

OPINION 6

CRS IS A VIBRANT,
ROBUST EXERCISE

WORLD 8

CRISIS-HIT LANKA RE-INTRODUCES
FUEL RATIONING

MONEY 10

SERVICES SEC ACTIVITIES
5-MONTH HIGH IN APRIL

NEW DELHI, FRIDAY MAY 6, 2022; PAGES 12 ₹3

the pioneer

www.dailypioneer.com

REAL BEAT
MAN CITY
IN UCL
11 SPORT

WHO: 47L died of Covid in India; Centre says no

India objects to model used by WHO to project death numbers

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

There were 4.7 million Covid deaths in India — 10 times the official figures — between January 1, 2020 and December 31, 2021 and almost a third of Covid deaths globally, the World Health Organization (WHO) said on Thursday, releasing new estimates on the death toll of the Covid-19 pandemic.

India has, however, strongly objected to the use of mathematical models by the global health agency for projecting excess mortality estimates linked to the coronavirus pandemic in view of the availability of authentic data, saying that validity and robustness of the models used and methodology of data collection are questionable.

The WHO report claimed more than three times the number of deaths than officially recorded worldwide — a total of approximately 14.9 million fatalities.

"These sobering data not only point to the impact of the pandemic but also to the need



for all countries to invest in more resilient health systems that can sustain essential health services during crises, including stronger health information systems," said Dr Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, WHO director-general.

The WHO data showed that till August 2020, a period when the country had mostly been under lockdown that began in late March, there were approximately 62,000 fewer deaths. Deaths began to rise from September, coinciding with the first waves in many States. More than half of the excess deaths, at 2.7 million,

took place during the peak of the second nationwide wave in the months of April, May and June last year.

Excess mortality, WHO said, is calculated as the difference between the number of deaths that have occurred and the number that would be expected in the absence of the pandemic based on data from earlier years.

Most of the excess deaths (84 per cent) are concentrated in South-East Asia, Europe, and the Americas. Some 68 per cent of excess deaths are concentrated in just 10 countries globally, the world health body

said.

It also said at least 80 per cent of the total deaths were from 20 countries, including Brazil, India, Pakistan and Germany having 50 per cent of the world population.

Middle-income countries account for 81 per cent of the 14.9 million excess deaths (53 per cent in lower-middle-income countries and 28 per cent in upper-middle-income countries) over the 24-month period, with high-income and low-income countries each accounting for 15 per cent and 4 per cent, respectively.

Continued on Page 2

J&K Delimitation panel gives 43 seats to Jammu, 47 seats to Kashmir

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Delimitation Commission on Thursday recommended an increase of seven Assembly seats for J&K, from the earlier 83 seats in the erstwhile State to 90 seats now. While 43 seats will be a part of Jammu region, 47 seats will be in the Kashmir region.

This apart, for the first time nine seats have been reserved for Scheduled Tribes — six in Jammu region and three in the Valley. The Commission asked the Centre to also consider a provision of at least two members (one of them must be a female) from the community of Kashmiri migrants from Pakistan Occupied Jammu & Kashmir (PoJK) in the Legislative Assembly with the power of nominated members.

The Delimitation Commission, tasked with redrawing the Assembly constituencies of Jammu & Kashmir, was headed by Justice (Retd) Ranjana Desai. The commission signed the final order on redrawing the Assembly constituencies of the Union Territory, a day before its term was to end. A gazette notification for the same was also published on Thursday.

"Out of the 90 Assembly constituencies in the region, 43 will be a part of Jammu region and 47 of the Kashmir region keeping in view the provisions of Section 9(1)(a) of the Delimitation Act, 2002 and

Section 60(2)(b) of the Jammu & Kashmir Reorganisation Act, 2019. After consultation with associate members, representatives of political parties, citizens and civil society groups, nine ACs have been reserved for STs, out of which, 6 are in Jammu region and 3 ACs in the Valley," the Commission said in its final report on Thursday.

There are five Parliamentary constituencies in the region. The Delimitation Commission has seen the Jammu & Kashmir region as one single Union Territory. Therefore, one of the Parliamentary constituencies has been carved out combining Anantnag region in the Valley and Rajouri, Poonch of Jammu region. By this reorganisation each Parliamentary constituency will have equal number of 18 Assembly constituencies each.

Names of some of the Assembly constituencies have also been changed keeping in view the demand of local representatives. These name changes included naming Tangmarg Assembly seat as Gulmarg Assembly seat, Zoonimar as Zaidibal Assembly seat, Sonwar as Lal Chowk, Padder as Padder-Nagseni, Kathua North as Jasrota, Kathua South as Kathua, Khour as Chhamb, Mahore Assembly seat as Gulabgharh Assembly seat, Darhal as Budhal Assembly seat.

Continued on Page 2

Modi, Macron review ties, call for end to Ukraine war at once



Prime Minister Narendra Modi with President of France Emmanuel Macron at Elysee Palace, Paris, on Thursday

PIB | PTI

PNS/AGENCIES ■ NEW DELHI/PARIS

Prime Minister Narendra Modi and French President Emmanuel Macron reviewed the entire gamut of strategic and defence ties between India and France and the situation in Ukraine. The two leaders called for "an immediate cessation of hostilities" there.

In their meeting late on Wednesday, Modi and Macron also took stock of the situation in the strategically important Indo-Pacific region and the after-effects of the corona pandemic and food crisis arising due to ongoing conflict in Ukraine. After visiting Germany and Denmark, the Prime Minister stopped over in

Paris to meet Macron who was last week re-elected as the President of France.

In a joint statement released after the talks between Modi and Macron, France reiterated its "strong condemnation of the unlawful and unprovoked aggression against Ukraine by Russian Forces".

India and France expressed serious concern about the ongoing conflict and humanitarian crisis in Ukraine. They unequivocally condemned civilian deaths in Ukraine and called for an immediate cessation of hostilities to bring parties together to promote dialogue and diplomacy to find an immediate end to the suffering of the people.

Continued on Page 2

Shah raps Didi for rumour, says CAA will be executed

SAUGAR SENGUPTA ■ BONGAON/KOLKATA

Embarking on his two-day tour of Bengal, Union Minister Amit Shah on Thursday said the Centre would implement the Citizenship Amendment Act as soon as the corona pandemic is over.

Attacking the ruling Trinamool Congress — from a public meeting at Siliguri — for spreading rumours about the CAA, he said, the CAA was, is and will be a reality notwithstanding the rumours being spread by Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee and her TMC.

"It seems that Mamata didi wants infiltration to continue but we will not allow that," Shah said much in the same way he told an audience at Hingalganj in North 24 Parganas hours ago how "the Border Security Force



Union Home Minister and senior BJP leader Amit Shah being received by BJP MLA Suwendu Adhikari on his arrival in Kolkata on Thursday

PTI

has been doing its best to contain infiltration and trans-border smuggling".

At Hingalganj, Shah inau-

gurated six border BSF outposts and a floating ambulance.

Continued on Page 2

Major terror bid foiled, 4 ultras held with RDX

PNS ■ CHANDIGARH

In a well coordinated operation between the Haryana Police and the Punjab Police, a major terror plot was foiled on Thursday with the arrest of four suspected Pakistan-linked terrorists in Karnal. The four were were on their way to Telangana to deliver explosives.

Karnal Superintendent of Police Ganga Ram Punia told reporters that the arrested accused were allegedly in touch with a Pakistan-based man who is involved in terror activities and who used to send locations through an app to them to deliver explosives and weapons.

Director General of Haryana Police PK Agrawal said the four were arrested in a joint operation carried out early morning on intelligence inputs by Central agencies.

Continued on Page 2

Power subsidy to only those who ask for it, says Kejriwal

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

The Kejriwal Government will give people the option to choose if they want power subsidy. From October 1, subsidies in electricity will be provided only to those who ask for it.

After a meeting of the Delhi Cabinet, Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal on Thursday said, "Now cheap electricity will be optional in Delhi. From October 1, the Delhi Government will provide electricity subsidies to only those who ask for it. We will give options to people whether or not they need an electricity subsidy."

The new rule, the CM said, will be implemented from October 1. The process of asking and giving the people a choice to opt for subsidised or non-subsidised electricity will begin very soon, Kejriwal said.

Continued on Page 2

Mevani among 10 gets 3-month jail for protest march sans nod in 2017

PTI ■ MEHSANA

A magisterial court in Mehsana town of Gujarat on Thursday convicted independent MLA Jignesh Mevani and nine others in a five-year-old case of holding a protest march without police permission, and sentenced them to three months in jail.

Additional Chief Judicial Magistrate JA Parmar held Dalit leader Mevani and nine others, including NCP leader Reshma Patel, guilty of being part of an unlawful assembly under section 143 of the IPC. The court also slapped a fine of ₹1,000 on each of the 10 convicts, who include members of Mevani's Rashtriya Dalit Adhikar Manch.

After delivering the verdict, the court accepted Mevani's plea for a stay on the order and granted bail to all the convicts till they file an appeal in the higher court against this judgement.

Continued on Page 2

PK to go on padyatra to meet real masters; party launch on hold

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ PATNA/NEW DELHI

Election strategist Prashant Kishor on Thursday announced his intentions to create a platform of like-minded people named "Jan Suraj" aimed at transforming his home State Bihar. Keeping the option open for launching a political outfit, the former JD(U) leader said he would launch a 3,000-km "padyatra" (march) from Gandhi Ashram at Champaran on the Mahatma's birthday, October 2.

Addressing a Press conference in Patna, Kishor said he was in touch with "about 18,000 people" who shared his vision for Bihar and whom he will "try to meet personally", before launching his "padyatra".

After his talks with the Congress to join the grand old party fell through, Kishor came out with an outline of his project in Bihar, titled "Jan Suraj", drawing inspiration from



Gandhi's aphorism of "the best politics is right action". He had recently announced his decision to go back "to the real masters — the people".

"A political party can be floated even a few months ahead of elections. Bihar faces no election in the next few years," Kishor said, averting pointed questions about his future political moves.

"I plan to cover a distance of 3,000 km in about a year. I will travel to every nook and corner of the state and meet as many people as possible, trying to learn from their grievances and aspirations," he said.

Continued on Page 2



In this scorching heat and heavy perspiration your skin needs natural cleansing

For glowing skin, use Patanjali natural facewash made with goodness of natural herbs



Neem Tulsi

Neem Tulsi Face Wash is a soap-free herbal formulation that cleans the skin & also moisturises it to maintain the natural balance. Neem and Tulsi help in removing germs, Honey and Aloe Vera are beneficial in giving a natural glow. Effective in pimples.



Saundarya

Patanjali Saundarya Facewash has Aloe Vera's nourishing, healing and skin rejuvenating benefits which cleans the skin without drying it. Tulsi, Neem and Honey disinfect the skin to make it healthy, remove dark spots, pimples & give it a natural glow. Orange peel keeps your skin youthful and healthy.



Facial Foam

It deep cleans and detoxifies the skin. Its activated carbon removes all the dirt and toxins from the skin, cleanses the pores to remove blackheads. Goodness of Honey, Vitamin E, Vitamin A, Zinc Oxide and activated carbon help fighting against skin problems & pimples to keep the skin naturally healthy.



Orange Aloe Vera

Orange Aloe Vera Facewash is made with the formulation of extracts of Orange and Aloe Vera. They give a natural glow to the skin and are beneficial for all skin types. Using it everyday helps in removing dead cells and toxins and cleans it naturally to make it soft and glowing.

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

Printed and published by Narendra Kumar for and on behalf of CMYK Printech Ltd., No. 6, Behind Gulab Bhawan, Bahadur Shah Zafar Marg, New Delhi-110 002, Phone: 011-40110455, Communication Office: F-31, Sector 6, NOIDA, Gautam Budh Nagar-201301, U.P. Phone: 0120-4879800 & 4879900 and printed at Jagran Prakashan Ltd, D-210, 211 Sector-63, Noida (U.P.). Executive Editor: Navin Upadhyay. AIR SURCHARGE of ₹ 2.00 East: Calcutta, North: Leh West: Mumbai & Ahmedabad South: Bangalore & Chennai. Central : Khajuraho. Lucknow Office: 4th Floor, Sahara Shopping Centre, Faizabad Road, Lucknow-226 016. Telephones: 0522-2346443, 2346444, 2346445.

Parents can't be forced to buy from schools: Govt

Orders issued against forcing students to buy 'costly' books, uniforms from school vendors

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

The Delhi Government on Thursday issued orders to private schools asking them not to force parents to buy expensive education material and uniforms from the school or any specific vendor, failing which they would risk facing "stringent action". An order from the Directorate of Education (DoE) said private schools are run by trusts/societies and have "no scope of profit and commercialisation". The order states that schools should display the class-wise list of books/writing material to be introduced in the coming session, well in advance on the school website, and also communicate it clearly to parents via other media. The DoE has additionally ordered that the schools must not change colour,

design, or any other specifications of uniforms for at least the next three years.

"Apart from this, schools shall also display the names, addresses and telephone numbers of at least five shops in proximity to the school where books and uniforms shall be made available for students. However, schools are not allowed to force parents to purchase these from any of the selected vendors particularly. Parents can buy the books and uniforms from any shop as per their convenience and suitability," the order stated.

Delhi's Deputy Chief Minister and Education Minister Manish Sisodia said that this order will give a breather to parents who are struggling to pay heavy amounts for books and uniforms in private schools. "Many households have lost their source of income since the pandemic hit two years ago, making it difficult for them to purchase expensive books and uniforms from specific shops that charge arbitrarily. This order will give freedom

to parents across the city to buy books and uniforms for their children as per their convenience. No school has the authority to compel parents to buy books or uniforms from a specific vendor. The main cause of education should be to nurture the future of the nation, not minting money. Schools should know that they are under the strict supervision of the Government and will not be allowed to arbitrarily charge parents for books and uniforms," said Sisodia.

Meanwhile, Rajiv Sharma, a resident of Preet Vihar, whose child studies at Universal Public School alleged that the school had given them a name and number of a specific vendor, who sits in the school and is charging much more for books and uniforms as compared to the market rates.

"I had to buy my child books for ₹5,200 from the school and in the market those books are available at cheaper rates. They are charging almost double the amount from parents," Sharma alleged.

School sexual assault case

Police detain one man; DCPCR sends notice to EDMC for report

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Days after two eight-year-old girls were sexually assaulted by an unidentified man in an East Delhi Municipal Corporation (EDMC)-run school Delhi Police has detained a man. The incident had happened on April 30 after the school assembly.

Police said no CCTV camera was installed at the entrance of the school and on the premises. East Delhi Mayor Shyam Sunder Aggarwal said that a lapse has happened and a probe has been ordered.

The police team had made a sketch of the accused and checked the CCTV footage of nearby areas as there were no

CCTV cameras installed in the school.

Earlier, two men were detained on the basis of the sketch, but they were let go. Now, police have detained another man who bears close resemblance to the man in the sketch.

Meanwhile, security at the school remained lax with no one manning the entrance even as the Delhi Commission for Protection of Child Rights (DCPCR) has written to the EDMC seeking details of the action taken.

The DCPCR, in its letter to Nidhi Malik, Director (Education), EDMC, said it has taken suo-motu cognizance of media reports on the matter. "The school authorities did

not disclose the incident to the police authorities which is a clear violation of Section 19 of the POCSO Act, 2012. Therefore, the nonchalance reflected in the behaviour of the school authorities is a serious transgression of this Act and shows their lackadaisical attitude towards such traumatising incidents," the panel said.

"Considering the seriousness of the matter, the commission would like to have a detailed report on the subject on or before May 9," the panel said.

In a notice issued to the SHO of Bhajanpura police station, the DCPCR sought a detailed action-taken report on the matter by May 12.

Stop Atishi from spreading lies about temple demolitions: Puri

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Union Minister Hardeep Singh Puri on Thursday asked Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal to restrain his party MLA Atishi for spreading 'lies' that the Centre and its agencies are on the verge of "bulldozing temples" in Delhi. Puri threatened that if Atishi and other AAP legislators continue to spread canards and fake narratives against the Central Government, then he will be forced to convene a Press conference to set the record straight. His statement comes a day after Atishi alleged that the Union Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs has sent "demolition notices" to four temples in Delhi's Sarojini Nagar area, warning that peo-

ple of Delhi would not "tolerate" such "goondagardi (hooliganism)" of the BJP.

Taking to Twitter to respond strongly, Puri said that the MLA does not appear to be aware of her own AAP government's actions as she manufactures a "fake narrative".

"Lies succeed in travelling halfway round the world before the truth is able to get up & tie its shoelaces. Recently AAP leader Atishi Ji absurdly suggested that Centre & its agencies were on the verge of bulldozing temples!," the Union housing and urban affairs minister tweeted.

In another tweet, Puri asked Atishi to educate herself, saying that the Religious Committee which takes deci-

sions on such matters is under the Delhi government. The minister said that land owning agencies only determine if government land is being encroached upon, adding that even that is not final- there are systemic mechanisms in place.

"The Religious Committee under a senior official of Delhi Govt, has already met twice on 26 & 29 April. A joint inspection was carried out on 27 April under its directions. The MLA does not appear to be aware of her own (Delhi) Govt's actions as she manufactures a fake narrative," he alleged.

"Being her mother's former colleague in the DU teaching faculty, I initially avoided refuting Atishi Ji publicly. When I remonstrated & sug-

SDMC puts brakes on its bulldozers

1st phase of anti-encroachment drive postponed till May 8 due to non-availability of adequate police protection

SAURAV GUPTA ■ NEW DELHI

The South Delhi Municipal Corporation (SDMC) on Thursday put the brakes on its bulldozers and halted the first phase of its anti-encroachment drive till May 8 due to the non-availability of adequate police protection.

According to a senior SDMC official, the plan to demolish temporary and permanent encroachments from

roads and Government land in the Kalindi Kunj-Jamia Nagar area near Shaheen Bagh and in Srinivaspuri was cancelled till Sunday, due to the unavailability of an adequate police force.

The SDMC's Central Zone Chairman, Rajpal Singh told The Pioneer that the drive was cancelled, following a communication from the Delhi Police stating that adequate police force was not available to maintain law and order in the area during the demolition. "We will reschedule the drive that was supposed to take place in the Kalindi Kunj-Jamia Nagar area today. The civic body has also asked Delhi Police to provide us with a sufficient number of police personnel to peacefully conduct the demolition drive. On May



Shopkeepers seen moving out their furniture following a demolition drive against illegal structures at Shaheen Bagh in New Delhi on Thursday. Photo | Ranjan Dimri

9, the SDMC will hold the demolition drive in Shaheen Bagh G Block to Jasola and Jasola Nale to Kalindi Kunj Park as planned."

Shaheen Bagh, was in the limelight for being the venue of

the sit-in protests against the Citizenship (Amendment) Act in December 2019. The protests were called off only after the Covid-19 pandemic hit the city in March 2020. In April, the SDMC can-

celled its anti-encroachment drive scheduled in Jasola and Sarita Vihar, due to the unavailability of an adequate police force. The drive comes a couple of days after the Delhi Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) chief Adesh Gupta wrote to the Mayors of South and East corporations seeking the removal of encroachments by alleged "Rohingyas, Bangladeshis and anti-social elements" in their areas. The North Delhi Municipal Corporation (NMC) conducted an anti-encroachment drive in the violence-hit Jahangirpuri area just four days after communal violence broke out during a Hanuman Jayanti procession. The Supreme Court had to intervene twice to stop the drive and ordered the NMC to maintain status quo.

MCDs have issued demolition notices to 3 lakh people in 2 years: Sisodia

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Delhi's Deputy Chief Minister Manish Sisodia on Thursday alleged that the BJP-led North, East and South municipal corporations had issued notices to nearly three lakh people in the last two years. Addressing a press conference here, Sisodia alleged that they were planning to raze constructions in 1,750 unauthorised and 860 slum colonies.

"In the last 17 years, BJP leaders in the civic bodies, councillors and mayors, and engineers amassed money by allowing illegal construction to flourish, only to serve them notices now," Sisodia alleged.

"The BJP has made a plan to run bulldozers in 1,750 unauthorised colonies and 860 Jhuggi Jhopadi (slum) colonies because these are illegal. First, their councillors allowed illegal construction and made money and now they want to demolish them. The BJP should first run bulldozers on houses of their councillors who allowed such illegal constructions," he said.

The Deputy Chief Minister also said he will write a letter to the Centre to not resort to such



tactics.

"On one hand, you (Centre) talk of regularising illegal colonies, while on the other hand your MCDs give notices for demolition. I will write a letter to the Centre on this," he added. His remarks came after an anti-encroachment drive of the South Delhi Municipal Corporation, scheduled in areas near Shaheen Bagh, was cancelled on Thursday due to lack of availability of adequate police force.

Scuffle between two groups; FIR registered

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Following a scuffle between two groups of people from

different communities over a quarrel among children playing in a park in the Welcome area of Delhi, the Delhi Police have registered an First Information Report (FIR) for rioting. Police said that they have arrested three persons while 36 have been detained in connection with the incident.

The arrested persons have been identified as Aman, Faizan and Shivam. Police said that manhunt has been initiated to nab Fazil and Sonu, who are according.

According to a senior police official, on Wednesday around 9.50 PM, police control room (PCR) call was received regarding a quarrel near Photo Chowk under the Welcome police station area following which a police team rushed to the spot.

After reviewing the situation, extra force was also mobilized. During preliminary enquiry revealed that a quarrel broke out among youths playing cricket as well as games on mobile phones in X and Y blocks of a park in the Welcome area. It escalated into a scuffle between two groups of people from different communities," said the senior police official.

According to the police, the quarrel took place between youths Shivam and Fazil. Later, Sonu and Aman joined Shivam and Faizan joined Fazil. They threw stones at each other.

"As more people gathered in the park, a call was made to the police fearing a communal tension. It was a teacher who alerted the police about the incident. A case under Indian Penal Code sections 147 (punishment for rioting), 148 (rioting, armed with deadly weapon), 149 (every member of unlawful assembly guilty of offence committed in prosecution of common object) and 34 (common intention) has been registered at the Welcome police station," he said.

A total of 39 people were detained, of which three were arrested. Adequate security arrangements have been made in the area as a precautionary measure, police said.

"The situation is under control and preventive action under CrPc section 108 has been initiated. Police are checking the CCTV footage and taking help from locals and Nagrik Bhaichara Samiti members to identify the accused," police added.

DJB chalks out mega development plan

25K East Delhi households to get 100% sewer connectivity, RO water for JJ clusters to end tanker system

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

The Delhi Government has chalked out a mega-plan for the development of free sewer connections, new sewer lines, and Reverse Osmosis (RO) plants in the State. To meet the long-pending demand for the same, under this plan, the city Government will provide 25,000 households in East Delhi with 100 per cent sewer connectivity free of cost. The Government will also install 30 RO plants in JJ clusters to end the existing tanker system.

Delhi Water Minister and Delhi Jal Board (DJB) Chairman Satyendra Jain on Thursday chaired a Board meeting with senior officials and approved proposals for

providing 25,000 households in East Delhi with 100 per cent sewer connectivity free of cost, installing ROs and connecting sewer lines. "These free sewer connections will be provided under the Mukhyamantri Muft Sewer Connection Yojna and the regions of Karawal Nagar and Mustafabad will benefit the most out of it," Jain said after the meeting. These 12 colonies where sewer connections will be installed include Chandu Nagar, Moonga Nagar, Rajiv Gandhi Nagar, Nehru Vihar, Old Mustafabad Gali No. 1-9, Mustafabad Extension Gali No. 10-27, Dayalpur Extension A,B,C,D,E and F Blocks and Khajuri Khas area.

Sewer connectivity in these colonies will prevent 2.5 crore litres of untreated waste from falling into the Yamuna. New 25 KM and 10 KM sewer lines will be laid in Burari and Narela, too, benefiting lakhs of residents of the region.

"During the meeting, laying of new sewer lines, providing household sewer connections, upgrading existing Sewage Treatment Plants (STPs), providing RO water

facilities in JJ cluster colonies and improving the revenue management system of the DJB were discussed," said a senior DJB official.

"A decision to provide sewer connections to individual houses of 12 colonies in East Delhi's Karawal Nagar and Mustafabad constituencies was taken, for which a budget of Rs 19 crore will be allocated," he said.

"We have also decided to upgrade the 40 MGD Rithala STP on a unique financial model to reinforce quality. The BOD and TSS levels will also come down from 15 mg/L to 10 mg/L and 20 mg/L to 10 mg/L respectively, following the upgradation," said Jain.

"There will be construction of a vertical 7 MGD STP at Sonia Vihar and a 12 MGD wastewater pumping station at Rajiv Nagar. At present, 7 MGD of sewage is generated from six unauthorised colonies in Sonia Vihar group of colonies under the Karawal Nagar constituency. This waste will be transported to WWTP through a pumping station for proper treatment," said Jain.

"To cater to the long-standing issue of treating the increased ammonia in raw water being received from Haryana, the Board has approved the work of rehabilitating the existing non-functional water treatment plant into a 6 MGD water treatment plant to treat ammonia up to 10 ppm," said Jain.

"The DJB has also decided to install 30 RO plants in JJ Colonies in the first phase of the scheme. These plants will be functional 24x7 and will be equipped with 8-10 dispensing units in different locations to cater to a larger population in a hassle-free manner," said Jain.

"The water will be completely free of cost to the public. Each RO machine will have a capacity to dispense 50,000 liters of water every day and in case of high demand, the same machine can deliver up to 65,000 liters. RFID cards will be issued to the families that can be punched on the RO water dispenser which will then dispense volumes in the range of 10 liters and 20 liters as per demand," said Jain.

1st RRTS train to be given on May 7

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

The first train set of Regional Rapid Transit System (RRTS) will be handed over to the National Capital Region Transport Corporation (NCRTC) in a ceremony in Gujarat's Savli on Saturday. The NCRTC is establishing India's first RRTS which is a rail-based, high-speed, high-frequency regional commuter transit system. The first train will be run on Sarai Kale Khan-Ghaziabad-Meerut RRTS corridor.

According to the statement, the RRTS train sets are 100 per cent manufactured in India at Alstom's (earlier Bombardier) factory at Savli in Gujarat under the Make in India initiative. Alstom is a French multinational firm which acquired Bombardier Transportation early last year. The latter, a Canadian-German firm, manufactured metro cars for the Delhi Metro Rail Corporation.

"These will be the fastest trains in India with a design speed of 180kmph and opera-



tional speed of 160kmph with an average speed of 100kmph," the statement issued by NCRTC said.

"The modern RRTS trains will have ergonomically designed 2x2 transverse cushioned seating, wide standing space, luggage racks, CCTV

cameras, laptop/mobile charging facility, dynamic route maps, auto control ambient lighting system, Heating Ventilation and Air Conditioning System (HVAC), and other amenities," it said.

The RRTS trains will also have a 'standard' as well as 'pre-

mium class' (one coach per train), along with one coach reserved for women commuters. Powered by electric traction, RRTS will serve as a green mode of transport in NCR, the statement claimed.

Alstom will give keys to the train sets to NCRTC at its manufacturing plant on Saturday, after which they will be brought to Duhai depot, which is being developed near Ghaziabad.

The handover ceremony will be conducted in the presence of Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs Secretary Manoj Joshi, the statement said. The manufacturing facility at Savli will deliver a total of 210 cars for the first RRTS corridor. These will include train sets for operating regional transit services on the Delhi-Ghaziabad-Meerut corridor, and for local transit services in Meerut, the statement said.

After the arrival of the trains, initial trial runs are expected to commence on the priority section (Sahibabad-Duhai) by the end of this year. The 17-km priority section is targeted to be commissioned by 2023 and the full corridor by 2025.

IN BRIEFS



Maharaja Agrasen College, University of Delhi, celebrated its Annual day on Thursday which was graced by former Chief Justice, Punjab & Haryana High Court Vijendra Jain as chief guest. More than 170 students were awarded for their performances in academics, sports, and cultural activities. Jain emphasized the role of academic institutions as catalytic agents for life skills. Principal of the college Prof. Sanjeev Kumar Tiwari was present on the occasion. Tiwari reminded on the occasion that the college stood at 52nd rank under NIRF ranking in 2021. The annual college magazine 'AGRANIK-2022' was also released.

GURUGRAM UNIVERSITY TO ACCESS BOOKS DIGITALLY
Gurugram: The Gurugram University students will now be able to access books and recorded lectures from their homes with the launch of a digital library. The library was inaugurated by the varsity Vice Chancellor Professor Dinesh Kumar on Thursday.

MIN DISTRIBUTES WHEELCHAIRS AT CAMP
New Delhi: Delhi's Social Welfare Minister, Rajendra Pal Gautam distributed wheelchairs at his camp office on Thursday. The program was organised at the Social Welfare Minister's camp office located at Raj Niwas Marg. "Before this camp, all the needy were identified by the volunteers deputed by the minister's office.

SCERT CELEBRATES 35TH FOUNDATION DAY
New Delhi: The State Council of Educational Research and Training (SCERT) in the national Capital on Thursday celebrated 35th Foundation day. During the occasion, the Delhi's Deputy Chief Minister said that the education model in Delhi has gone through revolutionary changes in the past seven years. "We made new schools, introduced new curricula like Happiness, Entrepreneurship Mindset and Deshbhakti, teachers went abroad to get trained, our results improved and all this was made possible because of strong research and training support that SCERT Delhi provided from time to time," said Sisodia.

Defence Min urges armed forces to draw lessons from Ukraine war

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh on Thursday urged the armed forces to draw appropriate lessons from the Ukraine conflict for preparedness and exhorted IAF to become an aerospace force to protect the country from the challenges of the future.

Delivering the keynote address for the 37th Air Chief Marshal P C Lal Memorial Lecture here, Rajnath also called for technology evolution, gaining expertise and human resource management to defend the country against space-guided attacks and protect the space assets.

"Change is the law of nature. It is eternal. This law is applicable to war as well. As students of military affairs and geopolitics, it is our duty to keep anticipating the nature of future wars. Steps are being taken by our adversaries towards military use of space. This is likely to have an adverse effect on our interests. We,

therefore, need to identify and be fully prepared for the evolving security challenges," he said.

The minister added that the nature of future wars can be assessed through a closer look at the situation in Syria, Iraq, Afghanistan and the recent Ukrainian conflict. "Although these trends are suggestive, but we can gain a deeper understanding by correlating them with our local threats," he said.

Highlighting the importance of technology in wars, Rajnath said, the use of technology has seen an unprecedented increase in recent times. He, however, stated that expensive platforms and weapon systems do not alone ensure victory; it is their employment which gives an edge in wars.

He paid glowing tributes to Air Chief Marshal PC Lal who



was the Vice Chief of the Air Staff during the 1965 war and had served as the 7th Chief of the Air Staff during the 1971 war.

Describing him as a visionary, Rajnath said, Air Chief Marshal Lal's outstanding leadership proved to be a decisive factor for India's victory and for the liberation of Bangladesh in 1971.

The defence minister shared glimpses of the life of Air Chief Marshal PC Lal, especially his invaluable contributions during the 1965 and 1971 wars. He said, these

reflected the way IAF had paved the way to victory in the last few decades despite challenges and difficult operating conditions. It also symbolised the importance of integration and jointness.

Rajnath asserted that through the process of integration structures can be built for bringing together the forces and greater synergy can be established between them through joint vision, training, planning and execution of operations.

Sharing his views on the need to achieve 'Atmanirbharta' in defence, Rajnath described self-reliance as essential for not only building the domestic capacity, but also for safeguarding the sovereignty of the country.

Rajnath stressed that achieving self-reliance in defence will have middle and long-term benefits as it will help in building the foundation of a robust industrial base not only in the defence sector, but in every sphere of the industry.

PMO seeks report on projects ready for launch by PM over next two yrs

MoHUA Ministry has been asked to give a detailed report on projects that can be initiated and inaugurated by Prime Minister

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Prime Minister's Office (PMO) has asked the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoHUA) to furnish details of projects that will be ready for foundation stone laying and inauguration by Prime Minister Narendra Modi over the next two years.

According to the CPWD's written communication issued last week, the MoHUA Ministry has been asked to give a detailed report on projects that can be initiated and inaugurated by Prime Minister Modi. The Central Public Works Department (CPWD), which comes under the Union Housing and Urban Affairs

Ministry, is a prime construction agency of the central government. The CPWD has also been executing the Modi government's ambitious Central Vista redevelopment project.

"PMO requires the information of details of projects of the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs for which foundation stone can be laid and which are ready for inauguration in next 2 years by the PM," the document states.

CPWD executive engineer Damanjeet Singh asked officials concerned to furnish the compiled information at regional level to the directorate. The officials had been asked to submit such details by May 2. Singh said that only those projects will be considered for foundation stone laying where acquisition and other clearances such as forest or environmental are complete. According to the document, details like project cost, name of state and expected date of completion and inauguration have been sought. Details such as after inauguration, any negative sentiments or protest

among the public about the project, have also been sought.

For projects whose foundation will be laid, the CPWD asked officials concerned to submit information like expected date of foundation stone laying and expected date of completion of land acquisition.

Under the Central Vista redevelopment project, the CPWD has set the deadline of October this year to complete the construction work of a new parliament building.

The agency will also construct an 'Executive Enclave' that will house the PMO, Cabinet Secretariat, India House and National Security Council Secretariat. The project is expected to be completed within 24 months.

The redevelopment of the Central Vista, the nation's power corridor, envisages a new parliament building, a common central secretariat, revamping of the three-km Rajpath from the Rashtrapati Bhavan to the India Gate, new office and residence of the prime minister, and a new vice-president enclave.

India, Australia discuss ways to combat terrorism

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

India and Australia have strongly condemned terrorism in all its forms, including the use of cross-border terrorist proxies and emphasised the need for strengthening global cooperation to deal with the challenge in a comprehensive manner.

The two sides discussed ways to combat terrorism at the 13th meeting of the India-Australia joint working group on counter-terrorism that took place in Canberra on Wednesday. A joint press statement said Australia reiterated its condemnation of terrorist attacks in India, including the 26/11 Mumbai, Pathankot and Pulwama attacks, and extended its support for the people and the government of India in the global fight against terrorism. In the meeting, both sides underlined their commitment to coordinate and collaborate on tackling terrorism in line with the India-Australia Comprehensive Strategic Partnership.

SC to hear arguments on May 10 for larger bench on sedition law

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Thursday said it would hear arguments on May 10 on the legal question whether the pleas challenging the colonial era penal law on sedition be referred to a larger bench and granted time to the Centre to file its response by May 9 as last chance. Solicitor General Tushar Mehta, appearing for the Centre, sought a few more days' time for filing the reply saying the draft response made by lawyers awaits approval by competent authority as the issue is of extreme importance.

"List this matter for next Tuesday at 2 pm. The Solicitor General to file a counter (affidavit) by Monday. No further adjournments (will be granted)," said CJI NV Ramana. The bench also comprising Justices Surya Kant and Hima Kohli, on April 27, had directed the Central Government to file the reply saying it would



commence the final hearing in the matter on May 5 and would not entertain any request for adjournment.

Attorney General K K Venugopal, who was assisting in his personal capacity said that the misuse of the provision like it happened against a Maharashtra MP for reciting 'Hanuman Chalisa' has to be stopped by laying down guidelines. However, there was no need to refer the five-judge bench verdict of the top court in the Kedar Nath case in 1962 to a bench of five or seven judges, the top most law officer said. Apex court had upheld the constitutional validity of the

sedition law in the Kedar Nath Singh case. AG suggested guidelines for implementation of sedition charges. "Your lordships know what is happening in the country. Yesterday, somebody was detained under this Section just because they wanted to chant 'Hanuman Chalisa'. So guidelines have to be there, to prevent misuse. Referring the Kedar Nath verdict to a larger bench is not necessary. It is a well considered judgment," Venugopal said.

Senior advocate Kapil Sibal, appearing as the lead counsel on behalf of the petitioners, said reference to a larger bench may not be necessary. Sibal said a three judge bench can still go into the issue ignoring the 1962 judgement of the five-judge bench in the light of subsequent developments in the fundamental rights jurisprudence. The bench commenced the hearing and

Collegium names two for apex court

Supreme Court Collegium on Thursday recommends elevation of Gujarat High Court Judge Justice JB Pardiwala and Gauhati High Court Chief Justice Sudhanshu Dhulia as Judges of Supreme Court.

heard arguments on a batch of pleas against the sedition law for some time before adjourning to Tuesday.

Agreeing to examine the pleas filed by the Editors Guild of India and former Major General S G Vombatkere, challenging the Constitutionality of Section 124A (sedition) in the IPC, the apex court had said its main concern was the "misuse of law" leading to rise in number of cases. Some of the other petitioners include former Union Minister Arun Shourie and journalists Kishorechandra Wangkhemcha from Manipur and Kanhaiya Lal Shukla from Chhattisgarh.

SC to hear MP Rana's appeal over caste certificate in July

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Thursday said it will hear in July Lok Sabha MP Navneet Kaur Rana's appeal challenging the Bombay High Court verdict cancelling her caste certificate. The Independent MP represents Maharashtra's Amravati constituency, reserved for Scheduled Castes. A bench of Justices Vineet Saran and J K Maheshwari adjourned the matter after senior advocate Mukul Rohatgi, appearing for Rana, said the matter will take some time. "We will have it in July," the bench said. The matter is likely to come up before a new bench after the vacation as Justice Saran is due to retire on May 10.

On June 22 last year, the top court stayed the high court verdict cancelling Rana's caste

certificate. Mumbai High Court had said the caste certificate was obtained fraudulently using fabricated documents and had also imposed a fine of Rs 2 lakh on her. Rana, backed by the Nationalist Congress Party (NCP), won from Amravati in 2019 by claiming to be a member of the 'Mochi' caste.

The High Court, in its judgement, had asked Rana to surrender the certificate within six weeks and had asked her to pay a penalty of Rs two lakh to the Maharashtra Legal Services Authority within two weeks. HC had held that Rana's claim of belonging to the 'Mochi' caste for obtaining the Scheduled Castes certificate itself was fraudulent and made with the intention of obtaining various benefits available to a candidate from such category, despite knowing she does not belong to that caste.

SC upholds Delhi HC order on ₹4.6Kcr arbitral award to DAMEPL

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Thursday upheld a Delhi High Court order directing the Delhi Metro Rail Corporation (DMRC) to pay over Rs 4,600 crore of arbitral award along with interest to Anil Ambani Groups' Delhi Airport Metro Express Private Limited (DAMEPL) in two equal installments in two months. The order was passed by a bench of Justices L Nageswara Rao and B R Gavai.

Delhi High Court on March 10 had directed the DMRC to pay over Rs 4,600 crore of arbitral award along with interest to DAMEPL. HC's judgment had come on DAMEPL's execution petition filed against DMRC concerning the arbitral award in its favour. An arbitral tribunal in its May 2017 award had ruled

in favour of DAMEPL, which had pulled out from running the Airport Express metro line over safety issues, and accepted its claim that the running of operations on the line was not viable due to structural defects in the viaduct through which the train would run.

The arbitral award pertained to a concession agreement between the two entities, which was signed on August 25, 2008. Under the agreement, the DMRC was to carry out civil works, excluding at the depot, and the balance, including the project system works, were to be executed by DAMEPL, a joint venture of Anil Ambani Group's Reliance Infrastructure (R-infra) and a Spanish construction company — Construcciones Y Auxiliar De Ferrocarriles — with a shareholding of 95 and five per cent respectively.

ED files chargesheet against Ahmed AR Buhari in money laundering case

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Enforcement Directorate (ED) has filed a Prosecution Complaint (chargesheet) before a Chennai court against Ahmed AR Buhari and others in a money laundering case of over valuation of coal prices whereby the Public Sector Undertakings paid higher price for the purchase of lower quality of coal. The agency has also sought confiscation of properties of the accused worth Rs 565 crore.

The court has taken cognizance of the Prosecution Complaint.

The ED had initiated money laundering investigation on the basis of an FIR registered by the CBI, New Delhi against Ahmed AR Buhari, Promoter of Coastal Energy Pvt Ltd, Chennai and other unknown officials of PSUs under various sections of Indian Penal Code and relevant provisions of the

Prevention of Corruption Act. The investigation in the matter was also conducted by the Directorate of Revenue Intelligence (DRI) and a show cause notice to the party has been issued under the provisions of Customs Act, 1962.

The ED probe revealed that Buhari is controlling the companies Coastal Energy Private Limited, Chennai, Coastal Energen Private Limited, Coal & Oil Group Dubai and other offshore entities located in Mauritius and British Virgin Islands.

"The PSUs were supplied coal of lower calorific value instead of the higher specification for which the tenders were floated and executed by the CEPL or MMTC and the coal was supplied by CEPL either directly or through MMTC on the strength of overvalued invoice for lower quality supported with fraudulent Certificate of Sampling and Analysis (COSA) whereas

the original COSA depicting the genuine quality of coal was suppressed," the ED said in a statement.

Investigation further revealed that Buhari generated proceeds of crime (POC) to the tune of Rs 564.48 crore from the over valuation of coal. Buhari had diverted the proceeds of crime through various companies and finally integrated the same in the installation of a power plant by another company Coastal Energen.

The prosecution complaint has been filed against Buhari, Coastal Energy Private Limited, Chennai, Coastal Energen Private Limited, Chennai, CNO DMCC, Dubai, CNO LLC, Dubai, Precious Energy Holdings Limited, British Virgin Island and Mutiara Energy Holdings Limited, Mauritius. All the six accused companies are managed, controlled and beneficially owned by Buhari, the agency said.

CBI arrests IRP, 2 others in company's bribery case

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The CBI has arrested an Interim Resolution Professional (IRP) of National Law Tribunal (NCLT) Mumbai and two private persons, including a proprietor of Mumbai based firm in a bribery case of Rs 20 lakh in Pune.

The agency has taken into custody NCLT interim resolution professional (IRP) Subrata Maity, Ashish Somani, who works for Navi Mumbai-based RJ Jewellers, and its proprietor Ruchit Tanka for allegedly demanding Rs 20 lakh for settling a pending NCLT matter.

"A case was registered on complaint against an Interim Resolution Professional (IRP), National Company Law Tribunal (NCLT), Mumbai and unknown others on the allegations of demanding undue advantage of Rs.20 lakh for settling the NCLT matter of

Complainant's company," the CBI said in a statement.

It was further alleged that the accused demanded initial part payment of Rs 2 lakh, out of the total demand of Rs 20 lakh from the complainant and told him that a private person would come to collect the said amount at Pune.

The CBI laid a trap and caught the said private person while accepting the initial part payment of Rs 2 lakh from the Complainant.

Later, the Interim Resolution Professional (IRP) and the Proprietor/Jeweller of Mumbai whose alleged role came in the case were also caught.

Searches were conducted at the premises of the accused at Pune, Navi Mumbai which led to recovery of incriminating documents. All the three arrested accused are being produced in the Court of Special Judge, CBI Cases, Pune.

PM reviews preparedness to deal with rising temperature, upcoming monsoon season

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

As several States across the country were hit with intense heatwaves, Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Thursday chaired a meeting to review the preparedness to deal with the rise in temperatures as well as the upcoming monsoon season.

According to the India Meteorological Department's Monthly Weather and Climate summary, April this year ended as the third warmest in India in 122 years. This comes after March had remained the warmest over the same period.

Prolonged and frequent heatwaves affected major parts of the country during April, taking the maximum temperatures at many places in west Rajasthan, east Uttar Pradesh, west Madhya Pradesh, Vidarbha in Maharashtra to over 45 degrees Celsius.

Modi held seven to eight meetings during the day following his return from the three-day visit to many European countries.

The Prime Minister reviewed the heat-wave situation, power and coal supply and measures for the upcoming monsoon season and gave instructions to officials to mitigate the overall impact of rising temperature across the country.

The maximum temperature in Delhi was hovering between 42 to 46 degree celsius last week. The peak power demand in Delhi rose to 6,194 MW on Monday, the highest ever for the first week of May. The power demand had crossed the 6,000 MW mark for the first time in April. It was over 6,000 MW on several days in the last week of April amid a rise in maximum day temperature.

Minister asks DoPPW to bring 'manual for pensioners'

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Union Minister Jitendra Singh on Thursday asked the Department of Pension and Pensioners' Welfare (DoPPW) to bring out a comprehensive "manual for pensioners" to ensure further ease to retired government employees.

Addressing the 7th all India pension adalat, Singh said that steps like extension of family pension to differently abled child of a deceased government employee/pensioner or giving a major hike in the family pension emoluments for divyang children of a deceased government servant/pensioner are not only pension reforms but social reforms having wide implications.

Covid infection may boost antibodies against common cold

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Getting sick with a common cold doesn't make you immune to Covid-19, but a Covid infection might, at least temporarily, boost the number of antibodies you have against common cold-causing coronaviruses and the SARS-CoV-1 and MERS-CoV viruses, all of which are closely related, a study has said.

Scientists at Scripps Research in California have characterised coronavirus antibodies isolated from 11 people to reveal how Covid impacts the immune system's ability to recognise other coronaviruses.

"Getting a better understanding of how immunity against this broad family of coronaviruses changes with Covid-19 infection is an important step toward developing better coronavirus vaccines,

both for Covid-19 and for future, related pathogens," said Andrew Ward, Professor of Integrative Structural and Computational Biology at Scripps Research.

The findings, published in the journal Science Advances, showed that the immune system's antibodies against one coronavirus spike protein could, potentially, also recognise other similar spike proteins as disease-causing.

In the study, the team studied serum samples from 11 people - eight dated to before the Covid pandemic, while three samples were from donors who recently had Covid.

In each case, the researchers measured how strongly the samples reacted to isolated spike proteins from dif-



ferent coronaviruses - OC43 and HKU1, both associated with common colds, along with SARS-CoV-1, MERS-CoV and SARS-CoV-2.

Only the serum from recovered Covid patients reacted to the SARS-CoV-2 spike proteins. However, these Covid patient samples also reacted more strongly than the pre-pandemic samples to the other spike proteins as well.

Further tests revealed that most coronavirus antibodies from before the pandemic recognised a section of the OC43 and HKU1 spike pro-

teins known as the S1 subunit, which tends to vary greatly between coronaviruses.

In Covid patient samples, however, the researchers identified a broader swatch of antibodies, including ones that recognised the S2 subunit — which varies less between different coronaviruses.

Indeed, some antibodies from the Covid patients are not only bound to the common cold coronaviruses, but to SARS-CoV-1 and MERS-CoV spike proteins as well.

However, they said that since these studies were done directly on serum antibodies, they don't know whether the presence of these antibodies, in any of the cases, is enough to provide full immunity to coronaviruses in the more complex setting of the human immune system. They assert the need for further studies.

IISc researchers design device that can sense limb movements in stroke patients

The customisable 3D printed gloves can be remotely controlled, opening up the possibility of teleconsultation by physiotherapists

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

With an aim to help rehabilitation of stroke victims and patients requiring physiotherapy, researchers at the Indian Institute of Science (IISc) have designed a soft, wearable device that exploits the fundamental properties of light to sense a patient's limb or finger movements

Stroke is India's third leading cause of death and the sixth leading cause of disability. Physiotherapy is one of the few

treatments available for rehabilitating stroke victims and patients with physical injuries. However, physiotherapy can take days to months depending on the severity of the disability, making it challenging for patients as well as their attendants.

The device developed by the IISc researchers exploits the fundamental properties of light to sense a patient's limb or finger movements. The customisable, 3D printed gloves can be remotely controlled, opening up the possibility of teleconsultation by physiotherapists.

"We wanted to develop something affordable, and available to a person at all times at their convenience. The prod-

uct should be easy to use and must provide feedback," says Aveek Bid, Associate Professor at the Department of Physics, whose team has developed the device.

The team has also developed a mechanism by which customisable wearables like hand gloves can be designed, 3D printed, and controlled remotely.

"The idea behind the device is that you wear something like a glove, the physiotherapist controls the device from a remote location through the internet, and makes your hands and fingers move," describes Bid.? The device can sense various hand and finger movements, and precisely detect parameters like pressure,

bending angle and shape.

The technology that drives the device is based on the fundamental properties of light: refraction and reflection. A light source is placed at one end of a transparent rubbery material, and the other end has a light detector. Any movement in the finger or arm of the patient causes the flexible material to deform. The deformation alters the path of light, and thereby its properties. The device translates this change in light properties to a quantifiable unit. Since light travels across the entire length of the device, movement along any part of the patient's finger or arm can be accurately measured.

J&K Opp parties reject delimitation panel report

PNS ■ JAMMU

Soon after the three member Delimitation Commission headed by Justice (Retd) Ranjana Prakash Desai on Thursday finalised its report and signed the order before publishing the same in the Gazette notification the Opposition parties in Kashmir Valley rejected the same claiming 'we don't trust it'. Some of the Valley-based parties also claimed it was an attempt to politically "disempower" the people of Jammu and Kashmir as it violated the norms of delimitation. Former Chief Minister and chief of Peoples Democratic Party Mehbooba Mufti reacted strongly to the final report of the Delimitation Commission. "What delimitation? It has become an extension of BJP?

That ignored the parameter of population & acted as per their wish. We reject it. We don't trust it. The suggestions are made to disempower people of J&K", Mufti told reporters on the sidelines of a function. In Jammu JKPC Chief Spokesperson Ravinder Sharma claimed the report has done great injustice to people in general, which appears to have been prepared, vetted and finalised in the BJP headquarters. Sharma said, "the commission has done a simple eye wash of hearing people before the draft report and after that, but the report has cleared all doubts and exposed the approach of the commission". The commission has neglected the fundamental principles and norms, ignored the aspirations of the people

and did great injustice to different areas, segments and communities by ignoring topography, geography, connectivity, continuity, physical features and population, which are the basic norms of delimitation, a per law. On the other hand, the Jammu and Kashmir National Conference tweeted their party's response to the report as none of their leaders made a public statement. "We have seen the final recommendations of the Delimitation Commission. We are studying the implications of these recommendations for individual assembly constituencies. No amount of gerrymandering will change the ground reality which is that... whenever elections are held the voter will punish the BJP & it's proxies for

what they have done to J&K over the last 4 years", the twitter handle of the party read. The Peoples Conference headed by Sajjad Lone while reacting to the report also launched a frontal attack on their political adversaries in Kashmir valley. In an oblique reference to one of the mainstream political parties, the twitter handle of the Peoples Conference posted a stern message saying, "The delimitation report is a repeat of the past. Same traditional entities are calling the shots behind the scenes. Kashmir has been discriminated against as in the past. No change. Only the degree of disempowerment is greater". "Over the last six decades, Kashmir's share of assembly seats in the J&K assembly increased from

43 to 47 while Jammu's share rose from 30 to 43. Who is responsible for systematic disempowerment of Kashmiris from 1947? Those who aided and abetted in the journey from Jammu 30 to 37 are the ones who aided and abetted from 37 to 43", the statement said. The statement further said that the PC had hoped that Kashmiri parties stayed away and not diluted the stigma associated with a people-less process, which was essentially a tool for disempowerment of Kashmiris. "Hope Kashmiris will now remember the parties who associated themselves with the delimitation process which was in essential a tool for disempowerment will always be in wonderment. How could a party which



associated itself with the delimitation process be so audacious? They actually had the nerve of submitting one memorandum in Kashmir and a separate memorandum in Jammu. Ironically the memorandums were contradictory. The Jammu one seemed to have been copy pasted from the Hindutva brigade", the statement added.

Dispute between UP, Uttarakhand resolved: Yogi

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

Claiming that the dispute between Uttar Pradesh and Uttarakhand had been resolved, UP Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath, on Thursday, handed over the keys of Alaknanda Guest House to his Uttarakhand counterpart Pushkar Singh Dhami in Haridwar where he also inaugurated the Bhagirathi Tourist Accommodation constructed by the UP Tourism department. "The river Ganga is formed by the holy confluence of Alaknanda and Bhagirathi. In line with the vision of the prime minister, the problem of distribution of assets in Uttar Pradesh and Uttarakhand has been resolved through mutual dialogue", Yogi said. Launching an attack on the previous governments, Yogi said that for 21 years the dispute between the two states was not resolved and remained complicated. In the presence of revered saints, religious leaders, many former chief ministers and ministers of the Uttarakhand government, Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath stressed the need for working together for the overall development of both the states. Stating that Uttarakhand was both his mother and motherland, Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath said that there were endless possibilities for eco-

tourism along with spiritual tourism in the state. He said people from all over the country, including the 25 crore population of Uttar Pradesh, wanted to visit the Char Dham of Uttarakhand and take a holy dip in Har ki Pauri. "People are eager to come to Kedarnath, Badrinath, Yamunotri and Gangotri during Char dham yatra, while in second season, many hill stations associated with Kumaon, Nainital, Jhansi Math also attract tourists. Not only this, forest cover has also increased here in recent years, which has given rise to the possibilities of eco-tourism," he said. Appreciating efforts made by double-engine government for development of tourism in spiritual places like Kedarnath, Badrinath, and Rishikesh, among others, in the 'Devbhoomi Uttarakhand', the chief minister said that these holy places were centres of faith as well as strength of national integrity. He said that this journey of development would become a factor of happiness and prosperity for all. Referring to the grand events of Deepotsav in Ayodhya, Dev Deepawali in Kashi, Barsana Rangotsav, Krishna Janmotsav in Uttar Pradesh, the chief minister also informed the gathering about the holistic development of places like Ayodhya, Kashi, Shukteerth, Naimishdham, Rajapur, among others.

Shah crossing limits, humiliating Bengal: Didi



PNS ■ KOLKATA

Coming down heavily on Union Home Minister Amit Shah for "denigrating Bengal" in Parliament Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee on Thursday said that it hurt her if someone spoke against the affairs of her State. "It really hurts me if someone tells that those who come to Bengal will be murdered ... this is nothing but a planned propaganda to humiliate Bengal," the Chief Minister said, reacting to an earlier remark by Shah that if one went to Bengal one would be killed. Giving a strong reply the Chief Minister asked "why don't you talk about Uttar Pradesh where the victims who go to the police station to lodge complaints are victimized there also," adding "in a State (like Bengal) with 11 crore population if there are 5 incidents some people start shouting with a narrow political motive but they keep mum in

case of other places ... I must say that Bengal is better than many other states of India." On Shah's statement about the BSF not getting adequate help from the local administration in stopping infiltration, Banerjee said that the Home Minister was trying to use the paramilitary forces to rule Bengal by proxy. "Now from his statement we can see that the cat is out of the bag ... they are trying to use the BSF to overrule Bengal which is dangerous and goes against the federal structure of the country," Banerjee said adding the "Home Minister should not complicate the situation in the State ... I will warn him against playing with fire ... or else there will be a strong retaliation from the people who will retaliate with full democratic force." On Shah's comment on deteriorating law and order situation of the State she wondered whether he was the Home Minister of India or Bengal. "Law and order is a State subject and it should be better left to the State Government ... what he is talking is all rubbish about Bengal," Banerjee said warning "the Home Minister is talking beyond his jurisdiction." Saying that unlike the BJP her Government always walked the talk Banerjee said "here in Bengal we provide Laxmir Bhandar aiding the poor with funds but there the BJP launches bhandar (stores) of canards ... I will request him to work for the people instead of disturbing the State Governments."

BJP legislators demand partition of Bengal

SAUGAR SENGUPTA ■ KOLKATA

In an intriguing development that many a political outfit called a "conspiracy being hatched against Bengal," the State BJP leaders including MLAs and MPs on Thursday used the stage from where Union Home Minister Amit Shah was to deliver a public speech to raise the demand for a separate State of Uttar Banga. Addressing the audience the BJP's Naxalbari MLA said that North Bengal continued to remain subdued whereas South Bengal took away all the cream of development. He demanded steps to reassure the people of that area. "It has been the story from years that all development takes place in South Bengal ... even the summer vacation in schools are decided according to the weather in that part of the State ... hurt by the deprivation and sense of alienation there is a voice coming from the people for some separate State," the Naxalbari MLA said wondering "why if Uttarakhand can be separated from UP ... Chhattisgarh can be taken out from MP and Laddakh can be separated from J&K a separate State of North Bengal cannot be created here ... the people have a strong demand for it." Another BJP MLA Krishna Chatterjee too said that "a time has come when some separate arrangement must be made to assuage the feeling of the people." Backing



the demand of the MLAs former State BJP president and the party's national vice president Dilip Ghosh said "there is a strong demand for a separate State coming from the people of the region because there has been no development here ... why the people of this part of the State should continue to languish in backwardness ... if a demand for a separate State is coming from them it seems quite justified." Curiously Ghosh also a BJP MP from South Bengal had earlier said that a separate State of North Bengal was not in the official agenda of his party. "The BJP as a party does not support separate North Bengal," he had told hours before his Siliguri speech. Even as the other opposition parties gave out strong reac-

tions Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee said that "BJP was out to engineer divorces wherever they went ... they are driving wedge between Hindus and Muslims, between Bengalis and non-Bengalis, between Bengalis and Bengalis and now between North Bengal and South Bengal ... but they should rest assured nothing of that sort will be allowed to happen."



₹363 cr film restoration project to take off at NFAI: Thakur

PNS ■ PUNE

Information and Broadcasting Minister Anurag Thakur on Thursday announced that the world's largest film restoration project under National Film Heritage Mission (NFHM) with a budget of ₹ 363 crore was awarded by the Ministry. The restoration project is now set to commence in full swing at the National Film Archive of India (NFAI). The Minister was in Pune to attend the review meeting of the organisation. Under National Film Heritage Mission, approximately 2,200 films will undergo restoration. The titles have been shortlisted by language wise committees consisting of

filmmakers, documentary filmmakers, film historians, producers etc. Eminent film personalities such as Aparna Sen, Shriram Raghavan, Anjali Menon and Vetrimaaran were part of the committees. "National Film Heritage Mission in addition to restoration also involves the on-going preservation processes of film condition assessment, preventive conservation and digitization, with the total allocated budget of Rs. 597 crores, which is one of the world's largest film preservation mission," the Minister said. "The process involves frame-to-frame digital and semi-automated manual picture and sound restoration from the best surviving source

material. The source negative/print will be scanned at 4K to .dpx files, which will be then digitally restored. The damages including scratches, dirt and abrasions in every frame of the picture negative will be cleaned during the restoration process. The sound also restored in a process similar to the picture restoration procedure. The numerous pops, hisses, crackles and distortions on the sound negative will be digitally removed. After restoration, the digital picture files will be color graded (DI process) and balanced to achieve the look of the film at the time of the original release," said I&B Ministry in a statement.

Loudspeaker row: Ajit slams Raj for issuing ultimatum

T N RAGHUNATHA ■ MUMBAI

Maharashtra's Deputy Chief Minister Ajit Pawar on Thursday hit out at MNS chief Raj Thackeray for using the "language of ultimatums" and warned the latter against taking law into hand. Talking to media persons after an all-party meeting called at the State-run Sahyadri Guest House review the situation arising out of the MNS chief's call for removal of loudspeakers from mosques, Pawar - in his indirect criticism of Raj -- "The state government runs as per law, rules and Constitution. I advise people against using the language of ultimatums in Maharashtra. Here no one can



conduct himself like a dictator". Pawar said that the Supreme Court's order on loudspeakers was binding on all sections of the people. "Both the Centre and state government will implement the Supreme Court in their own respective ways. The state Home department will implement the

Supreme court as per law. We will not go beyond what has been prescribed under law. Appealing to all the sections of the society to cooperate with the state government in enforcing law and maintaining law and order, the deputy chief minister said: "I request to all leaders of various political parties and all sections of people to cooperate with the state government and ensure that there is communal harmony in the state," he said. Maharashtra Home Minister Dilip Walse-Patil, who was present at the law and order review meeting, said that the Supreme Court ruling was applicable for all states. "Since 2017, the state government

has been taking decisions as per the Supreme Court order. "The implementation of the SC is continuing in the state. The state home ministry's priority is to maintain law and order in the state. I advise all not to speak in a manner that would result in strain between the various communities. Law is equal for all. Nooneshould break the law". Congress General Secretary Sachin Sawant said there were at least 2,400 Hindu temples in Mumbai which will not be able to use loudspeakers for their prayers and other rituals "The non-use of loudspeakers has also affected the much revered 'kakad aarti' at the famed Saibaba Temple in

Shirdi (Ahmednagar)," he said. Bhagyashree Banayat-Dhivare, CEO of the Shri Saibaba Sansthan Trust, Shirdi, said that contrary to certain media speculation, the Saibaba Temple had not discontinued the use of loudspeakers for its night and morning aartis. The Saibaba temple CEO said that the temple place had brought down with decibel levels to 45db, as per the Supreme Court guidelines. Sawant said that besides Hindu temples, it will also affect religious prayers, discourses, kathas, or other events, by other communities in Christian churches, Sikh gurudwaras, Buddhist Viharas, Jain derasars, et al.

Fish vendor kills daughter and wife, commits suicide

KOCHI: In a macabre incident that shocked Kerala on Thursday, a fish vendor by name Mohammed murdered his wife Jasmine and four year old daughter Fatima Zafa by setting ablaze the auto rickshaw in which they were to travel and committed suicide by jumping into a nearby well. Though the elder son of the Mohammeds was present in the auto rickshaw, he was pulled out of the burning vehicle by bystanders and rushed to a private hospital where his condition remains serious. Police, which rushed to the spot found to their horror that Mohammed has stuffed the auto rickshaw with explosives. "He locked the cabin-auto from outside to make sure that none

of the family came out of the burning vehicle," said the inspector. Neighbours said that Mohammed had married another woman recently much against the wish of Jasmine and this has vitiated the relations. Jasmine and her children had returned to their ancestral home. Mohammed reached Jasmine's home and persuaded her to return to their house with him and assured her that he had no relations with other women. This made Jasmine to return with him when all in a sudden Mohammed locked her and the children inside the auto and set ablaze explosives laden auto. Mohammed is also facing trial as main accused in a POCSO case. PNS

CPI(M) fields young doctor from Thrikkakara for May 31 bypoll

KOCHI: Joe Joseph, a young cardiologist working with the Lisie Hospital, owned and operated by the Archdiocese of Ernakulam-Angamaly would be the CPI(M) candidate for the May 31 bye-election from Thrikkakara. This was announced by E P Jayarajan, convener of the Left Democratic Front, the CPI(M) led alliance. The bye-election was necessitated by the demise of sitting member P T Thomas of the Congress. Uma Thomas, widow of Thomas is the Congress candidate for the poll and her name was announced on Monday by the High Command. The CPI(M)'s decision to field Dr Joe Joseph is being seen as an attempt by

the party to buy peace with the Syro Malabar Catholic Church in the State with which the party had good relations in the past. The tie took a turn for the worse when the Kerala Government recently filed a criminal case against Joseph Mar Kallarangatt, the Bishop of Pala for alleged "hate speech" in a congregation of the faithful. Dr Joseph said he was no stranger to world of CPI(M) as he was a card holding member of party. He also ruled out the reports that he was fielded as a candidate by the CPI(M) to placate Church. Interestingly, the CPI(M) activists had started painting the walls across the constituency with the

name of Arun Kumar, a party activist, as the candidate from Thrikkakara. This was called off following a diktat issued by the party leadership which indicated that there would be a change in the name of the candidate. The AAP and the local outfit TwentyX20 had also announced that they would field a common candidate but the name was yet to be finalised. BJP is likely to field a candidate who has experience in losing all the polls he has contested till date. "Congress is strong in this constituency and the victory of Uma Thomas is a foregone conclusion," said Vishnu Vijayakumar, a young entrepreneur based in Thrikkakara.

FIRST COLUMN

DECODING NARENDRA MODI'S EUROPE VISIT

Post-Ukraine, Europe looks at the Indo-Pacific as new sphere of influence



KUMARDEEP BANERJEE

Indian Prime Minister's three-day European tour is a strategic tilt towards building closer ties with the once-ignored and yet extremely important ally. India and Europe have historically not had strategic partnerships in the past due to their respective domestic and geopolitical orientations. India has always viewed post-World War Europe from a UK or the cold-war frame of reference. It has in the last six decades worked with Russia to arrest Europe's dominance. Meanwhile Europe too has largely ignored the strategic importance of India and placed bets on China as a stabilising factor in pan-Asian geopolitics. This doesn't mean individual countries in Europe or power blocs haven't had strong bilateral ties with India in the past few decades. This status quo has now been challenged by Russian aggression in Ukraine. It has forced Europe as a bloc to rethink its external engagements, find new allies and partners



and look at the Indo-Pacific as new sphere of influence. Many countries in Europe must rewrite their energy budgets by reducing heavy dependence on Russia. Similarly, there is a sudden need to upgrade their defence machinery and not be dependent on the US-led NATO. It is against this backdrop that Prime Minister Narendra Modi's meetings in Berlin, Copenhagen and Paris assume importance. Germany and India have had long standing bilateral relationship reflected institutionally in the high level Inter Governmental Consultations (IGC) mechanism. This dialogue is extended by Germany to its privileged allies and has involvement of the heads of state along with senior ministers to steer the relationship. India knows Germany's preeminent role in steering European Union's political, strategic and security framework. Also, India and Germany seem to be on the same side, as far as receiving criticism from global powers regarding their energy dependency on Russia is concerned. However, India buys only a fraction of its total fuel requirements from Russia, when compared to Germany. Meanwhile, the Ukraine crisis has forced Germany to commit to significantly reducing its energy dependency on Russia by year end. The visit by the prime minister also marked signing of agreements between the two nations on areas related to green energy, migration and environment.

The next stop at Copenhagen was meant for renewing the Nordic partnership. The Nordic nations comprising of Finland, Sweden, Iceland, Norway and Denmark comprise a relatively sparsely populated, yet wealthy group of nations in Europe. It is in 2018 that India held its first Nordic summit to align better with these powerful bunch of nations. India and the Nordic countries have huge areas of mutual cooperation untapped, all of which can be significantly important for each other's prosperity. The Nordic nations are known for their expertise in clean energy, healthcare, and green technology. It is an ideal situation for India to scout for investments from these countries, as it builds on its zero-carbon economy and emerge as global leader in clean energy. It also helps India save billions by way of cutting down on 'polluting fuel' import bills. Meanwhile, for Nordic countries India represents a vastly untapped market growing faster than many of their neighbours. It is also a market which boasts of billions of new customers hungry for new innovative products and servicers at "the right price." The last stop for the prime minster, Paris, was to reiterate the continued bilateral dialogue between India and France. France remains one India's most vocal supporters in almost all multi-lateral and plurilateral platforms. It is also India's close defence partner, having supplied strategic Rafael aircrafts to India. India would be looking at deepening the security partnership with France in the wake of changed geopolitical headwinds.

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

CUET a step towards equitable system

It ends the monopoly of certain institutions and brings all centrally-funded universities under one umbrella

India's diversity is reflected not only through its cultural, religious, social-political, and linguistic practices, but also through its diverse geographical, climatic, environmental, developmental and educational landscapes. The diversity of religion, culture and social systems has not only made India a vibrant society and fully functional democracy but also given it a powerful voice in international arena across the continents. To some extent such diversity has provided a much-needed breathing space to groups of all segments of the society but the diversity of education and educational institutions which currently prevails in India has limited the right of equality of opportunity in higher education to the students especially living in remote, inaccessible and climatically dangerous geographical and underdeveloped zones of India.

On the other hand, the diversity of education systems also reflects an unhealthy diversity in terms of knowledge and skills being tested by myriad boards like CBSE, AICSE, NIOS, and state boards. The problem is that the lack of an integrated education landscape in India increases the dilemma of the students and their parents, particularly those living in remote areas. The lack of a single-window system for providing admission into the institutions of higher learning and undergraduate courses irrespective of geographical, linguistic or cultural diversity is viewed as a hindrance to the overall development of the youth of India.

Therefore, National Educational Policy 2020 proposed access, equity, affordability and integration of educational system of India from primary to higher education level. The way forward for such integration and uniformity was addressed by NTA established under the ministry of education, which has taken this Herculean task as a mission to admit the registered Students who are able to score good marks for clearing the admission test for under graduate courses to be held in the month of July 2022 for various central universities through one single test.

What could be the best way to fulfil the aims of NEP 2020 from the 2022-2023 session than holding one single test for admission in the various subjects mapped and shared by the universities with NTA and their own websites. The focus of the exam will be to test the subject/domain and general knowledge of the students based on the NCERT syllabus of the class 12 and thus establish a better connect of the students particularly of the remote areas with the central universities of India and other participating institutions in this common entrance test.

The exam which will be conducted through Multiple Choice Questions will also provide an atmosphere for



THE LACK OF A SINGLE-WINDOW SYSTEM FOR PROVIDING ADMISSION INTO THE INSTITUTIONS OF HIGHER LEARNING AND UNDERGRADUATE COURSES IRRESPECTIVE OF GEOGRAPHICAL, LINGUISTIC OR CULTURAL DIVERSITY IS VIEWED AS A HINDRANCE TO THE OVERALL DEVELOPMENT OF THE INDIAN YOUTH

(The writer is Vice-Chancellor, HNB Garhwal University, Srinagar, Garhwal, Uttarakhand. The views expressed are personal.)



objective assessment which will replace the subjectivity in evaluation of the descriptive traditional types of papers of the class 12 exams conducted by different boards. The hand-written answer books will be replaced by computer-based test which will not only facilitate computer literacy among the students of remote areas but also fair assessment of every student participating in this admission process. Such integration and congregation of all central universities of India as well as other private universities, state universities under one banner of NTA was not only unthinkable but also unprecedented in the history of higher education of India because all universities had their own set norms or exams for admissions.

The diversity of exams and processes was not only very taxing financially but also mentally for the prospective students and their parents as a student even scoring 99% marks in class 12 also had no guarantee to be admitted in the university or college of his or her choice or getting the subjects of their temperament. To put an end on the monopoly of certain institutions and bringing all centrally-funded universities under one umbrella is thus not only a very praise worthy step but also very challenging in view of the limited access and awareness among the stakeholders, primarily, the students, parents and teachers of the inter schools of the rural areas.

The CUET (UG) aims to pro-

vide wide variety of options like 27 subjects and 33 languages and general test to choose from. This is not only aimed to mitigate the educational and linguistic diversity as the test will be conducted into thirteen languages specified as medium of test for the students but also to provide one step solution to the admission process as through a single form the student may opt for many universities by entering their choices in the registration form. Any student living in the remotest corner of India can now think of getting admission into the big-league universities like Delhi University, JNU, BHU, Hyderabad and many more on the basis of the CUET score as well as according to the norms, condition and policy of that particular university.

This is likely to make the whole admission process very easy not only for the students but also to fulfil the aims of NEP which clearly indicated that the entrance to higher education should be through a common entrance test at the national level so that there is uniformity in standards for bench marking of candidates. As this type of test is being conducted for the first time in all over India through many centres of NTA, therefore, it should be clearly understood by all that there would be many hiccups and problems for which vigorous publicity and awareness drive about the test, registration and connecting with the NTA website or Samarth portal will be

necessary. Such awareness needs to be especially generated among the students of rural and remote areas where they not only face the issues of connectivity, but also are less computer savvy. In this situation the task of those universities located in remote and geographically difficult areas becomes much more daunting as they not only need to popularise the forthcoming NTA's computer-based test among the class 12 students for admissions in universities of India or those located near their places but also to convince their teachers and parents about the utility of this. These universities and their teams not only have to display all features in local language but also to demonstrate each and every step from registration to filling up of forms by the deadline so that no student who is interested in taking admission in the central universities is left behind in the want of awareness and proper knowledge. Now, besides NTA, MOE and UGC the basic onus is on the universities particularly the ones located in remote geographical areas to achieve this herculean task of bringing students to their institutions and achieving the target of equity and easy access in education through this common entrance test. This is just the beginning of the step one of the NEP, the next will be more challenging when the NEP will be implemented in all universities with revised pattern of certificate, diploma and degree courses.

POINT COUNTERPOINT

EVERY DAY, HEINOUS CRIMES ARE BEING COMMITTED. IT APPEARS UP IS ON THE TOP IN 'EASE OF DOING CRIME' INDEX. — SAMAJWADI PARTY CHIEF AKHILESH YADAV



UP HAS EMERGED AS A MODEL OF LAW AND ORDER AND PROPERTY WORTH ₹2,081 CRORE OF CRIMINALS AND GANGSTERS WAS SEIZED. — UP CHIEF MINISTER YOGI ADITYANATH

Climate change reality: Second hottest April in 72 years

The irony is dependence on coal-fired power plants is proportionately increasing with rising temperatures caused by climate change

The throes of summer seem to have descended upon India prematurely as a shockingly hot and dry month of April dismayed the people across the nation. Average temperatures of over 40 degrees Celsius have been recorded for the second time since 1951 making April the second hottest month in the last 72 years. April usually has a maximum temperature of 36 degree Celsius. The torrid heat waves this year began as early as March which also witnessed record temperatures in the last 122 years.


The severity can be gauged by the fact that the Indian Railways is cancelling trains to move coal to thermal power stations as the demand for power sky-rocketed. Still,



KOTA SRIRAJ

(The writer is an environmental journalist. The views expressed are personal.)

the gap between coal supply and electricity generation is widening and has caused acute power shortages, especially in Rajasthan, Andhra Pradesh and Haryana. The irony is the dependence on coal-fired power plants is proportionately increasing with the rising temperatures caused by climate change. This vicious cycle seems too difficult to break as the only alternative of renewable energy is not sufficient enough. According to environmental experts, the unabated accumulation of greenhouse gases is resulting in increased temperatures. Vehicular and industrial pollution have been one of the main causes for GHG emissions in India. But specific pollution events across the nation are making



already bad conditions worse. For instance, the continuous fires at the Bhalswa landfill in Delhi NCR in recent days have spun the air quality and ambient temperatures in Delhi out of control. Considering the fact that the Bhalswa landfill is spread over 36 acres and has 80 lakh tonnes of garbage, any fire here is sure to be a large-scale disaster. Pollution aside, the number of heatwave days in India

are increasing at a rapid pace every 10 years, an ongoing study by the Met Department showed. From 413 in 1981-90 to 575 in 2001-10 and 600 in 2011-20, the number of days that see extremely hot days is persistently increasing at 103 weather stations, mostly in inland areas, the study showed. The study also showed that most of the 103 weather stations have recorded a significantly increasing trend in heatwave frequency between April and June during the 1961-2020 period. The scorching temperatures are causing heat stress conditions for India's poor and marginalised engaged in hard labour for their livelihoods. Additionally, almost half of India's working age population is engaged in

farming, which requires long hours of outdoor heat exposure in summer. These situations are causing heat-related health disorders and even deaths amongst this section of population. While India's average temperatures rose by more than 0.5 degrees between 1960 and 2009, the probability of a massive heat-related mortality event, defined as more than 100 deaths, shot up by as much as 146%, according to a 2017 Increasing probability of mortality during Indian heat waves. According to a report by the Euro-Mediterranean Center on Climate Change, if global temperatures rise and carbon emissions are not contained to 2 degrees Celsius, then heatwaves in India are

likely to last 25 times longer by 2036-2065. These conditions can have disastrous impact on the delicate ecological environs of the Himalayas as it will directly lead to faster melting of glaciers which in turn will cause floods initially and followed by hard spells of drought after that. The need of the hour is to adopt a proactive method of prevention of extreme pollution events. Four instance the Bhalswa landfill fire was entirely avoidable and if prevented in time it could have helped reduce ambient temperatures in Delhi besides critical amounts of pollution. Similarly, it is more important now than ever to urgently ramp up renewable energy capacities so that this helpless dependence on thermal

energy is controlled. The Government must aim at making every household and business take ownership of its electricity requirement and generate at least 50 per cent of the same from solar energy by applying to relevant government schemes on renewable energy. This will ensure grass-root level energy self-sufficiency and reduce the demand for thermal energy. The climate change led spike in temperatures that necessitated a jump in thermal energy requirements should serve as a writing on the wall for India to start focusing on creation of renewable energy as a viable alternative to thermal energy. Unless this is done, India will be a victim of climate change sooner than later.

Ukraine repels Russian attacks, Mariupol plant battle rages

AP ■ LVIV (UKRAINE)

Ukraine's military said on Thursday that it recaptured some areas in the south and repelled Russian attacks in the east, as a bloody battle raged at a steel mill in Mariupol where Ukrainian troops are holed up in tunnels and bunkers fending off a Russian onslaught.

Ten weeks into a devastating war, Ukrainian and Russian forces are fighting village by village, as Moscow struggles to gain momentum in the eastern industrial heartland of the Donbas. Russia switched its focus to that region — where Moscow-backed separatists have fought Ukrainian forces for years — after a stiffer than expected resistance bogged its troops down and thwarted its initial goal of overrunning the capital.

In addition to heavy shelling of the Donbas, Russian forces also kept up their bombardment of railroad stations and other supply-line targets across the country — part of an effort to disrupt the supply of Western arms, which have been critical to Ukraine's defense.

Ukrainian forces said Thursday they made some gains on the border of the southern regions of Kherson and Mykolaiv and repelled 11 Russian attacks in the Donetsk and Luhansk regions that make up the Donbas.

Five people were killed and at least 25 more wounded in shelling of cities in the Donbas over the past 24 hours, Ukrainian officials said. The attacks damaged houses and a school as well.

Air raid sirens sounded in cities across the country on



Wednesday night, while Russian attacks were reported near Kyiv, the capital; in Cherkasy and Dnipro in central Ukraine; and in Zaporizhzhia in the southeast. In Dnipro, authorities said a rail facility was hit — following several earlier attacks on railway stations across the country. The sirens sounded anew early Thursday in the western city of Lviv, which has been a gateway for western arms and served as a relative safe haven for people fleeing fighting farther east.

An assessment by the Washington-based Institute for the Study of War said Russian forces were struggling to gain traction.

“Ukrainian defenses have largely stalled Russian advances in eastern Ukraine,” it said late Wednesday.

“Russian forces intensified airstrikes against transportation infrastructure in western Ukraine (on Wednesday) but remain unable to interdict Western aid shipments to Ukraine,” it added.

In the most searing exam-

ple of how Ukrainian forces have slowed Russia's progress, Ukrainian fighters held out at the sprawling Azovstal steel mill in Mariupol — the last pocket of resistance in a city that is otherwise controlled by Moscow's forces. “With the support of aircraft, the enemy resumed the offensive in order to take control of the plant,” the Ukrainian military's General Staff said Thursday. A stream of black smoke rose above the plant on Wednesday.

The Ukrainians said Russian forces have pushed into the plant's perimeter and were also bombing it from above. The Kremlin denied that there was any ground assault.

Denys Prokopenko, commander of the Ukrainian Azov regiment that's defending the plant, said in a video posted Wednesday that the incursions continued for a second day, “and there are heavy, bloody battles.”

Mariupol's fall would deprive Ukraine of a vital port, allow Russia to establish a land

corridor to the Crimean Peninsula, which it seized from Ukraine in 2014, and free up troops to fight elsewhere in the Donbas.

The city, and the plant in particular, have come to symbolize the misery inflicted by the war. The Russians have pulverized most of Mariupol in a two-month siege that has trapped civilians with little food, water, medicine or heat. Civilians holed up inside the plant have perhaps suffered even more. About 100 of them were evacuated over the weekend — the first time some saw daylight in months.

The Russian government said it would open another evacuation corridor from the plant during certain hours on Thursday through Saturday. But there was no immediate confirmation of those arrangements from other parties, and many previous assurances from the Kremlin have fallen through, with the Ukrainians blaming continued fighting by the Russians. It is unclear how many Ukrainian fighters are still inside

the plant, but the Russians put the number at about 2,000 in recent weeks, and 500 were reported to be wounded. A few hundred civilians also remain there, the Ukrainian side said this week.

The United Nations announced that more than 300 civilians were evacuated Wednesday from Mariupol and other nearby communities. The evacuees arrived in Zaporizhzhia, about 140 miles (230 kilometers) to the north-west, where they were receiving humanitarian assistance.

“Many came with nothing but the clothes they were wearing, and we will now support them during this difficult time, including with much-needed psychological support,” said Osnat Lubrani, the U.N. Humanitarian coordinator for Ukraine.

Meanwhile, Belarus, which Russia used as a staging ground for its invasion, announced the start of military exercises Wednesday. A top Ukrainian official said the country will be ready to act if Belarus joins the fighting.

The British Defense Ministry said Thursday that it does not anticipate that the drills currently posed a threat to Ukraine, but that Moscow will likely use them “to fix Ukrainian forces in the north, preventing them from being committed to the battle for the Donbas.”

In addition to supplying weapons to Ukraine, Europe and the U.S. Have sought to punish Moscow with sanctions, taking aim at the country's vital energy sector. The European Union's top official called on the 27-nation bloc on Wednesday to ban Russian oil imports, a crucial source of revenue.

Russian strikes try to disrupt delivery of Western weapons

AP ■ LVIV

Russia moved to obstruct the flow of Western weapons to Ukraine by bombarding rail stations and other supply-line targets across the country while the European Union weighed whether to further punish Moscow with a ban on oil imports.

Heavy fighting also raged Wednesday at the Azovstal steel mill in Mariupol that represented the last stronghold of Ukrainian resistance in the ruined southern port city, according to the mayor. A Russian official denied that Moscow's troops were storming the plant, but the commander of the main Ukrainian military unit inside said Russian soldiers had pushed into the mill's territory.

The Russian military said it used sea- and air-launched missiles to destroy electric power facilities at five railway stations across Ukraine. Artillery and aircraft also struck troop strongholds and fuel and ammunition depots.

Ukrainian Foreign Minister Dmytro Kuleba accused Russia of “resorting to the missile terrorism tactics in order to spread fear across Ukraine.”

Air raid sirens sounded in cities across the country on Wednesday night, and attacks were reported near Kyiv, the capital; in Cherkasy and Dnipro in central Ukraine; and in Zaporizhzhia in the southeast. In Dnipro, authorities said a rail facility was hit. Videos on social media suggested a bridge there was attacked.



There was no immediate word on casualties or the extent of the damage.

Responding to the strikes in his nightly video address, Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy said: “All of these crimes will be answered, legally and quite practically — on the battlefield.”

The flurry of attacks comes as Russia prepares to celebrate Victory Day on May 9, marking the Soviet Union's defeat of Nazi Germany. The world is watching for whether Russian President Vladimir Putin will use the occasion to declare a victory in Ukraine or expand what he calls the “special military operation.”

A declaration of all-out war would allow Putin to introduce martial law and mobilize reservists to make up for significant troop losses.

Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov dismissed the speculation as “nonsense.”

Meanwhile, Belarus, which Russia used as a staging ground for its invasion, announced the start of military exercises Wednesday. A top Ukrainian

official said the country will be ready to act if Belarus joins the fighting.

The attacks on rail infrastructure were meant to disrupt the delivery of Western weapons, Russian Defense Ministry spokesman Maj. Gen. Igor Konashenkov said. Defense Minister Sergei Shoigu complained that the West is “stuffing Ukraine with weapons.”

A senior U.S. Defense official, speaking on condition of anonymity to discuss the Pentagon's assessment, said that while the Russians have tried to hit critical infrastructure around the western city of Lviv, specifically targeting railroads, there has been “no appreciable impact” on Ukraine's effort to resupply its forces. Lviv, close to the Polish border, has been a major gateway for NATO-supplied weapons.

Weaponry pouring into Ukraine helped its forces thwart Russia's initial drive to seize Kyiv and seems certain to play a central role in the growing battle for the Donbas, the eastern industrial region that Moscow now says is its main objective.

Ukraine has urged the West to ramp up the supply of weapons ahead of that potentially decisive clash.

In addition to supplying weapons to Ukraine, Europe and the U.S. Have sought to punish Moscow with sanctions. The EU's top official called on the 27-nation bloc on Wednesday to ban Russian oil imports, a crucial source of revenue.

Ukraine: Russia using ‘missile terrorism’ in wide attacks

AP ■ LVIV

Complaining that the West is “stuffing” Ukraine with weapons,” Russia bombarded railroad stations and other supply-line targets across the country, as the European Union moved to further punish Moscow for the war on Wednesday by proposing a ban on oil imports.

Heavy fighting also raged at the Azovstal steel mill in Mariupol that represented the last stronghold of Ukrainian resistance in the ruined southern port city, according to the mayor. But a Russian official denied Moscow's troops were storming the plant, as Ukrainian commanders claimed a day earlier.

The Russian military said it used sea- and air-launched missiles to destroy electric power facilities at five railway stations across Ukraine, while artillery and aircraft also struck troop strongholds and fuel and ammu-

nition depots.

Ukrainian Foreign Minister Dmytro Kuleba accused Russia of “resorting to the missile terrorism tactics in order to spread fear across Ukraine.”

Air raid sirens sounded in cities across the country on Wednesday night, and attacks were reported near Kyiv, the capital; in Cherkasy and Dnipro in central Ukraine; and in Zaporizhzhia in the southeast. In Dnipro, authorities said a rail facility was hit. Videos on social media suggested a bridge there was attacked.

There was no immediate word on casualties or the extent of the damage.

The flurry of attacks comes as Russia prepares to celebrate Victory Day on May 9, marking the Soviet Union's defeat of Nazi Germany. The world is watching for whether Russian President Vladimir Putin will use the occasion to declare a victory in

Ukraine or expand what he calls the “special military operation.”

A declaration of all-out war would allow Putin to introduce martial law and mobilise reservists to make up for significant troop losses.

Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov dismissed the speculation as “nonsense.”

Meanwhile, Belarus, which Russia used as a staging ground for its invasion, announced the start of military exercises Wednesday. A top Ukrainian official said the country will be ready to act if Belarus joins the fighting.

The attacks on rail infrastructure were meant to disrupt the delivery of Western weapons, Russian Defence Ministry spokesman Maj. Gen. Igor Konashenkov said. Defence Minister Sergei Shoigu said the West is “stuffing Ukraine with weapons.”

A senior US defence official,

speaking on condition of anonymity to discuss the Pentagon's assessment, said that while the Russians have tried to hit critical infrastructure around the western city of Lviv, specifically targeting railroads, there has been “no appreciable impact” on Ukraine's effort to resupply its forces. Lviv, close to the Polish border, has been a major gateway for NATO-supplied weapons.

Ukraine has urged the West to ramp up the supply of weapons ahead of that potentially decisive clash. Chancellor Olaf Scholz of Germany, which had been slow at first to help arm Ukraine, said his government is considering supplying howitzers, in addition to Gepard anti-aircraft guns and other equipment it has agreed to send. The governor of the eastern Donetsk region, which lies in the Donbas, said Russian attacks left 21 people dead on Tuesday, the highest number of

known fatalities since April 8, when a missile attack on the railway station in Kramatorsk killed at least 59.

In addition to supplying weapons to Ukraine, Europe and the US have sought to punish Moscow with sanctions. The EU's top official called on the 27-nation bloc on Wednesday to ban Russian oil imports, a crucial source of revenue.

“We will make sure that we phase out Russian oil in an orderly fashion, in a way that allows us and our partners to secure alternative supply routes and minimizes the impact on global markets,” European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen told the European Parliament in Strasbourg, France.

The proposal needs unanimous approval from EU countries and is likely to be the subject of fierce debate. Hungary and Slovakia have already said they won't take part in any oil sanc-

tions. They could be granted an exemption.

The EU is also talking about a possible embargo on Russian natural gas. The bloc has already approved a cutoff of coal imports.

Russia's economy is heavily dependent on oil and natural gas exports. Kuleba, the Ukrainian foreign minister, said European purchases of Russian energy produce billions in revenue and support the Kremlin's “war machine.”

Von der Leyen also proposed that Sberbank, Russia's largest bank, and two other major banks be disconnected from the SWIFT international banking payment system.

In Mariupol, Mayor Vadym Boychenko said that Russian forces were targeting the already shattered Azovstal plant with heavy artillery, tanks, aircraft, warships and “heavy bombs that pierce concrete 3 to 5 metres thick.”

More than 300 evacuated from Mariupol, says UN

AP ■ MARIUPOL

The United Nations says more than 300 civilians from the besieged southeastern city of Mariupol and four other towns have been evacuated to Ukrainian-held Zaporizhzhia in a second successful operation to get civilians out of areas subject to Russian shelling and attacks.

Osnat Lubrani, the UN humanitarian chief in Ukraine, said in a statement that many of the civilians from Mariupol, Manhush, Berdiansk, Tokmak and Vasylivka came Wednesday with nothing but the clothes they were wearing and are now getting humanitarian assistance. She said they'll

also receive “much-needed psychological support.”

Her statement did not say whether the evacuation included any civilians from the Azovstal steel mill in Mariupol which is surrounded by Russian troops and reportedly came under renewed fire Wednesday.

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy says they are trying to reach an agreement to save people at the Azovstal mill, where there are still civilians, including women and children. He said the 344 evacuated Wednesday are in addition to the more than 150 people who were evacuated earlier this week from the bunkers under the city's steel plant.

Branch Office: ICICI Bank Ltd. 4/10, Mythree Tower, Bommanhalli Housr Main Road Bengaluru -560068

PUBLIC NOTICE - TENDER CUM AUCTION FOR SALE OF SECURED ASSET

[See proviso to rule 8(6)]
Notice for sale of immovable assets

E-Auction Sale Notice for Sale of moveable Assets under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 read with proviso to Rule 8 (6) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002.
Notice is hereby given to the public in general and in particular to the Borrower(s) and Guarantor(s) that the below described immovable property mortgaged/charged to the Secured Creditor, the Physical possession of which has been taken by the Authorised Officer of ICICI Bank Ltd. will be sold on "As is where is", "As is what is", and "Whatever there is" as per the brief particulars given hereunder;

| Sr. No. | Name of Borrower(s)/ Co-Borrowers/ Guarantors/ Loan Account No. | Details of the Secured asset(s) with known encumbrances, if any | Amount Outstanding | Reserve Price Earnest Money Deposit | Date and Time of Property Inspection | Date & Time of Auction |
|---------|---|---|--|-------------------------------------|--|---|
| (A) | (B) | (C) | (D) | (E) | (F) | (G) |
| 1. | Mrs. Reena Verma (Borrower) Mr. Mukul Verma (Co Borrower) Loan Account No. LBDEL00005243194/ LBDEL00005259497 | Item No 1: All that piece and parcel of Property bearing Vacant Site No 20, formed out of Sy Nos. 76/1, 77, 78/2, 79 & 80 of Kambipura Village, Kengeri Hobli, Bangalore South Taluk, Which is duly converted from Agricultural Purposes to Non-Agricultural Residential purposes, vide conversion Order No. ALN(S)SR(K)/48/2012-13, dated 10/01/2013, issued by the Special Deputy Commissioner, Bangalore District and the layout is approved by Bangalore Development Authority (BDA) vide No. BDA/TPM/PRL-16/2013-14/6878/2013-14, dated 20/03/2014 and measuring, East to West: Northern Side: 47'.00" Feet, Southern Side: 51'.40" feet, North to South: Eastern Side: 30'.33" feet, Western Side: 30'.00" feet, Totally measuring: 1484 Sq. ft., and bounded on the:- East by: Private Property, West by: Road, North by: Site No. 19, South by: Site No. 21. Item No 2. All that piece and parcel of Property bearing Vacant Site No 21, formed out of Sy Nos. 76/1, 77, 78/2, 79 & 80 of Kambipura Village, Kengeri Hobli, Bangalore South Taluk, Which is duly converted from Agricultural Purposes to Non-Agricultural Residential purposes, vide conversion Order No. ALN(S)SR(K)/48/2012-13, dated 10/01/2013, issued by the Special Deputy Commissioner, Bangalore District and the layout is approved by Bangalore Development Authority (BDA) vide No. BDA/TPM/PRL-16/2013-14/6878/2013-14, dated 20/03/2014 and measuring, East to West: Northern Side: 51'.40" Feet, Southern Side: 55'.80" feet, North to South: Eastern Side: 30'.33" feet, Western Side: 30'.00" feet, Totally measuring: 1617 Sq. ft., and bounded on the:- East by: Private Property, West by: Road, North by: Site No. 20, South by: Private Property. | Rs. 1,18,96,786/- (as on April 02, 2022) | Rs. 1,03,11,000/- Rs. 10,31,100/- | May 16, 2022 from 11:00 AM to 01:00 PM | June 14, 2022 from 10:00 AM to 11:00 AM |

The online auction will be conducted on website (URL Link-www.disposalhub.com) of our auction agency M/s NexXen Solutions Private Limited. The Mortgagee's/noticee are given a last chance to pay the total dues with further interest till **June 13, 2022 before 05:00 PM** else these secured assets will be sold as per above schedule.
The Prospective Bidder(s) must submit the Earnest Money Deposit (EMD) Demand Draft (DD) (Refer Column E) at **ICICI Bank Ltd. 4/10, Mythree Tower, Bommanhalli Housr Main Road Bengaluru -560068** on or before **June 13, 2022 before 03:30 PM** and thereafter they need to submit their offer through the above mentioned website only on or before **June 13, 2022 before 05:00 PM** along with scan image of Bank acknowledged DD towards proof of payment of EMD. Kindly note, in case prospective bidder(s) are unable to submit their offer through the website then signed copy of tender documents may be submitted at **ICICI Bank Ltd. 4/10, Mythree Tower, Bommanhalli Housr Main Road Bengaluru -560068** on or before **June 13, 2022 before 05:00 PM** Earnest Money Deposit DD/PO should be from a Nationalised/ Scheduled Bank in favour of **ICICI Bank Limited** payable at **Bangalore**.
For any further clarifications with regards to inspection, terms and conditions of the auction or submission of tenders, kindly contact **ICICI Bank Limited on 9844542086/8008999536** or **M/s NexXen Solutions Private Limited on 9810029926/01244233933**
Please note that Marketing agencies 1. **M/s NexXen Solutions Private Limited. 2. MatexNet Pvt Ltd (Contact on 8939805544)**, have also been engaged for facilitating the sale of this property.
The Authorised Officer reserves the right to reject any or all the bids without furnishing any further reasons.
For detailed terms and conditions of the sale, please visit **www.icicibank.com/n4p4s**
Date: May 06, 2022
Place: Delhi/ NCR

Authorized Officer
ICICI Bank Limited

कार्यालय वरिष्ठ प्रबन्धक मेगा फुड पार्क, बहेड़ी
उपग्रह राज्य औद्योगिक विकास प्राधिकरण,
ए-1/4 कछनपुर, कानपुर

अल्पकालीन ई-निविदा सूचना

एतद्वारा सूचित किया जाता है कि प्राधिकरण के विभिन्न जन्मपदों में स्थित औद्योगिक क्षेत्रों में विद्युत विकास और अनुरक्षण एवं रख-रखाव कार्य हेतु सरकारी विभागों/सार्वजनिक उपक्रमों/निगमों/प्राधिकरणों/परिषदों/नगर निकायों में पंजीकृत एवं अर्ह 'ए' श्रेणी में विद्युत लाइसेन्सी फर्मों/डीलर्स/अनुमोदी निर्माता/डेकेदारों से अल्पकालीन ई-निविदाये आमंत्रित की जाती है। जो दिनांक 07.05.2022 को पूर्वाह्न 11:00 बजे से दिनांक 17.05.2022 को अपराह्न 5:00 बजे तक अपोलोड की जा सकती है। जिन्हें दिनांक 18.05.2022 को पूर्वाह्न 11:00 बजे खोला जायेगा। निविदादाताओं द्वारा शपथ पत्रों की मूल प्रतियां दिनांक 21.05.2022 को सायं 5:00 बजे तक कार्यालय में जमा की जा सकती है। ई-निविदा के माध्यम से आमंत्रित की जाने वाली निविदा सम्बन्धी विवरण निम्नवत् है—

| क्रमांक | कार्य का नाम | कार्य की अनुमानित लागत ₹00 (लाख में) |
|---------|---|--------------------------------------|
| 1. | Annual Maintenance Contract of Street lights and High Mast Lighting system at I.A. Kosi Kalan, Kosi Kotwan & Mathura Site-B Distt. Mathura. | 20.21 |

नोट:-
1. निविदादाता अपनी निविदाओं में समस्त कर एवं जीएसटी0 सहित दरें अंकित करें। अलग से कोई कर देय नहीं होगा।
2. विद्युत कार्य हेतु निविदादाताओं को निविदा अपोलोड करते समय “विद्युत सुरक्षा विभाग” उपग्रह शासन, लखनऊ में श्रेणी ‘क’, अनुमोदित लाइसेन्स अपोलोड करना अनिवार्य होगा, अन्यथा निविदा को Consider नहीं किया जायेगा।
निविदा सम्बन्धी विस्तृत जानकारी प्राधिकरण की website: www.upsidc.com पर स्थित ई-लिक एवं यूपीएलसी की website: <http://etender.up.nic.in> पर देखी जा सकती है।
वरिष्ठ प्रबन्धक मेगा फुड पार्क, बहेड़ी
उपग्रहऔद्योगिक, कानपुर

Government of Jammu & Kashmir (U T)

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER

Mechanical Division Srinagar, Mechanical Engineering Department, Kashmir.

| Fax No: 0194-2497093 | email: xenmds@gmail.com | website: www.medkashmir.org |

CORRIGENDUM NO -01
FOR DATE EXTENSION

Name of work: Supply of Suitable Variable Snow Plough and Cardon-Shaft Attachable Cutter/Blower Assembly along with "Unimog-423/427" Carrier Vehicle. References: This office eNIT No:MDS/TS/Tendering/03; dated: 13.04.2022 (Tender Id: 2022_PWDJK_1)

In view of representations received from the firms and discussions & deliberation held in the office chambers of the Chief Engineer MED Kmr today on 05.05.2022 , the critical dates for the subject NIT is extended as under, for wider participation:

| | Previous dates | Extended dates |
|---------------------------------------|------------------------|--------------------------|
| Last date of uploading of bids online | 06.05.2022 (06:55 pm) | 21.05.2022 upto06:55 P.M |
| Date of opening of bids online | 07.05.2022 at 11:00 AM | 23.05.2022 at 02.00 P.M |

All other terms, conditions, technical specifications and critical dates of the NIT shall remain same.

NO:- MDS/TS/509-12
Date:- 05.05.2022
DIP No: DIPK-1538/22

Sd/-
Executive Engineer
Mechanical Division Srinagar

USD 6.5 billion raised at donors' conference for Ukraine

AP ■ WARSAW (POLAND)

War-ravaged Ukraine received pledges for USD 6.5 billion more in humanitarian aid on Thursday at an international donor's conference in Warsaw that sought to get Ukrainians urgent help while still planning for the country's post-war reconstruction.

Polish Prime Minister Mateusz Morawiecki, a co-host of the conference,

announced that USD 6.5 billion was raised in donations, eliciting applause from leaders and other officials attending the one-day meeting, including representatives from the United Nations and companies such as Google.

The pledges came from countries and businesses, many of whom attended the conference at Warsaw's National Stadium in person and others who made their pledges remotely.

His co-host, Sweden's Prime Minister Magdalena Andersson, said the sum exceeded their expectations.

Much of the world has responded to the war in Ukraine with an outpouring of humanitarian support. But as the war drags on, the humanitarian needs in Ukraine have grown even more acute. In addition to thousands of killed in the war millions of people have been displaced. Morawiecki said Ukraine needs over 12,000 tons of humanitarian aid every day, but that only 3,000 tons are getting through. He said the conference shows that the world is not indifferent to Russia's “genocidal war”.

Andersson said the aim was to help Ukraine both now and later.

Rajapaksa-led Govt emerge stronger after defeat of Opp candidate in Deputy Speaker election

PTI ■ COLOMBO

In a major victory for Sri Lanka's embattled Rajapaksa clan, their nominee on Thursday emphatically won a key vote for the a position of Deputy Speaker in Parliament, demonstrating the government's ability to prove their parliamentary majority despite raging public protests demanding the resignation of President Gotabaya Rajapaksa for mishandling the worst economic crisis in decades.

MP Ranjith Siyambalapitiya, who was backed by the ruling coalition led by President Gotabhaya Rajapaksa, was re-elected as the Deputy Speaker with 148 out of 225 MPs voting in favour of him while Imithiaz Bakeer Markar, who was nominated by the main opposition the Samagi Jana Balavegaya (SJB) received only 65 votes.

Three votes were rejected, and six MPs including "dissident" government member Wimal Weerawansa were absent during the vote.

Siyambalapitiya, a member of the former President Maithripala Sirisena's Sri Lanka Freedom Party (SLFP), had resigned as his party SLFP decided to stay independent of the government.

He had been bouncing back and forth between the deputy speaker position since early last month, and his re-election followed his latest resignation that was accepted by President Gotabaya Rajapaksa on May 3.

Despite the SLFP going independent, the ruling Sri Lanka Podujana Peramuna (SLPP) decided to back Siyambalapitiya in their bid to show that the government majority was intact. Speaking after his election as the Deputy Speaker, Siyambalapitiya said he had expect-



ed to be unanimously appointed by both the government and the Opposition.

The main Opposition leader Sajith Premadasa said they decided to field their nominee Markar as they had learnt the ruling SLPP was to back Siyambalapitiya at a possible secret vote.

Premadasa accused Siyambalapitiya as a "government stooge." The government majority was seen as fragile since the decision by some 40 lawmakers from the ruling coalition declaring independence in view of the raging public protests calling for the resignation of the entire Rajapaksa family.

With more members from the ruling coalition calling for the resignation of Prime Minister Mahinda Rajapaksa to make way for an interim government of all parties, Rajapaksa stayed put claiming majority.

The Deputy Speaker's vote appears to have strengthened his position, experts said. Prime Minister Mahinda Rajapaksa and President Gotabaya Rajapaksa are coming under increasing pressure to step down in the simmering economic meltdown where people struggle with all essentials, including having to put up with power cuts.

In an impassioned speech following the vote, Opposition Tamil National Alliance (TNA) MP Shanakiyan Rasamanickam said that the near two thirds' vote in favour of Sri Lanka's government-backed deputy speaker candidate revealed the likelihood of the government easily defeating a proposed no confidence motion against it, the EconomyNext news website reported. Rasamanickam said that only 65 MPs were with the people of Sri Lanka who have been demanding the resignation of the government, while 148 MPs continue to stand for the ruling Rajapaksa family.

"They're here to save the Rajapaksas. No matter what no confidence motion is brought against this government, these dramatists, crooks and liars will never vote against the Rajapaksas," he was quoted as saying. The TNA MP also berated former prime minister and United National Party (UNP) MP Ranil Wickremesinghe for allegedly supporting the government during the vote.

"It's clear that this is all theatre. We saw the former PM, who sits in the opposition, approaching each individual sitting here this morning asking them to support Mr Siyambalapitiya," the MP claimed.

Former Prime Minister Wickremesinghe told parliament following Siyambalapitiya's re-election that the lack of consensus on the Deputy Speaker post which was contested by two candidates from the opposition ranks shows the country the divisions within the House.

Wickremesinghe urged the house to work together and solve the pressing issues in the country, warning that otherwise the public will reject parliament as an institution in its entirety.

Sri Lanka's government has been facing a wave of protests around the

country with an increasingly furious public demanding its resignation. The main opposition Samagi Jana Balavegaya (SJB) has tabled a no confidence motion against the government, but it is unclear at present how much support it will be able to muster in favour of it.

The SJB has handed over to the Speaker two motions of no-confidence against the SLPP coalition government and embattled President Gotabaya Rajapaksa under Article 42 of the Constitution.

Article 42 stipulates that the President is responsible to Parliament for the exercise, performance and discharge of his functions.

Any motion needs seven days' notice before getting into the order paper for debate. A date has not yet been announced for a vote on the no-confidence motions.

The Opposition parties accuse top government officials of excessively printing money, hurting farm production by banning chemical fertilizers to make the production fully organic and minimize import costs, failing to order COVID-19 vaccines in a timely manner and buying them later at higher prices.

Sri Lanka is currently in the throes of 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.

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

Crisis-hit Lanka re-introduces fuel rationing

PTI ■ COLOMBO

Sri Lanka's state-owned Petroleum corporation on Thursday re-introduced fuel rationing for vehicles, as the worst economic crisis in decades roils the country with massive public protests against the government.

Ceylon Petroleum Corporation head Sumith Wijesinghe said that now motorcycles and other two-wheelers can purchase fuel up to worth Rs 2,000 per visit to a fuel station. Similarly, three-wheelers can purchase fuel worth Rs 3,000 and cars upto Rs 8,000. Mid last month, fuel rationing for vehicles was introduced and came to be later scrapped with the last hike of retail prices.

For several months, Sri Lankans have endured long lines to buy fuel, cooking gas, food and medicine, most of which come from abroad. Shortages of hard currency have also hindered imports of raw materials for manufacturing and worsened inflation, which surged to 18.7 per cent in March.

As oil prices soar during the Russia-Ukraine conflict, the island nation's fuel stocks are running out. Authorities have announced countrywide power cuts extending up to 7 1/2 hours a day because they can't supply enough fuel to power generating stations.

Speaking in Parliament on



Thursday, Energy Minister Kanchana Wijesekara said the release of diesel to the market has been limited due to energy needs as more diesel is to be given to generate electricity.

He assured that the current long lines for fuel would ease in about three days. "We have an issue regarding diesel supply, the priority has to be given to supplying diesel to power plants for power generation," he said. The daily release of 4,000 metric tonnes of diesel is now limited to 1,000-1,500 metric tonnes, he said.

"The government had to take a policy decision on whether queues should be reduced by supplying the available fuel consignments to filling stations or continuing rolling power interruptions of 3 hours and 20 minutes without extending them," he said.

Sri Lanka is expecting additional credit lines from India for the purchase of fuel. India has committed more than USD 3 billion to debt-ridden Sri Lanka in loans, credit lines and credit swaps since January this year.

As diversity rises, US boards still disproportionately white

AP ■ NEW YORK

Amid the push to get U.S. Boardrooms to look more like companies' customers and employees, advocates are finally seeing just how steep the task will be.

Boards of directors at publicly traded US companies are much more white and much less diverse than the overall population, often starkly so. Just 2.7% of directors at the start of the year were Hispanic, for example. That would need to soar to 18.5% to mirror the U.S. Population.

Outside of looking at a photograph of each director, it hasn't always been easy to measure racial diversity on corporate boards. On Thursday, executive data firm Equilar released its first racial breakdown of boards for companies in the Russell 3000 index, which covers about 97% of all investable U.S. Stocks.

The survey found only 6.2% of directors are Black, versus 13.4% of the country. And the 5% of directors who are of Asian or Pacific islander



descent also fell short of the 6.1% for the entire U.S. Population.

Equilar pulled the numbers from a range of sources, including disclosures from companies, data from affiliate networks and lists of influential executives from racial and ethnic minorities. Its results are similar to the disproportionate representation found in other surveys of more limited groups.

Executive search firm Heidrick & Struggles earlier this week released its roundup of boards at a smaller group of companies, those in the Fortune 500. It found that Black directors hold 26% of board seats, while Asian or Asian American directors had

9% and Hispanic directors held 6%.

Bigger companies tend to have more diverse boards than smaller companies. But more across the board are being transparent about the racial breakdown for their board of directors. A big reason for that is because they're being forced to, with pressure coming from stock exchanges, regulators and investors.

At the Nasdaq, for example, U.S. Securities regulators approved a rule last summer requiring companies listed on its U.S. Exchange to file an annual document detailing racial and ethnic backgrounds of its directors, among other demographic data. Nasdaq even has a fillable PDF form available to make it easier for companies, which have to submit the data by Aug. 8 or whenever they file their 2022 proxy statement, whichever comes later.

By Aug. 7, 2023, Nasdaq will require a listed company to either have at least one director considered "diverse" or explain why it doesn't.

Israel tightens grip on West Bank with planned restrictions

AP ■ JERUSALEM

If, during your travels in the Holy Land, you decide to take the next step with your Palestinian sweetheart, you should notify the Israeli military within 30 days.

That's what it says on page 30 of a new 97-page policy released by COGAT, the Israeli military body in charge of civilian affairs in the occupied West Bank.

The policy, set to take effect later this year, specifies that the "start of the relationship" is the engagement, the wedding or when you move in together.

The wide-ranging policy imposes new restrictions on foreigners who marry Palestinians or who come to the West Bank to work, volunteer, study or teach, further extending Israel's nearly 55-year military rule into nearly every corner of Palestinian life.

The rules do not apply to people visiting Israel or the

more than 130 Jewish settlements scattered across the West Bank.

"It's outrageous that the Israeli military thinks it can micro-manage Palestinian society to this extent, to decide who's qualified to teach at a university, who is entitled to have foreign volunteers," said Jessica Montell, director of the Israeli human rights group HaMoked.

Her group filed a legal petition with lengthy objections to the policy, leading Israeli authorities to delay its implementation from May 20 until early July.

The policy could also anger the United States, which has long refused to enter into a visa waiver programme with Israel, in part because Israel treats Palestinian-Americans differently than other US citizens. The State Department said it was studying the new procedures and "engaging with Israeli authorities to understand their applications".

Debate sparks over China's interest in Australian election

AP ■ CANBERRA

Australia's defence policy debate heated up when the defence minister said there was evidence that the Chinese Communist Party wanted Australia's government to change at the May 21 election because a centre-left Labour Party administration would attempt to appease Beijing.

Defence Minister Peter Dutton said Thursday the evidence included communication on the Chinese social media platform WeChat and how editors of Chinese-language newspapers in Australia had been pressured. There were also "other elements, obviously, that I can't go into publicly," Dutton said in an apparent reference to classified security briefings.

Dutton made his allegation of a Chinese preference for Labour in answer to a reporter's question during a

defence policy debate at the National Press Club with opposition defense spokesperson Brendan O'Connor.

"There's no doubt in my mind that the Chinese Communist Party would like to see a change of government at the May 21 election. No question at all," Dutton said.

O'Connor said he did not agree with what he described as Dutton's "conspiracy theory." "It's not in this country's interest for a political party to attack the other major political party on the basis of appeasing China — particularly when it's untrue," O'Connor said.

The Chinese Embassy in Canberra did not immediately respond to a request for comment Thursday.

A year after the conservative government was first elected in 2013, Chinese President Xi Jinping visited Australia and addressed Parliament.

Once conflicted, Biden embraces role as abortion defender

AP ■ WASHINGTON

Soon after being elected to the U.S. Senate, Joe Biden was pulled aside by a Democratic colleague who wanted to know how he was going to vote on abortion.

Biden explained that while he was personally opposed to abortion and would resist federal funding for the procedure, he didn't want to impose his view on others by overturning Roe v. Wade, the 1973 Supreme Court decision that legalized abortion nationwide.

"That's a tough position, kid," said Sen. Abraham Ribicoff of Connecticut. Then Ribicoff offered him some advice, Biden recalled years later in a memoir: "Pick a side. You'll be much better off politically. Just pick a side."

During five decades in elected office, Biden has tried to avoid picking a side on abortion whenever he could. Now that's impossible as the Supreme Court seems poised to strike down the constitutional right to abortion. A draft copy of the court's majority opinion was pub-

lished by Politico earlier this week, and a final decision is expected this summer.

As the Democratic president who happens to be serving when the Republicans' anti-abortion agenda reaches its crescendo, Biden is being drafted into the kind of fight that he's sidestepped for much of his career.

It's not a natural role for him, despite his longtime defense of a woman's right to choose whether to end her pregnancy. Like many Catholic Democrats, he's expressed conflicting opinions on abortion, which his church regards as a sin but his political party views as a legal right.

Mini Timmaraju, president of NARAL Pro-Choice America, said Biden "understands there's a difference between his personal view and what he would do in his personal life, and what he and his party stands for in terms of protecting freedoms for the American people."

Although Biden called for protecting Roe v. Wade in his State of the Union speech in March, since becoming pres-

ident he had never publicly uttered the word "abortion" until this week, when the draft court decision leaked. And he still prefers to frame the issue around privacy and people's ability to make their own decisions free from government interference.

"This is about a lot more than abortion," he said Wednesday at the White House. He often references other court decisions on same sex marriage or birth control. "What are the next things that are going to be attacked?"

It's the kind of rhetoric that he deployed successfully during the 1987 confirmation hearings for Robert Bork, President Ronald Reagan's nominee to the Supreme Court.

Biden was chairman of the Senate Judiciary Committee, and he focused his questioning on Griswold v. Connecticut, a 1965 decision that allowed married couples to buy birth control.

"If we tried to make this a referendum on abortion rights, for example, we'd lose," he wrote in his 2007 memoir, "Promises to Keep."

PUBLIC NOTICE

General public is hereby informed that Mrs. Jugieet Kaur Sethi W/o Mr. Inderjit Singh Sethi is the current owner of GROUND FLOOR WITHOUT ROOF/ TERRACE RIGHTS, BUILT ON PORTION OF PLOT NO. C-33 & C-34 LAND ADMEASURING 111.00 SQ. YDS., OUT OF KHASRA NO. 10/16, SITUATED AT VILLAGE ASIATPUR KHADAR COLONY KNOWN AS JIWAN PARK, NEW DELHI, by virtue of Regd. GPA dated 21.06.1997 vide Doc. No. 37486, ATS & Regd. WILL dated 21.06.1997 and to be Mortgaged by Citix Capital Services Pvt. Ltd. If any person(s) have any objection(s) or claim in this property, then contact the undersigned within 15 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.

RAV TIWARI (Advocate)
Ch. 830, Patiala House Courts, New Delhi - 110001
Mob.: +91-8076188328

Public Notice

For Disposal of Medical Records, older than 31/12/2017; Save Sight Centre, A-14, opp. Adarsh Nagar Metro Station Gate No. 1, Adarsh Nagar, Delhi-110033

Notice is hereby given that Save Sight Centre hospital A-14, opp. Adarsh Nagar Metro Station Gate No. 1, Adarsh Nagar, Delhi-110033 propose to dispose of all medical records of all patients till 31.12.2017. A copy of concerned patient's records will be furnished to any patient/next to kin/legal representative on written to request addressed to Medical Director, Save Sight Centre Hospital A-14, opp. Adarsh Nagar Metro Station Gate No. 1, Adarsh Nagar, Delhi-110033 within 7 days of publication of this notice, hospital will not comply with any request and cannot be held responsible thereafter as all records up to 31.12.2017 would have been destroyed. If no such request to received, the records of the said period shall be liable to be destroyed & no claim be entertained thereafter no further notice shall be given in this regards.

MRD Incharge
Save Sight Centre Hospital

PUBLIC NOTICE

This is to inform to all concern that Mr. Mohan Lal S/o Sh. Popat Ram R/o H-4/8 Malviya Nagar, New Delhi who is the original allottee of property/Plot No. P-3, Sector-11, Noida (U.P.) had sold the said property on General Power of Attorney basis to the following person(s). General Power of Attorney was executed on in favour of Mrs. Kailashi Devi W/o Sh. Siya Ram Gupta R/o 672, Janta Gali Gandhi Nagar, Delhi which is registered and the Agreement to Sell - was not registered or not executed. Because the Agreement to Sell is not registered or no Agreement to sell executed, so it informed to all concern that the said property/Plot No. P-3, Sector-11, Noida (U.P.) is going to be transferred in favour of Sh. Siya Ram Gupta S/o Late SHE Chingam Ram R/o P-3, Sector-11, Noida (U.P.) if any one has/have any objection he/she may file his/her objection along-with the sufficient proof in the Residential Department of the Noida Authority within 30 days from the date of publication of this notice.

(Siya Ram Gupta)

PUBLIC NOTICE

Entire Ground Floor of Property No. 40, Block-J-10, Rajouri Garden, Village-Tatarpur, Delhi. That our client Priya Babbar, proposes to purchase the above said property from Kanchan Kishore Singh Khanna, Sonika Khanna & Monika Khanna who have assured our client that they are absolute owner in possession of the said property. The said property previously owned vide Sale deed No. 6287 dated 21.11.78 by Kanchan Kishore Singh Khanna, along with his wife Rajni Khanna who died intestate on 29.04.13 and left behind Kanchan Kishore Singh Khanna, Sonika Khanna & Monika Khanna as only legal heirs.

Under the circumstances, notice is hereby given to the General Public, Bank/Financial institutions or other persons/organizations, companies, government authorities/ies, having any claim, rights, title, or any interest of any nature whatsoever into or upon the said property, is hereby called upon to make the same known, in writing with documentary evidence by registered AD Post to the undersigned at the address mentioned herein below within 14 days of the publication of this notice and in the event no response having been received to the notice, the title of Kanchan Kishore Singh Khanna, Sonika Khanna & Monika Khanna to the said property shall be deemed to be clear of any claim, charge or encumbrance of any nature whatsoever and any subsequent claim shall not bind our client in any manner whatsoever.

Kumar Abhishek Advocate
32A, Anarkali Complex, Jhandewalan Ext. New Delhi-55

PARADIP PORT AUTHORITY
PARADIP-754142, ODISHA, INDIA
SAGARMALA
PORTAL PROJECT
(An autonomous body under Ministry of Ports, Shipping & Waterways, Govt. of India)

No. AD/RSC-II-22-2/2021/1032 Dated, the 28th April, 2022

Advertisement

Applications are invited from Indian Nationals for engagement of 01 (one) **Advisor (Legal)** on contractual basis in Paradip Port Authority.

For further details, visit our website **www.paradiport.gov.in**.

Sr. Asst. Secretary
PPT/PR/157/22-23 Dt. 5/05/2022

DEBTS RECOVERY TRIBUNAL-I, DELHI
4th Floor, Jeevan Tara Building, Parliament Street, New Delhi- 110001.

OA/370/2020
Axis BANK (Applicant) Versus Jasjit Shilpi Khalkho (Defendants)
To, 1. Jasjit Shilpi Khalkho, 181 CSA Block Janak Puri, New Delhi-110052 Also At: W/o Sajeet Topno C-3/A, 20B Janakpuri, B-1, West New Delhi-110052 Also At: KH-810, Mahipalpur Vasant Kunj Road, New Delhi- 110058 Defendant 1.2. Sajeet Topno, 181 CSA Block Janak Puri, New Delhi-110052 Also At : Indiabulls House 448-451 Udyog Vihar Phase -5 Gurgaon Haryana-122016 Also At : Indiabulls House 448-451 Udyog Vihar Phase -5 Gurgaon Haryana-122016 Defendant 2.

Whereas the above named applicant has instituted a case for recovery of Rs. 30,24,367/- (Rupees Thirty Lakh Twenty Four Thousand Three Hundred Sixty Seven Only) against you and whereas it has been shown to the satisfaction of the Tribunal that it is not possible to serve you in ordinary way therefore, this notice is given by advertisement directing you to make appearance before Ld. Registrar on 23/05/2022 at 10.30 A.M. (For further details kindly visit DRT website www.drttribunal.gov.in in Phone Number : 011-23748473). Take notice that in case of your failure to appear on the above mentioned day before this Tribunal, the case will be heard and decided in your absence.

Due to ongoing Pandemic situation, all the matters will be taken up through Video Conferencing and for that purpose :- (i) All the Advocates/Litigants shall download the Cisco Webex application/Software, (ii) "Meeting ID" and "Password" for the next date of hearing qua cases to be taken by Registrar/Recovery Officer-I/ and Recovery Officer-II shall be available one day prior to the next date at DRT Official Portal i.e. drt.gov.in under the Public Notice Head. (iii) In any emergency qua that, the Advocates/Litigants can contact the concerned official at Ph. No. 011-23748473. Given under my hand and seal of the Tribunal on this the 04 April of 2022. Respondent may contact under mention Phone number for further enquiry Mr. Amit K. Dar, Ld. Registrar, DRT-I, New Delhi, Ph. No: 011-23748473. Email: drt1delhi-dfsgn@nic.in

By Order of this Tribunal, For Registrar

UNITED LEASING & INDUSTRIES LTD.
Regd. Office :- Plot No.66, Sector-34, EHTP, Gurgaon, Haryana-122001.
CIN:- L17100HR1983PLC033460,
Phone:- 011-26258237, 0124-4200274
email. Id:- investorrelations@uliltd.com,
website:- uliltd.com.

COMPANY NOTICE

In pursuance of Regulation 29 of the Securities and Exchange Board of India (Listing Obligations and Disclosure Requirements) Regulations, 2015, notice is hereby given that 01st/2022-23 meeting of the Board of Directors of the United Leasing & Industries Ltd. will be held on Monday 23rd May, 2022 at 11.00 A.M. at Registered Office of the Company at Plot No. 66 EHTP Sector-34, Gurgaon Haryana-122001 to consider and take on record inter alia, the Audited Financial Results for the quarter and Year ended on 31st March, 2022.

For United Leasing & Industries Ltd.
Sd/-
Shashi Shekhar
Compliance officer cum
Company Secretary

उत्तराखण्ड लोक सेवा आयोग
हरिद्वार
सिन कोड:- 249404

पत्रांक :: 205 / 27 / उ.कू.प्रसा. / CFO EXAM-21 / अतिगोपन-2 / 22-23.
दिनांक: 05 मई, 2022
विज्ञापित

एतद्वारा सूचित किया जाता है कि दिनांक: 13 अप्रैल, 2022 को आयोजित मुख्य अभियानन अधिकारी परीक्षा-2021 के वस्तुनिष्ठ प्रकार के प्रश्नपत्र :- सामान्य अध्ययन की चारों सीरीज (A, B, C & D) की उत्तराखण्ड लोक सेवा आयोग की वेबसाइट <http://www.ukpsc.gov.in> पर अन्यथाओं के सूचनार्थ प्रसारित कर दिया गया है। यदि किसी अन्यथाओं को चारों सीरीज के किसी प्रश्न एवं उत्तर विकल्प पर कोई आपत्ति है तो वह आयोग की वेबसाइट पर Online Answer Key Objection हेतु दिये गये लिंक पर जाकर अपनी आपत्तियों को आयोग द्वारा जारी दिशा निर्देशों के अनुसार दिनांक: 6 मई, 2022 से 12 मई, 2022 (समय रात्रि के 23:59:59 बजे तक) तक दर्ज करा सकते हैं। अन्यथा द्वारा प्रति-प्रश्न आपत्ति के सापेक्ष निर्धारित शुल्क रु० 50.00 का भुगतान करना होगा। आयोग की वेबसाइट पर उपलब्ध लिंक Online Answer Key Objection के अतिरिक्त ई-मेल, डाक अथवा अन्य किसी माध्यम से प्रेषित आपत्तियों एवं अन्तिम लिखि के उपरान्त प्रेषित आपत्तियों तथा प्रति-प्रश्न आपत्ति के सापेक्ष निर्धारित शुल्क रु० 50.00 का भुगतान नहीं किये जाने की दशा में अन्यथाओं द्वारा प्रस्तुत आपत्तियों पर कोई विचार नहीं किया जाएगा। उत्तर कुंजी के सापेक्ष आपत्ति दर्ज किये जाने से पूर्व आयोग की वेबसाइट पर उपलब्ध दिशा-निर्देश सम्बन्धी विस्तृत विज्ञापित संख्या :: 206 / 27 / उ.कू.प्रसा. / CFO EXAM-21 / अतिगोपन-2 / 22-23, दिनांक: 05 मई, 2022 का अध्ययन अवश्य कर लें।

(कर्मन्ध सिंह) सचिव

Services sec activities 5-month high in April

New Delhi: Services sector activities improved further and touched a five-month high in April driven by a surge in incoming new work orders that boosted business activity and supported a renewed increase in employment, according to a survey.

The seasonally adjusted S&P Global India Services PMI Business Activity Index jumped to 57.9 in April, from 53.6 in March, highlighting a sharp rate of expansion that was the fastest since last November amid mounting price pressures.For the ninth straight month, the services sector witnessed an expansion in output. In Purchasing Managers' Index (PMI) parlance, a print above 50 means expansion while a score below 50 denotes contraction.

"In isolation, the PMI data for the services sector were mostly encouraging, as surging demand underpinned quicker increases in new business inflows and output," said

Pollyanna De Lima, Economics Associate Director at S&P Global.

The Indian services sector growth continued to gain momentum amid a near-record upturn in input costs. Selling prices rose at the fastest rate since July 2017 and inflation concerns continued to dampen business confidence, the survey noted.

"Service providers reported having paid more for food, fuel and materials, with some mentions of higher wage costs also pushing up overall expenses.The overall rate of inflation quickened to the second-highest in the survey history, leading companies to hike their selling prices to the greatest extent in close to five years," Lima added.

Survey members continued to suggest that the lifting of COVID-19 restrictions led to greater consumer footfall and a general improvement in demand.

Inflation concerns restrict-

ed business confidence in April. Although still positive overall, the level of sentiment slipped from March and was much lower than its long-run average.

On the employment front, companies resumed their hiring efforts in April, as seen by the first increase in employment since last November. Those firms that took on extra staff linked the rise to ongoing growth of new business, the survey said.

Lima further noted that "consumer Services and Finance & Insurance were the top-performing areas of the service economy, while Real Estate & Business Services was the only sub-sector to post contractions in sales and output."

Meanwhile, the S&P Global India Composite PMI Output Index -- which measures combined services and manufacturing output -- rose from 54.3 in March to 57.6 in April, highlighting the quick-pace of growth in five months. **PTI**

RBI's rate hikes to weigh down on banking system credit growth: India Ratings

Mumbai: The surprise rate hike by the RBI signalling a reversal of the interest rate cycle will weigh down on the banking system's credit growth, which was showing signs of revival with an 11 per cent growth, a report said on Thursday.

The tailwinds supporting a pick-up in credit growth will be in demand from the industry and services segments, even as growth in the agriculture segment remains stable and muted in the retail segment, India Ratings and Research said.

Over the medium term, inflationary pressures, supply chain disruptions and a weak consumption demand could upset the current revival in credit growth, it added.

"...the reversal of the interest rate cycle as signified by the 0.40 per cent increase in repo rate by the Reserve Bank of India would weigh down on the credit growth as borrowings become costlier," it said.

The agency added that it has received feedback from the companies rated by it,

which points to a delay in capital expenditure plans as they await more clarity on the macroeconomic front.

It said that banking system credit growth offtake has shown a significant pick-up in the early part of FY23, with credit growth of 11.2 per cent as of April 8, 2022, compared to 5.3 per cent in the same period in 2021, it said, adding that this is the highest since July 2019.The agency believes that while the second Covid wave had significantly impacted the credit outlook in 2021, the outlook reasonably normalised at the beginning of 2022.

In a report published in February, the agency had estimated that the system-wide credit growth will stand at 10 per cent for FY23. The number was not revised in the latest update. On Monday, it said the sectors which are likely to continue to perform well will include power, metals, cement, chemicals and textiles, while telecom, pharma, and commercial real estate will be under pressure. **PTI**

Markets turn choppy after initial euphoria; Sensex, Nifty end flat



trading with gains in the afternoon session.

Stock exchanges in the US surged higher in the overnight trade on Wednesday.

The Federal Reserve intensified its fight against the worst inflation in 40 years by raising its benchmark short-term interest rate by a half-percentage point on Wednesday.

"US equities rallied, recording the biggest one-day

gain since 2020, after Federal Reserve comments suggested that the central bank is unlikely to consider a higher interest-rate hike of 75 basis points in the coming months.

"Moreover, rate hike and balance sheet unwinding quantum was on expected line without any negative surprise, which was already factored in market correction over past few days. **PTI**

Adani Power shares rally nearly 5% after net profit surges in March quarter

New Delhi: Shares of Adani Power on Thursday rallied nearly 5 per cent after the company's consolidated net profit jumped to Rs 4,645.47 crore in the March quarter.

The stock climbed 4.40 per cent to settle at Rs 277.90 apiece on the BSE. During the day, it rallied 4.99 per cent to Rs 279.50.On the NSE, it went up by 4.99 per cent to end at Rs 279.65 apiece.

In traded volume terms, 31.93 lakh shares were traded on the BSE and over 3.98 crore shares on the NSE during the day.Adani Power's consolidated net profit jumped to Rs 4,645.47 crore in the March quarter from Rs 13.13 crore in the year-ago period, mainly on the back of higher revenues.

Total income of the company rose to Rs 13,307.92 crore in the quarter ended on March 31, 2022. **PTI**

Jindal Stainless Hisar Q4 profit grows 64% to ₹575 cr

New Delhi: Jindal Stainless Hisar Ltd (JSHL) on Thursday reported 64 per cent jump in consolidated net profit at Rs 574.70 crore for the quarter ended March 31, 2022, mainly on account of increased income.

The company's net profit stood at Rs 350.65 crore in January-March 2020-21, JSHL said in a BSE filing.

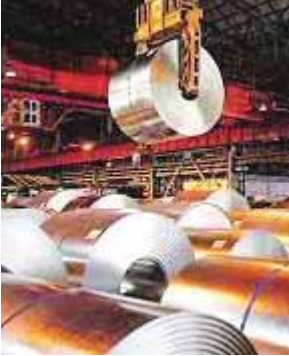
Total income during the quarter under review rose to Rs 4,350.39 crore from Rs 3,128.80 crore in the year-ago period.

Total expenses were at Rs 3,813.29 crore against Rs 2,812.81 crore a year ago.

In a separate statement, JSHL said its net external debt stood at Rs 1,605 crore as on March 31, 2022.

The company recorded a robust quarter owing to new product development, quality improvement and capacity building for its value-added product portfolio, it said.

"We continue to enhance



customer satisfaction and establish long-term mutually beneficial relations through world-class products, transparent policies, and improved services.

"We are also committed to creating opportunities for increased usage of stainless steel in varied applications by developing new grades and specialty stainless steel products for critical applications," JSHL MD Abhyuday Jindal said. **PTI**

Industry 4.0 aims at increasing productivity: Min

New Delhi: Union Minister Anupriya Patel on Thursday said technology is the way to move forward and 'Industry 4.0' aims to increase productivity, efficiency and address sustainability and climate change issues.

Industry 4.0 refers to a new phase of industrial revolution that focuses on technologies like machine learning, automation and big data.

Addressing an event organised by industry body FICCI, Patel said the industry will have to play a significant role in realising Prime Minister Narendra Modi's grand vision of India@2047 by adopting Industry 4.0.

The minister of state for commerce and industry also said the government's role has changed from regulator to a facilitator. **PTI**

"The adoption of industry 4.0 is something that we have to do together," she said.

Also speaking at the event, NITI Aayog CEO Amitabh Kant said traditional manufacturing and service-oriented industries are being disrupted in a manner which the country has never seen before.

The fourth industrial revolution is driven by ten or more technologies transforming industrial production today, he said.

Kant noted that autonomous robots, simulation, big data and analytics, augmented reality, cloud, cybersecurity, the Internet of Things and artificial intelligence are impacting the entire production value chain.Talking about Industry 4.0, Kant said the country cannot afford to bypass this revolution. **PTI**

Crude oil futures gain on spot demand



New Delhi: Crude oil prices on Thursday rose by Rs 4 to Rs 8,229 per barrel as participants widened positions on a firm spot demand.On the Multi Commodity Exchange, crude oil for May delivery traded higher by Rs 4 or 0.05 per cent at Rs 8,229 per barrel in 6,374 lots.

Analysts said the raising of bets by participants kept crude oil prices higher in futures trade. Globally, West Texas Intermediate crude oil was up by 0.04 per cent at USD 107.85 per barrel, while Brent crude traded 0.23 per cent higher at USD 110.39 per barrel in New York. **PTI**

Rupee surges 16 paise to close at 76.24 against US dollar

Mumbai: The rupee appreciated by 16 paise to settle at 76.24 (provisional) against the US dollar on Thursday, tracking positive domestic equities.

At the interbank forex market, the domestic unit opened at 76.17 against the US dollar. It moved in a range of 75.99 to 76.30 during the session.

The rupee finally closed at 76.24, registering a rise of 16 paise over its previous close.

On Wednesday, the rupee had settled at 76.40.

The Indian rupee gained against the US dollar after a surprise rate hike by the Reserve Bank of India and as the US Fed Chairman Powell pushed back against a steeper 75 basis points rate hike in the coming months.

Additionally, foreign fund

inflows into the local assets through the LIC IPO aided sentiments.

However, firm crude oil prices weighed on the rupee and kept the appreciation bias capped.

Meanwhile, the dollar index, which gauges the green-back's strength against a basket of six currencies, was trading 0.22 per cent higher at 102.81.

On the domestic equity market front, the 30-share BSE Sensex ended 33.20 points or 0.06 per cent higher at 55,702.23, while the broader NSE Nifty inched up 5.05 points or 0.03 per cent to 16,682.65.

Brent crude futures, the global oil benchmark, advanced 0.42 per cent to USD 110.60 per barrel. **PTI**

Tea exports in first nine months of FY22 declines to 184.35 mkgs

Kolkata: Tea exports declined by 2.4 per cent to 184.35 million kg during the April-February period of the last fiscal according to latest Tea Board data.

The shipment of the crop was at 188.91 mkg in the corresponding period of the previous year.

Value of exports in the first nine months of 2021-22 increased marginally to Rs 4,956 crore as compared to Rs 4,933 crore in the corresponding period of the 2020-21 fiscal. CIS countries, including Russia and Ukraine, imported 41.18 mkg, the highest among the overseas destinations of Indian tea, during the period under review from 46.19 mkg in the year-ago period.

Among the CIS bloc, Russia was the main importer with a shipment of 31.88 mkg April- February period of 2021-22, down from 33.65 mkg in the same period previous year, according to the Tea Board



data.

Iran was the second largest importer at 27.25 mkg, marginally up from 26.48 mkg in the first nine months of the 2020-21.

The US imported 12.43 mkg in the April-February period of the last fiscal, a higher volume from 10.81 mkg in the corresponding period pre-

vious year, the data said.

The shipment to China was sharply lower at 4.3 mkg in the first nine months of the last fiscal as against 11.22 mkg in the corresponding period of the previous fiscal.According to tea industry sources, exports were lower due to shortage of shipping containers and high ocean freight. **PTI**

Marico Q4 net profit rises 13.2% to ₹257 cr; revenue up 7.4 % at ₹2,161 cr

New Delhi: FMCG firm Marico Ltd on Thursday reported a 13.21 per cent rise in consolidated net profit to Rs 257 crore for the fourth quarter ended March 2022.

The company had posted a net profit of Rs 227 crore in the year-ago period, Marico said in a BSE filing.

Its revenue from operations rose 7.40 per cent to Rs 2,161 crore during the quarter under review, against Rs 2,012 crore a year ago.Marico's total expenses surged 7.13 per cent to Rs 1,863 crore from Rs 1,739 crore in Q4 FY21.

"In Q4FY22, Revenue from Operations grew by 7 per cent year-on-year to Rs 2,161 crores with the domestic business staying steady in a challenging consumption environment and the international business posting healthy double-digit revenue growth," Marico said in an earning statement.

Its revenue from the

domestic market rose 5.08 per cent to Rs 1,654 crore against Rs 1,574 crore in Q4 FY2020-21. In India, rising inflation levels, exacerbated by geopolitical tensions, continued to weigh down the overall consumption sentiment, and even more so in rural.

"FMCG market continued to decline in Q4 in volume terms. Against this backdrop, Marico's domestic business delivered a resilient 5 per cent revenue growth, with 1 per cent underlying volume growth," it said. Marico's revenue from international sales in Q4 FY22 was up 15.75 per cent at Rs 507 crore against Rs 438 crore in the corresponding period preceding fiscal. "The International business delivered 12 per cent constant currency growth in the quarter with each of the Bangladesh, South Africa and MENA businesses clocking double-digit constant currency growth. **PTI**

Sebi rejigs secondary market advisory panel

New Delhi: Sebi has restructured its committee on secondary market, which provides suggestions to the capital markets regulator on improving market safety, efficiency and transparency.

The 18-member advisory committee will now be chaired by G Mahalingam, former whole time member of Sebi, latest information available on the website of the regulator showed.Earlier, the panel had 17 members and was headed by Sebi chairperson Madhabi Puri Buch.Apart from Mahalingam, the panel has CEOs of stock exchanges and depositories, representatives of various stakeholders and senior officials of Sebi as members.

Other members of the panel include Zerodha's co-founder and chief executive officer (CEO) Nithin Kamath; Dhiraj Relli, MD and CEO of HDFC Securities; Jaideep Hansraj MD at Kotak Securities; Naresh Yadav MD and CEO of SBICAP Securities; and Leo Puri Chairman, JP Morgan, South & Southeast Asia.The panel advises the regulator on matters related to the secondary market, including suggesting steps to improve market safety, efficiency and transparency. **PTI**

Paytm tokenises 28 million cards; to purge saved card data by Jun 30

New Delhi: Digital financial services firm One97 Communication Limited, which owns the Paytm brand, has tokenised 28 million cards across Visa, Mastercard and RuPay, and expects to purge saved card data by June 30, the company said on Thursday.

The tokenised cards account for 80 per cent of monthly active cards on the Paytm app, it added.

"Paytm is committed to safe and secure online payments, and in that direction, RBI's tokenisation effort is a key milestone for the industry. We recognised the need for tokenised cards and implemented the same on the Paytm app," its founder and CEO

Vijay Shekhar Sharma said in the statement.

Tokenisation, which aims at improving the safety and security of the payment system, refers to the replacement of actual card details with a unique alternate code called the 'token', which will be unique for a combination of card, token requestor and identified device.

Instead of using actual card details, this token is used to perform card transactions in contactless mode at point of sale (POS) terminals and quick response (QR) code payments.

The RBI has permitted to offer tokenised card transaction services to all channels. **PTI**

KONE Elevators India installs world's largest elevator in Mumbai

Mumbai: KONE Elevators India, a wholly-owned subsidiary of KONE Corporation, on Thursday announced the installation of world's largest passenger lift, which can carry over 200 people at a go, at the Jio World Centre in the city.

The 5-stop and 16-tonne elevator installed at Jio World Centre (JWC), BKC, Mumbai is spread over 25.78 square metre and is tested with high-quality and built-in safety aspects, KONE Elevators India managing director Amit Gossain told reporters. "At KONE, we pride ourselves in offering custom-built solutions for unique projects", he said. **PTI**



AP ■ MADRID

Karim Benzema scored an extra-time penalty as Real Madrid pulled off another astonishing comeback in the Champions League to stun Manchester City 3-1 on Wednesday and book a showdown with Liverpool in the final. City looked certain to go through when Riyad Mahrez put them 1-0 up and 5-3 ahead on aggregate but Rodrygo, on as a substitute, scored an incredible late double, his goals in the 90th and 91st minutes sending the tie to extra time.

With City still reeling, Real Madrid landed the knock-out blow as Benzema earned and then converted a spot-kick to snatch a 6-5 win on aggregate, with another remarkable fightback at the Santiago Bernabeu added to the club's long list of magical European nights.

This season, Madrid had already performed the unlikely of rescue acts to defeat both Paris Saint-Germain in the last 16 and Chelsea in the quarter-finals but, given the stakes and how close they were to defeat, this one against Manchester City was surely the most dramatic.

Like PSG and Chelsea before them, City will wonder how they emerged as losers from a match they largely controlled and there will be fresh scrutiny too on coach Pep Guardiola, who, for all his success, goes another year without leading City to the European glory they so crave.

City's collapse would have been almost inexplicable had it been against anyone other than Real Madrid, who advance to their 17th final in the competition. They are a victory against Liverpool

INEVITABLE

Real Madrid stun Man City in extra time to reach Champions League final

away from lifting a 14th European Cup.

"Another magic night from the kings of Europe," read a banner draped over the stand at one end before kick-off but for most of normal time, this match failed to live up to the seven-goal thriller at the Etihad Stadium last week.

Real Madrid were the more assertive early on, with Benzema given a couple of difficult opportunities that only he, in his current form, might have expected to convert.

Instead, he headed over and fired high. Real Madrid survived and then improved before the break, Modric causing a roar of satisfaction when he outprinted De Bruyne to cut off a counter.

Probably their best chance came within seconds of the restart as Dani Carvajal found space down the right but Vinicius Junior shot wide at the back post.

MAHREZ STRIKES

An injury to Walker checked Madrid's momentum and when the game found its rhythm again, City struck, Ilkay Gundogan's pass cutting through Madrid's midfield and finding Silva, who danced through to the edge of the box.

Silva shaped to shoot but instead wedged the ball right to Mahrez, who smashed it hard, early and past Courtois.

Modric went off and with the Croatian seemed to go some of Madrid's belief.



Jack Grealish, on as a substitute, could have made it two for City but somehow Ferland Mendy cleared off the line, before another Grealish shot flashed past the post.

It felt inconsequential because Madrid looked dead and buried but somehow, out of nowhere, they found a way back.

It was the 90th minute when Benzema cushioned a ball brilliantly across for Rodrygo to feather in at the near post and the cheer for the goal was only a little louder than for the stadium announcer then saying there would be six minutes of added time.

Madrid only needed one as City, for so long so compact and composed, were suddenly sprawled and all it needed was for Carvajal to swing a cross into the box, where the diminutive Rodrygo headed in.

Real's 'history keeps us going': Ancelotti



AP ■ MADRID

Carlo Ancelotti said the "history of the club" helped his Real Madrid side stage another Champions League comeback to down Manchester City on Wednesday and reach the final.

The 13-time European champions trailed 1-0 on the night and 5-3 on aggregate in the last-four tie entering the 90th minute, but Rodrygo scored a late double and Karim Benzema's extra-time penalty sent them through.

Real had also come from behind to beat Paris Saint-Germain in the last 16 and Chelsea in the quarter-finals.

"I cannot say we are used to living this kind of life, but what happened tonight it happened against Chelsea and also against PSG," Ancelotti told *BT Sport* after becoming the first coach in history to reach five finals in the compe-

tion. "If you have to say why, it is the history of this club that helps us to keep going when it seems that we are gone."

"The game was close to finished and we managed to find the last energy we had."

The 6-5 aggregate triumph sends Madrid into a record-extending 17th Champions League final, where Ancelotti could set a new record of four European Cups as a coach.

Six-time winners Liverpool will be their opponents in the final on May 28 in Paris.

"I am happy to be there in the final, in Paris against another great rival," added the 62-year-old Ancelotti.

"We are used to it. It will be a fantastic game for football."

Ancelotti also became the first coach to win all five of Europe's top leagues when Real sealed the La Liga title last weekend.

FIGURATIVELY

7 Karim Benzema has scored seven UEFA Champions League goals against English teams this season; the most by a player in a single campaign in the competition's history. The Frenchman has also netted four goals in five previous games versus Liverpool in the competition.

6 Pep Guardiola has now suffered six eliminations at the semi-final stage of the UEFA Champions League (also 2009-10 and 2011-12 with Barcelona, 2013-14, 2014-15 and 2015-16 with Bayern Munich); the joint-most of any manager, along with José Mourinho.

5 Carlo Ancelotti has reached his fifth UEFA Champions League final (2003, 2005 and 2007 with AC Milan, 2014 and 2022 with Real Madrid), the most of any manager in the competition's history.

3 Since 2003-04 when the last 16 was introduced, Real Madrid are the first team to lose a match in the last 16 (0-1 vs PSG), quarter-final (2-3 vs Chelsea) and semi-final (3-4 vs Man City) in a season and still reach the UEFA Champions League final.

10 Karim Benzema has scored 10 goals in the UEFA Champions League knockout stages this season, the joint-most by a player in a single campaign along with Cristiano Ronaldo in 2016-17, also for Real Madrid.

90 Rodrygo is the first player to score twice in the 90th minute of a UEFA Champions League knockout match.

24 Riyad Mahrez has now scored 24 goals in all competitions for Manchester City this season; only Mohamed Salah (30) has netted more for a Premier League team in 2021-22.

36 Phil Foden makes his 36th UEFA Champions League appearance this evening, with Cesc Fàbregas (42) and Kylian Mbappé (40) now being the only outfield players to make more in the competition while aged 21 or under.

2 Rodrygo Goes is the first Real Madrid player to score two goals as a substitute in a Champions League match since Gareth Bale in the 2018 final against Liverpool.

0 Real Madrid have failed to register a shot on target in a first half of a Champions League home game only on two occasions since at least 2003/04, coming in their last two games at the Santiago Bernabeu (vs Chelsea and vs Man City).

5 Carlo Ancelotti has become the first manager to reach five Champions League finals, surpassing Marcello Lippi, Sir Alex Ferguson and Jürgen Klopp (four appearances each).

Man City have to accept madness of football: Pep

AP ■ MADRID

Manchester City manager Pep Guardiola put his side's latest Champions League collapse down to the unpredictability of football after Real Madrid produced a stunning late fightback to reach the final.

Guardiola's men were left to rue a series of missed chances both in the first leg at the Etihad and after Riyad Mahrez had fired them into the lead 17 minutes from time.

"We didn't play our best, but it is normal, in a semi-

final, the players feel the pressure and wanting to do it," Guardiola told *BT Sport*.

"Football is unpredictable, it is a game like this. We have to accept it."

Madrid also needed comebacks at the Bernabeu to see off Paris Saint-Germain and Chelsea in the previous two rounds.

But the Spanish champions had not managed even a shot on target until Rodrygo turned the tie by flicking home Benzema's cross.

The Brazilian then rose highest to power home a header in the first minute of stoppage time.

"After we scored the goal we were better. We found out tempo and our game and the players were comfortable," added

Guardiola. "It is not like in the last 10 minutes they attack and attack and you suffer. It didn't happen. They put a lot of players in the box, with (Eder) Militao, Rodrygo, Vinicius (Junior), Benzema and they put in crosses and scored two goals."

City need to get another painful European exit out of their system quickly if they are to avoid ending the season without a trophy for the first time in five years. The English champions lead Liverpool by a point at the top of the Premier League with four games remaining. "Now we need to process that and come back with our people at home and the last four games we have," said Guardiola.

Andy Murray Forced To Miss Novak Djokovic Clash In Madrid

It would have been the 37th meeting between Murray and current world number one Djokovic, but the first since they played each other in the Doha final in January 2017

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Former world number one Andy Murray has been forced to pull out of his match against Novak Djokovic at the Madrid Masters on Thursday, the tournament organisers said.

"Unfortunately Andy Murray is ill and is not in a position to play," the organisers said. It would have been the 37th meeting between Murray and current world number one Djokovic, but the first since they played each other in the Doha final in January 2017. Djokovic now moves directly into a quarter-final against either last year's Wimbledon semi-finalist Hubert Hurkacz of Poland or Serbia's Dusan Lajovic. The Serb, a three-time Madrid champion, is finding his rhythm after competing sparingly this year following his deportation from Australia over his Covid vaccination status, preventing him playing in the Australian Open.



3mn ticket requests for World Cup final

AP ■ LAUSANNE

FIFA has received 3 million ticket requests for the World Cup final in Qatar and high demand to attend some of its biggest group-stage games, even as issues linger about the tiny Persian Gulf nation's ability to accommodate fans.

The data revealed to The Associated Press by FIFA shows there have been 2.5 million ticket requests to see Argentina play Mexico on November 26 at the 80,000-capacity Lusail Stadium, and 1.4 million fans hope to see England face the United States the previous day at the 60,000-capacity Al Bayt Stadium.

European qualification brings some drama to Bundesliga

AP ■ BERLIN

With little excitement at the top of the Bundesliga, it's the clubs just below Bayern Munich and Borussia Dortmund that are providing the entertainment at the end of the season.

Bayer Leverkusen, Freiburg, Leipzig, Cologne and Union Berlin are all scrapping for European places with two matches to go, with two of those teams joining Bayern and Dortmund in the Champions League, while another two will qualify for the Europa League.

Third-place Leverkusen next visits Hoffenheim before ending the season with a potentially decisive game against Freiburg, which currently holds the last Champions League qual-



ification place one point ahead of Leipzig. Freiburg, which also plays Leipzig in the German Cup final on May 21, hosts Union on Saturday, a game the team will feel it has to win to maintain the

all-important fourth spot. Seventh-place Union will be looking for a victory after drawing with relegated Greuther Fürth last weekend.

Union ends the season at

home against Bochum, which clinched survival last weekend.

Leipzig, which has lost its last two games after a 15-match unbeaten run in all competitions, next plays Augsburg at home before its final game at Arminia Bielefeld, which could be relegated by then.

Sixth-place Cologne is also eyeing Europe's premier competition. The team would secure Europa Conference League qualification if it beats Wolfsburg on Saturday and Union fails to beat Freiburg at the same time.

But Cologne coach Steffen Baumgart said he wouldn't celebrate yet.

"I'm not counting (points) at all," Baumgart said.

"I'm counting on the fact that we want to win the next game."



Nadal wins on return from injury

AP ■ MADRID

Rafael Nadal enjoyed a winning return after a six-week injury break, opening his Madrid campaign with a 6-1, 7-6(7/4) success over Serbia's Miomir Kecmanovic on Wednesday.

The Spanish star had been sidelined with a rib injury since his Indian Wells final defeat in March but showed little sign of rust as he skipped into the third round.

Nadal said his preparation for the tournament was "non-existent" due to his rib problem limiting his ability to train and was thrilled by how well he played against one of the most in-form players of the season.

"Today I was able to play one hour, 55 minutes against an opponent that was playing really well in these last months, so a really good victory, a lot of value to it," said the 35-year-old Mallorcan.

"It helps me a lot to reach my final goal, which is to recover my previous health and previous fitness. I'm very excited about it."

The 22-year-old Kecmanovic entered the match

carrying the second-highest tally of wins on tour this season — his 23 victories placing him just one behind Andrey Rublev, Stefanos Tsitsipas and Carlos Alcaraz.

Nadal, a three-time title winner in 2022, improved to 21-1 for the year and now plays Belgian qualifier David Goffin.

Second-seeded Alexander Zverev began his title defence with a hard-fought 4-6, 6-4, 6-4 win over former US Open champion Marin Cilic.

The German is a two-time Madrid champion and now owns a 16-2 win-loss record at the Caja Magica.

Fourth seed Tsitsipas beat French wildcard Lucas Pouille 6-3, 6-4, while Jannik Sinner and Felix Auger-Aliassime both won in straight sets.

British ninth seed Cameron Norrie edged past John Isner 6-4, 6-7 (5/7), 6-4 to advance to a last-16 clash with teenage star Alcaraz, but fifth seed Casper Ruud lost in three sets to Dusan Lajovic.

JABEUR REACHES SEMIS

Earlier on centre court, Ons Jabeur marched into the women's semi-finals with a crushing 6-3, 6-2 win over for-

mer world number one Simona Halep.

After avenging her Charleston final defeat to Belinda Bencic in the previous round, the Tunisian world number 10 reversed her result against Halep from Dubai three months ago, sweeping the Romanian aside in just 67 minutes.

The first ever Arab tennis player to crack the top 10, Jabeur is through to the second WTA 1000 semi-final of her career where she faces Russian Ekaterina Alexandrova.

"Simona, it's never easy to play against her, she's a great champion, she was number one, a Grand Slam champion," said the 27-year-old Jabeur, who is now 2-2 against Halep in their head-to-head.

"I was more aggressive this time, physically much better on the court. My drop shot helped me a lot today. I'm very happy with the attitude today, so hopefully we'll continue with this level."

Jessica Pegula, the 12th seed, eliminated Spain's Sara Sorribes Tormo 6-4, 6-2. Her next opponent is Jil Teichmann, the Swiss who defeated Ukraine's Anhelina Kalinina 6-3, 6-4.



the pioneer

INDIAN
PREMIER LEAGUE

2022

12

We (CSK) did well to restrict them (RCB) to 170-odd runs. We had to get off to a good start, everything was up to the mark and what let us down was the batsmanship

— MAHENDRA SINGH DHONI

Warner shines in DC's win



► pointstable

| Po. | TEAM | M | W | L | NR | Pts | NRR |
|-----|------|----|---|---|----|-----|--------|
| 1. | GT | 10 | 8 | 2 | 0 | 16 | 0.158 |
| 2. | LSG | 10 | 7 | 3 | 0 | 14 | 0.397 |
| 3. | RR | 10 | 6 | 4 | 0 | 12 | 0.340 |
| 4. | RCB | 11 | 6 | 5 | 0 | 12 | -0.444 |
| 5. | DC | 10 | 5 | 5 | 0 | 10 | 0.641 |
| 6. | SRH | 10 | 5 | 5 | 0 | 10 | 0.325 |
| 7. | PBKS | 10 | 5 | 5 | 0 | 10 | -0.229 |
| 8. | KKR | 10 | 4 | 6 | 0 | 8 | 0.060 |
| 9. | CSK | 10 | 3 | 7 | 0 | 6 | -0.431 |
| 10. | MI | 9 | 1 | 8 | 0 | 2 | -0.836 |

► boundarymeter

4s

1384

6s

726

African batter Aiden Markram (25-ball 42) joined hands with newly-appointed West Indies limited-overs skipper Nicholas Pooran (62 from 33 balls) to stage a stunning comeback. The duo added 60 runs for the fourth wicket. Markram was unlucky to miss his fourth fifty of the ongoing season. But Pooran reached his second back-to-back fifty in 29 balls. However he failed to take his side past the finish line and was sent back to the pavilion by Shardul Thakur (2/44).

Earlier, batting first, former SRH skipper David Warner remained unbeaten on 92 from 58 balls to help his side reach a total of 207 for three. Warner, who led SRH to a title triumph in the 2016 edition of the cash-rich league, was sacked as captain last year after he was struggling to score runs in the tournament.

The left-handed Australian batter was even dropped from the eleven in the last few matches and was not retained by the franchise, despite being the best-ever player in the team's history.

Playing against his former side, Warner was in full flow from the start and joined hands with West Indies power-hitter Rovman Powell to add an unbeaten 122 runs for the fourth wicket.



MI is placed last and are already out of the tournament after registering eight consecutive defeats

Gujarat look to seal play-off berth

PTI ■ MUMBAI

Table-toppers Gujarat Titans would look to plug the holes in their top-order and seal a place in the play-offs by returning to winning ways against an already out-of-contention Mumbai Indians in an Indian Premier League match here on Friday.

GT got a timely wake-up call in an eight-wicket loss to Punjab Kings in their last match, which snapped their five-game winning streak.

An inconsistent batting department, especially top-order has been GT's thorn in the flesh throughout the tournament so far and it's time the IPL newcomers fix the issue going into the business end of the league.

Despite the loss, GT are sitting pretty at the top of the 10-team standings with 16 points from 10 games and a win on Friday would make them the first team to cement their spot in the play-offs.

Young Shubman Gill has failed to live up to expectations at the top, while veteran Wriddhiman Saha, who was a great replacement for struggling Matthew Wade, got a start before fizzling out.

B Sai Sudharsan, who has been the team's weak link so far, was the only saving grace for GT in their last match, where everyone failed, scoring a 50-ball 65.

The likes of skipper Hardik Pandya, David Miller, Rahul Tewatia and Rashid Khan, who had produced stellar perfor-

mances and played a key role in GT's success so far, have floundered against Punjab.

But the quartet would be very well aware about their importance in the side and look to rise to the occasion to make a comeback, in what has been a remarkable opening season.

In Mohammed Shami, Lockie Ferguson, Alzari Joseph and Rashid, Gujarat have one of the most lethal attacks in this year's IPL.

MI, on the other hand, are placed last and are already out of the tournament after registering eight consecutive defeats.

But the Rohit Sharma-led side would heave a sigh of relief after finally registering their first win of the tournament, a five-wicket win over Rajasthan Royals.

Suryakumar Yadav has been the star for MI in the batting department, which lacks cohesive effort.

Rohit and Ishan Kishan's terrible run at the top continued, while Kieron Pollard failed miserably to perform the role of a finisher till now in the season.

On the bowling front too, MI looked nowhere near to his best.

Jasprit Bumrah has been economical upfront but has not been among wickets which has hurt the team most.

Daniel Sams and Riley Meredith have been patchy and barring Bumrah, MI doesn't have another quality bowler to rely upon. But having returned to winning ways, MI would look to play party spoilers in their remaining games.

PNS ■ MUMBAI

On Thursday, David Warner led the charge against his former team, Sunrisers Hyderabad, scoring a 58-ball unbeaten 92 to help Delhi Capitals defeat SRH by 21 runs in Match 50 of the ongoing IPL 2022 season.

Playing against the side that he was part of in the last eight seasons of the cash-rich league, Warner remained

unbeaten throughout the innings to help DC bounce back from a poor start and put up a fighting total at Brabourne's wicket.

And then the bowling attack led by Khaleel Ahmed (4-0-30-3) survived Nicholas Pooran and Aiden Markram's scare to help DC register the fifth win of this year's tournament.

With the win over SRH, Delhi have replaced the 2016 winners in fifth position in the league table.

The Sunrisers were off to a poor start in the 208-run chase and lost in-form opening batter Abhishek Sharma (7) in the second over itself.

Kane Williamson (4) and Rahul Tripathi (22) also couldn't do much on the night and were back in the dugout by the end of the seventh over.

But when it started to look like it would be a cake-walk for Delhi, South

'Desired result did not come due to poor 'structuring' of line-up'

PTI ■ MUMBAI

Mumbai Indians head coach Mahela Jaywardene on Thursday admitted that "lack of execution" in close games during this IPL season has been due to the poor "structuring" of line-up, putting them at the bottom of the 10-team table.

Mumbai Indians are already out of the IPL having lost eight games on the bounce before logging home their first points. But more importantly, the critics have been vindicated about five-time champions' poor auction strategy.

The mediocre bunch of domestic players like Basil Thampi, Jaydev Unadkat, Murugan Ashwin along with purely sentimental retentions like Kieron Pollard and an insane bid of INR 15.25 crore for Ishan Kishan have all contributed to MI's downfall.

"For a team to work, it is not about just one individual, it is about a team executing a game plan. The way we have structured our line-up this season, that is something we have lacked," Jayawardene said when asked about Rohit Sharma's poor run of form in the nine games.

"At the same time, we have not had those finishers at the back-end," the head coach added. "It is about getting most of your guys playing good cricket on (in) a game and having that consistency going through. That is something we have lacked," Jayawardene said ahead of their game against Gujarat Titans.

Not closing out games has been one of MI's banes this season.

"This has been one of those seasons where we have not been able to win those close matches and we have not been able to ruthlessly finish games off.

"And at the same time we have lacked consistency and we need main batters to be consistent and getting those runs. It is not just one individual, it is about a collective group and we haven't been consistent all around," the head coach added.

Asked if Rohit's form was the reason why Mumbai Indians aren't able to post high totals, Jayawardene replied: "Let me answer that in a much fairer way. Yes, as you rightly said Ro (Rohit's nickname) has been brilliant in batting for long periods, getting those big scores consistently and the rest of the guys have batted around him."

"He (Rohit) knows he had starts and hasn't been able to convert them into big scores and that has been a disappointment," he quipped

Fleming not worried about Jadeja's poor form

PTI ■ PUNE

Chennai Super Kings coach Stephen Fleming is not too concerned about the form of Ravindra Jadeja but said going forward, the team will evaluate which position in the batting order best suits the star all-rounder.

In the 10 matches this season, Jadeja has scored just 116 runs at an average of 19.33 in 10 games, while taking five wickets at an economy rate of 7.51.

On Wednesday, Jadeja was dismissed for three as CSK went down by 13 runs against Royal Challengers Bangalore, their seventh loss overall.

"No, I am not concerned. The T20 game can be tough and when you are



batting at No 5 or 6, you do not get a lot of time to get your rhythm or tempo," Fleming said during a virtual press conference.

"We will look at it now and work out what the best order would be going forward. But, no I am not concerned about his form."

Terribly out of form, Jadeja had last week handed back captaincy to Mahendra Singh Dhoni to focus on his own game. With just six points from 10 games, CSK are virtually out of the tournament and Fleming admitted they "have been off in all departments."

"Our fielding at times, the catches we dropped is of concern. We are not far away, in lot of games you can say we were really close

in winning them.

"We had the games taken away or we were not good enough to get across the line. But that's usually the story of the competition if you are just off. All three departments have been below par," he said.

"We lost some bowlers also, you have to acknowledge that but yeah, we have been just off."

Injuries to key players have also affected CSK with Deepak Chahar being the most prominent member to miss the entire season due to a back injury which he sustained while recovering from the quadricep tear.

Moeen Ali also missed a few games after injuring his ankle during a training session.

"We had a couple of players we had in our plans whom we lost early on, so we looked at bringing young players in, probably, little bit ahead of their times. Mukesh Choudhury has developed well, Simranjit is getting an opportunity here," Fleming said.

Concerned that different types of bowlers are getting Kohli out: Bishop

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Virat Kohli has not been able to score fluently in the IPL this season and it is a matter of concern that he is getting out to different types of bowlers, observed former West Indies pacer Ian Bishop.

Kohli has managed just 216 runs with a top score of 58 at a strike rate of just 111.91, which is the third lowest among batters with at least 150 runs this season.

On Wednesday, Kohli was cleaned up by Moeen Ali after a laboured 30 off 33 balls and Bishop said he is concerned about Kohli's struggles against spin, especially off-spin.

"For a while, for 10 or 15 runs, he wasn't even going at a run-a-ball, or he was just going at a run-a-ball," Bishop said on ESPNcricinfo's 'T20 Time Out'.

"He didn't get ahead, and there wasn't much intent. He hit one (six) over extra-cover off the seamer, and that was when he just went ahead to a run-a-ball and then he came back.

"This is something we've been seeing with Virat, not just this season. Even last season, I remember, and even sometimes internationally, he'll fly out - he didn't fly out tonight - and then he'll slow down again. So, I'm concerned."

Overall, Kohli played 16 dot balls against Chennai Super Kings on Wednesday.

"If you're not getting ahead of the rate



and going at a run-a-ball, you need to bat deep into the innings," he said.

"And he isn't going deep into the innings either. So those deliveries don't come back to you. Even if RCB won, that wasn't an innings, even given the difficulties of the pitch, that you could say caused a match-winning point."

"Pointing out Kohli's struggles against spinners, Bishop said: "Roston Chase got him out in the West Indies series (at home in February), we saw him getting out to the off-spinner in Test matches. So, I'm concerned about ... And I'm a Kohli fan.

Indian Olympic discus thrower suspended after failing dope test

AFP ■ NEW DELHI

India's top woman discus thrower Kamalpreet Kaur, who finished sixth at last summer's Tokyo Olympics, has been provisionally suspended after testing positive for a banned drug, the Athletics Integrity Unit (AIU) said.

The 26-year-old faces the prospect of being banned for a maximum four years if the positive test is confirmed.

"The AIU has provisionally suspended discus thrower Kamalpreet Kaur of India for the use of a prohibited substance (Stanozolol), a breach of the @WorldAthletics Anti-Doping Rules," it tweeted. A national record holder, Kaur cannot participate in any competition until a final decision is taken at a hearing conducted under the World Athletics anti-doping rules. The Commonwealth Games and Asian Games are both taking place this year. Stanozolol is a synthetic anabolic steroid banned in 1974.

It became infamous after Canadian sprinter Ben Johnson tested positive for it at the 1988 Seoul Games and was stripped of his 100m gold medal.

India is ranked third in the number of doping violations behind Russia and Italy, according to a World Anti-Doping Agency report released last year.

Most important victory of tourney: Hazlewood

PTI ■ MUMBAI

CB pacer Josh Hazlewood described their 13-run win over CSK as the most important victory for the team so far in the tournament as it kept them in the hunt for the play-offs.

The win snapped RCB's three-match losing streak and helped them to move to the fourth position in points table.

"It is probably the most important victory of the tournament so far. We are sort of at that point where we have to win all games to make the play-off, that's what I feel, and today was the first step in doing that," he said.

"We have been flat last three games, we have things to work on bowling, batting and on fielding to be honest. We put it all together and held our chances, so it's most important victory so far."

On his T20 form, Hazlewood said: "It is mostly playing continuous T20 cricket for last three years and learning things along the way on differently conditions, against different players.



"Talking to lot of voices in this camp, there is lot of experience which is handy, it accelerates the learning process for me who has played just 60-70 T20 games."

‘Rishabh doing well as DC skipper, big knock isn't far’

PTI ■ MUMBAI

Former India batter Suresh Raina feels Rishabh Pant has done exceedingly well as Delhi Capitals captain and his handling of left-arm spinner Kuldeep Yadav is a testimony to that.

Kuldeep, who had lost form and confidence in the last two years, has taken 17 wickets in this edition of the IPL, and attributed the team's young skipper for his success.

"Pant for me has been doing great as a captain. He has utilised Kuldeep Yadav very well and now he is winning matches for Delhi. But Pant - the batsman - still has to fire. He is a big player, and with coach Ricky Ponting behind him, he is going to click soon and a big innings is coming soon," Raina told 'Star Sports'.

"Also, I believe Delhi Capitals are not playing like a compact unit. Other play-



ers in the team will also have to take up the responsibility and contribute," he added.

Former India cricketer Mohammed Kaif, who has worked as an assistant coach with Delhi Capitals, believes Pant has to decide the approach he wants to adopt with the bat in the upcoming games.

"Rishabh Pant will have to decide whether he wants

to play full 20 overs or he wants to play the role of a pinch hitter. Captain Pant will have to take a call on what's in the interest of the team.

"Pant has the potential to win matches alone but his performance as a batsman hasn't been up to the mark this year. So, I feel there's the pressure of being successful as a captain and as a batsman too."