

## WORLD 5

UKRAINE FIGHTS TO HOLD OFF RUSSIAN ADVANCES

## MONEY 6

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## Speed up trials of 3.5L poor undertrials: Modi

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Saturday urged the Chief Ministers and Chief Justices of high courts to speed-up the delivery of justice to 3.5 lakh undertrials languishing in jails and increase the mediation process to decrease the burden on judiciary. Modi also suggested the increased use of local languages and simplification of legal process which would help the common man to understand the process and use of technology more.

The Prime Minister was speaking at the joint conference of Chief Ministers and Chief Justices. The annual conference, which is also attended by Law Ministers, is happening after six years.

"We have to keep human sensibility at the core of decision making. We still have 3.5 lakh undertrials. Most of them are poor and these cases have to be decided by district judges

so that they can be released on bail whenever possible. I urge all Chief Ministers and Chief Justices on the basis of humanitarian law to give urgency to the case of undertrials and also look at the long pending cases and if it can be solved through mediation," said Modi.

The Prime Minister also urged the Chief Ministers to abolish archaic laws and cited how the Centre went about it. "We repealed 1,450 Central laws. But from States only 75 laws were repealed. I am requesting Chief Ministers to unclog the web of dated laws," he said, assuring the judiciary the cooperation of the Government in filling the vacancies in all levels of courts.

Modi also urged the widening of the mediation process to decrease the burden on judiciary. Seeking coordination from Chief Ministers and Chief Justices in this regard, he said, "As the Chief Justice mentioned, I also congratulate Justice UU Lalit for

In CMs-CJs meet, Prime Minister bats for use of local languages in courts, widening of mediation process



Prime Minister Narendra Modi with Chief Justice of India NV Ramana during a joint conference of Chief Ministers &amp; Chief Justices of High Courts at Vigyan Bhawan in New Delhi on Saturday

PTI

convening several mediations across the country, that too during Covid period."

Modi said that Central Government has formed a committee to examine simplifying laws and statutes so that it can be understood by a layperson. The committee is looking into making legislations in two formats — one in typical legal language and the other in simple language which

can be understood by ordinary people. He said it is in practice in various countries and both the formats are considered as legally acceptable.

Stressing the usage of local language and simplification of legal jargon in court proceedings for the better understanding of the common man, the PM said, "All proceedings in HCs and SC are in English. Today the CJI has clarified

this subject and the media will get a good story for tomorrow. The entire process of justice is difficult to be grasped by the common man. We have to make local languages a part of the local courts. People will have more faith in India's legal system. We are thinking why technical and medical education cannot be in Indian language?"

Continued on Page 2

## CJI: Court orders often not executed by Govt, leading to case pile-up

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Chief Justice of India NV Ramana on Saturday said that the decisions rendered by courts are often not implemented by the Government for years together leading to contempt petitions piling up in the courts. He also pointed out that the Government is the biggest litigant accounting for more than 56 per cent of the cases and such defiance by it is overburdening the judiciary.

He said the Constitution provides separation of power among the three organs of the State and while discharging duty, one should be mindful of "Lakshman Rekha". The CJI said deliberate inaction by Governments despite judicial pronouncements is not good for the health of democracy.

The CJI was speaking at the joint conference of Chief Ministers and Chief Justices of High Courts in the presence of Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Law Ministers from across the country. "Decisions by the court are often not implemented by Governments for years together which lead to contempt petition which is a new burden on the court which

is a direct result of defiance by the Government," said CJI Ramana.

The CJI also highlighted the lack of procedural fairness when it comes to arresting individuals and probing cases. The key to good governance is "abiding by law and Constitution", and if the police probes are conducted in a just manner, and illegal arrest and custodial torture comes to an end, the number of cases would drastically decrease.

"However this is often ignored and opinions of the Law Department is not sought in the rush to implement executive decisions. The role of special and Government pleaders in court needs urgent remedy," he said.

Criticising the misuse of PIL to settle scores, the CJI said, "The rising number of frivolous litigations is an area of concern. For example, the well-meaning concept of public interest litigation is at times turning into personal interest litigation. No doubt, PIL has served a lot of public interest. However, it is sometimes being misused to stall projects or pressurise public authorities."

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## IG, SSP, SP shunted; net suspended till 4pm day after clashes in Patiala



Security personnel stand guard outside Kali Mata temple, a day after clashes broke out between two groups, in Patiala on Saturday

PTI

PNS ■ PATIALA/CHANDIGARH

A day after clashes between two groups broke out in Patiala, the Punjab Government on Saturday shunted out three senior police officials, including an inspec-

tor general, and suspended mobile internet and SMS services in Patiala district which was restored after 4 pm. In the clashes between the two groups over an anti-Khalistan march, four people were injured. The AAP Government in

the State transferred the inspector general of police (IG) Patiala range, the Patiala senior superintendent of police (SSP) and the Patiala superintendent of police (SP) with immediate effect.

A spokesperson of the Chief Minister's Office said Mukhwinder Singh Chinna has been appointed as the new IG-Patiala while Deepak Parik will be the new Patiala SSP. Wazir Singh has been appointed as the new SP of Patiala. Chinna replaces Rakesh Agrawal as IG (Patiala Range) while Parik takes over the post of SSP Patiala from Nanak Singh. Police and district administration authorities on Saturday claimed that the situation is under control and peaceful in the city. Heavy police security has been deployed at the site of the clashes outside the Kali Mata temple here.

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## ED seizes ₹5,551 cr of Xiaomi under FEMA

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Enforcement Directorate (ED) has seized ₹5,551.27 crore of Chinese smartphone distributor Xiaomi Technology India Private Limited under the provisions of the Foreign Exchange Management Act. Xiaomi India is a wholly-owned subsidiary of China-based Xiaomi Group.

The ED had initiated investigation in connection with the illegal remittances made by the company in February, the agency said in a statement.

"The company started its operations in India in 2014 and began remitting the money from 2015 onwards. The company has remitted foreign currency equivalent to ₹5,551.27 crore to three foreign-based entities which include one Xiaomi group entity in the guise of royalty. Such huge amounts in the name of royalties were remitted on the instructions of their Chinese parent group entities. The amount remitted to other two US-based unrelated entities was also for the ultimate benefit of the Xiaomi group entities," it said.

Xiaomi India, the ED said, is a trader and distributor of mobile phones in India under the brand name of MI. Xiaomi India procures completely manufactured mobile sets and other products from the manufacturers in India. The Xiaomi India has not availed any ser-

vice from the three foreign-based entities to which such amounts have been transferred, the agency said.

"Under the cover of various unrelated documentary façade created amongst the group entities, the company remitted this amount in the guise of royalty abroad which constitutes violation of Section 4 of the

FEMA. The company also provided misleading information to the banks while remitting the money abroad," it added.

Earlier this month, the ED had summoned the global vice president of the company, Manu Kumar Jain, for questioning in a probe linked to contravention of the FEMA.

Continued on Page 2

## Jacqueline's ₹7.27cr assets attached for money laundering

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Enforcement Directorate (ED) has provisionally attached assets amounting to ₹7.27 crore including fixed deposits worth ₹7.12 crore of actor Jacqueline Fernandez under the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA) in the case of conman Sukesh Chandrasekhar's extortion syndicate.

Investigation by the ED revealed that a person was contacting people spoofing calls to dupe them as the numbers reflecting on their phone were from Government officers and he claimed to be a Government officer offering to help people for a price.

Adopting this modus



operandi, the said person contacted Aditi Singh, wife of former Ranbaxy promoter Shivinder Mohan Singh, by impersonating himself as Union Home Secretary, Union Law Secretary, officer from Prime Minister Office and junior officials and extorted more than ₹200 crore from her over a period of one year on the pretext of contribution to party funds.

Investigation revealed that the said person was conman Chandrasekhar who was running his illegal extortion business from Central Jail, Delhi, in connivance with jail officials.

During investigation, searches were conducted under PMLA at various premises all over India and properties like a bungalow in Chennai, 26 cars, Indian currency and valuables worth ₹45 crore were seized.

In this case, Chandrasekhar and eight other persons, including his wife Leena Maria Paul, were arrested under the PMLA and subsequently prosecution complaint (chargesheet) was filed before the Special PMLA court here against all the nine accused. The court has taken cognisance of the case.

The PMLA probe revealed that Chandrasekhar had given various gifts worth ₹5.71 crore to Jacqueline from the "proceeds of crime", including extortion, the ED said in a statement.

Continued on Page 2



General Manoj Pande takes over as the 29th Chief of Defence Staff (COAS) of Indian Army from General MM Naravane on Saturday

PTI

## Efforts on to end power crisis: Min

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

The power demand in the national Capital on Saturday clocked 5,789 megawatt (MW), lower than the record 6,197 MW demand on Friday, even as the Centre assured supply of "as much power as required in Delhi".

"On six occasions in April 2022, Delhi's peak power demand has clocked the highest ever in April, each breaking the previous record in quick succession. On April 19, it was 5,735 MW, 5,761 MW on April 21, 5,781 MW on August 21, 5,786 MW on April 27, 6,050 MW on April 28 and 6,197 on April 29," said sources.

As for India, its peak power demand met or the highest supply in a day touched an all-time high of 207.11 GW on Friday amid ongoing heatwave sweeping through vast swathes of the country increasing demand for electricity.

Union Power Minister RK Singh on Saturday said electricity distribution utilities in Delhi will get as much power as required by them. The Minister said this while reviewing the coal stock situation at thermal power plants, including the plants supplying power to distribution companies of Delhi. During the meeting,

state-owned NTPC and DVC were directed to give full availability as per the requirement of discoms.

GAIL India also assured that it will make gas available from all sources — APM, SPOT, LT-RLNG — to gas-based power plants in Delhi. NTPC has also been advised to offer normative declared capacity to Delhi discoms as per their allocations from gas-based power plants under respective PPAs (power purchase agreements).

During the meeting, it was informed that there has been no shortage of electricity supply to Delhi, sources said.

As per data provided by Power System Operation Corporation (POSOCO), in April 2022, the peak demand went up to 6,096 MW (April 29) and there has been no shortage in meeting maximum (peak) demand. The entire energy requirement is also being met in Delhi which is about 123.6 MW (April 29).

Distribution companies (discoms) in Delhi viz. Tata Power, BSES Rajdhani and BSES Yamuna have been getting power from the power plants based on declared capacity. The installed generation capacity in Delhi is 3,056 MW.

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## CAPSULE

### E-RETAILERS CAN'T SELL WIRELESS JAMMERS

**New Delhi:** Consumer protection regulator CCPA has issued an advisory to e-commerce companies against the illegal sale and facilitation of wireless jammers for general consumption, the Consumer Affairs Ministry said on Saturday. Before CCPA, the Telecommunication Department had issued an advisory on January 21, 2022, against the illegal sale and facilitation of wireless jammers on online platforms.

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### PRIEST GETS 18 YRS RI FOR RAPING 4 BOYS

**Kollam:** A Kerala court has sentenced a Christian priest to 18 years of rigorous jail for sexually abusing four minor boys of a seminary in Kollam district five years ago.

### RANAS'S BAIL PLEA: COURT CALL ON MAY 2

**Mumbai:** A special court here is likely to decide the bail plea of jailed Independent MP Navneet Rana and her MLA husband Ravi Rana on May 2.

### DELHI-NCR 9TH IN ASIA PACIFIC ON OFFICE COST

**New Delhi:** Delhi-NCR ranks ninth in Asia Pacific in terms of occupancy cost for prime office space at USD 60.1 per square foot per year, according to Knight Frank India.

## Warmest April in NW-central India in 122 yrs

### No respite in May: IMD

RAJESH KUMAR ■ NEW DELHI

The northwest and central India recorded the highest maximum temperatures for the month of April since 1900 with average maximum temperatures reaching 35.9 degrees Celsius and 37.78 degrees Celsius respectively, the India Meteorological Department (IMD) said on Saturday. Overall, this April was the fourth warmest for the country ever, it pointed out.

Releasing the forecast for the month of May, the IMD said there would be no respite for the region next month as the above normal maximum and minimum temperatures would continue in northwest and central parts of India. This means, people will not only have to bear with hot days, but nights are also likely to be warmer than usual in May. There is possibility that the maximum temperatures may

touch 50 degrees Celsius during May this year.

On Saturday, Chandrapur in Maharashtra was the hottest area in India with 46.6 degrees Celsius, followed by Ganganagar with 46 degrees Celsius and Jaisalmer with 45.9

degrees Celsius. Over 40 cities in nine States recorded 44 degrees Celsius and above. The maximum temperature of over 47 degrees Celsius was recorded in Banda.

"Northwest and central India experienced their hottest

April in 122 years with average maximum temperatures reaching 35.9 degrees Celsius and 37.78 degrees Celsius respectively. This April was the fourth warmest for the country ever," the IMD said.

Similarly, the number of

instances of heatwave or severe heatwave conditions reported across the country in April this year was 146, the highest since 2010, when 404 such cases were reported. The heatwave continued till May 2 as per latest forecast of the IMD.

"Most parts of northwest India - J&K, Himachal, Punjab, Haryana, Rajasthan, Gujarat - are expected to experience above normal temperatures in May said IMD Director General Dr Mrutyunjay Mohapatra on Saturday while releasing the monthly outlook for the temperature and rainfall during May. Mohapatra also did not rule out parts of western Rajasthan reporting temperatures more than 50 degrees Celsius.

"I cannot make that forecast, but it is climatologically possible as May is the hottest month," Mohapatra said to questions on whether temperatures would top 50 degrees Celsius this summer.

The previous highest maximum temperature ever recorded in Rajasthan was 52.6 degrees Celsius in 1956.

Continued on Page 2



## NCR PULSE

**IP VARSITY EXTENDS LAST DATE OF APPLICATION**  
**New Delhi:** The Guru Gobind Singh Indraprastha University has extended the last date of online application for all programmes of the academic session 2022-23 till May 31.Candidates can apply for around 182 academic programmes from undergraduate to PhD level till May 31, 2022. Earlier, the last date to file an online application was April 30. "Now one can apply for all programmes based on national- level tests, programmes based on the university-conducted entrance tests and programmes on merit till May 31, 2022," the statement read.

**DELHI CONG CRITICISES KEJRIWAL ON POWER CRISIS**  
**New Delhi:** Delhi Congress president Ch. Anil Kumar on Saturday criticised the Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal that it was strange Chief Minister woke up about a power crisis in Delhi only when coal stokes in the power plants supplying electricity to Delhi was reduced to less than three days, with the Capital facing an imminent power cut, with a record heat-wave of 47 degrees sweeping the Capital.

**DELHI BJP PROTESTS AGAINST NOT REDUCING VAT**  
**New Delhi:** BJP's Delhi unit held a protest on Saturday against the AAP government for not reducing value-added tax (VAT) on diesel and petrol prices in the capital. BJP leaders alleged that the AAP government did not cut VAT on petrol and diesel, thereby making them costlier in Delhi. The protest comes after Prime Minister Narendra Modi recently flagged higher fuel prices in many opposition-ruled states, and urged the governments there to reduce VAT in 'national interest' to benefit the common man.

**AAP'S ANARCHIC FACE EXPOSED: BJP SPOKESPERSON**  
**New Delhi:** After the Gurugram Court ordered seven years jail imprisonment for ex-councillor Nisha Singh in a 2015 case of rioting and attack on Government officials who also holds post of Adviser to Delhi Deputy Chief Minister Manish Sisodia, the Delhi BJP spokesperson Praveen Shankar Kapoor has on Saturday said the Aam Aadmi Party's anarchic face exposed again and it stands evidently clear that AAP is not just a political party, its a training school for spreading anarchy, rioting and corruption.

**'HAND OVER PAPERS OF JEHANGIRPURI ACCUSED'**  
**New Delhi:** A city court on Saturday directed Delhi Police to hand over copies of the FIR and certain other documents to two accused in a case related to Jahangirpuri violence. Chief Metropolitan Magistrate Deepika Singh passed the order on a plea moved by both the accused - Zafar and Babuddin - but said the FIR should not be made public and its content should not be posted on social media.

# Delhi gives ₹1cr to families of 3 Covid warriors

**STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI**

The Delhi Government on Saturday provided a Samman Rashi of Rs one crore to the families of three Corona Warriors who martyred protecting Delhiites.

On this occasion, the The Revenue Minister Kailash Gahlot said "I completely understand and acknowledge that no amount of money would be able to compensate for the loss of a loved one, but this financial assistance is a way for the Delhi Government to pay tribute to the sacrifice made by these Corona warriors."We are proud of our Corona Warriors who have served the people with their lives. The Delhi Government salutes the sacrifices made by these people in saving others

during the pandemic. The families of the corona warriors who died in the pandemic have been assured that the state government will always be there to assist them.

We would like to express our gratitude to all our Corona Warriors who have served the people while putting their own lives at stake," he added.Gahlot met with the families of Dr. Sanjay Kumar, Dr. Parvinder Pal Singh and Surender Kumar who lost their lives while serving during the COVID-19 pandemic. Dr. Sanjay Kumar was Chief Medical Officer (CMO) at Urban Primary Health Centre (UPHC), Munirka and Dr. Parvinder Pal Singh was CMO at NSUT, Dwarka. Shri Surender Kumar was a Trained Graduate Teacher and was deployed on COVID 19 duties.

## CJI: Court... Efforts...

**From Page 1**

These days PIL has become a tool for someone who wants to settle a score or a political rivalry. Realising the potential of misuse, courts are circumspect in entertaining the same," the CJI said.

The CJI also highlighted the issue of pendency of cases. "Due to paucity of time, I cannot explain the same in detail. But a keen look at the websites of the courts will give you an idea about the huge workload on judges. The number of cases filed and disposed on each day is unimaginable," said the CJI.

**From Page 1**

The Delhi Government has surrendered its share of power from NTPC Dadri Stage I (840 MW) and now the total allocation of power from the central generating stations is 3,806 MW while allocation from unallocated power is 30 MW. Thus, a total capacity of 6,892 MW is available for Delhi. The power demand of Delhi is met mainly from allocation from central sector power stations which includes allocation from thermal, hydro, nuclear and gas-based power stations.



**Office of the Superintending Engineer, Construction Circle, Uttarakhand**  
**Peyjal Nigam, Kathgodam, Haldwani.**

**E-Tendering/Tender Notice**

Letter No. 2118 / 613 / 244

Date: 30/04/2022

**Name of Work :-** Construction of Over Head Tank, Distribution system (HDPE Pipe), FHTC, Pump House cum attendant Room, Boundary wall & appurtenant works under Jal Jeevan Mission Programme.

**Name of Scheme :-** (1) Dah-Dhaki (MVS) W/S Scheme of Block Khatima (2) Bigraabaag (MVS) W/S Scheme of Block Khatima (3) Kutra-Deokala (MVS) W/S Scheme of Block Khatima (4) Majhola-1 (MVS) W/S Scheme of Block Khatima (5) Purnapur (SVS) W/S Scheme of Block Khatima (6) Govindpur (MVS) W/S Scheme of Block Sitarganj (7) Tharu Tisaur (MVS) W/S Scheme of Block Sitarganj

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| 7 | Date of Technical Bid Opening   | 20.05.2022 at 11:00 hrs.   |
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**Superintending Engineer**

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# No let up in UP power crisis as demand peaks

**PNS ■ LUCKNOW**

There was no let up in the power crisis as the demand for electricity touched a new peak of over 23,000 megawatt and coal stocks at thermal power plants in Uttar Pradesh plunged to precarious levels.

The UP Power Corporation Limited has imposed a 10-hour power cuts in rural areas and small towns. Bundelkhand is getting only 14 hours' supply while undeclared power cuts have been imposed in big cities also. Officially big cities are exempted from power cuts.

The power demand on Thursday/Friday touched 23,000 MW against the availability of only 19,000 MW. The availability of power included 4,300 MW from thermal power plants of UP Vidyut Utpadan Nigam, 6,200 MW from IPPs, 366 MW from hydro plants and 8,500 MW from central sector power plants.

The All India Power Engineers' Federation said out of 150 thermal plants using domestic coal, the number of plants with critical coal stock increased from 81 to 86 in one week, while among private power producers, the number of plants with critical coal stock increased from 28 to 32 during the same period.

As the power crisis was getting aggravated, the maximum electricity demand that was met touched across the country 2.07 lakh MW on Friday, the highest ever. The peak power demand level stood at 2.05 lakh MW on Thursday, compared with a level of 1.82.5 lakh MW a year ago.

According to Central Electricity Authority's fuel management cell daily coal data update, as on April 27, out of the 173 thermal plants across the country, 106 plants had coal stocks that were at critical levels. Out of 150 thermal plants using domestic coal, the number of plants with critical coal stock increased from 81 to 86 in one week, while among private power producers, plants with critical coal stock increased from 28 to 32 during the same period.

Meanwhile, UP Energy Minister AK Sharma blamed the previous Samajwadi Party and Bahujan Samaj Party governments in UP for the present power crisis. He claimed that adequate attention was never given to the power sector during the previous regimes.

"Had the previous government paid adequate attention to the power sector, the present crisis would not have happened. For the present government, the power crisis is a legacy issue. The Yogi Adityanath government is

taking measures to tide over the crisis," the energy minister said in Jhansi on Saturday.

The minister said the power demand was around 17,000 MW in the last four years which had shot up to 22,000 MW due to the unprecedented heat wave. He said the technical faults at the state owned thermal power plants had aggravated the power crisis. He said the faults had been rectified and plants had resumed normal power generation.

All India Power Engineers Federation chairman Shailendra Dubey said lack of coordination amongst the ministries of Coal, Railways and Energy was responsible for coal shortage, which had caused widespread power outages across the country.

"Every ministry is now claiming that it is not responsible for the present mess in the power sector and what is worse is that the Central ministries have now linked the issue to the states' inability to make timely payments to coal companies," he said.

Against the requirement of about 22 million tons of domestic coal for thermal power plants every day, only 16.4 million tons of coal is available. The inventory of coal is depleting every day and has now reached a critical position," he added.

## ₹3 cr looted from Delhi's house

**STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI**

Four unidentified men robbed jewellery worth over Rs three crore from a house in south Delhi's Anand Lok area on Saturday morning. Police said that the accused tied the legs of a 68-year-old woman, who was present in the house with her granddaughter, before leaving the house.

According to Benita Mary Jaiker, the Deputy Commissioner of Police (DCP), South district, a police control room (PCR) call was received on Saturday morning about the robbery.

"The complainant, identified as Ritika,

told the police that she was sleeping with her five-year-old granddaughter in the bedroom on the ground floor. Around 3.30 AM, she heard some noise and saw four men searching her almira in the same bedroom," said the DCP.

"The men asked the woman to keep quiet and broke the almira, took away the jewellery worth Rs 3-4 crore. While they were leaving, they tied the woman's legs with a cloth, the DCP said.

The other family members -- her son, his wife and kids -- were on the first floor of the house, police said, adding that a case of robbery has been registered at the Defence Colony police station.

## Mumbai court reserves verdict on Ranas' bail plea in Hanuman Chalisa case

**T N RAGHUNATHA ■ MUMBAI**

A Mumbai Sessions court on Saturday reserved its ruling in the bail applications of Independent MP from Amravati Naveen Rana and her MLA-husband Ravi Rana in the case involving their arrest over threat to recite "Hanuman Chalisa" in front of chief minister Uddhav Thackeray's private residence "Matoshri" at Bandra in north-west Mumbai. After hearing Senior Advocate Abad Ponda and Advocate Rizwan Merchant—representing Naveen and Ravi Rana and Special Police Prosecutor Pradip Gharat, Special Judge RN Rokade reserved his ruling on the bail applications of the Rana couple for Monday.

Ranas were arrested on April 23 for offences registered initially against them under sections 153A (causing enmity between different groups), 34 (common intention) and later under section 124A (sedition) of IPC for for challenging the government machinery and making remarks against Maharashtra Chief Minister Uddhav Thackeray in a controversy arising out of their threat to recite "Hanuman Chalisa" in front of Maharashtra chief minister Uddhav Thackeray's Bandra residence. They were also booked under provisions of the Bombay Police Act for causing a law and order situation in the city.

Maintaining that there was nothing wrong in the state government allowing Ranas from reciting "Hanuman Chalisa" in front of the chief minister's residence, senior Advocate Ponda argued: "What is sort to be punished is an idea. It is connected with someone's religious beliefs. If there was an idea about slaughtering an animal outside someone's house then it cannot be allowed. But where everyone is Hindu here and someone just wants to recite," Ponda told the court that while the principle of democracy is to encourage dissent but then in the same breath dissenting voices were being discouraged. Making a strong case for release of Ranas on bail, Ponda argued the Mumbai Police had neither bothered to take custody of the Rana couple nor did they interrogate them even for a single day during their judicial custody.

Ponda said that while reciting Hanuman Chalisa outside a mosque would have different repercussions, "but it is not that case here, because CM himself is a staunch Hindu".Ponda contended that that the Rana couple had not criticised the Muslim community by using loudspeakers nor were intending to use loudspeakers for the recitation.The defence lawyer said that while the state government had invoked sedition charge against Ranas, its supporters had raised issues about the decision.Ponda pointed out that since the police sent notice to Ranas not to recite Hanuman Chalisa, they could not go ahead with their plans and that being the case, the offence did not amount to sedition.

## Speed up...

**From Page 1**

Even a village-born can access this education then and this is also social justice and language plays an important role in this."

Earlier, Chief Justice NV Ramana explained the need of usage of English language in High Court proceedings. "Chief Justices and many judges are appointed from outside the State. Some years ago Tamil Nadu sought local language in the High Court," he said. Article 348 of the Constitution of India insists on the usage of English in High Courts and the Supreme Court proceedings.

The Prime Minister assured cooperation on the infrastructure development of Courts and emphasized on the need of use of more technology in judiciary. "The scope of technology has expanded in the judiciary and that e-courts are being implemented on a mission mode. The Executive is trying to increase judicial strength and improve judicial infrastructure," he said.

## Jacqueline's...

**From Page 1**

"Chandrasekha had put Pinky Irani, his longtime associate and co-accused in this case, to deliver the said gifts to Fernandez. In addition to these gifts, Chandrasekhar had also given funds to the tune of USD 1,72,913 and AUD 26,740 to the close family members of Fernandez out of the proceeds of crime through co-accused Avtar Singh Kochhar, an established and well known international hawala operator," it said.

Chandrasekhar had also delivered cash to the tune of Rs 15 lakh to a script writer on behalf of Fernandez as advance for writing a script of her web-series project.

# Remembering Kulhand massacre 2006 in Jammu

**MOHIT KANDHARI ■ JAMMU**

The dreadful night of April 30, 2006 still remain etched in the memories of 47-year-old Gillo Devi, a survivor of Kulhand massacre in which 19 Hindus were killed in cold blood at two different hamlets of Ponchara and Thawa by a group of heavily armed terrorists in a landlocked Doda district.



Gillo Devi with her son

Gillo Devi lost her husband, Jagdish Lal Bhagat along with eight year old daughter Sapna, a student of class two. She along with her elder daughter were airlifted several hours later to the Government Medical College hospital in Jammu where she survived and returned home to nurture her kids, shouldering all other responsibilities of her family. She is currently serving the UT administration. The scars of that fateful night still haunt her family and her children. The youngest of them all was two and half months old.

Sitting in front of a group of volunteers from Jammu, Gillo Devi recreated the entire scene.

"It was in the middle of the night around 12.30 a.m when I first heard a loud noise at my doorstep. As I got up and opened the door three heavily armed terrorists along with over one dozen villagers barged inside our home," Gillo Devi remembered. "They segregated us. The villagers were made to sit in one corner of the room and I along with my children were present in the kitchen. "The three terrorists were dressed in Salwar kameez. Their faces were covered with a scarf. They were not recognizable. One of them asked me for a glass of water. I took a jug and a glass. After quenching their thirst they handed me the jug. While I turned back towards the kitchen they opened a burst of fire. I fell on the ground after receiving a bullet injury on my right foot. The terrorists fired indiscriminately. My husband

and eight year old daughter were among 10 people killed in the room".

Another survivor, Ajay Sharma told volunteers, "I was only 9 years old and had faint memories of that black day of our lives". He said, "I was told by my parents that my grandfather Prem Nath Sharma was also killed by the same group of terrorists". He said the terrorists struck at two places around 2.10 a.m. "There was blood all over the place. The injured, with fatal injuries, were shouting for help. They were asking for water. There was no water. The villagers who reached there used leftover water in the soiled utensils to quench their thirst. No one could reach them in the dead of the night. The first team of security forces from the nearby village arrived there after 7.00 a.m".

Another survivor Bodh Raj Sharma, currently running a general store in the area told volunteers, "The sleepy hamlet in the Doda hills had turned red. In another neighbouring village another group of terrorists, dressed in army fatigue, had repeated the same drill. Sharma said, " it was around 11.00 p.m a group of armed terrorists directed the villagers to gather at the residence of a village head Gopi Chand". Initially we thought they were here to address us. As they were holding guns no one could raise a voice. We assembled there. He said I was one of the survivors present in the same

house. "Us din ju hua bhagwan woh din kisi ko dubara na dikhahe" ( Whatever happened during that fateful evening I pray to God no one should face the same fate again). "There was no power supply in the area. It was pitch dark. Inside the house around two dozen people were present. Suddenly one of the terrorists directed the lambardar to bring earthen lamp. As he picked the same indiscriminate firing started". Sharma recalled, "I also fell on the ground and escaped the hit. I only received bruises on my hands and face. I was lying there in the pool of blood. Around 10 people were killed in the firing and nine others were injured". Sharma remembered the three terrorists were speaking Urdu and Kashmiri language and were sheltered by a local terrorist in the area. Later, they were killed by the State task force personnel. "Since then peace prevailed in the area. The Village defence committees were trained and armed with weapons to defend themselves", Sharma elaborated. "I cannot forget that fateful night. I saw villagers whose skull was punctured during the firing, another had his stomach blown away. The intestines were tumbling out. The terrorists had pumped three magazines on unarmed people inside the house of village lambardar Gopi Chand. He too was killed in the firing. Sharma concluded while praying for the victims of the massacre.

## National level kabaddi player arrested for murder, extortion

**STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELH**

The Special Cell of Delhi Police has arrested a national-level kabaddi player, identified as Dinesh alias Dhillu, for his alleged involvement in a number of criminal cases, including murder and extortion. Dhillu is said to be an aide of dreaded inter-state gangsters Kaushal, Monu Lalheri and Naveen Bali.On April 28, on the basis of a secret information received by the Special Cell, a raid was conducted at Hirankudna village from where the accused was held. A pistol and four live cartridges were recovered from his possession."

As per the directions of his mentor from jail,

Dhillu was planning to eliminate the members of rival gangs.

Recently, the Haryana police had declared a cash reward of Rs 5,000 for his arrest in a case related to the murder of his wife," the police said.

In January this year, the accused along with one of his associates, Satyawar, allegedly killed a man named Rohtash in Rohtak to avenge the murder of their aide."Dhillu represented Haryana at the junior national kabaddi championship.

During his graduation, he came in contact with dreaded gangsters Monu Lalheri, Kaushal and Naveen Bali. He was involved in various cases of murder and other heinous crimes," the police said.

## IG, SSP, SP shunted; net suspended till...

**From Page 1**

Various Hindu outfits had given a call for a bandh in protest against the Friday incident and several markets in Patiala city remained shut on Saturday. Representatives of some Hindu outfits lifted their "dharna" outside the temple and deferred their proposed protest march after police and district administration assured them of action within two days against those who were behind the disturbance and violence on Friday.

The groups had clashed over the anti-Khalistan march, hurling stones at each other and brandishing swords. Police had to fire in the air to bring the situation under control. The Opposition parties attacked the AAP-led regime, alleging that the law and order in the State had collapsed. Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann ordered a probe into the clashes and said that not a single culprit will be spared.

The order to suspend mobile internet and SMS

services, except voice calls, was issued by the State's Home Affairs and Justice Department. The Govt initially ordered to suspend internet till 6 pm on Saturday and later modified it for 4 pm. Talking to reporters, Patiala Deputy Commissioner Sakshi Sawhney said the situation is calm and peaceful. "We have deployed the police force here. The situation is peaceful right now and the situation is under control. We are constantly monitoring the situation," Sawhney said.

## ED seizes...

**From Page 1**

The ED had then asked Jain, the former India head of Xiaomi, to furnish a number of financial documents linked to the company by appearing in person or by sending it through an authorised representative.

The ED's regional office in Bengaluru had sought from Jain documents related to Xiaomi's shareholding, source of funds, vendor contracts, and payments made to Indian management and sent abroad.

Proceedings under the FEEMA are civil in nature and the final penalty, post adjudication, can be at least three times the amount contravened under the law.

## Warmest April in NW...

**From Page 1**

The average maximum temperature in April over central India was 37.78 degrees Celsius, higher than the average of 37.75 degrees recorded in 1973.

Mohapatra said most parts of west-central and northwest India will experience above normal maximum temperatures during May. Days are likely to be hotter than average in northern parts of northeast India. Nights would also be warmer in May in most parts of the country, except some regions of south peninsular India.

"During May, above

normal maximum temperatures are likely over most parts of the west central and northwest India, and northern parts of northeast India. Normal to below normal maximum temperatures are likely over the remaining parts of the country. Similarly, above normal minimum temperatures are likely over most parts of northwest, central, east and northeast India.

Normal to below normal minimum temperatures are likely over the south peninsular India and few pockets of extreme northwest India," the IMD said in its forecast.

# Water supply to be hit due to maintenance work: DJB

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Delhiites will have to face a water crisis as the Delhi Jal Board (DJB) on Saturday issued an advisory stating that the water supply in the national Capital will be affected due to the maintenance work at Haiderpur plant.

The areas which will be affected are North Delhi, North West Delhi, West Delhi and Part of South Delhi including Delhi Cantt. and the command area of Deer Park. Delhi is currently under heat wave conditions from the past 10 days.

According to DJB advisory, the production at the Haiderpur plant has been low for the last few days as the excessive and unusual floating material has choked the filter beds.

"We have started the cleaning of the filter bed without compromising on the production. The production should become normal by May 1 evening, DJB advisory said in a statement.

"However, the situation is being reviewed constantly. Delhi Jal Board is endeavoring to rationalise the water supply, however water will be available at low pressure till the situation improves," DJB advisory said.

The DJB has also requested the public to make judicious use of water to avoid any inconvenience and said the water tankers will be made available at the time of any water related problem.

In its summer action plan, the Delhi Jal Board is targeting the production of about 1000 MGD of potable water during the summer of 2022 by optimising all the resources. Earlier, there used to be 935 MGD of potable water produced during the summer.

This means that Delhi will have an extra 65 MGD of water supply this year. Also, water treatment plants and associated pumping installations are being renovated keeping the issue of persistent ammonia release from Haryana.

In addition, piped water supply networks are being provided in unauthorized/regularized colonies in a phased manner to improve potable water supply.

"Work for piped water supply networks with individual water connections in JJ clusters will be taken up in a phased manner. Water tankers will be provided in these areas if there is any scarcity of water," said Delhi government in a Press statement.

# Heatwave continues to sweep city

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

As the heatwave continued to sweep the national Capital, the city on Saturday recorded a maximum temperature of 43.5 degrees Celsius which was five notches higher than the normal temperature of the year, according to the India Meteorological Department (IMD).

The weather stations at Ridge, Ayaznagar, Mungeshpur, Najafgarh, Pitampura, Palam and Lodhi Road recorded maximum temperatures of 45.6 degrees Celsius, 46 degrees Celsius, 45.9 degrees Celsius, 45.9 degrees Celsius, 44.5 degrees Celsius, 43.9 degrees Celsius and 40.6 degrees Celsius respectively.

The minimum temperature in the city settled at 25.7 degrees Celsius, which was two notches above the normal temperature for this time of season, IMD stated.

The national Capital had recorded a maximum temperature of 43.7 degrees Celsius on April 18, 2010. The all-time high temperature for the month is 45.6 degrees Celsius,

which was recorded on April 29, 1941.

The relative humidity recorded at the Safdarjung observatory, in the morning at 8:30 am was 36 per cent and 17 per cent in the evening at 5:30 pm. The IMD predicted, "Heat wave conditions to continue over Northwest & Central India till May 2 and over East India till April 30 and abate thereafter." "Thunderstorm activity likely to enhance over East and Northeast India from today and over northwest India from 03rd May, 2022," said IMD.

"Formation of a Low Pressure area over south Andaman Sea around 06th May, 2022," weather station predicted.

The IMD, however, predicted dust and thunderstorm on Monday and Wednesday which is likely to give some respite to residents from the scorching heat. "Heatwave is likely to sweep across the region on Sunday too and the maximum temperature will shoot up to 43 degree Celsius..

People are likely to get some respite from the heat as the city

would witness dust or thunderstorm on Monday and Wednesday. There will be partly cloudy sky on Tuesday," IMD said.

"However, in the upcoming week the mercury will be above 40 degree Celsius," predicted the IMD. For the plains, a heatwave is declared when the maximum temperature is over 40 degrees Celsius, and at least 4.5 notches above normal.

According to the weather office, city's minimum temperature was recorded at 25.7 degrees Celsius, two notches above the normal on Saturday morning. The relative humidity at 5.30 pm on Saturday was 17 percent, the IMD said.

Addressing a press conference earlier in the day, IMD Director General Mrutyunjay Mohapatra said night would be warmer in May in most parts of the country, including Delhi.

Private weather forecasting agency, Skymet Weather said Palam recorded highest maximum temperature of the season. "Delhi Palam recorded maximum temperature 44.6 degrees Celsius, highest of the season and also highest after



People use scarfs to shield themselves from the hot summer sun in New Delhi on Saturday RANJAN DIMRI/THE PIONEER

2017 when it was 44.9 degrees Celsius. Record is 45.3 degrees Celsius on April 25 in 1970. @SkymetWeather @JATIN-SKYMET (sic)," Vice President, Meteorology and Climate Change, Skymet Weather,

Mahesh Palawat said in a tweet. Meanwhile, according to the sources in discoms, "The maximum power demand in the capital city on Sunday cloaked 5789 MW." Sources said that on account of being a Saturday,

Delhi's peak power demand was slightly less than yesterday's peak. It clocked 5789 MW at around 3: 45 pm and just a little past midnight, it had clocked 5989 MW," said sources.

## Capital reports 1,520 Covid cases, 1 death in 24 hrs

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

The national Capital recorded 1,520 fresh Covid cases with one person succumbing to the virus in the last 24 hours.

According to a health bulletin issued on Saturday, the positivity rate, which is indicative of the spread of infection in the community, stood at 5.10 per cent on Saturday with 29,775 tests having been conducted.

Delhi had recorded 1,607 Covid-19 cases and two deaths on Friday, while the positivity rate was recorded at 5.28 per cent.

The health bulletin data showed that with these new cases, the national capital's overall Covid tally has increased to 18,83,075 while the death toll has risen to 26,175. There have been four other single-day instances when the positivity rate crossed the 5% mark this month, mostly owing to fewer tests. In fact, the rate likely remained under 5% over the last two weeks because the number

of tests was gradually increased from less than 10,000 to over 30,000. The positivity rate usually tends to drop if the number of tests is increased suddenly. The increase, experts believe, is because of all Covid-19 norms being relaxed. There is no threat from a new variant so far, according to genomic sequencing labs.

The national capital on Thursday had recorded 1,490 COVID-19 cases and two deaths, and the positivity rate had stood at 4.62 per cent.

The number of daily COVID-19 cases in Delhi had touched Rohini area as an "abode of lakes" record high of 28,867 on January 13 during the third wave of the pandemic. The city had recorded a positivity rate of 30.6 per cent on January 14, the highest during the third wave of the pandemic, which was largely due to highly transmissible Omicron variant of coronavirus. The number of patients under home-isolation

is 4,044 on Saturday, the bulletin said. There are 9,586 beds for

COVID-19 patients in Delhi hospitals and 154 (1.61 per

cent) of them are occupied, it added.

## SDMC announces special arrangements in hospitals

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

In view of the surging number of coronavirus cases in the national Capital, the South Delhi Municipal Corporation (SDMC) on Saturday announced special arrangements in the hospitals under their jurisdiction to control spread of the disease, said a senior official.

According to a senior SDMC official, the civic agency has made elaborate arrangements at its hospitals and health centres like setting up of separate registration counters for suspected Covid patients, separate waiting rooms, separate queues for medical consultations, dedicated lab testing

facilities and separate counters for free distribution of medicines besides making people aware through IEC activities.

"All SDMC hospitals and health centres have been asked to make proper arrangement of signages at premises of hospitals and health units. All medical officers and in-charges have been asked to ensure that health care staff (HCW) could follow Covid related guidelines and norms," he said.

"The civic body have also been directed to maintain adequate stock of essential medicines such as Paracetamol, Azithromycin, ORS, Levocetirizine, cough medicines, Pantocid, etc and essential items like PPE kits, masks,

gloves, sanitizers, liquid soaps, pulse oximeters etc. should also be stocked for the prevention and control of coronavirus," he said.

"To meet any emergency requirement, oxygen supplying units and PSA oxygen plants set up at hospitals have been asked to remain in operational mode.

"Sufficient numbers of oxygen cylinders and concentrators have been made available to make sure uninterrupted supply of oxygen to the patients. Advisory has been issued to refer patients suspected of higher virus infection to higher tertiary care nodal hospitals for further care and treatment," SDMC official said.

## Will BJP dissolve Gujarat House ahead of Assembly elections, asks Kejriwal

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Delhi Chief Minister and Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) supremo Arvind Kejriwal on Saturday asked the BJP if the Gujarat Legislative Assembly will be dissolved for announcement of elections in the State next week.

In a tweet, the AAP national convener also wondered if the BJP was so much scared of his party that it plans to hold elections in the State much ahead of the schedule.

"Is the BJP going to dissolve the Gujarat Legislative Assembly and announce the Gujarat elections next week? So much fear of AAP?" Kejriwal tweeted in Hindi.

The Assembly polls in the Bharatiya Janata Party-ruled Gujarat are expected to be held later this year. Riding high on its stupendous victory



in the Punjab Assembly poll, the AAP is preparing to contest on all seats in the Gujarat elections, hoping to gain a foothold in the state.

Early this month, the AAP claimed that its internal survey found that the party could win around 58 seats in Gujarat Assembly polls. The survey said AAP is likely to get votes from rural voters and from the lower and middle-class segments in the urban areas. "As per our internal survey, as on today we will win 58 seats.

## Man, son held for duping ₹35L from woman in Kondli area

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

The Delhi Police has arrested a 46-year-old man and his son from Delhi's Kondli area for allegedly duping a woman of over Rs 35 lakh on the pretext of getting a petrol pump allotted in her name.

The accused has been identified as Meghraj Singh and his son Gaurav Milind (23), residents of Kondli in Mayur Vihar Phase-III here. Milind also has a YouTube channel named "ggg productions" and has released three to four songs in the last two years on it, police said.

According to Rohit Meena, the Deputy Commissioner of Police (DCP), Crime Branch, police received a complaint from Babita Devi who alleged that she had been cheated by Singh and Milind.

## Govt to develop Rohini area as 'abode of lakes'

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

The Delhi Government plans to develop Rohini area as an "abode of lakes and recreation" and the work will be completed in eight months, Delhi Water Minister Satyendar Jain said on Saturday. Jain visited Rohini Lake situated in Sector 25, Rohini, and reviewed the progress of various units that are being constructed.

Jain has directed the officials to modify the structures in order to maximise the underground water recharge with cost-effective methods as well as maintain the ecological conditions.

Later, Jain tweeted: "Visited Rohini Sewage Treatment Plant, where huge lakes and green areas spread over 80 acres are being constructed. A total of eight lakes will receive

and recharge 68 MLD of treated water from STP after polishing to a biochemical oxygen demand (BOD) 3 level.

The Kejriwal Government plans to develop the area as an "abode of lakes and recreation." The work will be completed in eight months, he said.

The entire project is broadly based on sewage water remediation and lake development. According to Delhi Jal Board, this Rohini Lake will be constructed on 80 acres of land and will be used for a variety of environment-friendly purposes.

The Delhi Water Minister's primary focus is on developing the lake area as a landscaped tourist spot that can act as a source of recreation for visitors. The Rohini Lake project is expected to be completed in an

eight-month time frame and will be commissioned within one month after completion, the statement said.

The lake project will also include a primary pedestrian, a secondary pedestrian and a jungle trail with a 4.5-m pathway that will run through the middle of the lake.

Numerous trees and plants will be part of the project, not just to give it a complete aesthetic look but also to allow the visitors to get closer to nature. It will also be accompanied by world-class facilities like parking spaces, cafeteria, children's park, entrance plaza, grand stepped plaza, etc, it added.

Along with this, a stepped water garden, water alcoves, and an outdoor museum that will narrate story of water harvesting in India will also be set up at the lake site, the DJB said.

## Firefighting on to douse Bhalswa blaze

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Firefighting operations are still going on to douse the blaze that broke out in north Delhi's Bhalswa landfill site earlier on April 26. According to fire department, five fire tenders are still working on the spot to douse the flames. Several videos showed the blaze churning out dense plumes of smoke and turning the sky hazy grey.

Local residents on Wednesday said the thick smoke was choking them. The cause of the fire is yet to be ascertained. An official had said rising temperatures lead to the formation of "extremely flammable" methane gas at the dumping yards.

On Friday, a police complaint was filed by those residing near Bhalswa landfill site against the North Delhi Municipal Corporation. The residents filed the complaint at

the Bhalswa Dairy police station, demanding legal action against North Delhi Mayor Raja Iqbal Singh, Deputy Mayor Archana Dilip Singh and North MCD standing committee vice-chairman Vijay Kumar Bhagat.

Delhi Environment Minister Gopal Rai on Wednesday blamed "corruption" in the municipal corporation for the frequent fires at landfill sites in the city, saying

the BJP-ruled civic bodies should have used bulldozers to clear the mountains of garbage. Gyan Sarovar School, a child resource centre for children of ragpickers living near the Bhalswa landfill site, has been closed for a week as thick smoke enveloped the area.

Three incidents of fire were reported this year at east Delhi's Ghazipur landfill site, including one on March 28 which was doused after over 50 hours.



## Miffed at extortion bids by in-laws, rape accused jumps to death at court

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

A 21-year-old rape accused jumped to death from the sixth floor of a Faridabad court building on Saturday after his regular bail plea was heard.

Accused Suraj's parents, who had accompanied him to the court, said their son had married the girl who had accused him of rape, but alleged that her parents had begun demanding money from him. He was upset due to their demand, they added.

Suraj was a native of Ghaziabad and was working at a private firm in Faridabad. On June 15 last year, an FIR was registered against him at Khari Pul police station and he was arrested a week later. He secured an interim bail on August 11, and on Saturday, he

had arrived at the court to attend the hearing of his regular bail plea, police said. His parents said Suraj looked disturbed as he came out after the hearing.

They said they were standing some distance away while Suraj jumped off the court building. The police rushed him to hospital but the doctors declared him brought dead.

About the demand from the girl's parents, Suraj's father said, "First, they asked for Rs 5 lakh and then Rs 10 lakh. Off late, they were asking for Rs 15 lakh and our son was upset due to this."

Suraj's parents, however, said they did not file a complaint against the girl and her parents. "We have not received any complaint from the family of the deceased yet.

## DP inks MoU with MSDE to provide vocational training

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

The Delhi Police on Saturday signed a Memorandum of understanding (MoU) with the Ministry of Skill Development & Entrepreneurship (MSDE) to provide vocational training to around 10,000 fresh candidates across 67 police stations with active participation of corporate houses under their scheme YUVA 2.0.

Speaking on the occasion, Delhi Lieutenant Governor, Anil Bajjal, recalled how idea behind YUVA was born when he recommended then Delhi Police Commissioner to mark those who were on verge of breaking line and integrate them with mainstream. Complementing youth who got



employed, the LG exhorted them to constantly develop their skills to extent of becoming job givers. Delhi CP, Rakesh Asthana said that YUVA program is meant to provide employment oriented skills to those who are first time criminals, victims of crimes and those who have propensity to

commit crime. It not only mirrors humane and compassionate care of Delhi Police, but also serves prime objective of policing. "Around 10,000 youth are proposed to be trained with new technical and digital courses including Artificial Intelligence, Cyber world during scheme of YUVA 2.0," the CP said.

## RERA: No project registered under Land Pooling Policy of DDA

SHEKHAR SINGH ■ NEW DELHI

The Real Estate Regulatory Authority (RERA) in Delhi has issued an advisory saying that it has not registered any real estate project under the Land Pooling Policy of Delhi Development Authority (DDA) and the home buyers and general public are to be extremely careful and not be misled by the promoters, builders, developers, who in form of Societies, Companies, Trusts are collecting money on the pretext of providing flats or apartments.

The move comes after several complaints were received from various home, commercial space, plot buyers that many builders and developers are avoiding RERA registration of their projects in capital on various pretexts.

"If anyone notices violation of any provision of the Real Estate (Regulation and Development) Act, 2016, it may be brought to our notice through a complaint (along with photographs or any other evidence) sent to email : gdel-hirera@gmail.com or above given address," read the advisory.

The Authority has noticed that some of the Societies registered under the Societies Registration Act, 1860 (which cannot undertake housing as an activity under Section 20 of said Act), Multi-state Cooperative Societies registered under the Multi-state Cooperative Societies Act, 2002, Companies registered under the Companies Act, 2013 and Trusts formed under the Indian Trust Act 1882,

have collected money from home buyers and general public on the pretext of providing flats/apartments under the Land Pooling Policy of DDA.

According to the advisory issued under section 33 and 34 of the Real Estate (Regulation and Development) Act, 2016, various promoters including builders and developers have expressed doubt before the authority if they are required to register their plot area that exceeds 500 square meter but the number of apartments proposed to be constructed remain below nine.

"Most of them appear to be under the impression that no registration is required with RERA if the plot size is either of 500 sq meters or below or they are constructing less than nine units. These impressions

are not correct," stated the notice.

The notice further stated that no promoter shall advertise, market, book, sell or offer for sale, or invite persons to purchase any plot, apartment or building, as the case may be, in any real estate project, in any planning area, without registering the real estate project with the RERA.

"Provided that the projects which are ongoing on the date of commencement of this Act and for which the completion certificate has not been issued, the promoter shall make an application to the authority for registration of the said project within a period of three months from the date of commencement of this act," the notice further read.

"In the interest of allottees,

for projects which are developed beyond the planning area but with the requisite permission of the local authority, it may, by order, direct the promoter of such project to register with the authority and the provisions of this act or the rules and regulations made there under, shall apply to such projects from that stage of registration," the notice further read.

"The authority, considering the intent and purpose of the act, would like to clarify in the interest of all allottees including home, commercial space, plot buyers and general public, that all Real Estate Projects being developed within DDA Master Plan 2021 area in Delhi would require compulsory registration with RERA, as per category," the notice further read.

# My blueprint for Cong was all about regaining its glory: PK



PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

Election strategist Prashant Kishor has revealed that his strategy for the Congress' revival through the much-hyped 600-slide presentation was not about defeating Narendra Modi, but about how to win India.

"My blueprint was all about how the Congress should regain its glory days. It wasn't about winning one or two elections. It was to help the Congress resurrect itself as a strong political force in the

country," Kishor said in an interview to the BBC.

"It is not about how to defeat Modi, it is about how to win India. There is a fine but important difference between the two. The basis of the presentation was not about how to defeat the BJP or to win a particular state election," he explained after hogging lime-light for almost a fortnight with several rounds of meetings and presentations to the Congress leaders including party chief Sonia Gandhi.

The poll strategist said that while the BJP would

remain in a strong position for some time to come, they were not invincible. Moreover, a resurgent Congress would be good for democracy, he added.

Acknowledging that there were some differences with Congress leaders, Kishor said there were also many points that they agreed on and decided would be good for the party's fortunes if implemented. Discussions were held and a strategy was agreed on, Kishor added.

The former JD(U) leader was offered by the grand old party to come on board and remain actively involved in party affairs instead of giving consultations. But Kishor rejected the party's offer to join due to a number of factors.

One of these was the Empowered Action Group (EAG), an eight-member decision-making body formed by the Congress to deal with the political challenges besieging it.

Kishor, who was invited to be a member of the EAG, found it "problematic" that the panel was not aligned with the Congress constitution. This may have led to contradictions

and conflicts in the future, he said.

On the question of suggesting Priyanka Gandhi's name for Congress president, Kishor said that this is a rumour. His first choice for this post is the current president Sonia Gandhi. He said that he definitely wants that the one who is the president of Congress should not be the leader of the Parliament Party.

He mentioned that he himself went to the Congress, and his stature in front of the Congress is not so big that it should come to him.

He said that if the Congress implements the suggestions made in his proposal, then it will definitely benefit. Regarding the future ahead, Kishor said that he will clear it in the next day or two.

When asked if he still talks to Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Home Minister Amit Shah, Kishor said that if the PM calls, then who will be the person in the country who will say that he will not talk. Kishor had worked for PM Modi in the 2014 Lok Sabha elections.

# ‘Concerned Citizens’ group calls CCG’s letter to PM ‘agenda driven’

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

In an open letter to Prime Minister Narendra Modi, a group of former judges, ex-diplomats, former public servants and armed forces officers on Saturday backed his Government and described a letter last week written by another group of their counterparts as "agenda driven" and "politicised".

A set of former civil servants called CCG had on April 26 addressed an open letter to the Prime Minister calling for "an end to politics of hate".

The counter letter by 'Concerned Citizens' said the "self-styled" Constitutional Conduct Group's (CCG) "biased politicised statements" are not "acceptable".

"... the reality is that this is a manifest political anti-Modi Government exercise which this group undertakes periodically in the belief that they can shape public opinion against the ruling dispensation."

"This is way for them to release their frustration that public opinion remains solidly behind Prime Minister

Modi as recent state elections have shown", the letter said.

The letter said that these open letters "repeat the same language, have the same tenor and use biased terms with clear ideological moorings speaks for itself."

"Strangely, one often notices a striking similarity between the phraseology of the CCG missives and utterances in the western media or by western agencies", it further said.

The statement hit-out at what it called the "studied silence of this so-called CCG on unprecedented post-poll violence in West Bengal - which was so serious that the Kolkata High Court had to mandate the National Human Rights Commission to carry out an independent investigation".

The letter said the same attitude shapes their reactions (or rather the lack of any reaction) to the multiple violent incidents in various states ruled by different political parties (premeditated attacks on peaceful processions during Ram Navami, Hanuman Jayanti, and other sacred festivals in Rajasthan, Madhya



Pradesh, Gujarat and New Delhi), and targeted violation of human rights adversely affecting the livelihoods of the poor irrespective of their religion.

The reality is that instances of major communal violence have palpably decreased under the BJP government and this is appreciated by the public. This has instigated groups like the CCG to highlight beyond proportion sporadic instances of communal violence that no society can entirely eradicate", it said.

Their "anger and anguish" is not only empty virtue-signaling, they are actually fuelling the politics of hate they seek to combat by attempting to engineer hate against the present government with their patent prejudices and false portrayals," said 'Concerned Citizens'.

There are total 197 Signatories to the letter including ex-Chief Justice to Sikkim High Court Pramod Kohli, ex-Foreign Secretary Kanwal Sibal, former foreign secretary Shashank and ex-RAW chief Sanjeev Tripathi.

# Chidambaram takes swipe at Govt cancelling trains to run coal rakes

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

Former Union Minister P Chidambaram on Saturday took a swipe at the Centre over the issue of widespread power outages, saying the Government has found the "perfect solution" to it which is to cancel passenger trains and run coal rakes.

The senior Congress leader also said the Ministries of coal, railway and power are desperately inventing excuses to hide their "monumental incompetence".

Various states continued to reel under power crisis with soaring mercury pushing demand higher, as opposition parties blamed the Centre for coal shortage at thermal plants.

Chidambaram in a tweet said the ministries of coal, railway and power are desperately inventing excuses to hide their "monumental incompetence".

"If they believed the yarn that we were witnessing a V-



shaped recovery, they would have stepped up coal production and coal imports," said the former finance minister.

Despite the absence of a V-shaped recovery, and only a recovery in fits and starts, the government is "totally unprepared" to tackle the coal-rail-power crisis, the former Union minister said.

As shortages persist and inflation rises, please brace for more hardships, he added.

Chidambaram also referred to reports which has said Indian Railways "vastly underestimated the require-

ments for 2021-22".

"Evidently, no lessons were learnt and the situation has worsened in the first month of 2022-23. Has the Minister of Railway fixed accountability for the grave lapse?" he said.

Why has the minister not tendered an apology to the country, Chidambaram asked.

Along with Congress leaders The Aam Aadmi Party has also held the Centre responsible for the ongoing power crisis and alleged that logistical support was not being provided for coal distribution to power plants.

# Reduce NEET SS 2021 cut-off percentile: FAIMA to Mandaviya

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

The Federation of All India Medical Association (FAIMA) has written to Union Health Minister Mansukh Mandaviya, requesting him to reduce NEET Super Speciality 2021 cut-off percentile for the mop-up, stray vacancy round.

Referring to hundreds of vacant seats in the super speciality course, the doctors said that with the current cut-off of 50 percentile, many doctors will be unable to meet the cut-off criteria resulting in huge vacancies again.

As per the letter, there are a total of 889 super speciality seats that have gone unfilled after the second round of counselling for NEET Super Speciality 2021.

"As per the current seat matrix, a total of 889 super speciality seats (DM, MCH, DNB) have remained vacant even after the second round of counselling for NEET 2021," the letter said.



The letter further read, "The current counselling process could be made more accessible to a large number of specialist doctors if the cut-off percentile for the eligibility was reduced to maximum."

"Requesting @MoHFW\_INDIA @NBEMS\_INDIA & @NMC\_IND to reduce the eligibility criteria for NEET SS for mop up round of counselling in order to fill all the vacant seats and hence avoid seat wastage and less numbers of super specialists," FAIMA

also tweeted.

Rohan Krishnan, President, FAIMA Doctors Association, said that it is very important to understand the needs of super specialist doctors in India.

"The government lacks concern when it comes to super specialist doctors. That is why for better treatment of cancer or cardiac ailments, one has to think of going to Delhi or Mumbai. At least we should make such treatments available in all the state capitals," Krishnan said.

# Govt bans sale of mobile jammers by e-retailers without authorised nod

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Central Consumer Protection Authority (CCPA) has issued an advisory to e-commerce entities concerning selling or facilitating sale of wireless jammers to consumers through their e-commerce platforms.

Sale and use of any wireless device without authorization/license under the Indian Telegraph Act, 1885 or Indian Wireless Telegraphy Act (IWTA) 1933, unless exempted by rules, is illegal. Jammers come under the purview of IWTA, 1933 and the Act lays down that license is required for possession and use of jammers. "To safeguard consumer rights while shopping online, CCPA has also issued an Advisory to all marketplace e-commerce entities to ensure that details of sellers as mandated under sub-rule (5) of rule 6 of the Consumer Protection

(E-commerce) Rules, 2020 including name and contact number of the grievance officer are provided in a clear and accessible manner, displayed prominently to users on the platform," read the statement.

As per the guidelines issued by the government, Jammers may be allowed only under exceptional circumstances, only when authorized by Secretary (Security), Cabinet Secretariat.

Earlier, the Department of Telecommunication issued an Advisory on January 21, this year with reference to illegal facilitation and sale of wireless jammers on online platforms. Also, Department of Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade has issued a Letter to all e-commerce entities to comply with the rules and regulation laid down by the Government of India against sale and purchase of any kind of mobile jammers.

# ‘Over 60% of 12-14 age group have got 1st dose of Covid vax: Health Minister



PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

Amidst a single day rise of 3,688 new coronavirus infections taking the active cases to 18,684, Union Health Minister Mansukh Mandaviya on Saturday said that over 60 per cent of youngsters between the 12-14 age group have received the 1st dose of Covid-

19 vaccine.

Mandaviya tweeted, "Over 60 per cent of youngsters between the 12-14 age group have received the 1st dose of #COVID19 vaccine. Congratulations to all my young friends who got vaccinated. We all are proud of you! Let's continue this momentum!" Officials from the Ministry said that steps are

being taken to accelerate the vaccination rate further against the backdrop of uptick in daily coronavirus caseload across the States. The country also recorded 50 deaths, taking the toll to 5,23,803. There are 18,684 active cases in India, which comprise 0.04 per cent of the total infections, according to data released by the Union Ministry of Health and Family Welfare.

Coronavirus cases in Delhi continue to rise with the national capital recording 1,607 fresh infections on Friday, up from the previous day (1,490). Meanwhile, the city also saw two COVID-related deaths and 1,246 recoveries in the last 24 hours. With this, the positivity rate in the capital now stands at 5.28 per cent.

Meanwhile, Maharashtra recorded 148 fresh coronavirus

cases on Friday, a bulk of them in Mumbai, while two more patients succumbed to the infection in the state. With this, Maharashtra's COVID-19 tally rose to 78,77,577, while the death toll increased to 1,47,842.

Overall, there has been an increase of 883 active cases in the last 24 hours, while 2,755 patients were discharged on Friday. A total of 188.89 crore vaccine doses have been administered so far under the nationwide vaccination drive while overall a total of 2,755 recoveries have been recorded in the last 24 hours, taking the count to 4,25,33,377. The daily positivity rate is at 0.74 per cent while the weekly positivity rate is at 0.66 per cent.

A total of 83.74 crore tests have been conducted so far, with 4,96,640 tests conducted in the last 24 hours.

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

Most of us know that sleep affects our mental state. In fact, sleep is closely connected to mental and emotional health and has demonstrated links to depression, anxiety, bipolar disorder, and other conditions.

Now a study has found that seven hours is the ideal amount of sleep for people in their middle age and upwards. It said that both insufficient or excessive sleep is associated with poorer cognitive performance and mental health, including dementia.

The study, published in the journal Nature Aging, indicates that one possible reason for the association between insufficient sleep and cognitive decline may be due to the disruption of slow-wave—'deep'—sleep. Disruption to this type of sleep has been shown to have a close link with memory consolidation as well as the build-up of amyloid—a key protein which, when it misfolds, can cause 'tangles' in the brain characteristic of some forms of dementia. Additionally, lack of sleep may hamper the brain's ability to rid itself of toxins, said researchers from the University of Cambridge and Fudan University. For the study, the team examined data from nearly 500,000 adults aged 38-73 years from the UK Biobank.

Participants were asked about their sleeping patterns, mental health and well-being, and took part in a series of cognitive tests. Brain imaging and genetic data were available for almost 40,000 of the study participants. By analysing these

data, the team found that both insufficient and excessive sleep duration was associated with impaired cognitive performance, such as processing speed, visual attention, memory, and problem-solving skills.

Seven hours of sleep per night was the optimal amount



of sleep for cognitive performance, but also for good mental health, with people experiencing more symptoms of anxiety and depression and worse overall wellbeing if they reported sleeping for longer or shorter durations, the researchers said.

# Naravane retires as Army Chief, Gen Manoj Pande succeeds him

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

General M M Naravane on Saturday retired as the Army Chief and General Manoj Pande succeeded him as the next chief. Naravane served in the Army for 42 years.

Naravane called on President Ram Nath Kovind at the Rashtrapati Bhavan. The outgoing chief also met Defence Minister Rajnath Singh who said in a tweet "Had a wonderful meeting with the Army Chief, General MM Naravane, who is going

to retire today after serving the nation for 42 years. His contributions as a military leader has strengthened India's defence capabilities and preparedness. I wish him success in his future endeavours," the minister tweeted.

Naravane was presented the Guard of Honour at the South Block lawns.

Pande, who was serving as the Vice Chief, became the first officer from the Corps of Engineers to helm the force. Before taking charge as Vice Chief on February 1, Pande was heading the Eastern Army Command, tasked with

guarding the Line of Actual Control (LAC) in Sikkim and Arunachal Pradesh sectors.

Pande takes charge of the Army at a time India is facing myriad security challenges, including along the borders with China and Pakistan.

As the Army chief, he will also have to coordinate with the Navy and the Indian Air Force on the government's plan to roll out theatre commands.

The theaterisation plan was being implemented by India's first Chief of Defence Staff (CDS) General Bipin Rawat. He died in a helicopter

crash in December last. The government is yet to appoint General Rawat's successor.

In his distinguished career, Pande also served as the Commander-in-Chief of the Andaman and Nicobar Command (CINCAN), which is India's only tri-services command.

An alumnus of the National Defence Academy (NDA), he was commissioned in the Corps of Engineers (The Bombay Sappers) in December 1982.

Pande has held several prestigious command and staff assignments in conven-



tional as well as counter-insurgency operations in all types of terrain.

He commanded an engi-

neer regiment along the Line of Control (LOC) during Operation Parakram in Jammu and Kashmir, an engineer brigade in the western sector, an infantry brigade along the LoC and a mountain division in high-altitude area of western Ladakh and a corps in the Northeast.

His staff exposures include Brigade Major of a Mountain Brigade in the Northeast, Assistant Military Secretary (AMS) in the Military Secretary's Branch and Brigadier General Staff (Operations) at the Eastern Command headquarters.

# IMD to launch highly localised weather info services in 50 cities

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

The India Meteorological Department is all set to launch highly localised weather information services in 50 cities across the country on the lines of a similar initiative being implemented in the national Capital region.

The weather office had launched the Urban Meteorological Services for Delhi-NCR in June last year

from 13 weather stations to provide current observations as well as early warnings through Nowcast.

This will help the authorities concerned and the general public to take informed decisions and suitable measures for weather and air quality related events. It also provides district-wise warnings for severe weather events such as thunderstorm, heavy rainfall in colour-coded form which could be understood easily by the general public.

# Ukraine fights to hold off Russian advances in south, east



Kharkiv has been repeatedly battered by Moscow's forces and still faces daily attacks

AP ■ KHARKIV (UKRAINE)

Ukrainian forces fought to hold off Russian attempts to advance in the south and east, where the Kremlin is seeking to capture the country's industrial Donbas region, and a senior U.S. Defense official said Moscow's offensive is going much slower than planned.

While artillery fire, sirens and explosions were heard Friday in some cities, the United Nations sought to broker an evacuation of civilians from the increasingly hellish ruins of Mariupol, where the mayor said the situation inside the steel plant that has become the southern port city's last stronghold is dire.

Citizens are "begging to get saved," Mayor Vadym Boichenko said. "There, it's not a matter of days. It's a matter of hours." In other developments: A former U.S. Marine was killed while fighting along-

side Ukrainian forces, his family said in what would be the war's first known death of an American in combat. The U.S. Has not confirmed the report.

Ukrainian forces are cracking down on people accused of helping Russian troops. In the Kharkiv region alone, nearly 400 have been detained under anti-collaboration laws enacted after Moscow's Feb. 24 invasion.

The international sanctions imposed on the Kremlin over the war are squeezing the country. The Russian Central Bank said Russia's economy is expected to contract by up to 10% this year, and the outlook is "extremely uncertain."

Getting a full picture of the unfolding battle in the east has been difficult because airstrikes and artillery barrages have made it extremely dangerous for reporters to move around. Both Ukraine and the Moscow-backed rebels fighting in the east also have introduced tight

restrictions on reporting from the combat zone. But so far, Russia's troops and the separatist forces appear to have made only minor gains.

In part because of the strength of Ukrainian resistance, the U.S. Believes the Russians are "at least several days behind where they wanted to be" as they try to encircle Ukrainian troops in the east, said the senior U.S. Defense official, who spoke on condition of anonymity to discuss the American military's assessment.

As Russian troops try to move north out of Mariupol so they can advance on Ukrainian forces from the south, their progress has been "slow and uneven and certainly not decisive," the official said.

The British Defense Ministry offered a similar assessment, saying it believes Russian forces in Ukraine are likely suffering from "weakened morale," along with a lack of

unit-level skills and "inconsistent air support."

Russian forces have "been forced to merge and redeploy depleted and disparate units from the failed advances in northeast Ukraine," the ministry said in a tweet Saturday as part of a daily report on the war. It did not say on what basis it made the evaluation.

In the bombed-out city of Mariupol, around 100,000 people were believed trapped with little food, water or medicine. An estimated 2,000 Ukrainian defenders and 1,000 civilians were holed up at the Azovstal steel plant.

The Soviet-era steel plant has a vast underground network of bunkers able to withstand airstrikes. But the situation has grown more dire after the Russians dropped "bunker busters" and other bombs.

"Locals who manage to leave Mariupol say it is hell, but when they leave this fortress, they say it is worse," the mayor said. U.N. Spokesman Farhan Haq said the organization was negotiating with authorities in Moscow and Kyiv to create safe passage.

This time, "we hope there's a slight touch of humanity in the enemy," the mayor said. Ukraine has blamed the failure of numerous previous evacuation attempts on continued Russian shelling.

Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov told Saudi-owned Al-Arabiya TV that the real problem is that "humanitarian corridors are being ignored by Ukrainian ultranationals." Moscow has repeatedly claimed right-wing Ukrainians are thwarting evacuation efforts and using civilians as human shields. Fighting could be heard from

Kramatorsk to Sloviansk, two cities about 18 kilometers (11 miles) apart in the Donbas. Columns of smoke rose from the Sloviansk area and neighboring cities. At least one person was reported wounded in the shelling.

In his nightly video address, Zelenskyy accused Russia of trying to destroy the Donbas and all who live there.

The constant attacks "show that Russia wants to empty this territory of all people," he said.

"If the Russian invaders are able to realize their plans even partially, then they have enough artillery and aircraft to turn the entire Donbas into stones, as they did with Mariupol."

Ukrainian troops in the Luhansk region of the Donbas repulsed an attack by Russian airborne troops and killed most of their unit, the governor said. "Only seven of the invaders survived," Gov. Serhiy Haidai said Friday on Telegram. The claim could not immediately be confirmed. He did not say where the attack took place but said Russian forces were preparing for an attack on Severodonetsk.

In a neighborhood on the outskirts of Kharkiv that is regularly shelled by Russian forces, some residents remain in their apartments, even though the buildings have charred gaping holes. There is no running water or electricity so they gather outside to cook on an open flame.

Ukrainian reservists staying in a neighborhood cellar say the Russians have hit the buildings with rockets, artillery and tank fire. "A tank can come at a short distance and fire all of its ammunition on residential areas."

## Ukrainian women train in Kosovo to find, clear landmines

AP ■ PEJA (KOSOVO)

Learning to identify and defuse explosives is something Anastasia Minchukova never thought she would have to do as an English teacher in Ukraine.

Yet there she was wearing a face shield, armed with a landmine detector and venturing into a field dotted with danger warnings.

Russia's war in Ukraine took Minchukova, 20, and five other women to Kosovo, where they are attending a hands-on course in clearing landmines and other dangers that may remain hidden across their country once combat ends.

"There is a huge demand on people who know how to do demining because the war will be over soon," Minchukova said. "We believe there is so much work to be done."

The 18-day training camp takes place at a range in the western town of Peja where a Malta-based company regularly offers courses for job-seekers, firms working in former war zones, humanitarian organizations and government agencies.

Kosovo was the site of a devastating 1998-99 armed conflict between ethnic Albanian separatists and Serbian forces that killed about 13,000 people and left thousands of unexploded mines in need of clearing.

Praedium Consulting Malta's range includes bombed and derelict buildings as well as expanses of vegetation.

Instructor Artur Tigani, who tailored the curriculum to reflect Ukraine's environment, said he was glad to share his small Balkan nation's experience with the Ukrainian women.

Though 23 years have passed, "it's still fresh in our memories, the difficulties we met when we started clearance in Kosovo," Tigani said.

Tigani is a highly trained and experienced mine action operations officer who served as an engineer in the former Yugoslav army during the 1980s.

He has been deployed in his native Kosovo, Sri Lanka, Uganda, Congo, Rwanda and Kenya, and conducted training missions in Syria, and Iraq.

During a class last week, he took his trainees through a makeshift minefield before moving to an improvised outdoor classroom featuring a huge board with various samples of explosives and mines.

While it is impossible to assess how littered with mines and unexploded ordnance Ukraine is at the moment, the aftermaths of other conflicts suggest the problem will be huge.

"In many parts of the world, explosive remnants of war continue to kill and maim thousands of civilians each year during and long after active hostilities have ended. The majority of victims are children," the International Committee of the Red Cross testified at a December UN conference.

## Lavrov: 1 million evacuated from war-hit Ukraine



AP ■ LVIV

Russia's foreign minister says Moscow has evacuated over 1 million people from Ukraine since the war there began.

The comments Saturday by Sergey Lavrov in an interview with Chinese state news agency Xinhua come as Ukraine has accused Moscow of forcefully sending Ukrainians out of the country. Lavrov said that figure included more than 300 Chinese civilians.

Lavrov offered no evidence to support his claim in the interview.

Lavrov also said that negotiations continue between Russia and Ukraine "almost every day." However, he cautioned that "progress has not been easy."

Lavrov in part blamed "the bellicose rhetoric and inflammatory actions of Western supporters of Kyiv regime" for disrupting talks. However, Russian state TV nightly has had guests suggest that Moscow use nuclear weapons in conflict.

# Lanka's powerful Buddhist clergy threatens to issue anti-Govt decree

## Will prove majority in Parliament next week: Sri Lankan Opposition leader

PTI ■ COLOMBO

A senior leader from Sri Lanka's Opposition party Samagi Jana Balawegaya (SJB) on Saturday said his party will prove their majority in Parliament next week for no-confidence motion against government led by Rajapaksa family, according to a media report.

President Gotabaya Rajapaksa has asked Opposition to show their majority by garnering support of 113 lawmakers in 225-member Parliament to form interim government. "Everyone will be able to see that we com-

mand a majority next week and I will not reveal how we are going to do it as of now," Daily Mirror newspaper quoted SJB MP and Chief Opposition Whip Lakshman Kiriella as saying.

"President should resign from his post and then constitutional reforms should follow to ensure checks and balances among pillars of government," he said during a press conference. Another SJB MP Mujiibur Rahman, who was also present during press conference, said his party will also push for impeachment against President.

PTI ■ COLOMBO

Sri Lanka's powerful Buddhist clergy has threatened to issue a decree against the government led by President Gotabaya Rajapaksa and decided to stage a protest against it on Saturday for its failure to make way for an interim government to resolve the ongoing political and economic crisis.

Thousands of demonstrators have hit the streets since April 9, as the government ran out of money for vital imports; prices of essential commodities have skyrocketed and there are acute shortages in fuel, medicines and electricity supply.

In recent weeks, the Buddhist clergy, civil society and trade chambers have demanded the formation of an interim government in the pre-

dominantly Buddhist nation. Now the Buddhist clergy has decided to come out to press for the resignation of Prime Minister Mahinda Rajapaksa to make way for an interim government.

Some 1,000 monks are to stage a protest march on Saturday evening demanding the government to act according to their letter addressed to President Gotabaya Rajapaksa dated April 4. Sirisumana said at a parley to be held later on Saturday with all parties representing Parliament, they would issue a decree against the government for their failure to act.

"We asked for the resignation of the prime minister and the government and appoint an interim government for a period of one year. The government during that period would be directed by a special panel..."

Agalakada Sirisumana, a senior monk told reporters. He said they had not received a satisfactory response from the government. The four Buddhist chapters - Malwathu, Asgiri, Amarapura and Ramanya chapters - wield a lot of power in Sri Lanka's political landscape.

President Gotabaya Rajapaksa has also come under pressure from a dissident group of the ruling Sri Lanka Podujana Peramuna (SLPP) coalition to set up an interim government.

However, Prime Minister Mahinda Rajapaksa, 76, has refused to resign. He stresses that any interim government should only be formed under his premiership. The Opposition maintains they would never be part of any government under the two Rajapaksas.

## How China is using metal barriers to fight Covid pandemic

AP ■ TAIPEI

Several districts in Shanghai sput up metal barriers last weekend as part of the city's bat against a COVID-19 outbreak, in a move that drew protests and anger from some residents.

Workers in white head-to-toe protective gear erected mesh wire fences and metal sheets to block off roads, residential communities and even entrances of some apartment buildings.

A majority of city's 25 million residents were prevented from leaving their homes during a month-long lockdown, though some neighbourhoods have since opened up.

## Kim warns North Korea could 'preemptively' use nuclear weapons

AP ■ SEOUL

North Korean leader Kim Jong Un warned again that the North could preemptively use its nuclear weapons if threatened, as he praised his top army officials for a massive military parade in the capital, Pyongyang, this week.

Kim expressed "firm will" to continue developing his nuclear-armed military so that it could "preemptively and thoroughly contain and frustrate all dangerous attempts and threatening moves, including ever-escalating nuclear threats from hostile forces, if necessary," the North's official



Korean Central News Agency said Saturday. KCNA said Kim called his military officials to praise their work during Monday's parade, where the North showcased the biggest weapons in its nuclear arsenal, including intercontinental ballistic missiles that could potentially reach the US homeland.

## Israel searches for Palestinian attackers who killed guard

AP ■ JERUSALEM

The Israeli military on Saturday launched a manhunt in the northern West Bank as it searched for a pair of Palestinian attackers who shot and killed a security guard at the entrance of a Jewish settlement.

The fresh attack, combined with the death of a Palestinian man elsewhere in the occupied West Bank, could further fuel tensions that have soared over the past two months.

## PUBLIC NOTICE

To be known to all that my client Mr. Bettadapur Suryanarayana Chandrasekhara, (B.S. Chandrasekhara, son of Mr. B.S. Suryanarayana and Ms. Mrudula Ramaswamy daughter of Mr. Late B.S. Ramaswamy, both resident of Flat No. 140, Mandakini Enclave, Alaknanda, New Delhi-110019 have lost misplaced Original copy of Allotment Letter, 5th & Final Installment Demand Letter, Possession Letter, Possession Slip, NOC for obtaining Water and Electric Meter in respect of Flat No. 140, Mandakini Enclave, Alaknanda, New Delhi-110019 issued by Delhi Development Authority, Delhi. An FIR to this effect has been lodged in PS-Crime Branch, Delhi bearing I.R. No. 357813/2022 dated 29/04/2022. Any person (s) claiming any right, interest, having any objection or found in possession of original documents, may write/contact above named person at above address/phone no. 9810221449, within 15 days from the date of publication of this notice.

ACHIN SHARMA (Advocate) Regd. No. D/5425/2021 Ph.: 9650865007

## PUBLIC NOTICE

We KOTAK MAHINDRA BANK LTD (KMBL) having its branch at: Kotak Mahindra Bank, 6nd Floor, Ambadeep Building, 14, KG Marg, New Delhi, 110001. hereby declare that Manoj Garg, Khushi Garg, Ritu Garg, Tushar Garg, & Manoj HUF had submitted original documents for property being Ground Floor, First Floor and Second Floor of the building constructed Plot No.45, block No. BM (Posh) Shalimar Bagh Residential Scheme, Delhi (said property) to the bank but eventually this said property was not mortgaged and Mr. Manoj Garg and Co-borrowers created mortgage on other property in favour of Kotak Mahindra Bank Ltd. for securing the loan. The below mentioned original sale deeds in respect of the said property have been lost/misplaced: \*Conveyance Deed Dated 09.09.1997 Document No. 7715 Book No.I Volume No. 432 Page No.135-136 dated 10.09.1997 Sub-Registrar No.VI Delhi. \*Sale Deed dated 12.09.1997 Document No.7857 Book No.I Volume No.436 Page 12-19 Dated 15.09.1997 Sub-Registrar No.VI Delhi for First Floor, Second Floor and Terrace Rights. \*Sale Deed Dated 12.09.1997 Document No.7856 Book No.I Volume No.436 Page No.7-11 dated 15.09.1997 for Ground Floor without terrace rights. F.I.R. has been lodged on 29.04.2022. Hence, we hereby inform public at large that if anyone finds the same, please submit the same to our above said branch office. Authorised Officer KOTAK MAHINDRA BANK LTD. Date: 29.04.2022

# Afghan envoy at UN lodges official complaint with Security Council over Pak airstrikes in Kunar, Khost

PTI ■ UNITED NATIONS

The Charge d'Affaires at Afghanistan's UN mission here has lodged an official complaint with the Security Council over airstrikes launched by Pakistan in the eastern Afghan provinces of Kunar and Khost this month, saying cross-border shelling by the Pakistani military forces are "reprehensible" and these breaches will further destabilise peace and security in the region. Naseer Ahmad Faig, the Charge d'Affaires at the Permanent Mission of Afghanistan to the United

Nations wrote to the President of the Security Council for the month of April, the UK, that the airstrikes by the Pakistani Air Force inside Afghanistan are an "aggression against territorial integrity" of Afghanistan.

These airstrikes are a "flagrant breach of international laws", principles of the UN Charter, UN General Assembly and Security Council resolutions, including on Good-Neighbourly Relations," he said. Faig, in "letter of complaint", which he has requested be circulated as an official document

of the UN Security Council, writes that the persistent violations of Afghanistan's territory by Pakistani military forces through cross-border shelling, construction of military posts and fence inside Afghanistan's soil have been going on for over a decade.

He said that the cross-border shelling which has caused civilian casualties, displacement and destruction of public and private properties is particularly of high concern. "These acts are reprehensible and must be stopped."

## PUBLIC NOTICE

General public is hereby informed that Mr. Yogesh Sharma S/o Mr. Som Dutt is owner of Property bearing No. 36-A, Area Measuring 100.00 sq. yds., out of Area Measuring 495.00 sq. yds., Out of Khazra No. 388, Situated in the area of Village-Karkardoma in the Locality of Karkardoma, Ilaga, Shahdara, Delhi-110092. Vide Sale Deed dated 02.04.2022 Doc. No. 2866 and Mortgage by Jana Small Finance Bank Limited, said property Purchased by Mr. Rajesh Sharma S/o Mr. Vishnu Dutt Sharma. He is owner of entire property vide General Power of Attorney With Consideration Dated 03.05.2006. Vide Doc. No. 9188. If any person(s) have any objection(s) or claim in this property, then contact the undersigned within 07 days from date of this notice on below address, failing which, it will be assumed that there are no claims or issues in respect of the aforesaid property.

Raghav Tiwari (Advocate) Ch. 830, Patiala House Courts, New Delhi - 110001. Mob.: -91 9871883728

## PUBLIC NOTICE

Public at Large is hereby informed that my client Mr. OM Prakash Sethi S/o Late shri Kashi Ram Sethi R/o B-236 Derawal Nagar, Delhi 110009 declared that a G.P.A. dated 10.11.2014 executed under his name in favour of Mr. Manish Kumar Sethi S/o Shri OM Prakash Sethi R/o B-236 Derawal Nagar, Delhi 110009 in respect of commercial shop bearing No. 182, area measuring 22.3 sq. yards ward no. 13 situated at Azad market Delhi has been Revoked, Cancelled and Made Void with effect from 11/04/2022. That if anyone takes action for the same then my client shall be entitled to take appropriate legal action against them.

Sd/- Advocate Amarendra Kr. Dubey (Enrl. No. D-2002013) 501A, 5th Floor, Usha Kurn Building, Comm. Complex, Azadpur, Delhi-110033

Office of the Managing Director  
**Uttarakhand Co-Operative Dairy Federation Ltd.**  
Mangal Parao, Haldwani - 263139 (Nainital)

Adv/UCDF/Marketing/Tender/22-23 Date : 30.04.2022

**Short Term Tender Notice**

Tenders are invited by the undersigned, from experienced, reputed and financially sound Manufacturers/Suppliers for the following work so as to reach this office on or before 09.05.2022 upto 5.00 PM. Tenders will be opened on 10.05.2022 at 11.00 AM.

| S.No. | Name of work   | Details  |
|-------|--|--|
| 1.    | Supply of FOW mounted Ice Cream Tricycle Pushkart & E-Kart in various districts of Uttarakhand | Tender Fees, EMD & other related details can be seen on <a href="http://www.ucdfaanchal.com">www.ucdfaanchal.com</a> from 02.05.2022 onwards |

Managing Director, UCDF Limited

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Phone No.: 0135-2763872-76, Fax: 0135-2760289, Website: [www.uktenders.gov.in](http://www.uktenders.gov.in)

**CORRIGENDUM TO E-TENDER NOTICE**

This office e-tender specification No. CCP-11/1/2022-2023 invited previously for supply of Spot Billing Machine is hereby extended due to unavoidable reasons. The e-tender can be purchased and submitted upto 17:00 hrs of 11.05.2022. Part-I of the e-tender shall be opened on 12.05.2022 at 15:30 hrs.

Other terms and conditions will remain same as per original tender notice. For further details, please visit our website [www.uktenders.gov.in](http://www.uktenders.gov.in).

Superintending Engineer

No.: 144/EE(c)/UPLCA-2 Dt.: 30.04.2022 Corporate (Contract & Procurement-II)

SAVE ELECTRICITY IN THE INTEREST OF THE NATIONS Use LED Bulb Save Electricity. (Toll-Free: 1912)

Pay Electricity Bill Online 24x7 from [www.upcl.org](http://www.upcl.org) (For information on Electricity Theft, Informer may report to Toll Free No. 1800 180 4185/Fax No.: 0135-2760911)

UJVN Limited  
(An Uttarakhand Govt. Enterprises)  
H.O. "UJJWAL" Mahavani Bagh, C.M.S. Road, Dehradun-248006  
Telephone-0135-2763508, 2763808, Fax: 0135-2763808  
CIN No. U40101UR20013SGC025866 Website: [www.ujvn.com](http://www.ujvn.com)

RO. No. 174

**TIME EXTENSION NOTICE-I** Date: 30.04.2022

**Name of Work:-** Hiring of one no. 24 seater non AC Bus for a period of 12 months.

In reference to e-Tender No. 01/EE(M)/Kg/2022-23 invited by this office, It is to inform that due to unavoidable reasons dates of the tender are extended as below and time extension notice has been uploaded one-procurement portal. Please quote your bids accordingly. For further details kindly log on to <http://www.uktenders.gov.in>. All other terms & conditions of tender shall remain unchanged.

|  |                              |
|--|------------------------------|
| 1. Last Date/Time for receipt of bid in the portal | : 05.05.2022 up to 16:00 Hrs |
| 2. Last date of submission of original documents   | : 06.05.2022 up to 16:00 Hrs |
| 3. Date of opening of bid on the website           | : 07.05.2022 at 11.00 Hrs    |

Executive Engineer (Maint.)

"AVOID WASTEFUL USE OF ELECTRICITY"

Over 20 trapped, 39 missing in China building collapse; Prez Xi orders all-out efforts for rescue

Beijing: At least 39 people were missing and 23 trapped in a six-storey residential building collapse in China's central Hunan province, authorities said on Saturday.

Chinese President Xi Jinping has ordered all-out efforts to rescue the trapped and injured people. Five people have been rescued and admitted to nearby hospitals.

The six-story building, which has a floor area of about 700 square meters, toppled at noon on Friday in Changsha city's Wangcheng district, state-run China Global Television Network reported. PTI

# Connecticut Senate OK's bill that protects abortion providers

AP ■ HARTFORD (US)

The Connecticut Senate gave final legislative approval to a bill abortion rights advocates contend is needed to protect in-state medical providers from legal action stemming from out-of-state laws, as well as patients who travel to Connecticut to terminate a pregnancy and those who help them.

Senate President Pro Tempore Martin Looney, D-New Haven, shortly before midnight Friday said lawmakers in Connecticut, a state with a long history of supporting abortion rights, needed to pass the legislation "in defence of our own

values and our own legal system". It comes after Texas enacted a law that authorizes lawsuits against clinics, doctors and others who perform or facilitate a banned abortion, even in another state.

The bill, which already cleared House of Representatives earlier this month, passed in the Senate on a 25-9 vote. It now moves to Gov. Ned Lamont's desk.

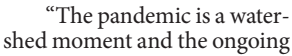
The Democrat has said he will sign it. Supporters voiced concern about spate of new abortion restrictions being enacted in a growing number of conservative states and possibility US Supreme Court may overturn or weaken Roe v.

Wade, the landmark 1973 decision that established a nationwide right to abortion.

"We have to think about what we will do when that time comes and we have to think about what we're going to do right now, given what's happening in other states," said Sen. Gary Winfield, D-New Haven, co-chair of the General Assembly's Judiciary Committee.

Under bill, state and local agencies in state of Connecticut, which codified the Roe v. Wade decision in state law in 1990, would be prevented from cooperating in investigations and prosecutions of abortion providers in state.

Similarly, the impact of



“Taking the actual growth rate of (-) 6.6 per cent for 2020-21 on a sustainable high growth path, it said. **PTI**

More companies are recalling their staff to office."Further, with the IT/ ITeS sector hiring upwards of 20 per cent new staff in the last 18-24 months, demand for office space is expected to rise further, he added. **PTI**

The Senior officer and IRTS probationer were also present at this seminar.

Last fiscal year, the overall turnover of KVIC stood at Rs

Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MEITY) carries out Compulsory Registration of specified goods. **PT**

Last fiscal year, the overall turnover of KVIC stood at Rs

This massive turnover of KVIC has come despite partial lockdown in the country in April-June 2021 due to the second wave of the pandemic, it added. **PTI**

Minister of State for Corporate Affairs Ravi Inderjit Singh said streamlining the CIRP and liquidation process will further help in consolidating the progress made to secure gains to the economy.

### SCHEME WISE LIST OF WORKS

| No | Name of Water Supply Scheme | Description of work  | Jal Shakti (PHE) Division | Estimated cost (in Lacs) | Time of completion (Days) | Class of Contractor |
|----|-----------------------------|--|---------------------------|--------------------------|---------------------------|---------------------|
| 1. | Hangalpawa Haptnard         | Retrofitting of Hangalpawa Haptnard by way of L/F pipes. Construction of 0.10 Lac gallons SR, Chainlink fencing around SR, Sluice Chamber , revamping of SSFP for WSS Hangalpawa Haptnard under JMM  | Bijbehara                 | 43.19                    | 60                        | AAY/BEE             |
| 2. | Khyar                       | Laying /fitting of pipes,construction of 0.15 lac gallons RCC SR ,Construction of sluice chamber, Improvements to distribution network WSS Khyar under JMM   | Bijbehara                 | 28.15                    | 30                        | AAY/BEE             |
| 3. | Ladipati                    | laying / fitting of pipes, construction of intake works , Construction of 0.22 lac gallons capacity SSFP, Construction of 0.10 Lac gallons SR, construction of chain link fencing, Construction of create protection work, and construction of sluice chamber for WWS Ladipati Under JMM.                | Bijbehara                 | 68.26                    | 60                        | AAY                 |
| 4  | Mandi Batkoote              | Retrofitting of WSS Mandi Batkoote for laying /fitting of pipes, revamping of SSFP and steel truss, construction of collection chamber, construction of chain-link fencing under JMM   | Bijbehara                 | 41.21                    | 60                        | AAY/BEE             |
| 5  | Reitengi                    | Retrofitting of WSS Reitengi by way of L/F of pipes, under JMM.  | Bijbehara                 | 21.47                    | 30                        | BEE/CEE             |
| 6  | Salia Panchalpora           | Laying /fitting of pipes, construction of 0.35 lac gallons RCC SR , Construction of sluice chamber, Revamping of 0.40 lac gallons capacity SSFP WSS Salia Panchapora under JMM   | Bijbehara                 | 41.54                    | 60                        | AAY/BEE             |
| 7  | Singhpora Chanpora          | Retrofitting for Providing / laying / fitting of pipes, construction of spring protection, Construction of 0.22 lac gallons capacity SR, Construction of Sluice Chamber, construction of chain link fencing and cost for improvements to the existing pipe network for WWS Singhpora Chanpora Under JMM. | Bijbehara                 | 41.15                    | 60                        | AAY/BEE             |
| 8  | Tangmarg                    | Retrofitting for P/I of pipes, construction of 0.20 lac gallons capacity filtration gallery, Construction of 0.10 lac gallons capacity SR and Construction of two no Sluice Chamber for WWS Tangmarg Under JMM.  | Bijbehara                 | 53.63                    | 60                        | AAY                 |
| 9  | Regional Shangus            | Laying / Fitting of Pipes including Stabilization of Existing Pipe Network at Various Spots WSS Regional Shangus Part Ist JMM  | Bijbehara                 | 247.82                   | 90                        | AAY                 |
| 10 | Regional Shangus            | Construction of Three No. Quarters, Chain Link Fencing around Structures, D/G Shed, Retaining Wall, Crate Protection Works and Approach Path WSS RegionalShangus Part 2nd JMM  | Bijbehara                 | 144.96                   | 90                        | AAY                 |
| 11 | Uranhal                     | Laying and Fitting of Pipes for WSS Uranhal Under Jal Jeevan Mission part Ist JMM  | Bijbehara                 | 248.17                   | 90                        | AAY                 |
| 12 | Uranhal                     | Construction of Intake Chamber, Chain Link Fencing, River Crossing, Approach Path, Operators Quarter for WSS Uranhal Under Jal Jeevan Mission part 2nd JMM   | Bijbehara                 | 214.17                   | 90                        | AAY                 |
| 13 | Palpora                     | Construction of , 02 NO Sluice valve chambers, Chain link fencing,R wall around various structures and Laying Fitting of Supply main, Sub main and Distribution system for WSS Palpora under JMM   | Bijbehara                 | 37.55                    | 30                        | AAY/BEE             |
| 14 | Adhall                      | Construction of 0.41 lac gallons SR , intake works 02 No Sluice vabe , Chambers R Wall , Chain link fencing around variousstructures and L/F of RWM Supply Main Sub Main and distribution system for WSS Adhall under JMM  | Bijbehara                 | 86.01                    | 60                        | AAY                 |
| 15 | Duplyar                     | Retrofitting of WSS Duplyar by way of If pipes under JMM   | Bijbehara                 | 11.90                    | 30                        | DEE                 |
| 16 | Gogaldar                    | Retrofitting of WSS Gogaldar by way Laying /fitting of pipes, construction of 0.20 lac gallons SSFP, const of 0.10 lac capacity SR, Const of chain link fencing around SR & SSFP, const of sluice chambers, Imprt to existing pipe network under JMM   | Bijbehara                 | 73.37                    | 60                        | AAY                 |
| 17 | Gopalpora Kalan             | Retrofitting of WSS Gopalpora Kalan by way of L/F of pipes under JMM   | Bijbehara                 | 4.48                     | 30                        | DEE                 |
| 18 | GURI                        | Retrofitting of WSS GURI by way of L/f pipes under JMM.  | Bijbehara                 | 7.09                     | 30                        | DEE                 |
| 19 | K. Kalan                    | Retrofitting of WSS K. Kalan by way L/F of pipes , construction of chain link fencing, roof truss for spring , construction of drain near spring from upper side under JMM   | Bijbehara                 | 18.50                    | 30                        | BEE/ CEE            |
| 20 | Kandwara                    | Retrofitting of WSS Kandwara by way of JMM under JMM.  | Bijbehara                 | 14.32                    | 30                        | DEE/CEE             |
| 21 | Manolana.                   | Retrofitting for L/F of pipes, construction of 0.20 lac gallons capacity filtration gallery, Construction of 0.10 lac gallons capacity SR, Construction of Sluice Chamber and construction of chain link fencing for WWS Mandana. Under JMM  | Bijbehara                 | 68.52                    | 60                        | AAY                 |
| 22 | Manigam                     | Retrofitting of WSS Manigam by way Laying /fitting of pipes, const of 0.30 lac gallons SSFP, construction of 0.10 lac capacity SR, const of sluice chambers, Imprt to existing pipe network under JMM  | Bijbehara                 | 61.17                    | 60                        | AAY                 |
| 23 | Sirhama lift                | Retrofitting of WSS Sirhama lift by way of Const. of chowkidar quarter, chain link fencing and If pipes under JMM.   | Bijbehara                 | 22.61                    | 30                        | AAY/BEE             |
| 24 | Kralpora Brakpora           | Retrofitting of WSS Kralpora Brakpora by way of L/f of pipes under Jal Jeevan mission  | Bijbehara                 | 6.71                     | 30                        | DEE                 |
| 25 | Aader                       | Retrofitting of WSS Aader by way of L/f of pipes, const of 0.15 lac gallons RCC SR, Const. of sluice chamber near SR site, P/L of filter media to choked SSFP, const. of JE's Qtr connecting and commissioning of SR incld. P/f of necessary bends regulations valves etc.                               | Bijbehara                 | 66.77                    | 60                        | AAY                 |
| 26 | Ladi                        | L/F of pipes, const. of 0.15 lac gallons SR, Const. of 0.20 lac gallons capacity RCC SSFP. Const. of Chain link fencing around various structures for Providing WSS Ladi under JMM   | Bijbehara                 | 51.27                    | 60                        | AAY                 |

DIP No: DIPK-1349/22  
Dated : 30.04.2022

INDIAN  
PREMIER LEAGUE 2022

7

GUJARAT TITANS REMIND ME OF RAJASTHAN ROYALS OF 2008 UNDER SHANE WARNE

— KEVIN PIETERSEN

## MI beat RR by 5 wickets to open account in IPL 2022

Rohit gets birthday present, MI win their first match of IPL-15

PTI ■ MUMBAI

Mumbai Indians finally opened their account in the ongoing season of the Indian Premier League with a five-wicket win over Rajasthan Royals here on Saturday.

Opting to field, MI restricted RR to 158 for six, despite a fine 52-ball 67 by Jos Buttler at the top.

The second highest scorer for RR was Ravichandran Ashwin (21 off 9 balls) who played a cameo to take RR past 150-run mark.

In reply, MI chased down the target in 19.2 overs with Suryakumar Yadav (51 off 39 balls) emerging as the top scorer.

Suryakumar Yadav and young Tilak Varma gave the best 35th birthday present to their skipper Rohit Sharma as Mumbai Indians finally opened their account, beating Rajasthan Royals by five wickets in an IPL match here on Saturday. Chasing a victory target of 159, MI reached home in 19.2 overs, courtesy Surya (51 off 39 balls) and Tilak (35 off 30 balls) adding 81 for the third wicket.

It was MI's first win after eight suc-



cessive defeats and even though the result bears little consequence but it is certainly going to keep the five-time champions in a good mind space.

Losing is also a kind of habit like winning, albeit a bad one, as with it self belief also goes out of the window. Rohit didn't look one bit of his cheery self when he was cutting his birthday cake and by the end of the day, a win must have felt like a healing balm.

Teams then manage to snatch defeat from jaws of victory and something of that order was happening on Saturday night before Surya and Tilak sang the redemption song with Tim David (20 not out off 9 balls) providing the finishing touch.

It was Daniel Sams who hit the winning six to send the spectators into a frenzy. Rohit's run of poor scores continued as he tried a slog sweep off Ravichandran Ashwin (4-0-21-1) and offered an easy catch to Daryl Mitchell at square leg.

The price tag of Rs 15.25 crore is increasingly seeming like a noose around Ishan Kishan's (26 of 18 balls) neck as he started well but in desperation to over-compensate mis-timed a pull-shot.

## GT beat RCB by 6 wickets to inch closer to play-offs

PTI ■ MUMBAI

Gujarat Titans extended their dominance at the top of the table with a six-wicket win over Royal Challengers Bangalore in the Indian Premier League here on Saturday and inched closer towards clinching a play-off spot in their inception year.

After failing multiple times, Virat Kohli finally came out of a prolonged slump in form by registering his first IPL fifty in 14 matches, including nine this season, as Royal Challengers Bangalore posted a challenging 170 for six.

In reply, Rahul Tewatia (43 not out) and David Miller (39 not out) did the job for GT after the table toppers were struggling at 95 for four in the 13th over. With 16 points which has been the magic mark, Titans are well on course towards a top-two finish at the end of league stage.

On the day, Kohli made 58 off 53 balls before walking back to the dugout amid a standing ovation at the Wankhede Stadium.

Rajat Patidar blasted a 32-ball 52 -- his maiden IPL fifty -- while Glenn Maxwell

## GUJARAT TITANS REMIND ME OF RAJASTHAN ROYALS OF 2008 UNDER WARNE: PIETERSEN

**Mumbai:** Former England skipper Kevin Pietersen sees shades of the title-winning Rajasthan Royals side of 2008 in Gujarat Titans, who have consistently found ways to win matches in the ongoing IPL season. The former swashbuckling batter feels the new entrants, like the 2008 RR side under the late Shane Warne, aren't the best team on paper but have a 'great mentality'.

The Titans, led by India all-rounder Hardik Pandya, have emerged as the 'team to beat' in only their maiden season. They are perched on top of the points table, having lost just one game in eight outings.

'At the moment, it looks like Gujarat Titans are going to be

difficult to stop in the IPL. I didn't see them being at the top of the table when I first saw their squad, but they are on a roll,' Pietersen wrote for Betway. 'It reminds me of Rajasthan Royals when they won the title under Warne in 2008 - they weren't the best side on paper but everybody knew what they were doing and they had a great mentality,' he added.

The Titans, who looked thin on resources in the run-up to the season, have had different players winning games for them.

'They are consistently finding ways to win, whether from a good, middling or bad position in games. When you have that winning mentality, it becomes very difficult to break.

blazed away to 33 in 18 deliveries to prop up RCB

The returning Pradeep Sangwan was excellent with the ball, finishing with figures of 2/19, while Rashid Khan gave away just 29 runs in his four over to check the flow of runs in the middle overs.

GT were off to a sound start with Wriddhiman Saha

(31) and Shubman Gill (29) putting on 51 runs before Wanindu Hasaranga effected the first breakthrough by removing the former.

Left-arm spinner Shahbaz Ahmed had Shubman Gill trapped in front of the wicket. GT skipper Hardik Pandya (3) once again got out cheaply, falling to Shahbaz.



## Bengal set up summit clash against hosts Kerala

PTI ■ MALLAPURAM (KERALA)

Football powerhouse Bengal outplayed a lacklustre Manipur 3-0 to storm into the Santosh Trophy final for the 46th time, here on Friday.

Before the Manipuri outfit could blink, the record 32-time champions slammed in two goals via Sujit Singh (2'), Mohammed Fardin Ali Molla (7') to give them a 2-0 lead at the break. Dilip Orawn (74') completed the tally for Bengal with a peach of a strike to set up a summit clash against hosts Kerala here on May 2.

The last time Bengal

advanced into the final was in the 2017-19 season when they lost to Kerala on penalties at their home venue of Salt Lake Stadium. The Monotosh Chakladar-led outfit could not have asked for a better start as the young turk Sujit took a first-time effort from outside the area. In the space of five minutes, Molla made the most of a loose ball spilled by keeper Chingkhel Meitei.

Molla then took a step to the left and then back to the right before unleashing a powerful shot from just inside the box to make it 2-0 as early in the seventh minute.

## Madappa, Rashid among men and Avani in women book Asian Games golf berths

PTI ■ BENGALURU

Viraj Madappa and Rashid Khan kept their nerves and held their rivals at bay to earn the coveted Asian Games berths in golf after a gruelling five-round affair, here on Saturday.

From the women's section, amateur Avani Prashanth booked her ticket to the Games. Avani continued her impressive march as she shot a steady final round of 1-under 71 and finished ahead of Jahanvi Bakshi, who, after four identical cards

of 69, shot 70 on the final day. Madappa, who shot each of his five rounds under par with cards of 66-68-71-69-67, pipped Rashid to the post as four best rounds were counted and for that he was there ahead.

Of his five rounds, Madappa's third round of 71 was discarded, while in the case of Rashid (68-73-67-66-71), the second round was discarded. That left Madappa with a total of 18-under 270, while Rashid's total was 16-under 272.

Avani's total of four best rounds was 14-under 274, while Jahanvi's four best rounds added up to 12-under 276. Hitaashee Bakshi, whose 66 was the best final round card, had the third best total of 6-under 282 for four rounds.

Sixteen men competed for two berths in the men's section and 11 women competed for one berth. Anirban Lahiri and Shubhankar Sharma, the top two world ranked Indians among men, and Aditi Ashok and Tvesa Malik, the top two

world ranked women were given direct berths into the Asian Games teams. As Madappa had seven birdies against one double bogey, Rashid had three birdies and one bogey.

Karandeep Kochhar had a final round of 71, which was his worst of the week, and his earlier four rounds gave him a total of 14-under 274, while amateur Krishnav Nikhil Chopra shot a 67 on the final day and finished fourth with a score of 10-under 278 for four best rounds.

## Ministry's grant for judokas' preparation for Asiad

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The Sports Ministry has sanctioned financial assistance to the tune of Rs 5 crore towards Indian judokas' preparation for this year's Asian Games and other international events following the de-recognition of the national federation recently.

The ministry de-recognised the Judo Federation of India on April 22 for non-compliance in holding fresh elections in February 2022.

The de-recognition created uncertain-

ty over the future India's judo players, who are preparing for the 2022 Birmingham Commonwealth Games and the Asian Games.

But the ministry and Sports Authority of India formed a committee of eminent judo athletes, who conducted the selection trials of judokas for a month-long national preparatory camp for the Asian Games and other international competitions, starting May 1.

According to a SAI statement, 112 athletes will be part of the camp.

The committee members include

Olympian and Arjuna Awardee Cawas Billimoria, Olympian Sandeep Byala, Olympian Sunith Thakur and judo masters Arun Dwivedi, and Yogesh K Dhavde.

The national camp for men and women will be held at NIS Patiala and the IG Stadium in New Delhi, respectively.

"A second selection trial will be held on May 23 and 24 for the women's team and on May 25 and 26 for the men's team during the national camp to shortlist top 4 athletes from each weight category for the upcoming international competitions," a SAI release said.

## BCCI reschedules Ranji Trophy knockouts, all matches delayed by 2 days

| THE SCHEDULE:        |                            |
|----------------------|----------------------------|
| Quarterfinals:       | June 6-10                  |
| First Quarterfinal:  | Bengal vs Jharkhand        |
| Second Quarterfinal: | Mumbai vs Uttarakhand      |
| Third Quarterfinal:  | Karnataka vs Uttar Pradesh |
| Fourth Quarterfinal: | Punjab vs Madhya Pradesh   |
| Semifinals:          | June 14-18                 |
| Final:               | June 22-26.                |

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The BCCI has delayed the knockout matches of the Ranji Trophy by two days and now the quarterfinals will begin from June 6 and the title clash of the premier domestic event will start from June 22.

According to an internal communication circulated by the BCCI to its state units, the two semifinals will now begin from June 14, instead of June 12.

The final is slated to be held at the Chinnaswamy stadium in Bengaluru.

Bengal, Jharkhand, Mumbai, Uttarakhand,



Karnataka, Uttar Pradesh, Punjab and Madhya Pradesh have qualified for the knockout stage of the first-class competition.

The league stage of the Ranji Trophy was played before the start of the ongoing IPL.

The BCCI is yet to announce the reason behind change in schedule.

## Pace sensation Malik in focus as SRH play struggling CSK

PTI ■ PUNE

Pace sensation Umran Malik's performance will be followed again keenly when Sunrisers Hyderabad take on struggling Chennai Super Kings in an Indian Premier League match here on Sunday.

Malik has been the find of the season as he outsmarted the top batters of the world with his brutal pace. His 5/25 show against Gujarat Titans, albeit in a losing cause, is considered one of the best bowling displays in the IPL history.

The right-arm tearaway pacer from Jammu has become talk of the ongoing IPL after clocking over 150 kmph consistently. He has so far picked up 15 wickets from eight matches at a strike rate of 12.00.

But despite his heroics with the ball, SRH eventually fell short by five runs against Gujarat Titans in their last game. And come Sunday, Malik would look for more support from his pacer colleagues Bhuvneshwar Kumar, Marco Jansen and T Natarajan.

Jansen, in particular, was the culprit as he failed to defend 22 runs off the last over against Gujarat with Rashid Khan going hammer and tongs.

The SRH team management relied heavily on experienced Bhuvneshwar to lead the bowling pack but he could not live up to the side's expectations and would be desperate to prove his critics wrong. The form of skipper Kane Williamson has been a cause of concern for SRH but the likes of Abhishek Sharma and Aiden Markram have raised their hands and would look to continue their good show. SRH would also be looking at Rahul Tripathi and Nicholas Pooran to take up more responsibility with the bat. SRH occupy the fourth spot in the 10-team table with 10 points from eight games.

In contrast, CSK, enduring one of their worst IPL campaigns, need to dish out cohesive efforts to keep themselves afloat in the tournament.

Placed second last in the table with just four points, CSK are hanging by a thread in the competition and in Malik a bigger threat awaits their already-floundering batting unit.

## CSK will look up to 'Captain Cool' to turn things around

PTI ■ PUNE

The great Mahendra Singh Dhoni will be back at the helm of affairs as a struggling Chennai Super Kings take on an Umran Malik-inspired Sunrisers Hyderabad in an Indian Premier League match here on Sunday.

The reins of CSK was handed back to the four-time IPL winning captain after Ravindra Jadeja on Saturday relinquished the role following the team's six losses in eight matches in the ongoing edition.

While all eyes will be on Dhoni to change the fate of CSK it will be easier said than done as they face SRH, who have been inspired by the performance of pace

sensation Malik, who has outsmarted the top batters of the world with his brutal pace.

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CSK's problems compounded further when they lost against Punjab Kings by 11 runs in their last game. And any fur-

ther lapse from here on could spell doom for the defending champions.

CSK have been undone by their failure to click in all departments of the game. Jadeja, who was handed the captaincy ahead of the season, too failed to inspire the team as his own form also suffered under the weight of captaincy.

Jadeja would be itching to get his mojo back with both bat and ball to at least give his side an outside chance of making the play-offs, which at present looks bleak.

CSK's batting department has been hit hard by the flop show of opener Ruturaj Gaikwad and the youngster, regarded as an India prospect, would look to correct that in the remaining games.

## Sindhu settles for bronze at Badminton Asia C'ship

PTI ■ MANILA (PHILIPPINES)

Double Olympic medallist P V Sindhu ended her Badminton Asia Championships campaign with a bronze medal after going down fighting to Japan's Akane Yamaguchi in three games here on Saturday.

The 26-year-old started the match on a positive note but couldn't keep the winning momentum going, losing 21-13 19-21 16-21 to the top seed and world No. 2 Yamaguchi in the clash, which lasted one hour and six minutes.

This is Sindhu's second medal in the tournament -- she had claimed a bronze in the 2014 Gimcheon edition.

The Hyderabad shuttler, who won two Super 300 titles at Syed Modi International and Swiss



Open, took the first game easily in 16 minutes.

In the second game, the fourth-seeded Sindhu was handed a point penalty for taking too much time between points, leading to an argument with the referee.

The argument between the two led to a momentum shift as Yamaguchi levelled the proceedings to force a decider. The Japanese shuttler found her rhythm and never let Sindhu regroup.

In the final game, Sindhu trailed from the beginning. In the

end, Yamaguchi had five match points, which she duly converted.

The head-to-head between Sindhu and Yamaguchi is now 13-9 in the Indian's favour.

With Sindhu's defeat, India's challenge at the individual continental championship has ended.

EB rope in Rahman, sign three-year deal with mid-fielder Kolkata, Apr 30 (PTI) East Bengal on Saturday announced the signing of promising 24-year-old midfielder Mobashir Rahman, who was a part of League Shield winning side Jamshedpur FC.

A product of Tata Football Academy, Rahman played as left-winger for the Jamshedpur franchise in the Indian Super League, making 53 appearances including 13 in their 2021-22 Shield-winning campaign.

## Weightlifting: Eight-strong Indian team selected for junior World C'ships

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

An eight-member Indian team will compete at the IWF junior men's and women's World Weightlifting Championships, starting in Heraklion, Greece from Sunday.

The Indian team comprise of six women and two men.

The lifters are also accompanied by four coaches in addition to a manager, Abraham Kaya Techu who serves as the Vice President of the Indian Weightlifting Federation, and one referee - Dronacharya awardee Hansa Sharma.

Anjali Patel and

| SQUAD:   |
|--|
| Women- Anjali Patel (45kg), Harshada Sharad Garud (45kg), Gyaneshwari Yadav (49kg), V. Ritika (49kg), Shrabani Das (55kg), Maibam Martina Devi (+87kg) |
| Men- T. Madhavan (61kg), Muna Nayak (61kg).  |

Harshada Sharad Garud, who will compete in the women's 45kg category campaign, will open India's campaign on Monday.

In the last edition of the competition, Achinta Sheuli had shattered seven national records to win a silver medal in the 73kg category.

MEGHNA MISHRA

**'I FEEL BLESSED TO BE  
A SMALL PART OF THIS  
HISTORIC PROJECT'**



Secret superstar has indeed been an unexpected approach. Santosh Mulekar ji had given me the contact of Amit Trivedi sir's manager. Although, even he did not know the purpose because the selections were confidential. I sent him a voice note on whatsapp and was further asked to visit the

“

**■ What are you currently working on?**  
There are quite many singles lined up and hopefully playbacks as well!

## A close-up photograph of a wooden comb. The comb has a semi-circular head and a series of evenly spaced teeth. On the head of the comb, the word 'DENVER' is engraved vertically. To the right of the text is a circular logo featuring a stylized 'D' and a mountain range. The wood has a natural, light brown finish.

A glass cup of red tea with a tea bag, cinnamon sticks, and star anise on a saucer.

## A woman in a red sari is lighting a cake on a table covered with a white cloth. Other people are visible in the background, some in uniform.



"The pandemic accelerated the reach of the courses, as well as widened my perspective of delivering sessions online. I am very old-school when it comes to workshops and doing physical sessions always gives me a deeper sense of connection with my participants and understanding their issues better. With the pandemic, I was successfully able to adapt and design the courses in a manner that emulated the physical experience into a virtual one and still connect at the same level of depth," says Dr Khera.





Moving to the Delhi Durbar is an easy option for NITISH KUMAR, but protecting the future of his party and his own legacy remain tough tasks for the JD(U) supremo as he stands at the crossroad of an eventful political journey, writes NAVIN UPADHYAY

# NITISH AT THE CROSSROAD

Even in moments when he is uninhibited in sharing his political strategy or aspirations, Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar would not give even a glimpse of what exactly went on in his mind. An inscrutable personality, the Janata Dal (U) leader is known for keeping his cards close to his chest. When last week he sprang a surprise by walking up to the former CM Rabri Devi's residence to attend an Iftar party hosted by the RJD, the political circle was agog with the possibility of him joining hands with Lalu Prasad's family once again, but next day Nitish drove to the airport to receive home minister Amit Shah and his party set rest to any chance of the birth of new equation in the state. The RJD has also rejected any such possibility and asked Nitish to merge his party with the Lalu Prasad outfit to strengthen the hands of secular forces against the BJP. RJD leaders have made it clear that this time if Nitish wanted to come out of NDA, this time he will have to accept Tejashwai Yadav as the chief minister.

Even if Nitish laughs off any such possibility or the ever-growing speculation about him relinquishing the chair of the Chief Minister for an assignment in Delhi (be it Vice-President or a Central minister), the denial has few takers. Janata Dal (U) national president Lallan Singh and parliamentary party leader Upendra Kushwaha have more than once tried to put a lid on such speculations by claiming that Nitish would continue as CM as long as NDA existed in Bihar. "Nitish Kumar's leadership is the first condition for the existence of NDA in Bihar," said Kushwaha.

Nitish Kumar himself has denied news that he is planning to move to Delhi via the Rajya Sabha route. But there are unmistakable signs that the Nitish is preparing for some major change.

To begin with, Kumar has shifted from the official residence of the Chief Minister at 1, Anne Marg to 7 Circular Road ostensibly to make way for the renovation of the former.

Secondly, Nitish travelled the length and breadth of Nalanda for weeks, thanking people for allowing him to serve them. The "thanksgiving" resonated more like "goodbye" in the present political climate of Bihar, where the entire political and administrative discourse revolves around Nitish's next game plan.

The BJP obviously could not dare to dislodge Nitish Kumar even if his party has fewer seats in the assembly and he survives as Chief Minister due to the benevolence of the saffron outfit. If Nitish needs BJP, the BJP too is equally dependent on the JD(U) to take on RJD in Bihar.

Bihar BJP has become rudderless after leaders like Sushil Kumar Modi were taken out of the decision-making process in state politics. The result of the much-touted Bochahan assembly by-poll, in which the BJP suffered a crushing defeat at the hands of the RJD thanks to a revolt by Bhumihar voters, shows the ineptness of the state leadership. After all, Bhumihar once formed the biggest support base of the BJP in the state. At the same time, the ouster of Mukesh Sahni from the Nitish cabinet at the insistence of the BJP has alienated the mallah community which constitutes nearly 4-5 percent of votes in Bihar. This was another major miscalculation on the part of the BJP.

The state unit's decision to deny a ticket to a powerful Bhumihar leader like Sachitanand Rai brought to open the simmering discontent among the Bhumihars against the BJP. Rai won the MLC polls as an independent candidate and has vowed to teach a lesson to those who humiliated him. Bhumihars may be a numerically inconsequential caste, but they are politically and economically very powerful and can impact the outcome of the Lok Sabha on their own on at least 7-8 seats.

To add to BJP discomfiture, Chirag Paswan is also inching closer to the RJD. Chirag is upset over the way the Central machinery threw away the belongings of his late father Ramvias Paswan on the road in the process of vacating the 12 Janpath residence in Delhi, occupied by Paswans for close to three decades.

Suddenly, the chink in the armor of the saffron army stands fully exposed. Under the given situation, the BJP cannot ill afford to take on Nitish Kumar or the RJD.

Then why would Nitish Kumar himself

BIHAR BJP HAS BECOME RUDDERLESS AFTER LEADERS LIKE SUSHIL KUMAR MODI WERE TAKEN OUT OF THE DECISION-MAKING PROCESS IN STATE POLITICS.. THE RESULT OF THE MUCH-TOUTED BOCHAHAN ASSEMBLY BY-POLL, IN WHICH THE BJP SUFFERED A CRUSHING DEFEAT AT THE HANDS OF THE RJD THANKS TO A REVOLT BY BHUMIHAR VOTERS, SHOWS THE INEPTNESS OF THE STATE LEADERSHIP

decide to relinquish the throne for the saffron party and move to Delhi durbar?

There are pressing reasons for such conjectures, reasons that someone like Nitish Kumar would not overlook. Nitish would be well aware that after the 2024 Lok Sabha polls, he would become irrelevant to both the BJP and the opposition. In 2025 assembly polls he would be approaching the ripe age of 75, and it would be naïve to think that given his weakening hold over the voters, he would still command enough support to return as chief minister. Also, after the 2024 Lok Sabha polls, the BJP will not need Nitish Kumar's support till the 2029 general elections. By then Nitish would have been too old to play any significant role in active politics. So once, the 2024 Lok Sabha polls are over, the BJP could be expected to go all out to compel Nitish Kumar to give up the chair of the chief minister for a saffron commander. Nitish will have few options: either he agrees to the BJP's demand or join hands with the RJD, which, in turn, will not have much to offer him, either.

Nitish and BJP are also at loggerheads on the implementation of the Uniform Civil code and caste census in Bihar. Nitish is expected to go ahead with the caste census in the state despite objection from the BJP, and the saffron outfit might do the same in the case of UCC despite Nitish's bitter opposition. Despite sharing power with the BJP, Nitish has always tried to keep the minority voters in good humor. He would lose that constituency altogether if he supported the controversial Code. That limits Nitish Kumar's option. Before his continuation, as chief minister becomes untenable, Nitish may have to go for an honorable exit and bargain for a suitable "accommodation" in Delhi.

Even if the Modi-Shah dispensation agreed to anoint him as Vice-President, Nitish can take that option only if he is ready to write the epitaph of Janata Dal (U) in Bihar. Minus Nitish Kumar, the 'orphaned' JD(U) will either disintegrate within no time or will be swallowed by the BJP and RJD. Will Nitish Kumar afford to be remembered as the last "emperor" of the JD(U)? Perhaps not. That may prevail on him to bargain for a central ministry in the Modi government, which will give him the luxury to remain in active politics and keep intact his party till a successor emerges.

A third option is to move to the Opposition camp and become a consensus candidate for the office of the President. That option gained currency when poll strategist Prashant Kumar met Nitish Kumar in Delhi some time ago. With PK not joining the Congress, efforts to bring Kumar to the opposition camp are likely to subside. Even otherwise, Nitish is not known to take such risks in his politics.

If there is a change of guard in Bihar, -then the BJP will have a tough task in picking up Nitish Kumar's successor. With Sushil Modi literally out of the race—though undoubtedly best suited for the job—the party may go for someone like Union minister of state for home Nityanand Rai. The fact that Rai is a Yadav is being put forward as his strong point since that could help him in making a dent in the RJD's core vote bank. But how would the extremely backward caste and vaishyas react to a Yadav leadership is a million-dollar question. All these years, both the BJP and JD (U) ruled Bihar by projecting Lalu Yadav and his clans as "corrupt" and "criminals". The narrative was exploited in successive polls to polarise the Non-Yadav OBCs and Upper castes voters. Will the BJP voters readily agree to such a sudden shift in the discourse?

In the caste-based politics of Bihar where the RJD is a resurgent force, snatching the Chief Minister's chair from Nitish Kumar is the least of the challenge for the BJP. Similarly, for Nitish Kumar, moving to the Delhi Durbar is an easy option, but protecting the future of his party and his own legacy remain the most formidable task for the JD (U) supremo as he stands at the crossroad of an eventful political journey.





While kyphosis itself is a painful and physically limiting condition, its progression could further lead to shortness of breath due to lung compression. Moreover, if the nerves running through the spine become compressed or pinched due to bending of the spine, the nerve signals could get disrupted and cause numbness or weakness in the limbs, problems with the sense of balance, say doctors.

—PROF DR UMA KUMAR, AIIMS, DELHI



## Heat Impacts: Vulnerable Populations

| <br><b>PREGNANT</b>  | <br><b>NEWBORNS</b> | <br><b>CHILDREN</b>  | <br><b>ELDERLY</b>  | <br><b>CHRONIC ILLNESS</b> |
|---|--|---|--|---|
| Extreme heat events have been associated with adverse birth outcomes such as low birth weight, preterm birth, infant mortality, and congenital cataracts. | Newborns are extra sensitive to heat because their ability to regulate body temperature is limited.    | Young children and infants are particularly vulnerable to heat, as their bodies are less able to adapt to higher than adults. Those under four are especially vulnerable. | Older adults, especially those who have preexisting diseases, take certain medications, live alone or have limited mobility are at higher risk for heat illness. | People with chronic medical conditions are more likely to have a serious health problem during a heat wave.   |

—PROF DR UMA KUMAR, AIIMS, DELHI

Arjuna award-winning wrestler Sangram Singh minces no words as he says that celebrities should be extra cautious of what they do publicly as a large number of youth and kids keenly follow them. "Everybody knows that tobacco and alcohol are silent killers like a slow poison and it does not behave well on the part of the celebrities whether from the film or sports world to endorse such health hazardous products. "Will they allow their kids to consume such products?" questions Sangram Singh. He is also of the view that the Government should keep a tab on their activities to ensure that the prestigious awards given to such so-called celebrities are justified. A point to be noted as such awards comes with huge responsibility.

st is almost



**YOUR  
WEEK  
AHEAD**

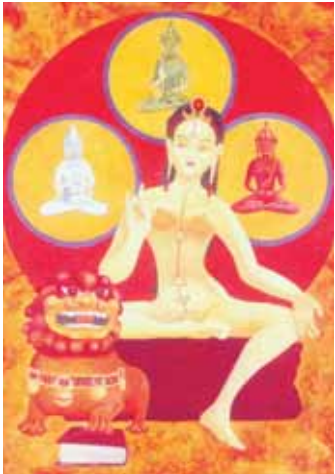
MADHU KOTIYA



**ARIES** March 21-April 19

You are working hard day and night to meet the challenges of life. Slow down the speed and look after your health too which is prime of importance currently. Your enormous efforts give you what you want in life. Overall, your vitality is strong now and you should have quite a lot of get up and go. This is an excellent time to begin or increase a fitness plan. At work, you are bold and courageous in your undertakings and actions. Your creative energies are high, and you have a good sense of your life direction. You may head a meeting, conference, or just lead a project which requires group activities and oversee it with command. Things are not so good on the love front. You may face disappointments and depression.

**Lucky number 13**  
**Lucky colour** Yellow  
**Lucky day** Thursday



**LEO** July 23-Aug 22

You are mentally strong this week. Your open-mindedness and straightforwardness are going to help you to grow if you add generosity and a pinch of kindness to your attitude. Showing your authority is important now but gentleness is important as well. On the professional front, you are giving more in terms of your time and energy to the organization you are working in than your usual routine. A powerful person is likely to support you. Overall, your career front is looking up. On the personal front, you may be a little detached. This week romance and close personal relationships are not likely to shine bright for you. Listen to what your inner voice tells you. This is a temporary phase you will be on the right track soon.

**Lucky number 12**  
**Lucky colour** Maroon  
**Lucky day** Wednesday



**SAGITTARIUS** Nov 22-Dec 21

This week you will feel renewed energy and charm in your life. The care and attention you have been providing to your body will leave you in high spirits. You will experience a cheerful and happy state of mind. It is also time to rely on divine faith. New direction and protection make you trust now that the divine spirit is working in your best interest. Professionally, you feel a new spark, a new sense of creativity within yourself. You are more confident and aggressive in your approach and decision making now. Recognition, praise from friends and authorities, and promotion are likely to take place. On the personal front, limited conditions from the past might have made you detached from the world. You feel cheated and deceived in a relationship.

**Lucky number 11**  
**Lucky colour** Silver  
**Lucky day** Monday



**TAURUS** April 20-May 20

This week you grow even stronger and ready to face any obstacle in your life. Even when facing serious health challenges, a positive attitude can work wonders. Your firm stand and taking all care about health will be in your favour. On the professional front, the good news is on the card. Your connections with people will increase. You are an expert at fitting things together in new or unusual ways and that makes the work a lot smoother. If you are looking for a job, you are about to find the right fit. You are very balanced and organized workwise. On the relationship front, co-operation and harmony will be your major concern this week. Be a good listener, trust your instincts, and connect with your innermost desires.

**Lucky number 20**  
**Lucky colour** White  
**Lucky day** Friday



**VIRGO** Aug 23-Sep 22

This week you are disciplined and know the needs of your body, mind, and spirit. You have a clear vision of your inner sense of values. Your concentration during this time is commendable. You should use your positive energy in creative works, as an inner sense of satisfaction will give you more confidence. On the career front, other people may not understand or support your new ideas or proposals, but if you know that you are right, go ahead, and try to make them understand what your point of view is. On the personal front, love relation is under question. It is important to give your partner time & space. You need to share your feelings with the one you trust and find out a possible solution.

**Lucky number 21**  
**Lucky colour** Pink  
**Lucky day** Wednesday



**CAPRICORN** Dec 22-Jan 19

This week you feel fresh, rejuvenated, and inspired to move ahead. The health remains good, and you are in the process of making it even better. A good diet, nutrition, exercise, and living life natural are into your resolution. Spiritually and emotionally, you feel fulfilled. Your enthusiasm and charm are even more increasing making envy of others. On the career front, you find the situations are not favourable at the workplace and make up your mind for a change. You may be holding yourself back because you fear moving into the future. Seek new opportunities, for a better future. On the personal front, you should be flexible and go with the flow right now. Stick to your principles at the same time honour others' intelligence as well.

**Lucky number 19**  
**Lucky colour** Purple  
**Lucky day** Tuesday



**GEMINI** May 21-June 20

Your health will require your attention as you are prone to illness. A family member's health needs your attention too, do not neglect it. You need to let go of past wounds to move forward. Help your loved ones to see the truth. Learn to express yourself; do not suppress your feelings and requirements. This is a good week career-wise. The businessperson will see financial stability and gains in financial ventures. People will respect you more and your popularity will increase. Your social status shall enhance. For those who are in a job, favour from the boss is likely, your works and endeavours are taken into consideration and appreciated. This period may see you restless in your relationship area. You must make sincere efforts to make your partner happy.

**Lucky number 15**  
**Lucky colour** Grey  
**Lucky day** Tuesday



**LIBRA** Sep 23-Oct 22

Some negative forces are at play, and you must fight them this week. Seasonal ailments might make you inactive and dull. Proper diet, exercise and rest are the mantras of a healthy life. If you compromise with these basics for a longer time you tend to face the repercussion of it. The working environment is not favourable and makes you frustrated at times. Do not waste your time and precious energy plotting revenge. Just get on with the next phase of your life. If you are looking for work, a potential position that you had pinned your hopes on may not come through. On the relationship front, this week you can be the master and a mentor in your relations. You are attracted to highly creative people.

**Lucky number 25**  
**Lucky colour** Brown  
**Lucky day** Sunday



**AQUARIUS** Jan 20-Feb 18

You need to be cautious concerning your health. You are likely to be under stress from a combination of factors, so it is particularly important to be gentle with yourself. If you are angry, allow yourself to express it, and release your anxiety rather than turning your anger and sorrow on yourself. Professionally things are not in your favour. Some false allegations, interference from higher authorities, and interrogations might be faced this week. You may need some assistance to find a better approach to work. If you are looking for work, this too may show a need to look in a different way or a different field than the one you have been pursuing. Love and marital affairs occupy your mind, but you are unable to find a smooth going.

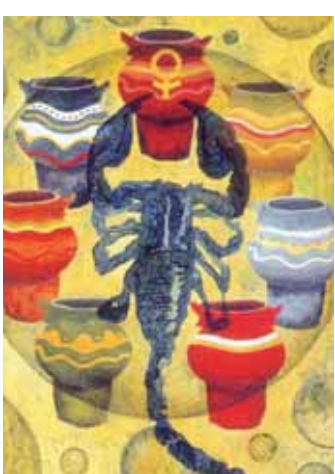
**Lucky number 18**  
**Lucky colour** Black  
**Lucky day** Saturday



**CANCER** June 21-July 22

Health is likely to suffer this week. Consider a second diagnosis if you are not sure about the first diagnosis of health. Before making any decisions, get another health professional's opinion. Be open to spiritual healing. Those who are struggling with a serious illness may require some therapy or surgery. On the career front, the businessperson will make a considerable stand. Hold your head up high and know that you have a lot that you are bringing to the table. Financially too you may do better than you had ever dreamed. You need to be trustworthy and dependable otherwise a rise in mental distress and misunderstanding with the family is indicated during this time. You must be extra careful to avoid arguments.

**Lucky number 28**  
**Lucky colour** Sky Blue  
**Lucky day** Saturday



**SCORPIO** Oct 23-Nov 21

This week confusion will prevail. There will be many issues in concern to health that might appear this week. There may be some hidden matters to deal with. Issues related to ear or throat may surface too which will make you run to the doctor and consume you most of the time. You need to learn to prioritize things. On the career front, you share a good bonding with your colleagues and the people at work. This is the right time for conferences and negotiations. Your compromising attitude will give you a good opportunity. This is a good week for relationships. You will learn a whole lot about how you can take your relationship further. You will be able to make room for new people and new experiences.

**Lucky number 10**  
**Lucky colour** Mustard  
**Lucky day** Tuesday



**PISCES** Feb 19-March 20

Your physical well-being depends on your mental well-being. This is a time when you need to be very conscious of your intuitive urges and reactions and bring them into balance with the greater good and meaning in life. This is not a time to act out in rage or hatred but instead to look at the situation from a place of love and compassion. Career-wise, pay more attention to what people around you are doing. Some negative forces are at play at your workplace to put you down. Avoid making important decisions now. You will have delays and over pending problems in all your works. And this will affect your relationships too. Being practical and bringing balance in life that is mandatory currently.

**Lucky number 30**  
**Lucky colour** Peach  
**Lucky day** Saturday

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**ASTROTURF**

BHARAT BHUSHAN PADMADEO

# Work upon human factor for smooth sail of life



and perceptions. Amidst all this, we have to work out ways and means to live in togetherness, which calls for a lesson in the art of living. In this scheme of things, first, we need to watch how we relate to the self. What does this mean? Look within our minds. For, all that happens out in open is guided by our mind – our virtues and attributes; habit tendencies; desire trends. When you turn your attention inward, first, you will be confronted with random thoughts playing within, most of them inconsequential and even negative, which makes your mind restive. That doesn't leave scope to process your thoughts objectively. Following a process suggested by learned masters, when the clutters of mind are cleared off, you strike the next layer. You may then be able to see thought patterns that have preconditioned your mind one way or the other – both positive and negative - that influence your day to day conduct. Through fresh educative inputs, when you address the negatives, the positives will begin playing out unhindered to your advantage. Further down the line, you will have access to the whole landscape of mind, when

immense power within, dormant thus far, will emerge, which will know no limits. Life may then not only turn into a beautiful experience individually, but you may also lay down the ground for peaceful coexistence. So, how well you relate to the self will define the quality of life we become due for.

The other day someone came complaining about the unseemly conduct of his married partner. I found that his mind signifying Moon was posited in Gemini sign, tenanted in the nakshatra owned by Mars, which in turn crossed path with its planet of nemesis Saturn. It implies that he would wish to live on his own exclusive terms, not able to digest any contrarian view, when he may go wild. On top of that he was eccentric, as the Sun was placed adverse to Uranus. I suggested that if he keeps pushing his partner to the wall, he has to meet resistance. So, he should first address own inherent infirmities before expecting from others to behave.

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