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TRUE TRUSTEES OF
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NEW DELHI, TUESDAY MAY 24, 2022; PAGES 12 ₹3



the pioneer

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OSAKA OUT
AT FRENCH
OPEN
12 SPORTIndia committed to free, open,
inclusive Indo-Pacific: ModiAt Quad, PM calls
for robust ties for
eco prosperity,
peace in regionPNS/AGENCIES ■ NEW
DELHI/TOKYO

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Monday said India is committed to a free, open and inclusive Indo-Pacific region and called for robust economic ties between the countries to ensure continued growth, peace and prosperity.

Giving this assurance at the launch of the Indo-Pacific Economic Framework for Prosperity (IPEF) in Tokyo, he also said this mechanism is a declaration of a collective desire to make the Indo-Pacific region an engine of global economic growth. He said the foundation of resilient supply chains must be 3Ts — Trust, Transparency and Timeliness.

These observations came against the backdrop of China adopting an aggressive stance in the region and repeatedly criticising the Quad combine. India, the US, Japan and Australia are part of the Quad.

Ahead of the Quad Summit, Foreign Minister of China Wang Yi on Sunday said the Indo-Pacific strategy of

the US is "bound to fail" as it is vigorously promoted by the US to "contain" Beijing.

The "Indo-Pacific strategy" is causing more and more concern in the international community, especially in the Asia-Pacific region, Wang Yi said at his joint press conference with Pakistan Foreign Minister Bilawal Bhutto Zardari in the southern Chinese city of Guangzhou.

Meanwhile, speaking at the IPEF launch ceremony in the presence of US President Joe Biden and Japanese Prime Minister Fumio Kishida besides leaders of several other countries who virtually took part in the event, Modi said India has historically been at the centre of trade flows in the Indo-Pacific region, having the world's oldest commercial port in Lothal, Gujarat.

He stressed the need for finding common and creative solutions to tackle economic challenges of the Indo-Pacific region. He expressed India's commitment towards working with all countries of the region for an IPEF.

"India is committed to a free, open, and inclusive Indo-Pacific region and believes that deepening economic engagement among partners is crucial for continued growth, peace and prosperity," said Modi.

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PM woos Japanese inc,
lists ease of doing bizModi proposes
'Japan Week'
to celebrate
business tiesPNS/AGENCIES ■ NEW
DELHI/TOKYO

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Monday underlined several steps taken for ease of doing business in India and invited Japanese industry to explore more investment opportunities here.

Underlining India's robust economy, he said despite the slowdown in global Foreign Direct Investment (FDI), India attracted record FDI of USD 84 billion in the previous financial year.

Terming this a vote of confidence in India's economic potential, Modi invited greater participation by Japanese companies in India and proposed celebrating Japan's contribution to India's development



Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Monday fondly interacted with a boy who was waiting outside his hotel here and praised him for his fluency in Hindi and signed him an autograph in his tricolour drawing, in Tokyo on Monday

PTI

*Mujhe makhan par lakeer
karne mein maza nahi
aata hai, main patthar par
lakeer karta hoon*
— PM NARENDRA MODI

journey in the form of a 'Japan Week'.

He made this strong pitch while chairing a roundtable with Japanese business leaders in Tokyo.

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CAPSULE

YOGA DAY IN PHYSICAL
MODE AFTER 2 YEARS

New Delhi: After a two-year gap due to the Covid-19 pandemic, the main event of the eighth International Day of Yoga (IDY) celebrations on June 21 will be held in the physical mode at Mysuru in Karnataka.

SCIENTIST WITH IT MIN
JUMPS TO DEATH

New Delhi: A 55-year-old scientist working with the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology died after allegedly jumping-off from the seventh floor of the Shastri Bhawan in central Delhi on Monday, police said.

BIDEN BACKS JAPAN BID
TO JOIN UNSC: KISHIDA

Tokyo: Japanese Prime Minister Fumio Kishida has said that US President Joe Biden supports Japan's bid to join a "reformed" UN Security Council. If approved, Japan would join Britain, China, France, Russia, and the US as permanent members of the international body's security council.

Varanasi court order
on maintainability of
Gyanvapi suit today

PNS ■ VARANASI

Varanasi District Judge Ajay Kumar Vishvesha on Monday reserved his judgment on maintainability of the Shringar Gauri-Gyanvapi Mosque lawsuit. He will deliver the order on Tuesday.

Meanwhile, a former seer of Kashi Vishwanath Temple filed a petition seeking permission to perform puja of the "Shivling" claimed by the Hindu side to have been found in the wuzu khana of the Gyanvapi mosque.

A city lawyer also submitted an application in the court demanding action against the Samajwadi Party national president, the AIMIM chief and six others.

District Judge Vishvesha started hearing the Shringar Gauri-Gyanvapi lawsuit on Monday afternoon.

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Man who turned Khadi
around is now Delhi LG

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Vinai Kumar Saxena, the Chairman of Khadi and Village Industries Commission, was on Monday appointed the Lieutenant Governor (L-G) of Delhi replacing Anil Bajjal. He is the first man from the corporate and social sector to be selected for such a gubernatorial post. He is the person who made Khadi a global brand. President Ram Nath Kovind on Monday issued a notification to this effect.

"The President of India has accepted the resignation of Shri Anil Bajjal as Lt Governor of National Capital Territory of Delhi. "The President of India has been pleased to appoint Shri Vinai Kumar Saxena to be the Lt Governor of National Capital Territory of Delhi with effect from the date he assumes charge of his office," read a communiqué issued by Rashtrapati Bhawan.



Vinai Kumar Saxena

Bajjal, who was appointed as the Delhi Lieutenant Governor in 2016, resigned last week citing personal reasons. Bajjal's resignation has led to speculation about who will replace him. Praful Patel, the administrator of Lakshwadeep and Daman & Diu, was the top choice for the top post but the appointment of Saxena surprised everyone in the political circle.

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US will defend
militarily if
China invades
Taiwan: Biden

AP ■ TOKYO

US President Joe Biden said on Monday that the United States would intervene militarily if China were to invade Taiwan, saying the burden to protect Taiwan is "even stronger" after Russia's invasion of Ukraine.

It was one of the most forceful presidential statements in support of self-governing in decades.

Biden, at a news conference in Tokyo, said "yes" when asked if he was willing to get involved militarily to defend Taiwan if China invaded. "That's the commitment we made," he added.

The US traditionally has avoided making such an explicit security guarantee to Taiwan, with which it no longer has a mutual defence treaty, instead maintaining a policy of "strategic ambiguity" about how far it would be willing to go if China invaded.

Detailed report on P8

Temp plunges, flights delayed
as rain, gale lash Delhi-NCR

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Eight people were injured as trees and houses fell in different parts of the city after gusty winds accompanied by rain lashed the national Capital on Monday morning, bringing the minimum temperature down to 17.2 degrees Celsius from 29 degrees Celsius - nine degrees below normal. Heavy rain and thunderstorms in Delhi and its adjoining areas led to massive traffic jams and affected flight operations at Delhi's Indira Gandhi International Airport (IGAI).

According to information, around 130 flights were delayed — 90 at the departure terminal and 44 at arrivals — while 20 were diverted to other airports between 6 am and 10 am as wind speeds touching as high as 75 km per hour disrupted operations. Taking note of water-logging and traffic jams, Gurugram police issued an advisory to work from home for Monday.



Ranjan Dimri | Pioneer

The India Meteorological Department (IMD) said that in an 80-minute period, the temperature in Delhi fell by 11 degrees from 29 degrees Celsius at 5.40 am to 18 degrees Celsius by 7 am.

Private weather forecaster Skymet said that the minimum temperature recorded in the city was not only the lowest of the season but also the lowest in a decade during May. The lowest all-time minimum in May stands at 15.2 degrees

Celsius, which was observed on May 2, 1982, it added.

According to Skymet Weather, mercury in Delhi went down by "10 degrees in one hour" on Monday morning. The temperature dropped from 29 degrees at 5:30 am to 19 degrees at 6:30 am. "Delhi recorded 17.2 degrees minimum temperature on May 23, its lowest during the decade for May. Record for the lowest is 15.2 degrees on May 2 in 1982.

Continued on Page 2

Yogi: Govt ready to discuss in House all public issues

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath, ahead of the Budget session on Monday, said the Government was ready to discuss all issues related to the public.

He, however, said that the smooth conduct of the proceedings of the Assembly for meaningful debate on issues concerning the people was possible only if the Opposition cooperated in maintaining a congenial atmosphere in the House.

"I welcome and greet all the honourable members. The session starts today. It begins with the governor's speech. I am confident that the members will extend their positive cooperation for debate on the issues of development of the state. I say with confidence that the manner in which the State has got guidance from Governor Anandiben Patel, the House will be run smoothly" the Chief Minister said.

"The conduct of the MLAs in the House will be on the



agenda of the public discourse of 25 crore people of UP and other states, so members should not conduct themselves against their dignity and the dignity of the House. If the members conduct themselves as per parliamentary norms instead of creating din in the House then it will be in the interest of all," the chief minister said.

The Bharatiya Janata Party legislators showed up in the saffron, while the Samajwadi Party MLAs wore red caps and the Suheldev Bhartiya Samaj Party MLAs donned yellow caps.

While SP members, including leader of opposition

Akhilesh Yadav, wore red caps, the BJP legislators were seen donning saffron colour, distributed by a legislator just before the start of the session. Members of the Rashtriya Lok Dal had green scarves tied around their necks during the joint sitting of both the houses of UP legislature.

Yogi Adityanath further said any question or issue received by the assembly secretary under the right rules would be answered by the government.

"We are always ready for a positive discussion," he said.

On the first budget of his second term, to be presented on May 26, the chief minister said, "This budget is important for the development of the 25 crore people of Uttar Pradesh, for the development of citizens and for overall development of society. Our aim is to take the development of UP to new heights."

The chief minister also said any conduct against the members of the House would not be "tolerated".

J&K LG Manoj Sinha visits Badgam, pays tribute to Rahul Bhat

MOHIT KANDHARI ■ JAMMU

Jammu & Kashmir Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha on Monday evening visited Sheikhpora transit camp, Budgam, where irate Kashmiri migrant employees are holding protest demonstrations for the last 12 days in support of their one point demand of safe relocation outside Kashmir valley.

A large gathering of employees, including women, raised patriotic and religious slogans while LG offered floral tributes to Rahul Bhat. The employees also demanded an ex-gratia of 4 crores for the family of martyred employee Rahul Bhat and made it clear they will not resume duties if their demands are not met.

Earlier Rahul Bhat's father and wife Meenakshi Bhat had rejected the ex-gratia of Rs 5 lakh and class-IV job offer in the school education department.

In the absence of any for-

mal parleys the representatives of Kashmiri migrant employees wanted to handover a descriptive memorandum to him but LG preferred to return back without holding meaningful discussions.

Before leaving the venue, he, however, extended an invitation to the protesting employees to meet him after Wednesday to carry forward the discussion over their genuine demands. He also assured justice and swift resolution of their grievances.

All the Kashmiri minority community members including employees posted in the Kashmir valley have demanded immediate shifting outside Kashmir province to stop any further bloodshed. The employees have also warned the UT administration if their demand of relocation was not accepted they would be forced to tender mass resignations.

Speaker Mahana administers oath to Azam, son Abdullah

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

Samajwadi Party legislator Sfrom Rampur Mohammad Azam Khan along with his MLA son Abdullah Azam took oath as members of Uttar Pradesh Assembly on Monday.

Speaker Satish Mahana administered the oath to both in his chamber just before the start of the Budget Session.

The speaker gifted Khan a copy of the Constitution and rule book, 'UP Assembly Rules of Business for the Conduct of the Proceedings of Vidhan Sabha'.

Soon after taking oath, Azam Khan left the Vidhan Bhawan and did not attend the first day of the budget session. His son Abdullah, however, attended the session.

Khan, who won the 2022 assembly poll while in Sitapur district jail on different criminal charges, was recently released on bail after spending 27 months in jail. His son Abdullah Azam has been elected from the Suar assembly seat in Rampur.

A source close to Azam Khan said that the senior leader had decided to come for the oath "on the advice of his well-wishers".

He had left from Rampur early Monday morning to reach Lucknow. He had earlier decided to stay away on health grounds.

Though Khan did not respond to queries from media persons, when asked if he had spoken to Samajwadi Party patriarch Mulayam Singh Yadav after his release from jail, he remarked, "No. Maybe he (Mulayam) does not have my phone number."

On Sunday, Khan had said, "I am not upset and there is no resentment with the party leadership. I am a poor person without any base and do not have any reason for being upset."

Khan, who held immense sway in Samajwadi Party during the SP regime, was released from the Sitapur jail on Friday after spending 27 months in judicial custody in 88 cases.

Asked if he would end his continuing resentment, Khan told reporters, "I am getting this information about resentment only from you. I don't understand any reason."

Earlier, Khan and his MLA son Abdullah had skipped the Samajwadi Party legislators' meet on Sunday.

"The Vidhan Sabha is not a new place for me. I will be entering it for the 10th time," Khan had said.

Earlier, amid complaints from Khan's camp that SP chief Akhilesh Yadav had been ignoring him and the Muslim community though it backed the SP in UP assembly polls, Khan had refused to meet SP MLA Ravidas Mehrotra when the latter called on him in Sitapur district jail on April 24. However, a day later, on April 25, he had met Congress leader and spiritual guru Pramod Krishnam.

On Sunday, Azam Khan and sulking Socialist leader Shivpal Singh Yadav had skipped the SP MLAs' meeting ahead of the UP assembly session.

India committed to free....

From Page 1

India is keen to collaborate with partner countries under the IPEF and work towards advancing regional economic connectivity, integration and boosting trade and investment within the region, the External Affairs Ministry said.

With the launch of the process to establish the IPEF, partner countries will begin discussions focusing on strengthening economic cooperation and achieving shared goals. Modi said India is keen to collaborate with partner countries under the IPEF and work towards advancing regional economic connectivity, integration and boosting trade and investment within the region.

The IPEF seeks to strengthen economic partnership amongst participating countries with the objective of enhancing resilience, sustainability, inclusiveness, economic growth, fairness and competitiveness in the Indo-Pacific region. bLeaders of partner countries, including Australia, Brunei, Indonesia, Republic of Korea, Malaysia, New Zealand, Philippines, Singapore, Thailand and Vietnam, virtually participated in the event.

Earlier, Biden told a news conference in Tokyo that 13 countries will be part of the launch of the IPEF. The IPEF is a "commitment to working with our close friends and partners in the region on challenges that matter most to ensure econom-

ic competitiveness in the 21st century", he said. The IPEF will not negotiate tariffs or ease market access. The framework is perceived as a bid by the US to assume a larger role in the economic sphere. The new framework aims at integrating partner countries via agreed standards in four key areas - digital economy, supply chains, infrastructure projects and clean energy, and tax and anti-corruption measures. The framework will aim at flexibility and inclusion, and partners can pick and choose modules without having to sign on for all four pillars.

On Tuesday, Modi will participate in the Quad summit alongside Biden, Kishida and newly elected Australian Prime Minister Anthony Albanese.

The second in-person summit will see the four leaders forging mechanisms to further strengthen strategic ties in the Indo-Pacific region. The first such event took place last year in Washington.

The leaders of the Quad are set to demonstrate in Tokyo it is a "force for global good" and has a unifying commitment to a rules-based international order amid China's increasingly intimidatory behaviour.

The summit is taking place at a time when relations between China and the member countries of the Quad have become tense in the last few years with Beijing increasingly challenging democratic values and resorting to coercive trade practices.

UP to promote afforestation along banks of Ganga river

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

Aiming to make the mighty Ganga river clean, the State Government has plans to promote afforestation along the river bank and replace chemical fertilisers with organic fertilisers.

"The plan seeks to encourage organic farming within a radius of 10 km on both banks in 27 districts through which the Ganga flows in the state," a government spokesman said in Lucknow on Monday.

The Yogi Adityanath government 2.0 has set an afforestation target of 6,759 hectares along the Ganga banks spread over 503 places in different districts through which

the sacred river flows, in the next six months.

"This will not only help in increasing forest cover and improving climate but also prevent soil erosion, reducing the severity of floods in these areas. A plantation drive has already been launched in Kasganj and some other areas," the spokesman said.

In organic farming, chemical fertilisers and toxic pesticides are replaced by completely organic manure for increasing the yield and protecting the soil. And since the soil of the Gangetic plain gets changed due to floods every year, there is a lot of potential for organic farming in the entire basin.

INBRIEF

ECI WON'T REVEAL SOCIAL MEDIA GIANTS' TALKS INFO

New Delhi: The Election Commission of India on Monday refused to disclose its correspondence with social media giants, including Facebook, WhatsApp, Instagram and Twitter under the Right to Information Act after objections raised by these companies, the poll panel had said.

RS SECRETARIAT BACK TO BIOMETRICS SYSTEM

New Delhi: The Rajya Sabha secretariat on Monday returned to biometric attendance after it was suspended for over two years due to the coronavirus pandemic. The biometric attendance marking was introduced for the first time in August, 2018 and suspended on March 6, 2020 due to the pandemic.

SARAT PATTANAYAK IS NEW ODISHA CONG CHIEF

New Delhi: The Congress on Monday appointed Sarat Pattanayak as the new president of its Odisha unit, replacing Niranjan Patnaik with immediate effect. Assembly elections in Odisha are scheduled for June 2024 as the term of the current Assembly ends on June 24, 2024.

Man who turned....

From Page 1

The role of Lieutenant Governor of Delhi had been at the heart of an all-out power tussle between Delhi's AAP Government and the BJP, which rules at the Centre, for years until a landmark Supreme Court judgment in 2018 that spelled out their powers more clearly.

Saxena is a well-known name in the Indian corporate and social sector with over three decades of vast experience. During his tenure as chairman of the Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC), it has clocked a turnover of Rs 1.15 lakh crore in 2021-22, much higher than any FMCG company in the country. This massive turnover of KVIC has come despite a partial lockdown in the country in April-June in 2021, due to the second wave of the Covid-19 pandemic. Compared to 2014-15, the overall production in Khadi and Village Industry in 2021-22 has registered a whopping growth of 172 per cent while the gross sales during this period increased by over 248 per cent with a massive 40 lakh new employment was created in just seven years.

He is the person who made Khadi a global brand. He was appointed as the chairman of KVIC in October 2015 where he explored the untapped streams of Khadi and Village industry sectors and first time implemented many innovative employment-generation schemes like 'Honey Mission', 'Kumhaar Sashaktikaran Yojana' and 'Leather Artisans' Empowerment Scheme' that won accolades from all quarters.

Born in an educated and reputed Kayastha family of Uttar Pradesh, Saxena graduated from Kanpur University in 1981 and held a Pilot Licence.

Saxena started his career in 1984 as an Assistant Officer in Rajasthan with JK Group. After working for 11 years in different capacities with its White Cement plant, he was elevated in 1995 as General Manager to look after the proposed Port Project in Gujarat. He then rapidly rose to become the CEO and was

later promoted as Director of the Dholera Port Project. He founded a widely acclaimed NGO, namely National Council for Civil Liberties (NCCL) in 1991 with its headquarters at Ahmedabad.

NCCL posed stiff opposition, legally and socially to the opponents of the Sardar Sarovar Project (SSP) on Narmada Valley, which was the lifeline of Gujarat. In recognition of his sharp social, cultural, political, and administrative acumen, the government of India nominated Saxena to several prestigious committees and panels.

On March 5, 2021, he was appointed as one a Member of the National Committee to Commemorate the 75th Anniversary of India's Independence. In November 2020, Saxena was nominated as a Member of the High Powered Padma Awards Selection Committee for the year 2021. From 2016 to 2022, he was nominated every year as a Member of the 'Empowered Committee' for evaluation of "Prime Minister's Awards for Excellence in Public Administration".

On September 9, 2020, Saxena was nominated as a Member of the "Governing Council" of the prestigious "Council for Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR). On March 18, 2019, the Hon'ble President of India, in his capacity as Visitor of the University, nominated Saxena as a "Member of University Court" of Jawaharlal Nehru University (JNU).

During his six-decade journey so far, Saxena has also won several awards for his accomplishments. In May 2008, he won International Felicitation by United Nations Decade of Sustainable Development (UNDESD) in association with UNESCO, UNICEF and UNDP for "Outstanding Contribution to Environment Protection and Water Security" in Gujarat.

In May 2007, Saxena's NGO - NCCL won the prestigious UN-HABITAT-supported Dubai International Award for Best Practices for its unique project "Mission ENDURE" to reduce dust pollution in Ahmedabad City.

Varanasi court order.....

From Page 1

After hearing both Hindu and Muslim sides, the court reserved judgment for Tuesday. The court will deliver the order on the objections of Muslim side on the maintainability of the suit as it claims that the suit is not maintainable in view of the Places of Worship Act, 1991. The Supreme Court had directed transfer of the case to the court of the district judge from the court of civil judge (senior division).

The hearing began at 2 pm and lasted for around 45 min-

utes. During the hearing, both sides put up their arguments. The Hindu side demanded a copy of the commission report while the Muslim side insisted on the hearing on the maintainability of the suit first.

During the hearing, no one was allowed in the court except the petitioners and their counsels. As many 23 persons, including the four petitioners and 19 counsels were allowed entry in the court during the hearing. The district judge had provided a list of 23 persons to the police and only they were allowed to be present in the court during the

hearing. There was tight security in the court premises. Former seer of Shri Kashi Vishwanath Temple, Kulpati Tiwari, filed a petition in the court of the district judge seeking permission to perform puja and offer bhog of the 'Shivling' found in the wuzu khana of the Gyanvapi mosque. The Muslim side claims that it is a fountain.

Five women, including one Rakhi Singh of Delhi and four belonging to Varanasi, had filed a petition in the court of Civil Judge (Senior Division) Ravi Kumar Diwakar seeking permission to worship at Shringar Gauri temple and for preservation of other idols located in Gyanvapi mosque complex. The court had ordered a commission survey of the complex and appointed Ajay Kumar Mishra as court commissioner for videographic survey of the inside of the complex on May 6 and 7.

विशेष शाखा पुलिस मुख्यालय
मध्यप्रदेश भोपाल
क्रमांक- वि/श/स्टोर/2022-25(172), **दिनांक 23.05.2022**
निविदा सूचना का शुद्धि पत्र
(Corrigendum)

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CHANGE OF NAME

I, Insha D/o, Mohd Shakeel
R/o D-6, D-Block, New
Seelampur, Garhi Mendu,
North East Delhi, Delhi-
110053 have changed my
Father Name Shakeel
Ahmad for all purposes.
PD(9096)A

Public Notice

NOTICE is hereby given that: **Akash Devender Nath** (hereinafter referred to as the said Mortgagee/ Borrowers) is purchasing Third Floor with Roof Rights, Property Bearing No. 94, area measuring 62.70 Sq. Mtrs., i.e., 75 Sq. Yds., out of Kharsa No. 436, 450 and 451, Situated in the area of Village Sklar Pur, in the street of Durga Puri, Ilaga Shandara, Delhi from Mr. Sumar Dutt Sharma and Legatees of Late Madhu Sharma i.e. Sumar Dutt Sharma (husband as per SMC Certificate no. 9066000147018 dated 19.05.2022). Mr. Sumar Dutt Sharma and Mrs. Madhu Sharma were joint owners of the said floor vide Sale Deed dated 22.01.2018, Doc. No. 418 and Now, Mr. Sumar Dutt Sharma has become sole owner of the said floor. Now, **Mr. Akash Devender Nath** has agreed to create mortgage in respect of the said property in favour of our client **IDFC FIRST Bank Limited**. Further, if any person, body, individual, institution having any claim, title, interest and/or objection in respect of or against or relating to or touching upon said property or part of the property by way of sale, exchange, lease, lien, mortgage, charge, encumbrance, gift, trust, easement, maintenance, inheritance, testamentary disposition or otherwise or having in their custody any title, documents pertaining the said property shall communicate the same to the undersigned at below mentioned address within 10 days from the publication of this notice with documentary evidence in support thereof, failing which all the claim, of such person shall be considered to have been waived and/or abandoned. Any objections raised after the completion of the 10 days shall not be binding upon the said property or part of the property. **if anyone has any objection, the same may be raised within 10 days of this publication to Mr. Muneesh Dhawan/ Mr. Sudhir Jain (Advocates), Law Vertices, Unit no. 907, 9th Floor, GD-TL Tower, (B-08), Netaji Subhash Place, Delhi-110034 or contact at 9066707172 /9818228635 (M).**

From Page 1

Heatwave will not make a comeback anytime soon over north India, including Delhi NCR," Skymet's Mahesh Palawal tweeted.

Also, the IMD in a tweet has predicted that rainfall, accompanied with strong gusty winds up to 50-60 kilometres per hour, are very likely to occur over Delhi and the national capital region during the night. The weather department also predicted similar weather conditions over Punjab, Haryana, north Rajasthan and the western region of Uttar Pradesh during the next 8 to 10 hours. The MeT department said that a hail storm is very likely to occur in these areas. According to Delhi Police, the houses collapsed in Jawalपुरi, Moti Nagar, Shankar Road, Mundka and Gokulpuri areas. According to police, 62 PCR calls related to uprooted trees were received due to gusty winds. Eight vehicles parked on the roadside were damaged after the trees were uprooted. No casualties were reported.

In South Delhi's Moti Bagh

area, a tree fell on a car but its occupants escaped unhurt. Similar incidents were reported from other parts of the city. Officials said power supply lines were also damaged in some areas leading to blackouts as tree fell on them.

"Heavy rain at multiple intervals with storm inflicted damages to the electrical network and caused repeated tripping, leading to disruption in power supply in Narela, Barana, Badli, Mangolpuri, Kiriari, Shalimar Bagh, Keshav Puram and Moti Nagar," said a Tata Power Delhi Distribution Spokesperson.

Water logging caused traffic snarls on various stretches, including the ITO, DND, near AIIMS, Kashmeri Gate, Pul Prahladpur, Palam, Narsingh-Jaipur road, Mehrauli-Badarpur road, NH 48, Rao Tula Ram flyover, Khajuri Chowk intersection and other areas.

The IMD said this is the first storm of moderate intensity of this season since March. The IMD said that winds gusting at a maximum speed of up to 70 kmph were recorded at the IGIA at 7 am. Normal

Temp plunges, flights....

occurrence days of such weather activity in Delhi-NCR and adjoining regions are around 12 to 14 days between March and May. However, this season has seen only four to five episodes so far and those, too mostly, dry thunder, the IMD said.

As per the Safdarjung observatory the Capital city has recorded 12 mm rainfall in the last 24 hours. The weather department predicted that there will be no significant change in maximum temperatures over most parts of Northwest and Central India during the next two days.

Earlier, the IMD issued an alert asking residents to stay indoors due to the impact of the thunderstorm in Delhi and neighbourhood areas warning that it could cause damage to vulnerable structures, kutcha houses, and traffic disruptions. It also warned that loose objects are likely to fly and people should not take shelter under trees.

IMD scientist R K Jenamani said that the heat wave conditions, which the capital was witnessing over the last few weeks, are likely to remain suppressed till May 29 or 30.

20 flights diverted, 100 delayed as gale pummels city



STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

A tree branch fell following strong winds and heavy rain, near arts faculty Delhi University on Monday
RANJAN DIMRI | PIONEER

Flyers at Delhi's Indira Gandhi International (IGI) airport had to face a harrowing time as more than 20 flights were diverted to alternate airports and 100 were delayed between 6 am and 10 am on Monday as wind speed touched 75 km per hour.

According to officials, 13 flights were diverted to Jaipur, two each to Lucknow and Amritsar, and one each to Ahmedabad, Mumbai, and Indore. Officials said the flight disruptions began around 6 am and the normalcy was resumed from around 9 am.

"There was a cascading effect in terms of delays. The airport was packed as a result with the boarding process slowing down considerably between 7 and 9 am," he added. According to reports, many passengers were kept in airport buses while several flights were diverted. Taking to the micro-

blogging site Twitter, Delhi airport said that flights have been affected due to bad weather and urged passengers to get in touch with the respective airlines for updates regarding their flights. "Due to bad weather, flight operations at @DelhiAirport are affected. Passengers are requested to get in touch with airline concerned for updated flight information," it added. The situation also prompted airlines like Air India to reach out to their passengers through their social media channels and inform them of the same.

Air India tweeted, "...Due to inclement weather in Delhi, flights are getting diverted & delayed. Traffic congestion on roads is also likely. Passengers are requested to keep sufficient time in hand to report for flights." SpiceJet also took to Twitter and said, "Due to bad

weather in Delhi (DEL), all departures/arrivals and their consequential flights may get affected. Passengers are requested to keep a check on their flight status". Vistara too advised its passengers about flights being impacted due to weather. It tweeted, "Due to Bad Weather (Strong Winds) in Delhi Arrivals/Departures are likely to get impacted." The Palam weather station reported wind speeds of 50 to 75 km per hour around 7 am. "A top speed of 75 km per hour was reported at 6:56 am at Delhi airport.

Such strong winds or wind shear make landing difficult," said an India Meteorological Department official. The airport also reported 27.6 mm of rainfall till 8:30 am. The flight disruptions began around 6 am and normalcy was resumed from around 9 am.



A couple rides a bike on a rainy morning in Delhi on Monday

RANJAN DIMRI | PIONEER

Water-logging in low-lying areas causes massive traffic jams

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Overnight rainfall and water-logging in low-lying areas in the national Capital caused massive traffic jams across the city leaving commuters stranded in long queues of vehicles at major roads including ITO, MB Road, Rao Tularam flyover, Delhi-Noida Direct (DND) among others.

The vehicles were moving at snail's pace at several parts of the city, including AIIMS, Dhaura Kuan, Geeta Colony bridge, IP Extension and Mehrauli. Long queues of vehi-

cles were seen here. "It took me two hours just to reach from Noida to Dhaura Kuan," said Shobit Sharma, who was on his way to the IGI airport.

Due to water logging in low lying areas of the city, several vehicles broke down on submerged roads. Massive traffic jam was also reported in Delhi's MB road after there was water logging at the Railway Underpass Pul Prahladpur area.

"Traffic is affected on MB Road (Both carriageway) due to water logging at Railway Underpass Pul Prahladpur. Kindly avoid the stretch," Delhi

Traffic Police (DTP) wrote on its Twitter handle. "To keep Delhi roads safe and congestion free, @dtptraffic, disaster management teams & civic agencies took upon the herculean task of clearing fallen trees and branches after heavy down-pour. Delhi Traffic Police also actively regulated traffic," it said in another tweet.

Several trees were reported uprooted due to the strong winds and thunderstorms across the city. Near Delhi cantonment area, traffic remained blocked for hours on both carriageways after a big tree fell on the road.

Gurugram admin issues work-from-home advisory following IMD forecast of inclement weather

There is a possibility of light and moderate rain with thunderstorm in Gurugram, says IMD

PARVESH SHARMA ■ GURUGRAM

In wake of the weather forecast by the Indian Meteorological Department (IMD) Chandigarh about the rain with thunderstorms on Monday, the Gurugram deputy

commissioner (DC) has issued an advisory to private institutions and corporate offices to guide their employees to work from home to avoid traffic congestion on roads.

"This will also help the civic agencies to take up dewatering and repair works expeditiously," read the advisory. Meanwhile, several pictures and videos were uploaded on Twitter early on Monday, that showed strong impact of winds and lightning. A number of trees were uprooted in Sushant Lok, Gurugram-Faridabad

Road, Sector-18 Road, Golf Course Road and Sector-44 road.

According to met department "There is a possibility of light and moderate rain with thunderstorm lightning and gusts wind (40-50 kph) in Gurugram district and adjoining areas throughout the day".

The Gurugram traffic police took to Twitter and updated commuters about traffic movements. The police asked commuters to consider working from home due to waterlogging and traffic situa-

tion. However, no major traffic congestion was reported on national highway and other key junctions of the city. The traffic movement was bumper to bumper due to waterlogging which led to traffic movement slow on internal roads of city.

"We have deployed over 2,500 traffic personnel along with Crain for smooth traffic movements. We are also updating people not to step out unnecessarily," Ravinder Kumar Tomer, DCP (traffic) said. The worst affected stretches were Hanuman

Chowk, Sector-18 road, Narsinghpur, Jharsa Crossing, Sarhaul mode, Sector 29, Sector-44 road, Sector 38, Sector 50, Rajeev Chowk, Mahaveer Chowk, Sheela Mata Road, Civil Lines, Golf Course Extension Road, Vatika Chowk and Dwarka Expressway.

The police said 25 Police Control Room vehicles, 40 individual riders, 10 tow trucks, five earthmovers and over 100 police station vehicles had been sent to the rain-affected areas.



55-year-old scientist jumps off 7th floor of Shastri Bhawan to death

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

A 55-year-old scientist working with the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology died after allegedly jumping off from the seventh floor of the Shastri Bhawan in central Delhi on Monday, police said.

The man has been identified as Rakesh Malik, a resident of Peeragarhi in west Delhi, they said, adding that the body was found in front of gate number two of Shastri Bhawan which houses several Union Government Ministries.

Deputy Commissioner of Police (New Delhi) Amrutha Guguloth said, "Information was received regarding a person who had jumped from the Shastri Bhawan.

HC seeks response from Delhi Govt over vacancies in schools

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Delhi High Court on Monday sought a response from the Delhi Government on public interest litigation highlighting deficiencies in infrastructure in its schools here and seeking directions to fill the vacant posts of principals, teachers, and other staff.

A bench headed by Acting Chief Justice Vipin Sanghi issued notice on the petition by Shri Salek Chand Jain and directed the city Government to file an affidavit disclosing the current state of existing vacancies as well as the steps taken by it to address them and the timeline within which the same would be filled.

The bench, also comprising Justice Sachin Datta, fur-

ther asked the government to disclose the deficiency in infrastructure in its schools and how it proposed to deal with the same.

The petitioner said that "45503 posts of teachers are lying vacant in 1027 Government schools in Delhi run by the Delhi government" and several of them do not have well-equipped computer labs, science labs, libraries, etc.

The petition, filed through lawyer JK Gupta, argued that due to the lack of faculty, its students cannot get a quality education or compete with the other students and the Delhi government has done nothing to provide any state-of-the-art infrastructure in its schools.

Delhi Govt announces free travel in e-buses for 3 days

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

The Delhi Government on Monday announced that the people of the national capital will be able to travel free of cost for three days, in the 150 new electric buses which are going to be flagged off on 24th May, by Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal.

According TO Delhi Transport Minister Kailash Gahlot, These state-of-the-art buses which are zero smoke, zero emission, zero smoke buses have CCTV cameras, GPS, 10 panic buttons, ramps for differently-abled etc.

Three depots at Mundela Kalan, Rajghat, and Rohini Sector-37 have been completely electrified and ready to house these 150 new buses. The

150 remaining buses are also expected to be inducted in coming month. While informing about route of buses, Gahlot said, "After being flagged off by Chief Minister Shri Arvind Kejriwal, these buses will run on major routes of Delhi - Teevra Mudrika on Ring Road, Route No. 502 between Mori Gate and Mehrauli Terminal, Route No. E-44 will run on IP Depot, Connaught Place, Safdarjung, South Extension, Ashram, Jangpura, India Gate route."

"Any person can travel for free in these buses for coming 3 days- 24-26th May. Apart from this, Government is also announcing a contest to promote its e-buses and encourage more people to travel, experience these, and spread word.

Add commissioners, DC, Directors of depts in unified MCD appointed

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

A day after the three Municipal Corporations of Delhi (MCD) merged into one, the civic body on Monday issued orders, allocating the Additional commissioners, Deputy Commissioners, and Directors of the department, to streamline the proper functioning of the corporation.

According to the orders issued by municipal corporation, Consequent upon unification of erstwhile Municipal Corporations and in order to streamline the proper functioning of unified Municipal Corporation of Delhi, the work among the officers at level of Additional Commissioner including Shilpa Shinde (Engineering Deptt.), Sonal

Swaroop (DEMS department), Ram Niwas Sharma (Hospital Administration, AYUSH and Advertisement), Randhir Sahay (Finance, CED and Toll Tax), Brajesh Singh (Horticulture, Law, M.S. Office, and Public Health), Alka R. Sharma (Education, Veterinary, Labour and Hackney Carriage).

While allocation the Directors of the department, "Amit Kumar (Press & Information), Vikas Tripathi (Education), Anil Kumar Sharma (Chief Law Officer), Prince Dhawan (IT), Sanjay Sahay (Vigilance)," stated order. On May 20, the Union Ministry of Home Affairs appointed Special Officer and Commissioner of unified Municipal Corporation of Delhi.

45-yr-old woman and daughter die after roadways bus hits their car

NOIDA: In a tragic incident, a 45-year-old woman and her 17-year-old daughter died while six other family members were injured after a roadways bus rammed into their car in Greater Noida on Monday morning. Noida police said that the driver of the state passenger bus fled the spot leaving his vehicle behind.

The deceased have been identified as Shrimati Singh and her daughter Neha, both residents of Anupshahr area in Bulandshahr district of Uttar Pradesh. Two of the injured identified as Brijesh (22) and Pradeep (55), both residents of Ahaar area in Bulandshahr, are in a critical condition. SR

DCW surprise raids on 4 MCD schools find lapses

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

The Delhi Commission for Women (DCW) has come up with shocking revelations after surprise checks on the schools run by the Municipal Corporation of Delhi (MCD) in the national capital.

A team led by DCW chairperson Swati Maliwal and other members, including Promila Gupta, Sarika Chaudhary, Firdos Khan, and Vandana Singh conducted surprise inspections at four MCD schools on May 20 and 21 and found used syringes, cigarette butts and alcohol bottles on the playground and other areas in the premises of those schools.

Terming the conditions in four schools under the MCD as "pathetic, unsafe and deeply disturbing", the DCW has issued a notice to the Municipal Commissioner directing that action be taken immediately and that explanations be issued.



In its notice, the DCW stated that it instituted an inquiry into the safety of girls in primary schools in Delhi "upon receiving complaints" and inspected four schools — in Bhai Mandeeep Nagpal Nigam Vidhyalaya, Aruna Nagar (North), Nigam Pratibha Sah Shiksha Vidhyalaya, Kewal Park (North), Purvi Dilli Nagar Nigam Pratibha Vidhyalaya, Mustafabad (East), Dakshini

Dilli Nagar Nigam Prathmik Sah Bal Balika Vidhyalaya, Sanjay Colony, Bhati Mines (South).

The DCW flagged 15 issues it came across in these schools: lack of security guards, dilapidated and unsafe buildings, criminal activities occurring inside the campus, lack of CCTV cameras, lack of mid-day meals, missing teachers, lack of hygiene, unsanitary toi-

lets, broken furniture, lack of proper drinking water, missing boundary wall, overcrowding of classes, lack of counsellors, lack of proper grounds and sports facilities, and poorly lit corridors.

It has directed the commissioner to provide an action-taken report on each of its listed observations with a timeline for resolution of the issues, details of officials responsible and action taken against them, and details of visits and inspections made by commissioners and officials to the four schools since January 1, 2017. It has also sought "a detailed explanation on why no action was taken to remedy these critical issues till date."

DCW Chairperson Swati Maliwal stated, "I am shocked to see the hopelessly dismal condition of MCD schools. These schools are horror houses where students and teachers are extremely unsafe". "How

can a school exist without a security guard and CCTV? How can a school exist in a building where a board has been put up by MCD itself, requesting people to stay away as the building is damaged?", she added.

In the school at Aruna Nagar, many times several groups of people high on drugs enter the premises and threaten the authorities. Parts of the ceiling and walls have fallen several times in the school at Aruna Nagar and there have been several narrow escapes.

It stated that at school in Kewal Nagar it found "used syringes (drugs), cigarette boxes, gutkha wrappers and even broken alcohol bottles inside its premises" and stated that "the blatant misuse of the school's grounds for anti-social activities reflects dangers faced by the students studying in this school" and said Delhi Police should file an FIR in matter. In

the school at Bhati Mines, the girl toilets were locked and the boys and girls were forced to defecate in open, as there was no water connection in the toilets, said DCW spokesperson. In school at Bhati mines, it was observed that even at 9 am (1.5 hours after the school started), teachers had not arrived at 3 out of 9 classes for girls.

The school incharge was also not present in the school by then. The students informed that teachers generally come after 9 am to school. The Commission also observed that the schools did not have a single functional CCTV camera. The schools as well as toilets were extremely dirty.

The Commission was informed that MCD is running summer classes for the children studying in its school from 7:30 am to 11:00 am. However, the mid day meal is presently not being served in any of its schools.

Sanitary napkins scheme likely to restart after schools re-open

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Delhi High Court on Monday sought a response from Delhi Government on a public interest litigation seeking forthwith restoration of sanitary napkins facility for girl students in all Government schools here and said that mere absence of a running contract is not good enough to discontinue a social measure.

Delhi Government counsel Santosh Kumar Tripathi told a bench headed by Acting Chief Justice Vipin Sanghi that facility, which was stated to have been discontinued since January 2021, is likely to start after schools re-open post summer break as fresh tender has already been floated and same is likely to be finalised soon. The bench, also comprising Justice Sachin Datta, questioned why such a measure should be stopped on

account of absence of an interim arrangement and stated that it is always to government to procure goods at approved rates from Government e-Marketplace. The Delhi Government should evolve a policy to deal with situations where existing contract lapses with time, the court stated.

"Mere absence of a running contract is not good enough to discontinue a social measure of this kind and Delhi government should evolve a policy to deal with a situation whenever existing contract lapses with time," the court said.

The petition by NGO Social Jurist has claimed that since January 2021, the Directorate of Education (DoE) is not providing sanitary napkins under Kishori Yojana to girl students of Delhi government schools due to which they are facing problem.

Never take easy way out, PM tells Indians in Japan

Says BJP Govt has made Indian democracy strong and resilient in last eight years

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE/AGENCIES ■ NEW DELHI/TOKYO

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Monday said he never prefers to take the easy way out because of the teachings and training he received over the years.

Describing his work ethics during an interaction with the Indian diaspora in Tokyo, Modi said because of the teachings “I have got in my life, I have developed a habit that ‘Mujhe makhan par lakeer karne mein maza nahi aata hain, main patthar par lakeer karta hoon.’”

He also said the BJP government has made Indian democracy strong and resilient. “In the last eight years, we have made our democracy strong and resilient. It is serving as one of the strongest pillars of progress,” he said.

The Prime Minister said “We are working towards building a system that is not only inclusive but caters to a leak-proof governance to fulfill the aspirations of every citizen. We have a people-led government in the true sense in India today. This has become a key reason for strengthening democracy in India.”

On ties between the two countries, he said India and

Japan are “natural partners” and Japanese investments have played an important role in India’s development journey.

Addressing the Indian community in Tokyo on the first day of his two-day visit to Tokyo, Modi also said India’s relationship with Japan is of spirituality, of cooperation and of belonging. There are more than 40,000 Indians there.

“Today’s world needs to follow the path shown by Lord Buddha. This is the way to save humanity from the challenges facing the world today, be it violence, anarchy, terrorism and climate change,” Modi said.

Noting that India has always found a solution no matter how big the problem is, Modi said that during coronavirus pandemic, there was an atmosphere of uncertainty, but even in that situation, India supplied ‘Made in India’ vaccines to crores of its citizens and also sent it to more than 100 countries.

Tracing the age old relations between the two countries, Modi said before Vivekananda was going to Chicago for his historic address, he had come to Japan and left a deep impression on his mind in Japan. He had openly praised the patriotism



of the people of Japan, the confidence of the people of Japan, and the awareness of the people of Japan for cleanliness, the Prime Minister said.

He also said the world is realising the speed and scale on which India is increasing its infrastructure and capacity building. Japan is an important partner in building this capacity of ours.

India is fortunate enough to have the blessing from Gautam Buddha. India is continuously serving humanity no matter how big the challenge is, India will find a solution to it, he said.

Modi arrived in Tokyo on a two-day visit on Monday to attend a summit of the Quad leaders. “Landed in Tokyo. Will be taking part in various programmes during this visit including the Quad Summit,

meeting fellow Quad leaders, interacting with Japanese business leaders and the vibrant Indian diaspora,” Modi tweeted in both Japanese and English.

“Ohayo, Tokyo! PM @narendramodi arrives to a warm welcome in Tokyo on what is his fifth visit to Japan in the last 8 years,” External Affairs Ministry Spokesperson Arindam Bagchi tweeted.

Modi interacted with children outside the hotel in Tokyo. He also saw the drawing of a young girl and signed an autograph for her during his interaction with the children.

He then interacted with a boy who was waiting for him with a drawing of the tricolour. Prime Minister Modi asked him from where he learnt Hindi and praised him for his fluency in the language.

‘India, Japan can be imp pillars of secure region’

Modi writes Op-ed in Yomiuri Shimbun in Japan

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Amid China’s aggressive actions in the Indo-Pacific region, Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Monday asserted that India and Japan would contribute towards building an open, free and inclusive Indo-Pacific region, connected by secure seas, integrated by trade and investment, defined by respect of sovereignty and territorial integrity and anchored in international law. He said the two democracies “can be important pillars of a stable and secure region”.

Writing an Op-ed on the vibrant relations between India and Japan in ‘Yomiuri Shimbun, Modi who is on a two-day visit to attend a summit of the ‘Quad’ leaders at the invitation of his Japanese counterpart Fumio Kishida, said a peaceful and prosperous Indo Pacific region will be critical for a better future for the entire world.

The Quadrilateral Security dialogue (Quad) is a strategic security dialogue between Australia, India, Japan and the United States.

“As two democracies, strategically located in the Indo-Pacific region, we can be important pillars of a stable and secure region. That is why our



partnership is expanding across a broad range of areas,” he said in the article published in the mainline paper published from Tokyo, Osaka, Fukuoka and other major cities.

“Our defence ties are growing rapidly, from exercises and information exchanges to defence manufacturing. We are doing more in cyber, space and underwater domains,” Modi said in article titled ‘India-Japan: A Partnership for Peace, Stability and Prosperity’.

India and Japan will also contribute towards building an open, free and inclusive Indo-Pacific region, connected by secure seas, integrated by trade and investment, defined by respect of sovereignty and territorial integrity and anchored in international law, Prime Minister wrote, amidst China’s aggressive postures in the region.

China has territorial disputes with many countries in the strategic Indo-Pacific

region including Taiwan over which the US President on Monday sent a warning to Beijing with the latter verbally retaliating.

The Chinese government claims nearly all of the disputed South China Sea, though Taiwan, the Philippines, Brunei, Malaysia and Vietnam all claim parts of it. Beijing has built artificial islands and military installations in the South China Sea.

Besides security, together and with like-minded partners in the region and beyond, in institutions and arrangements like Quad, we are promoting initiatives for development, infrastructure, connectivity, sustainability, health, vaccines, capacity building and humanitarian disaster response in the region,” Prime Minister Modi said.

“Special. Strategic. Global. Each of these three words that describe the India-Japan partnership has a unique significance, yet they fall well short of the true potential of our ties,” Modi said.

In a tweet, he said: “Penned an op-ed on the vibrant relations between India and Japan. Ours is a partnership for peace, stability and prosperity. I trace the journey of our special friendship which

completes 70 glorious years. @Yomiuri_Online”.

“I have had the opportunity of regularly interacting with the Japanese people since my days as Gujarat CM. Japan’s developmental strides have always been admirable. Japan is partnering India in key sectors including infrastructure, technology, innovation, start-ups and more,” he said in a series of tweets.

From Bodhisena to Swami Vivekananda, India-Japan cultural ties have a long and rich history of mutual respect and learning from one another, Prime Minister said.

Among Mahatma Gandhi’s cherished personal possessions were small statues of Mizaru, Kikazaru and Iwazaru, the Three Wise Monkeys, he said.

Prime Minister Modi said that his own conviction about this partnership began in his early days as Chief Minister of Gujarat.

It was not just the sophistication of Japanese technology and skills, but also the seriousness and long-term commitment of Japan’s leadership and businesses, that made Japan Gujarat’s preferred industrial partner and the most prominent presence in Vibrant Gujarat Summits since its inception, he said.

INSHORT

NCPCR ORDERS FIR AGAINST RALLY ORGANISERS
New Delhi: The apex child rights body NCPCR on Monday sought registration of an FIR against those responsible for allegedly letting a child raise provocative slogans during a political rally in Kerala. A short video of a boy sitting on the shoulder of a person during the “Save the Republic” rally held by the Popular Front of India (PFI) in Alappuzha on May 21 and raising allegedly provocative slogans has gone viral on social media.

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
CENTRAL INSTITUTE OF PSYCHIATRY
KANKE, RANCHI-834006, JHARKHAND
Applications are invited for filling up the two posts of Staff Car Driver (Ordinary Grade) (General Central Services, Group C, Non-Gazetted, Non-Ministerial) in the Pay Matrix Level 2 of the Pay Matrix (Rs. 19900-63200/-) as per 7th CPC in the Central Institute of Psychiatry, Ranchi on Deputation/Absorption basis from amongst the Dispatch Rider (Group 'C') and Group 'C' employees in level - 1 in pay matrix (Rs. 18000-56900/-) in the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare who possess valid Driving License for Motor Cars on the basis of a Driving Test to assess the competence to drive Motors Cars failing which from officials holding the post of Dispatch Rider on regular basis or regular Group 'C' employees in level - 1 in the pay matrix (Rs. 18000-56900/-) in other Ministries of the Central Government.
Note : The detailed advertisement including application format and essential qualifications have been published in the Employment News dated 07-13 May 2022 and is also available on the CIP website, i.e. www.cipranchi.nic.in.
Sd/- Director

GOVERNMENT OF JAMMU & KASHMIR
OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER PMGSY (JKRRDA) DIVISION BARAMULLA
NOTICE INVITING E-TENDERS
NIT No.: 02/EE/PMGSY/Bl/a/E-TENDERING-OF 2022-23 Dated:- 21/05/2022
For and on behalf of the Government of Jammu & Kashmir, Executive Engineer PMGSY Division Baramulla invite e tenders on Percentage Basis for the following works with Two years DLP for Serial No. 1 to 3 & Three years DLP for Serial No. 4 from the eligible & approved contractors of J&K State Govt. CPWD, Railways and other States.
S.No. 1. Name of Work with Package No. :- Renewal coat/ Macadamisation of road Tangwari Payeen to Harshnar, Length 2.50 Kms, Package No JK03-90, PMGSY Division Baramulla.
Tender Cost Incl GST (Rs in Lacs) :- 32.63. **Cost of documents (Rs in Lacs) :-** 0.10. **Earnest Money (Bid Security) (Rs. in Lacs) :-** 0.65. **Time for completion (Days) :-** 45 Days. **Tender Call :-** 2nd. **Time and date of opening of tenders online (Technical Bid) :-** 06-06-2022 At 11.00 AM. **Class of contractor :-** 'A' Class in PWD or equivalent in CPWD/Railways and other state Governments.
S.No. 2. Name of Work with Package No. :- Renewal coat / Macadamisation of road Lalpora to Nowlari, Length 3.00 Kms, Package No JK03-53, PMGSY Division Baramulla.
Tender Cost Incl GST (Rs in Lacs) :- 55.76. **Cost of documents (Rs in Lacs) :-** 0.10. **Earnest Money (Bid Security) (Rs. in Lacs) :-** 1.12. **Time for completion (Days) :-** 45 Days. **Tender Call :-** 2nd. **Time and date of opening of tenders online (Technical Bid) :-** 06-06-2022 At 11.00 AM. **Class of contractor :-** 'A' Class in PWD or equivalent in CPWD/Railways and other state Governments.
S.No. 3. Name of Work with Package No. :- Renewal coat / Macadamisation of road Nambian to Guriwan, Length 3.00 Kms, Package No JK03-100, PMGSY Division Baramulla.
Tender Cost Incl GST (Rs in Lacs) :- 61.64. **Cost of documents (Rs in Lacs) :-** 0.10. **Earnest Money (Bid Security) (Rs. in Lacs) :-** 1.23. **Time for completion (Days) :-** 45 Days. **Tender Call :-** 2nd. **Time and date of opening of tenders online (Technical Bid) :-** 06-06-2022 At 11.00 AM. **Class of contractor :-** 'A' Class in PWD or equivalent in CPWD/Railways and other state Governments.
S.No. 4. Name of Work with Package No. :- Renewal coat / Macadamisation of road Nambalnar to Watalpora, Length 4.50 Kms, Package No JK03-96, PMGSY Division Baramulla.
Tender Cost Incl GST (Rs in Lacs) :- 124.36. **Cost of documents (Rs in Lacs) :-** 0.10. **Earnest Money (Bid Security) (Rs. in Lacs) :-** 2.49. **Time for completion (Days) :-** 60 Days. **Tender Call :-** 2nd. **Time and date of opening of tenders online (Technical Bid) :-** 06-06-2022 At 11.00 AM. **Class of contractor :-** 'A' Class in PWD or equivalent in CPWD/Railways and other state Governments.
1. The Bidding documents can be downloaded from the website www.pmgstyendersjk.gov.in from 23-05-2022 (04:30PM) To 04-06-2022 upto 04:30PM.
2. The Bids shall be deposited in electronic format on the website www.pmgstyendersjk.gov.in from 25-05-2022 (10:00 AM) To 04-06-2022 upto 04:30 PM. The bid uploaded on the Website upto due date and time will be opened online on 06-06-2022 at 11:00 AM in the presence of the bidders who wish to attend. If the office happens to be closed on the date of opening of the bid as specified, the bid will be opened on the next working day at the same time and venue.
3. The complete bidding process will be online.
4. Cost of Bid Form is Rs. 10,000/- (Rupees Ten Thousand Only) per package (non-refundable) only in the form of Demand Draft in favour of **Accounts Officer PMGSY Kashmir payable at Srinagar**.
5. A Pre-bid meeting will be held on 24-05-2022 at 11:00 AM in the Office of **Executive Engineer PMGSY (JKRRDA) Division Baramulla at Ahmad Complex, Delina, Baramulla** to clarify the issues and to answer questions on any matter that may be raised at that stage as stated in Clause 9 of instruction to bidders of the Bidding documents. The intending Bidders, before attending the Pre-bid meeting, are advised to visit the site of work and acquaint themselves with the site conditions. It has been made mandatory for all the intending bidders to participate in the pre-bid meeting on the scheduled date and time.
6. Availability of Bid Document and mode of submission: The bid document is available online and bid should be submitted online on website www.pmgstyendersjk.gov.in. The bidder would be required to register in the website which is free of cost. For submission of bids, the bidder is required to have valid Digital Signature Certificate (DSC) from one of the authorized Certifying Authorities (CA). Aspiring bidders who have not obtained the user ID and password for Participating in e-tendering in PMGSY may obtain the same from the website: www.pmgstyendersjk.gov.in.
7. Bids must be accompanied by cost of document and bid security in the form as specified in the Bidding Document. The Demand Draft on account of cost of bidding document shall be pledged to **Accounts Officer PMGSY Kashmir payable at Srinagar**. The bid validity shall remain valid for a period of not less than 90 days after the deadline date of bid submission specified in ITB. The bid security should be in the form of BG/FDR from a scheduled commercial bank and be pledged to the Executive Engineer PMGSY Division Baramulla payable at Baramulla and shall be valid for minimum 45 days beyond the validity of the bid.
8. The Hard Copy of original instruments in respect of cost of bidding document, bid security, Bank Credit Facility and original copy of affidavits (e-stamp) must be delivered in the office of **Executive Engineer PMGSY Division Baramulla at Ahmad Complex, Delina, Baramulla Kashmir** on a date not later than three working days after the opening of technical qualification part of the bid either by Registered Post or by hand falling which the bids shall be declared non-responsive.
9. The bidders are advised to upload the required documents/ Information strictly as per the formats given in Section 3-Qualification Information. The bidder who fails to comply with the said instructions shall be declared as Non-responsive.
10. The bidders are informed that failure to complete the work within the stipulated time shall result into blacklisting of the bidder for two years.
11. The date and time of opening of Financial Bids shall be notified on Web Site www.pmgstyendersjk.gov.in. This is conveyed to the bidders automatically through e-mail message on their e-mail address. The Financial Bids shall be opened accordingly online on same Web Site at the **Office of Executive Engineer PMGSY Division Baramulla, Ahmad Complex, Delina, Baramulla Kashmir**.
12. Other details can be seen in the bidding documents.
Note: The intending bidders are advised to study the entire bidding document before preparation and submission of their bids. This includes clause 3 (Eligible Bidders), 4 (Qualification of Bidders of ITB (Instruction to Bidders), Appendix to ITB, Section 3 (Qualification Information), Contract Data to G.C.C. & Section 7 of Bidding Document.
No. DIPK-2512/22
Dated: 23.05.2022
Sd/- Executive Engineer
PMGSY Division Baramulla

Now, pension relief for kin of missing Central Govt staff in militancy-hit areas

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

In a major relief, particularly for Government employees serving in militancy affected areas like Jammu & Kashmir, North-East as well as Naxal prone pockets, the Centre has notified rules extending pensionary benefits to missing Central Government employees.

According to the earlier rule, the next of kin of an employee would not receive the family pension, if he or she went missing and the family pension would not be paid till the missing Government was declared dead in accordance with the law or till seven years had passed since he went missing.

Union Minister Dr Jitendra Singh announced that the government has relaxed

family pension rules for missing central government employees. “Now, in all cases where a government servant covered by NPS goes missing during service, the benefits of family pension will be immediately paid to the family of the missing government servant.

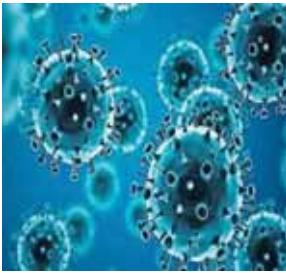
In case he re-appears and resumes service, the amount paid as family pension during the intervening time of his missing period can be accordingly deducted from his salary,” Jitendra Singh said in a Press note. The Minister said this is going to provide huge relief particularly in those regions where instances of government employees going missing are reported more frequently. He said, cases of abduction of central government employees working in violence-prone areas have come to the fore and therefore to instill confidence and to protect them and their family interests, the changes in the pension rules were brought about.

New Covid variants don’t pose a threat yet, says INSACOG

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

Though the first confirmed BA.4 and BA.5 variants of the Sars-CoV-2 have been detected in India from Hyderabad and Tamil Nadu respectively, these do not yet pose a concern as its other variant, BA.2, an offshoot of Omicron, continues to be dominant in India, already prevalent widely across the country, said the Indian SARS-CoV-2 Genomics Consortium (INSACOG) in its latest bulletin.

“BA.2.10 and BA.2.12 are BA.2 sub-lineages that have been detected and many old BA.2 sequences have been reclassified into these new sub-lineages. So far these sub-lineages are not reported to be associated with increased severity of disease,” said INSACOG in its latest bulletin on results of genome sequencing. According to data submit-



ted to GSAID during the past four weeks, 773 samples were of the Omicron variant, making it about 97.2% of the total submitted samples of the said variant. “Suspected recombinant sequences are under further analysis,” said the consortium in the bulletin.

The BA.4 variant was detected earlier this month in Hyderabad in samples taken from a traveller from South Africa, where this strain of Omicron has been causing the current Covid-19 wave, people aware of the matter said, adding that this information is subject to an official confirmation.

Inter-State Council with PM as chairman, six Mins reconstituted



PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Inter-State Council that works to promote and support cooperative federalism has been reconstituted with Prime Minister Narendra Modi as Chairman and all Chief Ministers and six Union Ministers as members.

This apart, 10 Union Ministers will be the permanent invitees to the Inter-State Council.

According to an official notification, the union ministers who were made members of the council are: Rajnath Singh, Amit Shah, Nirmala Sitharaman, Narendra Singh Tomar, Virendra Kumar, Hardeep Singh Puri, Nitin Gadkari, S Jaishankar, Arjun

Munda, Piyush Goyal, Dhamendra Pradhan, Pralhad Joshi, Ashwini Vaishnaw, Gajendra Singh Shekhawat, Kiren Rijiju and Bhupendra Yadav. The mandate of the council is to create a strong institutional framework to promote and support cooperative federalism in the country, activate the council and zonal councils by organising its regular meetings.

It also facilitates consideration of all pending and emerging issues of the centre-state and inter-state relations by the zonal councils and inter-state council and develop a sound system of monitoring the implementation of the recommendations of the inter-state council and zonal councils.

ED seizes foreign currency worth ₹1.53-cr at Kolkata airport

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Enforcement Directorate (ED) on Monday said it has seized foreign currencies worth Rs 1.53 crore from a domestic passenger at the Kolkata airport under the Foreign Exchange Management Act (FEMA). The flyer had travelled from Gorakhpur to Kolkata with the foreign currencies. “During search (of the suspect flyer), 1,998 numbers of foreign currencies consisting of USD 1,65,000 and Euro 30,460 (equivalent to Rs 1.53 crore) were found in the possession of the passenger. However, he has failed to provide the source of the said foreign exchange and the purpose of traveling with such a huge amount of foreign exchange without any valid document.

Making allegations against judges now ‘unfortunately’ becoming new fashion: SC

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court Monday said that making allegations against judges is “unfortunately” becoming a new fashion now and the stronger the judge, the greater the allegations against him.

The apex court, while hearing an appeal filed by an advocate who was found guilty of contempt by the Madras

High Court and was sentenced to undergo two weeks of simple imprisonment, observed that making allegations against judges is rampant in Uttar Pradesh and now it is happening in Bombay and Madras also.

The top court said the conduct of the appellant was “thoroughly contemptuous” and besides levelling wanton allegations against the single

judge of the high court who had issued a non-bailable warrant (NBW) against him, the recusal of one of the judges hearing the proceedings thereafter was sought on thoroughly improper grounds.

“Now, this is becoming unfortunately a new fashion of making allegations against judges. The stronger the judge, the greater the allegations against the judge. This is hap-

pening now in Bombay. Of course, it is rampant in Uttar Pradesh, now Madras,” a vacation bench of Justices D Y Chandrachud and Bela M Trivedi said. “Let a strong message go,” said the bench, adding that judges are assaulted across the country and in the district judiciary, sometimes not even a ‘lathi’ (stick) wielding policeman is there for their protection.

Centre warns restaurants against forceful service charge

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

The Department of Consumer Affairs (DoCA) on Monday warned restaurants against levying service charges forcefully on consumers. The department has reminded restaurants and eateries that it is the discretion of the consumers to pay or not pay the service charges as they are completely voluntary. The DoCA has convened a meeting with the National Restaurant Association (NRA) on June 2 to discuss the issue. In a letter written by Rohit Kumar Singh, Secretary, DoCA to President, National Restaurant Association of India, it has been pointed out that the restaurants and eateries are collecting service charge

from consumers by default, even though collection of any such charge is voluntary and at the discretion of consumers and not mandatory as per law.

It has been pointed out in the letter that the consumers are forced to pay service charge, often fixed at arbitrarily high rates by restaurants. Consumers are also being falsely misled on the legality of such charges and harassed by restaurants on making a request to remove such charges from the bill amount. “Since this issue impacts consumers at large on a daily basis and has significant ramifications on the rights of consumers, the department construed it necessary to examine it with closer scrutiny and detail”, the letter further adds.

ASHA workers get Global Health Leaders Award, PM lauds feat

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

Known as the pillars of the healthcare system in India, one million ASHA (Accredited Social Health Activist) workers have brought laurels to the country as they bagged the Global Health Leaders Award-2022 at the ongoing 75th World Health Assembly in Geneva. “ASHA (which means hope in Hindi) are more than 1 million female volunteers in India, honoured for the crucial role in linking the com-

munity with the health system, to ensure those living in rural poverty can access primary healthcare services, as shown throughout the Covid-19 pandemic,” said a statement from the World Health Organisation (WHO). They were one of the six recipients of the award.

The ASHA initiative, which falls under the National Health Mission, was launched in India in 2006. However, they are not well-paid. But this has not deterred them from doing yeoman services, which were particularly visible dur-

ing the Covid crisis in the last two years.

Soon after an announcement was made by the WHO conferring award on them, Prime Minister Narendra Modi took to Twitter to appreciate them. “Delighted that the entire team of ASHA workers have been conferred the WHO Director-General’s Global Health Leaders’ Award. Congratulations to all ASHA workers. They are at the forefront of ensuring a healthy India. Their dedication and determination are admirable,” he said.

After 2 years, Yoga Day to be held in physical mode; Modi to lead event

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

After a two-year gap due to the Covid-19 pandemic, the main event of the eighth International Day of Yoga (IDY) celebrations on June 21 will be held in the physical mode at Mysuru in Karnataka. The event will be led by Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

"Apart from the main event at Mysuru, another attraction will be Guardian Ring, a relay Yoga streaming event which will capture and weave together a digital feed of IDY programs organised by Indian Missions abroad on June 20. The proposed plan is to initiate the streaming from Japan, the land of the rising sun, at 6 am local time," Union Minister Sarbananda Sonowal told media persons here.

According to Ayush Secretary, Vaidya Rajesh Kotecha, each Indian mission will organise yoga activities on June 21 as in the past.

Based on the broad pattern of observing IDY in previous



years, these activities could include short functions, speeches, Common Yoga Protocol based yoga demonstrations and local celebrity videos among others, said the official.

The Guardian Ring programme will string together video feeds from 20 to 30 selected missions across different time zones into a continuous social media event of about 18 to 20-hour duration.

The Ayush Ministry has sought concurrence from MEA on which missions will be participating in the programme.

The event will witness the presence of the Karnataka Governor, Union Ministers, film stars, sportspersons, celebrities, revered yoga gurus, eminent dignitaries, experts of Yoga and allied science, local Yoga institutions and Yoga enthusiasts.

Later, Dr Ishwar Basavaraddi, Director of Morarji Desai National Institute of Yoga, Ministry of Ayush shared Guardian Ring will end in North America by 11 pm in the night covering live yoga demonstration in 75 countries through-out the D-day.

"Also, as this Yoga day is being celebrated in the backdrop of the 'Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav' year, events will be held at 75 iconic locations like Shiv Sagar in Assam and Hampi in Karnataka across the country. The focus will be on 'branding India' on a global scale."

He also informed that a series of events are being held across the country and globe in the run-up to IDY and the 25 days countdown is being observed in Hyderabad from May 27, wherein around 10,000 Yoga enthusiasts will participate in the Yoga demonstration.

Sharing that "this time the Government is targeting at least 25 crore people who will be joining yoga events to be held across the world including India," Basavaraddi pointed out adding that "Yoga has become an international phenomenon, with practitioners from all over the world practicing it in different ways. It has been followed by people of all ages and strata to improve their health and well-being."

Didi attacks Centre, demands autonomy of Central agencies

SAUGAR SENGUPTA ■ KOLKATA

Days after comparing the powers that be in Delhi with medieval tyrant Muhammad bin Tughaq, Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee on Monday drew new parallels for the Narendra Modi Government comparing it with the likes of Adolf Hitler, Benito Mussolini and Joseph Stalin.

Saying that even Stalin, Hitler or Mussolini were better than the present dispensation in Delhi that ruled by CBI, ED et al, Banerjee demanded a complete autonomy for the central agencies.

"This is a government worse than those of Hitler Mussolini or even Stalin," Banerjee said adding "they are bull-doing the federal structure of the country by using the central agencies against the opposition parties."

Demanding autonomy for the central agencies she said, "I do not say that all the officials are bad but the fact is that many of them are influenced by those

in power ... I think the agencies should be made completely autonomous ... I am saying so because this the need of the time ... these agencies are bound to be made autonomous in days to come only their salaries will be given by the government"

Playing the BJP for sending the central agencies to the houses of the opposition leaders Banerjee referred to a recent raid in the houses of former Bihar Chief Minister Laloo Yadav. "As soon as Laloo ji came out of jail they sent agencies to raid his houses ... this is because they want to weaken the opposition parties ahead of the elections," Banerjee said.

Presently the Trinamool Congress functionaries including its senior ministers and MPs are facing more than a dozen cases of corruption, violence that are being investigated by the central agencies like CBI, ED and NIA — all upon court orders.

Attacking the Centre for bull-doing the houses of the



poor people Banerjee said how in the past week the BJP-run Bihar government sent police even to Bengal to pull down houses of the local people. "The Bihar Police did not even have the courtesy to inform the Bengal Police ... they simply sent in their men with bulldozers inside Malda district and pulled down the houses of the poorest of the poor people in that locality ... they know how to break."

Rebutting arguments that her own government should order a matching reduction of fuel prices following in the

footsteps of the Centre which cut petro prices a couple of days ago Banerjee said, after the reduction of petro prices her State too had suffered loss of Rs 641 crore in terms of cess and rebate.

"They (Centre) are asking us to reduce prices but on the other hand they are holding back our dues ... they release funds to the BJP-ruled States but do not give funds to the States ruled by the opposition parties and now they are asking us to reduce petro prices," Banerjee said alleging the Centre had in the past a few of years earned more than Rs 18.23 lakh crore by increasing fuel prices.

"Before Narendra Modi came to power petrol sold for Rs 71.51 in Kolkata ... after he came to power there was a reduction in price of crude but the Centre instead of cutting the price went on increasing it to Rs 106.03 in May 2022 ... and now they claim credit for reducing the price by a few rupees."

Rain brings respite from heatwave in north, northwest

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Rain and thunderstorms brought some respite from the scorching heatwave in north and northwestern parts of the country on Monday.

According to the India Meteorological Department (IMD), no part of the country, except West Rajasthan, is likely to witness a heatwave condition during the next five days. "No significant change in maximum temperatures very likely over rest parts of the country during the next 5 days," it said.

An extra-tropical weather system approaching from north Pakistan led to formation of rain-bearing clouds that brought showers to parts of Punjab, Haryana, Delhi, Uttarakhand and Himachal Pradesh early on Monday.

"A Western Disturbance

as a cyclonic circulation lies over north Pakistan extending upto middle tropospheric levels. An induced Low Pressure Area lies over northwest Rajasthan and an eastwest trough runs from this induced Low Pressure Area to north Bangladesh in lower tropospheric levels," the IMD said.

According to the weather office, thunderstorms occurred at several places in Uttarakhand, while most parts of Jammu and Kashmir, Himachal Pradesh, Haryana, Delhi, Uttar Pradesh and isolated places in Rajasthan received rainfall.

On Sunday, Fatehgarh in Uttar Pradesh had recorded the maximum temperature of 45.9 degrees Celsius.

In Delhi, the morning temperature plunged 11 notches from 29 degrees Celsius to 18 degrees Celsius.

Priyanka to campaign for Cong in Karnataka Assembly polls: DK

PNS ■ NEW DELHI/BENGALURU

Karnataka Congress president DK Shivakumar on Monday said the party's national General Secretary Priyanka Gandhi Vadra has agreed to campaign and spend time in the State for the Assembly elections next year. The KPCC chief's sudden New Delhi visit came amid talks about differences between him and Congress Legislature party leader Siddaramaiah regarding probable candidates recommended to the high command for the upcoming MLC polls in the state.

Shivakumar's meeting also resulted in the announcements of the final list of candidates for the Legislative Council. Party chief Sonia Gandhi approved the candidatures of M Nagarjun Yadav and K Abdul Jabbar as Congress candidates to contest the biennial elections to be the Legislative Council.

The June 10 Rajya Sabha elections was also discussed with Priyanka Gandhi's name being favoured but the party will take some more time to decide upon it keeping in mind the resolution of Udaipur Chintan Shivir that proposed 'one family, one ticket, one MP'.

Tuesday is the last date to file nominations for the June 3 polls to seven seats of the Karnataka Legislative Council to be elected by MLAs and all the three major political parties in the state — Congress, BJP and JD(S) — are yet to announce their candidates.

"Everyone will have the desire that their leader should come to their state, but as of now it has not been discussed," Shivakumar said in response to a question about several state leaders insisting that Priyanka Gandhi contest the Rajya Sabha polls from Karnataka.



"We have said that she should spend time for the state during elections (assembly polls) and she has agreed to it. She has said that she will campaign in the state...No discussion has taken place regarding Rajya Sabha tickets," Shivakumar said briefing the media.

This comes amid speculation that a section of the Karnataka Congress leaders, including Shivakumar, wants Priyanka Gandhi to contest the June 10 Rajya Sabha polls from the state, as they feel it may benefit the party during the Assembly polls, due next year. Shivakumar had recently said the party wants Priyanka Gandhi Vadra to "concentrate on the south, where elections are coming up".

He said he and Siddaramaiah together had submitted a list of candidates to the high command for MLC polls. Seats are falling vacant, due to the retirement of MLCs — Laxman Sangappa Savadi and Lahar Singh Siroya of BJP; Ramappa Timmapur, Allum Veerabhadra, Veena Achaiah S of Congress; and H M Ramesha Gowda and Narayana Swamy K V of JD(S).

According to official sources, in this election, each MLC candidate will require a minimum of 29 votes to win, and on the basis of minimum votes required and tallying it with the strength of each party in the Legislative Assembly, the BJP will be able to win four seats, Congress two and JD(S) one.



Government of India
Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports

खेलेगा इंडिया तो खिलेगा इंडिया



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FIRST COLUMN


TIME TO REJECT FOSSIL FUELS RIGHT AWAY

A candle produces more CO₂ than a single firecracker



PRITAM SINGH

More than 95% human activities over the past 4-5 decades are responsible for inching ‘mother-earth’ towards getting warmer year after year, eclipsing our life-system. Stephen Hawking had unequivocally predicted (‘a veiled threat’) that our planet will gradually rise its temperature and will become a ‘hot-fireball’ in next six centuries; and to protect it - “we need to act now before it’s too late”. The human’s lust for deriving more power from fossil fuels for our vehicles and industry is having a serious cause of concerns of scientists and environmental experts; warrants to have adequate notice of active derivative - “The Wax” - we use very frequently in our daily life. We burn every-year more than three ‘billion-candles’ on cultural and religious occasions. They significantly increase the level of ‘greenhouse gases’, inviting new threats to human health. Most of the candles are made from ‘Paraffin wax’ - derivative of petroleum - which have common carcinogenic toxins released by burning of diesel in IC engines. For instance, each 50 gm household candle burns for about four hours. That produces about 39 gm of carbon dioxide. A single candle thus produces nearly 30 times more carbon dioxide than a single fire-cracker which produces a mere 0.4 gm. The ‘collective flames of earth’s gradual burning’ are reaching to the coldest region Antarctica opening-up the gate-ways of destruction of humanity from multiple fronts ranging from North and South poles of Antarctica to the ecologically vulnerable and fragile-points known as ‘third pole of earth’ - the Himalayan range - melting the precious



‘snowy regions’. These snowy regions are solid water (ice) which act to play a significant role of our “life-line on earth” - cooling down the earth’s temperature compatible to our living conditions. Is the sun to blame for rising temperature on earth? No. The earth’s climate is influenced by the sun and acts as giver of life. However, the scorching heat touching new records is not attributable to the sun’s activities. The most abundant ‘greenhouse gases’ physically or chemically are responsible. “It will continue to get more-hotter and fiercer until humans stop burning of fossil fuels” climatologists from Oxford University contend.

An analytical data from the satellites have observed that the sun’s energy output has changed less than 0.1% in the last 40 years whereas earth’s warming has increased by at least 1.1° Celsius (1.9° Fahrenheit) in 142 years. The warming has increased, since 1975, at the rate of roughly by 0.15 to 0.20°C per decade. Planets like Venus have carbon dioxide content that is 1,54,000 times more than on earth (about 19000 times on Mars). It produces such Green House Gases impact that the surface temperature is over 475 degree Celsius, sufficient to melt lead. The alerts of Stephen Hawking warrant serious measures to bridle this spiral at any cost. Some studies at University of North Carolina predict that five lakh lives can be saved by the year 2030 if the GHG are controlled. For mitigating the impact of the lurking shadow of climatic dangers, all the countries should unanimously step-up their priorities and revisit the whole issue of ‘using fossil fuels and its derivatives’ to meet our ‘bare-minimum needs’ only. Accordingly, India being more vulnerable in respect of pollution-related issues, it is high time the regulatory authorities framed more stringent guidelines and launched massive public-awareness campaigns across the nation for the betterment of our future generations.

(The writer retired from the Indian Institute of Petroleum, Dehradun and is now an educator and analyst. The views expressed are personal.)

Indian power sector is pushed to the brink

Among other things, free discoms from State control, allow them to set tariff for all consumers and permit private firms into the distribution business

Faced with an acute power crisis caused amongst others by sudden spurt in power demand in this season, the Modi Government has fired all cylinders to tackle the most crucial of all bottlenecks in the way, namely coal which accounts for nearly 52 percent of total power generation capacity in the country.

During April/May 2022, the Union Power Ministry - using powers vested in the Government under Section 11 of the Electricity Act, 2003 - issued directions to (i) all imported coal-based plants (ICB) to operate and generate power to their full capacity and (ii) all generation companies (gencos) based on domestic coal to import at least 10 percent of their fuel requirements (there is a move to further raise it to 30 percent).

Other measures include asking all gencos having captive coal mines to maximize production from their mines; Coal India Limited (CIL) - a central public sector undertaking (CPSU) which contributes about 85 percent of domestic coal production - to auction its mines ‘not under use’ to private companies; galvanizing railways’ infrastructure to move coal from mines to plants site etc.

The Government has also announced financial and price support measures to help gencos actually see things happening on ground zero.

Thus, it has directed the Power Finance Corporation (PFC) and Rural Electrification Corporation (REC Ltd) “to arrange short term loans for a period of six months with adequate safeguards for ICB plants, which are under stress”. It has also allowed ‘pass-through’ of the increase in cost of imported coal under the power purchase agreements (PPAs) of gencos with power distribution companies (discoms).

The Government’s intent is to increase availability of coal- both from domestic and imported sources, by putting more money in the hands of gencos so that they can pay for higher cost imported fuel (in just about two months, its price is up by \$100 per ton, courtesy difficult geopolitical situation) and even more importantly, allow them charge more from discoms to recover the higher cost.

But things may not pan out as desired. The discoms (mostly owned and controlled by State Governments) may not agree to hike in tariff; besides such revisions are open to challenge in the court. It won’t be easy to sell expensive stuff in the ‘power exchange’ either as under the extant regulations, the tariff chargeable is subject to a cap. As for garnering additional production, effort there won’t yield results in the near term.

Even if the Government is able to surmount these problems by forcing the buyers (read: discoms) to pay for the higher cost and removing the tariff cap on sales in the exchange, this will push the already fragile discoms into deeper mess.

The discoms are in dire straits because



HAD THE PRODUCTION COME ANYWHERE NEAR THE TARGET, THE CURRENT CRISIS IN THE POWER SECTOR AND CONSEQUENTIAL AGGRAVATION OF DISCOMS WOES COULD HAVE BEEN AVOIDED. THE HUGE SHORTFALL DEMONSTRATES THE DIRE NEED FOR BETTER PLANNING AND TIMELY EXECUTION OF PROJECTS

(The writer is a former Chief Secretary, Government of Uttar Pradesh. The views expressed are personal.)



State Governments order them to supply a sizeable chunk of electricity to households and farmers at a fraction of the cost of purchase and distribution or even free (in some states, subsidy accounts for 30-40 percent of discoms’ revenue). Although, States promise to reimburse discoms the excess of the cost over realization from sale, most of them either don’t reimburse at all or do it partially and that too after delay. This results in huge under-recovery on units sold to HHs/farmers.

Discoms’ underrecoveries are exacerbated by high aggregate technical and commercial (AT&C) loss - a jargon for power theft. To offset, they charge high tariffs on supplies to industries and businesses. Despite this cross-subsidization, overall, discoms incur huge loss.

Thanks to persistent losses, as of March 31, 2022, they had piled up a mammoth debt of over ₹600,000 crore. They also owe about ₹100,000 crore to independent power producers (IPPs) and other generators in the public sector such as NTPC.

The efforts to revitalize discoms have been going on for two decades with four major schemes launched in 2002, 2012, 2015 and 2021; yet none has delivered. The last two under the Modi Government deserve special mention.

Under Ujjwal Discom Assurance Yojana (UDAY) launched in November 2015, the Centre coordinated a financial restructuring package (FRP) of ₹400,000 crore for discoms in lieu of their committing to reduce AT&C losses from 20.7 percent during 2015-16 to 15 percent by 2018-19 and reducing the gap between average revenue realisation (ARR) from sale of electricity

vis-a-vis the average cost of supply (ACS) or the ACS-ARR gap from ₹0.59 per unit during 2015-16 to ‘zero’ by 2018-19.

During 2019-20, discoms’ AT&C losses were 18.9 percent against the 15 percent target for 2018-19, while ACS-ARR gap was ₹0.42 per unit against the target of ‘zero’ for 2018-19.

In the Union Budget for 2021-22, the Finance Minister, Nirmala Sitharaman launched a ‘Reforms-Linked, Result-Based Scheme for Distribution’ (RLRBSD) with an allocation of over ₹310,000 crore. Under this scheme also, in lieu of support to discoms, the government set targets for reducing AT&C losses to 12-15 percent and ACS-ARR gap to ‘nil’ by 2025. The release of money - under the Scheme - is linked to their meeting various reform targets.

As in the past, these are hollow proclamations. Under UDAY also, discoms were required to set their house in order. But, they didn’t. The current AT&C losses at about 25 percent are even higher than 20.7 percent during 2015-16 (when the scheme was launched). Forget reduction. Hence, claims under RLRBSD don’t inspire.

How will the crisis triggered by coal shortage and the manner in which the government is dealing with it impact discoms’ finances?

The direction to all ICB plants maximise generation and to domestic coal based plants to do 10 percent/30 percent blending with imported coal will result in sharp in the cost of power purchase by discoms. Since, our political brass won’t let HHs/farmers pay even a paisa more and industries are already crippled by high tariff - ₹10 per unit plus in most states; hence can’t be further

increased, this will end up further inflating their losses.

In 2015, Prime Minister Narendra Modi had set a coal production target of 1500 million tons (MT) for 2019-20. During 2019-20, India produced around 730 MT. In 2020-21, production declined to 716 MT (courtesy, Covid). During 2021-22, at 777 MT it exceeded the 2019-20 level but was barely 50 percent of the target.

Had production come anywhere near the target, the current crisis in the power sector and consequential aggravation of discoms woes could have been avoided. The huge shortfall demonstrates the dire need for better planning and timely execution of projects. Modi also needs to plan for a smoother transition to renewable sources ensuring that conventional source (read: coal) which currently takes a major share of the load doesn’t become an impediment.

However, the most important thing our political class needs to do is to actually carry out reforms in the power sector at ground zero. This will call for unshackling of discoms from State control, giving them freedom to set tariff for all consumers (HHs/farmers included), allowing private firms in distribution business and vesting infrastructure for transmission, wheeling and last-mile delivery of power in an independent entity which should provide access to it on ‘common carrier’ principle in a transparent and non-discriminatory manner.

If, any State Government wants to give subsidy to farmers and HHs, it should be given directly to the beneficiaries using the direct benefit transfer (DBT) mechanism.

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

POINT COUNTERPOINT

THEY (THE INDIAN FOREIGN SERVICE) HAVE COMPLETELY CHANGED. THEY DON'T LISTEN TO ANYTHING; THEY ARE ARROGANT. — CONGRESS LEADER RAHUL GANDHI



YES, THE INDIAN FOREIGN SERVICE HAS CHANGED. YES, THEY FOLLOW THE ORDERS OF THE GOVERNMENT. NO, IT'S NOT CALLED ARROGANCE. — EXTERNAL AFFAIRS MINISTER S JAISHANKAR

Russia will not disappear soon

It is awaiting leadership change

Russian President Vladimir Putin will almost certainly not be in power three years from now. The war he foolishly began in Ukraine has fatally undermined his political credibility among the Russian elite (and among a large though mostly silent part of the population). One way or another, he will be replaced.

He may even save everybody the trouble by dying before he can be removed. He definitely doesn’t look well, his behaviour is increasingly erratic, and rumours that he is suffering from some terminal disease abound. Russia is not a fascist state, just a kleptocracy where the thieves and the thugs have taken power, but Putin’s personal behaviour does begin to resemble Hitler in his bunker in the final days, and Hitler too



GWYNNE DYER

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

was very ill. Putin knows nothing about military matters, but he is reportedly micro-managing single ‘battalion combat groups’ (about 1,000 men) in the currently stalled Russian offensive in eastern Ukraine, trying to retrieve a military situation that has sunk into stalemate. Very Hitlerian. So what will become of Russia when he goes?

Alexander J. Motyl thinks it may just disappear. In an opinion piece in ‘The Hill’, the leading political website in Washington, Motyl, a political scientist at Rutgers University, suggests that “The Russian Federation could metamorphose into 10 or more states, only one of which would be known as Russia. That would change the face of Eurasia forever.” It certainly would, but it



does imply the permanent demise of a state that has dominated northern Eurasia for the past four centuries (the first Russians reached the Pacific in 1647). It also ignores the remarkable homogeneity of that state’s population: 81% are ethnically Russian, while none of

the many minority group even reaches 4%. There have been occasions, most recently during the civil war of 1917-22, when Russia was temporarily carved up into rival jurisdictions, but these interludes have never lasted long. The sense that there is a special Russian identity, even a unique ‘Russian civilisation’, always reasserts itself.

Decolonisation came late to the Russian empire and was harder to recognise, because Russia’s imperial possessions were around its own land borders rather than across the oceans. Nevertheless, it was the same process, and just as irreversible (as Putin has been discovering).

Russia is as unlikely to split up permanently as France or Japan. Motyl’s speculations on its break-up are wishful thinking,

possibly motivated by the fact (unmentioned by ‘The Hill’) that both his parents were born in Ukraine.

It is understandable that Ukrainians might wish Russia to vanish, but that is not going to happen. So what will happen when Putin goes?

We cannot know yet what a genuinely post-Communist Russia would look like. Although it’s 31 years since the collapse of the Soviet Union, almost all the people in senior political positions began their careers in the Communist Party. The ideology was dumped, but the administrative style and the factional struggles remain.

Moreover, one single man, Vladimir Putin, has dominated Russian politics for more than two-thirds of that time. It’s hard to disentangle what is intrinsic

ally Russian in the way Russia has been run during that time from what was just part of Putin’s personality, but we are about to find out.

The default position is to say that the Russians are somehow fundamentally different from other Slavs. After all, the Poles and the Czechs got real democracy and genuine prosperity after 1991, whereas the Russians got Putin, border wars, and (for most people) genteel poverty.

But there were two big differences that had nothing to do with ‘national character’, whatever that is. One was that all the former ‘satellite countries’ of Eastern Europe immediately ditched their local Communist collaborators and got a whole new set of politicians, whereas Russia was essentially stuck

with the old Commies wearing new hats.

The other difference was that the western Slavs experienced the change as liberation, whereas their former rulers saw it as a loss of empire that stranded tens of millions of Russians in places that were suddenly foreign countries.

It would have been unreasonable to expect these two sets of people to react in the same way, and sure enough they didn’t. But it’s equally unreasonable to be convinced that Russians will go on behaving in the same ways when the ex-Communist ruling elite loses power (which may be imminent) and a new post-imperial generation takes over instead.

We have no idea what’s coming out of the box then. It could even be something good.

Biden: US would intervene with military to defend Taiwan

AP ■ TOKYO

President Joe Biden said on Monday that the US would intervene militarily if China were to invade Taiwan, saying the burden to protect Taiwan is "even stronger" after Russia's invasion of Ukraine.

It was one of the most forceful presidential statements in support of self-governing in decades. Biden, at a news conference in Tokyo, said "yes" when asked if he was willing to get involved militarily to defend Taiwan if China invaded. "That's the commitment we made," he added.

The US traditionally has avoided making such an explicit security guarantee to Taiwan,



with which it no longer has a mutual defence treaty, instead maintaining a policy of "strate-

gic ambiguity" about how far it would be willing to go if China invaded. The 1979 Taiwan

Relations Act, which has governed US relations with the island, does not require the US to step in militarily to defend Taiwan if China invades, but makes it American policy to ensure Taiwan has the resources to defend itself and to prevent any unilateral change of status in Taiwan by Beijing.

Biden's comments were likely to draw a sharp response from the mainland, which has claimed Taiwan to be a rogue province. A White House official said Biden's comments did not reflect a policy shift.

Speaking alongside Japanese Prime Minister Fumio Kishida, Biden said any effort by China to use force against Taiwan would "just not be

appropriate," adding that it "will dislocate the entire region and be another action similar to what happened in Ukraine".

China has stepped up its military provocations against democratic Taiwan in recent years aimed at intimidating it into accepting Beijing's demands to unify with the communist mainland.

"They're already flirting with danger right now by flying so close and all the maneuvers that are undertaken," Biden said of China. Under the "one China" policy, the US recognises Beijing as the government of China and doesn't have diplomatic relations with Taiwan.

However, the US main-

tains unofficial contacts including a de facto embassy in Taipei, the capital, and supplies military equipment for the island's defence.

Biden said it is his "expectation" that China would not try to seize Taiwan by force, but he said that assessment "depends upon just how strong the world makes clear that that kind of action is going to result in long-term disapprobation by the rest of the community".

He added that deterring China from attacking Taiwan was one reason why it's important that Russian President Vladimir Putin "pay a dear price for his barbarism in Ukraine," lest China and other

nations get the idea that such action is acceptable. Fearing escalation with nuclear-armed Russia, Biden quickly ruled out putting US forces into direct conflict with Russia, but he has shipped billions of dollars in US military assistance that has helped Ukraine put up a stiffer-than-expected resistance to Russia's onslaught.

It's not the first time Biden has pledged to defend Taiwan against a Chinese attack, only for administration officials to later claim there had been no change to American policy.

In a CNN town hall in October, Biden was asked about using the US military to defend Taiwan and replied, "Yes, we have a commitment to

do that." Biden's comments came just before he formally launched a long-anticipated Indo-Pacific trade pact that excludes Taiwan.

White House national security adviser Jake Sullivan confirmed Sunday that Taiwan isn't among the governments signed up for the Indo-Pacific Economic Framework, which is meant to allow the US to work more closely with key Asian economies on issues like supply chains, digital trade,

clean energy and anti-corruption. Inclusion of Taiwan would have irked China. Sullivan said US wants to deepen its economic partnership with Taiwan on a one-to-one basis.

Lankan police arrest 1,500 people in connection with May 9 violence



PTI ■ COLOMBO

Sri Lankan police have arrested at least 1,500 people so far in connection with the violent clashes between anti- and pro-government protesters in country earlier this month that killed at least 100 people and injured over 200 others, according to a media report on Monday.

On May 9, violence erupted in Sri Lanka after supporters of former prime minister Mahinda Rajapaksa attacked peaceful anti-government protesters demanding his ouster over country's worst economic crisis that led to acute shortages of staple food, fuel and power.

According to Sri Lanka Police spokesman SSP Nihal Thalduduwa 1,500 people have been arrested in connection with violence, online portal newfirst.lk reported.

Thalduduwa further said 152 persons have been arrested in past 24 hours. On Saturday, Inspector General of Police Chandana D Wickramaratne was interrogated by Criminal Investigation Department (CID) over his alleged actions that triggered violent clashes that killed at least 10 people and

Lanka's controversial 21st Amendment to Constitution fails to come up for Cabinet approval after SLPP's objection

PTI ■ COLOMBO

In a major blow to Sri Lanka's new Prime Minister Ranil Wickremesinghe, the proposal for 21st Amendment to Constitution to curb the unfettered powers of President Gotabaya Rajapaksa, scheduled to be referred to Cabinet on Monday was not presented before it.

According to sources, the proposal was not presented in Cabinet after parliamentarians of ruling Sri Lanka Podujana Peramuna (SLPP) objected to it in its present form. They demanded that the proposed legislation be approved by Attorney General before referring it to the Cabinet. The 21st Amendment is expected to annul the 20A which gave unlimited powers to President Gotabaya



Rajapaksa after abolishing the 19th Amendment which had made Parliament powerful over the president.

The constitutional reform was a major plank of the agreement between Rajapaksa and Wickremesinghe when he took over the job of the prime minister on May 12. Rajapaksa had also pledged reforms in the Constitution in an address to the nation earlier this month. The 21st Amendment would make it impossible for those with dual citizenship to hold a seat in Parliament.

injured over 200 others.

Last week, Galle district MP Ramesh Pathirana informed the Parliament that Senior Police DIG in-charge of Western Province Deshabandu Tennakoon informed President Gotabaya Rajapaksa that Wickramaratne had instructed him not to block mob heading to Galle Face to disrupt anti-government protesters, online

portal Colombo Gazette had reported. Pathirana added that President demanded action be taken to prevent situation from spiralling out of control. Following President's orders, police rushed to spot and fired tear gas and water cannons on mob, by which time scores were injured and at least 10 people were dead, according to Colombo Gazette news portal.

Albanese sworn in as PM in Australia ahead of Tokyo summit

AP ■ CANBERRA

Australia's new prime minister was sworn in on Monday ahead of a Tokyo summit with President Joe Biden while vote counting continued to determine whether he will control a majority in a Parliament that is demanding tougher action on climate change.

Prime Minister Anthony Albanese's center-left Labor Party ousted predecessor Scott Morrison's conservative coalition at Saturday's election. The coalition had been in power under three prime ministers for nine years.

"I want to lead a government that has the same sentiment of optimism and hope that I think defines the Australian people," Albanese said in his hometown of Sydney before flying to the national capital Canberra to be sworn in.

Albanese, who describes himself as the first ever candidate for the office of prime minister with a "non-Anglo Celtic name" and Malaysian-born Penny Wong, Australia's first foreign minister to be born overseas, were sworn into office by Governor-General David Hurley before the pair flew to Tokyo for a security summit on Tuesday with Biden, Japanese Prime Minister Fumio Kishida and Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

Biden rang Albanese to



congratulate him on his election win and express the president's wish to make the countries' alliance stronger, the White House said.

Morrison's decision to resign as prime minister during the early vote counting enabled Hurley, who represents Australia's head of state, British monarch Queen Elizabeth II, to appoint his replacement without evidence that Albanese can control a majority of seats in parliament's lower chamber where governments are formed.

Deputy Prime Minister Richard Marles was also sworn in and will act as prime minister while Albanese is in Japan. Katy Gallagher and Jim Chalmers were sworn into economic ministries.

Labor appears assured of 75 seats, one short of the majority in the 151-seat House of Representatives needed to form an administration. The conservative coalition was on track for 58, unaligned lawmakers 12 and six seats were too close to call, the Australian Electoral Commission said.

Bangkok governor's election handily won by Opposition figure

Bangkok: Residents of Thai capital Bangkok, in their first opportunity in nine years to vote for their city's governor, have elected an independent politician seen as representing opponents of country's military-backed government, results released early Monday showed.

Chadchart Sittipunt had been widely predicted by opinion polls to top field, but significantly outpaced expectations by taking 1,386,215 votes, or almost 52% of the 2,673,696 votes cast in Sunday's election, according to virtually complete but uncertified returns. He competed in a field of 31 candidates, with voter turnout just under 61%. The 55-year-old Chadchart, though running as an independent, was seen by

both supporters and opponents as a proxy for Pheu Thai party, the main Opposition grouping in Parliament. He served as transport minister in a Pheu Thai government in 2012-2014, and stood as one of party's prime ministerial candidates in 2019 general election.

"Now that we've received an order from people, I would start working right away, visiting communities and areas to see where I could begin my work as soon as I can as a governor," Chadchart told reporters Monday morning. "I have a young, energetic team who are keen to move." The independent candidate who was seen as a stand-in for the ruling Palang Pracharath party ran a weak fifth in race. (AP)

Beijing extends work-from-home order as Covid-19 cases rise

Beijing: Beijing extended orders for workers and students to stay home and ordered additional mass testing Monday as cases of COVID-19 again rose in the city.

Numerous residential compounds in Chinese capital have restricted movement in and out, although conditions remain far less than in Shanghai, where millions of citizens have been under varying degrees of lockdown for two months. Beijing on Monday reported an uptick in cases to 99, rising from a previous daily average of around 50.

7 dead, 120 others rescued in Philippine ferry fire

AP ■ MANILA

A ferry carrying more than 130 people caught fire Monday while approaching a northeastern Philippine province, killing at least seven people while most passengers and crew members were rescued, the coast guard said.

At least four people remained missing after fire engulfed the M/V Mercraft 2 while it was approaching a seaport in Real town in Quezon province from Polilio island. Many of the 134 passengers

and crew were forced to jump into water, coast guard officials said. The survivors were rescued by vessels in the area, they said. The fire apparently started from engine room, the officials said. The wreckage has been towed to shore in Real.

Pictures released by coast guard showed fire engulfing ferry and dark smoke billowing from it. Injured survivors on stretchers were taken to waiting ambulance vans while a rescuer tries to revive an unconscious survivor by pressing on his chest. (AP)

NORTHERN RAILWAY
TENDER NOTICE
Invitation of Tenders through E-Procurement system
Principal Chief Materials Manager, Northern Railway, New Delhi-110001, for and on behalf of the President of India, invites e-tenders through e-procurement system for supply of the following items:-

S. No.	Tender No.	Brief Description	Qty.	Closing Date
01	82224731	Advance Hand Instrument With OEM Certified Compatibility With Valley Lab Machine in OT/NRCH-Assorted Length	45 Nos	17.06.2022

Note:- 1. Vendors may visit the IREPS website i.e. www.ireps.gov.in for details. 2. No Manual offer will be entertained.
Tender Notice No. : 82224731 Dated : 23.05.2022 1232/22

SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE

PUBLIC NOTICE
General public at large is hereby informed through this notice that my client Plot No.13 and 14, Area 32 Sq. Yards, Kh. No.9/13, 9/14, Village TilangpurKotla, KotlaVihar, Ph-II, New Delhi-110043 is being sold by M/s MCF Finalease P. Ltd., At B-204, Vikas Tower, Community Centre, VikasPuri, New Delhi-110018 against mutual settlement of Loan taken from the Company. Any person having any objection against the same shall inform the Company within 30 days.
Ankur Chaudhary, (Advocate), Delhi High Court, Chamber No. V-34, Tehsil Lane, Tis Hazari Courts, Delhi-110054.

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.	Rohan Sahani/ Meenakshi/ Ved Prakash/ Lata/ LBDEL00004965262/ LBDEL00004961412	Plot No-149, 4th Floor, With Roof Rights, Block- A, Sector-8, Dwarka, Delhi 110075/ May 20, 2022	November 10, 2021 Rs. 73,55,445/-	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 24, 2022 Place: Delhi/ NCR **Authorized Officer ICICI Bank Limited**

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 and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 and in exercise of the powers conferred under section 13 (12) R/w Rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) rules 2002, issued demand notices upon the borrowers mentioned below, (on underlying pool assigned to ICICI Bank by Dewan Housing Finance Ltd.) in relation to the enforcement of security in respect of a housing loan facility granted pursuant to a loan agreement entered into between DHFL and the borrower, 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/ Number (Loan Account Number (DHFL Old LAN & ICICI New LAN)	Description of Property/ Date of Symbolic Possession	Date of Demand Notice/ Amount in Demand Notice (Rs.)	Name of Branch
1.	Arun Kumar Jha/ Babita Jha (9600001622 & QZDEL00005004690)	Property No- A-581, First Floor, Without Roof, Block- A Shastri Nagar Delhi, Delhi/ May 20, 2022	September 27, 2021/ Rs 13,71,019/-	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 24, 2022 Place: Delhi/ NCR **Authorized Officer ICICI Bank Limited**

Xinjiang in focus as UN rights chief arrives for China visit

Beijing: Allegations of human rights abuses in China's north-western Xinjiang region are the dominant issue on a visit by the United Nations' top rights official that starts Monday.

Michelle Bachelet's visit is the first to China by a U.N. High commissioner for human rights since 2005, but rights groups warn it threatens to whitewash the ruling Communist Party abuses in Xinjiang. China has locked up more than a million members of its Uyghur, Kazakh and other Muslim minorities in what critics describe as a cam-

paign to obliterate their distinct cultural identities. China says it has nothing to hide and welcomes all those without political bias to visit Xinjiang and view what it describes as a successful campaign to restore order and ethnic cohesion.

Bachelet will begin her six-day visit in the southern city of Guangzhou before travelling to Kashgar and the Xinjiang regional capital of Urumqi. Details have been tightly held and China's entirely Communist Party-controlled media have not reported on her visit. A key question is whether

Bachelet will be allowed to visit the now-largely empty internment camps that China calls reeducation centres and meet with figures imprisoned over calls for greater religious, political and cultural freedoms, such as Ilham Tohti, an economist and winner of the Sakharov Prize. China has also been accused of using forced labour, coercive birth control and separating children from their incarcerated parents, and monitoring group The Dui Hua Foundation says fasting for Ramadan or selling Islamic books has also been targeted.

Iran vows revenge over killing of Guard member in Tehran

Dubai: Iran's hard-line president vowed revenge on Monday over killing of a senior Revolutionary Guard member gunned down in heart of Tehran day before, a still-mysterious attack on country's powerful paramilitary force.

Iranian President Ebrahim Raisi hailed Col. Hassan Sayyad Khodaei as a martyr and blamed "the hand of global arrogance," a reference to United States and its allies, including Israel, for his slaying. There has been no claim of responsibility for killing, carried out on Sunday afternoon by two unidentified gunmen

on a motorbike. They shot Khodaei five times in a car, an unarmored budget SAIPA Pride - among the cheapest, most-common Iranian vehicles.

But style of brazen attack bore hallmarks of previous slayings in Iran blamed on Israel, such as those targeting country's nuclear scientists. "I have no doubt that revenge against criminals for blood of this martyr is assured," Raisi said before leaving Tehran for a state visit to sultanate of Oman, a strategic Gulf Arab state that traditionally mediates between Tehran and West.

UNITED LEASING & INDUSTRIES LIMITED

Regd.Office : Plot No.66, Sector-34, EHTP, Gurugram, Haryana-122001.

CIN : L17100HR1983PLC033460 Website:www.uliltd.com, Email id: investorrelations@uliltd.com, Phone:011-49075251

Extract of Audited Financial Results for the Quarter & Year Ended 31st March,2022

(Rs. in lac, except per Share data)

Sl. No.	Particulars	Quarter Ended			Year Ended	
	(Refer Notes Below)	31.03.2022 [Audited]	31.12.2021 [Unaudited]	31.03.2021 [Audited]	31.03.2022 [Audited]	31.03.2021 [Audited]
1	Total Income from Operations	223.21	176.16	120.16	525.32	314.13
2	Net Profit/(Loss) for the period before tax and exceptional items	24.30	45.56	55.11	67.05	52.96
3	Net Profit/(Loss) for the period before tax after exceptional items	24.30	45.56	14.02	67.05	11.87
4	Net Profit/(Loss) for the period after tax	13.84	45.56	14.02	56.59	11.87
5	Total Comprehensive Income	-	-	-	-	-
6	Paid-up equity share capital	300.00	300	300.00	300.00	300.00
7	Earning Per Share of Rs.10/- each (not annualised)					
	a) Basic	0.46	1.52	0.47	1.89	0.40
	b) Diluted	0.46	1.52	0.47	1.89	0.40

Notes :

1

The above is an extract of the detailed format of Audited Financial Results for the Quarter and Year ended March 31, 2022 filed with the Stock Exchange under Regulation 33 of the SEBI (Listing and Other Disclosure Requirements) Regulations, 2015. The full format of the Audited Financial Results for the quarter and year ended March 31, 2022 are available on the Bombay Stock Exchange website www.bseindia.com and on Company's website www.uliltd.com

2

The figures for the quarter and year ended March 31,2021 and March 31,2022 are the balancing figures between audited figures in respect of the full financial year and the year to date figure up to nine months of the respective financial year.

3

Figures of the above Previous periods have been regrouped/reclassified/ restated wherever necessary.

For United Leasing & Industries Limited

Anil Kumar Khanna

[Managing Director]

DIN : 00207839

Date : May 23, 2022

Place : Gurugram [Haryana]

Russian forces step up shelling in Ukraine’s east

AP ■ KYIV

Russian forces have stepped up shelling in Ukraine’s eastern industrial heartland as they press their offensive in the region that is now the focus of fighting in the 3-month-old war.

Meanwhile, a Ukrainian court is expected to sentence a Russian soldier on Monday in the first war crimes trial of the conflict.

The 21-year-old sergeant, who has pleaded guilty to shooting a Ukrainian man in the early days of the war, could get life in prison.

Grinding battles in the Donbas, where Ukrainian and Russian forces are fighting town by town, have forced many civilians to flee their homes.

"We haven't been able to see the sun for three months. We are almost blind because we were in darkness for three

months," said Rayisa Rybalko, who hid with her family first in their basement and then in a bomb shelter at the local school before fleeing their village of Novomykhailivka.

"The world should have seen that."

Her son-in-law Dmytro Khaliapin said heavy artillery pounded the village. "Houses are being ruined," he said. "It's a horror."

In Tokyo on Monday, U.S. President Joe Biden and Japanese Prime Minister Fumio Kishida joined in condemning Moscow's invasion of Ukraine. Earlier on his trip to Asia, Biden signed legislation granting Ukraine \$40 billion more in U.S. Support for its defense against the Russian attack.

Polish President Andrzej Duda traveled to Kyiv on Sunday to support Ukraine's European Union aspirations and addressed Ukraine's parliament, receiving a standing

ovation when he thanked the lawmakers for letting him speak where "the heart of a free, independent and democratic Ukraine beats."

Poland has become an important ally of Ukraine, welcoming millions of Ukrainian refugees and becoming a gateway for Western humanitarian aid and weapons and a transit point for some foreign fighters who have volunteered to fight Russian forces.

Western support - both financial and military - has been key to Ukraine's defense, helping their outgunned and outnumbered forces to repel Russia's attempt to take the capital of Kyiv and fight them to a standstill in other places.

In the face of those setbacks, Moscow has outlined more limited goals in Ukraine, with its sights now on trying to expand the territory that Russia-backed separatists have held since 2014.



Ukrainian forces dug in around Sievierodonetsk, the main city under Ukrainian control in the Luhansk province of the Donbas, as Russia intensified efforts to capture it. Gov. Serhiy Haidai accused the Russians of "simply intentionally trying to destroy the city ... Engaging in a scorched-earth approach."

Haidai said Sunday that the

Oleksandrivka, a village outside of Sievierodonetsk.

Ukraine's parliament voted Sunday to extend martial law and mobilize its armed forces for a third time, until Aug. 23.

Ukrainian officials have said little since the war began about the extent of their country's casualties, but Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy said Sunday that 50 to 100 Ukrainian fighters were being killed, apparently each day, in the east.

While the east is now the focus of fighting, the conflict is not confined there. Powerful explosions were heard early Monday in Korosten, about 160 kilometers west of Kyiv, the town's deputy mayor said.

It was the third straight day of apparent attacks in the Zhytomyr District, Ukrainian news agencies reported.

In other developments, Ukraine's first lady, Olena Zelenska, gave a rare interview

to national broadcaster ICTV alongside her husband and said she has hardly seen him since the war began.

"Our family, like all Ukrainian families, is now separated," she said.

Zelenskyy called the interview itself "a date on air," and

the couple, who have two children, joked in front of the journalists. "We are joking, but we are really waiting, like everyone else, to be reunited, like all families in Ukraine who are separated now, waiting for their relatives and friends who want to be together again," he said.

Zelenskyy calls for ‘maximum’ sanctions against Russia

AP ■ DAVOS

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy is calling for "maximum" sanctions against Russia during a virtual speech at the World Economic Forum gathering. He says in a virtual speech Monday that sanctions need to go further to stop Russia's aggression, including an oil embargo, all of its

banks blocked and cutting off trade with Russia completely.

Zelenskyy says his country has slowed Russian advances and his people's courage has stirred unseen unity of the democratic world.

He pushed for the complete withdrawal of foreign companies to prevent supporting its war.

Russian soldier gets life in Ukraine’s 1st war crime trial



AP ■ KYIV

A Ukrainian court sentenced a 21-year-old Russian soldier to life in prison on Monday for killing a Ukrainian civilian, sealing the first guilty conviction for war crimes since Moscow's invasion three months ago. Sgt. Vadim Shishimarin pleaded guilty to shooting a Ukrainian civilian in the head in a village in the northeastern Sumy region in the early days of the war.

He testified that he shot the man after being ordered to do so.

He told the court that an officer insisted that the Ukrainian man, who was speaking on his cellphone, could pinpoint their location to the

Ukrainian forces.

The sentencing came as the 3-month-old war helped push the number of people displaced worldwide to the highest level on record level, according to the United Nations, with more than 100 million people driven from their homes across the globe. Meanwhile, Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy addressed the World Economic Forum as it opened in Davos, Switzerland, calling for "maximum" sanctions against Russia.

He said by video that sanctions needed to go further to stop Russia's aggression, including an oil

embargo, all of its banks blocked and cutting off trade with Russia completely. Zelenskyy says his country has slowed Russian advances and his people's courage has stirred unseen unity of the democratic world.

On the battlefield, Russian forces have stepped up shelling in Ukraine's eastern industrial

on Monday, U.S. President Joe Biden and Japanese Prime Minister Fumio Kishida joined in condemning Moscow's invasion of Ukraine. Earlier on his trip to Asia, Biden signed legislation granting Ukraine \$40 billion more in U.S. Support for its defense against the Russian attack.

MONIND LIMITED
(Formerly Known as Monnet Industries Limited)
Registered Office: Block-7, Room No. 78, Deen Dayal Awas, Kabir Nagar, Raipur-482099, Chhattisgarh, Corp. Office: Monnet House, 11, Masjid Moth, Greater Kailash-II, New Delhi-110048 (INDIA) Phone : +91 11 29218542-48 ; Fax : +91 11 29218541 Email: isc_mind@monnetgroup.com ; Website : www.monnetgroup.com CIN-L5103CT1982PLC009717

NOTICE
Notice is hereby given Pursuant to Regulations 29 & 47 of SEBI (Listing Obligations and Disclosure Requirements) Regulations, 2015, that a meeting of Board of Directors of the Company is scheduled to be held on Monday, 30th May, 2022 at the corporate office of the Company, inter-alia, to consider and approve the Audited Financial Results of the Company for the Quarter and Financial year ended 31st March, 2022. This information is also available on the website of the Company (www.monnetgroup.com) and on the website of the Stock Exchange. (www.bseindia.com)

By order of the Board of Directors
MONIND LIMITED
(Formerly Known as Monnet Industries Limited)
Priya
Company Secretary

Dated : 23.05.2022
Place : New Delhi

Government of Jammu & Kashmir
OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER (R&B)
PROJECT CIRCLE DIVISION IST SRINAGAR

CORRIGENDUM

Subject: - Design and Construction of Kulgam Bypass on NH-444 taking off from existing chainage Km 61+650 and rejoining at Km 73+100 of existing chainage (Revised Design Chainage from Km 50+260 to Km 59+010 (Old Design Chainage Km 53+600 to Km 62+350) as 2 lane with
Ut paved shoulder in the UT of Jammu & Kashmir on EPC mode.

Reference:- This office NIT No PCD-R&B 04 of 2022 23 under endorsement PCD-Ist/NIT/368-78 dated: 13-04-2022

Please read the below mentioned condition of NIT/RFP for the subject work as under:-

1. Earnest Money @ 2% of Advertised cost in shape of CDR/FDR/ Bank guarantee shall be submitted online.

Instead of Earnest Money @ 2% of Advertised cost in shape of CDR/FDR shall be submitted online.

**No. DIPK-2521/22
Dated: 23.05.2022**

Union Territory of JAMMU & KASHMIR
Office of the Executive Engineer, (Jal Shakti) PHE,
Ground Water Division, Nowshera, Sgr.

Gist of e-Tender.

E-N.I.T. No: PHE/GWDS/ 06 of 05/2022

For and on behalf of lieutenant Governor of Jammu and Kashmir, e-tenders are invited in two cover system with 50 meters depth from registered Water Well Drillers/Contractors as per the details given in tender document.

S.No 1. Name of work :- Construction of (07 No) 125 mm dia machine drilled hand pump wells in District Kupwara.

Est. Cost Rs. in Lacs :- Rs. 18.50 Lacs

Earnest Money - Rs. 37000/-

Cost of Tender Document :- Rs. 1000/-

Time of completion :- 30 Days

Class of Contract :- Registered for Drilling 125 mm dia Machine Drilled Hand Pump Wells

Programme :- B2V Phase-3rd

Technical Sanction:- PHE/GWD/08 of 05/2022

AAA Accorded Order No. : 317-DDCK of 2020 Dated: 02-11-2020

Critical Dates / Information.

1. Publishing Date :- 21-05-2022 (04:00 PM)

2. Period of Downloading of Bids:- 21-05-2022 (04:00 P.M) to 30.05.2022 (02.00 P.M.)

3. Period of Submission of bids :- 21-05-2022 (04:00 P.M) to 30.05.2022 (02.00 P.M.)

4. Date of opening of Tender. :- 31-05-2022 at (02:00 P.M)

5. Tender Receiving Authority: Executive Engineer , (Jal Shakti) PHE Ground Water Srinagar Kashmir-190011

6. Document Cost : Non-Refundable in the shape of Treasury Challan/receipt deposited to **Account Head 0215** in favour of Executive Engineer (Jal Shakti) PHE Ground Water Division Srinagar (at Saddar Treasury Srinagar) (The firm shall specify the name of work for which apply)

7. Bid Validity Period: 180 Days

8. The bids can be downloaded or uploaded on www.Jktenders.gov.in

9. The bids of only those agencies shall be accepted who posses valid registration certificate of construction of 125mm dia machine drilled Hand pump wells.

**No. DIPK-2447/22
Dated: 21-05-2022**

Sd/- Executive Engineer

NORTHERN RAILWAY
INVITATION OF TENDERS THROUGH E-PROCUREMENT SYSTEM
Tender Notice No. 82222915 Dated: 23.05.2022
Principal Chief Materials Manager, Northern Railway, New Delhi-110001, for and on behalf of the President of India, invites e-tenders through e-procurement system for supply of the following items:-

S. N.	Tender No.	Brief Description	Qty.	Closing Date
01	82222915	Equivalent to Harmonic HD1000i with Advance Haemostasis 36cm	40 Nos	17.06.2022

NOTE -1. Vendors may visit the IREPS website i.e. www.ireps.gov.in for details.
2. No Manual offer will be entertained.
1231/22

SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE

SALE NOTICE
The under mentioned Assets will be sold through auction on “**AS IS WHERE IS BASIS**” and “**AS IS WHAT IS BASIS**” for recovery of dues as per court orders, in the following cases:-

Case Details	Asset Details	Reserve Price	EMD
ICICI BANK LTD VS TARUN CHAUHAN, OA- 87/2019	Vehicle No. DL6CM5155 Make and Model- BMW 520D Manu Year- 2013	Rs. 4,80,000/-	Rs. 48,000/-

Note: DD/PO of EMD amount has to be made in favour of ICICI bank Limited, payable at Delhi.
Auction Date: June 08, 2022 From 11:00 am to 2:00 pm.
Place of Auction: Godara Yard, Khewat No. 166/1, Near Atul Kataria Chowk, Behind Gyan Devi, School, Sec – 17, Sukhrali, Gurugram-122022
Contact Person–Rajeev Ranjan (8584874809)/ Jitendra Kumar (7304914763)

Terms of Sale
The particulars of the said asset specified herein above have been stated to the best of the information and knowledge of the undersigned, who shall however not be responsible for any error, misstatement or omission in the said particulars. The interested participant/s are therefore requested, in their own interest, to satisfy himself / themselves/ itself with regard to the said asset and other relevant details pertaining to it before submitting the bids. All bidders are required to come at auction site with original KYC documents and DD/PO of EMD amount in favour of ICICI bank Limited, payable at Delhi to participate in the auction..
Successfully bidder shall have to deposit sale amount (Excluding EMD amount) within 5 days from the Approval date by the way of pay order/demand draft/RTGS/NEFT. In case if you fail to make the remaining sale amount within 5 days, your EMD amount will be forfeited.
The intending bidders may visit at **ICICI Bank Ltd, 1st Floor, SD Tower, Community Center, Plot No-7, Rohini Sector-8 New Delhi- 110085** for details and inspection of the said hypothecated vehicles.

SALE NOTICE
The under mentioned Assets will be sold through auction on “**AS IS WHERE IS BASIS**” and “**AS IS WHAT IS BASIS**” for recovery of dues as per court orders, in the following cases:-

Case Details	Asset Details
ICICI BANK LTD VS DHARMENDER, CS (COMM) 52/20	Vehicle No. HR3825502 Make and Model - TATA WINGER, Manu Year - 2019
ICICI BANK LTD VS RIZOO SOOD, CS (Comm) No. 798/2019	Vehicle No. UP14ET9537 Make and Model - GENERAL MOTORS SAIL, Manu Year - 2015
ICICI BANK LTD VS RANJEET JHA, Suit No. 1044/18	Vehicle No. DL1ZB2790 Make and Model - GENERAL MOTORS SAIL, Manu Year - 2017
ICICI BANK LTD VS VINOD GIRI, CS (COMM) No. 1168/2019	Vehicle No. DL5CQ0140, Make and Model – MARUTI SUZUKI Wagon R, Manu Year - 2018
ICICI BANK LTD VS NASEEM KHAN, CS NO. 424/18	Vehicle No- DL3SDM9022, Make & Model - HERO SPLENDOR PLUS, Manu Year-2016, Reserve Price: Rs. 13,000/- EMD Amount Rs.2000/-, EMD is to be made in favour of ICICI BANK LIMITED payable at Delhi and Bidder has to bring original EMD at site with KYC
ICICI BANK LTD VS MARC ANATONIO XAVIER, Suit No. 42/2018	Vehicle No- DL2CAT8986, Make & Model -MARUTI SUZUKI CIAZ ZDI, Manu Year-2015, Reserve Price: Rs. 2,20,000/- EMD Amount Rs.22000/-, EMD is to be made in favour of ICICI BANK LIMITED payable at Delhi and Bidder has to bring original EMD at site with KYC
ICICI BANK LTD VS MOHINDER PAL KAUSHAL, CS No.3191/18	Vehicle No. DL1RTA1662, Make and Model- MARUTI SUZUKI RITZ, Manu Year- 2015
ICICI Bank Ltd. Vs. SOBHA RAM, C.S. NO 3168/19	Vehicle No- UP16ET0758, Make & Model - HYUNDAI XCENT, Manu. Year-2016

Auction Date: June 08, 2022 From 11:00 am to 2:00 pm.
Place of Auction: Mahakal Parking Yard, Khasra No. 527 Village Banthla Near Indane Gas Plant Jhoni Ghaziabad- UP- 201102
Contact Person- Rajeev Ranjan (8584874809)/ Jitendra Kumar (7304914763)

Terms of Sale
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The under mentioned Assets will be sold through auction on “**AS IS WHERE IS BASIS**” and “**AS IS WHAT IS BASIS**” for recovery of dues as per court orders, in the following cases:-

Case Details	Asset Details
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ICICI Bank Ltd. Vs. SOBHA RAM, C.S. NO 3168/19	Vehicle No- UP16ET0758, Make & Model - HYUNDAI XCENT, Manu. Year-2016

Auction Date: June 08, 2022 From 11:00 am to 2:00 pm.
Place of Auction: Mahakal Parking Yard, Khasra No. 527 Village Banthla Near Indane Gas Plant Jhoni Ghaziabad- UP- 201102
Contact Person- Rajeev Ranjan (8584874809)/ Jitendra Kumar (7304914763)

Terms of Sale
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Contact Person- Rajeev Ranjan (8584874809)/ Jitendra Kumar (7304914763)

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Case Details	Asset Details
ICICI Bank Ltd. Vs. Babar & Anr., CS (Comm) No. 1377-21	Vehicle No - UP14JT1939, Make & Model -ASHOK LEYLAND GURU 1010, Manu. Year- 2019

Auction Date : June 08, 2022 From 11:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.
Place of Auction: Mahakal Parking Yard, Khasra No. 527 Village Banthla Near Indane Gas Plant Jhoni Ghaziabad- UP- 201102
Contact Person- Rajeev Ranjan (8584874809)/ Jitendra Kumar (7304914763)

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RATHI BARS LIMITED
CIN No: L74899DL1993PLC054781
Regd. Office : A-24/7, Mohan Co-operative Industrial Estate, Mathura Road, New Delhi-110044
Ph: 011-42763073, 42730360
Web: www.rathisteels.com, E-mail : rathibars@hotmail.com

NOTICE
Notice is hereby given pursuant to Regulation 29 read with Regulation 47 of the SEBI (Listing Obligations and Disclosure Requirements) Regulations, 2015, that a meeting of the Board of Directors of the Company is schedule to be held on **Monday, the 30th Day of May, 2022, at 04.00 P.M.**, inter alia, to consider and approve the Audited Financial Results of the Company for the quarter and year ended 31st March, 2022. This notice is available on the Company's website at www.rathisteels.com and also on the website of the stock exchange where the shares of the Company are listed i.e. www.bseindia.com.

For Rathi Bars Limited
Sd/-
Satinder Singh
Company Secretary and Compliance officer

Place: New Delhi
Date: 24.05.2022

MODI RUBBER LIMITED
CIN: L25199UP1971PLC003392
Registered Office: Modinagar - 201204; Dist. Ghaziabad, (U.P.)
Corporate

Expectation of rate hike in next policy ‘no-brainer’: RBI

New Delhi: RBI Governor Shaktikanta Das on Monday hinted at another interest rate hike in early June to bring down stubbornly high inflation rate which has remained above the tolerance level for the past four months.

"Expectation of rate hike, it's a no-brainer. There will be some hike but how much I will not be able to tell now..." To say that 5.15 (per cent) may not be very accurate," Das said in an interview with CNBC-TV18.

The next meeting of the Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) is scheduled for June 6-8.

RBI, in its first rate move in two years and its first hike in nearly four years, raised the repo rate by 40 basis points to 4.40 per cent following an off-cycle meeting earlier this month.

In April RBI raised its inflation forecast for the current fiscal year to 5.7 per cent from earlier estimate of 4.5 per cent and lowered its GDP estimate to 7.2 per cent from 7.8 per cent for 2022-23, citing the impact of escalating geopolitical tensions triggered by the Russia-Ukraine war.

Das further said the RBI and government has entered into another phase of coordinated action to cool down inflation.



RBI has taken a number of steps to moderate inflation in the last 2-3 months, he said, adding that the government on other hand has taken measures, including wheat export ban and cut in excise duty on petrol and diesel. All these put together will have sobering impact on price rise, he added.

Retail inflation has been above RBI's upper tolerance level for the past four months.

The government has mandated MPC headed by the RBI Governor to keep the retail inflation between 2 to 6 per cent. As per the latest print, the Consumer Price Index (CPI)

inflation increased to 7.79 per cent against 6.95 per cent in the previous month and 4.21 per cent in April 2021.

"Interest rates in almost every country today are negative, except Russia and Brazil. The target for inflation for advanced economies is about 2 per cent. Except for Japan and one more country, all advanced economies have inflation of over 7 per cent," he said. "We will move towards positive real rates, but it is impossible to forecast how soon because of the evolving situation," said the governor.

PTI

India, Brazil agree to further strengthen ties in agri, allied sectors

New Delhi: India and Brazil have agreed to strengthen their cooperation in agriculture and allied farm sectors.

Animal Husbandry, Fisheries and Dairying Minister Parshotam Rupala met his Brazilian counterpart Marcos Cordeiro during a five-day visit that concluded on May 20.

"Rupala held very fruitful discussions with his Brazilian counterpart and both ministers agreed to further strengthen the mutually beneficial ties," an official statement said.

Rupala also held meetings with Presidents of the Brazilian Association of Zebu Breeders (ABCZ), Mayor of Uberaba, Brazilian Confederation of Agriculture and Livestock (CNA), and Brazilian Cooperatives Organization (OCB) and discussed ways to increase cooperation in the dairy sector through Research and development (R&D), genetic improvement, and trade and investment.

In January 2020, Brazil for the first time in its history had signed 15 memorandum of understandings (MoU) and agreements with India and decided to widen cooperation in various areas including animal husbandry and dairying,

oil and natural gas, bio-energy, ethanol, trade and investment, and many more.

A Joint Declaration of Technical Cooperation between the National Dairy Development Board (NDDB) and Brazilian Zebu Breeders Association (ABCZ) was also signed in 2020.

During the visit, Rupala also visited the Embrapa Cattle Dairy (Embrapa Gado de Leite) research center in Juiz de Fora and stressed on the early finalization and implementation of a work plan under the MoU signed in 2016.

Training of Indian professionals in Brazil in IVF technology and identification of Brazilian companies to take up IVF embryo production in India are the key activities being identified under the work plan.

PTI



Gold jumps ₹170; silver rallies ₹458

New Delhi: Gold jumped ₹170 to ₹50,926 per 10 gram in the national capital on Monday in line with firm global precious metal prices, according to HDFC Securities.

In the previous trade, the precious metal finished at ₹50,756 per 10 gram. Silver also rallied ₹458 to ₹61,792 per kg from ₹61,334 per kg in the previous trade.

In the international market, gold was trading higher at USD 1,857 per ounce and silver was flat at USD 21.99 per ounce.

"Gold prices traded higher with spot prices at COMEX trading 0.56 per cent up at USD 1,857 per ounce on Monday. Gold prices traded higher extending weekly gains supported by weaker dollar," said Tapan Patel, Senior Analyst (Commodities), HDFC Securities.

PTI

Steel products' prices should fall by 10% for primary producers: EEPC

Kolkata: In the wake of rising input costs, especially primary steel, the government's decision to remove import duty on raw materials for the metal production would lower costs for domestic steelmakers and reduce prices by around 10 per cent, an Engineering Export Promotion Council official said on Monday.

The move would help engineering goods manufacturers and exporters become more competitive in the global markets, EEPC India chairman Mahesh Desai said.

He also said, "imposition of export duty on iron ores and a host of steel intermediaries would increase the domestic availability of the key industry inputs".

The government levied an export duty of 15 per cent on almost all the major steel products, including stainless steel.

In order to reduce the overall cost of domestic production of steel products, the Centre slashed import duty on coking coal and anthracite from 2.5 per cent to zero.

Meanwhile, import duties



for coke or semi-coke and ferromanganese were lowered too, from 5 per cent to zero and 2.5 per cent to zero, respectively.

"Downstream exporters feel primary steel products prices will fall by 10 per cent for primary producers and 15 per cent for secondary steel producers," Desai said in his reaction.

He said that a reduction in fuel prices would ease logistics costs which have been hurting the sector.

"All the steps together would not only help the industry beat the surging input costs but also improve liquidity. We welcome the government decision and greatly appreciate the timely response," he said.

Rising inflation has emerged as a major headache for policymakers across the world, he said, adding that the persistently elevated price poses a serious "risk to demand and growth".

PTI

Maruti Suzuki to acquire AI firm Sociograph Solutions

New Delhi: Maruti Suzuki India (MSI) on Monday said it will acquire an equity stake of 12.09 per cent in Sociograph Solutions Pvt Ltd (SSPL) for about Rs 2 crore.

SSPL is an artificial intelligence (AI) software company that specialises in visual AI platform predominantly used to help enterprises improve sales experiences and improve efficiency in their business.

"The investment would help MSI strengthen its offering to customers by creating a customised sales experiences on the web, virtual reality and augmented reality," the auto major said in a regulatory filing.

PTI



Crude oil futures gain on spot demand



New Delhi: Crude oil prices on Monday rose by ₹43 to ₹8,661 per barrel as participants widened positions on a firm spot demand.

On the Multi Commodity Exchange, crude oil for June delivery traded higher by ₹43 or 0.5 per cent at ₹8,661 per barrel in 7,787 lots.

Analysts said the raising of bets by participants kept crude oil prices higher in futures trade.

Globally, West Texas Intermediate crude oil was down by 0.92 per cent at USD 111.30 per barrel, while Brent crude traded 1.09 per cent lower at USD 113.78 per barrel in New York.

PTI

Sintex Industries Q4 net loss at ₹119 cr

New Delhi: Textiles maker Sintex Industries Ltd on Monday reported narrowing of consolidated net loss to ₹119.30 crore for fourth quarter ended March 2022.

The company had incurred a net loss of ₹144.05 crore during January-March period a year ago, Sintex Industries said in a regulatory filing.

Revenue from operations

was up at ₹1,028.49 crore during the quarter under review as against ₹721.62 crore in the corresponding period of previous fiscal year.

Total expenses were at ₹1,189.41 crore as against ₹894.06 crore. For the fiscal year ended March 2022, it reported a net profit of ₹573.82 crore as compared to ₹1,306.41 crore profit in 2020-21.

PTI

BUSINESS BRIEFS

RAIN GAMES LAUNCHES GAME MAGIC T23

New Delhi: India's first hack-proof real money gaming start-up for professional gamers, Rein Games, today unveiled Magic T23, India's first innovative, real money card game. A new genre of card game, it involves tactical decision making & quick thinking and is ideal for even a family to play together. Magic T23 is also India's most transparent game with features like replay, fair play, instant withdrawal & fastest KYC.

EXCON-22: PRODUCTS EXCLUSIVELY DESIGNED FOR INDIA

New Delhi: Sany, one of the leading manufacturers and suppliers of construction machinery, is all set to unveil at mega trade fair EXCON its state-of-the-art products exclusively designed for the application in India, while keeping Indian customer requirements in mind. We were eagerly waiting for this event to unfold since last two years, said Deepak Garg, MD of Sany South Asia. He added Sany has worked with different engine manufacturers on biodiesel.

Rupee recovers from record lows to end 15 paise higher at 77.55/USD

Mumbai: Rupee recovered from record lows and settled 15 paise higher at 77.55 (provisional) against the US dollar on Monday, supported by a weak greenback overseas.

At the interbank forex market, the domestic unit opened at 77.69 against the US dollar. It moved in a range of 77.51 to 77.69 during the session.

The rupee finally snapped its three-session losing streak and closed at 77.55, registering a rise of 15 paise over its previous close.

On Friday, the rupee had settled at a record low of 77.70 against the American currency. According Gaurang Somaiya, Forex & Bullion



Analyst, Motilal Oswal Financial Services, rupee continued to consolidate and volatility remained confined to a narrow range despite chopiness in domestic equities.

"Today volatility for the dollar could remain low as no major economic data is expected to be released from the US.

We expect the USD-INR (Spot) to trade sideways and quote in the range of 77.20 and 77.80," Somaiya added.

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

The dollar index, which gauges the greenback's strength against a basket of six currencies, was trading 1 per cent lower at 102.12.

On the domestic equity market front, the 30-share BSE Sensex ended 37.78 points or 0.07 per cent lower at 54,288.61, while the broader NSE Nifty fell 51.45 points or 0.32 per cent to 16,214.70.

PTI

Non-payment of TDS not a ground for initiation of insolvency process: NCLAT

New Delhi: The National Company Law Appellate Tribunal (NCLAT) has held that dues on account of non-payment of TDS can not be a ground to initiate insolvency proceedings against any company. Setting aside an order of the Kolkata bench of NCLT, the appellate tribunal said "the process of Insolvency & Bankruptcy Code (IBC) cannot be utilised" for recovery of TDS dues by an operational creditor of the company.

"The consequences of non-payment of TDS are provided under Income Tax Act, 1961, and income tax authorities have ample powers to take appropriate action," said the NCLAT bench headed by Chairperson Justice Ashok Bhushan.

The bench said the National Company Law Tribunal (NCLT) has committed a "serious error" while directing to initiate insolvency proceedings over a section 9 application filed by an operational creditor under the IBC after admitting that non-payment of the TDS (Tax Deducted at Source) amounts as default.

"We are of the view that it is not for us to consider whether TDS amount has been paid or not... We, thus, are of the view that the Adjudicating Authority (NCLT) has committed a serious error in admitting the Section 9 Application on the ground of non-payment of two TDS amounts," the NCLAT said.

PTI

Prolonged high temperatures could worsen inflation, hurt growth: Moody's

New Delhi: Prolonged high temperatures are credit negative for India, as that could exacerbate inflation and hurt growth, Moody's Investors Service said on Monday.

Over the longer term, India's highly negative credit exposure to physical climate risks means its economic growth will likely become more volatile as it faces increasing, and more extreme incidences of climate-related shocks, it noted. The rating agency said although heat waves are fairly common in India, they usually occur in May and June.

However, this year New Delhi witnessed the fifth heatwave in May with the maximum temperature touching 49 degrees Celsius.

"The prolonged high temperatures, which are affecting much of the northwest of the country, will curb wheat production and could lead to extended power outages, exacerbating already high inflation and hurting growth, a credit negative," Moody's said.

The Indian government has revised down its estimates for wheat production by 5.4 per cent to 105 million tonnes for

the crop year ending June 2022, given lower yields amid higher temperatures.

"The lower production, and fears that a surge in exports to capitalise on high global wheat prices would add to inflationary pressures domestically, has prompted the government to ban the export of wheat and to divert it toward local consumption instead.

"Although the move will partially offset inflationary pressures, it will hurt exports and subsequently growth. The ban comes at a time when India – the world's second-largest

wheat producer – could have been capitalising on the global output gap from wheat following the Russia-Ukraine military conflict," Moody's said.

Global wheat prices have jumped 47 per cent since the conflict began in late February.

The agency said India's export partners will likely face a further surge in wheat prices because of the ban. They include Bangladesh, which absorbed 56.8 per cent of India's wheat exports in fiscal 2021, Sri Lanka (8.3 per cent), UAE (6.5 per cent) and Indonesia (5.4 per cent).

PTI

P-Notes investment rises to ₹90,580 cr in April

New Delhi: Investments in the Indian capital markets through participatory notes (P-notes) increased slightly to Rs 90,580 crore at the end of April, as foreign investors are shifting allocation from China to India amid a significant economic slowdown in the most populated country.

P-notes are issued by registered Foreign Portfolio Investors (FPIs) to overseas investors who wish to be a part of the Indian stock market without registering themselves directly. They, however, need to go through a due diligence process.

According to Securities

and Exchange Board of India (Sebi) data, the value of P-note investments in Indian markets -- equity, debt, and hybrid securities -- stood at Rs 90,580 crore at April-end, compared to Rs 87,979 crore in March.

In February, the investment reached Rs 89,143 crore against Rs 87,989 crore in January.

Sonam Srivastava, the founder of Sebi-registered investment advisor Wright Research, said the investment via P-notes rose last month from March, as FPI were net sellers in Indian markets in April with a negative flow in both equity and debt segments.

"The rationale for this slight increase could be that foreign institutional investors are shifting allocation from China to India given the significant economic slowdown in China, or that the IPOs which came out in April pulled in foreign investors. So, there is a tiny up move from March numbers but seeing strategic foreign hedge funds take positions in India is exciting," she added.

Manoj Trivedi, co-founder, Jama Wealth, Sebi-registered investment advisor, said these are legitimate instruments. They can be potentially used for money laundering purposes. When Indian markets are

buoyant, there has been an effort to bring P-Notes within regulatory jurisdiction, but controls have been lifted when capital inflows have been plummeting.

"Given that FPIs have been net sellers in the market for some time, there seems to be an uptick in investments through P-notes.

It probably points to overseas investors continue to look at India as an attractive investment destination, but just want to ensure that they do not get stuck with regulatory compliance in case there is a need to make a quick exit," Srivastava said.

PTI



the pioneer

INDIAN

PREMIER LEAGUE 2022

11

The first half (of the tournament) I was playing some of the best cricket I've ever played, and I'm still taking lots of confidence from that going into the play-offs

— JOS BUTTLER

GT take on Royals for place in final

PTI ■ KOLKATA

Equipped with a lethal bowling attack and boasting a number of quality finishers, debutants Gujarat Titans will start as favourites against spin-heavy former champions Rajasthan Royals when the two teams face-off in the first IPL Qualifier, here on Tuesday.

Captaining a team in the IPL for the first time ever, a fit-again Hardik Pandya has been a revelation this season as he led from the front with both bat and ball to ensure a top finish for his team in the league stage.

Apart from firing at number 4, Pandya has used his resources well, be it the death bowling of wily Rashid Khan or making his batting exploits count to go alongside the fiery duo of David Miller and Rahul Tewatia. Every little thing has fallen in place.

Their weak link was their top-order batting with highly-rated Shubman Gill failing to convert his starts but the addition of veteran Wriddhiman Saha has done wonders for the team.

The discarded India wicket-keeper-batter is batting with a new-found passion at the top of the order and has scored three half-centuries in nine matches to make up for Gill's lacklustre run.

While the Afghan leg-spinner has been outstanding in the middle and death overs, India senior pacer Mohammed Shami has given them perfect starts, by being the highest wicket-taker (11 wickets) in the powerplay this season.

Saha, who has been making headlines since he was axed for Team India, will look to make a point as he along with Bengal teammate Shami play in front of their home crowd again.

The fact that the playoffs will be



Titans vs Royals
Live from 7:30pm IST
STAR SPORTS 1 NETWORK

played on fresh tracks would put the seamers in focus and Pandya may look to bring in Alzarri Joseph to go alongside Lockie Ferguson and Shami.

The Titans had defeated the same opponents by 37 runs in the league stage but the inaugural edition champions have a spin-heavy attack to go with rich experience and they might prove to a tricky customer.

The Titans also have looked vulnerable as they suffered three defeats in last five matches, including an eight-wicket thrashing by Royal Challengers Bangalore in their previous outing, which would mean that the Pandya-led side has to step up.

Three of Titan's four defeats, and four of Royals' five losses have come while setting up a target as the toss would also be a key area of concern.

The Sanju Samson-led outfit boast of both the Orange and Purple Cap holders this season -- Jos Buttler and Yuzvendra Chahal.

They also have the experience of Ravichandran Ashwin whose versatility has come to the fore especially in the second-half of the season. Ashwin's batting has also made a huge difference.

Batting at number 5 ahead of their regular batters Shimron Hetmyer and Riyan Parag against Chennai Super Kings the other day, Ashwin smashed an unbeaten 23-ball 40 to script a five-wicket win that also sealed their top-two finish.

But for them to repeat their 2008-IPL winning show, the Royals would not just need an Ashwin but the top-order to fire.

IPL Playoffs: Super Over could determine winner in case of disruptions

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

A Super Over could decide IPL 15's champions should rain gods play spoilsport and no play is possible in regulation time.

If not even an over a side is possible, the league standing will take precedence and will decide the winner, according to an IPL briefing note.

This will also apply to the Qualifier 1, Eliminator, Qualifier 2, which do not have reserve days.

May 30 has been kept aside as a reserve day for the summit clash, which will begin at 8pm.

With the IPL moving to Kolkata for the playoffs and inclement weather forecast for the city, the IPL has issued certain guidelines in case of rain-interrupted games.

While Gujarat Titans take on Rajasthan Royals in Qualifier 1 on Tuesday, Lucknow Super Giants will play Royal Challengers Bangalore at the same venue the next day in the Eliminator.

The second Qualifier and the final are slated to be played in Ahmedabad on Friday and Sunday respectively.

"The number of overs in the playoff match may, if necessary, be

reduced so that each side has the opportunity to bat for five overs," the IPL guidelines read.

"For the Eliminator and each Qualifier playoff matches, in the event that it is not possible to schedule a five-over match to complete by the end of the extra time on the original day, the teams will, if conditions permit, play a Super Over to determine the winner of the relevant Eliminator or Qualifier match."

If the Super Over is not possible "the team that finished highest in the league table after the 70 matches of the regular season shall be declared the winner of the relevant playoff match or final," it added.

In case of the two Qualifiers and the Eliminator, if one innings is complete but no

Play is possible in the second, the DLS method will come into play.

If the final starts on May 29 that is at least one ball is bowled then the "match will resume at the point where it stopped on the previous day. For the avoidance of doubt, any match recalculations done without the match actually restarting on the previous night will be ignored."

Their leading run-getter Buttler has slowed down in the business end of the season with single digit scores — 2, 2, 7 — in his last-three outings. The Englishman, who has slammed three centuries and three fifties this season, is yet to score a half-century in five innings and the Royals would desperately need him

to be back among runs.

Their batting too has slumped with Samson and Hetmyer's loss of form and they would look to get into the act ahead of the big match.

The fact that the loser of the Qualifier One will get a second shot at making the final will give both the teams some breathing space.

Disappointed with last few games: Jos Buttler

PTI ■ KOLKATA

Star Rajasthan Royals batter Jos Buttler is "disappointed" with his form in the last few games but said he is taking a lot of confidence from the big knocks that he had played early in the tournament going into the IPL play-offs.

The English wicketkeeper-batter has accumulated 629 runs at a strike rate of 147, including three hundreds and three fifties, this season but has slowed down in the business end of the tournament with single digit scores — 2, 2, 7 -- in his last-three outings.

"I've obviously been delighted with my form in the IPL, but a bit disappointed with the last few games," said the 31-year-old Buttler ahead of RR's first qualifier against Gujarat Titans at the Edens Gardens on Tuesday.

"The first half (of the tournament) I was playing some of the best cricket I've ever played, and I'm still taking lots of confidence from that going into the play-offs."

RR finished second in the points table behind new entrants Gujarat Titans.

Retiring out is risky but can give competitive advantage: Ashwin

Experienced spinner Ravichandran Ashwin, who has impressed both with ball and bat this season, feels certain decisions like retiring out can provide a competitive edge to the teams if done properly.

"It's important to understand how it (a decision) is going to give us an edge in important moments. I think (retiring out) is part of the future of the game in T20 cricket, and I believe it's there to stay," said Ashwin, RR's most economical bowler this season.

"People are going to perceive it as risky because once you retire a batter out and things don't go your way you might have to explain that. But if it's executed well, then it can give you a competitive advantage." Ashwin has scored 183 runs and picked up 11 wickets at an economy of 7.14 this season.

WARNE HAS BEEN WATCHING ME FROM ABOVE: CHAHAL

Yuzvendra Chahal credited his success to the closely knit group and said playing for RR

I kept learning as a batter & captain: Sanju Samson

PTI ■ KOLKATA

Leading the franchise for a second full season, skipper Sanju Samson said he has never stopped learning and communication has been one of the key components of his captaincy. "I think I've actually developed and I kept on learning as a batter and also as a captain. I'm really enjoying the responsibility of leading this team, especially with so many experienced players in our side."

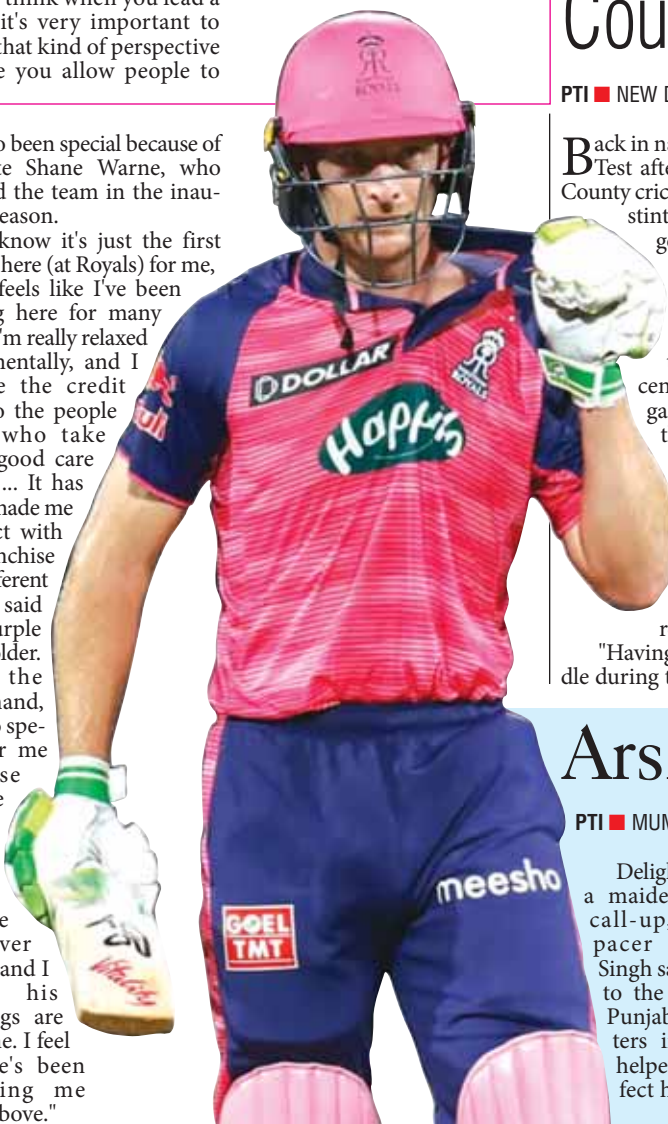
"I think when you lead a side, it's very important to have that kind of perspective where you allow people to

come and talk to you in pressure situations and allow them to express their ideas," said Samson.

"I do receive a lot of information, a lot of suggestions... So, I'm really enjoying the unity and the willingness of everyone to contribute to the team, and I think it's very important to listen to everyone. But I also know that the final call has to be from my side, and I have to take the ownership of each and every decision made by the team."

has also been special because of the late Shane Warne, who had led the team in the inaugural season.

"I know it's just the first season here (at Royals) for me, but it feels like I've been playing here for many years. I'm really relaxed here mentally, and I believe the credit goes to the people here, who take really good care of me ... It has really made me connect with the franchise at a different level," said the Purple Cap holder. "On the other hand, it's also special for me because Warne's ir played for RR and was the first-ever Royal, and I think his blessings are with me. I feel like he's been watching me from above."



VASTRAKAR SHINES IN SUPERNOVAS 49-RUN WIN

PTI ■ PUNE

Pooja Vastrakar picked up four wickets for just 12 runs in a brilliant pace-bowling display as Supernovas notched up an easy 49-run win over Trailblazers in a record-breaking opening match of the Women's T20 Challenge here on Monday.

The 22-year-old Vastrakar claimed the wickets of Trailblazers' captain Smriti Mandhana (34), her opening partner Hayley Matthews (18), No 4 Sophia Dunkley (1) and Salma Khatun (0) in two separate spells to tear apart the batting line-up of the defending champions.

England left-arm spinner Sophie Ecclestone and Australia all-rounder Alana King chipped in with two wickets apiece as Trailblazers could only score 114 for 9 in 20 overs while chasing 164.

The Supernovas had earlier scored the tournament's highest-ever score of 163 all out after opting to bat.

Trailblazers made a strong start to their chase with Mandhana and Matthews putting on 39 runs for the opening wicket in five overs.

But Vastrakar struck triple blows on



Trailblazers to leave the defending champions in deep trouble.

She first had the wicket of Matthews off the last ball of the fifth over and then dismissed skipper Mandhana and Dunkley in the space of four balls in the eighth over.

Wickets kept on tumbling in quick succession as Sharmin Akhter (0) was out in the next over for a duck to be King's first victim of the day.

Runs were hard to come by for Trailblazers as they reached 71 for 4 at the halfway mark. But two quick wickets in

the 11th over bowled by Ecclestone virtually ended the contest.

Ecclestone had Richa Gosh (2) off the second ball of the over and Arundhati Reddy (0) was run out in the next delivery as Trailblazers batters looked in a hurry to return to the hut.

Harmanpreet Kaur brought Vastrakar for her second spell and the pacewoman got immediate success by having Khatun to reduce Trailblazers to 73 for 7 at the end of 12 overs.

Asking rate had climbed more than 11 runs an over by then and one-down Jemimah Rodrigues (24) tried to make a match out of it but she also fell in the 14th over to Meghna Singh to extinguish any hopes of Trailblazers' fight back.

Earlier, Supernovas captain Kaur top-scored with 37 off 29 balls while Harleen Deol and Deandra Dottin chipped in with 35 and 32 respectively.

They, however, lost five wickets in the last two overs for just eight runs, including that of Kaur, in a dramatic collapse.

Matthews was the pick of the Trailblazers bowlers with figures of 3 for 29 while Salma Khatun took two for 30 runs.

County stint will keep me in good stead: Pujara

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Back in national team for the Edgbaston Test after scoring a bagful of runs in County cricket, Cheteshwar Pujara said his stint for Surrey will hold him in good stead when India takes on England in the one-off red ball fixture in July.

The 34-year-old Pujara scored 720 runs, including two double hundreds and two centuries, in five Division two games for Sussex, which forced the selection committee to give him a call-up for the rescheduled 'fifth' Test of the last series.

"I am glad to have been selected for the England Test, and happy that my recent county performances were recognized," Pujara told PTI.

"Having spent some time in the middle during the county games, I do believe



it will keep me in good stead as we get ready for the game against England.

"As always, looking forward to preparing and training well ahead of the tour, and do hope to continue contributing to the Indian team," he added.

The fifth Test, which was postponed last year due to a COVID-19 outbreak in the Indian camp, is scheduled from July 1 to 5 in Birmingham.

Going through a poor run of form, Pujara had been left out of India's home Test series against Sri Lanka earlier this year but he made a return to the squad after producing a scintillating performance for Surrey.

Pujara amassed an unbeaten 201 against Derbyshire, before scoring 109 against Worcestershire. He also smashed 203 and 170 not out against Durham and Middlesex. Playing for Saurashtra in the Ranji Trophy, Pujara had also hit 91 against Mumbai and 64 not out against Goa. Pujara has scored 6713 runs at 43.87 in 95 Tests for India.

Arshdeep delighted to represent India

PTI ■ MUMBAI

Delighted to earn a maiden national call-up, left-arm pacer Arshdeep Singh said bowling to the big-hitting Punjab Kings batters in the nets helped him perfect his yorkers.

The 23-year-old, who has impressed one and all with his death over bowling this season, ended his IPL campaign with 10 wickets and an economy rate of 7.70.

His ability to bowl the change-ups along with wide yorkers and deliveries in the block-hole earned him a place in the squad for the home series against South Africa next month.



Arshdeep got to know the good news on his way to Punjab's last league stage match against Sunrisers Hyderabad on Sunday.

"I got to know just before the match, in the bus that I have got selected in the Indian team. Because the match was going on I didn't feel much," Arshdeep told teammate Harpreet Brar after Punjab Kings' five-wicket win over Sunrisers Hyderabad.



Usman dropped for WI ODIs

AP ■ ISLAMABAD

Pakistan has dropped leg-spinner Usman Qadir and hard-hitting batters Asif Ali and Haider Ali for next month's limited-overs international series against the West Indies.

"Usman, Asif and Haider remain in our plans for the shortest format as we have a series of T20s lined up this year, including the T20 World Cup," chief selector Mohammad Wasim said in a statement on Monday.

Wasim said the return of vice-captain Shadab Khan and Mohammad Nawaz from injuries resulted in Usman's absence for the ODI series. Both players missed Pakistan's last ODI series at home against Australia.

Rawalpindi will host the three one-day games, which are part of the Cricket World Cup League, on June 8, 10 and 12.

OSAKA OUT AT FRENCH OPEN

AP ■ PARIS

Former world number one Naomi Osaka lost in the first round of the French Open on Monday, 12 months after controversially quitting the tournament, while women's title favourite Iga Swiatek stretched her winning streak to 29 matches.

Osaka, a four-time Grand Slam champion, was knocked out 7-5, 6-4 by American 27th seed Amanda Anisimova -- the same player who ended the Japanese star's title defence at the Australian Open this year.

An error-plagued Osaka served up eight double faults and committed 29 unforced errors on her return to Roland Garros, after withdrawing in 2021 when she refused to honour mandatory media commitments before revealing she had been suffering from depression.

"It's tough to see Naomi Osaka in the first round so I knew it wouldn't be easy," said Anisimova, who reached the semi-finals in Paris three years ago.

"I knew I had to play my best tennis and the conditions were not easy."

As rain fell on the outside courts, Swiatek required just 54 minutes to dispatch Ukrainian qualifier Lesia Tsurenko 6-2, 6-0 under the roof on Court Philippe Chatrier.

The 20-year-old Swiatek, who took over as world number one following Ashleigh Barty's shock retirement, has won her last five tournaments and is bidding for a second French Open in three attempts.

"Today was a pretty good match," said Swiatek. "I love playing here even though the last couple of days it's been raining and pretty dark."

The 2020 champion will play Ukraine's Dayana Yastremska or American Alison Riske for a spot in the last 32.



Swiatek is unbeaten since February and has the longest winning streak on the WTA tour since Serena Williams won 34 matches in a row in 2013.

"I'm pretty sure that it can end, but I just want to keep going. I'm sure someday my streak will stop."

"I'm just focusing on tennis and playing my game, not on stats or some numbers."

DJOKOVIC, NADAL READY TO ROLL

Defending champion Novak Djokovic and 13-time French Open winner Rafael Nadal start their Roland Garros campaigns

later on a star-studded Monday.

Djokovic plays Yoshihito Nishioka of Japan in the first of 10 night sessions -- introduced at Roland Garros last year when a pandemic curfew saw most late matches played in front of empty stands.

It is the world number one's first Grand Slam match since his high-profile deportation from Australia. He won his first title of the year at the Italian Open earlier this month.

"I feel I am always in that contention to fight for any Grand Slam trophy," said Djokovic, who is seeded to meet Nadal in the quarter-finals and Spanish teenage sen-

sation Carlos Alcaraz in the last four.

Djokovic's last match at a major was his loss to Daniil Medvedev in last year's US Open final, a defeat which denied the Serb a calendar Grand Slam.

Nadal has yet to win a title on his beloved clay this season, but played down concerns over the chronic foot issue that resurfaced in Rome.

"There is nothing to recover," said Nadal, who faces Australia's Jordan Thompson. "What happened in Rome is something that happened very often in my practices." "I was suffering after that for a couple of days, but I feel better. That's why

I'm here." Nadal began the year with a 20-match winning run, capturing a second Australian Open title to claim a record 21st Grand Slam and move ahead of Djokovic and Roger Federer.

The 35-year-old's record at the French Open stands at a staggering 105 wins and just three losses since his 2005 title-winning debut. Djokovic has been responsible for two of those defeats. One came in the bruising semi-final 12 months ago, the most recent clash of the pair's epic 58-match rivalry.

Reigning women's champion Barbora Krejckova will play France's Diane Parry

Naomi may skip Wimbledon over ranking points row

AP ■ PARIS

Former world number one Naomi Osaka on Monday said she may skip Wimbledon over the decision to strip the Grand Slam tournament of ranking points.

"I would say the decision is kind of affecting my mentality going into grass, like I'm not 100% sure if I'm going to go there," said Osaka after her 7-5, 6-4 loss to Amanda Anisimova in the French Open first round.

"I would love to go just to get some experience on the grass court, but at the same time, I don't want to say pointless, but I'm the type of player that gets motivated by seeing my ranking go up."

"I'm the type of player who gets motivated by the idea of rising in the rankings," said the four-time major winner.

"So the intention of this measure was good, but the execution is all over the place."

The ATP and WTA tours last week removed ranking points from Wimbledon after the All England Club banned Russian and Belarusian players in response to the invasion of Ukraine.

Wimbledon chiefs branded the move by the two tours, which threatens to reduce the sport's most prestigious tennis tournament to the status of an exhibition event, as "disproportionate".

On Monday, former US Open champion Sloane Stephens said she supported the move to strip points from Wimbledon.

"I think the decision that was taken was the correct one," said the American.

"I think that there is a lot of things that happened behind the scenes that the press are not aware of, and I think there has been a lot of mishandling of how everything was handled."

in round one. The Czech world number two has been sidelined by an arm injury since late February and is yet to play on clay this year.

Liverpool confirm signing of Fabio Carvalho

AP ■ LIVERPOOL

Liverpool have finally completed the signing of Fulham forward Fabio Carvalho after failing in a bid to bring the 19-year-old to Anfield in January, the Premier League runners-up announced on Monday.

The Portuguese teenager, who is understood to have signed a five-year contract, will officially join the Anfield club on July 1.

Carvalho, out of contract at the end of June, was set for a move four months ago on deadline day when a £5-million deal was agreed with the Championship winners but the transfer window closed without a medical and formal paperwork being concluded.

Liverpool have reportedly agreed to pay extra in add-ons and attach a 20% sell-on clause.

Carvalho played a key role in Fulham's promotion back to

the Premier League, scoring 10 goals and providing eight assists in 36 games as Marco Silva's side won the Championship title.

He made his debut for Portugal's U21s in March, having previously represented England at youth level.

Carvalho's arrival will add another fresh face to Liverpool's dynamic forward line, already boosted by the arrival of Luis Diaz in January.



India concede late goal to draw-1-1 with Pak



PTI ■ JAKARTA

Defending champions India conceded a late goal to allow arch-rivals Pakistan walk away with a 1-1 draw in their opening Pool A match of the Asia Cup men's hockey tournament, here on Monday.

India took the lead in the ninth minute through Karthi Selvam before Abdul Rana broke their neighbours' heart by equalising in the 59th from a penalty corner. India will next play

Japan on Tuesday. Pakistan had the first scoring chance in the third minute in the form of a penalty corner, but they failed to stop the ball properly as India survived.

Seconds later, it was India's turn to secure a penalty corner but Neelam Sanjiv Xess' effort was saved by the Pakistan goalie Akmal Hussain.

The Indians continued to put pressure on the Pakistan defence and secured two more penalty corners in the first quarter, the second of which was con-

verted by Karthi, who scored his first international goal after his flick went inside the Pakistan citadel after getting a deflection off the stick of defender Muhammad Abdullah.

In between Pakistan also got another penalty corner but the effort went wide.

Soon after the start of the second quarter, Pakistan goalkeeper Hussain made a fine reflex save to deny Pawan Rajbhar from point blank range.

Pakistan made a bright start after the change of ends and threatened the Indian defence early on. Second into their third quarter, Pakistan secured their third penalty corner but Rizwan Ali shot his flick wide.

A lapse in concentration cost India dearly as a long ball caught, an otherwise alert Indian defence, off guard in the final two minutes, resulting in a penalty corner for Pakistan.

Rana pushed in from a rebound after Mubashar Ali's flick was saved at the goal line by Yashdeep Siwach.

Ten Hag aims to smash Liverpool-City duopoly



AP ■ MANCHESTER

Manchester United's new manager Erik ten Hag believes it is possible to end the dominance of Manchester City and Liverpool despite taking over a struggling side that finished a lowly sixth in the Premier League.

United ended up 35 points behind champions City, who pipped Liverpool to the title by a point, as the Red Devils registered their lowest-ever Premier League points tally.

City boss Pep Guardiola has now claimed four titles in five years, while Liverpool manager Jurgen Klopp can complete a treble of cup trophies this season should the Reds see off Real Madrid in Saturday's Champions League final.

Guardiola and Klopp -- the managers of United's two biggest rivals -- have consistently battled it out for the major trophies, leaving the Red Devils, without silverware since 2017, as bystanders.

However, the Dutchman challenged the suggestion it would take the departure of one or both of Guardiola and Klopp for United to be able to compete again.

"In this moment I admire them both," Ten Hag said as he was unveiled at Old Trafford on Monday. "They play in this moment really fantastic football, both Liverpool and Manchester City. But you always see that an era can come to an end. I am looking forward to battle with them."

The former Ajax boss, 52, is United's fifth permanent manager since the club last won a league title in Alex Ferguson's farewell season in 2013.

Ten Hag also had a spell as Bayern Munich's reserve team manager earlier in his career and said he was used to the demands of working at a big club. "This is a project, it takes time," he said. "I know in this club -- I have the experience of Ajax and Bayern -- in the top (clubs) there is never time."

Emery's Villarreal beat listless Barca



AP ■ BARCELONA

Barcelona finished 13 points behind La Liga champions Real Madrid after ending their turbulent season with a whimper on Sunday by losing 2-0 at home to Villarreal.

Atletico Madrid secured third place by winning 2-1 away at Real Sociedad, retaining their one-point lead over Sevilla, who won 1-0 at home to Athletic Bilbao.

Athletic's defeat, combined with Villarreal's excellent victory at Camp Nou, means Villarreal beat Athletic into seventh and qualify for the Europa Conference League.

Villarreal's season was lit up by their sensational run to the semi-finals of the Champions

League but Unai Emery's team have suffered from inconsistency against the lower sides in La Liga and will be demoted to Europe's third-tier competition next term.

Athletic finish eighth while Real Sociedad held onto sixth and Europa League qualification, despite their loss at home to Atletico Madrid.

Barca already had second place and a spot in the top four wrapped up but Xavi Hernandez will be concerned heading into the summer about how his team has faded.

Defeat by Villarreal means Barcelona lost four of their last nine games in all competitions while Real Madrid won La Liga at a canter. After being appointed in November, with the team

Ansu Fati in Spain's Nations League squad

AP ■ MADRID

Teenager Ansu Fati was called up to Spain's national team again on Monday after a long injury layoff.

Spain coach Luis Enrique included the 19-year-old Barcelona forward in the list of 25 players selected for the four Nations League matches La Roja will play in June.

Fati hasn't played with Spain since a Nations League game against Ukraine in October 2020. He was marred by knee and muscle injuries and only recently returned to the Barcelona squad. He scored

one goal in five Spanish league appearances in May, all coming off the bench.

Also back in the national team was Real Madrid forward Marco Asensio, who last played with Spain in the team's 6-0 rout of Germany in the Nations League in November 2020.

Another teenager included again in the squad was 17-year-old Barcelona midfielder Gavi Paez. Liverpool midfielder Thiago Alcantara returned after not being in the squad since last year's Euro 2020, and Sergio Busquets was back after missing the last call-up because of an injury.

lying ninth, Xavi revived the team and achieved the most important objective of qualifying for the Champions League. But going out to Frankfurt in the Europa League semi-finals and Athletic Bilbao in the Copa del Rey was disappointing while the drop-off during the run-in suggests there is still a lot of work to do.

Villarreal's two goals came either side of half-time as Alfonso Pedraza scored in the 41st minute after latching onto

a Dani Parejo through-ball before Moi Gomez made it two in the 55th.

Atletico's victory over Real Sociedad came after Rodrigo de Paul and Angel Correa scored goals in the second half before Jon Guridi grabbed a consolation for the hosts late on.

Rafa Mir's smart finish inside the post in the 68th minute proved enough for Sevilla to overcome Athletic Bilbao at the Ramon Sanchez Pizjuan.



AP ■ MUNICH

Robert Lewandowski's agent Pini Zahavi has made it clear the Polish striker wants to leave Bayern Munich, amid reports Barcelona have made an offer.

"For Robert, things are very clear; he wants to leave FC Bayern this summer," Zahavi told German daily Bild.

Lewandowski has already said he wants to leave Bayern, where he has a year left on his contract, with Barcelona reportedly offering 32 million euros (\$34 million) to sign the 33-year-old.

Zahavi warned Bayern: "Of course they can keep Robert for another year, to be fair he has a contract until 2023, but I wouldn't recommend that to them."

'For Lewandowski, Bayern is history', says his agent

"For Robert Lewandowski, FC Bayern is history." A back-to-back winner of FIFA's best male player award, Lewandowski has won every title available since joining Bayern in 2014, including eight Bundesliga trophies for a total of 10 having won two with ex-club Dortmund.

He also won the Champions League with Bayern in 2020.

Lewandowski was top-scorer in the Bundesliga last season for the fifth year running after netting 35 goals in Germany's top flight.

Bayern CEO Oliver Khan and director of sports Hasan Salihamidzic have both publicly stated the club will not let Lewandowski leave before 2023.

On Sunday, Salihamidzic slammed Zahavi on a Sport1 talk show.

"He (Lewandowski) has an adviser who has been messing with his head all year," Salihamidzic fumed. Zahavi played a role in David Alaba leaving Bayern for Real Madrid on a free transfer, leading to former club president Uli Hoeness once describing the player agent as a "piranha".

NEUER EXTENDS HIS STAY

FC Bayern Munich on Monday announced that the club has extended Manuel Neuer's contract by a further year till June 30, 2024.

Germany No.1 moved to Munich from Schalke in 2011. The 36-year-old has been FCB captain since 2017. Neuer has won 10 Bundesliga titles, five DFB Cups, six DFL Supercups, two Champions Leagues, the FIFA Club World Cup and the UEFA Super Cup at FC Bayern.

He has made 472 competitive appearances for the club. The goalkeeper has 109 caps for Germany, which is a record in his position. He lifted the FIFA World Cup in Brazil in 2014, having come third in the tournament four years earlier.



Salman Butt gets Singapore job

AP ■ SINGAPORE

Former Pakistan Test captain Salman Butt, who was banned over a high-profile spot-fixing scandal, has been appointed to a coaching role with Singapore's national team, cricket officials said. The 37-year-old has been named consultant coach and will bring a "wealth of experience" to the side, the Singapore Cricket Association (SCA) said. His first challenge will be T20 World Cup qualifiers in Zimbabwe in July.

The left-handed batsman was part of the Pakistan team from 2003 to 2010, when a spot-fixing scandal erupted on their tour of England.

SCA chief executive Saad Khan Janjua said he hoped Butt's abilities and experience would inspire the Singapore players ahead of the qualifier.