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DJOKER ENTERS
SECOND ROUND
OF FRENCH OPEN
11 SPORT

CAPSULE

ASTRONAUTS TO BE SENT TO MOON BY 2030

Beijing: China on Monday announced plans to send a manned mission to the moon by 2030 for lunar scientific exploration, amid its deepening space race with the West. The announcement was made by Lin Xiqiang, Deputy Director of the China Manned Space Agency (CMSA), as China is preparing to send a third set of astronauts to its space station on Tuesday.

DELHI HC ISSUES NOTICE TO YASIN MALIK

New Delhi: The Delhi High Court on Monday issued a notice to separatist leader Yasin Malik, who is presently serving a life term, on a plea by the National Investigation Agency seeking death penalty for him in a terror funding case. A bench of Justices Siddharth Mridul and Talwant Singh also issued warrants for production of Malik before it on August 9.

BENGAL'S CONG MLA JOINS TMC

Kolkata: Lone Congress MLA in West Bengal Assembly, Bayron Biswas, on Monday joined the TMC in the presence of the ruling party's national general secretary Abhishek Banerjee in Paschim Medinipur district.

REMAINS OF US OFFICER TO GO IN 58 YEARS

Kolkata: Nearly 6 decades after he died during a visit to Darjeeling, the last remains of one of America's most decorated officer, Major General Harry Kleinbeck Pickett, is being returned to US for reburial, the US consulate here said on Monday. He fought in both World War I and World War II, died in 1965 while visiting Darjeeling, a Himalayan tourist town in West Bengal, and was buried in a cemetery there, it said in a press release.

India's stature has grown during Modi tenure: Yogi

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath said on Monday that while the stature of India had grown in the world during Prime Minister Narendra Modi's tenure of nine years, the internal and external security of the nation had also improved.

"Today, no one can dare to threaten India," he said.

Addressing a press conference organised on the completion of nine years of the Modi government, the chief minister said, "In the last nine years, the Modi government has provided a strong base to the four pillars including nation's respect, internal and external security, welfare of the underprivileged, and infrastructure development."

He said that over the past nine years, the nation had not only noticed a change in the circumstances but had also witnessed the emergence of a new India. "India of today is supported by four crucial pillars," he added.

The chief minister stated, "The first pillar of India's progress is the increase in India's prestige at the global level. India is getting respect all over the world. Recently, the prime minister visited three countries where he received notable gestures of respect. The prime minister of Papua New Guinea greeted Modi by touching his feet. This was the first time a sovereign nation felicitated its counterpart in



such a manner. Additionally, Papua New Guinea and Fiji bestowed their highest honours on Prime Minister Modi."

He further mentioned the statement made by the prime minister of Australia, who addressed Modi as "Boss," and the president of the United States expressing a desire to have Modi's autograph, which was seen as an honour for India and its population of 1.4 billion people. Yogi Adityanath further stated that the world recognises and respects India's heritage through the global celebration of yoga on June 21 each year.

Speaking of the second pillar, the chief minister said, "India's internal and external security situation has strengthened today. Because of the improved security situation in India, no one can afford to challenge it. India has responded

firmly and effectively for the first time, ensuring the security and fortification of its borders."

Yogi Adityanath said that in the past nine years, India had managed to secure its borders, crush terrorism and Naxalism. "A sense of new hope and confidence has arisen in the country in terms of security," he said.

Regarding the third pillar, the chief minister stated that India currently has world-class infrastructure to meet the needs of its 140 crore citizens. In the 70 years after independence, only 74 airports were constructed, but within a span of nine years, the government has built an additional 74 airports across the country. Rapid rail and new ports are being built. New AIIMS are being built and health infrastructure

has been strengthened. Infrastructure is being developed for every section according to the aspirations of the country.

The chief minister said that welfare of the poor was the fourth pillar. "The government is dedicated to the welfare of the poor without any discrimination, with the vision of inclusive development. In Jan Dhan Yojana over 45 crore bank accounts were opened for poor individuals in the country. The initiative has brought unimaginable change, with UP benefiting the most, having opened over 8.5 crore bank accounts. As a result, the direct benefit transfer (DBT) system has been implemented, ensuring that funds from various schemes reach the accounts of the poor, farmers, and labourers," he said.

The chief minister further mentioned that this approach was the most significant attack on corruption, as funds were now reaching the intended beneficiaries directly. "Through a single click, millions of farmers are receiving the benefits of schemes such as PM Kisan Samman Nidhi, Ujjwala Yojana, and pensions for destitute women, disabled individuals and the elderly. Each scheme has become the foundation of self-reliance in the country today," Yogi Adityanath pointed out.

The chief minister mentioned various development and welfare initiatives undertaken during Prime Minister

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BJP wins 2 MLC seats

PTI ■ LUCKNOW

The ruling BJP in Uttar Pradesh sailed comfortably in the legislative council bypolls held on Monday with both its candidates defeating the Samajwadi Party nominees.

Bypolls to the two seats were necessitated following the resignation of Laxman Acharya and the death of Banwari Lal Dohre. The tenure of Acharya, who was made the governor of Sikkim, was to last till January 2027 while Dohre's term was to expire in July 2028.

Returning officer of the election Mohd Mushahid told PTI that BJP's Manvendra Singh bagged 280 votes while his rival from the Samajwadi Party, Ram Jatan Rajbhar, got 115 votes.

The BJP's other candidate, Padmasen Chowdhary, got 279 votes in the bypolls while Samajwadi Party's Ramkaran got 116. Mushahid said, adding that one vote each was disqualified.

The voters had to indicate their preference using numbers one (first preference) and two (second preference) in the secret ballot, the returning officer said.

Asked about the disqualification of votes, Samajwadi Party spokesperson Rajendra Chaudhary said, "We will look into the matter."

Uttar Pradesh minister JPS Rathore told PTI, "One of our candidates got six votes more than our strength while the other got five votes more."

The BJP has 255 MLAs in the 403-member assembly while its allies Apna Dal (Sonelal) has 13 and the NISHAD Party six.

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Murder most foul rocks Delhi again

Girl stabbed 20 times with knife, bludgeoned in full public view in Shahbad Dairy; killer arrested

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

In a horrific murder that shook the national Capital a 16-year-old girl was stabbed over 20 times and then stoned to death in full public view in Shahbad Dairy area late on Sunday night.

The accused has been arrested from Bulandshahr, in Uttar Pradesh. Identified as Sahil the 20-year-old works as a fridge and AC mechanic. The horrific attack was caught on CCTV and the video footage went viral. The video showed the girl walking down the street when she was intercepted by the accused, who stabbed her over 20 times with a knife. The act was so ferocious that at one point the knife got stuck in the head of the victim. The accused then picked up a heavy cement slab lying nearby and started hitting her.

Shockingly, the murder took place in full view of people who can be seen passing within inches of the attacker, but no one stops or says anything as the girl falls to the ground and the attacker continues his assault. The horrific attack lasted for 90 seconds and this includes him kicking her body. The accused is seen walking



away from victim in a casual manner only to turn back and again hit her with cement slab before leaving site.

According to police, preliminary findings from the post-mortem indicate the girl was stabbed 16 times and her skull was crushed after it was bashed in by a blunt object. The detailed report has yet to be released.

Police said the accused and the victim were in a "relationship" but had a quarrel on Saturday. The victim had gone shopping on Sunday evening for the birthday party of her friend's child when she was accosted by

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Gehlot, Pilot to fight Rajasthan elections unitedly, says Cong

Warring leaders agree to leave all issues to be resolved by High Command

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Amid a festering leadership tussle in the Congress' Rajasthan unit, the party on Monday said Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot and his former deputy Sachin Pilot have agreed to fight the upcoming Assembly elections unitedly and have left all issues to be resolved by the party High Command.

Congress General Secretary KC Venugopal said in view of the upcoming Rajasthan Assembly election, party president Mallikarjun Kharge and Rahul Gandhi had a detailed four-hour-long discussion with Ashok Gehlot. Sachin Pilot joined the delib-



erations later which was held at Kharge's residence, he said. "In this discussion, we have decided to fight the election unitedly. Both are in agreement that the Congress party has to go together and definitely we will win the election in Rajasthan," he told reporters after the meeting.

"It is very clear that Rajasthan is going to be a strong State for the Congress party. We are going to win. Therefore, both the leaders Gehlot ji and Sachin ji have decided to go together. The Congress party will fight elections unitedly," Venugopal also said.

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Welcome posters greet Shah in tense Manipur

Army rounds up 25 miscreants with arms; uneasy calm prevails as toll in Sunday's clashes touches five

PNS/PTI ■ IMPHAL/GUWAHATI

Posters, banners and messages came up in Manipur on Monday welcoming Union Home Minister Amit Shah on his four-day visit during which he will meet state-holders to assess the situation and take steps to restore normalcy to the State that witnessed ethnic violence over the past few weeks.

Shah's visit came on a day when the Indian Army and para-military forces rounded up at least 25 miscreants with arms, ammunition and grenades. A spokesperson for the defence forces said a num-



ber of people were detained with weapons after fresh incidents of firing and clashes broke out in and around Imphal valley on Sunday. "During operations in Sansabi, Gwalitabi, Shabunkhol, Khunao in Imphal East, Army apprehended 22 miscreants with weapons and other war like stores.

Five 12 bore double barrel rifles, three single barrel rifles, one country made weapon with double bore and one muzzle loaded weapon were recovered," he said in a statement. On Monday, an uneasy calm prevailed in Manipur, even as the death toll from Sunday's

clashes rose to five as three more people, who were undergoing treatment in hospitals, succumbed to their injuries, officials said.

Meanwhile, Union Minister Nisith Pramanik, who is the Minister of State for Home Affairs said in Guwahati that the Centre was providing all support to Manipur and the situation was "returning to normal." Pramanik's remarks came a few hours before Amit Shah began his four-day visit to the northeastern State.

Shah will hold several rounds of security meetings to assess the situation and plan steps to restore normalcy during his first visit to the State since the ethnic clashes between the Kuki and the Meitei communities broke out on May 3.

On Monday, posters and banners were seen in Imphal and several other districts. The welcome messages were issued by several civil society organisations of Manipur, sources said.

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Nitish aide confirms Opp meet in Patna on June 12

Patna: A key aide of Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar on Monday confirmed that the much-awaited meeting of Opposition parties is likely to be held in Patna on June 12. State Minister and senior JD(U) leader Vijay Kumar Chaudhary said most parties opposed to the BJP are likely to take part in the "extremely important meeting".

"It is now almost final that a meeting of most parties opposed to BJP will be held in Patna on June 12", he said. "Most Opposition parties share the belief that the BJP will not win the 2024 Lok Sabha elections if those opposed to it put up a united fight," the JD(U) leader said.

"It is true that the initiative has been taken by our leader Nitish Kumar but we do not wish to claim any credit. Opposition unity is becoming a reality only because we are getting support from like-minded parties".

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Wrestles won't be allowed to protest at Jantar Mantar: Cops

Protesting grapplers yet to decide next course of action

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

A day after the Delhi Police cleared the sit-in site of the protesting wrestlers, the Delhi Police on Monday said they will be allowed to demonstrate at a suitable place in the city other than Jantar Mantar.

On the other hand, released late last night from police detention, the wrestlers are still contemplating their next move even as they continued to get support from sporting fraternity after police action against top grapplers was unequivocally condemned by political and sports personalities.

"The demonstration by the wrestlers was going on smoothly at the notified place of Jantar Mantar. On Sunday, the protesters flouted the law, ignoring



our repeated requests. Hence, we cleared the site and ended the dharna," Deputy Commissioner of Police (New Delhi) tweeted in Hindi. "If the wrestlers will apply for permission to stage their sit-in again in the future, they will be allowed to do so at any suitable notified place other than Jantar Mantar," it said.

Wrestlers Vinesh Phogat, Sakshi Malik and Bajrang Punia, along with other protesters, were booked for rioting and obstructing public servant in discharge of duty on Sunday after a scuffle with security personnel who tried to stop them from marching to the new Parliament building as it was being inaugurated.

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CBI books RR, brass for graft in Hawk jet deal

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The CBI has booked the British aerospace and defence major Rolls Royce PLC, its top executives and arms dealers in a graft case for alleged kickbacks in the procurement of Hawk 115 Advanced Jet Trainer aircraft for the Indian Air Force and Navy.

The CBI has registered a case against Tim Jones, Director Rolls Royce India, alleged arms dealers Sudhir Choudhrie and Bhanu Choudhrie, Rolls Royce Plc and British Aerospace Systems under Indian Penal Code (IPC) sections 120-B

(criminal conspiracy) and 201 (destruction of evidence besides provisions of Prevention of Corruption Act following conclusion of a 2016 Preliminary Enquiry in the related matter.

A British court order in 2017 also mentioned the alleged involvement of middlemen and payment of commission by the company for swigging the deal, officials said. It is alleged that during 2003-12, these accused in conspiracy with unidentified public servants "abused their official positions" for procurement of 24 Hawk 115 AJTs for GBP 734.21 million.

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LAST-BALL WIN MAKES CSK THE IPL KING

PTI ■ AHMEDABAD

Chennai Super Kings beat Gujarat Titans by five wickets to win IPL title for record-equalling fifth time.

Chasing 171 for a win in 15 overs in a rain curtailed final, Chennai Super Kings romped home off the last ball with Ravinder jadeja chipping one to the fine leg boundary for a four.

The second innings of the IPL final between Gujarat Titans and Chennai Super Kings was on Monday affected by a strong passing shower here. Chasing 215 to win, Chennai Super Kings were 4/0 in 0.3 overs as the second innings began slightly late due to mid-innings show here

at the Narendra Modi Stadium.

B Sai Sudharsan struck a 47-ball 96 and missed his maiden IPL century, but did a fine job to take his team to a daunting total with Shubman Gill (39), Wriddhiman Saha (54) and Hardik Pandya (21 not out) chipping in with vital contributions. It began with the ground staff immediately rushing to the middle to cover the centre with multiple layers of the sheet as the mid-innings show ended, but the game began soon after as it was just a drizzle. However, a mere three balls into the second innings with CSK openers Devon Conway (0 not out) and Ruturaj Gaekwad (4 not out), the heavens opened up again. For the fans, unfor-



tunately, it was yet another test of patience as sudden rains left them drenched, with plenty of them remaining seated while it poured heavily for about 10 minutes.

Earlier, B Sai Sudharsan led the charge with a terrific 96 as defending champions Gujarat Titans set Chennai Super Kings an imposing target of 215 in the IPL final here on Monday. Sudharsan struck eight fours and six sixes to make his runs from a mere 46 balls, forging crucial partnerships along the way and helping GT find their feet in the summit clash, after Shubman Gill perished for 39 and Wriddhiman Saha failed to go beyond his half-century.

Put in to bat, Gujarat Titans posted a formidable 214/4 which CSK was to follow.

Yogi: Credibility the mantra to stay long in social media

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

Stressing on maintaining credibility in social media, Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath said that credibility was the mantra to stay long in this digital revolution because feeding wrong information pushed the person out of race after some time.

Addressing a seminar, ‘Social media influencers in the social media dialogue programme’, organised at Indira Gandhi Pratishthan here on Monday, the chief minister said that about 20 years ago print media was the dominant form of communication and then came the electronic media but in the last seven-eight years, there had been rapid promotion of social media and digital media.

“Earlier, people used to get information from newspapers but now social media is playing the same role. Smartphones have made it easier, but it is also misused. In such a situation, only those players who will use it properly will be able to stay in the digital revolution,” Yogi said.

The chief minister said that in the last nine years the prestige of India had gone up and social media had also played an important role in this. “It is the result of social media that a number of yoga classes are being held in China today,” he pointed out.

“Not only this, people are now talking about the virtues of AYUSH. Today the world is realising the potential of India, and this is possible because of social media. The steps taken for the empowerment of women has increased India’s reputation at the global stage. We can inform the world what is the true picture of India,” Yogi said. “This is possible only if we give correct information with facts and figures. Some use social media to denigrate India and show the country in a bad taste, which is bad. What is true, write about that,” he said.

Asking people to use social media in a positive way, the chief minister said the government had given houses to 54 lakh poor in the state in six years. “Make half-a-minute videos (on it) and make it viral on social media so that the world can know how a scheme became the basis of economic self-reliance,” he said.

“This is just an example. Making such schemes viral on social media can bring a change in the lives of a large number of people,” he said.

Union Minister Hardeep Singh Puri, Deputy Chief Ministers Keshav Prasad Maurya and Brajesh Pathak, BJP state president Bhupendra Singh Chaudhary, organisation general secretary Dharampal and BJP spokesperson Gaurav Bhatia were also present.

Labourer electrocuted at construction site

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

A 24-year-old labourer, who was a native of Pilibhit, was electrocuted to death after he came in contact with a live wire while working at a construction site in Transport Nagar under the Sarojininar police limits.

As per reports, Subhan Ahmed was hired by a contractor for construction of a building near an automobile showroom in Transport Nagar. Around noon, Subhan was carrying iron rods which came in contact with a live wire, and he suffered a powerful shock. He was rushed to Lok Bandhu Hospital where he succumbed.

Fellow labourers alleged that the contractor did not provide them safety gadgets and also took time in admitting Subhan to the hospital. The deceased was a bachelor. A case

was registered in this regard and the body was sent for autopsy while further probe was underway.

Meanwhile, a 42-year-old mechanic, identified as Mohammed Raees aka Salim of Dawood Nagar in Faizullahganj, was found hanging from a tree in a vacant plot in Jain Colony on Monday. Police claimed that Raees committed suicide but failed to explain the reason. The family of the deceased said Raees had been missing for the last 5-6 days. “He had left the house saying he was going to purchase vegetables. But he has not return. We had been searching for him ever since. We also sought police help which never came our way,” Raees’s son Imran told mediapersons. Police sent the body for autopsy and started further investigation.

In another incident, a 32-year-old man was found hanging from the ceiling at his house in Banthra police station area on Sunday. Police said Vijay Kumar of Ram Chaura village in the area committed suicide. However, they failed to explain the reason.

The police said the man was found hanging around 7 pm on Sunday. He was rushed to a hospital where doctors pronounced him dead. The police claimed that the deceased was a liquor addict.

In another case, a 60-year-old woman was killed in a road mishap in Banthra on Sunday evening. Reports said Ishwari Devi of Hamirpur village was returning home from a weekly market when she was hit by a bike. She was rushed to a private clinic where she died during treatment.



Mayor Sushma Kharakwal visited areas under zone 6 on Monday morning for supervising works related to cleanliness and sanitation. She inspected Kali Ji Bazar in Chowk, Patanala and Kanchan Market among several areas

Pioneer

At least 44 bus passengers hurt in separate accidents

PTI ■ BARABANKI

At least 44 bus passengers were injured in two separate road accidents in this Uttar Pradesh district on Monday, police said.

Masauli Station House Officer (SHO) Abhishek Tiwari said the double-decker bus was hit by a tanker from behind when it was stuck in a traffic jam at the Ahmadpur toll plaza in the Safdarjung police station area and as a result, it rammed into a truck in the front.

Of the 50 passengers on board, 20 suffered serious

injuries, while several others sustained minor injuries, he said, adding that all the injured were taken to different hospitals with the help of the police.

Arrangements were on to send those with minor injuries home after first aid.

The double-decker bus was going to Ayodhya carrying people belonging to the Simpure police station area of the Shahdol district of Madhya Pradesh. The injured included the bus driver Rakesh Mishra, he said.

In the second incident, a double-decker bus from Delhi to Gonda with 70 passengers

on board dashed into a divider at the Masauli police station intersection and overturned.

On hearing the screams, the locals rushed to the spot and pulled everyone out, police said. About 24 people were injured in the accident and the Masauli police have admitted five residents of Kaudiya Basantpur in Gonda district to the Community Health Center (CHC). The remaining 19 people were admitted to CHC Badagaon from where they were discharged after first aid. According to passengers, the accident took place because the driver was sleepy, police added.

CLASSIFIEDS

NOTICE

I Aqil Ahmad Rana have changed my daughter's name from Anam to Anam Rana R/o 15/6B Civil Lines Kanpur for all further purposes.

NOTICE

I, Waleed S/o Aqil Ahmad Rana R/o 15/6B, Civil Lines, Kanpur, have changed my name to Waleed Rana for all future purposes.

NOTICE

I Rohit Tiwari S/o Vinod Tiwari 722 'C' Block Shyam Nagar Kanpur (U.P.) 208013 have changed my name to Rohit Kumar Tiwari for all future purposes.

NOTICE

Hav. Lalchand Singh Yadav resident of Vill. Harsarpur. Post. Chaubeypur Teh. Ghazipur Dist. Ghazipur (U.P.) Pin.233226 Have changed my son name Hritik Yadav to Hritik Singh Yadav Vide Affidavit Date. 29.05.2023. before Akhilesh Kumar Singh Notary Ghazipur (U.P.)

NOTICE

I, Phool Kali spouse of JC-640890L Sub Maj & Hony Captain Ram Lakhan Jaiswal resident of House No 1/182-1/183, Rajni Khand, Rae Bareilly Road, Lucknow - 226002 have changed my name from Phool Kali to Phool Kali Jaiswal vide Affidavit dated 13/05/2023 before Sadar Magistrate Lucknow

सूचना

दिनांक 25 मई 2023 को मेरा बैग थाना सिधौली क्षेत्र जनपद सीतापुर में कहीं गिर गया है। जिसमें 2 बैगों की मूल प्रति 27 अक्टूबर 2004 बही नं 0 1 जिल्द नं 740 जिसकी क्रेता जेठेरी दूसरा बैगनामा 15 अप्रैल, 1997 रखा था जिसके क्रेता छोटेवाल हैं जिसकी बही 1 जिल्द नं 613 उपनिबंधक सिधौली में दर्ज है। बैग बाजार में कहीं गिरा है। जिसे बैग मिले सूचित करें। बन्धेव सिंह पुत्र सरदार महेन्द्र सिंह, मोविंदनगर, थाना सिधौली, जिला सीतापुर नो 6393123110

NOTICE

I have change my name from Wasimuddin Abdul Qayyum to Wasimuddin S/o Abdul Qayyum, R/o Jugunideeh, Shah Ji Ka Pura, Sikandra, Allahabad. For all future purpose.

NOTICE

I have changed my name from MOHD FAYYAZ ALAM to MO. FAIYYAZ AALAM S/o MOHD QAMALUDDIN for all future purpose R/o H.No. 96/15, Yateemkhana, Colonelganj, Kanpur Nagar-208001

NOTICE

I have changed my name from MOHAMMAD SHOEAB ANSARI to MOHD SOHAIB S/o NOOR MOHD for all future purpose R/o H.No. 89/291, Gurbat Ullah Park, Dipty Padoo, Kanpur Nagar-208001

NOTICE

The real name of the applicant is Shaheen Afaq passport it is wrongly mentioned as Afaq Shaheen. The correct name Shaheen Afaq is all the documents. Shaheen Afaq wife Afaq Ahmed 96/16G Colonelganj, Kanpur

NOTICE

Notified that my son Arsh Gupta his high school market-sheet with certificate year 2021, unique I.D. 7319712 Index N. 1212744/114 S.T. Joseph Montessori school have been Lost any where. Shyam Gupta R/o C-3495 Rajaji Puram Lucknow.

NOTICE

In my intermediate (2017) exams (Enrollment No. 5674440), my father's name has wrongly been mentioned as S.N. Mishra. His correct name is Naresh Mishra. Both names refer to the same person. Now the name of my father should be known and identified by the name of Naresh Mishra. Arjun Mishra, 116/421, Adarsh Nagar, Rawatpur Village, Kanpur

SOTTO awaits govt nod for draft organ donation policy

SHARMILA KRISHNA ■ LUCKNOW

Uttar Pradesh State Organ and Tissue Transplantation Organisation (SOTTO) has submitted a draft document of the policy related to organ transplant to the state government, Dr R Harshvardhan, joint secretary of the organisation, said.

Two major decisions have been taken by SOTTO and proposals forwarded to the state government for further action. “The first is regarding the policy related to organ transplant for Uttar Pradesh,

for which a presentation is scheduled for June 9. SOTTO has submitted the draft document submitted to the government for approval. Besides, all the prospective transplant centres need to get a licence from DGME to operate as transplant centres. The standard operating procedures (SOPs) on how to grant the licence have been drafted and submitted to the DGME,” he said.

“Earlier, whenever a transplant centre needed to operate, it would apply with the state government which would constitute a committee for appraisal and then grant the licence. However, there was no SOP for that. Now, the SOPs have been designed and submitted to the government by the department of hospital administration, SGPPI, and

SOTTO for approval,” he explained.

SOTTO website will also be launched shortly. Dr Harshvardhan said that organ transplant involves surgical implantation of an organ or a section of an organ into a person whose own organ is failing. “Organ transplantation is one of the most effective options for those with an end-stage organ failure,” he said.

He added that organ donation is the entire process of removing the organs from a living or deceased person to be used in another.

Dr Harshvardhan pointed out that every year five lakh Indians lose their lives while waiting for organs.

“There is a life lost every minute. In India, around 6,000 people die everyday while waiting for organs,” he said.

In living donor organ donation, a person can donate one kidney during his lifetime, a portion of pancreas, and a part of liver. However, a person after death can donate multiple organs and tissues. Their organs continues to live in other people’s body. One can be a donor by expressing one’s wish in the authorised organ and tissue donation form.

The age limit for organ donation varies, depending upon whether it is living donation or cadaver donation. A living donor should be above 18 year of age.

Man held for bathing naked on terrace

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

A man was arrested for bathing naked on his terrace close to the house of a promoted PPS officer in Mall Avenue under Husainganj police station. The accused, identified as Azim, is said to be mentally unstable. It was stated in the complaint that the follower of the additional SP and other servants — Sharda Prasad Saini, Salma, Hoor and Shanaz — saw Azim taking a bath on the terrace of his house and making obscene gestures. The officer said he sent his driver to counsel the man but the accused did not budge.

“I was having lunch in the lobby on Sunday afternoon when I saw the accused bathing naked and making obscene gestures. I made a video and

lodged a complaint with the police,” the officer said.

Meanwhile, a group of youths thrashed two persons in Madehganj on Monday over an enmity related to civic elections held recently.

When the victims were being taken for medical treatment under police escort, the attackers reached there again and thrashed the victims in front of police.

As soon as the information about the attack reached senior officers, additional force from many police stations were sent to the crime scene. Thereafter, the victims were sent for a medical examination amidst tight security.

According to Madehganj police, Abid Razzak, who lives near Shia PZ College, is an advocate who supported the

candidate of Samajwadi Party in the civic elections. He had a verbal duel with rival candidate Jalaluddin and his supporters.

Abid said that he was returning home on Monday evening with his friend Chand. It was alleged that Jalaluddin’s supporters stopped him on the way. They started beating up Abid. However, on being confronted by locals, the accused took to their heels.

The police sent Abid and Chand to the police station for a medical examination. As soon as they left for a government hospital for treatment, Jalaluddin and his supporters waylaid them. It was alleged that this time, Abid was thrashed in front of police personnel. The attackers fled the scene after additional force reached there.

Private developer under scanner for encroachment

Lucknow (PNS): A private developer of national level covered 1.5-km irrigating canal and 30 ponds, and carved out 50 plots to develop a township under PGI police station. It was disclosed by Lucknow Development Authority Vice-Chairman Indramani Tripathi while presiding over a review meeting.

He said houses had been constructed on 23 of the 50 plots. The primary report has been forwarded to the state government whose response is awaited for further action.

The VC said that the state government could recommend a CBI probe into the matter. It may be mentioned that a campaign was launched jointly by LDA, LMC and Irrigation department to identify places where underground water is available. Those on the job found an immense source of potable water but were surprised when the encroachment in the said township came to the fore. They informed the VC and Municipal Commissioner Inderjeet Singh.

Senior officers of Urban and Housing Development department have also been informed about the racket. They will inspect the township and the adjoining farming area.

Mayawati demands justice for wrestlers

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

Bahujan Samaj Party chief Mayawati finally came out in support of protesting wrestlers on Monday. She urged the Central government to come forward and provide justice to the daughters amid the wrestlers’ protests in the national capital.

India’s Olympic medallist wrestlers Sakshi Malik, Bajrang Punia along with Vinesh Phogat and Sangeeta Phogat were detained by the Delhi police while attempting to march to the new Parliament building where the protesting wrestlers planned to stage a demonstration on Sunday.

“Indian daughters, who have brought laurels to India’s name in world wrestling, are forced to agitate, demanding action against the head of the Wrestling Federation of India for serious allegations of exploitation. The Central government must come forward to provide justice to these daughters,” former chief minister of Uttar Pradesh, Mayawati, tweeted.

Earlier on Sunday, the protesting wrestlers, who were trying to march towards the new Parliament building from their site of protest at Jantar Mantar, were stopped and detained by the security personnel in Delhi.



DCP (Sonapat East) Gaurav Rajpurohit had earlier said that “unsocial elements” would not be allowed to enter the national capital to ensure smooth conduct of the inauguration ceremony of the new Parliament building.

The wrestlers had announced that they planned to hold a women’s Mahapanchayat in front of the new Parliament building as part of their protest against Wrestling Federation of India (WFI) president Brij Bhushan Sharan Singh who has been accused of sexually harassing women wrestlers. Seven women wrestlers have filed a police complaint against him.

Delhi police have registered FIR against protest organisers and others in connection with a scuffle that broke out at Jantar Mantar on Sunday. The FIR has been filed under Indian Penal Code sections 147, 149, 186, 188, 332, 353, and Section 3 of the PDPP Act.

DC takes stock of ongoing work

Lucknow (PNS): Divisional Commissioner Roshan Jacob on Monday reviewed the work on Latouche road, Shivaji Marg, Shahnajaf road for drainage, duct, road repair and removal of electric poles, etc.

The commissioner said the remaining road construction and repair work should be completed before the onset of monsoon. Jal Nigam, PWD, and LMC should get rid of the problems immediately by conducting a joint survey to solve the problem of shops in whose basement water is leaking and collecting in the basement. She said all the roads would be inspected again next Monday. It was found that in the absence of dustbins in front of the shops on Latouche road, Shivaji Marg, the commissioner directed the officials of LMC to install dustbins.

सूचना

सूचित किया जाता है कि मैं आनन्द वर्धन पुत्र श्री विनेश कुमार सिन्हा पता 1/242 विराम खण्ड गोनली नगर, लखनऊ गृह ऋण का आवेदन किया है। जिसमें प्रथम एलाटी की लीज डीड नाम बिद्या देवी दिनांक 25/8/1990 खण्ड 352 पृष्ठ नं. 98/112 तथा क्रम नं. 33047 तथा श्री होल्ड डीड नाम बिष मोहिनी सिन्हा एवं आनन्द वर्धन 5.11.1998 पृष्ठ नं. - 377/388 क्र.सं. 9159 तथा सेल डीड 14 01 1998 पृष्ठ नं. - 327/340 क्रम नं. 265/98 मेरी सभी रजिस्ट्री सलमिनेशन किया हुआ है। किसी को कोई आपत्ति हो तो शाखा प्रबन्धक भारतीय स्टेट बैंक शाखा निशातनगर नो 9415341804 से 15 दिनों में सम्पर्क करें।

PARADIP PORT AUTHORITY

e-TENDER CALL NOTICE

No.: MD/SPG-12/2022/667 Date: 25.05.2023

Name of the Work: Supply of 01 no. Unmanned Aerial Vehicle (UAV) (Drone) System for ParadiP Port Authority including Installation, Commissioning, Certification, Test, Trial and Training for a period of Five years (Comprehensive Warranty of 02 Years + Annual Maintenance Contract for 03 Years) including Buy Back. Estimated cost: Rs.1,36,15,000/- Plus GST. Last date & time of submission of tender through on-line bidding is 15:00 hours on 01/20/06/2023. Technical Bids shall be opened at 16:00 hours on 01/20/06/2023. For further details, please log on to the Website: https://eprocure.gov.in/eprocure/app.

Sd/-Deputy Conservator, ParadiP Port Authority

PPA/PR/17/2023-24 dtd.29.05.2023

PARADIP PORT AUTHORITY

E & M DEPARTMENT

PLANNING & DESIGN CELL

No.-EMPD-11/2022/761 Date: 19/05/2023

COIRREGNOU-17

4th CORRIGENDUM to e-Tender Call Notice (CN) No. EMPD-06/2023 issued vide No. EMPD-11/2022/758, Dt. 14/02/2023 for the work "Implementation and Operation & Maintenance (O&M) of Port Access Control System".

(A) The date and time of submission of tender are hereby extended as per the following schedule: (i) Document download and date: 11/05/2023, 18:00 hrs., (ii) Bid submission and date: 11/06/2023, 18:00 hrs., (iii) Last date of submission of cost of tender document/tender fee through NEFT/RTGS as per Clause No. 17 of ITR: 11/06/2023, 18:00hrs., (iv) Bid opening date: 12/06/2023, 16:00 hrs.

(B) Clarification to the fresh queries received against Corrigendum - II are annexed as Annexure-I. No further query over the tender document and other details vide different Corrigenda published, shall be entertained hereafter for any clarification. Detailed Tender Document is available at the Website: https://eprocure.gov.in/eprocure/app for online bidding.

Sd/- Executive Engineer, Planning & Design Cell, Electrical & Mechanical Department

PPA/PR-16/2023-24 Date: 29/05/2023

Unprecedented work done in 9 yrs of Modi rule: Puri

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

Union Minister for Petroleum and Natural Gas and Housing and Urban Affairs, Hardeep Singh Puri, highlighted the achievements of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's nine-year tenure, saying works accomplished in the last nine years had been unprecedented since India's independence in 1947.

Addressing a press conference along with Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath on the achievement of nine years of the Central government, Puri emphasised the challenges faced during the COVID-19 pandemic in 2019 and how the government strengthened the healthcare sector, including vaccine manufacturing.

"During coronavirus period, when there was hardly any equipment and medicines to deal with the pandemic, India not only started making medical equipment but also gave free of cost vaccines to the countrymen and even exported vaccines to 130 countries," Puri said.

Highlighting the Swachhata Abhiyan carried forward by the prime minister, the Union minister said that the World Health Organisation in



its study claimed that at least three lakh deaths were avoided because of making India open defecation free (ODF)

Mentioning the role of Ujjwala scheme in changing the scenario of clean energy in the country, Puri said that there were 14 crore cooking gas connections in 2014 when the Modi government came to power and after the launch of Ujjwala scheme in 2016 by the prime minister the number of cooking gas connections in the country rose to more than 31.50 crore.

"India is a shining example of the work done in the field of biofuel under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi," the Union minister said.

Drawing a comparison between the works done in the

previous governments and the nine years of the Modi government, Puri said that there were 74 functional airports in the country in 2014 and during the nine years of the Modi government 74 new airports had become functional in the country.

Puri said, "India's GDP (gross domestic product) is currently \$3.8 trillion, with Germany and Japan slightly ahead. We will be the third-largest GDP country in the world in the next two years. We have set a target of a \$7-trillion economy by 2028 and a goal of reaching a \$28-trillion economy by 2040."

He also discussed the growth of capital expenditure, with a 30 per cent increase from the previous year to the current year, highlighting the development of airports, road networks and national highways. He emphasised that not only were airports becoming world-class, but railway stations were also being rejuvenated.

Besides Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath, Deputy Chief Ministers Keshav Prasad Maurya and Brajesh Pathak and BJP state president Bhopendra Singh Chaudhary were also present during the press conference.

4 killed in accident on Agra-Lko E'way

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

Four persons, including a couple, were killed in a mishap on Agra-Lucknow Expressway in Auraiya while a father-son duo were burnt alive after their motorcycle caught fire following a road accident in Basti.

According to reports, 55-year-old Krishna Murari of Shekhupur village under Ervakatra police station area of Auraiya, along with seven people, including his 52-year-old wife Asha Devi, 15-year-old daughter Shabnam, 19-year-old son Ramjeevan, came to Lucknow on Sunday to attend the wedding of a kin. They were returning home on Monday afternoon when the car driver dozed off at Sikrori village on Agra-Lucknow Expressway and the vehicle crashed into the road divider and overturned. Four people, including Krishna Murari and Asha Devi, died on the spot. The other two deceased could not be identified.

Three people were injured in the mishap and they were admitted to the government medical college hospital.

In Basti district, one Arvind Kumar, his 4-year-old son, Karthik, and one relative

were returning home after attending a wedding ceremony late Sunday night.

When they were passing through Pandul Ghat under Kaptanganj police station in the Basti, a speeding Bolero hit their motorcycle and dragged the trio for over 100 meters and the two-wheeler caught fire. While Karthik was burnt alive on the spot, critically burnt Arvind and his relative were rushed to the district hospital by the local police where Arvind was pronounced dead. The driver of the Bolero was arrested by the police.

Meanwhile in Etawah, two people were killed when their auto-rickshaw was hit by a bus in the Friends Colony area, police said on Monday. The accident occurred late on Sunday. The truck collided with the bus from behind due to which its driver lost control and hit the auto-rickshaw along with a motorcycle. Additional Superintendent of Police (City) Kapil Dev Singh said.

The victims were identified as Vivek Kumar (43) and Suresh (42). The drivers of both the bus and the truck fled after the accident, the police said. The injured were shifted to hospital and a probe is underway.



Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath paying tributes to former Prime Minister Chaudhary Charan Singh in Vidhan Bhawan premises in Lucknow on latter's death anniversary on Monday

2 kids sexually assaulted

Lucknow (PNS): A self-styled godman was arrested for allegedly trying to sexually assault a 10-year-old boy in the Bairia area of Ballia district, police said on Monday.

The incident took place on Saturday when Barmeshwar Verma (40) lured a boy and tried to sexually assault him, Circle Officer Mohammad Usman said. An FIR was lodged in this regard by the father of the victim on Sunday. Police later arrested the accused.

In a similar incident, a 12-year-old boy was sexually assaulted in Aurai area of Bhadohi district, police said on Monday. The police received information on Sunday about a child lying unconscious at a secluded place in a village. He was first taken to the nearby community health centre from

where he was admitted to the district hospital, Circle Officer Umeshwar Prabhat Singh said.

Preliminary investigations revealed that a 40-year-old auto-rickshaw driver, the brother of a village head, took the boy in his auto from Aurai intersection and sexually assaulted him after giving him some intoxicant, Singh said.

The boy's family members launched a search for him when he did not return home and found him lying unconscious, the police said.

After registering an FIR against the accused under relevant provisions of the law, he was arrested late on Sunday, police added. The boy, whose condition remains serious, has been referred to the trauma centre in Varanasi, Singh added.

Vishwakarma set to retire, UP may get officiating DGP

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

With just two days left for the retirement of Uttar Pradesh Director General of Police RK Vishwakarma, the state government is yet to announce his successor.

Vishwakarma is slated to retire on May 31.

According to top government sources, with many senior IPS officers slated to retire soon, the state government may have a few options to pick from the next DGP and is likely to once again go for appointing an officiating DGP instead of a permanent one.

The sources said that while the state government deliberates on the names, the key names, in terms of seniority, for the DGP post include DG

(Civil Defence) Mukul Goel, an IPS officer of 1987 batch who is stated to be the senior most IPS officer in the state; DG (Cooperative) Anand Kumar and DG (CB-CID) Vijaya Kumar.

Goel was unceremoniously removed as DGP by Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath on May 11, 2022, so even when he is scheduled to retire in February 2024, his name is out of the race.

Also senior IPS officer Anand Kumar is slated to retire in April 2024, but recently he too was removed from the post of DG (Jails) and posted as DG (Cooperative) so his chances are very remote.

It may be mentioned that Anand Kumar and Special Director General (Law and

Order) Prashant Kumar both come from Srivastava fraternity. If the government makes Anand Kumar the DGP, then Special DG (Law and Order) Prashant Kumar will have to be changed, but the government is not in a mood to do so.

On the other hand, if the government sees him as an officer suited for his postings, then Anand is most fit on that scale. Anand has held important posts like ADG (Law and Order) and DG (Prisons) for a long time. Those who understand the law and order and crime control of Uttar Pradesh very well are considered capable officers.

IPS officer Vijaya Kumar is scheduled to retire in January 2024 but his name is being discussed as being a Dalit, the gov-

The government may have a few options to pick from the next DGP and is likely to once again go for appointing an officiating DGP instead of a permanent one

ernment may go for him keeping in mind the next parliamentary elections. Kumar is also seen as close to the chief minister as he was posted for a long time in Gorakhpur. DG (Special Inquiry) Chandra Prakash, who was earlier in the

race, is to retire along with Vishwakarma on May 31. The other probables include DG (PTS) Anju Gupta, who is to retire in November this year.

Along with these three names, 1989 batch IPS officers Ashish Gupta, 1990 batch officer Renuka Mishra, BK Maurya and SN Sabat are also in line for DGP post. Speculations are rife in UP administration that with two DG-rank officers set to retire within a year and two Special DG-rank officers are likely to be elevated as DG and may even be named as the next DGP. In March this year, when the incumbent DGP DS Chauhan retired, speculations were rife that the new DGP would be picked from those who had over one year tenure left. But in a surprise move the

UP government announced to elevate six IPS officers of the additional DG rank to special DG rank. The state government later announced to pick RK Vishwakarma as the officiating DGP.

Once again the buzz is that none of the three senior most IPS officers are of the liking of the Yogi government. In such a situation, after the retirement of Vishwakarma, once again a temporary DGP may take charge of the state and Prashant Kumar can be made acting DGP. These speculations gain strength because in the past, the Yogi government has promoted Prashant Kumar to the post of Special DG and recently he was given additional responsibilities of many departments.

BJP conducting extensive survey in 'red zone' seats

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

In a bid to strengthen its political stronghold in Uttar Pradesh, the state unit of Bharatiya Janata Party has initiated an extensive survey in tough constituencies identified as 'red zone constituencies' to feel the mood of the people.

Based on the outcomes of the Lok Sabha elections in 2014 and 2019, the party has identified 16 crucial seats, including Ambedkar Nagar, Amroha, Jaunpur, Lalganj, Saharanpur, Shravasti, Azamgarh, Mainpuri, Rae Bareilly, Moradabad, Bijnor, Ghazipur, Ghosi, Rampur, Sambhal and Nagina.

"With a target of securing victory in all 80 parliamentary constituencies in the state, the BJP recognises the significance of understanding the reasons for previous defeats and devising effective strategies for future triumphs. Consequently, the party has taken the initiative to conduct an in-depth survey in the aforementioned red zone constituencies," a senior BJP leader told "The Pioneer" on Monday.

According to reliable sources in the party, in this on-going survey, the team members have adopted an

unconventional approach for data collection. Instead of officially introducing themselves in the respective districts, they are opting to engage with the local populace at various locations such as tea shops, government and private offices and parks, and interact with enlightened individuals, women and youth in accordance with predetermined guidelines.

The primary objective of these interactions is to glean valuable insights from the electorate regarding their grievances, concerns and aspirations. By engaging with people from different walks of life, the BJP aims to obtain a comprehensive understanding of the ground realities in each constituency, which will form the foundation of their survey.

The survey team members will meticulously record the opinions, feedback, and suggestions shared by individuals during these conversations. These valuable inputs will be analysed and incorporated in the survey report, enabling the BJP to develop effective strategies to address the issues raised by the electorate and enhance their chances of success in the upcoming elections.

"Party's decision to conduct such an extensive survey

demonstrates its commitment to grassroots democracy and inclusive governance. By actively seeking the opinions of citizens from diverse backgrounds, the BJP aims to foster a participatory political culture that reflects the aspirations and concerns of the people it aims to represent," a senior BJP leader said.

The survey process is expected to be carried out over the coming weeks, ensuring that every constituency in the red zone is thoroughly examined. The collected data and analysis will provide valuable insights for the BJP's leadership and campaign strategists, enabling them to tailor their approach and policies to resonate with the needs of the electorate.

As the BJP intensifies its efforts to secure a decisive victory in the forthcoming elections, the survey results from the red zone constituencies will play a crucial role in shaping the party's campaign and electoral narrative. With a meticulous focus on addressing past shortcomings and understanding the concerns of the electorate, the BJP is determined to emerge as the frontrunner in Uttar Pradesh's political landscape once again.

Akhilesh: BJP govt running away from caste census

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

Samajwadi Party president Akhilesh Yadav on Monday claimed that the Bharatiya Janata Party government in Uttar Pradesh was running away from caste census and asked if social justice was possible without it.

Yadav was speaking to reporters outside Tilak Hall in the state secretariat after casting his vote in the bypoll to two seats of Uttar Pradesh Legislative Council.

Akhilesh Yadav also alleged that many of his party MLAs were contacted for the legislative council bypolls and meetings were held with them.

Akhilesh Yadav also paid homage to former prime minister Chaudhary Charan Singh at his statue installed in Vidhan Bhawan.

"They are doing privatisation, recruiting people from the private sector in Central government services through lateral entry. They are running away from caste census. Is social justice possible without caste census? The BJP is running away from these questions," Yadav said.

He asked, "What are the achievements of the government? How many AIIMS has the government opened in the state? How many cities have been turned into smart cities? Expressways are being made by the National Highways Authority of India in the entire country; why is Uttar Pradesh not getting money?"

"The state quota of electricity for Uttar Pradesh has also not been increased by the Centre," He said.

Yadav alleged that the BJP was recruiting its workers in universities, taking away job opportunities from the peo-

ple.

"They are taking away the rights of the Dalits and the Backward Classes. They want to deprive them of the right they have got in the Constitution," he said.

Asked why the SP had fielded its candidates for the council by-election even when it lacked numbers, Akhilesh Yadav said his party had fielded two candidates, one from OBC and one from Schedule Caste, to expose the BJP which was claiming to be the messiah of the deprived sections of society.

Accusing the BJP of being anti-Dalit and anti-OBC, the SP chief said, "The BJP wants the support of the disadvantaged sections of society but is reluctant to give them their due share in power structure."

Later, addressing a meeting of the district presidents of the party at the state office of the SP, Akhilesh Yadav cautioned the party cadre over the misuse of social media. "The party leaders and cadres insert posts in social media against their own party leaders and make irresponsible comments. It is an act of serious indiscipline and the party will be forced to crack the whip and take action against such acts of indiscretion by the party cadre," the SP president said.

He also cautioned the party panelists appearing in debates on TV news channels to be responsible while keeping their view point on religious and other sensitive issues.

Akhilesh Yadav asked the party office-bearers to close their ranks and devote all their energies and resources for the crucial battle of 2024 Lok Sabha elections.

Orientation programme for Udyami Mitras begins

Lucknow (PNS): In another significant step towards facilitation of investment projects in Uttar Pradesh, the state government began the basic orientation programme for the candidates selected under Mukhyamantri Udyami Mitra Yojana at Panchayati Raj Training Institute here on Monday.

Arvind Kumar, advisor to the chief minister, and Abhishek Prakash, CEO of Invest UP, lit the ceremonial lamp to begin the training programme.

Starting Monday, this orientation programme will last for 14

days. During this period, 26 training sessions will be conducted, including introduction to various investment-oriented policies, rules, ease of doing business and different portals as well as visits to industrial areas.

Department-wise sessions have been scheduled, including flagship projects of the state government, such as making the state a trillion-dollar economy, defence industrial corridor along with sessions on revenue code, land bank and rates, allotment procedures, clearances, etc. CM Yogi Adityanath had issued

directions for the recruitment of Udyami Mitras to expedite the implementation of investment proposals worth over Rs 35 lakh crore received by the state government during the UP Global Investors' Summit 2023 and afterwards. In the introductory session, 'Destination Uttar Pradesh', Arvind Kumar apprised the newly selected Udyami Mitras of the comprehensive industrial ecosystem being developed by the state government as well as various reforms and policies announced to attract and facilitate investment in UP.

He also explained in detail the upcoming major infrastructure projects such as multi-modal logistics parks, pharma parks, dedicated freight corridor and six nodes of defence industrial corridor.

Arvind Kumar also gave an overview of the successful organisation of international and domestic roadshows followed by the UP Global Investors' Summit in February 2023 and the dedicated portals, such as single window Nivesh Mitra portal, investor relationship management system Nivesh Sarathi portal, and online

incentive management system developed for investor facilitation. CEO of Invest UP (the investment promotion and facilitation agency of UP government), Abhishek Prakash, made a detailed presentation on Uttar Pradesh's governance structure, constitutional setup, legislature, the secretariat and district and divisional administration. He said that the Udyami Mitras would be posted in districts wherein they would report to deputy commissioner, District Industries Promotion and Entrepreneurship Development Centres.



Lucknow Development Authority

(ISO 14001 : 2004, ISO 9001:2008 प्रमाणित संस्था)

प्राधिकरण भवन, सिद्धि लखु, मोरारी नगर, लखनऊ-226010 (उ.प्र.) दूरभाष: 0522-2302586, वेबसाइट: www.idaonline.co.in LkoDevAuthority@idaonline.co.in [LkoDevAuthority](https://www.facebook.com/LkoDevAuthority) [LkoDevAuthority](https://www.instagram.com/LkoDevAuthority) [LkoDevAuthority](https://www.youtube.com/LkoDevAuthority)

पत्रांक: 15ई-निविदा/मु030/2023-24

:- निविदा संशोधन सूचना :-

दिनांक: 29.05.2023

निविदा सूचना संख्या 06ई-निविदा/मु030/2023-24 दिनांक 29.04.2023 के माध्यम से आमंत्रित कार्य की निविदा हेतु ई-निविदा प्राप्त करने की अन्तिम तिथि एवं ई-निविदा खोलने की तिथि में निम्नानुसार संशोधन किया जाता है :-

| क्र.सं. | कार्य का नाम | अनुमानित लागत (रु. लाख में) | निविदा प्राप्ति की अन्तिम तिथि | निविदा खोलने की तिथि | कार्य पूर्ण करने की अवधि |
|---------|--|-----------------------------|--------------------------------|----------------------|--------------------------|
| 1. | लोहिया पथ कालीदास मार्ग चौराहे से डीडीजी पीठ चौराहे तक बायें ओर स्थित कच्चे नाले का पक्का निर्माण एवं उसके आसपास के क्षेत्र के विकास का कार्य। | 2060.80 | 29.05.2023 | 05.06.2023 | 29.05.2023 |
| | | | संशोधित | संशोधित | 06.06.2023 |
| | | | | | 09 माह |

अन्य नियम व शर्तें यथावत रहेंगी।

मुख्य अभियन्ता

| यूको बैंक UCO BANK | | |
|---|--|---|
| समान आपके विश्वास का Honours your trust | | |
| Zonal Office : 75/4, Siddhi Sadan, Halsey Road Near Badshahi Naka Police Station, Kanpur - 208001 e-mail : zokanpur.rec@ucobank.co.in | | |
| POSSESSION NOTICE (for immovable property) APPENDIX-IV (Rule – 8(1)) | | |
| Whereas, the undersigned being the Authorised officer of the UCO Bank under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act 2002 (54 of 2002) and in exercise of powers conferred under section 13(12) read with rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 issued Demand Notice dated (details mentioned here in below) calling upon the borrower(s)/guarantor(s) (details mentioned herein below) to repay the amount mentioned in the notice being (details mentioned herein below) within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said notice. The borrower(s)/guarantor(s) having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the borrower(s)/guarantor(s) and the public in general that the undersigned has taken possession of the property described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on him/her under Section 13(4) of the said Act read with Rule 8 of the said rules on this (details mentioned here in below) of the year (details mentioned here in below). The borrower(s)/guarantor(s) in particular and the public in general is hereby cautioned not to deal with the property and any dealings with the property will be subject to the charge of the UCO Bank, Phoolpur (2931) for an amount of (details mentioned herein below). The borrower's, legal heir's and/or guarantor's attention is invited to provisions of sub-section 8 of section 13 of the act in respect of time available to redeem the secured assets. | | |
| Name & Address of Borrower(s)/Guarantor(s) and Name of Related Branch | Description of Property & Possession Date | Balance O/S (Rs.) & Demand Notice Date |
| Borrower/Mortgagor/Guarantors/ Legal Heirs: 1) Smt. Anita Devi Legal Heir & W/o Late Mr. Kuldeep Kumar 2) Master Ani Kumar Legal Heir & Minor S/o Late Mr. Kuldeep Kumar (Through Smt. Anita Devi W/o Late Mr. Kuldeep Kumar Natural Guardian) 3) Miss Adika Legal Heir & Minor D/o Late Mr. Kuldeep Kumar (Through Smt. Anita Devi W/o Late Mr. Kuldeep Kumar Natural Guardian) 4) Master Deep Kumar Legal Heir & Minor S/o Late Mr. Kuldeep Kumar (Through Smt. Anita Devi W/o Late Mr. Kuldeep Kumar Natural Guardian) All Resident of -1, H.No. 8, Vill-Padriya, Post Uncha Tehsil and Thana-Ajtmal Distt.-Auraiya U.P.-206129 R/o-2, H.No. 16, O-Block, Ambedkar Puram Kalyanpur, Kanpur U.P.-208024 Guarantors: Shri Balveer Singh S/o Shri Ram Lal R/o H.No. 8, Vill-Padriya, Post-Uncha, Police Thana (Tehsil)-Ajtmal, Distt-Auraiya U.P.-206129 Branch Name: Phoolpur (2931) | All that part and parcel of the property consists of Land & Building (Residential) Measuring 250.929 sq. mtr. as per Bahi No. 1, Volume No. 4693, Page No. 167 to 226, Sl No. 10070, registered on 05.11.2014 at Sub-Registrar Auraiya Sadar Auraiya, situated at Arya Nagar ST Zone Academy Near Kali Mata Mandir Auraiya Pargana Distt.-Auraiya U.P.-206122 standing in the name of Mr. Kuldeep Kumar S/o Ram Lal resident of H.No. 8, Vill-Padriya Post-Uncha Police Thana (Tehsil)-Ajtmal Distt.-Auraiya U.P.-206129 Details of Boundries (As per deed): East : Gali Rasta 15 ft. Wide, West: Makan Deepu Gupta and Rekha Gupta, North: Makan Vinod Verma, South: Makan Mahesh Verma | Rs. 34,60,516.79 (Rupees Thirty Four lakhs Sixty thousand Five Hundred Sixteen and paise Seventy Nine only) as on 28.02.2023 + inclusive of interest upto 31.10.2022 |
| Date : 30.05.2023 | Place : Auraiya | Date of Demand Notice: 01.03.2023 Authorized Officer (UCO Bank) |

Decomposed body of youth recovered

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ KANPUR

Panic prevailed in Kachhpura locality of Bidhuna (Auraiya) when residents recovered the decomposed body of a youth from his room around 11 am on Monday. The youth had returned from Delhi from his elder brother Kalloo's house 20 days ago. He was last seen in the locality on May 24. Due to foul smell when the neighbours entered his house through the rooftop, they found the decomposed body of the youth identified as Sanket Kumar alias Lalla (34), son of late Sant Kumar Gupta. He was said to be addicted to

liquor. His mother Geeta Devi was living at her sister's place in Mainpuri for the past one-and-a-half months. His elder brother Kalloo lives in Delhi with wife and children. His maternal uncle Ramesh Chandra Gupta rushed to the spot and apprised his mother Geeta Devi and elder brother Kalloo about the incident. The police were also informed.

In another incident on the second day of his marriage, a youth committed suicide by hanging himself in his room in Machhraiya village under Talgram police area of Kannauj on Sunday night. He was immediately taken to the 100-

bedded hospital of Chhibramau where doctors declared him as brought dead. The police were trying to ascertain the cause of his committing suicide. The 'barat' of Manoj Yadav of Machhraiya village had gone to Devipurwa, Sadar Kotwali, Kannauj, on May 26. After the marriage it had returned on May 27. On May 28 night around 10 pm when his wife went to ease herself Manoj hanged himself. On return she found Manoj hanging and raised an alarm. The kin brought Manoj down and took him to a hospital where doctors declared him dead. Station

House Officer (SHO) Devesh Kumar Pal said the body was sent for an autopsy. Efforts were on to ascertain cause of the incident. The kin of the deceased were not in a position to divulge anything in the matter, he said.

In yet another incident a retired Galla Mandi inspector Hariram Sharma (62) committed suicide by hanging himself in Muskara, Hamirpur, on Sunday night. He had retired from the job in July 2022 and had been running from pillar to post to get provident fund, gratuity, insurance, bonus, arrears of Sixth Pay Commission and CPF. His son

Surya alleged that the secretary, mandi samiti was demanding 50 per cent commission from his father against release of provident fund. He was also threatening his father for implicating him in false departmental issues. This had upset his father and forced him to end his life, Surya alleged. The deceased also left a suicide note against secretary, mandi samiti. His son urged the SHO, Muskara police station, Brij Mohan for initiating stern penal action against the accused. The SHO said he had received the complaint and will initiate action in the matter.

Man duped of ₹5 lakh jewellery by tricksters

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ KANPUR

Three tricksters posing as cops duped a jeweller of jewellery worth ₹5 lakh in Govind Nagar police area. The police have started a probe into the matter with the help of CCTV footages. The victim was identified as Pradip Verma of Dabauli. He said on May 26 he was going to attend some urgent work when after moving ahead his scooty got punctured. While carrying the scooty on foot, two bike-borne youths stopped him who, posing as cops, asked to carry out a checking.

On asking about the reason they informed about their posting in the Narcotics department and alleged him to be involved in drug supply. On their not being in uniform, they showed their ID cards.

During the checking they got his chain and four rings off and after wrapping them in a piece of paper, asked him to keep them in the tool box of the scooty on the pretext of increasing incidents of loot in the city. On reaching home when the jeweller opened the paper, he found fake jewellery in it. The victim lodged a first information report (FIR) with the police.

Station House Officer (SHO) Dhananjay Pandey said tricksters were seen in action in the CCTV footages and raids were on to nail them.

WOMAN KILLED IN ACCIDENT: A woman was killed while three others,

including a child, were injured when a speeding truck knocked down their car on the Etawah-Chakeri highway under Sadar Kotwali police area of Auraiya on Monday afternoon. The injured were admitted to a hospital. Saroj Devi (62), wife of Mahavir of Kanabar Cheri, Bhind, along with younger son Pankaj (36), daughter-in-law Anita (40), wife of Sunil and son Nandu (4), residents of Umri, Bhind, had arrived to see an ailing relative, injured in a road accident in Ramadevi, Kanpur. On Monday around 1 pm, they proceeded for Bhind. In the meantime a speeding truck knocked down their car from behind near Karampur village in Sadar Kotwali police station area of Auraiya. The uncontrolled car climbed on the road divider and overturned which caused serious injury to all. The police got them admitted to a hospital where Anita (40) succumbed to her injuries during treatment. After some time, all the injured were referred to the Saifai Medical College.

Kotwali incharge Pankaj Mishra said kin of the injured had been informed about it and the body had been sent for an autopsy.

ENTRANCE TEST: The Registrar of Chandra Shekhar Azad University of Agriculture and Technology, Dr PK Upadhyaya, on Monday informed that the UP Combined Agriculture and Technology Entrance Test (CATET) 2023 will be held

simultaneously on two days--May 30 and 31 and this year the entrance examination was being conducted by Acharya Narendra Dev Agricultural and Technological University, Ayodhya. He said in Kanpur this examination will be held at six centres and on the first day it will be meant for graduate level where a total of 3,830 students will take part while on May 31 it was meant for post graduate and PhD students where 776 students will be appearing in the examination. He said a total of 101 students of MBA will be taking part in the examination. He said on Tuesday the exam will be held between 9.00 am and 12.00 noon at the centre while on May 31 the exam will be held between 3.00 pm and 5.00 pm.

He said elaborate arrangements had been done to conduct the examination smoothly and with full transparency. He said several visits to the centres were conducted on Monday to ensure that proper arrangements had been made for the examination. He said this entrance was meant for the admissions to four prominent agricultural universities of Uttar Pradesh.

He said necessary security arrangements had also been made to ensure that there was no untoward incident at the entrance examination centres. He said the students taking part in the examination were not allowed to carry their mobile phones inside the premises of the centres.

Training in advanced tech of waste water

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ KANPUR

Director of National Sugar Institute (NSI), Prof Narendra Mohan, while addressing the three-day training programme on "Advanced technology of waste water with respect to recycle, reuse of treated water" at the Institute on Monday stressed on the need for making sugar and alcohol units as zero fresh water consumption (ZFC) and zero liquid discharge (ZLD) units. He said the NSI had worked extensively on business model for sugar industry and now the stand alone sugar units are to be seen as complexes having sugar-alcohol-power generation units.

He said because of availability of significant quantities of water in sugarcane sugar factories generated lot of surplus water. He said by adopting advance technologies of Sulphate Removal System, Brine Recovery System, Rinse Water System and Reverse Osmosis and Ultrafiltration in combination with existing effluent treatment system, while part of the treated waste water can be reused in sugar and attached distilleries making them as ZFC and ZLD units. Prof Mohan said molasses based distilleries were already working on zero liquid discharge by adopting techniques of incineration, bio-com-



Director, NSI, Prof Narendra Mohan, lighting the lamp to inaugurate the three-day training programme on "Advanced technology of waste water with respect to recycle, reuse of treated water" on Monday.

posting and spray drying of the Seema Paroha, professor, effluent. Addressing the session Dr Biochemistry and programme con-

vener made a presentation about water management in molasses based distilleries by implementing the four R's — reduce, reuse, recycle and recover.

Assistant Professor of Sugar Engineering Anoop Kanaujia, delivered a lecture on "Waste to Energy by Spent Wash Incineration— A Technology". Spent wash, the effluent from molasses based distillery had reasonably good calorific value and after concentrating it can be used as fuel along with other fuels for steam and power generation. Others who spoke were SK Trivedi, assistant professor and Ashok Garg, assistant professor of Sugar Technology on topics related to current scenario of sugar production and on design aspect of effluent treatment plants (ETPs). Senior Instrumentation Engineer Virendra Kumar highlighted the role of online monitoring system in maintaining the quality of discharges.

The programme is being attended by the officers of Central and State Pollution Control Boards and has been designed to provide insight into the latest processing trends in sugar and alcohol units and advanced waste water treatment technologies to be adopted to minimise fresh water intake and effluent quantity.

Vaccination essential for keeping children healthy: Shah

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ KANPUR

Noted paediatrician Dr Nitin Shah, Hinduja Hospital, Mumbai, while addressing a seminar on flu vaccine on Sunday informed that vaccination was highly essential for keeping children healthy and alive. He said to keep them healthy immunisation was the most effective and cheapest means engendering the need for regular and timely vaccinations. He said by mandatory and timely vaccination over 15 lakh death of infants can be avoided across the world.

He said the Indian Academy of Paediatrics (IAP) had set up an ambitious, global vision for vaccines and immunisation for the decade 2021–2030. He said the strategy had been designed to



Noted paediatrician, Hinduja Hospital, Mumbai, Dr Nitin Shah addressing the IAP-K session on flu vaccine

respond to the interests of every country and intended to inspire and align the activities of community, national, regional and global stakeholders

towards achieving a world where everyone, everywhere fully benefits from vaccines for good health and well-being. Dr Shah said in the current

times influenza has emerged the most life threatening disease and it was a deadly respiratory virus which was caused due to influenza virus and its initial symptoms were fever, headache, vomiting and body ache. He said flu vaccines can vary from season to season and protection can vary depending on who was being vaccinated. He said, however, two prominent factors played an important role in determining the likelihood that vaccination will protect a child from flu illness like age and health.

He said flu vaccines can prevent adults also from being infected and they reduced the risk of going to doctors by over 60 per cent. He said it can also reduce the risk of flu-associated hospitalisation and it was an important preventive tool for people with certain chronic

health conditions. He said among people with diabetes and chronic lung disease, flu vaccination had been shown in separate studies to be associated with reduced hospitalisations from a worsening of their chronic condition.

Informing about that mandatory vaccines, he said that BCG, OPV, Hepatitis B, Pentavalent, rotavirus vaccine, PCV, IPV, measles/MR, JE, DPT and TT were highly essential. He said BCG, OPV and Hep B were among the first vaccines needed for newborn babies. He said later to follow were the vaccines for six month old babies like DTP, Hib, Rotavirus, etc.

Others present on the occasion were Dr VN Tripathi, Dr Devendra Awasthi, Dr Shailendra Gautam, Dr Anurag Bharti and Dr Arti Gupta.

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ VARANASI

To make 'sugam darshan' of Baba Vishwanath in Shri Kashi Vishwanath Mandir easier, the temple administration will make arrangement of a new system from June 15 under which the devotees will be provided Radio Frequency Identification (RFID) Card instead of slip with barcode which is applicable in the present time. With an aim to ensure the 'sugam darshan' (smooth darshan) for the devotees and also ensure their security, the temple administration has decided to issue RFID cards to the devotees from June 15 instead of slip with barcode which is applicable in the present time. After the implementation of the new system, the devotees will be under the vigil of the temple administration. After the activation of the card, the devotees will be allowed entry in the temple premises through gate number-4 and thereafter, the team of

temple administration will take them for the 'sugam darshan'. The devotees, who make booking for 'sugam darshan' online, will also be needed to get the card from the help desk of the temple. The RFID card will remain in effect for two hours. If this experiment remains successful, the temple administration will issue the same card to the employees, the people to stay at a guest house in the temple premises and owners of shops on the temple campus besides the devotees who go to the temple to worship every day. The aim of issuing the card is also to collect correct information about the number of devotees and so, it will also be easy to control them. The card will be issued from the help desk of the temple and as soon as the devotees enter the temple premises, the information about them will be transmitted to the control room in the temple premises through radio frequency. After having darshan, the devotees will be

required to return the card to the temple administration.

To issue the RFID card, the temple administration has installed a machine to generate it. The card reader will also be installed at the main entrance gate of the temple and in the temple premises through which, the information related to the card will be received. The timing and period of the darshan-pujan will be mentioned on the card and after the time is over, the card will be inactive. There is a chip in the card which will be connected with the server and so, a control room will be established for the purpose. There will be complete information about the devotees in the card with the photo. The temple administration decided to implement a new system because a contractual basis employee of the temple was caught issuing the fake slip of 'sugam darshan' by making a scan of the original slip and he cheated a number of devotees.

Two killed in road mishap

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ VARANASI

Two brothers met a tragic death when their motorcycle was hit by a truck near Mohansarai under Rohania police station on Sunday night. They belonged to Gaur Mirza Murad area but lived along with their family in Vishwanath Puri Colony in the city.

According to information, when the two brothers, Amit Kumar Mishra, 35, and Ashish Mishra, 28, were going to their ancestral village in Gaur Mirza Murad, their bike was hit by a truck near Mohansarai. Both of them died on the spot. Later, after receiving the information from some passers-by, the police reached the site. The

police also arrested the truck driver and seized the vehicle. On the basis of some documents recovered from the bodies, the police informed the family about the tragedy. After receiving the news, the family members rushed there and the police after completing legal formalities, sent the bodies for post mortem.

Stress on revising minimum pension amount

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ KANPUR

A meeting of the EPS-95 National Agitation Committee (NAC), Kanpur Division, was held at the Rawatpur Bus Stand on Sunday. Addressing the members, national advisor Rajesh Kumar Shukla said during the six years of their fight the government failed to increase the pension amount of around 70 lakh elderly pensioners so far. He threatened to intensify the agitation if the government failed to revise the minimum pension amount before monsoon. National Secretary and divisional president Om Shanker Tewari pressed for settlement of their four-point charter of demands and demanded payment of ₹5,000 per month pension besides free medical facilities to the elderly couple. Sunder Lal Pandey, Jai Singh Parihar, Sudha Nigam, Kripa Shanker Shukla, Sudhir Kumar Mishra, Ram Dayal Sharma, Puttu Singh Kushwaha and others addressed the gathering.

Seminar on prospects of Hindi journalism in modern context

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ VARANASI

Former Vice-Chancellor of Jai Prakash University, Chhapara Prof Harikesh Singh on Monday emphasised on having knowledge of letters

Malviya Institute of Hindi Journalism, Mahatma Gandhi Kashi Vidyapith (MGKV) on the topic of Prospects of Hindi Journalism in Modern Context. The journalism is like the way by which a mother nour-

recalled the Hindi newspapers which contributed a lot in generating consciousness among the masses about the freedom struggle and said that it is the responsibility of the journalist to

Institute Prof Anurag Kumar said that it was Hindi in which language the freedom fighters fought for the independence and the way which was adopted was the journalism. The post-emergency journalism recalled the journalism of pre-independence, he said and lamented that but we forgot even writing, speaking and even communicating in the present time. Hindi is the soul of the country but it was neglected, he lamented and said that we could not achieve anything unless and until we promote Hindi. Outlining the subject, the convener of seminar Dr Nagendra Kumar Singh emphasised on the use of Hindi everywhere and said that Hindi will get honour when we reply in our national language. Dr Vashisth Narayan Singh offered a vote of thanks. Akanksha and Rudrakant jointly conducted the proceedings. Saumya and Ashta presented a welcome song. Many were present on the occasion including Dr Jai Prakash Srivastava, Dr Sriram Tiwari, Dr Ravindra Pathak, Dr Jinesh, Mohammed Javed, Dr Devashish Verma, Shailesh Chaurasia and Anirudh Pandey.



Former V-C Jai Prakash University, Chhapara Prof Harikesh Singh speaking in a seminar organised by Mahamana Madan Mohan Malviya Institute of Hindi Journalism, MGKV on the eve of Hindi Journalism Day.

and also knowledge of own languages. He was expressing his views in a seminar held by the Mahana Madan Mohan

ishes her son and never learns wrong things, he said and added that there should be reliability and validity as well. He

protect the nation, protect humanity and intelligence. In his presidential speech, the Director of the

| इंडियन बैंक Indian Bank | | | | |
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| ALLAHABAD | | | | |
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| Appendix-V Under (RULE-8 (11) of Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 | | | | |
| POSSESSION NOTICE (Rule 8(1) for Immovable Properties) | | | | |
| Notice is hereby given under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement (Security) Interest Act, 2012 and in exercise of powers conferred under 13 (12) read with rule 3 of Security Interest Enforcement, Rules, 2002, the Authorised Officer issued a demand notice on the date against the borrower as mentioned hereinafter calling them to repay the amount within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said notice. The borrowers having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the under noted borrowers and the public in general that the undersigned has taken possession of the properties described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on him/her under section 13(14) of the said Act read with rule 8 of the said Rules on the dates mentioned against each Account. The borrower in particular and the public in general is hereby cautioned not to deal with the property/ies and any dealing with the property/ies will be subject to the charge of the Indian Bank Branch Fatehpur (Aunagar) for the amounts and interests thereon mentioned herein below. The attention of the borrowers detailed hereunder is invited to the provisions of sub-section (8) of section 13 of the Act, in respect of time available to redeem the secured assets | | | | |
| Sl. No. | Name of the Borrowers/Mortgagors/Guarantors | Description of Immovable Property | Date of Demand Notice & Possession Notice | Out Standing Amount (Intt. + other charge) |
| Branch: Gopiganj, Varanasi | | | | |
| 1. | 1-Borrower: Mr. Vikram Anand S/o Mr. Mangala Prasad, Add: Girdharpur, Taluka Kondh, Tehsil Gyanpur, Distt- Bhadohi- 221304 | Mortgaged Property: All that part and parcel of the property at Plot No. 138 alongwith construction situated at Mauza- Girdharpur, Pargana- Bhadohi, Tehsil- Gyanpur, Distt- Bhadohi, Area- 0.010 Hect. | 15.03.2023 | ₹ 21,01,189/- (Intt. + other charge) as on: 01/03/2023 |
| 2. | 2-Guarantor/Mortgagor: Mr. Mangala Prasad, Add: Girdharpur Gyanpur Bhadohi- 221304 | Boundaries: East- Gyanpur Gopiganj Road, West- Indrawati Uchoh Madhyamik Vidyalaya, North- House Of Maggan Lal, South- House of Jay Mangal Prasad Rawat | 24.05.2023 | |
| 3. | 3- Guarantor: Mrs. Raj Kumari W/o Mr. Mangala prasad , Add: Girdharpur Gyanpur Bhadohi - 221304 | | | |
| Date : 30.05.2023 Place : Varanasi Authorised Officer, Indian Bank | | | | |

Varanasi best in UP in eSanjeevani

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ VARANASI

Varanasi is the best place in the state in eSanjeevani Telemedicine Service as more than 1.5 lakh people got health benefits in the last three years. “The service is available at 220 Ayushman Bharat - Health and Wellness Centres (HWCs) of the district and eSanjeevani has become a boon for people,” said the Chief Medical Officer (CMO) Dr Sandeep Chandaury.

According to the CMO, the sub-centre level HWCs established in remote areas are playing an important role in providing medical and health services to the community. “From April 2020, eSanjeevani telemedicine was started at the HWCs of the district, which is proving to be a boon for the people close to home. As a result of this, in the last three years, more than 1.5 lakh people have been given the benefits of eSanjeevani at the HWCs and with this achievement, Varanasi has secured the best position in the state,” said the CMO.

The CMO said that all primary health and check-up facilities are being provided at the sub-centre level HWCs so that people can get medical and health benefits near their homes and eSanjeevani telemedicine service is also very much liked by the people as they get instant consultation of diseases or other health problems from eminent doc-



An old lady getting eSanjeevani telemedicine counselling at a HWC in Varanasi.

tors and specialists near their homes. “Presently 220 HWCs are being operated in the district. One Community Health Officer (CHO) is posted at each centre. All these centres are connected to more than 100 government medical units in the district. It also includes all block level PHCs, CHCs, district hospitals and BHUs. The doctors and specialists of the hospitals tell the solutions to all their problems as per the requirement of the patients coming to the OPD of the HWCs,” he said, congratulating all the CHOs, doctors for get-

ting the best position in the state and motivated them to provide similar services in future as well.

Nodal Officer Dr Yatish Bhuvan Pathak said that eSanjeevani telemedicine was started in April in 2020, so only 1,007 patients got benefited during that year but in 2021, as many as 7,177 patients got benefited whereas in 2022 the graph has increased to 33,565 and in the year 2023 till now 1.15 lakh patients have been provided health benefits through eSanjeevani telemedicine. “Since April 2020, till

now 1,57,548 people have been given benefits,” he said, praising the efforts of all CHOs.

He informed that the medical officer of CHC Misirpur, Dr Abhishek Bhardwaj has the best performance in eSanjeevani telemedicine service as he has so far given medical and health counselling to 16,079 people. District Community Process Manager (DCPM) Ramesh Prasad Verma said that the government is making continuous efforts to ensure that all people at the community level get medical and health benefits.

Kalash shobha yatra taken out

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ VARANASI

On the auspicious occasion of Mahesh Navami, a grand kalash shobha yatra was taken out from Dashashwamedh Ghat on behalf of Maheshwari Samaj here on Monday. After passing through Godowlia, Bansphatak and Kotwalpura, the procession reached Shri Kashi Vishwanath temple where the participants offered prayers to Lord Mahesh (Lord Shiva). They offered gangajal, milk and flowers. Then the people of the Maheshwari Samaj, including a large number of women, took out a grand kalash shobha yatra.

In the shobha yatra, UP Minister of State, (Independent Charge) Dr Dayashankar Mishra ‘Dayalu’ joined as the chief guest. On the occasion, the Minister appreciated Maheshwari Samaj’s leading role in the development of Kashi and social service. He said that he was happy to join the kalash yatra which was taken out this year like the previous year to offer ‘jalabhishek’ and ‘rudrabhishek’ to Lord Shiva.

Earlier, when the procession reached the gate of Shri



UP Minister Dayashankar Mishra ‘Dayalu’ joining Kalash Shobha Yatra of Maheshwari Samaj in Varanasi on Monday.

Kashi Vishwanath Dham, the participants raised traditional slogans of ‘Har Har Mahadev’ and ‘Om Namah Shivay’. The participating men were seen in kurta-pajamas, while women in saffron sarees. Speaking on the occasion, Minister’s PRO Gaurav Rath said that Maheshwari Samaj has created

its own unique identity in the country as well as in the world by its works. He said that this day is celebrated by the Maheshwaris as the day of their origins.

Among those present in the procession were Govind Bajaj, Jagdish Rath, Virendra Bhuradia, Shankar Lal Somani,

Mangilal Sarda, Lala Chandak, Rajesh Dhoot, Dhiraj Malla, Rakesh Darak, Shravan Karwa, Giriraj Kothari, Rajesh Gattani, Indu Chandak, Ashish Rathi Bharti Karwa, Ranjana Mundhra, Savita Rathi, Pratik Mundhra, Krishna Kumar Kabra, Navneet Kothari, Sushil Damani and Utkarsh Maloo.

CM may launch water taxi project on June 15

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ VARANASI

As the arrival of tourists has increased sharply through flights, trains and road transport since the inauguration of Shri Kashi Vishwanath Dham where an average one lakh devotees are offering prayers almost daily, the central and state governments as well as local administration have made all the possible steps to facilitate the tourists. In this direction, water taxi facilities are likely to be started from June 15 and it is expected that the Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath may launch the

same. The work on the rope-way project has already started in the city in full swing.

These water taxis are likely to be available from Namoh Ghat and Ramnagar. Namoh Ghat is one of the ‘dream project’ of Prime Minister Narendra Modi in his parliamentary constituency where a CNG filling station has been established. Located in the north of the city near historic Rajghat bridge (Malviya bridge), after the completion of first phase, Namoh Ghat has become one of the most favourite picnic spots not only for the locals but also for the tourists. The work on the sec-

ond phase there is going on in full swing. Two helipads are also being made there for the visitors. Ramnagar is a place in the southern part across the river Ganga where the terminal of inland waterways transportation has been set up.

According to information, the operation of water taxis would be looked after by the Transport department and by taking taxis the visitors may go to different ghats including Manikarnika, Lalita, D a s h a s h w a m e d h, Harishchandra, Assi and Ravidas easily. Out of these, Manikarnika and Harishchandra are famous

mythological cremation ghats where the Hindus from adjoining areas come for consigning the bodies into the flames. Besides, top dignitaries also visit the city for immersion of Asthi (mortal remains) of their loved ones.

According to information, as many as 10 water taxis have already been brought to the city and it is expected that their operation will reduce the traffic load on the city roads. The tourists can easily reach Shri Kashi Vishwanath temple from its river side ghat (Ganga Dwar) by taking water taxis from Namoh Ghat where they can reach by vehicles directly.

Kerala students watch Ganga aarti

VARANASI (PNS): A group of students from Indian Institute of Technology (IIT), Palakkad and other engineering colleges of Kerala and Lakshadweep visited the city and they watched the famous Ganga aarti at Dashashwamedh Ghat here on Sunday evening. Earlier, they also visited different places including Banaras Hindu University (BHU) and enjoyed boating. They also visited Shri Kashi Vishwanath Dham and other places in the city. They were a part of ‘Yuva Sangam’ which is being organised in the country to promote cultural exchange in North and South India under the Government of



India’s campaign of ‘Ek Bharat Shreshtha Bharat’. In the recent time, through various programmes, the people of different sections of Tamil and Telugu speaking areas also visited this holy city.

The group of about 50 students and teachers from various engineering colleges from

Kerala and Lakshadweep were shown the documentary of university’s founder ‘Bharat Ratna’ Mahamana Madan Mohan Malviya at Malviya Mulya Anushilan Kendra in BHU. They also watched a picture gallery on Mahamana. The coordination of this group of students and teachers was

done by Prof HK Pandey of MNNIT (Prayagraj). Welcoming the guests, the Dean of Students, BHU, Prof Anupam Kumar Nema highlighted the achievements of BHU where a good number of southern states come to study since its inception.

Coordinator of the Malviya Mulya Anushilan Kendra Prof Sanjay Kumar threw light on the contributions of Mahamana. He also highlighted the achievements of BHU. On the occasion, the visiting students expressed immense happiness after seeing the photo gallery and documentary.

Atiq gang members demand goonda tax

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ PRAYAGRAJ

The henchmen of slain Atiq Ahmad and Ashraf are still active and busy in extracting goonda tax. A case has come to light where Noor Akhtar, brother of Rukhsana, an important witness of the BSP MLA Raju Pal murder of 2005, was allegedly asked to pay Rs 50 lakh as goonda tax by Mubarak, Sharafat, Ishrat and Arbaz, active members of Atiq gang.

An FIR has been lodged against them under Sections 323, 386, and 506 of the IPC against Mubarak, Sharafat, Ishrat, and Arbaz at Kareli police station here. The incident had reportedly happened in Buximodha area under the Kareli police station some times ago, but the FIR has been lodged by Noor Akhtar now.

All the four against whom FIR has been lodged were actively associated with Atiq gang and were engaged in illegal plotting of land. Their houses had been demolished by the Prayagraj Development Authority a couple of years ago owing to their strong connection with the Atiq gang. They were of the view that the PDA initiated action against them on a complaint lodged by Noor Akhtar. Noor and the above persons did not enjoy good relations owing to sand mining differences. The FIR says that the above four intercepted

Noor, beat him up and allegedly demanded Rs 50 lakh as goonda tax at Buximodha in Kareli. An advocate of Atiq Ahmad had also threatened a ply wood trader and had demanded a goonda tax of Rs 3 crore recently.

ONE DROWNS: Two cousin sisters slipped into deep waters of the Yamuna here on Monday morning. The body of one of them could be fished out. The incident took place around 8.00 am at Gaila Gram Samaj Ghat of Naudihia Taraha under Lalapur police station. Jagriti (14), daughter of Deep Dwivedi and Pari from Kallu Pradhan’s family reached the ghat on Monday morning with younger brother. They chose a

lonely place away from the crowd to enter the river. The younger brother was sitting on the ghat. Suddenly he saw the girls drowning. He raised an alarm and went to the ghat where dozens of persons were present. He told them about the incident and the villagers jumped into the river to save the girls, but could find the body of Jagriti about 500 metres away from the spot after some time, but Pari could not be traced. The villagers and police reached the spot and fishing nets were used to trace Pari but to no avail.

The family of the girls belong to Raipur and had come here to the enjoy summer vacations.

FIR against block pramukh

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ PRAYAGRAJ

An FIR has been lodged against Samajwadi Party leader and block pramukh from Kaurihar, Muzaffar, who allegedly smuggles cow to other states. A farmer from Kaushambi Ramjeevan told the police that he had been allegedly intercepted by Muzaffar and his brothers on Sunday while going towards the city on a motorcycle. He was beaten up brutally and a goonda tax of Rs 1 crore was demanded by Muzaffar and his brothers who had arrived on a four-wheeler.

Asha Devi, wife of Ramjeevan had a plot of 8,320 square metres in Ahmadpur Pawan. It is alleged that the same had been grabbed by Muzaffar and his brothers in 2008 and a brick kiln was started there. Ramjeevan kept on lodging complaints against Muzaffar and his brothers, but no action was initiated against

these influential persons.

Last year he met the ADG Zone Prem Prakash and he listened to him patiently to know as to what actually had happened. The ADG Zone directed the Puramufti police of Kaushambi to register a case and initiate action accordingly. Ramjeevan’s land was freed from the clutches of Muzaffar, and was handed over to him. Since then the farmer is allegedly being threatened and harassed particularly after Muzaffar came out of the jail on bail.

Ramjeevan has named Muzaffar, Akaram, Ashraf, Javed, Azam and others in the FIR and had stated that an attempt was also made on his life, but the pistol misfired. They left the place demanding Rs 1 crore.

DETAINED: Five students were detained in a hotel in Civil Lines area and were beaten up black and blue allegedly by the hotel staff.

The students were also deprived of their mobile phones, gold chain and rings, the complaint reads.

A hotel situated in Civil Lines was visited by five students who had to celebrate birthday of one of them, Vikas Kumar Pal of Jhalwa area. His friends who visited the hotel included Mohit Yadav, Amit Thakur, Utkarsh Verma, and Nipun Sonkar.

On some issue the students clashed with hotel employees, but things calmed down and they enjoyed the party. When they left the place and came down from a lift they found the main entrance of the hotel locked and within no time the its employees surrounded them, attacked them with iron rods and other things usually used in kitchen.

Vikas alleged that the hotel employees snatched their mobile phones and valuables, including chain

and rings. When they came out the students used the phone of a passerby and dialed 112 to call police. According to Vikas the employees handed over phones to them, but other valuables were not returned. The Civil Lines police are going through the CCTV footage of the incident before initiating any action.

IT RAID ON EXCISE DEPT OFFICER’S OFFICE, RESIDENCE: The Income Tax sleuths raided the office and residence of Sabhajeet Verma, technical officer at Excise department headquarters here.

Verma has been detained in his chamber and no outsider is allowed to enter the Excise department office.

It is learnt that Pankaj Verma had lodged a complaint against Sabhajeet with some proof which prompted the IT department to conduct this raid.

Varanasi Nagar Nigam to desilt all drains before rainy season

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ VARANASI

Varanasi Nagar Nigam (VNN), which got a new Mayor and 100 corporators who assumed their offices just a few days ago, claimed that all the drains in the city will be desilted before the start of rainy season. Despite all the tall claims, this parliamentary constituency of Prime Minister Narendra Modi faces huge water-logging problems during the rains almost every year.

Additional Municipal Commissioner claimed about the cleansing drains while replaying in relation to the filth filled in the drain built from Lanka to Bhagwanpur Marg. According to him, the cleansing of small drains is being done by the Health department of the Nagar Nigam and for the desilting work of 96 big drains, the General Engineering Department has already completed the tender procedures of 72 drains, while in case of the 24 remaining drains, the tender work is in process and it will be completed by

June 2. Meanwhile, the General Manager of Jalkal, a part of Nagar Nigam, said that in view of the upcoming rainy season, the work of desilting has already been started by the department and on receipt of complaint of sewer overflow, he said, adding that the complaints of sewage and drinking water are redressed in a timely manner in the city.

According to Jalkal General Manager, regular cleaning of sewer lines and drainage points is done and in view of the upcoming rainy season, the work of sewer line desilting is done by preparing an action plan. The complaints related to sewage and drinking water received from the area are disposed of in time. He also claimed that there is no problem of sewer overflow in Navapura and Hanuman Phatak areas at present.

The General Manager further informed that Madhauri, Phulwaria,

Sandhan, Tarna, Seer Govardhanpur, Ramdattapur, Ledhupur, Lohta, Kandwan, Lalpur, Meerapur Basahin, Susuwahi, Pisaur, Salarpur and Ramrepur come under the newly incorporated area of the Nagar Nigam jurisdiction and for complete coverage of drinking water supply in these areas, Uttar Pradesh Jal Nigam has made a proposal and forwarded it in AMRUT 2.0 scheme. After approval, the work of the drinking water project will be done and after the completion of the project, the newly included areas will be completely covered with drinking water supply, he added.

According to him, presently single and village group drinking water schemes have been operated in these areas to supply water. He also informed that the work of repairing the leakage of sewer and drinking water pipes in Tulsipur, Kakarmatta, Birdopur, Bhelupur, Shivala, Ghasiyaritola, Pitarkunda, Varunapar, Ramapura etc is done regularly. He said that

for the newly included areas Sujabad, Chhittipur, Shivdaspur, Salarpur, Manduadih etc which have been included in Nagar Nigam recently, a proposal has been made and included in the AMRUT 2.0 scheme. After approval, the work in this direction will be done. However, at present, as soon as the complaint of sewer overflow and pipeline leakage is received, the work of disposal is done.

The General Manager also informed that one mini tube well was installed near Dulli Gadhni in Adampur zone but the bore of the tube well became unusable due to presence of gravel sand and soil. However, he said that in order to keep drinking water supply smooth in the areas related to Saeed Juma Masjid, Dulli Garhi and surrounding areas, water supply is done by the Jalkal department through other sources from Maidagin, Nimitala Mini Tubewell, Peelikothi PS Tubewell etc and now there is no problem of drinking water in the said areas, he claimed.

DRM administers oath to employees

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ VARANASI

Divisional Railway Manager (DRM) Ramashray Pandey administered oath to about 250 officers and employees working at Varanasi Division office of North Eastern Railway (NER) here on Monday and appealed to all to live on the basis of our traditions and values of conservation and moderation through a mass movement for Mission Life (Lifestyle for Environment) as a tool to combat climate change taking place in the environment.

The campaign is being launched with the aim of promoting and adopting a healthy and sustainable way of living.

Under the Mission Life campaign in this NER division, the passengers are being motivated to adopt an eco-friendly lifestyle and save natural resources.

On the occasion, ADRM (Operation) Gyanesh Tripathi, Senior Divisional Mechanical Engineer



DRM Ramashray Pandey administering oath under Mission Life in Varanasi on Monday.

(SEME/EnHM) Alok Kesharwani, Senior Divisional Finance Manager (SDFM) Preeti Verma, Senior Divisional Signal and Telecom Engineer Rajat Priya, Senior Divisional

Electrical Engineer (SDEE/General) Pankaj Kesharwani, Senior Divisional Electrical Engineer (Traction) RN Singh, Senior Divisional Electrical Engineer

(SDEE/Operation) Anil Srivastava, Divisional Personnel Officer (DPO) Vivek Mishra and other officers and employees of the divisional office were present.

FIRST COLUMN

DIGITAL TECHNOLOGY
IN EDUCATION SECTOR

Quality education can be imparted with digital ecosystem and better resource allocation



RAJESH KUMAR SINGH

The role of digital technology in education is increasingly becoming crucial globally, as it provides new and innovative forms of support to students, teachers, parents, and the learning process more broadly. The Covid pandemic has made this process much faster, relevant and robust. By deploying remote learning technologies through a combination of TV, radio, online and mobile platforms, a large number of institutions were able to cater to the educational needs of their students. The G20 Education Working Group Meeting on 'The Role of Digital Technologies in Education' comes as a key development in this regard, highlighting a slew of present and prospective technological measures. Identification of core areas and themes to promote possible research and academic collaboration among educational institutions in G20 member countries, is a huge development, as the group comprises some of the most developed countries of the world, who use world-class research, innovation and cutting-edge technologies in this domain.

The selection of priority areas for deliberations such as 'Foundational Literacy and Numeracy', 'Tech-enabled learning', 'Future of work' and 'Research and innovation collaboration', - broad-based discussions with enriching inputs from sectoral experts. There is little doubt that during the past few years, G20 countries have made significant progress in expanding the use of digital technologies for improving access to quality education, however, the sharing of more tangible and effective educational practices and experiences did help recognize where participating countries are and what they need to improve upon. Here, we can



collaborate to leverage technology further to achieve some common educational goals, as we still confront a lot of challenges in the process, especially when it comes to ensuring quality learning opportunities for all along with improving learning outcomes.

What the world including some of the G20 countries, need is accessible, inclusive and equitable school education, higher education and skill development. It is digital technologies that can bring parity in the quality and accessibility of education at all levels. For example, India has around 1.48 million schools, 265 million school students and nearly 9.5 million teachers, with more than 20 regional languages as medium of instruction alongside 62 educational boards of instruction across the country. Moreover, lakhs of students received their higher education in different languages. In such a case, only digital technology can be expected to provide equitable and inclusive education, as a lot of content and expert teachers are still not available in regional languages.

Hence, the union budget 2023 emphasises much on digitisation of education. The Digital India programme has received Rs 4,795.24 crore, and to boost digital infrastructure, the government has proposed initiatives like Digital Libraries and Digital Universities. States have also been urged to set up physical libraries at panchayat levels to provide infrastructure for accessing the National Digital Library resources. Digital initiatives with a focus on artificial intelligence terming it a step towards the 'digital revolution', have been hailed by all. Three centres of excellence for AI and 100 laboratories in engineering institutions for developing applications using 5G services, will only add to this process of digital revolution. Digital Universities aim to reach out to the remotest regions of the country with quality, skill-based and job-oriented courses and training. With the focus of the budget being on expanding reach, improving quality education, building capacity and strengthening the digital education ecosystem, we can now expect to have a world-class school and higher education system, which would be accessible to all.

(The writer is a senior journalist)

Nine years of inclusive progress

Prime Minister Modi has laid the ground for the 'Amrit Kaal' and his era would be remembered for putting the country in the fast lane



SUMET BHASKIN



The ninth anniversary of the National Democratic Alliance (NDA) government is an occasion to celebrate the successes of statecraft passionately demonstrated by Prime Minister Narendra Modi in action with visible and verifiable impacts on the ground. PM Modi has also shown that decisive mandates deliver decisive governments. Political pundits must examine the achievements of the Modi government by dropping their coloured lenses to codify the messages for all the political parties in the larger interests of the country.

Memory will certainly not fail to recall the days of 2012-14 when a maverick activist held a kangaroo court at Jantar Mantar to accuse and abuse each and everyone in politics. The Arvind Kejriwal tribe attacked the very institution of democracy by raising doubts in the minds of the people about the political class. He poured a truckload of muck on the participants of Indian democracy.

The first task of PM Modi was to restore the trust of the people in the Indian democracy. This was done in record time, as the Jantar Mantar tribe shut their shops and also joined politics. The record turnout of the voters in the Lok Sabha and Assembly elections demonstrates that PM Modi has restored the trust of the people in the Indian democracy fully. Now, no one abuses Indian democracy. Taking inspiration from PM Modi, youngsters are quitting even high-paying jobs to join politics.

The greatest tribute to the nine years of PM Modi's achievements as head of the government will be on the count of financial inclusion of over 48 crore people in the banking system of the country. The over one-third population of the country was not seen as worthy to be part of the formal economy by the Congress-led UPA government.

These 48 crore people were pushed into the informal economy and also at the risk of losing their hard-earned money to chit funds and other financial fraudsters while also being vulnerable to the moneylenders. For the economists of the Congress pedi-



IF THE SOCIAL SECTOR GAINS FROM THE CARING TOUCH OF THE MODI MODEL OF GOVERNANCE, THE ECONOMY HAS TO LIE ON FIRM LEGS TO RUN THE GROUND FULL STEAM TO ATTAIN THE \$5 TRILLION TAG IN THE NEXT FEW YEARS AND ALSO CLAIM THE STATUS OF THE FOURTH LARGEST ECONOMY

(The author is a policy analyst)

gree, these 48 crore people were not deserving of being part of the economy.

When they joined the Indian financial system on the call of PM Modi for their inclusion, they brought a whopping Rs1.90 lakh crores in deposits to the banking system. The Modi model of the economy must be studied by all, as the gains of financial inclusions were not limited to the beneficiaries of the Jan Dhan Scheme but even the banks, which have been reporting record profits while also meeting all norms of healthy banking norms.

PM Modi brought empathy for the poor, women and the people at large in his caring statecraft. He brought the policy attention to areas that were never paid attention to. His first term addressed the dignity of women in the country, who had for ages been going in the darkness for toilet needs. According to the topmost priority to making India a defecation-free country, more than 11 crore toilets have been built in the country.

By sanctioning over four crores of houses under Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana, the Modi government has brought unprecedented changes for the better in the life of the people. Shelter and sanitation have been the hallmark of the Modi model of statecraft with empathy for the vulnerable sections of society. It should be examined why the Congress-led governments never thought of addressing the basic issues that concerned the well-being of the rural and the poor people.

BY ensuring sanitary napkins for Rs 1, the Modi statecraft showed that the well-being of the people is at the core of the governance. This was again seen when once in a century pandemic struck the country. PM Modi first ensured that none in

the country slept hungrily. His intervention to protect the people from hunger saw the launch of the Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Anna Yojna for 80 crore people free of cost, and 1121 lakh metric tonnes of foodgrains were made available to the population so that they could meet the hardships caused by Covid-19 outbreak. Access to potable water is needed to safeguard the health of the people and save them from water-borne diseases. It will be a task for the economists to measure the savings for the people on their out-of-pocket expenses due to the expanding coverage of tap water in homes.

Har Ghar Jal (Jal Jeevan Mission) is another example of the Modi government thinking of the well-being of the people, as more than eight crore rural households with more than 40 crore people have benefitted under the programme.

Har Ghar Bijli (Saubhagya Yojana) also saw close to three crore households getting electrified under the scheme, covering over 99.9 per cent of the total households in the country. By March 2023, over nine crores of LPG connections were sanctioned under Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana, fulfilling the promise of a 'Har Ghar Gas Cylinder'. This again bears the Modi model of economy's concerns that the policies should think of the wellbeing of the people, as it served to protect the women from kitchen smoke. Once more the women in the country because of the policy intervention of the Modi government were protected from ailments due to exposure to kitchen smoke.

Under Pradhan Mantri Mudra Yojana (PMMY), close to 41 crore loans have been sanctioned since the launch of the scheme. Also, there has been a growth of more than 200 per cent in digital payment

volume during the last four years since 2018-19. UPI transactions alone have grown eight times in the last three years, which is 50 times in the last four years.

With over 41 crore people in India exiting poverty between 2005-06 and 2019-20 due to the committed efforts of the Modi government, we are today on track to eliminate extreme poverty by 2024.

If the social sector gains from the caring touch of the Modi model of governance, the economy has to lie on firm legs to run the ground full steam to attain the \$5 trillion tag in the next few years and also claim the status of the fourth largest economy. The economy is making good use of the extraordinary expansion of infrastructure, spanning roads, ports, waterways and airports, which hastened the making of a well-knit Indian economy with faster movements of goods.

On the security front, the Modi government has an unparalleled track record of almost terrorism-free track record. Also, India has made its border infrastructure robust with accelerated developments in states with long border regions. North-eastern states are well-connected with all parts of India. Now, there is no reason in the country, which is without being connected with major cities in the country. This has been shown to the delegates who are taking part in several meetings of the G20 all across the country.

By committing Rs 2.50 lakh crore for the railway infrastructure, the Modi government has brought much-needed energy and capacity to the national transporter, which carries the size of the population of Australia daily. It must be underlined that the Modi Era has laid the grounds for the 'Amrit Kaal' for India.

NITI Aayog must be revived for better Centre-State relations

PM Modi is facing united opposition from the non-BJP-ruled states. They have been ganging up against him despite their political differences

One of the first things Prime Minister Narendra Modi did soon after assuming office nine years ago was dismantling the Planning Commission with a legacy of 65 years and setting up the Niti Aayog in January 2015. Even as the chief minister of Gujarat earlier, Modi had some ideas for a stronger Centre-State relationship and reforms. He hoped that Niti Aayog would strengthen this relationship.

However, Modi still faces Opposition from the non-BJP-ruled states. They have been ganging up against him due to their political differences. The new chief minister's club is growing by the day as they work in tandem.

Unsurprisingly, acting as a pressure group, some non-



KALYANI SHANKAR

(The writer is a senior journalist)

BJP chief ministers had boycotted Saturday's Niti Aayog meeting addressed by Modi. The conference's theme was "Viksit Bharat @2047: Role of Team India." These chief ministers could have participated and discussed 100 issues identified for the session. Instead, they stayed away.

Nineteen Opposition parties also boycotted the inauguration of the new Parliament building on May 28. They held that President Draupadi Murmu and not Modi should have that honour. Those who boycotted included Mamata Banerjee (West Bengal), Arvind Kejriwal (Delhi), Ashok Gehlot (Rajasthan), K. Chandrababu Naidu (Telangana), Bhagwant Mann (Punjab), Nitish Kumar (Bihar), M.K.

Stalin (Tamil Nadu), Pinarayi Vijayan (Kerala), and Naveen Patnaik (Odisha).

The last name was a surprise addition as Patnaik had been keeping equidistance from both Congress and BJP. He is said to have been upset that President Draupadi Murmu, hailing from Odisha, had not been invited to the inauguration of the new Parliament. K.C. Rao skipped the Niti Aayog meeting even last year. Having a running battle with the Centre, he claimed, "Chief Ministers do not get enough time to speak, and after a few minutes, a bell rings saying you should stop now."

Mamata Banerjee wanted a revival of the Planning Commission instead of Niti Aayog, which she called a "paper tiger". Other chief ministers

gave some excuses for their absence, like prior engagements. It was clear that they worked in tandem.

It is not the first time such boycotts have taken place. Even during the Indira Gandhi era, late Andhra Pradesh chief minister N.T. Rama Rao walked out of the National Development Council protesting against the Centre. Doyens like the late Jyoti Basu, Ramakrishna Hegde and others, too, had walked out of the NDC meetings. As for Saturday's Aayog meeting, should the chief ministers have shown their anger by boycotting it, or should they have participated and explained their misgivings? They could have attended the meeting and presented their grievances or worn black flags.

After all, it was a forum for interaction with other chief ministers and the Centre.

The BJP sees the boycotts of the Aayog meeting and the inauguration of the new Parliament building as part of the Opposition's "Modi hatred".

There have been several questions about the relevance of the Niti Aayog and its predecessor Planning Commission. While the Commission was seen as a White elephant, the Niti Aayog is seen as a toothless institution. The Planning Commission had two primary duties-implementation of the five-year plan and providing Finances to the states. NITI Aayog has no constitutional or statutory sanction. Its stated aim is to construct a dynamic and robust nation. Unlike the Planning

Commission, it has no financial role. It is mainly the country's premier think tank. The Aayog has two hubs: "Team India Hub" and "Knowledge and Innovation Hub".

In addition to developing long-term, strategic plans for the Government of India, the Aayog supports a federal cooperative structure. Critics say that it should focus on the implementation rather than only concentrating on the recommendations of the policies.

India has emerged as a major global economy. The Aayog will be unable to transform an unequal society into a modern economy. It cannot influence public or private investment or policymaking. It needs to answer specific questions like why 90% of the workers are in the unorganized

sector. Aayog should evolve into a much stronger organization. It lacks the states' confidence, particularly from the non-BJP chief ministers. petition among the states worked well during the Covid period.

The Prime Minister held Zoom conferences and involved the chief ministers in pandemic relief. However, politics entered on Covid relief later with the non-BJP chief ministers complaining of step-motherly treatment from the Centre.

Overall, the NITI Aayog needs to evolve into a much stronger organization. If it wants to be more effective, it requires the trust of the non-BJP chief ministers and their active participation. Only then a strong centre and strong states will emerge.

ICMR to form team to prevent suicides

Urges researchers to join 'suicide prevention intervention' study

ARCHANA JYOTI ■ NEW DELHI

Alarmed at the rising number of suicide cases in the country, particularly among school and college students, the Government's premier health research institute, Indian Council of Medical and Research (ICMR) has woken up to the need for a suicide prevention framework that is based on scientific interventions.

It has called upon the researchers from across the country to join the team being constituted for ICMR's Multistate Implementation Research Study on Suicide Prevention Interventions. In India, the suicide rate has been on the rise with a reported rate of 12 per 100,000 of the population in 2021, reflecting a 6.2 per cent increase from the previous year.

"The goal is to reduce the burden due to suicidal behaviour and promote mental well-being, thereby improving the mental health outcomes in the country," an official from the ICMR.

According to the World Health Organisation (WHO),



the crude suicide rate in the age-group 15-29 years (per 100,000 population for both sexes) for India has been recorded as 15.721, thus indicating that suicidal behaviour has become a significant public health concern, especially among the young age groups.

The Covid-19 pandemic induced factors such as stress, isolation, and economic difficulties have just worsened the mental health of this particular group, noted the official.

"Though there has been some progressive actions by the country in this regard such as launch of the National Suicide Prevention Strategy last year in November with an objective to reduce the suicide mortality by 10 per cent by 2030. Despite these alarming statistics, a suicide prevention framework that is based on scientific interventions is largely lacking in the country," said the official.

According to the health

experts, suicides are preventable, for every 40 seconds a person dies by suicide somewhere in the world and many more attempt suicide.

The inclusion of "Suicide Mortality Rate" as an indicator under the Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) monitoring framework (Indicator 3.4.2), demonstrates the global commitment to address this issue more effectively. Suicides occur throughout the lifespan, notably, among young people 15-29 years of age, suicide is the second leading cause of death globally.

Suicide prevention interventions among school and college students will be implemented through training teachers, counsellors, staff members, parents, peers etc who will identify signs of distress and respond appropriately, the official said.

Under coping strategies, students will be taught mechanisms to manage stress and build resilience while under health promotion initiatives, stress would be on healthy lifestyle such as, adequate physical activity, healthy diet, away from addictions (tobacco, alcohol, other psychotropic substances, internet), and mental health promotion.

Students at high risk will also be identified while focus will also be on enhancing social skills, fostering positive relationships and reducing isolation, the official added.

Cong cheated K'taka voters: Bommai

Ex-CM accuses State Govt of delaying, putting conditions to poll promises, guarantees

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Taking note of Congress party's alleged 'delay' in implementing the five guarantees committed by it during Karnataka poll campaign, former Chief Minister and BJP leader Basavaraj Bommai on Monday accused the Congress of "cheating voters" by "attaching conditions" to its guarantees and doubted whether it would "fully operationalize" them.

Bommai expressed doubts whether the Congress government would fulfill its promises maintaining that the ruling party may soon show their true colours by using delaying tactics towards announcing legislative provisions for implementing poll-guarantees.

After some tug of war for key cabinet posts, Karnataka Chief Minister Siddaramaiah has allocated portfolios to ministers, keeping the Finance department with himself while assigning the Irrigation and Bengaluru City Development departments to his deputy DK Shivakumar.

Siddaramaiah took the oath of office with Shivakumar and eight ministers on May 20.

Instances have come to notice where women who voted for the Congress have refused to pay for the bus tickets in Bengaluru drawing attention to the 'free-ride promise' by the party. Similarly, many have resolved not to pay for the bill below 200 units.

"Looking at various statements by Ministers, it looks like — it is certain that they said something and will do something else. During the election without speaking about any conditions they said it (guarantees) will be free for everyone. The Chief Minister had said with example that — it is free for me, you and everyone," Bommai said.

Speaking to newsmen at Bengaluru, he said in the in-principle approval order too it was mentioned that guarantees will be for everyone, but now statements are being made that they will be applicable only to those eligible and not for everyone.

"By making changes they (Congress) have made 'dhoka' (cheated) to the people of Karnataka. People have given them power



based on these guarantees, without responding to it, they are speaking about the previous (BJP) government's promises...Them (Congress leaders) making lame excuses, indicates that they will not operationalise the guarantees fully. Their true colours will come out in open in a few days," he added.

Responding to a question about delay in choosing the Leader of Opposition in the Assembly, Bommai said, there is no delay, normally the Leader of Opposition is elected on the eve of the first session, and it is going to happen accordingly.

The Congress had promised to implement the 'guarantees' — 200 units of free power to all households (Gruha Jyoti), ₹2,000 monthly assistance to the woman head of every family (Gruha Lakshmi), 10 kg of rice free to every member of a BPL household (Anna Bhagya), ₹3,000 every month for unemployed graduate youth and ₹1,500 for unemployed diploma holders (both in the age group of 18-25) (YuvaNidhi), and free travel for women in public transport buses (Shakti), on the very first day of assuming power in the state.

After having accorded in-principle approval for guarantees in the first cabinet meeting on May 20, Chief Minister Siddaramaiah had said they would "most likely" be implemented after the next Cabinet meeting.

In Himachal Pradesh where Congress won the assembly election this year, the party had made similar guarantees including the implementation of old-pension scheme, some of them have been implemented.

Govt committed to fulfilling poll guarantees, no need to worry: Shivakumar

PTI ■ BENGALURU

Karnataka Deputy Chief Minister D K Shivakumar on Monday said there is a "responsible government" in the state, which will fulfill all the guarantees made to the people ahead of the assembly polls.

He, however, did not specify any timeline to implement the guarantees, but maintained that the cabinet meeting on June 1 will discuss on fulfilling them.

"There is a cabinet meeting on June 1, the Chief Minister has the responsibility of the Finance department, he will discuss with officials and bring the relevant information to the cabinet. We will keep up our promise. We will have to do it systematically and preparations are on," Shivakumar said.

Speaking to reporters here, he said, "there is a responsible government in the state and it will keep up the promises made to its people and there is no need to worry."

Noting that all the Ministers have been instructed to review their respective departments, the Deputy CM said, all the Ministers including him will begin their work



today. Chief Minister Siddaramaiah, who expanded his cabinet on Saturday by inducting 24 new Ministers, has allocated portfolios to all the ministers in his Cabinet, late last night.

There is mounting pressure on the new Congress government by opposition parties and various sections of people from across the state, to fulfill its five poll guarantees.

In the maiden Cabinet meeting of this government, soon after the swearing-in of Chief Minister, Deputy Chief Minister and eight Ministers on May 20, it was decided to accord "in-principle" approval to the Congress' five 'guarantees' promised before the elections.

The 'guarantees' would "most likely" be implemented after the next Cabinet meeting, Siddaramaiah, who chaired the cabinet meeting, had told reporters that day.

Delhi HC issues notice to Yasin as NIA seeks death penalty for him

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Delhi High Court on Monday issued a notice to separatist leader Yasin Malik, who is presently serving a life term, on a plea by the National Investigation Agency seeking death penalty for him in a terror funding case. A bench of Justices Siddharth Mridul and Talwant Singh also issued warrants for production of Malik before it on August 9.

Solicitor General (SG) Tushar Mehta, who appeared on behalf of the National Investigation Agency (NIA), argued that the accused indulged in terrorist and secessionist activities and should be awarded death penalty by treating the matter as a "rarest of rare" case.

Mehta stated that Malik committed the "sensational" killing of four IAF officers and even kidnapped the daughter of



then Home Minister Mufti Mohammad Sayeed which led to the release of four dreaded criminals who masterminded the 26/11 attack in Mumbai in 2008.

"In view of the ground that Yasin Malik, sole respondent in this appeal, has inter alia pleaded guilty to a charge under IPC section 121 (waging war against the Government of India) which provides for an alternate death sentence, we issue notice to him... To be served through the jail superintendent," the court ordered.

Let warrants be issued for

his production on the next date of hearing, it added.

The court also issued notice to Malik on NIA's application seeking condonation of delay in "re-filing" the present appeal. Mehta urged the court to condone the delay, saying "technicalities" should not have a bearing in matters such as the present one.

On May 24, 2022, a trial court here had awarded life imprisonment to Jammu Kashmir Liberation Front chief Malik after holding him guilty for various offences under the stringent Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act (UAPA) and the IPC.

Malik had pleaded guilty to the charges, including those under the UAPA, and he was convicted and sentenced to life imprisonment.

Such a tactic by an accused to avoid death penalty, he said, cannot be allowed when he

knows that facing trial would lead to imposition of capital punishment.

"Any terrorist can come here, do terrorist activities, plead guilty and court says since he has pleaded guilty, I give him only life term and not capital punishment," said Mehta, adding that even Osama bin Laden would have been permitted to plead guilty here and that "possibly the USA was right" in its dealing with the Al Qaeda founder.

The court responded that there could be no comparison between Malik and Laden as the latter never faced trial and it would not comment on matters affecting foreign relations. During his submissions, Mehta said Malik crossed over to Pakistan for training, was coordinating stone pelting and spreading "rumours" on social media about oppression by security forces.

Army marks 75th anniv of UN peacekeepers day

Pays homage to fallen comrades

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

The Indian Army on Monday commemorated the 75th International Day of United Nations (UN) Peacekeepers by paying homage to the fallen comrades by laying wreath at National War Memorial here by the Army Chief and Vice Chief and representatives from Navy and Air Force, Ministry of External Affairs and United Nations. One fifty nine (159) Indian soldiers have laid down their lives to uphold peace.

This is the day when in 1948 the first UN peacekeeping mission, "UN Truce Supervision Organisation (UNTSO)" began operations in Palestine.



Vice Chief of Army Staff Lieutenant General MV Suchindra Kumar and officials pay tributes during the wreath-laying ceremony to commemorate the 75th UN Peacekeepers Day, at National War Memorial in New Delhi on Monday

PTI

Each year on this Day, the UN and countries across the globe pay tributes to the professionalism, dedication and courage of all men and women who have served or are serving in UN Peacekeeping Missions and honour the memory of those who have laid down their

lives in the cause of peace. This year marks the 75th Anniversary of the UN Peacekeepers Day.

India has a rich legacy of contribution to UN Peacekeeping operations and is one of the largest contributors of troops. It has contributed approximately 2,75,000 troops to

peacekeeping missions so far, with around 5,900 troops currently deployed in 12 UN Missions.

Indian Army personnel have operated under difficult conditions in challenging terrains and have displayed exemplary professionalism, humane approach, courage and valour, to the extent of making the supreme sacrifice to defend the UN mandates.

Apart from the current deployment, India has pledged one Infantry Battalion Group and Corvette with Helicopter, as hard power and an Engineer Company and Signal Company as Force enablers, to be deployed at the behest of the UN.

In keeping with the need for women peacekeepers in conflict areas under UN mandate, India has deployed Female Engagement Teams (FETs) in MONUSCO and UNISFA (the second largest women contingent after Liberia).

NIA files 2nd supplementary chargesheet in naxal attack case in which 2 cops killed

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The National Investigation Agency (NIA) on Saturday filed its second supplementary chargesheet in the case related to the Naxal attack on former MLA Gurcharan Nayak, in which two police personnel were killed in Jharkhand in January 2022.

The NIA has named two accused in the chargesheet filed in the NIA Special Court Ranchi. The chargesheeted accused are 25-year-old Tivari Bankira alias Shaka and 20-year-old Sadan Korah alias Sajan, both armed cadres of Communist Party of India (Maoist), a proscribed terrorist organization, the NIA said in a statement.

The duo hails from West Singhbhum district of Jharkhand and has been charged under various sections of the Indian Penal Code (IPC) and Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act.

While Tivari was arrested on November 30, 2022, Sadan has been in custody since February 13, 2023.

The attack took place on January 4 last year at High School Jhilrua, Police Station Goikera, West Singhbhum. The Jharkhand police had initially registered the case (FIR No. 01/2022) at the local police station. Subsequently, on June



30, 2022, the NIA re-registered the case.

Following investigations, NIA had charge-sheeted 14 accused persons on December 31, 2022 in this case.

"As per NIA investigations, Tivari and Sadan were providing support to CPI (Maoist) for furthering its terror and violence related activities and waging a war against the Government of India. They were part of the conspiracy to carry out the terrorist attack on Gurucharan Nayak and his bodyguards. They were also part of the Special Action Team established by the banned terror outfit to execute the crime," the agency said in a statement.

The two accused had attended the meeting in which the conspiracy to attack Gurcharan Nayak with deadly weapons at Project +2, High School Jhilrua, was hatched. They had reconnoitered the spot a day before the incident and had also participated in the training to execute the attack, it added.

KHALISTANI ATTACK ON INDIAN HIGH COMMISSION

Ensure security of our diplomatic missions, EAM urges UK Min

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

In the backdrop of alleged Khalistani supporters trying to vandalise the Indian High Commission in London in March, External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar on Monday asked visiting British Minister Lord Tariq Ahmad to ensure security of India's diplomatic missions in the UK and prevent misuse of democratic freedoms.

Jaishankar's assertions here during a meeting with Lord Ahmad, the Minister of State for Foreign, Commonwealth



and Development Affairs, came against the backdrop of the vandalism of the Indian High Commission in London in March by pro-Khalistani supporters.

Jaishankar took to Twitter to share the issues he raised during his discussions with Lord Ahmad. "Met with UK MOS Lord Tariq Ahmad today in New Delhi... Underlined

the obligation to ensure security of our diplomatic missions and prevent misuse of democratic freedoms," the External Affairs Minister said.

In April, the Union Home Ministry had handed over the probe in the case of attack on the Indian mission in London to the National Investigation Agency (NIA) after a meeting with representatives from Britain.

Jaishankar said he also discussed a broad range of issues ranging from the Free Trade Agreement and South Asia to Indo-Pacific and G20 with the visiting minister.

HC refuses relief to teen who failed to fill form for JEE-Advanced

Admission process for IITs based on discipline: Court

PTI ■ MUMBAI

Institutes such as the Indian Institutes of Technology (IIT) are centres of technical studies par excellence in the country and the process of finding students is based on discipline, the Bombay High Court said while refusing relief to an 18-year-old boy who failed to submit his

online form for the Joint Entrance Exam (JEE) Advanced due to a technical glitch. The boy, Atharva Desai, in his petition claimed that he lived in a rural area where there were frequent power outages because of which he was unable to register himself online in the given time frame.

The petitioner sought a direction from the court for his registration form to be accepted and to permit him to appear for JEE-Advanced scheduled to be held on June 4.

The Joint Admission Board



of the IIT opposed the plea on the ground that as per their records, Desai had logged in on the portal for the first time to fill the online form a day after the deadline and hence, no relief ought to be granted to him. A vacation bench of Justices Abhay Ahuja and Milind Sathaye, in its May 24 order, accepted the IIT's argu-

ment and said it could not disturb the discipline adopted by the institution in the larger interest of lakhs of aspiring meritorious students of the country.

The order copy was made available on Monday. "It is not in doubt that IITs, NITs and other institutes are centres of technical studies par excellence in India. The process of finding the best talent in this country is based on discipline which is of utmost importance in the field of education," the court said.

SC dismisses plea against eligibility criterion of 75% marks in Class XII board exams for admission to IITs

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Monday dismissed a plea challenging the eligibility criterion of 75 per cent score in higher secondary examination for admission to the Indian Institutes of Technology (IITs).

A vacation bench of Justices Sudhanshu Dhulia and K V

Vishwanathan said this prerequisite existed earlier as well and it was not inclined to intervene in the matter.

The top court said these are education matters and it has to defer the issue to experts.

"This condition was always there, why should we interfere? This is not a matter we want to get into," the bench said.

‘PM worked hard to speed up development in 9 yrs’

PTI ■ JAIPUR

Union Minister Piyush Goyal on Monday said Prime Minister Narendra Modi has worked tirelessly and without discrimination to speed up development in the country since 2014. The PM has worked to empower the people and the country during the past nine years, he said.

Talking with reporters, Goyal said, “The full majority government has strengthened the PM’s hands so that he could transform the country, strengthen the economy, uplift the poor sections of the society and defend the country’s borders.” The PM has worked hard to speed up development, take welfare schemes to the last person in the line and empower the people of the country, he said.

BJP MP Poonam Mahajan gave a presentation on the achievements of the Modi government. “India was among the fragile five economies of the

world in 2014 and today it is the fifth largest economy in the world,” she claimed.

Meanwhile, senior BJP leaders, including Union Ministers and Chief Ministers, highlighted the achievements of Modi-led government in a nationwide outreach on Monday to mark its nine years in office, with Information and Broadcasting Minister Anurag Thakur expressing confidence of its re-election in 2024.

From India’s ‘rising’ global stature to emphasis on national security, welfare measures like housing and toilets for the poor, boost to piped water supply, infrastructure growth and efforts to ramp up the manufacturing sector were among the initiatives cited at the press conferences they held in every state of the country.

The BJP said in a statement that the country has witnessed “unprecedented” development in every sector with the mantra of ‘nation first’ guiding Modi’s policies.

Leaders opposing Modi will face rout in LS polls, says BJP’s Ghosh

PTI ■ KOLKATA

Senior BJP leader Dilip Ghosh on Monday mocked the proposed Opposition meet in Bihar next month and said the leaders opposing Prime Minister Narendra Modi will face a complete rout and decimation in the 2024 Lok Sabha polls.

Ghosh’s comment comes in the backdrop of the proposed opposition meeting in Bihar.

According to hints that have emanated from a meeting of Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar’s JD (U), the meeting of the parties opposed to the BJP may be held in Patna on June 12.

West Bengal Chief Minister and TMC supremo Mamata



Banerjee is likely to attend the meeting, party sources said.

“We have seen such efforts in 2019, and the results are before us. The TMC tally came down from 34 to 22. And BJP’s tally across the country increased from 282 to 303 seats. The people of this country trust the BJP and Prime Minister Narendra Modi. Whoever tries to fight against

PM Modi will face complete rout and decimation in the 2024 Lok Sabha polls,” Ghosh told reporters.

Reacting to Ghosh’s comment, the TMC said the remarks reflect the “fear of defeat” that has set in the saffron camp.

“The BJP is terrified and frustrated by the efforts to forge opposition unity ahead of the 2024 Lok Sabha polls. Just because it didn’t succeed in 2019 doesn’t mean it won’t succeed again,” said TMC spokesperson Kunal Ghosh, adding such comments only “reflect the fear of defeat.”

For the last one year, the opposition parties have been trying to come together in the fight against the saffron camp.

₹2K note saga cast doubts on stability of Indian currency: PC

T N RAGHUNATHA ■ MUMBAI

Terming the nine-year-long rule of the Narendra Modi Government as a “complete failure on all fronts”, senior Congress leader and former Union Finance Minister P. Chidambaram on Monday ridiculed the introduction of Rs 2,000 note seven years ago and its subsequent withdrawal recently had “cast doubts on the integrity and stability of Indian currency”.

Addressing a news conference as part of the part of his party’s outreach to the people across the country to expose the Modi government’s failure on all front, Chidambaram said: “In the

first place, the people had no need for the Rs 2000 notes after the Rs 500-Rs 1000 value notes were demonetised (in November 2016).... The thoughtless — some would even say foolish — introduction of the Rs 2000 note (which the people shunned) and the mortifying spectacle of withdrawing the note have cast doubt on the integrity and stability of India’s currency”.

Chidambaram said that he didn’t agree with the RBI’s explanation that Rs 2000 note was introduced to meet the immediate requirement of people. “Within 30 days of its introduction, no one was using it. The notes didn’t come to people. It was a foolish move bringing the integri-

ty of the currency system in question. The original decision to introduce it was foolish but the government didn’t want to admit it,” the former finance minister said.

Expressing his utter disappointment over the state of economy in the country, Chidambaram said: “Key economic indicators are pointing downward and there is low confidence that the economy will reach the high-growth path. The first three quarters of 2022-23 recorded growth rates of 13.2, 6.3 and 4.4 per cent, a declining trend. The present situation is a far cry from the average of 9 per cent growth rate that marked the boom years between 2004 and 2009”

FROM PAGE 1

BJP WINS 2 MLC SEATS

These bypoll results come close on the heels of the BJP sweeping all the mayoral seats in the urban local bodies elections held in the state.

The opposition union suffered a blow in the MLC bypolls with Congress legislators not casting their votes while the lone BSP MLA could not make it to Lucknow to exercise his voting rights.

BSP legislator Uma Shankar Singh said, “I could not reach the polling centre on time to vote in the bypoll.”

After the results were announced, Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath, in a tweet in Hindi, said, “Heartily congratulations to the candidates of the double-engine government Padamsen Chowdhary and Manvendra Singh for the victory in the bypolls for the post of members of the Uttar Pradesh Legislative Council!”

“We have full faith that following the vision of the respected prime minister, the public conduct, hard work and experience of both the victorious respected members will be helpful in achieving the resolution of ‘self-reliant Uttar Pradesh”, he said.

As many as 396 MLAs cast their votes in the bypoll on Monday for which the ruling BJP and the opposition Samajwadi Party had fielded candidates.

According to UP Assembly sources, seven MLAs, including two from the Congress, did not vote in the bypoll.

“The seven MLAs who could not cast their votes included three jailed legislators — Abbas Ansari (Suheldev Bharatiya Samaj Party), Irfan Solanki and Ramakant Yadav (both from Samajwadi Party). Besides, two Congress MLAs, one BSP and one SP MLA (Manoj Paras) did not cast their votes,” a source told PTI.

Uttar Pradesh Congress chief Brijlal Khabri said, “A decision was taken by the party not to vote for any of the candidates in the MLC bypoll.”

The two Congress MLAs who did not vote are Aradhana Mishra and Virendra Chaudhary. “Those who were contesting the bypolls or those who are fielding the candidates should have at least spoken to us. When you are not asking us, why should we take the forward step?” said Chaudhary.

An Assembly Secretariat official said Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath and Finance Minister Suresh Khanna were among those who cast their votes in the morning. As polling was going on, SBSP chief Om Prakash Rajbhar was seen walking with Deputy Chief Minister Brajesh Pathak.

Samajwadi Party chief and Leader of Opposition in the Uttar Pradesh Legislative Assembly Akhilesh Yadav alleged that many of his party MLAs were contacted for the MLC bypolls and meetings were held with them. “Those who did so should be exposed,” he said.

MURDER MOST FOUL SHAKES DELHI AGAIN

the accused in the densely populated neighbourhood, they said. The police suspect that continued “strained relationship” of the accused with the girl could be a possible reason behind the crime.

Delhi Police PRO Suman Nalwa said the accused Sahil worked as a fridge and AC mechanic. He lived in a rented accommodation with his parents and three siblings in Shahbad Dairy area.

“Police reached the crime spot after some locals informed them about the incident. Her body was found lying on the road in a pool of blood,” a senior official said.

A case under Section 302 (murder) of the Indian Penal Code has been registered at Shahbad Dairy police station on the basis of the complaint lodged by the victim’s father, the police added.

Police said the weapon used in commission of crime is yet to be recovered.

The victim’s father is a labourer, and the girl had passed Class 10 this year. The victim’s parents and her brother, who are residents of JJ Colony in Shahbad Dairy, said she was staying with her friend Neetu for the last 15 days since the latter’s husband was out of Delhi for work.

Recalling Sunday’s event, Neetu, who has two children, said the victim was busy organising the birthday party for her daughter and went to the nearby market to get a dress for the child. She informed Neetu that she wanted to use the wash-room and was going to their common friend’s place.

Neetu claimed that the girl and Sahil often fought with each other but she got to know about their ‘friendship’ only six months ago.

Seeking justice for their daughter, the victim’s parents demanded capital punishment for the

accused. They said neither she nor her friends had told them about Sahil.

Soon after the incident, the accused along with his family fled after locking their house. Their landlord, Ramphool, said that the family had been staying at his place as tenants for the past two years and Sahil usually kept to himself.

“He was an ordinary youth who lived with his parents and three sisters. He kept to himself and never argued or indulged in any kind of fight. So it was shocking to hear and see the video footage of him brutally killing a girl,” he added.

This is the second incident of a teen getting stabbed to death in Delhi in recent days with an 18-year-old boy being stabbed to death by a group of boys earlier this month.

INDIA’S STATURE HAS GROWN DURING MODI TENURE: YOGI

Narendra Modi’s nine-year tenure –PM Awas Yojana, construction of toilets, control of infectious diseases, Har Ghar Nal Yojana, SVANidhi Yojana for street vendors, PM Savamitva Yojana, Ayushman Bharat Yojana, women empowerment, mission employment, startup, standup, digital India.

Union Minister Hardeep Singh Puri, UP’s Deputy Chief Ministers Keshav Prasad Maurya and Brajesh Pathak, BJP state president Bhupendra Singh Chaudhary, organisation general secretary Dharampal and BJP leader Gaurav Bhatia and other leaders were also present on the occasion.

WELCOME POSTERS GREET SHAH IN TENSE MANIPUR

“We have learned that the Hon’ble Union Home Minister of India is arriving in Manipur. In this regard, the Coordinating Committee on Manipur Integrity (COCOMI) considers it a very positive step towards restoring peace. Under his able leadership, the people of Manipur are looking forward to restoration of peace and normalcy in Manipur,” the organisation said.

The United People’s Front and the Kuki National Organisation, which work for the welfare of the Kuki Zo community in Manipur, said the Shah’s visit is a positive initiative.

“This planned visit has given a sense of security among the Kuki Zo tribe. We look forward to his actions and directions to end this ongoing ethnic clashes between the two communities,” the organisation said.

GEHLOT, PILOT TO FIGHT RAJASTHAN ELECTIONS UNITEDLY, SAYS CONG

The AICC general secretary, organisation, said both the leaders have left all issues relating to Rajasthan to be resolved by the party’s High Command. Earlier, seeking to resolve the infighting in Rajasthan Congress, Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot and his bete noire Sachin Pilot met party chief Mallikarjun Kharge here on Monday in the presence of Rahul Gandhi.

Sources said Gehlot began his meeting with Kharge at his residence at around 6 PM, and was joined by Rahul Gandhi a few minutes later. The Congress chief and Gandhi held deliberations with Gehlot for about half an hour, after which the party’s in-charge for Rajasthan Sukhjinder Randhawa was called in.

Pilot, who has been attacking the Gehlot Government over the issue of inaction on corruption during the previous BJP Government led by Vasundhara Raje, joined the meeting after two hours at Kharge’s residence.

This is the first time after a long gap that the Rajasthan CM and his former deputy are meeting face to face in the presence of top party leadership.

AICC general secretary KC Venugopal was also present at the meeting, the sources said.

Kharge and Gandhi are holding parleys with leaders of poll-bound States in order to evolve the party strategy for the Assembly elections to corner the BJP in these States.

The party leadership is also working hard to resolve the infighting in the Rajasthan unit ahead of the Assembly polls and set at rest the differences between the two leaders.

The Congress brass had already held discussions with top leaders from Madhya Pradesh in the morning, after which Gandhi said the party would win 150 seats in the State.

Earlier, Gehlot said the party High Command is strong and it will never offer any position to any leader or worker to pacify him/her.

The meeting comes close on the heels of Pilot’s ‘ultimatum’ that if three demands he

made from the State Government were not met by the end of this month, he would launch a State-wide agitation. Pilot has asked for a high-level inquiry into the alleged scams that took place during the tenure of the former Chief Minister Vasundhara Raje Government, as one of his demands.

Speaking to reporters earlier, Gehlot said there is no such tradition in the party to offer posts to any leader in order to pacify him.

“As far as I know, there is no such tradition in the Congress where any leader demands something and the party high command offers to give that position. We have not heard of such a formula ever,” he said when asked about reports of a formula being worked out to rope in Pilot.

Rubbishing such reports, he said it is only the creation of the media and some leaders may be getting such stories planted.

“Never has such a thing happened in the Congress so far and neither will it happen in the future. The Congress party and the high command is very strong and no leader or worker has the courage to demand any position. It does not happen like that,” the Chief Minister asserted.

Gehlot and Pilot have been engaged in a power tussle since the Congress formed Government in the State in 2018. In 2020, Pilot led a failed revolt against the Gehlot government after which he was removed from the posts of party’s state unit president and deputy chief minister.

Pilot had last month defied a warning from the party and went ahead with a day-long fast targeting Gehlot over his ‘inaction’ on corruption by the previous Raje Government in the State.

CBI BOOKS ROLLS ROYCE FOR GRAFT IN JET TRAINER DEAL

In addition, they permitted the ‘licence manufacturing’ of 42 additional aircraft by HAL against materials supplied by Rolls Royce for an additional amount of USD 308.247 million and USD 7.5 million towards the Manufacturer’s License Fee.

This deal was struck in lieu of “huge bribes, commissions and kickbacks” paid by Rolls Royce to intermediaries, even though the agreements, integrity pacts and associated documents of the deal “prohibited payments” to intermediaries and middlemen, the CBI has alleged in its FIR. The CBI enquiry showed that vital documents pertaining to the transaction were seized from Rolls Royce India office during a survey conducted by the Income Tax department in 2006-07 but the accused persons destroyed and removed the documents to evade investigation, it alleged.

In 2012, media reports alleging corruption in the Rolls Royce operations surfaced resulting in an investigation by the Serious Fraud Office, London.

The company prepared a Statement of Fact that disclosed its corrupt payments in connection with transactions with countries like Indonesia, Malaysia and India. A deferred prosecution agreement was reached between the company and SFO.

The Statement of Fact was cited in a judgment by Crown Court Southwark, UK which showed that a sum of GBP 1.85 million was paid to an intermediary to retrieve the list of middlemen seized by the Income Tax Department during a survey of Rolls Royce India during 2006 to prevent the list from falling into the hands of Defence Ministry which could have resulted in the termination of the contract and a CBI probe.

Later, Tim Jones joined income tax department proceedings and his statement was recorded. “It is alleged that Rolls Royce plc was involved in bribing tax officials and other officials of the Government of India to prevent investigation by Indian authorities into the tax affairs and use of advisors by Rolls Royce and payment of commission/fees to intermediaries and middlemen,” the CBI FIR alleged.

The CBI FIR alleged that an amount of GB Pounds 1.85 million was paid by Rolls Royce to intermediaries by means of commercial contractual agreements by retrieval of List of commission agents/advisors from Income Tax Department.

“The (Preliminary) Enquiry further reveals that in 2008-10, in furtherance of the criminal conspiracy, the accused persons also approved Licence manufacturing of 57 additional aircraft by HAL (Hindustan Aeronautics Ltd) for a value of Rs 9,502.68 crore under a separate agreement with BAE Systems (operations) Ltd., another entity belonging to the BAEs Group,” the PE report which is part of the FIR alleged.

The CBI also alleged that GBP 100 million was paid by Russian Arms companies into a Swiss

account in the name of Portsmouth, a company associated with Sudhir Choudhrie for defence deals with Russia for the purchase of MIG aircraft.

“Out of this amount, the companies in the name of Choudhrie’s family namely Belinea Services Ltd, Cottage Consultants Ltd and Carter Consultants Inc. Received GBP 39.2 million, GBP 32.8 million and GBP 23 million respectively between October 2007 and October 2008,” the FIR alleged.

It said Sudhir Choudhrie and his father Bhanu Choudhrie are alleged to be unregistered Indian agents and middlemen who worked for Rolls Royce and BAEs in securing the award of contract for the supply of Hawk aircraft in question and used “undue influence on Indian public servants to induce the Government of India to approve the deal,” the agency further alleged.

WRESTLES WON’T BE ALLOWED TO PROTEST AT JANTAR MANTAR: COPS

Soon after, the Delhi Police cleared the site of their over-month-long sit-in at Jantar Mantar and said they would not be allowed to return there.

The police said 700 people were detained across the national Capital. As many as 109 protesters, including the three wrestlers, were detained at Jantar Mantar. Women detainees were released later in the evening on Sunday.

Meanwhile, the Delhi Police’s first information report against grapplers, has said that protesting wrestlers ignored police warning that creating a ruckus during the opening of the new Parliament building would “harm national prestige” and will not be tolerated but they tried to march towards it.

The FIR states at least 15 security personnel, a majority of them policewomen, were injured during the scuffle on Sunday between them and the wrestlers who also ignored police request to continue their protest at Jantar Mantar.

Police said the FIR was registered against Vinesh Phogat, Sangeeta Phogat, Bajrang Punia and others on the complaint of Head Constable Madhav, who was posted at the Barakhamba police station in New Delhi district.

Madhav was injured during the scuffle with the protesting wrestlers when they were detained, the FIR sated.

The protesters were told to continue the protest at the notified site -- Jantar Mantar,” it said. However, as announced by them, at 11.30 am, Bajrang Punia, Vinesh Phogat, Sakshi Malik and others raised slogans and reached the first police barricade, according to the FIR.

“Despite repeatedly telling protesters, they didn’t adhere to the requests. They went ahead, jumped the first barricades and pushed police and reached the second barricade line where again the police personnel tried to stop them but they continued pushing police and also they pushed away barricades.”

Names of 15 police personnel, including women constables who sustained injuries in the scuffle at Jantar Mantar on Sunday, were also mentioned in the FIR.

The FIR was registered under relevant sections including 188 (disobedience to order duly promulgated by public servant), 186 (obstructing public servant in discharge of public functions), 353 (assault or criminal force to deter public servant from discharge of his duty), 332 (voluntarily causing hurt to deter public servant from his duty) of the Indian Penal Code (IPC).

NITISH AIDE CONFIRMS OPP MEET LIKELY ON JUNE 12

Mocking the ‘Nau saal bemisaal’ campaign of the Prime Minister Narendra Modi Government, Chaudhary said, “The past nine years have indeed been unparalleled. During this period the nation was led astray from the ideals of Mahatma Gandhi, whose statue was still unveiled abroad.”

The allusion was to the unveiling of a statue of Mahatma Gandhi in Hiroshima by Modi, who toured Japan recently.

On the Sengol controversy, Chaudhary rubbished the Modi Government’s claim that the sceptre was a symbol of the transfer of power.

“Even if the claim were true, what would it have signified? No transfer of power was taking place yesterday”, the JD(U) leader said, referring to the inauguration of the new Parliament building where the sceptre was installed close to the Speaker’s chair.

He also made light of the resignation from JD(U) of former Begusarai MP Monazir Hasan, who had on Sunday announced that he was giving up the party’s primary membership.

Lone WB Congress MLA joins TMC

SAUGAR SENGUPTA ■ KOLKATA

Days after Mamata Banerjee expressed her willingness to play ball with the Congress on condition of reciprocation and days ahead of the anti-BJP Opposition meet in Patna, the Trinamool Congress on Monday drew the Congress blood by getting its lone MLA in the State legislature Byron Biswas to join the Bengal ruling outfit.

Left-backed Congress candidate, Biswas had won the Sagardighi Assembly by-elections three months ago causing a big flutter in the State politics ahead of the next year’s general elections. Sagardighi is in Muslim dominated Murshidabad district.

Biswas who joined the TMC in the presence of its national general secretary Abhishek Banerjee however said that he was attracted by Mamata Banerjee’s developmental works and that he was not being able to work while in the Congress.

“I was unable to work in the Congress ... and there is no point being an MLA if you cannot work ... so I joined the TMC where I will get ample scope to work under the leadership of Mamata Banerjee whose welfare schemes have inspired me,” Biswas said.

Coming against the backdrop of the multi-crore recruitment scam the Sagardighi elections had been interpreted as the

beginning of the end of the Trinamool Congress rule and the rise of a new experiment in the form of Congress-Left camaraderie in Bengal.

Both the Congress and the Left drew a blank in the 2021 Assembly elections which was apparently conducted in an unprecedentedly polarized atmosphere.

The Congress immediately reacted to Biswas’ joining the TMC saying the people of Sagardighi would remember the ‘deceit.’ Pradesh Congress president Adhir Chowdhury said, “they (TMC) may have purchased or coerced one MLA into joining their party ... but they will not be able to purchase the people of Sagardighi ... this dishonest defection will only strengthen their result and the TMC will get a befitting reply in the next elections.”

The TMC which had allegedly engineered a large number of defections in the Bengal Congress over the past several years was actually playing with snake Chowdhury said adding “the snake-charmers finally die of snake bite.”

Referring to Chowdhury’s attack, Abhishek Banerjee who is also the nephew of the Chief Minister said, the Congress’ failure to hold back its MLA was not the TMC’s fault adding his party never engineered defections.

Jambu Zoo thrown open to public in Nagrota

MOHIT KANDHARI ■ JAMMU

The Union Territory administration in Jammu and Kashmir Monday added another tourist ‘hot spot’ in the long list of local getaways by throwing open Jambu Zoo

of J&K was taken up under the ‘Langushing Project’, he added.

Referring to the successful conduct of G20 Summit, Lt Governor Manoj Sinha said, “Jammu Kashmir has entered a new era of oppor-



at Nagrota.

Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha inaugurated the phase -1 of Jambu zoo built at a cost of around Rs 70 crores over 70 hectares of land.

The foundation stone of the project was originally laid in September 2016 by the then Forest Minister Lal Singh.

The ambitious project, aimed at attracting the rush of Mata Vaishno Devi bound pilgrims, had earlier missed several deadlines due to paucity of funds. Speaking on the occasion Lt Governor Manoj Sinha said, “the scenic beauty around the first-of-its-kind full-fledged zoo in the UT will make it a unique tourist destination and has the potential to boost tourism in the region.”

“This much awaited addition to the tourist destinations

tunities.

It is a rare moment and the world is applauding J&K’s saga of development. We must work together to keep pace with the rest of the states and contribute to the significant task of Viksit Bharat 2047.”

The Lt Governor announced free entry for all in the Jambu Zoo for one month. He also announced that the Sri Venkateswara Swamy Temple by Tirumala Tirupati Devasthanams will be dedicated to the people on 8th June.

To woo the visitors, as many as 27 famous species of animals, including Royal Bengal Tiger, Asiatic Lion, leopards, bears, crocodiles etc will be shifted from different places to Jambu zoo. An amphitheatre and park for children has also been constructed.

HK court rejects Lai’s bid to end national security trial

AP ■ HONG KONG

A Hong Kong court on Monday rejected a jailed publisher’s request to terminate his national security trial, pressing ahead with a landmark case seen as part of Beijing’s crack-down on the city’s pro-democracy movement. Jimmy Lai, the 75-year-old founder of the now-defunct newspaper Apple Daily, faces up to life in prison if convicted under a Beijing-imposed national security law. His lawyers earlier filed an application to halt the trial, raising concerns that his case was being heard by three judges approved by the city’s leader, instead of a jury.

When Hong Kong returned to China in 1997, it was promised that trials by jury, previously practiced in the former British colony, would be maintained under the city’s constitution. But in a departure from the city’s common law tradition, the security law



allows no-jury trials for national security cases.

On Monday, Judges Esther Toh, Susana D’Almada Remedios and Alex Lee unanimously rejected Lai’s request, saying there was no reason to believe they “would be biased, actually or apparently, against” Lai. The national security law was enacted in June 2020 following months of anti-government protests calling for an

investigation into police conduct during the unrest and universal suffrage.

It outlaws secession, subversion, terrorism and foreign collusion to intervene in the city’s affairs, and has been used to stamp out dissent.

Lai is accused of conspiring with others to call for sanctions or blockades, or engage in hostile activities, against Hong Kong or China. He also faces a

charge of collusion with foreign forces to endanger national security, and a separate seditious charge under a colonial-era law that is also increasingly used to crush the opposition.

Under the security law, the secretary for justice may direct national security cases to be tried without a jury if state secrets need to be protected, foreign forces are involved, or if the personal safety of jurors needs to be protected.

In such cases, they will be heard by a panel of three hand-picked judges.

Earlier this month, Robert Pang, one of Lai’s lawyers, pointed to the lack of transparency in the appointment of the judges, saying that might affect the public’s confidence in the judiciary and the judicial process. Pang also alleged the executive’s move to block British lawyer Timothy Owen from representing Lai could be fairly described as “persecution.”

Talks possible if Imran Khan apologises: Dar

PTI ■ ISLAMABAD

Finance Minister Ishaq Dar has hinted that negotiations with former prime minister Imran Khan to end the political crisis were possible if he took “corrective measures” and apologised to the nation for the May 9 violence in which sensitive military installations were attacked.

Dar made this assertion during a Geo News programme on Sunday, the day when Pakistan’s ruling coalition rejected Khan’s offer for dialogue, saying talks were held with politicians, not terrorists. Khan, the chairman of the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) party constituted a seven-member team to hold talks with the government - for developing a consensus on a date for general elections - amid a massive crackdown on his party for the May 9 violence following his arrest. The crackdown launched after May 9 violent protests have thrown PTI into a deep existential crisis with dozens of key party leaders quitting the party daily. The prominent leaders who have quit the party include Secretary

General Asad Umar, senior leader Fawad Chaudhry and former minister Shireen Mazari. “If he (Khan) takes corrective measures and apologises to the nation for the May 9 carnage, negotiations could be held,” Dar said. Dar noted that before that fateful day (May 9), the government negotiated with PTI with “sincere intentions” and the two sides agreed on all matters except the date of the election.

The minister said peaceful protest was everyone’s right, but attacks on armed forces’ installations should not be condoned. On May 9, violent protests erupted after paramilitary Rangers arrested 70-year-old Khan from the Islamabad High Court premises in connection with a corruption case. His party workers vandalised a dozen military installations, including the Lahore Corps Commander House, the Mianwali airbase and the ISI building in Faisalabad in response to Khan’s arrest. The mob also stormed the Army headquarters (GHQ) in Rawalpindi for the first time. Thousands of Khan’s supporters

were arrested following the violence that the powerful Army described as a “dark day” in the history of the country.

The ambiguities of the federal government’s policy came into sharp focus, with Railways Minister Khawaja Saad Rafique asserting that there was no way talks could be held with Khan under the current situation.

“There used to be an environment and agenda for holding parleys on any issue. But the existing atmosphere is not suitable for talks,” the Dawn newspaper quoted him as saying. Earlier this month, the National Assembly, the lower house of Pakistan’s Parliament, passed a resolution vowing to try May 9 rioters under the existing laws including the stringent Army Act and the Official Secrets Act. Khan, a cricketer-turned-politician, was ousted from power in April last year after losing a no-confidence vote in his leadership, which he alleged was part of a US-led conspiracy targeting him because of his independent foreign policy decisions on Russia, China and Afghanistan.

Ex-PM lashes out at govt

Islamabad (PTI): Pakistan’s former prime minister Imran Khan on Monday lashed out at the PML-N-led coalition government for trashing the rule of law and destroying the economy under the watch of the powerful establishment.

Khan took to social media to make a statement that focussed on the real issues faced by the country than highlighting the dire affairs of his party which is facing the wrath of the state for attacking institutions.

“Completely abandoning the rule of law, this fascist government is committed to a one-point agenda of crushing Tehreek-e-Insaaf, leaving General Musharraf’s martial law far behind,” he tweeted. He went on to add that cash-strapped Pakistan’s economy is falling headlong into the abyss of destruction.

Khan said that the dollar is being sold at Rs 315 in the open market, while it is available for Rs 320 to Rs 325 for those who



do not have an identity card and there is a difference of 30 rupees per dollar between the official and open market rates.

“This dollarisation of economy means no local or foreign investment into the country, which will result in contraction of the GDP and worse, lead to hyperinflation,” he added.

Turning to his favourite theme of stonewalling his opponents, Khan said the leaders of the coalition government have billions of dollars stashed abroad, and understandably they are not pushed. “The question is, how on earth is the Pakistani establishment allowing the coun-

try to head towards a complete economic meltdown?” he asked.

The statement comes as the government and Khan have traded barbs over the alleged ill-treatment of women supporters of the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaaf who were still in jail after being arrested in the wake of violent protests on May 9. Khan is under pressure to keep his party intact as dozens of leaders have abandoned it after the crackdown launched to arrest those involved in attacks on military installations.

His statement is apparently an effort to tell his supporters that Khan was still relevant and can take the country out of trouble. Khan, a cricketer-turned-politician, was ousted from power in April last year after losing a no-confidence vote in his leadership, which he alleged was part of a US-led conspiracy targeting him because of his independent foreign policy decisions on Russia, China and Afghanistan.

Tinubu sworn in as Nigerian President

Abuja (AP): Nigeria’s Bola Tinubu has been sworn in as president of Africa’s most populous country at a period of unprecedented challenges, leaving some citizens hopeful for a better life and others sceptical that his government would perform better than the one he succeeded. The former governor of Lagos, Nigeria’s economic hub, Tinubu, 71, was sworn in as Nigeria’s president in Abuja, the capital city, in the presence of thousands of Nigerians and several heads of governments. He succeeds President Muhammadu Buhari to lead a country that by 2050 is forecast to become the third most populous nation in the world, tied with the United States after India and China.

Erdogan turns away reform-minded challenger to win another term

AP ■ ANKARA

Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan turned away a challenger who sought to reverse his authoritarian-leaning changes, securing five more years to oversee the country at the crossroads of Europe and Asia that plays a key role in NATO.

Erdogan prevailed by winning more than 52% of the vote in Sunday’s presidential runoff, which came two weeks after he fell short of scoring an outright victory in the first round.

A majority of Turkish voters in the second round chose him over challenger Kemal Kilicdaroglu, showing their support for a man who they see as a strong, proven leader.

Voters were divided between loyalty to Erdogan, who has ruled for two decades, and hopes for the opposition candidate, who promised to return to democratic norms, adopt more conventional economic policies and improve ties with the West.

With his immediate political future secure, Erdogan must now confront skyrocketing

Explosions rattle Kyiv during daylight

AP ■ KYIV

Explosions rattled Kyiv during daylight Monday as Russian ballistic missiles took aim at the Ukrainian capital, hours after a more common nighttime barrage of the city by drones and cruise missiles. Debris from missiles intercepted by Ukrainian air defenses fell in Kyiv’s central and northern districts during the morning, landing in the middle of traffic on a city road and also starting a fire on a building’s roof, the Kyiv military administration said. At least one civilian was reported hurt.

The blasts unnerved some locals, already under strain after being awakened by the night attack.

“After what happened last night, I react sharply to every siren now. I was terrified, and I’m still trembling,” shared Alina Ksenofontova, a 50-year-old woman who took refuge in the Kyiv subway with her dog Bublik.

The central station, Tetatralna, was crowded with sheltering locals.

Artem Zhyla, a 24-year-old who provides legal services abroad, took his laptop with him and kept working underground.

“I heard two or three explosions, went to the bathroom, and then I heard five or seven more explosions. That’s when I realized something terrible was happening,” he said.



People take cover at metro station during a Russian rocket attack in Kyiv, Ukraine, on Monday

Like many others in the capital, he feels exhausted and stressed. However, he has no intentions of giving up and plans to attend his yoga class to recharge. “This is certainly not enough to break us,” he said.

Russia used Iskander short-range missiles in the morning attack, the spokesman for Ukraine’s air force said on local television.

The missiles were fired from north of Kyiv, Yuriy Ihnat said without clarifying if he meant Russian territory. Kyiv lies around 380 kilometers (236 miles) from the Russian border.

During the previous night, air defenses brought down more than 40 targets as Russian forces bombarded Kyiv with a combination of drones and cruise missiles in their 15th

nighttime attack on the capital so far this month, said Serhii Popko, the head of Kyiv’s military administration.

On Saturday night, Kyiv was subjected to the largest drone attack since the start of Russia’s war. At least one person was killed, local officials said.

Kremlin’s strategy of long-range bombardment has brought many sleepless nights for Ukrainians.

Over the winter, Russian forces aimed their missiles and drones at power plants and other infrastructure. The apparent goal was to weaken Ukraine’s resolve and compel the Ukrainian government to negotiate peace on Moscow’s terms, but Ukrainians swiftly and defiantly repaired the damage.

Judge appointed in SA to oversee weapons-for-Russia probe

Cape Town (AP): South African President Cyril Ramaphosa has appointed a judge to oversee an inquiry into allegations that the country supplied arms to Russia on a ship that docked secretly at a naval base in December.

The allegations were made this month by the United States’ ambassador to South Africa, who said he was sure that weapons and ammunition were loaded onto the Russian-flagged cargo ship Lady R when it docked at the Simon’s Town naval base near Cape Town late last year.

Ambassador Reuben Brigety indicated that the US had intelligence to sustain the

allegation and he said he would bet his life on the accuracy of his claim that weapons were loaded onto the ship. The Lady R container-carrying ship is under US sanctions for being tied to a company that has transported weapons to aid the Russian war effort in Ukraine. South Africa has denied there was any government-sanctioned deal to provide weapons to Russia, although it hasn’t categorically ruled out that an unofficial transaction took place involving another entity. Judge PMD Mojapelo, a former Supreme Court of Appeal judge, was appointed chairman of a three-member panel to investigate

the incident, Ramaphosa’s office said in a statement on Sunday. A lawyer and a former minister of justice were also appointed.

The panel has six weeks to complete its investigations and another two weeks from then to provide a report to Ramaphosa, the president’s office said. “The panel has been tasked to establish persons who were aware of the cargo ship’s arrival, and, if any, the contents to be off-loaded or loaded, the departure and destination of the cargo,” Ramaphosa’s office said.

Ramaphosa ordered the inquiry because of the seriousness of the allegations and “the impact of this matter on South

Russia issues arrest warrant for Lindsey

Moscow (AP): Russia’s Interior Ministry on Monday issued an arrest warrant for US Sen Lindsey Graham following his comments related to the fighting in Ukraine.

In an edited video of his meeting on Friday with Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy that was released by Zelenskyy’s office, Graham, a Republican from South Carolina, noted that “the Russians are dying” and described the U.S. military assistance to the country as “the best money we’ve ever spent.” While Graham appeared to have made the remarks in different parts of the conversation, the short video by Ukraine’s presidential office put them next to each other, causing outrage in Russia.

Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov commented Sunday by saying that “it’s hard to imagine a greater shame for the country than having such senators.” The Investigative Committee has moved to open a criminal inquiry against Graham, and the Interior Ministry followed up by issuing a warrant for his arrest.

Africa’s international relations,” his office said. South Africa could be in breach of international law and its own laws regarding weapons sales if it is found to have supplied arms to Moscow for the war in Ukraine. The incident has strained relations between the US and South Africa, which is Africa’s most developed economy and a key Western partner on the continent. South African Defence Minister Thandi Modise has said the Lady R was visiting to deliver an ammunition shipment from Russia that was ordered by South Africa in 2018 but was delayed because of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Spanish PM Sánchez calls early election

AP ■ MADRID

Spanish Prime Minister Pedro Sánchez on Monday called an early general election for July 23 in a surprise move after his Socialist party took a serious battering in local and regional elections.

Prior to Sunday’s debacle, Sánchez had insisted that he would ride out his four-year term with leftist government coalition partner United We Can, indicating that an election would be held in December.

The woes for Sánchez and his PSOE party come as Spain is due to take over the rotating presidency of the European Union on July 1.

Sánchez said he had spoken to King Felipe VI and would hold a special Cabinet meeting later on Monday to dissolve parliament.

“I have taken this decision given the results of the elections held yesterday,” Sánchez from the Moncloa presidential palace.

The local and regional elections saw Spain taking a major swing to the right and made the

leading opposition right wing Popular Party, or PP, the main political force in the country.

“This is unexpected,” said Ignacio Jurado, a political scientist at Madrid’s Carlos III University. “Sánchez is trying to short circuit the PP’s rise as soon as possible.”

In the municipal vote, the Popular Party, or PP, won 31.5 per cent of votes compared with 28.2 per cent for the Socialists.

This was a 1.2 percentage point decrease for PSOE on 2019, but almost a nine point increase for the PP, which benefited from the collapse of the centrist Citizens party.

The PP won in seven of the 12 regions contested and dominated in several regions previously won by PSOE including Valencia, Aragon and La Rioja. It remains to be seen whether PP will have to rely on far-right party Vox to form regional governments.

Spain’s regional governments have enormous power and budgetary discretion over education, health, housing and policing.

N Korea notifies Japan about plans to launch satellite

AP ■ TOKYO

North Korea on Monday notified neighbouring Japan that it plans to launch a satellite in coming days, which may be an attempt to put its first military reconnaissance satellite into orbit. Defence Minister Yasukazu Hamada said he ordered Japan’s Self Defence Force to shoot down the satellite or debris, if any entered Japanese territory.

Japan’s coast guard said the notice it received from North Korean waterway authorities said the launch window was from May 31 to June 11, and that the launch may affect waters in the Yellow Sea, East China Sea and east of the Philippines’ Luzon Island.

The coast guard issued a

safety warning for ships in the area on those dates because of the possible risks from falling debris. Japan’s coast guard coordinates and distributes maritime safety information in East Asia, which is likely the reason it was the recipient of North Korea’s notice. The launch a satellite into space, North Korea would have to use long-range missile technology banned by UN Security Council resolutions. Its past launches of Earth observation satellites were seen as disguised missile tests.

Japan’s Chief Cabinet Secretary Hirokazu Matsuno said the launch would violate UN resolutions and was a “threat to the peace and safety of Japan, the region and the international community.” Japan was already on stand-

by for falling missile debris from North Korean launches earlier this year and has deployed missile defence systems such as land-to-air PAC-3 and ship-to-air SM-3 interceptors in southwestern Japan and in the East China Sea.

Matsuno said it was possible the satellite would enter or pass above Japan’s southwestern islands including Okinawa, where the United States has major military bases and thousands of troops.

South Korea warned Monday that North Korea will face consequences if it goes ahead with its launch plan in violation of the UN Security Council resolutions that ban the North from conducting any launch using ballistic technology.

China to send astronauts to moon by 2030

PTI ■ BEIJING/JIUQUAN

China on Monday announced plans to send a manned mission to the moon by 2030 for lunar scientific exploration, amid its deepening space race with the West.

The announcement was made by Lin Xiqiang, Deputy Director of the China Manned Space Agency (CMSA), as China is preparing to send a third set of astronauts to its space station on Tuesday.

Li told the media at the Jiuquan Satellite Launch Centre in Inner Mongolia ahead of the launch of the spacecraft that takes the three astronauts to the space station called Tiangong that China has recently initiated under the lunar landing phase of its manned lunar exploration programme.

The overall goal is to achieve China’s first manned

landing on the moon by 2030 and carry out lunar scientific exploration and related technological experiments, he was quoted as saying by the state-run Xinhua news agency.

China’s manned lunar mission came as the US space agency NASA aims to send a second manned mission to the moon by 2025 to explore the south pole for frozen water.

For its part, the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) has announced plans to launch its ambitious Chandrayaan-3 mission aimed at demonstrating critical technologies to land the spacecraft on the south pole.

Chandrayaan-3 mission carries scientific instruments to study the thermo-physical properties of the lunar regolith, lunar seismicity, lunar surface plasma environment and ele-



mental composition in the vicinity of the landing site.

China in the past successfully launched uncrewed missions to the moon which included a rover. China has also sent a rover to Mars.

According to Lin, the goal of China’s moon mission also includes mastering the key technologies such as earth-moon manned roundtrip, lunar surface short-term stay,

human-robot joint exploration, accomplishing multiple tasks of landing, roving, sampling, researching, returning, and forming an independent capability of manned lunar exploration.

In 2021, China and Russia announced plans to set up an International Lunar Research Station.

Russian space agency Roscosmos said in March 2021

that it has signed an agreement with China’s National Space Administration to develop research facilities on the surface of the moon, in orbit or both.

Lin said China’s manned lunar landing will promote the leapfrog development of manned space technology from near-Earth to deep space, deepen human understanding of the origin and evolution of the moon and the solar system, and contribute Chinese wisdom to the development of lunar science, he said.

The aim of space powers, such as the US, Russia and China, is to set up bases on the Moon for astronauts to live in, Dr McDowell, an astronomer at the Harvard-Smithsonian Centre for Astrophysics in the US told BBC earlier.

The Moon is being used as a stepping stone to places like Mars, he says.

Real Sociedad seal Champions League place

AP ■ MADRID

Real Sociedad fell to a 2-1 defeat at Atletico Madrid on Sunday but still sealed qualification for next season's Champions League after Villarreal were beaten 2-1 at Rayo Vallecano.

Imanol Alguacil's Basque outfit finished fourth in La Liga despite defeat only thanks to Villarreal losing too.

Espanyol were relegated from the top flight after Valencia's Samuel Lino struck a stoppage-time equaliser in a gripping 2-2 draw.

One other side will go down along with already-relegated Elche on the final day of the season, with Real Valladolid currently 18th, a point from safety, after they drew 0-0 at Almeria.

Celta Vigo lost 1-0 at Cadiz and are 17th, a point from safety, along with Almeria.

"To get to this situation we have done many things wrong, but I think sincerely, from the most self-critical position personally and as a group, that we don't deserve this in this way," Espanyol midfielder Sergi Darder told Movistar.

"Above all, we want to say sorry. We have such a big club badge that in many moments, we haven't represented. I'm the first to be angry, but have no doubt we will be back."

Antoine Griezmann and Nahuel Molina struck for Atletico in their win over Real Sociedad, who struggled to create much of note, perhaps aware of Villarreal's struggles.

Eventually Alexander Sorloth



pulled one back for the visitors at the Metropolitano to give them something to celebrate as they achieved their European goal.

"I would have liked to be able to celebrate qualifying another way, but we have had a great season and are very happy," Real Sociedad striker Mikel Oyarzabal told Movistar.

"We have to celebrate, the fans should enjoy it, and next Sunday we can have a party at home, a celebration -- we'll do all we can to win that game and end things well."

Victory leaves Atletico third, a point behind Real Madrid.

Villarreal will play in the Europa League next season, along with Real Betis, sixth, who beat Girona 2-1.

Osasuna, who fell to a late 2-1 defeat by Getafe which took the Madrid side two points clear of the relegation zone, are seventh and currently in line to qualify for the Conference League.

However Athletic Bilbao, Girona, Rayo and Sevilla remain in contention for the spot.

CAMP NOU BOWS OUT

La Liga champions Barcelona enjoyed a series of emotional goodbyes in their final match at Camp Nou before the stadium is rebuilt, thrashing Real Mallorca 3-0.

Captain Sergio Busquets and defender Jordi Alba also played at home for the last time, in the club's penultimate league match of the season, and were awarded warm farewells by the sell-out crowd.

Ansu Fati struck twice in the first half and Gavi added one after the

break as the Catalans triumphed in style.

Marc-Andre ter Stegen earned his 26th clean sheet of the season, equalling the all-time record in the division, set by Deportivo La Coruna's Francisco Liano in the 1993-94 campaign.

The only bad news for Barcelona came when defender Alejandro Balde was taken off injured in the first half -- he will be out for at least six weeks and miss Spain's Nations League final four games in June.

Camp Nou, inaugurated in September 1957, has been one of football's most iconic stadiums since then.

Alba departed in tears when he was substituted in the final stages with the crowd chanting his name, while Busquets followed and was given an ovation of his own.

The duo could yet appear in Barcelona's final game of the season at Celta Vigo next weekend, but for nearly 90,000 supporters, this is the end of an era.

Busquets has won La Liga nine times and the Champions League on three occasions, making over 700 appearances for the club.

Alba departs with six La Liga trophies and one Champions League triumph among other silverware.

The duo both gave speeches on the pitch after the game.

"Since I was little I've dreamed of playing a game in this stadium that we're saying goodbye to temporarily," said Busquets.

"We're already the best club in the world, with the best players, and now we'll have a stadium on that level."

Giroud seals win at Juve and CL spot for Milan



AP ■ MILAN

Olivier Giroud secured Champions League qualification for AC Milan with the only goal in Sunday's 1-0 win at troubled Juventus.

Giroud guided home a brilliant header from Davide Calabria's cross in the 40th minute to guarantee Milan at least fourth place and complete Italy's line-up in Europe's top club competition next season.

It was the one moment of quality in an otherwise drab match in Turin in which little of consequence happened apart from Giroud's 12th league goal of the season.

Stefano Pioli's side, who were knocked out of this year's Champions League in the semi-finals by Inter Milan, join their local rivals, Lazio and champions Napoli on the continent's big stage.

They are six points ahead of fifth-placed Atalanta with one match left in what has been a long season and one in which their title defence collapsed after the World Cup.

"This was the first time we truly tried to be competitive in two tournaments and we were lacking something," said Pioli.

"We can enjoy the win and qualification, but it was a strange season for many reasons."

Juve meanwhile stay seventh and in the Europa Conference League spot after being deducted 10 points for illicit transfer activity by the Italian Football Federation on Monday.

Massimiliano Allegri's side can still reach the Europa League spots as they are one point behind Roma in sixth, although the spectre of more punishment for financial irregularities hangs over the Turin giants.

LECCE SAFE

Lecce ensured Serie A survival after late penalty drama gave them a 1-0 win over Monza, while a crushing late draw with Empoli took Verona's survival battle to the final day.

Lorenzo Colombo rammed home the spot-kick which maintained Lecce's Serie A status in the 11th minute of stoppage time after Christian Gytkjaer

was penalised for handball following a VAR check.

Former Denmark forward Gytkjaer had a penalty of his own saved by Wladimiro Falcone with six minutes of regular time remaining.

That allowed Colombo to fire Lecce five points clear of the drop zone and cause coach Marco Baroni to sink to his knees in joy and grief for his recently deceased father.

"I thought about my father because I lost him recently... I felt him by my side in that moment," Baroni told DAZN.

Verona sit in the final relegation spot after a gut-wrenching Giangiacomo Magnani own goal in the sixth minute of injury time which snatched a 1-1 draw for safe Empoli.

They are level on 31 points with 17th-placed Spezia, whom they might have to face in a play-off devised this season to decide who ends up in 18th place between teams who finish on the same points.

OSIMHEN NOT ENOUGH

Victor Osimhen's brace wasn't enough for Napoli as the newly-crowned Italian champions threw away a two-goal lead to draw 2-2 with Bologna.

Nigeria forward Osimhen took his season's tally to 30 in all competitions with finishes in the 14th and 54th minutes. However Lewis Ferguson pulled one back in the 63rd minute and Lorenzo De Silvestri headed the hosts level in his final home match as a Bologna player.

Napoli won their first league title since 1990 this season but owner Aurelio De Laurentiis said that coach Luciano Spalletti will leave to take a year's sabbatical.

"He's a free man, he's given us something and I thank him, it's right that he does what he wants," said De Laurentiis to state broadcaster Rai.

Mbappé wins his 4th Ligue 1 player of the year award

AP ■ PARIS

Kylian Mbappe was voted the Ligue 1 player of the season for the fourth successive time Sunday after helping Paris Saint-Germain win a record 11th French title.

The France star has scored 28 goals in the league this term and is on course to finish as the division's top scorer for the fifth season running.

"It's a pleasure, I always wanted to win, to write my name into the league's history. But even with all the ambition I have I didn't expect to win

so quickly," said Mbappe on receiving his award.

Mbappe, scorer of 40 goals this campaign, snubbed Real Madrid at the end of last season and signed a new three-year contract to stay with PSG.

According to reports, the 24-year-old's contract will run out next year unless he exercises an option to stay until 2025.

Asked about his future at the awards ceremony, Mbappe replied: "I will be here again next season."

He is the first four-time winner of a prize first awarded in 1994, sur-



passing Zlatan Ibrahimovic who won the accolade on three occasions with PSG.

Franck Haise of Lens was named coach of the season after leading the club to second place and a return to Champions League football for the first time in two decades.

Lens goalkeeper Brice Samba was also honoured while Paris Saint-Germain left-back Nuno Mendes earned the best young player award.

He was one of four PSG players in the team of the season alongside Mbappe, Lionel Messi and Achraf Hakimi.

Klopp won't take break from management despite Liverpool's troubled season

AP ■ LIVERPOOL

Jurgen Klopp insists he does not need a break from management as he looks to put Liverpool back on track after their troubled season.

Klopp's side missed out on Champions League qualification after finishing outside the top four for the first time in a full season under his leadership.

A 4-4 draw at Southampton on the last day of the season stretched Liverpool's unbeaten top-flight run to 11 games, but they had to settle for a fifth-place finish in the Premier League.

Klopp is the Premier League's longest-serving manager and there had been claims the intense German might be willing to walk away from Liverpool due to burn-out.

But, asked if he needs time off from football, Klopp said: "No, no, no, not at all. Honestly, I'm completely fine.

"If you'd asked me 11 games ago, 'do you want to have a break?', I would have thought about it, to be honest.

"But I'm absolutely fine, full of energy. I have a break - I don't have training and these kind of things.

"I will find time to reenergise and then we start again in July."

Liverpool's fifth-placed finish was their lowest since they finished eighth in 2015-16, the season during which Klopp replaced Brendan Rodgers at Anfield.

Despite their difficulties, Klopp takes heart from the way his squad stuck together during some difficult moments.

"There is not a lot to learn (from the season) but a lot of clubs when the expectations are as high as ours when things don't go well pretty quickly



you start blaming each other," he said.

"That didn't happen here. The better you behave in a crisis, the better you get out of it - and I really thought that was the case for us.

"We're really, really not happy about it and for a club like us it's massive not to qualify for the Champions League.

"If we improve, we are all of a sudden again a team nobody wants to play against and that's what we have to become again."

Leicester face major changes after relegation, says Evans

AP ■ LEICESTER

Leicester defender Jonny Evans admits the former Premier League champions face major changes after their relegation to the Championship.

Evans' team were condemned to the second tier on Sunday after Everton's 1-0 win against Bournemouth rendered the Foxes' 2-1 victory over West Ham irrelevant.

Leicester are only the second former Premier League champions after Blackburn to the relegated from the top-flight.

Their fairytale title success seven years ago seems a distant memory as they face up to a first season in the Championship since 2014.

A large number of players including Evans and Youri Tielemans are out of contract and likely to leave the King Power Stadium in the close-season.

England midfielder James Maddison and talented winger Harvey Barnes look set to be sold to help balance the expected financial losses of at least £60 million (\$74 million).

Leicester boss Dean Smith also faces an uncertain future, with his short-term contract set to expire after he replaced Brendan Rodgers in April. Former Manchester United



centre-back Evans, 35, revealed the Leicester squad had said their goodbyes in the dressing room ahead of a likely close-season exodus.

"It is a tough thing to take. There was silence for a long time in the dressing room afterwards. We know there are a lot of players out of contract," he said.

"There are going to be a lot of changes in the football club.

"It was an opportunity for everybody to say goodbye really. A lot of us don't know where we are going to end up.

"I said to the boys it has been an amazing five years but the club now have decisions to make.

"I don't think they probably know what they are going to do."

Djoker battles into French Open 2nd round

P ■ PARIS

Novak Djokovic started his bid for a men's record 23rd Grand Slam singles title with a straight-sets victory over Aleksandar Kovacevic in the French Open first round on Monday.

Two-time Roland Garros champion Djokovic held off a late rally from his American opponent on Court Philippe Chatrier to clinch a 6-3, 6-2, 7-6 (7/1) victory. He has still not lost in his opening match of a major since the 2006 Australian Open.

"I'm very motivated to stay in this tournament for a long time, it's just the start now," said Djokovic after kicking off his 19th consecutive French Open campaign. "I'm happy. I've started well and hope I can improve further for the next match."

The 36-year-old will face Hungarian Marton Fucsovics, who he has beaten four times in as many meetings, in the second round. Djokovic is only seeded third at Roland Garros this year despite

the absence of his great rival and 14-time winner Rafael Nadal through injury, behind world number one Alcaraz and Daniil Medvedev.

He is tied with Nadal for most men's Slam singles trophies and just one behind the 23 of Serena Williams. Margaret Court holds the all-time record of 24.

Kovacevic, the world number 114 playing in his first Grand Slam match, battled hard but could not put Djokovic under sustained pressure until it was too late.

Elsewhere, Canadian 10th seed Felix Auger-Aliassime suffered a third defeat at the opening hurdle in four visits to Roland Garros as he lost 6-4, 6-4, 6-3 to Fabio Fognini.

The unpredictable Italian, who himself has lost in the first round six times in nine tournaments so far this season, pulled off a shock win on Court Simonne Mathieu. The world number 52 will next face Australian Jason Kubler.

British 14th seed Cameron Norrie



came through a five-set thriller on Court Suzanne Lenglen to beat home wildcard Benoit Paire 7-5, 4-6, 3-6, 6-1, 6-4.

Last year's Wimbledon semi-finalist will take on resurgent Frenchman Lucas Pouille for a third-round berth.

Canadian Denis Shapovalov scraped past Brandon Nakashima 6-4, 7-5, 4-6, 3-6, 6-3.

Chinese hopes of a first men's singles match win at the French Open since 1937 were dashed as Wu Yibing lost 7-6 (7/4), 6-1, 6-1 to Robert Bautista Agut and Shang Juncheng was beaten 4-6, 2-6, 6-2, 6-3, 6-1 by Juan Pablo Varillas.

Zhang Zhizhen is the third and final Chinese man in action later Monday.

In the women's draw, former runner-up Sloane Stephens dumped out 16th seed Karolina Pliskova 6-0, 6-4.

Russian Anastasia Pavlyuchenkova, the losing finalist in 2021, brushed aside Czech teenager Linda Fruhvirtova 6-2, 6-2. Croatian 22nd seed Donna Vekic and American Madison Keys also secured their places in round two.

Chelsea hire Pochettino as new club manager

AP ■ LONDON

Chelsea hired Mauricio Pochettino as their new manager on Monday as the Argentine accepted the daunting task of reviving the troubled Premier League club.

Pochettino agreed a two-year contract with an option for an additional year and will return to the Premier League four years after being sacked by Chelsea's London rivals Tottenham. The 51-year-old had been out of work since being dismissed by Paris Saint-Germain in July 2022.

"Mauricio is a world-class coach with an outstanding track record. We are all looking forward to having him on board," Chelsea co-owners Todd Boehly



and Behdad Eghbali said in a statement.

Pochettino, who will begin his new role on July 1, replaces Frank Lampard after the former England midfielder returned to Chelsea as caretaker boss until the end of the season.

Lampard was Chelsea's third manager of a dismal cam-

paign that featured Boehly sacking Thomas Tuchel in September and then axing his successor Graham Potter in April after less than seven months in charge.

Pochettino emerged as the favourite after Chelsea held talks with the former Spain manager Luis Enrique and Julian Nagelsmann, who was sacked by Bayern Munich in March.

Pochettino verbally agreed to take charge at Chelsea in April, but the appointment was put on hold until the end of the season.

With the Blues wrapping up their lacklustre Premier League campaign with a draw against Newcastle on Sunday, Pochettino flew into England to officially seal the deal.

SUDHARSAN STARS FOR GT WITH 96

PTI ■ AHMEDABAD

B Sai Sudharsan led the charge with a terrific 96 as defending champions Gujarat Titans set Chennai Super Kings an imposing target of 215 in the IPL final here on Monday.

Sudharsan struck eight fours and six sixes to make his runs from a mere 46 balls, forging crucial partnerships along the way and helping GT find their feet in the summit clash, after Shubman Gill perished for 39 and Wriddhiman Saha failed to go beyond his half-century.

Put in to bat, Gujarat Titans posted a formidable 214/4.

A big moment arrived in the game as early as in the second over when Tushar Deshpande had Gill flicking a delivery on the leg side, as if executing a well-planned delivery, but with no success.

Deepak Chahar, positioned at short fine leg, spilled a regulation chance but Gill also could not hurt CSK the way he did Mumbai Indians a few nights ago, here.

Saha piled further pressure on the bowler, collecting 16 runs off the third over and providing the Titans momentum.

Gill followed with three consecutive fours off Deshpande, but Chahar's poor luck continued when spilled a tough return catch off Saha's bat.

The two drops indeed proved costly as GT reached 62 for no loss after the powerplay.



However, the brilliance of MS Dhoni ended Gill's sensational IPL with the bat, stumping the batter for a 20-ball 39 (7x4s) off Ravindra Jadeja (4-0-38-1) in the seventh over.

With 890 runs in 17 matches with three centuries and four fifties, an average of 59.33 and strike rate of 157.80, the 23-year-old Gill finished with the second best performance for any batter in IPL history.

Saha brought up his second fifty of this IPL in the 13th over but his 64-run stand with B Sai Sudharsan ended in the 14th over, with Chahar getting him caught by Dhoni.

Saha hit five fours and a six to make 54 from 39 balls.

The second highest run-scorer for Gujarat Titans this season, Sudharsan accelerated to his third fifty in this IPL, bringing it up with consecutive fours off Matheesha Pathirana.

The young left-handed batter from Chennai recovered well from a sedate start to accelerate after the 14th-over mark, hitting three fours and a six off Deshpande and two sixes against Theekshana. In fact, Sudharsan was on 36 from 25 balls when Saha was dismissed, and on the next 21 balls he faced, the 21-year-old smacked 60 runs.

However, in the final over, Sudharsan's carnage ended as Pathirana pinned him in front of the wickets for his first breakthrough in the game.

GT skipper Hardik Pandya scored an unbeaten 12-ball 21.



Kohli joins Team India training ahead of WTC final

PTI ■ ARUNDEL

Batting mainstay Virat Kohli joined the national team's training session on Monday at the picturesque Arundel Castle Cricket Club along with left-arm seamer Jaydev Unadkat, who seemed to have recovered from left shoulder injury.

India will play Australia at the Oval in the one-off Test from June 7 to 11. The BCCI on Monday shared pictures of the members of the team, including Kohli, pace duo of Umesh Yadav and Mohammed Siraj on their official twitter handle.

"Team India members begin their preparations for the WTC23 at Arundel Castle Cricket Club," BCCI said in a tweet. While Kohli, Umesh and Siraj were seen jogging in their new training kit, off-spinner Ravichandran Ashwin could be seen rolling his arm over at the nets.

Unadkat was also engaged in a discussion with head coach Rahul Dravid and bowling coach Paras Mhambrey. Cheteshwar Pujara, who has been playing for Sussex in the English

county circuit to prepare for the final, also was seen arriving in the training ground.

Umesh and Shardul Thakur were among the first batch of Indian players to arrive for the WTC final.

Skipper Rohit Sharma and young Mumbai opener Yashvi Jaiswal have also reached, while the last batch including Ravindra Jadeja, Shubman Gill, Mohammad Shami, K S Bharat and Ajinkya Rahane, will be leaving on Tuesday following the IPL final in Ahmedabad. Jaiswal was included in the squad as a stand-by player after Ruturaj Gaikwad informed BCCI about him getting married on June 3-4.

India had finished runners-up in 2021 after losing the WTC final to Kane Williamson-led New Zealand by eight wickets in Southampton two years ago.

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

ICC expecting full crowds for at least first four days of WTC final

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The International Cricket Council is expecting a sell-out crowd for at least the first four days of the World Test Championship final between India and Australia at The Oval in London from June 7.

The ICC has also kept a reserve day for the title clash if weather plays spoilsport.

"We have been working very closely with the local organising committee (ECB) to ensure it is a great spectacle for the fans. We are expecting full crowds for each of at least the first four days. We know we are heading in the right direction. "It has created huge interest in terms of fans,

and two best teams in the world will be slugging it out, it is set to be a fantastic event.

"We hope the weather stays clear so we can get the full amount of cricket, though we have a reserve day to make up for lost time," said Wasim Khan, ICC general manager of cricket, in a select media interaction.

The final of the inaugural edition also involved India, who finished runners up to New Zealand in Southampton two years ago. Asked why the game is being played in the UK for the second edition in a row, Wasim said the location goes well with the scheduling of the final. The Oval also serves as a neutral venue for both teams.

Sindhu, Srikanth eye good show in Thailand

PTI ■ BANGKOK

Following a decent show in Malaysia, star Indian shuttlers, including PV Sindhu and Kidambi Srikanth, will look for consistency as they begin their campaign in the Thailand Open Super 500 badminton tournament beginning here on Tuesday.

While Sindhu had reached the semi-finals last week, Srikanth signed off with a quarterfinal finish in Kuala Lumpur and the duo will look to go deep in the draw to keep their hopes of winning a title.

Double Olympic medalist Sindhu had come close to breaking her title jinx when she reached the finals of Madrid Spain Masters but Srikanth has struggled since his epic run on way to the Thomas Cup victory last year.

The 27-year-old from Hyderabad, who slipped two places to world number 13 this week, will face Canada's Michelle Li in the opening round, while Srikanth will look to take a few tips from HS Prannoy when he takes on Malaysia



Masters finalist Weng Hong Yang of China.

While a win for Sindhu is likely to put her face-to-face with China's sixth seed Wang Zhi Yi, Srikanth will have to compete with third-seeded Chinese Shi Yu Qi if he can cross the opening hurdle.

Lakshya Sen, who has slipped out of the top 20 following a dismal run this season, will open against Chinese Taipei's Wang Tzu Wei. Sen had lost to Angus Ng Ka Long of Hong Kong in straight games last week.

Orleans Masters winner Priyanshu Rajawat will also be in the fray this week when he squares off against Malaysia's Ng Tze Yong in the opening round.

After skipping Malaysia Masters, India's top doubles pair of Satwiksairaj Rankireddy and Chirag Shetty will be back in action this week, taking on France's Lucas Corvee and Ronan Labar.

Men's pair of Krishna Prasad Garaga and Vishnuvardhan Goud Panjala, women's pair of Ashwini Bhat K and Shikha Gautam are also in the fray.

WTC Final: Ponting picks both Jadeja and Ashwin in playing XI

PTI ■ LONDON

Former Australia skipper Ricky Ponting believes that India will play both Ravindra Jadeja and Ravichandran Ashwin in the World Test Championship final against Australia, starting June 7.

Ponting, a three-time ODI World Cup winner, also reckons that India should try out left-handed batter-keeper Ishan Kishan for the marquee match scheduled at the Oval.

"I think they will pick Jadeja and Ashwin because Jadeja can hold that No. 6 batting spot. His (Jadeja) batting has improved that much that they can pick him as a batter now who might just bowl a few overs if required," Ponting told in ICC Review Podcast.

Ponting then explained the reason behind his view.

"There is no doubt that Ashwin is a more skilled and better Test bowler than what Jadeja is, but if Jadeja can hold down that batting spot and then

as the game goes on, getting into the fourth and fifth day, if it does start to turn, then you have got that really high-class second spin bowling option if required," he explained.

Having played a host of Ashes games at the Oval during his playing days, Ponting expects a lot of turn on offer.

"Historically, the Oval pitch has been a very good batting wicket. It's generally offered something for the fast bowlers on day one, not a lot. But I have also played some games there where it has turned a lot. If it starts a little bit dry, it can turn a lot."

With no Rishabh Pant available for this game, Ponting feels Ishan Kishan with superior batting skills, should get a go.

"If I was them [India], knowing the importance of this game — and you have to win this Test match — I'd be going with Ishan Kishan in this game," Ponting said.

"He provides that little bit of X-factor that you need when you



might be pushing for a win in a Test match. Obviously, if Rishabh Pant is fit, he is playing, and he provides that X-factor for India.

"But with him not being there, and this is no blot on Bharat whatsoever, but I think Kishan just provides that little bit more X-factor, who'd do a good job with the gloves but can provide that really high-scoring run rate that is required in a one-off Test match to push for a win."

In a one-off Test, Ponting wants as many x-factor players as possible.

"I'd be going with as many X-factor players as I could and put some real pressure back on Australia."

Ponting was happy to see Ajinkya Rahane make a comeback to Test squad but also felt that his positive intent in first phase of IPL, did help his cause.

"Jinks (Rahane) has had an incredible IPL as well. It's funny, isn't it, how IPL runs can now get you picked back into a Test match squad," Ponting said.

"Jinks has been on the outer for the last couple of years in Test cricket, but everyone saw how confident he looked and how well he played in the IPL and that was enough to get him back in."

Ponting feels that Test cricket is easier for Rahane compared to his recent exploits in IPL for CSK.

"He (Rahane) has been there and done it before in Test cricket. It was probably a bigger hurdle for him to climb to get back into playing really good T20 cricket than it is for him to go back and play good Test cricket."

"His make-up is much more suited to the Test game than it is to T20 cricket. He has rediscovered some confidence and if he does get picked, I won't be surprised to see him get runs in that Test match. He has always been a really high-quality player and we saw him even with his leadership qualities in Australia, in that last series to turn things around."

Anderson, Robinson expected to be fit for England's Ashes bid

AP ■ LONDON

England head coach Brendon McCullum expects James Anderson and Ollie Robinson to be fit for the Ashes clash with Australia despite ruling the pace bowlers out of this week's Test against Ireland.

Anderson strained his groin while on Lancashire duty and Robinson suffered an ankle issue playing for Sussex earlier this month.

The pair will remain sidelined when England host Ireland at Lord's in a four-day match prior to the first Ashes Test.

The five-match series against Australia begins on June 16, but McCullum is confident Anderson and Robinson can return in time for the opener in Birmingham.

"For the first Ashes Test, I think they should be fit," McCullum said on Monday.

"They won't be fit for this one against Ireland. We'll just have to monitor it over this next sort of while, but we've got some great options right throughout the squad."

"When I first took over this job, people said there wasn't much depth in English cricket and I disagree with that completely."

"I think there is an immense amount of depth and we've got plenty of good options throughout the squad."

England already have fitness concerns over a number of other bowlers, with Jofra Archer and Olly Stone struggling with elbow and hamstring problems respectively.



With Anderson and Robinson ruled out, Stuart Broad will lead the bowling attack against Ireland but Mark Wood will have to be assessed before a final decision is made on his fitness. "He is bowling over there at the moment and seems to be getting through his work so hopefully he will be fine too," McCullum said of Wood.

"We've still got a couple of days and will make the decision when we need to, but he seems to be progressing well."

All eyes were on captain Ben Stokes during England's training session on Monday.

There are doubts over how much he will bowl this summer following an Indian Premier League series where he only played twice

and sent down just one over for Chennai Super Kings.

McCullum remains positive the talismanic all-rounder can still make an impact with the ball.

Asked if Stokes will bowl against Ireland, McCullum responded: "I don't know. You'll have to ask Stokes. He's progressing well too. "He looks really fit as well, looks in great order and has a big smile on his face."

"He is delighted to be back around the group and as our leader, having that sort of energy he brings is fantastic so again we'll monitor that and see what happens. "I think he'll bowl at some stage throughout the summer, yeah, no doubt."

"He is a world class all-rounder and if he is able to bowl, fantastic. If not, we'll find a way."

BWF extends ban on 'spin serve'

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The Badminton World Federation (BWF) has decided to extend the ban on the new 'spin serve' until the conclusion of the Paris Olympics and Paralympic Games next year. The ruling will be applied from the Thailand Open Super 500 tournament starting in Bangkok on Tuesday.

Ahead of the Sudirman Cup, the BWF had put an interim ban on the use of the experimental serve until May 29, 2023.

"After consultation with the badminton community, BWF Council believed it best to forbid the 'spin serve' for another 15 months so as to not impact the Olympic and Paralympic qualifying periods and the Games themselves," the BWF said in a statement.