

## CITY 2

CM: NO ONE DIED OF HUNGER DURING  
PANDEMIC DUE TO FREE RATION SCHEME

## OPINION 6

CHECKMATE BY THE  
'NEUTRALS' IN PAK

## WORLD 10

RUSSIAN ROCKETS HIT  
EASTERN UKRAINIAN TOWN

LUCKNOW, THURSDAY MAY 26, 2022; PAGES 12 ₹3



the pioneer

www.dailypioneer.com

EMMA OUT  
OF FRENCH  
OPEN 2022  
11 SPORTYasin awarded life  
for terror fundingPIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■  
NEW DELHI

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Continued on Page 9



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

PTI

Court also  
imposes a  
₹10 lakh  
fine on  
Malik

## Malik's past catches up with him

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■  
NEW DELHI

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

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

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

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

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

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

Continued on Page 9

Ultras kill famous  
TV artist in Valley10-yr-old nephew  
gets bullet wounds

MOHIT KANDHARI ■ JAMMU

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

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

According to initial reports both Amreena and her nephew



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

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

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

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

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

"The local police team has registered a case and also launched investigations in the case," official sources said. Reacting to the murder, former J&K Chief Minister Omar Abdullah tweeted, "Shocked & deeply saddened by the murderous militant attack on Amreen Bhat. Sadly Amreen lost her life in the attack & her nephew was injured. There can be no justification for attacking innocent women & children like this."



MONIKA MALIK ■ CHANDIGARH

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

Continued on Page 9

Sidhu given  
job of Patiala  
jail munshi

## CAPSULE

ABHILASHA ARMY'S FIRST  
WOMAN COMBAT AVIATOR

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

LAKHIMPUR: ASHISH BAIL  
HEARING ON MAY 30

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

'SHRI RAMAYANA YATRA'  
LAUNCH ON JUNE 21

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

Teen massacres 19  
kids in Texas school2 teachers among  
dead, attacker  
killed by police

PTI ■ HOUSTON

In one of the worst school shootings in the US, an 18-year-old gunman in body armour massacred at least 21 people, including 19 children and two adults inside one classroom at a Texas elementary school, prompting President Joe Biden to issue an emotional appeal to lawmakers to "turn this pain into action" to enact tougher gun laws to curb such recurring tragedies.

The youth opened fire at Robb Elementary School in Uvalde town, Texas, 134 km from San Antonio, on Tuesday morning before he was killed by law enforcement officers. All fatalities and injuries



Law enforcement personnel walk outside Uvalde High School after shooting a was reported earlier in the day at Robb Elementary School in Uvalde, Texas

AP

took place inside one classroom Uvalde, according to Lt Chris Olivarez, spokesperson for the Texas Department for Public Safety.

The shooter barricaded himself in one room, killing

two teachers and 19 children, he told CNN.

"Just goes to show you the complete evil from this shooter," Olivarez said, just 10 days since 10 people were killed in

Continued on Page 9



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

## 100% Pure Patanjali Masale Tasty and Healthy

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

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



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



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



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





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



# Unparliamentary comments not acceptable, says Yogi

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath had to intervene to ensure calm in the UP assembly following unparliamentary remarks by leader of opposition Akhilesh Yadav against Deputy Chief Minister Keshav Prasad Maurya during the proceedings on Wednesday.

The chief minister urged the speaker to expunge the unparliamentary remarks made by the leader of opposition from the proceedings of the House.

"Kya tum apne pitaji ki sampati bech kar sadak banwate ho aur rashan dete ho." Tum chup raho. (Do you sell your father's property and build a road and distribute free food grains to people? You just shut up), said an irate Akhilesh Yadav in response to a comment by Maurya during a debate on the motion of thanks to the Governor Anandiben Patel's address to the joint sitting of UP legislature on May 23.

Maurya had questioned the claims of Akhilesh Yadav on the development done in Uttar Pradesh during the last five years.

"It appears that Akhilesh Yadav constructed the four-lane highway, Lok Bhawan,



Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath speaking during UP Assembly session on Wednesday

Pioneer

UP secretariat and other projects by selling his ancestral land in Saifai (native town of Akhilesh Yadav)," he said. Akhilesh Yadav lost his cool and addressed deputy chief minister as 'tum', leading to loud protests by the treasury benches.

Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath immediately intervened and calmed the frayed tempers in the House, saying, "Use of unparliamentary words

can never be allowed in the House. I urge the Speaker to expunge those remarks of the leader of opposition so that it does not become a precedent for future generations and send a negative message across the nation."

"Maintaining the dignity of the House during debate should always be on the top of our minds and thought processes. Every member has the right to put his/her view-

point in the House. We may agree or disagree but there is no place for words like 'tu tu mai mai' in parliamentary democracy," Yogi said.

"If opposition members make unparliamentary comments then how can they not expect a befitting response from treasury benches? Running commentary and threatening remarks from opposition benches while the deputy chief minister was

speaking is unacceptable," the chief minister said.

"Such behaviour violates the dignity of the House. Akhilesh Yadav is the leader of the opposition and leader of the second largest party in the House. I make a humble submission that it's not the duty of treasury benches alone, it is also the duty of the opposition to maintain dignity which will be in the best interests of the institution of legislature," Yogi

said.

After order was restored in the House, Keshav Prasad Maurya resumed his speech and said, "No matter how much you (Akhilesh Yadav) brag about your development, but people of UP have rejected you and elected the BJP for a second consecutive term. People of UP will continue rejecting you even in 2027 like they did in 2017, 2019, and 2022."

Maurya further claimed, "An astrologer has predicted that the SP has no scope of returning to power for the next 25 years. You are destined to sit in the opposition till at least 2027.

You make a tweet to claim credit for every project started by the BJP government. If you were so sincere, what prevented you from completing those projects."

Referring to caste-based divisive politics of Samajwadi Party, Maurya said, "Hum dard mein chini milate hain aap dard fatte hai (We unify the society and you divide the society). Yes, you might have started some works, but just announcing schemes, does not mean that you have completed them. Stop being 'Announcement Ministers'. We have implemented all the schemes."

## Swatantra Dev flays Akhilesh for lowering decorum of assembly

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

Criticising Samajwadi Party president Akhilesh Yadav for lowering the decorum of the assembly, state BJP president Swatantra Dev Singh said that what irks Akhilesh was the way the Yogi government demolished the citadels of goons and criminals patronised by Samajwadi Party leaders. Singh said that Akhilesh had lowered the dignity of the House and was wasting valuable time of the House by leveling false charges against the government.

"The Samajwadi Party leaders should speak on public welfare, instead of launching a vitiated campaign against the government. Why is Akhilesh not accepting that not a single riot occurred during Yogi ji's tenure whereas during SP regime, there were about 1000 riots between 2012 and 2017.. Besides, as compared to 2016 till April 30, 2022 there has been a 77 per cent decline in dacoity, 55 per cent in robbery cases, 34 per cent in murders, 50 per cent in

skirmishes, 37 per cent in kidnapping for ransom and rape," he said.

Singh further said that Akhilesh should realise that the public had rejected him twice in a row.

"The reason for this is also clear that the Yogi government promised to ensure security and respect to all and bring peace and harmony in the state. The BJP government confiscated property worth Rs 1438 crore owned by 50 notorious criminals of the state. Their illegal possession was removed through demolition.

Akhilesh probably did not like Yogi's strike against criminals," he said.

The state BJP chief said, "What the Yogi government did in the last five years and what it was doing in the second innings, was hurting Akhilesh Yadav. "The Yogi government took the initiative to destroy goons and mafia raised in the SP government, which the entire state is applauding except for the SP," he said.



### NOTICE

I, Ragini Singh, D/o G.B. Singh, R/o Eldeco Udayan-2, Lucknow, have changed my name from Ragini to Ragini Singh for all future purposes.

### NOTICE

I have changed My Name from ZAVIDAHMAD TO JAVED AHMED for all future Purpose, Javed Ahmed S/o Jaleel R/O 114, Taki Nagar, Unnao

### NOTICE

I have changed my name from Jasvinder Singh to Jasvinder Singh Bedi Jasvinder Singh Bedi S/o Amolak Singh Bedi R/O 118/216, Kaushalpur, Kanpur

### NOTICE

Notify that I have changed my name from Sharfuddin Ansari to Sharfuddin for all purposes. Sharfuddin S/o Late Nooruddin R/O H. No. 159/41, Subhan Nagar, Rakabganj Lucknow-226018

### NOTICE

I have changed my son name from Agam Bhasin to Agam Singh Bhasin Kunwarjit Singh Bhasin S/o Harjinder Singh Bhasin R/o Banglow No. 107, Harding Road, Meerpur Cantt, Kanpur.

### NOTICE

I have changed my name from Mohd. Abdul Rahman to Abdul Rahman Khan for all future purpose, Abdul Rahman Khan s/o Nehal Khan R/O Khaira Hasan, Turahni Rajjab, Bahraich ( U P )

### NOTICE

Original Registered agreement to sell, No 1029 dtd 04.12.2012, of my property 519/3, Awas Vikas Yojna 3, Sector E, Krishna Vihar, Kalyanpur, Kanpur has been lost. Surendra Mohan Bhartiya S/O Ram Bharose 9559800404

### NOTICE

The general public informed that I No 2693487M HAV Satendra Bahadur Singh which is wrong in our government document my father name Shio Bandhan Singh and DOB- 05-03-1959 wrong written in my document whereas father's correct name Shiv Bandhan Singh and DOB- 01-07-1955 my mother name Saroj Devi and DOB 14-08-1964 wrong written in my document whereas mother's correct name Saroj and DOB 01-01-1956 which is mentioned in Adhar Card.

## CM: No one died of hunger during pandemic due to free ration scheme

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath on Wednesday praised Prime Minister Narendra Modi for launching free food grains distribution to the poor, especially during the pandemic, and claimed that just due to successful implementation of the free ration scheme, the country did not face any death due to hunger like one witnessed during the pandemic in 1880-85.

Yogi Adityanath made this claim while replying to a question raised by Bahujan Samaj Party leader Bhimrao Ambedkar on free ration distributed to BPL card holders in the upper House.

After coming to power, his government had provided ration cards to all those who were deprived from receiving food grains, Yogi Adityanath claimed.

He said that a glaring example of it was smooth supply of food grain kits to all workers, labourers and others during the COVID-19 pandemic time.

Praising Prime Minister Narendra Modi for implement-

ing national portability (one nation, one ration card) of ration cards, Yogi Adityanath said that this facility turned out a boon for the poor as irrespective of where they were held up during pandemic, they could receive free food grains throughout the country and to facilitate this service, 80,000 e-pass machines had been installed by the government in UP in the fair price shops.

Yogi Adityanath reminded that just due to the national portability scheme, no one faced food grain shortage even during the lockdown period. "Between 1880-85, various records which included articles of Bankimchandra Upadhyaya, Anand Bhatt and others clearly mentioned that during pandemic that time, maximum people died of hunger than those who fell victim to the pandemic," Yogi Adityanath cited claiming that now just due to special initiative taken by Bharatiya Janata Party government, the country faced no such situation where anyone had died of hunger.

He praised Modi for ensuring free food grains distribution to 80 crore people and said that

even after Deepawali and also at present, free food grain distribution had been continued so that no one faced hardship due to the after effects of the pandemic.

He said that now even oil, sugar, salt, pulses etc were being given free with the food grains kit which showed the concern of the government towards problems faced by the poor. He said that the state government was providing free ration to 15 crore people in UP.

Replying to a question raised by Samajwadi Party member Rajpal Kashyap on the condition of the community engaged in fishing, Yogi Adityanath said telling lies frequently would not make something true, and claimed that his government was fully concerned about the fisheries community. "In 1991, the BJP government was the first to lease them ponds, rivers etc for fishing," he said.

He said that later on governments made some changes and when the High Court objected over the lease, they formed a policy for the same which had benefited the entire fishery community.

## Record payment made to cane farmers

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

Fulfilling the promise of speedy payment of cane dues, the Uttar Pradesh government made record payment of more than Rs 1.73 lakh crore from crushing session 2017-18 to farmers till now.

The sugarcane sector is largely considered to be the backbone of the state's economy. The importance of the sector in Uttar Pradesh can be gauged from the fact that the crop is cultivated by about 65 lakh farmers across the state and the sugar industry directly supports over 45 lakh families.

Procurement by the state government has been record breaking with each passing year in this decade. Over 45.74 lakh cane growers in Uttar Pradesh have been paid more than Rs 1,73,668.68 crore from 2017 to May 2022. The payment is more than thrice the amount made by the former Bahujan Samaj Party government and over 1.5 times higher than the previous Samajwadi Party government.

"The department is also making efforts to increase productivity of sugarcane from the present 81.5 tonnes per hectare to 84 tonnes per hectare in the next five years," Additional Chief Secretary (Sugarcane development) Sanjay Bhooresreddy said.

## SP may send Jayant to RS

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

Samajwadi Party chief Akhilesh Yadav has deferred the decision on the third party candidate for the Rajya Sabha polls scheduled on June 10.

Former MP from Kannauj and Akhilesh' wife Dimple Yadav was scheduled to file her papers as the third SP candidate on Wednesday, but the move was stalled at the eleventh hour.

SP sources said that Akhilesh Yadav was weighing options and might nominate Rashtriya Lok Dal president Jayant Chaudhary as the third candidate in the Rajya Sabha polls.

The RLD is an ally of Samajwadi Party and the two parties joined hands to contest the last assembly poll. The SP had earlier indicated that the party would not send Jayant Chaudhary to the Rajya Sabha on its ticket.

Sources said that Akhilesh had promised to send Jayant Chaudhary to the Rajya Sabha but wanted him in the upper House under his party's banner. Chaudhary however insisted on contesting the election as his own party (RLD) candidate with support from Samajwadi Party.

"The third candidate will be declared soon. You all will come to know about it" Akhilesh Yadav told news persons in Lucknow.

Meanwhile on Wednesday, Congress veteran and

Independent candidate Kapil Sibal backed by Samajwadi Party and Javed Ali Khan of SP filed their papers.

The SP can send three candidates to the Rajya Sabha on the basis of its and its allies' strength of 125 MLAs in UP assembly.

The SP move to support Sibal is seen as a quid pro quo after his efforts as party MP Mohammad Azam Khan's lawyer.

The Rajya Sabha elections next month will include 11 seats from Uttar Pradesh. The last date for filing nomination papers is May 31 and scrutiny will be held on June 10. If only 11 candidates file papers then all will be declared elected unopposed, otherwise polling will be held on June 10.

The Bharatiya Janata Party, which recently returned to power in the politically crucial state with a massive win, is set to maintain its dominance in the upper House of Parliament by occupying around 80 per cent of the total seats.

UP sends 31 MPs to Rajya Sabha and 11 of them are set to retire on July 4. This includes five from BJP, three from SP, two from BSP and one from Congress. At present, the BJP has a strength of 22, Samajwadi Party five, BSP three and Congress one in the Rajya Sabha from UP.

The BJP has 255 members in the Uttar Pradesh assembly and can send eight members to the Rajya Sabha.

## UP Budget today

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

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

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

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

The Uttar Pradesh government had on December 16, 2021 presented an interim-budget for 2022-23 in the state legislature, proposing an expenditure of Rs 5,45,370.69 crore and estimated receipts of Rs 5,44,836.56 crore. This left a deficit of Rs 534.13 crore.

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

The government is also likely to announce the creation of a stabilisation fund for ensuring remunerative prices for the crops of tomato, onion and potato. An allocation of Rs 20,000 crore is expected to be made for the Irrigation department in the 2022-23 budget. As per the scheme for irrigation announced by the chief minister, subsidies will be provided for bore wells, tube wells and construction of water tanks.

While the government has set a target to expand its economy to \$1 trillion by 2027, data shows that the state has seen a dip in exports, considered a major driver of economic growth and development, in the past three years. Uttar Pradesh has slipped from fourth rank to fifth in 2022 among all states by value of exports, according to data shared by the Union Commerce Ministry.

The data shows UP's share of exports in India was just 5 per cent in the year 2021-22 (April to February). Uttar Pradesh exported goods worth Rs 1,40,107 crore. In 2020-21, UP's share of exports was 5.63 per cent, with the state exporting goods worth Rs 1,21,140 crore. In 2019-2020, goods worth Rs 1,17,902 crore were exported and the state's share was 5.31 per cent.

Exports are considered to be one of the major drivers of economic growth and development. The economy of Uttar Pradesh is the third largest of all the states of India and it contributes nearly 8 per cent of the national GDP.

## Fresh plea seeks ban on entry of Muslims in Gyanvapi complex

Varanasi (PNS): A fresh petition in the Shringar Gauri-Gyanvapi Mosque complex lawsuit seeking a ban on the entry of Muslims in Gyanvapi complex was on Wednesday transferred to the court of civil judge (senior division/fast track) from the court of civil judge, senior division. The fast track court will hear the petition on May 30. International general secretary of Vishwa Vedic Sanatan Sangh, Kiran Singh, on Tuesday last had filed a fresh petition in the court of Civil Judge (Senior Division) Ravi Kumar Diwakar in the Shringar Gauri temple-Gyanvapi complex matter seeking a ban on the entry of Muslims in the Gyanvapi complex in which the Gyanvapi mosque is located.

The petitioner also

demanding that the entire Gyanvapi complex be handed over to Hindus and sought permission for worship of 'Shivling' claimed by the Hindu side to have been found in the wuzu khana of the Gyanvapi complex. The civil judge (senior division) had accepted the petition.

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

It is learnt that the court of the district judge will hear the maintainability of the Shringar Gauri-Gyanvapi mosque complex lawsuit on Thursday. The five women filed a petition in the court of Civil Judge (Senior

Division) Ravi Kumar Diwakar seeking permission to worship in the Shringar Gauri temple and preservation of the idols located in the Gyanvapi mosque complex.

The defendants, including the Anjuman Itteazamia Masjid Committee, which looks after the management of the Gyanvapi mosque, had moved an application in the Supreme Court under Order 7, Rule 11 of the Civil Procedure Code (CrPC), raising question on the maintainability of the suit. The apex court on May 20 had transferred the petition to the court of the district judge from the court of the civil judge, senior division and directed him to hear the application moved by the defendants on priority basis.

## Missing minor girl's body found in field

Lucknow (PNS): In yet another sensational incident, the naked body of a seven-year-old girl who went missing on Tuesday afternoon, was found in a field in Kabuli village of Etawah on Wednesday.

Her kin suspect that the victim was sexually assaulted and later murdered by the assailants to conceal their identity. The victim's father claimed that his daughter was playing outside his house and later went missing on Tuesday afternoon. Later, the harried family members launched a hunt but failed to trace her after which they informed the Chaubia police station.

On Wednesday morning, the body of the girl was found in the field near SS Paddy Mill in a semi-naked. Blood stains

were also found on her body and private parts pointing towards a possible sexual assault. Later the police reached the scene and started an investigation. A forensic team inspected the spot and collected evidence.

Meanwhile in Kaushambi, a man was arrested for raping a seven-year-old girl in a village in Karari area on Tuesday. The minor was playing in the village when the accused, aged around 20, took her to a field and raped her. After the victim shrieked for help alerting the villagers, the miscreant fled. A case was registered against the accused on Wednesday and he was arrested. The girl was admitted to a hospital, where she will undergo a medical examination.



**LUCKNOW DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY**  
(ISO 14001 : 2004, ISO 9001:2008 प्रमाणित संस्थान)  
Pradhikaran Bhawan, Vinay Khand, Gomti Nagar, Lucknow-226010 (U.P.)  
Phone : 0522-2307886, Website: http://www.ldaonline.co.in

पत्रांक : 13/ई-निविदा/मु 0 अ/2022-23 दिनांक : 25.05.2022

**EXPRESSION OF INTEREST**

Lucknow Development Authority invites Expression of Interest (EOI) from qualified, reputed and experienced Agencies/Institution for conduct (operation) of Food Plaza in Zonal Park Lucknow in Two Bid System. The Tender documents can be downloaded from the E-Tendering Website <http://etender.up.nic.in> From 26.05.2022 to 23.06.2022 by 3 P.M. The uploaded bid will be opened next day at 12 A.M.

**CHIEF ENGINEER**

**एचडीएफसी म्यूचुअल फंड - निवेशक जागरूकता कार्यक्रम**

**म्यूचुअल फंड्स के बारे में और अधिक जानने के लिए इसमें अवश्य भाग लें.**

**विनांक तथा स्थान :**  
शनिवार, 28 मई 2022 : शाम 6:30 बजे से.  
होटल भावना क्लब्स इन्, भावना टॉवर, केलापुरी रोड, गुरुद्वारा का ताल के सामने, सेक्टर 16 बी, कर कुंज चौराहा, आवास विकास कॉलोनी, लोहापंडी, आगरा - 282002, उत्तर प्रदेश .  
रजिस्ट्रेशन करने के लिए, कृपया संपर्क करें: गगन अरोड़ा, मोबाइल: 98714 89222.  
रजिस्ट्रेशन अनिवार्य है. रजिस्ट्रेशन का समय सुबह 9:30 बजे से शाम 7:00 बजे तक होगा.  
कार्यक्रम के दौरान कोविड सुरक्षा दिशानिर्देशों का पालन करना अनिवार्य है.  
वॉक-इन की अनुमति नहीं दी जाएगी.

  
An Investor Education by HDFC Mutual Fund

केआईटी, पत्रा संकेत, निवेशक निवारण और के लिए सेंट्रल बॉर्डर - <https://www.hdfcfund.com/information/key-know-how>  
**म्यूचुअल फंड निवेश बाजार के जोखिमों के अधीन हैं, योजना से जुड़े सभी दस्तावेजों को ध्यान से पढ़ें.**

**IN THE COURT OF THE CIVIL JUDGE SR. DIVISION - IV AT JAMSHEDPUR**  
**Original Suit No. 162 / 2010**  
Anjana Mahatain .....Plaintiff.  
-versus-  
Balaram Mahato and others .....Defendants

**Notice**

To  
Sujit Kumar Mitra, S/o, Late Shyama Pada Mitra, R.o, H.No. M.L. - 18, Ambedkar Nagar, Kanpur, Uttar Pradesh (U.P.).

Whereas the plaintiff above named Anjana Mahatain has filed above mentioned original suit against all of you and whereas in spite of notices served upon under registered post and through process server of civil Court, you have failed to appear in the said suit.

You are hereby directed to appear before this court in the said suit directly or through your lawyer on 27th day of June 2022 at 7:30 A.M. positively failing which the suit shall be heard in your absence.

Given under my hand and seal of this court on 23rd day of May 2022 at Jamshedpur.

Civil Judge, Sr. Div.-IV  
At Jamshedpur

**IN THE COURT OF THE V JUNIOR CIVIL JUDGE, CITY CIVIL COURT AT HYDERABAD.**  
**O.S.No. 3883 of 2021.**

Between:  
Union Bank of India, [A Govt. of India undertaking] [formerly] Andhra Bank Credit Card Division, rep. by its Sr. Manager [Law], Head Office, Kott. Hyderabad. ...Plaintiff.

AND

Mr. M. Mohd. Atif Usmani, S/o Mohd. Anis Usmani, Aged about 37yrs, Occ: Business, MIG-52, K.D.A.Colony, Jajmau, Kanpur-208 010.

or  
Mr. M. Mohd. Atif Usmani, S/o Mohd. Anis Usmani, Sole Proprietor, IFA EXIM Manufacturing, Bhallad Taunery Compound, Purani Chungli, Kanpur. ...Defendant.

Whereas the above named Plaintiff has filed the above suit O.S.No.3883 of 2021 on the file of Honble V Junior Civil Judge, City Civil Court, Hyderabad against you for recovery of due amount of Rs.1.95,678.16 pertaining to your credit card no. 4373-7820-6438-6000. You are therefore directed to appear in person or through Advocate on 14.6.22 at 10.30 a.m. to answer the suit, failing which the suit will be decided ex parte. Take notice accordingly.

### [AS PER THE COURT ORDER]

M.V.Nagaraj,  
V.V.S.Annam  
Counsel for Plaintiffs.  
H.No. 1-1-336/18,  
Chikkadapalli,Hyderabad.  
Cell:98496-66587



# Anti-encroachment drive shows result

## Traffic congestion decreases, exercise to continue

SHARMILA KRISHNA ■  
LUCKNOW

The traffic congestion has decreased at several road crossings in the city that include Polytechnic, Sikandar Bagh, Hazratganj and Burlington as initiatives by the traffic police and all the other stakeholders continue.

However, the general public, which is noticing the difference, is hoping with fingers crossed that the encroachments do not return.

The deputy commissioner of police (traffic) admitted that the feedback was good and except for the peak time when there was some increase in the traffic load, otherwise the snarls had decreased to a large extent in the state capital. He said that traffic snarls were not reported any time during the day.

Incidentally, a reality check by this reporter by moving from Indiranagar to Charbagh showed that it currently takes 20 minutes to cover this distance on a four-wheeler at noon time. At Charbagh, the auto rickshaws and tempos waiting behind the road divider for passengers and the encroachment through the entire route have been removed.

The DCP (Traffic) admits



that these crossings are now less congested since the encroachments have been removed. However, he admits that because of the diversions, the traffic flow has increased in some areas.

"The movement of traffic has been stopped on the road towards the Ambedkar Park which goes to Gomti Nagar and diversions have been made for heavy vehicles from the Vidhan Bhawan to the KKC. Hence in some areas where the diversions have been made, there is an increase in traffic. The road from Ambedkar Park has two-thirds of the traffic on the route and hence the traffic flow towards the Samta Moolak crossing has increased," he

said.

The DCP (Traffic) said that in the coming days, the footpaths would also be cleared of encroachments so that people may get space to walk on the footpaths.

"This is because people place goods and open shops on the footpath and clearing the footpath will help and allow people a proper space for movement," he said.

He said that the traffic improvement would be a continuous process and it would not only involve all the stakeholders but also the people who would have to cooperate.

"Currently, the peak hours are between 9 am and 11 am and from 7 pm to 9 pm when

the traffic increases," he pointed out. The DCP (Traffic) appealed to the people not to walk on the wrong side and not to park vehicles on the road.

Regarding their plans for the other areas for smoothening the traffic flow such as Alambagh, he said that they have initiated the efforts and it would catch up pace.

The Polytechnic crossing is now free of the large number of vendors selling cut fruits, popcorns and vendors who stopped every bus coming that way to sell their wares. This has cleared a large space. The tempos and taxis now stand at a distance and do not crowd the crossing for getting passengers. Similar scenes prevail at

the road outside Charbagh railway station.

Prahlad Joshi from Gomti Nagar said that the encroachments normally returned very soon. "This has happened several times and the encroachments normally return. If the effort can be sustained then there will be some relief from traffic snarls," he said.

Devendra Chowdhary, who lives in Kamta, said that there was some relief at present. "There is some relief at present as the Kamta trisection, which always witnessed traffic jams, is providing so much breathing space. I ventured to my village at 10 pm in the night and was surprised to see the smooth traffic flow," he said.

Baldev Chowdhary, who comes from Para to Mahanagar via the old city area, said that the removal of the e-rickshaws in Chowk had made a difference.

"The medical university road is better to a large extent with the e-rickshaws removed," he said.

Meanwhile, under the road safety programme of the UP Traffic Police, a seminar was organised with the members of Transport Nagar Union and it was expected that the union would follow the traffic rules and support the traffic police.

# UP gearing up for the third groundbreaking ceremony

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

With Uttar Pradesh gearing up for the third groundbreaking ceremony on June 3, Prime Minister Narendra Modi is scheduled to inaugurate the event which will be attended by more than 60 industry captains.

Modi will perform 'bhumi puja' for about 2,000 projects worth Rs 75,000 crore at the ceremony.

"Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath is personally supervising the arrangements for the ceremony which is sure to mark a turning point in the history of the state. In the last five years, sectors such as information technology and electronics, food and food processing and infrastructure have seen massive investment by companies with a global footprint," a UP government spokesman said.

Industry Minister Nand Gopal Gupta 'Nandi' said that the third GBC and investment ceremony marked a display of confidence by the industry and corporate of India and abroad in the conducive environment created by the Yogi Adityanath government in the last five years.

While Investors' Summit held in February, 2018, was followed by the first GBC, the second GBC was held in July 2019.

Nandi further said that in

the UP Investors' Summit and GBC held in February 2018, 81 projects with projected investments worth Rs 61,800 crore were put into operation. The second GBC held on July 28, 2019, saw 290 projects worth Rs 67,000 crore put into operation, he added.

"The third GBC is bigger than the previous two with a higher projected investment. In terms of number of projects, the top department is food processing, with 474 projects, worth Rs 4118.39 crores as the sum of investment intent," the Industry minister said.

However, in terms of value, the top department is IT and Electronics, where the number of projects is 14, but the sum of investment intent is a staggering Rs 20587.05 crore. In this sector, projects are related to setting up of data centres, software development centres, IT and ITes centres. This indicates preference of intending companies for Uttar Pradesh as a suitable destination for their projects.

"This has been possible because of the sustained efforts of departments to provide a conducive environment to global and multinational companies to work smoothly. This includes providing ease of doing business like setting up of companies, building infrastructure, security, human

resources, suitable environment to highly-skilled professionals and executives who often have a background of having worked in metro cities and even abroad," Nandi said.

Notable among other departments with a large number of projects are: FSDA or Food Safety and Drug Administration (59), Tourism (23), Cooperative (24), Housing (23), Additional Sources of Energy (20), Excise (13), Textile (12), Animal Husbandry (6), Higher Education (4) and Dairy (3).

Among facilitating departments, UP State Industrial Development Authority or UPSIDA has the highest number of projects at 647, followed by NOIDA (47), UP Expressways Industrial Development Authority or UEIDA (25), Greater Noida (17), Gorakhpur Industrial Development Authority or GIDA (14), Yamuna Expressway Industrial Development Authority or YEIDA (7) and Infrastructure and Industrial Development Department or IIDDD (3). The major interest shown in Uttar Pradesh by top industrial houses in varied sectors will go a long way in boosting the state's economy and is likely to create lakhs of employment opportunities.

# Thefts in Mohanlalganj giving local residents sleepless nights

**Lucknow (PNS):** Successive thefts in Mohanlalganj area have given the local residents sleepless nights with several of them remaining awake till dawn to keep vigil at their houses.

The recent was the theft of a solar panel and battery from a private school in Dahiya village of the locality. Earlier, the daring thieves had stolen the belongings of farmers Dev Saran, Shiv Saran and Sushil Kumar and also a pumping set belonging to a farmer in Dharmawat Kheda. The police are yet to get a clue to the thieves in these cases.

Following the spate of thefts, the villagers met senior officials who took the subordinates to task. But the police have failed to bust the gang active in the area.

ADCP (South) Rajesh Srivastava said the police teams had been asked to prepare a list of thefts in the past and the names of the thieves that surfaced during investigations. "The police are preparing a dossier and hope to crack all these cases of theft," he said.

# Four of a family killed in road accident

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

Four of a family met a tragic end when their SUV jumped over a divider and collided head-on with a truck in Barabanki on Wednesday morning.

Besides, seven other people were killed in separate road mishaps since Tuesday evening.

In Barabanki, four members of a family perished when a SUV collided with a truck on Wednesday. The four members of the family were heading to Lucknow from Ayodhya and they had hired a driver for the transit. Apparently the driver dosed off midway and two sheep suddenly appeared on the road. Desperately attempting to save the livestock, the sleepy driver suddenly swerved to his right and in the process hit the road divider before colliding with a truck coming from the opposite direction.

The impact of the collision was so intense that a JCB had to be called to extricate the bodies and send them for autopsy. The deceased were identified as Haider Ali, Shafiq, Amir and Anees of Lucknow.

Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath expressed grief over the deaths.

Elsewhere in Jalaun, two persons were killed and 11 others injured when the vehicle they were travelling in collided with a parked truck on Jhansi-Kanpur national highway in Orai police station limits.

As per reports, a total of 13 people were travelling in the vehicle which collided with a truck parked at the roadside near an eatery. Two people, including the driver and a woman, were killed and 11 others were injured.

The deceased and the injured were from

Siddharthnagar. They worked as daily wagers and were coming from Pune in Maharashtra.

The injured were rushed to a hospital. The condition of four of the injured was stated to be critical and they were referred to medical college hospital in Kanpur.

In another mishap in Agra, a policeman riding a bike died after being hit by an unknown vehicle on a highway in the Etmadpur area on Tuesday night.

Abhishek Faujdar (26) of Indra Nagar in Tundla (Firozabad) was posted in Auraiya's Phaphund police station and had gone to Agra on government work. While he was returning on Tuesday night, an unknown vehicle ran him over, killing him on the spot.

In Siddharthnagar, a father-son duo and a woman out on a night stroll, died in

two separate mishaps in the last 24 hours.

As per reports, Reena Sahni (27) of village Bardaha Chauraha went out for a walk after dinner on Tuesday night when she was hit by a bike. The victim was critically injured and was rushed to a hospital where she succumbed to her injuries. The bike owner was arrested soon after the accident and a case was registered against him.

In another incident near Bargadwa intersection, Mahtab Hussain (59) and his son Anwar Hussain of Barhara Kandai village in Purandarpur police station area of Maharaiganj were returning home in their Scorpio MUV when the vehicle collided with a speeding truck coming from the opposite direction.

While Mahtab died on the spot, Anwar died on the way to the hospital. The truck driver

fled after the incident. A case was registered and the bodies were sent for post-mortem.

In Kannauj, a woman died while four other kin were injured when their car collided with a road divider on Agra-Lucknow Expressway early Wednesday morning. They were admitted to government medical college hospital in Tirwan from where two of them were referred to Kanpur medical college hospital.

Rajul Pandey (33) of Greater Noida, his wife Ruchi Pandey (32), their son Riyanish Pandey (22), mother Basanti Pandey (55) and niece Lucky Pandey (19) had gone to Siwan in Bihar. During their return journey, they met with an accident early Wednesday morning. While Ruchi died during treatment, Lucky and Basanti were referred to Kanpur medical college hospital in a critical condition.

# LDA preparing report of TP Nagar scam

**Lucknow (PNS):** The state government has asked the Lucknow Development Authority (LDA) to furnish the details of the residential plots and flats scams which were recently reported in the Transport (TP) Nagar area.

The reason for taking such a step is to study the detailed report before taking a decision to convert the entire area into free hold.

It is reported that the LDA administration has decided to convert the land in TP Nagar into free hold after completing the formalities. This decision was taken following protests by different trade unions and transport associations aiming to boost up their business.

Two scandals were reported in the area as over 50 residential plots and three dozen flats were sold to home buyers on forged documents in the past. The LDA administration reportedly suffered a loss of Rs 5 crore in these scams as the money which was to be deposited in its exchequer was diverted to others.

LDA Secretary Pawan Gangwar said the LDA administration had almost finalised the report of the scandals and would table the findings within a week. He claimed there was no cover-up and all facts gathered after physical inspection by the probing team were being reported.

The secretary said that it was up to the state government to take any action once the report was submitted to the senior officials.

# LU Women's Studies Institute to introduce three new courses

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

The Board of Studies of the Institute of Women's Studies of Lucknow University, has proposed to introduce three co-curricular courses under the title gender, violence and mental health in the third semester and two vocational courses, women and entrepreneurship skill development and women, leadership and management, in the fourth semester of graduation.

The LU spokesperson said that such courses had been proposed by Governor of Uttar Pradesh and Chancellor Anandiben Patel.

According to Dr Archana Shukla, coordinator of the Institute of Women's Studies, the co-curricular courses will give a practical value to the students in general and women in particular.

"To handle changes and challenges in real life situations and sensitise students on how gender based violence impacts on mental health, this paper opens up the scope for students to specialise further in the area of gender-based violence and counselling with a wide range of possibilities for employability. The second vocational course

aims at introducing the concept of entrepreneurship and its process with an emphasis on developing women entrepreneurs. This course provides a scope for students to seek job opportunities in NGOs and organisations that work for generating employment for women groups. The third vocational course will develop an employability skill among the students. The aim of this course is to develop the student's understanding of leadership and management. This course provides the students with skills required for managers and students" she said.

**FREE TUTORIALS FOR NET-JRF** Meanwhile, the commerce department of Lucknow University, under the leadership of head of department, Prof Audhesh Kumar Tripathi, is going to organise free tutorial classes for NET-JRF aspirants.

In this regard the entrance examination was conducted on May 19. The result of the entrance examination has been declared for 'Super 30' classes. Thirty top students have been selected on the basis of ranks in the entrance examination. Classes for the selected students will begin from May 30.

# Tricksters rob man of Rs 22,500

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

Two miscreants tricked a man withdrawing cash from an ATM booth and later withdrew Rs 22,500 from his bank account in Hasanganj police station area on Wednesday.

As per reports, the victim, Ashok Kumar Mishra of Vikas Nagar, stopped at an ATM booth in Kabir Vatika locality (near Daliganj railway crossing) to withdraw Rs 2,000 from his bank account. When he completed the withdrawal process, two youths entered the booth and talked about fraud at ATM booths and placing of a schemer in the machine. This confused the victim and he sought help from the miscreants who changed his ATM card with another one they had.

After fifteen minutes, he got a message of withdrawal of Rs 22,500 from his account on his registered mobile number. "I went to the bank to enquire and was told that the money was withdrawn by using my ATM card," he said. Police registered a case in this connection and an investigation is underway.

**THEFT:** Thieves made off with Rs 80,000 in cash and ornaments worth several lakh from a house when the house owner and his family members were fast asleep in Gudamba police station area in the intervening night on Tuesday and Wednesday. The house owner, Chhote Lal of Jehta village in the area, said the thieves entered the house by cutting the roof when they all were fast asleep. "The thieves rummaged through all the

rooms and decamped with the cash and ornaments and other items," he said. Police registered a case and an investigation is underway.

**RECOVERED:** A team of Naka police helped a bus passenger in getting back his lost Rs 2 lakh that were kept in a bag, on Wednesday. The passenger, identified as Ram Asrey Tiwari of Unnao, was traveling to Kanpur from Balrampur by a bus which took a halt at Charbagh bus station. When the passengers got down for refreshment, Tiwari also got down for some work and a little later he found the bag missing. He immediately called the police and SHO Naka Manoj Mishra and Constable Brijesh Pandey went out to search the bag. A little later the team succeeded in finding the bag in which the money was found intact. Tiwari thanked the police for the help.

## ARMY MAN ATTACKS WOMAN CONSTABLE

A woman constable posted at Naka police station was allegedly attacked in Charbagh area by an army man late in the night on Tuesday. According to police, Constable Poonam was on duty near Charbagh railway station when she saw two men donning army uniform loitering on the road and questioned them. It is alleged that the army man talked rough with a female constable. SHO Naka, Manoj Mishra, said that the accused army man was challaned for voluntarily causing hurt to the woman constable to deter her from her duty, intentional insult with intent to provoke breach of peace and using criminal force against a woman.

# Digital mechanism for Covid data collection

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

The mechanism developed for data collection, reporting, compilation and analysis during the COVID-19 pandemic will be applied to other programmes in the state because these were robust and of great help. Giving this information, State Surveillance Officer Vikasendu Agarwal said that with this mechanism the district teams could do a lot of analytical work in their respective areas.

He said that the lessons learnt from COVID-19 pandemic would be incorporated in the overall preparation of the diseases. "Data collection has been a weak part here but in COVID-19 pandemic we were doing much better than the other states and the difference was hand-holding and this lesson is something which we will carry forward in several other programmes that come up," he said.

Agarwal further said, "We developed digital reporting in the Covid system and that for other diseases also. We also have surveillance data

for the state. We will increase capacity-building and involve the community health officers in issues of pandemic and outbreaks. But these are in the very initial stages," he said.

Regarding whether they had de-notified Covid hospitals now that COVID-19 was not prevailing, he said, "The Covid hospitals are now doing routine activities."

The senior officer pointed out that the data they had collected was being utilised continuously for chalking out strategies for control of diseases.

Agarwal said that the COVID-19 pandemic was receding with not many cases being reported. "As far as monkeypox is concerned, there are no cases but we have issued an advisory to the districts to inform them about the symptoms and how the samples are to be collected in such cases," he said.

He said that amongst the vector-borne diseases they were focusing on hepatitis control programmes and trying to sensitise the districts in this direction.

# Bharat Gaurav tourist train to connect Ayodhya, Janakpur

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

For the first time a tourist train will go from India to Nepal and connect two divine cities (Ayodhya and Janakpur) by train on the Ramayana train circuit.

Not only this, one can enjoy the journey for religious places at EMIs which are easily available for the tour and will be given by banks empanelled with the IRCTC which is catering the tour facility for the devotees.

The IRCTC will run its first Bharat Gaurav Tourist Train under the aegis of the Railways Ministry's new policy and the train is set to make its maiden journey on June 21 this year from Delhi.

This train will run on the Ramayana Circuit identified under Swadesh Darshan scheme covering prominent places associated with the life of Lord Shri Ram.

A visit to Ram Janaki temple in Janakpur located in Nepal will be the part of this tour. The 18-day tour will start from Delhi's Safdarjung railway station on June 21 by the Bharat Gaurav AC Tourist Train.

The tourist train is fitted with a well-equipped pantry car for serving freshly made vegetarian meals to the tourists. Infotainment system, CCTV camera, security guard services shall also be available on the train.

The Bharat Gaurav Tourist

Train with eleven 3rd AC class coaches will accommodate around 600 tourists.

The IRCTC will give a discount of 5 per cent in fare to the first 50 per cent passengers who opt for the service first.

"The maiden Bharat Gaurav train is all set to commence its journey on the Shri Ramayana Yatra tour wherein the Janakpur is an important destination in the tour itinerary. In the previous tours, Janakpur was covered from Sitamarhi station by train. Recently, Indian Railway, with active support of Nepal Railway, has extended the track from Jaynagar station in India up to Janakpur in Nepal," Chief Regional Manager Ajeet Kumar Sinha said.

"Coupled with a modern state of the art AC rake, the tourist train will start from Delhi on June 21 2022 and will cover all prominent places associated with the life of Lord Rama. This initiative will strengthen the bilateral relations and also promote the cultural relations between the two countries," he said.

The proposed 18-day Bharat Gaurav Tourist train tour has its first stop at Ayodhya, where tourists will visit Shri Ram Janmbhumi temple and Hanuman temple and additionally Bharat Mandir at Nandigram. After Ayodhya, the next destination is Buxar where the tourists will be shown the hermitage of Maharishi Vishwamitra and

the Ramrekha Ghat where the guests can take a holy dip in the Ganga. The train will move on to Janakpur (Nepal) via Jaynagar. The tourists will stay overnight at hotels in Janakpur and visit the famous Ram-Janaki Temple in Janakpur.

Further, tourists will proceed to Sitamarhi for the visit of Sita's birth place and after the train will proceed from Sitamarhi to the oldest living city of the world, Varanasi. While at Kashi, tourists will walk around the temples at Varanasi Sita Samahit Sthal, Prayag, Shringverpur and Chitrakoot will be covered by road. Night stay at hotels will be provided at Varanasi, Prayag and Chitrakoot.

The train journey on the

next leg moves to Nasik for overnight stay at hotels. Visit to Trayambakeshwar temple and Panchvati will be covered.

Next destination after Nasik is the visit to the ancient city of Kishkindha, Hampi with overnight stay at hotels. Here the guests will visit the temple believed to be the birth place of Lord Hanuman atop the Anjaneyadri Hills and other heritage and religious sites. Rameshwaram is the next destination of this train tour wherein Ramanathaswamy temple and Dhanushkodi will be covered along with overnight stay at hotels.

The train's destination is Kanchipuram where Shiv Kanchi, Vishnu Kanchi and Kamakshi temples are on the

day's excursion. The last destination that the train touches in this tour is Bhadrachalam in Telangana state which is also widely referred to as the Ayodhya of South India.

After this, the train will return back to Delhi on the 18th day of its journey covering a distance of around 8000 Kms in this entire Ramayana tour.

This fully air-conditioned tourist train will comprise eleven 3 rd AC coaches, one pantry car and two SLRs will provide freshly cooked vegetarian meals, will be fitted with infotainment system and public announcements system.

Bharat Gaurav Tourist Train launch is in line with the Government of India initiative

"Dekho ApnaDesh" to promote domestic tourism.

The fare for the journey will be Rs. 62,370 per person. The all inclusive package price will cover train journey in 3rd AC, night stay at AC hotels, all meals (vegetarian only).

All necessary health precautionary measures will be taken care of by providing safe and healthy travel during the tour and Covid protocol will be ensured.

The IRCTC said the users could avail the EMI payment option for making payment in 3, 6, 9, 12, 18 or 24 monthly installments.

COVID-19 final vaccination is mandatory for all guests of the age of 18 years and above.



# KDA secures possession of plot

PNS ■ KANPUR

The ongoing drive of Kanpur Development Authority (KDA) against the white-collar people who, with the help of organised gangs and legal loopholes, are active in securing unauthorised possession on its land, continued on Wednesday also. KDA team secured the physical possession on plot No 196, E Block, Kidwai Nagar, measuring 6.56 acre (2,6547 sq mtrs) early on Wednesday morning for violating the conditions of the lease deed executed by its former institution Kanpur Development Board on September 9, 1957, in favour of Manager Ram Gopal Sharma, Mahesh Bhatt Vidyalaya Society. The cost of this corner plot was estimated to be around Rs 450 crore according to market value. Meanwhile, Kanpur Development Authority (KDA) has sealed the Divinity Apartments in Baiiry Akbarpur Banger on Tuesday

for carrying out construction beyond the building layout approved on August 11, 2020. KDA Vice- Chairman Arvind Singh has already urged the state administration last month for setting up a high-level probe against the officers/employees involved in approving the layout for construction carried out by M/s Divinity Homes Pvt Ltd on KDA's 37900 sq mtr land on the basis of fake documents. He has also urged the district administration for reverting the name of Kanpur Development Authority as owner of this land in the records of Revenue department which had been replaced with M/s Divinity Homes Pvt Ltd several years ago only on the basis of an administrative order. At the same time, he also directed the officials of Legal Department to ensure quick and effective follow up of the second appeal pending in Allahabad High Court in a

case against M/s Divinity Homes Pvt Ltd.

**WELFARE SCHEMES:** The Uttar Pradesh Government had set up Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities department with an objective to ensure the welfare schemes meant for physically challenged people reached the grassroots level. Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath had issued directives to double the amount from existing from Rs 500 to Rs 1,000 under the Divyang Bharan-Poshan Anudan Yojana.

Under the Divyang Pension Yojana a sum of Rs 089410.98 lakh had been released and 11,17,314 differently abled persons had been benefited.

This was informed by the District Officer, Divyang, Satish Pandey, while informing about the government recent plans to benefit the physically challenged people on Wednesday. He said the

Divyang pension was in fact given keeping in mind that the physically disabled people were unable to tend to their basic needs and thus were the responsibility of the government. He said physically challenged people suffering from leprosy were getting Rs 2,500 as pension which the Yogi government had hiked to Rs 3,000 per month.

He said they were benefited through the grant to the tune of Rs 39,000 lakh extended to 11,430 beneficiaries.

He said each disabled person was given a sum of Rs 8,000 for medical surgeries which had been now raised to Rs 10,000. He said similarly a sum of Rs 15,000 which was given as marriage aid for disabled girls had also been raised to Rs 20,000 and in case both the spouse were disabled then the amount given was Rs 35,000. He said the physically challenged people were provided free bus travel in Uttar Pradesh.



Congressmen take out procession to protest against cancellation of ration cards on Wednesday.

Pioneer

## Social support vital in improvement of patients with schizophrenia

PNS ■ KANPUR

World Schizophrenia Week is being observed from May 24 and 30. The objective of this week is to help understand the disease and how to live with it with proper management. According to a recent National Mental Health Survey conducted by NIMHANS, the prevalence of schizophrenia in the Indian population was between 0.5 and 1.50 per cent. There was often a negative stigma attached to a person who had

been diagnosed with schizophrenia and the irony was that there was little awareness that this mental disorder can be successfully treated.

This was stated by noted psychiatrist Dr Tarun Nigam while addressing presspersons at Manas Neuropsychiatric Centre on Wednesday. He said it was in fact a disorder of the brain affecting how an individual behaved, thought and viewed the world around. He said the individual had an altered perception of reality and in fact it was a kind of psy-

chosis. He said it tended to run in families, but no single gene was thought to be responsible. He said it was believed that a combination of genes made an individual more prone to the condition. He said individuals can also be assessed for bipolar disorder.

He said schizophrenia had been described as 'positive' or 'negative' symptoms and the former was experiences or behaviours that one started having as part of schizophrenia. He said most people can take the medication up to one

to two years after their first psychotic episode to prevent more episodes from occurring. He said some people may only need antipsychotics until the acute schizophrenic episode had passed, but often people can take them for longer if the illness was recurrent. He added that it was important to remember that a diagnosis was a positive step towards getting the right information about the condition and the kinds of treatment and services that were available. Dr Nigam said prominent

symptoms were hallucinations, such as hearing voices or seeing things others did not. He said apart from this included paranoid delusions which was strong beliefs that others did not share, disorganised thinking and speech and above all negative symptoms were experienced. He said in India people with schizophrenia were frequently put into psychiatric hospitals because it was believed that they were dangerous or needed to be kept away from society. He said the fact was that majority of those

with mental illnesses, including schizophrenia, were non-violent.

He said schizophrenia was a mental disorder that caused the social breakdown of relationships with others and patients with schizophrenia interpreted reality and verbal communication in an abnormal way. He said they experience great difficulty in building and maintaining of social relationships within society and also experiences barriers in communication and motivation that hindered their

readiness for treatment. Dr Nigam said the willingness of patients with schizophrenia to accept treatment improved mental illness, social support and other health-related issues. He said it had been proved beyond doubt that social support played an essential role in the improvement of patients with schizophrenia. He said psychiatrists with the help of medication and therapies reduced the negativity and anxiety level of patients and motivated patients to accept treatment.

**U.P. POWER TRANSMISSION CORPORATION LIMITED E-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, E-2/S Division, Sutanpur, E-tender No. 04/ESDS/2022-23 To be opened on dt. 24.06.2022. Tender cost Rs. 236.00, Earnest Money Rs. 2000.00 1. Servicing & annual maintenance of 06 No. 11 Ton Hitachi make A.C. unit at 400KV S/S Sutanpur under Electricity, E-2/S Division, Sutanpur. Executive Engineer, E-2/S, 400KV Substation Division Sutanpur R.O.No. 429 इलेक्ट्रीसिटी/निविदा Date 25.05.2022 \*Save Energy in National Interest."

**Piramal**  
Capitol & Housing Finance

**Registered Office Address:** Unit No.601, 6th Floor Piramal Amiti Building, Piramal Agastya Corporate Park, Kamani Junction, Opp Fire Station, LBS Marg, Kurla (West), Mumbai- 400 070. CIN: L65910MH1984PLC032639, Website: [www.piramalfinance.com](http://www.piramalfinance.com)

**Branch Address :** Dhiraj Baug, Building "A" Ground & 1st Floor, Beside Axis Bank, Opp. Monalisa Building, Agra Road, Hari Niwas Circle, Naupada, Thane (West) – 400 602.

**DEMAND NOTICE**

Under Section 13(2) of the Securitisation And Reconstruction Of Financial Assets And Enforcement Of Security Interest Act, 2002 read with Rule 3 (1) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002. The undersigned is the Authorised Officer of **Piramal Capital & Housing Finance Limited (PCHFL)** [formerly known as **Dewan Housing Finance Corporation Ltd.(DHFL)**] under Securitisation And Reconstruction Of Financial Assets And Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 (the said Act). In exercise of powers conferred under Section 13(12) of the said Act read with Rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002, the Authorised Officer has issued Demand Notices under Section 13(2) of the said Act, calling upon the following Borrower(s) (the "said Borrower(s)"), to repay the amounts mentioned in the Demand Notice(s) issued to them that are also given below. In connection with above, notice is hereby given, once again, to the said Borrower(s) to pay to PCHFL, within 60 days from the publication of this Notice, the amounts indicated herein below, together with further interest as detailed in the said Demand Notice(s), from the date(s) mentioned below till the date of payment and/or realization, payable under the loan agreement read with other documents/writings, if any, executed by the said Borrower(s). As security for due repayment of the loan, the following assets have been mortgaged to PCHFL by the said Borrower(s) respectively.

Name of the Borrower(s)/ Guarantor(s)	Demand Notice Date and Amount with NPA date	Description of secured asset (immovable property)
(LC No. 00041412 of Lucknow - Lalbagh Branch) Rajesh Kumar (Borrower) Shashi (Co Borrower 1)	26-04-2022 / ₹ 1564059 /- (₹ Sixteen lakh Four Thousand Five Hundred Sixty Nine Only) NPA (11-03-2022)	Plot No 12 Situated On Khassa No 39 Lohramau Faujullaganj Near Nanda Faram Lucknow Lucknow Uttar Pradesh :- 226020
(LC No. 00002293 of Agra Branch) Arvind Tiwari (Borrower) Priyanka Pandey (Co Borrower 1)	26-04-2022 / ₹ 1546408 /- (₹ Fifteen lakh Forty Six Thousand Four Hundred Eighty Only) NPA (11-03-2022)	House On Plot No.11 On Kh No. 279/2 height Build Tech Harduaganj Dehat , Koil, Dist Aligarh. Aligarh Uttar Pradesh :- 220001
(LC No. 00002690 of Kanpur Branch) Vijay Kumar (Borrower) Anju Vishwakarma (Co Borrower 1)	26-04-2022 / ₹ 1494942 /- (₹ Fourteen lakh Ninety Four Thousand Nine Hundred Forty Two Only) NPA (11-03-2022)	Plot No 30 Part Of Arazi No-26 Vill-Jarauli Kanpur Kanpur Rural Uttar Pradesh :- 208021
(LC No. 00007775 of Nasik Branch) Dyaneshwar Balnath Thorat (Borrower) Sunita Balnath Thorat (Co Borrower 1)	26-04-2022 / ₹ 1327803 /- (₹ Thirteen lakh Twenty Seven Thousand Eight Hundred Only) NPA (11-03-2022)	Prince Heritage,f No 1, 2nd Floor As Per Plan Unit 4 Nr Kanhya Dhaba, Agra Road Nr Reliance Petrol Pump, Ozar Nasik Nashik Maharashtra :- 422206
(LC No. 00002287 of Kanpur Branch) Amit Kumar (Borrower) Durgesh (Co Borrower 1)	26-04-2022 / ₹ 1184809 /- (₹ Eleven lakh Eighty Eight Thousand Ninety Only) NPA (11-03-2022)	Plot No 18 Part Of Arazi No 730 Bairi Akbarpur Kachhara Kanpur Kanpur Urban Uttar Pradesh :- 208017
(LC No. 00005118 of Raj Nagar Branch) Abhishat Verma (Borrower) Poonam Verma (Co Borrower 1)	26-04-2022 / ₹ 1040342 /- (₹ Ten lakh Forty Thousand Three Hundred Forty Two Only) NPA (11-03-2022)	Flat No- 55S C, Third Floor Nyan Khland- 3 Indirapur Ghaziabad Ghaziabad Uttar Pradesh :- 201014
(LC No. 00003545 of Kanpur Branch) Bhaskar Singh Rajput (Borrower) Dev Rishi Rajput (Co Borrower 1)	26-04-2022 / ₹ 997795 /- (₹ Nine lakh Ninety Seven Thousand Seven Hundred Ninety Five Only) NPA (11-03-2022)	Plot No 59, Arazi 57Jmin, Malsudabad, Kanpur Kanpur Urban Uttar Pradesh :- 208001
(LC No. 00000236 of Meerut Branch) Dhiraj Kumar (Borrower) Chandra Pal Singh (Co Borrower 1)	26-04-2022 / ₹ 921982 /- (₹ Nine lakh Twenty One Thousand Nine Hundred Eighty Two Only) NPA (11-03-2022)	Part Of House On Plot No- 55 & 56 Pushp Vihar Colony, Vill. Mukarrampur Palheeda Roorkie Road Meerut Meerut Uttar Pradesh :- 250001
(LC No. 00042001 of Lucknow - Lalbagh Branch) Sant Lal (Borrower) Renu (Co Borrower 1)	26-04-2022 / ₹ 910154 /- (₹ Nine lakh Ten Thousand One Hundred Fifty Four Only) NPA (11-03-2022)	House On Plot At Khassa No 21 Ka Minjumul Ibrahimpur, Tehsil Sarajnagar Lucknow Lucknow Lucknow Uttar Pradesh :- 226020
(LC No. 00001310 of Agra Branch) Kare Singh (Borrower) Rekha Devi (Co Borrower 1) Narayan Singh (Co Borrower 2)	25-04-2022 / ₹ 864205 /- (₹ Eight lakh Sixty Four Thousand Two Hundred Five Only) NPA (11-03-2022)	Part Of House On Plot No.22 23 & 28 Khassa No.322 Shri Dham Colony Near Krishana Garden Mauza Aurangabad Mathura Mathura Uttar Pradesh :- 281004
(LC No. 00002663 of Agra Branch) Satyaaveer Singh (Borrower) Varsha (Co Borrower 1)	25-04-2022 / ₹ 844687 /- (₹ Eight lakh Forty Four Thousand Six Hundred Eighty Seven Only) NPA (11-03-2022)	House on Plot No 23, Kh.No.861 Vishesh Enclave Mauza Bainpur, Near Ganpati Smart City Agra Agra Uttar Pradesh :- 282007
(LC No. 00004089 of Kanpur Branch) Vijay Kumar (Borrower) Anju Vishwakarma (Co Borrower 1)	25-04-2022 / ₹ 826207 /- (₹ Eight lakh Twenty Six Thousand Two Hundred Seven Only) NPA (11-03-2022)	Plot No 30, Part Of Arazi No 26, Jarauli, Kanpur, Kanpur Urban Uttar Pradesh :- 208027
(LC No. 00003441 of Kanpur Branch) Sarvesh Kumar (Borrower) Om Lata Yadav (Co Borrower 1)	25-04-2022 / ₹ 618627 /- (₹ Six lakh Eighteen Thousand Six Hundred Twenty Seven Only) NPA (11-03-2022)	Plot No 42 A Arazi No 1504, Boodhpur Machria, Kanpur Kanpur Urban Uttar Pradesh :- 208001
(LC No. 00001951 of Kanpur Branch) Sonu (Borrower) Pooja Vishwakarma (Co Borrower 1)	25-04-2022 / ₹ 543266 /- (₹ Five lakh Forty Three Thousand Two Hundred Sixty Six Only) NPA (11-03-2022)	H No 269, Block Mini Lig Scheme Jarauli, Phase 2 Jarauli Kanpur Kanpur Urban Uttar Pradesh :- 208027
(LC No. 00001578 of Lucknow Branch) Pankaj Kumar Singh (Borrower) Radhika Singh (Co Borrower 1)	25-04-2022 / ₹ 476677 /- (₹ Four lakh Seventy Six Thousand Six Hundred Seventy Seven Only) NPA (11-03-2022)	Bhookhand No A 164 Kali Paschim Binjaur Part Of Khassa No 529 Cha 529 Da Lucknow Lucknow Lucknow Uttar Pradesh :- 226001
(LC No. 00002599 of Noida Branch) Satpal Chouhan (Borrower) Divya Chauhan (Co Borrower 1)	25-04-2022 / ₹ 148306 /- (₹ One lakh Forty Eight Thousand Three Hundred Six Only) NPA (11-03-2022)	Flat.005, Upper Ground Floor (rear Rhs) Plot On Khassa No 153, Golden Nest 1 Village Basai Basai Brahuddini, Noida Gautambudh Nagar Uttar Pradesh :- 201301
(LC No. 00001592 of Meerut Branch) Neeraaj Kumar (Borrower) Rakesh Kumar (Co Borrower 1) Seema Batra (Co Borrower 2)	26-04-2022 / ₹ 7597750 /- (₹ Seventy Five lakh Ninety Seven Thousand Seven Hundred Fifty Only) NPA (11-03-2022)	Plot No. T-32 A & T-23, Municipal No. 2/60b Goudpur, Modinagar Ghaziabad Ghaziabad Uttar Pradesh :- 201204
(LC No. 00003113 of Agra Branch) Lokesh Sharma (Borrower) Pankaj Sharma (Co Borrower 1) Nitin Sharma (Co Borrower 2) Laxmi Kumari (Guarantor 1) Vandana Sharma (Guarantor 2) Madhu Sharma (Guarantor 3)	26-04-2022 / ₹ 3641786 /- (₹ Thirty Six lakh Forty One Thousand Seven Hundred Eighty Six Only) NPA (11-03-2022)	H-on Plot No.491 Pachimpuri Avas Yojna, Mauja Dehtara Lohamandi Ward Agra Agra Uttar Pradesh :- 282007
(LC No. 00001290 of Varanasi Branch) Manish Kumar Pankaj (Borrower) Meera Kumari (Co Borrower 1) Avadhesh Kumar (Co Borrower 2)	26-04-2022 / ₹ 2242400 /- (₹ Twenty two lakh Forty Two Thousand Four Hundred Only) NPA (11-03-2022)	Arazi No-520,mauza-lalpur Meerapur Basahi Varanasi Varanasi Uttar Pradesh :- 221204
(LC No. 00001857 of Gurgaon Branch) Prince Tiwari (Borrower) Vidhyotama Tiwari (Co Borrower 1)	26-04-2022 / ₹ 2100869 /- (₹ Twenty One lakh Eight Hundred Sixty Nine Only) NPA (11-03-2022)	House On Part Of Plot No 253 Khassa No1491 Bala Ji Enclave near Vishnu Drycleaner village Raispur Ghaziabad Ghaziabad Uttar Pradesh :- 201002
(LC No. 00001583 of Agra Branch) Abdhesh Singh (Borrower) Ikhla (Co Borrower 1) Shalendra Singh (Co Borrower 2)	26-04-2022 / ₹ 1937974 /- (₹ Nineteen lakh Thirty Seven Thousand Nine Hundred Seventy Four Only) NPA (11-03-2022)	Houseonpartof Plot No.43khassa No 451 New Suracha Vihar Mauza Rohota, Gawallor Road Agra, Agra Agra Uttar Pradesh :- 282001
(LC No. 00004263 of Varanasi Branch) Samashad Ali (Borrower) Kaurisa Begam (Co Borrower 1)	26-04-2022 / ₹ 1865326 /- (₹ Eighteen lakh Sixty Five Thousand Three Hundred Twenty Six Only) NPA (11-03-2022)	Arazi No. 55 Mauza Godhana Pargana Dhooos Chandauli Chandauli Uttar Pradesh :- 232101
(LC No. 00000616 of Bareilly Branch) Irfan Ahmad (Borrower)	26-04-2022 / ₹ 1821692 /- (₹ Eighteen lakh Twenty One Thousand Six Hundred Ninety Two Only) NPA (11-03-2022)	Part Of Khassa No.185mi,186, 188, 189 Bake Sun City, Peer Bahora Bareilly Bareilly Uttar Pradesh :- 243001
(LC No. 00043263 of Lucknow - Lalbagh Branch) Ashish Yadav (Borrower) Malti Yadav (Co Borrower 1)	26-04-2022 / ₹ 1781706 /- (₹ Seventeen lakh Eighty One Thousand Seven Hundred Six Only) NPA (11-03-2022)	Flat No 203,virasat Palace Built On Part Of Plot No-33 And 34 And Plot No 35, Khassa No 111 Minj,khargapur Pargana,teh-dist-Jucknow Lucknow Uttar Pradesh :- 226020
(LC No. 00004267 of Varanasi Branch) Deepak Kumar Shahi (Borrower) Rekha Shakti (Co Borrower 1)	26-04-2022 / ₹ 1733488 /- (₹ Seventeen lakh Thirty Three Thousand Four Hundred Eighty Eight Only) NPA (11-03-2022)	Arazi No 1002 Ka, Mauza Dharna, Pargana Mawal Chandauli Chandauli Uttar Pradesh :- 232101

If the said Borrowers shall fail to make payment to PCHFL as aforesaid, PCHFL shall proceed against the above secured assets under Section 13(4) of the Act and the applicable Rules, entirely at the risks of the said Borrowers as to the costs and consequences. The said Borrowers are prohibited under the Act from transferring the aforesaid assets, whether by way of sale, lease or otherwise without the prior written consent of PCHFL. Any person who contravenes or abets contravention of the provisions of the said Act or Rules made there under, shall be liable for imprisonment and/or penalty as provided under the Act.

Date : 26-05-2022  
Place: Uttar Pradesh

Sd/-  
(Authorised Officer)  
Piramal Capital & Housing Finance Limited

## Association of Jewellers appeal to government

PNS ■ KANPUR

Pankaj Arora, Member of the BIS Hallmark Committee addressing a meeting of the jewellers on Wednesday said under the new government rules the purchase of gold from authorised showrooms will immediately be uploaded on the Hallmark UID portal and thus purchaser now should be in possession of the entire details of the gold purchased and in their possession and also upload it on the portal. He said the Association of Jewellers had appealed to the government to provide them time till May 30 to implement this order in toto.

He said under the new rules each person was entitled to be in possession of limited gold jewellery and said as per the direction of the government an unmarried girl can possess 250 gm of gold. He said in case of any raid or mismatch of the details of the jewellery purchased, will lead to penal action and thus the people in possession of higher quantum of gold will have to upload details of their jewellery purchased and this should match with the details uploaded by the jeweller.

He said under the new rule jewellery costing Rs 2 lakh and above will not be accepted in cash without Aadhar Card and PAN card. He said the member jewellers have been directed to file every details of purchase and sale of gold jewellery. He said this was being done to ensure that the trade in yellow metal was brought under surveillance. He said it has also been made mandatory that manufacturer will provide every detail of the wholesale jewellers on the portal. He said similarly the retailer will provide every detail of the purchaser which will be uploaded on the portal as well.

## Sakhi Kendra to take up issue of Min Wages Act for domestic helps

PNS ■ KANPUR

Sakhi Kendra has decided to Stake up the issue of Minimum Wages Act for domestic helps, especially women, and for this it had prepared a week-long plan to build pressure on Uttar Pradesh Government to do something in this direction. Although the inflation growth rate, as measured by the consumer price index (CPI) shot up dangerously yet the implementation of the Act was a far cry.

Since domestic workers belonged to the unorganised sector, there were no laws safeguarding their rights and no minimum wage requirements, no health or insurance benefits and no job security.

Secretary of Sakhi Kendra, Neelam Chaturvedi, addressing a meeting of domestic workers at Shyam Nagar on Wednesday said because the annual minimum wage adjustments were taking place under the Covid-19 cloud, it was difficult to evaluate and isolate

**‘Many women domestic helps spent a lion's share of their wages on transportation costs to and from work, leaving considerably less to spend on food, especially where the household had one breadwinner’**

the impact of an increase in the national minimum wage from the effects of the pandemic.

She said the minimum wage needed to make sure it did not leave more people below the poverty line. She said the Sakhi Kendra believed that the national minimum wage should consciously address this reduction of the purchasing power of mini-

mum wages by increasing above inflation.

She said statistics put the lowest food poverty line at Rs 624.00 per person per month or Rs 2188.00 for the average-sized household of three to four people in April 2021.

She said thus keeping this in mind the the proposed minimum wage should be hiked at the earliest and that too a respectable amount.

She said the Sakhi Kendra got a feedback from the domestic helps, especially women, and found that many women domestic helps spent a lion's share of their wages on transportation costs to and from work, leaving considerably less to spend on food, especially where the household had one breadwinner. She added that when one considering the upper-bound poverty line, which included non-food items typically consumed by households that can afford food utilised in setting the food poverty line, the minimum wage fell even shorter to alleviate poverty.



RTO launched a drive against vehicles parked on the roads and roadsides on Wednesday.

Pioneer

## Services of head constable terminated

PNS ■ KANPUR

A head constable of the Traffic Police department here has been terminated from service for manhandling an e-bus driver and conductor when asked to pay the fare for his journey. As the video of incident went viral on social media, the state administration immediately took cognizance of the issue and directed the DCP (Traffic) BBGTS Murthy to terminate the services of the alleged head constable forthwith. According to reports, on May 20 when the conductor Anil Verma of e-Bus No.UP78 GT 4474 going to Jajmau from Bithoor asked head constable Umesh Babu, who boarded the bus from Kalyanpur, to pay Rs 15 as fare, the latter refused saying "I am in Traffic Police department and do not buy ticket". When conductor Anil Verma asked head constable Umesh Babu to get the exemption in writing from the e-bus management, the latter brutally beat up the former. When the bus driver stopped the bus and after alighting from it started preparing the video of the incident, Umesh Babu kicked him to make his cellphone fall on the floor. The video soon went viral on social media and drew attention of people all over the country who lodged strong protest against the police. Upset from people's reaction, the alleged constable was immediately placed under suspension. But with the state administration taking cognizance of the video, Commissioner of Police (CP) Vijay Singh Meena asked the officials to initiate stern penal action against the constable Umesh Babu after the probe. Joint Commissioner of Police (JCP) Anand Prakash Tewari said as the acts of head constable Umesh Babu were of gross indiscipline and tarnished the image of the police department, it was decided to terminate his services.

## NCC cadets plant saplings

Kanpur (PNS): The NCC cadets of SS Degree College planted over 200 saplings on the college premises as part of the sapling plantation drive on Wednesday. The cadets despite the sun carried out tree plantation drive by planting ashok, peepal, neem, gulmohar, banyan saplings all over the campus. The drive was part of the NSS where both the boy and girl NCC cadets took part whole-heartedly.

Addressing the students, battalion's administrative officer, Major Ranvir Singh said the world was suffering from pollution and to conserve human life, it was necessary to have maximum greenery on the earth. He said only by protecting the environment one can make life and future generations happy. He advised the cadets to ensure they took care of the saplings so that they grew into massive trees. He said trees

come alongside a plethora of benefits, not only to the environment to each humans and they were proven to improve overall health and wellbeing, making it more important than ever to utilise the natural resource to one's advantage. He said planting trees was particularly beneficial to areas that focused on education and they can even be used as a handy addition to the curriculum for younger learners.

## Yoga camp at schools

PNS ■ VARANASI

In order to make the forthcoming 8th International Yoga Day to be celebrated on June 21 a grand success, the Yoga training programmes were conducted at 1,081 schools of the district, including Primary School Jayapur, Composite School Dehli Vinayak Sewapuri, Primary School Rasulpur, Primary School Chaubepur

Khurd and Block Resource Centres at Chiraigaon and Chopalpur here on Wednesday, in which 51,711 students took part apart from their teachers.

The aim of this programme is to give the message of staying healthy through yoga to teachers, parents and children in all schools. Certificates were also distributed to all the people on this occasion.





A programme on road safety being held at Jaipuria School in Varanasi on Wednesday.

Pioneer

## Illegal shops removed in Bhelupur area

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ VARANASI

A massive drive was launched during Road Safety Week in Bhelupur police station area when illegal shops and encroachments were removed, vehicles challaned and action taken against throwing garbage at public places here on Wednesday. The team led by Inspector in-charge of Bhelupur police station, Durgakund outpost incharge and enforcement team launched the drive on all the roads passing through Durgakund area under Bhelupur Zone.

During the drive, as many as 32 road side shops were removed while 26 motorcycles and 2 four wheelers were challaned. Besides, two shopkeepers were fined Rs 500 each for throwing garbage on the road sides. Apart from the same, seven flower sellers were removed from the main entrance of Durgakund temple. The team also warned a director of a school for taking action if the school vehicles are parked on the road sides.

Meanwhile, a Road Safety Week programme was organised in Babatpur Campus of Seth MR Jaipuria School which

was jointly inaugurated by the chief guest and Deputy Superintendent of Police Jagdish Kaliraman and Chairman of the Jaipuria School Group Deepak Bajaj and other dignitaries by lighting the lamp. Speaking on the occasion, the DySP said that lakhs of people die every year due to traffic accidents in our country. "To avoid traffic accident, it is very important to follow the traffic rules and precautions," he told the students. He further said that bike drivers must drive at the prescribed speed and use helmets. Also, the driver of four

wheeler vehicles must control the speed and must wear a seat belt. Many a times, due to carelessness and neglecting traffic rules, accidents happen which not only kill or injure the drivers but also the other people," he added. On the occasion, children pledged to follow traffic rules. Principal Sudha Singh also addressed the programme. Managing Director Manoj Kumar Bajaj, Executive Director Shyam Sundar Bajaj, Director Anil K Jajodia, Ayushman Bajaj and Educational Manager Narendra Pandey and many others were also present.

## SSU to start course on Hindu Studies

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ VARANASI

Sampurnanand Sanskrit University (SSU) will be the second university of this holy city after Banaras Hindu University (BHU) which is going to start post-graduation course in Hindu Studies as the much-awaited two-year MA (Hindu Studies) course of the SSU has received the approval of the Chancellor/ Governor Anandiben Patel. Recently, when a similar course was introduced in the BHU, it hit the headlines across the world but in the meantime, several government and private universities have also started sim-



SSU V-C Prof Hareram Tripathi

ilar post-graduation courses. Vice-Chancellor of SSU Prof Hareram Tripathi informed that the admission process would be started in MA (Hindu Studies) right from

the forthcoming new academic session as the Raj Bhavan has given its approval to conduct this course. The university has prepared the course after reviewing the similar courses of BHU (Varanasi) and Lal Bahadur Shastri Central Sanskrit University (New Delhi).

This course is based on the specialty and tradition of Hindu religion. In this course mainly elements and evidence discussion, methodology of interpretation of tradition and scriptures, Indian Philosophy, Vedas, Puranas and essence of philosophy, western epistemology, Ramayana, Mahabharata,

architecture, folklore, Hindu art, Natya, and linguistics, Sainya Vigyan (Military Science), Jain, Pali, Persian, Prakrit etc would be taught with comparative study.

According to Prof Tripathi, the admission process will be started soon in the SSU under the New Education Policy. In this course, a comparative analysis of western philosophers has also been studied. This two-year course will be divided into four semesters and in each semester there will be four question papers and every paper is of a total of 100 marks. In all there will be 16 papers.

## Poshan Pathshala to be held today

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ VARANASI

Poshan Pathshala will be organised on Thursday across the state including Varanasi to make the people aware about the services and government schemes of the Child Development Services and Nutrition department. The main focus of the programme will be on early and only breastfeeding. District Programme Officer (DPO) DK Singh said that as per the government instructions, the first 'Poshan Pathshala' would be organised under the Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS) on May 26 between 12 noon and 2 pm through video conferencing at NIC.

In addition to this, during the Poshan Pathshala, the

departmental officers and subject experts will make the people aware about the advantages of an early and only breastfeeding and discuss in detail its need, utility and services of the department apart from nutrition education and management, measures to prevent malnutrition etc in Hindi. 'Queries asked by beneficiaries and others will be answered through video conferencing. Live web-cast of this programme will also be done, whose web link will be 'https://webcast.gov.in/up/icds' and through this link any beneficiary and general public can directly connect with the programme,' Singh informed.

He has also issued detailed guidelines regarding the organisation of 'Poshan Pathshala' to child development project offi-

cers (CDPOs), Mukhya Sevikas, Anganwadi workers and assistants of all development blocks and city areas. He directed that the list of participants or beneficiaries who have to ask questions should be prepared in advance and they would be compulsorily called in NIC, because questions can be asked only through video conferencing. Along with this, ASHA workers and Asha Sanginis of the Health department will also join this programme through a web link. All Anganwadi workers will ensure the presence of pregnant women and lactating mothers and their guardians registered at their centres during last quarters and the beneficiaries who are not able to come to the NIC due to any reason, they will be connected to the pro-

gramme as far as possible from their homes through web link if they have smart phones. All Anganwadi workers have been sent a link to the centralised system of mobile device management (MDM) on their official mobiles to attend the programme,' he added.

The DPO informed that at present there are a total 3,914 Anganwadi centres including 991 in the city and 2,923 in rural areas operating in the district. For organising 'Poshan Pathshala', each Anganwadi worker will ensure to connect at least 15 beneficiaries to one Anganwadi centre, he said, appealing to the public and the beneficiaries that maximum people should join the link of Poshan Pathshala and get suitable information about nutrition and breastfeeding.

## Ganga-Jamuni tehzeeb is a soul force to be harnessed in conduct, says HC

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ PRAYAGRAJ

“Ganga-Jamuni tehzeeb is not a ritual to be observed in conversations, in fact it is a soul force to be harnessed in conduct,” observed Allahabad High Court while granting bail to one Nawab of Hapur district, who was accused of being part of a mob which indulged in group clash after Uttar Pradesh assembly election results.

While directing that the applicant, Nawab of Hapur be released on bail, Justice Ajay Bhanot further directed that he (applicant) shall participate in cool water and sherbet distribution events in the area in order to create goodwill and amity.

Earlier, the counsel for the petitioner had submitted that respective parties would serve cool sherbet and water to passersby and thirsty travellers for one week at a public place

in Hapur district at a date and time of their choosing in May-June 2022 in order to promote amity.

The court directed that the parties may make an application to the superintendent of police, Hapur and the district magistrate, Hapur in this regard.

“The local police and administration shall ensure that appropriate arrangements are made so that the activity can continue in peace and without any impediment and creates the intended goodwill and amity”.

Passing these observations, the court further observed, “Ganga-Jamuni tehzeeb culture is not mere tolerance of differences, but heartfelt embracing of diversity. The ethos of the state of Uttar Pradesh brings out the catholicity of Indian philosophy”.

While giving the example of Mahatma Gandhi and his

sacrifice, the court further added that seekers of different paths would do well to remember him who, by the example of his life and the fact of his death, reminds us that the quest of all religions and the essence of an Indian's dharma is love for fellow beings.

Emphasizing the importance of freedom, the court in its decision dated May 20 further observed that many generations of Indians gave their blood, sweat, tears and toil to wrest freedom from the shackles of slavery.

The poet Pradeep was at lyrical best when he beckoned the Indians to fortify the hard won republic by saying, 'Hum laaye hain toofan se kashti nikal ke'.

An FIR was lodged following an altercation that took place between political rivals which had escalated into a violent brawl in the aftermath of the Uttar Pradesh assembly

election results.

An FIR was lodged at police station Simbhawali of Hapur district under section 307 (attempt to murder) and other sections of IPC. The applicant has been in jail since March 11, 2022. The bail application of the applicant was rejected by sessions judge Hapur on April 11, 2022.

**DM INSPECTS CHC HANDIA:** District Magistrate (Prayagraj) Sanjay Kumar Khatri conducted a surprise inspection at community health centre (Uparaha) Handia and expressed his concern over poor sanitation. DM asked medical officer in-charge to maintain the main gate and make available printer register for the distribution of medicines among patients.

He also directed CMO (Prayagraj) to send a proposal letter to state authorities for setting up trauma centre at Handia.

## Youth shot dead over love affair

**PRAYAGRAJ (PNS):** In a shocking incident, a 24-year-old youth was shot dead in Naini area of Yamuna Paar, while the bullet left the girl grievously injured who is battling for her life at SRN Hospital. The incident took place when the young man had gone to meet the girl at her house. It is not yet clear who shot the youth dead. Top police officers reached the spot and started the investigation.

Arunav Singh son of Satya Prakash Singh, a resident of Shramik Basti, came late night to meet Urvashi Mishra (19) daughter of Sunil Mishra, a resident of Chak Hiranand Mohalla. It is said that in the early hours of Wednesday, the people of the locality were awake. On hearing the gunshots they reached the spot, Arunav was found lying in a pool of blood and Urvashi was bleeding profusely. People informed the police about the incident. In no time the police also arrived. Both were immediately taken to the city's SRN Hospital. The doctors declared Arunav dead while Urvashi was admitted in a critical condition. Now the buzz is that the couple has been shot by Urvashi's family members. The SSP Ajay Kumar also reached the place of incident and interrogated Urvashi's family members. SSP told the media that both the deceased Arunav Singh and the injured girl Urvashi were studying in Intermediate at Maharishi Vidya Mandir Inter College located in PDA Colony in Naini. There was a love affair going on between the two. The girl's father is a Dhaba owner. He has a licensed pistol. When he returned from the dhaba at night, he kept it on the table. When he heard the sound of firing, he went to the terrace. Where he spotted the boy lying dead and the girl was injured. He informed the police at 5:25 am about the incident.

However, the police are yet to find out as to who shot the duo. Arunav's father Satya Prakash Singh also reached the spot after getting the information about the incident. He works as an LIC agent. He said that his son used to go for a walk every morning. He left home for a morning walk around 4:00 am on Wednesday as well

**यूको बैंक**  
Honours your trust  
Zonal Office : 75/4, Siddhi Sadan, Halsey Road Near Badshahi Naka Police Station, Kanpur - 208001  
e-mail : zokanpur.rec@ucobank.co.in

**POSSESSION NOTICE (for Immovable Property) APPENDIX-IV (Rule – 8(1))**  
Whereas, the undersigned being the Authorised officer of the UCO Bank under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act 2002 (54 of 2002) and in exercise of powers conferred under section 13(12) read with rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 issued Demand Notice dated (details mentioned here in below) calling upon the borrower(s)/guarantor(s) (details mentioned herein below) to repay the amount mentioned in the notice being (details mentioned herein below) within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said notice. The borrower(s)/guarantor(s) having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the borrower(s)/guarantor(s) 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 of the said rules on this (details mentioned here in below) of the year (details mentioned here in below). The borrower(s)/guarantor(s) in particular and the public in general is hereby cautioned not to deal with the property and any dealings with the property will be subject to the charge of the UCO Bank for an amount of (details mentioned herein below). The borrower's, legal heir's and/or guarantor'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.

Name & Address of Borrower(s)/Guarantor(s) and Name of Related Branch	Description of Property & Possession Date	Balance O/S (Rs.) & Demand Notice Date
<b>Borrower(s):</b> <b>Mr. Ravi Bhartiya S/o Late Shri Malkhan Singh Bhartiya and</b> <b>Shri Dharmendra Singh Bhartiya S/o Late Shri Malkhan Singh Bhartiya</b> <b>Guarantor(s):</b> <b>Mrs. Kajal Bhartiya W/o Mr. Ravi Bhartiya and Shri Manoj Kumar S/o Shri Duli Chand R/o: Tej Nagar Kamla Nagar Agra</b> <b>Branch Name: Rawatpara (0301)</b> <b>Date : 26.05.2022</b>	All that part and parcel of the property consists of land and building measuring 102.84 sq. mtr. as per Bahi No. I, Zild No. 9678 Page No. 301 to 340 Sl. No. 1749, registered on 11.05.2016 at Sub-Registrar- Sadar Agra, situated at Khassara No. 1421, 1422, 1423, 1430 & 1431 Nayi Abadi Balkeshwar, Hariparvat Ward, Tehsil & District Agra standing in the name of Mr. Ravi Bhartiya S/o Late Shri Malkhan Singh resident of Tej Nagar Kamla Nagar Agra <b>Details of Boundaries (As per Deed)</b> <b>East: Property Share Duli Chand, West: Property Share Bharat Pal, North: Road &amp; Exit 15 ft. Wide, South: Land Kalyan Singh etc.</b> <b>Date of Possession: 20.05.2022</b>	<b>Rs. 24,34,516.45 (Rupees Twenty Four Lakh Thirty Four Thousand Five Hundred Sixteen and Paise Forty Five Only) as on 25.02.2022 (inclusive of interest upto 30.10.2021) with further interest and incidental expenses, costs etc. till date of Demand Notice: 10.03.2022</b> <b>Date of Demand Notice: 10.03.2022</b> <b>Authorized Officer (UCO Bank)</b>

**भारतीय स्टेट बैंक**  
**State Bank of India**

**POSSESSION NOTICE**  
(FOR IMMOVABLE PROPERTY)  
[Under Rule 8(1) of Security Interest (Enforcement) Rule, 2002]  
Whereas, The under signed being the authorised officer of the State Bank of India Sandila Branch, Distt. Hardoi U.P. under the Securitisation & Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act 2002 (No. 3 of 2002) and in exercise of powers conferred under section 13 (2) read with rule 8 of the Security Interest (enforcement) Rules 2002, issued a Demand Notices, Calling upon the respective borrowers to repay the amount as mentioned in notice been loan amount plus interest and other expenses within 60 days from the date of receipt of said notice. The borrowers having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to borrowers, guarantors and the public in general that the under signed has taken possession of the property described here in below in exercise of powers conferred on him/her under section 13(4) of the said act read rule under 8 of the said rules, on the date mentioned. The Borrower/Guarantor in particular and public in general is hereby cautioned not to deal with the property and any dealings with property will be subject to charge of the State Bank of India Sandila Branch, Distt. Hardoi U.P. for an amount and interest and other charges thereon mentioned against each account here in below.

**Branch- Sandila Distt. Hardoi**

Sl. No.	Name of Borrower / Guarantor	Description of Mortgaged Property and Boundary	Over due Amount
1	M/s Sri Annapurna Trading Company, Proprietor : Shri Mahendra Kumar Gupta S/o Shri Mool Chandra Gupta, R/o : Ekta Nagar, Mahatawana Sandila Distt. Hardoi <b>Details of Documents :</b> Sale Deed No. 7184, Dated : 19-12-2007, Area : 139.41 Sq. Ft.	All that part and parcel of the property consisting of Residential Building situated at Mahatawana Sandila, Hardoi Owned by : Shri Mahendra Kumar Gupta <b>Boundaries :</b> <b>East:</b> Rasta & Plot of Om Prakash <b>West:</b> Arazi Banzar <b>North:</b> Plot of Hasseen Jahan <b>South:</b> Plot of Radehy	<b>Rs. 9,99,880.00 + Interest + Other Charges</b> <b>Date of Notice 18.01.2022</b> <b>Possession Date : 21.05.2022</b>

**Date: 26.05.2022** **Authorised Officer, State Bank of India, Branch Sandila, Distt. Hardoi**

**बैंक ऑफ बड़ोदा**  
**Bank of Baroda**

**Regional Office Kanpur Dehat Region : 118/330, 2nd Floor, Kashiapur Gumbt 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.

Sl. No.	Name and Address of Borrower/Guarantor & Description of Mortgage Property & O/S Amount as per Demand Notice/Demand Notice Date & Possession Notice Date
1.	<b>Borrower : Shri Ram Kumar S/o Shri Sarjoo Prasad, R/o : Mohalla Bishunpur Tila, Distt. Kannauj.</b> <b>Demand Notice Date: 22-02-2022 • Date of Constructive Possession: 21-05-2022</b> <b>Property :</b> Land and Building Situated at Aacharayan, Tehsil & Distt. Kannauj in the name of Shri Ram Kumar Verma S/o Shri Sarjoo Prasad, <b>Area :</b> 127.65 Sq. Mtr., <b>Bounded- North :</b> Plot of Kedar Nath, <b>South :</b> House of Gayatri Devi, <b>East :</b> CC Road, <b>West :</b> Plot of Mool Chandra. <b>Branch : Kannauj Distt. Kannauj</b> <b>O/s Amount as per Demand Notice : Rs. 3,51,848.73+Intt.+ Others Charges</b>
2.	<b>Borrower : M/s Krishna Cables, Proprietor : Shri Anurag Mishra S/o Shri Ramesh Chandra Mishra, Address : Budhwari, Mohalla-Anandi Das, Distt. Kannauj.</b> <b>Branch : Kannauj, Distt. Kannauj</b> <b>Demand Notice Date: 22-02-2022 • Date of Constructive Possession: 21-05-2022</b> <b>Property :</b> Land and Building Situated at Mohalla Budhwari, Tehsil & Distt. Kannauj in the name of Shri Anurag Mishra S/o Shri Ramesh Chandra Mishra, <b>Area :</b> 22.80 Sq. Mtr., <b>Bounded- North :</b> Road of Nagar Palika, <b>South :</b> Land of Bal Kishan, <b>East :</b> Land of Bal Kishan, <b>West :</b> House of Bal Kishan. <b>O/s Amount as per Demand Notice : Rs. 5,31,705.09 + Intt. + Others Charges</b>
3.	<b>Borrower : M/s Yogesh Kumar &amp; Sons, Proprietor : Shri Yogesh Kumar S/o Shri Jagdish Kumar, Address : House No. 3701, Patel Nagar, Orai, Distt. Jalaun.</b> <b>Guarantor : Smt. Virakti Dwivedi W/o Yogesh Kumar Dwivedi, R/o : House No. 3701, Patel Nagar, Orai, Distt. Jalaun.</b> <b>Demand Notice Date: 02-02-2022 • Date of Constructive Possession: 24-05-2022</b> <b>Property :</b> Residential Building situated at Chaurasi Arazi No. 503, Mohalla Chaurasi, Jild No. 3670, Document No. 1261, Near Orai, Distt. Jalaun in the name of Smt. Virakti Dwivedi W/o Yogesh Kumar Dwivedi, <b>Area :</b> 190.28 Sq. Mtr., <b>Bounded- North :</b> Pakka Link Marg, <b>South :</b> Plot Smt. Radha, <b>East :</b> Arazai Pal Sahab, <b>West :</b> Plot Seller. <b>Branch : Station Road, Orai, Distt. Jalaun</b> <b>O/s Amount as per Demand Notice : Rs. 19,84,852.50 + Intt. + Others Charges</b>
4.	<b>Borrower : Shri Vishwanath S/o Shri Beche Lal, R/o : 86/26, Krishna Dei Kheda, Unnao.</b> <b>Guarantor : Smt. Meena W/o Shri Vishwanath, R/o : 86/26, Krishna Dei Kheda, Unnao.</b> <b>Branch : Unnao, Distt. : Unnao</b> <b>Demand Notice Date: 09-02-2022 • Date of Constructive Possession: 24-05-2022</b> <b>Property :</b> Bhumi No. 2517 Mi, Situated at Mo. Kadir Bagh Urf Teshil & Distt. Unnao in the name of Smt. Meena W/o Shri Vishwanath, <b>Area :</b> 190.28 Sq. Mtr., <b>Bounded- North :</b> Plot Deegar, <b>South :</b> Remaining Land of Arazai Mukir, <b>East :</b> Road 12 Ft. Wide, <b>West :</b> Remaining Land of Arazai Mukir. <b>O/s Amount as per Demand Notice : Rs. 9,71,046.00 + Intt. + Others Charges</b>

**Date : 26-05-2022** **Place : Kannauj / Jalaun / Unnao** **Authorised Officer**

## Operatives of Atique to face Gangsters Act soon

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ PRAYAGRAJ

Many operatives of Mafia Atique Ahmed lodged in Ahmedabad jail for a long time, will now face gangsters act. Especially those who do property dealing work illegally are on the radar of the police.

The investigation has intensified on the criminal activity of such a person, financial sources, role in keeping Atique gang active and other points. Soon a case of Gangster Act will be registered against all of them. After this, action will be taken to confiscate their illegal properties.

Police officials said that Atique Ahmed is lodged in Sabarmati Jail in Gujarat, but

all his henchmen are doing illegal plotting work. Some are being accused of grabbing government land and forcibly grabbing the land of poor farmers. This is being done by forming a gang, whose members have been given different responsibilities. Many members of Atique's gang IS-227 are also secretly giving direct and indirect benefits to the mafia, about which many types of information have been received. Few days ago, a case was registered on behalf of Prayagraj Development Authority (PDA) against Khalid Zafar, Arun Kumar, Saun, Durgesh Chauhan, Mohammad Muslim, Akama builder, related to Atique gang at Dhumanganj police sta-

tion on charges of illegal construction. The property dealer has also filed a report against Mohd Muslim, Mohd Maj, Mohd Hasan and Dileep. Action is also being taken against these people under the Gangster Act.

SSP Ajay Kumar said that action will be taken against those who commit organized crime and do property dealing under the Gangster Act. Its preparation is going on. No mafia and its operatives will be spared, added SSP.

**DIRECT DAILY TRAIN FROM SANGAM CITY TO HARIDWAR FROM JULY:** With the aim of providing direct train services to the pilgrims of the two 'Kumbh Nagri' (two of the four cities

of the country where Kumbh and Mahakumbh are held), North Central Railway (NCR) has decided to introduce a direct and daily train service.

The train (14113/14) would operate from Subedarganj station of NCR and would run up to Dehradun.

The train will start operating from July this year, informs chief public relation officer (CPRO), NCR, Dr Shivam Sharma. Two pit lines have been constructed at Subedarganj and some residual work is expected to be completed very soon.

Apart from giving a direct train to the pilgrims wishing to go to Haridwar, the train will also facilitate the tourists

who want to visit Dehradun. The train will connect cities like Kanpur, Tundla, Aligarh, Moradabad apart from Haridwar and Dehradun.

Presently a train named Link Express which connects the Sangam city to Dehradun runs only for three days a week. Instead, now it will run on all seven days of the week. The train will leave Subedarganj at 9:00 pm and pass through Kanpur Central, Etawah, Tundla, Aligarh and Moradabad, it will reach Haridwar at 10:50 am and Dehradun at 1:15 pm. On its return journey, the train will leave for Subedarganj at 1:25 pm and reach at 6:00 am the next morning.





## Cost of 'service'

The Govt is set to discuss the contentious issue of applying 'service charge' to restaurant bills

Tipping is not just about slipping some money to a waiter. Ideological battles were fought over it in the past. Today, the Governments square off with restaurateurs over it, pitting the customer's right of choice against the waiter's fruits of labour. On June 2, the Department of Consumer Affairs and the National Restaurants Association of India will meet to thrash out a contentious issue: Are eateries collecting service charge — tipping in legalese — by default even though it is voluntary. The question is, do restaurants 'force' them to pay the service charge? At least that is the allegation against the eateries. The other is that the service charge is fixed arbitrarily. Eateries are also accused of misleading customers about the legality of the service charge. The service charge is a transaction between the customer and the waiting or serving employees. It involves the staff offering the service of serving the customers and the latter, if happy, tipping the staff. When the tip is part of the bill in the form of a charge, it is called a service charge. Restaurants are not involved in this transaction at all, except by facilitating the voluntary collection of the service charge from customers instead of individual tipping. Why then is the Government inviting only the restaurants' bodies for the talks and not the employees' unions? Many customers are truly ignorant about service charge; many are still confused between service tax and service charge.



Many cannot be sure that the restaurant has calculated the service charge before charging GST and other taxes. The restaurants argue they have done their duty by mentioning the service charge on the menu card and the bill. For that matter, the Government is still not clear whether the service charge is taxable. The logic of the Goods and Services Tax is that all services are taxable. Even service charge, apart from service tax? The Government's service charge guidelines of 2017 are only advisory. No legislation backs them. The Consumer Protection Act, 2019, does not refer to tipping or service charge. Against this backdrop, what will the June 2 meeting achieve other than issuing "advice" to the restaurateurs' body? In the meanwhile, who will protect the interests of the waiting staff? A tip attests to the waiter's abilities. The best waiters corner the maximum tips. It is they who, apart from food and ambience, contribute to a restaurant's popularity. The service charge, on the other hand, is a level playing field for all waiters. They receive an equal share of the charge irrespective of their efficiency levels. For all waiters, however, tips represent extra income that makes a major difference in their lives. There may be cases where the employers are keeping a portion of the service charge with themselves. Why not bring in legislation that protects the interests of these waiters by legalising tipping if the service charge system is so complicated? That is the real issue.

### PICTALK



Tourists ride a horsecart as clouds hover in the sky at Dadar beach, in Mumbai

PTI

## Warming warning

The unusual and unseasonal prolonged spells of high temperatures are here to stay, reveal studies

If alarm bells on deteriorating weather conditions in India are not ringing just about yet, it's better to double-check the power supply. In a bad omen for our planet, it has been found that climate change made the extreme temperatures that baked north-west India and Pakistan in April and May over 100 times more likely and also increased the chances that such heat waves will occur more frequently by the end of the century. To put it in simpler terms, without accounting for climate change, a heat wave exceeding 2010's average temperature could happen once in every 312 years, according to an attribution study published recently. Taking climate change into account, however, the probabilities increased to once in every 3.1 years in the current climate, and to once in every 1.15 years by the end of the century. Climate change is already making extreme weather events such as heatwaves more intense and more frequent, and will continue to do so in future. India and Pakistan's heatwave is also extraordinary in its duration — extremely high temperatures started as early as in March.



In another surprising revelation, a study has found that, contrary to popular perception, biomass emissions (stubble burning and increased heating requirements) rather than bursting of fireworks drive the poor air quality in the Capital during the days immediately succeeding Diwali. The study, conducted by IIT-D researchers before, during and after Diwali, threw light on the pollution sources impacting the ambient air quality in the Capital. The team discovered that biomass burning-related emissions rose steeply in the days following Diwali, with the average levels rising almost twice as compared to the pre-Diwali concentration. Also, the organic PM2.5 indicated a significant rise in both primary and secondary organic pollutants in the days following Diwali. Shockingly, the study discovered that the metal content in PM2.5 levels rose by 1,100 per cent ... and the fireworks alone accounted for 95 per cent of the metal PM2.5 during the Festival of Lights. However, the impact of the fireworks was noticed to plummet within around 12 hours after the day of the festival. What makes these studies important is the result which provides crucial insights into a topic of long-standing debate and concerns between air quality experts and the policymakers. Hopefully, this newfound knowledge will help alleviate the problems emanating from the extreme air pollution events in the Delhi-NCR areas.

# Checkmate by the 'Neutrals' in Pak

No one in Pakistan has any doubt over the long, deep and dirty hands of the Pakistani military, called the 'establishment', in all sovereign decisions



BHOPINDER SINGH

The Pakistani Army's complicated relationship with democracy started with its first native chief, Gen Ayub Khan. Ayub's selection baptised the 'institution' with the political culture of out-of-turn nomination to the Chief of Pakistani Army Staff for posterity (Ayub was the junior-most Maj Gen in the Pakistani Army and his name was not even in the first consideration list). Soon the ambitious General took over the formal reins from the civilian politicians and promulgated the creatively deceptive concept of 'Basic Democracy' — a farcical system legitimising his iron-fisted dictatorship whilst providing a semblance of democracy. A similarly out-of-turn and ostensibly pliant General Zia-ul-Haq was to repeat the Ayub feat by deposing the civilian Government of Zulfikar Ali Bhutto.

The even more unhinged dictator in General Zia immediately promised a restoration to democracy after taking over, "My sole aim is to organise free and fair elections", and within months shifted his stance to 'retribution first, elections later' — he stayed on for the next 11 years till he died in a mysterious plane crash. In 1999, yet another out-of-turn and supposedly 'safe' Gen Pervez Musharraf grabbed power in a *coup d'état* and promised 'true democracy' which he claimed wouldn't be the 'evil of sham democracy' but he, too, hung around for another nine years! Much wisdom has dawned on the subsequent Pakistani Army Chiefs like Pervez Kayani, Raheel Sharif and, most recently, Qamar Javed Bajwa. All of them have preferred a more discreet, 'democratic' and highly effective way of running the show, without attracting international opprobrium. They have effectively 'chosen' civilian Governments as per their topical interests, extended their terms unilaterally to six-year terms (Pervez Kayani and Qamar Bajwa) or, like Gen Raheel Sharif, managed to twist



legislations towards securing their own interests in plum post-retirement roles (currently heading the Islamic Military Counter-Terrorism Coalition).

No one in Pakistan has any doubts of the 'establishment's' (Pakistani military's) long and deep hands in all sovereign decisions. The once out-of-favour with the Pakistani military, Nawaz Sharif, had called the Generals as '*Khalai Mukhloq*' (aliens or the invisible hand) as the 'establishment's' hand in elevating Imran Khan to power in 2018 was undeniable. Obviously, as the beneficiary of the Pakistani military's favour, Imran had dissed all murmurs about the military's extra-constitutional abilities as he probably assumed that he'd be able to defang the Generals over time — he tried but failed miserably.

Ultimately, a desperately struggling Imran struggled to nuance the military's claimed apolitical and neutral stand when the tables turned, and he had become an outsized nuisance for the Generals. Facing a no-confidence vote, Imran had invoked a stinging appeal for support by saying, "Allah did not allow us to be



ULTIMATELY, A DESPERATE IMRAN STRUGGLED TO NUANCE THE MILITARY'S CLAIMED APOITICAL AND NEUTRAL STAND WHEN THE TABLES TURNED, AND HE HAD BECOME AN OUTSIZED NUISANCE FOR THE GENERALS

neutrals as only animals are neutrals!" Clearly, the Generals were not amused and they remained 'neutral' to Imran's extreme discomfort. Soon the dejected and ejected Imran was left lamenting, "Neutrals weren't actually neutral." Today, as the vainglorious Imran replots his journey back to political relevance, he is left hoping in sarcasm, "I also say to my Army that you said you are neutral, so now remain neutral." Deep down, Imran would know better of the shift in tide and circumstances of his equation with these so-called 'neutrals'.

Meanwhile, in a curious closing of the loop, it is the Sharif family (deposed and hounded out of Pakistan in the 1999 military *coup d'état*) that is singing hosannas of the Pakistani military's 'neutrality'!

Tellingly, no Pakistani Prime Minister has ever completed his/her tenure and almost all were tripped through extra-constitutional or judicial intervention that invariably could be traced back to the shadowy Generals at the Rawalpindi Military General Headquarters (GHQ). Only three Prime Ministers were able to go

beyond the four-year mark. The fissures in each case were triggered by political efforts to undermine or diminish the Pakistani Military — in Imran's case, his grandstanding in delaying the transfer of his preferred spy chief ie, then DG of ISI, General Faiz Hameed, was tantamount to crossing the traditional 'red lines' of non-interference in certain matters. Imran could no longer be trusted to walk the line of the 'establishment's' formula for Pakistani governance, and thus had to be removed.

Today, the Pakistani military has further denied any imminent threat to national security or the alarmist 'international conspiracy'. Making it worse for Imran is the careful recalibration of the Sharif-Bhutto combine towards the Generals, and the deliberate assertion by the Pakistani military spokesperson that General Bajwa seeks no further extension == both moves deflate Imran's expected aspersions and stridency against the 'neutrals'. Somewhere along the line, Imran had managed to create a dangerous divide within the ironclad 'establishment' with purported factionalism between a General Bajwa and a possible faction led by Imran's politically beholden/preferred, Lt Gen Faiz Hameed. This was unprecedentedly and unexpectedly brazen interference into the insular affairs of the Pakistani military, even by the standards of the hugely egotistical Imran. For now, the possible succession of Lt Gen Faiz Hameed as the Pakistani military chief has been checkmated, as has been the possibilities of a civilian dispensation attempting to usurp the powers of the incorrigible Generals.

(The writer, a military veteran, is a former Lt Governor of Andaman & Nicobar Islands and Puducherry. The views expressed are personal.)

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### INDIA MUST CONSOLIDATE GAINS

Sir — While India has joined the Indo-Pacific Economic Framework (IPEF), a forum to enhance cooperation among 13 countries in areas such as clean energy, supply chain resilience, decarbonisation, digital trade and infrastructure, it is seen as a counter to the RCEP, from which India has stayed away. At a time when every country is trying to secure its own economic interests, India must be wary that all IPEF members except India and the US are part of the China-backed trading agreement, the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP) and yet have chosen to be a part of the US-led initiative.

The dream of a win-win situation for all members can only be realised if this framework provides a level playing field. Otherwise, it will become only a tool for the assertion of America's hegemony considering the fact that the latter's previous initiatives like Blue Dot Network and Build Back Better Initiatives had made little headway towards changing the region's infrastructural needs. India has a favourable balance of trade with the US, about \$33 billion of trade surplus from January to December 2021, the exports to America were valued at more than \$73 billion, way above imports worth around \$40 billion.

Vijay Singh Adhikari | Nainital

### STRIKING THE RIGHT BALANCE

Sir — The Union Government's decision to reduce the taxes on petrol and diesel to curtail the inflation rate is strategic in nature. The cost of movement of goods and people directly adds to the cost escalation of every product and it has come to a point where the "consumption" factor gets a hit and demand automatically goes for a nosedive under compulsion. If, therefore, leads to excess supply pushing the graph further down to hit the bottom of the line, drastically affecting the economy in the long run. This price reduction and correction process was supposed

## America and its gun culture



Salvador Ramos, an 18-year-old gunman, opened fire at a Texas Robb Elementary School, killing at least 19 children, two adults (including a teacher) as he went from classroom to classroom. It was the deadliest school shooting since the 2012 massacre in Newtown, Conn. The US Constitution gives all its citizens the right to own a gun, and guns are as easy to find in stores across America as grocery shopping in any country. Hence no one

is surprised that how much untrue it is that America has launched a decisive fight against terrorism, and calls itself the 'big brother' of humanity. It may declare itself the champion of democracy in the world, but it has never been able to do anything to stop the prevailing gun culture there.

As a result, in the last five decades, more than 1.4 million people have died due to America's gun culture. Interestingly, hours after the attack, US President Joe Biden who was in Japan appeared ready for a fight in an address to the nation. "As a nation, we have to ask when in God's name are we going to stand up to the gun lobby?" Biden asked. "Why are we willing to live with this carnage?" It remains to be seen whether Biden will take specific action to control the powerful gun lobby.

Bidyut K Chatterjee | Faridabad

to be taken up much earlier by the Government.

Taxing corporations and companies drives them away to another country, resulting in more job losses, reduction in IT revenues, more NPAs from failed businesses, and so on. While the rich must be taxed more heavily than they are now, middle income groups need to pay up their fair share. The cess collected by the Union Government is used to pay back the loans borrowed by State Governments on account of the GST revenue deficit to combat the COVID-19 pandemic. When people didn't have objection to collecting doles, they shouldn't object to paying their taxes either.

CK Subramaniam | Navi Mumbai

### COURTS SHOULD DISMISS SUCH CLAIMS

Sir — The current situation of disgruntled communal elements trying to dig and explore mosques like Gyanvapi Masjid, saying Hindu temples existed under such structures, encouraged by politically-affiliated religious groups, has stemmed from the manner in which the Babri

Masjid was allowed to be demolished and the Supreme Court's verdict to hand over the disputed site in Ayodhya to the Hindu claimants. It is also a blunder and flagrant violation of the law by the honourable courts by repeatedly entertaining such claims which are in contravention to the 'Places of Worship (Special Provisions) Act, 1991'.

It is an open secret that such moves are encouraged by the powers that be with a motive to reap political benefits. It is time the Supreme Court intervened, put an end to this menace and upheld the spirit of the Places of Worship Act and preserve communal peace. If this is not done urgently, India will have to lose its great name as a land of great values and heritage. Further, any more demolitions similar to that of the Babri Masjid would confirm that we too are a bunch of barbarians, like those who are said to have demolished other religious structures.

Tharcus S Fernando | Chennai

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

## SOUND BITE

I'm absolutely sure the India-US friendship will continue to be a force for good.

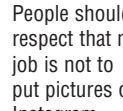


Prime Minister — Narendra Modi



I'm committed to making the US-India partnership among the closest we have on earth.

US President — Joe Biden



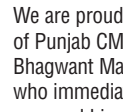
People should respect that my job is not to put pictures on Instagram... It's to make good films.

Actor — Amitabh Bachchan



Thank you Roland Garros. Thank you, Mister Tennis. I love you (on retiring)!

French tennis professional — Jo-Wilfried Tsonga



We are proud of Punjab CM Bhagwant Mann who immediately removed his Minister found involved in corruption.

AAP's national convener — Arvind Kejriwal



FIRST COLUMN

SOME BRANDS ARE AGGRESSIVELY CAPITALISING ON CANCEL CULTURE

A new public sphere in a network society



UTTAM CHAKRABORTY G REJIKUMAR

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



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


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

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

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

# Messed up post-COVID job statistics in India

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



ASHWANI MAHAJAN

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

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

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

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

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

This logically means that if



merely 5 crores before the lockdown.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

# Pak oppression stoking Baloch 'azadi' fires



NISHTHA KAUSHIKI

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

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

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

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

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

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



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

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



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

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

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

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

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

'destructive forces' to be diverted elsewhere.

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

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

## POINT COUNTERPOINT

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



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



# 2K registered unrecognised parties to face EC action

**PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI**

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

## MP Karti booked in visa-for-bribery scam

**PNS ■ NEW DELHI**

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

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

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

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



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

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

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

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



**PNS ■ NEW DELHI**

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

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

"Ashok Kumar Mittal is the key director of Mahesh

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

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

## Indian-Bangladeshi Navy bilateral exercise underway

**PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI**

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

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

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

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

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



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

The sea phase of the exercise would

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

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

**PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI**

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

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



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



sitive nature of their duties.

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

The apex court noted the submissions of senior advocate

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

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

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

**PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI**

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

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

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

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



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

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

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

**PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI**

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

## Some antivirals may shorten monkeypox symptoms: Study

**PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI**

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

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

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

-- to treat the disease.

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

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

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

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



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

"Although this latest outbreak has affected more

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

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

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

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

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

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

**PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI**

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

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

ment of the Health Ministry.

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

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

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

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

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

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



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

T N RAGHUNATHA ■ MUMBAI

Making a strong case for the reservations for the Other Backward Classes (OBCs), NCP chief Sharad Pawar on Wednesday rooted strongly for the conduct of a ‘caste-based’ census by the Centre to determine the quantum of reservations for OBCs in the country. Addressing a state convention on reservations organised by the NCP’s OBC Cell at the YB Chavan Centre here, Pawar slammed the Narendra Modi-government at the Centre and the RSS that supports the government, for opposing the caste-based census in the country. “The OBCs are not asking for anything free. They are merely demanding reservations as their right. The reservations cannot happen unless there is a caste-based national census.” “The SC and ST communities benefited by way of reservations made in the Constitution, We should

make similar reservations to the OBCs,” the NCP chief said. “For the purpose of providing reservations to the OBCs, we need to ascertain their exact population. Only way to ascertain the OBC population in the country is to conduct a caste-based national census. Once the caste-based national census is done, we will know what exactly is the OBC population in the country. The reservations for them can be decided on the basis of their population,” Pawar said. At the convention attended by the OBC leaders from across the state, north Maharashtra representative Umesh Nemade moved a resolution demanding a “caste-based” national census so as to pave the way for reservations for the OBCs living across the country. Coming down heavily on the Modi government at the Centre for resisting a “caste-based” census in the country, Pawar said: “Yesterday, Bihar chief minister Nitish Kumar

once again raised the issue of caste-based census. But till the Modi-led BJP is in power at the Centre, I don’t think caste-based census will happen in the country. This is because the mindset of the BJP and its ideological allies is different”. Pawar said that RSS’ joint secretary Bhyajji Joshi had gone on record that his organisation was totally opposed to the caste-based census on the assumption that it would vitiate the atmosphere in the country. “I would like to know from him: how will the atmosphere get vitiated? When there is an imbalance in the society, we need to do something. The NCP is prepared to do whatever it takes to create awareness in the society,” he said. When he targeted the BJP and RSS for their resistance to “caste-based” census, the NCP chief was apparently alluding to an affidavit filed by the Centre before the Supreme Court on September 23 last year that a “caste-cen-

sus”, stating that a caste census in 2021 “would not be feasible” and that it had taken a “conscious policy decision” to not to seek information regarding any other caste, except SCs and STs. The Centre had filed an affidavit to this effect in the apex court in response to the Maharashtra government’s plea to count Other Backward Classes (OBCs) in the upcoming census. Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar and former Bihar CM Jitan Ram Manjhi too have for some time been mounting pressure on the Modi government to get a clear count on OBCs. Even Union Minister of State for Social Justice and Empowerment Ramdas Athawale is in favour of the caste-based census. Pawar said that the ruling MVA in Maharashtra — comprising Shiv Sena, NCP and Congress — would go in for the upcoming civic polls only after the resolution of the OBCs reservations issue.

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

KUMAR CHELLAPPAN ■ CHENNAI

A day before Prime Minister Narendra Modi was to make an official visit to Chennai to dedicate to the nation Rs 31,400 crore worth infrastructure works built as centrally-sponsored projects, a popular BJP leader in the State was murdered in front of hundreds of onlookers at Chintadripet, a city suburb on Tuesday evening at 7.50. Two motorcycle borne gangs hacked to death K Balachander (30), Chennai Central District Secretary of the BJP’s Scheduled Caste Wing in front of a crowd who ran for their lives after watching the gruesome murder. Balachander who was accompanied by a security guard was on his way to a tea shop while the gangs of unidentified persons struck him, killing him on the spot and withdrew from the scene as fast as they made their appearance. Hours before the incident, C Sylendra Kumar, director general of police (law and order), Tamil Nadu Police had told reporters at Avadi, another



BJP leader K Balachander

city suburb that law and order was under control in the State and there were no reports of any unpleasant happenings. “Tamil Nadu is a very peaceful State. No instance of caste or communal clash in Tamil Nadu or firing or deaths due to spurious liquor has been reported in the State,” Babu had told reporters at Avadi Police Commissionerate. K Annamalai, BJP State chief took to the social media within hours and said that nobody was safe in Tamil Nadu. He asked the Police to

arrest all the accused in the murder of the party functionary. Karu Nagarajan, senior BJP leader who staged a sit-in in front of the Government hospital where Balachander’s body was taken for autopsy asked reporters whether Chennai was the political capital of Tamil Nadu or murder capital. In an embarrassment to the M K Stalin-led Government, a popular TV channel friendly to the DMK, aired a news on Wednesday stating that Chennai has seen 18 murders in the last 20 days. The report contained the details of the murders with date, time and information about the victims. But Shankar Jiwal, Commissioner, Chennai City Police, described the news as wrong. “There has been a 25 per cent reduction in the number of murders,” said Jiwal while speaking to reporters. No arrests have been made in the Balachander murder case at the time of going to Press though hectic combing operations are underway across the city. This is Prime Minister’s first visit to Tamil Nadu after the change of Government in the State in last May.

# Tripura CM calls on President, Shah, Rajnath

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The new Chief Minister of the poll-bound Tripura Dr Manik Saha, who had this month replaced Biplab Kumar Deb, called on President Ram Nath Kovind, Home Minister Amit Shah and defence Minister Rajnath Singh here on Wednesday. The change in the north East state was affected by the BJP central leadership as elections to the Tripura assembly are about Year away and the change is aimed at reducing the anti-incumbency of four year-rule of Deb as CM. It was Saha’s first visit to the national Capital since taking charge as the chief minister of the northeastern state on May 15. Saha said he met the home minister and sought his continuous guidance for all-round development of Tripura. “Delighted to meet the Union Home Minister Hon’ble Shri @AmitShah ji. Requested him for his continuous guidance so that I can devote myself to the all round development of Tripura as Chief Minister of the state,” Saha tweeted.

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

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

SAUGAR SENGUPTA ■ KOLKATA

The Central Bureau of Investigation probing the School Service Commission recruitment scam following a Calcutta High Court order on Wednesday subjected Bengal Industries Minister and former Trinamool Congress secretary general Partho Chatterjee to intensive 8-hour grilling. Chatterjee, was the State Education Minister when the large-scale recruitment scam that saw junior Education Minister Paresh Adhikari’s daughter Ankita landing a teacher’s job by-passing empanelled candidates took place. The said teacher has since been dismissed from service following a court order. According to sources Chatterjee was asked a whole range of “uncomfortable” questions that he either circumvented or replied in a round-about manner. Chatterjee had

created a five-member screening panel comprising among others his own personal assistant and officer on special duty in order to advice the SSC which is presumed to be an autonomous body responsible for appointments in school level. A judicial committee appointed by the High Court by Justice RJ Bag had indicted not only the minister but the aforementioned panel and even recommended criminal proceedings against the offenders saying the formation of the screening committee was an illegal act. When asked as to why he went out of the way to appoint the screening panel or under whose supervision it worked, Chatterjee reportedly said that he had no control over the committee. When asked as to who controlled the committee or for that matter if any outsider was controlling it he

allegedly feigned ignorance, sources said adding he also failed to answer why he did not take action when reports of irregularities were coming in. Sources in the CBI which has been grilling five senior State government officials who were in the screening committee and through whom the scam was operated said “Chatterjee’s statements and the statements given by the five officials were not matching.” They even said that the statements given by Chatterjee and his former Deputy Paresh Adhikari too contradicted at places. The senior minister who has been asked to furnish his income details was on Wednesday asked to reduce his statements in writing for perusal. While CBI sources said that the Minister could be summoned again they claimed that information regarding an

alleged newly constructed international school in West Midnapore and multiple apartments and hotels were also being collected. While prima facie at least one thousand people were illegally given jobs by passing the empanelled candidates the High Court has directed the CBI to find out the total number of illegal appointments — which the petitioners’ lawyers Firdous Shamim said could run into thousands — and money trail if any behind such recruitments. Saying that it was a “multi-layered scam equivalent to Vyapam scam or chit fund” Shamim said illegal appointments took place in Group D, Group C, Primary, upper Primary, secondary and higher secondary level involving thousands of teachers. “The rate for illegal appointments hovered anywhere between Rs 5 lakh for

the Group D level to Rs 20 or Rs 25 lakh for Higher Secondary level,” he said adding “roughly it could involve a total scam of Rs 15,000 crores — and this is by the lower side.” Already about 600 people have been identified and lost their jobs and many more hundreds or even thousands could face a similar fate, sources said. Meanwhile, there were more recruitment scams reported in other departments too, sources said. Protests were staged in front of the Calcutta University by aspiring professors who complained of a massive scam in the recruitment process of college teachers by the College Service Commission. CSC chairman Dipak Sarkar however denied such allegations. Similar scams were reported in the Health Department with the aspiring nurses staging protests outside the health ministry for the past two days.

# Cong likely to get 11 seats in upcoming RS elections

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Congress is likely to get 11 Rajya Sabha seats in the upcoming election cycle with some of its top leaders, including P Chidambaram and Jairam Ramesh, eyeing another term. This will also help the Congress strengthen its party position in the Upper House of Parliament from the current 29 to 33 members. Some other top Congress leaders, including Ghulam Nabi Azad, Anand Sharma, Mukul Wasnik, Randeep Surjewala, Ajay Maken and Rajeev Shukla, are waiting in the wings to get a Rajya Sabha nomination. Of the 55 vacancies arising in the Rajya Sabha in the next two months, seven Congress members — Chidambaram (Maharashtra), Ramesh (Karnataka), Ambika Soni (Punjab), Vivek Tankha (Madhya Pradesh), Pradeep Tamta (Uttarakhand), Kapil Sibal

(Uttar Pradesh) and Chhaya Verma (Chhattisgarh) — will be completing their terms. The Congress will be gaining three to four seats in the Upper House if it manages to get all the three seats that are falling vacant in Rajasthan. While the party will get two seats in Chhattisgarh, where it is in power, it will get one seat each in Tamil Nadu, Jharkhand and Maharashtra, where it shares power with other like-minded parties. The Congress is also likely to get one seat each in Haryana, Madhya Pradesh and Karnataka on the strength of its MLAs in these states. Sources said while Chidambaram and Ramesh are hopeful that the party leadership would give a nod to them for another term, there are a host of other leaders who are waiting for a Rajya Sabha berth for some time now. Chidambaram is eyeing

the lone Rajya Sabha seat from Tamil Nadu. He has already met Tamil Nadu Chief Minister and DMK leader M K Stalin. However, former Congress chief Rahul Gandhi’s team is pushing for a young face in Praveen Chakravarty, the head of the party’s Data Analytics department, for the seat. Three-time Rajya Sabha member Ramesh will get a fourth term if his name is cleared for the lone seat in Karnataka, from where Surjewala is also a contender. In Haryana, Surjewala, Kumari Selja and Kuldeep Bishnoi are vying for the lone seat, but former chief minister Bhupinder Singh Hooda is pushing for the nomination of Anand Sharma. The former Union minister is a prominent member of the “Group of 23” and is considered close to Hooda, who is also a member of the grouping.

## YASIN AWARDED LIFE FOR TERROR FUNDING

Earlier in the morning, Advocate Akhand Pratap Singh (court-appointed amicus) sought minimum punishment (life imprisonment) for Malik. “These crimes were intended to strike at the heart of the idea of India and intended to forcefully secede J&K from UOI. The crime becomes more serious as it was committed with the assistance of foreign powers and designated terrorists. The seriousness of crime is further increased by the fact that it was committed behind the smokescreen of an alleged peaceful political movement,” the judge said. Reacting to the sentencing, Malik said, “I have already given my words in the court and now it is at the court’s discretion.” The lawyer, who attended the court proceeding, quoted Malik saying in the courtroom, “If I have been involved in any terrorist activity or violence in 28 years, if Indian intelligence proves this, then I will also retire from politics. I will accept the hanging. I have worked with seven Prime Ministers.” On the demand by NIA for the death penalty to Malik, he said, “I will not beg for anything. The case is before this court and I leave it to the court to decide it.” The court had on May 19 convicted Malik, after he pleaded guilty in the terror funding charges and had directed the NIA authorities to assess his financial situation to determine the amount of fine likely to be imposed. Malik had on May 10 told the court that he was not contesting the charges levelled against him that included sections 16 (terrorist act), 17 (raising funds for the terrorist act), 18 (conspiracy to commit terrorist act), and 20 (being member of terrorist gang or organisation) of the UAPA and sections 120-B (criminal conspiracy) and 124-A (sedition) of the IPC. The court had, meanwhile, formally framed the charges against Kashmiri separatist leaders including Farooq Ahmed Dar alias Bitta Karate, Shabbir Shah, Masarat Alam, Md Yusuf Shah, Aftab Ahmad Shah, Altaf Ahmad Shah, Nayeem Khan, Md Akbar Khanday, Raja Mehrajuddin Kalwal, Bashir Ahmad Bhat, Zahoore Ahmad Shah Watali, Shabir Ahmad Shah, Abdul Rashid Sheikh, and Naval Kishore Kapoor. The charge sheet was also filed against Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT) founder

Hafiz Saeed and Hizbul Mujahideen chief Syed Salahuddin, who have been declared proclaimed offenders (PO) in the case.

## PROFILE OF EX-JKLF CHIEF

Born on April 3, 1966 in Maisuma locality in downtown Srinagar, Malik is also facing trial in the much-publicized abduction case of Rubaiya Sayeed, daughter of the then Union Home Minister Mufti Mohammad Sayeed in 1989, and an attack by JKLF militants on IAF personnel in Srinagar that left four dead and many others injured in 1990. Malik was initiated in anti-national activities at a very young age in 1980s when he formed Tala party which was involved in an attempt to disrupt the 1983 cricket match between India and West Indies in the Sher-e-Kashmir Stadium in Srinagar besides staging a protest against the hanging of JKLF founder Mohammad Maqbool Bhat in Delhi’s Tihar Jail on February 11, 1984. After undergoing detention for months together on different occasions, Malik’s activities increased after his Tala party rechristened itself as Islamic Students League (ISL) that campaigned vigorously for Muslim United Front (MUF) candidates in the 1987 Assembly polls. The MUF candidates including Mohammad Yousuf Shah lost the elections amid allegations of mass rigging. Shah alias Syed Sallahuddin is now the self-styled supreme commander of banned Hizbul Mujahideen based in Pakistan-occupied Kashmir (PoK) and patronized by the Pakistan Army-ISI combine. Both Shah and Malik were prominent faces among many others arrested for several months in the aftermath of the elections without a formal charge. After his release, Malik was among the first batch of youths who crossed the Line of Control (LoC) into PoK for arms training in 1988 to join JKLF.

Malik along with Hameed Sheikh, Ashfaq Wani and Javed Mir formed the core group of the JKLF. While Wani died in a gunfight with security forces in March 1990, Malik was captured in an injured condition in August 1990 and remained imprisoned till May 1994. Sheikh and six other JKLF terrorists were killed at Ali Kadal in downtown Srinagar on November 19, 1992, while Mir is now heading a separate faction of JKLF. After his release on bail in May

1994, Malik declared an indefinite unilateral ceasefire to follow non-violent struggle for so-called ‘independence’ of Jammu and Kashmir from both India and Pakistan. Pakistan-based JKLF founder Amanullah Khan removed Malik as the President of the outfit in 1995. However, Malik in return expelled Khan from the chairmanship and enjoyed support from his party colleagues in Pakistan and abroad. Malik later joined as a member of the powerful executive body of Hurriyat Conference, an amalgam of various separatist organisations, which was formed in 1993 but adopted a neutral stance when the conglomerate split between hardliners and moderates in September 2003. He married Mushaal Hussein Mullick, an alumnus of the London School of Economics (LSE), in 2009 and the couple has a 10-year-old daughter, Razia Sultana, who lives with her mother in Pakistan. Malik had an opportunity to meet world leaders including former Prime Ministers Atal Bihari Vajpayee, Manmohan Singh and former Pakistani President Pervez Musharraf and also visited the US for medical treatment in 2001. Malik sharing a dais with banned Lashkar-e-Taiba chief Hafiz Muhammad Saeed at a protest in Islamabad in February 2013 against the hanging of Parliament attack convict Afzal Guru elicited widespread condemnation in the country. He was also part of separatist leaders who visited PoK aboard ‘Karvan-e-Aman’ (peace caravan), a bus service started as a confidence building measure between the two divided parts of Jammu and Kashmir on April 7, 2005. Malik, who actively campaigned for boycott of elections, was arrested in 1999 under Public Safety Act (PSA) and released in 2002. He was also in the spotlight for a campaign by JKLF, known as ‘Safar-i-Azadi’ (journey of freedom), in 2007 to garner support for the right of self-determination for the people in Jammu and Kashmir.

## SIDHU GIVEN JOB OF PATIALA JAIL MUNSHI

A jail official, who did not wish to be named, maintained that the Congress leader — a three-time MP, a former Minister — had already started his work, checking the files, from Tuesday itself. The official said Sidhu’s post would

be referred to as munshi, as per jail terminology. “Sidhu has been assigned the clerical work, he will be working on the paperwork. We have decided on Sidhu’s work keeping in mind his security inside the jail which is a major challenge for us. Sidhu will work from his barrack only in two shifts with no break,” a jail official told *The Pioneer*. The prisoners, undergoing rigorous imprisonment, usually work in the jail factories or the bakeries. Considering that many hardcore criminals also work in jail factories and bakeries, the jail authorities have decided to assign the clerical work to Sidhu keeping in mind his security. Moreover, Sidhu is well educated, suitable to handle paperwork. The official said Sidhu would be working in two shifts — from 9 am to 12 pm and 3 pm to 5 pm; with a three-hour break in between. For the work, Sidhu will not get any salary for the first three months. “As Sidhu has no clerical experience, he is categorised as an unskilled worker. So he will be working as a trainee for first three months. After that, he will start getting salary of Rs 30 per day on becoming the semi-skilled worker, and later Rs 90 per day when he will be a skilled worker,” said the jail official. The Supreme Court, past week, had sentenced Sidhu to one-year rigorous imprisonment in a three-decade-old road rage case, involving a man’s death, observing that any undue sympathy in imposing an inadequate sentence would do more harm to the justice system and undermine the public confidence in the efficacy of law. A 65-year-old man, named Gurnam Singh, had died in the incident. Though the apex court had in May 2018 held Sidhu guilty of the offence of “voluntarily causing hurt” to the man, it had spared him a jail term and imposed a fine of ₹1,000. Later, Gurnam Singh’s family had sought a review of the judgement, which was allowed by the SC.

Only a day before, Sidhu has been allowed to have a special diet, recommended by a medical board and approved by the Chief Judicial Magistrate, considering several health issues the former cricketer is facing.

## TEEN MASSACRES 19 KIDS IN TEXAS SCHOOL

a mass shooting in New York.

All the victims have been removed, identified and their families have been notified, the lieutenant said. Multiple children were wounded inside the classroom, according to Olivarez, but there is no exact number as to how many at this time. “It’s a small classroom, you can have anywhere from 25 to 30 students in there, plus there were two teachers in there. ... So don’t have exact number of how many students were in that classroom,” Olivarez said. When asked if the school was a target, Olivarez said there are still “a lot of unanswered questions.” Investigators say the suspect was armed with a handgun, an AR-15 semi-automatic rifle and high-capacity magazines. Texas Governor Greg Abbott identified the killer as Salvador Ramos, a resident of the area where the school was located. The shooter’s motive remains unclear. The teenager is suspected of shooting his grandmother at the start of the rampage, US media reports said. Chief of Police, Uvalde, Pete Arredondo said the “mass casualty event occurred at Robb Elementary School at about 11:32 this morning.” He said the killer acted as a lone wolf — who was shot dead in a police exchange. The deceased children are in the second, third and fourth grades — aged between 7 years and 10 years, he said. People in the largely Hispanic neighbourhood sat outside their homes after the shooting, some with their families while others gathered with neighbours. In a prime-time address on Tuesday, a visibly emotional Biden asked what it would take to convince fellow lawmakers that “it’s time to act.” President Biden again tried to comfort a nation grieving after a mass shooting, urging action to counter powerful gunmakers and repeatedly questioning why the country he leads lacks “the backbone” to stem the bloodshed. “How many scores of little children who witnessed what happened - seen their friends die as if they’re on a battlefield, for god’s sake,” said Biden. “To lose a child is like having a piece of your soul ripped away. There’s a hollowness in your chest.” Turning to the issue of gun control legislation, Biden implored lawmakers to “turn this pain into action” as he ticked through some of the mass shootings since the 2012 massacre at Sandy Hook Elementary School in Newtown, Connecticut, when he was vice presi-

dent. “I am sick and tired of it. We have to act. And don’t tell me we can’t have an impact on this carnage,” he said, asking: “Why do we keep letting this happen?” “Where in God’s name is our backbone to have the courage to deal with and stand up to the lobbies?” he said. In Uvalde, all schools were locked once the gunshots were heard. Texas Governor Abbott said he had instructed the Texas Department of Public Safety and the Texas Rangers to work with the local law enforcement to investigate the shooting. Officials said the city’s civic centre was being used as a reunification centre where the kin of victims can procure information from the state and coordinate other functions. The shooting stoked the fiery debate on gun control. Texas Attorney General Ken Paxton said teachers should be armed to stop such incidents in the future. Texas Senator Ted Cruz described the Uvalde shooting as “truly horrific”, but said gun reforms were not the way to prevent such crimes. Speaking to reporters, he said restricting the rights of “law-abiding citizens... Doesn’t work. It’s not effective. It doesn’t prevent crime.” He said “going after felons” is what prevents such crimes and he criticised other politicians for trying to “advance their own political agenda” by calling for gun control. He added that from past experience, armed law enforcement on campus is the most effective way of keeping children safe. “We don’t know the details of what happened at Robb Elementary School, but there will be a lot of time to examine what steps could have been taken proactively to enhance the safety and security of the school right now,” he said. There have so far been at least 212 mass shootings in the US in 2022, according to the nonprofit organisation Gun Violence Archive. This means there have been more mass shootings this year than there have been days in 2022, CNN reported. CNN and the GVA define a mass shooting as a shooting that injured or killed four or more people, not including the shooter. Tuesday’s massacre at Robb Elementary School in Uvalde is the second-deadliest school shooting since 2012, when 26 children and adults were killed at Sandy Hook Elementary School in Connecticut.



# Families mourn, worry in wake of US school shooting



in their right state of mind and all they want to do is just hurt people, especially innocent children going to the schools," Garza said.

On social media, pictures of smiling children were posted, their families begging for information. Classes had been winding down for the year and each school day had a theme. Tuesday's was Footloose and Fancy. Students were supposed to wear a nice outfit with fun or fancy shoes.

Adolfo Cruz, a 69-year-old air conditioning repairman, remained outside the school Tuesday night, waiting for word about his 10-year-old great-granddaughter, Elijah Cruz Torres, whose whereabouts remained unknown to

## Biden: When are we going to stand up to gun lobby?

AP ■ WASHINGTON

President Joe Biden delivered an emotional call for new restrictions on firearms after a gunman opened fire at a Texas elementary school on Tuesday. "When in God's name are we going to stand up to the gun lobby?" Biden said at the White House shortly after returning from a five-day trip to Asia that was bookended by tragedy.

With first lady Jill Biden standing by his side in the Roosevelt Room, Biden added, "I am sick and tired. We have to act."



At least 18 students were killed, according to a state senator who said he was briefed by law enforcement, in addition to a teacher.

Just two days before Biden left on his trip, he met with victims' families after a hate-motivated shooter killed 10 Black people at a grocery store in Buffalo, New York. The back-to-back tragedies served as sobering reminders of the frequency and brutality of an American epidemic of mass gun violence. "These kinds of mass shootings rarely happen anywhere else in the world," Biden said. "Why?" He directed that American flags be flown at half-staff through sunset Saturday in honor of the victims in Texas. Vice President Kamala Harris said earlier that people normally declare in moments like this, "our hearts break — but our hearts keep getting broken ... And our broken hearts are nothing compared to the broken hearts of

those families."

"We have to have the courage to take action ... To ensure something like this never happens again," she said. White House press secretary Karine Jean-Pierre said Biden was briefed on the shooting by deputy chief of staff Jen O'Malley-Dillon and other members of his senior team aboard Air Force One.

Shortly before landing in Washington, Biden spoke with Texas Gov. Greg Abbott from the presidential plane "to offer any and all assistance he needs in the wake of the horrific shooting in Uvalde, TX," White House communications director Kate Bedingfield tweeted.

AP ■ UVALDE (US)

Distraught families gathered at a local civic centre and turned to social media to mourn and to make desperate pleas for help finding missing children as the death toll in a gruesome school shooting at a Texas elementary school rose to at least 19 students and two teachers. By nightfall, names of those killed during Tuesday's attack at Robb Elementary School in the town of Uvalde began to emerge. One man at the civic centre walked away sobbing into his phone "she is gone". On the backside of the building, a woman stood by herself, alter-

nately crying and yelling into her phone, shaking her fist and stamping her feet.

Texas Department of Public Safety Lt Christopher Olivarez told CNN on Wednesday morning that all the dead were in the same fourth-grade classroom, where the shooter barricaded himself and opened fire on the children and teachers. Manny Renfro said he got word Tuesday that his grandson, 8-year-old Uziyah Garcia, was among those killed.

"The sweetest little boy that I've ever known," Renfro said. "I'm not just saying that because he was my grandkid."

Renfro said Uziyah last visited him in San Angelo

during spring break. "We started throwing the football together and I was teaching him pass patterns. Such a fast little boy and he could catch a ball so good," Renfro said. "There were certain plays that I would call that he would remember and he would do it exactly like we practiced."

Fourth-grade teacher Eva Mireles, 44, was remembered as a loving mother and wife. "She was adventurous. I would definitely say those wonderful things about her. She is definitely going to be very missed," said 34-year-old relative Amber Ybarra, of San Antonio.

Ybarra prepared to give blood for the wounded and pondered how no one noticed trouble with the shooter in time to stop him.

"To me, it's more about raising

mental health awareness," said Ybarra, a wellness coach who attended the elementary school where the shooting happened. "Someone could possibly have seen a dramatic change before something like this happened."

Lisa Garza, 54, of Arlington, Texas, mourned the death of her cousin, Xavier Javier Lopez, who had been eagerly awaiting a summer of swimming. "He was just a loving 10-year-old little boy, just enjoying life, not knowing that this tragedy was going to happen today," she said. "He was very bubbly, loved to dance with his brothers, his mom. This has just taken a toll on all of us." She also lamented what she described as lax gun laws.

"We should have more restrictions, especially if these kids are not

family.

Cruz drove to the scene after receiving a tearful and terrifying call from his daughter shortly after the first reports that an 18-year-old gunman had opened fire at the school.

While he waited outside the school Tuesday night, his family was at the hospital and civic centre waiting for any potential word on her condition. Cruz called the waiting the heaviest moment of his life. "I hope she is alive," Cruz said. "They are waiting for an update."

Federico Torres waited for news about his 10-year-old son Rogelio. He told KHOU-TV that he was at work when he learned about the shooting and rushed to the school. "They sent us to the hospital, to the civic centre, to the hospital and here again, nothing, not even in San Antonio," Torres said. "They don't tell us anything, only a photo, wait, hope that everything is well."

# Russian rockets hit eastern Ukrainian town of Pokrovsk

AP ■ POKROVSK (UKRAINE)

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

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

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

At least one of them suffered a head wound and was ferried to the local hospital by ambulance, blood seeping through the bandages and trickling down the side of his neck. The strikes in Pokrovsk were among several over the past two days that have hit



towns and villages as Russia pressed forward in its offensive in the Donbas, Ukraine's eastern industrial heartland.

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

The windows had been blown out by an earlier strike about a month ago, and they had replaced them with plastic sheeting. That, she said, probably saved their lives as at

least there was no glass flying around.

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

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

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

Kyrylenko said Russian strikes killed 12 civilians the previous day in the Donetsk region, and wounded another 10. Another strike on the city of Kramatorsk, northeast of

Pokrovsk, hit a multi-story building under construction, damaging it and blowing out windows in nearby buildings but causing no casualties.

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

The governor of the neighbouring Luhansk region, Serhiy Haidai, said at least six civilians had been killed and eight wounded over the past 24 hours in shelling in the town of Sieverodonetsk, at the heart of the Russian offensive in eastern Ukraine. Russian forces have been attempting to encircle Sieverodonetsk and cut off Ukrainian forces there. Haidai accused the Russians of deliberately targeting shelters where civilians were hiding.

Moscow-backed separatists have fought Ukrainian forces in the Donbas for eight years and hold large swaths of territory.

Sieverodonetsk and neighbouring cities are the only part of the Donbas' Luhansk region still under Ukrainian government control.

## China wants 10 Pacific nations to endorse sweeping agreement

AP ■ WELLINGTON NEW ZEALAND

China wants 10 small Pacific nations to endorse a sweeping agreement covering everything from security to fisheries in what one leader warns is a "game-changing" bid by Beijing to wrest control of the region.

A draft of the agreement obtained by The Associated Press shows that China wants to train Pacific police officers, team up on "traditional and non-traditional security" and expand law enforcement cooperation. China also wants to jointly develop a marine plan for fisheries — which would include the Pacific's lucrative tuna catch — increase cooperation on running the region's internet networks, and set up cultural Confucius Institutes and classrooms. China

also mentions the possibility of setting up a free trade area with the Pacific nations.

China's move comes as Foreign Minister Wang Yi and a 20-strong delegation begin a visit to the region this week.

Wang is visiting seven of the countries he hopes will endorse the "Common Development Vision" — the Solomon Islands, Kiribati, Samoa, Fiji, Tonga, Vanuatu, and Papua New Guinea. Wang is also holding virtual meetings with the other three potential signatories — the Cook Islands, Niue and the Federated States of Micronesia. He is hoping the countries will endorse the pre-written agreement as part of a joint communiqué after a scheduled May 30 meeting in Fiji he is holding with the foreign ministers from each of the 10 countries.

## 'Humbled' Boris apologises for partygate

PTI ■ LONDON

British Prime Minister Boris Johnson on Wednesday issued another apology over partygate after top civil servant Sue Gray's damning report into breaches of coronavirus lockdown rules at Downing Street concluded leadership failures were behind a culture of rule-breaking within UK government offices.

Making a statement in the House of Commons soon after Gray's findings were published, Johnson said he took "full responsibility" for everything that happened and said all the senior management has changed within Downing Street since the time of those rule-breaking parties in 2020-2021. Amid jeers and shouts from the Opposition benches, the prime minister insisted his statement is aimed at setting out the context, not to mitigate or excuse what happened. "I am humbled and I have learned a lesson... I also want to say above all that I take full responsibility for everything that took place on my watch," said Johnson.

"Whatever the failing of No. 10 [Downing Street] and the Cabinet Office throughout this difficult period and my own, I continue to believe the civil servants and advisers... Are good, hard working people motivated... To do the very best for our country," he said. He went on to explain how he thought it was "appropriate" to thank staff who were leaving for the work they had done, with reference to a particular farewell drinks party that was found to have been in breach of COVID rules.

# EU seeks more clout against sanctioned Russian oligarchs

AP ■ BRUSSELS

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

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

criminal matters.

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

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

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

The bloc's heads of government are due to discuss options for using the frozen assets of sanctioned Russian oligarchs to support the reconstruction of Ukraine during a two-day summit next week.

"There is no time to lose," Margaritis Schinas, a European Commission vice-president in charge of security matters, told reporters in Brussels. "Many times we see assets recovery and confiscation of the small fry, whereas the big sharks find ways to

evade."

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

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

## Palestinian teen shot dead

AP ■ JERUSALEM

Health authorities said a 16-year-old Palestinian died early Wednesday after being wounded during clashes with Israeli forces in the occupied West Bank, the latest in a wave of violence that has persisted for months.

The Palestinian health ministry said Ghaith Yamin was wounded by a gunshot to the head and died at a hospital. Wafa, the official Palestinian news agency, reported that the clashes erupted when Jewish worshippers, escorted by the military, arrived at a shrine on the outskirts of Nablus city to pray.

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

AP ■ BAKHMUT (UKRAINE)

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

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



Sieverodonetsk to the northeast.

Moscow-backed separatists have fought Ukrainian forces in the Donbas for eight years and hold large swaths of territory. Sieverodonetsk and neighboring cities are the only

part of the Donbas' Luhansk region still under Ukrainian government control.

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

"Now it's a question of saving the children," said Olga Hordiyenko, 51, as she stood in a playground on Tuesday near her apartment building. "The Russians are shelling us, so there's this burning issue to get the children out of here."

Ignoring the repeated background sounds of

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

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

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

"Here we have our apart-

ment, our house," she said. "Everything will be smashed and destroyed."

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

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

# Marcos Jr proclaimed next Philippine Prez with huge win

AP ■ MANILA PHILIPPINES

Ferdinand Marcos Jr. Was proclaimed the next president of the Philippines by a joint session of Congress on Wednesday following a landslide election triumph 36 years after his dictator father was ousted in a pro-democracy uprising.

The Senate and House of Representatives also declared that his separately elected vice presidential running mate, Sara Duterte, had won by a wide margin. She is the daughter of outgoing President Rodrigo Duterte, whose turbulent six-year term ends on June 30.

They will lead a nation battered by COVID-19 lockdowns, crushing poverty, gaping inequality, Muslim and communist insurgencies, crime and political divisions further



inflamed by the May 9 election.

Marcos Jr., a 64-year-old former governor, congressman and senator, has refused to acknowledge or apologise for massive human rights violations and plunder under his father's strongman rule and has defended his legacy.

When they take office, Marcos Jr. And Sara Duterte will likely face demands to prosecute her father over thousands of killings of mostly poor suspects under his yearslong crackdown on illegal drugs. The deaths are currently under investigation

by the International Criminal Court.

Marcos Jr. Received more than 31 million votes and Sara Duterte more than 32 million out of more than 55 million votes cast in the election. It was the first majority presidential victory in the Asian democracy in decades.

During the campaign, they avoided controversial issues and focused on a call for national unity, although their fathers' presidencies opened some of the most volatile divisions in the country's history. Marcos Jr. Appealed to be judged "not by my ancestors, but by my actions".

Sen. Imee Marcos, the president-elect's sister, thanked those who voted for her brother after what she described as years of humiliation.



# Kerber, Azarenka win; Emma out

AP ■ PARIS

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

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

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

"I think the last week was really important for me to get the title," former number one Kerber said of her Strasbourg triumph.

"I had a lot of confidence. It's great to be back here and I hope I can still play a few more matches.

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

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

## SAKKARI OUT

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

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

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

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

Russian men's star Andrey Rublev said the atmosphere in the sport is currently "toxic" while French player Benoit Paire believes "99%" of players want a Wimbledon with points.

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

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

"I ask them how they feel. We

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

AP ■ PARIS

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

## 'AGAINST THE WAR'

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

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

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

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

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

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

## 1ST SLAM MAIN DRAW WIN

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

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

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

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

## Chelsea sale gets green light from UK Government

AP ■ LONDON

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

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

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

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

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

The Premier League said



its approval hinged on the government sale licence "and the satisfactory completion of the final stages of the transaction".

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

Abramovich put Chelsea on the market in early March, just before he was sanctioned

by Britain following Russia's invasion of Ukraine.

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

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

## Klopp named PL manager of the year

AP ■ LIVERPOOL

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

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

But Liverpool lost out on the Premier League title to Manchester City by just a point after both Klopp's men and Pep Guardiola's side won their respective matches on Sunday's final day of a thrilling campaign. Klopp, collecting his accolade at the LMA Awards dinner in London on Tuesday, said: "It is a great honour and it was an insane season.

"The last matchday when only two games were meaningless and in the rest, we all played for absolutely everything. The German, paying tribute to his backroom team, added: "When you win a prize like this you are either a genius or you have the best coaching staff in the world — and I am here with all of my coaching staff, they know how much I appreciate them."

## LOCAL EVENTS

### TEAM SELECTED



Neelam of Uttar Pradesh has been selected in the Indian team for U-23 Senior Women's Wrestling Championships, defeating Ankush of Haryana in the 50-kg category, to be held at Bishkek from June 19. The trials were held at SAI Regional centre on Wednesday, which was organised by Indian Wrestling Association in which 30 grapplers participated in 10 age categories. UP Wrestling Association vice president Vinay Shahi and director SAI Sanjay Saraswat were also present during the selection trials.

**RESULTS: (50KG)** Neelam bt Ankush, **(53KG)** Antim bt Meenakshi **(55KG)** Jyoti bt Sushma, **(57KG)** Pushpa bt Nikita, **(59KG)** Mansi bt Kavita, **(62KG)** Bhateri bt Shefali, **(65KG)** Radhika bt Amruti, **(68KG)** Aarju bt Nikita, **(72KG)** Ritik bt Dinesh, **(76KG)** Bipasha bt Rakhi

### KAMLESH IN INDIAN TEAM

Kamlesh Shukla of Lucknow has been selected in the Indian team for ITF World Tennis Masters Tour World Team Championship to be held in Portugal from July 31 to August 5. He will represent the country in the Under-40 singles category. Kamlesh recently bagged the Mumbai ITF Senior 400, Pune ITF Senior 200 and Haryana ITF Senior 200 championships.

### CAMP CONCLUDED

The central volleyball training camp conducted by Sports department concluded at KD Singh 'Babu' Stadium on Wednesday. 49 boys and 7 girls took part in the trials. Former international volleyball player Ranveer Singh and Balaji Construction MD Ravi Singh gave away the t-shirts and certificates to the participants.

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

PTI ■ KOLKATA

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

## India need luck, big win against Indonesia

PTI ■ JAKARTA

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

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

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

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

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

tournament opener before being thrashed by Japan 2-5.

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

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

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

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

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





# LUCKNOW SUPER GIANTS ELIMINATED

## Rajat Patidar slams unbeaten ton to take RCB closer to IPL final

PTI ■ KOLKATA

**L**ittle-known domestic bulwark Rajat Patidar literally owned the biggest stage of his nascent career with a magnificent hundred that got Royal Challengers Bangalore within a sniffing distance of title clash after out-batting Lucknow Super Giants by 14 runs in the IPL Eliminator on Wednesday.

RCB will meet Rajasthan Royals in the second Qualifier on Friday, which will decide Gujarat Titans' opposition for Sunday's final.

Courtesy Patidar's 54-ball-112 not out which had 12 fours and seven huge sixes, RCB literally knocked the stuffing out of LSG attack, piling an imposing 207 for 4 in 20 overs.

For LSG, the only saving grace was Mohsin Khan's superb figures of 1 for 25.

In reply, KL Rahul's 78 off 59 balls didn't make much of an impact save beefing his individual run-tally as LSG finished on 193 for 6 after 20 overs.

If Patidar's hundred set it up nicely for RCB, no words of praise will be enough for the brilliant Harshal Patel (4-0-25-1), whose

18th over full of wide yorkers and off-cutter variations decisively tilted the match in his team's favour.

Once Josh Hazlewood removed Rahul in the 19th over, RCB team in spirit had already boarded the flight to Ahmedabad.

While Rahul helped himself to three fours and five sixes but his 96-run stand with Deepak Hooda (45) did keep LSG in the fight a total of six boundaries compared to 14 sixes told a different story.

Especially when RCB hit 21 fours apart from the nine maximums they had in their innings.

There was a phase when Rahul's batting seemed a tad selfish and it felt as if he was happy as long as he got his 600 runs for the season.

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

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



And to make Patidar's story more interesting, he went unsold at the auction this season and joined the team as replacement after start when a player called Luvnith Sisodia was injured. Had Sisodia been alright, RCB wouldn't have required services of Patidar, who made 65,000 at Eden Gardens stand on their feet.

He along with Dinesh Karthik

History maker Rajat Patidar

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

▶ He scored his century in 49 balls, which is the joint fastest ton scored by any played in the playoffs or knockouts of the IPL. Patidar equalled the record set by Wriddhiman Saha, who scored 115 off 55 balls for Kings XI Punjab in the 2014 IPL final.

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

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

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

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

nership from 46 balls.

Having cruised to his half-century in 28 balls, he took another 21 balls to reach his maiden hundred in T20s. He got to the landmark pulling Mohsin Khan over square leg with a sweet-timing of the bat that summed up his effortless stay at the crease.

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

In-form Dinesh Karthik, who

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

But Patidar turned it around in the last over Bishnoi when he smacked the 'googly-man' for three sixes and two fours in succession in an over that read 1 6 4 6 4 6.

A sloppy LSG also helped his cause as Patidar, who got reprieves on 59, 72 and 93. After a 40-minute delayed start due to bad weather,

Lucknow got off to a superb start when Mohsin got RCB skipper Faf du Plessis for a golden duck in the first over. Having lost their skipper early, it was about bidding time as Kohli and Patidar opted for a wait-and-watch policy before the latter broke loose against Krunal Pandya in the last over of the power-play.

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

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

PTI ■ KOLKATA

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

PTI ■ KOLKATA

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

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

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

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

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

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



committee of the BCCI.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

PTI ■ DUBAI

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

In the batter's list, Marnus Labuschagne maintained his pole position while India captain Rohit Sharma and his predecessor Virat Kohli remained static at eighth and 10th place respectively. Similarly in bowling, Pat Cummins (901 points) has a 51-point lead over his nearest rival Ravichandran Ashwin, who is followed by countryman Jasprit Bumrah. India's Ravindra Jadeja also remained on top of the all-rounders' table.

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

## I feel extremely backed: Miller after his match-winning knock against RR

AGENCIES ■ KOLKATA

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

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



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

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

David Miller further said that the plus point of IPL is that you play for different teams in it.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

## Mathews, de Silva keep Sri Lanka alive

AP ■ DHAKA

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



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

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