

ED questions Rahul for 5th time in National Herald case

PNS ■ NEW DELHI
The Enforcement Directorate (ED) on Tuesday questioned Congress leader Rahul Gandhi for the fifth time in connection with the National Herald money laundering case. The former Congress President appeared at the ED headquarters here at 11.15 AM and his questioning began about half an hour later after completing formalities like marking his attendance and it went on till about midnight. The Congress MP from Wayanad has been questioned for nearly 50 hours spread over five days. Gandhi sought a break for 30 minutes and agency allowed it at around 8PM on Tuesday. He did not take a break post-noon as in earlier four sessions, officials

said. A strong contingent of police and paramilitary personnel was deployed around agency's office and Section 144 of Code of Criminal Procedure (CrPC) was clamped in area to prohibit people from amassing in wake of Satyagrah call by Congress. During multiple sessions of questioning, Gandhi's statements are being recorded under the Prevention of Money Laundering Act. Last week, he was questioned for three consecutive days. Gandhi left agency office after midnight on Monday. The probe relates to alleged financial irregularities in Congress-promoted Young Indian Private Limited, which owns National Herald newspaper. The ED questions revolved around incorporation of Young Indian Private Limited, opera-

tions of National Herald, the loan given by party to newspaper's publisher Associated Journals Limited (AJL), and transfer of funds within the news media establishment as also decision-making hierarchy within three entities, officials said. Congress president Sonia Gandhi has also been summoned by agency for questioning in case on June 23. Both Sonia Gandhi and Rahul Gandhi are major shareholders of Young Indian. She was discharged from a private hospital on Monday where she was admitted for Covid-related issues and has now been advised rest. The Congress has accused Centre of targeting Opposition leaders by misusing investigative agencies and has termed entire action a political vendetta.

Biocon AVP, Joint Drugs Controller, 3 others held for bribery

PNS ■ NEW DELHI
The CBI has arrested Joint Drugs Controller S Eswara Reddy, Associate Vice President of Biocon Biologics L. Praveen Kumar and three others in a case of bribery to waive Phase 3 clinical trial of 'Insulin Aspart' injection, a product developed by the company to manage Type 1 and Type 2 diabetes. Biocon Biologics, a subsidiary of Biocon, however, denied the allegations of bribery. Biocon is led by billionaire entrepreneur. Kiran Mazumdar Shaw. Besides Reddy and Kumar, the CBI has also arrested Dinesh Dua, director at Synergy Network India Private Limited, who allegedly gave Reddy Rs 4 lakh bribe, Guljit Sethi, an alleged conduit of Biocon Biologics, as well as Assistant Drug Inspector Animesh Kumar in the case,

officials said. Reddy, posted at the Central Drugs Standard Control Organisation (CDSCO) here, and Dua were apprehended on Monday during a 'trap operation' while the former was receiving the bribe to favour Biocon Biologics to waive phase 3 clinical trial of the insulin injection. They were formally arrested after necessary paperwork and would be produced before the special court soon, the officials said. The CBI has booked all the five accused under Indian Penal Code (IPC) Sections of criminal conspiracy, cheating and forgery besides provisions of Prevention of Corruption Act. A spokesperson for Biocon Biologics refuted the allegations. In its FIR, the CBI has alleged that Sethi, acting as a conduit for Biocon Biologics, conspired with Praveen Kumar, head of the company's

National Regulatory Affairs (NRA), and other senior executives of the company to pay Reddy a total bribe of Rs 9 lakh. The bribe was meant for favourably recommending the file of 'Insulin Aspart Injection' to the Subject Expert Committee (SEC) meeting on May 18, 2022 for waiving the Phase 3 clinical trial, it alleged. "Phase 3 clinical trials are an important regulatory mechanism to assess the safety of a pharma product. Any attempt to waive it can have serious public health safety repercussions," an official said. Reddy had attended the SEC meeting on May 18, 2022 and supported the waiver, the CBI has alleged in the FIR. He manipulated the minutes of the meeting of SEC held that day by changing some key words in the recommendations, giving "substantial wrongful gain" to the compa-

ny, the agency alleged. The CBI was working on the sensational case for over a month after getting inputs that Reddy was dealing with the processing of files related to applications for approval of drugs and vaccines by various pharmaceutical companies. Tracking Reddy's activities, the CBI also learnt that three files of Biocon Biologics, including one related to the waiver of Phase 3 clinical trial of the under development Insulin Aspart Injection, were referred to him for processing and approval. The CDSCO functions include approval of new drugs, conducting clinical trials and laying down the standards for drugs. The CBI also received information that Sethi handled government regulatory works related to Biocon Biologics and had business relations with Dua, the CBI FIR alleged. The agency dug into her

background to find that she had several pharmaceutical companies as her clientele. She allegedly delivered huge bribes through Dua and others to senior officers of CDSCO on different occasions for processing the files favourably on behalf of her clients, officials said. Praveen Kumar also told Sethi about the favourable decision taken during the meeting, it said. In return, Reddy provided his residential address at Chanakyapuri to meet him personally by the end of the week, the agency has alleged. Praveen Kumar allegedly gave Sethi the go-ahead to pay a total bribe of Rs 9 lakh to Reddy. On her instructions, Dua went to make a partial payment of Rs 4 lakh to the officer on June 20 at his residence for acting in favour of Biocon Biologics, officials said.

BJP Parliamentary Board names Draupadi Murmu as Prez pick

PNS ■ NEW DELHI
After several rounds of consultations on its presidential pick, the BJP Parliamentary Board, the highest decision-making body of the party, met on Tuesday to finalise its nominee for the top constitutional post. Draupadi Murmu, the former Jharkhand Governor, was picked as the NDA candidate.

long-drawn meeting discussing the NDA candidate was attended, among others, by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Nadda, Shah, Rajnath Singh, Nitin Gadkari and Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan in the Party's headquarters at Deen Dayal Upadhyay Marg. Heavy police deployment was made on all routes leading to the party office. A number of candidates, including the names of present and former state governors, were mulled over by the party over the last one month with final approval being left to the Prime Minister, sources said. During the day Union ministers, Amit Shah and Rajnath Singh and BJP president J P Nadda met Vice

President M Venkaiah Naidu ahead of a crucial party meeting on the presidential elections, creating a buzz about Naidu being considered by the ruling combine for the top constitutional post. Party sources, however, said that the top leadership had yet not zeroed in on any single candidate. A formal announcement is likely to be made a day later. The ruling combine has over 48 per cent vote share in the electoral college to pick the new president, and its candidate has a clear advantage over the opposition. The voting to elect the new president in place of Ram Nath Kovind whose term will come to an end on July 24 will take place on July 18. The last date for filing nominations is June 29 and the

votes will be counted on July 21. As per article 62 of the Constitution, an election to fill the vacancy caused by the expiration of the term of office is required to be completed before the term ends. On Sunday, BJP president had held a key meet to brainstorm on the upcoming election, where members of the management team were present. The meeting was attended by senior leaders like Gajendra Singh Shekhawat, Ashwini Vaishnaw, G Kishan Reddy, Arjun Ram Meghwal, Vinod Tawde, CT Ravi, Sambit Patra and others. Nadda and Rajnath Singh were entrusted with the responsibility of holding talks with all political parties, including opposition, over the

candidate for presidential polls. With the announcement of Sinha as the opposition consensus candidate, a contest for the presidential post has become all evident. The president is elected by the members of the electoral college consisting of elected members of both houses of Parliament and elected members of the legislative assemblies of all states including national capital territory of Delhi and Union territory of Puducherry. "The NDA candidate has a clear edge over the opposition nominee and the announced candidate by Parliamentary Board would be new occupant of the 'Rashtrapati Bhawan'," said a senior BJP leader involved in deliberations.

Congress deposes Kamal Nath to handle Maha crisis

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI
Amid instability in the ruling Shiv Sena-led coalition Government in Maharashtra, the Congress on Tuesday deposed its senior leader and former Madhya Pradesh chief minister Kamal Nath as AICC observer to the State. The decision came soon after reports that some Shiv Sena MLAs led by dissident leader Eknath Shinde are camping in Gujarat and could pose a threat to the ruling Maha Vikas Aghadi (MVA) Government. "The Congress president has deputed Kamal

Nath as All India Congress Committee (AICC) observer in the wake of recent political developments in the state, with immediate effect," said an official communication from the Congress. Congress shares power with the Nationalist Congress Party (NCP) and Shiv Sena in the MVA government in Maharashtra. On the sidelines of the Maharashtra crisis, the Chhattisgarh Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel accused the Centre of trying to destabilize his government and claimed that "illegal phone tapping" is being done in the state.

Baghel alleged that those standing with Congress leader Rahul Gandhi are being targeted. Citing the CBI raids against Rajasthan Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot's brother and "illegal phone tapping" in Chhattisgarh, he alleged that the Centre is trying to destabilize state governments run by non-BJP parties. Baghel made the remarks while talking to reporters during a sit-in in front of the Enforcement Directorate (ED) office here to protest against Gandhi's questioning by the central agency in the National Herald case.

Centre files caveat in SC over Agnipath scheme after PIL

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI
With PILs started coming, the Centre on Tuesday filed a caveat in the Supreme Court and urged that it be heard before the court passes any order on petitions against the Agnipath scheme. Caveat is a petition asking courts that actions may not be taken without hearing the opposite side. Already more than five petitioners claimed filing PILs to stop the Agnipath scheme. Meanwhile another PIL was also filed in the apex court

for an SIT probe on the nationwide violence against the scheme. This petition was mentioned on Tuesday and the vacation bench agreed to list. Already more than five PILs are filed against Agnipath scheme, terming it as half baked one, seeking cancellation. The pleas sought to quash the June 14 notification/press note claiming it to be illegal and unconstitutional. With Centre filing caveat, Government will get ample chance to explain and opportunity to prevent stay order without hearing.

Polluted air contributes to brain disorders: Study

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI
A cocktail of many toxic components could be transported from the lungs to the brain via the bloodstream while breathing in polluted air - potentially contributing to brain disorders and neurological damage, a new study published in the Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences has said. Though it has been known that air pollution is significantly associated with an increased risk of hospital admissions for several neurological disorders, including Parkinson's disease, Alzheimer's disease, and other dementias, the scientists from the University of Birmingham and research institutions in China discovered a possible

direct pathway used by various inhaled fine particles through blood circulation with indications that, once there, the particles stay longer in the brain than in other main metabolic organs. The study conducted at the Emory University's Rollins School of Public Health and Columbia University's Mailman School of Public Health is the first nationwide analysis of the link between fine particulate (PM2.5) pollution and neurodegenerative diseases in the United States. The researchers leveraged an unparalleled amount of data compared to any previous study of air pollution and neurological disorders. The scientists revealed they had found various fine particles in human cerebrospinal fluids taken from

patients who had experienced brain disorders - uncovering a process that may result in toxic particulate substances ending up in the brain. Co-author Professor Iseult Lynch, from the University of Birmingham, commented: "There are gaps in our knowledge around the harmful effects of airborne fine particles on the central nervous system. This work sheds new light on the link between inhaled particles and how they subsequently move around the body. "The data suggests that up to eight times the number of fine particles may reach the brain by travelling, via the bloodstream, from the lungs than pass directly via the nose - adding new evidence on the relationship between air pollution and detrimental effects

of such particles on the brain." Air pollution is a cocktail of many toxic components, but particulate matter (PM, especially ambient fine particles such as PM2.5 and PM0.1), are the most concerning in terms of causing detrimental health effects. Ultrafine particles, in particular, are able to escape the body's protective systems, including sentinel immune cells and biological barriers. The team of scientists discovered that inhaled particles can enter the bloodstream after crossing the air-blood barrier - eventually reaching the brain, and leading to damage of the brain-blood barrier and surrounding tissues as they do so. Once in the brain, the particles were hard to clear and were retained for longer than in other organs.



India, Australia to explore new initiatives to expand bilateral defence engagements

PTI ■ NEW DELHI
Defence Minister Rajnath Singh and his visiting Australian counterpart Richard Marles will explore new initiatives to further expand bilateral defence engagements in their talks on Wednesday. The defence ministry said the two ministers will also exchange views on regional and global issues of shared interest. It said the India-Australia comprehensive strategic partnership is based on a shared vision of "free, open, inclusive and prosperous" Indo-Pacific region. The visit by Marles is the first high-level trip to India from Australia after Prime Minister Anthony Albanese's centre-left Labor Party came to power last month defeating predecessor Scott Morrison's conservative coalition in the parliamentary elections. Marles, who is also deputy prime minister of Australia, began his four-day visit to India on Monday. "The two ministers will review the defence cooperation between the two countries and explore new initiatives to further strengthen bilateral engagements. They will also exchange views on regional and global issues of shared interest," the defence ministry in a statement. Marles visited Goa Shipyard Ltd in Goa. "India and Australia share a comprehensive strategic partnership since June 2020 and defence is a key pillar of this partnership. The partnership is based on a shared vision of free, open, inclusive and prosperous Indo-Pacific region," the defence ministry said. "The two democracies have a common interest in peace and prosperity of the entire region," it said in a

statement. The deputy prime minister also participated in a Yoga session on the occasion of International Yoga Day. "An early morning start with some yoga, ahead of a busy couple of days here in India. Looking forward to a packed couple of days, meeting my counterparts and seeing firsthand our close partnership," he tweeted. In his response on Twitter, Singh said: "Glad to see the Deputy Prime Minister and the Defence Minister of Australia, @RichardMarlesMP doing Yoga on the #InternationalDayofYoga." "His participation in the Yoga Day programme makes these celebrations remarkable and special. Looking forward to meet him in New Delhi," Singh added. On Monday, Marles described India as one of Australia's "closest" security partners and said Canberra is keen to work closely with it on an open and inclusive Indo-Pacific. "The ties between India and Australia have been on an upswing in the last few years. In April, the two countries inked a trade pact to diversify bilateral trade. In June 2020, India and Australia elevated their ties to a comprehensive strategic partnership and signed a landmark deal for reciprocal access to military bases for logistics support. The Mutual Logistics Support Agreement (MLSA) allows the militaries of the two countries to use each other's bases for repair and replenishment of supplies, besides facilitating scaling up of overall defence cooperation. The Australian Navy was part of Malabar naval exercise hosted by India in November 2020 as well as last year.

ICICI Bank
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PUBLIC NOTICE - TENDER CUM AUCTION FOR SALE OF SECURED ASSET

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

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

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

Sr. No.	Name of the Borrower(s)/ Co-Borrowers/ Guarantors/ Loan Account No.	Details of the Secured asset(s) with known encumbrances, if any	Amount Outstanding	Reserve Price Earnest Money Deposit	Date and Time of Property Inspection	Date & Time of Auction
(A)	(B)	(C)	(D)	(E)	(F)	(G)
1.	Mudit Agarwal (Borrower), Varsha Agarwal, Bharti Agarwal (Co-Borrower) LBLUC00002367082	Flat No 1704, Floor- 17 Tower T1, Sunworld Arista Sector- 168, Noida, Noida 201301 Area 2100 Sq Ft	Rs. 1,57,17,635.54/- as on June 16, 2022	Rs. 68,00,000/-	July 2, 2022 From 11AM to 1:00 PM	July 14, 2022 From 11:00 AM Onwards
2.	Amit Kumar Agarwal (Borrower), Bharti Agarwal (Co-Borrower) LBLUC00002367083	1703 17th Floor, Tower -1 Sunworld Arista, Sector- 168, Noida, Noida 201301 Area- 2100 Sq. Ft.	Rs. 1,57,51,160.4/- as on June 16, 2022	Rs. 68,00,000/-	July 2, 2022 From 11AM to 1:00 PM	July 14, 2022 From 11:00 AM Onwards
3.	Esha Laxman (Borrower), Divay Mehta (Guarantor) LBDEL00002430981	Flat No 504, 5th Floor Tower 1 Plot No Gh 01/C, Sunworld Arista Sec 168, Noida, Gautam Buddha Nagar 201301. Area 2100 Sq Ft	Rs. 1,50,00,938/- as on June 16, 2022	Rs. 65,00,000/-	July 2, 2022 From 11AM to 1:00 PM	July 14, 2022 From 11:00 AM Onwards
4.	Nishant Daimia (Borrower), Vasudha Daimia (Guarantor) LBGHZ00002422226	Flat No 1606, 16th Floor Tower T6 Plot No Gh 01/C, Sunworld Arista Sector 168, Noida, Gautam Buddha Nagar 201301 Area 2100 Sq Ft.	Rs. 1,56,39,803.73/- as on June 16, 2022	Rs. 72,00,000/-	July 2, 2022 From 11AM to 1:00 PM	July 14, 2022 From 11:00 AM Onwards

The online auction will be conducted on website [URL Link- <https://disposalhub.com>] of our auction agency M/s NexGen Solutions Private Limited. The Mortgages/ notices are given a last chance to pay the total dues with further interest till July 13, 2022 before 05:00 PM else these secured assets will be sold as per above schedule. The Prospective Bidder(s) must submit the Earnest Money Deposit (EMD) Demand Draft (DD) (Refer Column E) at ICICI Bank Limited, 3rd Floor Shal Tower, New Rohtak Road, Karol bagh, Delhi-110005 and thereafter they need to submit their offer through the above mentioned website only on or before July 13, 2022 before 05:00 PM along with scan image of Bank acknowledged DD towards proof of payment of EMD. Kindly note, in case prospective bidder(s) are unable to submit their offer through the website then signed copy of tender documents may be submitted at ICICI Bank Limited, 3rd Floor Shal Tower, New Rohtak Road, Karol bagh, Delhi-110005 on or before July 13, 2022 before 05:00 PM. Earnest Money Deposit DD/PO should be from a Nationalised/ Scheduled Bank in favour of "ICICI Bank Limited" payable at Delhi.

For any further clarifications with regards to inspection, terms and conditions of the auction or submission of tenders, kindly contact ICICI Bank Limited on 8126013708 or M/s NexGen Solutions Private Limited on 9710029933/9810029926/01244233933

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

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

Date: June 22, 2022
Place: Delhi/ NCR
Authorized Officer
ICICI Bank Limited

'Women more susceptible to long Covid than men'

PNS ■ NEW DELHI
Women are "significantly" more likely to suffer from long Covid than males and will experience substantially different symptoms, finds a study, underscoring a critical need for sex-disaggregated research. Long Covid is a syndrome in which complications persist more than four weeks after the initial infection of Covid-19, sometimes for many months. Researchers from the Johnson & Johnson Office of the Chief Medical Officer Health of Women Team, who

carried out the analysis of data from around 1.3 million patients, observed females with long Covid are presenting with a variety of symptoms including ear, nose, and throat issues; mood disorders, neurological, skin, gastrointestinal and rheumatological disorders; as well as fatigue. Male patients, however, were more likely to experience endocrine disorders such as diabetes and kidney disorders. The odds of females developing long Covid syndrome is 22 per cent higher than males, the researchers noted in the journal

Current Medical Research and Opinion. "Knowledge about fundamental sex differences underpinning clinical manifestations, disease progression, and health outcomes of Covid-19 is crucial for the identification and rational design of effective therapies and public health interventions that are inclusive of and sensitive to the potential differential treatment needs of both sexes," the researchers explained. "Differences in immune system function between females and males could be an important driver of sex differences in long Covid syndrome."

SRM doctors successfully perform major liver surgery at minimal cost

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ CHENNAI
A team of doctors from super speciality hospital, SRM Medical College Hospital and Research Center (SRM MCH&RC), Kattankulathur here has successfully performed a major surgery of the liver at a very nominal cost. According to a statement here, 47-year-old Lakshmi (name changed), came to the hospital with complaints of discomfort in her upper abdomen. Following investigations, the doctors found that the patient had developed a tumor (15x15 cm) on the left lobe of her liver. After confirming that it was the primary cancerous growth coming from the Liver (Hepatoma), a multi-discipli-

nary team including a general surgeon, surgical gastroenterologist, and medical oncologist evaluated the patient and decided to go ahead with resection (removal) of left lobe of liver as a means of initial treatment for the patient. Major surgeries like liver resection are offered only in specialized centres and the charges levied will be enormous. SRM MCH&RC, whose mission is to offer quality medical care at a very nominal rate, took up this challenge, said the statement. The team led by Dr. Balamurugan, Dr. Athira, Dr. Sivamareswaran, Dr. Mallikarjun, Dr. Padma,

Dr. Elakkiya, Dr. Jayadharshini, Surgical Gastroenterology head Dr. A. Ratnasamy and Anaesthesiologist Dr. Mirmalini, Dr. Sujina, Dr. K. Karthik operated on Lakshmi, said the statement. After a two-hour-long surgery, the doctors removed the left lobe of the liver (left hepatectomy). The patient required only one unit of blood transfusion during the surgery and was put on oral feeds the very next day. Lakshmi was later put in the post-operative ward and later discharged within a week. Dr. Balamurugan said that such major surgeries can be done safely in SRM MCH&RC and entire procedure was covered under CM Insurance Scheme, without much financial burden to patient or her family.

