

## OPINION 6

ALBANESE WILL FOSTER  
INDIA ENGAGEMENT

## WORLD 9

WAR RAGES IN EAST, 200  
BODIES FOUND IN MARIUPOL

## MONEY 10

'INDIAN FIRMS SHOW RESILIENCE  
DESPITE COVID DISRUPTION'

NEW DELHI, WEDNESDAY MAY 25, 2022; PAGES 12 ₹3

## the pioneer

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SPINAZZOLA  
BACK FOR  
FINALISSIMA  
12 SPORTQuad agenda aids peace  
in Indo-Pacific, says PMBloc opposes  
unilateral actions  
that seek to change  
status quo in regionPIONEER NEWS SERVICE/  
AGENCIES ■ NEW DELHI/TOKYO

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Tuesday said the Quad combine is following a constructive agenda for the Indo-Pacific and its image as a force "for the good" will be strengthened even more. Underlining this salient take-away from the Quad summit in Tokyo, he also said "in such a short time, the Quad has made an important place on the world stage. Today, the scope of Quad has become wider and the forum has become effective."

The Prime Minister made these assertions in the second in-person conclave in the presence of US President Joe Biden, Japan Prime Minister Fumio Kishida, and newly elected Australian Prime Minister Anthony Albanese.

Against the backdrop of China's aggressive posturing in the strategically important Indo-Pacific, the four leaders of the Quad strongly opposed any coercive, provocative, or unilateral actions that seek to change the status quo and increase tensions in the region.



Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Prime Minister of Japan Fumio Kishida, US President Joe Biden, Prime Minister of Australia Anthony Albanese and other dignitaries at the venue of the Quad Leaders' Summit in Tokyo on Tuesday

PTI

They also reaffirmed their resolve to uphold the international rules-based order.

In his address, Modi said the mutual trust and determination among the Quad member countries is giving new energy to democratic forces and the work of the grouping is encouraging a free, open, and inclusive Indo-Pacific.

China has all along criti-

cised this bloc and claims the Quad will lead to militarisation of the Indo-Pacific region.

"Quad is pursuing a constructive agenda for the Indo-Pacific region. With this, the image of Quad as a 'force for good' will be strengthened even more," Modi said.

The summit took place against the backdrop of the ongoing Ukraine conflict.

Though Biden and Kishida spoke strongly against the Russian military action, Modi refrained from touching upon the issue.

"In such a short time, the Quad has made an important place on the world stage. Today the scope of Quad has become wider and the form has become effective," Modi said.

Continued on Page 2

Biden vows to make India-US  
relations among world's closestUS President  
praises Modi for  
Covid handling  
democraticallyPIONEER NEWS SERVICE/  
AGENCIES ■ NEW DELHI/TOKYO

US President Joe Biden praised Prime Minister Narendra Modi's handling of the Covid crisis as India and US on Tuesday resolved to strengthen their robust ties and vowed to work together for a more prosperous, free, and secure world. President Biden said he is committed to making the US-India partnership "among the closest we have on earth," while Prime Minister Modi termed the relations as "a partnership of trust."

The two leaders held a bilateral meeting on the sidelines of the Quad summit and also committed to bilateral defence and economic engagements. Modi also held a bilateral meeting with Australian Prime Minister Anthony Albanese. Three former Japanese Prime Ministers --- Yoshihide Suga, Yoshiro Mori, and Shinzo Abe --- called on Modi.

Biden praised Modi for handling the Covid pandemic successfully in a democratic manner. He contrasted India's success with China's failure to handle the pandemic, though both countries are of comparable size, sources said. These



US President Joe Biden meets with Prime Minister Narendra Modi during the Quad leaders summit at Kantei Palace in Tokyo on Tuesday

AP | PTI

remarks by the US President were made during the closed-door Quad summit, they said.

Biden also told Modi that he is committed to making the US partnership with India "among the closest on earth," saying there is so much that the two countries can and will do together. After meeting with Biden, Modi tweeted, "Today's discussions were wide-ranging and covered multiple aspects of India-USA ties, including trade, investment, defence as well as people-to-people link-

ages." In his opening remarks at the meeting, the Prime Minister said the strategic relationship between India and the US is truly a "partnership of trust" and the friendship will continue to be a "force for good" for global peace and stability. Modi invited the US industries to partner with India to manufacture in the defence sector under the Make in India and self-reliant India programmes.

Following the talks between the two leaders in

Tokyo, the Ministry of External Affairs said both sides launched an India-US Initiative on Critical and Emerging Technologies (iCET) to facilitate outcome-oriented cooperation in artificial intelligence, quantum computing, 5G, and 6G, biotech, space, and semi-conductors. The new mechanism under the iCET will be co-led by India's National Security Council Secretariat and the US National Security Council.

Continued on Page 2

Punjab Minister sacked,  
held for 1% cut demandProud of you Bhagwant,  
your action has brought  
tears to my eyes, says  
Delhi CM Kejriwal

MONIKA MALIK ■ CHANDIGARH

Punjab Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann on Tuesday sacked Health and Family Welfare Minister Vijay Singla over graft charges. Soon after his dismissal from the Cabinet, Singla was arrested.

Mann said his Health and Family Welfare Minister was seeking "one per cent commission" in all departmental projects. On the other hand, Singla alleged a "conspiracy" to defame the Mann Government and the AAP.

Singla's arrest was ordered by Mann after he called the



File Photo

Minister to his residence before playing an audio recording of his alleged demand for 'shukrana' in his nephew's name. Punjab Police's Anti-Corruption Bureau arrested Singla, who was later produced before the Mohali court which remanded him in three-day police custody till May 27.

Late in the evening, Singla's OSD Pardeep Kumar, who was named in the FIR filed by superintending engineer Rajinder Singh working on deputation in Punjab Health System Corporation (PHSC), too was arrested in the matter.

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Azad, Anand, PC in Cong Task  
Force to take on BJP in 2024PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■  
NEW DELHI

Based on the resolution of "Udaipur Chintan Shivir", the Congress on Tuesday formed a political affairs group and a task force to formulate a strategy to take on the might of the BJP in 2024 Lok Sabha elections and in between crucial Assembly elections including that of Gujarat.

Prominent members of the G-23 group --- Ghulam Nabi Azad and Anand Sharma --- who sought organisational reforms in the party and also questioned the leadership of Sonia Gandhi and Rahul Gandhi have got roles in these crucial committees.

Congress president Sonia formed three groups --- on political affairs for guidance on key issues, Task Force-2024 to



AICC general secretary Priyanka Gandhi Vadra with senior Congress leader P Chidambaram during the first meeting of 'Task Force 2024' at AICC HQ in New Delhi

PTI

implement the Udaipur "Nav Sankalp" declaration and evolve the party's strategy for 2024 elections, and the third one to coordinate the October 2 "Bharat Jodo Yatra".

The Congress leaders from across the country held a three-

day brainstorming session at Udaipur called as Nav Sankalp Chintan Shivir mid-May to bring about structural changes in the organisation and pave the way for the young to take a Central role in the party.

Continued on Page 2

Court to hear Gyanvapi  
case tomorrow, invites  
objections to panel report

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

After reserving its order in the Gyanvapi mosque case on Monday, the Varanasi district court on Tuesday posted the matter for hearing on May 26. The court will hear the maintainability of the Shringar Gauri-Gyanvapi mosque lawsuit on May 26. It has invited objections from both Hindu and Muslim sides to the report submitted by a civil court-appointed commission within a week.

District judge Ajay Kumar Vishvesha had on Monday conducted a hearing on the "Order 7, Rule 11 CPC" application filed by the defendants, including the Anjuman Intezamia Masjid Committee, which looks after the management of Gyanvapi mosque. The committee has raised ques-

tions on the maintainability of the suit filed by five women (plaintiffs).

On Tuesday afternoon, Vishvesha heard both the sides --- plaintiff and defendants --- and posted the matter for hearing on May 26. The court also ordered for providing the copies of commission report, video and photographs captured during the survey.

During the hearing, the counsels of both the parties put forth their arguments. Heavy security arrangements were made on the court premises. Five women, including one Rakhi Singh of Delhi and four belonging to Varanasi, had filed a petition in the court of Civil Judge Ravi Kumar Diwakar seeking permission to worship at Shringar Gauri temple and for preservation of other idols located in Gyanvapi

## CAPSULE

RENAMING AP DIST: MOB  
TORCHES MIN'S HOUSE

**Amaravati:** Arson broke out in Amalapuram town in Andhra Pradesh on Tuesday when police resorted to lathi-charge at people who staged a protest against the proposed renaming of the newly-created Konaseema district as B R Ambedkar Konaseema district, with a number of police personnel left injured and the protestors opposed to the name change allegedly setting the houses of State Minister P Viswarupu and a ruling YSR Congress MLA P Satish on fire.

LASHKAR OPERATIVE HELD  
FOR TERROR FUNDING

**Mumbai:** Maharashtra's Anti Terrorism Squad (ATS) on Tuesday arrested a suspected Lashkar-e-Tayyeba (LeT) operative from Dapodi area of Pune. Identifying the arrest LeT suspect as Junaid Mohammed, the ATS officials that Junaid had been touch with a Kashmir-based terrorist outfit "Galvate Al Hind", owing allegiance to LeT, through social media. He was receiving funds from the terrorist outfit.

J&K cop martyred, daughter  
injured as terrorist opens fire

MOHIT KANDHARI ■ JAMMU

In another targeted strike on Jammu & Kashmir policeman, an "unidentified" terrorist on Tuesday killed a selection grade constable while he was passing through a lane near his home along with his minor daughter in Malik Saab area of Soura in Srinagar.

The seven-year-old child too received injuries in the attack and was rushed to a nearby hospital where her condition was stated to be stable.

According to reports, a lone terrorist fired at the policeman from a close range possibly using a pistol just as policeman Saifullah Qadri stepped out of his home. Bleeding profusely, he fell on the ground along with his daughter. Local residents in the area rushed him to the hospital where he succumbed to his injuries.

The police recovered empty cartridges from the site of terror attack. So far 15 security personnel and 14 civilians



Locals gather at the spot of a terrorist attack on police constable Saifullah Qadri at Soura area in Srinagar on Tuesday

PTI

have been killed in different incidents of targeted killings in Kashmir valley this year while security forces have eliminated around 80 terrorists belonging to different terrorist outfits.

Condemning the terror attack Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha said, "I assure the people that those behind this despicable attack will not go

unpunished.

I salute the martyr Policeman SgCt Saifullah Qadri. His service to the nation and supreme sacrifice will always be remembered."

Former Chief Minister and National Conference Vice President Omar Abdullah also condemned the attack on a policeman.

Decide on validity  
of pleas for mining  
probe against CM  
Soren: SC to HC

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Tuesday asked the Jharkhand High Court to first hear preliminary objections on the maintainability of a public interest litigation seeking probe against Chief Minister Hemant Soren for alleged irregularities in the grant of mining leases.

The vacation bench of justices DY Chandrachud and Bela M Trivedi noted that the High Court had itself in its order of May 13 said it would first decide the maintainability of the PIL filed by one Shiv Kumar Sharma and then it will go into the merit of the allegations levelled in the petition.

"We are of the considered view that the high court would first deal with the preliminary objections on the maintainability of the writ petition and based on the outcome it would then proceed further in accordance with law," said the apex court.

ASI opposes plea for restoration  
of Hindu, Jain deities at Qutub

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

The Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) on Tuesday opposed a plea for restoration of Hindu and Jain deities inside the Qutub Minar complex, saying it is not a place of worship and the existing status of the monument cannot be altered. The ASI submitted in the Saket Court here that it would be contrary to the law to agree to the contention of any person claiming a fundamental right to worship in this "centrally protected" monument.

The ASI, however, said the architectural materials and images of Hindu and Jain deities were re-used in the construction of the Qutab complex.

"Fundamental rights cannot be availed in violation of any status of the land. The basic principle of protection conservation is not to allow starting of any new practice in a monument declared and notified as a protected one under the Act," the ASI said.

The ASI said revival of worship was not allowed wherever it was not practiced at the time of protection of a monument. "Qutub Minar is not a place of worship and since the time of its protection by the Central Government, Qutub Minar or any part of Qutub Minar was not under worship by any community," it said.

The counsel for the ASI further said it was very clear from the Persian inscription at the Quwwat-ul-Islam mosque, that the cloisters were



erected with carved columns and other architectural members from 27 temples.

"Inscription is clear that the mosque was built with the remains of these temples. But nowhere it's mentioned that the materials were retrieved by demolishing temples. Also, it is not clear if they were retrieved from the site or brought from outside... Not demolished but remains of temples used for construction," the counsel said.

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# Arson in AP town over renaming of district

## Min's house torched

PTI ■ AMARAVATI

Arson broke out in Amalapuram town in Andhra Pradesh on Tuesday when police resorted to lathi-charge at people who staged a protest against the proposed renaming of the newly-created Konaseema district as B R Ambedkar Konaseema district, with a number of police personnel left injured and the protesters opposed to the name change allegedly setting the houses of state minister P Viswarupu and a ruling YSR Congress MLA P Satish on fire. While the ruling party blamed unnamed forces behind the arson, all opposition parties hit out at the Jagan Mohan Reddy government over its "gross failure" in con-

trolling the situation.

The opposition parties appealed to people to observe restraint and ensure peace returned to Konaseema.

State Home Minister Taneti Vanitha said some 20 police personnel were injured in stone pelting by the mob while the protestors torched a school bus.

Prohibitory orders under Section 144 CrPC were clamped in Amalapuram even as additional police forces were rushed in to bring the situation under control.

Eluru Range Deputy Inspector General of Police G Pala Raju, who rushed to Amalapuram, said they were observing restraint and trying to bring the situation under control. He said the injured police personnel were "not in danger."

Trouble started when the police allegedly prevented leaders of the Konaseema Sadhana

Samiti from going into the district Collector's office for submitting a memorandum against renaming the district and resorted to a lathi-charge. The Samiti was opposed to the proposed renaming of the newly-created Konaseema district as B R Ambedkar Konaseema district.

As police tried to chase the Samiti leaders and workers away, stone pelting ensued. As trouble broke out, shops in the town downed their shutters even as the protestors allegedly went berserk and first set a school bus on fire.

They later went to the house of Transport Minister Viswarupu and torched it. Sensing trouble, police had by then moved the family members of the ministers out to safety.

Later, the protestors targeted Mummidivaram MLA Ponnada Satish's residence and set it on fire.

# ED raids in Jharkhand, Bihar in case linked to arrested IAS officer Pooja Singhal

PTI ■ NEW DELHI/RANCHI

The Enforcement Directorate on Tuesday conducted raids at around seven locations in Jharkhand and Bihar in connection with its money laundering probe involving arrested IAS officer

Pooja Singhal and others.

The action is being carried out under criminal sections of the Prevention of Money Laundering Act, they said.

Singhal, 44, was arrested by the ED early this month in a money-laundering investigation linked to alleged embez-

zlement of MNREGA funds in Jharkhand's Khunti district and other financial irregularities. The 2000 batch Indian Administrative Service (IAS) officer was later suspended by the state government and she is currently in the custody of the federal probe agency.

कार्यालय नगर पालिका परिषद् पीथमपुर जिला धार ( म.प्र. )

क्रमांक/2851/न.पा./22 पीथमपुर दिनांक :- 23.05.2022

-:::- द्वितीय ई-निविदा आमंत्रण सूचना :::-

नगर पालिका पीथमपुर क्षेत्रान्तर्गत निम्नलिखित कार्य की निविदा सूचना ई-टेंडरिंग पद्धति से ई-प्रोक्योरमेंट पोर्टल ([www.mptenders.gov.in](http://www.mptenders.gov.in)) पर आमंत्रित है। निविदा का विवरण निम्नानुसार है :-

क्र.	पोर्टल क्र.	कार्य का नाम	अनु. लागत ( लाख )	अनैस्ट मनी	समयावधि	टेंडर फार्म शुल्क
1	2022_UAD_206153	वार्ड क्र. 02 कपिला चौराहा से एडभिनिम फेक्ट्री तक सी.सी. रोड एवं नाली निर्माण	155.54	77770/-	6 माह	12500/-

समय सारणी :-

01 निविदा प्रपत्र ऑनलाईन क्रय करने प्रारंभ दिनांक :- 24.05.2022 ( प्रातः 11:00 बजे से )


02 निविदा ऑनलाईन क्रय/बीड सबमिशन की अंतिम दिनांक :- 07.06.2022 ( शाम 5.30 बजे तक )

03 निविदा खोलने की दिनांक :- 09.06.2022 ( प्रातः 11.00 बजे )

( श्रीमती क्षमा सुभाष जायसवाल ) ( श्री हंसराज पटेल ) ( श्रीमती कविता संजय वैष्णव )

मुख्य नगर पालिका अधिकारी प्रभारी लो.निवि. उपाध्यक्ष अध्यक्ष

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GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA  
OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER,  
RWS&S DIVISION, RAIRANGPUR.  
Email: [eerwss\\_rai@nic.in](mailto:eerwss_rai@nic.in), [eerwss\\_rai@gmail.com](mailto:eerwss_rai@gmail.com)

Corrigendum Notice No. **1** to Bid Identification No. **03 of 2022 -23**  
Following modification have been made in Bid Identification No. **03 of 2022-23** due to some unavoidable reasons:  
1. The **Clause 4.6, 28.3 & 36.2 of the DTCN** for the work serial no. **1 to 03** which was earlier "Only those Bidders who meet the eligibility criteria as specified in Clause 3.1, test of responsiveness specified in Clause 4.1, evaluation criteria as per clause 4.4(A) and if their available bid capacity is more than the total bid value shall be shortlisted for financial opening", "Applicants who meet the minimum qualification criteria will be qualified only if their available bid capacity at the expected time of bidding is more than the total estimated cost of the works" & "In no case, the contract shall be awarded to any bidder whose available bid capacity is less than the evaluated bid price, even if the said bid is the lowest evaluated bid. The contract will in such cases be awarded to the next lowest bidder at his evaluated bid price" respectively are now modified as "Out of Number of projects in particular Notice Inviting Bid, a bidder can only participate for projects of value equals to or less than 3 times of its Bid Capacity. In case of participation in projects more than the above limits, the Authority reserves the right to cancel any bid which exceeds the prescribed limit as mentioned above before opening of the Financial Bid without any further clarification to the bidder." as per the instruction of Govt vide Letter No. 8675 /13.05.2022 of Special Secretary to Govt. PR & DW Department, Govt of Odisha.

Sd/-20.05.22  
Superintending Engineer,  
RWS&S Division, Rairangpur

OIPR-25010/11/0012/2223

Government of Madhya Pradesh  
Office of the Engineer-in-Chief  
Water Resources Department,  
Jal Sansadhan Bhawan, Tulsī Nagar, Bhopal (M.P.)  
Email Id: [ceproc.encwrd.bpl@nic.in](mailto:ceproc.encwrd.bpl@nic.in)  
Tel: 0755-2767635 Fax: 0755-2552406

N.I.T. No. 907/2022-23/E-in-C/e-tendering Bhopal, Dated 18.05.2022  
Bids for following works are invited on website <https://www.mptenders.gov.in> Last Date of purchase/download of Bid Document and submission of bid is 14.06.2022, 17:30 hrs. Any amendment/modification can be seen only on the website. Detailed N.I.T. and other details can be viewed on above mentioned website.

S. No.	Tender No.	Work	District	Amount (Lakhs)
1.	2022_WRD_204245	Resectioning of Canal Reconstruction of syphon and lining of canal of Birsinghpur Tank Scheme.	Panna	45.69
2.	2022_WRD_204246	On Turnkey Basis:- Construction of Banda Tank, as per detailed scope of work but not limited to that.	Neemuch	1215.93
3.	2022_WRD_204248	On Turnkey Basis:- Construction of Angora Tank, as per detailed scope of work but not limited to that.	Neemuch	231.60
4.	2022_WRD_204250	Repair of Damages in Ambah Branch Canal at RD 4890m, RD 8730m, RD 7707m, RD 8730m, RD 9361m, RD 11700m, RD 12824m, RD 12860m, RD 22520m to RD 22720m, RD 25600m to RD 26000m and 6R Distributary Head.	Morena	36.67
5.	2022_WRD_204252	Repair of Work 1 6R Distributary near syphon of Ambah Branch Canal between RD 600m to RD 1680m.	Morena	29.85
6.	2022_WRD_204253	Repair of Syphon Over Gurha Nalla at RD 1 121m of Ambah Branch Canal	Morena	21.68
7.	2022_WRD_204254	Construction of Cisturn, Causeway in downstream of Upper Kakoti Dam including management, operation and maintenance (MOM) for Five years, under SDMF	Gwalior	1998.99

G-13319/22 दो गज की दूरी, मास्क है जरूरी। Chief Engineer (Procurement)

# Namaz to be offered at mosque inside Qutub Minar complex: Delhi Waqf Board

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Amid the demand for Arestoration of Hindu and Jain deities inside the Qutab Minar complex, Delhi Waqf Board has claimed that Namaz used to be offered at a mosque there, that was stopped by the Archaeological Survey of India. No immediate reaction was available from the ASI. Delhi Waqf Board chairman Amanatullah Khan in a letter to ASI director general, last week, requested for allowing Namaz at the "ancient" Quwwat-ul-Islam mosque in Qutab complex, claiming it was stopped by the ASI.

"Five time daily prayers were offered by the Muslims at the mosque and the practice continued without any hindrance and interference since

its inception," Khan said.

However, the ASI on Tuesday opposed a plea before a Delhi court seeking restoration of Hindu and Jain deities inside the Qutab Minar, saying it is not a place of worship and the existing status of the monument cannot be altered.

Imam of the mosque, Maulvi Sher Mohammad appointed by Waqf Board, had also written a letter to ASI in this regard on May 7, stating that the ASI officials were not allowing them to offer prayers in the mosque.

"It is important to mention that the said mosque is duly notified Waqf property vide Gazette of Delhi administration dated 16.04.1970 and five time prayer is taking place at the said mosque since times immemorial," said Amanatullah.

# Kitty fraud: Couple booked for duping housewives

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

A couple was arrested for duping several housewives of Rs 30 lakh on the pretext of better returns and monthly gifts. The accused, identified as Babita and her husband Deepak Bassi, residents of Azadpur, collected huge amount of money from housewives of Adarsh Nagar in Delhi in the name of 'Jai Mata Kitty' with the assurance of better returns and monthly gifts but they fled away with the money.

The arrests came after a case was registered in 2020 with the Economic Offences Wing (EOW) of the Delhi Police by a woman against the husband-wife duo who alleged in her complaint that the couple collected the money from several women, including her, in the name of organizing kitty parties.

Joint Commissioner of Police (EOW) Chhaya Sharma said, "The accused assured the complainant that they will return the amount after 20 months with better returns but even after 20 months, the accused couple did not return their money and disappeared by selling their house and shutting their shop."

The couple was taking Rs 1,000 per month from every member and used to organize monthly meeting for lucky draw of her kitty, Sharma said. Later, more than 65 victims came out in support of the case and joined the probe, she added.

"The cheated amount is around Rs 30 lakh. The accused couple induced the victims to invest in their scheme by announcing different types of assured attractive gift hampers to each of their members on monthly basis. During the

# Nadda to meet Union Mins to discuss plans to mark 8 years of Modi Govt

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

BJP president J P Nadda is scheduled to hold a meeting with all the Union ministers here on Wednesday to deliberate upon the massive reach out exercise planned by the party to mark eight years of the Narendra Modi Government, sources said on Tuesday.

Top Union ministers, including Home Minister Amit Shah and Defence Minister Rajnath Singh, are expected to attend the meeting at the party headquarters, the sources said.

Prior to this meeting, Nadda is also likely to launch a campaign to strengthen the BJP on about 73,000 polling booths where it is relatively weak. Most of these booths are in southern and eastern states. The BJP has already pre-



pared a committee led by its vice-president Baijyant Panda to draw a blueprint for strengthening the party on these booths.

In its recent meeting of the office bearers in Jaipur, the BJP had announced that all Union ministers will visit villages

across the country to mark eight years of the Narendra Modi government and take feedback on welfare schemes.

The BJP will celebrate the Modi government's anniversary from May 30 to June 15 on the theme of 'Sewa, Sushashan and Gareeb Kalyan' (Service, Good governance and Welfare of poor).

According to the sources, each minister is likely to assign four Lok Sabha constituencies as part of the reach out exercise, and interact with people about the welfare schemes of the Modi government.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi-led BJP government will complete its eight years at the Centre on May 30, which the party plans to celebrate at the grand level across the country by holding various programmes.

# Delhi Govt extends liquor shops licence by 2 months

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

The Delhi Government has extended the licence period of existing retail liquor vends in the city for next two months, in anticipation of delay in approval to the Excise Policy 2022-23 that among other things permits home delivery of alcohol.

The excise department of Delhi government in an order on Monday extended the Excise Policy 2021-22 for two months, which extended the validity of renewable licences, including those for retail liquor stores.

"The Excise Policy 2022-23 was approved by Delhi Cabinet in its meeting on May 5. It is yet to be approved by the Lt Governor," said an excise department officer.

The order issued by the

excise department said the current excise policy was extended up to July 31, 2022, subject to payment of licence fee for the extended period, including security deposit, as per provisions extant.

A separate order, also issued by the excise department, stated that the existing licensees of retail liquor stores will pay the licence fee for the extended period - calculated on pro rata basis — by May 31.

"The licence fee for the month of June and July shall be paid by the licensees as per the provisions of the Delhi Excise Act, 2009/Delhi Excise Rules, 2010. However, the licence fee dues will not be allowed to exceed the security deposit amount available with the department at any point of time during the extended period," said the order.

# Man killed, driver hurt as car rams into parked truck

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

A 31-year-old man was killed while his driver was injured after their car rammed into a parked truck in north-west Delhi's Shalimar Bagh area on Tuesday, police said.

The deceased has been identified as Deepak Gulati, they said, adding that his driver, Raja alias Shahzad (38), has been admitted to a hospital. No one was presented inside the EDMC truck which had a flat tyre and was parked found on the road, police said.

According to the police, Uttam Nagar-resident Gulati was travelling to a Sabzi Mandi with his driver Raja when the accident took place.

THE PIONEER

CLASSIFIEDS

## CHANGE OF NAME

I, Kavita Bisht, W/o, Shri Ashok Singh, R/o GP-24, Maurya Enclave, Pitampura, Delhi-110034 have changed my name from Kavita Negi to Kavita Bisht for all purposes.

PD(9100)C

PUBLIC NOTICE

Notice is hereby given to general public at large that my client Axis Bank Ltd. having one of its Branch at B-106B3, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor, Opposite Metro Pillar No. 586, Jankipuram, New Delhi-110058 intends to grant Loan facility to Sh. Lokesh Kumar Gupta against Right Half of the Ground Floor and The Right Half of the First Floor out of Part of the Said Property (i.e. 1009 Sq. Yds.) including undivided proportionate ownership rights in the land underneath along with the rights to passage, easement and benefits (hereinafter referred as "Said Property") Built on Property bearing No. 4A, having area measuring 3027 Sq. Yds. Situated at Flagstaff Road, Civil Lines, Delhi, (hereinafter referred as "Entire Property") Out of total land area measuring 3200 Sq. Yds. (Hereinafter referred as "Said Property") 1) Smt. Neera K. Sohoni W/o Dr. V.S. Sohoni & D/o Late Kedar Nath Kukreja & 2) Dr. Meera Singh D/o Late Kedar Nath Kukreja W/o Major Jasbir Singh claims to be the Joint-Owners of the Said Property by virtue of Will duly registered as Document No. 1526 on 29.03.1993 and Mutation Letter dated 12.12.2001 in the records of MCD. Any person(s) have/has any objection(s) or claim(s) with respect to right, title or interest in the said property in any manner whatsoever, must immediately contact the undersigned in writing along with all supporting documents in respect of their claim(s)/objection(s). If no such claim is received within a period of 07 days from the date of publication of this notice, then it will be presumed that no one has any paramount right, title or interest in the said property and even if someone has any claim/objection, he/she/they have given up the same.

Himanshu Ahuja (Advocate)  
Contact No.: 9810310373, 011-41830049  
E-mail Address: [aloalegals@gmail.com](mailto:aloalegals@gmail.com)

# Biden vows to make India-US....

From Page 1

[I]t said India and the US also extended the longstanding Vaccine Action Programme (VAP) until 2027 to continue joint biomedical research which had resulted in the development of vaccines and related technologies.

A White House readout said Biden condemned Russia's "unjustifiable war" against Ukraine and that the leaders discussed how to cooperate to manage disruptions caused by the war, especially the rise in energy and food prices to protect their respective citizens and the world. It said the two leaders committed to deepening the "major defence partnership", encouraging economic engagement that benefits both countries, and expanding the partnership on global health, pandemic preparedness, and critical and emerging technologies.

# Punjab Minister sacked, held for...

From Page 1

A case, under Sections 7 and 8 of the Prevention of Corruption Act, has been registered against Singla, and his OSD in Mohali's Phase VII police station.

AAP convener and Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal on Tuesday praised Mann for sacking Singla. "Proud of you Bhagwant. Your action has brought tears to my eyes. Whole nation today feels proud of AAP," said Kejriwal.

Announcing the decision through a video message, the Punjab CM said he had received complaints about "one of my ministers".

# Azad, Anand, PC in Cong....

From Page 1

Kanugolu has been mandated to chalk out the party's future poll strategy and implement the decisions of the Udaipur conclave. While Kishor had refused to join the Congress after he was offered to do so, Kanugolu became a member of the party.

Sonia also set up a group to coordinate the "Bharat Jodo Yatra" planned from Kanyakumari to Kashmir from Gandhi Jayanti. "Following the Udaipur Nav Sankalp Shivir, the Congress president has constituted a Political Affairs Group that will be presided over by her, a Task-Force-2024 and a Central Planning Group for the coordination of the "Bharat Jodo Yatra", an AICC Press statement said.

The Political Affairs Group, headed by Sonia, comprises Rahul, Mallikarjun Kharge, Ghulam Nabi Azad, Ambika Soni, Digvijaya Singh, Anand Sharma, KC Venugopal, and Jitendra Singh. The members of the Task-Force-2024 are Chidambaram, Mukul Wasnik, Jairam Ramesh, KC Venugopal, Ajay Maken, Priyanka Gandhi Vadra, Randeep Singh Surjewala and Sunil Kanugolu.

"Each member of the task force shall be assigned specific tasks related to organisation, communications and media, outreach, finance, and election management. They shall have designated teams which will be notified subsequently," the AICC statement said. The members of the task force also met at the AICC headquarters and held its first meeting on Tuesday to chalk out its course and are scheduled to meet once every 72 hours. The task force will be the body that will bring about organisational changes as decided at the three-day brainstorming session of the Congress in Rajasthan's Udaipur.

Priyanka, P Chidambaram, Ajay Maken, Surjewala, Ramesh, and Venugopal were among those who attended the first meeting of the group.



ST STEPHEN'S COLLEGE OPTS FOR 85:15 CUET WEIGHTAGE

DU threatens to declare all admissions null and void



STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

The Delhi University (DU) on Tuesday warned St Stephen's college that it will declare "null and void" all admissions made by it in vio-

lation of the Common University Entrance Test (CUET) guidelines after the college released a prospectus announcing it will admit students for undergraduate courses while sticking to its stated

85:15 weightage formula that would give 15 per cent weightage to interviews for admission across categories. The university has asked the college to withdraw the prospectus containing the "incongruent poli-

cy immediately." In a letter to the Principal of St Stephen's College, John Varghese, DU's Registrar Vikas Gupta said any admission done in violation of the admission norms will not be recognised and be treated as annulled for all purposes. The prospectus for the college's undergraduate courses 2022-23 stated, "St Stephen's College will adopt the CUET as the eligibility criteria with 85 per cent weightage for CUET and the college's interview for shortlisted candidates with a weightage of 15 per cent." Under the heading 'Admission of General Category students' too, the prospectus says: "The weightage for admission shall be CUET marks – 85 per cent and interview – 15 per cent." It had stated the same thing in its admission notice posted on its website last month.

The DU's warning comes after a long-drawn tussle between the college and DU over the matter. While the DU's Academic Council (AC) had decided that all undergraduate admissions, including in minority colleges, will be done solely on the basis of CUET, St. Stephen's College, asserting its minority institution character, has said it will accord 85 per cent weightage to the CUET score and 15 per cent to physical interview for all categories of candidates. This stand is strongly opposed by DU, which wants interviews to be conducted only for the reserved category students. On May 9, the Registrar had written to the college asking it to "abide" by the DU's decision. In the letter, DU Registrar Vikas Gupta said, "This is in

clear violation of the admission policies approved by the Statutory Bodies of the University of Delhi. You must withdraw the Admission Prospectus containing such an incongruent policy from the website of your college immediately." He asked the college to issue a public notice stating clearly that the approved admission policies of DU shall be applicable for admissions into various courses to be offered by the St. Stephen's College for the UG programmes for session 2022-2023. Gupta conveyed that DU will not be responsible for any "consequential impact on the life and career of the candidates admitted in the college in violation of the university admission policy." "You are advised to take necessary steps in this regard

immediately and inform the University accordingly," the statement read. "With regard to your college, taking note of the fact that it is a Minority institution (for candidates belonging to the Christian community), the university has decided that 50 per cent of the open seats shall be filled solely on the basis of merit of the CUET score. However, the remaining 50 per cent seats for minority candidates shall be filled on the basis of combined merit of 85 per cent weightage to the CUET score and 15 per cent weightage to the interview to be conducted by St Stephen's College," Registrar Vikas Gupta had written. "There must be a single merit list for the admission of candidates belonging to the Christian community regardless of any denominations/sub-

sects/sub-categories within the Christian minority community. In view of the above, you are required to abide by the admission policy as detailed...which is applicable for admission of students in St Stephen's College for the session 2022-23," he had said. The University Grants Commission has decided to hold CUET for admission to all central universities for academic session 2022-23. The test is aimed at providing a common platform to candidates from across the country an equal opportunity to secure admission to a central university. The CBSE, CISCE and State Boards have different evaluation yardsticks for appraising students clearing the Class 12 examination which has resulted in outlandishly high cut-off marks in institutions like the Delhi University.

Govt panel to begin survey of 30 city markets today

Five markets to be redeveloped as per Rozgar Budget plan

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

A Delhi Government panel will begin from Wednesday a survey of 30 markets for feasibility for beautification and shortlist five of them to redevelop as announced in the Rozgar Budget for 2022-23. The survey will begin from Lajpat Nagar and Sarojini Nagar markets and will be completed in a week's time, Chamber of Trade and Industry (CTI) chairman Brijesh Goyal, who is a member of the panel, said. The final five markets will be chosen on

the basis of the report to be submitted next week after the completion of the survey, he said. The Government had last week formed an eight-member committee to select five markets out of 50, which have applied on the Government's portal for redevelopment. The Delhi Government in its Rozgar Budget 2022-23 had announced that it will redevelop five markets across the city to create employment opportunities. The panel is being headed by the chief project manager of Delhi Tourism and Transport Development Corporation (DTTDC), officials said. "Committee members along with the officials of PWD, DJB, Planning and Architecture, DTTDC etc will start the field survey of 30 mar-

kets from Wednesday. "We will visit Lajpat Nagar and Sarojini Nagar markets. During the inspection we will check the issues on the ground, the job creation potential, and also assess the feasibility of redevelopment," Goyal said. He said that during the visit, panel members will also meet representatives of the traders' associations in each market and have a dialogue with them about their problems and discuss ways to beautify the markets. Connaught Place, Lajpat Nagar, Kamla Nagar, Chandni Chowk, Khan Market, Kirti Nagar Market, Krishna Nagar, Greater Kailash-M block, Sadar Bazar, and Khari Baoli are some of the markets which will be covered in the survey. "The Delhi Government

wants full transparency in the market selection process hence this field check has been planned. This survey is to ensure that most deserving markets get selected for the redevelopment," Goyal said. Under the project, the Government will beautify and strengthen the civic amenities at these markets to increase the footfall, and consequently, the trade. The selecting committee members are representatives from the School of Planning and Architecture, the Public Works Department, the Delhi Jal Board, and two traders' associations. The Delhi Government has allocated Rs 100 crore for the redevelopment of markets in the 2022-23 financial year and it is estimated that 1.5 lakh job opportunities would be created through initiative.

Delhi CM lauds Mann for sacking Punjab Health Minister over graft

We will not spare our own leaders if they are found to be involved in corruption, says AAP convener

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Lauding Punjab Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann for sacking his Health Minister Vijay Singla over graft charges, Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) chief Arvind Kejriwal on Tuesday said corruption is a betrayal of the nation which his party will not allow. Addressing a virtual press conference here, the Delhi Chief Minister said his AAP is a "diehard honest party" and will not tolerate corruption. "We will not spare even our own leaders if they are found to be involved in corruption.



We are proud of Punjab CM Bhagwant Mann who immediately removed his Minister when he was found involved in corruption," he said. "We would rather die than betray the country," he added. Earlier, taking to Twitter, Kejriwal said Mann's action "brought tears" to his eyes. "Proud of you Bhagwant. Ur action has brought tears to my eyes. Whole nation today feels proud of AAP," Kejriwal wrote

and kept a share for himself. He took it upon himself to take immediate actions against the corrupt Health Minister," said Kejriwal. "All of us at the AAP, the State of Punjab, as well as the entire nation, are extremely proud of him. In 2015, when the AAP came to power in Delhi, I took a similar action against our Minister of Food and Civil Supplies after I had received evidence of his corruption," said Kejriwal. "The AAP is a staunchly honest Government, meaning that we will not forgive even our own people if they decide to take the wrong path and indulge in corrupt activities," he said. Singla has been arrested by the vigilance bureau, after he was found allegedly demanding one per cent commission for passing tenders.

Delhi L-G to take oath at Raj Niwas on May 26

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Newly appointed Lieutenant Governor of Delhi Vinai Kumar Saxena will take the oath of office at the Raj Niwas on May 26. Acting Chief Justice of Delhi High Court Vipin Sanghi will administer the oath of office and secrecy to Saxena. The oath-taking ceremony of Saxena will take place at 11 AM on May 26, officials said. Saxena, who held the post of chairperson of Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC), was appointed as the new LG of Delhi on Monday. Saxena, 64, will succeed Anil Bajjal who resigned from the post last week citing "personal reasons". Thereafter, the new LG will administer oath to Justice Satish Chandra Sharma as the new chief justice of the Delhi High Court. "This is a unique

coincidence taking place for the first time in Delhi," said constitution expert S K Sharma. The Supreme Court Collegium had recommended on May 17 the name of Justice Sharma as the new chief justice of the Delhi High Court. Saxena had started his career as an assistant officer in Rajasthan with JK Group and was elevated as general manager in 1995 to look after a proposed port project in Gujarat. He was appointed as KVIC chairperson in 2015 and made it a global brand. MCD Commissioner Bharti called on the Delhi LG and apprised him of the information related to the unification of the erstwhile three civic bodies into a new corporation, as well as the civic projects for providing better amenities to people. It was a courtesy call, the MCD said in statement.

Two held for murder of Haryanvi singer

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

The body of a 29-year-old Haryanvi singer, who was missing since May 11, was found buried by roadside in Haryana's Meham area. Police have arrested two people in connection with the murder. The singer identified as Sangeeta, alias Divya, had gone missing since May 11 and her parents had reported it on May 14. Police said that both the accused, identified as Ravi and Anil, residents of Meham, are in their late 20s and used to be friends with the woman. She had filed a rape case against Ravi earlier. Police said that the duo work in a finance company in Haryana. According to Shankar Choudhary, Deputy Commissioner of Police (DCP), Dwarka district, a First Information Report (FIR) was initially registered under Section 365 (kidnapping or abducting with intent to secret-

ly and wrongfully confine a person) at the JP Kalan Police Station here. The police launched an investigation and Ravi and Anil, were arrested in Meham on Saturday. During interrogation they disclosed that they had hatched a conspiracy to kill the singer and had called her on the pretext of making a music video. "One of them picked her up from Delhi, drugged her and then killed her. Later, they buried the body in the Meham Police Station area. The body



was subsequently found on Sunday, and murder Sections were added to case," said the DCP. The police said woman's body was handed over to her family after a post-mortem examination. However, her relatives, along with some local leaders of the Bhim Army and other parties, brought body to JP Kalan Police Station and staged a protest alleging that victim was gangraped. However, the police said there was no evidence of rape so far.

Give Modi credit, says BJP as Kejriwal flags off 150 e-buses

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

On a day Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal on Tuesday flagged off 150 electric buses, the BJP asked the Delhi Government to give credit to the Modi Government. The Chief Minister flagged off the buses from the Indraprastha Depot and boarded one of them to reach the Rajghat Bus Depot. He was accompanied by Delhi Transport Minister Kailash Gahlot and Chief Secretary Naresh Kumar. The Delhi Government is also offering three days of free bus rides to everyone in these e-buses to promote the switch towards electric vehicles. Kejriwal said that city residents can enjoy free rides on these buses for next three days. "They are your buses, I urge you to travel and enjoy – to take a joyride on these electric buses, while also taking care by not littering or damaging them," he said. "This launch has



Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal and Transport Minister Kailash Gahlot at the flag-off ceremony of 150 electric buses from the Indraprastha Depot, in New Delhi, on Tuesday

marked the beginning of a new era in the transport sector and next month another 150 will be added to the fleet. It is our target to have 2,000 electric buses running on the roads in Delhi within the next year," said Kejriwal. Meanwhile, Delhi BJP president and Rohini MLA Vijender Gupta said that Kejriwal was presenting the e-buses provided to Delhi by the Central Government, as an achievement of his

Government. "Under Central Government scheme, 5595 electric buses have been sanctioned to 64 Cities / State Govt. Entities /STUs for intra-city and intercity operation. Out of this, Delhi is to get 300 e-buses," he said. Delhi BJP spokesperson Praveen Shankar Kapoor wrote a letter to the CM demanding to incorporate a credit line for the Centre for the new buses.



Union Minister of State for Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying, Sanjeev Kumar Balyan recently inaugurated 'Harit Pradesh Milk Producer Company' (HPMPC), an entity owned by over 17,000 milk producers of Western Uttar Pradesh that has been supported by the National Dairy Development Board (NDDB). NDDB Chairman Meenesh Shah was also present in the event held at Meerut

32-year-old man shot at in Krishna Nagar

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

A 32-year-old man was in critical condition after he was allegedly shot by a group of three men in Krishna Nagar area of Shahdara on Tuesday morning. The injured has been identified as Jitender alias Jeetu, resident of Ghondali. He was immediately taken to Max hospital in Patparganj as he was critically injured. According to police, previous enmity due to a street fight between the assailants and victim and his brother one-and-a-half year back was the motive behind the present incident. "We were informed about the firing incident at Ghondali Chowk at around 6.22 am at Krishna Nagar police station. He was taken immediately and admitted in Max hospital, Patparganj. Both Crime and Forensic teams visited the spot

and recovered five empty rounds fired from two weapons," said R Sathiyasundaram, Deputy Commissioner of Police (Shahdara). During investigation, it was revealed that one of the accused with muffled face was waiting at Ghondali Chowk on white Activa scooter and while two other persons with muffled face had fired at Jitender and thereafter, the trio ran away, the senior officer said. "Immediately, after sometime, at Shakarpur T point, the police team of Shakarpur police station noticed three persons on scooter coming from wrong side, they tried to stop them, but they fired at police team. Their scooter skidded and they all fell down and ran away. Police chased them and the rider identified as Gaurav Arora was apprehended while the other two ran away," he said.

Govt invites applications for admissions to private schools under open seats

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

After some private schools in the national Capital claimed to have vacant seats in the last academic session, the Delhi Government has invited applications for admissions in these entry-level classes. According to a Directorate of Education (DoE) official, some private schools have claimed that they could not get admission under open seats as per their declared strength in entry level classes (Nursery, KG and Class 1 ) in the 2021-22 academic session. "Applications are being invited for admission against these vacant seats in such private schools. These remaining seats have been carried for-

ward to higher classes and applications for admission are being invited accordingly. The applicants will have to apply to the school directly latest by June 2," said the official. The process for nursery admissions in over 1,700 schools for 2021-22 academic session began in February last year, two months later than the usual schedule. Delhi government officials had earlier said that a proposal to scrap nursery admissions was being considered as the schools were closed for several months due to COVID-19. But school principals had opposed this idea and the plan was ultimately junked. Nursery admissions for the next academic session were held as per the timeline.

NDMC slams Delhi Govt over shortage of water

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

The New Delhi Municipal Council (NDMC) on Tuesday wrote a letter to Delhi Chief Minister (CM) Arvind Kejriwal regarding the shortage of water supply in the New Delhi area from the Delhi Jal Board (DJB) causing water scarcity. The national Capital is witnessing an acute water crisis for the last couple of days as the Haryana Government has allegedly not been releasing Delhi's rightful share of water in the Yamuna river despite repeated reminders and requests by the Delhi Government. Addressing the media, NDMC member, Kuljeet Singh Chahal informed, "It is being felt that NDMC area is deprived of its legitimate share of potable water for the last 15 days and the average supply of water is between 60-70 MLD in

place of the normal supply of 125 MLD. The problem of drinking water in our Government, non-Government, private residential colonies, as well as slums, is making life difficult." "This stepmotherly treatment to the NDMC is not only affecting the normal life of residents but it is also against the legitimate right of the residents. Water is the basic need of life and the reduction in water supply is making life painful," he said. "There is not enough water in the reservoir source of the civic body, even to send the tanker from the NDMC central water control room to the needed area," he added. Meanwhile, the NDMC also wrote a letter to the CM regarding his absence from council meetings and urged him to attend them for the interest, benefit, and welfare of the residents.



# Quad signal to China: Don't change Indo-Pacific status

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE/AGENCIES ■ NEW DELHI/TOKYO

Sending a clear signal to China for its aggressive stance in the Indo-Pacific region, the Quad Summit on Tuesday opposed any coercive, provocative or unilateral actions that seek to change the status quo and increase tensions in the region.

The leaders of the four countries including India, US, Japan and Australia also reaffirmed their resolve to uphold the international rules-based order, amidst China's growing assertiveness in the region.

The resolve to uphold rule of law in the Indo-Pacific was one of the main focus points during the Quad Summit attended by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, President Joe Biden, Prime Minister Fumio Kishida and Prime Minister Anthony Albanese.

During the second in-person meeting of Quad leaders in Tokyo, the four leaders exchanged views about developments in the Indo-Pacific region and global issues of mutual interest.

"We strongly oppose any coercive, provocative or unilateral actions that seek to change the status quo and increase tensions in the area, such as the militarisation of disputed features, the dangerous use of coast guard vessels and

maritime militia, and efforts to disrupt other countries' off-shore resource exploitation activities," said a joint statement issued after the meeting.

It said the Quad is committed to cooperation with partners in the region who share the vision of a free and open Indo-Pacific. "We will champion adherence to international law, particularly as reflected in the UN Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS), and the maintenance of freedom of navigation and overflight, to meet challenges to the maritime rules-based order, including in the East and South China Seas," the statement said.

The summit took place at a time when the relations between China and the Quad member countries have become tense, with Beijing increasingly challenging democratic values and resorting to coercive trade practices.

The relations between India and China turned sour after the stand offs in Eastern Ladakh in 2020. At present, more than 50,000 soldiers each from both the sides are facing each other at the Line of Actual Control (LAC) at some friction points.

Moreover, China 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.

India, the US and several other world powers have often stressed the need to ensure a free, open and thriving Indo-Pacific in the backdrop of China's rising military manoeuvring in the region.

"We strongly support the principles of freedom, rule of law, democratic values, sovereignty and territorial integrity, peaceful settlement of disputes without resorting to threat or use of force, any unilateral attempt to change the status quo, and freedom of navigation and overflight, all of which are essential to the peace, stability and prosperity of the Indo-Pacific region and to the world," the joint statement said.

The Quad will continue to act decisively together to advance these principles in the

region and beyond, the statement said as it reaffirmed the four-nation grouping's resolve to uphold the international rules-based order where countries are free from all forms of military, economic and political coercion, the statement said. The Quad combine also condemned terrorism and violent extremism in all its forms and manifestations and reiterate that there can be no justification for acts of terror on any grounds whatsoever.

"We reiterate our condemnation of terrorist attacks, including 26/11 Mumbai and Pathankot attacks. We also reaffirm UNSC Resolution 2593 (2021), which demands that Afghan territory must never again be used to threaten or attack any country or to shelter or train terrorists, or to plan or finance terrorist attacks" the statement said.

# Quad launches package to address climate change

Quad Climate Change Adaptation, Mitigation Package (Q-CHAMP) unveiled at summit

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE/AGENCIES ■ NEW DELHI/TOKYO

As the entire world is grappling with climate change and environment issues, the Quad summit on Tuesday in Tokyo launched the "Quad Climate Change Adaptation and Mitigation Package (Q-CHAMP)" with "mitigation" and "adaptation" as its two themes.

This announcement was made after the second in-person Quad summit attended by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, US President Joe Biden, Japanese Prime Minister Fumio Kishida and Australian Prime Minister Anthony Albanese.

A joint statement by the four leaders said they have decided to individually and collectively further strengthen their cooperation to mitigate and adapt to the impacts of climate change, which poses especially serious challenges for the Indo-Pacific region.

"Recognising the urgent need to address climate change as emphasised in the latest Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC)



reports, we will steadfastly implement the Paris Agreement and deliver on the outcomes of COP26," according to the joint statement.

The four leaders also vowed to accelerate their efforts to raise global ambition, including reaching out to key stakeholders in the Indo-Pacific region and supporting, strengthening, and enhancing climate actions by partners in the region including through mobilising climate finance, both public and private, and facilitating the research, development, and deployment of innovative technology.

"Today, we launch the "Quad Climate Change Adaptation and Mitigation Package (Q-CHAMP)" with "mitigation" and "adaptation" as its two themes," the statement

said.

Q-CHAMP includes ongoing activities under the Quad Climate Working Group on: green shipping and ports aiming for a shared green corridor framework building on each Quad country's input; clean energy cooperation in clean hydrogen and methane emissions from the natural gas sector.

It also includes strengthening clean energy supply chains, welcoming the contribution of the Sydney Energy Forum; climate information services for developing an engagement strategy with Pacific island countries; and disaster risk reduction, including disaster and climate resilient infrastructure such as the efforts through the Coalition for Disaster Resilient

Infrastructure (CDRI).

Its coverage includes new cooperation in clean fuel ammonia, CCUS/Carbon Recycling, cooperation and capacity building support to advance high integrity carbon markets under Article 6 of the Paris Agreement, climate-smart agriculture, knowledge sharing on subnational climate actions, and ecosystem-based adaptation.

"To make Q-CHAMP tangible, we are committed to expanding our programmes, in support of climate actions between our four countries as well as in the Indo-Pacific region. We recognise the immense challenges posed by climate change to the island nations of the Pacific," the statement said.

"We welcome the new Australian Government's commitment to stronger action on climate change, including through passing legislation to achieve net zero by 2050 and lodging a new, ambitious Nationally Determined Contribution," the joint statement added.

In March last year, President Biden hosted the first-ever summit of the Quad leaders in the virtual format that was followed by an in-person summit in Washington in September. The Quad leaders also held a virtual meeting in March. Australia will host the next Quad summit in 2023.

# Monkeypox containable, spreading through sex among men: WHO

## With virus found in 11 countries, TN on alert

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

The World Health Organization (WHO), has for the first time since the current outbreak of the monkeypox in around 11 countries, said the virus is primarily spreading through sex among men.

Warning that the virus might take in its grip more nations, the WHO, however, maintained that the disease is "containable". Meanwhile in India, Tamil Nadu has gone in an alert mode and directed the district Collectors and Commissioners of corporations to monitor and identify suspected cases of monkeypox, if any, and isolate them at healthcare facilities for appropriate treatment.

First reported on May 7 in the UK, monkeypox has rapidly spread to over a



dozen countries, where the virus is typically not found unlike some countries in Central and West Africa, with about 200 confirmed and suspected cases. So far no-associated deaths have been reported.

The WHO has warned that the infection is likely to spread to more nations even

as it expands surveillance. It further said that the identification of confirmed and suspected cases of monkeypox with no direct travel links to an endemic area "represents a highly unusual event".

"We've seen a few cases in Europe over the last five years, just in travellers, but this is the first time we're seeing cases across many countries at the same time in people who have not travelled to the endemic regions in Africa," Rosamund Lewis, who runs the WHO's smallpox research, said in a Q&A live streamed on the health body's social media channels.

"Many diseases can be spread through sexual contact. You could get a cough or a cold through sexual contact, but it doesn't mean that it's a sexually transmitted disease," Andy Seale, who advises the WHO on HIV, hepatitis and other sexually

transmitted infections, told a news channel. Monkeypox has not previously been described as a sexually transmitted infection, but it can be passed on by direct contact during sex.

The WHO also noted that monkeypox can be contained in countries outside of Africa where the virus is not usually detected. "This is a containable situation," the WHO's emerging disease lead Maria Van Kerkhove said at a news conference on Monday. "We want to stop human-to-human transmission. We can do this in non-endemic countries," she added, referring to recent cases in Europe and North America.

Experts have suggested that countries should review the availability of the smallpox vaccine which is also effective against monkeypox.

# Health Secy named WHA key panel chief

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

Union Health Secretary Rajesh Bhushan has been appointed the chairperson of a key committee at the 75th World Health Assembly (WHA), which primarily discusses administrative and financial matters of the global health body.

Convened by 194 member states, the annual WHO assembly is being held from May 22 to 28 in Geneva, Switzerland. Each year, the World Health Assembly reviews a long and complex list of health challenges and responses. The WHA functions through two types of committees — Committee A

and Committee B, an official said. Bhushan has been appointed the Chairperson of Committee B. "Bhushan from India has been appointed as the Chairperson of Committee B of the 75th World Health Assembly," the WHO said in a tweet.

The Committee A meets to debate technical and health matters.

It has listed critical issues to discuss during the 75th WHA including Pandemic Preparedness and Response, Amendment in International Health Regulations 2005, WHO work in health emergency, Global Strategy for HIV, TB, Viral hepatitis and eradication of polio, immunisation agenda-

2030, infection prevention and control and Human resources for health etc, the official said.

The Committee B primarily discusses administrative and financial matters of the World Health Organisation, the official said.

The Committee B will this year discuss and prepare a report on many important issues including health conditions in the occupied Palestinian territory including east Jerusalem and in the occupied Syrian Golan, Budget for WHO for year 2022-2023, prevention of sexual exploitation, WHO reforms, global strategy and plan of action on public health, innovation and intellectual property.

## Modi to lay foundation stone of projects worth ₹31,400 cr in Chennai on May 26

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Prime Minister Narendra Modi will on May 26 lay the foundation stone and dedicate to the nation 11 projects worth over Rs 31,400 crore in Chennai. He will also participate in an event to celebrate 20 years of the Indian School of Business (ISB) in Hyderabad.

The projects that he will inaugurate and lay the foundation stone of in Chennai will help significantly improve socio-economic prosperity in the region, have a transformative impact on several sectors and also help create employment opportunities, the Prime Minister's Office (PMO) said in a statement.

Modi will visit Hyderabad and Chennai on May 26 and around 2 PM, will participate

in the celebration of completion of 20 years of ISB Hyderabad and address the graduation ceremony of Post Graduate Programme class of 2022, the PMO said. The ISB was inaugurated on December 2, 2001 by former prime minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee.

Around 5:45 PM, the prime minister will dedicate to the nation and lay the foundation stone of 11 projects worth over Rs 31,400 crore at JLN Indoor Stadium in Chennai. These projects are seen as a step towards boosting infrastructure development, enhancing connectivity and giving an impetus to ease of living in the region.

In Chennai, Modi will dedicate to the nation five projects worth over Rs 2,900 crore, the statement said

adding the 75 km-long Madurai-Teni (Railway Gauge Conversion Project), built at a project cost of over Rs. 500 crore, will facilitate access and give a boost to tourism in the region. The programme will also witness inauguration of 1,152 houses constructed as part of Light House Project -- Chennai, built at a cost of Rs 116 crore under Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana-Urban, the statement said. Modi will also lay the foundation stone of six projects, being built at a cost of over Rs. 28,500 crore, it said.

Modi will lay the foundation stone of a multi-modal logistic park at Chennai worth over Rs. 1,400 crore. It will provide seamless intermodal freight movement and also offer multiple functionalities.

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

A fresh round of war of words erupted between the BJP and the Congress following the latter's former president Rahul Gandhi's meeting with British Labour leader Jeremy Corbyn in London. The BJP asked Rahul whether the Congress endorsed the UK Opposition leader's "anti-India" views, while the Congress justified its leader's meeting and shared pictures of Corbyn with Prime Minister Narendra Modi to ask whether he too endorsed the "anti-India" views of the UK Labour leader and MP.

Rahul had recently accused the BJP of sprinkling "kerosene" all over India. The BJP's ire with Jeremy Corbyn is on account of the MP's tweets

on the situation in Jammu and Kashmir, which India has maintained is an internal matter.

Union Law Minister Kiren Rijju shared a picture of Rahul Gandhi's meeting with the British leader on Twitter and attacked the former Congress chief, saying for how long can one go on against one's own country?

"Again.. Rahul Gandhi meets UK MP and Labour leader Jeremy Corbyn who is known for his hatred and dislike for India, advocates Kashmir's secession. For how long and how much one can go on against one's own country," Rijju asked in a tweet.

Hitting back, Congress chief spokesperson Randeep Surjewala said, "Am amazed as to how dearest friends in TV

Media have to bend over backwards to serve the idiotic agenda of Government and ilk of Kapil Mishra." He said political leaders have met in the past and will meet in future other leaders having divergent and opposite views.

"Hope the media friends will ask the BJP as to what did PM discuss in this meeting and whether PM endorsed those views," he said sharing a picture of Corbyn with PM Modi. "Finally, May I also ask our Media Friends to identify the two men in picture below and ask the same questions? Does it mean PM has endorsed Jeremy Corbyn's views on India," he asked.

He also cited examples of PM Modi's public interactions with economic fugitives Nirav Modi and Mehul Choksi and



asked whether he endorsed them. "Rahul Gandhi taking a picture with a person with whom we hold divergent views is neither a crime nor an act of terror as is being made out. If this is the criteria, our media friends should also debate - Why did PM take Nirav Modi to Davos and about their common photos? What about video of PM addressing Mehul Choksi as "Hamare Mehul

Bhai" in a public function," he asked.

"Why does PM meet President Xi Jinping, when China has occupied our territory? Why did PM go to Pakistan to meet the then PM, Nawaz Sharif? Will the Government promise it'll never ever meet anyone having divergent views from us? Time to debate real issues, not BJP propaganda," the Congress said.

## National Medical body seeks public view before finalising conduct regulations

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

With an aim to address various issues of professional conduct of registered medical practitioners (RMP), the National Medical Commission (NMC) has prepared Draft Registered Medical Practitioner (Professional Conduct) Regulations, 2022 and has sought comments from the

public before finalising it. The last date to send the comments is June 22.

The proposed new regulations aim to address issues including their duties and responsibilities, continuing professional development programs, prescribing generic medicine, prohibition of commission, restriction on advertisement, responsibilities regarding drugs and medical reports among others.

## Swachh Survekshan 2023 launched

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

The Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs on Tuesday launched the 'Swachh Survekshan 2023' -- the eight edition of the annual cleanliness survey -- with the theme of "Waste to Wealth" for garbage-free cities.

In a statement, the Ministry said the survey would give priority to the principle of "3Rs" -- 'Reduce, Recycle and Reuse' -- under

the Swachh Bharat Mission (Urban) 2.0.

Speaking at the launch event, HUA Secretary Manoj Joshi said the "Swachh Survekshan" has evolved into an inspirational tool rather than being just an assessment tool, according to the statement.

It stated the largest survey undertaken anywhere has brought about substantive changes at the ground level, with cities performing well and having a sense of pride.

## Airlines banned from selling unserviceable seats to fliers

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

Airlines have been barred from selling unserviceable seats to passengers. The Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) on Tuesday warned airlines against offering unserviceable seats to passengers on their domestic and international flights. In a communique sent to all Indian carriers on Tuesday, the DGCA said that it has come to notice of it that some of the carriers are offering unserviceable seats

to passengers on their scheduled international and domestic operations. "This practice is not only causing inconvenience to the travellers but also inviting a serious safety concern as well," it mentioned.

As per Rule 53 of The Aircraft Rule, 1937, all materials including the aircraft seat shall conform to approved design specifications, the DGCA noted. The installation of any part failing to meet the intended design requirements, degrades the requirements of airworthiness, it said.

## Unique programme on climate smart agriculture launched

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ PUNE

Aligned with the vision of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, who recently called for alliance of scientists and farmers to deal with climate change, and ensure a green future, Environmental Defense Fund (EDF) in collaboration with Syngenta Foundation India (SFI) has launched a unique programme on climate smart agriculture (CSA) which was hosted by ICAR-National Institute of Abiotic Stress

Management (NIASM), Baramati Maharashtra-India.

A week-long training was recently conducted by EDF to educate and build capacity of leadership team of SFI. SFI through its network of over 8000 agri-entrepreneurs across 18 states reach out to over 7 lakh small-holder farmers, helping them with end-to-end value chain services and providing financial linkages. The objective is to train 100,000 AEs who will connect with 1 crore farmers over the next six years.



# There may be more exits from Bengal BJP: Singh

SAUGAR SENGUPTA ■ KOLKATA

Two days after leaving the BJP, Barrackpore MP Arjun Singh on Tuesday said that there were more leaders waiting to switch sides. Singh on Monday had staged a gharwapsi rejoining the Trinamool Congress three hours after he left the party.

“I would not take the names immediately but there are people who are eager to stage a homecoming or for that matter join the TMC,” Singh said when asked to comment about his “excellent” chemistry with Bishnupur BJP MP Saumitra Khan.

Soon after joining the TMC the Barrackpore MP has been entrusted with the supervision of organizational works of Bongaon area bordering Bangladesh. Bongaon has a sizeable number of BJP MLAs who enjoy good chemistry with Singh.

“Saumitra Khan is like my younger brother and has his own political discretion ... but his younger brother is in touch with me,” Singh said adding



many leaders were in contact with him and things would unfold with time.

When contacted Khan too would not refute reports of his changing the party at once even as he said that he would consider returning to the TMC should its general secretary and Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee’s Abhishek Banerjee nephew left that party.

“I will rejoin the TMC but for that to happen Abhishek Banerjee who is as cunning as a jackal must leave that party,” Khan who too had left the TMC to join the saffron outfit

several years ago said.

Another saffron leader and former MP Anupam Hazra too sounded rebellious even as he attacked his own party men for criticizing those who were leaving the party but not doing any introspection. “It is important to do some self-introspection instead of always attacking the leaders who are leaving the party like Arjun Singh ... there must have been some lapses which is why these people are leaving,” he said in an apparent reference to recent exodus in the saffron party.

When contacted about the

recent spate of exodus, BJP MP Locket Chatterjee said that the BJP would be strengthened if the traitors left the party. “Those who want to leave should do so immediately ... the doors are open for them to go ... the BJP will be stronger if they leave,” she said.

Meanwhile even as the senior State BJP leaders went into a huddle apparently to take stock of the situation at least 20 district level leaders from Jalpaiguri in North Bengal on Tuesday left resigned posts expressing discontent against the way the party was functioning.

Similar rebellion was seen in BJP’s Nandigram block in East Midnapore, a stronghold of Opposition Leader Suwendu Adhikari. Local BJP leaders on Wednesday rebelled against the party’s new Mandal president saying the district leadership was acting arbitrarily by appointing inefficient leaders. “If he is not removed then the whole batch of block level leaders would resign their posts,” said the rebel functionaries.

# Yogi, Akhilesh face-off over crimes against women

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

Uttar Pradesh Assembly was witness to a bitter face-off between Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath and Samajwadi Party chief Akhilesh Yadav over the issue of law and order in the House on Tuesday, wherein Yogi slammed the former Uttar Pradesh CM over the remark, ‘Ladke hai, galti ho jaati hai’.

Replying to adjournment notice over law and order moved by Leader of Opposition Akhilesh Yadav during Zero Hour in the Assembly, the Chief Minister said, “This is a BJP Government and here it is not said that ‘boys will be boys’ and ‘mistakes happen sometimes’. Such a comment is inexcusable. The BJP Government is sensitive and committed to providing security and protecting the honour of women and strict action is being taken against offenders targeting women/girls as per the government’s ‘Zero Tolerance Policy’ against crime.”

Yogi referred to SP patron Mulayam Singh Yadav’s infamous speech in Moradabad while campaigning for 2014 Lok Sabha polls wherein he had said, “Ladke hain, galti ho jaati hai” Yadav’s outrageous remark



was in reference to death sentence awarded to three gang rape accused by a court in Mumbai.

The CM further said, “Any kind of crime is unforgivable and the government is taking strict action against criminals, especially those committing crimes against women.”

In the adjournment notice, Akhilesh Yadav referred to crimes against women in Prayagraj, Chandauli, Siddharthnagar and Lalitpur, claiming that maximum crimes against women were committed in UP. Referring to a rape allegedly by an SHO in Lalitpur, the SP chief said that the case was registered only after the Chief Minister visited the district. Akhilesh reminded Yogi that at a meeting in Lalitpur he had said, “He will set officers ‘right’ and asked local BJP leaders to stop acting as power

brokers. Yogi ji was not aware of corruption in bureaucracy in the past five years.”

Yogi Adityanath retorted saying, “You support every criminal who spreads anarchy in the state and indulges in hoodliganism.”

Appreciating the government, Yogi said, “In the past five years, better law and order has prevailed. We got wide public support. To stop harassment of girls/ women, our government set up anti-Romeo squads in 2017 and 218 Fast Track Courts and separate POCSO courts were established in 2018.”

Claiming a reduction in crime under his government, Yogi said that had the Opposition members listened to the governor’s address, things would have been clearer to them. “When I reply to the governor’s address, you

will clearly know how much crime has come down. There was no riot in the past five years. Between 2012 and 2017, there were more than 700 incidents of riots but between 2017 and 2022, there was no riot, no curfew,” the chief minister asserted. Yogi highlighted that properties of criminals worth more than Rs 2,000 crore were confiscated across Uttar Pradesh. “So, whether it is a matter of women’s safety or the safety of 25 crore citizens, all these are top priorities for the BJP government,” he said.

Citing the BJP numbers in the assembly as direct evidence, the chief minister said, “Overwhelming public support during the recent UP Assembly elections was due to better law and order in the state in the last five years. I laud the spirit with which people and half of the population have supported us. We are saying with full commitment that strict action against crime and criminals will continue without any bias.”

Referring to removal of loudspeakers from the mosques, Yogi said, “Over lakh loudspeakers were removed. This could have been done by the previous Samajwadi party government also, they lacked will power.”

## Malayalam actress sexual assault case

## Victim approaches Kerala High Court, accuses trial judge of subverting case

KUMAR CHELLAPPAN ■ KOCHI

The 2017 sexual assault on a leading Malayalam film actress took a shocking turn on Tuesday with the victim approaching the Kerala High Court raising allegations of foul play in investigation. In a writ petition moved through Advocate T B Mini, the victim, has challenged the professional integrity and honesty of the trial court judge, whose acts were highly suspicious.

Though the case was being heard by the same judge since the filing of the charge sheet, the truth remains that it has not progressed beyond a particular stage. Things took a turn for the worst when the additional director general of police R Sreejith who was supervising the investigation was moved out all of a sudden after the reconstitution of the ruling CPI(M)’s State Committee and the appointment of P Sasi as the political secretary to the Chief Minister.

The vernacular media had

reported that with Sasi making a return to the Chief Minister’s Office the investigation and trial of the case would come to a halt. Malayalam cinema’s popular actor Dileep (also known by his original name Gopalakrishnan) is one of the prime accused in the case.

The charge against Dileep is that he had hired the services of a petty thief (Pulsar Suni) for kidnapping the actress and molesting her sexually as an act of vengeance as the former had suspected her of passing on details of his extra curricular activities to his wife Manju Warrior. Manju and Dileep had annulled their marital ties and the actor had married a much younger Kavya Madhavan.

The police ordered a further investigation into the case following some startling disclosures made by a former associate of Dileep to the investigators. Even the lawyers representing Dileep were under the shadows of doubt with the police announcing its inten-

tions to interrogate them.

The victim raises questions on the action of the judge whom she accuses of playing havoc with the digital records (mobile phone calls, WhatsApp messages, voice clips etc) which would have established the role of the prime accused in the crime.

“The conduct of the presiding officer in obstructing the investigation in this matter clearly shows that she wants to illegally help the culprits. Her conducts in this regard if condoned or tolerated will be a disgrace to the judicial system which assures equal protection under the law,” says the petition moved by the victim.

Legal experts in Kerala expressed their shock over the way the chief IO was shunted out and the delay caused in the trial proceedings. “Something is wrong somewhere in this trial. There is no justification for this kind of delay in an open and shut case like this,” said a widely respected legal academician in Kochi.

# Maha ATS arrests LeT operative from Pune

T N RAGHUNATHA ■ MUMBAI

Maharashtra’s Anti Terrorism Squad (ATS) on Tuesday arrested a suspected Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT) operative from Dapodi area of Pune.

Identifying the arrest LeT suspect as Junaid Mohammed, the ATS officials that Junaid had been touch with a Kashmir-based terrorist outfit “Gajvate Al Hind”, owing allegiance to LeT, through social media. He was receiving funds from the terrorist outfit.

A resident of Khamgaon town in Buldhana district, Junaid (28) had been living in Pune for the past one and a half years. He was on the ATS’ radar for the past eight days. After establishing that he was reportedly active and linked to the LeT’s terror networks in Jammu & Kashmir and abroad, through certain social media platforms, the ATS sleuths arrested Junaid from Dapodi locality in Pune in the early hours of Tuesday.



Junaid was to be produced by the ATS before a designated Special Court in Pune later in the afternoon.

Junaid’s name had cropped during the investigations in a terror funding case by the ATS. The ATS took Junaid into custody after it found evidence to suggest that he had received Rs 10,000 for his alleged terrorist activities from a terrorist outfit in Jammu and Kashmir

## Azam Khan skips UP Assembly proceedings

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

Senior Samajwadi Party leader and MLA Mohammed Azam Khan skipped Assembly proceedings on the second day of the Budget Session on Tuesday.

Khan is miffed with the party brass and he did not meet SP chief Akhilesh Yadav during his two-day stay in Lucknow. Azam Khan was released from Sitapur District Jail after 27 months following the bail granted by the Supreme Court.

On the first day of the Budget session, Khan and his son Abdullah took oath as members of the Assembly after which Azam left the Assembly citing health reasons. However, his son Abdullah attended the Budget Session on both days. Khan meanwhile left for Rampur on Tuesday.

Earlier on Monday, Pragatisheel Samajwadi Party (Lohia) chief Shivalp Yadav met Azam Khan at his residence in Lucknow. The meeting between the two lasted for

about an hour, but details of the discussion were not made public by either leader.

It’s widely believed in political circles that his relations with Akhilesh Yadav are strained. Khan denied this saying in a sarcastic manner, saying that “he was a person without any base and such speculations were without basis”.

Winning the support of Azam Khan is crucial for Samajwadi Party in view of Rajya Sabha elections.

The strength of the SP along with its two allies in the UP Assembly is 125. As of now Azam Khan, his son Abdullah Azam, Sheezil Islam (Bareilly MLA, whose petrol pump was demolished) and Shivalp Yadav, are most unlikely to vote for the SP candidate in the elections for 11 seats of Rajya Sabha on June 10.

If only 11 candidates file nomination papers, all will be declared elected unopposed. If a second candidate files papers, a showdown will be imminent and elections will be unavoidable.

## Maha RS poll candidates

## Shivaji scion refuses to join party, Sena picks Sanjay Pawar

T N RAGHUNATHA ■ MUMBAI

Ignoring the reported claims by Maratha warrior Chhatrapati Shivaji’s direct descendant Sambhajiraje Chhatrapati, the ruling Shiv Sena on Tuesday decided to nominate its Kolhapur district party chief Sanjay Pawar for the biennial RS polls scheduled for June 10.

Chief Minister and Shiv Sena president Uddhav Thackeray decided to nominate his party loyalist Pawar for the RS polls, after Sambhajiraje Chhatrapati refused to join the Sena to contest the biennial polls.

Speculation is rife in the state political circles that Sambhajiraje Chhatrapati might contest the RS polls with the

support of the Opposition BJP.

Announcing Pawar’s nomination for the RS polls, Sena’s chief spokesperson Sanjay Raut said: “We have full respect for Sambhajiraje Chhatrapati... Sambhaji Pawar’s name was cleared by Chief Minister Uddhav Thackeray. We will make a formal announcement in this regard in the coming days”.

The RS polls from Maharashtra have been necessitated by the impending retirement of six sitting MPs - Union Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal, former Union Finance Minister and senior Congress Minister P Chidambaram, Shiv Sena chief spokesperson Sanjay Raut, former Union Minister and NCP leader Praful Patel, Vinay

Sahasrabuddhe and Vikas Mahatme, both from the BJP, on July 4, 2022. They are among the 57 RS members whose terms will end on different dates in the coming weeks.

The ruling Maha Vikas Aghadi (MVA) has a strength of 170 MLAs — Shiv Sena 55 (one MLA Ramesh Latke, died in Dubai last week), NCP 53, Congress 44, smaller parties/groups 10 and 8 Independents. The Opposition BJP has 106 and it enjoys the support of five Independent MLAs and two MLAs from smaller parties.

As per the understanding reached among them on the basis of their respective strengths in the Maharashtra Assembly polls, the ruling Shiv

Sena, NCP and Congress will get to contest one seat each. For winning a RS seat, the approximate number of votes required is 42. After winning one seat each, the MVA will still have additional 44 MLAs with whose support it can win one more RS seat. In the normal course, the additional RS seat was allotted to the NCP. However, NVP chief Sharad Pawar has chosen to set aside the seat for the ruling Shiv Sena as a gesture of good will.

On its part, the BJP — given its strength — can win two RS seats comfortably. If it is contest for the third seat, the BJP will have to engineer cross-voting in the polls. It remains to be seen if the BJP will put up its third candidate in the RS polls, despite the fact that it does

not have the strength.

For the six seats, the outgoing RS members Sanjay Raut ( Shiv Sena) Goyal, (BJP), Praful Patel (NCP) will in all likelihood be re-nominated, while Chidambaram stands a strong chance of being re-nominated. The Shiv Sena is putting up Sanjay Pawar as its second candidate. It remains to be seen if the BJP re-nominate its two sitting RS members Vinay Sahasrabuddhe and Vikas Mahatme or replace them with others.

The nominations for the June 10 RS polls began on Tuesday, while the last date for nominations is May 31. The nominations will be scrutinised on June 1, while the deadline for withdrawals is June 3.



People use a boat to move from a flood-affected village to a safer place after heavy rain, in Morigaon district of Assam on, Tuesday PTI

# UP Govt to give jobs to 26,000 youths in a week

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

As a part of Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath’s initiative to provide employment or self-employment opportunities to at least one person in each family, the state government will provide employment to over 26,000 youths in a week through ‘mega job fairs’.

Under Mission Rozgar, ‘mega job fairs’ are being held in 14 divisional headquarters of Uttar Pradesh from May 23 and will continue till next week. “In Rozgar Melas organised in urban and rural areas, the youth with technical education and otherwise would be provided job placements. More than 315 companies have been

invited to the Melas and representatives of various companies will employ jobless youth,” a government official said in Lucknow on Tuesday.

The official said that in one such Mela at Gorakhpur, as many as 1,406 candidates were provided employment through about 24 companies including prominent ones like L&T and Ashok Leyland on Monday. The Rozgar Melas at Azamgarh, Saharanpur, Aligarh were organised on Tuesday, while similar Melas will be organised at Ayodhya and Basti on Wednesday and in Lucknow, Ghaziabad and Jhansi on Thursday. These Melas will be held at various locations in the state till May 30.

“The objective of such employment fairs is to provide a platform to communicate between the employers and employable or job-seeking youth. Through such Melas, skilled youth and local youth will get employment in a hassle-free manner,” the official said.

The state government is also mulling to make a ‘family card’ for every family in the state to fulfil its commitment of providing employment or self-employment opportunities to at least one member in the next five years. Under various schemes of self-employment during the first term of the Yogi government, work has been done to connect about three crore people with employment.

# UP Govt generates revenue of ₹400 cr through ‘Mine Mitra’

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

The Uttar Pradesh Government has raised a revenue of Rs 400 crore from mining business through its portal ‘Mine Mitra’, which is used to issue transit passes through its Mineral Management Services.

A Government official said, “A total of 2.16 crore transit passes were provided under EMM-11, 9.22 lakh under E-Farm C and 38.87 lakh under ISTP of Mineral Management Services since 2017. Besides, online payment was made to 506 leasees and 2,154 brick kilns since July 2020.”

The ‘Mine Mitra’ portal was developed by the Yogi government to bring transparency into mining business, check ille-

gal activities and provide accountable e-services to common people, farmers, leasees and transporters.

The portal also aimed at ending monopolies in the mining industry, encouraging legal mining and providing a level playing field for new entrepreneurs to ensure transparency in the business and increase the state’s revenue.

The portal has been developed in consultation with the Directorate of Geology & Mining and is currently providing several services like online mineral management for the leasees, stockists and transporters, services for citizens and farmers, Integrated Mining Surveillance System and e-commerce platform ‘Mineral Mart’ for consumers

and suppliers. For common people and farmers, the state government has disposed off 1155 applications for stock licences, issued 1279 permits for agricultural land with mineral deposits, 435 for minerals in private land, 9697 permits for mining on common soil and 1031 for buildings where minerals were discovered during construction since July, 2020.

Under Integrated Mining Surveillance System service of the portal, the Yogi government has done geo-fencing of 466 areas, installed PTZ cameras & weigh bridge in mines in 330 areas, put RFID-based mining tag on over 80,000 heavy vehicles and set up automated check gates of which 16 are currently operational while work is underway on seven others.

# Maya slams Guv over praise of UP Govt as people suffer

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

Bahujan Samaj Party chief Mayawati questioned Governor Anandiben Patel over her giving a clean chit to the State Government on welfare and development and ignoring the hardship of the people during her address in the Assembly. Objecting to the Governor’s claim, the former UP Chief Minister said that the tall claims of development or launching public welfare programmes should only be made when some of them are also visible on ground.

She accused the BJP Government of making propaganda of their achievements when there was nothing on ground and all sections of the society were facing hardship,

due to inflation, lawlessness etc. She claimed that the Governor’s address failed to fulfill the expectations of the people.

Mayawati said that had the Governor’s address included some problems faced by common man then one would have been hopeful of witnessing some ‘achhe din’ in the days ahead but no mention of any relevant issues made it clear that the Government was not serious on taking up issues related to public interest.

The BSP chief further said that for some, ‘achhe din’ had already come as they were free to engage in illegal mining, openly barge inside police stations and assault the men in uniform or indulged in any other kind of unlawful activities.



# All heart

Delhi is taking notable steps in public health care by planning to instal AEDs in public spaces

In a commendable move to reduce fatalities caused by sudden cardiac arrest, the Delhi Government proposes to place heart care devices in public places across the city. Automated External Defibrillators (AEDs) are to be placed in crowded areas like railway stations, bus stations and markets. These portable AEDs are easy to handle even by the general public with minimal training. The idea is to stabilise the heart of the person suffering a cardiac arrest till the ambulance arrives. In a sudden cardiac arrest, the heart's electrical system fails, and it unexpectedly stops pumping blood. This produces abnormal heart rhythms and the pulse rate increases rapidly. If an AED is immediately available, it can deliver electrical shocks and restore the heart's normal rhythm. This is called defibrillation. But time is of the essence. A cardiac arrest can degenerate into death within seven to 10 minutes. An AED must therefore be used in time, and effectively. In India, 10 per cent of all deaths are caused by sudden cardiac arrests as patients await ambulances or reach late to hospitals. In this context, the Delhi Government's move is path-breaking. In the United States and Europe, the policies allowing AEDs in public places were implemented only after the turn of the century. Today, millions of these devices exist in these countries. All ambulances have them. So do most public transport systems. Having AEDs in the homes of high-risk cardiac

patients is now being considered.

The Delhi Government must note that software developers abroad have developed apps that help people locate these devices. Access to such a database is a necessity if the AEDs are to be of help in emergencies. Once this programme extends beyond Delhi, we will also need people trained in CPR (cardio-pulmonary resuscitation) to sign up as medical volunteers who can be located on apps. The key element of the proposal is training people to use the AEDs. Even before placing the devices, the Delhi Government's health department and city hospitals must team up to carry out large-scale awareness campaigns and organise training camps for the general public. The ambulance services spread across the national Capital should be linked to a common database. The Government must be sensitive to some of the issues involved in placing the AEDs in public places. The first one is easy. They should be placed in crowded areas that have a high chance of out-of-hospital cardiac arrests. The AEDS are needed in large residential areas as well, especially those far away from health centres. These are of critical importance in slums and unauthorised colonies where the poor live and where cardiovascular disease causes the maximum number of premature deaths. Finding locations in such slums will be a challenge unless Government schools or police stations are chosen to host these devices. The proposal needs a lot of coordination between the Government and the public to be a success.



Devotees at the Kedarnath temple after it experienced fresh snowfall

## Heavy weather

The Char Dham Yatra in Uttarakhand has been halted in view of the inclement weather

Snowfall and heavy bouts of rain are pummelling the Char Dham Yatra pilgrims in the upper reaches of Uttarakhand. Thousands of pilgrims have been told to break their journey en route the holy temples of Kedarnath and Yamunotri in the Garhwal Himalayas as a precautionary measure. The peaks around the famous Badrinath shrine have also received fresh snowfall. Kedarnath has been receiving snowfall for nearly 48 hours now, and its impact was experienced in the faraway Delhi-NCR as well where the temperatures fell nearly eight degrees Celsius and the weather turned quite pleasant as compared to the previous fortnight which was nothing less than a scorcher. While Garhwal's upper regions have been receiving snowfall, the lower areas are being lashed by incessant rains, prompting the authorities to halt the travel by devotees. The pilgrims and tourists were directed at Gaurikund and Sonprayag not to proceed any further in view of the impending inclement weather. The devotees proceeding towards Yamunotri were also halted at Janakichatti, virtually the last stopover point on way to the famous shrine that makes part of the State's Char Dham circuit also comprising Gangotri, Badrinath and Kedarnath, as the weather started playing truant in the afternoon.

According to the local administration at Badkot and Rudraprayag, the pilgrims have been told not to proceed any higher as a precautionary measure as it wasn't safe for pilgrims to travel beyond these points "for the time being". They shall be allowed to continue their ascent as soon as the weather clears. With the COVID-induced restrictions having been eased after almost two years, a record number of pilgrims this year are visiting the holiest of the four Himalayan temples in Uttarakhand. More than nine lakh pilgrims have already paid obeisance at these temples in the Garhwal region since the Char Dham Yatra got underway on May 3. Meanwhile, the Hemkund Sahib Yatra also began on Sunday with 5,000 pilgrims allowed to visit the shrine daily. The peaks surrounding Hemkund Sahib experienced light snow on the day the portals of the shrine were opened "but it has not affected the yatra", according to an official of the Hemkund Sahib Management Trust. The need of the hour is for the authorities to limit the number of pilgrims per day each season so as not to put pressure on the region's fragile ecology.

# Albanese will foster India engagement

The new Australian Prime Minister has consolidated his position within the Labour Party over years, and he well understands India's relevance

Australia has voted for change and elected a new Prime Minister, Anthony Albanese, Member for Grayndler in New South Wales since 1996. Nicknamed "Albo", his substantial rise in the party eventuated under Kevin Rudd's Kevin07 dispensation in which he was given a ministerial position. In the 2010 hung Parliament, Albanese was also instrumental in securing the support of independent members when the Government was shy of the majority mark. After the drubbing in the 2013 elections, when the Australia Labour Party chose Bill Shorten over him as the leader, he secured the Deputy Prime Minister's position.

Subsequently, following the shock defeat of the ALP in 2019 when Shorten resigned from leadership, Albanese became the party leader. There is no denying that Albanese took charge of the party in very challenging times and needed to unite its factions, restore public and business confidence in Labour's policies and values and, most of all, consolidate his own authority as a leader — and he has done fairly well on all counts. The jury may differ over his leadership style, articulation and capabilities, but his political resume certainly testifies his credentials as a peace/deal-maker within the Labor caucus and in Parliament. Above all, he possesses a key virtue to be a successful political leader — patience.

Come 2022, bidding his time, he backed his political convictions and after the initial gaffes in the media, brick-by-brick built his prime ministerial image in the public. He championed change in the way politics was conducted, inclusiveness in decision-making, compassion for the indigenous Australians and hope for the jobless. His promise to create a national anti-corruption commission is a big tick with the teals and also the Australian public.

His win was also aided by a strong anti-incumbency over rape and sexual misconduct; rising cost of living, fuel, electricity and essential commodities; stagnating wages, waning climate commitments and Scott



Morrison's delayed response in securing COVID vaccines and handling natural disasters. Most recently, ScoMo's flip-flop response in dealing with the Queensland floods gave the ALP leadership in Queensland the much-needed ammunition to target the federal Government. Morrison's mishandling of the Brittany Higgins' rape allegations and assault allegations against his two parliamentary colleagues, Christian Porter and Alan Tudge, especially inflicted a severe beating to the party's and his own public image, and last-ditch effort to announce Marise Payne as the 'Prime Minister for Women' proved futile in winning back women voters.

Albanese is likely to get a majority reaching 76, and thus escape teals (climate change activists) and the Greens breathing down his neck. He will have more space to manage the expectations of the resource industry and instil some moderation in climate policy and pursuit of "renewable energy superpower" status for Australia. In the post-pandemic recovery, the flagship resource sector is the key for GDP growth which the IMF has raised to 4.2 per cent in its latest forecast. The resource industry contends that more

THE JURY MAY DIFFER OVER HIS LEADERSHIP STYLE, ARTICULATION AND CAPABILITIES, BUT HIS POLITICAL RESUME CERTAINLY TESTIFIES HIS CREDENTIALS AS A PEACE/DEAL-MAKER WITHIN THE LABOUR CAUCUS AND IN PARLIAMENT

mines, minerals and metals are needed to build a modern society and boost economic growth and decoding this remains a challenging conundrum for the Albanese Government.

For New Delhi, bipartisan in Australia's India policy means the regime change would not disrupt policy continuity. In the wake of the Pulwama attack, new Foreign Minister Penelope Wong, then the Leader of the Opposition in the Senate, had condemned the "atrocious terrorist attack against security personnel in Jammu and Kashmir". In April, Anthony Albanese, as the Leader of the Opposition, had also welcomed the "deepening of ties" and signing of the Australia India Economic Cooperation and Trade Agreement (AI-ECTA). In 2017, Albanese had led a parliamentary delegation to India to deepen parliamentary ties, people-to-people relations and understand the social, economic, governance and political issues. He concluded his visit brief by writing: "...it is important that the parliamentary officers work closely to ensure that Australian parliamentary visitations don't wait some 17 years before the next visit." The insights gained will prove useful now.



ASHUTOSH MISRA

Albanese well understands India's relevance which has been elevated to 63rd in 'doing business with ease' rankings in the World Bank's Doing Business 2020 Report, making it the sixth fastest growing economy, surpassing France. It is now the ninth largest recipient of Foreign Direct Investment destination in 2019 by the World Investment Report 2020 of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD). As per the Global Innovation Index (GII) published by the World Intellectual Property Organisation (WIPO), India ranks 52nd in innovation, improving from 57th in 2018, and topping the list amongst the Central and South Asian nations.

In market sophistication, India ranks 20th both in terms of 'Ease of Getting Credit' and 'Market Capitalisation'; third in 'Domestic Market Sale' and sixth in 'Ease of Protecting Minority Investors'. In business sophistication, India has jumped from 51st in 2018 to 27th rank, and 23rd in 'University/Industry Research Collaboration', something that should interest the academic stakeholders in Australia. India is a major success in Knowledge and Technology and ranks 1st in ICT services exports (as a percentage of total exports) and also ranks 22nd in the list of 'Exporter of Creative Goods'.

As Albanese meets his Indian counterpart Narendra Modi in Tokyo at the Quad summit, both draw comfort from the fact that their strategic and bilateral interests cannot be seen in isolation. This means they can keep an eye on what happens between and around them, simultaneously. (The author is the CEO, Institute for Australia India Engagement, Brisbane, National Sports Chair [Australia India Business Council] and Editor-in-Chief, India News Australia. The views expressed are personal.)

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### COURTS MUST PRIORITISE HEARINGS

Sir — It is a matter of great concern that the precious time of courts, including the Supreme Court, is wasted on adjudication of cases pertaining to disputes over whether certain deities were worshipped in places where some mosques exist now. It is worrisome that the courts are forced to deal with such unimportant cases when they have to deal with huge backlog of cases related to the lives of the common people. Some Hindus believe that several mosques, the Gyanvapi mosque, for example, were built by demolishing temples. Muslims, on the other hand, believe that no such temples existed in these places.

It may be recollected that similar arguments had led to the demolition of Babri Masjid. The Places of Worship Act, 1991, was legislated by Parliament to prevent religious organisations from making claims on other mosques and shrines. For a long time the courts refused to hear cases questioning the legality of mosques. However, when the courts showed willingness to hear such cases, many litigants started filing petitions on flimsy grounds. In fact, the courts need to reject such cases as they violate the Places of Worship Act.

Venu GS | Kollam

### STATES CAN DO WITH MORE REVENUE

Sir — The Opposition-ruled States like Maharashtra, Rajasthan and Kerala have decreased VAT on petrol and diesel after Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman's call to provide further relief to consumers following a cut in excise duty by the Centre, though some other States appear reluctant citing their inability to take more strain on revenue. It is debatable whether States can afford to give up revenue from the Value Added Tax (VAT) on petrol and diesel unless the Centre devolves more funds or gives them more grants. The Shiv Sena-led Maharashtra Government slashed the VAT on petrol by ₹2.08 per litre and diesel by ₹1.44 per litre.

A statement by the Government said

## The Gyanvapi mosque row



The Varanasi district court's decision on the maintainability of the suit will be keenly watched for its legal, political and social significance. It will reveal how the court looks at the import and applicability of the Places of Worship (Special Provisions) Act, 1991. Lawyers can and will argue over technical details, but judges cannot waver in their determination to go strictly by the express provisions of the law. The wisdom of drawing a distinction between 'determining' the

character of a place of worship and 'changing' it and of arguing that 'ascertainment' of the character of a place of worship is not barred under the Act in the present context could defeat the whole object of this crucial piece of legislation.

The intention behind seeking 'to determine' the character of Gyanvapi mosque is 'to change' it. The present litigation is not for any academic interest, but for carrying out the Hindu right's agenda of converting certain mosques into temples in the name of 'correcting historical wrongs' and as part of Hindu revivalism. We are a secular democracy; we don't wish to see the sad events that happened in late 1980s and early 1990s reenacted in the 2020s. Disputes over places of worship cannot substitute efforts needed to be made to improve the quality of life of aam aadmi.

G David Milton | Kanyakumari

the State exchequer will have to bear an annual loss of ₹2,500 crore as a result of this decision. Despite the tax reduction announced by the Centre, the rates are still high compared to 2013 when the Congress (UPA) ruled the country. The Union Government's levies on petrol have gone up substantially in the last seven years. Though the revenue to the Union Government has increased manifold, there has not been a matching increase in the revenues to States. It means that the Centre's excise duty cut on petrol and diesel is eyewash.

Bhagwan Thadani | Mumbai

### GLOBAL FOOD CRISIS LOOMING

Sir — As per the World Food Programme, the world's largest humanitarian organisation focusing on food security and hunger, a crisis is looming. WFP has recently made a painful revelation that worldwide, up to 811 million people go to bed hungry every night, and the number of those facing acute food insecurity has

more than doubled — from 135 million to 276 million in the last three years. The hunger crisis has been caused by various factors like conflicts, climate shocks and the economic consequences in the aftermath of the COVID-19 pandemic.

WFP says that 'conflict' is the biggest driver of hunger, with 60 per cent of the world's hungry living in areas affected by war and violence. Also, the events unfolding in Ukraine are proof of how conflicts feed hunger. The pandemic has only exacerbated the problem, driving hunger to unprecedented levels. Putting an end to hunger and malnutrition is a moral obligation of humankind, and it is not just the duty of the Governments. Ordinary citizens, high net-worth individuals, youth influencers and celebrities can all play their part and raise their voice against the injustice of global hunger.

Ranganathan Sivakumar | Chennai

Send your feedback to: [letterstopioneer@gmail.com](mailto:letterstopioneer@gmail.com)

## SOUND BITE

Mujhe makkhan par lakeer kheenchne mein maza nahi aata; main patthar par lakeer kheenchta hoon.

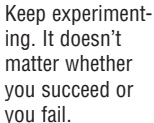


Prime Minister — Narendra Modi



The US will intervene militarily if China were to invade Taiwan. This burden is bigger than Ukraine (invasion).

US President — Joe Biden



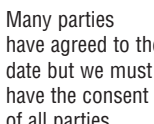
Keep experimenting. It doesn't matter whether you succeed or you fail.

Actor — Madhuri Dixit



I'm the type of player who gets motivated by the idea of rising in the rankings.

Former world No. 1 — Naomi Osaka



Many parties have agreed to the date but we must have the consent of all parties.

Bihar Chief Minister — Nitish Kumar



FIRST COLUMN

INDIA MUST STABILISE THE VALUE OF RUPEE



RP GUPTA

In Maysecond week, the forex reserve of India has reduced to \$595 billion from \$635 billion in September 2021. Existing reserves are about 18% of nominal GDP which is acomfort zone. Despite this, the value of rupee against US dollarfell almost by 6%to ₹77.4 in May, 2022 from ₹73 in September 2021. Such steep fall reveals that the value of the rupee is vulnerable to the net outflow of forex. Historically, India has been in the trade deficit (goods & services) and therefore, the forex reserves are generally built from the “capital receipts” in shape of debt and equity. Net “inward remittance” in the current account is about\$60-65 billion which is consumed in the part financing of trade deficit and mostly, India had been in “current account deficit”. Trade deficit is somewhat similar to “operating loss” and the current account deficit is similar to “net loss” of Nation in the international trade. This is not a good scenario for the stability of rupee. Ideally, India should be in “trade surplus” for a stable rupee. For appreciation ofrupee value, India should have“current account surplus” on consistent basis. Import of energy (Petroleum & Coal) must be partially replaced with domestic production. India is having enough reserves of coal and its production must be increased through mineral and coal sector reforms. Indiahasalso good reserves of oil and gas, as quoted by ex-petroleum Minister VeerappaMoily and also by Vedanta’s Anil Agrawal. However, thisneeds huge spending in prospecting. For replacing imports of electronics and defence items, Government has taken good steps; that may be pushed. Similar steps are also needed for other



major imports. Government should bring a white paper for boosting-exports and replacing imports with domestic production. Besides this, there is a vast scope of export of services in the field of tourism, consultancy (legal, accounting and engineering), shipping, education and health sector; that also needs a separate white paper.

The financial savings of India are not adequate for financing the investment needs and therefore, the dependency upon the inflow of global funds shall continue for few more years. As an interim measure, the physical savings in gold must be reduced to almostnil through financial innovation, as suggested by author in his Book ‘Turn Around India’. Huge import of gold is indeed a drag on the trade balance. In 1992,the regime of fixed exchange rate was ended. Thereafter, the value of rupee was almost stable from the year 2000 to 2010, as evident from the table below. It means that; it is feasible to maintain stability of rupee. Simultaneously, the reasons for subsequent fall inrupee value must be analysed and resolved. Total financial assets in the world are exceeding \$200 trillion. Global investors are in search of such destinations which provide them a high return in terms of US dollars. In case, India succeeds in achieving stability of Rupee, the global funds shall rush in. In such case, it is imperative that global funds are mostly used for the investment in productive assets and not for consumption. Failing which, the inflation might aggravate and the servicing of global funds might pose problem. For boosting investment in productive assets, the regulatory easement and the simplification of Tax laws are the prerequisites. Theexternal risks, if any, arising due to outflow of forex anddepreciation of rupee shall be totally eliminated. Rather, due to surplus forex reserves, the diplomatic relation of India shall improve, particularly with neighbouring nations. And thus, India shall command high respect in the global fraternity.

*(The writer is an economist and author. The views expressed are personal.)*

# Mahaprabhuji’s vision of universal peace

A Vaishnav does not harbour negative feelings of hatred, jealousy, envy, and so on, and treats everyone with respect, equanimity and equality

Vaishnavism is one of the major forms of modern Hinduism, characterised by devotion to Vishnu and his incarnations. A devotee of Vishnu is called a Vaishnava. The Vaishnavite tradition is known for the loving devotion to an avatar of Vishnu, and as such was key to the spread of the Bhakti movement in South Asia in the 2nd millennium CE. For Vaishnavas, absolute reality is manifested in Vishnu, who in turn is incarnated in Rama, Krishna, and other avatars. Through his avatars, Vishnu defends traditional righteousness in keeping with the moral law.

Vaishnavism is the worship and acceptance of Vishnu. The various sects of worshippers of Vishnu pray to him in different ways. For some, the goal of religious devotion to Vishnu is liberation from the cycle of birth and death. For others, it is health and prosperity in this life, good crops, success in business, or thriving children. Vaishnavism comprises many sects and groups that differ in their interpretation of the relationship between the individual and God. It has four main categories of sub-schools: the medieval-era Vishishtadvaita school of Ramanuja, the Dvaita school of Madhvacharya, the Dvaitadvaita school of Nimbarkacharya, and the Pushtimarg of Vallabhacharya. The Srivaishnava sect, for example, emphasises the doctrine of qualified non-dualism of Ramanuja, according to which, although the differentiated phenomenal world is illusory, it is nevertheless the medium through which devotees may gain access to God. Another group professes the dualism of the philosopher Madhva, the belief that God and the soul are separate entities and that the soul’s existence is dependent on God. The Pushtimarg sect maintains the pure non-dualism doctrine of the theologian Vallabhacharya, which does not declare the phenomenal world to be an illusion. The Gaudiya sect, founded by Chaitanya, teaches inconceivable duality and non-duality, the belief that the relation between God and the world is beyond the scope of human comprehension.

HDH Shashth Pithadishwar Puja Pad Goswami 108 Shree Dwarkeshlalji Maharajshree is the chief patron - managing trustee of Vaishnav Innerfaith Pushtimargiya Organisation (VIVO-Global). His Divine Holiness hails from the Pushtimarg tradition of Vaishnavism as the direct descendant of Jagadguru Shrimad Vallabhacharya Mahaprabhuji, the founder of Pushti Bhakti Marg and one of the five great Acharyas in Hinduism. His Divine Holiness is enthroned as the 14th Gadipathi of Shashthpeeth at Vadodara, one of the seven thrones of Shri VitthalnathjiGusainji, the son of Shri Vallabhacharya Mahaprabhuji. He is not only the head at Kalyanraiji Mandir, Vadodara but also at several temples/Havelis in India, the UK, the USA, and Canada. The first supreme omnipresent Jagad Guru Shrimad Vallabhacharya Mahaprabhuji established the Vaishnav religious system to grace upon



INNER FAITH IS THE DIVINE LOVE ONE EXPERIENCES AFTER REALISING KRISHNA’S TRUE NATURE. IT IS THE RECOGNITION OF THE ALL-PERVADING NATURE OR BRAHMAVAD ESSENCE OF GOD WITHIN OURSELVES AND IN THE WORLD THAT GIVES A POSITIVE OUTLOOK AND ATTITUDE TOWARDS LIFE

*(The writer is Editor-in-Chief of Opinion Express. The views expressed are personal.)*



the Universe, the Divine Grace, also known as Pushtimarg. Jagad Guru Vallabhacharyaji had two Divine Sons - Shri Gopinathji& Shri Vitthalnathji- Gosainji. Shri Vitthalnathji-Gosainji had seven sons. His sixth son was Shri Yadunathji. Shashtha pithadhishwar Param Puja Goswami 108 Shree DwarkeshlaljiMaharajshri is the 14th Generation of Shri Yadunathji. For the past 13 generations based on the traditions of Shashtha pithadhishwar, he resides on every Gaadi-Pati (Throne) as Raj-Tilak. He is presently residing in Vadodara as Raj-Tilak in Seva of Mohini Swarup Shri Kalyanrajji. This is the same Swarup that Beloved Vallabhacharya ji served (Sevya). Pujiyapad Goswami 108 Shree DwarkeshlaljiMaharajshri is presently the Raj-Tilak Gaadi-Pati of Vadodara, Ahmedabad-Naroda (Shri Mahaprabhaji’sBethakji), Gondal, Baria, (Gujarat), Gokul (Uttar Pradesh), Dhanpur, Shergad (Rajasthan), Vidisha (Madhya Pradesh), Sikandarabad (Telangana). Likewise, in Atlanta-Gokuldharm, Ocala-Pushtidham, Connecticut-Vallabhdham (All-USA) &Leicester-Shreeji Dham (UK). Moreover, he is serving var-

ious other religious establishments around the world as an advisory. From a very young age, Puja Maharajshree has been an inspirational religious, social and cultural leader as well as a guiding force for the young and old alike and strong support for the disadvantaged members of society. He has motivated thousands of youngsters to embrace Pushtimarg through various religious, cultural, educational, and charitable institutions throughout India and the world. Over the years, HDH has been honored for His profound philosophical and poetic writings as well as for His religious, social, and humanitarian work. He is a renowned Pushti Margiya Propagator, Philosopher and Teacher. He appreciates antique collections and art &artistry. He is very proficient in playing Mrudang (Pakhawaj) in Music Area. He is articulate in preparing and adorning jewelry for Shree Thakorjee. He has written several ongoing poetries in Gujarati, Hindi & Vraj Bhasha. He is the author of various religious and philosophical articles and texts. He has an interest in ancient & modern, known-unknown Gazals’ collections. He displays a keen interest in national geographic and



current affairs of past and present times... He has received several accolades and awards including the prestigious “Glory of Gujarat” award in 2015 for promoting social well-being, Indian culture, and religion as well as for His valuable contributions to economics and religious research. Most recently in August 2021, His Divine Holiness was awarded an honorary doctorate by North American University, USA. Puja Maharajshree continues to travel tirelessly throughout the world. HDH Dwarkeshlalji Maharajshree enlightens the world on the specifics of terminology commonly used by followers of the Vaishnav cult. Who is a Vaishnav? Anyone offering divine loving services to Lord Shree Krishna by dedicating and finding refuge in Him is called a Vaishnav. A Vaishnav does not harbor negative feelings of hatred, jealousy, envy, etc., and treats everyone with respect, equanimity, and equality.

What is Inner Faith?Inner faith is the divine love one experiences after realising Shri Krishna’s true nature. It is the recognition of the all-pervading nature or Brahmavad essence of God within ourselves and in the world that gives a positive outlook and attitude towards life and creates respect, understanding, and awareness of oneself as well as others. Unyielding faith originating from one’s experiences of God’s omnipotent presence can lead to extraordinary experiences which are practical and liberating. In this state of liberation, one merges into Shri Krishna’s blissful form and no caste, creed, color, sex, or age prevents one from attaining Shri Krishna’s grace. It transcends all boundaries of identity, time, space, and place.

What does Pushtimargiya mean?Pushtimarg also known as “The Path of Grace” is a Vaishnav sect of Hinduism established by Jagadguru Shrimad Vallabhacharya Mahaprabhuji, one of the great Acharyas of Hinduism. “Pushtimargiya” is spontaneous, selfless, motiveless love for LordVaishnavism theology, descend to empower the good and fight evil, thereby restoring Dharma. This is reflected in the passages of the ancient Bhagavad Gita as: Whenever righteousness wanes and unrighteousness increases, I send myself forth.

For the protection of the good and for the destruction of evil,and for the establishment of righteousness, I come into being age after age.

POINTCOUNTERPOINT

THIS IS A GOVERNMENT WORSE THAN THAT OF HITLER, MUSSOLINI OR EVEN STALIN. THEY ARE BULLDOZING THE NATION’S FEDERAL STRUCTURE. — WEST BENGAL CHIEF MINISTER MAMATA BANERJEE



IN THE LAST EIGHT YEARS, WE HAVE MADE OUR DEMOCRACY STRONG AND RESILIENT... ONE OF THE STRONGEST PILLARS OF PROGRESS. — PRIME MINISTER NARENDRA MODI



# Rajya Sabha elections will give BJP numerical edge

The regional parties may gain more than the two national parties, the ruling BJP and the Congress, in elections to the Upper House



KALYANI SHANKAR

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

several states like West Bengal, Telangana, Andhra Pradesh, Odisha, Delhi, Punjab, and Tamil Nadu. The last three states are coalition governments. The young Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) ruling Delhi and Punjab has been the biggest gainer in the Rajya Sabha biennial elections. It won five seats, with which its strength in the House has gone up to eight. The regional parties might increase their tally to 27 from 25 seats out of the 57.

Secondly, during Prime Minister Narendra Modi’s first term (2014-2019), the Congress-led opposition was strong and created hurdles for most bills. The BJP, which had just 47 members in 2012, has touched three digits. The numbers changed in Modi- 2-0, enabling the Government to

push through many contentious bills, including the abrogation of Article 370 and the trifurcation of Jammu and Kashmir.

Of the 59 members retiring, 25 belong to the BJP, while its allies, the Janata Dal (United) two and AIADMK, three. The shrinking National Democratic Alliance (NDA) has 31 seats out of the 59. It will be challenging for the NDA as it will likely lose 7 to 9. As far as other parties are

concerned, the Samajwadi Party has three, the Biju Janata Dal four, the Bahujan Samaj Party two, and the Telangana Rashtra Samiti three. In contrast, the YSR Congress, the Akali Dal, and the Rashtriya Janata Dal have one each.

In Andhra Pradesh, the BJP will lose the three it currently holds out of the four seats going to the polls. The YSRCP’s sweeping victory in 2019 means

it will gain all four seats. Similarly, the Telangana Rashtra Samiti (TRS) will gain both seats going to the polls. Biju Janata Dal (BJD) will continue to hold all three seats. In Bihar, the Rashtriya Janata Dal (RJD) will improve its tally from one seat to two, and AAP will win both the seats in Punjab that Congress and Akali Dal previously held. The Jharkhand Mukti Morcha (JMM) has offered one seat to Congress, held by the BJP.

Thirdly, the Congress Party, the main opposition since 2014, could shrink further. Electorally, the Congress Party has not recovered from the jolt it received in 2014 and 2019 and has lost one state after the other since then. Its tally in Rajya Sabha will dip further after the forthcoming biennial elections

to the Upper House. The party will get zero seats in Andhra Pradesh, come down in Rajasthan from 4 to 2, and lose one seat each from Jharkhand and Chattisgarh. Moreover, between now and 2024, there will be elections for 65 seats, but Congress’s chances are bleak and its strength will decrease further.

Fourthly, some senior Congress leaders might not get a Rajya Sabha berth due to the recent Udaipur resolution giving a 50 percent share to the youth in all positions. The tenure of senior Congress leaders, like P Chidambaram, Kapil Sibal, Jairam Ramesh and Ambika Soni, are set to end. Some Union ministers including Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman, Commerce Minister Piyush Goyal, and

Minority Affairs Minister Mukhtar Abbas Naqvi will also retire. However, they are all likely to come back. The party will be able to accommodate almost all of them after its recent massive win in four of the five state Assembly elections.

On the contrary, Congress’s footprint has shrunk geographically. The party is ruling in only four states-in Rajasthan and Chhattisgarh on its own and in Maharashtra and Jharkhand as a junior partner in the ruling alliance. The party will have zero representation in the Rajya Sabha from 17 states and Union Territories.

Above all, the Rajya Sabha is likely to have a new Chairman if the incumbent, M. Venkaiah Naidu, is either elevated as President or does not get a second term.



# Quad condemns terrorism, denounces 26/11, Pathankot attacks

PTI ■ TOKYO

The leaders of India, Australia, Japan and the United States on Tuesday unequivocally condemned terrorism and violent extremism in all its forms and manifestations, and reiterated their condemnation of terrorist attacks, including 26/11 Mumbai and Pathankot attacks perpetrated by Pakistan-based terror groups. In a Quad Joint Leaders' Statement issued after the second in-person meeting of Quad leaders here, Prime Minister Narendra Modi, US President Joe Biden, Japanese Prime Minister Fumio Kishida and Australia's newly-elected Prime Minister Anthony Albanese reiterated that there

can be no justification for acts of terror on any grounds whatsoever. "We condemn unequivocally terrorism and violent extremism in all its forms and manifestations," the statement said. The four leaders denounced use of terrorist proxies and emphasised importance of denying any logistical, financial or military support to terrorist groups which could be used to launch or plan terror attacks, including cross-border attacks, it said, without naming any country. "We reiterate our condemnation of terrorist attacks, including 26/11 Mumbai and Pathankot attacks," the leaders said in the joint statement. Terrorists of Pakistan-based



outfits Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT) and Jaish-e-Mohammed (JeM) had carried out the 26/11 Mumbai terror attack and the January 2016 Pathankot airstrike. JuD, led by Hafiz Saeed, is the front organisation for LeT which is responsible for carrying out 2008 Mumbai attack that killed 166 people, including six Americans. Saeed, a Pakistani national, is a UN-designated terrorist on whom US has placed a USD 10 million bounty. Last month, the Indian government designated as a terrorist Ali Kashif Jan, the Pakistani handler of the 2016 terror attack on Pathankot air base in which six terrorists and seven Indian soldiers were killed.

India has been asking Pakistan to take credible, verifiable and irreversible actions against terrorist networks and proxies operating from its soil and bring the perpetrators of 26/11 Mumbai and Pathankot attack to justice. In their joint statement, the Quad leaders also reaffirmed the UNSC Resolution 2593 (2021), which demands that the Afghan territory must never again be used to threaten or attack any country or to shelter or train terrorists, or to plan or finance terrorist attacks. "We emphasise importance of upholding international standards on anti-money laundering and combating financing of terrorism by all countries, consistent with FATF recommen-

dations. "We reaffirm that in our fight against terrorism, we will take concerted action against all terrorist groups, including those individuals and entities designated pursuant to UNSC Resolution 1267(1999)," it said. The Financial Action Task Force (FATF) is an inter-governmental body established in 1989 to combat money laundering, terrorist financing and other related threats to integrity of international financial system. The Paris-based FATF has placed Pakistan on its grey list since June 2018 for failing to check money laundering, leading to terror financing, and was given a plan of action to complete it by October 2019.

## Biden says no change in US policy towards Taiwan

PTI ■ TOKYO



President Joe Biden on Tuesday said his country's policy towards Taiwan remained unchanged, a day after his comments raised questions about whether Washington was shifting from its long-standing policy of maintaining an ambiguous stance on self-ruled island claimed by China as a renegade province. When asked at sidelines of QUAD summit hosted by Japan as to whether policy of strategic ambiguity towards Taiwan was changed, Biden replied: "No." "The policy has not changed at all. I stated that when I made my statement yesterday," Japan's Kyodo news agency quoted Biden as saying in a response to another question about whether or not US troops would be sent to Taiwan if China invaded island. Biden on Monday said United States

was committed to defending Taiwan if China attempted to seize self-ruled island by force. Asked if US is willing to get involved militarily in a Taiwan contingency, Biden told media after a meeting with Japanese Prime Minister Fumio Kishida here: "Yes. That's commitment we made." Biden also said burden to protect Taiwan was "even stronger" after Russia's invasion of Ukraine. The White House insists that Biden's unusually forceful comments about Taiwan did not amount to a shift in US policy towards self-ruled island that China claims as its own.

## China goes on offensive against IPEF, projects it as 'economic NATO' to blunt its dominance

PTI ■ BEIJING

As US President Joe Biden launched a new trade deal with 12 Indo-Pacific nations, including India, to enhance trade, economic and investment opportunities, China, which sees the pact as a threat to its dominance in the region, went on the offensive against it, promising more opening up, while the official media here termed it as "economic NATO". On the eve of the Quad summit in Tokyo, Biden on Monday launched the ambitious Indo-Pacific Economic Framework for Prosperity (IPEF), which is an initiative aimed at deeper cooperation among like-minded countries in areas such as clean energy, supply-chain resilience and digital trade. The IPEF is expected to send across a signal that the US is focused on pushing forward

a strong economic policy for the region to counter China's aggressive strategy on trade in region. The countries joining at launch of US-led initiative are Australia, Brunei Darussalam, India, Indonesia, Japan, Republic of Korea, Malaysia, New Zealand, the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, and Vietnam. The US-led trade deal has already caused consternation in Beijing as its Foreign Minister Wang Yi on same day offered more higher cooperation to the Indo-Pacific region with better Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) projects and investments. Addressing the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) through a video link around same time IPEF was launched on Monday, Wang said "the Asia-Pacific region is where China lives and thrives".

## Lanka arrests 67 suspected to be heading to Australia

AP ■ COLOMBO

Sri Lanka's navy said Tuesday that it has arrested 67 people who it believes were trying to travel by sea to Australia illegally. The navy said in a statement that 12 men were arrested first near port town of Trincomalee, 260 kilometers (160 miles) northeast of capital Colombo on Monday and, upon questioning them, intercepted 55 more people travelling in a fishing vessel. It said persons were aged between 3 and 53, and that five of them are suspected to be part of a human smuggling ring. Navy spokesperson Indika de Silva said while their destination is still not clear it is suspected that they were headed to Australia. Police were still determining the motivation for illegal voyage, de Silva said, but Sri Lankans over years have travelled to Australia and other developed nations illegally for economic and political reasons. Australian media reported Tuesday that officials sent 15 people back to Sri Lanka on Saturday after they were found travelling in a boat near Christmas Island. Sri Lanka is facing its worst economic crisis in recent memory facing heavy shortages of essentials from food, cooking gas, medicine and fuel to toilet paper and matchsticks.

## Chinese FM to visit Solomon Islands amid security pact worry

AP ■ BANGKOK



Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi will visit Solomon Islands this week in what the South Pacific nation's leader said was a "milestone" in his country's relationship with China, amid concerns that their new security pact could allow Chinese military personnel on the islands. But Prime Minister Manasseh Sogavare insisted in a statement posted on his government's website Tuesday that the partnership with Beijing does not come at the expense of ties with Australia, the United States and others. The visit of Wang at the head of a 20-person delegation on Thursday and Friday comes amid growing concerns about China's influence in the strategically important Solomon Islands. Wang will be the highest-ranking Chinese representative to visit the country since the two nations formalised diplomatic relations 32 months ago, the Solomon Islands Foreign Affairs Ministry said, after Sogavare switched recognition from Taiwan to Beijing. The Chinese Foreign Ministry said later that Wang would also visit Kiribati, Samoa, Fiji, Tonga, Vanuatu, Papua New Guinea and East Timor in

a 10-day trip. While in Fiji he will host a meeting with the foreign ministers of Pacific Island nations, it said. "It is believed that the meeting will play an important role in promoting solidarity and cooperation between China and the Pacific island countries and in advancing the development of our relations," Foreign Ministry spokesperson Wang Wenbin said in Beijing. The security agreement, signed in April, would allow Beijing to send police and military personnel to Solomon Islands "to assist in maintaining social order" and let Chinese warships make port calls for "logistical replenishment." That has raised fears of a possible Chinese naval base on doorstep of Australia and New Zealand.

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

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

Sr. No.	Name of the Borrower/ Co-Borrower/ Guarantor/ (Loan Account Number) & Address	Property Address of Secured Asset/ Asset to be Enforced	Date of Notice Sent/ Outstanding as on Date of Notice	NPA Date
1.	Jagmohan Singh, Kalpana Singh, Qtr No 53/1 Dhouladhar Officer Enclave Mamun Cantt Gurdaspur Punjab. A/c No. LBPTK00004903142	Flat No. A- 801, 8th Floor Block No. A Satellite Soham Co-Operative Housing Society Ltd, Scheme Known As Rudra Prayag Tower A Situated At Land Bearing Survey No.981 (Final Plot No. 133 Of Tps 6) Of Mouje Vejalpur Ahmedabad Gujarat	07/04/2022 Rs. 51,58,450/-	30/12/ 2021

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

Date : May 25, 2022  
Place: Gurgaon

Authorized Officer  
ICICI Bank Limited

**PUBLIC NOTICE - TENDER CUM AUCTION FOR SALE OF SECURED ASSET**  
[See proviso to rule 8(6)]  
**Notice for sale of immovable assets**

E-Auction Sale Notice for Sale of Immovable Assets under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 read with proviso to Rule 8 (6) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002.

Notice is hereby given to the public in general and in particular to the Borrower(s) and Guarantor(s) that the below described immovable property mortgaged/charged to the Secured Creditor, the Physical possession of which has been taken by the Authorised Officer of ICICI Bank Ltd. will be sold on "As is where is", "As is what is", and "Whatever there is", as per the brief particulars given hereunder;

Sr. No.	Name of the Borrower(s)/ Co-Borrowers/ Guarantors/ Loan Account No.	Details of the Secured asset(s) with known encumbrances, if any	Amount Outstanding	Reserve Price/ Earnest Money Deposit	Date and Time of Property Inspection	Date & Time of Auction
(A)	(B)	(C)	(D)	(E)	(F)	(G)
1.	Mudit Agarwal (Borrower), Varsha Agarwal, Bharti Agarwal (Co-Borrower) LBLUC00002367082	Flat No 1704, Floor- 17 Tower T1, Sunworld Arista Sector-168, Noida 201301. area 2100 Sq Ft	Rs.1,55,74, 105.71/- as on May 9, 2022	Rs.68,00, 000/- as on May 9, 2022	June 4, 2022 From 11 AM to 1:00 PM	June 16, 2022 From 11:00 AM Onwards
2.	Amit Kumar Agarwal (Borrower), Bharti Agarwal (Co-Borrower) LBLUC00002367083	1703 17th Floor, Tower- 1 Sunworld Arista, Sector- 168, Noida, Noida 201301 area- 2100 Sq. Ft.	Rs.1,56,07, 845.57/- as on May 9, 2022	Rs.68,00, 000/- as on May 9, 2022	June 4, 2022 From 11 AM to 1:00 PM	June 16, 2022 From 11:00 AM Onwards
3.	Esha Laxman (Borrower), Divay Mehta (Guarantor) LBDEL00002430981	Flat No 504, 5th Floor Tower 1, Plot No Gh 01/C, Sunworld Arista Sec 168, Noida, Gautam Buddha Nagar 201301. area 2100 Sq Ft	Rs.1,48,64, 723.90/- as on May 9, 2022	Rs.65,00, 000/- as on May 9, 2022	June 4, 2022 From 11 AM to 1:00 PM	June 16, 2022 From 11:00 AM Onwards
4.	Nishant Dalmia (Borrower), Vasudha Dalmia (Guarantor)) LBGHZ00002422226	Flat No.1606, 16th Floor Tower T6 Plot No Gh 01/C, Sunworld Arista Sector 168, Noida, Gautam Buddha Nagar 201301 area 2100 Sq ft.	Rs.1,54,98, 845.90/- as on May 9, 2022	Rs.72,00, 000/- as on May 9, 2022	June 4, 2022 From 11 AM to 1:00 PM	June 16, 2022 From 11:00 AM Onwards
5.	Jitender Kumar Chhabra (Borrower)/ Ram Devi (Co Borrower) LBNOD00002116807	Flat No A-2002, Tower A, Springview Floors, Crescent Parc Township, NH-24, Ghaziabad, UP area: 1243 Sq. Fts	Rs. 6,215,162/- as on May 17, 2022	Rs.41,80, 000/- as on May 17, 2022	May 30, 2022, From 2:00 PM to 3:00 PM	June 16, 2022, From 01:00 PM to 02:00 PM
6.	Sanjeev Chandel (Borrower)/ Pallavi Chandel (Co Borrower) LBNOD00002114485	Flat No A-2103, 2nd Floor Tower A, Springview Floors, Crescent Parc Township, NH-24, Ghaziabad, UP Area: 1243 Sq. fts	Rs. 6,463,977/- as on May 18, 2022	Rs.41,80, 000/- as on May 18, 2022	May 30, 2022, From 2:00 PM to 3:00 PM	June 16, 2022, From 01:00 PM to 02:00 PM

The online auction will be conducted on website [URL Link-<https://disposalhub.com>] of our auction agency M/s NexXen Solutions Private Limited. The Mortgagors/ noticee are given a last chance to pay the total dues with further interest till **June 15, 2022 before 05:00 P.M** else these secured assets will be sold as per above schedule. The Prospective Bidder(s) must submit the Earnest Money Deposit (EMD) Demand Draft (DD) (Refer Column E) at **ICICI Bank Limited, 3rd Floor Shal Tower, New Rohtak Road, Karol bagh, Delhi- 110005** and thereafter they need to submit their offer through the above mentioned website only on or before **June 15, 2022 before 05:00 P.M** along with scan image of Bank acknowledged DD towards proof of payment of EMD. Kindly note, in case prospective bidder(s) are unable to submit their offer through the website then signed copy of tender documents may be submitted at **ICICI Bank Limited, 3rd Floor Shal Tower, New Rohtak Road, Karol bagh, Delhi- 110005** on or before **June 15, 2022 before 05:00 P.M**. Earnest Money Deposit DD/PO should be from a Nationalised/Scheduled Bank in favour of "ICICI Bank Limited" payable at Delhi. For any further clarifications with regards to inspection, terms and conditions of the auction or submission of tenders, kindly contact **ICICI Bank Limited on 8126013708 or M/s NexXen Solutions Private Limited on 9710029933/9810029926/01244233933** Please note that Marketing agencies 1. M/s NexXen Solutions Private Limited. 2. Augeo Asset Management Pvt.Ltd have also been engaged for facilitating the sale of this property. The Authorised Officer reserves the right to reject any or all the bids without furnishing any further reasons. For detailed terms and conditions of the sale, please visit [www.icicibank.com/n4p4s](http://www.icicibank.com/n4p4s)

Date: May 25, 2022  
Place: Delhi/ NCR

Authorized Officer  
ICICI Bank Limited

## Iran building collapse kills 11 as Mayor and others detained

Tehran: Rescuers dug through debris on Tuesday of a building collapse in southwestern Iran that killed at least 11 people, fearful that many more could still be trapped beneath the rubble as authorities arrested the city's mayor in a widening probe of the disaster. The collapse on Monday of an under-construction 10-story tower at the Metropolis Building exposed its cement blocks and steel beams while also underscoring an ongoing crisis in

Iranian construction projects that has seen other disasters in this earthquake-prone nation. Video from the initial collapse showed thick dust rise over Abadan, a crucial oil-producing city in Khuzestan province, near Iran's border with Iraq. The Metropolis Building included two towers, one already built and the other under construction, though its bottom commercial floors had finished and already had tenants. AP

ORIENTAL NAGPUR BETUL HIGHWAY LIMITED				
Regd. Off.: OSE Commercial Block, Asset 5B, Aerocity, Hospitality, District, IGI Airport, New Delhi-110037, Tel: 91-11-46044604, Email: spv.ose@gmail.com CIN: U45400DL2010PLC203649				
FINANCIAL RESULTS FOR THE QUARTER & YEAR ENDED MARCH 31, 2022				
(Amount in Rs in Lakhs)				
Sl. No.	Particulars	Quarter Ended 31.03.2022 (Audited)	Quarter Ended 31.03.2021 (Audited)	Year Ended 31.03.2021 (Audited)
1	Total income from operations (net)	86,368.55	13,908.65	55,600.53
2	Net Profit/(Loss) for the period ( before Tax and Exceptional items)	6,039.88	5,558.61	24,860.21
3	Net Profit / (Loss) for the period before tax (after Exceptional items)	6,039.88	5,558.61	24,860.21
4	Net Profit / (Loss) for the period after tax (after Exceptional items)	698.82	5,526.30	21,608.65
5	Total Comprehensive Income for the period [Comprising Profit / (Loss) for the period (after tax) and Other Comprehensive Income (after tax)]	698.82	5,526.30	21,608.65
6	Paid up Equity Share Capital	1,813.45	1,813.45	1,813.45
7	Reserves (excluding Revaluation Reserve)	121,721.60	121,266.58	121,266.58
8	Securities Premium	34,436.55	34,436.55	34,436.55
9	Net Worth	123,535.05	123,080.03	123,080.03
10	Paid up Debt Capital/Outstanding Debt	242,424.23	251,872.64	251,872.64
11	Outstanding Redeemable Preference Shares	0.00	0.00	0.00
12	Debt Equity Ratio	2.11:1	2.05:1	2.05:1
13	Earnings Per Share (of Rs 10/- each)			
1	Basic:	3.85	30.47	119.16
2	Diluted:	3.85	30.47	119.16
14	Capital Redemption Reserve	0.00	0.00	0.00
15	Debtenture Redemption Reserve	19,231.40	0.00	0.00
16	Debt Service Coverage Ratio	1.30:1	1.36:1	1.36:1
17	Interest Service Coverage Ratio	2.06:1	1.98:1	1.98:1
18	Asset Coverage Ratio:	1.61:1	1.80:1	1.80:1
19	Current Ratio	4.01:1	5.47:1	5.47:1
20	Debtor Turnover Ratio	0.15:1	0.17:1	0.17:1
21	Inventory Turnover Ratio	NA	NA	NA
22	Long Term Debt to Working Capital	2.43:1	2.17:1	2.17:1
23	Bad Debts to Accounts Receivable	NA	NA	NA
24	Current Liabilities Ratio	0.11:1	0.09:1	0.09:1
25	Total Debts to Total Assets	0.68:1	0.66:1	0.66:1
26	Operating Margin	0.07:1	1.06:1	1.06:1
27	Net Profit Margin	0.01:1	0.45:1	0.45:1
Note:				
a) The above is an extract of the detailed format of quarterly audited financial results filed with the Stock Exchange under Regulations 52 of the SEBI (Listing and Other Disclosure Requirements) Regulations 2015. The full format of the quarterly audited financial results are available on the websites of the National Stock Exchange (NSE) and the listed entity ( <a href="http://www.nagpurbetulhighway.in">http://www.nagpurbetulhighway.in</a> ).				
b) For the other line items referred to in Regulation 52(4) of the SEBI (Listing and Other Disclosure Requirements) Regulations 2015, pertinent disclosures have been made to the Stock Exchange and are available on the websites of the National Stock Exchange (NSE) and the listed entity ( <a href="http://www.nagpurbetulhighway.in">http://www.nagpurbetulhighway.in</a> ).				
c) These quarterly audited financial results have been reviewed by the Audit Committee and approved by the Board of Directors of the Company at their meeting held on May 24, 2022. The Statutory Auditors have carried out limited review of the aforesaid results.				
d) The financial results of the company have been prepared in accordance with Indian Accounting standard prescribed under sec 133 of companies Act 2013.				
For and on behalf of Board of Directors of Oriental Nagpur Betul Highway Limited Sd/- Nikhil Dhingra Director DIN - 07835556				
Place: New Delhi Date : 24.05.2022				

**RATHI STEEL AND POWER LIMITED**  
CIN: L27109DL1971PLC005905  
Regd. Off.: 24/1, Block A, Mohan Cooperative Industrial Estate, Mathura Road, New Delhi- 110044  
Email ID: investors@rathisteelandalpower.com, Website: www.rathisteelandalpower.com

This is to inform you that pursuant to the Regulation 33 of SEBI (Listing Obligations And Disclosure Requirements) Regulations, 2015 meeting of the Board of Directors of M/s Rathi Steel and Power Limited is to be held on Monday the 30th Day of May, 2022 at the Registered office of the Company at 04:00 PM to consider and approve following businesses as under:-

ITEM NO.	AGENDA FOR DISCUSSION
Take note and confirm the following:-	
1.	To appoint Chairman of the meeting to call the meeting to order.
2.	To Ensure Quorum of the Meeting
3.	To grant leave of absence, if any.
4.	To take note and confirm the minutes of previous meeting of board of directors of the Company.
Consider and Approve following:-	
5.	To consider and approve Audited Financial Results for the Quarter and Year ended on March 31, 2022
6.	Any other businesses with permission of the Chair.

For and on behalf of Board Sd/- (PREM NARAIN VARSHNEY) MANAGING DIRECTOR DIN: 00012709

Place: New Delhi Date: 20-05-2022

**NEW OKHLA INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY**  
Administrative Building, Sector-6, Noida G.B. Nagar,(U.P)  
Website : [www.noidaauthorityonline.com](http://www.noidaauthorityonline.com)

**E-TENDER NOTICE**

E-Tender are invited from firms/contractors registered with UPLC Lucknow for the following jobs against which bids can be uploaded and same shall be opened/downloaded as per schedule mentioned. The details and conditions of all tenders are available on NOIDA Authority's official website: [www.noidaauthorityonline.com](http://www.noidaauthorityonline.com) & <http://etender.up.nic.in> . Please ensure to see these websites for any changes/ amendments & corrigendum etc.

(A) 1.	<b>04/PGM/AO/SM(JAL-OA)/22-23-</b> M/o UGR STP (Cleaning and removal of existing Desilting/Debris/Silt rubbish/Bio mass/Grit & Sediment Material from Open / Covered UGR including Cleaning of all wall/floor/ Ceiling by Super Suker Machine/Mechanical Cleaning Machine/Chemical Cleaner in STP Compound 35 MLD UGR at Sector-123) NOIDA. Cost. 47.60 Lac
2.	<b>05/PGM/AO/SM(JAL-OA)/22-23-</b> M/O of STP (Repairing of Internal CC Road, Replacing of Damage Drain CC covers & Construction of UGR Operator Room Civil work in Compound of STP Sec-168) Noida. Cost. 41.71 Lac
3.	<b>06/PGM/AO/SM(JAL-OA)/22-23-</b> O/M of Sewer line and MSPS/IPS at Expressway (Two Year Repairing of 400 KVA and 630 KVA Transformer and Related Electrical works at IPS - 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 and 8 and MSPS-1 and 2) Noida. Cost. 47.68 Lac
4.	<b>07/PGM/AO/SM(JAL-OA)/22-23-</b> M/O of Sewer line and MSPS/SPS at Expressway (Repairing of MSPS-1 at Sec-136, Civil work Boundary wall, Darin, and Other Related miscellaneous work along Noida Gr. Noida Expressway) Noida. Cost. 47.63 Lac
5.	<b>08/PGM/AO/SM(JAL-OA)/22-23-</b> M/O STP (S/F 500 KVA DG Set with shed & Platform for 50 MLD UGR Compound, Sector-168) Noida. Cost. 48.84 Lac

Which can be uploaded by date **08.06.2022 upto 5.00 P.M**. Pre-qualification shall be opened/downloaded on date **09.06.2022 at 11.00 A.M**.  
Principal General Manager  
NOIDA

CLEAN, GREEN, SAFE & SECURE NOIDA







# ‘Indian firms show resilience despite Covid disruption’

**New Delhi:** As many as 50 per cent of Indian CEOs acknowledge that Covid pandemic has caused short-term disruption to their industry, but Indian companies have continued to demonstrate resilience as economy rebounds, a survey said on Tuesday.

The EY India CEO Survey 2022 has found that merger and acquisitions (M&A) is a key strategic lever for Indian CEOs as they look to buy versus build to achieve their transformation ambitions.

“Today, amidst challenges of inflationary pressures, supply chain issues, and increasing geopolitical conflicts, CEOs in India are resetting their risk radar and reframing their investment strategy for reshaped future, with transformation and sustainability increasingly driving the M&A agenda,” the survey said.

According to the EY 2022 CEO Outlook Survey, 50 per cent of Indian CEOs acknowledge the pandemic caused

short-term disruption to their industry.

Geopolitical challenges have further exacerbated a tumultuous period and created additional risks to business operations.

“However, Indian companies have continued to demonstrate resilience, on Indian economic rebound,” it added.

As many as 80 per cent of Indian CEOs also acknowledge making adjustments to their global operations and supply chains. For 63 per cent, the purpose has been to reduce logistics costs and increase resilience.

“This said, Indian CEOs recognize that increasing geopolitical tensions, trade conflicts and protectionism, along with increasing competition from non-traditional competitors and the acceleration of climate change impacts will pose the greatest risks to their future growth strategy,” the survey said.

EY India Chairman Rajiv Memani said, “There is no doubt that Indian CEOs are leading from the front to combat the challenges emanating from the pandemic and geopolitical tensions ... They are increasingly looking at M&As as a lever for accelerating business transformation and long-term value creation.” *PTI*

# Markets reverse early gains in volatile trade, Sensex falls 236 pts



**Mumbai:** Equity indices failed to hold on to morning gains on Tuesday, with the Sensex falling 236 points amid a sell-off in IT stocks and weak trends from global markets.

The 30-share BSE benchmark opened higher but could not carry forward the momentum and declined 236 points or 0.43 per cent to settle at 54,052.61. During the day, it hit a low of 53,886.28 and a high of 54,524.37.

The broader NSE Nifty dropped 89.55 points or 0.55 per cent to end at 16,125.15.

In the Sensex pack, Tech Mahindra, Hindustan Unilever, HCL Technologies, Asian Paints, NTPC, Tata Steel, Infosys, Axis Bank and Bajaj Finserv were among the biggest

laggards.

In contrast, Dr Reddy's, HDFC, PowerGrid, Kotak Mahindra Bank, HDFC Bank and Nestle were among the major gainers.

“Nifty faced selling pressure in the post noon session once again today. It opened flat and rose in the morning. It later came under selling pressure and closed lower for the second consecutive session,” said Deepak Jasani, Head of Retail Research, HDFC Securities.

Asian markets in Hong Kong, Shanghai, Seoul and Tokyo ended lower. Exchanges in Europe were also trading lower in the afternoon trade. Stock markets in the US had ended higher on Monday. *PTI*

# Rupee slips 4 paise to close at 77.59 against US dollar

**Mumbai:** The rupee slipped by 4 paise to close at 77.59 (provisional) against the US dollar on Tuesday, weighed down by a negative trend in domestic equities and unabated foreign fund outflows.

At the interbank foreign exchange market, the rupee opened lower at 77.56 against the greenback, and finally settled at 77.59, down 4 paise over its previous close.

During the trading session, the rupee touched an intra-day low of 77.67 and a high of 77.51.

On Monday, the rupee recovered from record lows and settled 15 paise higher at 77.55 against the US currency.

The dollar index, which gauges the greenback's strength against a basket of six currencies, was trading 0.07 per cent lower at 102.

Global oil benchmark Brent crude futures fell 0.37 per cent to USD 113 per barrel.

“The Indian rupee drifted lower after two days of consolidation on the back of the risk-averse sentiment and foreign fund outflows. The rupee has been underperforming among Asian currencies amid a weaker macro environment and foreign fund outflows,” said Dilip Parmar, Research Analyst, HDFC Securities.

While the dollar index has



fallen further to the downside and eying the psychological level of 100, the local unit is weakening along with other emerging market currencies on growth and inflation worries.

“So far this month, the rupee has been the worst-performing currency among Asian currencies with a loss of 1.6 per cent after the RBI joined the global central banks in raising interest rates to curb inflation,” Parmar said.

In the current calendar year, foreign institutional investors sold equities worth USD 21.25 billion and USD 1.82 billion of debt.

Near-term outlook for USDINR remains bullish as long as it trades above 76.70, while on the higher side it faces strong resistance in the area of 77.80 to 78, Parmar noted. *PTI*

# India's crude oil production falls 1% in April

**New Delhi:** India's crude oil production fell 1 per cent in April after lower output from fields operated by the private sector wiped away gains by state-owned firms such as ONGC, official data showed Tuesday. India produced 2.47 million tonnes of crude oil in April, down from 2.5 million tonnes in the same month last year, according to data released by the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas.

Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC) produced 1.65 million tonnes of crude oil in April, which was nearly 5 per cent more than the target set for it and 0.86 per cent high than the 1.63 million tonnes produced last year.

Oil India Ltd (OIL) produced 3.6 per cent more crude at 2,51,460 tonnes but fields operated by the private sector produced 7.5 per cent less crude oil at 5,67,570 tonnes.

The government has been focused on raising domestic production of oil and gas to cut reliance on imports. India imports 85 per cent of its oil needs and about half of its natural gas requirement.

Natural gas output rose 6.6 per cent to 2.82 billion cubic meters on the back of higher output from eastern offshore - home to the KG-D6 block of Reliance Industries Ltd and BP plc. *PTI*

# Gold gains marginally by ₹25, silver tumbles ₹428

**New Delhi:** Gold in the national Capital on Tuesday gained marginally by ₹25 to ₹51,027 per 10 grams in line with firm trend in international precious metal prices along with rupee depreciation, according to HDFC Securities.



In the previous trade, the precious metal settled at ₹51,002 per 10 grams.

Silver, however, tumbled ₹428 to ₹61,557 per kg from ₹61,985 per kg in the previous trade.

Meanwhile, the rupee slipped by 4 paise to close at 77.59 (provisional) against the US dollar on Tuesday, weighed down by a negative trend in domestic equities and unabated foreign fund outflows. In the international market, gold was trading higher at USD 1,859 per ounce and silver was flat at USD 21.89 per ounce.

“Gold prices traded firm with spot gold prices at COMEX trading 0.38 per cent up at USD 1,859 per ounce on Tuesday,” said Tapan Patel, Senior Analyst (Commodities) at HDFC Securities. *PTI*

# Sebi allowing MFs to launch passive ELSS will provide cost-effective, tax saving alternative to investors

**New Delhi:** Capital markets regulator Sebi's move to allow mutual funds to launch passively managed Equity-Linked Savings Schemes (ELSS) will provide a cost-effective and tax-saving alternative to individual investors, experts said on Tuesday.

Apart from these, Sebi has put in place a framework for managing passive funds -- Exchange Traded Funds (ETFs) and Index Funds -- amid growing popularity of such funds as an investment product for retail investors.

Sebi, in its circular, on Monday said mutual funds can either launch an actively-managed ELSS scheme or a passively-managed one but not in both categories.

The passive ELSS scheme should be based on one of the indices comprising equity shares from top 250 companies in terms of market capitalisation.

Piyush Gupta, Director - Funds Research, Crisil Ltd, said that Sebi's move to push passive debt funds is doubly beneficial.

One, it will offer a low-cost option to those seeking to invest in actively managed fixed-income-oriented funds.

Two, it will engender liquidity for such products that, in turn, would deepen India's corporate bond market, he added. “The advent of passively managed ELSS provides a cost and tax-saving alternative to individual investors,” he said. *PTI*

# Commerce Ministry tightens norms to check wheat export by corrupt traders

**New Delhi:** The Commerce Ministry has imposed a new condition for the grant of registration certificates for wheat exports as it looks to curb shipments by unscrupulous traders.

The government is allowing wheat shipments for which irrevocable letters of credit (LoC) were issued on or before May 13, when the ban of the export of the foodgrain was imposed.

According to the new condition notified by the DGFT, the message exchange date between the Indian and foreign bank/swift date for the issue of an LoC should be on or prior to May 13, 2022.

Exporters will have to submit the message exchange date with foreign banks along with a valid LoC, issued on or before May 13, to obtain registration of contracts (RC) to ship their consignments, according to a notice by the Directorate General of Foreign Trade (DGFT).

The DGFT issued the notice to prevent unscrupulous



traders from exporting wheat on the basis of fraudulent backdated letter of credits (L/C).

The notice stated that exporters having valid L/Cs would have to register with the regional authorities (RAs) of the DGFT to obtain registration of contracts (RC) to ship their consignments.

“Information has been received from sources that fraudulent back dated L/C showing date of issuance as on or prior to May 13, 2022, are being submitted by some

unscrupulous exporters for issue of RCs, but as per the L/C, message exchange date between foreign and the Indian bank/swift message is after May 13, 2022,” the DGFT said.

The matter, it said “has been considered and it is clarified that for registration of L/C with the RAs of DGFT, apart from the L/C date, the message exchange date between the Indian and foreign bank/swift date should be on or prior to May 13, 2022.”

# Redington India posts Q4 standalone net at ₹123.46 crore

**Chennai:** Redington India Ltd has reported standalone profit for the quarter ending March 31, 2022 at Rs 123.46 crore, the company said on Tuesday.

The city headquartered supply chain solutions provider had clocked standalone net profits at Rs 115.47 crore in corresponding quarter previous year. For the year ending March 31, 2022 standalone profit grew to Rs 935.07 crore, from Rs 263.33 crore registered year ago. The standalone total income during the quarter under review stood at Rs 7,790.74 crore as against Rs 6,367.29 crore registered year ago. For the year ending March 31, 2022 standalone total income rose to Rs 27,506.47 crore, from Rs 22,791.74 crore registered year ago.

In a statement, the company said it reported strong performance across all business segments with overall revenue growth of 12 per cent year-on-year for the period ending March 31, 2022.

The company said it surpassed a milestone of Rs 62,000 crore in revenues for the full year ending March 31, 2022.

The growth in Profit After Tax has been strong at 69 per cent for the year with the business generating cash flow from operations of Rs 989 crore.

“The growth has been driven by continued demand for technology products, solutions and services that can enable digital transformation, hybrid work, modernisation of information technology, data centre and applications,” it said.

“FY22 has been an immensely satisfying year for us in terms of broad-based business growth.

As the journey towards digitalisation accelerates, we have been focused on bringing innovations faster to market...”, company managing director Rajiv Srivastava said. “Our trust-based relationships with vendors and partners are a key enabler in our growth fuelled by new age technologies and cloud based adoptions”, he said. *PTI*

# Govt likely to cap sugar exports to 10 mn tonnes this year: Official

**New Delhi:** The government is likely to restrict sugar exports to 10 million tonnes for the first time in six years in order to maintain enough domestic supply and prevent rise in prices, according to official sources.

Mills have contracted for export of 9 million tonnes of sugar so far in the 2021-22 marketing year (October-September). Out of which, 7.5 million tonnes of the sweetener has been exported, the sources added.

India is the world's second largest producer and exporter after Brazil.

“A notification on sugar



export restrictions will be issued in a day or two,” the sources said.

A closing stock of 6 million tonnes is required at the end of September 2022, to meet the domestic demand in the first two months of the new 2022-23 marketing year.

Also, the country's priority is first to meet the domestic requirement, keep prices under check and allow export only if there is surplus quantity, the sources said.

Restrictions are likely to be imposed months ahead of the closing of the current marketing year, so that the contracted quantity of sugar is shipped smoothly, the sources added.

In 2020-21, the country exported 7 million tonnes of sugar.

The major importing countries are Indonesia, Afghanistan, Sri Lanka, Bangladesh, UAE, Malaysia and African countries. *PTI*

# Rising fuel costs, expensive EVs making CNG a welcome relief

**New Delhi:** Rising fuel costs and prohibitively expensive electric vehicles are making compressed natural gas (CNG) “a welcome relief and alternate fuel” for mobility for Indian consumers, according to a report by NRI (Nomura Research Institute) Consulting & Solutions.

CNG vehicle sales continued to grow in FY22, rising by 55 per cent to 2,65,383 units in FY22 compared to 1,71,288 units in FY21, as per NRI's report titled “Path to clean mobility: Increasing penetration of NGVs in India.”

In the last five years, the penetration of CNG vehicles has also increased, and its parc has grown at a CAGR of 5.3 per

cent to 37.97 lakh units as of March 2022 from 30.90 lakh units in March 2018, the report said. “With increased differential TCO (total cost of ownership) benefits compared to other fuels, CNG is gaining more prominence among consumer preference post-BS-VI. The technology is now well established in India with major OEMs concentrating to bring in a range of cost-efficient and fuel-efficient CNG variants,” NRI said in a statement.

The report pointed out that favourable factors, such as improvement in CNG fuelling infrastructure and supporting regulatory environment, are helping the growth of CNG vehicles. “With fuel prices soar-

ing and electric vehicles becoming prohibitively expensive for most Indians, vehicles that run on compressed natural gas could be considered as a welcome relief and an alternative for mobility,” NRI said.

The expansion of the CGD (city gas distribution) network and an increasing number of CNG stations is expected to encourage the proliferation of NGVs (natural gas vehicles), it added. “The immense volume and favourable conditions of the Indian automobile market give an opportunity to promote widespread adoption of NGVs in India,” NRI Consulting & Solutions Senior Partner & Group Head Ashim Sharma said. *PTI*

# DoT official: BSNL to migrate 30K Wifi hotspots to PM-WANI framework by June

**New Delhi:** State-owned Bharat Sanchar Nigam will migrate 30,000 of its wifi hotspots to the PM-WANI framework by June, a senior telecom department official on Tuesday said, adding Railways too has an ambitious blueprint for all its future hotspots to be under the framework.

Speaking at Broadband India Forum (BIF) event, Vivek Narayan, DDG (data services) in the Department of Telecom (DoT) mentioned the potential and impact of the PM-WANI wifi hotspots scheme across areas, such as tourism, smart cities and last-mile connectivity in villages.

In a bid to fuel broadband internet proliferation across the country, the government, in December 2020, approved the setting up of public wifi networks and access points by local Kirana and neighbourhood shops through public data offices that will not involve any licence, fee or registration.

The public Wi-Fi Access Network Interface, known as PM-WANI, hold the promise of unleashing a massive wifi revolution in the country. “BSNL (Bharat Sanchar Nigam Ltd) would be migrating 30,000 of its hotspots into PM-WANI by June. Railways has already covered around 100 railway stations on PM WANI and is going to cover all its hotspots,” Narayan said. *PTI*



at Haryana Bhawan, New Delhi on Tuesday. *PNS*

# NIIT Q4 profit rises 45% to ₹67.4 cr

**New Delhi:** Skills and talent development company NIIT on Tuesday reported a 45 per cent jump in its consolidated profit after tax to ₹67.4 crore for the quarter ended in March 2022.

The company had posted a profit after tax of ₹46.5 crore in the same period a year ago.

The consolidated net revenue of NIIT increased by 35 per cent to ₹375 crore during the reported quarter from ₹278.8 crore in the corresponding quarter of 2020-21.

For the year ended in March 2022, NIIT posted a 58



per cent rise in its consolidated PAT to ₹226.2 crore from ₹143 crore in 2020-21.

The annual net revenue of the company increased by 44 per cent to ₹1,377.5 crore in 2021-22 from ₹959.7 crore a year ago. *PTI*

# Olectra bags order of 2,100 electric buses from BEST

**PNS ■ HYDERABAD**

Olectra Greentech Limited (OLECTRA) has bagged the biggest ever order in its history for 2,100 Electric buses from The Brihanmumbai Electric Supply and Transport (BEST).

The value of this order is ₹3675 crores. Evey Trans Private Limited (EVEY) has received the Letter of Award (LoA) from BEST. The buses will be delivered over a period of 12 months. Commenting on this occasion, KV Pradeep,



Chairman and Managing Director, Olectra Greentech Limited, said “We feel happy to receive this biggest order from BEST. Running the largest Electric Bus fleet in India's financial capital is a matter of

pride.”

The pioneer and leading Electric mobility player Olectra Greentech Limited manufactures 12 metre AC buses to meet this obligation. It is already operating 40 Electric buses for BEST in Mumbai. Currently, EVEY and Olectra Greentech Limited are operating electric buses in various State Transport Undertakings (STU) in the country, such as Pune (PMPML), Hyderabad, Goa, Deharadun, Surat, and Ahmedabad, Silvasa, and Nagpur.

# Tender process for construction of HORC tunnel will be completed by Dec

**New Delhi:** The tender process for the construction of Haryana Orbital Rail Corridor Tunnel (HORC Tunnel) will be completed by the month of December during the current financial year. Tenders will be invited during the month of July.

Haryana Rail Infrastructure Development Corporation Limited has discussed in depth with Companies from Tunnel Construction sector regarding HORC Tunnel of length 4.69 kms, a major part of Haryana Orbital Rail Corridor of length 121.742 km to be constructed parallel to Kundli Manesar Palwal Expressway (Western Peripheral Expressway). The representatives of 20 Companies from Tunnel Construction were present in the meeting held





This is one very different year as far as I am concerned as a cricketer and a person. Truth be told, this has easily been one of the happiest years of my experience at the IPL

— R ASHWIN

# Miller takes GT to final

Former Royals star hits three back-to-back sixes to seal Titans 7-wicket win



PTI ■ KOLKATA

David Miller hit three effortless sixes which looked like action replays as Gujarat Titans, under their inspirational skipper Hardik Pandya, made a mockery of all the odds to reach the final of IPL-15 with a seven-wicket win over Rajasthan Royals on Tuesday.

On a track that was two-paced, Royals rode on Jos Buttler's 56-ball-89 to post 188 for six in 20 overs, which seemed like a winning total considering the pressure of the occasion.

But Pandya (40 no off 27 balls) and Miller (68 off 38 balls) added 101 runs in exactly 10 overs to seal the deal with three balls to spare.

For a team which many tipped to finish last because of some out-of-the-box picks, turned out to be the most consistent and will now play the final in front of its home crowd at the Narendra Modi Stadium, with more than 100,000 people cheering them on.

No praise is enough for new 'Captain Cool' Pandya, who always looked in control even when things didn't seem to go his team's way. One of the cleanest hitters, Pandya took the game deep with some well-placed boundaries which allowed Miller to take his time before unleashing five huge sixes -- three off the last over from Prasad Krishna, when the bowler completely lost his nerve.

The best part about Pandya's captaincy was not taking any risks against the opposition's best bowler Yuzvendra Chahal (0/32 in 4 overs) but left it to his partner, who hit two huge sixes to ease the pressure.

Once Trent Boult (1/38 in 4 overs) and Chahal were done, it was left to the day's worst performer, Obed McCoy (1/40 in 4 overs), to bowl a good 19th over with Titans requiring 23 off 12 balls.

McCoy used his back of the hand slower balls to perfection as only seven came off the over, leaving Krishna with 16 runs to defend but it took Miller three balls to nail it, all in the length slots.

At the start of chase, Wriddhiman Saha (0) was all at sea against Boult and edged one that moved in and then straightened after pitching. Matthew Wade (35 off 30 balls) and Shubman Gill (35 off 21 balls) didn't let it affect their batting as they added 72 for the second wicket to keep the chase on course.

Gill started slowly but then launched into Ravichandran Ashwin with a six over long-off followed by two boundaries on both sides of the square.

Wade also carried on briskly before a big mix-up ended in Gill's run-out.

Skipper Pandya started with a square cut off McCoy before the bowler got Wade in the same over when Buttler took a well-judged catch at deep mid-wicket.

Earlier, Buttler enjoyed copious amount of luck and displayed a fair bit of pluck during an innings of 89, which took Rajasthan Royals to a challenging total after being put into bat.

The Orange Cap-holder Buttler, who had failed to get his act together in the second half of the season, got off to a slow start but made full use of a couple of dropped catches during his knock, which was studded with 12 fours and two sixes.

Buttler, who now has 718 runs in 15 games, scored 39 off his first 38 balls and then smashed another 50 off his next 18 deliveries.

Buttler was also fortunate to get two reprieves -- first on 43 -- when Hardik Pandya slipped to miss a sitter, and then Rashid Khan grassed him on 69.

He then took on Alzarri Joseph, smashing three boundaries in an over to accelerate his scoring before getting run-out in the final over.

First up, it was Sanju Samson's swagger that was on full display as the Royals skipper, seemingly hurt by the latest India selection snub, responded in style with a 26-ball 47 (5x4, 3x6).

At a time when Buttler struggled to get going, the wicketkeeper-batter dealt in boundaries in his entertaining powerplay display.

Samson shared 68-run stand with Buttler, of which 47 came off the former's blade that summed up the domination from the Royals skipper after they were put in.

# RCB vc LSG in eliminator

PTI ■ KOLKATA

Virat Kohli's return to form and a rather dramatic entry into the IPL play-offs will make Royal Challengers Bangalore a more confident unit when they meet a top-heavy Lucknow Super Giants in the Eliminator here on Wednesday.

After a string of low scores, Kohli found his rhythm enroute to a scintillating 54-ball 73 in their last match against Gujarat Titans. This was his only second fifty this season.

Kohli's return to form will be a big plus to their top-order which often has struggled to get going in the power-play.

Add Dinesh Karthik's new-found finishing exploits, a quality pace trio in Josh Hazlewood, Wanindu Hasaranga and Harshal Patel who would look to embrace the seam-friendly Eden conditions, and Faf du Plessis's calm and astute captaincy, RCB will be upbeat in their quest of an elusive IPL title.

Having featured in three IPL finals, RCB are one star-studded outfit which has failed to live up to its fans' expectations time and again. But this time under a three-time IPL winner in du Plessis, RCB look more balanced especially on the pace bowling front.

RCB's experience in batting certainly will weigh heavily against the young LSG pace attack of Avesh Khan and Mohsin Khan.

Lucknow also have the experienced duo of Jason Holder and Dushmanta Chameera but they have been inconsistent this season, something that can be a cause of concern for the KL Rahul-led outfit. A key battle for RCB would be against the Lucknow Super Giants opening duo of KL Rahul and Quinton de Kock -- by far the best opening



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pair of this IPL -- sitting pretty on second and third places in the top run getters' list.

But this also will be the team's weakness as the Lucknow franchise lacks a quality middle and lower order, barring Deepak Hooda who has four half-centuries this season.

The likes of Marcus Stoinis, Krunal Pandya, Ayush Badoni and Holder have failed to impress and it's high time that they get into their acts in a virtual quarter-final.

## I will definitely be around IPL next year: AB

PTI ■ JOHANNESBURG

The legendary AB De Villiers said he will "definitely" return to the IPL next year as part of the Royal Challengers Bangalore squad, but he is not sure in what capacity. De Villiers had been a big part of RCB family

before he retired from all forms of cricket last year.

"I am glad to hear Virat confirmed it. To be honest, we haven't decided on anything yet. I will definitely be around IPL next year. I am not sure in what capacity but I am missing getting back there," De Villiers told VUSport.

"I have a heard a little bird tweeting, saying that there might be some games in Bangalore. So I would love to return to my second hometown and watch the full capacity stadium there at the Chinnaswamy again. I would love to return. I am looking forward to it."

## Velocity beat Supernovas by 7 wkts



PTI ■ PUNE

The swashbuckling Shafali Verma blazed away at the top before Laura Wolvaardt's unbeaten half century as Velocity overhauled a stiff target to get the better of Supernovas by seven wickets in the Women's T20 Challenge

here on Tuesday.

Set a target of 151 after opting to field, Velocity completed the chase with 10 balls to spare.

After Shafali's breezy knock of 51 in 33 balls, Laura Wolvaardt (51 off 35 balls) and Deepti Sharma (24 not out) saw their side home comfortably.

Chasing a challenging target, Velocity lost Natthakan Chantham (1) early but the big-hitting Shafali decided to go all guns blazing as the team raced to 60 for the loss of only one wicket by the time the six power play overs came to an end.

Shafali reached her half century in quick time, needing only 28 runs to get to the landmark. She did so in style, pulling Deandra Dottin for a boundary over midwicket.

Though she managed to score only 17 off 13 balls, Yastika Bhatia gave Shafali company when the team needed it the most, having suffered an early blow.

Shafali got out after scoring an aggressive 51 off 33 balls, the successful bowler being Dottin, but the experienced duo of Wolvaardt and Sharma ensured the Velocity were home without much difficulty.

Earlier, skipper Harmanpreet Kaur top-scored with a blistering 51-ball 71 as Supernovas posted 150 for five.

## Ganguly not worried about Rohit, Kohli's form



PTI ■ KOLKATA

Indian skipper Rohit Sharma's abysmal form in the IPL is not a matter of concern as he will be back among the runs soon, BCCI president Sourav Ganguly said on Tuesday.

The record five-time IPL winning Mumbai Indians skipper had a woeful season finishing with 268 runs from 14 innings at an average of 19.14 with a modest strike-rate 120.17 as their team finished at the bottom of the standings this season.

"Everybody is human. There will be mistakes but Rohit's record as captain is outstanding. Five IPL titles, Asia Cup winner, he has won whatever he has captained, so his record as captain is outstanding. Mistakes will happen

## 'Umran's future in his own hands'

PTI ■ KOLKATA

Sunrisers Hyderabad pacer Umran Malik has been one of the finds of the IPL with his raw pace, clocking consistently over 150 kmph to get a maiden India call-up for the T20 series. "His future is in hands. If he stays fit and bowls at this pace, I'm sure he will be around for a long time."

"Many have played well in this IPL. Tilak (Varma) has done well for MI. Rahul (Tripathi) for Sunrisers, Tewatia for GT.

"We have seen many



emerging fast bowlers like Malik, Mohsin Khan, Arshdeep Singh, Avesh Khan... It's a place where talent gets exposure."

because they are all human," Ganguly said. Before the last match where he scored a fiery

fifty against Kolkata Knight Riders, former India captain Kohli also endured his worst-

ever IPL with 236 runs from 13 innings which included three golden ducks.

Backing the duo, Ganguly said: "They are very good players. I'm sure they will be back among runs. They play so much of cricket that at times they go out of form. Kohli played very well in the last game, especially when it was required for RCB."

"That's why he (Kohli) was so happy that RCB qualified. They are all great players, it's a matter of time they will be at their best," Ganguly added.

Rishabh Pant has failed to impress especially with his DRS making decisions but Ganguly feels with time he would improve.

"Don't compare Pant with MS Dhoni. Dhoni has so much experience, has captained in 500-plus games in IPL, Tests and ODIs. So it's not fair for Rishabh to be compared with Dhoni."

## Vettori named Oz assistant coach



AP ■ SYDNEY

Daniel Vettori on Tuesday was named as an assistant to Australian cricket coach Andrew McDonald, who said the former New Zealand captain's knowledge and experience would be invaluable.

All-rounder Vettori played 113 Tests and 295 One-Day Internationals for the Black Caps and worked alongside McDonald with Royal Challengers Bangalore in the Indian Premier League.

He will continue as head coach of the Birmingham

Phoenix in England's The Hundred.

"It's a very strong and unified group which has the potential to have a very rewarding and hopefully successful period ahead," Vettori said of the Australian squad.

Andre Borovec of Victoria, who has worked with the squad on select tours for the past year, was also made an assistant and will coach Australia A in Sri Lanka next month prior to the national team's two-Test series there.

His appointments follow the elevation of McDonald to head coach in April after Justin Langer quit, and the departure of Jeff Vaughan to coach Tasmania.

"I have worked with Daniel previously and could not speak more highly of his approach, work ethic and rapport he brings," he added.

"His experience and balanced style are well documented. He is a great fit and will bring an enormous amount of knowledge to the team."

McDonald's team already boasts batting coach Michael Di Venuto, spin coach Sri Sriram and former Test seam bowler Clint McKay.

## How Arshdeep Singh 'yorked' his way into Indian team

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Young-left arm pacer Arshdeep Singh says clarity of mind, attained through yoga and meditation, has helped him perfect the art of bowling yorkers, a rare ability that has pushed him into the Indian T20 side for the South Africa series.

The 23-year-old from Khara humbly accepts the success that has come his way in the IPL but says he really had to "earn everything".

It may seem that landing yorkers, at will, comes naturally to the lanky fast bowler but he put in the extra work with his personal coach Jaswant Rai ahead of the IPL to hone his coveted skill.

Yoga and meditation has also helped him stay calm in high-pressure scenarios.

"It (meditation) clears the mind. When there is pressure, there is no substitute to clarity. Being able to stay calm surely helps in a big way," Arshdeep said.

Back at home after a gruelling couple of months in the IPL, Arshdeep is getting some much-needed rest at home but it won't be long before he joins the Indian squad for the South Africa series beginning in Delhi on June 9.

He bowled more with the old ball than new ball this IPL season with Punjab relying on him heavily in the slog overs.

Only one of the two players to be retained by the franchise, Arshdeep repaid the faith by ending up with an economy rate of 7.31 in the death overs, the best among



bowlers who bowled more than 10 overs in that critical phase.

"My role depended on team combination, match ups are a big thing in T20 cricket. I bowled with the new ball, in the middle as well as death.

"Whatever the team combination for a particular game was, the role changed accordingly. You have to be adaptable in this format."

He ended with 10 wickets with an economy rate of 7.70 but it was his death over game that earned plaudits from the experts.

The internet too raved as he got his yorkers right ball after all.

### 'DON'T RATE MY PERFORMANCE'

"Expecting nothing and be ready for everything," Arshdeep swears by these words and that is how he is approaching his first series as an India cricketer.

He got the taste of life as an India cricketer when he travelled to Sri Lanka as a net bowler last year. That was the time he also got to work with Paras Mhambrey who straightened his run up so that he could swing the ball better.

He had burst on the scene in 2018 U-19 World Cup in New Zealand, where India won, but he did not get to play in all the games.

Talking about the rapid strides he has made in the last five years, he said, "The journey has been satisfying. There were struggles."

"Whenever I get the opportunity I try to enjoy and make the most of it. Whether I play or not, it is a team game. The team has to win. My focus is on giving my 100 percent before I go off to sleep everyday."

"I am just happy to be in the Indian team. I don't rate my performance at all. I am just doing my job. If I think about all those things then thoughts will come up and mind will get blurred."

"I feel I don't need to change anything for the highest level. I just want to maintain my consistency," Arshdeep signed off.

## This is my most special comeback because...: DK

PTI ■ KOLKATA

Wicketkeeper-batter Dinesh Karthik feels his latest recall to the Indian team is his "most special comeback" of a rollercoaster international career that began way back in 2004.

Karthik made the squad for India's home T20 series against South Africa beginning June 9.

"This is my most special comeback because a lot of people had given up on me. For me to comeback and do what I did, practice the way I did, so many special things have happened in the lead up to the rock-shell and

how I practiced post that," the 36-year-



old told the RCB

website.

Karthik forced the selectors to pick him after displaying exemplary finishing skills in the IPL. He had last played for India in the 2019 ODI World Cup.

He praised the Royal Challengers Bangalore team management for backing him strongly for the finisher's role.

"I think the clarity that they gave me for me to execute the role that I wanted to do, in many ways I am indebted to RCB for picking me and giving me that role, believing in me and then me coming out here and trying to do my best for team RCB. So, it's all and all a very very happy feeling."

The main goal for Karthik is to play the T20 World Cup in Australia later this year.

"There are so many young boys who would be putting up their name for selection, to see the skillset that is out there and believe that this is the guy we need for the World Cup. I think it is a very very humbling feeling. I know that journey is still there to the World Cup but being a part of the scheme of things and getting the opportunity to showcase my skills, I am very proud of it," he added.



# Medvedev wins, Shapovalov exits

AP ■ PARIS

World number two Daniil Medvedev eased into the French Open second round on Tuesday as Denmark's Holger Rune reminded Roland Garros that Carlos Alcaraz is not the only teenager dreaming of the title.

Medvedev, who came into Paris with just one match on clay this year following hernia surgery, routed Argentina's 103rd-ranked Facundo Bagnis 6-2, 6-2, 6-2 on the back of 35 winners and eight breaks of serve.

"I love Roland Garros, especially since last year," said Medvedev, who had lost in the opening round on his first four trips to Paris before reaching the quarter-finals in 2021. "I hope this year I can go further."

Rune, 19 and just a week older than the highly-rated Alcaraz, marked his main draw debut with a 6-3, 6-1, 7-6 (7/4) dismissal of 14th-seeded Canadian Denis Shapovalov.

Rune, the boys champion in 2019 and a former world junior number one, entered Paris at a career-high 40 having started 2021 outside of the top 400.

In the current clay season, he won his first title in Munich, beating world number three Alexander Zverev on the way.

Shapovalov committed 53 unforced errors in a tie played at breakneck speed.

"I didn't really show up today but Holger played great tennis," said Shapovalov, a Wimbledon semi-finalist in 2021.

Later Tuesday, fourth seed Stefanos Tsitsipas, who lost last year's final to Novak Djokovic after leading two sets to love, has a dangerous assignment against Italy's Lorenzo Musetti in the night session on Court Philippe Chatrier.

The 20-year-old, ranked 66, also led Djokovic by two sets in the last 16 in 2021 before injury curtailed his



challenge.

This year on clay he made the quarter-finals in Marrakech and third round at Monte Carlo, Barcelona and Madrid where he was forced to retire against world num-

ber three Alexander Zverev.

However, Tsitsipas is enjoying an impressive clay court season in which he has successfully defended his Monte Carlo title, was runner-up in Rome and made the semi-finals in

Madrid.

The Greek also enjoys a season-leading 31 wins on the tour this year.

## OSTAPENKO IN DOUBT

Two former women's champions

were also in action.

Simona Halep, the 2018 champion, who is working with Serena Williams's coach Patrick Mouratoglou, faces Nastasia Schunk, an 18-year-old lucky loser from qualifying, ranked at 165 in the world.

Jelena Ostapenko, who was a shock Roland Garros winner in 2017, defeated Italy's Lucia Bronzetti 6-1, 6-4 to end a five-match losing streak having started the year winning 14 of 18.

Ostapenko became the latest player to cast doubt on her appearance at Wimbledon after the tournament was stripped of ranking points in response to its banning of Russian and Belarusian players.

"If there are no points, I'm not really sure what I'm going to," said the Latvian.

"I think maybe they are going to change their mind. I'm not sure about points. But I think a lot of things may happen within the next week or two weeks."

## BOPANNA-MIDDELKOOP WIN

Rohan Bopanna and his Dutch partner Matwe Middelkoop progressed to the men's doubles second round of the French Open with an easy straight-set win over local wild cards Sascha Gueymard Wayenburg and Luca Van Assche.

The experienced 16th seeded Indo-Dutch pair had no trouble in dispatching the lower-ranked home combo 6-4, 6-1 in the opening round.

Ramkumar Ramanathan is also in the fray, having teamed up with American Hunter Reese. They are up against the German team of Daniel Altmaier and Oscar Otte.

In the women's doubles, Sania Mirza and her Czech partner Lucie Hradecka have been seeded 10th and they open their campaign against Italy's Jasmine Paolini and Martina Trevisan.

All three Indians will feature in the mixed doubles event as well.



# Djoker intends to go to Wimbledon

AP ■ PARIS

Novak Djokovic on Monday said he "intends to go to Wimbledon" to defend his title despite the controversy over the tournament being stripped of ranking points. "Yes, I intend to go to Wimbledon," said Djokovic after overcoming Japan's Yoshihito Nishioka in the French Open first round. However, he added that the initial decision of the tournament to ban Russian and Belarusian players following the invasion of Ukraine was a "mistake".

The 35-year-old Djokovic stands to lose 2,000 points due to the decision by the ATP and WTA tours

to remove ranking points from Wimbledon in response to the player ban. "On a personal, individual level, I have been very negatively affected by that," said Djokovic.

He has already lost 2,000 points by not being able to defend his Australian Open title.

"Collectively I'm glad that players got together with ATP and showed to the Grand Slam that when there is a mistake happening, and there was from the Wimbledon side, then we have to show that there is going to be some consequences."

Earlier Monday, former world number one Naomi Osaka said she is "leaning towards not playing" Wimbledon.

# Xavi says Barca need rebuild but silent on Lewandowski



AP ■ BARCELONA

Coach Xavi Hernandez on Tuesday said his Barcelona team must be rebuilt after a turbulent season but refused to be drawn on whether Robert Lewandowski was a transfer target.

The Catalan giants finished 13 points behind La Liga champions Real Madrid, their campaign ending in a whimper on Sunday with a 2-0 home defeat to Villarreal.

Barcelona were beaten in four of their last nine games in all competitions.

They were on a plane the next morning for their first-ever match in Australia, a friendly against an A-League All-Star team coached by former Manchester United striker Dwight Yorke and captained by former Manchester City defender Jack Rodwell.

Xavi has brought 20 players to Sydney, including captain Sergio Busquets, Dani Alves,

Pierre-Emerick Aubameyang, Frenkie de Jong, Memphis Depay and teenage sensation Ansu Fati.

Gerard Pique and teenage forward Pedri were among those missing. "Next season we need to improve a lot, we improved a lot since November," said Barcelona midfielder legend Xavi, who was appointed in November with the team lying ninth.

While he helped revive them and they achieved the most important objective of qualifying for the Champions League, they went out to Frankfurt in the Europa League quarter-finals and in the last 16 of the Copa del Rey.

"I think we are in a good way, we have to be positive. But next season, at least, we need to compete and win the Champions League, why not," said Xavi.

"We are rebuilding the team. We have a plan, of course, and we need to be competitive

next season. We cannot permit another season without winning titles."

Prolific Bayern Munich forward Lewandowski, who was top-scorer in the Bundesliga last season for the fifth year running, has been heavily linked with Barcelona.

Xavi refused to confirm his interest. "I cannot confirm Lewandowski or any other names," he said. "Of course we are working hard and it is obvious that we need to improve."

"It's a matter of time," he added of unveiling new players. "If we have to announce something we will announce it, but it is not the moment right now."

# Man Utd need 'major surgery' under Ten Hag: Yorke

AP ■ SYDNEY

Former Manchester United striker Dwight Yorke on Tuesday said that new coach Erik ten Hag must perform "major surgery" at the club to get them back to the top.

Yorke, who won three Premier League titles, the Champions League and the FA Cup with United, spent the last fortnight around Old Trafford and saw for himself what needed to be done.

"We (Man Utd) are nowhere near where we are supposed to be, especially with the players that we have in the squad at the moment," he said.

"I spent the last two weeks there and had some more insight into looking where the club is and why we are in that position. 'He's (Ten Hag) got some major surgery to



repair there, there's work that needs to be done."

United finished a massive 35 points behind Premier League champions Manchester City, who pipped Liverpool to the title by a point, with the Red Devils registering their lowest-ever points tally.

"I'm not sure what his first step needs to be but he must stamp his authority on the team in terms of getting the players united together. That seems to be a bit of a challenge at the moment," added Yorke.

"When you look at our squad we have some fantastic players but the achievement doesn't add up to it. There's some major ground work that needs to be done."

Former Ajax coach Ten Hag is United's fifth permanent manager since the club last won a league title in Alex Ferguson's farewell season in 2013.



# Spinazzola back for Finalissima and Nations League

AP ■ MILAN

Leonardo Spinazzola will make his return to the Italy squad after Roberto Mancini named him among 39 players for the European champions' 'Finalissima' clash with Argentina and the Nations League.

Roma full-back Spinazzola was one of the stars of Italy's charge to Euro 2020 glory but ruptured his Achilles tendon during his side's 2-1 quarter-final win over Belgium.

The injury left the 29-year-old out for almost the entire season, only returning to action for Roma earlier this month, and will join the squad after the Conference League final



on Wednesday.

He features in the squad alongside Giorgio Chiellini who will play his final game for the national team when they face Copa America winners Argentina at Wembley on June 1.

Three days after captain Chiellini waves goodbye Italy will then begin their Nations League campaign with the visit of Germany to Bologna, before they host Hungary in Cesena on June 7. Italy then take on Germany three days later.

Coach Mancini has given Sassuolo's promising midfielder

## Hertha Berlin keep Bundesliga status

AP ■ BERLIN

Hertha Berlin secured their place in the Bundesliga for next season with a 2-0 away win at Hamburg on Monday to take the promotion/relegation play-off 2-1 on aggregate.

An early headed goal by Hertha captain Dedryck Boyata and a speculative second-half free-kick from Marvin Plattenhardt saw Hertha turn their fortunes around in Monday's return leg.

Hertha had lost the first leg 1-0 in Berlin last Thursday, but the visitors flew out of the traps in Hamburg when Boyata



smashed in a header after just four minutes.

Falling behind subdued the hosts, who lacked the composure of the first leg.

After nine straight seasons in the Bundesliga, Hertha

avoided their first relegation since 2011/12.

The aggregate defeat denied Hamburg a return to Germany's top flight after four seasons since their 2018 relegation.

Davide Fratesi and Empoli attacker Andrea Pinamonti their first senior call-ups for the run of fixtures. He selected every player for the Euro-

winning squad apart from the injured Federico Chiesa, Gaetano Castrovilli, Rafael Toloi and Ciro Immobile.



# Japan crush India 5-2 in Asia Cup hockey

PTI ■ JAKARTA

A new-look Indian team paid for its inexperience and profligacy with Asian champions Japan soundly thrashing them 5-2 in a group A league match of the men's Asia Cup hockey championship here on Tuesday.

Having drawn against Pakistan in the opening game, India's chances after this defeat will be badly dented as even a big win against Indonesia in the last game might not be enough for qualification to the knock-out stages.

Ken Nagayoshi, Kosei Kawabe (twice), Ryomi Ooka and Koji Yamasaki scored for Japan while Pawan Rajbhar and Uttam Singh found the target for the Indians.

However, the younger crop of players didn't measure up against the Japanese, who looked more organised and hit India repeatedly on the counters.

India fizzled out in the sec-

ond quarter after that initial spark, in the 24th minute, Ken Nagayoshi converted the penalty corner with a powerful angular drive that beat a diving Suraj all ends up.

It was in the 40th minute Japan made it 2-0 in a counter-attack with Kosei Kawabi snatching the ball from the Indian midfield and sprinting down the right wing running left-back Dipsan Tirkey ragged with his speed.

India found something going their way in the dying moments of the third quarter when veteran Birendra Lakra kept a powerful assist inside the striking circle melee and the big-bodied centre forward Pawan Rajbhar was in the right place to lay his stick for a perfect deflection that found the top corner of the net.

The final quarter once again saw the Indians going all out and conceding a goal against the run of play in the 48th minute.