

**CITY 2**  
UP CABINET NOD TO FOUR PROPOSALS  
UNDER DATA CENTRE POLICY**OPINION 6**  
THE SILENCE OF  
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46 MIGRANTS FOUND DEAD IN  
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LUCKNOW, WEDNESDAY JUNE 29, 2022; PAGES 12 ₹3



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# Uddhav woos rebels, son threatens them

TN RAGHUNATHA ■ MUMBAI

Not having lost all hopes about the possible return of a section of rebel Shiv Sena MLAs who are currently campaigning at Guwahati, Maharashtra chief minister Uddhav Thackeray once again appealed to them to come back to Mumbai and hold talks with him so that a solution could be found to tide over the political crisis within the Sena.

However, within hours after the chief minister held out an olive branch to the rebel MLAs, the breakaway faction leader of the Sena and former minister Eknath Shinde tweeted a reply: "On one hand, your son (Minister Aditya Thackeray) and Spokesperson (MP Sanjay Raut) called the revered Balasaheb Thackeray's Shiv Sainiks as pigs, gutter-muck, dogs, cattle, morons, zombies, and even brought in the names of their fathers, and on the other hand, he (Uddhav) is making a call to save the anti-Hindustan MVA government by making an appeal to the same MLAs to return... What does this mean?"

Talking to the media, Uddhav appealed to all Shiv Sena MLAs to return to the parent camp. He said that as the head of the Sena family, he respected their views and made it clear from his heart that till date "nobody is out of the party" though the (rebels) are stuck in Guwahati with all kinds of speculation.

"I appeal to you all... Come to me... Let's talk it out. Let's remove all the misconceptions among the minds of the people and the Shiv Sainiks," Thackeray appealed.

Uddhav said that the parent Sena would accord respect and dignity to the Sena rebels "Come in front of me and present your views, let's work out a solution," he said.

This is at least the third

direct appeal made by the CM to the rebels since the party crisis exploded on the night of June 21-22. "Many of you are in contact with us and are still emotionally connected with the Shiv Sena... The families of several have also got in touch with us and conveyed your sentiments to us," Uddhav said.

The ruling MVA was plunged into turmoil, when that night around 39 Sena MLAs and 11 others sneaked out to Gujarat and then to Assam to join the rebel faction herded by Shinde.

"Many of you are in contact with us and are still emotionally connected with the Shiv Sena... The families of several have also got in touch with us and conveyed your sentiments to us," Uddhav said.

The CM said, "If we all sit together, we can definitely come up with a solution to the political turmoil and cautioned them saying that the rebel group had fallen prey to any kinds of wrong measures, hinting at a possible tie-up with the Opposition BJP."

Continued on Page 9



Rebel Shiv Sena leader Eknath Shinde arrives to address media at a hotel where he is staying with other supporting MLAs, in Guwahati on Tuesday

PTI

## Fadnavis meets Shah, Nadda to discuss plan for Govt formation

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Amidst the ongoing political turmoil in Maharashtra, former State Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis met Union Home Minister Amit Shah and BJP president JP Nadda here on Tuesday to consult on the next step to bring back the BJP in power in the State with the help of the Shiv Sena rebels.

Fadnavis, who has met the top leadership at least three-times in the last seven days, was joined by BJP MP and senior

lawyer Mahesh Jethmalani in the meeting with Union Home Minister Amit Shah.

BJP leaders are understood to have deliberated on the options available with the party after the Supreme Court provided interim relief to Sena rebels. They focused on the legal steps to be taken ahead of the party's next possible political move to establish a BJP Government in the State backed by rebel Sena and independent MLAs.

After meeting Shah,

Fadnavis drove to Nadda's residence and briefed him about the unfolding political developments in the western State.

Notwithstanding BJP's repeated denial of any role in the Sena rebellion, Fadnavis is widely seen as making moves to re-establish a BJP Government and known to be in constant touch with Sena rebel Eknath Shinde. Shinde may be made deputy-Chief Minister in the new BJP-led dispensation, sources said.

Continued on Page 9

## Mukesh hands Jio over to elder son Akash in Reliance succession plan

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

Setting in place the succession plan in India's most valuable company, Reliance Group chairman Mukesh Ambani stepped down from the board of Reliance Jio and handed over the firm's reins to elder son Akash. Reliance Jio is valued at \$217 billion and is a unit of Reliance Industries Ltd, whose business spans from oil refining and petrochemicals to retail, media and new energy.

In a stock exchange filing, Reliance Jio Infocomm Ltd on Tuesday said the company's board at a meeting on June 27, "approved the appointment of Akash M Ambani, non-executive director, as chairman of the board of directors of the company."

Continued on Page 9

## Man beheads tailor for insult to Islam, curfew in Udaipur

### Killers post video, arrested

PTI ■ UDAIPUR

Two men with a cleaver murdered a tailor here, saying in a video post on social media that they are avenging an insult to Islam and triggering communal tension in the Rajasthan city, part of which was placed under curfew.

Within hours, prohibitory orders banning the assembly of people were imposed across the state for a month and mobile internet services suspended for the next 24 hours. At 8 pm, curfew was declared till further orders in seven police station areas of Udaipur city.

The men who allegedly carried out the daylight murder posted three videos online admitting to the crime and were soon arrested.

In a video clip, one of the purported assailants declared that they had "beheaded" the man and went on to threaten Prime Minister Narendra Modi, saying their knife will get him as well.

Indirectly, the assailants also referred to Nupur Sharma, the BJP leader suspended from the party over a remark on Prophet Mohammad.

Kanhaiya Lal, the tailor, was recently arrested by the local police over some remarks made on social media by him. A BJP leader said the victim



Ghos Mohammad and Riyaz. Riyaz beheaded a tailor named Kanhaiya Lal in Udaipur, while Ghos filmed the crime, according to officials

PTI



feared for his life and had sought police protection, but the authorities did not act on his appeal.

The assailants entered his shop in the city's Dhan Mandi area posing as customers. As the tailor took the measurements, one of them — who later identified himself as Riaz Akhtari — attacked him with a cleaver, nearly severing his neck. The other man shot the brutal murder with his mobile phone.

The two men fled from the scene and later uploaded this clip on social media. In another video, the alleged assailant said they "beheaded" the tailor and threatened the Prime Minister for lighting "this fire".

Yet another provocative video was recorded on June 17, in which Akhtari said he will post it the day he carries out the

murder. He asked other members of the community to continue with similar attacks.

As the videos circulated on social media, tension escalated. Local shopkeepers downed shutters. Shopkeepers stopped police from taking away the body, saying they will allow the removal of the corpse only after the murderers are arrested and compensation — Rs 50 lakh and a government job — given to the victim's family.

On Twitter, CM Ashok Gehlot appealed for calm and asked people not to share the videos. "The guilty will not be spared. The entire police team is working on it with full alertness. I can imagine the anger which is there among people due to the murder. We are taking action accordingly," he told reporters in Jodhpur.

Continued on Page 9

## Alt News founder sent to 4-day police custody for 2018 tweet

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

A Delhi court on Tuesday remanded Alt News co-founder Mohammed Zubair in four-day police custody in the 2018 tweet case in which he had posted a derogatory message against a Hindu deity. The police had sought a five-day custody of Zubair.

During the hearing, advocate Vrinda Grover, appearing for Zubair, argued that Zubair was being "maliciously targeted" and that the entire case "borders on absurdity." He said the photo which the accused used in the tweets is of an old Hindi film from 1983 by Hrishikesh Mukherjee, "Kissi Se Na Kehna", and that the film was not banned.

Rebutting Zubair's counsel's arguments, the Delhi Police counsel argued that Zubair's "deliberate act of outraging religious sentiments was on record" and therefore his police remand was required. The Delhi Police also told the court that Zubair allegedly "used controversial tweets to hurt religious feelings in an effort to get fame."

Chief Metropolitan Magistrate Snigdha Sarvaria passed the order after hearing arguments. Zubair was produced before the court on the expiry of his one-day custodial interrogation.

Continued on Page 9

# Modi, UAE President discuss bilateral ties

## In spl gesture, UAE President receives Indian PM at airport

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE/AGENCIES ■ NEW DELHI/ABU DHABI

India and the United Arab Emirates (UAE) on Tuesday reviewed the entire spectrum of their bilateral ties in the sphere of security, education and investment during the talks between Prime Minister Narendra Modi and UAE President Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan.

Signifying the robust relations with India, the UAE President in a special gesture personally received and then gave a warm send-off to Modi



Prime Minister Narendra Modi with UAE President and Abu Dhabi Ruler Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan upon his arrival, in Abu Dhabi

PTI

at the Abu Dhabi airport.

Expressing gratitude, Modi tweeted, "I am touched by the special gesture of my brother, His Highness Sheikh

Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan, of coming to welcome me at Abu Dhabi airport. My gratitude to him."

Continued on Page 9

# 87% Indians trust social media posts: Study

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE/AGENCIES ■ NEW DELHI

Despite concerns around misinformation and false claims, social media users around the world continue to believe that the information they read and share on platforms like Twitter, Instagram, and Facebook is factually correct, with levels of trust highest in emerging economies. The study by Oxford University Press (OUP) has mentioned about 54 per cent of people in India turn to social media looking for factual information.

Further, as many as 87 per

cent of people in India who share information from social media are confident in its truthfulness, slightly above the global average of three quarters, OUP research has suggested. OUP India MD Sumanta Datta said with over 87 per cent of Indians placing their trust and confidence in information circulating on social media, there is a need to understand the potential impact of factual inaccuracies and misinformation.

"We hope to continue to provide and increase access to tools that allow individuals to be more confident to engage in debates and discussions in

their pursuit of knowledge. In a country like India, with a large young population, it is imperative to build processes and policies that help raise a well-informed, intelligent and perceptive future generation," he said.

The research-led campaign "The Matter of Fact" looked at the level of understanding of how truths are identified and sources validated. The findings show that when looking for factual information, 37 per cent turn to social media, rising to 43 per cent of Mexicans and South Africans and 54 per cent of Indians. Britons were less likely to look for facts using

social media, with only 16 per cent describing it as a preferred source, compared to nearly three in 10 (29 per cent) Americans.

Overall, most of us rely heavily on Google and other search engines for information, with two thirds (67 per cent) worldwide and 62 per cent in the UK finding facts this way. Three-quarters of people are confident information they share from social media is accurate.

The study takes a broad look at how people across the world seek out information and judge its accuracy, drawing on a pool of evidence bolstered

by survey data collected from 5,000 people across the UK, the US, South Africa, India, and Mexico.

It found that more than half (52 per cent) said that when it came to distinguishing fact from fiction, sites like Facebook, YouTube, and Instagram play an important role.

At the same time, reliance on books and more traditional means of gathering accurate information has declined. For example, less than a third cited non-fiction books and encyclopedias as sources when seeking facts.

Continued on Page 9

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# UP govt to celebrate 100 days in office in grand manner

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

The Uttar Pradesh government plans to celebrate 100 days in office in a grand manner on July 5. Special functions will be held across the state and people will be told about the achievements of the government. Presiding over a review meeting of the first 100 days' works of the state government at his official residence here on Tuesday, Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath said: "On July 5 when the government completes 100 days of the second term, details of their achievements should be presented by the ministers to the public."

"People should be informed about the 100-day progress report of the government as well as the target for the next six months. The ministers should go to people in their respective circles," he said.

After the formation of the government, action plans for the first 100 days, six months, one year, two years and five years were decided on the basis of priority for all the departments. In this regard, the chief

minister directed all the departments that the target of the first 100 days should be completed by June 30.

The CM said that a detailed action plan should be prepared in relation to operating one CHC in each district on PPP mode.

"Implement it as a model. Necessary action should be taken immediately for the establishment of a health ATM. It will be an important task in view of the wider public interest," he said.

The CM also suggested a special system for 'daggamar' buses which can be allowed to ply on special routes.

"With this, the facility of transport will be accessible even in remote areas of the state," he said, adding: "The Transport department should take measures to create new sources of income from its sources through innovations. The department's lands are at prime locations everywhere and hotels and restaurants can be operated there."

The state government ministers and senior officials were present in the meeting.

# UP products hog limelight on world stage

**Lucknow (PNS):** The One District One Product (ODOP) from Uttar Pradesh made a splash on the world stage as the products of UP hogged limelight in the G-7 Summit where Prime Minister Narendra Modi presented the same to world leaders.

Modi gifted a pink 'Minakari of Banaras' to US President Joe Biden and 'Black Pottery' products to Prime Minister of Japan Yoshide Suga.

Minakari art usually involves intricate designs (mainly using geometric shapes and designs) and is applied as a decorative feature to serving dishes. The PM gifted a platinum hand-painted tea set of Bulandshahr to UK Prime Minister Boris Johnson. He also gifted Kannauj perfume to President of France Emmanuel Macron in a box of Lucknow's 'zarizardozi'. Prime Minister of Italy Mario Draghi got a gift of marble inlay table top made in Agra while German Chancellor Olaf Scholz got Moradabad's beautiful pots made of brass.

The PM also gifted Prayagraj's 'moonji basket' and Sitapur's cotton rug to the Senegal president and an idol of Ram's court to Indonesian President Joko Widodo.

# UP cabinet nod to four investment proposals under data centre policy

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

The Yogi Adityanath cabinet on Tuesday gave approval to four investment proposals regarding incentives for establishment of data parks under the 'Uttar Pradesh Data Centre Policy-2021' in line with the Centre's push to localise data storage.

"This will not only give a major boost to the state towards becoming 'self-reliant' in data storage but will also foster the development of data centre parks in Uttar Pradesh. The move will provide direct and indirect employment to scores of people in the state," a government spokesman said here on Tuesday. The decision was taken in the cabinet meeting held here under the chairmanship of Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath.

In view of the importance of data centres, Yogi had prepared the 'Data Centre Policy-2021' during his last tenure. Various financial and other

incentives have been given under the policy. In the recent groundbreaking ceremony held in the state, out of the investment proposals to the tune of more than Rs 80,000 crore, those worth about Rs 20,000 crore were for the establishment of data centres. The work for the setting up of four data centres parks with an investment of over Rs 15,950 crore is under process.

Of these are NIDP Developers Pvt Ltd of Hiranandani Group with an investment of Rs 9134.90 crore, NTT Global Centres and Cloud Infrastructure India Pvt Ltd of Japan with an investment of Rs 1,687 crore, two projects worth Rs 2,414 crore and Rs 2713 crore each of Adani Enterprises Ltd. These will provide direct and indirect employment to more than 4,000 people.

Hiranandani Group's first institute is expected to be ready by July and commercial work is likely to start from September.

The cabinet also decided to give necessary impetus to these projects under the policy, with the conditions that the investment made within the policy period will be considered for permissibility of financial incentives and will be started during the policy period (5 years). The financial incentives from all sources to any entity, unless otherwise specified in the policy, should not exceed the limit of 100 per cent of its fixed capital investment.

Due to the concessions given under the data centre policy, about 30 investors have shown interest in investing Rs 20,000 crore in the IT sector.

In view of the increasing interest of the investors in the IT sector, the chief minister has declared Noida, Greater Noida and Yamuna Expressway areas 'Electronics Manufacturing Zones'. As a result, many reputed companies from China, Taiwan and Korea have come forward to set up their units.

## CLASSIFIEDS

### NOTICE

This is to inform that Prof. Rajendra Singh (Rajju Bhaiya) University Prayagraj, Allahabad State University B.Sc. Marksheet 1, 2 & 3 Roll No-1910190041026 is irretrievably lost. Mohd. Abid Imran 226, Sadar Bazar, New Cantt, Prayagraj

### NOTICE

Notify that I have changed the name of my son S. Ahmad Faraz Rizvi to Ahmad Faraz Rizvi for all purposes. Tabassum Rizvi W/o Zeeshan Haider 451/26/2 Jafaria Colony, Muftiganj, Lucknow-226003

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### आवश्यकता है

अनुयायित मंदिरसा तालीमुल कुरान सलातपुर, प्रयागराज (उत्तरांचल स्तर) में प्रदानाचार्य का एक पद, सहायक अध्ययन फौकानिया का एक पद तथा सहायक अध्यापक तद्वतानिया का एक पद, आधुनिकीकरण योजनाकारिता सलातकोर के दो पद तिक है। प्रदानाचार्य के एक पद हेतु शैक्षिक योग्यता फाजिल एवं कानित (फारसी) की उपाधि, तथा मुस्ली/मोली या उच्चतर कक्षाओं का न्यूनतम पांच वर्ष का शैक्षिक अनुभव अथवा दीनियल/अरबी/फारसी में 50 प्रतिशत अंकों सहित एमए/एमए/तद्वतानुसार पांच वर्ष का शैक्षिक अनुभव अथवा फाजिल/एमए एम तथा दीनियल/अरबी/फारसी परम्परागत प्राच्य विषय में दुक्लरा सहित उपरोक्तानुसार तीन वर्ष का शैक्षिक अनुभव। लेवल-6 में वेतनमान- 47000-121100 एवं अन्य पदों न्यूनतर आयु 30 वर्ष। एमए/फौकानिया के एक पद हेतु शैक्षिक योग्यता कानित अथवा न्यूनतम 50 प्रतिशत अंकों सहित स्नातक/ तथा आलिन अथवा उर्दू सहित इस्तर का प्रमाण पत्र आवश्यक है। अथवा न्यूनतम 50 प्रतिशत अंकों सहित गृह विज्ञान में स्नातक तथा उर्दू/अरबी/फारसी से मुस्ली/ मोली की अतिम स्तर का प्रमाण पत्र। लेवल-7 में वेतनमान- 44900-142400 एवं अन्य पदों न्यूनतम आयु 20 वर्ष। एमए/तद्वतानुसार के एक पद हेतु शैक्षिक योग्यता आलिन अथवा इस्तर उर्दू से अथवा हाजिरत का प्रमाण पत्र। वेतन-6 में वेतनमान- 35400-112400 एवं अन्य पदों न्यूनतम आयु 18 वर्ष। आधुनिकीकरण योजनाकारिता सलातकोर के दो पद हेतु हिन्दी, अंग्रेजी, गणित, सांख्य, शोशल साइंस, से स्नातकोत्तर उपाधि का प्रमाण पत्र। वनानित अध्यापक को प्रतिमाह मानदंड के रूप में उमर 30 संस्कार से रूपये तीन हजार एवं मास संस्कार से रूपये बारह हजार सीधे उनके बैंक खाते में अवसरसक कल्याण निगम द्वारा भेजा जायगा। उपरोक्त योग्यता एवं अनुभव आदि पूर्ण करके पाठे प्रत्येक अरबी अथवा पूर्ण आदिता पत्र अपनी सलाह शैक्षिक योग्यताओं एवं अनुभव प्रमाण-पत्रों की प्रामाणित प्रतियों के साथ विभाग की तिथि से तीन सप्ताह (21) दिन के अवर प्रत्येक के पद नाम से मस्तर के पत्र पर पंजीकृत डाक के माध्यम से अथवा स्वयं उपस्थित हो कर उपलब्ध करा सकते हैं। सलाहकार की तिथि की पश्चात बाद में पंजीकृत डाक के माध्यम से प्रेषित की जायेगी। दिनांक : 29.29.2022

प्रत्येक मंदिरसा तालीमुल कुरान सलातपुर, प्रयागराज।

### NOTICE

Army record my wife Nutan Shukla's date of birth is 10/10/1984 which is wrong Correct date of birth is 21/7/1983 Guardsman 1561 7447 X Manish Shukla

### सूचना

सूचित करते हैं कि मेरी पुत्री के स्कूल रिकार्ड में उसके नाम की स्पेलिंग Kaashvi Srivastava अंकित है जो कि गलत है सही स्पेलिंग Kaashvi Srivastava है। D/o रंजित शुक्ला W/o नीलेश श्रीवास्तव R/o श्री दुर्गा नगर कालोनी, सरोजनी नगर लखनऊ।

### NOTICE

My Original Allotment Letter No.470/D/J.S-4 /KDA/13-14 Dated 11.12.13 of Property No. 5/C/412A Swarn Jayanti Vihar Kanpur Nagar Area 60 Sq.Mt. has been lost somewhere. \*Smt. Sumitra Devi Pal W/o Harish Chandra Pal R/o 130/230, Bagahi, T.P. Nagar, Kanpur Nagar. Mo. 7007591998

### NOTICE

I Amit Rai Jain Director Saikadam Foods Beverages Private Limited want to inform that my Form 38 bearing S.N. 3599413 and Form C bearing S. No. 0556543 is found missing from my office 109/106 A Model Houses Area, Lucknow from 23.06.2022. Please try to find the same as soon possible.

### NOTICE

It is informed to the general public that on 23/06/2022, the allotment letter of LDA's house of Mrs. Jagrani Devi's wife self: Shivraj Bharti, SS II, D1,699 LDA Colony, Kanpur Road, Lucknow has been lost. If you get the allotment letter, please kindly contact on the following number- 8601670423.

### NOTICE

I service no- 423177N Rank-SUB Vijay Shanker residing at 54 UP BN NCC 15/65 Civil line, Kanpur Nagar- Pin - 208001 (parents unit 7 mech Inf Regt., C/o 56 APO) have changed my name from Vijay Shanker to Vijay Shankar Dwivedi. Vide affidavit no. - GB841971 dated 28-06-2022, advocate & notary Kanpur Nagar.

### NOTICE

My Flat No. N-303, 2 BHK Signature Greens Vikas Nagar Kanpur Nagar, Original Free Hold Deed Book No.1/Volume No.114223 of Page 197 to 214 at Serial No. 10061Dated 30.10.2021 Registered at Sub-Registrar -2 Kanpur Nagar has been laminated by me. Hemant Tripathi S/O Late Ram Kumar Tripathi R/o 182 N-Bloc Kidwai Nagar Kanpur Nagar Mo.9984253434

## Nirahua calls on CM Yogi after Azamgarh victory



PNS ■ LUCKNOW

After winning the bypoll in Azamgarh, BJP leader Dinesh Lal Yadav 'Nirahua' met Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath on Tuesday and promised to take the district on the path of progress under the guidance of Prime Minister Narendra Modi. He was accompanied by Bhojpur artist Pravesh Lal Yadav and actor Amrapali Dubey.

They presented a statue of Lord Ram to Yogi. Later, talking to reporters, Nirahua said the CM asked him to do whatever required to take Azamgarh

forward on the path of development. "Time is less and responsibilities are more. I will do whatever is required," he said.

Hitting out at Samajwadi Party national president Akhilesh Yadav, Nirahua said: "When the SP wins, EVMs are alright but when it loses, they blame it on EVMs."

After meeting the CM, Nirahua also met BJP state president Swatantra Dev Singh at the latter's residence. He then reached the BJP office in Lucknow and also met BJP secretary (organisation) Sunil Bansal.

## Officials asked to review dev projects in Azamgarh, Rampur

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

Following the thumping victory in the byelections to Azamgarh and Rampur, considered to be the Samajwadi Party bastions, Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath has directed the officials concerned to review the ongoing development projects in the twin districts and ensure their timely completion.

"The Chief Minister's Office will directly monitor the development works in these districts," a government spokesman said here on Tuesday. Chairing a high-level review meeting on the completion of the first 100 days of the government on Tuesday, the chief minister expressed gratitude towards people.

He also discussed the BJP's unprecedented victory in Azamgarh and Rampur.

"In the Rampur and Azamgarh Lok Sabha bypolls, people have shown immense faith in the policies of Prime Minister Narendra Modi. Now, we have to live up to their trust," Yogi said in the meeting.

"All the departments should review the development projects in these two districts, keeping in mind that no project should remain pending," he said.

The Chief Minister's Office will also review the ongoing/pending development projects in these areas, he added.

Referring to the rich heritage of 'Hariharpur Gharana' of Azamgarh in classical music, the CM said it is more than 600 years old. In such a situation, in consultation with the eminent people of the music world, necessary proposals should be prepared in the interest of art and music lovers, Yogi said.

## ₹3,074.60 crore given to 27.59 lakh farmers

**Lucknow (PNS):** The UP government has transferred Rs 3,074.60 crore in the bank accounts of 27.59 lakh farmers as compensation on account of crop insurance under the Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana (PMFBY).

PMFBY is an ambitious scheme of the Central government that provides farmers with coverage and financial assistance in the event of crop failure due to natural disasters, pests, or diseases. PMFBY, launched in 2016-17, is globally the largest crop insurance scheme in terms of farmer

participation and third largest in terms of premium.

There will be a uniform premium of only 2% to be paid by farmers for all Kharif crops and 1.5% for all Rabi crops. In case of annual commercial and horticultural crops, the premium to be paid will be only 5%. This scheme has given great relief to the farmers. The UP government has implemented this scheme at the gram panchayat level in all the districts of the state.

In this scheme, crop insurance for the farmers obtaining agriculture loan is compulsory

ly included while for the rest of the farmers, the scheme is voluntary. During the tenure of the Yogi government, a total of 281.25 lakh insured farmers have got insurance for their crops. A compensation of Rs 3074.60 crore has been paid to 27.59 lakh farmers.

It also includes payment of crop compensation of Rs 654.85 crore to 7.02 lakh farmers in Kharif season 2021. In Rabi season 2021-22, an area of 14.21 lakh hectares has been insured by 19.90 lakh farmers, the process of compensation for which is going on.

## Govt bid to improve ambulance response time

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

To make UP's health infrastructure more robust, the Yogi Adityanath government has directed the officials concerned to ensure that people in every corner of the state get the benefits of the ambulance service. The Uttar Pradesh government has laid out the action plan for all district magistrates to keep a close watch on the arrangements of ambulance operations in their

respective districts. Furthermore, the government has asserted that strict action will be taken against those found guilty in any case of sudden death due to unavailability of ambulances. The administration has also been directed to ensure that under no circumstances should the patient or their families suffer. Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath is keeping the administration on its toes to make sure not a single person loses life because of the scarcity of ambulances or medical equipment.

## SP allies question political competence of Akhilesh

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

Trouble is brewing for the Samajwadi Party as its allies have started questioning the political competence of Akhilesh Yadav following the debacle in the Rampur and Azamgarh bypolls.

"The Samajwadi Party cannot afford to lose Azamgarh. Chaudhary Charan used to call Azamgarh as the centre of Samajwadi politics and that he could afford to lose Baghat, but Azamgarh never," Om Prakash Rajbhar, president of Suheldev Bhartiya Samaj Party, an ally of the SP.

"Akhilesh Yadav should come out of the comfort of air-conditioned rooms and hit the ground running. For the BJP, politics is a 24X7 engagement and the SP chief should also

borrow the idea from the ruling party — take the plunge and catch the bull of electoral politics by its horn," Rajbhar said.

"Akhilesh Yadav must have campaigned in Rampur and Azamgarh. If the engine remains stationary, how will the train move? Akhilesh visited Azamgarh nine times during the recent assembly elections and conducted 13 public meetings. But in the Lok Sabha bypolls, he did not visit the twin constituencies even once. The debacle in Rampur and Azamgarh will have ramifications for the SP in the 2024 Lok Sabha elections. Akhilesh should be more accessible to his party cadre and focus on strengthening the organisation at the grassroots level," Rajbhar added.

He said that the SP owes an explanation to its rank and file and the allies as to why its candidates fared poorly in Rampur and Azamgarh. Shivalp Yadav, the estranged uncle of Akhilesh Yadav, advised the SP president to honour the mandate given by the people of Rampur and Azamgarh.

"Nobody from the Samajwadi party contacted me for the Rampur and Azamgarh byelections and I have been sitting idle since UP assembly elections concluded in March," he said.

Sanjay Chauhan of Janwadi Socialist Party also slammed the SP chief. Questioning the style of functioning of Akhilesh, he said: "Akhilesh Yadav prefers to conduct his politics through social media, particularly through Twitter.

## Sibling duo attacked, brother dies

**Lucknow (PNS):** Throwing an open challenge before the law-enforcing agencies, local goons attacked a minor girl and her brother with sharp-edged weapons after being confronted for their amorous advances. The youth died while the girl was said to be battling for her life.

The sensational incident took place in Riyaz Colony under Thana Bhawan in Aligarh. Reports said that a 16-year-old girl was going to the village pond to call her brother who had gone fishing there on Monday evening.

On the way, she was intercepted by some local goons who molested her and attempted to rape her. In the meantime, her brother reached the scene and confronted the accused. They attacked the brother-sister duo with sharp-edged weapons and escaped after local villagers rushed to the victims' rescue.

The villagers shifted both

to a hospital where the youth was pronounced dead while the girl's condition was said to be critical. The police registered a case in this connection and sent the body for autopsy.

They also claimed to have arrested two of the accused but denied reports of molestation.

Meanwhile, in Agra, 12-year-old Dheeraj, who went missing on June 24 from Kasai village in Fatehabad area, was found murdered. Dheeraj's severed head was found lying in a millet field 300 meters away from his house on Monday. The family members suspected that he was murdered over an enmity.

Reports said that Dheeraj, son of farmer Gayadin, had left the house to play in the fields around 11 am on June 24. When he did not return till late evening, his family started searching for him. The next day, they lodged a case of his missing at the local police station.



# ‘Govt will remove barriers to credit flow in MSME sector’

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

Emphasising on the important role of the Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSME) sector in making India a \$5-trillion economy, Union Minister of State for MSME Bhanu Pratap Singh Verma said the government would remove all the barriers to credit flow in the sector.

The government was also committed to developing a better system of redressal and debt facilities, Verma said while addressing a session on ‘Making Indian MSMEs globally competitive through trade, finance and investment facilitation’, on the second day of the two-day ‘Uttar Pradesh MSME Convention-2022’ on Tuesday.

The programme was organised by Associated Chambers of Commerce and Industry of India (ASSOCHAM) in association with the Union Ministry of MSME. Hundreds of representatives of the MSME sector as well as organisations and companies providing finance and transportation facilities participated in the conference which commenced in Lucknow on World MSME Day.

The Union minister said that the MSME sector was being developed as a new engine of growth in the country and modernised through innovation and would be more competitive. He added that when the industry faced a crisis in terms of business, the government made many provisions for this sector.

“For instance, under the Emergency Credit Facility Guarantee Scheme (ECFGS), a provision of loan facility up to Rs 5 lakh crore has been made, whereas Credit Guarantee Fund Trust for Micro and Small Enterprises (CGTMSE) provides an additional credit of Rs 2 lakh crore,” he said.

Verma said the export business from the MSME sector is continuously increasing



Union Minister of State for MSME Bhanu Pratap Singh Verma at the ‘Uttar Pradesh MSME Convention-2022’ on the second day

with the contribution in the country’s exports now touching almost 50 per cent. It also accounts for about 30 per cent of the country’s GDP.

“In such a situation, the role of our MSME sector becomes important in strengthening India’s position in the global trade,” he said.

He added the industry had to move with times and must focus on adopting new-age technology, which also includes digitising systems, processes and operations in all aspects of the business to save time and expenses to result in quality goods and businesses functioning without interruption, and creation of new employment opportunities.

Emphasising on the need for rapid industrial development for making UP a thousand-billion dollar economy, CEO of Uttar Pradesh Expressways Industrial Development Authority (UPEIDA) Awanish Kumar Awasthi said it was necessary to also improve the quality of technical education.

In his address, Awasthi said that UP has a large number of educational institutions, but the quality of education in many of them is not as high as

it should be. Calling it a big challenge, he said it was important to focus on improving the quality of technical education as it would play an important part in UP’s rapid industrial development.

“After the completion of projects like Yamuna Expressway, Agra-Lucknow Expressway and Purvanchal Expressway in the state, work has now started on Bundelkhand Expressway, which is being built at a cost of Rs 15,000 crore. Work is also underway for the Ganga Expressway project. Industrial complexes will also be built along these expressways,” Awasthi said.

He asked ASSOCHAM to come forward and enter into a memorandum of understanding to suggest what type of industries could be set up along the expressways. He also stressed on promoting young entrepreneurs.

Infrastructure and Industrial Development secretary and CEO of Invest UP Abhishek Prakash said that considering the speed with which the interest of investors has increased in UP, the goal of creating a trillion-dollar economy would be a reality soon.

# 4-year-old boy dies as gate falls on him

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

In a freak incident, a 4-year-old boy was killed after the gate of his house fell on him in Indira Nagar on Monday afternoon. The deceased was identified as Naman Kushwaha of Bajrangbali Vihar Colony in the area. He had come back from school with his father and siblings and was standing near the gate which fell on him. His father Anil Kushwaha works as a clerk in a VIP guest house in Dalibagh area.

As per reports, Anil Kushwaha brought back his children from school by his bike on Monday afternoon. Naman rushed towards the house while Anil was helping his younger daughter dismount. Naman’s elder brother Dev opened one side of the gate and went inside. As

Naman opened the other side of the gate, it came crashing down on him. Naman was taken to a private hospital from where he was referred to RMLIMS. However, he succumbed to injuries the same evening.

Meanwhile, a car-borne man confronted a police team after being stopped at Civil hospital crossing in Hazratganj on Tuesday evening. A spokesman said the man, identified as Jitendra, was driving a damaged car and the police suspected that he was speeding off following some accident.

“The man confronted the cops when asked about the dents on the car,” the spokesman said. He denied reports that the man was carrying a pistol. He said the man was later taken to police station and was being quizzed.

## SLMEU delegation points out anomalies in transfer policy

**Lucknow (PNS):** A delegation of State Leprosy Medical Employees Union (SLMEU), Uttar Pradesh, met Director General, Medical and Health, Dr Ved Vrat Singh and submitted a memorandum regarding the anomalies in the transfer policy of the cadre.

Association president VD Arya said no appointment has been made in the leprosy cadre (direct appointment) for the last 25 years. “The nature of leprosy cadre is different from other cadres of the Health department and it cannot be grouped with other cadres as far as transfer policy is concerned,” Arya stated in the letter. There are 1,956 vacant posts in the NMA cadre.

# Youth in jail for fraud selected for S-I post

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

Selection of a youth during the recent recruitment of sub-inspectors in the Police department raised serious questions on the recruitment system. The youth was recruited even when he was lodged in jail. He was accused of clearing all the exams and even the verification with the help of a ‘solver’.

Interestingly, after the issue went viral on social media, the UP Police Recruitment and Promotion Board ordered an inquiry and also removed his name from the selection list and cancelled his recruitment.

UP Police Recruitment and Promotion Board

# Prime accused in rly contractor murder case once worked for Shahabuddin

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

The prime accused in the railway contractor murder case once worked for Bihar’s mafia-turned-politician Shahabuddin who died last year. The stunning revelation was made during the investigation of murder which took place in broad daylight in Cantonment on June 25.

Slain railway contractor Virendra’s wife Khushbu had lodged a case naming his ex-wife Priyanka apart from Firdaus and Bittu Jaiswal. She alleged that Priyanka hatched the conspiracy while Firdaus executed the murder.

“Firdaus worked for Shahabuddin and his aide in the past. He was also linked to other groups. We have got some link between a gang run by Shahabuddin’s aide and Firdaus, but it is still unclear if Firdaus was presently connected to Shahabuddin’s gang or aides,” ADCP (East) Qasim Abdi said.

After Shahabuddin’s death, his trusted ‘lieutenant’ Raees

Khan is said to be operating the gang. “Firdaus is a close aide of Raees Khan. He was also linked to another mafia Vinay Sharma who is active in east Bihar,” police sources said. They said four of the shooters of a gang operated by Shahabuddin’s aide executed the crime. The sources said the police got a footage which was sent to their counterparts in Bihar. “This way, the suspects were identified. The teams of Bihar police are helping the Lucknow police in tracking down the suspects,” the sources said.

Meanwhile, initial probe revealed that Virendra Thakur was not a saint either. He took to crime to rake in moolah in his yesteryears and established himself as a big contractor. The police said Virendra’s arch-rival Firdaus planted two women of West Bengal to honey-trap him. However, Virendra got a whiff of the plot and he refused to meet the women at Charbagh railway station where he was later attacked by Firdaus and his aides. Even though he had

survived, he was rendered bed-ridden. However, he continued doing the contract-related work in Bihar and UP.

Sources privy to the investigation said Virendra had a different name in Lucknow and kept a low profile to avoid coming in the eyes of his rivals.

Virendra was involved in a case of loot and the first case was registered against him at Shikarpur police station of Bihar in 1997.

In due course of time, he became a seasoned criminal and the big gangs of Bihar started hiring his services. In 2007, he was said to be involved in a case of murder over a railway contract.

In 2010, he directly confronted a local gangster, Vinay Sharma, who enjoyed a monopoly in terms of railway contracts. Later, he avoided direct confrontation with the local gangsters in Bihar.

He was shot dead by three masked men at his house after locking his wife and minor sons in a room in Cantonment police station area on June 25.

# In a first, rib plasty system used at SGPGI for ear reconstruction

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

A rib plasty system was used for the first time at SGPGI on a girl with ear deformity. Doctors said that the reconstruction of the ear was successfully accomplished in the 12-year-old from UP, opening up a lot of possibilities for not only those undergoing rib reconstruction but also those with rib fracture.

Head of Plastic Surgery department, Sanjay Gandhi Post-Graduate Institute of Medical Sciences, Prof Rajeev Agarwal said the girl had a lop ear, a condition in which the upper part of the ear gets folded on the lower part leading to an unsightly deformity which is odd to look at and also covers the ear hole.

He said ribs are an important source of graft material for bony reconstruction and rib grafts are commonly used for reconstruction of nose.

“Besides, rib grafts are also useful for reconstruction of ear where the rib cartilage provides the framework for the ear. Taking out the rib is always a challenging and delicate operation where the surgeon has to operate very close to the lungs and there is always the risk of injury to the lungs,” he said.

He further said that many techniques are currently practised for taking out the rib graft but the disadvantage of all these techniques is that after the rib has been taken out from the rib cage, there is a large gap left behind in the thoracic cage. “This large gap makes the rib cage vulnerable to external injury and may also hamper the respiration of the patient if a large piece of rib is taken or multiple ribs are taken,” he added.

Prof Agarwal said that a US-based company has introduced the Matrix rib fixation system where after the taking of the rib grafts, the defect left can be bridged with the help of very specialised plates and screws. “These plates are made of titanium and are specially bent and curved to mimic the shape of the ribs. These plates are useful to cover the defect left behind after taking out the rib graft,” he explained.

“The technique of taking out large parts of the rib without interfering with the function of the remaining ribs opens up new avenues for a large number of patients who have to undergo resection of ribs for making or improving the appearance of many important parts of the face,” he said.

He added that the technique of plating the rib requires special training and experience and cannot be performed by inexperienced surgeons.

“It involves operating on the rib while the patient is under anaesthesia but the chest cavity is continuously moving with the breathing of the patient. It involves drilling holes in the ribs which are not stationary but are constantly in movement. It is tricky and require utmost care and precision. Moreover, due to the presence of the underlying lung, there is constant risk of the power drill puncturing the lung during the process,” he said.

“Traditionally, patients with rib fractures are offered no surgical treatment and they have to wait for 4-6 weeks with just chest strapping. In this treatment, there is a lot of pain even after the chest strapping,” he pointed out.

Prof Agarwal said the new technique of rib plating overcomes all these problems and can be very useful in patients with chest trauma having single or multiple fractured ribs.

“These implants are 1.5 mm in thickness and come with special instruments for plate cutting, bending and contouring. Rib defects of any length and magnitude can be reconstructed with the help of these implants. The plates are specially coloured for right and left side rib reconstruction and have special drill bits to ensure that the lung is not punctured. The implants are 100% biocompatible and can remain in the body for an indefinite period without causing any harmful effects,” he said. The operation lasted for four hours and the operating team consisted of Prof Rajiv Agarwal, Dr Sanjay Kumar, Dr Divya Srivastava and Dr Bhupesh Gogia.

# Minister urged to set up mango processing units in Malihabad

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

Speaking at the inauguration of ‘Mango Mela’, Minister of State for Horticulture (independent charge) Dinesh Pratap Singh asked the farmers to take benefit of technologies developed by CISH scientists as it would go a long way in strengthening the mango industry in this belt. He said that the government would leave no stone unturned to ensure that mango processing units were established in the region to help mango farmers.

He congratulated the scientists of the institute for their help in conservation of farmers’ varieties of mango and their registration through PPVFRA.

The main attractions of the fair, organised by the Central Institute for Subtropical Horticulture on Rehmankhara campus, include the showcas-

ing of diverse mango varieties, mango eating competition, mango symposium for farmers/entrepreneurs, mango food festival, CISH museum, and tonga rides around the Rehmankhara farm having collection of more than 700 different mango varieties.

Earlier, CISH acting director Neelima Garg welcomed the dignitaries, farmers, entrepreneurs and visitors. Speaking about the CISH mango technologies in general and mango processing in particular, she said the objective of the fair is to help and sensitise mango farmers about the technologies and conservation of local mango varieties. The institute helps the farmers in registering such local varieties.

She also requested the minister to establish mango processing units in Malihabad mango belt to help the farmers. Garg also said that in the

mango diversity show, 150 exhibits were presented by CISH while 250 by local farmers and farmer-producer organisations.

The guest of honour on the occasion was Haji Kalimullah Khan, who exhorted the farmers not to spray toxic insecticides at the time of full bloom in mango. “Indiscriminate use of pesticides has harmed the ecosystem in a big way,” he said.

He said pesticides should only be sprayed in proper doses at right time.

Upendra Singh, from Malihabad shared his success story of mango marketing and fruit bagging. A ‘kisan goshti’ was also organised on post-harvest handling, processing and marketing. A total of 20 stalls were put up by various agencies, KCVs, FPOs, etc while 600 farmers, mango entrepreneurs and mango processors attended the event.

## CITYBRIEFS

### SCHOLARSHIP

University of Arizona, USA, has offered a US\$ 60,000 scholarship to Anubhav Tiwari, a student of City Montessori School, Aliganj Campus I, for pursuing higher studies. The scholarship will be provided to him during the four-year undergraduate course. Anubhav credited his teachers and the educational environment in school for his achievement. CMS founder Jagdish Gandhi congratulated him and wished him success in future endeavours.

### DONATED



President of SBI Ladies Club, Lucknow Circle, Madhvi Khanna donated refurbished furniture to Shree Gurudwara Prabandhak Committee in a function organised at Sadar Gurudwara on the occasion of ‘Daan Utsav’ on Tuesday. Committee president Harpal Singh expressed gratitude for this support and acknowledged other charity works being undertaken by SBI Ladies Club.

# Government to set up 17 new airports in UP

**Lucknow (PNS):** The state government will soon come up with 17 new airports to enhance connectivity. The aim is to build an ‘Atmanirbhar Bharat’ and the government is committed and working constantly to reduce foreign dependency. Our country was dependent on foreign countries for the repair and maintenance of airplanes and choppers but the government will soon bring the facility in Noida where the airplanes will be serviced and repaired. Deputy Chief Minister Brajesh Pathak said while speaking at a conference organised by the PHD Chamber of Commerce and Industry, UP Chapter, in collaboration with Safety Controls and Devices Pvt Ltd.

It was a meaningful and interactive conference and expo on Uttar Pradesh Industrial Safety (HSE), fire safety and disaster response. The chief guest on the occasion was Pathak, who encouraged the attendees and stakeholders for more preparedness and awareness towards industrial hazards, safety practices and equipment. He said the chances of dangers and accidents tend to increase hand in hand with the size of the industry unit,

and therefore, it becomes significant to incorporate more and more awareness and protection protocols in any given unit.

Pathak said that awareness towards the hazards gain more importance in the rural areas where the usage of LPG is still novel and is picking up momentum. He said the government has been able to create a safer and healthier ambience, and the same is reflected when women and senior citizens are seen moving out on the roads confidently and fearlessly.

ACS, Home, Awanish Kumar Awasthi said the government is taking proactively towards prevention of industrial hazards, especially fire accidents which are the most common in the industries.

He said that a lot of industrial accidents and hazards can be prevented if only proper heed is given on the safety control part and awareness trainings are held for workers. “The Fire Services department has been successful in setting up fire stations in all the tehsils of the state and is aiming to set up more fire stations in all the 819 blocks of the state to reduce fire incidents,” he added.

**बैंक ऑफ़ इंडिया**  
**BANK OF INDIA**

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**E- AUCTION Sale Notice**  
**30.07.2022**

**E-AUCTION SALE NOTICE FOR SALE OF IMMOVABLE ASSETS UNDER Sarfaesi Act, 2002** (read with provision to Rule 8(6) OF The Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002) **TO BE HELD ON 30.07.2022 FROM 11.00 A.M TO 5.00 P.M.**


Notice is hereby given to the public in general and in particular to the Borrowers/Guarantors that the below mentioned immovable properties secured assets are mortgaged/charged to the secured creditor (Bank of India) Whereas under section 13(2) of securitization and reconstruction of Financial assets Enforcement of security interest Act-2002, the Authorized Officers have issued demand notice for recovery of sum from the borrowers/guarantors/mortgagors (herein referred to as borrowers) as per detail given below against each borrower. Further, in excesses of power contained in Securitization and reconstruction of financial assets and enforcement of security interest, 2002, the authorized officers have taken symbolic possession of the under mentioned secured assets. Whereas sale of secured assets in to be made through Public e-auction of recovery of secured debts due to Bank of India from the borrowers as per the demand notice plus, further interest, cost and charges incurred by the bank thereon, less recoveries of any, thereafter, The general public is invited to bid either personally or duly authorized agent.

Name of the Borrower/ (Co-Borrowers)/ Guarantors/ Address	Date of Demand Notice Outstanding Amount (Date of Possession) Status	Description of Secured Assets
M/s Maheshwari Floor Mill, (Proprietor- Mrs. Asha Gupta) Add.: Kaula, Jakhaniya, Ghazipur, Proprietor/Borrower- Mrs. Asha Gupta w/o Munnu Lal Gupta, Add.: VIII-Jakhaniya Govind, Post-Jakhaniya, Ghazipur, Guarantor- (1) Mr. Munnu Lal Gupta s/o Jagannath Gupta, (2) Mr. Pankaj Gupta s/o Munnu Lal Gupta, Add.: VIII-Jakhaniya Govind, Post-Jakhaniya, Ghazipur, (3) Mr. Ajit Kumar Rai s/o Ramji Rai, Add.: VIII- Bawadi, Post-Sohlapur, Ghazipur	05.01.2018 Rs. 26,32,287.10/- UCI 07.08.2018 Symbolic Possession	EQM of Property Arazi No.30, Mauza- Kaula Jakhaniya, Pargana- Shadiyabad, Tehsil- Jakhaniya, Dist- Ghazipur, Sale deed no. 783, Area 485.00 sqm. in the name of Mrs. Asha Gupta W/o Munnu Lal Gupta Boundary- North- Road, South-Property of Munnu Lal Gupta, East-Property of Ramji Gupta, West- Property of Munnu Lal Gupta Reserve Price (in lacs) : <b>Rs. 9.88</b> EMD (in lacs) : <b>Rs. .988</b>
		EQM of Property Arazi No.30, Mauza- Kaula Jakhaniya, Pargana- Shadiyabad, Tehsil- Jakhaniya, Dist- Ghazipur, Sale deed no. 1437, Area 505.58 sqm. in the name of Mrs. Asha Gupta W/o Munnu Lal Gupta Boundary- North- Pitch Road, South-Property of others, East-Property of Jagannath, West- Property of Property of Jagannath Reserve Price (in lacs) : <b>Rs. 34.76</b> EMD (in lacs) : <b>Rs. 3.48</b>

**TERMS & CONDITIONS:** 1. Auction sale/bidding would be only through "Online Bidding process" on AS IS WHERE IS and AS IS WHAT IS BASIS through the website: E-Auction Portal <http://www.mstcecommerce.com>. 2. Date and time of e-auction is 30.07.2022 (11.00 AM to 05.00 PM) with Auto-Extensions of 10 minutes each). The interested bidders who want to get registered with the website and to submit the EMD require assistance in creating Login ID & Password, uploading data, submitting bid, training on a bidding process etc., may contact M/s MSTC Ltd at 033-22909894, 033-22877557 OR Mail id: msteindia@msteindia.co.in and for any property related query may contact Officials of Zonal Office Mr. Deepak Tripathi at 8299243550. For detailed terms and conditions of the sale, please refer to the link provided in <https://www.bankofindia.co.in/DynamicTender> & <https://www.biaip.in>.

**30 days statutory sale notice of subsequent sale to borrowers/guarantors under rule 8(6) read with rule 9(1) of the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002**

Date: 29.06.2022 Place: Ghazipur Authorised Officer, Bank of India

**बैंक ऑफ़ बड़ोदा**  
**Bank of Baroda**

Regional Office, Kanpur Metro Region:  
118/330, 1st Floor, Gunti No. 5,  
Kaushalpuri, Kanpur - 12

**Position Notice** Branch : Ashok Nagar, Kanpur

Whereas the undersigned being the Authorised Officer of Bank of Baroda under the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 and in exercise of powers conferred under Section 13 (12) read with Rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 issued a demand notice calling upon the borrower & guarantor to repay the amount mentioned in the notice being with in 60 days from the date of receipt of the said notice.

The borrower/guarantor having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the borrowers/guarantors and the public in general that the undersigned has taken possession of the property described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on him/her under section 13 (4) of the said Act read with rule 8 & 9 of the said rules.

The borrower/guarantor in particular and the public in general are hereby cautioned not to deal with the property and any dealings with the property will be subject to the first charge of Bank of Baroda for amount & interest thereon.

The borrower's attention is invited to provision of sub-section (8) of 13 of the act, in respect of time available to redeem the secured assets.

Sl. No.	Name and Address of Borrower/Guarantor & Description of Mortgage Property & O/S Amount as per Demand Notice/Demand Notice Date & Possession Notice Date
1.	<b>Borrower : Shri Vijay Kumar Mishra S/o Shri Satish Chandra Mishra and Smt. Shikha Mishra W/o Shri Vijay Kumar Mishra, Both R/o : (1) MIG 156 Sector-4, Barra-2, Kanpur. (2) L-289, Keshavpuram, Awas Vikas-1, Kalyanpur, Kanpur (3) MIG-285, Keshavpuram, Awas Vikas-1 (Sector-M), Kalyanpur, Kanpur.</b> O/S Amount as per Demand Notice: <b>Rs. 31,73,500.07 + Intt. + Others Charges</b> <b>Property :</b> Plot No. M-285, Awas Vikas Yojna No. 1, Keshavpuram, Kalyanpur, Kanpur in the name of Shri Vijay Kumar Mishra S/o Shri Satish Chandra Mishra and Smt. Shikha Mishra W/o Shri Vijay Kumar Mishra. <b>Area :</b> 121.89 Sq. Mtr., <b>Bounded-North :</b> Plot No. M-311, <b>South :</b> 6 Mtr. Wide Road, <b>East :</b> Plot No. M-284, <b>West :</b> Plot No. M-286 <b>Demand Notice Date: 22-12-2021 • Date of Constructive Possession: 24-06-2022</b>
2.	<b>Borrower : M/s Priya Gramodyog Sansthan, Addess : 87/219, Acharya Nagar, Kanpur. Proprietor : Shri Hari Prasad Dubey S/o Late Ram Ajar Dubey, R/o : Plot No. 87-A Gangapur Road, Hora Kachhar, Mandhana, Kanpur. Guarantor : Smt. Kusum Dubey W/o Shri Hari Prasad Dubey, R/o : Plot No. 87-A Gangapur Road, Hora Kachhar, Mandhana, Kanpur.</b> O/S Amount as per Demand Notice: <b>Rs. 24,52,365.85 + Intt. + Others Charges</b> <b>Property :</b> Land Situated at Arazi No. 87, Village Hora Kachhar, Distt. Kanpur Nagar in the name of Smt. Kusum Dubey W/o Shri Hari Prasad Dubey. <b>Area:</b> 197.32 Sq. Mtr., <b>Bounded-North:</b> 7 Ft. 6 Inch Wide Chak Road, <b>South:</b> Part of Arazi No. 87, <b>East:</b> Part of Arazi No. 87, <b>West:</b> 12 Ft. 6 Inch Wide Chak Road. <b>Demand Notice Date: 22-12-2021 • Date of Constructive Possession: 24-06-2022</b>

**Date : 29-06-2022** **Place : Kanpur** **Authorised Officer**



# ‘MSMEs backbone of Indian economy’

PNS ■ KANPUR

Joint Director, MSME Vikas Santhan, VK Verma while addressing a function at MSME Bhawan said it was the right time to become a entrepreneurs, especially women, and added that women who feel that they can open their boutique can avail themselves of the facility through MSME loans. He said special loan camps will be held soon to provide loan to those who were keen to run their boutiques. He said the Centre was providing all possible help to provide them patent and set up their own trademark. He said the projects set up by women entrepreneurs were about 30 per cent of total

projects set up under PMEGP and under the scheme women entrepreneurs were covered under special category and were entitled to 25 and 35 per cent subsidies for the project set up in urban and rural areas respectively. He said women entrepreneurs had a tremendous impact on India's social and economic demographics as a result of their growing presence. He said hundreds of families had benefited from women's participation in the labour field which had resulted in the development of jobs. Verma said MSMEs were the backbone of Indian economy employing women throughout the country and said yet women accounted for

only 13.76 per cent of all entrepreneurs in India. He said despite the fact that the number of male entrepreneurs had surpassed millions the number of female entrepreneurs was still too less. He said MSME suggested that female entrepreneurs not only should start businesses but also employ others. He said women's entrepreneurship was concerned with women's social status and their function as entrepreneurs within that society. He said it also denoted the contribution of women entrepreneurs to the country's gross domestic product (GDP) through the establishment of businesses and the production of products and services. He

said women entrepreneurs add energy to the market because of their entrepreneurial activity. He said they also contributed to the country's increased national GDP in this way. He said women now have '4 Es': electricity, electronics, energy and engineering. He said Indian women had come a long way and they were now more visible and successful in many domains, having progressed from kitchen to higher levels of professional pursuits. Verma said today women entrepreneurs are becoming a force to be reckoned with in the corporate world and they are doing so not only to survive but also to satisfy their inner desire for creativity and

to demonstrate their abilities. He said educated women were making a significant contribution to societal development and more women will be entering into previously male-dominated areas in the future. He said now a number of government and bank initiatives were explicitly aimed at enhancing women's financial independence. Women entrepreneurs have had a tremendous impact on India's social and economic demographics as a result of their growing presence. Millions of families have benefited from women's participation in the field of labour which has resulted in the development of jobs.

# ‘Poshan Pathshala’ on June 30

PNS ■ KANPUR

District Programme Officer DP Singh as per the directive of the Health Department a 'Poshan Pathshala' will be conducted all over the state on June 30. He said the second phase was being conducted under ICDS (Integrated Child Development Scheme) and will be held virtually. He said specialist from KGMU, Lucknow, Dr Mala Kumar along with other doctors and paramedical staff will hold a session from 12.00 noon to 2.00 pm. He said it was a matter of concern that majority of women even in urban areas were unaware of the right technique of breast-

feeding and this programme will end with a question-and-answer session. Addressing the press Dr Prabha said when many new mothers were unable to properly breastfeed the babies and first and foremost was latching and positioning and the right way to hold a baby and then sustaining that latch and position throughout the nursing session was highly necessary. She said the traditional breastfeeding was cradle hold where the mother held the baby's body with the arm nearest to the nursing breast. She said they need to gently cradle their back with forearm and make sure the baby was tummy to tummy and their head turned toward

the chest. She said another was to hold the baby's body with the opposite arm from the nursing breast. She said another method was laidback breastfeeding and this position tapped into the baby's biological instincts to feed and it was really comfortable for the mother as well. She said for older baby who had some head and neck control one had different position. She said the paramedical staff must ensure that they assisted the mother to ensure the baby latched and was fed on breast milk the moment it was born. She advised the mothers to ensure they took part in the virtual session to be held on Wednesday.

# Digital journalism need of today's world: V-C

PNS ■ KANPUR

The Chhatrapati Shahu Ji Maharaj University (CSJMU) started a new platform for digital world to meet the demands of this digital era. The varsity, one of the fastest digital growing university, in Uttar Pradesh had launched several digital journalism courses. The University will start its online course of journalism and mass communication for the session 2022-23. Vice-Chancellor Prof Vinay Pathak said digital journalism was the need of today's world and the varsity had realised the need. He said

every person wanted to become a journalist directly and indirectly and today's world was of digital and one must possess a mobile phone, a good internet connection and basic knowledge of editing software. He said the Department of Journalism and Mass Communication will start this new journalism course which was quite affordable. He said the objective of the varsity was to enhance the skills of students by teaching digital tools and techniques. The V-C said Corona played a crucial role in digital learning and teachers who were not so much familiar

with online tools and techniques were now professionals. Media incharge Vishal Sharma said varsity wanted to make digital journalists know how to compile videos, audios images and graphics together into compelling brief multimedia articles or 'packages' as they were known in newspaper for broadcast or online. He said journalists can make their work look more professional by understanding camera fundamentals, proper framing and lighting which did not cost them any extra. He said it had also become more common for journalists to be able to use appropriate post production software to

add graphics and improve video and sound. He said numerous lucrative employment prospects are available in journalism and mass communication. He said the varsity produced the most sought after professionals and business owners to meet the worldwide demands of these rapidly emerging industries. He said the university had started MA in digital journalism which had 30 seats and after doing this course students can go into the field of digital content writer, digital photojournalist, digital graphic artist broadcast reporters, media managers and digital marketing experts.

# AU to charge more money for transcript

PNS ■ PRAYAGRAJ

Now, the students of Allahabad University (AU) will have to shell out more money for the back paper, transcript, degree-fine, duplicate degree, duplicate mark-sheet from Allahabad University. Now the university will charge more fees from the students for this. This fee will be effective only on the students taking admission in the session 2022-23. This fee hike will not be applicable to the students who are studying. In Allahabad Central University, along with examination fees, the increase in fees in other items has also been approved. Duplicate degree and PhD examination fees have also been increased. However, efforts have been made to provide relief to the students by not increasing the fee in many items. Apart from the

educational fees, there has been some increase in the fees in other items. The back paper fee for UG and PG students has been increased to 500 in the fee charged in Allahabad University miscellaneous (other items). Similarly, the students of undergraduate, postgraduate, the fee for the back paper examination has been made one thousand rupees. To view the answer sheet of the entrance exam, a fee of Rs 200 will have to be paid. The transcript fee per set has been fixed at Rs 2,000 and PhD examination fee of Rs 10,000. Convocation, registration, name modification on mark-sheet and duplicate migration fees remain the same. Talking about the items of academic fees, the tuition fee for undergraduate and postgraduate semester courses coming under the new education policy will be Rs 600, development fee will be one thousand

rupees. The examination fee for most of the courses has been made Rs 1500. The examination fee for selected courses will be Rs 2,000. Library fee has been reduced to Rs 500, Garib Vidyarthi Fund Rs 100, Identity Card fee to Rs 200 and Athletics fee have been made Rs 250. The protest has started against the decision of the Allahabad Central University to increase the fees. Akhil Bharatiya Vidyarthi Parishad (ABVP) held a meeting and decided to submit a memorandum to withdraw the fee hike. The decision to protest against the fee hike was taken amidst the ongoing sit-in demonstration at the student union office regarding the student union elections. ABVP AU Unit President Shivam Singh said that forcibly imposing fee hike on the students is playing with the academic future of the students.

# S-I knocked down by car

PNS ■ KANPUR

A bike-borne sub-inspector (S-I) was fatally knocked down by a speeding car on Gajner-Nabipur Road under Akbarpur Kotwali police station area of Kanpur Dehat on Tuesday. Due to powerful collision one of his limbs got detached from the body. Superintendent of Police (Kanpur Dehat) Suniti rushed to the spot and took stock of the situation. Sub-Inspector Shivendra Singh (28) of Friends Colony, Bhim Nagar, Etawah, was posted in the office SP (Dehat). He was living in UPSIDC Colony on rent. On Tuesday when he was going to Mati on a bike he was knocked down by a speeding car and it hit a pile of wood on the roadside. When the local residents reached there, the car driver escaped leaving his vehicle on the spot. Shivendra's left limb got detached from the body which led to his killing on the spot. SP Suniti and ASP Ghanshyam Chaurasia reached the district hospital and from there to the spot of the incident and took stock of the situation from the cops. The marriage of Shivendra was scheduled to be held in November. His father RS Bhaskar was appraised about the incident on phone. A pall of gloom descended on the colleagues of Shivendra. SP Suniti said an FIR would be lodged against the car driver. After guard of honour, the body would be handed over to the kin of the deceased, she said.

# IIT (BHU) library named after Deshpande

PNS ■ VARANASI

The main library of Indian Institute of Technology (BHU) has been named after Shreenivas Deshpande, a 1948 graduate in Industrial Chemistry of the erstwhile College of Technology BHU, now IIT (BHU). This was made possible through a generous gift of USD 1 million (Rs 7.5 crore) to the IIT (BHU) Foundation, a US-based all volunteer, non-profit organisation, by Boston-based renowned entrepreneur and philanthropist Desh Deshpande and his wife Jaishree Deshpande, the son and daughter-in-law of Shreenivas Deshpande respectively. The naming ceremony was held at IIT (BHU) here recently with dignitaries being joined by guests from US and India through video conferencing. IIT (BHU) Director Prof

Pramod Kumar Jain said that this is in recognition of Shreenivas Deshpande's exemplary contributions in both public and private service. "This invaluable contribution to the institute would help us grow in various capacities. We hope to thrive, advance, and flourish through the contribution and ensure a quality environment for the development of the students. We also hope that we provide them with an environment that allows them to explore the complexities involved in the world of science and technology," he said. The ceremony was also attended by Vice Chancellor of Banaras Hindu University (BHU) Prof Sudhir K Jain, Dean (Resource and Alumni) Prof Rajeev Srivastava, all other deans and professor in-charge and deputy librarian of IIT

(BHU) library. It was also participated through virtual media by Shreenivas Deshpande himself, along with his family members including Desh and Jaishree. In his address, Shreenivas Deshpande recalled his time at the institute when India gained independence from the British. He also remembered the mess food and hoped that current students were getting as good a food as he had during his student life. Both Desh and Jaishree talked about the significance of education and the impact it could have on society. Speaking at the ceremony, BHU VC shared with all the little-known facts that BHU was endowed with INR 51 lakh by its founder the late Pandit Madan Mohan Malviya, which has been kept as it was around 100 years back. He acknowledged how

that history lives today through the action of the alumni. The attendees were also addressed by Narayan Murthy (founder of Infosys) and Sudha Murthy, Jay Chaudhary (founder/ chairman of Zscaler and a distinguished alumnus). IIT (BHU) Foundation president Arun Tripathi and foundation's board member Ramesh Srinivasan (President/CEO of Agilyss) thanked the Deshpande family for their generous support to the institute. Prof Rajeev Sivastava coordinated the event and at last, proposed the vote of thanks to the Deshpande family. Aishwarya Saxena, a student of B Tech (final year of Mining Engineering department) and convener of Student Alumni Interaction Cell (SAIC) expressed his thanks on behalf of the IIT (BHU) student community.

# Demonstration by auto, e-rickshaw drivers

Varanasi (PNS): The auto and e-rickshaw drivers on Tuesday demonstrated in protest against the decision taken by the Municipal Corporation to cancel the contract of auto and e-rickshaw stand at Benia Bagh and demanded the restoration of the old system. The auto and e-rickshaw drivers in scores gathered at the office of corporation in Sibra, here and staged a demonstration to raise their voices against the corporation's decision to cancel the contract of auto and e-rickshaw stand. There was a stand of auto and e-rickshaw at Beniabagh tri-junction where the drivers upload and download the passengers comfortably without causing any inconvenience to traffic, they said and lamented but after the corporation cancelled the contract of the stand, it is causing the traffic jam because there is no proper system to park the auto and e-rickshaw. The stand at Benia Bagh was the only stand where the drivers of auto and e-rickshaw take the passengers most of devotees and pilgrims from various places such as Cantt railway station, roadways, Pandeypur, Kutchery and Maidagin, they said and added that but after the cancellation of the contract of the stand, the drivers are facing problems. Moreover, the traffic police are also harassing them, they added.



State Information Commissioner AK Uprety hearing grievances of people in Varanasi on Tuesday.

Pioneer

# Heart attack, BP could be prevented by making changes in lifestyle



PNS ■ VARANASI

The physicians associated with Association of Physicians of India (API), Varanasi Chapter said, 'The serious diseases like heart attack, blood pressure and diabetes could be avoided by making a positive change in their lifestyle.' The API, Varanasi Chapter held its annual conference 'KASHICON-2022' here on Sunday in which

around 100 physicians of Varanasi and adjoining districts participated and presented their research papers. They mainly discussed the diseases such as hypertension, diabetes, asthma, COPD, heart disease and headache. Dr Hemant Gupta informed about ERCP and pancreas while the organising secretary Dr Alok Kumar Singh informed about heart disease and their complications

and said that the diseases of heart attack, diabetes and blood pressure could be avoided by bringing a positive change in their lifestyle. Dr Utsav Samaria apprised of the measures to be followed to keep lung healthy and Dr Preeti Agrawal shared information about retina and diabetes, while Dr Monika Gupta discussed the diseases in women and their diagnosis. Dr AK Singh informed about the diseases in old age. Prof

RN Chaurasia informed about headache and Dr Tribhuvan Gupta talked about the kidney disease and dialysis. The organising chairman Dr Manoj Kumar Srivastava conducted the conference and Dr Gulab Singh welcomed the participants. The association honoured the former director of Institute of Medical Sciences (IMS), Banaras Hindu University (BHU) Prof VP Singh with Life Time Achievement Award.

<b>यूनियन बैंक ऑफ इंडिया</b> अधिकृतित्व प्राप्त  <b>आगरा</b> Agra		<b>Union Bank of India</b> A member of the Indian Consortium  <b>अहमदाबाद</b> Ahmedabad Corporation		<b>Regional Office : 117/H-1/240, Pandu Nagar, Kanpur</b> <b>Head Office : 239, Vidhan Bhawan Marg, Nariman Point, Mumbai</b>	
<div><b>POSSESSION NOTICE (For Immovable Properties)</b></div> <div>[Rule-8(1)]</div> <p>Whereas The undersigned being the authorized officer of Union Bank of India, under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement Security Interest Act, 2002 and in exercise of powers conferred under Section 13 (12) read with rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 issued a demand notice calling upon borrowers/guarantors/mortgagors of account to repay the amount mentioned in the notice being of dues with contractual rate of interest within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said notice.</p> <p>The borrower/guarantor having failed to repay the amount in full, notice is hereby given to the borrower/guarantor and public in general that the undersigned has taken possession of the property described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on him u/s. 13(4) of the said Act read with rule 8 of the said rules. The borrower/guarantor in particular and the public in general is hereby cautioned not to deal with property and any dealing with the property will subject to the charge of Union Bank of India, for an Amount and Interest thereon.</p> <p>We also wish to draw kind attention of all concerned towards section 13(8) of the Act in respect of time available to redeem the secured assets.</p>					
<b>Sl. No.</b>	<b>Name and Address of Borrower/Guarantor &amp; Description of Mortgage Property and O/S Amount as per Demand Notice/Demand &amp; Possession Notice Date</b>				
<b>1.</b>	<b>Borrower : M/s New Janta JA Firm, Proprietor : Shri Abdul Jameel S/o Shri Abudl Aziz, Address : House No. 163/1, Pardesi Mohalla Singarra, Jhansi. Guarantor : Shri Azad Khan S/o Late Nanhe Khan, R/o : Bada Kunwa, Pardesi Mohalla Singarra, Jhansi. Branch : Sadar Bazar, Distt. Jhansi Demand Notice Date: 23.03.2022 • Date of Constructive Possession: 23.06.2022 Property : Land and Building situated at Arazi No. 6, Mauza Singarra, Jhansi. Owner of Property : Shri Abdul Jameel S/o Shri Abudl Aziz, Area : 1260 Sq. Ft., Bounded -North : 15 Ft. Road, South : Field of Aziz Khan, East : Plot of Smt. Rabia Khan, West : Plot of Seller. O/s Amount as per Demand Notice : Rs. 10,24,528.00 + Intt. + Others Charges</b>				
<b>2.</b>	<b>Borrower : Shri Abdul Jameel S/o Shri Abudl Aziz, R/o : House No. 163/1, Singarra, Post Bhattagaon, Jhansi. Guarantor : Shri Azad Khan S/o Late Nanhe Khan, R/o : Ward No. 23, Singarra, Post Bhattagaon, Jhansi. Branch : Nagar Nigam, Distt. Jhansi Demand Notice Date: 05.04.2022 • Date of Constructive Possession: 23.06.2022 Property : Residential Plot Part of Arazi No. 6, situated at Mauza Singarra, Distt. Jhansi. Owner of Property : Shri Abdul Jameel S/o Shri Abudl Aziz, Area : 1584 Sq. Ft., Bounded -North : Way, South : Khet of Aziz, East : Plot of Others, West : Plot of Abdul Jameel. O/s Amount as per Demand Notice : Rs. 12,96,730.21 + Intt. + Others Charges</b>				
<b>Date : 29-06-2022</b>		<b>Place : Jhansi</b>		<b>Authorised Officer, Union Bank of India</b>	

# Man commits suicide

PNS ■ KANPUR

A man committed suicide by shooting himself in front of his house in Motinagar locality of Patara town under Ghatampur Kotwali police station on Tuesday morning. Police immediately rushed to the spot and seized the pistol. His body was sent for an autopsy. Exact cause of the incident could not be ascertained. However, kin informed that the he was upset after losing his job. Investigation was on in the matter. Shiv Saran Singh alias Tannu (29), a native of Tarangav village, was sitting in front of his house on Tuesday morning. Suddenly he shot himself on the temple from a blank point range and succumbed to his bullet injury on the spot. On hearing the gunshot, panic prevailed in the locality. Family members immediately came out of the house and got upset after seeing the body. Villagers informed the police which rushed to the spot and recovered 315 bore pistol from the spot. Police also called the forensic experts to carry out investigation. Circle Officer (CO) Sushil Dubey said investigation was on in the matter. After the death of Shivsaran, his wife, Sonam, fell unconscious.

She has two sons — Shiv and Shivam. Shivsaran was employed in a studio but after losing his job recently was going through mental tension which may have prompted him to end his life, kin said.

MEMORANDUM: The members of Pensioners' Forum have demanded the immediate transfer of a doctor posted in CGHS department in the city. A delegation led by its general secretary Anand Awasthi met additional director, CGHS, Dr Hari Singh on Tuesday and handed over him a memorandum addressed to Union Health and Family Welfare Minister Mansukh Mandaviya on the subject. He threatened to launch agitation if the doctor was not removed from here within next 15 days. After going through the memorandum, Additional Director Dr Hari Singh assured to apprise the CGHS headquarters of the matter and recommend his shifting from Kanpur forthwith. The delegation comprised Rajesh Shukla, Sahab Din Yadav, Satya Narain, Vinay Prakash Upadhyaya, BP Srivastava, Subhash Bhatia, RP Mishra, Raj Babu Ninoria, Munshi Pandit, Chandra Shekhar, Ram Sewak and KK Srivastava.

# CME on renal diseases

PNS ■ KANPUR

Director, Renal Sciences, Regency Hospital, Dr Nirbhay Kumar while addressing a CME on renal diseases on Tuesday said Kanpur has over 40,000 kidney patients who now need dialysis. He said around 10 per cent of the total needed dialysis and transplant was conducted at the last stage and it was a costly affair. He said prerenal failure was used to designate a reversible form of acute renal dysfunction. He said the terminology encompassed several different conditions that varied considerably. He said lack of a widely accepted definition for prerenal failure made it impossible to determine the epidemiology, natural history and the association with adverse outcomes. He said new diagnostic and staging criteria for acute kidney injury proposed by the Acute Kidney Injury Network recognise that small increases in serum creatinine were associated with increased mortality. He added that

these criteria have not determined specific diagnostic criteria to classify prerenal conditions. He said prerenal state needed to be classified depending on the underlying capacity for compensation, the nature, timing of the insult and the adaptation to chronic comorbidities. He said identification of high risk states and high risk processes associated with the use of new biomarkers for AKI (Acute Kidney Injury) will provide new tools to distinguish between the prerenal and established AKI. He said this review provided an appraisal of the current status and recommendations for future research in this field. Dr Nirbhay said prerenal failure was widely accepted as a reversible form of renal dysfunction caused by factors that compromised renal perfusion. He said the term had been used as part of a dynamic process that began with a reversible condition, prerenal state and can progress to an established disease, acute tubular necrosis (ATN). He said the terminology encom-

passes different conditions that vary considerably in pathophysiology and course, including intravascular volume depletion, relative hypotension, compromised cardiac output or hepatorenal syndrome (HRS). He said diagnostic strategies had usually been based on demonstrating a fluid responsive change in renal function, however, the type, volume of fluid required and time for reversibility were not clearly designated. He said recent attempts to define and stage AKI have not specifically addressed this condition even though it was an integral part of the spectrum of AKI. Discussing the concept of kidney reserve— pre-prerenal state he said experimental models have largely informed our current understanding of the physiology of the kidney in various settings associated with prerenal failure. He said before the onset of clinically evident prerenal failure, kidney passed through a phase of remarkable compensation called pre-prerenal failure.



## Rain paralyses normal life in Kashi



Rain causes water-logging in Godowlia area in Varanasi on Tuesday evening.

Pioneer

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ VARANASI

After a gap of almost four days since the arrival of Monsoon, the city and adjoining districts of this belt of Purvanchal (eastern UP) received a good rain in later afternoon hours here on Tuesday, paralysing the normal life for hours due to water-logging in many areas. However, it gave a lot of relief to the

people from humidity and brought hope among the paddy farmers to start nursery sowing.

The rains also affected the flight movement in the late afternoon and evening hours as several flights were delayed as per the reports of Lal Bahadur Shastri International Airport, Babatpur.

The flights 6E-5349 from Mumbai, G8-767, W2-9299, both from Ahmedabad, SG-

3261 from Jaipur and SC-3262 from Patna were delayed. Rain also disrupted power supply for hours in many areas. At Andhrapul, several two-wheelers and three-wheelers were stranded and movement of vehicles was slowed down. In several other places including Teliabagh, Ravindrapuri Colony, Khojwa, Nawabganj and Mahmoorganj in the city areas apart from Godowlia and adjoining areas the rain

caused water-logging, slowing down the life activities there.

Due to rains, the markets wore a deserted look in the peak evening hours. Due to water-logging in many main markets including Godowlia, Dashashwamedh, Nai Sarak, Luxa and others, the movement of the people was restricted and the same disappointed the traders who were expecting a good evening rush of customers.

## Demand of ‘prasad’ through Speed Post rises: PMG

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ VARANASI

After the inauguration of A rejuvenated and transformed Shri Kashi Vishwanath temple, the demand for Lord Shiva's offering has also increased among the devotees across the country. Under an agreement signed between the Department of Posts and Shri Kashi Vishwanath Temple Trust, the prasad of KV temple is being made available through Speed Post service across the country. This service was re-launched with a new form in June 2020 and so far, about 4,500 people have been provided through the Postal department generating revenue of about Rs 10.13 lakh, informed Postmaster General (PMG) of Varanasi Region Krishna Kumar Yadav.

He was expressing these views while releasing a special poster for this service, which will be sent to the important Post Offices across the country so that more and more people can be benefited by getting the prasad of the KV temple at doorstep through Speed Post. 'At present, high demand of prasad is being received from Karnataka, Tamil Nadu,



PMG KK Yadav releasing a poster relating to prasad of KV temple in Varanasi on Tuesday.

Pioneer

Andhra Pradesh, Telangana, Gujarat, Maharashtra and Uttarakhand by the Department of Posts,' Yadav said.

According to him, the devotees residing in any corner of the country can order prasad of the temple through Speed Post. To avail this service, an e-money order of only Rs 251 has to be remitted from the nearest Post Office in the name of Senior Superintendent of Post Office, Varanasi (East) Division-221001. As soon as the e-money order is received,

the prasad will be sent through Speed Post to the addressee immediately. The packaged prasad will be in a tamper proof envelope, on which a replica of the postage stamp issued on the Ghat of Varanasi is inscribed. It cannot be tampered in any way. Apart from this, it can also be obtained from the Varanasi City Post Office counter for just Rs 201, said the PMG.

Senior Superintendent Post Office (Varanasi East Division) Rajan said that the devotees would get the details of Speed Post on mobile number

through SMS. For this, it will be mandatory for them to write their full address, pin code and mobile number in the e-money order.

On this occasion, Superintendent of Post Offices PC Tiwari, Assistant Director Dinesh Sah, Brijesh Sharma, Assistant Superintendent of Post Offices Ajay Maurya, Assistant Accounts Officer Santoshi Rai, Inspector Shrikant Pal, Ramchandra Yadav, Shri Prakash Gupta, Rajendra Yadav, Rahul Verma etc were also present.

## TPT a panacea in eradicating TB: CMO

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ VARANASI

Chief Medical Officer (CMO) Dr Sandeep Chaudhary said that TB Preventive Therapy (TPT) would prove to be a panacea in eradicating tuberculosis (TB) from the root as the government is making efforts at every level to make the country free from TB by 2025. 'In this direction, the Health department has taken another initiative. Under the National Tuberculosis Eradication Programme (NTEP), it has been decided that TB Preventive Therapy (TPT) given to children up to five years of age in the district will now be given to the family members of TB patients in the second phase which has already started in Varanasi,' he said.

District Tuberculosis Officer (DTO) Dr Rahul Singh said that TPT is now being given to the families of TB patients as well. 'The efforts of the organisations providing nutritional and emotional support are also seen to be positive. Along with the treatment of TB patients, cooperation in their nutrition is also necessary,' he

said, adding that for eradication of TB, along with the Health department, social organisations, general public, private doctors and others will have to come forward in a coordinated manner. 'All the officers and employees of the District Tuberculosis department are working to eradicate TB. Everyone is being screened for this therapy, because the staff of the TB department is in direct contact with TB patients, so the process will be completed to give therapy to the staff as well,' he added.

Medical officer of District Tuberculosis Center (DTC) located at Kabirchaura Dr Anvit Srivastava said that screening and investigation of relatives of TB patients and people coming in contact is being done. 'If TB symptoms are visible in a person in the investigation, then the treatment and therapy of the concerned person is also being done by the department. Preventive medicines are being provided free of cost by the DOTS centres,' he said, adding that if a person has lung TB, then he spreads TB to at least 15 people. Therefore, special attention needs to be paid to

the family members of the patients. Earlier, chemoprophylaxis therapy was given to patients who came in contact with active TB patients below the age of five years, but now every contact of TB patients will be given TPT after screening. **DR SRIVASTAVA SAID.**

**BOI LAUNCHES TERM DEPOSIT SCHEME WITH ATTRACTIVE RATE OF INTEREST:** Bank of India launched a 444 days term deposit scheme with an attractive interest rate of 5.50% per annum. The scheme is valid only for a limited period.

The BoI launched this special term deposit scheme on account of the bank's ensuing 117th Foundation Day to be celebrated on September 7 next with intent to reaffirm its commitment to pass on the benefits of policy rate changes towards its customers & general public, a press statement released by the bank stated.

In its endeavour to serve all sections of society viz. salaried, entrepreneurs, self-employed, farmers, etc, the bank has always taken all possible measures, keeping value for customers at the centre stage, the bank statement, adding that the

## Atala violence: High Court judge recuses herself from hearing

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ PRAYAGRAJ

After the Friday prayers on June 10, the Allahabad High Court heard the petition filed by Javed's wife in the matter of bulldozing the house of Javed Mohammad alias Javed Pump, accused and alleged mastermind in the case of violence in Atala area of Prayagraj. After hearing, the High Court has sought a reply from the Uttar Pradesh government on the action of the bulldozer in two days. The next hearing will be held on June 30.

A bench comprising Justice Anjani Kumar Mishra and Justice Syed Wiz Mian heard the petition filed against the operation of a bulldozer at the house of Javed Pump, accused of violence in Atala area of Prayagraj. In the petition, the wife of Javed Pump has alleged that the house was demolished arbitrarily. The High Court has sought a response from the state government and Prayagraj Development Authority (PDA) in the case of demolition of the house of Atala violence accused Javed Mohammad alias Javed Pump in Kareli. For this they have been given 48 hours.

Parveen Fatima, wife of Javed Pump, the mastermind of the Atala violence case, had filed a petition in the Allahabad High Court. In this, she has alleged that her house was demolished illegally by the PDA. She has demanded compensation for this.

The issue related to bulldoze the house of Javed Mohammad alias Javed Pump, accused in the case of violence after Friday prayers in Prayagraj has come to the Allahabad High Court. The Allahabad High Court has sought the response of the

## Accused remanded to police custody

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ PRAYAGRAJ

The police are tightening the noose on those who tried to throw the Sangamnagari Prayagraj into the fire of riots after the Friday prayers on June 10. Along with declaring reward on the absconding accused, the police is trying to uncover the secret of this case by taking the custody remand of the accused who are in jail. The accused Akhlaq and Abdul have been taken on custody remand by the police in the Atala violence case.

The police reached Naini jail on Tuesday and went to Kareli police station with Akhlaq and Abdul imprisoned there. There they are being interrogated. Akhlaq, a cleaning worker of the mosque in Kareli, was involved with many people in the Atala violence. The court has granted 24-hour police custody remand to both the accused.

On June 10, people who came out of the mosque in Atala area of Prayagraj after Friday prayers, set ablaze public property after stone-pelting. The state government has taken the matter of stone pelting and arson very seriously even after being ready by the police every-

where. Here in the case of violence, the accused are being continuously tightened. Police custody remand of two more accused has been approved in the Atala violence case.

After the remand of Mohammad Rehman along with Akhlaq Ali is approved, the police will take them in their custody from noon. The team of Khuladabad Kotwall will interrogate both of them by taking them on remand. Both of them were arrested on the basis of video footage. Both are currently lodged in Naini Jail of Prayagraj. On Monday, after the completion of the remand of the main accused Javed Mohammad alias Javed Pump, he was again sent to Deoria Jail.

Shah Alam, the District President of AIMIM Prayagraj, who is absconding in the case of violence during Friday prayers, has filed an application for anticipatory bail in the sessions court. The police has announced a reward of Rs 25,000 yesterday itself on the head of the absconding Shah Alam. Its anticipatory bail application will be heard in the Additional Sessions Court on July 1. A non-bailable warrant is issued against Shah Alam and a reward of Rs 25,000 has also been announced.

state government's advocate in the case of running a bulldozer at Javed Pump's house. Hearing was held in the High Court on Tuesday on the petition of Parveen Fatima, wife of Javed Pump, filed against the bulldozer action. Parveen Fatima alleged that the house was in her name while the notice was issued in the name of husband Javed Along with this, a demand has been made in the petition to get the house built again and take action against the alleged guilty officers. In this petition, the UP Government, Commissioner of Prayagraj Division DM and SSP of the district and Prayagraj Development Authority have been made par-

ties. In the petition, a complaint has also been made about the daughter being kept in police custody for two days.

The petition filed by Parveen Fatima, wife of Javed Mohammad alias Javed Pump, against the demolition of the house, was not heard on Monday. A division bench of Allahabad High Court Justice Sunita Agrawal and Justice Vikram D. Chauhan directed to produce the petition before another designated bench for hearing on Tuesday, June 28. Justice Sunita Aggarwal made herself aloof from the hearing after hearing that senior advocate Ravi Kant argued on behalf of the Prayagraj Development

Authority (PDA). The petitioner has challenged the legality of the PDA to demolish his house without following due process.

Terming the violence as a conspiracy, the mastermind Javed Mohammad alias Javed Pump has been arrested. His building has been demolished as illegal. The petitioner says that the building is in her name, it is not the building of Javed Pump. Demolition action of PDA is illegal.

Significantly, the Atala violence took place on June 10. In this case, on June 12, the police administration and PDA demolished the two-storey house of the master mind Javed Pump located in Kareli.

## Dy CMs attend terahvi of ex-min's mother

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ PRAYAGRAJ

Deputy Chief Ministers Keshav Prasad Maurya and Brajesh Pathak reached the house of former minister Mahendra Singh to attend the terahvi ceremony of his mother here on Tuesday in Karmahi village located in Pratapgarh.

On the occasion, there were a huge gathering of leaders and VIPs at his house on Tuesday. Both the deputy chief ministers paid floral tribute to the mother of former minister and expressed condolences to the family members. Along with them, BJP's State Organization Minister Sunil Bansal also expressed condolences. Indumati Singh, mother of former minister and MLC Dr. Mahendra Singh, resident of Karmahi village of Pratapgarh, died on June 16. Many big leaders were present on the occasion. Noida MLA Pankaj Singh, MLC Surendra Chaudhary, President of Buddhist Research Institute Bhadant Shanti Mitra, Sugarcane Development Minister Chaudhary Laxmi Narayan Singh also attended the programme. Former MPs



Deputy Chief Ministers KP Maurya and Brajesh Pathak attending 'terahvi' ceremony of Indumati Singh.

Vinay Katiyar, RPN Singh also attended the programme.

Apart from the leaders, thousands of his followers also reached his place to receive the Prasad. The district, police administration made apt security preparations due to the crowd gathered there. Duty of police personnel was imposed from Veermau Mod to the former minister's house. Adequate security arrangements were made by the police force. Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Home Minister Amit Shah have expressed their condolences by issuing a letter on the death of former minister's mother. Prime Minister Narendra Modi said that there is no shadow like a mother.

There is no support like a mother. There is no protector like a mother and no one is dear like a mother. Home Minister Amit Shah has said in his condolences that the death of mother is an irreparable loss. Condolences are with the entire family in this time of sorrow.

## Youth killed over land dispute

**PRAYAGRAJ (PNS):** In a shocking incident, a 23-year-old youth was done to death in Yamunapar area of Prayagraj. The incident took place in a village in Koraon area. On Tuesday, people of one group thrashed the young man brutally over an issue of land dispute. Two women who came to his rescue were also beaten up.

The youth died in the hospital, while the women who came to his rescue are undergoing treatment. A case has been registered but the police are yet to nab the absconding accused. The victim's family has filed a complaint against 19 people. Police is searching for the accused. The incident took place in the village of Dadhiya

Gajadharpur under Koraon police station area in Yamunapar. It was said that Bhim Vishwakarma, a resident of Dadhiya Gajadharpur village, was having a dispute over land with some people of the village. On Tuesday morning a scuffle broke out between both the parties, in which Bhima and two women were

badly injured. All three were admitted to the hospital where doctors declared him brought dead. In this regard, trans Yamuna Superintendent of Police Saurabh Dixit said that the incident has happened over the issue of land dispute. Based on the complaint, a case has been registered and necessary action will be taken.

## ‘Ensure enrolment of out-of-school children’

CORRESPONDENT ■ MIRZAPUR

District Magistrate Praveen Kumar Laxkar while presiding over the meeting of District Monitoring Committee on Monday directed the officials concerned to ensure cent per cent enrolment of children who are out of school. Reviewing the progress under School Chalo Abhiyan the DM became aware with the status of enrolment, Operation Kayakalp etc along with MDM, connection of electricity and potable water. The DM directed the DPPO to ensure clearance of electricity bills, construction of toilets and urinals. The officials were directed to

complete survey of dilapidated schools without inordinate delay. He issued instructions to the teachers to go to the houses and ensure enrolment of children who are under the out-of-school category. The teachers were directed to ensure admission of students in the next class.

**MEETING:** Divisional Commissioner (DC) Yogeshwar Ram Mishra presided over the meeting of Divisional Environment Committee on Monday. About stone mining leases the DC directed the officials concerned to check the sites frequently. The DC asked the Nagar Palika officials to conduct a drive against use of plastic. The offi-

cials were directed to raid the firms which were doing business of plastic products and ensure that those items which were banned by the government should not be sold. The DC directed the officials to check industries from time to time and ensure that they were strictly following the pollution control norms. The meeting was attended by DFOs and CMOs of the division along with other officials concerned.

**HONOURED:** Additional Superintendent of Police (City) Sanjay Kumar Verma while addressing the concluding ceremony of month long summer camp as the chief guest on Monday said it was the need of

the hour that we should not compel the children to opt for that stream of education in which they had less interest but it was our duty to promote their inherent talent. He appreciated the spirit of the organisation which trained 74 children for one month according to their inherent talent and through in-house competitions made available the facility to them to demonstrate their ability. During the programme the winners came on the stage and showed their skills which was praised by the gathering. The winners were honoured by the chief guest. In the camp the participants were trained in singing, drama, yoga, craft etc.







FIRST COLUMN

LOT NEEDS TO BE DONE FOR EASE OF LIVING

Challenge of living is a superset of ease of living



VINAYSHIL GAUTAM

Life is in a continuous dynamic mode. Among the more significant elements in the dynamic flow, there is the physical and the cognitive system. The periodic changes inside and outside the body are obvious indicators of change. Simultaneously, the intellectual and the emotional systems undergo a change. As it happens, most communities have little or no formal systems in assisting people to transit through this change.

Thus, the role of an individual in their own growth is a critical aspect of their coping with reality. This they learn through informal processes and from the environment in which they are embedded. This is an important element to keep in mind in studying how formal education through schools and colleges and informal learning from the context and the environment mutually support each other.

Thus, it is that learning that becomes a very important attribute of the act of living. The changes which one goes through physically, intellectually, and emotionally are significant to the very art of survival. This process is embedded in other features.

One grows up and gets married. Children are born out of marriage and the unit of reference changes. Like everything else, this too is a passing phase; children grow up and parents become again a unit of two.

All this is enmeshed in a dynamic social environment. The external governance systems evolve. This raises two important questions in the creation of civil society. One is access to resources and the other is opportunities for growth.



If there are too many moving parts then the challenge of living becomes bigger.

The challenge of living is a superset of the ease of living. Ease of living has to do, among other things, about forms and formats, screenings and verifications. The challenge of living has to do with the very act of availability of inputs such as energy, water, and security. In all this, the act of healthcare is fundamental.

Once this distinction between the challenge of living and ease of living is recognised, progress becomes simpler and therefore amenable to solutions to a higher degree.

Both the above issues, the challenge and the ease of living, cannot be handled without understanding the unit of reference. The unit of reference is often undefined. It can vary from community to community.

Consider the basic act of garbage collection. It is so basic that most people take it for granted. This is an oversimplification. In an upmarket colony of New Delhi, a little over a decade ago it was found that the sewerage pipe was laid parallel to the water pipe and during the monsoons, contamination of the flow in the water pipe took place from the flow in the sewerage pipe. Illness flowed.

Then proper garbage collection was started. One was the segregation of garbage, between the biomass type and the non-biodegradable type. Disposal of segregated garbage was recommended. This practice is yet to take root in many colonies of even the more evolved cities.

This recognition has to go hand in hand with which agency is charged with the level of collection of what type of garbage.

Illustrations can be many. The solutions will have to do with the recognition of the unit of reference: How is the agency for garbage collection decided? Who will be responsible for ensuring the fair distribution of energy, say, electricity? How will water supply be ensured? Put simply, there is a need to focus on identifying the basic unit of reference of understanding and operation of all systems at a local level, just as much as at any other level. Some work has begun, much more is needed.

(The writer is a well-known management consultant of international repute. The views expressed are personal.)

# Control mindset hurts privatisation process

## The strategic sale of BPCL couldn't be carried out because the Government wants to regulate fuel prices



UTTAM GUPTA



PRIVATE PLAYERS CAN'T MATCH THE PRICES OFFERED BY HPCL, IOCL AND BPCL. EVEN THE LATTER WON'T BE ABLE TO ABSORB THE UNDER-RECOVERIES BEYOND A POINT, WHICH WILL MANIFEST IN REDUCED SUPPLIES FROM THEM SOONER RATHER THAN LATER

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around Rs 60,000 crore (prevailing share price multiplied by the number of shares corresponding to 53.29 per cent holding).

In that year, the market environment was favorable even as the international price of crude oil (fortunes of oil companies move in tandem with it) was hovering around \$70 per barrel. The Government could have got strategic investors willing to put the required sum for buying its entire stake. But the bureaucrats were not ready.

During 2020-21, thanks to the Covid pandemic causing large-scale destruction of demand globally, the average price of crude declined to just about \$40 per barrel (in April 2020, it had plummeted to a low of \$20 per barrel). This made the market environment highly unfavorable.

That apart, the entire Government machinery was too preoccupied with mitigating the consequences of the pandemic—protecting both lives and livelihoods of people.

During 2021-22, the price recovered and ruled above \$70 per barrel, most of the time leading to significant improvement in the market environment. But the officials were not ready yet again, leading to deferment of the sale to 2022-23.

During the current fiscal, the international crude price has zoomed because of the Ukraine war, economic sanctions imposed by the US and the European Union on Russia, and the resulting disruption in supplies of oil and gas. With crude price hovering around \$120 per barrel (at one point, it had even touched \$140 per barrel) and substantially higher valuations of oil

companies, this was a propitious time for carrying out the sale. But it was not to be.

The Government's decision to put BPCL sale on hold at this juncture—when market conditions are favorable and all procedures needed to conduct the sale already in place—may sound a bit puzzling. To unravel the puzzle, let us look at the following:

In theory, petrol and diesel prices were deregulated in June 2010 and November 2014, respectively, as the oil companies were given the freedom to fix their retail price, using a formula that combines their respective import parity price (IPP) and export parity price (EPP) in the ratio of 80:20.

But, in practice, political control over the retail prices of petroleum products is still there. The Government can do this because of the three oil marketing Central PSUs—Indian Oil Corporation Limited (IOCL), Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Limited (HPCL), and BPCL—which account for around 90 per cent of the domestic fuel retail network. Well, technically HPCL is a subsidiary of the Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC), but then ONGC is itself a Central PSU.

The managements of ONGC/HPCL, IOCL, and BPCL receive tacit instructions from their bosses to maintain the prices at the desired levels—that is, the levels that top politicians desire. These are often unrelated to the market determined-prices. For instance, the current pump price of petrol in Delhi is Rs 97 per liter which corresponds to a crude benchmark of \$90 per barrel—as against the current crude price of \$115 per barrel for the Indian basket. If these

undertakings were really free to fix the price based on the formula (linked to \$115 per barrel), the pump price would have been Rs 110 per liter.

Against this backdrop, if one of these oil PSUs (that is, BPCL), accounting for about 25 per cent of the retail outlets, goes into private hands, the Government's ability to influence fuel prices will be diminished significantly.

In the current scenario, when the international oil price is projected to remain high, Prime Minister Narendra Modi can't afford to allow an unrestrained hike in the retail prices of fuels—especially in view of a number of impending state elections. He would like to keep the leverage to influence fuel prices. Hence the decision to put the sale of BPCL on the backburner.

But this is a patently unwise move. Already, an artificial cap on retail prices has led to a drastic cut in fuel supplies from private firms such as RIL and Nayara Energy. They can't match the prices offered by HPCL, IOCL, and BPCL. Even the latter won't be able to absorb the under-recoveries beyond a point, which will manifest in reduced supplies from them sooner rather than later.

Besides, it will impact the valuation of BPCL as and when it is taken up for strategic sale in the future.

A big bottleneck that comes in the way of strategic sales is the desire of the establishment to remain in the driver's seat eternally. Until there is a change in the mindset, privatisation of BPCL or, for that matter, of any other PSU won't happen. And if it happens, it won't fetch a good price.

## POINTCOUNTERPOINT

WE SHOULD NEVER FORGET THAT DREADFUL PERIOD OF EMERGENCY.... WE MOVE FORWARD, LEARNING FROM EVERY IMPORTANT STAGE OF HISTORY.  
—PRIME MINISTER NARENDRA MODI



THERE'S COMPETITION BETWEEN THE GOVERNMENT AND THE RUPEE AS TO WHOSE VALUE IS FALLING FASTER? ATTENTION MUST BE PAID TO GOVERNANCE.  
—CONGRESS LEADER RAHUL GANDHI

# Agnipath good for modernisation but needs relook

## The scheme is advantageous for youth and national defence but it should be changed with inputs from armed forces

The Government announced on June 14 that all soldiers below the officer ranks of the three wings of the military would be recruited through the Agnipath Scheme. The Government has taken this decision to keep the armed forces young, making the youth disciplined, and rendering them highly skilled after four years of service, besides of course saving money for the modernisation.

The Scheme has been praised by a large number of experts and veterans, but many in the defence community and also the Opposition parties and political observers have expressed their reservations about the scheme, resulting in protests and violent demonstrations all over the



PK VASUDEVA

(The author is a retired senior professor, International Trade.)

country. It is sad that the government property like railways, buses and cars have been burnt by the youth who should be debarred from the recruitment at one and made to pay for the damage to the public property. Nobody can be allowed to indulge in arson whatever the cause.

As opposed to the existing 15 plus years' service, followed by a lifelong pension, the new recruits, Agniveers, will have a four-year tenure, including six months' training. On completion of four years of service, 25 per cent of them will get the permanent cadre, while the rest will be given opportunities in other organisations at the national and state levels.

They will exit with a tax-free purse of approximately Rs

11.71 lakh and return to civil life. Excellent army training, food, clothing, boarding and lodging, a regimented life of four years, a disciplined lifestyle, and a matured mindset will be the hallmarks for the Agniveers.

Over the years, Agniveers would emerge as a strong second line of defence in the country.

The government has announced 10 per cent reservation packages for the retiree Agniveers in Police, Central Armed Police Forces (CARF), Ministry of Defence Undertakings, and Railways after the completion of four years term.

Overall, the scheme is excellent for nation building. It will help build a younger, healthier, and fitter defence military, high-

ly skilled in the changing technological environment. It will also inculcate military discipline, ethos and skilling as a value addition, improving the prospects for those who return to civil society. It will encourage youth to become entrepreneurs for the economic growth of the country.

Yet, it seems that the Centre was not thorough in its homework before launching this scheme. A study known as 'Tour of Duty' (TOD) was carried out about two years ago at the Training Command; all stakeholders gave their inputs.

The scheme needed to be launched as India is emerging as a major pivot in the global order, being a key nation in two security arrangements—one in the Indo-Pacific and another with the US, the UAE,

and Israel. The Indian military has to adapt to the changing strategic interests keeping in view the threat perception from across the borders.

The presentations were made at the Ministry of Defence (MoD) level; the blueprint of the Agnipath Scheme was drawn out for implementation at a suitable time. The army recruitment methodology of leading military nations was kept in mind while framing it. The main planners of this scheme were Training Command, the late CDS General Bipin Rawat, NSA Ajit Doval, Raksha Mantri Rajnath Singh, and Defence Secretary Ajay Kumar, along with the Finance Ministry.

The three service Chiefs had a very limited role to play in formulating the scheme. The committee so constituted

was bureaucratic in nature, which gave the recommendations for a younger and leaner force with reduced financial liability for modernisation.

The Cabinet Committee on Security (CCS) approved this Scheme. However, it was not put up in Parliament. The NSA, who is highly capable in security issues may not be well-versed with the nuances of the armed forces, represented the three services and CDS.

The whole scheme needs to be refurbished by an expert committee which must have members from the armed forces too. The government is making amends to the scheme in a piecemeal manner. The youth of the country is completely confused.

Instead of strengthening the armed forces, the scheme

will weaken their strength if not implemented properly. The committee must go through the pensions of the defence civilians who get one-third of the total defence pensions. They need to be replaced by armed forces personnel.

Politician's pensions have a serious flaw. These also need to be looked into and pruned.

The violent reactions by the youth in the country could have been avoided and a number of lives saved if had been passed by Parliament and discussed at length at the Armed Forces Commanders Conference, before announcing it piecemeal.

The interest of the armed forces cannot be compromised at any cost.



# ED issues fresh summons to Sanjay Raut under PMLA

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Enforcement Directorate (ED) has issued fresh summons to Shiv Sena MP Sanjay Raut asking him to appear on July 1 for questioning in a money laundering case linked to alleged irregularities in the re-development of a Mumbai 'chawl' and related financial property transactions involving his wife and alleged associates.

The Rajya Sabha member was issued the first summons for Tuesday, but he sought more time citing official commitments and a meeting he was supposed to attend at Alibaug in Raigad district of the State during the day.

Raut's lawyers met ED officials at the agency's office in Mumbai on Tuesday and sought about two weeks' time for his appearance. However, the agency granted him relief only till this month-end.

"The ED summons was served late Monday afternoon, so we made an application to seek time because the ED has demanded a few documents," Raut's lawyer told reporters after meeting agency officials



at their regional office in south Mumbai. Through Raut's questioning, the agency is seeking to record his statement under the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA).

The agency is also seeking to know Raut's 'business and other links' with Pravin Raut and Patkar and also about the property deals involving his wife.

The development comes as the Shiv Sena battles rebellion from a group of its MLAs, leading to a question mark on the future of Maha Vikas Aghadi (MVA) Government in Maharashtra. In April, the ED provisionally attached

assets worth over Rs 11.15 crore of Raut's wife Varsha Raut and two of his associates as part of this investigation.

The attached properties are in the form of land held by Pravin M Raut, Sanjay Raut's aide and a former director of Guru Ashish Construction Pvt Ltd, at Palghar, Saphale (town in Palghar) and Padgha (in Thane district).

The attached properties also include a flat in Mumbai's suburb Dadar held by Varsha Raut and eight plots at Kihim beach in Alibaug jointly held by Varsha Raut and Swapna Patkar, wife of Sujit Patkar, a "close associate" of Sanjay Raut, the ED had earlier said.

# Centre to go ahead with single use plastic ban

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

India is all set to go ahead with its notification banning identified 19 single use plastic (SUP) items from July 1, 2022. The Centre on Tuesday said there was no plans to postpone the notification as sufficient time was given to the industry. The Government warned that violators will invite punitive action, including a fine or a jail term.

Single-use plastics are those items that are used only once and discarded. "The ban aims to curb pollution caused by single use plastic items which have low utility, high littering potential. We had given enough time to the industry to prepare for the implementation of ban," Union Environment Minister Bhupendra Yadav told reporters on Tuesday two days ahead of the enforcement of the notification. The Minister's statement comes in the wake of



several representations made by various industries either seeking more time or urging the Government to impose the ban in a phased manner.

A senior official from the Central Pollution Control Board said that while directions have already been issued to all states to curb the supply of banned items, petrochemical industries have been asked to stop the supply of plastic raw materials to those engaged in the production of the banned items. As per the notification, the manufacture, import,

stocking, distribution, sale and use of single-use plastic, including polystyrene and expanded polystyrene commodities will be banned from July 1, 2022.

Other prohibited items include plastic sticks that are used in ear buds, balloons, candy, ice-cream; cutlery items such as plates, cups, glasses, forks, spoons, knives, trays; packaging / wrapping films such as that used for sweet box, invitation cards, cigarette packs, and other items such as plastic flags, PVC banners of less than 100 microns, poly-

styrene for decoration. So far about 200-odd brand owners, including several MNCs, and 26 importers of plastic have already registered for Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) for plastic packaging under the amended Plastic Waste Management Rules 2016, said an official from the Ministry.

As per the data from Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB), for year 2022-23, as many as 198 brand owners (BOs), and 26 importers (Is) have registered under the PIBO registration; the process is

ongoing for 26 BOs, 29 producers (Ps) and 48 Is, while 76 BOs, 17 Ps and 38 Is have submitted their applications for registration. The EPR, i.e. the Extended Producer Responsibility, means responsibility of a producer for environmentally sound management of the product until the end of its life.

The Union Environment Ministry had notified the EPR guidelines vide Fourth Amendment to Plastic Waste Management Rules 2016 on February 16.

# SUP ban aims to make wildlife sanctuaries plastic-free: DGF&SS

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

With rampant littering of plastic along the National Highways passing through tiger reserves in the country posing a threat to wildlife, the National Tiger Conservation Authority (NTCA), an autonomous body under the Union Environment Ministry is banking on the eco development committees composed of locals among others to keep the regions plastic-free. Chandra Prakash Goyal, Director-General of Forests & Special Secretary (DGF&SS) from the Ministry said that the move aims to make the habitat of the big cats and other wildlife free from plastic which is negatively impacting wildlife.

There have been instances where wild animals have been found eating plastic waste thrown by the tourists. A few of them also died. Union Environment Minister Bhupendra Yadav, too, expressed concern at growing piles of plastic garbage in protected forest areas and shared how during his visit to Sariska Tiger Reserve in Rajasthan recently, he was shocked to see a black buck chewing a plastic bag.

He said this at a press conference held on Tuesday while talking about the ban on single use plastic items being imposed nationwide from July 1. Later, NTCA member secretary and Addl DG(Project Tiger) SP YADAV



explained that the ETC members have been deployed in at least 50 tiger regions or sanctuaries where National Highways are passing through to keep a check on plastic menace. "It is difficult to keep a check on commuters of the vehicles who casually throw away plastics items such as bags or plastic straws on the roads. This harms the health of the animals who ingest them, thinking it as food," he said.

Apart from the National Highways, there are temples inside many forest areas including Sariska Tiger Reserve, Ranthambore National Park and Jhalana Forest Reserve where efforts to keep the regions plastic-free is not so easy.

Yadav said that the ETC members are asked to recycle the collected plastic waste. "This provides livelihood to the locals as well as keeps the tiger reserves, sanctuaries and reserve forest areas plastic free particularly at a time when our focus is on banning the single use plastic items.

In tiger reserves where no National Highways exist, the visitors are provided a textile bag to carry their non-plastic items for which they have to deposit Rs 50 at entry gate.

# SC miffed over registry not listing matters

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Tuesday expressed its dismay over the registry not listing matters despite orders from its vacation benches and said that cases will be listed as per the set procedure. A vacation bench of Justices Surya Kant and JB Pardiwala said that it has on Monday directed a matter to be listed for Tuesday but the registry has said that it will not be listed.

"We didn't want to say it in open court but it's a fact. Yesterday, we made an exception. We had directed a matter to be listed for today but the registry said that it will not list the case. We don't want to say anything more," the bench told senior advocate Abhishek Manu Singhvi, who was seeking urgent listing of a plea filed

by Adani Ports and Special Economic Zone (Adani) against the Bombay High Court order.

The bench said that there is a set procedure in place for the listing of matters during vacations and asked Singhvi to approach the mentioning registrar for urgent listing and if the request is denied then it could look into it. Singhvi said that the court's discretion cannot be circumscribed by the registry and it can make an exception for urgent listing of the matter.

Significantly, the same vacation bench on Monday had ordered the listing of the Centre's petition for hearing on Tuesday against the Tripura High Court order passed on a PIL challenging the grant of security cover to industrialist Mukesh Ambani and his fam-

ily members in Mumbai. Despite the order of the bench passed after the matter was mentioned by Solicitor General Tushar Mehta, the matter was not listed for Tuesday.

Singhvi urged the bench to list the matter saying the Bombay High Court order was given to them on Monday in which it had dismissed a plea filed by Adani Ports and Special Economic Zone (Adani) challenging the disqualification of its bid in a tender issued by the Jawaharlal Nehru Port Authority (JNPA) for up-gradation of a container terminal in Navi Mumbai. The Bombay High Court has on Monday directed Adani to pay a cost of Rs five lakh for bringing to court an "unmeritorious case." Of this, Adani already deposited Rs 4,24,800 with JNPA at the time of submitting its bid.

# 31% RS MPs declared criminal cases against them, says ADR

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

About 31 per cent of sitting Rajya Sabha MPs have declared criminal cases against them, according to a report released by ADR-National Election Watch. As per the report, while the average assets of the Upper House members are Rs 79.54 crore,

Association for Democratic Reforms (ADR) and National Election Watch have analyzed the criminal, financial and other background details of 226 out of 233 sitting MPs.

In the current Rajya Sabha, one seat is vacant. Two MPs have not been analysed as their affidavits were unavailable and four seats of Jammu and Kashmir are undefined, the report said. Of the 226 sitting Rajya Sabha MPs, 197 (87 per cent) are 'crorepatis' and the average assets per Rajya Sabha MP are Rs 79.54 crore, the report said.

Of 226 Rajya Sabha members, 71 (31 per cent) have declared criminal cases against

themselves and 37 (16 per cent) have declared serious criminal cases. According to the report, two Rajya Sabha MPs have declared cases related to murder (IPC Section 302) and four MPs have declared cases related to attempt to murder (IPC Section 307).

Four Rajya Sabha MPs have declared cases related to crimes against women and out of these four MPs, one namely K C Venugopal (Congress) from Rajasthan has declared case related to rape (IPC Section 376), the report said.

According to the report, 20 (24 per cent) out of 85 Rajya Sabha MPs from BJP, 12 (39 per cent) out of 31 MPs from Congress, three (23 per cent) out of 13 from AITC, five (83 per cent) out of six from RJD, four (80 per cent) out of five from CPI(M), three (30 per cent) out of 10 from AAP, three (33 per cent) out of nine from YSRCP and two (50 per cent) out of four Rajya Sabha MPs from NCP have declared criminal cases against themselves in

their affidavits.

The report said nine (11 per cent) out of 85 Rajya Sabha MPs from BJP, eight (26 per cent) out of 31 MPs from Congress, one (8 per cent) out of 13 Rajya Sabha MPs from AITC, three (50 per cent) out of six MPs from RJD, two (40 per cent) out of five from CPI (M), one (10 per cent) out of 10 from AAP, three (33 per cent) out of nine from YSRCP and one (25 per cent) out of four Rajya Sabha MPs from NCP have declared serious criminal cases against themselves in their affidavits.

Giving state-wise details, the report said that seven (23 per cent) out of 31 Rajya Sabha MPs from Uttar Pradesh, 12 (63 per cent) out of 19 MPs from Maharashtra, six (33 per cent) out of 18 from Tamil Nadu, three (19 per cent) out of 16 from West Bengal, six (67 per cent) out of nine from Kerala and 10 (63 per cent) out of 16 Rajya Sabha MPs from Bihar have declared criminal cases against themselves in their affidavits.

# Govt seems keen to sell off PSUs to its cronies: Cong

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

Congress on Tuesday accused the BJP Government of reckless privatisation of public sector assets and alleged that its plan is to hand over land parcels of strategic PSUs to its select crony capitalist friends.

Congress spokesperson Supriya Shrinete said going by its plans the Government seems keen to completely sell off all public sector banks to private hands which would have serious consequences for the economy.

She also dubbed the BJP as "Beche Jao Party" and accused it of "double-speak". On the one hand, it was talking of providing jobs to 'Agniveers' in defence PSUs, and on the other, it was privatising them, she said.

She also claimed that the Congress has helped stall privatisation of four PSUs including Bharat Petroleum Corporation, Container Corporation of India, Pawan Hans and Central Electricals Limited. "The Narendra Modi government's reckless privatisation and its plans to put India on sale now poses huge risks to the Indian economy and our people.

The Modi government is now all set to completely exit public sector banks being privatised - an ill thought out strategy with dangerous repercussions," she said at AICC Press conference. "Given its sinister plans to put India on sale BJP should now be called the 'Beche Jao Party' - but the Congress will oppose this reckless sale of strategic profit making assets including the complete exit from public sector banks being sold," she claimed. Shrinete said after listing LIC at a wrong time, it led to loss of nearly USD 18 billion (one-third of its valuation) and the

government has been forced to stop its "reckless privatisation" of four PSUs in last two months.

She said BPCL sale was called off after two of the three investors withdrew, deterred by faulty fuel pricing policies and uncertainties, and sale of Pawan Hans now on hold after 51 percent stake was sold to a company that had failed to honour a previous bid for an insolvent company, and the NCLT Kolkata had ruled against it.

The Congress leader claimed that Central Electronics Limited is a Ministry of Science and Technology PSU that provides critical materials and services for strategic sectors such as defence, railways and energy.

It was severely undervalued and 100 per cent equity was sold to a financial company with no scientific background that had links to BJP politicians, she claimed, adding that it is now on hold.

The sale of Container Corporation of India (Concor), a unit of Indian Railways, was put on hold over Congress party's charges of how the government was using "backdoor arrangement" to hand over railway land acquired from farmers at a concessional rate or free of cost to a private party for commercial use, she alleged. "The privatisation of three PSUs has been delayed because of issues over the valuation of lands.

CONCOR has land around railway stations, Shipping Corporation of India has land in Maharashtra (especially Mumbai) while Bharat Earth Movers (land in WB and Karnataka).

It is clear the single minded objective is to hand over these ventures and the lakhs of acres of land they hold to Mr Modi's chosen few crony capitalist friends," she alleged.

# BJP raps Congress for protesting against arrest of Teesta Setalvad

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

BJP on Tuesday alleged a nexus between the Congress party and behind-the-scenes hate-mongers against Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

The party hit out at the Congress for protesting against the arrest of activist Teesta Setalvad saying they were working as part of a "poisonous ecosystem" where one offender protects another if anyone is caught.

Taking a dig at Congress and asking "Ye rista kya kahla-ta hain" for the opposition party joining the protest against Setalvad's arrest, BJP spokesperson Gaurav Bhatia accused it of opposing judicial actions as per its convenience.

In the backdrop of the Supreme Court's clean-chit to Modi and 62 others in the 2002 Gujarat riots case, he asked if the opposition party has any faith in the judiciary or not. He said Setalvad did not know the content of "false affidavits" she filed in Gujarat riot cases as

they were tailored to suit the designs of the political masters. Attacking Setalvad, Bhatia said despite objections by NCERT, the Congress-led UPA government gave Rs 1.40 crore to Setalvad's trust which she allegedly used for her own comforts and foreign travels.

Pointing -out that the Gujarat Police action against Setalvad was following the Supreme Court's strong denunciation of her and others for "keeping the pot boiling" and levelling false charges against people, including Prime Minister, over the 2002 riots in the state, Bhatia alleged that she had been acting at the behest of the Congress to end Modi's political career. "Setalvad was a small branch for fanning communal hate.

Its headquarters was in the Congress and its president Sonia Gandhi was the CEO," he told a press conference. Citing the recent agitation of the Congress against its leader Rahul Gandhi's questioning by the Enforcement Directorate in the National Herald case, he

said for some people Gandhi is innocent until proven guilty but their standard for Modi is that he is guilty even if proven innocent.

"This hypocrisy will not be tolerated," he said. To questions about journalist Zubair Ahmed's arrest and opposition leaders' protest against it, he said one cannot become a fact-checker only by proclaiming himself to be one.

He has a chequered past and has posted tweets which have hurt religious feelings of a large section of Hindu society, Bhatia said. All major opposition parties and media organisations have condemned Zubair's arrest on Monday by the Delhi Police for allegedly hurting religious sentiments through one of his tweets, officials said.

The Editors Guild of India on Tuesday termed it "extremely disturbing" and demanded his immediate release. Criticising Zubair, Bhatia said if somebody is doing fact-checking, then he can't be selective.

# NIA arrests two for terror funding in J&K

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The National Investigation Agency (NIA) on Tuesday said it has arrested two accused in Jammu and Kashmir in the cross-LoC trade and terror funding case.

The agency arrested the two accused persons—Tanveer Ahmad Wani of Achagoza under Rajpora police station of Pulwama district and Peer Arshad Iqbal alias Ashu of Khwaja Bagh, Baramulla in the 2016 cases linked to terror funding via cross-LoC trade.

The case pertains to the generation of extra profits through cross-LoC (Line of Control) trade mechanism between Jammu and Kashmir and Pakistan-Occupied Kashmir (POK) and using those funds for fomenting terrorist activities in Jammu and Kashmir, the agency said in a statement.

The said trade was started in the year 2008 via two Trade Facilitation Centres (TFCs)

located at Salamabad, Uri in Baramulla District and Chakan-da-Bagh in Poonch District. As per the Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) of the trade mechanism, 21 articles were allowed to be traded between POK and Jammu and Kashmir and were based on a barter system.

"During investigation, it has been revealed that extra profit was generated by over-invoicing of export articles and under-invoicing of import articles by the traders," the NIA said.

The arrested accused are cross-border LoC traders and were handling several cross-LoC trade firms registered in their own names or in the names of their friends, family members and relatives.

They used to provide funds to the members of various terrorist organisations, over ground workers (OGWs) and stone-pelters. Further investigation in the case is continuing, it added.

# KK Venugopal may get another term as India's Attorney-General

**New Delhi:** Senior advocate KK Venugopal may get a fresh term as Attorney General of India, sources in the Government said on Tuesday. Venugopal's current one year term ends on June 30.

The Attorney General usually has a tenure of three years. When Venugopal's first term as AG was to end in 2020, he had requested the Government to give him a one-year tenure keeping in mind his advanced age. He is 91. Last year too, Venugopal was reappointed for one year. In view of high-profile cases Venugopal is handling in the Supreme Court and his experience at the Bar, the government may reappoint him again. The Law Ministry has informed government that his term ends on June 30 and the post needs to be filled. He first took over as Attorney General, the top law officer of the Union Government, on July 1, 2017, succeeding Mukul Rohatgi.

# Middle-aged, elderly Indians are more susceptible to Covid: Study

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

Covid-related hospitalisations claimed lives of middle-aged to elderly Indians more frequently than people of the same age groups in other regions of the world, according to a study conducted on 5,313 patients in 40 hospitals from 23 countries.

The study, led by the World Heart Federation in association with the Public Health Foundation of India, also revealed that a higher prevalence of diabetes and hypertension among Indians are the major drivers of the increased mortality. The findings, published in the journal

Global Heart, showed that during the pandemic Indians had nearly three times higher mortality due to Covid hospitalisation, than the European population. However, the number was less than the Hispanics and Blacks.

"South Asians (Indians) in the middle-aged to elderly group died more frequently than other regions due to Covid hospitalisations, owing to significantly greater background prevalence of diabetes and hypertension," D. Prabhakaran from the PHFI, told a news agency.

The study demonstrated that patients were relatively younger as compared to previous research (where the aver-

age age was 57 years), predominantly middle aged men, with high prevalence of cardiovascular risk factors such as hypertension diabetes and high mortality up to 30 days.

Patients of Asian, Hispanic or Black ethnicities had higher death rates both within the hospital and after discharge as compared to white Caucasians, Prabhakaran said, as per the agency report.

Another finding was that patients with HIV had increased death at 30 days but not during hospitalisation.

Various studies have shown that Covid pandemic increased death among patients with heart disease or their risk factors.



## Assam flood situation improves as rivers start receding

PTI ■ GUWAHATI

The overall flood situation in Assam showed signs of improvement on Tuesday with most of the rivers showing a receding trend even though 21 lakh people remained affected by the deluge and most localities of Silchar town in Cachar district were still under water, officials said.

The death toll due to this year's floods have increased to 134 with five more deaths recorded in the last 24 hours, while one person was missing, as per a bulletin issued by Assam State Disaster Management Authority (ASDMA).

Most of the rivers were showing a receding trend, except for Kopili and Barak,

which were flowing above the danger level in Nagaon and Barak Valley respectively.

Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma visited an embankment breach spot at Kuwara in Bajali district to take stock of the flood situation.

"Visited Kuwara at Patacharkuchi, Bajali to understand the current flood situation and damage caused by overflowing of Kaldia river along with my Cabinet colleague Shri @RanjeetkrDass," Sarma tweeted.

He also interacted with the affected people and assured them the necessary assistance to them.

Silchar remained under water for more than a week, with efforts underway to air-drop essential items to people who are yet to be reached.

Deputy Commissioner Keerthi Jalli said the ASDMA has initiated drone survey in Silchar for damage assessment of areas such as Dudh Patil, Chamra Gudam, Silchar Railway station and other places.

She said the district administration along with Silchar Municipal Board and others are working to clean up the city's garbage, but people are dumping filth on the streets after cleaning their houses and shops.

Jalli requested people to refrain from throwing garbage on streets that have been cleaned to avoid spread of diseases. Medical personnel have been deployed in 28 wards of the town.

Water packets and water

purifying tablets have been distributed among the affected people and temporary toilets set up in two relief camps.

Meanwhile, work is underway to repair damaged portions of the dyke at Bethukandi that led to the flooding in the town.

Chief Secretary Jishnu Barua held a virtual meeting with deputy commissioners of three flood-affected districts in Barak Valley and Dima Hasao and other stakeholders to take stock of restoration of communication.

He said assessment of all rehabilitation grants in Cachar district must be completed before July 10.

A total of 2,254 villages in 61 revenue circles remain affected by floods, while 1,91,194 people have taken

shelter in 538 relief camps.

Floodwaters have damaged 79 roads and five bridges while six embankments have been breached.

A total of 349 houses have been fully damaged while 573 have been partially damaged due to the floods. Farmlands over 74,656 hectares are under water, while 2,774 animals have been washed away.

Large scale erosion was reported in Barpeta, Bongaigaon, Chirang, Hailakandi, Morigaon, Nalbari, Sonitpur, and Udalguri districts.

A landslide has been reported in a tea garden in Hailakandi district, while urban flooding continued in Cachar and Morigaon districts.

## Council OK's GST relief, e-way bill by States

**Chandigarh:** The GST Council on Tuesday approved changes in tax rates on some goods and services while allowing states to issue an e-way bill for intra-state movement of gold and precious stones, officials said.

The Council, chaired by Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman and comprising state counterparts, also cleared a host of compliance procedures for GST-registered businesses along with a GoM report on high-risk tax payers to check evasion.

The discussion on the crucial issues of extension of compensation to states beyond June 2022 and the imposition of 28 per cent GST on casinos, online gaming and horse racing, will take place on Wednesday.

Opposition-ruled states have been pressing for either extension of the GST compensation regime or increasing states' share in revenue from the current 50 per cent.

In the meeting on Tuesday, the Council accepted the interim report of the group of state finance ministers, headed by Karnataka Chief Minister Basavaraj S Bommai, on rate rationalisation, including correction of inverted duty structure and removing tax exemption on some items, to simplify the rate structure.

The GoM had suggested withdrawal of GST exemption on a host of services including on hotel accommodation of less



Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman chairs the 47th meeting of Goods and Services Tax (GST) Council, in Chandigarh on Tuesday

PTI

than ₹1,000 per day and replacing it with a 12 per cent tax. It also recommended a levy of 5 per cent GST on room rent (excluding ICU) charged for hospitalised patients where the hospital room charges are above ₹5,000 per day.

It wanted all post office services other than postcards and inland letters, book post and envelopes weighing less than 10 gm, to be taxed. Also, cheques, loose or in book form should be taxed at 18 per cent, the GoM recommended. **PTI**

### Opp States for continuation of GST compensation

**Chandigarh:** States ruled by Opposition parties have demanded that either the revenue sharing formula under the GST regime should be changed or the compensation period should be extended by five years, amid concerns over revenue losses.

The Goods and Services Tax (GST) was introduced on July 1, 2017, and states were assured of compensation for the revenue

loss till June 2022, arising on account of the GST rollout.

As the GST Council commenced here on Tuesday, the states have also cited a recent Supreme Court ruling that decisions made by the Council are not binding and states need not stick to them.

The ruling by the court has been seen by some as states having powers to determine taxation. **PTI**

## 18 people killed, 14 hurt in Mumbai building collapse

T N RAGHUNATHA ■ MUMBAI

As many as 18 people were killed and 14 others injured after a ground-plus—three storey building collapsed at Kurla (East) in north-central Mumbai shortly before midnight on Monday.

There were 32 residents at the building "Nayaknagar Cooperative Co-operative Housing society" when the structure caved in at around 11.53 pm.

The rescue and relief operation that began immediately after the mishap continued till late on Tuesday. Of the 14 injured, nine were treated and allowed to go, while the remaining five persons are undergoing treatment at The injured were rushed to Rajawadi Hospital at Ghatkopar and LTMG Hospital at Sion, both located in north-central Mumbai.

The building that collapsed was old and it was in a dilapidated condition. Today's was the first building collapse in the metropolis during the current year. The teams of State Disaster Management Authority, Mumbai Fire Brigade, police officials and besides local volunteers, who joined the rescue efforts there had expressed a potential risk to the adjoining second wing of the same building which could also collapse



anytime.

The fire brigade personnel identified eight of those killed in the mishap Ajay M. Pasnor (28) Ajinkya Gaikwad (34) Kumar Prajapati (20) Sikandar Rajbhor (21) Anoop Rajbhor (18). Arvind R. Bharti (19) Anil Yadav (21) Shyam Prajapati (18) while ten other deceased had not been identified till late on Tuesday evening.

Meanwhile, chief minister Uddhav Thackeray announced an assistance of Rs 5 lakh to each of the bereaved families.

Maharashtra Minister Aaditya Thackeray visited the mishap site twice – once immediately after the mishap on Tuesday night and second time on Tuesday. Industry Minister

Subhash Desai, senior officials of the Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation (BMC) and police officials visited the mishap site. In all 15 residents were rescued from the debris of the building Two pigeons have been rescued alive from the debris at the Kurla crash site. Two pigeons were rescued alive from under the debris.

### Two associates of terrorists gunned down in Keran sector

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ JAMMU

A head of the flag off ceremony of the first batch of Amarnath-bound pilgrims from the Jammu-based *yatri niwas* troops of the Indian Army, deployed along the Line of Control in the Keran sector of North Kashmir's Kupwara district, on Tuesday gunned down two terrorist associates while they were waiting to receive a consignment of arms and ammunition besides facilitating group of infiltrators inside the Indian territory.

The duo have been identified by the police as Majid Chechi and Samsudin Beigh.

In a written statement a police spokesman said, "It is believed they had come to receive a cache of arms and narcotics and to facilitate infiltration of terrorists in the general area of Rauta Nar at fence".

Meanwhile, Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha is scheduled to flag off the first batch of pilgrims from Jammu on Wednesday. The registered pilgrims have been provided with Radio frequency Identification tags to ensure their safety. The first batch will be escorted to the base camps in Baltal and Pahalgam under tight security arrangements.

## Didi slams Teesta's arrest

SAUGAR SENGUPTA ■ KOLKATA

Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee on Tuesday launched a scathing attack on the BJP Government saying the powers that be in Delhi was destroying democracy by suppressing the voices of opposition.

"They are gagging the popular voice ... they are suppressing the voice of dissent ... What wrong Teesta Sitalvad and Md Zubair had done so that they had to be arrested ... couldn't this Government give some space to democracy ... what is happening to the hailed democratic culture of India," Banerjee told a large audience at Asansol.

Banerjee's remark came a

day after Sitalvad a social activist and Zubair a journalist were arrested by an anti terror squad of the Gujarat Police for fighting the cases for the victims of the Gujarat riots.

Without naming the top saffron politicians Banerjee said peddlers of hatred were roaming free whereas "those who tried to bring forth the truth are being arrested ... is it a crime to tell the truth ... is it an offence to expose facts... those who speak out against the Government are harassed by the ED and CBI" she said in an apparent reference to the Gujarat riot cases in which the Supreme Court gave a clean chit to Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

Incidentally a galaxy of

TMC leaders including the Chief Minister's own nephew and party national secretary Abhishek Banerjee and his wife Rujira Narula Banerjee have been under the ED and CBI scanner for their alleged roles in the money laundering cases which had reported links to cattle and coal smuggling.

Attacking the Centre for dishing out yet another "Jumla" in the name of Agnipath scheme Banerjee said "they are dangling lollipops before the country's youth Banerjee said "it is a big scam and another example of Jumla politics ... after the 2024 elections every such recruitment jumla will go and the youth will be left with nothing in their hands."

### FROM PAGE 1

#### UDDHAV WOOS REBELS, SON THREATENS THEM

Uddhav said that the respect and dignity the Shiv Sena accorded to their elected respected they can never get that privilege anywhere else.

Earlier, in a resolution signed by 34 rebel MLAs which was submitted to the Governor, Deputy Speaker and Secretary of the Assembly, the rebel Sena MLAs had said that "there has been great dissatisfaction prevalent amongst the members of Shiv Sena and party cadre at large on account of corruption in the government. Corruption by then Home Minister Anil Deshmukh (who is in jail), and sitting Minority Minister Nawab Malik (who is also in jail for involvement with Underworld Don Dawood Ibrahim)," the letter stated.

Shinde, whose camp submitted a letter to the Deputy Speaker pegging the number of Sena MLAs supporting him was 39.

In their letter, the rebel Sena MLAs also stated that "there is enormous discontent amongst the party workers for forming the government with NCP and Indian National Congress who are ideologically opposed to the Shiv Sena," Shinde had said.

"There has been a compromise on the principles of our party Shiv Sena. For Last two and half years, the our party and its leadership have compromised party principles by aligning with the contrasting ideologies for the sake of achieving power in the State of Maharashtra," the letter had read.

#### FADNAVIS MEETS SHAH, NADDA TO DISCUSS PLAN FOR GOVT FORMATION

The first task now, the BJP leadership believes, is to bring down the MVA Government as it has clearly lost majority in the Assembly, they said.

In the next course of action the rebels may approach the State Governor, conveying the decision to withdraw their support from the Thackeray Government. Governor Bhagat Singh Koshyari then may ask the ruling alliance to undergo a floor test in the Assembly, said a senior BJP leader.

Though the BJP sources expressed

confidence that the Uddhav Thackeray Government is on its last leg, the party is treading cautiously to avoid any wrong move like the one in 2019 which had caused it embarrassment when Fadnavis formed a short lived Government in alliance with the NCP faction headed by Ajit Pawar without ensuring adequate support of MLAs.

Fadnavis had to resign in three days as NCP supremo Sharad Pawar rallied his party MLAs to thwart his nephew's bid to join hands with the BJP to form the Government. The Sena then joined hands with the NCP and the Congress to come to power.

#### MAN BEHEADS TAILER FOR INSULT TO ISLAM, CURFEW IN UDAIPUR

Udaipur Superintendent of Police Manoj Kumar also promised strict action. "A brutal murder has happened. Broadly, it seems to be a planned murder. We are discussing the demands put forth by the family members. Strict action will be taken against the criminals. I appeal to people to maintain peace," he said.

Gehlot said there is communal tension in the country and the prime minister should address the people. He said both Hindus and Muslims are worried.

"It is more impactful if the prime minister speaks. I believe that the prime minister should address the country on this occasion and should make an appeal that we will not tolerate violence at any cost. What is the problem in saying so?" he said. BJP state chief Satish Poonia targeted the Congress government in Rajasthan, saying that the murder was the result of its "appeasement policy".

He said those seen in the video had threatened the victim on June 17.

"The victim had asked for security but it was not given by the police," he claimed, adding that this indicated the apathy of the state's Congress government. The state unit of the People's Union for Civil Liberties (PUCL) made the same claim.

"The situation in Rajasthan is such that Hindus are being attacked and murdered at many places. It is because of the politics of appeasement of CM Ashok Gehlot," Poonia claimed.

Leader of Opposition Gulab Chand Kataria also condemned the incident and said he was reaching Udaipur Tuesday

night. The prohibitory orders under section 144 of the CrPC, however, do not allow the gathering of more than three people. About 600 more policemen, including five companies of the Rajasthan Armed Constabulary, were sent to Udaipur, officials said. Senior police officers were also rushed to the city. Gehlot said the trial will be fast-tracked under the state's "case officer scheme".

#### MODI, UAE PRESIDENT DISCUSS BILATERAL TIES

Ministry of External Affairs Spokesperson Arindam Bagchi said in a tweet from Abu Dhabi, "In a very special gesture, His Highness Sheikh Mohammed bin Zayed Al Nahyan and members of the Royal family came all the way to the airport to meet and interact with PM Modi here itself, so that PM did not have to go all the way to the city."

The Prime Minister made a brief stopover at Abu Dhabi on his return from Munich after attending the two-day G-7 summit in Germany. This was the first in-person meeting between the two leaders since August 2019 when the Prime Minister visited Abu Dhabi last.

The main purpose of the visit was for the Prime Minister to convey his personal condolences on the passing away of Sheikh Khalifa bin Zayed Al Nahyan, former President last month.

Modi conveyed his heartfelt condolences to the UAE President as well as family members, including Sheikh Tahnoon bin Zayed Al Nahyan, National Security Adviser; Sheikh Mansour bin Zayed Al Nahyan, Deputy Prime Minister; Sheikh Hamed Bin Zayed Al Nahyan, Managing Director, Abu Dhabi Investment Authority; Sheikh Abdullah Bin Zayed Al Nahyan, Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation among others.

The Prime Minister also congratulated Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan on his election as the third President of the UAE and becoming the Ruler of Abu Dhabi, the MEA said in a statement.

Both leaders reviewed various aspects of India-UAE Comprehensive Strategic Partnership which they have carefully nurtured over the past few years. During their Virtual Summit on February 18, both countries signed the Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (CEPA), which has since entered into force in May.

The CEPA is expected to further boost trade and investment between both countries. Bilateral trade in FY 2021-22 was about USD 72 billion. The UAE is India's third largest trade partner and second largest export destination. UAE FDI in India has continuously increased over the past few years and currently stands at over USD 12 billion.

During the Virtual Summit, both leaders had also released a Vision Statement which has laid the roadmap for bilateral cooperation in coming years in diverse areas including trade, investment, energy including renewable energy, food security, health, defence, skills, education, culture and people-to-people ties.

Both leaders expressed satisfaction that India and the UAE continue to forge closer partnership in these areas building on their close and friendly relations and historical people-to-people connect. India and UAE have a strong energy partnership which is now acquiring a new focus on renewable energy.

Modi thanked the UAE President for taking great care of the 3.5 million Indian community in the UAE, especially during Covid-19 pandemic. He invited Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan to visit India at an early date.

The visit comes weeks after a row over remarks against Prophet Muhammad by a BJP spokesperson, since suspended, caused a diplomatic outrage.

Answering a query about controversial remarks, Foreign Secretary Vinay Kwatra had said "as far as the Prophet issue is concerned, almost all Middle East countries have an understanding of India's position. We've communicated our stand on various platforms. I don't think that will be taken forward anymore."

#### MUKESH HANDS JIO OVER TO ELDER SON AKASH IN RELIANCE SUCCESSION PLAN

This comes after his father resigned with effect from the close of working hours on June 27, it said.

Ambani, 65, has three children --- twins Akash and Isha and youngest son Anant. It is widely anticipated that he may hand over the reins of the retail business

to Isha, 30, who is married to Anand Piramal (son of Piramal Group's Ajay and

Swati Piramal).

Akash and Isha have been on the boards of Reliance Retail Ventures Ltd - the company that operates supermarkets offering consumer electronics, food and grocery, fashion, jewellery, footwear, and clothing, as well as the online retail venture, JioMart - and digital arm Jio Platforms Ltd (JPL) since October 2014. Anant, 26, has recently been inducted as a director on RRVL. He has been a director of JPL since May 2020. Among other appointments, Pankaj Mohan Pawar was appointed Managing Director of Reliance Jio Infocomm for five years beginning June 27, the filing said.

#### ALT NEWS FOUNDER SENT TO 4-DAY POLICE CUSTODY FOR TWEET

"Considering that mobile phone/laptop of accused used by him for posting the tweet in question is to be recovered at the instance of accused Mohammed Zubair from his Bangalore residence and that accused has remained non-cooperative, four days PC (police custody) remand of the accused is granted since accused is to be taken to Bangalore," stated the order.

The CMM directed that Zubair be produced before the court on July 2, and further asked the investigating officer to get medical treatment of the accused conducted as per rules.

Delhi Police officials on Tuesday said that Zubair's objectionable tweet of 2018 led to a Twitter storm with hate speeches, detrimental to communal harmony. "In such cases, finding the gadget used to post such tweets and the intention behind posting such a tweet is important. During questioning, he has been evasive on both the fronts. We found out that his phone was formatted. His evasiveness formed the grounds for his arrest," said KPS Malhotra, the Deputy Commissioner of Police (DCP), Intelligence Fusion & Strategic Operations (IFSO) unit of Special Cell.

Congress spokesperson Supriya Shrinate said without getting into the legalities, the big message by the BJP-led Centre is that the perpetrators of hate speeches would get political patronage and will be out either on bail or otherwise, and people who report that will be behind bars.

Prominent Muslim organisation Jamiat Ulema-e-Hind on Tuesday termed as "discriminatory" the arrest of Zubair and

demanding that the Government take "fair action" in the matter respecting the country's reputation at the international level.

Jamiat president Maulana Mahmood Madani also wrote to Home Minister Amit Shah saying "the discriminatory nature" of the functioning of law enforcement agencies is condemnable. The Editors Guild of India and the Press Club of India on Tuesday described Zubair's arrest as "extremely disturbing" and demanded his immediate release.

#### 87% INDIANS TRUST SOCIAL MEDIA POSTS: OUP STUDY

There were geographical differences in the level of trust people put on social media, with almost 80 per cent of Indian and 60 per cent of Mexican respondents seeing these networks as an important tool for separating fact from fiction, but only 27 per cent taking this view in the UK and 42 per cent in the US, the study said.

People under the age of 55 were more inclined to believe in the accuracy of the material they shared on social media while 35 per cent of people aged 25 to 44 said they were "very confident" they were sharing only truthful information on social media and only 13 per cent of over 55s felt the same, it found. Younger people are also more likely to rely on social media as a source of factual information, with over 44 per cent of those in the 25 to 44 age-bracket turning to the platforms compared to just 12 per cent of over 55s, the study said.

The pandemic does appear to have had an impact on people's perceptions of truth, with around three in four people agreeing that they are now more cautious about the accuracy of the information they encounter - a figure that climbs to over 80 per cent in India, Mexico and South Africa, the study said.

Notably, parents from India were much more likely than those elsewhere to use social media and WhatsApp when teaching their children, with around 30 per cent citing these sources.

Speaking about the research, OUP CEO Nigel Portwood said: "With an ever-increasing number of sources to turn to for information, from books to academic texts to digital channels, and so many answers available at the touch of a button, it's no surprise that our research presents a global picture of confusion."



# 18 killed as Russian missile hits shopping mall in Ukraine

AP ■ KREMENCHUK

Rescuers searched through charred rubble of a shopping mall on Tuesday looking for more victims of a Russian missile strike that killed at least 18 and wounded scores in what Ukraine's president called "one of the most daring terrorist attacks in European history."

President Volodymyr Zelensky said many of the more than 1,000 afternoon shoppers and workers inside the mall in the city of Kremenchuk managed to escape. Giant plumes of black smoke, dust and orange flames billowed from the wreckage as emergency crews combed through broken metal and concrete for victims. Drones whirled above, clouds of dark smoke still emanating from the ruins several hours after the fire was extinguished.

Casualty figures rose as rescuers sifted through the smoldering rubble. The regional governor, Dmytro Lunin, said at least 18 people were killed and 59 others sought medical assistance, of whom 25 were hospitalised. The region declared a day of mourning Tuesday for the victims of the attack.

"We are working to dismantle the construction so that it is possible to get machinery in there since the metal elements are very heavy and big, and disassembling them by hand is impossible," said Volodymyr Hychkan, an emergency services official.

At Ukraine's request, the UN Security Council scheduled an emergency meeting in New York on Tuesday to discuss the attack.

In the first Russian government comment on the missile strike, the country's first deputy permanent representative to the United Nations, Dmitry Polyansky, alleged multiple inconsistencies that he didn't specify, claiming on Twitter that the incident was a provocation by Ukraine.

Russia has repeatedly denied it targets civilian infrastructure, even though Russian attacks have hit other shopping malls, theaters, hospitals, kindergartens and apartment buildings in the four-month war.



Ukrainian State Emergency Service firefighters work to take away debris at a shopping center burned after a rocket attack in Kremenchuk, Ukraine, Tuesday, June 28

On Tuesday, Russian forces struck the Black Sea city of Ochakiv in the Mykolaiv region, damaging apartment buildings and killing two, including a 6-year-old child. A further six people, four of them children, were wounded. One of them, a 3-month-old baby, is in a coma, according to local officials.

The missile strike on Kremenchuk occurred as Western leaders pledged continued support for Ukraine and the world's major economies prepared new sanctions against Russia, including a price cap on oil and higher tariffs on goods.

Meanwhile, the US appeared ready to respond to Zelenskyy's call for more air defense systems, and NATO planned to increase the size of its rapid-reaction forces nearly eightfold - to 300,000 troops.

Zelenskyy said the mall presented "no tphreat to the Russian army" and

had "no strategic value." He accused Russia of sabotaging "people's attempts to live a normal life, which make the occupiers so angry."

In his nightly address, he said it appeared Russian forces had intentionally targeted the shopping center and added, "Today's Russian strike at a shopping mall in Kremenchuk is one of the most daring terrorist attacks in European history."

He said Russia "has become the largest terrorist organisation in the world."

Russia has increasingly used long-range bombers in the war. Ukrainian officials said Russian Tu-22M3 long-range bombers flying over Russia's western Kursk region fired the missiles, one of which hit the shopping center and another that struck a sports arena in Kremenchuk.

The Russian strike echoed earlier-

attacks that caused large numbers of civilian casualties - such as one in March on a Mariupol theater where many civilians had holed up, killing an estimated 600, and another in April on a train station in eastern Kramatorsk that killed at least 59 people.

"Russia continues to take out its impotence on ordinary civilians. It is useless to hope for decency and humanity on its part," Zelenskyy said.

The United Nations called the strike "deplorable," stressing that civilian infrastructure "should never ever be targeted," UN spokesman Stephane Dujarric said.

Group of Seven leaders condemned the attack in a statement late Monday saying "indiscriminate attacks on innocent civilians constitute a war crime. Russian President Putin and those responsible will be held to account."

## G-7 leaders pledge to hurt Russia economically



AP ■ ELMAU, GERMANY

Leaders of the world's wealthiest democracies struck a united stance to support Ukraine for "as long as it takes" as Russia's invasion grinds on, and said they would explore far-reaching steps to cap Kremlin income from oil sales that are financing the war.

The final statement Tuesday from the Group of Seven summit in Germany underlined their intent to impose "severe and immediate economic costs" on Russia.

It left out key details on how the fossil fuel price caps would work in practice, setting up more discussion in the weeks ahead to "explore" measures to bar imports of Russian oil above a certain level.

That would hit a key Russian source of income and, in theory, help relieve the energy price spikes and inflation afflicting the global economy as a result of the war.

"We remain steadfast in our commitment to our unprecedented coordination on sanctions for as long as necessary, acting in unison at every stage," the leaders said.

Leaders also agreed on a ban on imports of Russian gold and to step up aid to countries hit with food shortages by the blockade on Ukraine grain shipments through the Black Sea.

The price cap would in theory work by barring service providers such as shippers or insurers from dealing with oil priced above a fixed level. That could work because the service providers are mostly located in the European Union or the U.K. and thus within reach of sanctions.

To be effective, however, it would have to involve as many consuming countries as possible, in particular India, where refiners have been snapping up cheap Russian oil shunned by Western traders. Details on how the proposal would be implemented were left for continuing talks in coming weeks.

The U.S. has already blocked Russian oil imports, which were small in any case. The European Union has decided to impose a ban on the 90% of Russian oil that comes by sea, but that does not take effect until the end of the year, meaning Europe continues to send money to Russia for energy even while condemning the war.

Meanwhile, higher global oil prices have softened the blow to Russia's income, even as Western traders shun Russian oil.

Energy themes were front and center at the summit throughout. Europe is scrambling to find new sources of oil

and fresh supplies of gas as Russia dials back gas supplies in what leaders say is a political move. Meanwhile high energy prices are a headache for G-7 countries' consumers.

The summit host, German Chancellor Olaf Scholz defended the G-7's decision to soften commitments to end public support for fossil fuel investments, saying the war in Ukraine means time-limited support for new natural gas extraction projects may be necessary.

The G-7 nations said in a statement Tuesday at the end of their three-day summit that "in these exceptional circumstances, publicly supported investment in the gas sector can be appropriate as a temporary response."

Before the summit's close, leaders joined in condemning what they called the "abominable" Russian attack on a shopping mall in the town of Kremenchuk, calling it a war crime and vowing that President Vladimir Putin and others involved "will be held to account."

The leaders of the U.S., Germany, France, Italy, the U.K., Canada and Japan on Monday pledged to support Ukraine "for as long as it takes" after conferring by video link with Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy.

## Macron: Russia cannot, should not win Ukraine war

AP ■ KREMENCHUK (UKRAINE)

French President Emmanuel Macron said Tuesday that Russia "cannot and should not win" the war in Ukraine, as its terrible toll was on full view the day after a Russian missile strike hit a shopping mall, killing 18 people.

Speaking at the end of the Group of Seven summit in Germany, Macron said the seven industrialised democracies would support Ukraine and maintain sanctions against Russia "as long as necessary, and with the necessary intensity."

He added: "Russia cannot and should not win."

His comments came as rescuers searched through the charred rubble of the shopping mall, looking for more victims of what Ukraine's president called "one of the most daring terrorist attacks in European history."



President Volodymyr Zelenskyy said more than 1,000 afternoon shoppers and workers were inside the mall in the city of Kremenchuk. Giant plumes of black smoke, dust and orange flames billowed from the wreckage as emergency crews combed through broken metal and concrete for victims.

## Officials: US sending advanced missile systems to Ukraine

AP ■ WASHINGTON

The US is planning to buy and send more medium- to long-range missile systems to Ukraine, a move officials hope will help Ukrainian forces hold onto the last remaining segments of land in the eastern Donbas that Russia has not yet been able to capture.

A senior defense official said Monday that Ukrainian forces are already effectively using advanced rocket systems, and that more of those will go into Ukraine with trained troops soon. A new plan for the U.S.

To buy and send NASAMS, an advanced surface-to-air missile system, to Ukraine, is also in the works and would add to its longer-range rocket and missile strike capabilities.

President Joe Biden is expected to announce soon that the U.S. is purchasing NASAMS, a Norwegian-developed anti-aircraft system, to provide medium- to long-range

defense for Ukraine, according to an administration official familiar with the matter.

NASAMS is the same system used by the U.S. To protect the airspace around the White House and Capitol in Washington.

Both the defense official and the administration official

spoke on condition of anonymity to discuss U.S. Military assessments and plans that have yet to be announced.

Russia has been mounting an all-out assault on the last Ukrainian stronghold in the eastern Luhansk region - the city of Lysschansk - from the

ground and air, the local governor said Monday.

Luhansk Gov. Serhiy Haidai said Russian forces were pummeling Lysschansk after capturing the neighboring city of Sievierodonetsk in recent days.

It's part of a stepped-up Russian offensive to wrest the broader Donbas region from Ukrainian government control in what Western experts say has become the new main goal of President Vladimir Putin's war in Ukraine, now in its fifth month.

The defense official said the U.S. Continues to see morale and other command and control problems among the Russian forces, and that some local Russian officials in Ukraine have been assassinated in recent days.

The U.S. Has sent four High Mobility Artillery Rocket Systems, or HIMARS, into Ukraine, which already are being used. Four more will go in soon.



## US, French companies to supply fuel to Czech nuclear plant

AP ■ PRAGUE

The Czech Republic has signed deals with Westinghouse Electric Co. And France's Framatome to deliver fuel supplies for a nuclear power plant, reducing the country's dependence on Russia.

The Czech state-controlled power company CEZ said on Tuesday that Pennsylvania-based Westinghouse and Framatome will contribute to the country's energy security by supplying the Temelin nuclear fuel for more than 10 years, starting in 2024.

The deal is worth several

billion Czech crowns (hundreds of millions of dollars), it said.

The plant's current supplier is Russia's TVEL, part of Russian energy giant Rosatom. CEZ said it has fuel enough for the plant for about two years.

"Our goal was to diversify the number of suppliers in order to minimise the risk of possible supply failures for any reason," Ladislav Stepanek, director at CEZ's fuel cycle department said. CEZ operates two 1,000-megawatt reactors at the Temelin plant. Westinghouse had provided fuel supplies to Temelin for 10 years until 2010.

## 46 migrants found dead in abandoned US trailer

AP ■ SAN ANTONIO

Forty-six people were found dead after being abandoned in a tractor-trailer on a remote back road in San Antonio in the latest tragedy to claim the lives of migrants smuggled across the border from Mexico to the U.S. Sixteen people were hospitalized, including four children.

A city worker heard a cry for help from the truck shortly before 6 p.m. Monday and discovered the gruesome scene, Police Chief William McManus said. Hours later, body bags lay spread on the ground near the trailer and bodies remained inside as authorities responded to the calamity.

San Antonio Mayor Ron Nirenberg said the 46 who died had "families who were likely trying to find a better life."

"This is nothing short of a horrific human tragedy," Nirenberg said.

It's among the deadliest of

the tragedies that have claimed thousands of lives in recent decades as people attempt to cross the U.S. border from Mexico. Ten migrants died in 2017 after being trapped inside a truck parked at a Walmart in San Antonio. In 2003, the bodies of 19 migrants were found in a sweltering truck southeast of San Antonio.

The home countries of all of the migrants and how long they were abandoned on the side of the road were not immediately known.

Among them, 22 are from Mexico, seven are from Guatemala and two are from Honduras, Roberto Velasco Alvarez, head of the North America department in Mexico's Foreign Relations Department, said on Twitter.

"Our condolences," he tweeted. "All responsible will be brought to justice."

South Texas has long been the busiest area for illegal border crossings. Migrants ride in

vehicles through Border Patrol checkpoints to San Antonio, the closest major city, from which point they disperse across the United States.

Officers arrived to find a body on the ground outside the trailer and a partially opened gate to the trailer. Three people were taken into custody, but it was unclear if they were definitively connected with human trafficking, McManus said. The trailer was gone Tuesday morning, but access to the area where it was found remained blocked.

Of the 16 taken to hospitals with heat-related illnesses, 12 were adults and four were children, said Fire Chief Charles Hood. The patients were hot to the touch and dehydrated, and no water was found in the trailer, he said.

"They were suffering from heat stroke and exhaustion," Hood said. "It was a refrigerated tractor-trailer, but there was no visible working AC unit on that rig."

## NATO holds Summit with gaze on Russia and China

AP ■ MADRID

Russia's invasion of Ukraine has shocked NATO back to first principles.

Seven decades after it was founded, the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation is meeting in Madrid this week with an urgent need to reassert its original mission: preventing Russian aggression against Western allies.

Leaders of the world's most powerful military alliance are aiming to increase support for Ukraine's fight against Russian invasion, boost forces on NATO's eastern flank and set priorities for the coming decade - with a new emphasis on checking China's growing international ambitions.

But the gathering will also showcase the difficulties in keeping 30 nations - from tiny Iceland and Luxembourg to huge Turkey and the United States - aligned in an organisation that must make decisions by consensus.

### FOCUS ON UKRAINE

NATO was formed after World War II to counter the threat from the Soviet Union and foster cooperation in a shattered Europe. In the years after the

collapse of the USSR, the alliance recast Russia not as an adversary but as a "strategic partner."

No longer.

Russia is NATO's dominant issue and main adversary, and the Madrid summit will be dominated by how to support Ukraine and bolster defences along the bloc's eastern borders, where countries from Romania to the Baltic states worry they may be next in Russian President Vladimir Putin's sights.

Until late last year, only around 5,000 NATO troops were deployed in the Baltic states and Poland on a rotational basis. Now hundreds of thousands of troops are on heightened alert, with 100,000 US troops in Europe, and 40,000 under direct NATO command, supported by air and naval power.

The summit is set to agree to stockpile weapons and equipment in eastern Europe and to dramatically increase the number of troops based in the region or on standby in their own countries as a rapid-reaction force. There will also be more support for Ukraine to upgrade its military, still reliant on Soviet-era equipment, to modern NATO-standard gear.

The alliance is trying to strike a



delicate balance, letting its member nations arm Ukraine without sparking a direct confrontation between NATO and nuclear-armed Russia.

That's one reason Ukraine will not be joining NATO in the foreseeable future, despite being put on the pathway to membership, along with Georgia, in 2008.

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy is scheduled to address the summit by video, but he has acknowledged joining NATO is a distant prospect and is instead focusing on

seeking European Union membership.

Expansion of the alliance is on the cards, however. Finland and Sweden have both abandoned their nonaligned status and asked to join NATO as protection from Russia.

### TURKEY AS SPOILER?

But Turkey, which has NATO's second-largest army after the US, is set to play spoiler to the aspirations of Sweden and Finland - at least for now.

Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan has insisted that he will only allow the Nordic pair to enter NATO if they change their stance on Kurdish rebel groups that Turkey considers terrorists.

NATO Secretary-General Jens Stoltenberg hosted talks with Turkey, Sweden and Finland last week to work toward a breakthrough, and will meet with the three countries' leaders on Tuesday, but there's no guarantee the breakthrough will come in Madrid.

"Turkey has legitimate security concerns over terrorism that we need to address," Stoltenberg said. "So we will continue our talks on Finland and Sweden's applications for NATO membership, and I look forward to finding a way forward as soon as possible."



# Swiatek wins 36th match in a row

AP ■ LONDON

From the red clay of the French Open to the green grass of Wimbledon, the wins keep coming for Iga Swiatek.

The top-seeded Pole won her opening match on Centre Court on Tuesday, beating Croatian qualifier Jana Fett 6-0, 6-3.

The victory was Swiatek's 36th in row and includes all seven matches she played at this year's French Open in winning her second title at Roland Garros. It's the longest winning streak on the women's tour since 1997, when Martina Hingis won 37.

"It's my first match on grass this season, so I knew it's going to be tricky," Swiatek said on court.

"I'm just figuring out how to play here and trying to implement all the stuff that we were practicing on."

Even with seven-time champion Serena Williams in the draw at the All England Club, Swiatek is the woman to beat. She won five tournaments before heading to Paris in May, earning consecutive titles in Doha, Indian Wells, Miami, Stuttgart and Rome.

Swiatek, again wearing a pin with the colors of Ukraine on her hat, started out like she left off in her last match at the French Open. But she went down 3-1 in the second set before recovering.

"The second set, at the beginning I lost my focus a little bit and she used that pretty



well," Swiatek said.

Coco Gauff, who lost to Swiatek in this year's French Open final, also won her opening match. The 11th-seeded American beat Elena-Gabriela Ruse of Romania 2-6, 6-3, 7-5.

Gauff got the go-ahead break in the third set at 5-5 on her sixth break point of the game when Ruse double-faulted.

In her two previous appearances at the All England Club, Gauff reached the fourth round.

Barbora Krejickova, who won the French Open in 2021 to split Swiatek's two titles there, also advanced to the second round. The 13th-seeded Czech defeated Maryna Zanevska of Belgium 7-6 (4), 6-3.

No. 4 Paula Badosa, No. 5 Maria Sakkari, No. 12 Jelena Ostapenko and No. 33 Shuai Zhang of China also advanced.

Among the seeded player to lose was Olympic champion Belinda Bencic. The 14th-seeded Swiss player lost to Qiang

Wang of China 6-4, 5-7, 6-2.

No. 18 Jil Teichmann of Switzerland, No. 20 Amanda Anisimova of the United States and No. 27 Yulia Putintseva of Kazakhstan also lost.

In the men's draw, No. 18 Grigor Dimitrov of Bulgaria retired from his match with an apparent injury. He was leading Steve Johnson of the United States 6-4, 2-5 when he stopped.

No. 15 Reilly Opelka of the United States, No. 19 Alex De Minaur of Australia, No. 29

Jenson Brooksby of the United States, No. 31 Sebastian Baez of Argentina and unseeded Nick Kyrgios of Australia also won.

## 'THAT ONE'S FOR YOU'

Nick Kyrgios came out on top in a fiery Wimbledon five-setter on Tuesday and told rowdy critics in the crowd: "That one's for you — you know who you are."

The Australian defeated British wildcard Paul Jubb 3-6, 6-1, 7-5, 6-7 (3/7), 7-5 on the

## Berrettini out due to Covid

AP ■ LONDON

Italy's Matteo Berrettini, the 2021 Wimbledon runner-up and a title favourite this year, pulled out of the tournament on Tuesday after testing positive for coronavirus.

"I am heartbroken to announce that I need to withdraw from Wimbledon due to a positive COVID-19 test result," the 26-year-old Italian wrote on Instagram.

Berrettini was widely regarded as one of the biggest threats to defending champion Novak Djokovic at the All England Club, having captured back-to-back grass-court titles in Stuttgart and Queen's.

He is the second man to withdraw from Wimbledon with Covid in two days after 2017 runner-up Marin Cilic of Croatia also tested positive.

"I have had flu symptoms and been isolating the last few days," Berrettini said in his statement.

"Despite symptoms not being severe, I decided it was important to take another test



this morning to protect the health and safety of my fellow competitors and everyone else involved in the tournament.

"I have no words to describe the extreme disappointment I feel. The dream is over for this year, but I will be

back stronger."

Berrettini was a potential semi-final opponent of two-time champion Rafael Nadal.

Instead his place in the Wimbledon first round will be taken by Sweden's Elias Ymer, a lucky loser from qualifying.

However, he was out of sorts in the first set.

As well as his displeasure with a section of the crowd, he also called a line judge "a snitch with no fans".

"The crowd was pretty rowdy," said Kyrgios. "He was a local wildcard with nothing to lose. But it was a lot of fun."

## Mumbai Indians organise 3-week UK exposure trip for Indian domestic players

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

After a disastrous IPL-15 campaign, the Mumbai Indians are all set to start their preparations in earnest for the next edition, with a three-week exposure tour of England in July for their uncapped Indian players.

Apart from enjoying training at various state-of-the-art facilities, the Indian youngsters of MI will be playing at least 10 T20 games against top club sides across multiple counties. "NT Tilak Varma, Kumar Kartikeya, Ramandeep Singh, Hrithik Shokeen are some of the players who will get exposure playing against top T20 club sides in trying conditions. "Arjun Tendulkar, who is also in UK and South African youngster Dewald Brevis are also likely to join the touring party," an IPL insider privy to the development said.

The MI support staff headed by chief coach Mahela Jayawardene will be in England to oversee the progress of the Indian players.

"Look, the Indian domestic season has come to an end. While the top players like skipper Rohit Sharma, premier pacer Jasprit Bumrah will be now on the road with the

national team, our international stars will also be busy with their respective commitments," the source indicated.

"The ones who need to be monitored are our younger crop of players as they won't be having any match practice for three and half months before the next domestic season starts.

"So effectively, we can't call it a pre-season trip as IPL is still nine months away. But it is trying to monitor the progress of our core group of youngsters going forward," he added.

For this trip though, MI doesn't need any BCCI permission unless the team is playing exhibition games against other franchises or overseas T20 sides.

"This trip isn't a commercial one where there will be tickets sold or the match will be broadcast on a particular channel or streamed on some app. Since the trip isn't a revenue generator, we don't need to apply for any permission from BCCI," he informed.

"We are only taking those players to UK who are not associated with any national team activities or have been summoned for any of the BCCI conducted camps or playing in any league (like TNPL)."

PTI ■ KUALA LUMPUR

India's HS Prannoy faced stiff resistance before prevailing against local hero Daren Liew as the Indian shuttler progressed to the men's singles second round of the Malaysia Open, here on Tuesday.

A former top-10 player, Prannoy, who had reached the semifinals of Indonesia Open Super 1000 earlier this month, emerged a 21-14, 17-21, 21-18 winner in 62 minutes.

The 29-year-old from Kerala, ranked 21st currently, will face fourth seeded Chou Tien Chen of Chinese Taipei next at the Super 750 badminton tournament.

Prannoy's win brought some cheers to the Indian camp after B Sai Praneeth and Sameer Verma made early exits.

While Praneeth went down to world number six Anthony Sinisuka Ginting of Indonesia, Sameer lost to world number 8 Jonatan Christie, also from Indonesia.

The 30-year-old Praneeth, currently ranked world number 19, lost 15-21, 21-19, 9-21 to Ginting in a 50-minute men's single match.

This was eight meeting between the two players with the Indonesian now leading the head-to-head record 5-3. They last played at the 2020 Asian Team championships where Ginting won the contest after Praneeth retired due to an injury.

Sameer, who is making a comeback from injury, fought for 49 minutes before losing 14-

## Prannoy advances as Sameer, Praneeth exit Malaysia Open



21, 21-13, 7-21 in another match.

In doubles, women's pairing of Ashwini Ponnappa and N Sikki Reddy also bowed out of the tournament after losing 15-

21, 11-21 to Japanese duo of Nami Matsuyama and Chiharu Shida, seeded sixth.

Prannoy was slow off the mark but opened up a healthy

11-7 lead at the break. His strokes penetrated the defence of his opponent, who looked little passive as Prannoy was rewarded for his alertness and better control in the rallies.



## Olympic medallist hockey player Varinder Singh dies

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Olympic and World Cup medallist Varinder Singh, who was an integral part of some of India's memorable victories in the 1970s, died in Jalandhar on Tuesday morning. He was 75.

Singh was part of the Gold-medal winning Indian team at the 1975 men's Hockey World Cup in Kuala Lumpur. This remains India's only Gold medal at the prestigious tournament where the country had beaten arch-rivals Pakistan 2-1 in the final.

Singh was also part of the Bronze medal-winning team at the 1972 Munich Olympics and Silver medal at 1973 World Cup in Amsterdam.

He also had to his credit a Silver medal at the 1974 and 1978 Asian Games, respectively. The Indian hockey stalwart also featured in the 1976 Montreal Olympics.

## LAFC confirms 12-month Bale deal

AP ■ LOS ANGELES

Wales captain Gareth Bale has signed a 12-month contract with Los Angeles FC that features options through 2024, the Major League Soccer squad announced on Monday.

Bale confirmed his plans on social media over the weekend after his departure from Spanish giants Real Madrid. "I am extremely excited for this move to LAFC," Bale said.

"This is the right place for me and my family and the right time in my career and I cannot wait to get started working with the team and getting ready to win more trophies in Los Angeles."

The 32-year-old forward, a five-time UEFA Champions League winner, spent nine years with Real Madrid.

"Gareth is one of the most dynamic and exciting players of his generation," LAFC co-president and general manager John Thorntington said. "Adding a player who brings his talent and experience at the highest levels is an incredible opportunity to improve our club."

"It's clear that Gareth is highly motivated to continue to win trophies and we are elated that he has made the choice to join LAFC and help lead us in our ultimate goal of winning championships."

Bale has made 105 appearances for Wales since 2006, scoring 28 goals and contributing 22 assists. He sparked Wales into this year's Qatar World Cup, their first appearance in 64 years.



The Cardiff native made his professional debut at age 16 in 2006 for Southampton in the English Championship before joining Premier League side Tottenham Hotspur in 2007, scoring 42 goals in 146 appearances through 2013, when he joined Real Madrid.

With the La Liga club, Bale scored 106 goals and assisted on 67 others in 258 appearances as Real Madrid made a stunning trophy haul, collecting hardware 19 times.

Bale is expected to attend an LAFC home match on Wednesday against Dallas and a likely debut match would be the Black and Gold's July 8 home game against the Los Angeles Galaxy in the local derby.

## Fernandinho returns to Brazil with Athletico Paranaense

AP ■ SAO PAULO

Former Manchester City captain Fernandinho has returned to his first club and signed for Athletico Paranaense, the Brazilian club said on Monday.

The 37-year-old midfielder, who left City at the end of last season following a trophy-laden nine-year stint in England, signed a two-and-a-half year contract.

"It is with great satisfaction that I return home... Knowing that I can apply a little bit of everything I achieved in these years playing in Europe," said Fernandinho in a press conference to unveil his arrival in the southern city of Curitiba.

Born in Parana state, whose capital is Curitiba, Fernandinho began his career at Athletico as a teenager in 2002 before moving to Ukraine to join Shakhtar Donetsk in 2005.

After eight years in Donetsk that saw him win six Ukrainian league titles, four Ukrainian cups and the UEFA Cup, the precursor to the Europa League, in 2009, Fernandinho



caught the eye of City scouts.

By then he was already a Brazil international and would go on to win more than 50 caps, helping the Selecao lift the 2019 Copa America and playing in two World Cups.

At City he won five Premier League titles, the FA Cup, six League Cups and played in the 2021 Champions League final.

## AFI expels athlete from national camp after needles were found in his room

NEW DELHI: National level athlete Ayush Dabas was on Tuesday expelled from the national camp at NIS Patiala by Athletics Federation of India (AFI) after syringes and needles were found in his room.

Dabas was punished for violating the 'No Needle Policy' of AFI which has been in place since 2018.

"As per the No Needle Policy of AFI, Ayush Dabas has been removed from the national coaching camp as he was found in possession of syringes and needles in his room," the AFI said in its Instagram handle.

The 22-year-old Dabas has a personal best of 46.48s in 400m and 21.89s in 200m. He had taken part in the 400m race in the National Inter-State Championships in Chennai earlier this month and had failed to qualify for the final round.

Under the 'No Needle Policy' of the AFI, "any athlete and or support staff who finds any needle or suspect equipment in any athlete's room is required to report the suspicious material including needles immediately to the AFI

## Bhawana Jat withdraws from World C'hips

NEW DELHI: Race walker Bhawana Jat has withdrawn from the World Athletics Championships in USA next month, while veteran discus thrower Seema Punia also could miss the showpiece event as some Indians are set to make the cut through world ranking quota.

The qualification deadline ended on Sunday and World Athletics will publish the list of participants for the July 15-24 event on Wednesday.

Bhawana, who was named in the Commonwealth Games team for 20km race walk "subject to health condition", has informed the Athletics Federation of India (AFI) that she wanted to focus on the CWG as she had started training just 10 days back.

Medical Commission, which in turn will initiate a thorough investigation into the discovery of suspicious equipment including needles and further disciplinary action taken as deemed necessary."

"AFI Medical Commission has the privilege and right to search any premises/locations including baggage search pertaining to athletes and support staff any time without any prior notice," it said.

It said needles must not be used except by medically qualified practitioners for the clinically justified treatment of injury, illness or other medical conditions (for which a valid



# STOKES' ENG SET SIGHTS ON INDIA

AP ■ LEEDS

England captain Ben Stokes has insisted there will be no let-up from his side when they face India just days after whitewashing Test world champions New Zealand.

A first series under the new leadership duo of Stokes and red-ball head coach Brendon McCullum, a former New Zealand captain, ended with an emphatic seven-wicket win in Leeds on Monday that sealed a 3-0 triumph over the Black Caps.

For the third time in as many matches, England made light of a potentially tricky run chase, with Jonny Bairstow ending a pursuit of 296 by smashing a six on his Headingley home ground. England, however, have just a few days to savour their success before facing India at Edgbaston in a match starting Friday.

The fifth Test was rescheduled after the fixture was postponed last September following a Covid outbreak in the India camp.

India are currently 2-1 up in a five-match series following a 157-run win at the Oval but are now set to face a revitalised England side likely to feature only four survivors at most from that match — Ollie Pope, Joe Root, Bairstow and James Anderson — later this week. "Regardless of the opposition, we're still going to have the same mindset," Stokes told reporters after stumps in Leeds on Monday.

The dynamic all-rounder, on a mental health break from cricket at the time of the fourth Test against India, added: "Obviously, it's going to be a completely different... different opposition, with their attack and players as well."



"We'll be concentrating on what we've done well over these last three games and look to continue that against India on Friday."

England had won just once in 17 Tests prior to the New Zealand series, albeit many of those matches were played under mentally-draining coronavirus restrictions that no longer apply.

## 'NEW MENTALITY'

But the shackles have been lifted in an exhilarating start to life under McCullum, one of the most attacking players of his generation.

"I knew that everyone would buy into the new mentality me and Brendon set out, but I didn't think it would go this well to be honest," said kindred spirit Stokes.

In the space of just over a week, Bairstow struck two remarkable Test hundreds, his 136 in a run chase at Trent Bridge was followed by an astounding 162 which rescued England from the depths of 55-6 in the first innings at Headingley.

Monday witnessed more blazing hitting from Bairstow, who struck England's second-quickest Test fifty of all time, off just 30 balls, on his way to an unbeaten 71.

Former England captain Joe Root played second fiddle while making 86

not out as he shared an unbroken stand of 111 with his Yorkshire teammate.

Root was named England's player of the series after scoring 396 runs at an average of 99, in a continuation of the form that has taken him top of the Test batting rankings.

McCullum, however, has had a more immediate impact upon Bairstow.

"I've never heard a bloke get 130-odd off 90 balls like he did at Trent Bridge and then ask his head coach how to go out and play," said Stokes.

"Baz McCullum basically just said, 'Go and get your Sudoku book, sit next to me and shut up. Whatever you did last week, go out and do it again.'"

"With Jonny, it's just about making sure he knows what he's in the team to do."

New Zealand arrived in England with questions over how they would replace the retiring Ross Taylor and BJ Watling only for their effective replacements — Daryl Mitchell and Tom Blundell — to share four century partnerships.

But omitting frontline spinner Ajaz Patel — who in December became only the third bowler in Test history to take all 10 wickets in an innings, against India in his birthplace of Mumbai — for the last two matches of this series proved costly, with off-break bowler Michael Bracewell thrashed for 109 runs in 15.2 overs during England's run-chase at Headingley.

"We opted for the balance of the side to go with three seamers," said New Zealand captain Kane Williamson. "We were curious to whether it would turn but it's just one of those things."



## India to tour NZ for limited overs series after T20 WC

PTI ■ WELLINGTON

India will be touring New Zealand for a white-ball series comprising three T20Is and as many ODIs after the World T20 in Australia, New Zealand Cricket (NZC) said on Tuesday.

The series will be held between November 18 to 30 and New Zealand will return to India for a white-ball series in January next year.

"India will arrive in New Zealand at the conclusion of the world cup to play the Black Caps in three T20s at Wellington, Tauranga and Napier, and three ODIs at Auckland, Hamilton and Christchurch," NZC said in a release.

"The Black Caps will then depart for the sub-continent for a tour of Pakistan and a short form series in India, before returning in early February to

prepare for the two Tests against England — at Tauranga (D/N) and Wellington."

India will be playing a rescheduled one-off fifth Test against England beginning on Friday, besides featuring in three T20Is and as many ODIs at the Old Blighty.

India will then tour the West Indies for a white-ball series comprising three ODIs and five T20Is in July-August in the run-up to the T20 World Cup.

In a jam-packed international schedule, New Zealand will also play a day-night Test against England, while six teams will be touring the country in the 2022-23 home summer.

Besides India, the other touring teams include Pakistan, Bangladesh, England and Sri Lanka men's teams, and Bangladesh women.

## FIXTURES

DATE	GAME	VENUE
November 18	1st T20	Sky Stadium, Wellington
November 20	2nd T20	Bay Oval, Mount Maunganui
November 22	3rd T20	McLean Park, Napier
November 25	1st ODI	Eden Park, Auckland
November 27	2nd ODI	Seddon Park, Hamilton
November 30	3rd ODI	Hagley Oval, Christchurch.

## Radha Yadav moves up in Women's T20 rankings

PTI ■ DUBAI

On the back of her splendid performance in the just-concluded T20 series against Sri Lanka, India's left-arm spinner Radha Yadav has moved up to the 13th spot in the ICC Women's T20 players rankings.

As per the latest rankings released by the ICC, Yadav has progressed seven places to the 13th among bowlers after bagging four wickets in the series against Sri Lanka, which India won 2-1.

In batting chart, Sri Lanka captain Chamari Athapaththu has moved up one place to a career-best seventh position after aggregating 139 runs in three matches. She had struck a match-winning 80 not out in the final T20I in Dambulla.

Athapaththu has also gained two slots to reach seventh in the all-rounders' list.

Indian batters Smriti Mandhana (fourth), Jemimah Rodrigues (14th) and captain Harmanpreet Kaur (18th) have retained their places in the batting list.

The other Indian bowlers who have advanced



in rankings are Pooja Vastrakar, who has moved up 30 places to the 32nd spot, and Renuka Thakur, who has jumped 83 places to reach the 97th spot.

Vastrakar clinched only two wickets in the T20 series, while she also scored 27 runs. Thakur was also able to clinch only two wickets in the three-match T20 series.

Meanwhile, Sri Lanka's Anushka Sanjeevani has moved up four places to 60th among bowlers.

Sri Lanka spinners Oshadi Ranasinghe (up 11 places to 26th), Sugandika Kumari (up nine places to 40th) and Inoka Ranaweera (up 16 places to 47th) have also improved their rankings.

## India clinch series 2-0



PTI ■ MALAHIDE

India managed to pull out a four-run win against Ireland in a nail-biting finish here on Tuesday.

Ireland needed 17 off the last over, bowled by Umrán Malik. Mark Adair hit two consecutive fours after Umrán bowled a no ball. Young Umrán controlled his nerves to give just three runs of the remaining over, giving India a win.

Earlier, Deepak Hooda produced a master-class knock, becoming only the fourth Indian to hit a T20 International century, as India posted a mammoth 227 for 7 in the second and final match.

During his maiden T20I ton (104 off 57 balls), Hooda showed he belonged to the big stage with his scintillating stroke play, both off the front

and backfoot.

While Hooda was elegant and at ease on the frontfoot, he was equally good on the backfoot, dispatching the ball over the midwicket boundary for a few sixes.

Hooda decorated his knock with nine fours and six hits over the fence.

He was ably supported by Sanju Samson, who, opening the batting in place of injured Ruturaj Gaikwad, played second fiddle but grabbed his opportunity with both hands.

Samson made 77 off 42 balls with the help of nine boundaries and four sixes.

Both Hooda and Samson's strokeplay down the ground were a treat for the eyes.

But India did not have the best of starts as they lost Ishan Kishan (3) early. The left-handed opener once again wasted an

opportunity, nicking a Mark Adair delivery to Lorcan Tucker behind the stumps in the third over.

Hooda and Samson joined hands and the duo batted effortlessly, albeit handing two difficult chances, to share 176 runs off just 85 balls to lay the foundation for India's huge total.

It was a one-way traffic after Kishan's dismissal as Hooda and Samson toyed with the Irish bowlers and did not let them settle down.

Except for a difficult chance which Paul Stirling dropped at extra off in the eighth over, Hooda played a perfect knock.

Samson too was handed a life in the ninth over when leg-spinner Gareth Delany dropped a difficult caught-and-bowled chance.

Samson too played some delightful strokes, particularly off the backfoot during his half-century knock. He, however, was cleaned up by Adair in the 17th over.

Hooda brought up his maiden T20I century off 55 balls with a single to join the likes of Rohit Sharma, KL Rahul and Suresh Raina in the elite club of only four Indian centuries in the format.

Once Hooda departed at the team score of 212, Surya Kumar Yadav (15) and skipper Hardik Pandya (15) tried to accelerate the scoring but failed as India lost three wickets for the addition of just 14 runs in the last two overs.

## England World Cup-winning skipper Morgan retires from int'l cricket

AP ■ LONDON

Eoin Morgan may be England's all-time leading run scorer in one-day and Twenty20 cricket, but the World Cup's winner game-changing impact on the team was measured in more than just figures.

Morgan, 35, announced his international retirement on Tuesday at Lord's, where he captained England to their memorable World Cup final win against New Zealand in 2019.

That thrilling victory was the culmination of Morgan's white-ball revolution as he oversaw a complete change in attitude towards the limited-over game in his adopted country.

Always his own man, the Dublin-born Morgan rose rapidly through the ranks of Ireland cricket, becoming known for his unorthodox shot-making.

But with Ireland not then a Test nation, he made no secret of his desire to qualify for England and made his debut for Middlesex a week after his 19th birthday.

The left-hander was equally decisive when he stood down from Test cricket after playing the last of 16 matches in the longer format in 2012 when he realised there was no chance of a red-ball recall.

By concentrating on limited-overs internationals, Morgan became England's all-time leading scorer in ODI and T20 cricket with 6,957 and 2,458 runs respectively.

His tally of 225 ODI appearances and 115 T20Is is another England record, but it was as a ground-breaking captain that Morgan had his greatest impact.

Appointed on the eve of the 2015 World Cup after the selectors dispensed with Alastair Cook, he led England to a miserable first-round exit sealed with a woeful defeat by Bangladesh.

But inspired by the attacking approach of New Zealand captain Brendon McCullum, who



recently became England's red-ball coach, Morgan oversaw a remarkable revival.

Just under three months after being thrashed by New Zealand at the World Cup in a match where McCullum hit 77 from only 25 balls, England turned the tables on the Black Caps by smashing 408-9 in a 210-run win at Edgbaston.

Morgan, with the support of coach Trevor Bayliss — the Australian was drafted into the England set-up after the 2015 debacle — presided over 16 wins from 20 bilateral series during the four years between World Cups.

England in that time climbed to number one in the rankings, with the likes of Jos Buttler, Jason Roy, Jonny Bairstow and Ben Stokes buying into Morgan's policy of fearless attacking cricket.

Morgan was also adept in the field, his sensitive captaincy allowing leg-spinner Adil Rashid to flourish.

The skipper also wisely had a calming word with Jofra Archer after the fast bowler sent down a wide at the start of a Super Over that ended with England beating New Zealand in the World Cup final.

## West Indies win by 10 wickets, seal series 2-0

AP ■ GROS ISLET

West Indies beat Bangladesh by 10 wickets in the second Test and took a one-sided series 2-0 at Daren Sammy Stadium.

Both Tests were won well inside four days.

A wet field washed out the first two sessions on Monday, but when Bangladesh resumed on 132-6, needing 42 more runs to make West Indies bat again, play lasted less than 12 overs.

Bangladesh's second innings extended nine more overs and 54 more runs before it was all over on 186. Nurul Hasan was stranded on 60 not out from 50 balls.

Needing 13 runs to win, West Indies openers John Campbell and captain Kraigg Brathwaite took 17 balls.

Bangladesh's 100th Test loss came after it scored 234 and 186 and West Indies 408 and 13 not out.



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When the day's play got underway, Mehidy Hasan Miraz got off with a mark with a boundary then was out next ball trying to block an Alzarri Joseph bouncer and edging behind.

Jayden Seales bagged in the one over Ebadot Hossain and Shoriful Islam for ducks.

Seales, Joseph and Kemar Roach each took three wickets.

Khaled Ahmed was run out for a duck from the non-striker's end when Nurul wasn't looking for a run.

Nurul resumed from 16 overnight and blasted two sixes and five boundaries for his third Test fifty — all against West Indies — and four runs short of his career best.

They start three T20Is and three ODIs from Saturday.

## Oz pick Swepson for Sri Lanka spin battle

AP ■ GALLE

Australia's Mitchell Swepson will play the opening Test against Sri Lanka, with touring skipper Pat Cummins on Tuesday calling the leg-spinner an "important cog" in their bowling attack.

The 28-year-old Swepson will partner premier spinner Nathan Lyon at the start of the two-match series on Wednesday in Galle, where the pitch is expected to be a turner.

Cummins stopped short of disclosing the full Australian XI, with doubts over batsman Travis Head, who injured his hamstring during the team's loss in the one-day international series.

"Just want to see how Travis gets through, so we'll give him bit more time. But yes, Mitchell Swepson will be the second spinner in the Test match," Cummins told reporters.

Swepson made his debut in Pakistan earlier this year and was part of the visiting team's 1-0 Test triumph there. He took two wickets in two matches.

But Cummins insists the up-and-coming wrist spinner is ready for the Sri Lankan challenge as Australia look to avenge their 3-0 loss to the



hosts in 2016.

"We're really happy with Swepo. I think he is bowling beautifully and really ready for this one," said Cummins.

"I think his role here might be slightly different as well. Pakistan we knew was going to be a slow grind and I thought he did his job despite not

taking the wickets he would like. He was a really important cog in that bowling engine."

Sri Lanka skipper Dimuth Karunaratne said leg-spinners were a wicket-taking option and the hosts could hand a Test debut to wrist spinner Jeffrey Vandersay.

"Wrist spinner has more control

on these tracks," he said.

## SPIN TO WIN

Veteran spinner Rangana Herath was the wrecker-in-chief with his 28 wickets in Sri Lanka's series sweep of the Australians six years ago.

Karunaratne insists the team's present spin group of Lasith Embuldeniya, Ramesh Mendis, Praveen Jayawickrama and Vandersay can match Herath's exploits.

"There are three spinners who can play that role, so whoever comes and bowls well he can do the job," said Karunaratne.

"Embuldeniya has good experience on these wickets, Mendis, Praveen and Vandersay also there. I think those are capable of doing Rangana Herath's job".

Cummins admitted Sri Lanka are a tough side to beat on home soil.

"I think Sri Lanka play really well over here, it's quite different from what we experience in Australia," said Cummins.

"They are going to pose a challenge but we are up for it."

All-rounder Glenn Maxwell could return to the Test team after a gap of five years since he last played a five-day game.