

उत्तर प्रदेश राज्य औद्योगिक
विकास प्राधिकरण



प्रभारी (कम्प्यूटर अनुभाग),
यूपीसीडा,
ए-१/४, लखनपुर,
कानपुर।

वरिं परियोजना अधिकारी, कार्यालय,
द्रान्सगंगा सिटी,
ग्रा० व पो०—शंकरपुर सरांय,
उन्नाव—२०९ ८६१
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संदर्भ संख्या ५०९ /यूपीसीडा/पी०ओ०टी०जी०/

दिनांक १७/६/२२

विषय: संविलियनीकृत भूखण्ड संख्या एफ—२२/२३ ओ०क्षे०, साईट—प्रथम, उन्नाव पर जनापत्ति
प्राप्त करने हेतु विज्ञापन प्रकाशन के सम्बन्ध में।

महोदय,

उक्त सम्बन्ध में अवगत कराना है कि प्रश्नगत भूखण्ड के संविलियन के सम्बन्ध में
जनापत्ति प्राप्त करने हेतु आवंटी द्वारा अपने व्यय पर हिन्दी संस्करण, दैनिक जागरण एवं अंग्रेजी
संस्करण दि पायनियर में दिनांक १५.०६.२०२२ को विज्ञाप्ति प्रकाशित करा दी गयी है।

अतः आपसे अनुरोध है कि कृपया इसे प्राधिकरण की वेबसाईट पर भी अपलोड करने का
कष्ट करें, ताकि प्राधिकरण की वेबसाईट पर भी उक्त प्रकाशित विज्ञाप्ति उपलब्ध रहे तथा पब्लिक
द्वारा यदि कोई जनापत्ति देनी है तो वह उसे वेबसाईट पर/इस कार्यालय में प्राप्त करा सके।

‘मझे राक्ख’ —

भवदीय,

वरिं परियोजना अधिकारी

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SERENA WILL PLAY IN WIMBLEDON
11 SPORT

Agnipath to make services youthful

Of 46,000 soldiers to be recruited through new policy, 25% will be retained for regular service

RAHUL DATTAT NEW DELHI

The Government on Tuesday launched a new recruitment policy for jawans named "Agnipath" for the three armed forces wherein the soldiers called "Agniveer" will serve a four-year tenure on a contractual basis. On the completion of this period, 25 per cent of them will be retained for regular service of 15 years or more. Nearly 46,000 soldiers will be recruited through the new policy, but the increasing salary and pension bills. Women recruits will also be covered under it.

Unveiling the much-awaited policy at a news conference, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh termed it a "transformative initiative" aimed at giving a youthful touch to the forces. He also said some State Governments, Central Ministries and Public Sector Undertakings (PSU) will shortly



Union Defence Minister Rajnath Singh with three service chiefs General Manohar Parrikar (Army), Air Chief Marshal VR Chaudhary and Admiral R Hari Kumar (Navy) during a press conference at National Media Centre in New Delhi on Tuesday. PTI

announce some vacancies for "Agniveers" coming out of the forces after the four-year stint. Flanked by three Service chiefs, Rajnath said there is no need to be skeptical about the new policy as it has been firming up after due deliberation.

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Agnipath Scheme

- ③ Age: 17 and 12 years
- ④ Duration of service four years, including training period
- ⑤ 1st year salary package of ₹47.6 lakh (approx.) with upgradation of up to 76.92 lakhs (approx.) in 4th year Post Release. Seva Nidhi
- ⑥ Package of approx. ₹11.71 lakhs including interest (tax free)
- ⑦ Medical coverage, insurance cover of ₹46 Lakhs
- ⑧ Agniveer skill certificate — assist in post release job opportunities

10L Govt jobs by 2023 end: Modi

Depts asked to work on 'mission mode' to achieve target in 1.5 yrs

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

In a mega push for job creation in the Government sector, Prime Minister Narendra Modi has directed various Government departments and ministries to recruit 10 lakh people in a "mission mode" in the next year and a half.

"PM Narendra Modi reviewed the status of the human resource in all departments and ministries and instructed that recruitment of 10 lakh people be done by the Government in a mission mode in the next 1.5 years," the Prime Minister's Office said in a tweet.

Employment opportunities have shrunk in the last two years due to a slowdown in economic activities induced by Covid-19 and long-phases of lockdown among several other related factors, economic or otherwise. Opposition parties have been critical of the Government and alleged that it

has kept an estimated "two crore jobs" locked by not conducting recruitment in several Government sectors, including railways and the army.

The Government, which is looking at the Assembly elections in Gujarat and Himachal Pradesh by the year-end and several States in the next year, obviously has the 2024 general election in mind in addition to addressing the unemployment crisis.

The PM's timeframe for the job creation will coincide with the timing of the next general election.

The ruling BJP is increasingly conscious of the fact that the "Hindutva card" alone may

not be enough to mobilise the youth which may turn restless for want of adequate job prospects in various Government sectors, including railways and the army.

The Government is creating at least nine crore new non-farm jobs by 2030 if it wants to stay ahead of the rising youth population, according to a 2020 report by McKinsey Global

Ministry spokesperson said in a tweet.

Government officials concede that there has been scarcity of staff as over the years employees have retired many times over and recruitments have not been conducted.

The major ministries and departments like posts, defence, railways and revenue have the most vacancies. It is estimated that around nearly 15 lakh sanctioned posts in the

GOI Depts and Ministries over a period of 1.5 yrs. Ministry of Home Affairs has initiated a drive to fill up Vacancies in Mission Mode," a Home

Ministry spokesperson said in a tweet.

According to officials, the call

for transfer of staff has been conducted.

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Pawar refuses to join Presidential poll race

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

A day ahead of the Opposition parties' meeting convened by West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee to find a joint Opposition candidate for the post of President of India, NCP chief Sharad Pawar has refused to jump into the fray for the top constitutional post. Meanwhile, the Congress and Left parties have decided to attend the meeting convened by the TMC chief in the national Capital on Wednesday. Mamata, who landed in Delhi

on Tuesday, had a long meeting with Pawar at the Convention Club and expressed hope to the media on bringing all Opposition parties under one umbrella to counter the NDA candidate.

Congress leaders said Mallikarjun Kharge, who is also the leader of Opposition in the Rajya Sabha as well as Jairam Ramesh and Randeep Singh Surjewala are expected to attend the meeting convened by the West Bengal Chief Minister.

Before meeting Mamata, Pawar met CPI(M) general secretary Prakash Karat and his sister and Congress general secretary

ED quizzes Rahul for 2nd day, to be grilled again today

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

on Tuesday, had a long meeting with Pawar at the Convention Club and expressed hope to the media on bringing all Opposition parties under one umbrella to counter the NDA candidate.

The Enforcement Directorate (ED) has asked him to appear for the third consecutive day on Wednesday in the matter.

Rahul arrived at the ED headquarters here around 11 am, accompanied by his sister and Congress general secretary

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Cabinet approves transfer policy for UP govt staff

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

The Uttar Pradesh government on Tuesday approved the transfer policy for government employees for the year 2022-23 and also allowed 100 per cent exemption of tax arrears on vehicles. The government also decided to give incentive to those units in the medical device park and Pilipittha Tiger Reserve Foundation, and to implement Central government-sponsored Pt Deendayal Upadhyaya Kisan Samridhi Yojana in the state.

The decisions were taken in the state cabinet meeting chaired by Chief Minister Yogi

Adityanath here on Tuesday. According to officials, the cabinet approved the policy for the transfer session for the year 2022-23 for government officers and employees.

"This transfer policy is only for the year 2022-23," the government spokesman said. "Starting from tomorrow, the officers of Group 'A' and Group 'B' can be transferred on completion of three years in the district and seven years in the division. Only 20 per cent of the present cadre of officers of

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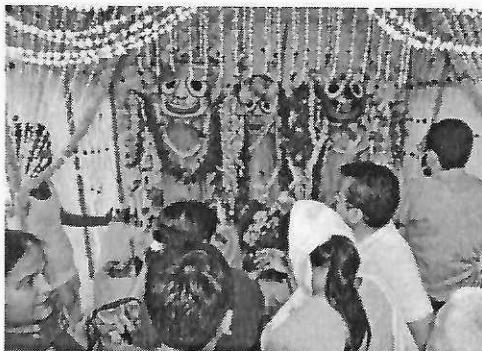
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'Lord Jagannath falls sick after jalabhishek'

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ VARANASI

During the last two years, a couple of centuries long tradition of Rathayatra Mela could not be maintained as no major programmes were organised due to corona pandemic but this year, it is expected that the three days long fair, started since 1802, would be its all traditional mela and religious fervour. During the last two years, only few events were done by the prian family but this time, a good number of devotees thronged Lord Jagannath temple at Aasi and offered jalabhishek at Lord Jagannath with Gangajal (sacred water of holy river Ganga) on the occasion of Jyestha Puranima here on Tuesday.

As per tradition, due to excess low shown by the devotees by offering Gangajal, Lord Jagannath fell sick and now he will take rest for a few fortnight when he would not give his darshan to the devotees. When the Almighty recovers, he will be offered 'parva ka kada' and then his Dhol Yatra (procession) will be carried out, along with his brother Balabhadra and sister Subhadra to his in-laws place at Beniran ke Bagicha near Rathayatra on the occasion of Ashad Shukla Pratipada as per Hindu calendar on June 30.



Devotees offering jalabhishek at Lord Jagannath in Varanasi on Tuesday.

Prayagraj DM, SSP visit Atala

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ PRAYAGRAJ

Municipal corporation has pulled its socks up to get illegal construction, shop etc made in Atala area razed. Massive violence erupted in Atala after Friday prayers. The police was taking action against the miscreants. Along with Prayagraj Development Authority (PDAA) and municipal corporation, the Electricity department is also engaged in realising the dues from the defaulters. On Tuesday the municipal corporation has also made the proclamation to warn encroachers in areas of Atala etc. Due to possibility of action of municipal corporation, the encroachers themselves are removing their illegal constructions. People are themselves removing their houses even by calling labourers are removing encroachments from shops etc.

DM Sanjay Kumar Khatru, SSP Ajay Kumar, SP (City) Dinesh Kumar Singh reached Atala on Tuesday morning along with PAC, Police and RAF. Top officials inquired about the condition of the area. It was also discussed how to gradually normalise the atmosphere. The SSP said that a meeting would be held at the district and police station levels. After discussing the situation appropriate action will be taken.

The chariot is made of wood and kept on 14 wheels near Rath Yatra crossing during the festival. The most popular name of the fair is Nankatta, a hand made biscuit.

After the violence in Atala after the Friday prayers, the situation has not yet returned to normal. Most of the houses and shops located in Atala and its adjoining locality of Khuldabad police station area are locked.

The people living here have left their homes and gone elsewhere. There is a strange fear in the atmosphere. One to two shops are open in a distance of 300 to 500 metres which deals with food items and medical.

During the search operation from the house of Javed Pump, the commando of the police in Atala. Five rounds of fire had found two pistol cartridges and a 'banga' (kind of a sharp-edged weapon).

A case has been registered against unknown people at Karel police station. An FIR has been registered on the complaint given by Karel inspector Arvind Kumar Gautam. It is said that there was no one at Javed Pump's house during the search operation, who brought the weapon and why it was being investigated.

However, the police say that the names of the persons including Javed Pump will be brought in the investigation. In this case, the objectionable material found from the house and other items will also be brought under the scanner.

Meanwhile action is being taken against the accused involved in Atala violence. Posters of miscreants of violence in Kanpur were pasted. Similarly, posters in Prayagraj also poster of the accused will be pasted on the walls so that on getting information about them, other action, including arrest, can be taken. Police said on the basis of CCTV footage, video footage and photographs found from different medias about 200 such persons involved in violence, have been traced. However, no one is able to tell about his exact name and address. Now posters of the photographs of such persons will be made and pasted on the walls in the city so that they can be identified through community.

Government property, police vehicles as well as houses, shops and vehicles of local

people were also damaged during the violence and arson in Atala. The windows of houses of many people were also broken due to stone pelting. IG Dr Rakesh Kumar Singh said those who have suffered loss can also register an FIR. He said violent protesters had caused a lot of damage to properties of police as well as the general public. However, till now no one has given complaint. In the case of Javed Pump, the police registered a case against 70 miscreants as well as more than 500 unidentified miscreants under 29 sections. Apart from the miscreants named in this violence, many more have been arrested. The police scrutinised the CCTV footage installed at the spot to identify unidentified miscreants. They saw the video recordings and photographs of the violence, but did not get the expected success.

Now the CCTV footage installed at Shahganj, Noorula Road, Barrister Meerapur Square, Roshanbagh Square and other places is being scrutinised.

The police suspect that about half of the miscreants had come on two wheelers and had parked their vehicles some distance away from the place of violence. The police are quite sure that these CCTV footage will lead to a great deal of success regarding the unknown miscreants. Police action in the city has also become active in surrounding areas, including Khuldabad, Karel, Atala, Shahganj, Noorula Road.

BJP honours doctors, health workers

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ VARANASI



Regional BJP chief MC Srivastava honouring ex-CMO Dr VB Singh in Varanasi on Monday.

COVID-19.

City president Vidhansagar Rai and district chief Hanuman Vishwakarma, while respecting the doctors, said that the doctors and health workers have served the society even by risking their own lives and freed the public from the pandemic like corona, for which we will always be indebted to them. Dr Rajeswar Narayan Singh conducted the programme, while the vote of thanks was proposed by Dr Ashok Kumar Srivastava, president of Kashi Vaidika Sangh (Medical Cell). Dr VB Singh, Dr Sunil Kumar Mishra, Dr CD Dwivedi, Dr Anil Ohri, Dr OP Singh, Dr Rajesh Gupta, Dr Arvind Kesari, Dr Abhishek Mishra, Dr Dharmendra Kashyap, Dr Prashant Singh, Dr Hrushikesh Singh, Shailendra Mishra and many others were also present.

Addressing the function as the chief guest, Srivastava praised the PM for showing a rare courage during the difficult times of the corona pandemic and saved the lives of all of us by making available the necessary facilities and resources to us. 'We can never forget the corona pandemic period. Even today, remember-

that era tears come out of our eyes,' he said, adding that when pandemic gripped the nation, we did not have the system of testing nor the availability of vaccines but showing great leadership, the PM kept his trust in the service of our scientists, doctors and health workers.

As a result of the tireless efforts of all doctors and health workers, we have conquered the corona pandemic. We became the first country in the world which succeeded in making two vaccines in a short time to eliminate corona,' he said, hailing the doctors and health workers for saving the lives of a large number of patients suffering from

All drains will be cleaned by June 20, state govt to HC

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ PRAYAGRAJ

By filing an affidavit, the state government told the Allahabad High Court that by June 20 all the drains in municipal corporations, municipalities and nagar panchayats will be cleaned. Along with this, drains will be constituted for its monitoring in all 18 divisions till June 24 and surprise inspection will be done. It will be seen where work has been done and where has not been done.

Action will be taken against the employees and officers responsible for the work where the work has not been done. The next hearing of the petition will be held on July 5.

This order was given by a division bench comprising Justices Manoj Kumar Gupta and Chandra Kumar Ray while hearing a suit filed by public interest litigation. Over half of the government, Additional Advocate General Manish Goyal and Additional Chief

Standing Counsel Ramanand Pandey presented their side. Senior advocates Anoop Trivedi and Vibhu Rai appeared on behalf of the Municipal Corporation.

The court asked whether the directions issued for taking protective measures for saffron karanchars were complied with. How will the government investigate this, what steps have been taken for this? The court has also asked what measures have been taken for re-verification of

Shringar of Mansapur Hanuman held

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ VARANASI



Shringar of Lord Mansapur Hanuman being held in Varanasi on Tuesday.

Hawa, Chana and Puris in the bhandaara which was attended by a good number of devotees. Prominent among those attended the programme were president of Shri Kashi Vishwanath Gyanvapi Mukti Andolan Sudhir Singh, patron of Subali-e-Banarsi Club Vijay Kapoor, president Mukesh Patel, general secretary Rajani Soni, Rajesh Soni, Anil Kesari, Narendra Kumar, Wale Kumar, Sarraf, Anand Barham, Ashok Gupta, Parmanath Kesari, Dr Manoj Yadav, Vidy Devi, Ramdarshi, Poonam Gupta, Seema Verma, Manju Verma, Sarita Sethi, Sita Yadav, Shakuntala Devi, Rukmani Jaiswal and Vibhu Singh.

for them. Tension has gripped the entire area. Preeti Yadav, daughter of Ram Bahadur Yadav, a resident of Vishnu Das Ka Pura village under Tharvali police station, was murdered on Monday night. Her neighbour Rojesh Bhartiya, Rakesh Bhartiya, Anuj Bhartiya etc were accused of murder. It is alleged that she was strangled with her dupatta, due to which she died on the spot. The family members informed the Tharvali police about it late at night. On receiving informa-

tion, SHO Chandan Saroj reached the spot along with force and after that the other officials were informed. CO Sudhir Singh, SP Deepak Singh reached there and after investigation questioned the family members of the girl. After this, the police took the body in possession and sent it for post-mortem. A case of rioting and murder has been registered on the written complaint of RB Yadav.

Blood donation camp organised

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ VARANASI



A Civil Defence volunteer donating blood in Varanasi on Tuesday.

Kumar Rai coordinated the camp while many were present on the occasion including chief warden Keshav Jalan, assistant deputy controller Inrali Huda, Vivek Kumar Rai and post warden Arvind Kumar Vishwakarma.

The doctors and health employees of the divisional government hospital in Kalaburagi donated their blood in the blood bank of the hospital. It is a wrong perception that a person feels weakness after donating blood and rather, the blood donation enhances the will power, a doctor who also donated blood said, adding that each and every person should make blood donation and there is no need of being afraid of this. One unit of blood saves three lives. The camp provides plates, plasma and blood bags, so the people should be encouraged for the blood donation which is a pious deed, he said further.

blood for the 12th time and made it clear that he never feels weak after donating blood. The volunteers donated 50 units of blood. The divisional warden of Civil Defence Sanjay and said that the blood donation is the great donation and each and every person should make blood donation as it saves many lives. Madan Mohan Sharma donated his blood for the 12th time and made it clear that he never feels weak after donating blood. The volunteers donated 50 units of blood. The divisional warden of Civil Defence Sanjay

Paid tribute. On the occasion president of Sanskar Bharti Prayagraj Yogendra Mishra, Dr Jyoti Mishra, Pankaj Gaur, Anu Gupta, Janani Tripathi, Priyanka Chauhan, Neera Tripathi, Ragini Chandra, Alok Malviya, Anant Agarwal etc were present. Former convener of Sanskar Bharti Prayagraj DR Santosh Khanna, and Baba used to keep in touch with everyone. His death had caused an irreparable loss.

DM reviews progress of 'Har Ghar Nal' scheme

CORRESPONDENT ■ MIRZAPUR

District Magistrate Preetveen Kumar Jaxkar will review the progress of the 'Har Ghar Nal' (water for every household) scheme under Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM) at Collectorate on Monday. He directed the working agencies to complete the works within stipulated time by involving more labourers. Reviewing agency wise progress he expressed discontent over lack of expected progress. He said similar strategy could be given with planned strategy. EE (Electricity) was directed to connect power without delay in those projects which were on the verge of completion. EE

(National Highway) was directed to remove the hurdle from Alangi water project so that it could be completed timely. He directed the concerned departments to take the responsibility of the scheme. On the issue of irrigation CDO asked the officials to open the canals as per the fixed roster and finalise the roster incorporating suggestions of farmers. On the advice of progressive farmer the CDO directed Deputy Director (Agriculture) Ashok Upadhyay to ensure timely availability of fertilisers and seed at government PROVISION: The procession of Hindu Maai was taken out in the city on Monday. It is an old tradition of the city that devotees take out a procession on foot on the auspicious day of Jyestha Poornima and go to temple of Kada Dham in Kaushambi. Processions were taken out in all the corners of the city, including temples of Badi Mata and Ghobhi Mata. The devotees welcomed the processions by showering flowers, praas and sprinkling water on the way. The administration had made for adequate security arrangements and Nagar Palika Board for cleanliness. Prominent among those who made arrangements successfully were Badi Mata, Ghobhi Mata, Prasad Yadav, Ramji Puri, Kalkinwar Panda, Babey Yadav and Nandababu Tiwari.



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PAPER WITH PASSION

pinion 06

Devil quotes scriptures

Unashamed by its abuse of Uighurs, China is lecturing India on the rights of minorities

Do hypocrisy and doublespeak have any limits? China's cant and conduct make it amply clear that the answer is in the negative. Islamic nations' protest against the remarks about Prophet Muhammad made by a former spokesperson is understandable, but Beijing's lecture to New Delhi about discarding "pride and prejudice" renders us astounded. It's a nation that has little regard for the human rights of its own citizens, and less for those of the ethnic and religious minorities; and yet it has the temerity to pontificate about "harmonious coexistence". Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesperson Wang Wenbin said on Monday: "China always believes that different civilisations and religions should respect each other and live together as equals." He went on to say: "It is always important to discard pride and prejudice, better understand the differences between one's own civilisation and other civilisations, and promote exchanges, dialogue and harmonious coexistence between civilisations." And how, pray, China promotes harmonious coexistence? There is a mountain of evidence and a zillion reports — freely accessible on the internet — proving that Uighurs in China's Xinjiang are facing an existential crisis. Their civil and human rights have been annulled by Beijing; they have been subjected to the most brutal forms of repression; their religion, Islam, is being banished; their mosques and other places of reverence are being razed. The Chinese Communist Party has gone to the extent of calling Islam a mental disorder, a disorder that needs to be cured.

This is exactly what it has been doing in Xinjiang: A large number of concentration camps — officially called Vocational Education and Training Centres — have imprisoned over a million Uighur Muslims in the province. No other minority in the world is suffering as much as the Uighurs are at this moment: from actual genocide to cultural genocide, they are being subjected to every form of oppression. Five years ago, the Chinese Government came up with a regulation that forbade certain Muslim names, so parents can't choose names like Muhammad, Arafat, Jihad, Islam, Quran, Saddam and Mecca for their children. The violation could deprive the children of education and Government benefits. BBC reported on May 24, "A series of police files obtained by the BBC in 2022 revealed details of China's use of these camps and described the routine use of armed officers and the existence of a shoot-to-kill policy for those trying to escape. The US is among several countries to have previously accused China of committing genocide in Xinjiang. The leading human rights groups, Amnesty and Human Rights Watch, have published reports accusing China of crimes against humanity." There have been reports of systematic rape of Uighur women to terrorise the Muslim community in Xinjiang. In June 2021, there were allegations that organ harvesting was being carried out on minority groups, including Uighurs. A group of UN independent experts expressed concern over the allegations. Harmonious coexistence, indeed!

PICTALK



Hong Kong's iconic Jumbo Floating Restaurant is towed away after its parent company couldn't find a new owner. PTI

A good turn

Russia has offered admission in its varsities to Indian students who had to flee Ukraine

Speaking on the occasion of Russia's National Day recently, Russian ambassador Denis Alipov chose to extend his nation's goodwill towards India when he said that his country deeply cherishes the "equal and respectful relations" with India and the multidimensional cooperation between the two strategic partners is one of the world's "most elaborate" ones. Now, this statement doesn't per se make news but what renders it important is the fact that it comes about at a time when Russia is invading its neighbour and former USSR member, Ukraine, with its full military might or the pretext that the smaller country is trying to gain the membership of Nato and the development, if it comes about, would endanger Russia's security. Though it certainly hasn't been able to claw its mighty fist into Ukraine even after 110 days of fierce fighting as Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky and his troops have stood solidly like a rock despite facing several territorial setbacks, mainly on account of the shortage of state-of-the-art artillery and firepower to take on the advancing Russians, it doesn't take away from their fighting skills' credit.

One still remembers when in the initial days of the invasion attempt, the US offered to airlift former tele-actor-turned-President Zelensky to safety and he spoke like a true statesman: "No, I don't need a lift. I would rather have modern firearms to take on the Russian troops who are killing our innocent civilians and children." In the course of the prolonged invasion bid, Russia was understandably isolated in the world and, besides the embarrassment of fac-

ing at least two resolutions against it in the United Nations, it was forced to suffer several sanctions from the superpowers, barring China. However, India steadfastly refused to vote against Russia, choosing instead to abstain from the votes. This diplomatic stratagem seems to have worked well since neither the US, leading the global charge against Russia, nor the invading country has turned against the world's largest democracy. Now obviously Russia doesn't want to be seen as ungrateful. Main Piece to its all-weather friend. Towards this end, it's underlining the age-old camaraderie between the nations and has even said that Indian students who had to leave studies midway as they fled the Russia-Ukraine conflict will be offered admission in Russian universities without them losing out on their previous academic years.



On Defence, Govt running on empty

The Government recently announced that it has renamed the Tour of Duty as Project Agniveer but the mention of a new CDS was still missing



His name came up for Army Chief before he retired after Gen Rawat's tragic death, and now as CDS. Just as the Government by process of elimination (letting contenders retire) got its choice, Gen Manoj Pandey, as Army Chief, it will also get the retired Lt Gen it wants as CDS. But it will not explain the extraordinary way in selecting a CDS. In 2019, Government had laid down the rules in high-level defence committee a political feat. Despite six months without a CDS, Government has merely issued gazette notifications to Army, Navy and Air Force Acts, specifying the criteria for a CDS. Apparently, no urgency attaches to his appointment anymore. No comprehensive criteria for CDS were laid out before Rawat's hurried appointment.

The selection pool has widened as now serving and retired Generals, Lt Gens and their equivalents in the other two services below 62 years on date of appointment will be eligible. Nearly 50 officers are in the race but the number may reduce if the Government takes its time. Veterans have put their money on one retired Lt Gen who is favoured by the establishment, superseding three serving Chiefs, all of whom belong to the 61st NDA batch. A marked measure of ad hocism has crept into Defence matters because the chain of command in MoD is blurred, distributed between PMO and NSA with Defence Ministry generally out of the loop and the Appointments Committee shared exclusively by PM and HM.

The criteria evolved for CDS selection is unprecedented — for a retired three-star General being considered for a double jump. Retired three and four star officers have been appointed in staff slots like Commandant West Point and Royal College of Defence Studies — but never a CDS. CDS has invariably been picked from serving Service Chiefs — like in the UK, it was initially by seniority, then by rotation (round robin) and finally competence prevailed.

In my column of May 18, I had written that Government was fumbling with two key defence

issues: appointment of CDS and review of his work allocation and the new Human Resources Policy on Retirement, called Tour of Duty. With Gen Rawat's dominant personality out of the way, Defence Secretary has regrouped his forces to challenge his marginalisation by creation of Department of Military Affairs. He is determined to reset his towering position in MoD as CDS had virtually become Supreme Commander; Permanent Chairman Chiefs & Staff Committee, single point advisor to Defence Minister, Advisor to National Command Authority responsible for implementation and prioritisation of Defence Acquisition Plan. What Rawat could not complete was the theatricalisation of four commands — two land-based commands against China and Pakistan, one maritime command and an Air Defence Command. The warts in Rawat's plan have not been removed as such a gigantic reform process should have been entrusted to a Strategic Defence and Security Review Committee, not DMA.

If the integrated theatre-

isation has been below par,

the four-year ToD appears to be

absurd, shortsighted and will

terminally damage the innards

of the time-tested regimental

system, crippling the genera-

tional camaraderie, traditions and ethos of battalions and regiments. The Army, deficient of 125,000 soldiers, is operating with these dangerous deficiencies on LoC and LAC. With ToD intake at 40,000 while 60,000 retire annually, manpower voids will increase. What is most puzzling is how the Government-pushed ToD has passed muster with Commanders, especially from fighting arms, Infantry and Armoured Corps. One serving Lt Gen said: "It's *fait accompli*". The Government bringing in an Army Chief of its choice has helped ToD to sail through. A presentation on ToD was made to Prime Minister last week and clearly has his stamp all over. Agniveer and Agnivee project, the name of the new All-India All-Class (AIAC) composition of the Army, 40,000 Agnivees with ₹40,000 salary will become voluntary conscripts for four years, 10 per cent being ploughed back. Those discharged will get a service package of ₹11 lakh, one-third of which they would have paid for. These soldiers of fortune seem to be re-skilled and suitably re-deployed by Government schemes that have not succeeded in the past, now even more unlikely, due to recession in jobs. Experts fear Agniveers could become military contractors

(mercenaries), join insurgency movements, criminal gangs and so on. What havoc the AIAC will do to the regimental system is transform the Army into numbered regiments like the American Army, sacrificing the carefully manicured caste-based units and sub-units on the altar of financial expediency. Downsizing can be achieved in other ways without breaking integrity of the forces.

Soon, commemorating battle honour days of 300-year-old and younger specifically-classed regiments will dissipate. Not to talk of 200-year-old Gurkha regiments enlisted from Nepal which could disappear, disrupting India-Nepal special relations. Has the Government really thought out ToD? A delayed and diminished CDS is clear reflection of Government's current importance of defence. For next CDS, my money is on Lt Gen (Retd) Yogesh Kumar Joshi, PVSM, AVSM, VrC, SM from the 60th NDA batch. But the real worry must be about the bombshell ToD and the dangerous potential of extinguished Agniveers.

(The writer, a retired Lt Gen, was Commander, IPKF South, Sri Lanka, and founder member of the Defence Planning Staff, currently the Integrated Defence Staff. The views expressed are personal.)

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

VISIT CARD DOESN'T HELP CONG

Sir — The Congress bigwigs walking onto streets protesting against the investigative agency, the Enforcement Directorate (ED), and alleging vendetta politics against the Gandhis failed by the ruling BJP is meaningless and looks like a cover-up to hide their wrongdoings. It is absurd that the "grand old party" that ruled the nation for decades chose to ignore that ED has obtained clearance from the court to carry out investigations into alleged irregularities in the National Herald case. Subsequently, the Gandhis have obtained bail from the court as well. The law of the land is common for every citizen, irrespective of the post and position one holds and is bound to respect the law.

This kind of street protests can neither mount pressure on the watchdog nor change the public perception over the shadow of corruption on the Congress, given its track record. Add to this, the Congress has its own sins of indulging in vendetta politics during its rule in the past. Missing investigative agencies to target its political opponents. But it is now playing a victim when its top leadership came under the lens. It would do well to cooperate with the agencies and come clean in the court of law.

N Sadasiva Reddy | Bengaluru

REIN IN ERRANT TV CHANNELS

Sir — Shockingly, some controversy-happy TV channels and anchors do keep their TRP pot or latent agenda boiling by allowing debates on sensitive issues like religion and religious personalities, wearing a "devil may care" attitude and not caring two figs for the outcome. Knowing well that it's not pleasant. Ironically, they get away with all the mess of it under the pretence of "freedom of speech". Instead, these channels must not be allowed. *Carte blanche*, and, contrarily, be made accountable for the repercussions stemming from the cases like that of thrashing aspersions on Prophet Mohammed.

The incident put the country's repu-

Demonetise ₹2,000 notes



The BJP Government demonetised all ₹500 and ₹1,000 bank notes in 2016 and the Prime Minister while announcing the draconian decision, assured that it had made it necessary to unearth black money and contain terror funding. He also mentioned that new ₹2,000 notes would be issued, and it gave a huge shock to people as a higher denominational currency will help only the filthy rich and unscrupulous business tycoons to hoard money easily. It also came as a shock that the Reserve Bank of India failed to inform

match the quantum of the demonetised currency returned with the new notes.

As expected and foretold by economists like former Prime Minister Manmohan Singh, demonetisation proved to be a misery in the sense that it neither helped unearth black money nor helped contain the terrorist activity as boasted by the Government while demonetising the currency. As suspected by people, officials who conducted searches in the houses and business premises of some affluent people after demonetisation, unearthed massive amounts of the newly printed ₹2,000 currency notes, of course unaccounted for, it also made one wonder how and where from those people were able to get such a lot of the new bundles while the common man was made to wait in long queues to change her/his hard-earned money, which even resulted in the death of many.

Tharun S Fernando | Chennai

Chemicals (EDC), affect male fertility and cause birth defects. The carbon emissions from incineration of plastics are persistent organic pollutants (POPs). It is alarming that India generates 26,000 tonnes of plastic waste a day and each Indian consumes 11 kg of plastic annually.

Thus, the thrust has shifted to using disposable plates made from plant leaves, which are renewable, biodegradable and enriched with antioxidants and medicinal values. The plates and cups made of leaves are known as *patraavali, patali, vistari, done* etc in various Indian languages. In India, serving food on leafy dining plates is a long-standing tradition with its own cultural, religious, medicinal and socio-economic significance. To sustain the practice of using leaf plates and discourage plastic plates, regulations should be imposed by the Government and monitored by local bodies.

Ishita Patidar | Ujjain

Russia deeply clarifies equal and respectful relations with India. We continue close coordination.

S. Venkateswaran | Lucknow

SOUND BITE

The Haryana Govt has assured Delhi of full cooperation (on water supply) on our request.

— Adesh Gupta

It's already the 100th day of war, already June. Donbas is holding on.

Ukraine President — Volodymyr Zelensky

People love me and the media has kept me alive. Nobody gives me a complex.

— Suniel Shetty

I had surgery at the end of August. It (recovery) will take a little more time.

Tennis professional — Roger Federer

Russia deeply clarifies equal and respectful relations with India. We continue close coordination.

Denis Alipov | Moscow

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07

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FIRST COLUMN

GUN CULTURE IN US IS NOW HURTING PEOPLE

The gun lobby and others are opposing gun control laws



ASHWANI MAHAJAN

Though the United States House of Representatives passed a Bill restricting the sale of guns on June 8, it's very unlikely that this Bill will become a law. This is so because Republicans are determined to oppose it in the Senate. Nobody knows for how long ordinary Americans will have to live under the threat that somebody will come and start shooting without provocation. But no doubt in the forthcoming elections, this issue is going to gain prominence. This Bill came after a shocking incident where five people were killed by shooting at the Tulsa Medical building—the 23rd mass shooting of 2022. Before this, a gunman shot and killed 19 young students and two teachers at an elementary school in Uvalde, Texas. Just two weeks before this incident, 10 people were killed and three were injured during a racist attack at a grocery store in Buffalo, New York. The important point here is that in most of these incidents, the killers were not the terrorists but crazy young men. Some people have started saying that it is much riskier to live in the US than to go to war in Afghanistan. It is for the first time that any US President has used strong words against the system and culture of owning guns. Joe Biden has called on Congress to ban assault weapons or to raise the age to be able to buy one, from 18 to 21 years and other measures to curb gun violence in the United States in his address on June 2. He has also called for a ban on high-capacity magazines, background checks, red flag laws and a repeal of the immunity that protects gun manufacturers from legal liability if their weapons are used in violence. It's easy to buy guns in the US. Guns are easily available, and can be purchased almost like vegetables, in thousands of stores, without much background



check. Besides, people often buy guns from relatives and friends. To buy a gun, unlike in India, a person need not possess a licence in the US. One has to only give some information about oneself, by filling up a form. Within minutes of the filling up of the information, verification is done by the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) and the gun reaches into the hands of the buyer. According to the website of the FBI, in the last one decade, enquiry was sought in 10 crore cases and only 7 lakh people were found ineligible to purchase a gun, that is, less than one per cent of the total. Almost every citizen of the US is eligible to have a gun. With a spurt in murders in the last few years, it's being said that ease of having a gun is causing murders and illegal activities.

The demand for gun control has been there for a long time, and many political leaders have been trying to make gun laws stricter. However, they have been facing numerous problems in their endeavour. And behind this, there is a strong gun lobby. Since 1971, there has been a strong organisation called the National Rifle Association (NRA) which has been directly engaged in political lobbying for weak gun laws, since 1934. Though there are nearly 50 lakh NRA members, who contribute for the association, a major chunk of financing comes from gun manufacturing companies. For obvious reasons, this organisation makes every possible effort to thwart any effort to make any strict law against possession of guns. We can gauge the influence of this gun lobby from the fact that the NRA spent about \$250 million in 2020, far more than all the country's gun advocacy groups put together. The NRA funds Senate members who, in turn, try to defeat efforts to curb guns. President Obama faced a lot of criticism from the gun lobby for issuing some administrative orders, imposing restrictions on purchase of guns. Whether it's the issue of making stricter gun law or taking administrative action to restrict guns, the gun lobby always tries to create hurdles. President Joe Biden has renewed attempts to restrict guns, but he also doesn't seem to be in a mood to issue an executive order on the subject. He wants a stricter law to be enacted democratically.

(The author is Professor, Department of Economics, P.G.D.A.V. College, University of Delhi. The view expressed are personal.)

Caste genie threatens to come out of bottle



GOVIND BHATTACHARJEE

Whichever way a caste census is conducted, it would always create tensions and frictions in society

Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar, facing what he feels is an existential crisis, is back to his old game. He has announced that his Government will undertake a socio-economic survey of all castes and communities, and for this exercise which will necessarily be very costly, he wants the Centre to provide the necessary financial assistance.

The most prominent among his supporters in this exercise is Tejashwi Yadav, the worthy son of Lalu Prasad Yadav. Having no one yet like Kumar to command a larger acceptance among the backward castes, demands of resplifik saw the Bharatiya Janata Party too taking part in the meeting in which the decision was taken on June 1.

Kumar has repeatedly been demanding a nationwide caste census which has been rejected by the Centre as being a divisive exercise, but despite being reduced to a minority party in a government led by him, he is stubborn in his belief that only caste can restore the overwhelming authority he had once enjoyed in Bihar.

His record as a governance has not been particularly good. In the absence of any other study, let us look into the State of States survey of India Today published in December 2021 which graded the states according to 12 parameters, besides overall performance. Out of the 20 big states of India, in terms of overall performance, Bihar remained at the bottom for all the years since 2018. It was at the bottom also in terms of economy, education and entrepreneurship, and among the bottom third in terms of agriculture, infrastructure, health, cleanliness, environment, governance and inclusive development.

Only in respect of tourism and law and order, it figures among the top 10 (9th and 10th rankings, respectively). In Niti Aayog's Index 2021, Bihar ranks 18th out of 19 states. Its per capita income still remains the lowest in India, as it was during Lalu Prasad Yadav's 15 year rule, and Kumar's 17 years. It has not changed the lots of Biharis so far. Of course, murder, kidnapping and extortion industries during Lalu rule no longer exist, but there has been no other viable industry to lift the economy of Bihar even now. Hence caste remains the only alternative to entice voters. Nitish refuses to draw lessons from the recently concluded Assembly elections, especially in UP, that it is perhaps not the caste as much as the efficient delivery of government schemes that gave the BJP a historical mandate and a second term in UP, as vindicated by the fact that parties based on identity politics fared extremely poorly almost everywhere.

Caste, which is peripheral to governance can be made to occupy the centre-stage only to deflect attention from real governance failures by the tribe of politicians.

The author, a former Director General from the Office of the Comptroller & Auditor General of India and a Professor at the Arun Jaitley National Institute of Financial Management. (The views expressed are personal.)

IN THE TRUTHINESS-DOMINATED DISCOURSES OF OUR TIME, CASTE IS A HYPER-CHARGED ISSUE BECAUSE OF THE PROMISES OF HANDOUTS IT HOLDS, BUT ON ITS ACTUAL POWER TO INFLUENCE VOTERS, EXPERTS AND COMMONERS ARE EQUALLY DIVIDED



Kumar is not alone in demanding a caste census; states like Chhattisgarh, Maharashtra, and even Odisha (where the ruling BJD faces no existential threat) are also ready to join the bandwagon.

In the truthiness-dominated discourses of our time, caste is a hyper-charged issue because of the promises of handouts it holds, but on its actual power to influence voters, experts and commoners are equally divided. Ask a politician, who has the widest break-up of his voters even without a caste census, he will deny that caste plays any role.

Ask a sociologist, and he will reel out caste statistics to prove that caste is the single factor responsible for all election results. Ask an economist, and he will say only development, growth and jobs determine electoral outcome rather than caste. Yet the truth, as always, lies somewhere in between.

If caste is not really that important, why is there such a clamour regarding caste census? Let Kumar have his census and serve voters those data instead of jobs which he anyways can't offer. The reality is that a caste census is not simple.

It cannot be denied that a modern state cannot function without credible data for policy making, and reliable caste data can inform Government policy in a positive way. But caste enumeration is incredibly complex and highly unreliable.

In the 1980s, the Anthropological Survey of India undertook a study that threw up 65,000 castes. Being unable to classify them, it decided to limit itself to identifying 7,331 communi-

nities instead. In 2011 a socio-economic caste census (SECC) was undertaken whose results were never published. It had revealed a staggering 46 lakh castes and sub-castes, making it impossible to use these data for any practical purposes; it implied that on an average only 72 households constituted a caste using the same phrase to identify it.

In stead of the utopia of a casteless society that our constitution makers had yearned for, a caste census will rather inflame passions and conflicts within numerous castes, substituting the present upper caste-lower caste tensions with multi-faceted tensions between all castes and communities, turning the society into an unlivable dystopia of perpetual conflicts. Policy making for distributing privileges among the estimated 3000 castes and 25000 sub-castes will become an arduous exercise.

Justifying the exclusion of caste enumeration from the now-delayed 2021 census, the Registrar General and Census Commissioner opined that the total number of OBCs in the country ranges from 6,285 to 7,200 depending on whether the centre or the states prepared the list.

People use clan, gatra, sub-castes and caste names interchangeably which leads to misclassification of castes, thereby affecting the integrity of the Census exercise itself. In 2017, the Rohini Commission was constituted to suggest equitable redistribution of the 27 per cent OBC quota; it noted 2,632 castes covered under the OBC reservation. But the existing OBC reservation policy doesn't recognise any cat-

egory of more marginalised castes within the OBCs, thus enabling the advanced among them to appropriate most benefits.

Caste-based reservation has benefited the weaker sections, but also produced a new kind of power elites among them who will be unlikely to give up their powers. The outcome of any caste census that threatens the status quo in terms of benefits available to the different caste groups will necessarily lead to agitation, litigation and competitive demands for quotas.

We will have a déjà vu of Mandral days which no Government would know how to control now.

Governments of Karnataka and Tamil Nadu attempted similar exercises in the past and then backed off.

The fact remains that whichever way a caste census is conducted, it would always create tensions and frictions in a society that even now lacks cohesion. Should 21st century India be concerning itself with caste or should it endeavour to put this terrible baggage from the past behind and find another way to address the issue of backwardness which does not add to the already existing divisions and tensions in society?

If caste is to become the sole criterion for distribution of power, opportunities and resources in a society and legitimised by the state, then we need to redraft the constitution, and replace the dream of a casteless society of modern citizens by one in which people's identities will be reinforced only by their castes. Will it be any different from the India of the 18th and 19th centuries?

POINT COUNTERPOINT

WHAT KIND OF JUSTICE IS THIS
DEMOLITION OF THE HOUSE OF A
PROTESTOR IN PRAYAGRAJ?
— SAMAJWADI PARTY PRESIDENT
AKHILESH YADAV



LAW AND ORDER IS A STATE SUBJECT.
THE GOVT SHOULD TAKE STRICT
ACTION AGAINST RIOTERS.
— UNION MINISTER
ANURAG THAKUR

How CPI's politics sapped Ipta of its vitality

A major reason for decline of Ipta was the CPI's tight control over its cultural units which were forced to do propaganda

Ipta entered the world of cinema. By 1946, Ipta made its debut film Neelcha Nagar released on September 29, 1946, directed by Chetan Anand. The other was Bharat Jatra, released on August 30, 1946. It was directed by K.A. Abbas.

Music of both the films was scored by Pandit Ravi Shankar. Prominent Ipta members Shambhu Mitra, Tirthi Mitra, Zohra Segal, Krishan Chander, Kamini Kaushal, etc., were all part of the films. While Bharat Jatra, based on the Bengal famine, got some positive reviews, Neelcha Nagar got a raw deal. The Times of India said: "The story of Neelcha Nagar is the poorest chestnut of the Indian screen: Rich vs. Poor, Capital vs. Labour..." But the film, based on a story of Maxim Gor'kiy, won a Grand Prix award at the Cannes

International Film Festival in 1946. Another film backed by Ipta was V. Shantaram's Doctor Kotnis ki amar kahani.

Ipta began theatre in Bombay, Calcutta, and other cities, drawing huge crowds. One of the earliest Ipta productions was based on Ismat Chughtai's story. People realised that these productions were redefining the language of the Indian stage. It was a cosmopolitan, cultural revolution, something no other political party had thought before in India. In that sense, Ipta's initiative was indeed a watershed in Indian politics.

From the beginning Ipta's theatre was very distinctive; it was artistically crafted. With exceptional stage designs, light and of course content, its plays captured people's hearts. Ipta theatre was a confluence of various forms of

Pranamkham, and Urdu play Yeh kishe khon hui were also very popular among people.

The golden period of Ipta lasted only till February 1948, when at the CPI's Calcutta Congress, B.T. Ranadive captured power by sidelining P.C. Joshi.

Ranadive not only discarded Joshi's reformist line but reduced Ipta's activities as much as he can. He gave a call for an armed revolution against the Nehru government. The party was immediately banned in West Bengal and Andhra. It was the time when Ipta started disintegrating.

As the party was banned, there was suppression of its cultural front. The party too ignored its creative aspect. According to Basu Acharya, a Marxist scholar and researcher, one of the major reasons was the party's tight control over its cultural front. These were forced to do propaganda only as per the party line. Such was the control over the Ipta that people like Ritwik Ghatak and Satyajit Ray were asked to make music and films only in tune with the party line. As a result, talented people like Sachin Dev Burman, Ravi Shankar, Shambhu Mitra, and Sallu Chowdhury started moving to the world of commercial cinema, dance, music and theatre.

Acharya thinks that Ranadive was wrong to call a revolution so early, as cultural surge emerged when Joshi had just started; it was giving the spirit of Ipta without its affiliation.

Shambhu Mitra formed a Bengali group theatre group Akashik, etc., only a few popular

faces involved themselves actively with Ipta. In Bengal, the new party CPI(M), born out of the split, got the Ipta name whereas CPI renamed it as IPCA. However at the all-India level, the CPI still owns the name Ipta. In 2017, Ipta celebrated its 75 years in Patna with a big festival with songs and street plays.

The Benoy unit of Ipta is still very active. They regularly perform their plays at various levels. In other states IPTA is now more on paper than stage. The emergence of Ipta in the mid-1940s inspired people to fight against famine, riots, war, partition, brutality with which the naval mutiny was suppressed, the Telengana movement, etc. It gave Indian culture a galaxy of talented artists. India's cultural history will be incomplete without Ipta's contributions.

Agnipath for Armed forces gets mixed reactions

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■
NEW DELHI

As the Government rolled out the 'Agnipath scheme', several veterans cautioned against it as a 'death knell' while some others favoured a wait and watch policy before giving a final verdict.

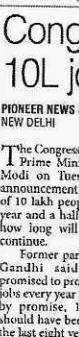
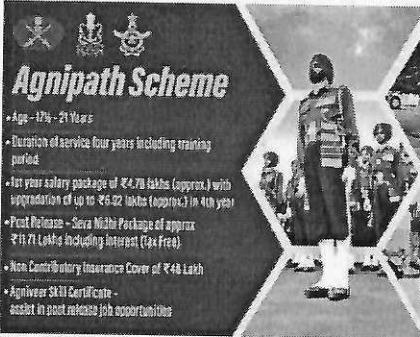
Critics said the new scheme will hit the fighting spirit and professionalism of forces. They have raised concerns that the four-year tenure may make soldiers risk-averse.

Lieutenant General (retired) Vinod Bhatia said the Agnipath scheme, also called the Tour of Duty scheme earlier, will sound the death knell and for the armed forces.

Tour of Duty (TOU) not tested, a pilot project might implementation. Will it lead to militarization of society, nearly 40,000 (75%) youth year-on-year back rejected and dejected without a job, semi trained in arms ex-Agnivans? Not a good idea. No one gains," Bhatia wrote on Twitter.

Group Captain (retired) Nitin Welde, who served in the Indian Air Force (IAF) for 22 years, said it was too early to criticise or appreciate the scheme.

Major General (retired) Yash Mor criticised the Agnipath



scheme, noting that more than anything else, he feels for the lakhs of youngsters who had lost all hope of recruitment in the last two years.

"Service headquarters to appear be reluctant to implement this," Mor said in a tweet. Major General (retired) Sathish Singh said the Agnipath's scheme for the armed forces is not in keeping with the erstwhile military tradition, ethos,

morals and values. "It will adversely affect efficiency and effectiveness of military," he added.

Lieutenant General (retired) P R Shankar said, "Many senior veterans have written with the wisdom of their experience. A common voice has emerged. The tour of duty does not seem to be a good idea. Proceed with caution," Shankar said on Twitter.

the Tour of Duty proposal expect a superman from a undergraduate student. "We are not producing an Afghaniyan boy, but we did not get out of the Chakravarty.

After five years of tour of duty, Arjans will not be available in our next Maharashtra. The cutting edge units will not be able to fight. There are no runners up in war," he wrote on Twitter.

Cong terms Modi's 10L jobs jumle-baazi

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■
NEW DELHI

The Congress took a swipe at Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Tuesday over the announcement of recruitment of 10 lakh people in the next year and a half and asked till how long will 'jumle-baazi' continue.

Former party chief Rahul Gandhi and Modi had promised to provide two crore jobs every year and that going by promise, 16 crore jobs should have been provided in the last eight years.

Rahul took a swipe on government during lunch break from questioning by the Enforcement Directorate. "Just like 8 years ago, youths were promised 2 crore jobs every year, in same way now it is the turn of 10 lakh government jobs.

This is not a government of maha jumlaas. The Prime Minister is not an expert in creating jobs, but in making News on jobs," Rahul tweeted. "Modi promised to provide two crore jobs every year and that going by promise, 16 crore jobs should have been provided in the last eight years. The promise was to provide two crore jobs every year and 16 crore jobs were to be given in eight years. Now they are saying they will only provide 10 lakh jobs by year 2024. Sixty lakh posts are lying vacant in governments.



BJP hails PM for jobs' creation

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Minister Amit Shah said this will make India's young population disciplined, skilled, fit and financially empowered as well as make them self-reliant.

Shah said, "The basic need of India is its youth power. To empower them, PM Modi is working continuously. PM Modi's directive to recruit 10 lakh in a mission mode in all government departments and ministries in 1.5 years will bring new hope and confidence among the youth."

"Thank you PM Narendra Modi for this," he said.

In a sharp reaction to Rahul's "maha jumla" response to job creation announcement, BJP leader and Union Minister of Finance Anurag Thakur said he should first provide the ED right answers on the serious charges of corruption against him.

"This shows our Government's emphasis on job creation for our youth and focus on efficient management of workload."

Describing it as a far-sighted decision, Home

Minister Amit Shah said this will make India's young population disciplined, skilled, fit and financially empowered as well as make them self-reliant.

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Though everyone has welcomed Prime Minister's decision, taken in interest of youth, Rahul has expressed anger and questioned why the youth would get jobs, Thakur said.

Appointment of new CDS soon: Rajnath

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■
NEW DELHI

With the post of the Chief of Defence Staff (CDS) lying vacant for the last seven days, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh on Tuesday announced the appointment of the new CDS will be soon made and the process for it is underway. General Bipin Rawat, the first CDS, died in a helicopter mishap on December 8 last year.

The appointment of the CDS will be made soon. The process for it is underway, the defence minister said during a media briefing after the rollout of the 'Agnipath' recruitment scheme for the armed forces.

Earlier this month, the government issued notifications, widening the selection pool for the top position. According to the new rules, any serving or retired lieutenant general, air marshal and vice-admiral under the age of 62 years will be eligible for appointment to the post of



CDS. The three-star officers are now eligible to become the CDS, along with the serving chiefs of the three services, according to the changes made to the Army, Air Force and Navy Acts.

General Rawat took charge as India's first CDS on January 1, 2020 with a mandate to bring convergence in the functioning of the Army, the Navy and the Air Force and bolster the country's overall military prowess.

Another significant feature of the CDS was to facilitate restructuring of the military commands for optimal utilisation of resources by bringing about jointness in operations, the PMO said. "Working as Team India, the conference will lay

Modi will chair first national conference of Chief Secretaries in Himachal

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■
NEW DELHI

Implementation of a common development agenda and a blueprint for cohesive action to achieve people's aspirations will be on the agenda when Prime Minister Narendra Modi will chair the first national conference of chief secretaries in Himachal Pradesh's Dharamshala from June 15-17.

More than 300 people representing the central government, all states and union territories, and domain experts will participate in the conference at the Himachal Pradesh Cricket Association Stadium, the Prime Minister's Office (PMO) said in a statement.

Spread over three days, the conference will focus on the rapid and sustained economic growth in partnership with the PMO. The conference will be a significant step towards strengthening partnership between the Centre and state governments, the PMO said.

Three themes have been identified for detailed deliberations in conference - implementation of National Education Policy, urban governance, crop diversification and 'Amarbhutam' in agriculture.

the ground for collaborative efforts for higher growth with sustainability, creation of jobs, education, health and 'Amarbhutam' in agriculture," the PMO maintained.

The concept and agenda for this conference has been curated after more than 160 rounds of deliberations spread over six months, the statement said.

Three themes have been identified for detailed deliberations in conference - implementation of National Education Policy, urban governance, crop diversification and 'Amarbhutam' in agriculture.

the National Education Policy, both schools and higher education shall be deliberated upon, the statement said.

Best practices from states and union territories under each of the themes shall be presented at the conference for mutual learning, it said. A session on Aspirational Districts Programme to deliberate upon the achievements made so far, with successful case studies, including those on data-based governance, will be held.

There will also be a special session on 'Azaadi aur Mahatma: Roadmap to 2047' and four additional thematic sessions on reducing compliance burden and criminalisation of minor offences for ease of doing business; Centres coordination for achieving saturation coverage of schemes and ensuring last mile delivery; transforming India's infrastructure through PM Gati Shakti; and capacity building implementation of IGOT-Mission Karmayogi, the PMO said.

It will also be a special session on 'Azaadi aur Mahatma: Roadmap to 2047' and four additional thematic sessions on reducing compliance burden and criminalisation of minor offences for ease of doing business; Centres coordination for achieving saturation coverage of schemes and ensuring last mile delivery; transforming India's infrastructure through PM Gati Shakti; and capacity building implementation of IGOT-Mission Karmayogi, the PMO said.

CBI chargesheets 5 in killing of Cong's Bengal councillor

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■
NEW DELHI

The CBI said in a statement, Kandu had collapsed and was rushed to Jhalda Hospital and from there he was taken to Ranchi Hospital, where he was declared dead.

Justice Rajaibazar Mantha of Calcutta High Court had directed the Central agency on April 4 to submit a report on its investigation in the case in 45 days.

The High Court had ordered the probe by the CBI on the petition of councillor's widow Puranima Kandu who had moved it seeking a CBI investigation in the murder of her husband, alleging complicity of local police in the killing.

It was alleged that Tapan Kandu was shot dead by three motorcycle-borne persons near his residence in Jhalda at around 5.15 pm on March 13 this year when he was returning with friends from evening walk through Bagmundi Road.

the CBI said in a statement. Kandu had collapsed and was rushed to Jhalda Hospital and from there he was taken to Ranchi Hospital, where he was declared dead.

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Her counsel had also submitted before the HC that the Superintendent of Police of Purulia district in a Press conference had given a clean chit to the inspector-in-charge of Jhalda police station even before the probe by the state police was completed.

Cabinet nod to phase 1 of new Dholera airport

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA) chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Tuesday approved the proposal for development of Phase 1 of New Greenfield Airport at Dholera, Gujarat at an estimated cost of Rs 1305 crore, to be completed within 18 months.

Dholera Airport is to get passenger and cargo traffic from Dholera Special Investment Region (DSIR) and is expected to become a major cargo hub to serve the industrial region. This Airport will also cater to the nearby region and serve as a second airport to Ahmedabad. The New Greenfield Airport at Dholera is situated at an aerial distance of 80 km from Ahmedabad, Airport.

The project is being implemented by Dholera International Airport Company Limited (DIACL), which is a Joint Venture Company comprising Airports Authority of India (AAI), Government of Gujarat (GoG) and National Industrial Corridor Development and Implementation Trust (NICID) having equity in the ratio of 51:33:16.

The airport is planned for operationalisation from the year 2025-2026 and initial passenger traffic is estimated to be 3 lakh passengers per annum, expected to grow to 23 lakh over a period of 20 years.

The annual cargo traffic is also estimated from the year 2025-2026 at 20,000 tonne, which would increase to 27,300 tonne over a period of 20 years.

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DGCA imposes fine of ₹10 L on AI for not boarding fliers with valid ticket

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) on Tuesday imposed a fine of Rs 10 lakh on Tata group-owned Air India for denying boarding to passengers who held a valid ticket.

After that a series of checks were carried out by DGCA to ensure surveillance. In Bengaluru, Hyderabad and Delhi, there were specific instances, in the case of Air India — where the regulation (regarding compensation to passengers) is not

being followed and therefore, a show cause notice was issued to the airline and also a personal hearing was afforded," the DGCA said in a statement.

According to the DGCA, Air India may not have a policy in this regard and does not pay compensation to the passengers. "To say the least, it is a matter of serious concern and unacceptable. In the specific instance, the show cause notice, after going through Air India submissions, the PMO said. "Working as Team India, the conference will lay

J'khand seeks urgent SC hearing on plea against CM

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

opinion that the writ petitions cannot be thrown away on the ground of maintainability and it will proceed to hear the matter on merit.

The state government told the apex court of Justice S Bapatla and Vilas Nath that there is urgency. Despite being informed that a special leave petition (SLP) has been filed in the apex court challenging the June 3 order, the Jharkhand High Court has held the matter for hearing on June 17, it said. The bench told senior advocate Arunabh Chowdhury, who mentioned the matter on behalf of state, to

give details about petition to registrar so apex court registry

slated for 3.00 PM on Tuesday. Sources in the poll panel said since this is for the second time personal hearing in his case had been postponed, the fresh date of June 28 has been granted with condition that it will be adjourned only for a hearing. Soren was further asked to appear before the FC on May 31 but he had sought more time and his appearance was rescheduled for June 14.

The report was released by R Sudharmayan, Secretary, Union Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment, at an event here on Tuesday, ahead of the World Elder Abuse Awareness Day on June 15.

"Nationally 55% elders are prevalent in life expectancy is comparable to that of smoking, more than three times that of alcohol use and unsafe water, six times that of HIV/AIDS, and 99 times that of dementia," the report said.

"This impact on life expectancy is greater than that of heart disease, stroke, diabetes, cancer and HIV/AIDS combined," the report said.

Highlighting the need for improving financial independence as well as dignity of the elderly in the families, a national survey conducted by NGO HelpAge India found that at least 47 per cent elders are dependent on family for care, while 59% of elderly are independent in society.

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'500mn to lose 7.6 yrs if pollution levels persist'

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

About 51 crore people living in North India are on track to lose 7.6 years of their life if the current pollution levels persist, according to a study which has termed pollution the greatest threat to human health in the country.

Energy Policy Institute at the University of Chicago (EPIC)'s Air Quality Life Index said about 44 per cent of the world's increase in pollution has come from India since 2013. Since 1998, India's average

annual particulate pollution has increased by 61.4 percent, it added.

As per Air Quality Life Index (AQI) new analysis, air pollution shortens lives in areas that exceed country's own national air quality standard of 40 µg/m³.

Mesured in terms of life expectancy, particulate pollution is greatest threat to human health in India, reducing life expectancy by 5 years," study said. In contrast, child and maternal malnutrition reduces average life expectancy by about 1.8 years, while smoking reduces average life expectancy by 1.5 years, it added.

Globally, AQI analysis found that particulate air pollution takes 2.2 years off global average life expectancy, or a combined 17 billion life years, relative to a world without pollution (6.9 years).

This impact on life expectancy is comparable to that of smoking, more than three times that of alcohol use and unsafe water, six times that of HIV/AIDS, and 99 times that of dementia," the report said.

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PTI ■ KOLKATA

Indian men's football team on Tuesday qualified for the Asian Cup finals after Palestine defeated Philippines 4-0 in a group B match in Ulaanbaatar.

The result meant that the Palestinian directly qualified for the 24-team final, finishing as group B toppers, while Philippines, with four points, were eliminated despite finishing second.

It is the first time India have qualified for the Asian Cup in two consecutive editions, having made a group league exit in 2019.

The 24 teams in the qualification round third round were divided into six groups of four each.

The matches of each group

INDIA QUALIFY FOR ASIAN CUP

were played across different venues with India hosting the group D games.

All the group winners and the five best second place finishers across the six groups will qualify for the Asian Cup.

As things stand now, Hong Kong (six points) lead group D ahead of India on goal difference while both teams crisis swords in their final match on June 19 in the day.

Afghanistan and Cambodia, who are yet to open their respective accounts and are already eliminated, face each other in the other group D match.



So, even if India lose to Hong Kong, they will still have more points than Group B runners-up Philippines (4 points) and will thus make the cut for the Asian Cup, one of the best five runners-up teams.

In their group opener, India rode on captain Sunil Chhetri's brace to blank Cambodia 2-0, while they secured a last-gasp 2-1 win over Afghanistan in their second match.

Super sub Sahal Abdul Samad struck a brilliant stoppage time goal to seal the issue after Chhetri's 83rd international goal

was cancelled out by Afghanistan's Zubayr Amiri in an action-packed last 10 minutes.

Overall, India have qualified for the continental showpiece for the fifth time — 1964, 1984, 2011, 2019 and now in 2023.

"I LAUGH WHEN..."

The legendary IM Vijayan feels retired striker Sunil Chhetri still has a lot to offer to Indian football and finds the occasional chatter about his retirement laughable.

Vijayan believes the national team skipper still has a lot to con-

tribute despite being 37 years old. "Sunil is a marvel. He is a personality and a player that others should emulate. His goal in the match against Afghanistan was of excellent quality. All youngsters need to see and learn how easily he handles open chances. I laugh when the media asks about his retirement."

"With such a level of fitness playing with such sincerity, he still has a lot to gain. As the Indian team coach said, he still has a lot of goals left to score. One of the best players in the world," said Vijayan.

"Chhetri has 93 international goals to his name, only three behind Lionel Messi, and is placed third in the list of active goal scorers on the world stage."

CROATIA PULL OF SHOCK WIN OVER FRANCE


AP ■ PARIS

Luka Modric's early penalty gave Croatia a 1-0 win over off-form France in Paris on Monday as World Cup holders finished theirJune run of UEFA Nations League matches without a victory in four outings.

Veteran Croatia captain Modric scored his spot-kick after just five minutes as the Stade de France, and the home side could not find an equaliser despite Kylian Mbappe returning to join Karim Benzema in the starting line-up.

France won the previous edition of the Nations League last year but they have managed just two points from their four outings this month,

with home defeats against Denmark and now Croatia sandwiching draws away to the Croats and Austria.

As a result, Les Bleus are bottom of League A, Group 1, seven points behind leaders Denmark who beat Austria 2-0 in Copenhagen on Monday with first-half goals by Jonas Wind and Andreas Skov Olsen. Didier Deschamps' team may now need to win their last two group games in September before being relegated to the less glamorous League B.

Those matches are also the only games they have left before they begin their defence of the World Cup in Qatar in November.

This clash was the latest meeting between the

Nigeria create AFCON record by winning 10-0

AP ■ JOHANNESBURG

Nigerian forward Victor Osimhen scored four goals as Nigeria crushed San Tome e Principe 10-0 in Morocco on Monday to record the biggest victory in Africa Cup of Nations (AFCON) qualifying history.

Qualifying for the biennial competition has been staged since 1961 and Ghana, Kenya and Libya shared the record with eight goal victories under Nigeria went on a rampage in the Atlantic resort of Agadir.

Nigeria led 3-0 at half-time in the Group A matchday two encounter and the other scores were Terem Moffi (two), captain Moses Simon, Ogbenekaro Etebo, Ademola Lookman and Emmanuel Dennis.

With Nigeria 153 places higher in the world rankings than San Tome, a one-sided encounter was expected, but after a fairly competitive first half, the game turned into shoot-out for the Super Eagles.

Goalscorer Modric, back at the ground where he won the Champions League with Real Madrid at the end of last month, made no mistake with the resulting penalty even though France goalkeeper Mike Maignan got a touch.

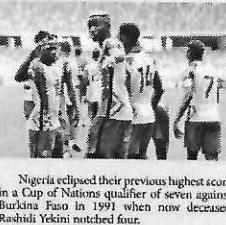
From then on it took the occasional burst of pace from Mbappe to bring the crowd to life, although the closest France came to scoring in the first half was when Christopher Nkunku blasted just wide from range.

Side who contested the 2018 World Cup final in Moscow, although Mbappe, Modric and Marcelo Brozovic were the only players who started that day to leave at kick-off.

The home fans in the crowd of more than 77,000 were left stunned as the Israeli referee awarded the visitors an early penalty when Liverpool defender Ibrahim Konate was adjudged to have fouled Josip Brekalo.

The evergreen Modric, back at the ground where he won the Champions League with Real Madrid at the end of last month, made no mistake with the resulting penalty even though France goalkeeper Mike Maignan got a touch.

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Nigeria eclipsed their previous highest score in a Cup of Nations qualifying match of seven against Gabon Faso in 1991, when now deceased Rashidi Yekini notched four.

Golekeeper Anastacio Braganca, one of several home-based San Tomeans in the line-up, has conceded 15 goals in two matches after Guinea-Bissau put five past him in midday one last week.

Mbappe had come off injured against Denmark and so missed the draw in Croatia before emerging from the bench to score a late equaliser in Austria last weekend.

The Paris Saint-Germain forward did his best to control the level of play but came close twice in the second half, and the hosts also had an appeal for a penalty dismissed when Lucas Digne went down in the area.

Meanwhile Maigana was forced to parity away a fine strike by substitute Lovro Majer at the other end but Croatia — with Modric as majestic as ever — saw the game out as goalkeeper Ivić brusically stopped Josip Iličić scoring an own-goal. The final whistle was greeted by jeers and Deschamps will hope that France's summer slump is simply down to fatigue among his players at the end of a long campaign, rather than a sign of what might be to come later in the year.

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Australia clinch FIFA World Cup 2022 place

AP ■ DOHA

Valera's miss set off wild celebrations among the Socceroos and their band of a few hundred supporters.

Arnold said the move to bring on Redmayne after 119 minutes had been intended to unsettle Peru's penalty takers, adding that he probably contributed to the penalty misses.

"We have been through in the last year or a half, not being able to get back into Australia (because of the pandemic), players getting Covid. I could not be more proud," said Arnold.

"The sacrifices they have made. No-one thought they could do it but they kept on believing."

Peru's Argentine coach Ricardo Gareca said the whole side felt let down by disappointment to go out after a game in which clear cut chances were few and far between.

"It hurts not to make it as we were doing well in the game," added Gareca.

Gareca made no criticism of Redmayne's goalkeeping antics, as the upsets win after seeing Martin Boyle miss his side's first penalty before successfully converting their next five spot-kicks.

Australia's substitute goalkeeper Andrew Redmayne dived like a clown on the goal line in a bid to upset the Peru players and Luis Advíncula's shot cannoned off a post while

he was unable to make it as was done," he said.

The final place for the finals, that start in Qatar on November 21, will be decided on Tuesday when Oceania champions New Zealand take on Costa Rica who were in the central and north American qualifying contest.

LOCAL EVENTS

UP WIN TWO MEDALS IN JUDO



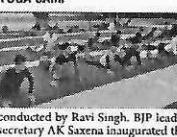
Sneha Singh of Ghaziabad and Prakhar Kumar of Moradabad bagged silver and bronze medal respectively in the recently concluded Khelo India Youth Games.

Sneha defeated opponents from Pondicherry, while Prakhar Kumar won the bronze medal while Prakhar beat his opponents from Maharashtra and Haryana to get the bronze.

KARATE

Lucnow Police Commissioner DK Thakur on Tuesday gave blessings to the mardal winners of State Karate Championship and wished them luck for the national championship, to be held in Pune. **MEDALISTS:** (Gold) Ankit Chaurasia, Veeru Ravi, Pehl Singh, Sneha Mantri, Pankaj, Pankaj Padakshi, Verma, Anjali Dubey, Jyoti Rasali, Kush Yadav, Avnith Bihari, Peer Mohammadi.

YOGA CAMP



A 10-day Yoga camp, organised by Uttar Pradesh Non Olympic Association, kicked-off at Unity College on Tuesday. As many as 65 students attended the camp on the opening day, which was conducted by Ravi Singh, BJP leader Diyanand and UPNOA secretary AK Saxena inaugurated the camp.

ALI ZAFIR SLAMS TON

Ali Zafir slammed an unbeaten ton to help Ekana Rangers crush Shikambhari Cricket Club by 75 runs in a league encounter at Karim Chisti Memorial Cricket Stadium at CSD Sabra ground on Tuesday. Batting first, Ekana Rangers posted 320 runs for the loss of four wickets as the allotted 40 overs hit fine 123 runs. He was well supported by Arjun Singh (65), Suraj Mishra (59) and Sumukhi (39). In reply, SCC were bundled out for 245 runs. Suraj picked three scalps while Ali and Arvind grabbed two wickets each. In other league fixtures, Mega Trends beat RBN Global by 62 runs while Ashish Nehra Cricket Academy edged past Hindustan Fire Cricket Club by four wickets.

BRIEF SCORES:
ECS 320-4; Zafir 123, Arjun 65, Suraj 59, Shivan 44/2; SCC: 245 (Brijesh Yadav 74, Arjun Singh 56, Suraj 53); Ali 82, Arvind 40/2.

Kompany appointed as Burnley boss

AP ■ MADRID


Former Manchester City captain Vincent Kompany has been appointed as the new manager of Spanish Championship club announced on Tuesday. The Belgian, 36, who left his job as Anderlecht head coach last month, said he was excited by the challenge ahead.

Burnley Football Club is a truly historic English side and it is an honour to be appointed first-team manager," said Kompany, who takes over from caretaker

Kounde to undergo groin operation

AP ■ MADRID

Seville defender Jules Kounde will undergo surgery on his left groin on Tuesday, although the club are optimistic the Frenchman will be available for the start of next season. The Frenchman will have the operation in Bordeaux "as scheduled for several weeks" after the problem "dragged on for much of last season", Sevilla said in a statement.

Jules Kounde will undergo surgery this Tuesday in Bordeaux for minor dis-

comfort in the left groin," the statement read. "In principle, if everything goes according to plan, the French international will be available for the 2023/24 season." Kounde has been linked with a move away from Sevilla this summer, with Chelsea and Barcelona among the clubs reportedly interested in signing the 23-year-old, who has a release clause of 80 million euros.

He played the first 45 minutes of France's 1-0 defeat by Croatia in the Nations League on Monday.

a positive, winning team for our fans when we return to Turf Moor on Saturday.

I've been impressed by the board's vision for the club which aligns with my own and I look forward to playing my part as we enter an important season.



Serene Williams is set to make her comeback at Wimbledon a year after her last match in any competition, writing on Instagram on Tuesday: "See you there."

The 23-time Grand Slam singles champion, who made a tearful exit at Wimbledon last year after suffering a knee injury during her second-round match 12 months ago, posted an image of her white trainers on grass along with the caption: "SW and SW19. It's a date 2022, see you there."

The All England Club announced via Twitter on Tuesday that Williams was awarded a wild-card entry for June 27.

Williams' name did not appear on the women's singles entry list released by the grass-court Grand Slam tournament earlier this month.

Sindhu, Praneeth out of Indonesia Open

PTI ■ JAKARTA

Two-time Olympic medallist P V Sindhu made a shock first-round exit from the Indonesia Open Super 1000 event after suffering a straight-game defeat against China's He Bing Jiao here on Tuesday.

The seventh seed Sindhu lost 14-21, 18-21 Bing Jiao in the women's singles.

Sindhu, a former world champion, has won two Super 300 titles — the Syed Modi International and the Swiss Open — this season.

By virtue of this win, world No 9 Bing Jiao, who Sindhu had defeated at the Badminton Asia Championships, lead the 10th 8-10 on head-to-head record.

The defeat at the Internazionale Games Kano has affected Sindhu's preparations for next month's Commonwealth Games in Birmingham.

Also bowing out was B Sai Praneeth, who lost 16-21, 19-21 to Hans-Kristian Solberg Vittinghus of Denmark in the men's singles.

Sameer Verma was the lone Indian singles player to move to the next round on the day as he notched an easy 21-19, 21-15 win over France's Thomas Rouxel in 45 minutes.

He will face sixth seeded Malaysian Lee Zii Jai in the second round.

The women's doubles pairing of Ashwini Ponnappa and Sikki Reddy, too, advanced to the pre-quarters, with a 21-15, 21-8 win over the Indo-US duo of Ishika Jaiswal and Sriyeda Gurazada.

The mixed doubles pair of Ishan Bhatnagar and Tanisha Crasto faced sim-

ilar fate as Sindhu and Praneeth as they too crashed out in the opening round after losing 14-21, 11-21 to Hong Kong combination of Chang Tak Ching and NG Wing Yung Hong in just 52 minutes.

It was the end of the road for Manu Attri and Sumeeth Reddy as they went down to third seed Japanese pair of Takuho Hoki and Yugo Kobayashi 8-21, 11-21 in the men's doubles event.

All-round India alive against SA

PTI ■ VISHAKHAPATNAM

India ticked all the boxes when it mastered the rain and crushed South Africa by 48 runs in the must-win third T20I at Visakhapatnam in the five-match series here on Tuesday.

Yuzvendra Chahal (3/20) and Harshal Patel (4/25) led the way with the ball after sizzling half-centuries from Ruturaj Gaikwad (57) and Ishan Kishan (54) powered India to 179 for five.

The bowlers came good after opener Gaikwad turned things around with a scintillating knock and Ishan scored his second fifty of the series.

Under the scanner for his patchy form of late, Gaikwad hit two maximums and seven fours in his 35-ball knock, and Ishan too scored his runs in 35 balls after being asked to take first strike.

Defending the total, skipper Rishabh Pant introduced the spinners early and Axar Patel produced the first breakthrough with a fuller delivery as Temba Bavuma (8) folded out to Avesh Khan in the 4th over.

Chahal was rewarded for bowling quick as he got extra bounce from the wicket to the better of Rusie van der Dussen (1), Dwaine Pretorius (20) and Heinrich Klaasen (1).

Harshal mixed his deliveries well to first remove Reeza Hendricks (23) and David Miller (3) and then returned to finish things off with the wickets of Kagiso Rabada (9) and Tabraiz Shamsi (0) as South Africa were bundled out for 131.

Bhuvneshwar Kumar (1/21) too bowled with a lot of heart.

Earlier, Gaikwad and Ishan hit two sixes each and shared 12 boundaries to set the platform but South Africa tightened the screws in the second half to keep India inside 180.

It was Gaikwad, who turned aggressive after a watchful start and exploded in the fifth over, slamming five successive boundaries off Anrich Nortje.



If the first one was cut with aplomb, he danced down the track for the second four.

The third boundary was a lucky one as the ball hit his grill while Gaikwad tried to move away from a nasty bouncer.

Gaikwad then punished Nortje for bowling a half volley and the fifth ball was sent across the third man.

The Maharashtra batter also deposited Dwaine Pretorius over deep backward square for his second six as

India posted 57 for no loss in six overs, their best powerplay in the series.

Ishan, who was playing second fiddle, got into the act in the ninth over, smacking Shamsi's overpitched ball for a maximum before sweeping him for another four as 15 runs came from the over.

Gaikwad completed his fifty in 30 balls and then welcomed Keshav Maharaj with an inside out lift for a four, but the spinner had him caught off his own bowling with India on 97

for one at the halfway stage.

Ishan then gave a special treatment to Maharaj, picking up two fours and a six en route a 31-ball fifty, his second of the series.

New-man Shreyas Iyer looked in great touch as he blasted a six each off Nortje and Shamsi, the spinner dismissed him with Nortje liming his jump to perfection for a nice catch.

Pretorius pegged India further back by getting rid of Ishan, who was caught by Hendricks.

It could have been five down but David Miller and Rusie van der Dussen dropped two stutters to give a lives to Hardik Pandya (29) and Rishabh Pant (6).

Temba Bavuma finally caught one off Pretorius to remove Pant as South Africa slowed things down.

The hosts managed just 20 runs while losing two wickets from over 13 to 17 before Hardik Pandya took them close to 130 with some lusty blows in the final stages.

Babar wants WC glory to fulfil boyhood dreams

AP ■ MULTAN

High-flying skipper Babar Azam hopes that his extraordinary run-scoring can fire Pakistan to World Cup glory — and in the process fulfil a childhood dream.

The 27-year-old is in the form of his life across the three formats of international cricket and last week became the first batsman to hit three consecutive centuries on two separate occasions in ODIs.

Babar said that his prolific form will count for little if it does not bring success at the T20 World Cup in October in Australia and the 50-over showpiece in India next year.

No doubt I am enjoying my form," top-order batsman Azam, who is ranked number one in the world in both ODI cricket and T20Is, said.

"But with this form my prime goal is to win the two World Cups for Pakistan in the next one-and-a-half years and if that happens I will feel that my runs were worth gold."

The man dubbed "King" featured in two junior World Cups in 2010 and 2012, scoring most runs for his country on both occasions, but Pakistan failed to win the titles.

Azam fired a match-winning hundred against eventual runners-up New Zealand at the 2019 ODI World Cup but Pakistan failed to qualify for the semi-finals.

They fell to eventual champion



pions Australia in last year's T20 World Cup semi-finals in the United Arab Emirates despite Azam again excelling with the bat.

Azam learnt the game in the streets and grounds of Lahore at the age of 12.

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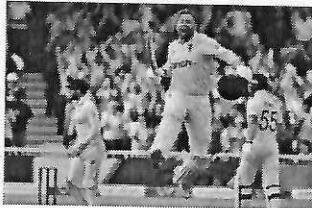
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They fell to eventual champion

Bairstow's 92-ball 136 seals NZ Test series



AP ■ NOTTINGHAM

Jonny Bairstow blasted England to a five-wicket win over New Zealand on the final day of the second Test at Trent Bridge on Tuesday as the home side won a series for the first time since January 2021.

England chased down 299 thanks to an all-time great display of raw power from Bairstow, who took just 77 balls to reach the ninth Test century of his career.

Bairstow narrowly missed hitting England's fastest Test hundred, taking one more delivery than Gilbert Jessop, who scored a 76-ball ton against Australia in 1902.

While Bairstow could not earn a place in the history books, that will be a footnote for the 32-year-old, whose display will be remembered forever by all those who witnessed it.

A capacity crowd at Trent Bridge treated to a remarkable array of brutal dismissals from Bairstow, who hit 14 fours and seven sixes to leave New Zealand bewildered in his 92-ball masterclass.

The match was an extremely low-scoring one.

But Afghan bowlers did the job for their side and helped them complete a clean sweep and win the series by 3-0.

Electing to bat first, Afghanistan was restricted to 125/8 in their 20 overs but their bowlers did well to hold visitors to 90/9 in return to win the game and series.



AP ■ HARARE

Spinner Noor Ahmed was the star of the show for Afghanistan as his side handed Zimbabwe a 35-run defeat in the third T20I in Harare to clinch the three-match series.

The match was an extremely low-scoring one.



Mendis anchors Sri Lankan batting in 1st Aus ODI

AP ■ PALLEKELE

Wicketkeeper Kushal Mendis anchored Sri Lanka's bats' performance to help their team reach 302 against Australia in Tuesday's first one-day international.

Their desire for relentlessly positive and aggressive cricket has been embraced by England and they will seek to sweep the series in the final Test at Headingley from June 23.

That victory was even more

eye-catching because Daryl Mitchell's 190, scored 55 in the first innings after Stokes opted to bowl first.

At tea, all three results were

possible with England needing another 160 runs with six wickets left.

After chasing down 277 to win the first Test, Leni's five wickets though Joe Root's 115 not out, Bairstow ensured England enjoyed another successful final-day chase.

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AP ■ HARARE

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Electing to bat first, Afghanistan was restricted to 125/8 in their 20 overs but their bowlers did well to hold visitors to 90/9 in return to win the game and series.

It was with a 77-run stand between Finch and Asalanka off flye Richardson for 37, Skipper Dasun Shanaka, who single-handedly stunned the visitors in the last and final over of the 2020 International Series, with a brilliant six.

Wanindu Hasaranga short of the crease on a direct hit by Marcus Stoines in the 10th over.

Fellow opener Nissanka top-edged a reverse sweep to Asrar Agar to hand Aaron Finch a simple catch two overs later.

Agar picked two wickets each while Hazlewood and Richardson claimed one each.

Fast bowler Pat Cummins, who returned to the ODI squad after 18 months, was wicketless after conceding 48 runs in eight overs.

Continuing his good form, left-handed batter Yashasvi Jaiswal hit a responsible hundred to propel Mumbai to 260/5 on the first day of their Ranji Trophy semifinal against Uttr Pradesh here on Tuesday.

Oozing with confidence, Jaiswal, who struck his maiden first-class hundred in the quarterfinal against Uttar Pradesh, anchored the innings, during the last Twenty20 international.

Marnus Labuschagne and Agar picked two wickets each while Hazlewood and Richardson claimed one each.

Fast bowler Pat Cummins, who returned to the ODI squad after 18 months, was wicketless after conceding 48 runs in eight overs.

Jaiswal was the cynosure of eyes as he took a top-order wicket.

He continued his fine form with a 50-ball 50, which included 10 fours and 10 sixes, to leave the opposition in a spot of bother at 24/2. Then Jaiswal added 63 runs with Sudeep Parkar (32).

However, it was once again Dayal, who broke the partnership by dismissing Parkar, who hit four boundaries in his sedate knock.

Aggressive batter Sarfaraz Khan (40), who is in form this season, had the responsibility of rebuilding the Mumbai innings along with Jaiswal.

The duo mixed aggression and caution in their 87-run stand for the fourth wicket as they frustrated the UP bowlers.

After Sarfaraz left, Jaiswal found an able ally in wicket-keeper Hardik Tamore (51 not out), who played his part to perfection.

But Jaiswal, to whom the first day belonged, was dismissed soon after reaching the three-figure mark. He became Karan Sharma's second victim as Mumbai lost half of their side for 233.

Hardik Tamore, who had hit six boundaries and one maximum, in his unbeaten 74-ball innings, on the third ball of the day, after being caught by Priyam Garg.

Pacer Shivam Mavi was rewarded as he

trapped one-down Armane Jaffer (10) in front of the wickets to leave the opposition in a spot of bother at 24/2. Then Jaiswal added 63 runs with Sudeep Parkar (32).

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