

**OPINION 6**  
CHECKMATE BY THE  
'NEUTRALS' IN PAK**WORLD 9**  
RUSSIAN ROCKETS HIT  
EASTERN UKRAINIAN TOWN**MONEY 10**  
'INDIA'S ECONOMY SEEN  
GROWING 9.2 % IN FY22'

NEW DELHI, THURSDAY MAY 26, 2022; PAGES 12 ₹3



the pioneer

www.dailypioneer.com

EMMA OUT  
OF FRENCH  
OPEN 2022  
12 SPORT

# Yasin awarded life for terror funding

**PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■**  
NEW DELHI

Delhi Special court on Wednesday awarded life imprisonment to Kashmiri terrorist Yasin Malik in a terror funding case.

Special Judge Praveen Singh also awarded varying jail terms for various offences under the stringent Unlawful Activities Prevention Act (UAPA) and the Indian Penal Code (IPC). The court also imposed a fine of over ₹10 lakh on Malik.

The life term was awarded for two offences — Section 121 (waging war against the Government of India) of the IPC and section 17 (raising funds for the terrorist act) of the UAPA. All the sentences will run concurrently.

Earlier in the day, the National Investigation Agency (NIA) during the argument on quantum of sentence demanded death sentence for Malik, highlighting crimes and terrorism he committed in Kashmir for the past three decades. "Let's not go into all this. Stick to the facts. This is a terror funding case," said Judge Singh, who delivered the judgment by 6.15 pm.

"However, in my opinion, there was no reformation of this convict. It may be correct

that the convict may have given up the gun in 1994, but he had never expressed any regret for the violence he had committed prior to 1994.

"It is noticed that, when he claimed to have given up the path of violence after 1994, the Government of India took it upon its face value and gave him an opportunity to reform and in good faith tried to engage in a meaningful dialogue with him and as admitted by him, gave him every platform to express his opinion.

"However, as discussed in the order on charge, the convict did not desist from violence. Rather, betraying the good intentions of the Government he took a different path to orchestrate violence in the guise of political struggle. The convict has claimed that he had followed Gandhian principle of non-violence and was spearheading a peaceful non violent struggle.

"However, the evidence on the basis of which charges were framed and to which convict has pleaded guilty, speaks otherwise.

"The entire movement was planned to be a violent movement and large-scale violence ensured is a matter of fact," said the judgment convicting Malik to life imprisonment.

*Continued on Page 2*

Kashmiri separatist leader Yasin Malik being produced at Patiala House court in New Delhi on Wednesday

PTI

Court also imposes a ₹10 lakh fine on Malik

## Malik's past catches up with him

**PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■**  
NEW DELHI

Life has come a full circle for chief of the banned Jammu and Kashmir Liberation Front (JKLF) Yasin Malik, who graduated from being a Pakistan-trained terrorist to a separatist force in the Kashmir valley during his anti-India career spanning over three decades.

On Wednesday, Malik, 56, was sentenced to a life term by a designated NIA court.

He has been in and out of jail several times dating back to his student activism days before the onset of militancy in J&K in 1990.

In his bid to mainstream himself, he "renounced" violence and donned the political cloak in 1994. Malik — mar-

ried to a Pakistani artist — had announced Gandhian way of protest after his release and sought to project himself as a moderate voice in separatist camp.

Malik was arrested in early 2019 in connection with a 2017 terror-funding case registered by National Investigation Agency (NIA).

*Continued on Page 2*

# Ultras kill famous TV artist in Valley

10-yr-old nephew gets bullet wounds

**MOHIT KANDHARI ■ JAMMU**

Barely hours after Kashmiri separatist Yasin Malik was awarded life imprisonment by the NIA court in a terror funding case, a famous Kashmiri TV artist and singer Amreena Bhat was gunned down by "unidentified" terrorists while her 10-year-old nephew received bullet injuries on his arm in Chadoora area of central Kashmir district of Budgam on Wednesday.

Amreena was a famous TV artist and singer. She appeared in many music videos and small skits uploaded on the social media platforms.

According to initial reports both Amreena and her nephew



were targeted at their home in Chadoora by the armed terrorists.

In a tweet Kashmir zone police said, "Around 7.55 pm, terrorists fired upon one lady Amreen Bhat daughter of Khazir Mohd Bhat and resident of Hushroo Chadoora at her home. She was shifted to hospital in an injured condition where doctors declared her

dead. Her 10-year-old nephew who was also at home received a bullet injury on his arm."

According to preliminary reports three terrorists of LeT terror outfit were involved in this heinous terror incident.

The security forces have launched a massive manhunt to track down the foot prints of LeT terrorists.

Earlier, a joint team of security forces eliminated three Pakistani terrorists of Jaish-e-Mohammad (JeM) terrorist outfit in a chance encounter near Najibhat crossing in Kreeri area of north Kashmir's Baramulla district.

Special police officer Mudasir Ahmed was also martyred in the encounter. So far 22 foreign terrorists have been gunned down by the security forces in different encounters since January 1, 2022.

**MONIKA MALIK ■ CHANDIGARH**

Cricketer-turned-politician Navjot Singh Sidhu is all set to play a new innings in Patiala Central Jail. Once considered a frontrunner for the Punjab Chief Minister's post, the multifaceted Sidhu will be playing the role of a "munshi" (a clerical job) within the four walls of the Patiala Central Jail, after he was sentenced to a year's rigorous imprisonment by the Supreme Court in a 1988 road rage case.

*Continued on Page 2*

## CAPSULE

**ABHILASHA ARMY'S FIRST WOMAN COMBAT AVIATOR**

**New Delhi:** Captain Abhilasha Barak on Wednesday became the first woman combat aviator of the Indian Army. She has been awarded the coveted 'wings' along with 36 Army pilots at a ceremony held at Combat Army Aviation Training School in Nashik, officials said. Captain Barak hails from Haryana and was commissioned into the Army Air Defence Corps in September, 2018.

**LAKHIMPUR: ASHISH BAIL HEARING ON MAY 30**

**Lucknow:** The Allahabad High Court will hear on May 30 the bail plea of Union Minister Ajay Kumar Mishra's son Ashish Mishra, arrested in connection with the Lakhimpur Kheri violence that claimed eight lives in October last year.

**'SHRI RAMAYANA YATRA' LAUNCH ON JUNE 21**

**Lucknow:** The IRCTC is set to launch a 18-day 'Shri Ramayana Yatra' through a special tourist train on June 21 to take pilgrims to sacred places associated with the life of Lord Ram.

# Sibal quits Cong, files RS papers with SP's support

**PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■**  
LUCKNOW

Former Union Minister and senior Supreme Court lawyer Kapil Sibal filed his nomination papers for the Rajya Sabha seat from Uttar Pradesh as an Independent candidate backed by the Samajwadi Party and said he has already resigned from the Congress. Javed Ali Khan also filed his papers as SP candidate. There was speculation that the SP could field Sibal as a Rajya Sabha candidate.

Kapil Sibal — the lawyer who secured senior SP leader Mohammad Azam Khan's bail from the SC — after filing his papers, said he had resigned from the Congress on May 16. Sibal said his ideology was related to the party he had been with for three decades. His exit from the party is another jolt to the electorally battered Congress.

Sibal was accompanied by



SP chief Akhilesh Yadav and SP general secretary Ram Gopal Yadav to Central Hall of UP Vidhan Bhawan.

"I have filed the nomination as an independent candidate. I thank Akhilesh for supporting me. I resigned from the Congress on May 16 and am no longer a senior Congress

leader," he said.

The SP chief later said Sibal was being supported by the SP. A prominent member of the G23 which had sought an organisational overhaul in the Congress, Sibal's tenure as Congress' Rajya Sabha member ends in July.

*Continued on Page 2*

**PATANJALI®**

*Spices should be consumed in moderation but always choose the best quality*

**100% Pure Patanjali Masale Tasty and Healthy**

Our ancestors researched on food science to make food nutritious and tasty thus, they added spices to it. They aid digestion to keep the body healthy and enhance immunity. But these benefits can only be reaped when spices are pure and their formulation is scientific. Patanjali range of spices is prepared with the method inherited from our ancestors.

Hing is the most adulterated among all spices. Patanjali Hing is 100% pure, that aids digestion and provides relief from gas & indigestion and enhances immunity.

It is made from nutmeg, cinnamon, cumin, black pepper, cardamom, clove, mace, coriander ginger, fenugreek, bay leaf, etc. It increases appetite & is excellent for the digestive system.

Made from natural herbs like cardamom, cumin, clove, black pepper, garlic, onion, turmeric, coriander powder, red chilli, bay leaf, ginger etc., such 17 natural herbs enhance the taste of all vegetables and strengthens the digestive system to give a taste full of health.

It is made from anardana, cumin, clove, nutmeg, ginger, ajwain, cinnamon, coriander powder, amchoor, bay leaf, red chilli, black salt etc., such 16 natural herbs provide both health and taste.

Shop Online- [www.patanjaliayurved.net](http://www.patanjaliayurved.net) | Customer Care Number - 18001804108 | Email ID - [feedback@patanjaliayurved.org](mailto:feedback@patanjaliayurved.org) | Website - [www.patanjaliayurved.org](http://www.patanjaliayurved.org)



# 3 Pak ultras killed, SPO martyred in Baramulla

PNS ■ JAMMU

A joint team of security forces on Wednesday eliminated three Pakistani terrorists of Jaish-e-Mohammad (JeM) terrorist outfit in a chance encounter near Najibhat crossing in Kreeeri area of north Kashmir's Baramulla district. Special Police Officer Mudasir Ahmed was also martyred in the encounter. So far 22 foreign terrorists have been gunned down by the security forces in different encounters since January 1 this year. According to a Srinagar-based defence spokesman, "On receiving specific intelligence regarding movement of some suspected persons towards Mirangund from Puthkah in a Santoro car, a joint team of the Indian Army, the J&K Police and the Special Operations



Martyred Mudasir Ahmed

Group launched a joint operation on Wednesday." The team was fired upon by the terrorists and gunfire ensued, between terrorists and security forces leading to elimination of three Pakistani terrorists. Defence spokesman said, "The Jammu & Kashmir Police has identified the terrorists as Haneef, Ali Bhai and Shah

Wali, all residents of Pakistan and were active in this area for the last three to four months." Inspector General of Police, Kashmir range, Vijay Kumar, said while the police force was pained at the loss of one of its men, the killing of the three terrorists was a huge success. Kumar said the three terrorists could have come to Srinagar and carried out some big attack. Senior police officers along with DGP Dilbagh Singh paid rich tributes to Mudasir Ahmed. His father said, "My son sacrificed his life to save innocent lives and he died while fighting. I am proud of him". Meanwhile, commenting on the terror attack in Soura area on Tuesday in which one police constable was killed, the IGP said two local terrorists of Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT) behind the attack have been identified.

## Haryanvi singer stangulated in Mehram after she was picked up from Delhi, investigation reveals

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

The investigation of the murder of Haryanvi Singer Sangeeta has revealed that she was picked up from Delhi by one of the accused as a part of conspiracy and taken to Haryana's Mehram area where she was strangled, said sources in Delhi Police. Sources said that there were no signs of sexual assault as per initial investigation. The body of Sangeeta alias Divya, who was missing since May 11, was found buried in Haryana's Mehram on Sunday. Sangeeta's family members reside in Delhi's Jaffarpur Kalan area and had reported the matter to the police on May 14. The accused Ravi and Anil, who were arrested from Mehram on Saturday, disclosed that they had hatched a conspiracy to kill the singer. The family of Sangeeta

said that she had told them that she was going to Bhiwani for a video shoot. Sources said that Ravi was the mastermind behind the incident and on his direction, Anil came to Delhi, took the victim in a car and gave her 10 sleeping pills in sugarcane juice while heading back to Mehram. Anil and Sangeeta also had meal at Gulati Dhabha at Kalanaur in Haryana. The distance between Mehram and Kalanaur is around 21 kilometers. "When he reached Mehram, Ravi joined them. He strangled the woman and also checked whether the victim has died or not. Later, they buried the body in Mehram area," sources said. The sources further said that Anil had told Ravi that he can't kill the woman, following which he was asked to take her from the national capital.

## SP may send Jayant to RS as 3rd choice

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

Samajwadi Party chief Akhilesh Yadav has deferred the decision on the third party candidate for the Rajya Sabha polls scheduled on June 10. Former MP from Kannauj and Akhilesh' wife Dimple Yadav was scheduled to file her papers as the third SP candidate on Wednesday, but the move was stalled at the eleventh hour. SP sources said that Akhilesh Yadav was weighing options and might nominate Rashtriya Lok Dal president Jayant Chaudhary as the third candidate in the Rajya Sabha polls. The RLD is an ally of Samajwadi Party and the two parties joined hands to contest the last assembly poll. The SP had earlier indicated that the party would not send Jayant Chaudhary to the Rajya Sabha on its ticket.

## Teen massacres...

From Page 1

People in the largely Hispanic neighbourhood sat outside their homes after the shooting, some with their families while others gathered with neighbours. In a prime-time address on Tuesday, a visibly emotional Biden asked what it would take to convince fellow lawmakers that "it's time to act." President Biden again tried to comfort a nation grieving after a mass shooting, urging action to counter powerful gunmakers and repeatedly questioning why the country he leads lacks "the backbone" to stem the bloodshed. "How many scores of little children who witnessed what happened - seen their friends die as if they're on a battlefield, for god's sake," said Biden. "To lose a child is like having a piece of your soul ripped away. There's a hollowness in your chest." Turning to the issue of gun control legislation, Biden implored lawmakers to "turn this pain into action" as he ticked through some of the mass shootings since the 2012 massacre at Sandy Hook Elementary School in Newtown, Connecticut, when he was vice president. "I am sick and tired of it.

We have to act. And don't tell me we can't have an impact on this carnage," he said, asking: "Why do we keep letting this happen?" "Where in God's name is our backbone to have the courage to deal with and stand up to the lobbies?" he said. In Uvalde, all schools were locked once the gunshots were heard. Texas Governor Abbott said he had instructed the Texas Department of Public Safety and the Texas Rangers to work with the local law enforcement to investigate the shooting. Officials said the city's civic centre was being used as a reunification centre where the kin of victims can procure information from the state and coordinate other functions. The shooting stoked the fiery debate on gun control. Texas Attorney General Ken Paxton said teachers should be armed to stop such incidents in the future. Texas Senator Ted Cruz described the Uvalde shooting as "truly horrific", but said gun reforms were not the way to prevent such crimes. Speaking to reporters, he said restricting the rights of "law-abiding citizens... Doesn't work. It's not effective. It doesn't prevent crime".

## By-elections for Rajendra Nagar seat on June 23

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

The by-elections for the Rajendra Nagar constituency in the national Capital will be held on June 23, as per the statement issued by the Election Commission of India on Wednesday here. The assembly seat fell vacant after MLA Raghav Chadha, a senior leader of the AAP party was elected to Rajya Sabha from Punjab. As per

the ECI statement, the Model Code of Conduct shall come into force with immediate effect. Counting of votes will take place on June 26. Once considered a BJP stronghold with the saffron party winning three consecutive elections between 1993 and 2003, Rajinder Nagar assembly seat was won by the Congress in 2008 before being won again by the BJP in 2013.

## Sidhu given job...

From Page 1

A jail official, who did not wish to be named, maintained that the Congress leader — a three-time MP, a former Minister — had already started his work, checking the files, from Tuesday itself. The official said Sidhu's post would be referred to as munshi, as per jail terminology. "Sidhu has been assigned the clerical work, he will be working on the paperwork. We have decided on Sidhu's work keeping in mind his security inside the jail which is a major challenge for us. Sidhu will work with his barrack only in two shifts with no break," a jail official told *The Pioneer*. The prisoners, undergoing

rigorous imprisonment, usually work in the jail factories or the bakeries. Considering that many hardcore criminals also work in jail factories and bakeries, the jail authorities have decided to assign the clerical work to Sidhu keeping in mind his security. Moreover, Sidhu is well educated, suitable to handle paperwork. The official said Sidhu would be working in two shifts — from 9 am to 12 pm and 3 pm to 5 pm; with a three-hour break in between. For the work, Sidhu will not get any salary for the first three months. "As Sidhu has no clerical experience, he is categorised as an unskilled worker. So he will be working as a trainee for first three months. After that, he will start getting salary of Rs 30 per day on becoming the semi-skilled worker, and later Rs 90 per day when he will be a skilled worker," said the jail official.

## Woman held for hiring man to kill husband

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

The Delhi Police has arrested a 28-year-old woman, who had hired a contract killer for getting her philanderer husband, having two wives, killed. Police said that the contract killer was also arrested by the police team. The accused woman has been identified as Chander Kala alias Chanda and the contract killer Jumman (27) alias Jumma is a history-sheeter of the Ranhola area. Police said that she had also given Jumma a hammer and Rs 1.5 lakhs for the job. The weapon and Rs 50,000 has been recovered. Police said that the woman also tried to mislead investigators by making the killing look like an outcome of an attempt-

ed robbery. The woman alleged that her husband was a philanderer and had extra-marital affairs, police said. According to the plan, the killing was executed on May 18 when the woman's husband was asleep, police said. "Kala called Jumman and kept the main gate of her house open for him to enter easily. Jumman came to her house at night with the hammer and hit on the man's head twice killing him instantly," said Sameer Sharma, the Deputy Commissioner of Police (DCP), Outer district. "To make it look like a robbery and mislead the police, Kala gave money and jewellery to Jumman," said the DCP.

## Yasin awarded...

From Page 1

Earlier in the morning, Advocate Akhand Pratap Singh (court-appointed amicus) sought minimum punishment (life imprisonment) for Malik. "These crimes were intended to strike at the heart of the idea of India and intended to forcefully secede J&K from UOI. The crime becomes more serious as it was committed with the assistance of foreign powers and designated terrorists. The seriousness of crime is further increased by the fact that it was committed behind the smokescreen of an alleged peaceful political movement," the judge said.

Reacting to the sentencing, Malik said, "I have already given my words in the court and now it is at the court's discretion." The lawyer, who attended the court proceeding, quoted Malik saying in the courtroom, "If I have been involved in any terrorist activity or violence in 28 years, if Indian intelligence proves this, then I will also retire from politics. I will accept the hanging. I have worked with seven Prime Ministers."

**AFFIDAVIT**  
I, ANANYA, d/o Mukesh Kumar Singh, resident of 136 A/D Sri Krishna Puri, Patna-800001 hereby declare by birth certificate from Purnea Municipal Reg. No 578 dt. 06.01.2022 that henceforth I will be known as ANANYA SINGH.

## NCRPULSE

**PWD TAKES STEPS TO PREVENT WATERLOGGING**  
**New Delhi:** To prevent waterlogging during monsoon season in the national capital, Public Works Department has taken a range of steps including construction of separate drains, high capacity sumps and installation of automated pumps among others at critical locations prone to waterlogging. The department has identified at least seven locations which are critical in terms of waterlogging out of the around 145 such locations in the city. "Out of these 145, seven are critical points that include underpasses at Minto Bridge and Pul Prahladpur, IP State Ring Road near WHO building, underpasses at Pul Prahladpur, Minto Bridge, Zakhira, Okhla, Azadpur and Jahangirpuri metro station road.

**WON'T BE SHORTAGE OF EV CHARGING STATIONS: MIN**  
**New Delhi:** There will be no shortage of charging stations for electric vehicles in the national capital, Industries Minister Satyendar Jain said on Wednesday announcing three such facilities will be set up by Kejriwal Government in industrial areas of the city. Battery swapping stations will also be set up to simplify the system of replacing the discharged battery of the e-vehicle with a fully charged battery, an official statement said.

**WEEKLY FAIRS TO DISSUADE SINGLE-USE PLASTIC**  
**New Delhi:** The Delhi Government will conduct a weekly fair to promote alternatives to single-use plastic (SUP) items from June 1. Delhi Environment Minister Gopal Rai said on Wednesday that the government will also incentivise units engaged in the production of alternatives to SUP items under the Delhi Start-up Policy. The policy aims to promote entrepreneurship in the national capital by providing financial assistance to build a successful business.

**PLEA AGAINST ONLINE GAMING**  
**New Delhi:** The Delhi High Court Wednesday sought the stand of the central government on a petition to regulate online gaming and stop the games that are not games of skills but chance. A bench of Acting Chief Justice Vipin Sanghi and Justice Sachin Datta issued notice on the petition by lawyer Atul Batra who said in his plea that his concern was that online games of chance are promoted as games of skill and that online gambling is as bad as any substance addiction.

**GOVT ISSUES ORDERS TO MCDS ON PARKS**  
**New Delhi:** Considering the replicas of monuments made by the Municipal Corporation of Delhi (MCD) using waste materials, the Government of India has issued guidelines for every urban body to develop at least one park in its area for Swachh Survekshan-2023. The civic body has developed two such parks in India focused on the 'Kachre Se Kanchan' theme as their construction has been done using scrap.

**GOVT PANEL SURVEYS MARKETS FOR REDEVELOPMENT**  
**New Delhi:** A Delhi Government panel on Wednesday visited Lajpat Nagar and Sarojini Nagar markets as part of its survey of 20 major markets for feasibility of beautification. The panel is to shortlist five of these markets to redevelop as announced in the Rozgar Budget for 2022-23. The officials said that during its visit the panel came across issues such as lack of toilets, improper lighting, and dangling wires in the two markets.

**MAXIMUM TEMPERATURE REACHES 34.4 DEGREES C**  
**New Delhi:** Cloudy skies kept the mercury in check in Delhi on Wednesday, with the maximum temperature settling at 34.4 degrees Celsius, six notches below normal. The capital logged a minimum temperature of 23.6 degrees Celsius. A slight increase in temperature — up to 41 degrees Celsius — is predicted over the next three to four days but there is no forecast of a heatwave for another week, the India Meteorological Department (IMD) said.

## Malik's past...

From Page 1

Born on April 3, 1966 in Maisuma locality in downtown Srinagar, Malik is also facing trial in the much-publicised abduction case of Rubaiya Sayeed, daughter of the then Union Home Minister Mufti Mohammad Sayeed in 1989, and an attack by JKLF militants on IAF personnel in Srinagar that left four dead and many others injured in 1990. Malik was initiated in anti-national activities at a very young age in 1980s when he formed Tala party which was involved in an attempt to disrupt the 1983 cricket match between India and West Indies in the Sher-e-Kashmir Stadium in Srinagar besides staging a protest against the hanging of JKLF founder Mohammad Maqbool Bhat in Delhi's Tihar Jail on February 11, 1984. After undergoing detention for months together on different occasions, Malik's activities increased after his Tala party rechristened itself as Islamic Students League (ISL) that campaigned vigorously for Muslim United Front (MUF) candidates in the 1987 Assembly polls. The MUF candidates including Mohammad Yousuf Shah lost the elections amid allegations of mass rigging. Shah alias Syed Sallahuddin is now the self-

styled supreme commander of banned Hizbul Mujahideen based in Pakistan-occupied Kashmir (PoK) and patronized by the Pakistan Army-ISI combine. Both Shah and Malik were prominent faces among many others arrested for several months in the aftermath of the elections without a formal charge. After his release, Malik was among the first batch of youths who crossed the Line of Control (LoC) into PoK for arms training in 1988 to join JKLF. Malik along with Hameed Sheikh, Ashfaq Wani and Javed Mir formed the core group of the JKLF. While Wani died in a gunfight with security forces in March 1990, Malik was captured in an injured condition in August 1990 and remained imprisoned till May 1994. Sheikh and six other JKLF terrorists were killed at Ali Kadal in downtown Srinagar on November 19, 1992, while Mir is now heading a separate faction of JKLF. After his release on bail in May 1994, Malik declared an indefinite unilateral ceasefire to follow non-violent struggle for so-called "independence" of Jammu and Kashmir from both India and Pakistan. Pakistan-based JKLF founder Amanullah Khan removed Malik as the President of the outfit in 1995.

## Sibal quits Cong....

From Page 1

On his leaving the party, Sibal said, "I had a deep relationship with the Congress. It was for 30-31 years. This is not a small thing. I joined the Congress because of Rajiv Gandhi. You must be thinking how one can go from the Congress after 31 years. Sometimes such decisions are to be taken." Sibal, who has been vocal in his criticism of the Congress leadership, had called for a non-Gandhi leader as the new party chief. "We are all constrained by the fact that we are members of parties and have to abide by the

discipline of that party but it is important to have an independent voice. When the voice of an independent is raised, people will feel that he is not associated with any other party," Kapil Sibal said after filing his papers. "We want to form a coalition and oppose the (Narendra) Modi Government. We want to create an atmosphere in which we can oppose the BJP (Bharatiya Janata Party). I will personally work towards that," he said. Asked whether his ideology now would be of the SP, Sibal said, "I am with all-inclusive ideologies, be it of the Samajwadi Party, Rashtriya

Lok Dal, Mamata Banerjee or Stalin (Tamil Nadu Chief Minister MK Stalin)." Sibal's resignation comes close on the heels of Sunil Jakhar and Hardik Patel resigning from the Congress, which recently held a Chintan Shivir in Udaipur. Elections for 11 Rajya Sabha seats of Uttar Pradesh are underway. On the SP's support to Sibal, Akhilesh Yadav said, "Kapil Sibal is a senior leader and a known lawyer. He has been in the Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha and put his point across well everywhere. I hope he will put his views on big questions of unemployment and inflation, insecure borders and China."

**Bhopal City link Limited**  
1Ind Floor, Kushabhau Thakre Inter-State Bus Terminal (ISBT)  
Campus, Ambedkar Marg, Near Chetak Bridge, Bhopal (M.P)  
**No.: BCLL/2022/03 Bhopal, Date 25.05.2022**  
Tender for online submissions are invited on website [www.mptenders.gov.in](http://www.mptenders.gov.in) under "Live Tender" and Department Name "Bhopal City Link Limited" for following work. Detailed NIT, Tender Schedule and other information can be seen on the website [www.mptenders.gov.in](http://www.mptenders.gov.in)  

S. NO.	System NIT no.	Name of Work	Tender cost (In Rs.)
1	2022_BCLL_206665_1	Strengthening of roads and Parking Base @ ISBT Complex by Asphalting, Asphalting etc.	1,30,50,547/-

Corrigendum and Amendment for above NIT shall not be issued separately in newspapers & correction if any, would be Published on website only.

**Assistant Engineer**  
**Bhopal Municipal Corporation/**  
**Bhopal City Link Limited**

**PUBLIC NOTICE**  
Notice is hereby given to general public at large that my client IndusInd Bank Ltd. having one of its Branch at Plot No. 2B/1, 2nd Floor, Jhandewalan Extension, New Delhi-110055 intends to grant Loan facility to Ms. Prema Narula against security of Residential House, Built upon Plot bearing No.13, on Road No. H-3, having land area measuring 250 S. Sq. Mtrs. & Covered area measuring 3250 Sq.Ft., in the residential colony known as DLF City (Formerly known as DLF City Qutab Enclave Complex) Phase-I, situated in and around Village Sikanderpur Ghos, Tehsil-Wazirabad & Distt. Gurgaon, Haryana (hereinafter referred as "Said Property"). 1) Smt. Prema Narula & 2) Smt. Manju Narula claims to be the Co-Owner of the Said Property by virtue of Gift Deed dated 12.11.2014 duly registered as Document No. 19853 on 12.11.2014 & Deed of Property Transfer / Gift Deeded on 12.11.2014 & Deed of Property Transfer / Gift Deeded in Blood Relation dated 13.03.2020 duly registered as Document No. 19803 on 13.03.2020. Further, it is informed that Sale Deed dated 31.03.2010 duly registered as Document No. 27955 on 31.03.2010 in favour of 1) Sh. Y. Kumar & 2) Smt. Manju Narula has been misplaced/lost. Any person(s) has/have 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 14 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 : alolegals@gmail.com

**THE PIONEER CLASSIFIEDS**  
**CHANGE OF NAME**

I, **Kulvinder Ram R/o Z-36/A, Dayalsar Road, Uttam Nagar, New Delhi**, declare that in my driving license No. DL-0420010423549 my name is wrongly mentioned as **Kulvinder Singh**, however, my actual name is **Kulvinder Ram**.  
**PD(90101)C**

**कार्यालय कार्यपालन अभियंता**  
**लोक स्वास्थ्य यांत्रिकी खण्ड कबीरधाम (छ.ग.)**  
**निविदा आमंत्रण सूचना**  
ऑनलाईन निविदाएं "प्रयंत्र-ए" में प्रविष्टित दर पर नीचे उल्लिखित कार्य के लिये **DWSM,KABIRDHAM** की ओर से कार्यपालन अभियंता एवं सचिव **DWSM** द्वारा, एकीकृत पंजीयन व्यवस्था ई-रजिस्ट्रेशन निविदा आमंत्रित की जाती है। कार्य का विवरण :- कबीरधाम जिले के विभिन्न विकासखण्ड में स्वीकृत एकल घाम नल जल प्रदाय योजनागत पेयजल एवं इत्यादि कार्य।  

निविदा सूचना क्रमांक / दिनांक	निविदा सिरस्ट्रम क्रमांक	योजना का नाम एवं विकासखण्ड	अनुमानित लागत (रुपए लाख में)
75 / Dt. 20-05-2022	100302	विकासखण्ड पन्धरिया के घाम शिवपुर	79.04
76 / Dt. 20-05-2022	100303	विकासखण्ड पन्धरिया के घाम जैसपुरी	66.93
77 / Dt. 20-05-2022	100304	विकासखण्ड पन्धरिया के घाम कुलीपारा	84.12
78 / Dt. 20-05-2022	100305	विकासखण्ड पन्धरिया के घाम भदगा	53.32
79 / Dt. 20-05-2022	100306	विकासखण्ड पन्धरिया के घाम टाटरकला	73.79
80 / Dt. 20-05-2022	100312	विकासखण्ड पन्धरिया के घाम विजईभंग	92.69
81 / Dt. 20-05-2022	100330	विकासखण्ड सलोकहार के घाम इरीनकला	68.58
82 / Dt. 20-05-2022	100331	विकासखण्ड सलोकहार के घाम देवापुर	74.73
83 / Dt. 20-05-2022	100332	विकासखण्ड सलोकहार के घाम पण्डपुर	76.81
84 / Dt. 20-05-2022	100333	विकासखण्ड सलोकहार के घाम जिलापुर	74.97
85 / Dt. 20-05-2022	100341	विकासखण्ड सोलन के घाम नेवापुर खाट	53.05
86 / Dt. 20-05-2022	100342	विकासखण्ड सोलन के घाम भुखुरी	126.79

उपरोक्त निविदा कार्य की निविदा की सामान्य शर्तें, धरोहर राशि, विस्तृत निविदा विधि, निविदा दस्तावेज व अन्य जानकारी ई-आयकोरेट वेब पोर्टल <https://eproc.cgstate.gov.in> से दिनांक 20.05.2022 से देखी जा सकती है। निविदा बाइनलाइड करने की अंतिम तिथि :- 10.06.2022

R.O.No - 91504/8  
R.O.Date - 25/05/2022

हस्ता/—  
कार्यपालन अभियंता  
लोक स्वास्थ्य यांत्रिकी खण्ड कबीरधाम (छ.ग.)



# CoA affiliation row: DU teachers appeal to V-C for best legal aid

## DSEU to offer several new UG, PG courses, add 6 new campuses

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

With several new undergraduate and postgraduate courses in the academic year 2022-23, the Delhi Skill and Entrepreneurship University (DSEU) will also add six new campuses this academic year that will increase the seat strength by 800 across courses. Officials said that the university, which was established in 2020, will admit around 7,000 students this year.

DSEU Vice-Chancellor Neharika Vohra, said that at present they have 15 campuses and six more campuses are being readied.

Elaborating on the new programmes, Vohra said two undergraduate programmes related to emergency medical technology and dialysis technology have been started.

"Besides these, four new bachelor's programmes will start by end of this year. Both the courses have 60 seats each. Their classes will begin in June.

We are also starting four other bachelor's programmes, including Bachelor in Hospital Management, Bachelor in Optometry and Bachelor in Autosales. Optometry is the

large programme with 180 seats, which is being done in partnership with Lenskart," she said.

"The new programmes will not be "very expensive" and will have a very reasonable fee structure. The university is doubling seats in the engineering programme as well," she said.

Among the postgraduate courses, the university has started three new MTech programmes.

"In the MTech programmes, we are taking 20 students each but we will be offering fellowship to all of them," she said.

The university is also planning to launch PhD programmes in four subjects -- computer application, computer science and IT, tool and dye and mechanical engineering, she informed.

"We haven't decided on the number of seats (in these PhD programmes). However, we will not take more than 20 students," she said.

The university said it is planning to start a post-graduate diploma programme in digital marketing in December.

DSEU, which is recognised as a State university by the UGC, was established by the Delhi Government.

Vice-Chancellor Yogesh Singh to secure the "best legal representation" for the varsity in the matter. The fate of CoA is uncertain as DU has claimed that it has not de-affiliated it, even as Ambedkar University



(AU) announced the admission process on May 23 in a meeting with Delhi Government officials.

In a letter to DU V-C, the 11 members said that the CoA is facing a "harsh situation of losing its identity and existence." In the last hearing in Delhi High Court on May 17, due to poor representation on behalf of the DU, the order went in favour of AU.

"The university has been asked to conduct admission to CoA as part of AU. We have asked the V-C for proper representation," said Seema Das, a member of the DU's Executive Council and one of the authors of the letter.

In the letter to Singh, the teachers noted that the interim order "went in favour of AU" as far as the admission for the current session is concerned. "The same order has given two weeks to DU for filing an appeal and nowhere does it endorse the merger of CoA with Dr BR Ambedkar University," the letter pointed out.

The letter comes a day

after AU, which is funded by the Delhi Government, announced that a committee has been constituted to ensure a "smooth" process for admission in various courses of College of Art for the academic year 2022-23.

The teachers have requested Singh to seek a stay of the order directing the admission process under AU as well as for the appointment of the Dean. In April, the DU had asked the CoA to start its admission process and had informed the institute that it would not be de-affiliated from the university.

The Office of the Lieutenant-Governor had earlier given in-principle approval to the merger of CoA with AU, subject to its de-affiliation from the DU.

However, the DU's Executive Council, its highest decision-making body, refused to de-affiliate the college. In March last year, the Delhi Government announced that the CoA would be affiliated with AU, as the college was facing various problems.

# EATERIES SERVING NON-VEG FOOD NEAR RELIGIOUS PLACES NDMC to hold survey, may shift shops

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

The New Delhi Municipal Council (NDMC) has decided to conduct a survey in the area under its jurisdiction, to find out if any eatery near religious places is selling or serving non-vegetarian food. The decision was taken at a council meeting on Wednesday.

The issue was discussed after the NDMC Chairman and Vice-Chairman visited the Sri Venkateswara Swamy-Tirupati Balaji Temple and found that many shopkeepers were selling non-vegetarian food near the temple wall.

NDMC Vice-Chairman, Satish Upadhyay said, "I visited the Sri Venkateswara Swamy-Tirupati Balaji Temple along with the NDMC Chairman and found that many shopkeepers are selling and serving non-vegetarian food near the wall connecting to the temple, which is not good.

Such issues will not be tolerated and I warn the heads of departments to take immediate action on it." All NDMC areas should be surveyed to check if

## Implementation of AB-PMJAY approved

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

The NDMC on Wednesday approved the implementation of the Centre's flagship Ayushman Bharat Pradhanmantri Jan Arogya Yojana (AB-PMJAY) scheme in New Delhi area.

It has also directed preparation of a detailed report on the beautification of the area ahead of the G20 summit next year. NDMC Vice-Chairman, Satish Upadhyay said: "The

G20 Summit will be held in New Delhi next year and the municipal council should enhance the beauty of the area. For the purpose, we suggested making of a comprehensive detailed report consisting maintenance, repair, beautification like the Commonwealth Games projects."

The decision was taken in the council meeting held on Wednesday during which several citizen and employee-centric proposals were tabled.

## NDMC member urges Kejriwal to attend all council meets

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

NDMC member Kuljeet Singh Chahal raised the issue of attendance of Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal, Chairman of the NDMC.

Chahal stated that Kejriwal did not attend council meetings on 31.03.2021, 07.01.2022, 23.02.2022 and 30.03.2022, in which 26 items were approved in interest of public like "Har Ghar Jal Yojana", "Swachhta-Chatrvriti" and "Redevelopment of Hanuman Vatika." He has written to Kejriwal urging him to attend meetings for interest, benefit, and welfare of area residents.

citing the absence of an official order against it.

# Newly-inducted e-bus breaks down

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Hours after Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal flagged off 150 new electric buses on Tuesday, one of the e-buses broke down due to an increase in the vehicle's temperature beyond the specified limit.

However, the Delhi Transport Corporation (DTC) clarified that the bus stopped because of an in-built security feature and was put back on the road within two hours after a team attended to it.

The DTC Karamchari Union stated that bus number DL 516G D2610, which was from Rohini Depot Sector 37, broke down around 4 pm on the day of launch. The DTC took to Twitter and wrote, "Electric Bus no. 2610 had an indication of increased temperature beyond specified/assigned limit and therefore vehicle stopped automatically, due to its inbuilt

safety feature. The response team reached immediately, attended the bus and put it on road within two hours."

On occasion, Kejriwal also announced that capital will boast of 2,000 more such buses by next year. "The Delhi government is planning to spend Rs 1,862 crores on procuring electric buses over the next 10 years," Kejriwal said. Three new EV charging depots at Mundela Kalan, Rohini Sector 37 and Rajghat, built at a cost of around Rs 150 crores, were also inaugurated on Tuesday. Kejriwal had taken a ride in one of new e-buses along with Transport Minister Kailash Gahlot, chief secretary Naresh Kumar and other senior officials.

The induction of 150 electric buses equipped with state-of-art features, including CCTV cameras, panic button and GPS, into the DTC's fleet on Tuesday came after almost 11 years when public transporter procured buses in such a large number.

## Govt makes it mandatory for DTC officials to undertake at least one journey per week

NEW DELHI: The Delhi Government has made it mandatory for Transport Department and DTC officials, from Group A and B, to undertake at least one journey per week in the city's public buses. "All these officers have been directed to submit their feedback on buses and public transportation services in the city," said a senior transport department official. "When it comes to improving the public transportation of Delhi, we want to walk the talk. Our officers are excited and committed to develop a world-class public transport infrastructure," he said. SR

# Delhi, UP cops nab Gogi-Deepak gang's man

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

After a brief exchange of fire, the Delhi Police's Special Cell in a joint operation with its counterpart force of Uttar Pradesh has nabbed a member of the Jitender Gogi-Deepak Boxer gang from outer Delhi's Narela Industrial Area.

The accused has been identified as Sandeep alias Bassi. He sustained a bullet injury in his leg during the encounter.

According to Jasmeet Singh, the Deputy Commissioner of Police (DCP), Special Cell, on May 24, specific inputs were received that Sandeep would come to meet one of his associates near Shani Bazaar Crossing, Narela Industrial Area on bike.

"On May 25, a team of UP Special Task Force along with a special cell police team, acting on the inputs laid a trap.

About 5.00 AM when Sandeep was spotted near Shani Bazar Xing on his bike, he was signaled to stop by the police, but instead of stopping, he dropped the bike and fired three rounds towards the police teams," said the DCP.

"In retaliation, police team also fired in self defense in which Sandeep was got injured in his right leg on the knee. He

was immediately rushed to Raja Harish Chander hospital for treatment and later on he was shifted to Safdarjung hospital for treatment," said the DCP. "A total five rounds were fired from both sides. A semi-automatic pistol of .30 with three live cartridges was recovered from the possession of the accused," said the DCP.

Sandeep is previously involved and arrested in four criminal cases including murder. "During interrogation, it was revealed that he was presently wanted and absconding in six heinous crimes including murders, dacoity/robbery, assault and firing on police, abduction cases registered in Delhi, UP, Uttarakhand and Haryana," said the DCP.

"Recently on April 18, Sandeep along with his associates had robbed cash from a petrol pump in Bhagwanpur near Haridwar.

In another sensational crime, Sandeep along with other associates had forcefully entered in the house of one Nirankaar on May 20 in Kankarkhera Meerut and pumped multiple bullets into his son Prayag who later on died in the hospital," said the DCP. "On May 1, Sandeep with his associates had also robbed a bike from Yamuna

## 2 juveniles planning to kill Neeraj Bawana's father apprehended

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Two juveniles, who were planning to kill the father of jailed gangster Neeraj Bawana, were apprehended by the police in Delhi's outer north district.

To establish their supremacy in outer Delhi area and to take command over the extortion racket, gangs of Neeraj Bawania and Jitender Gogi target members of rival gangs.

On May 7, members of Neeraj Bawana-Tillu Tajpur-Parvesh Mann gang had killed Braham Prakash, the father of Kapil alias Kallu Khera, who too is a gangster associated with Gogi gang.

According to Brijender Kumar Yadav, the Deputy Commissioner of Police (DCP), Outer north district, police team was working on the task of apprehension of criminal gangs and their sharpshooters when they came to know that Kapil, an active member of Jitender Gogi's along with others are planning to take revenge of murder of gangster Neeraj Baawana's father in their village Khara Khurd.

"Police teams further learnt that Kapil and members of Gogi gang directed their members to eliminate the father of gangster Neeraj Bawana's with the aid of juveniles," said the

DCP.

"Acting on the inputs, police team accelerated their pace to apprehend them. Using technical surveillance, the police team succeeded in identifying the location and movement of juveniles," said the DCP adding that juveniles were nabbed by the police teams. "Two sophisticated semi-automatic pistols and 20 live cartridges were recovered from their possession.

Further, it came to light that the arms and ammunitions were supplied to them by Vivek and Doni on the direction of Hitesh, a resident of Bajitpur, Delhi, active member of Kapil and Gogi gang," said the DCP.

Jitender alias Gogi in Rohini Court by the members of rival gang last year, Deepak Boxer is the leader of Gogi gang," said police.

"Sandeep and his associates used to commit crime and execute the killings of the rivals in Delhi at directions of Deepak Boxer," said the DCP adding that further investigation of case is in progress.

Nagar in Haryana and on same day, using the robbed bike, he looted a petrol pump on gun point in the area," said the DCP. "The gang members including Sandeep are also wanted in a case of assault and firing on police on May 13 in Daurala near Meerut when they had fired on the police team on being challenged by the police.

Two of their associates were caught by the police at spot but others had escaped from the spot by doing incessant firing on police," said the DCP.

"The gangster Sandeep and his associates Atul and Sunny Kakran have been working with gang of Deepak Boxer (Gogi gang) for a few months. After the killing of

# Delhi gets three automated driving test tracks

## People can take test for obtaining a driving licence in the evening

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

To facilitate those who are unable to spare time during the day to take a test for obtaining a driving licence, the Delhi Government has started three automated driving tracks where people can do so in the evening, an official said on Wednesday. Delhi Transport Minister Kailash Gahlot inau-

gured the three tracks in Mayur Vihar, Shakur Basti and Vishwas Nagar.

As per data shared by the transport department, 45 appointments will be booked daily on each track and 3,000 appointment schedules will be available per day after the commissioning of night shifts at all 12 automatic driving test tracks. At present, 135 driving tests are being scheduled daily on these three automatic driving test tracks.

"In the pilot test that was conducted at the three centres between April 30 and May 24, a total of 2,565 slots were booked at the automatic driving test track at Shakur Basti, Mayur Vihar and Vishwas Nagar," said Gahlot. "As many as 855 slots among these were

booked at the centre in Shakur Basti, 243 of these tests were conducted during the night shift. Out of this, 129 people passed the test and 126 people failed," he said.

"Similarly, in Mayur Vihar, 855 people had booked their slots for the driving licence. Out of which, 424 people had appeared for the driving test. Out of this, 23 people passed the automatic driving test track and 192 people failed it," he said.

"At the same time, 855 people booked their slots for the driving licence test at Vishwas Nagar. Of this, only 266 people arrived for it and 149 people passed the automatic driving test track, while 117 people failed," he stated. The officials said that appoint-

ments can be booked for a test slot between 5 P.M. and 7 P.M. on all three tracks and no test will be conducted without the booking of a token.

"A total of 17 high resolution cameras have been installed, which capture real time footage and images, for the driving test to be closely monitored. In addition, an Electronic Queue Management System (EQMS) has also been installed for distribution of tokens," said Gahlot.

"Further, 10 CCTV cameras have been installed at all automatic test track centres to enable the driving test to be conducted in a transparent and effective manner and 20 essential driving skills under the Motor Vehicle Act, 1999 will be tested," said Gahlot.

The city Government had started the trial of automated driving test track at the end of April and it was formally inaugurated on Wednesday.

"We are also adding eight new Accelerator Driven Transmutation Technology (ADTTs) systems at educational institutions, which is in its tendering stage and this will be a major step in decreasing waiting times," said Gahlot.

"The department has entrusted the Maruti Suzuki foundation to set up 12 automatic driving test tracks.

Along with this, the responsibility of the operator supervision of all 12 automatic driving test track centres has been given to Rosmerta Technology Limited," said Gahlot.



A birthday party being celebrated inside a metro coach, at Sector-51 station of Aqua Line, in Noida on Wednesday PTI Photo



# 2K registered unrecognised parties to face EC action

**PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI**

The Election Commission (EC) has decided to act against over 2,000 Registered Unrecognised Political Parties (RUPPs) whose numbers saw a 300 per cent increase in the last two decades with most coming into existence just before Lok Sabha or Assembly elections. Saying it is placing the facts in public domain so that the citizens know the affairs of the political parties, the EC said in 2019, of the 2354 RUPPs only 623 contested even as 87 RUPPs were found to be non-existent on ground. Many RUPPS do not comply to the statutory requirements. Alarmingly, the RUPPs combined claimed Income Tax exemption in the range of 100 crore to 608 crore.

This is the first time that the poll body has decided to act against RUPPs for flouting rules, including failure to furnish a contribution report and communicate any change in its name, head office, office bearers and address to the poll panel. The EC said that it has been reported that income tax

exemptions have been taken to the tune of Rs 445 crores in 2018-19 by 199 RUPPs and Rs 608 crores in 2019-20 by 219 RUPPs. Of these, 66 RUPPS have claimed income tax exemption without submitting contribution reports in Form 24A as mandated under section 29C of the Act.

In view of the fact that there are 2174 RUPPs, which have not submitted contribution reports, the list shall be sent to the Department of Revenue for taking all consequential action as per the RP Act 1951 read with the relevant provisions of the Income Tax Act, 1961 and other statutory/regulatory regime including not granting exemption / withdrawing exemption, if already granted/ examining liability of wrongly claiming exemption as the case may be.

The poll body has directed chief electoral officials of state and union territories to put this order on their websites for compliance and for affording an opportunity to anyone aggrieved by above action. "Action to be initiated against those receiving donations without due statutory compliances.

Action initiated against three registered unrecognized political parties (RUPPs) reported to be involved in Serious financial impropriety," the EC said in a statement.

There are 87 RUPPs, whose address of communication, was statutorily required as registration requirement under section 29A(4). Any change in address was required to be communicated to the EC under section 29A(9), which they have not complied. "These RUPPs have been found to be non-existent after a physical verification carried out by the respective Chief Electoral Officers. The names of such non-existent RUPPs shall be deleted from the list and benefits under the Symbols Order (1968) withdrawn" the EC said.

As per data shared by the poll body, of the 2354 RUPPs over 92 per cent have not filed their Contribution Report in 2019 to the poll body.

The data showed that nearly 2056 RUPPs, which have failed to furnish Annual Audit Account of the (5) concerned financial year, are indicative of gaps in vital financial information including bank

account, PAN, authorized signatories pertaining to those RUPPs, statement of assets and liabilities, contributions received, details of donors and expenditure.

"Any RUPP aggrieved by any action may approach concerned CEO with full facts within 30 days of the issue of this direction with all evidences inter-alia including proof of existence, other legal and regulatory compliances made till now such as submission of year wise annual audited accounts, contribution report, expenditure report, if any, updation of office bearers including authorized signatories for financial transactions including bank account) and operations under the Symbols Order 1968," the EC said.

The poll body further said that 100 RUPPs, which have failed to furnish Election Expenditure Statements after the contest of election(s), have violated the directions of Election Commission. They may approach concerned CEO with full facts within 30 days of the issue of this direction for remedial action, if any, to avoid any consequential action.

# MP Karti booked in visa-for-bribery scam

**PNS ■ NEW DELHI**

The Enforcement Directorate (ED) has registered a money laundering case against Congress MP Karti Chidambaram and others in connection with the visas-for-bribery scam entailing irregular issuance of visas to 263 Chinese nationals in 2011 when his father P Chidambaram was the Union Home Minister.

The ED has filed the case under the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA) taking cognisance of a recent CBI case related to the scam.

The case pertains to allegations of Rs 50 lakh being paid as kickbacks to Karti and his close associate and Chartered Accountant S Bhaskararaman by a top executive of Vedanta Group company Talwandi Sabo Power Ltd. (TSPL), which was setting up a power plant in Punjab, according to the CBI FIR. The CBI had raided the premises of the Chidambaram family and arrested Bhaskararaman last week, even as Karti is likely to depose before it on Thursday.

This is the third money laundering case against Karti with the INX Media and



Aircel-Maxis cases being probed by the agency for the last few years.

The ED will probe the possible "proceeds of crime" that could have been generated due to the alleged illegal activity in the visa case and once prima facie evidence is gathered, it can attach those assets, they said. The accused persons in the case will be questioned as part of the investigation, they further said.

Karti, 50, has denied all the allegations. In a statement posted on his Twitter handle on Tuesday, he said "if this is not harassment, not a witch hunt, then what is." Meanwhile, Karti has been summoned by the CBI for questioning on Thursday in connection with visa scam. He has been asked to join the probe within 16 hours after he returned from Britain.

# Honcho held under PMLA for causing ₹155 cr loss to bank



**PNS ■ NEW DELHI**

The Enforcement Directorate (ED) has arrested Ashok Kumar Mittal, Director of Karnal-based Mahesh Timber Pvt. Ltd. in a bank fraud case under the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA) for diverting funds to Singapore through fake imports, causing a loss of Rs 155 crore to the bank.

The ED initiated money laundering investigation on the basis of an FIR registered by the CBI here for criminal conspiracy, cheating, forgery and criminal misconduct of a public servant against the accused firm, its directors and others.

"Ashok Kumar Mittal is the key director of Mahesh

Timber Pvt. Ltd. who allegedly connived with the bank officials and fraudulently got Letter of Credit limits enhanced from Rs 21 crore to Rs 195 crore, which were diverted to his Singapore based entities on account of fake imports. The accused firm and its directors caused overall wrongful loss to the bank to the tune of Rs 155 crore and wrongful gains to themselves in this manner," the ED said in a statement.

Mittal was non-cooperative during the investigation and withheld relevant information apart from misleading the investigation. After the arrest, he was produced before the Special Court, Panchkula, Haryana on Tuesday and has been remanded to ED custody for four days, the agency added.

# Indian-Bangladeshi Navy bilateral exercise underway

**PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI**

In an effort to further strengthen ties in the maritime domain, the four-day third edition of Indian Navy-Bangladesh Navy bilateral exercise "Bongosagar" is now on in Bangladesh.

Giving details of the exercise, navy officials said here on Wednesday, the drill commenced at Port Mongla, Bangladesh on Tuesday. The harbour phase of exercise is scheduled for two days followed by a sea phase in the northern Bay of Bengal from Thursday.

Exercise 'Bongosagar' is aimed at developing a high degree of interoperability and joint operational skills through the conduct of a wide spectrum of maritime exercises and operations between the two navies.

Indian naval ships Kora, an indigenously built guided missile corvette, and Sumedha, an indigenously built offshore patrol vessel, are participating in the Exercise. The Bangladesh Navy is being represented by Abu Ubaidah and Ali Haider, both guided missile frigates.

The harbour phase of the exercise includes professional and social interac-



tions, and friendly sporting fixtures, in addition to the tactical level planning discussions on the conduct of the exercises at sea.

The sea phase of the exercise would

facilitate ships from both the navies to participate in intensive surface warfare drills, weapon firing drills, seamanship evolutions and coordinated air operations in a tactical scenario.

# CJI-chaired panel deliberated upon issue of tenure of 23 NCLT members: Centre to SC

**PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI**

The Centre on Wednesday told the Supreme Court that a committee chaired by the Chief Justice of India had held a meeting on April 20 in which the question regarding the tenure of 23 members of the National Company Law Tribunal (NCLT) has been deliberated upon. Solicitor General Tushar Mehta, appearing for the Centre, told a vacation bench of Justices DY Chandrachud and Bela M Trivedi that the committee, which also comprises apex court judge Justice Surya Kant and Secretary of the Ministry of Corporate Affairs, is seized of the issue and the next meeting is likely to be held within a week or 10 days.

Mehta said the committee had considered all aspects of the matter, including verifica-



tion reports of character and antecedents, which are considered to be one of the important factors for the assessment of the suitability of the 23 members for extension of their term of office keeping in view the sen-



sitive nature of their duties.

"Now, I am given to understand that the next meeting is scheduled in a week or 10 days," he said while requesting the top court to hear the matter on June 15. Mehta said the next retirement of one of the NCLT members is on June 20. The bench was hearing a plea that has raised issues about the tenure of the members of the tribunal.

The apex court noted the submissions of senior advocate

Maninder Singh, who appeared for the petitioner and submitted that term of all the members of the 2019 batch would come to an end on July 3, 2022, though the term should legitimately be for a period of five years.

"List the proceedings on June 15, 2022," the bench said, adding, "We request the Solicitor General to appraise the court of the developments which have taken place in the meantime."

# Delhi HC seeks Centre stand on plea to regulate online gaming

**PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI**

The Delhi High Court on Wednesday sought the stand of the Central Government on a petition to regulate online gaming and stop the games that are not games of skills but chance.

A bench of Acting Chief Justice Vipin Sanghi and Justice Sachin Datta issued notice on the petition by lawyer Atul Batra who said in his plea that his concern was that online games of chance are promoted as games of skill and that online gambling is as bad as any substance addiction. Noting that betting and gambling is a State subject, the court asked the

petitioner to implead the Delhi Government as a party to the petition. Central government counsel said that various ministries are deliberating on the issue, which concerns a State subject, and the Centre, therefore, cannot legislate upon it without the consent of the State. In the petition, the petitioner stated that if online gambling and betting are not regulated, it is likely to cause immense damage to the society at large as youngsters with impressionable minds can fall prey to such games, which will have an adverse effect on their personal and professional life.

The petitioner sought appropriate action against an entity offering an online crick-



et game involving money on its website and prima facie promoting a game of chance.

The petitioner said that under the Information and Technology Act, the Centre is

empowered to issue appropriate instructions to ban the operation of illegal gambling online websites. The matter would be heard next on November 16.

# Captain Abhilasha becomes first woman officer to join Aviation Corps as combat pilot

**PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI**

Captain Abhilasha Barak has become the first woman officer to join the Army Aviation Corps as a Combat Aviator or pilot. Fifteen women officers had expressed their desire to join Army Aviation Corps but only two officers were selected after Pilot Aptitude Battery Test and Medical examination.

Giving details of the momentous achievement, the Additional Directorate General of Public Information, defence ministry on Wednesday described it as a "Golden Letter Day" in the history of the Indian Army Aviation Corps.

It flies Chetak, Cheetah and Dhruv helicopters and forms the life line for troops guarding the Siachen glacier and other inaccessible forward posts along the Indian borders. The helicopters are used for reconnaissance besides medical evacuation and disaster relief.

Upon successful completion of her training, Captain Barak was awarded the Coveted Wings along with 36 Army pilots, the directorate post said. The post, shared on Instagram, also features a set of pictures from the ceremony.

It said "Golden letter day in the history of Indian Army aviation. Captain Abhilasha Barak becomes the first woman officer to join Army Aviation Corps as Combat Aviator after successful completion of training."

"Captain Abhilasha Barak has been awarded the Coveted Wings along with 36 Army Pilots by Director General and Colonel Commandant Army Aviation. Young Aviators are now ready to spread their wings in Combat Aviation Squadrons," it read. The Army Aviation wing of the Royal Air Force (RAF) in India came into being took place in 1942. In August 1947 the first Indian Air Observation Post-flight was raised.

The present day Army Aviation Corps was established on November 1, 1986. It was "immediately inducted into Operation Pawan," which has been described as a "crucial test" for the Corps that had been newly formed. It was the first major participation by the Corps in the Indian Peace Keeping Force (IPKF) operations in Sri Lanka.

At present, women are given the responsibility of air traffic control and ground duty in the Aviation Department. Now Barak will take over the responsibility of the pilot. The Corps candidates are trained at the Combat Army Aviation Training School, Nashik. In June, last year, for the first time, two women officers were selected for helicopter pilot training.

The IAF already has started inducting women officers as fighter pilots and in 2018, Flying Officer Avani Chaturvedi became the first Indian woman to fly a fighter aircraft.

# Some antivirals may shorten monkeypox symptoms: Study

**PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI**

Some antiviral medications might have the potential to shorten symptoms of monkeypox and reduce the amount of time a patient is contagious, according to a study of seven patients diagnosed with the rare viral disease in the UK between 2018 and 2021.

The cases analysed in the study, published on Tuesday in The Lancet Infectious Diseases journal, represent the first instances of in-hospital transmission and household transmission outside of Africa.

The research also reported the patient response to the first off-label use of two different antiviral medications -- brincidofovir and tecovirimat

-- to treat the disease.

The study found little evidence that brincidofovir was of clinical benefit but concluded that further research into the potential of tecovirimat would be warranted.

The researchers also report detection of monkeypox virus in blood and throat swabs.

As optimum infection control and treatment strategies for this disease are not yet established, data from the study could help inform global efforts to further understand the clinical features of the disease as well as transmission dynamics, they said.

"As public health officials are trying to understand what is causing the May 2022 monkeypox outbreaks in Europe and North America -- which



have affected several patients who reported neither travel nor an identified link to a previously known case -- our study offers some of the first insights into the use of antivirals for the treatment of monkeypox in humans," said Hugh Adler of the Liverpool University Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust, UK.

"Although this latest outbreak has affected more

patients than we had previously encountered in the UK, historically monkeypox has not transmitted very efficiently between people, and overall the risk to public health is low," Adler, lead author on the paper, said. With international travel returning to pre-pandemic levels, public health officials and healthcare workers around the world must remain vigilant to the possibility of new cases

of monkeypox, said Nick Price of Guy's & St Thomas' NHS Foundation Trust, senior author on the paper.

Of the seven UK monkeypox cases analysed in the study, four were imported from West Africa with three further cases occurring due to human-to-human transmission within the case clusters.

Monkeypox, a close relative of the smallpox virus, is a rare disease classified as a High Consequence Infectious Disease (HCID) by the UK Health Security Agency.

There are currently no licensed treatments for monkeypox and there is limited data on the duration of its contagiousness, with the incubation period ranging from five to 21 days.

# Financial support to rare disease patients increased from ₹20L to ₹50L under RAN

**PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI**

Following a demand from activists, the Union Health Ministry has increased the financial support from 20 lakh to 50 lakh for treatment of patients suffering from rare diseases under the umbrella scheme of Rashtriya Arogya Nidhi (RAN).

"Beneficiaries for such financial assistance would not be limited to BPL families, but extended to about 40% of the population, who are eligible as per norms of the Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana, their treatment in Government tertiary hospitals only," as per the official state-

ment of the Health Ministry.

The RAN was set up to provide financial assistance to patients, living below the poverty line and who are suffering from major life threatening diseases, to receive medical treatment at any of the super speciality Hospitals/Institutes or other Government hospitals.

The financial assistance to such patients is released in the form of a 'one-time grant', which is released to the Medical Superintendent of the Hospital in which the treatment has been received.

The Government had in May last year approved the National Policy for Rare Diseases 2021, aiming to

lower the high cost of treating rare diseases in India..

Activists like Saurabh Singh, co-founder-director of Rare Disease India Foundation (RDIF), have been pointing out the need for higher funds for the sector.

He had been urging the Government to address the gaps in providing life-saving treatment to those requiring it. Singh has suggested that the annual budgetary allocation of Rs. 25 crore under the RAN for 2021-22 that has not been spent could be immediately used to treat patients with diseases under Group (3) such as Gaucher, Pompe, Fabry disease and MPS I and MPS II.



# Gyanvapi row: Fresh plea on ban on Muslims’ entry to be heard

PNS ■ VARANASI

A fresh petition in the Shringar Gauri-Gyanvapi Mosque complex lawsuit seeking a ban on the entry of Muslims in Gyanvapi complex was on Wednesday transferred to the court of civil judge (senior division/fast track) from the court of civil judge, senior division.

The fast track court will hear the petition on May 30.

International general secretary of Vishwa Vedic Sanatan Sangh, Kiran Singh, on Tuesday last had filed a fresh petition in the court of Civil Judge (Senior Division) Ravi Kumar Diwakar in the Shringar Gauri temple-Gyanvapi complex matter seeking a ban on the entry of Muslims in the Gyanvapi complex in which the Gyanvapi mosque is located.

The petitioner also demanded that the entire Gyanvapi complex be handed over to Hindus and sought permission for worship of 'Shivling' claimed by the Hindu side to have been found in the wuzu khana of the Gyanvapi



complex. The civil judge (senior division) had accepted the petition.

District Judge Dr Ajay Kumar Vishvesha on Wednesday transferred the petition to the court of Civil Judge (Senior Division/ Fast Track) Mahendra Kumar Pandey. The fast track court posted the hearing for May 30.

It is learnt that the court of the district judge will hear the maintainability of the Shringar Gauri-Gyanvapi mosque com-

plex lawsuit on Thursday. The five women filed a petition in the court of Civil Judge (Senior Division) Ravi Kumar Diwakar seeking permission to worship in the Shringar Gauri temple and preservation of the idols located in the Gyanvapi mosque complex.

The defendants, including the Anjuman Intezamia Masjid Committee, which looks after the management of the Gyanvapi mosque, had moved an application in the Supreme

Court under Order 7, Rule 11 of the Civil Procedure Code (CrPC), raising question on the maintainability of the suit. The apex court on May 20 had transferred the petition to the court of the district judge from the court of the civil judge, senior division and directed him to hear the application moved by the defendants on priority basis. The court of district judge on Tuesday posted the hearing on the maintainability of the suit first on May 26.

# TN BJP leader hacked to death in Chennai in broad daylight

KUMAR CHELLAPPAN ■ CHENNAI

A day before Prime Minister Narendra Modi was to make an official visit to Chennai to dedicate to the nation Rs 31,400 crore worth infrastructure works built as centrally-sponsored projects, a popular BJP leader in the State was murdered in front of hundreds of onlookers at Chintadripet, a city suburb on Tuesday evening at 7.50.

Two motorcycle borne gangs hacked to death K Balachander (30), Chennai Central District Secretary of the BJP's Scheduled Caste Wing in front of a crowd who ran for their lives after watching the gruesome murder.

Balachander who was accompanied by a security guard was on his way to a tea shop while the gangs of unidentified persons struck him, killing him on the spot and withdrew from the scene as fast as they made their appearance.

Hours before the incident, C Sylendra Kumar, director general of police (law and order), Tamil Nadu Police had told reporters at Avadi, another



BJP leader K Balachander

city suburb that law and order was under control in the State and there were no reports of any unpleasant happenings. "Tamil Nadu is a very peaceful State. No instance of caste or communal clash in Tamil Nadu or firing or deaths due to spurious liquor has been reported in the State," Babu had told reporters at Avadi Police Commissionerate.

K Annamalai, BJP State chief took to the social media within hours and said that nobody was safe in Tamil Nadu. He asked the Police to

arrest all the accused in the murder of the party functionary. Karu Nagarajan, senior BJP leader who staged a sit-in in front of the Government hospital where Balachander's body was taken for autopsy asked reporters whether Chennai was the political capital of Tamil Nadu or murder capital.

In an embarrassment to the M K Stalin-led Government, a popular TV channel friendly to the DMK, aired a news on Wednesday stating that Chennai has seen 18 murders in the last 20 days. The report contained the details of the murders with date, time and information about the victims.

But Shankar Jiwai, Commissioner, Chennai City Police, described the news as wrong. "There has been a 25 per cent reduction in the number of murders," said Jiwai while speaking to reporters.

No arrests have been made in the Balachander murder case at the time of going to Press though hectic combing operations are underway across the city. This is Prime Minister's first visit to Tamil Nadu after the change of Government in the State in last May.

# Tripura CM calls on President, Shah, Rajnath

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The new Chief Minister of the poll-bound Tripura Dr Manik Saha, who had this month replaced Biplab Kumar Deb, called on President Ram Nath Kovind, Home Minister Amit Shah and defence Minister Rajnath Singh here on Wednesday.

The change in the north East state was affected by the BJP central leadership as elections to the Tripura assembly are about Year away and the change is aimed at reducing the anti-incumbency of four year-rule of Deb as CM.

It was Saha's first visit to the national Capital since taking charge as the chief minister of the northeastern state on May 15.

Saha said he met the home minister and sought his continuous guidance for all-round development of Tripura.

"Delighted to meet the Union Home Minister Hon'ble Shri @AmitShah ji. Requested him for his continuous guidance so that I can devote myself to the all round development of Tripura as Chief Minister of the state," Saha tweeted.

## SSC RECRUITMENT SCAM MAY GO BEYOND ₹15K CR

# CBI grills senior Bengal Minister for 8 hrs as more scams surface

SAUGAR SENGUPTA ■ KOLKATA

The Central Bureau of Investigation probing the School Service Commission recruitment scam following a Calcutta High Court order on Wednesday subjected Bengal Industries Minister and former Trinamool Congress secretary general Partho Chatterjee to intensive 8-hour grilling.

Chatterjee, was the State Education Minister when the large-scale recruitment scam that saw junior Education Minister Paresh Adhikari's daughter Ankita landing a teacher's job by-passing empanelled candidates took place. The said teacher has since been dismissed from service following a court order.

According to sources Chatterjee was asked a whole range of "uncomfortable" questions that he either circumvented or replied in a round-about manner. Chatterjee had

created a five-member screening panel comprising among others his own personal assistant and officer on special duty in order to advice the SSC which is presumed to be an autonomous body responsible for appointments in school level.

A judicial committee appointed by the High Court by Justice RJ Bag had indicted not only the minister but the aforementioned panel and even recommended criminal proceedings against the offenders saying the formation of the screening committee was an illegal act.

When asked as to why he went out of the way to appoint the screening panel or under whose supervision it worked, Chatterjee reportedly said that he had no control over the committee. When asked as to who controlled the committee or for that matter if any outsider was controlling it he

allegedly feigned ignorance, sources said adding he also failed to answer why he did not take action when reports of irregularities were coming in.

Sources in the CBI which has been grilling five senior State government officials who were in the screening committee and through whom the scam was operated said "Chatterjee's statements and the statements given by the five officials were not matching." They even said that the statements given by Chatterjee and his former Deputy Paresh Adhikari too contradicted at places."

The senior minister who has been asked to furnish his income details was on Wednesday asked to reduce his statements in writing for perusal.

While CBI sources said that the Minister could be summoned again they claimed that information regarding an

alleged newly constructed international school in West Midnapore and multiple apartments and hotels were also being collected.

While prima facie at least one thousand people were illegally given jobs by passing the empanelled candidates the High Court has directed the CBI to find out the total number of illegal appointments — which the petitioners' lawyers Firdous Shamim said could run into thousands — and money trail if any behind such recruitments.

Saying that it was a "multi-layered scam equivalent to Vyapam scam or chit fund" Shamim said illegal appointments took place in Group D, Group C, Primary, upper Primary, secondary and higher secondary level involving thousands of teachers.

"The rate for illegal appointments hovered anywhere between Rs 5 lakh for

the Group D level to Rs 20 or Rs 25 lakh for Higher Secondary level," he said adding "roughly it could involve a total scam of Rs 15,000 crores — and this is by the lower side."

Already about 600 people have been identified and lost their jobs and many more hundreds or even thousands could face a similar fate, sources said.

Meanwhile, there were more recruitment scams reported in other departments too, sources said. Protests were staged in front of the Calcutta University by aspiring professors who complained of a massive scam in the recruitment process of college teachers by the College Service Commission. CSC chairman Dipak Sarkar however denied such allegations. Similar scams were reported in the Health Department with the aspiring nurses staging protests outside the health ministry for the past two days.

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Congress is likely to get 11 Rajya Sabha seats in the upcoming election cycle with some of its top leaders, including P Chidambaram and Jairam Ramesh, eyeing another term. This will also help the Congress strengthen its party position in the Upper House of Parliament from the current 29 to 33 members.

Some other top Congress leaders, including Ghulam Nabi Azad, Anand Sharma, Mukul Wasnik, Randeep Surjewala, Ajay Maken and Rajeev Shukla, are waiting in the wings to get a Rajya Sabha nomination. Of the 55 vacancies arising in the Rajya Sabha in the next two months, seven Congress members — Chidambaram (Maharashtra), Ramesh (Karnataka), Ambika Soni (Punjab), Vivek Tankha (Madhya Pradesh), Pradeep Tamta (Uttarakhand), Kapil Sibal

(Uttar Pradesh) and Chhaya Verma (Chhattisgarh) — will be completing their terms.

The Congress will be gaining three to four seats in the Upper House if it manages to get all the three seats that are falling vacant in Rajasthan. While the party will get two seats in Chhattisgarh, where it is in power, it will get one seat each in Tamil Nadu, Jharkhand and Maharashtra, where it shares power with other like-minded parties.

The Congress is also likely to get one seat each in Haryana, Madhya Pradesh and Karnataka on the strength of its MLAs in these states. Sources said while Chidambaram and Ramesh are hopeful that the party leadership would give a nod to them for another term, there are a host of other leaders who are waiting for a Rajya Sabha berth for some time now.

Chidambaram is eyeing

the lone Rajya Sabha seat from Tamil Nadu. He has already met Tamil Nadu Chief Minister and DMK leader M K Stalin. However, former Congress chief Rahul Gandhi's team is pushing for a young face in Praveen Chakravarty, the head of the party's Data Analytics department, for the seat.

Three-time Rajya Sabha member Ramesh will get a fourth term if his name is cleared for the lone seat in Karnataka, from where Surjewala is also a contender.

In Haryana, Surjewala, Kumari Selja and Kuldeep Bishnoi are vying for the lone seat, but former chief minister Bhupinder Singh Hooda is pushing for the nomination of Anand Sharma. The former Union minister is a prominent member of the "Group of 23" and is considered close to Hooda, who is also a member of the grouping.

# After Nitish, Pawar raises ‘caste-based’ census issue

T N RAGHUNATHA ■ MUMBAI

Making a strong case for the reservations for the Other Backward Classes (OBCs), NCP chief Sharad Pawar on Wednesday rooded strongly for the conduct of a 'caste-based' census by the Centre to determine the quantum of reservations for OBCs in the country.

Addressing a state convention on reservations organised by the NCP's OBC Cell at the YB Chavan Centre here, Pawar slammed the Narendra Modi-government at the Centre and the RSS that supports the government, for opposing the caste-based census in the country.

"The OBCs are not asking for anything free. They are merely demanding reservations as their right. The reservations cannot happen unless there is a caste-based national census. The SC and ST communities benefited by way of reservations made in the Constitution, We should make

similar reservations to the OBCs," the NCP chief said.

"For the purpose of providing reservations to the OBCs, we need to ascertain their exact population. Only way to ascertain the OBC population in the country is to conduct a caste-based national census. Once the caste-based national census is done, we will know what exactly is the OBC population in the country. The reservations for them can be decided on the basis of their population," Pawar said.

At the convention attended by the OBC leaders from across the state, north Maharashtra representative Umesh Nemade moved a resolution demanding a "caste-based" national census so as to pave the way for reservations for the OBCs living across the country.

Coming down heavily on the Modi government at the Centre for resisting a "caste-based" census in the country, Pawar said: "Yesterday, Bihar chief minister Nitish Kumar

once again raised the issue of caste-based census. But till the Modi-led BJP is in power at the Centre, I don't think caste-based census will happen in the country. This is because the mindset of the BJP and its ideological allies is different".

Pawar said that RSS joint secretary Bhyajji Joshi had gone on record that his organisation was totally opposed to the caste-based census on the assumption that it would vitiate the atmosphere in the country. "I would like to know from him: how will the atmosphere get vitiated? When there is an imbalance in the society, we need to do something. The NCP is prepared to do whatever it takes to create awareness in the society," he said.

When he targeted the BJP and RSS for their resistance to "caste-based" census, the NCP chief was apparently alluding to an affidavit filed by the Centre before the Supreme Court on September 23 last year that a "caste-census", stating that a caste

census in 2021 "would not be feasible" and that it had taken a "conscious policy decision" to not to seek information regarding any other caste, except SCs and STs.

The Centre had filed an affidavit to this effect in the apex court in response to the Maharashtra government's plea to count Other Backward Classes (OBCs) in the upcoming census.

Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar and former Bihar CM Jitan Ram Manjhi too have for some time been mounting pressure on the Modi government to get a clear count on OBCs. Even Union Minister of State for Social Justice and Empowerment Ramdas Athawale is in favour of the caste-based census.

Pawar said that the ruling MVA in Maharashtra — comprising Shiv Sena, NCP and Congress — would go in for the upcoming civic polls only after the resolution of the OBCs reservations issue.



NCC cadets perform a routine drill during their annual Army Training Camp, at Nagrota on the outskirts of Jammu.

Photo | PTI

# NAS report on school education system in country released

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Education Ministry on Wednesday released the National Achievement Survey (NAS) 2021 report which assesses the health of school education system in the country by conducting comprehensive evaluation survey of children's learning competencies at classes III, V, VIII and X with a cycle period of three years. It reflects the overall assessment of school education system. The last NAS was held in 2017.

The NAS 2021 was held on 12.11.2021 at all India level and covered Government Schools (Central Government and State Government); Government Aided Schools; and Private Unaided Schools. Subjects covered are Language, Mathematics & EVS for class 3 & 5; Language,

Mathematics, Science & Social Science for class 8 and Language, Mathematics, Science, Social Science and English for class 10.

According to the Department of School Education and Literacy, about 34 lakh students of 1.18 lakh schools in 720 districts from both rural and urban areas have participated in NAS 2021. The National Report Card has been released and placed in the public domain on nas.gov.in. It will enable analysis of results and remedial action at the appropriate levels. The objective of NAS 2021 is to evaluate children's progress and learning competencies as an indicator of the efficiency of the education system, so as to take appropriate steps for remedial actions at different levels. It will help to unravel the gaps in learning and will support state/UT governments

in developing long term, mid-term and short-term interventions to improve learning levels and orient on differential planning based on NAS 2021 data.

The report is based on the performance in all subjects through disaggregation by gender (female, male), Area (Rural and Urban), Management of schools (Government, Government aided and Private unaided) and Social Groups (Schedule Caste (SC), Schedule Tribe (ST), Other Backward Communities (OBC) and General. This nation-wide survey was administered by the CBSE in one single day at the same time. The survey was managed through the technology platform designed and developed by National Informatics Centre (NIC).

# UP Finance Minister to present budget today

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

Uttar Pradesh Finance Minister Suresh Khanna will present the first budget of the second term of the Yogi Adityanath-led Bharatiya Janata Party Government on Thursday.

The budget for the next fiscal 2022-23 is expected to be the biggest ever and is likely to be over Rs 6 lakh crore. The size of the 2021-22 budgets was Rs 5, 50 Lakh crore.

Official sources said the budget would be paperless and inclusive and would cater to the aspiration of all sections of society.

The Uttar Pradesh government had on December 16, 2021 presented an interim-budget for 2022-23 in the state

legislature, proposing an expenditure of Rs 5,45,370.69 crore and estimated receipts of Rs 5,44,836.56 crore. This left a deficit of Rs 534.13 crore.

The budget is likely to accommodate the promises made by the BJP in its election manifesto ahead of the 2022 UP assembly elections. The budget is likely to be focused on the agriculture sector. The BJP had promised free power to farmers in its election manifesto. Free power to farmers is likely to entail additional expenditure of Rs 1,800 crore on the state's finances.

The government is also likely to announce the creation of a stabilisation fund for ensuring remunerative prices for the crops of tomato, onion and potato.

# BJP starts week-long campaign to strengthen party for 2024 elections

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The BJP on Wednesday started a week-long campaign to strengthen the organisation and boost outreach activities in around 74,000 electoral booths across the country where it is relatively weak. The move is keeping the next Lok Sabha elections in mind. BJP president J P Nadda addressed a 'Booth Empowerment Campaign' event at the party headquarters here, the party said in a tweet. The meeting was attended by several Union ministers and leaders from across the country. The campaign will continue till May 31.

The BJP has formed a committee chaired by party vice president Bajjayant Panda

and including vice president Dilip Ghosh, general secretary CT Ravi, and the party's Scheduled Caste (SC) Morcha head Lal Singh Arya as its members.

The party has identified around 74,000 booths across the country that are to be strengthened under the campaign. All party MPs have been asked to strengthen 100 weak booths in their respective constituencies and a 30-member team will be formed for the purpose, party sources said.

Similarly, party MLAs have been given the task of strengthening 10 weaker booths in their constituencies, sources said adding the BJP's Rajya Sabha MPs have been given the responsibility of strengthen-

ing polling booths in those Lok Sabha constituencies where the party lost.

The weaker booths have been identified on the basis of the results of the 2014 and 2019 Lok Sabha elections and state assembly polls, they said adding these booths have been divided into various categories on the basis of demography, organisational strength and other aspects.

A similar exercise was initiated by the BJP in 2016 and the party had identified around 115 constituencies in six states — Odisha, West Bengal, Andhra Pradesh, Telangana, Tamil Nadu, Kerala — and the Northeast. The party had never been able to win these constituencies till that time.









FIRST COLUMN

SOME BRANDS ARE AGGRESSIVELY CAPITALISING ON CANCEL CULTURE

A new public sphere in a network society



UTTAM CHAKRABORTY     G REJIKUMAR

Understanding cancel culture and a new public sphere are becoming imminent. Constructing and deconstructing the suitability of such culture is largely contextualized and is heavily relied on the cultural context. It has invariably attempted to redefine Jürgen Habermas' public sphere, especially the future of the public sphere in a network society. In the digital arena, the argumentative discussions on the public sphere are increasingly relevant and yet problematic. There is a little denial that public sphere is subjected to dramatic change and re-change. Reasons and passion in the public sphere are many and it has been increasingly interdisciplinary in approach. Over the years, cancel culture is getting more apparent from comedy to cricket. A product of internet culture, it has spread its wings across the globe including India. Several celebrities have faced severe backlash for their alleged deeds or narratives which were deemed offensive and inappropriate in the public. The butterfly effect of social media is adding to the cancel culture. The dark holes of disinformation are becoming rampant. The pandemic situation across the globe had added to the woes of the public. On the other hand, it has different implications in brand communication. Some brands are aggressively capitalizing on this culture and using this trend as branding. Of course, this needs to be handled with utmost care. Whether cancel culture actually works or not, it remains debatable. Cancel cul-



ture has become a common phenomenon in our society. To be precise, cancel culture means a practice of withdrawing support for public figures or companies or even against an individual after they have done or said something considered objectionable or offensive. It is generally discussed in the social media in the form of group shaming.

Cancel culture attempts to enforce some degree of accountability on an individual even though it demands a series of arguments and deliberations on the topics or individuals or institutions. This culture surfaced across nations when the #MeToo movement gained traction in 2016 in the US where people resorted to social media to cancel or boycott public personalities of repute. Last year #BanNetflix was getting viral for alleged inappropriate content. Cancel culture as a medium of showing disbelief towards a person or any organization or thought is nothing new in India. In the year 2019, the former US President Obama appealed to discard the cancel culture. The actor and activist Jameela Jamil claimed that cancel culture as pointless and is a waste of time. The names of JK Rowling and Harry Potter rose to some extent. Cancel culture has shared some common space in the pandemic and online trolling. According to reports, online hate speech rose 20% during the pandemic. However, it was often normalized in most of the circumstances.

Cancel culture has its own implications on brands and brand communication. The trolling in the Internet has become a common phenomenon. It has caused a stir in the recent times. One of the renowned jewelry apps had to face the wrath of the consumers for one of their promotional advertisements. A popular TV show anchor is being alleged trolled for not providing promotional space for a film. Cancel culture has encroached into the space of marketing and advertising. Usually, brands are politically non-partisans However, in apolarisedworld, brands are slowly taking political patronage. Boycotting has become a mainstream consumer reaction. Consumers are increasingly demanding the brands to take a stand on any social or political issue. Consumers are also aware of the fact that several brands use societal issues as a marketing ploy to sell more of their product. Cancel culture is thus negotiating its space in the public sphere.

*(Chakraborty is an Assistant Professor and teaches at Jaipuria Institute of Management, Lucknow.Rejikumar is working as a professor at Department of Management, Amrita Vishwa Vidyapeetham, Kochi)*

# Pak oppression stoking Baloch ‘azadi’ fires

Balochs say the CPRC ignores them and is Punjab-centric. The Gwadar-Karachi route goes through developed areas of Punjab and Sind while bypassing Balochistan districts

Balochistan is Pakistan's biggest occupied province, making about 44% of the country's total land area. With a coastline of 770 kilometres, Balochistan also shares borders with Iran and Afghanistan, and 40% of the world's oil travels via Gwadar port, located near the opening of the Strait of Hormuz.

Pakistan's display of unified nationalism is met with ethno-nationalist opposition from Balochs, Pashtuns and Sindhis, who have been protesting against their political and economic marginalisation since the formation of Pakistan.The Punjab-centric planning and implementation of projects under China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) have worsened the conflict between the state and the Azadi-seeking forces. A takeover of Gwadar port and subsequent exclusion of the Baloch firms, workers and fishermen from Gwadar-linked CPEC projects, and various developmental policies apart from exploiting its natural resources have exacerbated pre-existing secessionist sentiments in Balochistan. Furthermore, the Eastern route or alignment of the Chinese Project connects Gwadar and Karachi through the developed portions of Punjab and Sind while leaving behind several districts of Balochistan. The Baloch mainstream parties have thus opposed the project entirely and have called for complete freedom.

Further, political discrimination against the Shia Hazara community in Quetta has also been a human rights issue. Shia Hazaras are considered Iranian spies by Sunni sectarians. Restrictive practices in Rawalpindi are evident in the massacre of Shia Hazaras and their lack of mention in the national media. Nevertheless, East Pakistan (Bangladesh) was the only region to achieve liberation from all forms of tyranny.

Today, the unification of various Baloch rebel groups- Baloch Republican Army (BRA), United Baloch Army, Baloch Raji Ajoi Sangar (BRAS) to form a Baloch National Army (BNA) or the 'Azadi brigade' might result in the establishment of a Baloch territory carved out from Pakistan. If Rawalpindi increases its atrocities, the Balochs might retaliate further by calling all the Balochs in Iran, Pakistan and Afghanistan to unite and form a 'Greater Balochistan'. The recent suicide bombing of Shari Baloch calls for the attention of the intensification of the freedom struggle in Baluchistan. Several disgruntled Pakistani factions have hailed Shari Baloch's decision to oppose the CPEC and Rawalpindi. On social media sites like Twitter, Sindhi separatists have expressed their admiration for her bravery. It is an indication that the Baloch National Army would expand to include Sindhi factions in the future.

Until now, the Baloch rebel groups' classic modus operandi used improvised explosive devices and hit-and-run attacks apart from the protests. Suicide bombing by Shari Baloch has commonalities with the



PAKISTAN'S MAJOR FOREIGN AND SECURITY POLICY FLAW HAS PRIMARILY BEEN AN ANTI-INDIA APPROACH. VIEWING THE MUSHROOMING OF JIHADIST ORGANISATION FROM THIS LENS, IT HAS ONLY AIMED TO RECEIVE AID FROM EITHER OF THE POWERS WHILE TRYING TO DESTABILISE INDIA

*(The writer is an Assistant Professor at Central University of Punjab, Bathinda. The views expressed are personal.)*



sophisticated nature of the attacks carried out by the Tehreek-e-Taliban Pakistan (TTP) and its affiliates. The TTP aims to establish an Islamic Emirate of Pakistan, very similar to what the Taliban did in Afghanistan. TTP recruits are primarily from the Afghanistan-Pakistan border, and thus it has sympathies with the BLA. However, a catch is that the TTP swears its allegiance to the Afghan Taliban and is backed by Al Qaeda. This makes TTP a dicey player between BLA and the Pakistan forces.

Interestingly, it is possible that TTP's leader Noor Wali Mehsud has allied with the Baloch rebels? Till now, independent acts have been carried out by TTP (North-West of Pakistan) and BLA (South of Pakistan). However, that might not be the case any longer. From a Pakistani perspective, the Afghan Taliban's takeover might have driven out the US and posed severe issues for its allies, yet, the Taliban's aspirations and capabilities to function independently of Rawalpindi cannot be ruled out. There have been statements from the Taliban "ministers" seeking an independent role in its 'national' and regional affairs. Moreover, the Taliban might have the revenge objectives of post 9/11 developments wherein Pakistan cleverly helped the U.S. crush the Taliban. One might assume that the Taliban has been going slow to oppress TTP's rearming and a resurgence for the reasons mentioned above, apart from forging alliances with Baloch rebels.

If one can recall, in the early 2010s, the Tehrik-e-Taliban Balochistan (TTB) emerged on TTP lines. TTB aspired for the complete exit of foreigners from Baluchistan apart from fighting the Pakistani security forces and

law enforcement agencies to convert Pakistan into a battlefield. The organisation recruited indigenous fighting units and foreign fighters primarily of the Afghan-Pashtun tribes. However, the Baloch are traditionalists and not fundamentalists, and hence the assumptions and possibilities of TTP and BLA finding convergences for their operational synergies is a strong possibility. The 'Azadi Brigade' can also be joined by the ISKP (Islamic State - Khorasan Province), proving further detrimental to Pakistan's interests.

Although the intensity and the number of attacks against the Pakistani military establishments increased after the US exit from Afghanistan, the recent extension of the ceasefire between TTP and Pakistan, mediated through the Afghan Taliban and the Haqqani network, reminds us of 2020 when in a surprising move the truce and subsequent mergers between TTP with its splinter groups and rivals moderated by the Al-Qaida. Important groups which merged with TTP were a faction of the sectarian group Lashkar-e-Jhangvi (LeJ) and the splinter groups of TTP- Hakimullah Mehsud faction, Jamaatul-Ahrar (JuA), and its sub-splinter Hizbul-Ahrar (HuA).The mergers gave a predominant position to the TTP, which equalled the Afghan Taliban's position in Kabul. Despite ideational and strategic divergences, the ceasefire raises essential questions. Rawalpindi might be trying to establish another regional Sunni proxy terror alliance in Balochistan with Jaish ul-Adl,first to suppress the Baloch movement and second to revive the Iranian Jundullah organisation while creating instability in Sistan and Balochistan province.Pakistan would want the

'destructive forces'to be diverted elsewhere.

Whether the BLA fights along with the TTP or Pakistan and finally succeeds in creating instabilities, the Chinese CPEC is bound to be in the doldrums for violence plays an essential role in the region. A pertinent question is whether Pakistan is playing the same game with China as it played with the U.S. in Afghanistan? By attracting the Chinese money and infrastructure to Balochistan and Iran; encouraging Iran to remain isolated while simultaneously attempting to bring the extremist group under a single umbrella to launch offensive actions against Baloch citizens, groups, as well as Iranian Baluchistan, does it not hint at the same methodology as it adopted in the last decade for ousting the US? If the violence between factions intensifies, the Chinese Projects and its citizens will be affected. In an extreme case, would not the Chinese be forced to abandon their projects the same way the U.S. and the NATO forces were forced to leave their airbases?

Pakistan's major foreign and security policy flaw has primarily been an anti-India approach. Viewing the mushrooming of the Jihadist organisation from this lens, it has only aimed to receive aid from either of the powers while simultaneously trying to destabilise India. Soon, Islamabad would be a victim of its homegrown terror and might enlist as a nation that dug its own grave. Joseph Nye once stated, "Important political leaders never just followed their interests - they were concerned about the interests of their people". Islamabad has never produced a leader of that kind.With more chaos, terror, external loans and inflation, it would not be wrong to predict that 'Azad Balochistan' would see the light of the day very soon.

POINTCOUNTERPOINT

UTTAR PRADESH IS ON TOP IF WE LOOK AT THE STATISTICS ON CRIMES AGAINST WOMEN. THE STATE GOVERNMENT IS NOT SERIOUS. — SAMAJWADI PARTY CHIEF AKHILESH YADAV



ANY KIND OF CRIME IS UNFORGIVABLE. THE GOVT IS TAKING STRICT ACTION... ESPECIALLY THOSE COMMITTING CRIMES AGAINST WOMEN. — CHIEF MINISTER YOGI ADITYANATH

# Messed up post-COVID job statistics in India

MGNREGA job demand was less in 2021-22, meaning people who migrated to villages after COVID got their jobs back in urban areas

The Centre for Monitoring Indian Economy (CMIE) says that though the GDP has bounced back post-Covid, its biggest impact has been on employment. Employment reached only 40.18 crores in 2021-22 as against 40.89 crores in 2019-20. Unemployment which was 3.29 crore in 2019-20 reached 3.33 crore in 2021-22 — an increase of only 4 lakhs.

The CMIE concludes that though the decrease in employment has been nearly 7 million i.e. 70 lakh, the increase of unemployment is only 4 lakh, indicating that the people who got unemployed during this period have given up hope of employment and they are now out of the race for employment.

It's notable that for some time, due to some reasons, the employment related data in the



ASHWANI MAHAJAN

*(The writer is Professor, PGDAV College, University of Delhi. The views expressed are personal.)*

country is not being published by the National Sample Survey Organization (NSSO). It is natural that in the absence of official figures, the figures of institutions like CMIE get space in the media. However, their credibility is questionable.

The Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA) guarantees at least 100 days of employment in every financial year to every rural unemployed. So, when people are unemployed, they are entitled to get 100 days of employment under MGNREGA. In such a situation, even if a person is getting casual employment anywhere and if he remains unemployed for 100 or less days, then he can seek employment under 'MGNREGA'.

This logically means that if



merely 5 crores before the lockdown.

Interestingly, the period (2021-22) for which the CMIE report is talking about a rise in unemployment, demand for MGNREGA employment was actually 6.55 percent less than the previous year. That is, it can be said that during the Corona period, people who had migrated to the villages had got employment back in the urban areas. In this sequence, if we look at the figures of April 2022, it is found that in April 2021, 2.62 crore people had sought work under 'MGNREGA', whereas in April 2022, only 2.33 crore people sought work under MGNREGA, that is, a decline of 11.15 percent. Analysts believe that the fall in demand for employment under MGNREGA is due to increased employ-

ment in urban areas. This figure is in stark contrast to the report published by CMIE, which says that people have moved out of the labour force, giving up the hope of employment due to the loss of employment opportunities. Instead of giving its own value judgement about unemployment, CMIE should have taken note of the MGNREGA figures to arrive at a conclusion.

The CMIE report states that even if 7.5 percent GDP growth is achieved in 2022-23, the unemployment rate will increase rather than going down. For this they talk of employment elasticity with respect to GDP. But we have to understand that the recovery after Covid in the economy is not a normal recovery. This recovery accompanies some

fundamental changes in the Indian economy. All indicators of the economy are pointing towards these changes.

Significantly, in the last quarter of the last financial year (2021-22), the monthly average of GST collection was 1.42 lakh crore. The unprecedented GST collection of ₹1.68 lakh crore in the first month of this financial year (April 2022), is definitely pointing towards an upsurge in the economy. In March 2022, 7.7 crore e-way bills were generated, 13 per cent more than 6.8 crore e-way bills generated in February 2022. This clearly shows a sharp recovery in the economy.

Significantly, due to the shortage of semiconductors in the country, many of our industries including automobile, electronics, telecom have been

affected. Despite that, rising GST revenue is indicating an uptick in manufacturing in the economy. It is true that imports have also increased during this period, due to which the revenue of GST has increased, but where the revenue of GST has reached ₹1.68 lakh crore, the share of import GST in this revenue is ₹36705 crore, which is greater than import GST of March 2021 by 5608 crores only. It's notable that import GST in March 2021 was ₹31097 crore. This implies that domestic businesses have definitely grown during this period, resulting into this huge increase in GST.

The Government should soon publish robust official NSSO data and present the correct picture of employment in the country.







# Russian rockets hit eastern Ukrainian town of Pokrovsk

AP ■ POKROVSK (UKRAINE)

The Russian rocket strikes came early in the morning in the eastern Ukrainian town of Pokrovsk on Wednesday, shaking buildings, jolting people out of bed and sending chunks of concrete and jagged pieces of metal flying through the air.

One of the two rockets left a crater at least three metres deep, remnants of the projectile still smoldering as nearby residents picked through the debris of their homes, trying to salvage whatever they could.

A row of low terraced houses nearby suffered significant damage, with roofing tiles blown off, door frames ripped from the walls and pieces of brick, concrete and asphalt scattered on the ground. Four civilians were wounded, said Pavlo Kyrilenko, head of the Donetsk military administration.

At least one of them suffered a head wound and was ferried to the local hospital by ambulance, blood seeping through the bandages and trickling down the side of his neck.

The strikes in Pokrovsk were among several over the past two days that have hit towns and villages as Russia pressed forward in its offensive in the Donbas, Ukraine's eastern industrial heartland.

"There's no place left to live in, everything is smashed," said Viktoria Kurbonova, a mother-of-two who lived in one of the terraced houses.

The windows had been blown out by an earlier strike about a month ago, and they had replaced them with plastic sheeting. That, she said, probably saved their lives as at least there was no glass flying around.

She had been asleep when the strike hit, just metres from her house. "There was a really big flash and a lot of dust," Kurbonova said, standing outside her home still in her pajamas, her legs and arms blackened by soot.



mas, her legs and arms blackened by soot.

Her four-year-old son wandered around, clutching a toy train, while her two-year-old daughter smiled in a stroller nearby.

"I was reaching for my child and I couldn't find him in the dust," she said. The boy had been sleeping in the same room as her, while her daughter had been in the next room with Kurbonova's mother. They were all shaken, but none were hurt.

Kyrilenko said Russian strikes killed 12 civilians the previous day in the Donetsk region, and wounded another 10. Another strike on the city of Kramatorsk, northeast of Pokrovsk, hit a multi-story building under construction, damaging it and blowing out windows in nearby buildings but causing no casualties.

"Russians continue hitting the cities that are away from the front line," Kyrilenko said on his Telegram channel. "They would like to kill as many civilians as possible and cause panic. That is why the only good choice is evacuation. Evacuation saves lives."

The governor of the neighbouring Luhansk region, Serhiy Haidai, said at least six civilians had been killed and eight wounded over the past 24 hours in shelling in the town of Sievierodonetsk, at the heart of the Russian offensive in eastern Ukraine.

Russian forces have been attempting to encircle Sievierodonetsk and cut off

# Saving the children: War closes in on eastern Ukrainian town



AP ■ BAKHMUT (UKRAINE)

Chunks of thick, twisted metal and wood splinters lie among the swings and slides in the playground outside a bombed-out school. Some streets away, a yellow bathtub dangles over the void left when part of an apartment building collapsed in a bombing.

The eastern Ukrainian town of Bakhmut has been coming under increasing bombardment in Russia's war, particularly over the last week, local officials and residents say, as Russian forces try to press forward in an effort to encircle and capture the key city of Sievierodonetsk to the north-east.

Moscow-backed separatists have fought Ukrainian forces in the Donbas for eight years and hold large swaths of territory. Sievierodonetsk and neighboring cities are the only part of the Donbas' Luhansk region still under Ukrainian government control.

Most of Bakhmut's population has already fled, and more are leaving every day. Evacuation minibuses run mainly by volunteers shuttle back and forth, sometimes even during bombardments, to get people out.

"Now it's a question of saving the children," said Olga Hordiyenko, 51, as she stood in a playground on Tuesday near her apartment building. "The Russians are shelling us,

so there's this burning issue to get the children out of here."

Ignoring the repeated background sounds of shelling, her three grandchildren, girls ages 7, 9 and 11, focused on learning dance moves from a video on their mother's mobile phone.

Hordiyenko and her daughter Anna Dyachenko, 28, wanted to leave on Tuesday but there was no room on the bus for them, they said. Instead, they would be leaving on Wednesday, heading to western Ukraine initially and then abroad to relatives.

"People say it's time to go, and we're happy to leave," Dyachenko said. But they still fear they will have nothing to come home to once the war is over.

"Here we have our apartment, our house," she said. "Everything will be smashed and destroyed."

With a pre-war population of around 85,000, there are now around 30,000 people left, Bakhmut City Council Secretary Ganna Petrieynko-Poluhina said. While authorities are encouraging more people to leave, some are hesitant, she said.

"Life is the most important thing for a person. But people are tied to their homes, to what they remember," Petrieynko-Poluhina said. "Every day we see that shelling happens more often, and people leave. We would like that more people leave."



Ukrainian forces there. Haidai accused the Russians of deliberately targeting shelters where civilians were hiding.

Moscow-backed separatists have fought Ukrainian forces in the Donbas for eight years and hold large swaths of territory. Sievierodonetsk and neighbouring cities are the only part of the Donbas' Luhansk region still under Ukrainian government control.

The European Commission proposed two EU laws that would require the 27 member states to cede a degree of jealously guarded national sovereignty over criminal matters.

One piece of draft legislation seeks new European rules on freezing and confiscating the assets of people blacklisted by the EU.

The second legislative proposal aims to expand the list of acts deemed to be "EU crimes" by including breaches of European sanctions.

Both initiatives need the approval of EU governments in a scrutiny process that usually takes many months and can even last for years.

The bloc's heads of government are due to discuss options for using the frozen assets of sanctioned Russian oligarchs to support the reconstruction of Ukraine during a two-day summit next week. "There is no time to lose," Margaritis Schinas, a European Commission vice-president in charge of security matters, told reporters in Brussels. "Many times we see assets recovery and confiscation of the small fry, whereas the big sharks find ways to evade."

While the EU has spent decades crafting common rules on various areas of criminal law, European sanctions against Russian leaders and oligarchs over the past three months have added impetus to calls for a stronger European framework.

The EU has imposed asset freezes and travel bans on more than 1,000 people, including over 30 oligarchs, in response to Russia's invasion of Ukraine on February 24.

The European Union's executive arm entered sensitive legal territory on Wednesday with a proposal to confiscate the frozen assets of oligarchs who try to violate the bloc's sanctions over Russia's war in Ukraine.

The European Commission proposed two EU laws that would require the 27 member states to cede a degree of jealously guarded national sovereignty over criminal matters.

One piece of draft legislation seeks new European rules on freezing and confiscating the assets of people blacklisted by the EU.

The second legislative proposal aims to expand the list of acts deemed to be "EU crimes" by including breaches of European sanctions.

Both initiatives need the approval of EU governments in a scrutiny process that usually takes many months and can even last for years.

The bloc's heads of government are due to discuss options for using the frozen assets of sanctioned Russian oligarchs to support the reconstruction of Ukraine during a two-day summit next week. "There is no time to lose," Margaritis Schinas, a European Commission vice-president in charge of security matters, told reporters in Brussels. "Many times we see assets recovery and confiscation of the small fry, whereas the big sharks find ways to evade."

While the EU has spent decades crafting common rules on various areas of criminal law, European sanctions against Russian leaders and oligarchs over the past three months have added impetus to calls for a stronger European framework.

The European Union's executive arm entered sensitive legal territory on Wednesday with a proposal to confiscate the frozen assets of oligarchs who try to violate the bloc's sanctions over Russia's war in Ukraine.

The European Commission proposed two EU laws that would require the 27 member states to cede a degree of jealously guarded national sovereignty over criminal matters.

One piece of draft legislation seeks new European rules on freezing and confiscating the assets of people blacklisted by the EU.

The second legislative proposal aims to expand the list of acts deemed to be "EU crimes" by including breaches of European sanctions.

Both initiatives need the approval of EU governments in a scrutiny process that usually takes many months and can even last for years.

The bloc's heads of government are due to discuss options for using the frozen assets of sanctioned Russian oligarchs to support the reconstruction of Ukraine during a two-day summit next week. "There is no time to lose," Margaritis Schinas, a European Commission vice-president in charge of security matters, told reporters in Brussels. "Many times we see assets recovery and confiscation of the small fry, whereas the big sharks find ways to evade."

While the EU has spent decades crafting common rules on various areas of criminal law, European sanctions against Russian leaders and oligarchs over the past three months have added impetus to calls for a stronger European framework.

The European Union's executive arm entered sensitive legal territory on Wednesday with a proposal to confiscate the frozen assets of oligarchs who try to violate the bloc's sanctions over Russia's war in Ukraine.

The European Commission proposed two EU laws that would require the 27 member states to cede a degree of jealously guarded national sovereignty over criminal matters.

One piece of draft legislation seeks new European rules on freezing and confiscating the assets of people blacklisted by the EU.

The second legislative proposal aims to expand the list of acts deemed to be "EU crimes" by including breaches of European sanctions.

Both initiatives need the approval of EU governments in a scrutiny process that usually takes many months and can even last for years.

The bloc's heads of government are due to discuss options for using the frozen assets of sanctioned Russian oligarchs to support the reconstruction of Ukraine during a two-day summit next week. "There is no time to lose," Margaritis Schinas, a European Commission vice-president in charge of security matters, told reporters in Brussels. "Many times we see assets recovery and confiscation of the small fry, whereas the big sharks find ways to evade."

While the EU has spent decades crafting common rules on various areas of criminal law, European sanctions against Russian leaders and oligarchs over the past three months have added impetus to calls for a stronger European framework.

The European Union's executive arm entered sensitive legal territory on Wednesday with a proposal to confiscate the frozen assets of oligarchs who try to violate the bloc's sanctions over Russia's war in Ukraine.

The European Commission proposed two EU laws that would require the 27 member states to cede a degree of jealously guarded national sovereignty over criminal matters.

One piece of draft legislation seeks new European rules on freezing and confiscating the assets of people blacklisted by the EU.

The second legislative proposal aims to expand the list of acts deemed to be "EU crimes" by including breaches of European sanctions.

Both initiatives need the approval of EU governments in a scrutiny process that usually takes many months and can even last for years.

The bloc's heads of government are due to discuss options for using the frozen assets of sanctioned Russian oligarchs to support the reconstruction of Ukraine during a two-day summit next week. "There is no time to lose," Margaritis Schinas, a European Commission vice-president in charge of security matters, told reporters in Brussels. "Many times we see assets recovery and confiscation of the small fry, whereas the big sharks find ways to evade."

While the EU has spent decades crafting common rules on various areas of criminal law, European sanctions against Russian leaders and oligarchs over the past three months have added impetus to calls for a stronger European framework.

The European Union's executive arm entered sensitive legal territory on Wednesday with a proposal to confiscate the frozen assets of oligarchs who try to violate the bloc's sanctions over Russia's war in Ukraine.

The European Commission proposed two EU laws that would require the 27 member states to cede a degree of jealously guarded national sovereignty over criminal matters.

One piece of draft legislation seeks new European rules on freezing and confiscating the assets of people blacklisted by the EU.

The second legislative proposal aims to expand the list of acts deemed to be "EU crimes" by including breaches of European sanctions.

Both initiatives need the approval of EU governments in a scrutiny process that usually takes many months and can even last for years.

The bloc's heads of government are due to discuss options for using the frozen assets of sanctioned Russian oligarchs to support the reconstruction of Ukraine during a two-day summit next week. "There is no time to lose," Margaritis Schinas, a European Commission vice-president in charge of security matters, told reporters in Brussels. "Many times we see assets recovery and confiscation of the small fry, whereas the big sharks find ways to evade."

While the EU has spent decades crafting common rules on various areas of criminal law, European sanctions against Russian leaders and oligarchs over the past three months have added impetus to calls for a stronger European framework.

The European Union's executive arm entered sensitive legal territory on Wednesday with a proposal to confiscate the frozen assets of oligarchs who try to violate the bloc's sanctions over Russia's war in Ukraine.

The European Commission proposed two EU laws that would require the 27 member states to cede a degree of jealously guarded national sovereignty over criminal matters.

One piece of draft legislation seeks new European rules on freezing and confiscating the assets of people blacklisted by the EU.

The second legislative proposal aims to expand the list of acts deemed to be "EU crimes" by including breaches of European sanctions.

Both initiatives need the approval of EU governments in a scrutiny process that usually takes many months and can even last for years.

The bloc's heads of government are due to discuss options for using the frozen assets of sanctioned Russian oligarchs to support the reconstruction of Ukraine during a two-day summit next week. "There is no time to lose," Margaritis Schinas, a European Commission vice-president in charge of security matters, told reporters in Brussels. "Many times we see assets recovery and confiscation of the small fry, whereas the big sharks find ways to evade."

While the EU has spent decades crafting common rules on various areas of criminal law, European sanctions against Russian leaders and oligarchs over the past three months have added impetus to calls for a stronger European framework.

# EU seeks more clout against sanctioned Russian oligarchs

AP ■ BRUSSELS

The European Union's executive arm entered sensitive legal territory on Wednesday with a proposal to confiscate the frozen assets of oligarchs who try to violate the bloc's sanctions over Russia's war in Ukraine.

The European Commission proposed two EU laws that would require the 27 member states to cede a degree of jealously guarded national sovereignty over criminal matters.

One piece of draft legislation seeks new European rules on freezing and confiscating the assets of people blacklisted by the EU.

The second legislative proposal aims to expand the list of acts deemed to be "EU crimes" by including breaches of European sanctions.

Both initiatives need the approval of EU governments in a scrutiny process that usually takes many months and can even last for years.

The bloc's heads of government are due to discuss options for using the frozen assets of sanctioned Russian oligarchs to support the reconstruction of Ukraine during a two-day summit next week. "There is no time to lose," Margaritis Schinas, a European Commission vice-president in charge of security matters, told reporters in Brussels. "Many times we see assets recovery and confiscation of the small fry, whereas the big sharks find ways to evade."

While the EU has spent decades crafting common rules on various areas of criminal law, European sanctions against Russian leaders and oligarchs over the past three months have added impetus to calls for a stronger European framework.

The European Union's executive arm entered sensitive legal territory on Wednesday with a proposal to confiscate the frozen assets of oligarchs who try to violate the bloc's sanctions over Russia's war in Ukraine.

The European Commission proposed two EU laws that would require the 27 member states to cede a degree of jealously guarded national sovereignty over criminal matters.

One piece of draft legislation seeks new European rules on freezing and confiscating the assets of people blacklisted by the EU.

The second legislative proposal aims to expand the list of acts deemed to be "EU crimes" by including breaches of European sanctions.

Both initiatives need the approval of EU governments in a scrutiny process that usually takes many months and can even last for years.

The bloc's heads of government are due to discuss options for using the frozen assets of sanctioned Russian oligarchs to support the reconstruction of Ukraine during a two-day summit next week. "There is no time to lose," Margaritis Schinas, a European Commission vice-president in charge of security matters, told reporters in Brussels. "Many times we see assets recovery and confiscation of the small fry, whereas the big sharks find ways to evade."

While the EU has spent decades crafting common rules on various areas of criminal law, European sanctions against Russian leaders and oligarchs over the past three months have added impetus to calls for a stronger European framework.

The European Union's executive arm entered sensitive legal territory on Wednesday with a proposal to confiscate the frozen assets of oligarchs who try to violate the bloc's sanctions over Russia's war in Ukraine.

The European Commission proposed two EU laws that would require the 27 member states to cede a degree of jealously guarded national sovereignty over criminal matters.

One piece of draft legislation seeks new European rules on freezing and confiscating the assets of people blacklisted by the EU.

The second legislative proposal aims to expand the list of acts deemed to be "EU crimes" by including breaches of European sanctions.

Both initiatives need the approval of EU governments in a scrutiny process that usually takes many months and can even last for years.

The bloc's heads of government are due to discuss options for using the frozen assets of sanctioned Russian oligarchs to support the reconstruction of Ukraine during a two-day summit next week. "There is no time to lose," Margaritis Schinas, a European Commission vice-president in charge of security matters, told reporters in Brussels. "Many times we see assets recovery and confiscation of the small fry, whereas the big sharks find ways to evade."

While the EU has spent decades crafting common rules on various areas of criminal law, European sanctions against Russian leaders and oligarchs over the past three months have added impetus to calls for a stronger European framework.

The European Union's executive arm entered sensitive legal territory on Wednesday with a proposal to confiscate the frozen assets of oligarchs who try to violate the bloc's sanctions over Russia's war in Ukraine.

The European Commission proposed two EU laws that would require the 27 member states to cede a degree of jealously guarded national sovereignty over criminal matters.

One piece of draft legislation seeks new European rules on freezing and confiscating the assets of people blacklisted by the EU.

The second legislative proposal aims to expand the list of acts deemed to be "EU crimes" by including breaches of European sanctions.

Both initiatives need the approval of EU governments in a scrutiny process that usually takes many months and can even last for years.

The bloc's heads of government are due to discuss options for using the frozen assets of sanctioned Russian oligarchs to support the reconstruction of Ukraine during a two-day summit next week. "There is no time to lose," Margaritis Schinas, a European Commission vice-president in charge of security matters, told reporters in Brussels. "Many times we see assets recovery and confiscation of the small fry, whereas the big sharks find ways to evade."

While the EU has spent decades crafting common rules on various areas of criminal law, European sanctions against Russian leaders and oligarchs over the past three months have added impetus to calls for a stronger European framework.

The European Union's executive arm entered sensitive legal territory on Wednesday with a proposal to confiscate the frozen assets of oligarchs who try to violate the bloc's sanctions over Russia's war in Ukraine.

The Russian rocket strikes came early in the morning in the eastern Ukrainian town of Pokrovsk on Wednesday, shaking buildings, jolting people out of bed and sending chunks of concrete and jagged pieces of metal flying through the air.

One of the two rockets left a crater at least three metres deep, remnants of the projectile still smoldering as nearby residents picked through the debris of their homes, trying to salvage whatever they could.

A row of low terraced houses nearby suffered significant damage, with roofing tiles blown off, door frames ripped from the walls and pieces of brick, concrete and asphalt scattered on the ground. Four civilians were wounded, said Pavlo Kyrilenko, head of the Donetsk military administration.

At least one of them suffered a head wound and was ferried to the local hospital by ambulance, blood seeping through the bandages and trickling down the side of his neck.

The strikes in Pokrovsk were among several over the past two days that have hit towns and villages as Russia pressed forward in its offensive in the Donbas, Ukraine's eastern industrial heartland.

"There's no place left to live in, everything is smashed," said Viktoria Kurbonova, a mother-of-two who lived in one of the terraced houses.

The windows had been blown out by an earlier strike about a month ago, and they had replaced them with plastic sheeting. That, she said, probably saved their lives as at least there was no glass flying around.

She had been asleep when the strike hit, just metres from her house. "There was a really big flash and a lot of dust," Kurbonova said, standing outside her home still in her pajamas, her legs and arms blackened by soot.

The Russian rocket strikes came early in the morning in the eastern Ukrainian town of Pokrovsk on Wednesday, shaking buildings, jolting people out of bed and sending chunks of concrete and jagged pieces of metal flying through the air.

One of the two rockets left a crater at least three metres deep, remnants of the projectile still smoldering as nearby residents picked through the debris of their homes, trying to salvage whatever they could.

A row of low terraced houses nearby suffered significant damage, with roofing tiles blown off, door frames ripped from the walls and pieces of brick, concrete and asphalt scattered on the ground. Four civilians were wounded, said Pavlo Kyrilenko, head of the Donetsk military administration.

At least one of them suffered a head wound and was ferried to the local hospital by ambulance, blood seeping through the bandages and trickling down the side of his neck.

The strikes in Pokrovsk were among several over the past two days that have hit towns and villages as Russia pressed forward in its offensive in the Donbas, Ukraine's eastern industrial heartland.

"There's no place left to live in, everything is smashed," said Viktoria Kurbonova, a mother-of-two who lived in one of the terraced houses.

The windows had been blown out by an earlier strike about a month ago, and they had replaced them with plastic sheeting. That, she said, probably saved their lives as at least there was no glass flying around.

She had been asleep when the strike hit, just metres from her house. "There was a really big flash and a lot of dust," Kurbonova said, standing outside her home still in her pajamas, her legs and arms blackened by soot.

The Russian rocket strikes came early in the morning in the eastern Ukrainian town of Pokrovsk on Wednesday, shaking buildings, jolting people out of bed and sending chunks of concrete and jagged pieces of metal flying through the air.


One of the two rockets left a crater at least three metres deep, remnants of the projectile still smoldering as nearby residents picked through the debris of their homes, trying to salvage whatever they could.

A row of low terraced houses nearby suffered significant damage, with roofing tiles blown off, door frames ripped from the walls and pieces of brick, concrete and asphalt scattered on the ground. Four civilians were wounded, said Pavlo Kyrilenko, head of the Donetsk military administration.

At least one of them suffered a head wound and was ferried to the local hospital by ambulance, blood seeping through the bandages and trickling down the side of his neck.

The strikes in Pokrovsk were among several over the past two days that have hit towns and villages as Russia pressed forward in its offensive in the Donbas, Ukraine's eastern industrial heartland.

APPENDIX IV [See rule 8 (1)] POSSESSION NOTICE (for immovable property)					
<b>Whereas,</b>					
The undersigned being the Authorized Officer of <b>INDIABULLS RURAL FINANCE PRIVATE LIMITED (CIN:U74140MH1993PTC074596)</b> under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 and in exercise of powers conferred under Section 13 (12) read with Rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 issued Demand Notice dated <b>22.12.2021</b> calling upon the Borrower(s) <b>ANIL MALIK PROPRIETOR MALIK TRADING COMPANY, SANGEETA MALIK AND KRISHNA MALIK</b> to repay the amount mentioned in the Notice being <b>Rs.1,11,64,042.35 (Rupees One Crore Eleven Lakhs Sixty Four Thousand Forty Two and Paise Thirty Five Only)</b> against Loan Account No. <b>HRSMOPR00482712</b> as on <b>17.12.2021</b> and interest thereon within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said Notice.					
The Borrower(s) having failed to repay the amount, Notice is hereby given to the Borrower(s) and the public in general that the undersigned has taken <b>symbolic possession</b> of the property described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on him under Sub-Section (4) of Section 13 of the Act read with Rule 8 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 on <b>23.05.2022</b> .					
The Borrower(s) in particular and the public in general is hereby cautioned not to deal with the property and any dealings with the property will be subject to the charge of <b>INDIABULLS RURAL FINANCE PRIVATE LIMITED</b> for an amount of <b>Rs.1,11,64,042.35 (Rupees One Crore Eleven Lakhs Sixty Four Thousand Forty Two and Paise Thirty Five Only)</b> as on <b>17.12.2021</b> and interest thereon.					
The Borrowers' attention is invited to provisions of Sub-Section (8) of Section 13 of the Act in respect of time available, to redeem the Secured Assets.					
DESCRIPTION OF THE IMMOVABLE PROPERTY					
<b>PROPERTY BEARING NUMBER 215/6 (OLD NUMBER 92 AND 93) MEASURING 300 SQUARE YARDS, SITUATED IN ABADI OF NUJAD STATE BANK, BAHDURGARH, ZILAROHTAK, JHAJJAR-124507, HARYANA.</b>					
Sd/- Date : 23.05.2022 Place: JHAJJAR			Authorised Officer INDIABULLS RURAL FINANCE PRIVATE LIMITED		



कार्यालय अधिशासी अभियन्ता, अनुसूचण खण्ड, उत्तराखण्ड जल संस्थान

लेन नं०-1, तरुण विहार, मोहोरवाला रोड, देहरादून-248001

दूरभाष/फैक्स : 0135 2671940 Email: eemdujs@rediffmail.com

पत्रांक : 764 / ई-निविदा / 2022-23

दिनांक : 24.05.2022

ई-निविदा सूचना					
मुख्य महाप्रबन्धक, उत्तराखण्ड जल संस्थान, देहरादून की ओर से निम्नलिखित कार्यो हेतु ई-निविदा, दू-बिड सिस्टम (तकनीकी बिड एवं कॉमर्शियल बिड) आधार पर निम्नानुसार आमंत्रित की जाती है :-					
निविदा क्र. सं.	विकासखण्ड	कार्य विवरण	घरोहर धनराशि (रु. में)	निविदा का मूल्य (रु. में)	कार्य पूर्ण करने की अवधि
1	2	3	4	5	6
1	डोईवाला	डोईवाला इकाई के अन्तर्गत डोईवाला नगर पालिका वार्ड नं०-01 के अन्तर्गत खादर में 01 नग नलकूप अधिष्ठापन, पाइप लाइन सु दू डी करण एवं तत्सम्बन्धित कार्य।	134815.00	4000 +GST	06 माह
2	डोईवाला	डोईवाला इकाई के अन्तर्गत डोईवाला नगरिय पेयजल योजना के अन्तर्गत वार्ड नं०-18 (मिमनगर) में 01 नग नलकूप अधिष्ठापन, पाइप लाइन सुदृढीकरण एवं तत्सम्बन्धित कार्य।	134320.00	4000 +GST	06 माह
3	डोईवाला	डोईवाला इकाई के अन्तर्गत अदूरवाला पेयजल योजना के सुदृढीकरण हेतु वार्ड नं०-09 में 01 नग नलकूप अधिष्ठापन, पाइप लाइन सु दू डी करण एवं तत्सम्बन्धित कार्य।	133505.00	4000 +GST	06 माह
4	डोईवाला	डोईवाला इकाई के अन्तर्गत डोईवाला नगर पालिका के अन्तर्गत वार्ड नं०-10 (मानियावाला) में 01 नग नलकूप अधिष्ठापन, पाइप लाइन सुदृढीकरण एवं तत्सम्बन्धित कार्य।	132380.00	4000 +GST	0 माह
5	डोईवाला	डोईवाला इकाई के अन्तर्गत अदूरवाला पेयजल योजना के सुदृढीकरण हेतु वार्ड नं०-08 में 01 नग नलकूप अधिष्ठापन, पाइप लाइन सुदृढीकरण एवं तत्सम्बन्धित कार्य।	123510.00	4000 +GST	06 माह

निविदा समय सारणी (मुख्य तिथियाँ) निम्नवत् हैं।		
क्र०सं०	विवरण	अनुसूची
1	ऑनलाईन प्रकाशन की तिथि।	28.05.2022 at 11:00 Hrs
2	निविदा प्रश्न डाउनलोड करने की तिथि।	28.05.2022 at 11:00 Hrs
3	प्री-बिड मीटिंग की तिथि।	04.06.2022 at 11:00 Hrs
4	बिड ऑनलाईन जमा करने की प्रारम्भ तिथि।	07.06.2022 at 11:00 Hrs
5	बिड ऑनलाईन जमा करने की अन्तिम तिथि।	13.06.2022 up to 17:00 Hrs
6	ऑफ लाईन रूप से जमा किये जाने वाले प्रश्न (निविदा प्रश्न हेतु निर्धारित शुल्क, बिड रिक्वेस्टर/प्रटी, स्टॉम्प पेपर एवं अन्य सम्बन्धित दस्तावेज।	13.06.2022 up to 17:00 Hrs
7	तकनीकी बिड खोलने की तिथि।	14.06.2022 at 11:00 Hrs
8	वित्तीय निविदा खोलने की तिथि।	सूचना पृष्ठक से दी जायेगी।

ई-निविदा से सम्बन्धित समस्त जानकारीयों व शर्तें उत्तराखण्ड राज्य की वेबसाइट [www.uktenders.gov.in](http://www.uktenders.gov.in) पर ऑन लाईन देखी /प्राप्त की जा सकती हैं।

(के०सी० पैन्सूजी)

अधिशासी अभियन्ता

“जल संवर्धन-जीवन संचरण”



# ‘India’s economy seen growing 9.2 % in FY22’

**PTI ■ NEW DELHI**

India's economy is expected to have grown at 9.2 per cent in the fiscal ended March 2022, after having contracted by 7.3 per cent in the previous financial year, aided by resilience in the rural economy, uptick in bank credit and rising GST collections, a note by Bank of Baroda said.

As per government's advance estimates, the gross domestic product (GDP) in FY22 is projected to grow by 8.9 per cent. The National Statistical Office (NSO) will release the final GDP growth figures for FY22 on May 31.

Bank of Baroda (BoB), in a note on GDP expectations by its Economic Research Department, said it expects the economy to post higher growth in the last quarter ended March as mobility improved, allowing opening up of economy with much lower COVID-19 cases across states.

Contact-intensive sectors are expected to make stronger recovery, and the economy is projected to grow by 5.5 per cent in Q4 FY22 against 5.4 per cent in Q3, it said. A much needed pick up will be visible

in services sector, with travel and hospitality contributing significantly. Construction is also likely to edge upwards.

However, agriculture growth might be a tad slow as compared to government expectations (3.3 per cent against government estimate of 3.5 per cent) owing to lower yield of wheat crops, conflict between Russia-Ukraine and heat wave conditions, as per the research note.

BoB said these might pose downside risks to its projections. Industrial growth might be adversely impacted too. It said India's economy is poised to recover in FY22 after contracting by 7.3 per cent in FY21.

The main factors contributing to this kind of growth are -- resilience shown by the rural sector with normal monsoon and higher production of foodgrains; uptick in bank credit growth to push financial services and improvement in services sector with passenger traffic (-62 per cent to 59 per cent), rail freight (2 per cent to 15 per cent) and port cargo (-4.6 per cent to 7 per cent) leading the race.

Higher GST collections have also provided much needed support. "Against this backdrop, we expect GDP growth at

9.2 per cent in FY22," Bank of Baroda said. However, there are downside risks emanating from the ongoing Russia-Ukraine conflict, soaring of commodity prices and acceleration in global inflation going ahead, it added. Further, aggravating heat wave conditions have curbed wheat output and added some pressure to industrial growth.

A mix of both monetary (RBI frontloading with rate hike) and fiscal policy (reduction in excise duties) at play is expected to boost growth prospects, it contended.

The International Monetary Fund (IMF) expects India's economy to grow by 9 per cent in FY22, while Asian Development Bank (ADB) has projected India's growth at 7.5 per cent. "However, we expect the economy to do much better sequentially specially on the back of base effect and normalisation of economic activity.

"The overall impact of Omicron variant which resulted in the 3rd wave of COVID-19 seems to be relatively muted than was initially anticipated.

Further, rapid pick up in pace of vaccination programme is also expected to support growth," as per research note by the public sector lender.



## Sensex tumbles over 300 points in volatile trade

**PTI ■ MUMBAI**

Benchmark indices wiped out early gains as volatility yet again ruled the markets, with the Sensex extending its decline to the third day running on Wednesday, falling over 300 points amid a sell-off in IT stocks.

The 30-share BSE Sensex tanked 303.35 points or 0.56 per cent to settle at 53,749.26. During the day, the benchmark hit a low of 53,683.16 and a high of 54,379.59. The broader NSE Nifty declined 99.35 points or 0.62 per cent to end at 16,025.80. From the Sensex pack, Asian Paints, TCS,

Wipro, Tech Mahindra, Larsen & Toubro, Infosys, State Bank of India, HCL Technologies and M&M were among the biggest laggards. In contrast, NTPC, Bharti Airtel, HDFC, Kotak Mahindra Bank, Nestle, ICICI Bank and ITC were the prominent gainers.

Asian markets in Hong Kong, Shanghai and Seoul ended with gains, while Tokyo was marginally lower.

Exchanges in Europe were trading in the green in the afternoon trade. Stock markets in the US had mostly ended lower on Tuesday. International oil benchmark Brent crude jumped 1.37 per cent to USD

115.1 per barrel. Continuing their selling spree, foreign institutional investors offloaded shares worth a net Rs 2,393.45 crore on Tuesday, as per stock exchange data.

"Domestic indices wavered tracking mixed sentiments from global markets as investors assessed the possibility of a recession in the US followed by the Fed policy tightening.

"Global markets are awaiting the release of the Fed minutes, which will be evaluated for details on the path of the upcoming rate hikes," said Vinod Nair, Head of Research at Geojit Financial Services.

### 'Inflationary concerns may delay GST rate rationalisation'



**PTI ■ NEW DELHI**

A GST tax rate rationalisation is likely to be delayed due to elevated inflation, sources said on Wednesday.

The Goods and Services Tax (GST) regime taxes goods and services in four tax slabs of 5 per cent, 12 per cent, 18 per cent and 28 per cent.

It was being considered to reduce these tax slabs possibly to 3, an exercise which would have involved raising taxes in some items and a reduction in others. But with inflation rate ruling at all-time high, such an exercise is likely to be delayed, sources said.

## Govt's 29.5% stake sale in Hindustan Zinc Limited OK'd

**PNS ■ NEW DELHI**

The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA) on Wednesday cleared the Government's 29.5 per cent stake sale in Hindustan Zinc Limited (HZL), which could fetch around Rs 38,000 crore to the exchequer. The decision would give a push to the Government's disinvestment drive in the current fiscal.

The government has budgeted Rs 65,000 crore from PSU disinvestment and strategic sale. The sale of 29.5 per cent stake representing over 124.96 crore shares would fetch around Rs 38,000 crore to the exchequer at current market prices, said officials.

Shares of HZL closed at Rs 305.05, up 3.14 per cent on the BSE. During the day, the scrip touched a high of Rs 317.30 a share. Hindustan Zinc was a Government-owned company

till 2002. In April 2002, the Government offloaded a 26 per cent stake in HZL to Sterlite Opportunities and Ventures Ltd (SOVL) for Rs 445 crore—thereby giving Vedanta group management control in HZL.

Vedanta group later bought 20 per cent from the market and another 18.92 per cent from the government in November 2003, raising its ownership in Hindustan Zinc to 64.92 per cent. This 20 per cent sale became a controversy and recently Supreme Court directed CBI to probe into the price variations between the first offloading and second offloading of shares happened during the Vajpayee Government.

Vedanta, led by mining magnate Anil Agarwal, recently said the company can buy just 5 per cent additional stake in the HZL considering the price of the shares on offer.

## RBI issues norms for import of gold by qualified jewellers

**PTI ■ MUMBAI**

The RBI on Wednesday came up with norms for facilitating physical import of gold through India International Bullion Exchange IFSC (IIBX) or similar authorised exchange by Qualified Jewellers in India.

In addition to agencies nominated by the RBI and by DGFT, Qualified Jewellers (QJ) as approved by International Financial Services Centers Authority (IFSCA) were permitted to import gold in January.

The RBI issued the guidelines in order to enable resident Qualified Jewellers to import gold through IIBX or any other exchange approved by IFSCA and the Directorate General of Foreign Trade (DGFT).

As per the guidelines, banks may allow Qualified Jewellers to remit advance payments for 11 days for import of gold through IIBX in compliance to the extant Foreign

Trade Policy and regulations issued under IFSC Act. "The advance remittance for import of Gold should not be leveraged in what-so-ever form for importing gold worth more than the advance remittance made," the Reserve Bank of India said.

In case the import of gold through IFSCA authorised exchange, for which advance remittance has been made, does not materialise, or the advance remittance made for the purpose is more than the amount required, the unutilised advance remittance shall be remitted back to the same bank within the specified time limit of 11 days.

RBI also said all payments by qualified jewellers for imports of gold through IIBX, shall be made through exchange mechanism as approved by IFSCA. Gold imports dipped by about 72 per cent to USD 1.72 billion during April, from USD 6.23 billion in the year-ago month.

## Paper exports from India jumps 80% to all-time high of ₹13,963 cr in FY22: IPMA

**PTI ■ NEW DELHI**

Exports of paper and paperboard from India jumped nearly 80 per cent in FY 2021-22, touching a record Rs 13,963 crore, according to industry body IPMA.

The export growth has straddled across different grades of paper, said a statement from Indian Paper Manufacturers Association (IPMA) while citing data released by Directorate General of Commercial Intelligence & Statistics (DGCI&S).

"In value terms, exports of coated paper and paperboard increased by 100 per cent, uncoated writing and printing paper by 98 per cent, tissue paper by 75 per cent and kraft paper by 37 per cent," said IPMA.

Paper exports from India have been on an uptrend since the last five years. India is

## Rupee edges up 3 paise to close at 77.54 against US dollar

**PTI ■ MUMBAI**

The rupee recovered 3 paise to settle at 77.54 (provisional) against the US currency in a restricted trade on Wednesday as interventions by banks supported the local unit while a stronger dollar in overseas markets restricted the gains.

At the interbank forex market, the rupee opened higher at 77.54 against the greenback and moved in a range of 77.44 to 77.57 in the day trade. The rupee finally ended at 77.54, higher by 3 paise over its previous close of 77.57 against the American currency.

"Rupee traded with pendulum swing on a range fight between hedgers as participants from banks tried to support rupee whereas remittance

takers of dollar equally bought keeping rupee ranged between 77.47-77.60. The US Fed statement minutes later in the night might give some trend to the USDINR pair in futures," said Jateen Trivedi, VP Research Analyst at LKP Securities.

On the domestic equity market front, the BSE Sensex ended 303.35 points or 0.56 per cent lower at 53,749.26, while the broader NSE Nifty fell 99.35 points or 0.62 per cent to 16,025.80.

The dollar index, which gauges the greenback's strength against a basket of six currencies, rose 0.36 per cent to 102.22. Foreign institutional investors were net sellers in the capital market on Tuesday as they offloaded shares worth Rs 2,393.45 crore, as per stock exchange data.



## Crude oil futures gain on spot demand



**PTI ■ NEW DELHI**

Crude oil prices on Wednesday rose by ₹102 to ₹8,614 per barrel as participants widened positions on a firm spot demand.

On the Multi Commodity Exchange, crude oil for June delivery traded higher by ₹102 or 1.2 per cent at ₹8,614 per barrel in 6,907 lots. Analysts said the raising of bets by participants kept crude oil prices higher in futures trade.

Globally, West Texas Intermediate crude oil was up by 1.03 per cent at \$110.90 per barrel, while Brent crude traded 1.03 per cent higher at \$114.73 per barrel in New York.

## BUSINESS BRIEFS

**BEST AGROLIFE FY22 NET PROFIT JUMPS TO ₹104.76CR**  
Agrochemical firm Best Agrolife Ltd has reported a nearly three-fold jump in its net profit at Rs 104.76 crore in FY 2022. Its net profit stood at Rs 37.08 crore in the 2020-21 financial year, Best Agrolife Ltd (BAL) said in a statement. The company posted a 34 per cent increase in its revenue at Rs 1,210.79 crore in the period under review as against Rs 905.45 crore in the previous fiscal. "Our performance this year boosts our confidence and confirms that we are on track to achieve our strategic and financial objectives.

**MANGO FESTIVAL FROM MAY 23**  
**New Delhi:** To refresh your taste-buds with ripe, sweet and delectable mangoes in this sweltering heat, Barista, a leading coffee chain, is starting a mango festival. The festival will be on in all Barista cafés in Delhi NCR, Bangalore, Hyderabad, Kolkata from May 23. "The mango affair is very refreshing, natural and replenishes your body's lost minerals while battling out in the sun. We expect to have a great response to the festival," said Rajat Agrawal, COO, Barista Coffee Company.

**EMPYREAN CASHEWS GROWS 101%**  
**Mumbai:** The revenue of Empyrean Cashews Limited, a leading firm engaged in processing raw cashew nuts, grew by 101 per cent touching Rs 12.41 cr for Q4FY22 and Rs 52.2cr for FY22. The firm is planning to set up 4 COCO outlets in Goa in Q2 FY23. Empyrean Cashew Ltd went public in March 2022.

## Sebi to auction properties of Golden Life Agro India, Sunshine Agro Infra on June 16

**PTI ■ NEW DELHI**

To recover investors' money, Sebi on Wednesday said it will auction a total of five properties of Golden Life Agro India Ltd and Sunshine Agro Infra Ltd for a reserve price of Rs 11.5 crore on June 16.

The two companies raised funds from investors without complying with regulatory norms.

The properties put on the block include land parcels and a double storied building situated across West Bengal, the Securities and Exchange Board of India (Sebi) said in a notice.

Inviting bids for the sale of recovery proceedings against Golden Life Agro India and Sunshine Agro Infra and their directors, Sebi said auction of

properties will be conducted through online mode on June 16, 2022 during 10.30 am to 11.30 am. Out of the five properties being put on the block, three belong to Golden Life Agro India and remaining two relate to Sunshine Agro Infra.

Total reserve price of these properties is pegged at Rs 11.53 crore, as per notice. Quikr Realty has been appointed as e-auction service provider.

The regulator said bidders should make their own independent enquiries regarding encumbrances, title of properties put on auction and claims, among others, prior to submitting their bids.

## Repos Energy partners Mahindra for doorstep fuel delivery

**PTI ■ MUMBAI**

Ratan Tata-backed energy distribution startup Repos Energy has partnered with Mahindra for doorstep fuel delivery through the automaker's Furio trucks, a release said on Wednesday.

The Pune-based firm Repos is currently present across over 220 cities through its over 1,500 partners and more than 2,500 mobile petrol pumps.

The doorstep fuel delivery model has grown rapidly across the country and scaled up even faster in the post-Covid era, owing to many factors, such as structural constraints of the existing distribution model, changing buying behaviour of consumers and technological disruptions, according to the

release. Nagpur-based startup Navankur Infranergy has recently launched a mobile fuel station for the doorstep diesel delivery to various customers across Nagpur.

The mobile station, built on a Mahindra Furio 11 truck, with a double dispensing Alpha mobile pump, has been supplied by Repos Energy, according to the release.

Repos Energy has tied up with Mahindra to cater to doorstep fuel delivery demand through their Furio trucks, said the release.

"Mahindra's range of light and the intermediate commercial vehicle come with their inherent advantages to make it a perfect fit for fuel Bowser operation and ensure profitability," said Jalaj Gupta, Business Head for commercial

vehicles at Mahindra & Mahindra Limited. A major proportion of the diesel goes into fuelling industries, where it is often required in bulk.

These industries resort to procuring diesel from fuel pumps using improper receptacles like barrels and bowers, which cause great losses in the form of spillage, pilferage, dead mileage, and manpower costs, he stated.

"Combining with the expertise of Repos Energy in fuel bowser business solution, we are introducing a compelling product offering to cater to the emerging need of industries," Gupta added. Doorstep diesel delivery in India has eased the way fuel is being delivered in the country, according to Chetan Walunj, co-founder of Repos Energy.

## RBI cancels registration of 5 NBFCs due to irregular lending practices

**PTI ■ MUMBAI**

The Reserve Bank on Wednesday said it has cancelled Certificate of Registration (CoR) of five NBFCs for violation of norms related to outsourcing and fair practices code in their digital lending operations.

Non-Banking Financial Companies (NBFCs) whose CoR stands cancelled are: UMB Securities Ltd, Anashri Finvest, Chadha Finance, Alexcy Traccon, and Jhuria Financial Services.

"The CoR of the (five) NBFCs have been cancelled on account of violation of RBI guidelines on outsourcing and



Fair Practices Code in their digital lending operations undertaken through third party apps which was considered detrimental to public interest," the RBI said.

It further said these companies were also not complying with extant regulations pertaining to charging of excessive interest and resorted to undue harassment of customers for loan recovery purposes.

## Standard Chartered Bank settles case with Sebi in CG Power case, pays ₹4.97 cr



**PTI ■ NEW DELHI**

Standard Chartered Bank has settled with markets regulator Sebi a case pertaining to alleged violations of regulatory norms in the matter of CG Power and Industrial Solutions Ltd after paying Rs 4.97 crore towards settlement charges. The order came after Standard

Chartered Bank (SCB) approached Sebi proposing to settle case pertaining to alleged violations of PFUTP (Prohibition of Fraudulent and Unfair Trade Practices) rules "without admitting or denying findings of fact and conclusions of law", through a settlement order. "Pending enforcement proceedings for alleged defaults ... Are settled qua applicant," Sebi said in its settlement order passed on Wednesday.

The regulator further said it will not initiate other enforcement actions against the applicant for the defaults. Sebi had initiated proceedings through a show cause notice issued to

the bank in May 2021 for the alleged violations of PFUTP rules. In the show cause notice, Standard Chartered Bank was alleged to have benefitted a private limited company controlled by the promoter group companies, at the expense of a listed company (CG Power) to the detriment of the interest of the minority shareholders of CG Power.

As per the order, Avantha International Asset BV (AIABV), an entity related to the promoter group of CG Power and Industrial Solutions Ltd or CG Power, had taken a loan from SCB. In October 2017, SCB disbursed a loan of

Euro 44 million to CG International BV (CGIBV) which was transferred to AIABV on the same day to repay its earlier loan from SCB. The funds were later frozen by SCB at AIABV.

In February 2018, SCB disbursed another loan of Euro 44 million to CG Industrial Holdings Singapore Pte Ltd (CG Singapore) which was transferred to AIABV on the same day. On the same day, AIABV returned the funds received from CGIBV which were frozen and CGIBV utilized these funds for repayment of the loan taken from SCB in October 2017.





the pioneer

INDIAN

PREMIER LEAGUE 2022

11

A lot of people counted David Miller out. But for us, he's always a match-winner from the time we bought him at the auctions. We always knew what he's capable of

— HARDIK PANDYA

# Patidar 112\* helps RCB post 207-4 vs LSG

Bangalore's No. 3 remained unbeaten and scored 12 fours, 7 sixes during his 54-ball knock in IPL 2022 eliminator

PTI ■ KOLKATA

Little-known domestic bulwark Rajat Patidar found his hour of fame as his magnificent 49-ball hundred propelled Royal Challengers Bangalore to an imposing 207 for 4 against Lucknow Super Giants in the IPL Eliminator on Wednesday.

Courtesy Patidar's 54-ball-112 not out which had 12 fours and seven huge sixes, RCB literally knocked the stuffing out of LSG attack with Mohsin Khan's superb 1 for 25 proving to be only saving grace.

On a day their famed batting duo trio of Faf du Plessis (0), Glenn Maxwell (9) and Virat Kohli (25) failed to enthrall a capacity Eden crowd, RCB's No. 3 played out of his skin as 90 runs came in fours and sixes off just 19 balls.

While most of the star-studded RCB batters struggled for timing, the 28-year-old looked effortless with his slices, punches, counter-punches and drives to tower over the rest.

And to make Patidar's story more interesting, he wasn't picked from auction this season and joined the team after start when a player called Luvnith Sisodia was injured.

Had Sisodia been alright, RCB

wouldn't have required services of Patidar, who made 65,000 at Eden Gardens stand on their feet.

He along with Dinesh Karthik (37 not out from 23 balls) put on a match-turning unbroken partnership of 92 runs from 41 balls as RCB scored 84 runs in the last five overs to prop up the total.

First, he showed the glimpses of his stroke-making skills to slam Krunal Pandya for three boundaries and one six inside the power-play to overshadow Kohli in a 66-run partnership from 46 balls.

Having cruised to his half-century in 28 balls, he took another 21 balls to reach his maiden hundred in T20s.

He got to the landmark pulling Mohsin Khan over square leg with a sweet-timing of the bat that summed up his effortless stay at the crease.

RCB lost three key wickets of a well-set Kohli, Maxwell and Mahipal Lomror in the middle overs to see their run-rate drop.

In-form Dinesh Karthik, who has played the role of a finisher to perfection for RCB this season, also survived some anxious moments against Ravi Bishnoi to start with.

But Patidar turned it around in the last over Bishnoi when he smacked the 'googly-man' for three



## HISTORY MAKER RAJAT PATIDAR

■ Rajat Patidar is the first uncapped player to score a century in the play-offs/knockouts of the IPL. The previous highest score by an uncapped was the 94 off 50 balls that Manish Pandey scored for Kolkata Knight Riders in the final of the 2014 IPL.

■ He scored his century in 49 balls, which is the joint fastest ton scored by any played in the playoffs or knockouts of the IPL. Patidar equalled the record set by Wriddhiman Saha, who scored 115 off 55 balls for Kings XI Punjab in

the 2014 IPL final.

■ Patidar's 112 not out has helped him go past a player who was recently inducted in RCB's hall of fame. He has surpassed the 89 off 47 balls that Chris Gayle scored against Mumbai Indians in 2011.

■ This is the third-highest score by an uncapped player in the IPL. Patidar crossed the unbeaten 101 that Devdutt Padikkal scored for RCB against Rajasthan Royals last season. Manish Pandey is second

while Paul Valthaty tops the list.

■ It is also the fifth instance of a player scoring a century in the playoffs/knockouts of an IPL tournament. Patidar's 112 not out is also the fourth highest score ever in the playoffs.

■ Meanwhile, Patidar and Karthik's onslaught in the final overs helped RCB take as many as 88 runs in the death overs. That is the most scored by any team in this period of a match in the 2022 season.

sixes and two fours in succession in an over that read 1 6 4 6 4 6.

A sloppy LSG also helped his cause as Patidar, who got reprieves on 59, 72 and 93. After a 40-minute delayed start due to bad weather, Lucknow got off to a superb start when Mohsin got RCB skipper Faf du Plessis for a golden duck in the first over.

Having lost their skipper early, it was about bidding time as Kohli and Patidar opted for a wait-and-watch policy before the latter broke loose

against Krunal Pandya in the last over of the power-play.

Patidar slammed Krunal for three boundaries and one six in an over that yielded 20 runs to make it up for their slow start and cruise to 52/1 in six overs.

### SACHIN, VIRU IMPRESSED

Patidar's binder earned him a lot of praise of social media and taking to Twitter, Master Blaster Sachin Tendulkar and legendary Indian opener Virender Sehwag hailed him

for playing a match-changing knock for the Faf du Plessis-led side.

"Serious hitting by Rajat Patidar and nicely supported by @DineshKarthik. It's a great total but given how the surface is playing and the fast outfield, I feel it'll be a close game. Well played by @rcbtweets in the first half," Tendulkar said in his tweet. Tendulkar's former Team India teammate Sehwag also shared a special tweet for the middle-order batter of the Bangalore-based franchise.

## You've got to swallow your ego sometimes and hang in there: Buttler

PTI ■ KOLKATA

Rajasthan Royals opener Jos Buttler had no qualms in admitting that he struggled to get going initially against Gujarat Titans in the first qualifier, saying sometimes you have to "swallow your ego" and hang in there without panicking.

This season's Orange Cap holder Buttler, who now has 718 runs in 15 games, initially failed to time the ball and was 39 off his first 38 balls.

But the opener shifted gears in style and smacked another 50 off his next 18 deliveries faced to lift RR's total to a challenging 188/6.

"I was determined to hang in there. It was a big game for us and we wanted to make sure to put a big score," Buttler said at the post-match press conference after RR's seven-wicket loss to GT on Tuesday.

"Sometimes you got to swallow your ego, if you are finding it hard, you are finding it hard. I don't try to force too much, don't panic.

"The opposition would prefer me to panic and get out, just try to hang in there. I knew at some point I would get away. I trusted myself. Today, it came late in the innings," he added.

Buttler also had plenty of luck go his way as he got two reprieves in the middle in his 89 off 56 balls.

It was Sanju Samson who gave RR a fiery start with his 47 off 26 and Buttler said the Royals skipper took some pressure off him.

"Yes I was finding it tough to start with and then Sanju came in and played well from



ball one. He took a lot of pressure off me. I wouldn't say it was my most fluent innings but I just tried to hang in there and managed to get a little bit away in the end."

The 189-run target proved insufficient for the Royals as David Miller and Hardik Pandya shared a 106-run unbroken partnership for the fourth wicket to seal a win and take GT to the final in their maiden IPL season. "We just could not break that partnership, if we managed to take a wicket and found a way to break that partnership, it would have been crucial for us. The deeper they took, the harder it became for us.

"But we are still alive in the tournament after finishing in the

top-two, we still got a chance. We're disappointed today, but still in the tournament," he added.

The Purple Cap-holder Yuzvendra Chahal and India senior off-spinner R Ashwin, who have a combined tally of 37 wickets this season, were wicketless and leaked 72 runs against the Titans. "Those two guys have been outstanding for us this season. It's a tough place for bowlers — spin or pace bowling.

"It's a small ground with a fast outfield. A lot of boundaries are available on this particular ground. So it is always going to be tough. There was a bit of dew also in the second innings," he said, throwing his support to the spin duo.

## Hardik says his name 'always sells, no problem with it'

PTI ■ KOLKATA

In his short international career, Hardik Pandya has seen it all — highs and lows, injuries, surgery, being embroiled in controversies — but he says he faces them with a smiling face.

Putting behind all these, Pandya has shone not just as an all-rounder but as a leader, taking an under-rated Gujarat Titans to the final in a dream IPL debut season.

"People always talk, that's their job. I can't help," Pandya said after Titans win.

"The name 'Hardik Pandya' always sells. I've no problem with it, I just take it easy with a smiling face."

After making his international debut in 2016 following his success with Mumbai Indians, expectations skyrocketed with Pandya as he was compared with the legendary World Cup-winning India skipper Kapil Dev.

In 2019, Pandya was suspended for his loose talk on women on 'Koffee with Karan'. He later apologised to the inquiry



committee of the BCCI.

The 28-year-old star all-rounder made his last appearance for India against Namibia in the T20 World Cup in Dubai on November 8 and then struggled to manage his bowling workload

post his back surgery. Released by Mumbai Indians, Hardik was picked by Gujarat's for ₹15 crore ahead of this IPL season. Questions were raised when he was handed captaincy for a team making its debut, but Pandya has delivered,

be it with the bat, ball or in his 'Captain Cool' demeanour, much like his mentor MS Dhoni.

"Obviously Mahi bhai has played a big role in my life. He's a dear brother, a dear friend, and family to me," Pandya said. "...I've learnt a lot of good things from him. For me, it was more about being individually strong which I'm really proud of myself as well how I was able to manage all the parts."

Mostly coming at number four, Pandya is at the fifth spot in the chart for most prolific batters this season, with 453 runs at a 45-plus average and a healthy strike rate of 132.84.

Pandya has also come handy with the ball, giving crucial breakthroughs for his team. He has bowled 26.3 overs so far and taken five wickets with an economy of 7.73. "Before the captaincy as well, I always made sure that I approached all the situations in a cool-headed way. Generally, you make better decisions that way," he said about his recipe for success in this IPL.

## Test rankings: Kohli, Rohit, Ashwin maintain their top-10 positions

PTI ■ DUBAI

Bangladesh's Liton Das and Sri Lankan veteran Angelo Mathews have made valuable gains in the ICC Men's Test Rankings after fine performances in the drawn first match while there has been no movement in latest top-10 list issued by the world body.

In the batter's list, Marnus Labuschagne maintained his pole position while India captain Rohit Sharma and his predecessor

sor Virat Kohli remained static at eighth and 10th place respectively. Similarly in bowling, Pat Cummins (901 points) has a 51-point lead over his nearest rival Ravichandran Ashwin, who is followed by countryman Jasprit Bumrah. India's Ravindra Jadeja also remained on top of the all-rounders' table.

With only Sri Lanka and Bangladesh engaged in a WTC series, it was inevitable that players from those two nations earned points.

AGENCIES ■ KOLKATA

After helping Gujarat Titans to seal a spot in the final of the ongoing Indian Premier League 2022 on Tuesday, star batter David Miller said continued backing from the team has played a big role in improving his game in this season.

Miller was the chief creator of GT's brilliant great seven-wicket win over Rajasthan Royals. David Miller played a ballistic knock of 68 from 38 balls and captain Hardik Pandya's 40 off 27 balls guided debutants Gujarat Titans to a



seven-wicket win over the inaugural champions Rajasthan Royals at the Eden Gardens.

"I think opportunity, firstly (what's changed?). I've been given a role, I felt extremely backed from the outset. My personal game - I'm enjoying my role, I've been playing for many years now. Understanding my game a lot better. In high-pressure situations, you tend to go away from your game plan but I feel like I'm trying to keep everything together close to the game plan," said David Miller in a post-match presentation.

David Miller further said that the plus point of IPL is that you play for different teams in it. "There has been a lot of going wide to me on the off-side, so I decided actually for the first time to step across. Backed me and went with it. The rest I tried to hit as hard as possible. That's the joys of IPL - you play for different teams, and get to meet different players," he added.

Miller struck five sixes, including three in the final over when 16 runs were needed in a thrilling chase of 189

## Gill feels he doesn't have to prove anything to anyone

**KOLKATA:** Chasing a challenging 189-run target, Shubman Gill along with Matthew Wade laid a solid foundation striking a 72-run partnership for the second wicket to pave way for a seven-wicket win over Rajasthan Royals here at the Eden Gardens Stadium on Tuesday to enter the final of the IPL. The GT opener scored 35 off 21 balls hitting five fours and one six. "Kolkata has always been nice to me, fortunately, it was one of those nights where we were on the winning side, happy we are in the final. After Saha got out, we got off to a good start in the powerplay, batting in the Eden Gardens is always fun," said Shubman.

Talking about the batting surface and his team, he said "We expected the surface to be better, but the ball was holding a bit and spinners were getting a bit of grip on this wicket. It's a new team but the way the support staff and players have come together has been tremendous to watch, we are all really enjoying our cricket."

Shubman further added that he played well for Gujarat and had a good season.

"There hasn't been any added pressure on me, I was picked (in the draft) because I have done well for my earlier franchises, I don't have to prove anything to anyone, I just had to contribute to my team and play well for them. It was nice to watch (from sidelines), a semi-final and your teammates are doing the job, it was amazing," he added. **PTI**

as Gujarat Titans became the 3rd team to reach the final in their debut season.

"It was a new team so there are a few butterflies here and there. From the first win, everything sort of aligned. You have to control what you can, can't think too much ahead. Concentrate on your breathing, and if it's in your area, you have to capitalise. We've got a few days off. There's a bus trip back, we'll have a few drinks and celebrate," said Miller.

Gujarat Titans will now wait to see who among Lucknow Super Giants, Royal Challengers Bangalore and Rajasthan Royals meet them in the title clash in Ahmedabad on May 29.

## Mathews, de Silva keep Sri Lanka alive



AP ■ DHAKA

Angelo Mathews and Dhananjaya de Silva each hit a fifty and put on a 102-run partnership to keep

Sri Lanka going strong in the rain-hit second Test against Bangladesh on Wednesday.

Mathews remained unbeaten on 58 after de Silva went out with the same score to take Sri Lanka to 282-

5 at stumps on the third day, still trailing Bangladesh by 83 runs.

Rain washed out entire post-lunch session but the duo stepped up their scoring rate to make up for lost time, with de Silva striking nine fours before Shakib Al Hasan got his wicket.

The right-hander, who faced 95 balls, was initially given not out on a caught-behind appeal before Bangladesh successfully reviewed.

Mathews, who smashed four fours and a six, was batting with Dinesh Chandimal on 10 at stumps.

Bangladesh made early inroads after Sri Lanka resumed on 143-2, Ebadot Hossain bowling nightwatchman Kasun Rajitha for a duck with the second ball of the day.

A gem of a delivery from Shakib dismissed Dimuth Karunaratne for 80 soon afterwards, with the Sri Lankan skipper adding 10 to his overnight score.

Shakib tossed the ball up on off-stump and Karunaratne went for a drive but saw the flighted delivery dip and turn between bat and pad before crashing into his stumps.

Karunaratne, who was dropped on 37, struck nine boundaries in his 15th Test fifty.

De Silva hit Ebadot for three fours in one over just before the break after he and Mathews survived a difficult spell from the right-arm pace bowler and Shakib.

Shakib, the most successful bowler for Bangladesh so far, has claimed 3-59.



# Kerber, Azarenka win; Emma out

AP ■ PARIS

Former Grand Slam champions Angelique Kerber and Victoria Azarenka advanced to the third round of the French Open on Wednesday.

Kerber, who won her first clay title in six years on the eve of the French Open, defeated French wildcard and 2020 junior champion Elsa Jacquemot 6-1, 7-6 (7/2) as she seeks the only Grand Slam missing from her collection.

The German 21st seed next plays Aliaksandra Sasnovich, the Belarusian who knocked out US Open champion Emma Raducanu 3-6, 6-1, 6-1.

"I think the last week was really important for me to get the title," former number one Kerber said of her Strasbourg triumph. "I had a lot of confidence. It's great to be back here and I hope I can still play a few more matches."

"When you achieve everything you want, you play for the love of the game. I just love the sport. Let's see how long I can keep playing at a high level."

Azarenka, a two-time Australian Open winner, beat 2014 Roland Garros semi-finalist Andrea Petkovic 6-1, 7-6 (7/3). She meets Swiss 23rd seed Jil Teichmann for a place in the fourth round.

## SAKKARI OUT

Greek fourth seed Maria Sakkari crashed out in the French Open second round, going down 7-6 (7/5), 7-6 (7/4) to Czech world number 81 Karolina Muchova.

Sakkari, a 2021 Roland Garros semi-finalist, is the fifth women's top-10 seed to lose in the first four days at Roland Garros.

Muchova has matched her run to the third round from 12 months ago and will next play 27th seed Amanda Anisimova, who reached the last four in Paris three years ago.

"It's very special, she's an amazing player. It was a big fight, a little bit of a test and challenge for me



and I'm happy I took it the way I did," said Muchova.

The 25-year-old reached the semi-finals at last year's Australian Open and the last eight for the second time at Wimbledon, but is playing just her fourth tournament since the US Open after struggling with an abdominal injury. "It's an amazing feeling I can play again fully."

Sasnovich also said she "respects" the controversial decision of the ATP and WTA to strip Wimbledon of ranking points.

That move has prompted a number of players, including former world number one and four-time Grand Slam title winner

Naomi Osaka, to consider withdrawing from Wimbledon which starts on June 27.

Wimbledon chiefs said the ATP and WTA decision was "disproportionate".

Russian men's star Andrey Rublev said the atmosphere in the sport is currently "toxic" while French player Benoit Paire believes "99%" of players want a Wimbledon without points.

"I'm sorry for Russia and Russians, but they are the ones causing all the trouble," he said.

Sasnovich said she talks to Ukrainian players in the locker room.

"I ask them how they feel. We

## Wimbledon 'will never be an exhibition': Murray

AP ■ PARIS

Two-time former Wimbledon champion Andy Murray of Britain on Wednesday said that the tournament "will never feel like an exhibition" despite it being stripped of ranking points over the ban on Russian and Belarusian players.

The decision by the ATP and WTA to remove the sport's most prestigious tournament of ranking points has prompted some

players to say they may skip Wimbledon, the year's third Grand Slam.

"I'd hazard a guess that most people watching on centre court Wimbledon in a few weeks' time wouldn't know or care about how many ranking points a player gets for winning a 3rd round match," tweeted Murray.

"But I guarantee they will remember who wins. Wimbledon will never be an exhibition and will never feel like an exhibition."

talk about the war a little bit," added the world number 47 from Minsk.

"They have families there. It's a very bad situation for them. We try to live our lives and find the positives. These are tough times."

"I would have no problem if I had to play against a player from Ukraine."

On Wednesday, Sasnovich made the third round of the French Open for the first time by stunning US Open champion and 12th seed Emma Raducanu 3-6, 6-1, 6-1.

## 'AGAINST THE WAR'

Belarus tennis star Aliaksandra Sasnovich may be banned from Wimbledon but she insisted Wednesday that she opposed the ongoing war in Ukraine and supports players from the embattled country "100%".

Belarusian players such as Sasnovich, compatriot and former world number one Victoria Azarenka, as well as a host of Russians including men's world number two Daniil Medvedev, were declared persona non grata by Wimbledon in response to the invasion of Ukraine.

"I wanted to play Wimbledon so much, it's one of my favourite tournaments but I respect the decision," the 28-year-old said.

"Normally, I speak with some of the Ukraine players. We are not

friends, we are just colleagues but I support them 100%."

"I want the war to finish as soon as possible. I don't support the war and am against the violence. I just want peace."

## 1ST SLAM MAIN DRAW WIN

Indian tennis player Ramkumar Ramanathan cherished his first ever main draw win at a Grand Slam as he combined with American Hunter Reese to beat the German team of Daniel Altmaier and Oscar Otte in the men's doubles event of the French Open, here on Wednesday.

Ramkumar, who has made umpteen attempts to crack a singles main draw of a Grand Slam without success, and Reese beat their rivals 7-6(4) 6-3 in their opening round of the clay court major.

The 27-year-old Indian had broken into the doubles top-100 early this year, following his maiden ATP Tour title win with compatriot Rohan Bopanna in Adelaide and at home in Pune, competing in the Tata Open Maharashtra.

Rohan Bopanna and his Dutch partner Matwe Middelkoop had progressed to the second round with 6-4, 6-1 win over local wild cards Sascha Gueymard Wayenburg and Luca Van Assche, on Tuesday.

## Chelsea sale gets green light from UK Government

AP ■ LONDON

The UK government on Wednesday announced it had given the green light to Todd Boehly's proposed takeover of Chelsea football club from the sanctioned Russian oligarch Roman Abramovich.

Secretary of State for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport Nadine Dorries said she had issued a licence permitting the deal late on Tuesday, shortly after it won approval from the Premier League.

"We are satisfied the proceeds of the sale will not benefit Roman Abramovich or other sanctioned individuals," Dorries tweeted.

"Given the sanctions we placed on those linked to (Vladimir) Putin and the bloody invasion of Ukraine, the long-term future of the club can only be secured under a new owner," she said.

A consortium led by Boehly, a co-owner of baseball's Los Angeles Dodgers, had already agreed a record £4.25 billion deal to buy the Premier League club from Abramovich on May 7.

The Premier League said its approval hinged on the government sale licence "and the satis-



factory completion of the final stages of the transaction".

Officials wanted everything completed on Tuesday so Chelsea could meet all registration deadlines for next season's football competitions.

Abramovich put Chelsea on the market in early March, just before he was sanctioned by Britain following Russia's inva-

sion of Ukraine.

Completing the purchase has been a lengthy process due to government concerns over the potential for Abramovich to profit from the sale.

The total value of the deal smashes the previous record for the sale of a sports team — \$2.4 billion for the New York Mets baseball franchise in 2020.

## Liverpool's Klopp named PL manager of the year

AP ■ LIVERPOOL

Liverpool's Jurgen Klopp has been named the League Managers' Association Premier League Manager of the Year, it was announced on Tuesday.

The Reds won both the English League Cup and FA Cup, beating Chelsea in penalty shoot-outs at Wembley on both occasions.

But Liverpool lost out on the Premier League title to Manchester City by just a point after both Klopp's men and Pep Guardiola's side won their respective matches on Sunday's final day of a thrilling campaign.

Klopp, collecting his accolade at the LMA Awards dinner in London on Tuesday, said: "It is a great honour and it was an insane season."

"The last matchday when only two games were meaningless and in the rest, we all played for absolutely everything."

"It was not the best outcome for us, but we are already over it."

The German, paying tribute to his backroom team, added: "When you win a prize like this you are either a genius or you have the best coaching staff in the world — and I am here with all of my coaching staff, they know how much I appreciate them."

Klopp also collected the Sir Alex Ferguson Trophy, named in honour of the celebrated former Manchester United boss, which is voted for by the full membership of managers across all the divisions in English senior football.

"This being voted for by my colleagues



is obviously the most important prize you can get," Klopp said.

"I don't believe in individual prizes in football generally, it is a team sport and I would be nothing without these boys there."

"It is all about what we can do together and what we did together."

Liverpool may have been denied an unprecedented quadruple by City, but they will now try to add the Champions League to their impressive trophy haul this season when they face Real Madrid in a Paris final on Saturday.

## India will put up fantastic show in U-17 WC: Aditi

PTI ■ KOLKATA

Star India women's football team goalkeeper Aditi S Chauhan feels that the under-17 team is not short on preparation for the upcoming World Cup despite the absence of senior nationals in the country since 2019.

India organised its last U-17 National Championships in April 2019 before the coronavirus outbreak upset all plans.

But Aditi feels the Indian team is on the right track and would be one of the sides to watch out for in the U-17 Women's World Cup.

"This group has been preparing for this moment for quite some time," Chauhan said in an interview.

"They've been getting regular match time and training regularly and hopefully, they'll be able to gain more exposure and play more friendlies before the World Cup."

"I am confident that they will put on a fantastic performance in front of their home crowd at the World Cup."

India under coach Thomas Dennerby has already named 33 probables who are currently training in Jamshedpur. There have been questions about the selection policies without a national tournament.

"I think India has a lot of potential in their U-17 squad and I have been lucky to play with a few of them."

"The young girls have shown their fighting spirit in their last SAFF Cup where they were the champions."

"The players have been practicing together for a long time and I am sure India will be one of the teams to watch out for," she said.

The tournament is slated from October 17-30 in the five cities of Bhubaneswar, Kolkata, Guwahati, Ahmedabad and Navi Mumbai.

"The U-17 World Cup is going to be a huge opportunity for our girls to play and compete against the best in the world."

"It is important that we put on a good display because all eyes will be on our team from across the world."

"We can demonstrate that women's football in India is progressing on the right path by doing better here," she added.

In April last year, Aditi became the second Indian woman player after Bala Devi to ply her trade outside India, when she signed a one-year deal with Iceland's third division club Hamar Hveragerði women's team.

"We've also witnessed the standard of football in other nations by playing against them on a regular basis, and it's fair to say we're not that far behind."

"Of course we need to improve our game, but the differences are little. We have some extremely good players in our ranks, and I'm sure we'll see a lot of Indian players playing in foreign leagues in the coming years," the star goalkeeper from Tamil Nadu added.



## India need luck, big win against Indonesia

PTI ■ JAKARTA

Defending champions India need to beat hosts Indonesia by a huge margin and hope Japan defeat Pakistan in the other Pool A match for advancing to the knockout stage of the Asia Cup men's hockey tournament here on Thursday.

India's fate is not in their own hands anymore as even a win against lowly Indonesia will not guarantee them a knock-out berth. Japan will have to beat Pakistan to keep India's faint hopes alive.

With a draw and a loss, India are placed third in Pool A behind Japan (6 points) and Pakistan (4 points).

Under the guidance of Sardar Singh, India fielded a young team in the tournament alongside a handful of seniors like Birendra Lakra and SV Sunil, who came out of retirements. But the senior duo looked well past their prime if their performances in the two matches so far are to go by.

India conceded a last minute goal to draw 1-1 against Pakistan in their

tournament opener before being thrashed by Japan 2-5.

But now, a "next to impossible" task awaits the Indians as they not only have to score big against Indonesia but also hope that Japan beat Pakistan in the other Pool A match on Thursday if they are to progress to the Super 4 stage.

India have a goal difference of minus three as against Pakistan's plus 13. If Pakistan lose to Japan, India will have to beat Indonesia by a huge margin to go past their western neighbours in goal difference and advance further in the tournament.

Inexperience was the major reason behind India's below-par performances as the young players, mainly drafted from the last junior World Cup squad, are finding it difficult to get a measure of the level of international hockey.

In the two matches so far, the Indians lacked cohesion in the three departments — defence, midfield and forwardline.

The Indians lacked a quality playmaker in the midfield, which was evi-



dent from their constant efforts of building attacks from the centre instead of using both the flanks more frequently.

Lakra looked a pale shadow of himself in the backline, which has crumbled big time when put under relentless pressure.

The forwardline has been wasteful with the likes of Tokyo Olympian Simranjeet Singh and youngster Uttam Singh not having the best of outings.

The lanky and strongly built Pawan Rajbhar is the only player who have impressed with his commitment and stick work in the two matches, creating chances and also scoring a goal.

Penalty corner conversion is another area where the Indians are struggling as they lack a quality drag-flicker in the side after veteran Rupinder Pal Singh pulled out at the last minute due to a wrist injury.

With the odds stacked against them, the young Indian players could be pepped up to give their best shot on Thursday and show they can rise to the occasion.