

Follow Sheila model, Cong's tip to Kejriwal

'Stop summoning babus at odd hours, stop using harsh language'



language while talking to them. Congress leader Sandeep Dikshit also claimed that Kejriwal could be the first elected Chief Minister to go to jail over corruption charges.

Maken took to Twitter and Facebook on Sunday to recall his own personal experience that he got from former Delhi Chief Minister Sheila Dikshit during

the BJP-led NDA regime at the Centre in early 2000s and advised that Kejriwal should follow the "Sheila Dikshit model" of engaging with officers respectfully, holding dialogues with them rather than "mistreating" them, and persuading them to work for the city's advancement. He also said Kejriwal's past actions of summoning officers and allegedly using harsh words against them are only contributing to the City's distress.

"I hope the current Chief Minister takes note of this journey and learns from it. Engage with officers respectfully, hold dialogues, and persuade them for Delhi's advancement. They will certainly align with your vision if it's sincere."

"Your past actions - sum-

moning officers at ungodly hours, resorting to mistreatment and harsh words - are not constructive. It's crucial to recognize that such behavior only contributes to the city's distress," Maken said on Twitter.

Sharing a story titled "A Day with Sheila Ji: Reflecting Amidst Kejriwal's Current Power Chaos", Maken said in the early 2000s a historic shift was underway in Delhi when he was serving in the transport, power, and tourism minister under the late Sheila Dikshit.

The Congress leader said the Delhi government was spearheading a series of initiatives including transitioning public transport to CNG, launching the Metro and reforming the power department.

Nitish should stop daydreaming about becoming PM, says BJP

Pay attention to Bihar, says BJP after Nitish meets Kejriwal

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

The BJP on Sunday took a swipe at Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar following his meeting with his Delhi counterpart Arvind Kejriwal, saying he should pay attention to his state which is being pushed into "anarchy" instead of daydreaming about becoming the Prime Minister. The BJP further alleged that Kejriwal is seeking support of the leaders he once branded corrupt, to cover up the "corruption of his own government".

Six Delhi BJP MPs



Meenakshi Lekhi, Harsh Vardhan, Manoj Tiwari, Ramesh Bidhuri, Pravesh Sahib Singh and Hansraj Hans addressed a joint Press conference here where they mounted a scathing attack on Kejriwal who met Nitish and his deputy Tejashwi Yadav earlier on the day.

Union Minister and New Delhi MP Meenakshi Lekhi said the administrative and legal status of Delhi makes Delhi a Union Territory, but Kejriwal is not ready to accept it due to his "dictatorial attitude".

"The Centre has the right to bring necessary ordinance and that is the reason why the cen-

tre has brought it. But Kejriwal is disputing it because he fears exposure of his corruption," she alleged.

"There was a time when Arvind Kejriwal used to carry a list of the names of political leaders and considered them as symbols of corruption. But today he is ready to hug Nitish Kumar and Tejashwi Yadav," Tiwari said.

Kejriwal's priority is not to eliminate corruption, but to defeat Prime Minister Narendra Modi, said the BJP MP from Northeast Delhi. "He is ready to stoop to any level to save his empire of corruption."

L-G playing dirty politics, alleges Govt

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

The Delhi Government on Sunday accused Lieutenant Governor VK Saxena of indulging in "dirty politics" while asserting that the complaints filed by some officers alleging harassment by the AAP government are "absolutely fake".

Officials in the L-G Office on Saturday claimed that eight officers posted in the Delhi government and the Municipal Corporation of Delhi (MCD) have alleged "blatant harassment" by the Arvind Kejriwal government.

They said two complaints were received earlier this year and six were received after May 11 — the day the Supreme Court granted control of services, except police, land and public order, to the elected government in Delhi.

AAP, BJP spar over Dikshit Govt's say on transfers, postings of babus

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

The Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) vehemently refuted the claims made by the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) saying during the tenure of the Sheila Dikshit Government, the Chief Minister possessed complete authority over transfer-posting powers.

"However, immediately after the AAP assumed power in 2015, the Modi Government, through a notification, snatched away this rightful authority from the elected government."

"It is crucial to note that this move was an encroachment upon the principles of democracy and governance," the AAP said in a statement issued on Sunday.

"After an arduous legal battle spanning eight long years, the Supreme Court's Constitutional



Bench, on May 11, unequivocally declared the Central Government's notification as erroneous. The Supreme Court, in its explicit order, emphasised that the elected government of Delhi should rightfully exercise its powers over services based on three constitutional principles," it said.

"However, within a mere eight days after the Supreme Court's order, the central government hastily resorted to an ordinance, once again infringing upon the elected govern-

ment's power of transfer-posting in Delhi.

This brazen act of undermining democratic principles raises serious concerns about the BJP's intent to upholding the Constitution and respecting the will of the people," the AAP said.

It further said that AAP firmly maintains that, in accordance with Article 239AA of the Constitution, an elected government has been established in Delhi with a duly constituted assembly.

AAP's success in UP civic polls shows people ready to welcome us: Kejriwal

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

AAP National convener and Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal on Sunday met winning candidates in the Uttar Pradesh civic polls and hailed the astounding success of the party. Lauding their commitment to serving the common man, Kejriwal urged the winning candidates to take more responsibility to make the party win in the future polls in the State.

The Chief Minister said that AAP's fantastic performance in UP civic polls shows people are ready to welcome them wholeheartedly. "AAP has made a grand entry in UP through civic elections, we will fight the next assembly elections with full force. People of UP also want a good government that brings progress."



AAP has changed the narrative of politics in the country, now even Congress and BJP seek votes from the public on our manifesto," he said.

Kejriwal highlighted how after Delhi, they people of Punjab overwhelmingly voted for AAP.

"Now in the Uttar Pradesh elections, all of you have gone on to win, we have around 100-125 successful candidates from the State, and several chairmen. This indicates that the people of UP are now ready to welcome the Aam Aadmi Party," he said.

NGT sets up body to resolve sewage, toxic gas release from Kushak drain

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

The National Green Tribunal (NGT) has set up a committee to resolve the issue of sewage and toxic gas release from south Delhi's Kushak drain.

The NGT was hearing a petition alleging violation of environmental norms in maintaining the Kushak stormwater drain near houses in B block of Greater Kailash-1.

The 6.5-kilometre-long Kushak drain carries stormwater and sewage from several south Delhi localities and meets the Barapullah drain near Nizamuddin West before flowing into the Yamuna river.

A bench of NGT Chairperson Justice A K Goel said the grievance needs to be remedied but the covering of a drain can be allowed only if a proper separate pipeline to carry sewage is provided and



only rainwater is carried into the drain, which is not the case here.


"The applicants themselves have mentioned that covering the drain has resulted in the accumulation of poisonous gases (that are being) released from uncovered parts of the drain behind certain houses."




Thus, it may not be proper to permit the covering of the drain in these circumstances...," said the bench, also comprising judicial member Justice Sudhir Agarwal and expert member A

Senthil Vel.

"Channelising/treating and using sewage scientifically as per norms is the responsibility of statutory authorities like the Municipal Corporation and the Delhi Jal Board to effectuate the right of citizens to a clean environment," the bench said.

It said the solution was to prevent the flow of sewage into the drain and its periodic cleaning, including desilting and ensuring that water does not stagnate.



Heartiest Greetings

on the birth anniversary
of


Maharana Pratap

the symbol of ultimate courage, valour & sacrifice

May 22, 2023

"Maharana Pratap made Maa Bharti proud by his unparalleled valour, courage and martial expertise. His sacrifice and dedication to the motherland will always be remembered."

- Narendra Modi



Information, Public Relations, Languages and Culture Department, Haryana

www.pharyana.gov.in Follow us on [social media icons] @dipharyana



www.dailypioneer.com

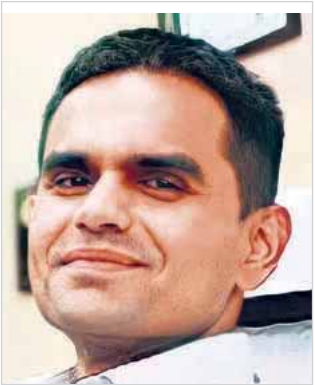
facebook.com/dailypioneer | @TheDailyPioneer | instagram.com/dailypioneer/

PAPER WITH PASSION

Safeguards needed

Former NCB Mumbai zonal director Sameer Wankhede's conduct raise a number of questions

Indian Revenue Service officer and former Narcotics Control Bureau (NCB) Mumbai zonal director Sameer Wankhede's troubles are unlikely to end soon. A couple of days after he made public the purported chats with film star Shah Rukh Khan during Aryan Khan's arrest, it has emerged that he might have broken rules. The drugs-on-cruise case against Aryan proved to be a false one, but it brought Wankhede in the limelight—and now a lot of problems for him. An inquiry carried out by the NCB's Special Enquiry Team (SET) on Wankhede resulted in the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) registering a case against him and others for trying to extort Rs 25 crore from Shah Rukh Khan for the release of Aryan. The CBI has accused Wankhede of not just extortion but also of living a lavish lifestyle, much beyond the salary of a government servant, even beyond his and his wife's combined annual income of Rs 4,56,14,60. During 2017-21, he reportedly made six family trips abroad. They visited the UK, Ireland, Portugal, South Africa and Maldives, staying for 55 days. His claim is that just Rs 8.75 lakh was spent, but this amount hardly covers air travel. The CBI has mentioned a number of expensive watches (Rolex) and properties, which no middle class person can afford to own—certainly not four flats in Mumbai and about 417-acre land in Washim. He cannot even claim that he inherited property, because his father was also a government servant, not a business tycoon.



Wankhede's conduct and luxurious lifestyle raise a number of questions. First, why did no one in the system bother to find out about his opulence? After all, foreign visits with family involve huge expenses. Why didn't anyone know about the ownership of his properties? Had it not been the Aryan Khan case, and his alleged misdemeanour in it, he might have continued living life king size. Are there other officers as well who have wealth and income disproportionate to their known sources of income? Has any Government, at the Centre or in States, learnt a lesson from this episode and tried to find out about such officers? If any such attempt is being made, it is not in the public domain. Then there is also the issue of human rights and civil liberties. The Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Act is a harsh law, which is not wrong, for drugs are a menace to the society, especially youngsters; the offenders ought to be dealt with in a harsh manner. But it should not become an instrument in the hands of unscrupulous officers. The SET report and the CBI's accusation against Wankhede suggest that the harshness of the law was aimed at Aryan who was proved to be innocent. Apparently, there are not enough safeguards to shield innocents from the machinations of the dodgy officers. It is time the powers that be ensured that the war on drugs is waged against criminals, not innocent people.

PICTALK



Crows congregate around a snake, trying to catch it, in New Delhi

The US' 'interests' tilt it towards 'establishment'



BHOPINDER SINGH

The US is likely to favour the rule of 'establishment' or through its proxies in Pakistan rather than maverick politician Imran Khan

Grandfather of realpolitik and the man who defined the US art of foreign diplomacy, Henry Kissinger, said about the Iran-Iraq war, "It's a pity both sides can't lose". Despite official stands of political correctness, the US had supported both sides in the bloody conflict that left over a million dead. The US had provided money and support to the Iraqi dictator, Saddam Hussein, and overlooked his excesses like the Halabja massacre where Saddam had used genocidal chemical weapons, and also declared the defeat of Iran as its foreign policy goal. A few years later, murky details of the White House secretly selling weapons to Iran emerged (violating its own declared embargo) to raise funds for anti-communist guerrillas in Nicaragua (Iran-Contra scandal). The reality of America's stated preference towards Iraq to counter the rabid anti-Americanism of Shiite Iranian Ayatollahs, and in parallel secretly raising funds by selling arms to Iran, was a heady admixture of posturing, commerce, amorality, and convenience – about which Kissinger also said, "America has no permanent friends or enemies, only interests".

Another realm that personifies the US's 'interests' driven foreign policy approach is Pakistan. The seeds of the US-Pakistan relationship were planted by Pakistan's first military 'strongman' and later President, Ayub Khan, who dialled up the fears of 'communists' within, and asserted that the Pakistani Army or 'establishment' was the only institution capable of controlling the situation.

The moral culpability of the United States (especially of the Nixon-Kissinger duo) in tellingly looking the other way when Pakistan was perpetrating genocide against its own Bengalis – only because Islamabad was facilitating American 'interests' of critical engagement with China, is well documented. American intrigues and machinations in framing its equation with Pakistan according to the principle of 'interests', were again reignited with Operation Cyclone



(code name for covert US CIA program to support mujahideen in Afghanistan). For all its purported global championing of democracy and liberality, the Americans were comfortably engaging with yet another Pakistani Military dictator i.e., General Zia-ul-Haq (who had dismissed a democratically elected government and hung its former Prime Minister i.e., Zulfikar Ali Bhutto) and were arming the zealot-like mujahideen. This counter-intuitive US-Pakistan bonhomie and accommodation of the Pakistani Generals was explained by larger American 'interests' that had got complicated with Russians in Afghanistan and the Iranian Revolution – both in 1979. Beyond a point, Americans didn't care about niceties like democracy, freedoms etc., as their own 'interests' warranted downplaying platitudes about democracy in Pakistan and clearly the still relatively secular and Westernized 'establishment' was a better bet than the unhinged, reckless, and untrustworthy civilian politicians.

Later too, the Americans gave a long rope to Military dictators like Pervez Musharraf when he deposed the Nawaz Sharif government.

Today, when Pakistan is drawn into an intense power

struggle between the Military 'establishment' and an ostensibly popular-democratic force in Imran Khan, the situation is precarious and can swing either way. The choice is not symmetric or linear as Imran Khan had been ranting and railing against the United States till recently, whereas the 'establishment' had been on the mute button – should Washington DC tilt in favour of the 'establishment' or democratic forces? Yet again, Kissinger's transactional and cold-blooded principle of 'interests' will determine the way forward and not some vacuous clichés of morality.

There are many considerations like the discredited civilian dispensation in power, the neighbourhood of anti-Americanism in Kabul and Tehran, China's footprint in Pakistan, imploding Pakistan with its unbridled religiosity, economic devastation and societal dissonance. Evaluating the ability of the 'establishment' vis-à-vis Imran Khan to be able to control the situation and disallow the narrative of anti-Americanism to spread any further from what it already has, will be key. Imran realises the limitations and contradictions of 'Communist' China supporting 'Islamic' Pakistan beyond its own needs and 'interests', as also the unavailability of snapping ties

with Washington DC. Therefore, Imran has lowered his grandstanding against the Americans (post the unsubstantiated 'threat letter'). But has Imran done enough to convince the Americans of his trustworthiness, balance, and measure?

Americans too are facing economic stress and overstretch of their military/commercial resources, and their appetite to risk relations with the temperamental 'Taliban Khan' (Imran) would be extremely limited. For all their misadventures, entitlements, and undemocratic moorings the option (and experiences with Ayub, Zia, and Pervez) of the 'establishment' seems more reliable, stable, and future-aligned. Prospects of nuclear safety are also surer in the hands of the 'establishment' as opposed to an Imran who could put the same as a bargaining lever in any tricky situation. Whether the US would allow a direct rule of 'establishment' or through its proxies like the existing coalition is a fixable issue. US nudge towards the 'establishment' seems more plausible and that could tilt the scales in favour of the Generals.

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

TODAY, WHEN PAKISTAN IS DRAWN INTO AN INTENSE POWER STRUGGLE BETWEEN THE MILITARY 'ESTABLISHMENT' AND AN OSTENSIBLY POPULAR-DEMOCRATIC FORCE IN IMRAN KHAN, THE SITUATION IS PRECARIOUS AND CAN SWING EITHER WAY

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

DEMONETISATION-A FAILED EXERCISE

Sir — People of India and Opposition leaders across the political spectrum argued that the Reserve Bank of India's (RBI) decision to withdraw 2000 notes from circulation proves their point that the November 2016 Demonetization was a 'failed exercise' and has come full circle. "A few weeks after Demonetization, the government/RBI were forced to re-introduce the 500 note and it is not surprising if the government/RBI re-introduced the 1000 note as well. It has disrupted the lives of Indians everywhere. They claimed that the introduction of the 2000 note would curb the flow of black money which did not take place. 7 years later, they are withdrawing it from circulation. Yet another master-stroke asks the people. This whole concept of starting the circulation, stopping the circulation of notes, or issuing new notes, was started by the Centre and the economy suffered due to this. It neither helped in curbing black money nor ending terrorism. With this, the decision of demonetization was a disaster for the country.

Bhagwan Thadani | Mumbai

ZELENSKY ADDRESSES ARAB LEAGUE

Sir — It was a bit surprising to know that the President of Ukraine, Volodymyr Zelensky, reached the Saudi port city of Jeddah and addressed all the leaders of 22 Arab League countries. Knowing this, most of the rulers of these 22 countries run their countries through dictatorship, military rule or monarchy. There is no word human rights in the dictionaries of these countries. Neither the women here are given full rights nor the prisoners are treated properly. The rulers here, whenever they want, issue orders to hang whomever they want. To top it all, Syrian leader Bashar al-Assad himself attended the conference, after 12 years in exile. Together with whom the Russian dictator Putin got millions of Syrians killed. Millions of people are being forced to leave their homes and lead nomadic life in other countries. It is futile to expect people whose hands are stained with blood to support Ukraine. The ide-

RBI withdraws Rs 2000 notes



There was a rumour that the US is repudiating dollar notes before a stated date with a view to neutralising hordes of drug money stashed away in other nations. Though patently false there could be a convoluted justification since this represents dubious foreign debt owed by it. That said in 2013 it did redesign the \$100 note, implying no move

towards printing new ones.

In 2016 we did a monetary dialysis to freeze black money and yet all Rs 500/1000 notes reverted to govt storage. And cash in circulation climbed even more, subsequently!

The recent attempt to disown the Rs 2000 note, which is about \$25, is thus enigmatic. Exchanging these notes limited to a value of Rs 20000 per visit is even more puzzling. Either the value limit be done away with or release Rs 1000 denomination notes and set a longer time limit for exchange. The nation would take the cue and promptly deposit the 2000 denomination notes for exchange. We thus achieve any intended purpose and yet retain the sanctity of our national currency. A \$5 trln economy would need its currency to hold its head high.

Vishal Mayur | Tumkur

ology of the Arab League and the ideology of Putin are the same. That's why Zelensky would have been better off not traveling to Saudi Arabia.

Jang Bahadur Singh | Jamshedpur

A FILM ON TIPU SULTAN

Sir — The films like The Kashmir Files and The Kerala Story were made with the help of half baked truth and to high light the inhuman acts said to be done by a particular minority community or by emperors of minority community. The main intention of these films makers is to target ,spew venom, create hatred and Islamophobia against a particular community. Now on the same lines the Sangh parivar is making a film on the freedom fighter Tipu Sultan. Tipu Sultan is known as a great freedom fighter who strongly and courageously fought the mighty British. Tipu Sultan laid down his life for this country, he was killed in the fourth Anglo-Mysore war while defending his fort in his capital of Srirangapatna near Mysore. But BJP stood always against Tipu Sultan and

always used his name to polarize the voters especially in Karnataka. They do a propaganda that the 18th century Mysore ruler did not die fighting the British colonialist but was killed by the two Vokkaliga chieftains. However most Historians rubbished the claims of BJP and Sangh Parivar and claimed and said that the allegations of BJP and Sangh Parivar are a figment of imagination. Historians defended that Tipu Sultan laid down his life for the freedom of this country. But still BJP is been straining every muscle to portray Tipu Sultan in a bad manner. Tipu Sultan has been subject of bitter political controversy in Karnataka while Congress and JDS portray the Tipu as a progressive ruler while the Sangh Parivar dubbing Tipu as a tormentor of Hindus. It is sad and disheartening to see that the Bollywood has become a propaganda tool and being influenced by a political party's agenda.

Zakir Hussain | Kazipet

Send your feedback to: letterstopioneer@gmail.com

Providing affordable health services for all

The government has envisaged a new programme to promote research and innovation in pharmaceuticals through centres of excellence

The recent health hazards, much exacerbated by the Covid pandemic, have made it essential to have high quality, affordable and accessible health services equitably available for all, irrespective of any boundaries. The pandemic has also brought mental and social health-related issues prominently into the picture. Here, the first Health Working Group meeting under India's G20 presidency proved very effective in addressing the vulnerabilities and disparities of the systems, besides advocating holistic and universal health and wellbeing. The theme 'One World, One Health' widely resonated with the principle of 'Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam'. Health priorities like health emergencies, prevention, preparedness, strengthening cooperation and digital health innovation and solutions, were comprehensively discussed, especially when the situation in low- and middle-income countries is worrisome, owing to restricted and uneven healthcare systems.



Here, putting out a dream of a new, healthy and self-reliant health system and a pledge to make available high-quality, affordable and accessible health services to all, augurs a new age in the domain. Moreover, focusing on increasing health services for various health care systems leveraged with evidence, accreditations and the latest medical technologies, and then connecting the globe through medical value travel, are sure to address the disparities in the system. India's focus on both evidence-based traditional medicine practices and modern systems would be much helpful in achieving Universal Health Coverage. The attributes of Universal

Health Coverage also guide the decision-makers in designing a comprehensive and integrative healthcare system.

Recognising that the pandemic policy must be a defining part of our health policy, as any health crisis of today leads to a humongous economic crisis of tomorrow in an interconnected world, is now becoming an essential part of the agenda for our preparedness and response together. To meet future health challenges, the budget 2023 has also announced a lot of measures. 157 new nursing colleges are proposed to be established in co-location with the existing 157 medical colleges established since 2014. A mission to eliminate Sickle Cell Anaemia by 2047, will also be launched, which will entail universal screening of seven crore people in the age group of 0-40. For medical research, facilities in select ICMR Labs will be made available for research by public and private medical college faculties and private sector R&D teams for encouraging collaborative research and innovation.

A new programme to promote research and innovation in pharmaceuticals has also been planned through centres of excellence. The government also plans to encourage the pharma industry to invest in research and development in specific priority areas. The budget also made the focus of the Centre more pronounced to integrate the Ayush system with the National Health ecosystem. Hence, the total allocation to Ayush Ministry has been increased by 20% to Rs 3647 crores, along with emphasizing promoting evidence-based research in Ayush systems through Ayush research councils. With the G20 health meeting and budget 2023 focusing on broadening health services almost simultaneously, the foundation and framework of a global health architecture, envisaging to equip countries to face the next health emergency with robust health care systems, appears to be coming into existence. (The writer is a Senior Journalist)



RAJESH SINGH



FIRST COLUMN

UNLEASHING J&K'S TOURISM POTENTIAL

The G-20 Tourism Working Group meeting is opportunity to showcase J&K's tourism infra



VINOD BEHL

That tourism in Jammu & Kashmir has made big strides, is clearly evident from the phenomenal rise in tourist traffic. The union territory had a record tourist footfall of 1.62 crores last year in the first nine months. More than 1.8 crore tourists visited J&K after the Covid-related restrictions were taken off. This big boost in tourist traffic is the result of transformative policy initiatives with regard to basic infrastructural support and connectivity, along with a conducive environment with peace and tranquillity brought to the valley.

The new tourism policy of J&K is giving a big thrust to tourism-related infrastructure - improving the existing tourist infrastructure and creating infrastructure at 75 new tourist destinations being developed by J&K Tourism. On the anvil are 75 new sufi/religious sites, 75 new cultural and heritage sites and 75 new tracks. The new destinations include Bani (Kathua), Aithem, Suchetgarh, Basholi, Sarthal, Pancheri, Ransoo, and Budhal.

The J & K government is giving a big push to film tourism. Under the new tourism policy, a single-window facility has been provided to promote film shootings in J&K besides offering a whole gamut of facilities including OB Vans, houseboats, shooting equipment and post-production facilities to Indian and foreign film crews. On the road connectivity front, Rs 1 lakh crore has already been invested in road infrastructure and 6912 km of road network has been constructed under PMGSY in the last three years. The 670 km long Delhi-Amritsar-Katra greenfield expressway is set for December 2024 completion. The 250-km long Jammu-Srinagar 4-lane highway being built at the cost of Rs 16000 crore, will be completed by 2025. This all-weather road will link Kashmir with the rest of the country, reducing the road journey between Jammu and Srinagar to 4-5 hours.

Srinagar will be on the rail map by the end of the year or early next



year after the 270-km long Udhampur-Srinagar-Baramullah (USBRL) project gets completed. Trains have already started running on the Udhampur-Katra and Banihal- Qazigund-Baramullah sections.

Jammu & Kashmir is also getting a big cable car boost to provide modern, fast and eco-friendly transportation and connectivity. As part of the Union Ministry of Road Transport & Highways' ((MoRTH) Rs 1.25 lakh crore National Ropeway Development, a number of ropeway projects are being developed in J&K. The Shankaracharya Hillock Ropeway project in Srinagar is being developed to provide easier connectivity to visitors coming to Shankaracharya temple on top of the hillock. In Reasi(Jammu) a ropeway project is coming up at Shiv Khori shrine, near the famous Vaishnodevi Temple India's first cable-stayed rail bridge in Reasi has already been completed. The cable car projects will also be coming up at seven lakes in Rajouri Poonch, Sanasar in Jammu and Sonmarg in Kashmir. These cable car projects will give a big thrust to religious tourism.

Srinagar, the show-window of Kashmir is being developed as a Smart City having Metro Rail. All major roads including Residency Road, Maulana Azad Road and Airport Road are being upgraded. Roads leading to world famous Mughal Gardens and luxury hotels are being revamped. At first, cycle tracks are being laid across the city, besides establishing Wi-Fi zones. Dubai's leading Emaar Group is setting up a big shopping mall and cineplex at an investment of USD 60 million.

G-20 Tourism Meet also showcases Jammu region's tourist potential, especially eco-tourism on which G-20 is giving a lot of emphasis. Patnitop Development Authority has also carved out a Flower Valley in its high-altitude meadows to boost biodiversity. Further, Skyview by Emyprean Patnitop has been developed as a first-of-its-kind holistic lifestyle and leisure destination spread over 22 acres in the Himalayas with a gondola ride (India's highest international class sustainable ropeway), with luxury stay, F&B offerings, shopping and soft adventure activities such as all-season dry tubing sledge and Asia's longest zig-zag zipline, hiking and trekking.

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

SP must analyse its poor show in civic polls



BISWAJEET BANERJEE

SP's lacklustre performance in the UP civic polls should ring alarm bells for Akhilesh Yadav; it could be a bad omen for its 2024 campaign



The Samajwadi Party's performance in the urban civic polls leading up to the 2024 elections has been ignominious, and its implications for the party's prospects are significant. The lack of success in these polls has led to a growing sense of dejection among party workers. They feel demoralized and disheartened, questioning their party's ability to secure electoral victories. This dejection among the workers can have far-reaching implications for the party's organizational strength and ground-level campaign efforts.

According to party workers, the poor performance in the civic polls has been a blow to their morale. They believe that their hard work and efforts have not been rewarded, and they are now questioning their party's strategy and leadership. One party worker, speaking on condition of anonymity, expressed his disappointment, saying, "We have been working tirelessly to promote the party's agenda and secure victory in these polls. However, the results have left us demoralized. We are starting to question whether our efforts are in vain."

The shift in the Muslim vote bank has also been a cause for concern for the Samajwadi Party. Traditionally, the party has enjoyed considerable support from the Muslim community. However, in the recent civic polls, a significant portion of the Muslim vote bank has shifted towards the Bahujan Samaj Party (BSP). This shift indicates a loss of confidence in the Samajwadi Party's ability to effectively represent the interests of the Muslim community. It could weaken the party's electoral base and hinder its chances of success in future elections.

Commenting on the shift in the Muslim vote bank, political analyst Sushil Mishra stated, "The Samajwadi Party has long been seen as a party that champions the cause of Muslims. However, the recent performance in the civic polls sug-



THE DISCREPANCY IN CAMPAIGN EFFORTS BETWEEN THE TWO PARTIES IS EVIDENT IN THE STARK DIFFERENCE IN THE NUMBER OF RALLIES ADDRESSED BY THEIR RESPECTIVE LEADERS

(Writer is political editor with the Pioneer)

gests that this perception is changing. The Muslim community seems to be seeking alternative options that they believe can better represent their interests."

A stark contrast can be drawn between the campaign strategies of the Samajwadi Party and the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) during the civic polls. While Yogi Adityanath, the Chief Minister of Uttar Pradesh and prominent BJP leader, held a series of rallies across the state, energizing the party's supporters and connecting with voters on the ground, Akhilesh Yadav, the leader of the Samajwadi Party, was noticeably absent from active campaigning. Instead, he relied heavily on social media platforms, primarily Twitter, for political posturing.

This discrepancy in campaign efforts between the two parties is evident in the stark difference in the number of rallies addressed by their respective leaders. Yogi Adityanath's extensive tour across Uttar Pradesh included 50 rallies, while Akhilesh Yadav only held six. The lack of physical presence and personal interaction with voters could have contributed to the Samajwadi Party's poor performance in the civic polls.

Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath's appeal to the masses to vote for the Bharatiya Janata Party's mayoral candidates and elect a BJP board was well-received by the people of Uttar Pradesh, who have ensured that opposition parties were kept out completely from some of the boards while all the 17 mayors were from the party.

Political commentator Radhika Sharma highlighted the significance of on-ground cam-

aigning, stating, "Elections are won on the ground, by connecting with voters, understanding their concerns, and addressing them. Akhilesh Yadav's absence from active campaigning might have been a strategic misstep. Voters want to see their leaders actively engaged and accessible, and this absence could have cost the party dearly."

The outcome of the urban civic polls paints a grim picture for the Samajwadi Party. The party failed to secure any Mayoral seats, while the BJP emerged victorious in 17 constituencies. The BJP councillors constitute over 50 per cent of the board in 13 of 17 municipal corporations in the state. The party won 80 and 63 councillor seats out of 110 seats in Lucknow and Kanpur respectively. The BJP candidates also bagged 63, 66, 56, and 58 seats out of 100 seats each respectively in Varanasi, Ghaziabad, Prayagraj, and Agra. Besides, the party won 42 and 51 Councillors' seats out of 80 seats each in Gorakhpur and Bareilly respectively.

The lack of success was particularly evident in Jhansi and the newly created Shahjahanpur Municipal Corporation, where not a single Samajwadi Party councillor was elected. In several seats, independent candidates were preferred over those from the Samajwadi Party, BSP, and Congress Party. These results suggest a loss of faith in the Samajwadi Party and a growing disillusionment with its leadership.

Reflecting on the election results, political scientist Dr Neha Kapoor stated, "The Samajwadi Party's performance in the civic polls is a clear indication that the

party needs to reevaluate its strategies and reestablish its connection with the voters. The lack of success in key constituencies and the preference for independent candidates highlight the growing disillusionment with the party. There is an urgent need for the party leadership to address these concerns and rebuild the party from the ground up."

In light of these circumstances, Akhilesh Yadav faces a challenging future. The dejection among party workers, the shifting Muslim vote bank, and the recent defections of senior leaders to the BJP all contribute to an unfavourable political climate for the Samajwadi Party. To regain its footing and rebuild its support base, the party will need to undertake substantial introspection and strategic reorientation.

Political analyst Ramesh Chandra opined, "Akhilesh Yadav needs to introspect and analyze the reasons behind the party's poor performance. He must address the concerns of the party workers and take steps to rebuild their morale. Additionally, he should focus on reconnecting with the Muslim community and regaining their trust. Adopting a more proactive and engaging campaign approach, with a strong emphasis on on-ground campaigning, will be crucial to revive the party's fortunes."

Failure to adapt to these challenges could result in further setbacks for the Samajwadi Party in future elections. The party must learn from its mistakes, realign its strategies, and regain the trust and support of its workers and the electorate to secure a better political future.

Parenting: It doesn't come naturally, needs to be nurtured

Give yourself parenting goals and they would come in quite handy to understand what legacy you want to create for your children

I remember sitting with a group of friends and being asked which class my children were in and I was lost. I was working for 12 hours a day at a very senior level but was laughed at for not recalling the classes of my kids at that moment. I still forget sometimes. That is more my personality than my parenting style. My husband does not and over time I have realized it is okay to remember some and forget some. However, this bout of forgiveness for something so trivial does not come easy. We as parents are expected to leave a legacy of perfection, even if it is a fallacy.

In my Parenting journey of 17 years, I have learned a very important lesson. Parenting need not come naturally and



NUPUR D PANDEY

(The writer is an Emotional Intelligence Coach, who has developed an EI model for training students and organizations)

just because one is a Parent, does not mean they will be natural at it. I was not a Natural Parent. It does sound dichotomous because my latest book is on Parenting. I often ask myself the question- Do I have what it takes to preach about Parenting? That is why I don't preach about it. What I do say in my book, "Understanding My Teen- A Parenting Journey" is that here are the tips that helped me in my parenting journey and I had to research. I loved reading and researching and my Parenting journey was no different. It brings out a lot of ethical and personal challenges, some of which have been highlighted as part of this write-up.

Let us start with something very simple that I often

get asked about.

Parenting is a Fad: Apparently, Parenting has come about recently, but as a concept, it has always been there. However, at the risk of getting diverted, one needs to realize the need to discuss the why behind it. Parenting in simplest forms means the act of raising children. The new challenges are - emotional connection; changing skill requirements and of course artificial intelligence. How to help children deal with challenges that have helped parents struggle has made Parenting the new Fad.

Lack of Preparation- Parenting is by far the most difficult thing that I have had to do in my life and yet my realization was over the years that it is the most misunder-

stood need. It took me a while to accept myself as a Parent and another couple of years to be proud of the work that I was doing. There was a reason for the same. In the entire debate of working and nonworking women; not once was I ever coached or spoken to about the challenges that being a Parent would entail. I was prepared to get married once I had made a mark for myself in my career space which I did. However, parenting was always painted in a rosy light, and I lived in an era where we had no access to Memes or Reels on parenting. It was a given and it was beautiful.

The child is a reflection of MY Parenting- This is my favourite. Parents go to arm's length to get parenting right, or as in some cases- Perfect.

The definition of perfect is a child's academic performance or behaviour or x, y, z parameter that the parents feel is important. There is a whole generation being prepared with a concept of perfection. The investment that parents have in their child's future comes from the fact that it gives them a sense of purpose. The ability to shape someone's future and mould their destinies, however glorified it sounds, does give a sense of control in this absolute mayhem.

Addressing Challenges: - When I do not know what skills to prepare, then I go with what I have been taught or what I see around as the norm. Parenting is no different. In this struggle for perfection, the lack of preparation and com-

munication is still the number one concern that Parents and children are dealing with. They do not know how to deal with challenges, or how to react to them, have not been taught coping strategies and most of the time are leaving most of the things, especially difficult conversations to chance.

As children, the challenges are all the more wrought because they have their changes to deal. To address this let us start with:

Make Change a Norm- Change is the only constant. However high time Parenting comes to terms with it. Society is changing, Technology is changing and success parameters need to change. Parents need to accept that old thinking or old patterns don't apply. Break the Pattern: Identify

patterns in Parenting. Your child's behaviour is a direct outcome of parenting patterns. If a parent has a strict non-mistakes policy at home and a low tolerance for misbehaviour; then likely, the atmosphere of the house will be restrained. Children growing up will misbehave and rebel. Parents will also react.

Teach Coping Strategies- The world we are living in requires both adults and children to be wise and resilient beyond their ages. These two traits were seen as acquired as a factor of experience in the past but time has come and we pass on these two traits as a matter of teaching to our children. Parenting must change with time, but most importantly it must be unlearned with time.

MI still alive in playoff race

Green's 100 not out, Rohit's 56 help Mumbai Indians thrash Sunrisers Hyderabad by 8 wickets

PTI ■ MUMBAI
 Cameron Green's magnificent maiden century (100 not out) and Rohit Sharma's half-century powered Mumbai Indians to a comprehensive eight-wicket win over Sunrisers Hyderabad in their last league match of the IPL here on Sunday.
 Mumbai knocked off the target of 201 with 12 balls and eight wickets to spare to accumulate 16 points from 14 matches. But their fate will be decided after the match in Bengaluru -- which is experiencing rain -- between Royal Challengers Bangalore and Gujarat Titans later in the day.
 If the contest between RCB and GT is washed out, Mumbai will make it to the final four, but if the hosts win, they will qualify on the basis of better Net Run Rate. MI currently have NRR of -0.044 as against +0.180 of RCB.
 With an inferior NRR, MI had the improbable task of scoring 201 in 11.4 overs or 70 balls if they had to get past RCB on the table.
 Green smacked eight fours and eight sixes during his unbeaten 100 which came off just 47 balls. He added 53 runs with Suryakumar Yadav (25 not out) for the unbroken third wicket to take MI over the line.
 Bhuvneshwar Kumar drew the first blood when he dismissed Ishan Kishan (14) in the third over. Rohit got a lifeline in the fifth over when Sanvir



Singh dropped a difficult catch at midwicket off Nitish Kumar Reddy.
 But Green provided the impetus, as his four boundaries and a couple of sixes took MI to 60/1 after the powerplay.
 While Green brought up his fifty off only 20 balls, in the ninth over, Rohit was off to a modest start, hitting his first six only on the 22nd ball that he faced.
 The MI skipper completed his second fifty of this IPL, off 31 balls, and his second-wicket stand with Green took the total past the 100-run mark. Soon after this, Rohit got another reprieve when Sanvir spilled a regulation catch at cover off Kartik Tyagi.
 However, a sensational catch from Reddy had Mayank Dagar celebrating Rohit's wicket wildly in the 14th over. Rohit's 56 came off 37 balls (8x4, 1x6), having added 128 off 65 balls with Green.
 Earlier, Unheralded Uttarakhanda pacer Akash Madhwal nailed his yorkers consistently at the death as Mumbai Indians restricted Sunrisers Hyderabad to 200 for 5 in their final IPL encounter, here on Sunday.
 With one eye on Bengaluru weather where RCB is taking on Gujarat Titans, Madhwal's four-wicket haul ensured that SRH ended with at least 15 short of what could be considered a par-score on a flat Wankhede track.
 This was after a century

If we don't go through, we only have ourselves to blame for it, says Rohit

PTI ■ MUMBAI
 Mumbai Indians skipper Rohit Sharma wouldn't be blaming anyone if Mumbai Indians don't make it to IPL play-offs despite their facile victory over Sunrisers Hyderabad in their final league game here on Sunday.
 "We came with that mindset, we wanted to win and not worry about what happens elsewhere. What you can control, you can control and then hope for the best. I haven't spoken to anyone," Rohit said at the post-match presentation ceremony.
 "If we don't go through, we've got ourselves to blame for it. If we go through, I'll give all the credit to the boys. That's how it works. Last year, we did a big favour to RCB, I

opening stand between seasoned opener Mayank Agarwal (83 off 45 balls) and rookie Vivrant Sharma (69 off 47 balls) threatened to take the game away, in the IPL here on Sunday.
 The pair of Agarwal and Vivrant put on the best opening stand for SRH this season, reaching 53/0 after the powerplay without taking any undue risks, and eventually putting on 140 for the seventh century stand of this IPL.
 Courtesy Madhwal's 4 for 37, which included two lethal block-hole deliveries to clean up in-form Heinrich Klaasen (18) and Harry Brook (0), SRH managed only 26 in last three overs.
 For a bowling unit that has allowed contests to drift away, here at the Wankhede Stadium on several occasions, MI made

VIRAT'S 101 HELP RCB POST 197/5 AGAINST GT

PTI ■ BENGALURU
 Virat Kohli was the lone ranger as his second successive century powered Royal Challengers Bangalore to a challenging 197 for five in their must-win final IPL league game against Gujarat Titans here on Sunday.
 With the rain gods threatening to spoil RCB's play-off plans during the day, the match that started half an hour late saw Kohli (101 not out off 61 balls) bring back his 2016 avatar. He held all the aces during his knock that had 13 fours and a six.
 His innings was priceless in the context that none of the other RCB batters could even reach 30 and just like the good old days, 'King Kohli' set the narrative by playing with line, length and minds of the bowlers.
 This is his seventh IPL hundred and he has now surpassed Chris Gayle as the batter with highest number of tournament tons.
 Considering that the Chinnaswamy Stadium is known for batting belts, the final total, though competitive enough, could still be about 10 runs below par.
 Kohli and skipper Faf Du Plessis (28) got off to a rollicking start, with a flurry of boundaries against Mohammed Shami (1/39 in 4 overs) and the already distraught Yash Dayal in the powerplay.
 They were dispatched for as many as nine boundaries which prompted Hardik Pandya to quickly press his main weapon, Rashid Khan (1/24 in 4 overs), into action to stem the flow of runs.
 After conceding 62 runs in six powerplay overs, Rashid and his 'left-arm mirror image' Noor Ahmed (2/39 in 4 overs) put the brakes on the scoring.
 Noor dismissed du Plessis while he tried to hit him inside in a freakish manner. The edge hit Wriddhiman Saha's pads and lobbed up for Rahul Tewatia to complete an easy catch.
 Glenn Maxwell started off well but Rashid bowled one that was fast and full and just broke back enough to breach the defence of the batter as RCB suddenly found themselves in a rut.
 It became worse when Noor dragged Mahipal Lomror with one that turned the



other way and Saha completed a leg-side stumping with the finesse that is associated with him for years now.
 Michael Bracewell (26), however, took some pressure off Kohli at the other end with Mohit Sharma's slower balls not working well on this occasion.
 In his first three overs, he was hit for seven fours and it was Shami who got Bracewell before he could inflict more damage and Dayal had something finally going for him when Dinesh Karthik's woeful season got worse.

Not thinking about Team India selection yet: Rinku

PTI ■ KOLKATA
 Rinku Singh may have been the solitary talking point for Kolkata Knight Riders in an IPL season gone horribly wrong, but the 25-year-old prefers to stay grounded and not thinking about a Team India push.
 Having made headlines hitting five sixes in a row in their win over Gujarat Titans earlier this season, Rinku emerged as KKR's top-batter and finisher this season with former India coach Ravi Shastri picking him to make a late push for India's World Cup squad.
 "Anyone will feel great to have a season like this, but I'm not thinking that far that I will get selected to Indian team," said Rinku in the post-match media interaction after their one-run defeat to Lucknow Super Giants here on Saturday.
 The 25-year-old struck a 33-ball 67 not out, his fourth fifty this season, and nearly pulled off another thrilling win against LSG.
 Rinku finished with the top run-getter for KKR with 474 runs at an average of 59.25 and 149-plus strike rate.



From getting used to the chants of 'Rinku, Rinku' in the packed Eden Gardens galleries to receiving adulation from all quarters, his life has changed for good in span of just two months.
 But Rinku prefers to go back to drawing board and follow the same routine. "I will just continue my same routine -- practice and gym -- after returning home. Names will keep on coming, I will just do my job," the UP cricketer said.
 "Everyone at home is really happy. Last year people came to know about me for my cameos. But after hitting those five sixes, I'm getting a lot of respect. Many people now know me. I'm happy but not overjoyed, after we couldn't make it," he rued.
 Needing to hit three sixes from last three deliveries to win against LSG, it was a Gujarat Titans like situation.
 "I was completely relaxed, and thought we would see whatever happens. Yes, the thoughts of hitting five sixes in a row (against Gujarat Titans) did come to my mind. I just missed one ball (to hit a six) and it turned out to be a four," he lamented.

Rinku is really hungry for success: Flower

PTI ■ KOLKATA
 Rinku Singh is a "good package" with his ice-cool demeanour and hunger for success, making him a potential India candidate, feels Lucknow Super Giants coach Andy Flower.
 The 25-year-old was the sole bright spot of Kolkata Knight Riders' topsy-turvy season as they bowed out of IPL 2023 with a one-run loss to Lucknow Super Giants here on Saturday.
 "Rinku played out of his skin again to get them that close, didn't he? We were really in good situation, but if they had won it from there it would have been genuinely astounding," Flower said in the post-match media interaction.
 The T20 World Cup and Ashes-winning former England coach further said Rinku has got "future".
 "He looks like a really physically talented guy. He also looks like he is really hungry for success and humble at the same time and confident of what can he do -- it's really good package."
 "There's so much batting talent in the country. He is showing that he can do it under pressure, that's a key aspect of playing international cricket. I think he's got a future," the 55-year-old added.
 "He (Rinku) batted beautifully. It was a matter of not making really an obvious error in those last few overs."
 "But Naveen (ul Haq) and Yash (Thakur) did quite a tough job bowling multiple overs in a row at the death. But they came through in the end. Both have been brilliant this season."
 The Zimbabwean was also all praise for Nicholas Pooran and said he made all the difference with his 30-ball 58 batting at No 7.

Australia slight favourites for WTC final, says Ian

PTI ■ NEW DELHI
 Ian Chappell feels the potency of Australia's pace attack in English conditions will give them the edge in next month's World Test Championship final against India, who could be "badly affected" by the absence of injured Jasprit Bumrah and Rishabh Pant.
 Shreyas Iyer and K L Rahul are another two Indian players who have been ruled out of the June 7-11 final due to injuries.
 Chappell also said injury-prone Hardik Pandya not playing red-ball cricket also harms India. Hardik last played a first class game in 2018.
 "The injuries to Jasprit Bumrah and Rishabh Pant badly affect India, as they would be outright favourites with these two playing."
 "The somewhat surprising unavailability of allrounder Hardik Pandya also harms India, as he could have provided them with the final piece of the jigsaw puzzle," Chappell wrote in a column for ESPNcricinfo.
 Majority of the Indian players go into the final after two months of IPL but Chappell feels that might not negatively impact them after all.
 "As it should be, this is a hard match to predict. That's mainly because of injury concerns and neither team having played a Test since completing a hard-fought series earlier this year."
 "To make matters even more difficult, many of the players involved have only competed in the IPL in the lead-up to the one-off Test."
 "While this may not seem to be the ideal preparation, it's worth recalling the opinion of



former England batter Ravi Bopara. In 2009, Bopara went from the fledgling IPL into a Test series against West Indies and reckoned he was ideally prepared because T20 got his feet moving and put him in a positive frame of mind," he said referring to Bopara's successive hundreds in the Caribbean.
 Chappell also reckons Australia's pace attack is just ahead of India while the Rohit Sharma led side has the upper hand in the spin department.
 "If Australia's classy pace trio of Pat Cummins, Mitchell Starc and Josh Hazlewood are available, that makes them slight favourites. They are good bowlers any time, but England in early June should be right up their alley."
 "Nevertheless, an Indian pace attack containing Mohammed Shami, Mohammed Siraj and Umesh Yadav is also strong and only just behind the Australian trio in wicket-taking capability."
 Mental strength will hold the key in a one-off Test, said the former Australian captain.
 "The team that displays the most resilience is likely to win as long as the contest is not unduly affected by bad weather. Being able to maintain a decent line and length under attack is now mandatory in the tougher series, and a fully fit Australian attack should benefit if the opposition are overzealous," Chappell said.
 "Therefore much will depend on how the batters treat the talented opposing pace attacks. Australia rely heavily on Steve Smith, Marnus Labuschagne and Usman Khawaja's big scoring ability but the enigmatic David Warner shouldn't be overlooked."
 "On the Indian side Virat Kohli, Rohit Sharma and Cheteshwar Pujara are a handful because they have enjoyed success in Test cricket. Their job will be tough against a strong Australian attack."
 "The Australian bowlers also need to pay careful attention to Shubman Gill. He tends to play with no fear and has a stroke-making mentality, which will not change even on this momentous occasion."
 Considering the conditions, he said Australia are slight favourites.

Robinson adds to England's injury woes

AP ■ LONDON
 Ollie Robinson added to England's fast-bowling injury woes ahead of the Ashes and Australia's Marnus Labuschagne cashed in on the Sussex man's absence with a hundred for Glamorgan on Saturday.
 The 29-year-old Robinson remained off the field with what was later confirmed as an ankle problem when Sussex took the second new ball on the third day of a County Championship match at Hove.
 He had bowled an eight-over spell in the morning session of the Second Division match -- despite feeling some



discomfort the previous evening.
 Sussex coach Paul Farbrace said the decision to remove Robinson had been taken jointly with the England management.
 England face Ireland in a one-off Test at Lord's from June 1-4 before the five-match Ashes series against Australia gets underway later that month.
 "Ollie has a sore left ankle and he will be scanned on Monday to see how bad he is," said Farbrace.
 The former England assistant coach added: "We got one spell out of him this morning and he tried his hardest. It was a long spell and he got stuck in.
 He knew it would be one spell and one spell only and then he was off, that was it for the day."
 "It was precautionary. There was no point in making it worse...It's a joint decision between the Sussex medical team and the England medical team."
 Robinson, who revealed he had a pain-killing injection in his back before the start of the domestic season, took career-best figures of 14-117 for Sussex at Worcestershire this month.
 He was included in England's 15-strong squad to face Ireland, having previously warned Australia they could expect a "good hiding" during the Ashes.
 But express quick Jofra Archer was ruled out of the entire English season earlier this week following a recurrence of a stress fracture in his right elbow while Olly Stone is sidelined with a hamstring problem.
 Meanwhile, England great James Anderson, the most successful fast bowler in Test history with 685 wickets, is out of action with a minor groin strain.
 England captain Ben Stokes has said he wants at least eight fit fast bowlers he can rotate during a congested Ashes schedule of five Tests in under seven weeks.