

## OPINION 6

KEEP POLITICS AWAY  
IN VCs' APPOINTMENT

## WORLD 9

'LANKAN GOVT'S PRIORITY SHOULD  
BE SEEKING AID FROM INDIA, CHINA'

## MONEY 10

GADKARI PITCHES FOR ENTITIES  
ENGAGED IN ALTERNATIVE FUELS

NEW DELHI, TUESDAY MAY 3, 2022; PAGES 12 ₹3

## the pioneer

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PUNJAB TO  
FACE GT IN  
IPL 2022  
12 SPORTNo winner in Ukraine war,  
world peace in peril: ModiGerman Chancellor  
Olaf says India an  
important partnerPNS/AGENCIES ■ NEW DELHI/  
BERLIN

Prime Minister Narendra Modi and German Chancellor Olaf Scholz on Monday reviewed the strategic partnership between the two nations and the fallout of the ongoing Russia-Ukraine conflict with both the leaders warning “no one will be the victorious party” in this war.

Reiterating that talks are the only way to solve the crisis in Ukraine, Modi, who held bilateral meetings with Scholz in Berlin, said, “Recent geopolitical incidents have shown that world peace and stability is in critical condition and showed how all countries are interconnected. We had said that talks are the only way to solve the Ukraine crisis. We believe that no one will be the victorious party in this war.”

Modi further said, “I am happy that my first foreign visit of 2022 is happening in Germany. And my first telephonic conversation with any foreign leader happened with my friend Chancellor Olaf Scholz. Holding of the IGC (Inter Governmental Consultations) shows how



Prime Minister Narendra Modi and German Chancellor Olaf Scholz with participating Ministers from both sides ahead of the Plenary of the 6th Inter-Governmental Consultations in Berlin on Monday

PTI

much importance we place in our strategic ties.”

The two leaders held bilateral talks and later took part in the sixth round of Biennial IGC between India and Germany. It is a unique biennial format which India conducts only with Germany. The high-profile IGC also saw participation of Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman, External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar and National Security Adviser

(NSA) Ajit Doval.

The German Chancellor said through its attack on Ukraine, Russia has violated fundamental principles of international law. “The war and the brutal attacks against civilian population in Ukraine show how unrestrained Russia has been in violating the fundamental principles of the UN Charter,” he said.

“Thus, I repeat my appeal to Vladimir Putin — end this

senseless killing, withdraw your troops from Ukraine,” he said.

On relations with India, he said it is among Germany's important partners here. “The world can only develop well if we are clear as to the fact that future relations in the world will be characterised and marked by many countries, not by a few powerful countries,” the German Chancellor said.

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‘Time to go to real  
masters’, PK hints  
at his party launchPIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■  
PATNA/ BERLIN

Election strategist Prashant Kishor, who made news recently for futile attempts to join hands with the Congress as a full-time party member, on Monday indicated that he may launch a political outfit. He is likely to announce the same on Thursday in Bihar. Kishor took to Twitter to share his plans.

“My quest to be a meaningful participant in democracy & help shape pro-people policy led to a 10yr roller-coaster ride! As I turn the page, time to go to the Real Masters, THE PEOPLE, to better understand the issues & the path to “Jan Suraj” — Peoples Good Governance to begin from Bihar,” tweeted Kishor, revealing that he had chosen Bihar to end his sabbatical.

Kishor’s “roller coaster



ride” saw him working with clients as diverse as Narendra Modi, Mamata Banerjee, Jagan Mohan Reddy, MK Stalin, and others. The Twitter post indicated his turn towards active politics in his home state.

According to I-PAC, the political consultancy firm founded by Kishor, he is likely to come out with more details about his future project at a press conference on May 5.

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Covid +vity crosses 1% again;  
no 4th wave soon, says CentrePIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■  
NEW DELHI

India's Covid positivity rate went past one per cent again after over two months as the country witnessed a single-day rise of 3,157 infections and 26 fatalities, according to the Union Health Ministry data updated on Monday.

The Government officials have ruled out a fourth wave in the near future, still they stressed on vaccinating kids.

“People have a casual attitude towards vaccination of children as the first and the second Covid wave did not see many severe infections and deaths in them,” said Dr Balram Bhargava, director, Council of the Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR), in Lucknow recently.

In the meantime, the rise reported on Monday pushed the overall Covid tally of the country to 4,30,82,345 cases and 5,23,869 deaths. The num-



ber of active cases rose by 408 in a 24-hour span to reach 19,500, the data updated at 8 am showed.

At 1.07 per cent, the daily positivity rate went past one per cent again after a little over two months, the Ministry said. It was at 1.11 per cent on February 27.

The weekly rate was 0.70

Covid jab can't  
be forced: SC‘No curbs on  
unvaccinated  
in public areas  
till Covid case  
numbers low’PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■  
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Monday said no individual can be forced to get vaccinated against Covid-19 and asked the Centre to make public data on the immunisation's adverse events. Bodily autonomy and integrity are protected under Article 21 of the Constitution, a bench of Justices L. Nageswara Rao and BR Gavai said while suggesting that there be no restrictions on unvaccinated people in public areas till Covid numbers are low.

On the basis of available material, and considering expert views, the current Covid-19 vaccine policy cannot be said to be manifestly arbitrary and unreasonable, the apex court said.

“Till numbers are low, we suggest that relevant orders are followed and no restriction is imposed on unvaccinated individuals on access to public areas or recall the same if already not done,” the bench said. The apex court also directed the Centre to publish reports



on adverse events of vaccines from the public and doctors on a publicly accessible system without compromising on the data of individuals.

The SC was hearing a plea filed by Dr Jacob Puliyl, a former member of the National Technical Advisory Group on Immunisation, who sought directions to also disclose post-vaccination data regarding adverse events.

On the issue of vaccination for children, the bench said it is not possible to second guess the opinion of experts and the vaccination indeed follows global standards and practices.

Advocate Prashant Bhushan, appearing for the petitioner, had earlier argued that whether to get vaccinated or not is an individual decision, and in the absence of informed consent, mandatory vaccination is unconstitutional.

“On paediatric vaccines, the decision taken by the Union of India to vaccinate children in the country is in tune with global standards... We direct the Union of India to make sure the key findings of the stages of trials already approved by regulatory authorities for children be made public at the earliest,” the court said.

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Min bitten by rat  
in UP gets treated  
for snake bitePIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■  
LUCKNOW

Uttar Pradesh's Minister of State for Sports and Youth Welfare Girish Chandra Yadav, who went to Banda to check the ground reality of the Government's public welfare schemes, faced the grim reality of a State-run guest house where he was bitten by a rat while sleeping in the circuit house on Saturday night.

The scared Minister woke up his staff and they in turn rang up the district officials. He thought it was a snake bite and was treated for the same at the district hospital.

As the Minister claimed it was a snake bite, he was admitted to the district hospital and after about three hours of treatment, when he was satisfied that he was not bitten by a snake but by a rat,

Wholesale overhaul  
in K'taka Govt likely  
for image makeoverCM Bommai may  
discuss with Shah  
Cabinet reshuffle  
as polls next yearPIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■  
NEW DELHI

A “wholesale change” in the BJP-led Karnataka Government may be in the offing ahead of the Assembly polls next year. Chief Minister Basavraj Bommai, who is planning to carry out cabinet reshuffle, may seek the go-ahead from Home Minister Amit Shah, who will be visiting Bengaluru on Tuesday.

The BJP is dealing with a spate of controversies besetting the State Government, including the charges of demanding kickback and accusation of abatement of the suicide of a contractor by State Minister KS Eshwarappa who resigned after massive outrage.

Speculation about the leadership change has been triggered by BJP general secretary (org) BL Santosh asserting that the party leadership has the courage and strength to implement wholesale changes in State leadership, citing local polls in Delhi and Gujarat.

“I am not saying that this will happen everywhere, but

the BJP is able to make decisions that cannot even be envisaged by other political parties. Due to the confidence and will in the party, these decisions are possible, and in Gujarat, when the Chief Minister was changed, the entire Cabinet was also changed. This was done with the intent to infuse freshness and not because of any complaints,” Santosh was quoted as saying last weekend.

Bommai has not reacted to Santosh's comment, but former Chief Minister BS Yediyurappa has dismissed such speculation, saying Bommai was doing a “good job”. Shah will meet Bommai and Yediyurappa among others, and assess the preparations for the polls.

Shah is scheduled to take part in several events, including the valedictory function of the “Khelo India” University Games and will also be paying tributes to 12th-century social reformer and Lingayat saint Basavanna on the occasion of Basava Jayanthi.

Besides, he is scheduled to attend the inauguration and foundation stone laying of various projects, including Nrupathunga University, the E-inauguration of Forensic Science Laboratory in Bellari, and the inauguration of Bengaluru NATGRID Campus among others.

Continued on Page 2

EC showcase  
to J'khand CM  
over getting  
mining leasePIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■  
NEW DELHI

The Election Commission has issued notice to Jharkhand Chief Minister Hemant Soren asking him to explain why action should not be taken against him for having a mine lease issued in his favour, which prima facie violates Section 9A of the Representation of People Act 1951.

Last month the EC had also contacted the Chief Secretary, asking the Government to authenticate the documents related to mining lease allotment.

Top sources said the notice was issued after examining the documents which prima facie authenticate the grant of mining lease of 0.88 acres in Ranchi to Soren, who also happens to hold the mining portfolio.

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## CAPSULE

DON'T PERFORM AARTIS  
ON EID: RAJ THACKERAY

MUMBAI: Maharashtra Navnirman Sena chief Raj Thackeray on Monday asked his party workers not to perform 'Maha Aartis' scheduled for Tuesday on the occasion of Akshaya Tritiya and said the Muslim community should celebrate the Eid festival falling on the same day without any hindrance.

₹775 CR HEROIN SEIZED  
FROM MUZAFFARNAGAR

AHMEDABAD: The Gujarat Anti-Terrorist Squad, with the help of Delhi and UP police, recovered 155 kilogram heroin worth ₹775 crore from a house in Muzaffarnagar.

Details on Page 4

DGCA derosters  
SpiceJet crew,  
inspects fleet

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) on Monday said that it is carrying out an inspection of the entire SpiceJet aircraft fleet after its Mumbai-Durgapur plane ran into a severe turbulence leading to injuries to 17 people. Two of the injured — one with head injury and another with spinal injury — are in ICU right now, it mentioned.

The DGCA took off the roster the flight's crew, aircraft maintenance engineer (AME) and in-charge of SpiceJet's maintenance control centre who cleared this aircraft to take off from Durgapur, pending a probe.

At present, the aircraft that was involved in the incident on Sunday is grounded in Kolkata, the DGCA said. The rest of the SpiceJet aircraft fleet are in operation.

Delhi HC allows  
some parts of  
Markaz to stay  
open till Oct 14

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

The Delhi High Court on Monday allowed certain portions of Nizamuddin Markaz, where the Tablighi Jamaat congregation was held in March 2020 amid the Covid-19 pandemic and which has remained shut since then, to stay open till October 14.

Justice Jasmeet Singh, while dealing with a plea by the Delhi Waqf Board, extended the interim order passed last month on re-opening certain portions of the Markaz premises in view of Ramzan and the festival of Eid.

On April 1, the court had allowed the mosque to be opened for the month of Ramzan while clarifying that no “Tablighi activities” and lectures can take place on the premises and only prayers can be offered.

Details on Page 3

## Respite from heatwave for 7 days: IMD

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■  
NEW DELHI

The India Meteorological Department (IMD) on Monday announced that heatwave conditions are over in most parts of the country. The maximum temperatures are not likely to rise for the next 6-7 days, and it is expected to fall by two to three degrees Celsius in northwest parts of the country for the next three days and rise thereafter.

The IMD also forecast that the national Capital is very likely to receive rainfall on May 3.

The IMD further said as per weather pattern, a heatwave cannot form till May 7. Senior scientist of IMD, RK Jenamani, said there are chances of the heatwave ending in most parts of India, including Delhi, Punjab, Haryana and Uttar Pradesh, as per the analysis of IMD on Monday.

The heatwave in west Rajasthan and Vidarbha may persist, but it may not be so severe. “We are also giving a yellow warning to Northwest

India as there is a Western disturbance. Delhi is likely to experience rain mainly on May 3. Rajasthan, Delhi, Haryana, and Punjab are on yellow alert and strong winds will be there on Tuesday and rain may occur,” he said.

Amid the heatwave, the Haryana Government has changed the schools timing from 7 am to 12 noon from May 4. The IMD data showed that Ganganagar and Churu were the hottest cities on Monday and recorded 45.3 degrees Celsius each.

In its weather bulletin, the IMD said thunderstorms and gusty winds are very likely to be witnessed over northwest India till Wednesday, over northeast till Tuesday and over eastern and southern peninsular India till Friday.

According to the IMD, Western disturbance is very active and the wind pattern can be seen in Delhi, Lucknow, and Jaipur. For the next 6-7 days, east winds will also be very strong and the temperature will not rise.

“Light rainfall with dust storm, thunderstorm, lightning, gusty winds (speed reaching 40-50 kmph) very likely over Punjab, Haryana-Chandigarh-Delhi, Uttar Pradesh and Rajasthan during the next 3 days,” said IMD.

A cyclonic circulation is likely to form over South Andaman Sea and neighborhood around May 4. Under its influence, a low pressure area is likely to form over the same region around May 6. It is likely to become more marked during subsequent 24 hours. It is very likely to cause heavy rainfall at isolated places, very likely over Andaman & Nicobar Islands on May 5 and isolated heavy to very heavy rainfall on May 6.

The IMD said squally winds of speed between 40-60 kmph over South Andaman Sea & adjoining north Andaman Sea and East Central Bay of Bengal is likely on May 4 and 5.2.

Squally or stormy winds with speed reaching 50-60 kmph gusting to 70 kmph like-



ly to prevail over Andaman Sea adjoining East Central & Southeast Bay of Bengal on May 6.

Fishermen are advised not to venture into these areas, it said.



# MNS chief softens stand ahead of Eid

## No maha-arati on Eid: Raj Thackeray

T N RAGHUNATHA ■ MUMBAI

In a dilution of his earlier stand a day ahead of the stipulated deadline for “compliance” of his call for removal of loudspeakers from mosques, MNS chief Raj Thackeray said that he did not want to cause any “hindrances” from celebrating Ramzan Ed on Tuesday.

In line with an indication he had given at a public rally that he addressed on Sunday at Aurangabad where he said that “Hanuman Chalisa” will be played at a louder volume than azaan in front of the mosques, the MNS chief said: “Eid is being celebrated tomorrow. The Muslim community should also celebrate their festivities without any hindrances”.

“I have already mentioned this in my Sambhajinagar (Aurangabad) rally, I appeal to ‘Maharashtra Sainiks’ not to perform Maha-Aaratis on the auspicious occasion of Akshaya Tritiya which will also be celebrated tomorrow.

We do not intend to cause any hindrances or obstacles to any religion during the festivities,” Raj said in a statement put out on his twitter handle.

“The loudspeaker issue is NOT RELIGIOUS ONE: IT IS A SOCIAL ISSUE with related I N C O N V E N I E N C E . Regarding the loudspeaker issue, I will further notify what we intend to do via social media,” Raj said in his statement.

It may be recalled that on April 17, the MNS chief had exhorted the “Hindu brothers” across the country to prepare themselves to give a “fitting reply” to the Muslims – in the form of playing Hanuman Chalisa in front of mosques five times a day—if the loudspeakers are not removed from the mosques by May 3.

Talking to media persons in Pune, the MNS chief had said: “Playing of Azan through loudspeakers from mosques is more a social issue than a religious issue. It is not just Hindus but people from all sections of the society get disturbed by the

playing of azan through loudspeakers”

“I appeal to all the Hindu brothers across the country to give a fitting reply if the loudspeakers are not removed from mosques by May 3. We do not want any kind of riots in the country, but they (mosque management) should remove loudspeakers peacefully from the mosques. Otherwise, we will play Hanuman Chalisa in front of mosques five times a day,” Raj had said.

At a rally he addressed at Marathwada Samajik Mandal ground in Aurangabad on Sunday evening, Raj said: “Today is May 1 and Eid is on May 3. I don’t want issues during their festival. But from 4th, we will not listen. I have requested all my Maharashtra Sainiks to play Hanuman Chalisa loudly in front of all the places where loudspeakers are played. If you can’t understand even after requesting, then we have no other option left. Loudspeakers are not allowed in your religion”.

# Mumbai Court defers call on Ranas’ bail plea till May 4

T N RAGHUNATHA ■ MUMBAI

A Mumbai Sessions court on Monday deferred till Wednesday its ruling in the bail applications of the loudspeaker MP from Amravati Naveent 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.

Special Judge RN Rokade, who was to deliver his verdict on the bail pleas of Ranas on Monday, postponed his ruling to Wednesday morning.

After hearing Senior Advocate Abad Ponda and Advocate Rizwan Merchant—representing Navneet and Ravi Rana and Special Police Prosecutor Pradip Gharat, Special Judge 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 inten-

tion) and later under section 124A (sedition) of IPC 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. Making a strong case for release of Ranas on bail, Ponda had argued before the sessions court that 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 had 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.

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. He said that the citizens have a right to criticise the government as long as the criticism did not incite violence. Ponda had said that criticism of Uddhav Thackeray or Shiv Sena did not amount to criticism of the Government, as this Sena was one of the three constituents of the coalition government in the state.

Opposing the grant of bail to Ranas, Special Police Prosecutor Pradip Gharat told the court that the place in question where the recitation was to happen belonged to the Chief Minister of the State. “While citizens have the right to criticize the Government, the same has to be done within a limit, and if that limit is crossed, it will fall under the ambit of Section 124A of IPC,” he said.

# J&K delimitation panel to give report on May 5

MOHIT KANDHARI ■ JAMMU

The three member Delimitation Commission headed by Justice (Retd) Ranjana Prakash Desai is all set to finalise its report on May 5.

Highly-placed official sources on Monday confirmed to *The Pioneer*, “ahead of the completion of its tenure the Jammu and Kashmir Delimitation Commission is scheduled to finalise its report by May 5 before submitting the same to the Government”. The tenure of the commission was extended up to two month by May 6.

The three member commission had visited both the twin capital cities of Jammu and Srinagar last month where they interacted with 400 delegations from different parts of Jammu and Kashmir after releasing the draft report for public remarks and objections.

The Commission had given assurances to these delegations that they would incorporate their suggestions before finalising their report. The Assembly

elections in the Union Territory are expected to take place after the completion of the Delimitation exercise.

The entire exercise has been carried out as per the provisions of the Delimitation Act 2002 and the J&K Reorganization Act 2019, keeping in view population, public conveniences, communication facilities, geographical compactness of the areas as well as the existing administrative boundaries while delimiting the constituencies.

The commission, which also included Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) Sushil Chandra and State Election Commissioner (SEC), J&K, KK Sharma, had originally recommended six additional seats for Jammu region and only one for Kashmir Valley.

After the marathon exercise the total Assembly seats for Jammu region would go up from 37 to 43 and for Kashmir from 46 to 47 in the new Assembly.

Nine seats were proposed for Scheduled Tribes and seven for Scheduled Castes in the interim draft proposal.

# No winner in...

From Page 1

He also said India is a “super” partner for Germany in Asia in economic terms, security policy terms, and climate-political terms, and German Chancellor also invited Modi to attend the G-7 summit there in June as a special invitee.

The summit is likely to focus on Ukraine and various steps taken, including sanctions against Russia. The G-7 grouping includes the UK, the US, Canada, Germany, Italy, Japan and France.

Meanwhile, the one-on-one talks between the two leaders was followed by delegation-level parleys which covered key areas of bilateral cooperation under the overall strategic partnership, as well as regional and global developments.

The two nations also reviewed the situation in the strategically important Indo-Pacific region where China is now flexing its muscle. Modi and Scholz signed the green and sustainable energy partnership.

The Prime Minister said

Germany has decided to support the green growth plan of India with an additional development aid of 10 billion euros till 2030. “We have announced setting up a green hydrogen task force,” Modi said.

Giving details of the ICG, the Ministry of External Affairs said Modi co-chaired with German Chancellor Olaf Scholz the Plenary session of India-Germany Inter-Governmental Consultations. In their opening remarks, both leaders highlighted key aspects of bilateral relationship as well as shared perspectives on regional and global issues.

This Partnership envisages a whole-of-government approach to India-Germany cooperation on climate action, under which Germany has agreed to make an advance commitment of 10 billion Euros of new and additional development assistance until 2030, the ministry said.

A joint Statement was adopted after the IGC and a number of agreements were concluded during the ministerial bilateral meetings, the ministry said.

# SC tells Centre to decide in 2 mths Rajoana’s plea

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Monday directed the Centre to decide within two months Balwant Singh Rajoana’s plea that his death penalty in the 1995 assassination of former Punjab Chief Minister Beant Singh be commuted to life imprisonment on ground of his long incarceration of nearly 26 years. A bench headed by Justice UU Lalit said the pendency of appeals of other co-convicts in the apex court in the case would not come in the way of authorities in deciding Rajoana’s plea.

Rajoana, a former Punjab police constable, was convicted for his involvement in an explosion outside the Punjab civil secretariat that killed Beant Singh and 16 others on August 31, 1995. Apex court has been hearing Rajoana’s plea seeking commutation of the death sentence to life term on the ground that he has been in jail for 26 years.

# SHO suspended for girl's death during police raid in Chandauli

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

The station house officer (SHO) of Saiyadraja police station in Chandauli district has been suspended after a 21-year-old girl died after she was allegedly assaulted by policemen during a raid.

The police, however, denied the allegation saying the woman appeared to have committed suicide.

The alleged incident took place on Sunday when the police raided the house of gangster Kanhaiya Yadav in Manrajpur village to arrest him after a non-bailable warrant was issued against him. Yadav has been accused in a case of illegal sand mining.

However, as the police officials could not find Yadav at his home, they allegedly tried to

take his brother with them. Yadav’s daughter, Nisha, tried to stop the police, following which she was allegedly beaten by the officers.

In a video widely shared on social media, a woman can be seen saying that her elder sister was killed by the police. On being asked if she had also been beaten up, the woman replied in the affirmative.

Superintendent of Police Ankur Agarwal, however, denied all the allegations and said, “At 4:30 pm, a police team went to conduct a raid for arresting Kanhaiya Yadav against whom a non-bailable warrant has been issued. The police team had female constables with it and a video of the action is also available. When the accused was not found, the police team returned.”

# Noida Police books 3 for stabbing men

STAFF REPORTER ■ NOIDA

Noida Police has arrested three men for allegedly injuring two residents of Delhi after a knife attack on them at ‘Food Zilla – Chai Sutta’ restaurant in Sector- 15 at Noida.

The recent incident took place on April 30, five days after an attack on a 30-year-old private firm’s executive at a resto-bar in a mall allegedly after an argument over the bill. The executive (30) had died of the bare-handed attack by employees of the resto-bar and the mall.

In the complaint, the complainant Shailendra Pal (23) said he and his friends Rohit Nishad and Vishal Gautam had gone to the restaurant and café in Sector 15 for dinner on Saturday night.

# INSHORT

## COUNTDOWN BEGINS FOR YOGA DAY

**New Delhi:** The 50 days countdown to International Day of Yoga on June 21 was marked with a ‘Yoga Utsav’ in Assam’s Sivasagar town, the seat of power of Ahom rulers, on Monday with participation of over 10,000 people from different Northeastern states in the presence of Union Ayush Minister Sarbananda Sonowal and Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma among others, said a release issued here.

# Time to go....

From Page 1

After giving a big win to retain Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee in West Bengal against the massive BJP election campaign a year ago, Kishor had said he would “quit the space”.

Kishor is in Patna for meetings with like-minded parties and leaders. He had earlier launched an initiative called “Baat Bihar Ki” to gauge the mood of the state.

Kishor, who had been with the JD(U) briefly and was on the verge of joining the Congress recently, is likely to address a Press conference on Thursday where he will announce his next move amid speculation about whether he will launch a political party or just an outreach programme.

PK had joined Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar’s Janata Dal (United) in 2018 but was expelled in 2020 due to sharp differences with Kumar over their conflicting views on a host of issues like the Citizenship (Amendment) Act as he took

a strong anti-BJP stand.

Following his ouster, Kishor launched an independent project “Baat Bihar Ki” (Conversation About Bihar) in February 2020. The imitative remained a nonstarter as he turned to election consultancy.

The BJP took a swipe at Kishor’s announcement. Former Deputy Chief Minister and senior BJP leader Sushil Kumar Modi said any new political party has no future in Bihar. State BJP spokesman Nikhil Anand hit out at PK calling him a power broker.

“Prashant Kishor is neither a social scientist nor a political scientist. He is a power broker and a middleman. He can be nothing more than a vote katwa (spoiler) in Bihar politics,” Nikhil Anand said.

RJD spokesperson Ejaj Ahmed said Kishor should disclose his relationship with Home Minister Amit Shah and Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar first, and then talk about Jan-Suraaj in the State.

# Delhi Police arrests 3 for staging fake attack

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Delhi Police has arrested three associates of a man who, in order to take revenge, staged an attack on himself to implicate two persons. Police said that a manhunt has been initiated to nab the fourth accused. The accused have been identified as Kamrudeen (38), Swayambhu Swami (34) and Rahish (40) while the fourth and main accused Bhure (35) would also be nabbed soon, said police.

The trio along with Bhure had planned and conspired to take revenge from Mehfooz and Fahim by falsely implicat-

ing them in a case of firing as planned by them, police said.

According to Shweta Chauhan, the Deputy Commissioner of Police (DCP), Central district, the firing incident took place on the intervening night of April 28-29.

“In his complaint to the police, Bhure, who also sustained a bullet injury in his thigh, alleged that he was attacked by Mehfooz and Fahim whose faces were covered with helmets. Bhure was shifted to the LNJ Hospital. A cartridge case and blood stains were also found at the crime scene,” said the DCP.

# Min bitten by rat....

From Page 1

On receiving the information, the District Magistrate, the Additional District Magistrate, the city Magistrate and the Circle Officer also reached the district hospital.

“After about three hours of treatment, the doctors were convinced that the Minister was bitten by a rat while sleep-

ing,” said Chief Medical Superintendent of Banda district hospital Dr SN Mishra.

Yogi has created 18 Groups of Ministers (GoMs) and has asked them to visit all 18 divisions for three days from April 29. The Ministers have been specifically asked to stay at night in the circuit house and not in hotels.



**डा0 शकुन्तला मिश्रा राष्ट्रीय पुनर्वास विश्वविद्यालय**  
**मोहान रोड, लखनऊ-226 017**  
(उत्तर प्रदेश सरकार) वेबसाइट <http://dsmru.up.nic.in>

वि0सं0-01 / शै0-सं0/अभि0 व प्रौद्यो0 / 2022-23

दिनांक : 02 मई, 2022

डॉ० शकुन्तला मिश्रा राष्ट्रीय पुनर्वास विश्वविद्यालय, लखनऊ के अभियांत्रिकी एवं प्रौद्योगिकी संस्थान में स्वतंत्रपक्षित योजना के अन्तर्गत संचालित **Computer Science & Engineering, Electronic & Communication Engineering, Electrical Engineering, Mechanical Engineering, Civil Engineering एवं Applied Sciences & Humanities** विभागों हेतु शैक्षिक संवर्ग के असिस्टेंट प्रोफेसर के पदों पर अनुबन्ध आधारित संविदा के आधार पर चयन हेतु भारत के पात्र नागरिकों से ऑनलाइन आवेदन पत्र आमन्त्रित किये जाते हैं।

नोट :-उपरोक्त पद हेतु शैक्षिक अर्हताएं/भर्ती का स्रोत, आवेदन-पत्र, आवेदन शुल्क, सामान्य निर्देश एवं अन्य समस्त विस्तृत सूचनायें विश्वविद्यालय की वेबसाइट <http://dsmru.up.nic.in> पर उपलब्ध हैं।

समस्त पदों के लिये विश्वविद्यालय वेबसाइट से डाउनलोड किये गये आवेदन-पत्र पर ही समस्त आवश्यक संलग्नकों सहित केवल पंजीकृत डाक/स्पीड पोस्ट के माध्यम से दिनांक 23 मई, 2022 को सायं 5.00 बजे तक कुलसचिव, डा0 शकुन्तला मिश्रा राष्ट्रीय पुनर्वास विश्वविद्यालय, मोहान रोड, लखनऊ – 226 017 के पते पर प्राप्त हो जाएं।

**कुलसचिव**



**जीवाजी विश्वविद्यालय, ग्वालियर**  
**क्रमांक/स्टोर/22/475**

दिनांक : 27.04.2022

**ई-निविदा सूचना**  
**ओ.एम.आर. उत्तरपुस्तिकाएं क्रय हेतु निविदा**

जीवाजी विश्वविद्यालय में वर्षभर के लिये ओ.एम.आर. उत्तरपुस्तिकाएं क्रय हेतु वार्षिक रेट कान्ट्रैक्ट हेतु अनुभवी फर्मों से <https://mptenders.gov.in> पर ऑनलाइन निविदा आमंत्रित की जाती है। विवरण निम्नानुसार है -

क्र.	टेंडर आई.डी. क्रमांक एवं दिनांक MP/JUG/ Tender No. & Date	कार्य का विवरण	कार्य की अनुमानित राशि	धरोहर राशि रु. डिमांड ड्राफ्ट	निविदा प्रपत्र की कीमत रु.
1.	2022_JUG_200172_1	ओ.एम.आर. उत्तरपुस्तिकाएं क्रय	3,50,00,000/-	10,50,000/-	15000/- (वापसी योग्य नहीं)

निविदा प्रपत्र एवं निविदा की समस्त शर्तों का अवलोकन विश्वविद्यालय की वेबसाइट [www.jiwaji.edu](http://www.jiwaji.edu) पर भी किया जा सकता है।

- ऑनलाइन टेंडर परचय करने की **अंतिम दिनांक 12.05.2022 5.00 PM तक**
- ऑनलाइन टेंडर (प्राइज बिड) जमा करने की **अंतिम दिनांक 13.05.2022 5.00 PM तक**
- टेन्डीकल बिड खोलने का समय एवं दिनांक **14.05.2022 को 03.00 बजे**

निविदा की शेष तथियां सम्पूर्ण जानकारी, शर्तें एवं समस्त संशोधन केवल उपरोक्त दर्शाई गई वेबसाइट पर देखी जा सकती हैं। इस हेतु अलग से कोई विज्ञापन/समाचार पत्रों में प्रकाशित नहीं किया जायेगा।

- किसी भी कार्य की निविदा स्वीकृत/अस्वीकृत/निरस्तीकरण या संशोधन के अधिकार कुलसचिव को हैं।

म.प्र. माध्यम/104638/2022

**कुलसचिव**



# Heat raises power demand to 6,194 MW



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

**STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI**

Owing to the killing heat, power demand in the national Capital on Monday clocked 6,194 MW, which is the highest-ever in the first week of May. On Monday the maximum temperature of Delhi settled at 40.8 degrees Celsius, two notches warmer than normal

for this time of the year. The minimum temperature in the city settled at 27.4 degrees Celsius, three notches above the normal temperature.

According to sources in discoms, the Capital's peak power demand touched 6,194 MW, which is the highest-ever in the first week of May till date. With Delhi experiencing abnor-

mally high temperatures in April this year, the city's power demand scaled up by 34 per cent since beginning of April. "On six occasions in April this year, Delhi's peak power demand clocked 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 20, 5,781

This is highest-ever consumption in first week of May; IMD predicts fall in temp

MW on August 21, 5,786 MW on April 27, 6,050 MW on April 28, and 6,197 on April 29," sources said.

"Delhi's peak power demand had breached the 7,000 MW-mark for the first time – peaking at 7,016 MW in 2018. The expected peak power demand of around 8,200 MW is an increase of around 285 per cent over the peak power demand of 2,879 MW in 2002," sources stated.

On Sunday, Union Power Minister RK Singh, in a letter to Delhi Government, expressed displeasure at alleged misleading of public, a source said. According to Singh's letter, coal stock at the Dadri plant was 202.40 thousand tonnes, which is sufficient for 8.43 days at 85 per cent PLF (plant load factor) on April 29. Similarly, coal stock at Unchahar plant was 97.62 thousand tonnes, suffi-

cient for 4.6 days at 85 per cent PLF or capacity utilisation. Earlier at a review meeting, the Minister directed officials to ensure the required power demand for Delhi. Meanwhile, on Monday, the India Meteorological Department (IMD) data showed that the relative humidity recorded at the Safdarjung observatory at 8:30 A.M. was 61 per cent and 38 per cent at 5:30 P.M.

The weather stations at Ridge, Ayanagar, Mungeshpur, Najafgarh, Pitampura, Palam, and Lodhi Road recorded maximum temperatures of 41.4 degrees Celsius, 40.6 degrees Celsius, 41.7 degrees Celsius, 42.5 degrees Celsius, 41.3 degrees Celsius, 40.6 degrees Celsius and 39.8 degrees Celsius respectively.

The IMD predicted a fall in maximum temperatures by three-four degrees Celsius over most parts of Northwest India during the next three days.

The IMD said that thunderstorms and gusty winds were likely over Northwest India till May 4; over East India and south Peninsular India till May 6, and over Northeast India till May 3.



## Parts of Nizamuddin Markaz to stay open till Oct 14: HC

**STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI**

The Delhi High Court on Monday allowed certain portions of the Nizamuddin Markaz, where the Tablighi Jamaat congregation was held in March 2020 amid the Covid-19 pandemic and which has remained shut since then, to stay open till October 14.

The court's directions came on a plea by the Delhi Waqf Board and Justice Jasmeet Singh extended the interim order passed last month on re-opening of certain portions of the Markaz premises in view of Ramzan and the festival of Eid.

Several FIRs were registered under the Epidemic Diseases Act, the Disaster Management Act, the Foreigners Act and various provisions of the penal code in connection with the Tablighi Jamaat event held at the Nizamuddin Markaz and the

subsequent stay of foreigners there during the Covid-19 lockdown in 2020. The Board had moved the court in 2021 seeking directions to reopen the premises on the grounds that even after unlock-1 guidelines permitted religious places outside containment zones to be opened, the Markaz comprising the Masjid Bangle Wali (mosque), Madarsa Kashif-ul-Uloom, and attached hostel continues to be locked up.

On April 1, the court had allowed the mosque to be opened for the month of Ramzan while clarifying that no "Tablighi activities" and lectures can be take place in the premises and only prayers can be offered.

It is directed that for Ramadan, namaz and religious prayers shall be permitted to be offered on the ground floor and four floors at Masjid Bangle Wali. This arrangement is only for the one month of Ramzan

culminating with Eid-ul-Fitr," the court had ordered. A direction was also passed for the installation of functional CCTV cameras at the entry, exit and stairs of each floor of the premises. The permission was in continuation of an earlier order which imposed various conditions for the reopening of the premises on the occasion of Shab-e-Bharat in March.

The court, while removing the 100-person limit at one floor had then said it has been agreed that the management of the mosque will ensure that Covid-19 protocols and social distancing will be followed while allowing devotees to enter the mosque to offer namaz. The Central Government, in its affidavit, has opposed fully re-opening the Nizamuddin Markaz and stated that only a few people may be allowed to offer prayers on certain religious occasions.

# Covid positivity rate rises to 6.42%

**STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI**

Delhi on Monday reported 1,076 Covid-19 cases, around 27 per cent less than a day ago, though the positivity rate rose to 6.42 per cent. No death occurred due to the disease in the last 24 hours. The Government has increased the number of beds dedicated to Covid patients at two of its facilities, including an 80 per cent escalation in its count at the Lok Nayak Hospital (LNJP).

According to a bulletin released by the Delhi Government's health department, out of 16,753 tests conducted in last 24 hours, 6.42 per cent were found positive. This positivity rate refers to percentage of all Coronavirus tests performed that return positive results. A higher positive rate means a higher transmission rate for virus. The data showed that 4,490 patients are in home isolation. With these new cases, national Capital's overall tally has increased to

18,85,636, while death toll stands at 26,175. Delhi had on Sunday recorded 1,485 cases and no death due to the disease, while the positivity rate stood at 4.89 per cent. On Saturday, it had recorded 1,520 cases and one death, with the positivity rate at 5.10 per cent. A total of 16,753 Covid tests were conducted in the city on Sunday.

In an order dated April 25, issued by the Health Department, the number of Covid beds at LNJP Hospital has been increased to 450 from the 250 beds earlier, while the number of ICU Covid beds has been increased to 178 from 100 previously.

"At the GTB Hospital, the escalation is about 300 per cent, as the number of Covid beds at the facility has been hiked to 400 from 100 earlier. The number of ICU Covid beds now stands at 50 from nil previously," the order stated.

Encompassing the two hospitals, the number of Covid beds has been raised to 850 from 350 earlier.



A health worker administers a dose of the Covid-19 vaccine to a student in the age group of 12-14 years, amid rise in Coronavirus cases, in New Delhi on Monday, RANJAN DIMRI/THE PIONEER

DCW comes to aid of teacher, asks Edu Dept to disburse pending retirement benefits fast

**STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI**

A retired Government school teacher, who was struggling to get her ₹20.59 lakh General Provident Fund (GPF) dues, pending from the past 10 years, released was helped by the Delhi Commission for Women (DCW).

According to a DCW official, the complainant had approached the DCW regarding non-payment of her GPF dues and retirement benefits by school authorities.

She had worked for over 30 years in different Government schools across the Capital and eventually retired in 2012 from a Government school in Dallupura, officials said.

However, despite passage of over 10 years, the complainant didn't receive her GPF dues and had been struggling to get it. Acting on the complaint, DCW member Promila Gupta met the retired teacher and thereafter, issued a notice to the Education Department of Delhi Government for speedy redressal of the matter.

"Subsequently, action was taken by authorities and the commission was informed by the Education Department that an amount of ₹20,59,881 has been disbursed to the teacher and the process of providing her retirement benefits has been initiated," said the DCW official.

DCW chief Swati Maliwal also issued summons to Education Department in matter for speedy disbursement of complainant's retirement benefits. "This is very unfortunate that a retired teacher, despite working hard for over 30 years, had to wait for 10 long years for getting her GPF dues which is her right.

The Commission shall ensure that her other retirement benefits are also provided to her and fix responsibility for delay. We have a zero tolerance policy towards harassment and shall be taking strong action in this matter," said Maliwal.

BJP asks MCD officials to collect funds for NGO of Adesh Gupta's associate: Sisodia

**STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI**

Delhi's Deputy Chief Minister Manish Sisodia on Monday alleged that officials of the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP)-led municipal corporations have been working to bring CSR funds for a smart classroom project of an NGO reportedly run by people close to the party's city unit chief, in a novel way of indulging in corruption.

Delhi has three municipal corporations and according to a new legislation, the city would soon get a new, single civic body. Sisodia alleged that BJP has put Government officials to the task of collecting funds for an NGO run by Adesh Gupta's associates and NGO 'Drop in Ocean' was created by BJP leaders to pocket crores of rupees in the name of digital classrooms. "The Corporation has formed a committee of its top executives, including the Deputy Commissioner, Assistant Commissioner,



Deputy Commissioner, and Director of Education, and has asked them to raise CSR funds for this NGO from firms," said Sisodia. "All eight members of the NGO are from the core team of BJP Delhi state president Adesh Gupta, according to information available with the Office of Registrar," said Sisodia.

"We obtained information on the NGO from Registrar's Office. There is no information about NGO or its previous activity accessible. Even MoU signed with company contains no information regarding this NGO's previous work, such as whether it has any expertise in digitising classrooms or any other activity," said Sisodia.

## NCR PULSE

### HEALTH CAMP ORGANISED AT TIHAR JAIL

**New Delhi:** People's Foundation and All India Ayurveda Institute (AIAl) organised a health camp at Tihar Jail on Saturday which was inaugurated by Delhi Prisons IG Mukesh Prasad in the presence of Jail Superintendent Raj Kumar and senior doctor of the AIAl Dr P K Prajapati.



### MAN DIES AS CAR PLUNGES INTO CANAL; 4 INJURED

**Noida:** A 19-year-old man died and four others were hospitalized with injuries after their speeding car plunged into a canal in Uttar Pradesh's Greater Noida on Monday morning. The driver of the car had fallen asleep on the wheel, leading to the crash around 5 A.M. under the Dadri police station area, police said.

### ₹1 CR EACH FOR COVID WARRIORS' KIN

**New Delhi:** Delhi's Deputy Chief Minister, Manish Sisodia handed over cheques of Rs one crore each to the families of Lok Nayak Jai Prakash (LNJP) Hospital's staffer Rajkumar Aggarwal and Guru Tegh Bahadur Hospital's staffer Ajay Kumar, who lost their lives during COVID-19 pandemic. Rajkumar Aggarwal was deputed as a Nursing Officer, LNJP while Ajay Kumar worked as a Store Purchase Supervisor at GTB Hospital.

### AAP LEADERS TAKE OATH IN RAJYA SABHA

**New Delhi:** The senior Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) leaders Raghav Chadha, Ashok Mittal and Sanjeev Arora took oath as their party's Rajya Sabha members from Punjab on Monday. Vice-President and Rajya Sabha Chairman M Venkaiah Naidu administered the oath to the newly-elected AAP members of Rajya Sabha in his chamber at Parliament House. All the three AAP leaders were elected unopposed from Punjab in March as no other political party had nominated any candidate the state for the Rajya Sabha elections.

### ASSAM'S RAJIOR DAL AND CONG LEADERS JOIN AAP

**New Delhi:** The Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) on Monday said that several officer-bearers from Assam's Rajior Dal and Congress had joined the party. Rajior Dal Working President Jitul Deka, BJP OBC Morcha in-charge Abujam Luwang and Congress MLA Candidate Manoj Dhanowar joined AAP with their supporters at an event organised at the party headquarters in Delhi. AAP National Secretary Pankaj Gupta and Assam in-charge Rajesh Sharma welcomed all the new members to the party, presenting them the AAP's caps and pakas.

### KEJRIWAL TO GRACE KERALA POLITICAL PARTY'S FUNCTION

**New Delhi:** Delhi Chief Minister and Aam Aadmi Party National Convenor Arvind Kejriwal will be visiting Kerala to take part in an annual function organised by the Twenty20 Political Party on May 15, said AAP spokesperson on Monday. Thanking CM Arvind Kejriwal, Sabu Jacob, the founder of Twenty20 said, "I am grateful to Arvind Kejriwal for graciously accepting our invitation."

### DELHI GOVT TO DEVELOP STPs IN PARKS

**New Delhi:** The Delhi Government has planned to develop decentralised STPs in the parks of the national Capital. The key objective of the decentralised STPs is to ease the colonies from the burden of rising water pollution, foul smells, and declining underground water tables in most of the colonies of Delhi.

### PARVESH VERMA: TAKE ACTION ON LOUDSPEAKERS

**New Delhi:** BJP MP Parvesh Sahib Singh Verma on Monday urged LT Governor Anil Bajjal and civic bodies here to take action on loudspeakers at religious places violating Supreme Court's order on the lines of a similar drive conducted by the Uttar Pradesh Government. "As per the order of the Supreme Court, loudspeakers at all religious places should be either removed or the volume should be kept at permissible level so that the sound is heard within the premises and there is no disruption of peace specially for students, seriously ill patients and neighbouring people," the west Delhi MP claimed in his letter to Bajjal and the commissioners of the three municipal corporations.

**STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI**

With seven fresh cases of dengue reported in a week in the national Capital, the total number of people infected with the vector-borne disease has reached 117 this year.

According to reports released by all three municipal corporations, two cases of malaria were also reported in the city till May 2, taking the total tally to 23 this year. However, two cases reported in Delhi were from other States.

Meanwhile, the city recorded 15 cases of chikungunya till the date this year, reports released by MCD stated.

Malaria, dengue, and chikungunya are accompanied by a high fever. Cases of vector-borne diseases are usually reported between July and November, but the period may

stretch till mid-December. Last year, 9,613 dengue cases, the highest number of such cases were recorded in the Capital in a year since 2015, along with 23 deaths.

In the years prior to 2021, the total dengue cases reported were 4,431 (2016), 4,726 (2017), 2,798 (2018), 2,036 (2019) and 1,072 (2020), as per the report.

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

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

## MoU inked with IFI to teach French in schools

**NEW DELHI:** The Delhi Board of School Education (DBSE) on Monday signed a Memorandum of Understanding with Institute Français en Inde (IFI — The French Institute in India) to introduce French language in city Government's schools.

The MoU was signed in the presence of Delhi's Deputy Chief Minister and Education Minister, Manish Sisodia and Ambassador of France to India, Emmanuel Lenain. "As a part

of the Kejriwal Government's program to introduce a prominent global languages in government schools, students will now have the option to learn French too.

Introduction of global languages like French will unlock new career options for our students in various fields and will make them professionally sound," said Sisodia. Lenain said that Delhi Government reflects the same philosophy of education as the French

Government and they are serious about their policies and choices for the education of 1.5 million children studying in public schools and we support this cause. "Among all the collaborations between two countries, education will always remain our priority. Learning French will be a life changing experience for the students of Delhi government schools and provide them new opportunities academically and professionally," said Lenain. **SR**

# IGIA replaces Dubai as world's 2nd-busiest airport in Mar



**SAURAV GUPTA ■ NEW DELHI**

Delhi's Indira Gandhi International Airport (IGIA) emerged as the world's second-busiest airport in March, in terms of total seat capacity and frequency of domestic and international flights. IGIA handled about 31.65 million domestic passengers and 5.49 million international ones. It had emerged

as the top airport in the country in terms of handling domestic as well as international passenger traffic in 2020 and 2021. Now it has surpassed China's Guangzhou airport, which was the fourth-busiest airport globally. Before the pandemic, IGIA had ranked 23rd among the busiest airports of the world. According to the Official Airline Guide (OAG), a leading

global travel data provider, whilst Atlanta retains its position as the largest, Dubai was knocked out of second place in March by Delhi which moved up from third place in February. According to the report, IGIA (3,611,181 seats), which is India's busiest airport, has knocked out Dubai International Airport (3,554,527 seats) to grab the second position.

Atlanta Hartsfield-Jackson International Airport (ATL) has retained its top position (with 4,422,436 seats).

"London's Heathrow Airport ranked fourth with a seating capacity of 3,510,941, Dallas/Fort Worth International Airport obtained fifth position (3,460,566 seats), Chicago's O'Hare International Airport stands at sixth position (3,293,417 seats), Los Angeles International Airport ranked seventh (3,226,369 seats),

Denver International Airport ranked eighth (3,179,730 seats), Tokyo International comes ninth (3,114,035 seats) and the Guangzhou Airport stands at tenth position (3,082,153 seats)," OAG report stated.

Videh Kumar Jaipuria, CEO, Delhi International Airport Limited (DIAL) said that the pandemic had hit the travel and tourism sectors hard. "Travel restrictions had badly affected the travel and tourism sectors for two consecutive years.

But now, with the rise in the number of vaccinated people globally, governments are easing travel restrictions and slowly opening up their borders. Last month India opened its borders and allowed the entry of fully vaccinated international travelers.

These steps have largely helped the travel and tourism industry and given a much-

needed boost to air travel," he said. "The rankings are based on scheduled capacity in the current month and compared to the equivalent month in 2019, pre-pandemic. The top 10 busiest airports in the world have been calculated using total domestic and international seat capacity and frequency of flights from a particular airport," the operator of IGIA said.

"During the pandemic, IGIA had taken several measures like a contactless boarding facility, a sanitised environment inside and outside the terminals, etc. The airport had received the ACI Health Accreditation twice during the pandemic and it was declared the second-safest airport in the world by Safe Travel Barometer'. These measures have helped in building confidence among flyers that 'flying is safe,' the operator said.



## INSHORT

### BJP LEADERS, RSS SECY MEET AT NADDA'S HOUSE

**New Delhi:** Union Ministers Amit Shah, Rajnath Singh and Nitin Gadkari, all former BJP presidents, besides RSS joint general secretary Arun Kumar met at the residence of incumbent party chief J P Nadda. Their deliberation went on for close to three hours. Senior RSS functionary Suresh Soni and BJP general secretary (organisation) B L Santhosh also attended the meeting to deliberate over a host of organisational issues and coordination between the party and government

### ISRAEL EMBASSY, IIT AND WEE JOIN HANDS

**New Delhi:** The Embassy of Israel in India has joined hands with the Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) in Delhi and the WEE Foundation for a six-week mentorship programme for women entrepreneurs. Twenty-six women entrepreneurs from the WEE Foundation were selected and mentored. "This project is one of a series of special initiatives to mark 30 years of diplomatic relations between India and Israel," Naor Gilon, Ambassador of Israel to India, said at the event here.

### ORBIS INT OPENS 18 EYE CARE CENTRES IN INDIA

**New Delhi:** At least 18 environment-friendly eye vision centres ensuring eye care services for children in rural communities in Kerala, Maharashtra, Uttar Pradesh, and West Bengal States were opened recently by Orbis International, an NGO with the support from partners like USAID.

# CBI registers fresh case of fraud against fugitive Choksi

**PNS ■ NEW DELHI**

The CBI has registered a fresh case against fugitive diamantaire Mehul Choksi and his firm Gitanjali Gems Ltd., valuers Surajmal Lallu Bhai & Co, Narendra Jhaveri, Pradip C Shah, Shrenik R Shah and others for causing a loss of Rs 22.06 crore to IFCI Ltd by inflating the value of diamonds and jewellery pledged to get a loan of Rs 25 crore, and conducted searches at several locations.

Choksi is wanted along with his nephew Nirav Modi in the PNB loan fraud case of Rs 13,500 crore.

It was alleged that during the period 2014 to 2018, Industrial Finance Corporation of India (IFCI) Ltd, relying on the representation, assurances and under-

taking of Gitanjali Gems Ltd. as well as its Director Mehul Choksi and the value of the pledged jewels, had disbursed the entire loan amount of Rs 25 crore to the accused firm.

The firm was granted the loan on the basis of security cover of two times, pledge of shares, pledge of gold, diamond and studded jewellery, the CBI said in a statement.

It was further alleged that the accused had started committing defaults in the repayment of loan installments and in order to recover the default amount of the installments, IFCI Ltd invoked the pledge and the fresh valuation obtained by IFCI dropped the valuation of the pledged jewels by 90 per cent.

It was also alleged that the said Director Mehul Choksi colluded with the Valuers and got the valuation of the



pledged jewels done with exorbitant and inflated value. The diamonds were allegedly of low quality and not real gemstones, the CBI said.

"Searches were conducted at around eight premises of the accused Valuers in Mumbai and Kolkata which led to recovery of incriminating documents," the agency said.

The CBI has acted on a complaint from IFCI Ltd alleging that Choksi had approached it in 2016 seeking

Rs 25 crore working capital loan for which he had pledged shares and gold and diamond jewellery. According to the valuations submitted by four different valuers, the jewellery pledged was in the range of Rs 34-45 crore on the basis of which IFCI sanctioned the loan demanded by Choksi. However, subsequent valuation by the lender pegged the value of the pledged diamond and jewellery to just 10 per cent.

# Bureaucratic rejig: Ex-petroleum secretary appointed adviser to PM

**PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI**

The Centre on Monday effected a major bureaucratic reshuffle and made some key appointments. Former petroleum secretary Tarun Kapoor has been appointed as an advisor to Prime Minister Narendra Modi, while senior IAS officer Gyanesh Kumar was appointed as Secretary, Ministry of Cooperation. Kapoor, a 1987-batch IAS officer of the Himachal Pradesh cadre, superannuated as the secretary of the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas on November 30, 2021.

Kumar, a 1988-batch IAS officer of the Kerala cadre, is currently Secretary, Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs.

He has been appointed as the Cooperation Secretary in place of Devendra Kumar Singh, who has been named National Human Rights Commission Secretary

General.

Senior bureaucrats Hari Ranjan Rao and Atish Chandra were also appointed as additional secretaries in the PMO.

Rao, a 1994-batch IAS officer of Madhya Pradesh cadre, is currently Administrator, Universal Services Obligation Fund in the Department of Telecommunications and his batchmate from the Bihar cadre, Chandra is currently Chairman and Managing Director (CMD), Food Corporation of India, Department of Food and Public Distribution.

Alkesh Kumar Sharma, Secretary (Coordination), Cabinet Secretariat will be Secretary, Ministry of Electronics & Information Technology (MeitY), an order issued by the Personnel Ministry said.

While Pradip Kumar Tripathi, Secretary, Department of Personnel and Training (DoPT), has been moved as

Secretary, (Coordination), Cabinet Secretariat in place of Sharma, S Radha Chauhan, a 1988-batch IAS officer of the Uttar Pradesh cadre will be the new DoPT Secretary in place of Tripathi.

Neel Kamal Darbari, Managing Director, Small Farmers' Agri Business Consortium, Department of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare, has been appointed as chairperson, National Authority Chemical Weapons Convention in the rank and pay of Secretary to the Government of India.

Sanjay Kumar, a 1990-batch IAS officer currently serving in his cadre state of Bihar, will be Secretary, Department of Youth Affairs.

S K G Rahate, Additional Secretary, Ministry of Power has been appointed as Secretary, Department of Justice, Ministry of Law & Justice.

## 1 more held in Shaheen Bagh heroin seizure case

**PNS ■ NEW DELHI**

The Narcotics Control Bureau (NCB) has arrested one more person in connection with its probe against an Indo-Afghan narcotics syndicate and seizure of about 50 kg of heroin from south Delhi's Shaheen Bagh area last week. The latest arrest of an Indian man living

in Laxmi Nagar was made on Sunday, the agency said. This is the fifth arrest in the case as two Indian and an equal number of Afghan nationals have been taken into custody in the case earlier by the federal anti-narcotics agency after raids were conducted by it in Shaheen Bagh-Jamia Nagar locality on April 27.

# My arrest by Assam Police pre-planned conspiracy: Jignesh

**PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI**

Congress leader Jignesh Mevani on Monday alleged "some Godse bhakts" in the Prime Minister's Office had got FIRs registered against him and termed his arrest by the Assam Police a "pre-planned conspiracy" to destroy him ahead of assembly elections in the state.

"Some Godse-bhakts sitting in the PMO have got serious FIRs registered against me over my mere tweeting," Mevani said at a Press conference at AICC headquarters. Mevani, who was released on Saturday, also said his arrest was an act of "56-inch cowardice" that had undermined Gujarat's pride, an apparent swipe at Prime Minister Narendra Modi's 56-inch chest

assertion.

Mevani announced that he would take to the streets and ensure a Gujarat Bandh on June 1 on a raft of issues -- seeking action against those behind the leak of 22 exam papers, the recent recovery of "Rs 1.75 lakh-crore" worth of drugs from the Mundra Port, and to press for the withdrawal of all cases against Dalits in Una and against minorities in the state.

The Independent legislator from Vadgam who has pledged his support to the Congress was picked up by the Assam Police from Gujarat on April 19 and taken to the northeastern state after a purported tweet that Modi "considered Godse as God".

After being released on bail in the case, the Dalit leader was rearrested on charges of

assaulting a policewoman. A court in Barpeta granted him bail in the case and urged the Gauhati High Court to consider directing the Assam Police to reform itself to "prevent registration of false FIR like the present case..." "My arrest by the Assam Police was a pre-planned conspiracy. It was in blatant disregard to protocol and rules for an MLA," he added.

"It is my charge that this is a conspiracy designed by the Prime Minister's Office. Gujarat elections are due soon and this is being done to destroy me. I fear there is every chance that by now they may have planted something on my computer which has been seized by them."

Mevani also asked what the interest of the BJP or the prime minister could be in arresting



him over a mere tweet as if he were a terrorist. "Such things are very dangerous for our democracy,"

He alleged that the woman police officer was put under "pressure" to complain against him, but he will not go against her "out of generosity". The attempt to harass him had

failed, Mevani declared.

On Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma's claim that he was not aware of the arrest, he said, "It is impossible that the Assam CM does not even know about my arrest. He got offences registered against me at the instance of his political bosses."

# DRI seizes 8-kg cocaine from two passengers at Hyderabad airport

**PNS ■ NEW DELHI**

Acting on specific intelligence, the Directorate of

Revenue Intelligence (DRI) has made two cases of cocaine seizures at the Hyderabad International Airport. In a late-night operation on Sunday, two air passengers, a male Tanzanian national, travelling from Cape Town to Hyderabad via Dubai on a Business Visa and a lady passenger from Angola, with itinerary Angola - Mozambique - Lusaka -Dubai - Hyderabad on a Tourist Visa were apprehend-

ed by DRI on suspicion of them carrying narcotic substances, the DRI said in a statement.

"A total of 8 kg of Cocaine, each passenger carrying 4 kg, were seized from the passengers from the packets concealed in the false bottom of their trolley bags. The estimated value of the seized Cocaine in the illicit market is Rs 80 crore," the DRI said.

The instances of smuggling drugs through air have increased with easing restrictions on air travel and increased passenger traffic. While Indian Customs

have facilitated the clearances smoothly, the alert officers have busted the drug smuggling syndicates and nabbed carriers on multiple occasions across the country.

Ingenuous ways of transporting the contraband have been noticed e.g., by way of laminating drugs finely into their baggage which are almost invisible to the naked eye or by concealment in shampoos and food items or at times the passenger himself becomes body carrier by ingesting drugs in laminated capsules," it said.



Chief of Army Staff General Manoj Pande calls on Defence Minister Rajnath Singh after assuming charge as Army Chief, in New Delhi, on Monday

# 6 feet distancing, wearing masks and ventilation can reduce Covid by 98%: Study

**PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI**

A three-pronged time-test-interventions-- distancing of six feet, universal mask-wearing, and increased room ventilation—along with vaccinations can reduce Covid-19 spread by 98 per cent, according to a study published in the journal Indoor Air.

Researchers noted that the three-pronged strategy can be applied in combination with vaccinations for most effective results.

"Since the early days of the COVID-19 pandemic, the public has been inundated with precautions that could help to avoid catching the virus," said the researchers.

Newly released research from US Department of Energy's (DOE) Brookhaven National Laboratory said that three measures can cut down transmission of airborne pathogens like SARS-CoV-2, the virus that causes Covid-19, by more than 98 percent in more than 95 percent of scenarios examined.

"Wide adoption of layered controls dramatically reduces exposure to existing airborne viruses, such as SARS-CoV-2,

and will be critical to control outbreaks of novel airborne viruses in the future," said Laura Fierce, an atmospheric scientist at DOE's Pacific Northwest National Laboratory. "These non-pharmaceutical interventions can be applied in combination with vaccinations."

For some respiratory infections such as COVID-19, a low building ventilation rate worsens both long- and short-range airborne transmission. Policy makers in public health should target indoor environments with insufficient ventilation by either mandating improved ventilation or setting a maximum occupancy when the total ventilation supply is fixed.

Indo-Swiss Building Energy Efficiency Project (BEEP) India director Dr. Sameer Maitheel agreed that ventilation should be considered as one strategy which provides the best protection against infection while adequate masks can reduce a person's exposure to viral particles by 95%. He said that various projects with support of the State Governments are being undertaken across the country incorporating eco and health-friendly 'Indo-Swiss energy efficient building technology'.

No. CE/TB-VI/43/2022/02		
<b>PRESS NOTICE</b>		
The Spl. Chief Engineer, P.W.D. Building (Health & Education), Assam, Chandmari, Guwahati-3 on behalf of the Governor of Assam, invites bids through Engineering, Procurement and Construction (EPC) mode-III of contract (Single stage two-part bidding system) for the works detailed in the table below, from APWD registered Class-I(A) contractors having experience in similar nature of work. Details of the bid may be seen at e-procurement website i.e. <a href="http://www.assamtenders.gov.in">www.assamtenders.gov.in</a>		
The bidders must be enrolled with e-tendering web-portal <a href="http://www.assamtenders.gov.in">www.assamtenders.gov.in</a>		
<b>Sl. No</b>	<b>Name of work</b>	<b>Bid Value</b>
1.	"Construction of AnirudhaDev Sport University at Chabua, Assam" under NIDA	Rs. 4679.76 Lakh
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<b>The Work will be Allotted only after receiving Government approval.</b>		
<b>Sd/-</b>		
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<b>Janasanyog/C/1582/22</b>		
<b>Assam, Chandmari, Guwahati-3</b>		



कार्यालय अधिशासी अभियन्ता, अनुरक्षण खण्ड, उत्तराखण्ड जल संस्थान

लेन नं०-1, तरुण विहार, मोथरोवाला रोड, देहरादून-248001



पत्रांक : 461 / ई-निविदा / 2022-23

ई-निविदा सूचना

दिनांक: 02.05.2022

मुख्य महाप्रबन्धक, उत्तराखण्ड जल संस्थान, देहरादून की ओर से जलजीवन मिशन कार्यक्रम के अन्तर्गत सहसपुर की भूदड़ी पेयजल योजना के अन्तर्गत निम्न विवरणानुसार ई-निविदा, दू-बिड सिस्टम (तकनीकी बिड एवं कॉमिशियल बिड) आधार पर आमंत्रित की जाती हैं :-

निविदा क्र०	विकास खण्ड	कार्य विवरण	घरोहर घनराशि (रु० में)	निविदा का मूल्य (रु० में)	कार्य पूर्ण करने की अवधि
1	सहसपुर	जलजीवन मिशन कार्यक्रम के अन्तर्गत सहसपुर की भूदड़ी पेयजल योजना में नलकूप अधिष्ठापन, उर्ध्व जलाशय निर्माण एवं पाइप लाइन बिछाने एवं तत्सम्बन्धी कार्य।	1519300.00	4000+GST	12 माह

निविदा समय सारणी (मुख्य तिथियाँ) निम्नवत् हैं।

क्र०सं०	विवरण	अनुसूची
1	ऑनलाईन प्रकाशन की तिथि।	06.05.2022 at 11:00 Hrs
2	निविदा प्रपत्र डाउनलोड करने की तिथि।	07.05.2022 at 11:00 Hrs
3	प्री-बिड मीटिंग की तिथि।	11.05.2022 at 11:00 Hrs
4	बिड ऑनलाईन जमा करने की प्रारम्भ तिथि।	21.05.2022 at 11:00 Hrs
5	बिड ऑनलाईन जमा करने की अन्तिम तिथि।	21.05.2022 up to 17:00 Hrs
6	ऑफ लाईन रूप से जमा किये जाने वाले प्रपत्र (निविदा प्रपत्र हेतु निर्धारित शुल्क, बिड सिक्योरिटी, स्टॉम्प पेपर एवं अन्य सम्बन्धित दस्तावेज।	21.05.2022 upto 17:00 Hrs
7	तकनीकी बिड खोलने की तिथि।	23.05.2022 at 11:00 Hrs
8	वित्तीय निविदा खोलने की तिथि।	सूचना पृथक से दी जायेगी।

ई-निविदा से सम्बन्धित समस्त जानकारीयां व शर्तें उत्तराखण्ड राज्य की वेबसाइट [www.uktenders.gov.in](http://www.uktenders.gov.in) पर ऑन लाइन देखी / प्राप्त की जा सकती हैं।

“जल संचय-जीवन संचय”

अधिशासी अभियन्ता



# Reforms in UP power sector needed: Yogi

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath, on Monday, underscored the "huge need" for reforms in the power sector.

The Chief Minister, on Monday, presided over a review meeting of the power sector. He emphasised the need for making efforts to make comprehensive reforms at every level of the power sector.

UP is in the grip of a power crisis due to huge spurt in demand due to heat wave leading to sharp spike in power consumption. The situation has been aggravated by the shortage of coal in thermal power plants of UP Vidyut Utpadan Nigam.

The chief minister asked UP's Energy Minister AK Sharma to thoroughly review the functioning of the department. Showing signs of urgency vis-a-vis power situation in the state the review meeting came days after Yogi met the Union Coal and

Railway ministers urging them to provide an extended help to meet the ever-increasing demand for power in UP.

Already, the state has recorded the highest ever power demand of 22,500 megawatt. Making the matter worse were the technical glitches in the power plants much to the disappointment of the power officials. It was only after the state government managed to get an additional 2,000 MW of power that the situation came somewhat under control, officials in the UP Power Corporation Limited (UPPCL) admitted.

Yogi nevertheless stressed on ensuring uninterrupted power supply in all 75 districts as per roster. The chief minister maintained that the Centre was lending "all possible help" to mitigate the crisis.

The chief minister said that while the Railways had arranged additional rakes for augmenting coal supply to thermal power stations, the

option of transportation of coal from mines to power plants by road should also be explored. He also underlined the need for timely payment of electricity bills which also requires timely issuance of electricity bills.

"Overbilling, false billing or late billing causes inconvenience to the consumers. To improve this system, the Energy department will have to make a concrete action plan to increase the billing and collection efficiency. Special efforts are needed in rural areas," the chief minister said.

Yogi also advised bringing in a one-time settlement (OTS) scheme for the recovery of the outstanding arrears of the power bills. He said the OTS scheme to be formulated should provide exemption from interest on arrears and facility of payment in installments. UP is currently facing a power crisis. Against a demand for about 23,000 MW of electricity, only 20,800 MW is being supplied.

# Didi celebrates mega win's anniv; BJP out on streets

SAUGAR SENGUPTA ■ KOLKATA

Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee has declared May 2 as Maa-Maati Manush Diwas (Mother-Earth, Humanity Day). On May 2 last year her Government had returned to power for the third time defeating the BJP.

To mark this day, the ruling Trinamool Congress has announced a two-week long programme throughout the State.

The BJP on the other hand launched a counter-programme — with a mega rally on Monday — to denounce the post-electoral violence in Bengal and the deteriorating law and order situation in the State. The saffron party will organize state-wide programmes that will continue for a week and will end up with rallies to be attended by Union Home Minister Amit Shah.

Expressing her gratitude to the people on the Twitter the Chief Minister on Monday wrote "I am ever grateful to our Ma- Mati-Manush for having

shown to the high and mighty, last year on this day, the indomitable courage of Bengal," adding the masses had shown through the elections that there was no bigger power than the people in a democracy.

"I dedicate this day to Ma-Mati-Manush and urge that this day be henceforth called Ma -Mati- Manush Divas. Jai Hind, Jai Bangla, the Chief Minister wrote. The TMC is likely to organize a mega programme to be addressed by the Chief Minister at the historic Netaji Indoor Stadium, party sources said.

"This is a reminder to all the communal forces that had invaded our State last year with big 'commanders' from all over the country and tons of ill-gotten money that Bengal will never surrender to communalism ... people have given the communal leaders a good lesson ... so that they will never dare to look at this State again," said TMC leader Firhad Hakim

Meanwhile, In an apparent bid to spruce up its sagging

organization hit by frequent defections to the TMC and relentless bickering within the outfit the BJP held a mega rally in Kolkata denouncing the post poll violence and deteriorating law and order situation.

"We launched a mega protest rally against the terror that has been unleashed by the ruling TMC. Several — about 50 — of our party workers have been killed. The rally was organised to condemn the blood sucking TMC-government," said BJP state president Sukanta Majumdar.

Former State party president Dilip Ghosh said "what Mamata Banerjee is doing in the name of victory anniversary is shameful because in the past one year the law and order of the state has deteriorated to the lowest level ... it seems that she is celebrating murders, corruption in which her own MLAs are arrested, gang-rapes, arson."


The BJP's protest rallies will culminate in meetings to be addressed by Amit Shah who is likely to visit Bengal on May 4.

# TMC man Supriyo's swearing-in caught in Guv-Speaker war

PNS ■ KOLKATA

The swearing-in of Babul Supriyo the former Union Minister who left the BJP to contest in the Ballygunge Assembly by-elections on a TMC ticket continued to get stuck in ongoing tussle between the offices of Bengal Governor Jagdeep Dhankhar and Assembly Speaker Biman Banerjee. Supriyo won the by-polls nearly a month ago defeating his nearest CPI(M) rival by about 20,000 votes.




In curious development after initially refusing to clear the related file sent by the Assembly Speaker seeking his clearance for the swearing-in the Governor had allowed Supriyo to be sworn in by Deputy Speaker Ashis Banerjee instead of Speaker Biman Banerjee. The Deputy Speaker however refused to oblige.

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Bids are invited from the prospective bidders for procurement of Potash Derived from Molasses (Granulated) for further marketing in various states. For details visit website: <https://etenders.gov.in/eprocare/app> (e-tendering) & [www.nationalfertilizers.com](http://www.nationalfertilizers.com) (Homepage). E-Tender No. **2022\_NFL\_114138\_1**.  
Last date of Bid submission/date of Opening of Technical Bid document is - **15.30 Hrs on 16.05.2022/15.30 Hrs on 17.05.2022**. Any Corrigendum (s) to this tender shall be published only on our websites.

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# Hardik Patel drops Gujarat Congress post from Twitter bio

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Hardik Patel, the working president of the Congress in Gujarat, has dropped the party name from his Twitter bio, appearing to hint at his exit just months before elections in the State.

"Working President of the Gujarat Congress" is now missing from Hardik Patel's bio, which says: "Proud Indian Patriot. Social and Political Activist. Committed to a better India." The Congress's "hand" symbol has also been removed.

Over the past few years, Congress leaders who have exited the party have usually

dropped the first hint by changing their Twitter bio.

The 28-year-old Patidar leader has been complaining of being "ignored" by the Congress and its top leaders in Gujarat. He even compared it to the feeling of a "groom forced into nasbandi (vasectomy)".

He has so far denied, however, that he is on his way out of the party he joined in 2019.

Last month, Hardik Patel worried his party bosses even more when he went a step further and praised the BJP, saying, "some things are good about the BJP and we must acknowledge that."

# Jaishankar meets German counterpart Baerbock in Berlin, reviews ties, Ukraine crisis

PTI ■ BERLIN

External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar met his German counterpart Annalena Baerbock on Monday and the two leaders reviewed the bilateral cooperation and discussed the impact of the Russia-Ukraine conflict and the Indo-Pacific.

Jaishankar, who is here as part of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's delegation, said that he had "good conversation" with Minister for Foreign Affairs of Germany Baerbock.

"Good conversation with FM @ABaerbock. Reviewed our bilateral cooperation. Discussed Ukraine conflict & Indo-Pacific. Signed agreement on direct encrypted connection between the two Foreign Offices. Will be reporting at the International Governmental Consultations Plenary," he tweeted.

Germany is India's largest trading partner in Europe with a bilateral trade of over USD 21 billion.

Jaishankar also met Minister for Economic Cooperation and Development Svenja Schulze and discussed climate action, resilient and reliable supply chains, third country partnerships and economic impact of the Russia-Ukraine conflict.

"Pleasure to meet German Minister for Economic Cooperation and Development @SvenjaSchulze68. Discussed climate action, resilient and reliable supply chains, third country partnerships and economic impact of Ukraine conflict.

"Signed agreements on Triangular Development Cooperation and Renewable Energy Partnership," he said in a series of tweets.

# Indian professionals in China urge Jaishankar to press Chinese Govt to permit return of their families

PTI ■ BEIJING

As China finally consented to permit "some" Indian students to return to re-join studies after over two years of delay, a number of Indian professionals whose families are stuck back home due to Beijing's stringent Covid visa rules have appealed to External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar to take up their plight with the Chinese Government.

Many Indian professionals working in China for a long period ranging from five to 27 years sent a joint petition to Jaishankar on May 1, highlighting their anguish.


"We have been separated from our respective families including kids for more than 26 months due to the Covid-19 pandemic and related travel and visa disruptions," these professionals, who are based in Beijing, Shanghai and other

cities, said in the petition submitted to the Indian Embassy here.

Among the petitioners are parents who have not seen their newborn babies for over two years besides others whose children were studying in China and could not return to re-join the schools due to the cancellation of visas and flights, disrupting their studies.

The families of dozens of Indian professionals left China in 2020 soon after coronavirus broke out in Wuhan. But many Indian professionals who have their business in China besides lucrative jobs could not return causing complete disruption of their lives and businesses.

According to unofficial data, over 2,000 Indians, mostly those working in China or their spouses and Children, are stuck in India.



शस्त्र और शास्त्रविद्या के महान गुरु

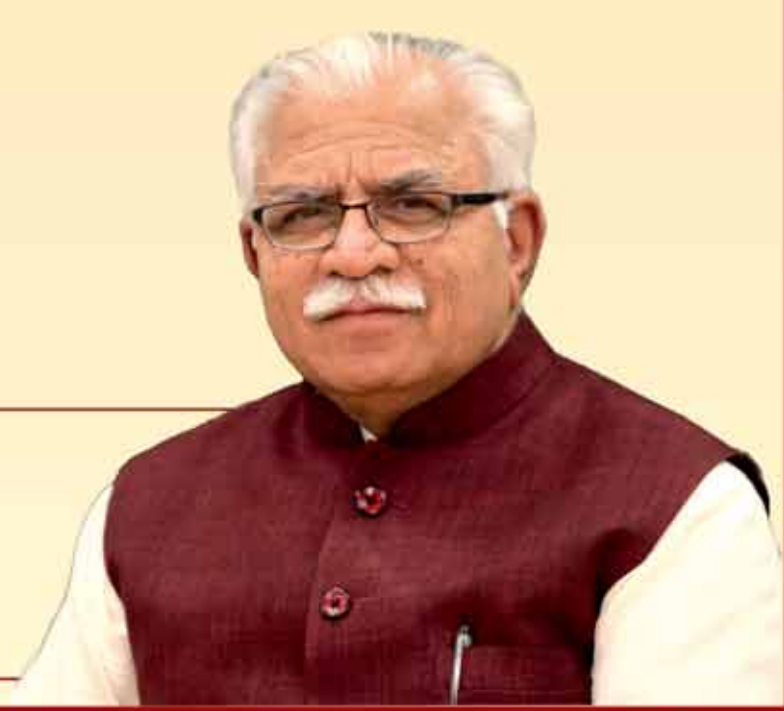
# भगवान परशुराम जी


की जयंती के अवसर पर प्रदेशवासियों की ओर से



## कोटि-कोटि नमन

3 मई, 2022

“भगवान परशुराम वीरता और ज्ञान की प्रतिमूर्ति हैं जिन्होंने मानव को हर चुनौती का सामना सदैव साहस से करने के लिए प्रेरित किया।”  
- मनोहर लाल



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Getting out of comfort zone applies to administrators too



RAM KRISHNA SINHA

Recently, in his first face-to-face interaction with students after a two-year gap, at the fifth edition of “Pariksha Pe Charcha”, the Prime Minister talked, among other things, about students’ general tendency to prepare easy and comfortable part of their syllabus, leaving aside hard, difficult portions. He exhorted them to come out from this comfortable zone to gain confidence and do well at the examination. While the advice is very useful for the students, it also applies equally to our administrators, bureaucrats, and policy makers. It is not uncommon to see how at times they are found to ignore or sidestep the difficult and challenging part in implementation of policies or projects to avoid hard work, complexity or potential conflicts involved. The reasons or motives may be many- lack of diligence or courage, temptation to win quick brown-



ie points with higher-ups or herald a success pre-maturely. Take for instance, the banking reforms. To review governance of Boards of Banks in India, a committee, well known as PJ Nayak Committee, was set up by the Reserve Bank of India in 2014. A landmark one in the recent decades, the Report recommended far-reaching reforms in Indian banks. The objective was to improve corporate governance in the banking sector, making it resilient and efficient, and to also provide autonomy to the banks in strategic decision making. The government showed right signals and commitment to implement the Report. The hard part of the recommendations was to repeal the Bank Nationalization Act, set up a Bank Investment Company (BIC) as a holding company, and transfer government shares in the BIC. Until BIC is formed, the Report recommended, a temporary body, called the Banking Boards Bureau (BBB), will be formed to carry out the functions of the BIC. Among the simple parts was the recommendation that BBB will advise on appointments to the Board, Banks’ Chairman and Managing Director and other Executive Directors, Compensation issues, etc. After eight years of the submission of the Report, only the relatively easy-to-implement prescriptions like splitting of the post of CMD and formation of BBB were promptly pushed, sidestepping the hard and onerous ones. Again, the same proclivity to push easy part of reform package, and avoiding the difficult ones, was seen in the implementation of power reforms.

In 2015, Ujjwal Discom Assurance Yojana (UDAY) was launched to make financially stressed power distribution companies (DISCOMs) stand on their own feet. Under the scheme, States were to take over 75% of DISCOM outstanding debts to improve the fiscal health of the latter. Clearly, the transfer of debt burden was the soft part of the implementation of the scheme. What was critical and essential was that DISCOMs were required to reduce Aggregate Technical and Commercial (AT&C) losses, eliminate Average Cost of Supply (ACS) and Average Revenue Realized (ARR) gap, Feeder Metering, among others. Sadly, while the easy part-debt transfer-of the package was promptly implemented, as all DISCOMs got on board and utilised the facility of debt transfer to the State governments, most DISCOMs gave the implementation of the critical part-that is ensuring efficiency-a short shift. The two illustrations cited above, show how by not facing the challenging part of implementation, be it in Banking or Power, have shaken confidence of both the sectors and has made progressive and sustainable change so elusive. The pitfalls of taking easy routes and avoiding discomfort of facing challenging tasks are serious, particularly in the domain of public policy and governance. Any piecemeal, half-hearted, and hasty implementations not only severely affect efficiency and competitiveness but also, as a result, risk huge drain of scarce resources of the nation, including tax-payers money.

(The writer is a former bank executive and author. The views expressed are personal.)

# Military secular tradition is the true beacon for harmony

## Over time, Articles 14 to 25 of the Constitution have been brazenly mauled by political and religious outfits and interpreted to suit their myopic charters

Well young man, always remember, here on, your religion is that of your troops”; this was one of the quatrain initiatory directives I had from my Commanding Officer on joining the Battalion in January 1969 and since then it got resonantly etched in my memory neurons. That is how an officer is baptised into the armed forces and exposed to the military traditions and its values. Though it sounds simple, it implies that an officer is obliged to follow the secular legacy of the forces and respect the sentiments of his command which incidentally plays an important role in execution of his duties. I was fortunate as my unit, being a “Mixed Class composition” having troops from all religious/territorial denominations, made it incumbent to partake in



RAMESH DAVESAR

(The writer is a retired Colonel and an infantry officer. The views expressed are personal.)

# Noida Land Scam, a throwback - Part V

## The Authority’s decision to change the status of private companies to Institutional category was injudicious, selective and without basis

The C&AG has stated that multiple allotments to applicants on a single date were given and front companies were used for allotment of plots through different applications. There is evidence of dereliction of duty by the members of the PAC where-by fraudulent actions have been permitted by the officials of NOIDA.

A national newspaper has also reported based on RTI documents that 3C Universal Developers Pvt Ltd’s promoters, directors and shareholders, and their companies took eight plots. Dharampal Satyapal Sons Pvt Ltd, makers of Rajnigandha pan masala, and its promoters and directors together got six plots.

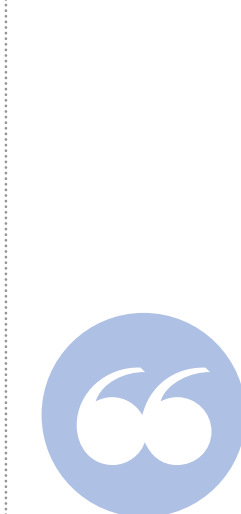
Businessman Late Gurdeep Singh Chadha, better known as Ponty Chadha, bagged a plot along with Rajinder Singh Chadha and Javed Ahmed as promoter-cum-director of Brilliant Builders Pvt Ltd. His wife Jatinder Kaur was allotted another plot as promoter-cum-director of Jagat Guru Real Estate Developers Pvt Ltd. Ajay Rastogi, an official in Ponty Chadha’s liquor business, too got a plot.

Among the other beneficiaries of the scheme, prominent lawyers Shanti Bhushan and his son Jayant Bhushan, former ASG Vikas Singh, HCL CEO Vineet Nayar, etc., were also included.

Thus, the land of farmers acquired at lower rate, invoking the urgency clause for industrial development, was allotted on discretionary basis to affluent and influential individuals/companies for their personal/leisure use at a highly subsidised rate.

Noida Authority allotted 134 plots ranging from 1000-5000 sqm each, covering an area of 2,41,072 sqm at the rate of ₹7800 per sqm for the corporate offices of the Private Companies/Firms in 2008-09 treating them as Institutions rather than Commercial profit-making firms. As these companies run on commercial basis and earn profits, they should pay for the plot of land at commercial rate. The Authority used to charge commercial rate from them earlier. However, the Authority changed the status of these commercial companies to Institutional in October 2008 thereby giving undue benefit of ₹6600 per sqm to these private companies. Therefore, the decision by the Authority to change the status of private companies to Institutional category was injudicious, selective and without basis. Thus, the land of farmers acquired at lower rate, invoking the urgency clause for industrial development was allotted at a highly subsidised rate on discretionary basis, thereby affording undue benefits of ₹161.75 crore to 134 Private companies. Undue favour in allotment of industrial plot to CBS International Projects Ltd.

Noida Authority allotted an industrial plot (No. 01/90) measuring 1,02,949 sqm on 03 September 2007 CBS International Projects Ltd at a premium of ₹52.77 crore for establishment of IT Park. The allottee claimed to be a consor-



THE LAND OF FARMERS ACQUIRED AT LOWER RATE, INVOKING THE URGENCY CLAUSE FOR INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT, WAS ALLOTTED ON DISCRETIONARY BASIS TO AFFLUENT AND INFLUENTIAL INDIVIDUALS OR COMPANIES FOR THEIR PERSONAL OR LEISURE USE AT A HIGHLY SUBSIDISED RATE

(The writer is a retired DG of the C&AG of India and a member of RERA, Bihar between April 2018-December, 2021. The views expressed are personal.)



tium of three companies (Burchill VDM, Carnoustie Management and RS Resource Management Consulting). However, on verification, it was found that the CBS was actually owned by Carnoustie Management and RS Resource Management Consulting only on the date of the application (06 August 2007). The name of Burchill VDM, an overseas company was added to present a rosy picture of its financial health in order to qualify for allotment of the plot. These wrong facts were not verified and were accepted by NOIDA without any documentary evidence. This has resulted in allotment to an ineligible applicant of a plot worth ₹52.77 crore. Further, the Authority failed to restrict sale of commercial and residential portion for non-captive use in the Plot as ‘Bhutani Group’, the promoter advertised the projects ‘Alphathum’ and NOIDA World One in Sector 90 wherein residential studio apartments and commercial spaces were being sold to non-IT/ITES units, which has resulted in undue benefit to the allottee to the extent of ₹745.56 crore.

The C&AG has therefore raised a serious question of probity, integrity and the governance failure at every level in the functioning of Noida Authority. The Authority appeared to have abdicated its responsibility to protect its own as well as public interests. Senior officials had acted in clear

breach of public trust and in complete disregard to the interest of Authority and the home buyers. There was little monitoring of the projects and negligible compliance of the terms and conditions which has put the interests of stakeholders in peril. In spite of the clear evidence of breaches, the Authority failed to act against builders/allottees and take action against its own officials for their dereliction of duty and collusive role in permitting/abetting the continuing infractions. As Noida is a subset of NCR and also an important part of UP which contributes to about 10 percent of GDP of India, it is necessary that Yogi 2.0 as well as GOI take immediate action to stem the rot and hold the culprits accountable.

The Government should immediately order for an investigation by a SIT including a senior official of C&AG, IT and MCA or CBI and punish all such officials who have colluded with the developers/builders in the illegal/irregular transactions over the years, as pointed out by the C&AG of India.

All allotments of plots where full premium/cost have not been paid, should forthwith be cancelled and the possession of the plots of land be taken back. Indemnity bonds of each allottee should be encashed.

All allottees who have illegally sold/transferred the plots/subplots to third parties in violations

of the terms and conditions of the schemes should be prosecuted and proceeded against.

The name of the New Okhla Industrial Development Authority is a misnomer. It should be changed to the Noida Development Authority.

All allotments of plots whether for GH or commercial or Institutional purposes to private companies/firms should be done on competitive bidding basis in future.

RERA should take immediate action to protect the interests of home-buyers of each residential projects being developed in 4 Sports City projects encompassing 826 acres of land in Sectors 78,79, 150 and 152.

RERA should also take a considered view on registration of such residential project where there are specified conditions on the use of land.

Discretionary Allotments of multiple Farm-houses at throw-away prices to affluent and influential persons/companies should be cancelled forthwith. In future, all such allotments should be done transparently at market rate after following objective criterion.

The Board of the Authority should be mandated to monitor the progress of projects every quarter and to take corrective/ remedial actions in time so that the prime objectives of the schemes are achieved. (Concluded)

POINT COUNTERPOINT


“NO MUSLIM WOMAN WANTS HER HUSBAND TO BRING HOME THREE OTHER WIVES. UCC IS NOT MY ISSUE, IT IS AN ISSUE FOR ALL MUSLIM WOMEN.”  
— CHIEF MINISTER, ASSAM  
HIMANTA BISWA SARMA



“... (UCC) IS NOT THE COUNTRY'S NEED TODAY. THE ECONOMY HAS GONE DOWN... UNEMPLOYMENT IS GROWING WHICH NEEDS FOCUS.”  
— PRESIDENT, AIMIM AND MP  
ASADUDDIN OWAIISI

all ceremonies. Incidentally, having done my academics in Khalsa education institutes, it further ingrained my spiritual heirloom of respect for other faiths.

It is due to these proven factors that make our armed force a reflection of secularism. Where else one would see a Muslim officer performing havan, a Hindu offering namaz, a Sikh doing church service and the Christian officers and jawans reciting Gurubani. I agree that these practices would surely sound odd to others, but these are the hard realities of Military Secular Culture. Further, we have the live practice which is still continuing, wherein the officers commanding Muslim troops observe ‘roza’ during Ramadan. It takes me back to 1991-92 while com-



manding my battalion in the Valley, I too had the privilege of observing three days’ fast during the Holy Month as a mark of solidarity to our local civilian support staff. Going further back, my unit was deployed along the Line of Control (LOC) in Poonch, in October 1984 we conducted a presentation on “1971 Operations in Punch Sector” at the Forward Post. Being a major event, in addition

to attendees from various Army Units, we had also invited a few journalists and correspondents to cover the proceedings. They were happily surprised beyond belief when they saw that “all faiths” were being housed and worshiped together in one bunker. Branding as a paragon of true secularism, in a questionable exclamation they said: “Yeh dekh kar yakeen nahin hota, bahar to log in Bhagwanon ko alagkarne pe ladai kar rahe hain aur yahaan sab ikath the!” “These feelings mattered a lot, and more so, coming close on the heels of the 1984 riots.

In J&K, the grave sites of Muslim saints (Pir Baba Mazaar in local lexicon) are symbols of multi-religious faith and worshiped with great reverence by all particularly the armed forces. In line with the local customs, the Army ensures proper respect is paid by all ranks. In deference with the religious sentiments, they ensure proper upkeep and maintenance of these sites. Thursdays are observed as unofficial dry days by the troops deployed along the International Border and the LOC. To further buttress the military secular traditions, there are two gurudwaras fully managed, administered and maintained in all respects by the Army.

Having been brought up in such a harmonious and sine qua non environs of secularism, a soldier, when exposed to the ongoing politico-communal scenario, finds himself lost in a whirlpool of ambivalent secular practices prevailing in our country. Before proceeding further, let me dig out a few historical

facts. Starting with the basics, the word secular means; “an action not concerned or connected with any religion”. Whereas the term secularism implies that religion and the religious considerations should be ignored or excluded from social and political fora. Going further deep into the historical annals, one finds that the word secularism was first coined by a British, George Holyoake in 1851 to promote social order free from religion, subsequently it laid the foundation of separating the State from the Church, thus insulating the Government, political, social functionaries and the religious institutions from one another.

Over time, Articles 14 to 25 of the Constitution have been brazenly mauled by political and religious outfits and interpreted to suit their myopic charters. The end result is in front of us. Marred by the ongoing disturbances, we look more divided than being united and face the worst kind of “socio-communal” polarisation. In other words, the prevailing scenario is the cumulative manifestation of various socio-politically sponsored practices such as bigotry, exploitation, vote-bank tactics, appeasement, migrations, lynching and radicalisation. This has not only spiralled into inter-faith acrimony but is also indirectly endangering our internal security.

As a soldier, I find myself at the cross-roads between the true secularism I was taught by the Army and the other — whatever we name it — currently patronised in our country.



# First civilians leave Mariupol steel plant, hundreds remain

AP ■ ZAPORIZHZHIA

People fleeing besieged Mariupol described weeks of bombardments and deprivations as they arrived on Monday in Ukrainian-held territory, where relief workers awaited the first group of civilians freed from a steel plant that is last redoubt of Ukrainian fighters in the devastated port city. Video posted online Sunday by Ukrainian forces showed elderly women and mothers with small children climbing over a steep pile of rubble from the sprawling Azovstal steel plant and eventually boarding a bus.

More than 100 civilians from the plant were expected to arrive in Zaporizhzhia, about 140 miles (230 kilometers) northwest of Mariupol, on Monday, Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy said.

The evacuation, if successful, would represent rare progress in easing the human cost of the almost 10-week war, which has caused particular suffering in Mariupol. Previous attempts to open safe corridors out of the city on the Sea of Azov and other places have

broken down. People fleeing Russian-occupied areas in the past have said their vehicles were fired on, and Ukrainian officials have repeatedly accused Russian forces of shelling agreed-upon evacuation routes.

"Today, for the first time in all the days of the war, this vitally needed green corridor has started working," Zelenskyy said Sunday in a pre-recorded address published on his Telegram messaging channel.

At least some of the people evacuated from the plant were apparently taken to a village controlled by Moscow-backed separatists, though Russian state media reported they would be allowed to continue on to Ukrainian-held territory if they wanted to. In the past, Ukrainian officials have accused Moscow's troops of forcibly relocating civilians

from areas they have captured to Russia; Moscow has said the people wanted to go to Russia. While official evacuations have often faltered, many people have managed to flee Mariupol under their own steam in recent weeks. Others are unable to escape.

"People without cars cannot leave. They're desperate," said Olena Gibert, who was among those arriving at a U.N.-backed reception center in Zaporizhzhia in dusty and often damaged private cars. "You need to go get them. People have nothing. We had nothing."

She said many people still in Mariupol wish to escape the Russian-controlled city but can't say so openly amid the atmosphere of constant pro-Russian propaganda. A siege of the city since the early days of the war has trapped civilians in terrible conditions, with scarce access to food, water, medicine and electricity. They have suffered intense bombardment, including a Russian airstrike on a maternity hospital and the bombing of a theater.

Anastasiia Dembytska, who took advantage of the brief cease-fire around the evacuation of civilians from the steel plant to leave with her daughter, nephew and dog, told The Associated Press her family survived by cooking on a makeshift stove and drinking well water.

She said could see the steel



plant from her window, when she dared to look out.

"We could see the rockets flying" and clouds of smoke over the plant, she said.

A defender of the plant said Russian forces resumed shelling the plant Sunday as soon as some civilians there were evacuated. Denys Shlega, commander of the 12th Operational Brigade of Ukraine's National Guard, said

in a televised interview that several hundred civilians remain trapped alongside nearly 500 wounded soldiers and "numerous" dead bodies.

"Several dozen small children are still in the bunkers underneath the plant," Shlega said. It was unclear whether there would be further evacuation attempts.

Before the weekend evacuation, about 1,000 civilians

were also believed to be in the sprawling, Soviet-era steel plant, along with an estimated 2,000 Ukrainian fighters. As many as 100,000 people may still be in Mariupol overall.

The city, which had a pre-war population of more than 400,000, is a key Russian target because its capture would deprive Ukraine of a vital port, allow Moscow to establish a land corridor to the Crimean

Peninsula, which it seized from Ukraine in 2014, and free up troops for fighting elsewhere in the Donbas, now Russia's main focus.

A Ukrainian officer at the plant urged groups like the U.N. And the Red Cross to ensure the evacuation of wounded fighters, though he acknowledged that reaching some of the injured is difficult.

"There's rubble. We have no special equipment. It's hard for soldiers to pick up slabs weighing tons only with their arms," Sviatoslav Palamar, deputy commander of the Azov Regiment, told the AP in an interview. "We hear voices of people who are still alive" inside shattered buildings.

The Azov Regiment originated as a far-right paramilitary unit and is now part of the Ukrainian military.

In his nightly address Sunday, Zelenskyy accused Moscow of waging "a war of extermination," saying Russian shelling had hit food, grain and fertilizer warehouses, and residential neighborhoods in the city of Kharkiv, in the Donbas and other regions.

After failing to capture

Kyiv in the opening weeks of the war, Russian forces have embarked on a major military operation to seize the Donbas, Ukraine's eastern industrial heartland where Moscow-backed separatists have been battling Ukrainian forces since 2014. The Russian Defense Ministry said its forces struck dozens of military targets in eastern Ukraine in the past 24 hours, including concentrations of troops and weapons and an ammunition depot near Chervone in the Zaporizhzhia region.

The information could not be independently verified. The Ukrainian president's office said at least three people were killed and another three, including a child, were wounded in the eastern Luhansk region over the last 24 hours. It said that four people were wounded in the shelling in Donetsk, another eastern region.

The regional administration in the Zaporizhzhia region farther west said that at least two people died and another four were wounded in the Russian shelling of the town of Orikhiv.

# Russians repair bridge blown up near Ukraine in ‘sabotage’

AP ■ MOSCOW

Teams of workers strove Monday to repair a bridge in southwestern Russia near the border with Ukraine that was damaged in what a local governor described as an act of sabotage.

The regional administration said it expects the repair work will be completed Wednesday.

Kursk regional Gov. Roman Starovoit said Sunday that the bridge was blown up by uniden-



tified attackers and the Investigative Committee, Russia's top state investigative agency, has launched a criminal probe into what it described as a "terrorist

act."

Officials didn't specify the significance of the bridge for the war, but it sits on a key railway link used to ferry supplies to Russian troops fighting in eastern Ukraine.

No one has claimed responsibility for the attack on the bridge, that follows a series of explosions and fires in western Russia amid the war in Ukraine that has entered a third month.

On April 1, two Ukrainian helicopter gunships struck an oil depot in Belgorod, according to

Russian officials, causing a massive fire.

A week ago, a massive blaze erupted at an oil depot in the western city of Bryansk owned by Transneft-Druzhbha, a subsidiary of the Russian state-controlled company Transneft that operates the western-bound Druzhbha (Friendship) pipeline carrying crude to Europe. The fire didn't cause any disruption in oil deliveries.

On the same day, another oil storage facility in Bryansk also caught fire.

# Jill Biden to meet Ukrainian refugees in Romania, Slovakia

AP ■ WASHINGTON

Jill Biden will spend Mother's Day meeting with Ukrainian mothers and children who fled for their lives after Russian President Vladimir Putin opened war against Ukraine, the White House announced late Sunday.

The May 8 meeting will take place in Slovakia, one of two eastern European countries the first lady plans to visit during a five-day trip that starts Thursday. She also will be stopping in Romania.

The trip will mark Biden's latest show of solidarity with Ukraine. Romania and Slovakia share borders with Ukraine, which has spent the past two months fighting off Russia's military invasion. Romania and Slovakia also are NATO members.

Nearly 5.5 million Ukrainians, mostly women and children, have fled Ukraine since Russia invaded



its smaller neighbor on Feb. 24, according to the U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees. Many have resettled in neighboring countries or relocated elsewhere in Europe.

Throughout the trip, Biden will also meet with U.S. Service members, U.S. Embassy personnel, humanitarian aid workers and educators who are helping teach displaced Ukrainian children. The first lady will travel to Slovakia to meet with staff at the U.S. Embassy in Bratislava.

After arriving in Romania on Friday, she is scheduled to meet with U.S. Service mem-

bers at Mihail Kogalniceau Air Base, a U.S. Military installation near the Black Sea.

The schedule then takes her to the Romanian capital of Bucharest on Saturday to meet with government officials, U.S. Embassy staff, humanitarian aid workers and educators who are helping teach displaced Ukrainian children. The first lady will travel to Slovakia to meet with staff at the U.S. Embassy in Bratislava.

On May 8, Biden will travel to Kosice and Vysne Nemecke in Slovakia to meet with refugees, humanitarian

aid workers and local Slovaks who are supporting Ukrainian families that have sought refuge in Slovakia. She plans to meet with members of Slovakia's government on May 9 before returning to the United States.

The trip will be the first lady's second overseas by herself, following her journey to Tokyo last year for the opening of the delayed 2020 Olympic Games. The trip also will mark her latest gesture of solidarity with Ukraine.

Four days after Russia's Feb. 24 invasion of Ukraine, Biden appeared at a White House event wearing a face mask embroidered with a sunflower, Ukraine's national flower.

She also invited Ukraine's ambassador to the United States, Oksana Markarova, to sit with her during President Joe Biden's State of the Union address in March and had a sunflower sewn into the sleeve of the blue dress she wore for the occasion. President Biden visited with Ukrainian refugees during a stop in Poland in March.

**LANDMARK THE HOMES 81**  
SECTOR-81, GURUGRAM (HARYANA)

**PROJECT APPROVED UNDER HARYANA GOVT. AFFORDABLE HOUSING POLICY 2013**

Online applications are invited from general public for booking and allotment of 165 residential apartments in Affordable Housing Project in the name of "LANDMARK THE HOMES 81" proposed to be developed by M/s SRV Automotives Pvt. Ltd., as per terms and conditions of the policy prescribed by the Town & Country Planning Department, Govt. of Haryana vide notification no. PF-27/48921 dated 19.08.2013 and amendment thereof (details available at the department website i.e. [www.tcparyana.gov.in](http://www.tcparyana.gov.in)).

**PROJECT DETAILS:**

1. Project ID:	84
2. Colonizers/Developers:	M/s SRV Automotives Pvt. Ltd.
3. Project Approvals:	License No. 4 of 2021 Dated: 02.03.2021 Building Plans Sanctioned Vide Memo No. ZP-1466/SD (DK)/2021/12887 DATED 02.06.2021. RERA Registration No: 36 of 2021, Dated: 16.07.2021
4. Location:	Sector 81, Gurugram, Haryana
5. Project Area:	5.0 Acres comprising a total 694 nos. of apartments out of which remaining/surrender 165 nos. of apartments are available. 8 nos. of apartments are reserved for management quota. Community Facilities: One Community Hall of 2046.83 sq. ft. and One Aanganwadi cum creche of 2023.63 sq. ft.
6. Facilities:	Gated Entry, Security Post, Drop off Zone, Ample Parking, Kids play area, Water body, Badminton Court, Lawn tennis, Commercial Complex

**7. Details of Apartments offer for Public:**

Unit Type	Unit Carpet Area @ 4200 (Sq.ft)	Unit Balcony Area @ 1000 (Sq.ft)	Total price of Unit (Rs.)	At the time of Online Application (Rs.)	No. of Units
Unit-3 (2BHK) - (4 units under MQ)	559.82	179.33	2451264	117562.20	61
Unit-4 (2BHK) - (4 units under MQ)	566.61	124.16	2479746	118988.10	57
Unit-6 (1BHK)	348.04	85.34	1547121	73088.40	38
Unit-7 (1BHK)	398.86	85.34	1760552	83760.60	9

8. Applicable GST and cesses, levies & fees etc. shall be charged over & above the said total price of the unit.

9. **Payment Terms:**

- With online application: Booking amount i.e.5% of Total Price of unit
- On Allotment: 20% and 12.5% of due installment of unit (installment shall be equivalent to the amount payable by other allottees)
- Balance: 62.5% of the Total amount payable in five equal half yearly instalments over a period of 2.5 years. Any default in payment will bear penal interest as provided in Rule 15 of the HRERA, rules, 2017.

10. **Parking:** Two wheeler parking with each apartment.

11. **Broad Specification of Apartment:**  
Flooring: Vitrified/Ceramic Tiles, Wall Finish: Oil Bound distemper, Kitchen Details: SS Single bowl Sink, Granite top platform, Balcony Flooring: Anti Skid Tiles, Railing: M.S Steel, Window/External Door: UPVC/MS/Aluminum or equivalent, Door: Flush Doors, Bathroom Fittings: Chinaware or equivalent, C. P. Fittings: Modern & elegant, Electrical: ISI marked products for wirings, switches & circuits.

12. **Application Timelines:** Application will be filled online by registration on <https://edraw.tcparyana.gov.in/tcp-dms/home> starting from 02<sup>nd</sup> April 2022 and last date of submission of online application form is 11<sup>th</sup> May 2022.

13. **ELIGIBILITY:**

- Any person can apply but an applicant in a specify colony shall make only one application.
- Any Person can apply, however, the PMAY beneficiaries, which include their spouse or dependent children, identified by the Urban Local Bodies Department, Haryana under "Pradhan Mantri Aawas Yojna - Housing for all programme shall be granted preference in allotment. First Priority shall be given to the identified beneficiaries of the said town followed by other PMAY beneficiaries of the state of Haryana. Thereafter, for the remaining flats, Persons which include their spouse or dependent children who do not own any flat/plot in any HUDA developed colony/sector or any licensed colony in any of the urban areas in Haryana, UT of Chandigarh and NCT Delhi shall be given next Preference in allotment of flats. Any successful applicant under this policy shall not be eligible for allotment of any other flat under this policy in any other colony. In case he/she is successful in more than one colony, he/she will have choice to retain only one flat. All such applicants shall submit an affidavit to this effect.
- PAN Card & Aadhaar Card is mandatory.

14. **ALLOTMENT CRITERIA:**

- The allotment of apartments shall be done through online draw in the presence of Committee consisting Deputy Commissioner or his representative (at least of the cadre of Haryana Civil Services), Senior Town Planner (Circle office), DTP of the concerned District and the representative of concerned colonizer.
- After fixation of date for online draw, an advertisement shall be issued by the Developer informing the applicant about the details regarding date/time and venue of the online draw in the same newspaper in which the original advertisement was issued. For detailed criteria and time frame to be adopted for scrutiny and allotment, the applicant may also refer to the details in the affordable housing policy 2013 notified by No. PF-27/48921 dated 19.08.2013 (available at the department website i.e., [www.tcparyana.gov.in](http://www.tcparyana.gov.in))
- In the event the purchaser(s) wants to avail a loan facility from any bank, financial Institution or his/her employer to facilitate the purchase of the flat, the developer shall facilitate the process but shall not be held liable for any delay in payment or refusal to grant the loan to purchaser(s).

**M/s SRV Automotives Private Limited, CIN: U70100DL2005PTC134174**  
**Corp. Office: Landmark House, Plot No. 65, Sector 44, Gurugram, Haryana – 122003**  
**Please Contact – 8929887878**

**PUBLIC NOTICE**

General public is hereby informed that Smt. Meenu Chhabra W/o Shri Gulshan Chhabra is intending to Sell Upper Ground Floor, Built-up on Property No. 33-D, area measuring 50 Sq. Yards, out of Khosra no. 338, Situated in the area of Revenue Estate of Village Bindapur, in Block-V, Subhash Park, Utam Nagar, New Delhi, to Smt. Geeta and Shri Subhashini, to be financed by Hero Housing Finance Limited. Further it is informed that there are no other legal heirs of Late Shri Kail Das Chhabra had expired on 07.12.1999 and Smt. Ishwari Devi W/o Late Sh. Kail Das Chhabra is also expired on 02.01.2008 except (1) Smt. Premila, (2) Smt. Madhu, (3) Smt. Kamlesh, (4) Shri Harish Chhabra and (5) Shri Gulshan Chhabra and Surviving member certificate is not available. 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.: +91-8076188328

**NAME CHANGE**

I, Birendra Singh S/o Dayal Singh have changed my name to Birendra Singh Negi S/o Dayal Singh R/o II RM-50, Sector 2, Rajendra Nagar, Sahibabad, Ghaziabad U.P. – 201005.  
Permanent address: Chamolisain, Chamoli Gaon, Pauri Garhwal, Banghat, Uttarakhand- 246172 for all future purposes.

**PUBLIC NOTICE**

It is hereby, informed to the General Public that, We Chandralekh Construction Pvt Ltd, have lost the Original Provisional Allotment Letter No. JGNPKP20S075 dated 24-05-2010 issued by Jaiprakash Associates Limited in respect of Unit bearing No. PKP002S075 plot no. S-75, Kensington park plots-2, Sector-131 Noida project, situated at Jaypee Wishtown, Noida on dated 19-04-2022. Any one finding the said documents is requested to kindly return the same to me or to the Company.

Name: Ramesh Parihar  
Address:D-171 Sec.-63, Noida  
Phone No.:9810166726  
Email id:info@chandralekha.in

**PUBLIC NOTICE**

It is hereby, informed to the General Public that, We Chandralekha Construction Pvt Ltd, have lost the Original Provisional Allotment Letter No. JGNPKP20S073 dated 24-05-2010 issued by Jaiprakash Associates Limited in respect of Unit bearing No. PKP002S073 plot no. S-73, Kensington park plots-2, Sector-131 Noida project, situated at Jaypee Wishtown, Noida on dated 19-04-2022. Any one finding the said documents is requested to kindly return the same to me or to the Company.

Name: Ramesh Parihar  
Address:D-171 Sec.-63, Noida  
Phone No.:9810166726  
Email id:info@chandralekha.in

**उत्तराखण्ड जल संस्थान**  
सेन नं.-1, तखन विहार, मेघरोवाला रोड, देहरादून-248001  
Phone No: 0135-2671940, E-mail - eemdujs@rediffmail.com

पत्रांक: 463/ई-निविदा/2022-23 दिनांक: 02.05.2022

**ई-निविदा सूचना**

मुख्य महाप्रबन्धक, उत्तराखण्ड जल संस्थान, देहरादून की ओर से निम्नलिखित कार्यो हेतु ई-निविदा, टू-बिड सिस्टम (तकनीकी बिड एवं कॉमर्शियल बिड) आधार पर निम्नानुसार आमंत्रित की जाती है:-

निविदा क्र.सं.	कार्य विवरण	घरोरु धनराशि	निविदा प्रश्न डाउनलोड करने की तिथि एवं समय	ई-निविदा प्रश्न अपलोड करने की अंतिम तिथि एवं समय	तकनीकी बिड खोले जाने की तिथि एवं समय	निविदा की वैधता
1	(i) Supply of Sewer jetting cum suction machine 4000 Ltrs capacity mounted on 9.5 Ton BS VI Truck Chassis with cabin PTO complete in all respect. (ii) Supply of manhole De-silting Machine mounted on BS VI Truck Chassis with cabin complete in all respect. (iii) Supply of Trailer mounted Sewer Cleaning machine Bucket Type.	121920.00	06.05.2022 upto 11.00 a.m.	20.05.2022 upto 05.00 p.m.	21.05.2022 upto 11.00 a.m.	90 days
2	Supply of stainless steel (SS) water tanker of 3.5KL capacity mounted on BS VI truck chassis with cabin including motor pump set, hose pipe 30mt & essential accessories complete in all respect.	79320.00	06.05.2022 upto 11.00 a.m.	20.05.2022 upto 05.00 p.m.	21.05.2022 upto 11.00 a.m.	90 days

ई-निविदा से सम्बन्धित समस्त जानकारीयों व शर्तें उत्तराखण्ड राज्य की वेबसाइट [www.uktenders.gov.in](http://www.uktenders.gov.in) पर और लाइन देवी/आस की जा सकती है।

**“जल संवर्ध-जीवन संवर्ध”**

के.सी. वैद्युती  
अधिकाारी अभियन्ता

AP ■ KYIV

Ukraine's president is describing his hourslong weekend meeting with US House Speaker Nancy Pelosi in Kyiv as a powerful signal of support in a difficult time.

In a televised address on Sunday evening, President Volodymyr Zelenskyy said his meeting with Pelosi included discussions of defense supplies to Ukraine, financial support and sanctions against Russia.

Pelosi and a half dozen U.S. Lawmakers met with Zelenskyy and his top aides for about three hours late Saturday to voice American solidarity with the

besieged nation and get a first-hand assessment as she works to steer a massive new Ukraine aid package through Congress.

Zelenskyy says Ukrainians "are grateful to all partners who send such important and powerful signals of support by visiting our capital at such a difficult time."Additionally, Zelenskyy estimated that more than 350,000 people had been evacuated from combat zones thanks to humanitarian corridors pre-arranged with Moscow since the start of Russia's invasion of Ukraine in late February. Many civilians were evacuated Sunday from at a steel plant in the bombed-out city of Mariupol.

# Russia resumes shelling of steel plant in Mariupol after civilian evacuations

AP ■ KYIV

Russian forces resumed shelling of a steel plant in the war-torn city of Mariupol immediately after the partial evacuation of civilians, a Ukrainian military officer has said.

Ukrainian National Guard brigade commander Denys Shlega said on Sunday in a televised interview that at least one more round of evacuations is needed to clear civilians from the Azovstal steel mill and dozens of small children are inside bunkers below the industrial facilities.

The shelling began as soon as rescue crews ceased evacuating civilians from the plant, Shlega said.

The commander estimated that several hundred civilians still are trapped at the site alongside nearly 500 wounded soldiers and numerous dead bodies. The plant is the only part of the city not occupied by the Russians.

A video published earlier on Sunday by the Russian defence ministry showed people walking out of the steel plant, including a small group of women accompanied by two pet dogs.



# ‘Lankan Govt’s priority should be seeking aid from India, China’

Do not worry about securing a working majority in Parliament: Former PM Wickremesinghe

PTI ■ COLOMBO

Sri Lanka’s former Prime Minister Ranil Wickremesinghe has said that political leaders should focus on seeking financial assistance from a number of countries, including India and China, to get the debt-ridden island nation out of its worst economic crisis rather than worrying about securing a working majority in Parliament.

Addressing the United National Party’s (UNP) Jathika Sevaka Sangamaya May Day

ceremony at New Town Hall in Colombo on Sunday, Wickremesinghe said the government led by President Gotabaya Rajapaksa should give priority to resolving the ongoing economic crisis and take immediate action to control the prices of essential goods.

"It should pay attention to saving the banking system from collapsing. It should. We saw how the banking sector collapsed in Greece and the same happened in Indonesia in 1998. The government should



speak to India, China, Japan and South Korea to seek help," he said. "Having 113 MPs in Parliament is no longer the solution for the present problem. The country is facing an economic crisis of unprece-

dentented proportion," he was quoted as saying by The Island newspaper. Sri Lanka is in the grip of an unprecedented economic turmoil since its independence from Britain in 1948. The crisis is caused in part by

a lack of foreign currency, which has meant that the country cannot afford to pay for imports of staple foods and fuel, leading to acute shortages and very high prices. Months of lengthy blackouts and acute shortages of food, fuel and pharmaceuticals have triggered widespread protests calling for the government’s resignation. "The national economy has almost collapsed.

Agriculture is in death throes without fertilisers. Fishers have no diesel. Many have lost their jobs. Companies are downsizing at the expense of their workers. Some have already been closed down.

Thousands of more jobs are likely to be lost," Wickremesinghe said. "Medium scale enterprises have collapsed and small-scale enterprises are facing the same predicament. The value of

money deposited in the banks has been lost by around 50 per cent. The value of the savings in the EPF and ETF has decreased by around 50 per cent. There are protests and demonstrations all over the country. People are asking the government to go home. The government has lost its mandates received at the 2019 and 2020 elections," he said.

The former premier said instead of giving priority to resolving the current economic crisis, the government was divided on whether President Gotabaya or his elder brother and Prime Minister Mahinda Rajapaksa should quit.

"The prevailing problems cannot be solved by mustering 113 seats in Parliament. The problem, however, could be solved. For that purpose, income taxes have to be increased. Fuel prices and elec-

tricity prices would have to be increased." The value of the US dollar which was at Rs. 185 rupees is likely to reach Rs 400. Therefore, government expenses have to be cut down. In the meantime, the government should talk to the international community to secure its assistance," he said.

Sri Lanka needs at least USD 4 billion to tide over its mounting economic woes, and talks with international institutions such as the World Bank as well as countries like China and Japan for financial assistance have been going on. The country has run out of foreign currency to import badly-needed essential goods.

Last month, the Sri Lankan government said it would temporarily default on USD 35.5 billion in foreign debt as the pandemic and the war in Ukraine made it impos-

sible to make payments to overseas creditors.Sri Lanka has asked for an International Monetary Fund bailout, which could take up to three months to arriv Central bank governor Nandalal Weerasinghe earlier in the week said the staff-level agreement with the IMF could be reached during the next two months.

The finance ministry has also noticed the registered importers apply to avail themselves of the facility of the Indian Credit Line of USD 1 billion at the Indian Credit Facility Coordinating Unit (ICFCU) of the ministry.

India has agreed to extend an additional USD 500 million credit line to help Sri Lanka import fuel. New Delhi has also already agreed to defer USD 1.5 billion in import payments that Sri Lanka needs to make to the Asian Clearing Union.

## As Iran-Taliban tensions rise, Afghan migrants in tinderbox

AP ■ TEHRAN

The Taliban members who killed her activist husband offered Zahra Hussein a deal: Marry one of us, and you’ll be safe.Husseini, 31, decided to flee. Through swaths of lawless flatlands she and her two small children trekked by foot, motorcycle and truck until reaching Iran.

As Afghanistan plunged into economic crisis after the United States withdrew troops and the Taliban seized power, the 960-kilometer (572-mile) long border with Iran became a lifeline for Afghans who piled into smugglers’ pickups in desperate search of money and work.

But in recent weeks the desert crossing, long a dangerous corner of the world, has become a growing source of tension as an estimated 5,000 Afghans traverse it each day and the neighbours - erstwhile enemies that trade fuel, share water and have a tortured history - navigate an increasingly charged relationship.In past weeks, skirmishes erupted between Taliban and Iranian border guards. Afghans

in three cities rallied against Iran. Demonstrators hurled stones and set fires outside an Iranian Consulate. A fatal stabbing spree, allegedly by an Afghan migrant, at Iran’s holiest shrine sent shockwaves through the country. Political analysts say even as both nations do not want an escalation, long-smoldering hostilities risk spiralling out of control.

"You have one of the world’s worst-simmering refugee crises just chugging along on a daily pace and historical enmity," said Andrew Watkins, senior Afghanistan expert at the United States Institute of Peace. "Earthquakes will happen."

The perils are personal for Afghans slipping across border like Hussein. Since Taliban takeover, Iran has escalated its deportations of Afghan migrants, according to the U.N. Migration agency, warning that its sanctions-hit economy cannot handle influx.In the first three months of this year, Iran’s deportations jumped 60% each month, said Ashley Carl, deputy chief of the agency’s Afghanistan mission.

## Why France’s Macron now faces challenge from Left

AP ■ PARIS

Victorious over his far-right rival in last month’s presidential vote, centrist Emmanuel Macron now faces a gathering challenge from the Left in France’s upcoming legislative elections.

A government headed by hard-left veteran politician Jean-Luc Mélenchon is hardly

a prospect Macron would relish at a time of crisis for the European Union.

The French president would have to contend with a Prime Minister far apart ideologically from himself on crucial issues like France’s relationship with the 27-member nation bloc and the supplying of weapons to Ukraine.

Mélenchon, who earned a

third place finish in the presidential election, is trying to engineer a stunning comeback as the head of what he hopes will be a coalition of left-ist parties who have spent the past five years in the president’s large shadow.

Mélenchon inched closer toward uniting the shattered and weakened left by striking a deal on Monday with

France’s Greens to not compete against each other in the legislative polls in June. Mélenchon’s La France Insoumise (France Unbound) party is also talking to the Socialist and Communist parties in hopes that they’ll also get behind him.

Still, the fiery orator remains far away from becoming Prime Minister and poten-

tially limit Macron’s room for policy-making. Mélenchon’s nascent coalition of the left would need to win a majority of the 577 seats in the lower house, the National Assembly, in the elections that will be held over two rounds of voting, on June 12 and 19.

With six weeks of campaigning left to go, a Macron-Mélenchon power split emerg-

ing in June looks unlikely for now. Here is a look at some of the obstacles that stand in the way of Mélenchon’s ambitions:

The President’s political movement, La République en Marche (The Republic on Move), and its centrist allies together hold over 300 seats in the outgoing parliament, making him favorite to again win a majority.

## Pak Govt may quash Nawaz conviction in graft cases: Report



PTI ■ ISLAMABAD

Pakistan’s new Government is considering quashing or suspending former Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif’s conviction in corruption cases to offer him a chance to plead afresh before a court of law, according to a media report on Monday. The 72-year-old three-time premier, against whom several corruption cases were launched by the government of former prime minister Imran Khan, had left for London in November 2019 after the Lahore High Court granted him four-week permission allowing him to go abroad for his treatment.

Dawn newspaper quoted Interior Minister Rana Sanaullah as saying that both the federal and Punjab’s provincial government had the powers to quash or suspend the punishment of an accused and offer him a chance to plead his case afresh before a court of law for being ‘wrongly’ sentenced earlier in the case.

He said that the provisions might be used to provide relief to the ruling Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) supremo and others. He, however, said that Sharif would decide his homecoming on the basis of his health.

## Nepal’s EC seeks clarification from mayoral candidate over derogatory remarks against woman

PTI ■ KATHMANDU

The Election Commission (EC) of Nepal on Monday sought clarification from the CPN-UML’s mayoral candidate for Kathmandu Metropolitan City over his alleged derogatory comments against a woman at a public event here.

Keshav Shapit on Thursday made some derogatory remarks against a woman when she asked him about sexual harassment charges against him. During the #MeToo movement in 2018, Shapit was accused of sexual harassment by at least two women.

At the programme, replying to the questions from the

woman in the audience, Shapit said that though she looked like a nice lady her face was disgusting. He also asked, “what will happen if he publicised the girl’s name in news media as having involved in the prostitution?”

As many as 45 women’s rights groups on Saturday issued a statement calling Shapit’s remarks objectionable and demanded that his candidacy be scrapped. Nepal will hold local level elections on May 13.

"His statement is not only insensitive but also amounts to gender violence in itself," the rights groups including Women’s Rehabilitation Centre (WOREC) said in the joint statement.

## Muslims mark Eid al-Fitr holiday with joy, worry


AP ■ CAIRO

For the Islamic holiday of Eid al-Fitr, the smell of freshly baked orange biscuits and powdered sugar-dusted cookies typically fills the air in Mona Abubakr’s home. But due to higher prices, the Egyptian housewife this year made smaller quantities of the sweet treats, some of which she gives as gifts to relatives and neighbours.

The mother of three has also tweaked another tradition this Eid, which began Monday in Egypt and many Muslim-majority countries and marks the end of the Islamic holy month of Ramadan. She bought fewer outfits for her sons to wear during the three-day feast. "I told them we have to compromise on some things in order to be able to afford other things," she said. This

year, Muslims around the world are observing Eid al-Fitr - typically marked with communal prayers, celebratory gatherings around festive meals and new clothes - in the shadow of a surge in global food prices exacerbated by the war in Ukraine. Against that backdrop, many are still determined to enjoy the Eid amid easing of coronavirus restrictions in their countries while, for others, the festivities are dampened by conflict and economic hardship.

At the largest mosque in Southeast Asia, tens of thousands of Muslims attended prayers Monday morning. The Istiqlal Grand Mosque in Indonesia’s capital Jakarta was shuttered when Islam’s holiest period coincided with the start of the coronavirus pandemic in 2020 and was closed to communal prayers last year.

<div><b>CSB Bank</b></div> <div>Formerly The Catholic Syrian Bank Ltd.</div>					Sr. No.	Account No.	Branch	Account Name	Balance as on 31.03.2022 (In Rs.)	Gold Weight in GMS)
PUBLIC NOTICE ON AUCTION OF PLEDGED GOLD ORNAMENTS										
The borrower/s in specific and interested bidders in general are hereby informed that one account of non-repayment of Bank's dues by the borrowers are under despite the payment notice and recall / auction notice issued by the Bank, the gold ornaments pledged with the Bank as security by the respective Borrowers for the loans availed by them will be sold in public auction on "AS IS WHERE IS" and "NON-RECOURSE" basis through physical auction on 10th May, 2022 at 3:00 p.m. in Branch Premises. Auction may be adjourned to any other later date at the discretion of the bank upon publication of the same in the Bank's notice board. The borrowers are hereby further informed that the gold ornaments will be disposed off by private sale if the public auction is not successful and if there is a further balance to be recovered thereafter, legal action will be initiated against the borrower/s for recovery of the balance amounts due to the bank.										
Sr. No.	Account No.	Branch	Account Name	Balance as on 31.03.2022 (in Rs.)	Gold Weight in GMS)					
1	0283-04161640-000004	Ashok Vihar - Delhi	Jai Kishor	19,045.50	6.00					
2	0283-04161640-000003	Ashok Vihar - Delhi	Jai Kishor	25,310.50	7.80					
3	0283-03999801-000011	Ashok Vihar - Delhi	Dhamendra	31,401.00	9.80					
4	0283-04406329-000001	Ashok Vihar - Delhi	Gurpreet	45,876.50	14.20					
5	0283-03999801-000010	Ashok Vihar - Delhi	Dhamendra	56,474.25	14.72					
6	0283-04099629-000003	Ashok Vihar - Delhi	Vikram	1,20,951.50	32.37					
7	0283-04069413-000010	Ashok Vihar - Delhi	Smriti	1,68,297.71	49.62					
8	0283-04069413-000009	Ashok Vihar - Delhi	Smriti	2,37,031.55	75.72					
9	0283-04290954-000001	Ashok Vihar - Delhi	Sanjay	2,97,842.75	79.20					
10	0283-04069413-000011	Ashok Vihar - Delhi	Smriti	13,43,580.00	384.60					
11	0480-07320164-000001	Dwaraka	Anil	47,927.14	12.84					
12	0480-07317943-000001	Dwaraka	Khushboo	96,661.64	22.94					
13	0480-04344261-000002	Dwaraka	Ashok	3,17,518.50	91.95					
14	0300-04402437-000001	Faridabad	Geeta Devi	1,62,607.05	46.80					
15	0300-04400122-000001	Faridabad	Babita	1,81,518.05	52.00					
16	0322-04316938-000001	Gautam Nagar	Neetu	2,44,240.00	74.20					
17	0322-04257937-000001	Gautam Nagar	Desh Kumar	13,54,844.50	385.00					
18	0383-04262393-000002	Ghaziabad	Amit	8,966.25	2.50					
19	0383-04338187-000001	Ghaziabad	Neetu	9,399.25	2.90					
20	0383-04268257-000001	Ghaziabad	Aamir	14,990.00	3.95					
21	0383-04318062-000001	Ghaziabad	Harior	12,120.82	4.00					
22	0383-04185948-000003	Ghaziabad	Ganshyam Kumar	13,193.50	4.30					
23	0383-04002352-000006	Ghaziabad	Arun Kumar Tyagi	13,221.25	4.40					
24	0383-04329473-000001	Ghaziabad	Mohit	15,869.25	4.80					
25	0383-04268257-000004	Ghaziabad	Aamir	15,437.25	6.80					
26	0383-04317862-000002	Ghaziabad	Ismail	21,909.25	7.20					
27	0383-04174567-000004	Ghaziabad	Mohit	15,945.00	7.60					
28	0383-04317484-000001	Ghaziabad	Himanshu	25,426.25	7.80					
29	0383-04295278-000002	Ghaziabad	Reena	22,700.42	8.00					
30	0383-04289497-000001	Ghaziabad	Nitin	34,644.42	9.00					
31	0383-04362387-000001	Ghaziabad	Ankit Nagar	28,698.25	9.40					
32	0383-04159448-000002	Ghaziabad	Ravina	22,351.50	9.70					
33	0383-04317484-000002	Ghaziabad	Himanshu	28,389.00	9.80					
34	0383-04210712-000004	Ghaziabad	Kishan Singh	30,676.00	10.50					
35	0383-07314486-000001	Ghaziabad	Kunal	44,528.17	11.45					
36	0383-04322813-000001	Ghaziabad	Javed	36,817.52	12.50					
37	0383-04268257-000005	Ghaziabad	Aamir	38,490.00	13.30					
38	0383-04163843-000002	Ghaziabad	Jagdish	62,624.17	15.60					
39	0383-07310679-000003	Ghaziabad	Wahid	65,109.25	17.00					
40	0383-07317439-000001	Ghaziabad	Preeti	72,828.02	18.20					
41	0383-04252855-000001	Ghaziabad	Mohd	71,816.02	18.50					
42	0383-04210712-000003	Ghaziabad	Kishan Singh	64,315.25	20.55					
43	0383-07317299-000001	Ghaziabad	Vishal	84,624.50	21.30					
44	0383-04262393-000003	Ghaziabad	Amit	62,972.25	22.80					
45	0383-04250988-000001	Ghaziabad	Premwati	96,001.92	24.80					
46	0383-04229772-000002	Ghaziabad	Monu	81,847.25	28.40					
47	0383-04317862-000003	Ghaziabad	Ismail	84,471.52	31.30					
48	0383-07270095-000001	Ghaziabad	Ankit	1,22,091.00	33.30					
49	0383-07270095-000005	Ghaziabad	Ankit	1,22,071.65	36.50					
50	0383-04320147-000003	Ghaziabad	Muraslin	1,03,355.50	39.80					
51	0383-04002352-000007	Ghaziabad	Arun Kumar Tyagi	1,89,222.25	62.30					
52	0383-07317258-000001	Ghaziabad	Rohit	3,03,801.85	78.60					
53	0383-04058292-000002	Ghaziabad	Yogendra Singh	2,71,613.25	89.60					
54	0383-04320147-000004	Ghaziabad	Muraslin	2,67,216.00	100.10					
55	0383-07314714-000001	Ghaziabad	Sandeep	34,268.85	106.30					
56	0383-07314486-000003	Ghaziabad	Kunal	4,48,383.67	115.60					
57	0296-04219457-000002	Greater Kailash - II	Deepak	7,775.50	2.33					
58	0296-04350078-000001	Greater Kailash - II	Shreya	22,416.92	6.50					
59	0316-04318311-000001	Gurgaon	Jamshed	5,749.37	1.70					
60	0316-04342919-000001	Gurgaon	Abhay	11,490.86	4.00					
61	0316-04350532-000001	Gurgaon	Amit	12,254.12	4.08					
62	0316-04328636-000001	Gurgaon	Tarun Giri	13,625.87	4.11					
63	0316-03012759-000003	Gurgaon	Dhananjay Tiwari	12,589.22	5.30					
64	0316-04068995-000002	Gurgaon	Uday Kumar Mehra	26,442.94	8.00					
65	0316-04310987-000001	Gurgaon	Rita	22,115.05	8.90					
66	0316-04310987-000002	Gurgaon	Rita	34,131.05	11.30					
67	0316-04308915-000001	Gurgaon	Gokul	51,124.04	18.07					
68	0316-04200951-000005	Gurgaon	Saty	53,918.00	19.09					
69	0316-04200951-000004	Gurgaon	Saty	51,977.86	20.09					
70	0316-04200951-000001	Gurgaon	Saty	95,275.54	24.70					
71	0316-04219667-000003	Gurgaon	Abhishek	72,001.36	26.51					
72	0316-0432608-000003	Gurgaon	Abhishek	1,46,010.87	50.40					
73	0316-04318297-000001	Gurgaon	Kuldeep	1,77,381.74	53.20					
74	0316-04318387-000001	Gurgaon	Gaurav	1,81,742.37	54.50					
75	0316-04352583-000001	Gurgaon	Anshu	1,72,451.12	59.30					
76	0316-04146499-000003	Gurgaon	Satish	1,93,636.87	64.51					
77	0316-04318209-000001	Gurgaon	Archana	2,33,706.36	70.70					
78	0316-04318397-000001	Gurgaon	Rahul T	2,51,584.37	75.80					
79	0316-04318366-000001	Gurgaon	Varun	3,10,446.37	93.10					
80	0318-03899170-000006	Jalandhar	Deepak	8,376.38	2.30					
81	0318-04153412-000002	Jalandhar	Ashwani	21,746.38	6.83					
82	0469-0439866-000001	Janakpuri	Gaurav	31,345.50	8.80					
83	0469-04344261-000001	Janakpuri	Ashok	50,884.50	14.69					
84	0458-04258034-000004	Karol Bagh	Lalit	53,993.75	14.90					
85	0458-04298275-000002	Karol Bagh	Lalit	2,10,300.50	64.54					
86	0458-04258034-000002	Karol Bagh	Lalit	3,10,789.75	75.85					
87	0458-04255522-000001	Karol Bagh	Shweta	3,54,389.64	97.74					
88	0205-07319338-000001	New Delhi	Dinesh	86,372.50	21.57					
89	0205-07325899-000001	New Delhi	Shama	1,35,890.14	34.84					
90	0205-07325899-000002	New Delhi	Shama	2,27,064.14	58.23					
91	0205-04070289-000004	New Delhi	Divyanshu	8,29,488.75	233.62					
92	0498-04316692-000001	Okhla	Ravada	15,908.50	4.81					
93	0498-04315607-000001	Okhla	Sri	18,231.50	5.52					
94	0498-04361556-000001	Okhla	Ritu	39,070.00	11.14					
95	0498-04319288-000001	Okhla	Vinod	44,131.50	13.97					
96	0498-07278468-000001	Okhla	Karan	82,524.50	23.34					
97	0498-04324903-000001	Okhla	Sanjay	93,435.00	27.55					
98	0498-04310086-000001	Okhla	Deepanker Bhalla	92,656.50	27.78					
99	0498-04333750-000001	Okhla	Neetu	2,49,399.00	73.62					
100	0498-04364829-000001	Okhla	Kirti	2,66,501.50	78.00					
101	0498-04360705-000001	Okhla	Yashbir	4,59,099.00	133.86					
102	0498-04404378-000001	Okhla	Amit	22,92,815.00	662.01					
103	0459-04319288-000001	Palam	Vinod	39,394.62	11.64					
104	0459-04314640-000001	Palam	Bedpal	47,998.62	14.73					
105	0459-04215947-000003	Palam	Sanjay Kumar	84,231.15	24.59					
106	0459-04319267-000001	Palam	Shabnam	77,609.62	25.03					
107	0459-04322647-000001	Palam	Ritu	86,818.87	25.70					
108	0459-04333765-000002	Palam	Shubham	96,288.62	28.02					
109	0459-04322644-000001	Palam	Arun	1,06,628.62	31.10					
110	0459-04333765-000001	Palam	Shubham	1,12,907.12	35.14					
111	0459-04329412-000001	Palam	Laxmi Kumar	2,20,372.62	64.70					
112	0459-04329412-000002	Palam	Laxmi Kumar	2,21,404.62	65.30					
113	0459-04346939-000001	Palam	Neeraj	2,34,792.62	69.50					
114	0459-07316207-000001	Palam	Sanjay	4,32,571.50	110.23					
115	0483-04344379-000001	Rohini	Shephali	9,402.00	3.28					
116	0483-04263755-000001	Rohini	Rakesh	16,756.75	3.96					
117	0483-04336033-000001	Rohini	Amiruddin	16,454.50	5.10					
118	0483-04278861-000002	Rohini	Rajender	18,727.00	6.00					
119	0483-04358116-000001	Rohini	Nitin	27,713.50	9.30					
120	0483-04394340-000002	Rohini	Manoj	50,344.50	14.31					
121	0483-04394340-000001	Rohini	Manoj	57,812.00	15.81					
122	0483-04334988-000001	Rohini	Sumeet	55,232.50	17.76					
123	0483-04259768-000001	Rohini	Rahul Kumar	75,568.75	18.10					
124	0483-04323201-000002	Rohini	Tarun	58,662.50	19.00					
125	0483-04317271-000003	Rohini	Ashish	66,968.50	20.00					
126	0483-043204									



# Gadkari pitches for entities engaged in alternative fuels



**New Delhi:** Union Minister Nitin Gadkari on Monday made a case for extending priority sector lending facilities for entities engaged in production and business of alternative fuels like bio-ethanol, CNG and LNG, a move that will help cut imports of fossil fuels.

Addressing an event here, the Road Transport and Highways Minister further said the trial of bringing calorific value of ethanol at par with petrol by Indian Oil Corporation (IOC) was successful.

"Those involved in pro-

duction or business of alternative fuels should be included in priority sector lending. I shall speak about the issue with the finance minister and RBI Governor," he said.

Priority sector lending facility will help the entities engaged in alternative fuel production or business to obtain loan from banks on easier terms. He asserted that this move will help in reducing imports of fossil fuels in India.

Gadkari said on Wednesday that he will meet the Information Technology minister and suggest him to

direct telecom companies to run IT towers on ethanol-based generators rather than diesel-based ones.

The minister noted that there appears to be shortage of power in the country as the requirement has increased on account of economic growth.

Peak power shortage rose swiftly last week from single digit of 5.24 GW on April 25 to touch double digit of 10.77 GW on April 28 showing affects of various factors like low coal stocks at generation plants, heatwave and other issues on deepening electricity crisis. **PTI**

# Mins' panel unanimous on 28% GST on casino, horse racing: Bengal Min

**New Delhi:** The panel of state finance ministers is unanimous on hiking the GST rate on casino, race course and online gaming services to 28 per cent, West Bengal finance minister Chandrima Bhattacharya said on Monday.

However, a call on whether the tax should be levied on gross or net valuation would be taken after further deliberations at the officer level.

The Group of Ministers (GoM) will decide on the method of valuing the services. At present, services of casino, horse racing and online gaming attract 18 per cent GST (Goods and Services Tax).

The government had in May last year set up a panel of state ministers for better valuation of services of casinos, online gaming portals and race courses for levying GST.

The GoM, headed by Meghalaya chief minister Conrad Sangma, met on Monday and discussed the applicable GST rate on these three services.

"There was a clear consensus that the highest rate of 28 per cent should be levied on all the three services — casino, race course and online gaming.

"The officer's committee will deliberate further and give report within 10 days on whether tax would be levied on gross or net value, after which the GoM will meet again and take a call," Bhattacharya said.

She said the decision of the GoM would take into account businesses involved in these services, society and other stakeholders.

The report of the GoM is likely to be taken up in the next meeting of the GST Council expected later this month.

Other state ministers in the 8-member GoM include Maharashtra deputy chief minister Ajit Pawar, Gujarat finance minister Kanubhai Patel, Goa panchayati raj minister Mauvin Godinho, Tamil Nadu finance minister P Thiaga Rajan, Uttar Pradesh finance minister Suresh Khanna and Telangana finance minister T Harish Rao. **PTI**

# Markets continue to fall for 2nd day; Sensex declines 85 points



**Mumbai:** Benchmark indices continued their downtrend on Monday, with the Sensex falling 84.88 points, tracking selling in index majors Infosys and Reliance Industries along with weak global equities.

The 30-share BSE benchmark went lower by 84.88 points or 0.15 per cent to settle at 56,975.99 after recovering some lost ground during the fag-end of trade. During the day, it tanked 648.25 points or 1.13 per cent to 56,412.62.

The NSE Nifty declined 33.45 points or 0.20 per cent to close at 17,069.10.

From the Sensex pack, Titan, Wipro, Tech Mahindra, Infosys, Maruti, Asian Paints, Larsen & Toubro and SBI were among the major laggards.

In contrast, IndusInd Bank, NTPC, Power Grid, Tata Steel, HDFC and ITC were among the gainers.

Elsewhere in Asia, markets in Seoul and Tokyo settled lower, while Shanghai and Hong Kong were closed for holidays. Bourses in Europe were also trading lower in the afternoon session.

Stocks in the US had ended significantly lower on Friday.

Meanwhile, international oil benchmark Brent crude declined 2.61 per cent to USD 104.3 per barrel.

Foreign institutional investors offloaded shares worth a net Rs 3,648.30 crore on Friday, after they turned net buyers on Thursday, according to stock exchange data.

"The recent hawkish turn by Fed has made investors extra cautious ahead of the

upcoming Fed meeting triggering high volatility in the market. The rising dollar index, FII selling spree and elevated commodity prices further hammered the risk sentiment.

"On the other hand, domestic numbers like GST collection, auto sales numbers and manufacturing PMI for the month of April gave a sense of an improving economic outlook," said Vinod Nair, Head of Research at Geojit Financial Services. **PTI**

# Realty firm TARC raises ₹1,330 cr to repay entire loans

**New Delhi:** Realty firm TARC Ltd on Monday said it has raised Rs 1,330 crore through the issue of non-convertible debentures to retire the entire loans of the company.

In a regulatory filing, TARC Ltd, formerly Anant Raj Global Ltd, informed that the company has "successfully raised Rs 1,330 crores by way of issuance of secured Non-Convertible Debentures."

The funds have been used to retire the entire loans of the company.

"Accordingly, all existing loans of the company stand paid off as on April 29, 2022," the filing said.

In September last year, TARC Ltd had sold a warehousing asset in North Delhi to global investment firm Blackstone for Rs 295 crore. **PTI**

# RRA recommends withdrawal of 225 more circulars: RBI

**Mumbai:** The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) on Monday said the Regulations Review Authority has recommended the withdrawal of additional 225 redundant circulars.

The Reserve Bank of India had set up the Regulations Review Authority (RRA 2.0) with an objective to reduce the compliance burden on regulated entities (REs).

"Regulations Review Authority (RRA 2.0) has recommended withdrawal of additional 225 circulars in the third tranche of recommendations," the central bank said in a statement. The notifications containing the list of specific instructions recommended for withdrawal are being issued separately, it added.

The RRA had recom-

mended the withdrawal of 150 circulars in the first tranche of recommendations in November 2021 and 100 circulars in the second tranche of recommendations in February 2022.

In the second tranche, the RRA had also recommended discontinuation/ merger/ conversion to online submission of 65 returns along with the creation of a new 'Regulatory Reporting' link in the RBI website to consolidate information relating to regulatory reporting.

RRA 2.0 was set up by the Reserve Bank of India to review the regulatory instructions, remove redundant and duplicate instructions and reduce the compliance burden on Regulated Entities (REs). **PTI**

# Gold plunges ₹745; silver tumbles ₹1,228

**New Delhi:** Gold in the national capital on Monday plunged Rs 745 to Rs 50,936 per 10 grams in line with the fall in international precious metal prices, according to HDFC Securities.

In the previous trade, the precious metal settled at Rs 51,681 per 10 grams.

Silver also tumbled by Rs 1,228 to Rs 63,028 per kg from Rs 64,256 per kg in the previous trade.

In the international market, gold was trading lower at USD 1,880 per ounce and silver was flat at USD 22.62 per ounce.

"Gold prices traded lower with spot gold prices at COMEX trading 0.85 per cent down at USD 1,880 per ounce on Monday. Gold prices declined on Monday pressured by stronger dollar and rally in US bond yields," said Tapan Patel, Senior Analyst (Commodities), HDFC Securities. **PTI**

# Ayana Renewable Power partners with Greenstat Hydrogen India to develop green hydrogen projects

**New Delhi:** Ayana Renewable Power and Greenstat Hydrogen India have collaborated for the development of green hydrogen projects powered by renewable energy in India.

The first pilot project will come up in Karnataka.

"National Investment and Infrastructure Fund (NIIF) backed Ayana Renewable Power (Ayana) and Norway-based Greenstat ASA's subsidiary Greenstat Hydrogen India, have entered into a Joint Development Agreement for development of green hydrogen projects powered by renewable energy in India," a statement said.

Under this partnership, the companies will develop large-scale green hydrogen solutions, to provide long-term supply of green hydrogen to industrial and commercial customers in India. An initial pilot project will be launched in

**Under this partnership, the companies will develop large-scale green hydrogen solutions**

Karnataka.

This partnership supports the National Hydrogen Mission with an aim to make India a global hub for production, and export of green hydrogen.

Shivanand Nimbargi, the CEO & MD of Ayana, said, "By 2050, India aims to produce three-fourths of its hydrogen from renewable energy source. Ayana and Greenstat being specialists in their respective domains, carry the right expertise to facilitate this growth."

Sturle Pedersen, Chairman of Greenstat Hydrogen India, said the cooperation between the companies is likely to have significant contribution to the green shift. **PTI**

# Bajaj Auto shares decline nearly 3% after April sales data

**New Delhi:** Shares of Bajaj Auto Ltd on Monday fell by nearly 3 per cent after the company reported a 20 per cent decline in total sales in April.

The stock went lower by 2.75 per cent to settle at Rs 3,624.50 apiece on the BSE. During the day, it tumbled 3.18 per cent to Rs 3,608.30.

On the NSE, it declined 2.88 per cent to Rs 3,622 apiece.

On Monday, Bajaj Auto Ltd reported a 20 per cent decline in total sales to 3,10,774 units in April.

The company had sold 3,88,016 units in the year-ago period, Bajaj Auto said in a statement.

Total domestic sales in the month stood at 1,02,177 units against 1,34,471 units in April 2021, down 24 per cent, it added. Exports were also down 18 per cent last month at 2,08,597 units. It was at 2,53,545 units in the year-ago period.

Two-wheeler sales in the domestic market were at 93,233 units against 1,26,570 units in the same month last year, down 26 per cent, the company said. **PTI**

# JSL Q4 net jumps over two-fold to ₹750 crore

**New Delhi:** Jindal Stainless Ltd (JSL) on Monday posted a 156 per cent jump in consolidated net profit at Rs 749.88 crore for the March quarter, mainly on account of higher income.

In the year-ago quarter, its net profit stood at Rs 292.61 crore, the company said in a regulatory filing.

Total income in January-March 2022 rose to Rs 6,582.84 crore, from Rs 3,926.30 crore in the same quarter of 2020-21.

Total expenses were at Rs 5,885.19 crore during the quarter under review, compared to Rs 3,564.82 crore earlier.

In a separate statement, JSL said it has maintained a strong performance on the back of adaptive strategies in supply chain and product basket management.

"Despite volatility and global disruptions in raw material supply and logistics, the company effectively doubled its exports sales proportion to 32 per cent of total sales volumes in Q4 FY22 as compared to 16 per cent Q4FY21" it said. **PTI**

# Scorching heat leads to record sales of residential ACs in April

**New Delhi:** The early arrival of summer and the subsequent heat wave have led to soaring demand for residential air conditioners, with manufacturers such as Voltas, Panasonic, Hitachi, LG and Haier posting record growth sales in April.

The sales have also been boosted by pent-up demand and a low base of April last year when businesses were impacted by the second wave of COVID-19 pandemic. This year the AC sales have crossed the pre-pandemic levels in April 2019, according to industry players.

"In the month of April 2022, the AC industry has witnessed unprecedented growth over last year, due to a very strong summer, and a low base of 2021. We have witnessed high triple-digit growth across the sector," Voltas managing director and CEO Pradeep Bakshi told PTI.



The company, which is an industry leader, witnessed "unprecedented growth" and almost touched the volume level of April 2019, which was also one of the hottest summers of the decade, he added.

"We are confident that the industry will continue to outperform the last two summers during the rest of this summer," Bakshi said. Similarly,

Panasonic India said it has witnessed a "record demand" for air conditioners and sold over 1 lakh units during the month.

"We have been seeing record demand for air conditioners. This April, Panasonic India sold over 1,00,000 units, a growth of 83 per cent over last April (2021) and a 67 per cent growth over April 2019.

# Gold jewellery consumption likely to grow 11% in FY-2023: Report

**Mumbai:** India's gold jewellery demand is likely to grow steadily at 11 per cent during the current financial year due to strong retail performance last year, according to a report.

Within the jewellery retail industry, revenues of organised retailers are likely to grow at a higher pace of 14 per cent, backed by their aggressive store expansion plans and a gradual shift from the unorganised segment towards the organised one, Icara Ratings said in a report.

"Demand during the current Akshaya Tritiya season is expected to be strong, leading to a healthy demand growth of around 45 per cent Y-o-Y in the first quarter of FY23. Growth for FY23 is expected at 11 per cent for the industry, despite a high base witnessed in FY22, driven by the anticipated steady wedding and festive purchases during the current fiscal, given Indian consumer's strong cultural affinity towards gold,"



Icara Senior Vice President and Group Head Jayanta Roy said.

Interestingly, at the forecasted level, gold jewellery demand in FY23 would be almost 40 per cent higher than the levels seen in FY20, he added.

The Icara report further stated that the jewellery retail sector is estimated to have grown at a robust 26 per cent in FY22, driven by the strong demand recovery witnessed post the second wave of COVID-19 in the first quarter of 2021-22.

This was despite a sharp increase in gold prices, which

resulted in some postponement of purchases for weddings and other occasions towards the end of the fiscal, the report observed.

Consumption in FY22 was spurred by a pent-up demand in the second quarter and healthy festive and wedding demand driving record sales in the third quarter.

Further, gold jewellery demand in the fourth quarter too was better than expected, with a limited impact of the third wave on store operations. For FY23, revenues are expected to grow at a steady pace of 14 per cent driven primarily by anticipated store expansions, it said.

Post the healthy levels seen in FY20 and FY21 on the back of inventory gains, operating profitability in FY22 are estimated to have witnessed some moderation because of lower contribution levels and an increase in operating costs. **PTI**

# DSP flexi cap fund completes 25 years, delivering 19.1% CAGR returns

**Mumbai:** Mid-sized fund house DSP Investment Managers has said its investors have gained 19.1 per cent on an annual basis in the past 25 years from its flexi cap fund.

Launched late April 1997, the flexi cap fund has an AUM of Rs 7,661 crore as of end March 2022 and is among its flagships funds.

The fund as it completes 25 years has a proven portfolio that has been through many market cycles and has delivered returns of 19.1 per cent in compounded annual growth rate) since inception, the fund house said. ₹1 lakh invested at inception is worth over Rs 78 lakh now, whereas a similar invest-

ment in Nifty 500 is only Rs 31.74 lakh, it claimed.

The compounded annual return growth of the fund, managed by Atul Bhole and Abhishek Ghosh, over any 10-year period has been a minimum of 6.9 per cent and a maximum of 33.5 per cent.

This was DSP's first fund to have a disciplined investment framework and has proven itself over many market cycles. This long-term growth has, however, been seen by only 36 investors, who invested at inception and remain invested today, Kalpen Parekh, managing director & chief executive of the fund said in a statement on Monday. **PTI**

# Kia India reports 18% increase in vehicle sales in April

**New Delhi:** Kia India on Monday said its sales increased 18 per cent year-on-year to 19,019 units in April.

The automaker had dispatched 16,111 units to dealers in April 2021.

Seltos remained the top contributor to Kia's overall sales with 7,506 units, while Sonet and Carnival contributed 5,404 and 355 units, respectively.

Launched in mid-February, Carens dispatches stood at 5,754 units.

"Kia India has sold close to 20,000 units on an average, every month in 2022 and it has been a healthy year for us. The global automotive industry has been facing a tough phase battling supply chain woes since



the Covid-19 pandemic started in 2020," Kia India VP and Head of Sales & Marketing Hardeep Singh Brar said in a statement.

The company has been receiving an overwhelming demand for its vehicles, and it is optimising production consistently to keep the waiting

period in check, he added.

"At Kia India, we believe in evolving ourselves consistently, and hence we are bringing the most hi-tech Kia ever made for our discerning Indian customers. With EV6, we are entering India's EV space, which has shown great potential," Brar noted. **PTI**

# Wipro shares decline nearly 3% after earnings announcement

**New Delhi:** Shares of Wipro on Monday declined by nearly 3 per cent after the company's quarterly earnings failed to cheer investors.

The stock declined 2.74 per cent to settle at Rs 495.05 on the BSE. During the day, it dipped 3.19 per cent to Rs 492.75.

At the NSE, it went lower by 2.61 per cent to Rs 495.50.

The company's market valuation declined by Rs 7,641.94 crore to Rs 2,71,395.06 crore on the BSE.

In traded volume terms, 13.71 lakh shares were traded at the BSE and over 2.19 crore shares at the NSE during the day.

IT company Wipro on Friday posted a 4 per cent increase in its consolidated profit to Rs 3,092.5 crore in the fourth quarter ended March 31, 2022, on account of continued demand for IT services.

The company had registered a profit of Rs 2,974.1 crore a year ago. The March 2022 quarter was the sixth straight quarter of revenue growth for Wipro at over 3 per cent. The company's annual revenue crossed the USD 10 billion-mark for the first time. For the year ended March 31, 2022, Wipro posted a 12.57 per cent increase in consolidated net profit to Rs 12,232.9 crore compared to Rs 10,866.2 crore

it recorded a year ago.

"Crossing USD 10 billion in revenue is a significant landmark for us. So, we are now aiming higher. Revenue growth has been our fastest ever. In absolute terms, we have added one-fourth of our total revenue just this year," Wipro CEO and managing director Thierry Delaporte said.

Wipro's consolidated revenue from operations during the January-March quarter grew by about 28 per cent to Rs 20,860 crore from Rs 16,245.4 crore. Talking about the quarterly outlook, the Wipro CEO said that he expects the company's revenue to grow by 1-3 per cent. **PTI**





# LIVERPOOL MAY 'SUFFER' IN CL FINAL QUEST

AP ■ LIVERPOOL

Liverpool manager Jurgen Klopp has warned his side must be "ready to suffer" against Villarreal if they are to reach the Champions League final.

The six-times champions of Europe will travel to Spain for Tuesday's second leg of

their semi-final with a healthy 2-0 lead. Liverpool are aiming to win a remarkable quadruple of trophies in the one campaign. "With all these things during the season, obviously with the situation we are in, we must have done something right, that is clear," Klopp told reporters on Monday. Liverpool have lost just

three matches since the turn of the year. German boss Klopp, however, put that run of form into context by adding: "But the problem in our job is everything's perfect until the next game starts on the wrong foot and all of a sudden the game gets a different dynamic. "It is good to know -- and it is more a feeling inside, not

Villarreal vs Liverpool  
Live from 12:30am IST  
SONY TEN 2 NETWORK

that we are flying constantly and high-fiving here and there — we are in a good moment. "But my only concern is what we do (on Tuesday) night and we have to be ready to suffer but not going 1-0

down or whatever — that can happen in football matches — but giving the game the right direction." Klopp explained his thinking by reference to Liverpool's hard-fought 1-0 win away to Newcastle on Saturday that maintained their challenge for the Premier League title. A good example was

# Villarreal playing for more than pride against Liverpool: Emery

AP ■ VILLARREAL

Unai Emery insisted on Monday Villarreal are not playing for pride but believe they can beat Liverpool and still reach the Champions League final, despite their 2-0 defeat in the first leg last week. Villarreal were undone by two goals in two minutes in the second half at Anfield as Liverpool took a giant step towards making their third Champions League final in five years. But Emery is adamant that Villarreal, who knocked out Juventus in the last 16 and Bayern Munich in the quarter-finals, can still turn the tie around at La Ceramica on Tuesday. "In the first leg, they were better but tomorrow we are not just playing for pride, we are playing to win," said Emery in a press conference. "Liverpool this season have not lost a game by more than two goals so we will have to play a perfect match, to be outstanding in everything we do. We'll have to find more of their weaknesses." Villarreal sit seventh in La Liga but, after win-



ning the Europa League last season, have raised their game in the Champions League. "There are several things that change from the first leg," said Emery. "Coming back from 2-0 is very difficult but it benefits us that away goals don't count for double. It's like a normal game. And the home advantage was very important there at Anfield. Here, at our own stadium, we want that too." Emery said Villarreal's star striker Gerard Moreno, who missed the first leg through injury, trained with the squad

on Monday but Arnaut Danjuma is struggling with a foot problem, while Yeremy Pino and Alberto Moreno are both out. "We know what's at stake," said Villarreal defender Pau Torres. "We have prepared well, we are a better Villarreal than we were last week. We have our plan, we know what we have to do, we have our fans on our side. "We have seen a very strong Villarreal this season at home in very important games so we know what we have to do."

# Barca retake 2nd spot



AP ■ BARCELONA

Barcelona took a big step towards securing a place in next season's Champions League as a 2-1 victory over Real Mallorca on Sunday saw them reclaim second spot in La Liga from Sevilla. Goals in either half from Memphis Depay and Sergio Busquets put Xavi Hernandez's men in control and they took the three points despite Antonio Raulo's effort for their relegation-threatened opponents at the Camp Nou. The Catalan giants move two points ahead of Sevilla and nine clear of fifth-placed Real Betis, who have a game in hand, with four matches to play this season. Barca took the lead in the 25th minute as Memphis Depay made a clever run to collect Jordi Alba's pass before thump-

ing a fine half-volley into the bottom corner. The Dutchman has scored 11 league goals since joining Barcelona from Lyon last summer, despite having struggled for a regular starting spot since the arrival of Pierre-Emerick Aubameyang from Arsenal in January. The hosts doubled their advantage nine minutes after the break as Sergio Busquets drove a low shot from the edge of the box into the net to score for the third time this season in all competitions, equalling his previous best goalscoring campaign. Barca thought they had added a third in the 73rd minute, but Ferran Torres' effort after a desperate goalmouth scramble was ruled out for an offside earlier in the move. There was more to cheer for the home fans shortly after-

wards as Ansu Fati came off the bench to make his first appearance since suffering a hamstring injury in January. Mallorca ensured that their opponents would at least endure a nervy finale to the match, as Antonio Raulo pulled one back with 11 minutes remaining. But Barcelona held on, leaving Mallorca only one point ahead of 18th-placed Granada, who drew 1-1 with Celta Vigo, in the fight to beat the drop. Earlier, Real Sociedad suffered a blow in their bid to qualify for next season's Champions League, as Radamel Falcao grabbed Rayo Vallecano a 1-1 draw. La Real looked set to move within three points of fourth-placed Atletico Madrid with four matches remaining when Alexander Sorloth gave them a first-half lead. But Colombian veteran Falcao came off the bench in the 77th minute and scored less than a minute later to leave Sociedad five points off the top-four pace. It was Falcao's sixth league goal of an injury-hit season as the 36-year-old made his first appearance for Rayo since February. Visitors Sociedad remain in sixth place after a third straight game without a win. Real Betis can cut the gap to Atletico down to a single point on Monday when they travel to Getafe. Real Madrid wrapped up the title on Saturday, ahead of their Champions League semi-final second leg against Manchester City in midweek.

# Chess Olympiad India names 2 teams in open & women's section

PTI ■ CHENNAI

Two teams each will represent India in the Open and women's section at the 44th Chess Olympiad with five-time world champion Viswanathan Anand to be the mentor of the home teams at the prestigious tournament, kicking off here on July 28. India being the host are entitled to field two teams each — in Open category as well as women's section — for the first-time ever. It has bolstered the home team's medal chances at the 14-day event, which is expected to witness participation of world's top names from more than 150 countries, according to All India Chess Federation (AICF). Vaidit Gujrathi, who led India to Gold medal in the 2020 Chess Olympiad, held virtually, will be part of



India's first team in open section alongside Pentala Harikrishna and Chennai-based Krishnan Sasikiran, who have represented India on numerous occasions. The 19-year-old Arjun Erigaisi and SL Narayanan will also be part of the first team. Arjun has been impressive in the

past year and will be one of the players to watch out for as he makes his debut at the event along with SL Narayanan, whose solid style has been very impressive. The second team, on the other hand, will comprise of young talents, who have been making headlines with their consistent performances in the last

couple of years, including Praggnanandhaa R, Nihal Sarin, Gukesh D and Raunak Sadhwani. They will be making their debuts at the Chess Olympiad. The team will also have experienced player Adhiban B, who was a part of the Indian side which won the Bronze medal in 2014. In the women's section, the first team will have the immensely talented Koneru Humpy and World No 10 Harika Dronavalli, who have stamped their authority on many international tournaments, and the prolific Tania Sachdev with R Vaishali and Bhakti Kulkarni. The second team will consist of national champions Soumya Swaminathan, Mary Ann Gomes and Padmini Rout along with Vantika Agarwal and 15-year-old Divya Deshmukh.

# Weightlifter Harshada becomes Jr World Champion

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Harshada Sharad. Garud on Monday became India's first weightlifter to win a Gold medal at the IWF Junior World Championships in Heraklion, Greece. Harshada claimed the yellow metal with a total effort of 153kg (70kg+83kg) in the women's 45kg category, opening India's account on the opening day of the competition. The 70kg effort in snatch earned Harshada a top-of-the-podium finish while she was second-best in the clean and jerk



section, behind Turkey's Bektas Cansu (85kg), who took home Silver medal with an overall effort of 150kg (65kg+85 kg). Hincu Teodora-Luminita of Moldova bagged the Bronze 149kg (67kg+82kg) in the non-Olympic category. The other Indian in the field, Anjali Patel finished fifth overall with a total effort of 148kg (67kg+81kg). Medals are awarded separately for snatch, clean and jerk, and total lift in continental and World Championships. But, just one medal — for total lift — is awarded in the Olympics.



# Osaka, Muguruza exit Madrid Open in 2nd round

AP ■ MADRID

Naomi Osaka and Garbiñe Muguruza were among leading players to be knocked out of the Madrid Open on a day of upsets. Spain's Sara Sorribes Tormo beat Osaka 6-3, 6-1 in the second round on Sunday on the Spanish capital's outdoor clay courts. Four-time Grand Slam winner Osaka enjoyed six aces but had her serve broken five times by Sorribes Tormo, who had already bettered French Open runner-up Anastasia Pavlyuchenkova. Osaka said that her movement was limited by pain in her left leg, which was heavily taped. Sorribes Tormo next faces Daria Kasatkina after she fought back to upset fourth-seeded Maria Sakkari 3-6, 6-3, 6-1. Ukraine's Anhelina Kalinina brushed aside Muguruza 6-3, 6-0. Muguruza, the reigning WTA Finals champion, had pain in her right calf but said this wasn't the reason for her defeat. Bianca Andreescu beat sixth-seeded Danielle Collins 6-1, 6-1 after the American lost her serve six times and had six double-faults. US Open champion Emma Raducanu beat Marta Kostyuk 6-2, 6-1.

# Indian hockey teams rise in FIH World Ranking



PTI ■ LAUSANNE

The Indian men and women hockey teams climbed to third and seventh positions respectively in the latest FIH World Rankings issued on Monday. Both the Indian teams made upward movement in the rankings chart, courtesy their impressive performances in the FIH Pro League matches recently. Three wins and a draw

over England (3-3 and 4-3) and Germany (3-0 and 3-1) helped Indian men move ahead of Netherlands, who dropped to fourth. Australia continued to lead the men's rankings after a successful four-match Test series against Malaysia, while Belgium are in second place, followed by India, Netherlands, Germany, Argentina, England and New Zealand. In the women's rankings, India jumped to the seventh spot following a win over top ranked Netherlands in the FIH Pro League. Argentina continuing good form in the Pro League means they remain in second place with Australia in third. England are in fourth spot ahead of Germany, Spain and India. Belgium are in eighth position ahead of New Zealand and Japan.

# KIUG: Priya Mohan beat Dutee Chand to win 200m Gold

PTI ■ BENGALURU

Young Priya Mohan outpaced the experienced Dutee Chand to win the 200m Gold, a day after securing the 400m title at the Khelo India University Games at the Kanteerva Stadium here on Monday. While the 2018 Asian Games Silver medalist Chand raced out of the blocks to take the lead into the first 100m, the 19-year-old Mohan ran a brilliant bend to overtake and cement her stature in the event. While Mohan clocked 23.90 seconds for the Gold, Chand, representing KIIT, claimed Silver with a timing of 24.02 seconds and Florence Barla of Ranchi University secured the Bronze with 24.13s. Despite the win, Mohan was unhappy that rain had wreaked havoc on her plans to set a personal best. "I'd prepared really hard for this and I was in peak form, but the weather wreaked havoc," said Mohan, who represented hosts Jain University. "I was hoping to do a 51 in the 400m. This is a great track, my home track, I'd called all my friends, but,



well, sometimes things don't go your way. "I'll be travelling to Europe now to try and qualify for the Senior Worlds, and improve my timing. This is a good start, gives me confidence..." she added.

# 5x5 Pro Basketball League to be launched in India later this year

PTI ■ MUMBAI

Budding hoopsters of the country will get an opportunity to rub shoulders with some big names in a first of its kind 5x5 Pro Basketball League, featuring 12 teams, to be launched later this year. Titled 'Elite Pro Basketball League', the league is being organised by Elite Sports India (ESI) and will attract top players, coaches from across India. Talking about the league, CEO of Elite Pro Basketball Pvt Ltd Sunny Bhandarkar said, "Originally, we planned for eight franchises, but seeing the overwhelming response (we received over 450 registrations) we decided to expand to 12 teams. "We are providing the athletes a platform from which they

were deprived since the UBA times. We are hoping this new league kickstarts and promotes the beautiful game of basketball in India. We are also organizing selection trials in the first week of May for players to put their best foot forward." The 12 franchise include Punjab Gladiators, Jaipur Giants, Kochi Pachters, Delhi Dominators, Lucknow Swarm, Hyderabad Hoops, Mumbai Stars, Chandigarh Conquerors, Pune Pythons, Bengaluru Stallions, Ahmedabad Aces and Chennai Turbos. The organisers have already announced the names of some key players, which includes the likes of India international Pratham Singh (Pune Pythons) and popular Telugu actor/athlete Arvind Krishna (Hyderabad Hoops).





the pioneer

INDIAN  
PREMIER LEAGUE

2022

12

I THINK JADEJA KNEW LAST SEASON HE'D BE CAPTAINING THIS YEAR. FOR THE FIRST TWO GAMES, I OVERSAW HIS WORK AND LET HIM BE LATER

— MAHENDRA SINGH DHONI

## KKR end losing streak

Nitish Rana, Rinku Singh's batting blitz help Knight Riders beat RR by 7 wickets

PTI ■ MUMBAI

Kolkata Knight Riders defeated in-form Rajasthan Royals by seven wickets to snap their five-match losing streak in the Indian Premier League here on Monday. KKR first restricted RR to 152 for five after opting to bowl and then chased down the target with five balls to spare to return to winning ways and heave a sigh of relief.

Nitish Rana (48 not out) anchored the chase, while Rinku Singh played a 23-ball unbeaten 42-run cameo to help KKR overwhelm the target with consummate ease.

Aaron Finch's poor run continued as he was cleaned up by Kuldeep Sen early on as KKR made a sedate start to their chase.

KKR batters found the going tough on a slow paced Wankhede pitch, where shot-making wasn't easy at all. Baba Indrajith (15) was bounced out by Prasidh Krishna soon but captain Shreyas Iyer (34 off 32) and Nitish Rana batted sensible to help KKR reach fifty in nine overs.

It was Rana who finally managed to free his arms in the 11th over, and used the sweep and reverse sweep to great effect to hit R Ashwin for a 4-6-4 to pick up 16 runs.

Iyer then clobbered Yuzvendra Chahal over wide long-on boundary to bring up the half-century stand for the third wicket with Rana.

Just when it seemed Iyer was breaking loose, he edged a Trent Boult delivery to Samson behind the stumps in the next over. Iyer struck three boundaries and one six during his knock.

New man Singh marked his arrival at the crease with a boundary of the first ball.



## ► pointstable

Po.	TEAM	M	W	L	NR	Pts	NR
1.	GT	9	8	1	0	16	0.377
2.	LSG	10	7	3	0	14	0.397
3.	RR	10	6	4	0	12	0.340
4.	SRH	9	5	4	0	10	0.471
5.	RCB	10	5	5	0	10	-0.558
6.	DC	9	4	5	0	8	0.587
7.	KKR	10	4	6	0	8	-0.060
8.	PBKS	9	4	5	0	8	-0.470
9.	CSK	9	3	6	0	6	-0.407
10.	MI	9	1	8	0	2	-0.836

## ► boundarymeter

4s	1300
6s	681

Needing 46 off 30 balls, Singh played the shot of the day, a paddle scoop to a 141 kmph Sen delivery on his legs high and mighty over the fine leg fence.

Singh meant business as he found the fence at crucial junctures to first bring down the equation to 31 runs off 18 balls.

Samson's decision to bring Chahal back into the attack in the 18th over back-fired as Singh took his chances against the spinner and struck consecutive fours to make it 18 off last 12 balls.

Singh continued his onslaught against Prasidh, who conceded 17 runs in the penultimate over, which included two boundaries from the left-hander's blade, as KKR wrapped up the match in style.

## Punjab face GT in must-win clash

PTI ■ NAVI MUMBAI

Gujarat Titans, who have been remarkable in bouncing back from adverse situations, would look to seal a spot in the Play-offs when they clash with inconsistent Punjab Kings in the Indian Premier League (IPL), here on Tuesday.

Gujarat, the IPL debutants, are clearly the team to beat in the competition having won eight out of nine games. A sixth consecutive win will make them the first side to enter the play-offs.

A big reason for Gujarat's stellar run has been their ability to come back from tough situations.

Whether it is Rahul Tewatia, David Miller, Rashid Khan or skipper Hardik Pandya -- they all have produced match-winning efforts during the course of the tournament. If one has failed, the other has risen to the occasion.

"That's the beauty of this team, people coming in and showing what they can do in clutch situations is becoming quite a habit, something I don't mind happening. We always back them to do it, but they're defying odds time and again," Hardik's words after the win over RCB summed up his team's spirit aptly.

The last time Gujarat and Punjab met, they produced a cracking finish with Tewatia bringing his team back from the dead by smashing two sixes off the last two balls of the game.

Punjab would hope to be on the right side of the result and that the game doesn't go deep. They are in the middle of another inconsistent campaign and with five losses in nine games and are running out of time.

Their senior batters, captain Mayank Agarwal himself, Jonny Bairstow, Shikhar Dhawan and Liam Livingstone have done well in patches but

have not been consistent enough.

Barring pacer Arshdeep Singh, who seems to be getting better with every game, the bowling department can also do better. They did well in the previous game but the batters flopped to let the team down.

For Titans, wicket-keeper Wriddhiman Saha has been a great replacement for a struggling Matthew Wade.

His opening partner Shubman Gill has had starts but of late the elegant right-handed batter hasn't been among the runs and considering his potential, he would be keen to get back to form.

The batting mainstay for Gujarat has been Hardik, who has played responsible knocks, and with 308 runs is the third highest run-scorer.

A rare failure in the last game against the RCB shouldn't bother the flamboyant all-rounder.

Their weak link is number three B Sai Sudharsan and he needs to take more responsibility along with Miller, who has been playing the role of a finisher to perfection.

Miller has taken the team over the line and along with Tewatia, who can hit sixes at will, is a formidable batter to have at the business end of the innings.

Another important cog for Gujarat is all-rounder Rashid Khan, who has also displayed his six-hitting prowess, to go with his crafty bowling. Miller, Tewatia and Rashid have together hit 28 sixes and will be expected to keep doing the job.

Gujarat also have one of the most lethal attacks in the IPL.

While Mohammed Shami can wreak havoc with the new ball, the big-hitters in the Punjab line-up would be wary of the pace and variety which Lockie Ferguson brings with him.

They can also continue with Pradeep Sangwan, who returned with fine figures in his first IPL game after four seasons.



## Captaincy pressure burdened Jadeja's preps &amp; performance: Dhoni

PTI ■ PUNE

The pressure and demands that come with captaincy affected Ravindra Jadeja's preparation and performance, says Mahendra Singh Dhoni, who had encouraged the all-rounder to take responsibility as a skipper rather than "spoon-feeding" him after the initial two-match transition period.

Jadeja had been appointed CSK skipper after Dhoni decided to step aside just before the tournament began last month.

But the all-rounder buckled under pressure and eventually gave up the job, forcing the franchise to fall back on their most trusted lieutenant.

Under Jadeja, CSK lost six out of their eight matches. India's most dependable all-format all-rounder's batting, bowling and fielding also took a hit.

Back at the helm of affairs, Dhoni, who has led CSK to four titles, produced instant result as CSK registered a 13-run win over Sunrisers Hyderabad to keep themselves afloat in the tournament on Sunday.

"I think Jadeja knew last season he'd be captaining this year. For the first two games, I oversaw his work and let him be later. After that, I insisted he'd take his own decisions and responsibility for them," Dhoni said at the post-match



presentation ceremony.

"Once you become captain, it means a lot of demands come in. But it affected his mind as the tasks grew. I think captaincy burdened his prep

and performances." Dhoni said Jadeja taking over the mantle of the side was a gradual transition, which he wanted.

"He knew and got enough time to prepare,

what is important is you want him to lead the side and I wanted that transition to happen. At the end of the season, you don't want him to feel as the captaincy was done by someone else and I'm just going for toss.

"So it was a gradual transition. Spoon-feeding doesn't really help captain, on the field you have to take those crucial decisions and you have to take responsibility for those decisions.

"Once you become the captain, we have to take care of lot many things and that also includes your own game," he said.

Dhoni hoped Jadeja would rediscover form after being freed from captaincy.

"Even if you relieve captainship and if you are at your best and that's what we want. We were also losing a great fielder, we are struggling for a deep mid-wicket fielder, still we have dropped 17-18 catches and that's a matter of concern."

"These are tough games and hopefully we will comeback strong, important to communicate with the bowlers," he said.

Talking about the match, Dhoni said they managed to put up a defendable score on the board. "It was a good score to start off. I did nothing different, it's not like much changes with the change of captain. The target we got was a good one, dew comes in so the bowling needed to be good.

## Sundar injured his bowling hand again, reveals Moody

PTI ■ PUNE

Washington Sundar has injured his bowling hand again, revealed Sunrisers Hyderabad head coach Tom Moody, raising doubts over the all-rounder's availability for the next game against Delhi Capitals.

Washington, who made a comeback in the game against the Gujarat Titans after missing three matches due to split webbing in his bowling hand, re-injured the same area while fielding against CSK on Sunday.

Following which the off-spinner was unable to bowl a single ball in Sunrisers' 13-run loss to CSK. While he did come down to bat, his stay in the middle lasted only two balls.

"It's very unfortunate that he had a knock on the same hand where he split his webbing. It had healed completely but he re-injured that area, it's not injured to the point that he needs it re-stitched," Moody said at the post-match presentation.

"But unfortunately, it wasn't in a state where he could bowl. It really did have an impact on for us in that early phase of bowling, given he has such a critical bowler for us," he added.

Sunrisers struggled against CSK as their other bowler T Natarajan was also off the field for a considerable time nursing an injury.

In the duo's absence, skipper Kane Williamson had to use the services of part time spinner Aiden Markram and batting all-rounder Shashank Singh.



Markram (0/36) and Singh (0/10) conceded 46 runs in 4 overs as CSK posted 202/2 on the board.

"When you lose one of your important bowlers, it is a massive blow to the side. We also had Natarajan off the field with an injury that was taking sometime before he could come back on.

"So, we basically had seven overs that hadn't been bowled by our frontline bowlers till the 14th-15th over. It made it very difficult for Kane to manage the situation in the middle and we chased a total which was 20-30 runs more than it should have been," Moody said.

After registering five wins on the trot, SRH have slumped to back-to-back defeats, losing to Gujarat Titand and CSK. They next take on Delhi Capitals on Thursday.

Northamptonshire  
Steelbacks sign Chris  
Lynn for T20 Blast

AGENCIES ■ LONDON

Northamptonshire Steelbacks has confirmed that Australia batter Chris Lynn will join the club for the 2022 Vitality Blast competition.

The hard-hitting batsman brings an incredible T20 experience, playing 230 matches and is set to feature in the Vitality Blast for the first time.

"I have always wanted to play county cricket and I'm really looking forward to joining up with Northamptonshire for the Vitality Blast. The UK is a great place to play and I am hopeful that I can contribute with some good performances and also try to entertain the Steelback fans this summer," Lynn said.

In T20 cricket, Lynn has scored more than 6,000 runs at an average above 30.

With forty T20 half-centuries and two centuries under his belt, Steelbacks Skipper Josh Cobb was excited by what Lynn brings.

Lynn joins Kiwi Jimmy Neesham as Northamptonshire's second overseas for the tournament and is available for all 14 group stage matches plus finals fixtures.

## Jos hasn't taken his form for granted in IPL 2022: Knight

AGENCIES ■ MUMBAI

Former England cricketer Nick Knight is impressed with the way Rajasthan Royals' star opener Jos Buttler is scoring runs game after game in the ongoing IPL 2022.

The top-order English batter is on a run-scoring spree in the ongoing IPL and there's no stopping him. In the 15th edition of IPL, the explosive right-handed batter is leading the Orange Cap race by a margin of more than a hundred runs. The Royals' wicketkeeper-batter is at the top of the run-scoring list with 588 runs to his name in ten matches.

Knight has applauded Buttler for forgetting the success of the previous game every time he walks into the field and taking his time to get used to the pitch, conditions and then construct his innings accordingly.

Speaking on 'Crickit Live on Star Sports', Knight said: "What impressed me hugely about Jos Buttler is the way he's started every innings. I mean if we look at the outcome of his innings, mostly it's either the 50s or 100s, he's (looking) in a different gear. (But) He tends to forget what he did in the previous game and starts afresh. (He) Hasn't taken his form for granted

at all. He's giving himself a few balls to get in and then play those big shots."

Former England spinner Graeme Swann, however, has cautioned Rajasthan Royals to not rely heavily on Buttler and advised the middle-order batters to start scoring runs in the middle overs. Swann reckons scoring at a decent pace in the middle overs will augur well for the teams in the upcoming games as the pitches will slow down at the far end of the tournament while most of the Rajasthan batters love batting on fast surfaces.

Swann said, "The worrying thing from Rajasthan Royals' point of view, if there is something they need to worry about, is that at the back end of the tournament the wickets are going to slow down where it will start skidding more. Up until now, they've played on some brilliant batting tracks and the RR batting has been so good that they've won every game."

"They've been too far ahead of every team. But with the wickets turning and getting slow (as the tournament progresses) may distract them going forward and they might lose some close games. So, they'll have to find a way because it cannot always be smash-smash-smash, and they can't heavily rely on Buttler. They need to find a way in the middle overs to score those 10-20 runs extra even in low scoring games," he added.

Railways set up final  
clash vs Maharashtra

PTI ■ SURAT

Defending champions Railways notched up a comfortable 35-run win over Odisha in the second semifinal to set up a summit clash with Maharashtra in the Senior Women's T20 Trophy here on Monday.

Batting first, Railways posted 159 for two, riding on the twin fifties by S Meghana (84) and Nuzhat Parween (55).

In reply, Odisha could manage 124 for seven in their stipulated 20 overs with opener Madhuri Meheta top-scoring with a 25-ball 35.

Earlier in the day, Yastika Bhatia scored a sublime 71 off 45 balls but that wasn't enough as Maharashtra outplayed Baroda by six wickets.

## Dhoni told me not to try anything fancy in final over, says Mukesh

AGENCIES ■ PUNE

CSK pacer Mukesh Choudhary after the match revealed what skipper MS Dhoni told him during the last over against SRH on Sunday.

Notably, Mukesh Choudhary dropped Abhishek Sharma in the powerplay. He, however, made amends with the ball by picking up a four-fer and more importantly his wickets right at the edge of powerplay brought CSK back into the game.

Mukesh Choudhary in the post-match presentation talking about that sixth over said: "A wicket hadn't fallen yet, so I had to take my chances,



I knew I dropped a catch but I had to take a wicket and thankfully that happened."

Dwayne Bravo didn't play the match against SRH, on which the pacer said: "There was more responsibility in the powerplay without Bravo because he has so much experience, he keeps advising us. Yesterday, he told me I have to take more responsibility, the team environment is always very supportive."

SRH needed 38 runs in the last over of the match. Shedding light on the 20th over, Mukesh revealed what MSD told him during those deliveries: "MS Dhoni didn't tell me anything special about that over, he just told me to bowl stump to stump and not try anything fancy."