

OPINION 6
CHECKMATE BY THE
'NEUTRALS' IN PAK**WORLD 9**
RUSSIAN ROCKETS HIT
EASTERN UKRAINIAN TOWN**MONEY 10**
'INDIA'S ECONOMY SEEN
GROWING 9.2 % IN FY22'

BHOPAL, THURSDAY MAY 26, 2022; PAGES 12 ₹1.50

the pioneer

www.dailypioneer.com

EMMA OUT
OF FRENCH
OPEN 2022
12 SPORT

Yasin awarded life for terror funding

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■
NEW DELHI

Delhi Special court on Wednesday awarded life imprisonment to Kashmiri terrorist Yasin Malik in a terror funding case.

Special Judge Praveen Singh also awarded varying jail terms for various offences under the stringent Unlawful Activities Prevention Act (UAPA) and the Indian Penal Code (IPC). The court also imposed a fine of over ₹10 lakh on Malik.

The life term was awarded for two offences — Section 121 (waging war against the Government of India) of the IPC and section 17 (raising funds for the terrorist act) of the UAPA. All the sentences will run concurrently.

Earlier in the day, the National Investigation Agency (NIA) during the argument on quantum of sentence demanded death sentence for Malik, highlighting crimes and terrorism he committed in Kashmir for the past three decades. "Let's not go into all this. Stick to the facts. This is a terror funding case," said Judge Singh, who delivered the judgment by 6.15 pm.

"However, in my opinion, there was no reformation of this convict. It may be correct

that the convict may have given up the gun in 1994, but he had never expressed any regret for the violence he had committed prior to 1994.

"It is noticed that, when he claimed to have given up the path of violence after 1994, the Government of India took it upon its face value and gave him an opportunity to reform and in good faith tried to engage in a meaningful dialogue with him and as admitted by him, gave him every platform to express his opinion.

"However, as discussed in the order on charge, the convict did not desist from violence. Rather, betraying the good intentions of the Government he took a different path to orchestrate violence in the guise of political struggle. The convict has claimed that he had followed Gandhian principle of non-violence and was spearheading a peaceful non violent struggle.

"However, the evidence on the basis of which charges were framed and to which convict has pleaded guilty, speaks otherwise.

"The entire movement was planned to be a violent movement and large-scale violence ensured is a matter of fact," said the judgment convicting Malik to life imprisonment.



Kashmiri separatist leader Yasin Malik being produced at Patiala House court in New Delhi on Wednesday

PTI

Court also
imposes a
₹10 lakh
fine on
Malik

Malik's past catches up with him

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■
NEW DELHI

Life has come a full circle for chief of the banned Jammu and Kashmir Liberation Front (JKLF) Yasin Malik, who graduated from being a Pakistan-trained terrorist to a separatist force in the Kashmir valley during his anti-India career spanning over three decades.

On Wednesday, Malik, 56, was sentenced to a life term by a designated NIA court.

He has been in and out of jail several times dating back to his student activism days before the onset of militancy in J&K in 1990.

In his bid to mainstream himself, he "renounced" violence and donned the politi-

cal cloak in 1994. Malik — married to a Pakistani artist — had announced Gandhian way of protest after his release and sought to project himself as a moderate voice in separatist camp.

Malik was arrested in early 2019 in connection with a 2017 terror-funding case registered by National Investigation Agency (NIA).

Reservation of wards held at Ravindra Bhawan

STAFF REPORTER ■ BHOPAL

A total of 85 wards of Bhopal Municipal Council were re-reserved for the upcoming urban bodies elections, in a meeting held in the auditorium of Ravindra Bhawan on Wednesday.

Half of these wards ie 42 were reserved for women. A total of 23 wards were reserved for OBC. Out of which only women will contest on 12. Out of 48 unreserved wards, 23 have been reserved for women. Reservation of wards was also done for SC-ST category.

The reservation process went on for about two hours. During this many times BJP-Congress leaders came face to face. With the reservation, the picture has become clear. During this, both happiness and despair were seen on the faces of the leaders.

The process of reservation of wards of the corporation started from 3 pm. Even before



this the auditorium became housefull. BJP-Congress leaders also came to see the reservation action. At the same time, people came from every ward, so that, the picture of the ward can be known.

Reservation of wards started in the presence of Collector Avinash Lavania. Before the reservation, the Congress raised

questions on the process of reservation. Senior Congress leader JP Dhanopia asked the collector about the process. Due to this the reservation process was stalled for some time. Former councillor Amit Sharma also raised the demand to include all the wards except SC-ST in the process of reservation.

Sidhu given job of Patiala jail munshi



MONIKA MALIK ■ CHANDIGARH

Cricketer-turned-politician Navjot Singh Sidhu is all set to play a new innings in Patiala Central Jail. Once considered a frontrunner for the Punjab Chief Minister's post, the multi-faceted Sidhu will be playing the role of a "munshi" (a clerical job) within the four walls of the Patiala Central Jail, after he was sentenced to a year's rigorous imprisonment by the Supreme Court in a 1988 road rage case.

CAPSULE

ABHILASHA ARMY'S FIRST WOMAN COMBAT AVIATOR

New Delhi: Captain Abhilasha Barak on Wednesday became the first woman combat aviator of the Indian Army. She has been awarded the coveted 'wings' along with 36 Army pilots at a ceremony held at Combat Army Aviation Training School in Nashik, officials said. Captain Barak hails from Haryana and was commissioned into the Army Air Defence Corps in September, 2018.

LAKHIMPUR: ASHISH BAIL HEARING ON MAY 30

Lucknow: The Allahabad High Court will hear on May 30 the bail plea of Union Minister Ajay Kumar Mishra's son Ashish Mishra, arrested in connection with the Lakhimpur Khairi violence that claimed eight lives in October last year.

'SHRI RAMAYANA YATRA' LAUNCH ON JUNE 21

Lucknow: The IRCTC is set to launch a 18-day 'Shri Ramayana Yatra' through a special tourist train on June 21 to take pilgrims to sacred places associated with the life of Lord Ram.

Sibal quits Cong, files RS papers with SP's support

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■
LUCKNOW

Former Union Minister and senior Supreme Court lawyer Kapil Sibal filed his nomination papers for the Rajya Sabha seat from Uttar Pradesh as an Independent candidate backed by the Samajwadi Party and said he has already resigned from the Congress. Javed Ali Khan also filed his papers as SP candidate. There was speculation that the SP could field Sibal as a Rajya Sabha candidate.

Kapil Sibal — the lawyer who secured senior SP leader Mohammad Azam Khan's bail from the SC — after filing his papers, said he had resigned from the Congress on May 16. Sibal said his ideology was related to the party he had been with for three decades. His exit from the party is another jolt to the electorally battered Congress. Sibal was accompanied



by SP chief Akhilesh Yadav and SP general secretary Ram Gopal Yadav to Central Hall of UP Vidhan Bhawan.

"I have filed the nomination as an independent candidate. I thank Akhilesh for supporting me. I resigned from the Congress on May 16 and am no longer a senior

Congress leader," he said.

The SP chief later said Sibal was being supported by the SP. A prominent member of the G23 which had sought an organisational overhaul in the Congress, Sibal's tenure as Congress' Rajya Sabha member ends in July.

PATANJALI®

Spices should be consumed in moderation
but always choose the best quality

100% Pure Patanjali Masale

Tasty and Healthy

Our ancestors researched on food science to make food nutritious and tasty thus, they added spices to it. They aid digestion to keep the body healthy and enhance immunity. But these benefits can only be reaped when spices are pure and their formulation is scientific. Patanjali range of spices is prepared with the method inherited from our ancestors.

Hing is the most adulterated among all spices. Patanjali Hing is 100% pure, that aids digestion and provides relief from gas & indigestion and enhances immunity.

It is made from nutmeg, cinnamon, cumin, black pepper, cardamom, clove, mace, coriander ginger, fenugreek, bay leaf, etc. It increases appetite & is excellent for the digestive system.

Made from natural herbs like cardamom, cumin, clove, black pepper, garlic, onion, turmeric, coriander powder, red chilli, bay leaf, ginger etc., such 17 natural herbs enhance the taste of all vegetables and strengthens the digestive system to give a taste full of health.

It is made from anardana, cumin, clove, nutmeg, ginger, ajwain, cinnamon, coriander powder, amchoor, bay leaf, red chilli, black salt etc., such 16 natural herbs provide both health and taste.

Shop Online- www.patanjaliiyurved.net | Customer Care Number - 18001804108 | Email ID - feedback@patanjaliyurved.org | Website - www.patanjaliiyurved.org

Involve ASHA workers in screening of sickle cell Anaemia

STAFF REPORTER ■ BHOPAL

Governor Mangubhai Patel has said that obtaining numbers of sickle cell carriers and patients is the primary requirement for sickle cell anaemia disease management. ASHA workers should be trained and involved in the screening work for giving speed to and expansion of work.

The sickle cell carrier or the relatives of the patients found in the screening camps of Anganwadis, schools, hostels and colleges should be investigated. Governor Patel was reviewing the Madhya Pradesh State Haemoglobinopathy Mission at Raj Bhavan.

The Governor said that the management of sickle cell anaemia is an act of service to humanity. Every person involved in this should act

with personal responsibility. The results of the service done with sensitivity and intelligence are always pleasant and joyful. Referring to the context of the sensitivity of Prime Minister Narendra Modi as the Chief Minister of Gujarat, he said that on the information of the death of the lions, he himself immediately reached the spot for review.

The Governor expected the officers to act with the same sensitivity. He said that the goal of the work should always be kept big. This speeds up the work. Better results are obtained. He stressed the need for initiatives to incorporate Ayurveda and other traditional systems of medicine in the treatment efforts of sickle cell anaemia. He said that the medicinal utility of Giloy has been recognised for the public in the Covid epidemic.



There are many such herbs in Ayurveda and there are people who know about them. There is a need to compile the information regarding them with authenticity.

Patel received information about the arrangements related to disease, prevention and management in the mission. He was told that there are institutional arrangements for the diagnosis and treatment of

sickle cell anaemia at the district level. For screening, a screening camp is organised after public awareness by setting up a chaupal in the village. Action plan has been prepared for 14 districts of the state on the basis of prevalence of disease for screening work in the second phase by the mission. Dhar, Barwani, Chhindwara, Khargone, Betul, Mandla, Shahdol, Dindori, Singrauli, Jabalpur, Anuppur, Sidhi, Khandwa and Umaria districts will be included in the second phase.

The action plan includes publicity and disease awareness, training of health staff regarding screening and treatment management in relation to sickle cell anaemia, screening and confirmation test of pregnant mothers and children up to 18 years, entry of digital health records in sick-

le cell anaemia portal, activities of genetic counselling and behaviour change, distribution of genetic cards, treatment of patients and safe blood transfusion and management, if required, etc. will be done.

President Tribal Cell Deepak Khandekar, Director General Jan Abhiyan Parishad BR Naidu, Additional Chief Secretary Health Mohammad Suleman, Principal Secretary to Governor DP Ahuja, Principal Secretary AYUSH Prateek Hajela, Secretary Health Sudam Khade, Secretary Tribal Cell BS Jamod, Managing Director National Health Mission Priyanka Das, officers of Indian Council of Medical Research Jabalpur, Tribal Cell members and other senior officers of the concerned departments were present.



Lawyers burn an effigy of district administration during a demonstration demanding for an early arrest of the accused involved in the attack of a lawyer Dipesh Sharma in Bhopal on Wednesday. Pioneer photo

Performance guarantee reduced to 1 lakh under KUSUM-A

STAFF REPORTER ■ BHOPAL

New and Renewable Energy Minister Hardeep Singh Dang disclosed that Performance guarantee has been reduced to Rs 1 lakh per MW from Rs 5 lakh under Pradhan Mantri Kisan Urja Suraksha Uthaan Mahaabhiyaan (KUSUM-A). He apprised about this at Urja Bhawan while delivering Letter of Award to 71 farmers of KUSUM-A.

Exchange of Power Purchase Agreement also took place between 6 developers and Madhya Pradesh Power Management company during the programme.

Chairman of Urja Vikas Nigam Girraj Dandotiya, Principal Secretary New and Renewable Energy Sanjay Dubey, Managing Director Karamveer Singh along with farmers nominated under



KUSUM-A scheme, Developers, Bank Officers and representatives of related companies were present as well.

Dang said work for installing solar pumps on land of the farmers where electricity is not available easily work under Mukhya Mantri Solar Pump scheme will be initiated as a priority. Goal has been set

to install solar pumps on 50 thousand farmer's land. With this beneficiary farmers will get electricity for up to 8 hrs which will not only lead to lesser expense on electricity and diesel but will also enable them to conduct other activities flawlessly.

While congratulating the officers and employees of the

department, Minister Dang said that it is due to your hard labor we were able to accomplish the dream of Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan to double the income of farmers while ensuring environment conservation. Shri Dang said that KUSUM scheme will enable farmers to become entrepreneur which will result in doubling their income.

Urja Vikas Nigam Chairman Girraj Dandotiya said that the State's farmer is going to become a provider of energy along with food. Principal Secretary Dubey appealed to the farmers to get good quality panels and inverters, which would ensure production of good energy uninterruptedly. He assured the farmers of monthly payment and technical support from the department for production of energy.

With changed conditions citizens face hot and humid weather, pre-monsoon activities at few places

STAFF REPORTER ■ BHOPAL

Weather conditions witnessing abrupt changes turned hot and humid on Wednesday while pre-monsoon activities halted with few places reporting rainfall.

Day temperatures recorded sub 40 degree celsius still hot and humidity in the weather prevailed and displeasing climatic conditions persists across state and state capital.

Bhopal recorded 39.7 degree celsius and night witnessed 26.5 degree celsius. Most of the places recorded day temperatures below 40 degree celsius and in the next 48 hours day temperatures would increase by 2-4 degree celsius. Sagar



recorded 1.7 cm rainfall, Damoh recorded 8 mm, Khajuraho, Nowgong, Jabalpur, Satna, Chhindwara also recorded rainfall.

The weather in the districts of the division was mainly dry. Mandla, Bamori also recorded 1 cm. The

maximum temperature fell especially in the districts of Sagar division, in Shahdol and Jabalpur divisions. The highest maximum temperature of the state was recorded at 41.8 °C in Khargone.

According to forecast Rewa, Shahdol, Chambal and

Narmadapuram divisions and Jabalpur, Narsinghpur, Chhindwara, Seoni, Damoh, Sagar, Chhatarpur, Tikamgarh, Bhopal, Raisen, Sihar, Vidisha, Dhar, Ujjain, Guna, Ashoknagar and Shivpuri districts.

The Met issued warning of thundery activities, gusty winds upto 40 kmph in the districts of for Rewa and Shahdol divisions and Jabalpur, Narsinghpur, Chhindwara, Seoni, Damoh, Sagar, Chhatarpur, Tikamgarh districts. Warning of thundery activities has been issued for Chambal and Narmadapuram divisions in the districts of Puram divisions and Bhopal, Raisen, Sihar, Vidisha, Dhar, Ujjain Guna, Ashekknagar and Shivpuri districts.



Representatives of different political parties create ruckus during the reservation process that was underway for BMC election, at Ravindra Bhawan in Bhopal on Wednesday. Pioneer photo

Exhibition cum sale of 'Gond Paintings' organized at Madhya Pradesh Tribal Museum

STAFF REPORTER ■ BHOPAL

The exhibition cum sale of 'Gond Paintings' at Likhandra Exhibition Gallery' of Madhya Pradesh Tribal Museum is organized every month under the name of Shalaka.

In this sequence, the exhibition of paintings of young painter Shanta Bhuria of Bhil community is being organized from Tuesday. This 25th painting exhibition will continue till May 30, 2022.

Notably, gond is one of the most unique arts of the country. It is basically a tribe of Madhya Pradesh. In ancient times, gond art was used as secret messages or codes to be sent from one place to another. Still this art is seen alive among many tribesmen. These tribesmen use gond



art in their daily life, festivals and at other social events.

The spectators can have a look at the figures of birds, gods and goddesses. Gond portrays the scenes, birds, animals and human faces in dark and vibrant colours. The paintings have brown or black bases. The fine lines and geometrical figures painted in red, blue and white acrylic and oil colours make them look

more appealing to the eyes.

Artist Shanta Bhuria was born in village Jhabua of Bhil dominated area, who has inherited the art. Shanta is the child of Padmashree Bhuri Bai, a famous painter of the Bhil community. At a young age, Shanta came to Bhopal with her parents and Shanta got the opportunity to grow up in an artistic environment.

CM plants neem and banyan saplings

BHOPAL: Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan planted Neem and Banyan saplings in the Smart City Garden along with members of Annashesh Foundation, Shreya Jain, Kirti Rajput, Ruchi Samundra, Abhishek Sahu and Pranshu Rai. The foundation is engaged in activities like providing food to needy people, sanitation, tree plantation and helping children in need for past three years. They have their centers in Jabalpur, Sanchi, Ujjain, Rewa and Bhopal. They were devoted to help the needy during the tough times of Corona pandemic.

The banyan tree planted today is locally known as "Vat Vriksha or Bad". It has religious significance and is utilized in Ayurveda. Neem, enriched with its antibiotic properties is known for its super medicinal qualities.

3rd edition of the inter-district rugby competition concludes

PNS ■ GWALIOR

The third edition of the inter-district rugby competition concluded at Gwalior on Wednesday. Thirty four teams from various districts of Madhya Pradesh had participated in the three day tournament.

The tournament was held under the aegis of the Gwalior District Rugby Association.

The Chief Guest of the closing ceremony was Prof Deepak Pandey, Additional Director, Department of Higher Education, Government of Madhya Pradesh. Keshav Pandey, President of the Gwalior District Rugby Association presided over the function.

Abrar Ahmed, secretary of the State Rugby Association and noted social activist, Rajendra Mudugal participated as Special Guests of the event.

During the closing ceremony medals and certificates were awarded to the winners in the various categories. Dewas was the winner of the Junior Girls Section while Shajapur was the runner-up. The third place went to Sehore.

Dewas was the winner of the Junior Girls Section while Shajapur was the runner-up. The third place went to Sehore

Likewise Dewas were the champions in the Junior Boys section while the second and third places went to Mandsaur and Shajapur respectively.

In the Senior Women's section Raisen were the winners while the second and third places went to Indore and Shajapur respectively.

In the senior Men's section the first prize went to Dewas while Khandwa and Shajapur won the second and third places respectively. All the winners were given cash prizes by former cabinet minister, Anup Mishra. Secretary of the Gwalior District Rugby Association, Bhupendra Kanth gave the vote of thanks.

DanaMojo introduces auto-generated form 10BD

STAFF REPORTER ■ BHOPAL

Assisting in tax compliance among its users following the new amendments to the Income Tax Act 1961 for charitable organizations, DanaMojo, India's first home-grown payment solutions platform exclusively for NGOs, now enables them to seamlessly meet this compliance requirement via a report that can be downloaded from the DanaMojo Dashboard and directly uploaded on the Income Tax portal.

As per the enforcement of the amendments to the Income Tax Act 1961, from FY 21-22, the method for availing tax deduction under Section 80G on donations made to NGOs has changed. Earlier, the donor had to provide an 80G receipt obtained from the NGO as proof.

However, from FY22, the burden of compliance is now shifting to the NGO which needs to file a Statement of Donations as Form 10BD by May 31 of each financial year. The NGO will also need to provide the donor a consolidated Donation Receipt as Form 10BE that can be downloaded from the Income Tax portal.

Emerging ecosystem of smart hybrid learning: Tulika Singh

STAFF REPORTER ■ BHOPAL

Hybrid learning is the best way to fill the learning gap and present a learning model in a smarter method. COVID took an irreparable toll on education during the last few years, and close to 70% of children did not attend any formally structured learning platform.

Even before the Pandemic, the world is already heading toward digital learning but in a steady mode. Prior, it was a model that got the spotlight during the pandemic and has now become a need.

The organized learning platform exempts students from distractions, classroom noise, hesitation, and other challenges. The metamorphoses of learning not only fringe benefits to students, but additionally become a perk for mentors.

Hybrid or Smart learning further gives parents and students the right tools to provide structured and scheduled knowledge at home. It also encourages the child to have more personalized learning in their own space and pace. The activi-



ties, curriculum, and easy access to the study material are meant to replace the traditional

method and adopt the under-processing method of learning, hybrid learning.

The productive and best-suited environment of digital learning is developing in accord with the needs of students.

The model evolves the personalized and effective alliance between students and instructors with synchronized and unsynchronized learning activities. Hybrid learning tools combined with classroom learning promises a significant impact on overall learning outcomes.

It also addresses the shortcomings of our education system, which is prone to the uncertainty of extreme weather conditions, health issues of children, or mishaps at home, and where a child can continue the learning with this flexible mode of education.



Visitors go through a group artists painting and art exhibition organised by Kreative Art Studio, at Swaraj Bhawan in Bhopal on Wednesday. Pioneer photo

Mega placement drive organized at Scope College

STAFF REPORTER ■ BHOPAL

Mega placement drive was organized for the institution and other students in Scope College on Wednesday.

Like every year, this time also well-known companies of Bhopal region participated in this event. The event was organized by the organization's T.N.P. It was done by Monika Singh, Head of the Department. In

which undergraduate and postgraduate students of the institution participated.

In addition, students from outside the institution also participated in large numbers. This event was organized for the students of B.Tech, M.Tech, MBA, MCA and Diploma from all the departments.

In this mega placement drive, about 150 students showed their skills in different companies. Everyone enthusiastically participated

in the placement drive. In the first phase of this drive, about 59 students were selected for the next phase, who will become competitive in the further selection process.

The group director of the organization, Devendra Singh welcomed the officials of all the companies present. And gave best wishes to all the participants and best wishes to the successful participants of the first phase for their future.

Send corrupt people and ration thieves to jail: CM

STAFF REPORTER ■ BHOPAL

Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan has said that the state has been facing the challenge of malnutrition since years. Continuous efforts are also being made in this direction. But I believe that without the cooperation of the society, malnutrition cannot be removed in the state.

Pride Day celebration was started at many places in the state, in which people also contributed materials for Anganwadi. I myself went out on the streets of Bhopal on May 24 to collect material for Anganwadis. Ten trucks of material and cheques worth Rs 2 crore were presented on behalf of the public in a total journey of 800 meters. Many

people took a pledge to take the responsibility of Anganwadis. This has been a wonderful experiment of public participation. Everyone is ready to cooperate in social work and raising the standard of living of the people. We have to give people's participation the form of a campaign in public welfare schemes and development activities. Farmers should give food grains, people should contribute in the activities of Anganwadis on their birthdays, anniversaries and in the memory of their family members. Jan Abhiyan Parishad, Deendayal Antyodaya Samiti and social organizations should be interlinked. It is my belief that with public participation, malnutrition can be removed from the state in a year.

Chouhan was conducting a virtual review of development activities, public welfare schemes and law and order situation in Raisen and Narsinghpur districts at 6:30 am on Wednesday. In-charge of Raisen district and Minister for Cooperatives Arvind Singh Bhadauria, in-charge of Narsinghpur and Forest Minister Vijay Shah virtually joined the meeting held from the residence office. Health Minister Prabhuram Choudhary from Raisen, former Minister Rampal Singh and Collector Arvind Kumar Dubey, ex Minister Jalam Singh Patel from Narsinghpur, Collector Rohit Singh and administrative and police officers of both the districts attended the meeting virtually.

The Chief Minister reviewed the status of drinking water supply, ration distribution, ongoing works under Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana, health management, operation of Anganwadis, Amrit Sarovar Yojna and law and order situation in both the districts and ongoing activities to free land from criminals and mafia. Chouhan also sought information of the innovations launched in districts, activities being conducted in Ek Zila-Ek Upad, works conducted to encourage women self-help groups and the arrangement made for Ladli Laxmi's guidance and career counseling.

Chouhan said that it is necessary to maintain social harmony, brotherhood and equanimity in the society. We

have to be on guard against those who spread hatred and incite communities against each other. It is necessary that the local body elections to be held in the state should be held in a harmonious atmosphere. Districts should decide that in some panchayats, representatives should be elected unanimously. All the eligible residents of such uniform Panchayats will be given cent percent benefits of poor welfare schemes.

Chouhan, on getting the information regarding drinking water problem in Mandideep in Raisen district, directed Principal Secretary Urban Development and Housing Manish Singh to attend the meeting virtually and resolve the drinking water problem immediately.



A deserted view of a filling station after MP Petroleum Dealers' Association members called a statewide two hours shutdown as a symbolic protest demanding refund of the excess excise duty on fuel paid by them and increase in the dealers commission, in Bhopal on Wednesday. Pioneer photo



SDM Akash Shrivastava and other officials undergo the reservation process for Janpad Panchayat Phanda at district collectorate office in Bhopal on Wednesday. Pioneer photo

Anganwadi children made seed balls to protect the environment

STAFF REPORTER ■ BHOPAL

Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan has appreciated the work done by Pratibha Foundation of Bhopal to protect the environment through the children of Anganwadi Center in BHEL area. Chief Minister Chouhan said that service to the environment is the biggest service to humanity along with the earth in present times. Chief Minister Chouhan has congratulated the Foundation for excellent works and success in their efforts.

It is noteworthy that Chief

Chouhan said that service to the environment is the biggest service to humanity

Minister Chouhan on Tuesday started the campaign from Ashoka Garden area to collect toys and essential materials for the children of Anganwadi centres.

During the campaign, Pratibha Foundation had presented hundred seed balls of Sitaphal prepared by the chil-

dren of the adopted Anganwadi centres. Seed balls are prepared with organic manure and soil, which are easily planted in the soil during the rainy season and various species of fruit and flower plants flourish.

They can also be planted in pots and beds of houses. Seed balls are prepared with the seeds of munga, ber, jamun, lemon, pomegranate, tamarind, cilantro etc. The foundation has set a target of making 10,000 seed balls. The proceeds from their sale will also be used for the welfare of the children of Anganwadi.

Excise department team of Dhar nab four persons, recover 20 boxes of illegal liquor



PNS ■ DHAR

On the instructions of Dhar collector Pankaj Jain and under the guidance of Assistant Commissioner Excise department, Dhar Yashwant Dhanora the Excise team lead by ADEOR SRai arrested four smugglers who were carrying 20 boxes of country made and foreign liquor in Innova car. While talking to the media person ADEOR.

S Rai told that the car was tracked at A B road Dhani trisection in Dharampuri circle area. when the car was checked

20 boxes of liquor was confiscated from the car.

All the four accused are resident of Indore district and according to sources they were carrying the smuggled liquor to Maheshwar.

The excise team is interrogating the smugglers as from where they received the illegal liquor and where they were moving for the delivery of liquor.

All the four accused are booked under the excise act 34(1) and 34(2) and are sent to jail. The total cost of confiscated liquor and the car is around Rs 7 lakh.

Three perosns booked for murderous assault on dispute of Rs 20 only

STAFF REPORTER ■ BHOPAL

Kolar police have booked three persons who attacked a person over a dispute of Rs 20 which was to be made as payment for cement purchase; victim suffered loss of memory while his brother who is CRPF personnel also sustained injuries.

In Kolar area, a cement trader along with his son attacked the younger brother of a CRPF personnel with a wooden stick in which his brother has suffered serious injuries in the attack. He has been admitted to a private hospital and suffered memory loss..

The accused also assaulted an auto rickshaw driver who came to load the cement. On the complaint of the auto driver, the Kolar police have registered a case against three

A cement trader along with his son attacked the younger brother of a CRPF personnel with a wooden stick

people, including a cement trader. The statement of the soldier's brother could not be recorded yet due to his critical condition.

According to the police, Chatur Pal, of Sai Residency works in a medical equipment store, his brother Ramkripal is CRPF personnel. On 23 May, he had reached Mohit Maran's shop with auto driver Asharam Thakur, who lives in the locality, to buy 8

sacks of cement. After loading the cement in the auto, he made the payment.

Suresh, who was sitting in the shop asked to provide Rs 20 as the victim paid a lesser amount and Chaturpal said to discount the money which started the dispute and abuse and the victim opposed the abuse, Suresh and his son Mohit attacked Chatur Pal with a wooden handle of pickaxe.

He fell down on the ground in the attack and auto driver Asharam intervened who was also attacked. Ramkripal reached the spot after getting information about the incident and was attacked by the accused.

The family alleged that the police have registered a case against the accused in minor offences while the accused attacked with the intention of killing him.

Ministers in waiting declared for President's visit

STAFF REPORTER ■ BHOPAL

President Ram Nath Kovind will stay in Madhya Pradesh from May 27 to 29. During his visit to Bhopal, Ujjain and Indore, the Ministers in Waiting have been nominated to receive, see off and welcome the President.

On Friday, Urban Development and Housing Minister Bhupendra Singh will be minister in waiting at the airport and Medical Education Minister Vishwas Sarang will be at the Raj Bhavan in Bhopal. On Saturday, Minister of State for AYUSH (Independent Charge) and Water Resources Ram Kishore Nanuram Kavre will be minister in waiting at Kushabhau Thakre Convention Hall and Minister of Public Health and Family Welfare Prabhuram Choudhary will be at Motilal Nehru Stadium.

Tukoganj police bust gang of vehicle lifters, recover 40 bikes

PNS ■ INDORE

On the instructions of Indore Police Commissioner Harinarayan Chari Mishra, additional police commissioner Manish Kapuria has given a clear instruction to all the police officers to track the bike lifters and thefts on priority basis.

Tukoganj police has arrested a gang of bike lifters and seized 40 bikes from their possession which were stolen from different parts of the city including several bikes stolen from the 56 shops.

TI Tukoganj Kamlesh Sharma with his police team arrested the 5 bike lifters and 40 bikes under operation ground policing launched by Indore police to track the criminals and bike lifters.

Eexhibition of Prof Parmanand Dalwadi's journey to France in the 1970s on display

STAFF REPORTER ■ BHOPAL

An exhibition of Prof Parmanand Dalwadi's journey to France in the 1970s is captivating attention of the art lovers.

As part of the fourth edition of Bonjour India festival, Alliance Française de Bhopal the photo exhibition was organised. It traces 50 photos captured with his Nikon F and the influence of Cartier-Bresson on his art. He captured incongruous and unusual situations combining humor, tenderness and observations of French society which are described with short stories for each photo.

The exhibition will be open to the public until May 29 from 10am to 6pm everyday.

Notably, Bonjour India is a Festival where France and India enjoy a substantive partnership at the core of which lie its people-to-people relations, nurtured for decades through collaborations and exchanges. This artistic cultural and educational initiative is an Indo-French moment put together by the French cooperation network in India mainly consisting of the Embassy of France and its cultural service, Institut Français en Inde, the Alliance Française network and the Consulates of France.

He captured incongruous and unusual situations combining humor, tenderness and observations of French society which are described with short stories for each photo

Prof. Parmanand Dalwadi, born in a craftsman family in Gujarat, graduated in Fine Arts from M.S.U. Baroda in 1963 and did his post-graduation in Visual Communication from the National Institute of Design, Ahmedabad in 1968.

He accompanied Henri Cartier-Bresson, the world-renowned photo-journalist of high repute on his journey to northern India in 1965. In return, Cartier-Bresson picked him and placed him in pictorial services, Paris to work with the legendary Pierre Gassmann with funding from the Ford Foundation.

He met his wife Radium in France and she can be seen in a few of his captured stills. Parmanand was the President of Alliance Française d'Ahmedabad for a period of 6 years.



Children take part in a workshop cum Origami practices under summer nature study programme at Regional Museum of Natural History in Bhopal on Wednesday. Pioneer photo

28-year-old youth killed, another injured, after their bike hit by speeding truck

STAFF REPORTER ■ BHOPAL

A 28-year-old youth died while his friend sustained serious injuries after the bike they were riding was hit by a speeding truck near Jhagariya Basti under Khajuri Sadak on Tuesday. According to the police, two youths were injured after their motorbike was hit by a speeding truck and police were informed by the locals. On the receipt of the information a police team rushed to the spot and started an investigation.

The injured were rushed to a hospital where one of the injured was declared dead while other injured escaped with injuries and is undergoing treatment.

The deceased were identified as Mahesh alias Manoj Banda resident of Uttar Pradesh while his friend Manoj escaped with injuries. The truck was moving with a very high speed, the errant driver managed to escape the spot leaving the truck.

Body was sent for the post mortem after the preliminary investigation. Police have reg-

istered a case under section 304 A of the IPC and have started further investigation. Police said that the incident took place when the two were on their way to Khajuri and when they reached near Jhagariya a motorbike bike collided head-on with a truck.

The deceased used to work as a cook with Nandan Palace hotel and used to live at the hotel.

The statement of the injured man is yet to be recorded. Police have started searching for absconding accused.

Special lecture organized by RNTU

Bhopal: A special lecture was organized on Tuesday by the National Service Scheme Unit of Rabindranath Tagore University under the 100-day International Yoga Festival.

During the event the President of Ujjain's Avantika Sundaram Samaj Seva Sanstha, Shri Arvind Solanki advised the youth to do yoga in the morning at Brahma Muhurta. He said that yoga does not mean exercise. Yoga is a process of cultivation of life. Through which you connect your soul with the divine.

He said that by doing yoga in Brahmamuhurta, where we can descend into deep peace, then our body also gets more oxygen. In the lecture, Dr. Laljit Pachauri, Head of the Department of Yoga, apprised the students about the ancient Indian tradition of Yoga.

**NORTH CENTRAL RAILWAY, PRAYAGRAJ**

L.No. JHS-ELG-W-T-02-2022-23

E-Tender Notice

Date: 23.05.2022

For and on behalf of President of India, the Sr. Divisional Electrical Engineer (Gen) North Central Railway, Jhansi invites open tenders through online (E-Tendering) for the following work:-

| Description of work | Tender value | Bid Security |
|--|--------------------|-----------------|
| Up-gradation & modification of Power supply installation at Orai & MCSC electric substation. | ₹ 16,42,548/- only | ₹ 32,900/- only |

Tender No.-JHS-ELG-W-T-02-2022-23, Completion Period:-06 months, Closing date of tender-24.06.2022 (upto 15:00 Hrs.). Tenderer will submit the tender online upto 24.06.2022 (upto 15:00Hrs.). Complete details & for submission of tenders can be seen in Indian Railway website <http://www.ireps.gov.in>. 613/2022 V

 North Central Railways www.ncr.indianrailways.gov.in  @northcentralrailway  @CPRONCR

**NORTH CENTRAL RAILWAY, PRAYAGRAJ**

E-Tender Notice No. JHS-N-W-19-22

E- TENDERING CORRIGENDUM TENDER NOTICE

Date: 23.05.2022

Sr. Divisional Signal & Telecommunication Engineer/ Jhansi, DRM's office, Jhansi, for and on behalf of President of India invite sealed open Tender through on Line (E- Tendering) for the following works.

| E-Tender No. | Description of work | Approx Cost | Earnest Money |
|---------------|---|----------------|---------------|
| JHS-N-W-19-22 | Provision of Sectional Signaling Maintenance Contracts in section of ADSTE/MLJHS of Jhansi Division | ₹ 19,96,037.90 | ₹ 39,900/- |

Cost of Tender Form-Nil, Opening of Tender- 13.06.2022 Time 15:00, Completion period from issue of letter of acceptance-12 Months • Tender on line can be submitted upto 15.00hrs on 13.06.2022. • For full details and submission of bid please see the Indian Railways website www.ireps.gov.in (North Central RLY/Jhansi Division-SAND T) 621/2022 V

 North Central Railways www.ncr.indianrailways.gov.in  @northcentralrailway  @CPRONCR

एचडीएफसी म्यूचुअल फंड - निवेशक जागरुकता कार्यक्रम

म्यूचुअल फंड्स के बारे में और अधिक जानने के लिए इसमें अवश्य भाग लें.

दिनांक तथा स्थान :

शुक्रवार, 27 मई 2022: शाम 6:00 बजे से रात 9:00 बजे तक.
होटल आईसी इन्, रेलवे स्टेशन के पास, गौरी मार्केट, गंज, खनि मंदिर के पास, बैंगल - 460 001, मध्य प्रदेश.

शनिवार, 28 मई 2022: शाम 6:00 बजे से रात 9:00 बजे तक.
होटल शुभ इन्, ओरेडुल्ला गंज रोड, अरेरा कोलोनी के सामने, हबीबागंज रेलवे स्टेशन के पास, ई-2, हबीब गंज, भोपाल, मध्य प्रदेश.

रजिस्ट्रेशन कराने के लिए, कृपया संपर्क करें: अरुण सोलंकी, मोबाइल: 93993 73293..

रजिस्ट्रेशन अनिवार्य है. रजिस्ट्रेशन का समय सुबह 9:30 बजे से शाम 7:00 बजे तक होगा.

कार्यक्रम के दौरान कोविड सुरक्षा दिशानिर्देशों का पालन करना अनिवार्य है.

वॉक-इन की अनुमति नहीं दी जाएगी.

**HDFC MUTUAL FUND**
BHAROSA APNE KA
An Investor Education by HDFC Mutual Fund

क्याईसी, या बदने, निवेशक शिक्षण निवेशकों के लिए हिंदी में - <https://www.hdfcfund.com/informationkey-know-how/>

म्यूअल फंड निवेश बाजार के जोखिमों के अचीन हैं, योजना से जुड़े सभी दस्तावेजों को ध्यान से पढ़ें.

RELIANCE
Asset Reconstruction

Reliance Asset Reconstruction Co. Ltd.
11th Floor, North Side, R-Tech Park Western Express Highway, Goregaon (East) Mumbai- 400063

POSSESSION NOTICE (for immovable properties) See Rule 8(1)

Whereas, the Authorised Officer of Reliance Asset Reconstruction Company Limited acting in its capacity as Trustee of RARC 048 (RCFL) Trust vide Agreement dated 28-03-2018 under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 and in exercise of powers conferred under section 13(12) read with rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 issued a demand notice dated 08-12-2021 calling upon the borrower and guarantors to repay the amount within 60 days from the date of receipt of said notice.

The borrower and guarantors having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the borrower and guarantors and the public in general that the undersigned has taken possession of the property described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on him under section 13(4) of the said Act read with rule 8 of the said Act on 24-05-2022.

The borrowers and guarantors in particular and the public in general is hereby cautioned not to deal with the property and any dealing with the property will be subject to the charge of Reliance Asset Reconstruction Company Limited for the amount and interest thereon. The borrower's attention is invited to provisions of Sub-Section 8 of Section-13 of the Act, in respect of time available, to redeem the secured assets.

| Borrowers / Guarantors | Description of the properties mortgaged | Amount O/s |
|--|---|---|
| 1. M/s Laxmipati Balaji Infrastructure Pvt. Ltd 2. Mr. Ajay Patel 3. Mrs. Preety Patel 4. Mr. Yahya Saiyed 5. Mr. Kamal Bhima Lal Yadav 6. Mrs. Rajkumari Patel | All that Piece and Parcel of One diverted Land of revenue survey number 323/122/1 area 0.150 hectare situated at village Narela Shankari P. H. No. 20, Tehsil Huzur, District Bhopal 462023 Madhya Pradesh. Boundaries : East Vardhaman City Colony, West-Land of Mithlesh Sharma, North-Road, South-Road. | Rs. 15,71,80,503/- (Rupees Fifteen Crore Seventy-One Lakh Eighty Thousand Five Hundred and Three Only) as on 07.12.2021 |

Date: 24.05.2022
Place: Bhopal

(Authorised Officer)
Reliance Asset Reconstruction Company Limited

2K registered unrecognised parties to face EC action

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

The Election Commission (EC) has decided to act against over 2,000 Registered Unrecognised Political Parties (RUPPs) whose numbers saw a 300 per cent increase in the last two decades with most coming into existence just before Lok Sabha or Assembly elections. Saying it is placing the facts in public domain so that the citizens know the affairs of the political parties, the EC said in 2019, of the 2354 RUPPs only 623 contested even as 87 RUPPs were found to be non-existent on ground. Many RUPPS do not comply to the statutory requirements. Alarmingly, the RUPPs combined claimed Income Tax exemption in the range of 100 crore to 608 crore.

This is the first time that the poll body has decided to act against RUPPs for flouting rules, including failure to furnish a contribution report and communicate any change in its name, head office, office bearers and address to the poll panel. The EC said that it has been reported that income tax

exemptions have been taken to the tune of Rs 445 crores in 2018-19 by 199 RUPPs and Rs 608 crores in 2019-20 by 219 RUPPs. Of these, 66 RUPPS have claimed income tax exemption without submitting contribution reports in Form 24A as mandated under section 29C of the Act.

In view of the fact that there are 2174 RUPPs, which have not submitted contribution reports, the list shall be sent to the Department of Revenue for taking all consequential action as per the RP Act 1951 read with the relevant provisions of the Income Tax Act, 1961 and other statutory/regulatory regime including not granting exemption / withdrawing exemption, if already granted/ examining liability of wrongly claiming exemption as the case may be.

The poll body has directed chief electoral officials of state and union territories to put this order on their websites for compliance and for affording an opportunity to anyone aggrieved by above action. "Action to be initiated against those receiving donations without due statutory compliances.

Action initiated against three registered unrecognized political parties (RUPPs) reported to be involved in Serious financial impropriety," the EC said in a statement.

There are 87 RUPPs, whose address of communication, was statutorily required as registration requirement under section 29A(4). Any change in address was required to be communicated to the EC under section 29A(9), which they have not complied. "These RUPPs have been found to be non-existent after a physical verification carried out by the respective Chief Electoral Officers. The names of such non-existent RUPPs shall be deleted from the list and benefits under the Symbols Order (1968) withdrawn" the EC said.

As per data shared by the poll body, of the 2354 RUPPs over 92 per cent have not filed their Contribution Report in 2019 to the poll body.

The data showed that nearly 2056 RUPPs, which have failed to furnish Annual Audit Account of the (5) concerned financial year, are indicative of gaps in vital financial information including bank

account, PAN, authorized signatories pertaining to those RUPPs, statement of assets and liabilities, contributions received, details of donors and expenditure.

"Any RUPP aggrieved by any action may approach concerned CEO with full facts within 30 days of the issue of this direction with all evidences inter-alia including proof of existence, other legal and regulatory compliances made till now such as submission of year wise annual audited accounts, contribution report, expenditure report, if any, updation of office bearers including authorized signatories for financial transactions including bank account) and operations under the Symbols Order 1968," the EC said.

The poll body further said that 100 RUPPs, which have failed to furnish Election Expenditure Statements after the contest of election(s), have violated the directions of Election Commission. They may approach concerned CEO with full facts within 30 days of the issue of this direction for remedial action, if any, to avoid any consequential action.

MP Karti booked in visa-for-bribery scam

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Enforcement Directorate (ED) has registered a money laundering case against Congress MP Karti Chidambaram and others in connection with the visas-for-bribery scam entailing irregular issuance of visas to 263 Chinese nationals in 2011 when his father P Chidambaram was the Union Home Minister.

The ED has filed the case under the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA) taking cognisance of a recent CBI case related to the scam.

The case pertains to allegations of Rs 50 lakh being paid as kickbacks to Karti and his close associate and Chartered Accountant S Bhaskararaman by a top executive of Vedanta Group company Talwandi Sabo Power Ltd. (TSPL), which was setting up a power plant in Punjab, according to the CBI FIR. The CBI had raided the premises of the Chidambaram family and arrested Bhaskararaman last week, even as Karti is likely to depose before it on Thursday.

This is the third money laundering case against Karti with the INX Media and



Aircel-Maxis cases being probed by the agency for the last few years.

The ED will probe the possible "proceeds of crime" that could have been generated due to the alleged illegal activity in the visa case and once prima facie evidence is gathered, it can attach those assets, they said. The accused persons in the case will be questioned as part of the investigation, they further said.

Karti, 50, has denied all the allegations. In a statement posted on his Twitter handle on Tuesday, he said "if this is not harassment, not a witch hunt, then what is." Meanwhile, Karti has been summoned by the CBI for questioning on Thursday in connection with visa scam. He has been asked to join the probe within 16 hours after he returned from Britain.

Honcho held under PMLA for causing ₹155 cr loss to bank



PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Enforcement Directorate (ED) has arrested Ashok Kumar Mittal, Director of Karnal-based Mahesh Timber Pvt. Ltd. in a bank fraud case under the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA) for diverting funds to Singapore through fake imports, causing a loss of Rs 155 crore to the bank.

The ED initiated money laundering investigation on the basis of an FIR registered by the CBI here for criminal conspiracy, cheating, forgery and criminal misconduct of a public servant against the accused firm, its directors and others.

"Ashok Kumar Mittal is the key director of Mahesh

Timber Pvt. Ltd. who allegedly connived with the bank officials and fraudulently got Letter of Credit limits enhanced from Rs 21 crore to Rs 195 crore, which were diverted to his Singapore based entities on account of fake imports. The accused firm and its directors caused overall wrongful loss to the bank to the tune of Rs 155 crore and wrongful gains to themselves in this manner," the ED said in a statement.

Mittal was non-cooperative during the investigation and withheld relevant information apart from misleading the investigation. After the arrest, he was produced before the Special Court, Panchkula, Haryana on Tuesday and has been remanded to ED custody for four days, the agency added.

Indian-Bangladeshi Navy bilateral exercise underway

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

In an effort to further strengthen ties in the maritime domain, the four-day third edition of Indian Navy-Bangladesh Navy bilateral exercise "Bongosagar" is now on in Bangladesh.

Giving details of the exercise, navy officials said here on Wednesday, the drill commenced at Port Mongla, Bangladesh on Tuesday. The harbour phase of exercise is scheduled for two days followed by a sea phase in the northern Bay of Bengal from Thursday.

Exercise 'Bongosagar' is aimed at developing a high degree of interoperability and joint operational skills through the conduct of a wide spectrum of maritime exercises and operations between the two navies.

Indian naval ships Kora, an indigenously built guided missile corvette, and Sumedha, an indigenously built offshore patrol vessel, are participating in the Exercise. The Bangladesh Navy is being represented by Abu Ubaidah and Ali Haider, both guided missile frigates.

The harbour phase of the exercise includes professional and social interac-



tions, and friendly sporting fixtures, in addition to the tactical level planning discussions on the conduct of the exercises at sea.

The sea phase of the exercise would

facilitate ships from both the navies to participate in intensive surface warfare drills, weapon firing drills, seamanship evolutions and coordinated air operations in a tactical scenario.

CJI-chaired panel deliberated upon issue of tenure of 23 NCLT members: Centre to SC

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

The Centre on Wednesday told the Supreme Court that a committee chaired by the Chief Justice of India had held a meeting on April 20 in which the question regarding the tenure of 23 members of the National Company Law Tribunal (NCLT) has been deliberated upon. Solicitor General Tushar Mehta, appearing for the Centre, told a vacation bench of Justices DY Chandrachud and Bela M Trivedi that the committee, which also comprises apex court judge Justice Surya Kant and Secretary of the Ministry of Corporate Affairs, is seized of the issue and the next meeting is likely to be held within a week or 10 days.

Mehta said the committee had considered all aspects of the matter, including verifica-



tion reports of character and antecedents, which are considered to be one of the important factors for the assessment of the suitability of the 23 members for extension of their term of office keeping in view the sen-



stive nature of their duties.

"Now, I am given to understand that the next meeting is scheduled in a week or 10 days," he said while requesting the top court to hear the matter on June 15. Mehta said the next retirement of one of the NCLT members is on June 20. The bench was hearing a plea that has raised issues about the tenure of the members of the tribunal.

The apex court noted the submissions of senior advocate

Maninder Singh, who appeared for the petitioner and submitted that term of all the members of the 2019 batch would come to an end on July 3, 2022, though the term should legitimately be for a period of five years.

"List the proceedings on June 15, 2022," the bench said, adding, "We request the Solicitor General to appraise the court of the developments which have taken place in the meantime."

Delhi HC seeks Centre stand on plea to regulate online gaming

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

The Delhi High Court on Wednesday sought the stand of the Central Government on a petition to regulate online gaming and stop the games that are not games of skills but chance.

A bench of Acting Chief Justice Vipin Sanghi and Justice Sachin Datta issued notice on the petition by lawyer Atul Batra who said in his plea that his concern was that online games of chance are promoted as games of skill and that online gambling is as bad as any substance addiction. Noting that betting and gambling is a State subject, the court asked the

petitioner to implead the Delhi Government as a party to the petition. Central government counsel said that various ministries are deliberating on the issue, which concerns a State subject, and the Centre, therefore, cannot legislate upon it without the consent of the State. In the petition, the petitioner stated that if online gambling and betting are not regulated, it is likely to cause immense damage to the society at large as youngsters with impressionable minds can fall prey to such games, which will have an adverse effect on their personal and professional life.

The petitioner sought appropriate action against an entity offering an online crick-



et game involving money on its website and prima facie promoting a game of chance.

The petitioner said that under the Information and Technology Act, the Centre is

empowered to issue appropriate instructions to ban the operation of illegal gambling online websites. The matter would be heard next on November 16.

Captain Abhilasha becomes first woman officer to join Aviation Corps as combat pilot

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

Captain Abhilasha Barak has become the first woman officer to join the Army Aviation Corps as a Combat Aviator or pilot. Fifteen women officers had expressed their desire to join Army Aviation Corps but only two officers were selected after Pilot Aptitude Battery Test and Medical examination.

Giving details of the momentous achievement, the Additional Directorate General of Public Information, defence ministry on Wednesday described it as a "Golden Letter Day" in the history of the Indian Army Aviation Corps.

It flies Chetak, Cheetah and Dhruv helicopters and forms the life line for troops guarding the Siachen glacier and other inaccessible forward posts along the Indian borders. The helicopters are used for reconnaissance besides medical evacuation and disaster relief.

Upon successful completion of her training, Captain Barak was awarded the Coveted Wings along with 36 Army pilots, the directorate post said. The post, shared on Instagram, also features a set of pictures from the ceremony.

It said "Golden letter day in the history of Indian Army aviation. Captain Abhilasha Barak becomes the first woman officer to join Army Aviation Corps as Combat Aviator after successful completion of training."

"Captain Abhilasha Barak has been awarded the Coveted Wings along with 36 Army Pilots by Director General and Colonel Commandant Army Aviation. Young Aviators are now ready to spread their wings in Combat Aviation Squadrons," it read. The Army Aviation wing of the Royal Air Force (RAF) in India came into being took place in 1942. In August 1947 the first Indian Air Observation Post-flight was raised.

The present day Army Aviation Corps was established on November 1, 1986. It was "immediately inducted into Operation Pawan," which has been described as a "crucial test" for the Corps that had been newly formed. It was the first major participation by the Corps in the Indian Peace Keeping Force (IPKF) operations in Sri Lanka.

At present, women are given the responsibility of air traffic control and ground duty in the Aviation Department. Now Barak will take over the responsibility of the pilot. The Corps candidates are trained at the Combat Army Aviation Training School, Nashik. In June, last year, for the first time, two women officers were selected for helicopter pilot training.

The IAF already has started inducting women officers as fighter pilots and in 2018, Flying Officer Avani Chaturvedi became the first Indian woman to fly a fighter aircraft.

Some antivirals may shorten monkeypox symptoms: Study

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

Some antiviral medications might have the potential to shorten symptoms of monkeypox and reduce the amount of time a patient is contagious, according to a study of seven patients diagnosed with the rare viral disease in the UK between 2018 and 2021.

The cases analysed in the study, published on Tuesday in The Lancet Infectious Diseases journal, represent the first instances of in-hospital transmission and household transmission outside of Africa.

The research also reported the patient response to the first off-label use of two different antiviral medications -- brincidofovir and tecovirimat

-- to treat the disease.

The study found little evidence that brincidofovir was of clinical benefit but concluded that further research into the potential of tecovirimat would be warranted.

The researchers also report detection of monkeypox virus in blood and throat swabs.

As optimum infection control and treatment strategies for this disease are not yet established, data from the study could help inform global efforts to further understand the clinical features of the disease as well as transmission dynamics, they said.

"As public health officials are trying to understand what is causing the May 2022 monkeypox outbreaks in Europe and North America -- which



have affected several patients who reported neither travel nor an identified link to a previously known case -- our study offers some of the first insights into the use of antivirals for the treatment of monkeypox in humans," said Hugh Adler of the Liverpool University Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust, UK.

"Although this latest outbreak has affected more

patients than we had previously encountered in the UK, historically monkeypox has not transmitted very efficiently between people, and overall the risk to public health is low," Adler, lead author on the paper, said. With international travel returning to pre-pandemic levels, public health officials and healthcare workers around the world must remain vigilant to the possibility of new cases

of monkeypox, said Nick Price of Guy's & St Thomas' NHS Foundation Trust, senior author on the paper.

Of the seven UK monkeypox cases analysed in the study, four were imported from West Africa with three further cases occurring due to human-to-human transmission within the case clusters.

Monkeypox, a close relative of the smallpox virus, is a rare disease classified as a High Consequence Infectious Disease (HCID) by the UK Health Security Agency.

There are currently no licensed treatments for monkeypox and there is limited data on the duration of its contagiousness, with the incubation period ranging from five to 21 days.

Financial support to rare disease patients increased from ₹20L to ₹50L under RAN

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

Following a demand from activists, the Union Health Ministry has increased the financial support from 20 lakh to 50 lakh for treatment of patients suffering from rare diseases under the umbrella scheme of Rashtriya Arogya Nidhi (RAN).

"Beneficiaries for such financial assistance would not be limited to BPL families, but extended to about 40% of the population, who are eligible as per norms of the Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana, their treatment in Government tertiary hospitals only," as per the official state-

ment of the Health Ministry.

The RAN was set up to provide financial assistance to patients, living below the poverty line and who are suffering from major life threatening diseases, to receive medical treatment at any of the super speciality Hospitals/Institutes or other Government hospitals.

The financial assistance to such patients is released in the form of a 'one-time grant', which is released to the Medical Superintendent of the Hospital in which the treatment has been received.

The Government had in May last year approved the National Policy for Rare Diseases 2021, aiming to

lower the high cost of treating rare diseases in India..

Activists like Saurabh Singh, co-founder-director of Rare Disease India Foundation (RDIF), have been pointing out the need for higher funds for the sector.

He had been urging the Government to address the gaps in providing life-saving treatment to those requiring it. Singh has suggested that the annual budgetary allocation of Rs. 25 crore under the RAN for 2021-22 that has not been spent could be immediately used to treat patients with diseases under Group (3) such as Gaucher, Pompe, Fabry disease and MPS I and MPS II.

Gyanvapi row: Fresh plea on ban on Muslims’ entry to be heard

PNS ■ VARANASI

A fresh petition in the Shringar Gauri-Gyanvapi Mosque complex lawsuit seeking a ban on the entry of Muslims in Gyanvapi complex was on Wednesday transferred to the court of civil judge (senior division/fast track) from the court of civil judge, senior division.

The fast track court will hear the petition on May 30.

International general secretary of Vishwa Vedic Sanatan Sangh, Kiran Singh, on Tuesday last had filed a fresh petition in the court of Civil Judge (Senior Division) Ravi Kumar Diwakar in the Shringar Gauri temple-Gyanvapi complex matter seeking a ban on the entry of Muslims in the Gyanvapi complex in which the Gyanvapi mosque is located.

The petitioner also demanded that the entire Gyanvapi complex be handed over to Hindus and sought permission for worship of 'Shivling' claimed by the Hindu side to have been found in the wuzu khana of the Gyanvapi



complex. The civil judge (senior division) had accepted the petition.

District Judge Dr Ajay Kumar Vishvesha on Wednesday transferred the petition to the court of Civil Judge (Senior Division/ Fast Track) Mahendra Kumar Pandey. The fast track court posted the hearing for May 30.

It is learnt that the court of the district judge will hear the maintainability of the Shringar Gauri-Gyanvapi mosque com-

plex lawsuit on Thursday. The five women filed a petition in the court of Civil Judge (Senior Division) Ravi Kumar Diwakar seeking permission to worship in the Shringar Gauri temple and preservation of the idols located in the Gyanvapi mosque complex.

The defendants, including the Anjuman Intezamia Masjid Committee, which looks after the management of the Gyanvapi mosque, had moved an application in the Supreme

Court under Order 7, Rule 11 of the Civil Procedure Code (CrPC), raising question on the maintainability of the suit. The apex court on May 20 had transferred the petition to the court of the district judge from the court of the civil judge, senior division and directed him to hear the application moved by the defendants on priority basis. The court of district judge on Tuesday posted the hearing on the maintainability of the suit first on May 26.

SSC RECRUITMENT SCAM MAY GO BEYOND ₹15K CR

CBI grills senior Bengal Minister for 8 hrs as more scams surface

SAUGAR SENGUPTA ■ KOLKATA

The Central Bureau of Investigation probing the School Service Commission recruitment scam following a Calcutta High Court order on Wednesday subjected Bengal Industries Minister and former Trinamool Congress secretary general Partho Chatterjee to intensive 8-hour grilling.

Chatterjee, was the State Education Minister when the large-scale recruitment scam that saw junior Education Minister Paresh Adhikari's daughter Ankita landing a teacher's job by-passing empanelled candidates took place. The said teacher has since been dismissed from service following a court order.

According to sources Chatterjee was asked a whole range of "uncomfortable" questions that he either circumvented or replied in a round-about manner. Chatterjee had

created a five-member screening panel comprising among others his own personal assistant and officer on special duty in order to advice the SSC which is presumed to be an autonomous body responsible for appointments in school level.

A judicial committee appointed by the High Court by Justice RJ Bag had indicted not only the minister but the aforementioned panel and even recommended criminal proceedings against the offenders saying the formation of the screening committee was an illegal act.

When asked as to why he went out of the way to appoint the screening panel or under whose supervision it worked, Chatterjee reportedly said that he had no control over the committee. When asked as to who controlled the committee or for that matter if any outsider was controlling it he

allegedly feigned ignorance, sources said adding he also failed to answer why he did not take action when reports of irregularities were coming in.

Sources in the CBI which has been grilling five senior State government officials who were in the screening committee and through whom the scam was operated said "Chatterjee's statements and the statements given by the five officials were not matching." They even said that the statements given by Chatterjee and his former Deputy Paresh Adhikari too contradicted at places."

The senior minister who has been asked to furnish his income details was on Wednesday asked to reduce his statements in writing for perusal.

While CBI sources said that the Minister could be summoned again they claimed that information regarding an

alleged newly constructed international school in West Midnapore and multiple apartments and hotels were also being collected.

While prima facie at least one thousand people were illegally given jobs by passing the empanelled candidates the High Court has directed the CBI to find out the total number of illegal appointments — which the petitioners' lawyers Firdous Shamim said could run into thousands — and money trail if any behind such recruitments.

Saying that it was a "multi-layered scam equivalent to Vyapam scam or chit fund" Shamim said illegal appointments took place in Group D, Group C, Primary, upper Primary, secondary and higher secondary level involving thousands of teachers.

"The rate for illegal appointments hovered anywhere between Rs 5 lakh for

TN BJP leader hacked to death in Chennai in broad daylight

KUMAR CHELLAPPAN ■ CHENNAI

A day before Prime Minister Narendra Modi was to make an official visit to Chennai to dedicate to the nation Rs 31,400 crore worth infrastructure works built as centrally-sponsored projects, a popular BJP leader in the State was murdered in front of hundreds of onlookers at Chintadripet, a city suburb on Tuesday evening at 7.50.

Two motorcycle borne gangs hacked to death K Balachander (30), Chennai Central District Secretary of the BJP's Scheduled Caste Wing in front of a crowd who ran for their lives after watching the gruesome murder.

Balachander who was accompanied by a security guard was on his way to a tea shop while the gangs of unidentified persons struck him, killing him on the spot and withdrew from the scene as fast as they made their appearance.

Hours before the incident, C Sylendra Kumar, director general of police (law and order), Tamil Nadu Police had told reporters at Avadi, another



BJP leader K Balachander

city suburb that law and order was under control in the State and there were no reports of any unpleasant happenings. "Tamil Nadu is a very peaceful State. No instance of caste or communal clash in Tamil Nadu or firing or deaths due to spurious liquor has been reported in the State," Babu had told reporters at Avadi Police Commissionerate.

K Annamalai, BJP State chief took to the social media within hours and said that nobody was safe in Tamil Nadu. He asked the Police to

arrest all the accused in the murder of the party functionary. Karu Nagarajan, senior BJP leader who staged a sit-in in front of the Government hospital where Balachander's body was taken for autopsy asked reporters whether Chennai was the political capital of Tamil Nadu or murder capital.

In an embarrassment to the M K Stalin-led Government, a popular TV channel friendly to the DMK, aired a news on Wednesday stating that Chennai has seen 18 murders in the last 20 days. The report contained the details of the murders with date, time and information about the victims.

But Shankar Jiwal, Commissioner, Chennai City Police, described the news as wrong. "There has been a 25 per cent reduction in the number of murders," said Jiwal while speaking to reporters.

No arrests have been made in the Balachander murder case at the time of going to Press though hectic combing operations are underway across the city. This is Prime Minister's first visit to Tamil Nadu after the change of Government in the State in last May.

Tripura CM calls on President, Shah, Rajnath

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The new Chief Minister of the poll-bound Tripura Dr Manik Saha, who had this month replaced Biplab Kumar Deb, called on President Ram Nath Kovind, Home Minister Amit Shah and defence Minister Rajnath Singh here on Wednesday.

The change in the north East state was affected by the BJP central leadership as elections to the Tripura assembly are about Year away and the change is aimed at reducing the anti-incumbency of four year-rule of Deb as CM.

It was Saha's first visit to the national Capital since taking charge as the chief minister of the northeastern state on May 15.

Saha said he met the home minister and sought his continuous guidance for all-round development of Tripura.

"Delighted to meet the Union Home Minister Hon'ble Shri @AmitShah ji. Requested him for his continuous guidance so that I can devote myself to the all round development of Tripura as Chief Minister of the state," Saha tweeted.

Cong likely to get 11 seats in upcoming RS elections

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Congress is likely to get 11 Rajya Sabha seats in the upcoming election cycle with some of its top leaders, including P Chidambaram and Jairam Ramesh, eyeing another term. This will also help the Congress strengthen its party position in the Upper House of Parliament from the current 29 to 33 members.

Some other top Congress leaders, including Ghulam Nabi Azad, Anand Sharma, Mukul Wasnik, Randeep Surjewala, Ajay Maken and Rajeev Shukla, are waiting in the wings to get a Rajya Sabha nomination. Of the 55 vacancies arising in the Rajya Sabha in the next two months, seven Congress members — Chidambaram (Maharashtra), Ramesh (Karnataka), Ambika Soni (Punjab), Vivek Tankha (Madhya Pradesh), Pradeep Tamta (Uttarakhand), Kapil Sibal

(Uttar Pradesh) and Chhaya Verma (Chhattisgarh) — will be completing their terms.

The Congress will be gaining three to four seats in the Upper House if it manages to get all the three seats that are falling vacant in Rajasthan. While the party will get two seats in Chhattisgarh, where it is in power, it will get one seat each in Tamil Nadu, Jharkhand and Maharashtra, where it shares power with other like-minded parties.

The Congress is also likely to get one seat each in Haryana, Madhya Pradesh and Karnataka on the strength of its MLAs in these states. Sources said while Chidambaram and Ramesh are hopeful that the party leadership would give a nod to them for another term, there are a host of other leaders who are waiting for a Rajya Sabha berth for some time now.

Chidambaram is eyeing

the lone Rajya Sabha seat from Tamil Nadu. He has already met Tamil Nadu Chief Minister and DMK leader M K Stalin. However, former Congress chief Rahul Gandhi's team is pushing for a young face in Praveen Chakravarty, the head of the party's Data Analytics department, for the seat.

Three-time Rajya Sabha member Ramesh will get a fourth term if his name is cleared for the lone seat in Karnataka, from where Surjewala is also a contender.

In Haryana, Surjewala, Kumari Selja and Kuldeep Bishnoi are vying for the lone seat, but former chief minister Bhupinder Singh Hooda is pushing for the nomination of Anand Sharma. The former Union minister is a prominent member of the "Group of 23" and is considered close to Hooda, who is also a member of the grouping.

After Nitish, Pawar raises 'caste-based' census issue

T N RAGHUNATHA ■ MUMBAI

Making a strong case for the reservations for the Other Backward Classes (OBCs), NCP chief Sharad Pawar on Wednesday rooded strongly for the conduct of a 'caste-based' census by the Centre to determine the quantum of reservations for OBCs in the country.

Addressing a state convention on reservations organised by the NCP's OBC Cell at the YB Chavan Centre here, Pawar slammed the Narendra Modi-government at the Centre and the RSS that supports the government, for opposing the caste-based census in the country.

"The OBCs are not asking for anything free. They are merely demanding reservations as their right. The reservations cannot happen unless there is a caste-based national census. The SC and ST communities benefited by way of reservations made in the Constitution, We should make

similar reservations to the OBCs," the NCP chief said.

"For the purpose of providing reservations to the OBCs, we need to ascertain their exact population. Only way to ascertain the OBC population in the country is to conduct a caste-based national census. Once the caste-based national census is done, we will know what exactly is the OBC population in the country. The reservations for them can be decided on the basis of their population," Pawar said.

At the convention attended by the OBC leaders from across the state, north Maharashtra representative Umesh Nemade moved a resolution demanding a "caste-based" national census so as to pave the way for reservations for the OBCs living across the country.

Coming down heavily on the Modi government at the Centre for resisting a "caste-based" census in the country, Pawar said: "Yesterday, Bihar chief minister Nitish Kumar

once again raised the issue of caste-based census. But till the Modi-led BJP is in power at the Centre, I don't think caste-based census will happen in the country. This is because the mindset of the BJP and its ideological allies is different".

Pawar said that RSS joint secretary Bhyaji Joshi had gone on record that his organisation was totally opposed to the caste-based census on the assumption that it would vitiate the atmosphere in the country. "I would like to know from him: how will the atmosphere get vitiated? When there is an imbalance in the society, we need to do something. The NCP is prepared to do whatever it takes to create awareness in the society," he said.

When he targeted the BJP and RSS for their resistance to "caste-based" census, the NCP chief was apparently alluding to an affidavit filed by the Centre before the Supreme Court on September 23 last year that a "caste-census", stating that a caste

census in 2021 "would not be feasible" and that it had taken a "conscious policy decision" to not to seek information regarding any other caste, except SCs and STs.

The Centre had filed an affidavit to this effect in the apex court in response to the Maharashtra government's plea to count Other Backward Classes (OBCs) in the upcoming census.

Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar and former Bihar CM Jitan Ram Manjhi too have for some time been mounting pressure on the Modi government to get a clear count on OBCs. Even Union Minister of State for Social Justice and Empowerment Ramdas Athawale is in favour of the caste-based census.

Pawar said that the ruling MVA in Maharashtra — comprising Shiv Sena, NCP and Congress — would go in for the upcoming civic polls only after the resolution of the OBCs reservations issue.



NCC cadets perform a routine drill during their annual Army Training Camp, at Nagrota on the outskirts of Jammu.

Photo | PTI

NAS report on school education system in country released

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Education Ministry on Wednesday released the National Achievement Survey (NAS) 2021 report which assesses the health of school education system in the country by conducting comprehensive evaluation survey of children's learning competencies at classes III, V, VIII and X with a cycle period of three years. It reflects the overall assessment of school education system. The last NAS was held in 2017.

The NAS 2021 was held on 12.11.2021 at all India level and covered Government Schools (Central Government and State Government); Government Aided Schools; and Private Unaided Schools. Subjects covered are Language, Mathematics & EVS for class 3 & 5; Language,

Mathematics, Science & Social Science for class 8 and Language, Mathematics, Science, Social Science and English for class 10.

According to the Department of School Education and Literacy, about 34 lakh students of 1.18 lakh schools in 720 districts from both rural and urban areas have participated in NAS 2021. The National Report Card has been released and placed in the public domain on nas.gov.in. It will enable analysis of results and remedial action at the appropriate levels. The objective of NAS 2021 is to evaluate children's progress and learning competencies as an indicator of the efficiency of the education system, so as to take appropriate steps for remedial actions at different levels. It will help to unravel the gaps in learning and will support state/UT governments

in developing long term, mid-term and short-term interventions to improve learning levels and orient on differential planning based on NAS 2021 data.

The report is based on the performance in all subjects through disaggregation by gender (female, male), Area (Rural and Urban), Management of schools (Government, Government aided and Private unaided) and Social Groups (Schedule Caste (SC), Schedule Tribe (ST), Other Backward Communities (OBC) and General. This nation-wide survey was administered by the CBSE in one single day at the same time. The survey was managed through the technology platform designed and developed by National Informatics Centre (NIC).

UP Finance Minister to present budget today

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

Uttar Pradesh Finance Minister Suresh Khanna will present the first budget of the second term of the Yogi Adityanath-led Bharatiya Janata Party Government on Thursday.

The budget for the next fiscal 2022-23 is expected to be the biggest ever and is likely to be over Rs 6 lakh crore. The size of the 2021-22 budgets was Rs 5, 50 Lakh crore.

Official sources said the budget would be paperless and inclusive and would cater to the aspiration of all sections of society.

The Uttar Pradesh government had on December 16, 2021 presented an interim budget for 2022-23 in the state

legislature, proposing an expenditure of Rs 5,45,370.69 crore and estimated receipts of Rs 5,44,836.56 crore. This left a deficit of Rs 534.13 crore.

The budget is likely to accommodate the promises made by the BJP in its election manifesto ahead of the 2022 UP assembly elections. The budget is likely to be focused on the agriculture sector. The BJP had promised free power to farmers in its election manifesto. Free power to farmers is likely to entail additional expenditure of Rs 1,800 crore on the state's finances.

The government is also likely to announce the creation of a stabilisation fund for ensuring remunerative prices for the crops of tomato, onion and potato.

BJP starts week-long campaign to strengthen party for 2024 elections

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The BJP on Wednesday started a week-long campaign to strengthen the organisation and boost outreach activities in around 74,000 electoral booths across the country where it is relatively weak. The move is keeping the next Lok Sabha elections in mind. BJP president J P Nadda addressed a 'Booth Empowerment Campaign' event at the party headquarters here, the party said in a tweet. The meeting was attended by several Union ministers and leaders from across the country. The campaign will continue till May 31.

The BJP has formed a committee chaired by party vice president Bajjayant Panda

and including vice president Dilip Ghosh, general secretary CT Ravi, and the party's Scheduled Caste (SC) Morcha head Lal Singh Arya as its members.

The party has identified around 74,000 booths across the country that are to be strengthened under the campaign. All party MPs have been asked to strengthen 100 weak booths in their respective constituencies and a 30-member team will be formed for the purpose, party sources said.

Similarly, party MLAs have been given the task of strengthening 10 weaker booths in their constituencies, sources said adding the BJP's Rajya Sabha MPs have been given the responsibility of strengthen-

ing polling booths in those Lok Sabha constituencies where the party lost.

The weaker booths have been identified on the basis of the results of the 2014 and 2019 Lok Sabha elections and state assembly polls, they said adding these booths have been divided into various categories on the basis of demography, organisational strength and other aspects.

A similar exercise was initiated by the BJP in 2016 and the party had identified around 115 constituencies in six states — Odisha, West Bengal, Andhra Pradesh, Telangana, Tamil Nadu, Kerala — and the Northeast. The party had never been able to win these constituencies till that time.



www.dailypioneer.com

facebook.com/dailypioneer | @TheDailyPioneer | instagram.com/dailypioneer/

PAPER WITH PASSION

Cost of ‘service’

The Govt is set to discuss the contentious issue of applying ‘service charge’ to restaurant bills

Tipping is not just about slipping some money to a waiter. Ideological battles were fought over it in the past. Today, the Governments square off with restaurateurs over it, pitting the customer’s right of choice against the waiter’s fruits of labour. On June 2, the Department of Consumer Affairs and the National Restaurants Association of India will meet to thrash out a contentious issue: Are eateries collecting service charge — tipping in legalese — by default even though it is voluntary. The question is, do restaurants ‘force’ them to pay the service charge? At least that is the allegation against the eateries. The other is that the service charge is fixed arbitrarily. Eateries are also accused of misleading customers about the legality of the service charge. The service charge is a transaction between the customer and the waiting or served

employees. It involves the staff offering the service of serving the customers and the latter, if happy, tipping the staff. When the tip is part of the bill in the form of a charge, it is called a service charge. Restaurants are not involved in this transaction at all, except by facilitating the voluntary collection of the service charge from customers instead of individual tipping. Why then is the Government inviting only the restaurants’ bodies for the talks and not the employees’ unions? Many customers are truly ignorant about service charge; many are still confused between service tax and service charge.



Many cannot be sure that the restaurant has calculated the service charge before charging GST and other taxes. The restaurants argue they have done their duty by mentioning the service charge on the menu card and the bill. For that matter, the Government is still not clear whether the service charge is taxable. The logic of the Goods and Services Tax is that all services are taxable. Even service charge, apart from service tax? The Government’s service charge guidelines of 2017 are only advisory. No legislation backs them. The Consumer Protection Act, 2019, does not refer to tipping or service charge. Against this backdrop, what will the June 2 meeting achieve other than issuing “advice” to the restaurateurs’ body? In the meanwhile, who will protect the interests of the waiting staff? A tip attests to the waiter’s abilities. The best waiters corner the maximum tips. It is they who, apart from food and ambience, contribute to a restaurant’s popularity. The service charge, on the other hand, is a level playing field for all waiters. They receive an equal share of the charge irrespective of their efficiency levels. For all waiters, however, tips represent extra income that makes a major difference in their lives. There may be cases where the employers are keeping a portion of the service charge with themselves. Why not bring in legislation that protects the interests of these waiters by legalising tipping if the service charge system is so complicated? That is the real issue.

PICTALK



Tourists ride a horsecart as clouds hover in the sky at Dadar beach, in Mumbai

PTI

Warming warning

The unusual and unseasonal prolonged spells of high temperatures are here to stay, reveal studies

If alarm bells on deteriorating weather conditions in India are not ringing just about yet, it’s better to double-check the power supply. In a bad omen for our planet, it has been found that climate change made the extreme temperatures that baked north-west India and Pakistan in April and May over 100 times more likely and also increased the chances that such heat waves will occur more frequently by the end of the century. To put it in simpler terms, without accounting for climate change, a heat wave exceeding 2010’s average temperature could happen once in every 312 years, according to an attribution study published recently. Taking climate change into account, however, the probabilities increased to once in every 3.1 years in the current climate, and to once in every 1.15 years by the end of the century. Climate change is already making extreme weather events such as heatwaves more intense and more frequent, and will continue to do so in future. India and Pakistan’s heatwave is also extraordinary in its duration — extremely high temperatures started as early as in March.



In another surprising revelation, a study has found that, contrary to popular perception, biomass emissions (stubble burning and increased heating requirements) rather than bursting of fireworks drive the poor air quality in the Capital during the days immediately succeeding Diwali. The study, conducted by IIT-D researchers before, during and after Diwali, threw light on the pollution sources impacting the ambient air quality in the Capital. The team discovered that biomass burning-related emissions rose steeply in the days following Diwali, with the average levels rising almost twice as compared to the pre-Diwali concentration. Also, the organic PM2.5 indicated a significant rise in both primary and secondary organic pollutants in the days following Diwali. Shockingly, the study discovered that the metal content in PM2.5 levels rose by 1,100 per cent ... and the fireworks alone accounted for 95 per cent of the metal PM2.5 during the Festival of Lights. However, the impact of the fireworks was noticed to plummet within around 12 hours after the day of the festival. What makes these studies important is the result which provides crucial insights into a topic of long-standing debate and concerns between air quality experts and the policymakers. Hopefully, this newfound knowledge will help alleviate the problems emanating from the extreme air pollution events in the Delhi-NCR areas.

Checkmate by the ‘Neutrals’ in Pak

No one in Pakistan has any doubt over the long, deep and dirty hands of the Pakistani military, called the ‘establishment’, in all sovereign decisions

The Pakistani Army’s complicated relationship with democracy started with its first native chief, Gen Ayub Khan. Ayub’s selection baptised the ‘institution’ with the political culture of out-of-turn nomination to the Chief of Pakistani Army Staff for posterity (Ayub was the junior-most Maj Gen in the Pakistani Army and his name was not even in the first consideration list). Soon the ambitious General took over the formal reins from the civilian politicians and promulgated the creatively deceptive concept of ‘Basic Democracy’ — a farcical system legitimising his iron-fisted dictatorship whilst providing a semblance of democracy. A similarly out-of-turn and ostensibly pliant General Zia-ul-Haq was to repeat the Ayub feat by deposing the civilian Government of Zulfikar Ali Bhutto.

The even more unhinged dictator in General Zia immediately promised a restoration to democracy after taking over, “My sole aim is to organise free and fair elections”, and within months shifted his stance to ‘retribution first, elections later’ — he stayed on for the next 11 years till he died in a mysterious plane crash. In 1999, yet another out-of-turn and supposedly ‘safe’ Gen Pervez Musharraf grabbed power in a *coup d’état* and promised ‘true democracy’ which he claimed wouldn’t be the “evil of sham democracy” but he, too, hung around for another nine years!

Much wisdom has dawned on the subsequent Pakistani Army Chiefs like Pervez Kayani, Raheel Sharif and, most recently, Qamar Javed Bajwa. All of them have preferred a more discreet, ‘democratic’ and highly effective way of running the show, without attracting international opprobrium. They have effectively ‘chosen’ civilian Governments as per their topical interests, extended their terms unilaterally to six-year terms (Pervez Kayani and Qamar Bajwa) or, like Gen Raheel Sharif, managed to twist



legislations towards securing their own interests in plum post-retirement roles (currently heading the Islamic Military Counter-Terrorism Coalition).

No one in Pakistan has any doubts of the ‘establishments’ (Pakistani military’s) long and deep hands in all sovereign decisions. The once out-of-favour with the Pakistani military, Nawaz Sharif, had called the Generals as ‘*Khalai Mukhloq*’ (aliens or the invisible hand) as the ‘establishment’s’ hand in elevating Imran Khan to power in 2018 was undeniable. Obviously, as the beneficiary of the Pakistani military’s favour, Imran had dissed all murmurs about the military’s extra-constitutional abilities as he probably assumed that he’d be able to defang the Generals over time — he tried but failed miserably.

Ultimately, a desperately struggling Imran struggled to nuance the military’s claimed apolitical and neutral stand when the tables turned, and he had become an outsized nuisance for the Generals. Facing a no-confidence vote, Imran had invoked a stinging appeal for support by saying, “Allah did not allow us to be

ULTIMATELY, A DESPERATE IMRAN STRUGGLED TO NUANCE THE MILITARY’S CLAIMED APOITICAL AND NEUTRAL STAND WHEN THE TABLES TURNED, AND HE HAD BECOME AN OUTSIZED NUISANCE FOR THE GENERALS

neutrals as only animals are neutrals!” Clearly, the Generals were not amused and they remained ‘neutral’ to Imran’s extreme discomfiture. Soon the dejected and ejected Imran was left lamenting, “Neutrals weren’t actually neutral.” Today, as the vainglorious Imran replots his journey back to political relevance, he is left hoping in sarcasm, “I also say to my Army that you said you are neutral, so now remain neutral.” Deep down, Imran would know better of the shift in tide and circumstances of his equation with these so-called ‘neutrals’.

Meanwhile, in a curious closing of the loop, it is the Sharif family (deposed and hounded out of Pakistan in the 1999 military *coup d’état*) that is singing hosanas of the Pakistani military’s ‘neutrality’!

Tellingly, no Pakistani Prime Minister has ever completed his/her tenure and almost all were tripped through extra-constitutional or judicial intervention that invariably could be traced back to the shadowy Generals at the Rawalpindi Military General Headquarters (GHQ). Only three Prime Ministers were able to go



BHOPINDER SINGH

beyond the four-year mark. The fissures in each case were triggered by political efforts to undermine or diminish the Pakistani Military — in Imran’s case, his grandstanding in delaying the transfer of his preferred spy chief ie, then DG of ISI, General Faiz Hameed, was tantamount to crossing the traditional ‘red lines’ of non-interference in certain matters. Imran could no longer be trusted to walk the line of the ‘establishment’s’ formula for Pakistani governance, and thus had to be removed.

Today, the Pakistani military has further denied any imminent threat to national security or the alarmist ‘international conspiracy’. Making it worse for Imran is the careful recalibration of the Sharif-Bhutto combine towards the Generals, and the deliberate assertion by the Pakistani military spokesperson that General Bajwa seeks no further extension === both moves deflate Imran’s expected aspersions and stridency against the ‘neutrals’. Somewhere along the line, Imran had managed to create a dangerous divide within the ironclad ‘establishment’ with purported factionalism between a General Bajwa and a possible faction led by Imran’s politically beholden/preferred, Lt Gen Faiz Hameed. This was unprecedentedly and unexpectedly brazen interference into the insular affairs of the Pakistani military, even by the standards of the hugely egotistical Imran. For now, the possible succession of Lt Gen Faiz Hameed as the Pakistani military chief has been checkmated, as has been the possibilities of a civilian dispensation attempting to usurp the powers of the incorrigible Generals.

(The writer, a military veteran, is a former Lt Governor of Andaman & Nicobar Islands and Puducherry. The views expressed are personal.)

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

INDIA MUST CONSOLIDATE GAINS

Sir — While India has joined the Indo-Pacific Economic Framework (IPEF), a forum to enhance cooperation among 13 countries in areas such as clean energy, supply chain resilience, decarbonisation, digital trade and infrastructure, it is seen as a counter to the RCEP, from which India has stayed away. At a time when every country is trying to secure its own economic interests, India must be wary that all IPEF members except India and the US are part of the China-backed trading agreement, the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP) and yet have chosen to be a part of the US-led initiative.

The dream of a win-win situation for all members can only be realised if this framework provides a level playing field. Otherwise, it will become only a tool for the assertion of America’s hegemony considering the fact that the latter’s previous initiatives like Blue Dot Network and Build Back Better Initiatives had made little headway towards changing the region’s infrastructural needs. India has a favourable balance of trade with the US, about \$33 billion of trade surplus from January to December 2021, the exports to America were valued at more than \$73 billion, way above imports worth around \$40 billion.

Vijay Singh Adhikari | Nainital

STRIKING THE RIGHT BALANCE

Sir — The Union Government’s decision to reduce the taxes on petrol and diesel to curtail the inflation rate is strategic in nature. The cost of movement of goods and people directly adds to the cost escalation of every product and it has come to a point where the “consumption” factor goes a hit and demand automatically gets for a nosedive under compulsion. It, therefore, leads to excess supply pushing the graph further down to hit the bottom of the line, drastically affecting the economy in the long run. This price reduction and correction process was supposed

America and its gun culture



Salvador Ramos, an 18-year-old gunman, opened fire at a Texas Robb Elementary School, killing at least 19 children, two adults (including a teacher) as he went from classroom to classroom. It was the deadliest school shooting since the 2012 massacre in Newtown, Conn. The US Constitution gives all its citizens the right to own a gun, and guns are as easy to find in stores across America as grocery shopping in any country. Hence no one

is surprised that how much untrue it is that America has launched a decisive fight against terrorism, and calls itself the ‘big brother’ of humanity. It may declare itself the champion of democracy in the world, but it has never been able to do anything to stop the prevailing gun culture there.

As a result, in the last five decades, more than 1.4 million people have died due to America’s gun culture. Interestingly, hours after the attack, US President Joe Biden who was in Japan appeared ready for a fight in an address to the nation. “As a nation, we have to ask when in God’s name are we going to stand up to the gun lobby?” Biden asked. “Why are we willing to live with this carnage?” It remains to be seen whether Biden will take specific action to control the powerful gun lobby.

Bidyut K Chatterjee | Faridabad

to be taken up much earlier by the Government.

Taxing corporations and companies drives them away to another country, resulting in more job losses, reduction in IT revenues, more NPAs from failed businesses, and so on. While the rich must be taxed more heavily than they are now, middle income groups need to pay up their fair share. The cess collected by the Union Government is used to pay back the loans borrowed by State Governments on account of the GST revenue deficit to combat the COVID-19 pandemic. When people didn’t have objection to collecting doles, they shouldn’t object to paying their taxes either.

CK Subramaniam | Navi Mumbai

COURTS SHOULD DISMISS SUCH CLAIMS

Sir — The current situation of disgruntled communal elements trying to dig and explore mosques like Gyanvapi Masjid, saying Hindu temples existed under such structures, encouraged by politically-affiliated religious groups, has stemmed from the manner in which the Babri

Masjid was allowed to be demolished and the Supreme Court’s verdict to hand over the disputed site in Ayodhya to the Hindu claimants. It is also a blunder and flagrant violation of the law by the honourable courts by repeatedly entertaining such claims which are in contravention to the ‘Places of Worship (Special Provisions) Act, 1991’.

It is an open secret that such moves are encouraged by the powers that be with a motive to reap political benefits. It is time the Supreme Court intervened, put an end to this menace and upheld the spirit of the Places of Worship Act and preserve communal peace. If this is not done urgently, India will have to lose its great name as a land of great values and heritage. Further, any more demolitions similar to that of the Babri Masjid would confirm that we too are a bunch of barbarians, like those who are said to have demolished other religious structures.

Tharcus S Fernando | Chennai

Send your feedback to: letterstopioneer@gmail.com

SOUNDBITE

I’m absolutely sure the India-US friendship will continue to be a force for good.

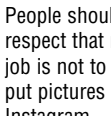


Prime Minister — Narendra Modi



I’m committed to making the US-India partnership among the closest we have on earth.

US President — Joe Biden



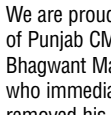
People should respect that my job is not to put pictures on Instagram... It’s to make good films.

Actor — Amitabh Bachchan



Thank you Roland Garros. Thank you, Mister Tennis. I love you (on retiring)!

French tennis professional — Jo-Wilfried Tsonga




We are proud of Punjab CM Bhagwant Mann who immediately removed his Minister found involved in corruption.

AAP’s national convener — Arvind Kejriwal


FIRST COLUMN

SOME BRANDS ARE AGGRESSIVELY CAPITALISING ON CANCEL CULTURE

A new public sphere in a network society




UTTAM CHAKRABORTY



G REJIKUMAR

Understanding cancel culture and a new public sphere are becoming imminent. Constructing and deconstructing the suitability of such culture is largely contextualized and is heavily relied on the cultural context. It has invariably attempted to redefine Jürgen Habermas’ public sphere, especially the future of the public sphere in a network society. In the digital arena, the argumentative discussions on the public sphere are increasingly relevant and yet problematic. There is a little denial that public sphere is subjected to dramatic change and re-change. Reasons and passion in the public sphere are many and it has been increasingly interdisciplinary in approach. Over the years, cancel culture is getting more apparent from comedy to cricket. A product of internet culture, it has spread its wings across the globe including India. Several celebrities have faced severe backlash for their alleged deeds or narratives which were deemed offensive and inappropriate in the public. The butterfly effect of social media is adding to the cancel culture. The dark holes of disinformation are becoming rampant. The pandemic situation across the globe had added to the woes of the public. On the other hand, it has different implications in brand communication. Some brands are aggressively capitalizing on this culture and using this trend as branding. Of course, this needs to be handled with utmost care. Whether cancel culture actually works or not, it remains debatable. Cancel cul-



ture has become a common phenomenon in our society. To be precise, cancel culture means a practice of withdrawing support for public figures or companies or even against an individual after they have done or said something considered objectionable or offensive. It is generally discussed in the social media in the form of group shaming.

Cancel culture attempts to enforce some degree of accountability on an individual even though it demands a series of arguments and deliberations on the topics or individuals or institutions. This culture surfaced across nations when the #MeToo movement gained traction in 2016 in the US where people resorted to social media to cancel or boycott public personalities of repute. Last year #BanNetflix was getting viral for alleged inappropriate content. Cancel culture as a medium of showing disbelief towards a person or any organization or thought is nothing new in India. In the year 2019, the former US President Obama appealed to discard the cancel culture. The actor and activist Jameela Jamil claimed that cancel culture as pointless and is a waste of time. The names of JK Rowling and Harry Potter rose to some extent. Cancel culture has shared some common space in the pandemic and online trolling. According to reports, online hate speech rose 20% during the pandemic. However, it was often normalized in most of the circumstances.

Cancel culture has its own implications on brands and brand communication. The trolling in the Internet has become a common phenomenon. It has caused a stir in the recent times. One of the renowned jewelry apps had to face the wrath of the consumers for one of their promotional advertisements. A popular TV show anchor is being alleged trolled for not providing promotional space for a film. Cancel culture has encroached into the space of marketing and advertising. Usually, brands are politically non-partisans However, in apolarisedworld, brands are slowly taking political patronage. Boycotting has become a mainstream consumer reaction. Consumers are increasingly demanding the brands to take a stand on any social or political issue. Consumers are also aware of the fact that several brands use societal issues as a marketing ploy to sell more of their product. Cancel culture is thus negotiating its space in the public sphere.

(Chakraborty is an Assistant Professor and teaches at Jaipuria Institute of Management, Lucknow.Rejikumar is working as a professor at Department of Management, Amrita Vishwa Vidyapeetham, Kochi)

Pak oppression stoking Baloch ‘azadi’ fires



NISHTHA KAUSHIKI

Balochs say the CPRC ignores them and is Punjab-centric. The Gwadar-Karachi route goes through developed areas of Punjab and Sind while bypassing Balochistan districts

Balochistan is Pakistan’s biggest occupied province, making about 44% of the country’s total land area. With a coastline of 770 kilometres, Balochistan also shares borders with Iran and Afghanistan, and 40% of the world’s oil travels via Gwadar port, located near the opening of the Strait of Hormuz.

Pakistan’s display of unified nationalism is met with ethno-nationalist opposition from Balochs, Pashtuns and Sindhis, who have been protesting against their political and economic marginalisation since the formation of Pakistan. The Punjab-centric planning and implementation of projects under China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) have worsened the conflict between the state and the Azadi-seeking forces. A takeover of Gwadar port and subsequent exclusion of the Baloch firms, workers and fishermen from Gwadar-linked CPEC projects, and various developmental policies apart from exploiting its natural resources have exacerbated pre-existing secessionist sentiments in Balochistan. Furthermore, the Eastern route or alignment of the Chinese Project connects Gwadar and Karachi through the developed portions of Punjab and Sind while leaving behind several districts of Balochistan. The Baloch mainstream parties have thus opposed the project entirely and have called for complete freedom.

Further, political discrimination against the Shia Hazara community in Quetta has also been a human rights issue. Shia Hazaras are considered Iranian spies by Sunni sectarians. Restrictive practices in Rawalpindi are evident in the massacre of Shia Hazaras and their lack of mention in the national media. Nevertheless, East Pakistan (Bangladesh) was the only region to achieve liberation from all forms of tyranny.

Today, the unification of various Baloch rebel groups- Baloch Republican Army (BRA), United Baloch Army, Baloch Raji Ajoi Sangar (BRAS) to form a Baloch National Army (BNA) or the ‘Azadi brigade’ might result in the establishment of a Baloch territory carved out from Pakistan. If Rawalpindi increases its atrocities, the Balochs might retaliate further by calling all the Balochs in Iran, Pakistan and Afghanistan to unite and form a ‘Greater Balochistan’. The recent suicide bombing of Shari Baloch calls for the attention of the intensification of the freedom struggle in Baluchistan. Several disgruntled Pakistani factions have hailed Shari Baloch’s decision to oppose the CPEC and Rawalpindi. On social media sites like Twitter, Sindhi separatists have expressed their admiration for her bravery. It is an indication that the Baloch National Army would expand to include Sindhi factions in the future.

Until now, the Baloch rebel groups’ classic modus operandi used improvised explosive devices and hit-and-run attacks apart from the protests. Suicide bombing by Shari Baloch has commonalities with the



PAKISTAN’S MAJOR FOREIGN AND SECURITY POLICY FLAW HAS PRIMARILY BEEN AN ANTI-INDIA APPROACH. VIEWING THE MUSHROOMING OF JIHADIST ORGANISATION FROM THIS LENS, IT HAS ONLY AIMED TO RECEIVE AID FROM EITHER OF THE POWERS WHILE TRYING TO DESTABILISE INDIA

(The writer is an Assistant Professor at Central University of Punjab, Bathinda. The views expressed are personal.)



sophisticated nature of the attacks carried out by the Tehreek-e-Taliban Pakistan (TTP) and its affiliates. The TTP aims to establish an Islamic Emirate of Pakistan, very similar to what the Taliban did in Afghanistan. TTP recruits are primarily from the Afghanistan-Pakistan border, and thus it has sympathies with the BLA. However, a catch is that the TTP swears its allegiance to the Afghan Taliban and is backed by Al Qaeda. This makes TTP a dicey player between BLA and the Pakistan forces.

Interestingly, it is possible that TTP’s leader Noor Wali Mehsud has allied with the Baloch rebels? Till now, independent acts have been carried out by TTP (North-West of Pakistan) and BLA (South of Pakistan). However, that might not be the case any longer. From a Pakistani perspective, the Afghan Taliban’s takeover might have driven out the US and posed severe issues for its allies, yet, the Taliban’s aspirations and capabilities to function independently of Rawalpindi cannot be ruled out. There have been statements from the Taliban “ministers” seeking an independent role in its ‘national’ and regional affairs. Moreover, the Taliban might have the revenge objectives of post 9/11 developments wherein Pakistan cleverly helped the U.S. crush the Taliban. One might assume that the Taliban has been going slow to oppress TTP’s rearming and a resurgence for the reasons mentioned above, apart from forging alliances with Baloch rebels.

If one can recall, in the early 2010s, the Tehrik-e-Taliban Balochistan (TTB) emerged on TTP lines. TTB aspired for the complete exit of foreigners from Baluchistan apart from fighting the Pakistani security forces and

law enforcement agencies to convert Pakistan into a battlefield. The organisation recruited indigenous fighting units and foreign fighters primarily of the Afghan-Pashtun tribes. However, the Baloch are traditionalists and not fundamentalists, and hence the assumptions and possibilities of TTP and BLA finding convergences for their operational synergies is a strong possibility. The ‘Azadi Brigade’ can also be joined by the ISKP (Islamic State - Khorasan Province), proving further detrimental to Pakistan’s interests.

Although the intensity and the number of attacks against the Pakistani military establishments increased after the US exit from Afghanistan, the recent extension of the ceasefire between TTP and Pakistan, mediated through the Afghan Taliban and the Haqqani network, reminds us of 2020 when in a surprising move the truce and subsequent mergers between TTP with its splinter groups and rivals moderated by the Al-Qaida. Important groups which merged with TTP were a faction of the sectarian group Lashkar-e-Jhangvi (LeJ) and the splinter groups of TTP- Hakimullah Mehsud faction, Jamaatul-Ahrar (JuA), and its sub-splinter Hizbul-Ahrar (HuA). The mergers gave a predominant position to the TTP, which equalled the Afghan Taliban’s position in Kabul. Despite ideational and strategic divergences, the ceasefire raises essential questions. Rawalpindi might be trying to establish another regional Sunni proxy terror alliance in Balochistan with Jaish ul-Adl, first to suppress the Baloch movement and second to revive the Iranian Jundullah organisation while creating instability in Sistan and Balochistan province. Pakistan would want the

‘destructive forces’ to be diverted elsewhere.

Whether the BLA fights along with the TTP or Pakistan and finally succeeds in creating instabilities, the Chinese CPEC is bound to be in the doldrums for violence plays an essential role in the region. A pertinent question is whether Pakistan is playing the same game with China as it played with the U.S. in Afghanistan? By attracting the Chinese money and infrastructure to Balochistan and Iran; encouraging Iran to remain isolated while simultaneously attempting to bring the extremist group under a single umbrella to launch offensive actions against Baloch citizens, groups, as well as Iranian Baluchistan, does it not hint at the same methodology as it adopted in the last decade for ousting the US? If the violence between factions intensifies, the Chinese Projects and its citizens will be affected. In an extreme case, would not the Chinese be forced to abandon their projects the same way the U.S. and the NATO forces were forced to leave their airbases?

Pakistan’s major foreign and security policy flaw has primarily been an anti-India approach. Viewing the mushrooming of the Jihadist organisation from this lens, it has only aimed to receive aid from either of the powers while simultaneously trying to destabilise India. Soon, Islamabad would be a victim of its homegrown terror and might enlist as a nation that dug its own grave. Joseph Nye once stated, “Important political leaders never just followed their interests - they were concerned about the interests of their people”. Islamabad has never produced a leader of that kind. With more chaos, terror, external loans and inflation, it would not be wrong to predict that ‘Azad Balochistan’ would see the light of the day very soon.

POINT COUNTERPOINT

UTTAR PRADESH IS ON TOP IF WE LOOK AT THE STATISTICS ON CRIMES AGAINST WOMEN. THE STATE GOVERNMENT IS NOT SERIOUS. — SAMAJWADI PARTY CHIEF AKHILESH YADAV



ANY KIND OF CRIME IS UNFORGIVABLE. THE GOVT IS TAKING STRICT ACTION... ESPECIALLY THOSE COMMITTING CRIMES AGAINST WOMEN. — CHIEF MINISTER YOGI ADITYANATH

Messed up post-COVID job statistics in India

MGNREGA job demand was less in 2021-22, meaning people who migrated to villages after COVID got their jobs back in urban areas

The Centre for Monitoring Indian Economy (CMIE) says that though the GDP has bounced back post-Covid, its biggest impact has been on employment. Employment reached only 40.18 crores in 2021-22 as against 40.89 crores in 2019-20. Unemployment which was 3.29 crore in 2019-20 reached 3.33 crore in 2021-22 — an increase of only 4 lakhs.

The CMIE concludes that though the decrease in employment has been nearly 7 million i.e. 70 lakh, the increase of unemployment is only 4 lakh, indicating that the people who got unemployed during this period have given up hope of employment and they are now out of the race for employment.

It’s notable that for some time, due to some reasons, the employment related data in the



ASHWANI MAHAJAN

(The writer is Professor, PGDAV College, University of Delhi. The views expressed are personal.)

country is not being published by the National Sample Survey Organization (NSSO). It is natural that in the absence of official figures, the figures of institutions like CMIE get space in the media. However, their credibility is questionable.

The Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA) guarantees at least 100 days of employment in every financial year to every rural unemployed. So, when people are unemployed, they are entitled to get 100 days of employment under MGNREGA. In such a situation, even if a person is getting casual employment anywhere and if he remains unemployed for 100 or less days, then he can seek employment under ‘MGNREGA’.

This logically means that if



unemployment rises, the demand for MGNREGA will also increase. For example, in 2020-21 due to lockdown in cities and decline in economic activities, employment decreased and people migrated to villages, then in those days the number of ‘MGNREGA’ beneficiaries increased to 7 crores from

merely 5 crores before the lockdown.

Interestingly, the period (2021-22) for which the CMIE report is talking about a rise in unemployment, demand for MGNREGA employment was actually 6.55 percent less than the previous year. That is, it can be said that during the Corona period, people who had migrated to the villages had got employment back in the urban areas. In this sequence, if we look at the figures of April 2022, it is found that in April 2021, 2.62 crore people had sought work under ‘MGNREGA’, whereas in April 2022, only 2.33 crore people sought work under MGNREGA, that is, a decline of 11.15 percent. Analysts believe that the fall in demand for employment under MGNREGA is due to increased employ-

ment in urban areas. This figure is in stark contrast to the report published by CMIE, which says that people have moved out of the labour force, giving up the hope of employment due to the loss of employment opportunities. Instead of giving its own value judgement about unemployment, CMIE should have taken note of the MGNREGA figures to arrive at a conclusion.

The CMIE report states that even if 7.5 percent GDP growth is achieved in 2022-23, the unemployment rate will increase rather than going down. For this they talk of employment elasticity with respect to GDP. But we have to understand that the recovery after Covid in the economy is not a normal recovery. This recovery accompanies some

fundamental changes in the Indian economy. All indicators of the economy are pointing towards these changes.

Significantly, in the last quarter of the last financial year (2021-22), the monthly average of GST collection was 1.42 lakh crore. The unprecedented GST collection of ₹1.68 lakh crore in the first month of this financial year (April 2022), is definitely pointing towards an upsurge in the economy. In March 2022, 7.7 crore e-way bills were generated, 13 per cent more than 6.8 crore e-way bills generated in February 2022. This clearly shows a sharp recovery in the economy.

Significantly, due to the shortage of semiconductors in the country, many of our industries including automobile, electronics, telecom have been

affected. Despite that, rising GST revenue is indicating an uptick in manufacturing in the economy. It is true that imports have also increased during this period, due to which the revenue of GST has increased, but where the revenue of GST has reached ₹1.68 lakh crore, the share of import GST in this revenue is ₹36705 crore, which is greater than import GST of March 2021 by 5608 crores only. It’s notable that import GST in March 2021 was ₹31097 crore. This implies that domestic businesses have definitely grown during this period, resulting into this huge increase in GST.

The Government should soon publish robust official NSSO data and present the correct picture of employment in the country.

Russian rockets hit eastern Ukrainian town of Pokrovsk

AP ■ POKROVSK (UKRAINE)

The Russian rocket strikes came early in the morning in the eastern Ukrainian town of Pokrovsk on Wednesday, shaking buildings, jolting people out of bed and sending chunks of concrete and jagged pieces of metal flying through the air.

One of the two rockets left a crater at least three metres deep, remnants of the projectile still smoldering as nearby residents picked through the debris of their homes, trying to salvage whatever they could.

A row of low terraced houses nearby suffered significant damage, with roofing tiles blown off, door frames ripped from the walls and pieces of brick, concrete and asphalt scattered on the ground. Four civilians were wounded, said Pavlo Kyrilenko, head of the Donetsk military administration.

At least one of them suffered a head wound and was ferried to the local hospital by ambulance, blood seeping through the bandages and trickling down the side of his neck.

The strikes in Pokrovsk were among several over the past two days that have hit towns and villages as Russia pressed forward in its offensive in the Donbas, Ukraine's eastern industrial heartland.

"There's no place left to live in, everything is smashed," said Viktoriya Kurbonova, a mother-of-two who lived in one of the terraced houses.

The windows had been blown out by an earlier strike about a month ago, and they had replaced them with plastic sheeting. That, she said, probably saved their lives as at least there was no glass flying around.

She had been asleep when the strike hit, just metres from her house. "There was a really big flash and a lot of dust," Kurbonova said, standing outside her home still in her pajamas, her legs and arms blackened by soot.



mas, her legs and arms blackened by soot.

Her four-year-old son wandered around, clutching a toy train, while her two-year-old daughter smiled in a stroller nearby.

"I was reaching for my child and I couldn't find him in the dust," she said. The boy had been sleeping in the same room as her, while her daughter had been in the next room with Kurbonova's mother. They were all shaken, but none were hurt.

Kyrilenko said Russian strikes killed 12 civilians the previous day in the Donetsk region, and wounded another 10. Another strike on the city of Kramatorsk, northeast of Pokrovsk, hit a multi-story building under construction, damaging it and blowing out windows in nearby buildings but causing no casualties.

"Russians continue hitting the cities that are away from the front line," Kyrilenko said on his Telegram channel. "They would like to kill as many civilians as possible and cause panic. That is why the only good choice is evacuation. Evacuation saves lives."

The governor of the neighbouring Luhansk region, Serhiy Haidai, said at least six civilians had been killed and eight wounded over the past 24 hours in shelling in the town of Sievierodonetsk, at the heart of the Russian offensive in eastern Ukraine.

Russian forces have been attempting to encircle Sievierodonetsk and cut off

Ukrainian forces there. Haidai accused the Russians of deliberately targeting shelters where civilians were hiding.

Moscow-backed separatists have fought Ukrainian forces in the Donbas for eight years and hold large swaths of territory.

Sievierodonetsk and neighbouring cities are the only part of the Donbas' Luhansk region still under Ukrainian government control.

EU seeks more clout against sanctioned Russian oligarchs

AP ■ BRUSSELS

The European Union's executive arm entered sensitive legal territory on Wednesday with a proposal to confiscate the frozen assets of oligarchs who try to violate the bloc's sanctions over Russia's war in Ukraine.

The European Commission proposed two EU laws that would require the 27 member states to cede a degree of jealously guarded national sovereignty over

criminal matters.

One piece of draft legislation seeks new European rules on freezing and confiscating the assets of people blacklisted by the EU.

The second legislative proposal aims to expand the list of acts deemed to be "EU crimes" by including breaches of European sanctions.

Both initiatives need the approval of EU governments in a scrutiny process that usually takes many months and can even last for years.

The bloc's heads of government are due to discuss options for using the frozen assets of sanctioned Russian oligarchs to support the reconstruction of Ukraine during a two-day summit next week.

"There is no time to lose," Margaritis Schinas, a European Commission vice-president in charge of security matters, told reporters in Brussels. "Many times we see assets recovery and confiscation of the small fry, whereas the big sharks find ways to

evade."

While the EU has spent decades crafting common rules on various areas of criminal law, European sanctions against Russian leaders and oligarchs over the past three months have added impetus to calls for a stronger European framework.

The EU has imposed asset freezes and travel bans on more than 1,000 people, including over 30 oligarchs, in response to Russia's invasion of Ukraine on February 24.

PUBLIC NOTICE

It is publically notified that PLOT No. A-438, SECTOR 151, NOIDA, DISTT. GAUTAM BUDDH NAGAR, UTTAR PRADESH allottee of SHRI VIKRAM SINGH RANA S/O LATE JAGAN SINGH R/O C-415 SECTOR-22, NOIDA, DISTT. GAUTAM BUDDH NAGAR, UTTAR PRADESH shall be mutated on the basis of Will Deed to the following person:-
The Will Deed was registered by SHRI VIKRAM SINGH RANA S/O LATE JAGAN SINGH R/O C-415 SECTOR-22, NOIDA, DISTT. GAUTAM BUDDH NAGAR, UTTAR PRADESH in favour of SHRI JOGINDER SINGH RANA & SHRI DHARMENDRA CHAUHAN BOTH S/O LATE VIKRAM SINGH RANA R/O C-415 SECTOR-22, NOIDA, DISTT. GAUTAM BUDDH NAGAR, UTTAR PRADESH. Because Will Deed is registered, so it is Publically Notified that the mutation application of the aforesaid property is going to apply through Will Deed in the name of SHRI JOGINDER SINGH RANA & SHRI DHARMENDRA CHAUHAN BOTH S/O LATE VIKRAM SINGH RANA R/O C-415 SECTOR-22, NOIDA, DISTT. GAUTAM BUDDH NAGAR, UTTAR PRADESH. If someone has/have any objection he/she must move our objection with proof within 30 days from this notice in the Residential Plot Department, Noida Authority.
Mr. Joginder Singh Rana and Mr. Dharmendra Chauhan, sons of Late Vikram Singh Rana, resident of C-415, Sector-22, Noida, Uttar Pradesh.

PUBLIC NOTICE

RAMAN VIHAR COOP. GROUP HOUSING SOCIETY LTD. Plot No.5A, Sector-11, Dwarka, New Delhi-110075
In pursuance to rule 19(2) of DCS rules, 2007, applications are invited from general public of Delhi who fulfill the conditions laid down in rule-19 & 20 of DCS Rules, 2007 for filling up one vacancy in Raman Vihar CGHS Ltd. (Regd. No. 872(GH) for proposed three bedroom flat (Tentative cost of flat 87.31,610/-) (having area approximate 1750 Sq. Feet), which has arisen due to resignation of member. Interested persons can collect the application form in person from society office ie Plot No.5A, Sector-11, Dwarka, New Delhi-110075 between 10.00 am to 4.30 pm free of cost and the same have to deposited along with the amount of Rs. 87,31,610/- which includes Share money, admission fee, land & Construction money and Equalization money through Pay order/ Demand Draft within 15 days of issue of this notice in favour of Raman Vihar Co-operative Group Housing Society Ltd. Secretary-Raman Vihar CGHS Ltd.

PUBLIC NOTICE

It is publically notified that the Plot/Property No. 79, Block-A, Sector-30, Noida, has been allotted in the name of Suresh Kumar S/o Shri Kashmiri Lal Rao 283/53A, Vishnu Garden, New Delhi presently residing at 1/265, Subash Nagar (Opp. Ajanta Cinema), New Delhi, had sold/transfer the said property, on the basis of GPA to the following persons:-
The GPA of the above said property has been executed by the original allottee in favour of Gurcharan Ahuja S/o Shri Sant Lal Ahuja R/o House No. 370, First Floor, Chandi Wala Gali, Pahar Ganj, New Delhi-110055 which is registered in the office of Sub Registrar Noida Vide Block No.Volume No. on pages..... to..... at Document No..... dated 16.11.1987 and the Agreement to Sell of the above said property was executed by the original allottee in favour of Shri Sant Lal Ahuja S/o Late Shri Gurdass Mal Ahuja & Smt. Raj Kumari Ahuja W/o Shri Sant Lal Ahuja both R/o House No. 927, Sector-28, Noida registered in the office of Sub Registrar Noida Vide Block No.Volume No. on pages..... to..... at Document No..... dated 16.11.1987. At present the agreement to sell holders Shri Sant Lal Ahuja expired on 22.04.2019 & Smt. Raj Kumari Ahuja expired on 09.02.1998.
Now the above said property is going to be transferred in favour of Pramod Ahuja & Sunil Ahuja both S/o Late Shri Sant Lal Ahuja Both R/o A-79, Sector-30, Noida, Distt. Gautam Buddh Nagar, U.P. through the GPA, if any one has/have any objection he/she may submit his/her, objection in the Residential Plot Department of Noida Authority along-with sufficient proofs within 30 days of the publication this notice.
Gurcharan Ahuja

Now the above said property is going to be transferred in favour of Pramod Ahuja & Sunil Ahuja both S/o Late Shri Sant Lal Ahuja Both R/o A-79, Sector-30, Noida, Distt. Gautam Buddh Nagar, U.P. through the GPA, if any one has/have any objection he/she may submit his/her, objection in the Residential Plot Department of Noida Authority along-with sufficient proofs within 30 days of the publication this notice.
Gurcharan Ahuja

PUBLIC NOTICE

This is to inform public in general that Kotak Mahindra bank Ltd has organized an auction in below mention respect of Vehicles. VEHICLES FOR SALE

- 1) M&M SCORPIO REG. NO. DL8CAC1371-YOM -2014
 - 2) FORCEFORCETFB REG. NO. HR3823433-YOM -2019
 - 3) CB AL ECOMET 1412 ASHOK LEYLAND LIMITED- REG. NO. UP14HT8964-YOM -2019
 - 4) TATA ACE- REG. NO. UP15ET9861-YOM -2021
 - 5) SUPRO MINI ENGNN. LHM6K24141-YOM -2021
 - 6) TATA MOTOR ULTRA 1518 REG. NO. UP14HT4779 YOM 2018
 - 7) EICHER 10.49 REG. NO. DL1LAB4102-YOM -2018
 - 8) CB TATA LPT 1109 FULLY BUILT REG. NO. UP16ET4703-YOM-2017
- UNDER HYPOTHECAE WITH M/S KOTAK MAHINDRA BANK IS IN MORTGAGE IN ITS "AS IS WHERE IS CONDITION" INTERESTED PARTIES CAN GIVE THEIR QUOTATIONS WITH IN 3 DAYS AT
BRANCH ADDRESS: KOTAK MAHINDRA BANK LTD., 3RD FLOOR, PLOT NO 7, SECTOR 125, NOIDA-201313 OR
CONTACT: ABHINAV LAL / RAJESH ANTIL
KOTAK MAHINDRA BANK LTD. Cont.No.7798988481/9711173320
E Mail - abhinav.lal@kotak.com

Union Territory of JAMMU & KASHMIR OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER SPECIAL SUB DIVISION GUREZ

NOTICE INVITING TENDER

Fresh e-NIT No (39) EE/SSDG/1391-1401 2022-23 Dated:-21-05-2022

For and on behalf of lieutenant Governor of Jammu and Kashmir, e-tenders are invited in two cover system with 50 meters depth from registered Water Well Drillers/Contractors as per the details given in tender document.

Sr.No 1. Particulars of the work :- Laying and fitting of GI pipes including replacement /improvements of damaged / wornout pipes and Construction of Intake Chamber near head site, 0.10 lac gallon SR, Protection work at head site, Sluice Chamber, Cattle Trough, Anchor/Saddle block, Chain Link fencing around structures for Retrofitting of WSS Agnikoot Baduab for 100% coverage of FHTCs "Under JJM).

Estimated Cost (Lacs):- Rs. 36.74
Tender fee (in Rs) :- Rs. 1100/-
Earnest money Deposit :- Rs. 73840/-
Time of Completion of work (days) :- 60 Days
Class of Contract :- AAY/BEE

Sr.No 2. Particulars of the work :- Laying and fitting of GI pipes including Construction of protection works/ head works at head site, Intake Chamber near head site, 0.02 lac gallon SR, Sluice Chamber, supporting pillars for RWM at spots, cattle trough for Retrofitting of WSS Check Bayant Tulail for 100% coverage of FHTCs "Under JJM).

Estimated Cost (Lacs):- Rs. 19.98
Tender fee (in Rs) :- Rs. 800/-
Earnest money Deposit :- Rs. 39960/-
Time of Completion of work (days) :- 60 Days
Class of Contract :- AAY/BEE/CEE

Sr.No 3. Particulars of the work :- Laying and fitting of GI pipes including Construction of protection works/ head works at head site, Intake Chamber near head site, 0.05 lac gallon SR, Sluice Chamber, supporting pillars for RWM at spots, Chain Link fencing around structures, cattle trough for Retrofitting of WSS Dangithal Tulail for 100% coverage of FHTCs "Under JJM).

Estimated Cost (Lacs):- Rs. 32.71
Tender fee (in Rs) :- Rs. 1100/-
Earnest money Deposit :- Rs. 65420/-
Time of Completion of work (days) :- 60 Days
Class of Contract :- AAY/BEE

Sr.No 4. Particulars of the work :- Laying and fitting of GI pipes including Construction of protection works, Intake Chamber near head site, 0.25 lac gallon SR, Sluice Chamber, supporting pillars for RWM at spots, Crate work, Chain Link fencing around structures, Cattle troughs, PST near head site for Retrofitting of WSS Gulshanpora for 100% coverage of FHTCs "Under JJM).

Estimated Cost (Lacs):- Rs. 35.02
Tender fee (in Rs) :- Rs. 1100/-
Earnest money Deposit :- Rs. 70040/-
Time of Completion of work (days) :- 60 Days
Class of Contract :- AAY/BEE

Sr.No 5. Particulars of the work :- Laying and fitting of GI pipes including Construction of protection works/ head works at head site, crate protection work at sports, Intake Chamber near head site, 0.06 lac gallon SR, Sluice Chamber, supporting pillars for RWM at spots, Chain Link fencing around structures, cattle trough for Retrofitting of WSS Javdara 1st for 100% coverage of FHTCs "Under JJM).

Estimated Cost (Lacs):- Rs. 61.02
Tender fee (in Rs) :- Rs. 1600/-
Earnest money Deposit :- Rs. 122040/-
Time of Completion of work (days) :- 60 Days
Class of Contract :- AAY

Position off under : Approved Under Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM)
The tender inviting authority is Executive Engineer, Special Sub Division Gurez. The awarding authority is District Jal Jeevan Mission (DJJM).

- Critical Dates:**
I) Publish Date :- 23-05-2022 at 9.00 AM
II) Document Download Start Date :- 23-05-2022 at 9.00 AM
III) Clarification Start date :- 23-05-2022 from 10: A.M
IV) Clarification End date :- 30-05-2022 up to 6: P.M
V) Bid submission Start date :- 23-05-2022 from 10: A.M
VI) Bid submission End date :- 31-05-2022 at 4:00 P.M
VII) Date of Bid opening :- 31-05-2022 at 5.00 P.M

1. Bid documents can be accessed and downloaded from the website www.jktenders.gov.in
2. The whole bidding process shall be completed online on tender portal www.jktenders.gov.in. The intending bidders can download the bid document from the tender portal and can submit their bids by uploading the month e tender portal.
3. The valid bids received shall be opened online in the office of the Executive Special Sub Division Gurez Bids must be accompanied by bid security and cost of Tender Document as specified in column 4 & 5 of the table and shall be payable at Srinagar.
a. The cost of tender documents should be in form of DD/TR/e challan in favour of Executive Engineer Special Sub division Gurez.
4. The hard copies of cost of tender document in shape of TR/e-challan, Earnest money in shape of CDR/FDR/BG and other relevant documents shall be obtained from the bidder who is declared as L1 after opening of financial cover.
5. The bid shall remain valid for a period of 90 days from the last date of submission of bids. If any bidder withdraws his bid before the said period or makes any modifications in the terms and conditions of the bid, the same shall be considered to be in violation of bid security declaration and shall be dealt with accordingly and the bid shall be declared non-responsive.
6. Other details can be seen in the bidding documents from the website www.jktenders.gov.in.
7. Queries by email if any should be made at.

Sd/- Executive Engineer
Special Sub Division Gurez

IST LIMITED

CIN: L33301HR1976PLC008316

Regd. Office: Dharuhera Industrial Complex, Delhi- Jaipur Highway No.8, Kapriwas, Dharuhera, Rewari (Haryana)-123106

Head Office: A-23, New Office Complex, 2nd Floor, Defence Colony, New Delhi-110024

Phone No.: 011-41044511-14; Fax: 011-24625694; Email: istgroup.no@gmail.com; Website: www.istindia.com

EXTRACT OF FINANCIAL RESULTS FOR THE QUARTER AND YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH, 2022

(Fig. in Lacs unless otherwise stated)

| Sl No | Particulars | Standalone | | | | | Consolidated | | | | | |
|-------|--|--------------------|----------------------|--------------------|--------------------|--------------------|--------------------|----------------------|--------------------|--------------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| | | Quarter Ended | | Year Ended | | | Quarter Ended | | Year Ended | | | |
| | | 31.03.2022 Audited | 31.12.2021 Unaudited | 31.03.2021 Audited | 31.03.2022 Audited | 31.03.2021 Audited | 31.03.2022 Audited | 31.12.2021 Unaudited | 31.03.2021 Audited | 31.03.2022 Audited | 31.03.2021 Audited | 31.03.2021 Audited |
| 1 | Total Income | 963.54 | 1031.16 | 1712.39 | 4388.52 | 3917.78 | 4554.16 | 4606.35 | 5264.83 | 18363.19 | 17771.85 | |
| 2 | Net Profit before exceptional items and tax | 24.39 | 365.39 | 342.27 | 1202.04 | 969.39 | 2253.54 | 3349.33 | 3645.15 | 12771.24 | 13221.92 | |
| 3 | Net Profit after exceptional items before tax | 24.39 | 365.39 | 342.27 | 1202.04 | 969.39 | 2253.54 | 3349.33 | 3645.15 | 12771.24 | 13221.92 | |
| 4 | Net Profit after tax | (32.05) | 291.68 | 270.34 | 932.79 | 813.63 | 1562.43 | 2518.47 | 2653.56 | 9597.07 | 9518.26 | |
| 5 | Total Comprehensive Income for the period (Net of Tax) | (33.77) | 293.63 | 276.14 | 936.92 | 821.43 | 2226.47 | 1679.55 | 3036.29 | 10896.28 | 12037.58 | |
| 6 | Equity Share Capital (Face Value Rs. 5/- per share) | 584.68 | 584.68 | 584.68 | 584.68 | 584.68 | 584.68 | 584.68 | 584.68 | 584.68 | 584.68 | |
| 7 | Other Equity | - | - | - | 20121.37 | 19184.45 | - | - | - | 102670.86 | 91774.58 | |
| 8 | Earning Per Share (Face Value Rs. 5/- per share) | (0.27) | 2.50 | 2.32 | 8.00 | 6.98 | 13.40 | 21.53 | 22.85 | 82.79 | 82.07 | |
| | Basic (Rs.) | (0.27) | 2.50 | 2.32 | 8.00 | 6.98 | 13.40 | 21.53 | 22.85 | 82.79 | 82.07 | |
| | Diluted (Rs.) | (0.27) | 2.50 | 2.32 | 8.00 | 6.98 | 13.40 | 21.53 | 22.85 | 82.79 | 82.07 | |

NOTE:
The above is an extract of the detailed format of the Standalone and Consolidated Financial Results for the Quarter and Year ended 31st March, 2022 filed with the Stock Exchange (BSE Ltd.) under Regulation 33 of the SEBI (Listing Obligations and Disclosure Requirements) Regulations, 2015. The full format of the Standalone and Consolidated Financial Results is available on the Stock Exchange website (www.bseindia.com) and the company's website www.istindia.com.

Place : New Delhi
Date : 24th May, 2022

By Order of the Board
Sd/-
(S.C. Jain)
Executive Director
DIN: 0092079

Saving the children: War closes in on eastern Ukrainian town



AP ■ BAKHMUT (UKRAINE)

Chunks of thick, twisted metal and wood splinters lie among the swings and slides in the playground outside a bombed-out school. Some streets away, a yellow bathtub dangles over the void left when part of an apartment building collapsed in a bombing.

The eastern Ukrainian town of Bakhmut has been coming under increasing bombardment in Russia's war, particularly over the last week, local officials and residents say, as Russian forces try to press forward in an effort to encircle and capture the key city of Sievierodonetsk to the north-east.

Moscow-backed separatists have fought Ukrainian forces in the Donbas for eight years and hold large swaths of territory. Sievierodonetsk and neighboring cities are the only part of the Donbas' Luhansk region still under Ukrainian government control.

Most of Bakhmut's population has already fled, and more are leaving every day. Evacuation minibuses run mainly by volunteers shuttle back and forth, sometimes even during bombardments, to get people out.

"Now it's a question of saving the children," said Olga Hordiyenko, 51, as she stood in a playground on Tuesday near her apartment building. "The Russians are shelling us,

so there's this burning issue to get the children out of here."

Ignoring the repeated background sounds of shelling, her three grandchildren, girls ages 7, 9 and 11, focused on learning dance moves from a video on their mother's mobile phone.

Hordiyenko and her daughter Anna Dyachenko, 28, wanted to leave on Tuesday but there was no room on the bus for them, they said. Instead, they would be leaving on Wednesday, heading to western Ukraine initially and then abroad to relatives.

"People say it's time to go, and we're happy to leave," Dyachenko said. But they still fear they will have nothing to come home to once the war is over.

"Here we have our apartment, our house," she said. "Everything will be smashed and destroyed."

With a pre-war population of around 85,000, there are now around 30,000 people left, Bakhmut City Council Secretary Ganna Petrieyenko-Poluhina said. While authorities are encouraging more people to leave, some are hesitant, she said.

"Life is the most important thing for a person. But people are tied to their homes, to what they remember," Petrieyenko-Poluhina said. "Every day we see that shelling happens more often, and people leave. We would like that more people leave."

'India's economy seen growing 9.2 % in FY22'

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

India's economy is expected to have grown at 9.2 per cent in the fiscal ended March 2022, after having contracted by 7.3 per cent in the previous financial year, aided by resilience in the rural economy, uptick in bank credit and rising GST collections, a note by Bank of Baroda said.

As per government's advance estimates, the gross domestic product (GDP) in FY22 is projected to grow by 8.9 per cent. The National Statistical Office (NSO) will release the final GDP growth figures for FY22 on May 31.

Bank of Baroda (BoB), in a note on GDP expectations by its Economic Research Department, said it expects the economy to post higher growth in the last quarter ended March as mobility improved, allowing opening up of economy with much lower COVID-19 cases across states.

Contact-intensive sectors are expected to make stronger recovery, and the economy is projected to grow by 5.5 per cent in Q4 FY22 against 5.4 per cent in Q3, it said. A much needed pick up will be visible

in services sector, with travel and hospitality contributing significantly. Construction is also likely to edge upwards.

However, agriculture growth might be a tad slow as compared to government expectations (3.3 per cent against government estimate of 3.5 per cent) owing to lower yield of wheat crops, conflict between Russia-Ukraine and heat wave conditions, as per the research note.

BoB said these might pose downside risks to its projections. Industrial growth might be adversely impacted too. It said India's economy is poised to recover in FY22 after contracting by 7.3 per cent in FY21.

The main factors contributing to this kind of growth are -- resilience shown by the rural sector with normal monsoon and higher production of foodgrains; uptick in bank credit growth to push financial services and improvement in services sector with passenger traffic (-62 per cent to 59 per cent), rail freight (2 per cent to 15 per cent) and port cargo (-4.6 per cent to 7 per cent) leading the race.

Higher GST collections have also provided much needed support. "Against this backdrop, we expect GDP growth at

9.2 per cent in FY22," Bank of Baroda said. However, there are downside risks emanating from the ongoing Russia-Ukraine conflict, soaring of commodity prices and acceleration in global inflation going ahead, it added. Further, aggravating heat wave conditions have curbed wheat output and added some pressure to industrial growth.

A mix of both monetary (RBI frontloading with rate hike) and fiscal policy (reduction in excise duties) at play is expected to boost growth prospects, it contended.

The International Monetary Fund (IMF) expects India's economy to grow by 9 per cent in FY22, while Asian Development Bank (ADB) has projected India's growth at 7.5 per cent. "However, we expect the economy to do much better sequentially specially on the back of base effect and normalisation of economic activity.

"The overall impact of Omicron variant which resulted in the 3rd wave of COVID-19 seems to be relatively muted than was initially anticipated.

Further, rapid pick up in pace of vaccination programme is also expected to support growth," as per research note by the public sector lender.



Sensex tumbles over 300 points in volatile trade

PTI ■ MUMBAI

Benchmark indices wiped out early gains as volatility yet again ruled the markets, with the Sensex extending its decline to the third day running on Wednesday, falling over 300 points amid a sell-off in IT stocks.

The 30-share BSE Sensex tanked 303.35 points or 0.56 per cent to settle at 53,749.26. During the day, the benchmark hit a low of 53,683.16 and a high of 54,379.59. The broader NSE Nifty declined 99.35 points or 0.62 per cent to end at 16,025.80. From the Sensex pack, Asian Paints, TCS,

Wipro, Tech Mahindra, Larsen & Toubro, Infosys, State Bank of India, HCL Technologies and M&M were among the biggest laggards. In contrast, NTPC, Bharti Airtel, HDFC, Kotak Mahindra Bank, Nestle, ICICI Bank and ITC were the prominent gainers.

Asian markets in Hong Kong, Shanghai and Seoul ended with gains, while Tokyo was marginally lower.

Exchanges in Europe were trading in the green in the afternoon trade. Stock markets in the US had mostly ended lower on Tuesday. International oil benchmark Brent crude jumped 1.37 per cent to USD

115.1 per barrel. Continuing their selling spree, foreign institutional investors offloaded shares worth a net Rs 2,393.45 crore on Tuesday, as per stock exchange data.

"Domestic indices wavered tracking mixed sentiments from global markets as investors assessed the possibility of a recession in the US followed by the Fed policy tightening.

"Global markets are awaiting the release of the Fed minutes, which will be evaluated for details on the path of the upcoming rate hikes," said Vinod Nair, Head of Research at Geojit Financial Services.

Rupee edges up 3 paise to close at 77.54 against US dollar

PTI ■ MUMBAI

The rupee recovered 3 paise to settle at 77.54 (provisional) against the US currency in a restricted trade on Wednesday as interventions by banks supported the local unit while a stronger dollar in overseas markets restricted the gains.

At the interbank forex market, the rupee opened higher at 77.54 against the greenback and moved in a range of 77.44 to 77.57 in the day trade. The rupee finally ended at 77.54, higher by 3 paise over its previous close of 77.57 against the American currency.

"Rupee traded with pendulum swing on a range fight between hedgers as participants from banks tried to support rupee whereas remittance

takers of dollar equally bought keeping rupee ranged between 77.47-77.60. The US Fed statement minutes later in the night might give some trend to the USDINR pair in futures," said Jateen Trivedi, VP Research Analyst at LKP Securities.

On the domestic equity market front, the BSE Sensex ended 303.35 points or 0.56 per cent lower at 53,749.26, while the broader NSE Nifty fell 99.35 points or 0.62 per cent to 16,025.80.

The dollar index, which gauges the greenback's strength against a basket of six currencies, rose 0.36 per cent to 102.22. Foreign institutional investors were net sellers in the capital market on Tuesday as they offloaded shares worth Rs 2,393.45 crore, as per stock exchange data.



'Inflationary concerns may delay GST rate rationalisation'



PTI ■ NEW DELHI

A GST tax rate rationalisation is likely to be delayed due to elevated inflation, sources said on Wednesday.

The Goods and Services Tax (GST) regime taxes goods and services in four tax slabs of 5 per cent, 12 per cent, 18 per cent and 28 per cent.

It was being considered to reduce these tax slabs possibly to 3, an exercise which would have involved raising taxes in some items and a reduction in others. But with inflation rate ruling at all-time high, such an exercise is likely to be delayed, sources said.

Govt's 29.5% stake sale in Hindustan Zinc Limited OK'd

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA) on Wednesday cleared the Government's 29.5 per cent stake sale in Hindustan Zinc Limited (HZL), which could fetch around Rs 38,000 crore to the exchequer. The decision would give a push to the Government's disinvestment drive in the current fiscal.

The government has budgeted Rs 65,000 crore from PSU disinvestment and strategic sale. The sale of 29.5 per cent stake representing over 124.96 crore shares would fetch around Rs 38,000 crore to the exchequer at current market prices, said officials.

Shares of HZL closed at Rs 305.05, up 3.14 per cent on the BSE. During the day, the scrip touched a high of Rs 317.30 a share. Hindustan Zinc was a Government-owned company

till 2002. In April 2002, the Government offloaded a 26 per cent stake in HZL to Sterlite Opportunities and Ventures Ltd (SOVL) for Rs 445 crore—thereby giving Vedanta group management control in HZL.

Vedanta group later bought 20 per cent from the market and another 18.92 per cent from the government in November 2003, raising its ownership in Hindustan Zinc to 64.92 per cent. This 20 per cent sale became a controversy and recently Supreme Court directed CBI to probe into the price variations between the first offloading and second offloading of shares happened during the Vajpayee Government.

Vedanta, led by mining magnate Anil Agarwal, recently said the company can buy just 5 per cent additional stake in the HZL considering the price of the shares on offer.

RBI issues norms for import of gold by qualified jewellers

PTI ■ MUMBAI

The RBI on Wednesday came up with norms for facilitating physical import of gold through India International Bullion Exchange (IIBX) or similar authorised exchange by Qualified Jewellers in India.

In addition to agencies nominated by the RBI and by DGFT, Qualified Jewellers (QJ) as approved by International Financial Services Centers Authority (IFSCA) were permitted to import gold in January.

The RBI issued the guidelines in order to enable resident Qualified Jewellers to import gold through IIBX or any other exchange approved by IFSCA and the Directorate General of Foreign Trade (DGFT).

As per the guidelines, banks may allow Qualified Jewellers to remit advance payments for 11 days for import of gold through IIBX in compliance to the extant Foreign

Trade Policy and regulations issued under IFSC Act. "The advance remittance for import of Gold should not be leveraged in what-so-ever form for importing gold worth more than the advance remittance made," the Reserve Bank of India said.

In case the import of gold through IFSCA authorised exchange, for which advance remittance has been made, does not materialise, or the advance remittance made for the purpose is more than the amount required, the unutilised advance remittance shall be remitted back to the same bank within the specified time limit of 11 days.

RBI also said all payments by qualified jewellers for imports of gold through IIBX, shall be made through exchange mechanism as approved by IFSCA. Gold imports dipped by about 72 per cent to USD 1.72 billion during April, from USD 6.23 billion in the year-ago month.

Paper exports from India jumps 80% to all-time high of ₹13,963 cr in FY22: IPMA

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Exports of paper and paperboard from India jumped nearly 80 per cent in FY 2021-22, touching a record Rs 13,963 crore, according to industry body IPMA.

The export growth has straddled across different grades of paper, said a statement from Indian Paper Manufacturers Association (IPMA) while citing data released by Directorate General of Commercial Intelligence & Statistics (DGCI&S).

"In value terms, exports of coated paper and paperboard increased by 100 per cent, uncoated writing and printing paper by 98 per cent, tissue paper by 75 per cent and kraft paper by 37 per cent," said IPMA.

Paper exports from India have been on an uptrend since the last five years. India is

exporting papers to - UAE, China, Saudi Arabia, Bangladesh, Vietnam and Sri Lanka. "In volume terms, paper exports from India have gone up four times from 0.66 million tonnes in FY17 to 2.85 million tonnes in FY22.

Similarly in value terms, the figures for corresponding years rose from Rs 3,041 crore to Rs 13,963 crore," it said.

"Exports have been rising in the last few years due to capacity expansion and technological upgradation undertaken by Indian paper mills, leading to better product quality which has found wider acceptance globally," said Rohit Pandit, Secretary General, IPMA.

In the last five to seven years, paper mills in India have invested over Rs 25,000 crore to create new capacities and induction of clean and green technologies, he said.

Crude oil futures gain on spot demand



PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Crude oil prices on Wednesday rose by ₹102 to ₹8,614 per barrel as participants widened positions on a firm spot demand.

On the Multi Commodity Exchange, crude oil for June delivery traded higher by ₹102 or 1.2 per cent at ₹8,614 per barrel in 6,907 lots. Analysts said the raising of bets by participants kept crude oil prices higher in futures trade.

Globally, West Texas Intermediate crude oil was up by 1.03 per cent at \$110.90 per barrel, while Brent crude traded 1.03 per cent higher at \$114.73 per barrel in New York.

BUSINESS BRIEFS

BEST AGROLIFE FY22 NET PROFIT JUMPS TO ₹104.76CR
Agrochemical firm Best Agrolife Ltd has reported a nearly three-fold jump in its net profit at Rs 104.76 crore in FY 2022. Its net profit stood at Rs 37.08 crore in the 2020-21 financial year, Best Agrolife Ltd (BAL) said in a statement. The company posted a 34 per cent increase in its revenue at Rs 1,210.79 crore in the period under review as against Rs 905.45 crore in the previous fiscal. "Our performance this year boosts our confidence and confirms that we are on track to achieve our strategic and financial objectives.

MANGO FESTIVAL FROM MAY 23
New Delhi: To refresh your taste-buds with ripe, sweet and delectable mangoes in this sweltering heat, Barista, a leading coffee chain, is starting a mango festival. The festival will be on in all Barista cafes in Delhi NCR, Bangalore, Hyderabad, Kolkata from May 23. "The mango affair is very refreshing, natural and replenishes your body's lost minerals while battling out in the sun. We expect to have a great response to the festival," said Rajat Agrawal, COO, Barista Coffee Company.

EMPYREAN CASHEWS GROWS 101%
Mumbai: The revenue of Empyrean Cashews Limited, a leading firm engaged in processing raw cashew nuts, grew by 101 per cent touching Rs 12.41 cr for Q4FY22 and Rs 52.2cr for FY22. The firm is planning to set up 4 COCO outlets in Goa in Q2 FY23. Empyrean Cashew Ltd went public in March 2022.

Sebi to auction properties of Golden Life Agro India, Sunshine Agro Infra on June 16

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

To recover investors' money, Sebi on Wednesday said it will auction a total of five properties of Golden Life Agro India Ltd and Sunshine Agro Infra Ltd for a reserve price of Rs 11.5 crore on June 16.

The two companies raised funds from investors without complying with regulatory norms.

The properties put on the block include land parcels and a double storied building situated across West Bengal, the Securities and Exchange Board of India (Sebi) said in a notice. Inviting bids for the sale of recovery proceedings against Golden Life Agro India and Sunshine Agro Infra and their directors, Sebi said auction of

properties will be conducted through online mode on June 16, 2022 during 10.30 am to 11.30 am. Out of the five properties being put on the block, three belong to Golden Life Agro India and remaining two relate to Sunshine Agro Infra. Total reserve price of these properties is pegged at Rs 11.53 crore, as per notice. Quikr Realty has been appointed as e-auction service provider.

The regulator said bidders should make their own independent enquiries regarding encumbrances, title of properties put on auction and claims, among others, prior to submitting their bids.

The properties are being sold with all the existing and future encumbrances whether known or unknown to Sebi.

Standard Chartered Bank settles case with Sebi in CG Power case, pays ₹4.97 cr



PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Standard Chartered Bank has settled with markets regulator Sebi a case pertaining to alleged violations of regulatory norms in the matter of CG Power and Industrial Solutions Ltd after paying Rs 4.97 crore towards settlement charges. The order came after Standard

Chartered Bank (SCB) approached Sebi proposing to settle case pertaining to alleged violations of PFUTP (Prohibition of Fraudulent and Unfair Trade Practices) rules "without admitting or denying findings of fact and conclusions of law", through a settlement order. "Pending enforcement proceedings for alleged defaults ... Are settled qua applicant," Sebi said in its settlement order passed on Wednesday.

The regulator further said it will not initiate other enforcement actions against the applicant for the defaults. Sebi had initiated proceedings through a show cause notice issued to

the bank in May 2021 for the alleged violations of PFUTP rules. In the show cause notice, Standard Chartered Bank was alleged to have benefitted a private limited company controlled by the promoter group companies, at the expense of a listed company (CG Power) to the detriment of the interest of the minority shareholders of CG Power.

As per the order, Avantha International Asset BV (AIABV), an entity related to the promoter group of CG Power and Industrial Solutions Ltd or CG Power, had taken a loan from SCB. In October 2017, SCB disbursed a loan of

Euro 44 million to CG International BV (CGIBV) which was transferred to AIABV on the same day to repay its earlier loan from SCB. The funds were later frozen by SCB at AIABV.

In February 2018, SCB disbursed another loan of Euro 44 million to CG Industrial Holdings Singapore Pte Ltd (CG Singapore) which was transferred to AIABV on the same day. On the same day, AIABV returned the funds received from CGIBV which were frozen and CGIBV utilized these funds for repayment of the loan taken from SCB in October 2017.

RBI cancels registration of 5 NBFCs due to irregular lending practices

PTI ■ MUMBAI

The Reserve Bank on Wednesday said it has cancelled Certificate of Registration (CoR) of five NBFCs for violation of norms related to outsourcing and fair practices code in their digital lending operations.

Non-Banking Financial Companies (NBFCs) whose CoR stands cancelled are: UMB Securities Ltd, Anashri Finvest, Chadha Finance, Alexcy Traccon, and Jhuria Financial Services.

"The CoR of the (five) NBFCs have been cancelled on account of violation of RBI guidelines on outsourcing and



Fair Practices Code in their digital lending operations undertaken through third party apps which was considered detrimental to public interest," the RBI said.

It further said these companies were also not complying with extant regulations pertaining to charging of excessive interest and resorted to undue harassment of customers for loan recovery purposes.



the pioneer

INDIAN PREMIER LEAGUE 2022

11

A lot of people counted David Miller out. But for us, he's always a match-winner from the time we bought him at the auctions. We always knew what he's capable of

— **HARDIK PANDYA**

Patidar 112* helps RCB post 207-4 vs LSG

Bangalore's No. 3 remained unbeaten and scored 12 fours, 7 sixes during his 54-ball knock in IPL 2022 eliminator

PTI ■ KOLKATA

Little-known domestic bulwark Rajat Patidar found his hour of fame as his magnificent 49-ball hundred propelled Royal Challengers Bangalore to an imposing 207 for 4 against Lucknow Super Giants in the IPL Eliminator on Wednesday.

Courtesy Patidar's 54-ball-112 not out which had 12 fours and seven huge sixes, RCB literally knocked the stuffing out of LSG attack with Mohsin Khan's superb 1 for 25 proving to be only saving grace.

On a day their famed batting duo trio of Faf du Plessis (0), Glenn Maxwell (9) and Virat Kohli (25) failed to enthrall a capacity Eden crowd, RCB's No. 3 played out of his skin as 90 runs came in fours and sixes off just 19 balls.

While most of the star-studded RCB batters struggled for timing, the 28-year-old looked effortless with his slices, punches, counter-punches and drives to tower over the rest.

And to make Patidar's story more interesting, he wasn't picked from auction this season and joined the team after start when a player called Luvnith Sisodia was injured.

Had Sisodia been alright, RCB

wouldn't have required services of Patidar, who made 65,000 at Eden Gardens stand on their feet.

He along with Dinesh Karthik (37 not out from 23 balls) put on a match-turning unbroken partnership of 92 runs from 41 balls as RCB scored 84 runs in the last five overs to prop up the total.

First, he showed the glimpses of his stroke-making skills to slam Krunal Pandya for three boundaries and one six inside the power-play to overshadow Kohli in a 66-run partnership from 46 balls.

Having cruised to his half-century in 28 balls, he took another 21 balls to reach his maiden hundred in T20s.

He got to the landmark pulling Mohsin Khan over square leg with a sweet-timing of the bat that summed up his effortless stay at the crease.

RCB lost three key wickets of a well-set Kohli, Maxwell and Mahipal Lomror in the middle overs to see their run-rate drop.

In-form Dinesh Karthik, who has played the role of a finisher to perfection for RCB this season, also survived some anxious moments against Ravi Bishnoi to start with.

But Patidar turned it around in the last over Bishnoi when he smacked the 'googly-man' for three



HISTORY MAKER RAJAT PATIDAR

►Rajat Patidar is the first uncapped player to score a century in the play-offs/knockouts of the IPL. The previous highest score by an uncapped was the 94 off 50 balls that Manish Pandey scored for Kolkata Knight Riders in the final of the 2014 IPL.

►He scored his century in 49 balls, which is the joint fastest ton scored by any played in the playoffs or knockouts of the IPL. Patidar equalled the record set by Wriddhiman Saha, who scored 115 off 55 balls for Kings XI Punjab in

the 2014 IPL final.

►Patidar's 112 not out has helped him go past a player who was recently inducted in RCB's hall of fame. He has surpassed the 89 off 47 balls that Chris Gayle scored against Mumbai Indians in 2011.

►This is the third-highest score by an uncapped player in the IPL. Patidar crossed the unbeaten 101 that Devdutt Padikkal scored for RCB against Rajasthan Royals last season. Manish Pandey is second

while Paul Valthaty tops the list.

►It is also the fifth instance of a player scoring a century in the playoffs/knockouts of an IPL tournament. Patidar's 112 not out is also the fourth highest score ever in the playoffs.

►Meanwhile, Patidar and Karthik's onslaught in the final overs helped RCB take as many as 88 runs in the death overs. That is the most scored by any team in this period of a match in the 2022 season.

sixes and two fours in succession in an over that read 1 6 4 6 4 6.

A sloppy LSG also helped his cause as Patidar, who got reprieves on 59, 72 and 93. After a 40-minute delayed start due to bad weather, Lucknow got off to a superb start when Mohsin got RCB skipper Faf du Plessis for a golden duck in the first over.

Having lost their skipper early, it was about bidding time as Kohli and Patidar opted for a wait-and-watch policy before the latter broke loose

against Krunal Pandya in the last over of the power-play.

Patidar slammed Krunal for three boundaries and one six in an over that yielded 20 runs to make it up for their slow start and cruise to 52/1 in six overs.

SACHIN, VIRU IMPRESSED

Patidar's binder earned him a lot of praise of social media and taking to Twitter, Master Blaster Sachin Tendulkar and legendary Indian opener Virender Sehwag hailed him

for playing a match-changing knock for the Faf du Plessis-led side.

"Serious hitting by Rajat Patidar and nicely supported by @DineshKarthik. It's a great total but given how the surface is playing and the fast outfield, I feel it'll be a close game. Well played by @rcbtweets in the first half," Tendulkar said in his tweet. Tendulkar's former Team India teammate Sehwag also shared a special tweet for the middle-order batter of the Bangalore-based franchise.

You've got to swallow your ego sometimes and hang in there: Buttler

PTI ■ KOLKATA

Rajasthan Royals opener Jos Buttler had no qualms in admitting that he struggled to get going initially against Gujarat Titans in the first qualifier, saying sometimes you have to "swallow your ego" and hang in there without panicking.

This season's Orange Cap holder Buttler, who now has 718 runs in 15 games, initially failed to time the ball and was 39 off his first 38 balls.

But the opener shifted gears in style and smacked another 50 off his next 18 deliveries faced to lift RR's total to a challenging 188/6.

"I was determined to hang in there. It was a big game for us and we wanted to make sure to put a big score," Buttler said at the post-match press conference after RR's seven-wicket loss to GT on Tuesday.

"Sometimes you got to swallow your ego, if you are finding it hard, you are finding it hard. I don't try to force too much, don't panic.

"The opposition would prefer me to panic and get out, just try to hang in there. I knew at some point I would get away. I trusted myself. Today, it came late in the innings," he added.

Buttler also had plenty of luck go his way as he got two reprieves in the middle in his 89 off 56 balls.

It was Sanju Samson who gave RR a fiery start with his 47 off 26 and Buttler said the Royals skipper took some pressure off him.

"Yes I was finding it tough to start with and then Sanju came in and played well from



ball one. He took a lot of pressure off me. I wouldn't say it was my most fluent innings but I just tried to hang in there and managed to get a little bit away in the end."

The 189-run target proved insufficient for the Royals as David Miller and Hardik Pandya shared a 106-run unbroken partnership for the fourth wicket to seal a win and take GT to the final in their maiden IPL season. "We just could not break that partnership, if we managed to take a wicket and found a way to break that partnership, it would have been crucial for us. The deeper they took, the harder it became for us.

"But we are still alive in the tournament after finishing in the

top-two, we still got a chance. We're disappointed today, but still in the tournament," he added.

The Purple Cap-holder Yuzvendra Chahal and India senior off-spinner R Ashwin, who have a combined tally of 37 wickets this season, were wicketless and leaked 72 runs against the Titans. "Those two guys have been outstanding for us this season. It's a tough place for bowlers — spin or pace bowling.

"It's a small ground with a fast outfield. A lot of boundaries are available on this particular ground. So it is always going to be tough. There was a bit of dew also in the second innings," he said, throwing his support to the spin duo.

Hardik says his name 'always sells, no problem with it'

PTI ■ KOLKATA

In his short international career, Hardik Pandya has seen it all — highs and lows, injuries, surgery, being embroiled in controversies — but he says he faces them with a smiling face.

Putting behind all these, Pandya has shone not just as an all-rounder but as a leader, taking an under-rated Gujarat Titans to the final in a dream IPL debut season.

"People always talk, that's their job. I can't help," Pandya said after Titans win.

"The name 'Hardik Pandya' always sells. I've no problem with it, I just take it easy with a smiling face."

After making his international debut in 2016 following his success with Mumbai Indians, expectations skyrocketed with Pandya as he was compared with the legendary World Cup-winning India skipper Kapil Dev.

In 2019, Pandya was suspended for his loose talk on women on 'Koffee with Karan'. He later apologised to the inquiry



committee of the BCCI.

The 28-year-old star all-rounder made his last appearance for India against Namibia in the T20 World Cup in Dubai on November 8 and then struggled to manage his bowling workload

Test rankings: Kohli, Rohit, Ashwin maintain their top-10 positions

PTI ■ DUBAI

Bangladesh's Liton Das and Sri Lankan veteran Angelo Mathews have made valuable gains in the ICC Men's Test Rankings after fine performances in the drawn first match while there has been no movement in latest top-10 list issued by the world body.

In the batter's list, Marnus Labuschagne maintained his pole position while India captain Rohit Sharma and his predecessor

Virat Kohli remained static at eighth and 10th place respectively. Similarly in bowling, Pat Cummins (901 points) has a 51-point lead over his nearest rival Ravichandran Ashwin, who is followed by countryman Jasprit Bumrah. India's Ravindra Jadeja also remained on top of the all-rounders' table.

With only Sri Lanka and Bangladesh engaged in a WTC series, it was inevitable that players from those two nations earned points.

AGENCIES ■ KOLKATA

After helping Gujarat Titans to seal a spot in the final of the ongoing Indian Premier League 2022 on Tuesday, star batter David Miller said continued backing from the team has played a big role in improving his game in this season.

Miller was the chief creator of GT's brilliant great seven-wicket win over Rajasthan Royals. David Miller played a ballistic knock of 68 from 38 balls and captain Hardik Pandya's 40 off 27 balls guided debutants Gujarat Titans to a



seven-wicket win over the inaugural champions Rajasthan Royals at the Eden Gardens.

"I think opportunity, firstly (what's changed?). I've been given a role, I felt extremely backed from the outset. My personal game - I'm enjoying my role, I've been playing for many years now. Understanding my game a lot better. In high-pressure situations, you tend to go away from your game plan but I feel like I'm trying to keep everything together close to the game plan," said David Miller in a post-match presentation.

David Miller further said that the plus point of IPL is that you play for different teams in it. "There has been a lot of going wide to me on the off-side, so I decided actually for the first time to step across. Backed me and went with it. The rest I tried to hit as hard as possible. That's the joys of IPL - you play for different teams, and get to meet different players," he added.

Miller struck five sixes, including three in the final over when 16 runs were needed in a thrilling chase of 189

Gill feels he doesn't have to prove anything to anyone

KOLKATA: Chasing a challenging 189-run target, Shubman Gill along with Matthew Wade laid a solid foundation striking a 72-run partnership for the second wicket to pave way for a seven-wicket win over Rajasthan Royals here at the Eden Gardens Stadium on Tuesday to enter the final of the IPL. The GT opener scored 35 off 21 balls hitting five fours and one six. "Kolkata has always been nice to me, fortunately, it was one of those nights where we were on the winning side, happy we are in the final. After Saha got out, we got off to a good start in the powerplay, batting in the Eden Gardens is always fun," said Shubman.

Talking about the batting surface and his team, he said "We expected the surface to be better, but the ball was holding a bit and spinners were getting a bit of grip on this wicket. It's a new team but the way the support staff and players have come together has been tremendous to watch, we are all really enjoying our cricket."

Shubman further added that he played well for Gujarat and had a good season.

"There hasn't been any added pressure on me, I was picked (in the draft) because I have done well for my earlier franchises, I don't have to prove anything to anyone, I just had to contribute to my team and play well for them. It was nice to watch (from sidelines), a semi-final and your teammates are doing the job, it was amazing," he added. **PTI**

as Gujarat Titans became the 3rd team to reach the final in their debut season.

"It was a new team so there are a few butterflies here and there. From the first win, everything sort of aligned. You have to control what you can, can't think too much ahead. Concentrate on your breathing, and if it's in your area, you have to capitalise. We've got a few days off. There's a bus trip back, we'll have a few drinks and celebrate," said Miller.

Gujarat Titans will now wait to see who among Lucknow Super Giants, Royal Challengers Bangalore and Rajasthan Royals meet them in the title clash in Ahmedabad on May 29.

Mathews, de Silva keep Sri Lanka alive



AP ■ DHAKA

Angelo Mathews and Dhananjaya de Silva each hit a fifty and put on a 102-run partnership to keep

Sri Lanka going strong in the rain-hit second Test against Bangladesh on Wednesday.

Mathews remained unbeaten on 58 after de Silva went out with the same score to take Sri Lanka to 282-

5 at stumps on the third day, still trailing Bangladesh by 83 runs.

Rain washed out entire post-lunch session but the duo stepped up their scoring rate to make up for lost time, with de Silva striking nine fours before Shakib Al Hasan got his wicket.

The right-hander, who faced 95 balls, was initially given not out on a caught-behind appeal before Bangladesh successfully reviewed.

Mathews, who smashed four fours and a six, was batting with Dinesh Chandimal on 10 at stumps.

Bangladesh made early inroads after Sri Lanka resumed on 143-2, Ebadot Hossain bowling nightwatchman Kasun Rajitha for a duck with the second ball of the day.

A gem of a delivery from Shakib dismissed Dimuth Karunaratne for 80 soon afterwards, with the Sri Lankan skipper adding 10 to his overnight score.

Shakib tossed the ball up on off-stump and Karunaratne went for a drive but saw the flighted delivery dip and turn between bat and pad before crashing into his stumps.

Karunaratne, who was dropped on 37, struck nine boundaries in his 15th Test fifty.

De Silva hit Ebadot for three fours in one over just before the break after he and Mathews survived a difficult spell from the right-arm pace bowler and Shakib.

Shakib, the most successful bowler for Bangladesh so far, has claimed 3-59.

Kerber, Azarenka win; Emma out

AP ■ PARIS

Former Grand Slam champions Angelique Kerber and Victoria Azarenka advanced to the third round of the French Open on Wednesday.

Kerber, who won her first clay title in six years on the eve of the French Open, defeated French wildcard and 2020 junior champion Elsa Jacquemot 6-1, 7-6 (7/2) as she seeks the only Grand Slam missing from her collection.

The German 21st seed next plays Aliaksandra Sasnovich, the Belarusian who knocked out US Open champion Emma Raducanu 3-6, 6-1, 6-1.

"I think the last week was really important for me to get the title," former number one Kerber said of her Strasbourg triumph.

"I had a lot of confidence. It's great to be back here and I hope I can still play a few more matches.

"When you achieve everything you want, you play for the love of the game. I just love the sport. Let's see how long I can keep playing at a high level."

Azarenka, a two-time Australian Open winner, beat 2014 Roland Garros semi-finalist Andrea Petkovic 6-1, 7-6 (7/3). She meets Swiss 23rd seed Jil Teichmann for a place in the fourth round.

SAKKARI OUT

Greek fourth seed Maria Sakkari crashed out in the French Open second round, going down 7-6 (7/5), 7-6 (7/4) to Czech world number 81 Karolina Muchova.

Sakkari, a 2021 Roland Garros semi-finalist, is the fifth women's top-10 seed to lose in the first four days at Roland Garros.

Muchova has matched her run to the third round from 12 months



ago and will next play 27th seed Amanda Anisimova, who reached the last four in Paris three years ago.

"It's very special, she's an amazing player. It was a big fight, a little bit of a test and challenge for me and I'm happy I took it the way I

did," said Muchova.

The 25-year-old reached the semi-finals at last year's Australian Open and the last eight for the sec-

ond time at Wimbledon, but is playing just her fourth tournament since the US Open after struggling with an abdominal injury. "It's an

amazing feeling I can play again fully."

Sasnovich also said she "respects" the controversial decision of the ATP and WTA to strip Wimbledon of ranking points.

That move has prompted a number of players, including former world number one and four-time Grand Slam title winner Naomi Osaka, to consider withdrawing from Wimbledon which starts on June 27.

Wimbledon chiefs said the ATP and WTA decision was "disproportionate".

Russian men's star Andrey Rublev said the atmosphere in the sport is currently "toxic" while French player Benoit Paire believes "99%" of players want a Wimbledon with points.

"I'm sorry for Russia and Russians, but they are the ones causing all the trouble," he said.

Sasnovich said she talks to Ukrainian players in the locker room.

"I ask them how they feel. We talk about the war a little bit," added the world number 47 from Minsk.

"They have families there. It's a very bad situation for them. We try to live our lives and find the positives. These are tough times.

"I would have no problem if I had to play against a player from Ukraine."

On Wednesday, Sasnovich made the third round of the French Open for the first time by stunning US Open champion and 12th seed Emma Raducanu 3-6, 6-1, 6-1.

'AGAINST THE WAR'

Belarus tennis star Aliaksandra Sasnovich may be banned from Wimbledon but she insisted Wednesday that she opposed the ongoing war in Ukraine and supports players from the embattled country "100%".

Belarusian players such as Sasnovich, compatriot and former world number one Victoria Azarenka, as well as a host of Russians including men's world number two Daniil Medvedev, were declared persona non grata by Wimbledon in response to the invasion of Ukraine.

"I wanted to play Wimbledon so much, it's one of my favourite tournaments but I respect the decision," the 28-year-old said.

"Normally, I speak with some of the Ukraine players. We are not friends, we are just colleagues but I support them 100%."

"I want the war to finish as soon as possible. I don't support the war and am against the violence. I just want peace."

1ST SLAM MAIN DRAW WIN

Indian tennis player Ramkumar Ramanathan cherished his first ever main draw win at a Grand Slam as he combined with American Hunter Reese to beat the German team of Daniel Altmaier and Oscar Otte in the men's doubles event of the French Open, here on Wednesday.

Ramkumar, who has made umpteen attempts to crack a singles main draw of a Grand Slam without success, and Reese beat their rivals 7-6(4) 6-3 in their opening round of the clay court major.

The 27-year-old Indian had broken into the doubles top-100 early this year, following his maiden ATP Tour title win with compatriot Rohan Bopanna in Adelaide and at home in Pune, competing in the Tata Open Maharashtra.

Rohan Bopanna and his Dutch partner Matwe Middelkoop had progressed to the second round with 6-4, 6-1 win over local wild cards Sascha Guemard Wayenburg and Luca Van Assche, on Tuesday.

Chelsea sale gets green light from UK Government

AP ■ LONDON

The UK government on Wednesday announced it had given the green light to Todd Boehly's proposed takeover of Chelsea football club from the sanctioned Russian oligarch Roman Abramovich.

Secretary of State for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport Nadine Dorries said she had issued a licence permitting the deal late on Tuesday, shortly after it won approval from the Premier League.

"We are satisfied the proceeds of the sale will not benefit Roman Abramovich or other sanctioned individuals," Dorries tweeted.

"Given the sanctions we placed on those linked to (Vladimir) Putin and the bloody invasion of Ukraine, the long-term future of the club can only be secured under a new owner," she said.

A consortium led by Boehly, a co-owner of baseball's Los Angeles Dodgers, had already agreed a record £4.25 billion deal to buy the Premier League club from Abramovich on May 7.

The Premier League said its approval hinged on the government sale licence "and the satisfactory completion of the final stages of the transaction".

Officials wanted everything completed on Tuesday so Chelsea could meet all registration deadlines for next season's



football competitions.

Abramovich put Chelsea on the market in early March, just before he was sanctioned by Britain following Russia's invasion of Ukraine.

Completing the purchase has been a lengthy process due

to government concerns over the potential for Abramovich to profit from the sale.

The total value of the deal smashes the previous record for the sale of a sports team — \$2.4 billion for the New York Mets baseball franchise in 2020.

Liverpool's Klopp named PL manager of the year

AP ■ LIVERPOOL

Liverpool's Jurgen Klopp has been named the League Managers' Association Premier League Manager of the Year, it was announced on Tuesday.

The Reds won both the English League Cup and FA Cup, beating Chelsea in penalty shoot-outs at Wembley on both occasions.

But Liverpool lost out on the Premier League title to Manchester City by just a point after both Klopp's men and Pep Guardiola's side won their respective matches on Sunday's final day of a thrilling campaign.

Klopp, collecting his accolade at the LMA Awards dinner in London on Tuesday, said: "It is a great honour and it was an insane season."

"The last matchday when only two games were meaningless and in the rest, we all played for absolutely everything."

"It was not the best outcome for us, but we are already over it."

The German, paying tribute to his backroom team, added: "When you win a prize like this you are either a genius or you have the best coaching staff in the world — and I am here with all of my coaching staff,



they know how much I appreciate them."

Klopp also collected the Sir Alex Ferguson Trophy, named in honour of the celebrated former Manchester United boss, which is voted for by the full membership of managers across all the divisions in English senior football.

"This being voted for by my colleagues is obviously the most important prize you can get," Klopp said.

"I don't believe in individual prizes in football generally, it is a team sport and I would be nothing without these boys there."

"It is all about what we can do together and what we did together."

Liverpool may have been denied an unprecedented quadruple by City, but they will now try to add the Champions League to their impressive trophy haul this season when they face Real Madrid in a Paris final on Saturday.

India need luck, big win against Indonesia

PTI ■ JAKARTA

Defending champions India need to beat hosts Indonesia by a huge margin and hope Japan defeat Pakistan in the other Pool A match for advancing to the knockout stage of the Asia Cup men's hockey tournament here on Thursday.

India's fate is not in their own hands anymore as even a win against lowly Indonesia will not guarantee them a knock-out berth. Japan will have to beat Pakistan to keep India's faint hopes alive.

With a draw and a loss, India are placed third in Pool A behind Japan (6 points) and Pakistan (4 points).

Under the guidance of Sardar Singh, India fielded a young team in the tournament alongside a handful of seniors like Birendra Lakra and SV Sunil, who came out of retirements. But the senior duo looked well past their prime if



their performances in the two matches so far are to go by.

India conceded a last minute goal to draw 1-1 against Pakistan in their tournament opener before being thrashed by Japan 2-5.

But now, a "next to impos-

sible" task awaits the Indians as they not only have to score big against Indonesia but also hope that Japan beat Pakistan in the other Pool A match on Thursday if they are to progress to the Super 4 stage.

India have a goal difference

of minus three as against Pakistan's plus 13. If Pakistan lose to Japan, India will have to beat Indonesia by a huge margin to go past their western neighbours in goal difference and advance further in the tournament.

Inexperience was the major reason behind India's below-par performances as the young players, mainly drafted from the last Junior World Cup squad, are finding it difficult to get a measure of the level of international hockey.

In the two matches so far, the Indians lacked cohesion in the three departments — defence, midfield and forward-line.

The Indians lacked a quality playmaker in the midfield, which was evident from their constant efforts of building attacks from the centre instead of using both the flanks more frequently.

Lakra looked a pale shad-

ow of himself in the backline, which has crumbled big time when put under relentless pressure.

The forwardline has been wasteful with the likes of Tokyo Olympian Simranjeet Singh and youngster Uttam Singh not having the best of outings.

The lanky and strongly built Pawan Rajbhar is the only player who have impressed with his commitment and stick work in the two matches, creating chances and also scoring a goal.

Penalty corner conversion is another area where the Indians are struggling as they lack a quality drag-flicker in the side after veteran Rupinder Pal Singh pulled out at the last minute due to a wrist injury.

With the odds stacked against them, the young Indian players could be pepped up to give their best shot on Thursday and show they can rise to the occasion.

कार्यालय कलेक्टर (जनजातीय कार्य विभाग) बैतूल

जिला-बैतूल, मध्यप्रदेश

E-mail Address- actw.btl@mp.gov.in

Phone No. (07141) 234343 (0)

क्रमांक/निर्माण/4/2022-23/3789

बैतूल, दिनांक 20.05.2022

--: ई-निविदा विज्ञापित :-

दर निविदा आमंत्रण सूचना क्र. 02/2022-23

म.प्र. के राज्यपाल की ओर से निम्नांकित कार्यों हेतु ऑनलाईन मोहरबंद प्रतिशत दर निविदायें फार्म ए पर लोक निर्माण विभाग की केन्द्रीयकृत प्रणाली में समतुल्य/सक्षम श्रेणी में पंजीकृत ठेकेदारों से निम्न तालिका में अंकित निर्माण कार्यों हेतु लोक निर्माण विभाग की भवन कार्य हेतु प्रचलित दर सूची जो कि 01.12.2020 से प्रभावशील एवं निविदा दिनांक तक संशोधित तथा विद्युतिकरण कार्य के लिए लोक निर्माण विभाग की विद्युतिकरण कार्य हेतु प्रचलित दर सूची 01.12.2020 से प्रभावशील एवं निविदा दिनांक तक संशोधित है पर निम्नांकित कार्यों की जोनल निविदा जारी होने के दिनांक से एक वर्ष हेतु निम्न विवरण अनुसार कार्यालय सहायक आयुक्त जनजातीय कार्य विभाग बैतूल (म.प्र.) में दिनांक 06.06.2022 सायं 5.30 बजे तक केवल ऑनलाईन पद्धति से बिड आमंत्रित की जाती है।

| क्र. | सिस्टम टेंडर नम्बर | कार्य का नाम | ठेके की अनुमानित राशि (लाख में) | अमानत राशि (रु. में) | निविदा प्रपत्र का मूल्य रु. | कार्य पूर्णता अवधि | ठेकेदार की श्रेणी |
|------|--------------------|---|---------------------------------|----------------------|-----------------------------|---|---|
| 1 | 2022_TAD_205645_1 | विकास खण्ड आठनेर अन्तर्गत जनजातीय कार्य एवं अनुसूचित जाति अन्तर्गत छात्रावास, आश्रम एवं स्कूल भवनों में वार्षिक मरम्मत, सुदृढीकरण, लघुनिर्माण, बाउण्ड्रीवाल, अतिरिक्त कक्ष एवं अन्य निर्माण कार्य | 150.00 | 1,50,000 | 12,500 | 3 माह प्रत्येक कार्य के लिये वर्षा ऋतु सहित | लो.नि.वि. में नवीन केन्द्रीकृत पद्धति में |
| 2 | 2022_TAD_205646_1 | विकास खण्ड भैंसेदेही अन्तर्गत जनजातीय कार्य एवं अनुसूचित जाति अन्तर्गत छात्रावास, आश्रम एवं स्कूल भवनों में वार्षिक मरम्मत, सुदृढीकरण, लघुनिर्माण, बाउण्ड्रीवाल, अतिरिक्त कक्ष एवं अन्य निर्माण कार्य | 150.00 | 1,50,000 | 12,500 | 3 माह प्रत्येक कार्य के लिये वर्षा ऋतु सहित | सिविल कार्य हेतु पंजीयन |
| 3 | 2022_TAD_205648_1 | विकास खण्ड भीमपुर अन्तर्गत जनजातीय कार्य एवं अनुसूचित जाति अन्तर्गत छात्रावास, आश्रम एवं स्कूल भवनों में वार्षिक मरम्मत, सुदृढीकरण, लघुनिर्माण, बाउण्ड्रीवाल, अतिरिक्त कक्ष एवं अन्य निर्माण कार्य | 150.00 | 1,50,000 | 12,500 | 3 माह प्रत्येक कार्य के लिये वर्षा ऋतु सहित | |
| 4 | 2022_TAD_205650_1 | विकास खण्ड चिचोली अन्तर्गत जनजातीय कार्य एवं अनुसूचित जाति अन्तर्गत छात्रावास, आश्रम एवं स्कूल भवनों में वार्षिक मरम्मत, सुदृढीकरण, लघुनिर्माण, बाउण्ड्रीवाल, अतिरिक्त कक्ष एवं अन्य निर्माण कार्य | 150.00 | 1,50,000 | 12,500 | 3 माह प्रत्येक कार्य के लिये वर्षा ऋतु सहित | |
| 5 | 2022_TAD_205652_1 | विकास खण्ड शाहपुर अन्तर्गत जनजातीय कार्य एवं अनुसूचित जाति अन्तर्गत छात्रावास, आश्रम एवं स्कूल भवनों में वार्षिक मरम्मत, सुदृढीकरण, लघुनिर्माण, बाउण्ड्रीवाल, अतिरिक्त कक्ष एवं अन्य निर्माण कार्य | 150.00 | 1,50,000 | 12,500 | 3 माह प्रत्येक कार्य के लिये वर्षा ऋतु सहित | |
| 6 | 2022_TAD_205655_1 | विकास खण्ड घोड़ाडोंगी अन्तर्गत जनजातीय कार्य एवं अनुसूचित जाति अन्तर्गत छात्रावास, आश्रम एवं स्कूल भवनों में वार्षिक मरम्मत, सुदृढीकरण, लघुनिर्माण, बाउण्ड्रीवाल, अतिरिक्त कक्ष एवं अन्य निर्माण कार्य | 150.00 | 1,50,000 | 12,500 | 3 माह प्रत्येक कार्य के लिये वर्षा ऋतु सहित | |
| 7 | 2022_TAD_205657_1 | विकास खण्ड बैतूल, आमला, मुलताई एवं प्रभातपट्टन अन्तर्गत जनजातीय कार्य एवं अनुसूचित जाति अन्तर्गत छात्रावास, आश्रम स्कूल एवं क्रीड़ा परिसर भवनों में वार्षिक मरम्मत, सुदृढीकरण, लघुनिर्माण, बाउण्ड्रीवाल, अतिरिक्त कक्ष एवं अन्य निर्माण कार्य | 150.00 | 1,50,000 | 12,500 | 3 माह प्रत्येक कार्य के लिये वर्षा ऋतु सहित | |
| 8 | 2022_TAD_205659_1 | विकास खण्ड बैतूल, आमला, मुलताई प्रभातपट्टन अन्तर्गत जनजातीय कार्य एवं अनुसूचित जाति अन्तर्गत छात्रावास, आश्रम एवं स्कूल भवनों में आंतरिक विद्युतिकरण मरम्मत/नवीन कार्य | 75.00 | 75,000 | 10,000 | 3 माह प्रत्येक कार्य के लिये वर्षा ऋतु सहित | लो.नि.वि. में नवीन केन्द्रीकृत पद्धति में |
| 9 | 2022_TAD_205661_1 | विकास खण्ड शाहपुर, घोड़ाडोंगी, चिचोली अन्तर्गत जनजातीय कार्य एवं अनुसूचित जाति अन्तर्गत छात्रावास, आश्रम एवं स्कूल भवनों में आंतरिक विद्युतिकरण मरम्मत/नवीन कार्य | 75.00 | 75,000 | 10,000 | 3 माह प्रत्येक कार्य के लिये वर्षा ऋतु सहित | विद्युत कार्य हेतु पंजीयन एवं म.प्र. |
| 10 | 2022_TAD_205663_1 | विकास खण्ड आठनेर, भैंसेदेही, भीमपुर अन्तर्गत जनजातीय कार्य एवं अनुसूचित जाति अन्तर्गत छात्रावास, आश्रम एवं स्कूल भवनों में आंतरिक विद्युतिकरण मरम्मत/नवीन कार्य | 75.00 | 75,000 | 10,000 | 3 माह प्रत्येक कार्य के लिये वर्षा ऋतु सहित | वि.म. का बी क्लास का विद्युत लायसेंस |

उपरोक्त कार्यों के निविदा प्रपत्र (टेंडर डाक्यूमेंट) <https://mptenders.gov.in> पर ऑनलाईन भुगतान कर क्रय एवं प्रस्तुत किये जा सकेंगे। निविदा प्रपत्र क्रय एवं प्रस्तुत करने की अंतिम तिथि 06.06.2022 सायं बजे तक निर्धारित है। विस्तृत सूचना व अन्य जानकारी वेबसाईट पर देखी जा सकती है।

(कलेक्टर महोदय द्वारा अनुमोदित)

सहायक आयुक्त जनजातीय कार्य विभाग बैतूल

G-13353/22

अफवाहों पर न दें ध्यान, टीका लगवाकर बचायें जान।