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LSG TO
FACE GT
IN IPL
12 SPORTLankan PM quits, his house
set on fire; MP shoots selfNationwide curfew
imposed; anti-Govt
protesters attacked,
3 killed, 154 injured

PTI ■ COLOMBO

Sri Lanka's Prime Minister Mahinda Rajapaksa resigned on Monday after clinging on to power for weeks, following unprecedented anti-Government protests demanding his ouster as well as the administration led by his younger brother and President Gotabaya Rajapaksa over the country's worst economic crisis that led to acute shortages of staple food, fuel and power.

Mahinda's resignation comes hours after his supporters attacked anti-Government protesters outside President Gotabaya's office, leaving three people killed and at least 154 people injured, prompting authorities to impose a nationwide curfew and deploy Army troops in the national Capital.

Meanwhile, the ancestral home of the Rajapaksa in Hambantota was set on fire by a group of anti-Government protesters, hours after Mahinda, the patriarch of the powerful clan resigned as Sri Lanka's Prime Minister.

An MP from Sri Lanka's



Anti-Government protesters help a fellow protester who was beaten up by Government supporters during a clash in Colombo on Monday

ruling party shot dead an anti-Government protester and then took his own life during a confrontation outside the capital, police said on Monday, reported AFP.

Video footage showed the entire house of Prime Minister Mahinda Rajapaksa and his younger brother and President Gotabaya Rajapaksa in Medamulana in Hambantota

city was burning away as protesters hooted away, the *Daily Mirror* reported.

Earlier, several properties of Ministers and lawmakers of the ruling coalition were destroyed by the protesters. Sri Lankan media also reported that a fire broke out near the back gate of Temple Trees, the official residence of the Sri Lankan PM in Colombo.

Police water cannons have been called but anti-Government protesters are attacking the vehicles, the report said. Protesters also attacked the house of Badulla District parliamentarian Tissa Kuttirachch and later set it on fire. The house of Puttalam MP Santha Nishantha was completely destroyed.

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High-octane Shaheen Bagh
bulldozer screeches to haltSDMC calls off
anti-encroachment
drive after protest,
MLA booked; SC
refuses to stop OpSTAFF REPORTER ■
NEW DELHI

Shaheen Bagh gained centrestage yet again on Monday as hundreds of locals protested and foiled a demolition drive of the South Delhi Municipal Corporation (SDMC). With hundreds of locals besides the Congress and the AAP workers staging a protest, the SDMC had to call off its drive to raze alleged encroached structures in the area under its first phase of demolition drive.

An FIR was registered against AAP MLA Aamanatullah Khan and his supporters for obstructing anti-encroachment drive in Shaheen Bagh, the Delhi Police said.

The bulldozer returned without carrying out any exercise from Shaheen Bagh, famous for its anti-CAA protests.

The matter also reached the Supreme Court, which refused to entertain a plea filed by the CPI(M) against the demolition drive in Shaheen



Police detain protesters during an anti-encroachment drive in Shaheen Bagh on Monday

Ranjana Dimri | Pioneer

Bagh. The court said it cannot interfere with the anti-encroachment drive at the instance of a political party.

A bench of Justices L Nageswara Rao and BR Gavai asked the party to approach the Delhi High Court.

"Why is CPI(M) filing a petition? What is the fundamental right that is being violated? Not at the behest of political parties. This is not the plat-

form. You go to the High Court," the bench said.

At the outset, senior advocate PV Surendranath, appearing for the petitioner, submitted that the plea has been filed in the public interest and there is no "party interest" involved in the matter. He further submitted that the second petitioner is a hawkers' union and they are being removed without notice.

The bench said if hawkers are encroaching they will be removed and in case there is any violation of law by authorities, the petitioner can go to the High Court. The top court clarified that it interfered in the Jahangirpuri demolition case because structures were being demolished. The senior lawyer said the authorities are demolishing buildings.

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Will revisit sedition
law, put off hearing,
Centre urges SCPIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■
NEW DELHI

Two days after it strongly defended the sedition law, the Centre on Monday told the Supreme Court to defer hearing on the matter as the Government has decided to reconsider and re-examine the provisions of the colonial law.

The Centre also said it was cognizant of various views, and concerns about civil liberties while being committed to protecting the "sovereignty and integrity of this great nation".

The Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA), in an affidavit, referred to the views of Prime Minister Narendra Modi on shedding "colonial baggage" and said he has been in favour of the protection of civil liberties

and respect of human rights, and in that spirit, over 1,500 outdated laws and over 25,000 compliance burdens have been scrapped.

The MHA's affidavit said the PM has said India has to work even harder to shed colonial baggage that has passed its utility which includes outdated laws and practices.

The bench of Chief Justice NV Ramana and Justices Surya Kant and Hima Kohli on May 5 had said it would hear arguments on May 10 on the legal question of whether the pleas challenging the colonial-era penal law on sedition be referred to a larger bench for reconsidering the 1962 verdict of a five-judge constitution bench in the Kedar Nath Singh case. *Continued on page 2*

ED summons Jharkhand
Mining Secy in Ranchi in
MGNREGA funds fraud

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Enforcement Directorate (ED) has summoned Jharkhand Mining Secretary Pooja Singhal for questioning on Tuesday at its office in Ranchi in connection with a money-laundering probe linked to embezzlement of MGNREGA funds during her stints as district collector in various districts of the State.

Singhal is a 2000-batch IAS officer. She has been asked to depose before the investigation officer at the zonal office of ED in Ranchi. The agency will record her statement under the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA), they said.

During the searches against her, her businessman husband Abhishek Jha, and others on May 6 in Jharkhand and at a few other locations, she was briefly questioned by the ED

officials. Her husband was also questioned by the agency.

The ED investigation relates to a money laundering case in which a former junior engineer in the Jharkhand Government, Ram Binod Prasad Sinha, was arrested by the agency on June 17, 2020, from West Bengal after he was booked by the agency under the PMLA in 2012. The ED case was based on the FIRs of the State Vigilance Bureau against Sinha and others.

Sinha was booked by the Vigilance Bureau under the IPC sections relating to cheating, besides corruption under the Prevention of Corruption Act for allegedly defrauding public money and investing it in his own name as well as in the name of his family members while working as a junior engineer from April 1, 2008 to March 21, 2011.

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4th Covid wave unlikely
in India: IIT prof AgarwalThe prof has developed
SUTRA to predict Covid
pandemic trajectoryPIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■
NEW DELHI

An IIT-Kanpur professor, who has developed the SUTRA mathematical model to accurately predict the trajectory of the Covid pandemic, on Monday said that there may be no fourth wave in the country. Prof Maninder Agarwal has based his assessment on the fact that over 90 per cent of India's population has acquired natural immunity.

At the same time, he cautioned that the fourth wave cannot be ruled out if there is a new mutant that bypasses natural immunity significantly. In an article, Agarwal, a professor in the department of computer science engineering, said there are two major reasons for this conclusion.



The first reason is the level of natural immunity in the country. Natural immunity is defined as the immunity acquired by a previous infection. As per the SUTRA model for India, over 90 per cent of India's population has acquired natural immunity. This is also validated by data from ICMR surveys that have consistently found the actual number of infected people to be more than 30 times the reported numbers,

he said.

Natural immunity acts as a strong protection against infection. In an extensive study done for 36 countries across the world covering all continents and more than half of the world's population, it was found that the severity of the Omicron wave in these countries was inversely proportional to the level of natural immunity present in them.

Continued on page 2

₹ all-time low
at 77.44/\$ on
forex outflows

PTI ■ MUMBAI

Extending its losses for a second day, the rupee on Monday slumped by 54 paise to close at a record low of 77.44 against the US dollar, pressured by the strength of the American currency overseas and unabated foreign fund outflows.

Forex traders said risk appetite has weakened amid rising bond yields in the US and mounting concerns about inflation that may trigger more aggressive rate hikes by global central banks. At the inter-bank foreign exchange market, the rupee opened lower at 77.17 against the greenback, and finally settled for the day at 77.44, down 54 paise over its previous close. During the trading session, the rupee touched its lifetime low of 77.52.

On Friday, the rupee had slumped 55 paise to close at 76.90. In the last two trading sessions, the rupee has lost 109 paise against the greenback.

Detailed report on P10

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Yogi warns leaders against taking cuts

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

In a terse message, Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath has asked the public representatives and senior party functionaries not to take commission while implementing development schemes of the government and has warned that any complaint in this regard will be severely dealt with.

Addressing MPs, MLAs and party leaders in a function held at the Police Lines auditorium in Lalitpur, the chief minister said on Sunday night that party leaders should stop taking bribes in the form of commission, adding that he would root out corruption from the bureaucracy.

"The message should first go from the party leaders. You are the people's representative and you have no right to ask for commission during implementation of development schemes," he said while expressing displeasure over allegations of corruption.

This terse reaction came when some leaders complained to Yogi Adityanath about officers taking bribes. "First cleanse yourself, I will set the officers



right," he said.

A senior party leader said that seeing the attitude of the chief minister there was a pin drop silence in the meeting for a moment. The leaders had come with their complaints and were too eager to voice it before the chief minister. Yogi said that a core group of ministers had been formed and workers should send their complaints through it. He assured them that he would resolve the complaints.

In his 2.0 government, Yogi Adityanath has stressed on corruption-free governance. Last month, while addressing a special sitting after the cabinet meeting, the chief minister had said that the ministers, IAS, IPS and PCS officers should declare their and their family members' assets and make it available on an online portal for the people to see it.

"For a healthy democracy, the conduct of the public representatives is very important.

According to this spirit, all the honourable ministers should make a public declaration of all movable and immovable assets of themselves and their family members within a period of next three months after taking oath," Yogi Adityanath had said. He also said that the code of conduct prescribed for the ministers should be followed in compliance with the provisions of the Representation of the People Act in letter and spirit.

Amit Shah launches sale of Khadi products in 107 canteens of paramilitary forces

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Central Government's "Swadeshi" drive set off for a pan-India expansion with the paramilitary forces' canteens undertaking the sale of handmade Khadi products. Minister of Home Affairs and Cooperation Amit Shah on Monday launched the sale of Khadi products in 107 Central Armed Police Forces (CAPF) canteens and said all canteens of paramilitary forces in the country will soon begin selling Khadi products.

"For Gandhi Ji, Khadi was a symbol of Swadeshi and it is also a tool to fulfil Prime Minister Narendra Modi's dream of Aatmanirbhar Bharat. Khadi itself guarantees purity. I am delighted that the sale of Khadi products has begun in 107 paramilitary canteens and very soon Khadi products will be made available in all paramilitary canteens across the country," the Home Minister said during the launch on the sidelines of the foundation lay-

ing ceremony for the Central Workshop and Stores of BSF at Tamulpur in Assam.

Chief Minister of Assam Himanta Biswa Sarma, Chairman KVIC Vinai Kumar Saxena, Home Secretary Ajay Kumar Bhalla and Director General of BSF and CRPF were present on the occasion.

Shah heaped praises on KVIC for creating sustainable rural employment in the country and said KVIC's flagship schemes like Honey Mission, Kumhar Sashaktikaran Yojana, Leather and Carpenter Empowerment Schemes had the potential to create sustainable employment in Assam's Bodoland.

"If KVIC starts connecting people with its self-employment activities, this will surely eradicate the problem of unemployment in Bodoland and also reconnect the Bodo youths, who had given up arms, with the development of the nation," he said.

The Home Minister

emphasized that under the leadership of Hon'ble Prime Minister, KVIC clocked a historic turnover of Rs 1.15 lakh crore in 2021-22, registering a massive growth of nearly 250 percent.

Earlier, the Home Minister had made it mandatory for all CAPF canteens to sell maximum "Swadeshi" products through Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC). To begin with, 32 products including National Flag, cotton towels, honey, kachhi ghani mustard oil, agarbatti, daliya, papad, pickles, amla etc. will be supplied in the canteens located in Delhi NCR, Punjab, Haryana, Gujarat, Uttar Pradesh, Assam and other states.

The development comes after KVIC's historic agreements with paramilitary forces for the supply of mustard oil, cotton durries and woollen blankets. So far, KVIC has supplied products worth nearly Rs 17 crore to different paramilitary forces.

DU resumes offline exams after two years

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

The Delhi University has resumed physical mode of examination after a gap of over two years due to the Covid-19 pandemic by conducting exams for students with Essential Repeats (ERs) on Monday.

D S Rawat, DU Dean of Examination, informed that exams for those who could not attain passing marks in one or more subjects were conducted "smoothly" in all colleges.

Though examinations for majority of the courses will begin from May 11, the students who have ERs took exams on Monday.

"The examination has begun today. These are exams for students who have ERs. We have held physical examinations after a gap of two years. So, all the arrangements were done carefully. The exams were conducted smoothly," Rawat said.

The pandemic had forced the varsity to conduct Open Book Examination (OBE) as colleges were shut until early this year. However, few students appeared for the ER exam on Monday.

According to Shri Ram College of Commerce principal Simrit Kaur, only five students took the exam to clear their compartment while the figure for Miranda House was just two.

Miranda House principal Bijayalaxmi Nanda said around 45 students will be sitting for exam on Tuesday. "Monday and Tuesday, we are holding ER exams. From Wednesday, the exams for second and third-year students will begin," Nanda told news agencies.

Ramjas College Principal Manoj Khanna said only two students took the exam in the morning shift, but "more are expected to take the exam in the evening shift".

Property dealer murdered by neighbour in Northwest Delhi

In a drunken state he had relieved himself in front of the accused house

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Following a quarrel, a 44-year-old property dealer was killed after he was attacked by his neighbour in Northwest Delhi. Police said that the brawl started over the victim urinating in front of the accused house. The deceased has been identified as Parveen Lamba, a resident of Parmanand Colony. Police said that he was reportedly drunk when he relieved himself in front of his neighbour's house in the early hours of Monday morning.

The accused, Rahul Malhotra, also a property dealer, is absconding and efforts are being made to nab him, police said. Both, the victim and the accused, had been friends earlier but later stopped talking to each other.

On the day of the incident, Lamba was drinking in his car with his nephew till 4 am and later urinated in front of Malhotra's house which led to the fight, police said.

"At around 5.30 am, a PCR call regarding a quarrel among residents of Parmanand Colony was received in Mukherjee Nagar Police Station. When our team reached the spot, it was found out that Lamba who was in an intoxicated state urinated in front of Malhotra's house. This led to a quarrel between the two neighbours," said Usha Rangnani, the Deputy Commissioner of Police (DCP)

northwest district.

"During the quarrel, both parties threw stones at each other. Malhotra along with his father Ravi threw bottles and stones from the first floor of their house and one of the bottles hit Lamba in leg, causing him to bleed profusely," said the DCP. He was rushed to Babu Jagjivan Ram Memorial Hospital where the duty doctor termed the injury as simple. He was then shifted to the Nulife Hospital by his family members. He was later taken to another hospital where during treatment, he was declared dead by the doctors, she added.

A case under section 304 (Punishment for culpable homicide not amounting to murder), and 34 (Common intention) of Indian Penal Code has been registered against Malhotra and an investigation is in progress, the DCP said.

Lankan PM quits....

From Page 1

The arson attacks came as the island was placed under curfew after violent clashes between Mahinda Rajapaksa supporters and anti-government protesters in Colombo. Three people were killed, including a ruling party MP, and more than 150 injured in violence in the capital.

Mahinda, 76, sent his resignation letter to President Gotabaya after violent scenes were witnessed in Colombo. "Effective immediately I have tendered my resignation as Prime Minister to the President," Mahinda tweeted.

Mahinda in his resignation letter said he is stepping down to pave the way for the All-Party Interim Government to be formed. He said he will be "ready to make any sacrifice even in the future in order to help the people and the Government overcome the present crisis."

The Cabinet was also dissolved with the resignation of the Prime Minister. Earlier in the day, Prime Minister Mahinda's supporters attacked anti-Government demonstrators at MynaGoGama and GotaGoGama protest sites. The tents opposite Temple Trees, the official residence of the Prime Minister, were dismantled by a mob.

4th Covid wave....

From Page 1

Secondly, until now, genome sequencing has not shown any significantly new mutant even in NCR. Only variants belonging to the lineage of Omicron, referred to as BA. 2, BA. 2. 9, BA. 2. 10, and BA. 2. 12, have been detected. This means that immunity acquired against Omicron will continue to hold against all these variants. With more than 90 per cent of people in India already immune against Omicron, one does not expect any significant fourth wave.

The reason for the increase in the number of Covid cases, according to Agarwal, is that all restrictions have been lifted, and the new variants of Omicron are slightly more infectious.

Both result in a faster spread of the virus among the non-immune population, thereby increasing numbers. This increase is not likely to be substantial though.

He stated that vaccination is excellent in preventing serious illness but not particularly good in preventing mild infection by Omicron.

However, the analysis does not imply that vaccination is not required. Vaccines protect against major illnesses and are extremely useful. Countries that have followed a strict zero-Covid policy are going through a difficult period at present with high infection numbers, for example, South Korea, Hong Kong, and China.

High-octane....

From Page 1

"We don't know what are they demolishing? Hawkers also put up structures and as far as we know they sit on platforms. Let the affected party come," the bench said.

Meanwhile, the SDMC official said bulldozers will be back on Tuesday and illegal encroachments will be removed in New Friends' Colony from 11am tomorrow.

A senior SDMC official said the civic body has planned to conduct an anti-encroachment drive in all four Zones on May 10. In the Central Zone

the drive will take place at Bodh Dharam Mandir near Gurudwara Road, New Friends' Colony and surrounding areas. In the South Zone, the drive will take place at D1, D2 Market, Vasnt Kunj, Masoodpur Road, D6 Flyover, Delhi Jal Board Road and the surrounding area, he said. In the West Zone, the SDMC will conduct its drive at Ghode Wala Mandir and surrounding area, Raghuraj Nagar, he said. "In Najafgarh Zone, the municipal corporation will perform its demolition drive at Nala Road, Sagarpur and BDO office and surrounding area, Chhawla," he added.

Will revisit....

From Page 1

"The Government, being fully cognizant of various views being expressed on the subject of sedition and also having considered the concerns of civil liberties and human rights, while committed to maintain and protect the sovereignty and integrity of this great nation, has decided to re-examine and re-consider the provisions of Section 124A of the IPC which can only be done before the competent forum," said the MHA affidavit.

The Government urged the apex court that in view of the decision to reconsider the law, "this court may not invest time in examining the validity of section 124A once again and be pleased to await the exercise of reconsideration to be undertaken by the Government of India before an appropriate forum where such reconsideration is constitutionally permitted."

Pointing out that concerns have been raised about the application and abuse of sedition law for purposes not intended by the provisions, the Centre said the Prime minister has been cognizant of various views expressed on the subject and has also periodically, in various forums, expressed his clear and unequivocal views in favour of protection of civil liberties,

respect of human rights, and giving meaning to the constitutionally cherished freedoms by the people of the country.

"The PM believes that at a time when the country is marking 'Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav' (75 years since Independence), we need to, as a nation, work even harder to shed colonial baggage that has passed its utility which includes outdated laws colonial laws and practice," it said, adding that various offences which were causing mindless hindrances to people have been decriminalised.

The MHA's affidavit said the public at large, including jurists, agrees about the need for statutory provisions to deal with serious offences of divisive nature affecting the very sovereignty and integrity of the country.

"Requiring a penal provision for such purposes is generally accepted by everyone in legitimate State interest," the affidavit said.

Two days back, in another written submission, filed earlier, the Centre defended the penal law and the 1962 verdict of a Constitution bench upholding its validity, saying these have withstood "the test of time" about six decades and the instances of its abuse would never be a justification of reconsideration.

ED summons....

From Page 1

This fund was earmarked for the execution of Government projects under MNREGA (Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act) in the Khunti district, the ED had earlier said. Sinha told the ED that "he paid five per cent commission (out of the defrauded funds) to the district administration."

During the period, the ED had alleged, charges of "irregularities" were made against Singhal while she served as the Deputy Commissioner/District Magistrate of Chatra, Khunti, and Palamu between 2007 and 2013. On Saturday, the ED arrested Chartered Accountant Suman Kumar in this case after seizing over Rs 17 crore in

cash from his premises. He is in ED custody till May 11.


The ED is probing his alleged links with Singhal and her husband.


In a remand note presented to the court for seeking Kumar's custody, the ED had claimed Singhal and her husband allegedly received "huge" cash deposits — to the tune of Rs 1.43 crore — over and above her salary in their accounts, during the period she faced charges of irregularities while being posted as the DM of various districts in the State.

The ED also told a special PMLA court in Ranchi that Singhal allegedly transferred Rs 16.57 lakh from her savings account to those controlled or owned by her chartered accountant.

**कानपुर विद्युत आपूर्ति कम्पनी लि 14/71, सिविल लाईन्स, केसा हाउस कानपुर ई-निविदा सूचना**
अधोहस्ताक्षरकर्ता द्वारा ई-निविदा पृथक-पृथक दो भागों में निम्न सामग्रियों हेतु केस्को ई-निविदा वेबसाइट <https://etender.up.nic.in> पर आमंत्रित की जाती है। ई-निविदा प्रपत्र पूर्ण कर निविदादाताओं द्वारा वेबसाइट पर खुलने की तिथि के अपराह्न 12:00 बजे तक अपलोड की जा सकती है। उक्त ई-निविदा उसी दिन 15:00 बजे से 17:00 बजे तक वेबसाइट पर सार्वजनिक रूप से खोली जायेगी। उक्त तिथि को अवकाश घोषित होने पर निविदाये अगले कार्यदिवस में नियत समय पर खोली जायेगी। ई-निविदा धनराशि का भुगतान आर०टी०जी०एस० (खाता सं० 628805018266 आई०एफ०एस०सी. - ICIC0006288) के रूप में, केस्को कानपुर के पक्ष में देय होगी। ई-निविदा प्रपत्र निविदा खुलने की तिथि पर दिये गये समय से दो घण्टे पूर्व तक वेबसाइट से डाउनलोड किया जा सकता है। वेबसाइट पर निविदा प्रपत्रों के साथ यू०टी०आर० की स्कैन्ड प्रति अपलोड करना अनिवार्य है। ई-निविदा के प्रथम भाग में धरोहर धनराशि का भुगतान सिर्फ आर०टी०जी०एस० के माध्यम से ही स्वीकार किया जायेगा जो कि उपरोक्त खाते में देय होगी एवं निविदा प्रपत्र के प्रथम भाग में निश्र्चित पी० ब्यू० आर० एवं तकनीकी अभिलेख होंगे तथा निविदा के द्वितीय भाग में दरें एवं व्यवसायिक शर्तें होगी, बिना धरोहर धनराशि के तथा सशर्त निविदायें खोली/स्वीकार नहीं की जायेंगी। निविदा सं० 02 / आई०टी०सेल / 22-23 विवरण केस्को के प्रत्येक उपकेन्द्रों पर सिक्योर नेटवर्किंग एवं 161 मेंटैनेंस का कार्य 3 वर्षों के लिए कराने हेतु। धरोहर धनराशि (रु०) 6,73,100/- निविदा धनराशि रु० में (जी०एस०टी० के साथ) 5,900/- निविदा खोलने की तिथि 30.05.2022 उपरोक्त ई-निविदा की पूर्ण प्रक्रिया केस्को की ई-टेन्डरिंग वेबसाइट <https://etender.up.nic.in> के माध्यम से की जायेगी। तकनीकी योग्यता पूरा न करने वाले निविदादाता के निविदा पर विचार नहीं किया जायेगा। सामग्री क्रय की मात्रा घट बढ़ सकती है। अधोहस्ताक्षरकर्ता के पास बिना कोई कारण बताये किसी एक अथवा समस्त निविदाओं को स्वीकृत/अस्वीकृत करने का पूर्ण अधिकार सुरक्षित होगा। ● उक्त ई० निविदा में यदि कोई शुद्धीकरण या विस्तारण होता है तो वह ई० निविदा वेबसाइट <https://etender.up.nic.in> पर अपलोड किया जायेगा, जिसका अलग से प्रकाशन नहीं किया जायेगा। (अधिशासी अभियन्ता) आई०टी० सेल पत्रांक 89/आई० टी० सेल/22-23/ ई०निविदा सं०-02 दिनांक 9.5.2022 राष्ट्रहित में बिजली बचाये।

PUBLIC NOTICE
This is to inform public in general that Kotak Mahindra Bank Ltd has organized an auction in below mention respect of Vehicles. **VEHICLES FOR SALE**
1) FORCE TTFBP FORCE UP16ET5742- YOM 2017 MINIMUM RESERVE PRICE 471218
2) FORCE TTFBP FORCE UP16GT7962-YOM 2020 MINIMUM RESERVE PRICE 840904
3) FORCE TTFBP FORCE UP16DT1585- YOM 2015 MINIMUM RESERVE PRICE 364050
4) FORCETTFB FORCE DL1VC2104- YOM 2014 MINIMUM RESERVE PRICE 288575
5) FORCETTFB DL1VC2247- YOM 201 5 MINIMUM RESERVE PRICE 240479
6) FORCETTFB HR58B7576- YOM 2015 MINIMUM RESERVE PRICE 350412
7) CB MAHINDRA FURIO 11 FULLY_BUILT- UP14HT8805 YOM 2019 MINIMUM RESERVE PRICE 897788
8) CB SML SARTAJ UP15DT7330- YOM 2018 MINIMUM RESERVE PRICE 496142
9) TATA MOTOR LPT 2518 UK17CA2506- YOM 2012 MINIMUM RESERVE PRICE 159427
10) BOLERO MUV UP14JT5634- YOM 2020 MINIMUM RESERVE PRICE 346058
11 EICHER 10.95 UP14GT3720- YOM 2017 MINIMUM RESERVE PRICE 410842
12) PRO 2110 EICHR VECV HR38AB3917- YOM 2021 MINIMUM RESERVE PRICE 1012500
13) TLPT1109FB UP14HT 7369- YOM 2019 MINIMUM RESERVE PRICE 748308
14) SM SAMRAT UP14JT0863- YOM 2019 MINIMUM RESERVE PRICE 629826
15) TATAL 3118 HR38AB2418 / HR38AB9053 / HR38AB2313/ HR38AB7340/ HR38AB8548- YOM 2019 MINIMUM RESERVE PRICE 1057500 (PER VEHICLE)
**UNDER HYPOTHECATION WITH M/S KOTAK MAHINDRA BANK IS UNDER SALE IN ITS "AS IS WHERE IS CONDITION" INTERESTED PARTIES CAN GIVE THEIR QUOTATIONS (ONLINE/ OFFLINE) WITHIN 15 DAYS FROM THIS PAPER PUBLICATION I.E. ON OR BEFORE 25.05.2022 (PLEASE NOTE THAT CLOSING AUCTION DATE WOULD NOT BE A WEEKLY OFF / HOLIDAY).
BRANCH ADDRESS: KOTAK MAHINDRA BANK LTD., PLOT NO.7 INSTITUTIONAL AREA, SECTOR-125 NOIDA NEAR DELL CAMPUS NOIDA (U.P) UP-201313 OR CONTACT : RAJESH ANTIL KOTAK MAHINDRA BANK LTD. CONTACT / 09711173320 EMAIL-rajesh.antil@kotak.com**

**OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER
RWSS DIVISION, RAIRANGPUR
INVITATION FOR BIDS**
E-mail-eerwss_rai@nic.in, eerwss.ra@gmail.com
e-PROCUREMENT NOTICE
IDENTIFICATION No. 03 RWSS/RRPUR- 2022-23 / Dated 27.04.2022
The Superintending Engineer, RWSS Division, Rairangpur on behalf of Governor of Odisha, invites **percentage rate** bids to be received in online mode for the following works from the eligible experienced contractors in similar nature of work, registered with State Govt. & contractor of equivalent Grade/class registered with Central Govt. / Railways.
1. Nature of work: - a) Execution of clubbed up PWS schemes to different villages of Bahlada, Bisoi & Janda Block under RWSS&S Division Rairangpur in the District of Mayurbhanj.
2. No. of packages :- **3(Three) nos.**
3. Period of Completion : **11(Eleven) months**
4. Cost of tender :- **₹ 100000**
5. Estimated cost :- **₹306.45 lakhs to ₹402.01 lakhs**
6. Class of Contractor :- (As mentioned in Tender Card Notice)
7. Date and time of availability of bid documents in Portal: -**from 10 hours of 13.05.2022 to 17.00 to hours of 04.06.2022**
8. Receipt of bid cost, bid security, documents: - Online only
9. Date & time of opening of technical bid: - **Dt. 06.06.2022 at 11.00 hours onwards.**
10. Other Documents: - (As mentioned in DTGN)
11. The bidders have to participate in on-line bidding only. Further details can be seen from the website <https://www.tendersodisha.gov.in>.
12. Any addendum / Corrigendum / Cancellation of tender can also be seen in the said website.
Sd/-27.04.22
Superintending Engineer
RWSS Division, Rairangpur
OIPR-25010/11/0007/2223

SYMBOLIC POSSESSION NOTICE
**Whereas**
The undersigned being the Authorized Officer of ICICI Bank Limited under the Securitisation, Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 and in exercise of the powers conferred under section 13 (12) read with Rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) rules 2002, issued domain notices upon the borrowers mentioned below, to repay the amount mentioned in the notice within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said notice.
As the borrower failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the borrower and the public in general that the undersigned has taken Symbolic possession of the property described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on him/ her under Section 13(4) of the said Act read with Rule 8 of the said rules on the below-mentioned dates. The borrower in particular and the public in general is hereby cautioned not to deal with the property and any dealings with the property will be subject to the charge of ICICI Bank Limited.

Sr. No.	Name of the Borrower/ Loan Account Number	Description of Property/ Date of Symbolic Possession	Date of Demand Notice/ Amount in Demand Notice (Rs.)	Name of Branch
1.	Anand Prakash/ Anju Sharma/ LBDEL00002376530	Flat No.35, Third Floor, Block F3, Pocket 3, Sector 34 Rohini, Delhi/ May 05, 2022	December 13, 2021 Rs. 11,23,606/-	Delhi/ NCR
2.	Anita Kumar/ Rajesh Kumar/ LBDEL00002379926	Flat No.15, Third Floor Dda LIG, Block-C18, Pocket-2, Sector- 34, Rohini, Delhi/ May 05, 2022	October 16, 2021 Rs. 10,98,977/-	Delhi/ NCR
3.	Nitin Gupta/ Anita/ LBDEL00002379267	Flat No.9, 2nd Floor, Sec 34, Pocket 2, Block D2, Rohini, Delhi/ May 05, 2022	October 05, 2021 Rs.11,10,988/-	Delhi/ NCR
4.	Satender Kumar/ Ramesh Kanojia/ LBDEL00002378804	Flat No.49, Second Floor, Dda LIG Block C-10, Pocket 4, Sector 34 Rohini, Delhi/ May 05, 2022	June 19, 2021 Rs.7,31,247/-	Delhi/ NCR
5.	Kapil Dang/ Kanta Devi/ LBDEL00004808769	Prop No- 53-55, 1st Floor, Block E-16, Sector-08 Rohini, Delhi/ May 05, 2022	December 21, 2021 Rs. 27,69,374/-	Delhi/ NCR
6.	Sameer Ahuja/ Kiran Bhatia/ LBDEL00001790784	H No.35, 2nd Floor (Without Roof Rights & 3rd Floor (With Roof Rights), Pkt- 3, Sec-24 , Rohini, Delhi/ May 05, 2022	October 05, 2021 Rs. 16,23,694/-	Delhi/ NCR
7.	Vikas Kumar/ Mahender Singh Thakran/ LBDEL0000294420/ LBDEL00002945267	Dda Lig, Flat No.342, Ground Floor, Pocket Gh 01, Sector 28, Rohini, Delhi/ May 05, 2022	November 15, 2021 Rs. 22,33,180/-	Delhi/ NCR
8.	Shailendra Kumar/ Laxmi Singh Kushwaha/ LBDEL00004557680	House No-263, Block- LIG Phase-2 Tatyatope Nagar Kanpur/ May 05,2022	July 06, 2021 Rs. 2,15,184/-	Delhi/ NCR & Uttar Pradesh

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

**Date : May 10, 2022
Place: Delhi NCR**
Authorized Officer
ICICI Bank Limited

SC refuses to stay Shaheen Bagh demolition drive

Tells CPI(M) to approach High Court

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Monday refused to entertain a plea filed by the CPI(M) against the demolition drive by the South Delhi Municipal Corporation (SDMC) in Shaheen Bagh, saying it cannot interfere with the anti-encroachment drive at the instance of a political party.

A Bench of Justices L Nageswara Rao and BR Gavai asked the party to approach the Delhi High Court. "Why is CPI(M) filing a petition? What is the fundamental right that is being violated? Not at the behest of political parties. This is not the platform. You go to the High Court," the Bench said. Senior advocate PV Surendranath, appearing for the CPI(M), said that the plea has been filed in public inter-



est and there is no "party interest" involved in the matter. He also said that the second petitioner is a hawkers' union and they are being removed without notice. The Bench said that if hawkers are encroaching they will be removed and in case there is any violation of law by authorities, the petitioner can go to the High Court. The SC clarified that it interfered in the Jahangirpuri

demolition case because structures were being demolished. The senior lawyer said the authorities are demolishing buildings. "We don't know what they are demolishing. Hawkars also put up structures and as far as we know they sit on platforms. Let the affected party come," the Bench said. Solicitor General Tushar Mehta said the facts were being misrepresented. "This is a

process which has been going on for long, a routine exercise after serving notice," he said adding that this is only a political hype. Mehta further submitted that as per the Municipal Corporation Act, no notice is required to be served to remove encroachments on public roads. Surendranath was reprimanded by the Bench for stating that the High Court will not take up

the matter. "This is not right Mr Surendranath. Filing petitions like this. You spent whole day here and you could have gone to High Court instead. This is too much... Some party coming to us and telling us High Court won't hear. How can you say High Court will not take it up. This is showing disrespect to the High Court.

They have wider power under Article 226", the Bench said. "We can understand if you go to High Court and it refuses to hear..But you don't even go there and straight away come to Supreme Court," the Bench said. When senior lawyer requested that demolitions be stayed for two days, the Bench refused to pass the order.

"Not at your behest. You mention tomorrow in the High Court. Mr. Solicitor-General, please don't do anything till tomorrow," the Bench said. Mehta informed court that whatever had to be removed had been removed before matter was mentioned. The matter was dismissed as withdrawn with liberty to approach Delhi High Court.



The traffic jam due to the anti-encroachment drive by the SDMC at Shaheen Bagh in New Delhi on Monday
RANJAN DIMRI | PIONEER

Protests, drive cause traffic snarls in Shaheen Bagh area

STAFF REPORTER
■ NEW DELHI

Shaheen Bagh and adjoining Sareas in Delhi witnessed traffic snarls on Monday after protests erupted there with hundreds of people, including women, opposing an anti-encroachment drive of the BJP-ruled South Delhi Municipal Corporation (SDMC).

The unrest sparked off as bulldozers rolled into the area in the presence of a huge number of police personnel, including senior officers, causing traffic snarls at Shaheen Bagh, Kalindi Kunj, Jaitpur, Sarita Vihar and Mathura Road, among other places. The traffic police

assisted the local police to ensure that no inconvenience was caused to commuters and traffic diversions were made accordingly. "The heavy vehicles were first diverted and an alternative route was suggested for them.

Our men were deployed at the spots where congestions were reported, to ensure that no inconvenience was caused to the commuters.

We diverted all the vehicles going towards Shaheen Bagh to GD Birla Marg via Kalindi Kunj and then towards Crown Plaza and vice versa," a senior traffic police officer said.

Even as the protests were going on, one of the carriageways was kept open for

vehicular traffic, while another alternative route suggested was via Mathura Road, he added.

"The situation is under control now and vehicular movement has resumed," said the official. A shop owner at the Shaheen Bagh main road, who did not wished to be named, said that they have been running their business in this area for the last 20 years, and no such action was taken by the SDMC.

"It's the first time that we have witnessed such a drive. The SDMC is targeting only Muslim-dominated areas, we hope that everything goes back to normal. The streets were jam packed, which affected our business," he said.

SDMC seeks legal action against AAP's Okhla MLA, writes to police

STAFF REPORTER
■ NEW DELHI

The BJP-ruled South Delhi Municipal Corporation (SDMC) on Monday wrote a letter to the Station House Officer (SHO) of Shaheen Bagh Police Station demanding legal action against Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) MLA Amanatullah Khan, for interfering in the discharge of duty by Government servants.

In a complaint to the SHO, SDMC's Central Zone licencing inspector said that an encroachment removal drive was fixed for Monday on the main road in Shaheen Bagh

(G-Block) along the Jasola Canal to the Kalindi Kunj Park and its staff and police personnel were present at the site for carrying out the action.

"On May 9, while the staff and the police personnel were present at the above site for carrying out the said encroachment removal action, Amanatullah Khan, MLA (Okhla) along with his supporters did not allow the field staff of the Central Zone, SDMC to remove the encroachments. Their resistance was witnessed by the police as well as duly recorded by the media personnel present at the site," the letter stated. "In



view of the above, you are requested to take appropriate legal action against Amanatullah and his supporters for interfering in discharge of official duties by public servants," the letter further stated.

The action came after SDMC Mayor Mukesh Suryan wrote to the Municipal Commissioner to lodge an FIR against Khan and other leaders for obstructing the anti-encroachment drive.

In his letter to Municipal Commissioner Gyanesh Bharti, Suryan said that Delhi BJP chief Gupta apprised him that some political leaders obstructed the pre-planned anti-encroachment drive in Shaheen Bagh.

The SDMC on Monday sent its bulldozers to Shaheen Bagh in order to raze the illegal structures in the area under the first phase of its demolition

drive, but failed to raze a single structure, as hundreds of locals, besides Congress and AAP workers, staged a protest. The SDMC had to call off its drive and the bulldozer were sent back.

Delhi BJP Chief Gupta also wrote a letter to the Delhi Police Commissioner and demanded that an FIR be registered against the AAP and Congress leaders who obstructed the SDMC's anti-encroachment drive by "lying in front of bulldozers."

Protesters raised slogans against the SDMC as well as the Centre and demanded that the action be stopped.

Jahangirpuri demolition drive given communal colour: NMC

PETITIONERS HAVE SENSATIONALISED A ROUTINE ADMINISTRATIVE EXERCISE, CIVIC BODY TELLS SC



STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

The North Delhi Municipal Corporation (NMC) informed the Supreme Court on Monday that the petitioners in the Jahangirpuri demolition drive case have sensationalised a routine administrative exercise by giving it an unwarranted communal colour. In an affidavit filed in response to a

plea filed by Jamiat Ulama-i-Hind and others against the Jahangirpuri demolition, the NMC said the petitions are liable to be dismissed as they have resorted to falsehood. "This is a blatant falsehood for which the deponent who has affirmed this on affidavit needs to be prosecuted so as to maintain the sanctity of averments being made on affidavits before

this court," the affidavit reads. "The petition deserves to be dismissed only on the ground that the petitioner has resorted to falsehood and has unfortunately attempted to sensationalise a routine administrative exercise by giving it an unwarranted communal colour," the NMC said. In an affidavit filed before the top court, the NMC highlighted that no house or shop was demolished at all either on April 20 or in any of the previous drives.

Further, the NMC clarified that sacks of garbage, unauthorised projections on public land, unauthorised temporary structures well beyond the boundaries of houses, and shops were removed during the drive. It was stated that for this, no notice was necessary under the provisions of the Delhi Municipal Corporation Act.

The NMC said when a road or footpath is cleared, the process goes on from one end to another without any distinction of the religion or owner/occupier who has unauthorisedly occupied the footpath or public road.

The civic body said that after the status quo order, those who were removed from the road have come back and have occupied the footpath/road again. "This is usually the result when a party having no stake files a PIL and prays for an order.

If the affected parties would have approached this court, they would have truthfully required to point out that what was being undertaken was the removal of unauthorised projections on the footpath or public road and such private parties also would have been bound by the order of the

status quo," the NMC said. Concerning the use of bulldozers, the NMC submitted that some temporary projections on public road/footpaths are of such nature, for which, the machine is required to be used.

The corporation alleged that the petitioner has deliberately and willfully sensationalised the matter and denied the allegations that a particular religion or community was being targeted.

In the case of Ganesh Gupta, whose juice shop was razed during the demolition drive conducted in Delhi's Jahangirpuri last month, the NMC said that the plea by a Jahangirpuri-based juice shop owner should not be entertained, since it did not receive a response to the show-cause notices sent prior to the demolition.

Weeks after communal violence Jahangirpuri SHO transferred

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Weeks after communal violence during a religious procession on Hanuman Jayanti in Delhi's Jahangirpuri area C-Block, the Station House Officer (SHO) of Jahangirpuri Police Station has been transferred.

According to an official order, Inspector Arun Kumar was transferred from R P Bhawan and posted as SHO Jahangirpuri Police Station (Northwest district) with immediate effect. "He should be relieved at once with the direction to join his new assignment and report compliance to this Headquarters," the order dated

May 6 said. "The outgoing SHO had already submitted an application three months ago stating he did not wish to continue as the Station House Officer anymore and had sought a transfer. It is routine order issued from the office of the Commissioner of Police," said a senior police official.

Hindu and Muslim groups clashed during a Hanuman Jayanti procession in Jahangirpuri on April 16, leaving eight police personnel and a local injured. According to the police, there was pelting of stones and arson during the clashes and some vehicles were also torched. A case was registered in matter which was then

transferred to Crime Branch unit of Delhi Police. So far, the Delhi Police has nabbed 36 people, including three juveniles in the case.

Meanwhile, a Delhi court has observed that there was "utter failure" on part of Delhi Police in stopping unauthorised Hanuman Jayanti procession in Jahangirpuri last month that triggered communal clashes in locality.

The court made observation while rejecting a clutch of bail pleas, and said that issue seems to have been simply brushed aside by senior officers, and complicity, if any, of police personnel needs to be investigated.

Gurugram: 12,000 illegal shanties razed during 3-day demolition drive



STAFF REPORTER
■ GURUGRAM

During the three days of massive demolition drives conducted by the enforcement team of the Department of Town and Country Planning (DTCP) in the Saraswati Kunj colony area of Gurugram, around 12,000 illegal shanties have been razed. Of these, around 4,000 were demolished on Monday. The teams also demolished walls and illegal shops constructed in the area.

The teams were led by Junior Engineer Aakash and comprised officials from the district registrar's office and 200 policemen.

An official said that those who had erected illegal structures were warned and announcements were made on several occasions, but they did not vacate the area. The drive is likely to continue for a few more days.

The DTCP officials said from these illegal shanties rent around Rs 2,000 to 3,000 was



also being extracted by locals, and action will also be initiated against them. RS Bath, district town planner, enforcement, said that a regular driver will be initiated further if required.

"Officials of the district registrar office and DTP enforcement will keep regular monitoring in the area. Also, modality to make arrangements of construction of wall and gates wherever required will be worked out," Bath said. The official informed

that soon it will be checked how an illegal construction continues where earlier notices were given.

"We will lodge an FIR and a sealing drive will be conducted soon. Few were sealed earlier but were unsealed after submitting the penalty.

We will soon fix the time framework and if commercial activities are not stopped we will permanently seal those structures and recommend FIR against offenders," Bath added.

No respite for Delhiites, heatwave to continue for next three days: IMD

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

No respite for the people of the national capital from the heatwave, as Delhi will witness the maximum temperature of 44-45 degree Celsius from May 11 to May 15.

The India Meteorological Department (IMD) on Monday predicted a heatwave for three days in Delhi and adjoining areas this week, adding that 'April like situation' may not arise in the month of May as a western disturbance is likely to bring down the temperature from May 13.

"From May 13, a western disturbance is advancing. It will not give rain but will keep the temperature under control, particularly in Delhi, Punjab and Haryana. The situation in the Western Himalayan region will be better.

Around May 18, another western disturbance is set to advance. So, the April type of situation will not be there in May," the IMD said.

The capital city on Monday witnessed the maximum temperature of 40 degree Celsius which is one notch above than the normal for this time of year. The minimum temperature in Delhi was recorded at 27.6

degree Celsius which is three notches warmer than the normal temperature for this season.

The relative humidity on Sunday morning at 8:30 was recorded at 60 per cent and 40 per cent in the evening at 5:30.

The weather stations at Ridge, Ayanagar, Mungeshpur, Najafgarh, Pitampura, Palam, and Lodhi Road recorded maximum temperatures of 40.1 degrees Celsius, 40.2 degrees Celsius, 41.3 degrees Celsius, 41.4 degrees Celsius, 40.2 degrees Celsius, 40.1 degrees Celsius and 39 degrees Celsius respectively, stated the IMD data.

"Fresh spell of Heat wave conditions likely to commence over Northwest & Central India from 09th May, 2022," said IMD.

The Met department uses four colour codes for weather warnings -- "green" (no action needed), "yellow" (watch and stay updated), "orange" (be prepared), and "red" (take action).

According to the sources in discoms, the capital's peak power demand on Monday clocked 6100 MW, which was increased than Sunday, as it was recorded at 5833 MW. "On six



Women use scarfs to shield themselves from the heat, during a hot summer day in Gurugram on Monday
PTI

occasions in April 2022, Delhi's peak power demand has clocked the highest ever in April, each breaking the previous record in quick succession. On April 19, it was 5735 MW, 5761 MW on April 20, 5781 MW on August 21, 5786 MW on April 27, 6050 MW on April 28, and 6197 on April 29," said

sources. "Delhi's peak power demand had breached the 7000 MW for the first time - peaking at 7016 MW in 2018. This expected peak power demand of around 8200 MW is an increase of around 285 per cent over the peak power demand of 2879 MW in 2002," sources stated.

DGCA forms 3-member fact-finding team to enquire into Indigo incident

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■
NEW DELHI

A day after it came to light that IndiGo barred a specially-abled child from boarding a flight at the Ranchi airport as he was in "a state of panic", the Directorate General of Civil Aviation has formed a three-member team to conduct a "fact-finding enquiry" into IndiGo incident.

"They will visit Ranchi and Hyderabad (place of stay of the family concerned) and collect appropriate evidence within one week from Monday. Based on the outcome of the said enquiry, further action shall entail," the DGCA noted in a statement.

The National Commission for Protection of Child Rights (NCPCR) has asked the Jharkhand police on Monday to lodge an FIR against IndiGo in this matter and also asked DGCA to initiate an inquiry in the matter and take necessary action against the airline and its



manager.

Earlier, Union Civil Aviation minister Jyotiraditya Scindia on Monday said that he will investigate allegations of IndiGo's discrimination against a special needs child. The minister added that no human being should go through this. IndiGo CEO on Monday offered his regrets on the incident that happened at the Ranchi airport on Saturday.

The minister's comment comes after DGCA sought a report from IndiGo over the incident. Scindia said that no

human being should have to go through this and he himself is investigating the incident. As the boy was prohibited from boarding the airline's Ranchi-Hyderabad flight on Saturday, his parents -- who were with him -- also decided to not enter the plane.

Saturday's incident came to light after other passengers posted about this incident on social media on Sunday. Commenting on one such social media post regarding this incident, Scindia on Monday said on Twitter, "There is zero

tolerance towards such behaviour. No human being should have to go through this! Investigating the matter by myself, post which appropriate action will be taken."

Regretting the incident, IndiGo CEO Ronojoy Dutta said in a statement that having reviewed all aspects of this incident, we as an organization are of the view that we made the best possible decision under difficult circumstances. Throughout the check-in and boarding process our intent of course was to carry the family, however, at the boarding area the teenager was visibly in panic, he mentioned.

"We offer our sincere regrets to the affected family for the unfortunate experience and as a small token of our appreciation of their lifelong dedication would like to offer to purchase an electric wheelchair for their son," he added.

A passenger named Manisha Gupta had detailed this incident on LinkedIn.

China keeping boundary question in Ladakh alive: Army Chief Pande

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

As stand-offs persist at the Line of Actual Control (LAC) in Ladakh for the last more than two years, Army Chief General Manoj Pande said here on Monday the basic issue is to resolve the boundary question but China is "keeping it alive."

Assuring the nation that adequate number of troops are deployed to meet any threat, Pande, who assumed charge of the top job on May one, said India is firm on the point that status quo ante prior to April 2020 be restored.

He said the basic issue with China remains the resolution of the boundary question but Beijing's intent has been to keep it "alive." Making this assertion while interacting with media, the Army Chief said instructions to the troops on the ground are clear. They have to remain firm and resolute in their tasks.

Pande said the Indian troops continue to hold "important positions" along the LAC and the Army has a "robust posture" to confront any situation.

"What we need as a country is a 'whole of nation' approach and in the military domain, this is to prevent and counter any attempt to alter the status quo at the LAC," he added.

Given this backdrop, the parleys at diplomatic and military talks between the two sides resulted in the disengagement of troops on the north and south banks of Pangong Tso, Gogra and Patrolling Point 14 in Galwan, the Army Chief said. He also said "We hope to find resolution through dialogue in remaining areas."

The aim is to establish trust and tranquility on both sides but it cannot be a "one-way affair", he said.

As regards the fall-out of the ongoing Ukraine conflict, Pande said foremost is that relevance of conventional wars still remains and they need not necessarily be short and swift. He also said the Army's supply chains were impacted to "some extent" but they have sufficient stocks to last for a "reasonable" period of time. He also said the conflict has taught a lesson and that is to be self-reliant in terms of weapons, armaments, equipment and spares from outside.



"We are dependent on certain weapon systems specially in the area of air defence, rockets, missiles and certain tanks from Russia and Ukraine," he said. Admitting that the supply chain of certain spares and ammunition was impacted to some extent, Pande, however, assured the army has adequate stocks to last for a reasonable period of time.

In order to address this issue, India is looking at certain alternate ways and identifying alternate sources from friendly foreign countries while in the long term, this is also an opportunity for the private industry to step up production and meet the requirements, he said.

SC stays proceedings against IT Rules 2021 in all High Courts

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Monday stayed further proceedings in all High Courts challenging the Information Technology (Intermediary Guidelines and Digital Media Ethics Code) Rules 2021 or the Cable Television Networks (Amendment) Rules 2021.

A bench of Justices AM Khanwilkar and A S Oka passed the order while hearing a batch of petitions, including those raising the issue of hate speech and seeking regulations for OTT (over-the-top) platforms.

"We direct stay of further proceedings pending before the High Courts in the respective cases or to be filed hereafter until the next date of hearing involving a challenge to the IT Rules or Cable TV (Amendment) Rules, which are the subject matter of proceedings in these cases," the bench

said and posted the matter for hearing on May 19. Solicitor General Tushar Mehta, appearing for the Centre, told the bench that there are several petitions in the matter pending before the apex court.

He said some High Courts have stayed the statutory regulations and the Centre has filed special leave petitions (SLPs) against those orders.

"Can your lordships consider granting stay so far as transfer petitions are concerned so that no further orders are passed," Mehta said. The bench also issued notices on the petitions before it in which notices were not yet issued.

After the apex court stayed further proceedings before the HCs in these matters, one of the advocates appearing in the matter said they had filed a petition before the Kerala High Court which had passed an interim order. "We are not interfering with those interim orders as of now," the bench observed.

HC expresses concern over sex determination scene in movie 'Jayeshbhai Jordaar'

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■
NEW DELHI

The Delhi High Court on Monday expressed its concern over the scene showing the sex determination of a foetus in the trailer of Ranveer Singh-starrer Jayeshbhai Jordaar and told the makers of the film that the illegal practice can't be trivialised or shown to be done in a routine manner.

The bench, headed by Acting Chief Justice Vipin Sanghi, which was hearing a PIL seeking deletion of the scene from the movie, asked Yash Raj Films to show it the relevant portions of the movie and said that the "overall message" may be good but it cannot be projected that pregnant woman can be taken to any clinic with a sonogram machine to find the sex of the foetus.

"You take instructions

otherwise we will have to stay," said the bench, also comprising Navin Chawla, after watching the trailer of the film scheduled to be released on May 13. You see there is nothing to show that the lady is taken clandestinely or that this is not legal or actors are aware (in the scene) that it is an offence. What is coming out is that any pregnant woman can be taken to a centre with a sonogram machine and this can be done in a routine manner," said the court. "Don't trivialise it to show that anybody can walk into any clinic and get it done. The dramatization should be that they are aware (that it is illegal) but it is still being done," it further stated. Senior advocate Jayant Mehta, appearing for the filmmakers, said that the "movie is about something illegal" and carries a disclaimer concerning the illegality of the act in question.

HC: Fill up posts in settlement commission benches in 6 months

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■
NEW DELHI

The Delhi High Court on Monday directed the Centre to complete within six weeks the process of appointment of Chairman and a Member for the Principal Bench of the Customs, Central Excise and Service Tax Settlement Commission.

The HC further said that the process of appointment of Vice-Chairman and one member for the additional bench of the Commission at Mumbai be completed within six weeks. HC also directed the central government to examine the aspect of appointment of Vice-Chairman and other members for the benches of the Settlement Commission at Chennai and Kolkata.

"We firstly direct that the process of appointment of Chairman and one Member for the Principal Bench at Delhi and appointment of



Vice-Chairman and one Member for the Additional Bench at Mumbai be completed within six weeks. We further direct the respondents to examine the aspect of appointment of Vice-Chairman and other Members for the Benches at Chennai and Kolkata," a bench of Acting Chief Justice Vipin Sanghi and Justice Navin Chawla said.

The bench said that it hopes and expects the Government to act in time so that, at the end of one year, "We are not faced with the same situation again, when the tenure of the new appointees expires in terms of the decision communicated vide letter dated April 29, 2022 taken note of hereinabove". It asked the authorities to file a

further status report on the aspect before the next date of hearing, that is, July 20.

The court was hearing a petition by Yashpal Singh alleging that the Centre has failed to appoint members as required by law in the Settlement Commissions established under Central Excise Act, which is giving rise to pendency of applications.

Zoom fatigue more common among young, introvert women, says study

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

Video conference fatigue, commonly known as "Zoom fatigue", is more common among young and introvert women than others, according to a study published in International Journal of Environmental Research and Public Health. The researchers have also found a number of factors that they believe contribute to "Zoom fatigue".

Covid-19 pandemic induced a boom in both private and professional videoconferencing in the early 2020s that elicited controversial public and academic debates about its pros and cons.

One main concern has been the phenomenon of videoconference fatigue.

A group of researchers at Blekinge Institute of Technology in Sweden studied the phenomenon of video conference fatigue and concluded that age, gender and personality play a role in how tired you get.

"We have found direct evidence that age, gender and personality affect. For example, young introvert women are affected more than others. But Zoom fatigue depends on many factors, ranging from personal circumstances via the meeting's organisation and technology, to the environment in which the video conference takes place," said Markus Fiedler, researcher at the Institute.

However, the researchers believe that doing some simple things can reduce Zoom fatigue. These include not sched-

uling meetings one after the other; using simple technology; raising your hand if you want to speak during meetings and turning off the microphone and camera when it is not needed.

"Most likely, we are heading to a hybrid future with daily face-to-face and video-conference meetings that both should spare us from fatigue but save and even fuel our physical and mental energy," Fiedler said.

The researchers state that more research and evidence is needed when it comes to the contributing factors behind Zoom fatigue. They also mean that research is needed on other ways of communicating, for example, immersive experiences and technology.

CBI FIR against former staffer of Babul Supriyo in corruption case

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■
NEW DELHI/KOLKATA

The CBI has filed a corruption case against Sushanta Mallick, a former staffer of the then Minister of State for Heavy Industries and Public Enterprises Babul Supriyo, who quit BJP and joined Trinamool Congress a few months back.

Supriyo was the Heavy Industries Minister from July 2016 to May 2019.

Executives of Engineering Projects India Limited (EPIL), under the Ministry of Heavy Industries and Public Enterprises, were involved in corruption along with the then staffer of Supriyo, according to the FIR.

The then executives of EPIL conspired and demanded Rs 50 lakh from Ashutosh Bandhopadhyay, for providing favour for

the tenders awarded and being awarded by EPIL during the period 2016-2017.

"Verification has revealed that out of Rs 50 lakh, Rs 40 lakh were to be given to SPS Bakshi, the then CMD, EPIL and Rs 10 lakh were to be given to Harcharan Pal, the then Executive Director (Contracts) and Paritosh Kumar Praveen, the then Manager (Grade II), EPIL.

Verification has revealed that SPS Bakshi had got conveyed to Ashutosh Bandhopadhyay through RS Tyagi, the then DGM (contractual basis) that out of the bribe amount of Rs 40 lakh, Rs 5 lakh be transferred into the bank account of Sushanta Mallick, staff of the then Minister of State for Heavy Industries and Public Enterprises," reads the FIR.

The accused have been booked under Indian Penal Code section relating to crim-



inal conspiracy besides provisions of the Prevention of Corruption Act. The agency registered the case on Saturday evening.

Supriyo promptly reacted to the development he knew that something of this type would come to him and asking why a case dating back to 2016-17 had to be dug up now. "I knew something of this type was coming for me because I had left the BJP ... besides I have no idea as to why a case of 2016 was dug up now ... an FIR was lodged in 2021 and proceedings started in 2022," the former Union Minister said.

Covid-19 oral vax not only protects but also reduces its spread: Report

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■
NEW DELHI

A Covid-19 vaccine, designed to be taken orally, not only protects against the disease but also decreases the airborne spread of the SARS-CoV-2 virus to other close contacts, according to a study conducted on animals.

The research, published in the journal 'Science Translational Medicine', demonstrates the potential of the vaccine to work through the mucosal tissue to neutralise SARS-CoV-2, limiting infections and the spread of active virus in airborne particles.

"Considering most of the world is under-immunised -- and this is especially true of children -- the possibility that a vaccinated person with a breakthrough infection can spread Covid-19 to unimmunised family or community



members poses a public health risk," said Stephanie N Langel from Duke University Medical Center in the US.

"There would be a substantial benefit to develop vaccines that not only protect against disease, but also reduce transmission to unvaccinated people," Langel said in a statement.

The researchers -- including teams from the US vaccine

developer, Vaxart, and clinical research non-profit, Lovelace Biomedical Research Institute -- tested the vaccine that uses an adenovirus as a vector to express the spike protein of the virus.

The spike protein is used by SARS-CoV-2 to enter and infect the human cells.

The human vaccine is designed to be taken as a pill, they said.

In studies using hamsters, the vaccine elicited a robust antibody response in blood and the lungs.

When the animals were exposed to the SARS-CoV-2 virus at high levels, prompting breakthrough infections, they were less symptomatic than non-vaccinated hamsters, and had lower amounts of infectious virus in the nose and lungs.

Because of this, they did not shed as much virus through normal airborne

exposures, according to the researchers. Unlike vaccines that are injected into the muscle, they said, mucosal immunisations increase production of immunoglobulin A (IgA) -- the immune system's first line of defence against pathogens -- in the nose and lungs.

These mucosal ports of entry are then protected, making it less likely that those who are vaccinated will transmit infectious virus during a sneeze or cough, the researchers said.

"Our data demonstrate that mucosal immunisation is a viable strategy to decrease the spread of Covid-19 through airborne transmission," Langel said.

The researchers noted that the study focused on the original SARS-CoV-2 virus, and new studies will be designed to test the vaccine against Omicron variants.

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■
NEW DELHI

The India Meteorological Department (IMD) on Monday said severe cyclonic storm Asani packing gale-force winds up to 120 kmph which is moving towards the east coast bringing along heavy rain, is likely to recurve in a north-northeastward direction on reaching near the shore and weaken gradually into a cyclonic storm by Tuesday night.

Under the influence of the cyclone, coastal Odisha and adjoining areas of north coastal Andhra Pradesh and coastal West Bengal witnessed heavy rainfall.

The IMD said that very high sea conditions were likely to prevail over west-central and adjoining south Bay of

Bengal and asked fishermen not to venture out in the region from Tuesday for at least two days. It also advised that tourism activities in coastal areas and sea beaches be suspended till May 13.

In Odisha, two to three spells of rain occurred in districts such as Khurda, Ganjam, Puri, Cuttack and Bhadrak. The Odisha government on Monday planned evacuation of people residing in four coastal districts.

Distast warning signal 2 (asking ships not to come near the coast) has been hoisted in all ports in Odisha in view of the approaching severe cyclone. According to Dr IMD Director General Mrutunjay Mohapatra, the cyclone will not make landfall either in Odisha or Andhra Pradesh but will move parallel to the east coast and cause rainfall.

The cyclone is likely to cause heavy rain in the south-



ern part of West Bengal including Kolkata, Howrah, Purba Medinipur, North and South 24 Parganas and Nadia districts between Monday and Thursday, the weatherman said.

Kolkata and its adjoining areas received a spell of downpour on Monday morning, leading to waterlogging of thoroughfares and causing traffic snarls in various parts of the city.

The weather office in Ranchi said that Jharkhand

will experience light to moderate rainfall, besides lightning and thunderstorm, in its southern, central and northeast parts from May 11 to 13. Gusty winds at speed of 30 to 40 kmph are also expected in some pockets.

"Since the system is unlikely to make landfall on either Odisha or Andhra Pradesh, it will not make any large impact in Jharkhand. The state will experience a change in weather due to the system's expanded cloud band and the incursion of moisture from the Bay of Bengal," Ranchi meteorological centre in charge Abhishek Anand said.

The system is expected to provide further respite from the hot weather condition. Jharkhand's maximum temperature has already dropped by one to two degrees Celsius from the normal due to intermittent rains in parts of the state for the past few days.

Court notice to Ranas for breach of term for bail

T N RAGHUNATHA ■ MUMBAI

A Special Court in Mumbai issued a notice to Independent MP from Amravati Navneet Rana and her MLA-husband Ravi Rana for allegedly violating one of the bail conditions in the case involving their arrest over threat to recite “Hanuman Chalisa” in front of chief minister Uddhav Thackeray’s private residence “Matoshri” at Bandra in north-west Mumbai.

After hearing an application filed by the Mumbai police seeking cancellation of bail of the Rana couple for violating a bail condition, Special Judge RN Rokade for MPs and MLAs cases issued to Navneet and Ravi Rana and directed the couple to remain present in Court on May 18.

Ranas were arrested on April 23 for offences registered initially against them under sections 153A (causing enmi-

ty between different groups), 34 (common intention) and later under section 124A (sedition) of IPC for challenging the government machinery and making remarks against Maharashtra Chief Minister Uddhav Thackeray in a controversy arising out of their threat to recite “Hanuman Chalisa” in front of Maharashtra chief minister Uddhav Thackeray’s Bandra residence.

On April 24, a holiday court remanded the Ranas in judicial custody for 14 days. Special Judge Rokade granted them bail on May 4

In their application filed before the Special Court, the Mumbai police said that one of the bail conditions imposed on the Ranas was that they would not talk to the press on the subject. In one of the conditions imposed on the Ranas while granting bail on May 4, the court had said: “The applicants

shall not address the press, print or visual media on any of the subjects which relate to this case”. The police told the court that this condition was violated by the politician couple on Sunday.

In their application, the Mumbai police referred to the statement made by Navneet to the media after her discharge from the Lila Hospital on Sunday. “If reading of “Hanuman chalisa” is an offence I am ready to remain behind the bars for 14 years. ...The Ram Bhaktas and Hanuman Bhaktas all over India will teach you a lesson for putting me behind the bars. You have committed atrocity on me in the name of Ram and Hanuman. the people will show you as to what happens to the persons who oppose Ram and Hanuman,” the Mumbai police said in their application quoting Navneet’s statement to the media.

Navneet’s MLA-husband Ravi Rana – while interacting with the media – had charged that the MVA government took forcible action against his MP-wife as chief minister Uddhav Thackeray was “scared of her”. He alleged that the police treated Navneet and him badly denying them basic facilities at the police lockup on the first day of their arrest.

The police urged the court for issuance of non-bailable warrants of arrest against the couple.

Special Police Prosecutor Pradip Gharat argued that that their application was not for cancellation of bail but for issuance of non-bailable warrant against the Rana couple, as the bail order stipulated that violation of condition would entail cancellation of bail forthwith.

Alluding to a statement made by Navneet on Sunday daring Maharashtra chief min-

Sena leaders visit hospital to check Navneet’s claims

PNS ■ MUMBAI

Seeking to corner on the claims of ill-health made by Independent MP Navneet Rana, a team of senior Shiv Sena leaders visited Lilavati Hospital — where she was admitted after she was granted bail in the “Hanuman Chalisa” case — and questioned the doctors about the nature of treatment that she underwent at the hospital.

Immediately after the Sena team’s visit to the hospital, the H-West Ward Office of the Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation (BMC) issued a notice to the Lilavati Hospital seeking an explanation on sev-

eral alleged violations of medical norms that have come to light during the team’s visit to the hospital.

During the questioning of the doctors at the hospital, the Sena team — comprising

Dr. Manisha Kayande, former Mayor Kishori Pednekar who is a professional nurse, Rahul N Kanak and Anil S Kokil — sought details of the MRI scanning done on Navneet at the hospital and sought explanation for the ‘wrongdoings’ as seen in photos/videos circulated on social media in the past few days.

“How was ‘shooting’ of photographs and videos permitted inside the MRI room,

under what circumstances and who authorised it,” Dr. Kayande asked.

“Why were mobiles, cameras with metallic, electric or electronic devices allowed in the MRI room when it is banned as per the hospital rules for such sensitive locations,” Pednekar wanted to know. Kanak and Kokil wanted to know how certain ‘unauthorised persons’ were allegedly allowed entry to the VVIP patients’ room and even posing for selfies with the MP.

Dr. Kayande and Pednekar wondered how the lady MP – who had complained of severe back pain and spondylosis – was made to lie on her back, how she

lifted her head when being rolled inside the MRI machine.

“When she was rushed to the hospital, she appeared in great distress... then all these pictures/videos came out and on Sunday she was discharged, she looked hale and hearty. She looked absolutely fit and fine, quite contrary to her earlier severe medical condition. That’s why we have raised our doubts,” Dr. Kayande said.

During its visit, the Sena leaders handed over a letter to the Hospital COO & Senior Consultant, Lt.Gen.(ret’d) Dr. V. Ravishankar seeking replies to the purported irregularities perpetrated during Navneet’s hospitalisation.

NIA raids Dawood’s associates; seizes incriminating evidence

T N RAGHUNATHA ■ MUMBAI

The National Investigation Agency (NIA) on Monday carried out raids at 24 places in Mumbai and five places in the adjoining Mira-Bhayandar in a case filed against D (Dawood)-company for various criminal activities, including arms smuggling, narco-terrorism, money laundering, allegedly indulged in by Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT) and three other international terrorist organisations.

During the raids conducted on premises belonging to suspected associates of Dawood Ibrahim, the NIA seized various incriminating materials including electronic devices, documents of investments in real estate, cash and firearms.

The raids were conducted as part of the investigations into a case pertaining to terror/criminal activities of the international terrorist network of D-Company involving Dawood



Ibrahim Kaskar and his associates including Haji Anees alias Anees Ibrahim Shaikh, Shakeel Shaikh alias Chhota Shakeel, Javed Patel & Javed Chikna and Ibrahim Mushtaq Abdul Razzaq Memon alias Tiger Memon.

The NIA said that the Dawoods and his associates were indulging in arms smuggling, narco-terrorism, money laundering, circulation of Fake Indian Currency Notes (FICN) and were in unauthorised possession/involved in acquisition of key assets for raising terror funds and working in active collaboration with international terrorist organization Including Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT), Jaish-e-Mohammad (JeM) and Al Qaeda (AQ).

Didi slams CBI for failing to find Tagore’s stolen Nobel Prize; BJP blames TMC

SAUGAR SENGUPTA ■ KOLKATA

On a day Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee lamented the failure of the Central Bureau of Investigation to track the Nobel medallion of Poet Laureate Rabindranath Tagore, senior Bengal BJP leader Rahul Sinha on Monday alleged it was her Trinamool Congress that had links with the Nobel theft.

Sinha, a former State BJP president, recalled how the Chief Minister once asked the CBI to transfer the case to the State police which would in no time track down the medallion that was stolen from Shantiniketan about 15 years ago.

“The Chief Minister once claimed that “if CBI cannot recover the Nobel medallion then the case should be given to the State police which would track it down in no time ... Truth to be told TMC had connections with the Nobel theft ... they are involved in all kinds of illegal activities ... this is proved by the TMC



Government’s non-cooperation with CBI in tracking the Nobel medallion,” Sinha said inviting immediate response from Trinamool Congress spokesperson Kunal Ghosh who reminded “when Nobel prize was stolen TMC was not in power.

Sinha’s comment came on a day when the Chief Minister while addressing the intelligentsia on the occasion of Tagore’s 161st birth anniversary expressed her displeasure at how the central investigating agency failed to track down “Asia’s Nobel Medallion.”

Tagore was the first Asian to win a Nobel Prize in the year 1913. He won it for his contri-

bution to literature.

She said “it hurts me to recall how the Nobel Prize which was stolen during the Left Front rule could not be recovered ... the CBI which was responsible for cracking the case could not do so after so many years ... it is the first Nobel Prize that came to Asia ... It is really shameful to recall how the medallion was stolen and how it continues not to be found.”

Earlier TMC mouthpiece Jago Bangla gave out a strong message to the central agency demanding immediate recovery of the Nobel medallion. The article read “Listen CBI. We want the Nobel Prize back.”

Incidentally the CBI has been investigating about a dozen cases of corruption and violence related to the Trinamool Congress functionaries. Much to the chagrin of the Bengal ruling outfit the Calcutta High Court last month transferred at least five cases of violence and corruption — involving a senior Bengal minister — to the CBI.

AMU teacher gives triple talaq to wife; case lodged

PRADEEP SAXENA ■ ALIGARH

In the Aligarh district of Uttar Pradesh, a case of an AMU assistant professor has come to the fore of giving triple talaq to his wife. The case has been registered against Asad, assistant professor of Aligarh Muslim University (AMU) at Qwarsi police station for dowry harassment and giving triple talaq to his wife. It is alleged that before marriage, it was decided to get her M.Tech done, but after marriage instead of getting her educated, they started harassing her for dowry. The police have started investigation by registering a case against the professor husband and other in-laws and efforts are on to arrest him.

According to the lawsuit filed by Farheen Izhar, a resident of Iqra Colony Pool House, she was married on November 9, 2021, with Asad Mohammad, Assistant



Professor in the Faculty of Computer Engineering, AMU. Before marriage, it was decided to do M.Tech, but after marriage, the in-laws retracted and started asking for ten lakh rupees in dowry, land or flat from her. During this, then they started harassing her by making various allegations and left her at the maternal home on 14 February. Under compulsion, the woman took refuge in the court and filed a domestic violence and cost suit, whose notice reached the in-laws’ house. Due to this the in-laws

got upset.

It is alleged that on the morning of May 6, she was going from Nizami Pulia with her sister-in-law. Then the husband left her on the way after giving her triple talaq. In this case, apart from the husband, a case has been registered against brother in law Alam, Anas, mother-in-law, in which there is also an allegation of threatening over the phone. Inspector Qwarsi said that a case has been registered under sections of Dowry, Harassment and Muslim Marriage Act.

Padmarajan files nomination for world record

KUMAR CHELLAPPAN ■ KOCHI

What makes the by-election in the Thrikkakara assembly constituency near Ernakulam scheduled for May 31 is the presence of 63-year-old K Padmarajan in the arena. This is the 229th election being fought by this small-time businessman from Mettur in Salem district. While Uma Thomas (Congress) and Dr Joe Joseph (CPI-M), the main candidates are fighting it out to be victorious, Padmarajan has no such intentions. He is on a mission to create a world record and enter the Guinness Book of World Record as the candidate who has contested the highest number of elections and lost them all.

Padmarajan was the first candidate to submit the nomination papers when the returning officer began accepting the same last Monday. After filing the nomination papers he returned to Mettur, his native village in Salem where he has a mini tyre ser-

vice shop. “My nomination papers are faultless and the officials would not reject it,” he told The Pioneer. But his attempts to contest the presidential elections and Rajya Sabha elections failed as the papers were rejected for insufficient number of nominators.

“My father wants to tell the world that democracy is functional and kicking in India. His message is that anyone in the country could contest the Lok Sabha or Legislative Assembly. I always support him in this venture which he started in 1988,” said Sreejesh, his son. Padmarajan has spent Rs 50 lakh since 1988 to file the nominations. Except when his papers were rejected during the presidential and Rajya Sabha polls, he had to forfeit the security deposits.

The name of Padmarajan



figures in India Book of Records as well as Limca Book of Records which have honoured the man with the title All India Election King. But do not be under the impression that he has not polled any votes in these bouts. When he contested the 2019 Lok Sabha election from Wynad in Kerala where the Congress chief Rahul Gandhi was the principal candidate, Padmarajan polled, hold

your breath, 1850 votes and that too without any campaigning.

Padmarajan is an inspiration for A N Radhakrishnan, the BJP candidate at Thrikkakkara. Radhakrishnan is contesting his 7th election, having lost in all the six previous hustings. But the BJP candidate is optimistic despite him biting the dust in all the six outings.

Akhilesh may not support ally RLD chief Jayant for RS entry

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

Samajwadi Party is unlikely to support the candidature of its ally and Rashtriya Lok Dal president Jayant Chaudhary for the Rajya Sabha.

The terms and conditions agreed upon between the two parties for the pre-poll alliance for UP assembly elections included a seat in Rajya Sabha for Jayant Chaudhary.

“The Samajwadi Party leadership may rescind its offer of Rajya Sabha seat to Jayant Chaudhary, Jayant Chaudhary is not indispensable for us. The SP has many Jat leaders and giving Rajya Sabha seat to Jayant Chaudhary will bring no additional benefits for us, a SP leader said.

However, a former MLC of the Samajwadi Party said, “If the SP fails to support the candidature of Jayant Chaudhary then its alliance

with the RLD will end and the party will suffer a huge setback in western UP.”

Sources in the Samajwadi Party said the visit of Jayant Chaudhary to Rampur where he met the family members of jailed SP MLA Mohammad Azam Khan and his visits to other places along with Bhim army chief Chandrasekar had not gone down well with SP chief Akhilesh Yadav.

“Jayant Chaudhary, after meeting the wife and son of Azam Khan in Rampur, had said the family was in trouble and that was why he visited them in Rampur. This is a clear instance of interference in the internal affairs of the Samajwadi Party and this is unacceptable,” a SP MLA said and added, “This is clearly a red signal to the Samajwadi Party.”

Moreover, the MLA said the action of Jayant Chaudhary clearly demonstrated that he

could join hands with Shivpal Singh Yadav and Azam Khan and pose a big challenge to the leadership of Akhilesh Yadav.

“If Akhilesh Yadav denies Rajya Sabha seat to Jayant Chaudhary, then he will scout for new partners. If this happens then the Samajwadi Party will lose support in western UP and also face difficulty in keeping together the flock of 34 Muslim MLAs who won the 2022 UP assembly elections,” he added.

The sources said, “Akhilesh Yadav has the immediate task of healing the widening schism with the allies otherwise they may go for better options. The Rajya Sabha elections and presidential elections in July will reveal whether Akhilesh Yadav is a shrewd politician or has failed in the quicksand of UP politics.

After losing four elections

in the last eight years (2014 and 2019 Lok Sabha polls and 2017 and 2022 UP assembly elections), Akhilesh Yadav is struggling to strengthen his control over the party and thwart attempts by his estranged uncle Shivpal Yadav to sabotage the political interests of the Samajwadi Party. Akhilesh Yadav also wants to contain the dissent by accommodating the allies in Rajya Sabha, for which elections are to be held in July. As many as 11 Rajya Sabha members from Uttar Pradesh are retiring in July.

Samajwadi Party and its allies have 125 members in the UP assembly — 111 members of the SP, six of Suheldev Bhartiya Samaj Party and eight of Rashtriya Lok Dal. If the SP-led alliance contests the Rajya Sabha elections unitedly, its three candidates can be elected to the Rajya Sabha.

PM to attend UP groundbreaking ceremony for ₹70,000 cr projects

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

Prime Minister Narendra Modi will inaugurate the third groundbreaking ceremony to be held in Lucknow on June 3.

The ceremony will be held at Indira Gandhi Pratishthan.

With this ceremony, work on industrial projects worth Rs 70,000 crore would commence. This would be the third groundbreaking ceremony under the Yogi Adityanath government in the last five years.

Top personalities of Indian corporate world are likely to be present in the ceremony.

Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath on Monday reviewed the preparations for the ceremony and issued necessary instructions to the officials.

In the proposed ceremony

scheduled in the first week of June, chairmen, chief executive officers and directors of Adani group, Microsoft India, Reliance Industries, Hiranandani Group, Birla’s, ITC Group along with many other prominent corporate houses would be present.

In the programme, work would begin on more than 1,500 industrial projects worth Rs 70,000 crore. Among the prominent projects that would take off in the ceremony are Rs 4,900-crore and Rs 9,100-crore data centres of Adani and Hiranandani groups respectively along with Rs 2,100-crore software development centres of Microsoft.

Besides, the work on cement manufacturing plant of Rs 600 crore by Dalmia Group in Mirzapur and detergent plant of Hindustan Unilever Limited would also begin.

According to the officials of the Industrial Development department of UP, of the projects beginning in the ceremony Rs 21,000 crore investment is in the information technology (IT) and electronic sector only. Besides, many other projects of micro, small and medium enterprises (MSME), textile, tourism, energy, food processing and pharma would also begin.

It may be mentioned that during the previous tenure of Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath, an Investors’ Summit was held in Lucknow on February 21 and 22 in 2018 in which 1,065 memorandums of understanding worth Rs 4.65 lakh crore were signed. In the presence of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, a large number of MoUs were signed for big infrastructure projects of UP.

Rajbhar claims UP Opp leadership for 2024 LS election

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

Suheldev Bhartiya Samaj Party (SBSP) president Om Prakash Rajbhar, an ally of Samajwadi Party, has struck a discordant note. Though his party is part of the Samajwadi Party led alliance, Rajbhar is claiming to lead from the front for forging a coalition of parties against the Bharatiya Janata Party, for 2024 Lok Sabha elections.

Rajbhar, however, said the Samajwadi Party-led alliance that contested the 2022 assembly election in Uttar Pradesh would remain. “The alliance with Akhilesh Yadav, Sanjay Chauhan and Jayant

Chaudhary will continue,” he said. Rajbhar, the former BJP ally in Uttar Pradesh, walked out of the alliance over the reservation issue and joined the opposition led by Samajwadi Party chief Akhilesh Yadav and contested the recently concluded assembly elections in alliance with the SP.

Rajbhar said he recently met Trinamool Congress chief and West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee, Nationalist Congress Party chief Sharad Pawar, Shiv Sena president and Maharashtra Chief Minister Uddhav Thackeray and Rashtriya Janata Dal chief Lalu Prasad Yadav.

SHO, SI in Meerut suspended for seeking bribe to remove accused’s name from FIR

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

The Station House Officer (SHO) of an all-women police station and a lady Sub-Inspector in Meerut district have been suspended on charges of demanding a bribe of Rs 1 lakh to remove the name of an accused in a case, officials disclosed.

A case of corruption has been registered against the two at the Civil Lines police station and departmental inquiry has also been ordered against them, according to the officials.

Meerut’s Superintendent of Police (City) Vineet Bhatnagar said that investigating officer, Sub-Inspector Ritu Kajla, and Monika Jindal, the SHO of the all-women police station, had demanded Rs 1 lakh from an Army jawan, to remove his name from the



list of accused in a case.

He added that Senior Superintendent of Police Prabhakar Chaudhary had asked the SP (Rural) to probe the matter, and in the inquiry Jindal and Ritu Kajla were found to be guilty. He said based on the probe report, a case had been registered against both the officers.

Both the female police personnel were suspended on the orders of the SSP, Bhatnagar said. The incident came to light when the Army jawan made a video of the two police

officers demanding money and complained against them to the SSP.

Meanwhile in Khwajipur village under Pachdevra police station of Hardoi district, two children drowned in the river.

Four children, Titu (8) son of Hukum Singh of Khwajipur village in Pachdevra police station area, his friends Pappu (12), Maruti (9) and Prem (7), were grazing cattle on the banks of river Garra on Sunday evening. After some time they went to bathe in the river and started drowning.

While two children were rescued in time by the villagers, the other two drowned in the river. The divers recovered the bodies of both the children from the river. The deceased were identified as Titu and Pappu. The police registered a case and sent the bodies for post-mortem.

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PAPER WITH PASSION

Reprieve for widows

Village bansarchaic widowhood practices forced on women

A remote Maharashtra village has shown India how to stop Brahminical social tyranny against widows. It just takes a collective, conscious decision to make it happen. Herwad village in Kolhapur district has banned regressive customs that force a woman into widowhood after the death of her husband. Women losing their husbands will no longer have to perform rituals like breaking bangles, wiping off ‘kumkum’ (vermillion), and removing the ‘mangalsutra’ (symbol of Hindu marriage). These ancient customs were hitherto seriously enforced, especially in Brahmin homes, and later co-opted by other castes, to distinguish widows from other women. Widows were also discouraged by their families to attend celebrations like marriages where their presence was considered unlucky. These rituals are practiced even today in many Hindu households across the country even though the winds of social reforms are sweeping across. Herwad’s urge for change came about after it lost over a dozen men to COVID-19. The villagers could not bear to see the rituals adding to the misery of the new widows. They eventually passed the resolution and will now launch an awareness campaign about the ban on widow customs. The decision of this small village stands alongside revolutionary social reforms like the end of “sati” and allowing widow remarriage. The progressive sections of the society and Governments in the States and at the Centre should take over the baton from Herwad.



It is significant that this village falls in Kolhapur district, considered the social reform capital of Maharashtra. The panchayat resolution coincided with the death anniversary of the erstwhile ruler of Kolhapur state, Chhatrapati Sahuji Maharaj, who is credited with introducing social reforms and loosening the Brahmin stranglehold over religion, culture and society. The man who introduced reservation in India by allocating 50 per cent of all vacancies to the backward classes, was instrumental in banning the Devadasi system and child marriages and legalising widow remarriages and inter-caste marriages. Women’s rights and reforms for Dalits eventually brought in remarkable social changes in the State. The development of roads and rapid urbanisation allowed new ideas to trickle into the villages, thus weakening the age-old social hierarchies. Much of rural Maharashtra is now semi-urban. Urban migration led to a large-scale division of land and that impacted traditional agricultural practices. The services industry entered the rural areas in a big way. Greater participation of women in education, work and entrepreneurship loosened the grip of archaic customs because women spend as much time as men outside their homes. However, the total emancipation of widows is still a distant goal. A majority of the widows in India are unaware of their legal rights. Confined to home, mostly uneducated and burdened by patriarchy, they have no idea about their rights to inheritance, maintenance, adoption, and right to property after remarriage. Older widows are mistreated by their families or are left in old-age homes. Their lack of economic independence is their undoing. Making them aware of their rights is the way forward.



People take a stroll after rain at Ridge in Shimla

PTI

AAP lays out its goal

Kejriwal unveils ambitious plan to make AAP a pan-India force

Speaking at a function in Nagpur on Sunday, Delhi chief minister Arvind Kejriwal revealed his goal for 2024 saying he would like to connect with 130 crore people of the country and not rely on stitching together an alliance to defeat “anyone”. It is obvious that Kejriwal wants to use the 2024 Lok Sabha polls to turn AAP into a national outfit and take its footprint across the nation. It will be an understatement to say that Kejriwal is an ambitious man. Kejriwal is not only ambitious but he is also endowed with patience and perseverance. Establishing the AAP rule in Delhi was only the first step for him. Now that his party has captured power in Punjab, Kejriwal has set his eyes on the 2024 Lok Sabha polls. Undeterred by the fact that outside Delhi and Punjab his party has a limited support base, Kejriwal seems determined to make AAP a major player in the Lok Sabha polls two years from now. Even an ambitious and determined person like him would know that it would be impossible for him to give a direct fight to the BJP in the next general elections. To do that, Kejriwal will have to push aside Congress in several key states and occupy the number two slots there.

Already, AAP has created a buzz in Gujarat and Himachal Pradesh, where Congress is busy with suicidal infighting. Unlike the Congress, which is drifting aimlessly without a settled leadership, AAP has a decisive leader. Secondly, unlike senior Congress leader Rahul Gandhi, who is always in the news for his foreign jaunts, Kejriwal is engaged in 24x7 politics. Kejriwal will know well that if he wants to someday rule the country, he will have to first defeat the Congress., then only he can dream to be in the final. Kejriwal cannot even ream to turn the 2024 Lok Sabha contest into an AAP Vs BJP duel, but in 2029 he could hope to mobilise enough resources to take on the saffron outfit provided the Congress did not do a course correction. Kejriwal may or may not achieve his ambition, but one thing is clear: he is ready to work for it, and has the patience to wait.



Why they opt out of job market?

Gender imbalance in employment and opportunities of earning livelihood needs immediate correction by drawing the attention of the Government & policy makers

India is a society of “young people”. With a demographic profile of 65 per cent of the population below 35 years of age, obviously, the country has a lot of advantages. Youths are generally upbeat, vibrant, motivated, more enthusiastic, having more energy, ready to work for long hours, take lesser days of leave and are willing to work for a lower pay. Unfortunately, the situation is just the opposite in India. The data from the Centre for Monitoring Indian Economy (CMIE) indicates that India’s Labour Force Participation Rate (LFPR) has fallen to 40 per cent from 47 per cent in 2016. It is a clear indication that more than half of India’s population in the working age group is deciding to opt out of the job market. To be more specific, fewer youth in the 20-24 age group are working or looking for employment. In 2017, about 49 per cent of them were part of the labour force which dropped to 38 per cent in 2021-22. This should have caused a sharp decline in their employment rate. Yet, despite that sharp 11 percentage point decline in their LFPR, the unemployment rate in the 20-24 age group rose from 32 per cent in 2016-17 to 48 per cent in 2021-22, which shows that nearly half of those in their early 20s, who wanted to work, are unemployed.

Before going further, let us have a basic understanding about certain important terminologies. We need to define the Labour Force (LF) which, according to CMIE, consists of persons who are of 15 years of age and older and belong to the two categories: first employed, and second unemployed who are willing to work and are actively looking for a job. LFPR is the percentage of the working age group, i.e. 15 years or older population that is seeking jobs; it represents the “demand” for jobs in an economy and includes both those who are employed and those who are unemployed. The Unemployment Rate (UER) is the number of unemployed (category 2) as a proportion of the labour force. We, generally, expect that the LFPR will, by and large, remain stable. So, any analysis of unemployment in an economy can be done just by looking at the UER.



However, the case of India is different from the rest of the world as the LFPR here is not only lower, but, falling. This affects the UER because the LFPR is the base, i.e. the denominator on which the UER is calculated. The LFPR is around 60 per cent the world over, but, in India, it has been sliding over the last decade and shrunk from 47 per cent in 2016 to 40 per cent in 2021.

The interpretation of data on employment shows that the jobs are available, but, the salaries are so low that they don’t attract young people. So, they either prefer to remain unemployed or to altogether get out of the workforce. This is truer in the case of graduates and postgraduates because there is a total mismatch between education and job industry. This leads to a frustrating situation because, initially, they are offered jobs which are below their qualification and dignity which they decline, but, later on having no choice they are forced to accept the same jobs. Looking at the global employment workforce data, we find that in rich countries, the LFPR is about 60 per cent; in poor countries, it is about 65 per cent; and in lower middle income countries like India, about 53 per cent of those in the working age population are in the labour force.

According to CMIE data, five years ago, India’s LFPR was 48 per cent which consisted of

“not just those who were working or were looking for work, but, also of those who wanted to work, but were not actively seeking it. An additional 60 million people should have joined the labour force by 2021-22 if our LFPR had stayed at that level. Instead, our labour force has dropped by 22 million and the LFPR has come down to 42 per cent. Some 575 million people should have been either working or looking for jobs if the LFPR had been similar to that of other lower-middle income countries.

Instead, our labour force consists of just 452 million which means about 120 million people who should participate have withdrawn from it. For clarity, let us assume that there are 100 people in the working age group, but only 60 ask for jobs, i.e. the LFPR is 60 per cent. Out of them, 6 don’t get the job. This would imply a UER of 10 per cent. Now, let us consider a different situation, when the LFPR has fallen to 40 per cent and, as such, only 40 people are demanding work. Out of them, only 2 people fail to get a job. The UER would have fallen to 5 per cent and it would have appeared that the economy is doing better on the jobs front. But, in reality, beyond the 2 who are unemployed, a total of 20 people have stopped demanding work. Typically, this happens when people in the working age get disheartened by not finding

quality work of their choice. Something similar has happened in the case of India. Every time when the LFPR falls, the UER also falls because fewer people are now demanding jobs — giving an incorrect impression to policymakers that the situation has improved.

Several reasons are attributed to such a dismal situation. The official government version is that a large number of young people of 15-19 age group are enrolled in schools and colleges and are not inclined towards taking jobs. Another reason given is that the emergence of affluent middle class families has made the demands of jobs irrelevant which seems unlikely. Yet another reason is that many young people have shifted to their villages during the pandemic and have started their own businesses or taken jobs under MNERGA. Distribution of free ration has made the workforce idle is quoted as one of the reasons. However, the most convincing answer is women leaving the workforce in large numbers and pushing down the overall labour force participation. According to CMIE data, in December 2021, while the male LFPR was 67.4 per cent, the female LFPR was as low as 9.4 per cent. In 2021, the overall unemployment rate for men was about 9 per cent, whereas for women it was 27 per cent, the situation being worse in urban areas where women unemployment rate is 36 per cent, three times that of men. Main reasons being adverse and insecure working conditions, discrimination at work and societal norms, low wages, violence against women, etc. This gender imbalance in employment and opportunities of earning livelihood needs immediate correction. Undoubtedly, the unemployment situation is serious and demands immediate attention of the government and policy makers.

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



BRIJENDER SINGH PANWAR

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

MORE TROUBLE FOR RANAS

Sir — According to a report, the Mumbai Police has filed an application in a special court for cancellation of the bail given to Independent MP Navneet Rana and her MLA-husband Ravi Rana, accused in a sedition case following a row over the recitation of Hanuman Chalisa.

The police want the couple’s bail to be cancelled as it violated one of the conditions imposed by the special court while granting them bail last week. Navneet, the Lok Sabha member from Amravati in Maharashtra, and her husband Ravi, the legislator from Badnera in Amravati, were arrested by the Mumbai police on April 23 after they announced that they would recite the Hanuman Chalisa outside Chief Minister Uddhav Thackeray’s private residence ‘Matoshree’ in Bandra area. They were booked on charges of sedition and prompting enmity between different groups. The special court had on May 4 granted bail to the couple and imposed some conditions on them, including not to indulge in a similar offence and not to speak to the media. On Monday May 9, the Khar police filed an application through a special public prosecutor, seeking that the court cancel the couple’s bail as they had allegedly violated the condition of not speaking to the media. With this development there is more trouble for the couple duo.

Bhagwan Thadani | Mumbai

PRIVATISING SCHOOLS

Sir — The Constitution (Eighty-Sixth Amendment) Act, 2002 incorporated Article 21-A in the Constitution of India to provide free and compulsory education to all children in the age of six to fourteen years as a fundamental right. The development has come at a time when effort is on to privatise education, setting aside the Eighty-Sixth Amendment.

Data between September 2018 and September 2019 shows that the number of government schools in the country has reduced by 51 thousand. The number of

U-turn on Pattina Pravesam



The revocation of the ban on Pattina Pravesam, a ceremony in which the head of the Dharmapuram Adheenam, is carried on a palanquin in Tamil Nadu’s Mayiladuthurai represents a temporary setback in the cause of progressivism. That the MK Stalin-led Government has chosen to take a politically convenient expedient decision instead of sticking to its decision to ban the practice of “men carrying man” has disappointed all progressive-minded people. Clearly, Stalin was amenable to being persuaded by the pontiffs to do a U-turn and accord his consent for the event. That the palanquin is carried by devotees “of their own volition after penance” is no justification in that devotees too are human beings

who cannot forgo or forfeit or be stripped of their dignity. The contention that it is a 500-year-old customary practice does not hold good for the simple reason that tradition is no excuse to perpetuate a practice that does not stand the test of human dignity. Those who invoke piety to justify the custom should know that piety devoid of self-respect is misplaced. The act of carrying a fellow human being, however exalted he may be, on the shoulders by a clutch of people cannot be said to be a spiritual exercise. Priests and pontiffs could be venerable figures and mutts could be venerable institutions.

But there should be more acceptable ways to show them veneration. Seers should claim no special privileges like being carried in decorated palanquins by virtue of them being seers; they should learn to live as equals with everybody else. It is only fair to say that practices that are incompatible with human equality even if they are centuries old and have religious sanction should be discarded for good. In this day and age we cannot countenance a practice that is manifestly dehumanising and sanctifies “hierarchy” in the spiritual realm.

G David Milton | Tamil Nadu

private schools has increased from 11 thousand 7 hundred in the same period. Putting education in the hands of businessmen is not a good sign as the poor will find it hard to get education. On one hand, there is talk of bringing revolution in the field of education with the new education policy and on the other hand, by handing it over to the merchants, only the wealthy are being ensured access to it. What is the contradiction?

Jang Bahadur Singh | Jamshedpur

OFFLINE, ONLINE EDUCATION

Sir — The ongoing debate that both online and offline mode of education is good for students is highly appreciated.

For the most effective result, educational experts should discuss the subject threadbare.

Projector and screen classes and animation classes should be termed as online classes as they reduce time of drawing big figures on the board (for subjects such as Biology, Physics, Chemistry and others). This hybrid classification can greatly help students with better understanding of the subject. Online education saves time of writing and drawing.

Rishi Nivriti Ridhi | Secunderabad

Send your feedback to: letterstopioneer@gmail.com

SOUND BITE

Narendra Modi has done so with greater frequency and perseverance than any politician in the past 75 years.



Home Minister — Amit Shah

Effective immediately I have tendered my resignation as Prime Minister to the President.



Sri Lanka’s Prime Minister — Mahinda Rajapaksa

“Today the emotion is so strong, films have become so big that the lines have blurred and it’s become Indian cinema.”



South Actor — Mahesh Babu

“My body is like an old machine. To put this machine on again it takes some time.”



Spanish Tennis Player — Rafael Nadal

Focus on managing our economy, not media headlines




Congress leader — Rahul Gandhi

FIRST COLUMN

UNIFICATION OF MCD FOR STRUCTURAL REFORMS

Functional domain of MCD must be restored, clear duties assigned



K K PANDEY

Delhi Municipal Corporation (Amendment) Act 2022 and NCTD (Amendment) Act 2021 specify the governance structure of Delhi. The 2022 Act has introduced unification of three municipal corporation of Delhi (MCDs) on the grounds of equity (tackling uneven municipal revenue), optimal utilisation of resources, transparency, and improved governance with overarching powers to centre to control MCD, reduction of the seats (272 -250) ,removal the office of Director Local Bodies and inclusion of e-governance system for citizen centricity along with efficiency in expenditure (Rs 1500 million annually) with one Mayor and Commissioner in place of three, 25 committees in place of 75.The 2021 Act places LG as Government of NCTD consolidating overall governance with representative of centre. Yet it is noted that (i) the three-tier governance structure in Delhi is different from other states;(ii)One or other municipal functions are delivered by each of the three tiers; and (iii) Accountability at grassroot level is fairly diversified at the cost of citizen



centricity and grievance redressal. Accordingly, current structure of MCD emerging from the three governance characteristics has over a period of time developed five main weaknesses such as (i) erosion of functional domain with gradually withdrawal of functions namely Water, sewage, PWD roads, in-situ slum development and rehousing, city transport, poverty alleviation and electricity,(ii) dilution of role of Mayor with Inadequate (one year) tenure (iii) lack of downward accountability below town hall/zonal level of municipal administration , (iv)widening of resource gap to meet expenditure requirement even at current level of assignments and (v)absence of inter -ULB (urban local Body) coordination in the cityregion (Gurugram, Faridabad, Kundli, NOIDA, and Ghaziabad popularly known as central NCR) pertaining to waste management,connectivity, mobility,pollution control and disaster management. MCD is also expected to perform tasks towards achievement of objectives of MPD 2041 (a future ready, 24*7 city), green blue policy (interim agenda of COP 26 and zero carbon city 2070) along with implementation of Gol urban missions and NCAP (National Clean Air Programme).Therefore,structural reforms should be considered. First, the functional domain of MCD may be restored with the assignment of functions as handled by mega cities in India and elsewhere covering local economic development, slum improvement and development /delivery or control on water, sanitation,city transport and electricity, etc. Second,the tenure of Mayor should be 2.5 or 5 years.The Mayor and commissioner should have adequate powers and authority for mutual coordination and complimentary role. Third, the decentralization below the zone should have institutional arrangements likeward committees with local councillor as chairperson and local representatives (women, professionals, weaker sections) and a nodal officer from ULB as in Bengaluru.The committee should prepare micro plan for waste management, drainage and other local serviceswith 750/1000 households using the proactive community leaders and NGOs including exclusive allocation and bottom-up budgeting.Bengaluru (fastest mover megacity:2021)has achieved 53% segregation and decentralized treatment of waste as a landmark for megacitiesand drastic reduction in the waste going to landfill. Fourth, the innovative methods of resource mobilization for capex and opex should be used covering monetization of land,land value captureand municipal bonds and long-pending revision of property tax rates. Fifth, MCD should play the mother city role on jurisdictional and distributional issueswith other ULBs.Finally, there is also a need to deliberate on overall governance issue on functional domain of vertical and horizontal layers of governance so as to make the capital city at par with similar governance structures elsewhere. The transition period of next MCD elections provide an opportunity to deliberate and decide on these issues amicably. (The writer is Coordinator, Centre for Urban Studies, Indian Institute of Public Administration, New Delhi. The views expressed are personal.)

Reining in fertilizer subsidy in India

From an already high of ₹ 83,000 crore during 2019-20, the subsidy could cross ₹200,000 crore during 2022-23.

Fertilizer subsidy or payments made to manufacturers or importers to cover the excess of the cost of production/import and distribution over a low maximum retail price (MRP) - they are asked by the Union Government to charge from the farmers -has increased by leaps and bounds during the last three years. From an already high of ₹83,000 crore during 2019-20, it increased to ₹138,000 crore during 2020-21, ₹162,000 crore during 2021-22 and could cross ₹200,000 crore mark during 2022-23.

Is there a way this escalating trend could be reined in?

Subsidy payments are made under two broad categories of fertilizers viz. (i) urea; (ii)phosphate or 'P' and potash or 'K' fertilizers - also branded as non-urea fertilizers. For determining how much payment is made, apart from the quantum of use, we need to focus on two overarching factors: (i) MRP and (ii) cost of supply.

In case of urea, the Government exercises 'mandatory' control on MRP and reimburses the manufacturers for the excess of cost over it as subsidy on a 'unit-specific' basis under the New Pricing Scheme (NPS). As for non-urea fertilizers, it fixes 'uniform' subsidy on per nutrient basis for all manufacturers and importers under the Nutrient Based Scheme (NBS).

There is a fundamental difference in the policy for the two categories. In case of urea, farmers are assured of a fixed (albeit low) MRP even as the manufacturers or importers get reimbursement for all increases in the cost of supply as higher subsidy. In case of non-urea fertilizers however, the producers/importers get a fixed subsidy while, they are free to increase MRP to reflect increase in the cost.

This has led to sharp increase in the prices of P&K fertilizers even as the MRP of urea remained unchanged. Resulting imbalance in price ratio (during 2020-21, the price of di-ammonium phosphate or DAP - a widely used 'P' fertilizer - was 4.5 times that of urea)has contributed to increasingimbalance in fertilizer use and adverse effect on crop yield, soil health, environment etc.

The government started 2021-22 with this policy bias against non-urea fertilizers which received an allocation of ₹21,000 crore against ₹59,000 crore for urea. But, steep increase in international prices of P&K fertilizers(price of DAP more than doubled over the previous year while, price of urea and muriate of potash or MOP went up three times each) forced Modi to change its stance.

To maintain MRP at same level as during 2020-21, in May, 2021, the government increased subsidy on DAP from ₹10,000 per ton to ₹24,000 per ton. In October, 2021, it was further increased to ₹32,760 per ton (subsidy on three other commonly used P&K fertilizers - was also increased by ₹2000 per ton each). As a result, the actual subsidy payment on non-urea fertilizers was about ₹57,000 crore - ₹36,000



THE GOVERNMENT SHOULD STOP ROUTING SUBSIDY THROUGH MANUFACTURERS AND GIVEN IT AS DBT TO FARMERS ON PER HECTARE BASIS. THE MANUFACTURERS SHOULD BE FREE TO SELL AT MARKET DETERMINED PRICE.

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



crore higher than budget allocation (BE).

Subsidy payment on urea was ₹105,000 crore - ₹46,000 crore higher than BE (courtesy, increase in price of imported urea and price of natural gas). Overall, during 2021-22, the Government spent ₹162,000 crore on fertilizer subsidy.

For 2022-23, in the hope that prices would decline, the Finance Minister, Nirmala Sitharaman reduced allocation for fertilizer subsidy to ₹105,000 crore including ₹60,000 crore on urea and ₹45,000 crore on non-urea fertilizers. But thanks to the Ukraine crisis, these numbers have gone haywire. Given the profound implications of war, the prices are expected to further increase from the 2021-22 level and stay high for the whole year.

In this backdrop, the government has further hiked subsidy on DAP to ₹50,000 per ton (like-wise on other P&K). As a result, the spend during Kharif (April - September) 2022 alone would be ₹61,000 crore. For the whole year, it may touch ₹100,000 crore. With subsidy on urea also expected to be much higher than the BE, the total outgo on fertilizer subsidy would be over ₹200,000 crore.

India is impacted because no effort was made in the past to reduce dependence on imports which currently is - Phosphate: 90 percent; Potash: 100 percent; Urea: 33 percent; Gas: 50 percent. Efforts to reduce this dependence can pay off only in the long-term.

Meanwhile, the Government needs to address voids in other areas namely large-scale diversion of subsidized fertilizers espe-

cially urea; excessive use by farmers; large/rich undeserving farmers getting access to subsidized material; inflated payments made to manufacturers under a cost-plus regime, etc.

Look at diversion of urea which could be as high as 30 percent or around 10.2 million ton in total consumption of 34 million tons (2021-22). Eliminating it can yield saving of about ₹32,000 crore (10.2x31,000/-being the average subsidy per ton). Additionally, even if urea use efficiency improves by 10 percent, this will yield further savings of about Rs 7,500 crore [(34-10.2)x0.1x31,000].

Likewise, significant savings are possible if subsidy is denied to medium and large farmers (land holding > 2 hectare). Taking their consumption to be about 25 percent or 6 million tons, excluding them from the scheme will save around ₹19,000 crore (6x31,000). All these savings add up to ₹58,500 crore.

Rationalizing payment to manufacturers by encouraging low-cost firms to supply more and at the same time, discouraging high-cost firms will also help in generating more savings. There is also ample scope for improving efficiency and reducing cost at various levels in the supply and distribution chain.

All of the above things are doable. But this will require a major overhaul of the pricing and subsidy regime. The Government should stop routing subsidy through manufacturers; instead, it may be given as direct benefit transfer (DBT) to the farmers on per hectare basis (albeit to marginal and small farmers). The manu-

facturers/importers should be free to sell at market determined price. Urea import should be freed even as import of non-urea fertilizers is already free.

This will ensure adequate competition amongst suppliers and survival of the fittest, i.e., those who can supply at low cost. With no subsidized fertilizer in the market (as subsidy goes to farmer's account), diversion will be completely eliminated. Moreover, in view of MRP reflecting fertilizer's true cost, farmers will use judiciously - taking into account soil/crop requirement - leading to improved efficiency of use and reduction of imbalance in fertilizer use.

The Government also needs to look into the extant taxation structure. Currently, all fertilizers attract GST (Goods and Services Tax) @ 5 percent. Phosphoric acid and ammonia (raw materials used for making P&K fertilizers) attract GST @ 12 percent and 18 percent respectively. Natural gas (it is outside GST) attracts VAT which can go up to a high of 21 percent say in Uttar Pradesh.

It makes no sense to impose tax on fertilizers only to be reimbursed as additional subsidy. Gas should be brought under GST and put under 5 percent slab. GST on phos acid and ammonia should be lowered from existing 12 percent/18 percent to 5 percent each.

The DBT regime can help in drastically reducing subsidy even in the face of high international prices of fertilizers. But, kicking these reforms will require taking the bull (read: all those who are unfairly benefiting from the existing dispensation) by the horns.

POINT COUNTERPOINT

“I LOOK FORWARD TO...BUILDING A HONG KONG THAT IS CARING, OPEN AND VIBRANT...”
— CHIEF EXECUTIVE, HONG KONG JOHN LEE



“(LEE’S ELECTION) VIOLATES DEMOCRATIC PRINCIPLES AND POLITICAL PLURALISM IN HONG KONG.”
— FOREIGN POLICY CHIEF, EUROPEAN UNION JOSEF BORRELL



Ukraine-Russia: The Lord of the Rings perspective

If Putin’s troops are Orcs, then he must be Sauron. Ukraine’s led by Frodo

We were talking recently about how clever the Ukrainians had been to call the invading Russian troops ‘Orcs’ even before all the atrocities in the Russian-occupied towns around Kyiv came to light. Then Tina said: “If Putin’s troops are Orcs, then he must be Sauron.”

You can guess what happened next. We started trying to link other characters in the current drama with other characters from ‘The Lord of the Rings’, which many have begun to see as a tract for our times. Frodo was easy: that’s Ukraine’s president Volodymyr Zelensky, diminutive, vulnerable, but also very brave.

We couldn’t figure out who plays Aragorn, but France’s newly re-elected president, Emmanuel Macron, is a dead



GWYNNE DYER

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

ringer for Legolas. Britain’s Prime Minister Boris Johnson is one of the more boastful and self-serving dwarves, not Gimli but maybe Bombur.

Alexander Dugin, also known as ‘Putin’s Brain’, is the obvious candidate for the role of Saruman. He’s the Christian fascist philosopher who advises Sauron/Putin on how to destroy the West, ‘the kingdom of the antichrist’ that seeks to submerge Russia in ‘the abyss of chaos and corruption’. But I’m getting too technical here.

Joe Biden is Treebeard, the eldest of the Ents, and I’ll leave it to you to flesh out the rest of the characters in this low-budget remake of LOTR. But do let me know if you figure out where the hell Gandalf is when we need him. Probably late, as usual. But here’s the thing,



Comparing the war in Ukraine to the Lord of the Rings is a harmless after-dinner game, but it’s a very poor guide to policy. Yet many Western leaders are starting to sound like J.R.R. Tolkien is their speech-writer. That’s clear evidence that they’re losing the plot.

It’s perfectly normal for war aims to expand after an early success, but it’s usually a mistake. Ukraine didn’t collapse in

the face of the Russian invasion, which was what both Putin and everybody in Western leadership positions expected it to do.

So Western pundits (and even Western politicians) are now predicting that Ukraine will reconquer not just the land Russia conquered since February, but also the territory that it seized in 2014. That may be possible despite Russia’s three-time-bigger population

and tenfold bigger economy, though I doubt it.

But are the Ukrainians sure they want to push a nuclear-armed enemy who has shown himself to be irrational and unstable into such a humiliating corner? Are they sure their Western supporters would still back them if that leads to a nuclear showdown (as it probably would)?

Moreover, are the Ukrainians sure they really want the lost provinces of 2014 back? The people who remain in them now are not only Russian-speakers, but mostly people who actually identify as Russian. If Kyiv tried to forcibly reintegrate them into a victorious Ukrainian state, it would guarantee that state at least a generation of instability.

We will probably be spared

all these awkward questions, because such a decisive Ukrainian victory is unlikely. What is of greater concern is the way that Western leaders have slipped so easily into a Tolkienesque mindset that lets them see themselves as the embattled defenders of a West that faces mortal peril from a great evil in the east.

Tolkien had an excellent excuse for writing that sort of books, because he wrote his ‘Lord of the Rings’ trilogy between 1937 and 1949, when the West did indeed face a great threat, first from Nazi Germany and then from the Soviet Union. It was a fitting fable for his times. It is not relevant to ours.

How is it possible to see Russia one moment as a power so weak that it could be pushed

out of all former Ukrainian territory by force, and the next moment as a mighty threat to all of Europe or ‘freedom’ or ‘democracy’ or whatever?

If ‘the test of a first-rate intelligence is the ability to hold two opposed ideas in mind at the same time and still retain the ability to function’, then the current leadership class of the West are all geniuses.

Russia is not Mordor. It is a second-rate great power that must be respected because it has a lot of nuclear weapons, but it poses no serious threat to the security of the rest of Europe or to democracy. Its invasion of Ukraine was a squalid smash-and-grab raid that is being repelled with the help of Ukraine’s friends and neighbours, and that’s all.

Exercise restraint, violence only begets violence, Lankans told

PTI ■ COLOMBO

Sri Lanka's embattled Rajapaksa brothers, President Gotabaya and Prime Minister Mahinda (who later resigned), appealed to the people on Monday to exercise restraint and remember that violence only begets violence, saying the economic crisis needs an economic solution which his government is committed to resolving.

Their statement came amidst violence in the country in which at least 23 people were injured as supporters of Mahinda attacked anti-Government demonstrators gathered at a protest site near his official residence, prompting the police to enforce a curfew in the capital.

"Strongly condemn the violent acts taking place by those inciting & participating, irrespective of political allegiances. Violence won't solve the current problems. I request all citizens to remain calm & exercise restraint. I urge everyone to work together in solving this crisis," the President said in a tweet.

Mahinda also urged the people to exercise restraint.

"While emotions are running high in #lka, I urge our general public to exercise restraint & remember that violence only begets violence.

"The economic crisis we're in needs an economic solution which this admin-



istration is committed to resolving," Mahinda said on Twitter.

Mahinda, 76, who was under intense pressure from within his own Sri Lanka Podujana Peramuna (SLPP) ranks to resign, was gathering his supporters to apply counterpressure not to stand down but he resigned later in the day.

Earlier in the day, a tense situation prevailed as a group of supporters of

Mahinda attacked the protesters outside the 'MainaGoGama', a protest site near Temple Trees, the official residence of the Prime Minister, *Daily Mirror*, an online news platform, reported.

The police used water cannons to disperse the unruly SLPP protestors who are at the Galle Face green protest site, Hiru News website reported.

The tents opposite Temple Trees were dismantled by a mob, Lanka

First, a leading news network, reported. The 'MainaGoGama' protest site was set up demanding the resignation of Mahinda.

Hundreds of supporters of Mahinda have been brought in buses while some others marched to the Temple Trees to show support to the premier against the call for his resignation, the *Colombo Page* newspaper reported.

In a special Cabinet meeting on Friday, Rajapaksa declared a state of emergency with effect from Friday midnight. This is the second time that an emergency was declared in Sri Lanka in just over a month as the island nation was in the grip of the worst economic crisis.

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.

SL brass summoned to explain reason behind State of emergency

PTI ■ COLOMBO

Sri Lanka's top human rights body has summoned the country's top brass, including the Secretary to the President and the Secretary to the Ministry of Defence, to appear before it on Monday to clarify the reasons for the imposition of the state of emergency.

In a special Cabinet meeting on Friday, President Gotabaya Rajapaksa declared a state of emergency with effect from Friday midnight. This is the second time that an emergency was declared in Sri Lanka in just over a month as the island nation was in the grip of the worst economic crisis.

The announcement came amid weeks of protests demanding the resignation of the President and the government, blaming the powerful Rajapaksa clan for the mis-handling of the island nation's economy, which is already upended by the pandemic.

Rohini Marasinghe, (Rtd) Supreme Court Judge who is Chairperson of the Human Rights Commission of Sri

Lanka (HRCSL), said that the summons were issued to the top brass to clarify the reasons for the imposition of the state of emergency.

She also said that water and tear gas attacks on protesters near the Parliament would be raised during the inquiry.

The Secretary to the President, the Secretary to the Ministry of Defence, and the Inspector General of Police are scheduled to appear before the HRCSL on Monday.

The HRCSL on Saturday requested the government to explain to the public the reasons for declaring a state of emergency as the protests were largely peaceful and within normal police operations.

President Gotabaya Rajapaksa has faced flak from the Opposition and foreign envoys for his decision, which gives security forces sweeping powers to arbitrarily arrest and detain people.

Sri Lanka is currently in the throes of unprecedented economic turmoil since its independence from Britain in 1948.

UK official to press N Ireland leaders to form Government

AP ■ LONDON

A senior British official will meet with rival Northern Ireland party leaders Monday to press them to re-establish a power-sharing government amid uncertainty after Irish nationalist party Sinn Fein scored a historic victory in local elections. Northern Ireland Secretary Brandon Lewis will meet the leaders of the five parties that formed the last Executive, or devolved government, before it collapsed in February.

"The people of Northern Ireland deserve a stable and accountable devolved government and I will continue to urge the leaders of Northern Ireland political parties to fulfil their responsibilities and form an Executive as soon as possible," Lewis said. "I will remain in close contact with the party leaders but it is for the parties to agree on a way forward," he added.

Sinn Fein, which seeks union with Ireland, overtook the rival Democratic Unionist Party in last week's Northern Ireland Assembly elections to become the first Irish nationalist party to top the voting in Northern Ireland's history.

Call Pence or Trump? It's decision time for Jan 6 panel

AP ■ WASHINGTON

The House committee investigating the January 6 insurrection has interviewed nearly 1,000 people. But the nine-member panel has yet to talk to the two most prominent players in that day's events — former President Donald Trump and former Vice President Mike Pence.

As the investigation winds down and the panel plans a series of hearings in June, members of the committee are debating whether to call the two men, whose conflict over whether to certify Joe Biden's 2020 presidential election win was at the centre of the attack.

Trump pressured Pence for days, if not weeks, to use his ceremonial role presiding over

the January 6 count to try to block or delay Biden's certification. Pence refused to do so, and rioters who broke into the building that day called for his hanging.

There are reasons to call either or both of them. The committee wants to be as thorough as possible, and critics are sure to pounce if they don't even try. But some lawmakers on the panel have argued that they've obtained all the information they need without Trump and Pence.

Nearly a year into their wide-ranging investigation into the worst attack on the Capitol in more than two centuries, the House committee has interviewed hundreds of witnesses and received more than 100,000 pages of documents.

Australia aware of China plans for Solomon Islands wharves

AP ■ CANBERRA

Australia's prime minister said on Monday he was aware of China's ambitions in the southwest Pacific after a newspaper reported plans by Beijing to build wharves, shipyards and underwater cables in the Solomon Islands.

The Australian newspaper published a leaked four-page draft maritime cooperation agreement between China and the Solomon Islands dated this year. That follows the recent confirmation by China and the Pacific island nation that they have signed a separate security agreement that the United States and its allies fear could lead to a Chinese naval base less than 2,000 kilometers (1,200 miles) from the Australian coast.

Security experts suspect that maritime infrastructure built under the latest draft

memorandum of understanding would be used by the Chinese military.

Prime Minister Scott Morrison said his government was not surprised by the reported draft agreement to develop "port wharves, submarine optical cable construction, shipbuilding and ship repair." "We're very aware of what the Chinese government's ambitions are in the Pacific, whether it be in relation to facilities such as that or naval bases or other presence of their military in the Pacific," Morrison told reporters.

"I am very concerned, as many other Pacific leaders are, about the interference and intrusion of the Chinese government into these types of arrangements and what that can mean for the peace, stability and security of the southwest Pacific," Morrison added.

Solomon Islands opposition law-

maker Peter Kenilorea Jr. Said his father, Peter Kenilorea, the independent country's first prime minister from 1978 until 1981, would be "upset" by current Prime Minister Manasseh Sogavare's use of China to "leverage" more from other countries.

"The Solomon Islands is never going to become part of that kind of diplomacy," Kenilorea told Australia's Ten Network television.

"We have cordial relations with our friends. They know our needs and we work through them rather than using each other as leverage against each other," he added.

The United States has said it would take unspecified action against the Solomon Islands should the security agreement with China pose a threat to U.S. Or allied interests.

Israel police arrest woman suspected in threats to PM family

AP ■ JERUSALEM

Israeli police arrested on Monday a 65-year-old woman suspected of sending death threats with bullets to Prime Minister Naftali Bennett's family last month.

A statement from the police only identified the woman as a resident of southern Israel; police said further details of the case remained under a court-issued gag order.

Bennett's family received two death threats in the mail, along with the bullets. In response, security around the premier and his family was tightened and police and the

Shin Bet internal security agency opened an investigation.

Bennett, who leads a small nationalist party, has come under intense criticism from Israeli hard-liners who accuse him of abandoning his ideology. In 1995, Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin was assassinated by a Jewish ultranationalist opposed to his peacemaking attempts with the Palestinians.

Bennett leads a narrow coalition of eight parties ranging from a small Islamist party to Jewish ultra-nationalists that have little in common beyond their opposition to former Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu.

कार्यलय कार्यपालन अभियंता					
लोक स्वास्थ्य यांत्रिकी खण्ड, दत्तेवाड़ा					
(फोन / फॅक्स नं 07856 252362, ई.मेल eedan-ph-cg@nic.in)					
// ई.प्रारूपीसैट शुद्धिपत्र //					
एकीकृत पंजीयन व्यवस्था प्रणाली अन्तर्गत सहम स्वीची में पंजीकृत लेखदारी से प्रपत्र "ए" प्रेषित दर पर निम्नलिखित कार्य हेतु (Online) निविदा (सिंगल बिलेज/रेट्रोफिटिंग)आयोजित की गयी थी। जिसमें किसी भी लेखदार द्वारा माग नहीं लेने के कारण उक्त निविदा की तिथि आम बदाई जारी है एवं लेखदार/फर्म के एक से अधिक कार्य हेतु बिड कोपासिटी देखा जावेगा।					
निविदा क्रमांक	शुद्धिपत्र क्रमांक	सिस्टम टेण्डर क्रमांक	गाम / विकासखण्ड	अनुमानित लागत (लाख में)	रिमार्क
01 / 01.04.2022	02	96421	सुरनगर / कटेकल्याण, सिंगल विलेज	87.57	
02 / 04.04.2022	02	96447	आलनाग / गौदम, सिंगल विलेज	86.75	
03 / 04.04.2022	02	96448	गदापाल / दत्तेवाड़ा, रेड्रोफिटिंग	102.11	
05 / 04.04.2022	02	96450	कोरलापाल / गौदम, सिंगल विलेज	80.85	
07 / 07.04.2022	02	96899	बालपेट / दत्तेवाड़ा, सिंगल विलेज	154.99	
08 / 07.04.2022	02	96901	खितालका / दत्तेवाड़ा, सिंगल विलेज	272.83	
09 / 07.04.2022	02	96902	समलपुर / गौदम, सिंगल विलेज	169.40	
10 / 07.04.2022	02	97069	छोटेगामदम / कटेकल्याण, सिंगल विलेज	13.74	
12 / 13.04.2022	02	97410	बालुव / दत्तेवाड़ा, सिंगल विलेज	329.74	
निविदा की सामान्य शर्तें अन्य जानकारी वेबसाइट पेटर्ड https://eproc.cgstate.gov.in पर दर्शित है।					
टीप : निविदा डाउनलोड करने की अंतिम तिथि दिनांक 17.06.2022					
हस्ता / कार्यपालन अभियंता					
लोक स्वास्थ्य यांत्रिकी खंड दत्तेवाड़ा					
R.O. No:- 90964/5					
R.O. Date:- 09/05/2022					

SYMBOLIC POSSESSION NOTICE				
ICICI Bank Branch Office: ICICI Bank Ltd, 3rd Floor, Plot No- 23, New Rohtak Road, Karol Bagh, Delhi- 110005				
Whereas <p>The undersigned being the Authorized Officer of ICICI Bank Limited under the Securitisation, Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 and in exercise of the powers conferred under section 13 (12) read with Rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) rules 2002, issued demand notices upon the borrowers mentioned below, to repay the amount mentioned in the notice within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said notice.</p> <p>As the borrower failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the borrower and the public in general that the undersigned has taken Symbolic possession of the property described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on him/ her under Section 13(4) of the said Act read with Rule 8 of the said rules on the below-mentioned dates. The borrower in particular and the public in general is hereby cautioned not to deal with the property and any dealings with the property will be subject to the charge of ICICI Bank Limited.</p>				
Sr. No.	Name of the Borrower/ Loan Account Number	Description of Property/ Date of Symbolic Possession	Date of Demand Notice/ Amount in Demand Notice (Rs.)	Name of Branch
1.	Amulya Kumar Nayak/ Bidiyut Prava Nayak/ LBDEL00001173375	P. No. 1/7, Flat No-206, Vaishnavi Kunj, Sector- 2, Rajendra Nagar, Sahibabad, Ghaziabad/ May 04, 2022	September 27, 2021 Rs. 5,27,869/-	Delhi/ NCR
2.	Salim Siddiqui/ Tasmeen Sultan Begum/ LBNOD00001738818	Flat No-D- 351A, Sec-11, G M P Pratap Vihar, Ghaziabad- 201010/ May 04, 2022	December 21, 2021 Rs. 3,79,643/-	Delhi/ NCR
3.	Rama Sharma/ Swadesh Mohan/ LBDEL00002946567	Flat No-H1/101, 1st Floor, Tower C, Classic Residency Noor Nagar, Raj Nagar Extn, Pargana Loni, Ghaziabad / May 04, 2022	August 30, 2021 Rs. 21,07,757/-	Delhi/ NCR
4.	Rama Sharma/ Swadesh Mohan/ LBGHZ00002942007	Flat No-H1/101, 1st Floor, Tower C, "Classic Residency", Noor Nagar, Raj Nagar Extn, Pargana Loni, Situated at Kharsa No-1093 & 1094, Nh-58, Uttar Pradesh, Ghaziabad/ May 04, 2022	August 30, 2021 Rs. 14,36,094/-	Delhi/ NCR
5.	Rama Sharma/ Swadesh Mohan/ LBGHZ00003042630	Flat No-704, 7th Floor, Fortune Residency, Tower-F, Nh-58, Uttar Pradesh, Ghaziabad- 201001/ May 04, 2022	August 30, 2021 Rs. 11,16,614/-	Delhi/ NCR
6.	Parshu Ram Singh/ Neetu Singh/ LBDEL00001198235	H.No. P-251, Hig Duplex, Pratap Vihar, Ghaziabad/ May 04, 2022	November 15, 2021 Rs. 1,143,455/-	Delhi/ NCR
7.	Pankaj Rana/ Dhan Singh Rana/ LBGHZ00004943275	Flat No Ug- 3, Front Side Lhs/north West Flat At Ugt, Plot No D-990, Indraprastha Awasiya, Ghaziabad/ May 04, 2022	August 30, 2021 Rs. 839,975/-	Delhi/ NCR
8.	Subhash Chand/ Deepa/ LBGHZ00002516282	Flat No A/ UH-707, 7th Floor, Tower-A, Aditya Urban Homes, Vill Shahpur Barnhetta, Nh 24, Uttar Pradesh, Ghaziabad/ May 04, 2022	August 30, 2021 Rs. 16,38,771/-	Delhi/ NCR
9.	Ashish Kumar/ Kanak Lata Sinha/ LBNOD00002837778	Flat No C/CA 1008, 10th Floor Tower-C City Apartment Aditya World City Plot No- GH-6 Ghaziabad/ May 04, 2022	November 15, 2021 Rs. 28,13,756/-	Delhi/ NCR
<p>The above-mentioned borrowers(s)/ guarantors(s) are hereby given a 30 day notice to repay the amount, else the mortgaged properties will be sold on the expiry of 30 days from the date of publication of this Notice, as per the provisions under the Rules 8 and 9 of Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules 2002.</p> <p>Date : May 10, 2022 Place: Delhi NCR</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Authorized Officer ICICI Bank Limited</p>				

PUBLIC NOTICE
To be known to all that I, Preeti Kaushal D/o Late Krishan Kumar Kaushal Cont. 9999197227, R/o. GG2-48A, Vikas Puri Delhi, has applied conversion of aforesaid property from lease hold to free hold in DDA. Original Property Paper of GG2-48A, Vikas Puri Delhi, issued by DDA, and House Key, 1000 Cash, ATM Card, Cell, Sim, have been lost. An F.I.R to this effect has been lodged in police station on dated 28/04/2022. Any person(s) claiming any right, having any objection or found in possession of original document may write/ contact with above named person at above address within 15 days from the date of publication of this notice & can personally contact- Deputy Director (GH) C-Block, 2nd Floor, Vikas Sadan, INA, New Delhi- 110018.

DOCUMENT LOST
I, Mary Punnoili treasurer of ST. Margaret's Region Of The Sacred Heart Congregation lost documents of the property "SFS DDA BUILT-UP FLAT BEARING NO. 362, Block J, Ground Floor + First Floor (Duplex), Category III, Sarita Vihar, New Delhi-110076" namely, Original Allocation Letter dated 20.01.1984. Demand Letter dated 04.01.1990, NOC for water & electric connection dated 16.04.1990 in favour of Smt. Shanta Kala. Original Mutation Letter dated 08.04.1993 in favour of Dr. Puja Kapur. Original Transfer Letter dated 07.04.1995 in favour of Shri Shiv Kapur. Finder may contact Adv. Veenu Dral at 8053924906 and send at 13G Vikrant apartments, Sector 13, Rohini, New Delhi-85.

E- TENDER NOTICE
GMVN invites tender from Nationalized Banks/M.N.C./Govt/ Semi Govt./ N.G.O./Other reputed organisations/ Private Person for office building of GMVN on lease/Rent situated at C-50 sector-62, Noida U.P. pin code 201301 performing permissible Institutional activities for the period of five years. Tender details are available at www.uktenders.gov.in and/or www.gmvnonline.com . Last date of submission of Bid is 23/05/2022 upto 1700 Hrs. Further updates will be available only on these websites therefore interested parties are advised to visit these websites regularly. Ph. No. 0135-2746817 Mob.No.7060411140
MANAGING DIRECTOR

United Textiles Limited Rgd. Office 7 th K.M. Stone, Barwala Road,Hisar - 125001 (Haryana) CIN: L17115HR1993PLC032092
Notice Pursuant to Regulation 29 read with Regulation 47 of the SEBI (Listing Obligations & Disclosure Requirements) Regulations, 2015, Notice is hereby given that the Meeting of Board of Directors of the Company is scheduled to be held on Monday, 30th May, 2022, at 11.00 AM at the Regd. Office of the Company to consider the Audited Financial Results for the Quarter/ Year Ended 31st March, 2022. Further as per the Company's Code of Conduct for Prevention of Insider Trading, the trading window for dealing with securities of the Company will remain close from 31.03.2022 to 48 hours after the declaration of the Financial Results. The said information is also available on Company's Website www.unitedtextileslimited.com & also on the website of stock exchanges at www.bseindia.com .
For United Textiles Limited (Vivek Aggarwal) Whole Times Director Dated 04.05.2022 (DIN 07079208)

Shanghai tightens lockdown despite falling Covid cases

AP ■ BEIJING

Authorities in Shanghai have again tightened anti-virus restrictions, just as the city was emerging from a month of strict lockdown due to a COVID-19 outbreak.

Notices issued in several districts said residents were ordered to stay home and were barred from receiving nonessential deliveries as part of a "quiet period" lasting at least until Wednesday. The tightened measures could be extended depending on the results of mass testing, the notices said. "Thank you for your understanding and cooperation. Together we can lift the lockdown at an early date," said one notice issued in the city's Huangpu district and posted online. It wasn't clear what prompted the renewed tightening, with numbers of new COVID-19 cases in the city continuing to fall.

Shanghai on Monday reported 3,947 cases over the previous 24 hours, almost all of them asymptomatic, along with 11 deaths. Authorities have been gradually lifting isolation rules on the city's 25 million residents, but the new orders appear to be returning to conditions at the early stage of the outbreak.

Shanghai originally ordered mass testing along with a limited lockdown, but extended that as case numbers rose. Thousands of residents have been forced into centralized quarantine centers for showing a positive test result or merely having been in contact with an infected person.

Two Shanghai residents reached through social media said they'd had no prior notice of the new restrictions, which they were told could last for up to a week.

Yoon faces tough challenges as new South Korean Prez

AP ■ SEOUL

Former top prosecutor Yoon Suk Yeol takes office as South Korea's president on Tuesday, facing a tougher mix of foreign policy and domestic challenges than other recent South Korean leaders encountered at the start of their presidencies.

Yoon's single, five-year term begins at midnight on Monday before he takes the oath of office on Tuesday morning at a formal ceremony in Seoul. Since winning election in March, Yoon, a conservative who advocates a more hard-line approach toward North Korea, has been denied a honeymoon period. Surveys show less than 60 per cent of respondents expect he will do well in his presidency, an unusually low figure compared to his predecessors, who mostly received about 80-90 per cent before they entered office.

His approval rating as a president-elect was 41 per cent, according to a survey by Gallup Korea released last week that put outgoing liberal President Moon Jae-in's rating at 45 per cent. Yoon's low popularity is blamed in part on an acute divide between conservatives and liberals and on contentious policies and Cabinet picks.

Some experts say Yoon, a foreign policy novice, also hasn't shown a clear vision for how to navigate the world's 10th largest economy amid challenges such as North Korea's advancing nuclear arsenal, an intensifying US-China rivalry and pandemic-hit livelihoods.

"Our foreign policy, national security and economy are all in trouble. Yoon should have presented some visions, hopes or leadership to show how he can pull the public together in these difficult times. But I don't think he has shown such things," said Professor Chung Jin-young, a former dean of the Graduate School of Pan-Pacific International



Studies at Kyung Hee University.

With US-led nuclear disarmament talks deadlocked, North Korean leader Kim Jong Un recently threatened to use nuclear weapons against his rivals and reportedly is preparing to conduct his first nuclear test in nearly five years.

The US-China confrontation is posing a separate security dilemma for South Korea as it struggles to strike a balance between Washington, its chief military ally, and Beijing, its biggest trading partner.

During his campaign, Yoon accused Moon of tilting too much toward North Korea and China and away from Washington while exploiting ties with Japan, Korea's former colonial ruler, for domestic political purposes. He has vowed to abandon Moon's appeasement policy toward North Korea, reinforce South Korea's alliance with the United States and improve ties with Japan.

Critics say Yoon's policies will create friction with North Korea and China, although he is likely to strengthen trilateral South Korea-US-Japan security cooperation.

Chung, the professor, said South Korea must accept that it cannot force North Korea to denuclearise or ease the US-China standoff.

He said South Korea must instead focus on strengthening its defence capability and the US alliance to "make North Korea never dare to think

about a nuclear attack on us".

He said South Korea must also prevent ties with Beijing from worsening.

Domestically, some of Yoon's major policies may face an impasse in parliament, which remains controlled by liberal lawmakers until general elections in 2024.

Liberals recently flexed their legislative muscles by passing contentious bills aimed at significantly reducing the investigative rights of state prosecutors.

Critics say the bills are meant to prevent Yoon from investigating possible wrongdoing by the Moon administration. Yoon must also rebuild South Korea's pandemic response, shaken by a massive omicron surge in recent months.

The COVID-19 crisis has battered an economy already hit by a bleak job market and growing personal debt. Yoon also inherits Moon's economic policy failures that critics say allowed home prices to skyrocket and widen what is one of the worst rich-poor gaps among developed nations.

"The challenges that Yoon has at the start of his presidency are the toughest and the most unfavourable ones" among South Korean presidents elected since the late 1980s, a period viewed as the start of the country's genuine democracy after decades of dictatorship, said Choi Jin, director of the Seoul-based Institute of Presidential Leadership.

Russia presses Ukraine assault as Putin marks Victory Day

AP ■ ZAPORIZHZHIA

Russian forces pushed forward Monday in their assault on Ukraine, seeking to capture the crucial southern port city of Mariupol as Moscow celebrated its Victory Day holiday.

Determined to show success in a war now in its 11th week, Russian troops pummeled a seaside steel mill where an estimated 2,000 Ukrainian fighters are making their last stand in the port city of Mariupol.

The mill is the only part of the city not overtaken by the invaders. Its defeat would deprive Ukraine of a vital port and allow Russia to establish a land corridor to the Crimean Peninsula, which it seized from Ukraine in 2014.

The Ukrainian military's General Staff warned of a high probability of missile strikes and said that Russian troops

were seizing "personal documents from the local population without good reason" in Russian-controlled areas of Zaporizhzhia - the city where many fleeing Mariupol have gathered. The military alleged Russian troops were seizing documents to force residents to join in Victory Day commemorations.

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy warned the anniversary, which marks the Soviet Union's triumph over Nazi Germany in 1945, could bring a renewed onslaught.

"They have nothing to celebrate," Linda Thomas-Greenfield, US ambassador to the United Nations, said of the Russians, speaking on CNN.

"They have not succeeded in defeating the Ukrainians. They have not succeeded in dividing the world or dividing NATO. And they have only succeeded in isolating them-

selves internationally and becoming a pariah state around the globe."

Speaking Monday at a military parade marking the holiday, Russian President Vladimir Putin sought to justify his invasion, by claiming that it was necessary to ward off what he described "an absolutely unacceptable threat just next to our borders." He has repeatedly alleged that Ukraine was planning to attack Russia - which Kyiv has flatly denied.

"The danger was rising by day," he claimed, adding that "Russia has preemptively repulsed an aggression."

Putin again scolded the West for failing to heed the Russian demands for security guarantees and a rollback to NATO's expansion, arguing that it also left Moscow no other choice but to invade.

But he did not - at least so far - give any signal as to the next phase of the conflict nor



did he claim the complete capture of Mariupol, which his forces have bombarded and besieged for weeks.

Ukrainian fighters in the steel mill in the port city have

rejected Russian-set deadlines for laying down their arms, even as attacks continued by warplanes, artillery and tanks.

"We are under constant shelling," said Capt. Sviatoslav

Palamar, deputy commander of the Ukrainian Azov Regiment, a unit holding the steel mill.

Lt. Ilyia Samoilenko, another Azov Regiment member, said a couple hundred

wounded soldiers were in the plant. He declined to say how many able-bodied fighters remained. Fighters lack life-saving equipment and are having to dig by hand to free people from bunkers that collapsed under shelling.

"Surrender for us is unacceptable because we cannot grant such a gift to the enemy," Samoilenko said. The last of the civilians who had taken shelter with fighters at the plant were evacuated Saturday. They arrived Sunday night in Zaporizhzhia, the first major Ukrainian city beyond the frontlines, and spoke of constant shelling, dwindling food, ubiquitous mold - and using hand sanitizer for cooking fuel.

Britain's Defense Ministry warned in a daily intelligence report on Twitter that Russia was running short of precision-guided munitions and increasingly is using inaccurate rock-

ets and bombs, subjecting Ukrainian towns and cities to "intense and indiscriminate bombardments with little or no regard for civilian casualties."

More than 60 people were feared dead after a Russian bomb flattened a Ukrainian school being used as a shelter in Bilohorivka, an eastern village, Ukrainian officials said.

About 90 people were sheltering in the school's basement when it was attacked Saturday. Emergency crews found two bodies and rescued 30 people, but "most likely all 60 people who remain under the rubble are now dead," Serhiy Haidai, governor of Luhansk province, wrote on the Telegram messaging app. Russian shelling killed two boys, ages 11 and 14, in the nearby town of Pryvillia, Haidai said. Luhansk is part of the Donbas, the industrial heartland in the east that Russia's forces are working to capture.

US, Italy united on Ukraine, Everything shook: Last civilians leave Ukraine steel mill

AP ■ MILAN

Italian Premier Mario Draghi meets with US President Joe Biden this week in Washington as Europe faces another "whatever it takes" moment with Russia's war in Ukraine raging on its eastern flank.

Both Rome and Washington will emphasise their historic friendship and shared desire to help Ukraine defend itself from Russia's two-month-old invasion when the leaders meet on Tuesday. Energy, climate change and promoting global economic prosperity also are on the agenda.

Still, there are differences in tone over the war, and public sentiment in Italy against sending arms to Ukraine is



growing.

Draghi is pushing for even a limited truce to allow talks to resume, mindful also of the impact on Italy should the war spill over Ukraine's borders.

Statements by Biden and his emissaries have been more aggressive, suggesting both regime change and the goal of

weakening Russia.

These differences reflect not only Italy's geographic closeness to the fighting, but also its historic political and economic ties with Russia.

Italy gets 40 per cent of its natural gas from Russia, and economic trade last year amounted to 20 billion euros. "There are two currents

regarding Russia," Sergio Romano, a Cold War-era Italian ambassador to Moscow, told The Associated Press.

"There is the position of the countries that see in the war in Ukraine the possibility, or the hope, of the diminishment of Russian power. I think this current is strong in the US.

"I don't think this is the position of the Italian government, which in the past has had cordial and positive relations with Russia."

Draghi, a former central banker skilled at measuring his words, is one of the only European Union leaders to visit Washington since the war broke out, and can be expected to represent not only Italy's perspective, but also that of Europe.

AP ■ ZAPORIZHZHIA

Pale and drawn, the last civilians sheltering in bunkers beneath a sprawling steel mill in the decimated Ukrainian port city of Mariupol arrived late Sunday night in Zaporizhzhia, the first major Ukrainian city beyond the frontlines.

The shattered survivors spoke of constant shelling, dwindling food, ubiquitous mold - and using hand sanitizer for cooking fuel.

Ten buses slowly pulled into Zaporizhzhia's deserted streets under darkness, carrying 174 evacuees from the Mariupol area.

They included more than 30 of the 51 civilians evacuated in the last day from the Azovstal steel mill, where an

estimated 2,000 Ukrainian fighters are making what appears to be their last stand.

Both Ukrainian and Russian officials have said these civilians are the last non-combatants from the industrial complex.

"It was terrible in the bunkers," said 69-year-old Lyubov Andropova, who had been in Azovstal since March 10. "Water would run down from the ceilings. There was mold everywhere. We were worried for the children, for



their lungs."The shelling was constant, and there was fear "that our bunker would collapse," she said. "Everything shook, we didn't go out."

The seaside steel mill is the only part of Mariupol not under Russian control. Thanks to its warren of tunnels and bunkers deep underground, many civilians had chosen it as the safest place to take cover from the relentless shelling of the formerly thriving port city that has now been largely destroyed.

NOTICE FOR JOB

Urgently required Fresher/Experienced Male/Female 5 days week, location at North West Delhi for Attendants/Junior Office Assistant as per the following qualification:-

	Job Profile	Edn	Gross Salary
(a)	Attendant	12th pass	Rs 17693/- PM
(b)	JOA	Graduate with Typing speed 35 WPM	Rs 21184/- PM

Interested Pers send Resume upnl.delhi@gmail.com before 11 May 2022.

GUJARAT WATER SUPPLY & SEWERAGE BOARD. SECTOR-10/A, GANDHINAGAR

TENDER NOTICE INVITING ONLINE TENDER FOR FIX QUANTITY CONTRACT OF GUN METAL/COPPER ALLOY FLOAT VALVE WITHOUT ISI MARK YEAR 2022

GWSSB invites online tender through e-tendering of Fix Quantity contract for Manufacture, Supply & Delivery of Gun Metal/Copper Alloy Float Valve - 80 & 100 mm dia. (Without ISI Mark) Estimated amt Rs. 153.48 Lacs (with GST), from Indian manufacturer only. Interested bidder who wish to participate in above tender may view the detailed tender notice & down load the tender documents free of cost from web site. <https://www.nprocure.com>

The last date of submission of online tender is 20-05-2022

No/INF/VPN/2022/G/308

STATE INFRASTRUCTURE & INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION OF UTTARAKHAND LTD. 29, IIE, SAHASTRADHARA ROAD (IT PARK), DEHRADUN Ph.No. 0135-2607292, 2708100 Fax No. 0135 - 2708109 Web site : www.siidcul.com

Notice for Recruitment on Deputation Basis -01/2022

State Infrastructure and Industrial Development Corporation of Uttarakhand Ltd.(SIIDCUL) is a Government of Uttarakhand enterprise engaged in Industrial development activity in the State of Uttarakhand. Applications are invited from eligible candidates in the prescribed form for recruitment of following vacant post through deputation basis initially for one years in SIIDCUL which may be extendable.

Sl. No.	Name of Post	Pay Band and Grade Pay (As per 6 th pay commission)	No. of posts
1.	Assistant General Manager (Civil)	15600-39100 (Grade pay-6600)	03 Nos.
2.	Manager (Civil)	15600-39100 (Grade pay-5400)	03 Nos.
3.	Manager (Electrical)	15600-39100 (Grade pay-5400)	02 Nos.

Candidate must submit their application through proper channel alongwith No Objection Certificate, Vigilance Clearance from his/her Competent Authority.

Last date for submitting the applications is 25th May 2022. Applications received after due date will not be entertained.

For details regarding qualification, experience, age, application format and other details and instructions please visit company website www.siidcul.com.

Managing Director (SIIDCUL)

NORTHERN RAILWAY TENDER NOTICE

The Dy. Chief Engineer/Construction/Northern Railway, Tilak Bridge, New Delhi for and on behalf of the President of India invites open e-tender under **Single -packet system** for the following work.

1. Name of work and location	Provision of Fire Fighting arrangement and other miscellaneous works in connection with "Const. of office building & Rest House for COFMOW , DLW, DMW & IROAF at Tilak Bridge near ITO, New Delhi.
2. Completion period of the work	04 (Four) months
3. Approx. Cost of work	Rs. 62.00 Lacs
4. Earnest Money to be deposited	Rs. 1,24,000/- only to be deposited
5. Date & Time for submission of E-tender and opening of tender	Tender may be uploaded upto 11:30 hrs on 24.06.2022 on IREPS web site i.e. www.ireps.gov.in The bidders can participate in the e-tender, the Bids of which will be opened at 11:30 hrs on 24.06.2022
6. Detailed Tender Notice & Tender Document	The detailed e-tender notice is available on Northern Railway website i.e. www.nr.indianrailways.gov.in above tenders document will be available on IREPS website i.e. www.ireps.gov.in from 04.06.2022 to 24/06/2022 and bidders will be able to offer their technical and financial bid from 11/06/2022. All other terms and conditions in respect of above tenders are given in tender document.

Tender Notice No. 417-ACS-COFMOW-FK-TJJ Dated 06/05/2022 1084/22

SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE

PUBLIC NOTICE

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

The following borrower/s have defaulted in the repayment of principal and interest of the loans facility obtained by them from the Bank and the loans have been classified as Non-Performing Assets (NPA). A notice was issued to them under Section 13 (2) of Securitisation and Re-construction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act-2002 on their last known addresses, however it was not served and hence they are hereby notified by way of this public notice.

Sr. No.	Name of the Borrower/ Co-Borrower/ Guarantor/ (Loan Account Number) & Address	Property Address of Secured Asset/ Asset to be Enforced	Date of Notice Sent/ Outstanding as on Date of Notice	NPA Date
1.	Balwinder Singh Kohli, Satinder Kaur Kohli, Virender Kohli, Nausher Singh Kohli, Farhad Singh Kohli, Shehzadi Kohli, Sahebzadi Kohli, Baraj Singh Kohli, House No. 928, Sector 39 Punjab Government Circuit House Chandigarh. A/c No. LBLUD00002118951	Flat No.703, 7th Floor, Block No.21, Heritage City, Village Sirhaul, Tehsil & Distt. Gurgaon Haryana	26/03/2022 Rs. 13258766/-	07/06/2021
2.	Balwinder Singh Kohli, Satinder Kaur Kohli, Virender Kohli, Nausher Singh Kohli, Farhad Singh Kohli, Shehzadi Kohli, Sahebzadi Kohli, Baraj Singh Kohli, House No.928, Sector 39 Punjab Government Circuit House Chandigarh. A/c No. LBLUD00002417322	Flat No.703, 7th Floor, Block No.21, Heritage City, Village Sirhaul, Tehsil & Distt. Gurgaon Haryana	26/03/2022 Rs. 39,56,383/-	07/06/2021

The steps are being taken for substituted service of notice. The above borrower/s and/or their guarantors (as applicable) are advised to make the payments of outstanding within period of 60 days from the date of publication of this notice else further steps will be taken as per the provisions of Securitisation and Re-construction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002.

Date : May 10, 2022
Place: Gurgaon

Authorized Officer
ICICI Bank Limited

FINAL AUCTION CUM SALE NOTICE FOR GOLD ORNAMENTS

The borrower(s) (whose details are provided in the table herein below), in particular, and the public, in general, are hereby informed that the mentioned accounts are overdue, and the borrowers/account holders have not responded /complied with the communication, and notice sent by HDB Financial Services Limited (the "Company") requesting the borrower to clear his/her dues as per the documents in respect of the below mentioned loan signed/accepted by the borrower(s) (such documents, collectively "loan agreement") and therefore defaulted in terms thereof. The Company has in exercise of its rights as a pledgee, decided to enforce the pledge and therefore hold a public auction of the gold ornaments pledged to the company as security for the loan for the purpose of selling the same and realizing/recovering the dues owned by the borrower(s) to the company. The auction will be conducted on **14-05-2022** at the below mentioned local branch of HDB Financial Services Limited from 11.00 am onwards on the date and branches mentioned in the table below:-

S. No.	Loan No	Customer Name	Date of Loan	Overdue Amount Rs.	Branch Name
1	12939006	Beeru Bhardwaj	26-10-2020	20390	Delhi-Bhajanpura
2	17963992	Sazar Iqbal	23-09-2021	15820	Delhi-Bhajanpura
3	18018151	Pushpendar Sharma	25-09-2021	11601	Delhi-Bhajanpura
4	13085633	Ashraf K	07-11-2020	7250	Delhi-Chandni Chowk
5	12585951	Ashok Pal Singh	25-09-2020	19293	Delhi-Dilshad Garden
6	13340281	Ashishesh Mathur	23-11-2020	48956	Delhi-Dilshad Garden
7	13109450	Nishant Sharma	10-11-2020	13105	Delhi-Dilshad Garden
8	17884805	Ajay Singh Verma	20-09-2021	24215	Delhi-Dilshad Garden
9	14128088	Ronak Ramfal Jain	03-02-2021	8435	Delhi-Dilshad Garden
10	16530671	Vikash Jain	27-07-2021	12406	Delhi-Dilshad Garden
11	15534248	Rajesh Choudhary	15-06-2021	7620	Delhi-Kailash Nagar
12	16081293	Pradeep Jain	09-07-2021	111294	Delhi-Kailash Nagar
13	18500668	Sunny Malhotra	14-10-2021	21095	Delhi-Kailash Nagar
14	13688734	Ranveer Singh	26-12-2020	126563	Delhi-Kamla Nagar
15	13715014	Hemant Kumar Pandey	28-12-2020	106400	Delhi-Karol Bagh
16	16104981	Meenu Khanna	27-07-2021	14000	Delhi-Karol Bagh
17	14909487	Narendra Taneja	07-10-2021	27418	Delhi-Kashmiri Gate
18	19621852	Lal Mohamed	20-08-2021	11640	Delhi-Kashmiri Gate
19	13558940	Deepak Kumar Gupta	15-12-2020	70154	Delhi-Lajpat Nagar
20	13237156	Pappu Kumar	19-11-2020	52315	Delhi-Maliya Nagar
21	10772451	Versha Subhash	05-02-2020	6463	Delhi-Mayapuri
22	9800982	Rakesh Kumar	26-11-2019	9597	Delhi-Nangloi
23	18245241	Kishore Kumar	05-10-2021	16495	Delhi-Nangloi
24	17032919	Madan Mansingh	18-08-2021	17475	Delhi-Patel Nagar
25	19792627	Madan Mansingh	24-11-2021	28565	Delhi-Patel Nagar
26	13221011	Rajender Singh	17-11-2020	14808	Delhi-Sadar
27	17751399	Abhishek Kumar	15-09-2021	44090	Delhi-Sadar
28	18279284	Rakesh Gupta	07-10-2021	62028	Delhi-Sadar
29	14909487	Happy Tyagi	07-04-2021	15270	Delhi-Shahdara
30	17063153	Balvinder Singh	20-08-2021	11640	Delhi-Tilak Nagar
31	19695909	Deepak Kumar	20-11-2021	3924	Delhi-Tilak Nagar
32	15050502	Mohd Shakir Ansari	19-04-2021	27858	Delhi-Uttam Nagar
33	16527828	Suniel Singh	26-07-2021	16720	Delhi-Uttam Nagar
34	18061325	Jaya Shrivastav	27-09-2021	15372	Delhi-Uttam Nagar
35	19864365	Shashi Ranjan	29-11-2021	34860	Delhi-Uttam Nagar
36	12152735	Pradeep Kumar	14-08-2020	11553	Delhi-Uttam Nagar

The auction shall be conducted on an "AS IS WHERE" and "AS IS WHAT IT" basis and the Company is not making and shall not make any representation or warranties as regards the quality, purity, caratage, weight or valuation of the said gold ornaments. It shall be the sole and absolute responsibility of the potential purchaser to verify, examine and satisfy themselves about the quality, purity, caratage, weight or valuation of the said gold ornaments prior to placing their bid and for such purpose it shall be open to potential purchasers to examine, at their sole cost and expense, and at the address set out herein above, the gold ornaments whether with or without expert advice 45 minutes prior to the time stipulated for the conduct of the auction. All the bid shall be subjected to such minimum reserve price as the company may deem fit to fix in this regards. The auction process and sale (if any) pursuant to such auction shall be subjected to such further terms and condition as the company may at sole discretion deem fit to impose.

If the borrower/s mentioned above pays the amount due to the Company in terms of the loan agreement in his individual loan account in full before the auction as mentioned above, the pledged ornaments securing the said loan may be withdrawn from the said auction without further notice. Please note the it is the absolute discretionary power of the undersigned authorized officer of the company, either to postpone or to cancel the auction proceeding without prior notice and without assigning any reason thereof and to reject any or all the bids or offer without assigning any reason for the same.

Place : DELHI
Date : 10-05-2022

Authorised Officer
(HDB Financial Services Ltd)

SRF LIMITED

Regd. Office: The Galleria, DLF Mayur Vihar, Unit No. 236 & 237, 2nd Floor, Mayur Vihar Place, Noida Link Road, Mayur Vihar Phase I Extn, Delhi-110091
Corporate Office: Block-C, Sector 45, Gurugram, Haryana-122 003
Tel. No (Regd office) : (+91-11) 49482870; Fax : (+91-11) 49482900
E-mail: cs@srf.com, Website: www.srf.com; CIN: L18101DL1970PLC005197

NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that Share Certificates pertaining to shares of the Company detailed below have been reported lost and request(s) for issue of duplicate Certificates in lieu thereof have been received by the Company. Shareholder(s)/Claimant(s) shall also be entitled to Bonus Shares in the ratio of (4:1) on these shares from Investor Education & Protection Fund Authority :-

2	M 0006310	M AM GOVINDAN CHETTIAR (Deceased)	580230	27157971	27158020	50
		GOVINDAN VAIRAVAN (JT. Holder 1)	580231	27158021	27158070	50
			90165256	12677125	12677174	50
3	SRF0142789	TEJ MOHAN CHHABRA	855357	51199200	51199249	50
			855358	51199250	51199299	50
			855359	51199300	51199349	50
			855360	51199350	51199399	50
			855361	51199400	51199449	50
			855362	51199450	51199499	50
			855363	51199500	51199549	50
			855364	51199550	51199599	50
			855365	51199600	51199649	50
			855366	51199650	51199699	50
			855367	51199700	51199749	50
			855368	51199750	51199799	50
			855369	51199800	51199849	50
			855370	51199850	51199899	50
4	M 0001627	MADHUSUDAN VINAYAK MAHAJAN (Deceased shareholder)	20866	1888176	1888200	25
		SANJAY MADHUSUDAN MAHAJAN (Claimant)	68782	3443332	3443342	11
			131067	5455203	5455220	18
			322789	16164418	16164467	50
			322790	16164468	16164487	20
			322791	16164488	16164492	5
			322792	16164493	16164494	2
			471789	24184210	24184259	50
			471790	24184260	24184279	20
			471791	24184280	24184284	5
			471792	24184285	24184286	2
			90026785	7099378	7099417	40
			90026786	7099418	7099457	40
5	SRF0040742	N PALANIAPPAN	584409	29531466	29531515	50
		M A M GOVINDAN CHETTIAR (Deceased JT. Holder 1)	584410	29531516	29531565	50
			90085406	9521226	9521265	40
			90196398	15173390	15173414	25
6	S 0005484	SUDHA GUPTA	37886	2371276	2371300	25
			79771	3613208	3613218	11
			145437	5826242	5826259	18
7	O 0000439	OM PARKASH AHUJA (Deceased)	136648	5618182	5618199	18
		RANJAN AHUJA (JT. Holder 1)	976380	18583926	18583961	36
8	O 0000461	O P AHUJA (Deceased)	90031470	7293862	7293901	40
		SHRI RANJAN AHUJA (JT. Holder 1)	976381	18583962	18583997	36
		SHRI SANJAY KUMAR AHUJA (Deceased JT. Holder 2)				

Rupee slumps to all-time low of 77.44 on forex outflows



PTI ■ MUMBAI

Extending its losses for a second day, the rupee on Monday slumped by 54 paise to close at a record low of 77.44 against the US dollar, pressured by the strength of the American currency overseas and unabated foreign fund outflows.

Forex traders said risk appetite has weakened amid rising bond yields in the US and mounting concerns about inflation that may trigger more aggressive rate hikes by global central banks. At the interbank foreign exchange market, the rupee opened lower at 77.17 against the greenback, and finally settled for the day at 77.44, down 54 paise over its

previous close. During the trading session, the rupee touched its lifetime low of 77.52. On Friday, the rupee had slumped 55 paise to close at 76.90. In the last two trading sessions, the rupee has lost 109 paise against the greenback.

"Indian Rupee spot plunged to record lows, tracking weakness in Asian peers amid a stronger dollar index and surging treasury yields in the US," Royce Vargheese Joseph - Research Analyst - Currency and Energy, Anand Rathi Shares and Stock Brokers said. Equity markets witnessed a sharp sell off as real rates in the US turned positive and investors turned risk averse evaluating the need for a high-

er rate hike to tame inflation going forward, Joseph said.

Joseph further said "elevated crude prices and rising domestic inflation, well above RBI's upper band, might prompt further FII selling from domestic securities. Meanwhile, RBI's off cycle meeting on 4th May did little to strengthen the Rupee. Going forward, we might see the rupee spot weakening towards 77.8 levels."

The dollar index, which gauges the greenback's strength against a basket of six currencies, was trading 0.33 per cent higher at 104, tracking rising US yields amid fears about higher interest rates.

"Rupee fell to fresh all time lows on Monday as the dollar rose broadly against its major crosses. Last week's central bank policy action led to heightened volatility in most of the currencies.

Stronger dollar and sustained up move in global crude oil price is weighing on the overall market sentiment," said Gaurang Somaiya, Forex & Bullion Analyst, Motilal Oswal Financial Services. Somaiya further said that this week, focus will be on inflation data of India and the US. "We expect

the USDINR (Spot) to trade with a positive bias and quote in the range of 77.20 and 77.80."

According to Jateen Trivedi, Senior Research Analyst at LKP Securities, "Dollar staying above USD 104 indicates FII's aggressively exiting from emerging markets, higher Vix indicate no trend is sustainable and due to higher inflation, aggressive liquidity squeeze from central banks pressures rupee altogether. Crude prices have also been rising for a month now making the rupee even weaker."

"I look at the rupee continuing its downward journey as the dollar rise is a major risk to prices. A relief on the rupee front can only be seen if the dollar index cools off," Trivedi said. Global oil benchmark Brent crude futures fell 1.68 per cent to USD 110.50 per barrel.

The 30-share BSE Sensex ended 364.91 points or 0.67 per cent lower at 54,470.67, while the broader NSE Nifty fell 109.40 points or 0.67 per cent to 16,301.85. Foreign institutional investors remained net sellers in the capital market on Monday, as they offloaded shares worth Rs 3,361.80 crore, as per stock exchange data.

Sensex extends losses amid global weakness; RIL tumbles post Q4 show



PTI ■ MUMBAI

Equity benchmarks began the week on a downbeat note on Monday, weighed by heavy selling in market heavy-weight Reliance Industries and persisting weakness in global bourses.

The rupee plunged to its lifetime low against the US dollar amid unabated foreign fund outflows, underscoring the risk-off sentiment prevailing globally as central banks embark on policy tightening to tame soaring inflation.

Slipping for the second straight session, the 30-share BSE Sensex shed 364.91 points or 0.67 per cent to close at

54,470.67. During the day, it tanked over 900 points to 53,918.02.

Similarly, the NSE Nifty tumbled 109.40 points or 0.67 per cent to end at 16,301.85.

Reliance Industries was the top drag on the Sensex pack, dropping 3.97 per cent, after the company's March quarter earnings failed to cheer investors. The oil-to-telecom conglomerate had on Friday reported a 22.5 per cent annual rise in net profit for the March quarter at Rs 16,203 crore. Net profit, however, fell 12.6 per cent sequentially -- breaking a six-quarter chain of quarter-on-quarter improvement.

LIC IPO subscribed nearly 3 times; Govt raises ₹21,000 cr

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Life Insurance Corporation's (LIC), the country's biggest public offer, was subscribed 2.95 times on the last day of offer period on Monday, helping the government mobilise about Rs 21,000 crore. Against 16,20,78,067 shares on offer, 47,83,25,760 bids were received, according to data posted on stock exchanges at 7 pm.

The Qualified Institutional Buyers (QIBs) category was subscribed 2.83 times. As many as 11.20 crore bids were received for the 3.95 crore shares earmarked for the segment.

With regard to non-institutional investors (NIIs), a total of 8,61,93,060 bids were received for 2,96,48,427 shares reserved for the category, reflecting a subscription of 2.91 times.

Retail individual investors bid for 13.77 crore shares as against 6.9 crore shares on offer for the segment, translating into an over-subscription of 1.99 times. The policyholders' portion was subscribed a little over 6 times, while that for employees was subscribed 4.4



times. LIC had fixed the price band at Rs 902-949 per equity share for the issue.

The offer includes a reservation for eligible employees and policyholders. The retail investors and eligible employees will get a discount of Rs 45 per equity share, while policyholders will get a discount of Rs 60 per share.

The government has diluted 3.5 per cent stake in the insurance behemoth through the Offer for Sale (OFS). LIC reduced its IPO size to 3.5 per cent from 5 per cent decided earlier due to prevailing choppy market conditions. Even after the reduced size of about Rs 20,557 crore, LIC IPO is the

biggest initial public offering ever in the country. So far, the amount mobilised from IPO of Paytm in 2021 was largest ever at Rs 18,300 crore, followed by Coal India (2010) at nearly Rs 15,500 crore and Reliance Power (2008) at ₹11,700 crore.

LIC was formed by merging and nationalising 245 private life insurance companies on September 1, 1956, with an initial capital of ₹5 crore.

Its product portfolio comprises 32 individual plans (16 participating and 16 non-participating) and seven individual optional rider benefits. The insurer's group product portfolio comprises 11 group products.

ED's probe on Xiaomi: China calls for fair and non-discriminatory environment for its firms in India

PTI ■ BEIJING

China on Monday expressed hope that India will provide a "fair, just and non-discriminatory environment" to its companies as it reacted guardedly to reports of top executives of Chinese smartphone maker Xiaomi faced a probe by the Enforcement Directorate regarding its remittances abroad.

"China is closely following the situation," Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesman Zhao Lijian told a media briefing here, responding to a question on top Xiaomi executives' allegation of "physical violence and coercion" by the Enforcement Directorate (ED) in its investigations into its remittances.

"We hope India will provide a fair, just, and non-discriminatory business environment for Chinese companies, conduct investigation, and law enforcement in accordance with laws and regulations so as to increase the confidence of global investors," Zhao said. He said the Chinese government always asks its

companies to abide by laws and regulations while doing business overseas. "But at the same time it firmly supports the Chinese companies in upholding their lawful rights and interests," he said. Xiaomi is accused of making illegal remittances abroad "in the guise of royalty" payments.

The ED on Saturday rejected as "baseless" the allegations that the statements of Xiaomi India officials, the wholly-owned subsidiary of Chinese mobile manufacturing company Xiaomi, were recorded "under coercion", saying the charges were an afterthought.

The federal agency was responding to certain news reports that said Xiaomi alleged in a recent filing before the Karnataka High Court that its top executives were threatened with "physical violence and coercion" during their questioning by ED investigators in Bengaluru.

The ED issued a statement saying it was "a professional agency with strong work ethics and there was no coercion or threat to officers of the company at any point of time".

NTPC invites bids to import 4.53 million tonnes of coal

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

State-owned power giant NTPC has invited bids to procure imported 4.53 million tonnes (MT) coal mainly for blending with the domestic dry fuel in thermal plants.

The NTPC tender for the import of coal assumes significance in view of the ongoing dry fuel shortage at power plants.

Earlier this month, the power ministry had directed all the states and genscos (electricity-generating firms) to import at least 10 per cent of their requirement of coal for blending amid shortages at thermal plants.

The tender documents showed that NTPC has floated three separate tenders for procuring 4.53 MT -- 1.5 MT, 1.6MT and 1.43 MT -- of imported coal on May 7, 2022.

The company had invited bids to procure 4.93 MT of imported coal last month. It has been mandated to procure 20 MT of imported coal in 2022-23 for blending with the domestic dry fuel at its thermal plants because of the ongoing

shortage.

The NTPC has invited bids for procurement of 1.43 MT of imported coal on FOR (Freight On-Road) power station basis for NTPC plants at Vindhyachal, Rihand, Singrauli, Kharagone, Dadri, Tanda and Unchahar.

The bids are also invited for the procurement of 1.60 MT of imported coal on a power station basis for NTPC plants at Talcher Kaniha, Farakka, Kahalgaon, Barh, Barauni, Bongaigaon, Simhadri and Ramagundam.

The bids were invited for the procurement of 1.50 MT of imported coal to supply the dry fuel at thermal plants located at Kudgi, Solapur, Sipat, Mouda, Gadawara, Lara and Korba Power plants.

The successful bidder will supply the imported steam coal sourced from identified mines as declared by the firm to NTPC power stations.

The bidder will also arrange vessels, stevedoring, handling, storage, port clearances, arranging railway rakes, loading, transportation and delivery at the power stations.

IDBI Bank board approves appointment of T N Manoharan as part-time chairman

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

IDBI Bank on Monday said its board has approved the appointment of T N Manoharan as the part-time chairman for a period of three years.

The bank also announced that M R Kumar has ceased to be the non-executive non-whole time chairman of the bank with effect from May 8, 2022, after completion of the RBI approved term of three years.

"Board of directors of bank have approved appointment of T N Manoharan, independent director as part time chairman of IDBI Bank, for a period of 3 years with effect from May 9, 2022, as approved by Reserve Bank of India vide their letter dated May 6, 2022," IDBI Bank said in a regulatory filing.

In terms of the Articles of Association of the bank, Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC) vide their communication dated May 7, 2022, nominated Raj Kumar, Managing Director of LIC as LIC nominee director on board of bank, said lender.

HCL Tech to buy digital banking Confinale

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

HCL Technologies UK, a subsidiary of IT services company HCL Technologies, has signed a definitive pact for acquisition of Switzerland-based Confinale, a digital banking and wealth management consulting specialist.

With this strategic acquisition, HCL will expand its footprint in the global wealth management market with emphasis on Avaloq consulting, implementation and management capabilities, it said in a statement on Monday. Confinale, founded in 2012, focuses on IT consulting in key

areas in the banking and wealth management sector. With offices in Switzerland, including Zurich, Zug and Geneva, and also in Düsseldorf and London, Confinale works with a slew of leading banks and wealth advisors.

Confinale has one of the largest independent pools of Avaloq-certified specialists in Europe and its in-house developed products and solutions accelerate the implementation of the Avaloq platform. The digital banking and wealth management specialist is one of only four companies to be awarded the title of Avaloq Premium Implementation

Gold declines ₹43, silver down ₹62

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Gold in the national capital on Monday dipped Rs 43 to Rs 51,227 per 10 grams and silver also went lower by Rs 62 to Rs 62,393 per kg, according to HDFC Securities.

In the previous trade, the precious metal settled at Rs 51,270 per 10 grams. Silver declined by Rs 62 to Rs 62,393 per kg from Rs 62,455 per kg in the previous trade.

In the international market, gold was trading higher at USD 1,871 per ounce and silver was flat at USD 22.24 per ounce. "Gold prices traded firm with spot gold prices at COMEX trading 0.35 per cent



up at USD 1,871 per ounce on Monday. Gold prices held steady as the stronger dollar and firm US bond yields continued to weigh on gold prices

keeping it in tight range below USD 1,900 per ounce," said Tapan Patel, Senior Analyst (Commodities), HDFC Securities.

Reliance Brands signs franchise agreement with Italian luxury shoe maker Tod's

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Reliance Brands Ltd (RBL) on Monday said it has entered into a long-term franchise agreement with Tod's SpA to become the official retailer of the Italian luxury lifestyle brand for the Indian market.

As per the agreement, RBL is the official retailer of the brand across all categories, including footwear, handbags and accessories in the Indian market, said a joint statement. Moreover, RBL would also take over the management of Tod's existing stores in India, which is present in the country since 2008 with mono-brand stores

in DLF Emporio, New Delhi and Palladium, Mumbai

and multi-brand e-commerce platform Ajo Luxe. "The management of existing channels will be taken over by RBL and the focus will be on enhancing the brand's potential in the market and strengthening their digital presence," the statement said.

Commenting on the development RBL MD Darshan Mehta said Tod's has crafted a unique space for itself on the global luxury front. "A name that conjures images of luxe leathers and soigne materials, we are thrilled to partner with the brand to uphold its core values of exceptional quality, craftsmanship and effortless

elegance in the Indian market," he said.

Tod's General Brand Manager Carlo Alberto Beretta said: "We are very pleased to partner with the country's leading luxury retailer as we believe that our common passion for quality and a modern and sophisticated lifestyle will allow us fully to express the potential of this important partnership".

RBL is a subsidiary of Reliance Retail Ventures Ltd, the retail arm of Reliance Industries Ltd (RIL). It started operations in 2007 with a mandate to launch and build global brands in luxury to premium segments across fashion and lifestyle.

Insolvency proceedings ordered against Birla Tyres

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The National Company Law Tribunal (NCLT) has ordered the initiation of insolvency proceedings against Birla Tyres Ltd in a case filed by multi-business chemicals firm SRF Ltd, an operational creditor of the BK Birla group firm.

A two-member Kolkata bench of the NCLT has also appointed Seikh Abdul Salam as Interim Resolution Professional (IRP) to run the operations of the company after suspending the board and also declared a moratorium as per the procedures of the Insolvency & Bankruptcy Board (IBC). SRF had claimed a default in payment of Rs 15.84 crore, which includes a



principal of Rs 10.06 crore and interest of 5.78 crore, for the supply of Tyre Cord Fabric as of July 8, 2021.

The tribunal said it was "satisfied upon the basis of documents", including pleadings of parties as "default has occurred" and observed there is no payment of the unpaid operational debt and also there is an admission of this by Birla Tyres, the corporate debtor. "The application bearing... Filed

by SRF Ltd, the Operational Creditor, under section 9 of the Insolvency & Bankruptcy Rules, 2016 for initiating CIRP against Birla Tyres Ltd, the Corporate Debtor, is admitted," said an NCLT bench in its order passed on May 5, 2022. Besides, the NCLT bench comprising Member (Technical) Harish Chander and Member (Judicial) Suri Rohit Kapoor - also slammed BK Birla group firm for taking a "very casual attempt" to seek adjournments in the matter.

In this matter, the NCLT had issued notice to Biral Tyres on October 20, 2021, over SRF's plea. On December 22, 2021, Birla Tyres sought some time to file a reply and sought adjournment.

BUSINESS BRIEFS

SEDENTARY LIFESTYLES OF WOMEN FACE GYNAE ISSUES
New Delhi: The Covid-19 pandemic continues to throw intense challenges to society. While the spread of the virus had been mitigated through various measures like social distancing, however, this has resulted in an inactive and sedentary lifestyle, especially among young adults. These lifestyle habits have been a prevalent concern amongst young individuals that have given rise to many health problems, including gynaecological issues as well. With the increasing number of women complaining of issues relating to the reproductive organ, MediBuddy, a major digital healthcare platform, recently witnessed a surge of 78% consultations relating to gynaecological problems and diseases amongst young women, especially in age group of 19 to 30 years.

G'RAM POLICE HEAD LAUNCHES DIAGNOSTICS STARTUP
Gurgaon: Gurugram Commissioner of Police Kala Ramachandran inaugurated 'Health on Wheels' by Healthians, a technology-driven diagnostics startup on Mothers Day. At present, the 'Health on Wheels' will be available in Delhi and NCR cities and by December, the service will also be operational in several other cities such as Mumbai & Bangalore with a vision to cover remote areas where the health screening is easily not accessible by all.

MAX WINS MIAMI GP

AP ■ MIAMI

World champion Max Verstappen roared to an authoritative victory for Red Bull on Sunday when he beat Ferrari's Charles Leclerc in sweltering conditions at a celebrity-packed inaugural Miami Grand Prix.

The 24-year-old Dutchman took the lead from the pole-sitting Monegasque driver on the opening lap and remained in control throughout a largely processional contest.

He came home 3.78 seconds ahead of Leclerc for his third Grand Prix win this year and the 23rd of his career.

Carlos Sainz finished third in the second Ferrari after holding off a late charge from Sergio Perez, on fresh tyres in the second Red Bull, and George Russell came home fifth ahead of Mercedes team-mate seven-time champion Lewis Hamilton.

"What a race," said Verstappen, who had missed most of Friday's practice sessions when he had a gearbox replaced after an early brush with the barriers.

"It was nice, but it was a tough one, but really good. The team did an outstanding job - a good recovery we can be proud of... I think I need a drink and I think you need a drink!"

Valtteri Bottas finished seventh



for Alfa Romeo ahead of Esteban Ocon and his Alpine team-mate Fernando Alonso, with Alex Albon taking an excellent tenth for Williams.

Leclerc made a good start to lead from his third pole position of the year, but behind him Sainz struggled to resist Verstappen who forced his way past on the outside of Turn One to split the Ferraris.

Hamilton locked up at Turn One, dropping to eighth after a wheel-banging clash with Alonso, but

regained a place when he passed the Spaniard at Turn 11 on lap three.

It remained close and tense through the opening laps, with Hamilton passing Gasly for sixth before Verstappen passed Leclerc with ease to lead into Turn One at the start of lap nine.

The Ferraris were struggling with early tyre wear and Leclerc fell 2.7 seconds adrift of the Dutchman on lap 13.

Yuki Tsunoda was the first man to pit, switching to hard tyres on lap

11, soon followed by Magnussen and Schumacher as the heat took its toll on the unforgiving surface.

Verstappen built his lead to more than 3sec by lap 18 with team-mate Perez fourth, behind the two Ferraris, ahead of Bottas and his erstwhile Mercedes team-mate Hamilton.

After a slow start, Russell recovered from 15th as his tyres came alive and he rose to seventh by lap 20, 14 seconds off Hamilton. The front three had pulled clear of Perez, who

grumbled his Red Bull had lost power, as the field stretched out. At the end of lap 22, Hamilton pitted for 'hards' and re-joined seventh, Russell taking sixth. Bottas, still fifth, was 20 seconds ahead.

Leclerc came in after 24 laps, switching to hard tyres and dropping to fourth, a move that made Verstappen do the same, gifting Sainz a lap in the lead before normal order was restored.

The Dutchman extended his lead to eight seconds by lap 34.

Frustrated Hamilton queries team strategy

AP ■ MIAMI

Frustrated Lewis Hamilton questioned his Mercedes team's strategy on Sunday after he finished sixth behind team-mate George Russell at the Miami Grand Prix.

After the fifth race of the year, Hamilton is sixth in the drivers' standings on 36 points, with fellow Briton fourth on 59.

The seven-time world champion said he was surprised to be asked if he wanted to pit for fresh tyres during a Safety Car period after 41 laps of the inaugural 67-lap race at the Miami International Autodrome, won by Max Verstappen.

"I really don't know, in that scenario I have no clue where

everyone is," he explained when asked about the incident.

"When the team say 'it's your choice' -- I don't have the information to make the decision.

"That's what your job is! Make the decision for me. You've got all the details right there in front of you. I don't.

"That's what you rely on the guys for, but today they gave it to me and I didn't understand it."

The team decided not to pit Hamilton.

"It's just a bit unfortunate on the Safety Car, but at least we got points today," he said.

"We're finishing and reliability is good. We just have to keep trying. I'm excited to, at one stage, take a step forward, which we haven't yet."

DRAMA ON LAP 41

Russell, still on his original medium tyres, remained fifth, aware that a Safety Car might give him a 'free' pit stop.

"Why don't we just keep going?" he asked the team as rain clouds loomed, promising rain to enliven a largely processional affair.

His question was answered with an explosion of drama on lap 41 when Norris collided with Gasly, his McLaren clipping the Alpha Tauri's rear right wheel and spinning into the barriers.

He lost a wheel, but he was unhurt and Russell pitted as a Virtual Safety Car was deployed before the

actual Safety Car intervened.

Perez also pitted for fresh mediums but stayed fourth while Mercedes elected not to bring in Hamilton for a late charge on softs once the racing resumed.

The final 10 laps produced much welcome action with Bottas, running too deep into Turn 17, being passed by both Mercedes before Russell passed Hamilton for fifth and Perez, pushing hard, trying to overtake Sainz.

Leclerc moved close to Verstappen, but was unable to pass him while Russell, told to give position back to Hamilton, was soon racing past him to stay fifth.

Alcaraz has eyes on Roland Garros after Madrid triumph



AP ■ MADRID

Teenager Carlos Alcaraz continued his blazing rise by demolishing Alexander Zverev in the Madrid final on Sunday and then said "I really want to prove my level in a Grand Slam".

Two weeks before the start of the French Open, the young Spaniard brushed aside his third-ranked foe 6-3, 6-1 in 62 minutes to continue a run that signals tennis has a new power.

"I really want to go to Paris to win a Grand Slam, to show my level in a Grand Slam," said Alcaraz at a press conference after winning the second Masters 1000 of his career.

"People are going to take me as a favourite, but I take that as motivation," added Alcaraz.

He said he will miss the Rome claycourt tournament this week after injuring an ankle in beating Rafael Nadal in the quarterfinals on Friday. "This morning, because of the fall against Rafa, I woke up with a more swollen ankle and I also had a blister that had become

infected," he said.

"It was a little difficult to walk, but... we were able to do a few things to be at 100 percent for the match."

Before the Madrid tournament last year, Alcaraz was ranked 120th in the world. On Monday he will reach number six.

"I have five more to go to be the best in the world," he said.

He became the youngest US Open quarter-finalist of the Open era last September, then won his first Masters 1000 title in Miami in early April.

Victory on Sunday brought a second Masters 1000 title. The only younger player to reach that milestone was Nadal, who won in Monte Carlo and Rome when he was 18.

Alcaraz turned 19 on Thursday and over the next two days battled past Nadal in two hours and 28 minutes and Novak Djokovic in 3hr 36min.

"I am 19 years old, which I think is the key to be able to play long and tough matches in a row. I am feeling great physically," he said.

"It feels great to be able to beat these players. To beat two of the best players in history and then Zverev, the world No 3. He is a great player. I would say this is the best week of my life," he said.

Zverev had no doubt where the teenager's trajectory is heading.

"It's great to see for tennis that we have such a new superstar who is going to win so many Grand Slams and is going to be world no. 1," said the German.

The atmosphere on Sunday did not reach the fervour of the day before, as Alcaraz grabbed control early and cruised to his quickest victory of the week.

Even so, "it was a spectacular atmosphere," he told the crowd at the end.

"This tournament is special for me because it's the first tournament I watched when I was seven or eight," said Alcaraz.

"Watching Rafa lift this trophy so often, gave me a lot of power to work hard for this moment."

Osaka pulls out of Italian Open with injury



AP ■ ROME

Naomi Osaka has withdrawn from the Italian Open in Rome to rest an Achilles injury ahead of the French Open, the WTA said on Monday.

The four-time Grand Slam champion suffered the injury in her opening match in Madrid earlier this month, before struggling in a second-round loss to Sara Sorribes Tormo.

"Unfortunately I'm going to have to

withdraw from Rome as the injury which I picked up last week in Madrid hasn't healed yet," the Japanese star said in a statement.

"It's an Achilles injury so I need to be careful, especially in advance of Roland Garros."

The former world number one has never reached the final of a clay-court tournament, but will be hoping to put that record straight at the French Open which starts on May 22.

Swiatek feeling 'fresher' after skipping Madrid Open

AP ■ ROME

World number one Iga Swiatek said on Monday she is feeling refreshed "mentally and physically" after missing last week's Madrid Open to rest a sore right arm.

The Polish star is returning to action at this week's Italian Open, hoping to extend her 23-match unbeaten run.

"I just had five or six days off, without a racquet, which was pretty cool," said defending Rome champion Swiatek.

"It was pretty good to have the opportunity to do something like that between tournaments during the season."

The 20-year-old has won her last four tournaments, including lifting

WTA 1000 titles at Indian Wells and Miami.

"I feel fresher. Mentally and physically I was able to rest," she added.

The former French Open winner will open her campaign in Italy against either Shelby Rogers or her fellow American Alison Riske in the second round.

Swiatek is bidding to become the first woman to win three of the Indian Wells, Miami, Madrid and Rome titles in the same season since Serena Williams in 2013.

She also congratulated Tunisia's Ons Jabeur on winning the biggest title of her career in Madrid at the weekend.

"It's really deserved. I'm really happy for her that she managed to win a big title."

Osaka, currently ranked 38th, has shown signs of a return to form this year.

The 24-year-old reached the Miami

Open final, where she lost to world number one Iga Swiatek, in April.

She has been replaced in the Rome draw by Spain's Nuria Parrizas Dias.

Atletico win Madrid derby

AP ■ MADRID

Atletico Madrid won a La Liga derby against Real Madrid for the first time in six years on Sunday as a 1-0 victory left Diego Simeone's side on the cusp of securing Champions League qualification.

Yannick Carrasco's first-half penalty proved enough at the Wanda Metropolitano against a heavily weakened Real Madrid, who took the chance to rotate after their incredible Champions League comeback against Manchester City on Wednesday.

With Karim Benzema, Luka Modric and Thibaut Courtois among those on the bench for the already-crowned champions, Atletico took advantage, even if they missed a string of chances that made the contest far more uncomfortable than it needed to be.

Atletico sit fourth, six points clear of Real Betis in fifth, with three games left to play. Their better head-to-head record over Betis means they will be guaranteed to finish in the top four if Betis fail to win away at Valencia on Tuesday. If Betis beat Valencia, Atletico can make sure of their spot themselves



by winning away at Elche on Wednesday.

Sevilla's place also looks almost sealed after a 1-1 draw away at Villarreal earlier on Sunday gave them a seven-point cushion over Betis.

Atletico had not beaten Real Madrid in La Liga since 2016 and not at home since 2015, while their last eight games in all competitions against their city rivals had brought two goals and no vic-

tories.

Ending that run will certainly bring much satisfaction to Atletico's fans and players but the bigger relief will be Champions League qualification, which has been in doubt for the duration of what has been an inconsistent and disappointing campaign.

Atletico's greater intensity showed in the first half as Angel Correa drove an early shot wide after a poor pass from Camavinga allowed Geoffrey Kondogbia to rob Kroos before Carrasco weaved through but flashed wide.

The opening goal came from another misplaced pass, this time from Marco Asensio in midfield, and as Matheus Cunha bore down on goal, he was squeezed out between Vallejo and Militao.

Atletico wanted a penalty and while the referee initially waved away appeals, he changed his mind after consulting the replay, with Vallejo deemed culpable. Carrasco slammed in the spot-kick.

Atletico missed chances to kill the game as Carrasco fired over after Nacho Fernandez gave the ball away and then another Camavinga error gave Cunha a chance but his effort was saved.

Milan restore 2-point Serie A lead



AP ■ VERONA

Sandro Tonali fired AC Milan closer to the Serie A title with a brace in Sunday's 3-1 win at Verona which maintained their two-point lead over Inter Milan at the top of the league.

Italy midfielder Tonali struck with almost identical goals created by Rafael Leao either side of half-time before Alessandro Florenzi completed the scoring near the end to leave Milan needing four points from their final two games to claim a first Scudetto since 2011.

Their superior record in this season's Milan derbies gives the seven-time European champions an advantage which would keep them ahead of champions Inter should the two local rivals end the season level on points.

"I'm in love with my players," said coach Stefano Pioli to DAZN. "I see the effort they put in every day and I know the journey we've been on... we've got to keep this concentration, determination and belief in the final two games."

Milan overcame the toughest test of their run-in against ninth-placed Verona and now host Europe-chasing Atalanta next weekend before travelling to Sassuolo on the closing weekend of what has been an enthralling campaign.

Inter meanwhile are in Sardinia on Sunday against a Cagliari team fighting for its Serie A life, with their final opponents Sampdoria and the small matter of the Italian Cup final against Juventus on Wednesday further complicating matters.

Tonali's double was the second time in three matches he has been crucial to Milan's title charge after also netting a late winner at Lazio a fortnight ago.

The 22-year-old thought he had opened the scoring in the 15th minute when he raced onto a long ball from goalkeeper Mike Maignan and slotted past Lorenzo Montipo, only for the wild celebrations among the large contingent of away fans to be cut short by a tight offside ruling via VAR.

After also going close through Davide Calabria Milan fans started thinking about a Stadio Bentegoddi hoodoo -- they have thrown away two league titles at Verona in the past -- six minutes before the break when Davide Faraoni finished off a beautiful Verona move by nodding home Darko Lazovic's floated cross.

However Tonali had a deserved goal deep into first-half stoppage time when after Leao burst into the box he met the Portugal attacker's pass and pushed in the equaliser.

It galvanised Milan who were in front shortly after the restart thanks to a carbon copy effort, the only real difference being that Leao's low pass for Tonali's second was with his left foot. From then on Milan were in almost complete control and Florenzi made sure Milan continued their charge for a first league crown since 2011 when he exchanged passes with Junior Messias before rifling home his second Serie A goal of the season.

KKR STILL ALIVE IN IPL

PTI ■ NAVI MUMBAI

Kolkata Knight Riders finally found the team balance they were looking for to outclass Mumbai Indians by 52 runs here on Monday and keep their slim IPL play-off hopes alive.

Lead Mumbai Indians pacer Jasprit Bumrah picked up his maiden five-wicket haul in IPL history to restrict KKR to 165 for nine after fine knocks from Venkatesh Iyer (43 off 24) and Nitish Rana (43 off 24). Barring a 43-ball 51 from Ishan Kishan, Mumbai batters struggled to get going in the chase as their innings ended at 113 all out in 17.3 overs. KKR finally played Tim Southee (1/10) and Pat Cummins (3/22) together and the move worked with the seasoned pacers sharing four wickets. Andre Russell too chipped in with couple of wickets.

Another big positive was the return to form of Venkatesh Iyer, who had to be dropped earlier in the competition due to his lean run after a sensational debut season in 2021.

While MI were already out of the play-off race, KKR, who have five wins from 12 games, can still sneak into the top four with two games remaining. Earlier, KKR openers Venkatesh and Ajinkya Rahane (25 off 24 balls) added 60 runs in just 5.4 overs after they were put into bat but the Shreyas Iyer-led side failed to



capitalise on that promising start. Rana blazed his way to a 26-ball 43, with three

boundaries and four sixes, but it was Bumrah (5/10), who took five wickets in two overs,

to put the brakes on KKR, who suffered a middle-order collapse.

► pointstable

Po.	TEAM	M	W	L	NR	Pts	NRR
1.	LSG	11	8	3	0	16	0.703
2.	GT	11	8	3	0	16	0.120
3.	RR	11	7	4	0	14	0.326
4.	RCB	12	7	5	0	14	-0.115
5.	DC	11	5	6	0	10	0.150
6.	SRH	11	5	6	0	10	-0.031
7.	KKR	12	5	7	0	10	-0.057
8.	PBKS	11	5	6	0	10	-0.231
9.	CSK	11	4	7	0	8	-0.028
10.	MI	11	2	9	0	4	-0.894

► boundarymeter

4s	1556
6s	810

In the 15th over, Bumrah removed Russell (9) and Rana -- Sheldon Jackson (5), Cummins (0) and Sunil Narine (0), in the 18th over, a maiden, to bring MI back into the game.

Venkatesh smashed three boundaries and four sixes, but perished in the sixth over, giving a sitter to Daniel Sams at point, with spinner Kumar Kartikeya Singh (2/32) getting his first wicket.

Venkatesh was brutal on spinner Murugan Ashwin (1/35), hitting him for his first maximum, a pull shot and then hammered a boundary.

GT, LSG look to seal IPL play-off berth

PTI ■ PUNE

On a slippery slope after back-to-back losses, Gujarat Titans will need their batters to fire when they take on high-flying Lucknow Super Giants as both teams look to seal IPL play-offs berth here on Tuesday. The two new entrants are having a dream run in their maiden season. While Gujarat led the points table for most part of the league, Lucknow moved ahead of them to take the top spot. The Hardik Pandya-led Gujarat side's winning streak came to an end with back-to-back losses against Punjab Kings and Mumbai Indians last week.

Both teams have 16 points each from 11 outings and a win for either of them will confirm the passage to the next stage.

LSG, who have won their last four games, would be brimming with confidence as they head to the fixture with a morale-boosting 75-run win over Kolkata Knight Riders.

KL Rahul has led from the front and the opener is the second highest run scorer in the tournament, collecting 451 runs from 11 games with two hundreds and as many fifties.

The team has relied heavily on him to get the job done with the bat. But the likes of Quinton de Kock and Deepak Hooda have taken more responsibility in the recent games which will definitely



Lucknow vs Gujarat
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take the pressure off Rahul.

Their bowling unit has been right on mark. While LSG were able to defend 153 against Punjab Kings, they polished off KKR for just 101, with pacers Avesh Khan and Jason Holder proving to be too hot to handle for the former champions.

Pacers Mohsin Khan (5.35) and Sri Lanka's Dushmantha Chameera (7.90) have bowled economically as has Krunal Pandya (6.64), while Ravi

Bishnoi (8.23) and Avesh (8.14) have been a tad expensive. But the bowling unit has often found a way to get over the line.

Gujarat's stellar run in the IPL can be attributed to their ability to come back from tough situations. They had different players winning games for them but that was not the case against MI when they failed to get nine runs off the last over in what should have been an easy run chase.

The batting department needs to be more consistent. The top order batters have failed to take their innings deep.

I fully back every decision Pant takes on field: Ponting

PTI ■ NAVI MUMBAI

Rishabh Pant's on-field decisions as Delhi Capitals captain in the ongoing IPL might have come under the scanner of former players but the wicket-keeper has got the "full backing" of head coach Ricky Ponting, who says "it's easy to make judgment from outside".

Under Pant, DC have won just five of the 11 matches they have played so far. They suffered a 91-run thrashing at the hands of Chennai Super Kings on Sunday.

Pant's bowling changes and selection of bowlers to bowl at crucial periods of matches have been criticised by former players like Virinder Sehwaig.

But Ponting, a former Australia and Mumbai Indians captain, said he fully backs every decision Pant takes on the field.

"I fully back every decision he (Pant) takes on the field. I being a T20 captain before, I know you don't have a lot of time to think about especially under extreme pressure," Ponting said at the post-match press conference after DC's 91-run loss to CSK.



"It is easy to make judgments from outside but trust me when you are in the middle it is not an easy thing to do."

Elaborating on the decision-making process of a captain, the legendary batter said, "A captain makes decisions in a very short time and the decision he takes he thinks is the best for the team at that given time of the match."

"He takes things like boundary size and batsmen at the crease into account when he takes those decisions."

He, however, admitted that his side fared poorly in all departments of the game in the

loss against CSK.

"Our bowling was not up to the mark, similarly our batting was very very poor. There were not many positives to take from the match. The only positive was Khaleel Ahmed, he was outstanding with the ball again," Ponting said. "To lose by 91 runs, it will put a huge dent in our net run-rate. It means we need to bounce back really strongly in our next game."

Ponting said DC can still make the play-offs with wins in all the remaining three matches.

"We would think we can make the play-offs with three

wins. Eight wins might be enough to get in and one big win might help our net run rate. Who knows we can be in the final."

"That is what we can think of, what happened has happened and we would want to look to the future and look for a rebound from a bad performance."

DC have been facing issues related to COVID-19 with a net bowler testing positive for the virus just before the CSK match on Sunday. Some of their players and support staff, as well as Ponting's family member, had also contracted the virus last month.

"That's not an excuse for us. It's not the first time that we've had to deal with it on game day. In one of the earlier games against Punjab Kings we had to deal with the same thing and ended up winning that game really comfortably," he said.

"We are going to make excuses and we are going to find solutions for the problems we are facing. Although it wasn't ideal preparation, we should have played better cricket. At the end of the day, we let ourselves down."

PTI ■ NAVI MUMBAI

Coming down the track and hitting spinners over the ropes was not his biggest strength but CSK opener Devon Conway tried it with great success on captain Mahendra Singh Dhoni's advice in the win against DC in the IPL.

After helping CSK to 91-run win with a 49-ball 87, laced with seven fours and five sixes, Conway revealed that Dhoni's advice on handling spinners helped him score his third straight half-century this season.

"I have got to give credit to MS actually," Conway said after the match.

"In the last game, I swept quite a lot, and I unfortunately got out playing the sweep. But he (Dhoni) told me 'I think the guys are going to try to bowl fuller to you tonight. So maybe come out and try to hit them straight.'"

"He sort of gave me the guideline to try to execute that," the New Zealander said.

Conway, who has scored an unbeaten 85 and 56 in earlier games, usually plays the sweep shot against spin but was dismissed when he attempted one against leg-spinner Wanindu Hasaranga in CSK's last game against Royal

Challengers Bangalore.

Against DC, he not only swept and reverse-swept but also charged at the DC bowlers to hit them down the ground. In all, he stepped down to hit four balls from spinners Axar Patel and Kuldeep Yadav and all went for sixes.

Another CSK stalwart who has been helping Conway is assistant coach and former Australia batter Mike Hussey with whom the Kiwi chats before matches.

"I think I've heard that a few times now, which is quite good," Conway said at the post-match conference on people comparing him with Hussey.

"To get compared to one of the greats, Mike Hussey... It's pretty special to be possibly in that bracket. 'He's got so much knowledge, so much experience. Not only in the IPL, but throughout the world. It's just very important for me as a player to continue talking to him and learning from him and just getting some guidelines when I need it.' The 30-year-old right-handed batter, who has played seven Tests, three ODIs and 20 T20Is since making his debut in 2021, said he wants to keep things simple. "For me, the key is to keep very simple, and authentic myself as a player"



TTFI name 16 probables for CWG, final squad after national camp from May

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Reigning national champions Sharath Kamal and Sreeja Akula were on Monday named in the 16-member probables list for the Birmingham Commonwealth Games, scheduled to be held in July-August.

SD Mudgil, member of the Delhi High Court-appointed Committee of Administrators running the suspended Table Tennis Federation of India (TTFI), said that the final squad will be announced after completion of the training camp from May 23 to May 30.

In a first, the training camp will be held at Padukone-Dravid Centre for Sports Excellence in Bengaluru.

"After their meetings on April 25, May 1 and May 2, the selectors shortlisted the probables for the upcoming Commonwealth Games."

"The list was finalised after watching the players at the national championships in Shillong, detailed deliberations and discussions on past performance and medal prospects," said Mudgil, who is a former

athlete himself.

"We want to take the game to every nook and corner of the country. Our focus is also on making the administration transparent. The CoA, headed by retired Justice Gital Mittal has been very proactive on that front. "The performance of our athletes have also been encouraging of late. They give us a lot of hope going into the CWG and Asian Games (now postponed) and Olympics 2024," said Mudgil.

Earlier this month, Indian players including star woman paddler Manika Batra made massive gains in the ITTF world rankings after the sport's governing body approved changes to the points system.

Manika attained a career-high singles ranking of 38 with a jump of 10 spots while G Sathiyan was the best placed Indian male at 34.

Veteran Sharath, who won his 10th national title in Shillong, also gained a place to be world no 37 while Sreeja Akula, who won her maiden national title, gained as many as 39 places to be ranked 68th.

Thomas and Uber Cup: Indian men's team qualify

PTI ■ BANGKOK

The Indian men's badminton team notched its second successive win with a 5-0 thrashing of Canada in a group tie to qualify for the knock-out round of the Thomas Cup here on Monday.

With its second impressive result, the Indian team, which defeated Germany 5-0 on Sunday, is certain to finish in the top-2 in Group C and thus qualify for the knock-out round.

World Championships Silver medallist Kidambi Srikanth fought back from a game down to beat Brian Yang 20-22, 21-11, 21-15 in 52 minutes to give India the lead.

The doubles pair of Satwiksairaj Rankireddy and Chirag Shetty then needed just 29 minutes to beat Jason Anthony Ho-Shue and Kevin Lee before world number 23 H S Prannoy easily won his singles match against B R Sankeerth 21-15, 21-12 to make it 3-0 and clinch the tie for India.

The second doubles pair of Krishna Prasad Garaga and Vishnuvardhan Goud Panjala



was also too good for the duo of Dong Adam and Nyl Yakura in the match that the Indians won 21-15, 21-11 in 34 minutes.

The route was completed when Priyanshu Rajawat beat Victor Lal in three games, 21-13, 20-22, 21-14 in the third men's singles which lasted 52 minutes. The Indian men's team is searching for its maiden medal at the tournament.

No Indian men's team has ever reached the semifinals of the Thomas Cup.

The Indian team will play its final group C match against Chinese Taipei on Wednesday.

The Indian women's team had also begun its Uber Cup campaign on a resounding note with a 4-1 win against Canada on Sunday. It will face USA on Tuesday and Korea on Wednesday.

Rupinder to lead second-string India in men's Asia Cup hockey

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Veteran dragflicker Rupinder Pal Singh, who recently came out of retirement, will lead a second-string Indian men's hockey team in the Asia Cup, scheduled to be held in Jakarta from May 23 to June 1.

The 20-member Indian team will have vice-captain in Birendra Lakra, who too has returned from retirement.

Part of India's Bronze medal-winning team at the Tokyo Games, both Rupinder and Lakra had announced their retirements after the Olympics but made themselves available for selection later on.

Asia Cup is a World Cup qualifier but India, being the hosts, have a confirmed entry in the big-ticket event, which will be held in January next year. The top-3 teams in Asia Cup will qualify for the World Cup. Defending champions India have been clubbed along side Japan, arch-rivals Pakistan and hosts Indonesia in Pool A, while Malaysia, Korea, Oman and Bangladesh have been grouped in Pool B.

Keshav Maharaj win ICC 'Player of Month' award

PTI ■ DUBAI



Australian women's team star keeper-batter Alyssa Healy and South African men's side spinner Keshav Maharaj were on Monday voted the ICC's 'Player of the Month' for April in their respective categories.

Healy was selected the stand-out female player in April following her match-winning innings of 170 in the Women's Cricket World Cup final in Christchurch, setting a record for the highest-ever score in the summit clash of any ICC global event.

Proteas spinner Maharaj got the award for his prolific performance with the ball during their recent ICC World Test Championship series victory over Bangladesh on home soil.

The spinner proved a constant threat to the tourists, taking 16 wickets at an average of 12.12, celebrating two seven-wicket hauls in the second innings of both Tests.

His wickets were significant catalysts for his side's 2-0 series triumph, winning comfortably on both occasions -- by 220 runs in Durban and 332 runs in Gqeberha.