

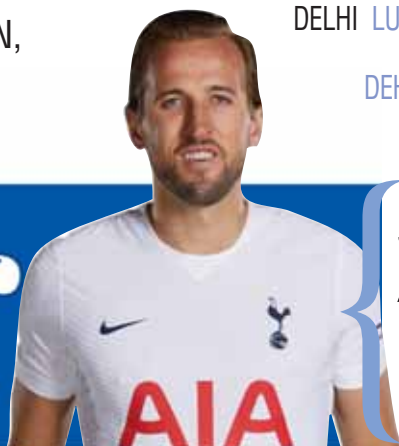
**CITY 2**  
ODOP PRODUCTS TO BE  
GIFTED AT DAVOS SUMMIT**OPINION 6**  
HINDUS' INCOHERENT  
ANGST ABOUT IDENTITY**WORLD 10**  
READY TO TALK WITH PUTIN,  
SAYS ZELENSKYY

LUCKNOW, SATURDAY MAY 14, 2022; PAGES 12 ₹3



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**SPURS BEAT  
ARSENAL 3-0  
IN DERBY**  
11 SPORT

## SC refuses interim status quo order on Gyanvapi survey

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Friday refused to grant an interim order of status quo on the survey of the Gyanvapi-Shringar Gauri complex at Varanasi in Uttar Pradesh. The apex court agreed to consider listing the plea of a Muslim party against the survey of the Gyanvapi premises, when mention was made.

The Bench comprising Chief Justice NV Ramana and justices J K Maheswari and Hima Kohli was told by senior advocate Huzefa Ahmadi, appearing for the Muslim side in the Gyanvapi mosque case, that a plea has been filed



against the survey being conducted at the Varanasi site.

"We have filed in relation to a survey which has been directed to be conducted in

relation to the Varanasi property. This (Gyanvapi) has been a mosque since time immemorial and this is clearly interdicted by the Places of Worship Act," Ahmadi said.

He said the direction to conduct a survey has been passed and an order of status quo be passed at the moment. "I do not know anything. How can I pass such an order? I will read. Let me see," the CJI said. The Muslim side has been referring to the Places of Worship (Special Provisions) Act, 1991 and its section 4 which bars filing of any suit or initiating any other legal proceeding for a conversion of the religious character of any place

of worship, as existing on August 15, 1947.

A Varanasi local court on Thursday rejected a plea to replace the advocate commissioner it had appointed for conducting a videography survey of the Gyanvapi-Shringar Gauri complex here and ordered the completion of the task by May 17.

The district court also appointed two more lawyers to help the advocate commissioner carry out the survey at the mosque, which is located close to the iconic Kashi Vishwanath temple. It ordered the police to register FIRs if there are attempts to scuttle the exercise.

## Protests erupt in Kashmir over Rahul Bhat's killing

Three terrorists killed, hundreds of Kashmiri Pandit employees offer to resign

MOHIT KANDHARI ■ JAMMU

A day after the killing of a Kashmiri Pandit man Rahul Bhat by terrorists, Kashmiri Pandit Government employees held protests on Friday, demanding relocation to safer places outside the Valley. At the same time, security forces gunned down three terrorists in an encounter that broke out in Brar Aragam area of Bandipora on Friday. Sources said two of the three ultras were involved in the attack on Bhat.

Protests erupted at the Sheikhpora camp, located in Budgam district of central Kashmir, where Kashmiri Pandit employees have been given makeshift accommodations. The police used batons and tear gas shells to disperse the protestors who were marching towards the airport road, seeking an audience with Lieutenant-Governor Manoj Sinha. The migrant employees were moving peacefully in the area when local police requested them to disperse. When they refused to budge and kept marching on, police used force



Members of the Rashtriya Bajrang Dal burn an effigy during their protest over the killing of Rahul Bhat, in Jammu on Friday

PTI

and lobbed tear gas shells. A sit-in protest also continued in Vessu, Qazigund area of Anantnag district on Friday where migrant employees offered mass resignations to register their protest against the failure of the Union Territory administration to protect them.

Seething with anger the aggrieved employees also demanded speedy justice and the "severest" punishment for killers of Bhat.

Meanwhile, in Jammu, the mortal remains of Rahul Bhat were consigned to flames after the body arrived from Kashmir in the wee hours. The entire neighbourhood in Durga Nagar area of Jammu had converged outside the residence of Rahul to pay their homage and perform the last darshan. Meenakshi, who brought

back the mortal remains of her husband after traveling during the night, wept inconsolably on reaching their Durga Nagar home in Jammu.

"My husband used to say everyone behaves nicely with him and nobody can harm him. Yet nobody protected him, they (terrorists) must have asked someone about him, otherwise, how would they've known. I am left alone. He was everything for me," she said.

Rahul leaves behind a seven-year-old daughter and aging parents. Rahul's father Bitta Jee Bhat retired from active police service years ago. Bitta Jee Bhat has also demanded a high-level inquiry to ascertain how the killers entered a Government office.

Continued on Page 9

## Videography of complex likely to begin today

PTI ■ VARANASI

The stalled videography survey of Gyanvapi Masjid complex is set to resume Saturday and the mosque management committee has indicated that it will cooperate for now with the team assigned the task by a local court.

"An important meeting was held with all the concerned parties on Friday. An appeal was made to them to cooperate in the commission's work and the maintenance of law and order, Varanasi district magistrate Kaushal Raj Sharma said. He said the survey will

begin on Saturday.

A mosque committee member earlier said it is waiting for the Supreme Court ruling on the matter but till then it will cooperate with the district court, which has ordered the survey.

In his order on Thursday, District Civil Court (Senior Division) judge Ravi Kumar Diwakar turned down a plea by the mosque committee to replace Ajay Kumar Mishra, who was appointed advocate commissioner by him to survey the Gyanvapi-Gauri Shringar complex.

The judge also appointed

two more advocates to help the commissioner with the survey and said it should be completed by Tuesday.

Lawyers representing the Hindu and Muslim sides were present at meeting held Friday by the district magistrate.

Also on Friday, the Supreme Court refused to grant an interim order of status quo on the survey. The top court, however, agreed to consider listing the plea of a Muslim party against the survey.

Anjuman Intezamia Masjid Committee's joint secretary Sayyad Mohammed Yaseen said it will think about moving

the high court against the local court's order after the Supreme Court delivers its ruling.

"Till then we will cooperate with the district court order in the matter," he told PTI.

Earlier, in the day, a counsel for the mosque panel had said the local court's order was not final and it may be challenged it in the High Court.

"We have four days to challenge this order. We can challenge the order in the high court after consultations," advocate Abhay Nath Yadav had said. When asked about the hearing on the plea before the

Continued on Page 9

## Sonia calls for urgent, big ticket reforms in Cong

Says, situation demands extraordinary steps, slams PM for polarisation

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■  
UDAIPUR/NEW DELHI

Congress president Sonia Gandhi on Friday called for urgent reforms in the party as "extraordinary situations demand extraordinary action" and also launched a blistering attack on Prime Minister Narendra Modi accusing him of keeping the country in a state of permanent polarisation, "brutalising" minorities and "threatening" political opponents.

The party, which is holding a three-day Chintan Shivir in Udaipur also held discussions on enforcing the 'One family, one ticket' formula, granting exemption to only another family member who has been doing "exemplary work" for the party for a period of at least five years. This will leave scope for members of the Gandhi family



to contest polls and allow other senior leaders to get their sons and daughters accommodated in the ticket list. Sending out a clear message to Congress ranks while launching the brainstorming conclave, Sonia said the party

will have to change its style of functioning and urged them to keep the organisation above their personal ambitions and pay back their debt to the party as it had given a lot to everyone.

She urged around 450 delegates to deliberate

with an open mind but send out a single message of a strong organisation, resolve and unity. "In one way this (Congress transformation) is the most fundamental issue. Our revival is only possible through collective efforts. Such collective efforts will not be deferred. This Shivir is the start of the journey," Sonia

said. The three-day 'Nav Sankalp Chintan Shivir' is being held in the backdrop of a string of electoral defeats and dissent in the party for the past many years.

Continued on Page 9

## SC: Will not postpone NEET-PG-2022 as it will hit patient care

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■  
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Friday refused to postpone the NEET-PG-2022 examination on a plea of doctors, saying the delay would cause an unavailability of doctors and seriously affect patient care. A Bench of Justices DY Chandrachud and Surya Kant said postponement of the examination would create "chaos and uncertainty" and would affect the larger section of students, who have registered for the test.

"There are two categories of students -- one which is seeking postponement and the larger category of over two lakh six thousand candidates -- who would be affected by the postponement after having prepared for the examination," the Bench said.

The Judges noted that the Government was trying to bring the schedule of examination back on time as it was affected due to the pandemic.



"As the country gets back on the rails, which was derailed due to the pandemic, the time schedule laid down by this court must be adhered to," said the Bench.

On May 10, the top court had agreed to hear the plea of doctors seeking postponement of the NEET-PG 2022 which is scheduled to be held on May 21 on grounds that it will clash with the ongoing counselling for NEET-PG 2021.

## Tesla puts brakes on India entry due to tariff deadlock

New Delhi: Tesla Inc has put on hold plans to sell electric cars in India, abandoned a search for showroom space and reassigned some of its domestic team after failing to secure lower import taxes, three people familiar with the matter told agencies.

The decision caps more than a year of deadlocked talks with Government representatives as Tesla sought to first test demand by selling electric vehicles (EVs) imported from production hubs in the United States and China, at lower tariffs.

But the Indian Government is pushing Tesla to commit to manufacturing locally before it will lower tariffs, as high as 100 per cent on imported vehicles.

Tesla had set itself a deadline of February 1, the day India unveils its budget and announces tax changes, to see if its lobbying brought results, the sources with knowledge of the company's plan told Reuters. When Prime Minister

Narendra Modi's Government did not offer a concession, Tesla put on hold the plans to import cars into India, added the sources.

Continued on Page 9

### Twitter deal on hold for now: Musk

**Detroit:** Elon Musk said Friday that his plan to buy Twitter is "temporarily on hold" as he tries to pinpoint the exact number of spam and fake accounts on the social media platform, another twist amid signs of turmoil over the proposed \$44 billion acquisition. Musk has been vocal about his desire to clean up Twitter's problem with "spam bots" that mimic real people and appeared to question whether the company was underperforming them.

## India to reopen its embassy in Ukraine

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■  
NEW DELHI

India on Friday said it was reopening its embassy in Kyiv, Ukraine from Tuesday, May 17. The embassy operations came to a halt in March after the Russian military action began there. The Indian embassy was temporarily relocated to Warsaw on March 13.

"The Indian Embassy in Ukraine, which was temporarily operating out of Warsaw (Poland), would be resuming its operation in Kyiv with effect from May 17," the Ministry of External Affairs said here.

It said the embassy was temporarily relocated to Warsaw on March 13.

The announcement to resume operation of the embassy from Kyiv came amid similar decisions by several Western powers such as



Germany and the United Kingdom to reopen their missions in the Ukrainian Capital.

Several Western political leaders, including UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres, Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau, British Prime Minister Boris Johnson, and USA President Joe Biden's wife Jill Biden recently visited Ukraine.

## India declares mourning on UAE Prez's demise

PTI ■ DUBAI

UAE president and ruler of Abu Dhabi Sheikh Khalifa bin Zayed Al Nahyan passed away on Friday, the Ministry of Presidential Affairs said. He was 73. India, a friendly country has declared one day State mourning on his demise.

"The Ministry of Presidential Affairs condoles the people of the UAE, the Arab and Islamic nations and the world over the demise of His Highness Sheikh Khalifa bin Zayed Al Nahyan, the president of the UAE," the official WAM news agency said in a statement. Sheikh Khalifa served as the President of the UAE and ruler of Abu Dhabi since November 3, 2004.

The Ministry of Presidential Affairs has announced 40 days of mourning on the passing of the President.

Continued on Page 9

## No light at end of tunnel for winged guests

### Light pollution kills one million migratory birds every year

ARCHANA JYOTI ■ NEW DELHI

Light pollution is creating havoc with life of migratory birds as at least one million of them are dying every year by running into lampposts and electric billboards on high rise buildings.

The rise in artificial light globally by at least 2 per cent per year is also impacting birds in the breeding and winter seasons, disrupting feeding and other vital behaviours, experts said on the eve of the World Migratory Bird Day (WMBD).

This year WMBD will focus on one such man-made threat: Light pollution.

In India a number of foreign birds find shelter every year. At least, 229 species of birds arrive in the country every year, including Asiatic Sparrow-Hawk, Harriers,



Flock of flamingos stand in a pond on the eve of World Migratory Bird Day, in Navi Mumbai on Friday

PTI

Peregrine Falcon, Osprey, Pacific Golden Plover, Graylag Goose, Bar-headed Goose, Northern Shoveller, Tufted Duck, and more.

Pointing out that light pollution also risks seriously altering migratory birds' behaviours, from migration and foraging to vocal communication, and disturbing their precise internal clocks, experts have called upon policy makers to take steps to reduce the impact of light pollution on birds across the globe.

Attracted by artificial light at night, particularly when there is low cloud, fog, rain or when flying at lower altitudes, migrating birds become disorientated and may end up circling in illuminated areas. Depleted energy reserves put them at risk of exhaustion, predation, and fatal collision with buildings.

Continued on Page 9



## DS Chauhan assumes additional charge as DGP, calls on CM



PNS ■ LUCKNOW

Director General (Intelligence) Devendra Singh Chauhan on Friday assumed additional charge as Uttar Pradesh's Director General of Police (DGP).

The development comes two days after Mukul Goel was removed from the post of state police chief by the Yogi Adityanath government.

Chauhan, a 1988-batch IPS officer, took the additional charge of DGP at the police headquarters here on Friday morning.

Soon after assuming the responsibility, Chauhan called on Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath and held a brief discussion on the present law and order situation in Uttar Pradesh.

Later he held a meeting

with senior officers and directed them to work with full sincerity and devotion to maintain law and order besides ensuring quick justice to any aggrieved who contacted them with his or her problems.

Chauhan will hold the additional charge till the appointment of a permanent DGP, Additional Chief Secretary (Home) Awanish Kumar Awasthi had said on Thursday.

After removal of Goel on Wednesday, ADG (Law and Order) Prashant Kumar was given the additional charge of the state police chief.

Goel, a 1987 batch IPS officer, who has been made the Director General of Civil Defence, was removed from the post of DGP for neglecting official work, not taking interest in departmental work and inefficiency.

## 1,400 youths to be enrolled in PRD in next six months

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

The Uttar Pradesh government led by Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath has decided to revitalise the Provincial Guard Team known as Provincial Rakshak Dal (PRD), which is doing remarkable work in establishing communal peace and harmony as well as preventing crime in rural areas of the state.

The Yogi government has announced that it will not only give more facilities and increase daily allowances of the jawans of the PRD, but will also strengthen the provincial guard team by inducting more youths into it and giving them more responsibilities than they are currently handling.

The Provincial Rakshak Dal, which was formed in 1947, aims at strengthening the youth movement in rural areas to groom a disciplined, self-

reliant and responsible younger generation.

It is worth mentioning here that Yogi Adityanath has time and again reiterated his government's determination to strengthen the PRD and Mangal Dal.

At present, the total number of trained PRD jawans across all the districts of the state is 43,835 of which 30,004 are currently active. Of the 30,004 PRD active jawans, 28,054 are males and 1,950 females.

The daily allowance of PRD personnel was earlier increased from ₹375 to ₹395 and the government plans to increase it further.

The details of a total of 31,294 jawans and information related to payment of allowances to them as well as their district-wise duties are available on the department's website.

According to the departmental action plan, 20,000 PRD personnel will be put on duty every month in the next 100 days, which will be increased to 22,500 per month in the next two years and to 25,000 per month in five years.

In the next six months, 1,400 youths will be selected for enrollment in PRD while approval for the proposal for training of PRD jawans sponsored by the National Defence University, Gandhinagar, Gujarat would be sought.

In addition to enhancing income of the PRD jawans, the government also plans to cover them under Pradhan Mantri Accident Insurance Scheme and Pradhan Mantri Jeevan Jyoti Insurance Scheme Bima Yojana and construct barracks and accommodation facilities for them on the premises of

the departmental headquarters in Lucknow in the next five years.

The government will also impart advanced arms training to the PRD jawans and modernise weapons available with the Provincial Rakshak Dal.

The state government has also decided to set up a PRD agency in the private sector, which will be funded by private resources, in the next couple of years.

Furthermore, the Yogi government will complete construction of the PRD Central Training Institute in Lucknow in two years.

In the last five years, the Yogi government has contributed to the welfare fund for PRD jawans while giving them uniform, conducting band activities and monthly parades as well as holding Provincial Rakshak Dal Foundation Day celebrations.

## Two lakh SHGs to be formed in next one year: Maurya

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

Deputy Chief Minister Keshav Prasad Maurya has set the target of forming two lakh new self-help groups in the next one year.

The decision was taken under the action plan of Uttar Pradesh State Rural Livelihood Mission.

An official communiqué released here on Friday confirmed that as per the road map prepared by the Rural Development department, ₹1,500 crore of RF/CIF (revolving fund/community investment fund) will be provided to 3,30,000 self-help



groups and about 1,300 producer groups will be formed.

A target has been set to form 28 producer enterprises/farmers producer organisations in the next one year.

The release said that an amount of ₹196 crore would be provided by the department to 21,766 village organisations from risk prevention fund and agricultural equipment would be provided to 600 village organisations to promote sustainable agriculture. A target has been set by Banking Correspondent Sakhi to ensure financial transactions of ₹2,400 crore in a year.

## ODOP products to be gifted at Davos summit

**Lucknow (PNS):** The ODOP (One District One Product) products are all set to make a big bang entry on global platform as perfume, Lucknow's zari and zardozi,

chikan garments and silk of Varanasi will be distributed to delegates at Davos, the venue of the annual conference of World Economic Forum.

The five-day-long summit

of World Economic Forum is commencing at Davos from May 22. The black pottery of Azamgarh will also be displayed at Davos.

The Central government

has placed a demand for the ODOP products and 600 units of different ODOP products have been sent. The ODOP products will be given as gift hampers to delegates.

## UP govt to make villages free of plastic waste

**Lucknow (PNS):** With the aim to get rid of plastic waste in villages, the Yogi Adityanath government has made plans to set up collection centres for plastic waste at 250 places in the state in the next two years and use the waste plastic for road construction.

"The Panchayati Raj department is preparing an action plan for the preparation and selection of sites in development blocks in the next six months so that waste plastic collection centres could be set up there," a government spokesman said.

Plastic, which causes pollution, reduces the groundwater level by destroying the fertility of the land. Its use increases the risk of cancer along with respiratory and skin diseases. Plastic is so dangerous that it can even stop the development of the fetus. The smoke released from burning polythene is damaging the ozone layer, which is a major

cause of global warming.

In view of all these ill-effects, the state government has taken the initiative to make the cities as well as villages plastic free.

"The plastic waste management emphasises taking steps to reduce the production of plastic waste, prevent the spread of plastic waste and ensure separate storage for plastic waste. Under the new rule it would be the responsibilities of local bodies, village panchayats, waste producers, retailers and footpath vendors for the management of plastic waste," the government official said.

He said this was a big step in Yogi government 2.0 as in its first term the Yogi government had made a big achievement of making all gram panchayats open defecation free with the construction of 2.18 crore individual toilets.

## Harassed by youth, minor commits suicide in Shamli

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

In a shocking incident, a 16-year-old girl allegedly hanged herself as she was upset over being harassed by a youth in Shamli district, police said on Friday.

In a complaint, the girl's father alleged that the accused was pressing her to get married to him and would often harass his daughter on her way to school. Due to the constant harassment, the girl quit school, but the accused started calling her on the phone, her father claimed.

The family had warned the youth several times asking him to stop following their daughter but he continued to harass her. Finally she took the extreme step by ending her life on Thursday morning, police said. A case was registered against the accused for abetment to suicide and the body has been sent for autopsy. Efforts were on to nab the accused who is absconding.

In another incident, a man allegedly raped a 28-year-old government school teacher and made a video of the crime to blackmail her to change her religion and marry him, the Shahjahanpur police said on Friday.

The police registered a case under the Uttar Pradesh Prohibition of Unlawful Conversion of Religion Act against five people.

The woman, in her complaint on May 4, alleged that Amir offered to drop her off. Both of them live in the same village. She said on the way Amir made her smell some substance after which she fainted. She alleged that he later raped her and also made video clippings to blackmail her by threatening to upload it on social media.

Superintendent of Police (City) Sanjay Kumar said the survivor accused Amir's family members of exerting pressure on her to convert and get married to him.

The police have named Amir's mother, sister and relatives in the FIR registered on Thursday. The survivor was sent for medical examination. The accused are absconding.

Meanwhile, in a road accident, two brothers were crushed to death after a dumper truck hit their motorcycle on the Tirwa Bela Road in Kannauj district on Friday, police said.

Station House Officer Indergarh Kamal Bhatti identified the victims as Sunil Rajput (19) and Mohit Rajput (17) of Auraiya district. They were returning home after attending a wedding when the accident took place. The truck driver fled after the accident.

Mohit Rajput was an intermediate student, and Sunil Rajput was working in Delhi, Bhatti said.

A case was registered in this regard by the police against the dumper driver and the bodies were sent for post-mortem.



### NOTICE

In school records of my daughter Aaiza Haque, student of cms chowk, Lucknow my (Mother) name spelling written as 'Hadia Haque' insted of my correct name spelling is 'Hadiya Haque' Please correct accordingly in your records.

### NOTICE

I have changed my name from Ritika Agarwal to Pritika Agarwal. In future, I should be known Pritika Agarwal D/o Shri Anup Agarwal and Smt Anuja Agarwal R/o- 312, Anandpuri Colony, Kanpur - 208023

### आवश्यकता

JBS PG कालेज दुल्हदेपुर, टिकैतनगर, बाराबंकी को प्रार्थाय की आवश्यकता है। योग्यता व अनुभव UGC/University के मानकानुसार। मूल प्रमाणपत्रों के साथ 7 दिन के अन्दर सम्पर्क करें। मो०-9415004449, 9146000858

### NOTICE

I have changed my name from Anil Tulsyan S/O Late Radheshyam Tulsyan to Anil Kumar Tulsyan S/O Late Radheshyam Tulsyan. In future I will be known by this name. Anil Kumar Tulsyan S/O Late Radheshyam Tulsyan Balaji Aagman Apartment, Flat No. 401, 128/186 K Block, Kidwai Nagar, Kanpur Nagar

### आवश्यकता है

### आवश्यकता है

मदरसा दारुल उलूम मौसिया आबुलगर नई बस्ती फतेहपुर (उज्जैन आरिया) में एक-एक प्रशानायात्रा व सत्राश्रम कीकारिनियों का पद रिक्त है। प्रशानायात्रा हेतु शैक्षिक योग्यता काजिल एवं काजिल (कारसी) की उपाधि, मुन्सी/मौलवी या उन्मवार कक्षाओं का न्यूनतम पाँच वर्ष का शैक्षिक अनुभव अथवा दीनयात अरबी/कारसी में 60 प्रतिशत अंकों सहित एमएलए तथा उपरोक्तानुसार पाँच वर्षों का शैक्षिक अनुभव अथवा काजिल/एमएलए तथा दीनयात/अरबी/कारसी परम्परागत प्राथम विषय में दुककुरा सहित उपरोक्तानुसार तीन वर्षों का शैक्षिक अनुभव। वेतनमान 47600-151100 लेवल-08 एवं अन्य भत्ते न्यूनतम आयु 30 वर्ष। एवं सत्राश्रम कीकारिनियों हेतु शैक्षिक योग्यता काजिल अथवा न्यूनतम 60 प्रतिशत अंकों सहित एमएलए तथा आदिन अथवा उन्मवार कक्षाओं का प्रमाण पत्र आवश्यक है। वेतनमान 44900-142400 लेवल-07 एवं अन्य भत्ते न्यूनतम आयु 20 वर्ष। इच्छुक अभ्याथी विज्ञापन की तिथि से 21 दिन के अन्दर अपना आवेदन पत्र सम्मेलन शैक्षिक योग्यताओं के साथ प्रत्येक मदरसा के पदनाम से मदरसा उपरोक्त पर भेजें।

**प्रत्येक**  
**मदरसा दारुल उलूम मौसिया आबुलगर नईबस्ती फतेहपुर**

## CITYBRIEFS

### REVIEW MEETING

MVVNL Managing Director Anil Dhangra had a review meeting with the superintendent engineer and senior officials on Friday. He reviewed the progress of revenue-related works, status of defaulters and the issue of unmetered connections.

### MORNING WALK

A 3-km morning walk was organised from Rumi Darwaza to the Faculty of Architecture and Planning campus. The welcome session at Rumi Darwaza was curated by Lucknow Architects' Association. The walk culminated into a presentation and discussion session by architect Gita Balakrishnan, who was joined by other architects, faculty members and students. Dean and principal Vandana Sehgal extended thanks to Balakrishnan for sharing her experience. Faculty members and senior students participated in the walk.

### BIOLOGY OLYMPIAD

Kumar Yashasvi, a class XII student of City Montessori School, Gomti Nagar Campus I, was selected in the Biology Olympiad organised at national level under the aegis of Homi Bhabha Centre for Science Education, Mumbai. More than one lakh students from various reputed schools across the country participated in the competition, in which the CMS student exhibited his knowledge of science and brought laurels to the school. CMS founder Jagdish



A joint anti-encroachment drive being conducted by LMC and Lucknow Police at Kaiserbagh area in Lucknow on Friday

Pioneer

Gandhi congratulated Yashasvi and wished him a bright future.

### INSPECTION

On an inspection spree, Vice-Chancellor of Lucknow University Prof Aloak Kumar Rai visited SMD Patel

College on Hardoi road, Mahavir Prasad Mahavidyalaya in Kachhauna (Hardoi), Unity Degree College and Bhalchandra Institute in Lucknow. He took stock of the arrangements in labs and classrooms as also the ongoing classes. He checked the attendance register to confirm the

availability of teachers and students. The LU VC also interacted with the students to get feedback about teaching, labs and other facilities. He lauded proper arrangements at some colleges and directed authorities concerned to take corrective steps, wherever required.

**कार्यालय परियोजना प्रबन्धक, यूजिट-6**  
कानपुरा एन एम एन एन एन, उत्तर प्रदेश, भारत (ए.ए. नगर, ए.ए. नगर)  
फोन: 117-6-19, मोबाइल नंबर, कानपुर-208005 (विवरण को ध्यान से देखें)  
फैक्स नंबर: मो.टी.-38-बी, विपुल खन्ना, मोबाइल नंबर, कानपुर

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**निविदा सूचना संख्या: 291/ई-निविदा/05** **अति अलकालीन निविदा सूचना** दिनांक: 11.05.2022

अथवा, उत्तर प्रदेश जल निगम, की ओर से अधोःस्तरीय द्वारा जनपद कानपुर नगर में फूलवाग स्थित सहायक पर्यटन कार्यालय के उन्नीकरण कार्य अनुमानित लागत रु.3.654 लाख (ती.एस.टी. रीति एवं लेबर सेस सहित) हेतु सी. एण्ड डी.सी. में यथोचित थैंगी में भवन कार्य हेतु पंजीकृत ठेकेदारों से दिनांक 27.05.2022 के अपरान्ह 16.00 बजे तक ई-निविदा/आमंत्रित की जाती है। उक्त कार्य हेतु ई-निविदा प्रपत्र दिनांक 13.05.2022 से दिनांक 27.05.2022 के मध्य उत्तर प्रदेश सरकार की e-procurement वेबसाइट <https://etender.up.nic.in> से डाउनलोड किये जा सकते हैं तथा ई-निविदा दिनांक 27.05.2022 को पूर्वाह्न 17.00 बजे परियोजना प्रबन्धक, सी.एण्ड डी.सर. युजिट-05, उ.प्र. जल निगम, कानपुर में निविदा खोली जायेगी। ई-निविदा प्रपत्र का मूल्य रु. 1000.00+GST(18%) अतिरिक्त देव होगा। निविदा से सम्बन्धित विस्तृत विवरण विभाग की वेबसाइट [www.cdsupn.org](http://www.cdsupn.org) एवं प्रोक्सेमेन्ट पोर्टल <https://etender.up.nic.in> पर उपलब्ध है। समस्तसूचित पत्र (Corrigendum) <https://etender.up.nic.in> पर ही अपलोड किये जायेगे, इनका पृथक से कोई प्रकाशन नहीं किया जायेगा। निविदादाताओं को सलाह दी जाती है कि वे उक्त वेबसाइट का समय-समय पर अवलोकन करते रहें।

**परियोजना प्रबन्धक**

**UJJAIN SMART CITY LIMITED**

Mela Office, Kothi Road, Ujjain (M.P.) 456001 Ph. 0734-2525856

NIT No.: USCL/164 Tender ID : 2022\_UAD\_202766\_1 Date 11.05.2022

**EXPRESSION OF INTEREST (Short Notice 2nd Call)**

Ujjain Smart City Limited invites proposal for "Appointment of Event Management Agency for Ujjain Smart City Limited" Under Smart City Mission". Interested and eligible bidders may submit their proposals online at [www.mptenders.gov.in](http://www.mptenders.gov.in).

Earnest Money Deposit	Rs. 25,000/-
Cost of Document	Rs. 5,000/-
Last date for submission of Technical and Financial Bid (Online)	19.05.2022 up to 17:00 hrs

For more details please visit <https://mptenders.gov.in>. Any Corrigendum or amendments shall be published on this website only.

**For, Ujjain Smart City Limited**







# MoU signed to promote entrepreneurship in youth

PNS ■ KANPUR

The Kanpur Institute of Technology (KIT) and Young India Organisation signed an MoU to promote the role of youth in social responsibility and entrepreneurship. The pact was signed by Director of institute, Dr Brajesh Varshney and MD Vatsal Dalmiya (YIO). Addressing the session Dr Varshney said of late institutions had been increasingly focusing on developing social responsibility among the members of society which played an important role in enhancing cohesion within the society, organising lives within it and increasing interdependence and coherence among individuals. He said social responsibility can be understood as how one was associated with a community and sense of belonging to family, society and country. He said on the contrary, ignorance about our lack of social responsibility or individuals' weak sense of social responsibility represented a serious threat to society. He said social

responsibility was vital in making young people assume responsibilities, it prepared and allowed them to perform their roles in the best possible way of building society. Dr Varshney said since youth formed a significant part of society, they had an important and prominent role in supporting society's progress and activating its development process. He said the state, therefore, needed to work with all its different sectors and authorities in developing the sense of social responsibility of this important part comprising the youth in society. He added that youth care was a long-term investment process, as the more, we gave care and prepared the youth properly, the more generously one gained human experiences representing wealth in the modern world. Speaking on the role of youth entrepreneurship he said young entrepreneurs possessed advance knowledge and social networks that helped in the establishment of successful undertakings that decreased the

level of unemployment thereby contributing to economic wellness and innovation. He said youth were the backbone of any nation and being energetic, artistic, innovative, enthusiastic and dynamic in nature they constituted the most crucial part of the population. He said they had all the qualities which are necessary to make a nation strong. Dr Varshney said youth were the active participants and creative digital innovators whose contribution to sustainable development had always remained visible. He said to utilise their talent to the best, proper policy measures and motivation mechanisms were needed to channelise their energy in the right direction towards the right goal. He said motivation mechanisms were needed to channelise their energy in the right direction towards the right goal. Others who spoke were on the occasion were Roli Shah, Sparsh Mehrotra, Sanchit Agarwal, and Akash Goenka.

# Min inspects cattle shelters

PNS ■ KANPUR

Uttar Pradesh Minister of Dairy Development Dharampal Singh after the inspection of two cattle shelters at Sarsaul and Bhaunti said the Chief Minister is highly concerned about the care of milch cattle and thus ever care has to be taken to ensure their protection and fodder for these animals. He said all cow shelters should be made self-reliant. He appealed to people to ensure they donated hay for cattle. He said UP government had plans to establish biogas plants utilising cow dung to eventually make CNG, working towards a public private partnership. He said cow dung for this will be purchased from farmers. He said state government aims to build more shelters to accommodate up to 50,000 stray cattle and the plan was to house up to one lakh stray cattle in the next six months.



UP Minister of Dairy Development Dharampal Singh inspecting cow shelters

He said under the stray cattle plan the state government will build cow sanctuaries to house cattle in a natural habitat. He said very soon state government will also identify 65,000 hectares of land which

will be dedicated to growing fodder. He said officials have also been asked to identify available forest areas with a provision for water bodies under their jurisdiction for the purpose of developing cow

sanctuaries. Singh said that he saw an opportunity to improve the management of 'gaushalas' (cow shelters) with the support of the party workers and members.

**U.P. POWER TRANSMISSION CORPORATION LIMITED TENDER INVITING NOTICE**  
Tender is invited in two parts for the following electrical work / supply from class 'A' working organizations/firms which are registered with GST and possess Income Tax-payable certificate. Detailed information of tender is available on the website [www.etenderup.nic.in](http://www.etenderup.nic.in) and for any other amendment/extension of the tender, Please login [www.etenderup.nic.in](http://www.etenderup.nic.in) upto date of opening of tender. The authority to reject the tender without assigning any reason will be reserved with the Executive Engineer, Electy, 400KV Sub-Station Division, Sultanpur. **Short Term E-tender No. 03/ESDS/2022-23 To be opened on dt. 27.05.2022, Tender cost Rs. 236.00, Earnest Money Rs. 2000.00** 1. Replacement of damage A.C. compressor & associated work at 400KV S/S Sultanpur under Electy, 400KV S/S Division Sultanpur. Executive Engineer Electy, 400KV Substation Division Sultanpur No. 393 Dt. 13.5.2022 "Save energy in national interest."

**COURT NOTICE**  
CITATION (BY ADVERTISEMENT) (Chapter XXX, Rule-21) IN THE HIGH COURT OF JUDICATURE AT ALLAHABAD ORIGINAL JURISDICTION TESTAMENTARY AND INTESTATE JURISDICTION **TESTAMENTARY CASE NO. 49 OF 2022 IN THE MATTER OF THE GOODS OF Late Chandra Pal Yadav S/O Late Mushoom Yadav R/O Village Pakadi Godam Pargana Mungra Badshapur, Tehsil Machhalishahr, District Jaunpur.....Deceased, Shyam Lal Yadav.....Pettitioner,** WHEREAS an application has been made by Shyam Lal Yadav S/O Ram Autar Yadav R/o Village Dhaurahara, Mungra Badshapur, District Jaunpur, for the probate of the will (or Letters of Administration to the estate) of Late Chandra Pal Yadav deceased, who died at Dhaurahara (In the house of Shyam Lal Yadav) on 06.01.2021 AND WHEREAS, the 07<sup>th</sup> day of July, 2022 has been fixed for hearing of the said application, THIS CITATION is issued calling upon all persons claiming to have any interest to come and see the proceedings if they think fit before the grant of probate (or Letters of Administration). Given under my hand and the seal of the Court this 10<sup>th</sup> day of May, 2022. **DEPUTY REGISTRAR HIGH COURT, ALLAHABAD Shri Dharmendra Kumar Yadav Advocate, Counsel for the Petitioner.**

मध्योच्चल विद्युत वितरण निगम लिमिटेड ई निविदा सूचना अधोहस्ताक्षरी द्वारा विभिन्न कार्यो हेतु कार्य में अनुमयी व दक्ष विद्युत ठेकेदारों से निम्नांकित ई-निविदाये (क्रमांक, निविदा संख्या, खण्ड का नाम, कार्य का नाम, कार्य की अनुमानित लागत, निविदा प्रपत्र शुल्क एवं घोरेहर राशि) आमंत्रित की जाती है। (1) 37/वि0वि0 म0बा0/2022-23, विद्युत वितरण खण्ड-फरीदपुर, बाराबंकी के अंतर्गत 11 केवी के क्षतिग्रस्त स्वीचगीयर की मरम्मत का कार्य। 280 लाख, 1180/-, 2800/- (2) 38/वि0वि0म0बा0/2022-23, विद्युत वितरण खण्ड-हेदरगढ़, बाराबंकी के अंतर्गत दैवीय आपदा अंतर्गत विद्युत कार्य संपादित करने हेतु कार्यदायी संस्था का चयन। 10.00 लाख, 3540/-, 10000/- (3) 39/वि0वि0म0बा0/2022-23, विद्युत वितरण खण्ड-हेदरगढ़, बाराबंकी के अंतर्गत वैकल्पिक विद्युत आपूर्ति हेतु 10 केवी का डीजल जनरेटर सेट लगाकर आपूर्ति व्यवस्था करना। 2.00 लाख, 1180/-, 2000/- ई निविदा प्रपत्र दिनांक 26.05.2022 को सायं 5 बजे तक उच्च सरकार की वेबसाइट <https://etender.up.nic.in> पर अपलोड किये जा सकते हैं। ई निविदा का प्रथम भाग दिनांक 27.05.2022 को प्रातः 11 बजे पूर्वाह्न से खोला जायेगा। ई निविदा का प्रथम भाग उपयुक्त पाये जाने की स्थिति में ई निविदा के द्वितीय भाग खोला जायेगा। निविदा प्रपत्र मध्योच्चल विद्युत वितरण निगम लिमिटेड की वेबसाइट [www.mvnl.in](http://www.mvnl.in) पर भी देखे जा सकते हैं। निर्धारित तिथि के विस्तारण तथा शुद्धिपत्र से संबंधित सूचना यदि कोई होगी तो केवल वेबसाइट पर डाली जायेगी। अतः स्वयं को अपडेट रखने के लिए उपरोक्त वेबसाइट को नियमित देखें। अधीक्षण अभियन्ता, विद्युत वितरण मण्डल, बाराबंकी पत्रांक 1276 दिनांक 13.5.22 राष्ट्र हित में बिजली बचाये

# ‘Indiscreet use of chemicals has reduced water absorption of lands’

PNS ■ KANPUR

UP Minister of Agriculture, Agricultural Education and Research, Surya Pratap Shahi, while inaugurating the two-day alumni meet and natural farming seminar on Friday said CSA is one of the oldest farm university and had majorly contributed to the farm development and development of crop varieties. He said the alumni of this varsity were its brand ambassadors and were spread out all over the country and world and had brought name and fame to this varsity. He said today indiscreet use of chemical fertilisers had drastically reduced water absorption of lands and this had also led to a huge imbalance of nutrients in the soil impacting the grain yield. He said with the fall of nutritional value of food grains umpteen diseases had raised their heads and the humans were at threat. He said this engendered the need for use of organic and natural farming. He said the two day national seminar will discuss ways to find an amicable



UP Minister of Agriculture, Agricultural Education and Research, Surya Pratap Shahi, inaugurating the two day Alumni Meet and Natural Farming seminar at CSA on Friday.

solution to this vexed problem. He hoped that the scientists of the varsity will send their suggestions to the government. Addressing the function Vice-Chancellor of the varsity, Dr DR Singh said the objective was to bring the alumni on one platform and reflect their success stories to students for higher motivation. He said the alumni will share their research work and papers with the students so that research work of the var-

sity was further strengthened. He said agriculture across the world was turning to natural farming and thus special focus will be laid during the two day session. He said natural farming or organic farming was known as chemical-free agriculture and this was gaining momentum in India for quite some time now. He said it was termed natural farming if most farm inputs used were managed from the farm system or from nearby local ecosystems. He

said under organic farming, externally purchased farm inputs like biofertilisers and vermicompost were also used on farm as well. He said in the last few decades natural farming movement led by farmers had led to better grain yield. He said the transition to natural farming and organic farming however, was a lengthy process. He said it started with choosing pest-resistant varieties of crops and practicing crop rotation, intercropping and mixed cropping that were well adapted to the local agroecological systems to enhance the overall health of the crop ecosystem. He added that farmers used natural alternatives to ward off bad pests without harming the good pests and prevent an ecosystem thus they replaced expensive and toxic chemical pesticides with natural substitutes that were fairly less expensive. Prominent among those present on the occasion were Dr SK Singh, Dr Shweta Yadav, Dr Masaud Ali, Dr Naushad Khan. The vote of thanks was proposed by Dr Karam Hussain Dr Khalil Khan.

# Two-day conference at GSVMMC

PNS ■ KANPUR

Organising Committee Chairperson of Indian Association of Gynaecological Endoscopists, Dr Meera Agnihotri, while addressing presspersons said two day national level conference will be held on May 14 and 15 at GSVMMC Medical College (GSVMMC). The focus of the conference will be infertility and its solutions. She said a special training session will also be carried out by endotainers which will be highly beneficial for gynaecologists and will also strive to tackle the increasing infertility in younger generations. She said this was a surgical discipline that used optical instruments specially designed to help diagnose gynaecological disorders and pathologies such as some infertility problems, small haemorrhages or endometrial polyps among others. She said endoscopic minimal-access operative techniques had gained increasing significance in gynaecology so that most gynaecological operations in health centres and clinics were now performed via an endoscopic approach. Dr Agnihotri said the Indian healthcare system was undergoing a process of

change with increasing integration of ambulatory and inpatient care and a fundamental reform. She said GE workshop will redress this situation by offering young doctors the opportunity to participate in a structured training plan and a step-by-step guide to endoscopic minimal-access surgery. She said endoscopy had many applications in modern gynaecology and the list was growing every year and it was a surgical discipline that used optical instruments specially designed to help diagnose gynaecological disorders and pathologies such as some infertility problems, small haemorrhages or endometrial polyps among others. She said invention of these tiny devices enabled doctors to operate inside the body without the need for open surgery has greatly improved the conditions of patients. Dr Agnihotri said endoscopic surgery was probably the most significant advancement in surgical practice. She said it was being increasingly favoured over the abdominal approach because of its well recognised advantages like minimal trauma, superb visualisation, low incidence of

complications, reduction of adhesions, shorter hospital stay, rapid recovery and aesthetically pleasing results with least amount of scarring. She added that endoscopy had secured a firm place in the management of patients with infertility and endoscopic surgical techniques will develop rapidly in the near future to serve various needs of female patients. She said there were three types of endoscopic surgery in obstetrics and gynaecology: laparoscopy, hysteroscopy and salpingoscopy. She said laparoscopic surgery was rapidly and progressively replacing conventional surgery except for the most difficult cases. She said the next was hysteroscopy which had proven to be invaluable in assessing patients with abnormal uterine bleeding, postmenopausal bleeding, infertility and recurrent pregnancy loss. She said salpingoscopy, as a pre-operative diagnostic tool was useful in examining the tubal cavity and a potent tool for tubal recanalisation. This can be used to diagnose and treat obstructions, adhesions or other diseases and conditions. Dr Neelam Mishra and many others were present.

# ‘Nurses play an important role in society’

PNS ■ KANPUR

World Nurses Day was celebrated on the birth anniversary of Florence Nightingale for her pioneering work in nursing and social reforms during the Crimean War. Nurses played an essential role in society today by being advocates for health promotion, educating the public and patients on preventing injury and illnesses, participating in rehabilitation and providing care and support. They help families learn to become healthy by helping them understand the range of emotional, physical, mental and cultural experiences they encounter during health and illness. This was stated by the Nursing Superintendent of Regency College of Nursing, Dr Sarla Vishnoi while inaugurating the lighting of the lamp ceremony. She said nurses had been at the forefront of change in health care and public health. They also provide ongoing assessment of people's health and their round-the-clock presence, observation skills, and vigilance allowed doctors to make better diagnoses and propose better treatments. She said umpteen lives had been saved because an attentive nurse picked upon early warning signs of an upcoming crisis like cardiac arrest or respiratory failures. She said access to quality



Lamp Lighting ceremony of Vimala Nursing College being held on Nurses Day.

health care encompasses the ability to gain entry into the health care system through health insurance, geographic availability and access to a health care provider. She said health care quality had been defined as "the degree to which health care services for individuals and populations increase the likelihood of desired outcomes and are consistent with current professional knowledge". She said nurses delivered high quality care by providing care that was safe, effective, person-centred, timely, efficient and equitable. Dr Vishnoi said nurses can strengthen their commitment to diversity, equity and inclusion by leading large-scale efforts to dismantle systemic contributors to inequality and create new norms and competencies with-

in health system. **VIMALA NURSING COLLEGE:** The Dean of Vimala Nursing College, part of Vimala Group of Institutions, Dr Seema Saxena while inaugurating the lamp lighting ceremony on World Nurses Day said nursing education positively impacted gender, economic factors and health outcomes. She said further research was needed to confirm the 'triple impact' of nursing education on improving health, gender equality and economic growth in low and middle-income countries, especially in India. She said little was known about the impact of nursing education on women's empowerment and intergenerational mobility in such settings. She said choosing to add an advanced degree can expand career opportunities for nurses.

She advised the nurses to improve communication skills and as a nurse, effectively communicating with patients and their loved ones was a key component to providing quality health care. She said nurses had to be good listeners and they had to be attentive. Dr Saxena said professional nursing organisations can be a valuable resource for nurses in terms of networking, professional development, advocacy and education. She advised them to maintain practice proficiency and keep professional knowledge up-to-date. She said they need to be a resource for education by offering conferences, webinars, and online resources. She said additional educational opportunities can expand nursing skills and find courses that offered flexibility to meet the needs of working adults.

**कार्यालय परियोजना प्रबन्धक, यूनिट-5**  
अनुसूचित एवं अनुसूचित जाति, उत्तर प्रदेश जनपद कानपुर नगर में कुलवर्ग विधायक कार्यक्रम के अन्तर्गत कार्य अनुमानित लागत रु.3.654 लाख (ती.एस.टी. रीति एवं लेबर सेस सहित) हेतु सी. एण्ड डी.सी. में योजित केपी में भाग कार्य हेतु पंजीकृत ठेकेदारों से दिनांक 27.05.2022 के अपराह्न 16.00 बजे तक ई-निविदाएं आमंत्रित की जाती है। उक्त कार्य हेतु ई-निविदा प्रपत्र दिनांक 13.05.2022 से दिनांक 27.05.2022 के मध्य उत्तर प्रदेश सरकार की e-procurement वेबसाइट <https://etender.up.nic.in> से डाउनलोड किये जा सकते हैं तथा ई-निविदा दिनांक 27.05.2022 को पूर्वाह्न 17-00 बजे परीयोजना प्रबन्धक, सी.एण्ड डी.एस. यूनिट-05, उ.प्र. जन निगम, कानपुर में निविदा खोली जायेगी। ई-निविदा प्रपत्र का मूल्य रु. 1000.00+GST(18%) अतिरिक्त देय होगा। निविदा से सम्बन्धित विस्तृत विवरण विभाग की वेबसाइट [www.cdsupjn.org](http://www.cdsupjn.org) एवं ग्रेयोमेन्ट पोर्टल <https://etender.up.nic.in> पर उपलब्ध है। समस्तशुद्धि पत्र (Corrigendum) <https://etender.up.nic.in> की ई अपलोड किये जायेगे, इस्का प्रयुक्त से कोई प्रकाशन नहीं किया जायेगा। निविदायताओं को सलाह दी जाती है कि वे उक्त वेबसाइट का समय-समय पर अवलोकन करते रहें।  
**परियोजना प्रबन्धक**

PNS ■ PRAYAGRAJ

Police personnel in the district are on a new mission these days - to overcome stress and fatigue and reduce extra kilos by doing yoga and meditation in order to improve their well-being and boost efficiency. On Friday, yoga and meditation classes began at the office of inspector general of police (Prayagraj range), in which over 22 personnel took part. Cops, of all ranks, will attend the session under the trained yoga expert Ashish Pandey from Friday.

IG (Prayagraj range) Rakesh Singh told the mediapersons that "We have decided to organise yoga and meditation sessions from 6am to 7am... By practising yoga, there will be improvement in physical and mental fitness of policemen." He said, officers of all ranks will join the sessions. The IG said: "During his previous posting in Devipatan range, he had introduced yoga and meditation sessions, which improved the well-being of the participants. It was observed that none of the policeman fell sick during

Covid first and second waves." "Policemen work for long hours and often suffer from fatigue and stress that also reflected in their behaviour. Thus, yoga will help in de-stressing themselves," he said. Symptoms of stress and fatigue include behavioural change, headache, drowsiness during duty, inability to stand upright, irritation and misbehaviour. Senior cops believe that about 20 to 30% policemen are obese and yoga along with routine exercises and parade will help them to shed flab and be physically and mentally fit.

Those who attended the yoga session on the first day said yoga has undoubtedly eased tension in different ways. "Keeping our mobile phones away for at least an hour was itself a much-needed relief. Most of us suffer from insomnia and other issues like kidney problems, indigestion, breathing and weight concerns. Policemen stand for long hours, spend sleepless nights, eat unhealthy food from outside and have anxiety issues given the nature of our work. So, yoga and meditation will work wonders for us," said a participant.

# Cops adopt yoga to boost efficiency, overcome stress



# Yogi Adityanath's call to follow path of dharma

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ VARANASI

Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath said that there are different sects and communities in the country but these are not for division. “They advocate different routes to reach the destination but the goal of all of them is the same, Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam (the world is one family),” said Yogi while attending the Panchadiki Satabd Jannm-Mahotsav of Shri Jagatguru Visheshwar Shivacharya Mahaswami and inaugurating the Akhil Bhartiya Shivacharya Sammelan at Jangamwadi Math here on Friday.

The CM appealed to all saints and others present there to follow the path of dharma. During his stay the CM offered prayers in the Math and met the saints. He also praised the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi and said that today the entire country is moving ahead with new energy. “Under the leadership of Kashi MP PM Modi, there was a supernatural rejuvenation of Kashi Vishwanath temple. Exactly similar work is being done in Ayodhya as well. A grand temple of Lord Rama is being built,” said Yogi, adding that separate land allotment work is about to begin in



CM Yogi Adityanath inaugurating Shivacharya Sammelan at Jangamwadi Math in Varanasi on Friday.

Ayodhya for the followers of every sect and community of the country to set up their own dharamshalas and maths. During the programme at Jangamwadi Math, head of the Math Dr Chandrashekhar Shivacharya Mahaswami, Uttar Pradesh Minister Dr Dayashankar Mishra ‘Dayalu’, MLA Dr Awadhesh Singh and many others were also present.

Earlier, when CM landed at the helipad of Sampurnanand Sanskrit University (SSU) grounds on his two-day visit, he was welcomed by senior Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) leaders and administration officers.

After taking a night halt at Circuit House, Yogi will hold a meeting with the public representatives and party workers on

Saturday before leaving for Kushinagar in connection with the proposed visit of the PM there on June 16. The visit of Yogi is also considered as an important one in view of the expected visit of Modi to his parliamentary constituency here next month and during his stay the CM is also expected to see the progress made in various priority-based projects.

# Contests to mark Yoga Day countdown

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ VARANASI

Various programmes and contests were organised on the countdown to International Yoga Day (June 21) under the auspices of Regional Outreach Bureau (Varanasi), Ministry of Information and Broadcasting, Government of India to bring awareness about yoga in rural areas at Chamela Devi Girls Inter College, Birsinghpur here on Friday. The function included quiz competition, rally, group discussion, seminar and cultural programme. The eighth International Yoga Day will be observed on June 21 as the first Yoga Day was celebrated on the same day in 2015. Speaking on the occasion, yoga expert Gopal Yogi said, “Yoga is an invaluable gift of ancient



Winners of contests to mark countdown to Yoga Day at a school in Varanasi on Friday.

Indian tradition and culture. The practice of yoga establishes unity of body and mind, thought, action, self-control

and perfection and harmony between man and nature. Yoga is a holistic approach to health and well-being. Yoga is not a

mere exercise, but a feeling of finding oneness with oneself with the world and nature, it creates awareness in us by bringing changes in our lifestyle.”

Regional Publicity Officer Dr Lalji also expressed his views. State incharge of Patanjali Kisan Seva Samiti Omprakash said that the practice of yoga is very helpful in getting rid of stress and keeping the mind happy and calm. Principal Prem Chand Yadav said yoga gives peace of mind.

Prizes were given to 20 winners of quiz competition and five winners of running competition.

Payal Yadav got the first prize in the race contest while Vidya and Kanya Rajbhar got the second and third prizes respectively.

# Anaemia-free India campaign launched

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ VARANASI

With an objective of making the country free from anaemia, a team of the ‘Aapka Swasthya’, a health magazine of Indian Medical Association (IMA), has launched ‘Anaemia-free India’ campaign. Senior haematologist and honorary secretary of the magazine ‘Aapka Swasthya’, Dr Manoj Kumar Srivastava while having an informal chat with media-persons said that this campaign is based on four components i.e. 4-T — Tracing, Testing, Talk and Treatment. As we all know that 50 per cent women and 70 per cent pregnant women in our country are anaemic so Aapka Swasthya team is conducting screening and testing programmes, particularly in the remote areas and leprosy centres throughout the year to

treat them accordingly, Dr Srivastava said. He said we adopted a leprosy and tuberculosis centre in Varanasi for the campaign and added that the awareness is the key and right answer to eradicate it. The IMA headquarters in New Delhi and its Varanasi branch are extending their support to the campaign.

Editor of the magazine Dr Ajit Sehgal said ‘gud’ (jaggery) and ‘chana’ (gram) are the cheapest and common things which are very much helpful in treating anaemia.

Associate Editors Dr Sudhir Singh and Dr Ritu Garg jointly said that cooking food in ‘lohe ki kadhai’ is also useful in providing iron to the families.

**AADHAAR ENROLMENT:** Now the students of parishadiya schools will not

face inconvenience for Aadhaar enrolment as the Postal department has taken an initiative in this regard. Basic Education Officer (BSA) Dr Rakesh Singh met Postmaster General of Varanasi Circle Krishna Kumar Yadav in his office on Friday and urged for Aadhaar enrolment of students of Parishadiya Schools. Yadav assured the BSA of it and ordered departmental officers for immediate initiative in this direction. The accounts of these children and their parents as well as will also be opened in India Post Payments Bank so that they could also get the benefit of government schemes being run under Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT). Yadav emphasised on opening the account of girl students of parishadiya schools under Sukanya Samridhii Yojana so that future

of these girls could be secure. The account under this scheme could be opened for girls aged up to 10 years with the first deposit amount of just ₹250, Yadav said and added that school children could also open their PPf accounts in the post offices with minimum deposit of ₹500. Post office superintendent of Varanasi Western Division PC Tiwari said special arrangement would be made in the identified post offices for Aadhaar enrolment of students of parishadiya schools so that they do not face any inconvenience. The Aadhaar enrolment in the post offices is free of cost, he added. BSA said a total of 78,000 children have been enrolled in parishadiya schools of the district under School Chalo Abhiyaan of the state government but most of the students do not have Aadhaar enrolment.

# Alld HC to Mathura court: Solve Krishna Janmabhoomi cases within 4 months

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ PRAYAGRAJ

Hearing a petition related to Krishna Janmabhoomi in Mathura district, the Allahabad high court directed a Mathura court to dispose all the cases of the Shri Krishna Janmabhoomi-Shahi Idgah Masjid dispute within four months. Disposing of a petition filed by Bhagwan Shri Krishna Virajman and another, Justice Salil Kumar Rai said, “The civil judge (senior division), Mathura, is directed to decide the aforesaid applications expeditiously preferably within a period of four months from the date a certified copy of this order is produced before him

and after giving an opportunity of hearing to the affected parties, in case there is no legal impediment in deciding the aforesaid applications.” In his plea, the petitioner had claimed that his application for temporary injunction, restraining members and persons related to Sunni Waqf Board from entering 13 acres of land of Shri Krishna Janmabhoomi was not being decided by trial court in the district. While issuing the orders to the trial court in Mathura, the HC, however, clarified that it has not expressed any opinion either regarding the maintainability of the case or the merits of the claim made by the petitioner.

The Uttar Pradesh Sunni Central Waqf Board and three others were made respondents in the petition. More than a dozen cases related to the Shri

Krishna Janmabhoomi-Shahi Idgah Masjid dispute are being heard in various courts of Mathura district and are at different stages of completion.

## IPL betting gang busted

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ PRAYAGRAJ

While busting IPL (Indian Premier League) betting, the STF Prayagraj unit has arrested six people, including the kingpin of a bookie gang, in a house in Georgetown area. From them, STF has seized 3.16 lakh in cash, several mobile phones, TVs, laptops, calculators, cars. The complicity of the police and the SOG was also revealed in the interrogation of the bookies, after which the head constable of the SOG, the outpost in-charge Tagore Town and four policemen were suspended. STF was getting information about betting continuously after the start of IPL 2022. On Thursday night, on the instructions of STF Prayagraj Unit Deputy SP Navendu Kumar, Inspector Atul Kumar Singh, Ani Kumar Singh, Ved Prakash Pandey along with commandos surrounded a house in Tagore Town and raided. Six people, including the gangster arrested from the spot, were found booking bets online. They used to enter money on the register and then used to send and collect money to those who bet on sixes and fours, winning and losing matches. After taking the betting line from Rajasthan on mobile, Vikas Kesarwani was running the ‘satta gang’ by telling the bookies the price. A tenant of the house is also involved in this gang. Through betting, this gang was making wealth by betting crores of rupees every day, whereas most of the betting players keep on losing. This gang also grabbed the money of many people. In the interrogation of bookies arrested by the STF, information about their complicity with the policemen also came to light. After this, the SSP suspended SOG head constable Alok Mishra, outpost in-charge Tagore Town Manish Jaiswal, beat constables Rahul Chauhan and Anees Kumar. Along with the police, the investigation of the police station in-charge Georgetown was also started. The kingpin of the King Vikas Kesarwani is the resident f

Sarvodaya Nagar, Allapur, Georgetown. Similarly, Satta Manager Amber Kumar Yadav alias Saurabh, hails from Fatehpur Bicuwa, Georgetown, Shubhendra Pratap Singh, Sangam Vihar Colony, Kharkauni Village, Thana Naini, Himanshu Shivhare aka Abhishek, Subhash Nagar Gadihwa, Kotwali Fatehpur, Ranjeet Yadav alias Golu, Fatehpur Bichua Mohalla, Thana Georgetown and Shivam Chaurasia is a resident of Sajjan Gali, Phaphamau Bazar, Prayagraj.



बैंक ऑफ बड़ोदा

Bank of Baroda

1875

1906

Regional Office Kanpur Dehat Region :

118/330, 2nd Floor, Kaushalpur

Gumti No. 5, Kanpur -208012

Possession Notice

Whereas the undersigned being the Authorised Officer of Bank of Baroda under the Securitization 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 a demand notice calling upon the borrower & guarantor to repay the amount mentioned in the notice being with in 60 days from the date of receipt of the said notice.

The borrower/guarantor having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the borrowers/guarantors and the public in general that the undersigned has taken possession of the property described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on him/her under section 13 (4) of the said Act read with rule 8 & 9 of the said rules.

The borrower/guarantor in particular and the public in general are hereby cautioned not to deal with the property and any dealings with the property will be subject to the first charge of Bank of Baroda for amount & interest thereon.

The borrower's attention is invited to provision of sub-section (8) of 13 of the act, in respect of time available to redeem the secured assets.

Branch : Lalitpur Main, Distt. Lalitpur

Name and Address of Borrower/Guarantor & Description of Mortgage Property & O/S Amount as per Demand Notice/Demand Notice Date & Possession Notice Date

**Borrower :** Shri Sudheer Kumar S/o Shri Satya Narayan, R/o : Raghunathpura Road, Jamunapuram Colony, Village Panari, Tehsil & Distt. Lalitpur. **Guarantor :** Shri Ankit Kumar S/o Shri Satya Narayan, R/o : Village & Post Sindwaha, Distt. Lalitpur.

**Demand Notice Date: 10-02-2022 • Date of Constructive Possession: 11-05-2022**

**Property :** Residential Property Land No. 1539M on Raghunathpura Road, Jamunapuram Colony, Village Panari, Tehsil & Distt. Lalitpur in the name of Shri Sudheer Kumar S/o Shri Satya Narayan. **Area:** 92.88 Sq. Mtr., **Bounded- North :** Property of Bhupendra Singh, **South :** Road 6 Mtr., **East :** Property of Shri Sahu, **West :** Property of Krishna & Others.


**O/s Amount as per Demand Notice : Rs. 30,39,917.97+Intt.+ Others Charges**

Date : 14-05-2022

Place : Lalitpur

Authorised Officer

<



shubham

HOUSING DEVELOPMENT FINANCE CO. LTD.

Corporate Office : 425, Udyog Vihar Phase IV, Gurgaon-122015 (Haryana)

Ph. : 0124-4212530/31/32, E-Mail: customercare@shubham.co website : www.shubham.co

POSSESSION NOTICE (FOR IMMOVABLE PROPERTIES)

Whereas the undersigned being the authorized officer of the Shubham Housing Development Finance Company Limited (hereinafter called Shubham) 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 calling upon borrowers to repay the amount within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said notice.

The borrowers having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the borrowers and the public in general that the undersigned has taken possession of the property described hereinbelow in exercise of powers conferred on him under Section 13(4) of the said Act read with rule 8 of the Security Interest Enforcement Rules, 2002.

The borrowers in particular and the public in general is hereby cautioned not to deal with the property and any dealing with the property will be subject to the charge of Shubham Housing Development Finance Company Limited for an amount detailed below and interest thereon.

**The borrower's 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. Details are as below:**

S. No.	Loan No/Borrower(s), Co-Borrower	Demand Notice Amount	Date of Demand Notice	Secured Asset	Date of Affixation
1.	OALB191200005025585, Anand Kumar Srivastava, Ankita Srivastava	Rs. 4,42,082/-	24-Feb-2022	House No. 209H/7A, Part of Arazl No. 534 Mauja kasari masari, Mohalla- Om Prakash Sabhasad Nagar, Tehsil - Sadar, District- Prayagraj, Allahabad, Uttar Pradesh - 211011	12/05/2022
2.	OALB210200005035033, Manish Kumar Jaiswal, Sadhna Jaiswal	Rs. 29,38,414/-	24-Feb-2022	Gata No. 493 NG, Mauza- Karma, Pargana- Arazil, Tehsil Karchana, Distt- Allahabad Uttar Pradesh- 211008	12/05/2022
3.	OKAN210300005035984, Poonam Gupta, Vinay Kumar Shukla, Sonu Kumar	Rs. 8,65,023/-	24-Feb-2022	House No-117/95-A(3), Part of Hata No. 95, Village Kakadev, Tehsil & District Kanpur Nagar, Uttar Pradesh - 208025	12/05/2022
4.	OLKW161000005020215, Samu, Tej Mohammad	Rs. 7,06,291/-	24-Feb-2022	Part of Plot No-22, KH.No. 473 at Vill- Barraura Husan Badi, Ward- Kanhaya Madhopur, Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh - 226003	12/05/2022
5.	OLKW200800005029271, Rajesh Kumar, Legal Heirs (Deceased Eka)	Rs. 40,65,514/-	24-Feb-2022	House No. 6, On Plot No. 6, Khasra No. 94, Sharma City, Takrolhi, Ward Shaeed Bhagat Singh, Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh - 226017	12/05/2022

Place:- Gurgaon, Date:- 13-05-2022

Authorized Officer, SHUBHAM HOUSING DEVELOPMENT FINANCE COMPANY LTD.

# Nurses Day celebrated in BLW Hospital

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ VARANASI

International Nurses Day was celebrated in a simple manner by the nursing staff working in the Central Hospital in Banaras Locomotive Works (BLW) here on Thursday. The participants also pledged to perform their duties sincerely. Principal Chief Medical Officer (PCMO) Dr Devesh Kumar, Dr SK Maurya, Nursing Officer Geeta Chaudhary along with a large number of nursing staff of BLW participated. The day is observed on the occasion of the birth anniversary of Florence Nightingale since 1965.

Speaking on the occasion, Dr Devesh Kumar said nurses should have empathy and compassion for their patients. At the same time, he said it is a day to honour and recognise the tireless work of nurses across the world. Anjana Tond, Usha Devi, Sita Devi, Usha Singh, Usha Jaiswal, Ahilyat Singh,



International Nurses Day being celebrated at BLW Hospital in Varanasi on Thursday.

Chandrakala, Anita Chandra, Sunila A Lal, Alice Kujur, Aarti, Kamala Srinivasan and many others were also present. Programmes were also organised in various hospitals of the district to remember the contribution of Florence Nightingale and to appreciate

the services of the nurses. At Shri Shiv Prasad Gupta (SSPG) Divisional Hospital, Superintendent In-charge (SIC) Dr Prasanna Kumar, recalling the role of Florence Nightingale during the Crimean War, said that the example she set in service is remembered even today.

“The contribution made by nurses in adverse circumstances during the period of Covid-19 pandemic will be remembered for a long time,” he said and added that nurses have made their mark as a strong link of the Health department.

At the beginning of the programme, along with lighting the lamp and cutting the cake, the nurses took an oath to serve the patients with love and compassion.

Phoolmati Devi and Sister incharge Rajmati Devi also expressed their views. The day was also observed at adjoining Government Women's Hospital (Kabirchaura) where SIC Dr AK Srivastava said he is proud to be present amongst people who are known as the Goddess of Service. Kanchan Lata Jaiswal honoured staff nurses Deepika Dayal, Pushpa Devi, Sudha Maurya and Lali Bharti with badges.





## An unforgiving May

Revised work hours protocol for extreme summers is needed

The effect of Cyclone Asani has waned. The moisture-laden easterly winds did lower temperatures for a couple of days in the north. The plains are back to witnessing a return of the debilitating heatwave. The weather office has issued a yellow alert that could soon be upgraded into an orange alert. Are any steps afoot to mitigate people's misery as the temperatures threaten to cross 46 degrees Celsius in Delhi and neighbouring states? A welcome step is shortening school hours, limiting students' outdoor activities, and relaxing the dress code norm. However, is there a need for primary schools to function? The heat threatens the adult population in no less measure. Sunstrokes are on the rise and dehydration is common. And yet there is no attempt to advance or shorten office hours. Private offices can easily shift to the WFH mode if advancing office hours is not possible. Online work in digitised government departments is recommended. The situation eminently suits half-day work timings. Routine activities in courts like date extensions, submission of documents, and bail arguments, especially related to petty crimes, can be online. However, what about the daily-wage labourers, agricultural labourers, and civic workers of the public works departments?



Millions spend their days under the unrelenting sun with barely any protection or nutritious supplements. The civic works have not been stopped or postponed anywhere. Big projects related to national highways, track-laying, and construction of bridges and buildings have no systems to allow for reduced working hours. In some states, the governments make arrangements for cool drinking water, buttermilk sachets, and medical camps. Most states have first-aid kits at the primary health centres in rural areas. But all these efforts miss the point. They essentially deal with basic resuscitation measures for labourers and workers suffering heat strokes. We are witnessing a definite, recurring pattern of extreme summer heat. The pattern is already an intrinsic part of summers, and climatologists fear things may become worse in the coming years. So, we should be talking about more than the basics. The focus should be on tweaking working hours without affecting productivity but sparing the workers from heat fatigue. Proposals for the work hours to begin earlier than usual or shift to the late afternoons and early evenings are worth examining. Implementing them is not easy without backup infrastructure, including the provision of power and, possibly, transport and arrangements of creches, temporarily in 'anganwadis', for the children of the labourers. By now, the National Disaster Management Authority could have met to discuss a summer public works protocol roping in organisations from the Centre, the States, and the non-governmental sector. The Authority's website does recognise the threat that extreme summers pose. The homepage lists the criteria offered by the weather office for heatwaves and spells out first-aid and stroke-prevention measures. It also acknowledges that India is also feeling the impact of heatwaves. But that is all.

### PICTALK



People perform yoga during a yoga event ahead of International Day of Yoga at the banks of Lower Lake in Bhopal

# Hindus' incoherent angst about identity



PRAFULL GORADIA

If the Hindus had found a sufficiently eloquent manner of expressing their pain, the Muslims could then have taken the current changes in their stride

A few people know what Sir Arnold Toynbee told his Indian audience when he came to address them to commemorate Maulana Abul Kalam Azad. Toynbee had come at Jawaharlal Nehru's special invitation in the early 1960s. Arnold Toynbee said: "In the course of the first Russian occupation of Warsaw, the Russians had built an Eastern Cathedral in the city that had been the capital of the once independent Roman Catholic country Poland. The Russians had done this to give the Poles a continuous ocular demonstration that the Russians were now the masters. After the re-establishment of Poland's independence in 1918, the Poles pulled this cathedral down. I do not blame the Polish Government for having pulled down the Russian church. The purpose for which the Russians had built it had been not religious but political, and the purpose had also been intentionally offensive."

In the Abrahamic religious tradition, a church or mosque is a prayer hall. It is not unusual for a parish in Europe to sell for money a church; say, for the reason it does not attract an adequate number of worshippers on Sundays. I was present in England when such a sale was made in Leicester and the sold-off place was brought down to be replaced with a temple. In West Asia, including Saudi Arabia, mosques are brought down to straighten or widen highways. By sharp contrast, in the Hindu belief, a temple is the residence of the divine. Therefore, it is very impious to meddle with its structure. Contrast a prayer hall with a residence of God, and one would know how deeply the Hindu sentiment has been hurt for centuries by the demolition of temples by Islamic invaders and conquerors from West and Central Asia; it is almost impossible for an Abrahamic person to imagine the extent of the psychological injury thus caused.

Quite to the contrary, when the communists came to power in Russia in 1917, they went about targeting all places of worship. This is no surprise; communism



is the fourth sibling in the Abrahamic family of religions and shares their intolerance towards any other belief system and like its siblings, has no hesitation in turning upon its fellow siblings as well.

However, it must be admitted that it is the Hindus who have largely been at fault in first allowing the emergence of a separate entity within the sovereign state of India after 1947, and thereafter, not putting forth their point of view eloquently and convincingly enough. In fact, over the centuries, they have not reacted sufficiently for the Muslims to know how badly they have hurt Hindu sentiments. In fact, more often than not, they have gathered around their destroyed edifices, wept and beaten their breasts. As a result, when the Babri structure at Ayodhya was brought down by Hindus, they had surprised the Muslims for the first time in centuries. Being the first such incident it could be taken as an exception that proves the rule. Now, with demands being raised for the restoration of Gyanvapi at Varanasi and the Idgah at Mathura, there is amazement, albeit privately, as to what has come over the Hindus.

Of equal consternation, if not greater, are the demands



CONTRAST A PRAYER HALL WITH A RESIDENCE OF GOD, ONE WOULD KNOW HOW DEEPLY THE HINDU SENTIMENT HAS BEEN HURT FOR CENTURIES BY THE DEMOLITION OF TEMPLES BY ISLAMIC INVADERS AND CONQUERORS FROM WEST AND CENTRAL ASIA

for changes in the names of the roads named after medieval Muslim conquerors. While there is much stomach-churning and hand-wringing, accompanied by a flurry of attempts to turn the narratives in favour of the "secular-liberal" lobby, hardly anyone has stopped to think, leave alone acknowledge that the injuries were first inflicted by Mahmud of Ghazni on the famous Somnath Temple and soon followed by his attack on the Keshav Dev Mandir at Mathura. Not long thereafter, were the unholy adventures by Mohammed Ghori when he converted three temples into one mosque at Ajmer and named it "Adhai Din Ka Jhopra"; the aggression was completed in 60 hours and hence the name. Barely a few years earlier, he had devastated Kannauj, then considered the capital of India. Qutbuddin Aibak's destruction of 27 Jain temples at Delhi's Mehrauli and converting them into a mosque called "Quwwat-ul-Islam" or the "might of Islam" was the next chapter of deliberate humiliation inflicted upon the Hindus.

I suppose the type of sentiments would differ from person to person. Even if we accept this contention, it was

all supposedly settled with the partition of the country on the midnight of August 14, 1947, when one-thirds of Hindu were given away to appease the progeny of those medieval conquerors, whose political representatives had declared in unambiguous terms that they could not co-exist with the Hindus. But such a settlement did not materialise and post-independent India allowed "a state within a state" to exist and flourish. When Vladimir Lenin conquered the Russian Empire for communism, most of the churches, synagogues and mosques were converted into municipal offices, departmental stores or places of any other civil purpose. In 1973, I happened to visit the sites of three such conversions. These changes were presumably accepted on the morrow of the Russian Revolution.

Be that as it may, it would have been much better if the Hindus had found a sufficiently eloquent manner of expressing their pain, the Muslims could then have taken the current changes in their stride.

(The writer is a well-known columnist, an author and a former member of the Rajya Sabha. The views expressed are personal.)

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### JOURNALIST'S KILLING

Sir—The killing of Al Jazeera journalist Shireen Abu Akleh by the Israeli forces in a raid in Jenin in the occupied West Bank was tragic. Documenting life under occupation was her sole crime. It was what led to her targeted killing by the Israeli forces. The 51-year-old brave journalist did her job in a place where her life was susceptible to danger. But undeterred by the prospect of being killed, she discharged her duties. She was the epitome of a passionate and brave journalist. She sympathised with the Palestinian cause.

She reflected in her work the pain and suffering of the Palestinians living in occupied areas. She was affectionately called "a daughter of Palestine". She keenly observed the Israeli-Palestinian conflict; she chose to be on the frontlines and at flashpoints to tell the story—the story of the stories of the Palestinians. Her face is familiar to all those who follow the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. Her unique way of telling the story won her many admirers. Her voice conveyed the strength of her feeling when she reported the systematic and structural oppression and repression of the Palestinians on a daily basis by the right-wing Israeli regime. The Israeli military stifled her voice, but her martyrdom will inspire all those who cherish freedom and justice.

G David Milton | Kanyakumari

### BACK-BREAKING INFLATION

Sir—The retail inflation shoots up to a 95-month high in April, paving the way for more policy rate hikes by the central bank. Inflation has remained above the central bank's upper tolerance limit for four consecutive months. The data released by the National Statistical Office showed the food inflation rate in April soared to 8.38 per cent as prices of edible oils and vegetables shot up by 17.3 per cent and 15.4 per cent, respectively.

Fuel inflation also breached the double-digit mark at 10.8 per cent in April due to rising retail prices of petrol, diesel, and cooking gas even as crude oil prices softened from March. The second round impact of higher energy prices has become



## Historic verdict

The Supreme Court's verdict to stay all pending cases, appeals and proceedings with respect to the charges framed under Section 124A (Sedition law) was historic and courageous. In its first affidavit filed before the Supreme Court, the Central Government had vociferously defended the sedition law, and argued that the 1962 verdict of a constitution bench in Kedar Nath Singh vs State of Bihar case upholding its validity had withstood "the test of time" and needed no reconsider-

ation. However, the Government filed another affidavit, wherein it said, it had decided to re-examine and reconsider the sedition law, and urged the apex court to wait for the review by a "competent forum" and to "not invest time" on petitions filed by the Editors' Guild of India and others. The dramatic political volte-face reflected the discomfort of the ruling establishment in losing the sharp claws of the colonial law.

In the early 1960s, Kedar Nath Singh was sentenced to rigorous imprisonment for his speech, "We believe in that revolution, which will come and in the flames of which the capitalists, zamindars and... will be reduced to ashes and on their ashes will be established a government of the poor and the downtrodden people of India." India's first Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru had wanted to "get rid of it (Section 124A)," and the latest Supreme Court verdict is a ray of hope.

Haridasan Rajan | Kozhikode

visible with transport and communication prices rising in double digits by 10.9 per cent. The services sector inflation rate rose to a 115-month high at 8.03 per cent as household goods and services (7.79 per cent) and personal care (8.62 per cent) inched up. With this there is very heavy burden on the common people who are struggling for survival and the country is heading for a disastrous situation.

Bhagwan Thadani | Mumbai

### WIDENING NATO BLOC

Sir—Recently, in Russia's neighbouring country Finland, a referendum was held regarding joining the NATO. About 62 per cent of people had given their consent to join the NATO. However, it is noteworthy that just before the Russian invasion of Ukraine, most people in Finland wanted to remain neutral. However, seeing the condition of the people of Ukraine, they felt that joining the NATO bloc would secure their 13,00 kilometres border with Russia. Moreover, till 1917 Finland was a division

of Russia. Therefore, the vultures of Russia may also have an eye on them. NATO Secretary-General Jens Stoltenberg has said he expects the membership process for Sweden and Finland to be "quite quickly".

Jang Bahadur Singh | Jamshedpur

### MARITAL RAPE A CRIME

Sir—It is gut-wrenching to read the split judgment on marital rape by the Delhi High Court where one judge said it is not a crime as the existing law. A husband has no right to force himself on his wife. A rape is a rape, there is no exception.

The act of rape itself destroys the institution of marriage. It was expected that both the justices should have declared marital rape as a crime. However, the only grace is that both the judges have allowed the parties to move the Supreme Court against their split verdict on marital rape.

Vishal Mayur | Tumkur

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

## Walk the talk

If Congress did not resolve the leadership issue then talks about revamp will have few takers

Both Opposition and the BJP camps will keenly watch the deliberations at the three-day Congress Chintan Shivir at Udaipur where the GOP will try to find ways to stem the rot within the party and settle the leadership issue. Ironically, the grand old party which wants to lead the nation has no permanent leader itself. The continuation of Sonia Gandhi as interim president is not only a perceptual disaster but it also reflects a complete lack of professionalism in the functioning of the party and its obsession not to allow anyone outside the Gandhi family to steer its course even when 10 Janpath has failed to perform, at least electorally. An army is as good as its general, the saying rings so true in the case of Congress. Sonia Gandhi rarely makes any public appearance, and Rahul Gandhi has yet to project himself as a leader who can keep the party together, mend fences with old guards, and sacrifice his foreign jaunts for the party's sake. Somehow a perception has gained ground over the years that Rahul Gandhi lacked the killer instinct to lead the party to electoral victories. It's one thing to address public rallies and hit out at the Modi Government, it's another to plan and plot strategies to fight electoral battles. Take the case of Punjab and Uttarakhand, where Congress virtually gave walkovers to the BJP in the assembly polls because of the failure of the leadership to resolve the infighting even at the peak of electioneering.

Sonia Gandhi's words in her inaugural address at the Chintan Shivir that "We need to change the way of our working", apply as much to the party workers as to the leadership. Similarly, when Sonia urged party leaders to keep the organization above personal ambitions, saying the party has given "us a lot and it's time to pay back", many would ask should not charity begin from home. For years the Congress leaders have been playing the same old tune. It's time they walk the talk themselves. Sonia Gandhi may have rightly said that the Shivir is an occasion to discuss the challenges before the party and bring organisational changes, but if Congress did not resolve the leadership issue and showed a readiness to empower leaders from outside the Gandhi family, too, then all the talks about organizational revamp will have few takers.



## SOUND BITE

I am deeply saddened to know about the passing away of HH Sheikh Khalifa bin Zayed.

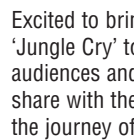


Prime Minister — Narendra Modi



Competition system in India is well behind big boxing countries and it needs to seize the momentum back.

High Performance Director — Santiago Nieva



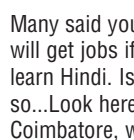
Excited to bring 'Jungle Cry' to audiences and share with them the journey of these heroes.

Actor — Abhay Deol



I'm a player living with an injury. It's nothing new. It's something that is there, unfortunately.

Tennis star — Rafael Nadal



Many said you will get jobs if you learn Hindi. Is it so... Look here in Coimbatore, who is selling pani puri.

TN Higher Education Minister — K Ponmudy



FIRST COLUMN

THE JAPANESE HAVE THEIRS, WE'LL SOON HAVE OURS

It's all about commuting from home to work and back!



R C **ACHARYA**

Urbanisation the world over has spawned transport systems ranging from bicycles to horse drawn carriages, buses, cars, trains. The ultimate in trains being the 'Bullet' trains which first appeared in Japan in 1964. Typically, a commute should last no more than 2 or 3 hours beyond which sustaining it on a daily basis, 5 days a week, months on end, would be somewhat inconvenient. The urban sprawl has been somewhat limited by this need to commute where typically the Railway commuter systems world over such as the Delhi Metro, London tube, or New York Transit system running at an average speed of 100 kmph would cover 200 kms in 2 hrs. However, the Japanese found a way to beat this limit by introducing trains with an average speed of 250 kmph, the bullet-shaped nose of the lead bogie earning it the name — 'Bullet' train. It connected Osaka 500 kms away to Tokyo, enabling a daily commute in just 2 hours. Rising out of the ashes of the Second World War II, Shinkansen was a bold reassessment



tion of Japanese national pride, and involved concerted effort by the Government, business and the scientific community to place priority on train travel. These state-of-the-art trains run on dedicated tracks laid usually on concrete to minimise maintenance, and have few level crossings, enabling them to maintain an accident-free record for the last almost 60 years. Tokaido Shinkansen, covering 515 km between Tokyo and Shin-Osaka, was the first service, serving a number of major cities Shin-Yokohama, Shizuoka, Nagoya, and Kyoto en route.

Laid with tracks having a curve radius of no less than 4 km, the speed could now be raised to 260 km. Serving the major cities of Shin-Osaka, Shin-Kobe, Okayama, Hiroshima, Kokura, and Hakata, the line was a precursor to a nationwide Shinkansen network. Now, most trains attain a maximum speed of 300 kmph. A new station complex at Shinagawa, just south of Tokyo station, was opened in October 2003, which allowed some trains to start and terminate there, thereby increasing the number of trains on the Tokaido line from 11 to 15 per hour, that is, one every four minutes. In all, nine lines, ranging from the smallest of Hakata-Minami with just 8.5 km run by JR West, and the longest of Tokyo-Hachinohe of 593 km, totalling 2556 km are now in operation. Japan, being a relatively small country, the short runs at high speeds have successfully made the nation virtually a suburb of Tokyo. And to keep commuters happy, trains run, as suburban trains of Mumbai do, on some sections at three-and-a-half-minute intervals during peak hours. Back home, we still have to dream about our own "Bullet" trains soon becoming part of the Indian scenery running between Ahmedabad and Mumbai, making the 492-km journey in just two hours against the seven now taken by the super-fast Shatabdi Express. In the process it would also put fast growing tier 2 cities such as Surat, Valsad, Bharuch, and Vadodara, on a quick transit map connecting to India's financial capital, Mumbai. With trains running at an average speed of 250 kmph, completing a journey from city-centre to city-centre in just under two hours would also save a traveller the hassles of a long commute to and from the airport, security checks and uncertainty created during foggy days. Trains may be delayed, but you don't have to cool your heels in the passenger lounge waiting for the announcement to board. Last but not the least, they will always reach you to the intended destination, and in one piece.


(The writer is a former Member, Railway Board. The views expressed are personal.)

# Venture Capitalists to provide strategic direction to startups

## The role of venture capitals has to be much more than selecting a good business to provide funding and should extend to value-creation

The importance of startups in an economy cannot be undermined as they are technological revolutionaries, disruptors and creators. They create new industries, provide jobs, increase income levels, improve quality of life and play a critical role in the changing the image of a nation. With as many as 50,000 startups, of which a significant increase is from tier-II and tier-III cities like Kochi, Ahmedabad and Pune, India is now considered world's 3rd largest ecosystem, according to Startup India portal.

However, failure is the other side of Startup industry. In a study conducted by Oxford Economics and IBM's Institute of Business Value, it was found that 90% of India's startups fail due to lack of innovation. In



HIMA BINDU **KOTA**

(The writer is Associate Professor at Amity University, Noida. The views expressed are personal.)

# Sustainability - road to a better future

Sustainability emphasizes the need for society to conserve resources, protect natural ecosystems, minimize pollution and promote social equity



SANJEEV SINGHAL

Man kind is facing the greatest threat of climate emergency which is being termed as "Code red for humanity". Industrialization, urbanization and increasing population has led to unprecedented crisis catalysed by over exploitation of natural resources, and their contamination with toxic chemicals and pollutants. There are far-reaching impacts of ever-increasing greenhouse gases on our planet. According to estimates of various agencies like, Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) this will result in rise of earth temperature by 02 °C by 2050.

Global warming is giving rise to natural calamities like, flood, drought, melting of glaciers, etc. As per a United Nations report the human-caused rate of extinction of species of both plants and animals at present is hundreds of times higher than the natural rate in the past and as the situation is turning out it can be thousands of times higher in near future. Across the world, people are facing challenge of availability of potable water, pure air to breathe and also ever an alarming problem of land degradation.

"The Global Risks Report 2022" issued by World Economic Forum states that over a 10-year horizon, the health of the planet dominates concerns: environmental risks are perceived to be the five most critical long-term threats to the world as well as the most potentially damaging to people and planet, with "climate action failure", "extreme weather", and "biodiversity loss" ranking as the top three most severe risks. Human-induced climate change is causing dangerous and widespread disruption in nature and affecting the lives of billions of people around the world, despite efforts to reduce the risks. People and ecosystems least able to cope are being hardest hit. Non-degradable wastes being generated is increasing every minute and are the cause of contamination of natural resources and also causing harm to the humans. As per a recent report, a mass of plastic waste named as "Great Pacific Garbage Patch" approximately 1.6 million km in size, twice the size of Texas, is floating on the surface of Pacific Ocean.

This alarming situation is the major attention area and it is the need of the hour that Governments and non-government organizations involving individuals, communities, countries, and the globe as whole, aligns themselves with the basic principles of 'sustainability'. Human society and economy are thriving on nature, and only harmonious existence will allow Homo sapiens to persist and thrive on this planet.

Sustainability emphasizes the need for society to conserve resources, protect natural ecosystems, minimize pollution and promote social equity. In 1987 the World Commission on Environment and Development, also popularly known as the Brundtland Report, defined development



A MASS OF PLASTIC WASTE NAMED AS "GREAT PACIFIC GARBAGE PATCH" APPROXIMATELY 1.6M KM IN SIZE, TWICE THE SIZE OF TEXAS, IS FLOATING ON THE SURFACE OF PACIFIC OCEAN

(The writer is a C.A. and Chairman, Sustainability Reporting Standards Board. The views expressed are personal.)



as 'sustainable' when it 'meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs'. There are three pillars of sustainability - environment, society and economy. Environmental sustainability is the most familiar concept which emphasizes on not overusing natural resources and focus on their sustainable management. Global actions are required to protect natural ecosystems and biodiversity, for ensuring clean water and air. Social sustainability has the objective to ensure that everyone has access to basic necessities like, clean, water, adequate food, health-care, shelter, and human rights. It also means setting policies to encourage fair policies at workplace so that there is no exploitation and discrimination. Economic sustainability has been defined as practices that support long-term economic growth without negatively impacting social, environmental and cultural aspects of the community. Multi-level collaboration is required to achieve sustainability and address interconnected problems by balancing the needs of economic growth and resource conservation equally. We all should all take steps to incorporate sustainability into every aspect of our life. Our willingness to think and act differently by putting economic development and environment on equal footing as central parts of the same equation will help us resolve glaring problems like, air pollution, food shortage and food scarcity.

Entities can have positive impact on society and the economy by improving their sustainability performance. Sustainability

Reporting is gaining momentum year on year due to stakeholder's ever-rising demands for more transparent and better communication regarding their sustainability practices, initiatives and performance. Much like their global counterparts, Indian corporates too are leaning towards the reporting frameworks to demonstrate their ability to create, preserve and grow value for a diverse stakeholder base.

The Institute of Chartered Accountants of India (ICAI) has a strong tradition of service to the country towards sustainable as well as economic development. ICAI through Sustainability Reporting Standards Board (SRSB), has taken several initiatives in the sustainability domain and is working to strengthen the sustainability reporting ecosystem in the country. With a view to strengthen sustainability reporting ecosystem in the country, important publications like, Background Material on Business Responsibility and Sustainability Reporting (BRSR) and Standard on Assurance Engagements (SAE) 3410 "Assurance Engagements on Greenhouse Gas Statements" have been released. Sustainability Reporting Maturity Model (SRMM) Version 1.0, a comprehensive scoring tool, has been developed to measure their sustainability performance in terms of four levels of maturity of sustainability reporting namely Level 1 to Level 4. Publication on "Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) - Accountants Creating Sustainable World - Part 1, 2 and 3" has been developed to encourage all stakeholders to contribute towards the attainment of SDGs. ICAI

Sustainability Reporting Awards 2020-21 and ICAI Sustainability Reporting Awards 2020-21 are being conducted to recognize, reward and encourage Excellence of Businesses in Sustainability Reporting and bring to light their outstanding contribution to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. Capacity building of the chartered accountants in this emerging area is being done by conducting online Certificate on Business Responsibility and Sustainability Reporting. Awareness initiatives like, Carbon Footprint Challenge, ICAI Sustainability Literacy Drive, Corporate film on Simple Steps to make our Planet Sustainable, Champions of SDGs and SDG Videos have also been undertaken. Contributing to the initiatives of SEBI to create an ecosystem via Social Stock Exchanges, ICAI is in the process of developing Social Audit Standards and working on Certification Course for Social Auditors.

ICAI is partnering with stakeholders, government, regulators, and others to help maximize contribution to SDGs and also collaborating with international bodies in advancing sustainability agenda. ICAI also welcomes the announcement of formation of new International Sustainability Standards Board (ISSB) by the IFRS Foundation (IFRSF) and extends full support towards convergence to a single set of sustainability reporting standards. New initiatives have been planned in the area of Sustainable Finance, Green Bonds, ESG rating and Climate related Financial Disclosures. ESG Talk show, sustainability awareness quiz, training program for board members on ESG, tree plantation drive are other initiatives in pipeline. All these initiatives are focused towards promoting sustainable organizations that create long-term value for investors and society.

A sustainable future requires that homo sapiens live within planetary boundaries in harmony with nature. Governments and policymakers should work together to enhance national implementation and strengthen institutions to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals by the target date of 2030, leaving no one behind. As individuals, we all should contribute in addressing this global crisis by changing our mindset and habits and adopting sustainable choices in our day-to-day life. A healthy planet will thrive and nurture happy and safe survival for present and future generations.

## POINT COUNTERPOINT

"MY BEST WISHES TO THE NEWLY APPOINTED PM...I LOOK FORWARD TO WORKING TOGETHER WITH HIM TO MAKE SRI LANKA STRONG AGAIN."  
— PRESIDENT OF SRI LANKA  
GOTABAYA RAJAPAKSA



"...MR. (RANIL) WICKREMESINGHE HAD NO LEGITIMACY IN THE CURRENT PARLIAMENT RIGHT FROM THE BEGINNING. HE DID NOT EVEN WIN IN HIS CONSTITUENCY."  
— MP, TAMIL NATIONAL ALLIANCE  
M A SUMANTHIRAN



# Seminar to discuss threat to democracy from dynasty politics

With PM hitting out at dynastic politics, think tank RMP is taking the discourse further

DEEPAK K UPRETI ■ NEW DELHI

Against the backdrop of Prime Minister Narendra Modi repeatedly hitting out at dynastic politics asserting it deprived the common man his rightful place to participate in the political process, the Mumbai-based RSS-BJP-linked think tank Rambhau Mhalgi Prabodhini (RMP) is taking the discourse further. A day-long seminar to discuss the impact of "dynasty based political parties" on the health of democratic process in the country and "ways and means to regulate" party formation will be organised here on May 19 and

the recommendations will be submitted to the Election Commission of India for its consideration. The seminar organised at Nehru Memorial Auditorium will be inaugurated by BJP president J P Nadda. According to Rajya Sabha member Vinay Sahasrabudhe, who is also Vice Chairman of the RMP, the discussion would cover aspects like "democratic deficit" due to dynastic parties and "possible regulatory framework for preventing mushrooming of dynasty based political parties". Besides Nadda, RMP

Chairman Devendra Fadanvis, senior advocate Mahesh Jethmalani as also representatives of "non-dynastic parties" like Union Minister RCP Singh of JD (U), AIADMK's M Thambidurai and AGP's Birdendra Prasad Baishya will share their views on "dynasty-ism".

Academics like Prof



Anand Ranganathan and Prof Sandeep Shastri will also speak at this Seminar. JNU Vice Chancellor Santishree Pandit will be delivering the valedictory address.

"Recommendations evolved at the end of deliberations will be presented to the Election Commission of India, later," said Sahasrabudhe.

"Defining that dynastic parties are those that are controlled by a particular dynasty for generation after generation, and where not just the

Presidentship is held by a dynast but other key office bearers also come from the same family, organisers of the seminar said that such practices dilute democratic credentials and cause a serious harm to the institution of political parties," said a statement by the think-tank without naming any political parties including Congress, Samajwadi Party, Rashtriya Janata Dal , National Conference or the DMK.

The 'anti-dynasty theme' was recently also raised by the Civil Aviation Minister Jyotiraditya Scindia, (who incidentally hails from the royal Scindia family and his aunt Vadsundhara Rajee , ex-Rajasthan Chief Minister; too is in the party).

Last week he said, "Dynastic politics has no place in the BJP and the Prime Minister believes that party workers be rewarded based on their work and not as per fam-

ily affiliations".

Sahasrabudhe sought to say that the total monopoly of dynasties over political parties "serves as a death-knell to internal democracy in parties".

"Under the existing mechanism in such dynasty driven parties a single family controls practically everything, party finance, party membership, party candidacy, and also decisions about alliances and political partnerships. This serves as a death-knell to internal democracy in Parties", said Sahasrabudhe.

"A party giving candidature to sons and daughters of its leaders is one thing and a family acquiring total control of a party is totally different. The latter is most detrimental to the cause of democracy," he said. In India, out of th 50 major political parties from the 2700 registered and recognised parties, at least 4/5th are dynasty based. This phenomenon "seriously narrows down the available choices for a voter as it afflicts the element of competition," he said.

# CBI books Army officer posted at Port Blair for graft



PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The CBI has booked an Army officer posted at Port Blair for alleged corruption and graft from different private suppliers in connivance with field officers in procurement of ration and other materials for canteen stores department.

It is alleged that Lt Col Abhishek Chandra, the then Station Staff Officer SSO (Contract and Victualling) had demanded bribes from different suppliers during 2018.

The CBI action came following Government sanction to the CBI to proceed with the probe against the officer.

The FIR alleged that Chandra in 2018 entered into criminal conspiracy with Subham Choudhary of Kolkata-based Rochak Agro Food Products Ltd and its representative Dayal Chandra Das to "extend favours" in return for bribes.

Chandra allegedly misused his official position and ensured award of the contract for supply of food items including spices to Base Victualling Yard, Minnie Bay, Port Blair, Andaman without Price Negotiation Committee (PNC) to Rochak Agro Food Products Pvt Ltd., Kolkata and also extended favour in return of bank guarantee of the said company, deposited for the previous contract with BV Yard, Port Blair, it alleged.

In return for the favours, Chandra allegedly demanded and agreed to accept a bribe of Rs 75,000 from Choudhary either in the form of two cheques issued from the account of anyone except the favoured company or in the form of two gift vouchers of jewellery brand Tanishq.

Choudhary could not arrange gift vouchers so

tive, allegedly tried to pay Rs 1 lakh as part payment but Chandra refused and demanded the full amount. Muthu then used debit cards to withdraw money from the ATM and made a payment of Rs 2.5 lakh to Chandra, the FIR alleged.

Chandra had also directed Das to negotiate with the officers posted in BV Yard so that they "do not raise hue and cry" regarding late arrival of consignment or discrepancy in materials ordered and supplied.

Das allegedly paid a bribe of Rs 10,000 in March 2018 to one Routh who was posted in BV Yard for not raising any objection with respect to the supplies of Rochak Agro Products.

# 1 serving, 2 retired IAF officers get life sentence for custodial death of cook 27 years ago

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

A special CBI court in Ahmedabad has sentenced two retired and one serving officers of the Indian Air Force (IAF) to life imprisonment for the custodial murder of a cook 27 years ago, officials said here on Friday.

Girija Rawat, a cook at the air force station in Jamnagar, was tortured to death in November 1995 after it was suspected that he stole liquor the canteen.

The convicted officers are Anoop Sood, then a Squadron Leader at the Air Force-I in Jamnagar, and then Sergeants Anil KN and Mahendra Singh Sherawat.

Sood, who retired as Group Captain, claims to be an orientation programme speaker and a trained commando from the NSG on his social media profile.

Anil also retired from the IAF, while Sehrawat was still serving. The CBI had taken over the case on February 22, 2012 on the orders of the Gujarat High Court on a plea of Rawat's wife.

"...It was further alleged

that on November 13, 1995, 10-12 Air Force Police Officials, including then Squadron Leader Anoop Sood, conducted searches at the residence of Rawat and took him with them

forcibly to confess about stealing of liquor from the Air Force Canteen," CBI Spokesperson R C Joshi said. He said Rawat's wife visited the guard room in the evening seeking release of her husband.

"She was told that her husband would be released soon. The accused allegedly tortured him which caused his death. On November 14, 1995, she was informed about the death of her husband and was asked to collect the body," Joshi said.

After thorough investigation, the CBI filed a charge sheet on July 30, 2013 against the accused on the charges of criminal conspiracy and murder, he said.

"The trial court found the said accused guilty and convicted them (recently). Three accused were acquitted by the court and one accused expired during the trial," Joshi said.

# ISI hand in RPG attack in Punjab; 6 held

Manhunt to nab Charat Singh the key attacker on Punjab Police Intelligence Office and two unknown aides

PNS ■ CHANDIGARH

Punjab Police on Friday claimed to have cracked Mohali's Rocket-Propelled Grenade (RPG) attack case with the arrest of six people, including a woman.

The State police chief VK Bhawra claimed that Pakistan's Inter-Services Intelligence (ISI) was involved in the attack and the key conspirator is gangster Lakhbir Singh Landa from Tarn Taran, a close associate of Pakistan-based wanted terrorist Harvinder Singh Rinda.

"Canada-based gangster Lakhbir Singh alias Landa has emerged as the key han-



Punjab DGP VK Bhawra, along with ADGP Internal Security RN Dhole and Mohali SSP Vivek Sheel Soni, addressing the media at Punjab Police headquarters at Chandigarh on Friday

dlar, who provided the RPG, AK-47, and the local network of criminals for logistic support to carry out the terror attack at Punjab Police Intelligence Headquarters in Mohali on Monday evening," said the Director-General of Police (DGP) while addressing the media at Punjab Police headquarters at Chandigarh.

Thirty three-year-old

Landa, who had fled to Canada in 2017, is a close aide of Harvinder Singh alias Rinda and had joined hands with Babbar Khalsa International (BKI). Rinda is close to BKI chief Wadhawa Singh and the ISI.

"Landa is based in Canada...He is still involved in making ransom calls to doctors, businessmen, singers, etc," said DGP

Bhawra.

The DGP said that the police have also arrested six people for their involvement in planning and providing the local logistic support to the attackers for carrying out the attack.

The police has arrested Nishan Singh of Kulla Village in Bhikhiwind of Tarn Taran district; Jagdeep Singh Kang of Wave Estate in Mohali's Sector 85; Kanwarjit Singh alias Kanwar Bath of Gumtala in Amritsar; Baljinder Singh alias Rambo of Patti in Tarn Taran; Anant Deep Singh alias Sonu of Amritsar's Guru Nanak Colony; and Baljit Kaur alias Sukhi of Kot Khalsa in Amritsar.

Two cars, including an SUV Toyota Fortuner and Hatchback Maruti Swift, have also been recovered from their possession. Earlier, the sleeve of the RPG was also recovered.

Pertinently, Nishan was arrested by the Faridkot police on May 11, in an

Arms Act case and he is on police remand till May 16.

Accompanied by ADGP Internal Security RN Dhole and Mohali SSP Vivek Sheel Soni, the DGP said that as per his "assessment", the attack was more to give a signal as the time was chosen when all the officers had left the building.

With the police yet to identify two of the three attackers, Bhawra said: "Foot soldiers are being arranged by the gangsters."

Giving details of the modus operandi, the DGP said that Landa took the help of Nishan Singh and his other accomplice, identified as Charat Singh of Khem Karan, for carrying out the RPG attack at the Intelligence headquarters. Being a local resident, Mohali's Jagdeep helped Charat in conducting a survey of the Intelligence Office on Monday morning. In the evening, Charat and his two aides, who are yet to be identified, had carried out the attack at the Intelligence headquarters at about 7.42 pm, he said.

# Senior IAS officer appointed as chairperson of CBSE

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Senior IAS officer Nidhi Chibber has been appointed as the chairperson of the Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) in a top-level bureaucratic reshuffle effected by the Centre on Friday. Chibber, a 1994 batch Indian Administrative Service officer of Chhattisgarh cadre, is currently Additional Secretary, Ministry of Heavy Industries.

Vivek Kumar Dewangan, a 1993 batch IAS officer of Manipur cadre, has been named Chairman & Managing Director, REC Ltd., Ministry of Power. He is currently Additional Secretary in the Ministry of Power.

While S Gopalakrishnan, Additional Secretary in the Prime Minister's Office (PMO) has been appointed as Additional Secretary, Department of Health and Family Welfare, Rakesh Sarwal, Additional Secretary, NITI

Aayog will be Managing Director, National Waqf Development Corporation Ltd., Ministry of Minority Affairs, the order said.

Aditi Das Rout, Joint Secretary, Ministry of Women and Child Development has been promoted as Additional Secretary in the same ministry. Shyam Bhagat Negi, Joint Secretary, Ministry of Coal will be Additional Secretary, Cabinet Secretariat.

Manisha Sinha, Joint Secretary, Department of Economic Affairs, Ministry of Finance has been appointed as Additional Secretary, in the same department and Kumar Anugreh Prasad Sinha will be Additional Secretary of the National Disaster Management Authority.

Sinha, a 1992 batch IAS officer, is currently working in his cadre state Punjab. Amar Nath, Additional Secretary in the Ministry of Petroleum & Natural Gas, has been posted as

Additional Secretary, Department of Administrative Reforms and Public Grievances, Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions.

Vikas Sheel, Additional Secretary, Department of Health and Family Welfare has been named as Additional Secretary and Mission Director, Jal Jeevan Mission, Department of Drinking Water and Sanitation while Alok Shekhar, who is presently working in his cadre state Punjab, will be Additional Secretary, Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation.

Rakesh Kumar Singh, Joint Secretary, Ministry of Home Affairs will be Additional Secretary, Ministry of Home Affairs and Surendra Singh, Joint Secretary, Department of Social Justice and Empowerment has been appointed as Additional Secretary in the same department. Pravir Pandey, a 1992

batch officer of Indian Audit and Accounts Service, has been appointed as Additional Secretary and Financial Advisor, Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change.

Vandana Kumar, Joint Secretary, Ministry of New and Renewable Energy has been named as Additional Secretary, Ministry of New and Renewable Energy and Ajay Tewari, currently Joint Secretary in Ministry of Labour & Employment will be Additional Secretary, Ministry of Power.

Alka Nangia Arora, Joint Secretary, Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises has been named as Joint Secretary and Financial Advisor, Department of Agricultural Research and Education by temporarily downgrading the post of Additional Secretary and Financial Advisor in the department, the order said.

# President Kovind to visit Jamaica, Saint Vincent and Grenadines from May 15 to 21

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

In the first ever visit by an Indian head of state, President Ram Nath Kovind will visit Jamaica and Saint Vincent and the Grenadines (SVG) from May 15 to 21. This visit to the two countries is reflective of a commitment to Small Island Developing States and Caribbean Community (CARICOM).

Giving details of the President's schedule, Secretary (East) Ministry of External Affairs Saurabh Kumar said here on Friday, Kovind will present cricket kits to aspiring Indian cricketers during his visit to the two countries including Jamaica and St. Vincent and Grenadines

(SVG). The President will also hold discussions with his counterpart Governor-General Susan Dougan and will also meet Prime Minister Ralph Gonsalves. Kovind will address the Parliament of SVG. Kumar said the SVG has about 7,700 people of Indian origin settled in the SVG.

As regards his itinerary in Jamaica, the President will hold delegation-level talks with his counterpart Patrick Allen, the Governor-General of Jamaica. Kovind will also meet Prime Minister Andrew Holness. He will also address the Joint Sitting of the two Houses of the Jamaican Parliament.

Jamaica and India have friendly relations. Jamaica is

also one of the Girmitya countries with a 70,000 strong Indian diaspora, who acts as a living bridge with India," the ministry said. The visit comes at a significant milestone as 2022 is the 60th anniversary of establishment of diplomatic relations between India and Jamaica, it added.

Jamaica and SVG are active members in the Caribbean Community (CARICOM). The first-ever Head of State visit to these countries is a continuation of India's high-level engagement with the countries in the Caribbean region and emphasizes our continued commitment to work with Small Island developing countries, the external affairs ministry had said a few days back.

# Monsoon to hit Kerala on May 27, five days early: IMD

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

South-west monsoon, considered as the lifeline of India's agri-based economy, is likely to bring first showers to Kerala by May 27, five days earlier than the normal onset date, the weather office announced on Friday.

"This year, the onset of southwest monsoon over Kerala is likely to be earlier than the normal date of onset. The monsoon onset over Kerala is likely to be on May 27 with a model error of four days," India Meteorological Department (ID) said.

In 2009, the south-west monsoon had reached Kerala on May 23. Weather scientists attribute the early onset of southwest monsoon over

Kerala to the influence of the remnants of cyclone Asani that triggered the cross-equatorial flow, a key factor for the seasonal rains. The early arrival of the south-west monsoon comes at a time when parts of north-west India were experiencing extremely high maximum temperatures.

On Thursday, the weather office had forecast the onset of south-west monsoon over Andaman & Nicobar islands on May 15, nearly a week ahead of schedule.

"In association with enhanced cross equatorial winds, conditions are becoming favorable for the advance of Southwest Monsoon into South Andaman Sea, Nicobar Islands and some parts of southeast Bay of Bengal, around May 15,"

the IMD said in a statement.

At the same time, the weather office made it clear that past data suggest that there is no association of the date of monsoon advance over the Andaman Sea either with the date of monsoon onset over Kerala or with the seasonal monsoon rainfall over the country.

The IMD said due to strong westerly flow from Arabian Sea to south peninsula India in lower troposphere levels fairly widespread light/moderate rainfall with isolated thunderstorm/lightning/gusty winds likely over Kerala, Mahe, Tamil Nadu, Puducherry and Karaikal, south interior Karnataka and Lakshadweep over the next five days.

# Security preparedness for Amarnath Yatra reviewed

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Union Home Secretary Ajay Bhalla on Friday reviewed the security preparedness for the Amarnath Yatra scheduled to begin on June 30 after a gap of two years.

The Home Secretary reviewed the security preparedness for the Amarnath Yatra with top officials of paramilitary forces and the Jammu and Kashmir administration, officials said.

About 10,000 paramilitary personnel (100 companies) in addition to Jammu and Kashmir Police are expected to be deployed along the two pilgrimage routes via Pahalgam and Baltal, they said. About three lakh pilgrims are likely to

take part in the yatra, which is expected to end on August 11. CRPF Director General Kuldeep Singh and BSF DG Pankaj Singh, along with other officers, attended the meeting physically, while Jammu and Kashmir officials attended it through video conference.

The annual pilgrimage to the cave shrine located in the upper reaches of south Kashmir could not be carried out in 2020 and 2021 due to the coronavirus pandemic, while it was cut short in 2019 just before the abrogation of Article 370. Amarnath pilgrimage will be a big security challenge for the government as Jammu and Kashmir has been witnessing a number of targeted killings in recent weeks.



# TN Min takes jibe at ‘Hindi will fetch job’ claims

Points out at pani puri sellers

PTI ■ COIMBATORE/CHENNAI

Tamil Nadu Higher Education Minister K Ponmudy on Friday asserted that the State Government will continue with the two-language formula as its policy, and decried any attempts of alleged Hindi imposition and questioned claims that learning the language will fetch jobs.

Taking a dig on those who insist jobs will be available for people learning Hindi, the Minister asked who are selling 'pani puri' in the Coimbatore now, an obvious reference to the predominantly Hindi-speaking vendors involved in the trade in the city. He, however, later clarified his comments on pani puri sellers did not amount to 'profiling.'

His comments came at the 37th convocation of Bharathiar University in Coimbatore, presided over by state Governor R N Ravi, also the varsity Chancellor, where the minister reiterated the ruling



DMK's stand against 'imposition' of Hindi, a claim which Ravi sought to dismiss by saying "there is no question of imposition of Hindi or any other language on anyone."

Ponmudy said he used the platform to highlight Tamil Nadu's sentiments over the language issue as the Governor would convey them to the Centre. He recalled that English and Tamil have been in vogue in Tamil Nadu for long and that the same will continue while students were not against learning other languages, including Hindi.

Many said you will get jobs if you learn Hindi. Is it so...Look here in Coimbatore, who is selling pani puri. It is them (Hindi-speaking individuals)," he said.

"If a cat can go through a hole, can't a rat," he asked cryptically. Ponmudy said students of the state were ready to learn any language and that they were not against other languages including Hindi.

Noting that the state government was ready to adopt good schemes in the New Education Policy (NEP 2020), the minister said there should not be any imposition of Hindi and students can prefer any language as the third option, but the state will follow the system prevailing now. Alleging Hindi imposition through NEP 2020, the Tamil Nadu government has already said the two-language policy, comprising Tamil and English, will continue to remain in practice.

"We don't want to agitate against the good things in NEP. We are ready to follow them. But at the same time, in Tamil Nadu we should have our own language. India is a land of unity in diversity. In Tamil Nadu we should follow our own education system... We should follow certain good policies from the NEP," Ponmudy added.

# Heatwave sweeps western Raj; Barmer, Jaisalmer worst hit

PTI ■ BARMER/JAISALMER

Streets in many places in Swestern Rajasthan bear a deserted look during much of the day as if a lockdown is in place, with people keeping indoors due to the heatwave.

Barmer recorded the highest day temperature of 48.2 degree Celsius on Thursday while the mercury soared to 47.2 in Jaisalmer.

The Meteorological Department has issued a red alert for Bikaner, Churu, Jaisalmer, Ganganagar, Hanumangarh, Jhunjhunu, and Kota districts for May 14.

It said the situation is likely to continue for next two days, after which some respite may be expected.

Meanwhile, dust storms coupled with heatwave in rural areas have disrupted the routine life.

"The heat is unbearable. As the day progresses, conditions become tougher and it becomes a challenge to go out in the afternoon," Sunil Kumar, a trader in Barmer, told PTI.



He said the sale of ACs and coolers has suddenly shot up and customers visit either in the morning hours or in late evening hours to avoid heat-stroke.

The heatwave persists till late in the night and before sleeping on the roof, people sprinkle water to reduce the impact of the heat.

Generally, people used to take bath in the evening but due to the scorching sun, water of the tanks kept on the roof turns too hot to use.

Be it Barmer or Jaisalmer, people start the day quite early and finish morning routine work by 8-9 am. "The situation is such that

even the use of water from tanks kept on the roof late in the evening can scorch the body. Even in the morning, we try to take a bath before the sun rise," Barmer resident Ram Suthar said.

Most business establishments lower their shutters and roads remain almost empty.

To minimise the impact of sunlight, shopkeepers in Jaisalmer's Pokaran town use green nets.

"It is too hot and blistering heat has made all of us suffer. Roads remain almost empty from 12 to 5 pm, and it feels like a lockdown like situation," Jai Bhati, a local vendor in Jaisalmer said.

# BJP shares Pawar speech, calls him 'Hindu hater'; NCP says video edited

PTI ■ MUMBAI

An NCP youth wing leader on Friday approached the cyber cell of Mumbai police seeking action against the BJP for uploading an alleged edited version of Sharad Pawar's recent speech in order to portray him as a "Hindu hater".

The handle @BJP4Maharashtra on Wednesday tweeted a short video of the speech and claimed that "atheist Sharad Pawar always hated Hindu religion" and he would not have achieved his political success without taking such a stand. However, some social media users pointed out it was an edited video and Pawar, in the speech made at an event on May 9 in Satara, was in fact referring to a poem by Jawahar Rathod that deals with casteism and untouchability.

In his complaint to the police, Suraj Chavan, president of the state unit of the



NCP's youth wing, said, "An attempt was made to create a divide in communities and cause law and order problems by sharing such a tempered video on Twitter. Action must be taken against the Twitter handle (of the BJP) as per sections 499, 500, 66A and 66F." Pawar had told reporters on Thursday that he was reading out lines from a poem that depicts the pain of the labour class, but went to take a swipe at the BJP by saying those who wanted to spread disinformation were free to do so.

# Panama Papers: ED seizes ₹88.30 L after raids in MP, Goa

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Enforcement Directorate (ED) has seized Rs 88.30 lakh in cash after it searched the premises of a man, whose name figured in the Panama Paper leaks, in Madhya Pradesh and Goa as part of money laundering investigation against him.

The ED has conducted searches at four premises based at Bhopal (Madhya Pradesh) and Goa in a money laundering case registered against Sanjay Vijay Shinde.

"Sanjay Vijay Shinde figured in the Panama Paper Leaks, wherein, names of various individuals were revealed who had beneficial interests in various offshore entities," the ED said in a statement.

Sanjay Vijay Shinde had beneficial interests in a British Virgin Islands based offshore entity, in whose Singapore-based bank account, more than Rs 31 crore were deposited by various offshore entities," the ED said in a statement.

The Income Tax Department filed a prosecution complaint against Sanjay Vijay Shinde under provisions of



Black Money (Undisclosed Foreign Income and Assets) and Imposition of Tax Act, 2015. Subsequently, investigation under provisions of Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA) was initiated by the ED.

Searches were conducted at the four premises related to Shinde, including the residential premises at Goa and Bhopal, the premises of his then employer VS Dempo Holdings Pvt Ltd, Goa and the premises of RPM Sonic Adventures and Caravan Resorts at Bhopal.

It said a cash amount of Rs 88.30 lakh and various incrim-

inating documents were recovered from the premises and further investigation is under progress.

Dubbed 'Panama Papers', An investigation of a stockpile of records from Panamanian legal firm Mossack Fonseca by the Washington-based International Consortium of Investigative Journalists (ICIJ) in 2016 was dubbed as 'Panama Papers'. It named several world leaders and celebrities who allegedly stashed money abroad in offshore companies.

As many as 426 India-linked cases figured in the Panama Papers.

# ED files chargesheet against two PFI leaders under PMLA

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Enforcement Directorate (ED) has filed a Supplementary Prosecution Complaint (charge sheet) against two leaders of the Popular Front of India (PFI) under the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA) before the Special PMLA Court, Lucknow with a prayer for awarding punishment to the accused.

The Court has taken cognizance of the offence of money laundering against the duo.

Earlier, a Prosecution Complaint had been filed by the ED on February 6 last year against five office bearers / members of PFI and its student wing Campus Front of India.

The latest supplementary prosecution complaint has

been filed against PFI leaders Abdul Razaq Peediyakkal alias Abdul Razak BP and Asharaf Khadir alias Ashraf MK who, in association with other PFI leaders and members associated with overseas entities, were developing a residential project - Munnar Villa Vista Project (MVVP) at Munnar, Kerala.

The motive of the accused was to launder money collected from foreign countries as well as within the country and to generate funds for PFI to finance its radical activities, the ED said in a statement.

"Investigation established that 'proceeds of crime' in the form of unaccounted & unexplained cash as well as foreign funds were parked in MVVP and were projected as untainted," it said.

# Scientists report spotting of fossil of Madtsoiidae snake

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Scientists from Wadia Institute of Himalayan Geology, Dehradun and a few other academic institutions including Panjab University Chandigarh and IIT, Ropar, have reported sighting of the fossil of a Madtsoiidae snake from the molasse deposits of Ladakh Himalaya for the first time indicating their prevalence in the subcontinent for much longer time than previously thought.

According to the scientists, Madtsoiidae is an extinct group of medium-sized to gigantic snakes, firstly appeared during the late Cretaceous and mostly distributed in the Gondwanan landmasses, although their Cenozoic record is extremely scarce.

From the fossil record, the whole group disappeared in the mid-Paleogene across most Gondwanan continents except for Australia where it survived with its last known taxon Wonambi till late Pleistocene.

The lucky team members included Dr. Ningthoujam Premjit Singh, Dr. Ramesh Kumar Sehgal, and Mr. Abhishek Pratap Singh from Wadia Institute of Himalayan Geology, Dehradun, India in association with Dr. Rajeev Patnaik and Mr. Wasim Abass Wazir from Panjab University Chandigarh; Dr. Navin Kumar and Piyush Uniyal from Indian Institute of Technology Ropar, and Dr. Andrej Cernansky of Comenius University Slovakia.



The occurrence of Madtsoiidae from the Oligocene of Ladakh indicates their continuity at least to the end of the Paleogene (geologic period and system that spans 43 million years from the end of the Cretaceous Period 66 million years ago). The research published in Journal of Vertebrate Paleontology shows that the members of this group were successful in this subcontinent for much longer time than previously thought.

The global climatic shifts and the prominent biotic reorganization across the Eocene-Oligocene boundary (which correlates to the European Grande Coupure), did not cause the extinction of this important group of snakes in India, said an official from the Science and Technology Ministry.

He said that the newly described specimen is housed in the repository of the Wadia Institute, an autonomous institute of the Department of Science and Technology.

## FROM PAGE 1

### SONIA CALLS FOR URGENT, BIG TICKET REFORMS IN CONG

"The circumstances before our organisation are unprecedented. Extraordinary situations demand extraordinary action. I am fully alert to this. The organisation has to bring changes within itself, not just to stay alive but to move forward. We are in dire need of improvement and a changing strategy," she also said.

She stressed that the Congress' revival would only happen with grand collective efforts, and those cannot be put off. Noting that the shivir is an important step in this journey, she said, "We are not oblivious to the recent failures, nor are we oblivious to the struggle we have to undertake to win. We are not unaware of the expectations of the people."

The Congress president asserted that all have gathered to take a collective and individual resolve to bring the party in the same position it once had and play the role that people expected it to play in these "deteriorating circumstances."

Taking on the Government, she said, it has become "painfully clear" what Modi and his colleagues really mean by their frequently-used slogan "maximum governance, minimum government". She said the incumbent regime is eroding the independence and professionalism of all institutions of democracy.

Sonia Gandhi also accused the BJP-led Government of "wholesale reinvention of history", constant denigration of its leaders, especially Jawaharlal Nehru and the systematic move to distort, deny and destroy their contributions, their achievements and their sacrifices. "It means glorifying the killers of Mahatma Gandhi," the Congress chief said.

She also charged that the Centre was using fear to make the bureaucracy, corporate India, sections of the civil society and the media fall in line.

Urging leaders to air their views frankly and openly during discussions at the Shivir, she said, "I urge you to openly put forward your views, but only one message should go out and that is of a strong organisation, resolve and unity."

The Grand Old Party has promised big ticket changes while acknowledging that it had not kept pace with changing times. The other major organisational reforms being considered include establishing

mandal committees between the booth and block-level in the organisation, 50 per cent representation to those below 50 years of age in party committees at all levels, fixing a maximum tenure of five years for party positions with a cooling off period of three years, setting up of a 'public insight department' for creating an in-house survey mechanism and an assessment wing to gauge the performance of office bearers.

Addressing a press conference ahead of the party's 'Chintan Shivir', Congress general secretary Ajay Maken, while acknowledging that the organisation needed an overhaul to keep pace with the changing times, said these "big changes" are in store for the party organisation and it will completely transform its working style going forward.

"The discussions at the Shivir will lay the foundations for a massive organisational overhaul. The 'One family, one ticket' rule has been discussed and will be discussed further. There is near consensus on this formula and exception will only be made if the second ticket aspirant has worked in the party for five years, doing exemplary work," Maken told reporters.

"This should not happen that a relative or son of an old leader straight away comes and fights polls," he added. The formula will be applicable to all in the party including the Gandhi family.

The exemption, however, assumes significance considering that the party is often under attack for promoting dynastic politics. The rule is being taken up to weed out multiple ticket seekers from influential families and parachute candidates. The exemption would provide a lifeline to families with many members working relentlessly for years for the organisation.

The Congress is also considering setting up an 'assessment wing' to gauge performance of office bearers, he said, adding that "good" workers should be rewarded and promoted while non-performers would be removed.

### PROTESTS ERUPT IN KASHMIR OVER RAHUL BHAT'S KILLING

"I have lost everything. My son is not alive. My only demand is to deliver justice to me," he said.

Close family members and siblings

remembered Rahul as a 'fearless' and helpful human being.

After performing rituals, the funeral procession was joined by hundreds of local residents and Kashmiri Pandits in the area.

The cremation ground in Jammu, where Rahul's mortal remains were brought ahead of the final journey, too witnessed high voltage drama. First members of the Pandit community shouted anti-Pakistan slogans and demanded capital punishment for the killers of Rahul Bhat. Soon after, BJP leaders Ravinder Raina and former Deputy Chief Minister Kavinder Gupta arrived there. They, too, were cornered by the members of the Kashmiri Pandit community, who greeted them with slogans, "For how long will our children be made scapegoats," and "hang the killers of Rahul."

To pacify the angry members of the community Ravinder Raina assured them that the security forces are determined to neutralise terrorists behind the targeted killing of Rahul Bhat.

Despite his assurances the members kept pleading for a permanent solution, saying, "Pani sir se upar chala gaya hai, hum ab bali ka bakra nahin banege (matters are getting out of hand, we will not be scapegoats)."

Sensing the mood of the community members, Manoj Sinha met the relatives of Rahul Bhat. The Office of L-G J&K tweeted, "Met the relatives of Rahul Bhat and assured justice to the family. In this hour of grief, the Government stands firmly with Rahul's family. Terrorists and their supporters will have to pay a very heavy price for their heinous act."

Traffic on the Janipur Bantalad road was also disrupted by the protesters demanding action against the killers of Rahul Bhat and a one-time solution to the hardships faced by the Kashmiri migrant employees.

In a related development, a mass resignation letter with signatures of around 350 Kashmiri Pandit employees surfaced in the social media on Friday afternoon.

The mass resignation letter stated, "Kindly accept our resignations as we are not feeling safe under the prevailing circumstances. Every second day members of the minority community are getting killed while they are discharging their duties."

Interestingly, these signatures were made on a plain paper and instead of addressing the letter to their drawing and

disbursing officers the same were addressed to L-G Manoj Sinha. A separate candle march in the memory of Rahul Bhat was also organised in Durga Nagar area to pay homage to him.

Meanwhile, three Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT) terrorists who had recently infiltrated into Kashmir were killed in an encounter with security forces in Bandipora district on Friday, police said. Two of them are suspected to be involved in Rahul Bhat's killing.

### VIDEOGRAPHY OF COMPLEX LIKELY TO BEGIN TODAY

Supreme Court, the lawyer had said he does not know much about it.

The survey was stalled last week amid objections by the mosque committee, which claimed that the advocate commissioner did not have the mandate to film inside the premises. The committee accused him of bias and filed a plea for his replacement.

Advocate Madan Mohan Yadav, who is appearing for the Hindu side, said the three court-appointed advocate commissioners, five lawyers each from the two sides and an assistant besides a videography team will carry out the survey.

People attended Friday prayers amid tight security outside the mosque.

In its order Thursday, the district court said locks should be broken if the keys are not available to access certain areas of the complex for the survey.

It also asked the district authorities to register FIRs if the survey was not allowed.

### UAE PRESIDENT SHEIKH ZAYED PASSES AWAY

Flags will be flown at half-mast and Ministries, departments, federal and local institutions will suspend work starting Friday, it said.

Sheikh Khalifa was elected to succeed his father, late Sheikh Zayed bin Sultan Al Nahyan, who served as the UAE's first president since the union in 1971 until he passed away on November 2, 2004.

Born in 1948, Sheikh Khalifa was the second President of the UAE and the 16th Ruler of the Emirate of Abu Dhabi. He was the eldest son of Sheikh Zayed.

Since becoming the president of the UAE, Sheikh Khalifa has presided over a major restructuring of both the Federal Government and the Government of Abu Dhabi.

Under his reign, the UAE witnessed an accelerated development that ensured decent living for the people calling the country home.

### NO LIGHT AT END OF TUNNEL FOR WINGED GUESTS

Executive Secretary Amy Fraenkel of the Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals (CMS) said, "Natural darkness has a conservation value in the same way as clean water, air, and soil.

A key goal of World Migratory Bird Day 2022 is to raise awareness of the issue of light pollution and its negative impacts on migratory birds. Solutions are readily available, and we hope to encourage key decision-makers to adopt measures to address light pollution."

Executive Secretary Jacques Trouvilliez of the Agreement on the Conservation of African-Eurasian Migratory Waterbirds (AEWA) said, "An enormous diversity of birds, active at night, experience the impacts of light pollution. Many nocturnally migrating birds such as ducks, geese, plovers, sandpipers and songbirds are affected by light pollution causing disorientation and collisions with fatal consequences. Seabirds such as petrels and shearwaters are attracted by artificial lights on land and become prey for rats and cats."

The guidelines on light pollution covering marine turtles, seabirds, and migratory shorebirds were endorsed by the CMS Parties in 2020. Among their recommendations, the guidelines set forth six principles of best lighting practices.

According to the statement by the UN Environment guidelines on light pollution covering marine turtles, seabirds, and migratory shorebirds were endorsed by the CMS Parties in 2020. Among their recommendations, the guidelines set forth six principles of best lighting practices and call for Environmental Impact Assessments for relevant projects that could result in light pollution.

These should consider the main sources of light pollution at a certain site,

the likely wild species that could be impacted, and facts about proximity to important habitats and migratory pathways.

"New guidelines focusing on migratory landbirds and bats are currently being developed under CMS. They will be presented to CMS Parties for adoption at the 14th Meeting of the Conference of the Parties to CMS in 2023," said the statement.

### TESLA PUTS BRAKES ON INDIA ENTRY DUE TO TARIFF DEADLOCK

For months, Tesla had scouted for real estate options to open showrooms and service centres in the key Indian cities of New Delhi, Mumbai and Bengaluru but that plan is also now on hold, two of the sources said.

Tesla did not respond to an email seeking comment.

An Indian Government spokesman did not immediately respond to a request for comment.

Tesla has assigned additional responsibilities for other markets to some of its small team in India. Its India policy executive Manuj Khurana has taken on an additional "product" role in San Francisco since March, his LinkedIn profile shows.

As recently as January, Chief Executive Elon Musk had said Tesla was "still working through a lot of challenges with the Government" in regard to sales in India.

But the strong demand for Tesla's vehicles elsewhere and the standoff over import taxes prompted the shift in strategy, the sources said.

Modi has sought to lure manufacturers with a 'Make in India' campaign, but his Transport Minister, Nitin Gadkari, said in April it would not be a "good proposition" for Tesla to import cars from China to India.

But New Delhi had clinched a win in January, when German luxury carmaker Mercedes-Benz said it would start assembling one of its electric cars in India.

Tesla had looked to gain an early advantage in India's small but growing market for electric vehicles, now dominated by domestic automaker Tata Motors.

Tesla's price tag of \$40,000 at minimum would put it in the luxury segment of the Indian market, where sales make up just a tiny fraction of annual vehicle sales of about 3 million.



# Zelenskyy says he is ready to talk with Putin



AP ■ ROME

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy says that he's ready to talk with Russian President Vladimir Putin and that "we must find an agreement," but with no ultimatum as a condition. Zelenskyy also told Italian RAI state TV in an interview scheduled to be broadcast on Thursday night that Ukraine will never recognize Crimea as part of Russia, which annexed

that part of southern Ukraine in 2014. "Crimea has always had its autonomy, it has its parliament, but on the inside of Ukraine," Zelenskyy said, in excerpts of the interview that RAI released earlier on Thursday. The interviewer asked the Ukrainian leader about a comment by French President Emmanuel Macron cautioning against any humiliation of Putin.

"We want the Russian army to leave our land, we aren't on Russian soil," Zelenskyy replied. "We won't save Putin's face by paying with our territory. That would be unjust." In another comment, Zelenskyy sounded a forward-looking note. "We have to think of the future of Russia. I, as president of Ukraine, say these are our neighbors. There will be other presidents, other presidents and other generations" of Russia, Zelenskyy said.

# UN: Ukraine war child rights crisis with school attacks

AP ■ UNITED NATIONS

The war in Ukraine is a "child rights crisis" where education is under attack, nearly 100 youngsters have been killed in just the last month, and millions more have been forced to flee their homes, the UN children's agency said Thursday. Omar Abdi, deputy executive director of UNICEF, told the UN Security Council that children are paying "an unconscionably high price" in the war, with 239 confirmed killed and 355 wounded since Russia's invasion of Ukraine on February 24. He said the actual numbers are much higher. "These attacks must stop," he said. "Ultimately, children need an end to this war -- their futures hang in the balance." Abdi said the school year came to a standstill after Russia invaded its smaller neighbour, and as of last week, at least 15 of 89 UNICEF-supported schools in the country's east had been damaged or destroyed in the fighting. "Hundreds of schools across the country are reported to have been hit by heavy artillery, airstrikes and other explosive weapons in populat-



ed areas, while other schools are being used as information centres, shelters, supply hubs or for military purposes -- with long-term impact on children's return to education," Abdi said. In mid-March, over 15,000 schools resumed education in Ukraine, mostly through remote learning or in-person hybrid options, he said. "It is estimated that 3.7 million (37 lakh) children in Ukraine and abroad are using online and distance learning options," he said. But, Abdi said "enormous obstacles" to education remain, including school availability, resources, language barriers and movement of children and their families. Less than five per cent of refugee pre-school children are estimated to be enrolled in public kinder-

gartens, he said. Abdi and many council members spoke about what he called a "horrifying attack" on a school in the eastern Ukrainian town of Bilohorivka last weekend, when a bomb hit while women and children sheltered in the building. US deputy ambassador Richard Mills said the blast killed as many as 60 people, many of them children. "And reliable reports indicate that when first responders arrived at the school to assist victims of the bombing, Russia's forces opened fire on them," he added. Ukraine's UN ambassador, Sergiy Kyslytsya, said only 30 civilians were rescued and the school that had once been filled with joyful children "was turned by a Russian pilot into another mass grave." British Ambassador Barbara Woodward said there is evidence "that Russia is committing four of the Security Council's six grave violations against children in times of war" -- violations listed in a 1999 council resolution that condemned the targeting of children in conflict as well as recruiting and using children as soldiers.

# Ukraine puts Russian soldier accused of killing a Ukrainian civilian opened Friday, the first war crimes trial since Moscow's invasion of its neighbour.

AP ■ KYIV

The trial of a Russian soldier accused of killing a Ukrainian civilian opened Friday, the first war crimes trial since Moscow's invasion of its neighbour. Scores of journalists packed inside a small courtroom in the Ukrainian capital where the suspect appeared in a small glass cage for the start of a trial that has drawn international attention amid accusations of repeated atrocities by Russian forces. Vadim Shyshmarin, 21, is accused of shooting a 62-year-old Ukrainian man in the head in the northeastern village of Chupakhivka. He could get up to life in prison. The killing occurred in the early days of the war, when Russian tanks advancing on Kyiv were unexpectedly routed and tank crew retreated. Shyshmarin, a member of a tank unit that was captured by Ukrainian forces, admitted that he shot the civilian in a video posted by the Security Service of Ukraine. "I was ordered to shoot," said Shyshmarin, of the killing on Feb. 28. "I shot one (round)



at him. He falls. And we kept on going." Shyshmarin's video statement is "one of the first confessions of the enemy invaders," according to the Ukrainian security service. The trial comes as Russia's campaign to take Ukraine's east slowly grinds on - but its invasion has resulted in widespread repercussions beyond the battlefield. Two and a half months after Russia's invasion of Ukraine sent a shiver of fear through Moscow's neighbors, Finland's president and prime minister announced Thursday that the Nordic country should apply right away for membership in NATO, the military defense pact founded in part to counter the Soviet Union.

# Russia took losses in failed river crossing, officials say

AP ■ KYIV

Russia lost significant numbers of troops and important equipment when Ukrainian forces thwarted their attempt to cross a river in the east, British officials said Friday, another sign of Moscow's struggle to win decisive victories and salvage a war gone awry. Ukrainian authorities, meanwhile, opened the first war crimes trial of the conflict, in proceedings that will be closely watched by international observers eager to ensure atrocities are fairly prosecuted. A Russian soldier stands accused of killing a Ukrainian civilian in the early days of the war. The trial gets underway as Russia's campaign in Ukraine's eastern industrial heartland of the Donbas makes faltering progress. Ukraine's airborne forces command has released photos of what it said was a damaged Russian pontoon bridge over the Siverskyi Donets River and several destroyed or damaged Russian military vehicles nearby. Ukrainian news reports said troops thwarted Russian passage across the river earlier this week, leaving dozens of tanks or military vehicles damaged or forcing troops to abandon them. Britain's Defense Ministry said Friday that Russia lost "significant" elements of at least one battalion tactical group -- about 1,000 troops -- as well as equipment used to quickly deploy a makeshift floating bridge while trying to cross the river. "Conducting river crossings in a contested environment is a highly risky maneuver and speaks to the pressure the Russian commanders are under to make progress in their operations in eastern Ukraine," the ministry said in its daily intelligence update. They have struggled to do so, even after diverting troops from other parts of the country to the Donbas, the statement said.

# Russian threats push Finland towards joining NATO

AP ■ KYIV

Finland's leaders Thursday came out in favour of applying to join NATO, and Sweden could do the same within days, in a historic realignment on the continent two-and-a-half months after Russian President Vladimir Putin's invasion of Ukraine sent a shiver of fear through Moscow's neighbours. The Kremlin reacted by warning it will be forced to take retaliatory "military-technical" steps. On the ground, meanwhile, Russian forces pounded areas in central, northern and eastern Ukraine, including the



last pocket of resistance in Mariupol, as part its offensive to take the industrial Donbas region, while Ukraine recaptured some towns and villages in the northeast. The first war-crimes trial of a Russian soldier since the start

of the conflict is set to open Friday in Kyiv. A 21-year-old captured member of a tank unit is accused of shooting to death a civilian on a bicycle during the opening week of the war. Finland's president and prime minister announced that the Nordic country should apply right away for membership in NATO, the military defence pact founded in part to counter the Soviet Union. "You (Russia) caused this. Look in the mirror," Finnish President Sauli Niinistö said this week. While the country's Parliament still has to weigh in, the announcement means Finland is all but certain

to apply -- and gain admission -- though the process could take months to complete. Sweden, likewise, is considering putting itself under NATO's protection. That would represent a major change in Europe's security landscape: Sweden has avoided military alliances for more than 200 years, while Finland adopted neutrality after its defeat by the Soviets in World War II. Public opinion in both nations shifted dramatically in favour of NATO membership after the invasion, which stirred fears in countries along Russia's flank that they could be next.

# India exploring options to minimise impact of Russian war on its students studying in Ukrainian universities

PTI ■ UNITED NATIONS

India has said that it is exploring options to minimise the impact on the education of Indian students in Ukrainian universities, as several of them, mostly studying at medical colleges, were worried about their future after fleeing the war-torn East European country. India's Deputy Permanent Representative at the UN Ambassador R Ravindra, during a briefing on the human-

itarian situation in Ukraine at the UN Security Council, said the impact of the situation on the education of children has been severe and further aggravated the pandemic-related challenges that children were already facing. He said that the situation has affected foreign students, including those from India. India facilitated the safe return of about 22,500 Indians, mostly students, from Ukraine after Russia launched a large scale military aggression against it.

"We are exploring options to minimise the impact on our students' education. We appreciate the relaxations made by the Ukrainian Government for this academic year in respect of medical students," Ravindra said. Ravindra reiterated that India supports calls for guarantees of safe passage to deliver essential humanitarian corridors. He also noted that the food security challenges emanating from the conflict "requires us to respond by going beyond constraints that bind us presently.

# Opp parties not to join Wickremesinghe Govt

## Would support its economic recovery

PTI ■ COLOMBO

Most of the Opposition parties in Sri Lanka on Friday announced that they would not become a part of Prime Minister Ranil Wickremesinghe's interim government but would support its economic policies from outside to help the debt-ridden island nation's early recovery. The 73-year-old United National Party (UNP) leader was appointed as Sri Lanka's 26th prime minister on Thursday as the country was without a government since Monday when President Gotabaya Rajapaksa's elder brother and prime minister Mahinda Rajapaksa resigned after violence erupted following an attack on the anti-government protesters by his supporters. The attack triggered widespread violence against Rajapaksa loyalists, leaving nine people dead and wounding over 200 others. "We cannot become a part of this Rajapaksa-Wickremesinghe government," Wimal Weerawansa, a legislator for the independent group from President Gotabaya Rajapaksa's SLPP said. Former President Maithripala Sirisena's SLFP central committee has also decided not to be part of the

government. The Marxist Janatha Vimukthi Peramuna (JVP) said they would also not be part of the government while the main Opposition Samagi Jana Balavegaya (SJB) said United National Party (UNP) leader Wickremesinghe has no legitimacy as he was not even elected in the 2020 parliamentary election. SJB general secretary Ranjith Madduma Bandara said the party would not accept ministerial positions and called for Wickremesinghe's resignation. JVP leader Anura Kumara Dissanayake said the decision taken by President Gotabaya Rajapaksa to appoint Wickremesinghe as Prime Minister, is one that was made with zero regard to the voice of the people. The JVP leader ridiculed the decision, saying the appointment has no legitimacy and has no democratic value. "Wickremesinghe is a person who held the post of Prime Minister, formed governments, and yet could not even win a single seat at the last General Election. He did not even have the required number of votes to enter parliament. If an election is used to measure the consent of the people, elections have shown that he has no mandate, and that is why the people sent him packing," he said. The interim government idea was mooted by the powerful Buddhist clergy and civil society as a means to find a solution for the ongoing economic crisis. With Mahinda

Rajapaksa's resignation on Monday, President Gotabaya Rajapaksa said he was talking to political parties to set up an interim government. Wickremesinghe, who had been sworn in as the prime minister of Sri Lanka on five occasions before, said his primary task was to tackle the worst economic crisis with assistance from all parties. The new prime minister, who has only his seat in the Parliament, said he commanded a majority coming from both sides. Sri Lanka's worst economic crisis has provoked widespread protests calling for political reform and the resignation of President Gotabaya Rajapaksa. On April 1, President Rajapaksa imposed a state of emergency, lifting it five days later. The government reimposed a state of emergency on May 6 after police fired teargas and arrested students protesting near parliament, which was adjourned until May 17. Although the protests have been overwhelmingly peaceful, the police fatally shot a protester on April 19, and on several occasions have used teargas and water cannons against protesters. The authorities have made numerous arrests and repeatedly imposed curfews. The political crisis was triggered in late March when people hurt by long hours of power cuts and essential shortages took to the streets demanding the resignation of the government.

# US in close touch with India on standing up against Russian aggression: White House

PTI ■ WASHINGTON

The United States continues to be in close touch with India about its efforts to rally the world to stand up against Russian aggression, the White House said on Thursday. "We continue to remain in close touch with India about our efforts to rally the world to stand up against Russian aggression. That means implementing and abiding by sanctions that have been put in place," White House Press Secretary Jen Psaki told reporters at her daily news conference. US Deputy Security



Advisor Dileep Singh recently took a trip to India to have a conversation about that, she said. "We continue to encourage countries to speak out about Russian aggression. And obviously on COVID-19, we have been an important partner with India in providing supply and vaccines in

their times of need over the course of the last 15 months and certainly will continue to work with them on that," Psaki said in response to a question. Responding to another question, Psaki said she is sure President Biden would travel to two Quad countries -- India and Australia -- in the future. Biden is scheduled to travel to Japan and South Korea later this month. "I am sure he will, in the future. But we have two foreign trips we are still trying to finalise at this point. And so I do not have any predictions about when," Psaki said.

# India abstains from UNHRC resolution on deteriorating human rights situation in Ukraine

PTI ■ UNITED NATIONS/GENEVA

India abstained in the UN Human Rights Council on a resolution on the deteriorating human rights situation in Ukraine stemming from the Russian aggression, in which the Council reiterated its demand for an immediate cessation of military hostilities. The Geneva-based Council on Thursday closed its 34th special session after adopting the resolution. The resolution was adopted by a vote of 33 in favour, China and Eritrea voting against and 12 abstentions, including India, Armenia, Bolivia, Cameroon, Cuba, Kazakhstan, Namibia, Pakistan, Senegal, Sudan, Uzbekistan and Venezuela. Since January this year, India has abstained on procedural votes and draft resolutions in the UN Security Council, the General Assembly and the Human Rights Council that

deplored Russian aggression against Ukraine. India's Permanent Representative to the UN and other International Organisations in Geneva, Ambassador Indra Mani Pandey, at the session said that India's position on the Ukraine conflict has been steadfast and consistent. "We remain deeply concerned at the unfolding developments in Ukraine. We have constantly called for immediate cessation of violence and an urgent end to hostilities," he said, adding that Prime Minister Narendra Modi has reiterated this in his interactions with global leaders, including the leaderships of Russia and Ukraine. "India continues to believe that pursuing the path of dialogue and diplomacy is the only way out," he said. In the resolution as orally revised, the Human Rights Council reiterated its demand for an immediate cessation of military hostilities against Ukraine, to refrain from any human

rights violations and abuses in the country, refrain from any State-sponsored disinformation, propaganda for war or advocacy of national, racial or religious hatred that constitutes incitement to discrimination, hostility or violence, related to the aggression against Ukraine. The Council also requested the Commission of Inquiry to conduct an inquiry, consistent with its mandate and international standards, and in coordination with other national and international mechanisms, to address the events in the areas of Kyiv, Chernihiv, Kharkiv and Sumy regions in late February and March 2022, including their gender dimension, with a view to hold to account those responsible. Pandey said that the impact of the Ukraine situation is being felt beyond the region as oil prices are skyrocketing, there is shortage of food grains and fertilisers in the world.

# Moldova is wary amid fears fighting may spread

AP ■ WEISSENHAUS (GERMANY)

Moldova's foreign minister says the small eastern European country is on alert for any signs the conflict in neighboring Ukraine could spill across the border. Foreign Minister Nicu Popescu told reporters Friday on the sidelines of a G-7 foreign ministers' meeting in Germany that "the situation is of course fragile, but it is nonetheless relatively calm. We do not face an acute military crisis today." At the same time the government has been preparing for "the full spectrum of options," he said. "Our interior ministry, defense ministry, intelligence services are on high alert," Popescu said, citing the presence of Russian troops in the separatist Moldovan region of Transnistria. Transnistria is a disputed, Russian-backed breakaway state that borders southwestern Ukraine. Popescu said the Moldovan government was in regular contact with the de facto authorities in Transnistria "because we all have a commitment and an obligation and a duty to keep peace in the entire Moldova, which includes the Transnistrian region."

## RUSSIA-GAS-SANCTIONS

# Russian pipeline sanctions raise fears of gas interruption

AP ■ BERLIN

Natural gas prices rose Friday after Russian state-owned exporter Gazprom said it would no longer send supplies to Europe via a pipeline in Poland, citing new sanctions that Moscow imposed on European energy companies. The move doesn't immediately block large amounts of natural gas to Europe but intensifies fears that the war in Ukraine will lead to wide-ranging cutoffs. Gazprom said Thursday that it would ban the use of the Yamal pipeline that reaches Germany through Poland. While that cuts off a supply route to Europe, the pipeline's entry point to Germany has not been used in recent months. Plus, Gazprom has already cut off gas to Poland for refusing to meet Moscow's demand to make payments in rubles. "A ban is in place on making transactions with and payments to persons under sanctions. In particular, for Gazprom, this means a ban on the use of a gas pipeline owned by (the Polish company) EuRoPol GAZ to transport Russian gas through Poland," Gazprom representative Sergey Kupriyanov wrote in a Telegram post. The fear is that gas disputes and cutoffs will keep escalating amid the war in Ukraine. Last month, Gazprom said it had completely cut off natural gas supplies to Poland and Bulgaria over the rubles dispute. On Tuesday, Ukraine's pipeline operator shut down a pipeline that carries gas from Russia to Europe, saying Russian forces were interfering with a compressor station in Russian-held territory and diverting gas. It asked Gazprom

to move gas through another pipeline, which the company said it could not do. By itself, the shutdown was not expected to cut off major amounts of gas. Energy tensions ramped up when Russia imposed sanctions Wednesday on Gazprom Germania, a subsidiary of the Russian supplier that the German government took control of in April. German Vice Chancellor Robert Habeck said the loss of gas from the Russian moves was "manageable" at around 10 million cubic meters per day and could be made up from other sources. The actions further roiled volatile energy markets. Natural gas traded Friday at 104 euros per megawatt hour, up from 94 euros before the announcements. "Moscow has fired a second volley of gas disruption at Europe, causing fresh uncertainty and spiking prices," said Kaushal Ramesh, senior analyst at Rystad Energy. European utilities and governments have scrambled to refill underground gas storage that was depleted over the winter and have made enough progress to cover gas needs for the year without Russian supplies. But they would face difficulty in getting through the end of the upcoming winter without rationing. High natural gas prices have led to higher bills for home heating and electricity generated by the fuel. European governments are trying to get off Russian energy and the EU's executive commission has proposed measures to reduce imports from Russia by two-thirds by year end. It remains to be seen if that can be achieved. Before the war, Europe got 40% of its natural gas and 25% of its oil from Russia.





## Donnarumma says PSG must choose him or Navas next season

AP ■ PARIS

Gianluigi Donnarumma has warned Paris Saint-Germain that they must choose between him and rival goalkeeper Keylor Navas next season.

Italian Donnarumma signed from AC Milan last summer to join veteran Navas, 35, who has been in the French capital since leaving Real Madrid in 2019.

Despite stressing his "very good relationship" with Navas, Donnarumma insisted it was out of the question to share the job next season.

"No, I think it will surely not happen like that, because I think the club will make choices," Donnarumma said.

"We're two good guys, we understand the situation, but it was hard, and for him too, but let's say that we managed it well."

Donnarumma said "yes of course" he wanted to stay next season with his contract running until 2026.

The 23-year-old lifted his first league title with PSG, while for Costa Rican Navas it was a second in France to join the La Liga trophy and three Champions League trophies he won in Spain.

"It's beautiful, it's my first league title, I'm very happy, and it's my first trophy with the Paris Saint-Germain shirt," said

Donnarumma.

"I'm very proud to belong to a great, very ambitious club, always aiming higher."

Donnarumma arrived in France after being named the best player in the European championships which Italy won.

"The debut was not easy, because it was my first outside Italy, in a new club, a new city (but) pressure, no," explained Donnarumma, who had spent six years in Milan.

"I feel a big family behind me, a big club, the welcome was great, and after it was easier for me."

Donnarumma said it hadn't been an "easy" season, giving it seven out of 10.

"I know I can do more," he said. "I haven't played so many matches, only half, that wasn't easy. In the conditions I experienced, I couldn't give the maximum, but I'm convinced that I can give a lot more to this team and this club."

In addition to PSG's Champions League exit to Real Madrid in the last 16, Donnarumma's Italy failed to qualify for a second straight World Cup.

"It was hard, very hard," he sighed.

"The following days were very difficult, but there is no going back. What we did at the Euro will remain in history, we have achieved something incredible."

# It's Liverpool vs Chelsea in FA Cup final



AP ■ LONDON

Liverpool will bid to keep their quadruple chase alive in Saturday's FA Cup final against a Chelsea side hoping to welcome incoming owner Todd Boehly with victory at Wembley.

Jürgen Klopp's men have four matches left in their historic attempt to become the first English team to win all four major trophies in one season.

They beat Chelsea to lift the League Cup in February and have reached the finals of the FA Cup and Champions League, where they face Real Madrid on May 28.

No English club has come this close to such an incredible clean sweep, but Liverpool know their hopes of winning the Premier League are starting to fade.

Manchester City moved three points clear of the second-placed Reds

with a 5-1 win at Wolves on Wednesday and need four points from their last two games against West Ham and Aston Villa to retain the crown.

If a second English title in three seasons proves beyond Liverpool despite their blistering form in the second half of the season, then winning two more cup competitions would be a memorable consolation.

First up is a rematch with Chelsea, who fought gamely in an intense League Cup final in February before Liverpool prevailed 11-10 in the shootout that followed a 0-0 draw.

Liverpool and Chelsea are the first English teams to meet in both domestic finals in the same year since Arsenal and Sheffield Wednesday in 1993.

Klopp's side will hope they emulate Arsenal, who did the cup double against Wednesday that season.

But, in their 60th game this season,



## Man City unveil Aguero statue

AP ■ MANCHESTER

One of the most famous moments in Premier League history has been immortalized outside the Etihad Stadium in Manchester.

To mark the 10-year anniversary of Sergio Aguero's title-clinching goal against Queens Park Rangers in 2012, Manchester City unveiled a statue of the Argentine striker celebrating his dramatic strike.

"Truthfully, it is a very beautiful thing for me, to see myself 10 years ago is very moving," Aguero said.

"In those 10 years, I was able to win a lot of trophies and was able to help the club become one of the most important in the world."

"I am very grateful to the club for making this statue in recognition of my football career in Manchester. It is something very special."

fatigue could be a threat to Liverpool's hopes of a first FA Cup triumph since 2006. In a bid to keep his stars fresh, Klopp made several changes in Tuesday's win at Villa, yet still lost Brazil midfielder Fabinho to an injury that rules him out of the final.

The history chasers will be back on league duty at Southampton on Tuesday and, aware of the strain on the squad, Liverpool captain Jordan Henderson called for one last push, starting at Wembley.

# Spurs win North London derby

AP ■ LONDON

Harry Kane scored twice as Tottenham beat 10-man Arsenal 3-0 on Thursday with a north London derby masterclass that kept alive their hopes of finishing in the Premier League's top four.

Antonio Conte's side would have been eliminated from the race to qualify for next season's Champions League if they had lost to their bitter rivals on Thursday.

But Kane tormented Arsenal once again as the Tottenham striker opened the scoring with a controversial penalty.

Crucially, Arsenal's Rob Holding was sent off for two bookings in seven minutes.

Kane netted again before the interval and Son Heung-min bagged Tottenham's third goal in the second half.

Instead of sealing a return to the Champions League for the first time since the 2016-17 season, fourth-placed Arsenal now face a nerve-jangling conclusion to the top-four battle.

Arsenal still hold a slender advantage, but the end of their four-match winning run leaves them just one point ahead of fifth-placed Tottenham, with both sides having two games left.



Conte said several weeks ago that it would be a "miracle" if Tottenham reached the Champions League given their lowly position when he replaced the sacked Nuno Espirito Santo in November.

But their victory in arguably the biggest north London derby since Arsenal won the league at White Hart Lane in 2004 ensured that miracle could still come true.

Conte believes finishing in the top four is "like winning

a title in another country, a big achievement" given the depth of talent and wealth at the top of the Premier League.

To decide who takes the lucrative prize, Tottenham host struggling Burnley on Sunday then travel to relegated Norwich, while Mikel Arteta's men visit Newcastle on Monday and entertain Everton.

Arteta's bewildered expression throughout Arsenal's capitulation suggested it is far from certain he will be able to

lift his players to finish the job.

Third-placed Chelsea, five points above Tottenham, will likely need a draw from their last two games to be sure of their top-four place given their vastly superior goal difference.

As well as the huge European stakes for both sides, Tottenham also felt lingering resentment about Arsenal's successful appeal to have this fixture postponed in January due to Covid and injury problems.

# Benzema equals Raul's Real goal record

AP ■ MADRID

Karim Benzema continues to add his name to Real Madrid's record books, scoring his 323rd goal on Thursday to draw level with Raúl González as the club's second-highest scorer behind Cristiano Ronaldo.

Benzema netted in the first half of the team's 6-0 rout of last-place Levante in the Spanish league, with Madrid having secured the title a few rounds ago.

The result sealed Levante's relegation after five consecutive years in the first division.

Vinicius Junior, Benzema's trusted attacking partner all season, scored a hat trick for Madrid as it continues to prepare for the Champions League final against Liverpool in Paris on May 28, when it will try to win a record-extending 14th European title.

Benzema is now 128 goals shy of the 451 scored by Ronaldo, who played at the club until 2018.

Benzema's close-range header in the 19th minute off a cross by Vinicius gave the French striker his league-leading 27th goal, which is nine better than any other player in the competition this season. He has scored more than a third of



Madrid's 77 league goals so far.

It was the 20th goal in the last 15 matches in all competitions for Benzema, who has been key in the team's run to the Champions League final, scoring decisive goals in every knockout round of the European tournament — including two hat tricks.

He could have added another goal on Thursday but unselfishly fed Vinicius the ball for the team's fifth after clearing the goalkeeper inside the area.

Vinicius had netted his first goal in the first half before closing the scoring in the final minutes for his maiden hat trick with Madrid. Ferland Mendy and Rodrygo scored their goals before halftime. Benzema was replaced in the 75th along with Luka Modric, who set up three of Madrid's goals.

## Lewa turns down Bayern extension

MUNICH: Robert Lewandowski has opened the door to a high-profile transfer after telling Bayern Munich that he will not be extending his contract beyond June 2023 when it expires, German media reported on Friday.

The 33-year-old Poland international forward has scored 343 goals for Bayern

and twice picked up FIFA's Player of the Year Award since joining from Dortmund in 2014.

"Goal machine Robert Lewandowski will leave the club no later than the summer of 2023," claimed the daily *Sport Bild*.

"In recent weeks, FIFA's 2021 Player of the Year told

his bosses at Bayern that he would not extend his contract, which is still valid for one year."

The Sport1 site, citing its own sources, confirmed this information.

According to several reports, Lewandowski has recently been in contact with Barcelona. AP

# Tsitsipas sees off Sinner to reach Rome semis

AP ■ ROME

Stefanos Tsitsipas reached the semi-finals of the Italian Open on Friday after beating local hero Jannick Sinner 7-6 (7/5) 6-2 in a match which was stopped for over 10 minutes at match point after a spectator fell ill.

World number five Tsitsipas has already won the Monte Carlo Masters this season and reached the last four in impressive style against Italian Sinner, who was in his first ever Rome quarter-final.

Next up Tsitsipas will face Alexander Zverev, who made the semis after comfortably seeing off Cristian Garin, the only unseeded player left in the tournament, 7-5, 6-2.

It will be the third time in the space of a month that the German will meet the Greek in the last four, with the pair sharing the honours from clashes in Monte Carlo and Madrid.

The Greek finally took the opening set after breaking Sinner to take

the tie-break to 6-5 and from their his opponent didn't recover.

The fervent atmosphere was finally dampened when Tsitsipas broke Sinner in game three and world number 13 Sinner had no reply, losing his serve again to love in game seven.

Sinner's fate seem sealed but at match point for Tsitsipas someone in the crowd appeared to collapse and play was stopped amid loud whistles directed at the umpire who wanted to continue.

What seemed like an age passed before the spectator was stretched out of centre court and Tsitsipas could finally serve his match point, and a simple passing shot from Sinner's miscalculated drop shot sent him through.

### SABALENKA WINS

Tsitsipas will take number four spot in the world rankings on Monday after Rafael Nadal's shock third-round exit at the hands of Denis Shapovalov on Thursday night.



Shapovalov faces Casper Ruud knowing a win would give him a possible semi-final against Novak Djokovic, who is in action in the day's final match against Canada's Felix Auger-Aliassime.

Djokovic needs to beat Canada's Auger-Aliassime in order to maintain top spot in the world rankings, a position he has held for a record 369 weeks.

Aryna Sabalenka reached the women's semi-finals after beating Amanda Anisimova 4-6, 6-3, 6-2 and setting up a potential clash with world number one Iga Swiatek.

Third seed Sabalenka beat American Anisimova for the first time in five attempts and now awaits the result of Swiatek's last-eight match with Bianca Andreescu.

Anisimova had ended Sabalenka's Madrid title defence in the first round at the end of last month. Swiatek, the reigning champion in Rome, is on a run of 25 straight wins and gunning for a fifth tournament victory in a row.

## Nadal knocked out by Shapovalov



AP ■ ROME

Rafael Nadal crashed out of the Italian Open in the third round on Thursday after falling to a shock 1-6, 7-5, 6-2 defeat at the hands of Denis Shapovalov.

Defeat in Rome for 'King of Clay' Nadal casts doubt over his prospects at the upcoming French Open, where he has been crowned champion 13 times but faces a threat from teenage phenomenon Carlos Alcaraz.

The 35-year-old had been out for six weeks with a rib injury before returning for last week's tournament in Madrid, and he began limping in the third set.

Nadal has won an all-time record 21 Grand Slam titles in a glittering two-decade career which may now finally be reaching its downturn.

World number 16 Shapovalov, who had pushed Nadal all the way when knocked out at this stage of the tournament last year, will now face Casper Ruud in the quarter-finals.



# SRH face KKR in battle of survival



PTI ■ PUNE

Smarting from four straight losses, Sunrisers Hyderabad will need to sort out their bowling issues when they face an inconsistent Kolkata Knight Riders, as both the teams look to stay afloat in the IPL play-offs race here on Saturday.

A series of losses after a five-match winning streak has dragged SRH down to the sixth spot with 10 points and they would need to win all their remaining three games to harbour any hopes of making it to the play-offs.

KKR, however, are on the brink of elimination and their woes were compounded with the ruling out of pace spearhead Pat Cummins owing to a hip injury.

Shreyas Iyer's men have just two more matches to go and wins in both will only take them to 14 points, which might not be enough with Rajasthan Royals and Royal Challengers Bangalore already sitting pre-

ty in the top four with 14 points from 12 games.

One of the main reasons behind SRH's awful run in the last few games is injuries to frontline bowlers -- Washington Sundar and T Natarajan -- and the sudden loss of form of speedster Umran Malik.

It culminated in SRH conceding more than 190 plus runs in each of the last four games.

While Sundar had injured his bowling hand again, death over specialist Natarajan had picked up a niggles. But coach Tom Moody was hopeful of the duo's return against KKR.

Malik, who looked fast and furious in the earlier games clocking 150kmph consistently, has gone wicket-less and conceded too many runs in the last few matches and his form will be key for SRH.

Fazalhaq Farooqi and Karthik Tyagi were taken to the cleaners by RCB in their last game, adding to SRH's problems.

In batting, SRH have the

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

quality but skipper Kane Williamson will have to take more responsibility as he has just one fifty to show for this season. Although Abhishek Sharma has given them solid starts, the youngster has not been able to anchor the innings.

Rahul Tripathi, Nicholas Pooran and Aiden Markram, too, have been among runs but SRH batters will need assistance from their bowlers, who will have to ensure that they limit their opposition to a reasonable total.

KKR, on the other hand, are paying the price for making constant changes to their playing XI and are staring at elimination after losing seven of their 12 games.

KKR, however, are coming into the match after beating Mumbai Indians in their last game and they would look to end things on a high.

The 2021 finalists have struggled in the power play this season but with Venkatesh Iyer, who was dropped due to his lean run, back in the mix, KKR produced a good effort against MI.

The seasoned Tim Southee and Cummins produced a solid effort after returning to the XI, sharing four wickets against MI. However, KKR were dealt a massive blow as the team management confirmed that Cummins has been ruled out of the remainder of the IPL with a mild hip injury and has already left for Australia for rehabilitation.

# Jonny, Liam masterclass in Punjab's win

PTI ■ MUMBAI

Punjab Kings buried Royal Challengers Bangalore under a deluge of runs as they kept their play-off hopes alive with 54-run victory, riding on superb half-centuries from Jonny Bairstow and Liam Livingstone in an IPL match here on Friday.

Bairstow (66 off 29 balls) and Livingstone (70 off 42 balls) propelled Punjab Kings to 209 for 9 in a must-win game and the scoreboard was always going to be telling as RCB were restricted to 155 for 9 in 20 overs.

While Punjab remain in the mix with 12 points from as many games, the margin of victory considerably improved their net run-rate to +0.210 and RCB despite having 14 points from 13 games are at a -0.323.

RCB will have to win their final game and move to 16 points but also now need to have some rub of the green with a few favourable results going their way.

It was another day and another failure for Virat Kohli (20), who got a faint under-edge tickle on his gloves before it hit his thigh pad and bobbed up to short fine leg off a Kagiso Rabada (4-0-21-3) delivery.

Rabada was literally unplayable on the day as he worked good pace and hit the ideal fuller length for better part of his spell.

Rishi Dhawan (4-0-36-2), perhaps the weakest link in Punjab attack, then made up for his lack of pace by hitting immaculate length as Faf du Plessis edged one to Jitesh Sharma behind stumps and Mahipal Lomror's rasping plod shot was taken by Shikhar Dhawan.

Rajat Patidar (26) and Glenn Maxwell (35) did add 64 runs but they were never in the game with both departing in quick succession.

And when Dinesh Karthik (11) was snuffed out by the brilliant Arshdeep Singh (4-0-27-1) with a wide yorker and a catch by short third-man on the circle, RCB fizzled out in a jiffy.

Earlier, Bairstow's opening



blitzkrieg found its ideal match in Livingstone's finishing carnage.

While Bairstow laid the foundation with a 29-ball-66, Livingstone was equally good in his 42-ball-70 as the RCB bowlers had a day which they would like to forget in a hurry.

Bairstow, who was rusty during the earlier phase of the tournament, was back in his element with as many as seven sixes and four boundaries during a knock where he literally went hell for leather.

Such was his dominance that by the time six overs of Powerplay ended, Bairstow had hit seven towering sixes and Shikhar Dhawan (21 off 15 balls) rubbed salt to the wound with another

one which made it eight in all.

Punjab Kings, which had set the template of blazing Powerplay starts, got 83 in six overs with Glenn Maxwell (1/17 in 2 overs), Josh Hazlewood (0/64 in 4 overs) and Mohammed Siraj (0/36 in 2 overs) being treated with utter disdain.

While Maxwell did manage to get Dhawan, both Hazlewood and Siraj were guilty of bowling short on a pitch offering true bounce. Bairstow effortlessly pulled and flicked them into the stands and by the time, deliveries pitched up, they landed in the stands as well.

It only helped that the boundary on one side was 66 metres only,

► pointstable							
Po.	TEAM	M	W	L	NR	Pts	NRR
1.	GT (Q)	12	9	3	0	18	0.376
2.	LSG	12	8	4	0	16	0.385
3.	RR	12	7	5	0	14	0.228
4.	RCB	13	7	6	0	14	-0.323
5.	DC	12	6	6	0	12	0.210
6.	PBKS	12	6	6	0	12	0.023
7.	SRH	11	5	6	0	10	-0.031
8.	KKR	12	5	7	0	10	-0.057
9.	CSK	12	4	8	0	8	-0.181
10.	MI	12	3	9	0	6	-0.613

► boundarymeter	
4s	1651
6s	854

which is a dream for any power-hitter.

Siraj had a forgettable first spell where he was hit for four sixes, while Hazlewood in his first over had gone for 22. The Australian had his worst IPL figures ever.

However post Powerplay, once Wanindu Hasaranga (2/15 in 4 overs) and Shahbaz Ahmed (1/40 in 4 overs) started operating, RCB stemmed the flow of runs with some tight wicket-to-wicket bowling.

Bengal left-arm spinner Shahbaz was rewarded for his tight lines as Bairstow finally mistimed one and Siraj did well to pouch the skier.

After 83 in the first six, there was a drastic dip in scoring as 22 came in between 7th and 10th overs.

Both Hasaranga and Shahbaz bowled wide outside the off-stump not letting Livingstone and Agarwal to charge down the track.

Still the Englishman managed a couple of sixes and a reverse swept boundary to continue his good form in the competition and then muscled into the stands towards the fag end even as Harshal Patel (4/34 in 4 overs) was exceptional at the death.

His fifty came off 35 balls and by the time he was out, he had four out of those 14 sixes in the Punjab innings.

# Quality of execution matter more than raw pace: Nortje

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Umran Malik will surely play for India but to survive the rigours of international cricket, raw pace alone wouldn't be enough and the youngster will need to supplement his skills with quality execution, star South African pacer Anrich Nortje said on Friday.

Nortje, one of the fastest bowlers in world cricket and who has made a comeback in this IPL after a four-month lay-off due to a hip injury, spoke about the hardships related to his return and missing his new ball partner, Kagiso Rabada.

When asked about his assessment of India's new pace sensation, who is regularly hitting upwards of 90



miles per hour, Nortje sounded cautiously optimistic.

"I am sure Umran is going to be one of the key players for India in near future. Luck will also have to play its part. But most importantly, it's about the quality of what you deliver as we have seen fastest deliveries that are being awarded are going for boundaries," Nortje said.

"It doesn't matter at what pace it is bowled. Pace is not the be-all and end-all.

"It is about the quality of execution. And I believe he is improving on that aspect of having control with pace. Also at Sunrisers Hyderabad, under Dale (Steyn, fast bowling coach), Umran is in good hands. He has a lot of senior and experienced

players around him, so he will certainly improve," the Proteas speed merchant said.

**COMING BACK AFTER LONG BREAK**

The current season hasn't been the best for Nortje as he got picked in only four of Delhi Capitals' 12 games, taking six wickets in them.

"It's been a long break but it's good to be out there on the field with the team and it was long time at home. I needed a break at the start (of my injury) but got very long at the end not knowing what's going on.

"It's really good feeling to get going again and obviously trying to bowl at level I was bowling," the 28-year-old .

# Captaincy has helped Hardik temper his emotions: Shami

PTI ■ MUMBAI

The responsibility of leadership has considerably mellowed down an otherwise fiery Hardik Pandya, which has been the key recipe for Gujarat Titans' first-season success in the ongoing IPL, feels senior pacer Mohammed Shami.

Shami has played a lot of international cricket alongside Pandya and has always found the flamboyant all-rounder to have wore his heart on his sleeve but in his first season as an IPL captain, he has been able to keep his emotions under check.

"After he (Hardik) became captain, he has become more normal, his reactions have been tempered (mellowed). I have advised him to control his emotions on the field because the entire world watches cricket," Shami told mediapersons on Friday.

"It is very important as a leader to be sensible, understand situations and he has performed that role to perfection," the veteran fast bowler added. Titans are already in play-offs with 18 points from 12 games and Shami does give Hardik a lot of points for his captaincy.

"He has kept the team together. I have witnessed a lot of changes in him as a captain in comparison to a player," said Shami, one of the star



performers for GT with 16 wickets from 12 games. Having played under Mahendra Singh Dhoni, Virat Kohli and Rohit Sharma in the national team along with multiple captains in different IPL teams, Shami knows that each one has his unique style.

"Every captain has different temperament. Mahi (Dhoni) bhai was quiet, Virat was aggressive, Rohit leads according to match situations, so understanding Hardik's mindset is not a rocket science."

# Which 3 teams can join GT in IPL 2022 playoffs?

DRITI ATRI ■ NEW DELHI

With nine wins in 12 matches played so far, IPL debutants and table-toppers Gujarat Titans have confirmed their place in the Indian Premier League playoffs.

On the other hand, the two most successful teams in the tournament's history, Mumbai Indians and Chennai Super Kings, are out of contention after having a disastrous season.

But the remaining seven teams are still in the fray for the three vacant spots, and the race to reach the last four is all set to go down to the wire once again.

While the likes of Rajasthan Royals, Lucknow Super Giants, and Royal Challengers Bangalore are in a more comfortable situation, one can't rule out Delhi Capitals, Sunrisers Hyderabad, Kolkata Knight Riders, and Punjab Kings as well.

KL Rahul-led Lucknow Super Giants have a better chance of making the playoffs than the other six franchises. They are currently in second place with 16 points and need only one more win to secure their position.

Under the leadership of Sanju Samson, the Rajasthan Royals have lit up the 2022 edition. And even though the Jaipur-based side has failed in the last few matches, they also have better chances of making it to the next round than the others. They have two more match-



es to play, and a win will be enough to get them through.

The same is the situation with Royal Challengers Bangalore as well. They have 14 points from 12 matches and two wins out of two will confirm their spot, while one win out of two will still give them an edge unless the others pip them on net run rate.

If Rajasthan Royals, Lucknow Super Giants, and Royal Challengers Bangalore manage to win all their remaining matches, then irrespective of how others perform, they won't be able to qualify for the last four. But if the three teams mentioned earlier slip at any point, then DC, SRH, Punjab Kings, and KKR can sneak a chance.

For Delhi Capitals, the equation is simple; they need to win the remaining two matches anyhow if they want to reach the playoffs for the fourth consecutive year.

Sunrisers Hyderabad will have to work harder than other teams to make it to the playoffs after three consecutive defeats. They have to win all the remaining three league stage matches and also keep their net run rate better than the others.

The same is the story with the Punjab Kings as well. Both PBKS and SRH have 10 points from 11 matches. KKR can only reach a maximum of 14 points and they need favours from other teams as well if they are to advance.

# Cummins leaves for Aus to recover from hip injury

PTI ■ MELBOURNE

Kolkata Knight Riders pace spearhead Pat Cummins will not take part in the remainder of the IPL and has left for home to recover from a minor hip injury.

His franchise confirmed the development on Friday, few hours after a report in cricket.com.au said that the Australian Test captain, who was roped in by KKR for Rs 7.25 crore, is returning to Sydney for his rehabilitation ahead of the national team's tour of Sri Lanka next month.

"Pat Cummins has been ruled out of the remainder of the TATA Indian Premier League with a mild hip injury and has returned to Australia for two weeks of rest and rehabilitation," stated the official release. Cummins' recovery is expected to take a fortnight.

Before leaving for Australia, Cummins said, "I had an amazing time in India, and I would like to thank KKR for taking care of my family and me. I wish all the team members the best of luck for the remainder of the tournament. I will be watching the games and be cheering on."

Following the match against Mumbai Indians on Tuesday, Cummins, who bagged 3-22 from his four overs, underwent an MRI on his right hip.

KKR, who will take on SunRisers Hyderabad in Pune on Saturday, has not asked for any replacement for Cummins.

Cummins played only five matches in the IPL this year and picked up seven wickets at a strike rate of 17.0.

With the bat, he scored 63 runs, which includes a blazing 14-ball 56 not out against Mumbai Indians - the joint fastest fifty in the history of the IPL - last month.



# Yamaguchi beaten again as Japan bow out

AP ■ BANGKOK

World number one Akane Yamaguchi suffered a second defeat in three days at the Thomas and Uber Cup Finals in Thailand on Friday as Japan were dumped out in the semi-finals by South Korea.

An Se-young's battling win over Yamaguchi set the Koreans on their way to a 3-0 victory and a place in Saturday's final of the women's team championships against China.

Holders China defeated hosts Thailand by the same 3-0

scoreline in Bangkok in the other semi-final.

Cheered on by her Japanese team-mates whacking drums and shaking tambourines, world champion Yamaguchi dominated the first game 21-15 against the world number four An.

She also looked in control early in the second game, but the 20-year-old An was able to turn around a six-point deficit.

A spate of unforced errors from Yamaguchi also contributed to An's change of fortune as she won the second game 21-18.

# FIDE prez nominates Anand as part of team to fight polls

PTI ■ CHENNAI

Indian chess legend Viswanathan Anand would become the deputy president FIDE if the incumbent Arkady Dvorkovich is re-elected as the president in the elections scheduled during the 44th chess Olympiad here in July-August this year. Anand, a five-time world champion, has been nominated by Dvorkovich as part of his team to fight the forthcoming elections. "Hope to be part of a brighter and better future for Chess."

#SayChess

#DvorkovichTeam2022," Anand tweeted in the announcement of Dvorkovich's presidential team. Making the announcement about his team, Dvorkovich said, "Dear Colleagues and Chess Friends, On the way to FIDE Presidential elections, I am happy to present my team: Arkady Dvorkovich — President; Viswanathan Anand — Deputy President; Zhu Chen — Treasurer; Joran Aulin-Jansson — Vice President; Mahir Mammedov — Vice President.