









# 100 held; explosives seized in Bengal

Police raids come in the wake of 17 deaths in 3 blasts in 8 days in State

PTI ■ KOLKATA

Police seized a huge quantity of explosives and banned firecrackers during raids in different locations in rural West Bengal and arrested at least 100 people for their alleged involvement in running illegal manufacturing factories, a senior State police official said on Tuesday.

A total of 132 cases have been lodged by the police for the seizures, the official said.

The raids started on the intervening night of Monday and Tuesday in different places mainly in Nadia, North and South 24 Parganas districts, he said. "So far we have seized



nearly 34,000 kg of explosives and banned firecrackers and arrested at least 100 people for allegedly storing them and running their businesses. These arrests were made during last night's raids conducted at different districts mainly Nadia, South and North 24 Parganas," the official said.

The police of the various districts have been asked by the authorities to file reports on seizures of explosives and firecrackers and arrests to the state secretariat by May 29, he said. The raids were conducted in the backdrop of back-to-back incidents of blasts at ille-

# Manipur tense but calm day after fresh violence

PTI ■ IMPHAL

Manipur remained tense but calm on Tuesday after incidents of violence were reported a day before in the northeastern State where at least 70 people were killed in ethnic violence since May 3.

Business establishments remained closed on Tuesday morning and people were asked by security personnel to remain indoors through the public address system in New Chekon area of Imphal East district, where a mob torched two houses after four armed people, including a former MLA, forced people to shut their shops on Monday.

Locals, armed with licensed guns, were found guarding their localities against possible attacks by constructing makeshift "bunkers" in a few places including Pukhao and Leitanpokpi in Imphal East district and five such "bunkers" were destroyed by security forces in Sinam Khaithong village in Imphal West on Monday, police said.



Sit-in demonstrations, mostly by the womenfolk, were reported in the valley districts, with the agitators demanding that the Suspension of Operation (SoO) with Kuki militants be abrogated and action be taken against them. They also demanded that "illegal Myanmar immigrants" be deported, poppy cultivation be stopped in the hill areas and also protested the hill MLAs' demand for bifurcation of the state.

People living in areas adjoining the hills have complained of Kuki militants coming down to the valley and opening fire on civilians before

fleeing, with at least three people injured in one such recent incident in Moidangpok village in Imphal West district.

Curfew relaxation period has been cut by two hours and the restriction is now from 5 am to 2 pm.

Chief Minister N Biren Singh on Monday evening appealed to the people to stop torching houses of innocent people.

He said three people, including an ex-MLA, were arrested in the New Chekon incident. The mob had beaten up one of the armed men, while the other three had managed to flee from the spot.

# While Govt celebrates Kerala's progress report, Opp protests

KUMAR CHELLAPPAN ■ KOCHI

Even as Sitaram Yechury, the ECPI(M) general secretary, was celebrating the swearing in of the Congress Government at Bengaluru on Saturday, the Congress-led Opposition in Kerala laid siege to the State Secretariat to protest against the massive corruption and nepotism in various departments of the Pinarayi Vijayan-led State administration.

Traffic came to a standstill across the thoroughfares in Thiruvananthapuram as tens of thousands of Congress activists helped by workers of fringe parties like the Muslim League blocked the roads.

While the Congress leaders released a chargesheet against the CPI(M)-led Government listing massive corruption and irregularities, Chief Minister Vijayan released the progress report of his Government as

Saturday marked the second anniversary of the second tenure of his Government which was returned to power with a brutal majority in the 2021 Assembly election. "The Government launched 1.4 lakh micro and small enterprises and generated more than 3 lakh jobs during the last two years. We gave jobs to 35,000 jobs in the digital sector. Out of the 29 housing complexes we had planned, four projects has been completed and have handed over houses to 174 households," said Vijayan while releasing the progress reports.

If the claims by the Chief Minister are to be believed, his Government has delivered more than what he had promised and the State has become the numero uno in development. Vijayan blamed the Narendra Modi Government at the Centre and the BJP-led Sangh Parivar for all the troubles faced by the State.

# IIT-M develops possible AI-based solution for traffic snarls in country



PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI/CHENNAI

In a landmark technological advancement using Artificial Intelligence (AI), researchers at the Indian Institute of Technology, Madras (IIT-M) have developed a possible solution to traffic snarls on Indian roads through the use of a probe-based approach for real-time "re-timing" of traffic signals. This is probably the first time a probe-based, demand-responsive signal control has been developed for Indian conditions.

The researchers conducted a study in which travel-time data from four sample-probe vehicles were used to calculate "Green" and "Red" timings for each signal cycle. A signal cycle is the time between one 'green' signal to the next 'green' signal or one 'red' signal to the next 'red' signal for a selected movement.

"While a lot of time, effort and money have been spent on experimenting with 'off-the-shelf' traffic-responsive signalling software from abroad, these have not worked well in Indian traffic conditions, since their implementation required

a number of sensors and large traffic stream data, which was not easy to collect," said Lelitha Vanajakshi, Ministry of Road Transport and Highways (MoRTH) Chair Professor at IIT Madras.

"Moreover, these software were rarely flexible for incorporating Indian traffic characteristics in their algorithms, resulting in excessive queues and delays at the intersection, in spite of large capital investments," Vanajakshi added. The findings have been published in the International Journal of Transportation Research.

The traffic composition in India is very different from that in the Western countries. In India, the traffic is usually referred to as belonging to the category of mixed traffic conditions, with a variety of vehicle classes juxtaposed with lane-free movement.

"Therefore, in this study, the effect of composition has been included in the algorithms, which makes it versatile for use across different cities with varying vehicle compositions," said Bhargava Rama Chilukuri, Faculty, Department of Civil Engineering, IIT Madras.

# Ayurvedic medicines provide relief from common diseases in 3 to 7 days: IMS-BHU

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI



A study conducted by the Faculty of Ayurveda, Institute of Medical Sciences, Banaras Hindu University (IMS-BHU), has found that Ayurvedic medicines started giving relief to around 4000 patients suffering from various common diseases within three days and to 8000 patients within seven days. The evidence-based research by the BHU scientists is expected to further establish safety and efficacy of Ayurveda products and services both in the domestic as well as the export market.

The Faculty of Ayurveda conducted the study to assess the impact of Ayurvedic medicines on 13,936 patients in eight government Ayurvedic college hospitals and certain dispensaries across the state between June 2022 and February 2023.

"The patients suffering from fever, cough, cold, high blood pressure, diabetes, arthritis, jaundice and other common diseases were surveyed to assess impact of Ayurvedic medicines on them," said Vaidya Sushil Kumar Dubey, professor, Faculty of Ayurveda, BHU. Dubey along with former

dean of the faculty Prof Yamini Bhushan Tripathi had planned the study in April 2022.

The vaidyas (Ayurveda practitioners) gave medicines to the patients and recorded their impact on them when they visited hospitals for follow-up after a week.

Vaidyas (Ayurveda practitioners) gave medicines to the patients and recorded their impact on them when they visited hospitals for follow-up after a week. When Ayurvedic medicine started showing impact, duration of cure and other facts were recorded in the survey.

Ayurvedic medicines were found to have positive effect on 31.61 per cent patients within 3 days and 58.35 per cent within 7 days whereas around 14.65 per cent of patients had no benefit in 3 days and about 1.02 per cent had no benefit in 30 days. Also, 87.24 per cent patients returned to the hospitals for follow-up, said the study.

**Heartiest Greetings**  
on the birth anniversary of  
**Maharishi Kashyap Jayanti**  
**May 24, 2023**

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PAPER WITH PASSION

## Major feat

India under Modi has come very close to Global North, without souring ties with Global South

## Modi steers G7 to conflict resolution

With PM Modi in the lead, India is now a partner for the countries seeking solutions to challenges faced by them



TARUN CHUGH

India is the land of Lord Buddha. It was here that Lord Buddha shared his teachings with the commoners. In the course of a few centuries, the teachings of Lord Buddha reached Japan. The cultural connection between India and Japan runs deep, and this became more apparent when Prime Minister Narendra Modi argued the path of diplomacy to resolve conflicts during his interactions with the leaders of G7, the group of seven most industrialized nations.

"Enmity does not calm enmity. Enmity is pacified by affinity. It is in this spirit, we should move forward together with everyone," PM Modi, referring to the teaching of Lord Buddha while speaking at the ninth working session of the G7 Summit. The backdrop was set by the meeting of PM Modi with Ukraine's President Volodymyr Zelenskyy. In the meeting, PM Modi had very rightly stated that the current situation concerned humanity and not just the economy or politics. This was truly spoken as a statesman, who felt the pulse of the issue.

PM Modi last year in his bilateral meeting with Russian President Vladimir Putin had very unequivocally said that "today is not the era of war and conflicts must be resolved through dialogue and diplomacy". Such clarity of expression has rarely been seen among world leaders. But it's not the case with PM Modi, who speaks for humanity. Truly, India has become the first responder to any kind of humanitarian crisis in any part of the world. This shows PM Modi speaking always in the interest of humanity.

The Indian voice is heard with gravity in the big league of the nations, as PM Modi brings much weight in his interactions with the global leaders in which he speaks for humanity as a whole and his concerns express the yearnings of all the countries, particularly the developing and the poor countries.

It was in this backdrop that G7 this year listed in its agenda the need to build partnerships



with the Global South, a term made popular by India to describe the developing nations, which are facing distinct challenges.

"Global peace, stability, and prosperity is our common objective. In today's inter-connected world, crises in any one region affect all the countries. And, the developing countries, which have limited resources, are the worst affected. In the current global situation, these countries are facing the maximum and most profound impact of the food, fuel, and fertilizer crisis," said PM Modi in another working group meeting of G7.

This again demonstrated PM Modi's firm articulation of the challenges faced by the Global South on issues such as sovereign debt, climate change, food shortage, fertilizer crisis, etc. Yet, PM Modi told the leaders of G7 that the world continues to remain stuck in challenges because multilateral agencies such as the United Nations (UN) are not able to prevent conflicts. PM Modi reminded that the UN was established with the very purpose of establishing peace.

Dissecting the weaknesses of the UN, which badly needs reforms to represent the 21st century, PM Modi very forcefully stressed that even the definition of terrorism has not been accepted in the UN. His call for introspection and forceful argument for reforms in big institutions like the UN was received well by the G7 leaders.

India for years has been calling for reforms in the UN, and PM Modi reiterated that the multilateral body must also give space to the voice of the Global South. India being a true functional democracy with deep roots has always raised the democratic aspirations of the people. That the UN permanent members owe their positions to the wars of the last century and countries such as India despite being projected to have the largest population in the world not in the coveted club is truly undemocratic.

India has always raised its voice for an international order based on respect for national sovereignty and territorial integrity, underlining the significance of the UN Charter and international

law, which was asserted by PM Modi in his speech at the working group meeting of G7.

PM Modi has been regularly attending G7 summits. This acknowledges India's growing image on the world stage. India is now the world's fifth-largest economy. Indian economy is bigger than even four members of G7. Also, India has emerged as the voice of the Global South with the G20 presidency. India will also host the Quad Summit next year. With PM Modi in the lead, India is now a partner for the countries seeking solutions to challenges faced by them.

It's to the credit of India that the growing debt challenges of the developing and poor countries have been brought to the centre stage of the global discourse. Also, climate change requires the advanced countries to share resources for the mitigation efforts, including the transfer of technology for clean energy, which was again reiterated forcefully by PM Modi before the G7 leaders.

(Author is the national general secretary of the Bharatiya Janata Party)



INDIAN VOICE IS HEARD WITH GRAVITY IN THE BIG LEAGUE OF THE NATIONS, AS PM MODI BRINGS MUCH WEIGHT IN HIS INTERACTIONS WITH THE GLOBAL LEADERS IN WHICH HE SPEAKS FOR HUMANITY AS A WHOLE

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

## UNREST IN MANIPUR

Sir — The ongoing unrest and the disquiet situation in trouble-torn Manipur is distressing and raised eyebrows. Dozens of people have lost their life and property worth crores of rupees was torched and thousands were forced to leave their homes. It's the elephant in the room. PM is busy with foreign visits and the country is on fire, opposition is busy for preparing upcoming state elections after the recent victory. Govt should give tribals their due rights and restore peace and tranquillity in the state. It is high time somebody takes care of the country which comes last for everyone in power.

Muzakkir Khan | Mumbai

## FIRST MUSLIM SPEAKER IN K'TAKA

Sir — The Congress's high command decided to give the Speaker's post in the Karnataka Legislative Assembly to senior Congress MLA UT Khader, representing the Mangaluru constituency in Dakshina Kannada district. Khader will be the first Muslim Speaker in the Karnataka Assembly when he takes his oath. The 53-year-old Khader is serving in the Assembly for the fifth time and has been a member of the house since 2008, representing Mangaluru constituency, earlier called Ullal.

He was the deputy leader of the Opposition in the previous Assembly and has served in the cabinets of Chief Minister Siddaramaiah in 2013 and the short-lived Janata Dal (Secular)—Congress government in 2018. Khader will be elected unopposed, as the BJP with 65 MLAs and the JD(S) with its 19 members are not going to field any candidates for fear of defeat. Muslims constitute 12.9 per cent of Karnataka's 6.5 crore population. The new Assembly has nine Muslim MLAs and all have been elected from the Congress party.

The party had given tickets to 15 Muslim candidates, of whom 9 won. It is estimated that 80 per cent of the total Muslim voters opted for the Congress. The game changers for the Congress

## Think before you speak



Your speech shapes your life. Speaking before you think is a bad habit that can get you in trouble moreover hurt you in the most important areas of your life. You should always pause before speaking. This will help you communicate the most important points and not blurt out whatever comes to your mind. Listening before speaking is considered to be a good habit. You should speak while seeing into the eyes with whom you are talking so that you can give them full attention. Even if you want to criticise someone it should be done in an inspiring, helpful and kind manner.

"Colors fade, temples crumble, empires fall but wise words endure" Words can help, hinder, hurt, humiliate and humble. They can be used in whatever way. The way of using words reflects our personality. Kind words are like honey to the soul and harsh words are like poison. Words have power, use them wisely!

Krishna Kararia | Delhi

which cut significantly into the JD(S)'s vote share are said to be the party's promise to restore the 4 per cent reservation for the Muslim community, which was scrapped by the previous BJP-ruled government. With this, all is well for the Muslim community in Karnataka under the Congress Party rule.

Bhagwan Thadani | Mumbai

## A WORD OF CAUTION FOR CONGRESS

Sir — Implicit in revered columnist Kalyani Shankar's article 'Election day is the moment of truth for a political party' (The Pioneer, May23) is her cautionary message to the Grand Old Party that instead of basking in the glory following its landslide win in Karnataka assembly elections recently, it should try to replicate the same in the upcoming State polls in Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan, Chhattisgarh, Telangana and Mizoram and, thereafter, in the Grand finale, due next year.

To counter the BJP's Hindutva politics, the Congress strategically relied on

the real issues of rozi-roti that eventually came to fruition?

Simultaneously, Congress succeeded in keeping its flock together and averted thereby an impending split in the State leadership by prevailing upon both Siddaramaiah and Shivakumar to accept the Chief Minister's and the Dy Chief Minister's posts respectively?

However, whether or not the Karnataka's results will help Congress retain the States of Rajasthan and Chhattisgarh is again a precarious question to answer given the grand old party is faced with the crucial anti-incumbency factor over there and rub it in, Rajasthan CM Gehlot and his deputy Pti are at loggerheads for long. Might the very instant initiatives vis-a-vis the delivery of the poll goods in Karnataka help Congress allure the electorate in other States time will tell!

Azhar A Khan | Rampur

Send your feedback to: letterstopioneer@gmail.com



Prime Minister Narendra Modi's three-nation to the Indo-Pacific can be regarded as successful, as he was able to convey the message at the G7 Summit outreach session that dialogue and diplomacy is the only way to resolve the Ukraine conflict. That India was among eight guest nations participating in the three outreach sessions is a testimony to the rising international clout of the country. His message was as convincing as his pledge to resolve the conflict was emphatic. His 10-point call to action at an outreach session in Hiroshima was one of the highlights of the summit, as he underlined such crucial global challenges as food and health security, developmental issues and gender equality. Modi also met Ukraine President Volodymyr Zelenskyy on the sidelines of the summit and reportedly told him: "Over the past one-and-a-half years, we have spoken on the phone but... after a long time, we have an opportunity to meet. The war in Ukraine is a very big issue for the whole world. It has had many different impacts on the whole world... But I don't see this as a political or economic issue, for me this is an issue of humanity, an issue of human values." Zelenskyy later tweeted, thanking "India for supporting our country's territorial integrity and sovereignty, in particular, at the platforms of international organisations, and for providing humanitarian aid to Ukraine." This is important, because his Government had earlier expressed dismay over India's refusal to condemn Russia for its attack on Ukraine.

## PICTALK



Indian Army regiment Ladakh Scouts' team leaves for the motorcycling expedition 'Vanquish' from New Delhi

PTI

## Damned rural roads in hills of Uttarakhand

Gram Pradhan Sadak Yojana has improved rural connectivity. However, it is equally crucial to maintain, renovate and rebuild these roads over time

During 2017-2018, Uttarakhand ranked as the best state under the Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY) for constructing the highest number of roads. The state successfully built 1839 km of roads, surpassing the target of 1500 km set for that year. This scheme was initiated in India in 2000 to enhance connectivity in rural areas as a part of poverty reduction. It has effectively reached remote and inaccessible regions, including the village of Pothing in Kapkot block, Bageshwar, Uttarakhand. However, it has been over 15 years since the road was constructed in 2007, and it is now deteriorating, causing difficulties for the locals.

Pothing is located 10 km from the sub-district headquarters Kapkot and it takes over an hour to enter the boundary of the village traversing the narrow-broken road which was once built under PMGSY. The road is flanked by a dense jungle on one side and a gorge leading to a stream, locally known as Belang on the other. During Monsoon, which is quite extreme in this Himalayan



state, waterfalls in the jungle become active, cascading into the stream, causing slippery routes, intermittent breakages and an increase in the water level of the stream. As it is the only route to reach the village, the villagers find themselves bereft of alternatives. Pooja Gadiya, a teenager from the village, faces a challenging daily journey of 17 km from her house to school as there are very few vehicles on her route to school. During the rainy season, there are no vehicles available, making her commute even more difficult. "To navigate the unsafe road, we have no choice but to carry our school bags on our heads and hold our slippers in our hands. The unpaved path becomes extremely slippery when it rains, posing a con-

stant risk of falling into the gorge. The situation is so severe that the school often declares holidays during the rainy season to prioritize students' safety," Pooja expressed.

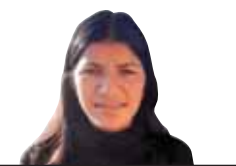
Many families in this village have migrated to cities for better education and facilities, leaving those who cannot afford it with no choice but to accept the harsh reality. While students face daily challenges getting to school, villagers struggle to access services and livelihood opportunities.

Dhyat Singh, a driver by profession, on the other hand, expressed his challenges to carry out his job due to this poorly maintained road. "I became a driver as there is no source of employment here in this village. But this terrible road condition makes driving difficult and impacts my earnings, as the cost of car servicing exceeds my income," Dhyat pointed out. According to him, rainy days pose the greatest danger, with the road becoming slippery. A small mistake could result in vehicles sliding into the adjacent gorge. Dhyat believes that improving the road to Pothing would solve the villagers' major problem and

lead to development. Acknowledging the issue, Pushpa Devi, the Pradhan of the village has also gone to the tehsil several times to raise the concerns but to no avail. "We have gone to Tehsil several times and raised our concerns but no officer has taken it seriously," she lamented.

The implementation of Gram Pradhan Sadak Yojana has certainly improved rural accessibility and connectivity. However, it is equally crucial to maintain, renovate and rebuild these roads over time, especially in such tough geographies with extreme weather conditions. Regular assessments should be conducted by the concerned officials and identify areas that need immediate attention, followed by allocating funds and resources for maintenance and repairs. These roads reached our hill communities after decades of wait, now that we have them, they should be functional and not just a tokenism of development!

(Writer is a studying in Pothing village in Kapkot block of Bageshwar, Uttarakhand) Charkha Features



SEEMA MEHTA

## FIRST COLUMN

## INVEST IN STOCK MARKET FOR LONG TERM

Market bravehearts do not panic when the Sensex falls; they see it as an opportunity



S KALYANASUNDARAM

Mr Mahadevan is working for a multinational company and he gets a handsome salary. During the last ten years, many of his friends suggested to him to invest in the equity market for handsome returns. He has tried this many times in the past. But unfortunately on many occasions, whenever he purchased some quality large-cap stock, due to various reasons the market had fallen sharply. After waiting for some time, he sold his stock at a loss. He has decided that he is not lucky enough to make money from the stock market.

Like Mr Mahadevan, many of us think that to make good returns from the stock market, we should be lucky enough. This may be partly true in the sense, if one is lucky, he may get an abundant return. That is if one is lucky, he may be able to 'Buy low and Sell high' consistently. This may give one sky-high return. But that does not mean that others cannot make a reasonable return. Return from investment should be evaluated on a comparative basis. So return on stock investment should be compared with Fixed Income Returns or investment in gold etc. Ideally, if one gets a return better than a return from a bank's fixed deposit or post office savings scheme etc., he should be happy with that. One may or may not get an astronomical return from equity investment but it is possible to get a reasonable return if one is disciplined enough to make informed decisions and prepared to wait for a long time. Let us see an example. Let us assume that Mr Mahadevan invests Rs.1,00,000 every year in Sensex for ten years from



2011-12. Let us also assume that he is unlucky to the extent that he invests every year only when the Sensex is at the highest point of that year. After 10 years what would be his position? The Sensex as of 31 03 2022 was 58568. The highest points of Sensex during the years from 2011-12 to 2020-21 were as follows: 19811, 20204, 22467, 30025, 29095, 29825, 36444, 38990, 42274 and 52517 respectively.

Assuming that he has invested Rs.100000 every year at the highest point, the value of each such investment (based on Sensex) from 2011-12 to 2020-21 as of 31 03 2022 comes to Rs.295632, Rs.289888, Rs.260682, Rs.195066, Rs.201302, Rs.196375, Rs.160707, Rs.150214, Rs.138544 and Rs.111522 respectively. From 2011-12 to 2020-21 year wise absolute return comes to Rs.195632, Rs.189988, Rs.160682, Rs.95066, Rs.101302, Rs.96375, Rs.60707, Rs.50214, Rs.38544 and Rs.11522 respectively. Annualized return percentage for these years (2011-12 to 2020-21) will come to 19.56, 21.10, 20.09, 13.58, 16.88, 19.27, 15.18, 16.74, 19.27 and 11.52 respectively. The return as of 31 03 2022 has been calculated ignoring the entry time (date/month of the year) as the exact date of the highest point of Sensex may be anywhere within that year. Based on the Sensex figure of 31 03 2022, absolute return and its percentage were worked out. The average return for the number of years has been taken as the annual return.

From the above figures, we can conclude the following:

In the long run, investments in large-cap funds provide superior returns. If one is prepared to wait, there is no negative return. For superior return, one doesn't need to be a lucky person. What is required is discipline to hold the position for the long run. During the last 10 years, the lowest annualized return is 11.52 per cent and the highest is 21.10.

When we make regular investments year after year under SIP, there is always a possibility of better returns. The above returns are calculated on the worst-case scenario of entry at the highest level of Sensex year after year. When the entry is at other times, the return should be far better.

Fortune favours the brave. Bravery is not confined just to soldiers or defence personnel, it is a dynamic quality within an individual, which decides his capacity to get a better return from his investments. If one is brave enough, he will not panic whenever the Sensex falls sharply. Such falls provide a long-term opportunity to buy quality stocks at a reasonable price.

(The writer is a retired banker)

## Stigma, society and schizophrenia

Reduction and eradication of stigma attached to schizophrenia requires a concerted effort at the individual, societal and institutional levels



R C JILOHA



World Schizophrenia Day is observed every year on 24th May 1984 to educate the public about Schizophrenia and challenge the misconceptions and stereotypes surrounding the disease. In 1911, Eugen Bleuler, a Swiss psychiatrist, coined the term schizophrenia for patients with severe mental disorders having lost their contact with reality. The illness is characterized by hallucinations, delusions, disorganized thinking, cognitive and motivational impairment, poor social functioning and social isolation. The illness generally begins during adolescence and takes a chronic and often deteriorating course if not treated adequately on time.

Today, more than 21 million people across the globe live with this label and more than half of them remain untreated because of various reasons including the stigma attached to the illness. Before Bleuler, people with schizophrenia were variously named and treated with varying degrees of discrimination and prejudice.

The stigma attached to schizophrenia is a disgraceful attribute that makes the patient an acceptable target for prejudice, deprivation and discrimination. Stigma could be subtle or obvious – but no matter the magnitude, it can lead to a damaging effect on the prognosis of the disease. Stigma often comes from a lack of understanding or fear, and inaccurate or misleading media representations that make society to under-evaluate persons with schizophrenia. Self-stigma occurs when the patient internalizes negative attitudes about one's condition and views himself as flawed and deficient compared to others. This leads to the subjective feeling of emotional embarrassment, erosion of self-esteem and social status and alienation.

These conditions contribute to unemployment, isolation, poor need for treatment or delayed treatment, prolonged illness course and avoidable hospitalization. Public stigma involves negative or discriminatory attitudes that others have

about the patients which result in social rejection and isolation due to emotions of anger, anxiety, pity, or fear elicited in other people. Institutional stigma involves policies of the government and private organizations that intentionally or unintentionally limit opportunities for people with schizophrenia. It becomes evident when institutional practices result in discrimination in employment opportunities and other benefits. Institutional attitude contributes to the worsening of the disease and reduces the likelihood of seeking help. The combination of internalized, interpersonal, and institutional stigma has a synergistically corrosive effect on mental and physical health that extends far beyond clinical symptoms.

The most common consequences of stigma are anger, depression, fear, anxiety, feelings of isolation, guilt, embarrassment, and prevention from recovery or avoidance of help-seeking. Stigmatized individuals often deplete adaptive coping mechanisms while managing a devalued identity and thus engage in maladaptive emotional regulation strategies such as rumination, and daydreaming, increasing their risk for other adverse health outcomes. Also, the fear that making the illness public will decrease job opportunities and social status, makes the patient more anxious. 1 in 3 patients with schizophrenia has a social anxiety disorder, and stigma is closely related to social anxiety in these patients. Prejudice and discrimination related to schizophrenia result in an increased probability of misuse of alcohol and drugs.

Stigmatization has detrimental consequences for both objective and subjective quality of life. Reduced subjective quality of life in schizophrenia is mediated by

perceived stigma and lower self-esteem. Anxiety disorders impose an additional burden, resulting in a further decline in their subjective quality of life. There are several barriers in the way of removing stigma. Some of these stem from the biased attitudes and practices of mental health professionals themselves. Mental health workers may develop negative attitudes toward the patients they treat. Even physicians affected by mental illness suffer from interpersonal stigma due to a deep-rooted view in the medical profession that disclosing mental health issues means admitting constitutional weakness which may erode their reputation as physicians.

There are multiple pathways for overcoming negative attitudes and practices. These include improved training in evidence-based interventions, engaging in a collaborative and empathic relationship focused on patient empowerment, and the provision of psychological support for mental health professionals in response to daily stresses. A significant barrier to removing interpersonal stigma is the paucity of social contact with stigmatized individuals. If people contact stigmatized individuals in conditions of relatively equal power and status, the interaction is far more likely to generate positive attitudes and chip away at stigma. Regular, informal contact is most likely to eradicate negative perceptions of stigmatized individuals. Shared goals and cooperative work toward common ends between people with and without mental illness promote an environment where attitudes are more likely to be positive and contact is likely to continue.

At the institutional level, in India, several measures have been

instituted to remove or at least minimise the stigma against mental disorders. National Mental Health Program 1982, National Mental Health Policy 2014 and Mental Healthcare Act 2017 - all recognise stigma as a significant barrier to achieving mental health and provide strategies to reduce stigma such as integration of mental health with general health services, community participation and empowering mentally ill with their rights. These strategies have been implemented, focusing principally on improving knowledge about mental health as well as attitudes toward individuals with schizophrenia.

The integration of mental health into primary care identifies positive effects on healthcare professionals' attitudes as well as in connecting patients with health services and self-help groups. Advocacy to reduce public stigma is most effective if promoted with the possibility that individuals with schizophrenia can attain the role expectations with proper support.

Stigma is a form of social injustice that contributes to the onset of psychosis in schizophrenia spectrum disorders, delays treatment attainment, promotes social isolation, stress, and maladaptive coping behaviours such as alcoholism and drug addiction, and places individuals with schizophrenia at higher risk for a more severe illness course resulting in a vegetative state. Reduction and eradication of stigma requires a concerted effort at the individual, societal and institutional levels. Patients with schizophrenia require access to high-quality and affordable care. Effectively integrating these factors can decrease symptom burden, reduce discrimination, and promote helpful social contact.



THE INTEGRATION OF MENTAL HEALTH INTO PRIMARY CARE IDENTIFIES POSITIVE EFFECTS ON HEALTHCARE PROFESSIONALS' ATTITUDES AS WELL AS IN CONNECTING PATIENTS WITH HEALTH SERVICES AND SELF-HELP GROUPS

(The Writer is a former professor of Psychiatry University of Delhi and Jamia Hamdard)

## Clean drinking water and sanitation is akin to human right

SDG 6 is not just about infrastructure and resources. It is about a cross-sectional solution for a equitable future for all by ensuring basic necessity, water

In a world increasingly oriented towards inclusive development, the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) provide a roadmap to ensure that no one is left behind. Particularly critical in this global blueprint is SDG 6, which aims to ensure the availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all. This goal forms the cornerstone of health, well-being, education, and gender equality for communities worldwide.

A WHO/UNICEF Joint Monitoring Programme report finds that 2.2 billion people globally lack safely managed drinking water, while 4.2 billion lack safely managed sanitation services. With 18% of the world's population but



SHAIFALIKA PANDA

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only 4% of its water resources, India faces major challenges in meeting its water and sanitation needs. The lack of WASH (Water, Sanitation and Hygiene) has severe implications for disadvantaged communities, leading to health crises and decreased economic opportunities.

Inadequate water and sanitation disproportionately affect women and girls. A 2015 study by Dasra finds about 23% of girls in India drop out of school due to a lack of safe menstrual hygiene facilities. Women and girls lose out on income generation and educational opportunities due to the time spent fetching water. Inaccessible or non-functional toilets further expose women to physical and sexual assault and health

issues. In children under 5 years of age, diarrhoeal diseases resulting from inadequate WASH are a leading cause of death. These issues are symptomatic of larger systemic concerns that result in inequitable delivery of these essential services.

In 2010, the United Nations General Assembly explicitly recognized the human right to clean water and sanitation, affirming their essence to the realization of all human rights. Programs such as Swachh Bharat Mission (SBM) and Jal Jeevan Mission, (also known as Har Ghar Nal Yojana) have significantly contributed to improving access to sanitation and water. Recently, under SBM 50% of villages in India achieved ODF (open defecation)

free) Plus status. When Jal Jeevan Mission was launched, only 21.64 lakhs (7.84%) of households had access to tap water in the 112 aspirational districts of the country. The number has now increased to 1.67 crore (60.51%) households.

Philanthropic and CSR initiatives have also made considerable progress in ensuring WASH coverage from multiple aspects. Ambuja Cement, for instance, enhanced water storage by 166 million litres and rejuvenated 550 tube wells in Rajasthan and Maharashtra. HUL's Suvidha initiative provides sanitation services in Mumbai, reducing diarrhoea cases by 44% and conserving 35 million litres of water annually. The Su Swasthya initiative by Indian Metals and Ferro

Alloys (IMFA) includes infrastructure development and awareness campaigns in WASH impacting 19 lakh community members in 2989 villages across 6 districts of Odisha.

Despite significant strides in the right direction, much remains to be achieved. The Human Rights-Based Approach (HRBA) to water and sanitation underscores the importance of the availability, accessibility, and affordability of sanitation infrastructure.

Advancements in water and sanitation necessitate a comprehensive, multi-stakeholder approach. Women, being at the heart of grassroots development, should be integral to this process, ensuring the initiatives are diverse and effective.

Infrastructure development is a fundamental part of improving water and sanitation services. It entails constructing or upgrading physical facilities such as systems for water supply and waste disposal, and toilets. The involvement of community members in decision-making is essential to realise a shared vision for sustainable water and sanitation practices. Once the infrastructure is in place, it is crucial to raise awareness about the importance of using sanitation facilities and maintaining hygiene. Moreover, community education should extend to water conservation. Collective efforts to prevent the pollution of surface water and contamination of groundwater sources must also be emphasised.

There is no one-size-fits-all

solution for water and sanitation issues and the initiatives may vary depending on geographical, climatic, and cultural considerations. In areas where water salinity is high, procedures for desalination and water filtration must take precedence. Similarly, established procedures for water conservation such as water harvesting, drip irrigation, waste management treatment and storage reservoirs must also be used as required.

The complexity and pervasiveness of the water and sanitation crisis necessitate a collective approach. When government, non-governmental organizations, the private sector, and communities collaborate, outcomes are inclusive, sustainable, and appropriate to local contexts.









# Newcastle back in Champions League

**AP ■ NEWCASTLE**  
Eddie Howe hailed Newcastle's "incredible" players as they qualified for the Champions League for the first time in 20 years after a 0-0 draw against relegation-haunted Leicester on Monday.

Champions League place. Howe's third placed side achieved their target at the first attempt at a jubilant St James' Park. Howe and his players embarked on a lengthy lap of honour after the final whistle as they soaked up the acclaim from the Toon Army. "It's a big relief actually, an amazing night. You always hope and you have to dream. But we didn't feel we were ready for the top four," Howe said.

"After last season's relegation battle, it was whether we could consolidate and become a better team. "I have to compliment the whole squad because physically it's been a big demand. They've seen the fruits of their own labour." Newcastle's remarkable rise from relegation candidates to a top four finish in the Premier League in just 18 months is a tribute to Howe's management

and financial might of the club's Saudi-backed ownership group. The Magpies also reached the first domestic final since 1999 this season, losing to Manchester United in the League Cup. After two decades in Premier League purgatory since Bobby Robson last led Newcastle into the Champions League, the Magpies will believe they can maintain their transformation into trophy contenders now they are back among Europe's heavyweights.

he left James Maddison and Harvey Barnes on the bench in a bid to be "harder to beat", while Newcastle lost Joelinton to an injury suffered in the pre-match warm-up. They nearly had to do without Joelinton's fellow Brazilian Bruno Guimaraes as well as the midfielder escaped with an early yellow card after a studs-up challenge that smashed into Boubakary Soumare's thigh.

again moments later through Miguel Almiron's half-volley from Fabian Schaar's knock down. Iversen misjudged another cross just before half-time, leaving Wilson with a chance that the striker headed over from close-range. Smith sent on Maddison at the interval and Iversen partially redeemed himself with a superb save to tip over Alexander Isak's powerful drive from the edge of the area. Guimaraes missed a sitter when he headed against the post from virtually on the goal-line after Leicester's Wout Faes accidentally flicked a corner in his direction.

## Howe plots 'smart' signings for Magpies



**AP ■ NEWCASTLE**

Howe, who has been praised for his signings, said there would be no wild spending as he once again looks for astute acquisitions. "I think we've been really, really good in the three transfer windows so far since I've been here," he told reporters. "The challenge gets harder and more difficult because, now we've become a better team, there are fewer players who would make us better, so it's going to be a big window for us. "It won't be huge numbers — I don't think it can be. We don't have the ability to spend the money that people will think we have, so we're going to have to be smart. "It will be a small group of players, but hopefully ones that can make the difference."



"The lads have been unbelievable for me. I can't praise them enough. Their attitude, their mentality," Howe said. "I'm just grateful to have the opportunity to manage here. We've had great success and that's satisfying."

Newcastle held 80 percent of the possession throughout the game, but Leicester sat deep to frustrate them. Leicester keeper Daniel Iversen almost gifted Newcastle the opening goal, spilling a catch under pressure from Dan Burn.

Callum Wilson seized on the loose ball and shot against the post before his header from the rebound was cleared off the line by Wilfred Ndidi. Newcastle hit the woodwork

### NEWCASTLE SEIGE

Leicester manager Dean Smith sprang a major surprise as

Eddie Howe says he will aim for quality rather than quantity as he launches a recruitment drive to equip Newcastle for the Champions League.

## Leicester on brink of Premier League exit



**AP ■ LEICESTER**

Seven years ago, Leicester lifted the Premier League trophy. Now they are on the brink of relegation from the top-flight after a miserable season. The Foxes, who drew 0-0 at

Newcastle on Monday, will only avoid relegation if they beat West Ham this weekend on the final day of the season and fourth bottom Everton drop points at home to Bournemouth. Dean Smith adopted a safety-first approach against Newcastle and

Leicester failed to muster a shot until stoppage-time, but they kept their first clean sheet in the league since November. It is a far cry from the heady days of 2016, when Claudio Ranieri delivered a fairytale triumph for the ages, overcoming monumental odds to win the

title after Leicester narrowly avoided relegation the previous year. Despite that incredible success, the Italian did not last long at the King Power Stadium, but the arrival of Brendan Rodgers in 2019 gave fresh impetus to the Thai-owned club. They finished fifth in the Premier League two years in a row — just missing out on Champions League qualification — and won the FA Cup for the first time in 2021. Even last year the club ended a comfortable eighth and reached the semi-finals of the Europa Conference League. But things began to unravel for Leicester in the first game of this season when they let a 2-0 lead slip to draw 2-2 with Brentford. What followed was a horror show as they lost six straight league matches and despite sporadic mini revivals they have been unable to pull themselves clear of danger. Leicester have scored more goals — 49 — than any other club in the bottom half of the table but their defensive problems have cost them dear.



## Juve suffer Empoli humbling after points deduction

**AP ■ TURIN**  
Juventus lost 4-1 at Empoli on Monday hours after their points reduction for illicit transfer activity was revised in a blow to their Champions League hopes. The Turin giants are a point below sixth-placed Roma in the Europa League Conference qualification spot. Earlier, the Italian Football Federation's (FIGC) appeals court announced Juve's 10-point deduction. The decision came following a revision of their initial 15-point penalty inflicted on the club over illicit transfer activity. "Finding yourself with 10 points down a quarter of an hour from the match is at least a mitigating factor," Juve coach Massimiliano Allegri told reporters. "It's been a very tiring year,"

he added. It caps a difficult few days for the two-time European champions as they were knocked out of the Europa League semi-finals after defeat at Sevilla on Thursday. With two league games of the season remaining, Juve, on 59 points, can still catch AC Milan, on 64, in the fourth and final Champions League berth, with the teams meeting in Turin on Sunday. In Empoli, the hosts' 36-year-old striker Francesco Caputo scored either side of Sebastiano Luperto's 21st-minute strike for the side in 14th place. Italy's Federico Chiesa claimed an 85th-minute consolation for the visitors who play mid-table Udinese as well as Milan before the end of the campaign. With three minutes of added time played the home side

rubbed salt into Juve's wounds as 22-year-old Roberto Piccoli scored his second goal of the season. The decision by the FIGC and the result at Empoli also meant that Lazio, who replaced Juve in second place, have qualified for the Champions League group stage for the first time since 2020 and only the second time since 2007. Earlier on Monday, at the Stadio Olimpico, Nemanja Matic scored an 83rd-minute equaliser as Roma drew 2-2 with Salernitana. "It's a joke knowing this with two games to play," Roma boss Jose Mourinho told reporters. "For us, for everyone, even for Juve." "It wasn't easy for them, points won on the pitch which were then taken away two rounds from the end of the season," he added.

## Halep accuses tennis integrity body of double standard



**PTI ■ LONDON**

Former world No. 1 and two-time grand slam winner Serena Williams has accused the International Tennis Integrity Agency (ITIA) of double standards while dealing with the charge of irregularities it has levelled on her in connection with her Athlete Biological Passport (ABP). The 31-year-old Romanian, winner of the French Open and Wimbledon singles titles, has been accused of a second doping offense by the ITIA for alleged discrepancies in her ABP. The latest ITIA charge announced on Friday last is "separate and in addition to" the provisional suspension Halep received last year after failing a drug test during the US Open, the ITIA said. Halep alleged on Monday that while the ITIA was stating on one hand that it wanted to

engage her in a timely manner, on the other, it was asking the tribunal to delay the hearing. "While the ITIA via their representative Nicole Sapstead was publicly stating 3 days ago that the ITIA has remained committed to engaging Mrs Halep in an empathetic, efficient and timely manner, they were at the same time officially requesting the Tribunal to delay my hearing... For the third time," said Halep in a statement posted on social media late on Monday. "The ITIA publicly states one thing while privately doing another, I have repeatedly asked for my hearing and the ITIA has repeatedly sought to delay it." The winner of 24 career titles added that she has a right to a quick hearing, and delaying it was against the norms. "When is it going to stop? I ask the question once again. I am entitled to a quick hearing. Act-

ing this way is contrary to my rights," added Halep, who defeated Serena Williams in straight sets in the 2019 Wimbledon final. The ITIA had said the fresh charge was pressed "based on an assessment" of the tennis player's biological passport profile by team of experts. The ABP provides a baseline reading of substances in a player's body and is considered a way to help chart doping. Sapstead, ITIA's senior director for anti-doping, had said in a statement on Friday last that, "We understand that today's (Friday) announcement adds complexity to an already high-profile situation. From the outset of this process — and indeed any other at the ITIA — we have remained committed to engaging with Ms. Halep in an empathetic, efficient, and timely manner." Halep had taken to social media following the accusation of a second doping offense, saying she has "lived the worst nightmare I have ever gone through in my life" since being initially charged by the ITIA. Halep had added that her "name (had) been soiled in the worst possible way" and that the ITIA is determined "to prove my guilt while I haven't EVER even thought of taking any illicit substance". Halep had added that three world renowned experts had studied her blood tests and had been extremely clear that "my blood is totally normal". She stated that she was a "victim of contamination".



## Woods withdraws from US Open

**AP ■ LOS ANGELES**

Tiger Woods ruled himself out on Tuesday of playing in the US Open as he recovers from right ankle surgery, organisers said. The 47-year-old 15-time major champion — which includes three US Open crowns — underwent further surgery in April on his ankle, which was severely injured in a car accident in 2021. The US Open, the third of the four majors, runs June 15-18 at the Los Angeles Country Club's North Course. Woods most recently competed at the Masters in April but he withdrew early in the third round and it was then decided that he would undergo another operation. "Tiger Woods, who won this championship in 2000, 2002 and 2008, has withdrawn as an exempt player while still recovering from his recent surgery,"

read the statement from organisers. Woods battled to make the cut at Augusta National but was visibly limping at times on the storied course where he has won five times. Woods has competed in just five tournaments since his February 2021 car crash near Los Angeles, completing 72 holes only twice. He played four rounds in his surprise return to golf at last year's Masters and at the Genesis Invitational PGA Tour event at Riviera Country Club in February. He reiterated at Riviera that his competitive schedule would be extremely limited, saying he hoped to play in all four majors and perhaps "a couple" of other events. At Augusta he acknowledged that he wonders each time he plays the Masters if it will be his last time there.

## Football's racism protocol obsolete: Ancelotti after Vinicius abuse

**AP ■ MADRID**  
Real Madrid coach Carlo Ancelotti said on Tuesday that FIFA's racism protocol in football was "obsolete" after Brazilian forward Vinicius Junior was abused by Valencia fans. The 22-year-old forward suffered vile racist taunts at Mestalla on Sunday in La Liga, with three fans arrested by Spanish police on Tuesday. Referee Ricardo de Burgos Bengoetxea activated the racism protocol after Vinicius squared off with fans, singling out one whom he saw abuse him. FIFA's three-step process involves the match being paused until a stadium announcement is made asking for racist abuse to stop, which

happened at Mestalla. The second step, after any further abuse, is to temporarily take players off the pitch and the third step, if it continues, is to abandon the game and give three points to the opposition. "The protocol is obsolete," Ancelotti told reporters. "The protocol had to be applied when the team bus reached the stadium, because the insults started there. "Two hours before the game, and it was not an isolated case — someone from Valencia said it was — sure, it was not 46,000 people but it was not one or two." Video emerged on Monday of Valencia fans chanting "Vinicius, you are a monkey," when Real Madrid arrived at Mestalla.



"The protocol has to start there," continued Ancelotti. "If you start the protocol in the 70th minute, you have made a mistake. "It has to start two hours before the game, and then during the game. It's obsolete, yes." The striker said Spain was viewed as a "racist country" in a statement he made on Instagram late on Sunday, which Ancelotti disagreed with, but he called for drastic action to combat racism. "Spain is not racist, I have to say that too, but there is racism in Spain, like in other places and that has to end," Ancelotti said. "It's a moment to take drastic measures. Institutions have chances, above all now, to take radical measures on this important subject."

bridge a mannequin with Vinicius' shirt," police said in a statement. Three of the men are members of an ultra fan group of a Madrid football club who had been identified during matches as representing a high risk of violence. While the authorities did not name the club the ultras belonged to, Spanish media said they were part of Atletico's ultras. Police accompanied their statement with images of the suspects in handcuffs and escorted by officers.

## FOUR DETAINED OVER VINICIUS HUNG EFFIGY INCIDENT: SPAIN POLICE

**AP ■ MADRID**

Spanish police on Tuesday arrested four men suspected of hanging a dummy of Real Madrid forward Vinicius Junior from a bridge in January in Madrid. The arrests come amid an international outcry after racist abuse was hurled at the 22-year-old Brazilian international during a Spanish league match on Sunday. The four men, who were arrested in Madrid, are "suspected of a hate crime for hanging from a

The dummy wearing Vinicius Junior's jersey was hung by the neck from a highway bridge near Real Madrid's training ground on January 26 ahead of the club's match against Atletico Madrid. A banner in the red and white colours of Atletico bearing the message "Madrid hates Real" was also draped over the bridge. The message is often used by one of Atletico Madrid's ultra fans groups, although it denied at the time being responsible for the display.

bridge a mannequin with Vinicius' shirt," police said in a statement. Three of the men are members of an ultra fan group of a Madrid football club who had been identified during matches as representing a high risk of violence. While the authorities did not name the club the ultras belonged to, Spanish media said they were part of Atletico's ultras. Police accompanied their statement with images of the suspects in handcuffs and escorted by officers.

# CSK BACK IN FINAL, AGAIN

**PTI ■ CHENNAI**

Chennai Super Kings tamed a tenacious Gujarat Titans by 15 runs on a sticky surface to enter their 10th IPL final here on Tuesday and extend their remarkable consistency in the tournament.

CSK did well to reach 172 for 7 on a slow pitch in Qualifier 1 after Hardik Pandya opted to bowl.

Considering the conditions, it turned out to be much more than a competitive total as Gujarat Titans had a rare off day to end with 157 all out in 20 overs. Rashid Khan made the CSK fans nervous with a 16-ball 30 towards the end but it was not enough for the Titans.

However, the defending champions will get another shot to make a second successive final in Qualifier 2 on Friday.

CSK's master tactician M S Dhoni made the best use of home advantage to take the four-time champions to a 10th final in 14 editions. CSK did not take part in 2016 and 2017 editions.

Left-arm spinner Ravindra Jadeja (4-0-18-2) did the star turn for the Super Kings with a brilliant spell during which he strangled the opposition batters to avenge the defeat suffered in the tournament opener. Matheesha Pathirana, Maheesh Theekshana and Deepal Chahar also finished with two wickets each.

Chasing 173, GT lost Wriddhiman Saha (12) in the third over. Skipper Hardik Pandya (8) could not make much impact at number three, miscuing a cut off Theekshana for Jadeja to pouch a catch at point.

Sri Lanka's limited overs teams' captain Dasun Shanaka (17) could not get going as well and his reverse sweep off Jadeja landed in the hands of Theekshana.

Jadeja made things tougher for GT by casting the dangerous David Miller (4) to leave the opposition at 88 for 4 in the 13th over. The Titans slipped further when Rahul Tewatia was bowled by Theekshana for 3.



Earlier, the Super Kings batters had a tough time on a slow pitch as they were not able to force the pace.

Dhoni lasted only 2 balls for his 1 run, much to the disappointment of an adoring Chepauk crowd.

For the home team, Rituraj Gaikwad was the best batter, scoring a superb 60 off 44 while the others could not make a substantial contribution.

Pacer Mohammed Shami (2 for 28 in 4 overs) was the best bowler while Mohit Sharma (2/31) also picked up two wickets. Rashid Khan and Noor Ahmed scalped a wicket each and put pressure on the batters in the middle overs.

Gaikwad had a stroke of luck when he was caught by Shubman Gill off Darshan Nalkande only for the delivery to be declared a no-ball. He capitalised on the let-off and played some superb shots. The very next ball after he got a reprieve, he smacked a six and hit a four from the next delivery.

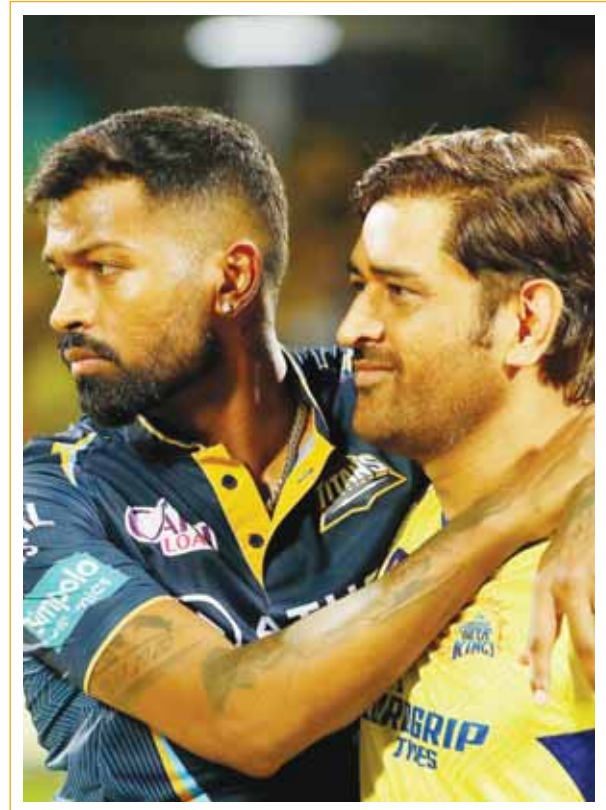
The in-form Gaikwad did not get bogged down against the spin of Rashid Khan and Noor Ahmed, the key bowlers for GT. He scored freely against all the bowlers and got CSK off to a brisk start with 49 being scored in the powerplay.

Gaikwad appeared to slow down after having outscored his opening partner Devon Conway with whom he shared yet another half-century stand. He fell trying to force the pace, to a catch by David Miller off Mohit Sharma.

Ajinkya Rahane (17 off 10) hit one six before being Nalkande's only scalp as the scoring slowed down.

Conway was not his usual fluent self and struggled with his timing all through his innings.

Ambati Rayudu (17 off 9) crossed the 6,000 IPL-run mark during the course of his cameo. The home team did well to collect 35 runs off the last three overs.



## You need to be a proper devil to hate MSD: Hardik

**PTI ■ CHENNAI**

finishing second-last in 2022.

Pandya said he had learnt a lot of cricketing nuances from Dhoni, not by picking his brains but simply by watching him in action.

"A lot of people think Mahi is serious and all that. For me, I crack jokes and I don't see him as a Mahendra Singh Dhoni.

"Obviously, I've learnt a lot of things from him, a lot of positive things, which I've learnt from him just while watching, not even much talking," said Pandya, who would be aiming to retain the IPL title the team won last year by defeating Rajasthan Royals.

The country's top all-rounder also said that for him MSD was like a brother who he could chill around with.

"For me, he's just my dear friend, dear brother, who I do pranks, who I chill."

Gujarat Titans also posted a message terming Dhoni a "Captain. Legend. @msdhoni is an emotion."

## Oz decision to not play warm-up games 'fraught with danger': Border

**PTI ■ SYDNEY**

Questioning Australia's decision to not play any warm-up games ahead of the World Test Championship final against India and the Ashes series, former captain Allan Border said the move is "fraught with danger".

The WTC final is scheduled to be held at The Oval in London from June 7-11, following which Australia will take on arch-rivals England in the five-match Ashes from June 16 to July 31.

The Australian team will prepare for the six Tests by undergoing a high-intensity training camp in Beckenham, featuring centre-wicket practice and net sessions.

"I don't care how hard you work in the nets, nothing replaces game time," Border told 'Fox Cricket'.

"It just doesn't feel right not to play any cricket leading into an Ashes series. I just think that's fraught with danger... There's something gnawing at me saying it's the wrong decision," he added.

The Indian team too won't play any warm-up game as the English County Championship is on and also the WTC being an ICC event, the England and Wales Cricket Board (ECB) is under no obligation to arrange practice matches for the visiting teams.

However, it will be the first time in Ashes history that the men from 'Down Under' won't face any local



county sides before or during this winter's tour of England.

Even before the Border-Gavaskar Trophy in India earlier this year, Australia had opted for simulation training instead of playing warm-up games.

The visitors had ended up losing the fixture 1-2.

"I'm really surprised we're just allowing the Ashes tour to be so condensed with no cricket between the games, but that's the way it is.

"I get it, we've got IPLs and T20s, I understand. The game's moved on. But I think there's an opportunity there for us to go to England early and play a couple of games... Just to polish things off a bit," Border added.

## Jr Asia Cup: India to begin campaign against Chinese Taipei

**PTI ■ SALALAH**

India will aim to qualify for this year's World Cup when they begin the defence of their title against Chinese Taipei in the Men's Junior Asia Cup here on Wednesday. The tournament, while being a platform for young players in the continent to showcase their skills, is also important as the top-three finishers will qualify for the Junior World Cup, scheduled in Malaysia in December this year.

India is the most successful side in the event alongside Pakistan with both countries having lifted the trophy three times each. India have been grouped in Pool A along with Pakistan, Japan, Thailand and Chinese Taipei, while Pool B comprises hosts Oman, Korea, Malaysia, Bangladesh and Uzbekistan.

Captain Uttam Singh said playing against the senior India team in Bengaluru had prepared them well for the tournament.

"Junior Asia Cup is a big opportunity for us to prove our mettle and implement everything that we have worked on during training sessions.

As per the tournament format, the top-two teams from each pool will qualify for the semi-finals. The two finalists and the bronze medallist will qualify for the Junior World Cup in Malaysia.

However, if Malaysia, who have already qualified for the prestigious quadrennial event by virtue of being the hosts, enters the semi-finals of the Junior Asia Cup, then all the other three teams making it to the last-four of the tournament will gain entry into the marquee event in December. India will play their second Pool game against Japan on May 25, followed by the match against Pakistan on May 27. They will play their last pool game against Thailand on May 28.

## ODI WC qualifiers in Zimbabwe from June 18

**PTI ■ DUBAI**

Arab Emirates form Group B.

Each side will play the other teams in their group once with the top three from each group progressing to the Super Six stage. In the Super Six, they will play the sides they did not meet in the group stage.

All points won in the group stage will be carried over to the Super Six stage apart from those gained against the teams that fail to make it to the Super Six stage. The finalists will both progress to the World Cup 2023.

Queen's Sports Club and Bulawayo Athletic Club in Bulawayo, Harare Sports Club and Takashinga Cricket Club in Harare will share 34 matches between them, with Harare Sports Club staging the final on July 9. Old Hararians Cricket Club will also host warm-up fixtures. Hosts Zimbabwe will feature on the opening matchday at Harare Sports Club against Nepal, who are aiming to qualify for the World Cup for the first time. Two-time champions West Indies will also be in action on June 18 against neighbours USA at Takashinga Cricket Club.

Group B commences on June 19 in Bulawayo with 1996 World Cup champions Sri Lanka facing the UAE at Queen's Sports Club, while in the other match at Bulawayo Athletic Club, Ireland will face off against Oman.

The Netherlands will open their campaign against Zimbabwe on June 20 at Harare Sports Club, while Scotland face rivals Ireland in Bulawayo on June 21 at Queens Sports Club. The Super Six stage will commence on June 29, while the bottom two teams from each group will compete in the Playoff.

For the first time in this tournament, DRS will be used for all matches from the Super Six stage onwards.

## MI face LSG in eliminator clash today

**PTI ■ CHENNAI**

The batting unit finally clicking and a rather dramatic entry into the IPL play-offs will make Mumbai Indians a more confident side when they meet the plucky Lucknow Super Giants in the Eliminator here on Wednesday.

Mumbai Indians have a come a long from their woeful performance last year, when they came up with one of their worst showings in IPL, finishing last.

Having come this far in IPL 2023 after Gujarat Titans did them a good turn by defeating Royal Challengers Bangalore and pitch-forking the five-time champions into the Eliminator against Lucknow Super Giants, the Rohit Sharma-led side would like to make the most of the proverbial 'life' to go the distance and win their sixth title.

Lucknow Super Giants would know all too well that they were eliminated at the same stage last year by RCB after being one of the most dominating sides.

They have looked a cohesive side despite the absence of regular skipper KL Rahul but the way Krunal Pandya has tactfully marshalled his resources would once again be crucial as they meet the most successful IPL side that seems to have found its mojo after striking success at the back-end of the tournament.

One cannot overestimate the contribution of tall Australian all-rounder Cameron Green, who smacked an unbeaten century to help MI win their last league game against Sunrisers Hyderabad before GT defeated RCB.

Green (381 runs), along with a resurgent Suryakumar Yadav (511 runs, one century, four fifties), skipper Rohit (313) and Ishan Kishan (439), will be their key batters when they taken on LGS in the do-or-die clash.

With Mumbai's batting puzzle finally falling in place, LSG bowlers will be aware that they have a task on hand to contain the likes of Rohit and Co. if they get going. Here, leg-spinner Ravi Bishnoi will have a big role to play if the team hopes to keep MI in check.

Bishnoi (16 wickets from 14 matches) has been the leading bowler for LSG and he would be skipper Krunal's go-to bowler. But it would also be important for the likes of Naveen-ul-Haq and Avesh Khan, besides Krunal himself and veteran Amit Mishra, to step up.

LSG's batting has clicked despite the absence of Rahul and they qualified for the playoffs rather comfortably with Marcus Stoinis (368 runs, 14 matches) coming to the fore with his big-hitting.

Kyle Mayers (361 runs) and Nicholas Pooran (358) have brought the Caribbean flair and been vital cogs in LSG's performance. How they fare at the Chepauk, which has often thrown up slowish pitches, would have a bearing on the outcome of the match.

Mumbai Indians would like to utilise the experience of Piyush Chawla — the unlikely hero in the bowling department with 20 wickets so far — while Jason Behrendorff (14) has done a decent job whenever called up. Their value to the side can't be overemphasised, more so in a crunch game.



## Robinson given all-clear after injury scare

**AP ■ LONDON**

England paceman Ollie Robinson has been declared fit to join up with the Test squad after receiving the all-clear following an ankle scan.

The bowler suffered a sore ankle while playing for county team Sussex last week, raising fears he would join the list of injured seamers.

England play a one-off Test against Ireland starting on June 1, with a five-match Ashes series against Australia to follow.

The England and Wales Cricket Board said Robinson was fit enough to join up with Ben Stokes's squad for the Ireland game at Lord's.

"Scan results have revealed no damage to the ankle and that Robinson will join up with the England men's Test squad this weekend," the ECB said in a statement.



## Manika enters third round at World C'ships

**PTI ■ DURBAN**

Indian star Manika Batra blanked Singapore's Wong Xin Ru to enter the round of 32 at the World Table Tennis Championships here on Tuesday.

World number 39 Manika had little difficulty in getting past her 171 ranked opponent for a 11-9, 14-12, 11-4, 11-8 victory in the second round.

With the outcome, Manika has ensured the best result for India in singles competition here. In men's singles, Sharath Kamal and G Sathiyan exited the tournament with defeats in the round of 64.

While Sharath lost on Monday, Sathiyan could not do much against the mighty world number nine Dang Qiu of Germany, losing 6-11, 6-11, 5-11, 7-11 on Tuesday.

Manika and Sathiyan play their mixed doubles round of 16 contest later on Tuesday.

Sharath and Sathiyan will play their men's doubles pre-quarterfinal on Wednesday.



## MALAYSIA MASTERS: MALVIKA, ASHMITA ENTER MAIN DRAW

**PTI ■ KUALA LUMPUR**

Malvika will face second seed Wang Zhi Yi, while Ashmita will meet fourth seeded Chinese Han Yue in the main draw.

In men's singles, World junior championships silver medallist S Sankar Muthusamy Subramanian, who reached the second round of qualification after the withdrawal of fellow Indian Priyanshu Rajawat, lost 10-21, 14-21 to Taipei's Chi Yu Jen.

National champion Mithun Manjunath too failed to grab the opportunity, going down 13-21, 19-21.

