

**OPINION 6**  
GOVT FUMBLING  
ON DEFENCE ISSUES**WORLD 9**  
LVIV ROCKED BY NUMBER  
OF VERY LOUD EXPLOSIONS**MONEY 10**  
WPI INFLATION HITS  
RECORD 15.08% IN APRIL

NEW DELHI, WEDNESDAY MAY 18, 2022; PAGES 12 ₹3

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# Protect shivling, allow namaz: SC

Supreme Court refuses to stay Varanasi lower court proceedings

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Tuesday directed the District Magistrate of Varanasi to ensure protection of area inside the Gyanvapi mosque where “shivling” is said to have been found in the survey but allowed Muslims to offer “namaz” and perform “religious observances” there without any impediment.

The bench comprising Justices DY Chandrachud and PS Narasimha, however, refused to stay the ongoing proceedings before the lower court.

The bench issued notices to the petitioner Hindu devotees and posted the plea of the mosque committee for hearing on May 19.

The bench said it needed to “balance” the rights of contesting parties and clarified that the order of the civil judge (senior division), hearing the plea of petitioner Hindu devo-



Media persons gather and interact with Advocate Barun Kumar Sinha, who is representing Hindu Sena after the hearing of the case of Varanasi's Gyanvapi Masjid-Shringar Gauri Temple complex's survey, outside the Supreme Court in New Delhi on Tuesday

PTI

tees, directing authorities to ensure the protection of the area would not restrict and impede the rights of Muslim to offer namaz and to perform religious observances.

The petitioner — Committee of Management Anjuman Intezamia Masjid which manages Gyanvapi mosque — repeatedly argued for the stay citing Places of Worship Act of 1991.

“This is an interim arrangement till counsel for the plaintiff is here. We need to balance the rights of contesting parties. The order of May 16,

2022, to the extent that DM, Varanasi, shall ensure the protection of area where shivling is said to be found will not impede upon the rights of the Muslims to offer namaz and perform religious observances,” the bench said in its order.

Senior advocate Huzefa Ahmadi, appearing for the Gyanvapi mosque committee, said the Muslims need to perform “wazu” or ablution as without that “namaz” would have no meaning under Islam.

Solicitor General Tushar Mehta, appearing for the Uttar Pradesh Government, submit-

ted that he was not a party to the civil suit, but the place where “shivling” is said to have been found is a place where Muslims perform “wazu” and any damage may create a law and order problem.

“They can perform ‘wazu’ somewhere else if it is necessary but the area where shivling is said to be found needs protection,” the law officer said.

The Solicitor General informed the apex court that the plaintiff’s lawyer Hari Shankar Jain had suffered some cardiac issues and was hospitalised in Varanasi. Ahmadi said a series of orders, which are unconstitutional, has been passed by the civil judge and the latest of which was passed on Monday ordering the sealing of the area on an application by Jain in the ex-parte proceedings in which the survey report was yet to be filed.

He said since the top court is now seized of the matter, the entire proceedings before the civil judge needed to be stayed.

The SC, however, refused to stay the proceedings before the civil judge and said, “Any judicial officer would understand the meaning of our orders. We don’t need to stay it.”

Continued on Page 2

# Gyanvapi survey head removed

Court raps Ajay Mishra for info leak

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ VARANASI

Taking the matter seriously, the Varanasi court of Civil Judge (Senior Division) Ravi Kumar Diwakar removed Advocate Commissioner Ajay Kumar Mishra for leaking the secret information related to the Gyanvapi survey case. Now, Assistant Court Commissioner Vishal Singh, along with Ajay Pratap Singh, will present the survey report in the court.

During the last three days, under the leadership of Advocate Commissioner Ajay Kumar Mishra, the videography survey was done amid tight security on the Gyanvapi premises.

As per the court order, the report was scheduled to be submitted on Tuesday but the survey continued till Monday. Vishal Singh has sought more time for submission of the report as two draftsmen of Varanasi Development Authority (VDA) are busy in making the blueprint of the Gyanvapi-Shringar Gauri area.

During the hearing earlier, the Muslim side had also expressed doubts over the impartiality of Ajay Kumar Mishra and demanded that the survey commissioner be changed. However, the court did not change him at that time and made him chief advocate commissioner. During the hearing on Tuesday, the court removed Mishra and asked Vishal Singh and Ajay Pratap Singh to submit the detailed survey report.

During the hearing, the advocates of the defendant’s side accused Mishra of leaking secret information to the media.

Meanwhile, a petition was filed on behalf of the plaintiff to remove the closed wall towards Shringar Gauri and to appoint a court commissioner for the survey of the closed basement in front of Nandi.

The respondent advocate raised the objec-



tion that without the completion of the proceedings of the court commission, the action of the sealing was not justified. The Muslim side claimed that the entire country was being misled by describing the fountain as a “Shivling”. In reply to this, Hindu side’s lawyer Vishnu Jain said they knew the difference between a fountain and “Shivling”.

India’s breather to wheat export ban; US urges Govt to lift curb

PNS/PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Relaxing norms, the Government on Tuesday said it has decided to allow shipments of wheat consignments that were registered with the customs authority before the wheat export ban came into force on May 13.

On May 13, the Directorate General of Foreign Trade issued a notification banning exports of wheat with immediate effect to control price rise.

“It has been decided that wherever wheat consignments have been handed over to Customs for examination and have been registered into their systems on or prior to May 13, such consignments would be allowed to be exported,” the Commerce Ministry said.

Meanwhile, the US said it hopes India will “reconsider” its decision to ban wheat exports. US Ambassador to the UN Linda Thomas-Greenfield said, “We have seen the report of India’s decision. We’re encouraging countries not to restrict exports because we think any restrictions on exports will exacerbate the food shortages”.

The Government has also allowed a wheat consignment headed for Egypt, which was already under loading at the Kandla port, the Commerce Ministry said.

Continued on Page 2

# Karti booked in visa payoff case

CBI raids 10 sites

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

In fresh trouble for Lok Sabha member Karti Chidambaram, son of former Finance Minister P Chidambaram, the CBI has registered a case against him for allegedly facilitating visas to over 263 Chinese nationals after receiving a bribe of ₹50 lakh in 2011.

Following the registration of the case, the agency conducted searches at 10 locations in Chennai, Mumbai, Koppal (Karnataka), Jharsuguda (Odisha), Mansa (Punjab) and Delhi.

Besides Karti, the agency has also named his close associates S Bhaskaraman, Vikas Makharia, Talwandi Sabo



Power Limited, Mansa (Punjab) and Bell Tools Limited, Mumbai besides unknown public servants and private persons.

“It has been alleged that the private company based at Mansa (Talwandi Sabo Power Limited) was in the process of establishing a 1,980 MW thermal power plant at Mansa (Punjab) and the plant was outsourced to a Chinese firm.

Continued on Page 2

# HC asks Bengal Min to appear before CBI in daughter job scam

SAUGAR SENGUPTA ■ KOLKATA

In another big embarrassment for the Trinamool Congress Government, the Calcutta High Court on Tuesday directed Minister of State for Education Paresch Adhikari to appear before the CBI by 8 pm.

Justice Abhijit Gangopadhyay also made recommendations to Governor Jagdeep Dhankhar and Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee to remove Adhikari from his post if he did not resign on his own.

The court ordered a probe into a recruitment scandal featuring the Minister’s daughter who was appointed as a teacher in a Government school bypassing other successful candidates who had secured better marks than her in the selection tests. When contacted

Adhikari said he was not in Kolkata and was unaware of any such order as he was busy in political programmes.

The HC order came after the school services commission admitted to lapses in the appointment of Paresch’s daughter Ankita Adhikari.

“The petitioner had secured 20th position in the merit list for a teaching job, but later her position was changed to 21. This happened after the introduction of a candidate named Ankita in the merit list. This Ankita is the daughter of the State Minister Paresch Chandra Adhikari. So by virtue of being the daughter of the Minister her name was included in the merit list despite getting less marks than the petitioner,” said the petitioner’s advocate.

Continued on Page 2

## CAPSULE

### NAVEEN SRIVASTAVA IS INDIA’S ENVOY TO NEPAL

New Delhi: Seasoned diplomat Naveen Srivastava was on Tuesday appointed India’s new ambassador to Nepal. The Ministry of External Affairs announced the appointment a day after Prime Minister Narendra Modi paid a visit to Lumbini in Nepal. Srivastava, a 1993 batch Indian Foreign Service, is currently serving as additional secretary in the MEA.

### NO-TRUST VOTE AGAINST LANKA PREZ FAILS

Colombo: A no-confidence motion tabled by the Opposition against Sri Lankan President Gotabaya Rajapaksa was defeated in Parliament on Tuesday, in a comfortable win for the embattled President amid nationwide protests demanding his resignation.

### WORK FOR RAM TEMPLE CONSTRUCTION ON TIME

New Delhi: The construction work of Ram temple at Ayodhya, a three-storey structure, is proceeding as per schedule, an official statement said on Tuesday.

# RFID tag, ₹5L insurance, fast mobile link for Amarnath Yatra

Amit Shah reviews security for smooth Amarnath pilgrimage

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

The Amarnath pilgrims will be provided with Radio Frequency Identification (RFID), ₹5 lakh insurance each, and better mobile connectivity as the Government on Tuesday reviewed the security situation for a hassle-free yatra.

Union Home Minister Amit Shah held a series of meetings with security and intelligence top brass along with Jammu & Kashmir’s senior officials to assess the prevailing situation and recent targeted killings in the valley.

According to officials, the Union Territory administration proposed RFID tags to every pilgrim to ensure complete



protection.

Lt Governor of J&K Manoj Sinha was present in all the three back-to-back meetings chaired by the Home Minister. National Security Adviser Ajit Doval and Army Chief Gen Manoj Pande attended the meetings to discuss the security situation in the UT. Senior officials from the Centre, paramilitary forces and the UT administration were present in these meetings.

Later in a statement, the Union Home Ministry said the J&K Chief Secretary informed the meeting that each

pilgrim will be provided with a RFID and will be insured for ₹5 lakh.

Shah said a “hassle-free” journey for the pilgrims is a priority of the Modi Government and directed that all arrangements, including additional electricity, water, and telecom facilities be made. He directed for the enhancement of mobile connectivity along the Yatra route and suggested that earth moving equipment should be placed at vantage points to clear the route in case of landslides.

Continued on Page 2

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The Indian delegation is comprising film personalities including Shekhar Kapur, A R

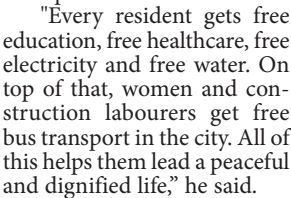
Modi further said “ this edition of Cannes film festival is special in many ways. Many Startups from India will showcase their strengths to the cin-



Actor Akshay Kumar, also an invitee to the Cannes festival, is not attending it as he has got infected by Covid19.

**STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI**

The CM Office also tweeted about the meeting and said, "Israel Ambassador to India H.E. Shri Naor Gilon called upon Chief Minister of Delhi



## STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

<sup>1</sup>The valedictory session will be held on May 21.

**STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI**

Hansraj College has been providing IAS coaching to Delhi University students in association with a private institution, Beacon Institute, since last year, DU Academic Council member Alok Pandey said.

**STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI**

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

## From Page 1

He further said while the commission work was in progress an application was filed by the plaintiff saying that a 'shivling', which, as per the mosque committee a water fountain, has been found and the court allowed the applications and passed the order ex parte in a "tearing hurry".

## From Page 1

recommended criminal action against them. The case against Chatterjee is pending for hearing in the Division of the Court.

**STAFF REPORTER** ■  
NEW DELHI

In the letter, the 11 teachers, including members of the

In March last year, the Delhi government had announced that CoA would

DU academic council member Alok Pandey said the Ambedkar University recently held a meeting in which it announced that the admission to CoA will begin as part of the AU.

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## From Page 1

The move also comes against the backdrop of reports that thousands of trucks carrying wheat were in the queue

## From Page 1

and deployment of ambulances and helicopters to deal with any emergency medical situation.

The Yatra, which presents a big security challenge to the Government, could not take

About 12,000 paramilitary personnel (120 companies) in addition to Jammu and Kashmir Police are expected to be deployed along the two pilgrimage routes, officials said. Drone cameras will help the

Besides the Amarnath pilgrimage, the meetings also reviewed the security arrangement especially in the wake of several targeted killings, including of Kashmiri Pandits, in Kashmir. Top officials of the Ministries of Health, Telecom, Road Transport, Civil Aviation and IT took part in the meeting to discuss logistics for the annual pilgrimage to the cave shrine dedicated to Lord Shiva at an altitude of 3,888 metres.

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# Dry Delhi appeals to Haryana to release water

Khattar Govt must comply with SC's order as our share of water is our right, says Satyendar Jain

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

The Delhi Government has requested its counterpart in Haryana to release water in the almost dry Yamuna River, amid the water crisis that has gripped the national Capital.

Delhi Water Minister, Satyendar alleged that the BJP-led Haryana Government has withheld the share of water that belongs to Delhi.

The Delhi Jal Board (DJB) has written thrice to the Haryana Irrigation Department in this connection in a fortnight and had shot off request letters on May 12, May 3 and April 30.

Jain on Tuesday conducted an on-site review of the Wazirabad barrage. He was also concerned about the impact of the water output from the Wazirabad and Chandrawal Water Treatment Plants (WTP) due to the Haryana Government's reduced water release in the Yamuna River.



The water level at the Wazirabad barrage has dropped from its typical 674.5 feet to this year's lowest level of 669 feet.

"Due to a lack of water supply from Haryana, the water treatment plants in Delhi are currently running at a fraction of their peak capability. As a result, Wazirabad WTP's water production has decreased by 60-70 MGD. The Yamuna has dried up as well due to the withholding of water by the Haryana Government," he informed

"The water supply is being impacted in several places across the city including Civil Lines, Hindurao Hospital, Kamla Nagar, Shakti Nagar, Karol Bagh, Paharganj, Old and New Rajinder Nagar, Patel Nagar, Baljit Nagar and Indrapuri," said Jain

## City continues to simmer at 41.1 degrees Celsius

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

The national Capital on Tuesday witnessed a maximum temperature of 41.1 degrees Celsius, which was one notch warmer than normal for this time of the year.

The minimum temperature recorded at the Safdarjung Observatory was 27.5 degrees Celsius, which was one notch above the normal for this season.

The relative humidity at 8:30 on Sunday morning was recorded at 57 per cent and 32 per cent in the evening at 5:30.

The weather stations at the Ridge, Ayanagar, Mungeshpur, Najafgarh, Pitampura, Palam, and Lodhi Road recorded maximum temperatures of 42.4 degrees Celsius, 43 degrees Celsius, 44.6 degrees Celsius, 44.2 degrees Celsius, 42.5 degrees Celsius, 42.4 degrees Celsius and 41.5 degrees Celsius respectively, according to the India Meteorological Department (IMD).

The IMD said that the fresh spell of heatwave conditions



is likely over northwest and central India from May 19.

"Heavy to very heavy rainfall over Kerala, coastal and south interior Karnataka, Assam and Meghalaya and Arunachal Pradesh during next three days," predicted the IMD.

"Advancement of Southwest Monsoon into some more parts of the South Bay of Bengal, the entire Andaman Sea and Andaman Islands and some parts of East central Bay

## Capital's peak power demand falls further, slips to 6,587 MW

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

The national Capital on Tuesday witnessed the peak power demand of 6,587 MW, which was slightly less than the demand on Monday.

According to the sources in discoms, Delhi's peak power demand on Tuesday clocked 6,587 MW at 3:32 in the afternoon.

"Delhi's peak power demand in May had never crossed the 6,000 MW-mark in 2021 and 2020. In 2019, it had crossed the 6,000 MW-mark only on three occasions i.e. May 29 (6,020 MW), May 30 (6,240 MW) and May 31 (6,461 MW)," a senior official said.

"In May so far, the peak power demand has been higher on 100 per cent of the corresponding days of May of 2021, 2020 and 2019," he said.

"Earlier, in April 2022, the peak power demand had been higher on 100 per cent of the corresponding days in respect

**CITY'S PEAK POWER DEMAND IN MAY NEVER CROSSED 6,000 MARK IN 2020, 2021**

to that of April 2021, 2020 and 2019. Moreover, on seven occasions in April 2022, Delhi's peak power demand clocked the highest-ever in April, each breaking the previous record in quick succession. On April 19, it was 5,735 MW, 5,761 MW on April 20 it was 5,781 MW on August 21 it was 5,786 MW on April 27, 6,050 MW on April 28, 6,197 on April 29 and 6,036 MW on April 30," he said.

"Delhi's peak power demand had breached the 7,000 MW-mark for the first time – peaking at 7,016 MW in 2018.

This expected peak power demand of around 8,200 MW is an increase of around 285 per cent over the peak power demand of 2,879 MW in 2002," he informed.

## Building owner among 3 sent to police custody in Mundka fire probe

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Three men, including the building owner, were taken by Delhi Police on one day custody, as part of the probe into the massive fire that broke out in outer Delhi's Mundka leaving 27 people dead.

A Delhi Court handed one-day police custody of the building owner Manish Lakra and two brothers -- Vijay and Harish Goel -- who rented two floors in the building to run their CCTV company, for further investigation.

According to Sameer Sharma, the Deputy Commissioner of Police (DCP), Outer district, police need to collect blood samples of the brothers-- Vijay and Harish Goel.

"Also, we need to know their background, company details and about the permissions taken by them from the authorities concerned. Lakra's documents are yet

to be verified," said the DCP.

Out of the 16 people injured, at least 10 have recorded their statements. Besides them, statements of the witnesses are being recorded, they said.

A senior police official said the police are asking the authorities concerned, including the North Delhi Municipal Corporation, to give documents pertaining to the building and the businesses there for investigation.

"More than 100 exhibits have been received by the Forensic Science Laboratory (FSL). We have formed multiple teams for DNA examination... Now that we have received the samples, we are proceeding with the entire process of DNA profiling. Since it is a complex process, it takes time," a senior FSL official said.

DNA sampling generally takes about one to two weeks. It also depends on the condition of the samples, the official said.

## 'Heroes proved Delhiites stand united in a crisis'

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal on Tuesday met the heroes who saved lives of several people during the fire at CCTV cameras and routers manufacturing and assembling company in Outer Delhi's Mundka, which claimed lives on 27 people.

The CM said, "Such heroes proved how Delhiites stand together as a family during all highs and lows. We all have to be united and always help each other and work together."

In the Mundka fire incident, many people came forward and saved the lives of dozens of people trapped in the building.

Dayanand Tiwari, a crane driver, who happened to be in the area, broke the glass of the building with the crane and started taking people out.

A 38-year-old Bablu, who runs a junk shop in the area, took out mattresses from his shop and laid them on the sides of the building, so that people who jumped down from above do not get hurt.

A 45-year-old, Surendra, a transporter, brought down several people with the help of a rope. Farmer Vijay Mann, along with



the villagers, started bringing down the people with the help of rope even before the fire brigade arrived and also took the injured to the hospital.

Similarly, 37-year-old Sanjeev, who works in MCD, brought down people with the help of ropes and stairs. During this time mattresses and ropes were falling short, so social worker Vikas and Pradeep, who runs a groceries shop, arranged for them by asking the people around.

Anil (35) also helped by arranging mattresses and ropes. Deepak Yadav, a construction worker, brought ropes and mattresses from his nearby village.

## NMC suspends licensing inspector, 2 SOs for laxity

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

The North Delhi Municipal Corporation (NMC) on Tuesday suspended Licensing Inspector Sandeep Kaushik, Section Officer of General Branch S.K Sharma and Section Officer of House Tax Department B. R. Meena of Narela Zone on finding laxity prima facie, in connection with the recent fire tragedy at Mundka, which claimed 27 lives.

As per the suspension order, NMC today suspended Licensing Inspector Sandeep Kaushik, Section Officer of General Branch and Section Officer of House Tax Department B. R. Meena of Narela Zone in view of unfortunate fire incident happened at Mundka area on 13.05.22. Prima facie, it appears to be the laxity on the part of the officials of general branch, house tax department and erstwhile building department of the

**'AS PER THE RECORD, NO PROPERTY TAX HAS BEEN PAID BY THE OWNER OR OCCUPIER OF THE PREMISES'**

Najafgarh Zone of unified MCD. "As per the record, no property tax has been paid by the owner/occupier of the premises and notices were issued by the department. Action against the building in the past was taken in 2019, As per directions of Monitoring Committee, the liquor shop, running at the ground floor of the premises was sealed on 24.1.19.

Thereafter, as per order of the Monitoring Committee dated 24.7.2019, the property was de-sealed after removing the belongings and accordingly ground floor is lying vacant," it said.

Further show cause notice to Deputy. A&C and Joint Assessor and Collector of

Narela zone has been issued and disciplinary proceeding has also been initiated against the then area Junior Engineer of the building department In Narela Zone/Najafgarh Zone posting during 01.01.2011 to 31.12.2011, when the alleged construction took place," it said.

"In order to prevent recurrence of such tragic incident, all Dy. Commissioners of Zones and officers/officials of Factory Licensing Department and Health Department have been directed to carry out a detailed survey of unauthorized factory units/restaurants operating in non-confirming areas without proper directed to carry out a detailed survey of FIR/NOC and Health License etc.

Those found violating the law, will be prosecuted and panel action including sealing etc, shall be taken against the defaulters as per relevant provisions of the DMC Act," order further stated.

## More armed guards at CM's house now, Delhi Police tells HC

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

The Delhi Police on Tuesday informed the Delhi High Court that security outside Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal's residence, where an incident of vandalism occurred in March, has been beefed up with the deployment of additional armed guards.

A Bench of Acting Chief Justice Vipin Sanghi and Justice Navin Chawla granted time to the police to file the status report and said it shall be filed positively before the next date, that is, May 30.

The police said the proposal to curtail entry on the road where the Chief Minister's residence is located is also under consideration and discussions are on with the Residents Welfare Associations (RWA).

The court was informed by the counsel for police that the status report is under preparation and sought some time to file it on record.

The Delhi Government

standing counsel (criminal) Sanjay Lau submitted that the status report of the Delhi Police was under preparation and it could not be filed as Additional Solicitor General Sanjay Jain was not available.

He further said more police personnel have been deployed outside the Chief Minister's house and they were talking with RWAs to install two gates on both sides of the road and that no assembly or protests will be allowed near the Civil Lines Metro Station.

The court was hearing a plea by AAP MLA Saurabh Bhardwaj about the March 30 attack during a protest against Kejriwal's remarks on 'The Kashmir Files', a film on the plight of Kashmiri Pandits.

Scores of protesters belonging to the Bharatiya Janata Yuva Morcha (BJYM), the youth wing of the BJP, had allegedly breached the barricades to reach the entrance of the Chief Minister's residence and destroyed public property in the presence of police.



File photo of the attack on the CM's house in March



A mirage appears on the Rajpath on a hot summer afternoon in New Delhi on Tuesday

PTI

## Govt identifying land for setting up food truck hubs

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

The teams of Delhi Tourism and Transport Development Corporation (DTTDC) and land owning agencies have started conducting surveys across the city to identify land for setting up food truck hubs as announced in the Aam Aadmi Party-led Delhi Government's Rozgar Budget 2022-23.

Meanwhile, the Delhi Fire Services (DFS) has already clarified that if the area occupied by a food truck is below 90 square metres, the fire No Objection Certificate (NOC) would not be required

A report on the identified locations based on the survey is expected to be submitted to

the Government this week, said an official of the DTTDC.

The DTTDC, assigned to prepare the food truck policy, is also working on various initiatives of the Delhi Government, including redevelopment of five prominent retail markets in the city.

"Various factors, including the availability of land, footfall and infrastructure, are to be considered in setting up the food truck hubs as per a policy to be framed by the Government," the official said.

The food truck markets would create a "vibrant nightlife experience" for the people of the city besides serving as a catalyst to Delhi's night-time economy, Deputy Chief Minister Manish Sisodia



had said earlier.

The Arvind Kejriwal dispensation is the first Government in the country to come up with 'Food Truck

Policy' on the lines of the US and Europe, to streamline food truck business in the city, he had said.

The Delhi Government

has estimated that at least 15,000 new job opportunities would be created with the promotion of food truck business in the city.

The land owning agencies of the Delhi Government, including the Public Works Department, Delhi Urban Shelter Improvement Board, Delhi State Industrial and Infrastructure Development Corporation, the Delhi Jal Board, Delhi Metro Rail Corporation and Delhi Transport Corporation, have been involved in the project.

The hubs would be developed with food trucks offering local and global cuisines from 8 P.M. to 2 A.M. The Government is also likely to consider incentivising the food truck business and relax certain norms for it, in the policy that is yet to be framed, they said.



**INSHORT**

**SC IMPOSES EXEMPLARY COST ON 2 ADVOCATES**

New Delhi: The Supreme Court on Tuesday imposed an exemplary cost of Rs 8 lakh on two advocates, who had filed a plea on the issue of traffic density, air pollution and emission norms. A three-judge bench headed by Justice L Nageswara Rao said this is not a moot court competition and dismissed the plea.

**DEEPEEN BONDS WITH VOTERS: NADDA**

New Delhi: BJP president J P Nadda on Tuesday stressed on the need for party leaders to deepen bond with voters from Scheduled Castes and other deprived sections of the society. In a closed-door meeting with senior party leaders from the party's SC wing and other Dalit leaders, Nadda asked them to reach out to members of the community and maintain constant dialogue with them. The party has called the meeting "Samajik Samvad Programme".

**SC GRANTS 3-MONTH INTERIM BAIL TO JN TYAGI**

New Delhi: The Supreme Court on Tuesday granted three months of interim bail to Jitendra Narayan Tyagi on medical grounds in connection with the Haridwar Dharma Sansad case involving alleged inflammatory speeches made against Muslims.

**APPEAL IN SC FOR MARITAL RAPE CRIMINALISATION**

New Delhi: An appeal has been filed in the Supreme Court challenging the Delhi High Court's split verdict on the issue of criminalisation of marital rape on a batch of petitions challenging the exception in the law that exempts husbands from being prosecuted for non-consensual sexual intercourse with their wives.

# Aim to roll out 6G network by decade end: PM

**PNS ■ NEW DELHI**

Stating that mobile manufacturing units in the country have increased from two to more than 200 thereby bringing mobile phone "within the reach of the poorest of poor families", Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Tuesday informed that India is targeting the rollout of 6G telecom network, which will provide ultra high speed internet connectivity, by the end of the decade.

Moving ahead of the 4G regime, the mobile telecom networks and companies are gearing up to launch 5G over the next few months.

Addressing a programme marking the silver jubilee celebrations of the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) via video conferencing, Modi said the self-made 5G

Test Bed that he dedicated to the nation today is an important step toward self-reliance in critical and modern technology in the telecom sector.

He congratulated all those associated with the project including the IITs. "The country's own 5G standard has been made in the form of 5Gi, it is a matter of great pride for the country. It will play a big role in bringing 5G technology to the villages of the country", he said.

The Prime Minister also released a postal stamp to commemorate the occasion. Union Ministers Ashwini Vaishnaw, Devusinh Chauhan and L. Murugan and the leaders of telecom and broadcasting sectors were among those present on the occasion.

Modi said it is estimated that the 5G network rollout will add USD 450 billion to the

Indian economy.

"This is not just increasing internet speed but also the pace of development and creating jobs," he said, adding the 5G technology will bring positive change in governance of the country, ease of living and ease of doing business.

It will boost growth in agriculture, health, education, infrastructure and logistics, he said.

According to the PM, a task force has started work on rolling out the 6G network by the end of the decade. Without naming the Congress-led-UPA government, Modi said, "Coming out of the despair, frustration, corruption and policy paralysis of the 2G era, the country has moved rapidly from 3G to 4G and now 5G and 6G" with TRAI playing a very important role in the transition."

He said whenever the industry has faced challenges like retrospective tax or adjusted gross revenue, then his government has responded to the crisis expeditiously and undertaken reforms wherever required.

"These efforts have created new trust. The result of this is that over one-and-a-half times more FDI in the telecom sector has come in the last 8 years compared to the amount that came into the country before 2014," Modi said adding tele-density and internet users are fast expanding.

The Prime Minister affirmed that today India is connecting every village in the country with optical fibre. Today we have made broadband connectivity reach about 1.75 lakh gram panchayats. Hundreds of government services are reaching the villages



because of this, he said.

Telecom Minister Ashwani Vaishnaw said the country's scientists and engineers have developed a complete 4G stack which is ready for deployment by the BSNL and the 5G stack is at an advanced stage of development. "By the end of this year, we should see our indigenously developed 5G

technology stack," Vaishnaw said.

I&B secretary Apurva Chandra said the media and entertainment industry is expected to grow to USD 70 billion by 2030 from USD 25 billion and TRAI as a broadcasting regulator will have to play an important role in steering this growth.

# India rejects Pak resolution on delimitation in Kashmir

**PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI**

India on Tuesday rejected the Resolution passed by the National Assembly of Pakistan on the delimitation exercise in Jammu and Kashmir and termed it "faracial." New Delhi also asked Islamabad to stop cross-border terrorism and shut down its "infrastructure of terrorism."

Making the country's stand clear, Ministry of External Affairs' spokesperson Arindam Bagchi also said Pakistan has no locus standi to interfere in the internal matters of India.

"We categorically reject the farcial resolution passed by the National Assembly of Pakistan on the subject of the delimitation exercise in the Indian Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir," he said.

"Pakistan has no locus standi to pronounce on or interfere in matters that are internal to India, including the Indian territories under Pakistan's illegal and forcible occupation," Bagchi said.

He made these assertions while responding to media queries regarding the resolution passed by the Pakistan National



Assembly on May 12 against the delimitation.

"It is regrettable that instead of putting their own house in order, the leadership in Pakistan continues to interfere in India's internal affairs and engage in baseless and provocative anti-India propaganda," he said.

Entire territory of the union territories of Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh "have been, is and shall always remain an integral part of India," he reiterated.

"The delimitation exercise in the Union Territory of

Jammu and Kashmir is a democratic exercise based on principles of extensive stakeholder consultation and participation," he said.

The delimitation commission, tasked with redrawing parliamentary and assembly constituencies in Jammu and Kashmir, notified its final report earlier this month.

Bagchi asked Pakistan to refrain from effecting any further material changes in the status of Pakistan occupied Jammu, Kashmir and Ladakh (PoJKL) and vacate the Indian territories that are under its

"illegal and forcible occupation".

"We reiterate that Pakistan must immediately cease anti-India cross-border terrorism and shut down its infrastructure of terrorism; stop the grave and persistent human rights violations in Pakistan occupied Jammu, Kashmir and Ladakh (PoJKL); refrain from effecting any further material changes in the status of PoJKL, and vacate Indian territories that are under its illegal and forcible occupation," Bagchi said.

Pakistan Foreign Minister Bilawal Bhutto Zardari, who moved the resolution, had claimed India's move is aimed at artificially altering the electoral strength of Jammu and Kashmir.

On Monday, the external affairs ministry had asked the Organisation of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) to refrain from "unwarranted" comments on Jammu and Kashmir.

"The OIC should refrain from carrying out its communal agenda vis-a-vis India at the behest of one country," the Ministry spokesperson said in an oblique reference to Pakistan.

# India may reopen embassy in Kabul; security review on

**PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI**

India may re-open its embassy in Kabul, Afghanistan, which was shut down two days after the Taliban took over the country on August 15 last year. More than 15 countries have already reopened their embassies there.

Various Indian agencies are reviewing the situation in Afghanistan to come to a final decision in this regard. With security of the staff of paramount concern, some security teams of India recently visited Kabul to take stock of the ground realities, sources said here on Tuesday.

Incidentally, the ongoing counter-terrorism meeting here of the Regional Anti-Terrorism Structure (RATS) under the aegis of the Shanghai Co-operation Organisation on Monday discussed the situation there with special focus of some groups operating from the Taliban governed nation. Representative from Pakistan, China, Russia and Central Asian countries are participating in the four-day conclave ending Thursday.

As regards the possibility of re-opening the Indian embassy, sources said if it so happens, personnel will be posted for liaison services and consular services. However, no top officials or diplomats may be deployed there to begin with, they added.

Even as India is yet to recognize the Taliban regime, New Delhi is regularly sending food and medical aid to Afghanistan via the land route passing through Pakistan from Attari-Wagah border. India is committed to send more than 50,000 tons of wheat to Afghanistan as part of humanitarian assistance.

The Taliban dispensation has many times expressed gratitude to India for the aid and has urged New Delhi to re-open its embassy in Kabul. It has assured India of all possible security and safe environment to operate there.

Incidentally, India has reopened its embassy in strife torn Ukraine from this week. It was closed shortly after the Russian military action there began on February 24. The embassy in Kyiv commenced operations on Tuesday.

# 'India, Africa must respond to volatile, uncertain world'

**PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI**

External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar on Tuesday said India and Africa must respond to the "volatile and uncertain" world and learn appropriate lessons from the COVID-19 pandemic and knock-on effects of the Ukraine conflict.

Making this point here in an address at a book release event, Jaishankar said development partnership and capacity building is at the core of India's relationship with the African continent and it speaks for New Delhi's shared desire of developing together as "equals".

He said India was "very conscious" of the expanding threats of radicalism, fundamentalism and terrorism to African societies and both sides have been cooperating in dealing with the challenges.

"Today, our ties too must respond to the volatile and uncertain world that we confront," he said. "There are important lessons to be learnt



from the pandemic disruption. The stresses from the knock-on effects of the Ukraine conflict are also relevant," Jaishankar said.

Underlining some of the works undertaken there, he said till now India has completed 189 projects in Africa, with 76 at the execution stage and 68 today at the pre-execution stage. Financed by lines of credit with an outlay of over USD 12 billion, they extend to over 41 countries, the minister said.

Jaishankar also said Prime Minister Narendra Modi has not only brought new thinking and energy into the ties but also devoted a much higher degree of attention, resources and capabilities to this account.

# Gay marriage: Govt not for live streaming of hearing; HC miffed

**PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI**

The Delhi High Court on Tuesday expressed displeasure over the filing of an affidavit by the Centre opposing a plea by LGBTQ couples seeking live streaming of proceedings on a batch of petitions to recognise same-sex marriage under various laws, as it contained certain alleged objectionable words.

As the petitioners claimed that the Centre has used "highly objectionable and demeaning comments" in the affidavit, the high court said the affidavit should not come from

the ministry and the counsel should not file it without reading.

"Have you read the affidavit? We advise you not to place it on record and have a relook. Don't place it on record. This is not correct. Your affidavit should not come from the ministry and you should not file it without reading. That should not happen," a bench of Acting Chief Justice Vipin Sanghi and Justice Navin Chawla told the counsel representing the Centre.

The bench further said, "as a counsel it is your responsibility to read it and say if there is something objectionable, you are not obliged to file it. You

should be able to advise your client accordingly. Don't do a mindless exercise on this." To this, the Centre's counsel said "I take the blame" and added he will examine the response and will file a better one.

The court said the reply vetoed by the counsel be placed on record before the next date of hearing on August 24. The Centre has opposed the application for live streaming and sought its dismissal saying the matter is not of national importance and that the applicants were attempting to create a dramatic impression of the proceedings before the court and to win sympathy.

# SC Collegium for elevation of 5 as HC Chief Justices

**PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI**

The Supreme Court Collegium headed by Chief Justice NV Ramana on Tuesday recommended the elevation of five Judges as Chief Justices of various High Courts. Collegium has also recommended the transfer of Justice Satish Chandra Sharma, Chief Justice, Telangana High Court to Delhi High Court.

The names recommended for elevation as Chief Justice are -- Justices Vipin Sanghi (from Delhi HC to Uttarakhand HC), Amjad A Sayed (from Bombay HC to Himachal Pradesh HC), SS Shinde (from Bombay HC to



Rajasthan HC), Rashmin M Chhaya (from Gujarat HC to Gauhati HC) and Ujjal Bhuyan who is presently judge in Telangana HC will be elevated as Chief justice there.

Besides Ramana, Justices UU Lalit and A M Khanwilkar are part of the three-member Collegium which takes decisions concerning the High Court judges.

# SC stays HC order dismissing TMC MP's plea on ED summons

**PTI ■ NEW DELHI**

The Supreme Court Tuesday stayed the Delhi High Court order, which had dismissed the pleas filed by TMC MP Abhishek Banerjee and his wife Rujira Banerjee seeking quashing of summons issued to them in a money-laundering probe, and said the Enforcement Directorate (ED) can examine them in its Kolkata office by giving 24-hour advance notice. Observing that it would not tolerate any kind of "interference or hooliganism", the apex court said the state shall provide adequate police protection to ED officials

who would probe there.

The ED told the top court that according to them, the TMP MC is a "potential accused" and they want to interrogate him.

A bench headed by Justice UU Lalit issued notice to the ED on the plea filed by Abhishek and his wife against the high court order.

"Pending further consideration, there shall be interim stay on the effect and operation of the judgement presently under challenge, subject to; It shall be open to the directorate (ED) to require the attendance of the petitioners in its office situated at Kolkata by giving at

least 24-hour notice," the bench, also comprising Justices S R Bhat and Sudhanshu Dhulia, said.

"Simultaneously, notice shall also be issued to the commissioner of police, Kolkata, and the chief secretary, state of West Bengal, so that adequate police protection is afforded to the persons seeking to examine or interrogate the petitioners are concerned," the bench said.

It noted that the state's counsel has assured that complete assistance shall be rendered by state machinery so that effective interrogation or examination can be undertaken by ED.

# ITBP to use its veteran canines to improve lives of special children

**PNS ■ NEW DELHI**

The Indo-Tibetan Border Police (ITBP) has taken the lead in becoming the first Central paramilitary force to use its veteran canines to improve the lives of the special children. The ITBP has collaborated with the Government's Institute of Special Children for the purpose.

On Tuesday, retired ITBP dogs Sultan and Rozy , both Labradors along with Speed , a GSD and Toofan, a Malinois, visited the Institute of Special Children and spread joy amongst Autism Spectrum Disorder children in Chandigarh, said Deputy Inspector General Sudhakar Natarajan of the ITBP veterinary cadre.

Quoting the Joint Director of the institute, Dr Saangeeta, Natarajan said that she has never seen the autistic children so thrilled to meet the K9 friends of

the ITBP.

All the four dogs of ITBP have retired after putting in many years in counter insurgency areas and have detected numerous explosives and enemy ambushes. They are presently housed on the ITBP's "Second Innings" Retirement Home at National Training Centre for Dogs (NTCD) Bhanu, Panchkula.

"The presence of a non-verbal: non-human company for some Autism Spectral kids is very soothing and brings tranquility in hyperactive children, in addition to improving their hand-eye coordination and stabilises the eye-contact time," Natarajan said.

Unlike human company, the camaraderie with the dogs is completely non-judgmental and the child gazing deeply into the eyes of a dog can bring lots of cognitive changes in the child, he further said.

# Effects of climate change seem to trigger rise in dengue cases, deaths

**PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI**

Rising temperatures and untimely rain linked to climate change seem to have had an impact as 2021 witnessed a manifold rise in dengue cases compared to 2020.

The vector-borne infections and mortalities stood at 193245 cases and 306 deaths in 2021, the highest since 2018. In 2020, the number of dengue cases stood at 44525 while 56 deaths were reported.

In the first four months till April this calendar year, the country has reported over 8,000 dengue cases but in a major relief, death has been limited to one only. Unreported the fatalities though haven't been ruled out.

According to reports, the country is likely to see erratic and excessive rainfall in various pockets towards the end of September which will result in

a surge in cases of dengue.

In fact, some of the States like Karnataka which is witnessing rains have started reporting an increase in vector-borne infection cases in the past few days.

For instance, the number of dengue cases registered in the Dakshina Kannada (DK) and Udupi districts in Karnataka increased rapidly in the recent weeks. In the past four months, DK has reported 48 dengue cases and 20 among them are from Mangaluru City Corporation limits, as per various reports.

In 2021, the maximum deaths due to dengue were reported from Rajasthan at 96 followed by Delhi, Uttar Pradesh, Maharashtra and Kerala.

Infection-wise, most of the States registered a significant spurt in dengue cases in 2021 when compared to the previous year. The ICMR has already

attributed rise in dengue cases in many parts of the country to the climate crisis and increasing urbanization.

In fact, last year in September, in a high-level meeting chaired by Cabinet Secretary Rajiv Gauba and attended by representatives of 11 affected states/UTs, the government had flagged the emerging challenge of serotype-II dengue which is associated with more cases and more complications than other The States reporting serotype - II dengue cases were Andhra Pradesh, Gujarat, Karnataka, Kerala, MP, UP, Maharashtra, Odisha, Rajasthan, Tamil Nadu, and Telangana.

Several scientists and medical journals had earlier warned about the link between global warming and climate change with the spread of diseases such as malaria and dengue.

According to a study by the London School of Hygiene and

Tropical Medicine (LSHTM) published in The Lancet Planetary Health journal, a rise in temperature of nearly 3.7 degrees Celsius over the next 80 years may lead to the "worst-case scenario".

The study stated that nearly 8.4 billion people (or nearly 90 percent of the estimated population) would be at risk for malaria. In case of dengue, the modelling estimated around 8.5 billion people would be at risk in 2080 compared with an average of 3.8 billion in 1970-1999.

An analysis of data available from 400 stations of the Indian Meteorological Department (IMD) across the country indicates that in the last 50 years, the number of hot days has increased manifold. Scientists say that heat waves incidents are projected to increase eight times in the near future and will spike to alarmingly 30 times in 2071-2100.

# Cong holds meeting to discuss modalities of Bharat Jodo Yatra

**PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI**

Congress on Tuesday held a meeting of its AICC general secretaries and in-charges to give shape to the recommendations of the just-concluded three-day 'Chintan Shivir' at Udaipur in Rajasthan and further discuss the modalities of the Bharat Jodo padyatra. The party has given the "Bharat Jodo" slogan "to unite India" and a 75-km yatra will be undertaken after August 9 during the 75th year of India's Independence. A follow up meeting of the same is scheduled again for Wednesday.

Briefing the details of the meeting, senior party spokesperson Ajay Maken said 'Bharat Jodo' is not a unification of land masses of India but is about uniting the people of India.

Top Congress leaders,

including Priyanka Gandhi Vadra, K C Venugopal, Randeep Surjewala and Maken, were among the leaders who attended the meeting at AICC headquarters to evolve an action plan for the early implementation of the "Nav Sankalp" declaration made at the Shivir.

The host of structural changes that were announced by the Congress at the three-day conclave will be implemented in the next few months.

Maken informed that AICC general secretaries and in-charges will meet again on Wednesday to chalk out the detailed plan for the implementation of the recommendations that include the 'below 50' formula of granting party positions and tickets to youths, putting a cap of five years on one person holding a particular position, "one family, one ticket" and "one person, one post" formulas.



# Jammu civic body seeks removal of loudspeakers

**Plan against illegal loudspeakers from religious places moved by BJP Corporator**

**PNS ■ JAMMU**

In order to curtail the rampant use of loudspeakers atop religious places, banquet/community halls and other places the Jammu Municipal Corporation (JMC) Tuesday passed a resolution seeking removal of illegal loudspeakers with immediate effect.

The resolution was moved by a local BJP corporator Narotam Sharma from Ward no 3 falling in the walled city area of 'City of temples'.

At the time of tabling the resolution in the house opposition members tried to raise objections but BJP, enjoying a comfortable majority in the house, managed to pass the same with voice vote.

Welcoming the move JMC Mayor, Chander Mohan Gupta Tuesday said, "To check the



rampant use of loudspeakers JMC has passed a resolution in the house today. We already have guidelines from the Supreme Court and Pollution Control Board with regard to the noise pollution control", he added.

Responding to a direct question on launching the special drive to remove the loudspeakers JMC Mayor clarified, "We will not remove them, but the administration will remove the

illegal loud speakers".

The corporator had asked the District Magistrate Jammu to remove all the "illegal" loudspeakers and public address systems from all 'religious' places, banquet/ community halls which have installed and are operating them "without any legal permission".

"The DM Jammu shall also be asked to ensure that between 10 PM to 6 AM no loudspeaker

er and public address system is used at least within JMC jurisdiction. Only those community halls, banquet halls, organizations and religious places are allowed to use public address systems and loudspeakers that have got permission from the concerned authorities with undertaking to use it within permissible decibel and only within time allowed by the authorities," the resolution reads.

The resolution also suggested creating public awareness among common masses about the causes and impact of noise pollution on the health of the citizens including patients, old aged people and children.

The resolution also sought sufficient time for the organizations to comply with the provisions of this rule and judgement so that no one complains of any hassle and discrimination.

# UP looking at renewable energy to end power woes

**BISWAJEET BANERJEE ■ LUCKNOW**

As a sudden shortage of fossil fuel led to closure of many thermal power stations, the Uttar Pradesh Government is looking for renewable energy options including generating electricity from huge water reservoirs and canals and harnessing solar power.

Jal Shakti Minister Swatantra Dev Singh said that a number of private companies have shown interest in working with the department and exploiting the potential of water bodies. A few companies from Israel and Gujarat have contacted our department to utilise water bodies to generate electricity.

"There are new technologies which are even generating electricity from the sea waves. We have a canal system where water is available round the year. In some places the flow of water is good enough to generate electricity. We should give this concept a try," the minister said.

Uttar Pradesh, home to 230 million has the biggest rivers like Ganga and Yamuna flowing across the state. Besides, it has over 75,000 km-long flowing



canals, 33,800 government tube-wells, 92 huge water reservoirs and 281 lift-irrigation canals.

Under the preliminary proposals, canal top solar plants would be installed over canals, while the selected reservoirs would be equipped with floating solar plants for tapping solar energy. The department has also estimated that for generating 13,500 mw of solar energy, 27,000 hectares of canal area and 150 hectares of the reservoir span would be required.

In August 2019, the state cabinet had cleared the proposal of renewable energy majors ReNew Power and Shapoorji Pallonji to collectively invest Rs 750 crore in a 150 mw floating

solar power project in UP. It is not only touted as the first such project in the state, but also the largest floating solar project anywhere in India.

The suggestion has come at the background of Uttar Pradesh government's commitment to bolster the renewable energy sector. The government has cleared solar energy projects of 1,535 megawatt (mw) worth Rs 7,500 crore. Majority of these projects are likely to be commissioned this year.

The government dossiers claim that Uttar Pradesh has capacity to produce 28GW of renewable energy. The State Government has set an ambitious objective of annual addition of 2,000 MW production capacity of solar energy. It further says that Bundelkhand and Mirzapur-Sonbhadra regions have favourable conditions for producing wind energy.

A government official claims that Yogi Adityanath government in UP has launched a new solar energy policy to give filip to renewable energy projects. Under the new solar energy policy, the UP government has approved a proposal for setting up solar power plants at a

total cost of Rs 7,500 crore by 2022 in order to produce 1,535 mw of solar energy, the government official said.

Moreover, the state government had invited private investment of Rs 2,492 crore under Bio-Energy Enterprise Promotion Policy, which helped setting up of solar power units of 180 mw capacity at a cost of Rs 720 crore.

"We had made a commitment to the people during our election campaign to intensify our renewable energy projects and are fulfilling the same," A K Sharma, Energy minister said.

Meanwhile, the state has intensified laying of cable networks for rural electrification. The solar rooftops of 225 mw capacity have been installed across the state to illuminate the countryside with solar street lights.

"The installation of 180,000 solar power units has transformed rural pockets, where power outage is now a rare affair. This stands in sharp contrast to the situation during previous governments when power supply was available only for a few hours," Sharma said.

# AIMPLB terms Gyanvapi survey a bid to create communal strife

**PNS ■ LUCKNOW**

The All-India Muslim Personal Law Board condemned the survey of the Gyanvapi mosque complex and sealing of the 'wazu khana' (ablution area) terming it unfair and an attempt to create communal disharmony.

On Monday, the court-mandated videography survey of the Gyanvapi mosque complex in Varanasi concluded amidst tight security. Following the claim by a lawyer that a 'Shivling' was found in a well inside the premises, a civil court issued an order to seal the area and prohibit entry of people.

In a statement, AIMPLB general secretary Khalid Saifullah Rahmani said, "Gyanvapi mosque is a mosque and will remain a mosque. The attempt to term it a temple is nothing more than a conspiracy to create communal disharmony. It is a matter of constitutional rights and is against the law."

"In 1937, in the case of Deen Mohammad Vs State, the court

had decided on the basis of oral testimony and documents that this entire compound (Gyanvapi mosque complex) belongs to the Muslim Waqf and Muslims have the right to offer namaz in it," he pointed out.

Rahmani said the court had also decided how much area belongs to the mosque and how much to the temple. At the same time, the 'wazu khana', a small reservoir used by Muslims to perform ablution before offering namaz, was accepted as the property of the mosque.

"Then in 1991 came the Places of Worship Act which states that the places of worship, as they were in 1947, will be maintained in the same condition. Even in the Babri Masjid judgment, it was said that now all places of worship will be under this law," he added.

The AIMPLB general secretary also said that the claim of the mosque being a temple should have been immediately rejected by the court, but it ordered the survey and videography. The board has moved the high court and the case is pending there.

The Gyanvapi mosque management committee has also approached the Supreme Court against the civil court's decision.

"The issue is being heard. But by ignoring all these things, the civil court first issued the order of the survey and then issued an order to seal the portion of 'wazu khana,'" Rahmani said.

Seeking government's intervention, the AIMPLB said, "This order is an excess and also a violation of law which cannot be expected from a court. The government should stop the implementation of the order and wait for the Allahabad High Court's decision. The government should protect all religious places as per the 1991 Act."

Rahmani said, "If the status of the places of worship is changed on the basis of such arguments, the whole country will be pushed into turmoil, because many big temples are made by converting Buddhist and Jain shrines and their traces are also visible there. Muslims cannot tolerate this atrocity."

# CBI raids diversion from key issues, says Cong in support of Chidambaram

**PNS ■ NEW DELHI**

The Congress on Tuesday put its weight behind party leader P Chidambaram, saying the CBI raids against him and his in connection with an 11-year-old case are "wrong" and aimed at diverting attention from the key issues of inflation and unemployment. The party also said P Chidambaram is a nationalist and patriot whose commitment to the country is beyond question. The CBI registered a fresh case against Lok Sabha MP Karti Chidambaram to probe the allegation of facilitating visas of 250 Chinese nationals in lieu of Rs 50 lakh when his father P Chidambaram was Union home minister. The agency also conducted coordinated searches at 10 locations in multiple cities including the Chidambarams' residences in Chennai and Delhi.

At the AICC Press conference Congress spokesperson Ajay Maken said that the "raids were wrong". "The Congress party stands behind P

Chidambaram. This is being done to divert the attention of people from the issue of rising inflation and unemployment," he told reporters.

"The issue is being raised 12 years later and Chidambaram has also raised questions on the timings of the raids," Maken said. Congress chief spokesperson Randeep Surjewala said, "Mr P Chidambaram is a nationalist and a patriot, whose commitment to the country is unquestionable."

"To plant source-based preposterous allegations against a former Home Minister and Finance Minister by CBI reflects the lowest ebb in political discourse," Surjewala said on Twitter.

Chidambaram has also raised questions over the timing of the raids which were conducted on charges dating back 11 years. He said a CBI team searched his residence in Chennai as well as his official residence in Delhi but "found nothing and seized nothing".

# 10 sectors identified for giving push to development in UP

**PNS ■ LUCKNOW**

In an attempt to give an impetus to development, the UP Government has identified 10 sectors where the progress will be monitored regularly while the scope of aspirational districts will be further expanded. Information regarding this was given by Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath here on Tuesday.

The chief minister said that 10 presentations were made sector-wise before the cabinet in relation to the action plan of the government.

"Continuous monitoring of progress and implementation of the action plan should be done by appointing 10 senior officers as nodal officers for all these 10 sectors," the CM said.

He said the construction of Bundelkhand Expressway is in the final stage. It should be completed by the end of June while the construction of



Ballia Link Expressway be expedited further, he added.

The CM said that among the aspirational districts, all the districts of Uttar Pradesh have done commendable work on various parameters of development. NITI Aayog has appreciated the efforts of various districts.

He asked the officers to expedite the development works of 100 aspirational development blocks.

The chief minister said that in view of the huge importance of road safety, an action

plan for awareness campaign is prepared with the mutual coordination of the departments concerned like Police, Traffic, Basic Education, Secondary Education, Higher Education, Technical Education, Transport, Urban Development, PWD.

On May 18, with this action plan, a dialogue will be held with the public representatives and officials of all the urban bodies of the state, after which the road safety campaign will start.

Special efforts need to be made to make children comply with traffic rules in council and secondary schools. Children should be given from the very beginning the virtues of compliance with traffic rules, he said.

"Awareness-related 'prabhat pheris' should be taken out by schoolchildren. Meetings should be held in schools with parents for awareness. People should be made aware about the traffic rules," the CM said.

# Govt ban on wheat export regressive: Farmer leader

**KUMAR CHELLAPPAN ■ KOCHI**

The farming community has been shocked by the decision of the Government of India to ban the export of wheat with immediate effect. "This is a very regressive and retrograde decision for which the Narendra Modi-led Central Government and the BJP would have to pay a high price," said P Chhangal Reddy, veteran farmer leader and advisor to the Consortium of Indian Farmers' association (CIFA), an umbrella organisation working for the cause of the farmers.

Reddy told *The Pioneer* that he as well as wheat farmers across India were taken aback by the decision of the Centre late Saturday night to ban wheat export. "There was no reason which demanded such a drastic action," said Reddy. He pointed out that the price of global wheat shot up to new heights once India decided to ban the export of the commodity.

ed to ban the export of the commodity.

The office of the Director General of Foreign Trade claimed that the action was necessitated because of the risks haunting the food security of the nation. Because of the Russia-Ukraine war that continues unabated, there has been severe shortage in the arrival of wheat to global market. Russia and Ukraine account for 30 per cent of the global supply of wheat and the war has put a hold on the arrival of the commodity in the market. "This was the ideal time for Indian wheat growers to earn some additional money as the minimum support price announced by the Government is hardly Rs 2015 per quintal,"



said Anil Ghanavat, president of Shetkari Sangathan.

The MSP itself crashed by Rs 150 per quintal once the Government declared the export ban. Reddy said the warehouses have filled to brim with wheat and this was not at all an ideal time to order a ban on wheat exports. "Interestingly, the Prime Minister has been unequivocal in his statements that the farmers should be competitive and should be able to reach the status of global players. While he supports industry and services

sector to be competitive and earn foreign exchange, why farmers are treated like this?" asked Reddy.

Ghanavat said he could not understand about the concern of the Prime Minister for foreign farmers and food security in other countries. "The Government of India says that food security in countries like Bangladesh, Myanmar and Indonesia is a subject of concern. Doesn't he have any concern for farmers in his own country?" asked Ghanavat.

India is the second largest producer of wheat after China. Reddy is of the view that the Central Government should have given top priority to the interests of the domestic farmers. "We as farmers assure you that there is no domestic crisis which mandates a ban on wheat export. We do have enough buffer stock to address any issues and hence the interests of the farmers should have been protected," he said.



Villagers wade through a flooded road after rain at a village in Nagaon District on Tuesday

Photo | PTI

# Govt may conduct sewage sample surveillance to detect Covid cases

**PNS ■ NEW DELHI**

With few people preferring to visit hospitals to undertake tests for the Covid-19 virus despite showing symptoms like fever, cough and cold or with flu like symptoms, the Government is mulling to expand sewage sample surveillance to detect if infection is increasing in any particular area.

Sewage surveillance helps detect the presence of contaminants in a given area. Since the pandemic broke out two years ago, authorities have been dependent on this method to monitor the presence of novel coronavirus in a given population. Sewage testing involves sur-

veillance and monitoring of sewage water or the water that we flush down our toilets to look out for contaminants and viruses. The virus needs a host cell to survive and the technique involves looking out for the genetic material or the RNA fragments of the virus in the wastewater, according to reports. In the case of Covid-19, the virus is SARS-CoV-2, according to a senior health official.

He explained that infected patients shed virus fragments in the form of bodily fluids or faeces. Once flushed into the sewage system, the virus disintegrates, leaving behind fragments of the genetic material.

The move to widen the sewage surveillance comes following the observation that

states are conducting few tests while people preferring home isolation and using home remedies to treat the Covid-variant which is non-virulent unlike Omicron, he said.

The World Health Organisation (WHO) has already stressed that the decrease in cases is due to the drop in the number of tests worldwide.

India has reported 1,569 new coronavirus cases and 19 related deaths in the last 24 hours, as per the Union Health Ministry. With the latest fatalities, the death count has increased to 5,24,260. The active cases stand at 16,400. A decrease of 917 cases has been recorded in the active Covid-19 caseload in a span of 24 hours.

# One killed, 3 injured in Kashmir grenade attack

**PNS ■ JAMMU**

A Jammu based employee, working in a newly opened wine shop, was killed while three others received injuries after a terrorist lobbed a grenade inside the shop in Dewan Bagh area of North Kashmir district of Baramulla on Tuesday evening. According to ground reports, confirmed by the local police authorities, an unidentified terrorist posing as a customer arrived at the newly opened wine shop and hurled a grenade inside the shop leaving at least four employees in a pool of blood. All of them were immediately rushed to the nearby hospital where one of them succumbed to his injuries.



Confirming the incident Kashmir Zone police in a tweet said, "Terrorists lobbed hand grenade inside a newly opened wine shop in Baramulla. Four employees got injured. One among them succumbed to his injuries. All are from Jammu division". Till the time of filing the report the local policemen had cordoned off the entire area and searches were launched to track down the footprints of the attackers.

# Mumbai-New Delhi Rajdhani completes 50 years in service

**T N RAGHUNATHA ■ MUMBAI**

Having embarked upon its maiden journey from Mumbai Central station (then Bombay Central) to the national capital on May 17, 1972, the Western Railway's prestigious Mumbai-New Delhi Rajdhani Express completed 50 glorious years of its operation between the two cities, on Tuesday.

To celebrate this Golden Jubilee celebration, Western Railway organised a commemorative event at Mumbai Central station & flagged off the train in a befitting grand honour. A special postal cover and a VIP album were also released to mark this occasion. While Principal Chief Commissioner,

Mumbai CGST Ashok Kumar Mehta was the chief guest of the ceremony, Chief Postmaster Veena R Srinivas and Divisional Railway Manager of Mumbai Central Division G V L Satyakumar were prominent among those present on the occasion. Members of the Rotaract Club of HR College performed a flash mob skit on the occasion. Two senior WR officials who retired from railway service working in this prestigious train, and one serving employee shared their memorable experiences. Souvenir tickets and mementos were presented to the travelling passengers. Also, instant photographs were

clicked to cherish their journey on this memorable day.

Ninety-year-old Qamruzzaman Sarang, one of the passengers who had travelled by the maiden trip of Rajdhani Express is undertaking his journey to the national capital on this historic day. He was the first person to receive the souvenir ticket from the Chief Guest Ashok Kumar Mehta. Thakur stated that the Rajdhani Express offered impeccable services, fastest speed, punctuality and sumptuous catering services.

The Mumbai — New Delhi Rajdhani Express covers a distance of 1383 km in 15 hours and 32 minutes, traversing through seven states.







FIRST COLUMN

USCIRF REPORT IS NOT CREDIBLE

It fails to document even a single case of victimisation



VIVEK GUMASTE

The conclusion of the recently released USCIRF 2022 annual report that India be designated as a ‘Country of Particular Concern’ — in the company of Afghanistan, China, Saudi Arabia, Pakistan and North Korea — is not only preposterous but also laughable. The scatter-brained script invokes the CAA, rants about attacks on religious minorities, criticizes the Foreign Contribution (Regulation) Act (FCRA) and decries India’s anti conversion laws. But how the committee reaches its conclusion is a mystery for the evidence presented does not justify the conclusion. First, to call the CAA discriminatory is indicative of rank ignorance. In its attempt to demonize the CAA as biased, the report resorts to selective snippets of information like this: “In an ongoing state-level NRC effort in Assam, in 2019 approximately 1.9 million persons were omitted from Assam’s NRC list; approximately 700,000 Muslim residents of Assam are at risk of being stripped of citizenship.” However, the report expediently fails to complete the statement and mention that of the 1.9 million people there were 1.1 million Hindus; to do so would expose its chicanery and deflate its claim of the law being discriminatory. Next focusing on the FCRA (Foreign Contribution Regulation Act) the report avers: “The government erected hurdles against the licensure and receipt of international funding by religious and charitable nongovernmental organizations (NGOs) under the Foreign Contribution (Regulation) Act (FCRA), significantly impacting religious communities” but fails to provide credible proof of its abuse



to target minorities. The FCRA was not formulated by the BJP. The FCRA was enacted in 1976 by a Congress Government to ensure that NGO’s conduct themselves with transparency and utilize the foreign monies that they receive for the purpose intended. The UPA Government under Manmohan Singh rusticated over 4000 NGOs in 2012 following the protests against the Kudankulam nuclear power project in Tamil Nadu which were alleged to be foreign instigated; the same government also refused registration to Amnesty India in 2009. In the 2022 report, the USCIRF highlights the case of Missionaries of Charity to claim bias. The Missionaries of Charity initially had its registration denied because of allegations of child trafficking at one of its institutions; in January 2022, however, the government reinstated its registration. But the report deliberately overlooks the Hindu organizations impacted by the law, namely the Ramakrishna Mission Ashram, Divyajyot Ayurvedic Research Foundation, Shri Swaminarayan Sarvopari Siddhant Digvijay Trust (Vasna) among others. Anti-conversion laws again find mention in this year’s report. To deem anti-conversion laws as bigotry is to fail to understand the ethos of India. The Supreme Court of India (Rev. Stainislaus vs State Of Madhya Pradesh (1977) has clarified that Article 25 which gives all Indians the right “freely profess, practice, and propagate religion” does not axiomatically mean the right to convert. Laws that echo Gandhi’s thoughts and are in line with the Constitution of India cannot be seen as violating religious freedom. A background check of the key personnel of the USCIRF is an eye-opener. There appears to be a strong Pakistani influence. The outgoing chair Nadine Maenza has strong connections with Terry Allen, the President of the lobbying group Fidelis Government Relations which was hired by IAMC (Indian American Muslim Council an Islamist organization with a strong Pakistani connections) for \$55K to get India blacklisted by the USCIRF. In summary, the USCIRF report is a compendium of outright lies, half-truths and distorted information; a vitriolic Hindu-phobic diatribe that reads like a rabid evangelist’s sermon; a one-sided propaganda that fails to document even a single instance of Hindu victimhood but piles on a list of atrocities allegedly perpetrated against minorities in India—all totally unsubstantiated. (The author, a US-based academic and political commentator, frequently writes on current affairs in India. The views expressed are personal.)

Petitions and Gyanvapi and Eidgah mosques



BISWAJEET BANERJEE

Why are the petitions filed now? Is it to use them to expand the Mandir-Masjid issue beyond Ayodhya to give BJP a chance to sharpen its Hindutva campaign?

During the Ram Temple agitation days, the war cry of Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) was, “Ayodhya is just a trailer, the issues of Kashi and Mathura are still pending”. The construction of the Ram Temple at Ayodhya is going on at a fast pace. Sri Ram Janmabhoomi Teerth Kshetra, the trust which is responsible for the construction of the Ram Temple, has declared that the deadline for completion is December 2023, probably a few months before the 2024 Lok Sabha elections, when Prime Minister Narendra Modi will contest for the third term.

In this background, the petitions filed in the lower courts of Varanasi and Mathura to ascertain any sign of the Hindu religion in the Kashi-Vishwanath-Gyanvapi Mosque in Kashi and Shahi Eidgah mosque in Mathura raises the question whether we are going to see the repeat of Ram Janmabhoomi - Babri Mosque issue. The bigger question is why now?

The premise of both the petitions is the same. The petitioners claim that the mosques were built on temple land after demolishing a part of the temple premises. The petitions harp on verification of any sign of Hindu religion inside the mosque. If these signs are found, through archegonial evidence or videography, then the petitioners from the Hindu side would claim that these mosques were built atop Hindu temples and so the land should be given to the Hindus.

The process of verification has started in Varanasi when the court of Civil Judge (Senior Division) Ravi Kumar Diwakar has appointed Ajay Kumar Misra as court commissioner and asked him to conduct a survey and videography of Shringar Gauri and other idols located on Gyanvapi premises. The Anjuman IntejamiaMasjid Committee, which takes care of the Gyanvapi mosque, is opposing this move.

Similarly, a petition was filed in the court of Civil Judge (senior division) Mathura demanding the appointment of an advocate commissioner to conducting a spot inspection within the Shahi Eidgah mosque adjoining Sri Krishna Janmabhoomi to find out if there are any signs related to Hindu religion inside the mosque premises.

The pattern of petitions of Varanasi and Mathura are akin to Ayodhya. In Ayodhya, too petitions were initially filed in a lower court of Faizabad (now Ayodhya) and from there the case went first to High Court and then to Supreme Court. On November 9, 2019, the Supreme Court allowed the construction of Ram temple at the disputed site and handed over the entire land to the Trust for the construction of the Temple.

Interestingly, the intrigue of filing a petition is not limited only to Shahi Idgah in Mathura and the Gyanvapi mosque in Varanasi, as Court cases are ongoing over the Qutub Minar and the Tile Waali Masjid in Lucknow. Here too the claims are being made that Qutub Minar



THE CHARACTER OF AYODHYA IS DIFFERENT FROM KASHI AND MATHURA. IN THE CASE OF AYODHYA, MUSLIMS HAD STOPPED OFFERING NAMAZ INSIDE THE BABRI MOSQUE IN THE 1940S WHILE IN THE GYANVAPI MOSQUE IN KASHI AND SHAHI EIDGAH IN MATHURA, MUSLIMS OFFER PRAYERS REGULARLY

(The writer is Political Editor, The Pioneer, Lucknow edition. The views expressed are personal.)



and Teele Wali Masjid are being built over Hindu temples. Last week, activists of Vishwa Hindu Parishad chanted Hanuman Chalisa at the compound of Qutub Minar in New Delhi.

These petitions raise a big question. Why now? Is it a subtle move to keep the temple issue alive? On December 1, 2021, a month before assembly elections in Uttar Pradesh, Deputy Chief Minister Keshav Prasad Maurya put up a tweet saying: “Ayodhya hui hamari, ab Kashi-Mathura ki baari”. (Ayodhya is ours. Now, it is the turn of Kashi and Mathura). This was a clear indication that through these petitions, efforts are being made to keep the Mandir-Masjid issues alive. This would definitely give the BJP an opportunity to sharpen its Hindutva campaign by widening the Hindu-Muslim chasm.

Superficially, the Kashi and the Mathura issues may look similar to Ayodhya but there is a difference in their character. First, the Ayodhya case was built up by the Vishwa Hindu Parishad (VHP) with its fire-brand leaders like Ashok Singhal and Praveen Togadia taking the lead. The Rath Yatra of Lal Krishna Advani in 1989 gave a political colour to this campaign and it slowly emerged as a people’s movement. In the 1980s there was a frenzy over the name of Ram Mandir. The BJP took it to a higher pedestal to counter former Prime Minister VP Singh’s ‘Mandal’ issue and thus, the contours of the Ram Janmabhoomi agitation changed.

In the case of Kashi and Mathura, that frenzy is not visible.

The VHP is still to enter the fray, though its leaders have demanded that the acquired temple land should be returned to Hindus. Moreover, the character of Ayodhya is different from Kashi and Mathura. In the case of Ayodhya, Muslims had stopped offering namaz inside the Babri Mosque in the 1940s while in the Gyanvapi mosque in Kashi and Shahi Eidgah in Mathura Muslims offer prayers regularly and the area is demarcated as a Place of Worship.

Legal luminaries believe that in the Ram Janmabhoomi- Babri Mosque judgment of November 9, 2019, the Supreme Court has interpreted the significance of the Place of Worship Act saying the law prohibits conversion of any place of worship. The Judges said that the character of a place of public worship shall be preserved and not be altered.

The question raised is whether these sentiments would be applicable to Kashi and Mathura because prayers are being offered in both the mosques under litigation. Secondly, the Supreme Court held High Court Judge DV Sharma’s views as erroneous. Justice Sharma, one of the three judges who decided the Ayodhya dispute in the Lucknow bench of Allahabad High Court, had said that if a religious dispute was about a declaration or about a right that was recognized before the enforcement of the Places of Worship Act, it could be entertained as per the law.

According to the Supreme Court, the Places of Worship Act is a legislative instrument designed

to protect the secular features of the Indian polity, which is one of the basic features of the Constitution. “Above all, the Act is an affirmation of the solemn duty which was cast upon the State to preserve and protect the equality of all faiths as an essential constitutional value, a norm which has the status of being a basic feature of the Constitution,” it said.

The controversy on the Taj Mahal, which some believe a Shiv Temple called Tajo Maholaya took a curious turn when some petitioners filed a plea in 2015 saying they should be allowed to carry out “darshan” and “aarti” throughout the monument because it is a Shiv Temple.

The petitioner was Sri Agreshwar Mahadev Nagnatheswar Virajman Tejo Mahalaya Temple Palace. The controversy was first stirred by Purshottam Nagesh Oak, a historian, who claimed that the Taj Mahal initially was a Shiva temple and a Rajput palace named Tejomahalaya, which Mughal emperor Shah Jahan seized and adopted as a tomb.

The argument was debunked by a number of historians, and even Supreme Court in 2000 rejected a petition by Oak to declare that the Taj Mahal was constructed by a Hindu king. The Archaeological Survey of India (ASI), in August 2017 said that the Taj Mahal was not a temple but a tomb constructed by Shah Jahan within the reminiscence of his queen on land obtained from Raja Jai Singh, grandson of Raja Maan Singh, the Maharaja of Jaipur.

POINTCOUNTERPOINT

THE KERALA GOVERNMENT FAILED TO CHECK THE SPREAD (OF TOMATO FLU). THE SITUATION MAY WORSEN IN MONSOON SEASON. — LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION VD SATHEESAN



WE HAVE SET UP A SURVEILLANCE TEAM. THE INFECTED CHILDREN HAVE BEEN ISOLATED. THERE IS NO REASON TO PANIC. — KERALA HEALTH MINISTER VEENA GEORGE

Congress needs new narrative, clear ideology, firm leadership

Though the Gandhi loyalists demanded that Rahul should become the president again, the Udaipur declaration was mum on it

Where does Congress go from Udaipur Chintan Shivir? Was the conclave an exercise in futility, or will it revive the party? It all depends on the implementation of the decisions taken at the conclave. Congress President Sonia Gandhi said that the Shivir should not become a ritual. “I request your full cooperation in ensuring that the single overriding message that goes forth loud and clear from Udaipur is one of unity, cohesion, determination and commitment to our party’s accelerated revival,” she said. The much-needed conclave has come after nine years.

The timing of the conference is amid serious issues raised by the G-23 rebels after continuous defeat, including leadership crisis, organizational revamp, revival, and election strategy.



KALYANI SHANKAR

(The writer is a senior journalist. The views expressed are personal.)

Also, the party has lost contact with the common man. Perhaps to rectify that, the Shivir has announced a padayatra from Kashmir to Kanyakumari to reconnect.

In Udaipur, the party came up with recommendations in six broad areas, with six senior leaders heading each group. They are organization revamp, political issues, economy, social justice, welfare, education, and employment. The Congress Working Committee on Sunday approved most of the recommendations for organizational reforms. These include one family, one ticket rule, 50 percent representation for those below 50 years of age at all levels, including the CWC, and a five-year term limit for those holding positions at all levels. Needless to say that the Gandhis are exempt



from all rules.

However, what is missing is more glaring. For instance, one of the most critical issues is the leadership crisis at the top. Rahul Gandhi resigned as party chief on August 6 after the party lost the 2019 polls, and Sonia became the interim party chief. Though the Gandhi loyalists demanded that Rahul should become the president again, the Udaipur declaration was mum about it.

The second is about one family- a one-ticket decision.

One must recall how after the 2019 poll results, Rahul Gandhi had criticised senior leaders like Ashok Gehlot and P Chidambaram for working for the success of their families. Congress should shed dynastic politics.

The third is about reviving the Parliamentary board, which is one of the demands of the rebel group G-23. After P V Narasimha Rao took over as Prime Minister, he wound up the Board in 1992. Though the sub-

group recommended the revival of the Parliamentary Board, the CWC rejected it. Instead of activating the existing party constituents like the Mahila wing, NSUI, Seva Dal, and others, the conclave also decided to constitute new departments of public insight, election management, and cadre training to make the party battle-ready.

Fourthly, the political resolution left a door open for alliances.

Congress could not form its government since 1998, and after the emergence of regional powers, it is more dependent on coalitions with them to oppose the BJP. Congress had not been in power in UP since 1989, Bihar in 1990, Tamil Nadu in 1967, West Bengal in 1973, Odisha since BJD came to power, Andhra Pradesh, and Telangana

since 2014. Sonia Gandhi brought the Congress-led UPA to power in 2004 and 2009.

The party has almost no presence in around 180 Lok Sabha seats. Even as a junior partner, it needs to form alliances to be a formidable challenger. The contradiction is that Congress cannot come to power without gaining, and yet it cannot do so without coming into conflict with its allies.

Congress should have identified where the BJP is weak and formulated a poll strategy for 2024 with or without alliances. The BJP has not been able to penetrate the East and South despite constant efforts.

Last but not least, the Shivir has shown that the party cannot be without Gandhis. This year, the preliminary test will be in Gujarat and Himachal Pradesh,

and then states like Karnataka, Rajasthan, Chhattisgarh, and Madhya Pradesh will go to the polls in 2023. These are the principal states where the Congress has to perform better and win elections to pose a challenge to the BJP in the 2024 general elections

While Rahul said, “We will win”, Sonia, in her wrap-up statement, gave a clarion call to party workers and said, “We will overcome., we are going to overcome, and we are going to overcome, that is our will power, that is our Sankalp”

But for that Congress should focus on a new narrative, clear ideology, tactical alliances, leadership, and resources- all of which it lacks. Congress needs major surgery, not merely a makeover, to stay afloat and grow further.



# Lankan Parliament defeats no-trust motion against Prez

PTI ■ COLOMBO

A no-confidence motion tabled by the Opposition against Sri Lankan President Gotabaya Rajapaksa was defeated in Parliament on Tuesday, in a comfortable win for the embattled President amidst nationwide protests demanding his resignation due to the country's worst-ever economic crisis.

The motion by Opposition Tamil National Alliance (TNA) MP M A Sumanthiran to suspend Parliament's standing orders in order to debate an expression of displeasure over President Rajapaksa was defeated with 119 MPs voting against it, the Economy Next newspaper reported.

Only 68 MPs voted in favour of the motion, it said, giving the 72-year-old President a comfortable victory.

With the motion, the Opposition sought to demonstrate how nationwide calls for President Rajapaksa's resignation are reflected in the country's legislature, the report said. The main Opposition Samagi Jana Balawegaya (SJB) MP Lakshman Kiriella had supported the motion. According to SJB MP Harsha de Silva, among those who voted against the motion was Sri Lanka's newly-elected Prime Minister



Ranil Wickremesinghe.

Human rights lawyer Bhavani Fonseka tweeted after the vote that the motion's defeat exposed MPs who protect President Rajapaksa.

On Tuesday, Parliament met for the first time after the appointment of new Prime Minister Wickremesinghe, as the country looks to undertake

major constitutional reforms amid the worst economic crisis. Sumanthiran, who moved the motion, wanted the standing orders suspended to carry on with the debate.

The government, however, objected to suspending the standing orders.

The Speaker then ordered a vote on the question of sus-

pending the standing orders. The government won the vote and forced the adjournment motion moved on the violence suffered by the ruling party politicians since May 9.

The police on Monday said that some 78 ruling party politicians had suffered damage to properties.

The Opposition said the

motion of displeasure could be moved on Friday.

Sri Lanka is witnessing an unprecedented economic crisis. The Rajapaksa government had taken some arbitrary decisions like banning chemical fertiliser imports in favour of organic farming and resisting turning to the International Monetary Fund which led to the country's worst economic crisis since its independence from Britain in 1948.

A crippling shortage of foreign reserves has led to long queues for fuel, cooking gas and other essentials while power cuts and soaring food prices heaped misery on the people.

The economic uncertainty also triggered a political crisis in Sri Lanka and a demand for the resignation of the powerful Rajapaksas.

President Gotabaya Rajapaksa sacked his Cabinet and appointed a younger Cabinet as a response to the demand for his resignation. A continuous protest opposite his secretariat has now gone on for well over a month.

On May 9, Gotabaya Rajapaksa's elder brother Mahinda Rajapaksa resigned as the prime minister to make way for the president to appoint an interim all political party government. Wickremesinghe was appointed the country's new prime minister on Thursday.

# Sri Lanka's ruling party wins Deputy Speaker's election



PTI ■ COLOMBO

Sri Lanka's ruling party won a key vote when its lawmaker Ajith Rajapaksha was on Tuesday elected deputy speaker of the country's Parliament, which met for the first time since the resignation of the former prime minister Mahinda Rajapaksa and the swearing-in of the new Prime Minister Ranil Wickremesinghe.

Rajapaksha, 48, from the Sri Lanka Podujana Peramuna party was elected following a secret ballot conducted in Parliament.

He secured 109 votes and the main Opposition Samagi Jana Balawegaya nominee Rohini Kavirathna received 78 votes.

Rajapaksha is not related to the ruling Rajapaksa family but comes from the same home district of Hambantota.

Speaker Mahinda Yapa

Abeywardena said 23 votes were rejected.

The post of deputy speaker was left vacant after Ranjith Siyamabalapitiya resigned from the post twice in one month this year.

Abeyawardene was asked by the independent group who called for the appointment by consensus without opting for the secret ballot.

Several lawmakers spoke against the vote, claiming it was a waste of Parliament's valuable time.

A heated exchange took place between the Opposition, the government and the Speaker.

Speaker Abeyawardene said he had to abide by the house rules, the standing orders of Parliament which allow only a secret ballot when two contestants emerge from either side.

The House met for the first time since the resignation of the former prime minister Mahinda Rajapaksa and the cycle of violence which forced the country under a curfew as nine people, including a parliamentarian, were killed.

Both Mahinda Rajapaksa and his son Namal were absent while Basil Rajapaksa and Shasheendra Rajapaksa the other members of the Rajapaksa family were present in Parliament.

# Luxembourg: Turkey likely to let 2 join NATO



AP ■ BERLIN

Luxembourg's foreign minister says he doesn't believe Turkey will prevent Sweden and Finland from joining NATO, despite the Turkish president's stated objections.

All 30 current NATO members, among them Turkey, must agree to let the Nordic neighbours join. But Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan has said they failed to take a "clear" stance against Kurdish militants and other groups that Ankara considers terrorists, and imposed military sanctions on Turkey.

However, Luxembourg's long-serving Foreign Minister Jean Asselborn told Germany's Deutschlandfunk radio on Tuesday that he suspects Erdogan is merely "pushing up the price" for the two countries' membership. He said: "At the end of the day, I am convinced that Turkey can't slam the brakes on this."

# Activists ask top court to block Marcos Jr's presidential win

AP ■ MANILA

Human rights activists have asked the Philippine Supreme Court to block Congress from proclaiming Ferdinand Marcos Jr as the next president, alleging that he lied when he said he had not been convicted of any crime.

The Commission on Election had twice dismissed the petition and six other similar complaints to cancel Marcos Jr's candidacy papers

ahead of the May 9 vote. The petitioners elevated the case to the highest court on Monday, saying Marcos Jr had been convicted of tax evasion, which should have permanently barred him from seeking public office.

Most of the petitioners are leaders of groups representing survivors of martial law in the 1970s under late dictator Ferdinand Marcos, the father of the presumptive next president. They want the court to temporarily block



I, Sumit Khadria, son of S M Khadria and resident of Flat No. 1117, Tower H, Prateek Edifice, Sector 107, Noida, Pin code 201305, Dist Gautam Budh Nagar, Uttar Pradesh, hereby declare that we have changed the name of our minor son from Aahaan Khadria to **Daksh Khadria**.

**PUBLIC NOTICE**  
Notice is hereby given to the public at large, on behalf of our client, Mohd. Akram S/o- Mr. Hazi Mehmood Hasan R/o H. No. 12, Jassipura, near Janta Chikan Point, Ghaziabad, U.P. (Mortgagor)", that his/her absolute owner of the said property. Mr. Mahesh Chand was the owner of said property by virtue of Sale Deed dated 25.06.1989 area 32.46 sq. yds., from Mr. Jai Dayal & Sale Deed dated 11.01.2010 area- 5.015 sq. mtrs. vide Doc. No. 213 from Mr. Rakesh Kumar Gupta, Unfortunately Lt. Mahesh Chand died on 21.05.2010 & his wife namely Lt. Indu Rani also died leaving behind following legal heirs namely Mrs. Nidhi Gupta, Mr. Amit Gupta & Mr. Sumit Kumar Gupta, Further Mrs. Nidhi Gupta, Mr. Amit Gupta & Mr. Sumit Kumar Gupta sold the said property to Mohd. Akram vide Sale Deed dated 21.06.2021 Doc. No.6686, Book No.1, Vol. No.18029, on pages 213-254 dated 21.06.2021 SR-II, Sadar Ghaziabad Mortgagor mortgage the Schedule Property with Cholamandalam Investment & Finance Company Ltd., IInd Floor 6<sup>th</sup> Pusa Road, Karol Bagh, New Delhi. If any person race any objection for mortgaging the said property please race your Objection with documentary proof within 15 days of Publication below address:-

**SCHEDULE OF PROPERTY**  
Property Bearing Shop No. 124, Nambari Nagar Nigam 103, Old No. 101, area measuring 37.17 sq. mtrs., situated at Mohalla Chatta Bazar, Delhi Gate, Ghaziabad, Tehsil & Distt. Ghaziabad, (hereinafter referred to as "said property").

**Sachin Maheshwari & Associates (SMA)**  
**Sachin Maheshwari Advocate**  
2381, LGF, Opp. Sikaher Mishan Bhandar, IInd 6<sup>th</sup>, Futta Road, M. B. Extn. Badapur Border, New Delhi. Phone No. 011-42236352

the Senate and the House of Representatives from undertaking an official canvassing of votes starting next week that would eventually proclaim Marcos Jr as the winner.

"Our petition notes that a candidate's imminent victory cannot cure his ineligibility," said Fides Lim, spokeswoman

of one of the human rights groups.

"If the Supreme Court were to allow such a brazen lie to trump the rule of law, all substantive eligibility requirements in all future elections can be circumvented by ineligible candidates who happen to secure a victory," she said.

Marcos Jr had more than 31 million votes in an unofficial count in what's projected to be one of the strongest majority mandates for a Philippine president in decades. His vice-presidential running mate and daughter of the outgoing populist leader, Sara Duterte, appeared to have also won with a massive margin.

His electoral triumph is an astonishing reversal of the army-backed but largely peaceful "People Power" revolt in 1986 that forced his

father out of office following years of massive human rights atrocities and plunder that Marcos Jr never acknowledged.

Unofficial counts also show that the allies of Marcos Jr and Sara Duterte were set to capture most of the 300 seats in the House of Representatives and half of the 24-seat Senate that was up for election, and likely the chambers' top leaderships.

The 12 winning senators, including lone opposition Senator Risa Hontiveros, who ran for reelection, were to be proclaimed Wednesday by the Commission on Elections.

All key challengers of Marcos Jr, including current Vice President Leni Robredo, a human rights lawyer, and former boxing star Manny Pacquiao, have conceded defeat.

**SUNIL HEALTHCARE LIMITED**  
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**NOTICE OF POSTAL BALLOT**

Members of the Company are hereby informed that pursuant to Section 110 and other applicable provisions, if any, of the Companies Act, 2013 including any statutory modification or re-enactment thereof for the time being in force ("Act") read with Rule 20 and 22 of the Companies (Management & Administration) Rules, 2014 including any statutory modification or re-enactment thereof for the time being in force ("Rules") read with General Circular Nos. 14/2020 dated 8th April, 2020, 17/2020 dated 13th April, 2020, 22/2020 dated 15th June, 2020, 33/2020 dated 28th September, 2020, 39/2020 dated 31st December, 2020, 10/2021 dated 23rd June, 2021, 20/2021 dated 8th December, 2021 and 3/2022 dated May 05, 2022 (collectively referred to as the "MCA Circulars") and Circular Nos. SEBI/HO/CFD/ CMD1/CIR/P/2020/79 dated May 12, 2020 and SEBI/HO/CFD/CMD2/CIR/P/2021/11 dated January 15, 2021 issued by the Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI Circulars), and other applicable laws, rules and regulations, if any, the following Special resolution is proposed to be passed by the Members through Postal Ballot only through remote e-voting process:-

**1. Re-appointment and payment of remuneration to Shri Anil Kumar Khaitan (DIN:-00759951) as Chairman & Managing Director of the Company.**

Members of the Company are hereby informed that the Company has completed dispatch of Notice of Postal Ballot dated May 06, 2022 through electronic mode on May 17, 2022 to the members of the Company, whose name appears in the Register of Members/List of Beneficial Owners as received from NSDL and CDSL as on Friday, May 13, 2022 and who has registered their email with our RTA/Company, for seeking the consent of the members by way of Special Resolution, through Postal Ballot only through remote e-voting. A person, who is not Member as on Friday, May 13, 2022 should treat postal ballot notice for information purpose only.

The Postal Ballot Notice is also available at website of the Company at <https://www.sunilhealthcare.com/general-meeting>, on the website of Link Intime India Private Ltd., the Company's Agency for conducting Remote E-Voting at <https://instavote.linkintime.co.in>, and on the websites of BSE Limited ([www.bseindia.com](http://www.bseindia.com)).

The Members holding shares in dematerialized form are requested to update their KYC details including email address with the relevant Depository Participants. Members holding share in Physical mode are requested to update/register their KYC details including email address by submitting duly filled and signed form ISR-1, with details of Folio number and attaching self-attested copy of a PAN card to **M/s Alankit Assignment Limited at "4E/2, Alankit House, Jhandewalan Extension, New Delhi 110055", Contact no. 91-11-4254 1234** email id: [ra@alankit.com](mailto:ra@alankit.com), [lalit@alankit.com](mailto:lalit@alankit.com) or [cs@sunilhealthcare.com](mailto:cs@sunilhealthcare.com) / [info@sunilhealthcare.com](mailto:info@sunilhealthcare.com) or

**The members may note that:**

i) The remote e-voting period shall commence on **Friday May 20, 2022 from 09:00 A.M. (IST)** onwards and shall end on Saturday, June 18, 2022 at 5:00 P.M. (IST) (both days inclusive). During this period, Members of the Company holding equity shares either in physical or dematerialized form as on the Cut-off date, i.e. **Friday, May 13, 2022** (including those Members who may not have received this Notice due to non-registration of their e-mail address with the Company or the Depositories / Depository Participants or RTA), may cast their vote electronically, in respect of the resolution as set out in this Notice only through remote e-voting. The remote e-voting module shall be disabled by LIPL thereafter. Once the vote on resolution is cast by a Member, no changes shall be allowed subsequently.

ii) The Board of Directors of the Company has appointed Mr. Tara Chand Sharma, Proprietor of Jain Sharma & Associates, Company Secretaries (ICSI Membership No.- F-5749, C.P No. 4078), Company Secretary in Practice as Scrutinizer for conducting the Postal Ballot through remote e-voting process in a fair and transparent manner.

iii) **The results of the Postal Ballot will be announced by the Chairman or any other person authorized by the Chairman in writing for this purpose on or before Tuesday, June 21, 2022** at the Registered Office of Company. The said result along with Scrutinizer's report would also be displayed at the Registered and Corporate Office of the Company. Additionally, the Results will also be uploaded on the Company's website of the Company [www.sunilhealthcare.com](http://www.sunilhealthcare.com) as well as on LIPL website <https://instavote.linkintime.co.in>.

iv) **Helpdesk for Individual Shareholders holding securities in demat mode:**  
In case shareholders/ members holding securities in demat mode have any technical issues related to login through Depository i.e. NSDL/ CDSL, they may contact the respective helpdesk given below:

Login type	Helpdesk details
Individual Shareholders holding securities in demat mode with NSDL	Members facing any technical issue in login can contact NSDL helpdesk by sending a request at <a href="mailto:evoting@nsdl.co.in">evoting@nsdl.co.in</a> or call at toll free no.: 1800 1020 990 and 1800 22 44 30
Individual Shareholders holding securities in demat mode with CDSL	Members facing any technical issue in login can contact CDSL helpdesk by sending a request at <a href="mailto:helpdesk.evoting@cdsindia.com">helpdesk.evoting@cdsindia.com</a> or contact at 022- 23058738 or 22-23058542-43.

**v) Helpdesk for Individual Shareholders holding securities in physical mode/ Institutional shareholders & evoting service Provider is LINKINTIME.**

In case shareholders/ members holding securities in physical mode/ Institutional shareholders have any queries regarding remote e-voting, they may refer the **Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)** and **Instavote e-Voting manual** available at <https://instavote.linkintime.co.in>, under Help section or send an email to [enquiries@linkintime.co.in](mailto:enquiries@linkintime.co.in) or Contact Mr. Rajiv Ranjan of LIPL, C-101, 247 Park, L.B.S. Marg, Vikhroli (West), Mumbai 400 083, Maharashtra, India or call at - Tel: 022 -4918 6000.

vi) for details instruction of Re-voting, the members are requested go through the notice of the Postal Ballot (especially note no. 13).

**On behalf of the Board**  
**For SUNIL HEALTHCARE LIMITED**  
**Sd/-**  
**SANTOSH KUMAR SHARMA**  
**COMPANY SECRETARY & COMPLIANCE OFFICER**  
FCS-6817  
Place - New Delhi  
Dated- May 17, 2022  
Email: [cs@sunilhealthcare.com](mailto:cs@sunilhealthcare.com)  
Contact No 011-49435541

**Reg. Office:**  
38E/252A, Vijay Tower, Shahpurjat, New Delhi-110049  
CIN No: L24302DL1973PLC189662  
Phone No:- +91-11-4943555/00 Fax no 011-43850087  
**Email ID: info@sunilhealthcare.com**  
[www.sunilhealthcare.com](http://www.sunilhealthcare.com)

# Beijing locks down more people in China's 'zero-Covid' fight

AP ■ BEIJING

Authorities in Beijing restricted more residents to their homes on Tuesday in a now 3-week-long effort to control a small but persistent Covid-19 outbreak in the Chinese capital.

Seven adjoining areas in the city's Fengtai district were designated lockdown zones for at least one week, with people ordered to stay at home in an area covering about 4 by 5 km (2.5 by 3 miles). The area is near a wholesale food market that was closed indefinitely on Saturday following the discovery of a cluster there.

The added restrictions come as Shanghai, China's largest city, slowly starts to ease

a citywide lockdown that has trapped most of its population for more than six weeks. The twin outbreaks in Beijing and Shanghai, the country's most prominent cities, have focused attention on whether China can sustain its strict "zero-COVID" approach, as many other countries adapt to the fast-spreading omicron variant and ease restrictions.

China recorded 1,100 new cases on Monday, the National Health Commission said Tuesday. Of those, about 800 were in Shanghai and 52 were in Beijing. The daily number of new cases in Shanghai has declined steadily for more than two weeks, but authorities have been moved slowly to relax restrictions, frustrating residents.

# German prosecutors seek 5 years for ex-Nazi guard

AP ■ BERLIN

German prosecutors on Tuesday sought a five-year prison sentence for a 101-year-old man who is on trial for his alleged role as a Nazi SS guard at a concentration camp during World War II. The defendant is charged with 3,518 counts of being an accessory to murder at the Sachsenhausen concentration camp, where he allegedly worked between 1942 and 1945 as an enlisted member of the Nazi Party's paramilitary wing. He has been identified only as Josef S. In keeping with German privacy rules, Prosecutor Cyrill Klement

told the defendant that he "accepted the dehumanization of the victims," news agency dpa reported. The defendant has been on trial since October at the Neuruppin state court, with hearings being held in the nearby eastern city of Brandenburg.

He has told the court that he didn't know the Sachsenhausen camp. There are no formal pleas in the German legal system. Prosecutors have pointed to documents on an SS guard with the man's name and date and place of birth.

The defense is expected to make closing arguments on June 1 and a verdict has been penciled in for June 2.



# From civilian to soldier: Army volunteers buried

AP ■ ZORYA TRUDA

The countryside was in full bloom when Iuliia Loseva buried her husband in the village cemetery near her home. On her knees in the grass, she bowed her head over the open coffin and kissed him one last goodbye before they lowered him into his grave.

There was a military band, and a six-gun salute. His teenage sons, pale and stunned, walked behind their father's coffin holding framed photographs of him in his camouflage uniform.

But this was not a military funeral for a career soldier. Volodymyr Losev's foray into the army was as sudden as it was brief.

A little over three months ago the 38-year-old was just another civilian, driving trucks and operating cranes, working to take care of his family in a small village near the port city of Odesa in southwestern Ukraine.

Then the war came, and everything changed.

"He had never been in the army, but he signed up on the first day of the war," said Losev's brother-in-law, Viktor Chesolin after the funeral.

Russia invaded Ukraine on Feb. 24. Like so many other Ukrainian men, Losev decided he wanted to help defend his country. He had no prior military experience. But he knew how to shoot an air rifle, and he had specialized driving skills due to his job, Chesolin said.

So when a letter arrived from the army recruitment center in February, Losev turned up and asked to be enlisted. Skilled drivers were in demand, and the army took him up on his offer.

He left his wife and sons - 13-year-old Hrehorii and 15-year-old Denys - at home and headed off to western Ukraine for two or three weeks of training. He was a good marksman, it turned out, and the army made him a sniper, said Chesolin.

Soon, he was on the front lines in eastern Ukraine, fighting Russian forces. His family didn't know much about where he was - he didn't discuss locations.

Then the dreaded call came. One of Losev's fellow soldiers, a friend, called Iuliia. Her husband was dead.

Losev had died May 7 near the eastern Ukrainian city of Severodonetsk, his family was



told. A mine in the road detonated as the military vehicle he was driving ran over it, wounding the other soldiers in the vehicle and killing Losev, Chesolin said. As far as they know, he died at the scene.

Fighting in the area was fierce, and retrieving his body complicated. It took days for the army to manage to extract him and get him home.

On May 16, Iuliia, her nails painted alternately in the blue and yellow colors of the Ukrainian flag, waited outside their home as the funeral van arrived with his coffin. Mourners lined the street, kneeling in respect as the van drove by.

She clutched her son's

hands as the funeral procession made its way to the small cemetery on the outskirts of the village, national flags fluttering in the breeze.

The grave was open and waiting, the band standing to one side. Leaving the mourners behind, his wife walked ahead with the coffin and asked the pallbearers to set him down on the grass.

She sank to her knees, ragged sobs escaping in agonizing breaths. One last time, she caressed his chest and bowed over him. For a final few moments, she could be alone with her husband, the man who had gone so quickly from civilian to soldier - and then was gone.

# Lviv rocked by number of very loud explosions

AP ■ LVIV

The western Ukrainian city of Lviv has been rocked by number of very loud explosions.

An Associated Press team in the city witnessed the glare of bright explosions which lit up the night sky to the west of the city shortly after midnight local time.

Witnesses counted at least eight explosions accompanied by distant booms.

The smell of burning was apparent some time later. The city is currently under curfew from 11 p.M. To 6 a.M.

Makysym Kozytzskyy, chairman of the Lviv Regional Military Administration, said the Russians had fired on military infrastructure in the Yavoriv district. The city of Yavoriv is about 15 kilometers (less than 10 miles) from the Polish border.

Andriy Sadovyti, the mayor of Lviv, said on Facebook that there was no confirmed information about the missiles hitting the city.

"Let's thank those who protect our sky for this!", Sadovyti said. "In the morning we will give more accurate information. Take care of your-

self and do not ignore air alarms!"

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy said the evacuation of the fighters from Azovstal to separatist-controlled territory saved their lives. More than 260 Ukrainian fighters, including some who are badly wounded, were evacuated Monday from a steel plant in the ruined city of Mariupol and taken to areas under Russia's control, according to a Ukrainian military said.

Deputy Defense Minister Hanna Maliar said 53 seriously wounded fighters were taken to a hospital in Novoazovsk, east of Mariupol. An additional 211 fighters were evacuated to Olenivka through a humanitarian corridor.

Malyar said an exchange would be worked out for their return home. She also said missions were underway to rescue the remaining fighters inside the plant, the last stronghold of resistance in the ruined southern port city of Mariupol.

"Ukraine needs Ukrainian heroes to be alive. That is our principle," Zelenskyy said in his nightly address. "Our military and intelligence have started the operation to save



Mariupol's defenders. The work

continues to bring the guys home, and it requires delicacy and time."

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remaining fighters inside the plant, the last stronghold of resistance in the ruined southern port city of Mariupol.

Earlier Monday, the Russian Defense Ministry announced an agreement for the wounded to leave the steelworks for treatment in a town held by pro-Moscow separatists. After nightfall Monday, several buses pulled away from the steel mill accompanied by Russian military vehicles. There was no immediate word on whether the wounded would be considered prisoners of war.

A senior U.S. Defense official said Monday that Russian long-range strikes near Lviv appeared to target the Ukrainian military training center in Yavoriv, which is less than 15 miles (25 kilometers) from the border with Poland.

# War Crimes Watch: Targeting schools, Russia bombs the future

AP ■ KYIV

As she lay buried under the rubble, her legs broken and eyes blinded by blood and thick clouds of dust, all Inna Levchenko could hear was screams. It was 12:15 pm on March 3, and moments earlier a blast had pulverised the school where she'd taught for 30 years.

Amid relentless bombing, she'd opened School 21 in Chernihiv as a shelter to frightened families. They painted the word "children" in big, bold letters on the windows, hoping that Russian forces would

see it and spare them. The bombs fell anyway.

Though she didn't know it yet, 70 children she'd ordered to shelter in the basement would survive the blast. But at least nine people, including one of her students - a 13-year-old boy - would not.

"Why schools? I cannot comprehend their motivation," she said.

"It is painful to realise how many friends of mine

died...And how many children who remained alone without parents, got traumatised.

They will remember it all their life and will pass their stories to the next generation."

The Ukrainian government says Russia has shelled more than 1,000 schools, destroying 95. On May 8, a bomb flattened a school in Zaporizhzhia which, like School No 21 in Chernihiv, was being used as a shelter.

As many as 60 people were feared dead.

Intentionally attacking schools and other civilian infrastructure is a war crime. Experts say wide-scale wreckage can be used as evidence of Russian intent, and to refute claims that schools were simply collateral damage.

But the destruction of hundreds of schools is about more than toppling buildings and maiming bodies, according to experts, to teachers and to others who have survived conflicts in the former Yugoslavia, in Syria and beyond. It hinders a nation's ability to rebound

after the fighting stops, injuring entire generations and dashing a country's hope for the future.

In the nearly three months since Russia invaded Ukraine, The Associated Press and the PBS series "Frontline" have independently verified 57 schools that were destroyed or damaged in a manner that indicates a possible war crime. The accounting likely represents just a fraction of potential war crimes committed during the conflict and the list is updated daily.

In Chernihiv alone, the city council said only seven of the city's 35 schools were unscathed. Three were reduced to rubble.

The International Criminal Court, prosecutors from across the globe and Ukraine's prosecutor general are investigating more than 8,000 reports of potential war crimes in Ukraine involving 500 suspects. Many are accused of aiming deliberately at civilian structures like hospitals, shelters and residential neigh-



bourhoods.

Targeting schools - spaces designed as havens for children to grow, learn and make friends - is particularly harmful, transforming the architecture of childhood into something violent and dangerous: a place that inspires fear.

**PUBLIC NOTICE**  
Information is given to general public at large that my client **Mr. Vipin Sharma S/o Mr. Rambharose owner of Freehold Residential Plot** admeasuring area 150 Sq. Yd. or say 125.41 Sq. Mt., Pertaining to Khatouni 1423 to 1428 Fasil Year Khata No. 619, Kharsa No. 84, situated in Village Achhivra, Pragra & Tehsil Dadri, Distt. Gautam Budh Nagar, U.P. above Mention Property Documents Gift deed executed by Mr. Rambharose S/o Mr. Kashiram in favour of his Real Son Mr.Vipin Sharma S/o Mr. Rambharose in respect of the said Plot admeasuring area 150 Sq. Yd. or say 125.41 Sq. Mt.,Pertaining to Khatouni 1423 to 1428 Fasil YearKhata No.619,Kharsa No.84,duly registered with the office of SR- Dadri, Doc. No. 15925 in Book No.1 Vol.No.20730, Pages No.349/368, on dated 04.05.2022 Present owner of the above Property Mr. Vipin Sharma S/o Mr. Rambharose and same Property to be Loan financed by M/s Vastu Housing Finance Corporation Ltd. If any person(s)have any objection(s) or Claim(s) with respect to the right, title or interest in the Said Property then contact us within 7 days from the date of this notice on the number mentioned herein below, failing which my client i. e. M/s Vastu Housing Finance Corporation Ltd. 2nd Floor, Commercial Market, Sanjay Vihar, Awaz Vikas, Opp.Prachin Shiv Mandir, Hapur-245101, U.P. Shall not be held responsible in any manner whatsoever.

**Arun Goswami (Advocate)**  
**Ch. No. 119, 1st Floor, Main Road Tehsil Compound Distt. Ghaziabad Mob. 9997806112**

**PUBLIC NOTICE**  
To be known to all that I, **MANMEET SINGH, S/O Late Sh. Jai Singh, R/o Flat No. B-161, (Duplex) Second/Third Floor, Pocket-B, Sarita Vihar, New Delhi-110076**, owner of property bearing SFS Flat No. B-161, (DUPLICATE) Second + Third Floor alongwith Scooter Garage, Pocket-B, Situated At Sarita Vihar, New Delhi-110076 Vide DDA File No. **F.128 (220) 86/ SFS /SV/III**, has applied for supplying the certified copy in DDA. All the original documents i.e. Allotment cum-demand Letter, Allocation Letter, Possession Letter, site possession Slip, & NOC for electricity & water connection issued by the DDA of the above flat have been lost. An FIR/NCR/R to this effect has lodged in Police Station Crime Branch, New Delhi, vide NCR/FIR /I.R. No.408933/2022. Any person(s) claiming any right, interest, having any objection or found in possession of original documents, may write/contact with above named person at above address/phone No.**9911883355** within 15 days from the date of publication of this notice. The person claiming any right, interest, objections with respect to this property can personally inform or write to Dy. Director (L&H) or Director (H)-1, Block, Vikas Sadan, INA, New Delhi.

# Vatican Minister visits Ukraine as Pope toes delicate line

AP ■ VATICAN CITY

The Vatican's foreign minister, Archbishop Paul Gallagher, is heading to Kyiv this week as the Holy See seeks to balance its concern for Ukrainians amid Russia's war with its efforts to keep open a channel of dialogue with Moscow.

Gallagher is due to arrive Wednesday and meet Friday with Ukrainian Foreign Minister Dmytro Kuleba, a visit that was originally scheduled for before Easter but was postponed after Gallagher came down with COVID-19.

The Vatican said that Gallagher would stop first in Lviv to meet with refugees and regional officials, and then move onto Kyiv for the meeting with Kuleba and to tour the destruction nearby.

The secretariat of state

tweeted Tuesday that the visit would mark the 30th anniversary of diplomatic relations with Ukraine and show the closeness of the pope and Holy See to Ukraine, "reaffirming the importance of dialogue to reestablish peace."

The trip comes as the Holy See toes a delicate line in trying to keep alive newly improved ties with the Russian Orthodox Church while offering support to the "martyred" Ukrainian faithful. At the same time, the Holy See is reconciling Pope Francis' frequent denunciation of the weapons industry and "crazy" recourse to rearming Ukraine with Catholic teaching that says states have a right and duty to retaliate an "unjust aggressor."

"It has to be proportional," Gallagher told RAI state television in announcing his trip. "Yes, Ukraine has the right to

defend itself and it needs weapons to do it, but it has to be prudent in the way it's done."

Gallagher, a 68-year-old career Vatican diplomat from Liverpool, becomes the third papal envoy dispatched to the region by Francis, after two trusted cardinals went to Ukraine and bordering countries to assess the humanitarian needs of Ukrainian refugees and bring them the pope's solidarity.

Francis has drawn criticism from some for refusing to condemn Russia or President Vladimir Putin by name, though he has stepped up his criticism of the "barbaric" war and recently met with the wives of two Ukrainian soldiers holding out at the besieged steel mill in Mariupol, a gesture of "our concern and participation in the suffering of these families," Gallagher said.

**OFFICE OF THE COLLECTOR**  
**JILA NIRMAN SAMITI, JAGDALPUR DISTT. BASTAR (C.G.)**  
**Expression of Interest (EOI)**  
**(1st Call)**

No. 01/JNS /2022-23Jagdalpur Dated. 11.05.2022

Jila Nirman Samiti, Jagdalpur Distt, Bastar invites Empanelment of Consultants for Architectural/ Engineering/Structural & Other Related Services.

**General condition:** All the documents & Information shall be submitted through speed post/Registered post, so as to reach the office of under signed on or before dated 08.06.2022 by 15.00 hour. Any documents received after the last date and time will not be entertained.

The detailed RFP is available on the website <http://bastar.gov.in> from where it can be downloaded for submission. **Collector, Jila Nirman Samiti Jagdalpur.** reserves the right to reject all or any of the application without assigning any reason. Right to modify the process of Pre-qualification is reserved with **Collector, Jila Nirman Samiti Jagdalpur.**

**Sd/-**  
**Nodal Officer**  
**Jila Nirman Samiti,**  
**Executive Engineer P.W.D.**  
**North Bastar Division-1, Jagdalpur**

**R.O. No. 91206/6**  
**R.O. Date: 17/05/2022**

**NORTHERN RAILWAY**  
**OPEN E-TENDER NOTICE**

The Sr. Divisional Engineer-III, Northern Railway, Delhi Division invites E-Tender for the following work:

<b>1 Name of work</b>	Cleaning of Railway land and disposal of material beyond Railway Boundary which includes removal of garbage, rag picking, cleaning of drain, cow dung, leaves, muck, malba, debris, soil heap, animal carcass, building material and shifting and stacking of Railway material in the section of SSE/P-way/DLI under ADEN/DLI
<b>2 Approx. cost of work</b>	Rs. 55,99,552.31 (Rupees Fifty Five Lakh Ninety Nine Thousand Five Hundred Fifty Two and Thirty One Paise Only)
<b>3 Earnest Money to be deposited</b>	Rs. 1,12,000/- (Rupees One Lakh Twelve Thousand Only.)
<b>4 Cost of tender document</b>	Rs. 0.00/-
<b>5 Date &amp; Time of submission of tender bid and opening of tender</b>	10.06.2022 at 15:00 Hrs.
<b>6 Website particulars where complete details of tender documents can be seen</b>	<a href="http://www.irepos.gov.in">www.irepos.gov.in</a>

- The tenderer/s must be registered on the Indian Railway E-Procurement system (IREPS) site i.e. [www.irepos.gov.in](http://www.irepos.gov.in) for participating in the e-tender system.
- For all terms and conditions please refer tender document.
- No manual offers are acceptable.
- Cost of tender document and Earnest money will be acceptable through net banking or payment gateway only.

No.: 128-W/280/e Tender Notice/NIT/12/2022-23/W-3Dated: 17.05.20221150/2022

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**21 beautiful years from 19.05.1980**  
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**And your wonderful, loving presence**  
**Every precious moment**  
**You are Always in our hearts**  
**Gun Nidhi & Manju Kapur Dalmia**  
**Agastya, Katyayani & Maya**  
**Amba's many friends and family**

**SYMBOLIC POSSESSION NOTICE**  
**ICICI Bank** Branch Office: ICICI Bank Ltd, 3rd Floor, Plot No- 23, New Rohtak Road, Karol Bagh, Delhi- 110005  
**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 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.  
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.	Praveen Kumar/ Khushboo Kumari/ LBDEL00003446307	Flat No G 3046/ GC- 16, 3rd Floor Tower G 16th Avenue Gaur City 2 Plot No Gh-03, Sec-16 C Greater Noida/ May 12, 2022	October 16, 2021 Rs. 31,31,971/-	Delhi/ NCR
2.	Ashish Kumar Sethi/ Mamta Sethi/ LBDEL000005144228	Prop No 23/79 A & B, Second Floor, Block 23, Tilak Nagar, New Delhi-110018/ May 12, 2022	December 13, 2021 Rs. 26,76,158/-	Delhi/ NCR
3.	Anita Negi/ Om Prakash/ LBDEL00002371119	Flat No 822, 2nd Floor, Pocket- B, Janta Flat, Sector-16 B, Dwarka, Delhi-110075 / May 12, 2022	November 15, 2021 Rs. 4,98,761/-	Delhi/ NCR
4.	Anand Parkash/ Jagwathi/ LBDEL00002370036	Plot No C 3/264, Yamuna Vihar, Delhi/ May 12, 2022	August 30, 2021 Rs.18,30,634/-	Delhi/ NCR
5.	Geeta/ Amit Kumar/ LBDEL00002377971	Flat No 48, 2nd Floor, Block F3, Pocket 3, LIG Sector G 8, Narela, Delhi/ May 12, 2022	September 27, 2021 Rs. 7,73,258/-	Delhi/ NCR
6.	Raj Sighanya/ Seema Sighanya/ LBNO00001789522	Flat No - CGA - 222, DLF Capital Greens, Phase-I, Shivaji Marg, Plot No. 15, Delhi/ May 12, 2022	October 05, 2021 Rs. 13,48,796/-	Delhi/ NCR
7.	Vimmy Chandok/ Sandeep Singh Chandok/ Amarjeet Singh/ LBDEL00000807235	Flat No. C-120, Lajpat Nagar - 1, New Delhi, Delhi / May 12, 2022	August 30, 2021 Rs. 3,59,851/-	Delhi/ NCR
8.	Barunjit Singh/ Jasleen Kaur/ LBNOD00005169626	Flat No H-1404, 14th Floor, Stellar One, Tower H, Plot No Gh-09, Sector 1 Greater Noida West, Noida / May 12, 2022	October 16, 2021 Rs. 28,31,842/-	Delhi/ NCR
9.	Varun Prakash/ Uma Sharma/ LBDEL00004371313/ LBDEL00004373483	Flat No- A-602, 6th Floor, Appu Enclave, Cghs Ltd Apartments, Plot No-3d, Sec-11 Dwarka, Delhi/ May 12, 2022	December 17, 2021 Rs. 1,01,94,930/-	Delhi/ NCR
10.	Varun Prakash/ Puneet Prakash/ Uma Sharma/ LBDEL00004423376	House No-19, 19, Kailash Colony, Delhi/ May 12, 2022	December 06, 2021 Rs. 49,45,383/-	Delhi/ NCR

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 18, 2022**  
**Place: Delhi/ NCR**  
**Authorized Officer**  
**ICICI Bank Limited**



# Sensex, Nifty zoom over 2.5% as global stocks rise

**Mumbai:** Benchmark indices Sensex and Nifty on Tuesday spurted by over 2.5 per cent to log their best single-day gains in three months, propelled by heavy buying in metal, energy and banking stocks amid a global rally in stocks.

The 30-share BSE benchmark zoomed 1,344.63 points or 2.54 per cent to settle at over one-week high of 54,318.47 points with all of its constituents closing with gains. During the day, it jumped 1,425.58 points or 2.69 per cent to 54,399.42.

The broader NSE Nifty rallied 417 points or 2.63 per cent to finish at 16,259.30 points. All the 50 stocks advanced led by steel and energy stocks.

Both Sensex and Nifty notched their best single-day gain since February 15.

“A ferocious up-move from the metal index lifted Reliance together with other sectoral indices, leaving bears gasping and covering short positions and looking out for reasons for the rally,” S Ranganathan, Head of Research at LKP securities, said.

On a day when WPI for April crossed 15 per cent, over 2.5 per cent rise in benchmark



indices coupled with the breadth of the rally surprised many on the street despite the move coming after a relentless fall, Ranganathan added.

Among Sensex stocks, Tata Steel emerged as lead gainer, rising by 7.62 per cent.

The most valuable company Reliance zoomed 4.26 per cent, helping Sensex to close at over one-week high.

Among others, Infosys, ITC, Larsen & Toubro, Wipro, ICICI Bank, HCL Technologies, Bajaj Finance, SBI and Maruti also added to the rally.

“After a long gap, the market has witnessed a strong resilience supported by heavy-weights and broader markets.

The market was trading at oversold territory and was inspired by optimism in the Asian markets,” said Vinod Nair, Head of Research at Geojit Financial Services.

“Indian markets made a superb comeback today gaining over 2.5 per cent on back of improving global clues and asian markets trading in the green. Metal sector was the top performer,” said Rahul Sharma, Research Head, Equity 99.

In the broader market, the BSE smallcap gauge rallied 2.78 per cent and midcap index jumped 2.51 per cent. All BSE sectoral indices also ended higher. **PTI**

# WPI inflation at record high of 15.08% in April

**New Delhi:** Wholesale price-based inflation soared to a record high of 15.08 per cent in April mainly on account of spiralling prices of food, fuel and other commodities, which may prompt the Reserve Bank to hike interest rates in upcoming monetary policy review next month.

The Wholesale Price Index (WPI) at 15.08 per cent is the highest in the new series, the data for which is available since 2012-13. The WPI inflation has remained in double digit for the 13th consecutive month since April last year.

“The high rate of inflation in April 2022 was primarily due to rise in prices of mineral oils, basic metals, crude petroleum & natural gas, food articles, non-food articles, food products and chemicals & chemical products etc. As compared to the corresponding month of the previous year,” the commerce and industry ministry said in a statement.

Inflation in food articles was 8.35 per cent as prices of vegetables, wheat, fruits and potato witnessed a sharp spike over the year-ago period.

In the fuel and power basket, inflation was 38.66 per cent, while in manufactured products and oil seeds, it was 10.85 per cent and 16.10 per



cent, respectively.

Inflation in crude petroleum and natural gas was 69.07 per cent in April.

Data released last week showed that retail inflation rose to a near eight-year high of 7.79 per cent in April, remaining above the Reserve Bank's inflation target for the fourth straight month.

To tame stubbornly high inflation, the RBI earlier this month hiked its key interest rate by 0.40 per cent and cash reserve ratio by 0.50 per cent in a surprise move.

ICRA chief economist

Aditi Nayar said with some correction in commodity prices as a result of the bleaker demand outlook in China offsetting the depreciation in rupee, the WPI inflation may recede mildly below 15 per cent in May 2022, while remaining uncomfortably elevated.

The heat wave led to a spike in prices of perishables such as fruits, vegetables and milk, which along with a spike in tea prices pushed up the primary food inflation. The core-WPI inflation reverted to a four-month high of 11.1 per cent in April. **PTI**

# RBI rejects 6 applications for setting up banks

**Mumbai:** The Reserve Bank has rejected six applications for setting up banks, including for small finance banks, as these were “not found” suitable, the central bank said on Tuesday.

The RBI in a statement said the examination of six applications has now been completed as per the procedure laid down under the guidelines.

“Based on the assessment of the applications, (six) applicants were not found suitable for granting of in-principle approval to set up banks,” it said.

Applicants not found suitable under the guidelines for ‘on tap’ Licensing of Universal Banks are: UAE Exchange and Financial Services Limited; The Repatriates Cooperative Finance and Development Bank Limited (REPCO Bank); Chaitanya India Fin Credit Private Limited, and Pankaj Vaish and others, it said.

The RBI further said the applicants not found suitable



under Guidelines for ‘on tap’ Licensing of Small Finance Banks are: VSoft Technologies Private Limited and Calicut City Service Co-operative Bank Limited.

The Reserve Bank had received 11 applications to set up bank under the Guidelines for ‘on tap’ Licensing of Universal Banks and Small Finance Banks.

The remaining applications are under examination, the central bank added. **PTI**

# Gold jumps ₹388, silver rallies ₹1,046

**New Delhi:** Gold price in the national capital on Tuesday jumped ₹388 to ₹50,282 per 10 gram, reflecting rally in international precious metal prices, according to HDFC Securities.

In the previous trade, the precious metal finished at Rs 49,894 per 10 gram. Silver also rallied by Rs 1,046 to Rs 60,957 per kg from Rs 59,911 per kg in the previous trade.

In the international market, gold was trading higher at USD 1,825 per ounce and silver was marginally lower at USD 20.96 per ounce.

“Gold prices traded firm with spot gold prices at COMEX trading 0.13 per cent up at USD 1,825 per ounce on Tuesday. Gold prices rebounded supported by weaker dollar despite firm US bond yields,” said Tapan Patel, Senior Analyst (Commodities), HDFC securities. **PTI**



# Challenge for India is to sustain 8-9% growth for three decades: Niti Aayog



**New Delhi:** India has done extremely well on the vaccination front and the challenge for the country is to grow 8-9 per cent over the next three decades, Niti Aayog CEO Amitabh Kant said on Tuesday.

Addressing an event organised by Public Affairs Forum of India (PAFI), Kant further said that rise in per capita income of India is critical for removing poverty in the country.

“We bounced back post-COVID-19, and have done extremely well on vaccination,

next year as well we will grow. “The challenge (for India) is to sustain high growth of 8-9 per cent over the next three decades,” he said.

According to Kant, the government's role should be in public policy and the policy should create wealth through the private sector.

“The government should be in education, health and nutrition,” he said. According to Kant, it is important for Indian manufacturers to penetrate global markets and value chains. **PTI**

# MCX profit falls to ₹36.53 crore in Q4

**New Delhi:** Multi Commodity Exchange of India Ltd (MCX) on Tuesday reported a 5 per cent decline in consolidated net profit at ₹36.53 crore for the quarter ended March.

Its net profit stood at ₹38.44 crore in the year-ago period. Total income increased to ₹121.04 crore in the fourth quarter of last fiscal from ₹108.46 crore in the corresponding period of the previous year. Net profit fell to ₹143.45 crore in the last fiscal from ₹225.22 crore in the 2020-21 financial year. Total income also declined to ₹433.31 crore during 2021-22 from ₹494.34 crore in the previous year. **PTI**

# Maruti to open its 3rd plant in Haryana

**PNS ■ NEW DELHI**

In the past few years, Haryana has made rapid strides on several fronts including industrial development under the able guidance and leadership of Chief Minister, Manohar Lal Khattar.

Haryana is well on its way to inclusive growth driven by a strong commitment of the Government towards public welfare and ensuring the advanced facilities to its citizens. Likewise, Haryana Government is actively working towards making Haryana an industrial and automobile hub.

The growth in automobile sector in Haryana can be gauged by the fact that Maruti is coming up with its 3rd plant in the state.

Maruti Suzuki India Limited (MSIL)/ Suzuki Motorcycle India Private Limited (SMIPL) and Haryana State Industrial & Infrastructure Development Corporation Limited (HSI-IDC) are all set to sign an agreement for the allotment of 800-acre & 100 acre land at IMT Kharkhoda, respectively, in a ceremony being organised on May 19, 2022 in the presence of Chief Minister, Manohar Lal Khattar.

## BUSINESS BRIEFS

**INFORMA MARKET TO HOST SATTE 2022**  
**New Delhi:** Informa Markets in India, India's leading B2B exhibitions organizer, is geared to host SATTE 2022, South Asia's leading travel trade exhibition, from May 18 – 20 at the India Expo Mart, Greater Noida, Delhi-NCR. The 29th edition of SATTE aims to provide a great business opportunity to stakeholders to conduct business with over 36,000 + qualified industry buyers and trade visitors from the travel, wedding planning, corporate travel, hospitality and leisure industries, as well as leading television and film production houses.

**RBL RAISES USD 100 MN FROM BONDS**  
**New Delhi:** RBL Bank on Tuesday said it has raised USD 100 million (about ₹ 770 crore) through its first issuance of Basel III-compliant unsecured and subordinated tier 2 bonds. The tier 2 bond issuance increases the bank's total Capital Adequacy Ratio to 17.85 per cent, RBL Bank said in a statement.

**KAJARIA CERAMICS Q4 PROFIT DOWN 26% AT ₹ 97 CR**  
**New Delhi:** Kajaria Ceramics Ltd on Tuesday reported a decline of 25.87 per cent in consolidated net profit at ₹97.23 crore for the fourth quarter ended March. The company had posted a net profit of ₹ 131.17 crore in the year-ago period, Kajaria Ceramics said in a BSE filing.

**INDIAN OIL APPOINTS V C ASOKAN AS ED**  
**Chennai:** Oil major IndianOil on Tuesday said it has appointed V C Asokan as its executive director and state head for Tamil Nadu and Puducherry. Prior to taking up the new role he was heading Kerala state office of the oil marketing company as its executive director and state head, a press release said.

**GOVT MULLS EXTENDING APRIL GST PAYMENT DEADLINE**  
**New Delhi,** May 17 (PTI) As taxpayers face technical glitch on the GST portal, the government on Tuesday said it is considering extending the April tax payment deadline and has directed Infosys for early resolution of the problem. The Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs (CBIC) said a technical glitch has been reported by Infosys in generation of April 2022 GSTR-2B.

**REGISTRATION IN ‘DO NOT DISTURB’ & PESKY CALLS**  
**New Delhi:** A majority of mobile phone users receive unwanted or pesky calls and text messages even after having registered their numbers in the Trai's 'national do not call' registry, a survey report said on Tuesday



pushes up the headline inflation by 0.27 per cent.

The report said the move by India - which was one of the key suppliers of wheat following the Russian invasion of Ukraine - is akin to similar ones by Indonesia (which banned palm oil exports) and Serbia and Kazakhstan (on food grains).

Till now, wheat prices in the domestic market have risen only by 3 per cent as against a 44 per cent rise globally since February 24, when the invasion began. **PTI**

The British brokerage said if not for the ban, it would have been difficult for the government to achieve the target of 10 million tonnes without putting pressure on domestic prices as it has entered the financial year with a buffer stock of only 19 million tonnes of wheat.

The potential downside to wheat production this year because of the heat wave could wipe out the small surplus that the country has enjoyed over the past few years, which perhaps influenced the decision to ban exports, it said. **PTI**

# World Dairy Summit 2022 to be held in mid-September

**PNS ■ NEW DELHI**

The Centre on Tuesday announced that International Dairy Federation's World Dairy Summit 2022, the most coveted event of the dairy sector, will be organised in mid-September this year in which dairy industry stakeholders from across over 40 countries would participate and work towards ways to further develop dairy industry.

Union Minister of State for Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying Sanjeev Balyan expressed his delight over India hosting the World Dairy Summit after 48 years.

“It is a matter of great delight that India has got the opportunity to host the World Dairy Summit after 48 years,” said Balyan while speaking at the curtain raiser event of the IDF World Dairy Summit 2022 to be held in Greater Noida Expo Centre from September 12-15, 2022.

“The world's growth rate in this sector is just two per cent, while the growth rate in our country is six per cent. The growth rate in this sector in India will further grow in the coming times,” Balyan added. Atul Chaturvedi, Secretary, Department of Animal Husbandry and Dairying, was present on the occasion.

# Bharti Airtel Q4 net profit zooms to ₹2008 cr

**New Delhi:** India's second largest telecom operator Bharti Airtel on Tuesday posted over two-fold jump in its consolidated net profit to ₹2,008 crore for the March quarter.

The net profit stood at ₹759 crore in the year-ago period.

Airtel's revenue from operations rose 22.3 per cent to ₹31,500 crore during the fourth quarter of FY2021-22, from ₹25,747 crore in the corresponding period of the previous year.

For the full year FY22, the Sunil Mittal-led telco logged a



net profit of ₹4,255 crore against a loss of ₹15,084 crore in the previous fiscal (FY21).

Bharti Airtel posted a revenue of ₹116,547 crore for FY22, up from ₹100,616 crore recorded in the previous financial year. **PTI**

# Auditor training programme

**New Delhi:** The FHRAI Institute of Hospitality Management has signed an MoU with the Sattvik Council of India to offer hospitality students a course in ‘Sattvik Lead Auditor Programme’.

The three-week training programme is for students and professionals interested in pursuing a career in the rapidly growing vegetarian certification vertical.

# India's mineral production increases by 4% in March

**New Delhi:** The country's mineral production rose by 4 per cent in March compared to the year-ago period, the mines ministry said on Tuesday.

The index of mineral production of mining and quarrying sector in March 2022 at 144.6 was 4 per cent higher as compared to the level in March 2021.

“As per the provisional figures of the Indian Bureau of Mines (IBM), the cumulative growth for the period April-March, 2021-22 over the corresponding period of the previous year has increased 12.2

per cent,” the mines ministry said in a statement.

The output of important minerals in March includes coal 958 lakh tonnes, lignite 60 lakh tonnes, petroleum (crude) 25 lakh tonnes and iron ore 270 lakh tonnes.

The production of important minerals showing positive growth during March, 2022 over March, 2021 include iron ore, phosphorite, lignite and gold and minerals showing negative growth are coal, petroleum (crude), bauxite, chromite (-31.8%) and manganese ore, among others. **PTI**

# Rupee recovers from record lows to end 7 paise higher at 77.47 against dollar

**Mumbai:** The rupee on Tuesday recovered from its all-time intra day low of 77.79 to close higher by 7 paise on a stellar rally in domestic stock markets.

After opening lower at 77.67, the local unit plunged further to its all-time intra-day low of 77.79 due to a spike in crude oil prices and disappointing macroeconomic data.

However, a strong rally in domestic equities helped the rupee rebound and close at 77.48 (provisional), showing net gains of 7 paise over the last close of 77.55. The forex mar-



against a basket of six currencies, fell 0.41 per cent to 103.75.

Brent crude futures, the global oil benchmark, surged 0.74 per cent to USD 115.09 per barrel.

“The Indian rupee depreciated on Tuesday on a surge in crude oil prices and disappointing macroeconomic data. However, soft tone in the US Dollar and risk-on sentiments in global markets have cushioned the downside,” said Praveen Singh, AVP- Fundamental currencies and Commodities analyst, Sharekhan by BNP Paribas. **PTI**



# KKR eye big win to keep slim hope alive

**PTI ■ NAVI MUMBAI**

Kolkata Knight Riders need a big win in their final round-robin match to keep their slim IPL play-off hopes alive, while Lucknow Super Giants will look to seal their position in the top four when the two teams face off here on Wednesday.

With seven losses and six wins, KKR are placed at the sixth spot with 12 points and they will not only have to win but do it with a big margin and then hope that other results go their way to salvage any hope of sneaking into the knockout stage.

LSG already have one foot at the play-offs as they are placed at the third spot with 16 points but with a number of teams jostling it out for remaining three berths, they will look to add two more points to avoid any last-minute hiccup.

Two-time former champions, KKR, which had reached the final last year, have managed to keep their theoretical chances alive after coming good in the last two matches against Mumbai Indians and Sunrisers Hyderabad.

Shreyas Iyer's men rode on Andre Russell's all-round brilliance and near perfect execution from the bowlers to notch up a comprehensive 54-run win over SRH in their last match.

LSG, on the other hand, are coming into the match after suffering two successive defeats and will have to put up an improved show to end things on a high.

The main concern for LSG is their poor batting show in the last two matches with the batters struggling in

Kolkata vs Lucknow  
Live from 7:30pm IST  
STAR SPORTS 1 NETWORK

the powerplay against quality bowling. LSG's batting is a lot dependent on skipper KL Rahul, who has done bulk of the scoring with two hundreds but he has been off-colour in the last three games.

Other opener Quinton de Kock, who has scored three half centuries, too has been dismissed for 11 and 7 in the last two games, which added to the team's woes.

However, Deepak Hooda has been rock solid and it was his fifty that kept LSG in the hunt in the last game.

Young Ayush Badoni too will be eager to prove he is not a one-game wonder, while Krunal Pandya also has to step up in the rear end of the tournament.

LSG will also look to use Marcus Stoinis better as he is one of the most prolific all-rounders in world cricket.

Bowling has proved to be the weak link for LSG though the likes of Avesh Khan and Jason Holder have delivered with 17 and 14 wickets so far but Mohsin Khan was taken to the cleaners in the last game.

Spinner Ravi Bishnoi picked up two wickets against Rajasthan Royals and LSG would expect him to keep things tight in the middle overs on Wednesday.

# SUNRISERS STILL ALIVE

Rahul, Umran and Bhuvu shine in Orange Army's 3-run win over Mumbai Indians



**PTI ■ MUMBAI**

Rahul Tripathi scored 76 from 44 balls to guide Sunrisers Hyderabad to a challenging 193 for six in their must-win Indian Premier League match against Mumbai Indians here on Tuesday.

Tripathi, who struck his third half century of the season with the

help of nine fours and three sixes, set himself up brilliantly for a memorable knock.

He was ably complemented by Priyam Garg (42) and Nicholas Pooran (38).

Invited to bat, the Sunrisers' punt to play Garg at the top of the order paid off. The 21-year-old played a fine knock while sharing a

78-run partnership with Tripathi after the in-form Abhishek Sharma (9) was sent back in the third over.

Garg, who was dropped on 10, made good use of his reprieve as he smashed the ball four times to the fence and twice over it in his 26-ball innings. At the other end, Tripathi looked in his element. He smacked Jasprit Bumrah (1/32) for a six and

## ► pointstable

PO.	TEAM	M	W	L	NR	Pts	NRR
1.	GT (Q)	13	10	3	0	20	0.391
2.	RR	13	8	5	0	16	0.304
3.	LSG	13	8	5	0	16	0.262
4.	DC	13	7	6	0	14	0.255
5.	RCB	13	7	6	0	14	-0.323
6.	KKR	13	6	7	0	12	0.160
7.	PBKS	13	6	7	0	12	-0.043
8.	SRH	13	6	7	0	12	-0.230
9.	CSK	13	4	9	0	8	-0.206
10.	MI	13	3	10	0	6	-0.577

## ► boundarymeter

4s	1774
6s	915

back-to-back fours in the fifth over. Tripathi and Garg collected 57 in a productive powerplay and maintained a healthy run rate which was close to 10 runs per over while batting responsibly.

Once Garg was caught and bowled by medium pacer Ramandeep Singh (3/20), Pooran, who was promoted to No. 3, joined the party. The flamboyant left-hander smoked two consecutive sixes over long on and deep backward square off Riley Merdith (1/44) in the 13th over before whacking Mayank Markande (0/31) for a boundary and a maximum in the next over.

The MI bowlers, led by Ramandeep, were able to stage a mini comeback as they got rid of Pooran, Tripathi and Aiden Markram (2) in the space of eight balls.

Batting down the order, skipper Kane Williamson's (8 not out) struggles continued as he was unable to get the big shots going. The Sunrisers, who were looking set for a 200 plus score, could manage only one boundary in the last two overs, which yielded 19 runs.

# AB, Gayle inducted into RCB Hall of Fame

**PTI ■ MUMBAI**

Legendary cricketers Chris Gayle and AB de Villiers have become the first two players to be inducted into the Royal Challengers Bangalore's Hall of Fame.

Former RCB skipper Virat Kohli made the announcement about the inductions of his two dear mates.

"AB has truly changed the game of cricket with his innovation, brilliance, and sportsmanship which truly defines the RCB Play Bold philosophy," Kohli said in a statement posted on the franchise's website.

"It's truly special for me to be doing this for both of you. We saw videos of how you have changed the way the IPL has been played over the years. Two people who have had a huge impact in IPL being where it is today; and RCB being where it is today," he added.

While South African great de Villiers had been an integral part of RCB from 2011 to 2021, dashing left-handed batter Gayle from West Indies was with the franchise for six years.

De Villiers, who had joined the induction virtually, gave an emotional message to everyone in the team camp.

"To the RCB boys sitting there, what an amazing privilege. Quite emotional to be honest," he said.

"Virat, thanks for the kind words. Mike (Hesson), Nikhil, everyone from the fran-



chise who set this up, it's a really special touch. We had some amazing times together as a team, and the sun has moved on for Chris and I now, but we're still very much part of the family and will always be.

"So yes, thank you very much for the very special touch. Faf and the guys sitting there, Virat and the guys that know me really well for many years know how special stuff like this is to me. You guys know how much of an amazing journey I had during the IPL, especially with my RCB family, and how it changed my life. So, huge privilege to be part of this. I don't have enough words

to thank you for this touch."

West Indies batting stalwart Gayle, who has played for RCB from 2011 to 2017, said: "I want to thank the RCB family for the opportunity, for everything. It's been really special to me as well. And to be inducted is something fantastic, and I will always keep RCB close to my heart."

"I share a lot of memories with some special players, some special coaches as well. It's been really, really fantastic. And to Virat, thank you for the kind words as well, fantastic sharing the dressing room with you guys as well."

# Mixing up deliveries paid off against Punjab: Shardul

**PTI ■ NAVI MUMBAI**

Pacer Shardul Thakur credited his success against Punjab Kings to his decision to mix up deliveries, which paid rich dividends during the "big win" that kept Delhi Capitals in the IPL play-off race.

Spinners Axar Patel and Kuldeep Yadav were inspirational in the middle overs even as Shardul complemented the duo with career-best IPL figures as DC beat Punjab by 17 runs to climb to the fourth spot with 14 points from 13 games.

"There was difference in both the side boundaries, but there was dew and it was humid, so I felt they could hit a six on the bigger side (boundary). So the better idea was to mix up deliveries and confuse the batter."

"Along with the knuckleball, use an off-cutter for a left-hander, then seam-up, slow-bouncer or bouncer or use the hard length," Shardul said at the post-match press conference.



Shardul lauded his colleagues in the bowling department, saying frequent wickets always kept Punjab under the pump during their chase.

"...The scenario was completely different. Yes, if there was no dew 160 would have been a great score, but with dew coming in after 12 overs and probably eight overs in the end, they (Punjab) could have used the dew factor to their advantage if they had wickets in hand. But

# I get a buzz out of fielding: Warner

**PTI ■ MUMBAI**

Delhi Capitals' swashbuckling opener David Warner says he gets "a buzz" out of his fielding.

Warner may have got out for a golden duck in the team's previous IPL match against Punjab Kings, but he made vital contributions in the field.

When asked about his outstanding fielding, Warner said, "There are two facets of the game for me — batting and fielding. I look to stop



ones in the ring and take some catches near the boundary. Fortunately, I got one and it was a great result for us. I get a buzz out of fielding and I try to save runs for the bowlers."

credit goes to our bowling unit that we kept on taking wickets and at the same time the chase kept getting bigger and bigger for them," he said. The pacer

from Palghar believes they lacked momentum at the start of the tournament but Monday's win kept them very much in the reckoning.

# Stubbs gets maiden SA call-up for India T20Is

**PTI ■ JOHANNESBURG**

South Africa on Tuesday shanded rookie right-handed batter Tristan Stubbs a maiden call-up, while Wayne Parnell made a comeback after five years for the upcoming five-match T20 tour of India starting June 9. The 16-member contingent will be led by Temba Bavuma as South Africa make a return to international T20 cricket for the first time since the ICC T20 World Cup in late 2021. The 21-year-old Stubbs, who impressed in the past season while playing for the Gbets Warriors in the Cricket South Africa (CSA) T20 Challenge, scored 293 runs in seven innings, at an average of 48.83 and a strike rate of 183.12, including 23 sixes.

He was also part of the South Africa 'A' team to Zimbabwe before he was summoned by the Mumbai Indians for the ongoing Indian Premier League. Among other notable selections is the return of Anrich



Nortje, who has been recovering from a hip injury since December last year and batters, Reeza Hendricks and Heinrich Klaasen. Nortje has been medically cleared for return and is currently playing for the Delhi Capitals in the IPL.

Parnell also makes a comeback to the T20 set up for the first time since South Africa's tour of England in 2017.

Besides, Keshav Maharaj and number one men's T20I bowler Tabraiz Shamsi, the rest of the South African team consists of IPL players, namely, Quinton de Kock, Aiden Markram, David Miller, Lungi Ngidi, Dwaine Pretorius, Kagiso Rabada, Rassie van der Dussen and Marco Jansen.

"This is the Proteas like we have not seen them in a long time. The injection of the IPL players means that we will have a team that's ready to fire on all cylinders immediately and has

vast experience of the conditions that we will be playing in," Cricket South Africa Convenor of Selectors, Victor Mpitsang said in a statement.

"Tristan Stubbs is an exciting prospect and we're keen to see what he's made of and we are looking forward to the return of the experience of Reeza, Klaasie and Wayne Parnell to join the likes of Temba, Tabraiz and Keshav.

The five-match T20I series will kick start at New Delhi on June 9, followed by matches in Cuttack (June 12), Visakhapatnam (June 14), Rajkot (June 17) and Bengaluru (June 19).

**South Africa T20 team for India tour:** Temba Bavuma (C), Quinton de Kock, Reeza Hendricks, Heinrich Klaasen, Keshav Maharaj, Aiden Markram, David Miller, Lungi Ngidi, Anrich Nortje, Wayne Parnell, Dwaine Pretorius, Kagiso Rabada, Tabraiz Shamsi, Tristan Stubbs, Rassie van der Dussen, Marco Jansen.



# Tilak could be an all-format India batter: Gavaskar

**PTI ■ MUMBAI**

Former India captain Sunil Gavaskar has seconded Mumbai Indians' skipper Rohit Sharma's opinion that young Tilak Varma could be an all-format batter for India. Varma, who has been one of the finds of IPL and with 368 runs from 12 games, is the lone bright spot in an otherwise dismal season for the Mumbai Indians. "Tilak Varma's temperament has been fantastic. In his knock against Chennai Super Kings, he walked into

the middle when the team was under pressure. But the way he dealt in ones and twos (early on) was impressive," Gavaskar said on Star Sports. "He played a wide range of shots and kept rotating the strike. This shows that he has a good cricketing head on his shoulders, and I think that's important."

"Once you have that good cricketing brain, you will be able to lift yourself when things are not going your way. You can analyse yourself and get back to scoring runs," the legendary opener said.

Gavaskar further praised the youngster for having the basics right and agreed with Rohit's observation that the rising Hyderabad cricketer could be an all-format India batter in the future.

"Rohit Sharma rightly mentioned that he could be an all-format player for India. So now it's up to him to work that little bit extra, get his fitness going, get a little tighter as far as the technique is concerned and prove Rohit right," Gavaskar said.

What has impressed Gavaskar most is his temperament.

"He's got the basics right. Technically, he's right. He gets right behind the line of the ball. He's got a straight bat, and while defending on the front foot his bat is close to the pad. So, all his basics are right."



India on Sunday dethroned 14-time winners Indonesia with a commanding 3-0 win in the summit clash of the Thomas Cup Final to script a historic win

# India will now be considered a badminton superpower: Padukone

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Indian team's historic Thomas Cup victory will make it a "badminton superpower" as it has well and truly arrived on world stage with an achievement, which is way bigger than any individual accomplishment, feels legendary Prakash Padukone.

India on Sunday dethroned defending champions and 14-time winners Indonesia with a commanding 3-0 win in the summit clash of the Thomas



Cup Final to script a historic win.

"I didn't expect this to happen so early, not at least in the next 8-10 years. I think we have truly arrived and India will be considered a superpower and a threat from now on. It will give a big fillip to the sport," Padukone, India's first All England Champion in 1980 said.

Padukone has no doubt that this Indian badminton's watershed moment and there is a need to capitalise and build on this stupendous success.

"It was a complete team effort and a convincing win and a momentous occasion. I think it is equally great or perhaps greater than the Individual success. We needed this and I think our moment has truly arrived. Now there is no looking back and its time to capitalise on it"

Padukone, who had led India to the semi-finals in 1979 edition of Thomas Cup, feels this win will have a great impact on the sport in the country and as a nation, it is paramount that we don't let the momentum slip.

"It will make it more popular, trigger more growth in the sport, more youngsters will be taking it up, more corporate and government support will come and overall the standard should improve and the trend should show an upward graph," he said.

For the touch artist of yesteryears, the next decade will be very important in order to carry the momentum.

"The onus will be on federations and also on state associations to seize this opportunity and see how they can capitalise

on this in the next 5 to 10 years. It is important to get more people involved in the sport, come up with innovative ideas"

Padukone feels the emergence of Satwiksairaj Rankireddy and Chirag Sen is one of the prime reasons behind India's victory at the Thomas Cup.

"Doubles has always been our weakness but now we have a doubles pair which can beat anybody in the world. Earlier there was too much pressure on the singles but now they could play freely and it showed on the

court," he said.

"So when Lakshya Sen didn't win, India still won because of doubles. They are an established pair and it has provided a good balance to the team. Everything came together this time."

Padukone, who has produced a lot of players after setting up his academy (PPBA) in Bangalore way back in 1994, feels a lot of youngsters will pick up doubles after watching Satwik and Chirag at the Thomas Cup.

"This title will help youngsters to take up doubles as a spe-

## Ashmita, Malvika enter Thailand main draw

PTI ■ BANGKOK

Indian shuttlers Ashmita IChaliha and Malvika Bansod entered the women's singles main draw at the Thailand Open Super 500 tournament here on Tuesday.

While Ashmita beat USA's Jennie Gai 21-16, 21-18, Malvika defeated fellow Indian Anupama Upadhyaya 21-18, 21-8 in their respective opening round matches.

However, it was curtains for Thomas Cup winner Priyanshu Rajawat, Kiran George and Subhankar Dey as they failed to cross the second qualification round.

Priyanshu, who had made it to the Thomas Cup squad

after topping the selection trials, disposed off France's Christo Popov 21-17, 21-16 in his opening qualification round, only to go down 10-21, 24-22, 12-21 to China's Li Shi Feng.

Kiran, Odisha Open champion, beat Denmark's Victor Svendsen 21-19, 13-21, 21-13 before losing 17-21, 21-14, 16-21 to Germany's Kai Schaefer, while Subhankar defeated France's Arnaud Merkle 21-16, 17-21, 21-17 but suffered a narrow 14-21, 21-18, 7-21 loss to Denmark's Mads Christophersen.

Kidambi Srikanth, B Sai Praneth and other Indians will start their campaign on Wednesday.

cialised sport. Earlier, they would try singles and then move to doubles. But the way Satwik-Chirag performance, this victory will do wonders to Indian badminton and focus will be on doubles now.

"It will get its due in terms of prize money, recognition, selection, which is a great sign.

### SLIGHTLY WORRYING SIGNS FOR WOMEN'S

The 66-year-old, who was ranked world No 1 in 1980, feels the men's team is in safe hands but he is worried about the lack of depth in women's badminton.

"We have depth in men's team at least. I mean, Lakshya is still young, few players like Mithun, Kiran are doing well and there are few from Gopichand academy as well. Srikanth and Prannoy are slight-

ly older but they will be there at least when we defend it in two years time so we have good bench strength in men's section," he said.

"But it is the ladies front, where it is slightly worrying. We don't have the same bench strength in women compared to men. I am not saying we don't have the talent, we do. But none of them are at the same level as Saina or Sindhu, which is a bit worrying," Padukone was clear about his apprehensions.

The Indian women's team had won the Bronze medals twice but it failed to cross the quarterfinals after losing 0-3 to Thailand in the Uber Cup.

Padukone said that India will have to keep aiming higher after setting the bar high with the Thomas Cup win as there will be a lot of expectations.



## Newcastle blow up Arsenal's CL dreams

AP ■ NEWCASTLE

Arsenal's exile from the Champions League looks set to stretch into a sixth season after losing 2-0 at Newcastle on Monday.

Tottenham remain two points above their north London rivals in fourth place in the Premier League.

Spurs now realistically only need a draw away to already-relegated Norwich on Sunday to secure a top-four finish thanks to their superior goal difference.

Arsenal's defeat also guaranteed third-place Chelsea's place in the Champions League next season.

Ben White's own goal and Bruno Guimaraes' late strike was the difference between the sides on the scoreboard.

But the manner of the Newcastle performance was even more impressive as Eddie Howe's men sent a message

they could be challenging for a top-four finish themselves next season.

Only Manchester City and Liverpool have won more Premier League points than the Magpies in 2022 since they began to splash to wealth of the Saudi sovereign wealth fund in the transfer market.

More big money signings are expected to arrive at St. James' Park in the coming months, but Arsenal's budget in the transfer market could be severely dented by again missing out on the riches of the Champions League.

Mikel Arteta's men were in the driving seat with three games to go as they lead Spurs by four points.

But Tottenham's 3-0 derby win on Thursday cranked up the pressure on the young Gunners who failed to respond.

Indeed Arsenal were lucky to escape without a more comprehensive defeat.

## Nikhat, Manisha & Parveen to go for Gold at World's

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Nikhat Zareen, Manisha Moun and Parveen Hooda will fight hard to change the colour of their medals when they enter the ring for the semifinals of the IBA Women's World Boxing Championships in Istanbul on Wednesday.

The three boxers are assured of at least a Bronze after they pulled out thrilling victories in their respective quarterfinal bouts on Monday.

"The performance has been satisfactory. The boxers have performed very well although they weren't able to convert it (into wins). But all of them have played well. They have given their best in the ring," women's head coach Bhaskar Bhatt said.

Nikhat (52kg) will be aiming to upgrade her maiden medal at the world event from Bronze to Gold and standing in her way is Caroline De Almeida of Brazil. The 25-year-old, a former youth world champi-



on, is enjoying a great year having clinched the Gold at the prestigious Strandja Memorial Tournament in February.

She has continued to dominate all her bouts in the ongoing event and will be brimming with confidence. "She has lots of experience from the years spent in ring. We are trying to use those years of experience to eke out wins and she has been able to do that successfully till now," Bhatt said.

The spotlight will also be on young Parveen (63kg) who has shone bright in her debut appearance at the world event, registering impressive wins.

The 22-year-old's next opponent will be European championship Bronze medalist Amy Broadhurst of Ireland.

"Parveen is a good technical boxer who plays in the long range. But in the ring on the basis of the opponent we have to change her

game a bit so that we can confuse the opponent. Till now she has adapted herself very well," Bhatt said of the Haryana boxer.

The third boxer bidding to change the shade of her medal is Manisha (57kg).

The 2019 Asian Championships Bronze medalist, who got evicted at the quarterfinal stage in the 2018 edition has gone one step ahead this time. She outclassed a technically superior opponent in the last eight stage to earn her maiden worlds medal.

But she will have her task cut out as she faces Tokyo Olympic Bronze medalist and former European champion Irma Testa of Italy, who is a strong favourite to win the featherweight Gold.

India's best performance in the event came in 2006 when the country snared eight medals, including four Gold, one Silver and three Bronze.

## Chinappa withdraws from Round of 16 of PSA World C'ship

PTI ■ CAIRO

India's ace woman squash player Joshna Chinappa on Tuesday withdrew from the pre-quarterfinals of the PSA World Championships due to illness. Chinappa, seeded 12th, was scheduled to face local favourite and eight seed Rowan Elaraby, who got a walkover into the quarterfinals.

World No 14 Chinappa had earlier defeated Katie Malliff of England 3-0 (11-6, 11-8, 11-9) in the first round before getting the better of Wales' Emily Whitlock, seeded 18th, 3-0 (11-8, 12-10, 11-5) in the next round. Chinappa was the lone India in the women's section.

## Lazio spoil Chiellini & Dybala's home farewell

AP ■ TURIN

Giorgio Chiellini bid farewell to Juventus fans on Monday in his last home match for the Turin giants, a disappointing 2-2 draw which earned Lazio a place in the Europa League after Sergej Milinkovic-Savic levelled with the last kick of the game.

Fans chanted "there's only one captain" as a giant choreography depicting his shirt number '3' was displayed in the stands ahead of the match and they then gave Chiellini a huge round of applause after he was substituted in the 18th minute.

The 37-year-old had played the full 120 minutes of Juve's Italian Cup



final defeat to arch rivals Inter Milan on Wednesday, after which he announced that he would be leaving Juve after 18 years at a club where he has won nine league titles and a clutch of other trophies.

When he left the field he handed his captain's armband to another player on the way out -- Paulo Dybala. Argentina international Dybala will leave at the end of the season after the club decided not to renew his contract after a verbal agreement with the 28-year-old struck in the autumn was publicly rejected by the club earlier this year. Dusan Vlahovic did the Argentine's "mask" celebration when he headed in the opener in the 10th

minute, and when Dybala was substituted with 12 minutes remaining, with the hosts leading 2-1, he did a tour of the stands and was embraced by fans. Juve looked to be cruising to a routine home win to honour their two departing heroes when Alvaro Morata doubled the hosts lead in the 36th minute.

However Alex Sandro poked into his own net for no apparent reason five minutes after the break and Maurizio Sarri's Lazio pushed for a leveller which came in the 95th minute, Milinkovic-Savic rifling past Mattia Perin from a tight angle to give Lazio a spot in Europe's second-tier competition.

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

You will soon see the Bajrang who ruled the mat in 2018," assured Tokyo Olympics Bronze medalist Bajrang Punia after winning the 65kg trials for the Commonwealth Games while Ravi Dahiya and Deepak Punia also expectedly triumphed in their respective categories, here on Tuesday.

Bajrang, who is under the scanner for lack of attacking moves in his bouts since the Asian Championship, booked his berth in the national team with wins over Sujet (4-0) and Vishal Kalliraman (2-1).

Like it happened in the Asian Championship in Mongolia, where he won a Silver, Bajrang was largely engaged in standing wrestling against Sujet, winning points on passivity of his rival.

In the final against Vishal, he attempted a few moves but was put on clock himself for lack of action and eventually prevailed.

"I have just started competing after a long gap, injury was also there, so certainly there is a bit of hesitancy in going for attacks," Bajrang said.

"But you will soon the Bajrang of 2018 (who dominated the mat across globe). It's just a matter of playing more matches. I have World Championship in mind, and will play Ranking Series events before that. I will get better with more competitive bouts."

Talking about the final, the 28-year-old said, "Vishal is not a bad wrestler. Also, due



to heavy sweating, the mat was getting slippery and that at times nullifies the difference (in quality) between two wrestlers."

In the 57kg, the gulf between Tokyo Games Silver medal winner Ravi Kumar Dahiya and others was apparent.

He won by fall against Vijay and eked out a win by technical superiority against Aman in the final.

To his credit, Vijay, who hails from

Maharashtra, did not get intimidated by Ravi and showed stomach for bout.

There was intense competition in the 74kg where Naveen emerged champion with a TSU win over Gaurav Baliani, who recently win a silver in Asian Championship in 79kg. There were many quality yet ageing wrestlers in this category such as Amit Dhankar, Parveen Rana, national champion Pritam along with young guns like Yash

## 'The dominant Bajrang will be back soon'

## Wrestler Satender Malik assaults referee Jagbir Singh during CWG trials, gets life ban

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

In an unprecedented incident, Services' wrestler Satender Malik launched a physical assault on referee Jagbir Singh after losing the 125kg final during the Commonwealth Games trials, prompting the national federation to impose a life ban on him, here on Tuesday.

An incident of this magnitude has never taken place at an event organised by the Wrestling Federation of India (WFI) although clashes between the supporters of wrestlers have been witnessed in the past.

The Air Force wrestler was leading 3-0 with just 18 seconds left in the deciding bout when Mohit effected a 'takedown' move and also pushed Satender out of the mat for another point. However, referee Virender Malik did not award two points to Mohit for the 'takedown' move and gave only one point for the pushout.

The decision upset Mohit, who requested for a challenge. Satyadev Malik, the jury for the bout, excused himself from the decision for the sake of impartiality, since he belonged to the Mokhra village from where Satender also comes.

Senior referee Jagbir Singh

was requested to look into the challenge and with the help of TV replays, he ruled that Mohit should be given three points.

The score became 3-3 and remained like that till the end, and eventually Mohit was declared the winner on criteria since he had scored the last point of the bout.

Satender lost his cool, walked across to Mat A where Ravi Dahiya and Aman were locked in the 57kg final, went straight to Jagbir, and began to assault him.

He first abused Jagbir and then slapped him, who lost his balance and fell on the ground. Jagbir also tried to retaliate but

was overpowered by the heavyweight wrestler.

The 57kg bout was stopped as the incident created a furore inside the KD Jadhav hall at the IG stadium. Hundreds of fans, officials and participants were shocked to witness a scene like that. The WFI officials managed to send Satender out of the hall and restarted the bout. Everything was happening right before the eyes of WFI President Brij Bhushan Sharan Singh, who was sitting on the dias. "We have imposed life ban on Satender Malik. The decision was taken by the WFI president," WFI's assistant secretary Vinod Tomar said.

Tunir. In the 86kg, Deepak Punia easily sailed through, winning against Vicky (4-3) and Sanjeet. In the 97kg, Satyawart Kadiyan and Mausam Khatri bit the dust as Deepak claimed his place in the Indian team with an authoritative win over talented Sahil Ahlawat. Mohit won the controversially-marred 125kg final. The Birmingham Games will begin on July 28.