

**OPINION 6**  
THE LONG SHADOW  
OF BLASPHEMY LAWS

**MONEY 10**  
RUPEE FALLS 20 PAISE TO  
CLOSE AT RECORD LOW

**WORLD 8**  
'ENOUGH PROOF UNCOVERED  
TO INDICT TRUMP'

Published From  
DELHI LUCKNOW BHOPAL BHUBANESWAR  
RANCHI RAIPUR CHANDIGARH  
DEHRADUN HYDERABAD VIJAYWADA

Late City Vol. 16 Issue 162  
\*Air Surcharge Extra if Applicable

DEHRADUN, TUESDAY JUNE 14, 2022; PAGES 12 ₹2

# the pioneer

www.dailypioneer.com

INDIA TAKE  
ON PROTEAS IN  
3<sup>RD</sup> T20I TODAY  
12 SPORT



**CAPSULE**

**SENSEX DOWN 1,457 PTS  
AMID GLOBAL ROLT**

**Mumbai:** Equity benchmarks had another rough day on Monday, with the Sensex plummeting 1,457 points and the Nifty tumbling to the 15,774 level, mirroring an extremely weak trend in global markets along with unrelenting foreign fund outflows.

**INFLATION EASES TO 7%  
AS FOOD PRICES DOWN**

**New Delhi:** Retail inflation eased to 7.04 per cent in May, mainly on account of softening food and fuel prices as the Government as well as the RBI stepped in to control spiralling price rise by way of duty cuts and repo rate hike.

**RARE DINOSAUR 'EGG-IN-EGG' FOUND IN MP**

**New Delhi:** A team of researchers from Delhi University has discovered an "egg-in-egg" dinosaur egg from Madhya Pradesh, which is probably the first time in the fossil history, a statement issued by it said. According to the researchers, the discovery is a "rare and important find" as no "ovum-in-ovo" egg was found in reptiles until now. The findings have been published in the latest issue of the journal Scientific Reports.

**PROPHET ROW COULD BE  
HANDLED BETTER: CHINA**

**Beijing:** China on Monday waded into the furor over the controversial remarks by two now-suspended BJP functionaries against Prophet Mohammad, expressing the hope that the incident can be properly handled. China faces serious allegations of a mass crackdown on Uyghur Muslims in Xinjiang.

## Rahul's ED grilling to continue today

Senior Congress leaders, workers march in solidarity, hold protests

**PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI**

Congress leader Rahul Gandhi who was questioned by the Enforcement Directorate (ED) on Monday in a money laundering probe linked to the National Herald newspaper was asked to appear before it again on Tuesday, officials said. They said the questioning on Monday continued well past 9 pm.

Rahul reached the agency's headquarters accompanied by party leaders and a large number of supporters.

Rahul was questioned for almost 20 minutes when he reached the ED office around 11 am. He was allowed by the ED to leave for lunch around 2 pm and returned for the questioning around 3.30 pm.

Sources said Rahul wrote down his statement under section 50 of the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA) during the first round of questioning.

When Rahul left the Congress headquarters he was accompanied by party leaders, including Priyanka Gandhi



Congress leader Rahul Gandhi leaves for ED office for questioning in the National Herald case, in New Delhi on Monday

Rahul, Priyanka meet Sonia at hospital

**New Delhi:** Congress leaders Rahul Gandhi and Priyanka Gandhi Vadra visited party president and their mother Sonia Gandhi at the Sir Ganga Ram Hospital here on Monday, a day after she was admitted to the facility.

Vadra, Rajasthan Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot, Chhattisgarh Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel and former Union Finance Minister P Chidambaram.

Priyanka sat with Rahul in a vehicle as the convoy of seven SUVs, escorted by armed CRPF personnel, entered the ED office on APJ Abdul Kalam Road. The probe pertains to alleged financial irregularities in the party-promoted Young Indian that owns the National Herald newspaper. The National Herald is published by the Associated Journals Limited (AJL) and owned by Young Indian Pvt Limited.

At a Press conference later in the day, the Congress said the 1937-established AJL faced huge debts and the party during 2002-11, gave ₹90 crore to the National Herald to pay the salaries of the journalists and staffers who worked there.

## Booster must as Covid wave likely every 6 months: WHO

**PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI**

Any hope that Covid-19 could soon be a nightmare of the past may be entirely misplaced. The World Health Organization (WHO) has warned that countries are likely to witness waves of Covid-19 infection every four to six months.

Making this prognosis, WHO chief scientist Soumya Swaminathan has said that there is a need to get the booster shots to deal with the situation. "Boosters are important to boost waning immunity, especially in the vulnerable age groups," she said.

"One is likely to see waves every four to six months, the intensity depends on how many susceptible people are there in the population," she told a TV channel.

She emphasised that booster dose was particularly important for vulnerable people.

After registering a lull period for a few months, India has been again registering an upward trend in Covid infections

Swaminathan outlined several reasons behind the current rise in the number of Covid-19 cases in India. Waning immunity, more transmissible sub-variants like BA.4 and 5, and crowding with no masks are some of the reasons behind the spike, she said.

She said the Government must explain to the people the booster shot is needed for a



Women walk past a graffiti on a wall urging people to wear face masks in Mumbai, on Monday

strong long-lasting immunity.

Meanwhile, three cases of BA.4 and one of BA.5 Omicron sub-variants of coronavirus were found in Mumbai on Monday. Amid a surge in Covid-19 cases in Mumbai

and other parts of Maharashtra, medical experts say most of the patients are showing mild symptoms and fatality is low in the present "mild wave", and also no new virus variant of concern has been observed.

The patients were being administered paracetamol, and not Remdesivir drug, which was used for patients in the first and second Covid-19 waves, they said.

Meanwhile, with 8,084 new coronavirus infections being reported in a day, India's tally of Covid-19 cases rose to

4,32,30,101 while the daily positivity rate was over three per cent after nearly four months, according to the Union Health Ministry data updated on Monday.

The death toll climbed to 5,24,771 with 10 fatalities, the data updated at 8 am stated. The active cases comprise 0.11 per cent of the total infections, while the national Covid-19 recovery rate was 98.68 per cent, the Ministry said.

An increase of 3,482 cases has been recorded in the active Covid-19 caseload in a span of 24 hours.

The daily positivity rate was recorded at 3.24 per cent and the weekly positivity rate was recorded at 2.21 per cent, according to the Ministry.

## Nuke numbers to grow in next decade: Report

**PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI**

Nuclear weapons will increase in the next decade and India, one of the nine nuclear States, will continue to modernise its nuclear arsenal, the prestigious Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI) said on Monday in its annual report.

The report assessed the current state of armaments, disarmament, and international security and said despite a marginal decrease in the number of nuclear warheads in 2021, nuclear arsenals are expected to grown over the next ten years. It signals that post-cold war decline in nuclear arsenals is ending.

The SIPRI report said the nine nuclear-armed States —



the United States, Russia, the United Kingdom, France, China, India, Pakistan, Israel and the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (North Korea) — continue to modernise their nuclear arsenals. Although the total number of nuclear weapons declined slightly between January 2021 and January 2022, the number will probably increase in the next decade, it said.

Russia and the USA together possess over 90 per cent of all nuclear weapons. The other seven nuclear-armed States are either developing or deploying new weapon systems, or have announced their intention to do so.

India had 160 nuclear warheads as on January 2022 and it appears to be expanding its nuclear arsenal, the report said. Similarly, Pakistan also appears to be expanding its nuclear arsenal, it said.

"China is in the middle of a substantial expansion of its nuclear weapon arsenal, which satellite images indicate includes the construction of over 300 new missile silos," the SIPRI statement noted.

China had 350 nuclear warheads in January 2021 as well as January 2022, it said.

## NCLAT rejects Amazon plea against CCI's order suspending Future deal

**PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI**

In a major setback to Amazon, the National Company Law Appellate Tribunal (NCLAT) on Monday rejected the US e-commerce giant's appeal against an antitrust suspension of its investment deal with Future Group, saying the retailer had not made full disclosures at the time of seeking approval.

The NCLAT upheld a ₹200 crore penalty on Amazon by the Competition Commission of India (CCI) and asked the e-commerce giant to deposit the same in 45 days.

The appellate tribunal ratified the CCI findings that Amazon didn't make full disclosures regarding the deal with Future Retail subsidiary — Future Coupons Pvt Ltd.

In its order, NCLAT said,



"Amazon has not made full, whole, forthright and frank disclosures of relevant materials. It had furnished only limited disclosures pertaining to acquiring its strategic rights and interest in FRL (Future Retail Ltd)" and executing the commercial contract.

"In this regard, this appellate tribunal is in complete agreement with the view arrived at by the first respondent (CCI)," said the NCLAT bench comprising Justice M

Venugopal and Ashok Kumar Mishra.

The CCI on December 17, 2021, levied a ₹200 crore penalty on Amazon and suspended its deal with Future, stating that the US firm deliberately suppressed the actual scope and purpose of the 2019 investment and made false and incorrect statements.

Amazon had challenged the decision, arguing that it had not concealed any information.

## Lanka electricity chief quits after taking back remark on Adani deal

**PTI ■ COLOMBO**

A top Sri Lankan official, who claimed before a parliamentary panel that Prime Minister Narendra Modi allegedly influenced President Gotabaya Rajapaksa to award a wind power project to the Adani Group in this island nation, resigned on Monday, a day after retracting his earlier statement.

The resignation of MMC Ferdinando, the chairman of state-owned power entity Ceylon Electricity Board (CEB), has been accepted, energy minister Kanchana Wijesekera said on Monday.

Ferdinando, during a hearing of the Committee On Public Enterprises (COPE) on Friday, said that President Rajapaksa had summoned him after a meeting in

November last year and told him that the wind power project be awarded to the Adani Group of India's billionaire Gautam Adani as Prime Minister Modi had urged him to do so.

However, President Rajapaksa on Saturday categorically denied Ferdinando's statement before the parliamentary panel.

Rajapaksa tweeted: "I categorically deny authorisation to award this project to any specific person or entity."

On Sunday, Ferdinando wrote to the COPE chair in Parliament Professor Charitha Herath that he was withdrawing his comment, saying it had been done under stress, and that he was not influenced by either President Rajapaksa or the Indian High Commission here to retract it.

## Kuwait to deport expats for Prophet row protests

**PIONEER NEWS SERVICE/ AGENCIES ■ NEW DELHI/ KUWAIT**

Kuwait has said it will deport expatriates who reportedly took part in a demonstration against remarks made by the now-suspended BJP spokespersons against Prophet Mohammad. The deported people will not be allowed to enter Kuwait again.

The action was initiated against the protesters on Monday as they violated the law of Kuwait prohibiting demonstrations or sit-ins, reports said. The local authorities are in the process of "arresting expats and referring them to the deportation centre to be deported to their countries," news agency ANI reported, quoting the Arab Times. The expats will be banned from entering Kuwait again, it said.

Instructions have been issued to arrest expats from the Fahahel area which saw a demonstration after Friday prayers, Arab News, an English-language daily news-

paper published in Saudi Arabia, quoted sources as saying. All expatriates must respect Kuwait laws and not take part in any type of demonstrations, the report said, quoting the instructions to authorities. However, the nationality of the protesters was not disclosed in the report.

Incidentally, Kuwait along with Qatar and Iran were the first countries in the Arab world to summon Indian envoys to their respective countries to register official protest against remarks criticizing the Prophet.

According to latest statistics, the number of Indian nationals legally residing in Kuwait has crossed the 10-lakh mark in 2019. The Indian community in Kuwait continues to grow at 5-6 per cent per annum.

The Indian community remains the largest and the most preferred community in Kuwait, the second largest expatriate community being the Egyptians, according to the Indian Embassy in Kuwait.

## Don't advertise online betting platforms: I&B Min to media

**PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI**

Asserting that betting and gambling are illegal in "most parts" of the country and pose significant financial and socio-economic risk for consumers, the Information and Broadcasting Ministry on Monday issued an advisory directing print, electronic and digital media to refrain from advertising online betting platforms in India.

The Ministry said that the advisory was issued in larger public interest and comes in the light of instances of a number of advertisements of online betting websites/platforms appearing in print, electronic, social and online media.



On May 26, the Delhi High Court sought Centre's response on a petition seeking banning of online gambling and betting in India. Similar cases are pending in Gujarat, Karnataka and Kerala High Court awaiting Centre and State

Government's response. The petitions pointed out that many online betting websites have made people addicted and even students now largely have access to mobile phones and the internet. Division Bench of Acting Chief Justice Vipin Sanghi and Justice Sachin Data issued notice to Centre and Delhi State seeking response.

The I&B Ministry advised the print and electronic media to refrain from publishing advertisements of online betting platforms. It has also advised the online and social media, including online advertisement intermediaries and publishers, to not display such advertisements in India or target such advertisements towards the Indian audience.

## History is history, how can one change it, says Nitish

**PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI**

Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar has distanced himself from yet another pet agenda of the Sangh parivar: Rewriting history.

"History is what it is, how can anyone change it?" He said on Home Minister Amit Shah's assertion that it's time to revisit history books as historians have focussed only on Mughals so far, ignoring other glorious empires.

When a reporter asked what he thought of Shah's suggestion, the Bihar CM said, "Will you change history then? I don't understand how one can change it. History is history."

Language is a different issue but you can't change the fundamental history, he said. This is yet another stance of the Bihar CM differing with the BJP on ideological issues. Kumar has already shot down the demand for removing loud-speakers from mosques.



Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar during the send-off ceremony for the first batch of Haj pilgrims, at Haj Bhawan, in Patna, on Sunday

He has also opposed the CAA in its present form and all together rejected the need for implementation of the NCR. Nitish has brushed aside the demand for implementation of Uniform Civil Code in India.

Last week, Shah urged historians in the country to revive the glory of the past for the present, saying it will help in building a bright future. "Most of the historians in India have given prominence to recording the history of Mughals only, ignoring the

glorious rules of many empires like Pandyas, Cholas, Mauryas, Guptas and Ahoms," Shah had said at a recent book launch. "The Mauryas ruled the whole country — from Afghanistan to Lanka for 550 years. The Satvahans ruled for 500 years. The Guptas ruled for 400 years and (Gupta emperor) Samudragupta had for the first time visioned a united India and established an empire with the whole country. But there is no reference book on them," he had said.

## Centre committed to welfare of poor- Union minister

PNS ■ NEW TEHRI

Union minister for Coal and Mines, and Parliamentary Affairs, Pralhad Joshi said that the Central government is committed to the welfare of the poor. All the eligible citizens are to be covered by the

under the Jan Dhan Yojana. The minister said that under PM Modi, about Rs 3,60,000 crore is being spent for ensuring water supply in every home. Though supplying water in homes is the task of the State govern-



various welfare schemes being facilitated by the government, he said. The minister was speaking at an interaction with beneficiaries of centrally funded schemes here on the second day of his district tour on Monday.

Joshi said that in line with Prime Minister Narendra Modi's vision, under the PM Awas Yojana, nobody will be without a home by 2024. Under the Kisan Samman Nidhi, about Rs 12,000 crore is being transferred directly to the accounts of farmers every year. He said that tap water will be made available in every home under the Jal Jeevan Mission while under the one nation-one ration card scheme, a citizen can procure ration from anywhere in the country. Joshi further said that about Rs 2,25,000 crore which used to end up with middlemen has reached the intended beneficiaries

ment, PM Modi has taken up this task while sitting at the Centre, said Joshi.

Interacting with beneficiaries of the central schemes, the Union minister asked them about the benefits they had received and problems they had faced. He interacted with beneficiaries of PM Awas Yojana, Kisan Samman Nidhi, national child nutrition, Matri Vandana Yojana, Swachh Bharat Mission, Ujjwala Yojana, PM Garib Kalyan Yojana and Ayushman Bharat Yojana. Members of women self help groups also shared their experiences with the minister. Cabinet minister Subodh Uniyal, Tehri MP Mala Rajya Laxmi Shah, MLAs Shaktilal Shah, Vinod Kandari, other public representatives and district level officials were also present on the occasion.

## 12th Environment Summit focuses on pertinent issues

PNS ■ DEHRADUN

The Uttarakhand State Council for Science and Technology (UCOST) director general Rajendra Dobhal said that it is responsibility of every individual to protect

CII Uttarakhand chairperson Sonia Garg said that due to the triple planetary crisis, climate change, nature and biodiversity loss, and the increase in pollution and waste, the need for action to protect the planet is now more important than ever. She further apprised that CII through its centres of excellence is helping businesses address climate change risks and identify opportunities through capacity building and advisory services.

Past chairman of CII Uttarakhand and convener of the panel on environment and sustainability, Rakesh Oberai said that since there is no alternative to earth, it is high time to take actions to tackle the challenges associated with climate, nature and society, and leading to a sustainable tomorrow.

Experts expressed their views later in sessions on ecosystem restoration and moving towards circular economy for greener and sustainable living. The first day of the summit was attended by over 70 delegates from industry, institutions, academia, NGOs and experts in the area of environment.



earth and to prove themselves as an asset to nature. He said this while speaking as the chief guest at the inaugural session of the two-day 12th Environment Summit organised by CII and UCOST.

The focus of the first day of the summit was on ecosystem restoration and moving towards circular economy for greener and sustainable living.

## Murder accused nabbed en route to Nepal

PNS ■ PAURI

The Rikhanikhal police have arrested a murder accused within 36 hours of a complaint being lodged against him. The police nabbed Bhure Singh from Bijnor in Uttar Pradesh when he was waiting to board a bus for Banbasa from where he was planning to escape to Nepal.



According to the police, Bijnor resident Arvind Kumar lodged a report in Rikhanikhal police station on June 10 stating that Bhure Singh had murdered his 32-year old brother Bittu with a sharp weapon at the forest chowki in Rathuwadhab on the night of June 9. The police registered a case against Bhure Singh under section 302 of IPC. A team was formed to nab the accused. The police team raided various places in search of the accused. The police came to know from an informer that Singh was



Tourists crowd a lakeside market in Nainital on a Monday which saw tourists continuing to arrive till late evening contrary to expectation of drop in tourist numbers after the weekend. Pioneer photo

## MCH steps up efforts to maintain sanitation

PNS ■ HARIDWAR

In order to make its sanitation works more efficient, the Municipal Corporation of Haridwar (MCH) has started collecting garbage from public places during the night for some days now. Collecting garbage from collection points during the day-time used to cause traffic congestion and public inconvenience. Considering this, the municipal commissioner Dayanand Saraswati had directed that the garbage should be collected during the night.



Nagar Nigam, Haridwar  
नगर निगम, हरिद्वार

Being a major pilgrimage centre, Haridwar is visited by lakhs of pilgrims and tourists every month. The number of visitors increases considerably during the Char Dham Yatra currently underway. This also results in increased generation of garbage. The MCH is doing its bit to tackle the challenge and keep the city clean. Sanitation workers clean the public places and collect the garbage at one point from where it is cleared at night. About 40 garbage collection vehicles along with sanitation workers are employed in the area under the MCH while Namami Gange workers focus on clean-

ing the Ganga ghats. Generally, about 120 to 150 metric tonnes of garbage is generated daily in Haridwar. This quantity has in-

creased these days with 180 to 200 metric tonnes being generated daily.

The garbage in the city is cleared and deposited at collection points thrice a day. The shifts are increased to four when crowds of visitors swell during the weekends. Six garbage collection points have been made in the city. The waste collected from the municipal wards is collected and transported for disposal.

Assistant municipal commissioner ML Shah said that two companies have been hired to pick up the garbage in the MCH area. About 180 metric tonnes of garbage is being lifted daily from the city. Additional personnel have been deployed to maintain sanitation during the ongoing tourism season, he added.

**बैंक ऑफ इंडिया** BANK OF INDIA, ALMORA BRANCH, SUNITA SON CITY CENTRE MALL ROAD ALMORA-263001, TEL NO 05962-230199 EMAIL- Almora.Dehradun@bankofindia.co.in

**NOTICE FOR PUBLIC AUCTION OF PLEDGED GOLD ORNAMENTS/ ARTICLES**

It is hereby brought to the notice of the following gold loan borrowers, their legal heirs, persons engaged in business of gold ornaments/ articles and general public that in spite of repeated reminders/ notices by the Bank, the following borrowers are not repaying their dues to the Bank.

Notice is hereby published that if they fail to deposit all their dues in their respective gold loan accounts (including up-to-date interest and all costs charges/ expenses) by 04-07-2022(date), then from 11:00 AM (time) of 05-07-2022 (date), their pledged gold ornaments/ articles will be put up for public auction in the branch premises. For this, Bank shall not be held responsible for any inconvenience or damage caused to the concerned borrowers and no allegations or representations will be entertained from any borrowers in this regard.

Persons interested to take part in the bidding should deposit Rs.500/- (Rupees Five Hundred only) with the Branch Manager before the scheduled time/ date towards earnest money. Persons having taken part in final bidding must be able to deposit full amount to the Bank within 48 hours, failing which their earnest money, deposited with the Bank will be forfeited. Bank reserves the right to cancel the auction without assigning any reasons in case, the bidding price so arrived at, is observed to be low or inadequate. Further, if need be, Bank reserves the right to change the date, time or place of the above scheduled auction or cancel the same without assigning any reasons thereon.

Account No.	Name of the Borrower	Address	Gross weight of the Gold
689073710000042	Sunder Singh S/o Shri Khim Singh	Village laait Lodhiya Almora	33.00 gm

BRANCH MANAGER

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA**  
MINISTRY OF TEXTILES  
OFFICE OF THE DEVELOPMENT COMMISSIONER FOR HANDLOOMS

Applications are invited from all eligible handloom clusters including Co-operative Societies, Producer Groups, Self Help Groups (SHGs) and Federations for participation in Dilli Haat, INA, New Delhi during the year 2022 for the following slots:

**Dilli Haat, INA, New Delhi**

Sl. No.	Slots	Sl. No.	Slots
1.	1 <sup>st</sup> to 15 <sup>th</sup> July, 2022	6.	16 <sup>th</sup> to 30 <sup>th</sup> September, 2022
2.	16 <sup>th</sup> to 31 <sup>st</sup> July, 2022	7.	1 <sup>st</sup> to 15 <sup>th</sup> October, 2022
3.	1 <sup>st</sup> to 15 <sup>th</sup> August, 2022	8.	16 <sup>th</sup> to 31 <sup>st</sup> October, 2022
4.	16 <sup>th</sup> to 31 <sup>st</sup> August, 2022	9.	1 <sup>st</sup> to 15 <sup>th</sup> November, 2022
5.	1 <sup>st</sup> to 15 <sup>th</sup> September, 2022	10.	16 <sup>th</sup> to 30 November, 2022

**Eligibility**

- All Handloom Clusters including Co-operative Societies, Producer groups, Self Help Groups (SHGs) and Federations are eligible to participate. Stalls will also be allotted to Sant Kabir Awardees during the lean season from April, 2022 to September, 2022.
- One agency will be allowed participation only once in one year during the peak season (October to March) and Six Months during the lean season (April to September) so as to ensure adequate rotation.

All Eligible clusters are required to fill up only one application for all the above slots of Dilli Haat in the prescribed format and submit to their nearest Weavers Service Centre (WSC) with intimation to the office of the Development Commissioner for Handloom. The last date for submission of application for Dilli Haat will be 15 days from the date of publication of advertisement in the newspaper. For more details, applicants may contact their nearest Weavers Service Centre or log on to the website of the Development Commissioner for Handlooms: [www.handlooms.nic.in](http://www.handlooms.nic.in). The portal for online application is going to be operationalised soon. As soon as portal is ready, applications can also be made online. This would be intimated through advertisements.

Development Commissioner (Handlooms)  
Govt. of India, Ministry of Textiles, Udyog Bhawan, New Delhi-110011  
davp 41102/11/0003/2223

**'ONE STATION ONE PRODUCT'**

**Application Notice**

Sr. Divisional Commercial Manager (Coaching), Northern Railway, DRM Office, Moradabad under the policy of "One Station One Product" invites applications up to 20.06.2022 from (a) Holder of Artisan / Weaver ID card issued by Development Commissioner Handicrafts, Development Commissioner Handloom, or by the requisite State/Central Government Authority Or (b) Individual artisans/weavers/craftsmen enrolled/ registered with Tribal Cooperative Marketing Development Federation of India Limited (TRIFED)/ National Handloom Development Corporation (NHDC)/Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC) etc. Or (c) Self Help Groups registered with PMEGP (Prime Minister's Employment Generation Programme) Or (d) Marginalized or weaker sections of society for promotion and sale of "Handicrafts / Artifacts, Textiles and Handlooms, Traditional Garments, Local agricultural produce/ processed/semi processed foods" on railway stations over Moradabad Division for a spell of 15-15 days each to different eligible bidders starting from 23.06.2022 onwards. Details terms and conditions are available on [www.nr.indianrailways.gov.in](http://www.nr.indianrailways.gov.in) under "Tenders" section.

**NORTHERN RAILWAY**  
Your Convenience - Our Concern  
Visit us at: [www.nr.indianrailways.gov.in](http://www.nr.indianrailways.gov.in)

**MUTUAL FUND INVESTOR AWARENESS PROGRAM**

Do join us to learn more about Mutual Funds.

**Date and Venue:**  
Thursday, 16th June, 2022: 6:15 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.  
at Hotel Castle View, Roorkee.  
For registration, please contact: Shivam Pande, Mobile: 97606 24697.

Registration is compulsory.  
The registration time will be from 9:30 am to 5:00 pm.  
It is mandatory to follow the COVID safety guidelines during the event.  
No walk-ins will be allowed.

**HDFC MUTUAL FUND**  
An Investor Education by HDFC Mutual Fund

For KYC, change of address, investor complaints redressal etc. visit <https://www.hdfcfund.com/information/key-know-how>  
MUTUAL FUND INVESTMENTS ARE SUBJECT TO MARKET RISKS, READ ALL SCHEME RELATED DOCUMENTS CAREFULLY.

**NORTHERN RAILWAY**  
E-TENDER NOTICE

Sr.DEN/III/MB acting for and on behalf of The President of India invites E-Tenders against Tender No. 45-DRM-MB-22-23 closing date 05.07.2022, 16:00 hrs.

**Name of work:** Renewal of terminals with Thick web Switches/OR Switches in the section of SSE/PW/SAN & HRI under ADEN/HRI-I, Tender closing date/ time: 05.07.2022, 16:00 hrs, Cost of work: Rs. 2,34,07,982.13, Earnest Money: Rs. 2,67,000.00, Tender Cost: NIL, Bidding start date: 21.06.2022 and Period of Completion: 15 Months. Bidders will be able to submit their original/revised bids upto closing date and time only. Manual offers are not allowed against this tender, and any such manual offer received shall be ignored. For detail information please log into [www.ireps.gov.in](http://www.ireps.gov.in).

Contractors are allowed to make payments against this tender towards tender document cost and earnest money only through online payment modes available on IREPS portal like net banking, debit card, credit card etc. Manual payments through Demand draft, Banker's cheque, Deposit receipts, FDR etc. are not allowed.

No.: 45-DRM-MB-22-23 Dated: 09.06.2022 1424/2022

Serving Customers with a Smile

**E- AUCTION NOTICE**  
(TRANSIT DAMAGED APPROX. 4,138 PCS OF MDF BOARDS)

E- Auction forms are invited from interested buyers for disposal of offered materials / salvage strictly on "As is Where is" basis, for Transit Damaged Approx. 4,138 Pcs of MDF Boards, belonging to M/s. Greenpanel Industries Ltd., Plot No. 2, Sector 9, IIE, Pantragar, Sidcul, Rudrapur, Udham Singh Nagar, Uttarakhand - 263153. The offered goods can be inspected between 14-06-2022 to 22-06-2022, after taking prior appointment with Mr. Anshu Jaiswal - 79835 30900 / 81710 02401 or Mr. Harish Tiwari - 81710 02408. For the participation in above E-Auction to be held on 23-06-2022, please contact Mr. Atul Halankar at 85959 57149 of

**Salvage Settlers Pvt. Ltd.**, (Auctioneers) at FF-20 & 22, Pearl Oxmze, Netaji Subhash Place, Pitampura, New Delhi -110034, or download from website: [www.SalvageSettlers.com](http://www.SalvageSettlers.com). Last date for submission of E-auction form is 23-06-2022 before 12:00 PM. On behalf of M/s. V.P. Singhal & Co. Surveyors & Assessors (P) Ltd (Mr. Mohd. F. Islam - 9911003339)

**THE PIONEER CLASSIFIEDS**  
CHANGE OF NAME

The general public is informed that we have changed our daughter name Avleen to **Avleen Singh** and in future she should be known as **Avleen Singh D/o Jaspreet Singh** Address: C-43/44 Shri Ram Nagar Gol Gurudwara Jwalapur Haridwar UK

The general public is informed that I have changed my name from **Kumari Krishna** to **Krishna Khattar** and in future I should be known as **Krishna Khattar D/o Deepak Kumar** Address: 84 Nand Vihar Colony Jwalapur Town Haridwar UK

The general public is informed that I have changed my name from **Umesh Arora** to **Umesh Wadhwa** and in future I should be known as **Umesh Wadhwa S/o Ashok Kumar Arora** Address: 39 Nandpuri Arya Nagar Jwalapur Haridwar

The general public is informed that I have changed my name from **Shevta Arora** to **Shaveta Wadhwa** and in future I should be known as **Shaveta Wadhwa W/o Umesh Wadhwa** Address: 39 Nandpuri Arya Nagar Jwalapur Haridwar

The general public is informed that I have changed my name from **Rajiv Kumar Sharma** to **Rajeev Sharma** and in future I should be known as **Rajeev Sharma S/o Hari Prasad Sharma** Address: S-68 Shivalik Nagar BHEL Ranipur Haridwar UK

The general public is informed that I have changed my name from **Piyooch Sharma** to **Piyush Sharma** and in future I should be known as **Piyush Sharma W/o Rajeev Sharma** Address: S-68 Shivalik Nagar BHEL Ranipur Haridwar UK

**PUBLIC NOTICE**

I DINESH Aggarwal S/o Prahlad Dass Aggarwal, Vivek Vihar Haridwar, Purchased a land by Shri Satish Chand Sharma S/o Shri Ajendrapal Sharma. H.No. 191 EWS Avas Vikas Colony dated 21/05/1997 by Registered Sale Deed. The Original Copy of which is registered in book No. 01 Volume 951/1055 page No. 187-190 of Haridwar Registrar office document No. 2126 has actually been lost. If anyone find the sale deed kindly Contact below mention No. 9837964940.

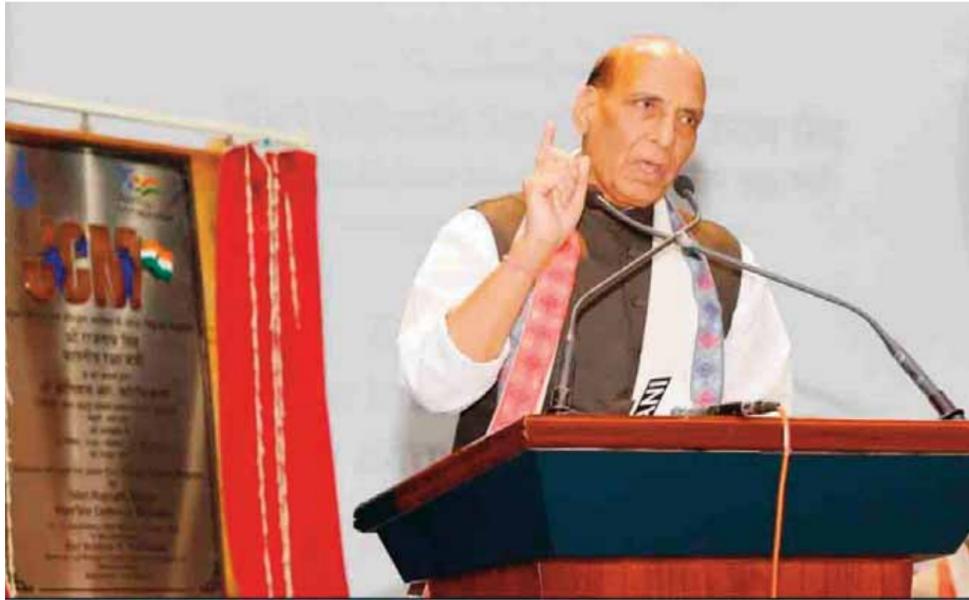
**Disclaimer**

The Pioneer does not take responsibility for the content for the advertisement (Display/Classified) carried in this newspaper. The paper does not endorse the same. Readers are requested to verify the contents on their own.

**For advertisement booking**  
Contact: 9045057787, 8909212518  
[pioneerdoon@gmail.com](mailto:pioneerdoon@gmail.com)

# Break silos of civil administration & armed forces to tackle hybrid threats- Defence Minister

PNS ■ DEHRADUN



Defence minister Rajnath Singh said that unless the silos of the civil administration and armed forces are broken to deal with hybrid threats, the nation cannot expect adequate preparedness to respond to future challenges. He stressed that synergy does not mean infringing upon each other's autonomy. Addressing participants of 28th Joint Civil-Military Training Programme at Lal Bahadur Shastri National Academy of Administration (LBSNAA) in Mussoorie on Monday, he pointed out that the concept of national security has broadened, as many non-military dimensions have been added to the more general aspect of protection from military attacks. Singh described the Russia-Ukraine situation and other similar conflicts as proof that the world is witnessing challenges far beyond conventional warfare. "War and

peace are no longer two exclusive states, but a continuum. Even during peace, war continues on many fronts. A full-scale war is lethal to a country as much as it is for its enemies. Therefore, full scale wars have been avoided in the last few decades. They have been replaced by proxies and non-combat wars. Technology, supply line, information, energy, trade system, finance system etc. are being weaponised, which can be used as a weapon against us in the coming times. People's co-operation is needed to deal with this widened scope of security challenges," he said, while emphasising on the need to adopt 'Whole of the Nation' and 'Whole of the Government' approach to overcome these challenges.

He asserted that the full-fledged process of civil-military jointness has been started by the government with the

creation of the post of Chief of Defence Staff and establishment of Department of Military Affairs. He said, these decisions are proving to be helpful in making the country ready for future challenges. He added that the steps taken to modernise the armed forces and make the defence sector self-reliant have started to yield results with India not only manufacturing equipment for its armed forces, but also meeting the needs of friendly countries.

"India is a peace-loving nation which does not want war. It has never attacked any country, nor has it captured an inch of anyone's land. However, if anyone casts an evil eye on us, we will give a befitting reply," said the Defence minister.

He exuded confidence that programmes like the Joint Civil-Military Programme at

LBSNAA will play a crucial role in the journey of civil-military integration, which has started under the present government. He said that while the division of work was necessary for the smooth functioning of a vast country like India, over a period of time departments and ministries started to work in silos.

The approach of working in silos has been changed by Prime Minister Narendra Modi who focusses on working with jointness. This new approach, with which the government is now working, has ensured holistic development of the nation, he added.

It will be recalled that the Joint Civil-Military Programme was initiated in 2001 to foster structured interface between civil servants and armed forces officers for a shared understanding of national security.

# Budget session of Uttarakhand Assembly starts today

PNS ■ DEHRADUN

The budget session of Uttarakhand Assembly will start in Dehradun on Tuesday. To decide the agenda of the house during the important session a meeting of the Business Advisory Committee (BAC) of the house was convened on Monday. The meeting was chaired by the Assembly speaker Ritu Khanduri and was attended by the Finance and Parliamentary Affairs minister Prem Chand Agarwal, leader of opposition (LoP) Yashpal Arya and BSP leader Mohammad Shahzad.

In the meeting of the BAC, the agenda of the house for the first three days (June 14, 15 and 16) was discussed and decided. It included legislative works, presentation of the budget for the year 2022-23 and discussion on it. The BAC would again meet on June 16 to decide the next agenda of the house.

The speaker Khanduri said that everyone should cooperate for smooth functioning of the house and quality and



concise discussions. She said that there was a positive discussion on the issues of public interest and development related subjects in the house. Khanduri said that she would

provide equal opportunity to the members of the ruling party and opposition in the house. The speaker said that the democratic institutions should be strengthened to fulfil the expectations and the aspirations of the people. In the meeting the speaker said that collective efforts should be made to maintain the dignity of the house and increase the level of the discussions. The speaker also visited the house and inspected the preparations for the session. She inquired about the sound system and ordered that cleanliness and sanitation should be maintained. Khanduri also ordered that the sanitizers should be kept at the entry gates and everyone should wear masks.

It is pertinent to mention here that the chief minister Pushkar Singh Dhami who also is the leader of the house would enter the assembly with a renewed vigour after his landslide victory in the Champawat by elections. Apart from presenting the budget and dis-

# CM lays foundation stone of Madhav Sewa Ashram in Rishikesh

PNS ■ DEHRADUN

The chief minister Pushkar Singh Dhami laid the foundation stone of Madhav Sewa Vishram Sadan in Rishikesh on Tuesday. He also participated in a Bhoomi Pujan programme organised by the Bhaurao Devras Sewa Nyas on the occasion. Addressing the gathering CM said that part from being a

bering his student life, the CM said that a gate made in the Lucknow University in memory of Devras used to be a source of the inspiration for youngsters like him. Assuring every possible help for the Sewa Ashram, Dhami announced that a sum of Rs 50 lakh would be given by the Uttarakhand government for the



centre of Yoga, Rishikesh is also centre of health services due to All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS) and people from all parts of the state and outside come here for treatment. He said that boarding and lodging facilities for the patients and their relatives would now be easily available at Madhav Sewa Vishram Sadan. He said that Bhaurao Devras had dedicated his entire life in the service of the nation and at the age of 20 years he came from Nagpur to Lucknow in UP with an objective of extension of Sangh. The CM said that he started the project of setting up Sishu mandirs in the country in the year 1952. Remem-

Ashram. He said that Rishikesh town is the first stage in the Char Dham Yatra, he said that work on the Rishikesh-Karnprayag rail line is going on a fast pace. He said that the roads connecting the Char Dhams have been made double lane for safe and easy journey for the pilgrims. Swami Ramdev, Swami Yetindrand Giri, Vijay Kaushal, Suresh Bhayia Joshi, former CM and Haridwar MP Ramesh Pokhriyal Nishank, former CM Trivendra Singh Rawat, Rajya Sabha MP Naresh Bansal, cabinet minister Prem Chand Agarwal and others were present on the occasion.

# CM appeals to all States for adoption of UCC

Takes oath of office and secrecy as member of U'khand Assembly

PNS ■ DEHRADUN

The chief minister Pushkar Singh Dhami has said that 20 per cent of court cases in Uttarakhand would end with the implementation of Uniform Civil Code (UCC) in the state. He appealed that other States of the country should also implement the UCC.

Dhami was addressing a gathering at the state Assembly immediately after taking oath of office and secrecy as a member of the Assembly on Monday. He was administered the oath by speaker Ritu Khanduri.

Without naming the Congress, Dhami said that it had termed his statement to implement UCC in the State before the Assembly election as an election stunt. "In our first cabinet meeting after the election, a unanimous decision on UCC was taken. We have constituted an expert committee headed by Justice Ranjana Desai which would prepare the draft of the UCC," he said.

The CM added that the UCC is needed in Uttarakhand because it is Devbhoomi and is the centre of religion, faith and spirituality. He said that one member from every family is in the army and the state has borders with two



countries.

Dhami said that his government is working to implement the vision document of the party. The CM said that he will put his entire energy and effort into making Uttarakhand one of the leading States of the country by 2025. Quoting an event of Mahabharata, Dhami said that he is only visualising the development of the State and nothing else. Making a passionate appeal for collective effort in fulfilling the vi-

sion of all round growth of the State, Dhami said that his journey as CM is not a personal one but is the journey of the whole of Uttarakhand and everyone is his co-passenger in the journey. He said that the State would move forward on the motto of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, 'Sabka Sath, Sabka Vikas and Sabka Prayas'.

The CM said that to fulfil the aspirations of the people of the State, his government is

working on the mantra of 'simplification, solution, disposal and satisfaction'.

Expressing his gratitude for the people of Champawat for sending him in the State Assembly with a record victory, the CM said that Champawat is a divine place of many deities.

The president of Uttarakhand BJP Madan Kaushik and many senior leaders of BJP attended the ceremony.

# U'khand Cong holds protests against ED summoning RaGa

PNS ■ DEHRADUN

In protest against what it termed misuse of the central agencies to harass the leaders of the opposition, the Uttarakhand Congress staged a Dharna outside the office of Enforcement Directorate (ED) here on Monday. The protest was part of the countrywide agitation of the Congress party on the issue.

Speaking on the occasion, the Pradesh Congress Committee (PCC) president Karan Mahara said that the Indian National Congress has been the voice of every citizen of the country for the last 136 years. Evoking the names of

government is registering fictitious cases on the opposition leaders to hide its failures. He said that as a part of the conspiracy the government intends to harass the opposition leaders using central agencies as its tools. Arya said that the Congress leaders would oppose the conspiracy of the government both inside the assembly and outside it. Former PCC president Pritam Singh said that ED has started action on the former president of Congress party Rahul Gandhi on the indication of Modi government. He said that the Modi government has proved to be a total failure on



Gandhi, Nehru, Sardar Patel, Maulana Azad and Rajendra Prasad, the PCC president said that the Congress party fought for the freedom of the country. He said that those who are in power today are the followers of those who had sought forgiveness from the British. Launching a scathing attack on the Modi government, Mahara said that instead of fighting price rise, unemployment and corruption the BJP government is fighting with those who are its political opponents.

Leader of the Opposition (LoP) in the state assembly Yashpal Arya said the Modi

every front and in an attempt to move the attention of the public from unemployment, ever escalating prices and corruption it is using central agencies to harass opposition leaders.

The deputy leader of Congress legislature party Bhuwan Kapdi, MLAs Rajendra Bhandari, Vikram Singh Negi, Mamta Rakesh, Furkan Ahmed, Virendra Jati, Ravi Bahadur, Anupma Rawat, Vice president Organisation Mathura Dutt Joshi, Vice President Surya Kant Dhasmana, Media in charge Rajiv Mehrihi and other leaders took part in the protest.

# Protests Congress attempt to hide corruption through pressure tactics- BJP

PNS ■ DEHRADUN

The Congress is attempting to exert pressure by staging protests outside the offices of the Enforcement Directorate after the corruption of its leaders was exposed. The Bharatiya Janata Party State president Madan Kaushik said that those who are out on bail

Rahul Gandhi, Sonia Gandhi and Young Indian company should clarify their connection with a hawala company in Kolkata. He said that those who are raising hue and cry to pressurise the ED should recall that after its formation in 2010, the Young Indian com-



are exhorting their followers to demonstrate in Delhi because their corruption has been caught. Kaushik said, "The Associated Journals Limited company was formed in the 1930s to publish a newspaper. Five freedom fighters also had a share in this company but today this company is doing real estate business for the Gandhi family through Young Indian. The Young Indian company was formed in 2010 with Rs five lakh. Sonia Gandhi and Rahul Gandhi have 76 per cent share in this company. How did property worth more than Rs 2,000 crore which was of freedom fighters become that of one family?"

Kaushik further said that company was a charitable company but did not do any charity work till 2016 and instead started real estate work. The Congress loaned Rs 90 crore to this company and then wrote it off. These facts and figures clearly show that corruption was orchestrated, alleged Kaushik.

He further averred that in 2010 all the shares of Associated Journals Limited were transferred to Young Indian of the Gandhi family. Stating that there is a lot of difference between facts and claims, he said that the Congress has acted despicably by harassing the public with its demonstration in Delhi to hide the corruption of the Gandhi family.

# Four teens drown in Kapkot pond

PNS ■ BAGESHWAR

Four teenagers wanting to bathe in a pond met with a tragic end when three of them died while the fourth is missing after they drowned while bathing in a local pond in Gogina village of Kapkot Tehsil in Bageshwar district on Monday. The search for the four missing youth was on till late in the evening.

According to the locals, four youngsters of the Gogina village went to the local pond to bathe after having breakfast on Monday. Three of them were studying in Haldwani and Bindukhatta, and had come home on leave. Another teenager from the village had accompanied them to the pond. Villagers who came to know about the mishap were able to pull out three of the teenagers from the pond while



the fourth was missing. District disaster management officer Shikha Soyal informed that the bodies of Abhishek Singh (16), Ajay Singh (17) and Suresh Singh (13) had been retrieved while a 16-

year-old was still missing till the time of this report being filed. Abhishek's father Trilok Singh Rautela is posted in the special operation group (SOG) in Halwani while Ajay's father Narayan Singh Rautela

is posted in the army at Kota in Rajasthan. Abhishek and Ajay are cousin brothers. The Bageshwar superintendent of police Amit Srivastava informed that the State Disaster Response Force (SDRF) personnel had also reached the site of the mishap. They were involved in the search operation which was continuing to trace the fourth teenager. The death of three teenagers with the fourth also feared dead has spread a pall of gloom in the village.

# Cong protests to protect assets of Gandhi family: BJP



Congress activists stage a protest against summoning of party leader Rahul Gandhi in the National Herald case  
Pioneer | Ranjan Dimri

**PNS ■ NEW DELHI**  
Alleging that the Congress and corruption were made for each other, the BJP on Monday attacked the Opposition party for taking to the streets as their leader Rahul Gandhi was summoned for questioning by the ED and said the protest was to protect the Gandhi family's assets of over ₹2000 crore.  
Addressing a press conference, BJP leader and Union Minister Smriti Irani said the show of strength by the Congress is aimed at putting pressure on the probe agency, and asserted that nobody is above the law "even Rahul Gandhi".  
Congress members should also ask Rahul Gandhi about his family's relations with Dotex Merchandise, which she described as a hawala operator

whose transactions have been flagged by the Financial Intelligence Unit.  
She alleged that the Gandhi family floated Young Indian to grab the assets worth over Rs 2,000 crore of Associated Journals Limited, which publishes the National Herald newspaper.  
Never before such a blatant attempt was made by a political family to hold a probe agency to ransom, she said.  
For his part, Union Minister Smriti Irani said the show of strength by the Congress is aimed at putting pressure on the probe agency, and asserted that nobody is above the law "even Rahul Gandhi".  
Congress members should also ask Rahul Gandhi about his family's relations with Dotex Merchandise, which she described as a hawala operator

are "made for each other".  
The country has earlier witnessed 'satyagraha' against corruption, but the country is witnessing the Congress' culture of "satyagraha for corruption" for the first time.  
The Congress' attempt to show strength on the streets during investigation into a corruption case shows its brazen attitude despite indulging in graft, Naqvi told reporters.  
"The Congress has become a 'crew of corruption' and a champion of converting corruption into revolution," the senior BJP leader said.  
Rahul was questioned by the Enforcement Directorate (ED) in a money laundering probe linked to the National Herald newspaper after the MP reached the agency's headquarters here accompanied by a battery of party leaders and supporters.

# Expedite vaccination of teens, elderly, Covid not over yet: Health Min to States

Cases rising, remain vigilant, follow Covid-appropriate behaviour, says Mandaviya

**PNS ■ NEW DELHI**  
Pointing to the fact that some States are witnessing a spike in COVID-19 cases, Union Health Minister Mansukh Mandaviya on Monday said that the pandemic was not over yet and the need was to accelerate efforts to identify all beneficiaries in the 12-17 age group for the first and second doses, so that they can attend schools with the protection of the vaccine and the vulnerable group of over 60 years for the precaution doses.  
Stressing the need for being vigilant and observing Covid-appropriate behaviour, he appealed to States and Union Territories to continue and strengthen surveillance and focus on genome sequencing for identifying new variants in the country.  
Mandaviya held a meeting with Health Ministers and senior officials of States and Union Territories via video conference to review the progress of vaccination exercise under the Har Ghar Dastak 2.0



Union Health Minister Mansukh Mandaviya

campaign, the Health Ministry said in a statement.  
Emphasising the importance of COVID-19 vaccination among the vulnerable age groups, he urged the state health ministers to personally review the status and progress of the special month-long drive of Har Ghar Dastak 2.0 campaign that started on June 1.  
"Let us accelerate our efforts to identify all beneficiaries in the 12-17 age group for the first and second doses, so they can attend schools with the protection of the vaccine," Mandaviya said.  
He urged States for focussed coverage of the 12-17 age group through school-based campaigns, along with targeted coverage of non-school going children during the summer vacation, the statement said.  
He added that the population group of above 60 years of age is a vulnerable category and needs to be protected with the precaution dose. "Our health-care workers are going from door-to-door to ensure that

the vulnerable population is administered the precaution dose," he said. Highlighting the increased case positivity rate in some districts and states and reduced COVID-19 testing, Mandaviya stated that increased and timely testing will enable early identification of cases and help curb spread of the infection in the community.  
The Minister stated that the five-fold strategy of test, track, treat, vaccination and adherence to COVID-19-appropriate behaviour needs to be continued and monitored by states and UTs.  
States were also urged to focus on implementing the Operational Guidelines for Revised Surveillance Strategy for COVID-19 which focuses on surveillance of incoming international travellers and surveillance through health facilities, labs, community, etc., the statement said.  
The Health Ministers of States were urged to also review the administration of precaution dose to the 18-59 age group with the private hospitals on a regular basis, the statement said.  
He said, "We can utilise the learning from the first Har Ghar Dastak campaign to aim for achieving 100 per cent coverage among the eligible population for ensuring extended protection against COVID-19."  
"Adequate vaccine doses are available across the country. Let us ensure accelerated coverage of Covid vaccination during the second phase of Har Ghar Dastak campaign," he stressed. The States were also strongly advised to ensure that there is no wastage of COVID-19 vaccines at any cost. This must be ensured through active monitoring and on basis of "first expiry, first out" principle, where doses that expire earlier should be used for vaccination first, according to the statement.  
State Health Ministers Sapam Ranjan Singh (Manipur), Alo Libang (Arunachal Pradesh), Thanneer Harish Rao (Telangana), Anil Vij (Haryana), Rushikesh Ganeshbhai Patel (Gujarat), Banna Gupta (Jharkhand), Mangal Pandey (Bihar), Rajesh Tope (Maharashtra), Prabhuram Choudhary (Madhya Pradesh), and K Sudhakar (Karnataka) were present in the meeting.

## NCW asks Bengal DGP to act on BJP MLA's plaint



NCW Chairperson Rekha Sharma

**PNS ■ NEW DELHI**  
BJP MLA from Malda Dakshin, Sreerupa Mitra Chaudhury, has complained to the National Commission for Women alleging she was assaulted while participating in a political programme in her constituency on Saturday.  
Chaudhury alleged that police intervened a mute spectator and failed to control the situation as she and other women accompanying her were attacked. The NCW said in a statement. She alleged that she was assaulted without any provocation.  
The incident reflects the increase in atrocities and violence against women in West Bengal, Chaudhury alleged, according to the NCW statement.  
NCW Chairperson Rekha Sharma has written to Manoj Malviya, Director General and Inspector General of Police, West Bengal to take cognizance of her complaint and to conduct an independent inquiry in the matter. The body also asked the officer to inform it of the action taken in the matter at the earliest.

# Delhi HC junks plea for hate speech FIR against BJP leaders Thakur, Verma

**PTI ■ NEW DELHI**  
The Delhi High Court on Monday dismissed a petition by CPI(M) leaders Brinda Karat and KM Tiwari challenging the trial court's refusal to direct the registration of an FIR against Union Minister Anurag Thakur and his BJP colleague and MP Pravesh Verma for their alleged hate speeches concerning anti-CAA protest at Shaheen Bagh here.  
Justice Chandra Dhari Singh, who had reserved the verdict on March 25, refused to interfere with the trial court's order and said that under the law, the requisite sanction is required to be obtained from the competent authority for the registration of FIR in the present facts.  
The judge said that the trial court rightly decided the petitioners' plea and that no case for exercise of the high court's writ jurisdiction was made out in view of the presence of alternate remedy under the law.  
The petitioners had assailed the trial court order before the high court on the ground that a cognisable offence is made out against the two leaders in the present case and an FIR should be lodged against them for their alleged hate speeches concerning the anti-CAA protest at Shaheen Bagh here and that they were only asking the police to investigate the matter.

## SC notice to CBI, ED on actor's bail plea in Ponzi case

**PNS ■ NEW DELHI**  
The Supreme Court on Monday sought responses from the CBI and the ED on a plea of actor Mohd Naseer seeking bail in connection with criminal cases related to alleged cheating and siphoning of funds in the names of Ponzi schemes.  
Naseer, a visually impaired actor who had acted in the 2009 Bollywood Hindi movie "The Shadow, the Dark Side of Truth", is in jail from 2019 in connection with the cases lodged by CBI and the ED.  
A vacation bench comprising justices A S Bopanna and Vikram Nath sought replies of the probe agencies within three weeks after senior advocate Siddharth Bhatnagar, appearing for the jailed actor, said the Orissa High Court, which reserved the order on the bail plea on June 12, 2020, was yet to deliver it.  
The actor was arrested on July 20, 2009, and was granted bail on the same day. However, after filing of the charge sheet by the CBI, which was entrusted with the probe by the high court in 2012, the actor was taken into custody in 2019 and since then he is in jail.  
The order on the bail application is awaited in the high court, his lawyer said.

## 2 NHAI officials from Assam held for bribery

**NEW DELHI:** The CBI on Monday arrested an Accounts Officer and a Junior Accounts Officer, both of Regional Office, National Highway Authority of India (NHAI), Dispur, Guwahati (Assam) and three employees including Executive Director of a private company based at Gurugram (Haryana) in a bribery case of ₹ 4 lakh.  
The agency recovered cash to the tune of ₹ 2.33 crore from the premises of Executive Director of the private company GR Infraprojects Ltd. after searches.  
After registering the case, the CBI laid a trap and caught both the public servants — NHAI Accounts Officer Dipak Das and Junior Accounts Officer Manoj Kumar — for demanding and accepting a bribe of Rs 4 lakh from an employee of the said private company, the CBI said in a statement. The three private persons arrested are Executive Director Sunil Kumar Agarwal and two other staffers of GR Infraprojects Ltd., Gurugram Searches were conducted at 15 places including Guwahati, Bengaluru, Gurugram, Shillong and Patna at the premises of the accused. **PNS**

# Four holy relics of Lord Buddha reach Mongolia for 11-day exposition

**PNS ■ NEW DELHI**  
Four holy relics of Lord Buddha accompanied by a 25-member delegation, led by Minister of Law and Justice Kiren Rijiju, reached Mongolia on Monday for an 11-day exposition.  
The holy relics were received ceremoniously and with great reverence at the Ulaanbaatar International Airport by Ch Nomin, Culture Minister of Mongolia, Saranchimeg, MP/Chairperson of India Mongolia Friendship Group, Khamba Nomun Khan, Advisor to the President of Mongolia, and a large number of monks. The Culture Ministry said in a statement.  
Rijiju said the historical relations between India and Mongolia will further strengthen with the arrival of Kapilvastu Relics in Mongolia. He maintained that through the delegation India is carrying Buddha's message of peace to the world.  
Rijiju also informed that the main Buddha statue in the Gandan Monastery was gifted by Prime Minister Narendra Modi in 2015 to the people of



Buddhist holy relics, accorded highest presidential status, reached Mongolia on Monday **PNS**

Mongolia and it was installed in 2018.  
He said that the people of Mongolia enjoy a strong bond with India and look up to India as a source of wisdom.  
The holy relics were thereafter welcomed at the Gandan Monastery ceremoniously amidst prayers and Buddhist chants. A large number of Mongolian people gathered to pay their respects to the sacred Buddha relics. The relics were handed over to the Gandan Monastery in the presence of Buddhist monks for safekeeping ahead of its 11-day exposition beginning Tuesday.  
The relics left Delhi with the delegation Sunday evening after a customary ceremony. These are among the 22 special relics kept in the National Museum of the Culture Ministry.

# 15-day deadline for food aggregators to spell out consumer grievance redressal mechanism

**PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI**  
The Department of Consumer Affairs (DoCA) has directed major e-commerce food business operators (FBOs) like Swiggy and Zomato to submit a proposal within 15 days on improving their consumer grievance redressal mechanism amid rising complaints from customers.  
The department pointed out that during the last 12 months, "over 3,631 grievances have been registered on the National Consumer Helpline (1915) for Swiggy and 2,828 have been registered for Zomato".  
The direction was given during a meeting chaired by Secretary, Department of Consumer Affairs, Rohit Kumar Singh, with major e-commerce food business operators, to discuss pertinent issues which affect consumers in this sector.  
The meeting was attended by online food business operators, including Swiggy and Zomato as well as the National Restaurant Association of India (NRAI). These platforms were directed to show individual consumer reviews transparently and refrain from showing only the aggregation of reviews.  
On Swiggy platform, there were 803 complaints (22 per cent of the total 3,631) related to deficiency in services. Non/delay in delivery of product accounted for 17 per cent of the total complaints, delivery of defective/damaged product 13 per cent. Delivery of wrong product and paid amount not refunded accounted for 11 per cent each to the total complaints. Similarly, on Zomato platform, deficiency in services contributed 25 per cent to the total complaints followed by delivery of defective/damaged product (18 per cent), non/delay in delivery of product (11 per cent), paid amount not refunded (11 per cent) and delivery of wrong product (11 per cent).  
During the meeting, major issues raised by the consumers on National Consumer Helpline of DoCA were discussed including veracity of the amount of delivery and packing charges and the reasonability of such charges, disparity between the price and quantity of food items shown on the platform and actually offered by the restaurant, inconsistency in the delivery time shown to consumers at the time of placing an order and the time at which the order is actually delivered, and absence of any mechanism to separate genuine reviews from fake ones.  
The National Restaurant Association of India (NRAI) raised the issue of customer information not being shared by the e-commerce FBOs with the restaurants which impacts their ability to serve the consumer needs better. Further, delivery charges are determined and levied by the latter. Further, a commission of around 20% is also charged by the online FBOs on each order. In the last few months, the department has taken many steps to protect consumers' interest. It has asked restaurants not to levy service charges and will soon bring a legal framework on this issue.  
In April this year, the Competition Commission of India (CCI) asked its director-general to submit a report on the matter in 60 days. The NRAI, which represents over 500,000 restaurants, had moved CCI in July 2021 alleging anti-competitive practices by the food delivery platforms.

**SYMBOLIC POSSESSION NOTICE**  
**ICICI Bank**  
Branch Office: ICICI Bank Ltd, 3rd Floor, Plot No- 23, New Rohtak Road, Karol Bagh, Delhi- 110005

**Whereas**  
The undersigned being the Authorized Officer of ICICI Bank Limited under the Securitisation, Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 and in exercise of the powers conferred under section 13 (12) read with Rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) rules 2002, issued demand notices upon the borrowers mentioned below, to repay the amount mentioned in the notice within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said notice.  
As the borrower failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the borrower and the public in general that the undersigned has taken Symbolic 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 the below-mentioned dates. The borrower 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 ICICI Bank Limited.

Sr. No.	Name of the Borrower/ Loan Account Number	Description of Property/ Date of Symbolic Possession	Date of Demand Notice/ Amount in Demand/ Notice (Rs.)	Name of Branch
1.	Pratap Singh/ Vimla Choudhary - LBJAI00001135566	Plot No. E-170, Balaji Vihar- 6, Ext- 1st, Benar Road, Jaipur, Rajasthan, Jaipur - 302001/ June 09, 2022	January 12, 2022/ Rs. 6,84,604.05/-	Jaipur/ Delhi

The above-mentioned borrowers(s)/ guarantors(s) are hereby given a 30 day notice to repay the amount, else the mortgaged properties will be sold on the expiry of 30 days from the date of publication of this Notice, as per the provisions under the Rules 8 and 9 of Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules 2002.

Date : June 14, 2022  
Place: Delhi/NCR  
Authorized Officer  
ICICI Bank Limited

# Nupur effect: Violence continues in Nadia

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ KOLKATA

Though life limped back to normalcy in parts of Howrah and Murshidabad where the Internet services were still suspended in many places the Prophet row continued to burn some other parts of Bengal including Nadia district where the protesters on Monday resorted to bombing and vandalizing shops even as the police had a hard time to contain the unruly mobs.



Large contingent of police forces led by Nadia SP Rashid Munir Khan did the rounds of the National Highway 34 linking Kolkata to Siliguri and the North East where the protesters assembled intermittently often hurling bombs and damaging passing vehicles, sources said. Though the situation was normal during the noon, crowds assembled towards the evening and started hurling bombs and damaging the shops along the NH 34 forcing the police to fire tear gas shells, locals said. About 15 people had been arrested. Bethuadahari, more famous for housing a national park came in the news on Monday when violent mobs attacked local trains injuring passengers.

# AMU students slam house demolition in Prayagraj

PNS ■ ALIGARH

Students took out a protest smarch in Aligarh Muslim University on Sunday late evening in protest against the demolition of Afreen Fatima's residence in Prayagraj. During this, the students also raised slogans and demanded the arrest of Nupur Sharma. Afreen Fatima of Prayagraj won the president's post in the year 2018 in the student union elections held in the Women's College of Aligarh Muslim University. Afreen graduated from AMU. Afreen Fatima went to JNU after that. Afreen's father Javed Mohammad alias Pump is the mastermind of the violence spread in Prayagraj. Javed's residence in Prayagraj has also been demolished by the government on charges of nuisance.



The protest march consisted of hundreds of students and these students raised slogans of Islam Zindabad and Modi, Yogi, Shah Murdabad. Student leader Zaid said that the former student has completed her graduation here and she was the President of Women's College. Afreen Fatima's house has been demolished. Today in India there is no court, no judge, no lawyer, everything is done by the government. We have come to protest that today the government has done a lot wrong and we want the government to return whatever money it will cost for the house which has been ruined. The student leader said that the question is why Nupur Sharma is not being arrested? Because of this, the atmosphere of the whole of India is getting

spoiled. Nupur Sharma is responsible for the murder of two innocent girls yesterday. She further asked to arrest her and punish her. Only after that there are chances of controlling the atmosphere in India. I don't think the atmosphere will be under control. The biggest accused is Nupur Sharma and the government who is supporting her and it is visible to everyone. We appeal to the President to get her arrested as soon as possible. Our only appeal here is that if the atmosphere of India is to be normalized, then we are appealing to the President that Nupur Sharma should be arrested at the earliest.

At the same time, AMU Proctor Waseem Ahmed told that the students have taken out a protest march from Duck Point to Bab e Syed. However, no memorandum has been given. The students just came till Baba Syed Gate and left from there.

# Calcutta HC orders CBI probe into TET scam, dismisses 269

SAUGAR SENGUPTA ■ KOLKATA

Hearing a writ petition regarding large scale corruption in the appointment of primary teachers the Calcutta High Court on Monday not only sacked 269 teachers "illegally" appointed by-passing the merit list but also directed the Central Bureau of Investigation to probe the alleged irregularities in the primary Teachers Eligibility Test.

The Court of Justice Abhijit Gangopadhyay also directed the central agency to question the Chairman and Secretary of the PTET board, Manik Bhattacharya and Dr P Chakrabarty Bagchi. The two senior officials had appeared before the CBI officials and were being questioned when reports last came in. The Court also directed the respective boards and schools to immediately stop

disbursement of salaries of the sacked teachers and asked them not to enter the school premises. It was the eighth CBI investigation ordered by the High Court in the past more than a month into the various transactions of the State government. The same Court had earlier ordered CBI investigations into the appointments of para-teachers in Secondary, Higher Secondary (Plus-2) level directing the central agency to summon and question the then Education Minister Partho Chatterjee and his Deputy Paresh Adhikari.

Letter's daughter Anika Adhikari who was appointed as a teacher in a higher secondary school bypassing eligible candidates was also dismissed from service. Last months the Court had also ordered CBI probe into the appointment of Group D and C level staff.

# More cases registered for hurting religious sentiments, one held

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

The hate campaign is showing no signs of receding as two persons, including a woman, have been booked for allegedly passing derogatory remarks against Prophet Mohammed in Bareilly.

station is Kuldeep Kumar, who is a history sheeter and has been arrested on several occasions by the police. He shared an objectionable post on social media.

The second FIR was registered for sharing a similar social media post against Prophet Mohammed under Section 295A (deliberate or malicious act intended to outrage religious feelings of any class) while the third FIR was registered against Rehan Khan, who shared an inflammatory content against suspended BJP leader Nupur Sharma.

Bareilly's Senior Superintendent of Police Rohit Singh Sajwan said, "We have booked three persons and will take action against everyone who is sharing this objection-

able content, regardless of religion or caste."

In Ballia, a youth was arrested in the Rasra area for allegedly posting objectionable content against Prophet Mohammed on a social media site, a police official said on Monday. Krishna Kumar, who posted the objectionable Facebook post on Sunday, was arrested, Circle Officer (Rasra) Shiv Narain Vaish said.

The case has been registered against him on the complaint of Sheikh Huzafa, a member of Jamiat Ulama-i-Hind, who in a tweet on Sunday urged the police to take action against the accused. Taking cognisance of the complaint, the police on Monday arrested Krishna Kumar, the circle officer added.

# Lawyers' group moves HC against razing of violence accused's house

PTI ■ PRAYAGRAJ

A group of lawyers has approached the Allahabad High Court against the demolition of the house of Javed Ahmad, the alleged mastermind of the violence that took place following Friday prayers on June 10 here.

Violence had taken place in parts of the state following a row over now-suspended BJP spokesperson Nupur Sharma's remarks against Prophet Mohammed.

The Prayagraj Development Authority (PDA) had demolished Ahmad's house on Sunday, with an official of the agency saying the building plan of the structure had not been approved by the PDA. The move came a day after the authorities bulldozed

two houses of violence accused in Saharanpur.

Five advocates belonging to the Zila Adhivakta Manch claimed in their petition to the Allahabad High Court chief justice that the house demolished on Sunday was owned by Javed's wife Parveen Fatima.

The house was given to Fatima by her parents before her marriage, so Ahmad had no ownership over it and on the plot, hence the demolition was against the law, claimed the plea which was e-mailed to the chief justice.

The petition said to justify the demolition, the PDA pasted a notice on the house on June 11, mentioning about a show-cause notice of a previous date. Neither Ahmad nor his wife had got the show-cause notice, it claimed.

# Govt creating atmosphere of fear, terror: Mayawati

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

Bahujan Samaj Party chief Mayawati, on Monday, attacked the Yogi Adityanath government over the demolition of the house of an accused in the Prayagraj violence case.

The BSP chief said that an atmosphere of "fear and terror" had been created by the government through unlawful action and the courts should take cognisance of it.

The former chief minister of Uttar Pradesh also demanded the arrest of suspended functionaries of Bharatiya Janata Party, Nupur Sharma and Naveen Kumar Jindal, whose remarks against Prophet Mohammed sparked protests.

In a series of tweets in Hindi, Mayawati said, 'By tar-



Development Authority (PDA) demolished the house of the alleged mastermind of the June 10 violence there amid heavy police deployment. The building map of the house of the accused, Javed Ahmad, had not been approved by the PDA, according to an official of the agency.

Mayawati further said, "The root cause of the problem are Nupur Sharma and Naveen Kumar Jindal, due to which the honour of the country has been affected and violence broke out. Why has no action been initiated against them, and why has the government ridiculed the rule of law? Not sending both the accused to jail yet is grossly biased and unfortunate. Immediate arrest is required."

getting a particular community, doing demolition using bulldozer, other malicious aggressive actions, crushing the protest, an atmosphere of fear and terror has been created. This is unfair and unjust. The court must take cognisance of the faulty action of targeting the entire family by demolishing the houses," she said. Her remarks came a day after the Prayagraj

# Slogans raised against Pinarayi Vijayan in aircraft by Congress workers

KUMAR CHELLAPPAN ■ KOCHI

The protest marches being held across Kerala by workers of the Indian National Congress took a turn for the worse on Monday as the Kannur-Thiruvananthapuram IndiGo flight saw Congress activists raising slogans against Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan who was travelling in the aircraft. This is the first of its kind protest seen in Kerala's political history as a reigning chief minister had to face protest while on a flight.

tal in a critical stage. Both have been taken into custody by police at the capital city.

Once the plane was airborne, the two Congress leaders stood up and shouted slogans demanding the resignation of the aircraft. Video images released by vernacular news channels showed E P Jayarajan, the CPI-M strongman who is also the convenor of the LDF, rushing to the Congress activists and pinning them down. "They were intoxicated and inebriated and were shouting non sense causing inconvenience to the travellers," Jayarajan told reporters after the aircraft landed at Thiruvananthapuram.

But police in Kannur airport told media persons that both the Congress activists were known to them personally and they were allowed to board the aircraft only after the cops made sure that they were bonafide passengers. "How come Jayarajan who rushed to the Congress workers and pushed them down knew that they were intoxicated? Even the police in the airport had given them clear-

ance to travel by the flight," said V D Satheshan, leader of the Opposition.

The demand for the resignation of Vijayan as Chief Minister is the fall out of the disclosures made by Swapna Suresh, the prime accused in the infamous Gold Smuggling scam that Vijayan had "smuggled out" a suitcase stuffed with currency notes during his official trip to West Asia in 2016 with the active help rendered by the UAE Consul General. Swapna was the liaison officer of the Consulate General Office at that time and she claimed it was she who played the role of facilitator in transporting the suitcase through diplomatic channel.

Since the disclosures made by Swapna last week, the Opposition Congress and the BJP were on a warpath against the CPI-M led Government demanding Vijayan's resignation though the latter had categorically denied the allegations.

Since Saturday, the Congress and the BJP were demonstrating across the State demanding the resigna-

tion of Vijayan. On Saturday and Sunday, a heavy posse of police men had succeeded in keeping the protestors away from the venues where the chief minister made his appearance to attend public functions. People in Kottayam, Kochi and Thavanur (in Malappuram district) where the chief minister attended public meetings were put to a lot of hardship by the police who insisted that those wearing black shirts and even black masks change the costume.

Though Anil Kant, the State Police Chief had denied reports that persons wearing black dress or face masks were asked to remove the same, Jayarajan had asked media persons why the people were insisting that they would wear only black costumes. The capital city resembled a war zone as Congress and BJP workers fought pitched battle against the police who used water canons and tear gas shells to keep the demonstrators away from the vicinity of chief minister's motorcade.

# Bengal passes Bill replacing Guv with CM as Chancellor

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ KOLKATA

The Raj Bhavan-Nabanna (Secretariat) conflict hit a new low as for the first time post Independence the Bengal Assembly on Monday passed a Bill replacing the State Governor by Chief Minister as the Chancellor of the Universities.

The Assembly passed the Bengal University Laws (Amendment) Bill, 2022 with 182 members supporting it and 40 members voting against it. The State Cabinet had approved the decision early this month. While there was no reaction from Governor Jagdeep Dhankhar whose office perennially had been at loggerheads with the State Secretariat --- on issues of violence, corruption etc --- he had earlier said that he would take appropriate steps when the Bill would be sent to him for consideration. State Opposition Leader Suvendu Adhikari who along with five BJP leaders had earlier been suspended for one year from entering Assembly and was sitting outside the House in protest for a large part of the day said "as Education

comes in Concurrent List ... I will request the Governor to send the Bill to the President of India for his consideration."

Experts said the Governor could either reject the Bill or resend it to the Assembly for or send it to the President for consideration. "If there is a conflict between the State and the Centre the Centre's stand will prevail," experts said adding "Governor himself being a lawyer of repute will take appropriate decision."

Earlier a badge of Bengal civil society members including, poets, painters, cine artists, educationists etc had wrote a letter to the Government requesting appointment of a member from the intelligentsia as the Chancellor.

Following frequent clashes between the Governor and the Chief Minister over crucial policy matters, the Government had earlier decided not only to replace Governor as the Chancellor but also the Visitor of the private universities. The Cabinet has also decided to replace the Governor who is also the Visitor of the private universities with the Education Minister.

# Cong workers detained while trying to take out march to ED office

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

Hundreds of Congress leaders and workers, trying to march to the Enforcement Directorate to stage a 'satyagrah' against alleged harassment of party president Sonia Gandhi and Rahul Gandhi, were taken into custody and later released in the evening. Interestingly, to avert any law and order problem arising out of the demonstration, the local administrations across the state had put senior leaders, including Congress Legislative Party leader Aradhana Mishra 'Moni', under house arrest since Sunday night. They prevented the movement of the Congress leaders throughout the day on Monday.



Lallu later tweeted a video and wrote, "Delhi Police's dictatorship is at its peak in the course of Rahul Gandhi's visit to the ED office. The attempt to suppress the opposition on the basis of power is the desperation of the Modi government. Whatever the outcome, we will not back down from the struggle."

Meanwhile in Delhi, the ED questioned Rahul Gandhi in connection with the investigation of a money laundering case related to the National Herald newspaper. He reached the agency's headquarters in Delhi along with party leaders and supporters. After an interrogation of about two-and-half hours, Rahul was allowed to leave the ED headquarters for lunch at around 2:10 pm, officials said.

# World day against child labour has no meaning for kids and labour department of Aligarh

PNS ■ ALIGARH

World Day Against Child Labour is observed every year on June 12 as a day dedicated to creating awareness about the menace of child labour and human trafficking. The theme of world day against child labour, 2022 was "Universal Social Protection to End Child Labour." But in Aligarh 15000 children including 5000 working on Dhabas, 3000 street children and others are engaged in lock and hardware industry out of which 80% are muslim children who are

deprived from education as well. Despite of the fact that world day against child labour was celebrated all over the world, the children of Aligarh working in lock and hardware industry have no hope for the betterment of their life. These children lost their childhood due to poverty and the circumstances as they were forced to do child labour by their own parents.

Despite the right to education being a fundamental right under Indian Constitution. Yet we know of many underprivileged children forced into child labour

by their own parents due to certain circumstances, stripped of their childhood and their right to education.

Aligarh is the town historically famous for the Aligarh Muslim University and is world famous for its education. But at the same time, the surrounding areas like purani chungari, shamshad market, dodhpur, zakariya market etc are all sprawled with a number of tea stalls, or dhabas where a lot of children works. These tea stalls and dhabas operate from 8:00 am to 11:00 pm. The owners of these tea stalls and

dhabas pay only Rs100 to Rs120 per day to the children and make them work for more than 12 hours a day. Not only this, Aligarh is a hub of education, which has 3 main universities including AMU, Mangalaytan University and Raja Mahendra Pratap Singh university. Apart from this there are many graduate and post graduate colleges present here. Despite of this fact many children in Aligarh are deprived of education and are engaged in child labour. Majority of them are willing to go to school if an opportunity is given.



A yellow-footed green pigeon feeds her squabs, in New Delhi on Monday

PTI



www.dailypioneer.com

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

PAPER WITH PASSION

## Good touch

India's healthy ties with the world have helped it tide over the Prophet comments' embarrassment

Bangladesh's refusal to comment on the controversy surrounding the derogatory remarks on Prophet Muhammad must have elicited a sigh of relief in New Delhi. Islamic countries and Muslims all over the world have been slamming India for the remarks former Bharatiya Janata Party spokesperson Nupur Sharma made last month. However, Bangladesh Information & Broadcasting Minister Hasan Mahmud on Saturday called it "an external issue (for Bangladesh). This is the issue of India, not of Bangladesh. We don't have to say anything". In fact, he went on to laud the Indian Government for having taken action against her and another leader who supported her: "We strongly condemn any insult to the Holy Prophet whenever and wherever it happens. But the Government of India has taken action, and we thank them for it. We congratulate the Government of India. Now the law will take its course." He made it clear that he didn't want to "instigate" anyone or "ignite the issue". This begs the question: Did the Arab nations ignite the issue? After all, they haven't criticised China for the horrible treatment it metes out to the Uighurs in Xinjiang; the unfortunate Muslims in that province are facing a veritable genocide. Compared to Xinjiang, India is a paradise for Muslims, the depredations of saffron cowboys and hotheads notwithstanding. So why did the Muslim nations slam India over the Prophet remarks? Whatever may be the answer, the powers that be in our country cannot lose sight of the fact that discrimination and atrocities against Muslims cannot be allowed to take place.



Responding quickly to the outrage expressed by the Muslim nations, New Delhi went into an overdrive, rubbishing the controversial views as those belonging to those of "fringe elements" and filing a police complaint against Sharma. The BJP expelled her. This seems to have calmed tempers in the Arab world. Saudi Arabia, which condemned the remarks, had earlier appreciated the action against Sharma. Now Kuwait has also done something that would please the Indian Government. In Kuwait, the law prohibits foreigners from participating in protests and agitations. The authorities arrested and deported those who protested against Sharma's remarks. It may be recalled that last week, it had summoned the Indian envoy to express its displeasure over the remarks. Even as protests against Sharma continue, the international row is likely to blow over in a short time. This has a lot to do with India's conduct in general after Independence. As Bangladesh's Mahmud said, "The soldiers of India shed their blood for the people of Bangladesh. You (India) opened your doors and your hearts to our people. The relationship between the peoples of Bangladesh and India was born out of the ashes of war and forged in our blood. We are indeed blood brothers." Besides, Prime Minister Narendra Modi's emphasis on building good ties with the Arab world. Our good karma shouldn't be allowed to vanish.



Vehicles ply after restrictions imposed following communal clashes were eased, in Ranchi

## Raining pollution

Fresh snow in Antarctica contained microplastics, another grim reminder of climate playing havoc

In a sad and first-of-its-kind development, microplastics — much smaller than a grain of rice — were found late last week in freshly-fallen snow samples from 19 sites across the Ross Island region of Antarctica. The findings, published in the *Cryosphere* journal, revealed that an average of 29 microplastic particles per litre of melted snow were present in the snow. This figure is much higher than marine concentrations reported previously from the surrounding Ross Sea and in Antarctica sea ice. Antarctica, the southernmost continent and site of the South Pole, is a virtually uninhabited, ice-covered landmass. Just next to certain scientific bases, including the McMurdo Station which is the largest station in Antarctica, the density of microplastics was nearly three times higher than normal glacier debris. The researchers detected 13 different types of plastic — the most common being PET, commonly used to make soft drink bottles and clothing. Amazingly, and alarmingly, atmospheric modelling suggested that these microplastics may have travelled thousands of kilometres through air since their small size and relatively low density allow microplastics to become airborne and transported over large distances.

The study raises serious environmental concerns as it fuels the findings of other studies regarding microplastics as a 'ubiquitous airborne pollutant'. Hinting at a possible climate threat in the Antarctica region, scientists said the presence of microplastics in the air has the potential to influence the climate by accelerating the melting of snow and ice.

According to the study, microplastics may further affect climate by acting as cloud ice nuclei in the atmosphere and by contributing to global radiative forcing. Plastic is terribly detrimental to the environment, and microplastics are extremely minute plastic particles resulting from the disposal and breakdown of consumer products and industrial waste. However, we recklessly dump a shocking 12 million metric tonne of plastic in the oceans every year. If this plastic pollution breaks down into microplastics, it is sure to find its way into marine animals, then birds and then the whole marine food chain. It is truly sad but finding microplastics in fresh Antarctica snow highlights the extent of plastic pollution into even the most remote regions of the world. Preserving water and keeping it from pollution is of paramount importance and each one of us on the planet should realise this and control water wastage to the optimum level.

# The long shadow of blasphemy laws



PRİYADARSHI DUTTA

While Muslims across the world condemn Nupur Sharma's comments, none has actually corrected her. The black hole protests are the same as in Pak

Television debates are a banality that leaves viewers no more enlightened in the end than in the beginning. The channels in India prefer hosting talk shows because they constitute the most cost-effective format of programme, requiring minimal investment in terms of research, shooting and production. They also suit the psychology of the Indian audience, which takes delight in other people's quarrels. Generally, talk shows are to be watched only to be forgotten, like chewing gums are to be chewed and then spit out. It happens rarely that comments made in the course of talk shows become the main news of the day (or even week).

The comments made by Nupur Sharma, BJP's now-suspended spokesperson, on Islamic belief in general, and the Prophet of Islam in particular, were apparently off the cuff. These were admittedly made in the heat of the moment, for which television debates provide ample opportunities. She was apparently provoked by a co-participant calling Shivalinga at Gyanvapi's mosque a fountain. Her observations were casual rather than premeditated. Listening between the sentences, it appears, she was actually trying to say that Islam (like any other religion) also has its own Achilles' heel.

Her party, the BJP, could have handled the matter more clinically by declaring that an internal committee had been set up to examine the issue for necessary action. However, the law of the land would prevail over precepts of Sharia, in case a conflict arose between the two. But both her party, and the Government of India, went into hiding over the issue. Even the RSS and VHP were found completely missing in action.

The developments since then are singularly unfortunate. Protests, diplomatic hectoring and last Friday's violence have scarred the scenario. However, inadvertently, they have also presented us with a 'Nupur' moment of history. This moment, if seized upon, can help address the root of communal problems in India (if



not also the world). The most interesting observation, in this crisis, is that no Muslim cleric, scholar, nation or organisation has volunteered to dispel the 'misconception' that Nupur might have had on Islam. Doing so must have been the easiest, quickest and most effective way to disarm the critics of Islam. It is normal for people of other religious backgrounds to have preconceived and unfounded notions about each other's faith. Is it not the moral duty of religious scholars to dispel them? Should a Hindu Pundit demand arrest and punishment of a non-Hindu, who is bewildered at why Hindus worship an elephant-headed deity called Ganesha, for instance? Or will he honestly try to share the spiritual symbolism behind it? Since Hindus have chosen the second alternative, one sees images of Ganesha or Nataraj etc adopted in the West.

Why then, for instance, Mufti Abul Qasim Nomani, the Vice-Chancellor of Darul Uloom of Deoband, with all the intellectual resources of Islam at his command, could not distinguish himself from the rest of the crowd in his approach? He brought no special faculty on the table to enlighten us. Even an average Quyum, halal meat seller of Kanpur, and Harun, cycle

repairer of Lucknow, are demanding the arrest and punishment of Nupur Sharma, a demand Nomani merely repeated.

What is scarier is that protestors are trying to push for a blasphemy regime in India similar to that exists in Pakistan. In Pakistan, the punishment for blasphemy is death. Muhammed Ismail Qureshy, senior advocate in the Supreme Court of Pakistan, in his book *Muhammad: The Messenger of God, and the Law of Blasphemy in Islam and the West* (2008), informs that it is "well-established unanimous religious opinion prevalent in different Islamic compendium of law that the punishment of blasphemy of holy Prophet is death" (P.121). While Qureshy traces a history of blasphemy law, he leaves the fundamental and philosophical question unanswered. The fundamental question is why Islam needed capital punishment in the first place to protect its Prophet from criticism?

There have been great savants in India like Buddha, Mahavira, Shankaracharya, Sri Chaitanya, Guru Nanak etc who were founders of respective religious sects. However, their adherents never found it necessary to defend reputation with any

kind of blasphemy law. It is not implied that they were never criticised by anyone. However, people's veneration for them at large outweighed occasional acts of criticism, if any. It was their saintliness and superlative disposition that instantly courted people's reverence.

Why the Prophet of Arabia needed a blasphemy law to protect his reputation is a question that Islamic scholars must answer. In the early days of Islam, there might have been the possibility of criticism for political reasons. However, it is intriguing why Pakistan, a country of 98 per cent Muslims, needed a stringent blasphemy law (Pakistan Penal Code-295 C) in the 1980s? As experience shows, such law is prone to misuse both against Muslims and non-Muslims. It is easy to accuse anybody of blasphemy as the case of Bibi Aasia Noreen (2015) shows. Registered cases of blasphemy spiralled in Pakistan since 1986 due to amendments in the Pakistan Penal Code by insertion of Section 295 to 298-C between 1980 and 1986. The "Pakistanisation" of India should be opposed at all costs.

(The writer is an author and independent researcher based in New Delhi. The views expressed are personal.)



THE LAW OF THE LAND WOULD PREVAIL OVER PRECEPTS OF SHARIA, IN CASE A CONFLICT AROSE BETWEEN THE TWO. BUT BOTH HER PARTY, AND THE GOVERNMENT OF INDIA, WENT INTO A HIDING OVER THE ISSUE

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### NUPUR, JINDAL MUST BE APOLOGETIC

Sir — This refers to 'Protests galore over Prophet remarks' (June 11). Suspended BJP spokesperson Nupur Sharma and her former party colleague Naveen Jindal must be penitent and remorseful for their blasphemy against Prophet Muhammed. They must withdraw their alleged derogatory statements against the Prophet by tendering an apology to mollify and placate the rage of Muslims all over the world. One must be very mindful of one's words and language. One must not incur the wrath of any religion and must not add fuel to the fire to create disruptions and bad blood between religions.

Such sacrilegious comments and remarks lead to communal violence and riots. None has any right to pass such derogatory statements against any religion, sanctum and any sage, saint and prophet. One must hold one's tongue, weigh one's words and think before one speaks. One must propagate and promote fraternity, peace and tranquility and convey the message of communal harmony between religions. There are well known and famous adages and maxims regarding the tongue. So we must be careful and mindful of our words.

Zubair Khan | Hyderabad

### RELIGIOUS FRENZY AND TV CHANNELS

Sir — Nowadays, social media and electronic media are running their own court on a parallel level on any matter, where some party spokespersons, some religious leaders and some 'experts' are invited for a debate on a particular topic and the subject of debate is sort of a burning issue. The topic like Gyanvapi issue was in the headlines in the past, then all the TV channels were sitting in their court on this subject and now the debate is in full swing on the comment made by a spokesperson on Prophet Muhammad. Although that spokesperson has expressed regret over that remark, the party has taken action,

## Alarming rise in COVID cases



The spike in COVID-19 cases after a trough should disabuse us of the notion that the pandemic is over. It is a clear indication that we are nowhere near writing the virus' obituary. According to the Government, the daily tally has crossed the 8000-mark and added up to 8,329 cases after 103 days and the daily positivity rate has reached 2.41 per

cent after 115 days. This is at a time when schools and colleges are reopening. Data show that sub-variants BA.4 and BA.5 of Omicron account for most of the fresh cases. The scale of COVID-19 spread is far below than it was during the three previous waves of the pandemic and does not threaten to assume the proportions of a 'wave'.

Doctors attest to the mildness of most of the cases and the resolution of the symptoms is 2-3 days. True, these facts are of some comfort. Even so, we have to be worried about the 1.21 per cent fatality rate rather than being content with the 98.71 per cent recovery rate; we have to be aware of the need to be on our guard in our routine life to curb the transmission of the virus. We should not become complacent or believe that we are all safe. How long the vaccine will protect people needs clarity to modify the pandemic response.

G David Milton | Tamil Nadu

the police have also started their proceedings.

Now the issue has taken a legal form, so the right to decide it also lies with the court. It should be near and not with TV channels. The debate going on in social media and TV channels creates dissatisfaction among the people somewhere. Because the anchors of TV channels try their best to make a burning issue more burning, so that the spokesperson gives such a statement with enthusiasm which can become a new debate point for the TV channel itself.

Rajender K Sharma | Rewari

### STOP CRITICISING SELF-MARRIAGE

Sir — The recent incidence of sologamy by Kshama Bindu marks one-of-a-kind story in India. The concept surprised everybody but, at the same time, it seems to be the future of relationships. We all must not be surprised with the introduction of sologamy in India; rather we must be prepared for more incidents of sologamy from every corner of the

nation. Kshama, like many other girls, wants to enjoy the aesthetics of marriage, though she does not want to share her life with a partner. Kshama is now a social media sensation with appreciation and critics showering love on her.

Sologamy has its relevance in modern society, especially when we have seen a lot of divorce cases across the world. This is true to many western developed societies also, where 20 or even more years of relationship broke because of ruptures in mutual understanding of partners. Marrying self is not a big anti-social practice that needs to be criticised. What Kshama Bindu did is woman empowerment and Indian society has to accept the fact that a woman is no more a property of her husband. She can be her own husband, a property of her own self and she need not share her body with anybody else.

Kirti Wadhawan | Kanpur

## SOUNDBITE

We need to bow our heads in shame for our inability to respond to the pandemic in time.



Union Minister — Piyush Goyal

If anyone tries to secede Taiwan from China, we will not hesitate to fight.



Chinese Defence Minister — Wei Fenghe

I'll act only in my music videos. I am still learning so much about the acting process.



Singer — Jubin Nautiyal

Was that a good drive or was that a good drive?



GP world champion — Max Verstappen

This (stopping Howrah visit) is a violation of my fundamental rights.



W Bengal Opposition leader — Suwendu Adhikari

Send your feedback to: letterstopioneer@gmail.com

**FIRST COLUMN**

**ANTI-DEFECTION LAW MUST BE MADE MORE EFFECTIVE**

What is needed is the political will; all parties should look at the law afresh



KALYANI SHANKAR

Elections and defections go together despite a stringent anti-defection law in the country. The law proves ineffective as legislators are lured by money and position. Lawmakers skirt around the rules, find loopholes to their advantage, and defy them. In last week's Rajya Sabha polls, Rajasthan's BJP legislator Shobharani Khushwaha, Congress's Haryana MLA Kuldeep Bishnoi, and JD (S) lawmaker from Karnataka Srinivas Gowda are classic examples. Cross-voting occurs even in presidential and vice-presidential elections. Vice-President M. Venkaiah Naidu recently commented that the anti-defection law must be amended to rectify the loopholes. Naidu, also the Chairman of the Rajya Sabha, said there was no clarity about the time-frame for the Speaker or Chairman of the Rajya Sabha to decide on anti-defection cases. "There are certain loopholes in the anti-defection law. It allows wholesale defection. But retail defection is not allowed. Amendments are required to plug the loopholes," Naidu said. Instead of formally "crossing the floor" or voting against their party in a confidence motion, they resign from the party. Some of them come back in the bye-elections. In the past, there have been some bizarre cases. Gayalal, an independent MLA in Haryana, first joined the Congress Party in 1967; by evening, he shifted to the United Front, and within nine hours, he rejoined the Congress. What was more, he returned to the United Front within a fortnight. This case is known as 'Ayaram, Gayaram' in polit-



ical circles. The 2003 amended law prescribed the penalty for shifting political loyalties: the loss of membership and a bar on becoming a minister. The law has been contested in courts multiple times. Under the anti-defection law, unlimited powers are given to every political party to put down dissent or an alternative view. However, recent developments in many states show that it does not check defections. To keep the flock together, parties often play resort politics by shepherding them to some resort, sometimes outside the state. Defectors have shown this trend many times-Rajasthan (2020), Maharashtra (2019), Karnataka (2019 and 2018), and Tamil Nadu (2017).

In March 2020, Jyotiraditya Scindia and 22 Congress MLAs resigned, resulting in a Government change in Madhya Pradesh. In Rajasthan, six BSP MLAs merged their party with the Congress, and in Sikkim, 10 of the 15 MLAs of the Sikkim Democratic Front have joined the BJP in 2019. The list goes on. Initially, the decision of the Presiding Officer was not subject to judicial review. The Supreme Court struck down this condition in 1992. The apex court intervened again in July 2019 when ten Congress MLAs and two Maharashtrawadi Gomantak Party MLAs defected to the BJP and were rewarded with ministries. The court prescribed a maximum of three months for deciding on anti-defection cases in 2020. Parliament needs to look at the law afresh because of the continuing trend of horse-trading. The Supreme Court observed recently, "It is time that Parliament has a rethink on whether disqualification petitions ought to be entrusted to a Speaker as a quasi-judicial authority when such Speaker continues to belong to a particular political party either de jure or de facto. Parliament may consider amending the Constitution to substitute the Speaker of the Lok Sabha and Legislative Assemblies as an arbiter of disputes concerning disqualification under the Tenth Schedule." The Presidential polls were announced last week, and there are apprehensions about cross-voting. The best way is to tweak the law. Defectors should be barred from holding public office for a reasonable period, and the vote cast by a defector should be considered invalid. The electorate should also have a right to recall the representative. Resort politics should also be banned. (The writer is a senior journalist. The views expressed are personal.)

# Ipta: A revolution that redefined art, culture

SOMEN SENGUPTA

It began as the cultural front of the Communist Party of India's cultural front but excelled in its own right

Having committed a plethora of gargantuan blunders from the late 1930s, the Communist Party of India in 1942-43 took itself to a near non-acceptable position in India's politics. By opposing the Quit India Movement, supporting the Muslim League's Pakistan demand, castigating Netaji Bose, slamming other Congress leaders, and supporting Britain's war effort after Russia was attacked by Nazi Germany, it was fast losing its mass base, especially among the educated urban middle class.

Puran Chand Joshi, the general secretary of the CPI who was busy in making a nexus with Muslim League, slowly understood that enough is not done to make a strong base of the party among farmers, daily wage-earners, and factory workers. He felt that for mass awakening and implanting the idea of communism, the shortest route is cultural entertainment through which a message of nation building can also be sent across.

It was at this time that Joshi played a masterstroke that no one ever thought of in Indian politics. Understanding the scope of capturing people's interest in cultural entertainment, he formed a cultural front of the CPI on May 25, 1943. A bunch of extraordinarily talented creative minds, young in age and over energetic in spirit, assembled at the Marwari Vidyalaya Hall of Bombay and formed the Indian People's Theatre Association (Ipta). It included poets, singers, musicians, theatre workers, cinema directors, music composers, shadow artists, and painters from across India but largely from Bengal, Bombay, Assam, UP, Punjab and Andhra Pradesh. It was a cultural-political unit of CPI.

It was the first of its kind in India. The name of the organisation was given by Homi Jahangir Bhaba the noted scientist. Jawaharlal Nehru congratulated the initiative by sending a message.

The idea of Ipta was not an overnight thought that crossed Joshi's mind; it had a long history dating back to June 1935.

On June 21, 1935, an Anti-Fascist International Conference of cultural activists was held in Paris in which the Indian writer Mulk Raj Anand, who was later associated with Ipta, took part. Its replica conference was held on April 19, 1936, in Lucknow under the chairmanship of Munshi Premchand. The conference saw the birth of All India Progressive Writers' Association and it was fully backed by the CPI.

In 1937, another cultural front named the League Against Fascism & War was formed in Calcutta and in 1941, as soon as the Soviet Union was attacked by Germany in the Second World War, another intellectual front of intellectuals named Friends of Soviet Union also came up.

Though many non-communist cultural workers joined these organisations, they were all largely motivated and mobilised



IPTA WAS FIRST OF ITS KIND IN INDIA. THE NAME OF THE ORGANISATION WAS GIVEN BY HOMI JAHANGIR BHABA THE NOTED SCIENTIST. JAWAHARLAL NEHRU CONGRATULATED THE INITIATIVE BY SENDING A MESSAGE

(The views expressed are personal.)



by the members of CPI and the socialist party.

Many other such groups were formed in Bombay and even one by the name Ipta came up in Bangalore in 1942.

In May 1943, during the first congress of the CPI, Joshi worked for an amalgamation of all these cultural fronts and asked the workers to take the cultural heritage of India among the masses. Ipta workers were asked to shape up their creative expression in simple language and tell the reality of common people's life, exposing pain and pangs.

Ipta's purpose was a cultural resurgence of mass struggle against social inequality and oppression. It was born as the voice of the downtrodden but with the purpose of promoting the CPI's political agenda. It had its first head office in Bombay which was later shifted to Calcutta in 1946. The motto of the organization was 'People Theatre Stars the People.' N.M. Joshi was its first president. Chitta Prasad, the famous artist, designed the logo of Ipta that features a man beating the drum, symbolising the oldest form of communication in India.

The time was ripe for Ipta to come to the street as Bengal was devastated in a manmade famine and the city of Calcutta became a city of moving skeletons. Then came the Japanese bombing and cyclone. These all inspired a group of young talented artists to express their creativity with a strong social message. 'Bhukha hai Bangal' was one of the earliest street plays produced by the Punjab squad of Ipta. It created a massive sensation in the Hindi belt of north India.

Ipta soon attracted a galaxy of young talents. There were writers like Ismat Chughtai, Krishan Chander, Mulk Raj Anand, Prem Dhawan, Bhisam Sahni, and

Manik Bandopadhyay. Theatre personalities: Shambhu Mitra, Habib Tanvir, Prithviraj Kapoor, Utpal Dutt, Tapas Sen. Musicians: Pt Ravi Shankar, Salil Chowdhury, Sachin Dev Burman, Timirbaran. Poets: Shailendra, Kaifi Azmi, Sahir Ludhianvi, Majrooh Sultanpuri. Singers: Hemant Kumar, Bhupen Hazarika, Hemanga Biswas.

Then there were film directors: Ritwik Ghatak, K.A. Abbas, Chetan Anand, Basu Chatterjee, Rishikesh Mukherjee. Dancers: Uday Shankar, Zohra Sehgal, Kameshwar. Actors: Balraj Sahni, Deena Pathak, Harindranath Chatterjee, A.K. Hangal, Karuna Bandhopadhyay. In a nutshell, some of the finest talents in the field of art and culture enthusiastically joined Ipta, though it was backed by a political ideology.

Though Raj Kapoor, V. Shantaram, Saddat Hasan Manto, and Dev Anand were never official members of Ipta, all of them were very closely associated with it at many levels.

These superbly gifted men and women, apart from making their career in their respective field, had the dream of a classless, socialistic society for a new India which was awaiting its freedom.

One of the earliest works of Ipta was the music composition of Iqbal's famous poem 'Sare jahan se Achha' by Pt Ravi Shankar. Ipta popularized this song by singing it at all its functions, street plays and conferences, making it almost a national anthem.

From the beginning, Ipta took out its live performance on streets by mingling with common people, walking on pavements, travelling in local trains, and assembling at marketplaces. Ipta used the marketplace, factory gate, slums, railway platform, etc., its stage for performance, gathering a huge crowd. By doing things unconventional-

ally and in a most creative way, Ipta made waves across India. In Bombay and Calcutta's industrial zones, Ipta became hugely popular with its street plays, theatre and pro-people songs. In their presentation, they tactfully inserted political messages and a huge number of people were influenced. By the end of 1944, the CPI, which was a marginalised party not long ago, again gained ground.

It performed in almost all public functions, especially in Bombay's Marine Drive on the occasion of the Marathi Stage Centenary Festival. Such was the success that The Times of India wrote on May 10, 1944, "There was nothing pointless or unnecessary in the performance at the People's Theatre. With the limited facilities at their disposal the organisers achieved much."

The heading of the news item was crowned with 'Real Thing.' The message of every single presentation of Ipta—whether it was street play, shadow dance, poetry, cinema, choir, or painting—was about communal harmony, socialism, concord, cosmopolitan culture, and social awareness.

'People's Theatre Show: Unity Main Theme,' a report published in The Times of India on October 25, 1947, said, "The message of Hindu Muslim unity was the central theme of a programme on variety entertainment staged on Friday by the Indian People's Theatre Association."

Meanwhile Ipta entered the world of cinema as well. By 1946, Ipta members had done two films. Neecha nagar, released on September 29, 1946, was directed by Chetan Anand. The other was Dharti ke laal; released on August 30, 1946, it was directed by K.A. Abbas.

(The second part of the article will be carried tomorrow)

**POINTCOUNTERPOINT**

WE ARE NOT COMPROMISING ON ANY ISSUE INVOLVING THE HONOUR OF PROPHET MUHAMMAD. — BANGLADESH INFORMATION MINISTER HASAN MAHMUD



INDIA ACCORDS THE HIGHEST RESPECT TO ALL RELIGIONS. THE REMARKS DO NOT REFLECT THE VIEWS OF THE GOVERNMENT. — MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS SPOKESPERSON ARINDAM BAGCHI

# Let us donate blood because we can

Today is World Blood Donor Day

It is unfortunate that in our country over 12,000 persons die daily in accidents or during delivery because blood could not be transfused immediately despite easy availability at the regional or national level.

Blood and blood products are essential resources for women suffering from bleeding in pregnancy and childbirth, children rendered severely anaemic due to malaria and malnutrition, persons with disorders of blood or bone marrow, haemoglobin and immune system. Victims of emergencies, trauma, and accidents and those undergoing surgical procedures may really need it. The need for blood is universal, but access to blood for all those who need it is not.



HARISH BARTHWAL

(The writer is a blogger and senior journalist. The view expressed are personal.)

About 800 women die from pregnancy or childbirth-related complications every day all over the world. Most of these deaths occur in developing countries. The risk of maternal mortality is highest for adolescent girls under 15 years of age. Blood shortages are particularly acute in low- and middle-income countries. The issue of safety of blood is very important.

Every year just 1 per cent of eligible persons donate blood in India. The World Blood Donor Day on 14 June each year seeks to enhance awareness of the need for safe blood and blood products for transfusion, educate the lay people on the vital role of voluntary, unpaid blood donors in strengthening national health systems, and support country's



blood transfusion services, blood collection bodies and similar organisations by expanding blood donation programmes and campaigns. This year's slogan of the World Blood Donor Day is,

'Donating blood is an act of solidarity. Join the effort and save lives' giving 'draws attention to the seminal role voluntary blood donations play in saving lives and enhancing solidarity within communities.

Blood cannot be manufactured in vitro, so it has only to be retrieved from a donor. A major difficulty with blood is our inability to segregate the components of blood since the patient may require only one of its components. Then, there are several taboos; blood or organ donation is just not acceptable to certain mindsets.

Blood donors are mostly student groups; others in the society also need to come to the fore. Worldwide, developing countries suffer from blood shortages. India has a shortage of 41 million units.

online facility for registering pledges for organ donation.

There are certain visceral fears and myths: blood donation can impinge upon health or cause blood deficit in the body; it can lead to infections; one with diabetes, blood pressure, etc., or the elderly must avoid it. In reality, blood donation prevents accumulation of excess iron from the body, thus reducing the possibility of developing cardiovascular diseases.

The human body has on average 5-6 litres of blood and formation of new blood is an ongoing process so that at any point of time around one-tenth of it (350-450 ml) can always be spared. The quantity of blood donated quantitatively restores to normal level within 48 hours. Any

healthy individual can donate blood four times a year within an interval of three months. After blood donation one can immediately resume work, the only advice is, (i) take 10-12 glasses of water within 24 hours, (ii) avoid driving, excessive exposure to smoking or sun for three to four hours, and (iii) avoid alcohol for a couple of days.

All religions and faiths proclaim the act of giving as one of the greatest virtues, many faiths endorse blood donation as a noble deed. The Hindu call it the greatest gift (Rakt daan mahadan); among Christians organ and tissue donations are ethically acceptable as expressions of love, charity. Let each of us contribute to the noble cause of donating blood.

# 'Enough proof uncovered to indict Trump'

JAN 6 PANELISTS

AP ■ WASHINGTON



Members of the House committee investigating the Capitol riot said Sunday they have uncovered enough evidence for the Justice Department to consider an unprecedented criminal indictment against former President Donald Trump for seeking to overturn the results of the 2020 election.

The committee announced that Trump's campaign manager, Bill Stepien, is among the witnesses scheduled to testify at a hearing Monday that focuses on Trump's effort to spread his lies about a stolen election.

"I would like to see the Justice Department investigate any credible allegation of criminal activity on the part of Donald Trump," said Rep. Adam Schiff, D-Calif., a committee member who also leads the House Intelligence Committee.

"There are certain actions, parts of these different lines of effort to overturn the election that I don't see evidence the Justice Department is investigating."

The committee held its first public hearing last week, with members laying out their case against Trump to show how the defeated president relentlessly pushed his false claims of a rigged election despite multiple advisers telling him otherwise and how he intensified an extraordinary scheme to overturn Joe Biden's victory.

Additional evidence is set to be released in hearings this week that will demonstrate how Trump and some of his advisers engaged in a "massive effort" to spread misinformation, pressured the Justice Department to embrace his false claims, and urged then-Vice President Mike Pence to reject state electors and block the vote certification on Jan 6, 2021.

Stepien, a longtime Trump adviser, has kept a relatively low profile compared with many others in the former president's orbit. He previously served as White House political director and also national field director for Trump's 2016 campaign.

Monday's witness list includes BJay Pak, the top federal prosecutor in Atlanta who left his position on Jan 4, 2021, a day after an audio recording was made public in which

Trump called him a "never-Trumper," and Chris Stirewalt, the former political editor for Fox News.

The committee members on Sunday also reiterated they would present clear evidence that "multiple" GOP lawmakers, including Rep. Scott Perry, R-Pa., had sought a pardon from Trump, which would protect him from prosecution.

Perry on Friday denied he ever did so, calling the assertion an "absolute, shameful, and soulless lie."

"We're not going to make accusations or say things without proof or evidence backing it," said Rep Adam Kinzinger, R-Ill. Lawmakers indicated that perhaps their most important audience member over the course of the hearings may be Attorney General Merrick Garland, who must decide whether his department can and should prosecute Trump.

Rep Jamie Raskin, D-Md., said he doesn't intend to "browbeat" Garland but noted the committee has already laid out in legal pleadings criminal statutes they believe Trump violated.

# Chinese, US envoys pledge support to help Lanka mitigate economic crisis

PTI ■ COLOMBO

In a significant development, the Chinese Ambassador to Sri Lanka Qi Zhenhong met his US counterpart Julie Chung here on Monday and held discussions on "broad topics of mutual interest" and pledged support in helping the island nation mitigate its crippling economic crisis.

Sri Lanka is currently facing its worst economic crisis since independence from Britain in 1948.

The economic crisis has prompted an acute shortage of essential items like food, medicine, cooking gas and other fuel, toilet paper, and even matches, with Sri Lankans being forced to wait in lines lasting hours outside stores to buy fuel and cooking gas.

"Ambassador Qi Zhenhong met with the US Ambassador Julie Chung at the Chinese embassy on June 13 and had a friendly discussion on broad topics of mutual interest. China and the United States could work



together to help Sri Lanka overcome current difficulties," a tweet from the Chinese Embassy in Sri Lanka said.

Commenting on the meeting, US Ambassador Chung said discussions centered on the current political and economic situation in Sri Lanka and asserted that there was an exchange of ideas on trade investment and development.

Both envoys agreed on the need to jointly come forward in helping Sri Lanka weather through the current economic and political crisis. The meeting assumes sig-

nificance and comes at a time when Sri Lankan Prime Minister Ranil Wickremesinghe said last week that his government could not tap on the USD 1.5 billion credit line from China and is yet to hear back from Beijing on the USD 1 billion loans.

In a media briefing last week, Chinese foreign ministry spokesman Zhao Lijian said that Beijing had earmarked humanitarian aid worth USD 73 million to Sri Lanka.

Last month, Samantha Power, the US Agency for

International Development (USAID) administrator, held a telephone conversation with Wickremesinghe to discuss how USAID is responding to the country's political and economic crises.

Meanwhile, India has provided a USD 55 million Line of Credit to Sri Lanka for the import of fertilisers, in a bid to help the island nation tide over its food scarcity, the Indian High Commission said last week.

Addressing the Parliament recently, Wickremesinghe said Sri Lanka will need USD 5 billion to ensure that the people's daily lives are not disrupted for the next six months.

The nearly bankrupt country, with an acute foreign currency crisis that resulted in foreign debt default, announced in April that it is suspending nearly USD 7 billion foreign debt repayment due for this year out of about USD 25 billion due through 2026.

Sri Lanka's total foreign debt stands at USD 51 billion.

# al-Qaida, ISIS attacks mount in Burkina Faso despite junta's efforts

AP ■ OUAGADOUGOU (BURKINA FASO)

The mutinous soldiers who ousted Burkina Faso's democratically elected president early this year vowed they would do a better job at stopping the jihadist violence rocking the country. Five months later, however, attacks are increasing and patience with the junta appears to be waning.

Many in Burkina Faso supported the military takeover in January, frustrated with the previous government's inability to stem Islamic extremist violence that has killed thousands and displaced at least 2 million. Lt. Col. Paul-Henri Sandaogo Damiba, who led the coup and was later installed as interim president, vowed to restore security.

But violence linked to al-Qaida and the Islamic State increased nearly 7 per cent during the junta's first three months of rule compared with the three months prior, according to the Armed Conflict Location & Event Data Project.

# UK to introduce law unilaterally changing post-Brexit rules

AP ■ LONDON

Britain's government is expected to introduce legislation Monday that would unilaterally change post-Brexit trade rules for Northern Ireland amid opposition from lawmakers who believe the move violates international law.

The legislation would let the government bypass the so-called Northern Ireland Protocol, which requires the inspection of some goods shipped there from other parts of the United Kingdom. The protocol, designed to preserve free trade on the island of Ireland, is part of the broader trade deal that Prime Minister Boris Johnson negotiated with the European Union when Britain left the 27-nation bloc.

But the arrangement has proved politically damaging for Johnson because it treats Northern Ireland differently from the rest of the United Kingdom, potentially weakening the province's historic links with Britain. Northern Ireland's Democratic Unionist Party has refused to return to the region's power-sharing government until the protocol is amended to address those concerns.

The opposition Labour Party, and even some members of Johnson's Conservatives, say unilaterally changing the protocol would be illegal and would damage Britain's standing with other countries because its part of a treaty considered binding under international law.

"Breaking international law to rip up the Prime Minister's own treaty is damaging to everything the U.K. And Conservatives stand for," opponents of the bill said in a note being circulated among



Conservative lawmakers, according to the Financial Times.

Arrangements for Northern Ireland - the only part of the U.K. That shares a land border with an EU nation - have proved the thorniest issue in Britain's divorce from the bloc, which became final at the end of 2020.

The 1998 Good Friday agreement that ended decades of violence in Northern Ireland was underpinned by the fact that both the U.K. and Ireland were EU members, allowing goods and people to flow freely across the border.

While both sides are committed to keeping the border open, other competing interests have made that difficult to achieve.

The EU, focused on protecting its internal market, wants to ensure that all goods flowing into the bloc meet its standards. Britain is trying to assert its newly won independence from the EU while preserving the union of England, Northern Ireland, Scotland and Wales.

After a conversation with British Foreign Secretary Liz Truss, European Commission Vice President Maros Sefcovic said "unilateral action is damaging to mutual trust and a formula for uncertainty."

# Virus cluster at nightclub sets off new Beijing clampdown

AP ■ BEIJING

China's capital has put school back online in one of its major districts amid a new COVID-19 outbreak linked to a nightclub, while life has yet to return to normal in Shanghai despite the lifting of a more than two-month-long lockdown.

China has stuck to its "zero-COVID" policy requiring mass testing, quarantines and the sequestering of anyone who has come into contact with an infected person in concentrated locations where hygiene is generally poor.

A total of 228 cases have been linked to the Heaven Supermarket club in the downtown Workers Stadium nightlife area after an infected person visited there Thursday.

Of those, 180 were customers, four were staff and 44 were people with whom customers had later contact.

The entire area, along with the adjacent Sanlitun shopping and dining complex, was shut down until further notice.

The outbreak prompted authorities in the sprawling Chaoyang district to put school back online, with the exception of students taking middle and high school placement exams.

Sports gatherings in the city have also been put on hold. Chaoyang, home to more than 3 million people, has ordered three consecutive days of mass testing, with long lines forming and wait times of two hours or more in some places.

In the city of Shanghai, 502 people have been linked to three positive tests detected Thursday among patrons of the Red Rose Beauty Salon.

The individuals involved come from 15 districts across the city of 25 million people, prompting the first large-scale restrictions since the lockdown



was formally ended June 1. With mass testing and restrictions on movement back in force, streets and supermarkets emptied again over the weekend.

Failure to undergo testing will lead to a yellow code on a person's health status app, forbidding them access to all public places.

Most students remain at home and all but a few restaurants are open only for takeout. Many customers simply partake of their food and drink on the steps beside flower bushes outside the establishments.

While 22 million Shanghai residents were released from lockdown almost two weeks ago, 220,000 people are still restricted to their homes under a rule requiring that no positive cases are found within their residential compounds for more than 10 days.

Another 600,000 are in control zones, where their movements are restricted within their compounds.

Corrugated steel fences and other barriers continue to block off neighborhoods and businesses, leading to further discontent and complaints from residents who remain in lockdown.

The strict implementation of lockdowns, along with a lack of information and poor distribution of food and other daily necessities, has led to rarely seen displays of anger and desperation.

Residents have confronted workers and police who have become known as "big whites" for the protective gear they wear, circulated protest videos online and coordinated nightly screaming and pot-banging events to let off steam.

The loosening of restrictions led to an exodus of non-Shanghai residents, including foreigners, who had found themselves trapped in the lockdown. Despite the recent outbreak, Beijing reported just 51 new cases on Monday, 22 of them asymptomatic. City residents are still undergoing regular testing — mostly every other day — and must wear masks and swipe a mobile phone app to enter public places and facilitate case tracing.

China has maintained its "zero-COVID" policy despite considerable economic costs and an assertion from the head of the World Health Organization that the policy isn't sustainable.

**GOVERNMENT OF JAMMU AND KASHMIR**  
**Directorate of Sheep Husbandry Department Kashmir**  
**Lal-Mandi, Srinagar 190008**  
 Tel. No: 09194-2310604. Fax No: 0194-2311063, Email id: kashmirmerino.sheep@gmail.com  
**e-Nit No:-DSHK/ACCTS/22-23/2839-50 Dated:-11-06-2022**  
**Subject: E-Procurement Notice for the supply of Livestock(Sheep/Goat).**  
 For and on behalf of Lt. Governor of Jammu & Kashmir, Union Territory of India, expression of interest tenders in two bid system (Technical-1 and Financial bid-2) through Chairman State Level Purchase committee, Sheep Husbandry Department, J&K, Kashmir (Directorate of Sheep Husbandry Department, Kashmir) are invited from Interested Persons from Himachal Pradesh for establishment of units under ISDS  
 1. The bidding documents consisting of qualifying information, eligibility, criteria, specifications, bill of quantities (B.O.Q), set of terms and conditions of supply/contract and other details can be seen/downloaded from the e-procurement website [www.jktenders.gov.in](http://www.jktenders.gov.in) as per schedule of dates given below.  
 1. Date of Issue of Tender Notice :- 11-06-2022  
 2. Period of downloading of bidding documents :- 11-06-2022 to 04-07-2022  
 3. Bid submission start date :- 11-06-2022  
 4. Bid submission end date :- 04-07-2022 upto 4:00 p.m  
 5. Date and time of opening of technical bids (online) :- 04-07-2022 2:00p.m  
 2. Instructions for bidders regarding e-tendering process:-  
 i. Bidders are advised to download bids submission manual from the "Downloads option as well as from Bidders Manual kit" on the website [www.jktenders.gov.in](http://www.jktenders.gov.in) to acquaint themselves with bid submission process.  
 ii. To participate in bidding process bidder has to get a Digital Signature Certificate (DSC), as per Information Technology ACT-2000. Bidders can get Digital Certificate from an approved vendor.  
 iii. The bidder has to submit their bids online in electronic format with the Digital Signature. No bidding will be accepted in physical form.  
 iv. Bids will be opened online as per the schedule mentioned at Para-1.  
 v. Bidders must ensure to upload scanned copy of all necessary documents with the technical bid.  
 3. The department will not be responsible for delay in online submission due to any reason.  
 (Note: Scan all the documents on 100dpi with Black and White option.)  
 Sd/- Chairman State Level Purchase Committee  
 Sheep Husbandry Department Jammu & Kashmir  
 No. DPK-3888/22  
 Dated: 13.06.2022

**GOVERNMENT OF JAMMU AND KASHMIR**  
**Directorate of Sheep Husbandry Department Kashmir**  
**Lal-Mandi, Srinagar 190008**  
 Tel. No: 09194-2310604. Fax No: 0194-2311063, Email id: kashmirmerino.sheep@gmail.com  
**e-Nit No:-DSHK/ACCTS/2022-23/2764-74 Dated:- 09.06.2022**  
**Subject: E-Procurement Notice for the supply of Foot & Mouth Disease (FMD) Vaccine.**  
 For and on behalf of Lt. Governor of Jammu & Kashmir, Union Territory of India, e-Tenders in two bid system (Technical-1 and Financial bid-2) through Chairman State Level Purchase committee, Sheep Husbandry Department, J&K, Kashmir (Directorate of Sheep Husbandry Department, Kashmir) are invited from Original manufacturers/companies of repute and firms in line possessing valid authorization of principals, for fixing the rate contract for supply of Foot & Mouth Disease (FMD) Vaccine.  
**COMPOSITION:- Trivalent FMD Oil adjuvant vaccine with the following strains:-**  
 1. Serotype O: Strain INDR2/1975 (OME-SA Topotype, Lineage Branch B)  
 2. Serotype A: Strain IND40/2000 (Genotype 18, non-deletion group)  
 3. Serotype Asia 1: Strain IND63/1972 (Genotype 1, Lineage B)  
 The bidding documents consisting of qualifying information, eligibility, criteria, specifications, bill of quantities (B.O.Q), set of terms and conditions of supply/contract and other details can be seen/downloaded from the e-procurement website [www.jktenders.gov.in](http://www.jktenders.gov.in) as per schedule of dates given below.  
 1. Date of Issue of Tender Notice :- 09-06-2022  
 2. Period of downloading of bidding documents :- 10-06-2022  
 3. Bid submission start date :- 10-06-2022  
 4. Bid submission end date :- 04-07-2022  
 5. Date and time of opening of bids (online) :- 05-07-2022  
 1. Instructions for bidders regarding e-tendering process:-  
 i. Bidders are advised to download bids submission manual from the "Downloads option as well as from Bidders Manual kit" on the website [www.jktenders.gov.in](http://www.jktenders.gov.in) to acquaint themselves with bid submission process.  
 ii. To participate in bidding process bidder has to get a Digital Signature Certificate (DSC), as per Information Technology ACT-2000. Bidders can get Digital Certificate from an approved vendor.  
 iii. The bidder has to submit their bids online in electronic format with the Digital Signature. No bidding will be accepted in physical form.  
 iv. Bids will be opened online as per the schedule mentioned at Para-1.  
 v. Bidders must ensure to upload scanned copy of all necessary documents with the technical bid.  
 2. The department will not be responsible for delay in online submission due to any reason.  
 (Note: Scan all the documents on 100dpi with Black and White option.)  
 Sd/- Chairman State Level Purchase Committee  
 Sheep Husbandry Department Jammu & Kashmir  
 No. DPK-3870/22  
 Dated: 13.06.2022

# North Korea plans crackdown as Kim pushes for internal unity

AP ■ SEOUL

North Korean leader Kim Jong Un and his top deputies have pushed for a crackdown on officials who abuse their power and commit

other "unsound and non-revolutionary acts," state media reported Monday, as Kim seeks greater internal unity to overcome a COVID-19 outbreak and economic difficulties.

It wasn't clear what specific

acts were mentioned at the ruling Workers' Party meeting on Sunday. But possible state crackdowns on such alleged acts could be an attempt to solidify Kim's control of his people and get them to rally

behind his leadership in the face of the domestic hardships, some observers say.

Kim and other senior party secretaries discussed "waging more intensive struggle against un- sound and non-revolutionary acts including abuse of power and bureaucracy revealed among some party officials," the official Korean Central News



Agency said.

Kim ordered the authority of the party's auditing commission and other local discipline supervision systems to be bolstered to promote the party's "monolithic leadership" and "the broad political activities of the party through the strong discipline system," KCNA said.

Kim has previously occasionally called for struggles against "anti-socialist practices" at home in the past two years amid outside worries about his country's fragile economy that has been battered by pandemic-related border shutdowns, U.N. Sanctions and his own mismanagement. The North's elevated

restrictions on movement's in the wake of the COVID-19 outbreak could cause a further strain on the country's economic difficulties, some experts say. North Korea on May 12 admitted the omicron variant of the coronavirus had infected people, and it subsequently has said about 4.5 million people — more than 17% of its 26 million people — have fallen ill with fevers and only 72 have died.

Foreign experts widely doubt the outbreak was North Korea's first, and they believe the statistics being disclosed in state media are manipulated to prevent political damage to Kim while bolstering internal control and promoting his leadership.

**PHYSICAL POSSESSION NOTICE**  
**ICICI Bank** | Branch Office: ICICI Bank Ltd, 3rd Floor, Plot No- 23, New Rohtak Road, Karol Bagh, Delhi- 110005  
**Whereas**  
 The undersigned being the Authorized Officer of ICICI Bank Limited under the Securitisation, Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 and in exercise of the powers conferred under section 13 (12) read with Rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) rules 2002, issued demand notices upon the borrowers mentioned below, to repay the amount mentioned in the notice within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said notice.  
 As the borrower failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the borrower 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 the below-mentioned dates. The borrower 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 ICICI Bank Limited.  

Sr. No.	Name of the Borrower/ Loan Account Number	Description of Property/ Date of Physical Possession	Date of Demand Notice/ Amount in Demand Notice (Rs.)	Name of Branch
1.	Simranjeet Singh/ Kawaljeet Kaur Arora/ Manjeet Singh Arora. LBDEL00004931196 & LBDEL00005341290	DDA CSA, Shop-45, Ground Floor, Pocket- B, Ashok Vihar, Phase - III, Delhi June 09, 2022	June 19, 2021 Rs. 31,05,965/-	Delhi
2.	M/s Universal Journeys India Private Limited/ Geetanjali Alamshah/ Journeys & Destinations India Private Limited/ Stephen Alamshah LBDEL00002082106	Office Space No-DPT534 Parking No-PB1001, 5th Floor Block-F, Prime Tower, Plot No. 79 And 80 Okhla Industrial Area Ph-1, Delhi. June 10, 2022	June 19, 2021 Rs. 63,41,264/-	Delhi

 The above-mentioned borrowers(s) guarantor(s) are hereby given a 30 day notice to repay the amount, else the mortgaged properties will be sold on the expiry of 30 days from the date of publication of this Notice, as per the provisions under the Rules 8 and 9 of Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules 2002.  
 Date : June 14, 2022  
 Place: Delhi NCR  
 Authorized Officer  
 ICICI Bank Limited

# Battle of Donbas could prove decisive in Ukraine war

AP ■ KYIV

Day after day, Russia is pounding the Donbas region of Ukraine with relentless artillery and air raids, making slow but steady progress to seize the industrial heartland of its neighbour.

With the conflict now in its fourth month, it's a high-stakes campaign that could dictate the course of the entire war.

If Russia prevails in the battle of Donbas, it will mean that Ukraine loses not only land but perhaps the bulk of its most capable military forces, opening the way for Moscow to grab more territory and dictate its terms to Kyiv. A Russian failure could lay the grounds for a Ukrainian counteroffensive - and possibly lead to political upheaval for the Kremlin.

Following botched early attempts in the invasion to capture Kyiv and the second-largest city of Kharkiv without proper planning and coordination, Russia turned its attention to the Donbas, a region of mines and factories where Moscow-backed separatists have been fighting Ukrainian forces since 2014.

Learning from its earlier missteps, Russia is trading more carefully there, relying on longer-range bombardments

to soften Ukrainian defences.

It seems to be working: The better-equipped Russian forces have made gains in both the Luhansk and Donetsk regions that make up the Donbas, controlling over 95% of the former and about half of the latter.

Ukraine is losing between 100 and 200 soldiers a day, presidential adviser Mykhailo Podolyak told the BBC, as Russia has "thrown pretty much everything non-nuclear at the front." President Volodymyr Zelenskyy earlier put the daily death toll at up to 100. Ukrainian Defense Minister Oleksii Reznikov described the combat situation as "extremely difficult," using a reference to an ancient deity of sacrifice by saying: "The Russian Moloch has plenty of means to devour human lives to satisfy its imperial ego."

When the war was going badly for Russia, many thought President Vladimir Putin might claim victory after some gains in Donbas and then exit a conflict that has seriously bruised the economy and stretched its resources. But the Kremlin has made clear it expects Ukraine to recognize all the gains Russia has made since the start of the invasion - something Kyiv has ruled out.

Russian forces control the



entire Sea of Azov coast, including the strategic port of Mariupol, the entire Kherson region - a key gateway to Crimea - and a large chunk of the Zaporizhzhia region that could aid a further push deeper into Ukraine, and few expect that Putin will stop.

Unlike earlier battlefield failures, Russia appears to be using more conservative tactics. Many had expected it to try to encircle Ukrainian forces with a massive pincer movement from the north and south, but instead it has used a series of smaller moves to

force a retreat and not overextend its supply lines.

Keir Giles, a Russia expert at London's Chatham House think-tank, said Russia was "concentrating all of its artillery on a single section of the front line in order to grind its way forward by flattening every-

thing in its path."

Western officials still praise the ability of Ukrainian forces to defend their country, fighting back fiercely and similarly relying on artillery and retreating in some sections while launching frequent counterattacks.

"Ukraine has been pursuing a policy of flexible defense, giving ground where it makes sense to do so instead of holding on to every inch of the territory," Giles said.

A senior Western official who spoke on condition of anonymity because he wasn't authorized to discuss the sensitive issue in public said the Russian campaign "continues to be deeply troubled at all levels," noting that Moscow's forces are taking "weeks to achieve even modest tactical goals such as taking individual villages."

Last month, the Russians lost nearly an entire battalion in a botched attempt to cross the Siverskiy Donets River and set up a bridgehead. Hundreds were killed and dozens of armored vehicles were destroyed.

"There is a sense of strategic improvisation or muddling through," the official said, predicting that over the summer the Russian military could

reach a "point where they can no longer effectively generate offensive combat power."

Russia has a clear edge in artillery in the battle for Donbas, thanks to a bigger number of heavy howitzers and rocket launchers and abundant ammunition. The Ukrainians have had to be economical in using their artillery, with the Russians constantly targeting their supply lines.

Ukraine has begun to receive more heavy weapons from Western allies, who have provided dozens of howitzers and are now planning to start delivering multiple rocket launchers.

Putin has warned that if the West gives Kyiv longer-range rockets that could hit Russian territory, Moscow could hit targets in Ukraine that it has spared until now. Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov also said that Russia could respond by seizing more land as a buffer zone from such weapons.

Moscow's earlier territorial gains in the south, including the Kherson region and a large part of the neighboring Zaporizhzhia region, have prompted Russian officials and their local appointees to ponder plans to fold those areas

into Russia or declare them to be independent, like the so-called "people's republics" of Donetsk and Luhansk.

Ukrainian officials and Western analysts voiced concern that Moscow could try to press its offensive into the heavily populated and industrialized Dnipro region farther north, an advance that could potentially slice Ukraine in two and raise a new threat for Kyiv.

"Russian objectives in the context of this war are shifting in relation to the situation on the ground," said Eleonora Tafuro Ambrosetti, an analyst with the Milan-based Italian Institute for International Political Studies.

"Their goals are sort of flexible enough to be adaptive to context on the ground," she said, noting that Russia could try to damage Ukraine's economy by seizing the entire coastline to deny access to shipping.

A top Russian general already has spoken of plans to cut off Ukraine from the Black Sea by seizing the Mykolaiv and Odesa regions all the way to the border with Romania, a move that would also allow Moscow to build a land corridor to Moldova's separatist region of Transnistria that hosts a Russian military base.

# Moscow-backed officials try to solidify rule

AP ■ KYIV

Kremlin-installed officials in occupied southern Ukraine celebrated Russia Day on Sunday and began issuing Russian passports to residents in one city who requested them, as Moscow sought to solidify its rule over captured parts of the country.

At one of the central squares in the city of Kherson, Russian bands played a concert to celebrate Russia Day, the holiday that marks Russia's emergence as a sovereign state after the collapse of the Soviet Union, according to Russia's state news agency RIA Novosti.

In the neighboring Zaporizhzhia region, Moscow-installed officials raised a Russian flag in Melitopol's city center.

Ukrainian media reported that few, if any, local residents attended the Russia Day festivities in the two cities.

Russia Day was also celebrated in other occupied parts



of Ukraine, including the ravaged southern port of Mariupol, where a new city sign painted in the colors of the Russian flag was unveiled on the outskirts and Russian flags were flown on a highway leading into the city.

Also, the Russia-aligned administration in Melitopol started handing out Russian passports to those who applied for Russian citizenship. RIA Novosti posted video of a Moscow-backed official congratulating new Russian citizens and telling them: "Russia will not go anywhere. We are

here for good."

President Vladimir Putin earlier this year issued a decree fast-tracking Russian citizenship for residents of the Kherson and Zaporizhzhia regions. In captured cities in the south and east, Moscow has also introduced the ruble as official currency, aired Russian news broadcasts and taken steps to introduce a Russian school curriculum.

The Kremlin's administrators in the Kherson and Zaporizhzhia regions have voiced plans to incorporate the areas into Russia, despite protests and signs of an insurgency among local residents.

Russian-installed officials Sunday in Melitopol reported an explosion in a garbage bin near the city's police headquarters and said two residents were injured.

Another blast was reported at an electrical substation in the city of Berdiansk, which is also under Russian control. The Kremlin-backed adminis-

tration pronounced it a terrorist attack, and officials said electricity was shut down in parts of the city.

On the battlefield, Russia said it is used missiles to destroy a large depot in western Ukraine that contained anti-tank and air-defense weapons supplied to Kyiv by the US and European countries.

It said the attack took place near the city of Chortkiv in the Ternopil region.

Ternopil Gov Volodymyr Trush said four Russian missiles damaged a military installation and four residential buildings in Chortkiv. More than 20 people were wounded, including a 12-year-old girl, Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy said.

"This strike had no tactical or strategic sense, just like the absolute majority of other Russian strikes. It is terror, just terror," he said in a video address.

In light of the strike,

Zelenskyy made another plea for modern missile defense systems from the US and other Western countries, saying, "These are lives that could have been saved, tragedies that could have been prevented if Ukraine had been listened to."

Also, heavy fighting continued for control of Sievierodonetsk, an eastern city in Luhansk province with a prewar population of 100,000 that has emerged as central to Russia's campaign to capture the Donbas, Ukraine's industrial heartland.

Russian forces shelled a Sievierodonetsk chemical plant where up to 500 civilians, 40 of them children, were holed up, Luhansk Gov Serhii Haidai said.

An official with the pro-Moscow, self-proclaimed Luhansk People's Republic, Rodion Miroschnik, said 300 to 400 Ukrainian troops also remained inside the plant. He said that efforts were underway to evacuate the civilians.

# Police investigating killings of 12,000 Ukrainians in war

AP ■ BUCHA (UKRAINE)

Police have opened criminal investigations into the killings of more than 12,000 Ukrainians nationwide during Russia's war, and authorities in the Kyiv region near Bucha on Monday reported discovering the bodies of several victims whose hands were tied behind their backs.

"Shots to the knees tell us that people were tortured," said Andriy Nebytov, head of the Kyiv regional police.

"The hands tied behind the back with tape say that people had been held (hostage) for a long time and (enemy forces) tried to get any information from them."

Since the withdrawal of Russian troops from the region at the end of March, the authorities say they have uncovered the bodies of 1,316 people. One site reporters saw Monday was a mass grave in a forest near Bucha, where the horrors of war shocked the world after a regional Russian withdrawal earlier in the war. Reporters on Monday saw a mass grave just behind a trench dug out for a military vehicle.

The bodies of seven civilians were retrieved from the mass grave. Two of the bodies were found with their hands tied and gunshot wounds to the knees and the head, Nebytov said.

Nationwide, police chief Igor Klimentko told the

Interfax-Ukraine news agency on Monday that criminal investigations into the deaths of more than 12,000 Ukrainians included some found in mass graves. He said the mass killings of people resulted from snipers firing from tanks and armored personnel carriers.

Bodies were found lying on streets and in their homes, as well as in mass graves. He didn't specify how many of the more than 12,000 were civilian and military.

Complete information about the number of bodies in mass graves or elsewhere isn't known, Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy told the American Jewish Committee on Sunday.

# Japan philanthropic group begins fund raising for Ukrainians



AP ■ TOKYO

A Japanese foundation announced Monday it is launching a fundraising drive to provide more than 1,200 Ukrainian evacuees in Japan with additional financial support for language studies and other needs. Jumpei Sasakawa, executive director of the Nippon Foundation, said it aims to raise 1 billion yen (\$7.4 million) through cooperation with the U.S. and Ukrainian ambassadors.

The foundation has already pledged 5 billion yen (\$37 million) for the transportation and living costs of Ukrainian evacuees.

Japan has so far accepted more than 1,200 war-displaced Ukrainians since Russia invaded in late February.

Sasakawa said he was approached by U.S. Ambassador to Japan Rahm Emanuel, who asked him to enable ordinary Japanese to help support Ukrainian evacuees.

Ukrainian Ambassador to Japan Sergiy Korsunsk, who joined Sasakawa and Emanuel at a news conference, urged Japanese to see donations to the fund as an "investment by Japan in a nation that will be always be friends with you."

is ready to rebuild itself.

Japan quickly joined the United States and other major industrialised economies in imposing sanctions on Russia and supporting Ukraine because it fears a similar development in East Asia, where Beijing has become increasingly assertive and has threatened to take military actions against Taiwan if it refuses to unite with China.

Acceptance of the Ukrainian evacuees is unusual for Japan, which has extremely strict refugee and immigration policies despite its own shrinking labour force.

Advocates have expressed hope that its support for the Ukrainians will lead to a more lenient immigration policy.

Human rights groups have criticised Japan for neglecting displaced people from other countries such as Afghanistan and Myanmar, who have not received such a warm welcome or a nationally-organised support system.

"I would say, this is a win-win situation. Japan could use the help on its labour shortage and Ukraine people or evacuees can bring their skill set and find work and contribute to their temporary new home," Emanuel said.

The Nippon Foundation was founded by Sasakawa's grandfather, Ryoichi Sasakawa, a far-right politician and businessman, to distribute money earned from motorboat racing, a popular gambling pastime.

## PUBLIC NOTICE

General Public is hereby informed that Smt. Munesh Devi W/o Late LNK Rajendra Singh R/o VILL&P.O. Khekra, Near Police Station, Distt. Bhagpat (U.P.) is owner in possession of residential property bearing Flat No. 389, Second Floor, Block-C, Vijay Awas Yojna, CV Block, Sec-18, Dwarka, New Delhi-110078, has lost original documents pertaining to the said property, viz Allotment Letter, Possession Letter and Registration Paper. Having regard to the loss of Original Documents Smt. Munesh Devi, W/o Late LNK Rajendra Singh lodged an online complaint dated 22.04.2022 vide L.R. No. 20220000171320, P.S. Indrapuram, Ghaziabad, U.P. General Public is hereby cautioned and advised to desist from entering into any Transaction/Dealing in any manner in respect of aforesaid property on the basis of lost original documents referred above and shall be doing so at his/her/their own cost, risk and peril.

-sd-  
Milind M. Bhardwaj  
Advocate  
807, Lawyers Chamber,  
Patiala House Courts,  
New Delhi-110 001.  
Mob.: 9818331266  
E-mail: milindmahab@yahoo.co.in  
Dated: 13.06.2022

## PUBLIC NOTICE

Notice is hereby given to the General Public on behalf of our client i.e. Fullerton India Credit Company Limited that Mr. Rajeev Kumar Gupta and Mrs. Sanita Gupta are the owners of Property No. 10, area 50 Sq. Yds, Khanna No. 304/212, 305/212, 307/212, 216/214, 224, 227, 303/215, 308/221, 227, 310, 219 and 222, in Block A, Ganesh Nagar, Village Shakar Pur, Ilaha Shahdara, Delhi by virtue of Conveyance Deed dated 09/24/2002. Doc. no. 2153. All persons are hereby informed that above mentioned owners want to mortgage the said property and intend to obtain a loan in the name of Mr. Rishabh Gupta from our client against the said property. If anybody has any objection/s upon the ownership of above owners over the said property, its mortgage/loan, & any other objections, kindly inform the undersigned in writing on the below mentioned address within 07 days of the present.

Kumar & Associates (Advocates & Consultants)  
200, 1st Floor, 23, Shivaji Marg, Mohi Nagar, N. Delhi-15  
Ph: 011-4112227-28, www.kumarandassociatesadvocates@gmail.com

## PUBLIC NOTICE

To be known to all that Sh. Shiv Nandan S/o Late Sh. Maruti Lal Sharma and Smt. Shashi Devi W/o Sh. Shiv Nandan, both R/o Flat No. 145, Plot no. 65, New Surya Kiran Apartment, 1st Extension, Pat Par Ganj, Delhi-110092 have applied for conversion of House no. 407, Block C, Pocket 5, Sector 34, Rohini, Delhi from lease hold to free hold vide File no. F16(20462)2012/RH-N in DDA. The original documents i.e. Handing over possession letter and Site possession slip of the above said plot has been lost. A NCR/LR no. 492176/2022 dated: 13.06.2022 to this effect has been lodged in P.S. Crime Branch Delhi.

Any person(s) claiming any right, interest, having any objection or found in possession of original documents, may write/contact with above named person at above address/phone no. 8376002945 within 15 days from the date of publication of this notice. The person claiming any right, interest, objection with respect to this property, can personally inform or write to Deputy Director (L&D) Rohini or Director (L&D), DDA Vikas Sadan, New Delhi.

## PUBLIC NOTICE

It is informed to the general public that the original document i.e. allotment letter, possession certificate, letter of clearance and possession etc. of Flat No. L-151, Jalvayu Vihar, Sector 25, Noida has been misplaced somewhere, whose complaint has been filed on 16.03.2022 in the P.S. Crime Branch Delhi.

Whereas, the allottee Sh. G.S. Bal is selling the said Flat No. L-151, Sector-25, Noida to Mr. Satpal Girotra and Mr. Sanjay Girotra (jointly) and the transfer/sale papers has been initiated to the competent authorities to transfer of said property.

Therefore it is informed to the general public that, if the above documents are found by any person or if have any right, claim or objection in selling of said property, then he/she should be lodged its claim within 15 days from the date of publication of Notice, either to group housing department of Noida Authority or AFNHB New Delhi. Failing which the claim, right on the said documents/property will be considered completely free and abandoned.

Air Cmde G.S. Bal  
L-151, Jalvayu Vihar, Sector 25, Noida

**ICICI Bank** Branch Office: ICICI Bank Limited, 3rd Floor Shal Tower, New Rohtak Road, Karol bagh, Delhi- 110005

**PUBLIC NOTICE - TENDER CUM AUCTION FOR SALE OF SECURED ASSET**

[See proviso to rule 8(6)]  
**Notice for sale of immovable assets**

E-Auction Sale Notice for Sale of Immovable Assets under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 read with proviso to Rule 8 (6) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002.

Notice is hereby given to the public in general and in particular to the Borrower(s) and Guarantor(s) that the below described immovable property mortgaged/charged to the Secured Creditor, the Physical possession of which has been taken by the Authorised Officer of ICICI Bank Ltd. will be sold on "As is where is", "As is what is", and "Whatever there is", as per the brief particulars given hereunder:

Sr. No.	Name of Borrower(s)/ Co-Borrowers/ Guarantors/ Loan Account No.	Details of the Secured asset(s) with known encumbrances, if any	Amount Outstanding	Reserve Price/ Earnest Money Deposit	Date and Time of Property Inspection	Date & Time of Auction
(A)	(B)	(C)	(D)	(E)	(F)	(G)
1.	Vikrant Singh (Borrower), Ritu Singh (Co-Borrower) LBGUR00002386632	Flat No. B1-1802, 18th Floor, JKG Palm Court, Gh-1D, Sector 16C, Greater Noida West, UP. Super Builtup Area- 1765 Sq. Ft.	Rs. 86,38,492/- as on May 18, 2022	Rs. 65,50,000/- Rs. 6,55,000/-	June 20, 2022 From 11:00 AM to 2:00 PM	July 07, 2022 From 11:00 AM Onwards
2.	Ganesh Sharma (Borrower), Kamla Katiwal (Co-Borrower) LBDEL00002947887	Flat No 1804, (18th Floor), JKG Palm Court, Tower B2, Plot No. GH-1D, Sector 16 C, Greater Noida, Uttar Pradesh- 201307. Super Builtup Area- 1635 Sq. Ft.	Rs. 85,10,872/- as on May 18, 2022	Rs. 60,60,000/- Rs. 6,06,000/-	June 20, 2022 From 11:00 AM to 2:00 PM	July 07, 2022 From 11:00 AM Onwards
3.	Kanishka (Borrower), Santosh Kumari (Co-Borrower) LBGUR00002372750	B-2-1303, 13th Floor, JKG Palm Court, Plot No. GH-1D, Sector 16C, Greater Noida West, UP. Super Builtup Area-1395 Sq. Ft.	Rs. 73,80,952/- as on May 18, 2022	Rs. 52,00,000/- Rs. 5,20,000/-	June 20, 2022 From 11:00 AM to 2:00 PM	July 07, 2022 From 11:00 AM Onwards
4.	Aditya Prakash (Borrower), Prem Shashank (Co-Borrower) LBGHZ00002441728	Flat No 1408, 14th Floor Tower-A2, JKG Palm Court, Situated At Plot No GH-1D Sector-16C, Greater Noida, Noida. Super Builtup Area- 1185 Sq. Ft.	Rs. 53,64,547/- as on May 18, 2022	Rs. 44,00,000/- Rs. 4,40,000/-	June 20, 2022 From 11:00 AM to 2:00 PM	July 07, 2022 From 11:00 AM Onwards
5.	Vijay Grover (Borrower), Reena Grover (Co-Borrower) LBDEL00002365295	Flat No B1 1301, JKG Palm Court, Plot No GH 1D, Sector 16C, Greater Noida West, UP. Super Builtup Area- 1765 Sq. Ft.	Rs. 84,43,954/- as on May 18, 2022	Rs. 65,50,000/- Rs. 6,55,000/-	June 20, 2022 From 11:00 AM to 2:00 PM	July 07, 2022 From 11:00 AM Onwards
6.	Vijay Grover (Borrower), Reena Grover (Co-Borrower) LBDEL00002371601	Flat No B1 1302, JKG Palm Court, Plot No GH 1D, Sector 16C, Greater Noida West, UP. Super Builtup Area- 1765 Sq. Ft.	Rs. 8,409,273/- as on May 18, 2022	Rs. 65,50,000/- Rs. 6,55,000/-	June 20, 2022 From 11:00 AM to 2:00 PM	July 07, 2022 From 11:00 AM Onwards
7.	Neera Sharma (Borrower), Ankur Mohan (Co-Borrower) LBGUR00002313398	Flat No B1 1304, JKG Palm Court, Plot No GH 1D, Sector 16C, Greater Noida West, UP. Super Builtup Area- 1635 Sq. Ft.	Rs. 8,304,923/- as on May 18, 2022	Rs. 60,60,000/- Rs. 6,06,000/-	June 20, 2022 From 11:00 AM to 2:00 PM	July 07, 2022 From 11:00 AM Onwards
8.	Sandeep Kumar Upadhyay (Borrower), Shilpi Upadhyay (Co-Borrower) LBDEL00002275165	Flat No B2 1704, 17th Floor, JKG Palm Court, Plot No GH 1D, Sector 16C, Greater Noida West, UP. Super Builtup Area- 1635 Sq. Ft.	Rs. 7,834,678/- as on May 18, 2022	Rs. 60,60,000/- Rs. 6,06,000/-	June 20, 2022 From 11:00 AM to 2:00 PM	July 07, 2022 From 11:00 AM Onwards
9.	Sanjiv Lamba (Borrower), Madhu (Co-Borrower) LBDEL00002935333	Flat No 1603, 16th Floor, GH 2 Palm Court, Plot No. GH-01D Sector-16C, Greater Noida, Gautam Buddha Nagar 201301. Super Builtup Area- 1185 Sq. Ft.	Rs. 6,387,173/- as on May 18, 2022	Rs. 44,00,000/- Rs. 4,40,000/-	June 20, 2022 From 11:00 AM to 2:00 PM	July 07, 2022 From 11:00 AM Onwards

The online auction will be conducted on website (URL Link- <https://disposahub.com>) of our auction agency M/s NexXen Solutions Private Limited. The Mortgagors/noticee are given a last chance to pay the total dues with further interest till July 06, 2022 before 05:00 P.M. else these secured assets will be sold as per above schedule.

The Prospective Bidder(s) must submit the Earnest Money Deposit (EMD) Demand Draft (DD) (Refer Column E) at ICICI Bank Limited, 3rd Floor Shal Tower, New Rohtak Road, Karol bagh, Delhi-110005 and thereafter they need to submit their offer through the above mentioned website only on or before July 06, 2022 before 05:00 P.M. along with scan image of Bank acknowledged DD towards proof of payment of EMD. Kindly note, incase prospective bidder(s) are unable to submit their offer through the website then signed copy of tender documents may be submitted at ICICI Bank Limited, 3rd Floor Shal Tower, New Rohtak Road, Karol bagh, Delhi-110005 on or before July 06, 2022 before 05:00 P.M. Earnest Money Deposit DD/PO should be from a Nationalised/Scheduled Bank in favour of "ICICI Bank Limited" payable at Delhi.

For any further clarifications with regards to inspection, terms and conditions of the auction or submission of tenders, kindly contact ICICI Bank Limited on 8584874809/ 9599281817 or M/s NexXen Solutions Private Limited on 9710029933/9810029926/01244233933

Please note that Marketing agencies 1. M/s NexXen Solutions Private Limited . 2. Auguo Asset Management Pvt Ltd. have also been engaged for facilitating the sale of this property.

The Authorised Officer reserves the right to reject any or all the bids without furnishing any further reasons. For detailed terms and conditions of the sale, please visit [www.icicibank.com/n4p4s](http://www.icicibank.com/n4p4s)

Date: June 14, 2022  
Place: Delhi/ NCR

Sd/- Authorized Officer  
ICICI Bank Limited

# Sensex nosedives 1,457 points amid global rout

Nifty crashes below 15,775

PTI ■ MUMBAI

Equity benchmarks had another rough day on Monday, with the Sensex plummeting 1,457 points and the Nifty tumbling to the 15,774 level, mirroring an extremely weak trend in global markets along with unrelenting foreign fund outflows.

Index majors ICICI Bank, Infosys and Reliance Industries bore the brunt of heavy selling.

The 30-share BSE Sensex tumbled 1,456.74 points or 2.68 per cent to settle at 52,846.70. During the day, it plummeted 1,776.36 points or 3.27 per cent to 52,527.08. The Nifty tanked 427.40 points or 2.64 per cent to close at 15,774.40.

Bajaj Finserv, Bajaj Finance, IndusInd Bank, Tech Mahindra, ICICI Bank, TCS, NTPC, Infosys and State Bank of India were the major lag-



gards in the Sensex pack.

The BSE benchmark had ended 1,016.84 points or 1.84 per cent lower at 54,303.44 on Friday. The broader NSE Nifty had plunged 276.30 points or 1.68 per cent to 16,201.80. Elsewhere in Asia, markets in Seoul, Tokyo, Hong Kong and Shanghai settled with deep cuts. Markets in Europe were also facing heavy selling pressure in mid-session deals.

Stock exchanges in the US ended sharply lower on Friday. "Weak global cues ahead of the Fed meet painted benchmark indices here in a sea of red as

street awaits CPI data today on a day when the rupee hit a new low.

The risk off mode in equities globally after the US inflation print raised fears of an aggressive rate hike..." said S Ranganathan, Head of Research at LKP Securities.

Meanwhile, international oil benchmark Brent crude fell 0.98 per cent to USD 120.75 per barrel. Foreign institutional investors (FIIs) remained net sellers in the capital market, as they sold shares worth Rs 3,973.95 crore on Friday, as per exchange data.

# Retail inflation eases to 7.04% in May on softening food, fuel prices

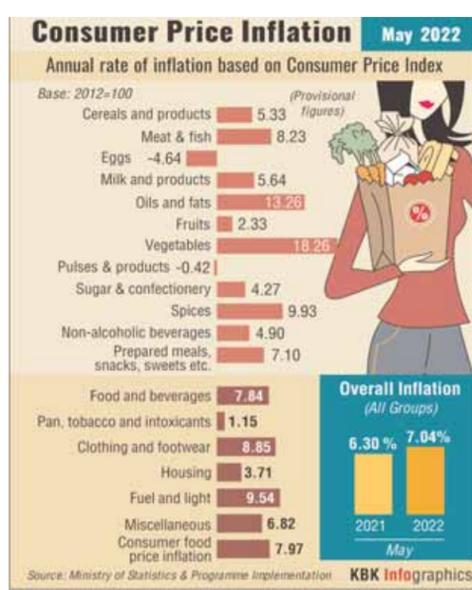
PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Retail inflation eased to 7.04 per cent in May, mainly on account of softening food and fuel prices as government as well as RBI stepped in to control spiralling price rise by way of duty cuts and repo rate hike.

However, the inflation print stayed above the Reserve Bank's upper tolerance level of 6 per cent for fifth month in a row. The Consumer Price Index (CPI) based retail inflation was 7.79 per cent in April. In year-ago month of May 2021, retail inflation stood at 6.3 per cent.

Inflation in the food basket in May 2022 was at 7.97 per cent, down from 8.31 per cent in previous month, as per data released by National Statistical Office (NSO) on Monday.

The food basket has weightage of 39.06 per cent in the overall Consumer Price Index. As per data, the inflation print in 'cereals and products' segment eased to 5.33 per cent in May as against 5.96 per cent in the preceding month, while that for 'oil and fats' softened to



13.26 per cent from 17.28 per cent. The rate of price rise for fruits slowed to 2.33 per cent from 4.99 per cent. However,

vegetable prices accelerated 18.26 per cent as against 15.41 per cent in April. Among others, the prices of eggs and



# LIC shares tumble nearly 6%; down over 29% from issue price

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Shares of Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC) continued to fall for the tenth day running on Monday and tumbled nearly 6 per cent.

The stock tanked 5.85 per cent to settle at Rs 668.20 apiece on the BSE. During the day, it plunged 6 per cent to Rs 666.90. On the NSE, it tumbled 5.66 per cent to end at Rs 669.50 apiece.

Shares of the company have been falling for the past ten days, losing 20.17 per cent. LIC got listed on the bourses on May 17.

# Rupee falls 20 paise to close at record low of 78.13 against US dollar

PTI ■ MUMBAI

The rupee plunged 20 paise to close at an all-time low of 78.13 against the US dollar on Monday, as a lacklustre trend in domestic equities and stronger greenback overseas weighed on investor sentiments.

Forex traders said weak Asian currencies and persistent foreign capital outflows were the other major factors that dragged the local unit down.

At the interbank foreign exchange market, the local currency opened at 78.20 and witnessed an intra-day high of 78.02 and a low of 78.29 against the US dollar.

The local unit finally settled at its all-time low of 78.13, down 20 paise over its previous close. On Friday, the rupee had tumbled 19 paise to close at a record low of 77.93 against the



US dollar. "The Indian rupee, taking cues from weaker regional currencies plummeted to a life low.

The dollar extended gains on Monday as US treasury yields rose after Friday's inflation shock raised speculation of a more aggressive rate hike from the Federal Reserve this Wednesday," Dilip Parmar, Research Analyst, HDFC Securities.

Parmar further noted that after Friday's US inflation data, money markets are pricing a 175 bps hike by its September decision, implying two half points and one 75 bps hike.

"The last 75 bps hike by the Fed was made in November 1994. Spot USD/INR is expected to trade higher and a cross above 78.30 will pave way for 78.50 and 78.70 while on the downside 77.70 acts as support," Parmar noted. The dollar index, which gauges the greenback's strength against a basket of six currencies, rose 0.55 per cent to 104.71. Brent crude futures, the global oil benchmark, declined 1.58 per cent to USD 120.08 per barrel.

On the domestic equity market front, the BSE Sensex ended 1,456.74 points or 2.68 per cent lower at 52,846.70, while the broader NSE Nifty tanked 427.40 points or 2.64 per cent to 15,774.40. Continuing their selling spree, foreign institutional investors offloaded shares worth a net Rs 3,973.95 crore on Friday, as per stock exchange data.

# Government IT spending in India to reach \$9.5 bn this year

IANIS ■ NEW DELHI

The government IT spending in India is likely to reach \$9.5 billion in 2022, an increase of 12.1 per cent from last year, a new report said on Monday. Software will continue to be the highest growing segment in India this year, followed by IT services.

"Contrary to the worldwide spending, all segments will experience growth in 2022 in India," said Apeksha Kaushik, principal analyst at Gartner.

Now, governments are executing innovative activities by harnessing technology to streamline digital services, advance automation processes and evolve citizen experiences and building a data fabric.

Global government IT spending is likely to reach \$565.7 billion in 2022, an



increase of 5 per cent from 2021. Continuing the trend from 2021, software is forecast to record the strongest growth across all segments in 2022.

As legacy modernization continues to be a priority in government organizations, growth in the data center systems segment will continue to slow though the forecast period, the report mentioned.

"Governments are executing innovative activities by harnessing technology to streamline digital services, advance automation processes and evolve citizen experiences," said Daniel Snyder, director

analyst at Gartner.

Spending on telecom services is set to decrease in 2022 as governments reduce spending on expensive legacy systems in favour of digital service delivery models.

Anything-as-a-Service (XaaS) is gaining popularity across government organizations as it provides better return on investment normalising IT spend over time making budgeting for IT more predictable. "The pandemic sped up public-sector adoption of cloud solutions and the XaaS model for accelerated legacy modernization and new service implementations," said Kaushik.

With the ongoing talent challenges facing organizations, XaaS makes it easier for government organizations to find the right talent via XaaS operating models.

# Govt to pursue \$3.85 billion recovery from Reliance, partners

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The government on Monday said it will pursue recovery of USD 3.85 billion from Reliance Industries and its partners in Panna/Mukta and Tapti oil and gas fields case and is mulling an appeal against an English court order over cost recovery dispute in same fields.

Reacting to an English High Court last week dismissing India's appeal against a USD 111 million international arbitration award in favour of Reliance Industries Ltd and Shell-owned BG Exploration and Production India Ltd (BGEPI), the government in a statement said it has right to seek leave of English commercial court to challenge this judgment.

Reliance and BGEPI on December 16, 2010, dragged the government to arbitration over cost recovery provisions, profit due to state and amount of statutory dues including royalty payable. They wanted to raise limit of cost that could be recovered from sale of oil and gas before profits are shared with government.

The Government of India also raised counter claims over expenditure incurred, inflated sales, excess cost recovery, and short accounting. A three-member arbitration panel, headed by Singapore-based lawyer Christopher Lau, by majority issued a final partial award (FPA) on October 12, 2016.

It upheld government view that profit from fields should be calculated after deducting prevailing tax of 33 per cent and not 50 per cent rate that existed earlier. It also upheld that cost recovery in contract is fixed at USD 545 million in Tapti gas field and USD 577.5 million in Panna-Mukta oil

and gas field. The two firms wanted that cost provision be raised by USD 365 million in Tapti and USD 62.5 million in Panna-Mukta. Royalty, it said, had to be calculated after the inclusion of marketing margin charged over and above the wellhead price of natural gas.

The government used this award to seek USD 3.85 billion in dues from Reliance and BGEPI.

"Disputes arose between the parties which were referred to arbitration for resolution in 2010. So far, the Arbitral Tribunal has passed eight substantial partial awards. 66 of the 69 issues were decided in favour of the Government of India in the final partial award passed by the Tribunal in 2016," an official statement said. Pursuant to the 2016 award, the government sought payment of USD 3.85 billion-plus interest from Reliance and BGEPI.

"The Contractor (Reliance-BGEPI) failed to make the payment as per the Award. Therefore, the Government has filed an application for execution of final partial award 2016 before the Delhi High Court," the statement added.

Reliance-BGEPI challenged the final partial award of 2016 before the English Commercial Court. The challenges were classified under nine broad heads. "In April, 2018 the English Court passed a judgment, in favour of Union of India, dismissing eight out of nine challenges," statement said. "Regarding the ninth challenge, the Court directed that matter be remitted back to Tribunal, for reconsideration. The Tribunal subsequently passed its order on this challenge, partly in favour of Contractors.

# RenewX 2022 ends in Hyderabad

PNS ■ NEW DELHI/HYDERABAD

The 6th Edition of South India's largest Renewable Energy Expo, RenewX 2022 concluded in Hyderabad, which is emerging as the Clean Technology hub of the country. India has set an ambitious target of meeting half of its energy needs, which is 500 GW, from renewable resources by 2030 and reach the net zero emission levels by 2070.

Curated on the theme, 'Unlocking the Era to Net Zero Emissions', the Expo stressed on the increase in the penetration of renewable energy adoption and geared up the stakeholders to progress towards sustainable development goals.

Speaking on the side-lines of the Expo, N. Janaiiah, VC and Managing Director, Telangana State Renewable

Energy Development Corporation Ltd, said, "TSREDCO is committed to help people set up rooftop panels, who will approach societies and educate consumers about the installation process, savings, and cost per month.

Cost comparisons will also be made with 3 to 4 consumers to arrive at optimum costing. Consumers have welcomed this initiative as it provides them with a one-stop shop advantage and will only have to pay the bill."

Ajay Mishra, Director General - RESI and Former Special Chief Secretary, Telangana, said: "Today the cost of Hydrogen is about \$5-6/unit, and as per the prediction of industry captains the cost of green hydrogen will come down to \$1/unit in the next 4-6 years, which will make it viable for the consumer."

# Punjab CM assures farmers to provide regular power supply during paddy season

PTI ■ CHANDIGARH

Punjab Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann on Monday assured farmers to provide regular and uninterrupted power supply during the paddy season.

According to an official statement, Mann said the state government has taken a conscientious decision to conserve the state's precious natural resource in terms of groundwater by allowing paddy transplantation in a phased manner across the state from June 10 to 17.

Resultantly, the chief minister said Punjab State Power Corporation Limited (PSPCL) had already been directed to ensure a minimum of eight



hours of power supply to farmers during the ongoing paddy season. Showing deep concern over the fast depleting groundwater level, the chief minister urged the farmers to make judicious use of water.

Mann has already given detailed instructions to PSPCL to make sure that the power supply to other categories of consumers, especially the households, should not be

hampered and ensure they too get regular power supply during the peak summer season, the statement said. Elaborate arrangements have already been made by PSPCL to meet total expected demand of 15,000 megawatt, which includes farm sector requirement for paddy, it added.

To meet this demand, the transmission capacity to procure from outside the state has been enhanced to 8,500 MW as against 7,100 MW in last season and remaining power of 6,500 MW is being arranged from its sources within state, as per statement. According to estimates of the state agriculture department, farmers are likely to sow paddy over an area of nearly 29 lakh.

# Live reporting for health tests

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Healthians, a leading diagnostic services provider and the pioneer of the health-test-at-home concept, has launched diagnostic tests live reporting that starts just 4 hours after sample collection.

The service has been launched in Delhi, Gurgaon, Noida, Mumbai, Bengaluru, Ahmedabad, Hyderabad, Ghaziabad, Faridabad, and Greater Noida. "Making India, and eventually the world, healthier is what we are working for, and this service is another step in that direction," said Deepak Sahni, founder & CEO, Healthians.



# StartUps for Railways launched

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Policy aims to leverage innovative technologies developed by Indian Startups/MSMEs/Innovators/Entrepreneurs to improve operational efficiency and Safety of Indian Railways Grant up to Rs 1.5 crore to innovator on equal sharing basis with provision of milestone-wise payment Indian

Railways, the National transporter has taken an important initiative in field of innovation through participation of startups and other entities. Minister of Railways, Communications and Electronics & Information Technology, Ashwini Vaishnav has launched "StartUps for Railways" today in Rail Bhavan, New Delhi.

This policy will bring scale

and efficiency in field of operation, maintenance and infrastructure creation through participation of very large and untapped startup ecosystem. Speaking at event, Ashwini Vaishnav said that long going discussions over integration of technology into Indian Railways have taken today the firm shape in form of this initiative launched today.

# India's coal import may drop 11% to 186 MT in FY'23

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

India's coal import is likely to decline by 11.4 per cent to 186 million tonnes (MT) in the current financial year, even as the state-owned firm has issued import tenders to source the dry fuel from overseas.

Coal India Ltd, which accounts for over 80 per cent of domestic coal output, last week issued tenders to import coal in a bid to build up the stock of fossil fuel at the indigenous power plants, as mandated by the government.

The country imported 210 MT of coal in the 2021-22. According to the medium-term projections of the ministry of coal, of the 186 MT of coal that the company is expected to import in the ongoing fiscal, 130 MT is non-coking coal and 56 MT is coking coal. Non-coking coal is mainly used as thermal coal for power generation. India is likely to import 172 MT of coal in

2024-25, 173 MT in 2027-28, and 170 MT in 2029-30. The country imported 215 MT of coal in FY'21 and 249 MT of coal in FY'20, the coal ministry said.

Coal India last week floated its maiden tender to import 2.416 million tonnes of coal and also floated two international competitive bidding tenders of 3 million tonnes each to source coal from overseas.

The import tender was floated after the government asked the company to build up stock of fossil fuel to avoid the reoccurrence of power outages, which happened in April on account of shortage of the fuel.

Though CIL is on its full steam in augmenting the production to meet the domestic demand of the country, this is a step towards a state of readiness to combat futuristic coal supply crunch if any, the PSU said.

# OVL says oil movement from Sakhalin-1 project disrupted due to sanctions

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

ONGC Videsh Ltd, the overseas investment arm of state-owned Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC), is facing temporary disruptions in moving its share of oil from the Sakhalin-1 project in Far East Russia due to sanctions against Russia, its Managing Director Alok Gupta said.

OVL holds a 20 per cent stake in Sakhalin-1 where ExxonMobil's Russian subsidiary, Exxon Neftegas, is the operator. Exxon has announced its exit from project following Russia's invasion of Ukraine and has reportedly begun withdrawing expatriates from project.

Sakhalin-1 produced around 271,000 barrels of oil per day in January and February 2022, according to Russian Energy Ministry data, against average of 227,000 bpd last year. Output has slipped after sanctions against Russia

made it difficult to ship oil from project. Production slipped to just over 60,000 barrels per day between May 1 and 15, Moscow-based news agency Interfax reported.

"There are temporary disruptions because of force majeure taken in case of Sakhalin-1," Gupta said at an investor call post-ONGC's FY22 earnings. "This situation is going to be normalized over next two-three weeks, as we are finding out alternative measures."

He did not elaborate on alternatives being explored. The ExxonMobil-led Sakhalin-1 consortium declared force majeure on its scheduled oil export shipments to Asia after it faced difficulties in chartering ice-resistant tankers to ship oil from De-Kastri marine export terminal located on Sakhalin Island in Russia's Khabarovsk region. These tankers are operated by Russian state-owned shipper

Sovcomflot that is subject to sanctions from US and Europe. Shipowners are facing difficulty in arranging insurance coverage. Gupta said sea between Khabarovsk region and Sakhalin usually clears of ice by June and so the ice-class vessels and ice-breaking support are needed before that.

According to the transcript of the call, he termed Exxon's exit from Russia as a result of a "grandstanding or let's say high moral stance taken not exactly in terms of energy sanctions which have been imposed, but (due to) high moral grounds."

"The refusal to provide production and indemnity cover for ice-class vessels has led to an inability to move crude from terminal to transfer point which is in South Korea, he said. "This disruption is going to be there for a couple of months because of which we are having suppressed production from Sakhalin."

# HAALAND 'PROUD' TO MAKE MAN CITY MOVE

AP ■ MANCHESTER

Erling Haaland said his transfer to Manchester City from Borussia Dortmund is a "great move" for his career as the Norwegian aims to fire the Premier League champions to more silverware.

City announced last month they had beaten out competition from Europe's top clubs to agree a deal with the German giants after triggering Haaland's reported £51 million (\$63 million) release clause.

The 21-year-old's move was officially completed on Monday with Haaland penning a five-year contract to follow in the footsteps of his father Alfie Inge Haaland, who played for City between 2000 and 2003.

"This is a proud day for me and my family. I have always watched City and have loved doing so in recent seasons," said Haaland. "I want to score goals, win trophies, and improve as a footballer and I am confident I can do that here. This is a great move for me, and I can't wait to get started in pre-season."

The arrival of one of world football's biggest talents end City's search for a specialist striker to succeed Sergio Agüero, who left the club last year.

City's attempt to sign



## Liverpool agree 75mn-euro deal for Nunez

AP ■ LIVERPOOL

Liverpool have reached a deal with Benfica to buy the Uruguay striker Darwin Nunez for an initial 75 million euros (£64 million), the Portuguese club said on Monday.

The transfer could eventually rise to 100 million euros, Benfica said in a statement, eclipsing Liverpool's club-record £75 million paid to Southampton for Dutch centre-back Virgil van Dijk in 2018.

Nunez scored 26 goals in 28 league appearances last season in Portugal.

The 22-year-old, who was left out of Uruguay's squad for Saturday's 5-0 friendly victory over Panama, was expected to begin a medical on Monday which could take two days to complete.

Personal terms are not anticipated to be a problem, with the player having



expressed his desire to play for Reds manager Jurgen Klopp despite interest from Manchester United.

Nunez is set to sign a reported six-year contract with Premier League and Champions League runners-up Liverpool, who have been in talks with Benfica for several weeks.

He netted in both legs of Benfica's Champions League quarter-final defeat against Liverpool in April, earning praise from Klopp.

Nunez is likely to arrive at Anfield as a direct replacement for Sadio Mane after Bayern Munich stepped up their pursuit of the Senegal forward.

Liverpool have rejected two offers from the Bundesliga champions and are holding out for a fee in excess of £40 million for Mane, who has one year left on his contract.

England captain Harry Kane from Tottenham fell short last summer, but Pep Guardiola's men still had enough to pip Liverpool by a point to win a fourth Premier League title in five seasons.

Haaland has scored 23 goals in 19 Champions League appearances for Dortmund and RB Salzburg and will be expected to get City over the line when it matters most in Europe.

"There are so many world-class players in this squad and Pep is one of the greatest managers of all time, so I believe I am in the right place to fulfil my ambitions," he added.

"You can't help but admire their style of play, it's exciting and they create a lot of chances, which is perfect for a player like me." Haaland had almost his pick of Europe's top clubs thanks to a buyout clause below his

market value and a stunning record of 86 goals in 89 games for Dortmund.

He rejected Manchester United's advances when moving from Salzburg to Dortmund in January 2020 and his decision to choose the Etihad as his destination is a coup for City's rising status.

"His rise has been remarkable, but he is still only 21. His best years are ahead of him, and

we are confident he can get even better working with Pep," said City's director of football Txiki Begiristain.

"He is a huge talent and has been one of the best strikers in Europe over the last few seasons."

"His goalscoring record is exceptional and his performances at Borussia Dortmund and in the Champions League in particular have proved he can succeed at the highest level."

## Djoker slips to 3rd as Medvedev tops ATP rankings



AP ■ PARIS

Daniil Medvedev returned to the top of the ATP rankings on Monday, ahead of Alexander Zverev, with Novak Djokovic slipping out of the top two for the first time in nearly four years.

The 26-year-old Russian, who was surprisingly beaten by Tim van Rijthoven

in the final at 's-Hertogenbosch on Sunday, briefly occupied the number one spot for two weeks at the end of February and the beginning of March.

But with Djokovic losing in the quarter-finals at the French Open, where he was defending champion, the door opened for Medvedev to rise again to top spot.

### World No. 205 Rijthoven shocks Daniil

AP ■ S-HERTOGENBOSCH

Tim van Rijthoven made the most of a rare main tour berth as he claimed a first title by sweeping aside Daniil Medvedev 6-4, 6-1 in the final of the grass court tournament in 's-

Medvedev is unable to compete at Wimbledon as Russian and Belarusian players have been barred following the Russian invasion of Ukraine. Rankings points, however, will not be awarded. Zverev climbs to number two for the first time having spent a total of 56 weeks since November 2017 at number three. The German, however, is facing a spell on the sidelines after tearing ligaments in his right ankle during his French Open semi-final with Nadal.

Djokovic's grip on the number one ranking had already been weakened by his exclusion earlier in the year, because of Covid regulations, from the Australian Open where he was also the defending

Hertogenbosch. The 25-year-old Dutchman, ranked 205th in the world, took 1hr 5min to crush the Russian. Van Rijthoven, who was invited into the Dutch event as a wild card, had spent this season, like most of his career, on the second tier Challenger Tour.

champion. It is the first time since October 2018 that Djokovic is not in the top two.

Rafael Nadal, who beat the Serb at Roland Garros and went on to take the title for the 14th time, stays at number four, now only 245 points behind his great rival.

Casper Ruud reached his best career ranking of fifth in the world, up one place ahead of Stefanos Tsitsipas.

Former world number one Andy Murray climbed 21 places to 48 following his journey to the final in Stuttgart at the weekend while Medvedev's conqueror Van Rijthoven jumped 99 places from 205 to 106.



## Spain celebrate as Portugal fall

AP ■ MALAGA

Spain won a second successive UEFA Nations League match on Sunday with a 2-0 win over the Czech Republic while rivals Portugal conceded a goal after just 57 seconds to lose to Switzerland.

Spain went in front in Malaga after 24 minutes when a perfectly-weighted pass by Marco Asensio released Carlos Soler to score.

Pablo Sarabia added the second on 75 minutes as Spain got the better of a Czech side against whom they had drawn 2-2 in Prague last week.

Despite the win, Spain were indebted to some fine saves by Athletic Bilbao goalkeeper Unai Simon.

He thwarted an 18th-minute strike from Vaclav Cerny and, two minutes later, denied Jan Kuchta.

In Geneva, Switzerland took the lead after just 57 sec-

onds against a Portugal side playing without Cristiano Ronaldo when Haris Seferovic scored from Silvan Widmer's pass. Portugal's stand-in skipper Pepe made his 128th international appearance and they were unlucky not to get something from the game with Swiss keeper Jonas Omlin saving from Danilo and Bernardo Silva.

Victory was a welcome boost for a Swiss side who went into the game having lost their previous three matches.

Spain stay top of League A Group 2 with eight points from four games with Portugal a point further back.

Erling Haaland scored twice and set up the third as Norway beat neighbours Sweden 3-2 in Oslo in League B. "I'm speechless!" the 21-year-old striker told Norwegian television, before adding: "To win against Sweden in the last match of the

season, it's beautiful."

Haaland, who is heading for Manchester City from Borussia Dortmund this summer, gave Norway the lead in the 10th minute heading in a near-post cross.

He added a penalty in the 54th minute after Hjalmar Ekdal fouled Alexander Sorloth.

It was Haaland's 20th international goals in 18 Norway appearances.

Sweden replied eight minutes later when Emil Forsberg smashed home a pass from Dejan Kulusevski.

Haaland then crossed for Sorloth to head home and restore the host's two-goal lead after 77 minutes.

Viktor Gyokeres gave the Swedes brief hope by rifling home a shot five minutes into added time.

"This tasted great," said Norway coach Stale Solbakken.



### Weightlifter Gurunaidu Sanapathi becomes Youth World Champion

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Gurunaidu Sanapathi has become India's first weightlifter to win a Gold at the IWF Youth World Championships in Leon, Mexico.

The 16-year-old claimed the yellow metal with a total effort of 230kg (104kg+126kg) in the boy's 55kg event late on Sunday night.

While Sanapathi, the 2020 Asian Youth Weightlifting Championships Bronze medalist, stood on top of the podium, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia's Ali Majeed 229kg (105kg+124kg) came in second and Yerassyl Umrov of Kazakhstan 224kg (100kg+124kg) third.

Besides Sanapathi, compatriot Soumya S. Dalvi bagged the Bronze in her event on the second day of competitions.

Maharashtra's Dalvi, a two-time Khelo India Youth Gold medalist, heaved 148kg (65kg+83kg) to claim the third spot in the 45kg girl's event behind Rose J Ramos of Philippines 155kg (70kg+85kg) and Venezuela Kerlys M. Montilla 153kg (71kg+82kg).

The other Indian in the fray, R Bhavani finished eighth with a best effort of 132kg (57kg+75kg).

India's tally at the word event now stands at four medals. On the opening day of competition, Akansha Kishor Vyavhare and Vijay Rajapati had won Silver medals in their respective events.

## Kazakhstan Curling Cup WCT medal winners felicitated

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The 21st Kazakhstan Curling Cup WCT (World Curling Tour) Mixed Doubles 2022 was held between May 26 to May 29. The Indian team bagged the runners-up position in the tournament.

Rashmi Saluja, President of the Curling Federation of India felicitated the winning team at a glittering ceremony in New Delhi.

She also presented kits to the Indian Curling team set to represent India in the



upcoming Indo-Kazakhstan Curling Championship 2022. The Indian Curling Team

Jersey was also unveiled by her at the event. The Kazakhstan Mixed

Doubles Curling Cup is part of the World Curling Tour that connects the world's most high-profile events in elite curling.

Organized by the World Curling Federation, it enlists participation from national teams worldwide in the Mixed Doubles category.

Unveiling the Jersey, Rashmi Saluja remarked, "We are happy with Indian Mixed Doubles team's victory in the World Curling Tour (WCT). I extend my best wishes to the Indian contingent at their singular achievement."

## Need to train Indian athletes to handle mental pressure at big events: Nikhat



PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Handling "mental pressure" at the highest level is something Indian athletes lack, according to reigning world champion boxer Nikhat Zareen, who feels specialised training should be given to overcome this hurdle at big-ticket events.

Indian athletes have a ten-

should be given training to handle the mental pressure.

"Once you reach the big platforms a lot of athletes become nervous, they aren't able to perform," added Zareen.

Zareen, who was crowned the world champion in the flyweight event last month, has also sealed a berth for the Birmingham Commonwealth Games, starting on July 28.

Zareen has had to wait long for a chance in the flyweight category which veteran Indian boxer MC Mary Kom has made her own but the Telangana boxer feels the wait increased her hunger to do well. "Not only for me but other boxers in that category, they too wanted a chance. But you have to prove yourself and I have done that by becoming world champion."

"If I hadn't struggled and if Mary Kom wouldn't have been in my weight category I might not have worked so hard."

"And if I hadn't worked hard I wouldn't be a world champion today. So I will take it in a positive way. Maybe I had more hunger because I got a chance so late."

## Sindhu, Sen eye consistency as focus shifts to Indonesia Open



PTI ■ JAKARTA

Two-time Olympic medalist P V Sindhu and rising star Lakshya Sen will seek consistency as they lead the Indian charge at the Indonesia Open Super 1000 badminton tournament beginning here on Tuesday.

Sindhu has managed to secure two Super 300 titles — the Syed Modi International and the Swiss Open — this year but she has looked vulnerable against

top players, facing defeats at the hands of Thailand's Ratchanok Intanon, China's Chen Yu Fei and Korea's An Se Young.

However, the former world champion is known to up her game in big events and she will look to gear up for next month's Commonwealth Games with another good show at the Istora Gelora Bung Karno when she opens against China's He Bing Jiao.

If Sindhu, seeded seventh, can cross the opening two rounds, she is likely to face the third seeded An Se Young, who has an over-

whelming 5-0 record against the Indian. In men's singles, eighth seed Sen and HS Prannoy — the two architects of India's epic Thomas Cup win — will cross sword in an all Indian contest.

Sen has been in good touch for the last few months. His World Championships Bronze was followed by a maiden Super 500 title win at India Open and a final appearance at the All England Championship and German Open Super 300.

World Championship Silver medalist Kidambi Srikanth, who was in sensational form at the Thomas Cup, will meet Chinese Taipei's Wang Tzu Wei in his opener.

Former Singapore Open champion B Sai Praneeth, who hasn't been in the best of form, is pitted against Denmark's Hans-Kristian Solberg Vittinghus in his opening match.

Top men's doubles pair of Satwiksairaj Rankireddy and Chirag Shetty, who had skipped the Indonesia Masters last week, will open their campaign against Korea's Choi Sol Gyu and Kim Won Ho.

In women's doubles, Ashwini Ponnappa and N Sikki Reddy, Treasa Jolly and Gayatri Gopichand, and Ashwini Bhat and Shikha Gautam, will also be in the fray.

Ashwini and Sumeeth will also pair up in the mixed event, while Ishaan Bhatnagar and Tanisha Crasto will also look to go deep in the draw.



# DO-OR-DIE GAME FOR INDIA

After suffering back-to-back defeats in first two matches, India take on SA in must-win tie

Chahal and Axar Patel — has been a cause of concern. The duo have picked up a total of two wickets in two matches and have conceded 134 runs in 11.1 overs. They leaked runs in the middle orders that allowed Proteas batters to settle down at the crease and play big shots at will.

Chahal's performance is a big shocker for the Indian team as the leg-spinner was in top-form in the recently concluded 2022 season of the Indian Premier League and finished as the leading wicket-taker of the season.

In the batting, Ishan Kishan has done well up till now, but his opening partner, Rituraj Gaikwad, is yet to make any significant contribution. He hasn't looked comfortable in either of the games. Shreyas Iyer, at three, has tackled Tabraiz Shamsi with ease but is yet to find a solution against the short ball.

The Indian team management will be hoping that the star middle-order trio of skipper Rishabh Pant, all-rounder Hardik Pandya, and veteran Dinesh Karthik will come good and go, all guns blazing, in the must-win match in Vizag.

In the second T20I, which was played at Cuttack's Barabati Stadium, in a surprise call, Axar Patel was promoted to bat ahead of Karthik, who made his comeback to the national set-up on the back of an outstanding IPL season. The team's decision has been heavily criticised by fans and former cricketers alike, and in the upcoming matches one can expect Karthik at six.

Pant's captaincy has also been under scanner after the first two matches. The 24-year-old has failed to make the most of the resources available and his decision to hold Axar till the 12th over on Sunday

India vs South Africa  
Live from 7:00pm IST  
STAR SPORTS 1 NETWORK

was a bizarre call. In the first match, he was slammed for not allowing Yuzvendra Chahal to complete the quota of four overs.

Going into the third game, it will be interesting to see if India make any changes to the playing eleven. Even though the chances are quite low, it won't be a surprise if one of Umran Malik or Arshdeep Singh makes his India debut on Tuesday.

The duo have received their maiden call-up on the back of a good performance in this year's IPL. While Umran has impressed with his pace and wicket-taking abilities, Punjab Kings' pacer Arshdeep has established himself as one of the best death bowlers in the country as far as T20 cricket is concerned.

As for South Africa, they are on the cusp of winning their first T20I series in India and would like to continue the good show in the remaining three matches as well.

After getting bashed by Indian batters in Delhi, their bowlers bounced back in Cuttack and restricted the hosts to 148 runs. However, they will hope that the spin duo of Tabraiz Shamsi and Keshav Maharaj come up with a better display.

Aiden Markram, who tested positive for COVID-19 ahead of the first T20, is likely to miss out, and there is no update on Quinton de Kock's hand injury either. De Kock's replacement at Barabati Stadium — Heinrich Klaasen — starred in the second match with his 46-ball 81 and would like to continue the ace form.

## 'Axar sent ahead of DK to rotate strike'

PTI ■ CUTTACK

It may have looked odd to send Axar Patel ahead of India's designated finisher Dinesh Karthik in the second T20 against South Africa but top-order batter Shreyas Iyer defended the strategy, saying the need of the hour was to "rotate strike".

India were struggling to get going and were 112/6 when Axar Patel got out in the 17th over as it was mainly due to the veteran Karthik's pyrotechnics while batting at No 7 that they could get post a respectable 148/6.

"It's something we had strategised earlier as well. We had seven overs left when Axar went in, and he's someone who can take the singles and keep rotating the strike," Shreyas said at the post-match media interaction on Sunday.

"Also, at that point in time, we didn't require someone to go in and start hitting from ball one. DK can obviously do that, but he has been a really good asset for us after 15 overs, where he can go in and start hitting straightaway."



Promoted at No 6, Axar scored 10 off 11 balls before being cleaned up by Anrich Nortje, while Karthik slammed an unbeaten 30 from 21 balls.

Shreyas argued that even Karthik had struggled to get his timing right like many others on the day on a two-paced wicket.

"Even he was finding it a little bit difficult at the start. The wicket played a huge role in this game. And as for that strategy, we can and we will be going with it in the next matches as well," Shreyas said.

As a matter of fact, Karthik took 15 balls to score eight runs but then he broke free in the next six, smashing two sixes and two fours.

On hindsight, it may have felt that India could have notched 160-plus had the in-form Karthik got more time in the middle.

Shreyas however agreed that they fell short by about 12 runs in the end.

"If I look back I think 160 would have been a really good score on this wicket to put them under a little bit of pressure. But we were like 12 runs short," he added.

### SQUADS

**India:** Rishabh Pant (c & wk), Rituraj Gaikwad, Ishan Kishan, Deepak Hooda, Shreyas Iyer, Dinesh Karthik, Hardik Pandya, Venkatesh Iyer, Yuzvendra Chahal,

Axar Patel, Ravi Bishnoi, Bhuvneshwar, Harshal Patel, Avesh Khan, Arshdeep, Umran Malik. **South Africa:** Temba Bavuma (c), Quinton de Kock (wk), Reeza Hendricks, Heinrich Klaasen,

Keshav Maharaj, Aiden Markram, David Miller, Lungi Ngidi, Anrich Nortje, Wayne Parnell, Dwaine Pretorius, Kagiso Rabada, Tabraiz Shamsi, Tristan Stubbs, Rassie van der Dussen, Marco Jansen.

DRITI ATRI

After suffering back-to-back defeats in the first two matches of the five-match T20I series against South Africa, India can't afford to lose anymore if they want to win the home assignment against the Temba Bavuma-led side. The South Africans made a mockery of the Indian bowling attack in the open-

ing two matches and easily chased down the targets to go 2-0 up.

For the Men in Blue, things have gone from bad to worse in the last few days. After losing skipper KL Rahul and star spinner Kuldeep Yadav ahead of the start of the series, India failed to put up a strong show in the familiar conditions to keep the visitors at bay.

The poor performance of the Indian spinners — Yuzvendra

## Kotak, Bahutule to be part of Laxman's support staff for Ireland tour



the games scheduled on June 26 and June 28 in Malahide.

With head coach Rahul Dravid and the other senior team support staff set to depart for England with the Test squad later this week, the trio of Bali, Kotak and Bahutule has already joined the squad currently playing South Africa at home.

"After the senior support staff departs for the England tour, Bali, Bahutule and Kotak will take over the duties for the remaining T20 against South Africa in Rajkot and Bengaluru.

"They have already been with the limited overs squad for a while and by the time the senior support staff leaves for England, they will be ready for the task," a BCCI official said.

The squad for the Ireland series is yet to be announced. The short tour coincides with the tour of England where India are supposed the rescheduled fifth Test against England from July 1. India lead the series 2-1.

Before that, India will play a four-day warm up against Leicestershire from Jun 24-27.

India will field a team of primarily T20 specialists against Ireland but a full strength squad is expected for the white ball leg of England tour comprising three T20s and as many ODIs from July 7.

Kotak, who has been part of the India A set up earlier, will be the batting coach while Bali and Bahutule, who were part of the victorious U-19 World Cup campaign in the Caribbean earlier this year, have been handed the fielding and bowling duties.

NCA head Laxman will coach the team in Ireland with

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

National Cricket Academy coaches Sitanshu Kotak, Sairaj Bahutule and Munish Bali will be part of India cricket team's support staff, which will be headed by VVS Laxman, on the short tour of Ireland later this month.



## Klaasen hopes Barabati knock prolongs his career

PTI ■ CUTTACK

South Africa wicketkeeper-batter Heinrich Klaasen hopes his match-winning effort against India in the second T20 helps him prolong his international career.

Dropped after the T20 World Cup last year, Klaasen also found himself out of the ODI side and also lost his central contract.

He would not have got a look-in had Quinton de Kock not injured his wrist before the game on Sunday as the 30-year-old finally got a chance. He took the game away from India with his fiery 46-ball 81, his career-best T20 score.

"It was difficult (pitch) to bat. I found myself struggling up front.

IT'S A BLESSING FROM ABOVE THAT THIS INNINGS CAME AT THIS TIME FOR ME IN MY CAREER... THAT PUTS ME ON THE MAP AHEAD OF INT'L CRICKET. SO HOPEFULLY THIS WILL JUST PROLONG MY CAREER A LITTLE BIT LONGER

Then I decided if I go out today I would rather go my way and try to be positive. It's just one of those days that it came off," he said at the post-match media interaction.

"It's a blessing from above that this innings came at this time for me in my career... That puts me on the map ahead of international cricket. So hopefully this will just prolong my career a little bit longer."

He said he got an indication about playing a couple of days back after de Kock injured his hand and it was on the eve of the match he was confirmed a place in the XI.

"Quinny came up to me two days back on the team bus and said he had injured his wrists. I thought he is a strong character and he would be

fine. But yesterday again, he said his hand is not fine. Yesterday morning, we came to training and the coach told me I might play," he said.

From four off 12 balls, Klaasen stepped it up against the spinners and completed his fifty in 32 balls.

To his advantage, Bhuvneshwar Kumar, who returned with magical figures of 4/13, was taken out of the attack after giving a triple blow up front.

Bhuvneshwar returned only in the 18th over and by then Klaasen innings virtually sealed it for the visitors. "I also knew we needed to target the spinners. The seamers had a little bit up and down so we can take a little bit less risk against them and it came off today," he added.

## Anderson takes 650th Test wicket

AP ■ NOTTINGHAM

James Anderson claimed his 650th Test wicket as England reduced New Zealand to 27-1 in their second innings at lunch on the fourth day of the second Test.

Anderson was gifted his landmark wicket as New Zealand opener Tom Latham left a straight ball that clattered into his stumps.

The 39-year-old fast bowler is just third man ever to reach the landmark after spin legends Shane Warne and Muttiah Muralitharan.

Restored to the team by new captain Ben Stokes, Anderson looks as good as ever and his experience will be cru-



cial if England are to win their first Test series since January 2021.

England are locked in an

intriguing battle with New Zealand after being dismissed for 539 in Monday's morning session at Trent Bridge.

## Mumbai face Uttar Pradesh in Ranji Trophy semifinal

PTI ■ BENGALURU

Record champions Mumbai, who are back to their ruthless best, face a high on confidence Uttar Pradesh in what promises to be an intriguing semifinal of the Ranji Trophy, beginning here on Tuesday.

The in-form Mumbai batters will be up against a varied UP attack, which will be bolstered by the addition of pacer Mohsin Khan.

The 41-time Ranji champions made it to the last four with a world record 725-run hammering of Uttarakhand and will aim to carry the momentum into the game. UP decimated Karnataka by five wickets.

Mumbai will once again rely on their batters to set the tone. All eyes would be on Prithvi Shaw, who will have to be at his best against Mohsin and Co.

The two other big impact players are Yashasvi Jaiswal and an in-form Sarfaraz Khan who would be oozing with confidence after their hundreds in the last game.

Sarfaraz was pummelled opposition attacks into submission at will. And thus it will indeed be a challenge for the UP bowling unit to stop him.

Debutant Suved Pankar, who scored a double hundred, will look to add runs in his kitty while Armaan Jaffer would also be eyeing a bigger knock.

Mumbai will however, be forced to make a change as wicket-keeper Aditya Tare has been ruled out due to an injury and Hardik Tamore could make the playing XI.



But this time they would be facing the likes of left-arm pacer Yash Dayal, Ankit Rajpoot and tweaker Saurabh Kumar, who can spin a web around the opposition.

Kumar, who picked up seven wickets in the quarter-final, could well be the go-to man for skipper Karan Sharma.

Mumbai are unlikely to tinker with their bowling combination. And left-arm spinner Shams Mulani, who has been taking fifers at will, will look to recreate his magic.

Add to it the experience of Dhawal Kulkarni, Mohit Awasthi, Tushar Deshpande and young off-spinner Tanush Kotian, Mumbai have the nec-

essary fire-power to get the better of the UP batters.

UP also have a relatively inexperienced batting line-up and are reliant on one or two batters. Their top-order would need to fire in unison and skipper Sharma will have to lead from the front.

Two other batters who can make an impact are Priyam Garg and Rinku Singh.

But the others like Aryan Juval, Samarth Singh, Dhruv Jorel would need to stand up and take greater responsibility. While Mumbai would be keen to get a step closer to their 42nd title, UP have the wherewithal to pull off a major upset.

## ODI Rankings: Pakistan pip India to 4th spot



PTI ■ DUBAI

Pakistan have pipped India to climb to fourth spot in the latest ICC men's ODI team rankings after completing a clean sweep over West Indies in a recently concluded home series.

New Zealand with 125 points are on top of the table while England are a point below at 124 and Australia are placed third at 107.

Before the start of the series, Pakistan were placed fifth in the rankings with a rating of 102 points but it must be mentioned that India haven't played any ODIs since the home series against the West Indies few months back.

With a 3-0 victory over the Windies, Pakistan leapfrogged to No 4 with rating of 106, leaving India behind a notch below at 105.

India, though, will have a chance to

## Mathews wins ICC 'Player of Month' award

PTI ■ DUBAI

Sri Lanka's Angelo Mathews and Pakistan's debutante spin sensation Tuba Hassan were on Monday voted the ICC's 'Player of the Month' for May in their respective categories.

Mathews was selected the stand-out male player after piling on runs over the course of his side's impressive ICC World Test Championship series victory against Bangladesh.

Amassing 344 runs at an average of 172 over the course of the two Tests, Mathews registered a huge score of 199 in the draw at Chattogram, and a supreme 145 not out in Mirpur.

His epic innings in the second Test

enabled his side to post an imposing total of 506 and complete a 10-wicket victory, gaining valuable points in the ICC WTC standings.

Mathews becomes the first Sri Lankan player to be named the Player of the Month since its inception in January 2021, scooping the award ahead of fellow nominees Asitha Fernando (Sri Lanka), and Mushfiqur Rahim (Bangladesh).

Mathews said, "I am absolutely honoured and delighted to be the ICC Men's Player of the Month. I would like to congratulate Asitha Fernando and Mushfiqur Rahim who were front runners for this award, on their spectacular performances.

all their ODI series, including 2-1 series wins against Zimbabwe and South Africa.

They defeated Australia by the same margin when they came to visit Pakistan for the first time since 1998. West Indies stood no chance against Pakistan as they were rampaged 3-0.