhattisgarh -- Ashok Gehlot and Bhupesh Baghel and All-India Congress Committee (AICC) general secretary Priyanka Gandhi Vadra -- were also present.

Some leaders, including MPs, were not even allowed to enter the AICC headquarters and 15 MPs were taken away in police vans to different police stations.

Lok Sabha MP Manickam Tagore said he and some other leaders, including PL Punia, were not allowed to enter the Akbar Road party office and were detained at the Mandir Marg Police Station.

Among the other leaders detained were Randeep Surjewala, Jairam Ramesh, Gaurav Gogoi, Deepender Singh Hooda, Ranjeet Ranjan, Jebi Mather, Imran Pratapgarhi, Youth Congress chief BV Srinivas and National Students’ Union of India (NSUI) chief Neeraj Kundan. Some of them were even roughed up by the police.

“Delhi Police and the Modi Government have crossed all limits when they brutally hit Congress leaders and workers in an unprovoked way.

The way MP Jebi Mather was dragged by male constables, the way she was beaten

reflects the anti-women mindset of the Modi Government,” said Surjewala, after being released from Vasant Kunj Police Station, where he was kept after being detained. According to Dr Sagar Preet Hooda, the Special Commissioner of Police (law and order), police had detained 217 people including some senior functionaries of the Congress from the New Delhi district and sent to various police stations.

“They have been released now. Today also police had denied them permission to organise a gathering because Section 144 has been invoked,” said the Special CP.



Police detain Congress workers staging a protest in support of party leader Rahul Gandhi outside the AICC headquarters in New Delhi on Tuesday
RANJAN DIMRI | PIONEER

Agnipath for Armed forces gets mixed reactions

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

As the Government rolled out the 'Agnipath' scheme, several veterans cautioned against it terming it a "death knell" while some others favoured a wait and watch policy before giving a final view.

Critics said the new scheme will hit the fighting spirit and professionalism of forces. They have raised concerns that the four-year tenure may make soldiers risk-averse.

Lieutenant General (retired) Vinod Bhatia said the 'Agnipath' scheme, also called the Tour of Duty scheme earlier, will sound the death knell and for the armed forces.

"ToD (Tour of Duty) not tested, no pilot project, straight implementation. Will also lead to militarization of society, nearly 40,000 (75%) youth year-on-year back rejected and dejected without a job, semi trained in arms ex-Agniveers. Not a good idea. No one gains," Bhatia wrote on Twitter.

Group Captain (retired) Nitin Welde, who served in the Indian Air Force (IAF) for 22 years, said it is too early to criticise or appreciate the scheme. Major General (retired) Yash Mor criticised the Agnipath



scheme, stating that more than anything else, he feels for the lakhs of youngsters who had lost all hope of recruitment in the last two years.

"Service headquarters too appear to be reluctant to implement this," Mor said in a tweet. Major General (retired) Satbir Singh said the 'Agnipath' scheme for the armed forces is not in keeping with the erstwhile military tradition, ethos,

morals and values. "It will adversely effect efficiency and effectiveness of military," he added.

Lieutenant General (retired) P R Shankar said, "Many senior veterans have written with the wisdom of their experience. A common voice has emerged. The tour of duty does not seem to be a good idea. Proceed with caution." Shankar said on Twitter

the Tour of Duty proposal expects a superman from a kindergarten student. "We might be producing an Abhimanyu but he will not get out of the Chakravyuh.

After five years of tour of duty, Arjuns will not be available in our next Mahabharata. The cutting edge units will not be able to fight. There are no runners up in war," he wrote on Twitter.

Cong terms Modi's 10L jobs jumle-baazi

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

The Congress took a swipe at Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Tuesday over the announcement of recruitment of 10 lakh people in the next year and a half and asked till how long will "jumle-baazi" continue.

Former party chief Rahul Gandhi said Modi had promised to provide two crore jobs every year and that going by promise, 16 crore jobs should have been provided in the last eight years.

Rahul took a swipe on government during lunch break from questioning by the Enforcement Directorate. "Just like 8 years ago, youths were promised 2 crore jobs every year, in same way now it is the turn of 10 lakh government jobs. This is not a government of jumlas, it is a government of 'maha jumlas'. The Prime Minister is not an expert in creating jobs, but in making 'News' on jobs," Rahul tweeted.



Congress has been attacking the BJP-led Centre over rising unemployment and lack of new jobs in country. Congress's chief spokesperson Randeep Surjewala said for how long Modi and his government will keep on doing Jumle-baazi.

"Modi promised to provide two crore jobs every year and that going by promise, 16 crore jobs should have been provided in the last eight years. The promise was to provide two crore jobs every year and 16 crore jobs were to be given in eight years. Now they are saying they will only provide 10 lakh jobs by year 2024. Sixty lakh posts are lying vacant in governments.

BJP hails PM for jobs' creation

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Hailing Prime Minister Narendra Modi's announcement creating 10 lakh jobs in next 18 months, the BJP on Tuesday said "this shows our Government's emphasis on job creation for our youth and focus on efficient management of workload," and dismissed Congress leader Rahul Gandhi's criticism saying he should first provide the Enforcement Directorate (ED) "right answers" on the serious charges of corruption against him.

BJP president J P Nadda tweeted, "We are grateful to our PM @narendramodi for this new mission of recruiting 10 lakh people into different government departments and ministries in 1.5 years.

"This shows our Government's emphasis on job creation for our youth and focus on efficient management of workload."

Describing it as a far-sighted decision, Home

Minister Amit Shah said this will make India's young population disciplined, skilled, fit and financially empowered so as to make them self-reliant.

Shah said, "The basis of new India is its youth power. To empower them, PM Modi is working continuously. PM Modi's directive to recruit 10 lakhs in a mission mode in all government departments and ministries in 1.5 years will bring new hope and confidence among the youth.

"Thank you PM @narendramodi for this," he said.

In a sharp reaction to Rahul's "maha jumla" response to job creation announcement, BJP leader and Union Minister of State for Finance Anurag Thakur said he should first provide the ED right answers on the serious charges of corruption against him.

Though everyone has welcomed Prime Minister's decision, taken in interest of youth, Rahul has expressed anger and questioned why the youth would get jobs, Thakur said.

Appointment of new CDS soon: Rajnath

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

With the post of the Chief of Defence Staff (CDS) lying vacant for the last seven months, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh on Tuesday said the appointment of the new CDS will be made soon and the process for it is underway.

General Bipin Rawat, the first CDS, died in a helicopter mishap on December 8 last year.

"The appointment of the CDS will be made soon. The process for it is underway," the defence minister said during a media briefing here on the rollout of the "Agnipath" recruitment scheme for the armed forces.

Earlier this month, the government issued notifications, widening the selection pool for the top position. According to the new rules, any serving or retired lieutenant general, air marshal and vice-admiral under the age of 62 years will be eligible for appointment to the post of



CDS. The three-star officers are now eligible to become the CDS, along with the serving chiefs of the three services, according to the changes made to the Army, Air Force and Navy Acts.

General Rawat took charge as India's first CDS on January 1, 2020 with a mandate to bring convergence in the functioning of the Army, the Navy and the Air Force and bolster the country's overall military prowess.

Another key mandate of the CDS was to facilitate the restructuring of the military commands for optimal utilisation of resources by bringing about jointness in operations, including through the establishment of theatre commands.

Modi will chair first national conference of Chief Secretaries in Himachal

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

Implementation of a common development agenda and a blueprint for cohesive action to achieve people's aspirations will be on the agenda when Prime Minister Narendra Modi will chair the first national conference of chief secretaries in Himachal Pradesh's Dharamshala from June 15-17.

More than 200 people representing the central government, all states and union territories, and domain experts will participate in the conference at the Himachal Pradesh Cricket Association Stadium, the Prime Minister's Office (PMO) said in a statement.

Spread over three days, the conference will focus on the rapid and sustained economic growth in partnership with the states, it said. The conference will be a significant step towards further strengthening partnership between the Centre and state governments, PMO said. "Working as Team India, the conference will lay



the ground for collaborative action for higher growth with sustainability, creation of jobs, education, ease of living and 'atmanirbharta' in agriculture," the PMO maintained.

The concept and agenda for this conference has been curated after more than 100 rounds of deliberations spread over six months, the statement said.

Three themes have been identified for detailed deliberations in conference - implementation of National Education Policy, urban governance, and crop diversification and achieving self-sufficiency in oilseeds, pulses and other agri-commodities. Under

the National Education Policy, both schools and higher education shall be deliberated upon, the statement said.

Best practices from states and union territories under each of the themes shall be presented at the conference for mutual learning, it said. A session on Aspirational Districts Programme to deliberate upon the achievements made so far, with successful case studies, including those on data-based governance, will be held.

There will also be a special session on 'Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav: Roadmap to 2047' and four additional thematic sessions on reducing compliance burden and decriminalisation of minor offences for ease of doing business; Centre-state coordination for achieving saturation coverage of schemes and ensuring last mile delivery; transforming India's infrastructure through PM Gati Shakti; and capacity building; implementation of iGOT - Mission Karmayogi, the PMO said.

CBI chargesheets 5 in killing of Cong's Bengal councillor

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

The CBI has filed a chargesheet against five persons in the killing of Tapan Kandu, Congress councillor from the Jhalda Municipality in West Bengal.

In its chargesheet filed before Chief Judicial Magistrate, Purulia, the CBI has named Dipak Kandu, Kalebar Singh alias Gopal Singh, Naren Kandu, Md Asik alias Basir Khan and Satyaban Pramanik as accused. The CBI took over the investigation of the case from the West Bengal Police on April 6, 2022 following an order of the Calcutta High Court.

It was alleged that Tapan Kandu was shot dead by three motorcycle-borne persons near his residence in Jhalda at around 5.15 pm on March 13 this year when he was returning with friends from evening walk through Bagmundi Road,

the CBI said in a statement. Kandu had collapsed and was rushed to Jhalda Hospital and from there he was taken to Ranchi Hospital, where he was declared dead.

Justice Rajasekhra Mantha of Calcutta High Court had directed the Central agency on April 4 to submit a report on its investigation in the case in 45 days.

The High Court had ordered the probe by the CBI on the petition of councillor's widow Purnima Kandu who had moved it seeking a CBI investigation in the murder of her husband, alleging complicity of local police in the case.

Her counsel had also submitted before the HC that the Superintendent of Police of Purulia district in a Press conference had given a clean chit to the inspector in-charge of Jhalda police station even before the probe by the state police was completed.

Cabinet nod to phase 1 of new Dholera airport

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA) chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Tuesday approved the proposal for development of Phase I of New Greenfield Airport at Dholera, Gujarat at an estimated cost of Rs. 1305 crore, to be completed within 48 months.

Dholera Airport is to get passenger and cargo traffic from Dholera Special Investment Region (DSIR) and is expected to become a major cargo hub to serve the industrial region. This Airport will also cater to the nearby region and serve as a second airport to Ahmedabad. The New Greenfield Airport at Dholera is situated at an aerial distance of 80 Km from Ahmedabad, Airport.

The project is being implemented by Dholera International Airport Company Limited (DIACL), which is a Joint Venture Company comprising Airports Authority of India (AAI), Government of Gujarat (GoG) and National Industrial Corridor Development and Implementation Trust (NICDIT) holding equity in the ratio of 51:33:16.

The airport is planned for operationalisation from the year 2025-2026 and initial passenger traffic is estimated to be 3 lakh passengers per annum, expected to grow to 23 lakh over a period of 20 years.

The annual cargo traffic is also estimated from the year 2025-2026 at 20,000 tonne, which would increase to 2,73,000 tonne over a period of 20 years.

The annual cargo traffic is also estimated from the year 2025-2026 at 20,000 tonne, which would increase to 2,73,000 tonne over a period of 20 years.

DGCA imposes fine of ₹10 L on AI for not boarding fliers with valid ticket

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) on Tuesday imposed a fine of Rs 10 lakh on Tata group-owned Air India for denying boarding to passengers who held a valid ticket.

"After that a series of checks were carried out by DGCA and during our surveillance at Bengaluru, Hyderabad and Delhi, there were specific instances, in the case of Air India - where the regulation (regarding compensation to passengers) is not

being followed and therefore, a show cause notice was issued to the airline and also a personal hearing was afforded," the DGCA said in a statement.

According to the DGCA, Air India may not have a policy in this regard and does not pay compensation to the passengers. "To say the least, it is a matter of serious concern and unacceptable. In the specific cases detailed in the show cause notice, after going through Air India submissions, as part of enforcement action, the competent authority has levied a penalty of Rs 10 lakh,"

it noted. "In addition, the Airline has been advised to immediately put the systems in place to resolve the issue - failing which further action shall be taken by DGCA," it added.

If a passenger is denied boarding despite having a valid ticket and has reported at the airport on time, certain regulations have to be followed by the airline concerned, as per the DGCA. In case the airline concerned is able to arrange an alternative flight for the affected passenger within an hour, no compensation is to be paid, the DGCA regulations state.

J'khand seeks urgent SC hearing on plea against CM

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Jharkhand Government on Tuesday moved the Supreme Court seeking urgent listing of its petition challenging a High Court order accepting the maintainability of a plea seeking a probe against Chief Minister Hemant Soren.

The plea sought a probe into alleged irregularities in the granting of mining leases and also into the transactions of some shell companies allegedly operated by his family members and associates. On June 3, the Jharkhand High Court had said it was of the considered

opinion that the writ petitions cannot be thrown away on the ground of maintainability and it will proceed to hear the matters on merit.

The state government told a vacation bench of Justices A S Bopanna and Vikram Nath that there is urgency. Despite being informed that a special leave petition (SLP) has been filed in the apex court challenging the June 3 order, the Jharkhand High Court has listed the matter for hearing on June 17, it said. The bench told senior advocate Arunabh Chowdhury, who mentioned the matter on behalf of state, to

EC gives more time to Soren to depose

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Jharkhand Chief Minister Hemant Soren is learnt to have been given more time by the Election Commission to appear before it in a mining lease allotment matter after the JMM leader cited unavailability of his counsel. The personal hearing where Soren was to be present either in person or through his counsel, was

give details about petition to registrar so apex court registry

slated for 3.00 PM on Tuesday.

Sources in the poll panel said since this is for the second time personal hearing in his case has been postponed, the fresh date of June 28 has been granted with condition that it will be last opportunity for such a hearing. Soren was earlier asked to appear before the EC on May 31 but he had sought more time and his appearance was rescheduled for June 14.

can take orders from the office of chief justice about its listing.

'500mn to lose 7.6 yrs if pollution levels persist'



PNS ■ NEW DELHI

About 51 crore people living in north India are on track to lose 7.6 years of their life if the current air pollution levels persist, according to a study which has termed 'pollution the greatest threat to human health in the country'.

Energy Policy Institute at the University of Chicago (EPIC)'s Air Quality Life Index said about 44 per cent of the world's increase in pollution has come from India since 2013. Since 1998, India's average

annual particulate pollution has increased by 61.4 percent, it added.

As per Air Quality Life Index's (AQLI) new analysis, air pollution shortens average Indian life expectancy by five years, and in Indo-Gangetic plains of northern India, 510 million residents, nearly 40 percent of country's population, are on track to lose 7.6 years of life expectancy on average if current pollution levels persist.

India is world's second most polluted country after Bangladesh. While some areas

of the country are much worse than average, the air pollution is shortening lives by almost 10 years in National Capital Territory of Delhi, the most polluted city in the world, as per study. The analysis said Delhi stands to gain life expectancy by 10 years on average if annual average pollution levels do not exceed five micrograms per cubic metres.

It said all of India's 1.3 billion people live in areas where the annual average particulate pollution level exceeds WHO guideline. "More than 63 percent of population live in areas that exceed country's own national air quality standard of 40 µg/m3.

Measured in terms of life expectancy, particulate pollution is greatest threat to human health in India, reducing life expectancy by 5 years," study said. In contrast, child and maternal malnutrition reduces average life expectancy by about

1.8 years, while smoking reduces average life expectancy by 1.5 years, it added. Globally, the AQLI found that particulate air pollution takes 2.2 years off global average life expectancy, or a combined 17 billion life years, relative to a world that met the WHO guideline (5 µg/m3).

This impact on life expectancy is comparable to that of smoking, more than three times that of alcohol use and unsafe water, six times that of HIV/AIDS, and 89 times that of conflict and terrorism, as per the analysis.

In no region of world is deadly impact of pollution more visible than in South Asia, where over half of life burden of pollution occurs. Residents there are expected to lose about five years of their lives on average if current high levels of pollution persist, and more in most polluted regions, it noted.

Abuse of elders prevalent in their sunset years: Survey

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Highlighting the need for improving financial independence as well as dignity of the elderly in the families, a national survey conducted by NGO HelpAge India has found that at least 47 per cent elders are dependent on family for source of income while 59% elders feel that elder abuse is prevalent in society.

The report "Bridge the gap: understanding elders' needs", released here on Tuesday has painted a grim picture of the status of the elderly who were finding themselves at the receiving end at their sunset years.

"Nationally 59% elders feel that elder abuse is prevalent in society, while only 10% elders admitted to being a victim of elder abuse, with relatives (36%), son (35%) & daughter-in-law (21%) being the top 3 perpetrators," according to the report. It noted that disrespect (57%), verbal abuse (38%),

neglect (33%), economic exploitation (24%) and an alarming 13% elders experienced physical abuse, in the form of beating and slapping. Elders attribute the abuse to their sons' (35%) and daughters' in law (44%) as the biggest perpetrators of abuse, said the report based on the survey.

The report was released by R Subrahmanyam, Secretary, Union Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment, at an event here on Tuesday, ahead of the World Elder Abuse Awareness Day on June 15.

"Nationally 47% of those abused stated they 'stopped talking to family' as a response to the abuse faced. Again family here becomes a key role player. With regard to prevention of abuse, 58% of elderly nationally opined that 'counselling to family members' is required, while 56% of elderly said to deal with abuse 'time bound decisions' and an age friendly response system needs to be put



in place at a policy level," noted report. Sadly, 46% of elders are not aware of any abuse redressal mechanism, with only 13% aware of the 'Maintenance and Welfare of Parents and Senior Citizens Act, 2007'.

This throws up a stark need to have more robust awareness mechanisms put in place at a systemic level across country, through extensive campaigns, media outreach etc, as per the report. Underlining

that dignity of a person is paramount, Subrahmanyam called upon elderly to form groups and take up various causes in society at various levels.

He also pointed out that elders even when abused by their family members were not approaching tribunals to get justice. "The NGOs and activists should help them and also create awareness among victims to seek justice in courts created for them."

India's Independence involved 'tapasya' of countless people: PM

TN RAGHUNATHA ■ MUMBAI

Maintaining that “knowingly or unknowingly, we limit India's Independence to a few incidents”, Prime Minister Narendra Modi said here on Tuesday that the country's successful freedom struggle involved the *tapasya* of countless people and the collective impact of many incidents at the local level was national, which meant means were different but the resolution was the same.

Addressing a gathering after inaugurating the Jal Bhushan Building and Gallery of Revolutionaries at Raj Bhavan here, Modi said: “The means were different but the resolution was the same. Irrespective of social, family, or ideological roles, the place of the movement, whether within the country or abroad, the goal was one - complete independence of India”

Recalling the multi-hued contribution of Bal Gangadhar Tilak, the Chapeka brothers, Vasudev Balwant Phadke, and Madam Bhikaji Cama the Prime Minister said that the

freedom struggle spanned locally as well globally.

Citing the Gadar Party, Netaji-led Azad Hind Fauz and India House of Shyamji Krishna Varma as examples of the global scale of the freedom struggle, Modi said: “This spirit of from local to global is the basis of our Aatmnirbhar Bharat Abhiyan”.

The Prime Minister said that Maharashtra had inspired the country in many fields. “In Maharashtra, there is a very rich legacy of social reformers from Jagatguru Shri Sant Tukaram Maharaj to Babasaheb Ambedkar. Sant Sant Dnyaneshwar Maharaj, Sant Naamdev, Sant Ramdas, and Sant Chokhamela have infused energy into the country. If we talk of Swarajya, said the Prime Minister, the lives of Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj and Chhatrapati Sambhaji Maharaj strengthen the sense of patriotism in every Indian even today”.

Modi said that the inclusion of ancient values and memories of freedom struggle in the architecture of Raj Bhavan and praised the spirit of turning Raj Bhavan into Lok



Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurating the newly reconstructed 'Jal Bhushan' Building that houses the office and residence of Maharashtra Governor at Raj Bhavan in south Mumbai on Tuesday

PNS

Bhavan.

The Prime Minister said that indifference toward unsung heroes continued for a very long time. He cited the example of how it took so long for the great freedom fighter Shyamji Krishna Varma's remains to reach India. Varma's mortal remains reached the country when he himself brought them back to India.

Maharashtra Governor Bhagat Singh Koshyari, Chief Minister Uddhav Thackeray, deputy chief minister Ajit Pawar, Leader of the Opposition Devendra Fadnavis, Minister of Public Works Ashok Chavan, Minister of Water Resources Jayant Patil, Minister of Protocol Aaditya Thackeray, LoP (Council) Pravin Darekar,

Guardian Minister Aslam Sheikh, Minister of State Aditi Tatkare, Chief Justice of Bombay High Court Justice Dipankar Datta, invitees and officials were present on the occasion.

The Prime Minister witnessed the 'Kranti Gatha' Gallery and also visited the historic Devi Mandir in the Raj Bhavan premises. Author and

historian Dr Vikram Sampath briefed the Prime Minister about the Kranti Gatha gallery.

Jal Bhushan, new structure of which the Prime Minister inaugurated, has been the official residence of the Governor of Maharashtra since 1885. It was demolished and a new building was sanctioned in its place. The Foundation stone for the new building was laid by the President of India in August 2019.

In the new Jal Bhushan building structure, all distinctive features of the old building have been preserved in the newly constructed building. In 2016, then Governor Vidyasagar Rao, had found a bunker in Raj Bhavan.

The bunker had earlier been used by Britishers as secret storage for arms and ammunition. The bunker was renovated in 2019. The Gallery has been developed in the bunker as a one of its kind museum, to commemorate the contributions of freedom fighters and revolutionaries of Maharashtra.

The gallery pays the contributions of Vasudev Balwant Phadke, the Chaphekar broth-

ers, the Savarkar brothers, Gogate, Naval Mutiny in 1946, Madam Bhikaji Cama, V B among others.

Welfare of backwards first priority of country: Modi

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ MUMBAI

Noting that spirit of gender equality and the Antyodaya spirit among Warkari tradition was an inspiration, Prime Minister Narendra Modi said on Tuesday that the welfare of Dalits, deprived, backwards, tribals and workers was the first priority of the country.

In his speech delivered after inaugurating Jagatguru Shrisant Tukaram Maharaj Temple at Dehu near Pune, Modi said that satsang of the saints was the rarest privilege in human birth.

“If the grace of saints is felt, then the realization of God automatically takes place. “Coming to this holy pilgrimage-land of Dehu today, I am feeling the same way. Dehu's Shila Mandir is not only a centre of power of devotion but also

paves the way for the cultural future of India. I express my gratitude to the temple trust and all the devotees for rebuilding this holy place,” the Prime Minister said.

Modi said that if India took being one of the oldest living civilizations in the world, the credit went to the saint tradition and sages of the country. “India is eternal because India is the land of saints. In every era, some great soul has been descending to give direction to our country and society”.

The Prime Minister said that Sant Tukaram had infused spirit and energy in the country at different times. “Yatras like Pandharpur, Jagannath, Brij Parikrama in Mathura or Kashi Panchkosi Parikrama, Char Dham or Amarnath Yatra, unite the diversity of our nation,” he said.

TMC cries vendetta as CBI grills Didi kin CPM men attack Cong offices in Kerala

SAUGAR SENGUPTA ■ KOLKATA

Trinamool Congress MP and Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee's nephew Abhishek Banerjee on Tuesday attacked the BJP Government for engaging in “vendetta politics” and dared the Centre to set any number of central agencies after him but he would “continue to fight against its anti-people policies without cowing down before them.”

Banerjee who led an election rally at Agartala ahead of by-elections there said “here I am addressing you and there they have sent the CBI to question my wife ... this only proves that the BJP Government of Tripura is afraid of losing power ... they are sure that a change is going to take place in this State and so they not only attacked our leaders and workers yesterday ahead of my meeting but also

send central agencies to my house to torment my family members... but I am made of different mettle ... I am not going to be bothered by such measures ... let them do whatever they want.”

Banerjee's attack came almost in tandem with a CBI team landing at his south Kolkata residence where --- barely half-a-km away from the residence of his aunt and Chief Minister --- they grilled his wife Rujira Narula Banerjee in connection with some foreign accounts and cattle smuggling case.

A team of eight officials including some women questioned her for more than 7 hours, sources said adding the questioning was done on account of some inconsistency in the statements given by her to the central agency during an earlier grilling session. She was earlier questioned in March last



year.

Earlier the Supreme Court had provided the Banerjees a relief by directing the CBI to question the couple --- both Abhishek and his wife --- not in the national Capital where they had been repeatedly summoned for questioning but in Kolkata.

According to sources in the Agency the CBI team had information that several crores had been transferred to a bank account related to the Banerjee's in Thailand.

Tuesday's grilling comes a day after the Enforcement Directorate wrote a notice to Rujira Banerjee asking for a date when she could be questioned by the Agency. Both the ED and CBI have been questioning the Banerjees following court orders.

Incidentally, Bikash Mishra, a former State TMC youth wing leader's name is also involved in the coal and cattle smuggling case. Mishra who was made the Youth Trinamool Congress vice president by the Banerjees is reportedly to have fled India and is currently in Bhaniatu, an island country near Australia.

Recently when Abhishek Banerjee went to Dubai for an alleged treatment of his eye the central agencies had objected to his foreign travel and the High Court had given him a conditional permission.

Another big TMC leader

and its Birbhumi strong man Anubrata Mondal was too being questioned in relation to coal and cattle smuggling. Mondal's security guard has been arrested by the CBI with reports that an ordinary police constable he had amassed property worth crores not only his own name but also in the name of his maids.

Meanwhile, the TMC leadership reacted to the CBI action saying “the BJP is afraid that its government is going out of power in Tripura and so they are using such kinds of pressure tactic.”

Party MP Dr Shantanu Sen said that “the CBI action itself proves that the TMC is in the right path ... no amount of pressure can stop our leaders ... the TMC will continue to play an important role both in Tripura and Delhi under the leadership of Mamata Banerjee and Abhishek Banerjee.”

KUMAR CHELLAPPAN ■ KOCHI

The law and order situation deteriorated further in Kerala on Tuesday as activists of the CPI-M gatecrashed into the official residence of V D Satheesahn, Leader of the Opposition, to demonstrate against the alleged murder attempt on the life of Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan.

Many Congress offices in the State came under attack by the workers of the CPI-M. They vandalised and beheaded the larger-than-life-size statue of Mahatma Gandhi at Payyanoor. This is the first time in the history of Kerala, the statue of the Father of the Nation has been vandalised.

Two Congress workers who were arrested at Thiruvananthapuram Airport on Monday reportedly for raising slogans demanding the resignation of Vijayan who was in the aircraft were charged

with attempt to murder the latter. This was based on the complaint filed by the gunman of the chief minister who was accompanying him in the flight from Kannur to the capital city.

EP Jayarajan, the LDF Convenor who also was accompanying Vijayan in the flight, who physically assaulted the Congress workers and had alleged that they were inebriated, made a vault face on Tuesday morning and said that they were not drunk. Though the gun man of the chief minister had filed a complaint with the airport police, the airlines IndiGo was yet to file any report or complaint with the police about the happenings in the aircraft.

The war of words between the CPI-M and the Congress continued unabated on Tuesday as Leader of the Opposition V D Satheesahn demanded the arrest of Jayarajan under IPC sections of

attempt to murder the Congress workers.

A Congress worker who was arrested from the aircraft on Monday has been identified as a teacher in an Upper Primary school in Kannur district.

“Though the CPI-M severely criticized the Congress for demanding the chief minister's resignation over a non-issue, the Marxists made it known that they were game for any kind of alliance with the Grand Old Party in days to come. We strongly condemn the ED's action in summoning and interrogating former Congress chief Rahul Gandhi. We also condemn the high handedness of the Delhi Police in physically assaulting the Congress leaders in New Delhi for protesting against the summoning of Rahul Gandhi and Sonia Gandhi,” said E P Jayarajan, the Marxist strongman who is also the LDF convenor on Tuesday.

Pope accepts court verdict acquitting Bishop Franco

KUMAR CHELLAPPAN ■ KOCHI

In what is being seen as a relief to Franco Mulackal, the Bishop of Jallandhar, who was acquitted by a Kerala court in January this year in an alleged rape case, Pope Francis, the spiritual leader of the Catholic community around the globe, accepted the court verdict.

This was announced by the Apostolic Nuncio in Jallandhar while addressing a religious congregation.

The Vatican has accepted the court verdict. Thus, the truth that was in the court of God has come through the court of the country and accepted by the Church,” Bishop Franco Mulackal said in a release to the media. Stage is set for the return of the Bishop to the Jallandhar Diocese soon.

For the first time since he was arrested and put on trial by a Kerala court following the complaint by a nun that she was raped multiple times by

him, the Bishop stated that there was a major conspiracy to pin him down in the fabricated case. “I do not hold any grudge against the nun or her supporters or the cops,” said Bishop Franco in a message to the laity. The Bishop also said that there were attempts by the police to fabricate charges against him to substantiate the allegations of rape.

“The police collected a set of night dress that I wear as material evidence. Though my colleagues asked me not to hand over the night dress, I reminded them about my assurance that the I would cooperate with the police. The next day when I was produced in court, I told the judge that the cops had collected a set of night dress from me. Though the police denied it, they were issued notice by the judge which made them own up and concede in the court that they had collected the night dress,” said the Bishop.

‘Govt making efforts to include agriculture in school curriculum’

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

Union Agriculture Minister Narendra Singh Tomar on Tuesday said the Government is making concerted efforts to include agriculture as part of the school curriculum. The Minister was addressing a brainstorming session organised by Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR). He said agriculture, which is the priority and strength of the Indian economy, acts as its backbone in adverse conditions. He also stressed on mainstreaming agriculture curriculum under the New Education Policy (NEP)-2020. The session discussed the development of policy and pathway to introduce agriculture as a subject in course curriculum and provide optionsto students to explore a career in the various arenas

of the farm sector.

National Council of Education Research and Training professor and head of department of curriculum studies Anita Nuna said: “The NEP-2020 will enable the overall development of school students besides just providing them with the bookish knowledge. It will also equip the students to convert the knowledge to action.”

ICAR director general Trilochan Mohapatra, ICAR deputy director general (Education) R C Agrawal and Association of India Universities general secretary Pankaj Mittal were present in the session.

Experts from the ICAR, NCERT, CBSE along with various school principals and teachers participated and deliberated on the need and process for the introduction of agriculture as a subject in school curriculum.



A peacock spreads its feathers at a tourist spot in Kanyakumari on Tuesday

PTI

Modi: Media should bring to fore shortcomings in society, Govt

T N RAGHUNATHA ■ MUMBAI

Prime Minister Narendra Modi said here on Tuesday that the work of newspapers and media was to disseminate news and educate the public, and if there were some shortcomings in the society and the Government, then it was their responsibility to bring them to the fore.

Participating in the 200th anniversary of historic newspaper *Mumbai Samachar*, Modi said: “As much as the media has the right to criticize, it also has an equally important responsibility to bring positive news to the fore.”

Modi said that the country

had a rich tradition that was carried forward through the medium of debates and discussions. “For thousands of years, we have conducted healthy debate, healthy criticism and right reasoning as a part of the social system. We have open and healthy discussions on very difficult social topics. This has been the practice of India, which we have to strengthen”, he said.

The Prime Minister said the way journalists worked like *karmayogis* in the interest of the nation during the Corona period in the last two years, will be remembered forever. The positive contribution of India's media helped India a lot in dealing with this biggest

crisis of 100 years. He also lauded the media's role in promoting initiatives like digital payment and Swachh Bharat Abhiyan. Wishing all the readers, journalists and staff of *Mumbai Samachar* on the 200th anniversary of this historic newspaper, Modi lauded the fact that in these two centuries, the lives of many generations, and their concerns have been given voice by *Mumbai Samachar*.

“*Mumbai Samachar* also gave voice to the freedom movement and then also took 75 years of independent India to readers of all ages. The medium of language was definitely Gujarati, but the concern was national,” he said.

The Prime Minister mentioned that even Mahatma Gandhi and Sardar Patel used to quote *Mumbai Samachar* and noted the happy coincidence of this anniversary falling in the 75th year of India's independence.

“Therefore, on this occasion of today, we are not only celebrating the high standards of journalism of India and journalism related to the concern of patriotism, but this event is also adding to the Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav”.

The Prime Minister also remembered the glorious contribution of journalism in the freedom struggle and re-establishment of democracy after the emergency period,

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath on Tuesday emphasised on the need to promote natural farming and reduce toxicity of agricultural land by curbing the use of chemicals and fertilisers.

Speaking at the 33rd Foundation Day of UP Council of Agriculture Research (UPCAR) on Tuesday, the Chief Minister said: “Indian agriculture is faced with a challenging task of reducing the use of chemicals and fertilisers to bring down the toxicity of land. We are grateful to Prime Minister Narendra Modi for making a provision in the

Union budget for natural farming. The PM had said in 2020 that natural farming could be promoted along the banks of the Ganga river and horticulture and cultivation of vegetables could be done in a big way”.

The CM said that the BJP had then taken out ‘Ganga yatras’ and Ganga nursery, Ganga Upvan were set up.

“Natural farming with low cost and good yield is a good alternative to toxic agriculture with chemicals and fertilisers. I appeal to farm scientists to join this campaign for natural farming which will not only help in raising the income of famers but also prevent dis-

eases,” the CM said.

Yogi said that UP is home to 17% population of the country but with only 12% agriculture land, yet its contribution in national foodgrains production is 20%. UP is endowed with rich water, mineral resources and fertile land, he added. “The UP government has accorded top priority to farmers' welfare. The government, soon after taking over in 2017, had waived the loans of farmers and the Centre later increased the minimum support price of agriculture crops for increasing the income of farmers which immensely benefited them,” the chief minister said.

Yogi said the massive push to agriculture diversification in the last five years has helped in increasing the income of farmers. “Besides UPCAR, four agriculture universities and 89 Krishi Vigyan Kendras played a stellar role in translating the infusion of modern input and technology into farming,” he pointed out.

He said that during the last five years, additional irrigation potential of 21 lakh hectares of land was created. Several irrigation projects lying incomplete for several decades were completed, including Ban Sagar, Saryu river project and Arjun Sahayak river project, he noted.

FIRST COLUMN

GUN CULTURE IN US IS NOW HURTING PEOPLE

The gun lobby and others are opposing gun control laws



ASHWANI MAHAJAN

Though the United State House of Representatives passed a Bill restricting the sale of guns on June 8, it's very unlikely that this Bill will become a law. This is so because Republicans are determined to oppose it in the Senate. Nobody knows for how long ordinary Americans will have to live under the threat that somebody will come and start shooting without provocation. But no doubt in the forthcoming elections, this issue is going to gain prominence. This Bill came after a shocking incident where five people were killed by shooting at the Tulsa Medical building—the 233rd mass shooting of 2022. Before this, a gunman shot and killed 19 young students and two teachers at an elementary school in Uvalde, Texas. Just two weeks before this incident, 10 people were killed and three were injured during a racist attack at a grocery store in Buffalo, New York. The important point here is that in most of these incidents, the killers were not the terrorists but crazy young men. Some people have started saying that it is much riskier to live in the US than going to war in Afghanistan. It is for the first time that any US President has used strong words against the system and culture of owning guns. Joe Biden has called on Congress to ban assault weapons or to raise the age to be able to buy one, from 18 to 21 years and other measures to curb gun violence in the United States in his address on June 2. He has also called for a ban on high-capacity magazines, background checks, red flag laws and a repeal of the immunity that protects gun manufacturers from legal liability if their weapons are used in violence. It's easy to buy guns in the US. Guns are easily available, and can be purchased almost like vegetables, in thousands of stores, without much background



check. Besides, people often buy guns from relatives and friends. To buy a gun, unlike in India, a person need not possess a licence in the US. One has to only give some information about oneself, by filling up a form. Within minutes of the filling up of the information, verification is done by the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) and the gun reaches into the hands of the buyer. According to the website of the FBI, in the last one decade, enquiry was sought in 10 crore cases and only 7 lakh people were found ineligible to purchase a gun, that is, less than one per cent of the total. Almost every citizen of the US is eligible to have a gun. With a spurt in murders in the last few years, it's being said that ease of having a gun is causing murders and illegal activities.

The demand for gun control has been there for a long time, and many political leaders have been trying to make gun laws stricter. However, they have been facing numerous problems in their endeavour. And behind this, there is a strong gun lobby. Since 1871, there has been a strong organisation called the National Rifle Association (NRA) which has been directly engaged in political lobbying for weak gun laws, since 1934. Though there are nearly 50 lakh NRA members, who contribute for the association, a major chunk of financing comes from gun manufacturing companies. For obvious reasons, this organisation makes every possible effort to thwart any effort to make any strict law against possession of guns. We can gauge the influence of this gun lobby from the fact that the NRA spent about \$250 million in 2020, far more than all the country's gun control advocacy groups put together. The NRA funds Senate members who, in turn, try to defeat efforts to curb guns. President Obama faced a lot of criticism from the gun lobby for issuing some administrative orders, imposing restrictions on purchase of guns. Whether it's the issue of making stricter gun law or taking administrative action to restrict guns, the gun lobby always tries to create hurdles. President Joe Biden has renewed attempts to restrict guns, but he also doesn't seem to be in a mood to issue an executive order on the subject. He wants a stricter law to be enacted democratically.

(The author is Professor, Department of Economics, PG.D.A.V. College, University of Delhi. The view expressed are personal.)

Caste genie threatens to come out of bottle

Whichever way a caste census is conducted, it would always create tensions and frictions in society

Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar, facing what he feels is an existential crisis, is back to his old game. He has announced that his Government will undertake a socio-economic survey of all castes and communities, and for this exercise which will necessarily be very costly, he wants the Centre to provide the necessary financial assistance.

The most prominent among his supporters in this exercise is Tejaswi Yadav, the worthy son of Lalu Prasad Yadav. Having no one yet like Kumar to command a larger acceptance among the backward castes, demands of realpolitik saw the Bharatiya Janata Party too taking part in the meeting in which the decision was taken on June 1.

Kumar has repeatedly been demanding a nationwide caste census which has been rejected by the Centre as being a divisive exercise, but despite being reduced to a minority party in a government led by him, he is stubborn in his belief that only caste can restore the overwhelming authority he had once enjoyed in Bihar politics.

His record in governance has not been particularly stellar. In the absence of any other study, let us look into the State of States survey of India Today published in December 2021 which graded the states according to 12 parameters, besides overall performance. Out of the 20 big states of India, in terms of overall performance, Bihar remained at the bottom for all the years since 2018. It was at the bottom also in terms of economy, education and entrepreneurship, and among the bottom third in terms of agriculture, infrastructure, health, cleanliness, environment, governance and inclusive development.

Only in respect of tourism and law and order, it figures among the top 10 (9th and 10th rankings, respectively). In Niti Aayog's Health Index 2021, Bihar ranks 18th out of 19 states. Its per capita income still remains the lowest in India, as it was during Lalu Prasad Yadav's 15-year rule, and Kumar's 17 years rule has not changed the lots of Biharis so far. Of course, murder, kidnapping and extortion industries during Lalu rule no longer exist, but there has been no other viable industry to lift the economy of Bihar even now. Hence caste remains the only alternative to entice voters. Nitish refuses to draw lessons from the recently concluded Assembly elections, especially in UP, that it is perhaps not the caste as much as the efficient delivery of government schemes that gave the BJP a historical mandate and a second term in UP, as vindicated by the fact that parties based on identity politics fared extremely poorly almost everywhere. Caste which is peripheral to governance can be made to occupy the centre-stage only to deflect attention from real governance failures by the tribe of politicians.



IN THE TRUTHINESS-DOMINATED DISCOURSES OF OUR TIME, CASTE IS A HYPER-CHARGED ISSUE BECAUSE OF THE PROMISES OF HANDOUTS IT HOLDS, BUT ON ITS ACTUAL POWER TO INFLUENCE VOTERS, EXPERTS AND COMMONERS ARE EQUALLY DIVIDED

The author, a former Director General from the Office of the Comptroller & Auditor General of India, is a Professor at the Arun Jaitley National Institute of Financial Management. (The views expressed are personal.)



Kumar is not alone in demanding a caste census; states like Chhattisgarh, Maharashtra, and even Odisha (where the ruling BJD faces no existential threat) are also ready to join the bandwagon.

In the truthiness-dominated discourses of our time, caste is a hyper-charged issue because of the promises of handouts it holds, but on its actual power to influence voters, experts and commoners are equally divided. Ask a politician, who has the caste-wise breakup of all his voters even without a caste census, he will deny that caste plays any role.

Ask a sociologist, and he will reel out caste statistics to prove that caste is the single factor responsible for all election results. Ask an economist, and he will say only development, growth and jobs determine electoral outcomes rather than caste. Yet the truth, as always, perhaps lies somewhere in between.

If caste is not really that important, why is there such a clamour regarding caste census? Let Kumar have his census and serve voters those data instead of jobs which he anyways can't offer. The reality is that a caste census is not that simple.

It cannot be denied that a modern state cannot function without credible data for policy making, and reliable caste data can inform Government policy in a positive way. But caste enumeration is incredibly complex and highly unreliable.

In the 1980s, the Anthropological Survey of India undertook a study that threw up 65,000 castes. Being unable to classify them, it decided to limit itself to identifying 7,331 commu-

nities instead. In 2011 a socio-economic caste census (SECC) was undertaken whose results were never published. It had revealed a staggering 46 lakh castes and sub-castes, making it impossible to use these data for any practical purposes; it implied that on an average only 72 households constituted a caste using the same phrase to identify it.

Instead of the utopia of a casteless society that our constitution makers had yearned for, a caste census will rather inflame passions and conflicts within numerous castes, substituting the present upper caste-lower caste tensions with multi-faceted tensions between all castes and communities, turning the society into an unmanageable dystopia of perpetual conflicts. Policy making for distributing privileges among the estimated 3000 castes and 25000 sub-castes will become an anarchical exercise.

Justifying the exclusion of caste enumeration from the now-delayed 2021 census, the Registrar General and Census Commissioner opined that the total number of OBCs in the country ranges from 6,285 to 7,200 depending on whether the centre or the states prepared the list.

People use clan, gotra, sub-castes and caste names interchangeably which leads to misclassification of castes, thereby affecting the integrity of the Census exercise itself. In 2017, the Rohini Commission was constituted to suggest equitable redistribution of the 27 per cent OBC quota; it noted 2,633 castes covered under the OBC reservation. But the existing OBC reservation policy doesn't recognise any cat-

egory of more marginalised castes within the OBCs, thus enabling the advanced among them to appropriate most benefits.

Caste-based reservation has benefited the weaker sections, but also produced a new kind of power elites among them who will be unlikely to give up their powers. The outcome of any caste census that threatens the status quo in terms of benefits available to the different caste groups will necessarily lead to agitation, litigation and competitive demands for quotas.

We will have a déjà vu of Mandal days which no Government would know how to control now.

Governments of Karnataka and Tamil Nadu attempted similar exercises in the past and then backtracked.

The fact remains that whichever way a caste census is conducted, it would always create tensions and frictions in a society that even now lacks cohesion. Should 21st century India be concerning itself with caste or should it endeavour to put this terrible baggage from the past behind and find another way to address the issue of backwardness which does not add to the already existing divisions and tensions in society?

If caste is to become the sole criterion for distribution of power, opportunities and resources in a society and legitimised by the state, then we need to redraft our constitution, and replace the dream of a casteless society of modern citizens by one in which people's identities will be reinforced only by their castes. Will it be any different from the India of the 18th and 19th centuries?

POINTCOUNTERPOINT

WHAT KIND OF JUSTICE IS THIS (DEMOLITION OF THE HOUSE OF A PROTESTOR IN PRAYAGRAJ)? — SAMAJWADI PARTY PRESIDENT AKHILESH YADAV



LAW AND ORDER IS A STATE SUBJECT. THE GOVT SHOULD TAKE STRICT ACTION AGAINST RIOTERS. — UNION MINISTER ANURAG THAKUR

How CPI's politics sapped Ipta of its vitality

A major reason for decline of Ipta was the CPI's tight control over its cultural units which were forced to do propaganda

Ipta entered the world of cinema. 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.

Music of both the films was scored by Pandit Ravi Shankar. Prominent Ipta members Shambhu Mitra, Tripti Mitra, Zohra Sehgal, Krishan Chander, Kamini Kaushal, etc., were all part of the films. While Dharti ke laal, based on the Bengal famine, got some positive reviews, Neecha nagar got a raw deal. The Times of India said, "The story of Neecha nagar is the corniest chestnut of the Indian screen: Rich vs Poor, Capital vs Labour..." But the film, based on a story of Maxim Gorky, won a Grand Prix award at the Cannes

SOMEN SENGUPTA

(The view expressed are personal.)

International Film Festival in 1946. Another film backed by Ipta was V. Shantaram's Doctor Kotnis ki amar kahani.

Ipta began theatre in Bombay, Calcutta, and other cities, drawing huge crowds. One of the earliest Ipta productions was based on Ismat Chughtai's story. People realised that these productions were redefining the language of the Indian stage. It was a cosmopolitan, cultural revolution, something no other political party had thought before in India. In that sense, P.C. Joshi's initiative was indeed a watershed in Indian politics.

From the beginning Ipta's theatre was very distinctive; it was sophistically crafted. With exceptional stage designs, light and of course content, its plays captured people's hearts. Ipta theatre was a confluence of various forms of



Indian stage performances, blending the styles of Marathi tamasha, Bengali Jatra and Assamese jhumur in a single format. In Punjab it took the theme from folklore.

The play Nabanna, a Bengali production based on the Bengal famine written by Bijon Bhattacharya, rocked Bengal and Assam. It was first staged on October 24, 1943, in Calcutta. In the next few years, more than 40,000 farmers and mill workers watched it. No Ipta production could beat the popularity of Nabanna. The Marathi play Desha sathi, Telugu play

Prarambham, and Urdu play Yeh kiska khoon hai were also very popular among people.

The golden period of Ipta lasted only till February 1948, when at the CPI's Calcutta Congress, B.T. Ranadive captured power by sidelining P.C. Joshi.

Ranadive not only discarded Joshi's reformist line but reduced Ipta activities as much as he can.

He gave a call for an armed revolution against the Nehru government. The party was immediately banned in West Bengal and Andhra. It was the time when Ipta started disintegrating.

As the party was banned, there was suppression of its cultural front. The party too ignored its creative aspect. According to Basu Acharya, a Marxist scholar and researcher, one of the major reasons was the party's tight control over its cultural

units; these were forced to do propaganda only as per the party line. Such was the control over the Ipta that people like Ritwik Ghatak and Salil Chowdhury were asked to make music and films only in tune with the party line. As a result, talented people like Sachin Dev Burman, Ravi Shankar, Shambhu Mitra, and Salil Chowdhury started moving to the world of commercial cinema, dance, music and theatre.

Acharya thinks that Ranadive was wrong to call a revolution so early, as cultural surge emergence had just started; it was giving the CPI a huge mass support.

However, even after coming out of Ipta, its former members did not discard the dream of a classless society. They carried the spirit of Ipta without its affiliation. Shambhu Mitra formed a Bengali group theatre group

named Bahuroopi, while Raj Kapoor and Bimal Roy made films like Awara and Do bigha zamin, respectively. In Raj Kapoor's movie, the pangs of the urban poor were shown; in Bimal Roy's movie, the mass migration to cities and then reverse migration were very nicely captured. Needless to say, both the films got a huge reception in Moscow where they were treated as Ipta works.

Though Ipta was active till the CPI suffered a split in 1964, it was not even its shadow of the 1940s. Meanwhile, the cultural spectrum of India saw a sea change, as the entertainment of mass popular cinema, film music and commercial theatre gradually took over. After 1964, except Balraj Sahani, Kaifi Azmi, Habib Tanveer, Shabana Azmi, Javed Akhtar, etc., only a few popular

faces involved themselves actively with Ipta. In Bengal, the new party CPI(M), born out of the split, got the Ipta name whereas the CPI renamed it as IPCA. However, at the all-India level, the CPI still owns the name Ipta. In 2017, Ipta celebrated its 75 years in Patna with a big festival with theatre, song and street plays.

The Bombay unit of Ipta is still very active. They regularly perform theatre and street plays. In other states IPTA is now more on paper than stage.

The emergence of Ipta in the mid-1940s inspired people to fight against famine, riot, war, partition, brutality with which the naval mutiny was suppressed, the Tebhaga movement, etc. It gave Indian culture a galaxy of talented artists. India's cultural history will be incomplete without Ipta's contributions.

Remain united, work collectively to overcome challenges, Lankans told

PTI ■ COLOMBO

Sri Lanka's top leadership on Tuesday urged citizens to remain united and work collectively to transform the country back into a calm and prosperous society, amidst the unprecedented economic hardship faced by the island nation's 22 million people.

As the debt-ridden country was celebrating the Poson Full Moon Poya Day, President Gotabaya Rajapaksa, in a message to the nation, recalled how the ancestors in the past overcame challenges as a result of working collectively with consensus.

Prime Minister Ranil Wickremesinghe urged citizens to unite and "transform the country back into a calm and prosperous society following the preconceived Dhamma message" to overcome the unprecedented eco-



nomie turmoil facing the island nation. "The unity, support, and commitment of all are essential for the success of a people-centric goal. In the past, our ancestors conquered the challenges as a result of working collectively with a common consensus," he said.

The Poson Poya Day is of the highest significance to Sri Lankan Buddhists as it marks the historic arrival of Arahata

Mahinda to the country with the message of Lord Buddha, paving the way to create a new identity as well as a cultural renaissance, Rajapaksa said.

Prime Minister Wickremesinghe acknowledged that the path of Dhamma endorsed by Arahata Mahinda is the roadmap the nation is looking to alleviate the political and socio-economic turmoil that has taken hold of

the Sri Lankan state.

"With the Poson Poya Day in mind, we must all unite in determination to transform the state of Sri Lanka back into a calm and prosperous society following the preconceived Dhamma message," the premier said.

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.

"At this Poson festival, let us resolve to work for the goal of ultimate enlightenment and happiness in this lifetime. May everyone be blessed with compassionate thoughts on this

sanctified day of Poson Poya!" the President added.

Rajapaksa's message comes at a time when the ongoing anti-government protests demanding his resignation over the handling of the country's worst economic crisis went well beyond two months. The economic crisis has created political unrest and forced his elder brother, former Prime Minister Mahinda Rajapaksa to resign on May 9.

The clamour for the President's resignation has become intense with every passing day, but he has remained steadfast and has refused to do so.

Additionally, following the recommendations of the Justice, Prisons and Constitutional Reforms Ministry, 173 prisoners were released from prisons across the country on Poson Poya Day.

US Prez Biden to visit Israel, Saudi Arabia next month

AP ■ WASHINGTON

President Joe Biden will make his first trip to the Middle East next month with visits to Israel, the West Bank and Saudi Arabia, the White House announced Tuesday.

The decision to pay a call on Saudi leaders during the July 13-16 trip comes after Biden as a Democratic presidential candidate branded the kingdom a "pariah" because of its human rights record and pledged to recalibrate the U.S.-Saudi relationship.

Biden plans to meet with the Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman, the de facto ruler of the kingdom, according to a senior administration official who briefed reporters on the condition of anonymity.

U.S. Intelligence officials determined Prince Mohammed likely ordered the brutal 2018 killing of U.S.-based journalist Jamal Khashoggi.

After Biden took office, his administration made clear the president would avoid direct engagement with the crown prince and instead focus his engagements with King Salman.

Human rights advocates and some Democratic allies cautioned Biden about visiting the oil-rich kingdom, saying such a visit without first getting human rights commitments would send a message to Saudi leaders that there are no conse-



quences for egregious rights violations. The Saudis have been accused of using mass arrests, executions and violence to squelch dissent.

But at a time of skyrocketing prices at the gas pump, growing worries about Iran's nuclear program and perpetual concern that China is expanding its global footprint, Biden and his national security team have determined that freezing out the Saudis, particularly the crown prince, is simply not in the U.S. Interest.

The White House announced the trip after Saudi Arabia this month helped nudge OPEC+ to ramp up oil production by 648,000 barrels per day in July and August, and the kingdom agreed to extend a United Nations-mediated cease-fire in its seven-year war with Yemen. Biden called the Saudi

cease-fire decision "courageous." Prince Mohammed, who is commonly referred to by his initials, MBS, played a "critical role" in brokering an extension of the cease-fire, according to the administration official.

White House press secretary Karine Jean-Pierre in a statement announcing the Middle East trip said King Salman invited Biden to visit the kingdom during a gathering in the port city of Jeddah of the six Gulf Cooperation Council nations — Bahrain, Kuwait, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates — as well as Egypt, Iraq and Jordan.

"While in Saudi Arabia, the President will also discuss a range of bilateral, regional, and global issues with his counterparts. These include support to the UN-mediated truce in Yemen, which has led to the most peaceful period there since war began seven years ago," Jean-Pierre said.

"He will also discuss means for expanding regional economic and security cooperation, including new and promising infrastructure and climate initiatives, as well as deterring threats from Iran, advancing human rights, and ensuring global energy and food security." Biden's first stop during the Middle East swing will be in Israel for a long-planned visit with Israeli Prime Minister Naftali Bennett in Jerusalem.

German, Swiss officials detain 4 for backing ISIS

AP ■ BERLIN

Germany and Swiss authorities have carried out a joint operation to detain four people who are accused of membership in or support of the Islamic State group, officials said Tuesday. One man was detained in Germany on Monday.

He is accused of having prepared a serious act of violence endangering the state and of membership in a foreign terrorist organisation, the country's federal prosecutor said Tuesday.

In Switzerland, the authorities detained three people, also on Monday, and carried out seven searches altogether, the country's federal prosecu-

tor's office said.

Germany's federal prosecutor's office said the German suspect, identified only as Aleem N., had "long been a follower of jihadist and radical Islamic ideas." He was detained in Roemerberg, southwest of Heidelberg.

In mid-September 2020, he travelled from Germany to Turkey in order to continue from there to Syria.

In Syria, the defendant wanted to join the Islamic State, or IS, to receive military training and then participate in combat operations or terrorist attacks. However, this did not happen, and instead, the defendant returned to Germany at the end of October 2020, the statement said.

Refugees in Rwanda warned of challenges for arrivals from UK

AP ■ KIGALI

As Britain plans to send its first group of asylum-seekers to Rwanda on Tuesday amid outcries and legal challenges, some who came to this East African country under earlier arrangements tell The Associated Press the new arrivals can expect a difficult time ahead.

"Sometimes I play football and in the evening I drink because I have nothing to do," said Faisal, a 20-year-old from Ethiopia who was relocated to Rwanda from Libya in 2019 in the first group of refugees resettled under a deal with the United Nations. "I pray daily to God that I leave this place."

Giving only his first name out of fear of retaliation, he remains at the Gashora centre built to house refugees who had languished in Libya while trying to reach Europe. Gashora is called a transit centre, but some like Faisal see nowhere to go. A British court on Monday refused to stop the Government from deporting asylum-seekers to Rwanda despite arguments by rights advocates.

PM Hasina to inaugurate Bangladesh's longest bridge on Jun 25

PTI ■ DHAKA

The construction work of the Padma Bridge, Bangladesh's longest, which will reduce the travel time between Dhaka and Kolkata, is almost complete and Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina will inaugurate it on June 25, a senior official has said. The upper level of the two-tier bridge over the Padma river

will initially be opened for road transport, the press minister of the Bangladesh High Commission in New Delhi Shaban Mahmood told a group of visiting Indian journalists here.

The railway line, under construction on the lower level, will reduce the distance from Dhaka (Bangladesh) to Kolkata (India) by almost half.

Jan 6 witness: Trump 'detached from reality' over election

AP ■ WASHINGTON

Donald Trump's closest campaign advisers, top government officials and even his family were dismantling his false claims of 2020 election fraud ahead of Jan 6, but the defeated president was becoming "detached from reality" and clinging to outlandish theories to stay in power, the committee investigating the Capitol attack was told Monday.

On election night itself, Trump was "growing increasingly unhappy" and refusing to accept the results as they came in, former campaign manager Bill Stepien said in testimony played before the House panel.

Son-in-law Jared Kushner tried to steer Trump away from attorney Rudy Giuliani and his far-flung theories of voter fraud that advisers believed were not true. Trump would have none of it.

The back-and-forth intensified in the run-up to Jan 6. Former Justice Department official Richard Donoghue recalled breaking down one claim after another — from a truckload of ballots in Pennsylvania to a missing suitcase of ballots in Georgia — and telling Trump "much of the info you're getting is false."

"He was becoming detached from reality," said former Attorney General William Barr, who called the voting fraud claims "bull—," "bogus" and



"idiotic," and resigned in the aftermath.

"I didn't want to be a part of it." The witness testimony was shown as the House committee focused on the "big lie," Trump's false claims of voter fraud that fueled the defeated Republican president's efforts to overturn the 2020 election and provoked a mob of his supporters to lay siege to the US Capitol.

The panel also provided new information about how Trump's fundraising machine collected some USD 250 million in the aftermath of the November election to keep fighting, mostly from small-dollar donations from Americans. One plea for cash went out 30 minutes before the Jan 6, 2021, insurrection.

"Not only was there the big lie, there was the big ripoff," said Rep Zoe Lofgren, D-Calif.

Chairman Rep Bennie Thompson, D-Miss., opened Monday's hearing saying Trump "betrayed the trust of the American people" and "tried to remain in office when people had voted him out."

As the hearings play out for the public, they are also being watched by one of the most important viewers, Attorney General Merrick Garland, who must decide whether his department can and should prosecute Trump. No sitting or former president has ever faced such charges.

"I am watching. I will be watching all of the hearings," Garland said

China city mayor apologises over Covid lockdown response

AP ■ BEIJING

The mayor of a northeastern Chinese city on the North Korean border that has been under lockdown for more than 50 days has apologised for failures in his administration's work amid widespread — but often disguised — dissatisfaction over the government's heavy-handed approach to handling the pandemic.

Dandong Mayor Hao Jianjun gave no specifics, but said government work and basic services had been "unsatisfactory," for which he offered his apologies, according to a statement issued by the city government late Monday.

It is highly unusual for a ranking Communist Party official to publicly concede errors, particularly regarding the hard-line "zero-COVID" policy that has been repeatedly endorsed by top officials under President and party leader Xi Jinping.

Despite reporting only a handful of cases, Dandong has seen one of the strictest lockdowns in China.

In his reported comments at a meeting with residents, Hao acknowledged the sacrifices made by the city's 2.4 million citizens, along with the "complaining voices" among them over the government's



work.

Dandong would now be moving into a stage of pandemic control that would be "more proactive, more active and more effective," Hao said.

Unable to root out the source of new cases, Dandong officials took increasingly extreme measures, some of them of questionable scientific merit. That included recommending residents close their windows to prevent the virus being blown in from North Korea, even though its ability to spread through the air is extremely limited.

Authorities have also cracked down on smuggling across the Yalu River with North Korea, offering cash incentives for information on those involved.

South Korea says North completed prep for new nuclear test

AP ■ WASHINGTON

South Korea's top diplomat said Tuesday that North Korea has completed preparations for a new nuclear test and that only a political decision by the country's top leadership can prevent it from going forward.

After talks with Secretary of State Antony Blinken in Washington, South Korean Foreign Minister Park Jin said the North would pay a price if it goes ahead, as feared, with what would be its seventh nuclear test in the coming days. "North Korea has completed preparations for another nuclear test and I think only a political decision has to be made," Park said.

Prior to Tuesday, US and South Korean officials had said only that the North was nearing completion of such preparations. "If North Korea ventures into another nuclear test, I think it will only strengthen our deterrence and also international sanctions," Park said.

"North Korea should change its mind and make the right decision."

Apart from sanctions, Park did not say what that price the

South Korea says North completed prep for new nuclear test

North would pay or outline how the deterrence policy would change, but Blinken said the United States and treaty allies South Korea and Japan could adjust their military postures in response.

"We're preparing for all contingencies this in very close coordination with others and we are prepared to make both short and longer-term adjustments to our military posture," Blinken said. He added that in addition, "the pressure will be sustained, it will continue and, as appropriate, it will be increased."

Both Park and Blinken men stressed the door to negotiations without any preconditions remains open for North Korea. But Blinken, repeating comments from numerous US officials in recent days, lamented that North Korea continues to ignore overtures for dialogue.

On Monday, North Korea test-fired what appeared to be artillery shells toward the sea, according to South Korea's military, days after North Korean leader Kim Jong Un called for greater defense capability to cope with outside threats.


कार्यालय नगर निगम, हरिद्वार

पत्रांक:- 144 / से0सै0नगि0हरि0 / 2022-23

दिनांक:- 14.06.2022

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विज्ञापित

एतद्वारा सूचित किया जाता है कि उत्तराखण्ड सचिवालय/ उत्तराखण्ड लोक सेवा आयोग, समीक्षा अधिकारी (लेखा)/सहायक समीक्षा अधिकारी (लेखा) परीक्षा-2021 हेतु प्रकाशित विज्ञापन संख्या-A-1/E-1/DR/2020-21, दिनांक 05 मार्च, 2021 के सापेक्ष दिनांक 07 एवं 8 अप्रैल, 2022 को सम्पन्न मुख्य परीक्षा के परीक्षा परिणाम विज्ञापित संख्या-26/02/R.O.A.R.O(Lekha)-21/G-1/2022-23, दिनांक 30 मई, 2022 द्वारा सफल घोषित अभ्यर्थियों हेतु कम्प्यूटर के आधारभूत ज्ञान एवं हिन्दी टंकण (अनिवार्य) तथा अंग्रेजी टंकण (वैकल्पिक) परीक्षा का आयोजन दिनांक 30 जून, 2022 (बृहस्पतिवार) को किया जाएगा।

मुख्य परीक्षा के सापेक्ष सफल घोषित अभ्यर्थियों द्वारा विज्ञापित संख्या: 313, दिनांक 30 सितम्बर, 2021 के क्रम में उपलब्ध कराये गये अभिलेखों का मूल अभिलेखों से मिलान दिनांक 01 जुलाई, 2022 को उत्तराखण्ड लोक सेवा आयोग कार्यालय, हरिद्वार में किया जाएगा। अपरिहार्य कारण से दिनांक 01 जुलाई, 2022 को अभिलेखों का मिलान कराने में विफल अभ्यर्थियों के लिए दिनांक 04 जुलाई, 2022 को अभिलेखों का मिलान कराना आवश्यक होगा।

उक्त परीक्षा हेतु अभ्यर्थी अपने ऑनलाइन प्रवेश पत्र दिनांक 15 जून, 2022 से आयोग की वेबसाइट www.psc.uk.gov.in से डाउनलोड कर सकते हैं। अभ्यर्थियों को पृथक से डाक द्वारा प्रवेश पत्र प्रेषित नहीं किये जायेंगे। विस्तृत विज्ञापित एवं कम्प्यूटर के आधारभूत ज्ञान एवं हिन्दी टंकण (अनिवार्य) तथा अंग्रेजी टंकण (वैकल्पिक) परीक्षा से संबंधित दिशा-निर्देश हेतु अभ्यर्थी आयोग की वेबसाइट का अवलोकन अवश्य कर लें।

(कर्मन्द् सिंह) सचिव।


INDIAN RAILWAYS
GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS
(RAILWAY BOARD)
E-TENDER NO.2022RSI8743TC

CORRIGENDUM NO. 1

1.0 Tender Quantity indicated at column 3 of Para 2.0 (Schedule of Requirement) of bid document may be read as **75,210 nos. CTRBs** instead of 32,697 nos. CTRBs.

2.0 In Para 8 of Instructions to tenderer for e-tender i.e. for Earnest Money Deposit, the amount of **Earnest Money to be read as Rs. 50,00,000/- (Rupees Fifty Lakh only)** instead of Rs. 20,00,000/- (Rupees Twenty Lakh only).


3.0 All other terms and conditions of the tender will remain unchanged.

Director, Railway Stores (W)

Ministry of Railways, Railway Board, New Delhi.

for and on behalf of the President of India.

SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE




14/09/2022

Russians control 80% of contested city in eastern Ukraine



AP ■ LIVIV

Sievierodonetsk, the main focus of the fighting in eastern Ukraine in recent weeks, isn't yet blocked off by Russian troops even though they control about 80% of the city and have destroyed all three bridges leading out of it, an official said Tuesday. "There is still an opportunity for the evacuation of the wounded, communication with the

Ukrainian military and local residents," Luhansk regional governor Serhiy Haidai told The Associated Press by phone. He acknowledged that Ukrainian forces have been pushed out to the industrial outskirts of the city because of "the scorched earth method and heavy artillery the Russians are using." About 12,000 people remain in Sievierodonetsk, a city with a pre-war population

of 100,000. More than 500 civilians are sheltering in the Azot chemical plant, which is also being relentlessly pounded by the Russians, according to Haidai. In all, a total of 70 civilians have been evacuated from the Luhansk region over the past 24 hours, the governor said. Two people were killed and another wounded in the Luhansk region, according to Ukrainian authorities.

War isn't funny but humour helps Ukrainians cope with trauma

AP ■ KYIV

Because he'll shortly be deployed as a soldier on the battlefields of Ukraine, Serhiy Lipko and Anastasia Zukhvala chose to marry first, like a growing number of couples being torn asunder by war with Russia. Like others, their nuptials were rushed and smaller than they would have been during peacetime, with just a few dozen close friends and family. She wore a simple crown of blue flowers in her hair. And then, because laughter can be medicinal and because Lipko was building a career as a comic before the defense of his country called, they headed to a stand-up comedy club in Ukraine's capital, Kyiv.

There, with his new wife watching from the wings, he took the stage in olive-green fatigues and soon had the crowd in stitches with close-to-the-bone humour about army and married life. He joked that military training with NATO instructors had been a great opportunity for him to practice his English, and how nervous he'd been about handling expensive military gear, for fear of breaking it.

The war isn't remotely funny, but Ukrainians are learning to laugh about the awfulness of it all. Not necessarily because they want to, but because they have to — to stay sane in the brutality that has killed tens of thousands of people, is upending Ukraine, millions of lives and the world order as it rages on front lines



in the east and south of the country. Russian President Vladimir Putin and his troops, especially dead and wounded ones, are favorite targets of dark Ukrainian wartime humour. But there are red lines: Ukrainian dead aren't laughed about and the grimmest battles, among them the brutal siege of Mariupol and the port city's Azovstal steelworks, are far too raw for jokes. The same is true of atrocities in Bucha and elsewhere. "Tragedies cannot and will never be the object of humour," said Zukhvala, who also works as a stand-up comic, as she and Lipko hugged with the tenderness of newlyweds after his show and scooped up armfuls of bouquets, wondering aloud how they'd find space for them at home. "This is an absolutely crazy time, beyond ordinary experience," she said. "Our life now is made of paradoxes, and it can even be funny." Ukraine's most famous

UN: Death toll from week of Darfur clashes now at least 125

AP ■ CAIRO

The death toll from tribal clashes over the past week in Sudan's Darfur region has reached at least 125, the United Nations said Tuesday. The violence, the latest in the war-ravaged region, erupted following a land dispute between Arab and African tribes in the town of Kulbus in West Darfur province. Local Arab militias then attacked multiple villages in the area. The UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs said the dead included over 100 from the African Gimir tribe and 25 Arabs. It said the clashes injured more than 130 others, mostly from the non-Arab tribe. OCHA said at least 25 villages in the Kulbus area were attacked, looted and burned and that at least 50,000 people

were forced to flee their homes in West Darfur and neighboring North Darfur province, where the clashes spread. Elsewhere in West Darfur, at least 19 people were reportedly killed and 54 others injured in separate tribal clashes earlier this month, according to OCHA. The violence in the town of Abu Jubayhah, which lasted for three days, grew out of a robbery of a tuk tuk, a three-wheeled vehicle, on June 5, it said. The fighting displaced more than 15,000 people after six neighborhoods in the town were burned down, it added. OCHA said the fighting subsided following the deployment of troops to the area. Authorities declared a nightly curfew last week but the situation remains tense, it said. The past week's fighting was the latest bout of tribal violence in Darfur.

Pope blasts Russian 'cruelty', lauds Ukrainian 'heroism'

AP ■ ROME

Pope Francis has blasted the "ferocity and cruelty" of Russian troops in Ukraine while praising the "heroism" and "courage" of Ukrainians to defend their land. Francis made some of his most pointed comments about the war in a meeting with European editors of Jesuit journals last month, excerpts of which were published Tuesday in Italian dailies La Stampa and Avvenire. While sharply criticizing Russia's invasion, Francis also insisted there weren't "good guys and bad guys" and that

Russia was in some ways provoked by NATO's expansion east. "Someone might say at this point: But you are in favor of Putin! No, I'm not," Francis said. "It would be simplistic and wrong to say such a thing. I am simply against reducing complexity to the distinction between good and bad, without thinking about roots and interests, which are very complex. While we see the ferocity, the cruelty of the Russian troops, we must not forget the problems to try to solve them." In the interview, Francis confirmed he hopes to meet with Russian Patriarch Kirill, who has justified the war, when



the two are due to attend an interfaith meeting in Kazakhstan in mid-September.

A planned meeting in June was called off by both sides, Francis said, "so that our dialogue isn't misunderstood."

In Kazakhstan, he said, "I hope to be able to greet him and speak with him a bit as a pastor." At the same time, Francis went on at length to praise the courage of Ukrainians and reasserted their right to defend themselves while blasting what he said was the financial interests in the war by weapons manufacturers to "test and sell weapons." "It's true the Russians thought it'd be over in a week. But they miscalculated," Francis said. "They found a courageous people, a people who are fighting to survive and have a history of fighting."

Bucolic Ukraine forest is site of mass grave exhumation

AP ■ BUCHA

The lush green beauty of a pine forest with singing birds contrasted with the violent deaths of newly discovered victims of Russia's war in Ukraine, as workers exhumed bodies from another mass grave near the town of Bucha on Kyiv's outskirts. The hands of several victims were tied behind their backs. The gruesome work of digging up the remains coincided with the Ukrainian police chief's report that authorities have opened criminal investigations into the killings of



more than 12,000 people since Russia invaded Ukraine on February 24. Workers wearing white hazmat suits and masks used shovels to exhume bodies from the soil of the forest, marking each section with small yellow

numbered signs on the ground. The bodies, covered in cloth and dirt, attracted flies. "Shots to the knees tell us that people were tortured," Andriy Nebytov, head of the Kyiv regional police, said at the scene. "The hands tied behind the back with tape say that people had been held (hostage) for a long time and (enemy forces) tried to get any information from them." Since the withdrawal of Russian troops from the region at the end of March, the authorities say they have uncovered the bodies of 1,316 people, many in mass graves in

the forest and elsewhere. The horrors of Bucha shocked the world after Russian troops left. The mass grave that reporters saw Monday was just behind a trench dug out for a military vehicle. The bodies of seven civilians were retrieved. Two of the bodies were found with their hands tied and gunshot wounds to the knees and the head, Nebytov said. National police chief Igor Klimentko told the Interfax-Ukraine news agency on Monday that criminal investigations into the deaths of more than 12,000 Ukrainians included some found in mass graves.

UN chief: Govts' inaction on climate is dangerous

AP ■ BERLIN

UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres warned Tuesday of a "dangerous disconnect" between what scientists and citizens are demanding to curb climate change, and what governments are actually doing about it. Guterres said global greenhouse gas emissions need to drop by 45 per cent this decade, but are currently forecast to increase by 14 per cent. "We are witnessing a historic and dangerous disconnect: science and citizens are demanding ambitious and transformative climate action," he said at a climate conference in Austria. "Meanwhile many governments are dragging their feet. This inaction has grave consequences."

Danish-Canadian deal ends 49-year-old feud over Arctic isle

AP ■ COPENHAGEN

A territorial dispute between Denmark and Canada over a barren and uninhabited rock in the Arctic that has led to decades of friendly friction has come to an end, with the two countries agreeing to divide the tiny island between them. Under the agreement, to be signed later Tuesday, a border will be drawn across the 1.3-square-kilometer (half-square-mile) Hans Island, in the waterway between the northwestern coast of the semi-autonomous Danish territory of

Greenland and Canada's Ellesmere Island. The rock has no mineral reserves. "It sends a clear signal that it is possible to resolve border disputes ... In a pragmatic and peaceful way, where the all parties become winners," said Danish Foreign Minister Jeppe Kofod. He said it was "an important signal now that there is much war and unrest in the world." Canada and Denmark agreed in 1973 to create a border through Nares Strait, halfway between Greenland and Canada. But they were unable to

agree which country would have sovereignty over Hans Island, which lies about 1,100 kilometers (684 miles) south of the North Pole.

PUBLIC NOTICE

This is hereby to inform all the General Public that I, Gaurav Modi S/o Late Shri Vijay Raj Modi R/o A-12, Ashok Vihar, Phase-1, Delhi-110052 had sold my Vehicle bearing Registration- DL8CT3749, Make-Hyundai Accent, Model- 2010 vide Chassis No. - MALACD41G1AM275764 Engine No. - G4EBAM278372, Color- Sleek Silver to Mr. Deepak Kapoor S/o Ranjan Kapoor R/o 32/911, DDA Flats, Kalkaji, Delhi - 110019 on 16/09/2020 (September 16, 2020) through a duly signed Affidavit confirming the Sale of the Vehicle. The Possession of the above mentioned Vehicle was given immediately to Mr. Deepak Kapoor. He only has been in Possession of the Vehicle from 16/09/2020. That Mr. Deepak Kapoor is not transferring the Vehicle Registration Certificate (RC) in his name. I declare that he is in the Possession of the Vehicle Hyundai Accent bearing Registration - DL8CT3749 and therefore he is and will be solely responsible for every Challan, Road Accident, Police Case, Traffic Case, Court Case and every legal proceeding whatsoever from the date of sale that is 16/09/2020.

I have No Responsibility of the Aforementioned Vehicle as the possession is with Mr. Deepak Kapoor and he is the Owner of this Vehicle which is confirmed through an Affidavit duly signed by him.

Sd/-
Varun Talwar, Tarun A Talwar & Rohan Talwar
(Advocates & Consultants)
For Talbros Legal LLP
Mob: +91-9999930790, +91-9899840919
Email: legal.support@talbroslegal.com

PUBLIC NOTICE

ICICI Home Finance

Regd. Office: ICICI Bank Towers, Bandra-Kurla Complex, Bandra (E), Mumbai 400051

Shifting of Branch

Notice is hereby given that ICICI Home Finance Company Limited has decided to shift the branch located at 2nd floor, SCO-319, Sec- 29, Gurgaon, Haryana- 122001 as a result of recalibration of business. The new branch address is ICICI Home Finance Company Limited, Ground Floor, Plot no.128, Below FITJEE, Sector - 44, Gurugram - 122003, which will be effective from Aug 2022.

***Existing branch will cease to operate after completion of specified notice period as per regulatory norms.**

For ICICI Home Finance Co. Ltd.
Priyanka Shetty
Company Secretary

DEBTS RECOVERY TRIBUNAL-1, DELHI

4TH FLOOR, JEEVAN TARA BUILDING, PARLIAMENT STREET, NEW DELHI- 110001

O.A. NO. 1266/2019

Bank of India Applicant

Gaurav Gupta & Ors. Defendants

Defendant 1

Defendant 2

Defendant 3

Whereas the above named applicant has instituted a case for recovery of **Rs. 22,79,526/- (Rupees Twenty Two Lakh Seventy Nine Thousand Five Hundred Twenty Six Only)** against you and whereas it has been shown to the satisfaction of the Tribunal that it is not possible to serve you in ordinary way. Therefore, this notice is given by advertisement directing you to make appearance before LD, Registrar on **04.07.2022 at 10.30 A.M.** (for further details kindly visit DRT website www.tribunal.gov.in, Phone Number: 011-23748473).

Take notice that in case of your failure to appear on the above mentioned day before this Tribunal, the case will be heard & decided in your absence.

Due to ongoing Pandemic Situation, all the matters will be taken up through Video Conferencing and for that purpose:-

(xxxii) All the advocates/Litigants shall download the "Cisco Webex" application/Software;

(xxxiii) "Meeting ID" and "Password" for the next date of hearing qua cases to be taken by Registrar/Recovery Officer-I/ and Recovery Officer-II shall be available one day prior to the next date at DRT Official Portal i.e. "drt.gov.in" under the Public Notice Head.

(xxxiii) In any exigency qua that the Advocates/ Litigants can contact the concerned official at **Ph. No. 011-23748473.**

Given under my hand and seal of the Tribunal on this 09 June of 2022

Respondent may contact under mention Phone Number for further enquiry.

Mr. Amit K. Dar, Ld. Registrar
DRT-1, New Delhi.
Phone No.: 011-23748473
Email : drt1delhi-dfs@nic.in

By Order of this Tribunal
For Assistant Registrar

INDAG RUBBER LIMITED

CIN- L74899DL1978PLC009038

Regd. Off: 11, Community Centre Saket, New Delhi-110017.

Phone: 011-26963172, Email: info@indagrubber.com, Website: www.indagrubber.com

NOTICE

(For the Attention of Equity Shareholders of the Company)

Compulsory Transfer of Equity Shares of the Company to the DEMAT Account of the Investor Education and Protection Fund (IEPF) Authority.

Notice is published in pursuance of Section 124(6) of the Companies Act, 2013 read with the Investor Education and Protection Fund Authority (Accounting, Audit, Transfer and Refund) Rules, 2016 ("the said Rules") notified by Ministry of Corporate Affairs as amended from time to time and Regulation 39 (4) of the SEBI (Listing Obligations and Disclosure Requirements) Regulations, 2015.

The Rules, inter alia, require the Company to transfer all the Shares in respect of which Dividend has not been claimed by the Shareholders during the last 7 consecutive years starting from the Final Dividend of the Financial Year 2014-2015, to the Demat Account of the Investor Education and Protection Fund (IEPF) Authority set up by the Central Government within 30 days from the due date of transfer i.e September 20, 2022, in the manner as prescribed in the said Rules.

Accordingly, the Company has sent individual communications to the concerned Shareholders whose Shares are liable to be transferred to the Demat Account of the IEPF Authority in compliance of the said Rules, at their latest available address advising them to claim their dividends expeditiously. The Company has also uploaded the complete details of such shareholders and their folio number or DPID- Client ID on its website i.e. www.indagrubber.com. This Notice shall be deemed to be the adequate notice in respect of issue of new Share Certificate(s) by the Company on behalf of those Shareholders who hold Shares in physical form, for the purpose of transfer of their Shares to the DEMAT Account of the IEPF Authority in the manner as prescribed in the said Rules.

Concerned Shareholders may note that, any further dividend, including other corporate benefits, on such Shares shall be credited to the IEPF Authority. Upon credit of such Shares to the said Demat Account, no claim shall lie against the Company in respect of the Unclaimed Dividend amount and such Shares transferred to the IEPF Authority. However, Shareholders may claim back the Shares credited along with the Unclaimed Dividend amount from the IEPF Authority after following the procedure given under the IEPF Rules. The procedure for claiming the same is available at www.mca.gov.in and www.iepf.gov.in.

For any further information/ clarification on this matter, the concerned Shareholder may write to the Company at Indag Rubber Limited, Khemka House, 11, Community Centre, Saket, New Delhi-110017, Tel.: 011-26963172-73, Email- info@indagrubber.com or contact the Company's Registrar and Share Transfer Agent- Skyline Financial Services Private Limited at D-153/A, 1st Floor, Okhla Industrial Area, Phase-I, New Delhi-110020, Tel.: 011-26812682-83, Email- admin@skylinertia.com.

By order of the Board
For Indag Rubber Limited
Sd/-
Company Secretary

Date: June 15, 2022
Place: New Delhi

कार्यालय अधिकांश अभियन्ता, अनुसूचित जाति, उत्तराखण्ड

उत्तराखण्ड जल सस्थान

लेन नं.-1, सत्यम विहार, मोहोरवाला रोड, देहरादून-248001

Phone No.- 0135-2671940, E-mail - eeendc@upjsoilmail.com

पत्रांक: 1144/ई-निविदा/2022-23 दिनांक: 14.06.2022

ई-निविदा सूचना

मुख्य महानगरपालिका, उत्तराखण्ड जल सस्थान, देहरादून की ओर से उत्तराखण्ड मिशन काव्यक्रम के अन्तर्गत निम्नलिखित पेयजल योजनाओं के कांजी हेतु ई-निविदा, टू-बिड सिस्टम (तकनीकी बिड एवं कॉमर्शियल बिड) आधार पर निम्नानुसार कामजिती की जाती है:-

निविदा क्र.सं.	विकास खण्ड	कार्य विवरण	बरोहर का मूल्य	निविदा का मूल्य	कार्य पूर्ण करने की अवधि
1	2	3	4	5	6
1	सहस्रपुर	सिंहवाड़ी पेयजल योजना में खोत संवर्धन, सतही जलशाय निर्माण, पाइप लाइन बिछाने एवं तलसम्बन्धी कार्य।	227200.00	₹4000 +GST	12 माह
2	सहस्रपुर	कोटडा कल्याणपुर पेयजल योजना में खोत संवर्धन, सतही जलशाय निर्माण, पाइप लाइन बिछाने एवं तलसम्बन्धी कार्य।	146500.00	₹4000 +GST	09 माह
3	सहस्रपुर	जलशाय मटक नाजरी योजना में उर्ध्व जलशाय निर्माण, राइजिंग मेन, पाइप लाइन बिछाने नलकूप सुदृढीकरण एवं पम्पिंग प्लांट की आपूर्ति अधिकांश एवं तलसम्बन्धी कार्य।	224300.00	₹4000 +GST	12 माह
4	सहस्रपुर	बिथौली पेयजल योजना में उर्ध्व जलशाय एवं सतही जलशाय निर्माण, राइजिंग मेन, पाइप लाइन बिछाने नलकूप सुदृढीकरण एवं पम्पिंग प्लांट की आपूर्ति अधिकांश एवं तलसम्बन्धी कार्य।	326100.00	₹4000 +GST	12 माह
5	सहस्रपुर	मुर्दाई पेयजल योजना में खोत संवर्धन, सतही जलशाय निर्माण, पाइप लाइन बिछाने एवं तलसम्बन्धी कार्य।	546500.00	₹4000 +GST	09 माह
6	सहस्रपुर	जलसुर पेयजल योजना में खोत संवर्धन, सतही जलशाय निर्माण, पाइप लाइन बिछाने एवं तलसम्बन्धी कार्य।	140200.00	₹4000 +GST	09 माह
7	सहस्रपुर	नाजरी पेयजल योजना में उर्ध्व जलशाय एवं सतही जलशाय निर्माण, राइजिंग मेन, पाइप लाइन बिछाने नलकूप सुदृढीकरण एवं पम्पिंग प्लांट की आपूर्ति अधिकांश एवं तलसम्बन्धी कार्य।	259400.00	₹4000 +GST	12 माह
8	किसानपुर	सोता पेयजल योजना में खोत संवर्धन, सतही जलशाय निर्माण, पाइप लाइन बिछाने एवं तलसम्बन्धी कार्य।	84100.00	₹3000 +GST	06 माह
9	किसानपुर	सिथली पेयजल योजना में उर्ध्व जलशाय निर्माण, पाइप लाइन बिछाने, राइजिंग मेन, पाइप लाइन बिछाने, पम्पिंग प्लांट की आपूर्ति अधिकांश एवं तलसम्बन्धी कार्य।	262310.00	₹4000 +GST	12 माह
10	किसानपुर	सहस्रपुर पेयजल योजना में नलकूप अधिकांश, उर्ध्व जलशाय मरम्मत, राइजिंग मेन, पाइप लाइन बिछाने, पम्पिंग प्लांट की आपूर्ति अधिकांश एवं तलसम्बन्धी कार्य।	384900.00	₹4000 +GST	12 माह
11	किसानपुर	जमनीपुर पेयजल योजना में नलकूप अधिकांश, उर्ध्व जलशाय निर्माण, राइजिंग मेन, पाइप लाइन बिछाने, पम्पिंग प्लांट की आपूर्ति अधिकांश एवं तलसम्बन्धी कार्य।	586460.00	₹4000 +GST	12 माह
12	किसानपुर	कुन्ना एवं कुन्नापट्ट पेयजल योजना में नलकूप अधिकांश, उर्ध्व जलशाय निर्माण, राइजिंग मेन, पाइप लाइन बिछाने, पम्पिंग प्लांट की आपूर्ति अधिकांश एवं तलसम्बन्धी कार्य।	261000.00	₹4000 +GST	12 माह
13	होईवाला	बागी पेयजल योजना में खोत संवर्धन, सतही जलशाय निर्माण, राइजिंग पाइप लाइन बिछाने एवं तलसम्बन्धी कार्य।	320300.00	₹4000 +GST	12 माह
14	होईवाला	कांवाला बागोला पेयजल योजना में नलकूप अधिकांश, उर्ध्व जलशाय निर्माण, राइजिंग मेन, पाइप लाइन बिछाने, पम्पिंग प्लांट की आपूर्ति अधिकांश एवं तलसम्बन्धी कार्य।	223500.00	₹4000 +GST	09 माह
15	होईवाला	बड़कोट पेयजल योजना में नलकूप अधिकांश, उर्ध्व जलशाय निर्माण, राइजिंग मेन, पाइप लाइन बिछाने, पम्पिंग प्लांट की आपूर्ति अधिकांश एवं तलसम्बन्धी कार्य।	312800.00	₹4000 +GST	12 माह

निविदा समारोह (मुख्य तिथि) निम्नवत् है:

क्र.सं.	विवरण	अनुसूची
1	ऑनलाइन प्रमाणन की तिथि	20.06.2022 at 11:00 Hrs
2	निविदा प्रपत्र डाउनलोड करने की तिथि	21.06.2022 at 11:00 Hrs
3	ट्री-बिड मॉडिंग की तिथि	25.06.2022 at 11:00 Hrs
4	बिड ऑनलाइन जमा करने की प्रारम्भ तिथि	29.06.2022 at 11:00 Hrs
5	बिड ऑनलाइन जमा करने की अन्तिम तिथि	04.07.2022 up to 17:00 Hrs
6	ऑफ लाइन ब्याक से जमा किये जाने वाले प्रपत्र (निविदा प्रपत्र हेतु निष्पत्ति भुक्त, बिड सिम्बोलेट्री, स्टैम्प पेपर एवं अन्य सम्बन्धित दस्तावेज)	04.07.2022 up to 17:00 Hrs
7	तकनीकी बिड खोलने की तिथि	05.07.2022 at 11:00 Hrs
8	प्रीक्विजिटिविदा खोलने की तिथि	सूचना प्रपत्र से दी जायेगी

ई-निविदा से सम्बन्धित समस्त जानकारी एवं सहायक जानकारी के वेबसाइट www.uktenders.gov.in पर ऑन लाइन देखी/प्राप्त की जा सकती है।

के.सी. वैकुण्ठी
अधिकांशी अभियन्ता

"जल संवर्धन-जीवन संवर्धन"

India to become USD 5-trn economy by 2026-27: CEA

New Delhi: Chief Economic Adviser (CEA) V Anantha Nageswaran on Tuesday said India would become a USD 5 trillion economy by 2026-27 and USD 10 trillion by 2033-34.

Addressing an event organised by UNDP India, Nageswaran said India is relatively better placed than other emerging economies.

“On the face of it, looks optimistic, even ambitious, but if we get to USD 5 trillion by 2026-27.

“We are now USD 3.3 trillion, it is not such a difficult target to reach. Then if you simply assume 10 per cent nominal GDP growth in dollar terms, then you get to USD 10 trillion by 2033-34 and another doubling with the same rate,” he said.

In 2019, Prime Minister Narendra Modi envisioned to make India a USD 5 trillion economy and global powerhouse by 2024-25.

The CEA said there is a need for climate tagging of the budget. “GDP is the worst measure of economic activities but for all others. Because everything else you take, comes



IN 2019, PRIME MINISTER NARENDRA MODI ENVISIONED TO MAKE INDIA A USD 5 TRILLION ECONOMY AND GLOBAL POWERHOUSE BY 2024-25

with their own limitations and serious subjectivity,” he noted.

The World Bank has cut India’s economic growth forecast for the current fiscal to 7.5 per cent as rising inflation, supply chain and geopolitical tensions taper recovery.

India’s economy grew 8.7 per cent in the last fiscal (2021-22) against a 6.6 per cent con-

traction in the previous year.

In its third monetary policy of 2022-23, the Reserve Bank retained its GDP growth forecast at 7.2 per cent for the current fiscal, but cautioned against negative spillovers of geopolitical tensions and a slowdown in the global economy. **PTI**

WPI inflation spikes to record 15.88% as heatwave stokes food prices in May

New Delhi: Wholesale price-based inflation surged to a record high of 15.88 per cent in May as crude prices rose and heatwave brought about a spike in prices of vegetables and fruits, strengthening the possibility of a further interest rate hike by the Reserve Bank.

The Wholesale Price Index (WPI)-based inflation maintained its increasing trajectory for the third month in a row, and remained in double digits for the 14th consecutive month since April last year.

“The high rate of inflation in May 2022 is primarily due to rise in prices of mineral oils, crude petroleum and natural gas, food articles, basic metals, non-food articles, chemicals and chemical products and food products etc.

As compared to the corresponding month of the previous year, the commerce and industry ministry said in a statement.

The Wholesale Price Index (WPI)-based inflation was 15.08 per cent in April and 13.11 per cent in May last year. Considering the old series, the last time WPI inflation was higher than this was in August

1991, when it was at 16.06 per cent.

Inflation in food items crossed the double-digit mark after a gap of 4 months as vegetables, potato, wheat and protein-rich items saw the price rise. Inflation in onion, however, saw easing at (-) 20.40 per cent.

Inflation in food articles in May was 12.34 per cent, against 8.35 per cent in the previous month. The last time, it had recorded the double-digit print was in January at 10.40 per cent.

The rate of price rise in vegetables was 56.36 per cent, potato (24.83 per cent), wheat (10.55 per cent) and egg, meat and fish (7.78 per cent).

In the fuel and power basket, inflation was 40.62 per cent, while in manufactured products and oil seeds, it was 10.11 per cent and 7.08 per cent, respectively.

Inflation in crude petroleum and natural gas was 79.50 per cent in May.

Retail inflation in May eased to 7.04 per cent, from 7.8 per cent in April, but remained above the Reserve Bank’s inflation target for the fifth straight month. **PTI**

Sensex slips 153 points in volatile trade amid weak global markets



Mumbai: Benchmark indices fell for the third straight day on Tuesday, with the Sensex falling over 153 points amid largely weak global markets as investors remained cautious ahead of the crucial Federal Reserve meeting outcome.

Unabated foreign fund outflows also continued to weigh on the domestic equity markets.

The 30-share BSE benchmark dropped 153.13 points or 0.29 per cent to settle at 52,693.57. During the day, it tumbled 387.22 points or 0.73

per cent to 52,459.48.

The NSE Nifty declined by 42.30 points or 0.27 per cent to end at 15,732.10.

From the Sensex pack, IndusInd Bank, Tech Mahindra, Reliance Industries, Maruti, Hindustan Unilever, HDFC Bank and Asian Paints were the major laggards.

On the other hand, NTPC, UltraTech Cement, Bharti Airtel and M&M were among the gainers.

Elsewhere in Asia, markets in Seoul and Tokyo ended lower, while Hong Kong and

Shanghai bounced back and settled in the green.

Markets in Europe were trading mostly lower in mid-session deals.

Stock exchanges in the US ended sharply lower on Monday. Meanwhile, international oil benchmark Brent crude gained 0.68 per cent to USD 123.1 per barrel.

Foreign institutional investors (FIIs) remained net sellers in the capital market, as they sold shares worth ₹4,164.01 crore on Monday, as per exchange data. **PTI**

LIC ups stake in Capri Global to over 7% with ₹221 crore investment

New Delhi: LIC has increased its stake in non-banking finance company Capri Global Capital, to over 7 per cent from 5 per cent earlier, during the February-June period with an investment of over ₹221 crore, the state-owned insurer said on Tuesday.



stake buy in Capri Global.

Capri Global is an NBFC with presence across different segments like MSME, construction finance, affordable housing and indirect retail lending segments.

Shares of LIC were trading at ₹673.45 apiece on BSE, up by 0.79 per cent from its previous close, while Capri Global scrip was up 0.14 per cent at ₹695.30 apiece on BSE. **PTI**

Rupee ends almost flat at 78.03 against US dollar

Mumbai: Staging a marginal recovery from its lifetime low, the rupee inched up 1 paisa to close at 78.03 (provisional) against the US dollar on Tuesday amid a weak greenback overseas.

Forex traders said lacklustre domestic markets, elevated crude oil prices and persistent foreign capital outflows weighed on the local unit.

At the interbank forex market, the rupee opened at 78.02 against the greenback and witnessed an intra-day high of 77.90 and a low of 78.07. It finally settled at 78.03, up just 1 paisa over its previous close.

On Monday, the rupee had depreciated by 11 paise to close at a fresh lifetime low of 78.04.

The dollar index, which gauges the greenback’s strength against a basket of six currencies, fell 0.05 per cent to 105.02. “The Indian rupee has



been on a downward trajectory since the beginning of the year and has depreciated around 5 per cent so far in 2022.

“Along with rising crude oil prices, the prime culprit behind the rupee losing value against the dollar is the sharp rally in the greenback, which has risen by around 10 per cent year-to-date towards a fresh two-decade peak,” said Sugandha Sachdeva, Vice President - Commodity and Currency Research, Religare Broking Ltd.

The US dollar is witnessing safe-haven flows as market participants are bracing for rapid-fire rate hikes by the US Fed in its battle against inflation, which has raised the risks of a growth slowdown, Sachdeva said.

This is leading to massive capital outflows from domestic equities. In its battle against scorching inflation, the US Fed might even look at raising the interest rate by around 75 bps at its June meeting which shall be a key headwind for the rupee in the near term.

Global oil benchmark Brent crude futures advanced 0.72 per cent to USD 123.15 per barrel.

On the domestic equity market front, the BSE Sensex ended 153.13 points or 0.29 per cent lower at 52,693.57, while the broader NSE slipped 42.30 points or 0.27 per cent to 15,732.10. **PTI**

IRDAI reduces solvency margin requirement for crop biz; to unlock ₹1,400 crore funds

New Delhi: Regulator Irdai on Tuesday reduced the solvency margin requirement for general insurers providing crop insurance, a decision expected to unlock Rs 1,400 crore of funds for them to undertake more business.

The decision, Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (Irdai) said, is part of series of reforms it has undertaken to increase insurance penetration in the country.

In a press release, Irdai said it has reduced the solvency margin requirement for insurers doing crop business.

“This move will increase the capacity of general insurers to underwrite more business,” it added.

Solvency margin, a key indicator of financial health of an insurer, refers to the difference between its value of assets and liability. Regulator fixes the solvency margin for insurers.

Irdai said since fiscal 2017-18, it has been relaxing the period of admissibility of premium due from government for solvency calculation purpose from 180 days to 365 days.

“Now, it has been decided to extend the above relaxations from FY 2022-23 onwards till further orders. This move will improve the solvency status of the general insurance industry as a whole,” the regulator said.

Irdai expects that the effect of the relaxation will be positive on the industry as it will free up the capital, which can be utilised for underwriting more business.

“It is estimated that approximately Rs 1,400 crore will be unlocked and general insurers may use this opportunity to optimise this freed up capital in a way which leads to increased insurance penetration in India,” the regulator said. **PTI**

Zydus Lifesciences chairman appointed director in RBI’s board

New Delhi: Zydus Lifesciences on Tuesday said its chairman Pankaj R Patel has been appointed as a part time non-official director in the central board of the Reserve Bank of India (RBI).

The Appointments Committee of the Cabinet (ACC) has approved the proposal of appointment of Patel for a period of four years from the date of notification of his appointment, or until further orders, whichever is earlier, the drug maker said in a statement. Patel is already on the board of various institutions, including Invest India, Member of the Mission Steering Group (MSG) -- the highest policy making and steering body constituted under National Health

Mission (NHM), and of the Drug Technical Advisory Board by the ministry of health & family welfare, it added. **PTI**

Zeeve raises USD 2.65 mn in seed funding led by Leo Capital

New Delhi: Blockchain Technology startup Zeeve has raised USD 2.65 million in a seed funding round from Leo Capital and Blu Ventures.

The funds raised from the current round will be used for bolstering product development, augmenting the technology team and enhancing its reach among DApp developers and global corporations, the company said on Tuesday.

Founded in 2021, Zeeve builds web3 infrastructure and with more than 10,000 developers, Blockchain startups and enterprises are using its solution for Web3 infrastructure.

Ravi Chamria, CEO, Zeeve said that Lots of exciting innovations have happened in the web3.0 space like DeFi, NFTs, Decentralized Insurance, Prediction Markets, etc.

“We should expect to see a lot more innovation over the next five years, revolutionizing how we use the internet. With further advancements in blockchain technology, we may soon see web3 utilized for everything from online commerce to voting and governance,” Chamria said. **PTI**

DGCA imposes ₹10L fine on Air India for denying boarding to passengers without compensation

New Delhi: Aviation regulator DGCA has imposed a fine of ₹10 lakh on Air India for denying boarding to passengers holding valid tickets and thereafter not providing mandatory compensation to them.

“After that a series of checks were carried out by DGCA and during our surveillance at Bengaluru, Hyderabad and Delhi, there were specific instances, in the case of Air India - where the regulation (regarding compensation to passengers) is not being followed and therefore, a show cause notice was issued to the airline and also a personal hearing was afforded,” the Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) said in a statement. According to the regulator, Air India may not have a policy in this regard and does not pay compensation to the passengers.

“In the specific cases detailed in the show cause notice, after going through AI submissions, as part of enforcement action, the competent authority has levied a penalty of ₹10 lakh,” it noted. **PTI**

India’s palm oil imports dip 33% in May: SEA

New Delhi: India’s palm oil imports declined by 33.20 per cent to 5,14,022 tonne during May this year, but there was sharp rise in shipment of RBD palmolein oil by refineries, industry body Solvent Extractors Association (SEA) said on Tuesday.

India, the world’s leading vegetable oil buyer, imported 7,69,602 tonnes of palm oils in May 2021.

The country’s total vegetable oil imports declined to 10,05,547 tonne in May this year, compared to 12,13,142 tonne in the year-ago period.

The share of palm oil is about 50 per cent of the country’s total vegetable oil imports.

According to the SEA, Indonesia has lifted the ban on export of palm oil with some

conditions from May 23 and also reduced export tax. This will increase exports from Indonesia and have a dampening effect on global prices.

Among palm oil products, import of crude palm oil (CPO) declined to 4.09 lakh tonnes in May this year, from 7.55 lakh tonnes in the year-ago period, as per the SEA data.

However, the import of RBD palmolein rose sharply to 1 lakh tonnes from 2,075 tonnes, while that of crude palm kernel oil (CPKO) declined to 4,265 tonnes from 11,894 tonnes in the said period. Among soft oils, the import of soyabean oil increased sharply to 3.73 lakh tonnes in May this year, as against 2.67 lakh tonnes in the same period of the previous year. **PTI**

Crude oil futures gain on spot demand

New Delhi: Crude oil prices on Tuesday rose by ₹58 to ₹9,310 per barrel as participants widened positions on a firm spot demand.

On the Multi Commodity Exchange, crude oil for July delivery traded higher by ₹58 or 0.63 per cent at ₹9,310 per barrel in 3,894 lots.

Analysts said the raising of bets by participants kept crude oil prices higher in futures trade.

Globally, West Texas Intermediate crude oil was up by 0.80 per cent at USD 121.90 per barrel, and Brent crude traded 0.87 per cent higher at USD 123.33 per barrel in New York. **PTI**

Fitch expects RBI to raise interest rates to 5.9% by Dec-end



New Delhi: Fitch Ratings on Tuesday said the Reserve Bank is likely to raise interest rates further to 5.9 per cent by December 2022, on deteriorating inflation outlook.

In its update to Global Economic Outlook, Fitch said India’s economy faces a worsening external environment, elevated commodity prices, and tighter global monetary policy.

“Given the deteriorating outlook for inflation, we now expect the RBI to lift rates further to 5.9 per cent by December 2022 and to 6.15 per cent by the end of 2023 (vs. Previous forecast of 5 per cent) and to be unchanged in 2024,” Fitch said.

Last month in an unscheduled policy announcement, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) raised rates by 40 basis points to 4.4 per cent, and subsequently to 4.9 per cent last week. The RBI has forecast inflation to be 6.7 per cent by the end of current fiscal.

The retail inflation for May came in at 7.04 per cent.

“Inflation has risen to an eight-year high and broadens across more CPI categories, posing a severe challenge to consumers. In the past three

months, food inflation has increased by an average of 7.3 per cent year-on-year, while healthcare bills are rising at a similar pace,” Fitch said.

According to Fitch, the April-June quarter growth is likely to improve on a rebound in consumption as COVID-19 cases subsided towards end-March.

“GDP grew by 4.1 per cent year-on-year in 1Q22 (January-March) compared to our March forecast of 4.8 per cent. We now expect the economy to grow by 7.8 per cent this year (2022-2023), revised down from our previous forecast of 8.5 per cent,” Fitch said.

Fitch had last week upped outlook on India’s sovereign rating to ‘stable’ from ‘negative’ after two years citing diminishing downside risks to medium-term growth on rapid economic recovery. The rating was kept unchanged at ‘BBB-’.

“The Outlook revision reflects our view that downside risks to medium-term growth have diminished due to India’s rapid economic recovery and easing financial sector weaknesses, despite near-term headwinds from the global commodity price shock,” it said. **PTI**

Govt staff allowed to use computer purchase allowance to buy iPads

New Delhi: The Government has allowed its employees to purchase iPads by availing computer advance.



made eligible for personal computer advance of Rs 50,000 or actual price of the personal computer, whichever is lower. **PTI**

Gold futures fall on low demand

New Delhi: Gold prices on Tuesday fell by ₹85 to ₹50,579 per 10 grams in futures trade as speculators reduced their positions amid low demand.

On the Multi Commodity Exchange, gold contracts for August delivery traded lower by ₹85 or 0.17 per cent at ₹50,579 per 10 grams in a business turnover of 13,333 lots.

Analysts attributed the fall in gold prices to trimming of positions by participants.

Globally, gold was trading 0.01 per cent higher at USD 1,832 per ounce in New York. **PTI**

Tata Technologies to help upgrade 71 ITIs in TN

New Delhi: Tata Technologies on Tuesday said it has collaborated with the Tamil Nadu government to transform 71 government Industrial Training Institutes (ITIs) across the state into modern technology centers and training facilities, entailing an investment of around ₹2,204 crore.

The global engineering and product development digital services firm has entered into a Memorandum of Agreement (MoA) with the government of Tamil Nadu for 5 years for the purpose, it said in a statement.

“Along with the technology transformation of the ITIs, Tata Technologies will also be providing industrial support for trainers’ training and ensuring

maintenance of the new set-up,” it said.

Post upgradation, these technology centers will not only cater to the advanced skill requirements of students but also act as technology and industrial hubs for MSMEs, the company said, adding the collaboration with the Tamil Nadu government is an extension of its continued efforts to implement projects of high social impact and complement the nation-building efforts of the government.

“This project provides us an excellent opportunity to leverage our manufacturing domain knowledge to upskill and empower the youth of Tamil Nadu,” Tata Technologies Chairman Subramanian

Ramadorai said.

The industrial ecosystem and its requirements have changed significantly over the last few years with a digital-first approach. To keep pace with these evolving technological trends and transition towards ‘Industry 4.0’, industries and manufacturers seek a skilled workforce. Through this collaboration, the company will leverage its product engineering expertise and manufacturing domain knowledge to create future-ready courseware and training platform that allows students to develop their skillsets in line with the requirements of Industry 4.0 technologies, Tata Technologies Managing Director and CEO Warren Harris said. **PTI**

PTI ■ KOLKATA

Indian men's football team on Tuesday qualified for the Asian Cup Finals after Palestine defeated Philippines 4-0 in a group B match in Ulaanbaatar.

The result meant that the Palestinians directly qualified for the 24-team Finals finishing as group B toppers, while Philippines, with four points, were eliminated despite finishing second.

It is the first time India have qualified for the Asian Cup in two successive editions, having made a group league exit in 2019.

The 24 teams in the qualification third round were divided into six groups of four each.

The matches of each group

INDIA QUALIFY FOR ASIAN CUP

were played across different venues with India hosting the group D games.

All the group winners and the five best second place finishers across the six groups will qualify for the Asian Cup.

As things stand now, Hong Kong (six points) lead group D ahead of India on goal difference as both teams cross swords in their final round clash later in the day.

Afghanistan and Cambodia, who are yet to open their respective accounts and are already eliminated, face each other in the other group D match.



So, even if India lose to Hong Kong, they will still have more points than Group B runners-up Philippines (4 points) and will thus make the cut for the Asian Cup as one of the best five runners-up teams.

In their group opener, India rode on captain Sunil Chhetri's brace to blank Cambodia 2-0, while they secured a last-gasp 2-1 win over Afghanistan in their second match.

Super sub Sahal Abdul Samad struck a brilliant stoppage time goal to seal the issue after Chhetri's 83rd international goal

was cancelled out by Afghanistan's Zubayr Amiri in an action-packed last 10 minutes.

Overall, India have qualified for the continental showpiece for the fifth time — 1964, 1984, 2011, 2019 and now in 2023.

'I LAUGH WHEN...'

The legendary IM Vijayan feels veteran striker Sunil Chhetri still has a lot to offer to Indian football and finds the occasional chatter about his retirement laughable.

Vijayan believes the national team skipper still has a lot to con-

tribute despite being 37 years old.

"Sunil is a marvel. He is a personality and a player that all players should emulate. His goal in the match against Afghanistan was of excellent quality. All youngsters need to see and learn how easily he handles open chances. I laugh when the media asks about his retirement.

"With such a level of fitness playing with such sincerity, he still has a lot to gain. As the Indian team coach said, he still has a lot of goals left to score. One of them could be from the World Cup," said Vijayan.

Chhetri has 83 international goals to his name, only three behind Lionel Messi, and is placed third in the list of active goal scorers on the world stage.

CROATIA PULL OF SHOCK WIN OVER FRANCE



AP ■ PARIS

Luka Modric's early penalty gave Croatia a 1-0 win over off-form France in Paris on Monday as the World Cup holders finished their June run of UEFA Nations League matches without a victory in four outings.

Veteran Croatia captain Modric stroked in his spot-kick after just five minutes at the Stade de France, and the home side could not find an equaliser despite Kylian Mbappe returning to join Karim Benzema in the starting line-up.

France won the previous edition of the Nations League last year but they have managed just two points from their four outings this month,

with home defeats against Denmark and now Croatia sandwiching draws away to the Croats and in Austria.

As a result, Les Bleus are bottom of League A, Group 1, seven points behind leaders Denmark who beat Austria 2-0 in Copenhagen on Monday with first-half goals by Jonas Wind and Andreas Skov Olsen. Didier Deschamps' team may now need to win their last two group games in September to avoid being relegated to the less glamorous League B.

Those matches are also the only games they have left before they begin their defence of the World Cup in Qatar in November.

This clash was the latest meeting between the

Nigeria create AFCON record by winning 10-0

AP ■ JOHANNESBURG

Napoli forward Victor Osimhen scored four goals as Nigeria crushed Sao Tome e Principe 10-0 in Morocco on Monday to record the biggest victory in Africa Cup of Nations (AFCON) qualifying history.

Qualifying for the biennial competition has been staged since 1961 and Ghana, Kenya and Libya shared the record with eight-goal victories until Nigeria went on a rampage in the Atlantic resort of Agadir.

Nigeria led 3-0 at half-time in the Group A matchday two encounter and the other scorers were Terem Moffi (two), captain Moses Simon, Oghenekaro Etebo, Ademola Lookman and Emmanuel Dennis.

With Nigeria 153 places higher in the world rankings than Sao Tome, a one-sided encounter was expected, but after a fairly competitive first half, the game turned into shooting practice for the Super Eagles.



sides who contested the 2018 World Cup final in Moscow, although Mbappe, Modric and Marcelo Brozovic were the only players who started that day to line up at kick-off here.

The home fans in the crowd of more than 77,000 were left stunned as the Israeli referee awarded the visitors an early penalty when Liverpool defender Ibrahima Konate was adjudged to have fouled Josip Brekalo.

The evergreen Modric, back at the ground where he won the Champions League with Real Madrid at the end of last month, made no mistake with the resulting penalty even though France goalkeeper Mike Maignan got a touch.

From then on it took the occasional burst of pace by Mbappe to bring the crowd to life, although the closest France came to scoring in the first half was when Christopher Nkunku blasted just wide from range.

Mbappe had come off injured against Denmark and so missed the draw in Croatia before emerging from the bench to score a late equaliser in Austria last weekend.

The Paris Saint-Germain forward did his best to conjure a leveller here as he came close twice early in the second half, and the hosts also had an appeal for a penalty dismissed when Lucas Digne went down in the area.

Meanwhile Maignan was forced to parry away a fine strike by substitute Lovro Majer at the other end, but Croatia — with Modric as majestic as ever — saw the game out as goalkeeper Ivica Ivusic stopped Josip Sutalo scoring an own-goal. The final whistle was greeted by jeers and Deschamps will hope that France's summer slump is simply down to fatigue among his players at the end of a long campaign, rather than a sign of what might be to come later in the year.

Matic joins old boss Mourinho at Roma



AP ■ ROME

Nemanja Matic was reunited with his old boss Jose Mourinho at Roma on Tuesday after the Serie A club announced the Serbian's arrival as a free agent.

In a statement, Roma said that former Serbia midfielder Matic has signed a one-year deal with an option for a second season, with Italian media reporting that he will earn 3.5 million euros the coming campaign. "I am pleased and honoured to be joining this club and I cannot wait to start the new season with my teammates," Matic said.

"Roma is a big club, with amazing fans and a coach, Jose Mourinho, who is well known to everyone — making the decision to come here very straightforward.

"I hope that by working together we are able to achieve some great things."

The 33-year-old was released by Manchester United after five seasons at the Premier League giants in which he failed to win a single trophy.

He had been taken to United by Mourinho in 2017 after having been signed for Chelsea while the Portuguese

was in his second spell in charge at the London club.

He won the Premier League title twice at Chelsea, under Mourinho and Antonio Conte and was reportedly requested explicitly by the Roma coach.

Mourinho took over at Roma last summer and has rehabilitated his reputation as a coach after difficult spells at United and then Tottenham Hotspur. Seen by many as yesterday's man, Mourinho won Roma the inaugural Conference League last month, their first ever major European honour and first trophy of any type since 2008.

He also led Roma to the Europa League via a sixth-placed finish in Serie A and has got the best out of a clutch of talented players, including Italy midfielder Lorenzo Pellegrini and former Chelsea forward Tammy Abraham.

'PICKED MADRID'

Aurélien Tchouaméni said nothing steered him away from fulfilling his dream of playing for Real Madrid. Not even a chat with Kylian Mbappé.

The promising France midfielder made his move to Madrid official on Tuesday, saying he had no doubts about where he wanted to play despite having offers from other clubs and discussing a possible transfer to Paris Saint-Germain with Mbappé, who recently decided to stay with the French club after showing interest in playing for Madrid.

"Kylian stayed with PSG and he knew I was leaving Monaco, so he wanted to know if I could go to PSG," Tchouaméni said as he was officially introduced by Madrid. "But I told him that my first option was always Real Madrid and he understood it perfectly."

Kompany appointed as Burnley boss



AP ■ BURNLEY

Former Manchester City captain Vincent Kompany has been appointed as the new manager of Burnley, the Championship club announced on Tuesday. The Belgian, 36, who left his job as Anderlecht head coach last month, said he was "excited by the challenge ahead".

"Burnley Football Club is a truly historic English side and it is an honour to be appointed first-team manager," said Kompany, who takes over from caretaker

Kounde to undergo groin operation

AP ■ MADRID

Sevilla defender Jules Kounde will undergo surgery on his left groin on Tuesday, although the club are optimistic the Frenchman will be available for the start of next season. The Frenchman will have the operation in Bordeaux "as scheduled for several weeks" after the problem "dragged on for much of last season", Sevilla said in a statement.

"Jules Kounde will undergo surgery this Tuesday in Bordeaux for minor discomfort in the left groin," the statement read. "In principle, if everything goes according to plan, the French international will be available to start the 2022/23 season." Kounde has been linked with a move away from Sevilla this summer, with Chelsea and Barcelona among the clubs reportedly interested in signing the 23-year-old, who has a release clause of 80 million euros.

He played the first 45 minutes of France's 1-0 defeat by Croatia in the Nations League on Monday.

Mike Jackson. Jackson replaced Sean Dyche in April but could not save the club from relegation to the second-tier Championship. "I'm excited by the challenge ahead," said Kompany. "I'm looking forward to getting to work with the players and creating

a positive, winning team for our fans when we return to Turf Moor.

"I've been impressed by the board's vision for the club which aligns with my own and I look forward to playing my part as we enter an important season."

SERENA TO PLAY IN WIMBLEDON 2022

AP ■ LONDON

Serena Williams is set to make her comeback at Wimbledon a year after her last match in any competition, writing on Instagram on Tuesday: "See you there."

The 23-time Grand Slam singles champion, who made a tearful exit at Wimbledon when she suffered an injury during her first round match 12 months ago, posted an image of her white trainers on grass along with the caption: "SW and SW19. It's a date. 2022, see you there."

The All England Club announced via Twitter on Tuesday that Williams was awarded a wild-card entry for singles.

Williams name did not appear on the women's singles entry list released by the grass-court Grand Slam tournament earlier this month.



But Williams was among six women given a spot in the singles draw on Tuesday.

She won the last of her seven Wimbledon singles titles in 2016, but reached the final in 2018 and 2019 after returning from having a baby.

Wimbledon begins on June 27.

Sindhu, Praneeth out of Indonesia Open

PTI ■ JAKARTA

Two-time Olympic medallist P V Sindhu made a shock first-round exit from the Indonesia Open Super 1000 event after suffering a straight-game defeat against China's He Bing Jiao here on Tuesday.

The seventh seeded Sindhu lost 14-21, 18-21 to Bing Jiao in the women's singles.

Sindhu, a former world champion, has won two Super 300 titles — the Syed Modi International and the Swiss Open — this season.

By virtue of this win, world No 9 Bing Jiao, whom Sindhu had defeated at the Badminton Asia Championship, lead the Indian 10-8 on head-to-head record.

The defeat at the Istora Gelora Bung Karno has affected Sindhu's preparations for next month's Commonwealth Games in Birmingham.

Also bowing out was B Sai Praneeth, who lost 16-21, 19-21 to Hans-Kristian Solberg Vittinghus of Denmark, in the men's singles.

Sameer Verma was the lone Indian singles player to move to the next round on the day as he notched an easy 21-19, 21-15 win over France's Thomas Rouxel in 45



minutes.

He will face sixth seeded Malaysian Lee Zii Jia in the second round.

The women's doubles pairing of Ashwini Ponnappa and Sikki Reddy, too, advanced to the pre quarterfinals, with a 21-15, 21-8 win over the Indo-US duo of Ishika Jaiswal and Srivedya Gurazada.

The mixed doubles pair of Ishaan Bhatnagar and Tanisha Crasto faced sim-

ilar fate as Sindhu and Praneeth as they too crashed out in the opening round after losing 14-21, 11-21 to Hong Kong combination of Chang Tak Ching and NG Wing Yung Hong in just 32 minutes.

It was the end of the road for Manu Attri and Sumesh Reddy as they went down to third seed Japanese pair of Takuro Hoki and Yugo Kobayashi 8-21, 11-21 in the men's doubles event.



Australia clinch FIFA World Cup 2022 place

AP ■ DOHA

Australia beat Peru in a sudden death penalty shootout on Monday to secure the penultimate free place at the 2022 World Cup finals.

The playoff between the Asian and South American qualifiers had been goalless after 120 minutes and was only decided when Peru's Alex Valera missed his side's sixth penalty, giving Australia a 5-4 win at the Ahmad bin Ali stadium in Doha.

The winners, 42nd in the world rankings, claimed their sixth ticket to the World Cup finals and a Group D opening match against defending champions France on November 22.

It was the second time in the past two decades that Australia have beaten South American opponents in a World Cup shootout. They overcame Uruguay to reach the 2006 finals.

Peru, 22nd in FIFA's list and who beat Australia 2-0 at the 2018 World Cup group stage, were roared on by 10,000 fans, most of whom had flown halfway round the globe for the playoff only to see a frustrating encounter between the rivals.

Australia coach Graham Arnold said he was "speechless" at the upset win after seeing Martin Boyle miss his side's first penalty before successfully converting their next five spot-kicks.

Australia's substitute goalkeeper Andrew Redmayne danced like a clown on the goal line in a bid to upset the Peru players and Luis Advincula's shot cannoned off a post while

Valera's miss set off wild celebrations among the Socceroos and their band of a few hundred supporters.

Arnold said the move to bring on Redmayne after 119 minutes had been intended to unsettle Peru's penalty takes, adding that it probably contributed to the penalty misses.

"What we have been through in the last year and a half, not being able to get back into Australia (because of the pandemic), players getting Covid, I could not be more proud," said Arnold.

"The sacrifices they have made. No-one thought they could do it but they kept on believing."

Peru's Argentine coach Ricardo Gareca said the whole side felt "enormous disappointment" to go out after a game in which clear cut chances were few and far between.

"It hurts not to make it as we were doing well in the game," added Gareca.

Gareca made no criticism of Redmayne's goalkeeping antics. "If what he did is legal then I have nothing to say."

Redmayne, who is known for the same penalty routine at Sydney FC, said the win had been "surreal" but he did not consider himself the hero of the night.

"I played a very small part in what was done," he said.

The final place for the finals, that start in Qatar on November 21, will be decided on Tuesday when Oceania champions New Zealand take on Costa Rica who were in the central and north American qualifying contest.

All-round India alive against SA

PTI ■ VISAKHAPATNAM

India ticked all the boxes when it mattered the most and crushed South Africa by 48 runs in the must-win third T20I to stay alive in the five-match series here on Tuesday. Yuzvendra Chahal (3/20) and Harshal Patel (4/25) led the way with the ball after sizzling half-centuries from Ruturaj Gaikwad (57) and Ishan Kishan (54) powered India to 179 for five.

The bowlers came good after opener Gaikwad turned things around with a scintillating knock and Ishan scored his second fifty of the series.

Under the scanner for his patchy form of late, Gaikwad hit two maximums and seven fours in his 35-ball knock, and Ishan too scored his runs in 35 balls after being asked to take first strike.

Defending the total, skipper Rishabh Pant introduced the spinners early and Axar Patel produced the first breakthrough with a fuller delivery as Temba Bavuma (8) holed out to Avesh Khan in the 4th over.

Chahal was rewarded for bowling quick as he got extra bounce from the wicket to get the better of Rassie van der Dussen (1), Dwaine Pretorius (20) and Heinrich Klassen (29).

Harshal mixed his deliveries well to first remove Reeza Hendricks (23) and David Miller (3) and then returned to finish things off with the wickets of Kagiso Rabada (9) and Tabraiz Shamsi (0) as South Africa were bundled out for 131. Bhuvneshwar Kumar (1/21) too bowled with a lot of heart.

Earlier, Gaikwad and Ishan hit two sixes each and shared 12 boundaries to set the platform but South Africa tightened the screws in the second half to keep India inside 180.

It was Gaikwad, who turned aggressor after a watchful start and exploded in the fifth over, slamming five successive boundaries off Anrich Nortje.



Nortje.

If the first one was cut with aplomb, he danced down the track for the second four. The third boundary was a lucky one as the ball hit his grill while Gaikwad tried to move away from a nasty bounce.

Gaikwad then punished Nortje for bowling a half volley and the fifth ball was sent across the third man.

The Maharashtra batter also deposited Dwaine Pretorius over deep backward square for his second six as

India posted 57 for no loss in six overs, their best powerplay in the series.

Ishan, who was playing second fiddle, got into the act in the ninth over, smacking Shamsi's overpitched ball for a maximum before sweeping him for another four as 13 runs came from the over.

Gaikwad completed his fifty in 30 balls and then welcomed Keshav Maharaj with an inside out lift for a four, but the spinner had him caught off his own bowling with India on 97

for one at the halfway stage.

Ishan then gave a special treatment to Maharaj, picking up two fours and a six en route a 31-ball fifty, his second of the series.

New-man Shreyas Iyer looked in good touch as he blasted a six each off Nortje and Shamsi, but the spinner dismissed him with Nortje timing his jump to perfection for a nice catch.

Pretorius pegged India further back by getting rid off Ishan, who was caught by Hendricks.

It could have been five down but David Miller and Rassie van der Dussen dropped two sitters to give a lives to Hardik Pandya (29) and Rishabh Pant (6).

Temba Bavuma finally caught one off Pretorius to remove Pant as South Africa slowed things down.

The hosts managed just 20 runs while losing two wickets from over 13 to 17 before Hardik Pandya took them close to 180 with some lusty blows in the final stages.

Babar wants WC glory to fulfil boyhood dreams

AP ■ MULTAN

High-flying skipper Babar Azam hopes that his extraordinary run-scoring can fire Pakistan to World Cup glory - and in the process fulfil a childhood dream.

The 27-year-old is in the form of his life across the three formats of international cricket and last week became the first batsman to hit three consecutive centuries on two separate occasions in ODIs.

But Azam said that his prolific form will count for little if it does not bring success at the T20 World Cup in October in Australia and the 50-over showpiece in India next year.

"No doubt I am enjoying my form," top-order batsman Azam, who is ranked number one in the world in both ODI cricket and T20Is, said.

"But with this form my prime goal is to win the two World Cups for Pakistan in the next one-and-a-half years and if that happens I will feel that my runs are worth gold."

The man dubbed "King" featured in two junior World Cups in 2010 and 2012, scoring most runs for his country on both occasions, but Pakistan failed to win the titles.

Azam fired a match-winning hundred against eventual runners-up New Zealand at the 2019 ODI World Cup but Pakistan failed to qualify for the semi-finals.

They fell to eventual cham-



pions Australia in last year's T20 World Cup semi-finals in the United Arab Emirates despite Azam again excelling with the bat.

Azam learnt the game in the streets and grounds of Lahore at the age of 12.

"When I started playing cricket as a schoolboy the target was to play international cricket for Pakistan, become the world's top batsman in such a manner that it helps my team to win all the titles," he said.

Azam became all-format skipper in 2019, but rather than weigh on him, he enjoys setting an example.

"As captain I want to take the challenge because I am at the front. If I am in front, only then my team will follow me and that is the same with run scoring," he said.

"If I am scoring runs then other batters will follow and get inspired, but there is always room for improvement so I want to improve my finishing and that is important as captain."

Bairstow's 92-ball 136 seals NZ Test series



AP ■ NOTTINGHAM

Jonny Bairstow blasted England to a five-wicket win over New Zealand on the final day of the second Test at Trent Bridge on Tuesday as the home side won a series for the first time since January 2021.

England chased down 299 thanks to an all-time great display of raw power from Bairstow, who took just 77 balls to reach the ninth Test century of his career.

Bairstow narrowly missed hitting England's fastest Test hundred, taking one more delivery than Gilbert Jessop, who scored a 76-ball ton against Australia in 1902.

While Bairstow could not earn a place in the history books, that will be a footnote for the 32-year-old, whose display will be remembered forever by all those who witnessed it.

A capacity crowd at Trent Bridge was treated to a remarkable array of brutal boundaries from Bairstow, who hit 14 fours and seven sixes to leave New Zealand bewildered in his 92-ball masterclass.

But the sensational Bairstow, supported by skipper Ben Stokes, with an unbeaten 75, demolished of the Test world champions.

It was the highest final-innings run chase in a Test at Trent Bridge, surpassing the previous record of 284 set by England against New Zealand in 2004. England, who had won just one match in 17 before this series, are gathering momentum under new skipper Stokes and new coach Brendon McCullum.

Their desire for relentlessly positive and aggressive cricket has been embraced by England and they will seek to sweep the series in the final Test at Headingley from June 23.

This victory was even more eye-catching because New Zealand, inspired by Daryl Mitchell's 190, scored 553 in the first innings after Stokes opted to bowl first.

Afghans whitewash Zimbabwe



AP ■ HARARE

Spinner Noor Ahmed was the star for Afghanistan as his side handed Zimbabwe a 35-run defeat in the third T20I in Harare to clinch the three-match series.

The match was an extremely low-scoring one.

But Afghan bowlers did the job for their side and helped them complete a clean sweep and win the series by 3-0.

Electing to bat first, Afghanistan was restricted to 125/8 in their 20 overs but their bowlers did well to hold to visitors for 90/9 in return to win the game and series.



Mendis anchors Sri Lankan batting in 1st Aus ODI

AP ■ PALLEKELE

Wicketkeeper Kushal Mendis anchored Sri Lanka's batting performance to help their team reach 300-7 against Australia in Tuesday's first one-day international.

Mendis scored an unbeaten 86 off 87 balls, while openers Danushka Gunathilaka and Pathum Nissanka both struck half centuries in their opening stand of 115 runs, as the hosts choose to bat after winning the toss at Pallekele.

Both men hammered an Australian fast bowling attack plagued by injuries before the visitors caught Gunathilaka short of the crease on a direct hit by Marcus Stoinis in the 10th over.

Fellow opener Nissanka top-edged a reverse sweep to Aston Agar to hand Aaron Finch a simple catch two overs later.

Charith Asalanka and Mendis helped regain momentum with a 77-run stand before Finch caught Asalanka off Jhye Richardson for 37.

Skipper Dasun Shanaka, who single-handedly stunned the visitors in the last and final Twenty20 international on Saturday with a sparkling knock, could only score six.

Wanindu Hasaranga ended the innings with a quickfire 37 off 19 balls to take the hosts to an even 300. Australia have suffered setbacks with lead bowlers rested from the tour including Kane Richardson, who returned home on Sunday following a hamstring injury during the last Twenty20 international.

Marnus Labuschagne and Agar picked two wickets each while Hazelwood and Richardson claimed one each. Fast bowler Pat Cummins, who returned to the ODI squad after 18 months, was wicketless after conceding 48 runs in eight overs.

Yashasvi's 100 guides Mumbai to 260/5



PTI ■ BENGALURU

Continuing his good form, left-handed batter Yashasvi Jaiswal hit a responsible hundred to propel Mumbai to 260/5 on the first day of their Ranji Trophy semifinal against Uttar Pradesh here on Tuesday.

Oozing with confidence, Jaiswal, who struck his maiden first-class hundred in the quarterfinal against Uttarakhand, anchored the innings, after the 41-time Ranji Trophy champions suffered a top-order failure.

Jaiswal was the cynosure of eyes as he took a formidable UP attack to task and struck 15 boundaries in his 227-ball 100.

Sent into bat, Mumbai lost in-form skipper Prithvi Shaw (0) in the very first over. He became left-arm pacer Yash Dayal's first victim, on the third ball of the day, after being caught by Priyam Garg.

Pacer Shivam Mavi was rewarded as he

MP to 271/6 against Bengal

PTI ■ BENGALURU

Madhya Pradesh wicketkeeper-batter Himanshu Mantri hogged the limelight on the first day of their semi-final against Bengal as his unbeaten 134 steered the team to 271 for six.

The day clearly belonged to Mantri, the 28-year-old left-handed opener, as he frustrated the Bengal attack while anchoring the innings. In his 280-ball innings, Mantri hit as many as 15 boundaries and one maximum.

The other notable contribution came from Akshat Raghuvanshi (63) as he and Mantri rallied the MP innings after they were in a spot of bother at 97 for four. The duo forged a crucial 123-run stand for the fifth wicket on a batting friendly track.

trapped one-down Armaan Jaffer (10) in front of the wickets to leave the opposition in a spot of bother at 24/2. Then Jaiswal added 63-runs with Suved Pankar (32).

However, it was once again Dayal, who broke the partnership by dismissing Pankar, who hit four boundaries in his sedate knock.

Aggressive batter Sarfaraz Khan (40), who is in form of his life, had the responsibility of rebuilding the Mumbai innings along with Jaiswal.

The duo mixed aggression and caution in their 87-run stand for the fourth wicket as they frustrated the UP bowlers.

After Sarfaraz fell, Jaiswal found an able ally in wicket-keeper Hardik Tamore (51 not out), who played his part to perfection.

But Jaiswal, to whom the first day belonged, was dismissed soon after reaching the three-figures mark. He became Karan Sharma's second victim as Mumbai lost half of their side for 233.

Then Tamore, who has hit six boundaries and one maximum in his unbeaten 74-ball innings, and all-rounder Shams Mulani (10*) ensured Mumbai did not lose any more wickets and remained unbeaten when stumps were drawn.

IPL to have two-and-a-half month window in ICC's next FTP cycle: Shah

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Attracting astronomical bids that eventually translated into mind-boggling revenue of ₹48,390 crore for a five year period through IPL's media rights has not surprised BCCI secretary Jay Shah, who asserted that cricket's most talked about T20 league has potential to deliver way more.

In an exclusive interview with PTI, the 33-year-old Shah spoke on a range of subjects related to Indian cricket, IPL's place in the global cricket calendar, running the cricket establishment in times of COVID-19 and the road ahead for both Indian cricket and IPL.

Excerpts:
Q: Were you surprised by the

intense bidding for IPL media rights or it was on expected lines?

A: I am really happy with the kind of numbers that we have achieved. This shows the phenomenal growth potential of Indian cricket. The auction was always going to be exciting for every stakeholder. We have been able to realise the true value and the numbers in-front of you, is a testimony to that.

These numbers show the potential of the Indian economy and the faith of investors in new India. The digital India push has changed the way cricket is watched in India. So the bid outcome of digital rights bears testimony to that.

Q: Were there any apprehen-



sions in the BCCI when it was decided to scale up the cumulative base price of media rights in excess of ₹32,500 crore when the winning bid during the last media rights auction was almost half (₹16,347.50 crore) of it?

A: No, the BCCI never felt that the base price was too high. You need to understand that in 2018, it was for 60 games. For the next cycle, we will have 410 games, with 74 games each in the first two seasons and then 84 games in the next and finally 94 in the 2027 edition.

You also need to check the digital numbers — there were approximately 560 million digital viewers in 2017 and 665 million in 2021. You expect it to grow even more in the com-

ing years.

We have agencies conducting research for us. By 2024, there will be 900 million internet users in India as we would be providers of second-cheapest data in the world. Obviously linear viewership (TV) will remain but there is a transition towards digital viewership and that's how you realise the value.

Q: You are talking about having 94 matches in the future. How do you plan to manage the window and various international teams having their own FTP commitments?

A: That is an aspect we have worked upon. Let me inform you that from the next ICC FTP calendar, IPL will have an official two-and-a-half month win-

dow so that all the top international cricketers can participate. We have had discussions with various boards as well as the ICC.

Q: There is speculation that IPL may be held in two phases. Where does the BCCI stand on that aspect and how do you plan to implement that?

A: We are having discussions with various stakeholders. There are also multiple proposals for all the IPL franchises of playing friendlies overseas. That idea is being seriously contemplated but for that we also need to speak to other boards as we would need to know the schedule of international players.