

OPINION 6
CHANGING CONSTITUTION
TO TACKLE CLIMATE CRISES

WORLD 8
RUSSIA CONTINUES
STRIKE ON KYIV SUBURBS

MONEY 10
RBI ALLOWS MFIS TO FIX
INTEREST RATES

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Shots for 12+ from March 16

Co-morbidity rider for booster dose to elderly removed

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Not letting its guards down against the Covid-19 pandemic, the Centre has given go-ahead for vaccination of children in the age group of 12-14 years from March 16. Also, the co-morbidity clause for administering precaution doses to senior citizens would be removed.

Health Minister Dr Mansukh Mandaviya took to his official Twitter handle to make the announcement, "I am happy to inform you that from March 16, Covid vaccination of children in the age group of 12 to 13 and 13 to 14 is starting."

"Also, everyone aged 60+ will now be able to get precautionary doses," he added. Till now, apart from health-care workers, only those over the age of 60 who have comorbidities were eligible for the precautionary doses.

According to reports, Hyderabad-based pharmaceutical company Biological E's Corbevax Covid vaccine will be administered to children in this age group.

The vaccine received approval from the Drugs Controller General of India (DCGI) on February 21 for use in children and adolescents aged 12 to 18 years. Corbevax is a protein subunit vaccine.

Back when it was granted emergency use authorisation



(EUA), Mandaviya had called the Corbevax vaccine, "India's 1st indigenously developed RBD protein subunit vaccine against Covid-19."

When Covid vaccines were first rolled out for 15 to 18-year-olds on January 13, only Bharat Biotech's Covaxin was allowed to this age group.

According to official data, Over 3.5 crore children between the ages of 15 and 18 have received at least one dose

of the Covid vaccine since they were rolled out for this age group on January 3.

Meanwhile, India saw a further dip in daily Covid-19 cases as 2,503 new infections were recorded on Monday, the lowest in 680 days, while the active cases dipped to 36,168.

With the fresh cases, the total tally of Covid-19 cases rose to 4,29,93,494. On May 3, 2020, 2,487 cases were recorded. The death toll climbed to 5,15,877 with 27 fresh fatalities.

The 27 new fatalities included 15 from Kerala.

A total of 5,15,877 deaths have been reported so far in the country, including 1,43,752 from Maharashtra, 66,808 from Kerala, 40,018 from Karnataka, 38,023 from Tamil Nadu, 26,141 from Delhi, 23,492 from Uttar Pradesh, and 21,187 from West Bengal.

The Ministry stressed that more than 70 percent of the deaths occurred due to comorbidities.

Nitish vents ire at Speaker in House over crime probe

Bihar CM accuses him of flouting Constitutional norms

PNS ■ PATNA

Bihar Assembly on Wednesday witnessed an unprecedented scene when Chief Minister Nitish Kumar lost his cool and expressed his outrage at Speaker Vijay Kumar Sinha over whether a matter probed by the Government which has also been referred to the Privilege Committee could be raised on the floor of the House "again and again".

Wagging his fingers at the Speaker, Kumar accused him of flouting the Constitution and said, "this will not be allowed at any cost".

A stunned House watched the CM vent his ire at the Speaker, who tried to put a word or two in between, but Kumar ignored his intervention and continued to warn him about the breach of procedure.

The CM stood up and slammed the Speaker after Sinha asked Cabinet Minister Bijendra Yadav to appraise the House in a couple of days about action taken on an incident in Lakhisarai, which also happens to be Sinha's Assembly constituency. Sinha was elected to the Assembly on a BJP ticket.



"The Minister has been authorised to reply on behalf of the Government. When he has submitted that inquiry is underway, you ask him to come up with a fresh reply the day after tomorrow. This is against the rules. Please look at the Constitution," said the Bihar Chief Minister.

The privilege committee of the House has directed the DGP to conduct an enquiry into the alleged misbehaviour, with the Speaker, of a Deputy SP in Lakhisarai and the SHO of the police station concerned a few days back.

The conflict between the Speaker and the CM over the probe is also being viewed by

some as a reflection of the strained relations between the JD(U) which Kumar leads and its ally the BJP to which the Speaker belongs to.

It is for the Government and the police to take action in such matters. The report of the investigation has to be submitted before the court, the CM said.

"Is the House empowered to intervene in the matter? I am serving my fourth term as the CM. I was also a member of the Assembly once. Never have I seen such a procedural anomaly. Please don't run the House in this manner," Kumar said.

It's not what Kumar said,

but the tone and gesture of a leader like him, who is seen as a picture of composure, has baffled everyone.

Sinha began on a pacifying note, expressing the immense respect he had for the CM's knowledge and experience, besides acknowledging the latter's support "which helped my elevation to this Chair".

"But please understand my predicament. Initially, I had tried not to indulge any discussion in the matter after it was referred to the Privilege Committee. But members from the Treasury Benches and the Opposition have created a ruckus again and again. After all, I am supposed to be the custodian of the House," pleaded the Speaker.

Sinha was upset over the alleged wrongful arrest of a number of people in Lakhisarai for violation of prohibition law which was in news last month.

The CM again rose upon the Speaker's statement and said, "I will inquire today itself into the progress in the investigation. The Government will look into whatever recommendations the committee has made. But this matter must not be discussed on the floor of the House again and again."

Will help students brought back from Ukraine: Centre

Govt says medical students' future will be protected

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Government on Monday assured that it would help Indian students brought back to the country from the war-torn East European Ukraine under "Operation Ganga" to complete their education.

Union Minister for Education Dharmendra Pradhan said in the Lok Sabha that Operation Ganga, carried out under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi to evacuate Indian students from Ukraine, is proof of the "collective wisdom of 130 crore Indians".

He also said the Opposition party should have congratulated the Modi Government for its effort in evacuating the Indian nationals. "I was expecting that from his party (Congress) and the

House, the Prime Minister will be congratulated for Operation Ganga..." he told the Lok Sabha during Question Hour.

"When we have brought them, you remain assured that Government will ponder over making arrangements, whatsoever is required, to enable them to become doctors in future," the Minister said.

"At present, it is time for getting them out of the shock. We are all engaged in that," the Minister said.

Earlier, DMK leader TR Baalu while congratulating the Prime Minister and Foreign Minister S Jaishankar for the safe evacuation of students from Tamil Nadu also asked in the House whether "they could be admitted in Russia?" to which some MPs reacted saying "why not in India?"

Congress member Gaurav Gogoi wanted to know if the Government was considering working out "any policy or holding talks" with universities in countries neighbouring Ukraine to enable Indian students to complete their studies.

"Any policy or holding talks" with universities in countries neighbouring Ukraine to enable Indian students to complete their studies, he asked.

In the Rajya Sabha, cutting across party lines, several MPs expressed concern over the plight of Indian medical students evacuated recently from Ukraine and urged the Government to take effective measures to help them complete their courses here.

External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar will give a detailed account on Tuesday in the Upper House on the situation in Ukraine and efforts made by the Indian Government to bring out more than 18,000 Indian citizens including students since February 22 as part of Operation Ganga.

Rajya Sabha Chairman M Venkaiah Naidu said a large number of Indian students in Ukraine needed to be evacuated in the current situation.

"This was a very challenging task. The Government of India rose to the occasion by evacuating Indian students as

well as some students of other nationalities. These efforts are praiseworthy," he said.

Naidu also informed members that members can seek clarifications after Jaishankar makes a statement.

Raising the issue during the Zero Hour on the first day of the second half of the Budget session, Kanakamedala Ravindra Kumar (TDP) noted that many students from India were pursuing medical education in Ukraine.

He said though safety and security of the students was ensured, their future is at stake and urged the Government to take necessary steps to safeguard their future.

KC Venugopal (Congress) said students who have returned from Ukraine are in a very difficult situation and their families are also concerned about their future. Noting that the education of these students has come to the standstill, he said the Government needs to clarify what steps it will take.

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Talks resume but Russia on march

AP ■ LVIV (UKRAINE)

Russian and Ukrainian negotiators held a new round of talks on Monday, even as Russia's military forces kept up their punishing campaign to capture Ukraine's capital with fighting and artillery fire in Kyiv's suburbs.

After an airstrike on a military base near the Polish border brought the war dangerously close to NATO's doorstep, the talks raised hopes for progress in evacuating civilians from besieged Ukrainian cities and getting emergency supplies to areas without enough food, water and medicine.

"Everyone is waiting for news. We will definitely report in the evening," Ukrainian President President Volodymyr Zelenskyy said in a new video address.

The negotiations taking place by video conference are the fourth round involving higher-level officials from the two countries. The previous discussions took place in person in Belarus, and did not pro-

duce breakthroughs to end the fighting in Ukraine or lasting agreements on humanitarian routes.

"Communication is being held, yet it's hard," Ukrainian presidential aide Mykhailo Podolyak tweeted along with a photo of the two sides meeting by video link. Earlier, Podolyak said the negotiators would discuss "peace, ceasefire, immediate withdrawal of troops & security guarantees."

Air raid alerts sounded in cities and towns all around the country overnight, from near the Russian border in the east to the Carpathian Mountains in the west, as fighting continued on the outskirts of Kyiv. Ukrainian officials said Russian forces shelled several suburbs of the capital, a major political and strategic target for their invasion.

Ukrainian authorities said two people died and seven were injured after Russian forces struck an airplane factory in Kyiv, sparking a large fire. The Antonov factory is Ukraine's largest aircraft man-

ufacturing plant and is best known for producing many of the world's biggest cargo planes.

Russian artillery fire also hit a nine-story apartment building in the northern Obolonskyi district of the city, killing two more people, authorities said. Firefighters worked to rescue survivors, painstakingly carrying an injured woman on a stretcher away from the blackened and still smoking building.

A town councilor for Brovary, east of Kyiv, was killed in fighting there, officials said. Shells also fell on the Kyiv suburbs of Irpin, Bucha and Hostomel, which have seen some of the worst fighting in Russia's stalled attempt to take the capital, local officials said.

Airstrikes were reported across the country, including the southern city of Mykolaiv, and the northern city of Chernihiv, where heat was knocked out to most of the town. Explosions rang out overnight around the Russian-occupied Black Sea port of Kherson.

NSE ex-CEO Chitra sent to jail for 14 days

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

A Delhi court on Monday remanded former Managing Director and CEO of National Stock Exchange (NSE) Chitra Ramakrishna in 14-day judicial custody in connection with the co-location scam case.

Special Judge Sanjeev Aggarwal ordered that Ramakrishna be physically produced before the court on March 28 and rejected her counsel's request for home-cooked food in jail.

Turning down her request for certain facilities in jail, the court said, "VIP prisoners want everything. Every prisoner is the same. She does not have to be treated differently because of what she has been."

However, the court allowed the request made by Ramakrishna's lawyer for spectacles, prayer books, including Hanuman Chalisa and medicines inside the jail.



The Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) produced the accused before the court upon the expiry of her 7-day custody and urged the court to remand her in judicial custody. The CBI counsel said the investigation in the case was going on and Ramakrishna was evasive and uncooperative as well as a highly influential person.

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Sadhus smear colour on each other on the occasion of 'Ekadashi', ahead of the festival of colour 'Holi', in Ayodhya on Monday. PTI

J&K Delimitation panel posts draft, invites objections

MOHIT KANDHARI ■ JAMMU

After incorporating suggestions made by the associate members of the BJP and the National Conference, the three-member Delimitation Commission headed by Justice (Retired) Ranjana Prakash Desai has posted the draft proposals in the public domain and has invited objections from the public till March 21.

The suggestions will be considered by the commission in its public sitting in Jammu and Srinagar on March 28 and 29, the location and timing of which will be notified later.

The first ever Assembly elections in the Union Territory

of J&K are most likely to take place after the conduct of the Amarnath pilgrimage this year. Soon after the submission of the final report of the Delimitation Commission, the Election Commission is expected to announce a fresh summary revision of the electoral rolls.

According to the notification issued by the commission, it is clear the commission has only accommodated suggestions made by the associate members in terms of changing names of certain assembly constituencies and reorganising boundaries of a few others after objections were raised by the associate members.

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Tata Sons chairman to head AI

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Tata Sons chairman N Chandrasekaran has been appointed as the chairman of Air India. Chandrasekaran's appointment comes after former Turkish Airlines chairman Ilker Ayçi, earlier this month, declined the Tata Group's offer to be the CEO and managing director of Air India.

Ayçi declined the offer saying, "some sections of the Indian media have attempted to colour his appointment in an undesirable manner."

Sources said the appointment was cleared at a board meeting held last week by Air India. Tata Sons will soon announce a new CEO for Air India. Meanwhile, Alice GeeVarghese Vaidyan, former CMD of General Insurance Corporation, will be inducted as an independent director on board, on Monday.

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"A total number of cases pending in Indian courts and international courts against Air India is 2,657," Singh said in his reply to a question in Rajya Sabha. "These cases are against Air India as a legal entity and will remain with Air India," Singh said.

Stir against deferment of civic body polls

Announce MCD election dates: AAP

Barricades prevent AAP cadre from reaching BJP HQ; traffic snarls at ITO

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

The Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) on Monday held a protest against the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) for allegedly "forcing" the State Election Commission (SEC) to "defer" the municipal polls in Delhi.

The AAP workers and leaders protested near their party office, demanding announcement of the dates of the civic polls. The party had planned to picket the BJP headquarters but protestors could not reach there with the Delhi Police barricading the road leading up to it.

There were long queues of vehicles at Central Delhi's ITO following a protest by the AAP. Commuters said that it took an hour just to travel two kilometres due to the protest. People

took to Twitter to inform others about the traffic situation at ITO. Mohit Tomar, who works in the Income-Tax Department, said that it took him one hour to reach the Civic Centre from ITO. "Generally it takes me only 10 minutes from ITO to reach my office at the Civic Centre. Due to heavy traffic, I got stuck at ITO and reached my office one hour late," Tomar said. One of the commuters said that vehicles moved at a crawling pace on the road leading to ITO from Laxmi Nagar.

The AAP has been up in arms against the BJP since Delhi State Election Commissioner SK Srivastava at a press conference called to announce the dates for the civic polls last week had expressed his inability to



AAP leaders and workers protest against the deferment of the MCD polls

Ranjan Dimri/Pioneer

declare the schedule, saying he had received "some communication" from the Centre.

The party had on Saturday alleged that the BJP government at the Centre is "black-mailing" Srivastava to keep on hold the announcement of

schedules for civic polls for an "indefinite period" fearing the party's "miserable defeat" in the election, if conducted. Delhi Chief Minister and AAP national convener Arvind Kejriwal had on Friday urged Prime Minister Narendra Modi

to allow the municipal elections in the national Capital, saying postponing polls weakens the democratic system. He had also asked Srivastava to not "buckle under pressure" and tell the world whether he was being "threatened or lured".

Desilt city drains before monsoon: Sisodia to PWD

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

To avoid waterlogging in the national Capital during the forthcoming monsoon season, Delhi Deputy Chief Minister Manish Sisodia has directed officials of the Public Works Departments (PWD) to complete desilting of drains and installation of pumps at vulnerable points by May 31.

Sisodia, who also holds the Public Works Department (PWD) portfolio, warned that action would be taken against officials for any "slackness" in connection with cleaning of drains, a senior PWD official said.

A circular issued by the PWD to the chief engineers of different divisions stated that the Deputy CM and PWD Minister had directed officials to take necessary actions and be prepared for the monsoon so that no waterlogging occurs on PWD roads. "All the tenders of cleaning of drains, installation of pumps, maintenance vans' deployment etc must be called at the earliest. Works related to cleaning and desilt-

ing of all drains must be completed by May 31, 2022. Critical locations and hotspots should be given special care," the PWD circular said. It also stated, "Concerned chief engineers should personally monitor these actions taken by divisions and take immediately necessary action for any slackness in this regard."

According to Government data, there are about 2,846 drains in Delhi and their length is about 3,692 km. The PWD manages a 2,050 km length of drains along the 1,260 km of road across 17 divisions in the city.

The three civic bodies collectively manage over 400 km of small and medium drains along its roads and in colonies. These drains are cleaned by the civic bodies while the PWD manages the major drains, including conducting their desilting. Normally it takes around two-and-a-half months to clean big nullahs and all drains along city roads, PWD officials said. "Generally, the monsoon arrives in the national Capital by the last week of

June. Hence the desilting work has to be completed by May 31 or latest by June 15 so that there is no waterlogging during monsoon. Choked drains and delay in desilting had led to extensive waterlogging in many parts of the city during the monsoon season in 2020 and 2021 as well.

In July 2020, a 56-year-old man had allegedly died of drowning when his mini-truck was submerged in water under the Minto Bridge in central Delhi.

Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal in August last year had said that changes would be made to Delhi's drainage system based on suggestions received from the Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Delhi to resolve the issue of waterlogging in the city.

Last year, Kejriwal had convened a few meetings to review the Capital's drainage master plan and had said a "world-class drainage system" would be developed across the city to ensure that city streets are not inundated during monsoons.

Tenders for 500 EV charging points awarded



STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

In order to strengthen its Electronic Vehicle (EV) infrastructure in the national Capital, the Delhi Government has awarded tenders for 500 charging points across the city. The tender was floated by Delhi Transco Limited, the State Nodal Agency for setting up EV charging infrastructure in Delhi.

Delhi Power Minister Satyendra Jain said that 100 public charging stations with 500 charging points will be developed across Delhi in the next three months. "A total of 71 of these stations will be established at metro stations. The bidding process was drafted in a PPP model.

"It had two distinguished areas where the Government has contributed, first in providing land through different land owning agencies; and second in providing high-side infrastructure including cabling and transmission. The private player would contribute with the smart charging stations, staff and servicing," said Jain.

"The charging stations will be open to the public by June 27 this year. EV owners will be charged under Rs 2 per unit for charging their vehicle compared to Rs 10-15 per unit in other States. Bidding criteria was kept as lowest service charge; users will be heavily incentivised because of the minus Rs 3.60 per unit service

charge that was discovered during the competitive bidding process," said Jain. The Dialogue and Development Commission (DDC) vice-chairperson Jasmine Shah said that the locations of all these charging stations have been chosen in a very cohesive manner.

"We want to take forward the vision of Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal in placing EV charging stations at every three kilometres as have been stated in our Delhi EV policy as well.

Most of the areas we are targeting are underserved areas. As of date, most charging points are placed within the Central Delhi and NDMC area with the outer areas lacking the provision," said Shah.

"This is the largest tender of its kind in the country and aims to provide underserved areas with sufficient charging points which will be operational in three months. There are about 400 charging points already in place in Delhi.

This tender increases the number to over double our present infrastructure," Shah added. The guiding framework for the tender was developed by the "Charging Infrastructure Working Group" of the Delhi Government which had representation from power department, transport department, all municipal corporations, and all the DISCOMs of Delhi.

Unattended bag catches fire in Kurukshetra-Nizamuddin passenger train coach

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

An unattended bag in a coach of a local passenger train caught fire on Monday. Police said that the bag may belong to a carpenter and friction in nails led to fumes coming out of the bag.

According to Harendra Kumar Singh, the Deputy Commissioner of Police (DCP), Railways unit of Delhi Police, information regarding the fire in the coach of Kurukshetra-Hazrat Nizamuddin passenger train was received at 10.25 AM following which police teams were dispatched for the spot.

"On the spot, the police team found that a bag along with a red-coloured pouch and a small container was kept in the coach. The pouch containing around two kg nails caught fire. The passengers threw the bag out of the train and the nails were collected by the staff at the Adarsh Nagar Railway Station," said the DCP. "The bag contained clothes, whereas the container had a liquid used by carpenters. The bomb disposal squad was called to check the materials. The bag may belong to a carpenter and friction in nails led to fumes in the clothes," he added.

PICTALK



Bollywood actors Anupam Kher and Pallavi Joshi with film director Vivek Agnihotri pose for photographs during Kashmir Files press conference at a hotel in New Delhi on Monday.

PTI Photo

ISIC gives new lease of life to boy

City doctors correct severe spinal deformity



STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

A 16-year-old boy, who was suffering from a severe spinal deformity, Kyphoscoliosis, since birth and was also facing breathing difficulty for last three years due to the condition, is now able to stand and walk straight after a successful two-stage surgical procedure at Indian Spinal

Injuries Centre (ISIC) in the national Capital. According to a senior hospital official, the boy, a resident of Gurdaspur in Punjab, was also facing breathing difficulty for last three years due to the condition, due to which he had to carry an oxygen cylinder wherever he went.

"When the boy came to hospital, we came to know that when he was 12, Kyphoscoliosis started increasing due to which he could not breathe properly as his chest couldn't expand.

His condition was so bad that while standing, his trunk tilted to one side, and he couldn't walk straight," said Dr Ankur Nanda, Senior Consultant Spine Surgeon, Unit Chief-Spine Services at ISIC.

"The boy's SpO2 at rest was 48 per cent while he was on continuous oxygen support for the last three years. He needed correction of spine deformity to return to a normal life," said Dr Nanda adding that such spine surgeries are extremely challenging with high chances of developing weakness of legs due to nerve stretching while deformity correction.

"Another challenge in this case was that if he was subjected to a major surgery, then due to his poor lung condition, he might never have come off the ventilator after the procedure.

"He was taken to several private and tertiary care Government hospitals for treatment but was not getting any definitive answers and

response," said Dr Nanda. "In view of the complexity of the case, a two-stage surgery was planned. In the first procedure, a Halo-pelvic traction was applied in which metallic pins and ring were put in his skull and hip.

"He was kept in this condition for two months and this allowed for slow deformity correction. His lung function also gradually improved, and he was able to walk to some extent without oxygen support after doing lung exercises on doctors' advice," he said.

"The spine had a preoperative degree of 128 which was corrected to 61 degrees after surgery. More importantly, the truncal shift was 10 cm which is now 0 and has been completely corrected," the doctor said.

Ask SHO for permission to open other floors of Nizamuddin Markaz for prayers, HC tells Waqf Board

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The Delhi High Court (HC) on Monday asked the Delhi Waqf Board to file an application before SHO of concerned police station seeking permission to open other three floors of Nizamuddin Markaz, where Tablighi Jamaat congregation was held in March 2020 amid Covid-19 pandemic and has remained shut since then, to enable devotees to offer prayers during Shab-e-Barat and Ramzan.

Justice Manoj Kumar Ohri noted statement of counsel for the Board, which has sought court's direction to the Centre to fully open the building that requisite application will be made to SHO of Hazrat Nizamuddin Police Station immediately. The Centre's counsel Rajat Nair assured court

that application will be considered as per law immediately. The court, which was hearing an application by the Board seeking to open mosque for Shab-e-Barat and Ramzan in March and April, listed matter for further proceedings on March 16.

During the hearing, Nair submitted that he has no objection in allowing 50 people to offer prayers at mosque's first floor but opening of entire mosque cannot be permitted. He referred to the HC's April 15, 2021 order by which it had permitted 50 people to perform Namaz at Masjid Bangley Wali on the first floor. The HC had then granted liberty to the Waqf Board to make an application to SHO of Hazrat Nizamuddin Police Station seeking permission for 50 devotees each in the other three floors to be allowed to offer prayers.

7 new dengue cases reported in city; tally reaches 62



STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

With seven fresh cases of dengue reported in a week in the national Capital, the total number of people infected with the vector borne disease has reached 62 this year.

According to reports released by all three municipal corporations, five cases of malaria were also reported in the city till March 12, taking the total tally to 11 this year. However, four cases reported in Delhi were from other States.

Malaria, dengue and chikungunya are accompanied with high fever. Cases of vec-

tor-borne diseases are usually reported between July and November, but the period may stretch till mid-December. Last year, 9,613 dengue cases, the highest number of such cases was recorded in the Capital in a year since 2015, along with 23 deaths.

In the years prior to 2021, the total dengue cases reported were 4431 (2016), 4726 (2017), 2798 (2018), 2036 (2019) and 1072 (2020), as per the report.

In 2015, the number of dengue cases reported has crossed 10,600 in October itself, making it the worst outbreak of the vector-borne disease in the national capital since 1996.

The number of dengue fatalities logged in 2021 was the highest in the national capital since 2016, when the officially reported death count was 10. Delhi had recorded two deaths due to dengue in 2019, four in 2018, and 10 each in 2017 and 2016.

Security guard found dead in Shastri Park, foul play suspected

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

A 50-year-old security guard of a gas agency was found dead on Monday morning in northeast Delhi's Shastri Park area. Police said that police teams are also scanning CCTV cameras in the area to identify the culprit and to know the crime sequence.

The deceased was identified as Ganesh Lal. According to a senior police official, police received a call in the police control room (PCR) around 9 AM that a man was found dead at site number 2 of GS Enterprises, a gas agency.

"When police reached the spot, they found the man dead with a head injury. The Crime team and forensic experts were called at the spot," said the senior police official adding that prima facie, it seems that the man was killed during a robbery or theft bid.

Ganesh Lal's body was shifted to the Guru Teg Bahadur Hospital for a post mortem, police said, adding that some clues have been found and police teams are working on it.

3 men held for supplying illegal arms in Delhi-NCR



The accused told police that they were supplying illegal firearms in Punjab and Delhi-NCR for the last two years

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

The Special Cell of Delhi Police has arrested three men from the national Capital's

Mayur Vihar area for allegedly supplying illegal firearms in the Delhi-National Capital Region (NCR) and Punjab. Police said that they have also recovered nine semi-automatic pistols and 12 cartridges from the possession of the accused.

The accused have been identified as Shubham (21), Vijay Bhan (20) and Abhishek Rai (29), all residents of Ludhiana in Punjab. According to Jasmeet Singh, the Deputy

Commissioner of Police (DCP), Special Cell, on Friday police received specific inputs that Shubham would come near Samachar Apartment bus stand in Mayur Vihar phase 1 at around 1 pm to supply firearms to Vijay Bhan, who was one of his contacts. "Following the inputs, a trap was laid and both were nabbed.

On the instance of Shubham, a team was sent to Ludhiana and Rai was arrested on Sunday," said the DCP. "During interrogation, Shubham disclosed that he had received the seized pistols and cartridges from an arms manufacturer-cum-supplier of Madhya Pradesh on the directions of Rai," said the DCP.

"Rai stated that he used to make videos on TikTok and about two years ago, an arms supplier from Madhya Pradesh contacted him and lured him into arms trafficking," said the DCP. "The accused also said that they were supplying illegal firearms and ammunition in Delhi-NCR and Punjab for last two years," police said.

Indo-Canada ties can be improved: JNU V-C

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

The Jawaharlal Nehru University (JNU) Vice-Chancellor Santishree D Pandit on Monday said that recently India and Canada had differences of opinions on farmers' movement as well as Canada's support to the Khalistanis. The V-C also said that ties between two nations have "struggled to prosper" despite them sharing various common things.

During the inaugural address at a lecture series organised by the varsity's Centre for Canadian, US and Latin American Studies, Pandit said differences between two sides have not gone away over years due to Canada's inability to take India's strategic relations and sensitivities into consideration.

The address was also attended by AIIMS Director Randeep Guleria and SICI Director Prachi Kaul. "India and Canada have a long way to go. We can still better our relationships. We have had our relationship since 1947 and we know that recently we had differences of opinions on farmers' movement as well as

Canada's support to Khalistanis," said the V-C. "India and Canada's relations have struggled to prosper despite two countries sharing various complementaries such as democratic character and association in the Commonwealth," she added.

The two-day lecture series — Covid-19 and Engaged Democracies with special reference to Canada and India — has been funded by Shastri Indo-Canadian Institute (SICI).

During her address, the JNU V-C spoke about contentious issues that have prevented two countries from strengthening their ties.

She claimed that India's Canada policy has partly been influenced by presence of Khalistan sympathisers, who espoused "anti-India sentiments". Pandit added that Canada's criticism of New Delhi has dented India's interest in engaging country as a strategic partner. "The criticism (from Canada) has come at various levels, including provincial legislatures involving past actions such as military actions in Amritsar Golden temple and the 1984 riots," she noted.

May ask CAG to probe fake ex-gratia claims in Covid deaths: SC

85 tonne Covid bio medical waste generated each day from May 2020 to Feb 2022

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Monday expressed concern over fake claims for getting ex-gratia compensation of Rs 50,000, meant for family members of those who have lost their lives due to COVID-19, saying it had never visualized that this can be "misused" and had thought that the "morality" was not gone so down. The apex court said it may entrust inquiry into the matter to the CAG's office.

"We never expected and visualized that it can be mis-used also. It is a very pious work and we had thought that our morality has not gone so down that in this also, there will be some fake claims. We never visualized and thought this," a bench of Justices M R Shah and B V Nagarathna said. The bench, which had last week expressed concern over fake COVID-19 death certificates being issued for ex-gratia com-



ensation and observed that it might order a probe into the issue, said if some officers are involved in such fake claims then it is a "very serious thing". The apex court had earlier directed all States Governments and Union Territories to appoint a dedicated nodal officer to coordinate with the member secretary of the state legal service authority (SLSA) to facilitate payment of ex-gratia compensation to the family members of COVID-19 victims. During

the hearing on Monday, Solicitor General Tushar Mehta, appearing for the Centre, told the bench that there are two-fold suggestions, including that the apex court may consider fixing some final limit so that whoever wants to apply, can do the same within a time frame.

The bench told Mehta that on the last date of hearing, it had asked the authority to file an appropriate application in this regard. "We had told you to file an appropriate applica-

tion and that it why the matter was adjourned for today," the bench said. Mehta said he would file an application in this regard on Tuesday and the court may hear the matter on Wednesday. "I undertake to file it tomorrow. Kindly have it day after," he said.

The bench told Mehta that the authority is also required to say something on the issue of fake claims in the application. The bench said let the Centre come with an appropriate application then it would consider the issue. "Otherwise, what we can do is, that we can entrust the inquiry to the Accountant General office," it observed.

The apex court posted the matter for hearing on March 21 so as to enable the Centre to file an appropriate application for further directions on limiting the time period to invite the applications for ex-gratia payment and seeking further direction on fake claims.

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

About 84.61 tonnes per day (TPD) of incremental Covid-19 Bio medical waste was generated between May 2020 and February 2022 in the country from various sources such as healthcare facilities, quarantine centres/ camps and sample collection centres.

The other sources included laboratories, home care/ home isolation centres engaged in treatment, diagnosis and quarantine of Covid-19 infected or suspected patients, Ashwini Kumar Choubey, Minister of State for Environment told Lok Sabha on Monday in a written reply.

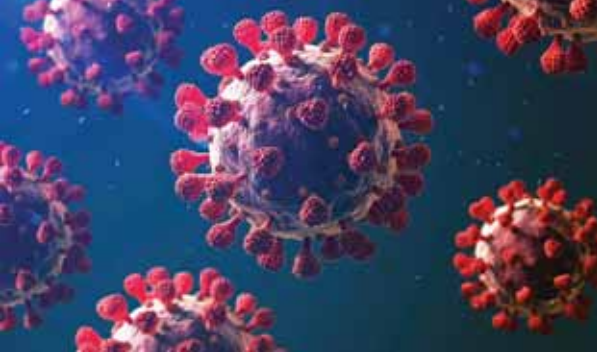
He said that as per the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB), about 656 TPD of BMW was generated in

2020, out of which 590 TPD was collected and treated by the Common Bio-medical Waste Treatment facilities (CBWTFs).

In March 2020, the CPCB had issued "Guidelines for Handling, treatment and disposal of waste generated during treatment, diagnostics and quarantine of COVID-19 patients" and developed an application namely, COVID19BWM to track the generation and treatment of COVID-19 BMW at CBWTFs.

There are no reported cases of violation of Guidelines; however, the CPCB has issued notices to 33 numbers of CBWTFs across the country for not reporting data on COVID19BWM.

These were in Karnataka (15), Maharashtra (5) two CBWTFs each in Bihar,



Gujarat, Jharkhand, Madhya Pradesh and Telangana and one each in Odisha, Rajasthan and Uttar Pradesh.

There are 208 Common Bio-medical Waste Treatment Facilities (CBWTFs) operational in the country for treatment and disposal of Bio-medical Waste (BMW) as per the

information furnished by SPCBs/ PCCs for the year 2020. There are no operational CBWTFs in nine (9) States/ Union Territories. The BMW treatment and disposal in these areas is done through captive treatment facilities operated by healthcare facilities themselves, said the Minister.

1,080 corruption cases involving armed forces' personnel since 2010: Govt in RS

42 Defence personnel killed in aircraft accidents in 5 yrs, Rajya Sabha told

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The government on Monday informed the Rajya Sabha that a total of 1,080 cases of alleged corruption involving armed forces personnel have been reported since 2010. The Army reported the most with 1,046 such cases.

Giving these details, minister of state for defence Ajay Bhatt said the number of cases had gone down in the last few years due to steps like strict action and sensitizing the personnel about severity of consequences.

He said the Indian Air Force reported 29 corruption cases since 2010 while the number in the Navy was five. The number of corruption cases in the Army was 1,046 and the figure is for the period between 2013 and 2021. He provided this information in response to a question about the number of corruption cases involving armed forces personnel since 2010.

The minister said there was a decrease in the number of corruption-related complaints and the likely reasons for the same are: strict action against delinquent personnel, sensitisation of the environment on the severity of conse-



quences and regular promulgation of advisories and policies. Responding to a question on criminal cases involving the armed forces personnel, Bhatt said they are dealt with very severely and that the punishment for such offences is "exemplary".

"The personnel of armed forces are dealt with very severely for any criminal offence. Based on the nature of crimes committed, either an inquiry is conducted or the case is handed over to the civil police," he said.

The minister said the criminal cases are dealt with on a "case-to-case basis" based on the allegations, either by the armed force itself or by the civil police. Replying to another question on the selection of

Republic Day tableaux, Bhatt said a well-established system is followed for the selection. He was asked why Tamil Nadu's tableau was rejected for participation in this year's Republic Day parade.

Bhatt said the tableau from Tamil Nadu was considered during the first three rounds of the meetings of the expert committee constituted to evaluate the proposals.

After the third round of meetings, the tableau could not make it into the final list of 12 shortlisted for participation in the Republic Day parade, he said.

The minister informed the house there is a well-established system for selection of tableaux for participation in the Republic Day parade.

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The government on Monday informed the Rajya Sabha 42 defence personnel were killed in accidents involving aircraft and helicopters of the three Services in the last five years.

These details came in the backdrop of the first Chief of Defence Staff (CDS) General Bipin Rawat and 12 others including his wife dying in a helicopter crash on December 8 last year.

Minister of state for defence Ajay Bhatt said in a written reply the total number of air accidents in the last five years was 45 with the IAF reporting a maximum of 29.

He said the number of accidents involving aircraft, including helicopters, in the Indian Army in the last five years was 12, while it was four in the Indian Navy. The minister said the IAF lost 34 people while it was seven in the Indian Army and one in the Indian Navy.

He gave these details in reply to a question about details of aircraft accidents in the Indian armed forces in the

last five years.

The minister said the number of defence personnel killed in air accidents was more in the current financial year as 13 armed forces personnel were killed in the crash of an IAF helicopter on December 8.

"No increase has been noticed in the number of defence personnel to have died during such accidents during the last five years. "However, during the current financial year, the number of personnel that died was more as 13 defence personnel died in one Indian Air Force helicopter crash on December 8, 2021," Bhatt said. It was in apparent reference to the crash involving General Rawat.

He said every accident in the armed forces is investigated by a board of inquiry or court of inquiry. The primary aim of the investigation is to discover cause(s) based on factual information and institute immediate preventive measures to avoid recurrence of similar accidents, the minister said.

"The recommendations and remedial measures given by each board of inquiry/court

of inquiry are followed up in letter and spirit and implemented immediately to prevent a recurrence," he said.

The minister also said enhanced flight safety measures are being taken by the Indian Army to prevent accidents. Remedial measures as recommended by the Board of Inquiry constituted by the Indian Navy have been imple-

mented. No accidents of similar nature have occurred since the implementation of the remedial measures, Bhatt said.

The recommendations made by the court of inquiry constituted by the IAF have suggested improvements in the areas of aircraft and system improvements by means of modifications and additional checks, additional training for

aircrew and ground crew and aircraft operating limits in certain cases, the minister said.

He said the reduction in life of aircraft and engines has also been recommended. "These recommendations have been circulated to all the operating units of the IAF for implementation so as to reduce aircraft accidents in future," Bhatt said.

Govt assures help to victims of road mishap in Canada

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The government on Monday assured all possible help to the victims of a road mishap in Canada. Five Indian students had died in an accident near Toronto on Saturday and two others were admitted to hospital.

External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar on Monday said in a tweet message "Deeply mourn the passing away of 5 Indian students in Canada. Condolences to their families. Pray for the recovery of those injured. @IndianToronto will provide all necessary support and assistance." Jaishankar tweeted.

Indian High Commissioner to Canada Ajay

Bisaria said the accident took place near Toronto on Saturday and two injured students were admitted to a hospital.

He said the Indian mission in Toronto was in touch with friends of the victims for required assistance. "Heart-breaking tragedy in Canada: 5 Indians students passed away in an auto accident near Toronto on Saturday. Two others in hospital."

Deepest condolences to the families of the victims, @IndianToronto team in touch with friends of the victims for assistance," he tweeted.

According to reports, the mishap took place in Ontario between a van in which the students were travelling and a tractor trailer on Highway 401

Five Indian students had died in an accident near Toronto on Saturday and two others were admitted to hospital

in the Quinte West city in Southern Ontario. Harpreet Singh, Jaspinder Singh, Karanpal Singh, Mohit Chouhan and Pawan Kumar were pronounced dead at the scene, it said.

The victims were aged between 21 and 24 years. The police said they were all students in the Greater Toronto and Montreal areas.



Union Ministers Amit Shah, Rajnath Singh, Nirmala Sitharaman, Anurag Thakur and other parliamentarians in the Lok Sabha, during the second part of the Budget Session, at Parliament House in New Delhi, on Monday.

Photo | SANSAD TV/PTI

Mansingh slams discounts on liquor sales in Delhi

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Rajya Sabha member Sonal Mansingh on Monday criticized the huge discounts that were earlier being offered by liquor vendors in the national capital and said there was a need to curb policies that cause pain to society.

Raising the issue during the Zero Hour, she said, "I urge the government to take cognisance of this issue so that such policies which cause pain to society could be curbed."

Criticising the new excise policy of the Delhi Government and massive discounts that were offered on liquor, she said public opposed it and staged protests at many places. "But the Delhi Government remained unfazed. When the Delhi High Court took cognisance of this scheme, this scheme was closed in hurry,"

Mansingh said.

Following protests from the public, liquor vendors were blamed invoking certain clauses, she added.

The Delhi excise commissioner, on February 28, had passed an order discontinuing any discount or rebate on the Maximum Retail Price (MRP) of liquor.

The order referred to reports of large crowds at liquor stores as well as unhealthy market practices as the reason for the discontinuation of discounts, and said the vendors are indulging in promotional activities which is prohibited under the Delhi Excise Act.

The Delhi High Court on March 8 dismissed pleas seeking to stay the decision of the Delhi government prohibiting any discount or rebate on the MRP of liquor in the national capital.

Naidu urges MPs to facilitate productive session

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

Rajya Sabha Chairman M Venkaiah Naidu on Monday urged the members to facilitate a productive second part of the Budget Session as the first part resulted in productivity of 101.40%.

Making this appeal on the first day of the session, he referred to the first part of the Budget Session that witnessed eight full consecutive sittings without disturbances and forced adjournments, after about three years and stressed on the need to sustain that spirit.

Urging the members to follow Covid appropriate behavior both within and outside the House, he informed the members that another safety measure was recently installed in the Rajya Sabha Chambers to effectively contain

the spread of Corona Virus in the form of Ultra-Violet C-Band radiation which is very effective in killing the virus.

The technology has been developed by CSIR-CSIO.

As the Budget Session resumed after a 30-day recess for Department Related Parliamentary Standing Committees to examine the Demands for Grants of various ministries, Naidu gave an account of the work done in this regard by the eight Committees of Rajya Sabha.

He informed the House that these eight Committees have held 23 meetings for 73 hours and 33 minutes at an average duration of 3 hours 30 minutes per meeting, the best in this regard. This marked an increase of one hour 17 minutes per meeting over that of last year, constituting a rise of 56%. Three Committees on Education, Personnel and

Public Grievances and Commerce reported an average duration of meetings of over four hours during the recess period.

He, however, expressed concern over decline in attendance in these Committee meetings this year. He reiterated the need for nominating members with interest in specialized and technical matters on Committees dealing with those issues. He further noted that the members should give priority for attending the meetings of the Parliamentary panels even during the time of elections.

Referring to the situation in Ukraine, the Chairman noted that evacuation of students from Ukraine was a challenging task and complimented the Central and State Governments for putting in praiseworthy efforts in this regard.

CBI books ED Asst director in DA case

New Delhi: The CBI has booked an assistant director of the Enforcement Directorate for allegedly amassing disproportionate assets to the tune of Rs 37 lakh in the check period of four years. The accused officer Rajkumar Ram, who was then posted in Bengaluru, had assets worth over Rs 1.18 lakh on April 1, 2016 in his name as well as that of his homemaker wife which allegedly swelled to Rs 57 lakh as on March 31, 2020, according to the FIR.

During the check period, Ram had a total income of over Rs 1.34 crore with expenses of about Rs 1.16 crore.

After going through his income from verified sources and expenses, the CBI concluded that he has amassed Rs 37 lakh as disproportionate assets in connivance with his wife, alleges the FIR. Ram is presently posted in the ED's office in Guwahati. **PNS**

Sikh passengers, employees can wear Kirpans on flights and airports

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Sikh domestic air passengers and employees working at airports will again be allowed to carry 'kirpan' of a specific length and specified measure of blade on flights and airports in India.

The restoration announcement comes after a Sikh employee wearing a 'kirpan' was stopped from performing duty at the Sri Guru Ram Dass Jee International Airport, Amritsar, last week.

The BCAS order on March 4, banning Sikh aviation sector employees from carrying kirpan on person within any Indian airport premises, was criticised by the Shiromani Gurdwara Parbandhak Committee (SGPC).

The order issued by Bureau of Civil Aviation Security



(BCAS) on March 12 said, "Kirpan may be carried by a Sikh passenger, on his person, provided the length of its blade does not exceed 15.24 cms (6 inches); and the total length of a 'kirpan' does not exceed 22.86 cms (9 inches). It is allowed while traveling by air on Indian aircraft within India (domestic routes of fully domestic flights only)."

The BCAS order of March 12 basically restores the position before March 4. The para restricting entry of Sikh employees inside the airport carrying kirpan of specified size has been deleted.

Soon after the order came in, BJP's Manjinder Singh Sirsa took to Twitter and thanked the Prime Minister's Office and Union Civil Aviation Minister

Jyotiraditya Scindia for swift action regarding doing away with the kirpan restriction.

Sirsa tweeted, "Recent order of Civil Aviation Ministry restricting Sikh employees from carrying kirpan at airport during duty has been changed. The corrigendum removed objectionable restriction. Employees (and passengers) can carry kirpan at Indian airports. Thanking PMO India and Jyotiraditya Scindia ji for swift action."

The ban had stirred a row, and upset the Sikh community that termed it as an infringement of their rights. SGPC president Harjinder Singh Dhani in a letter, had urged Scindia to look into the incident and immediately withdraw the rule. Kirpan, a curved dagger, has to be worn next to the body in Sikh religion.

PM receives desk-thumping welcome in Lower House

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Monday received a desk-thumping welcome by BJP MPs in the Lok Sabha as soon as he entered the house after the proceedings had just commenced following the month-long recess in the Budget session.

This is the first time that the House is meeting after the BJP's emphatic victory in the just concluded assembly polls in five state assembly elections of which the BJP returned to power in four including the key state of Uttar Pradesh where it won successive victory after 37 years.

Modi entered the House minutes after the proceedings commenced and immediately all MPs belonging to the BJP gave him a standing ovation and thumped desks while chanting "Modi, Modi".

Congress president Sonia Gandhi was present in the house.

All Union Ministers, including Amit Shah and Rajnath Singh, joined the ruling party MPs in welcoming the prime minister to the House. The BJP won in UP, Uttarakhand, Goa and Manipur while the Aam Aadmi Party emerged victorious in Punjab.

The Prime Minister took his seat in the House when Speaker Om Birla was speaking about a Parliamentary delegation from Austria which witnessed the proceedings of the House from a 'special box'.

After the prime minister, union ministers and the BJP MPs settled down, the Speaker, while welcoming the Austrian delegation, extended greetings of the House as well as the people of India to the Austrian Parliament, the Austrian gov-

Modi entered the House minutes after the proceedings commenced and immediately all MPs belonging to the BJP gave him a standing ovation and thumped desks while chanting "Modi, Modi"

ernment and the people of Austria.

The delegation was led by President of the National Council of Austria Wolfgang Sobotka.

Birla said the team arrived in India on March 13 and have already visited Agra. They will proceed to Hyderabad before returning to Austria on March 17. Modi sat through the part of the question hour when questions on child labour and post-pandemic tourist inflow in the country were being answered.

UP BIENNIAL POLLS Process for 36 council seats begins today

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

The process for the biennial election to 36 seats from the local body constituency of UP Legislative Council, the Upper House of UP legislature, will commence on Tuesday.

Chief Electoral Officer of UP, Ajay Kumar Shukla, said here on Monday that the Election Commission of India had declared the election schedule on January 28 and the notification for the first phase election to 29 seats was issued on February 4 and the nominations for the first phase of elections had already been filed.

He said the process was later suspended due to assembly polls. He said the nomination for the first phase of these elections could be filed from March 15.

He said the notification for the second phase election to six seats was to be issued on February 10, but it was deferred due to the ongoing elections to UP assembly polls. He said with the conclusion of assembly elections on March 10 after the counting of votes, the nomination papers for the second phase of council elections would be filed from March 15.

The last date for filing nomination for all 36 seats is March 22 and polling on all seats will be held on April 9 and counting of votes will be



held on April 12.

The elected members of the three-tier panchayat bodies and elected members of the urban local bodies and their heads constitute the electoral colleges for the election to the local bodies constituency of the UP Legislative Council.

Meanwhile, the Samajwadi Party, after losing the closely contested bipolar UP assembly elections, has stepped up its preparation for the election to retain its majority in the UP Legislative Council. In the 100-member UP Legislative Council, the SP has a clear majority with 48 seats while the ruling Bharatiya Janata Party has 36 seats. The BJP is

close to majority as eight MLCs of Samajwadi Party and one Bahujan Samaj Party MLC have joined the BJP.

The BJP will leave no stone unturned to win most of the 36 seats to gain a clear majority in the Upper House.

The SP is likely to consider new faces for this election and many sitting MLCs are likely to be denied tickets on the grounds of non-performance. Sources in the SP said many leaders who contested the last assembly election and lost by thin margin could be given tickets for the council election. The names of the candidates are likely to be announced on Tuesday

BJP compares WB with Syria, Afghan



SAUGAR SENGUPTA ■ KOLKATA

Opposition BJP has compared Bengal with Syria and Afghanistan even as Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee on Monday held high-level meeting with top administrative and police officials in the wake of the murder of two municipal councilors who were shot dead on Sunday.

Saying that the situation in Bengal was no better than that of Syria and Afghanistan, BJP national vice president Dilip Ghosh on Monday said, "the law and order situation in our State is worse in the country... the Chief Minister had promised transforming Kolkata into London but her Government has ended up making Bengal into a Syria or Afghanistan."

Alleging that the ruling TMC was steeped in corruption and criminal activities Ghosh wondered "what guarantee do

you have for the common man where the politicians are shot dead in crowded markets."

Congress sitting councillor of 20 years Tapan Kandu from Jhalda municipality in Purulia district and Trinamool Congress' councillor from Panihati in northern fringes of Kolkata --- Anupam Dutta were on Sunday shot dead by alleged contract killers.

Congress leader Adhir Chowdhury who visited Purulia on Monday said that "TMC is behind the murder as Tapan had refused to join their party and was trying to form a board in Jhalda which had sprung a hung house" in the just concluded municipal elections. Dutta's family members alleged that he was killed by the land mafia.

Even as the BJP MLAs staged demonstration in State Assembly party legislator Agnimitra Paul said, "The murder of the councilors, prove that

the law and order situation in Bengal is alarming. We demand that the chief minister who is also the Home Minister explains the deteriorating law and order situation in the Assembly. This can't go on."

The Chief Minister on Monday held a high-level administrative meeting with Chief Secretary, Home Secretary, ADG CID and ADG Law and Order sources said adding she had directed the top officials to go after the rowdy elements irrespective of their political colours.

Meanwhile, four persons were arrested on Monday in connection of the two murders. While contract killer Sumit Pandit who was seen in the CCTV firing at the Panihati councillor was arrested from a hideout in the northern fringes of Kolkata two persons were held in connection with the murder of Purulia murders sources said.

Cops on alert in UP for Holi, Shab-e-Barat

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

The State Government has directed the police and administrative officials to remain on high alert and ensure peace and order during the upcoming Holi and Shab-e-Barat festivals.

Additional Chief Secretary (Home) Awanish Kumar Awasthi interacted with senior administrative and police officers over law and order and preparedness through video conferencing in Lucknow on Sunday.

The officials were told that the festivals of Holi and Shab-e-Barat would be celebrated simultaneously from March 17 till March 19 and that keeping in view the sensitivity of these occasions, effective action should be ensured by organising meetings of Holika Dahan committee and peace committee at the earliest. The Fire department officials were directed to deploy fire-tenders at appropriate places for ensuring fire safety.

The additional chief secretary said that in all districts, ADMs and DySPs should form a team and check liquor shops and stop the sale of illicit/spurious liquor at all costs. The officials were also directed to complete preventive action against mischievous elements on time.

Awasthi said that police/PAC personnel had been allocated for all districts and all preparations, including their proper deployment, should be



completed. He instructed officials to keep a strict tab in sensitive places/districts and ensure peace and security during Holika Dahan (March 17). Holi (March 18) and Shab-e-Barat (March 19).

The additional chief secretary also instructed officials to ensure uninterrupted supply of power and water and ensure cleanliness during these festivals. The officials were told to ensure arrangements in coordination with the Food Logistics and Food Safety department.

District officials were also asked to coordinate with the Medical and Health department and ensure the availability of adequate numbers of doctors, paramedical staff and beds in hospitals. During the video conferencing, Awasthi congratulated all senior administrative and police officers of the state for the peaceful conduct of assembly elections.

Officials participating in the video conferencing said that all necessary action and arrangements were being ensured for festivals to be celebrated peacefully and in a cordial environment.

Maha HM orders probe into Fadnavis' charge of plot to frame Opp leaders

PNS ■ MUMBAI

In the continuing battle of nerves between the Opposition Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) and ruling Maha Vikas Aghadi (MVA), Maharashtra Home Minister Dilip Walse-Patil on Monday ordered a Criminal Investigation Department (CID) probe into the allegations raised by Opposition leader Devendra Fadnavis into the alleged conspiracies to frame Opposition leaders, even as the BJP leaders rooted for a CBI inquiry into their allegations.

On a day when leader of the Opposition Devendra Fadnavis upped the ante on a pen drive produced by him in the House on March 8 that it contained "proof" conspiracies hatched by the ruling MVA leaders against the BJP

leaders, Walse-Patil announced a CID probe into the Opposition's allegations in the "incriminating" pen drive.

Replying to a debate in the Maharashtra Assembly on law and order situation in the state, Walse-Patil said that Special Public Prosecutor Pravin Chavan - whose name figures in the sting operation carried out by the Opposition BJP - had resigned from his post, pending a CID inquiry into the Opposition's allegation that the "conspiracies" were hatched at Chavan's office.

"Chavan has resigned as government advocate. The CID will examine the pen drive and ascertain if the Opposition's allegations are true. After the receipt of the report from the CID report, we will initiate necessary action," Walse-Patil said.

Earlier, rooting for a CBI



inquiry into the allegations made by him, Fadnavis said: The pen drive that I produced in the House contains the conspiracy behind the raids conducted at the residence of our party leader Girish Maharashtra and what were things that were planted at Mahajan's residence. In the video and tapes the names of several ministers that the Special Public Prosecutor has

taken. How can the Maharashtra police conduct an inquiry into our allegations against its own ministers? Hence, we are demanding a CBI probe into our allegations."

Maintaining that till the state orders a CBI probe into their allegations in the pen drive and also the alleged links of the ruling NCP leaders with underworld don Dawood

Ibrahim, the Opposition BJP MLAs staged a walkout from the State Assembly.

It may be recalled that on March 8, Fadnavis had submitted a pen drive containing "proof" to Deputy Speaker Narhari Zirwal and claimed that the pen drive contained video recordings running into 125 hours, showing how conspiracies were hatched by the police and the three constituents of the ruling MVA - Shiv Sena, NCP and Congress, to "frame" him and other State BJP leaders in false cases at the office of Pravin Chavan.

Fadnavis had said that the video footage showed Chavan discussing details about how meetings were held at the highest level -- from the chief minister to state DGP to the police commissioner -- to "frame" BJP leader Girish Mahajan under MCOCA and arrest him.



AAP leader and Punjab CM-designate Bhagwant Mann submits his resignation from the Lok Sabha on Monday

PTI

Braj Holi Mahotsav begins in Bharatpur

PNS ■ BHARATPUR

Braj Holi Mahotsav 2022, a three-day carnival celebrating the vibrant hues of the festival of colour Holi, has begun with fanfare in Braj region of Bharatpur, Deeg and Kaman.

The Rajasthan Tourism Department and the District Administration of Bharatpur are hosting the event promote cultural tourism. "Bharatpur is part of the Braj region; a sacred land where Lord Krishna had spent many years of his boyhood. Braj Holi Mahotsav is a celebration of the rich traditions," said Rajasthan Chief Minister Ashok Gahlot. "Our endeavour is to promote Bharatpur as a distinct place where culture and religion are so beautifully interwoven," said Rajasthan Tourism Minister Vishvendra Singh.

PUBLIC NOTICE

Inviting the objections/suggestions for approval of revised building plans for Tower-7 & Commercial Building falling in Affordable Group Housing Colony area measuring 5.00 Acres (Licence No 26 of 2019 dated 25.02.2019) in Sector-76, Gurugram Manesar Urban Complex being developed by Smt. Manesh Yadav & Others in collaboration with Pyramid Infratech Private Limited.

Vide this public notice to individual person jointly and severally who have made bookings/entered into Agreement for allotment of flat/Shop in the said colony (hereinafter referred as allottees). The building Plan earlier approved is now proposed to be revised for Tower-7 & Commercial Building in the project And Whereas, The office of Director, Town and Country Planning, Haryana Chandigarh is seeking objections/suggestions against revised building plans of Tower-7 & Commercial Building. Accordingly, vide this notice, objections/suggestions are hereby invited on the changes in the building plan of the colony. A copy of the earlier approved building plans bearing no ZP-1299/SD/(DK)/2019/11324 dated 08.05.2019 and revised plan bearing memo no. ZP-1299/AD/(RA)/2022/6086 dated 07.03.2022 are available for perusal at our office and also on website www.pyramidinfratech.com and displayed at our site office for information of all such existing allottees. The said approved building plans and the revised building plans can also be perused in the office of undersigned at Unit No. 501-508, 5th Floor, Unitech Trade Centre, Sector-43, Sushant Lok-1, Gurugram as well as in the office of Senior Town Planner, Sector-14, Gurugram, Haryana -122001.

If you have any objection/suggestion, you may file the same in our office and/or in the office of Senior Town Planner, Sector-14, Gurugram, Haryana -122001 within 30 days of the issuance of this notice, failing which it shall be presumed that there is no objection/suggestion at your end on the above said changes.

Contact Detail of M/s Pyramid Infratech Private Limited
Mr. Sunil Kumar, (Authorised Representative) Mob. No: 9811000240
Address: Unit No. 501-508, 5th Floor, Unitech Trade Centre, Sector-43, Sushant Lok-1, Gurugram

PUBLIC NOTICE

Inviting the objections/suggestions for approval of revised building plans for Tower-5, 6 & Commercial building in the Affordable Group Housing Colony for an area measuring 5.6972 acres (Licence No. 133 of 2019 dated 16-12-2019) in Sector-59, Gurugram Manesar, Urban Complex being developed by Golden View Builders Pvt. Ltd. & Others C/o M/s Pyramid Home Developers LLP.

Vide this public notice to individual person jointly and severally who have made bookings/entered into Agreement for allotment of flat/Shop in the said colony (hereinafter referred as allottees). The building Plan earlier approved is now proposed to be revised for Tower-5, 6 & Commercial Building in the project. And Whereas, The office of Director, Town and Country Planning, Haryana Chandigarh is seeking objections/suggestions against revised building plans of Tower-5, 6 & Commercial Building. Accordingly, vide this notice, objections/suggestions are hereby invited on the changes in the building plan of the colony. A copy of the earlier approved building plans bearing no ZP-1388/JD/(RD)/2020/4137 dated 12-02-2020 and revised plan bearing memo no. ZP-1388/AD/(RA)/2022/6089 dated 07-03-2022 are available for perusal at our office and also on website www.pyramidhomedevelopers.com and displayed at our site office for information of all such existing allottees. The said approved building plans and the revised building plans can also be perused in the office of undersigned at Unit No. 501-508, 5th Floor, Unitech Trade Centre, Sector-43, Sushant Lok-1, Gurugram as well as in the office of Senior Town Planner, Sector-14, Gurugram, Haryana -122001.

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Mr. Sunil Kumar, (Authorised Representative) Mob. No: 9811000240
Address: Unit No. 501-508, 5th Floor, Unitech Trade Centre, Sector-43, Sushant Lok-1, Gurugram

4K held in 10 months for trading ₹427 cr drugs, narcotics in Assam

PTI ■ GUWAHATI

Assam Governor Jagdish Mukhi said on Monday that as many as 4,052 people have been arrested in the last 10 months for their alleged involvement in trading drugs, and narcotics worth Rs 427 crore seized.

Addressing the Assembly on the first day of the Budget Session, Mukhi said the frontal attack on drug menace, which started in May 2021, was still being carried out with "great force".

"Since May 2021, 2,363 cases were registered and 4,052 people arrested. Drugs of estimated value of Rs 427 crore were seized," he added.

The seizures include 72.2 kg heroin, 19,207 kg ganja, 49 kg opium, around 1,90,000

bottles of codeine-based cough syrup, approximately 31,00,000 tablets and 3.375 kg crystal methamphetamine, he said.

Talking about another social ill, the governor said 200 human trafficking victims have been rescued and 78 people arrested in connection with 67 cases.

On paddy procurement, he said that a target to purchase 10 lakh metric tonne from farmers had been fixed for the current Kharif Marketing Season (KMS).

"As on Mar 10, 2022, 12,248 farmers have sold 86,285 MT of paddy and have benefited with MSP amounting to Rs 163 crore," he noted.

The Kharif marketing season (KMS) 2021-22 runs from October to September. Mukhi further said that 4,57,851 houses

have been built out of a total sanctioned 7,68,013 units under Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana- Gramin (PMAY-G)

"We will also be taking up another 7 lakh houses in next few months. An innovative idea of Cluster House approach has been adopted in the state to construct houses for landless PMAY-G beneficiaries," he added.

On the COVID-19 vaccination drive, Mukhi said the state is planning to complete second dose administration by March 31 this year.

According to the National Health Mission (NHM) bulletin on Sunday, a total of 4,36,28,957 jabs have been administered thus far -- 2,34,27,555 first doses, 1,99,26,740 second and 2,74,662 precautionary doses.

Notice under section 13(2) of the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 (The Act)				
Sr. No.	Name of Borrower(s) (A)	Particulars of Mortgaged property/properties (B)	Date Of NPA (C)	Outstanding amount (Rs.) (D)
1.	LOAN ACCOUNT NO. HHLCHD00238417 1. JAI PARKASH 2. SANJAY KUMAR	PLOT 543 ADMEASURING 200 SQ YDS, CHANDIGARH ROYALE CITY, VILLAGE KARALA, TEHSIL DERABASSI, MOHALI, PUNJAB - 160062	06.04.2021	Rs. 3,24,764.35/- (Rupees Three Lakhs Twenty Four Thousand Seven Hundred Sixty Four and Paise Thirty Five Only) up to 24.11.2021
That the above named borrower(s) have failed to maintain the financial discipline towards their loan account (s) and as per books of accounts maintained in the ordinary course of business by the Company, Column D indicates the outstanding amount. Due to persistent default in repayment of the Loan amount on the part of the Borrower(s) the above said loan account has been classified by the Company as Non Performing Asset (as on date in Column C) within the guidelines relating to assets classification issued by Regulating Authority. Consequently, notices under Sec. 13(2) of the Act were also issued to each of the borrower. In view of the above, the Company hereby calls upon the above named Borrower(s) to discharge in full his/her liabilities towards the Company by making the payment of the entire outstanding dues indicated in Column D above including up to date interest, costs, and charges within 60 days from the date of publication of this notice, failing which, the Company shall be entitled to take possession of the Mortgaged Property mentioned in Column B above and shall also take such other actions as is available to the Company in law. Please note that in terms of provisions of sub-Section (8) of Section 13 of the SARFAESI Act, "A borrower can tender the entire amount of outstanding dues together with all costs, charges and expenses incurred by the Secured Creditor only till the date of publication of the notice for sale of the secured asset(s) by public auction, by inviting quotations, tender from public or by private treaty. Further it may also be noted that in case Borrower fails to redeem the secured asset within aforesaid legally prescribed time frame, Borrower may not be entitled to redeem the property. In terms of provision of sub-Section (13) of Section 13 of the SARFAESI Act, you are hereby prohibited from transferring, either by way of sale, lease or otherwise (other than in the ordinary course of his business) any of the secured assets referred to in the notice, without prior written consent of secured creditor.				
For Edelweiss Asset Reconstruction Company Limited (Trustee EARC Trust SC - 432) Authorized Officer				
Place: MOHALI / PANCHKULA / JHAJJAR				

SYMBOLIC POSSESSION NOTICE

ICICI Bank Branch Office: ICICI Bank Ltd, 3rd Floor, Plot No- 23, New Rohtak Road, Karol Bagh, Delhi- 110005

Whereas The undersigned being the Authorized Officer of ICICI Bank Limited under the Securitisation, Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 and in exercise of the powers conferred under section 13 (12) read with Rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) rules 2002, issued demand notices upon the borrowers mentioned below, to repay the amount mentioned in the notice within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said notice.

As the borrower failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the borrower and the public in general that the undersigned has taken Symbolic possession of the property described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on him/ her under Section 13(4) of the said Act read with Rule 8 of the said rules on the below-mentioned dates. The borrower in particular and the public in general is hereby cautioned not to deal with the property and any dealings with the property will be subject to the charge of ICICI Bank Limited.

Sr. No.	Name of the Borrower/ Loan Account Number	Description of Property/ Date of Symbolic Possession	Date of Demand Notice/ Amount in Demand Notice (Rs.)	Name of Branch
1.	Chandra Shekhar/ Shakuntala/ LBNOD00002954935	Flat No-211, 1st Floor, Type- Heritage, Shivkala Luxury Apartments- II, Plot No-4-19 Sec-51 Noida, Gautam Buddha Nagar, Uttar Pradesh/ March 10, 2022	June 16, 2021/ Rs. 42,12,599/-	Delhi/ NCR
2.	Manoj Kumar/ Anshul Sharma/ LBGHZ00004861411/ LBGHZ00005341948	Unit No B-607, Tower-B, 7th Floor, (Without Roof Rights) Ajanra Homes, Plot No-gh 03, Sector-16B Greater Noida, UP, Noida/ March 10, 2022	August 30, 2021/ Rs. 18,35,449/-	Delhi/ NCR
3.	Ravi Kumar Bhola/ Vimla Devi/ LBDEL00004554134/ LBDEL00005191570	MPL No 219/9, Part of Property No 2/219, Sector-02, Scheme No 10, Madhavpuram Residential Scheme, Meerut/ March 10, 2022	June 19, 2021/ Rs. 23,64,318/-	Delhi/ NCR

The above-mentioned borrowers(s)/ guarantors(s) are hereby given a 30 day notice to repay the amount, else the mortgaged properties will be sold on the expiry of 30 days from the date of publication of this Notice, as per the provisions under the Rules 8 and 9 of Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules 2002.

Date : March 15, 2022
Place: Delhi/ NCR **Authorized Officer**
ICICI Bank Limited

FIRST COLUMN

STAGGERING UNEMPLOYMENT

The Government needs to take bold steps to create more jobs in the country



BRIJENDER SINGH PANWAR

The soaring unemployment rate in India is a matter of concern. In Himachal Pradesh, a staggering figure of 8,82,269 youths have registered themselves as unemployed. The real figure may be more because many of those who lost their jobs would have gone back home without registering themselves. The situation is no better in neighbouring states like Jammu & Kashmir (13.2 per cent), Punjab (9 per cent) and it is alarmingly high in at Haryana (31 per cent). While the Centre for Monitoring Indian Economy (CMIE) has estimated the unemployment rate at 11.7 per cent in the country, the rate in these states is much higher than the national average of 8.1 per cent. The ground realities in Haryana indicate that thousands of unemployed youth including those having BTech and MTech degrees applied for just three posts of peon in the district court of Jind. Undoubtedly, the



COVID-19 pandemic crippled businesses and caused retrenchments, adding to the jobless numbers. In the states, there are clear variations of the numbers. As per CMIE data, the unemployment rate in December 2021 was highest in Haryana (34.1 per cent), followed by Rajasthan (27.1 per cent), Jharkhand (17.3 per cent) and Bihar (16 per cent). There are also age-wise variations. Based upon the data from CEDA-CMIE (between January, 2019 and July 2021), 2020-21 saw 42.4 per cent fewer 15-19 years old employed in comparison to 2019-20. The age group of 20-29 saw the average monthly employment numbers go down by 15.6 per cent. Another important area in terms of variations is gender. Though the enrolment of women in schools and colleges is improving, the proportion of women who get employed and get paid is low and continues to decline over the years. Both in urban and rural areas, unemployment among women is higher than men. For women, the average unemployment rate was just double to that of men- 14.28 per cent for women in comparison to 7.88 per cent for men. On top of it, of the women willing to seek work in urban areas, 92.1 per cent don't get any work and same is true for 54.8 per cent women in rural areas.

The main reason is that most women are involved in agricultural jobs in rural areas. Due to mechanisation of agriculture, womenfolk lost their job market and female labour participation in agriculture declined considerably. Secondly, India's manufacture industry is not labour-intensive which has made it difficult to compensate women who get displaced from agricultural jobs. The situation seems to be grim on all fronts. The manufacturing, hospitality and entertainment, real estate, tourism and other sectors of economy which generate employment are hard-pressed. The investment rate is declining and has dropped from 34.3 per cent in 2011 to 27 per cent in 2020. Indian banks are badly affected by NPAs and interest rates are expected to increase due to inflation. The companies are not investing due to uncertain situation, delicate access to credit and weak demand because of shrinking middle class and lack of purchasing power. The economic situation can improve only if steps are taken to revive the economy by providing timely support to the industries, agriculture and allied fields, MSMEs and informal sector which generates employment. The private investment needs to pick up in a big way. This can only be possible if the Government take some bold steps to create jobs for the unemployed youth.

(The writer is a senior journalist and Chairman, Panwar Group of Institutions, Solan, Himachal Pradesh. The views expressed are personal.)

Whether to resurrect LPG subsidy or not

The Govt should focus on reducing price (sans subsidy) by cutting import dependence, fostering competition by involving private entities and bringing it under GST



UTTAM GUPTA

The recent spurt in the price of LPG in the wake of Ukraine crisis has triggered a demand for resurrection of subsidy which the Narendra Modi government had stopped depositing in beneficiary's accounts since June, 2020.

Is the demand justified?

By definition, subsidy on purchase of any given product is subvention or financial assistance provided by the state to a certain class of persons who cannot afford to pay the market-based or cost-plus price from their limited income. In case of LPG, the current price of a 14.2 kg cylinder is around ₹2000 (in Delhi). Assuming that the person can't pay more than ₹600 the Government will give her ₹1400 as subsidy so that she is able to buy the cylinder.

How much a person can afford to pay? What should be the level of subsidy? Who should be in the beneficiary's list?

The Government needs to carefully and comprehensively look into these questions even as it decides to spend tax payers' money on giving subsidy. While, doing this exercise, it should keep in mind an overarching principle that 'the beneficiaries are poor'. It also needs to consider that subsidy cannot be given eternally; it should be withdrawn once their financial status improves.

Yet, in the administration of the LPG subsidy by successive regimes, the subsidies were thrown to the winds. In the past, anyone irrespective of his income who managed to get an LPG connection automatically became eligible. Therefore, it was only natural that all and sundry including the rich enjoyed the benefit of subsidy. The proof of the pudding is in eating.

According to the Economic Survey (2015-16), only 0.07 per cent of LPG subsidy in rural areas went to a fifth of the poorest households. In urban areas, the poorest fifth got only 8.2 per cent of subsidies. Thus, in rural areas, the poorest had no access to subsidy at all, whereas in urban, they got a miniscule portion. There were other flaws too.

Prior to January 1, 2015, the subsidy was embedded in the sale price.

The Union Government asked the three major oil marketing PSUs — Indian Oil, Bharat Petroleum and Hindustan Petroleum to sell LPG to eligible beneficiaries at a low price unrelated to the cost of supplying it (at the retail point) which was higher. The PSUs would then, get reimbursement of the excess of the cost over the price as subsidy from the GOI.

The system was prone to misuse as the higher market price gave incentive to the distributors to divert subsidized cylinders to commercial users such as hotels, restaurants, etc. - using modus operandi such as fake/non-existent beneficiaries or diversion of stocks straight from the godowns.

The other aberration has to do with reimbursement of cost to PSUs using a



NOW THAT SUBSIDY HAS BEEN STOPPED, THOUGH BELATED, IT MAKES NO SENSE TO RESURRECT IT. UNTIL 2020, OVER 60 PER CENT OF THE BENEFICIARIES WERE GETTING UNJUSTIFIABLE ACCESS AND IT MUST NOT BE RESTORED FOR THEM. AS FOR THE POOR, MODI MAY CONSIDER GIVING THEM CASH ASSISTANCE 'DIRECTLY' FOR AS LONG AS INTERNATIONAL PRICE REMAINS AT AN ELEVATED LEVEL

(The writer is a policy analyst. The views expressed are personal.)



mix of the 'formula' and 'actual'. This is arrived at by adding to the refinery-gate price or RGP (taken as import parity price or IPP and export parity price or EPP in the ratio of 80:20), freight, marketing costs, marketing margin, dealers' commission and taxes and duties. This results in inflated payments and avoidable increase in subsidy.

From January 1, 2015, the Modi Government launched direct benefit transfer (DBT) of LPG under a scheme nicknamed PAHAL (Pratyaksha Hataantari Laabh). Under it, subsidy is not embedded in the price. The marketing PSUs deliver the cylinder to the beneficiaries at full cost-based price (say ₹2000 in our example). They follow it up by depositing subsidy (₹1400) in beneficiary's account and claim reimbursement from the GOI.

This system addressed the problem of fake beneficiaries (around 45 million fakes were eliminated till 2020) and diversion of stocks. However, it failed to make a dent on the undeserving beneficiaries as also inflated payments to oil PSUs.

Even as the Government added about 80 million poor households over a five-year period, no serious effort was made to exclude the better-off. The moves made so far, like the Prime Minister's clarion call to surrender stopped depositing any amount towards subsidy. Thereafter, crude price started moving northward from US\$ 22 per barrel in May 2020 to US\$ 72 per barrel in August 2021; the international price of LPG

accounted for nearly 60 per cent of the total beneficiaries at about 200 million.

Was the stoppage intended? From the way things unfolded, it appears that it was not. In the budget for 2020-21, the Government had made a provision of ₹36,000 crore towards LPG subsidy. This allocation albeit for the full year won't be necessary if the intent was to discontinue in June 2020, that is within three months of the year start. During 2021-22 also, it had no intention of disbanding subsidy as it allocated for ₹14,000 crore under this head. Yet, if the government has not paid for nearly 21 months now, the reason is elsewhere.

It had to do with a fortuitous circumstance created by worldwide destruction of demand in the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic which led to steep decline in the international price of crude oil (in April 2020, it had plummeted to below \$20 per barrel). Correspondingly, the price of all petroleum products including LPG also declined. As on June 2020, the cost of supplying LPG at the retail level was coming to ₹600 per cylinder. That indeed was the target price during the earlier period but reached with subsidy support.

In this scenario and consumers getting access at a low price of ₹600 even on cost-plus basis, it was only natural that the Government stopped depositing any amount towards subsidy. Thereafter, crude price started moving northward from US\$ 22 per barrel in May 2020 to US\$ 72 per barrel in August 2021; the international price of LPG

too increased in tandem leading to hike in its cost at retail level to ₹900 per cylinder. As a result, consumers paid a higher price of ₹900 as they did not get subsidy.

Now, in the wake of Ukraine crisis, with crude price skyrocketing to \$130 per barrel and correspondingly, the cost of LPG shooting to over ₹2000, the question haunting Team Modi is: whether to resurrect subsidy or not?

From day one, the very idea of subsidizing LPG was flawed. It was neither meant for the poor, nor any sun-set date was ever fixed. Way back in 2002-03, then NDA government under Vajpayee decided to make it transparent (by giving subsidy from the budget) and eventually disbanding it but no deadline set. In 2012-13, the Kelkar Committee recommended removal of 25 per cent of subsidy and 75 per cent in the following two years. This recommendation was not acted upon.

Now that subsidy has been stopped, though belated, it makes no sense to resurrect it. Until 2020, over 60 per cent of the beneficiaries were getting unjustifiable access and it must not be restored for them. As for the poor (around 80 million) who feel the pinch of price hikes, Modi may consider giving them cash assistance directly for as long as international price remains at elevated level.

Meanwhile, the Government should focus on reducing price (sans subsidy) by reducing import dependence, fostering competition in LPG marketing by involving private entities and bringing it under GST.

POINT COUNTERPOINT

IN STATES WITH NO REPEAT THEORY, OUR PARTY HAS RETAINED POWER BECAUSE WE BELIEVE IN ALL-ROUND DEVELOPMENT.
— PRIME MINISTER
NARENDRA MODI



THE UTTAR PRADESH VERDICT IS NOT A TRUE REFLECTION OF PEOPLE'S MANDATE. THE BJP LOOTED VOTES TO WIN ELECTIONS.
— WEST BENGAL CHIEF MINISTER
MAMATA BANERJEE

Ukraine: After the pause

When will the guerilla war against Russian occupation start? Will the Ukrainian Govt retreat to Lviv? Will Russia invade western Ukraine too?

Two weeks since Russia invaded Ukraine, and still no 'decapitation' of the Ukrainian government, no city captured except Kherson (which no non-Ukrainian had ever heard of before the war), and maybe 2,000 military dead on each side.

It's not exactly a stalemate, since the Russians have more tanks, more artillery and more air power, and they have not yet used them as aggressively as they might. So, we can use this (relative) pause in the fighting to examine Moscow's remaining options.

The Ukrainians have no option except to stay on the defensive, keep fighting and hope for the best, but the Russians have a plethora of choices ranging from 'quit and go home' to 'use nuclear



GWYNNE DYER

(Gwynne Dyer's new book is 'The Shortest History of War'. The views expressed are personal.)

weapons.

What the Russians have done up to now is contrary to their own military doctrines. Indeed, it was probably imposed on the military by President Vladimir Putin, because it was based on magical thinking.

Standard Russian doctrine for attacking a country the size of Ukraine would require a methodical advance, with massive artillery and air strikes paving the way and logistical support following close behind. Instead, they sent tanks and motorised infantry on cross-country dashes to grab key targets with only the food and ammunition they could carry.

It would have worked if most Ukrainians had really been praying for Russia to liberate them from the drug-addled Jewish Nazi gangsters who Putin



said ruled their country, but it's unwise to believe your own propaganda. The Ukrainians resisted and the Russian armoured columns stalled. By Day Five Russian troops were buying or stealing food from the locals.

The sixty-km-long military convoy that has been stuck on the road north of Kiev for a week could serve as a logo for the whole misbegotten operation. Now there is a pause while

scapegoats are found (because Putin must not be blamed) and new plans are being made (perhaps by new commanders). But there will be a second phase.

It will probably be 'by the book', which means that the defenders will be crushed by massive firepower in order to spare the lives of Russian troops.

So far only Kharkiv and Mariupol have had the full treatment, with only occasional rockets hitting other big cities. This

is probably because Putin thought he could win without destroying iconic cities like Kyiv and Odessa and killing tens of thousands of people. Even the man who levelled Grozny and Aleppo understands that too much blood is bad PR.

That possibility no longer exists (indeed, it probably never did), so now his choices are retreat or mass slaughter. Since retreat would probably mean he also loses power - he led us into a needless war, he brought shame and humiliation on us, and he lost the war - Putin will see that as no choice at all, so the mass slaughter will probably commence.

Beyond this, the questions multiply. How long will the sieges last? When will the guerilla war against the Russian occupation start? Will the Ukrainian

government retreat to Lviv? Will Russia invade western Ukraine too?

Here's a more fundamental question: could all this have been avoided by some different choice in the past?

Not by refusing to let the formerly Communist-ruled countries of eastern Europe join NATO. Having suffered under Russian overlords for forty-five years after the Second World War, and in some cases having been invaded to bring them back into line - Hungary 1956, Czechoslovakia 1967 - they desperately wanted the protection of Nato membership.

Some of them had even longer experience of Russian imperialism - Poles spent the entire 19th century under Russian rule - and they knew Russia's reflex is always to build

a buffer zone of obedient vassal countries around it. It would have been unthinkable to leave them out in the cold.

That whole debate about whether NATO should have refused to let them in ignores the history. A better approach might have been to let Russia join NATO too, but it would have had to be a very different Russia.

Such a Russia may have been within reach in the 1990s if the country had been treated with respect, the carpet-baggers had been kept out, and the West had not put its money on that drunken fool Boris Yeltsin. But many people think all of that was inevitable, and maybe it was.

In any case, we are where we are, and the task for NATO now is to protect Ukraine, the country it kept out, while avoiding a nuclear war.

Russia continues strike on Kyiv suburbs

AP ■ LIVI

Russian forces fired artillery strikes on suburbs north-west of Kyiv overnight and targeted points east of the capital, the head of the Kyiv region said Monday. A town councilor for Brovary east of Kyiv was killed in fighting there, regional administration chief Oleksiy Kuleba said on Ukrainian television. He also reported strikes overnight on the northwest towns of Irpin, Bucha and Hostomel, which have seen some of the worst fighting in Russia's stalled attempt to take the capital.

The general staff of Ukraine's armed forces said Monday morning that Russian troops have not made major advances over the past 24 hours despite expanding strikes to the west. Ukrainian forces are targeting Russian bases, targeting their logistical abilities, the general staff said in a statement on Facebook marking the 19th day of the war. The general staff accused Russian forces of setting up firing positions and military equipment in churches



and other civilian infrastructure so that Ukrainian forces can't fire back. The accusation could not be immediately verified, though Associated Press reporters have seen Russian armoured vehicles in residential areas.

An artillery strike hit a nine-story apartment building in the Obolonsky district of northern Kyiv on Monday morning, destroying apartments on several floors and igniting a fire. The state emergency agency, which released

images of the smoking building, said no casualties have been reported so far.

The attacks around the capital, Kyiv, came a day after Russia escalated its offensive by shelling areas close to the Polish border, including an airbase

critical to Ukraine's defense. The Ukrainian military said Monday that Russian troops had not made great strides over the past day. Russia's Defense Ministry says its forces have advanced.

The fighting, now in its

third week, continued to exact a human toll. A pregnant woman and her baby died after Russia bombed the maternity hospital where she was meant to give birth. Associated Press images of the woman being rushed to an ambulance on a stretcher were circulated around the world and encapsulated the horror of attacks on humanity's most innocent.

The Ukrainian president's office reported Monday that airstrikes hit residential buildings toward safety in the European city of Mykolaiv, as well as in the eastern city of Kharkiv, and knocked out a television tower in the Rivne region in the northwest. Explosions rang out overnight around the Russian-occupied Black Sea port of Kherson.

The Russian Defense Ministry said Monday its forces had advanced 11 kilometers (7 miles) over the past 24 hours. A ministry spokesman did not comment in a video statement on humanitarian corridors or the crisis in the desperate, strategically important city of Mariupol.

'I wish war would end': Refugees reach 2.8 million

AP ■ WARSAW

As Russia's war in Ukraine becomes a grim new reality for millions of Ukrainians, the tens of thousands who make the increasingly treacherous journey toward safety in the European Union each day are left with no sense of when, or if, they'll ever return home.

More than 2.8 million people have fled Ukraine in the wake of Russia's invasion, according to the UN refugee agency, the vast majority seeking refuge in Poland which has taken in more than 1.7 refugees in the last 19 days.

In the Polish border town of Przemysl, some of those who are fleeing, mostly women and children, are exhausted and express a simple wish that the war and violence would stop.

"All day crying from the pain of having to part with loved ones, with my husband, my parents," said Alexandra Beltuygova, 33, who fled from Dnipro, a city between the embattled metropolises of Kyiv and Mariupol.

"I understand that we may not see them. I wish this war would end," she said. At a refugee center in Suceava in northern Romania, 28-year-old Lesia Ostrovska watched over her 1-year-old son as her daughter, who is 8, played nearby with other children displaced by the war.

"I left my husband, my father, my mother, my grandparents," said Ostrovska, who is from Chernivtsi in western Ukraine. "It's hard with kids, in the bus, here in this situation... We hope that the war is finished soon and we can go back home."

As the fighting, now in its third



week, continues to exact a grievous human toll in Ukraine with Russian troops bombarding many of the country's most populous cities, the number of those crossing into countries on the eastern edge of the EU has begun to slowly wane in recent days. In Hungary, where around 255,000 refugees have entered so far, only 9,000 people crossed the border with Ukraine on Sunday compared to more than twice that on March 1, according to police.

In Slovakia, where more than 200,000 people have fled, fewer than 9,000 crossed the border on Sunday, down from more than 12,000 four days earlier. And in Poland on Sunday, about 82,000 refugees were admitted, down from an earlier daily peak of around 129,000.

Still, those who managed to flee the violence continued to arrive in countries on Ukraine's western border.

In Przemysl, some recounted being witnesses to military attacks on civilians, something Russia continues to deny. "I saw destroyed houses and fighting. I saw a lot of tanks when I was driving from Kyiv. I know that a house near us was completely destroyed this morning," said Inessa Armashova, 40, a resident of the Ukrainian capital.

War censorship exposes Putin's leaky Net controls

AP ■ BOSTON

Long before waging war on Ukraine, President Vladimir Putin was working to make Russia's internet a powerful tool of surveillance and social control akin to China's so-called Great Firewall.

So when Western tech companies began cutting ties with Russia following its invasion, Russian investigative journalist Andrei Soldatov was alarmed. He'd spent years exposing Russian censorship and feared that well-intentioned efforts to aid Ukraine would instead help Putin isolate Russians from the free flow of information, aiding the Kremlin's propaganda war.

"Look, guys the only space the Russians have to talk about Ukraine. And what is going on in Russia. Is Facebook," Soldatov, now exiled in London. Wrote on Facebook in the war's first week. "You cannot just, like, kill our access."

Facebook didn't, although



the Kremlin soon picked up that baton, throttling both Facebook and Twitter so badly they are effectively unreachable on the Russian internet. Putin has also blocked access to both Western media and independent news sites in the country, and a new law criminalizes spreading information that contradicts the government's line. On Friday, the Kremlin said it would also restrict access to Instagram. By early Monday, the network monitor NetBlocks found network data showing the social network restricted in Russia across multiple users.

Yet the Kremlin's latest censorship efforts have revealed serious shortcomings in the government's bigger plans to straightjacket the internet. Any Russian with a modicum of tech smarts can circumvent Kremlin efforts to starve Russians of fact.

For instance, the government has so far had only limited success blocking the use of software known as virtual private networks, or VPNs, that allows users to evade content restrictions.

PUBLIC NOTICE

The meeting has been called to discuss the filing of the vacancy which has arisen on account of expulsion of Sh Neeraj Agarwal M.S. No. 170 and approved by the order of the S.P. Registrar. The President informed that the vacancy is to be filled up as per Rule 19 of the DCS Rules, 2007 and the RCS office is to be informed 15 days in advance before advertising the vacancy in the newspapers. The matter was discussed among the committee members and it has been resolved that the vacancy to be filled up and the RCS office be informed about the filing up of the vacancy. The cost of flat including equalization charges is Rs. 61,36,133/-

For The People Conservative CGHS LTD. PRESIDENT

Sr. No.	Name of Borrower(s) / Co-Borrower / Guarantors / Loan Account No.	Details of the Secured asset(s) with known encumbrances, if any	Amount Outstanding	Reserve Price / Earnest Money Deposit	Date and Time of Property Inspection	Date & Time of Auction
(A)	(B)	(C)	(D)	(E)	(F)	(G)
1.	Vijay Grover (Borrower), Reena Grover (Co-Borrower) LBDEL00002365295	Flat No B1 1301, JKG Palm Court, Plot No Gh 1d, Sector 16C, Greater Noida West, Up. Super Builtup Area- 1765 Sq Ft	Rs. 82,73,920/- (as on February 25, 2022)	Rs. 49,42,000/- (Rs. 4,94,200/-)	March 23, 2022 From 11:00 AM to 2:00 PM	April 06, 2022 From 11:00 AM Onwards
2.	Vijay Grover (Borrower), Reena Grover (Co-Borrower) LBDEL00002371601	Flat No B1 1302, JKG Palm Court, Plot No Gh 1d, Sector 16C, Greater Noida West, Up Super Builtup Area-1765 Sq. Ft.	Rs. 82,40,156/- (as on February 25, 2022)	Rs. 49,42,000/- (Rs. 4,94,200/-)	March 23, 2022 From 11:00 AM to 2:00 PM	April 06, 2022 From 11:00 AM Onwards
3.	Himanshu Gupta (Borrower), Vandana Rani (CO-Borrower) LBGHZ00002313993	Flat No B1 1801, 18th Floor, JKG Palm Court, Plot No GH 1D, Sector 16C, Greater Noida West, Up. Super Builtup Area-1765 Sq. Ft.	Rs. 85,39,213/- (as on February 25, 2022)	Rs. 49,42,000/- (Rs. 4,94,200/-)	March 23, 2022 From 11:00 AM to 2:00 PM	April 06, 2022 From 11:00 AM Onwards
4.	Neera Sharma (Borrower), Ankur Mohan (Co-Borrower) LBGUR00002313398	Flat No B1 1304, JKG Palm Court, Plot No Gh 1D, Sector 16C, Greater Noida West, Up Super Builtup Area-1635 Sq.Ft.	Rs. 81,52,284/- (as on February 25, 2022)	Rs. 45,78,000/- (Rs. 4,57,800/-)	March 23, 2022 From 11:00 AM to 2:00 PM	April 06, 2022 From 11:00 AM Onwards
5.	Sandeep Kumar A Upadhyay (Borrower), Shipil Upadhyay (Co-Borrower) LBDEL00002275165	Flat No B2 1704, 17th Floor, JKG Palm Court, Plot No GH 1D, Sector 16C, Greater Noida West, Up Super Builtup Area-1635 Sq. Ft.	Rs. 76,92,239/- (as on February 25, 2022)	Rs. 45,78,000/- (Rs. 4,57,800/-)	March 23, 2022 From 11:00 AM to 2:00 PM	April 06, 2022 From 11:00 AM Onwards
6.	Sanjiv Lamba (Borrower), Madhu (Co-Borrower) LBDEL00002935333	Flat No 1603, 16th Floor, A2 Palm Court, Plot No. GH-1D Sector-16C, Greater Noida, Gautam Buddha Nagar 201301. Super Builtup Area 1185 Sq. Ft.	Rs. 62,58,772/- (as on February 25, 2022)	Rs. 34,36,000/- (Rs. 3,43,600/-)	March 23, 2022 From 11:00 AM to 2:00 PM	April 06, 2022 From 11:00 AM Onwards
7.	Manoj Kumar Sharma (Borrower), Rachna (Co-Borrower) LBNOD00002375543	B2-1801, 18th Floor, JKG Palm Court, Plot No. Gh-1-D, Sector 16C, Greater Noida West, Up - 201307 Super Builtup Area - 1765 Sq. Ft.	Rs. 86,96,641/- (as on February 25, 2022)	Rs. 49,42,000/- (Rs. 4,94,200/-)	March 23, 2022 From 11:00 AM to 2:00 PM	April 06, 2022 From 11:00 AM Onwards
8.	Vikrant Singh (Borrower), Ritu Singh (Co-Borrower) LBGUR00002386632	Flat No. B1-1802, 18th Floor, Jkg Palm Court, Gh-1D, Sector 16C, Greater Noida West, Up. Super Builtup Area- 1765 Sq. Ft	Rs. 84,59,772/- (as on February 25, 2022)	Rs. 49,42,000/- (Rs. 4,94,200/-)	March 23, 2022 From 11:00 AM to 2:00 PM	April 06, 2022 From 11:00 AM Onwards
9.	Ganesh Sharma (Borrower), Kamla Katwal (Co-Borrower) LBDEL00002947887	Flat No 1804, (18th Floor), JKG Palm Court, Tower B2, Plot no. GH-1D, Sector 16 C, Greater Noida, Uttar Pradesh- 201307. Super Builtup Area- 1635 Sq. Ft.	Rs. 83,34,971/- (as on February 25, 2022)	Rs. 46,00,000/- (Rs. 4,60,000/-)	March 23, 2022 From 11:00 AM to 2:00 PM	April 06, 2022 From 11:00 AM Onwards
10.	Kanishka (Borrower), Santosh Kumar (Co-Borrower) LBGUR00002372750	B-2-1303, 13th Floor, JKG Palm Court, Plot No. Gh/1-D, Sector 16C, Greater Noida West, Up. Super Builtup Area-1395 Sq. Ft.	Rs. 72,38,457/- (as on February 25, 2022)	Rs. 41,00,000/- (Rs. 4,10,000/-)	March 23, 2022 From 11:00 AM to 2:00 PM	April 06, 2022 From 11:00 AM Onwards
11.	Vishal Khattar (Borrower), Bhawna (Co-Borrower) LBNOD00002261419	Flat No.- A2 1804, 18 Floor, JKG Palm Court, at Plot No. GH/1-D Sector 16C, Greater Noida West, Noida Super Builtup Area- 1185 Sq. Ft.	Rs. 55,67,099/- (as on February 25, 2022)	Rs. 34,00,000/- (Rs. 3,40,000/-)	March 23, 2022 From 11:00 AM to 2:00 PM	April 06, 2022 From 11:00 AM Onwards
12.	Surya Prakash Sharma (Borrower), Apar Sarkar (Co-Borrower) LBGUR00002430669	Apartment No. A2-1508, 15th Floor, JKG Palm Court, Plot No. Gh/1-D, Sector 16C, Greater Noida West, Up Super Builtup Area- 1185 Sq. Ft.	Rs. 57,07,467/- (as on February 25, 2022)	Rs. 34,00,000/- (Rs. 3,40,000/-)	March 23, 2022 From 11:00 AM to 2:00 PM	April 06, 2022 From 11:00 AM Onwards
13.	Aditya Prakash (Borrower), Prem Shashank (Co-Borrower) LBGHZ00002441728	Flat No 1408, 14th Floor Tower- A2, JKG Palm Court, Situated At Plot No GH-1D Sector-16C, Greater Noida, Noida. Super Builtup Area-1185 Sq. Ft.	Rs. 52,50,890/- (as on February 25, 2022)	Rs. 34,00,000/- (Rs. 3,40,000/-)	March 23, 2022 From 11:00 AM to 2:00 PM	April 06, 2022 From 11:00 AM Onwards
14.	Chintu Ghai (Borrower), Shipil Ghai (Co-Borrower) LBDEL00002342824	Flat No 1805, (18th Floor), JKG Palm Court, Tower A1, Plot no. GH-1D, Sector 16 C, Greater Noida, Uttar Pradesh- 201307 Super Builtup Area- 1090 Sq. Ft.	Rs. 50,54,364/- (as on February 25, 2022)	Rs. 32,00,000/- (Rs. 3,20,000/-)	March 23, 2022 From 11:00 AM to 2:00 PM	April 06, 2022 From 11:00 AM Onwards
15.	Nisha Anand (Borrower), Ashesh Anand (Co-Borrower) LBGUR00002263446	Flat No- A2- 1605, JKG Palm Court, Tower A1, Wing 2, Sector 16 C, Greater Noida Up 201307 Super Builtup Area-1090 Sq. Ft.	Rs. 53,66,286/- (as on February 25, 2022)	Rs. 32,00,000/- (Rs. 3,20,000/-)	March 23, 2022 From 11:00 AM to 2:00 PM	April 06, 2022 From 11:00 AM Onwards
16.	Ashish Vashishtha (Borrower), Shobha Sharma (Co-Borrower) LBGUR00002872796	A 1-1801, 18th Floor, JKG Palm Court, Plot No. Gh-1D, Sector 16 C, Greater Noida West, UP Super Builtup Area-1090 Sq. Ft.	Rs. 48,64,495/- (as on February 25, 2022)	Rs. 32,00,000/- (Rs. 3,20,000/-)	March 23, 2022 From 11:00 AM to 2:00 PM	April 06, 2022 From 11:00 AM Onwards
17.	Himanshu Sikka (Borrower), Gulsan Kumar Sikka (Co-Borrower) LBNOD00002278735	Flat No 1802 18th Floor Tower A1 Palm Court Sec 16C Greater Noida Uttar Pradesh 201307 Super Builtup Area-1090 Sq. Ft.	Rs. 51,73,917/- (as on February 25, 2022)	Rs. 32,00,000/- (Rs. 3,20,000/-)	March 23, 2022 From 11:00 AM to 2:00 PM	April 06, 2022 From 11:00 AM Onwards

The online auction will be conducted on website [URL Link-hub.com/disposahub.com](https://url-link-hub.com/disposahub.com) of our auction agency M/s NexXen Solutions Private Limited. The Mortgagees/ noticee are given a last chance to pay the total dues with further interest till April 05, 2022 before 05:00 PM else these secured assets will be sold as per above schedule.

The Prospective Bidder(s) must submit the Earnest Money Deposit (EMD) Demand Draft (DD) (Refer Column E) at ICICI Bank Limited, 3rd Floor Shal Tower, New Rohtak Road, Karol bagh, Delhi-110005 and thereafter they need to submit their offer through the above mentioned website only on or before April 05, 2022 before 05:00 PM along with scan image of Bank acknowledged DD towards proof of payment of EMD. Kindly note, incase prospective bidder(s) are unable to submit their offer through the website then signed copy of tender documents may be submitted at ICICI Bank Limited, 3rd Floor Shal Tower, New Rohtak Road, Karol bagh, Delhi-110005 on or before April 05, 2022 before 05:00 PM. Earnest Money Deposit DD/PO should be from a Nationalised/Scheduled Bank in favour of "ICICI Bank Limited" payable at Delhi.

For any further clarifications with regards to inspection, terms and conditions of the auction or submission of tenders, kindly contact ICICI Bank Limited on 8584874809 or M/s NexXen Solutions Private Limited on 9710029933/9810029926/01244233933

Please note that Marketing agencies 1. M/s NexXen Solutions Private Limited. 2. Augco Asset Management Pvt Ltd have also been engaged for facilitating the sale of this property.

The Authorised Officer reserves the right to reject any or all the bids without furnishing any further reasons. For detailed terms and conditions of the sale, please visit www.icicibank.com/4np4s

Date: March 15, 2022
Place: Delhi NCR
Authorized Officer
ICICI Bank Limited

PUBLIC NOTICE

The Public at large is hereby informed that Late Sh. Jai Kumar Rayan S/o Late Sh. Mitthu Mal Rayan R/o D-312, Second Floor, Defence Colony, South Delhi, Delhi- 110024 was having residential property in joint ownership along with his daughter Mrs. Bandana Doval, in our project Vatika India Next, plot No.-17, K-8-3, Sector-83, Vatika India Next, Gurgaon, Haryana, admeasuring 240 sq yd. which his legal heirs Mrs. Bandana Doval and Mrs. Meena Rayan has requested the company to be transfer to her Bandana Doval. Any person having any objection on this please may contact the company officer details as under within 15 days after which No Claim would be accepted.

Vatika Limited
A-002, Ground Floor, Block A, Vatika INXT City Centre, Sector 83, Gurugram, Haryana, India - 122012

EXPRESSION OF INTEREST

National Federation of Farmers Procurement Processing & Retailing Cooperatives of India LTD (NACOF). A multi-state cooperative invites EOI for JV Partner with NACOF for Supply, Design, Installation, Testing, Commissioning for Compressed Biogas Plants with capacity of 2.5/5.7/5.10/12.5 MT per day and Biomass pellets making plants with capacity of 25/50/75/100/125 MT per day for use of all types of agriculture waste including Cow dung, Poultry droppings, Biomass waste, Press Mud or any other type of waste under "SATAT" scheme & "Gobardhan" scheme of Govt of India.

Interested parties are requested to submit their expression of interest for ABOVE along with company profile, nature of business, turnover(last 3 years) and ITR KYC within one week from now. Applicant must have been working for last 5 years in the similar business.

EOI to be sent on company's letter head addressed to:

The EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, NACOF
Email: s.babu@nacoof-india.com

Office Of Executive Engineer, Maintenance Division
Uttarakhand Jal Sansthan
Lane No-1, Tarun Vihar, Mothrowala Road, Dehradun-248001
Phone No/Fax: 0135-2671940, E-mail - eemdujs@rediffmail.com

Letter No. 4766/E-Tender Notice/2021-22 Date: 14.03.2022

NATIONAL COMPETITIVE BIDDING CORRIGENDUM

इस कार्यालय पत्रांक सं. 3996/E-Tender Notice/2021-22 Date 06.01.2022, एवं 4066/E-Tender Notice/2021-22 Date 10.01.2022 से जल जीवन मिशन के कार्य हेतु आमंत्रित ई-निविदाओं की तिथियों में निम्नानुसार संशोधन किया जाता है।

The tender time schedule (Key Dates) is as follows:-

S. No.	Description	Time Schedule (Key Dates)
1	Date of Online Publication	23.03.2022 at 11:00 Hrs
2	Document download : Start Date	24.03.2022 at 11:00 Hrs
3	Pre-Bid Meeting : Date	29.03.2022 at 11:00 Hrs
4	Bid Submission : Start date	01.04.2022 at 11:00 Hrs
5	Bid Submission : End date	06.04.2022 upto 17:00 Hrs
6	Offline Submission of Documents (Cost of bidding Document, Bid Security, Original affidavits and all supporting Document in support of qualification).	06.04.2022 upto 17:00 Hrs
7	Date of Bid Opening	07.04.2022 at 11:00 Hrs
8	Date of Financial Bid Opening	To be intimated later

शेष नियम एवं शर्तें निविदा के अनुसार यथावत रहेंगे।

“जल संयंत्र-जीवन संयंत्र”

Executive Engineer

US, China aides to meet as tensions mount over Russia

AP ■ WASHINGTON

The US and China are sending top aides to meet in Rome on Monday amid mounting tensions between the two countries over the Russia-Ukraine war and as the U.S. said Russia has asked China for military equipment to help press its campaign.

In advance of the talks, White House national security adviser Jake Sullivan bluntly warned China to avoid helping

Russia evade punishment from global sanctions that have hammered the Russian economy. "We will not allow that to go forward," he said.

U.S. Officials are also accusing China of spreading Russian disinformation that could be a pretext for Vladimir Putin's forces to attack Ukraine with chemical or biological weapons.

Russia's invasion of Ukraine has put China in a delicate spot with two of its biggest trading partners: the U.S. And European Union.

China needs access to those markets, yet it also has shown support for Moscow, joining with Russia in declaring a friendship with "no limits."

In his talks with senior Chinese foreign policy adviser Yang Jiechi, Sullivan will indeed be looking for limits in what Beijing will do for Moscow.

"I'm not going to sit here publicly and brandish threats," he told CNN in a round of Sunday news show interviews. "But what I will tell you is we are communicating directly and privately to Beijing that there absolutely will be consequences" if China helps Russia "backfill" its losses from the sanctions.

UJVN LIMITED
H.O.: "UJJWAL", Maharani Bagh, GMS Road, Dehradun-248006.
Telephone: 0135-2763808, Fax: 0135- 2763508,
CIN No. U40101UR2001SGC025866, Website: www.ujvnl.com
पत्रांक सं. 81 दिनांक 14.03.2022

Notice Inviting Tender

Office of the Executive Engineer (Civil-II), Vyasi HEP, Lakhwar Bhawan, Dakpathar, Distt-Dehradun (Uttarakhand) invites sealed tender from interested parties. Brief summary of tender is given below:

Tender No: 17/UJVN/03/EE (Civil-II)/Vyasi HEP/2021-22.

Name of the Work: "Hiring of Bus (35 Seater or above) for up and down journey of school children of Project affected people of Vyasi Project at Dakpathar, Dehradun for 10 month (Year 2022)"

Estimated Cost: Rs. 14,88,060.00 (Rs. Fourteen Lakh Eighty Eight Thousand Sixty Only) including All Applicable Taxes

Date of availability of bid document on website: 15.03.2022 from 10:00 Hrs.

Last Date for submission of tender: 05.04.2022 up to 15:00 Hrs.

For fuller & further details, kindly visit our website. The tender document can be downloaded from Nigam's website <https://www.ujvnl.com>

EE (Civil-II)

"Avoid wasteful use of Electricity"

राष्ट्रीय स्वास्थ्य मिशन
स्वास्थ्य एवं परिवार कल्याण विभाग
मध्य प्रदेश शासन

शुद्धिपत्र

क्रमांक / एन.एच.एम. / HWC / 2022 / 1643

भोपाल दिनांक- 04 / 03 / 2022

1. राष्ट्रीय स्वास्थ्य मिशन मध्यप्रदेश, भोपाल द्वारा दिनांक 25 / 03 / 2022 को 6 माह के सर्टिफिकेट इन कम्युनिटी हेल्थ प्रशिक्षण कार्यक्रम एवं सीधी भर्ती के माध्यम से कुल 966 पदों पर चयन के लिये पत्र क्रमांक / एन.एच.एम. / HWC / 2022 / 1436 (G-23142 / 21) के अनुसार विज्ञापन एवं नियम पुस्तिका जारी किया गया था।

2. उक्त विज्ञापन एवं नियम पुस्तिका में निम्नानुसार संशोधन किया जाता है:-

प्रशिक्षण सत्र एवं वर्गावर उपलब्ध स्थानों की संख्या :-

CCH Batch	Total Seats	UR		EWS		ST		SC		OBC		PH			
		Female	Open	Female	Open	Female	Open	Female	Open	Female	Open	VH	HH	OH	MD
अप्रैल 2022	480	55	111	16	31	36	72	18	35	35	71	0	0	7	0

संविदा CHO पद पर सीधी भर्ती हेतु उपलब्ध स्थानों की संख्या :-

सीधी भर्ती	486	56	113	16	31	36	73	18	35	36	72	0	0	7	0
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नोट- प्रत्येक वर्ग में 33 प्रतिशत सीटें/पद महिलाओं के लिये आरक्षित है।

3. विज्ञापन एवं नियम पुस्तिका की शेष शर्तें पूर्ववत् रहेंगी।

मिशन संचालक, एन.एच.एम. द्वारा अनुमोदित।

राज्य नोडल अधिकारी
हेल्थ एण्ड वेलनेस कार्यक्रम

राष्ट्रीय स्वास्थ्य मिशन, मध्य प्रदेश
लिंक रोड नं.-03, पावरवार कॉलोनी के सामने, भोपाल, (402016)
वेबसाइट : www.nhmmp.gov.in और www.sams.co.in
हेल्पलाइन नम्बर 7428664124; 9650194092; ईमेल jmpcho@sams.co.in

G-23839/21

Anti-Trump Republicans lining up for 2024 shadow primary

AP ■ NEW YORK

Maryland Gov Larry Hogan is planning trips to Iowa and New Hampshire. Rep Adam Kinzinger, R-Ill., is considering a rough timeline for a potential presidential announcement. And allies of Rep Liz Cheney, R-Wyo., are openly talking up her White House prospects.

More than two years before the next presidential election, a shadow primary is already beginning to take shape among at least three fierce Republican critics of former President Donald Trump to determine who is best positioned to occupy the anti-Trump lane in 2024.

Their apparent willingness to run — even if Trump does, as is widely expected — represents a shift from previous years when “Never Trump” operatives failed to recruit any GOP officeholders to challenge the incumbent president. But with the 2024 contest almost in view, the question is no longer whether one of Trump’s prominent Republican critics will run, but how many will mount a campaign and how soon they will announce.

Those close to Cheney, Hogan and Kinzinger expect one of them, if not more, to launch a presidential bid after the 2022 midterms. While all three are nationally known to some degree, their goal would not necessarily be to win the presidency. Above all, they want to hinder Trump’s return to the White House, at least compared with 2020, when his allies cleared the field of any Republican opponents and per-



suaded some states to cancel primary contests altogether.

“It’s there as an option, but it’s not necessarily because this is all some big plan so I can be in the White House,” Kinzinger told The Associated Press when asked about his timeline for deciding on a presidential run. “It’s looking and saying, Is there going to be a voice out there that can represent from that megaphone the importance of defending this country and democracy and what America is about? There certainly, I’m sure within the next year or so, will be a point at which you have to make a decision.

“If it’s not me doing anything, certainly we’ll be all in for whoever can represent us,” Kinzinger said. Republican primary voters are expected to have other options.

Several former Trump loyalists who have emerged as on-again, off-again Trump critics are also eyeing the GOP’s next presidential nomination. Among them: former New Jersey Gov. Chris Christie, former Vice President Mike Pence, Florida Gov. Ron DeSantis and former UN Ambassador Nikki

Haley. But most in this group have offered Trump far more praise than criticism, leaving the likes of Cheney, Hogan and Kinzinger as the only consistent Trump antagonists in the 2024 conversation.

The range of prospects suggests an openness within the GOP to move past Trump and his divisive politics, even as many Republican voters suggest they would like to see him run a third time.

About 7 in 10 Republicans said the former president should run for president again in 2024, according to a CBS poll last month. Among the most common reasons they cited: He’s the best Republican candidate and has the best chance of winning.

Let anyone question his intentions, Trump told thousands of supporters Saturday night in South Carolina. “We may have to run again.” He remains the most popular figure among Republican voters and plans to use the upcoming midterms to keep bending the party in his direction. He was in South Carolina, for instance, to support GOP rivals to two

incumbent members of Congress who have crossed him.

But those close to Cheney, Hogan and Kinzinger insist a significant number of less vocal Republican voters are eager to move past Trump, especially after he inspired the Jan. 6, 2021, attack on the U.S. Capitol. After all, 10 Republican representatives voted to impeach Trump and seven Republican senators subsequently voted to convict him.

“There is a large and growing lane of Republicans and Americans across the political spectrum who are fed up with toxic politics and want to move in a new direction,” Hogan told the AP. “While I’m focused on finishing my term as governor strong, I’m going to continue to stand up and be a voice for getting our party and our country back on the right track.”

For now, Cheney, Hogan and Kinzinger remain friendly and in semi-regular contact.

The 65-year-old, term-limited Hogan will leave office at the end of the year. He already decided against a 2022 Senate campaign, rebuffing an aggressive lobbying effort from Senate Republican leader Mitch McConnell. He said he saw himself as an executive more than a legislator. Kinzinger, among 10 Republican House members who voted to impeach Trump, chose not to seek reelection after his district was redrawn in the Democrats’ favour. Only Cheney, who also voted to impeach, is running to retain her seat in this fall’s midterms, although she is no lock to win her primary election in August.

Former US Prez Obama tests Covid positive

PTI ■ WASHINGTON

Former US President Barack Obama has said that he tested positive for Covid-19 and urged fellow Americans to get vaccinated though the deadly disease is on the wane in the country.

“I just tested positive for Covid,” Obama, 60, tweeted on Sunday.

“I’ve had a scratchy throat for a couple of days, but am feeling fine otherwise,” he said on his official Twitter account.

Obama also said that his wife, former first lady Michelle Obama, has tested negative.

“Michelle and I are grateful to be vaccinated and boosted,” the former President said in a Facebook post.

“It’s a good reminder that, even as cases go down, you should get vaccinated and boosted, if you haven’t already to help prevent more serious symptoms and giving COVID to others.” Certain demographics in the US, such as African Americans and Republicans, are more hesitant about the Covid vaccine than others.

Obama had recently returned to Washington, DC, after spending much of the winter in Hawaii. He tested positive in DC, a person close to him said, CNN reported.

The diagnosis makes Obama the second US President known to contract the virus after then-President Donald Trump announced he tested positive in October 2020, which was before vaccines were widely available in the US.

European arms’ imports rise despite global fall: Watchdog

AP ■ STOCKHOLM

European countries bought 19 per cent more major arms in the five years to 2021 than they did in the five years before that, even though the global figure was down 4.6 per cent, reflecting the building tensions with Russia, a Swedish watchdog said in a report released Monday.

The largest European arms importers were Britain, Norway and the Netherlands, the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute, or SIPRI, said. Other nations in Europe are also expected to increase their arms imports significantly over the coming decade, having recently placed large orders for major arms, in particular combat aircraft from the United States.

“The severe deterioration in relations between most European states and Russia



was an important driver of growth in European arms imports, especially for states that cannot meet all their requirements through their national arms industries,” said Pieter D Wezeman, a senior researcher with SIPRI’s arms transfer programme.

Arms exports from the largest seller, the United States, grew by 14%, increasing its global share from 32% to 39%. That included a 106% rise in deliveries of major arms to Saudi Arabia.

Russian exports shrank by

26% to give it a 19% share of the global market. SIPRI said the fall was almost entirely due to a fall in arms deliveries to India and Vietnam, noting that several large arms deliveries from Russia to India are expected in the coming years.

France, the world’s third-largest arms exporter, increased sales by almost 60% in the five years to 2021, SIPRI said.

Fourth-placed China saw international sales decline by 31%, and fifth-placed Germany’s exports were down by 19%.

Globally, “whereas there were some positive developments, including South American arms imports reaching their lowest level in 50 years, increasing or continuing high rates of weapons imports to places like Europe, East Asia, Oceania and the Middle East contributed to worrying arms build-ups,” Wezeman said.

Opp should withdraw no-trust motion against PM Khan: Min

PTI ■ ISLAMABAD

Pakistan’s Information Minister Fawad Chaudhry on Monday urged the Opposition parties to withdraw their no-trust motion against Prime Minister Imran Khan and indicated that the government “will see what can be given in return” to them.

Last week, around 100 lawmakers from the Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) and Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) submitted a no-confi-

dence motion before the National Assembly Secretariat, alleging the Imran Khan government was responsible for the economic crisis and the spiralling inflation in the country.

Referring to the current political situation in Pakistan, Chaudhry, a close aide of Prime Minister Khan, said that the Opposition should withdraw the no-trust motion as it had caused bitterness in the politics.

He feared that the soaring political situation could harm the country.

Earthquakes shake Indonesia, Philippines; no tsunami threat

AP ■ JAKARTA

Strong, shallow underwater earthquakes shook western Indonesia and the Philippine capital region on Monday, but no serious damage was reported and no tsunami warnings were issued. In Indonesia, a magnitude-6.7 quake that was 16 kilometers (10 miles) deep struck about 169 kilometers (104.8 miles) west of Pariaman, a town in West Sumatra province, the US Geological Survey said.

UK rights group threatened under China sweeping security law

AP ■ LONDON

Britain’s foreign secretary on Monday accused Chinese authorities of trying to silence free speech after a UK-based human rights group said Hong Kong police threatened it with a prison sentence and fines for allegedly violating China’s national security law.

Hong Kong Watch said it received a formal warning from Hong Kong police accusing it of “seriously interfering” in Hong Kong affairs and jeopardising China’s national security by activities including lobbying foreign countries to impose sanctions against China or Hong Kong.

The letter warned that the group could face a fine of HK\$100,000 (£9,800) and that its chief executive, Benedict Rogers, could face three years in prison.

The move is one of the first times that a foreigner living abroad has been targeted under China’s sweeping national security law, which was imposed in 2020 as part of Beijing’s increasing crackdown on dissent in Hong Kong following months of anti-government protests.

“The unjustifiable action taken against the UK-based NGO Hong Kong Watch is clearly an attempt to silence those who stand up for human



rights in Hong Kong,” British Foreign Secretary Liz Truss said in a statement.

“Attempting to silence voices globally that speak up for freedom and democracy is unacceptable and will never succeed,” she said.

Rogers said his group will not be silenced by the warning and will continue to speak out for Hong Kong rights and freedoms.

Hong Kong, a former British colony that long enjoyed civil liberties and freedoms not seen elsewhere in mainland China, was promised a high degree of autonomy for 50 years when it

was handed over to Chinese rule in 1997.

But in recent years Beijing has tightened its grip on the city and many have fled abroad after the introduction of the security law, which criminalises what authorities describe as secession, subversion of state power, terrorism and foreign collusion in intervening in Hong Kong’s affairs.

Since 2020, media outlets critical of the government have been closed, the opposition has been shut out from elections and all the city’s major pro-democracy figures have either been jailed or have sought asylum abroad.

Iran claims missile barrage near US consulate in Iraq

AP ■ BAGHDAD

Iran claimed responsibility on Sunday for a missile barrage that struck near a sprawling US consulate complex in northern Iraq, saying it was retaliation for an Israeli strike in Syria that killed two members of its Revolutionary Guard earlier this week.

Iraq’s Foreign Ministry on Sunday summoned Iran’s ambassador to protest the attack, calling it a flagrant violation of the country’s sovereignty.

No injuries were reported in Sunday’s attack on the city of Irbil, which marked a significant escalation between the US and Iran.

Hostility between the long-time foes has often played out in Iraq, whose government is allied with both countries.

The attack drew harsh condemnation from the Iraqi government, which called it a “violation of international law and norms” and demanded an explanation from the Iranian leadership.

Iraq’s Foreign Ministry spokesman Ahmad al-Sahhaf told The Associated Press that the ministry summoned the Iranian ambassador, Iraj Masjedi, to deliver the diplo-



matic protest.

The United States strongly condemned the strike and said it was an unjustified attack on a civilian residence.

“We will support the Government of Iraq in holding Iran accountable, and we will support our partners throughout the Middle East in confronting similar threats from Iran,” the White House national security adviser, Jake Sullivan, said in a statement. “The United States of America stands behind the full sovereignty, independence, and territorial integrity of Iraq.”

No US facilities were damaged or personnel injured, State Department spokesman Ned Price told reporters in Washington. The US had no indication the attack was directed at the United States, he said.

Philippines summons Chinese envoy to protest naval intrusion

AP ■ MANILA

The Philippine Government on Monday summoned the Chinese Ambassador to protest what it said was the “illegal incursion” of a Chinese navy ship into the country’s waters and to demand that Beijing order its ships to respect the country’s territory and follow international law, officials said.

The Department of Foreign Affairs in Manila said a reconnaissance ship of China’s People’s Liberation Army crossed into the Sulu Sea and cruised off the western Palawan and nearby Mindoro provinces from January 29 to February 1 without permission and in violation of Philippine sovereignty.

Philippine Foreign Undersecretary Maria Theresa Lazaro summoned Beijing’s envoy Huang Xilian and “demanded that China respect Philippine territory and maritime jurisdiction and to comply with its obligations under international law” the department said in a statement.

It added that Lazaro asked China to “direct its vessels to desist from entering Philippine waters uninvited and without permission.”

A Philippine navy ship repeatedly ordered the Chinese vessel to leave the country’s waters immediately but the vessel responded that it was



exercising “innocent passage,” a claim which the Philippine government disputed.

The Chinese vessel “did not follow a track that can be considered as continuous and expeditious, lingering in the Sulu Sea for three days,” the foreign affairs department said.

Foreign ships can be allowed to pass through archipelagic and territorial waters of another country under certain restrictions — including that they should not carry out fishing, surveillance and research without a permit or conduct any activity that can undermine the security of the coastal state.

Chinese embassy officials did not immediately react to the Philippine government statement.

The incident sparked a

higher level of alarm because it happened within the country’s territory and not in the disputed South China Sea, where China, the Philippines and four other governments have had territorial disputes for decades, a military official said.

The Chinese navy ship may have been shadowing an American military ship, which was maneuvering off Palawan at the time as part of a government-authorized exercise with Philippine marines, said the official, who spoke on condition of anonymity because of a lack of authority to discuss the sensitive issue publicly.

The Philippine navy ship approached as close as 1 nautical mile (1.8 kilometers) from the Chinese navy ship to monitor its movement until it moved away, the official said.

Shooting outside Chicago pizza shop leaves 7 wounded

AP ■ CHICAGO

A shooting outside a pizza shop on Chicago’s South Side has left seven men wounded, authorities said.

The men were standing near the street Sunday afternoon when they were shot, police said. Initial information from police indicated two were in critical condition and the others were in good condition.

A car pulled up near the Little Caesars and someone inside the vehicle “almost immediately” opened fire, Chicago Police Superintendent David Brown said during a press briefing Sunday. It wasn’t immediately known whether there was an argument just before the shooting.

“Whether it was a targeted shooting or an altercation, it’s unacceptable,” Brown said.

UN gathering gears up for push to save planet’s biodiversity

AP ■ GENEVA

Nearly all the world’s countries kicked off a UN-backed meeting on Monday aimed at preventing the loss of biodiversity — seen as critical to avoiding the extinction of many vulnerable species, the emergence of pathogens like the coronavirus, and the damage to both lives and livelihoods of people around the world, Indigenous peoples in particular.

The two-week meeting of over 190 countries on the Convention on Biological Diversity, after a two-year delay due to the Covid-19 pandemic, will be the last gathering of its kind before a major conference in the coming months in Kunming, China, that will try to adopt an international agreement on protecting biodiversity.

“We have this one goal, which is to bend the curve on biodiversity loss and really to

build that shared future to live in harmony with nature in the long term,” the convention’s executive secretary, Elizabeth Maruma Mrema, told reporters on Monday.

Possible diplomatic fallout from Russia’s invasion of Ukraine lurked in the background — potentially denting any prospects of global unity on the issue.

Russian delegates who had planned to attend had their travel plans cancelled amid the closure of much of Europe’s airspace to flights from Russia after the invasion, organisers said, expressing hopes that Russian diplomats based in Geneva would nevertheless participate.

An intergovernmental, science-based assessment of biodiversity worldwide three years ago cited a decline of nature at unprecedented rates and an acceleration of the extinction of species — with up to a million species facing



possible disappearance in the coming decades.

The US-based Campaign For Nature says a major theme in Geneva will be a target to protect and conserve at least 30 percent of the world’s

lands, inland waters and oceans to help stanch habitat loss, the “overexploitation” of nature by people and businesses, and the emergence of pathogens that thrive off upheaval in the environment.

Germany to buy US-made F-35s to replace ageing bombers

PTI ■ BERLIN

Germany said Monday that it will replace some of its ageing Tornado bomber jets with US-made F-35A Lightning II aircraft capable of carrying nuclear weapons.

Announcing the decision, Defense Minister Christine Lambrecht said Germany also will upgrade its Eurofighter Typhoon fighter jets for electronic warfare — a capability that’s also currently fulfilled by the Tornado jets. The Eurofighter will be replaced from 2040 with the Future Combat Air System, or FCAS, that’s being jointly developed with France and Spain, she said.

Germany’s air force commander, Ingo Gerhartz, said the current war in Ukraine made it necessary to choose Lockheed Martin’s F-35s. Previously, the government had considered replacing the Luftwaffe’s Tornados with a



mix of different U.S. and European-made aircraft.

“There can be only one answer to (Russian President Vladimir) Putin’s aggression,” said Gerhartz. “Unity in NATO and a credible deterrent.

This in particular means there is no alternative but to choose the F-35.” The German military does not have nuclear weapons of its own, but as part of the system of nuclear deterrence developed during the Cold War it maintained bombers capable of carrying U.S. Atomic bombs, some of which are stationed in Germany.

I'nal flights to run at 100% capacity from Mar 27: Govt

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Union Civil Aviation Minister Jyotiraditya Scindia on Monday informed the Rajya Sabha that regular international flights can operate with 100 per cent capacity after the services resume from March 27. During the question hour in Upper House, Scindia said, "all regular international flights will operate in 100 per cent capacity by March 27 as the COVID-19 situation in India has improved now."

Replying to supplementaries during Question hour, the minister said the civil aviation sector is on its way back to recovery and is roughly about 5-6 per cent off from pre-Covid levels. Airline industry that suffered heavy losses during the Covid pandemic is returning to pre-Covid levels, and has recorded a traffic of 3.8 lakh passengers per day. "I am pleased to report to the house that pre-Covid our maximum number of passengers in India

per day was about four lakh and we reached a level of 3.83 lakh per day in the month of December," Scindia said. "We are looking at resuscitation and with that we are hopeful that we will see a rebound in terms of employment levels," he said.

For domestic sector, the minister said, the government has instituted airfare caps to ensure there is no predatory pricing. He said controlling prices for international sector was beyond their power. "I am very confident that with the opening up of the international sector as announced from March 27, when the summer schedule of all airlines comes in, there will be enough supply of seats, both coming into India and going out of India.

The minister informed the house that high fuel rates too have contributed to heavy losses suffered by the airlines. He said fuel contributes to about 37 per cent of the cost of running an airline, which suffered a loss of about Rs 19,000 crore

last year because of COVID. Fuel price has gone up close to 4.5 times, with 11 states charging VAT on aviation turbine fuel (ATF) ranging from 10 per cent to 30 per cent, he said. "We pleaded with states to reduce tax on ATF. Before I took charge, we had 11 states that charged 1-5 per cent VAT on ATF and we had 25 states that charged between 15 and 30 per cent.

"We have now reversed that equation and 12 states have reduced VAT from 25-30 per cent to 1-4 per cent. There are 23 states now that charge VAT ranging 1-4 per cent, and only 11 states that charge it at 15-30 per cent," the minister said.

On job losses, Scindia said the sector was affected very deeply world over, but bounced back with an equal amount of growth as soon as Covid waves subsided. The minister said he sees civil aviation becoming the backbone of transportation across the country and achieving high levels of growth.

RBI allows MFIs to fix interest rates

PTI ■ MUMBAI

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) on Monday allowed microfinance lenders to fix interest rates on loans with a rider that those should not be usurious for the borrowers. A microfinance loan is defined as a collateral-free loan given to a household having an annual income of up to Rs 3 lakh.

Each regulated entity (RE) should put in place a board-approved policy regarding pricing of microfinance loans, said the 'Master Direction - Reserve Bank of India (Regulatory Framework for Microfinance Loans) Directions, 2022'.

In the past, the central bank used to announce the rates on quarterly basis. "Interest rates and other charges/ fees on microfinance loans should not be usurious. These shall be subjected to supervisory scrutiny by the Reserve Bank," it said.

Also, each RE has to disclose pricing-related information to a prospective borrower in a standardised simplified factsheet. "Any fees to be charged to the microfinance borrower by the RE and/ or its partner/agent shall be explicitly disclosed in the factsheet. The borrower shall not be charged any amount which is not explicitly mentioned in the factsheet," it added.

The directions will come into force from April 1.

Further, there should be no pre-payment penalty on microfinance loans.

"Penalty, if any, for delayed payment shall be applied on the overdue amount and not on the entire loan amount," the RBI said.

Regarding limit on loan repayment obligations of a household, it said each RE should have a board-approved policy regarding the limit on the outflows on account of repayment of monthly loan obligations of a household as a percentage of the monthly household income. "This shall be subject to a limit of maximum 50 per cent of the monthly household income," it said.

There should also be a standard form of loan agreement for microfinance loans in a language understood by the borrower.

Under the earlier guidelines, an NBFC that does not qualify as a non-banking financial company - microfinance institution (NBFC-MFI), cannot extend microfinance loans exceeding 10 per cent of its total assets.

The maximum limit on microfinance loans for such NBFCs (NBFCs other than NBFC-MFIs) now stands revised at 25 per cent of the total assets.

Parliamentary panel recommends measures to boost tourism

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

A parliamentary panel has recommended a slew of measures to boost tourism in the country, including development of last mile connectivity, regularising the adventure tour markets and introduction of a competitive tourism ranking system among cities. It has also suggested promoting night tourism and providing better wayside facilities for travellers to give a boost to the sector.

The Parliamentary Standing Committee on Transport, Tourism and Culture, in its report also recommended that the Ministry of Tourism should "exercise greater fiscal prudence" and ensure that unspent budgetary provisions are surrendered timely in future.

"The Committee also takes a serious note of keeping the

unspent provision of Rs 1,056.97 crore till the close of financial year 2021-22 despite reduction in the budgetary outlay at the RE 2021-22 stage in disregard of the provisions of General Financial Rules," read the report.

The report noted that there is a substantial under-utilization of the budgeted funds during financial year 2021-22.

"Against the revised estimates RE 2021-22 allocation of Rs 969.80 crore, only 47.70 per cent amounting to Rs 462.55 crore could be spent till January 31. It means that the remaining expenditure would have to be squeezed in the last two months of FY 2021-22. Since as per norms stipulated by the Ministry of Finance, there is a ceiling of 25 per cent on expenditure in the last quarter, occurrence of huge savings is a certainty," it said.

Retail inflation quickens to 6.07% in Feb; remains above RBI's comfort zone

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Retail inflation inched up to an eight-month high of 6.07 per cent in February, remaining above the RBI's comfort level for the second month in a row, mainly on account of a rise in food prices, official data showed on Monday.

The Consumer Price Index (CPI) based retail inflation was 5.03 per cent in February 2021 and 6.01 per cent in January this year. The previous high was 6.26 per cent in June 2021.

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has been asked by the government to ensure that the CPI inflation remains at 4 per cent with a margin of 2 per cent on either side.

Another set of data released by the government

earlier in the day showed that the Wholesale Price Index (WPI) based inflation in February rose to 13.11 per cent on hardening of prices of crude oil and non-food items, even though food articles softened.

According to the CPI data released by the National Statistical Office (NSO), the rate of price rise in the food basket was 5.89 per cent in February, up from 5.43 per in the preceding month.

In the food basket, inflation in cereals moved up to 3.95 per cent; meat and fish to 7.45 per cent, while for eggs, the rate of price rise was 4.15 per cent during the month. Among others, vegetables turned dearer with an inflation print of 6.13 per cent, and for spices it rose to 6.09 per cent. In fruits, the

inflation remained static at 2.26 per cent when compared to the preceding month.

In 'fuel and light', inflation softened to 8.73 per cent from 9.32 per cent in January. The RBI mainly factors in the CPI-based inflation while arriving at its bimonthly monetary policy. The RBI has not changed the key policy rate after May 2020, citing inflationary concerns and to support growth.

Markets build on gains for 5th day; Sensex surges 936 pts to reclaim 56k-mark

PTI ■ MUMBAI

Equity indices marched higher for the fifth session on the trot on Monday, propelled by robust buying in banking and IT counters along with a decline in crude oil prices as hopes of headway in Russia-Ukraine talks boosted risk-on sentiment globally.

European bourses opened higher following reports of tentative progress in talks between Russian and Ukrainian officials, even as Moscow continued its military offensive.

After a cautious start, the 30-share BSE Sensex gained momentum as the session progressed to close 935.72 points or 1.68 per cent higher at 56,486.02. Similarly, the broader NSE Nifty vaulted 240.85 points or 1.45 per cent to settle at 16,871.30.

Infosys topped the Sensex gainers' chart, spurring 3.76 per cent, while HDFC Bank climbed 3.25 per cent after the RBI on Saturday lifted all restrictions on the private sector lender, permitting it to launch new digital initiatives.

SBI, Maruti Suzuki, Axis Bank, ICICI Bank, Wipro and HDFC were among the other prominent winners.

Only four Sensex constituents closed with losses — HUL, Sun Pharma,

Dr Reddy's and Tata Steel, dropping up to 1.66 per cent.

"We are gaining traction as strategy is shifting from tactical sell to tactical buy. Investments are chipping in as commodities prices are reverting. FIIs selling and crude prices are subsiding, which is expected to continue based on diplomatic developments and provide an edge to the domestic market.

"Globally, investors are bracing for rate hikes as expected. Domestic WPI has spiked up however market is ignoring as future prices can get gloomy," said Vinod Nair, Head of Research at Geojit Financial Services. The wholesale price-based inflation in February rose to 13.11 per cent on hardening of prices of crude oil and non-food items, even though food articles softened.

Rupee unlikely to be majorly impacted due to Russia-Ukraine war: SBI research

Kolkata: The ongoing conflict between Ukraine and Russia is unlikely to have any major impact on the Indian rupee and the forex volatility in the country (USD/INR) has been much less now as compared to the global financial crisis which took place in 2008, SBI said in its Ecowpar research report.

The report said that though the conflict between the two CIS nations may drag on for now, it is expected that the USD/INR, the most tracked pair in the local forex market, will trade at an elevated zone. But ideally, the expected average range of the rupee is expected to be in the band Between Rs 76 to Rs 78 to the USD with an appreciated bias.

PTI

Credit for people in dire need

Mumbai: PayMe India, a Fintech entity, has added an unique application 'SALT' to the existing array of comprehensive services offered by PayMe India which would address the exigencies of an immediate credit of those individuals who are in dire need of funds for some medical emergency, job loss, etc.

"By providing an easy credit solution to people not having credit card, SALT taps to the rising urge to minimize the burden on pockets as well," said PayMe India founder Mahesh Shukla.

PNS

Chief Engineer, Uttarakhand Rural Roads Development Agency,
First Floor, Directorate of Panchayatiraj, Opp-IT Park, Sahasradhara Road, Dehradun.
Phone No. 0135-2608125, Fax No. 2608126 Email : ut-urdda@gpmsy.nic.in, urdda@yahoo.com

Ref. No. 3391 / I1-02(xvi)/ITCO/URRDA/21 Dated : 14.03.2022

PRADHAN MANTRI GRAM SADAK YOJANA (PMGSY) e-Procurement Notice (First)

The General Manager (Project), **BRIDCUL** on behalf of **URRDA** Uttarakhand invites the item rate bids in electronic tendering system (**First**) for construction of Roads and Bridges under Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana in the **Beringa (District- Pithoragarh)** for **01 number of Package** with estimated cost totaling to **Rs 661.30 Lakh** including their maintenance for 5 year from the eligible contractors registered with PWD/CPWD or equivalent".

Date of release of Invitation for Bids through e-procurement: **15-03-2022.**

Availability of Bid Documents and mode of submission: The bid documents are available online and should be submitted online in www.pmgstyendersuk.gov.in. The bidder would be required to register in the web-site which is free of cost. For submission of the bids, the bidder is required to have Digital Signature Certificate (DSC) from one of the authorized Certifying Authorities.

The bidders are required to submit original affidavit correctness of information furnished with bid document as per provisions of Clause 4.4 B (ii) of ITB with the Projects related to **Garhwal Mandal** at Office of **BRIDCUL HQ** Opp. Govt. ITI Majra Niranjanpur, Sahampur Road, Dehradun-248001 & Projects related to **Kumaon Mandal** at Office of **BRIDCUL PMGSY PIU-** Garur, Bageshwar, First Floor, CSD Canteen, Mandalsera, Bageshwar- pin 263642"on a date not later than three working days after the opening of technical qualification part of the Bid, either by registered post or by hand, failing which the bids shall be declared non-responsive. No Physical documents will be accepted after the closing date and time of submission of bids. Last Date/ Time for receipt of bids through e-tendering **25.03.2022 01:00 PM** For further details please log on to www.pmgstyendersuk.gov.in

Chief Engineer,
URRDA, Dehradun.

** Non Registered bidders may submit bids, however, the successful bidders must get registered in appropriate class with appropriate authorities before signing the contract.*
Note: For e-Procurement for any sort of queries 0135-2522941 number may be contacted 10:00 AM to 05:00 PM. in any office days.

Branch Office: ICICI Bank Ltd, 3rd Floor, Plot No- 23, New Rohatk Road, Karol Bagh, Delhi- 110005

Whereas
The undersigned being the Authorized Officer of ICICI Bank Limited under the Securitisation, Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 and in exercise of the powers conferred under section 13 (12) read with Rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) rules 2002, issued demand notices upon the borrowers mentioned below, to repay the amount mentioned in the notice within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said notice.

As the borrower failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the borrower and the public in general that the undersigned has taken Symbolic possession of the property described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on him/ her under Section 13(4) of the said Act read with Rule 8 of the said rules on the below-mentioned dates. The borrower in particular and the public in general is hereby cautioned not to deal with the property and any dealings with the property will be subject to the charge of ICICI Bank Limited.

Sr. No.	Name of the Borrower/ Loan Account Number	Description of Property/ Date of Symbolic Possession	Date of Demand Notice/ Amount in Demand Notice (Rs.)	Name of Branch
1.	Anish Kumar Saxena/ Kamini Devi Saxena/ LBLUC00002364214	Flat No- T1/1503, Floor-15th, Tower-1, Sunworld Arista, Plot No- G H-1 C, Sector- 16B, Noida Expressway, Noida, Uttar Pradesh/ March 10, 2022	June 24, 2021 Rs. 1,02,94,693/-	Lucknow/ Delhi/ Ncr

The above-mentioned borrowers(s)/ guarantors(s) are hereby given a 30 day notice to repay the amount, else the mortgaged properties will be sold on the expiry of 30 days from the date of publication of this Notice, as per the provisions under the Rules 8 and 9 of Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules 2002.

Date : March 15, 2022
Place: Delhi/ NCR

Authorized Officer
ICICI Bank Limited

Superintending Engineer Bulandshahr Circle, P.W.D., Bulandshahr

No. 1203 /96ME-TENDER/BSR CIRCLE/2021-22 Dated 10.03.2022

Very Short Term E-Procurement Inviting Tenders

On behalf of Governor of Uttar Pradesh, Superintending Engineer Bulandshahr Circle, U.P.PWD, Bulandshahr invites following percentage rate bid online through <http://etender.up.nic.in> from the eligible and approved Contractors registered with P.W.D. class as per column no. 9 below Road work Category as applied from **Date 19.03.2022 10:00 A.M. to 26.03.2022 upto 12:00 Noon** as per the prescribed T-2 of Govt. of U.P. The technical bids will be opened online on dated **26.03.2022 at 12:30 P.M.** If the office happens to be closed on the date of opening of the bids as specified, the bids will be opened online on the next working day, at the same time any validity of bid will be considered from the original date. The date and time of opening of the financial bid shall be notified on the website.

Sl. No	Name of Work	Estima- ted cost (Rs. in Lakh)	Bid Security (Rs.)	Time of Completion work including rainy season	Tender document fee including GST (in Rs.)	Address of Executive Engineer executing the work	Address of Superintending Engineer	Address of Chief Engineer	Category
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
1	Special Repair of Lakhnoui Pali Khanpur Basi Ghat Road to Suleia Link Road (Km. 1 to 6)	71.00	6.55	03 Month	Tender Cost Rs. 300+ 2000+18% G.S.T. Rs. 414.0 = 2714.00	Executive Engineer Construction Division-2, P.W.D., Bulandshahr	Superintending Engineer Bulandshahr Circle, P.W.D., Bulandshahr	Chief Engineer Meerut Zone, P.W.D., Meerut	A.B.C (Roads)
2	Special Repair of Kaser Station to Chhimpur Road to Umrani Link Road	42.00	4.10	03 Month	Tender Cost Rs. 300+ 2000+18% G.S.T. Rs. 414.0 = 2714.00	Executive Engineer Construction Division-2, P.W.D., Bulandshahr	Superintending Engineer Bulandshahr Circle, P.W.D., Bulandshahr	Chief Engineer Meerut Zone, P.W.D., Meerut	A.B.C (Roads)
3	Special Repair of Changoli Mod to Azampur Hussarpur Link Road	54.00	4.70	03 Month	Tender Cost Rs. 300+ 2000+18% G.S.T. Rs. 414.0 = 2714.00	Executive Engineer Construction Division-2, P.W.D., Bulandshahr	Superintending Engineer Bulandshahr Circle, P.W.D., Bulandshahr	Chief Engineer Meerut Zone, P.W.D., Meerut	A.B.C (Roads)
4	Special Repair of Bugrasi to Bukiana Link Road	41.00	4.05	03 Month	Tender Cost Rs. 300+ 2000+18% G.S.T. Rs. 414.0 = 2714.00	Executive Engineer Construction Division-2, P.W.D., Bulandshahr	Superintending Engineer Bulandshahr Circle, P.W.D., Bulandshahr	Chief Engineer Meerut Zone, P.W.D., Meerut	A.B.C (Roads)

1. Time allowed for completion of Whole work is mention in col. No. 4 with including rainy season. 2. The Tender Document fee must be deposited through Internet Banking only. 3. All registered contractors have to upload Turnover certified by C.A. of last 5 years and details of maximum cost of work satisfactorily completed in last 5 years on Chanakya Software before submission of tender. Details of e-tender uploaded on <http://etender.up.nic.in> shall also be uploaded on UP PWD Chanakya software, before last date & time of submission of bid. 4. Terms & other conditions related to bid are available on <http://etender.up.nic.in> 5. During execution of work contractor should ensure the all safety Measures for COVID-19 issued by the Uttar Pradesh government. 6. In PWD technical evaluation of tenders is to be done by Prahar Software URL for Prahar is <http://wms.uppwd.gov.in/Prahar/>. 7. All work Shall be carried out by Hot Mix Plant.

(Har Swaroop Singh)
Superintending Engineer
Bulandshahr circle, PWD, Bulandshahr

UP- 174047 Date 12.3.2022 विज्ञापन वेबसाइट www.upgov.nic.in पर उपलब्ध है।

DOCYARD

DR AKHILESH YADAV

Senior Transplant Head

JOINT REPLACEMENT (HIP & KNEE)
CENTER FOR KNEE AND HIP CARE,
VAISHALI



Staying active is crucial



Joint pain is not new or unusual these days, since a greater proportion of the young and middle-aged population has been identified as suffering from it. While COVID has posed a serious threat to public health, those infected have been confined to their homes or hospitalised for long periods of time. In addition, the virus's side effects have caused muscular and joint weakness.

Arthritis is a condition in which one or more joints enlarge and become tender. Arthritis is a broad term that encompasses a variety of conditions. Joint pain and stiffness are the most common symptoms of arthritis, which normally worsen with age. One out of every four people in the country suffers from some form of arthritis. And there has been an exponential growth in such situations, particularly among women and youth, which is cause for alarm.

Osteoarthritis and rheumatoid arthritis are two of the most common types of arthritis.

The most prevalent type of arthritis is osteoarthritis, which causes joint pain and stiffness in the knees as people age. It begins with the roughening of cartilage. Early stages of osteoarthritis can occur without producing any pain or discomfort. However, it can cause internal joint injury, as well as discomfort and stiffness.

Adults of any age are susceptible to rheumatoid arthritis. People between the ages of 40 and 60 are most likely to develop it. Women are more likely than men to suffer from this condition. Rheumatoid arthritis usually begins in the minor joints of the hands and feet, although it can also affect the same joints on both sides of the body. It might begin slowly and worsen over time, or it can begin abruptly.

Symptoms
Arthritis symptoms normally arise gradually, although they can often appear unexpectedly. The joints are the most prevalent arthritis indications and symptoms. The following signs and symptoms may be present depending on the type of arthritis: Pain, stiffness, swelling, redness, decreased range of motion, obesity, autoimmune disorders, genes or family history and muscle weakness.

Risk factors
Family history: If your parents or siblings have arthritis, you may be more prone to acquire it as well.

Gender: Rheumatoid arthritis affects more women than men, but Gout, a different kind of arthritis, affects mostly men.

Joint injury in the past: People who have injured a joint, maybe while participating in sports, are more prone to develop arthritis in that joint in the future.

Age: Many types of arthritis, such as osteoarthritis, rheumatoid arthritis, and gout, become more common as people get older.

Obesity: Excess weight puts strain on joints, especially the knees, hips, and spine. Obese people are at a higher risk of developing arthritis.

Early treatment helps
Early diagnosis is critical for preventing further damage, yet arthritis is frequently misdiagnosed or never diagnosed. This is frequently due to a lack of awareness. It's critical to understand the signs and symptoms of arthritis and to get medical help if you're concerned. Daily activities are affected if not addressed properly, lowering people's quality of life and decreasing physical ability.


It's critical to have an early diagnosis if you want to do well with inflammatory arthritis in the short and long run; in fact, a patient's future mobility could depend on it. Arthritis can be treated if the patient seeks treatment at the appropriate time. It is also advisable to get blood tests done on time and take supplements to avoid developing arthritis later in life. Controlling pain, minimizing joint impairment, and improving or maintaining function and quality of life are all goals of arthritis treatment.

Treatment is possible if started on time and followed consistently. This will aid in the reduction of impairment and the improvement of quality of life. Patients with rheumatoid arthritis and osteoarthritis can rehabilitate and lessen intensity to improve their quality of life.

Unfortunately, rather than seeking help at the Right time, some people may wait until the pain and swelling become severe and debilitating, when their lives are interrupted and they are unable to perform the activities they typically do, to seek medical help. Unfortunately, the disease may have advanced beyond the early stages by then, and joint damage may have happened.

Exercise can help to keep your joints flexible. Swimming is a wonderful type of exercise for those with arthritis since it doesn't place as much strain on the joints as running or walking does. Staying active is crucial, but listening to your body when it signals that it needs to relax and avoiding overexertion are as important.

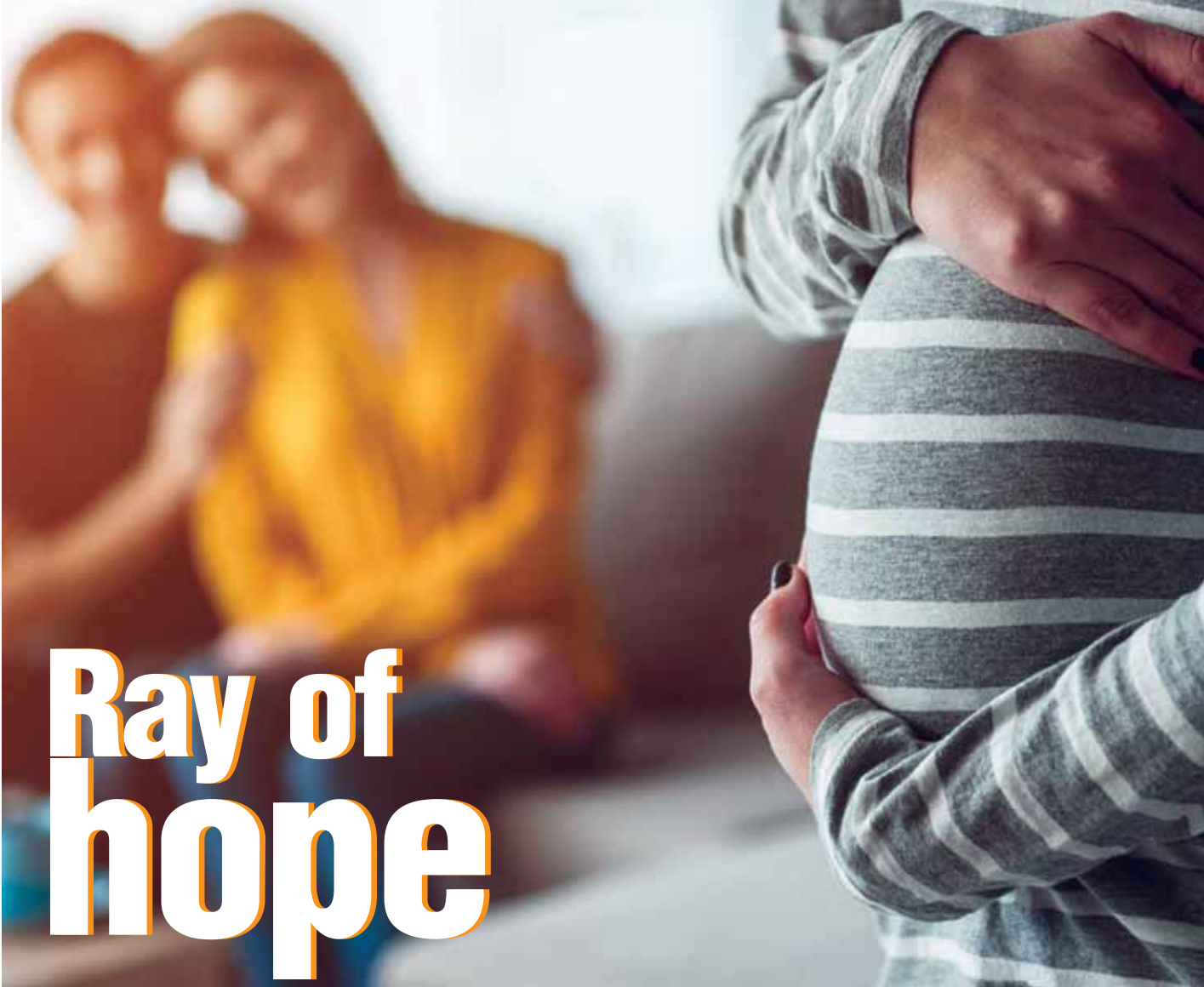
WARMFOOD



BLACK COFFEE:

Black coffee is minimal in calories and includes trace levels of various vitamins and minerals, as well as caffeine and chlorogenic acid, which are plant chemicals. Black coffee might give you a surge of energy and help you think more clearly. Cancer, Alzheimer's disease, liver cirrhosis, and

type 2 diabetes may be reduced as well. Caffeine overdose can result in unpleasant side effects such as an increased heart rate, stomach trouble, and insomnia. Coffee may also affect your urine and bowel movements. Caffeine overdose can result in a variety of symptoms, the most of which are related to your brain and digestive system.



Ray of hope

Before one begins the surrogacy process, it is important to educate yourself about the risks and benefits and ensure that one is ready to fully commit to the process, says DR RITA BAKSHI

Surrogacy is a modern and growing means of bringing a new life into the world, where a woman carries a baby for another person or a couple. The intended parents undergo IVF, meaning fertilisation outside of the body, to transfer their embryo into the surrogate's uterus.

Before one begins the surrogacy process, it is important to educate yourself about the risks and benefits of surrogacy and ensure that one is ready to fully commit to the process. One must also consult with a surrogacy professional to truly understand if surrogacy is right for them or not.

Surrogacy is a broad term used to describe situations when a woman agrees to carry a pregnancy for someone else with the intent of giving custody over to the intended parents. In gestational surrogacy, an embryo is then implanted into the uterus of the surrogate, who will carry the baby to full term. Gestational surrogacy is an increasingly common form of family building that can allow individuals or a couple to become parents despite circumstances in which carrying a pregnancy is biologically impossible or medically contraindicated. The practice of gestational surrogacy involves a woman known as a gestational carrier who agrees to bear a genetically unrelated child with the help of assisted reproductive technologies for an individual or couple who intends to be the legal and rear-

ing parents/intended parents.

Every year, surrogacy helps thousands of aspiring parents overcome fertility challenges to expand their families. A few compelling reasons to consider surrogacy are:

- ❖Medical problems or illnesses that affect the health of the uterus
- ❖Previous surgeries or hysterectomy
- ❖Conditions that either make a pregnancy high-risk or prevent pregnancy
- ❖Unexplained infertility

Success rates for surrogacy depend on many factors, including:

- ❖the surrogate's ability to get pregnant
- ❖the age of the woman whose eggs are being used
- ❖the success of the treatment you're having (ie, IUI, IVF or ICSI)
- ❖the quality of the father's or donor's sperm

The age of the woman who provides the egg is the most important factor that affects the chances of pregnancy.

Commercial surrogacy is a highly controversial issue that leads to heated debates in the feminist literature, especially when surrogacy takes place in developing countries like ours. The new laws propose to put in place institutions like new National and State ART and Surrogacy Boards, as well as a National ART and Surrogacy Registry, to advise the Government on regulation and policy matters. The Registry will also maintain a database of the ART treatments

DR RITA BAKSHI,
Founder, RISAA IVF

The new laws propose to put in place institutions like new National and State ART and Surrogacy Boards, as well as a National ART and Surrogacy Registry, to advise the Government on regulation and policy matters. The bill has been passed as separate legislation primarily for the protection of the rights of the surrogate mother in the process

undertaken across the country to ensure transparency in such matters. The Surrogacy Bill has been passed as separate legislation primarily for the protection of the rights of the surrogate mother in the process.

As per the Surrogacy bill, surrogacy is permitted only:

- ❖For couples who possess a certificate of essentiality that indicates they are proven to be infertile
- ❖Altruistic
- ❖Not for commercial purposes
- ❖Not for producing children for sale, prostitution, or other forms of exploitation

- ❖For any condition or disease specified through regulations

The criteria listed in the bill for the individuals looking to be parents are:

- ❖Heterosexual couple with a man between the ages of 26 and 55 years, and a woman between the ages of 25 and 50 years
- ❖Married for a period of at least five years
- ❖Should have no other biological, adopted, or surrogate children (unless the child is mentally/physically challenged or has a life-threatening disorder)

While the twin laws have noble intentions, and many of their provisions aim to clean up India's unregulated surrogacy industry by bringing thousands of ART and surrogacy clinics under the ambit of the law, the claims that they are also deficient in many aspects are also not untrue.

Get rid of complications

Early detection of diseases can help parents and doctors to help in early intervention

and treatment. NEERAJ GUPTA tell us the importance of genetic testing among other things

Any couple planning to have a baby may have already compiled a list of the family's medical history to analyse whether the future child is at risk for any disease. But, apart from questioning your parents or making notes on family medical history with pen and paper, there is another type of test that can determine the possibility of any genetic disorder in your unborn child. These tests are called genetic tests which look for any chromosomal abnormality in the foetus or look for mutated genes which may be carried through from parents to the child.

Genetic tests can be performed even before you conceive or during the pregnancy. Early detection can reveal whether you and your partner are at risk of passing along certain genetic diseases such as Tay-Sachs's disease or cystic fibrosis to your child (children).

There are various types of genetic tests done during each conception stage, whose results can help in knowing the pregnancy outcome or achieving a healthy pregnancy.

Carrier testing is the first step of genetic testing even before conception. The test helps the couples learn if they carry any mutated gene and are at risk of passing these genes to their children, thus causing diseases such as cystic fibrosis, beta thalassemia, sickle cell anaemia, and Tay-Sachs disease. This type of genetic testing is usually recommended for individuals with a family history of a genetic disorder and people in ethnic groups with an enhanced risk of specific genetic conditions. When both the parents are tested, it can help provide information about the couple's risk of giving birth to a child with a genetic condition.

Prenatal diagnostic testing is done to detect the changes in a foetus's genes or chromosomes. Couples who are at an increased risk of having a baby with a genetic or chromosomal disorder are recommended by the doctor to undergo these tests. With the help of amniocentesis or chorionic villus sampling, fluid or tissue for testing is obtained to check for any irregularities.

The most popular genetic testing is new-born screening. Doctors recommend every new-born child undergo screening for genetic diseases. Early detection of diseases can lead to interventions and aid in preventing or delaying the symptoms of the disease.

There are several options that you can review with your partner and care team. After you get pregnant, you can take the prenatal screening or a diagnostic test to know for certain if your baby has any genetic disorder.

If you and your partners are both carriers of any genetic disease, then you can get pregnant with donor eggs or sperm via in vitro fertilization (IVF). This process involves testing the embryo for genetic disorders before it is transferred to the uterus. You can talk to your genetic counsellor or doctor to help you plan a path for a healthy pregnancy.

The writer is Founder and CEO, Genes2Me

LOOK FOR THESE SIGNS

If you have a concern, it's always best to call your doctor. Most of the time, your doctor would be able to answer your queries or help you to calm your mind, says DR ANUBHA SINGH

All pregnant women experience some symptoms or the other and there are a numbers of questions and concerns that a pregnant woman wants to know from their doctor. Most women have also hesitated to call because they don't want to seem foolish or bothersome.

Look for these signs if you have complications:

- ❖If you are having regular contractions

Occasional contractions are a part of your pregnancy period, especially when you get closer to your due date. Some of these early contractions could be painful. But they are not usually regular. If you are having contractions more than six times in an hour, this may be a sign of preterm labor. Let these be known to your doctor or gynaecologist for complete instructions about what to do at home and when to report to the hospital.

- ❖If your baby has stopped moving

If you are less than 28 weeks pregnant, it's likely that your baby's movements are irregular. But by 28

Dr Anubha Singh
Gynaecologist and IVF Specialist,
Shantah IVF Centre,
Vasant Vihar, New Delhi

weeks, most babies are active enough for their mothers to notice frequent movement in a pattern. At this stage, notice all the movements of your baby in a pattern and if you

notice that your baby is moving less than usual or not at all; immediately call your doctor. You may be given instructions to follow at home, or you may be advised to go to the hospital for monitoring.

- ❖If your blood sugar is too high or too low

Many women are diagnosed with gestational diabetes during pregnancy. It is very important to monitor your blood sugars and use your insulin as prescribed. There are serious risks during pregnancy for women with all types of diabetes. Gestational diabetes needs to be recognized and treated quickly because it can cause serious health problems for mother and baby. If your blood sugar falls outside the expected ranges, and your regular at-home instructions aren't helping, talk to your doctor then.

- ❖If you're bleeding heavily

A small amount of blood discharge is absolutely normal during pregnancy but if you are bleeding as heavily as during the menstrual period, or more severe than that then this could be fatal. Women whose placentas are in an abnormal

place should report any signs of bleeding during pregnancy because of the increased danger to both mother and baby with these diagnoses.

- ❖If you have abrupt severe abdominal pain

Although some abdominal pains in pregnancy are normal from contractions to muscle pain or even constipation makes your belly hurt. But if you find yourself in abrupt severe pain can be a sign of a uterine rupture which is a medical emergency endangering the life of both you and your baby.

- ❖If you feel a flow of runny fluid

Amniotic fluid in which your baby is wrapped is essential to the health of your baby. If your water breaks too soon, there are risks for both you and your baby. For moms, there is a risk of getting a dangerous infection. For babies, there is a risk of impaired growth and development, preterm birth, and death.

If you feel sudden water flow from your vagina, you should contact your doctor immediately for further procedures.

INBRIEF

Nobel Hygiene onboards first female independent director

Nobel Hygiene, India's private manufacturer of disposable hygiene products, has announced the appointment of Lara Balsara to their board of directors.

Balsara is the first woman independent director to be appointed to the company's board. She brings to the table her vast experience in the advertising and media planning industry and will add immense value to Nobel Hygiene's brands across their media intensive categories.

Kartik Johari, VP-Marketing & Commerce, Nobel Hygiene, says, "We are glad to have Lara onboard with us. She is a legend in the media and advertising industry."

Her insight and expertise will add great value to the company especially at a time when our brands are embarking on media intensive journeys.

There is an emotional connect with her; too—Nobel Hygiene was one of her first accounts that she reached out to as a media trainee during the beginning of her career at Madison. Our association has only grown stronger with time. Throughout the years, Madison has been a valued partner and we hope to deepen this relationship over the next phase of brand building."

She was inducted into the board of directors on 3rd February 2022.

India whitewash Lanka

Capatin Karunaratne's fighting ton goes in vain as Rohit & Co win Bengaluru Test by 238 runs to seal series

PTI ■ BENGALURU

India extinguished whatever little spark Sri Lanka showed and wrapped up the second Test inside three days for a comprehensive 238-run win, completing a 2-0 whitewash of the Islanders, here on Monday.

Two wins against Sri Lanka fetched India 24 points but Rohit Sharma's men remain in fifth position in World Championship table due to 'low percentage points' (54.16). They have 77 points in their kitty.

A herculean task at hand, Sri Lanka took the field on the third day with a lot of determination but it was always going to be tough to negotiate the Indian attack on a track that has been offering turn and uneven bounce from day one.

Resuming at 28 for one in pursuit of an improbable 447-run target, the Sri Lankan batters, led by skipper Dimuth Karunaratne (107), resisted the Indian attack for some time before folding for 208 in the post-tea session.

Left-handed Karunaratne, one of the most consistent performers for Sri Lanka in recent times, raised his 14th Test century with a boundary off Jasprit Bumrah. He took some time to settle but worked the ball around swiftly, consistently placing them in the gaps. Bumrah (3/23) eventually sent him back with slightly seaming ball that beat his bat to shatter the stumps. The lethal Indian fast bowler, who consistently made life tough for the Lankans, returned with match figures of 8 for 47, having taken a fiver at home for the first time in the first innings.

Ravichandran Ashwin (4/55), Axar Patel (2/37) and Ravindra Jadeja (1/48) did their bit in wrapping up the

Two wins against Sri Lanka fetched India 24 points but Rohit Sharma's men remain in fifth position in World Championship table due to 'low percentage points' (54.16). They have 77 points in their kitty.

Lankan innings.

India now have won all three pink-ball Tests at home, having beaten Bangladesh (in Kolkata, 2019) and England (in Ahmedabad, 2021) before.

Visitors' early positive intent, something which has not been witnessed much in this series, resulted in a rare productive batting session for the Lankans who collected 123 runs



for loss of three wickets.

Adopting a positive yet cautious approach, both Kusal Mendis (54 off 60 balls) and Karunaratne used their feet with confidence to counter the Indian spinners.

Mendis was impressive on both front and back foot as he pulled and cut the short-pitched stuff and used his feet to cut down the spin.

Karunaratne too charged down the wicket, following a similar plan but Mendis was more expressive.

Mendis completed his fifty with a single off Jadeja but was beaten by flight on an Ashwin delivery and was stumped by Rishabh Pant.

That brought about the end of their fighting 96-run stand for the second wicket.

From there on, it was a downward slide for the visitors. Jadeja cleaned up Angelo Mathews (1) and Ashwin had Dhananjaya de Silva (4) caught at forward short-leg.

Karunaratne was ruled caught behind by umpire off Jadeja but the Lankan skipper survived, using DRS with replay showing that the ball had kissed the thigh pad and the bat before reaching Pant's gloves.

He completed his fifty with a single off Axar, who replaced Ashwin from the pavilion end.

A small partnership began to develop between Karunaratne and Dickwella (12) even as Mohammed Shami troubled the batters with his pace.

Axar broke the 55-run stand when he had Dickwella stumped and also sent back Charith Asalanka (5) by having him caught in backward short leg, where skipper Rohit Sharma took simple catch.

Like the first innings, Dickwella did not build on a start.



Oz in command of 2nd Test

AP ■ KARACHI

Spearhead Mitchell Starc led the Australian pace attack with three wickets Monday to put the visitors in the driving seat on day three of the second Test against Pakistan in Karachi.

The lanky left-armer used reverse swing to devastating effect, taking 3-29 as Pakistan were bundled out for a paltry 148 in reply to Australia's mammoth first innings of 556-9 declared.

Despite a big 408-run lead, Australia did not enforce the follow-on and at close were 81-1 in their second innings to take their lead to 489 with nine wickets intact.

Opener Usman Khawaja was unbeaten on 35 and Marnus Labuschagne 37 after David Warner fell to Hasan Ali for seven.

Australia have two full days to enforce a big win and take a 1-0 lead in the three-match series on their first tour of Pakistan for 24 years.

Pakistan's collapse in 53 overs was in complete contrast to Australia, who stayed out for 189 overs, plundering runs at

OPENER USMAN KHAWAJA WAS UNBEATEN ON 35 AND MARNUS LABUSCHAGNE 37 AFTER DAVID WARNER FELL TO HASAN ALI FOR SEVEN.

Iyer wins ICC Player of the month award for Feb



PNS ■ NEW DELHI

India batter and newly appointed Kolkata Knight Riders skipper, Shreyas Iyer won the ICC Men's Player of the Month award for February 2022, while New Zealand all-rounder Amelia Kerr was selected for the women's prize.

The 27-year-old Mumbaier, who has impressed in the ongoing second Test against Sri Lanka in Bengaluru, was in great touch last month and scored three back-to-back fifties and remained unbeaten throughout the series against Sri Lanka and played a big role as the Men in Blue whitewashed the islanders in the three-match T20I series.

Shreyas made a 28-ball 57 in the first match in Dharamshala and then

scored 44-ball 74 and 45-ball 73 in the next two matches, helping India chase down the target to keep Sri Lanka at bay.

It was his excellent run with the bat that earned him a spot in the Indian Test side as well for the two Test matches against Dimuth Karunaratne's side, and he made the most of the given opportunity by scoring fifties in both the innings of the Day/Night Test in Bengaluru. However, Iyer's contribution in the red-ball matches wasn't taken into consideration for the monthly award because the Test series started in March.

Before the Sri Lanka series, Iyer was in good touch against West Indies as well, and he made 80 off 111 balls in the third One-Day International and 25 in the third T20I. Iyer, who tested positive before the start of the ODI series and missed the opening two matches, was only selected to play in the third game of both the ODI and T20I series against West Indies.

B'desh register 1st-ever Women's WC win



PTI ■ HAMILTON

Opener Sidra Ameen's 104 went in vain as Pakistan committed harakiri to hand debutants Bangladesh a nine-run win, their first-ever victory in the ICC Women's ODI World Cup here on Monday.

Chasing 235 to win, Ameen gave Pakistan a flying start, forging a 91-run partnership with Nahida Khan (43) for the first wicket and then added another 64 runs with Bismah

SA register hat-trick of wins

PTI ■ MOUNT MAUNGANUI

South Africa produced an allround display to continue their unbeaten run in the tournament, beating defending champions England by three wickets to register a hat-trick of wins in the ongoing ICC Women's ODI World Cup here on Monday.

South Africa first rode on Marizanne Kapp's (5/45), her best bowling ODI figures, to restrict four-time champions England to 235 for nine and then Laura Wolvaardt (77 off 101 balls) held their innings together as they overcame a late scare to chase down the target with four balls to spare.

South Africa skipper Sune Luus (36), Kapp (32) and Tazmin Brits (23) also provided useful support with the bat.

The win helped South Africa jump to the second spot in the eight-team standings with maximum six points from three games ahead



(0), while Rumana Ahmed removed Nida Dar (0) before centurion Ameen fell for a run-out to end Pakistan's hope.

Featuring in their first women's World Cup, Bangladesh had lost their first two games against South Africa and New Zealand, while Pakistan slumped to their fourth defeat in as many matches and 18th successive loss in the event.

Earlier, invited to bat, Bangladesh scored 234 for seven, riding on Fargana Hoque's 71 and some useful contributions from Sharmin Akhter (44) and skipper Nigar Sultana (46).

Jharkhand batters make mockery of Nagaland



PTI ■ KOLKATA

Jharkhand batters showed no mercy against a listless Nagaland attack as they continued their run-fest on day three by notching up 880 -- the fourth-highest team total in Ranji Trophy, here on Monday.

Resuming at their overnight score of 769/9 with Shabbaz Nadeem unbeaten on 123 and No. 11 Rahul Shukla on 29, there was no declaration coming as Jharkhand's last pair added 191 runs (from 323 balls) before being bowled out in 203.4 overs.

The last partnership was also the highest in the entire innings as they made full use of the flat batting conditions

and a below-par attack on offer from the Plate toppers.

Defending their strategy, Jharkhand batting coach Satish Singh termed it a "dead surface" on offer at the Eden Gardens and said his side gave their lower order the much-needed batting practice ahead of their potential quarterfinal clash against Bengal.

Left-arm spinner Imliwati Lemtur (4/179) finally broke the partnership when Nadeem tried a reverse sweep in vain to be trapped lbw.

In reply, Nagaland were 130/4 with two days' remaining in the five-day knockout fixture as Jharkhand put one foot in the Ranji Trophy quarterfinal slated post IPL in June.

Having kept the wickets for close to 204 overs across three days, veteran wicketkeeper-batter Chetan Bist showed no signs of fatigue.

The 32-year-old former Rajasthan glovesman remained unbeaten on a dogged 46 from 123 balls, while Abu Nechim was on 13 at close on day three.

During Jharkhand innings, left-arm spinner Nadeem hit 22 fours and two sixes for his career-best 177 (from 304 balls).

Shukla, on the other hand, dealt mostly on sixes as he smacked the ball over the boundary six times, and hit seven fours en route to his 149-ball 85 not out.

Barca regain scoring touch



AP ■ MADRID

It didn't take long for Barcelona's offense to regain its scoring touch.

After being held to a disappointing scoreless draw with Galatasaray in the first leg of the round of 16 of the Europa League, Barcelona scored three goals in less than 30 minutes on Sunday en route to a comfortable 4-0 win over Osasuna in the Spanish league.

Ferrán Torres found the net twice and Pierre-Emerick Aubameyang and Riqui Puig added a goal each to keep the Catalan club in third place. It has the same 51 points as Atlético Madrid but leads on the head-to-head tiebreaker. Barcelona also has a game in hand compared to the defending champions.

Barcelona and Atlético trail second-place Sevilla by five points. League leader Real Madrid, which visits relegation-

threatened Mallorca on Monday, is 12 points ahead of Barcelona and Atlético.

Madrid hosts Barcelona next Sunday at the Santiago Bernabéu Stadium. Barcelona had scored 14 goals in its last four matches in all competitions before the 0-0 home draw against Galatasaray on Thursday.

"We didn't do a good job the other day and we know it," Torres said. "But today the team responded well. When you keep creating chances, the ball will keep going in."

Torres opened the scoring Sunday by converting a 14th-minute penalty kick and added to the lead seven minutes later from inside the area after a nice through ball by Ousmane Dembélé.

Dembélé also set up the third goal by Aubameyang in the 27th, making a well-placed cross into the box from the right flank, and the fourth by Puig in the 75th.

Barcelona defender Gerard Piqué, making his 600th appearance with the club, had a goal disallowed for offside in the 55th.

Xavi Hernández's team is unbeaten in 10 straight games, since a loss at Athletic Bilbao in the round of 16 of the Copa del Rey in January.

"We had a letdown in intensity against Galatasaray and paid for it," Xavi said. "Today it was different. It was one of our best matches and it gives us more confidence going forward."

Barcelona women's team, which clinched its third straight league title earlier in the day, was honored before the match at the Camp Nou Stadium.

SEVILLA HELD

Sevilla was held again in its pursuit of Madrid with a 1-1 draw at Rayo Vallecano on Sunday, and is seven points off the lead.

It was the second consecutive league draw for Sevilla, and sixth in its last eight matches in the competition. Julen Lopetegui's team extended its unbeaten streak in the league to 14 matches, since a loss at Madrid in November. It hasn't won in four straight away games, drawing all of them.

Bebé put the hosts ahead early in the second half and Thomas Delaney equalized for Sevilla in the 63rd.

Sevilla had a penalty awarded in the second half but it was reversed by video review. It also had a goal disallowed by VAR early in the first half.

Rublev, Swiatek win in Indian Wells



AP ■ INDIAN WELLS

Seventh-seeded Andrey Rublev pushed his ATP winning streak to 10 matches on Sunday, shaking off a slow start to beat Dominik Koepfer 7-5, 6-4 in his second-round opener at the Indian Wells WTA and ATP Masters.

Rublev, on the rise after titles in Marseille and Dubai this year, next faces Frances Tiafoe, who beat Brandon Nakashima 6-4, 6-4 in an all-American clash.

The action on Stadium Court was highlighted by a night session featuring third-seeded Alexander Zverev, who was taking on American Tommy Paul two weeks after the German's outburst in Acapulco.

Zverev received a two-month suspended sentence after losing his temper and repeatedly hitting the umpire's chair with his racket. The evening opened with American Coco Gauff celebrating her 18th birthday with

a third-round match against former World No 1 Simona Halep of Romania.

In other early matches, sixth-seeded Italian Matteo Berrettini held on for a 6-3, 4-6, 6-4 victory over Danish qualifier Holger Rune.

But ninth-seeded Canadian Felix Auger-Aliassime bowed out, falling 7-6(4), 6-7(4), 6-3 to Botic van de Zandschulp of the Netherlands.

Alexander Bublik, the 31st seed, sent former world number one Andy Murray packing with a 7-6(9), 6-3 win over the three-time Grand Slam champion.

There was more disappointment for Murray's British compatriot Emma Raducanu, who was beaten in the third round by Croatian Petra Martić 6-7(3), 6-4, 7-5.

Third-seeded Iga Świątek of Poland, the highest-ranked player left in the women's field, struggled early but dominated late in a 6-7(3), 6-2, 6-1 victory over Denmark's Clara Tauson.