

CITY 2
CM STRESSES ON SAFETY OF
PEOPLE DURING FLOODS**OPINION 6**
UNSETTLED QUERIES IN
L'AFFAIRE NUPUR**WORLD 10**
AIDE: TRUMP DISMISSED JAN 6
THREATS, WANTED TO JOIN CROWD

LUCKNOW, THURSDAY JUNE 30, 2022; PAGES 12 ₹3



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3rd ROUND OF
WIMBLEDON
11 SPORT

Uddhav resigns as CM after SC refuses to stay trust vote

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■
MUMBAI/NEW DELHI

Minutes after the Supreme Court refused to stay Maharashtra Governor's direction to the Shiv Sena-NCP-Congress Maha Vikas Aghadi Government to take a floor test in the Assembly on Thursday, Uddhav on Wednesday announced his resignation as the Maharashtra Chief Minister.

"I am also quitting as the member of the Legislative Council," Thackeray said in a webcast, on Thursday night while appealing to the workers of his party not to take to the streets in protest. He said he was not interested "in playing the numbers game".

"Let the rebels who grew politically because of Shiv Sena and Balasaheb Thackeray get joy and satisfaction of pulling down his son from the post of Chief Minister," Thackeray said.

Earlier, after hearing all sides for more than three hours on Wednesday on Governor's order for a floor test by the Sena-led Government in Maharashtra, a Supreme Court Bench comprising Justices Surya Kant and JB Pardiwala delivered the order around 9 pm, refusing to stay the floor test. However, the court issued notice on Shiv Sena Chief Whip Sunil Prabhu's petition to all parties to respond and tagged the case with rebel MP's case against disqualification

notice, scheduled on July 11.

The apex court said the final outcome of the floor test will be subject to the disqualification case. The court allowed jailed Ministers Nawab Malik and Anil Deshmukh to attend the floor test.

"We are not staying the floor test. We are issuing notices. You can file counter. We will hear on merits along with other cases on July 11. The result of tomorrow will depend on the final outcome of this petition," the court directed, adding that the results of tomorrow will be subject to the final outcome of the petition before the court.

Senior Counsel Abhishek Manu Singhvi, appearing for Prabhu, said the entire voting pool will change if the floor test is held after disqualification. "The decision of the Speaker will change the pool who will be voting. Before plunging into the pool, the size has to be noted," he said.

"If on July 11, the court decides the petition, say the Speaker's bar is lifted, and certain MLAs are disqualified, then the test could have concluded the next day," said Singhvi arguing that the case before the top court will become infructuous.

Singhvi questioned the act of the Governor in showing undue haste in calling for floor test. "The Governor is bound to act on the aid and advice of the Council of Ministers. Here



Maharashtra Chief Minister Uddhav Thackeray with Maharashtra Minister Aaditya Thackeray leaves after attending a Cabinet meeting, in Mumbai on Wednesday

he may act on the advice of Ministers or not, but definitely cannot act on the advice of the Opposition," he contended.

Senior Counsel Neeraj Kishan Kaul, appearing for Eknath Shinde, said the Speaker cannot decide disqualification proceedings when no-confidence motion against him is pending. "You (Speaker) are seized of a matter, you know there are proceedings against you. You cannot pro-

ceed at all. It is a jurisdictional issue," Kaul said.

"When the CM has lost confidence in the House, the moment the CM shows reluctance, it shows that he knows he has lost the majority. This is all the more reason to have a floor test," Kaul argued.

"Assuming a floor test takes place, who are competent to participate," asked Justice Kant.

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Rebel Sena MLAs land at Goa airport

Panaji: Rebel Maharashtra Shiv Sena MLAs led by Eknath Shinde on Wednesday evening landed at Dabolim airport in Goa from Guwahati en route to Mumbai. The MLAs arrived at the Dabolim airport by a chartered flight.

VP election on August 6, nomination from July 5

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■
NEW DELHI

The election to the post of Vice President will be held on August 6, the Election Commission (EC) on Wednesday announced.

As per the poll panel, the notification for the election to decide the successor of M Venkaiah Naidu will be issued on July 5 and the last date for filing of nomination papers will be July 19. The votes will be counted on August 6.

Naidu's term as Vice President ends on August 10. The BJP-led NDA has a clear edge in the poll in which the members of the Lok Sabha and the Rajya Sabha, including nominated members, are eligible to vote.

As per Article 68 of the Constitution, the election to fill the vacancy caused by the expiration of the term of office of the outgoing Vice President is required to be completed



Vice President M Venkaiah Naidu being greeted by a young girl near Kelambakkam in Chennai

before the expiration of the term. At a meeting also attended by Election Commissioner Anup Chandra Pandey, Chief Election Commissioner Rajiv Kumar finalised the schedule for the Vice Presidential poll.

The scrutiny of nomination papers will be done on July 20 and the last date for withdrawal of candidature is July 22. For the 16th Vice-

Presidential Election, the Electoral College consists of 233 elected members of the Rajya Sabha, 12 nominated members of the Rajya Sabha and 543 elected members of the Lok Sabha. The voting is done by the secret ballot.

Open voting and showing the ballot to anyone under any circumstances in the case of presidential and vice-presidential elections are totally prohibited, the EC cautioned, adding that parties cannot issue whip to its MPs in the matter of voting.

A nomination paper of a candidate has to be subscribed by at least 20 electors as proposers and by at least other 20 electors as seconders. An elector can subscribe to only one nomination paper of a candidate as either a proposer or a seconder. A candidate can file a maximum of four nomination papers. The security deposit for the election is ₹15,000.

5% GST on pre-packed flour, papad, paneer, curd

28% tax on casino, online gaming put off for deliberation

PNS ■ CHANDIGARH

In what will further hurt the middle class, pre-packed and labelled wheat flour, papad, paneer, curd, and buttermilk will be taxed at 5 per cent after the GST Council on Wednesday decided to stop allowing exemptions on such items while raising rates on a host of others.

The GST Council, at a two-day meeting here, accepted recommendations for rate rationalisation made by different groups appointed by it, resulting in tax changes, Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman told reporters. The tax rate changes will come into effect from July 18.

However, the council decided to refer the report of



Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman chairs the 47th meeting of the GST Council in Chandigarh on Wednesday

the GoM (Group of Ministers) on casinos, online gaming and horse racing back to the panel for further deliberation.

The Finance Minister of Goa wanted further discussions on the GST rate to be applicable on casinos and in that context both online gaming and horse racing too would be relooked. The panel had recommended 28 per cent GST levy on all three activities and equalled them to gambling.

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RJD Bihar's largest party after Owaisi's 4 MLAs shift loyalty

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■
PATNA

Four of the five MLAs of the AIMIM in Bihar on Wednesday defected to the RJD, helping it become the largest party in the 243-strong Assembly with a strength of 80 MLAs, three more than that of the BJP.

Leader of the Opposition Tejashwi Yadav, who hailed this as strengthening of secular forces, himself drove the four MLAs to the Assembly. The MLAs submitted a letter to Speaker Vijay Kumar Sinha requesting him to accept their group's merger with the RJD.

Yadav was also present with them in the Speaker's chamber. The MLAs who have jumped ship are Syed Ruknuddin Ahmed (Baisi), Shah Nawaz Alam (Jokihat), Mohd Izhar Asfi



RJD leader Tejashwi Yadav offers sweet to AIMIM MLAs after they joined the RJD in Patna on Wednesday

(Kochadhama) and Mohd Anzar Naeemi (Bahadurganj).

The party, headed by Asaduddin Owaisi, which won five seats and cut into RJD-led alliance's vote on several seats in the 2020 Assembly elections is now left with only its State president Akhtarul Iman.

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CAPSULE

RANDOM COVID TESTS ON INBOUND FLYERS

New Delhi: In view of a fresh spike in Covid cases being reported from various pockets of the country over the last six weeks, the Union Health Ministry on Wednesday issued fresh guidelines on Covid-19 surveillance, seeking sewage or wastewater surveillance as well as random screening of all international passengers coming to India. In a letter written to the health secretaries of the States, Union Health Secretary Rajesh Bhushan wrote that there should be random screening of 2 per cent of international flyers coming to India using RTPCR.

LIGHTNING KILLS 17 IN UP IN TWO DAYS

Ballia/ Fatehpur: Ten people were killed after being struck by lightning in Ballia and Fatehpur districts, pushing the death toll due to such incidents in the state to 17 in two days.

Amarnath yatra begins amid tight security

MOHIT KANDHARI ■ JAMMU

Undeterred by the looming terror threats, the first batch of 4,890 pilgrims embarked on the Amarnath yatra on Wednesday under unprecedented security cover.

Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha flagged off the convoy of 176 light and heavy motor vehicles after performing traditional prayers at the base camp at Jammu.

Chief Secretary Arun Mehta, senior police and administrative officers, along with local politicians, attended the ceremony and prayed for peace, prosperity and a safe spiritual journey for pilgrims.

The LG is scheduled to perform pratham pooja inside the holy cave shrine on Thursday.

The atmosphere inside the base camp was upbeat since



Jammu & Kashmir Lt Governor Manoj Sinha flags off the first batch of pilgrims for the Amarnath Yatra 2022 after conducting a puja at the Bhagwati Nagar base camp in Jammu on Wednesday

early morning as a large number of pilgrims from different States were seen singing praises of Lord Shiva and chanting vedic mantras before embarking on the journey.

So far around 3 lakh pilgrims have registered themselves for the yatra this year. The shrine board authorities are expecting the largest ever footfall of 6 to 7 lakh pilgrims this year.

The shrine board authorities have also made elaborate arrangements for spot registration to facilitate rush of pilgrims. For the first time, a Radio Frequency Identification tag has been issued to the pilgrims by the shrine board, while drone cameras have been deployed across base camps and yatri niwas to maintain tight vigil. Pilgrims have been extended helicopter services from Srinagar for the first time

this year.

The Amarnath yatra was cut short in 2019 days ahead of Abrogation of Article 370. However, the yatra remained suspended in 2020 and 2021 due to the Covid-19 pandemic. Elaborate security arrangements have been made along the entire yatra route. The Centre has deployed over 350 companies of paramilitary troops to guard the yatra route and base camps along both the Baltal and Pahalgam axis.

J&K's regional parties, including the National Conference (NC) and Peoples Democratic Party (PDP), have welcomed the pilgrims and asked people to ensure their security and safety.

The Amarnath shrine board authorities have thrown open both the traditional Pahalgam-Chandanwari route and Baltal route for pilgrims.

Rupee all-time low at 79.03/\$

Mumbai: The rupee depreciated 18 paise to close at a record low of 79.03 (provisional) against the US dollar on Wednesday, weighed down by persistent foreign capital outflows, a strong dollar overseas and surge in crude oil prices.

At the interbank foreign exchange market, the rupee opened lower at 78.86 against the greenback and finally settled at 79.03, down 18 paise over its previous close.

During the session, the rupee touched an all-time low of 79.05 against the American currency.

On Tuesday, the rupee plunged by 48 paise to close at the record low of 78.85 against the US dollar.

The domestic unit has lost 1.97 per cent so far this month and has eroded a staggering 6.39 per cent since the start of this year.

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CM stresses on safety of people during floods

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

Stressing on the safety of people during floods, Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath ordered field officers to be on their toes to provide relief to the people affected by floods and asked them to ensure that relief reached the people at the earliest.

"The highly sensitive embankments should be inspected by the district magistrates and district police chiefs while the remaining embankments should be inspected by officials of the level of deputy collector and deputy superintendent of police. For a quick response, assistant engineers should be made in-charge of embankments and they should be put on 24x7 alert mode. Keep an eye on the condition of the breach in embankments during the initial days of rain so that major damage can be prevented," Yogi said during a review meeting held here on Wednesday.

There are 523 embank-



ments of 3,869 kilometre length constructed on various rivers in the state.

The chief minister said efforts had been made in the last five years to find a permanent solution to the problem of floods, which was a factor in extensive loss of life and property in the state. He said good work had been done by inter-departmental coordination in the last five years for the protection of public life from floods and this year also, with better coordination, quick

action and better management, the safety of people should be ensured in the event of floods.

As per the government record, there are 24 districts which are in the 'very sensitive' category from the point of view of floods. They include Maharajganj, Kushinagar, Lakhimpur Kheri, Gorakhpur, Basti, Bahraich, Bijnor, Siddharthnagar, Ghazipur, Gonda, Ballia, Deoria, Sitapur, Balrampur, Ayodhya, Mau, Farrukhabad, Shravasti, Budaun, Ambedkar Nagar,

Azamgarh, Sant Kabir Nagar, Pilibhit and Barabanki.

Saharanpur, Shamli, Aligarh, Bareilly, Hamirpur, Gautam Buddha Nagar, Rampur, Prayagraj, Bulandshahr, Moradabad, Hardoi, Varanasi, Unnao, Lucknow, Shahjahanpur and Kasganj are in the 'sensitive' category.

"We have to make concerted efforts to prevent water-logging. By June 30, the work of cleaning drains should be completed," the chief minister said.

He also directed that districts should prepare their own action plan for disaster management. "Youth should be trained in collaboration with National Disaster Response Force (NDRF) and State Disaster Response Force (SDRF). Dignity kits should be provided to women and adolescent girls living in relief camps set up in case of flood disaster. Dignity kit should include sanitary pads, soap, towel, disposable bag, bucket, and mask," the chief minister said.

He further ordered that continuous monitoring of the water level of rivers should be done. NDRF, SDRF, Provincial Armed Constabulary (PAC) and disaster management teams should be in active mode 24x7 in the affected districts. He said relief operations should not be delayed in areas affected by floods or excess rain.

"Chances of spread of diseases increase during and after floods.

In such a situation, special health kits should be prepared and delivered to the districts by the Medical and Health department.

There must be medicines for cholera, ORS, and fever. In case of dog bite and snake bite, the affected people should get immediate medical help. People should be told not to drink flood water. Teams of doctors should visit the relief camps," Yogi said and added that in the event of damage to agricultural crops due to flood, the farmers should be given relief as soon as possible.

Toddler 'sacrificed' to appease deity in greed of property

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

A self-styled exorcist killed a two-and-a-half-year-old boy in the name of "sacrifice" in Kheragarh tehsil of the Agra district.

The accused, Bhola alias Hukum Singh, a self-styled exorcist who was arrested by the police on Tuesday night, killed Hritikh "to please Chamad Mata" in the village.

As per the police, the accused confessed that on June 15, he kidnapped the son of Ramavatar, a resident of Barigwan, after seeing him playing alone near a well and took him to his room and strangled him to death and placed the toddler's body at the feet of the deity.

The self-styled exorcist later put Hritikh's body in a sack and hid it in the bushes. The body was recovered by the police and the villagers on June 16 last. The police, however, zeroed in on the accused on Tuesday night, and he told the police that at 4 o'clock in the morning of June 16, he had thrown the child's body in the dry river Kibar.

It is learnt that one Sheru of the village saw Bhola taking Hritikh with him but was threatened by the exorcist of dire consequences if he disclosed it to anyone. Despite the threat, Sheru mustered courage and provided a tip-off to the police which finally led to the arrest of the accused.

Agra's Superintendent of Police (West) Satyajit Gupta said that the victim's father had filed a missing complaint on June 16. Gupta said that the accused had killed the boy "for sacrifice" after his exorcism was not working.

Sources also confirmed that Bhola tried to take advantage of a property dispute between two families. He believed that offering a young child to the goddess would solve his problems. He chose the kid from the opposing family itself for the sacrifice. After murdering the child, he offered the child's blood to the goddess, wrapped the body in a sack, and dumped it in the river.

The property dispute involved Ramavatar and his stepfather, Gareeba. Bhola had thought that after Ritik's death Ramavatar would leave the village and he would purchase

Gareeba's property at a throw-away price.

In yet another shocking incident in Lakhimpur Kheri, a minor girl's body with strangulation marks was recovered from a sugarcane field in a village on Tuesday night. Her parents alleged it was a case of rape and murder. The parents, in the police complaint, made the allegation after they found their daughter's scarf wrapped around her neck.

The incident came to light when the parents panicked after their 13-year-old daughter did not return from the field after several hours. Later, some local herders entered the sugarcane fields to locate one of their goats and spotted the girl's body. They immediately alert-



ed other villagers.

Inspector General of Police Laxmi Singh, after visiting the spot where the body was recovered, said, "Preliminary investigations reveal murder by strangulation."

Based on the complaint, the police have taken some suspects into custody and are interrogating them.

Despite the victim's parents alleging rape and murder, Singh and Lakhimpur Kheri Superintendent of Police Sanjiv Suman asserted that only a post-mortem examination would reveal the truth. "We can say with certainty about the parents' allegations only after the post-mortem report arrives," they said.

Senior police officials, including Suman, ASP Arun Kumar Singh and DSP Lakhimpur Sandip Singh, said the police inspected the spot where the girl's body was found and forensic and fingerprint experts were pressed into action to collect evidence.

"The body of the girl was recovered from a sugarcane field. An in-camera post-mortem of the body by a panel of doctors will be conducted to ascertain the exact cause of death," Suman said.

UPERC may implement green power tariff

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

The Uttar Pradesh Electricity Regulatory Commission (UPERC) may implement a green power tariff this year, first for industrial and commercial users, allowing them to receive up to 100 per cent of their electricity from renewable sources. The green power, however, is likely to cost more. The UPERC disclosed about the move in the state advisory committee (SAC) meeting. The idea to implement a green electricity pricing was thoroughly reviewed in a meeting presided over by UPERC Chairman RP Singh and attended by top officials and representatives from various industries.

The UP Power Corporation Limited (UPPCL) has received requests from numerous users for the implementation of a green energy tariff to satisfy their whole or partial energy demand. The UPPCL proposed the establishment of a green energy pricing system by analysing the technique used by Maharashtra and calculating the green tariff applicability in Uttar Pradesh.

In its suggestion, the UPPCL stated that the existing rate differential between renewable and non-renewable energy was Rs 1.77/kWh.

"As a result, consumers electing to satisfy their 100 per cent electricity consumption from renewable sources, will bear 50 per cent of the fee, which is 0.89/kWh as green power pricing," the plan stated.

Green electricity tariffs will be added to the regular tariffs after UPERC's approval. Renewable energy includes all electricity generated from hydro, solar, non-solar, and cogeneration sources. The SAC members agreed that implementing a green power tariff was a smart way to promote renewable energy and raise public awareness in the state. However, opinions varied on whether the green electricity pricing should be implemented this year or next.

According to those familiar with the matter, the UPERC may implement the green power pricing as early as this year, but only for industrial and commercial users, who would be able to pick between the two tariffs - green tariff and normal tax.

Rajbhar attacks Akhilesh Yadav

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

Continuing his tirade against the senior ally Samajwadi Party, Om Prakash Rajbhar, who heads the Suheldev Bhartiya Samaj Party, said on Wednesday that "can Akhilesh Yadav point out one election that he has won on his own?"

Akhilesh Yadav has drawn flak from allies after the Samajwadi Party's debacle in the by-polls to Rampur and Azamgarh Lok Sabha seats.

Rajbhar said Akhilesh Yadav had become the chief minister of UP in 2012 because of his father Mulayam Singh Yadav's "largesse".

"The 2012 election was fought under Mulayam Singh Yadav's strong leadership," he said, listing out a string of losses

under Akhilesh Yadav -- the assembly elections in 2017 and earlier this year; and the Lok Sabha polls in 2014 and 2019.

He added, "Akhilesh Yadav could not retain even the strongholds of his party."

"The Samajwadi Party is harming itself. A party whose chief does not campaign in elections, what election will that party fight? He should step out of air-conditioned rooms and go to the ground. No one will join you if you sit in AC rooms," Rajbhar added.

The SBSP chief has been repeatedly using the "AC room" jibe against Akhilesh Yadav. However he has repeatedly clarified that he would not quit the alliance.

Continuing with his jibes, Rajbhar added, "How many vil-

lages has Akhilesh Yadav visited? How much grassroots leadership has he built? Let him ask Mulayam Singh Yadav and his uncle Shivpal Singh Yadav and they will tell him about blocks and villages they had visited in last couple of decades."

Rajbhar's party has considerable influence among the non-Yadav Other Backward Classes in eastern UP. He was part of a rainbow coalition stitched by Akhilesh Yadav ahead of the UP assembly elections to add to his party's Yadav-Muslim core base. With 125 seats -- Samajwadi Party won 111 -- the opposition alliance improved its position but could not unseat the Bharatiya Janata Party-led National Democratic Alliance in UP.

Maya to review BSP preparedness for 2024 general elections today

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

Bahujan Samaj Party chief Mayawati condemned the killing of a tailor in Udaipur, Rajasthan, and appealed to the people to maintain peace.

In a series of tweets, she said, "The brutal murder of a tailor in Udaipur, Rajasthan, is very sad and it should be condemned. Appeal to all to exercise restraint and maintain peace and order." "The government of Rajasthan should

take all necessary steps immediately to ensure that the culprits get strict legal punishment as well as to maintain normalcy," she said.

Meanwhile, Mayawati has called a meeting of party leaders and office-bearers on Thursday to review the organisation and gear up the party cadre for the 2024 Lok Sabha election.

Buoyed by the votes polled by her party candidate Shah Alam aka Guddu Jamali in the recently-held Azamgarh Lok Sabha bypoll, the BSP chief called upon the party leaders and

workers to maintain their determination and spirit till the 2024 Lok Sabha election.

The BSP workers should start preparing the ground for the 2024 Lok Sabha election in all the 80 Lok Sabha constituencies of Uttar Pradesh, she said. After dismal performance in the 2022 UP assembly election, the support the BSP got in the parliamentary bypoll has rekindled the hope of the party chief, said a BSP leader. "The party plans to play Dalit-Muslim alliance card in the upcoming elections.

Mayawati has directed the party leaders to convince the Muslim community that BSP has the strength to defeat the Bharatiya Janata Party in the election if the community supports its candidates," the BSP leader said. "The leaders and office-bearers who perform well will be rewarded with top posts in the organisation whereas the non-performers will be shown the door. The coordinators have been directed to submit their reports on the working of the organisation in all 75 districts," he added.

Lightning claims two dozen lives in UP

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

Rains and thunder showers gave the much needed relief to the people but also played havoc in the eastern parts of the state, where lightning and thunderstorms claimed about two dozen lives.

According to information received here, the spire of a temple built in Kashi Vishwanath Dham also collapsed due to rain and lightning on Tuesday.

Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath has expressed grief at the death of people due to lightning and expressed condolences to the bereaved families. He also directed senior officers to extend all possible help to the family members of the victims.

Two deaths were reported from Kanpur and one from Fatehpur due to lightning. A minor girl died after being struck by lightning in Prayagraj. The girl was in the house of her maternal grandfather.

Two minor children died due to lightning in Varanasi. These incidents took place in Mirzamurad police sta-

tion area where 11-year-old Hemant and 15-year-old Prabhat, residents of Adamapur village, died after being struck by lightning. In Varanasi, a former cook of a government school working in a field was also struck by lightning, and died on the spot.

A 15-year-old boy and a 50-year-old woman died due to lightning at two different places in Bhadohi. Besides, three more people, including a teenager, died after being struck by lightning late in the evening on Tuesday in Bhadohi. Additional Superintendent of Police Rajesh Bharti said that Shashi Bhushan Dubey (45), Sukhna Devi (60) and Ankit Gautam (45) died of burns.

Two children died due to lightning in the Baldi Rai area of Sultanpur district on Tuesday. Police officer Rajaram Choudhary said that three children were grazing their buffaloes on Tuesday afternoon in the Dihwa village under Baldiraj police station area when suddenly it started raining with thunder, during which all the three children were scorched after being struck by lightning. He said the relatives of the victims and

villagers took the three children to the hospital where Shatrughan (11) and Amit (13) died during the treatment while the third child Aham (8) was undergoing treatment.

According to a report received from Maharajganj, Raghuvar Nayak (45) and Khushi (16) died after being struck by lightning in the field in Badi village under Nichlaur police station. Additional District Magistrate Satya Prakash Mishra said that two other people also sustained burns in this incident.

Three people lost their lives in Ballia's Baira, Dokati and Sikanderpur due to lightning. In Mirzapur's Lalganj, two people, including a teenager, died after being hit by a thunderstorm while one person each died in Siddharthnagar and Basti due to lightning.

Meanwhile, as many as 26 passengers were injured, three of them seriously, when a private bus hit a road divider and overturned on Agra-Lucknow Expressway on Wednesday. The injured were admitted to a community health centre and three of the

Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath has expressed grief at the death of people due to lightning and expressed condolences to the bereaved families. He also directed senior officers to extend all possible help to the family members of the victims

injured were referred to the district hospital.

According to reports, the bus was coming from Chhapra in Bihar and was on its way to Delhi. Most of the passengers were sleeping when the accident took place. It is presumed that the driver had dozed off and lost control of the vehicle.

Muslims condemn Udaipur beheading

Lucknow (PNS): Muslim clerics and organisations have condemned the beheading of a tailor by Islamic extremists at Udaipur in Rajasthan on Tuesday and have demanded stern action against the accused who have been arrested.

Prominent Shia cleric Maulana Kalbe Jawwad said the murder of a person at his shop by criminal elements was most dastardly and condemnable. He said the government should act fast and take tough action against those who had violated the law. Maulana Jawwad added that Islam does not permit such acts and Muslims condemn this act.

Maulana Jawwad said the govern-

ment should also take action against anti-social elements who were in the habit of making provocative statements and vitiating the atmosphere. He said that had action been taken against those making provocative statements, such a situation would not have arisen. The Shia cleric said under the prevailing circumstances in the country it was the first duty of every citizen of the country to maintain peace and harmony in the country.

Imam of Aishbagh eidgah, Maulana Khalid Rashid Farangi Mahali, also condemned the incident and demanded stern action against the accused. He appealed to the people to maintain peace and social harmony.

UP Madarsa Shiksha Parishad chairman Iftikhar Ahmed Javed also condemned the incident. He said such incidents in the cover of religion tarnished religion as well as the image of the country at the global level.

Bunkar Beradrana Tanzeen, an organisation of the weavers' community of Muslims, also condemned the Udaipur incident. Its president Sardar Ikramuddin said, "We condemn this incident. There is no place for such persons in Islam who commit violence against innocent people."

Meanwhile, condemning the Udaipur incident, Bahujan Bharat, a social organisation, has demanded stern action against the guilty and a

probe without any discrimination.

In a meeting held at the organisation's headquarters, Bahujan Bharat president and former IAS officer Kunwar Fateh Bahadur said that the governments, both state and Central, should set an example and take strict action against the fanatics so that they could not incite religious hysteria any more. "The Indian Constitution is secular and does not allow the promotion of any particular religion by the government. It is the responsibility of the secular forces as well as the governments to oppose religious bigotry and they should not give social recognition to those who spread religious fanaticism," Singh said in a statement.

राम चरण राम दुलारी कन्या महाविद्यालय
चकरपुर, सखेडी, कानपुर नगर-209304

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11th Floor, New Building Hazratganj, Lucknow-226001

PREMISES REQUIRED FOR HUSSAINGANJ BRANCH
Indian Bank, a Public Sector Bank invites tenders under 2 bid system (Technical & Financial Bid) from owners of offices premises willing to offer on lease basis (Readily built / Premises Under Construction / Open Plot) in Hussainganj area of Lucknow District measuring about 1500 sq. ft. Carpet Area preferably in Ground Floor with parking facility for a lease period of 15 years for setting up their Branch. The tender forms and details can be downloaded from our Bank's website-www.indianbank.in or can be obtained from the above address on any working day from 30.06.2022 to 14.07.2022. Please note that the bids must be enclosed with two DD / IOI favouring "Indian Bank, Lucknow" 1. Rs.250/- (Non Refundable) as Tender Fees 2. Rs. 5000/- (Refundable) as Earnest Money Deposit. The last date for the submission of sealed cover tender in two bid format is on or before 14.07.2022 by 4:00 pm. Technical Bids will be opened at Zonal Office on 15.07.2022 at 4:00 PM. The Bank reserves the right to reject any or all offers without assigning any reasons whatsoever. Late/delayed tender shall not be accepted after due date and time of submission of tender.

Date : 30.06.2022 Zonal Manager

DEMAND NOTICE			
Under Section 13(2) of the Securitisation And Reconstruction of Financial Assets And Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 (the said Act.) read with Rule 3 (1) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 (the said Rules). In exercise of powers conferred under Section 13(2) of the said Act read with Rule 3 of the said Rules, the Authorised Officer of IFL Home Finance Ltd. (IFL HFL) (Formerly known as India Infoline Housing Finance Ltd.) has issued Demand Notices under section 13(2) of the said Act, calling upon the Borrower(s), to repay the amount mentioned in the respective Demand Notice(s) issued to them. In connection with above, notice is hereby given, once again, to the Borrower(s) to pay within 60 days from the publication of this notice, the amounts indicated herein below, together with further interest from the date(s) of Demand Notice till the date of payment. The detail of the Borrower(s), amount due as on date of Demand Notice and security offered towards repayment of loan amount are as under:-			
Name of the Borrower(s)/ Guarantor (s)	Demand Notice Date & Amount	Description of secured asset (immovable property)	
Mr. Ranvijay Singh, Mrs. Mithlesh Singh, Sai Brick Field, Mrs. Saroj Kumari Singh/Premia Devi (Prospect No. 841205 and 922548)	27-Jun-2022 Prospect No.841205 Rs. 37,11,895/- (Rupees Thirty Seven Lakh Eleven Thousand Six Hundred Ninety Five Only) Prospect No.922548 Rs. 4,74,664/- (Rupees Four Lakh Seventy Four Thousand Six Hundred Sixty Four Only)	All that piece and parcel of the property being: Municipal House No.633/808 Built On Plot No. 35B, Area 284 Sqm. Situated At Gram-Khasra No.384 Min situated At Gram-Chanpur Matiyar, Ward- Saeed Bhagat Singh, Lucknow, 226001, Uttar Pradesh, India	
Mr. Mohammed Raza Zaidi, Mrs. Nazreen Fatima (Prospect No. IL10016643 and IL10077050)	27-Jun-2022 Prospect No.IL10016643 Rs. 10,34,122/- (Rupees Ten Lakh Thirty Four Thousand One Hundred Twenty Two Only) Prospect No.IL10077050 Rs. 1,50,721/- (Rupees One Lakh Fifty Thousand Seven Hundred Twenty One Only)	All that piece and parcel of the property being: Municipal House No.548/540 A Built On Plot No.-6, Area Measuring 27.881 Sq. Mts., Over Khasra No.13 Minjulia, Vill-Sarfarajganj, Ward- Balakganj, Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh, India, 226001	
If the said Borrowers fail to make payment to IFL HFL as aforesaid, IFL HFL may proceed against the above secured assets under Section 13(4) of the said Act, and the applicable Rules, entirely at the risks, costs and consequences of the Borrower(s). For further details please contact to Authorised Officer at Branch Office - IFL HFL 1017, Tenth Floor, Cyber Heights, TC 2/2 and TC 5/5, Vibhuti Khand, Gomi Nagar, Lucknow - 226 010, Jor Corporate Office : IFL Tower, Plot No. 98, Udyog Vihar, Ph-VI Gurgaon, Haryana.			
Place: Lucknow Date: 30.06.2022			Sd/- Authorised Officer, For IFL Home Finance Ltd

Although every possible care and caution has been taken to avoid errors or omissions, this publication is being sold on the condition and understanding that information given in this publication is merely for reference and must not be taken as having authority of or binding in any way on the writers, editors, publishers, and printers and sellers who do not owe any responsibility for any damage or loss to any person, a purchaser of this publication or not for the result of any action taken on the basis of this work. All disputes are subject to the exclusive jurisdiction of competent court and forums in Lucknow only. Readers are advised and requested to verify and seek appropriate advice to satisfy themselves about the veracity of any kind of advertisement before responding to any contents published in this newspaper. The printer, publisher, editor and any employee of the Pioneer Group's will not be held responsible for any kind of claim made by the advertisers of the products & services and shall not be made responsible for any kind of loss, consequences and further product-related damages on such advertisements.

Heavy rains likely at isolated places in UP

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

Heavy rains are expected at isolated parts in the state and the south-west monsoon is expected to reach the state capital by Thursday.

Met Office Director JP Gupta said that the south-west monsoon had advanced in some more parts of Uttar Pradesh and 'wet spell activity' would take place during the next three days with heavy to very heavy rainfall and extremely heavy rainfall at one or two places in UP on June 30.

He said the south-west monsoon had advanced in the remaining parts of Bihar, some more parts of Uttar Pradesh, entire Uttarakhnad, most parts of Himachal Pradesh on Wednesday.

The local forecast for Lucknow was generally cloudy sky. There is a possibility of one or two spells of rain and thundershowers in some areas. The maximum and minimum temperatures would be around 31 degree Celsius and 28 degree Celsius respectively.

The Met has forecast rain and thundershowers at many places over western Uttar Pradesh and at most places over eastern UP.

Heavy to very heavy rain is likely at isolated places over the state along with thunderstorms accompanied with lightning.

Gupta said that the northern limit of monsoon had passed through Deesa, Ratlam, Shivpuri, Rewa, Mirzapur, Ayodhya, Haridwar, Una and Dharamshala. He said the south-west monsoon had covered areas like Varanasi, Azamgarh, Gorakhpur, Lakhimpur Kheri and Bareilly districts.

Woman held for killing husband

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

A woman killed her husband for opposing her to work at a hospital as a safai worker and staged his death as suicide in Gautampalli police station area.

However, the autopsy of the deceased exposed her lies and the police arrested her on Wednesday. She confessed to her crime before the police. In view of the evidence against her and her confession, the police booked her for murder. She was arrested on the complaint of the deceased's father Pradeep Kumar.

The woman was identified as Sarita of Mall Avenue in Gautampalli.

As per reports, on June 24 night, Sarita called the police and said that her husband, Rahul, had committed suicide at their rented house in Jiamau locality of Gautampalli. A police team reached the house and found Rahul dead.

Sarita said Rahul had committed suicide over a minor issue. However, her in-laws were not convinced and demanded an autopsy of the body to find the cause of death. "The autopsy report revealed that Rahul was strangled to death and marks of fingers were found around the

throat of the victim. We decided to quiz Sarita but she went into hiding. We arrested her from near Lalbatti crossing on Wednesday," Inspector Sukhveer Singh Bhadauria said. He said Sarita worked as a safai worker at SPM (Civil) Hospital and Rahul was against her decision to work there.

"Rahul was Sarita's second husband after they married and he was very possessive of her. This led to a serious difference between the couple and they used to quarrel. On the fateful day, Sarita strangled Rahul to death and said he had committed suicide," the inspector said.

Meanwhile, a 19-year-old Dalit youth was electrocuted to death after he was allegedly forced to climb an electric pole to fix a snag in Gossainganj. The family of the deceased demanded a thorough investigation. The deceased was identified as Satish of Faridpur locality in the area. As per reports, the victim left the house along with one Ram Saran Yadav of Suriyamau village in Gossainganj to take part in a birthday party at the latter's house in the area on Tuesday night.

"Ram Saran promised us to send Satish back home by

the night but Satish did not return home. We kept waiting for him the whole night," said the deceased's mother, Rameshwari.

Rameshwari said some villagers informed her in the morning on Wednesday that Satish was electrocuted and his body was stuck to an electric pole in Ram Saran's village. She alleged that Ram Saran had forced Satish to climb the electric pole to fix a snag due to which he was electrocuted.

Police registered a case under Section 302 of Indian Penal Code and provisions of SC/ST Act against Ram Saran Yadav. Police said Satish worked as an electrician but had no certificate.

DEAD: A 32-year-old driver of a mini truck died after his vehicle crashed into a truck moving ahead on Shaheed Path in Vibhuti Khand police station area on Tuesday night. The deceased was identified as Ankit Pal of Kanpur Dehat.

As per reports, the mini truck was behind the truck the driver of which suddenly applied brakes near Summit Building on Shaheed Path. As Ankit could not stop his mini truck moving at a high speed, it crashed into the truck and he was killed on the spot.

ARRESTED: A 32-year-old

man was arrested for stalking a married woman, sending her obscene messages, storming into her house in the absence of her husband and threatening her of character assassination. The accused also attempted to crush the victim under his car.

The accused was identified as Prabhakar Dwivedi of Vishesh Khand of Gomti Nagar. The police recovered the car which had run over the woman in a bid to kill her. Police are investigating the case.

THREATENED: In a case of cyber bullying, unidentified miscreants threatened a resident of Indira Nagar of dire consequences and posted abusive comments/tags, and sent obscene messages to tarnish his and his family's image. The victim lodged a report with the Ghazipur police.

In his complaint, the victim said he mistakenly clicked a message on his WhatsApp. "After this I got a call to pay my loan which I never took from anyone. The miscreants had hacked my phone and retrieved all the information stored in my mobile phone. They forced me to pay money to them and used to threaten me when I refused to make any payment," he said.

City all set for Jagannath Yatra on July 1

Lucknow (PNS): The city is all set for Jagannath Yatra on July 1, two years post-pandemic.

The organisers of the Jagannath Yatra in the city said that there was considerable enthusiasm amongst the people to be part of the yatra after two years of pandemic.

Anurag Sahu from the Madhav temple said that it would be the 61st celebration of Jagannath Yatra Mahotsav taken out from the temple and would witness the presence of Deputy Chief Minister Brajesh Pathak, former deputy chief minister Dinesh Sharma, and Mayor Sanyukta Bhatia.

He said the yatra would start from Madhav Mandir in Daliganj and would pass through Nazirganj in Shankar Nagar, IT crossing, Babuganj, Daliganj bridge, Ekka stand, Daliganj bazaar, Hassanganj kotwali and conclude at the temple. "All young singers have been called to sing in the rath yatra. Groups of mobilo-graphers have been called to the rath yatra because a competition has also been organised for them. Flowers will be showered during the entire rath yatra," he said.

Ex-MO of RMLIMS accused of hindering work at blood bank

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

Former contractual medical officer of Ram Manohar Lohia Institute of Medical Sciences has been accused of hindering work at the blood bank and government work of the hospital even after being relieved from work.

Chief Medical Superintendent of RMLIMS, Dr Vikram Singh, has filed a complaint to the police in this regard. The Vibhuti Khand police have registered a case under sections 423 (dishonest or fraudulent execution of deed), 343 (wrongful confinement) and 506 (for threatening) of the Indian Penal Code against the accused named as Dr Ragini Singh in the complaint. It is alleged in the complaint that Dr Ragini Singh continued to visit the blood bank despite being relieved from her post and she tampered with the government documents, threatened the staff and hindered the work at the blood bank. It is further alleged that she misbehaved with the staff at the office of director of RMLIMS on June 25.

"She kept visiting the office of the blood bank where she forcibly took the files/documents related to the blood bank work and threatened the staff. When the staff complained about her behaviour, she reached the office of director where she talked rudely with the staff and misbehaved with them," the complainant alleged. **BOOKED:** Eight persons were booked for duping several persons by promising them plots/land in Sarojininagar police station area while posing as managing director of a real estate company.

The police registered a case against the accused identified as Mohammed Ismail, Rajeev Pandey, Majid, Anupriya, Deepali, Taurik, Shahzad Alam and Anuj. One of the victims, Renu Sharma of Basti, said she paid Rs 4.1 lakh for a plot offered for sale by the miscreants but did not get possession of any plot till date.

Other persons duped by the gang include Ram Vishnu of Chhinhat (Rs 5 lakh), Geeta Devi of Mahanagar (Rs 7.5 lakh), Sharda Rawat of Hasanganj (Rs 2.7 lakh).

Grocer crushed by truck; irate locals block road

Lucknow (PNS): The death of a grocer in an accident on Tuesday night sparked protest by the local residents who blocked the main road after putting the body on Junabganj-Mohanlalganj road causing the traffic on Rae Bareilly Lucknow highway to come to a standstill on Wednesday afternoon.

Police had a tough time in pacifying the protesters and the situation could be defused after three hours when

the cops assured compensation, land for a house and benefits under government schemes to the victim's family.

As per reports, the grocer, identified as Shiv Kumar of Dehwa village, was standing outside his shop around 8 pm on Tuesday while planning to close the shop for the day. In the meantime, a speeding truck ran over Shiv Kumar before overturning.

The local residents rushed the victim to a hospital but he succumbed to

his injuries. On Wednesday, the body was handed over to the family. Around 1:45 pm, the kin of the deceased and residents of the locality put the body on the Junabganj-Mohanlalganj road and blocked the road. They were demanding compensation for the family which had lost its only bread earner. Soon the traffic on the busy Lucknow-Rae Bareilly highway came to a standstill. Even ambulances were caught in the jam.

After much persuasion and assur-

ance of compensation, the police and district administration officials were able to defuse the situation and the roadblock was lifted.

THEFT: Thieves stole ornaments and valuables from a house in Para police station area on June 26.

The house owner, Kamlesh Prasad of Laxman Vihar Colony, said she along with her family had gone to Bareilly for some work on June 18 and the house was locked. Kamlesh said on June 26,

Govt issues GO to define role of police in harvesting organs of dead persons

SHARMILA KRISHNA ■ LUCKNOW

The Uttar Pradesh government has issued a Government Order (GO) defining the role of police in harvesting the organs of brain dead persons for transplantation.

Giving this information, SOTTO nodal officer for UP, Dr Harshvardhan, said that this was a great achievement and the role of Sanjay Gandhi Post-Graduate Institute of Medical Sciences Director Dr RK Dhiman and Additional Director General of Police Piyush Anand was very important in it.

He said that a written mandate was necessary for the police because they were the first responders in case of an accident and hence a standard operating procedure (SOP) was prepared for the entire state.

"This mandate was necessary since it gives in detail what the police are supposed to do and what the police are not supposed to do and in that context a SOP was prepared and it has come out as a GO. It gives the role of station house officers (SHOs), inspectors, sub-inspectors and other officers in organ donation as in terms of medico legal cases they are already doing their

duty," he said.

Dr Harshvardhan said that the GO stated what was to be done by the district police and Dial 112 in such cases in UP.

"The key hospitals where organ harvesting and transplantation takes place in the state will be fed into the Dial 112 database. This is because when doctors feel that a particular organ needs to be harvested, the process has to proceed faster for the organ to be harvested hence these hospitals can call Dial 112 which in turn can call the police station concerned. The phone numbers of all the transplant centres which have been authorised by the director general of medical and health services and the nodal officers of such hospitals will be fed into the Dial 112 system," he said.

Dr Harshvardhan pointed out that there were two types of organ donations, one of the deceased and the other of living persons.

"In our country most of the donations are live donations and not deceased organ donations whereas in the developed countries most of them are deceased organ donations. I had planned a series of measures to encourage deceased organ transplanta-

tion and this was one of them," he said.

The nodal officer said that he met Additional Chief Secretary (Home) Awanish Awasthi and his main concern was that 22,000-23,000 deaths took place in road accidents annually. "Out of these a major number are brain stem dead patients and out of these brain dead patients there will be a good number and there is a good possibility of turning them into potential donors after counseling their families for giving their consent out of free will," he said. He said that keeping this in mind the role of the police becomes important because every road accident becomes a medico legal case.

"The first responders are the police because the victims contact the police, hence the role of police becomes very important. We need to sensitize the police. They are already doing that duty but it is being done as a medico legal case whereas there are some medico legal cases which can be potential sources of organ harvesting. But for this the police needed a written mandate on what they were supposed to do and what they were not supposed to do and what was the importance of doing this," he said.

City parks to get facelift under new LDA VC

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

The priority of the newly-appointed Vice Chairman of Lucknow Development Authority, Indramani Tripathi, will be to improve the condition of the existing parks and check the growing encroachments in different parts of the city. He will also remove illegal structures in and round stadiums in the interest of students and youths

The emphasis will be on providing better facilities at the prestigious parks like Janeshwar Mishra Park, Dr Ram Manohar Lohia Park and Ambekar Park to make the state capital look more attractive.

The LDA administration would not only provide better facilities but also elaborate security to the visitors visiting these parks.

Tripathi stressed on the need to check the grow-

ing encroachments in different parts of the city in a planned way so that no illegal structure came up in future. He said a strategy was being chalked out to check encroachments in the city.

He said once this problem was sorted out, the traffic on city roads would get streamlined.

Tripathi asked the officers not to hold up files of individuals seeking justice from the LDA for more than three days and warned them of strict disciplinary action against the errants.

Action will be taken immediately against the owners of properties for altering land use or failing to get approval for the layout from its map department.

The VC said that a meeting would be held on July 2 to review the working of officers and staff members.

labour rights for women, children and workers in the brick kilns of India'. The programme saw participation from labour activists, brick kiln workers, brick kiln owners, union leaders, representatives from International bodies and philanthropic organisations with representatives from department of health, education, women and child and labour and employment. CEC executive director Lokesh laid a brief context about the overall objective of the consultation, highlighting the crisis pertaining to health and nutritional needs of children and women in the brick kilns, and lack of decent working conditions in brick kilns, based on the experiences gained through years of

working on the rights of brick kiln workers in Uttar Pradesh.

CMS

More than 4000 teachers and workers of City Montessori School will take out a grand 'Character Building March' on Thursday to instil the spirit of character excellence and moral and spiritual upliftment in the future generations. The march will commence at 7.00 am from Maqdoompur Police Station and culminate at CMS Gomti Nagar Campus II.

CONFERENCE

The PHD Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Uttar

Pradesh Chapter in collaboration with Safety Controls and Devices Pvt Ltd organised an interactive conference and expo on Uttar Pradesh Industrial Safety (HSE) and fire safety. The second day accommodated the panel discussion session on role of leadership in developing world class HSE culture followed by a technical session with the HSE subject experts on fire safety management. UP Fire Service former director PK Rao spoke on the importance of health and safety for an individual as well as masses. HSE Advisor (GAIL) SP Garg talked about the importance of safety governance mechanism and also developing organisational safety culture at an organisation.

इंडियन बैंक		Indian Bank		Zonal Office: S 19/33, Ekram Khan Building, Nadesar, Varanasi. Ph.: 0542-2505443, Email: zovaranasi@indianbank.co.in	
इलाहाबाद		ALLAHABAD		Demand Notice	
This demand Notice id hereby given under section 13(2) of the Securitisation and reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement (Security) Interest Act,2002 (54 of 2002) read with rule 3, of the security interest (Enforcement) rules 2002 hereinafter calling upon the under mentioned borrowers/guarantors to repay the amount outstanding for the credit facilities granted to them / on their guarantee within 60 days from the date of this notice if you fall to repay to the bank the below mentioned amount , with further interest and incidental expenses . costs etc. in terms of the notice u/s 13(2) of the act, the bank will exercise all or any of the rights detailed under sub - section (4)of the section 13 and under other applicable provisions of the said act . You are also put on notice that in terms of sub section (13) of section (13) you shall not transfer by sale, lease or other wise the said secured assets detailed below of this notice without obtaining written consent of the bank . the details of the accounts and secured assets along with amount outstanding with interest and other charges and expenses thereon are given below.					
S. N.	Name of Account/Branch	Borrowers/Guarantors	Details of Mortgage Property	Demand Notice Date & Amount	
1.	Mr. Anil Kumar Srivastava S/o Mr. Bhanu Pratap Srivastava S/o Mr. Bhanu Pratap Srivastava & Mrs. Rinki Srivastava Branch: Piliokothi	1. Mr. Anil Kumar Srivastava S/o Mr. Bhanu Pratap Srivastava, R/o Address 1: House no. A 13/148 A, Mohalla- Ghasiyari Tola, Ward- Adampur, City- Varanasi, Address 2: A-15/15B-2 A K Bhadau, Chungi, Rajghat, Varanasi, Uttar Pradesh- 221001 (Borrower / Mortgageor) 2. Mrs. Rinki Srivastava, R/o A-15/15B-2 A K Bhadau, Chungi, Rajghat, Varanasi, Uttar Pradesh- 221001 (Borrower) 3. Mr. Atul Chaubey S/o Mr. Ramraj Chaubey, R/o Plot No. 44, Sibra, Varanasi, Uttar Pradesh- 221010 (Guarantor) 4. Mr. Girdhari Lal S/o Mr. Bachchan Lal, R/o H.No.E9/14, Vill/ Mohalla- Kayaata Tola Ansh, Tehsil- Sadar, Distt-Varanasi (Guarantor) 5. Mr. Vishnu Bandhan Nigam S/o Mr. Jhingam, R/o H.No. E- 13/148, Vill/ Mohalla- Ghasiyari Tola, Tehsil- Sadar, Distt- Varanasi. (Guarantor)	All that part and parcel of the property constructed at Arazi no. 65, Nagar Nigam, Bhawan no. A 15/15B-2, Area 667 sq.ft, situated at Mohalla- Bhadau, Chungi, Sewai Building, Bhauja Bhadau, Pargana- Dehat Amanat, Ward- Adampur, Tehsil and City- Varanasi , in the name of Mr. Anil Kumar Srivastava s/o Mr. Bhanu Pratap Srivastava Boundaries- North- Gali Sarkari, South- Land Ramadhar, East- Rest part of property belonging to First party (Mr. Jwala Prasad s/o Shri Pannalal), West- Land and House Phoolmati Devi	14.06.2022 Rs 10,52,383.28/- (+ Intt. and other legal and banking expenses at applicable rate) Sent on 14.06.2022 by Regd. Post.	
2.	M/s Nawabiya Mill Stores (Proprietor- Mr. Nawazish Ali) Branch: Varanasi	1. M/s Nawabiya Mill Stores (Proprietor- Mr.Nawazish Ali), R/o Arazi No- 42/3 Abdulrahimpur/Dulippur, Ralupur, chandauli (Borrower) 2. Mr. Nawazish Ali s/o Nurul Haque, R/o 48/123, Kutuban Shaheed, Varanasi (Proprietor/ Mortgageor/Guarantor) 3. Mr Nurul Haque s/o Late Abdul Karim, R/o 48/123, Kutuban Shaheed, Varanasi (Mortgagor/Guarantor) 4. Mr Ziyaul Haque s/o Nurul Haque, R/o 48/123, Kutuban Shaheed, Varanasi (Mortgagor/Guarantor)	All that part and parcel of the property at Arazi No. Mi 42/3, Area 4080 Sq Ft, situated at Mauza- Abdul Rahimpur Alias Dulippur, Pargana- Ralupur, Tehsil and Distt.- Chandauli, in the name of Mr. Nawazish Ali, Mr Nurul Haque, Mr Ziyaul Haque. Boundaries- North- Land of Saiyyad Mohammed Haider Aavdi, South- Land of Eslam & others, East- Land of Saiyyad Mohammed Haider Aavdi, West - Rasta	21.06.2022 Rs 55,95,254.49/- (+ Intt. and other legal and banking expenses at applicable rate) Sent on 21.06.2022 by Regd. Post.	
3.	M/s. Sandeep Vastralaya Prop- Mrs. Anita Keshri Branch: Mughalsarai	1. M/s. Sandeep Vastralaya Prop- Mrs. Anita Keshri, R/o H.No. 160, GT Road, Mughalsarai, Dist- Chandauli (Borrower) 2. Mrs. Anita Keshri W/o Mr. Sandeep Kumar Keshari, R/o H.No. 160, GT Road, Mughalsarai, Dist- Chandauli (Proprietor/ Guarantor) 3. Mr. Sandeep Kumar Keshri S/o Mr. Paras Nath Keshri, R/o H.No. 160, GT Road, Western Bazar, Mughalsarai, Distt- Chandauli (Mortgagor/ Guarantor) 4. Mr. Badal Kumar Keshari S/o Mr. Gopal Chandra Keshari, R/o H. No. 138/13, Mainatali Bhag 2, Mainatali, PS- Mughalsarai, Tehsil- Chandauli, Dist- Chandauli, Uttar Pradesh- 232101 (Guarantor)	All part and parcel of the property at Arazi No. 70/2, Area 1072.5 sq.ft i.e. 99.67 sq.mtr, situated at Mauza- Hanumanpur, Pargana- Mawai, Tehsil- Mughalsarai, District- Chandauli, in the name of Mr. Sandeep Kumar Keshari. Boundaries- North- Rasta 15 ft. thereafter House Sohanlal Patel, South- Gali 4 ft. thereafter House Kewal Tiwari and others, East- Rest part of Arazi, West- Rasta 8 ft thereafter House Baijnath Singh	23.06.2022 Rs 22,46,334.46/- (+ Intt. and other legal and banking expenses at applicable rate) Sent on 23.06.2022 by Regd. Post.	
4.	Mr. Om Prakash Kumar S/o Mr. Rajvansh Pandey Branch: Pandeypur	1. Mr. Om Prakash Kumar S/o Mr. Rajvansh Pandey R/o SA 16/4-A, Chakbihi, Sarang Talab, Panchkosi Road, Pandeypur, Varanasi- 221007 (Borrower) 2. Mrs. Renu Pandey W/o Mr. Om Prakash Kumar R/o SA 16/4 S-A, Vaishno Nagar Colony, Chakbihi, Pargana- Shivpur, Tehsil & District- Varanasi (Guarantor/ Mortgageor)	1. All that part and parcel of property at Arazi No. Mi 137/4, Area 4800 sq.ft i.e. 446.09 sq.mtr, situated at Mauza- Gosaipur Mohaw, Pargana- Katehar, Tehsil & District- Varanasi, in the name of Mrs. Renu Pandey w/o Mr. Om Prakash Kumar. Boundaries- East- Garden of first party and others, West- Agriculture land Mahatim Giri, North- Agriculture land Santosh Giri and others, South- Kachcha rasta almost 10 ft wide thereafter House of Kedar Giri 2. All that part and parcel of property at Arazi No.58, Area 2040 sq.ft i.e. 189.59 sq.mtr, situated at Mauza- Nidaura, Pargana- Shivpur, Tehsil & District- Varanasi, in the name of Mrs. Renu Pandey w/o Mr. Om Prakash Kumar. Boundaries- East- Land Bhola, West- Kachcha Rasta 10 kadi, North- Land Shambhu Patel, South- Rest part of Arazi Mazkur	23.06.2022 Rs 32,58,169.60/- (+ Intt. and other legal and banking expenses at applicable rate) Sent on 23.06.2022 by Regd. Post.	
Date: 30.06.2022 Place: Varanasi		For Commission & Omission in Publication, Please contact with the branch or Zonal Office.		Authorized Officer, Indian Bank	

Anisha Singh brings laurels to BLW

PNS ■ VARANASI

Inisha Singh has brought laurels to the Banaras Locomotive Works (BLW) when she won three gold medals in different categories in the 3rd Open Uttar Pradesh State Roller Skating Competition held at Noida recently. She is daughter of Arvind Singh, an employee of the Rajbhasha department in the BLW. Her mother Poonam Singh is also working with the BLW's Accounts department.

In the recent past, Anisha also performed well in many other competitions. She won a bronze medal in the first Indian Roller Speed Skating Competition organised by Roller Skating Federation of India at Mohali in April this year. The performance of Anisha is the result of intensive training being given to hundreds of budding players in various sports at the sports grounds in BLW. Many of them have done good performance at the national and international level contests with their hard work and skillful play. In the roller skating event, the wards of BLW employees are being given training at BLW Inter College grounds under the auspices of BLW Sansthan.

At present, 55 such children are getting training in roller skating and 24 in roll ball. Principal Chief Personnel Officer PK Singh, Chief Mechanical Engineer/(Production) Neeraj Jain, Senior Personnel Officer RK Gupta, Public Relations Officer Rajesh Kumar and Principal of BLW Inter College RK Saini praised the efforts of BLW Sansthan and wished the budding talents for their bright future in these sports disciplines under the guidance of Rahul Yadav and secretary Alok Kumar Singh.

Preparations for Maha Kumbh intensified

PRAYAGRAJ (PNS): The preparations for the Maha Kumbh to be held in Sangamnagari Prayagraj in January 2025 have intensified. In a recent meeting held in the ICCO auditorium located at the Mela Authority under the chairmanship of Gopal Gupta Nandi, a review was done in relation to the long-term projects for the strengthening of infrastructure facilities in relation to the preparations of oxygen in a divine and grand manner for the Mahakumbh Mela- 2025. In this meeting, Commissioner Sanjay Goyal informed the public representatives present there about the works to be done in the district in view of the preparations for Mahakumbh-2025. Sanjay Goyal informed that in view of Mahakumbh-2025, the location of flyovers to be constructed in the district has been identified. Preparations are also on to make Prayagraj a metro city.

Min calls upon sugar industry to take advantage of govt incentives

PNS ■ KANPUR

Uttar Pradesh Minister for Sugarcane Development and Sugar Industry, Laxmi Narayan Chaudhary, while addressing the one-day national seminar on "Modelling of Indian Sugar Industry in Diversification Era", organised jointly by National Sugar Institute, Kanpur, and UP Sugar Mills Association on Wednesday called upon the sugar industry to come forward to take advantage of government incentives to convert sugar factories into complexes with thrust on ethanol production to improve their financial viability.

He complimented the sugar industry of Uttar Pradesh for contributing high-est quantities of ethanol for blending. He advised sugar factories to protect the interest of sugarcane farmers and other stakeholders as well. Chief Executive Officer, Dalmia Bharat Sugars Ltd, Pankaj Rastogi, shared experiences about Brazilian model of sugar and ethanol production. He said the government had come out with very proactive policies and it was now the turn of



UP Minister for Sugarcane Development & Sugar Industry Laxmi Narayan Chaudhary addressing the national seminar on "Modelling of Indian Sugar Industry in Diversification Era" at NSI on Wednesday.

sugar industry to come forward and adopt changes in the conventional system to move forward to achieve targets of sugar and ethanol production.

Addressing the seminar Director, NSI, in his key note address advised industry personnel to develop an out of box thinking to change the conventional model of sugar factories producing sugar to one having multiple products. He said

from ethanol to green hydrogen and from sugar to dietary fibre, from fuel to eco-friendly cutlery, the sugar industry provided enormous opportunities for diversification.

He said it was necessary to diversify to improve economic sustainability, it was also important to develop a robust self-sustainable model for ensuring availability of raw material and other infrastruc-

tural facilities and thus the capacities of sugar and other integrated units should be carefully planned.

In the technical session, Amit Negi, Dalmia Bharat Sugars Ltd, Pramod Mehdiyan, M/s Avadh Sugar & Energy Ltd, and Shailendra Tripathi, Seksaria Biswan Sugar Factory Ltd shared their experiences on changes required to be made in the processing house of sugar plant while diverting syrup and other process intermediates for ethanol production. Technical Officer Mahendra Kumar Yadav presented details of an innovative technology for producing refined sugar using carbon di-oxide gases from distillery fermenter and utilising mechanical vapour re-compressors for reducing cost of production of refined sugar.

Anil Pise, Raj Process Equipment and System presented details of technology for spray drying of effluent from molasses based distilleries and to convert it into valuable potash rich fertiliser. Presentation on various models of sugar factories while focusing on ethanol produc-

55th convocation of IIT- Kanpur held

PNS ■ KANPUR

The 55th convocation of Indian Institute of Technology (IIT), Kanpur was held on Wednesday. Addressing the session, Director, Prof Abhay Karandikar, said, "The convocation is one such occasion that all the students await eagerly. It is a momentous annual occasion for the institute as well. I wish the very best for the graduating students and the awardees and hope that they will continue to inculcate the values taught at this institute, and will metamorphose into a better human being."

Presiding over the convocation, Dr K Radhakrishnan, Chairman, Board of Governors, IIT Kanpur said, "Convocation is an occasion when we get to reiterate the vision of the founding fathers, including the illustrious Founder Director, Prof PK Kelkar, whose vision set the ethos of the institute that are instilled in every member of IIT-K fraternity. This is a day to celebrate the learnings and to take pledge to practice the values and ethos, going ahead in life. I wish everyone receiving degrees and awards the very best and hope that they will contribute to the better-

ment of the world, at the best of their capabilities."

This year a total of 1,360 students got degrees, out of which 116 were from PhD, 10 were from M Tech-PhD (joint degree), 144 from MTech, 556 were from BTech, 53 from MBA, 14 from MDes, 25 from MS (by Research), 40 were from PGPEX-VLFM, 144 were from MSc (two year course), 24 were from Double Major, 108 were from Dual Degree, 21 were from MS-PD (MS part of the Dual Degree) and 105 were from BS.

Commenting on the blockchain-based digital degrees, Prof Manindra Agrawal, one of the co-ordinators of the National Blockchain Project said, "With the widespread digitalisation of processes and service delivery, it was important to promote online verification of degrees and other educational certificates. He said to make this process seamless, secure and privacy-preserving, our team CRUBN at IIT Kanpur had developed a solution using blockchain and self-sovereign identity (SSI), which allowed students to manage and store their digital degrees as verifiable credentials in digital wallets installed on their devices.

He said these credentials

cannot be forged, were globally verifiable, selectively disclosable and sensitive to user content. He said it addressed global privacy and security concerns and upheld the underlying principles of the envisioned data protection bill.

The graduating students were conferred with the degrees by the chairperson, Senate in the event. In addition to the degrees, 51 categories of prizes and medals were given, while a total of 21 students were awarded the Outstanding PhD Thesis Award. This year, the President's Gold Medal was conferred on Shashwat Gupta from the Computer Science and Engineering Department, the Director's Gold Medal (4-year UG programme) on Priydarshi Singh from the Aerospace Engineering Department, the Director's Gold Medal (5-year UG programme) on Prateek Yadav from the Mechanical Engineering Department, the Ratan Swarup Memorial Prize on Atin Vikram Singh from the Electrical Engineering department and the Dr Shankar Dayal Sharma Medal on Rupesh R Chaffle from the Materials Science and Engineering (MSE) Department.

Vendors stage dharna at Nagar Nigam

PNS ■ VARANASI

A section of vendors, auto drivers and unemployed youths staged a dharna at the Municipal Corporation (Nagar Nigam) here on Wednesday. Leading the dharna, former vice-president of the Cantonment Board Shailendra Singh expressed his concern over the move to allot the spaces to some private agencies in the proposed night market below Lahartara-Chowkaghat fly-over. He said that the space should be allotted to the unemployed youths, vendors and auto drivers. He said that in this direction a memorandum was also given earlier to the parliamentary office of Prime Minister Narendra Modi but as no positive steps were taken in this direction, it was decided to raise our voices before the Municipal Corporation. Vice president of Banaras Auto Union Bhagwan Singh said that



Vendors, auto drivers staging a dharna at Nagar Nigam in Varanasi on Wednesday.

we would continue to oppose the decision to give the night market to private agencies and if the administration does not listen to us, then the auto drivers of the city under the leadership of Shailendra Singh would intensify their agitation. Later, the Additional Municipal

Commissioner reached the dharna site to receive the memorandum.

He assured the agitators that he would apprise the higher officials apart from trying his best to solve the same issue. Nakhru Sonkar, Anil Nigam, Raju Sharma,

Deepak Rastogi, Sajjan, Gyan Pratap Singh, Saroj, Ajay Jaiswal, Prakash Sonkar, Geeta Devi, Reena Sonkar, Munni Devi, Devnandan Singh, Upendra Singh, Rajkumar Singh, Shubham Rai, Bablu Bind and many others were present in the dharna.

KUSFTA submits memo to V-C

PNS ■ KANPUR

The members of Kanpur University Self-Finance Teachers Association (KUSFTA) have demanded to increase the amount of answer book evaluation charges. A delegation led by its president Dr Kamlesh Yadav, general secretary Dr Akhand Pratap Singh and senior member Dr Shiv Pratap Singh met Vice-Chancellor Prof Vinay Kumar Pathak on Wednesday and handed over a memorandum containing their demands to him.

After lending a patient hearing to their demands, V-C has agreed to increase the amount of local conveyance to Rs 400 from Rs 100 during the next meeting of the finance committee.

For the remaining two demands which also included the increase in amount of eval-



KUSFTA president Dr Kamlesh Yadav handing over memorandum to VC, CSJM University, Prof Vinay Kumar Pathak on Wednesday.

uation charges, he said the same would be resolved in consultation with the officials concerned.

The other demand was

related to conduct of practical/viva voce examinations as per past practice as these could not be started so far through the portal introduced

Ban on single-use plastic & thermocol from July 1

PNS ■ KANPUR

Municipal Commissioner Shiv Sharanappa while addressing presspersons said from July 1 there will be a total ban on single use plastic and thermocol. He said the KNN

has launched a special drive to make people aware of the new rules. He after this strict action will be taken against the violators. He said the first drive for this campaign is being started from the CSJM University premises itself. He

said as per the law today polythene from 50 microns has been raised to 120 micron. He said to measure micron the KNN will purchase equipment and the rule will be implemented strictly in the city. He said it was a matter of

great concern that despite the Act which came into force in the year 2018 it could not be implemented in the right earnest. He said the KNN had received directive from UP Government to handle the polythene menace and ensure

that below 120 microns were not used anywhere.

He said on account of polythene the KNN faced unpteen problems, especially leading to choked sewers which led to waterlogging in the entire city.

School employees raise demands

PNS ■ VARANASI

The employees of secondary and primary schools staged a protest at the office of Joint Director (Education) here on Wednesday under the banner of UP Educational Ministerial Officers' Association in support of their demands. They were protesting against the transfer of Group 'C' employees of secondary and basic (primary) schools during the 2022-23 session and termed the same against the transfer policy of the government.

They were also raising demands of promotion and said that despite the posts lying vacant, the employees are not being promoted. They protested against the non-payment of salaries of employees working with District Institute for Education and Training (DIET) and Rashtriya Madhyamik Shiksha Andolan (RAMSA) for the last three months. They said



School employees staging a protest at JD (Education) office in Varanasi on Wednesday.

that the agreement made in a meeting of the Association with the Education Director (Basic), Prayagraj last week has yet not met. They also raised their

other demands. Among those who were present in the dharna were divisional president, Deependra Kumar Srivastava, secretary Subhash Singh.

Gang of thieves busted

PNS ■ KANPUR

The GRP busted a gang of thieves and arrested three people on Wednesday. They were involved in stealing goods and valuables of passengers during their journey in different trains. Police also recovered several stolen mobile phones and jewellery. After removing the belongings and valuables, the accused used to jump off the moving train.

During questioning the accused confessed their involvement in more than 50 such incidents.

Addressing mediapersons at Kanpur Central station, Circle Officer (GRP) Kamrul Hasan said the accused were also involved in stealing goods and valuables from stationary trains at Juhi Yard and outskirts. They were identified as Shakeel Ahmed of Chamanganj, Kaleem of Gwaltoli and Monu of



CO (GRP) Kamrul Hasan addressing mediapersons at the Kanpur Central Station on Wednesday

Raipurwa.

The accused confessed their involvement in more than 50 theft incidents in different trains, including Jansadharan Express, Lichhavi Express and

Gwalior Barauni Express. Efforts were on to ascertain the involvement of other gang members and jewellers who had purchased the stolen jewellery, CO said.

Foam godown catches fire

PNS ■ KANPUR

A foam godown caught fire in the residential locality of Deoki Nagar, Naubasta, on Wednesday morning. Due to devastating fire, a couple living in the two-storeyed building failed to come out from the main gate. As many as six fire tenders rushed to the spot and extinguished the fire.

ACM (I) and DCP (South) also reached the spot and rescued people trapped in the fire. Mohd Mehtab Alam of Munshipurwa (Babupurwa)

owns a two-storeyed housed in Deoki Nagar. On the ground floor of this house, there was a foam godown while on the first floor, his brother Mohd Salman lives with wife Sweety.

Mohd Salman said a private telecom company had also installed its tower in the house.

Around 10 am on Wednesday, a fire broke out in the electric panel of the tower which soon engulfed the entire building.

Seeing the fire, he raised an alarm as there was no way to go out from the main

gate.

Thereafter, he along with wife anyhow managed to rescue themselves by jumping out from the rear window. Neighbour Mohd Wasim said due to devastating fire, the wall of his house also got cracked.

Even the airconditioners started melting from the heat of the fire.

Scared of any untoward incident, he along with family members immediately came out of his house and rescued themselves.

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
CENTRAL INSTITUTE OF PSYCHIATRY
KANKE, RANCHI-834006, JHARKHAND

No.: 2501 NOTICE Date: 29.06.2022

Computer Based Test (CBT) for the posts of Clinical Psychologist, Assistant Psychologist, Pharmacist, Nursing Officer, Tailor and Cook will be held on 09.07.2022. Intimation to all candidates has already been sent to their email address. All candidates are requested to check their email and download their E-admit card for CBT along with necessary instructions from the CIP website (www.cipranchi.nic.in) and follow the instruction contained therein.

URL for downloading: <https://register.cbtxams.in/CIPRANCHI/admitcard/> Sd/-Director

NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY, KURUKSHETRA
(Under the Ministry of Education, Govt. of India)
KURUKSHETRA-136119 (Haryana)

Walk-In-Interview

Advt. No.06/2022

National Institute of Technology, Kurukshetra requires qualified and experienced persons for the engagement as Officer on Special Duty, Training & Placement Officer and Assistant Engineer SG-II (Electrical) on contract basis. Interested candidates may appear for Walk-in-Interview on 11.07.2022 in the Board Room, Golden Jubilee Administrative Building of the Institute along with application, all original certificates and one set of attested copies of certificates, a recent Passport size photograph and an original identity proof for verification.

For more details, please visit our website: www.nitkkr.ac.in. Sd/-Registrar Incharge

STATE INFRASTRUCTURE & INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION OF UTTARAKHAND LTD.
29, IIE, SAHASTRADHARA ROAD (IT PARK), DEHRADUN
Ph No. 0135-2607292, 2708100 Fax No. 0135 – 2708109 Web site : www.siidcul.com

NIT- 81/SIIDCUL/2022

E-TENDER NOTICE

SIIDCUL invites online bids for "**Selection of agency for Manpower Services in SIIDCUL, Dehradun for a period of Two Years under e-procurement system**". The tender document would be available from **01.07.2022** till submission date i.e **21.07.2022** up to 14.00 Hrs. Tender document can be downloaded from <http://www.uktenders.gov.in> or www.siidcul.com .

Note:- Manual bids shall not be accepted. The bid shall be submitted online at <http://www.uktenders.gov.in>

Managing Director (SIIDCUL)

Admn tightens noose around illegal private hospitals

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ VARANASI

The district administration has started tightening the noose on illegally operated private hospitals, nursing homes, pathology centres in the district. On the instructions of the District Magistrate (DM) Kaushal Raj Sharma, necessary medical facilities can be made available to the public through registered medical establishments and registered qualified doctors. For this a list of registered medical establishments has been prepared. The DM has appealed to the people to get treatment in government hospitals or registered private medical establishments only.

Along with this, the DM directed that such medical establishments which have not yet registered and renewed

their registration with the Chief Medical Officer (CMO) office, can register and renew the same within the next two weeks by applying online with all the necessary standard forms. 'Update the information related to the disposal of biomedical waste, registration of tuberculosis (TB) patients, birth-death and institutional delivery on the portal related to the establishment of the operator of the medical establishment registered and renewed in the CMO office. In addition to the medical establishments registered and refurbished in the CMO office, if they are found operating illegally, necessary legal action will be taken against them,' the DM said.

CMO Dr Sandeep Chaudhary informed that a

list of registered medical establishments has been prepared so that citizens get necessary medical facilities from registered and qualified doctors.

'Soon this list will be uploaded on the NIC portal of Varanasi,' informed the CMO, adding that only 285 medical establishments including 205 in urban areas are registered in the district.

These include consultation chambers 14, day care centres 2, dental unit 2, diagnostic clinics 16, hospitals 77, IVF centre 1, maternity homes 3, medical clinics 69, nursing homes 20, OPD clinic 1, pathology labs 59, polyclinic 1, practicing medicine and offering medical/ health care service 3 and private practitioners 17. Along with this, 24 private hospitals with a capac-

ity of 50 beds or more are also registered.

'Although there is a free system of medical treatment in government hospitals, despite this, if a person wants to get his treatment or examination done in a private hospital, then he/ she should go to the registered medical establishments for this,' he said, adding that before going for treatment everyone should check whether the place where he is going for treatment is registered or not.

'If a medical establishment is not registered, then treatment there should be avoided. If a person gets his treatment done in an unregistered medical institution, then the government administration will not be responsible for any untoward incident,' he said.

DC issues notices to PWD engineers

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ VARANASI

Emphasising on strengthening the industrial environment in the division, Divisional Commissioner (DC) Deepak Agrawal directed the departmental officers that the benefits of the government schemes should be made available to the entrepreneurs on priority. 'Resolve the problems of entrepreneurs promptly and with quality,' he asked the officers while holding a meeting of Mandal (divisional) Udyog Bandhu here on Tuesday.

Expressing displeasure over the very slow and poor progress of road and drain construction work in Chandpur Industrial Estate (Phase-2), he issued show cause notices to the concerned assistant and junior engineers (AE/JE) of the Public Works Department (PWD). Receiving the information that the work of the same event of Phase-1 could not be completed at some places, the DC instructed the officers to complete it immediately. When he was informed that road and drain repair work going on in Ramnagar Industrial Area Phase-1 would be completed within the next three days, he directed the Deputy



DC Deepak Agrawal addressing divisional meeting of Udyog Bandhu in Varanasi on Tuesday.

Pioneer

Commissioner (Industries) Chandauli to inspect the spot after three days and submit a report regarding the completion of the work.

With reference to pending order at the headquarters level regarding physical possession of plot number B-56 of Ramnagar Industrial Area Phase-2, he directed that a letter should be sent in this regard to the Managing Director (MD) of Uttar Pradesh State Industrial Development Authority (UPSIDA) so that the matter could be disposed of at the earliest. Executive Engineer (Electricity Rural)

said that due to the efforts of the DC, Rs 80 lakh was received by the Uttar Pradesh State Industrial Development Corporation for capacity enhancement of the power station in Agro Park Karkhiyaon and the capacity addition work of the same has been completed.

In connection with the massive employment fair to be organised in the entire state on June 30, the DC directed the lead bank as well as other bank officials to immediately approve the loan applications available with them and ensure loan disbursement on time. A

huge employment fair is scheduled to be organised in the presence of Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath at Indira Gandhi Pratishthan in Lucknow on Thursday and similarly, job fairs will also be organised in all the districts of the state on the same day.

When asked by Rajesh Singh of Laghu Udyog Association Bharatiya about the progress of the Flatted Factory Model scheme, DC (Industries) Varanasi said that the project has already been prepared and sent to the government and it would be started after getting approval. When asked about the information regarding the construction of MSME Technology Centre, he said that after marking the land for the project, the proposal has been sent to the state government and action would be taken after approval. Kamalant Pandey of Brick Kiln Association informed about the non-availability of coal to the brick kiln units through PCF and raised the issue of refunding the advance deposited amount. Taking it seriously, the DC asked the Joint Commissioner (Industries) Umesh Singh to send a letter to the MD of PCF in this direction.

CMO inspects DDU Hospital

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ VARANASI

Many medical officers and employees were found absent when Chief Medical Officer (CMO) Dr Sandeep Chaudhary did a surprise inspection of Pt Deendayal Upadhyay (DDU) Government Hospital here on Tuesday. Expressing his displeasure, he sought clarifications from the absent medical officers and employees. He also gave instructions to improve the arrangement of the hospital besides shifting the ECG room to the ground floor.

When the CMO reached the hospital, he found that over a dozen medical officers and employees could not attend their duties on time. Besides, he also found many irregularities in the ECG room.

The CMO said that as the ECG room is located on the first floor, it may pose a lot of



CMO Dr Sandeep Chaudhary inspecting DDU Hospital in Varanasi on Tuesday.

problems to the heart patients when they go for ECG through stairs or ramps.

'It is not proper from medical standards and humanitarian point of view,' he said, directing the concerned officers that the ECG machine should be installed in the emergency room so that 24 hours ECG

facilities can be made available for the patients coming in emergency.

The CMO expressed his surprise during the inspection when he found that almost all the OPD rooms of the hospital were found completely empty in absence of doctors though there was a rush of

patients there. He also expressed his anguish over receiving the complaints that some doctors in the OPD are prescribing medicines from the market though the medicines are available in the hospital.

'Despite repeated warnings, no cooperation is being extended by the doctors to the Pradhan Mantri Jan Aushadhi Kendra,' he said, directing all the doctors of the hospital that in coordination with the director of the Prime Minister's Jan Aushadhi Kendra, they should prescribe the medicines available at the Jan Aushadhi Kendra.

He asked the doctors to encourage the patients to take medicines from Jan Aushadhi Kendra. He also directed the hospital officers to ensure further improvement in all arrangements including the cleanliness of the hospital.

Ex-Mayor condemns Udaipur incident

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ VARANASI

Former Mayor Ram Gopal Mohley has condemned the incident of Udaipur in Rajasthan and termed it as 'the culmination of hysteria and barbarism'. Reacting sharply, he said that the shocking incident is not only horrifying but it is a proof of how high the spirit of the radical forces is in the Congress ruled states. 'The release of the video by the killers like IS (Islamic State) terrorists shows that the law and order rioters in broad daylight are well aware that nothing is going to spoil them under the Congress rule,' he said.

According to him, the only fault of Kanhaiya Lal, a tailor by profession, was that he had posted a post in support of Nupur Sharma expelled from

BJP for his controversial statement a few days before his status on social media, due to which some angry people were continuously threatening him. 'The matter was reported to the police, but the police did not take the complaint seriously and the frenzied killers openly entered the shop and committed vandalism,' he said, added that it is not known whether the politics based on the basis of appeasement will bow down in shame for this shameful incident, but it is certain that the Gehlot government of Rajasthan cannot escape its accountability.

'Such incidents are audacious declarations of open war against humanity. Such crimes can have no place in any civilised and democratic society. We all people who like

peace are demanding that strict action should be taken against such fanatics and the Central Government should take necessary steps against the careless Gehlot government under the constitutional provisions,' he demanded.

NATIONAL STATISTICS DAY CELEBRATED : On the occasion of the birth anniversary of Professor Prasanta Chandra Mahalanobis, 16th National Statistics Day was celebrated in the office of District Economics and Statistics Officer, Vikas Bhawan here on Wednesday. This year's theme was 'Data for Sustainable Development' announced by the Government of India which was highlighted by Santosh Kumar Singh, District Economics and Statistics Officer.

The model given by Prof Mahalanobis was highlighted by District Economics and Statistics Officer Ram Narayan Yadav about crop cutting and the use of statistical data in today's scenario. Dr Sandeep Kumar Vishwas, ADE STO stressed on the need of guidance suggested by Prof Mahalanobis on how to analyse statistical data in today's perspective by the Department of Economics and Statistics on the model of second five year plan of Prof Mahalanobis. His personality and creativity were highlighted by Narendra Srivastava. Officers and employees including Hariwansh Sharma, Gama Yadav, Manoj Yadava, Mrityunjay Kumar Singh, Alok Kumar Singh, Ashish Kumar Mishra etc were also present.

‘Hafiz played key role in inciting Atala violence’

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ PRAYAGRAJ

Akhlaq and Abdul Rahman revealed some important information during intensive interrogation of 24 hours in connection with June 10 violence in Atala area of Prayagraj. Violence had erupted on June 10 after Juma Namaz just a week after the Kanpur trouble.

Akhlaq and Abdul Rahman were taken by the police on 24 hour custody remand on Tuesday to grill them and reach the bottom of the conspiracy to disturb peace

and tranquility. They were sent back to jail at 9.00 am on Wednesday.

During 24 hour custody remand the police interrogated them thoroughly and found that a Hafiz had brainwashed them. The Hafiz lived in a mosque, but he has gone underground now. The police have launched a manhunt for Hafiz.

Akhlaq also identified a good number of trouble makers when the police placed before him the photographs and video clippings recorded by

CCTV cameras.

Abdul, whose activities had been recorded by CCTV cameras on June 10, revealed that he had been following the prime accused Javed Mohammad alias Javed Pump on Facebook, and had spread his message on WhatsApp by sending the same to different groups. The messages were quite instigating and they ignited fire on June 10 in Atala.

Now his mobile phone may be sent for forensic test. He too was of the view that a Hafiz played the key role in inciting

violence.

JYOTSANA MISHRA APPOINTED AS NEW LIU CHIEF : Question were raised on the Local Intelligence Unit, and the June 10 incident was termed as the failure of the LIU.

Now the CO LIU Prayagraj Gyanwati Tiwari has been transferred. The new LIU chief of the district is Jyotsana Mishra who had served a different wing of intelligence in Prayagraj earlier, and knows the district like the palm of her hand.

Police preparing crack down on brothers of infamous cow smuggler

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ PRAYAGRAJ

Baba's bulldozer is moving at a faster pace in UP to bring the criminals under control. Illegal properties are being destroyed by identifying the criminals who take the law into their own hands. Now the police are preparing to crack down on the brothers of Muzaffar the infamous cow smuggler gang kingpin of Prayagraj. The police have

identified their five properties worth Rs 10 crore.

These houses are located in Begum Bazar Bamrauli. These houses will be attached under the Gangster Act. Along with this, the list of all the members of this gang is being extracted.

Originally a resident of Prayagraj Gangapur Nawabganj, Muzaffar is a history-sheeter and the kingpin of the cow smuggler gang. He had won the election of Kaudihar block pramukh last year while

staying in jail. A gangster case was registered against him in October 2021 at Dhumanganj police station. Along with him 13 other people were also accused out of them nine people have been arrested. Police are busy in search of others.

Against these accused, the police are engaged in the process of attachment of property under Section 14(1) of the Gangster Act. Under this, a few months ago, property worth crores of rupees of Muzaffar

was attached.

Puramufti SO Upendra Pratap Singh said that the investigation revealed that there is no source of income for his brothers.

Despite this, there are luxurious houses in the Begum Bazar of the city. A report has been sent to the District Magistrate for attachment of the houses. Further action will be taken on getting permission. The house will be attached after investigation.

STF busts interstate ganja supplier gang

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ PRAYAGRAJ

The Special Task Force (STF) has busted an interstate gang involved in supplying ganja in the nearby districts including Prayagraj. On Wednesday, STF recovered more than nine quintals of ganja loaded in DCM from the Koraon area. Along with this, DCM driver of Manpur Koraon, Anoop Kumar Mishra, conductor of the same village Pawan Kumar Singh and Harikant alias Bablu resident of Mahotipur Suhagi, Rewa Madhya Pradesh were arrested. The kingpin of the gang Rakesh Singh of Rewa Madhya Pradesh is absconding.



Arrested members of interstate gang involved in supplying ganja in Prayagraj

STF CO Navendu Kumar told the reporters that in many districts of Madhya Pradesh and Uttar Pradesh, hemp from Andhra Pradesh was being

bought and sold in bulk at expensive prices. On getting information about this, the team was pressed for arrest. On Wednesday, when Anoop and

his accomplices were bringing ganja, they were nabbed from Barokhar Koraon. During interrogation, it has been found that ganja was being supplied by making fake bags of plastic goods. The gangster Rakesh operates the business living in Chhattisgarh, while Harikant used get customer. The driver used to get 50 thousand for one round and 20 thousand for Pawan. Last month, six quintals of ganja were planted in Mirzapur. Even today, the driver and the Khalasi met Harikant on the Hanumana border and were about to go together to get the ganja removed, but the STF caught all three.

Raja Bhaiya condemns killing of Kanhaiyalal

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ PRAYAGRAJ

There has been a stir in the whole country over the murder of a youth in Udaipur, Rajasthan. Everyone is registering their own protest regarding the incident. In the same context, Kunda MLA and National President of Jansatta Dal Rashtriya Loktantrik Party, Raja Bhaiya, condemned the incident by tweeting that strict action should be taken and it

should not be limited up to statements only, but on the ground. The way in which he has tweeted protesting against the brutal murder of Kanhaiyalal in Udaipur, Rajasthan, along with this, Kunda MLA has further tweeted in support of Nupur Sharma.

Kunda MLA and National President of Jansatta Dal Party Raja Bhaiya has tweeted about the incident. He has written on

his tweet account page that this incident of Udaipur is not a normal incident, but it is a complete terrorist incident. The state and central government should deal strictly against such incidents.

In such an incident, it is seen that the governments make statements about taking strict action, but after some time the situation becomes normal. The accused involved in such incidents should be

given the harshest punishment. The whole country is shocked by this incident.

Kunda MLA Raja Bhaiya has appeared on action mode on the tweet after a long time. After Nupur Sharma's statement, he tweeted in support of her, and has now expressed outrage over the incident in Rajasthan. Along with this, Raja Bhaiya's father Uday Pratap Singh also tweeted in support of Nupur Sharma.

All candidates elected unopposed

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ PRAYAGRAJ

Elections for the seven members of Prayagraj Municipal Corporation Executive Committee were held on Wednesday. All the candidates were elected unopposed. In this, four members of Bharatiya Janata Party, two members of Samajwadi Party and one member of Congress were elected unopposed.

For the second time in the history of Municipal Corporation Prayagraj, the candidate has been elected unopposed.

Earlier in the year 2011, all the six members were elected unopposed.

Bharatiya Janata Party's four members of the municipal executive committee are Pooja Kakkar, Roma Bharti, Ruchi Gupta and Rochak Darbari.

Two candidates of Samajwadi Party are Rameez Ahsan and Nem Yadav and one candidate of Congress party Ranjan Kumar was the candidate. All of them have been elected unopposed.

The election process was held under the chairmanship of Mayor Abhilasha Gupta

Nandi.

Mayor Abhilasha Gupta Nandi congratulated the newly elected executive members. On this occasion, Bharatiya Janata Party City Unit President Ganesh Kesarwani, General Secretary Ramesh Pasi and Ravi Kesarwani, Vice President Raju Pathak, Kashi Kshetra member Yuva Morcha Harsh Kesari, former Kashi Kshetra member Gaurav Mishra, General Secretary Ramji Mishra, Ritesh Shukla, Rajat Dubey among others were present.

The tenure of the newly

elected members of the municipal corporation executive will be for only six months.

The date of the municipal election can be announced within three months. In such a situation, the term of the corporators will be till January 2023. At the end of the term, the committee will be dissolved.

The mayor is the chairman of the executive body. Apart from this, 12 elected corporators are members of the executive. From among these members, one corporator is made the vice-president.

Lightning claims four lives

CORRESPONDENT ■ MIRZAPUR

Lightning claimed four lives in separate incidents in the district on Tuesday. Reports said that Priya Devi (38) and Leelawati (45), residents of Faridpur village under Adalhat police station died while they were on the way to their field. Meanwhile under Lalganj police station, Sadhna (15), a resident of Dighuli village died when lightning struck her while she was in a field and Nandini (10), a resident of Charkhi village died due to lightning while she was out of

her house. On getting information the police reached the spots and completed the legal formalities.

VIDE CONFERENCE: District Magistrate Praveen Kumar Laxkar told Additional Chief Secretary, Home, Awanish Awasthi and Additional Chief Secretary, Higher Education Monika Garg during video conferencing at NIC on Tuesday that all arrangements had been done to conduct BE entrance examination in a fair and transparent manner in the district. The DM said for 7,000 examinees

14 centres had been made and had been inspected with the direction to make arrangements for holding the examination on July 6 in a transparent, peaceful and fair manner. Among those who participated in the meeting at NIC were Joint Director, Education, Kamta Ram Pal, Principal KBPG College Dr Ashok Singh, Principal GIC Raj Kumar Dixit and other officials concerned.

MEETING: ADM (F&R) Shiv Pratap Shukla while presiding over a meeting of District Food Vigilance Committee at Collectorate on

Tuesday directed the DSO to complete the process of allotment of vacant ration shops without inordinate delay and give priority to SHGs. About linking of Aadhar card with ration cards the DSO said 99.95 work had been completed. The ADM directed the DSO to ensure three-tier checking of ration shops and keep updated with the distribution. He directed to dispose of complaints under IGRS on top priority. Chief Medical Officer (CMO) Dr Rajeev Singhal, DSO and Social Welfare Officer (SWO) Girish Dubey were present.

Murder most foul

The Udaipur incident is another reminder that timely action can prevent a situation from unravelling

The gruesome murder of Kanhaiya Lal, a tailor in Udaipur, is a reminder to all, especially the political class, that there is a lot that is rotten in the statecraft and politics of India. The killers, Gos Mohammad and Riyaz Akhtari, not only slaughtered Lal in his shop but also shot a video of their misdeed. They cut his throat with a cleaver and, according to the police, wanted to behead him but couldn't. In another video, the murderers not only gloated over the killing but also threatened to kill Prime Minister Narendra Modi. The case has been handed over to the National Investigation Agency (NIA). Meanwhile, in Udaipur, after a few violent incidents, curfew has been imposed; in entire Rajasthan, large gatherings have been disallowed for a month; mobile internet services have been shut down for 24 hours across the State. The authorities are alert now, but a little action and some alertness earlier by the local cops could have preempted the murder and the unfortunate situation that has arisen now. What led to the murder is still not quite clear. There are reports that Lal supported former BJP spokesperson Nupur Sharma, who was recently in the news for her controversial remarks about Prophet Muhammad. But it has also been reported that Lal did not know how to operate a mobile phone. When he was arrested following a complaint against him, he told the police that it was his child who, while



playing a game, had shared an objectionable post by mistake. Lal was arrested but was bailed out the next day, that is, June 11.

Whatever be the truth, it is undeniable that he had informed the police that he was receiving death threats, and yet no action was taken. ADG (Law and Order) Hawa Singh Ghumaria told a newspaper, "Then, on June 15, he submitted a written complaint that he is getting death threats and sought police protection. The SHO concerned called the persons who were allegedly issuing the threats. And then, five-seven responsible persons from both the communities sat down and reached an agreement. In a handwritten note, Kanhaiya Lal said he doesn't need any more action against anyone. Hence, the police did not proceed on the security threat." All this may be correct, but what was local intelligence doing? That Gos Mohammad and Riyaz Akhtari were quite radicalised is evident from not just their crime but also their belief that anyone offending their Prophet has to be executed. As they said in their video, "*Gustakh-e-Nabi ki ek hi saza*, sar tan se juda (There is only one punishment for disrespect to the Prophet, beheading)." This is a favourite slogan of Pakistan's Muslim fundamentalists. Rajasthan Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot has denounced Lal's murder, as also have other prominent leaders. Typically, they appeal to people to maintain peace. There is something that our political masters also need to do: Strengthen the law-enforcement apparatus and detox politics.

PICTALK



Men walk at the Nokian Tyres manufacturing plant in Vsevolozhsk, outside St Petersburg, Russia

A soldiers' soldier

Sam Bahadur, the architect of the 1971 victory against Pakistan, deserves the Bharat Ratna

He is the only military commander in modern times who can be described as the "soldiers' soldier". Sam Hormusji Framji Jamshedji Manekshaw, or Sam Manekshaw, led India in the 1971 war against Pakistan which resulted in the birth of Bangladesh. How he won the war despite odds like shortage of weapons and manpower has been recorded in golden letters in military history. He was the country's Chief of Army Staff from 1969 to 1973 and was promoted as India's first Field Marshal in January 1973. An Army commander who never hesitated to speak his mind to the highest political leadership, Sam Manekshaw is not a name to be remembered only on his birth or death anniversaries because he was much more than a military chief. Born as the son of a doctor in a middle class family, Sam could have opted for any profession of his choice but he ended up in the military academy. The story of Manekshaw as a soldier, officer and commander is folklore. Bravery, gallantry, intelligence and the willingness to go to the extra mile to realise his mission endeared him to his officers and subordinates.

The best example of his professional prowess was the decision of his British commander Major General David Cowan honouring a critically injured Manekshaw, then a captain fighting on the Burma front in 1942, with a Military Cross. The award was in recognition of his valour and fighting spirit against the Imperial Japanese Army. Since a dead man cannot be awarded the

Military Cross, the British commander decorated Manekshaw, who was fighting for his life after being felled by Japanese bullets. The appointment of Manekshaw as CoAs was a morale booster to the Indian Army which has not looked back since. India owes a lot to Sam for the win in the 1975 World Cup Hockey Championship at Kuala Lumpur. It was Sam who asked MAM Ramaswamy, an industrialist in Chennai, to pay for the air tickets of the Indian team with the day's Government looking the other way. Each person who has met him at least once has many things to reminiscence about this legendary soldier. This great son of India is a real Bharat Ratna and it would be ideal to honour him with the top civilian award during the 75th anniversary of India's freedom.

Unsettled queries in *l'affaire* Nupur

There's no merit in demands to lynch anybody without first appreciating the circumstances under which the person may have uttered angry words

In the emotional thrust and parrying of viewpoints over Nupur Sharma's remarks, some fundamental points have been lost sight of. Now that an authentic video of the TV programme is no longer available, we can only go by inferences and deductions and try to answer some fundamental questions based on these. What exactly did Nupur say that sparked this outrage both domestically and in Islamist nations? Indications are that she alluded to some details of the Islamic Prophet's life. Did she invent these details to malign Islam and mock its followers? If so, she deserves the strongest condemnation and a harsh punishment. If, however, what she mentioned was derived from Islamic sources, then her misdemeanour falls in the category of an unfortunate choice of words or a tactless iteration in the heat of debate. In that case, her immature simplicity was her only sin, quite understandable in somebody in her 30s. And that requires at best a reprimand from her party, the BJP, and an admonition to be more circumspect and to avoid such indiscretions.

The veracity of the above scenarios notwithstanding, was the overblown reaction to an off-the-cuff remark on national TV discussion, in response to provocation, proportionate and justifiable? Are the rabid chants of *sar-tan-se-juda* asking for her beheading, in Kanpur or elsewhere, condonable in civilised society? Should it be par for the course for any community to make children hold up posters asking for somebody's head? And all this when Nupur had already apologised unconditionally?

Something forgotten in the present overcharged discourse is what Nupur stated in a video flicker, since gone missing, that she cannot remain silent when her *Mahadev* is insulted and that she had made the remarks in anger. What did her Muslim interlocutor on the TV debate say about Lord Shiva that she was referring to? And why are his comments muted and lost in the din of her universal condemnation by the secular lobby in India and the Islamist one abroad?



In the pan-India protests after Friday prayers, the posters at different locations had an eerie commonality — of image, banner text. The similarity across distant locations points to coordinated planning and execution. Were the protests orchestrated by vested interests out to undermine the Modi Government by sowing discord between communities? Were these instigators, inimical to Indian national interest, inspired and funded by foreign agencies?

Now about the protests abroad. Does Qatar have any right to demand a public apology from the Government of India when in 2010 it had given shelter and honorary citizenship to artist MF Husain who, after painting Hindu goddesses in the nude, refused to appear before court and fled the country? Almost every Islamic nation, as well as the 57-member OIC, initially lambasted India for the intemperate remarks by somebody not holding any Government position. The Pakistan press lamented that "the idea of India was facing an existential crisis", presumably because the idea was secular, quite forgetting that the country itself is a theocratic State that unabashedly persecutes minorities.

An Arab newspaper point-



THE SIMILARITY IN PROTESTS ACROSS DISTANT GEOGRAPHICAL LOCATIONS POINTS TO COORDINATED PLANNING AND EXECUTION. WERE THE PROTESTS ORCHESTRATED BY VESTED INTERESTS OUT TO UNDERMINE THE MODI GOVERNMENT BY SOWING DISCORD BETWEEN COMMUNITIES?

ed out that Nupur's Muslim co-panelist was not blaspheming Ram or Sita when in anger she uttered the offending remarks. While that may well be true, she was instead provoked probably by the worst blasphemy possible for Hindus — the ritual washing of feet, *Vazoo*, by Muslim worshippers at Gyanvapi mosque That surely is an offence much greater than a tactless, angry remark.

Why was the reaction overblown? The Grand Mufti of Oman exhorted all Muslims to rise as one nation, there were calls in the Gulf countries for boycott of Indian goods, and there were reminders of India's dependence on the Gulf countries for oil imports and inward remittances.

Under Modi, India has tried its best to improve relations with the Gulf countries and obtained significant success. Modi himself has paid several visits to the region, been received warmly and had national honours bestowed on him. Pakistan often invokes the Islamic Ummah for undermining India; it did so this time also, especially with OIC. However, since its credibility is rather low, many Islamic countries did not take long to recover from the initial kneejerk reaction. The Iranian Foreign

Minister after his recent visit to New Delhi approved of the Indian Government's handling of the controversy and its fallout. The Kuwait Government has taken strict action against the anti-India protesters, even deporting some expatriates and banning them from entering the country again.

Domestically, it was a god-send opportunity for the Opposition to malign Modi and BJP. Though religious figures like the Shahi Imam of Jama Masjid in Delhi distanced themselves from the unruly protests and violent rioting, leaders who cultivate the simple, unaware Islamic vote bank played to their gallery and feigned righteous indignation. The fact that major rioting started 10 days after the TV episode lends credence to the allegation that mob anger was built up over time deliberately by leaders like Owaisi. One of the downsides of democracy is that unscrupulous politicians may pander to the rabble's irrational sentiments for electoral gains at the cost of social cohesion; this episode illustrates it vividly.

(A former banker, the writer's love for words and ideas has turned him towards writing columns. The views expressed are personal.)

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

PROBE SHOULD BE FAIR, UNBIASED

Sir — The reports suggest that the PMO has responded to a letter by the Contractors' Association of Karnataka, in which the body alleged that the Ministers and MLAs demand hefty commissions of about 40 per cent for giving approval to development projects in the State. Meanwhile, the contractors' association president has said the relevant documents pertaining to the case have been submitted to the officer sent by the Union Home Ministry. It's a positive development as the Centre has taken an initiative to dig out the truth in the serious charges of corruption.

However, the Centre's initiative to probe the menace of corruption among Ministers making headlines shouldn't become an eyewash and a ploy to give the clean chit to the BJP leaders — just to blunt the Opposition attack. The corruption deals between the Ministers and contractors executing Government projects are an open secret. The investigation shouldn't end up as an image makeover exercise ahead of the Assembly elections. Also, the Prime Minister's oft-repeated public statement "*Na khaunga, na khane doonga*" should hold good universally. Transparency and fairness should be the prime criteria to make the investigation convincing and justifiable.

N Sadhasiva Reddy | Bengaluru

31% RS MPS FACE CRIMINAL CASES

Sir — It's a big shock to the citizens that 31 per cent of the Rajya Sabha members across political parties have criminal cases against them, according to Association for Democratic reforms, National Election Watch. The Members of Legislative Assemblies elect the required number of MPs to the Rajya Sabha. The RS also includes men of integrity excelling in arts, literature, games and social service as they are nominated by the President on the Government's advice. Though ours is the biggest democracy, the way these leaders are elected is concerning for the democ-

Modi makes a point at G-7



In his address to the G-7 Summit recently, Prime Minister Narendra Modi's concern for global development and its betterment was noteworthy. Through his worthy words, the Prime Minister mentioned the utmost contribution made by India that was aimed at throwing a major light on the ultimate goal of global development. With special emphasis on the contributions made by the country, he further reiterated that we are the country that has been able to transform robustly with the help of concept of women-development to women-led develop-

racy as several ills need to be cured.

Thanks to former Chief Election Commissioner TN Seshan for bringing reforms in election procedures and implementing the existing rules strictly. It gave good results but not totally. Many things still have to be strictly implemented due to interference by politicians of ruling parties as they go by their convenience, resulting in the disappointment of citizens. But when the Elders are sent to the Rajya Sabha, everything should be transparent. When many RS members are involved in criminal cases, how can they feel comfortable with the title of Elders?

JP Reddy | Telangana

THE INTERNATIONAL ASTEROID DAY

Sir — June 30, the International Asteroid Day, will have everyone looking toward the skies. The day was founded after the 2014 release of the film *51 Degrees North*, which seeks to explore what would happen if an asteroid were to strike London. The film's creative team (many of whom are actual

scientists) wanted to raise more awareness about the threat of asteroids to earth, and how we can help protect ourselves. To make that happen, they formed a foundation, and in 2015, they celebrated the world's first International Asteroid Day. There are over one million asteroids in space that could potentially strike the earth, but modern scientists have discovered only about one per cent of them.

To combat this real and actual threat, the Asteroid Day's founders as well as a host of accomplished scientists, created the 100X Asteroid Declaration. The declaration aims for scientists to work towards increasing the rate of asteroid discovery to 100,000 per year within a decade. The International Asteroid Day focuses on spreading the word of the declaration and helping fellow earthlings prepare for a potential asteroid impact.

Faizan Khan | Ujjain

Send your feedback to: letterstopioneer@gmail.com

SOUND BITE

The deputy CM (Manish Sisodia) is unnecessarily politicising a desirable administrative action.



Delhi L-G
—VK Saxena

Seven democracies would maintain sanctions against Russia as long as necessary. Russia cannot and should not win.



French President
—Emmanuel Macron

More layers, characters and mysteries will unfold when the audience will watch *Shamsher* on the big screen.



Director
—Karan Malhotra

I will be gunning for the team to win 3-1... I can say I was in a team that won in Australia and England.



Indian spinner
—R Ashwin

It is clear from the brutal daylight murder that miscreants feel confident under this State Government.



Former Rajasthan CM
—Vasundhara Raje

FIRST COLUMN

LET’S BE THE CHANGE THAT WE WANT TO SEE

We have to develop a culture that springs from non-violence



RAJYOGI BRAHMAKUMAR NIKUNJJI

In the past couple of years, there has been a growing concern across the world with regards to ruthless killings of whistleblowers, most of whom were courageous citizens who fought to secure the truth at the risk of their lives. These whistle blowers play an essential role in exposing corruption, fraud, mismanagement and other wrongdoing that threaten public health and safety, financial integrity, human rights, the environment and the rule of law.

By disclosing information about such misdeeds, these courageous people have helped save countless lives and billions in public funds, while preventing emerging scandals and disasters from worsening. Hence, such violent resistance to truth and its custodians in innumerable cases across the world shows extreme moral degradation of our society and the erosion of values. What kind of society would punish its whistleblowers and stifle the truth? Perhaps that’s the question we all need to ask ourselves. When muscle and money power call the shots everywhere, it is obvious that truth will always be on the run and evil on a perpetual chase.

The dictum of might is right has been strengthened by the depiction of violent episodes in history as well as through religious writings. There are many religious scriptures that show that even the Almighty showed His might by decimating the evil forces by means of a violent war to contain unrighteousness in the world. Hence, using force to set a wrong right or to discipline a wrong doer has been adopted as a norm by humans at all levels of existence.



To change this scene, patchwork solutions will no longer suffice. Because we need a complete transformation that can emerge when we change the powers we use. From the power of might, we now have to shift to the power of right and develop a culture that springs from non-violence.

Discarded as a theoretical tool and reduced to a mere embellishment in books, non-violence is actually a magic wand that can protect against the wrong and wrongdoer. One should not forget that we have already witnessed that the policy of an eye for an eye has made the whole world blind, so we need to now make use of the power of values to connect and correct.

The great potential of non-violence needs to be explored—a value which asks its users to refrain from aggression not just in action but also in words and even thoughts. The simplicity of non-violence lies in the fact that it can be used by anyone and at all levels—personal, social and global. Peace, spirituality and self-sustainability will be dominant in a culture nourished by non-violence. It will naturally ooze with security and brotherhood and any anti-social elements will soon be forced to the road of guilt and self-realisation.

Ideals that we struggle and fight for today—freedom, justice and equality—will be natural there. From a place where anything can happen to anyone at any time, the world will be transformed to a place where everything would happen at the right place, at the right time and in the right manner. There, the right would not just be right but right would be right.

Is it all as simple as it sounds? Yes, it is! Together, we all can, through spiritual empowerment, create such a way of life, but the fundamental rule for it is self-change. Most of us have wasted much of our precious time and energy in checking others and the quality of people at the social level, without realising that the creation of a fair society would begin from personal change that would work from the inside out. This change would be contagious which would spread through all of us, thus triggering a social transformation at global level. So, Let’s Be the Change.

(The author is a spiritual educator and popular columnist for publications across India, Nepal, and the UK)

Higher education has to become meaningful

Indians going to the US for education need to be informed about the world-class institutions India has



LN JHUNJHUNWALA

My mind goes back to 1945 and 1946. I was a postgraduate student in pure mathematics. We were just six students. Shree Satyen Bose was our Professor. He used to wear Dhoti Kurta (snow-white). Our classes were on the 3rd floor and there were no lifts.

Bose and Einstein were collaborating on some research which resulted in the discovery of the Bose-Einstein (Bosen) theory. Bose used to love me and was keen that after finishing studies, I go to study astronomy at Mount Wilson observatory in America. He was disappointed when I did not continue my studies.

I came from a very poor family. My mother died of tuberculosis without proper treatment for want of funds in 1936. My family had great expectations from me, that I would earn money as I was brilliant in education. But I became brilliant in business. I started learning business from my uncle in 1946 side by side with studies.

I came into business full-fledged in 1946 and retired in 2000. I have been very close to the Ramakrishna Mission since 1951. The mission had a splendid educational institute at Narendrapur in the suburb of Calcutta with about 3,000 students. Of the top 10 students in Calcutta University, at least two students were from Narendrapur. I was dreaming of having something like Narendrapur but on a tiny scale run by the Ramakrishna Mission monks.

Shree Arjun Singh was the human resource development minister. He belonged to Madhya Pradesh where I had established a technologically challenging graphite electrode plant. I had become very close to him. He would attend lectures of Swami Atmanandaji, whom we used to invite to Bhopal for lectures.

The mission had a number of educational institutions but no university. They decided to establish one at Belur Math in their large compound on the banks of the Ganges. They decided to send a delegation of monks to meet Arjun Singh. Knowing my closeness with him, they asked me to accompany them. His response was good; the next meeting was fixed after a month.

The Ramakrishna Mission had three subjects in mind for the University: (i) disaster management whose practical experience they had in floods and famines; (ii) rural development; and (iii) poverty alleviation. I was keen that they included mathematics so that their performance could be compared internationally.

I met Arjun Singh alone and requested him, while interacting with them, to emphasise on mathematics. He was enthusiastic. The ministry did their homework. An additional secretary and other officers attended the meeting. Five senior monks of the mission and I attended the meeting. On Singh’s emphasis, mathematics was agreed upon.

He was highly impressed that the proposed vice-chancellor was a scholar of



SATYEN BOSE AND EINSTEIN WERE COLLABORATING ON SOME RESEARCH WHICH RESULTED IN THE DISCOVERY OF THE BOSE-EINSTEIN (BOSEN) THEORY. BOSE USED TO LOVE ME. HE WAS DISAPPOINTED WHEN I DID NOT CONTINUE MY STUDIES

The author is Emeritus Chairman, LNJ Bhilwara



physics and was teaching it to graduates of the mission college and another monk, Mahan Maharaj, was a great scholar of mathematics and famous internationally.

The mission pointed out that the mathematics education would be expensive. Faculty will have to be paid liberally. As there are Nobel Laureates in other subjects, mathematics also has able laureates. The mission wanted a grant of Rs 40 crore and Singh agreed to that.

The mission started looking for a mathematics scholar to start this course. Fortunately, there was a Bengali mathematician, Abhijeet Dutt, at the Kyoto University who was engaged in research with Japanese students. He was keen to come to Bengal. With his coming back, the RK Mission University became a hub of mathematics in India. The board of governors included four monks of the mission and four officials of the Ministry. Singh nominated me on the board. He told the mission that I had vast experience in dealing with the bureaucracy and that I would be helpful. Thus I became a board member.

Unfortunately, Arjun Singh passed away in 2011. Dealing with the ministry became difficult.

The senior Sanyasinis of Sarda Math once came to visit the university. Abhijeet Dutt welcomed them in his half pants and a sports T-shirt. The Sanyasinis were not very comfortable. Nobody told anything to the professor but he started feeling uncomfortable. He resigned and went back to Kyoto. This was unfortunate. I wish the mission had handled the professor better.

After the demise of Arjun Singh, I found my name had disap-

peared from the board without my knowledge. I was not happy.

In 2020, I came across an IIT dean. I informed him that I have four thousand students studying for higher secondary at four places where we have schools. I requested his assistance. He visited one of our institutes and was highly impressed with our research activities. We were looking forward to some kind of association with IIT. But nothing came up.

Recently, my daughter became very enthusiastic for our schools. Therefore, I fixed a meeting with the Dean of an IIT. The Dean was warm and he briefed me about their activities in mathematics research done by postgraduate mathematicians.

Similarly, I am now associated with the Harish-Chandra Maths research institute at Allahabad. With my daughter’s involvement and my good health and alert mind, I am hopeful that I will be alive to see India produce an able laureate in mathematics.

I requested the Vice-Chancellor, Swami Atmapriyanadaji, to include artificial intelligence and I donated Rs 15 lakh for that. He was also thinking about artificial intelligence. One of his students is teaching artificial intelligence at the South African University; he has agreed to join soon. I hope something emerges.

I look across at my friends and my own family. My grandson went to the United States to study mathematics. After two years, he wanted to specialise in some branch of mathematics whose expertise was available at Cambridge; he moved to Cambridge. I was hopeful that

he would make his mark internationally but he lost interest in mathematics.

It is difficult for me to evaluate whether his education abroad for five years did him some good. He took up music and joined Fayaaz Dagar, where I also joined him to renew my interest in vocal music. He lost interest in vocal music too and joined sarod, and moved to Bombay because his teacher was in Poona.

One of my grandsons from my daughter’s side did his graduation abroad and entered the business. It is difficult to conclude whether his foreign education was helpful.

Similarly, my granddaughter from my daughter’s side did architecture in the US with great enthusiasm. On her return, she joined an architecture firm where she did well. But she is no longer in the field of architecture.

The younger generation of rich people is not accustomed to hard work for a livelihood.

They are guided by their temporary whims.

The US earns billions of dollars from students coming from China and India. India spends a large amount in foreign exchange on Indians studying abroad. Affluent families send them abroad even after higher secondary education. After graduation, the US is well equipped for studies in artificial intelligence, space travel, mathematics, etc. But what do we get?

The Institute of Science in Bangalore and the Atomic Research Institute are world-class. IITs are growing well. Indians going to the US for education need to be informed about the international status of some such institutions.

POINT COUNTERPOINT

AS HEAD OF THE FAMILY, I TELL YOU THE TIME HAS NOT PASSED YET. I APPEAL TO YOU... WE’LL RESOLVE ALL DIFFERENCES. —SHIV SENA CHIEF AND MAHARASHTRA CM UDDHAV THACKERAY



ALL THE MLAS HERE (GUWAHATI) ARE HAPPY AND UNITED. THERE’S NOTHING TO WORRY. WE’LL ALL GO TO MUMBAI SOON. —REBEL SENA LEADER EKNATH SHINDE

Murmu: NDA’s choice for inclusive democracy

Draupadi Murmu struggled to raise her children, while also becoming a foremost social and political worker

Democracy serves people best when it’s inclusive. The Bharatiya Janata Party-led National Democratic Alliance, by picking up former Jharkhand governor Draupadi Murmu as its candidate for the July 18 Presidential election, has abided by the inclusive Dharma of democracy.

The two successful candidates of the NDA in the past who made to Rashtrapati Bhavan equally emphasised inclusivity and most suitable to hold the top Constitutional post. APJ Abdul Kalam, India’s missile man, not only lived to give the country strategic deterrence but also became a role model for all, particularly youth. His life was a living testimony to the Indian tradition of pursuit of knowledge and humility.



SUMEET BHASIN

The author is Director, Public Policy Research Centre @Sumeeetbhasin)

In Ram Nath Kovind, India got a President who was most humble and democratic, who opened the doors of Rashtrapati Bhavan for the people while being most courteous in his conduct and discharge of the duty. The political commentators sought to bracket him as the BJP’s Dalit bet, but he eventually proved that he could conduct the Constitutional duties most efficiently.

Murmu struggled all her life but beat the odds to raise her children, while also becoming a foremost social and political worker. From being a legislator, she proved her mettle in Odisha as a minister and thereafter as the governor of Jharkhand.

She would be the first tribal President of India since the

NDA has the support of the Biju Janata Dal and the YSR Congress for the July 18 election. The BJP has for long been pursuing an inclusive agenda. Even in 1996, when the Atal Bihari Vajpayee government fell in 13 days despite being the single largest party, it had the largest number of the tribal MPs in its ranks. The BJP’s foremost commitment to take all sections of society has been an abiding principle.

Murmu will be a candidate in the Presidential election at a time when the Narendra Modi-led government has given a new hope to the tribal population in the country by taking his mantra of ‘Sabka Sath, Sabka Viswas aur Sabka Prayas’ to every nook and corner of the country, including the tribal areas in Jharkhand, Odisha

and Chhattisgarh. During the rule of the United Progressive Alliance, Leftwing or Maoist extremism was at its peak; people talked about the Red Corridor, connecting the hotbed of Maoist violence in Nepal to the deep forests in Sukma in Chhattisgarh. The violence cost several lives of paramilitary forces.

The NDA government set out for course correction right at the outset, and gave hope to the tribal youth that they can see better future in the mainstream of society, as several welfare schemes brought benefits to the people without hassles, without paying bribes. The government’s honesty was visible, and the tribals of the country turned their backs to violence.

In the last few years,

Jharkhand, Chhattisgarh, Telangana and Odisha have largely been peaceful, with a decline in Maoist violence.

When Murmu takes the oath of the office as the President of India, the tribal population will see the fulfillment of their political aspirations. They will see that one from among them is the first citizen of India.

The Aspirational District programme of the Central government was envisioned with clear objective that the gains of the development must reach the poorest of the poor, in accordance with the true of Deen Dayal Upadhyaya.

The tribals have seen that they have been brought in the mainstream of the economy with financial inclusion, pucca houses with toilets, pension

schemes and so on. They don’t need to fall for the allurements of the evangelists to embrace their religion.

The elevation of Murmu to the post of the President of India will be the firm democratic empowerment of the tribal population, as well as women of the country. She has thoroughly been a spiritual person and her association with Brahmakumaris is well known.

She was sweeping the floor of a temple a day after her name was announced by the BJP president JP Nadda; people have seen how humble a person she is. She stands for simplicity, spirituality.

She is a Constitutionalist, a firm believer in the Indian Constitution’s capacity to fulfill the aspirations of all sections of society. Her life is also a living

testimony of perseverance. She never lost hope even when she faced personal losses. In her, India will have a President who will give hope to the vast majority of the people that all hardships can be won over with honesty and patience.

While the Opposition parties were busy in elimination rounds to find a candidate for the Presidential election, the BJP was thinking of national interest. When the BJP named Murmu as its Presidential candidate, even the rivals suggested that the contest has become one-sided. The Opposition candidate, Yashwant Sinha, can save his lost reputation by gracefully withdrawing from the Presidential election to pave way for the unanimous election of Murmu as India’s President.

BJP terms Udaipur murder as ‘terror attack’



PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The BJP on Wednesday accused the Congress-led Gehlot Government in Rajasthan of pursuing “vote bank politics of appeasement” and termed the killing of tailor Kanhaiya Lal in Udaipur as a “terror attack”.

The party also saw a pattern in the State Government’s failure to prevent such terrorist incidents in the past. BJP leader and Union Minister Anurag Thakur lashed out at Ashok Gehlot over the killing saying the State Government

remained a “mute spectator” as the Congress’ internal rivalries affected law and order. The Information and Broadcasting Minister was responding to reporters’ questions on the killing of Lal Monday.

At a separate Press conference, BJP spokesperson and former Union Minister Rajyavardhan Rathore said Lal’s killers filmed the incident and made the video viral in an attempt to terrorise society and accused the State police of not acting on the complaint of the deceased and allowing a free-run to the ‘jehadi nexus’ in

the State. He said the Chief Minister who is also Home Minister is treating the terrorist act as a “simple murder” and accused the Congress Government of pursuing “vote-bank politics of appeasement”. Rathore charged the Congress Government in Rajasthan was responsible for Lal’s killing and that it has taken many steps during its tenure to appease one community.

“Festivals of different religions are given different treatment by the State Government,” he said while leveling charge of appeasement on the Gehlot government. “Not a single week has gone by in the last six months when terrorist, jihadi incidents have not happened in Rajasthan. The Government of Rajasthan is solely responsible for this,” he said adding the Gehlot Government is seen as “giving support to terrorist organisations”.

The BJP spokesman said fundamentalist are running a free-run and “sleeping cells” have penetrated the state and “law and order has turned zero”. “Police intelligence is being used for political intelligence”, he alleged and sought to know as to why the Chief Minister was there if he was to look at the Prime Minister to do everything. On a question that the opposition has blamed BJP for creating a negative atmosphere, Rathore hit-out at

them saying such arguments are dished-out to justify ‘Jehadi’ killings. BJP spokesman, however, said National Investigation Agency is “competent enough” to unravel conspiracy and terrorist nexus and will investigate as who was giving protection to them in state.

Former Rajasthan Chief Minister Vasundhara Raje also slammed the Gehlot government over the beheading incident in Udaipur saying “policies of incitement and appeasement” led to the Communal violence in state. “..it has become clear that due to the instigation and appeasement of the state government morale of criminals is high”.

Due to this policy of the state government, a situation of communal frenzy and violence has arisen in the state”, Raje tweeted. The tailor was killed on Tuesday by two men, who had posted videos online that said they were avenging an insult to Islam.

Tailor’s killing un-Islamic, say Muslim bodies



PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Prominent Muslim organisations on Wednesday condemned the brutal killing of a tailor in Udaipur, calling it “un-Islamic” and asserting that no person has the right to take law into one’s hands.

Bodies like All India Muslim Personal Law Board (AIMPLB) and Jamiat Ulema-e-Hind issued statements condemning the murder of Kanhaiya Lal by two men who had posted videos online that claimed they were avenging an insult to Islam.

Delhi Jama Masjid Shahi Imam Syed Ahmed Bukhari called the killing an “act of cowardice” and “an act against Islam”. Islam is a religion of “peace and tranquillity,” he said.

In its statement, the AIM-PLB said such acts were against the principles of Islam and no one should take law in their hands.

“Insulting holy personalities of any religion is a serious crime. BJP spokesperson Nupur Sharma made derogatory remarks about the holy Prophet of Islam, which is very sad for Muslims.

“The Government not taking any action against Nupur Sharma is like rubbing salt on the wounds. But despite this, taking the law into one’s own hands and killing a person by declaring him a criminal is a condemnable act,” the statement issued on behalf of AIMPLB general secretary Maulana Khalid Saifullah Rahmani.

“Neither the law allows it nor does the Islamic Shariah justify it. Therefore, the All India Muslim Personal Law Board strongly condemns the incident in Udaipur (Rajasthan),” the statement said.

The board also urged the Government to make stringent laws regarding disrespectful comments against holy personalities and take immediate action in such cases.

The board also appealed to the Muslim community to act patiently and not take law into their own hands as well as

not indulge in any such action that might disturb communal harmony in the country. Both the Arshad Madani and Mahmood Madani factions of the Jamiat Ulema-e-Hind condemned the incident and

called it “un-Islamic”.

In a statement, Maulana Arshad Madani said that just as “we had opposed mob-lynching in many places, we also consider this an inhumane act”.

“We are always against anyone taking the law into their own hands. The Udaipur incident is a very tragic, un-Islamic and inhumane act, it is highly condemnable. The law of the state would work accordingly in this case as well,” he said.

Madani also said that whatever happened “due to derogatory words” was bad, but in order to maintain law and order and communal harmony in the country, it is necessary to show tolerance and patience.

“Just as we oppose this incident, we are strongly opposing insulting the dignity of any religious figure,” Arshad Madani said.

“We once again demand the government to immediately arrest those who have insulted the Prophet and punish them severely according to the law so that no one will dare to do so again in the future,” he said.

India’s desi mRNA Covid-19 vaccine approved for 18+

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

The Drugs Controller General of India (DCGI) has approved country’s first indigenously developed mRNA vaccine GEMCOVAC-19 against Covid-19. The vaccine has been given approval for restricted emergency use for those aged 18 years and above.

Gennova Biopharmaceuticals Ltd., a subsidiary of Emcure Pharmaceuticals Ltd., announced that its mRNA vaccine — GEMCOVAC-19 — against Covid-19 received the Emergency Use Authorization (EUA) from the office of the Drugs Controller General of India (DCGI),” said a statement from the vaccine

manufacturer Gennova Biopharmaceuticals on Wednesday. It is a two dose vaccine to be administered intramuscularly at 28 days apart.

The vaccine will be sold under the brand name GEMCOVAC-19. GEMCOVAC-19 is the very first mRNA vaccine developed in India and only third mRNA vaccine to be approved for Covid-19 in the world.

“These vaccines are highly efficacious because of their inherent capacity of being translated into the protein structure inside the cell cytoplasm. mRNA vaccines are considered safe as mRNA is non-infectious, non-integrating in nature, and degraded by standard cellular mechanisms”, said the vaccine manufacturer.

Those talking of appeasement forgot Shambhu incident: Congress to BJP

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI/JAIPUR

The Congress on Wednesday asserted that the Ashok Gehlot Government in Rajasthan was aware of its ‘raj dharm’ and said action in the brutal killing of a tailor would be taken in accordance with law, unaffected by the religion or caste of those involved.

Two men with a cleaver murdered a tailor in Udaipur and posted videos online, claiming that they are avenging an insult to Islam.

Gehlot said the Rajasthan Police has booked the two men who brutally murdered Kanhaiya Lal in Udaipur a day before under the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act (UAPA).

The case will be investigated by the National Investigation Agency (NIA) and the Anti-Terrorist Squad (ATS) of Rajasthan Police will fully cooperate with the probe agency, he said. Gehlot made the remarks after chairing a

high-level meeting in which he reviewed the situation in Udaipur. Gehlot also convened an all-party meeting at his residence over the Udaipur incident. Congress’ media department head Pawan Kherra said the party condemns the incident and said the Gehlot Government had acted swiftly in the matter.

“The Ashok Gehlot Government got the accused arrested within six hours. An all-party meeting has been called in the evening. This whole matter has been fast-tracked. On the basis of what came up during the probe, Ashok Gehlot has assured all help to the NIA,” Kherra said at AICC Press conference.

“With the atmosphere being vitiated in the entire country for the last two months, Gehlot has been urging Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Home Minister Amit Shah that they address the country, take steps to stop the spread of hatred in society, and appeal for maintaining peace,”

he said.

Kherra alleged that polarisation is evident in every nook and corner of the country, and asked why this was not the case earlier. The Congress spokesperson asserted that whoever is found guilty in the probe, strictest action will be taken against that person “There should be no doubt regarding that.”

Hitting out at the BJP over its claim that terror outfits are flourishing in the Rajasthan due to its ‘appeasement policy’ towards one community, Kherra said, “Those talking of appeasement forget that in 2017 in Rajasthan’s Rajsamand district, Shambhu Lal Regar had made a video while murdering someone and people of a particular party had climbed atop a court complex in his favour and hoisted their flag after removing the tricolour.”

Those talking of appeasement forget the murder of inspector Subodh Singh and that his murderers were garlanded, Kherra said.

JD(S) indicates support to Murmu in presidential poll

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Janata Dal (S) leader and former Chief Minister of Karnataka H D Kumaraswamy on Wednesday indicated support to BJP-led NDA’s candidate for Presidential polls Droupadi Murmu.

“Already she (Murmu) has discussed with our national president (H D Deve Gowda) over phone twice and has requested support. Also, she had sought time to come and meet. I requested our national President that there is no need for her to come personally in the current situation,” Kumaraswamy said.

Speaking to reporters at Bengaluru, he said Murmu already has the majority on her side and she has expressed her desire to seek Gowda’s support out of goodwill and generosity.

ty. “She has already won...She need not come so far...We will decide in the party...You (media) may have understood by now what our decision might be. Before taking a final decision, we will look into the background of both candidates. There is no question of Congress or BJP or any B-team here,” he said, adding that he has gone through Murmu’s background and her struggle.

Recently calling Murmu, as a “suitable” and “non-controversial” candidate, Gowda had noted that he doesn’t want to refer to her as merely a tribal candidate, but wants to say that she is “competent” for the post of President.

Jharkhand Chief Minister who recently met Union Home minister Amit Shah is also to decide whether his party JMM, would switch its support to the

NDA nominee backing-out from the opposition side.

Meanwhile, as many as 115 nominations were filed till Wednesday, the last day of the filing papers for the July 18 presidential election, the Rajya Sabha Secretariat.

The scrutiny of the nominations would be done on Thursday. Those who filed their papers include NDA nominee i Murmu and joint Opposition candidate Yashwant Sinha, who are the main contestants.

Besides them, a host of commoners have also filed their papers for the top constitutional post in the country, which include a slum dweller from Mumbai, a namesake of RJD founder Lalu Prasad Yadav, a social activist from Tamil Nadu and a professor from Delhi.

India slams UN Human Rights for comments on Teesta, calls it unwarranted

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

Taking exception to a comment by the UN Human Rights office regarding the arrest of social activist Teesta Setalvad and two others, India on Wednesday termed them as “unwarranted.” It also said it constitutes an interference in India’s independent judicial system.

The sharp reaction by the ministry of external affairs(MEA) here came a day after the UN Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR)voiced concern over the arrest and detention of Setalvad and called for her immediate release. “#India: We are very concerned by the arrest and detention of #WHRD @TeestaSetalvad and two ex-police officers and call for their



immediate release. They must not be persecuted for their activism and solidarity with the victims of the 2002 #GujaratRiots,” the UN Human Rights office said in a tweet on Tuesday.

Making India’s stand clear, MEA spokesperson Arindam Bagchi said, “We have seen a comment by the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) regarding

legal action against Teesta Setalvad and two other persons. The remarks by OHCHR are completely unwarranted and constitute an interference in India’s independent judicial system. Authorities in India act against violations of law in accordance with established judicial processes. Labelling such legal actions as persecution for activism is misleading and unacceptable,” he said.

‘Rotavirus survives for up to 3 days in lake water’

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

As pollutants, microplastics can be harmful to the environment and animal health. But now a team of scientists have found that the microplastic also acts as a potential surface for the lethal virus to move into the fresh-water.

For instance, they found that Rotavirus, which causes diarrhoea and an upset stomach, was surviving for up to three days in lake water by attaching itself to the surfaces of microplastics.

Microplastics are tiny plastic particles that result from both commercial product development and the breakdown of larger plastics. As a pollutant, microplastics can be harmful to the environment and animal health Previous

studies have focussed only on the spread of such viruses in sterile hospital settings, however, the new study published in the journal Environmental Pollution has shown how they are present in the fresh water as well.

This study has come close on the heels of an almost similar report by researchers at IIT-Bombay which has found the presence of microplastics in food, air and water at the institute’s Powai campus.

The study conducted by the Centre for Environmental Science and Engineering, published on June 24 in the Elsevier journal Environmental Research, analysed 35 samples each of ambient air and drinking water, and 10 samples of food and deduced that an individual at the campus may be ingesting between 1,414 to 2,610 microplastic particles

per day, with cooked food being the dominant mode.

Professor Richard Quilliam, lead researcher from the varsity whose study has been published in journal Environmental Pollution said, “We found that viruses can attach to microplastics, which allows them to survive in the water for three days, possibly longer,” said “Even if a wastewater treatment plant is doing everything it can to clean sewage waste, the water discharged still has microplastics in it, which are then transported down the river, into the estuary and end up on the beach.

We weren’t sure how well viruses could survive by ‘hitchhiking’ on plastic in the environment, but they do survive, and they do remain infectious.” The researchers tested two types of viruses – those

with an envelope, or “lipid coat” around them, such as the flu virus (they tested bacteriophage Phi6), and those without: enteric viruses, such as rotavirus and norovirus (they tested rotavirus strain SA11).

They found that in those with an envelope, the envelope quickly dissolved, and the virus was deactivated, whereas those without an envelope successfully bound to the microplastics and survived.

“Viruses can also bind to natural surfaces in the environment. However, plastic pollution lasts a lot longer than those materials,” said Quilliam. “This research is very much a proof-of-concept for conducting more research into how long pathogens can survive by binding to microplastics, as we only tested for three days, and what happens to them next.”

Global warming to impact water resources, agriculture: Study

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

Global warming is expected to increase the intensity and frequency of future drought in several global regions, adversely affecting the water resource, agriculture, and energy sectors, as per a study by the National Institute for Environmental Studies (NIES).

“Given that the current water management practices and existing infrastructures in these sectors are based on historical statistics or experiences, under a changing climate, these practices and infrastructures may eventually become insufficient.” “Therefore, it is critical to better understand when severe drought conditions expressed as “unprecedented” will become frequent,” said the study. The projected impacts of warming show significant

regional disparities in their intensity and the pace of their growth over time,” said the corresponding lead author Yusuke Satoh, a research associate professor at Korea Advanced Institute of Science & Technology. “Regarding precipitation and temperature, preceding studies report the timing at which the impact of climate change emerges.

However, no study had successfully estimated the timing in terms of drought focusing on river discharge at a global scale,” added Tokuta Yokohata, a coauthor and a Chief Senior Researcher of the Earth System Risk Analysis Section at the Earth System Division, NIES. “A temporal evaluation about future drought conditions in comparison to our historical experiences is essential to take appropriate climate change strategies, especially for cli-



mate adaptations, in the long term and in time.”

The paper published in Nature Communications estimates the periods when drought conditions will shift to an unprecedented state in a warmer world. The research group evaluated changes in drought day frequency for 59 global subcontinental regions until the end of the 21st century. They estimated the time of first emergence (TFE) of consecutive unprecedented drought, which is the first onset of exceedance beyond the

maximum bound of the historical climate variability during the reference period (1865-2005) that occurs consecutively for a certain number of years.

“Appropriate and feasible climate mitigation and adaptation plans are essential for overcoming the expected extraordinarily severe dry conditions. Particularly regarding adaptation, it is crucial to improve our preparedness in the given time horizon before unprecedented drought conditions emerge,” said Satoh.

Mamata , Bengal clerics condemn Udaipur killing

SAUGAR SENGUPTA ■ KOLKATA

Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee too joined the group of leaders in condemning the brutal murder of a tailor at Udaipur in Rajasthan by some religious fanatics.

Taking to the Twitter the Chief Minister wrote “violence and extremism are unacceptable, no matter what! (might be the provocation). I strongly condemn what happened in Udaipur.” She further appealed for calm saying “as the law takes its own course of action, I urge everyone to maintain peace.”

Two men from a particular community carrying a cleaver murdered a tailor and posted online videos of the brutal act saying that they were avenging the insult to Islam by eliminating the tailor belonging to another community.

The victim has made a social media post where he had supported BJP leader Nupura Sharma for her alleged remarks against Prophet Muhammad.

Curiously the Chief Minister who had from a public rally attacked Sharma for her offensive statements promising legal action against her would not condemn the Udaipur attack in a similar manner.



Banerjee had on Tuesday told a public rally at Asansol that “those who are spreading hatred and creating animosity among communities in the country are let off ... they are not being touched ... they are even being given protection whereas those who are criticizing such acts are being arrested,” adding in reference to Nupur Sharma case that “we will not spare her ... my Government has already taken action and she had been summoned.”

She also condemned the arrest of journalist, Md Zubair and social activist Teesta Sitalvad for fighting the cases of the victims of Gujarat riots.

Meanwhile, a group of Bengal Imams too condemned the Udaipur killing saying Islam never permitted taking

someone's life.

Md Yahia Chairman of Bengal Imams Association an organization of Muslim clerics on Wednesday condemned the killing of the Udaipur tailor saying “no true Muslim will support a heinous crime as this,” and asked for exemplary punishment for the perpetrators of the crime.

“There are people who are out to malign religions ... there is no issue that cannot be settled through legal way ... such acts must be condemned and strict actions must be taken against the perpetrators of such crimes,” he said.

Another cleric from Nakhoda Masjid however said, “an entire community must not be judged by the acts of a few persons.”

Hope Cong fades away paving way for new political era: Owaisi

PTI ■ BHOPAL

AIMIM leader Asaduddin Owaisi on Wednesday said Congress is losing its relevance fast and should wither away which will pave the way for the beginning of new politics in the country.

Taking a swipe at Congress, the All India Majlis-E-Ittehadul Muslimeen (AIMIM) chief also said Narendra Modi could become the prime minister twice because of Congress' (performance).

He dismissed the allegation that the AIMIM cuts into the votes of Congress in elections.

“.....If that is the case then it seems Pragya Thakur (BJP MP from Bhopal) won the election and also the 22 legislators of Congress joined hands with BJP to bring Shivraj Singh

Chouhan to power again due to AIMIM,” he said sarcastically.

“You see that Congress is going down. We expect the Congress will not only be weakened but should fade away so that a new politics can begin in the country. Narendra Modi became the prime minister twice due to Congress,” Owaisi told reporters.

The Hyderabad MP said Congress's politics will finish if Muslims understand the exact share of their representation in political leadership.

He said the poor condition of Congress could be gauged from the fact that it failed to gather even 100 people when its leader (Rahul Gandhi) was summoned by the Enforcement Directorate (ED) for questioning. Owaisi appealed to

Muslim residents of the Hindi heartland to ensure their adequate representation in local bodies and the Assembly, and create leadership in alliance with Dalits and STs.

He said some legislators have been representing their respective constituencies for three decades but have failed to develop the education infrastructure, resulting in the lowest literacy among Muslims.

Queried on a proposal before the Maharashtra government demanding that Aurangabad city be renamed Sambhaji Nagar, Owaisi said the Maha Vikas Aghadi should first face the floor test in the state Assembly (on Thursday as directed by the state governor).

The Shiv Sena should take care of its flock and the gov-

ernment instead of Aurangabad, which is facing a water crisis, he said referring to the political crisis in Maharashtra. Owaisi said the proposal to rename Aurangabad also poses a challenge for the NCP and Congress if they decide to support it.

“The NCP and Congress were appealing to people to not vote for AIMIM to keep Shiv Sena away from power. But they joined hands with Sena after (the 2019) elections to form a government (in Maharashtra). This is hypocrisy. These are double standards. I don't accept political secularism but believe in the Constitutional one,” he added.

Replying to a query about the possibility of AIMIM tying

up with the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP), Owaisi said he didn't agree with the ideology of Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal. Owaisi said the AIMIM will contest the Assembly elections in Madhya Pradesh which are due next year. He reiterated the opposition to the 'Agnipath' scheme for recruitment into the armed forces.

On BJP MP Varun Gandhi questioning the need for post-retirement benefits for elected leaders when those being selected in the Agnipath scheme will not be given pension once their four-year tenure gets over, Owaisi said this proposal should come from the Prime Minister and all the BJP MPs. The discrepancies in the 'Agnipath' scheme will divide the Army, he added.

EV-bus manufacturers worried after DHI makes sporting FAME logo must

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

Months after the Department of Heavy Industries (DHI) notified an order making it mandatory for the Ev-buses operator(s) to place the FAME logo on both the sides of the vehicles prominently, the manufacturers are feeling the pinch with advertisement revenues taking a significant hit, according to sources close to funding agencies/lenders.

The order released by the DHI makes it compulsory for the manufacturers to get the FAME logo on the buses, at the spots which the manufacturers earlier used to lease out to potential advertisers for some revenue.

A couple of industry insiders told The Pioneer on the condition of anonymity that this move has not gone down well with the operator(s) and has caused considerable losses



for them as per early assessment.

Earlier in the contracts, advertisements were allowed on the FAME contracts-awarded products, ev-buses mostly, and the revenue generated

from them used to go to the manufacturers or the Operator. The latest move has left them squandering for options to deal with it, with little or no mechanism to raise their concerns. According to sources, the

new directions have been laid out retrospectively which impact the revenue. Industry experts see the move by the government as its intent to reduce overall cost for the state governments.

A top official of one of the major lending agencies said the manufacturers don't have any issue with keeping the FAME logo on buses but with size and placement of the logo, which directly impacts their revenues. The loss becomes significant in the long run as the buses are to be operated and maintained for 12 years.

“Can the OEMs/Operators manage for 12 years making losses continuously? It might lead to a situation where the manufacturers start showing their inability to operate the buses,” another official said, adding the ‘purpose of promoting Green mobility is getting defeated in the process’.

The Indian EV sector is seeing a massive boom with both central and governments going full throttle in acquiring electric buses in their bid to ensure clean and green transportation. States after states are placing big orders for electric buses.

Mumbai building collapse: Owner who had rented out flats arrested

PTI ■ MUMBAI

Police on Wednesday arrested a 40-year-old man who had allegedly rented out his flats in the ill-fated building in suburban Kurla which collapsed and claimed the lives of 19 persons.

A case of culpable homicide not amounting to murder was registered earlier in the day against some flat owners and others at Nehru Nagar police station in connection with the Monday midnight's incident.

Most of those who died in the incident were tenants.

Dilip Vishwas, the arrested man, was a contractor by profession, and named in the First Information Report, said a police official. He had allegedly rented out his flats in the building, located in Naik Nagar Housing Society, he said.

As per the FIR, flat owners including Rajni Rathod, Kishore Chavan, Balkrishna Rathod and Vishwas rented out their flats even though the building had been declared as

dilapidated by the civic body BMC. A case under Indian Penal Code (IPC) sections 304 (2) (culpable homicide not amounting to murder), 338 (causing grievous hurt by act endangering life or personal safety of others) and 34 (common intention) has been registered against them.

Senior BMC officials had claimed that residents of the building, constructed in 1973, had undertaken to carry out repairs, but apparently no repairs were carried out.

High tea at JK Raj Bhawan

PNS ■ JAMMU

Reaching out to the leaders belonging to different political parties Jammu and Kashmir Lieutenant Governor, Manoj Sinha Wednesday hosted them over high tea at Raj Bhawan, Srinagar.

During the meeting, the Lieutenant Governor held deliberations focusing on the smooth conduct of the Amarnath yatra with these leaders. National Conference President Dr Farooq Abdullah,



Peoples Democratic Party Chief Mehbooba Mufti, BJP unit Chief Ravinder Raina, Peoples Conference Chairman Sajjad Lone, President of Jammu and Kashmir Apni party Altaf Bukhari, CPI(M) leader Mohammad Yousuf

Tarigami, JKPC president G A Mir, PDF president Hakeem Mohammad Yaseen and several others were invited for the high tea.

Significantly, PDP Chief Mehbooba Mufti chose to stay away from the meeting.

During the meeting, it is learnt, JKNC President Dr Farooq Abdullah advised Lt-Gov Manoj Sinha to separately convene another meeting to deliberate on the prevailing political situation in Jammu and Kashmir.

2 LeT terrorists killed

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ JAMMU

On the eve of the start of Amarnath yatra two more terrorists belonging to the Pakistan based Lashkar-e-Tayyeba terrorist outfit were gunned down by the joint team of the security forces in Nawapora area near Mir Bazar in South Kashmir district of Kulgam on Wednesday. Inspector General of Police Kashmir Vijay Kumar said both the terrorists have been identified as categorised local terrorists of proscribed terror outfit LeT.

FROM PAGE 1

UDDHAV RESIGNS AS CM AFTER SC REFUSES TO STAY TRUST VOTE

“Tomorrow if these people are disqualified, then the pool changes.. the Supreme Court has clarified that there is no connection with the floor test,” Kaul responded.

“If you are sure about the majority, then just go ahead with the floor test. There is no need for people to go to Surat, Guwahati, let there be a floor test. And they are piggy backing on our petition by relating it to the floor test and asking for reliefs. If you want to prevent horse trading, then the best way to do it is floor test,” said Kaul, claiming they are the “real Shiv Sena.”

Solicitor General Tushar Mehta, appearing for the Governor, contended that the argument that the top court had interdicted the jurisdiction of the Speaker is incorrect.

“I must say first of all, that the argument that your lordships have interdicted his jurisdiction of the speaker, I say it is fallacious,” he submitted. He said the question boils down to whether the office of the speaker or deputy is being misused. “Answer is ‘yes’. When I receive a motion of no confidence, the confidence where it can be tested is the floor. I can always ask some member to generate disqualification proceedings under Chapter 10,” he said. The Speaker cannot decide the voter list or electoral college, said Mehta.

The SG further contended that the Governor cannot ignore direct threats to 39 MLAs. “Horse trading is one way of winning majority, but here direct threats to the 39 MLAs. The Governor cannot ignore such issues,” he said, adding that the floor of the Assembly is where democratic powers originate.

“The source of the democratic powers is the floor of the Assembly. If you have power, good, if not, so be it. Test it,” the SG said.

Singhvi in his rejoinder arguments contended that there has not been a single instance of speaker being interdicted from proceeding with disqualification petition while allowing floor test to go on.

“There was not a single case where the Speaker's hands were held on serious charges. When I repeatedly say that there is left hand denial on the efficacy on the tenth schedule and the right hand allows floor test to go on, the answer cannot be floor test to go on. Despite tying hands on the tenth schedule, it is tried to be shown that, that will not have any bearing on the floor test. If they are disqualified, then they will not be members from inception is not argued (by Shinde camp),” Singhvi said.

UDAIPUR KILLER HAS LINKS WITH PAK OUTFIT: POLICE

On June 11, Kanhaiya was arrested and released on bail the next day, he said.

On June 15, Kanhaiya filed a complaint at the police station that four-five people were following him and his life was in danger. The SHO failed to assess the gravity of the situation and effective action was not taken on the Kanhaiya's complaint, the State police chief said, adding the issue was resolved amicably without any legal action. “The assistant sub-inspector was suspended yesterday, and today the SHO has been suspended for negligence,” he said.

Meanwhile, a team of the National Investigation Agency (NIA) has arrived in Udaipur, he said, adding the case has been transferred to the NIA and the State police will assist them.

“The NIA registers a case in the incident of brutal murder of Kanhaiya Lal Teli in Udaipur, Rajasthan. The NIA has re-registered a case RC- 27/2022/NIA/DLI on 29/06/2022 under Sections 452 (house trespass after having made preparation for causing hurt and assault, 302 (murder), 153 (A) (promoting enmity between different groups on grounds of caste, religion and

place of birth), 153 (B) (imputations and assertions prejudicial to national interest), 295 (A) (deliberate and malicious intention of outraging the religious feelings of any class) and 34 (acts done by several persons for furtherance of common intention) of Indian Penal Code (IPC) and Sections 16, 18 and 20 of Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act, 1967 against the accused who have conspired, planned and committed the heinous murder of Kanhaiya Lal Teli on 28.6.2022 in Udaipur, Rajasthan,” the agency said in a statement.

“The accused persons had also circulated a video of the criminal act on social media claiming responsibility for the murder in order to trigger panic and strike terror among the masses across the country. Pursuant to the registration of the case, NIA teams have already reached Udaipur and requisite action for expeditious investigation of the case has already been initiated,” it further said.

The security agencies, according to insiders, also did not act on the Pakistan-based terror seminary Haqqania University vice chancellor addressing an online gathering in Darul Uloom Deoband as reported earlier by The Pioneer.

RJD BIHAR'S LARGEST PARTY AFTER OWAISI'S 4 MLAS SHIFT LOYALTY

All the five seats that the AIMIM had won fall under the Kishanganj and Araria Lok Sabha constituencies, which have the highest concentration of Muslim population in Bihar.

Talking to the media persons, Yadav said all the four MLAs “come from the most impoverished, flood-ravaged region of the State” reeling under the “apathy of a Government that does not care for health, education and other types of public welfare.”

In the last Assembly polls, the RJD had won 75 seats. It won another seat earlier this year when it snatched Bochahan from

the NDA in a by-election.

Meanwhile, the BJP, which had been enjoying the status of the single largest party when it weaned away all three MLAs of ousted Minister Mukesh Sahni's Vikasheel Insaan Party a few months ago, raising its strength to 77, testily reacted to the development.

State BJP spokesman Nikhil Anand alleged, “Owaisi may have sold his MLAs by taking money from the RJD.”

5% GST ON PRE-PACKED FLOUR, PAPAD, PANEER, CURD

Similarly, an 18 per cent GST will be levied on tetra packs, fees charged by the banks for the issue of cheques (loose or in book form).

Maps and charts, including atlases, will attract a 12 per cent levy. Goods that are unpacked, unlabelled and unbranded will continue to remain exempt from the GST.

Besides, a 12 per cent tax will be levied on hotel rooms costing less than Rs 1,000 a day. At present, this falls under the exempted category. A 5 per cent GST will be levied on hospital room rent above Rs 5,000 per day (excluding ICU).

Tax rates have been raised to 18 per cent on products such as printing, writing or drawing ink, knives with cutting blades, paper knives and pencil sharpeners, LED lamps, drawing and marking out instruments. Solar water heaters will now attract 12 per cent GST as compared to 5 per cent earlier.

Some services such as work contracts for roads, bridges, railways, metro, effluent treatment plants and crematoriums too will see tax going up to 18 per cent from the current 12 per cent.

Tax has, however, been cut on the transport of goods and passengers by ropeways to 5 per cent and on ostomy appliances to 5 per cent from 12 per cent.

a lower 12 per cent rate as against 18 per cent.

The GST exemption on the transport of passengers by air to and from north-eastern States and Bagdogra has now been restricted to economy class.

Services rendered by regulators such as the RBI, the IRDA and the SEBI will be taxed and so will be on renting of a residential dwelling to business entities. Also, electric vehicles whether or not fitted with a battery pack, are eligible for the concessional GST rate of 5 per cent.

The GST Council also decided to ease process for intra-State supplies made through e-commerce portals. Now such suppliers will not have to obtain GST registration, if their turnover is lower than Rs 40 lakh and Rs 20 lakh for goods and services, respectively. This would come into effect from January 1, 2023.

The council has also decided to constitute a group of Ministers to address various concerns raised by the States in relation to the constitution of the GST Appellate Tribunal and make recommendations for appropriate amendments in the CGST Act.

Meanwhile, about a dozen States cutting across party lines on Wednesday pitched for extending the mechanism to compensate States for revenue lost from the implementation of the GST beyond June 30, but no decision was taken.

Briefing the media persons about deliberations at the two-day meeting of the GST Council here in Chandigarh, the Union Finance Minister said that the Finance and other Ministers of 16 States spoke on the compensation issue. Of the 16 States, 3-4 spoke of evolving their own revenue stream to break from the compensation mechanism, she said.

The Centre did not reveal its mind on the issue. When a nationwide GST subsumed 17 Central and State levies from July 1, 2017, it was decided that States will be compensated for any loss of revenue from the new tax for five years. That five-year term is ending on June 30. With two years

being lost in the pandemic, States have sought an extension of this compensation mechanism.

Sitharaman said that the GST Council deferred a decision on levying a 28 per cent tax on casinos, online gaming, horse racing and lottery pending more consultations with stakeholders. A Group of Ministers headed by Meghalaya Chief Minister Conrad Sangma has been asked to consider submissions of stakeholders again on the valuation mechanism and submit its report by July 15, she said.

RUPEE ALL-TIME LOW AT 79.03/\$

Meanwhile, the dollar index, which gauges the greenback's strength against a basket of six currencies, was trading 0.13 per cent higher at 104.64.

The rupee depreciated following risk-averse sentiments and weaker regional currencies, Dilip Parmar, Research Analyst, HDFC Securities said, adding “high demand and tighter dollar liquidity following quarter-end rebalancing weighed on a local unit (rupee).”

The sentiment remains feeble for the rupee amid foreign fund outflows and fear of dollar shortages following quantitative tightening from the US Federal Reserve.

“The short-term outlook for spot USD/INR remains bullish and one can see a level of 79.10 in the coming days, while on the lower side support has been shifted to 78.38,” Parmar said.

Global oil benchmark Brent crude futures advanced 0.34 per cent to USD 118.38 per barrel.

On the domestic equity market front, the 30-share BSE Sensex ended 150.48 points or 0.28 per cent lower at 53,026.97, while the broader NSE Nifty fell 51.10 points or 0.32 per cent to 15,799.10.

Foreign institutional investors were net sellers in the capital market on Tuesday as they offloaded shares worth Rs 1,244.44 crore, as per stock exchange data.

Aide: Trump dismissed Jan 6 threats, wanted to join crowd

AP ■ WASHINGTON

Former US president Donald Trump rebuffed his own security's warnings about armed protesters in the January 6 rally crowd and made desperate attempts to join his supporters as they marched to the Capitol, according to dramatic new testimony before the House committee investigating the 2021 insurrection.

Cassidy Hutchinson, a little-known former White House aide, described an angry, defiant president who was trying that day to let armed protesters avoid security screenings at a rally that morning to protest his 2020 election defeat and who later grabbed at the steering wheel of the presidential SUV when the Secret Service refused to let him go to the Capitol.

And when the events at the Capitol spiralled toward violence, with the crowd chanting to "Hang Mike Pence", she testified on Tuesday that Trump declined to intervene.

Trump "doesn't think they're doing anything wrong", Hutchinson recalled hearing from her boss, White House chief of staff Mark Meadows.

Hutchinson's explosive, moment-by-moment account of what was happening inside and outside the White House offered a vivid description of a Republican president so unwilling to concede his 2020 election defeat to Democrat Joe Biden that he acted out in rage and refused to stop the siege at the Capitol.

It painted a damning portrait of the chaos at the White House as those around the defeated president splintered into one faction supporting his false claims of voter fraud and another trying unsuccessfully to put an end to the violent attack.

Her testimony, at a surprise hearing announced just 24 hours earlier, was the sole focus at the hearing, the sixth by the committee this month. The account was particularly powerful because of her proximity to power, with Hutchinson describing what she witnessed first-hand and was told by others in the White House.

Hutchinson said that she was told Trump fought a security official for control of the presidential SUV on January 6 and demanded to be taken the Capitol as the insurrection began, despite being warned earlier that day that some of his supporters were armed.

The former aide said that she was told of the altercation in the SUV immediately afterward by a White House

CAPITOL RIOT PROBE



security official, and that Bobby Engel, the head of the detail, was in the room and didn't dispute the account at the time.

Engel had grabbed Trump's arm to prevent him from gaining control of the armored vehicle, she was told, and Trump then used his free hand to lunge at Engel.

That account was quickly disputed on Tuesday, however. Engel, the agent who was driving the presidential SUV, and Trump security official Tony Ornato are willing to testify under oath that no agent was assaulted and Trump never lunged for the steering wheel, a person familiar with the matter said.

The person would not discuss the matter publicly and spoke to The Associated Press on condition of anonymity.

As the events of January 6 unfurled, Hutchinson, then a special assistant to Meadows, described chaos in White House offices and hallways.

Trump's staff — several of whom had been warned of violence beforehand — became increasingly alarmed as rioters at the Capitol overran police and interrupted the certification of Biden's victory.

Trump was less concerned, she said, even as he heard there were cries in the crowd to "Hang Mike Pence!" Hutchinson recalled that Meadows told aides that Trump "thinks Mike deserves it".

The president tweeted during the attack that Pence didn't have the courage to object to Biden's win as he presided over the joint session of Congress.

The young ex-aide was matter-of-fact in most of her answers. But she did say that she was "disgusted" at Trump's

tweet about Pence during the siege.

"It was unpatriotic, it was un-American, and you were watching the Capitol building get defaced over a lie," Hutchinson said, adding that, "I still struggle to work through the emotions of that."

Trump denied much of what Hutchinson said on his social media platform, Truth Social. He called her a "total phony" and "bad news".

Members of the panel praised Hutchinson's bravery for testifying and said that other witnesses had been intimidated and did not cooperate.

"I want all Americans to know that what Ms. Hutchinson has done today is not easy," said Wyoming Rep. Liz Cheney, a Republican who led questioning.

Some of Hutchinson's former colleagues, too, defended her account. Mick Mulvaney, who preceded Meadows as Trump's chief of staff, tweeted that he knows Hutchinson and "I don't think she is lying".

Sarah Matthews, a former Trump press aide who has also cooperated with the committee, called the testimony "damning".

As she described the scene in the White House after the election, Hutchinson depicted a president flailing in anger and prone to violent outbursts. Some aides sought to rein in his impulses. Some did not.

At one point on January 6, Hutchinson said, White House counsel Pat Cipollone barreled down the hallway and confronted Meadows about rioters breaching the Capitol. Meadows, staring at his phone, told the White House lawyer that Trump didn't want to do anything, she said.

Earlier, Cipollone had worried out

loud that "we're going to get charged with every crime imaginable" if Trump went to the Capitol after his speech at the rally, Hutchinson recalled.

Before the crowd left for the Capitol, Hutchinson said she also received an angry call from House Republican leader Kevin McCarthy, who had just heard the president say he was coming. "Don't come up here," McCarthy told her, before hanging up.

Hutchinson told the panel that Trump had been informed early in the day that some of the protesters outside the White House had weapons. But he responded that the protesters were "not here to hurt me", Hutchinson said.

She quoted Trump as directing his staff, in profane terms, to take away the metal-detecting magnetometers that he thought would slow down supporters who were gathering for his speech on the Ellipse, in back of the White House.

In a clip of an earlier interview with the committee, she recalled the president saying words to the effect of: "I don't f-in care that they have weapons."

As a White House insider, Hutchinson told stories of a raging president who was unable to acknowledge his defeat. At the beginning of December, she said, she heard noise inside the White House around the time an Associated Press article was published in which Attorney General William Barr said the Justice Department had not found evidence of voter fraud that could have changed the election's outcome.

She said she entered a room to find ketchup dripping down a wall and broken porcelain. The president, it turned out, had thrown his lunch at the wall in disgust over the article. Trump denied it in his social media posts.

In the days before the attack, Hutchinson said she was "scared, and nervous for what could happen" on January 6 after having conversations with Trump lawyer Rudy Giuliani, Meadows and others.

Meadows told Hutchinson that "things might get real, real bad", she said. Giuliani told her it was going to be "a great day" and "we're going to the Capitol".

Eventually, both men would seek pardons related to what happened that day, Hutchinson said. A person familiar with the matter denied that Meadows had ever sought a pardon. The person spoke on condition of anonymity.

Iran report says nuclear talks in Qatar to end without deal

AP ■ DUBAI

Indirect negotiations between Iran and the US over Tehran's tattered nuclear deal with world powers will end on Wednesday in Qatar, authorities in Tehran said.

A semiofficial news agency reported the talks wouldn't break a diplomatic deadlock over the accord. The US State Department and the European Union, which is mediating the talks in Qatar, did not immediately acknowledge an end of the negotiations in Doha.

However, the semiofficial Tasnim news agency, believed to be close to Iran's hard-line Revolutionary Guard, described the negotiations

as finished and having "no effect on breaking the deadlock in the talks". Tasnim claimed that the American position did not include "a guarantee for Iran benefiting economically from the deal," quoting what it described as unnamed "informed sources".

"Washington is seeking to revive the (deal) in order to limit Iran without economic achievement for our country," the Tasnim report claimed.

US Special Representative Rob Malley spoke to the Iranians through EU official Enrique Mora during the talks. Mora then took messages to Iran's top nuclear negotiator Ali Bagheri Kani.

Higher fuel prices spark social unrest in South America

AP ■ DANIEL POLITI

Police in Argentina blocked a major entry point to the capital's centre on Tuesday to keep a group of truckers from joining a downtown protest, adding traffic snarls in Buenos Aires to a series of disruptions caused by anger over rising prices and shortages of fuel across South America, largely as a result of Russia's war in Ukraine.

Cars were backed up for several kilometers (miles) until truckers agreed to open up a lane to regular traffic as they moved to take a protest over diesel shortages and prices that has been going on for weeks to Argentina's capital.

Argentina is only one of several countries in South America to see reverberations from increasing fuel prices, largely as a result of Russia's war in Ukraine. In Peru, truckers launched an indefinite strike on Monday to protest higher fuel prices while in Ecuador, at least five people have been killed during more than two weeks of a protest led by Indigenous people that has as its main rallying cry a demand for lower gasoline prices.

The reverberations of higher prices are also hitting executive offices. In Brazil, the chief executive of state-run oil giant Petrobras resigned last week amid political pressure due to curb prices.

Nepal imposes ban on sale of street food items in Kathmandu as cholera cases touches 12



PTI ■ KATHMANDU

Nepal on Wednesday banned the sale of street food items in the Kathmandu valley in an effort to contain the spread of cholera disease in the capital city.

The decision to ban the sale of street food items was issued by the Kathmandu Metropolitan City (KMC) as 12 positive cases of cholera were reported in the area since Sunday.

"As the number of cholera patients have been increasing in Kathmandu at present, the sale and distribution of food items has been banned for the time being," said Balram Tripathi, the Chief of the Health Department of the metropolis.

The KMC has also warned of action against those who breach the order.

Last week, the Lalitpur Metropolitan City decided to stop the sale and distribution of

Pani Puri in the metropolis, claiming that cholera bacteria were found in the water used in Pani Puri.

The KMC has also requested the Department of Food Technology and Quality Control to check the level of food hygiene in hotels and restaurants across the city.

Tripathi said that the Kathmandu Upatyaka Khanepani Limited has been urged to keep eye into the condition of the water pipeline and sewage system.

The KMC has also instructed the urban health facilities to prepare for any possible shortage of Oral Rehydration Salt and water purification tablets.

Cholera is a bacterial disease usually spread through contaminated water. The disease causes severe diarrhea and dehydration. Left untreated, cholera can be fatal within hours, even in previously healthy people.

Yemen car bomb targeting security official kills 4

AP ■ SANAA

A car bomb targeting a top provincial security official in the southern Yemen city of Aden killed four people Wednesday and wounded 10 others, Yemeni officials said.

A car carrying explosives detonated while the convoy of a security official from a neighbouring province was driving by, the officials said. Three of his guards were wounded, but the dead were all civilians.

The top security official for Lahj province Brig. Saleh Sayed was not seriously hurt, added the officials, who spoke on condition of anonymity because they were not authorised to brief the media.

Videos from the scene showed the dead and injured lying in a minibus, while a cloud of black smoke rose from the explosion site.

Colombia truth commission gives scathing report on civil war

AP ■ BOGOTA (COLOMBIA)

A Truth Commission presented its final report on Colombia's armed conflict on Tuesday, urging the government, military and rebel groups that are still fighting in the countryside to recognise the suffering victims have endured and ensure that political disputes are no longer solved through violence.

The commission is made up of academics and representatives of civil society groups and was set up as part of a 2016 peace deal between the government and the Revolutionary Armed Forces

of Colombia that ended five decades of conflict in which at least 450,000 people were killed.

It was tasked with documenting war crimes and publishing its findings in a digital format that will be available to the public. The commission also issued a series of recommendations aimed at stopping future conflicts from taking root in Colombia, including changes to drug policy and transformations in the nation's military forces.

The commission's final report is based on interviews with 30,000 war victims, military leaders, former guerril-



la fighters and five former Colombian presidents.

The 900-page report said 50,000 people were kidnapped between 1990 and 2018 as a result of Colombia's armed conflict, often by rebel groups who kept hostages for ransom.

It also mentioned that more than 7 million people were forced to flee their homes and that 56,000 civil-

ians were killed by Colombia's armed forces, including 6,300 people who were murdered in remote areas and presented to authorities as rebel fighters killed in action.

The report called for major changes to Colombia's military and police forces, which have received more than \$8 billion from the U.S. Over the past two decades.

It said the military's objectives should be re-evaluated and that all human rights violations committed by security forces should be tried by civilian courts.

The truth commission's report also discussed drug

related violence in Colombia and called on the nation's governments to regulate the drug trade so that its profits go to government agencies and not drug trafficking groups. It suggests that Colombia restart peace negotiations with the National Liberation Army, Colombia's largest remaining rebel groups.

The Truth Commission's recommendations are not legally binding. But some will likely be implemented by Colombia's new government which will take over in August. President-elect Gustavo Petro attended the ceremony where the report

was presented to the public and said its recommendations would "effectively become part of Colombia's history."

The leftist senator, who was once a member of a rebel group, said during his campaign that he will re-establish diplomatic relations with neighbouring Venezuela whose socialist government is not recognized by the United States. Petro has also called for reforms to Colombia's defense forces, suggesting he police should stop being used for military operations and be placed under greater civilian oversight.

US to boost military presence in Europe for Russia threat

AP ■ MADRID

US President Joe Biden on Wednesday said the US will significantly increase its military presence in Europe for the long haul, including by establishing its first permanent presence in Poland, to bolster regional security after Russia's invasion of Ukraine.

Meeting NATO Secretary-General Jens Stoltenberg at the opening of the alliance's annual leaders' summit in Madrid, Biden said "NATO is strong and united" and that steps to be taken during the gathering will "further augment our collective strength".

Biden opened his participation in the summit by announcing the permanent basing of a US military garrison in Poland. He also said the US is sending two additional F-35 fighter jet squadrons to the

UK and will send more air defense and other capabilities to Germany and Italy.

"Today I'm announcing the US will enhance our force posture in Europe and respond to the changing security environment as well as strengthening our collective security," he said. Stoltenberg, who earlier on Wednesday said the alliance was facing its biggest challenge since World War II because of Russia's aggression toward Ukraine, welcomed Biden's announcement.

"This really demonstrates your decisive leadership and strength in the trans-Atlantic bond," Stoltenberg said, thanking Biden for the "unwavering support from you and from the US to Ukraine."

Biden said the US will permanently station the US Army V Corps forward command in Poland, a move that he said would strengthen US-

NATO inter-operability across the alliance's eastern flank.

The move marks the first permanent basing of US forces on NATO's eastern edge.

Biden added that the US is also stepping up its rotational deployments of troops to Romania and the Baltic region.

Celeste Wallander, an assistant US secretary of defence for international affairs, told reporters that having a permanent presence in Poland will be key to helping NATO navigate the changed security environment in Europe caused by Russia's invasion. The US supplies the bulk of NATO's military power.

US officials emphasised that the permanent basing applied only to headquarters units, not combat troops, and was therefore consistent with a 1997 agreement between NATO and Russia in which the alliance agreed not to perma-

nently base combat troops in Eastern Europe as it aimed to build more constructive ties in the post-Cold War environment.

Poland's Deputy Foreign Minister Pawel Jablonski told Poland's state PAP news agency that the decision to add US command structure was a "manifestation of the ever closer cooperation between the US and Poland" and would give NATO allies a frontline insight into the Russian threat.

The combat units Biden is sending to Romania and the Baltic region are on rotational deployments, rather than permanent assignment, to remain in compliance with that agreement. "There has been no communication with Moscow about these changes, nor is there a requirement to do that," John Kirby, a spokesman for Biden's National Security Council.

Israeli troops kill Palestinian during West Bank raid

AP ■ JERUSALEM

Israeli forces shot and killed a Palestinian man early on Wednesday in the occupied West Bank during clashes that broke out during an arrest raid, Palestinian officials said.

The Palestinian Health Ministry said that Mohammad Marei, 25, was wounded by Israeli gunfire near Jenin during an arrest raid by the Israeli military and later died.

The Israeli military said that while troops arrested two Palestinians in the northern West Bank city, Palestinians "hurled explosive devices" at soldiers, who responded with gunfire.

It confirmed that a Palestinian was shot, but gave no additional details about the man's condition. The army said no troops were injured in the overnight arrest raids.

Recent months have seen a rise in deadly violence in the West Bank. The Israeli military has carried out near-daily raids



following a string of deadly attacks by Palestinians inside Israel that killed 19 Israelis, with several of the attackers coming from the northern West Bank town of Jenin.

Several dozen Palestinians have been killed in Israeli military raids. Most of the dead were alleged to have opened fire on Israeli forces or hurled stones or firebombs at them. The dead also include two apparent passersby.

Nearly 500,000 Israeli settlers live in more than 130 set-

tlements scattered across the West Bank, many of which are fully built up and now resemble suburbs or small towns. Nearly three million Palestinians live in the West Bank under Israeli military rule.

Israel captured the West Bank in the 1967 Mideast war and the Palestinians want it to be the main part of their future state. Israel views the West Bank as the biblical and historical heartland of the Jewish people.

Abortion ban takes effect in Tennessee, paused in Texas

AP ■ WASHINGTON

A federal court has allowed Tennessee to ban abortions as early as six weeks into pregnancy, while a Texas judge temporarily blocked enforcement of that state's decades-old ban on virtually all abortions, in a flurry of activity set off at courthouses across the US by the overturning of Roe v. Wade.

Statewide bans or other restrictions that were either left on the books for generations, tied up by legal challenges or specifically designed to take effect if Roe were to fall are now in play as a result of last week's Supreme Court ruling eliminating the constitutional right to terminate a pregnancy.

Roughly half the states are expected to prohibit or severely limit the procedure now that the high court has left it up to them.

Since Friday, judges have agreed to allow bans or other restrictions to take effect in Alabama, Ohio, South Carolina and Tennessee.

But abortion bans remained temporarily blocked in some states, including Louisiana, Texas and Utah. Decisions are pending in other places, including Florida and Indiana. Abortion rights advocates also dropped some of their legal efforts in Indiana, Minnesota and Missouri.

Some clinics initially turned patients away soon after the high court ruling came down, but then reopened as judges ruled in their favour. That happened in Louisiana on Tuesday.

In Houston, a Democratic city in a conservative State, a judge blocked enforcement for now of a statewide ban on virtually all abortions.

Abortions in Texas are still prohibited at about six weeks because of a law that took effect last year.



Serena brushes off retirement talk

AP ■ LONDON

Serena Williams brushed off any talk of retirement on Tuesday by insisting she is "motivated" to play at the US Open later this year despite a shattering Wimbledon defeat.

"The US Open was the place where I won my first Slam, it's super-special. There's definitely a lot of motivation to get better and play at home," the 40-year-old American said.

Williams was speaking after losing in her first singles match for a year when she went down 7-5, 1-6, 7/6 (10/7) to unseeded Harmony Tan, the world number 115, in the opening round of Wimbledon.

The 23-time major winner, who debuted at the All England Club in 1998, refused to speculate on whether or not she will be back at Wimbledon in 2023.

"I am just playing for right now. I see how I feel and go from there."

"Who knows where I will pop up."

Williams walked onto Centre Court for the evening match and quickly looked rusty. She was broken in her first service game.

Williams, far below her imperious best and apparently lacking fitness, bounced back, breaking in the fourth game to level at 2-2, buoyed by a supportive crowd.

The pair swapped further breaks but Tan, ranked 115th, broke again in the 11th game and held her nerve to close out the set 7-5.

Williams broke after a mammoth second game of the second set and went on to level the match 6-1.

The American was first to break in the decider but Tan levelled at 3-3.

Williams broke again in the ninth game, throwing her arms into the air in jubilation but faltered as she served for the match.

She faced a match point

on her own serve in the 12th game but saved it with a forehand volley, taking the contest into a third-set tie-break.

Williams stepped up a gear, winning the first four points as the match, under the Wimbledon roof, ticked past three hours.

But still her French opponent was not down and out, winning the next five points to edge ahead.

Williams, looking out of breath, could not find inspiration, netting when facing a second match point.

'I'M SO EMOTIONAL'

She finished with 61 winners but 54 unforced errors in the 3-hour, 11-minute evening match.

"I'm so emotional now," said Tan. "She's a superstar. When I was young, I was watching her so many times on the TV."

"When I saw the draw, I was really scared. She's such a legend. I thought if I can win one game, two games, that would be really good for me."

Twelve months ago, Williams quit her Wimbledon first-round match in tears after suffering an injury and she had not played singles tennis since until Tuesday.

Doubts had been growing about whether the former world number one — who has slumped to 1,204th in the rankings after her period of inaction — would return to the sport.

But she warmed up by teaming up with Ons Jabeur in the doubles at Eastbourne last week.

Williams won the last of her seven Wimbledon singles titles six years ago but reached the final in 2018 and 2019.

The American, who was given a wildcard for this year's tournament, remains stuck on 23 Grand Slam singles titles — agonisingly one short of Margaret Court's all-time record.

DJOKER IN 3rd ROUND, RUUD OUT

AP ■ LONDON

Top-seeded Novak Djokovic advanced to the third round at Wimbledon with a 6-1, 6-4, 6-2 victory over Thanasi Kokkinakis of Australia.

The six-time Wimbledon champion has won the past three men's singles titles at the All England Club.

The 26-year-old Kokkinakis is ranked 79th.

French Open runner-up Casper Ruud lost in the second round at Wimbledon.

The third-seeded Norwegian was beaten by Ugo Humbert of France 3-6, 6-2, 7-5, 6-4 on No. 2 Court.

Ruud was making his third appearance at the All England Club. His victory over Albert Ramos-Vinolas on Monday was his first at the grass-court Grand Slam.

Second-seeded Anett Kontaveit of Estonia was eliminated in the second round of Wimbledon, losing to Jule Niemeier of Germany 6-4, 6-0.

Kontaveit has never reached the fourth round at the All England Club, the only one of the four major tournaments in which she has failed to get that far. She was making her eighth appearance at Wimbledon.

It was Kontaveit's first match on grass this year.

On Tuesday, an off-key Nadal, already halfway to a calendar Grand Slam after winning the Australian Open and French Open, dug deep to beat Francisco Cerundolo 6-4, 6-3, 3-6, 6-4.

The two-time Wimbledon champion, who has not played at the tournament since 2019, thanked the crowd for their wholehearted support.

"It's not a surface that we play very often, and especially in my case, for different reasons, the past three years



I didn't put any foot on a grass court, so it always takes a while," said Nadal, 36.

"It was my first match and as I know, every day is a test and today was one of these important tests."

OUT FROM DOUBLES

A day after eliminating Serena Williams from Wimbledon in her debut at the grass-court Grand Slam, Harmony Tan surprised and angered her doubles partner by withdrawing

Murray to play Laver Cup in London

AP ■ LONDON

Three-time Grand Slam champion Andy Murray will play alongside Rafael Nadal and Roger Federer at the Laver Cup in London in September.

Murray will be making his debut at the competition, which is played in a Europe vs. World format and does not award ATP ranking points.

This will be the fifth edition. It's being held at the O2 Arena on September 23-25. Team Europe is 4-0 so far.

from that tournament on Wednesday with a thigh injury.

Tan, a Frenchwoman ranked 115th who beat the 23-time Grand Slam singles champion 7-5, 1-6, 7-6 (10-7) on Centre Court on Tuesday, was scheduled to team with Tamara Korpatsch for their opening doubles match on Wednesday.

"She just texted this morning. Let me wait here 1 hour before the match start," Korpatsch wrote in an Instagram post. "I'm very sad, disappointed and also very angry that I can't play my 1st Doubles Grand Slam."

"And it's really not fair for me ... I didn't deserve that."

Tan is scheduled to play No. 32 Sara Sorribes Tormo of Spain in the second round of the singles tournament on Thursday. Sorribes Tormo advanced by defeating American qualifier Christina McHale 6-2, 6-1.

The 24-year-old Tan is ranked 611th in doubles and has never played

in that event at Wimbledon. Korpatsch, a 27-year-old German who is ranked 298th in doubles, lost in the first round of the singles tournament but has never played a doubles match at any Grand Slam tournament.

Tan was two points from losing to Williams, a seven-time Wimbledon champion who hadn't played a singles match since injuring herself in the first round a year ago at the All England Club.

The match lasted 3 hours, 11 minutes.

"If you're broken after a 3 (hour) match the day before, you can't play professional (tennis). That's my opinion," Korpatsch wrote.

Tan and Korpatsch were scheduled to play 15th-seeded Nadiia Kichenok and Raluca Olaru on Wednesday in the first round of the doubles tournament. They were replaced in the draw by Valentini Grammatikopoulou and Peangtarn Plipuech.

CHARITY MATCH

Top-ranked Iga Swiatek of Poland will host a charity tennis tournament next month to raise funds for children and teenagers impacted by the war in Ukraine.

The event will be held in Krakow on July 23 and will feature a mixed doubles exhibition match. Ukraine soccer great Andriy Shevchenko will be a special guest.

Elina Svitolina of Ukraine will serve as umpire for the event. They hope to sell at least 10,000 tickets.

Swiatek has been wearing a pin with the Ukrainian colors during her matches. More than 4 million refugees crossed into Poland after Russia invaded Ukraine in February. Poland is providing them with free shelter, social and medical care, education and job opportunities.

Sindhu, Kashyap win; Saina loses in Malaysia

PTI ■ KUALA LUMPUR

Two stalwarts of Indian women's badminton, PV Sindhu and Saina Nehwal, suffered contrasting fates at the Malaysia Open Super 750 tournament with the former progressing to the second round and the latter bowing out after losing her opener here on Wednesday.

Sindhu, a former world champion, dished out a fine performance to outwit Thailand's world number 10 Pornpawee Chochuwong 21-13, 21-17, but London Olympics Bronze medalist Saina went down fighting against American Iris Wang, ranked 33rd in the world, 11-21, 17-21 in 37 minutes.

Former Commonwealth Games champion Parupalli Kashyap also made a positive return from injury as he prevailed 21-12, 21-17 over Korea's Heo Kwang Hee to advance to the second round in men's singles.

Sindhu, seeded seventh, will next face Phittayaporn Chaiwan, a 21-year-old from Thailand who held the number one ranking in world junior ranking and also was part of the Bronze medal-winning team at the Uber Cup in Bangkok.

Kashyap, ranked world



number 39, will meet Thailand's Kunlavut Vitidsarn, who had won the German Open Super 300 in March.

B Sumeeth Reddy and Ashwini Ponnappa, who will be leading India's charge at the Commonwealth Games, couldn't get past world number 21 pairing of Robin Tabeling and Selena Piek of the Netherlands.

The Indian duo lost 15-21, 21-19, 17-21 after a 52-minute

battle.

Sindhu enjoys a 5-3 head-to-head record against Chochuwong, having won the last time they met, at the 2021 World Championship, and the Indian looked in good touch against the Thai, who struggled with her lengths and finishing strokes.

The match started with the duo playing at a good pace but it was Sindhu who dictated

terms with her better court coverage. Chochuwong matched Sindhu in the rallies but faltered in her finishing.

The result was Sindhu led throughout the first game after securing a 4-1 advantage early on. Sindhu's front court play was more polished than her rival and she used the smashes and attacking returns to good effect whenever there was an opportunity.

Sushila looking to make up for 2018 WC miss

PTI ■ AMSTELVEEN

Ruled out of the 2018 FIH World Cup due to an injury, experienced India midfielder Sushila Chanu is looking to the upcoming edition of the tournament to make amends.

Sushila may have played 208 matches for India but the tournament in the Netherlands will be her maiden World Cup appearance.

"In 2018, I missed playing the World Cup in London due to an injury. Subsequently, I struggled with form which resulted in me missing out on the Asian Games that year. It was perhaps one of the biggest lows of my career."

"It was a difficult phase but I was determined to overcome it and earn my place in the squad again," recalled an emotional Sushila.

While the tournament starts on July 1, India begin their campaign against England on July 3.

The 30-year-old made a strong comeback and has played a significant role in the team's progress over the past four years after missing out on the Asian Games in 2018.



"For many of my teammates, it's their second outing at the World Cup but for me, it's a first. It is an emotional moment for me and I surely believe it will be a memorable one for us," she said on the sidelines of the team's practice match against Chile on Tuesday evening.

She was part of India's triumph at both the FIH Olympic Qualifications and the FIH Series Finals in Bhubaneswar. The 2014 Asian Games Bronze medalist also played a role in the team's historic fourth-place at the Tokyo Olympics last year.

Newcastle sign Botman from Lille

AP ■ NEWCASTLE

Newcastle have agreed a deal in principle to sign Dutch defender Sven Botman from French side Lille.

Botman, 22, completed his medical in Newcastle on Tuesday and is set to arrive on a five-year contract in a reported £35 million (\$42 million) transfer.

The Premier League club said they had held off competition "from a host of European sides to secure the highly-rated centre-back", with "the formalities of the transfer set to be concluded this week".

Botman's arrival continues Newcastle's rebuilding for the new campaign, with England goalkeeper Nick Pope having been signed from Burnley last week.

Newcastle also signed Aston Villa full-back Matt Targett on a permanent move following a successful loan spell during the second half of last season.

CHELSEA CLOSE TO SIGN RAPHINHA

Chelsea have leapfrogged London rivals Arsenal to move into pole position to sign Raphinha.

The Blues are understood to be on the verge of agreeing to a fee with Leeds United for the winger that could be worth



more than £55 million, reports David Ornstein of The Athletic.

However, the race for Raphinha's signature isn't yet finished.

Arsenal remain in pursuit after reportedly pledging to return with an improved offer following Leeds' rejection of their initial bid.

Tottenham Hotspur were also linked to Raphinha, while it's been reported that Barcelona previously agreed to personal terms with him but have failed to match Leeds United's valuation.

If Raphinha, who's under contract until 2024, does

decide on a move to Stamford Bridge, he'll join a retooled Chelsea outfit that's in the process of trying to complete another blockbuster transfer for Manchester City's Raheem Sterling.

Raphinha, who joined Leeds from Rennes for £17 million in 2020, scored 11 goals in 35 Premier League appearances last season.

If Arsenal miss out on the Brazilian, the disappointment could be eased by the anticipated arrival of Raphinha's compatriot, Gabriel Jesus. The Gunners are reportedly close to signing the 25-year-old for £45 million.



Neeraj primed to win medal in Stockholm Diamond League

PTI ■ STOCKHOLM

Buoyed by a strong start to the season, Olympic champion javelin thrower Neeraj Chopra is primed to clinch his maiden Diamond League medal in his first appearance in four years in the prestigious one-day meet here on Thursday. The 24-year-old Chopra was second in the Paavo Nurmi Games in Turku with a big national record throw of 89.30m before winning his event at Kuortane Games with a creditable 86.60m effort under treacherous conditions.

Both the events in Finland had strong fields, though the Turku line-up had more stars than at Kuortane, where Chopra slipped after an awkward release of his spear in his third attempt under slippery conditions due to rains. Luckily, he was up on his feet immediately and won the event without any injury.

This will be Chopra's first

competition in a Diamond League meet after his fourth-place finish in Zurich in August 2018 with an effort of 85.73m. He has taken part in seven Diamond League meets -- three in 2017 and four in 2018 -- but is yet to win a medal. He had two fourth-place finishes, the other one being in Doha in May 2018, where he had thrown 87.43m.

The prestigious one-day meet at the Swedish capital will be Chopra's biggest event ahead of the World Championships in Eugene, USA, next month. He will also be facing the toughest field of the season so far with all the three Tokyo Olympics medalists in fray.

Germany's Johannes Vetter, who has the maximum number of 90-plus throws among the active throwers, continues to be in the sidelines. He is not fully fit and also did not take part in the German nationals.

Playoff to decide Serie A title if 2 teams finish level

AP ■ MILAN

The Serie A title will be decided by a play-off if two teams are locked on points at the top of the table from next season, Italy's Football Federation (FIGC) announced on Tuesday.

In a statement, the FIGC said that it had approved regulations for the title decider, which will go straight to penalties should the two teams finish the match level.

This system has been in place in the past in Serie A but has only been used once, in 1964 when Bologna beat Inter Milan in Rome to claim the last of their seven league crowns.

FIGC chief Gabriele Gravina has in the past said that he would like every league title to be decided by play-offs.

Last season AC Milan were crowned champions after finishing two points ahead of local rivals Inter Milan.

MOTTA LEAVES SPEZIA

Thiago Motta has left Spezia after the Serie A club announced on Tuesday the termination of the former Italy midfielder's contract.

"Spezia Calcio announces that an agreement has been reached regarding the terms of the consensual termination of



the contracts of coach Thiago Motta and his technical staff," Spezia said in a statement.

Motta, who won the Serie A, Champions League and Italian Cup treble as a player with Inter Milan in 2010, led Spezia to Serie A safety last season.

The 39-year-old had a trophy-packed playing career, winning the 2006 Champions

League and two La Liga titles with Barcelona, as well as five Ligue 1 crowns and a host of domestic cups at Paris Saint-Germain.

Spezia are expected to announce Luca Gotti as their coach for the coming campaign.

Gotti has been out of work since being sacked by Udinese in December.

If you don't have any option, then why don't you go there like a warrior: Hooda

PTI ■ MALAHIDE

The big-hitting Deepak Hooda believes himself to be "a warrior" when faced with the task of tackling the new ball in conditions favourable to bowlers.

Because, according to him, there is no other option but to just face the challenges head on when batting at the top of the order.

Riding his powerful striking abilities, Hooda hogged the limelight with a 57-ball 104 in India's second T20 International against Ireland here on Tuesday.

Batting at number three, Hooda became only the fourth Indian batter to score a century in the shortest format.

"I've never opened in an international game, but being a top-order batsman, you have to cope up to the challenges and you don't have any option.

"And if you don't have any option, then why don't you go there like a warrior. That's how I think, and things turned in my way. I'm happy about that," said Hooda after the match.



With young talents bursting at the seams, the 27-year-old all-rounder admitted that it is not easy to get into, and retain, one's place in the Indian team. "To be honest, yes it is difficult to find a spot in the Indian team and then staying there. But at the same time when you're playing in India colours, that time you never think about yourself, you think about the

team. "That's what I think about on the ground 'How can I contribute to the team in that situation'. I don't think more than that, try to keep things simple. Yes, it's a matter of pride for me that I'm playing for India, no matter if I'm scoring or not," said Hooda. Walking in following the dismissal of opener Ishan Kishan in the third over, Hooda smashed nine boundaries and six sixes to score his maiden T20I century. "To be honest, the Irish team played really well against us and we enjoyed playing against them. "Between the first and second game, I think there was a difference in the pitch. In the first game, the conditions were overcast and the wicket was damp. But today the wicket was very good for batting, as is clear by the way both teams batted. So I felt the wicket was a big factor."

Hooda also revealed that a mindset change recently has helped him perform better. "Being a cricketer, what

I've learnt lately is that you should not think too far ahead. How many ever series, look at it one game at a time. If my work ethic is good, I'm going to be in a good space of mind and I'm going to score, that's my thinking.

"Try to keep it simple, live in the present, play the situation well, and then automatically the outcome will come. Now or later, it will come," Hooda said.

During the course of the India innings, Hooda was associated in a record-breaking second-wicket partnership of 176 runs with Sanju Samson, who scored a career-best 77 on his return to the team.

It is the highest partnership by an India pair for any wicket in the format, surpassing the previous best of 165 by Rohit Sharma and KL Rahul in 2017 against Sri Lanka in Indore.

"To be honest, I was coming from a good IPL and wanted to follow the same performance. Happy with my intent. I like playing in that manner (aggressive) and these days I am batting up the order so getting some time.

Rohit ruled out of fifth Eng Test, Bumrah to lead India

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Jasprit Bumrah is set to become the first fast bowler in 35 years to lead Indian Test team in the rescheduled 'fifth Test' against England as regular captain Rohit Sharma has been ruled out of the game after testing positive for COVID-19 for the second time on Wednesday.

The last pacer-captain that India had was the great Kapil Dev, who was removed from captaincy in 1987. Since then India has never had a speed merchant leading the team in traditional cricket.

"Rohit is out of this Test match, starting July 1, as his RT-PCR test has come positive again. He is still in isolation. Jasprit Bumrah, who is one of the vice-captains in absence of KL Rahul, will lead the team," a senior BCCI official said.

Bumrah will be the 36th cricketer to lead India in the longest-format since the country first played in 1932. The Gujarat pacer, who has 123 wickets in 29 Tests, has grown into world's best fast bowlers.

The Chairman of selectors Chetan Sharma had already said that he is being groomed as



a future leader.

Agarwal has just been brought as "cover" and is not in the scheme of things as far featuring in the playing eleven is concerned. It is understood that the specialist batters in the set-up will be Pujara, Gill, Virat Kohli, Shreyas Iyer, Vihari and Rishabh Pant.

PUJARA/VIHARI TO OPEN

With the experienced Rohit out of the playing eleven, seasoned Cheteshwar Pujara has a good chance of opening the batting with young Shubman Gill. The source said that Mayank

Backed Umran for final over because of his pace

PTI ■ MALAHIDE

Express pace was the reason India skipper Hardik Pandya asked Umran Malik to bowl the final over of the second T20 International against Ireland here.

Ireland took the chase of 226 to the last over but fell short by four runs as Umran defended 17 runs in the last over on Tuesday.

"Not worried to be honest. Wanted to keep pressure out of my equation, wanted to be in the present. I backed Umran since he has pace. With his pace, it's difficult for people to hit," Hardik said, explaining the rationale behind giving Umran the crucial final over.

Deepak Hooda hit a blistering maiden century as India survived a scare before prevailing over their less fancied opponents in a nail-biting finish.

"I think we've come to play a game of cricket, so Ireland were going to show us what they have. Credit to them, they played amazing shots. At the same point of time, credit to our bowlers to cross the line. "The crowd was amazing.



Their favourites boys were Dinesh and Sanju, great to see them enjoy them. Good for us to experience cricket in this part of the world too. Grateful to the fans," Hardik said to loud cheers. Set an imposing target, Ireland showed a lot of heart and nearly pulled off what

would have been a memorable victory.

"We are all pretty good, we did a lot of good stuff with the bat. We wanted to express and we did that. Bitterly disappointed, a bitter pill to swallow," Ireland captain Andrew Balbirnie said after the match.

IOA: National Games will be held in Gujarat in Sept-Oct this year

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Postponed several times due to different reasons, the National Games will be held in multiple cities in Gujarat in September-October this year, the Indian Olympic Association (IOA) Secretary General Rajiv Mehta told PTI on Wednesday.

The IOA took the decision after Gujarat Olympic Association and the state government jointly expressed their interest to host the Games. "The Gujarat government wrote to us that it backs the expression of interest of the state Olympic Association to host the Games and we are happy to accept their proposal," Mehta told PTI. "The Games will be held in five or six cities in Gujarat, including Ahmedabad in September- October. The exact dates will be announced after a few days. We are happy that the Games will be held after a lot of delay," he added.

Mehta said the IOA top brass took the decision in "quick time" because it wanted to stage the Games this year after multiple delays.

"The top brass has the power to take the decision and take approval of general house of the IOA later. In any case, we have taken approval of many NSFs and state bodies via email.

"We are also going to call a General Body Meeting to ratify some important decisions as well as the hosting of

National Games. We are going to approach Delhi High Court and Supreme Court (where cases involving IOA are pending) to allow us to call a GBM," Mehta said.

The last National Games were held in Kerala in 2015 and Goa was to host the 36th edition in November 2016. After two delays in 2018 and 2019 due to the state's inability to create adequate infrastructure, the Games were further postponed to 2020. COVID-19 then forced the postponement of the National Games and the Goa government was still not certain whether it will be able to host them this year.

"Goa has told IOA that they are not going to be able to host the National Games this year. So, let Gujarat hosts the Games, that is good for everybody. We feel Gujarat has the capability as the state government has backed the proposal.

"We can then host the National Games one after the other, like in Uttarakhand, Chhattisgarh, Meghalaya."

He said Gujarat can provide the required infrastructure to host the National Games in such a short time as the state already has top facilities in various sports.

"Gujarat already has top facilities and we are certain that the state can host the Games. The strong backing by the state government clinched the issue. Of course, teams from IOA will inspect the facilities."

Simranjit, Ananta move to quarterfinals in Kazakhstan

PTI ■ NUR-SULTAN

Indian boxers Simranjit Kaur (60kg) and Ananta Chopade (54kg) registered contrasting victories on the opening day to progress to the quarterfinals of Elorda Cup here on Wednesday.

The 2018 World Championships bronze medallists Simranjit lived up to the favourite's tag with a dominating start to her campaign by pulling off a comprehensive win against local boxer Ischanova Nazym by an unanimous decision in the women's 60kg bout.

Ananta, on the other hand, faced a stiff challenge from Mongolian pugilist Dorjnyambuu Ganbold. However, the Indian kept his cool during an intensely fought men's 54kg thriller and eventually managed to tilt the result in his favour by a narrow 3-2 verdict.

Simranjit and Ananta will now square off against China's Xu Zichun and local boxer Altynbek Nursultan respectively in their quarterfinals matches.

Meanwhile, three other Indian pugilists suffered opening round defeats.

Muhammed Etash Khan (60kg), Kaisham Johnson Singh (63.5kg) and Manjeet Singh (+92kg) lost to

their respective Kazakh opponents -- Samchuk Vassily, Bazarbai Uulu Mukhammetsabyr and Saparbay Nurlan, by a similar 0-5 margin in the men's category.

A 33-member Indian contingent is participating at the ongoing event with two teams featuring in the women's section.

Apart from India, pugilists from other top boxing nations such as Uzbekistan, hosts Kazakhstan, Cuba, China and Mongolia are also participating in the tournament.

World Championship medalists Simranjit, Sonia Lather and Jamuna Boro are leading the Indian challenge in the women's section alongside 2021 Youth World champions Gitika and Alfiya Pathan.

While in the men's category, reigning national champion Lakshya Chahar and Youth World champion Sachin are among the Indians.

Later in the day, Kirti, representing the second Indian women team, will fight against Japan's Rinka Tanaka in the 60kg.

The finals will be played on July

4. The champion boxer will receive USD 700 while the silver and bronze medal winners will take home USD 400 and USD 200 respectively.

Oz reach 98-3 in reply to Sri Lanka's 212

AP ■ GALLE

Nathan Lyon took his 20th five-wicket haul to bowl Sri Lanka out for 212 before Australia reached 98-3 at stumps Wednesday on the opening day of the first Test.

Sri Lankan off spinner Ramesh Mendis dismissed David Warner (25) lbw and had Marnus Labuschagne (13) caught by Asitha Fernando in Australia's innings to finish the day on 2-35.

Steven Smith was run out for 6 after a mix-up with Usman Khawaja, who refused to run after calling Smith for a single.

Khawaja was batting on 47 with Travis Head on 6 at stumps.

Earlier, Lyon returned bowling figures of 5-90 and leg spinner Mitchell Swepson had 3-55 to help Australia bowl Sri Lanka out to a modest score.

Niroshan Dickwella top scored for Sri Lanka with 58, his 21st Test half-century. He added 42 runs for the sixth wicket with Angelo Mathews



(39) after Sri Lanka lost five wickets for 97 runs, and 54 runs for the seventh wicket with Mendis (22).

Lyon trapped Mendis lbw with just two runs added to the teatime score to end his part-

nership with Dickwella.

Dickwella edged Lyon to wicketkeeper Alex Carey and had Lasith Embuldeniya (6) as his fifth wicket.

Earlier, he dismissed Dimuth Karunaratne (28) and

Angelo Mathews (39), both caught by David Warner.

Australia's second spinner Mitchell Swepson took two consecutive wickets in the 37th over with identical deliveries.

Babar Azam surpasses Virat as world No.1 T20 batter for longest period

PTI ■ DUBAI

Pakistan captain Babar Azam has surpassed India's Virat Kohli in becoming the world No 1 T20I batter for the longest period of time after he maintained his top spot in the latest ICC T20 batting rankings.

Kohli was the No 1 ranked T20I batter for a total of 1,013 days during his reign last decade, but Babar has now surpassed this number following his long-standing stay at the top.

Among others, Ishan Kishan slipped two places but Deepak Hooda and Sanju Samson made huge gains at the ICC T20I Player Rankings following their sensational innings at the second and final T20I against Ireland.

Left-handed batter Kishan slumped to number 7 after scoring 26 and 3 in the two T20s against Ireland but Hooda, who smashed 47 in the first game and a maiden centu-



ry in the second match to power India to a series-clinching four-run win, galloped 414 places to 104th.

Samson was also rewarded for his knock of 77 as he reached the 144th spot in the batting chart.

Ireland's Harry Tector gained a massive 55 places to reach 66th position among batters with scores of 39 and 64 not out in the rankings, which was updated after the two-match India-Ireland series.

In the bowlers' list, pacer Harshal Patel moved from 37th to 33rd position while Ireland's Mark Adair climbed to 43rd from 45th.

In Test ranking, Joe Root hung on to his narrow lead as the top-ranked batter but there was some big movement behind him following the completion of England's home series against New Zealand.

New Zealand batting pair of Daryl Mitchell and Tom Blundell have attained career-best positions as has England spinner Jack Leach, after superb performances in the third match of their ICC World Test Championship series in Leeds.

CHANDHOK HOSTS SESSION ON SUSTAINABLE MOTORSPORT

LONDON: Formula 1 driver-turned pundit Karun Chandhok was a part of a distinguished panel that was invited by the UK parliament to speak on how motorsport can contribute towards a sustainable future. The Indian hosted the session in speaker's chamber in the House of Lords on Monday.

Besides Chandhok, the panel included F1 CEO Stefano Domenicali, Motorsport UK Chair David Richards, Mercedes F1 CTO James Allison and Zero Petroleum founder Paddy Lowe, who is also a renowned motor racing engineer. Chandhok, who is based in the UK, is

also on the board of Motorsport UK.

"It was a real honour to be invited to Parliament by the Speaker of the House, Sir Lyndsay Hoyle," Chandhok told PTI.

"It was an opportunity for a panel of leading Motorsport people to show the MP's and cabinet ministers how Motorsport can lead the way for the development and innovation of new technologies for a sustainable future."

Chandhok and Narain Karthikeyan are only the two Indians who have competed in Formula 1.

Chandhok is now a familiar figure in the Formula 1 paddock and travels for most of the races in a calendar year as a commentator.

Piquet apologises to Hamilton over 'ill thought out' comment

SAO PAULO: Former Formula One champion Nelson Piquet apologised to Lewis Hamilton on Wednesday, saying the racial term he used about the Mercedes driver was "ill thought out" but was not meant to be offensive.

The 69-year-old Brazilian has faced heavy criticism this week over comments he made in Portuguese last November on a podcast where he referred to Hamilton as "neguinho," which means "little Black guy."

"What I said was ill thought out, and I make no defense for it, but I will clarify that the term used is one that has widely and historically been used colloquially in Brazilian Portuguese as a synonym

for guy' or person' and was never intended to offend," Piquet, who won three F1 titles in the 1980s, said in the statement. "I would never use the word I have been accused of in some translations. I strongly condemn any suggestion that the word was used by me with the aim of belittling a driver because of his skin color."

Piquet used the term three times during the interview as he discussed a crash between Hamilton - a seven-time F1 champion and the only Black driver in the sport - and Max Verstappen during last year's British Grand Prix.

"I apologize wholeheartedly to anyone that was affected, including Lewis, who is an incredible driver," Piquet added. "But



the translation in some media that is now circulating on social media is not correct. Discrimination has no place in F1 or society and I am happy to clarify my thoughts in that respect."

After Piquet's comments resurfaced this week, Hamilton called for "archaic mindsets" to change, while F1 and governing body FIA both condemned the use of racist language.

"It's more than language. These archaic mindsets need to change and have no place in our sport. I've been surrounded by these attitudes and targeted my whole life," Hamilton tweeted on Tuesday. "There has been plenty of time to learn. Time has come for action."