

OPINION 6

PUTIN'S HUNGER TO
ARROGATE TERRITORY

WORLD 8

'RUSSIA AIMING TO CAPTURE
ANOTHER NUKE PLANT'

MONEY 9

FPIs PULL OUT MASSIVE ₹17, 537
CR FROM INDIAN MARKETS

NEW DELHI, MONDAY MARCH 7, 2022; PAGES 12 ₹3

the pioneer

www.dailypioneer.com

INDIA
BEAT SL IN
1ST TEST
12 SPORT

India begins last leg of evacuation operation

Stranded citizens told to reach Budapest for airlift; Modi attributes 'Operation Ganga' success to India's growing influence on world stage

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

As the conflict intensified, India on Sunday asked its stranded citizens to reach Budapest for airlift in the last leg of the ongoing evacuation under Operation Ganga. Prime Minister Narendra Modi attributed the success of the 'Operation Ganga' to the country's growing influence in the global arena.

India will operate eight flights to bring back 1,500 people from Ukraine's neighbouring countries on Monday. The Government managed to bring back 2,135 people by 11 evacuation flights on Sunday. So far, a total of 15,435 people have been evacuated from Ukraine under 'Operation Ganga' since the Russian military offensive.

In an advisory on Sunday, the Indian Embassy said, "Important Announcement: Embassy of India begins its last leg of Operation Ganga flights today. All those students staying in their OWN accommodation (other than arranged by the Embassy) are requested to reach @Hungariacitycentre, Rakoczi Ut 90, Budapest between 10 am-12 pm."

In an earlier tweet, the



Indian students who were stranded in Ukraine amid Russia-Ukraine conflict, arrive at the IGI Airport in New Delhi, on Sunday. PTI

embassy had requested its nationals to fill up a form mentioning basic details. The embassy's official Twitter account posted a Google form

asking for basic details like name, passport number, and current location."All Indian nationals who still remain in Ukraine are requested to fill up

the details contained in the attached Google Form on an URGENT BASIS. "Be Safe Be Strong," it said in a Tweet.

Continued on Page 2

Seventh phase of UP Assembly poll today

High stakes
battle for 54
constituencies
of Purvanchal

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

The bitterly-fought Uttar Pradesh elections will come to an end on Monday when polling for the seventh phase for 54 seats will take place across nine districts: Azamgarh, Mau, Jaunpur, Ghazipur, Chandauli, Varanasi, Bhadohi, Mirzapur, and Sonbhadra. The Assembly segment going to poll on Monday include those falling in Prime Minister Narendra Modi's Lok Sabha constituency of Varanasi, and Samajwadi Party chief Akhilesh Yadav's Lok Sabha constituency of Azamgarh.

UP Chief Electoral Officer Ajay Kumar Shukla said here on Sunday that all necessary arrangements had been made for free, fair, and transparent polling in the seventh phase.

He said the fate of 613 candidates trying their luck in this phase from the 54 Purvanchal constituencies, which included 11 reserved for the Scheduled Castes and two for Scheduled Tribes, would be decided by around 2.06 crore voters.

Shukla said for the seventh phase of polling, 12,210 polling stations and 23,614 polling



Polling officers carrying Electronic Voting Machines and other election material leave for their respective polling booths, a day before the seventh and last phase of the Uttar Pradesh Assembly elections, at a distribution centre at Pahadiya Mandi, in Varanasi on Sunday PTI

booths had been set up and the number of voters for each polling booth had been restricted to 1,250.

He said for ensuring a free and fair election, the Election Commission of India had deployed 52 general observers, nine police observers, 17 expenditure observers, 1,621 sector magistrates, 195 zonal magistrates, 222 static magistrates, and 2,796 micro observers.

He said from the day of commencement of the campaign for the seventh phase ₹ 2.28 crore and 1.92 lakh liters of alcohol had been seized.

The final round of the

election will also be a test of the alliances carved by both the Bharatiya Janata Party and Samajwadi Party with small caste-based parties. BJP's allies Apna Dal (Sonelal) and NISHAD Party and Akhilesh's new friends Apna Dal (K), Suheldev Bhartiya Samaj Party of Om Prakash Rajbhar and others have been trying to rally their supporters.

Once considered a stronghold of the SP, the region saw the BJP making inroads in 2017 by winning 29 seats along with its allies Apna Dal (S) (4) and SBSP (3). The Bahujan Samaj Party won six seats and SP 11.

Continued on Page 2

Fratricide: BSF man kills four in Punjab, dies in shootout

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

A Border Security Force (BSF) constable shot dead four other jawans in a case of fratricide at Kharsa in the Amritsar district of Punjab on Sunday. The constable also died in the shootout.

The BSF said that a constable, identified as Sateppa SK, fired at five of his colleagues in the camp, which is located 20 km from the Attari-Wagah border.

Out of the six injured, five troopers, including constable Sateppa, died and the sixth injured is critical, paramilitary officials said.

"In an unfortunate incident, 5 BSF troops were injured due to fratricide committed by Ct Sateppa S K at HQ 144 Bn Kharsa, Amritsar," the BSF officials here. A court of inquiry has been ordered to ascertain the facts and further details are being awaited. Constable Sateppa SK of 'B' Coy 144 Battalion allegedly fired at his colleagues in the force's mess area at 9.45 AM on Sunday.

Some other jawans present in the mess shot him, sources said, adding the outcome of the court of inquiry will help ascertain the chain of events.

All five victims, including the suspect, were declared dead at the Guru Nanak Dev Hospital in Amritsar, where they were rushed for treatment, the sources said.

Continued on Page 2

Ukraine again urges Modi to tell Putin to stop war

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Ukraine has once again urged Prime Minister Narendra Modi to talk to Russian President Vladimir Putin for cessation of hostilities and blamed Moscow for violating the ceasefire agreement.

Demanding a fresh round of sanctions against Russia, Ukraine's Foreign Minister Dmytro Kuleba urged governments of several countries, including India, to appeal to Russia to stop the ongoing conflict. Making this appeal in a televised address, the Minister also charged Russia with violating the ceasefire agreements and urged it to stop shooting to allow civilians, including foreign students, to evacuate.

Replying to a question on the support from nations across the world, Kuleba said, "We call on Prime Minister Modi to reach out to President Putin and explain to him that this war is against (the) interest of all.

Military op in Ukraine will only stop if our demands met: Putin

Lviv: Russian President Vladimir Putin on Sunday said that the military operation in Ukraine will only be halted if Russia's demands are met. He has also likened the West's sanctions on Russia to "declaring war".

Putin told Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan in a phone call on Sunday that Russia would only halt its military operation if Ukraine stopped fighting and Moscow's demands were met, the Kremlin said in a statement.

Putin said the operation was going according to plan and to schedule, and that he hoped Ukrainian negotiators would take a more constructive approach at talks and take into account the reality on the ground, the Kremlin said in a statement.

Turkish President Erdogan appealed for an urgent general ceasefire in Ukraine when he spoke on Sunday to Putin by telephone, Erdogan's office said.

The two heads of state

spoke ahead of a diplomatic forum in Turkey on March 11-13 that Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov and his Ukrainian counterpart are due to attend. Turkey hopes to organize a meeting between the two.

Meanwhile, plans to evacuate civilians from a besieged port city in Ukraine failed to materialise Sunday for the second time along with an expected Russian ceasefire, a Ukrainian official said, as officials tried to persuade Russia to agree on establishing other evacuation routes near Ukraine's capital.

Residents expected to leave the port city of Mariupol during a 10 A.M. To 9 P.M. Local ceasefire, Ukrainian military authorities said earlier in the day.

Interior Ministry adviser Anton Gerashchenko said the planned evacuations were halted because of an ongoing assault by Russian troops.

Continued on Page 2

CBI arrests NSE's ex-CEO in co-location scandal

New Delhi: The CBI arrested former National Stock Exchange CEO Chitra Ramkrishna in the co-location scam case on Sunday, officials said. Ramkrishna was arrested in Delhi and was taken for medical check-up, they said. She was later lodged in lock-up at the CBI headquarters, they said.

The CBI had grilled Ramkrishna for three consecutive days and carried out searches at her residence, officials said, adding that she was not giving proper responses.

The central probe agency had also used services of a senior psychologist of the Central Forensic Science Laboratory who also questioned her, they said.

The officials said the psychologist had also come to the conclusion that she was evasive in responses leaving no option for the agency but to arrest her.

Continued on Page 2

NMC aids students back from Ukraine

Graduates can
finish internship
in Indian
medical colleges

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Coming to the rescue of the medical students from war-torn Ukraine who completed their graduation but were unable to finish their mandatory 12-month internship, the National Medical Commissions (NMC) has relaxed the norms to enable them to complete it in Indian medical college hospitals. However, this will not be easy given the limited infrastructure in the hospitals here.

The NMC said rules have been relaxed keeping in view "compelling" situations, such



as the pandemic and war. Students, who were not able to complete their graduation when the war broke out, however, continue to remain in the lurch.

The circular issued on March 4 states, "There are some foreign medical graduates with incomplete internship due to such compelling situations beyond their control, such as the pandemic Covid-19 and war, etc. Considering the agony and stress faced by these foreign medical graduates, their application to complete the remaining part of their internship in

India is considered eligible. Accordingly, the same may be processed by state medical councils."

All medical graduates from abroad are required to intern for 12 months in the institute where they studied before applying for Foreign Medical Graduates Examination to work in India and get a provisional registration with state medical councils.

As per rule, no one can practice medicine here without registering with a medical council.

Although NMC has granted relaxation for internship, several officials from the Commission, which governs medical education in the country since the Medical Council of India was disbanded in 2020, said no student is likely to be accommodated in medical colleges here or allowed to transfer to colleges elsewhere.

PLAYFUL RETIREMENT

A Non-Linked, Non-Participating, Individual Immediate Annuity Plan

UITN- 512N337V02 Plan No. 857

Fixed Annuity Rates

Multiple Annuity Options

Multiple Modes of Annuity Payment

Download LIC Mobile App "MyLIC"

Visit: licindia.in

Call Centre Services (022) 6827 6827

For details, contact your Agent/Nearest LIC Branch or SMS YOUR CITY NAME to 56767474

BEWARE OF SPURIOUS PHONE CALLS AND FICTITIOUS / FRAUDULENT OFFERS. IRDAI is not involved in activities like selling insurance policies, announcing bonus or investment of premiums. Public receiving such phone calls are requested to lodge a police complaint.

For more details on risk factors, terms and conditions, please read sales brochure carefully before concluding a sale.

Follow us: LIC India Forever

IRDAI Regn No.: 512

भारतीय जीवन बीमा निगम
LIFE INSURANCE CORPORATION OF INDIA

Har Pal Aapke Saath

LIC (M/D / 2021-22 / F5) / Eng

60,000 cops deployed for last phase polls in UP

PTI ■ LUCKNOW

Over 60,000 police personnel and 845 companies of the Central Armed Police Forces (CAPF) will be deployed during the seventh and final phase of the Uttar Pradesh assembly polls on Monday, according to officials.

In the seventh phase, voting is proposed in 54 constituencies across nine districts -- Chandauli, Ghazipur, Jaunpur, Azamgarh, Mau, Mirzapur, Sonbhadra, Bhadohi and Varanasi, the Uttar Pradesh Police said in a statement.

Voting will be held at 12,205 polling stations and 23,535 polling booths in 177 police station areas, it said.

“Of them, 28 assembly constituencies of Pindra, Rohaniya, Sewapuri, Shahganj, Malhanu, Madiyahun, Kerakal, Machhishahr, Badlapur, Mungarabadshahpur, Jaunpur Sadar, Jafrabad, Mohammadabad, Jamnian, Saidpur, Zahoorabad, Saidraja, Chakia, Azamgarh, Phulpur Powai, Didarganj, Mau Sadar,

Gyanpur, Ajra, Shivpur, Varanasi North, Varanasi South, Varanasi Cantonment have been kept in the vulnerable category,” the police said.

“A total of 701 localities have been marked as vulnerable in the seventh phase, while 3,359 polling places have been considered as critical,” the police said in a statement.

In the seventh phase, 78 Pink Booths (women booths) have been arranged to motivate women to vote, and 12 women inspectors or sub-inspectors and 216 women constables or head constables have been deployed, it said.

As per the instructions of the Election Commission, all 12,205 polling stations will be covered by the CAPE. For the seventh phase, Uttar Pradesh has received 845 companies of CAPF, it said.

According to officials, a CAPF company usually has an operational strength of around 70-80 personnel.

“Out of these, 778 companies have been engaged for booth duty and six companies have been engaged for EVM

security duty. The others have been assigned law and order duties, and postings on international and inter-state barriers,” according to the statement.

Similarly, it said, duties of 6,662 inspectors or sub-inspectors and 53,424 head constables or constables of the Uttar Pradesh Police have been fixed, along with 19 companies of the Provincial Armed Constabulary.

The Uttar Pradesh Police said 65,987 licensed weapons had been deposited with it in the run-up to the assembly polls. Another 34 licensed weapons have been seized and license of 169 arms have been cancelled since the day the code of conduct came into force in the nine poll-bound districts of the seventh phase, it added.

In view of the possibility of breach of peace during elections, 41,227 preventive actions have been taken against 4,20,389 people, it said.

Police said they also seized 1,010 illegal arms and 881 cartridges while busting three illegal arms factories.

Mukul Arya, India’s representative at Ramallah, passes away

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Mukul Arya, India’s representative at Ramallah in Palestine, passed away on Sunday, External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar said.

“Deeply shocked to learn about the passing away of India’s Representative at Ramallah, Shri Mukul Arya,” Jaishankar tweeted.

“He was a bright and talented officer with so much before him. My heart goes out to his family and loved ones. Om Shanti,” he said.

It was not immediately known how he died.

Arya, a 2008-batch Indian Foreign Service officer, had served in the Indian embassies in Kabul and Moscow.

He also served at the Permanent Delegation of India to the UNESCO in Paris.

Arya also had a stint at the headquarters of the Ministry of External Affairs in New Delhi.

He studied economics at the Delhi University and Jawaharlal Nehru University before joining the Indian Foreign Service.

Palestinian leadership condoles death of Indian Representative Mukul Arya

PTI ■ JERUSALEM

The top leadership of Palestine on Sunday expressed shock at the death of India’s Representative to the State of Palestine Mukul Arya at his workplace.

On this sad occasion, the Minister of Foreign Affairs and Emigrants Dr Riyad Al-Maliki extends his heartfelt

condolences and sincere sympathy to his Indian counterpart S Jaishankar and through him to the friendly Indian government, the family of ambassador Arya and his relatives.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Emigrants, in a statement, also expresses its deep sadness, loss, and pain at the death of Ambassador Arya.

PM was soft-spoken, wished us success in life: students recall Pune metro ride

PTI ■ PUNE

Shreya Gadhve, a seven-year-old student from a school for the visually challenged in Pune, described her interaction with Prime Minister Narendra Modi during his metro ride on Sunday as “short but memorable”.

During the ten-minute ride from the Garware metro station to the Anandnagar station, Modi interacted with differently-abled students, some of them visually impaired, present inside the metro coach.

Earlier in the day, the prime minister inaugurated a stretch of the Pune metro rail project after buying a ticket from a kiosk.

Shreya, a student of Poona School of Blind Girls, said the prime minister was “soft-spoken” and made her feel comfortable.

“It was an unforgettable moment for me for the entire lifetime,” she said.

Shreya said she was aware of a likely meeting with the PM during his Pune visit on Sunday but it was not certain.

“I felt relaxed as the meeting was not confirmed initial-

ly. I got a message at the 11th hour and reached the Garware metro station. As the moment of the PM reaching the station neared, we all students became very excited. And to our surprise, he entered inside a coach where we were sitting,” she said.

Shreya said the prime minister was very humble and soft-spoken.

“The PM asked me questions like my name, where I am studying what I want to become in life etc. I shared details and told him that apart from aiming to become a playback singer, I want to be an IAS officer,” Shreya said.

She said that Modi was surprised that she was thinking of becoming an IAS officer.

“He told me that you being very young are thinking of becoming an IAS officer to serve the country. Modiji even complimented me for my dress. ‘Aap Bahot acche dikh rahe ho. ‘Aap is group main sabse chote bhi ho,’” Shreya quoted Modi as saying.

As soon as the metro ride ended, I called up my mother and told her about the interac-

tion.

Shreya said she wanted people to change their perspective towards the differently-abled people.

Satish Eknath, another visually-impaired student who was present inside the metro coach, said that interacting with the PM was a special experience for him.

“The PM spoke with us in Marathi. He asked us about our goal. He wished me to become successful in life. It was a historic day in my life,” he said.

Rasika Shikhare, a student from Vimlabai Garware school, said the interaction with the PM was a “dream moment” for him and other students.

“The PM told us that whatever you do, do it very well. Unfortunately, I didn’t have a mobile phone and I couldn’t take photos with him,” she said.

Later in the day, the metro service was opened for citizens, following which people started flocking the station.

Many citizens expressed hope that the metro will cut short their daily journeys and save time.

100 students from Assam evacuated from Ukraine

PTI ■ GUWAHATI

Ten more students from Assam who were stranded in Ukraine arrived in India on Sunday, taking the total number of students from the State evacuated from the war-ravaged nation to 100.

Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma shared details of nine students who reached Delhi during the day, while the state’s Directorate of Information and Public Relations (DIPR) informed about the return of another student.

Sarma also said that the state government is concerned about the students stuck in the eastern Ukrainian city of Sumy and is trying hard to facilitate their safe evacuation.

“With the arrival of Sneha Deka (Guwahati), Mumshad Hujaef Uddin Ahmed

(Nagaon), Ananya Das (Dibrugarh), Udit Bhattacharjee (Silchar), Devangan Barman (Silchar) & Ahmed Nur Emrul Kayes (Dhubri), altogether 100 students from Assam studying in Ukraine have been evacuated,” Sarma wrote on Twitter.

In a tweet earlier during the day, he had said three more students - Bhaswati Goswami (Guwahati), Mrigakshi Kalita (Nalbari), and Saddam Hussain (Nagaon) - have reached New Delhi in the wee hours on Sunday.

The DIPR, in a statement, also shared the details of the 10 students who reached on Sunday, including one Nayan Jyoti Das of Nagaon.

The state government is arranging for the accommodation of the returnees in the national capital and their onward journey to Assam.

Speaking to reporters at Diphu, the chief minister said the state government is concerned about the students who are stranded in Sumy.

“I am in constant touch with our External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar and we are working on how to get them out safely,” Sarma said.

The Assam government has a list of 222 students from the state stranded in Ukraine who had contacted the government, he said.

“About 100 students have returned so far. But some students may not have reported to our officials at the airports upon their arrival and proceeded as per their own arrangements,” the chief minister added. Meanwhile, officials of the district administrations, on the directives of Chief Secretary Jishnu Barua, are reaching out to the parents

of those students who are still stranded in Ukraine.

The Assam government is in constant touch with the Ministry of External Affairs for ensuring the safe return of all people from the state stranded in the war-torn European nation. The administration has also given WhatsApp numbers and email ids, along with a web link for people, who are still stranded in the war-hit country, so that they can reach out to the authorities.

“Operation Ganga” has been launched by the Union government to bring back the Indian nationals from Ukraine safely. India has been bringing back its nationals from Romania, Poland, Hungary, Slovakia, and Moldova after they crossed over to these countries from Ukraine through land border transit points.

Gopal Rai: India wouldn’t have been free, had people of different religions fought for it separately

The Minister was addressing the gathering at a cultural function held to honour and remember the martyrs of the freedom struggle

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Had people of different communities and religions fought separately for the country’s freedom, India would have never become free, Delhi Environment Minister Gopal Rai said on Sunday.

He made the remark while also calling for the end of alleged hatred “instilled in the veins of today’s youths”.

The Minister was addressing the gathering at a cultural function held to honour and remember the martyrs of the freedom struggle.

The function “Ek Shaam, Aazadi ke Shaheedon ke Naam” (an evening dedicated to the martyrs of freedom struggle) was held at Badarpur Bus Terminal in South East Delhi.

“If Hindus, Muslims, Christians, and Sikhs had fought separately in the freedom struggle, we would have not been free. The hatred instilled in the veins of today’s youth must end,” Rai said in the statement.

Rai said people must remember the martyrs and encourage their children to draw inspiration from their lives.

“Taking inspiration from the lives of immortal martyrs, one should make a vow today to put an end to the social evils,” he added.

He said because of the Covid pandemic, the event had been deferred but it was finally organised after two years.

“We all have gathered here for the pre-Holi festivities. I hope that just as we celebrated Barsana Holi here, we would be able to gather here even after Ramadan to celebrate Eid,” he said.

“I want to honour the heroes who kissed the gallows for our freedom, who remained imprisoned for years and sacrificed everything for the sake of this nation and who are no longer with us now,” Rai said in the statement.

Rickshaw driver, passenger return bag containing ₹1.50 lakh, get felicitated by cops

PTI ■ NAGPUR

A rickshaw driver and a physically-disabled passenger who returned a bag containing Rs 1.50 lakh found in the vehicle were felicitated by Nagpur police.

Rickshaw driver Sushil Pundalik Lahutare (50) and passenger Dinesh Anand Thaware (45) had returned a bag left behind in the vehicle by one Mehboob Hasan on Saturday, an official said.

“Thawre boarded the rickshaw and told Lahutare about the bag. The two came to Pachpaoli police station and deposited the bag. We managed to return it to Hasan with the help of some documents found inside the bag,” he said.

Assam civic elections: 70% turnout, polling peaceful

PTI ■ GUWAHATI

An estimated 70 per cent avoter turnout was registered in the civic body polls in Assam on Sunday, which ended peacefully, the State Election Commission said.

No untoward incident was reported, and no request for re-poll from any part of the state has been received, it said.

The overall tentative poll percentage till 8 pm was 70 per cent, the Commission said in a release.

Polling had concluded at 4 pm, but reports are still being compiled, which could lead to variation in the final turnout figure, it said.

Voting was held for 920 wards in 80 municipal boards, as candidates of 57 wards were

declared uncontested.

All electronic voting machines have been safely shifted to strong rooms in the district and sub-divisional headquarters, the release said.

EVMs were used for the first time in the history of civic elections in the state.

“No untoward incidents like booth capturing or similar poll-related violence took place...” it added.

Union Minister Sarbananda Sonowal, state cabinet ministers Atul Bora and Jogen Mohan, and Rajya Sabha MP and former state Congress chief Ripun Bora were among those who cast their votes during the day.

“Municipal elections are an important step towards ensuring public participation in

governance of urban areas. As polls to urban local bodies are being held across Assam today, I urge everyone to exercise their democratic right for determining their future,” Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma tweeted in the morning.

A total of 2,532 candidates were in the fray, with the ruling BJP having the maximum number of 825 nominees.

At least 706 candidates contested on Congress tickets, while the Asom Gana Parishad nominated 243 hopefuls.

The number of eligible voters was 16,73,899, comprising 8,41,534 women and 17 transgenders.

The counting of votes will take place on March 9.

Seventh phase of....

From page 1

For the SP, its patriarch Mulayam Singh Yadav made another rare appearance in Jaunpur to drum up support for Lucky Yadav, son of his long-time associate late Parasnath Yadav, in the fray from Malhani seat. Mulayam Singh Yadav had earlier campaigned for his son and SP president Akhilesh at Karhal in Mainpuri.

Prominent contestants in this phase of elections include UP Ministers Neelkanth Tiwari, Anil Rajbhar, Ravindrajaishwal, Girish Yadav, and Rama Shankar Singh Patel. Dara Singh Chauhan, who had resigned from the Yogi Adityanath Cabinet and joined the SP, is contesting from Ghosi in Mau.

SBSP president Om

Prakash Rajbhar (Zahoorabad), Dhananjay Singh (Malhani-Jaunpur) and Janata Dal (United) candidate Abbas Ansari, son of mafia-turned-politician Mukhtar Ansari, from Mau Sadar seat, are other prominent candidates in the final phase.

The BJP is going all out to retain its bastion while the SP is eyeing to regain the constituencies it had won in the 2012 Assembly elections.

In this phase of the election, the BJP has fielded 48 candidates out of 54 seats on the party symbol while its ally Apna Dal (S) and NISHAD Party have fielded three candidates each.

On the other hand, the SP has fielded 45 candidates on its symbol while its ally SBSP has fielded seven candidates and Apna Dal (K) two.

Four crushed to death under concrete mixer machine: Police

PTI ■ JAUNPUR

Four persons were crushed to death after a concrete mixer machine overturned and fell on them on Sunday in a village in Uttar Pradesh’s Jaunpur district, police said.

The concrete-mixer machine was being pulled by a tractor when it overturned in Jamdaha village under the Khetasarai police station area, they said.

Of the four victims, three were labourers sitting atop the concrete mixer and the fourth one was a cyclist passing by the machine as it overturned, the police added.

CBI holds Chitra....

From page 1

A special CBI court had on Saturday rejected her anticipatory bail application, they said.

The CBI, which was probing the co-location scam since 2018 against a Delhi-based stock broker, swung into action after a Sebi report showed alleged abuse of power by the then top brass of the NSE, the officials said.

On February 25, the CBI had arrested former NSE group operating officer Anand Subramanian after expanding its probe into the co-location scam in the exchange following “fresh facts” in the Sebi report that referred to a mysterious yogi guiding the actions of Ramkrishna.

The Securities and Exchange Board of India (Sebi) on February 11 had charged Ramkrishna and others with alleged governance lapses in the

appointment of Subramanian as the chief strategic advisor and his re-designation as group operating officer and advisor to MD.

Subramanian was allegedly referred to as the “yogi” in the forensic audit but Sebi in its final report had rejected the claim. Ramkrishna, who succeeded former CEO Ravi Narain in 2013, had appointed Subramanian as her advisor who was later elevated as group operating officer (GOO) at a fat pay cheque of Rs 4.21 crore annually.

Subramanian’s controversial appointment and subsequent elevation, besides crucial decisions, were guided by an unidentified person who Ramkrishna claimed was a formless mysterious yogi dwelling in the Himalayas, a probe into Ramkrishna’s email exchanges during the Sebi-ordered audit showed.

India begins last...

From page 1

After inaugurating the golden jubilee celebration of the Symbiosis University and its Arogyam Dham in Pune, Modi said, “We are evacuating thousands of Indians safely from the war zone through the

Operation Ganga.”

The PM further said that several big nations are facing difficulties in doing so for their citizens.

Addressing students in Pune, Modi said their generation is lucky that it does not have to bear the brunt of a “defensive and mental psychology”.

Meanwhile, giving an update of ‘Operation Ganga’ Civil Aviation minister Jyotiraditya Scindia said in a tweet, “We have successfully evacuated over 15,920 students via 76 flights. Breakup - Romania - 6,680 (31 flights) Poland - 2,822 (13 flights) Hungary - 5,300 (26 flights) Slovakia - 1,118 (6 flights).

Ukraine again urges

From page 1

He called on ordinary Indians to put pressure on Russia to demand from them to stop the war. “Ukraine is fighting only because we were attacked and we have to defend our land because Putin does not recognise our right to exist.”

Kuleba claimed that humanitarian corridors and ceasefires do not exist because Russian forces violated the agreement reached in the morning to arrange humanitarian corridors. “We urge Russia to stop shooting to allow civilians, including foreign students, to evacuate.”

Fratricide: BSF man....

From page 1

In a similar incident on November 8 last year, a CRPF jawan had liquidated four of his colleagues in cold blood and injured another three by spraying bullets from his service AK 47 assault rifle in Sukma, Chhattisgarh.

The offender was identified as Constable Reetesh Ranjan of C-Company of 50 Battalion under Maraiguda police station in Sukma. Ranjan was subsequently apprehended.

A total of 193 suicides have been reported in the about 3.25 lakh personnel strong CRPF since 2018, with 52 incidents in 2021. Likewise, over half-a-dozen fratricide cases have been reported in the CRPF from 2018 to 2021.

Military op in Ukraine...

From page 1

“There can be no green corridors’ because only the sick brain of the Russians decides when to start shooting and at whom,” Gerashchenko said on Telegram.

The news dashed hopes of progress in easing, nevertheless ending the war in Ukraine, which is now in its 11 day and has caused 1.5 million people to flee the country. The head of the UN Refugee agency on Sunday called the exodus “the fastest-growing refugee crisis in Europe since World War II.

The presidents of Turkey and France, as well as Pope Francis, appealed to Russian President Vladimir Putin to negotiate to end the conflict.

Separately, Ukraine’s national security service says Russian forces fired rockets at a physics institute in the city of

Kharkiv that contains nuclear material and a reactor. Russian troops already took control of the Zaporizhzhia plant in Ukraine, as well as Chernobyl, the site of the world’s worst nuclear disaster.

The security service said a strike on the nuclear facility in Kharkiv could lead to “large-scale ecological disaster.”

The service said on Facebook Sunday that the Russians were firing from Grad launchers. Those missiles do not have precise targeting, raising concern that one would go astray.

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy reiterated a request for foreign protectors to impose a no-fly zone over Ukraine, which NATO so far has ruled out because of concerns such an action would draw the West into the war.

“The world is strong

enough to close our skies,” Zelenskyy said in a video address on Sunday.

Putin warned Saturday that Moscow would consider a third-party declaration to close Ukrainian airspace to be a hostile act.

The disappointment for women, children and older adults who waited to leave Mariupol and the nearby city of Volnovakha while able Ukrainian men stayed behind to fight came after a similar cease-fire deal collapsed Saturday and foreign leaders sought to bring diplomacy to bear on ending the war.

Putin told Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan that Russia’s invasion of Ukraine could be halted only “only if Kyiv ceases hostilities and fulfills the well-known demands of Russia,” according

to the Kremlin’s readout of the phone call the two leaders held on Sunday.

Putin earlier listed “demilitarisation” and “denazification” of Ukraine, recognition of Crimea as part of Russia and separatist regions in eastern Ukraine as independent states as the Kremlin’s main demands.

“Hope was expressed that during the planned next round of negotiations, the representatives of Ukraine would show a more constructive approach, fully taking into account the emerging realities.” The third round of talks between Russian and Ukrainian negotiators is scheduled for Monday.

In a highly unusual move, Pope Francis said Sunday that he had dispatched two cardinals to Ukraine, saying the Vatican was will to do everything it could to bring peace to end a conflict that began on February 24 when Russia invaded Ukraine.

Civic polls: Expenditure limit for candidates hiked

STAFF REPORTER ■
NEW DELHI

The State Election Commission of Delhi has increased the limit of expenditure that can be incurred by a candidate in the elections for the city's three municipal corporations to Rs 8 lakh from Rs 5.75 lakh. "In exercise of the powers conferred under rule 109 of the Delhi Municipal Corporation (Election of Councillors) Rules, 2012, I, S K Srivastava, State Election Commissioner of NCT of Delhi, hereby fix the maximum limit of expenditure to be incurred by a candidate at an election to a ward of three municipal corporations of Delhi viz North Delhi, South Delhi and East Delhi, to be held hereafter as Rs 8 lakh," said an order issued on Friday.



Elections for 272 wards of the three civic bodies in Delhi are scheduled to be held in April. However, the official dates have not been announced yet.

"The maximum expenditure limit in the last municipal election was Rs 5.75 lakh. In the 2004 MCD polls, the maximum expenditure limit was Rs 4 lakh, which was increased to Rs 5 lakh in 2012. The limit further

increased by Rs 75,000 in the 2017 municipal elections. Now, it will be Rs 8 lakh this time," a senior civic body official said.

There are 104 wards each in the North and the South Delhi Municipal Corporations. The East Delhi Municipal Corporation has 64 wards. Half of the wards are reserved for women candidates. There are wards reserved for Scheduled Caste candidates as well.

In the last MCD polls in Delhi, the BJP registered an impressive victory, returning to power in the three corporations by winning 181 of the 272 wards. Its closest rival, the AAP, managed to win only 49 wards, while the Congress bagged 31 wards in the 2017 elections.

Independent candidates won three wards in North Delhi, four in South Delhi and one in East Delhi.

Seven big cats died in 2.5 years at Delhi Zoo

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Seven big cats have died in around two-and-a-half years at the Delhi zoo which is a participant in the conservation breeding of Asiatic lions and Bengal tigers.

According to records, of the seven big cats, at least four died due to kidney dysfunction.

"Big cats in captivity are very much prone to kidney ailments. Furthermore, lack of enrichment tools and exercise, obesity, and stereotypic behaviour have been observed in big cats in captivity.

"To address this, special emphasis has been given in providing diverse food (adding chevon) and putting enrichment tools in big cats in particular. Routine investigation (blood parameters) helps in checking health. Creatine: albumin ratio in urine has been found effective in early diagnosis of kidney ailments," the

zoo's annual report for 2020-21 read. Delhi Zoo Director Dharamdeo Rai, who took charge on February 21, said the issue needs to be studied in detail. "We will try to find out more about their lineage and progeny, and look into the causes of death before we can conclude anything," he said.

The latest death was recorded on January 10 when an eight-year-old lioness, Hema, died due to "multiple organ failure", an official said.

Hema and a lion, Aman, were brought from Chhatbir Zoo, Chandigarh, in 2015. Aman died on May 9 last year apparently due to cardiac arrest. The lion had shown signs of infections, chronic bronchitis, physiological abnormalities and complexities in multiple organs, according to officials. A six-year-old white tigress named Nirbhaya had died due to "acute cardiac failure" on December 14, 2020,

four days after giving birth to two cubs, zoo records show.

One of the cubs died while a C-section was being performed on Nirbhaya, the other died 19 days later. A 15-year-old Bengal tiger, B-2' or Bittu, died on November 19, 2020, due to "chronic kidney disorder" and age-related issues. B-2', brought from Van Vihar Zoo, Bhopal, in 2014, had completed his average life span. A Bengal tiger has an average lifespan of eight to 10 years in the wild.

The maximum lifespan of the animal is about 15 years. On October 7, 2020, 11-year-old lioness Akhila, who had been suffering from paralysis for nine years, died due to "acute kidney failure". Akhila was born in the zoo on May 19, 2009. She had developed "nervine disorders and hindquarter paralysis" at an early age, according to officials. A 13-year-old white tigress

named Kalpana had died in the zoo on April 23, 2020. It had died due to "renal failure".

Kidney failure was also the reason for the death of an eight-year-old Bengal tiger, Rama, on September 20, 2019. The tiger was brought from the Mysore zoo in 2014.

A blood report had indicated very high phosphorous content and creatinine levels impacted the functioning of the kidneys, officials said. The facility had got one lion and two lionesses from Kevadia and Sakkarbaug in Gujarat for breeding purposes in September last year.

In October, it got two tigresses from the Gorewada wildlife rescue centre in Maharashtra. At present, the Delhi zoo has five white tigers -- three males and two females -- and four Bengal tigers -- three females and a male. It also has four lions -- two males and females each.

60 arrested under Arms Act, 89 under Excise Act, 39 under NDPS

STAFF REPORTER ■
NEW DELHI

Tightening its noose on the supply of illicit weapons and drugs, the Delhi Police, in last two months, has arrested over 60 people under Arms Act, 89 under Excise Act and 39 under Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (NDPS) Act in Delhi's south-east district.

According to data shared by police, in January, the south-east district police had arrested 27 people under Arms Act and recovered seven country-made pistols, three live cartridges and 18 knives from them while a total of 38 people were arrested under the Excise Act and 2,434 liquor bottles were recovered from their possession.

"In January, five people were arrested Under Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Act (NDPS) Act and nine kilograms of ganja was recovered from them. Similarly, in February, the southeast district police arrested 35 people under the Arms Act and recovered five country-made pistols, 29 knives and two live cartridges from them," the data stated. "The police also recovered 1,925 liquor bottles from 51 people arrested under the Excise Act. A total of 34 people were arrested under the NDPS Act and 8.40 gm smack, 12 gm heroin and 10.595 kg ganja were recovered from them in last two months," the data further stated.

The northeast district police registered 76 cases under Arms Act, 36 under Excise Act, three under NDPS Act and 17 under Gambling Act, it said. The district arrested over 100 people in these cases in last two months, police said.

It has recovered 22 pistols, 39 live cartridges, 56 knives, nine bikes, seven mobile phones, around 3,000 liquor bottles, 13 kilograms ganja, 10 grams smack and over Rs six lakh, data added.

Foundation stone of sewer networks laid in 84 colonies

STAFF REPORTER ■
NEW DELHI

To fulfil its vision of cleaning the river Yamuna, Water Minister and Delhi Jal Board (DJB) Chairman Satyendar Jain laid the foundation stone of an enormous 505-kilometre sewer network in 84 colonies and 27 villages of Najafgarh and Matiala constituency on Sunday.

Jain, along with Cabinet Minister and MLA Kailash Gahlot inaugurated the work of laying a massive network of 346 kilometres of sewer lines in Najafgarh. These sewer lines will be laid in Mitraon, Kair, Jafarpur, Kazipur, Khera Dabar, Sarangpur and various parts of the Dichaon Group of Colonies.

In continuation to strengthen the existing sewerage system, the work involved laying sewer lines in approximately 76 colonies and 26 villages in Najafgarh. On completion of



this project, it will benefit approximately eight lakh people residing in and outside of the area.

Jain said that this will be a huge contributor towards cleaning the river Yamuna. "The installation of sewers will benefit tens of thousands of residents in the area. Currently, due to the non-availability of the sewerage system, generated sewerage from this area is being discharged into the local pond, septic tank, storm water and drains, etc. The drain discharge then indirectly goes into the

River Yamuna through the Najafgarh Drain, causing an increase in the pollution levels of the river," he said.

"To reduce this water-polluting content, sewer lines will be laid to collect the sewage and treat it at the nearby sewage treatment plant. Connecting every household with a sewer connection will lead us towards better collection, treatment, and management of sewage and not a single drop of untreated sewage will fall into the Yamuna," he said.

Speaking on this occasion,

Gahlot said, "This is a historic moment for all the Najafgarh residents. Delhi's villages were long ignored for over 70 years by the previous governments but under the leadership of CM Arvind Kejriwal, villages and colonies in outer Delhi are writing new stories of development every day. These lines will cater to the population around the area and will also be a stepping stone in cleaning the Yamuna River. This work will be completed in 15 months," he said.

Similarly, the foundation stone of a 159-kilometre long sewer line in Kanganheri, Goyla Vihar, Khera Dabar, and Sarangpur Group of Colonies was also laid in the Matiala Constituency by the Water Minister. This intervention will benefit approximately 15 lakh people residing in eight colonies and 11 villages in Matiala.

Jain said, "The intervention of laying down sewer lines will

act as a turning point in the history of the development of villages in Matiala. Strengthening the basic infrastructure and provision of quality facilities is fundamental to the development of any area."

The introduction of these sewer lines the Najafgarh and Matiala constituencies will benefit along with numerous villages such as Kanganheri, Badu Sarai, RaghoPur, Nanakheri, Mitraon, Surakhpur, Jharoda Kalan, Mundhela Khurd, Mundhela kalan, Kair, Srangpur, Dhansa, Malik pur, Dariyapur, Jhuljhuli, Ghumanhera, Khera Dabar, Surhera, Kazipur, Issapur, Bakargah, Jafarpur, Samaspur, Ujwa, Galibpur, Raota, Daurala, etc.

With the initiative, the Delhi Government aims to strengthen the existing wastewater management infrastructure and to abate pollution from River Yamuna.

Anti-pollution pledge at first 'Raahgiri Day' in Burari

STAFF REPORTER ■
NEW DELHI

The Dialogue and Development Commission (DDC) organised the first 'Raahgiri Day' in North Delhi on Sunday. The event was held in Burari in partnership with Raahgiri Foundation and WRI India.

Amidst a flurry of fun activities like cycling, skating, street games, street plays, music band, painting, dance, performing arts, yoga, aerobics, Zumba etc, thousands of local residents and school children pledged to reduce their share of pollution. The creative ways in which Delhi government school students expressed their concerns about the environment and the future of the planet also garnered much attention.

The street from Pushta Road Baba Colony to Pradhan Colony, was cordoned off for a



few hours so that local residents can occupy it in large numbers and use the same for recreation that promotes health, wellbeing, fitness, togetherness and joy.

AAP's Burari MLA Sanjeev Jha said, "Pollution affects us all and should be a bipartisan issue that brings everyone together. Initiatives like 'Raahgiri Day' provide the much-needed occasion for rallying efforts of the community around their common concerns. As local stakeholders get to physically interact with each other on 'Raahgiri Day', they get the opportunity to recognise their collective interests and strategise optimal ways to curb their share of pollution."

Cultural event held, tribute paid to environmentalist Bahuguna

STAFF REPORTER ■
NEW DELHI

A cultural programme was organised in the Delhi Legislative Assembly on Sunday to pay tribute to the legendary environmentalist Padma Vibhushan Sunderlal Bahuguna, the face of the famous Chipko Movement and also known as Himalaya Rakshak.

Speaking on the occasion, Deputy Chief Minister Manish

Sisodia said that Sunderlal Bahuguna is a role model for youth, who devoted his whole life to the protection of the environment.

Sisodia said that the entire life of Sunderlal Bahuguna and his sacrifice for the society and environment would be an inspiration for the generations to come. "Bahuguna's whole life was full of struggles. He was a source of inspiration not only for Uttarakhand's residents but for all Indians."

DU to invite either Prez or PM for unveiling commemorative stamp

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The Delhi University plans to invite either President Ram Nath Kovind or Prime Minister Narendra Modi for unveiling its commemorative stamp and coin as part of its year-long centenary celebrations beginning May 1, sources said on Sunday. "Since it will be celebrations of a huge milestone, there are plans to have either the President or the Prime Minister to unveil the commemorative stamp and coin. The President is the Visitor to the university," one of the sources said. The university has plans to release a commemorative stamp, coin

and a coffee table book on the occasion. The idea of commemorative stamp and coin was first floated by Delhi University professor Amarjiva Lochan.

It was in September last year that Lochan, who is the joint dean of international relations, thought of applying to India Post for a commemorative stamp. According to guidelines for commemorative stamps, proposals should be sent at least two years in advance in the prescribed format for consideration by the Philatelic Advisory Committee (PAC) and approval by the competent authority.

BJP leader Priya, Cong's Pawan Sharma join AAP

STAFF REPORTER ■
NEW DELHI

Influenced by the work being done by the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) Government in the national Capital, BJP leader Priya Chaudhary and Congress leader Pawan Sharma joined the AAP on Sunday.

AAP senior leader and party incharge Durgesh Pathak said that leaders of all the parties are joining the party after seeing the Kejriwal Government's overall development in areas including schools, hospitals, electricity, water, roads, and WiFi.

Pathak said, "The Delhi Government has achieved incredible and historic milestones in the last seven years. Arvind Kejriwal has been a trailblazer in setting up models to accomplish it all, from eliminating corruption to establishing a

stellar education model, then establishing a model for health infrastructure, and finally revolutionising development in the rural countryside. Even Delhi's unauthorised colonies, which were orphaned for the longest time, have been cared for and have improved." Priya Chaudhary said, "I am grateful to this party for recognizing my passion and allowing me to channel it appropriately. We want to do a lot of things, but we get caught up in petty politics and cannot get anything done. When it comes to the Delhi BJP, it has little regard for its members."

Speaking on occasion, Pawan Sharma stated "I am joining the party after being impressed by the AAP rapid development work in Delhi. We will remove corruption in MCD and build an AAP government there as well."

Women's Day: 50% discount on entry fee in Govt haats

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Those women interested to visit Delhi Government's run Delhi Haats located at INA Market, Pitampura and Janakpuri and Garden of Five Senses in Saket can avail 50 per cent discount on entry ticket (fee) on Women International Day being celebrated on March 8. This year's theme is "Gender Equality Today for a Sustainable Tomorrow."

According to Chief Manager

(PR & Publicity) from Delhi Tourism and Transportation Development Corporation Ltd, Ratan Singh said that on the occasion, a string of activities particularly related with women have been planned at all Tourism Ministry's projects in city. "Cultural Programmes in evening at Dilli Haats (Pitampura & Janakpuri) by Sahitya Kala Parishad under Delhi Government has been planned. Also, Bindi and Mehandi

Competition will be held at DilliHaat, INA, registration for which are opened till 2 P.M. upto March 8. Winners will be awarded," he said. Singh also said that at DilliHaat, INA, a LED will be put up by Delhi Police for live telecast of address by Commissioner of Police and Delhi Police, band performance by Delhi Police Ladies Band will be held from 4 PM to 5 PM. From 6 pm to 7 pm, Kathak dance programme by SKP is

planned followed by an hour long music and dance event. Colourful Handloom and Handicrafts items too will be available at DilliHaat, INA, said DTTDC Chief Manager (PR & Publicity) The first international Women's Day celebration took place in year 1911. Since then, it is marked every year on March 8. World over, the day celebrates achievements and contributions on women and girls in different spheres.

PWD to soon revamp its arterial roads

STAFF REPORTER ■
NEW DELHI

The Public Works Department (PWD) will soon revamp its arterial roads having 30 metres or more 'right of way' (ROW).

A senior PWD official said on Sunday that the decision was taken after complaints were received regarding the bad condition of roads in different areas of the city. "These roads include Flag Staff Road, Sachivalaya Road, Velodrome Road, Satyagrah Marg, Club Road and IG Stadium slip road, among others. This exercise will be separate from the regular maintenance drill of the major arterial roads. This exercise will focus on smaller arterial roads, tributary roads to bigger ones, slip roads etc," he said.

The official said that the PWD will adopt a "tailor-made solution" approach, which means that the identified roads will undergo minor repair work and resurfacing or recarpeting depending on the requirement.

The PWD manages roads in Delhi that are wider than 60 feet, while smaller roads are managed by municipal corporations. The PWD manages around 1,260 km of roads.

"We keep repairing and maintaining major arterial roads like Ring Road, Outer Ring Road, Mathura Road, Vikas Marg etc. Along with other roads. But lately, there were complaints that other roads, especially those leading to bigger arterial roads, were not in good shape. So, this exercise has been ordered," the official said.

Deputy Chief Minister Manish Sisodia, after he was allocated the PWD portfolio last month, had asked officials to revamp city roads and make them pothole-free within a month's time. He had also warned officials of stern action in case any defect is found in the revamped roads.

Khattar interacts with students who returned from Ukraine

STAFF REPORTER ■
GURUGRAM

Haryana Chief Minister, Manohar Lal Khattar on Sunday interacted with the students who returned from Ukraine and their parents and ensured that he would convey the suggestions received from them (students) to Prime Minister, Narendra Modi to ensure maximum help is extended to these students pursuing medical education there.

Around 76 students out of 91 of the district have been returned from Ukraine so far. Khattar interacted with these students during his stay in Gurugram on Sunday. Khattar said that a complicated situation



has arisen before students due to the ongoing war between Ukraine and Russia, where about 18,000 to 19,000 Indian students are stuck there out of them there are about 1,800 students from the Haryana state. He informed that there

them and is worried about them. When all the students will return from Ukraine, their future will be a matter of concern for the Government of India and the Indian Medical Council and we will abide by their decisions. We will convey the suggestions given by these students to the Prime Minister so that maximum help can be provided," Khattar told reporters. Khattar, while interacting with the students, said that the Prime Minister has assured that students whose courses have been completed, will be given internship opportunities. After that, they have to pass the Foreign Medical Graduates Examination (FMGE) exam as per the rules.

Illegal Ahata operating without permission of Excise Dept raided

STAFF REPORTER ■
GURUGRAM

A joint team of Chief Minister flying A wing and Excise department late on Saturday night raided an Ahata (byob) in Sector-65 area which was being operated illegally without the permission of Excise Department.

Pertaining to matter police have registered a case against four people identified as Yogesh owner of the Byob and his two partners and cashier Sanjay Kumar Thakur at sector-65 police station. So far police have arrested cashier from the spot while the other accused managed to flee. The police also recovered 29 beer bottles and 3 flavoured Hukkas. Following reliable information, the police raided Byob which was being

run on the name of 'Desi Khaat' in 'Backyard Sports Club' where 90/100 boys including some girls were also found consuming alcohol. Music was also being played very loudly and several vehicles were also parked in parking lot outside Byob. Permission to run the BYOB was sought from the cashier, who could not show any permission. He informed that Yogesh and his two partners have been running this Byob for about one month. The owners used to invite singers on every weekend for party purposes." Underjeet Singh Yadav, DSP, CM flying said. "The Excise Department will prepare a case against owner of Byob for not depositing the prescribed fees for running Byob and causing loss to revenue of the Excise Department," Yadav said.

India to evacuate 1,500 citizens today

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

As the Russia-Ukraine war entered its 11 day on Sunday, India will operate eight flights to bring back 1500 people from Ukraine's neighbouring countries on Monday.

The injured Indian student Harjot Singh, who was shot at in Ukraine and was recovering in a hospital in Kiev, will also be returning by an Indian Air Force flight C-17 from Poland's Rzeszow along with 199 other passengers.

The number of Indians airlifted by 76 special civilian flights goes up to 15920 under "Operation Ganga" mission. The Government managed to bring back 2135 people by 11 evacuation flights on Sunday.

Sources said Harjot is being brought back to India, accompanied by Union Minister VK Singh, on a C-17 IAF aircraft, which will land at Hindan airforce station in Ghaziabad. "As Harjot has lost his passport, an emergency certificate (EC) has been issued to him," sources added.

According to the Ministry

RUSSIA-UKRAINE WAR

of Civil Aviation, five evacuation flights will be operated from Budapest, two from Suceava and one from Bucharest on Monday. As per details, a total eight flights will operate to bring back over 1500 people. "Under 'Operation Ganga' to rescue Indian citizens, 2,135 Indians have been brought back today (Sunday) by 11 special civilian flights from Ukraine's neighbouring countries. Of them, nine landed in New Delhi while two reached Mumbai. There were 6 flights from Budapest, 2 from Bucharest, 2 from Rzeszow, and 1 from Kosice," the ministry noted in a statement.

An Air India Express flight carrying 185 people, mostly students, from Bucharest landed at the Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj International Airport (CSMIA) on Sunday morning. The flight IX-1202 included a maximum 102 people from Kerala, besides 18 from Tamil Nadu and 12 from Maharashtra.

To date, the Indian Air Force has flown 10 sorties to bring back 2,056 passengers while taking 26 tonnes of relief load to these countries as part of 'Operation Ganga'. The Ukrainian airspace has been shut since February 24 due to the Russian military offensive. Indian citizens fleeing Ukraine are being airlifted from its neighbours such as Romania, Hungary, Slovakia and Poland.

Union Law Minister Kiren Rijiju has reached Vienna on his way back to India from Slovakia where he coordinated evacuations of Indians from the war-hit Ukraine. In a tweet, the Indian embassy said the ambassador received Rijiju in the Austrian capital.

Haryana Chief Minister Manohar Lal Khattar on Sunday said around 1,800 students from the state were stuck in the war-torn Ukraine, of which 1,234 have been evacuated. The Madhya Pradesh government said that 421 of the total 454 people hailing from the state stranded in war-hit Ukraine have safely returned so far.

SC upholds order sacking CISF constable for assaulting officer

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court has upheld a 2001 order sacking a CISF constable, who had allegedly assaulted an officer after he reprimanded him for sleeping during patrolling duty, saying a sense of integrity, discipline and camaraderie is "paramount" given the nature of the force.

The apex court observed that the quantum of punishment is within the discretionary domain and sole power of the decision-making authority once the charge of misconduct stands proved.

"Such discretionary power is exposed to judicial interference if exercised in a manner which is grossly disproportionate to the fault, as the constitutional courts while exercising the power of judicial review do not assume the role of the appellate authority," a bench of justices Sanjiv Khanna and Bela M Trivedi said.

The top court delivered its verdict on an appeal filed by the Centre and others against the January 2018 judgment of the Orissa High Court which had affirmed the order of a single-judge bench setting aside the punishment of dismissal.

It said on merits of the



quantum of punishment imposed, the courts would not interfere unless the exercise of discretion in awarding punishment is perverse in the sense that it is grossly disproportionate. The bench observed that the man was a constable in the Central Industrial Security Force (CISF), a specialised police force responsible for providing security to strategic establishments like the department of space, department of atomic energy and premises of establishments fundamental to the Indian economy.

"Given the nature of the appellant's force, sense of integrity, commitment, discipline, and camaraderie is paramount," the apex court said in

its judgement delivered on February 24.

It said no indulgence or latitude can be granted when the case is of violence and assault on the officer who had checked and reprimanded the constable.

The bench said as the constable had not even expressed any remorse or pleaded a good ground for having acted in the manner he did, it do not accept that the punishment of dismissal imposed by the appellate authority in February 2012 was grossly disproportionate to the quantum of the offence.

Observing that condoning the misconduct would have ramifications, the bench noted that discipline in the police force cannot be compromised.

SC stays operation of death sentence of man for rape, murder of girl

PRI ■ NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court has stayed operation of the death sentence awarded to a man convicted for raping and murdering an 11-year-old girl in Dehradun in 2018.

The apex court, which was hearing an appeal filed by the convict against the January 2020 verdict of the Uttarakhand High Court which had confirmed the death penalty awarded to him by a trial court, directed that psychological evaluation of the appellant be done and its report be placed before it.

"Issue notice of lodgment of appeal to the state of Uttarakhand, returnable on May 4, 2022," a bench headed by Justice U U Lalit said.

"Pending further consid-



eration, the effect and operation of death sentence awarded to the appellant shall remain stayed. Let an intimation in this regard be sent to the concerned prison immediately," the bench, also comprising Justices S R Bhat and P S Narasimha, said in its March 2 order.

The top court said in order to have "complete assistance" in the matter, the report of the jail administration concerned about the nature of work done by the appellant while in prison be placed before it by April 25.

Prepare roadmap for 25 years: Shah to CISF

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Sunday said the Central Industrial Security Force (CISF) needs to prepare a roadmap for the next 25 years when the Indian economy will grow to five trillion dollars, and more manufacturing units will be set up in all sectors.

Speaking at the 53rd Raising Day of the paramilitary here, the Home Minister said the journey of economic growth was impossible without the contribution of the CISF. "We are thankful for their support and contribution," Shah said.

"I will urge the CISF DG to prepare the roadmap for next five years and also for 25 years when India will celebrate the 100 years of Independence," Shah said.

The private security agencies have been growing at a fast pace and the CISF needs to take the responsibility to train them in a professional manner,

he said. The CISF needs to develop a hybrid model of industrial security in the country with the participation of the private sector.

Noting that the CISF is the only Force in the world that is dedicated to industries only and it needs to ensure safety from the drone threats to the units located in the coastal areas, he said, adding, the Border Security Force (BSF) and DRDO are developing the anti-drone technology and the CISF should also line up with them to get this technology.

Speaking on the women security personnel in the force, Shah said the strength of women should be increased from current six percent to 20 percent.



As of now the CISF has been providing security to 354 industrial units, 65 airports and important installations like government buildings, coal, steel sectors, ISRO and their role will be expanded in the future, therefore, the force needs to anticipate these avenues and get themselves prepared accordingly.

Lauding the role of the

CISF and paying tributes to the Force's personnel, the minister further said that during the Covid period when hundreds of our own people were coming from abroad under 'Vande Bharat', the paramilitary personnel deputed at airports helped them and in this process, they also got infected and many of them lost their lives because of the pandemic.

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Election Commission will organise an international election visitors programme (IEVP) for foreign poll management bodies in virtual mode on Monday when Uttar Pradesh votes for the last phase of assembly polls. The programme constitutes an important part of the EC's international outreach and seeks to familiarise fellow election management bodies (EMBs) with the electoral system and processes adopted in the world's largest democracy.

IEVP 2022 also provides an opportunity to the EC to share best practices and experience of the conduct of the poll process along with the steps taken to ensure compliance of COVID-19 protocols, an EC statement said.

In the ongoing legislative assembly elections in Goa, Manipur, Punjab, Uttarakhand and Uttar Pradesh, there is a combined electorate of 183.4

million (one million is equal to ten lakhs), one of the largest to vote amid the COVID-19 pandemic.

While voting has been completed in Goa, Uttarakhand, Punjab and Manipur, the seventh and last phase of elections in Uttar Pradesh will be held on Monday.

More than 135 delegates from over 26 countries across the world including Australia, Bahamas, Bhutan, Croatia, Ethiopia, Fiji, Georgia, Guinea, Guyana, Kenya, Liberia, Maldives, Mauritius, Moldova, Mongolia, Myanmar, Philippines, Romania, Sao Tome and Principe, Seychelles, Sierra Leone, Solomon Islands, South Korea, Suriname, Tanzania, Uzbekistan and Zambia and four international organisations including International (IDEA), International Foundation of Electoral Systems (IFES), Association of World Election Bodies (A-WEB) and



Community of Democracies are going to participate in the event.

Ambassadors, high commissioners and other members of the diplomatic corps based in India from 20 countries have also been invited to participate in the virtual event, the statement said. The participants will be showcased a recorded broadcast from select polling stations in each of the five states where polls have

taken place as well as live streaming from polling stations in Varanasi (Uttar Pradesh) on Monday. The programme includes familiarisation of participants with the electoral process, polling station arrangements, use of technology, interaction with various stakeholders followed by a question and answer session.

The poll panel had organised similar programmes in the past.

New DNA test to identify hard to diagnose neurological, neuromuscular genetic diseases

PIONEER NEWS SERVICES ■ NEW DELHI

A new DNA test, developed by researchers at the Garvan Institute of Medical Research in Sydney and collaborators from Australia, UK and Israel, has been shown to identify a range of hard-to-diagnose neurological and neuromuscular genetic diseases quicker and more-accurately than existing tests.

"We correctly diagnosed all patients with conditions that were already known, including Huntington's disease, fragile X syndrome, hereditary cerebellar ataxias, myotonic dystrophies, myoclonic epilepsies, motor neuron disease and more," says Dr Ira Deveson, Head of Genomics Technologies at the Garvan Institute and senior author of the study.

The diseases covered by the

test belong to a class of over 50 diseases caused by unusually-long repetitive DNA sequences in a person's genes – known as 'Short Tandem Repeat (STR) expansion disorders'.

"They are often difficult to diagnose due to the complex symptoms that patients present with, the challenging nature of these repetitive sequences, and limitations of existing genetic testing methods," says Dr Deveson.

The study, published in Science Advances, shows that the test is accurate, and allows the team to begin validations to make the test available in pathology services around the world.

Dr Kishore Kumar, a co-author of the study and clinical neurologist at the Concord Hospital said that repeat expansion disorders can be passed on through families, can be life threatening and generally

involve muscle and nerve damage, as well as other complications throughout the body.

Quicker, more-accurate diagnosis for patients avoids 'diagnostic odyssey'. Using a single DNA sample, usually extracted from blood, the test works by scanning a patient's genome using a technology called Nanopore sequencing.

Current genetic testing for expansion disorders can be 'hit and miss', says Dr Kumar. "When patients present with symptoms, it can be difficult to tell which of these 50-plus genetic expansions they might have, so their doctor must decide which genes to test for based on the person's symptoms and family history. If that test comes back negative, the patient is left without answers. This testing can go on for years without finding the



genes implicated in their disease. We call this the 'diagnostic odyssey', and it can be quite stressful for patients and their families,' he said.

"This new test will completely revolutionise how we diagnose these diseases, since we can now test for all the disorders at once with a single DNA test and give a clear genetic diagnosis, helping patients avoid years of unnecessary muscle or nerve biopsies for diseases they don't have, or risky treatments that suppress their immune system," said Dr Kumar.



Devotees light earthen lamps as they perform 'aarti' on the banks of Ganga river, at Dashashwamedh Ghat in Varanasi on Sunday

PTI

WHO updates guidelines on Covid-19 therapeutics

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The World Health Organisation (WHO) has updated its guidelines on Covid-19 therapeutics to include a conditional recommendation on Molnupiravir, an antiviral medicine. This ninth update of WHO's guideline on therapeutics includes a recommendation that casirivimab-imdevimab not be used for patients infected with the Omicron variant.

"As this (Molnupiravir) is a new medicine and there are little safety data, the WHO has made it clear that Molnupiravir should be provided only to non-severe Covid-19 patients with the highest risk of hospitalization. These are typically people

who have not received a Covid-19 vaccination, older people, people with immunodeficiencies and people living with chronic diseases," said an official from the Union Health Ministry.

Children, and pregnant and breastfeeding women should not be given the drug. People who take molnupiravir should have a contraceptive plan, and health systems should ensure access to pregnancy testing and contraceptives at the point of care, said the WHO statement.

Under the care of a health care provider, Molnupiravir, an oral tablet, is given as four tablets (total 800 mg) twice daily for five days; with-



in 5 days of symptom onset. Used as early as possible after infection, it can help prevent hospitalization.

Today's recommendation is based on new data from six randomized controlled trials involving 4,796 patients. This is the largest dataset on this drug so far.

Along with a recommendation on Molnupiravir, this ninth update of WHO's living guideline on therapeutics includes an update on casirivimab-imdevimab, a monoclonal antibody cocktail. Based on evidence that this combination of drugs is ineffective against the Omicron variant of concern, WHO now recommends that it is only given when the infection is caused by another

variant.

Molnupiravir is not widely available but steps have been taken towards increasing access, including the signing of a voluntary licensing agreement. The Access to Covid-19 Tools Accelerator (ACT-A) is making a limited supply available to countries with access constraints.

The WHO has also invited manufacturers to submit their products for prequalification, with a number of manufacturers of Molnupiravir going through assessment now. WHO evaluates the quality, safety and efficacy of medical products for the United Nations and other large suppliers to low- and middle-income countries.

‘Govt will bring back all the Indians stranded in Ukraine’

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath, on Sunday, met Indian students who have been brought from war-torn Ukraine at his official residence. The students were evacuated under the Government of India's special "Operation Ganga" mission.

An official communiqué released by the Government claimed that during the interaction, the students from different parts of Uttar Pradesh who have returned from the war-hit Ukraine expressed their gratitude to Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Yogi and lauded the Government for rescuing them when they had lost all hope. "Modi hai toh mumkin hai," they said. "It is shameful that some 'politicians' in India



do not want our Indian students to return safely. They are still doing politics amid the ongoing Ukraine-Russia crisis," Yogi said, expressing his sympathies with the students who, he said, had to go through such an experience at a young age.

"Had the medical education policies been right earlier, then you would not have had to go abroad," he said, adding that no parents want-

ed their children to go overseas at such a young age. Bharatiya Janata Party's double-engine Government was working to correct the past mistakes, he added. "There were only 12 medical colleges earlier in UP, our effort is that every district has one medical college.

"Probably, more doctors will be produced in 10 years than the last 70 years," the chief minister said, and added, "This will be a big thing as young students would not have to travel abroad, and their families would not have to be under such stress."

Speaking to the students, Yogi said it was because of Modi and his active diplomatic efforts that India's foreign relations were at their best with various countries, including Hungary, Poland, Romania. Be it the Afghanistan crisis in the

past or Ukraine today, the security of every Indian had been ensured, he said.

"The Government is working round the clock to bring back all Indian nationals who are stranded in the war zone. We are aware of the hardships faced by our students due to the war situation. Till now, out of a total 2,397 students, 1,400 have returned," he said. During the interaction, the students shared their experiences with the chief minister. The Indian students told Yogi how students from other countries asked them to feel proud and honoured to be a part of India and to have Modi as the PM.

The children also thanked the Chief Minister for arranging their stay at the Uttar Pradesh Bhawan in Delhi and then ensuring their return to their homes.

BJP president Nadda to visit Jammu

PTI ■ JAMMU

BJP president J P Nadda is breaching here on Monday in his first visit to Jammu and Kashmir after abrogation of Article 370 and its bifurcation into two union territories in August 2019. J&K BJP president Ravinder Raina on Sunday chaired a meeting to review arrangements for bike rally being taken out by party's youth wing, BJYM, to receive Nadda at Jammu airport, a party spokesperson said. The rally will be taken out from Jammu Airport to party headquarters at Trikuta Nagar, he said. Raina said visit of BJP national president assumes significance as elections to Jammu Kashmir assembly is expected to take place later this year after finalisation of the delimitation commission report. He said he is fully satisfied with arrangements made by Bharatiya Janata Yuva Morcha to welcome party chief.

Govt failed to evacuate Indians as it was in poll mode: Adhir

SAUGAR SENGUPTA ■ KOLKATA

With hundreds of Indian students still stranded in the war-ravaged Ukraine, Congress Lok Sabha leader Adhir Chowdhury on Sunday attacked the Narendra Modi Government for failing to appreciate the situation well in advance so as to evacuate the Indian nationals from that country.

Alleging that Modi Government was in "election mode whereas it should have gone into evacuation mode after correctly evaluating the situation," Chowdhury who also the president of the Bengal Pradesh Congress said the "Government did not consider the situation seriously ... they failed to read the situation in Ukraine ... which led to the delayed reaction and the result is for all to see."

Wondering why the Centre did not take concrete steps in

evacuating the Indians he said "when we decided to abstain from voting (in UNO) on the issue we should have known what to expect and this is the reason the Government should have acted quickly in evacuating the students earl." The Ukrainian situation required, "political wisdom and sense of responsibility on the part of the Indian establishment but that was missing here ... the Government was in election mode whereas it should have gone into evacuation mode taking the situation with the seriousness it deserved," he said.

Attacking the Indian diplomats for failing to read the situation Chowdhury said "today we find that the diplomats are basically careerists and ... lack the quality of statesmen ... they only go up there for masti (fun) that comes with the job ... along with the political establishment they

too have messed up with the situation for which thousands of students and their family members are suffering."

Trinamool Congress leadership too attacked the Centre for taking the Ukrainian situation in a very "casual manner." Bengal minister Bratya Basu too said that electoral victory and not the safety of its citizens mattered the most for the BJP Government.

"Only elections and not safety and security of the common people matter the most for the BJP Government ... common man's life is not very important for them ... we saw how they messed up with the situation in

Afghanistan, we saw how this Government behaved the lakhs of migrating workers during the lockdown ... and now we are seeing how the Indians have been left to fend for themselves in Ukraine," the Bengal minister said.

Stakes too high for all parties in battle for UP

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

As usual, the elections began with lofty promises by different political parties in their respective election manifestos. As the election advances; it boils down to popular slogans, mobilisation of voters on caste lines and narrative to influence floating voters.

The month-long seven phase election commenced with issues of law and order, terrorism, stray cattle menace to lack of jobs to the hijab controversy in Karnataka to the crisis in Ukraine -- everything was subject of the campaign in Uttar Pradesh.

The UP assembly elections are a high-stakes battle because of the larger context of the importance of the state which sends 80 members to the Lok Sabha.

The upbeat opposition, capitalising on discontent among the people, hopes to form the next government as the UP assembly election results will have a bearing on the 2024 Lok Sabha election.

Officially, the UP battle is a four-cornered fight involving Bharatiya Janata Party, Samajwadi Party, Bahujan Samajwadi Party and the Congress is now a bi-polar battle between Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath-led BJP and Akhilesh Yadav-led SP. Whether UP Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath will be voted back to power is the most hotly discussed issue. No chief minister has been given a second consecutive term in UP in the last 37 years.

In 1985, Congress' Narayan Dutt Tiwari in the undivided UP had won a second term. Yogi Adityanath is the third chief minister in a row to complete the five-year term after Mayawati and Akhilesh Yadav.

None of the previous chief ministers from the BJP -- Kalyan Singh and Rajnath Singh -- were elected for a second term, but Yogi Adityanath is confident of his chances.

Yogi Adityanath has remained the face of the BJP's campaign, counting on his record of governance with an

emphasis on his comparatively cleaner administration with better deliverables to his credit both on the development front as well as on the law and order side. By coming out in full support of Yogi Adityanath, Prime Minister Narendra Modi signalled the BJP's readiness to risk projecting an incumbent chief minister despite numerous anti-incumbency factors at work. As the six phases of polling are over, several issues have come to the fore, putting the BJP in a fix.

They include the stray cattle menace to crackdown on illegal abattoirs and ban on cow slaughter. Narendra Modi in several election meetings acknowledged the problem faced by the farmers and assured a solution to it by the next BJP government.

Even the ongoing Operation Ganga, under which thousands of Indians stranded in Ukraine amid the Russian invasion are being evacuated, came under criticism from the opposition which said it reflected the BJP government's poor performance.

The Modi-led Centre was quick to react, and the evacuation process topped the government agenda. Union ministers were sent to countries in Ukraine's neighbourhood from where the students are flying back to India.

Modi showed his astute political sense when he said that had the previous governments invested in medical education in India, the Indian students in Ukraine would not have had to go through this ordeal.

It is also important to note that all through its campaign, the BJP has not taken its feet off the pedal; complacency has not set in even constituencies and phases where the saffron party had an advantage.

It preferred to show its rank and file that they needed to work hard to win each and every seat. The spirited fight put up by the SP and its allies -- Rashtriya Lok Dal, the Suheldev Bhartiya Samaj Party, Mahan Dal and Janvadi Party, has shown that the wheels of Mandal are still turning.

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ JAMMU

1 killed, 25 get splinter injuries in J&K attack

A civilian was killed and 25 others, including a policeman, received splinter injuries in a grenade attack near Amirakadal bridge in downtown area of Srinagar on Sunday. Large number of local residents were present in the Sunday market at the time of the grenade attack.

Confusion prevailed as passers by along with policemen rushed the injured to the SMHS hospital.

The entire area was cordoned off to track down the footprints of the terrorists behind the terror attack. According to police, a senior citizen from Nowhatta area

succumbed to injuries while the condition of one of the girls was stated to be critical till the time of filing the report. In a statement Srinagar police said, "a grenade attack took place in the market near Amira kadal bridge at around 4:20 p.m.

In this act of terror, one old man from Nowhatta has succumbed to injuries while one girl is critically injured and is battling for life. Also, 24 other persons including 23 civilians & 1 policeman have received splinter injuries but are out of danger."

Meanwhile, police has advised all civilians to be vigilant and report any suspected activity to thwart the nefarious designs of terrorists.

Bringing our people home safely, says PM at metro launch



T N RAGHUNATHA ■ MUMBAI

Maharashtra's automobile and IT city on Sunday joined the ranks of nearly 20 cities in the country that boast of the metro service, as Prime Minister Narendra Modi threw open to traffic the 12 km-stretch of the Pune Metro Rail project increasing mobility for the people in the erstwhile city of Peshwas.

Stating that India "is safely bringing out its citizens from the war zone through Operation Ganga during the Ukraine crisis", the Prime Minister said: "Big countries of the world are finding it difficult to do so. But it is the growing influence of India that we have brought thousands of students back to our homeland".

More than six years after he laid foundation stone for the 32.2 km Pune metro rail project being developed at a cost of 11,400 crore, the Prime Minister took ride on a new Pune Metro train with his "young friends", a thing he did after purchasing a metro ticket. Modi travelled by the metro Garware Metro Station to Anandnagar Metro Station.

Immediately afterwards, the Prime Minister's Office (PMO) tweeted: Ensuring convenient and comfortable travel for the people of Pune. PM @narendramodi inaugurated the Pune Metro and travelled on board with his young friends". The PMO shared a photograph of Modi sitting inside the metro train with children.

On a day when he kick-started the operation of metro trains along the two routes of the 12 km-stretch of the metro project, the Prime Minister unveiled the statue of Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj on the Pune Municipal Corporation (PMC) premises, inaugurated the R K Laxman Art Gallery-Museum, laid the foundation stone of multiple development project, heralded the start of the Golden Jubilee celebration of Symbiosis University and inaugurated Symbiosis Arogya Dham.

Alluding to the inauguration of the Pune Metro Project, Modi said: "It is my good fortune that you had invited me to lay the foundation stone of Pune Metro and now you have given me the opportunity to inaugurate it. It also has the message that plans can be completed on time."

"Pune has also continuously strengthened its identity in the fields of Education, Research & Development, IT and Automobile. In such a situation, modern facilities are the need of the people of Pune and our government is working keeping this need of the people of Pune in mind," he said.

Modi said that while Metro services were available in very

few cities till 2014, today more than two dozen cities were either being benefitted by the metro services or are on the verge of getting it. Maharashtra, he said, has quite a significant share of this expansion if we look at Mumbai, Thane, Nagpur and Pimpri Chinchwad Pune.

"This Metro will ease mobility in Pune, give relief from pollution and jams, increase the ease of living of the people of Pune", Prime Minister said, while calling upon Pune residents to make maximum use of Metro and other public transport. Availing that to cope with growing population in our cities, development of mass transit system was the main answer.

Curb noise pollution, give Mumbaikars noise-free Sundays, nights: Top cop

PTI ■ MUMBAI

Mumbai Police Commissioner Sanjay Pandey on Sunday asked builders and construction contractors to rein in noise pollution and provide relief to people of metropolises. Addressing people via a Facebook Live session, Pandey, who was appointed to top post recently, said construction activities were important but "at same time, citizens should at least have a noise-free Sunday or noise-free nights". He told construction sector it would have to follow rules and time norms as laid down by the law and appealed to them to not give the police a chance to pull them up for violations. "You (those in the construction sector) are also citizens of Mumbai. You won't like it if somebody constantly hammers in your midst and makes it difficult for you to talk to your kin. I'm sure builders and contractors are listening to this and so are policemen, who have been instructed to do what they need to do," Pandey said. Announcing step, commissioner said there should be a diary in every senior citizen's house that beat constables, sub inspectors and inspectors will have to sign post inspection.

BJYM man killed over land dispute in Kanpur Dehat

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

A senior leader of Bharatiya Janata Yuva Morcha (BJYM) was brutally murdered, allegedly in connection with a dispute over the land of a trust, in Kanpur Dehat. The sensational killing took place late Saturday night and the local police rushed to the spot along with senior officers to defuse the tension in the area.

According to reports, former district vice-president of Bharatiya Janata Yuva Morcha, Amresh Tripathi (35), who lived in Rajendra Nagar locality of Pukhrayan town, was having an old dispute with some people of Pal community over the land of a trust in Pukhrayan under Bhognipur police station of Kanpur Dehat. The dispute took a violent turn late Saturday night when the two parties had a heated exchange of words over the issue. Reports said that one of the groups brutally attacked Tripathi with sticks and rods leading to his death. After getting information about the murder, thousands of BJP

workers and leaders reached the spot. The tension increased so much that the cops of Bhognipur police station, who reached there after getting information of the murder, immediately informed the senior police officers after which more force from neighbouring police stations rushed to the scene of crime.

The situation could be controlled only after senior officers assured that the killers would be arrested at earliest. They also immediately sent the body for post-mortem. It may be mentioned that Amresh's father Rajesh Tiwari was former district president in the Bharatiya Janata Party. The family members accused one Ghanashyam Pal, alleging that he was trying to occupy one of their lands with the help of some other criminals. They said that as Amresh opposed this, they brutally killed him.

Additional Superintendent of police, Kanpur Dehat, Ghanashyam Chaurasia said that there was a dispute between the two parties over a land, after which some people

Adequate tap water supply to every rural household Govt's top priority: Gehlot

PTI ■ JAIPUR

Rajasthan Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot on Sunday said ensuring adequate tap water supply to every rural household is his Government's top priority. Calling upon officials to ensure timely completion of projects, he said an inordinate delay in executing projects not only hurts the exchequer but also people. Addressing a review meeting of Public Health Engineering Department, Gehlot directed officials to make necessary arrangements in advance in order to ensure an adequate supply of drinking water in state as summer is around corner. After assessing requirement of every district, alternative arrangements for water sources should be immediately made on basis of a contingency plan, he said. While top priority should be accorded to Jal Jeevan Mission, which intends to supply water to every household, Gehlot said efforts should also be made to ensure timely completion of all projects related to drinking water. The chief minister also directed officials to effectively test and install smart metres in urban areas of state under Mukhyamantri Rajneer Yojana.



सत्यमेव जयते
MINISTRY OF MICRO, SMALL & MEDIUM ENTERPRISE
GOVERNMENT OF INDIA



NATIONAL
SC-ST HUB
Safalta ki pehchaan



एन एस आई सी
N S I C

NATIONAL SC-ST HUB SCHEME

NOTIFICATION

“Launch of Special Credit Linked Capital Subsidy Scheme (SCLCSS) for SC/ST”

The National SC-ST Hub (NSSH) Scheme is an Initiative of the Ministry of Micro, Small & Medium Enterprises, Govt. of India, having the objective of providing professional support to the SC/ST entrepreneurs for enhancing their participation in public procurement. The National Small Industries Corporation Ltd. (NSIC) is the implementing Agency. There are various components under NSSH under which assistance is provided to the SC/ST entrepreneurs for their capacity building and market linkage.

Under the SCLCSS component, **25% subsidy** is provided for procurement of Plant & Machinery and equipment through institutional credit to the eligible Micro / Small Enterprises of manufacturing sector owned by SC/ST entrepreneurs.

Now the Ministry of MSME, Govt. of India has included the SERVICE SECTOR also for Special Credit Linked Capital Subsidy Scheme (SCLCSS).

Therefore all the SC/ST entrepreneurs, both Manufacturing and Service sectors can avail 25% subsidy under SCLCSS by submitting their application to the concerned Prime Lending Institutions (banks from which Term Loan has been availed for procurement of plant & machinery after **15.11.2021**) in the prescribed format within the prescribed timelines. The timelines shall be notified for each quarter of FY 2021-22 on www.scsthub.in

To know about other benefits including SCLCSS for the SC/ST entrepreneurs, please visit NSSH website www.scsthub.in.

National SC-ST Hub Cell
National Small Industries Corporation Ltd.
NSIC Bhawan, Okhla Industrial Estate, New Delhi-110020
Toll Free No. 1800-11-1954, E-mail : nsshsupport@nsic.co.in

FIRST COLUMN

HIJAB CONTROVERSY:
TIME TO REFLECT



SK SRIVASTAVA

The right to education is “subject to the manner as the state may, by law, determine”. Schools are run by rules and regulations, and set curriculum to be followed by one and all. There is increase in literacy rate and there is widespread awareness about education across the spectrum. Education is about awakening intelligence, critical thinking, reflection and reform. Whereas there is evidence of social prosperity even among the socio-economically weaker section of the society, but those restrictive with the patriarchal, orthodox, identity mind-sets lagged behind. The recent hijab controversy, however, gives an opportunity to reflect, in the 75th year of independence, about equality and liberty rights provided by the constitution to all the citizens of India. According to Article 14 of the constitution, the state provides equality to all before the law and the rights regulates the relationship between



the state and the citizen. It prohibits the state any discrimination against citizens” on grounds of religion, race, caste, sex, place of birth and any of them”. The affirmative actions have shown results of social mobility but promotional or communal quotas normatively not justified interfered with equality. General and reserve categorisation creates identity divide, abuse of creamy layer, concessions to minority institutions and vote bank politics, degraded public education institutions and increase of private institutions. These factors mar the desired aim of equality and also dilute the vision of social justice.

Liberty gives freedom rights through Article 19 but with “reasonable restrictions” that vary with the freedom in question, and are not absolute in our rule-based democratic society. Article 25 gives rights to “freedom of conscience and to profess, practice and propagate religion” essential to a religion, as determined by constitution rather than a religious group. But the rights to religious freedom ends with modern democratic secular principles, limiting the external regulation of religion. Indian secularism is neither neutral to religions like US, nor indifferent, but promotes co-existence of religions (positive secularism). Unfortunately, secularism is reduced to empty rhetoric since religion is used even by self-proclaimed secularists. In relation to religious freedom, separate personal family laws for different religious groups for reasons of unequal gender norms have long been criticized. They are undemocratic. The personal laws are made by the singular source of authority, Parliament. Article 44 calls on the state to move towards the creation of uniform civil code to do away the asymmetry. The asymmetric, caste or religion based affirmative measures need to be addressed. All the state-funded educational institutions should have common rules and regulations and curriculum. Assam has stopped State funding to institutions imparting only religious education. Each individual above caste or creed has one value, therefore, any measure should not be seen through minority - majority divide. It is time to bring uniform civil code to arrive at normative uniformity under a single order wherein differential rights have no legitimacy. The faith-based ideas and religious beliefs may be incorporated as content but without legitimacy. It will help diffuse separatist ego and identity, uphold equality and enhance a sense of common nationality. When talking of rights, it is imperative to be conscious of duties as a citizen to uphold and promote harmony, unity and integrity of India, by transcending religion, linguistic, regional and sectoral diversities. The courts have the power to evaluate what is essential and what is non-essential, thereby the power to rationalize. Courts thus rationalise, reform and do not allow misrepresentation of religion while upholding the rule of law and reminding citizens of their fundamental rights. The court verdict on the hijab controversy needs to be accepted by all and sundry for individual, social and national prosperity.

(The writer is a Delhi-based consultant surgeon. The views expressed are personal.)

Goa Assembly: When split is not defection



DEVENDER SINGH ASWAL


Instead of finding fault with the order of the Speaker, Assembly and the High Court judgment, the political parties need to put their house in order

An apprehension is being vented that the judgement of the Bombay High Court bench at Goa upholding the order of the Speaker Goa Legislative Assembly with respect to merger of breakaway faction of Congress Legislature Party in the BJP may open floodgates for defections. The order of the Speaker under sub-paragraph (2) of paragraph (4) of the Tenth Schedule has been upheld by the High Court in its judgment delivered on February 25. The court held that under sub-paragraph (2) of paragraph 4, the merger of this group of Congress MLAs with the BJP is deemed to be a merger of the Congress Legislature Party with the BJP and, therefore, the disqualification on ground of defection shall not apply to such members under the Tenth Schedule.

The High Court, after examining the submissions made before it, held that the “petitioners have not been able to make out a case for interference in the impugned orders passed by the Speaker”. It may be recalled that the Assembly Speaker, Rajesh Patnekar, had last year dismissed two petitions seeking disqualification of ten out of twelve MLAs of the Congress who defected and joined the BJP in view of the express provision of sub-paragraph (2) of paragraph 4. The High Court ruled that the defections ‘cannot be said to be militating against the object of introduction of the Tenth Schedule of the Constitution on the touchstone of political and constitutional morality’. The court further said that of the 12 MLAs, 10 had defected from the Congress. The court took note of the submission of concerned MLAs who claimed that since they constituted two-thirds of the strength, it was a valid merger and not a defection under the Tenth Schedule and observed that the ‘petitioners have not been able to make out a case for interference in the impugned orders passed by the Speaker’.

Expectedly, the Chief Minister, Goa, welcomed ‘the decision of High Court in dismissing the appeal filed by Congress and MGP against merger of 12 MLAs (including two MLA of MGP) into the BJP Legislature Party’. He also said that ‘democracy and constitutional mandate has prevailed over the smear campaign’. Disappointed, the Goa Congress reacted: “It is going to set a bad precedent, not only for the Congress but all political parties in the country, as after an election, a few MLAs can come together and take a decision to join another party”. Learning a lesson from such wholesale defections, the Congress administered an oath of loyalty to its poll bound candidates for election to the new Assembly! [If such an oath of loyalty could prevent defections, the law makers, in their sagacity, would not have enacted the anti-defection law.]

The anti-defection law was enshrined in the Constitution by the 52nd Amendment and later further reinforced by the 91st Constitution (Amendment) Act,



THE PRINCIPLES OF INTERPRETATION ARE WELL SETTLED AND BROOK NO AMBIVALENCE. IN VIEW OF THE EXPRESS CONSTITUTIONAL OR LEGAL PROVISIONS, THE COURT CANNOT READ INTO IT A CONTRARY MEANING VIS-A-VIS WHAT THE LAWMAKERS HAVE EXPLICITLY PROVIDED

(The writer is former Additional Secretary, Lok Sabha and member, Delhi Bar Council. The views expressed are personal.)



in 2003. The sum and substance of these constitutional amendments is that a member of the legislature, whether of the Union or the State Legislature, shall be disqualified if he is disqualified under the Tenth Schedule. The precise grounds for disqualification of a legislator under the Tenth Schedule are, if he has voluntarily given up the membership of such political party, or if he votes or abstains from voting in the House contrary to the direction or the whip issued by the political party of which they are members.

However, there is an exception and a ponderous one. In the case of merger of not less than two-thirds of the members of the legislative party with another party, or formation of a new party, the anti-defection law will not apply. The competent authority to decide the question of disqualification is the presiding officer, that is, the Speaker, which, after the judgment of the Supreme Court in the *Kihou Hollohan versus Zachilhu* and others, can be a subject of judicial review.

There is some resentment especially among those who appealed against the decision of the Speaker but found no relief from the High Court. No doubt, every political party is empowered under its constitution to enforce discipline for attaining its political goal. Without discipline, political parties would be reduced to a mere horde of power-hungry people bereft of any sound political moorings and identity. The people too expect that the ‘matdaan’ given by them is not traded or betrayed. The rampant and incessant defections by legislators are indicative of a brazenly power-hungry politics devoid of ideologies of the political parties, which needs to be contained, if not banished altogether.

The distinguishing features of political parties - often so powerfully flaunted - have disappeared and replaced by the wholesale and thriving politics of defection. To curb the growing menace of horse trading leading to political instability, the law makers while enshrining a law in the Constitution for curbing defections, also made provision of merger of political parties or formation of a new political parties if not less than two-third members so choose, putting such a merger immune from the disqualification of defection. When the Constitution enshrines the principle of merger of two-third members of a legislature party into another political party or formation of a new political party by such members, they cannot be disqualified in view of the express constitutional immunity.

The Court cannot go into the technicality of the merger of such two-third members with respect to the date, timing, venue and the record of the resolution passed by them prior to joining another party or forming a new party. It is adequate and suffice if they voluntarily do such an act of merging - not less than two-third of the total legislative membership - into a new party or forming a new one. The principles of interpretation are well settled and brook no ambivalence. In view of the express constitutional or legal provisions, the court cannot read into it a contrary meaning vis a vis what the law makers have explicitly provided.

However, this also raises a fundamental question of intra-party democracy, which is more often at the core of defections. Obviously, the law makers did not want a dictatorship within the political parties while fully conscious of the need for maintaining and preserving party discipline and ideology. They very conscientiously enshrined the principle of valid split if not less than two-third members merge with another political party or form a new one. Instead of finding fault with the order of the Speaker, Goa Assembly and the judgement of the High Court, the political parties need to put their house in order and the critics need to revisit the provisions of the Tenth Schedule.

POINT COUNTERPOINT


THOUSANDS OF INDIAN STUDENTS ARE STUCK IN UKRAINE. ISN'T IT YOUR RESPONSIBILITY TO BRING THEM BACK?
— CONGRESS LEADER RAHUL GANDHI



THOUSANDS OF STUDENTS HAVE BEEN BROUGHT BACK FROM UKRAINE. THOSE STILL THERE ARE BEING EVACUATED.
— PRIME MINISTER NARENDRA MODI

Coal gasification: Enabler for a clean energy future

To reduce coal imports, it is necessary to choose coal technologies that are suitable for Indian coal



V K SARASWAT



ABHINAV TRIVEDI

By 2030, coal is expected to be India's most popular fuel, accounting for demand in the range of 1192-1325 million tonnes. Coal will account for approximately 48 per cent of primary energy use by 2040.

India has the world's fifth-largest coal reserves and is the world's second-largest coal consumer.

Imports have been rising for the past two decades to meet rising coal demand amid supply limitations. To reduce imports, it is necessary to choose coal technologies that are suitable for Indian coal.


Coal beneficiation can be accomplished through coal gasification, in which syngas produced from coal is used as both a feedstock and a fuel. Through catalytic procedures, this syngas

can be used to produce fertilisers and petrochemicals.

Coal gasification can be used to generate electricity, liquid fuel chemicals, and hydrogen. Coal gasification is more efficient than traditional coal combustion. This method is approximately 17 to 20 per cent more efficient than traditional coal-fired energy generation. Imports of coal, urea, crude oil, and gas will be reduced if more domestic high ash coal is used for energy purposes, lowering the fiscal deficit.

Natural gas accounts for nearly all of India's hydrogen production. When compared to hydrogen produced through electrolysis and natural gas, the cost of hydrogen produced from coal can be less expensive and less susceptible to imports.

The production of hydrogen



from coal will be difficult due to large emissions, therefore CCUS will play a key role. This hydrogen is known as Blue Hydrogen. However, Indian coal reserves could become a tremendous supply of hydrogen if the carbon monoxide and carbon dioxide produced during the coal to hydrogen process are captured and used in an environmentally sustainable manner.

Converting coal to methanol entails converting coal to synthesis (syngas) gas, clean-

ing and conditioning of syngas, conversion of syngas to methanol, and methanol purification. In most countries, low-ash coals are used in coal-to-methanol plants. In the case of Indian coal, which has a high ash content, handling high ash and the heat required to melt this large amount of ash is a challenge. BHEL (R&D), Hyderabad and IIT Delhi & Thermax Ltd., Pune have developed pilot plants to convert high-ash coal to methanol, which might speed up the country's transition to clean technology.

Methanol as a liquid fuel for transportation and cooking is seen as a viable option in India. The NITI Aayog is now promoting a 'Methanol Economy', with the goal of lowering India's oil import bill and greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions by converting

coal reserves and municipal solid waste into methanol. Methanol is the most cost-effective alternative fuel, with obvious benefits. It produces fewer SOx, NOx, and particulates. Methanol also has a high-octane number, which ensures it ignites with less 'knock'. Dimethyl ether (DME), a derivative of it, has the ability to meet a number of energy needs, including as a household fuel.

M15 (15 percent Methanol mix in gasoline) has been approved as an automotive fuel by the Indian government, which has also granted a Central Excise exemption on Methanol blended Petrol and set standards for methanol blended fuel (M15). The M15 blend, as well as the additives and anti-corrosive agent, were developed by Indian Oil Corporation Limited.

The Automotive Research Association of India is evaluating tail pipe emissions, evaporative emission testing, and engine durability and endurance. The results are very encouraging. It is planned to roll out M-15 in NE Region as fuel for Automobiles by April 2022.

Coal Sector Reforms introduced ease of doing business while retaining transparency in past 5-6 years. Diversification of coal sector into securing new businesses, productively utilising sizeable reserves/funds, leveraging economic growth and related infrastructure to eliminate substitutable coal imports to support 100 MT coal gasification are the welcome step. There is a need for a Vision 2030 for the coal sector with environmental considerations.

Accelerating the develop-

ment of transformational carbon capture and storage technologies and pursue new products and uses for captured carbon dioxide. Accelerating research-to-commercial deployment in coal-to-products markets.

Incentivizing private sector investment in coal-to-products production and manufacturing sectors, as given below:

Reduce and Rationalise Taxation structure and Rail Tariff to make coal gasification cost competitive with respect to other modes of producing H2 and chemicals. Provide viable gap funding to all investors in setting up coal gasification units. Reduce GST on Methanol to 5% and issue policy directive for use of M15 to Oil companies. Initiate carbon credit scale and monetisation to companies implementing CCUS.

Russia aiming to capture another N-plant in Ukraine



FIANS ■ NEW DELHI

Russian forces are aiming to capture another nuclear plant in Ukraine after the Zaporizhzhya nuclear power plant was seized last week, a top official in Kiev said on Sunday.

According to Aleksey Arestovich, adviser to the head of the Office of the Ukrainian President, the Russian forces are trying to "advance north of Nikolaev... but the efforts of the invaders are directed there". Since Russia's invasion began on February 24, Moscow has lost more than 11,000 personnel, the Ukrainian Defence Ministry said.

In addition to the personnel, Russia has also lost 285 tanks, 985 armoured combat vehicles, 109 artillery systems,

plant", UNIAN reported.

At the same time, Arestovich noted that the Zaporizhzhya plant is operating normally, and "there are few enemies there". He also opined that "it will not be easy for the enemy to pass north of Nikolaev... but the efforts of the invaders are directed there". Since Russia's invasion began on February 24, Moscow has lost more than 11,000 personnel, the Ukrainian Defence Ministry said.

In addition to the personnel, Russia has also lost 285 tanks, 985 armoured combat vehicles, 109 artillery systems,

50 MLRS, 21 air defense systems, 44 aircraft, 48 helicopters, 447 vehicles, two light speedboats, 60 tanks with fuel and lubricants, four drones operationally - tactical level, the Ministry said.

"The data is being specified. The calculation is complicated by the high intensity of hostilities," it added.

"The enemy, despite significant losses, is throwing hundreds of supporters of the 'Russian world' into battle. In particular, in the Luhansk region, the entire frontline is littered with corpses and lined equipment of the invaders."

Ukraine developing missile systems to deliver nukes: Russia

FIANS ■ NEW DELHI

Simultaneously with the work on the creation of a nuclear explosive device, Ukraine has actively engaged in potential means of delivery of nuclear weapons, a Russian official told RIA Novosti.

"In parallel, work was underway in the country to modernize existing and create new missile weapons that can be used as a means of delivering nuclear weapons," the representative said.

He stressed that at the same time, Kiev "covers" most of the developments with the implementation of joint projects with other countries, RT New reported.

For example, in December 2013, Ukraine and Turkey agreed to cooperate in the missile sphere.

"The main role in it should be played by the Ukrainian rocket and space enterprises Yuzhmashzavod and Yuzhnoye Design Bureau, which previously participated in the creation of the Soviet nuclear missile arsenal," the official said.

The main goal of such cooperation is the creation of a mobile complex that would be equipped with a solid-propellant ballistic missile with a range of up to 1,500 km, he was quoted as saying to RIA Novosti.

In addition, Yuzhmashzavod is developing a mobile ground-based missile system Grom-2 at the expense of Saudi Arabia

In addition, Yuzhmashzavod is developing a mobile ground-based missile system Grom-2 at the expense of Saudi Arabia, which, according to Kiev, will have a range of up to 280 km in the export version, claimed the official.

"However, according to experts, it is possible to upgrade it in order to increase the firing range over 500 km, according to some estimates - up to 1000 km. Since 2017, the Alibey missile range has been operated in the Odessa region to conduct flight tests of rocket technology."

The official also said that clashes at Ukraine's Zaporizhzhya nuclear power plant, which caught fire last week and was subsequently seized by Russian forces, could have occurred due to the storage of documentation there.

According to the hom, Ukraine partially destroyed, partially removed the main body of documents on this topic from Kiev and Kharkiv to Lviv.

The official hinted that the documentation may be in the National University "Lviv Polytechnic".

Blinken pledges American support in Moldova



AP ■ CHISINAU

US Secretary of State Antony Blinken is in Moldova pledging America's support to the small Western-leaning former Soviet republic that is coping with an influx of refugees from Ukraine and warily watching Russia's intensifying war with its neighbour. Blinken was meeting on Sunday with senior Moldovan officials who are appealing for international assistance in dealing with more than 120,000 refugees from Ukraine that it is now hosting while also seeking security reassurances against potential Russian aggression.

More than 230,000 people have fled into Moldova from Ukraine since the war began 11 days ago. Blinken said Moldova's

welcoming of refugees is an inspiration to the world. "We admire the generosity of hospitality, the willingness to be such good friends to people who are in distress, and, indeed, I want to do everything we can to help you deal with the burden that this has imposed," he said.

Russia already has troops in the country of 2.6 million that are stationed in the disputed territory of Transnistria and are being closely watched as Russian President Vladimir Putin presses ahead with the invasion of Ukraine.

Although it has no plans to try to become a member of NATO, Moldova formally applied to join the European Union just three days ago in a fast-track bid to bolster its ties with the West.

S Korea to ban travel to areas bordering Ukraine in Russia, Belarus

FIANS ■ SEOUL

South Korea on Sunday decided to ban its nationals from travelling to areas in Russia and Belarus that border Ukraine amid the escalating crisis in the region.

The Level 4 travel alert, the highest in the four-tier system, is set to take effect Tuesday, according to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

The number of South Koreans currently staying in the affected regions in Russia and Belarus is estimated at five and one, respectively, Yonhap News Agency quoted the Ministry as saying. It further said that South Korea will continue to closely monitor the situation in the region and make efforts to secure the safety of its nationals.

South Koreans travelling to countries or regions under the Level 4 alert can be punished under related laws.

14 workers confirmed dead in China coal mine collapse

AP ■ BEIJING

Fourteen workers who were trapped when a coal mine in southwest China collapsed 10 days ago had died, media reported Sunday.

A rescue operation finished Sunday noon after the bodies of the miners were retrieved, state-owned Xinhua News Agency said.

The workers were trapped after the roof of a shaft at Sanhe Shunxun coal mine in Guizhou province collapsed on Feb. 25.

The rescue operation was challenging because the roof caved in about 3 kilometers (1.9 miles) from the entrance of the mine, and the collapsed area was considerably large, media reported.

Further investigation into the cause of the accident was underway. China's coal mines are among the world's deadliest, regularly suffering explosions and gas leaks despite repeated safety crackdowns.

Ukraine crisis leads to 'disturbing' reports of racism against students: NMF

PTI ■ JOHANNESBURG

The current Ukraine crisis triggered after the Russian military operation has given rise to "disturbing" reports of racism against students of several nations, including India, who have been attempting to flee the war-torn country, the Nelson Mandela Foundation (NMF) here said on Saturday.

According to reports in the international media in the past few days, Indian, South African, Nigerian and students of other nationalities have been debarred from using transport to reach neighbouring Poland as thousands of Ukrainians fled the country.

Some complained of being

beaten up as they tried to join the fleeing crowds, purely because of their skin colour.

"The conflict in Ukraine has foregrounded another global fault line: racism. There have been disturbing reports of Black people and people of colour, being denied seats in buses evacuating refugees, and turned away from the Polish border," the NMF said.

"This illustrates once more a common global phenomenon in which the sufferings of white people in conflict situations habitually receive more attention and care," it said, adding that white lives are seen to matter far more than the lives of others.

"Racism remains as insidious and ubiquitous as it has ever

been," it said in a statement said.

The Johannesburg-based Non-profit organisation said that achieving solidarity in the global community required recognition of shared humanity and defending equally all victims of war and prejudice.

"One of the ironies of the public discourses swirling around the Ukraine invasion has been the outrage expressed by the United States, a country which, for some time, has perfected the arts of invasion, occupation, and a contemptuous dismissal of international bodies," it said.

"Over months and years now we've listened to Putin's representations of Russian and European history to justify

Ukraine staying within that sphere. Whatever we may think of this logic, it informed the United States acting against Cuba in the 1960s and Grenada in the 1980s, who were within its perceived sphere of influence.

To accept this logic in respect of the behaviour of the United States but deny its pertinence to the current conflict over Ukraine is to put a hand over one eye and claim to see everything," the statement said.

The foundation offered its assistance to the South African government to show leadership at this critical moment and press for a ceasefire so that rigorous negotiations on the future can be mapped out.

After initially strongly condemning the Russian action, South Africa later adopted a softer line, calling for negotiations. South Africa was also one of the countries to abstain in a UN vote calling on Russia to immediately withdraw from Ukraine.

Separately, internationally-renowned South African Indian-origin filmmaker Anant Singh has said his company Videovision Entertainment will stop licensing its content to Russia.

"The unprovoked invasion of Ukraine by Russia and the resulting humanitarian crisis is reprehensible. We join the millions of people around the world and peace-loving nations.

Elon Musk's Starlink internet now in Ukraine

AP ■ LVIV

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy thanked SpaceX chief executive Elon Musk for giving Ukraine access to his company's satellite-internet system, called Starlink.

"I'm grateful to him for supporting Ukraine with words and deeds," Zelenskyy said in a tweet.

"Next week we will receive another batch of Starlink systems for destroyed cities."

He joked that they discussed possible space projects, which he would talk about "after the war."

Kyiv Mayor Vitali Klitschko on Saturday showed off a shipment of the Starlink systems that had arrived in the capital city. He said Starlink would help secure the work of critical infrastructure and the defense of the city. Several large Ukrainian cities remained without internet or phone connection after being shelled by Russian troops.

Unearthed entire network, family members of bombers responsible for Peshawar mosque blast: Authorities

PTI ■ PESHAWAR

Pakistani investigation authorities on Sunday claimed to have unearthed the entire network and family members of the bombers responsible for the deadly suicide attack on a crowded Shia mosque in Pakistan's Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province that killed 63 people and wounded 200 others, a senior official said.

A suicide bomber, belonging to the ISIS-Khorasan, blew himself up inside a mosque in Qissa Khwani bazaar in Peshawar, capital of Khyber-Pakhtunkhwa province on Friday, in one of the deadliest attacks in the restive region, bordering Afghanistan.

Advisor to Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Chief Minister on Information Barrister Muhammad Ali Saif along with Peshawar City Police Chief Ijaz Khan told reporters that a rickshaw driver and facilitator have been traced while the police investigators are very

close to family of the bombers as their identification process has been completed.

The development came a day after Pakistan's Interior Minister Sheikh Rashid Ahmed vowed to arrest the masterminds behind the deadly suicide attack.

FIR has been registered against the unknown accused in Khan Raziq Police Station and forwarded to Counter Terrorism Department (CTD) police probing the blast.

It is said that CTD has arrested two suspects in the case and collected the required data from the site.

According to the investigation team, they have found seven bullet shells and maintained that bomber used a 9 mm pistol before blowing himself.

The sketches of the bombers and two facilitators who have come on Tri Wheeler at the blast site have been completed.

The city police chief Ijaz

khan did not agree to the assertions of the people that police security guards did not play their role properly.

However, he agreed there may be some lapses as polio drives and festivals of minority communities were also underway in the city.

The police were fully alert. The Peshawar city police chief said they had information about presence of two terrorists in the city.

He further said that seven dead bodies could not be identified while police also found two broken legs which is believed to be of the bombers and has been sent to the forensic for DNA investigation.

The last major terrorist attack was also carried out in Peshawar a mosque in Dir Colony on Oct 27, 2020, killing eight students and injuring around 120 injured as a timed device went off on the premises, where a large number of seminarians were attending a class.

CAPRI GLOBAL HOUSING FINANCE LIMITED		CAPRI GLOBAL HOUSING FINANCE LIMITED Registered & Corporate Office :- 502, Tower-A, Peninsula Business Park, Senapati Bapat Marg, Lower Parel, Mumbai-400013 Circle Office :- Capri Global Capital Limited 2nd Floor, 3B Pusa Road Rajendra Place, New Delhi-110005		
APPENDIX- IV-A [See proviso to rule 8 (6) and 9 (1)] Sale notice for sale of immovable properties				
E-Auction Sale Notice for Sale of Immovable Assets under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 read with proviso to Rule 8 (6) and 9 (1) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 Notice is hereby given to the public in general and in particular to the Borrower (s) and Guarantor (s) that the below described immovable property mortgaged/charged to the Secured Creditor, the Constructive/physical possession of which has been taken by the Authorised Officer of Capri Global Housing Finance Limited Secured Creditor, will be sold on "As is where is", "As is what is", and "Whatever there is" on dates below mentioned, for recovery of amount mentioned below due to the Capri Global Housing Finance Limited Secured Creditor from Borrower mentioned below. The reserve price, EMD amount and property details mentioned below.				
SR. NO.	1.BORROWER(S) NAME 2. OUTSTANDING AMOUNT	DESCRIPTION OF THE MORTGAGED PROPERTY	1. DATE & TIME OF E-AUCTION 2. LAST DATE OF SUBMISSION OF EMD 3. DATE & TIME OF THE PROPERTY INSPECTION 1. E-AUCTION DATE: 24.03.2022 (Between 3:00 P.M. to 4:00 P.M.) 2. LAST DATE OF SUBMISSION OF EMD WITH KYC: 23.03.2022 3. DATE OF INSPECTION: 22.03.2022 between 11:00 AM to 2:00 PM	1. RESERVE PRICE 2. EMD OF THE PROPERTY 3. INCREMENTAL VALUE RESERVE PRICE: Rs. 28,18,000/- (Rupees Twenty Eight Lacs Eighteen Thousand Only). EARNEST MONEY DEPOSIT: Rs. 2,82,000/- (Rupees Two Lacs Eighty Two Thousand Only) INCREMENTAL VALUE: Rs. 20,000/- (Rupees Twenty Thousand Only)
1.	1.Tarun Vats Sharma ("Borrower") 2.Snehlata Sharma (Co-borrower) LOAN ACCOUNT NO. LNLHPRD0000003920 Rupees 35,68,263/- (Rupees Thirty Five Lacs Sixty Eight Thousand Two Hundred Sixty Three Only) along with interest from 20.01.2022 along with applicable future interest.	All Piece and Parcel of House No. A-36-C, area admeasuring 33 Sq Yds., Western Northern Portion of Plot No. A-36, Khasra No. 375, Village Moujpur, Block-A, Mata Mandir Marg, Moujpur, Shahdara, Delhi Alongwith Construction Thereon present and future Both.		
For detailed terms and conditions of the sale, please refer to the link provided in Capri Global Housing Finance Limited Secured Creditor's website i.e. www. Capriglobal.in/auction/				
TERMS & CONDITIONS OF ONLINE E-AUCTION SALE:- 1. The Property is being sold on "AS IS WHERE IS, WHATEVER THERE & WITHOUT RECOURSE BASIS". As such sale is without any kind of warranties & indemnities. 2. Particulars of the property / assets (viz. extent & measurements specified in the E-Auction Sale Notice has been stated to the best of information of the Secured Creditor and Secured Creditor shall not be answerable for any error, misstatement or omission. Actual extent & dimensions may differ. 3. E-Auction Sale Notice issued by the Secured Creditor is an invitation to the general public to submit their bids and the same does not constitute and will not be deemed to constitute any commitment or may representation on the part of the Secured Creditor. Interested bidders are advised to peruse the copies of title deeds with the Secured Creditor and to conduct own independent enquiries /due diligence about the title & present condition of the property / assets and claims / dues affecting the property before submission of bids. 4. Auction/bidding shall only be through "online electronic mode" through the website https://sarfaesi.auctiontiger.net Or Auction Tiger Mobile APP provided by the service provider M/S eProcurement Technologies Limited, Ahmedabad who shall arrange & coordinate the entire process of auction through the e-auction platform. 5. The bidders may participate in e-auction for bidding from their place of choice. Internet connectivity shall have to be ensured by bidder himself. Secured Creditor /service provider shall not be held responsible for the internet connectivity, network problems, system crash own, power failure etc. 6. For details, help, procedure and online bidding on e-auction prospective bidders may contact the Service Provider M/S E-Procurement Technologies Ltd. Auction Tiger, Ahmedabad (Contact no. 079-6813680/68136837). Mr. Chintan Bhatt Mob. 9265562821 & 9265562818. Email: Chintan.bhatt@auctiontiger.net. 7. For participating in the e-auction sale the intending bidders should register their name at https://sarfaesi.auctiontiger.net well in advance and shall get the user id and password. Intending bidders are advised to change only the password immediately upon receiving it from the service provider. 8. For participating in e-auction, intending bidders have to deposit a refundable EMD of 10% OF RESERVE PRICE (as mentioned above) shall be payable by interested bidders through Demand Draft/NEFT/RTGS in favor of "Capri Global Housing Finance Limited" on or before 23-Mar-2022. 9. The intending bidders should submit the duly filled in Bid Form (format available on https://sarfaesi.auctiontiger.net) along with the Demand Draft remittance towards EMD in a sealed cover addressed to the Authorized Officer, Capri Global Housing Finance Limited Regional Office Plot no. 3B, 2nd Floor, Pusa Road, New Delhi 11005 latest by 03:00 PM on 23-Mar-2022. The sealed cover should be super scribed with "Bid for participating in E-Auction Sale - in the Loan Account No. _____ (as mentioned above) for property of "Borrower Name". 10. After expiry of the last date of submission of bids with EMD, Authorised Officer shall examine the bids received by him and confirm the details of the qualified bidders (who have quoted their bids over and above the reserve price and paid the specified EMD with the Secured Creditor) to the service provider M/S eProcurement Technologies Limited to enable them to allow only those bidders to participate in the online inter-se bidding /auction proceedings at the date and time mentioned in E-Auction Sale Notice. 11. Inter-se bidding among the qualified bidders shall start from the highest bid quoted by the qualified bidders. During the process of inter-se bidding, there will be unlimited extension of "10" minutes each, i.e. the end time of e-auction shall be automatically extended by 10 Minutes each time if bid is made within 10 minutes from the last extension. 12. Bids once made shall not be cancelled or withdrawn. All bids made from the user id given to bidder will be deemed to have been made by him alone. 13. Immediately upon closure of E-Auction proceedings, the highest bidder shall confirm the final amount of bid quoted by him BY E-Mail both to the Authorised Officer, Capri Global Housing Finance Limited, Regional Office Office/Plot no. 3B, 2nd Floor, Pusa Road, New Delhi 11005 and the Service Provider for getting declared as successful bidder in the E-Auction Sale proceedings. 14. The successful bidder shall deposit 25% of the bid amount (including EMD) on the same day of the sale, being knocked down in his favour and balance 75% of bid amount within 15 days from the date of sale by DD/Pay order/NEFT/RTGS/Chq favouring Capri Global Housing Finance Limited. 15. In case of default in payment of above stipulated amounts by the successful bidder / auction purchaser within the stipulated time, the sale will be cancelled and the amount already paid (including EMD) will be forfeited and the property will be again put to sale. 16. At the request of the successful bidder, the Authorised Officer in his absolute discretion may grant further time in writing, for depositing the balance of the bid amount. 17. The Successful Bidder shall pay 1% of Sale price towards TDS (out of Sale proceeds) (if applicable) and submit TDS certificate to the Authorised officer and the deposit the entire amount of sale price (after deduction of 1% towards TDS), adjusting the EMD within 15 working days of the acceptance of the offer by the authorized officer, or within such other extended time as deemed fit by the Authorised Officer, failing which the earnest deposit will be forfeited. 18. Municipal / Panchayat Taxes, Electricity dues (if any) and any other authorities dues (if any) has to be paid by the successful bidder before issuance of the sale certificate. Bids shall be made taking into consideration of all the statutory dues pertaining to the property. 19. Sale Certificate will be issued by the Authorised Officer in favour of the successful bidder only upon deposit of entire purchase price / bid amount and furnishing the necessary proof in respect of payment of all taxes / charges. 20. Applicable legal charges for conveyance, stamp duty, registration charges and other incidental charges shall be borne by the auction purchaser. 21. The Authorized officer may postpone / cancel the E-Auction Sale proceedings without assigning any reason whatsoever. In case the E-Auction Sale scheduled is postponed to a later date before 15 days from the scheduled date of sale, it will be displayed on the website of the service provider. 22. The decision of the Authorised Officer is final, binding and unquestionable. 23. All bidders who submitted the bids, shall be deemed to have read and understood the terms and conditions of the E-Auction Sale and be bound by them. 24. For further details and queries, contact Authorised Officer, Capri Global Housing Finance Limited: Ms. Parathan Sampath Mo. No. 7400445137/9990275365. 25. This publication is also 15 (Fifteen) days notice to the Borrower / Mortgagee / Guarantors of the above said loan account pursuant to rule 8(6) and 9 (1) of Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules 2002, about holding of auction sale on the above mentioned date / place.				
Special Instructions / Caution: Bidding in the last minutes/seconds should be avoided by the bidders in their own interest. Neither Capri Global Housing Finance Limited nor the Service Provider will be responsible for any lapses/failure (Internet failure, Power failure, etc.) on the part of the bidder in such cases. In order to ward off such contingent situation, bidders are requested to make all the necessary arrangements / alternatives such as back-up power supply and wherever else required so that they are able to circumvent such situation and are able to participate in the auction successfully.				
Place: DELHI Date : 07-03-2022			Sd/- (Authorised Officer) Capri Global Housing Finance Limited	

Guterres voices concern over political polarisation in Libya

FIANS ■ UNITED NATIONS

UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres has expressed deep concern at the current severe political polarization in Libya, which carries significant risks for the country's hard-won stability, his press office said in a statement.

The UN chief expressed this during a phone call with Abdul-Hamid Dbeibah, Prime Minister of the Government of National Unity of Libya, reports Xinhua news agency.

The Secretary-General stressed the need for all actors to preserve calm and reiterated the UN's firm rejection of the use of violence, intimidation and hate speech, said the statement.

The Libyan House of Representatives, the country's Parliament, on March 1 granted confidence to a new government to replace the government led by Dbeibah.

The new government was sworn in on March 3.

The House of Representatives withdrew confidence from Dbeibah's government in September 2021 and kept it as a caretaker government.

On February 10, it unanimously voted to appoint Fathi Bashagha as new Prime Minister.

However, Dbeibah said his government would remain in office until an elected government is established.

On February 21, he announced a plan to hold general elections in June.

Dbeibah's government on March 1 accused the House of Representatives of approving the new government "without achieving quorum" during the session, confirming that it would continue to work and prepare for elections in June.

More than 100 Rohingyas land on beach in Indonesia's Aceh

AP ■ BANDA ACEH

More than 100 hungry and weak Rohingya Muslims were found on a beach in Indonesia's northernmost province of Aceh on Sunday after weeks at sea, officials said.

The group arrived on Jangka beach near Alue Buya Pasi, a fishing village in Bireuen district, early Sunday. The villagers who saw the 114 ethnic Rohingyas on a rickety wooden boat helped them to land and then reported their arrival to authorities, said Badruddin Yunus, the leader of the local tribal fishing community.

"They look very weak from hunger and dehydration after a long and severe voyage at sea," said Yunus, adding it wasn't clear where the group was traveling from or where it was headed because none of them

could speak English or Malay.

The 58 men, 21 women and 35 children were given shelter and received help from villagers, police and military, while local authorities including the coronavirus task force were helping to process them, Yunus said.

More than 700,000 Rohingyas Muslims have fled from Buddhist-majority Myanmar to refugee camps in Bangladesh since August 2017, when the Myanmar military launched a clearance operation in response to attacks by a rebel group. Myanmar security forces have been accused of mass rapes, killings and the burning of thousands of homes.

Groups of Rohingya have attempted to leave the crowded camps in Bangladesh and travel by sea in hazardous voyages to other Muslim-majority

countries in the region.

Muslim-dominated Malaysia has been a common destination for the boats, and traffickers have promised the refugees a better life there. But many Rohingya refugees who land in Malaysia face detention.

Although Indonesia is not a signatory to the United Nations' 1951 Refugee Convention, the UNHCR said that a 2016 presidential regulation provides a national legal framework governing the treatment of refugees on boats in distress near Indonesia and to help them disembark.

These provisions have been implemented for years, most recently in December when 105 Rohingya refugees were rescued off the coast of Bireuen toward its neighbouring Lhokseumawe, a coastal town in the North Aceh district.

FPIs pull out ₹17,537cr from Indian markets

New Delhi: Foreign portfolio investors (FPIs) pulled out as much as ₹17,537 crore from the Indian markets in just three trading sessions of March as investors' sentiment got dented by the uncertainty triggered by the Russia-Ukraine conflict and rising crude oil prices.

As per depositories data, they pulled out Rs 14,721 crore from equities, Rs 2,808 crore from debt segment and Rs 9 crore from hybrid instruments between March 2-4.

This took the total net outflow to Rs 17,537 crore.

"The market sentiments have been impacted globally by the uncertainty triggered by the war and the surge in crude," said VK Vijayakumar, Chief Investment Strategist at Geojit Financial Services.

Besides, they were sellers in the debt segment as well, amidst a depreciating rupee.

As per Himanshu Srivastava, Associate Director Manager Research, Morningstar India, geopolitical tension of such a magnitude doesn't augur well for emerging markets like India with respect to foreign flows.

High valuations of the Indian equity markets, risk to corporate earnings and slow pace of economic growth have been keeping foreign investors at bay from investing substantially in Indian stock markets, he said.

"But the pace of outflows shot up sharply after US Fed decided to unwind stimulus measure and increase interest rates sooner than later. The out-

flows picked up pace further due to the war between Russia and Ukraine," he added.

Shrikant Chouhan, Head of Equity Research (Retail), Kotak Securities Ltd, said: "FPI flows in the emerging markets in the month of February 2022 was positive, except for India.

Indonesia, the Philippines, S.Korea and Thailand witnessed inflows to the tune of USD 1,220 million, USD 141 million, USD 418 million and USD 1,931 million, respectively,"

FPI flows are expected to be volatile in the coming months, due to the ongoing Russian invasion of Ukraine and its fallout in the form of sanctions, high inflation and likely increase in interest rate by Fed, he said. **PTI**

Russia-Ukraine conflict likely to have adverse effects on economic growth, inflation, says Jayanth Varma

New Delhi: Eminent economist Jayanth R Varma on Sunday said the Russia-Ukraine conflict is likely to have adverse effects on both economic growth as well as inflation and policy makers must remain alert and ready to respond rapidly to the emerging situation.

Varma, who is also a member of the Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) of the Reserve Bank, in an interview to PTI said inflation is higher than target, though it is within the tolerance band. Listing challenges faced by the Indian economy, Varma said while the economy has yet to recover from the cyclical economic slowdown which began around three years ago, investment has remained subdued during this period, and private consumption has not fully recovered from the pandemic.

"The economy faces new stresses emanating from geopolitical tensions," he said, adding that inflation is higher than the target though within the tolerance band.

Varma, who is a professor of finance and accounting in IIM Ahmedabadsaid: "The conflict is likely to have adverse effects on both economic growth and on inflation. Policy makers must in my view remain alert and stand ready to respond rapidly to the emerging situation."

Asia's third-largest economy is projected to grow 8.9 per cent in the fiscal year ending March 31, slower than previously anticipated 9.2 per cent, according to the recent government data.

"RBI projected 2022-23 inflation to be not much above the target of 4 per cent, but the degree of confidence in this

point estimate is quite low, and there is a non-trivial chance of inflation ending up above the tolerance band."

Varma further noted that the opposite is also true and the possibility of inflation being much lower than the estimate cannot also be ruled out. He pointed out that the reason why it is so difficult to forecast inflation (both in India and globally) is that supply disruptions have been a big contributor to rising prices, and it is hard to say how long these disruptions will last.

He said the pandemic shifted demand from contact intensive services to goods.

"Consequently, there has been a shortage of goods on the one hand and a surplus capacity in services. Relative price changes that make goods more expensive and services cheaper are one way to rebalance the economy," the eminent economist opined.

The retail inflation rate breached the 6 per cent upper tolerance limit of the RBI for the first time in seven months in January, while the wholesale price index stayed in double-digits for the 10th month in a row. The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) on February 10, had lowered the inflation outlook to 4.5 per cent for the next fiscal, from 5.3 percent in the current year, on the assumption of a normal monsoon during the year.

RBI's Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) had decided to hold the lending rate, or the repo rate, steady at 4 per cent, and the reverse repo, or the rate at which it absorbs excess cash from lenders, unchanged at 3.35 per cent.

To a question on taper tantrum, Varma said India is in a much better position to cope

with US monetary tightening today than it was in 2013.

"The external reserves are comfortable and the current account deficit is manageable.

"Moreover, US tightening has been widely anticipated, and investors in emerging markets have had plenty of time to adjust their strategies to account for this," he observed.

Of course, he said the tightening will still have a major impact on financial markets around the world.

"The dollar has strengthened against most other currencies in recent weeks, and the rupee has also conformed to this pattern," he said, adding that "these price movements are not worrisome". The taper tantrum phenomenon refers to the situation in 2013, when emerging markets witnessed capital outflows and spike in inflation. **PTI**

'Govt may defer LIC IPO to next fiscal amid Ukraine crisis'

New Delhi: The government is expected to defer the mega initial public offering (IPO) of LIC to the next financial year as the ongoing Russia-Ukraine war has dampened fund managers' interest in the public issue, market experts said on Sunday. The government was looking to sell 5 per cent stake in Life Insurance Corporation (LIC) this month, which could have fetched over Rs 60,000 crore to the exchequer.

The IPO would have helped meet the curtailed disinvestment target of Rs 78,000 crore this fiscal.

"The current geopolitical issue between Russia and Ukraine makes the global equity markets jittery. Indian markets also reacted negatively to this development and corrected nearly 11 per cent from its all time high.

"Thus, the current market volatility is not conducive for the LIC IPO and the government is most likely to defer the issue to next fiscal year," Arijit Malakar, Head of Retail Equity

Research, Ashika Group, said.

Generally, in a highly volatile market, investors tend to play safe and refrain from making fresh investments. Thus, the equity market needs to be stable, so that investors can get the confidence to make the investment in the LIC IPO.

Echoing a similar sentiment, Tanushree Banerjee Co-Head of Research-Equitymaster, said the weak market sentiments, especially in the wake of the Ukraine-Russia war, have been a dampener for the IPO. While there is a possibility of the IPO getting postponed, the issue remains critical to the government's disinvestment plans.

Atanu Agarwal, co-founder, Upside AI, said in macro uncertainty, there is always a flight to safety to the dollar, away from riskier assets like emerging market equities. This means liquidity drying up in the domestic markets.

"FPIs have anyway been net sellers in emerging markets for the past few months. While

domestic investors have been net buyers and have stayed off a market crash, given the size of the IPO of USD 9-10 billion, it will need sufficient liquidity to be absorbed. This means it will need FPI support - government is cognizant of this and hence cabinet approved 20 per cent FPI investment in the LIC IPO under the automatic route," Agarwal said.

The IPO of LIC is purely an offer-for-sale (OFS) by the government of India and there is no fresh issue of shares by LIC. The government holds 100 per cent stake, or over 632.49 crore shares, in LIC. The face value of shares is Rs 10 apiece.

The LIC public issue would be the biggest IPO in the history of the Indian stock market. Once listed, LIC's market valuation would be comparable to top companies like RIL and TCS.

So far, the amount mobilised from IPO of Paytm in 2021, was the largest ever at Rs 18,300 crore, followed by Coal India (2010) at nearly Rs

15,500 crore and Reliance Power (2008) at Rs 11,700 crore.

Vijay Singhania, Chairman, TradeSmart said the war is now going on in a region where nuclear power plants are operational and any mishap will be disastrous for mankind.

"For the government, a few months' delays would not matter much given the times we are living in. Yes, the budget numbers will go haywire, especially for FY22, but the divestment credit can be taken in the new fiscal. Further, risking an issue that can bomb in the market is worse than delaying an issue," he added.

According to Ankit Yadav, Wealth Manager (USA), Director of Market Maestros Pvt Ltd, majority of successful IPOs always come in Bull Run in the stock market.

"Last few weeks the market corrected heavily, so this may not be the right time to push the LIC IPO due to volatility. So, policy makers may defer

this for now and bring it on next fiscal year," Yadav said.

Furthermore, IPOs generally come in low rates scenarios. So, now central banks of developed nations have already started hiking rates. So there is very little room to adjust the LIC IPO in the coming time.

"I think due to possibilities of hiking rates from developed nations, LIC IPO may come by the end of April, just as soon as the Ukraine crisis eases," he added. Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman too had indicated a review of the IPO in view of the evolving geopolitical situation.

If the initial share-sale is deferred to the next fiscal, the government would miss the revised disinvestment target by a huge margin. So far, the government has raised Rs 12,030 crore through CPSE disinvestment and Air India's strategic sale this fiscal.

The government had earlier projected to garner Rs 1.75 lakh crore from disinvestment during 2021-22. **PTI**

Ram Charan company to supply chargers to Olympic gold medallist Usain Bolt's EV venture

Mumbai: Ram Charan Company, the Chennai-based renewable energy specialist with focus on sustainable R&D, has inked a partnership with Bolt Mobility, the electric mobility venture co-founded by eight-time Olympic gold medallist Usain Bolt.

The US-based Bolt Mobility is into personal transportation with focus on small electric two-wheelers, and is committed to ensuring access, equity, and quality of life through micromobility.

Through partnerships with municipalities, universities, and local ownership, Bolt Mobility is advancing smarter infrastructure by integrating sustainable and accessible transportation options to the neighbourhoods it serves.

"Our investment is more in the form of technology sharing, but of course there is an equity investment as well. Details of our equity investment will shortly be announced by Usain

Bolt himself," Kaushik Palicha, the director at the family-held Ram Charan Company, told PTI on Sunday from Chennai.

He said under the agreement, his group company-- Indo-Japan Polymers-- will manufacture and supply chargers and super-chargers to Bolt vehicles, which are primarily small two-wheelers like mopeds and bikes, from September from their Chennai plant.

The joint venture will begin operations next month, he said, adding they will also be looking at a separate facility to manufacture these chargers.

Palicha said initially the supplies will be to serve Bolt Mobility's home market where it is present in over 50 cities.

At a later stage, the partnership will expand to cover the rest of the US, India, Latin America, and Japan, he said, adding the objective is to replace small fossil-fuel engines with small electric vehicles that help reduce waste, emis-

sions, and noise pollution.

Ignacio Tzoumas, chief executive of Bolt Mobility, in a separate statement, said they will use the undisclosed series-B investment from Ram Charan to propel transportation sustainability efforts by bringing cutting-edge solid state battery technology; energy-efficient, metal-like plastics made from recycled waste; and coil-less electric motors, to small and personal vehicles thereby replacing small fossil-fuel engines. The partnership, Tzoumas added, is a combination of cross investment, technology and material technologies, which will be used to propel sustainable personal transportation.

Palicha said the partnership will also bring to the table next-generation transportation devices which have the capacity to share data with urban planners, helping cities become more connected, electric, and efficient. **PTI**

Proposed metro cess in Mumbai, Pune to impact recovery in residential realty: JLL

New Delhi: The proposed metro cess in Mumbai and Pune is likely to have a detrimental impact on the residential markets in the regions which are currently recovering, said property consultant firm JLL.

As per reports, an additional 1 per cent cess will be levied on all property purchased from April 1 in Mumbai, Pune and Nagpur.

"While Mumbai recorded 96 per cent of pre-Covid sales in Q4 2021 (compared to Q4 2019), Pune's sales were 252 per cent of pre-Covid numbers. On an annual basis as well, Mumbai and Pune saw sales improve by 30 per cent and 130 per cent on a Y-o-Y basis in 2021," the firm said in a note.

Giving reference to the sales volumes, the firm said it was a clear sign of the demand momentum returning and at a time like this additional cost burden will be felt by the affordable and mid-segment buyers.

"One has to recognise that



Prime Minister Narendra Modi at the inauguration of the Pune Metro Rail Project, in Pune on Sunday **PTI**

the RBI has retained its accommodative stance by prioritising economic growth and supported residential sales recovery by keeping the repo rate unchanged, despite inflationary pressures."

At such a moment, the state government could have looked at deferring the metro

cess, given the fact that the stamp duty concession is also slated to end by 31st March 2022, it said. It added while the metro cess will be utilised for infrastructure upgradation, the timing could have been pushed further to allow for a sustained recovery to play out in the residential market.

However, the Russia-Ukraine war has severely impacted the stock markets forcing the government to rethink about the timing of the IPO. **PTI**

India's disinvestment proceeds to fall short of revised estimates for 2nd time since '14

New Delhi: India will miss its revised disinvestment target for the second time in the past eight years by a wide margin, as the government may not be able to raise an expected over ₹60,000 crore from the IPO of insurance behemoth LIC in 2021-22.

Since the Modi government came to power in 2014, it was only in the financial year 2019-20 that it failed to achieve the revised CPSE disinvestment target of Rs 65,000 crore. The mop-up during the year was only Rs 50,304 crore.

In the ongoing financial year 2021-22, the government was all set to go ahead with the share sale of Life Insurance Corporation (LIC) this month and draft papers for the same were also filed with markets regulator Sebi.

However, the Russia-Ukraine war has severely impacted the stock markets forcing the government to rethink about the timing of the IPO. **PTI**

MoS IT to attend India Global Forum event from Mar 7-8

New Delhi: Minister of State for Electronics and IT, Rajeev Chandrasekhar will be attending the India Global Forum (IGF) event at Bengaluru on March 7-8, an official statement said on Sunday.

The Minister is slated to meet and interact with the founders and CEOs of 30 unicorns during the event.

The IGF Bengaluru shall also see participation of Finance Minister, Nirmala Sitharaman, and Minister of State for External Affairs and Culture, Meenakshi Lekhi as well as prominent CEOs and leaders from the industry, the release added.

India is in midst of a major transformation, and expansion of its economy, Chandrasekhar said in a statement, adding that Digital and tech opportunities are leading the transformation

and India's 'Techade'.

The India Global Forum, Bengaluru will provide a platform to dive deep into this Techade of - The New India Inc, he said.

The Minister will be attending the Forum and speaking on the sessions titled - The New India Inc on March 7, a round-table conference with Unicorns, Global supply chain boardroom, and concluding session on March 8.

The much-anticipated session with unicorns will see 30 CEOs and founders engage in a discussion with the Minister.

Over the last 6 months, the Minister has been actively meeting and interacting with the startups across the country and providing them full support from the government, the release said. **PTI**

Braithwaite bets on domestic demand for wagons after Ukraine conflict hits export bid

Kolkata: Braithwaite & Co Ltd is betting big on domestic demand for wagons after the Russia-Ukraine crisis has derailed its export negotiations for shipping out over 5,000 railway freight vehicles worth more than Rs 1,000 crore to war-torn Ukraine, an official said on Sunday.

The PSU under the Ministry of Railways was negotiating with Ukraine to secure an order of 5,400 wagons, the largest export bid for the company.

"The war derailed the export negotiations. The company could be in trouble if it had broken out in the execution phase of the proposed shipment. However, domestic wagon requirement has gone up substantially and the delay in securing the export order has compelled us to focus on

Indian supplies," Braithwaite CMD Yatish Kumar told PTI.

The engineering firm along with the Research Designs & Standards Organisation (RDSO) has been working for the "RO-RO truck on train concept", he said.

"A prototype has been manufactured with RDSO design and the conflict pushed us to focus on the extra order in the domestic market," he said.

Kumar remained optimistic about increasing Braithwaite's revenue by four-fold to Rs 2,500 crore with the strong domestic demand and order flow. The company posted a revenue of Rs 609 crore with a net profit of Rs 31 crore in the 2020-21 fiscal (FY '21). It supplied 1,023 wagons to railways for Rs 322 crore in FY' 21. **PTI**

CAPRIGLOBAL CAPITAL LIMITED			
Registered & Corporate Office :- 502, Tower-A, Peninsula Business Park, Senapati Bapat Marg, Lower Parel, Mumbai-400013			
Circle Office :- Capri Global Capital Limited 2nd Floor, 3B Pusa Road Rajendra Place, New Delhi-110005			
[See proviso to Rule 8 (6) and Rule 9(1)]			
Sale notice for sale of immovable properties			
E-Auction Sale Notice for Sale of Immovable Assets under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 read with proviso to Rule 8 (6) and 9 (1) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 Notice is hereby given to the public in general and in particular to the Borrower (s) and Guarantor (s) that the below described immovable property mortgaged/charged to the Secured Creditor, the Constructive/physical possession of which has been taken by the Authorised Officer of Capri Global Capital Limited Secured Creditor, will be sold on "As is where is", "As is what is", and "Whatever there is" on dates below mentioned, for recovery of amount mentioned below due to the Capri Global Capital Limited Secured Creditor from Borrower mentioned below. The reserve price, EMD amount and property details mentioned below.			
SR. NO.	1. BORROWER(S) NAME 2. OUTSTANDING AMOUNT	DESCRIPTION OF THE MORTGAGED PROPERTY	1. DATE & TIME OF E-AUCTION 2. LAST DATE OF SUBMISSION OF EMD 3. DATE & TIME OF THE PROPERTY INSPECTION
1.	1.M/S Nav Bharat Impex ("Borrower") 2.M/s Aar Bee Industries 3.Arjun Kumar Aggarwal 4.Akash Aggarwal 5.Shishir Chaturvedi (Co-borrower) LOAN ACCOUNT No. LNCGCDEL10000003476 Rupees 2,87,34,527/- (Rupees Two Crores Eighty Seven Lacs Thirty Four Thousand Five Hundred Twenty Seven Only) along with interest from 28.02.2022 along with applicable future interest.	All Piece and Parcel of Entire Ground floor of Built up House No. 24, Block-B-6, area admeasuring 279.16 Sq Mtrs., Situated at Safdarjung Development Area Residential Scheme in the colony known as Safdarjung Enclave, New Delhi. ALONGWITH CONSTRUCTION THEREON PRESENT AND FUTURE BOTH.	1. E-AUCTION DATE: 24.03.2022 (Between 3:00 P.M. to 4:00 P.M.) 2. LAST DATE OF SUBMISSION OF EMD WITH KYC: 23.03.2022 3. DATE OF INSPECTION: 22.03.2022 between 11:00 AM to 2:00 PM
2.	1.Mr. Navin Kumar ("Borrower") 2.Mrs. Dolly (Co-borrower) LOAN ACCOUNT No. LNCGCJGDT10000007494 Rupees 25,82,013/- (Rupees Twenty Five Lacs Eighty Two Thousand Thirteen Only) along with interest from 25.02.2022 along with applicable future interest.	All Piece and Parcel of Property No. C-530/B, Entire Upper Ground Floor, alongwith one two wheeler parking, Without roof Rights, Block-C, Kh. No-355, Gali No-25, Bhajanpura, Shahdara, Delhi-110053 Alongwith Construction Thereon present and future Both.	1. E-AUCTION DATE: 24.03.2022 (Between 3:00 P.M. to 4:00 P.M.) 2. LAST DATE OF SUBMISSION OF EMD WITH KYC: 23.03.2022 3. DATE OF INSPECTION: 22.03.2022 between 11:00 AM to 2:00 PM
For detailed terms and conditions of the sale, please refer to the link provided in Capri Global Capital Limited Secured Creditor's website i.e. www. Capriglobal.in/aucaon/ TERMS & CONDITIONS OF ONLINE E- AUCTION SALE:- 1.The Property is being sold on "AS IS WHERE IS, WHATEVER THERE & WITHOUT RECOURSE BASIS". As such sale is without any kind of warranties & indemnities. 2.Particulars of the property / assets (viz. extent & measurements specified in the E-Auction Sale Notice has been stated to the best of information of the Secured Creditor and Secured Creditor shall not be answerable for any error, misstatement or omission. Actual extent & dimensions may differ. 3.E-Auction Sale Notice issued by the Secured Creditor is an invitation to the general public to submit their bids and the same does not constitute and will not be deemed to constitute any commitment or any representation on the part of the Secured Creditor. Interested bidders are advised to peruse the copies of title deeds with the Secured Creditor and to conduct own independent enquiries /due diligence about the title & present condition of the property / assets and claims / dues affecting the property before submission of bid/s. 4.Auction/bidding shall only be through "online electronic mode" through the website https://sarfaesi.auctiontiger.net Or Auction Tiger Mobile APP provided by the service provider M/S eProcurement Technologies Limited, Ahmedabad who shall arrange & coordinate the entire process of auction through the e-auction platform. 5.The bidders may participate in e-auction for bidding from their place of choice. Internet connectivity shall have to be ensured by bidder himself. Secured Creditor /service provider shall not be held responsible for the internet connectivity, network problems, system crash own, power failure etc. 6.For details, help, procedure and online bidding on e-auction prospective bidders may contact the Service Provider M/S E-Procurement Technologies Ltd. Auction Tiger, Ahmedabad (Contact no. 079-68136800/68136837), Mr. Chintan Bhatt Mob. 9265562821 & 9265562818. Email: Chintan.bhatt@auctiontiger.net. 7.For participating in the e-auction sale the intending bidders should register their name at https://sarfaesi.auctiontiger.net in advance and shall get the user id and password. Intending bidders are advised to change only the password immediately upon receiving it from the service provider. 8.For participating in e-auction, intending bidders have to deposit a refundable EMD of 10% OF RESERVE PRICE (as mentioned above) shall be payable by interested bidders through Demand Draft/NEFT/RTGS in favor of "Capri Global Capital Limited" on or before 23-Mar-2022. 9.The intending bidders should submit the duly filled in Bid Form (format available on https://sarfaesi.auctiontiger.net) along with the Demand Draft remittance towards EMD in a sealed cover addressed to the Authorized Officer, Capri Global Capital Limited Regional Office Plot no. 3B, 2nd Floor, Pusa Road, New Delhi 110 005 latest by 03:00 PM on 23-Mar-2022. The sealed cover should be super scribed with "Bid for participating in E-Auction Sale- - in the Loan Account No. _____ (as mentioned above) for property of "Borrower Name". 10.After expiry of the last date of submission of bids with EMD, Authorised Officer shall examine the bids received by him and confirm the details of the qualified bidders (who have quoted their bids over and above the reserve price and paid the specified EMD with the Secured Creditor) to the service provider M/S eProcurement Technologies Limited to enable them to allow only those bidders to participate in the online inter-se bidding /auction proceedings at the date and time mentioned in E-Auction Sale Notice. 11.Inter-se bidding among the qualified bidders shall start from the highest bid quoted by the qualified bidders. During the process of inter-se bidding, there will be unlimited extension of "10" minutes each, i.e. the end time of e- auction shall be automatically extended by 10 Minutes each time if bid is made within 10 minutes from the last extension. 12.Bids once made shall not be cancelled or withdrawn. All bids made from the user id given to bidder will be deemed to have been made by him alone. 13.Immediately upon closure of E-Auction proceedings, the highest bidder shall confirm the final amount of bid quoted by him BY E-Mail both to the Authorised Officer, Capri Global Capital Limited, Regional Office Office/Plot no. 3B, 2nd Floor, Pusa Road, New Delhi 110 005 and the Service Provider for getting declared as successful bidder in the E-Auction Sale proceedings. 14.The successful bidder shall deposit 25% of the bid amount (including EMD) on the same day of the sale, being knocked down in his favour and balance 75% of bid amount within 15 days from the date of sale by DD/Pay order/NEFT/RTGS/Cheq favouring Capri Global Capital Limited. 15.In case of default in payment of above stipulated amounts by the successful bidder / auction purchaser within the stipulated time, the sale will be cancelled and the amount already paid (including EMD) will be forfeited and the property will be again put to sale. 16.At the request of the successful bidder, the Authorised Officer in his absolute discretion may grant further time in writing, for depositing the balance of the bid amount. 17.The Successful Bidder shall pay 1% of Sale price towards TDS (out of Sale proceeds) (if applicable) and submit TDS certificate to the Authorised officer and the deposit the entire amount of sale price (after deduction of 1% towards TDS), adjusting the EMD within 15 working days of the acceptance of the offer by the authorized officer, or within such other extended time as deemed fit by the Authorised Officer, failing which the earnest deposit will be forfeited. 18.Municipal / Panchayat Taxes, Electricity dues (if any) and any other authorities dues (if any) has to be paid by the successful bidder before issuance of the sale certificate. Bids shall be made taking into consideration of all the statutory dues pertaining to the property. 19.Sale Certificate will be issued by the Authorised Officer, Capri Global Capital Limited in favour of the successful bidder only upon deposit of entire purchase price / bid amount and furnishing the necessary proof in respect of payment of all taxes / charges. 20.Applicable legal charges for conveyance, stamp duty, registration charges and other incidental charges shall be borne by the auction purchaser. 21.The Authorized officer may postpone / cancel the E-Auction Sale proceedings without assigning any reason whatsoever. In case the E-Auction Sale scheduled is postponed to a later date before 15 days from the scheduled date of sale, it will be displayed on the website of the service provider. 22.The decision of the Authorised Officer is final, binding and unquestionable. 23.All bidders who submitted the bids, shall be deemed to have read and understood the terms and conditions of the E-Auction Sale and be bound by them. 24.For further details and queries, contact Authorised Officer, Capri Global Capital Limited: Mr. Sushil Gupta Mo. No. 7400445137. 25.This publication is also 15 (Fifteen) days notice to the Borrower / Mortgagee / Guarantors of the above said loan account pursuant to rule 8(6) and 9(1) of Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules 2002, about holding of auction sale on the above mentioned date / place.			
Special Instructions / Caution: Bidding in the last minutes/seconds should be avoided by the bidders in their own interest. Neither Capri Global Capital Limited nor the Service Provider will be responsible for any lapses/ failure (Internet failure, Power failure, etc.) on the part of the bidder in such cases. In order to ward off such contingent situation, bidders are requested to make all the necessary arrangements / alternatives such as back-up power supply and whatever else required so that they are able to circumvent such situation and are able to participate in the auction successfully.			
Place: Delhi Date : 07-03-2022		Sd/- (Authorised Officer) Capri Global Capital Ltd.	

DRIVING CHANGE

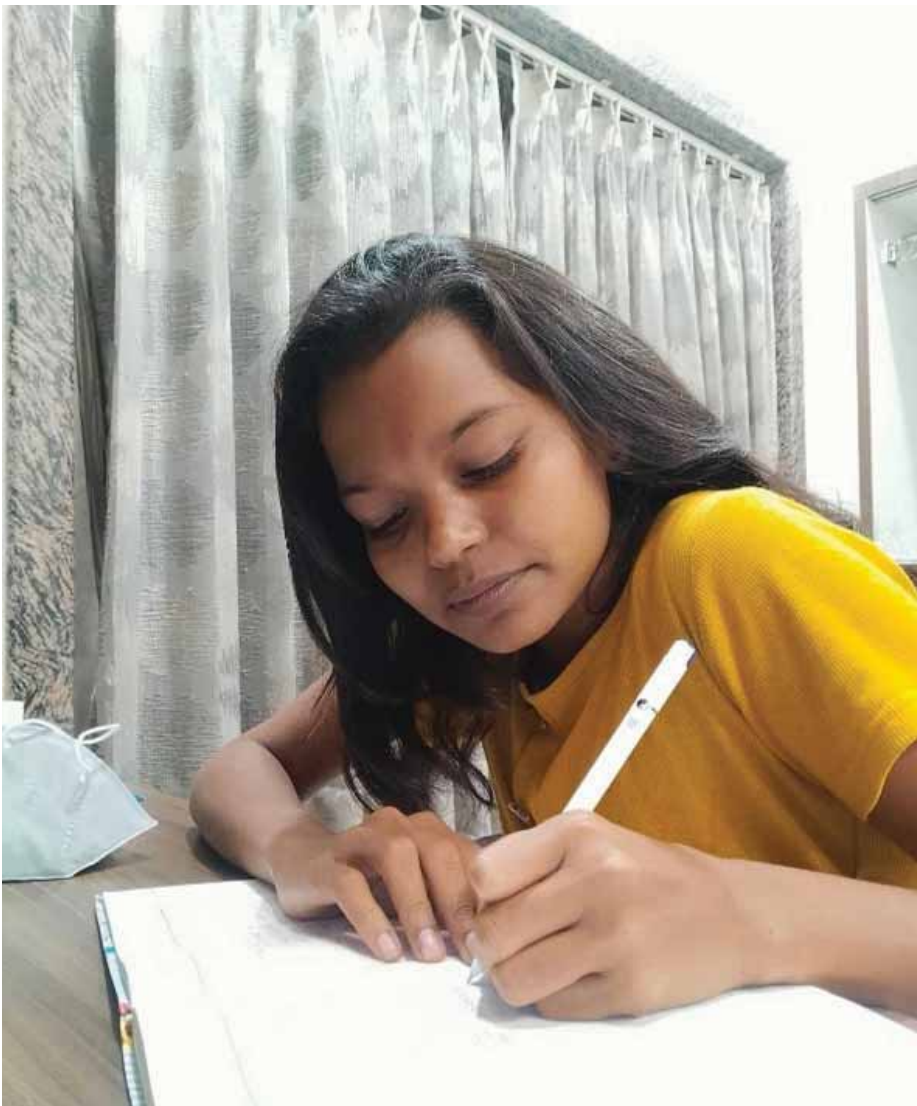
Access to education transformed the life of SMITA TATEWAR in Vidarbha, Maharashtra, says NEERAJ SHETYE

If you need access to basic public transport, you have to walk at least five kilometres on foot and then reach a bus stand,” shares 23-year-old Smita Tatewar from Yavatmal district in Maharashtra. This is still a reality for many across India beyond the metropolitan hubs. Tatewar shares this fate with millions of youngsters who struggle harder to get the same opportunities as their peers from urban India. Yavatmal district is a part of Maharashtra’s Vidarbha region. This part of the state suffers from underdevelopment as compared to other areas. The most pressing issues have been accessing basic amenities like education, healthcare and public transport. Even today, it is considered to be normal for people to walk several kilometres for accessing schools and hospitals.

Tatewar was born in Loni, a village with a population of just 500. Her mother is an anganwadi teacher while her father is a farmer. Eklavya India, a grassroots collective based in Vidarbha, which guides first-generation learners from underprivileged communities with opportunities in higher education, helped in shaping her career. She joined the collective as a student in 2017 since the organisation’s founding. Today, she is managing its events and mentoring younger students seeking higher education.

“Until Eklavya, I didn’t know someone like me could have a definite career. Most of my peers were discouraged to take up higher education. They had to drop out and marry,” says Tatewar. The collective’s support transformed her outlook towards higher education and boosted her confidence to take up more challenges.

After completing her primary education in the school near her village, Tatewar’s family moved her to a hostel for secondary education. Despite social pressure to get married, she relentlessly chased opportunities to study further. For her undergraduate studies, she enrolled in a Bachelor’s in Social Work programme in Yavatmal. This is where she met



Raju Kendre, the founder of Eklavya India movement.

At 20, Tatewar started working at the community level. In 2019, she — along with her mother — surveyed the Prime Minister’s Rural Housing Scheme, previously known as Indira Awas Yojana, to help families below the poverty line in her village get funds for building houses. With their effort and dedication, they helped 30 households receive benefits under the scheme. This experience made her realise how her work can drive a change in the community.

Tatewar’s community recognised her commitment towards society and convinced her to contest for the gram panchayat elections of their village in 2021. At 22, she was elected as deputy head of Loni-Netajinagar. Meanwhile, she was also selected for SBI Youth for India fellowship in Devas, Madhya Pradesh, where she is currently working on rural education. Simultaneously, she is also running a virtual night school for students who are struggling to access education.

As a member of the village council, Tatewar has just begun on her journey. She wants the council to prioritise issues around education and water management. While discussing her plans as a member of the council she mentions, “Our village has enough water but there is poor management, so I want to ensure that we work on resolving that issue at the earliest.” Along with this, she wants to establish a library as a dedicated study space.

Tatewar’s story reflects how India is missing out on harnessing its young talent at the grassroots. She intends to complete her Masters in a discipline that can prepare her in public problem-solving. While doing that, she is determined to improve the situation around her and ensure future generations do not have to go through the same struggles.

(The author is a writer from Maharashtra.)
—Charkha Features



War solves nothing

If humans do not destroy hate and anger, these demons would kill mankind, says RAJYOGI BRAHMAKUMAR NIKUNJ JI

The air during the past few days has been thick with the dust and debris of war. The whole world was shocked while watching visuals of missiles that were fired from a superpower nation to a border country. There have been a lot of deliberations and heated arguments among nations who were in support of this attack as well as those who were against this attack. However, the fact remains that today the whole world is under the danger of a nuclear attack and that makes every nation build up heavy stocks of weapons of mass destruction in the name of self-defence and security.

In the present world, many people consider survival and security as prime values. They argue that if a person does not survive, then what is the worth of other values. In a similar vein, they further argue that if a person lives in a state of constant insecurity and fear, then what is the charm, the joy, the fun or the zest in living? Because the quality of life of a man in fear is like that of a man in a state of suspended animation and it’s not at all cherishable, relishable, enjoyable or valuable.

On the other hand, other people question the contention of the former people. The questions they raise are that ‘after all what is the purpose of survival?’ and ‘what is the goal of life?’. Further, they ask ‘what do we want to achieve by living or while living?’. They argue that the difference between a human being and an animal is narrowed down to zero if a man also, like other animals, is concerned primarily and mainly about his physical survival only. They feel that there should be some higher and nobler aim of human existence and that there should be something more worthy for humans to be achieved. Arguing thus, they ask: If personal survival is the main value, then why do military men endanger their survival or sacrifice their life at the battlefield to keep intact the sovereignty of the nation? Again, why did the heroes of the Indian freedom struggle happily embrace death for the sake of independence of their motherland? Why did kings in the olden times give up their palaces and bodyguards and go to the forest retreats in pursuit of truth, endangering their life, knowing well that there were tigers and lions there? With these questions in mind, they further argue that why should a man have fear if he has moral and spiritual strength and has good relations with all the human beings? Because fear, they assert, arises from guilt-consciousness, suspicion or enmity. So, man should be free from these negativities rather than have additional negative tendencies or emotions, namely fear because one’s survival should normally be an assured thing if one’s actions are in harmony with other beings, with the environment and with the moral and physical laws. Each one of us must understand that our life and death, or survival and happiness, are governed by the law of Karma and if our karma is good, why should we fear? As death will surely come to all on one fixed day; why should then we not sleep well night after night?

Today, what makes the world-situation peaceless is that mankind has not yet been able to realise the truth that the factors that lead nations to race for military superiority build-up of weapons and subjugation of other people and their territories are religious bigotry, scramble for power or spirit of revenge. Because he lusts for power, man cheats himself of happiness. It is a pity that he easily forgets that the power of arms or money without the power to rule one’s mind is worse than evil. Also, man does not realise that the political power without the power to rule one’s physical senses and without the intent to use power for human good, leads to turmoil. Remember, lasting happiness of the human race depends not on the power to dominate others but on his mastery over his demoniac traits. So, the heart of the matter is that man needs to be reminded effectively that if he does not kill the demons of hate, anger and war with the weapons of love and universal brotherhood, the demons would kill mankind.



Emotional expression vs emotional repression

Feelings can make or break us. It is, therefore, paramount to manage them in the right way, says KANCHAN RAI

Emotional repression is directly connected to emotional expression. It is subliminal. The subconscious repression of emotions for a prolonged period may result in difficulty to express your emotions. It happens when we protect ourselves from untoward events and the emotions attached to them.

Being uncomfortable either listening to others’ feelings or sharing ours, numbness, and not letting yourself evaluate distressing emotions are some of the signs of emotional repression. Emotions can make or break us. It is, therefore, paramount to manage them in the right way. It is also equally important to understand the difference between repressed and suppressed emotions. Suppressed emotions are feelings that we knowingly avoid. This is maybe because we do not know how to deal with them, or, could be a short-term solution to focus on imminent tasks on priority. Emotional suppression can be good at times, as long as we decide to address those emotions soon without delay. Repressed emotions, on the other hand, as they do not get a chance to be processed, might well-up to become a range of psychological or physical symptoms.

Emotional repression is often an outcome of childhood experiences. Learning that it is possibly much safer to avoid distressing and painful emo-



tions in childhood leads to burying strong emotions even as an adult without even realising it. Mostly, these are emotions that we consider bad or believe that other people might judge after revealing. This brings us closer to positive emotions that are in general accepted by others as it might seem easier to express them. But this isn’t the case for everyone dealing with emotional repression.

Dealing with emotions requires self-awareness. We should know how our emotions function, how we should manage them, how does each emotion play a different role and shape our lives. It sounds like a lot to be figured out, but it can be done fol-

lowing basic yet effective solutions. Some of them are mentioned below:

CLARITY: Name your emotions for more clarity so that we know how we are feeling, and what could be the possible cause of it. If we know that our emotion is subjected to certain conditions, say, for example, we are lonely or under stress, it will help us to deal with our emotions effectively.

ACCEPTANCE: Now that we have clarity about our emotions, it is time to accept and acknowledge that these emotions exist in our lives as a result of our experiences or the surrounding environment. Denying their existence won’t make them go away.

SHARING: Share what you are

experiencing. When you let your friends and family know who you feel, it will provide relief to a great deal. You will not be all alone in the fight. If sharing feelings to people seems like a bit too much, then try writing about how you feel. It will let you identify your own emotional experiences.

SEEK PROFESSIONAL HELP: Even if after trying the above-mentioned solutions, you still feel overwhelmed as the result of emotional repression, seek mental health professional’s help. It will give you the strength to dig and address discomforting emotions that will help you feel better and do good for you in the long run.

Those who have difficulty in

accessing and understanding their emotions and memories over a long-time struggle to enjoy a meaningful life. From their personal relations to their professional life, from their behaviour to their mood on a day-to-day basis, emotional repression affects individuals in multiple ways. Therefore, the need to work towards identifying and managing emotions become a significant and immediate step to a mentally healthy life.

(The author is a mental, emotional wellbeing coach and founder of Let Us Talk, which provides therapy sessions to improve mental health.)

You define your own life. Don’t let other people write your script.
—Oprah Winfrey

MICROPLASTICS AND POLLUTANTS MORE TOXIC

A new study published in Chemosphere takes a close look at the interactions between microplastics — plastic pieces that are less than five millimetres in size, or 3/16th of an inch — and trace organic compounds (TrOCs) found in pesticides, pharmaceuticals and personal care products when they mingle in aquatic environments. While microplastics and TrOCs may not be overly toxic to humans when encountered separately, the researchers found that when these materials contact each other in the water, the plastic’s toxicity can increase by a factor of 10.

Interaction between microplastics and TrOCs could easily happen in wastewater plants, says study lead author Andrey Ethan Rubin, a Ph D student at Tel Aviv University in Israel.

Another recent study also showed that many wastewater plants could not filter out tiny microplastics which accumulate in the sediment of streams and rivers.



ANCIENT HUMANS IMPACTED AFRICAN ISLAND

A new research published in the *Journal of Island and Coastal Archaeology* describes how human activities modified the shoreline at Unguja Ukuu.

Urban growth at the coastal settlements and trade ports on the island, and associated trade, activities may have silted up the lagoon hindering the sea traffic and ultimately impacted fish numbers and played part in the community’s decline. “The islands of the Zanzibar Archipelago witnessed numerous environmental and cultural changes as the region became a hub of maritime trade, cross-cultural interaction, and global exchange,” says the study’s lead author and Senior Lecturer in Archaeology at Flinders University, Dr Ania Kotarba-Morley.

These changes resulted in the dumping of food remains, general waste and increased agricultural activity and land use, all of which negatively impacted sediment build up along the island.



LAKES RECOVER FROM ACIDIFICATION

Research from the 1990s showed that human-caused atmospheric pollution in the 20th century caused the acidification of lakes across eastern North America starting in the 1940s. Researchers from the University of Maine and the National Park Service wanted to see how changing acidification dynamics were affecting the ecosystems in lakes. In an article published in the *Journal of Paleolimnology*, scientists reconstructed historical pigment records of algae and diatoms — a particular type of algae with a silica shell, which is usually negatively impacted by acidification — from two lakes in Acadia National Park, Jordan Pond and Seal Cove Pond.

The researchers took sediment cores from both ponds and analysed the concentrations of different types of algae and the way they varied over time. The results showed the algae in the lakes responded differently over time to acidification. Despite their differences, both ecosystems are recovering since environmental regulations have reduced the amount of atmospheric sulfur in the area.



GENDER BIAS IN WORKPLACES

A research by Harvard Business Review shows gender bias is still prevalent in gender-balanced and female-dominated industries. The research examined gender bias in four industries with more female than male workers: law, higher education, faith-based nonprofits, and health care. Using the Gender Bias Scale for Women Leaders along with open-ended questions, perceptions and experiences of gender bias for 1,606 women leaders in these fields across 15 factors, ranging from subtle (such as lack of acknowledgement) to overt (such as workplace harassment) were compared. Even though women are the majority they still experience a multitude of biases. Constrained communication, in which women have to be mindful when expressing authority and downplay their accomplishments. They reported being interrupted by men and a lack of acknowledgement for their contributions.



TACKLING YEAST INFECTIONS

A research co-led at the University of Strathclyde has focused on a family of proteins, known as Mep-Amt-Rh, which enable them to transport ammonium, a compound involved in the growth and differentiation of yeasts.

The protein, Mep2, is capable of triggering filamentation, the process of cell growth which can lead to infection by pathogenic fungi.

The research has discovered that variations in Mep-Amt-Rh proteins affect the specificity and the type of mechanism for transporting ammonium. When two mechanisms co-exist within Mep2, they disrupt the signalling function which brings about filamentation and impede its progress. The research could improve the understanding of yeast infection in both humans and crop plants, enabling better defence against its effects.



Liverpool cut gap on Man City



AP ■ LIVERPOOL

Liverpool closed to within three points of Manchester City at the top of the Premier League as Sadio Mane's goal secured a nervy 1-0 win over West Ham at Anfield.

Defeat leaves West Ham still two points outside the top

four having played more games than all their competition for a place in next season's Champions League. But David Moyes' men will rue a host of missed chances to salvage a point, which would have given City breathing space at the top of the table. Pep Guardiola's men can restore their six-point advantage

when they host Manchester United in a derby at the Etihad on Sunday. Jurgen Klopp made mass changes to his side in midweek for an FA Cup win over Norwich which kept alive hopes of a historic quadruple of trophies for Liverpool. The pursuit of City may be the biggest challenge as the

Reds attempt to follow up last weekend's League Cup win with three more trophies in the remainder of the season. However, a run of seven straight league wins has at least enlivened a fight for the title after City looked set to cruise towards a fourth league win in five seasons at the turn of the year.

West Ham were without the influential presence of Declan Rice in midfield due to illness, while Jarrod Bowen limped off early in the second half with a nasty looking injury. Should Bowen be sidelined for a lengthy spell, Michail Antonio will be even more crucial to any remaining dreams of a place in the Champions League next season. Antonio has only scored once in the Premier League in 2022 but showed signs of regaining his best form as he twice forced Alisson Becker to turn the ball behind for a corner. Liverpool went in front on 27 minutes when Mane was in the right place to tap in Trent Alexander-Arnold's cross. Another Alexander-Arnold burst caused chaos in the visitors' box moments later as Aaron Cresswell cleared off the line, while Salah and Luis Diaz had efforts blocked from point-blank range. Yet, West Ham should have levelled seconds later when Alexander-Arnold cleared Pablo Fornals' chip off the line before Ibrahima Konate and Alisson scrambled to block two follow-up efforts. The Hammers are one of only two teams to beat Liverpool since April having edged a 3-2 thriller at the London Stadium in November. And they should have come away with at least a point as they enjoyed the better chances after the break.



Arsenal beat Watford

AP ■ LONDON

Bukayo Saka starred as Arsenal leapfrogged Manchester United into the Premier League top four on Sunday with a 3-2 win at struggling Watford. Martin Odegaard struck early for the visitors before Cucho Hernandez equalised with a stunning overhead kick minutes later. England international Saka put Arsenal back in front after half an hour and Brazilian winger Gabriel Martinelli increased the visitors' lead early in the second half. A late goal from Moussa Sissoko against the run of play gave Watford hope but the Gunners held out for a crucial win. The victory lifts Mikel Arteta's men into fourth place in the Premier League -- one point ahead of United, who are in action in the later kick-off against leaders Manchester City. Watford had the ball in the net a few seconds after kick-off but Emmanuel Dennis's effort was ruled offside. Arsenal settled quickly after their early scare and were in front in the fifth minute after neat work down the right, with Saka cutting back to Odegaard, who finished with his left foot.

But the Gunners' advantage was cancelled out in the 11th minute when Hernandez produced an acrobatic overhead kick from near the penalty spot after a cross from Kiko Femenia. Arsenal restored their advantage just after the half-hour mark with a cleverly crafted goal finished by Saka. The England man dispossessed Tom Cleverley just outside the Watford box before passing to Alexandre Lacazette, who held the ball up then backheeled it back to Saka, who fired in. Arsenal extended their lead early in the second half with a delightful third from Martinelli, who hammered home from the edge of the box after a neat layoff from Lacazette. Watford still offered a threat despite Arsenal's superiority and Denis should have narrowed the gap but miscued a chance at the far post with about 20 minutes to go. Arsenal substitute Eddie Nketiah hit woodwork with 10 minutes to go, and Sissoko gave the visitors a late scare when he bundled the ball home in the 87th minute. The win makes Arsenal strong favourites to finish in the top four and qualify for next season's Champions League -- a competition they have not played in since the 2016/17 season.

Real Madrid thrash Real Sociedad



AP ■ MADRID

Real Madrid enjoyed the perfect preparation for Paris Saint-Germain by thrashing Real Sociedad 4-1 on Saturday to move eight points clear at the top of La Liga. Madrid had to come from behind at the Santiago Bernabeu as two scintillating long-range strikes from Eduardo Camavinga and Luka Modric turned the game on its head, before a Karim Benzema penalty and a tap-in for Marco Asensio completed an emphatic victory. Camavinga's strike, his

second goal for Madrid, was timely given the 19-year-old may have to start against PSG on Wednesday, with Toni Kroos, absent here, struggling with a hamstring strain. Madrid are tasked with overturning a 1-0 deficit from the first leg in Paris if they are to reach the quarter-finals. Everything, though, seems easier with the 36-year-old Modric, whose own wonder-goal was the highlight of another mesmerizing display, for which he earned a standing ovation from the home crowd in the second half.

Kylian Mbappe, Lionel Messi and Neymar will provide a sterner test for Madrid's back four in midweek but this was a particularly encouraging performance from Carlo Ancelotti's attack, which was far more dynamic after struggling for goals in recent weeks. A fit and in-form Benzema will help and the 34-year-old now looks sharp again after recovering from his own hamstring injury last month. Benzema has three goals in his last three games, and had two disallowed against La Real before finally scoring from the spot.

PSG suffer shock defeat against Nice

AP ■ NICE

Paris Saint-Germain lost 1-0 at Nice in Ligue 1 on Saturday ahead of next week's trip to Real Madrid in the second leg of their blockbuster Champions League last-16 tie. Substitute Andy Delort struck two minutes from the end as Nice won for just the second time in 18 league meetings with PSG, who struggled to create chances without suspended top scorer Kylian Mbappe. Nice bolstered their chances of qualifying directly for a first appearance in the Champions League group stage, climbing into second place and moving two points above Marseille. PSG remain 13 points clear at the top but the loss serves as a warning that Mauricio Pochettino's side must sharp-



en up considerably to keep their European dreams intact on Wednesday. Mbappe's 24 goals this season are more than Lionel Messi, Neymar, Angel Di Maria and Mauro Icardi combined, and his absence at the Allianz Riviera further underlined just how important he is to the French champions. The France star, out of contract in July and strongly linked with a move to Madrid, will return well rested in Spain as PSG try to defend their 1-0 lead from last month. Gianluigi Donnarumma and Presnel Kimpembe are also likely to be recalled after being given the night off at the Allianz Riviera, while Idrissa Gana Gueye only made a brief appearance.

Indian shooters Shriyanka, Akhil win Bronze

PTI ■ CAIRO

Indian shooters Shriyanka Sadangi and Akhil Sheoran bagged the bronze medal in the 50m rifle 3 positions mixed team event of the ISSF World Cup here on Sunday. The Indian duo were fifth out of 34 teams, then third out of eight and then won the Bronze convincingly, beating Austrians Rebecca Koeck and Gernot Rumpfer. India are currently placed second in the medals tally with four podium finishes, including two Gold. Late on Saturday night, the Indian women's 25m pistol



team of Rahi Sarnobat, Esha Singh and Rhythm Sangwan reached the Gold medal match in the year's first World Cup. The trio topped the second qualification stage with a combined effort of 441 out of a possible 450 late on Saturday night, to set up the summit clash with Singapore, who also shot the same score, but with three lesser inner 10s than India.

Mary to skip World C'ships and Asiad

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Olympic bronze medallist boxer MC Mary Kom has decided to skip the World Championships and the Asian Games to be held later this year to give more exposure to youngsters. The six-time world champion wants to focus on her preparations for the Birmingham Commonwealth Games. The IBA Women's World Boxing Championships is scheduled to be held from May 6 to 21 in Istanbul, Turkey while the 2022 Commonwealth Games and 2022 Asian Games will begin on July 28 and September 10 respectively. In a communication to the Boxing Federation of India (BFI), Mary Kom said, "I would like to withdraw to give opportunity to the younger generation to make a name for themselves on the international stage and get exposure and experience of major tournaments. I would like to focus on the preparation for the Commonwealth Games only." The selection trials for all 12 categories of the world championships will start from Monday and will end on Wednesday. The trials will also include Asian Games weights divisions, which are the same as IBA. However, for the remaining two Asian Games weight categories, 51kg and 69kg, trials will be conducted separately from March 11-14 thereby giving more time to boxers of closest weight categories to also take a shot at the trials for the Asian Games. "Mary Kom has been the torchbearer for Indian boxing since the last two decades and has inspired countless boxers and sports persons across the world. We completely respect



her decision and it is a testimony of her champion character to make way for the other boxers," BFI president Ajay Singh said in a statement. "We are delighted that we have such a good bench strength and are looking forward to the younger generation to make the nation proud and I hope and wish Mary all the best with her preparations for the CWG," he added. National campers, including the participants of the Tokyo Olympics, who didn't compete

in the National Championships, will be eligible for the selection trials. The selection committee, comprising the BFI president or his nominee alongside an expert panel of reputed veteran boxers, will ensure a smooth conduct of the trials as all the bouts will be video recorded. The Asian Games selection trials for men will be held in May, while, for the Commonwealth Games, trials for both men and women will be conducted in June.



Tammy takes Roma closer to top four

AP ■ ROME

Tammy Abraham boosted Roma's Champions League hopes on Saturday with the only goal in a 1-0 win over Atalanta which moves his team to within three points of the top four. England international Abraham classily finished the 13th goal of his debut Serie A season as Jose Mourinho's side closed in on fourth-placed Juventus before their match with Spezia on Sunday. Roma are unbeaten in seven league matches and their win

over Atalanta was characterised by a steeliness that had been missing earlier in the season. "A couple of months ago maybe we concede a goal in the last minute, but we win as a team and lose as a team and now we can enjoy it, go have a drink and celebrate with the fans," Abraham said to DAZN. The 24-year-old has scored seven times in all competitions since the turn of the year, taking his overall season's tally to 20, and the way he took his winner highlighted the confidence with which he is playing.

Sardar to coach India 'A' men's hockey team in CWG

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Former captain Sardar Singh and ex-striker Deepak Thakur were on Saturday respectively named coaches of Indian men's and women's 'A' hockey teams which will take part in the upcoming Commonwealth Games in Birmingham. In a surprise development, Tokyo Olympic bronze medallist duo of Rupinder Pal Singh and Birender Lakra as well veteran forward SV Sunil also returned from retirement as they were named among the men's 33 crore probables to be eligible for selection for the Birmingham CWG team. The trio had retired from the game in quick succession just after the Tokyo Olympics last year. The Indian men's and women's 'A' teams will be taking part in this year's Commonwealth Games after Hockey India decided against sending the main squads for the multi-sport event due to the short turnaround between the



CWG and the Hangzhou Asian Games, which is a qualifying tournament for the 2024 Paris Olympics. The two events have just a gap of 32 days and the national federation wants to keep its players fresh for the Asian Games. The development came after a meeting chaired by Sports Secretary Sujata Chaturvedi on February 15, wherein the Indian contingent's preparation in eight high priority disciplines for the upcoming 2022 Commonwealth Games and 2022 Asian Games was discussed by the national sports federations and Sports

Authority of India. The national federation on Saturday also announced a list of 33 players each for the India 'A' men and women's core probables group. Both the teams will begin the national camp at the SAI Centre in Bengaluru from March 7. "The selection of this group of 33 players each for the India 'A' women and men's core group is a positive development aimed at widening the talent pool for selection of the respective men's and women's national teams. "We are really happy to have stalwarts like Deepak Thakur and Sardar Singh join the national coaching programme. The wealth of experience, technical know-how and world class ability that they both will bring to the table will be extremely beneficial for this group of players, which will in turn strengthen Indian hockey manifold," HI president Gyanendra Ningombam said in a statement.

India beat SL in 1st Test

PTI ■ MOHALI

Ravindra Jadeja stood tall with his all-round brilliance as he complemented his unbeaten 175 with nine wickets in India's innings and 222-run win against a Sri Lankan team that looked anything but Test class in a match that ended inside three days.

After being bowled out for 174 in the first innings, Sri Lanka, who lost 16 wickets on the day, were dismissed for 178 in their second essay. In the first innings, they were one short of Jadeja's individual score and in the second they were three more, which speaks about their plight.

India lead the two-match series 1-0, and will like to gain full 24 points from the rubber by winning the Pink Ball Test in Bengaluru, starting March



12. The match as a contest was over on the first day when India scored 357 and then piled on Sri Lanka's misery with Jadeja toying with a depleted bowling attack.

It is after 60 years that an Indian has scored 150 runs and taken five wickets in an innings. Vinoo Mankad, in 1952 against England at Lord's, and Polly Umrigar in 1962 versus West Indies at Delhi, are the other owners of this rare feat.

If that wasn't enough, India got as many as 16 wickets on the third day to wrap up the match with a cumulative bowling effort of 125 overs across two innings.

Jadeja (175 not out, 5/41 and 4/46) made the match his own while Ravichandran Ashwin (4/47 in 21 overs) also had a satisfying run, replacing Kapil Dev (434 in 131 games) as India's second highest wicket-taker with 436 victims. He is now only behind Anil Kumble's 619 scalps.

One of the contemporary greats, Ashwin achieved the feat in his 85th Test match compared to Kapil's 131 games.

While the generations and the conditions between the times of Kapil and Ashwin can't be compared and more so because they pos-



sessed different skill-sets but, based on pure numbers, the Tamil Nadu man's achievement is phenomenal.

Such was the regularity of getting wickets that there was hardly any cause for celebrations and excitement as it seemed a foregone conclusion.

There was no stomach for a fight by this Sri Lankan team and some of the players, like old guard Angelo Mathews and the controversial Niroshan Dickwella (first innings dismissal), seemed primarily disinterested during their stay at the crease.

The wicket had its bit of turn and uneven bounce but nothing much to trouble the batters, but the Lankans

made a heavy weather during their two stints, making both Jadeja and Ashwin look more menacing than they actually were.

In fact none of the Lankan batters could understand which of Jadeja's delivery will be a straighter one and which ones will turn. The mess in their minds caused mess in their approach too.

While the World Test Championships have added a context to every series, lopsided matches against teams who aren't skilled enough to compete for long periods of time makes it a bad advertisement for Test cricket.

After Rohit Sharma asked Sri Lanka to follow-on after dismissing them for 174, 400 runs adrift of India's first-innings score of 574 for eight, the visitors were in trouble again after Lahiru Thirimanne became Ashwin's 433rd victim.

Post lunch, it was first-innings half-centurion Pathum Nissanka whose outside edge to a delivery that didn't turn much, was snapped by Rishabh Pant to complete a memorable feat for Ashwin.

In between, Mohammed Shami got Dimuth Karunaratne (27) to edge one to Pant, who took a low diving catch, while Ravindra Jadeja got his sixth scalp of the game by removing Dhananjaya de Silva (30).

Mathews (27 batting) and Charith Asalanka (20 batting) hit some lusty blows to entertain the Sunday crowd.

Earlier, Jadeja's superb all-round show helped the hosts end Sri Lanka's first innings in the first session itself.

Virat Kohli's 100th Test and Rohit Sharma's first game as skipper turned out to be Jadeja's match as his 5 for 41 in 13 overs had the islanders crashing in just 45 overs.

Worse, Sri Lanka lost six wickets for 13 runs as they were 161 for four after the first hour, with Pathum Nissanka (61 not off 133 balls) and Charith Asalanka adding 58 runs.



We ticked all boxes, says Rohit

PTI ■ MOHALI

His Test captaincy stint off to a winning start, an elated Rohit Sharma on Sunday said India ticked all the boxes against Sri Lanka in the opening Test of the two-match series here.

Ravindra Jadeja stood tall with his all-round brilliance as he followed up his unbeaten 175 with nine wickets in India's innings and 222-run win against Sri Lanka in the match that ended inside three days.

After being bowled out for 174 in the first innings, Sri Lanka, who lost 16 wickets on the day, were dismissed for 178 in their second essay.

"It was a good start. It was a great game of cricket from our perspective. We ticked all the boxes we wanted to. To be honest I didn't think it is going to be that kind of a Test match which would get over in three days.

"It was a good batting pitch, there was some turn and some assistance for the seamers as well," Rohit said at the post-match presentation ceremony.

"Lot of credit to the guys, they bowled very well in tandem, kept the pressure and never made it easier for the Sri Lanka batsmen. We just ensured we applied pressure from both ends.

"Good signs for India cricket. Lot of performances, landmark Test match for Virat (Kohli) and we wanted to come up out here and win the Test first and foremost. It was heartening to see such big individual performances," he added.

Man of the Match Jadeja considers the PCA stadium as his lucky ground and said he never looks at the statistics while batting or bowling.

"I would say this is my lucky ground. Whenever I come here I get positive vibes. I was looking to build a partnership with Rishabh (Pant), give him the strike and enjoy his batting from the other end. To be honest I don't know about any stat," he said.

The Saurashtra all-rounder said the performance here has boosted his confidence immensely.

"Feeling very good, happy to score runs and pick wickets for the team. Obviously as a player you boost your confidence with such a performance. I have not done anything differently, just played to my strengths and I give myself time to settle down.

"I look to keep it very simple out in the middle. I haven't played with the SG pink ball, so it is going to be different and I will practice for a couple of days, hopefully it comes good," Jadeja concluded.

Ashwin becomes India's 2nd highest wicket-taker



PTI ■ MOHALI

Premier off-spinner Ravichandran Ashwin on Sunday went past the legendary Kapil Dev's 434 Test scalps to become the second highest wicket-taker for India in the longest format of the game, reaching the mark in his 85th match.

The 35-year-old Ashwin achieved the feat in the ongoing first Test against Sri Lanka. He began the match with 430 scalps and claimed two wickets in the first innings before adding three more in the second essay to cross Kapil's mark.

Kapil had managed the feat in 131 matches. The legendary Anil Kumble tops the chart with 619 scalps which he

claimed in 132 matches.

Ashwin drew level with Kapil when he took the wicket of Pathum Nissanka during Sri Lanka's second innings.

The tweaker then dismissed Charith Asalanka to get his 435th wicket.

Ashwin is the fourth Indian bowler to take more than 400 wickets in Test cricket. He also became the ninth highest Test wicket-taker of all time, moving past New Zealand great Richard Hadlee (431) and Sri Lanka's Rangana Herath (433) as well, apart from Kapil.

Only four Indian bowlers - Kumble, Ashwin, Kapil and Harbhajan Singh -- have taken more than 400 wickets in Test cricket.

India W crush Pak in WC opener

PTI ■ MOUNT MAUNGANUI

The Indian team thrashed arch-rivals Pakistan by 107 runs to begin their campaign in the ICC Women's World Cup on a rousing note here on Sunday, the much-anticipated face-off ending in a no contest.

Opting to bat after the coin landed in India's favour, in-form opener Smriti Mandhana, Sneha Rana and Pooja Vastrakar struck useful half-centuries to help their team recover from an early wobble and post 244 for seven at the Bay Oval.

Chasing a tricky target of 245, the Pakistan team fell way short of the mark and was all out for 137 in 43 overs, losing its 11th straight game against neighbours India in the 50-over format.

Left-arm spinner Rajeshwari Gayakwad did the star turn with the ball, returning with excellent figures of 4/31 after her full quota of 10 overs. Seasoned pacer Jhulan Goswami bowled very well to finish the game with impressive figures of 2/29, while there were also two wickets for Rana (2/27), capping off her fine all-round show.

To start with however, the Indians found themselves under pressure after opener Shafali Verma was dismissed for a duck in the third over.

A 92-run stand between Mandhana (52 off 75 balls) and Deepti Sharma (40 off 57) helped steady the ship.

However, Pakistan came back strongly by claiming a flurry of wickets, including the scalps of skipper Mithali Raj (9) and her deputy Harnampreet Kaur (5).

It wasn't a good outing for Raj with the willow but, by turning out in the India jersey on Sunday, the veteran 39-year-old became only the third cricketer after Sachin Tendulkar and Javed Miandad to appear in six World Cups



and the first woman to achieve the feat.

Raj, though, would take her cheap dismissal in her stride as her team achieved the result it sought.

After the early dismissal of Shafali, the duo of Mandhana and Deepti got together to first steady the innings and then build a foundation for Rana and Vastrakar to take their team closer to 250.

Rana (53 not out) and Vastrakar (67) shared a crucial 122-run partnership -- the highest for the seventh wicket in ICC Women's World Cups -- to help boost the India total.

From the Pakistan point of view, the stand between Rana and Vastrakar hit them hard as they were hoping to restrict India after reducing them to 114 for six at one point.

Mandhana and Deepti were dis-

missed within a few overs of each other. Deepti missed a sweep and was bowled by Nushra Sundhu for 40, and Mandhana followed suit 13 balls later, giving a return catch to Anam Amin.

The rest of the batters failed to build on the foundation laid by Mandhana and Deepti as the likes of Raj, Kaur and Richa Ghosh fell in quick succession to leave their team in a spot of bother.

Pakistan had their tails up at that stage of the game but, batting in the lower order, Rana and Vastrakar had other ideas and displayed immense grit to pull India out of trouble.

For Pakistan, spinners Nida Dar (2/45) and Nushra Sandhu (2/36) snared two wickets each.

In reply, Pakistan were precariously placed at 78 for five at the halfway point in their innings, 167 runs away

LEFT-ARM SPINNER RAJESHWARI GAYAKWAD DID THE STAR TURN WITH THE BALL, RETURNING WITH EXCELLENT FIGURES OF 4/31 AFTER HER FULL QUOTA OF 10 OVERS. SEASONED PACER JHULAN GOSWAMI BOWLED VERY WELL TO FINISH THE GAME WITH IMPRESSIVE FIGURES OF 2/29

from a win.

India were rewarded for some tight bowling early on, limiting Pakistan to just 26 for no loss at the end of the powerplay.

The pressure got to the openers as Javeria Khan departed in the 11th over, trying to take the aerial route.

After that, the Indian spinners continued to keep a lid on the scoring, with Deepti and Rana taking the important wickets of Pakistan skipper Bismah Maroof and Omaima Sohail respectively. Goswami then got into the act, dismissing the settled Sidra Ameen, who was caught behind. Jhulan struck again in her next over to remove Dar for 4 as Pakistan stared at a big defeat.

It was pleasing to see Jhulan, even after so many years, running in hard and giving everything for her team.

CSK to face KKR in IPL 2022 opener

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Defending champions Chennai Super Kings will face Kolkata Knight Riders in the opening game of the 15th edition of the Indian Premier League (IPL) at the Wankhede stadium here on March 26.

The BCCI on Sunday announced the schedule of the cash-rich league, which will be played across four venues - Wankhede Stadium and Cricket Club of India in Mumbai, DY Patil stadium in Navi Mumbai and Maharashtra Cricket Association stadium in Pune.

"A total number of 70 league matches and 4 playoff games will be played in the duration of 65 days," BCCI secretary Jay Shah said in a media release.

There will be 12 double-headers in the tournament and on such days, the first game will be played at 3.30pm and the evening matches will be played at 7.30pm.

The first-double header will be played on March 27 with a day-game at the Brabourne stadium (CCI) where the Delhi Capitals will square off five-time champions Mumbai Indians. Later, DY Patil Stadium will host the clash between Punjab Kings and Royal Challengers Bangalore in a night game.

The first match in Pune will be played on March 29



THERE WILL BE 12 DOUBLE-HEADERS IN THE TOURNAMENT AND ON SUCH DAYS, THE FIRST GAME WILL BE PLAYED AT 3.30 PM AND THE EVENING MATCHES WILL BE PLAYED AT 7.30 PM

when Sunrisers Hyderabad take on Rajasthan Royals.

It was already announced by the BCCI, that in all, 20 matches each would be held at Wankhede stadium and DY Patil Stadium, while 15 games each would be played at the Brabourne stadium and in Pune.

The final league game will also be played at the Wankhede stadium here on May 22 between Sunrisers Hyderabad and Punjab Kings.

Both the new teams Gujarat Titans and the Lucknow Super Giants play their first match, against each other, at the Wankhede on March 28.

The BCCI said that the schedule for the play-offs and the final to be played on May 29, would be announced later.

Khawaja misses ton as Oz cuts Pak lead to 205 in 1st Test

AP ■ RAWALPINDI

Usman Khawaja narrowly missed out on a century in the country of his birth as Australia's top batters made full use of a placid wicket to reach 271-2 on the third day of the first test against Pakistan on Sunday.

Khawaja, whose family migrated to Australia when he was four, capitalized on two dropped catches to score 97 while his opening partner David Warner (68) and Marnus Labuschagne (69 not out) also scored aggressive half centuries.

Bad light and heavy clouds brought an early closure to the third day's play, 21 overs ahead of schedule as Australia batters prospered on a grassless wicket.

Australia still trails by 205 runs in its first test in Pakistan in 24 years after the home team had



declared at 476-4 late on the second day. Labuschagne, who hit nine boundaries, raised his half century under overcast conditions in a shortened last session and vice-captain Steve Smith was not out on 24 when umpires took the players off the field.

The flat wicket has not changed to give any assistance to the bowlers over the last three days with batters continuing their domination in all nine sessions.

Pakistan's only productive period with the ball came when

its spinners claimed the wickets of Khawaja and Warner in the second session. Khawaja had escaped a second chance when on 62 with wicketkeeper Mohammad Rizwan unable to grab a sharp chance off a reverse sweep against left-arm spinner Nauman Ali (1-49).

However, he attempted the same extravagant shot again against Nauman and was caught close to the wicket when Pakistan successfully called for a television review against onfield umpire Aleem Dar's not out decision.

Replays suggested Khawaja had gloved the ball as it ballooned to Imam-ul-Haq at short leg.

Khawaja's entertaining knock lasted just over three and a half hours and came off 159 balls featuring 15 bound-

aries as Australia scored at a rate of 3.71 run per over on Day 3.

Earlier, Khawaja and David Warner (68) shared a rapid 156-run opening-wicket stand as Pakistan's pace attack struggled like its Australian counterpart earlier and couldn't get any lateral movement.

Warner exchanged pleasant smiles with Pakistan fast bowlers Shaheen Afridi and Naseem Shah, who tested the left-hander with some short pitched deliveries, but the left-hander exerted his authority with some exquisite drives on both sides of the wicket.

Warner hit 12 boundaries before he was clean bowled by offspinner Sajid Khan (1-94) from a delivery that skidded off the pitch as the left-hander tried to cut off the backfoot and missed the line of the ball.

Yash Dhull's 200 saves Delhi from defeat

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

In Ranji Trophy Group H match, rising batting star Yash Dhull struck his first first class double century while Dhruv Shorey hit a hundred as Delhi, who were already out of the knockout race, shattered Chhattisgarh's hopes to post 396 for two declared in 89.3 overs in their second innings after following on.

India's recent U-19 World Cup-winning team skipper Dhull, playing his first Ranji season, once again shone bright



with the bat with an 261-ball 200 not out to prove his credentials.

He struck 26 boundaries during his knock and together with Shorey (100 off 208 balls, 13x4s) shared 246 runs for the opening stand to take the match away from Chhattisgarh.

Delhi batters gave a good account of themselves in the second innings with Nitish Rana (56 not out off 36 balls, 3x4s, 5x6s) and Kshitiz Sharma (26) also getting a good knocks.

Jharkhand finished on top of group H with 12 points from three games - two

wins and one loss, while Chhattisgarh ended on the second spot with 10 points. Tamil Nadu were third with six points ahead of bottom-placed Delhi, who managed to garner just two points from what has been a disappointing campaign for them.

Skipper Saurabh Tiwary struck a match-winning 93 while Kumar Kushagra made 50 to guide Jharkhand to the knockout stage of the Ranji Trophy with a two-wicket win over heavyweights Tamil Nadu in their last Elite Group H match on Sunday.