



NEW DELHI, SUNDAY JUNE 19, 2022, PAGES 12

sunday pioneer

www.dailypioneer.com



PATANJALI®
wellness
Yoga, Ayurveda & Naturopathy
Patanjali Yogpeeth, Haridwar



**In the national interest,
spread this message
to crores of people.**

International Yoga Day

On this auspicious event dated June 21, 2022, let us all commit ourselves to practice yoga everyday from 5 a.m. to 7.30 a.m. with Yog Rishi Swami Ramdev Ji via his live yoga sessions telecasted on Aastha Channel everyday. Watch him live on other national and regional news channels on Yoga Day.

Let us take an oath on this great occasion of "Azadi ka Amrit Mahotasav" to liberate ourselves from all kinds of diseases as well as any sort of addiction, violence, any negative thoughts or emotions and any inhuman tendencies by practising yoga daily and committing ourselves to become "Swadeshi" in our thoughts and spirits towards the attainment of self-sufficient vision.

With the support of nation & dedicated Patanjali volunteers, we are organizing Yoga events at 75 historical and culturally iconic places, around 500 blocks and 500 districts throughout the entire nation. We encourage you all to participate in this "Yoga Mahotsav" to rejuvenate your physical and mental strength and feel pride by becoming a part of the traditional yoga practice and Indian cultural legacy.

Patanjali Research Institute: Patanjali is strongly based on evidence-based research, and contemporary science. To read and learn about Patanjali's advanced researches on more than 500 research themes and international research publications and books, please visit Patanjali Research Institute's website: www.patanjali.res.in



The allopathic pharmaceutical companies have spread the collective deception and fabrication about having no permanent solution for diseases arising out of poor lifestyle, chronic illnesses, genetic disorders etc. and declared few of them as incurable diseases. But, for the past three decades, we have provided holistic health solutions by Yoga to millions of people at their physical, mental and spiritual levels. We have provided research and evidence-based therapeutic services to cure several diseases like BP, Diabetes, Thyroid, Asthma, Arthritis, Infertility, Ankylosing Spondylitis, Type I Diabetes, Parkinson's, Chronic kidney and Liver diseases such as Fatty liver, Liver cirrhosis; chronic skin problems such as Psoriasis, Eczema, Leukoderma, etc. The false advertisements by the allopathic medicine industry have brainwashed the general public to believe their theory of not having a permanent solution for these diseases. If anyone in your family is suffering from such diseases, please feel free to get their treatment at Patanjali Wellness, Patanjali Yogpeeth Phase-II for at least one to two weeks to witness the improvements and to get rid of health problems permanently.

For Registration Contact

Patanjali Wellness
8954890210

Patanjali Yog Gram
8954890120

Patanjali Niramayam
7456004597

Email: booking@patanjaliwellness.com | Website: www.patanjaliwellness.com

Scan For Booking:-



Prestigious ideal university for learning Yoga, Ayurveda, Naturopathy, Grammar and Linguistics, Philosophy and Indian ancient knowledge. Prizes worth Rs. 1 Lakh every year & guaranteed placement after completion of studies. For more information contact-

9520984212 | Website: www.universityofpatanjali.com



Presenting a blend of modern learning with the nationalisation of Indian education. Reviving ancient Indian tradition of Gurukul and Teacher-Disciple relationship, a campaign to build divine personality and divine leadership.

Website: www.acharyakulam.org



The oath to liberate ourselves from the slavery of multinational companies and commitment to become self-sustainable by following the Swadeshi path.



To get a permanent solution for all diseases through Yoga, Ayurveda and Naturopathy, please practise 'Integrated Yoga' with Yogrishi Swami Ramdev Ji and learn the certified knowledge about integrated treatment methods along with witnessing the curing of incurable diseases everyday live on Aastha Channel



Everyday 5:00 am to 7:30 am
and 8:00 pm



Everyday 9:00 am



Everyday 8:00 am



Witness the proof of MNCs looting more than 1000 lakh crore of rupees from India.

shorturl.at/gnxB5

Printed and published by Narendra Kumar for and on behalf of CMYK Printech Ltd., No. 6, Behind Gulab Bhawan, Bahadur Shah Zafar Marg, New Delhi-110 002, Phone: 011-40110455, Communication Office: F-31, Sector 6, Noida, Gautam Budh Nagar-201301, U.P. Phone: 0120-4879900 and printed at Jagran Prakashan Ltd., D-210, 211 Sector-63, Noida (U.P.). Executive Director: Navin Upadhyay. AIR SURCHARGE of ₹ 2.00 East: Calcutta, North: Leh West: Mumbai & Ahmedabad South: Bangalore & Chennai. Central : Khajuraho. Lucknow Office: 4th Floor, Sahara Shopping Centre, Faizabad Road, Lucknow-226 016. Telephone: 0522-2346443, 2346444, 2346445.

WORLD 5
LANKA CLOSES GOVT
OFFICES AMID FUEL CRISIS**MONEY 6**
'INDIA, EU TRADE PACT TO
UNLEASH FRESH POTENTIAL'**SPORT 7**
PACERS, MIDDLE-ORDER
MAKE INDIA FAVOURITESPublished From
DELHI LUCKNOW BHOPAL
BHUBANESWAR RANCHI
RAIPUR CHANDIGARH
DEHRADUN HYDERABAD
VIJAYWADA

NEW DELHI, SUNDAY JUNE 19, 2022; PAGES 12 ₹4



sunday pioneer

www.dailypioneer.com

Govt offers slew of sops to douse Agnipath fire

10% quota for demobilised Agniveers in CAPE, Defence Min, PSU jobs

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

As agitation against the Agnipath scheme continued on Saturday, the Government tried to pacify protesters by announcing a ten per cent reservation for demobilised Agniveers in Central paramilitary forces, Defence Ministry and its public sector undertakings.

The Ministry of Home also decided to give three-year age relaxation beyond the prescribed upper age limit to Agniveers for recruitment in CAPFs and Assam Rifles. For the first batch of Agniveer, the age relaxation will be for 5 years beyond the prescribed upper age limit.

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh strongly defended the new recruitment model for the Armed forces saying it was announced after wide-ranging consultations, including with the ex-servicemen and said a misunderstanding is being spread for political reasons.

The reservation in his Ministry was announced soon after Rajnath reviewed the implementation of Agnipath with the three Services Chiefs and other senior officials.

Rajnath said the scheme will bring revolutionary changes in the enrolment process for soldiers, asserting that there will be no compromise on the quality of training to be imparted to the personnel to be recruited under the scheme.

Similar initiatives to induct Agniveers after a four-year stint in the Armed forces were announced by Petroleum and Housing Minister Hardeep Puri. The Civil Aviation Ministry too said it will provide

jobs to the retiring soldiers.

The most number of inductions will be undertaken by the Assam Rifles and Central Armed Police Forces (CAPFs) including the Border Security Force (BSF), Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF), Indo-Tibetan Border Police (ITBP) and Central Industrial Security Force (CISF).

In a series of tweets, the Home Minister's Office said, "The Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) decides to reserve 10 per cent vacancies for recruitment in CAPFs and Assam Rifles for Agniveers, completing four years under the Agnipath scheme announced by the Government of India, led by Prime Minister Narendra Modi."

It also said, "The MHA

also decides to give 3 years age relaxation beyond the prescribed upper age limit to Agniveers for recruitment in CAPFs and Assam Rifles. Further, for the first batch of Agniveer, the age relaxation will be for 5 years beyond the prescribed upper age limit."

The Centre has already announced a "one-time" waiver in the age limit for the new military recruitment scheme to 23 from 21.

The decision was taken as no recruitment has taken place in the last two years due to the corona pandemic.

As regards the paramilitary forces, over 73,000 posts are vacant in five wings of the paramilitary forces — BSF, CRPF, ITBP, SSB, and CISF.

Continued on Page 5

Rlys bears brunt, stopped in tracks, ₹200 crore lost

Train operations halted in Bihar

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

Violent protests hit train operations in several States with railways operations com-

ing to a halt in Bihar and reports of attacks on policemen and police stations and large-scale damage to public property trickled in from across the country on the fourth consecutive day of the agitation against the Agnipath military recruitment scheme.

While the estimated losses incurred by Indian Railways is pegged at ₹200 crore as of now which includes burning of 50 passenger coaches, the Railway Protection Force did flag-march at several stations, including New Delhi Railway Station, Patna, Ranchi and others.

To offset the crisis, the Centre on Saturday announced a slew of incentives, including reserving 10 per cent vacancies in its paramilitary forces and the Defence Ministry for Agnipath retirees and said it will look into any grievance about the new military recruitment scheme "with an open mind".

Despite the Centre's steps to assuage concerns, there was no let-up in the violent protests. Violent anti-Agnipath protests continued rocking Bihar for the fourth consecutive day on Saturday, with agitators torching vehicles parked on the premises of a police outpost in Jehanabad district.

Continued on Page 5

Blasts hit gurdwara in Kabul, 2 killed



Taliban fighters stand guard after explosions and gunfire rip through a gurdwara in Kabul on Saturday

AP | PTI

Afghan security forces stop explosive-laden vehicle from ramming into gurdwara, bigger tragedy averted

PNS/AGENCIES ■ NEW DELHI/KABUL

A serial blasts ripped through a gurdwara in Kabul on Saturday, killing two persons, including a Sikh and injuring seven others, while Afghan security personnel thwarted a bigger tragedy by stopping an explosive-laden vehicle from hitting the worshiping place of the minority community in the war-torn country.

In the latest targeted assault on a place of worship of the Sikh community in Afghanistan, Gurdwara Karte Parwan in Kabul's Bagh-e Bala neighborhood was attacked on

early Saturday morning, coupled with a gun battle followed after, that lasted several hours between the terrorists and Taliban fighters, said Abdul Nafi Takor, a spokesperson for the Afghan Interior Ministry. Takor said a vehicle packed with explosives was detonated outside the gurdwara thwarting a bigger tragedy that could have claimed scores of lives.

Three attackers involved in the incident were killed by the Taliban forces, the Pajhwok news agency reported. Takor confirmed that at least one member of the Islamic Emirate forces and an Afghan Sikh national were killed in the incident. Seven others were injured and hospitalised.

According to the statement from the Afghan Interior Ministry, an explosive-laden vehicle aiming at targeting the place was thwarted before reaching its target place.

India condemned the attack on the gurdwara in Kabul with External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar terming it a "cowardly" act. He also said India is monitoring the situation in the strife-torn country.

"The cowardly attack on Gurdwara Karte Parwan should be condemned in the strongest terms by one and all. We have been closely monitoring developments since the news of the attack was received. Our first and foremost concern is to ensure the welfare of the community," Jaishankar tweeted.

The Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) said India is "deeply concerned" about the attack. "We are deeply concerned at the reports emanating from Kabul about an attack on a sacred Gurdwara in that city," MEA Spokesperson Arindam Bagchi said.

Continued on Page 5

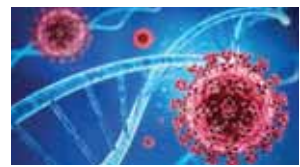
As cases spike, Govt asks States to push up genome sequencing

Over 13K new Covid cases logged in 24 hrs across country

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

Amid a fresh surge in daily Covid-19 cases with India logging over 13,000 new infections for the first time in 113 days, the Government has asked the States and Union Territories to submit a "larger number" of samples for whole genome sequencing from districts and areas that are reporting maximum number of infections during seven days.

Delhi recorded 1,534 new Covid cases and 3 deaths on



Saturday while the positivity rate stood at 7.71 per cent.

India logged a single-day rise of 13,216 new coronavirus infections taking the case tally to 4,32,83,793, while the active cases have increased to 68,108, according to data of Health Ministry.

With 3883 new cases on Saturday, Maharashtra logged the highest number of cases across the country in the last 24 hours. The State also reported two deaths during this period.

Since Saturday morning till now, 10 States and Union Territories — Maharashtra,

Kerala, Delhi, Karnataka, Tamil Nadu, Haryana, Uttar Pradesh, Telangana, West Bengal and Gujarat — have logged over 1,000 cases.

According to sources in the Union Health Ministry, the direction was issued during Friday's meeting by the INSACOG that reviewed the Covid-19 data to check the possibility of any new emerging variant or sub-variant, and ascertain the reasons behind the latest breakthrough.

"The idea behind asking States and Union Territories to send a larger number of samples is to keep a closer watch over the current circulating sub lineages of Omicron and its correlation to the current epidemiological picture," an official from the Ministry said.

Continued on Page 5

Central paramilitary to celebrate Yoga Day at 75 iconic locations

RAKESH K SINGH ■ NEW DELHI

The Union Home Ministry has directed the Central paramilitary forces to celebrate the eighth International Yoga Day on June 21 at 75 iconic locations across the country.

The Ministry has nominated the Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) as the nodal agency for coordination with other paramilitary forces like the Border Security Force (BSF), Indo-Tibetan Border Police (ITBP), Central Industrial Security Force (CISF), Sashastra Seema Bal (SSB), National Security Guard and Assam Rifles. The theme of the event will be "Yoga for Humanity".

"All the Central Armed Police Forces (CAPFs or the paramilitary forces), Assam



Rifles and NSG and their respective field formations will actively take part in the celebrations in 75 iconic sites/locations to celebrate 8th IDY-2022 on June 21, 2022.

Accordingly, you are requested to issue timely directions to your respective field

formation under your command for active participation at these iconic sites falling in their respective area of responsibility so as to make this event a grand success," reads an order issued on Saturday by the Nodal Officer of the CRPF.

Continued on Page 5

Farooq declines to join Prez poll race, says J&K needs him

But Abdullah thanks Mamata for offering him the candidature

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ JAMMU

Former Parliamentarian and Jammu & Kashmir National Conference president Farooq Abdullah on Saturday said he would not join the Presidential poll race as the joint Opposition candidate claiming J&K was passing through a critical juncture and his people needed him.

Thanking Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee for proposing his name as a joint



Opposition candidate for the office of President of India, Farooq in a written statement said, "I have taken a few days to discuss this unexpected development with my family and senior colleagues. I believe that Jammu & Kashmir is passing through a critical juncture and my efforts are required to help navigate these uncertain times.

Continued on Page 5

My mother is simple but extraordinary: Modi

A BLOG PENNED BY PRIME MINISTER NARENDRA MODI

As his mother is entering her hundredth year, Prime Minister Narendra Modi penned an emotional blog. He recollected some special moments from his childhood that he spent with his mother. He recalled several sacrifices made by his mother as he grew up and mentioned various qualities of his mother that have shaped his mind, personality, and self-confidence.

"Today, I feel extremely happy and fortunate to share that my mother Smt Heeraba Modi is entering her hundredth year. This is going to be her birth centenary year," wrote PM Modi.

A symbol of resilience

Recalling hardships his mother faced during her childhood, PM Modi said, "My Mother is as simple as she is extraordinary. Just like all mothers." At a tender age, PM Modi's mother lost her mother. He said, "She does not even remember my grandmother's face or the comfort of her lap. She spent her entire childhood without her mother."

He recalled the tiny house in Vadnagar with mud walls and clay tiles for a roof where he stayed with his parents and siblings. He mentioned innumerable everyday adversities that his mother encountered and successfully overcame.

He mentioned how his mother not only did all household chores by herself but also worked to supplement the meagre household income. She

used to wash utensils at a few houses and take out time to spin the charkha to help meet the household expenses.

PM Modi reminisced: "During the rain, our roof would leak, and the house would flood. Mother would place buckets and utensils below the leaks to collect the rainwater. Even in this adverse situation, Mother would be a symbol of resilience."

Deep respect for those engaged in cleanliness

Cleanliness, PM Modi said, was something that his mother had always been extremely particular about. He shared several instances which gave a glimpse of his mother being very particular about maintaining cleanliness.

PM Modi said that his



Prime Minister Narendra Modi takes blessings of his mother Heeraba on her 100th birthday on Saturday

PTI

mother had a deep respect for those involved in cleaning and sanitation. Whenever someone would come to clean the drain adjacent to their house in Vadnagar, his mother wouldn't let them go without having tea.

Finding happiness in others' joys

PM Modi mentioned that his mother would find happiness in other people's joys and was extremely large hearted. He recalled: "A close friend of my father used to stay in a nearby village. After his untimely death, my father brought his friend's son, Abbas, to our home. He stayed with us and completed his studies. Mother was as affectionate and caring towards Abbas just like she did for all of us siblings. Every year on Eid, she used to prepare his

favourite dishes. On festivals, it was common for neighbourhood kids to come to our house and enjoy mother's special preparations."

PM Modi's mother has publicly accompanied him only on two occasions

In the blog post, PM Modi highlighted the only two instances when his mother accompanied him publicly. Once, it was at a public function in Ahmedabad when she applied tilak on his forehead after he had returned from Srinagar where he had hoisted the national flag at Lal Chowk completing the Ekta Yatra. The second instance was when PM Modi first took oath as Gujarat's Chief Minister in 2001.

Continued on Page 5

Rollback Agnipath: Sonia, Rahul

Sonia urges youth to protest peacefully

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

From her hospital bed, an ailing Congress president Sonia Gandhi on Saturday launched a scathing attack on the Centre's Agnipath scheme saying the controversial recruitment scheme is "directionless" and vowed to work for its withdrawal.

The party also announced a sit-on satyagraha against the Agnipath at Jantar Mantar on



Sunday. While Sonia appealed to the youths protesting against the scheme to adopt peaceful and non-violent means to fight for their demands, former party chief Rahul Gandhi said just as Prime Minister Narendra Modi had to withdraw the farm laws,

he will have to accept the demand of the youth and roll-back the Agnipath defence recruitment scheme.

Sonia, who is being treated at a private hospital for a lower respiratory tract infection and post-Covid symptoms,

said she can understand the pain of the youths over the "three-year delay" in recruitment despite lakhs of vacancies in the Army.

"It is unfortunate that the government has announced a new armed forces' recruitment policy, which is completely directionless and it has done so while ignoring your voices," she said in a statement in addressed to the youths.

Declaring her party's support for them, the Congress president said along with the youths, several ex-soldiers and defence experts have questioned the scheme.

The party chief said she also empathises with the youths who are awaiting results and appointments after taking the

test for induction in the Air Force. "The Congress stands with you with full force and promises to struggle for your interests and for the withdrawal of this scheme. Like true patriots, we will articulate your voices following the path of truth, non-violence, resilience and peace," she told the youths in her letter.

"I appeal to you to use peaceful and non-violent means to protest for your rightful demands. The Indian National Congress is with you," the Congress chief added in the Open letter to youths.

Rahul said that for eight consecutive years, the BJP government has "insulted" the values of 'Jai Jawan, Jai Kisan'.

In a tweet message, Rahul

Gandhi said, "I had said earlier also that the Prime Minister will have to withdraw the black farm laws. In the same manner, he will have to accept the demand of the youth of the country by becoming 'maafiveer' and take back the 'AgnRollback Agnipathipath' scheme," he said.

At the AICC Press conference, Congress leader Kanhaiya Kumar, known as vocal against the system, said that there is a plan just to defame Bihar for any such examinations held. He mentioned like in the earlier railways exams when northern India was engulfed in flames it is quite visible that job aspirants across the country are petrified by the Modi government's unthoughtful scheme.

Pawan appointed chairman of media and publicity in Cong

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Congress president Sonia Gandhi has appointed Pawan Khera as the chairman of media and publicity in the new communications department of the party.

Early this week she had appointed Jairam Ramesh as the new AICC general secretary in-charge of communications, replacing Randeep Surjewala.

The party had resolved to revamp its communication and media department at the three-day brainstorming session in Udaipur last month to improve its connect with people and



change its communications strategy.

"Congress president has approved the appointment of Pawan Khera as the chairman of media and publicity in the new Communications department, with immediate effect," said an official release. Till now, Khera was the national spokesperson of the Congress.



Prime Minister Narendra Modi with Gujarat Chief Minister Bhupendra Patel and Gujarat BJP president CR Patil during the inauguration of the various development projects, at the 'Gujarat Gaurav Abhiyan' programme, in Vadodara. (PTI Photo)

Civil Aviation Ministry to give wings to highly skilled Agniveers

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Amid the nationwide protests, the Union Ministry of Civil Aviation on 18 June announced to induct highly skilled, disciplined and motivated Agniveers into its various services and give them wings to fly.

The announcement comes days after Union Defence Ministry rolled out Agnipath scheme on 14 June.

The Ministry, through its social media handle, wrote, "Civil Aviation is looking forward to inducting the highly skilled, disciplined and motivated #Agniveers into its various services and give them wings to fly.

Citing the opportunities, the ministry said that it will provide opportunity for Agniveers in the air traffic and aircraft technician services.

Among other opportunities, the Ministry said that the Agniveers can take be induct-

ed in the maintenance, repair and overhaul of aircraft. They (Agniveers) can also provide meteorological and air accident investigator p-4 civil.

While options like working as safety, administrative, finance, IT & communications staff will be provided by the Ministry to Agniveers. Apart from this, Agniveers will have the opportunity to handle logistics and supply chain management wings of Ministry, the tweet added.

With series of protests gaining momentum in the country against the Agnipath scheme, Air Chief Marshal VR Chaudhari on 19 June termed the Central government's decision to reserve vacancies for Agniveers in CAPFs and Assam Rifles as a "very positive step".

He also asked the protesting youth to gather 'correct information' and get their doubts about the scheme clarified instead of resorting to violence.

MoPSW announces 6 avenues for transition of Agniveers to merchant navy

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways (MoPSW) on Saturday announced six service avenues for smooth transition of Agniveers in various roles of the Merchant navy, post their stint with the Indian Navy.

According to an official statement, the scheme will enable Agniveers to acquire necessary training, with naval experience and professional certification to join the remunerative merchant navy across the world.

The announcement comes amid widespread protests against the recently unveiled 'Agnipath' scheme for recruitment of soldiers in the armed forces on a short-term contractual basis. The soldiers recruited under this scheme will be called 'Agniveers'.

According to the statement, these schemes for Agniveers include transition from ratings in Indian Navy to certified ratings in Merchant Navy, transition from electrical

The Government on Thursday night increased the upper age limit for recruitment under the Agnipath scheme to 23 years from 21 years, for the year 2022

ratings in Indian Navy to certified electro-technical ratings in Merchant Navy, transition from ratings in Indian Navy to certified class IV-NCV CoC holder in Merchant Navy.

Besides, transition from electrical ratings in Indian Navy to certified electro technical officers in Merchant Navy and transition from cook in Indian Navy to certified cook in Merchant Navy.

The statement said some of the schemes are devised for Agniveers with a diploma in mechanical or electrical engineering or ITI trade certificate in electronic or Electrical stream - either joining with these qualifications or acquiring these during their tenure with the Indian Navy.

It said the MoPSW will

issue Indian National Database of Seafarers' (INDOS) and Continuous Discharge Certificate (CDC) for those Agniveers who intend to explore in any of the said schemes through Indian Navy.

In an attempt to pacify the protesters, the government on Thursday night increased the upper age limit for recruitment under the 'Agnipath' scheme to 23 years from 21 years, for the year 2022.

Unveiling the scheme on Tuesday, the government had said youths between the ages of 17-and-a-half' and 21 years would be inducted for a four-year tenure, while 25 per cent of them will be subsequently inducted for regular service.

A major objective of the scheme is to bring down the average age of military personnel and cut the ballooning salary and pension bills.

The announcement of the new scheme came against the backdrop of recruitment in the military being stalled over the coronavirus pandemic for over two years.

Covaxin demonstrates robust safety in 2-18-yr-old kids: Bharat Biotech

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

Hyderabad-based Bharat Biotech International Limited (BBIL) has said that Covid-vaccine Covaxin (BBV152) has proven to be safe, well-tolerated, and highly immunogenic in pediatric subjects in phase II/III study. The study, according to the company, has been accepted and published in Lancet.

The company in its statement issued here said that Bharat Biotech had conducted phase II/III, open-label, and multicenter study to evaluate the safety, reactogenicity, and immunogenicity of Covaxin in healthy children and adolescents in the 2-18 years of age group.

"The clinical trial conducted in the pediatric population between June 2021 and September 2021 has shown safety, less reactogenic, and robust immunogenicity. The data was submitted to the Central Drugs Standard Control Organisation (CDSCO) during October 2021, and received a nod for emergency use in children aged 6-18 years," said the statement.

Krishna Ella, Chairman and Managing

Director, Bharat Biotech, said: "Safety of the vaccine is critical for children. Covaxin has now proven data for safety and immunogenicity in children. We have now achieved our goal of developing a safe and efficacious COVID-19 vaccine for adults and children, for primary immunization and booster doses, making Covaxin a universal vaccine. It has proven to be a highly safe vaccine based on data from more than 50 million doses administered to children in India. Vaccines are a great preventive tool; the power of vaccines can only be harnessed if used prophylactically."

He added that in the study, no serious adverse event was reported. A total of 374 adverse events were reported, and the majority of adverse events were mild in nature and resolved within a day. Pain at



the injection site was the most commonly reported adverse event.

Covaxin, is formulated uniquely such that the same dosage can be administered to adults and children alike, for primary and booster doses, making it truly a universal vaccine. Covaxin is a ready-to-use liquid vaccine, stored at 2-8°C, with 12 months shelf life and multi dose vial policy," added the statement. It further added that Bharat Biotech has a stockpile of more than 50 million doses of Covaxin ready to be distributed as required.

Work on new Parliament building on as per schedule, says Birla

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla on Saturday said work on the new Parliament building is progressing as per the schedule and the Winter Session of Parliament this year is likely to be held in the new building. Interacting with the media persons, Birla said the new building would be a green building equipped with necessary facilities for environmental and energy conservation.

"The new Parliament building will have a seating capacity of 888 members in the Lok Sabha Chamber, and during joint sessions of both Houses, 1272 Members can be seated. The Rajya Sabha Chamber will have a seating arrangement of 384 members.

"The new building is being made techno-friendly for MPs. Members' Desks will be equipped with a multimedia screen through which they will be able to vote in the House, register attendance and request an opportunity to speak in the House. They will be able to access the MP Portal through the touch screen available in it.



Apart from this, they will also be able to access the documents uploaded earlier in their personal folders," said Birla detailing the new Parliament building infrastructure.

Speaker said that the Parliament library will soon be available on mobile devices. The Parliament library is being digitized and for the first time, the people of the country are being allowed to use the resources of the Parliament library online. Besides, physical entry of the general pub-

lic to the Parliament library will be facilitated. The library has lakhs of books on various subjects including politics, arts, science, space, and literature. Apart from this, thousands of books, biographies, and autobiographies on well-known historical figures and great leaders of modern India are also available. Birla said the process is on to launch a portal in July this year to ensure that people can read digitized books online.

Ex-treasurer of educational society held for duping medical aspirants

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Enforcement Directorate (ED) on Saturday said it has arrested a former treasurer of a Maharashtra-based educational society under the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA) for allegedly duping medical aspirants by promising them admission in a college which was not eligible for the MBBS course.

Appasaheb Ramachandra Deshmukh of Kolhapur-based Shri Chhatrapati Shivaji Education Society (SCSES) was taken into custody on Friday and he has been sent to ED custody till June 24 by a special court, the ED said in a statement.

His brother and former president of the charitable educational society, Mahadev Ramachandra Deshmukh, was

arrested by the agency in the case in May. He is in presently undergoing judicial custody. The ED said Appasaheb Ramachandra Deshmukh was the treasurer of the educational society between 2011-2016. He, in connivance with his brother, and others "fraudulently" collected about Rs 29 crore from more than 350 students in guise of admission in MBBS but no admission was given to the said students.

The PMLA probe revealed that in order to "hide" the source of the funds and to project it as untainted, funds were collected in cash and deposited into the bank account of Appasaheb Ramchandra Deshmukh and his family members, the agency alleged.

The money laundering case was registered by the ED after taking cognizance of a



Satara (Vaduj police station) district police FIR against Mahadev R Deshmukh and others in which it was alleged that the management of the society "collected funds in cash from the students for admission in MBBS course into a college named Institute of Medical Science and Research, Mayani (a college of Shri Chhatrapati Shivaji Education Society) whereas, the college was not eligible for

the same."

"The society trust received permission to run a medical college for the academic year 2012-13 and 2013-14 for 100 seats per annum (85 seats government quota and 15 seats management quota)." However, the agency had said, the admission regulatory authority in 2014 rejected the permission for admission in MBBS for the academic year 2014-15.

Aspirants protesting against Agnipath may not get police clearance to join Armed forces: IAF chief

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

IAF chief V R Chaudhari on Saturday cautioned the job aspirants involved in the agitation against the Agnipath scheme that they may not get police clearance to join the armed forces.

He also admitted he had not anticipated such protests against the new recruitment policy rolled out on Tuesday. Chaudhari on Friday had announced that recruitment under the 'Agnipath' route will start from June 24. The Army will start the process on Monday next.

Sharing his views in an interview with the India Today news channel, the IAF chief cautioned the possible candidates participating in the stir that they may have to pay a high price at a later date.

"We condemn this kind of violence. This is not the solu-



tion. The last step is police verification: if anyone is involved, they won't get clearance from police," he said.

He also urged those having concerns about the policy to visit the nearest military station to clear their doubts.

"What they need to do now is to get hold of the correct information, understand the scheme in its entirety. They will themselves see the advantage and benefits of the scheme. I am sure this will quell all their doubts, whatever they have in their minds," he added.

Chaudhari said the 'Agnipath' scheme had been in the making for the last two years and aims to reduce the age profile of the armed forces from 30 to 25 years.

Those who are discharged after the four-year tenure will not only have served the nation but will "go back as disciplined, motivated and imbibe ethos of the services", he said. The IAF chief said the government and the defence establishment are doing their best to address concerns and dispel fears of job seekers, especially with regard to their insecurity about the future.

Lanka closes Govt offices, schools from next week amid fuel crisis

PTI ■ COLOMBO

Crisis-hit Sri Lankan government has announced a shut-down of public sector offices from next week, beginning Monday, due to severe fuel shortages as the island nation continues to reel under its worst economic crisis.

The Sri Lankan Education Ministry has also asked teachers in all government and government approved private schools in the Colombo city limits to conduct online classes from next week due to prolonged power cuts, the Daily Mirror newspaper reported.

With its existing fuel stocks fast depleting, Sri Lanka is under intense pressure to get foreign exchange to pay for its imports, which has brought several sectors of the country's economy to a grinding halt.

Consequently, spontaneous protests have been reported at filling stations around the country where consumers have been waiting in long serpentine queues for fuel for hours.

"Taking into consideration the severe limits on fuel supply, the weak public transport system and the difficulty in using private vehicles this circular allows minimal staff to report to work from Monday," the Public Administration and Home Affairs Ministry said in a circular issued on Friday. However, those employed in the



healthcare sector will have to continue reporting to work, the circular stated. The Sri Lankan Education Ministry

announced that all government and government approved private schools in the Colombo city limits would remain

shut in the next week due to prolonged power cuts, and asked teachers to conduct classes online, the Daily Mirror newspaper reported. Sri Lanka is facing power outages for upto 13 hours in a day for the past several months now.

Earlier this week, Sri Lanka's cash-strapped government approved several measures, including imposing a 2.5 per cent social contribution tax on companies based on their turnover and declaring Fridays as holidays for most public sector employees, to facilitate the economic recovery and mitigate energy and food crisis.

The Cabinet also approved a move to grant government officials one leave per week for the next three months to engage in agriculture to mitigate the approaching food crisis.

On Friday, Sri Lanka's Prime Minister Ranil Wickremesinghe said that around four to five million out of the country's 22 million population could directly be affected by the food shortage.

The nearly bankrupt country, with an acute foreign currency crisis that resulted in foreign debt default, announced in April that it is suspending nearly USD 7 billion foreign debt repayment due for this year out of about USD 25 billion due through 2026. Sri Lanka's total foreign debt stands at USD 51 billion.

UK to electronically tag some illegal migrants to track movements

PTI ■ LONDON

The UK government is to launch a 12-month pilot scheme that will involve some illegal migrants seeking asylum in country being electronically tagged to keep track of their movements, it emerged on Saturday.

British Prime Minister Boris Johnson defended the plans as he said it was essential that people who arrived through dangerous routes on small boats and hidden in lorries could not simply "vanish". Documents linked to UK Home Office proposals suggest that government wants to obtain data on how frequently asylum seekers abscond.

"This is a very, very generous welcoming country. Quite right too. I am proud of it, but when people come here illegally, when they break law, it is important that we make that distinction," Johnson told reporters on his return from Ukraine. "That is what we are doing with our Rwanda policy. That is what we are doing to make sure that asylum seekers can't just vanish into rest of country," he said.

Pak energy crisis: Karachi markets to shut at 9 pm to save electricity

PTI ■ KARACHI

The vibrant nightlife in Pakistan's biggest city Karachi has been hit with the Sindh province government directing all shopping malls, markets, wedding halls and restaurants to close down early to save fuel and energy.

The move by the provincial government on Friday was aimed to overcome the energy crisis in the country that has also affected Pakistan's economy.

"We are facing an ongoing energy crisis emergency and we need to take measures which might not be popular but necessary to control the situation," Home Secretary Dr Saeed Ahmed Mangnejo said.

Mangnejo said that all markets, bazaars, shops and shopping malls would have to close by 9 pm while wedding halls and restaurants have also been instructed to shut down by 10.30 pm.

Karachi, being a cosmopolitan city, is famous for its nightlife with restaurants, markets, malls, cineplexes, wedding halls all remaining outlets open till late into the night. The official said these measures were



being taken to not only reduce wastage of fuel and electricity but to find a solution to the prevalent power outages and load shedding so the shortfall between the demand and supply of electricity could be reduced.

Karachiites in recent weeks have spent sleepless nights in the hot sweltering weather conditions due to prolonged power cuts and load shedding with angry residents even coming out on roads in many areas to protest the hours-long power cuts.

Mangnejo said that a notification from the Sindh government also authorised station house officers (SHOs) to register complaints against people who violated the directives.

The federal government on Saturday also issued similar instructions for the Punjab province.

Firefighters trapped in Philadelphia building collapse

AP ■ PHILADELPHIA (US)

The Philadelphia Fire Department said "several" firefighters and a city inspector became trapped when a building collapsed during a fire response early Saturday, with more than one person still under the rubble hours later.

"So far, several were rescued and transported to hospitals. Work continues to free others," the fire department tweeted. It said an "L and I inspector" was among those caught in the collapse, appar-

ently referring to the Department of Licenses and Inspections.

It was not immediately clear how many people were still trapped, their condition or the condition of the injured. The department did not answer a phone call seeking comment.

The tweet included a photo of the scene, which showed a pile of rubble and bricks surrounded by dozens of firefighters and other emergency responders. No signs of smoke or fire were visible in the photo, however the tweet

said, "The fire response remains at 2-alarms."

About four hours earlier, just after 2.05 am, an official fire department Twitter account for automated alerts sent a tweet warning people to avoid a fire at an address in the Fairhill neighbourhood of northern Philadelphia.

That was immediately followed by a brief tweet listing the same location and the words, "UPDATE: All Hands".

At about 2.20 am, another tweet said the fire was under control, listing the same address.

Russia frees captive medic who filmed Mariupol's horror

AP ■ TALLINN (ESTONIA)

A celebrated Ukrainian medic whose footage was smuggled out of the besieged city of Mariupol was freed by Russian forces on Friday, three months after she was taken captive on the streets of the city.

Yuliia Paievskia is known in Ukraine as Taira, a nickname she chose in the World of Warcraft video game. Using a body camera, she recorded 256 gigabytes of her team's efforts over two weeks to save the wounded, including both Russian and Ukrainian soldiers.

She transferred the clips to an Associated Press team, the last international journalists in the Ukrainian city of

Mariupol, one of whom fled with it embedded in a tampon on March 15. Taira and a colleague were taken prisoner by Russian forces on March 16, the same day a Russian airstrike hit a theater in the city center, killing around 600 people, according to an Associated Press investigation.

"It was such a great sense of relief. Those sound like such ordinary words, and I don't even know what to say," her husband, Vadim Puzanov, told The Associated Press late Friday, breathing deeply to contain his emotion. Puzanov said he spoke by phone with Taira, who was en route to a Kyiv hospital, and feared for her health. Initially the family had kept quiet, hoping negotia-

tions would take their course. But The Associated Press spoke with him before releasing the smuggled videos, which ultimately had millions of viewers around the world, including on some of the biggest networks in Europe and the United States.

Puzanov expressed gratitude for the coverage, which showed Taira was trying to save Russian soldiers as well as Ukrainian civilians.

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy announced Taira's release in a national address. "I'm grateful to everyone who worked for this result. Taira is already home. We will keep working to free everyone," he said. Hundreds of prominent Ukrainians have been kid-

napped or captured, including local officials, journalists, activists and human rights defenders. Russia portrayed Taira as working for nationalist Azov Battalion, in line with Moscow's narrative that it is attempting to "denazify" Ukraine.

But AP found no such evidence, and friends and colleagues said she had no links to Azov, which made a last stand in a Mariupol steel plant before hundreds of its fighters were captured or killed.

The footage itself is a visceral testament to her efforts to save the wounded on both sides. A clip recorded on March 10 shows two Russian soldiers taken roughly out of an ambulance by a Ukrainian soldier.

Gaza rocket into Israel breaks 2-month lull, Israel responds

Jerusalem: Palestinian militants fired a rocket into southern Israel early Saturday, shattering a two-month lull in violence at Gaza-Israel border in contrast to soaring tensions in occupied West Bank.

The Israeli military said aerial defense systems intercepted the projectile, which activated warning sirens in southern coastal city of Ashkelon.

There were no reports of casualties. Hours later, Israeli aircraft carried out a series of airstrikes on four military sites for Hamas, the militant group that rules Gaza.

Money

'Coal Ministry should import all coal for power sector'

New Delhi: With overseas shipments becoming increasingly necessary to meet the burgeoning power demand in the country, centralised import for all electricity utilities by the coal ministry should be done as it would bring efficiencies and reduce cost, sources said. Two

sources with knowledge of the matter said a view emerging in the power ministry is that the coal ministry should take the complete responsibility of imports of the dry fuel to tide over the shortage. Power generating companies can give their monthly requirement to



the coal ministry, which in turn can direct Coal India to become the nodal agency for all imports, they said. Coal India Ltd has in recent days floated tenders to import coal to supplement its supplies. States and power producers have also been asked to do the same.

This job can be singularly handed by Coal India. Sources said entire process needs to be standardised and streamlined so that coal requirement is met without any delays or fears of power outage. "Coal ministry and

Coal India have the expertise and the experience when it comes to coal. Hence they should take the responsibility of importing coal on behalf of the entire power sector and provide arrangements for delivery of coal upto plant," said a source. The bulk order of coal will also provide a better bargaining power to the country and help reduce costs, he said, adding this in turn will help generating companies bring down the cost of power production. Currently onus of coal imports lies with individual power producing companies.

Odisha at cusp of economic revolution: PwC India head

Bhubaneswar: Odisha is poised for massive industrial and economic growth and PwC India is committed to contribute to it, a top official of the multinational firm said.

PwC India had launched its new office in Bhubaneswar recently and collaborated with industry association FICCI to organise a symposium named 'Reimagining Odisha: Unlocking the opportunities for Economic Transformation'.

"Odisha is at the cusp of an economic revolution and we are happy to partner stakeholders like FICCI in this journey to help the state emerge as an economic powerhouse," PwC India chairperson Sanjeev Krishan said.

"With our local presence, we aim to get closer to the issues at hand and proactively look at ways to make a difference that will help the state and its industrial and economic ecosystem achieve its full potential," Krishan added. FICCI Odisha State Council chairperson Ranjan



Naik said the state was transitioning from an economy of iron ore to steel, and coal, bauxite to aluminium with a host of value-added products.

"As the Indian economy grows, Odisha will soon be host to 200 MTPA (million tonnes per annum) steel facilities and 15 MT aluminium production facility," Naik said.

He underlined that the industries needed to embrace environmental, social and governance factors in letter and spirit. "There is an increasing need for technology integration and community engagement," Naik added. **PTI**

Book titled 'The Burning Solution' released



Kattankulathur: Nikhil Chaudhary, an author, an entrepreneur, and an alumni of SRM Institute of Science and Technology (2009 batch), has released a book titled 'The Burning Solution'. The release was done by SRMIST's Registrar S Ponnusamy in the presence of Director (Alumni Affairs) A Rathinam, Dean (School of BioEngineering) M Vairamani and HoD (Biotech) RA Nazeer.

In his book, Mr. Chaudhary tells us about the natural food techniques which are scientific and based on his experience with patients from five continents and over 43

countries, all of whom benefited from his advice and most of them even gave up medication in the first week itself. In his presidential address, S Ponnusamy mentioned that Nikhil Chaudhary has made the Institution proud. He urged everyone needs to give back something to their Alma Mater.

Walking down memory lane, Nikhil Chaudhary explained how his life turned into this career. He emphasized on how it is important to address major problems like Diabetes, fatty liver, obesity and other gastrointestinal problems. He motivated student to achieve something in their life.

PUBLIC NOTICE

I, **Wazir Singh Rathee** S/o Sh. Preet Singh Rathee R/o Gali No.-5, Friends Colony, Najafgarh Road, Ward No.-13, Bahadurgarh, Distt. Jhajjar (Haryana) do hereby solemnly affirm and declare as under:-

1. That I am Contested in Ward No.-13 for Municipal Councillor Bahadurgarh.
2. That I am including in F.I.R No. 703 / 24-07-2007-P.S. City Bahadurgarh. In Act 323, 506 in the Court of Khushbu Goyal, JMC Bahadurgarh and F.I.R. No. 252/2017 P.S. Line Par Act 427, 506, 3PDP Act in the Court of Versha Sharma SDJM Bahadurgarh and Case type - CRA, Filing No. 651/2017, Filing Date 10-04-2017, Registration No. 86/2017 in the court of Shri Fakhrudin, ADSJ Jhajjar.
3. That above statements are true or correct.

WAZIR SINGH RATHEE

This is to notify the general public all and sundry that Mrs. Suman Chopra W/o Late Sh. Virender Chopra R/o WZ-13, Plot No-10, Meenakshi Garden New Delhi-18, has disowned and severed all her connections & relations with her son Mr. Vikram Chopra aged 40 years, his wife Priyanka Chopra aged about 39 years & their two minor daughters namely Baby Cherisha Chopra aged about 11 years and Baby Inayaa Chopra aged about 6 years for all purpose, who shall have no claim or rights to any of the moveable or immovable properties of smt. Suman Chopra or ancestral Properties. Further Smt. Suman Chopra shall not be responsible for the acts of omission and commission done by Mr. Vikram Chopra aged about 40 years, his wife Priyanka Chopra aged about 39 years and their two minor daughters namely Baby Cherisha Chopra aged about 11 years & Baby Inayaa Chopra aged about 6 years. Anyone dealing with Mr. Vikram Chopra aged about 40 years, his wife Priyanka Chopra aged about 39 years & their two minor daughters namely Baby Cherisha Chopra aged about 11 years and Baby Inayaa Chopra aged about 6 years shall be doing at his/her own risk.

Nikhil Bahri (Advocate)
130, Block-1, Delhi High Court

Central Coalfields Limited

"A Miniratna Company"
(A Subsidiary of Coal India Limited)

NOTICE

"All the tenders issued by CIL and its Subsidiaries for procurement of Goods, Works and Services are available on websites of Coal India Ltd. www.coalindia.in/respective Subsidiary Company (CCL, www.centralcoalfields.in), CIL e-procurement portal <https://coalindiatenders.nic.in> and Central Public Procurement Portal <https://eprocure.gov.in> in addition, procurement is also done through GeM portal <https://gem.gov.in>".

UJVN Limited

H.O.: "UJJWAL", Maharani Bagh, G.M.S. Road, Dehradun-248006
Telephones: 0135-2763808, Fax: 0135-2763508
CIN No. U40101UR2001SGC025866, Website: www.ujvn.com

Tender Notice

Letter No: 342 Date: 17/06/2022

Office of Executive Engineer (E&M-I), Lakhwar Project, Dakpathar, invites sealed tenders from interested parties. Brief summary of tender is given below:

Tender No: 02/EE(E&M-I)/LP/2022-23

Name of the Work: Annual maintenance of 33 KV& LT lines of Lakhwar-Vyasi project.

Estimated Cost: Rs.22,31,340.00(taxes extra)

Date of availability of bid document on website : 18/06/2022.

Last Date for submission of tender: 08/07/2022 up to 16:00 hrs.

For fuller & further details, kindly visit our website. The tender documents can be downloaded from the Nigam's website "www.ujvn.com".

EXECUTIVE ENGINEER (E&M-I)

"AVOID WASTEFUL USE OF ELECTRICITY"

Moody's upgrades baseline credit assessments of ICICI Bank, Axis Bank

New Delhi: Moody's Investors Service has upgraded the baseline credit assessments of ICICI Bank and Axis Bank, reflecting improvements in credit fundamentals, particularly asset quality. The global rating agency has upgraded the baseline credit assessments (BCAs) to baa3 from ba1.

The upgrade of the BCAs does not result in any change in the deposit ratings because these are already at the same level as the India sovereign rating (Baa3 stable), Moody's said in a statement on Friday. "The upgrade of the two banks' BCAs is driven by improvements in asset quality, capital, and prof-



itability. Their asset quality has seen a significant improvement, with both the gross and net non-performing loans (NPL) ratios declining.

"Credit costs have also reduced at the same time as provision coverage has increased. Lower credit costs have resulted in higher profitability," it said.

India, EU trade pact to help unleash fresh potential: Goyal

Brussels: With India and the European Union (EU) formally resuming negotiations for proposed agreements on trade, investments and geographical indications (GI), Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal has said implementation of these pacts would help unleash the significant untapped potential for enhancing economic ties between the two regions.

India and the EU on June 17 formally resumed negotiations on the proposed agreements, after a gap of over eight years. Goyal said they were here to relaunch the negotiations for a fair, equitable and balanced free trade agreement (FTA)

between the EU and India.

"We have our teams in place...It will further strengthen our relations. Our bilateral trade has grown significantly in the last few months...There is a significant untapped potential which we will hope to unleash with the execution of these three agreements -- trade, investment and GIs," he told reporters here.

India had started negotiations for a trade pact, dubbed the Bilateral Trade and Investment Agreement (BTIA), with the 27-country economic bloc in 2007, but the talks stalled in 2013 as both sides failed to reach an agreement on key issues, including customs



duties on automobiles and spir- its, and the movement of professionals. Asked about the key demands from the Indian side, Goyal said India wishes to engage with the world on modern products and look at areas where it can gain in terms of new technology and investments. "All cards are on the

table and we are coming with an open heart and an open mind... Agreements do not have to always be about gain or demands, I think agreements also have to be which is good for both negotiating teams and for the people," he said.

He added that there was a time when India was "super sensitive" on issues like gender and sustainability, but in the last few years, the country has demonstrated to the world "very deep commitment on these subjects". "We are looking at technology, we are looking at long term larger finance and low cost in order to transition much faster on the sustainable side," he added.

PACERS, MIDDLE-ORDER MAKE INDIA FAVOURITES IN SERIES DECIDER

PTI ■ BENGALURU

A lot of grey areas are yet to be addressed but a young Indian team, with an admirable collective temperament, will start as favourites in the series-deciding fifth T20 International against South Africa here on Sunday.

In a space of eight days, this Indian team has played four games. It fielded an identical XI, which is in sync with Rahul Dravid's "school of continuity", seen the nadir in the first two games, only to break its own record of highest margin of victories over the Proteas — by 47 runs in the third game and by 82 runs in the fourth.

With Dinesh Karthik doing exactly what is expected of him and Harshal Patel and Avesh Khan also hitting the straps, the Indian fans would want to see Yuzvendra Chahal perform a trick or two at his IPL home ground in a match that matters the most.

Therefore, when the teams step out on the M Chinnaswamy Stadium turf, the side that looked jaded and overcooked in the first two games will start as overwhelming favourites as the South Africans

have already lost the plot.

If Temba Bavuma is unable to recover, they will miss a leader more than the batter. And suddenly in the last two games, the batting has looked iffy on tracks that have variable bounce, which has made this Indian attack look way more lethal.

Call it strangely pleasant, but it remains a fact that in this series a lot of things haven't exactly gone as per plan but yet India have managed to level the series after being 0-2 down.

A young captain who, perhaps, would have liked a few days in his hometown in Rourkee had there not been a pressure from one of the stakeholders to have at least a few stars in the absence of safe 'box-office' bets like Virat Kohli, Rohit Sharma or Jasprit Bumrah.

Neither has Pant's captaincy been exceptional nor has his similar pattern of dismissals inspired confidence but India have somehow managed to pull through.

If they finally win the series the young man would be in that leadership mix alongside Hardik Pandya and KL Rahul when the next transition in Indian cricket happens after the 2023 ODI World Cup.

If coach Dravid wanted to



check out whether there is a possibility to tinker with the existing top three, the troika of Ishan Kishan, Ruturaj Gaikwad and Shreyas Iyer haven't exactly fitted into the jigsaw

puzzle.

Gaikwad, with his current technique, would be nine out of 10 times found wanting against quality attack on better pitches, with

sporadic performances here and there. In top flight cricket, he won't get those couple of uncapped domestic bowlers whom he can bully. On the contrary, he could get

bullied by express pace.

Ishan Kishan has a limited range of strokes and one shouldn't go by the volume of runs scored in this series as the extra bounce and pace on Australian wickets will be a difficult proposition.

Shreyas Iyer got a full series but he should be the first one to admit that he has blown it with both hands and when India next play against Ireland at Malahide, his place will go to Suryakumar Yadav, considered a way better T20 proponent.

There is something about big ICC event years and Karthik revving up his performances.

He is already going to don the big gloves in Ireland and the manner in which he is proving to be an asset at the back-end, no one should be raising eye-brows if he becomes the designated keeper-batter by the time India play Pakistan at MCG the in the last week of October.

Among the bowlers, Bhuvneshwar Kumar is once again swinging the new ball and Avesh Khan, having developed a well-disguised bouncer along with an ability to bowl more fuller and hit the hard lengths, is also a contender among the five pacers that India might carry Down Under.

The spinners in this series, despite an improved effort, have been below-par. Axar Patel has blown hot and cold, but more important, looked uni-dimensional while Chahal, in his bid to be quicker through the air, has proved to be profligate.

The series hasn't been one of India's best but somehow, just like top teams do, the 'Men In Blue' have found their way out to win matches under pressure. That augurs well as Pant and his men aim to wrap up the series at the 'Garden City'.

Teams (from):

India: Rishabh Pant (c & wk), Ruturaj Gaikwad, Ishan Kishan, Deepak Hooda, Shreyas Iyer, Dinesh Karthik, Hardik Pandya, Venkatesh Iyer, Yuzvendra Chahal, Axar Patel, Ravi Bishnoi, Bhuvneshwar Kumar, Harshal Patel, Avesh Khan, Arshdeep Singh, Umran Malik.

South Africa: Temba Bavuma (c), Quinton de Kock (wk), Reeza Hendricks, Heinrich Klaasen, Keshav Maharaj, David Miller, Lungi Ngidi, Anrich Nortje, Wayne Parnell, Dwaine Pretorius, Kagiso Rabada, Tabraiz Shamsi, Tristan Stubbs, Rassie van der Dussen, Marco Jansen.

F1 puts brakes on porpoising as it bounces back into Canada



AP ■ MONTREAL

Lewis Hamilton joked that he felt shorter from the L-abuse to his spine last week as the seven-time Formula One champion bounced around the street circuit in Azerbaijan.

It took all week for his body to recover because his new Mercedes is suffering from the "porpoising" effect plaguing several teams after F1 cleared the way for different techniques for downforce aerodynamics this season.

The FIA stepped in ahead of the Canadian Grand Prix with technical directives designed to counter the bouncing of the cars that's been a byproduct of ground effect changes, a move welcomed by Hamilton for his own health.

He's not seen a physician about many of his ailments - Hamilton uses Angela Cullen, his personal physiotherapist, for recovery - but couldn't dismiss the possibility he and other drivers are being subjected to potential micro-concussions each time they are on track.

"I've definitely been having a lot more headaches in the past months, but I've not seen a specialist about it, so I'm not taking it too seriously. I've just taken painkillers, so hopefully I don't have any concussions," Hamilton said Friday.

He rejected the idea his suffering is worse than others because he's 37 - "there's a lot more to recovery and I don't think that journey has anything to do with age, I think it's generally just because the bruising can be quite severe" - and Hamilton insisted the porpoising needed to be addressed by F1's governing body for safety reasons.

"Putting the technical stuff aside... I cannot stress more how important health is for us," he said. "Safety has to be paramount and has, has to be the most important thing."

But reactions to the change differed amongst the 10 teams - and had little immediate effect on Friday's two practice sessions. Max Verstappen, the reigning champion and current points leader, paced both sessions as he seeks his sixth win in nine races. Hamilton was 13th in Friday's second practice, and teammate George Russell was seventh.

Ferrari driver Charles Leclerc, for example, did not think the FIA should have stepped in ahead of the ninth race of the season. Some teams have better managed the issue, he said.

"I feel it is the team's responsibility to give me a car that is OK to drive, and I don't have any particular problems with it," Leclerc said.

"Yes, it is different from last year's car, whether it is undrivable, or very hard on myself, I don't think it is. On our side, we found solutions to make it better."

Verstappen was against a technical directive for the same reasoning: Red Bull isn't struggling the same way rival Mercedes is, and Mercedes and the teams bogged down by the porpoising need to raise the ride height on the cars to stop the bumping.

"The porpoising we have at the moment is not nice and I don't think it's correct, but some teams are able to handle these things a lot better than others," Verstappen said. "It is possible to get rid of it, so I don't think we have to overdramatize what is happening."

The theory throughout the paddock is that raising the right height will hurt performance, something Mercedes is not willing to sacrifice even at the expense of its drivers' aching bodies.

India shines on day 1 of Asian Track Cycling Championships, bag 10 medals

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Hosts India made a bright start to their campaign at the Asian Track Cycling Championships by bagging 10 medals, including a gold, on the opening day of competitions here on Saturday.

The opening day of the 41st Senior, 28th Junior Asian Track and 10th Para Track Cycling Championships witnessed 12 finals out of which four were for Para Championships. The Indians clinched one silver and six bronze medals in the senior and junior events, while one gold, one silver and one bronze were won in the Para events.

The Indian team opened its tally with a silver medal in the junior women's 4km team pursuit event with Pooja Dhanole, Himanshi Singh, Reet Kapoor and Jasmeek Kaur Sekhon clocking 4:54.034s against Korean riders KIM Chaeyeon, Cheon Yunyeong,



Kim Eunsong, AN Yeongseo, who clocked 4:47.360s to win the gold. Kazakhstan bagged the bronze with a timing of 4:48.872s.

In senior women's 4km team pursuit event, the Indian riders consisting of Rejiye Kh Devi, Chayanika Gogoi, Meenakshi and Monika Jat outclassed Uzbekistan riders Evegeniya Golotina, Madina Kakhkhorova, Margarita

Misyurina, Yania Kuskova to secure a bronze medal by clocking 4:44.699s.

After a gap of 17 years, the Indian team won a medal in the senior women's category in any Asian Track Cycling Championships. Gold and silver in the event were won by Korea (Jumi Lee, Jieun Shin, Youri Kim, Ahreum Na) and Kazakhstan respectively. The Indians clinched another bronze when Niraj Kumar, Birjit Yumnam, Aashirwad Saxena and Gurnoor Poonia combined to clock 4:22.737s and finish third in the junior men's 4km team pursuit event. Kazakhstan won the gold while Korea bagged the silver.

India secured another bronze in the senior men's 4km team pursuit event. Japan won the gold while Korea bagged the silver.

India chief coach VN Singh was a proud man after the display of the home team on the opening day.

"India has progressed a lot in the endurance events, around 8 years ago it was difficult to complete the race but now the scenario has changed and Indian riders are not only completing the races but also winning the medals," he said.

In the women's senior team sprint event, India's Trishya Paul, Shushikala Agashe and Mayuri Lute, who had accused former chief coach RK Sharma of sexual harassment during a recent training tour of Slovenia, won the bronze medal with a timing 50.438s.

Korea's Sunyoung CHO, Hae Ji Park and Hyeonseo Hwang won the gold, clocking 49.685s, while Japan's Riu Ohta, Yuka Kobayashi and Mina Sato bagged silver with a timing of 49.973s. In the elite men's team sprint event, India's David Beckham, Ronaldo Singh and Rojit Singh won the bronze with a timing of 44.627s. Japan won the gold while Malaysia bagged the silver.

Pant falling into outside off-stump trap, not a good sign: Gavaskar

PTI ■ RAJKOT

Batting great Sunil Gavaskar has questioned Rishabh Pant's shot selection, saying it is "not a good sign" that the Indian stumper is repeatedly falling into the outside off-stump trap in the ongoing T20I series against South Africa. Pant, who has scored 740 runs in 47 T20Is at 23.12, has been getting out in almost identical fashion while going for the big shot wife outside the off-stump.

"He hasn't learned. He hasn't learned from the previous three dismissals, Gavaskar said while commentating on Star Sports.

"They throw wide, and he keeps going for it. He can't throw enough muscle on that. He has got to stop looking to go aerial that far outside the off-stump.

"There is no way he's going to get enough on it. It has gone to short-third! They all plan it, South African bowlers and Temba Bavuma... just bowl wide outside the off-stump and you will get him."

Pant has scored 29, 5, 6 and 17 in the last four innings. "10 times, he has been dismissed wide outside off-stump (in T20s in 2022). Some of them would have been called wide if he hadn't made contact with it. Because he's so far away, he has to reach out for it. He will never get enough power on it.



'India has talent to win more Olympic medals in athletics'

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Legendary long jumper Anju Bobby George on Saturday said India has the talent to win more Olympic medals in athletics after superstar javelin thrower Neeraj Chopra opened the country's account by winning a historic gold in the Tokyo Games. Anju, the lone World Athletics Championships medalist Indian with her bronze in 2003, said the athletes need proper guidance to achieve success.

"Indian athletes are good in technical events in Olympics but are yet to reach that level to win medals in sprinting and long distance running," she said.

"We can win more Olympic medals in athletics. We need good coaches and facilities at grassroots. Through Khelo India Games, we are putting in effort but it will take time," Anju said at the TV9 'What India Thinks Today' Global Summit.

"Slowly, we will see the changes. Things are moving in a



positive direction," she added.

Chief badminton coach of the Indian badminton team Pulella Gopichand said India can fight for gold medals in all categories in the coming 4-8 years.

"To achieve that strong planning and execution and a scientific approach are needed," he said.

"In the last eight years, Indian

sports have grown a lot. Structures laid down by the government have started to show results. But still a long way to go.

"We have to identify talented players. Consistent scientific training with international exposure should be provided to them. The first step towards it is to identify players keeping in mind their physicality and talent," Gopichand said.

Former India football captain Bhaichung Bhutia said the country should target individual sports like China has done to win more medals.

He said India realistically should target 14 medals in the 2024 Olympics but winning 50 should be a long-term plan.

Shooting is the biggest medal prospect at the Olympics. Badminton, wrestling and archery are also huge prospects," he said.

On private investment in sports, Bhutia said academies set up by sportspersons is the way forward.

Mumbai march into Ranji Trophy final, to meet MP

PTI ■ BENGALURU

Domestic giants Mumbai completed the formality of qualifying for the Ranji Trophy final by virtue of first innings lead on the final day of their last-four match against Uttar Pradesh, here on Saturday.

The 41-time champions, Mumbai thoroughly dominated from the first ball of the game, which ended in a draw, at the Just Cricket Academy ground.



Mumbai had posted 393 in their first innings and then bundled out Uttar Pradesh for a meagre 180, to gain a massive first-innings lead.

When play ended on the fourth day on Friday, Mumbai had piled up a mammoth 449 for 4 in their second essay, courtesy hundreds by Yashasvi Jaiswal and Armaan Jaffer.

At stumps of Day 4, Mumbai took an overall lead of 662 runs, making it amply clear that there was only one result possible from the match.

On Saturday, play began after lunch due to wet out-field and overnight batters Sarfaraz Khan and Shams Mulani continued to torment the UP bowlers.

Both Sarfaraz (59 not out) and Mulani (51 not out) completed their half-centuries, after which both the captains decided to shake hands.

Mumbai posted 533 for 4 in their second essay.

Sarfaraz hit one boundary and three sixes, while Mulani hammered six fours.

Mumbai will meet Madhya Pradesh in the final, which will be played at the M Chinnaswamy Stadium from June 22.

The final will be a battle between two former Mumbai players Amol Mazumdar and Chandrakant Pandit, who are coaches of Mumbai and MP respectively.

Indebted to chess, it's payback time: Anand

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

It's time to give back to the sport, says the legendary Viswanathan Anand, who is seeking to enter global chess administration with an aim to make it professionally more enticing for the youth.

Anand, whose moves on the board still leave opponents grasping at straws, wants to fully commit himself as "someone" who can work towards the betterment of the sport.

In an exclusive interview with PTI, the five-time world champion charted out his future plans, days after the All India Chess Federation (AICF) unanimously decided to endorse his candidature for the deputy president's post in the forthcoming FIDE election.

"Compared to three or four years back, I have cut down on my time as a active chess player. I have long aspired to come into

the chess administration and this opportunity as the deputy president will be a huge learning curve for me," Anand remarked.

"The game of chess helped me become what I am today. It's time for me to give back. The idea is to encourage more youth to take up the sport seriously and make it a profession. I will communicate my ideas and vision once I am elected to the new panel," he added.

While Anand will be part of incumbent Arkady Dvorkovich's panel, among other candidates is the seasoned administrator and former deputy president of the international chess federation, Bachar Kouatly.

However, Anand believes the Dvorkovich administration will have a clear advantage over the others because of the work done by them to make the sport immensely popular, especially at the height of the COVID-19 pandemic.



"The current administration has done some outstanding work to give the game a facelift especially when every sport was sidelined because of the COVID-19 pandemic. So, I readily agreed to be a part this panel when I was nominated for the position," Anand said, speaking about his decision to take part in the elec-

tions.

The year was 1987 when India got its first grandmaster in Anand. As many as 35 years down the line, India has 74 of them, with the latest being the 19-year-old Rahul Srivasthav Peddi from Hyderabad.

"I always had a firm belief that we deserve to have many

grandmasters in Chess. During the first time ten years of my career, there were only Pravin Thipsey, Dibyendu Barua, and I. But the current figures make me immensely happy because of the fact that we have progressed so much in chess by leaps and bounds," Anand said.

It is unbeknownst to many that there is a serious cost factor involved when it comes to making a child an age-group world champions or a Grandmaster. Unlike other sports like cricket, football, badminton, or even hockey, where talented athletes are offered scholarships, chess doesn't seem to have many.

Anand, however, mentions that there is a serious cost factor involved when it comes to making a child an age-group world champions or a Grandmaster. Unlike other sports like cricket, football, badminton, or even hockey, where talented athletes are offered scholarships, chess doesn't seem to have many.

Anand, however, mentions that there is a serious cost factor involved when it comes to making a child an age-group world champions or a Grandmaster. Unlike other sports like cricket, football, badminton, or even hockey, where talented athletes are offered scholarships, chess doesn't seem to have many.

fellowship programmes who can make big in the coming years. Besides, the FIDE has many ongoing projects for such talented athletes, especially in a country like India, where there is no dearth of talent.

"If and when I involve myself as an administrator, my main focus would be to guide the top talent who can make India immensely proud."

Following his spectacular show at the recently-concluded Norway Chess event, where he beat his arch-rival and current world champion Magnus Carlsen, the 52-year-old Anand is back in the top 10 of the world chess rankings after a long hiatus of 32 months.

During the discussion, Anand also brushed aside retirement plans said that even if he makes a foray as an active administrator, he will not bid adieu to the sport as a player anytime soon.

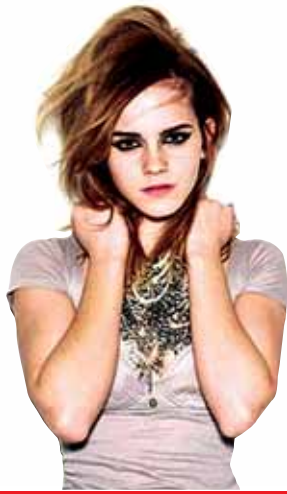
'KASHMIR IS AN UNSPOKEN POETRY ENGRAVED IN OUR VERY SOUL'



I like to keep moving, keep experimenting and reinventing myself. Crossing borders to test my craft comes with a lot of challenges that keep me on my toes all the time. However, I believe *The Kashmir Files* is beyond every film that has been a career-defining for me. This film isn't a script or elegant series of dialogues, it is truth, my truth. So, clearly it stood out and made its impact on the world.

In terms of his personal life, Siddique has a successful corporate career as a product analyst. One of the highlights of his career was his collaboration with famous culinary expert Ranveer Brar.

I don't want other people to decide what I am. I want to decide that for myself.
—Emma Watson



Swapna had dropped a ‘bombshell’ alleging that Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan had utilized the services of the consulate general to smuggle out a suitcase stuffed with currency notes to UAE during his official tour to West Asia in 2016, writes KUMAR CHELLAPPAN

Kerala is in a state of turmoil. The months of June, July, and August usually keep the state wet thanks to incessant rains of South West Monsoon. Instead of rainfall and hailstorms, Kerala has been pinned down by allegations of corruption involving a select few of the ruling CPI-M..

June 13 turned out to be a literal Black Monday for Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan who was flying back to Thiruvananthapuram from his native district of Kannur after the weekend sojourn in his palatial mansion at Pinarayi, his hometown. When the IndiGo aircraft landed at Thiruvananthapuram airport and Vijayan alighted from the plane, two young Congress workers who were travelling in the same flight shouted slogans like “Quit Pinarayi ,Quit” and “Down with Corruption”. They were allegedly assaulted by E P Jayarajan, convenor of the Left Democratic Front and an acolyte of the chief minister. The “trouble makers” were handed over to Police who registered a case against the duo for the attempt to murder the Chief Minister. Jayarajan told reporters that both the Congress workers were fully drunk and it was difficult to make out what they were shouting at.

How come two murderers who were allegedly deputed to assassinate a VVIP consumed alcohol and got inebriated is a million-dollar question.

The incident that took place inside the aircraft was the culmination of a three-day long State-wide agitation and demonstration by the opposition Congress and the BJP demanding the resignation of Vijayan over the statement made by Swapna Suresh, a former liaison executive with the Thiruvananthapuram office of the United Arab Emirate Consulate General. Early last week, Swapna had dropped a ‘bombshell’ alleging that the chief minister had utilized the services of the consulate general to smuggle out a suitcase stuffed with currency notes to UAE during his official tour to West Asia in 2016. This is the first time in Kerala’s political history that allegations of this magnitude are thrown at the top political leadership of the State. Swapna, who herself is not an honest character, had given a statement to a judicial magistrate at Ernakulam under Section 164 of the Code of Criminal Procedure that she had facilitated the transport of the suitcase stuffed with currency notes through the diplomatic channel in Thiruvananthapuram international airport to be flown as diplomatic baggage to the UAE. She also disclosed that the then consul general of the UAE had sent big vessels covered with silver foils from his office to the Chief Minister’s Official bungalow Cliff House. Though it was claimed at that time that the vessels were packed with biriyani, questions are raised about Vijayan’s obsession with the delicacy. “Eating the UAE-cooked biriyani

every day is suspicious and needs an elaborate probe,” said a senior opposition leader. It is alleged that the biryani vessels were being deployed to smuggle gold from West Asia to Cliff House.

The memories of 2019-20 are still fresh in the memory of the people. Swapna Suresh, and her associates Sarit and Sajith were arrested by the central agency for alleged smuggling of gold through diplomatic channels in the airport. The 2021 assembly election was fought against the backdrop of Swapna, Gold and Smuggling. She was arrested by the National Investigation Agency and the Customs Department under charges of gold smuggling but was released on conditional bail after year-long incarceration. Sarat and Sajith, her two male associates too were arrested by the police but the prize catch was M Sivasankar, the IAS officer who was the principal secretary to the chief minister allegedly for facilitating the smuggling. Sivsankar spent almost six months in jail before he too was granted bail in the case. Meanwhile, the investigation into the case by the central agencies like Enforce Directorate, Customs, Directorate of Revenue Intelligence and CBI came to a halt as the State administration put up a massive resistance against such probes. The agencies could not lay their hands on the file related to the “gold smuggling” as the room in the State Secretariat where the files were stored was engulfed in flames devouring the entire stock of files. Though Swapna and her associates had visited the Chief Minister’s Office and residence more than a dozen times to take orders, the closed-circuit TV visuals from both the venues were lost “because of thundershowers and lightning”. Moreover, the probing agencies could not extradite the kingpin of the smuggling syndicate based in Dubai because of his connection in high places.

It was at this juncture that Swapna, who had been a Kerala State Government Official coordinating with scientists of the Indian Space Research Organization (ISRO) to set up Kerala’s Space Park in the capital city, came out with the disclosures about the chief minister taking with him the currency notes to UAE. Swapna also claimed in her statement that Vijayan’s wife Kamala, daughter Veena and her new husband Mohammed Riyaz (minister for PWD and tourism in Vijayan’s council of ministers) have business interests in West Asia and had sought the former’s help in meeting the Dr. Sheikh Sultan bin Mohammed Al Qasimi, Ruler of Sharjah, during his visit to India in April 2017. Swapna said the chief minister, his wife and daughter had one on one meetings with the ruler of Sharjah and had asked him for help in investing their savings in Sharjah. Though Veena Riyaz was granted permission to set up an enterprise in the oil kingdom, it was withdrawn following opposition within the

“THE MEMORIES OF 2019-20 ARE STILL FRESH. SWAPNA SURESH, AND HER ASSOCIATES SARIT AND SAJITH WERE ARRESTED BY THE CENTRAL AGENCY FOR ALLEGED SMUGGLING OF GOLD THROUGH DIPLOMATIC CHANNELS AT THE AIRPORT. THE 2021 ASSEMBLY ELECTION WAS FOUGHT AGAINST THE BACKDROP OF SWAPNA, GOLD AND SMUGGLING. SHE WAS ARRESTED BY THE NATIONAL INVESTIGATION AGENCY AND THE CUSTOMS DEPARTMENT UNDER CHARGES OF GOLD SMUGGLING. SHE WAS RELEASED ON CONDITIONAL BAIL AFTER YEAR-LONG INCARCERATION

royal family itself, according to Swapna. If these allegations are found true, this could end up as a major case against Pinarayi Vijayan for violation of diplomatic propriety. The disclosures come at a time when there are reports in a section of Kerala media that Vijayan and his family had made thousands of crores worth of investments in the UAE.

Despite Vijayan feigning ignorance about Swapna (he described her as the controversial woman), she had made it known that she was a regular visitor to the former’s household and had tutored the chief minister and his family members about the etiquettes to be followed while calling on the Ruler of Sharjah. In another disclosure, Swapna alleged that Vijayan had illegal relations with Believer’s Church, a sect launched and owned by self-styled bishop K P Yohannan. He had helped Vijayan and family members in laundering their ill-gotten wealth abroad. To date, names of only a couple of prominent RSS leaders were having illegal relations with Yohannan and his Church. These Sangh leaders had helped the Believers’ Church to open schools, orphanages and hospitals in north Indian states. Interestingly, the Sangh-owned newspaper and publications were careful not to publish reports about the Income Tax Department’s raid in Believers’ Church offices and institutions owned by the Church. There was a lot of sound and fury when the Kerala Government led by Vijayan decided to purchase the Cheruvalli Estates of the Church measuring more than 1,000 acres to construct an airport in Sabarimala. The raid by IT department in 2020 had hogged the national limelight when it was announced by the officials that an amount of Rs seven crore was found in a car parked in the Church-owned establishment.

Swapna’s disclosure to the judicial magistrate was just one of the charges being faced by Chief Minister Vijayan who returned to power with an unprecedented majority of 99 seats (out of 140 that were at stake) in the 2021 assembly election. Vijayan’s is the first government in the last four decades to win successive elections and retain power. But the second term of Vijayan began with a lot of heart burning among senior CPI-M leaders as they were side-lined during the election and ministry formation. Mohammed Riyaz, daughter Veena’s new husband, who was elected to the House for the first time was made a minister and important portfolios (tourism and Public Works Department) were given to him. Similarly, the appointment of T N Seema, a former heart-throb of party leaders as chairperson of the Nava Kerala Mission in the rank of principal secretary to the State, has shocked the entire bureaucracy. “Her only qualification is that she had accompanied the chief minister in his State-wide yatras and nothing more than that,” said a serving IAS officer.

The CPI-M and its chief minister have become the butt of jokes even within the party and its alliance partners. The present scenario reminds one of the scenes from the 1991 movie Sandesham, a political satire directed by ace movie maker Sathyam Anthikkadu , which became a runaway success thanks to the punchline dialogues. The opposition RMP’s strategy to attack the ruling INP is to link the young leaders of the latter to all illegal pregnancies and sex scandals happening across the State, and this has come true in the case of the CPI-M. Not a single day passes in the State without reports about sex scandals featuring CPI-M leaders in them. When the CPI-M was in the opposition in 2011 it had used the services of Saritha Nair to discredit the then chief minister Oommen Chandi. Saritha had alleged that Chandi had summoned her to his official residence and abused her sexually. One of the very few politicians in the State with a clean image, even Chandi’s rivals would not have believed the charges. Commissions of inquiry and Courts found the charges to be baseless and exonerated him from all cases.

Kerala’s tryst and rendezvous with sex, scandals, and spicy allegations are nothing new. The Marxist-dominated media in the State needs three or four essential ingredients to churn out spicy reports about anybody who matters in public life. Remember the 1995 ISRO spy scandal? It had a fair and fat Mariyam Rasheeda, a Mali woman, Nambi Narayanan, and Sasi Kumaran two leading space scientists, an IPS officer who was infamous for his passion for fat women... A series of ‘stories’ peppered with spicy and steamy incidents which may put Harold Robins to shame figured in Malayalam newspapers and weeklies. Decades later, Cherian Philip, a Congress leader, disclosed to the world that the spy scandal was a ploy by the party faction opposed to K Karunakaran, the then chief minister to unseat from the chair in which they succeeded. While Karunakaran bowed out from political center stage with tears in his eyes, the accused police officer was elevated to the post of the state police chief by the same politicians who were once crying for his blood. India’s quest for cryogenic engine technology continues without success as Narayanan and Sasikumaran opt for premature retirement.

Now, we have Saritha Nair, Swapna Suresh, and a host of other ladies.. The chances of the central agencies reaching anywhere near the truth in the gold smuggling case look bleak as all lawyers appearing for the agencies are Swayamsevaks!

(The writer is Special Correspondent of The Pioneer)

— I Ziferstein, Russian psychiatrist

KK SRIVASTAVA

MAKHAN SAIKIA

(Dr Makhan Saikia has taught political science and international relations for over a decade in institutions of national and international repute after specialisation in globalisation and governance from Tata Institute of Social Sciences, Mumbai. He is the chief editor of the *Journal of Global Studies*, an international research journal)

