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PM: Har Ghar Tiranga success shows spirit of national unity

'Power of tricolour was seen in Ukraine during evacuation of foreigners as well'

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Saturday hailed the "power of the tricolour" and said it was seen in Ukraine some time ago when the Tiranga became a protective shield not only for Indians, but also for people of other countries in escaping to safer regions.

The Prime Minister was addressing the Commonwealth Games (CWG) 2022 medal winners at his residence on a day the countrywide Har Ghar Tiranga campaign kicked off.

Modi also launched the campaign's anthem on Twitter saying the kind of enthusiasm seen among people towards the Har Ghar Tiranga drive is a symbol of the unwavering spirit of unity and integrity of the nation.

The PM urged citizens of the country to share a photo with the Tiranga on the official website of Har Ghar Tiranga to mark the upcoming Independence Day celebrations. "Overjoyed and proud of the amazing response to the #HarGharTiranga movement. We are seeing record participation from people across different walks of life. This is a great way to mark Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav. Do also share

your photo with the Tiranga on <https://harghartiranga.com>," he tweeted.

Individuals to large groups of men, women or children organised their ways to celebrate and cheer the Tiranga which found itself fluttering on tall commercial buildings, busy markets, traffic-jammed road signals, innocuous huts, boats, snowy mountains, islands, forest areas, and millions of homes. Even the homeless were seen holding or pitching the tricolour around their humble make-shift beds.

The Prime Minister said it is needless to say that entire nation has come together to make the campaign a success.

Congratulating the CWG award winners and expressing happiness over champions emerging from the "Khelo India" stage, Modi said, "Due to the splendid hard work of the sportspersons, the country is entering into the 'Azadi Ka Amrit kaal' with an inspiring achievement."

The Prime Minister said the athletes inspire the youth of the country to do better not only in sports but also in other sectors. "You weave the country in unity of thought and goal that was also one of the great strengths of our freedom struggle."



Prime Minister Narendra Modi with wrestlers Sakshi Malik and Vinesh Phogat during the felicitation ceremony of the Indian contingent for the Commonwealth Games 2022, in New Delhi on Saturday

PTI

BJP leaders, including Union Ministers, participated in the Har Ghar Tiranga campaign on Saturday across the country as the three-day exercise began to mark India's 75th year of independence.

Home Minister Amit Shah and BJP national president J P Nadda along with their wives hoisted the tricolour at their Delhi resi-

dences and urged the people to "make the campaign a success."

"The country is celebrating Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav. Under PM Modi, the whole country has taken an oath to hoist tricolour under Har Ghar Tiranga programme. I request everyone to make Har Ghar Tiranga successful," Nadda said.

Guj ex-Dy CM Nitin Patel suffers fracture after cow rams into Tiranga Yatra

Former Gujarat Deputy Chief Minister Nitin Patel suffered a minor fracture in his left leg after a galloping cow rammed into the "Tiranga Yatra" being led by him in the Kadi town of Mehsana district of the State.

HM chief's son among 4 loses J&K Govt job

All 4 staffers were involved in anti-India activities

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ JAMMU

Cracking its whip, the Union Territory administration on Saturday sacked four employees for their involvement in anti-national activities. Son of Syed Salahuddin, the self-styled chief of banned terror group Hizbul Mujahideen, and the wife of Bitta Karata, involved in fatal attack on minority community members also figured in the list of four employees.

All the four have been dismissed under Article 311 of the Constitution which enables the Government to sack its employees without any inquiry.

Syed Abdul Mueed, posted as Manager (Information and Technology) at the Commerce and Industries Department, is the third son of the Hizbul Mujahideen chief to have been sacked from the Government job. Syed Ahmed Shakeel and Shahid Yusuf were dismissed from service last year.

According to the officials, Mueed has allegedly been found having a role in three terror attacks on the Jammu & Kashmir Entrepreneurship Development Institute (JKEDI) complex at Sempora in

Pampore and his presence in the institution has led to increased sympathy with the secessionist forces.

Assabah-ul-Arjamand Khan, the wife of Farooq Ahmed Dar, alias 'Bitta Karate', and a 2011-batch Jammu & Kashmir Administrative Service officer (JKAS), is alleged to have been found involved in providing false information for seeking a passport.

She is alleged to "have links with foreign people who have been indexed by the Indian security and intelligence to be on the payrolls of the ISI". Also her involvement in ferrying consignment of money for funding anti-India activities in Jammu & Kashmir has been reported, the officials said.

Also sacked from the Government service is Dr Muheet Ahmad Bhat, posted as a scientist in the Postgraduate Department of Computer Science in Kashmir university. He is alleged to have been found involved in propagating secessionist-terrorist agenda in the university by radicalising students for advancing the programme and agenda of Pakistan and its proxies.

Majid Hussain Qadri, a senior Assistant Professor in Kashmir University, is alleged to have a long association with terror organisations, including the banned Lashker-e-Tayyeba. He had earlier been booked under the stringent Public Safety Act and figures in a number of FIRs related to various terror cases.

IAS topper Faesal back in service after abortive bid in J&K politics

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The first Indian Administrative Service exam topper from Jammu & Kashmir Shah Faesal is back into active service after a brief stint in politics. Officials on Saturday said IAS officer Faesal has been posted as a Deputy Secretary in the Union Tourism Ministry over three months after being reinstated.

He was reinstated in the last week of April after the Government accepted his application for withdrawing his resignation.

The order on the posting of 2010-batch IAS officer from erstwhile Jammu & Kashmir cadre was cleared earlier this week. Faesal could not be reached for a comment through calls or messages. He had earlier this year dropped hints about his return to the Government service when he sent out a series of tweets speaking about his idealism letting him down in 2019 when he had resigned.

He had said, "8 months of my life (Jan 2019-Aug 2019) created so much baggage that I was almost finished. While chasing a chimera, I lost almost everything that I had built over the years."

Heavy rains in State for 2 more days predicted

Floods, mudslides likely
Red Warning issued by IMD

PNS ■ BHUBANESWAR

The India Meteorological Department (IMD) Regional Office here on Saturday issued a Red Warning for heavy rainfall in different parts of the State for the next two days.

As per the IMD, a low pressure area has formed over the north Bay of Bengal on Saturday. It is very likely to move west-northwestwards, become well marked during the next 12 hours and concentrate into



a depression during the subsequent 24 hours.

The IMD said already some parts of coastal Odisha are experiencing rainfall activities and it would intensify in the interior parts of the State on Sunday. Heavy rainfall is also likely in central districts.

"Usually, the low pressure and depression formed during monsoon trigger rainfall activities. The fresh system may trigger flood-like situations in low-lying areas and landslides or mudslides in hilly areas. The officials need to remain alert as there is possibility of urban

flooding under the influence of the system," said IMD DG Mohapatra.

The weather office said scattered heavy to very heavy rainfall with isolated extremely heavy falls very likely to occur in the districts of Puri, Cuttack, Jagatsinghpur, Kendrapada, Dhenkanal, Jajpur and Bhadrak on Sunday.

Heavy to very heavy rainfall with isolated extremely heavy falls is very likely to occur in the districts of Khordha, Nayagarh, Gajapati, Ganjam, Baleswar, Mayurbhanj, Keonjhar, Angul, Sambalpur, Subarnapur, Bargarh, Boudh,

Kalahandi, Kandhamal and Rayagada.

On Monday, scattered heavy to very heavy rainfall with isolated extremely heavy falls is very likely to occur in the districts of Nuapada, Balangir, Kalahandi, Subarnapur, Boudh, Bargarh, Angul, Sambalpur, Jharsuguda and Deogarh.

Besides, heavy to very heavy rainfall is very likely to occur at one or two places in the districts of Sundargarh, Keonjhar, Dhenkanal, Jajpur, Cuttack, Nayagarh, Kandhamal, Rayagada, Nabarangpur, Koraput and Malkangiri.

Minor floods likely in Mahanadi 34 Hirakud gates opened

PNS ■ BHUBANESWAR

A minor flood is likely in the Mahanadi provided heavy rains continue in the upper catchment areas in Chhattisgarh and downstream in Odisha, said Water Resources Engineer-in-Chief Bijay Kumar Mishra on Saturday.

Mishra said that around 6 lakh cusecs of floodwaters were expected to pass through the Mundali barrage at around 8 am of Sunday.

"At present, excess water is being released through 34 gates of the Hirakud Dam. We are expecting 6 lakh cusecs of

water to pass through Mundali barrage tomorrow. The river Baitarani has breached the danger mark of 17.83 meters at Akhuapada at 11 am today. Though the water levels of major rivers are rising, they were below the danger marks as of today," said Mishra.

Though the Chhattisgarh Government wants opening of more Hirakud gates, the dam authorities have replied that they would act according to the ground situation.

The holidays of departmental officials and other staffs have been cancelled and they have been asked to monitor and supervise the situation at various points and river embankments in the coastal belt of the State, Mishra added.

Wanted Maoist nabbed in G'pati

PNS ■ PARALAKHEMUNDI

The Gajapati police have arrested a hardcore Maoist Prafulla Parichha (50) from his village Depapunka under the Adaba police station in the district.

Parichha was on the radar of police from 2008. He has seven cases pending against him on the charges of destroying public infrastructure, holding road blockades and attacks on security forces and other violent incidents. Police conducted a raid after getting information that the wanted Maoist had come to his village, said Adaba police station IIC said Anand Chandra Patra.

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Crores embezzled in Works Department

On guise of EOT, escalation, hiring of consultants

SAROJ MISHRA ■ BHUBANESWAR

Thousands of crores of rupees of public funds is being embezzled in the Odisha Works Department (ODW) through 'innovative' schemes called Extension of Time (EOT), escalation and deviation, appointment of consultants under the guise of third-party inspection.

The department carrying out works in open tender. Before open tender of any work, the estimate is done, technical aspects are carried out, then the financial part is looked into. But at present, the implementing agency or the L1 qualifier is paid 14.99% less than the tender cost. So it is no surprise that the agency is compromising on the quality of work and time schedule. Some executing agencies alleged that they have to pay kickbacks (percentage commission) to the supervising officials and the local politicians in the area where the

work is being executed. If the executing agency has to pay 40% of the tender cost as PC, then the quality of work naturally suffers. Through the supervising engineers, some agency under different pretexts like forest clearance, land acquisition and shifting of electric poles are delaying the project, to approach the higher authorities to change the estimate and design and change the construction materials, and seek Extension of Time (EOT), escalation and deviation to make high profits. There are above 50 OWD divisions in the State and in

which more nearly Rs 300 to Rs 400 crore is allocated as per plan, non-plan and department's emergency budget. The consultants are exploiting the department's weakness and carrying out rampant irregularities in a nexus with the senior officials without open tender. The officials are cleverly forming committees and siphoning of crores of rupees with the help of consulting agencies. One of the main reasons behind the chaos in the department are some unscrupulous officials, who have been posted

in the Establishment Section for years. An example is the Special Secretary Establishment Work Department. He was earlier the Land Officer in the department. It is alleged that he is in a nexus with some engineers and is calling the shots in the department. While posting the engineers, he is placing his favourites in lucrative positions for his own vested interest. But this has not come to the notice of the Secretary. Besides, Executive Engineer posts are lying vacant in as many as 10 divisions, but no attention is paid to fill up the vacancies.

PMAY irregularities Publish White Paper: Cong to State Govt

PNS ■ BHUBANESWAR

The biggest causality in the fight between the Centre and Odisha over the Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojna (PMAY) are the poor people of the State, said the Congress on Friday. According to the information provided by the State Panchyati Raj Minister in the State Assembly, more than 12,25,725 people are in the waiting list for PMAY houses. But this number would be more than 20 lakh. The Odisha Government has demanded the Centre to give 8 lakh PMAY

houses. But the Centre is yet to allocate that, said Congress State spokesperson Sundarshan Das. For the last two years Awaas Plus portal has been defunct. The Centre is alleging that there have been massive irregularities in the PMAY scheme implementation in Odisha. Bills have been submitted without construction of houses. The rich have managed to get houses while the poor have been deprived. This has led to many questions among people in the State. The Congress demands a White Paper to be published on this, he said.

The Union Rural Development Minister said until the Odisha Chief Minister provides a written assurance that the scheme would be implemented transparently, the Centre would not provide money for the 8 lakh house, Das said. In the faceoff between the Centre and State Government, more than 20 lakh families in Odisha are spending a life of great misery, without a pucca roof over their heads. The incessant rains have added to their woes, Das further said. Among others, party's chief spokesperson Manoranjan Das was

Sri Sri Univ, Washington SU ink pact

For students, faculty exchange

PNS ■ CUTTACK

The Sri Sri University, Cuttack, has partnered with the Washington State University, USA, by signing a MoU on August 12. Conducted virtually in the presence of the leadership teams of both the universities, the event's main focus was to find sustainable solutions for the challenges of the world through collaborative research in the areas of agriculture and organic farming, etc. The partnership would also open an avenue for both the institutions to organise students and faculty exchange

programmes. This would be a trailblazer for the Sri Sri University to manifest the internationalisation of education which is the mandate of the National Education Policy, 2020. The august gathering during the programme includes Prof Rajita Kulkarni, president, Sri Sri University, Prof BR Sharma, VC, Dr Paul Whitney, associate vice-president for international programmes, Washington State University, Dr Sung Ahn, Associate Dean at the Carson College of Business, among others. Gurudev Sri Sri Ravi Shankar ji blessed all on the occasion and mentioned that such collaborations and exchange of knowledge are the need of the virtual world today.

Drug worth lakhs seized from Police Mitra's house

Man's elder brother arrested

PNS ■ BHUBANESWAR

Excise officials on Saturday seized brown sugar worth lakhs of rupees from the residence of a Police Mitra at the Kedarpali slum in the capital city and also arrested a person in this connection. The accused was identified as Tuna Nayak, the elder brother of the Police Mitra. Acting on a tipoff, regarding the peddling of brown sugar, the officials conducted

a raid at the slum and recovered the contraband packed in over 1,000 small packets each costing around Rs 500 and seized it. The Excise also arrested the person who was found in possession of the contraband. Ironically, the contraband was seized from the house of a police mitra volunteer, who was chosen to help the administration to keep the slums free from crime and drugs. He has been detained for questioning, though he said he had no idea about the contraband was stored in his house.

3 more Odisha wetlands get Ramsar tag



PNS ■ BHUBANESWAR

Three more wetlands in Odisha have received Ramsar recognition as wetlands of international importance. These are Tampara Lake in Ganjam district, Hirakud Reservoir in Sambalpur district and Ansupa Lake in Cuttack district. They are among 11 more Indian wetlands designated as Ramsar sites. Union Minister for Environment, Forest & Climate Change Bhupender Yadav in-

formed this in a tweet on Saturday. Recently, the Centre had added 10 more wetlands including the Satkosia Gorge in Odisha as Ramsar sites. With inclusion of 11 more wetlands, the tally of Ramsar sites has risen to 75 so far. A Ramsar site is a wetland of international importance under the Ramsar Convention, an environmental treaty established by the UNESCO in 1971, named after the city of Ramsar in Iran.

NITR Convocation 'Imparting edu in local languages will foster growth'



AUROBINDA DAS ■ ROURKELA

Addressing the 19th Convocation of National Institute of Technology, Rourkela (NITR) on Saturday, Union Minister of Education and Skill Development and Entrepreneurship Dharmendra Pradhan as chief guest stressed on the usage of mother tongue when it comes to education. Language is a primary challenge of our education system he added. Citing the example of Germany, Japan and China,

he said they have adopted their mother tongues in their education system. Though they have control over English but they usually do their researches in their mother tongue, he said. He further said primary principle of the New Education Policy (NEP)-2020 is to decolonize our mindset. He thanked the Prime Minister for conceptualizing the NEP. He further said in 1947 only 20% people of India were literate and about 25 crore of people were illiterate. But af-

ter 75 years of independence, now the literacy percentage is 80 but still 27 crore of people are illiterate. "So far as illiteracy is concerned, we cannot achieve the five trillion economy and we cannot be a super power. It will be only possible if education is imparted in local language or mother tongue. That is why the Prime Minister has rightly said all the languages are our national language," said Pradhan. Sundargarh MP Jual Oram, Rourkela MLA Sarada Prasad

Nayak, NITR Director and Chairman, Board of Governors, Prof K Umamaheswar Rao and Registrar Prof Rohan Dhiman also spoke. Six gold medals, five endowment gold medals, five endowment awards, 70 branch topper medals and one endowment cash award were given to students. A total of 11 alumni were conferred with Distinguished Alumnus Award-2021. Total 1,555 students including 859 UG, 608 PG, and 88 PhDs were awarded their degrees.

Gangadhar Meher birth anniv celebrated

PNS ■ BHUBANESWAR

The 161st birth anniversary of poet Gangadhar Meher was celebrated here on Friday by the Utkal Sammilani central committee by paying floral tributes to his statue at Gangadhar Meher Marg near Kalinga Hospital Square. Later, Sammilani president Basant Kumar Tripathy presided over a memorial meeting at Nuagaon on the city outskirts to pay tributes to the legendary poet. General secretary Radhanath Praharaj coordinated the meeting.



In another function on the day, the Gangadhar Meher Jayanti Committee, the Utkal Sammilani and the Bhubaneswar Bhulia Samaj paid floral tributes to the poet's statue near the Kalinga Hospital Square. On the occasion, Jayanti Committee advisor Narendra

Kumar Mishra and chairman Sanjeeb Hota, Corporator Achyuta Swain paid their tributes. Utkal Sammilani Mancheswar branch president Dillip Dashsharma presided over the meet. Among others, Udit Pratap Dehury, Seshadeba Meher, Madhumadhab Jena,

Surendra Mishra, Sital Mohanty, Gobinda Subudhi, Sidharth Shankar Gadanayak, Basanti Tripathy, Dushmant Meher, Samir Meher, Umakanta Khatua, Sanjeeb Meher, Akshay Sehthi and Samaranjan Mohanty were present.

State logs 403 new Covid cases

PNS ■ BHUBANESWAR

The State on Saturday witnessed a decline in Covid-19 cases with 403 people infected in 28 districts and the State pool. With this, the total tally increased to 13,22,183. Among the newly-infected were 48 children in the age group of 0 to 18 years. Notably, the State had reported 583 Covid cases on Friday. Out of new cases, 237 were from quarantine and 166 local contacts. Khordha district reported the maximum 81 new cases followed by Sundargarh with 66, Sambalpur, 36, Balangir 22, Mayurbhanj and

Kalahandi 19 each, Nabarangpur and Nuapada 17 each, Cuttack 16, Nayagarh 15, Subarnapur 14 and Bargarh 13. The districts which recorded below 10 cases were: Koraput nine, Baleswar, seven, Boudh and Gajapati six each, Jajpur five, Rayagada and Kandhamal four each, Puri, Jagatsinghpur, Deogarh and Jharsuguda two each and Angul, Bhadrak, Dhenkanal, Ganjam and Malkangiri one each. Besides, 14 cases were reported from the State pool. The number of active cases came down to 3,966. So far 13, 09,010 persons have recovered from the disease in the State.

BJP begins Har Ghar Tiranga drive



PNS ■ BHUBANESWAR

The 'Har Ghar Tiranga' campaign being held in the country to mark the 75th year of India's Independence got off to a start at the BJP State headquarters here on Saturday in which the party leaders hoisted the Tricolour. The party leaders, including president Samir Mohanty,

hoisted the National Flag at their homes. Later, mediapersons were provided with National Flags. Among others, party general secretaries Manas Mohanty, Prithviraj Harichandan, Golak Mohapatra, Lekhashri Samatsinghar, Surama Padhi, Ranjan Patel, Branchi Tripathy, Jatin Mohanty were present.

Organ Donation Day 'A person's organ donation saves 8 lives'

PNS ■ BHUBANESWAR

The Kalinga Institute of Medical Sciences (KIMS) has started audit of brain-dead patients who can be a potential organ donor on a monthly basis. On July 13, a KIIT constituent had helped in harvesting two kidneys from a brain-dead paediatric patient which were later successfully transplanted in two patients at a private hospital and both the recipients are doing well. On July 31, there was also a corneal harvest done at the

KIMS. The KIMS' success of harvesting two kidneys from the paediatric patient, for which the parents played a major role in giving consent, was perhaps the biggest one for the KIMS team. But the team members still feel the society is yet to mature to pledge organ donation. The awareness has not yet come to a level for harvesting more organs and help needy patients enduring endless wait. Speaking on the World Organ Donation Day (August 13), Associate Professor of



Nephrology Dr Nikunj Kishore Rout said, "By organ donation in one go, a person

could save at least eight lives, i.e., with two kidneys, two parts of liver, one heart, two lungs and one pancreas. If we consider tissues like cornea, skin and other parts, the list would be more. But we need to have family members like the parents of this paediatric patient, who came forward to donate despite the grief." He called for a change of mindset of the people close to the brain-dead patients to come forward for organ donation. If more and more in Odisha could get consent from

next to kin and the administrative authorities to harvest organs from the road accident victims, who become brain-dead in many cases, then there could be a major turnaround in the transplant programmes. As per record, Odisha saw 5,081 deaths last year due to road accidents, he said. However, the nephrologist said there are logistic and legal hurdles in medico legal cases (MLCs) arising from the accident victims. The administrative and legal issues can be solved when the Government

and private organisation along with some NGOs working in these fields sense the urgency and join hands to save many lives. "We need to activate a campaign for people to pledge for organ donations. However, once the pledged person becomes brain-dead, it's the family, which has to take a call," Dr Rout explained. Turning the page of history of organ donation, the first-ever successful living donor transplant took place in the world, way back in 1954 in the USA.

Manpower crunch hits Chhatrapur hosp services

8 doctors in place of 22; 13 nurses in places of 32

SABAR TARAI ■ CHHATRAPUR

The State Government boasts of 5T and its improved healthcare system. But the ground reality shows a different picture. A burning example is the Sub-Divisional Hospital at Chhatrapur. The

hospital has only eight doctors in place of 22 and 13 nurses in place of 32.

There has been a long demand to convert the hospital into a District Headquarters Hospital. A lot of money is being spent on the infrastructure and hospital area cleaning. The hospital has also got recognition by the State and Centre for its cleanliness but its service to patients is sub-standard due to lack of doctors and nurses.

People can only get primary treatment here and most of the time they are referred to the MKCG Medical College and Hospital, Brahmapur, for treatment. Doctor posts of major departments like medicine, surgery and anesthesia are vacant here. There are surgery instruments in the hospital but no doctors for any surgery of patients makes the valuable instruments useless.

The NH-16 has passed through this town and most

of the time victims of major accidents on the NH are rushed to the hospital. But it is deplorable to find that the hospital does not have a 'Mahaprayana' vehicle meant to carry the bodies. People take their near and dear ones in private vehicles. There is no quarter facility for the doctors so that they can stay here 24 hours. The special cabins constructed are already in damaged condition and one ultra sound machine is lying unused.

In Nabarangpur

Boy ends life after denied to use cell phone

PNS ■ NABARANGPUR

In yet another incident of the smartphone addiction among children, a minor boy committed suicide after being denied to use mobile phone at Bharsundi village under the Raighar police station in Nabarangpur district on Saturday.

The 14-year-old boy had recently brought a new mobile phone from their own mobile phone shop in Raighar without the knowledge of his father.

When the boy was playing games on the new mobile phone at their house, his mother asked about the new cell phone and warned him that his father would get angry over it.

Later, the boy was found hanging in the bathroom. The family members rescued the victim with the help of locals and rushed him to a hospital in Raighar where the doctor declared him brought dead.

Getting information the, Raighar police reached the spot and initiated a probe into the matter.

Drug seized; 1 held in K'pada

PNS ■ KENDRAPADA

The Marshaghai police on Thursday arrested a drugs peddler near Canal bridge on Paradip-Daitary Express way and seized about 70 gram of brown sugar and a bike used for transporting the consignment from his possession.

The arrestee was identified as Ramesh Chandra Jena (32) of Tundura under Khandapada police limits. Marshaghai police station IIC Pradipta Kumar

Kanungo said acting on a tip-off from reliable sources, police conducted a raid at Paradip-Daitary Express way and nabbed Jena, besides seizing 70 gram of brown sugar from him in presence of Additional Tehsildar-cum-Executive Magistrate Pravat Biswal.

Jena was later booked under Section 21(b) NDPS Act and was produced before a local court where he was remanded in jail custody after his bail plea was rejected.

1K fruit trees planted on Koel riverbed



By NGO

Gyanalok

PNS ■ SUNDARGRH

NGO Gyanalok organised a mega fruit plantation programme recently on the riverbed of Koel.

The river bed of Koel from Mitkundri village to Karkatta was getting affected by soil erosion. Gyanalok made a lot of efforts to save the river bed and planted 1,000 different types of fruit trees. The plantation drive started on July 31.

Rourkela Nalini Prava Mohanty was the chief guest on the occasion, while Sarpanch Sumita Oram, Samiti Member Draupati Mundari, social worker Sanjeev Mohanty, Director, Urban Cooperative Bank Rabintra Narayan Panda, lawyer Raj Kishore Pradhan, Rajesh Kumar Rajuka, Ashok Mundari, Ajit Kumar Das, Manoranjan Kandulana, Batakrushna Swain, activist, Manoj Kumar Tirkey and Ward Member Rabi Das Kamal were present.

Odisha FC unveils 3 jerseys ahead of ISL

PNS ■ BHUBANESWAR

The Odisha FC has unveiled three sets of jerseys for its players ahead of the upcoming ISL season.

The players of the team will wear black and purple coloured jersey for its domestic matches. The second jersey is inspired by the Olive Ridley turtle and the third one is based on the sculptures found in various places of the capital city.

The jerseys were unveiled at an event at the KIIT University recently. Odisha FC president Raj Athwal, head coach Josep Gombau, general manager Avik Chatterjee, KIIT sports department general manager Gaganendu Dash, guests and sponsors of



the team were present.

Athwal outlined the future programmes of the team. Announcing about women's team of Odisha FC, Gombau

said, "A team without fans is not a team."

The players of Odisha FC are now undergoing training in Bhubaneswar and the

team is scheduled participate in the ISL in October. The team will begin its campaign by playing in the Durand Cup.

CUO holds cyber security, digital economy talks

PNS ■ KORAPUT

A special lecture on "Cyber Security and Digital Economy its Implications" was organised by the Department of Economics, Central University of Odisha (CUO) on August 10.

DIG (South Western Range) Pandit Rajesh Uttamrao was the distinguished speaker for the programme. Vice Chancellor

I/c of the university Prof Sarat Kumar Palita inaugurated the programme and delivered the inaugural address.

He briefed about the importance of cyber security in the present digital world. Dr Minati Sahoo, HoD, Department of Economics, gave the welcome address. Prof Asit Kumar Das, Registrar, CUO talked about cyber security challenges in a growing

economy.

Uttamrao spoke how people are victimised by cyber frauds by giving live examples of cyber victims in his lecture. He talked about various cyber-crime methods, suggested various measures on how one can prevent becoming a victim of fraud and cautioned everyone about the risk of using Public Wi-Fi. He concluded with applicable

sections of IT Act and IPC on cyber-crimes.

The concluding remark was given by Prof Sunil Kanta Behera, Visiting Professor of Journalism and Mass Communication. He spoke about the dependency of nations on economic opportunity and the growth of nations in the digital world, as the world community is increasingly connected in cyberspace.

B'garh Sarpanch discusses school problems

PNS ■ BARGARH

Gaisilet Block's Katabahal GP Sarpanch Arpita Panda has always been in the limelight for her action. Recently, she visited the primary school of Kuliari village, accompanied by her associate ward members Rita Mallik and Minketan Bhainsal and discussed about the various problems in the school. She took note of the



dilapidated rooms in the school, besides inspecting the mid-day meal being served

there. It was known that 91 students from class 1 to VIII were studying in the school

while five teachers were posted. Students of multiple classes were studying in one classroom. There were no separate toilets for the boys and girls. She felt that there was an urgent need for two more classrooms and a toilet in the school. Sarpanch Panda assured to solve the problems of the school, besides an Anganwadi Center operating from there, after taking the matter with the BDO.

Narrative style in McCarthy's novel "The Road"

The contemporary fiction writers are invading the literary domain through their genre fiction and Cormac McCarthy's novels are no exceptions. He has employed his unique narrative technique with a view to re-conceptualise the world today and while computing our place in it.

The experimental narrative structures in his novels are to explore the post-modern new humanism, which culminates in his novel "The Road". There are the three inexplicable narrative elements that stand apart as glaring example of his style, discernible in much-talked about novel, "The Road". These distinguishing features are the characters, the description of horror and novel's spatial setting. McCarthy employs post modern narrative technique to send a chill down our spine. In amplifying the imperative need of keeping the lurking danger at bay beneath the sustainable safety and



DR SWAYAM PRABHA SATPATHY

security in the natural environment in this planet in the aftermath of an apocalypse, this novel is an example. The characters in his novels as in "The Road" stand as an exemplification of people who are devoid of their identities and sense of belongingness after a catastrophic diminution of the entire population, barring the solitary exception of a few survivors.

The narrative depiction of the devastated environment ensuring

gargantuan disasters that has obliterated the vast majority of human civilization is laid bare through his vivid pictorial presentation. These survivors are treated as literary archetypes of new humanism in a post-apocalyptic society leading a new primitive life beginning anew from the scratch.

The novel 'The Road' stands as a quintessential typical genre of McCarthy. The moral bleakness and the enveloping mood of despair together with a stylistic absence of revelation of characters thought, is a style consistent with him. The third person narrative style,

typical of his works often shifts into limited first person voice. The third person narration often changes into first person narration in order to reveal the characters perspective.

McCarthy's narrative world resorts to three main genres, namely, the western, post-apocalyptic and south gothic. In a typical post-apocalyptic world, the revelations of internal

ethical struggle of moral man like the father in 'The Road' simply illuminate his imperfect heroism. What makes McCarthy a notable writer is his unique style with less punctuation and graphic representation of horror and violence in his works. His minimum use of punctuation marks as he very often avoids it while using conjunctions as in place of comma is his typical style. This is probably employed by him in order to give space to rapid flow of thoughts. This method of using conjunctions instead of using punctuations is known as polysyndeton.

He uses simple and assertive sentences, and periods, capitals, and colons, but does not employ semicolons. He skips quotation marks separating the dialogues as he considers the punctuation straining the paper weird little marks. As there are no punctuation marks to set them apart, McCarthy's dialogues lack coherence, although they still

retain the sense of the dialogue. But his use of language and his choice of dictions are always literally overpowering.

He does not stick to conventional style and prefers directness and vivid delineation of his thoughts. He uses simple colloquial language instead of formal ones. He does not enslave himself to grammatical rules like punctuations and spellings. This is substantiated by the following lines lifted from 'The Road', "The blind dogs of the sun in their running. The crushing black vacuum of the universe.....borrowed time and borrowed world and borrowed eyes with which to sorrow it." In the above examples, the word 'running' is used as a noun and 'sorrow' as a verb. They accentuate the rapid flow of the text.

The theme of morality that McCarthy uses in 'The Road' has a softer edge. His quest for the concept of morality is unconventional as he goes beyond the usual charac-

ters like the poor, the homeless and dispossessed, the criminal and degenerate and the outcasts. He discovers deep humanism even among these hapless and hopeless, and most despicable characters in the society. He ascribes their conditions partly to contingency, bad luck or the operations of respectable society.

One of the prominent themes in 'The Road' is the struggle for survival. It is apparent in the ashen landscape, in the bands of marauding men, in the disagreement between father and son about whether to help fellow survivors. 'The Road' is an authentic document that offers us a bleak world that would be born, if conflict were allowed to escalate unchecked.

Against the backdrop of a bleak world, McCarthy sets the theme of tender filial love. The father and son are 'each other's world entire'. The man's desire to survive is for his son. The man is not afraid of his death; he yearns to like in order to

seek life for the boy. Unlike his wife, the man does not wish to save his son from cannibalism by killing him. He leaves the pistol with the boy. Another theme that 'The Road' accentuates is the theme of good versus evil. The boy seeking confirmation from his father that they are 'good guys', is the proof of it. The father assures him that the good guys are those who 'keep trying, they do not give up'. "The Road" is a land breaking fictional creation in the post-modern literary world that breaks and makes genres. Besides being an apocalyptic fiction, "The Road" is also cast by critics in the frameworks of horror and science fiction genres sometime.

(This is written by research scholar Sandipani Choudhury under the guidance of Dr Swayam Prabha Satpathy, Associate Professor, Department of English, SOA University)

INBRIEF

CM PRESENTS SURAJ AWARD TO 2 GANJAM ORGAN DONORS

Bhubaneswar: Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik on the World Organ Donation Day on Saturday presented Suraj Award to the



relatives of late Sushil Sahu and Siddhi Samruddhi of Ganjam district in virtual mode.

KIIT R&D AND INNOVATION DG FELICITATED

Bhubaneswar:

Dr Mrutyunjay Suar, Director General, Research & Development and Innovation, KIIT University, and CEO of KIIT-TBI, has been felicitated by the Department of Science and Technology (DST), Government of India, for his achievement in the field of innovation, incubation and entrepreneurship. He won the appreciation during the DST Startup Utsav on Friday in Delhi. KIIT and KISS founder Dr Achuyta Samanta congratulated Dr Suar for his success.



JEEVAN BINDU CAMP HELD IN BRAHMAPUR

Brahmapur: The Ganjam district Women's Biju Janata Dal and the Odisha Mo Parivar organised a Jeevan Bindu camp and observed the World Friendship Day at the Biju



Patnaik Sanskruti Bhawan here. The camp was initiated by Brahmapur Mayor Sanghamitra Dalai. Chief guest CM's OSD Dr Gopabandhu Das and guests of honour were Brahmapur MLA Bikram Panda, BJD district president Dr Ramesh Chandra Chaupatnaik. BJD district vice-president Sanjit Panigrahi, Jeevan Bindu coordinator Subash Moharana, Deputy Mayor E Vivek Reddy, Zilla Parishad President Aanjali Swain and Vice-president Rajeswari Dora, BJD leaders Bhismachariya Chaudhuri, Bhima Dalai and Durga Prasad Panda were present. Over 100 units of blood were collected by MKCG Medical College Hospital Blood Bank staffs.

ACIC HOLDS RAKSHA BANDHAN WITH JAIL INMATES

Talcher: The Anti Corruption Intelligence Committee (ACIC) held Raksha Bandhan Utsav with the inmates of Talcher Special Sub-Jail. Rakhis were tied on hands of the jail inmates and sweets



were distributed. On the occasion, youth leader and activist Bibhuti Sahu joined as chief guest, while Medical Officer of Talcher Sub-Divisional Hospital Dr Arabind Nandi, Notary Talcher Prabhatini Acharya, youth leader Rangadhar Nahak and Ashutosh Das were on the dais. ACIC Angul president Dhiramohan Ray welcomed the dignitaries. Scribe Bikash Kumar Sahoo, Ashit Kumar Sahoo and Debasish Parida coordinated.

1 DEAD, 1 CRITICAL IN ROAD ACCIDENT IN PALLAHARA

Pallahara: Two cousins, Happy Mahanta (22) Chandramani Mahanta (24), of village Badhamunda under the Pallahara PS met with a road accident on NH-149 on Saturday evening when they were coming towards Pallhara by a motorcycle. A truck hit them from behind. Happy was declared dead in hospital. Seriously-injured Chandramani was shifted to the Angul hospital.

ELEPHANT DAY OBSERVED IN BALANGIR

Balangir: The World Elephant Day was observed here on Friday. Balangir DFO Nitish Kumar referred to the steps



taken for protection of elephants and to reduce man-animal conflict. Honorary Wildlife Warden and The Pioneer Correspondent Sudhir Misha spoke about the threats faced by elephants because of developmental activities which damage the wildlife habitats. Other threats like poaching, electrocution and accidents are also matters of concern, he said. The speakers suggested for better monitoring of Eco Clubs, strengthening of VSS, protection of natural forests and more interactions of forest officials with people. DFO Kumar assured to look into the suggestions.

HAR GHAR TIRANGA CAMPAIGN KICKS OFF



Union Home Minister Amit Shah, along with his wife Sonal Shah, hoists the national flag at his residence as part of the 'Har Ghar Tiranga' campaign, in New Delhi on Saturday



Film actor Mohanlal hoists the national flag at his residence on the occasion of 'Har Ghar Tiranga' campaign, in Kochi on Saturday



ITBP hoists national flag at high altitude borders as part of 'Har Ghar Tiranga' campaign



Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman participates in a 'Tiranga Yatra' as part of 'Azadi ke Amrit Mahotsav' celebrations for 75 years of Independence, in Bengaluru, on Saturday

Congress likely to hold meet with Nitish, Tejashwi over Cabinet berth

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI/PATNA

One of the partners in the Mahagathabandhan Government in Bihar, the Congress is likely to hold meetings with JDU leader and Chief Minister Nitish Kumar and RJD leader and Deputy CM Tejashwi Yadav on Sunday over the party's share in the alliance new Council of Ministers.

Party's Bihar incharge Bhakta Charan Das said he has already spoken to party chief Sonia Gandhi and former president Rahul Gandhi on the issue.

He claimed that Congress is a big party and that many have joined it so the leadership expects a respectable presence



in the Bihar Cabinet.

Das' arm-flexing statement comes a day after a party MLA wrote to Sonia and Rahul that the grand old party should fight for a good number of Ministerial berths based on caste equations.

Das asserted that a "major exercise" for finalising ministerial berths has been completed and he has spoken to Nitish Kumar and would meet

him personally to share him the high command's thinking on the subject.

The AICC Bihar in-charge also announced that the Cabinet expansion and oath ceremony will be on Tuesday.

He, however, refused to divulge the number of ministerial berths the Congress would be getting and said it would be "respectable" and according to the party's strength in the House.

"It has been finalised. The numbers would be as per our strength in the House. We have not yet finalized the names. We are a big party and many have joined us. Keeping in mind everything, it (the number) will be respectable," he said.

Das had met Rashtriya Janata Dal (RJD) chief Lalu Prasad on Friday in the national Capital for the first time after the formation of the new government in Bihar and held discussions with him.

He had said Bihar Deputy Chief Minister Tejashwi Yadav also met Congress chief Sonia Gandhi on Friday and had a discussion with her on the cabinet expansion.

Earlier, Congress sources had indicated that the party was likely to get four ministerial berths in the new government in Bihar.

The cabinet, which at present comprises only Chief Minister Kumar and Yadav as his deputy, is due for expansion early next week.

Sonia again tests positive for Covid, to remain in isolation

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

Over two months after contracting the coronavirus infection, Congress president Sonia Gandhi on Saturday tested positive for Covid-19 again and will remain in isolation. Earlier this week, her daughter and Congress general secretary Priyanka Gandhi Vadra had also tested positive.

"Congress President Sonia Gandhi has tested positive for Covid-19 today. She will remain in isolation as per Govt. Protocol," Congress general secretary Jairam Ramesh said in a tweet Saturday.

Sonia Gandhi had tested positive for COVID-19 in early June as well. Days after she had

tested positive, the 75-year-old leader was admitted to Sir Ganga Ram Hospital here on June 12. She was discharged on June 20.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi and host of several leaders had wished for good health of the Congress chief when she caught Covid in June days before she was summoned by the ED to join a probe in National Herald matter.

"Congress President Sonia Gandhi has tested positive for Covid-19 today. We wish her speedy recovery and good health," the party said on its official Twitter handle.

Several leaders including Rajasthan Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot and Chhattisgarh Chief Minister



Bhupesh Baghel, wished Sonia Gandhi a speedy recovery.

Leader of Opposition in Rajya Sabha Mallikarjun Kharge said, "Concerned to hear that Smt Sonia Gandhi ji has tested positive for Covid. Wishing her a speedy recovery and good health."

Congress leaders Sachin

Pilot and Srinivas BV, among others, also wished her a speedy recovery.

Several Congress leaders have contracted Covid recently including Kharge, party general secretary Ajay Maken, communications department head Pawan Khara and party MP Abhishek Manu Singhvi.

DGCA issues directives to curb aircraft's collision with birds

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

The Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) on Friday issued a fresh set of directives for airport operators to check incidents of collision of planes with birds and other animals, in the wake of such incidents recently.

As per the circular, aerodrome operators are required to deploy a wide range of methods and techniques to minimize the collision between wildlife and aircraft which includes carrying out routine patrols in random patterns, informing pilots whenever there is any wildlife activity, regular surveillance to spot hazardous wildlife and to record and monitor wildlife/bird movement data. Regularly monitoring of buildings and other infrastructure for nests and roosts along with regular pruning to get rid of dense growth has been recommended. The DGCA has sought a report from aerodrome operators on a monthly basis.

The circular Titled, "management of potential wildlife hazards at licensed aerodromes"; "The activity of birds and animals in and around an aerodrome is a potential source



of hazard to safe operation of aircraft... possibility of collision between an aircraft and birds/animals. Wildlife strikes pose a significant threat to flight safety and have caused a number of accidents and incidents in India."

There have been various incidents of bird hits during the last few weeks. On August 4, Go First's flight to Chandigarh returned to Ahmedabad on Thursday after suffering a bird hit. On June 19, an engine on a SpiceJet Delhi-bound aircraft carrying 185 passengers caught fire soon after it took off from the Patna airport and the plane made an emergency landing minutes later. The engine malfunctioned because of a bird hit.

Aircraft Rules prohibit dumping of garbage and slaughter of animals that may attract wildlife within 10 km of an airport. "At aerodrome, the main

objective is to bring about a change in wildlife behaviour so that they do not enter the critical safety zones where the aircraft operates.... habitat management is probably the most important method of preventing or reducing wildlife strikes on and around an aerodrome. Modifications to the aerodrome's habitat / environment to eliminate or exclude food, water and shelter can limit the attractiveness of birds and other wildlife at aerodrome," it said.

The airports must have a procedure to monitor and record wildlife movement data, it said. The airports should also have a procedure to notify pilots "in response to any significant wildlife concentration or activity both on and in the vicinity of the airport", it mentioned. Routine patrolling is the core of the wildlife hazard management programme, it said.

IMD, Japan, UNDP to roll out initiative to accelerate climate action in 10 States

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

India Meteorological Department (IMD), the Government of Japan, and United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) announced a new initiative to accelerate climate action in 10 States and Union Territories across the country.

To be rolled out in partnership with the IMD at the Ministry of Earth Sciences and the Ministry of New and Renewable Energy (MNRE), the initiative will support Nationally Determined Contribution (NDCs) to achieve net-zero emissions and ensure climate-resilient development.

The launch comes within a week of the Cabinet approval of India's updated Nationally Determined Contribution (NDCs) to be communicated to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change.

Under the initiative, UNDP will work with IMD to promote climate resilience and MNRE to promote climate mitigation by deploying clean energy infrastructure and low-emission technologies in key sectors including Transport, Health, Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs), and Agriculture.

CBI arrests Girdawar of Miran Sahib in Jammu for taking bribe, recovers ₹2L cash

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) on Saturday said it has arrested a Girdawar (Revenue Department Official equivalent to Kanungo) of Miran Sahib in Jammu for demanding and accepting a bribe of Rs 25,000 from the complainant.

A case was registered on complaint against the accused Ajay Kumar, Girdawar, Miran Sahib, Jammu on the allegations of demanding bribe. It was alleged that the accused demanded a bribe of Rs 50,000 from the complainant

for issuing fard (records of rights) in respect of land owned by him, the CBI said.

It was further alleged that the bribe amount was to be paid in two installments of Rs. 25,000 each.

The CBI laid a trap and caught the accused while demanding and accepting the bribe of Rs 25,000 from the complainant.

A cash amount of Rs. 2 lakh was recovered during searches. The accused is being produced today before the Court of Special Judge, CBI Cases, Jammu, it added.



4th phase of CUET-UG deferred to Aug 30

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

The Central Universities Entrance Test-UG for over 11,000 candidates who were scheduled to appear in the fourth phase of the exam has been deferred to August 30 to accommodate their choice of city for centre.

The fourth phase of the CUET for admission in undergraduate courses was scheduled from August 17-20 and a total of 3.72 lakh candidates were set to appear.

According to the initial plan, all phases of the exam

were scheduled to conclude on August 20. The National testing Agency (NTA), which is responsible for conducting the exam, had later announced that all phases of the exam will conclude on August 28.

However, now the schedule has been further deferred and the exam split into six phases.

"The exam for over 11,000 out of 3.72 lakh candidates has been postponed to August 30 to accommodate their choice of city for exam centre. The NTA (National Testing Agency) has increased the capacity at centres and also

added more exam centres besides making efforts to ensure the quality of the centres is enhanced," UGC Chairman M Jagadesh Kumar said.

"It has also been decided to station additional technical manpower by deploying the facility of Associate Professor level as technical observer at every centre to ensure smooth conduct of examination," he added. The second phase of Common University Entrance Test (CUET) was marred with glitches prompting the agency to cancel exams at various centres.

Kumar had last week said the exam was cancelled at various centres following indications and reports of "sabotage".

"The NTA has also received some e-mails regarding digital glitches faced by individual candidates during previous phase as well as requests for change of date, centre, city and re-examination. Such requests are being examined on case-to-case basis using audit trail of individual candidates and report of the centres. If found feasible, the candidates will be appearing on August 30," the UGC Chief said.

11 new Indian wetland sites take Ramsar list to 75

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

Eleven Indian sites have been added to the Ramsar list, taking the number of wetlands of international importance in the country to 75 on the 75th year of Independence with Tamil Nadu topping the total list having (14 sites), followed by Uttar Pradesh (10).

The breakup of the latest 11 sites shows that four are in Tamil Nadu, three in Odisha, two in Jammu and Kashmir and one each in Madhya Pradesh and Maharashtra.

The new Indian wetlands of international importance are Chitrangudi Bird Sanctuary, Suchindram Theroor Wetland Complex,

Vaduvur Bird Sanctuary and Kanjirankulam Bird Sanctuary in Tamil Nadu; Tampara Lake, Hirakud Reservoir and Ansupa Lake in Odisha; Hygam Wetland Conservation Reserve and Shallbugh Wetland Conservation Reserve in Jammu and Kashmir; Thane Creek in Maharashtra and Yashwant Sagar in Madhya Pradesh, according to a statement from the Union Environment Ministry.

The Ramsar list aims at "developing and maintaining an international network of wetlands which are important for the conservation of global biological diversity and for sustaining human life through the maintenance of

their ecosystem components, processes and benefits".

On August 8, India had added 10 more wetlands designated as Ramsar sites to make a total 64 sites covering an area of 12,50,361 ha in the country. The 10 new sites included six (6) sites in Tamil Nadu and one (1) each in Goa, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh and Odisha.

These were Koonthankulam Bird Sanctuary, Gulf of Mannar Marine Biosphere Reserve, Vembannur Wetland Complex, Vellore Bird Sanctuary, Vedanthangal Bird Sanctuary and Udhayamarthandapuram Bird Sanctuary in Tamil Nadu; Satkosia Gorge in Odisha;

Nanda Lake in Goa; Ranganathittu Bird Sanctuary in Karnataka and Sirpur Wetland in Madhya Pradesh.

A total of 26 sites were added to the Ramsar list from 1982 to 2013. Since 2014, 49 sites have bagged the coveted tag. Twenty-eight Indian sites have been declared wetlands of international importance this year itself.

"The designation of these sites would help in conservation and management of wetlands and wise use of their resources," the environment ministry said in a statement.

Tamil Nadu has the maximum number of Ramsar sites (14), followed by Uttar Pradesh (10). The 75 Ramsar sites in the country cover an

area of 13,26,677 hectares. India is one of the contracting parties to the Ramsar Convention, signed in Ramsar, Iran, in 1971. New Delhi signed it on February 1, 1982.

"Every environment lover will feel happy that 10 more wetlands in India have been designated as Ramsar sites. Last month, 5 sites achieved the same recognition. This will deepen our commitment to protect our natural surroundings," Prime Minister Narendra Modi tweeted soon after the coveted tags were announced to the wetlands.

India is one of the Contracting Parties to Ramsar Convention, signed in Ramsar, Iran, in 1971. India signed it on 1st Feb 1982.



‘US to take resolute steps to support Taiwan amid China’s intimidation’



PTI ■ WASHINGTON

China's actions to "intimidate and coerce" Taiwan following US House Speaker Nancy Pelosi's visit to Taipei are fundamentally at odds with the goal of peace and stability, the White House has said, asserting that the US would take "calm and resolute" steps to support the self-ruled island.

China's ruling Communist party has long claimed sovereignty over Taiwan. Beijing insists its "one-China principle" would bar most incumbent foreign government officials from setting foot on the island.

The People's Liberation Army announced war games in



the busy Taiwan Strait from August 4 to 7, the day after Pelosi, who is the highest-ranking US leader to have visited Taiwan in 25 years, left Taipei after high-level meetings.

Later, the Chinese military extended the war games, surrounding Taiwan, which Beijing views as a rebel province that must be reunified with the mainland, even by force.

China on Wednesday warned that Beijing will organise regular combat patrols as a new normal to enforce its one-China policy.

"China's actions are fundamentally at odds with the goal of peace and stability.



They are part of an intensified pressure campaign against Taiwan, which has not ended, and we expect it to continue to unfold in the coming weeks and months," Kurt Campbell, Deputy Assistant to the President and Coordinator for the Indo Pacific, told reporters during a conference call.

"The goal of this campaign is clear — to intimidate and coerce Taiwan and undermine its resilience," he said.

The US, he said, will "continue to take calm and resolute steps to uphold peace and stability in the face of Beijing's ongoing efforts to undermine it," and to support Taiwan, in line with its longstanding policy.

China sending fighter jets to Thailand for joint exercises

AP ■ BANGKOK

The Chinese air force is sending fighter jets and bombers to Thailand for a joint exercise with the Thai military on Sunday.



The training will include air support, strikes on ground targets and small and large-scale troop deployment, the Chinese Defense Ministry said in a statement posted on its website.

China's expanding military activities in the Asia-Pacific region have alarmed the United States and its allies and form part of a growing competition between the world's two largest economies.

US Defence Secretary Lloyd Austin visited Thailand in June as part of an effort to strengthen what he called America's "unparalleled network of alliances and partnerships" in the region.

The Falcon Strike exercise

will be held at the Udorn Royal Thai Air Force Base in northern Thailand near the border with Laos. Thai fighter jets and airborne early warning aircraft from both countries will also take part.

The training comes as the U.S. Holds combat drills in Indonesia with Indonesia, Australia, Japan and Singapore in the largest iteration of the Super Garuda Shield exercises since they began in 2009.

It also follows China's sending warships, missiles and aircraft into the waters and air around Taiwan in a threatening response to a visit by U.S. House Speaker Nancy Pelosi to the self-ruled island, which China claims as its territory.

GOP backs Trump, escalates dark rhetoric after FBI search



AP ■ WASHINGTON

Republicans in Congress who are relying on Donald Trump to excite voters in the fall elections are not only defending the former president against the FBI search of his Mar-a-Lago home but politically capitalising on it with grave and potentially dangerous rhetoric against the nation's justice system.

The party that once stood staunchly for law-and-order has dramatically reversed

course, stirring up opposition to the FBI and tapping into political grievances and far-right conspiracies that fed the deadly January 6, 2021, attack on the US Capitol.

It's all part of the GOP's election year strategy to harness voter outrage over the unprecedented search, quickly and unequivocally set in motion as Trump hosted a dozen Republicans for dinner of steak and scallops at his private Bedminster club the day after the FBI action.

One Republican at the table, Rep. Troy Nehls of Texas, a former sheriff, said he told the former president "loud and clear" that it's time to protect himself politically by declaring his 2024 campaign for the presidency.

"Mr. President, I said, the American people, your supporters, are concerned with this corrupt DOJ and the FBI."

"If I were you, sir, announce you're running for president," Nehls recalled telling Trump. "Take that doubt, take that anxiety away from the people that want you to be our 47th president."

The escalating rhetoric comes amid stark warnings of violence against law enforcement, including the Ohio police shooting on Thursday of an armed man clad in body armour who tried to breach the FBI's Cincinnati office and engaged in an hours-long standoff.

The day before, FBI Director Christopher Wray had called the threats to agents and DOJ "deplorable".

Praise, worry in Iran after Rushdie attack; Govt quiet

AP ■ TEHRAN



Iranians reacted with praise and worry on Saturday over the attack on novelist Salman Rushdie, the target of a decades-old fatwa by the late Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini calling for his death.

It remains unclear why Rushdie's attacker, identified by police as Hadi Matar of Fairview, New Jersey, stabbed the author as he prepared to speak at an event on Friday in western New York.

Iran's theocratic government and its state-run media have assigned no motive to the assault. But in Tehran, some willing to speak to The Associated Press offered praise for an attack targeting a writer they believe tarnished the Islamic faith with his 1988 book "The Satanic Verses".

In the streets of Iran's capital, images of the late Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini still peer down at passers-by.

"I don't know Salman Rushdie, but I am happy to hear that he was attacked since he insulted Islam," said Reza Amiri, a 27-year-old deliveryman. "This is the fate for anybody who insults sanctities."

Others, however, worried aloud that Iran could become even more cut off from the world as tensions remain high over its tattered nuclear deal.

"I feel those who did it are

trying to isolate Iran," said Mahshid Barati, a 39-year-old geography teacher. "This will negatively affect relations with many — even Russia and China."

Khomeini, in poor health in the last year of his life after the grinding, stalemate 1980s Iran-Iraq war decimated the country's economy, issued the fatwa on Rushdie in 1989.

The Islamic edict came amid a violent uproar in the Muslim world over the novel, which some viewed as blasphemously making suggestions about the Prophet Muham-

mad's life.

"I would like to inform all the intrepid Muslims in the world that the author of the book entitled Satanic Verses' ... As well as those publishers who were aware of its contents, are hereby sentenced to death," Khomeini said in February 1989, according to Tehran Radio.

He added: "Whoever is killed doing this will be regarded as a martyr and will go directly to heaven."

Early on Saturday, Iranian state media made a point to note one man identified as being killed while trying to carry out the fatwa.

Stabber showed sympathy to causes of Iran's Revolutionary Guards: Report

PTI ■ NEW YORK

The 24-year-old man detained in connection with the stabbing of Mumbai-born controversial author Salman Rushdie was sympathetic to "Shia extremism" and the causes of Iran's Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps, according to a media report.

Rushdie, who faced Islamist death threats for years after writing "The Satanic Verses", was stabbed on stage on Friday while he was being introduced at the event of the Chautauqua Institution in Western New York.

‘Salman once complained about too much security around him’

PTI ■ NEW YORK

Salman Rushdie, who was attacked and stabbed on stage at a literary event here, has previously complained about having too much security around him, according to a media report on Saturday. The Mumbai-born writer, who faced Islamist death threats for years after writing "The Satanic Verses", was stabbed by a 24-year-old New Jersey resident identified as Hadi Matar on stage on Friday while he was being introduced at the event of the Chautauqua Institution in Western New York.

A bloodied Rushdie was airlifted from a field adjacent to the venue to a hospital in north-western Pennsylvania.

Russia blocking access to medicines, says Ukrainian Min

AP ■ KYIV

Ukraine's health minister has accused Russian authorities of committing a crime against humanity by blocking access to affordable medicines in areas its forces have occupied since invading the country 5 1/2 months ago.

In an interview with The Associated Press, Ukrainian



Health Minister Viktor Liashko said Russian authorities repeatedly have blocked efforts to

provide state-subsidised drugs to people in occupied cities, towns and villages.

"Throughout the entire six months of war, Russia has not (allowed) proper humanitarian corridors so we could provide our own medicines to the patients that need them," Liashko said, speaking at the Health Ministry in Kyiv late on Friday.

LOST & FOUND

I, Krishan Sharma S/o. Man Chand R/o. 11 Wood Villa 2nd Avenue, Bandh Road. Our Director was Carrying Property Documents with Him While Carrying the Documents He Met with an Accident and Property Documents Got Mislaid. The Property Document Was Acknowledged with Address Property Name M3m Office No. 412, 414 Address:- 4th Floor, Cosmopolitan Complex, Golf Course Road, Sec-66, Gurugram, Second Property Name Plot Urban Estate Address:- D-104 Sec-62, First Floor, Gurugram, Founder Map Cont:- 95559 08834.

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Ph: 011-411227-28 kumarassociatesadvocates@gmail.com

PUBLIC NOTICE
Notice is hereby given to the General Public on behalf of Fullerton India Home Finance Company. That Mr. Tarun Kumar is owner of Property having area measuring 33 Sq. Yds. out of Khata No. 232 Mr. Situated in the area measuring 100 Sq. Yds. out of Khata No. 640, situated at Anjali Vihar, Village Loni, Pargana & Tehsil Loni, Distt. Ghazabad, U.P., by virtue of Sale Deed dated 02.05.2022 regd. Vide Doc. No. 1278 and the same is to be financed & mortgaged with Mrs. New Hantak Housing Finance & Development Limited, The Original Sale Deed: 12.10.2020, regd. vide doc. No. 1278 and Sale Deed: 05.07.2013, regd. vide doc. No. 5402, pertaining to the aforesaid property has been lost and complaint has been registered on 06.04.2022 vide NCR (Ar. No. 2022000148193, with U.P. Police. Any person(s) found in possession of aforesaid original sale deed, then kindly contact the undersigned along with original property document, within 14 days from date of this notice on below address, failing which, the claim as per aforesaid sale deed shall be treated as null and void in respect of the subject property.

Raghav Tiwari (Advocate)
CA. 830, Ballia House Courts, New Delhi - 110001
Mob.: +91-8076188328

PUBLIC NOTICE
This is to inform to all concern that Sh. Incint S/o Sh. S.L. Sharma R/o D-345, Anand Vihar Delhi-92, whose the original allottee of Plot No. A-94, (Area measuring 165.60 Sq.Mtr) Sector-36, Noida Distt. G.B.Nagar (U.P.) had sold the said Plot on General power of attorney basis to the following person (s). CPA was executed on 5/1/97, Bahr No.4, Document No.4513 at Page No. 144-145. The agreement to sell was not registered or not executed. So it is informed to all concern that the said plot is going to be transferred in favour of Rahul Chaudhary S/o Pradeep Kumar Chaudhary & Ronan Chaudhary S/o Pankaj Chaudhary, both R/o Dineva Dhanevi, Maharaj-gang (U.P.), if anyone has/have any objection/feelshe may file his/her objection along with the sufficient proof in the Residential Department of the Noida Authority within 30 days from the date of publication of this notice. Smt. Ujjawal Chaudhary

PUBLIC NOTICE

This is for notice of the general public that a political party is proposed to be registered by the name of Lokhit Adhikar Party. The office of the party is located at 94 HIG Duplex Brij Vihar Ghaziabad -201011. This Party has submitted application to the Election Commission of India, New Delhi for its registration as Political Party under Section 29A of the Representation of People Act, 1951 - Names/address of the office bearers of the Party are as follows: President / Chairman: Mr Roshan Lal Gupta, Add: 94 HIG Duplex , Brij Vihar, Ghaziabad , UP-201011 General Secretary/Secretary: Shekhar Sahu, Add: H.no- 546777, Sarfaraganj - 1, Lucknow, UP- 226003 Treasurer: Gaurav Gupta , Add : 94, HIG Duplex, Brij Vihar, Ghaziabad, UP-201011 If any one has any objection to the registration of Lokhit Adhikar Party, they may send their Objection with reasons thereof, to the Secretary (Political Party) Election Commission of India, Nirvachan Sadan, Ashoka Road, New Delhi - 110001 within 30 days of the publication of this notice.

IST LIMITED
Regd. Office: Dharuhera Industrial Complex, Delhi- Jaipur Highway No.8, Kapriwas, Dharuhera, Rewari (Haryana) - 123106
Head Office: A-23, New Office Complex, 2nd Floor, Defence Colony, New Delhi-110024
CIN : L33301HR1976PLC008316; Phone No.: 011-41044511-14; Fax: 011-24625694; Email : istgroup.ho@gmail.com; Website : www.istindia.com
EXTRACT OF FINANCIAL RESULTS FOR THE QUARTER ENDED 30th JUNE, 2022 (Fig. in Lacs unless otherwise stated)

| Sl No | Particulars | Standalone | | | | Consolidated | | | |
|-------|--|----------------------|--------------------|----------------------|--------------------|----------------------|--------------------|----------------------|--------------------|
| | | Quarter Ended | | Year ended | | Quarter Ended | | Year ended | |
| | | 30.06.2022 Unaudited | 31.03.2022 Audited | 30.06.2021 Unaudited | 31.03.2021 Audited | 30.06.2022 Unaudited | 31.03.2022 Audited | 30.06.2021 Unaudited | 31.03.2021 Audited |
| 1 | Total Income | 965.04 | 963.54 | 936.09 | 4388.52 | 3776.93 | 4554.16 | 4289.39 | 18363.19 |
| 2 | Net Profit before exceptional items and tax | (135.54) | 24.39 | 379.18 | 1202.04 | 1827.55 | 2253.54 | 3544.61 | 12771.24 |
| 3 | Net Profit after exceptional items before tax | (135.54) | 24.39 | 379.18 | 1202.04 | 1827.55 | 2253.54 | 3544.61 | 12771.24 |
| 4 | Net Profit after tax | (90.31) | (32.05) | 320.49 | 932.79 | 1627.24 | 1562.43 | 2790.09 | 9597.07 |
| 5 | Total Comprehensive Income for the period (Net of Tax) | (89.28) | (33.77) | 322.44 | 936.92 | 355.24 | 2226.47 | 3584.11 | 10896.28 |
| 6 | Equity Share Capital (Face Value Rs. 5/- per share) | 584.68 | 584.68 | 584.68 | 584.68 | 584.68 | 584.68 | 584.68 | 584.68 |
| 7 | Other Equity | - | - | - | 20121.37 | - | - | - | 102670.86 |
| 8 | Earnings Per Share (Face Value Rs. 5/- per share) | | | | | | | | |
| | - Basic (₹) | (0.77) | (0.27) | 2.75 | 8.00 | 14.02 | 13.40 | 24.01 | 82.79 |
| | - Diluted (Rs.) | (0.77) | (0.27) | 2.75 | 8.00 | 14.02 | 13.40 | 24.01 | 82.79 |

NOTES: The above is an extract of the detailed format of the Standalone and Consolidated Financial Results for the Quarter ended 30th June, 2022 filed with the Stock Exchange (BSE Ltd.) under Regulation 33 of the SEBI (Listing Obligations and Disclosure Requirements) Regulations, 2015. The full format of the Standalone and Consolidated Financial Results are available on the Stock Exchange website (www.bseindia.com) and company's website www.istindia.com.

By order of the Board
For IST Limited
Sd/-
(Mayur Gupta)
Director
DIN: 00131376

HIMALAYA FOOD INTERNATIONAL LIMITED
Regd. Office: 118, 1st Floor, 12 Gagandeep Building, Rajendra Place, New Delhi-110008
Tel. +91 11 45108609, Fax: +91 1704 225178
E-mail id: cs@himalayainternational.com | website: www.himalayafoodcompany.com
EXTRACT OF UNAUDITED FINANCIAL RESULTS FOR THE QUARTER ENDED 30TH JUNE, 2022
Amount Rs. In Lakhs

| S. NO. | Particulars | Quarter Ended 30.06.2022 (Unaudited) | Year Ended 31.03.2022 (Audited) | Quarter Ended 30.06.2021 (Unaudited) |
|--------|---|--------------------------------------|---------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| 1. | Total Income from Operations | 1626.96 | 6459.32 | 1328.32 |
| 2. | Net Profit for the period (before tax & exceptional items) | 374.85 | 1137.43 | 64.67 |
| 3. | Net Profit/Loss for the period before Tax (after exceptional items) | -275.15 | 9492.32 | 64.67 |
| 5. | Net Profit for the period after Tax (after exceptional items) | -275.15 | 9524.32 | 64.67 |
| 6. | Total Comprehensive income for the period [Comprising Profit for the period (after tax) and Other Comprehensive Income (after tax)] | -275.15 | 9524.32 | 64.67 |
| 7. | Paid-up Equity Share Capital Face Value of Rs. 10/- per share | 5787.29 | 5787.29 | 5787.29 |
| 8. | Earnings Per Share i Basic in Rs. ii Diluted in Rs. | -0.48 -0.48 | 16.46 16.46 | 0.11 0.11 |

Notes:-
1. The financial results for the quarter ended 30th June, 2022 were reviewed by the Audit Committee and thereafter approved by the Board of Directors in their meeting held on 13th August, 2022. The Statutory Auditor of the Company has conducted a Limited Review of the said financial results.
2. The above is an extract of the detailed format of Quarterly / Annual Financial Results filed with the Stock Exchanges under Regulation 33 of the SEBI (Listing and Other Disclosure Requirements) Regulations, 2015. The full format of the Quarterly / Annual Financial Results are available on the Stock Exchange BSE Limited (www.bseindia.com) and the Company Website (www.himalayafoodcompany.com).
* Operating expenses include raw-material consumed, packing, labour, power & fuel.
** G & SA. (General, Sales & Admin Exp. of India & USA including logistics cost)
-- During the quarter 1st 2022-23 the Company had fire in their Gujarat Plant. Stock around Rs. 16.5 Crore have been burnt. The company is expecting to receive insurance claim of around Rs. 10 Crore against the fire. The loss report on account of Building and plant & Machinery is yet to be submitted by agencies deployed by the insurance company. The depreciation charged in Qtr 1st FY 2022-23 has been on old block before the fire.

By Order of the Board
For HIMALAYA FOOD INTERNATIONAL LIMITED
Man Mohan Malik
Managing Director

DATED: 13.08.2022
PLACE: Paonta Sahib

COSCO (INDIA) LIMITED
CIN : L25199DL1980PLC010173
Regd. Office : 2/8, Roop Nagar, Delhi-110 007
Website : www.cosco.in Email : mail@cosco.in
Tel : 91-11-23843000 Fax : 91-11-23846000

EXTRACT OF STANDALONE UNAUDITED FINANCIAL RESULTS FOR THE QUARTER ENDED 30TH JUNE, 2022

| Sl. No. | Particulars | (₹ in lacs) | | | |
|---------|---|----------------------|----------------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| | | Quarter Ended | | Year Ended | |
| | | 30.06.2022 Unaudited | 30.06.2021 Unaudited | 31.03.2022 Audited | 31.03.2021 Audited |
| 1 | Total Income from operations | 3,364.35 | 2,710.64 | 4,211.61 | 13,701.06 |
| 2 | Net Profit for the period before Tax | 16.45 | 9.62 | 99.26 | 250.90 |
| 3 | Net Profit for the period after tax | 6.78 | (0.65) | 96.32 | 192.01 |
| 4 | Total Comprehensive Income for the period [Comprising Profit for the period (after tax) and Other Comprehensive Income (after tax)] | 6.78 | (0.55) | 116.93 | 212.30 |
| 5 | Equity Share Capital | 416.10 | 416.10 | 416.10 | 416.10 |
| 6 | Other Equity | - | - | - | 4,168.39 |
| 7 | Earnings Per Share (of ₹ 10 each) | | | | |
| (a) | Basic (₹) | 0.16 | (0.02) | 2.31 | 4.61 |
| (b) | Diluted (₹) | 0.16 | (0.02) | 2.31 | 4.61 |

Notes :-

- The above is an extract of the detailed format of Quarterly Financial Results filed with the Stock Exchange under Regulation 33 of the SEBI (Listing and Other Disclosure Requirements) Regulations, 2015. The full format of the Quarterly / Annual Financial Results are available on the Stock Exchange Websites (www.bseindia.com/corporates) and on the Company's website www.cosco.in.
- The above results have been reviewed by the Audit Committee and approved by the Board of Directors of the respective meeting held on August 13, 2022.

By Order of the Board
for Cosco (India) Limited
Devinder Kumar Jain
Managing Director and CEO
Place : Delhi
Date : 13.08.2022
DIN : 00191539

11% GROWTH IN NEXT DECADE POSSIBLE IF INDIA CAPITALISES ON DEMOGRAPHY, MANUFACTURING, EXPORTS: RBI DPTY GUV

| ALPHA CORP DEVELOPMENT PRIVATE LIMITED | | | | | |
|---|--|--|--|--|-------------------------------------|
| Registered Office: Upper Basement, Alpha Mall, MBM Farm, GT Road, Sultan Wind, Sub Urban, Amritsar - 143002 (Punjab) CIN: U45201PB2003PTC045680 Email: secretaria@alphacorp.in , Tel: 0124-4831111, Fax: 0124-4831100, Website: www.alphacorp.in | | | | | |
| STATEMENT OF STANDALONE FINANCIAL RESULTS FOR THE QUARTER ENDED JUNE 30, 2022 | | | | | |
| (All amounts in Indian Rupees in lakhs unless stated otherwise) | | | | | |
| S. No. | Particulars | Quarter ended June 30, 2022 (Unaudited) (refer note 2) | Preceding quarter ended March 31, 2022 (Audited) | #Corresponding quarter ended June 30, 2021 (Unaudited) | Year ended March 31, 2022 (Audited) |
| 1 | Income from operations | | | | |
| | (a) Revenue from real estate operations | 2,882.28 | 3,263.78 | - | 11,609.28 |
| | (b) Other Operating revenue | 123.47 | 34.45 | - | 207.43 |
| | Total Income from operations | 3,005.75 | 3,298.23 | - | 11,816.71 |
| 2 | Expenditure | | | | |
| | (a) Cost of land/ development rights | - | - | - | 404.93 |
| | (b) (Increase)/ decrease in project work in progress | 207.79 | (2,538.96) | - | 679.26 |
| | (c) Project approval charges | 701.39 | 3,715.49 | - | 4,198.70 |
| | (d) Employees cost | 339.52 | 298.92 | - | 1,208.51 |
| | (e) Depreciation and amortization expense | 44.16 | 55.24 | - | 197.60 |
| | (f) Subcontractor, material and labour charges | 554.54 | 234.34 | - | 895.30 |
| | (g) Other expenses | 240.90 | 1,245.23 | - | 1,820.59 |
| | Total expenditure | 2,088.30 | 3,010.26 | - | 9,404.89 |
| 3 | Profit/ (loss) from operations before other income, finance costs (1-2) | 917.45 | 287.97 | - | 2,411.82 |
| 4 | Other Income | 211.80 | 207.64 | - | 757.68 |
| 5 | Profit/ (loss) from operations before finance costs and exceptional items (3+4) | 1,129.25 | 495.60 | - | 3,169.50 |
| 6 | Finance costs | 784.15 | 723.03 | - | 2,949.52 |
| 7 | Exceptional items | - | - | - | - |
| 8 | Profit/ (loss) from operations before tax (after exceptional items) (5-6-7) | 345.10 | (227.42) | - | 219.98 |
| 9 | Tax expense | | | | |
| | Current tax expense | - | - | - | - |
| | Deferred tax expense/ (credit) | 81.38 | (88.17) | - | 322.03 |
| | Income tax for earlier years | - | (218.40) | - | (218.40) |
| 10 | Net Profit / (loss) for the period (8-9) | 263.72 | 79.15 | - | 116.35 |
| 11 | Other Comprehensive Income/ (loss) (net of tax) | (0.11) | 6.30 | - | 13.67 |
| 12 | Total Comprehensive Income/ (loss) for the period (10-11) | 263.61 | 85.45 | - | 130.02 |
| 13 | Paid-up equity share capital (face value of Rs. 10 per share) | 11.90 | 11.90 | - | 11.90 |
| 14 | Paid-up debt capital / outstanding debt (refer note 5) | 4,600.00 | 4,600.00 | - | 4,600.00 |
| 15 | Net worth (refer note 11) | 26,872.33 | 26,608.74 | - | 26,608.74 |
| 16 | Debt redemption reserve (refer note 14) | 216.40 | 135.20 | - | 135.20 |
| 17 | Capital redemption reserve | 321.70 | 321.70 | - | 321.70 |
| 18 | Earning Per Share (EPS) * | | | | |
| | Basic (in Rs.) | 221.59 | 66.51 | - | 977.5 |
| | Diluted (in Rs.) | 221.59 | 66.51 | - | 977.5 |
| 19 | Debt Equity Ratio (refer note 11) | 0.86 | 0.92 | - | 0.92 |
| 20 | Debt Service Coverage Ratio (refer note 11) | 0.54 | 0.23 | - | 0.48 |
| 21 | Interest Service Coverage Ratio (refer note 11) | 1.57 | 0.76 | - | 1.14 |
| *Not annualised, except year-end Basic and Diluted EPS #Not applicable as per SEBI Circular no 637 dated October 05, 2021. | | | | | |
| Notes: (1) The above unaudited standalone financial results for the quarter ended June 30, 2022 have been reviewed and recommended by the Audit Committee and approved by Board of Directors of the Company at their meeting held on August 13, 2022. The statutory auditors of the Company have carried out a limited review of the financial results for the quarter ended June 30, 2022. The Company's debentures are listed and therefore, Regulation 52 of SEBI (Listing Obligations and Disclosure Requirements) 2015, as amended is applicable to the Company. (2) The financial results of the Company have been prepared in accordance with the recognition and measurement principles of Indian Accounting Standards ("IND AS") as prescribed under section 133 of the Companies Act, 2013 (read with relevant rules there under). (3) In line with the provisions of Ind AS -108 "Operating Segments" and basis the review of operations being undertaken by the senior management, the operations of the Company primarily fall under "real estate development", which is considered by the management to be the only reportable operating segment. (4) India Ratings had assigned IND BBB-/Stable rating for Non-Convertible Debentures vide letter dated July 11, 2022. (5) Paid up Debt Capital represents: (a) 4,600 Series A Fully Paid, Rated, Listed, Secured, Redeemable, Non-Convertible Debentures of Rs. 100,000 each amounting to Rs. 4,600 lakhs. The proceeds have been utilized for the purpose as mentioned in the offer documents and there is no material deviation in the utilization of the proceeds. (6) The Series-A Non-Convertible Debentures are secured by way of first ranking exclusive charge over Amritsar MIP project land, receivables from sale of Amritsar MIP project and Fatehabad project, insurance receivables- Penguin and Ambrose, the escrow accounts and monies lying to credit thereof. (7) As per the relevant terms and conditions of Information Memorandum (IM), the annual interest payable to the Series-ANCD holders had got revised to 0.001% effective January 31, 2019 once FSI approval ("Milestone") was achieved by the Company's erstwhile wholly owned subsidiary company- Ruchi Malls Private Limited. As confirmed by the debenture trustee vide letter dated April 26, 2022, pursuant to discussions between the Debenture Holders and the Company, the Debenture Holders have agreed to waive the interest on the Series-ANCDs for the period November 16, 2021 to November 15, 2023 alongwith the redemption premium payable as per the terms of IM upto the period ending November 15, 2023 and the impact thereof for the period upto June 30, 2022, has been duly accounted for in these standalone financial results. (8) Next due dates for repayment of interest and principal of non-convertible debentures (NCDs): | | | | | |
| S.No./Name of Series | Type | Previous Due date of payment | Next Due date of payment | Amount (Rs. in lakhs) | |
| 1. Series - A | Interest | November 12, 2021 | November 12, 2022# | # | |
| | Principal along with premium on redemption | Not Applicable | November 13, 2025* | 6,753.90 | |
| # As confirmed by the debenture trustee vide letter dated April 26, 2022, pursuant to discussions between the Debenture Holders and the Company, the Debenture Holders have agreed to waive the interest on the Series-ANCDs for the period November 16, 2021 to November 15, 2023 alongwith the redemption premium payable as per the terms of IM upto the period ending November 15, 2023 and the impact thereof has been duly accounted in these standalone financial results. *As per the terms of issue of 4,600 Series-ANCDs as per the IM, the NCD are redeemable after 10 years from the deemed date of allotment i.e. November 13, 2015. However, the Company has the option to redeem these debentures at any time after the expiry of 3 years from the deemed date of allotment. (9) There is no investor grievance pending or received during the period under review. (10) On account of ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, the Company has assessed the possible effects on the carrying amounts of receivables including unbilled receivables, contract assets, investments and other assets / liabilities based on various internal and external factors upto the date of approval of these financial results. Further, the management has made assessment of impact on business and financial risks on account of COVID-19. Basis above, the management has estimated its future cash flows for the Company which indicates no major change in medium to long term financial performance as estimated prior to COVID-19 impact and hence, the Company believes that no adjustment is considered necessary in these standalone financial results in this regard and there is no impact on the Company's ability to meet its liabilities as and when they fall due. However, due to the unpredictable nature of the ongoing pandemic, the impact of COVID-19 on the Company's financial results may differ from that estimated as at the date of approval of these financial results. (11) Disclosures as per Regulation 52(4) of SEBI (LODR) Regulations 2015 are as under: | | | | | |
| Particulars | Quarter ended June 30, 2022 (Unaudited) | March 31, 2022 (Audited) | June 30, 2021 # (Unaudited) | Year ended March 31, 2022 (Audited) | |
| Interest service coverage ratio | 1.57 | 0.76 | - | 1.14 | |
| Operating margin (%) | 35.74% | 16.25% | - | 28.11% | |
| Net profit margin (%) | 8.20% | 2.26% | - | 0.93% | |
| Debt service coverage ratio | 0.54 | 0.23 | - | 0.48 | |
| Debt equity ratio | 0.86 | 0.92 | - | 0.92 | |
| Capital redemption reserve | 321.70 | 321.70 | - | 321.70 | |
| Debt redemption reserve | 216.40 | 135.20 | - | 135.20 | |
| Net worth | 26,872.33 | 26,608.74 | - | 26,608.74 | |
| Current ratio | 2.69 | 2.71 | - | 2.71 | |
| Long term debt to working capital | 0.58 | 0.60 | - | 0.60 | |
| Bad debts to accounts receivable ratio (%) | 0.00% | 0.00% | - | 0.00% | |
| Current liability ratio | 0.57 | 0.55 | - | 0.55 | |
| Total debts to total assets | 0.34 | 0.35 | - | 0.35 | |
| Debtor's turnover | 1.30 | 1.10 | - | 3.16 | |
| Inventory turnover | 0.03 | 0.03 | - | 0.12 | |
| #Not applicable as per SEBI Circular no 637 dated October 05, 2021. | | | | | |
| Ratios have been computed as follows: | | | | | |
| a) Interest service coverage ratio= Earnings before finance costs, tax and depreciation/ finance costs | | | | | |
| b) Operating margin: (profit before tax+ Finance cost)/Revenue from operations | | | | | |
| c) Net profit margin: Net profit for the period/year/Revenue from operations | | | | | |
| d) Debt service coverage ratio=Earnings before finance costs, tax and depreciation/ (finance costs + principal repayment of paid up debt capital during the period). | | | | | |
| e) Debt equity ratio = paid up debt capital/ equity, where | | | | | |
| * Equity represents issued, subscribed and paid up share capital, equity component of compulsory convertible preference shares and reserves and surplus | | | | | |
| # Reserves and Surplus includes capital reserve, securities premium and retained earnings | | | | | |
| * Paid up debt capital represents long term and short term borrowings excluding deferred payment liabilities | | | | | |
| f) Net worth represents Equity | | | | | |
| g) Current ratio: Current assets/ Current liabilities | | | | | |
| h) Long term debt to working capital: Long term borrowings/(Current assets- Current liabilities) | | | | | |
| i) Bad debt to accounts receivable ratio: Bad debts/ Average trade receivables | | | | | |
| j) Current liability ratio: Current liability/Total liabilities | | | | | |
| k) Total debts to total assets: Debt/ Total assets | | | | | |
| l) Debtor's turnover: Revenue from operations/ Average trade receivables | | | | | |
| (12) During the year 2009, the Company had received a demand for Rs. 1,440 lakhs from Municipal Corporation, Amritsar ("MC") towards the levy for Change in Land Use Fee (CLUF fees) in relation to Company's erstwhile retail mall at Amritsar that had got transferred to the Resulting Company, pursuant to Composite scheme of arrangement as approved by the Honourable High Court of Punjab and Haryana vide order dated March 31, 2017. The Hon'ble High Court of Punjab and Haryana ("Hon'ble High Court") vide its order dated March 3, 2010 had adjudicated that the basis of levying CLUF fees is untenable and the amount deposited by the Company i.e. Rs. 1,260 lakhs (net of Rs. 180 lakhs recovered from another party as their share of the said demand) is liable to be refunded with simple interest @ 9% per annum from the date of collection by the authorities till the date of payment. Subsequently, the MC had preferred a Letters Patent Appeal (LPA) against the order of the Hon'ble High Court before the Hon'ble High Court on May 12, 2010 and the same was disposed off in favour of the MC. Pursuant to another order by the Hon'ble High Court in year 2010, the money deposited by the Company was refunded in lieu of furnishing of a Bank Guarantee by the Company in favour of the Registrar of the Hon'ble High Court, with the condition that if the MC succeeds in the LPA filed in the aforesaid Hon'ble High Court, the Company shall be liable to pay the amount to MC with the same rate of interest which had been awarded by the single bench in its order dated March 03, 2010. The Company had preferred a Special Leave Petition (SLP) before the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India against the LPA that was disposed off by the Hon'ble High Court in MC's favour, which got admitted and against which the Hon'ble Supreme Court had issued notices to both the parties and restrained the MC from cancelling the bank guarantee. Subsequently, the Company in compliance of the order passed by Hon'ble Supreme Court of India on August 16, 2017 had deposited a sum of Rs. 200 lakhs consequent to which the amount of bank guarantee furnished by the Company in favour of the Registrar of the Hon'ble High Court had got revised to Rs. 1,240 lakhs. Based on expert legal inputs, the management is confident of obtaining favorable orders from the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India in the said matter. Further, in accordance with the "Facilitation and Collaboration Agreement" and "Termination-cum- Settlement Deed" entered into with the landowners, the liability in relation to the 'Change of Land Use' is to be borne by the landowners. Accordingly, while finalizing these standalone financial results, no provision has been considered necessary at this stage. (13) The Code on Social Security, 2020 ('Code') relating to employee benefits during employment and post- employment, received Presidential assent in September 2020. The Code has been published in the Gazette of India, however, the date on which the Code will come into effect is yet to be notified and the final rules/ interpretation are yet to be issued. The Company will assess the impact of the Code when it comes into effect and will record any related impact in the period the Code and rules thereon becomes effective. (14) The Hon'ble High Court of Delhi vide its order dated February 17, 2020, had approved the scheme of compromise and arrangement proposed by proposers of A N Buildwell Private Limited ("ANB"), wherein Alpha Corp Development Private Limited had agreed to revive ANB's Spire Woods real estate project situated in Gurugram by taking over the construction and development of such project. Subsequently, the Hon'ble High Court of Delhi vide its order dated March 17, 2021 approved the execution of the Joint Development Agreement (JDA), between the proposers, ANB and the Company that sets out the terms and conditions for the proposed collaboration. The effective date of the transaction is subject to certain substantive actions including regulatory approvals, whereupon the transaction would qualify for accounting as per Ind AS, notified under section 133 of the Companies Act, 2013. (15) Pursuant to the order dated June 8, 2021 of the National Company Law Tribunal (NCLT), Alpha Corp Development Private Limited alongwith its 3 wholly owned subsidiary companies is implementing the approved Resolution Plan for acquisition of Copia, Sapphire and Techoone real estate projects of Earth Infrastructure Limited ("Earth"), that was under Corporate Insolvency Resolution process as per the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code 2016 (including all amendments for the time being in force). As per the approved Resolution Plan, the Company through its 3 wholly owned subsidiary companies has to undertake the development of the 3 real estate projects and deliver the units to the project allottees, as per the terms of such plan. The transaction requires certain substantive actions to be taken whereupon the same would qualify for accounting as per Ind AS, notified under section 133 of the Companies Act, 2013. (16) Previous period figures have been regrouped / re-classified wherever necessary, to conform to current period's classification in order to comply with the requirements of the amended Schedule III to the Companies Act, 2013. | | | | | |
| For Alpha Corp Development Private Limited Ajay Dhawan, Director (DIN: 00267886) | | | | | |
| PLACE: GURUGRAM DATE: August 13, 2022 | | | | | |

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

India can "bend time" and catapult to an 11 per cent growth rate in the next decade if it capitalises on the demographic dividend, and boosts manufacturing, as well as exports, RBI Deputy Governor Michael Patra said on Saturday.

India has a window of opportunity in terms of its demographic advantage, capability to boost manufacturing, increase in exports value as well as internalisation, Patra said while delivering a speech to celebrate 'Azadi Ka Amrit Mohotsav' organised by the Reserve Bank of India, Bhubaneswar.

If India capitalises on its opportunities and overcomes challenges, it is widely believed that India will "bend time", Patra said. It is possible to imagine "India striking out into the next decade with a growth rate of 11 per cent".

He said, if this is achieved, India will become the second largest economy in the world not by 2048, but by 2031.

With a population of 1.38 billion, India is the world's youngest at 28.4 years. By 2023, India will be the most populous country in the world at 1.43 billion, he said.

Drawing a comparison in terms of working-age population (WAP) ratio, he said India stands at an advantageous position vis-a-vis countries like China, Brazil, the US and Japan as the working-age populations of these countries have started declining already.



While India's WAP ratio will increase till 2045, even exceeding that of China by 2030.

"Making the most of this demographic dividend is India's opportunity as well as a challenge," Patra said.

Talking about the manufacturing potential of India, he said it is another engine for the take-off of India's economic growth.

Asserting that robust growth of manufacturing is essential to boost exports, he said, it is imperative to overturn conventional wisdom and catch up with other leading manufacturers of the world.

To achieve this, he said three things are essential. Firstly the manufacturing sector must adapt to the fourth industrial

revolution through automation; data exchange; cyber-physical systems; the internet of things; cloud computing; cognitive computing; the smart factory; and advanced robotics.

Secondly, India must develop a skilled labour force by stepping up investment in human capital and thirdly efforts must be directed to boost international competitiveness.

"India must raise the share of manufacturing to at least 25 per cent of GDP to become a global manufacturing hub."

In terms of exports, Patra said it is an avenue to widening of markets and production capabilities beyond national borders.

From USD 800 billion worth of export of goods and services currently,

which is about 2.7 per cent of the world total, he said if India can achieve the target of USD 1 trillion set by the government by 2030, it can boost India's share to 5 per cent in world exports.

With this, India would become an export powerhouse, he said. Several initiatives are in place to actualise this and raising India's share in world exports to at least 5 per cent is within reach.

On "internationalisation", he said Indians are among the most internationalised people in the world.

Indian diaspora is the biggest in the world and India is the top recipient of remittances. The Indian rupee trades three times more offshore than onshore. Yet we still talk of internationalisation as if it is the last frontier."

"If the INR (Indian Rupee) turnover rises to equal the share of non-US non-Euro currencies in global forex turnover (4 per cent), the INR will have arrived as an international currency, reflecting India's position in the global economy," Patra said.

However, he said there are challenges in terms of making up for the output and livelihood loss due to the pandemic and it will take several years to recover from this loss.

Among others, there are challenges such as infrastructure gap in terms of lower per capital investment in building infrastructure in the country as well as lack of high-quality labour force.

Corporate tax collection up 34 pc in April-July

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Tax collected on income of companies surged by 34 per cent in the first four months of the current fiscal that began in April, indicating that a simplified tax regime with low rates is yielding results, the Income Tax Department said.

The tax department tweeted on corporate tax collection growth in April-July in an apparent attempt to counter criticism of the 2019 reduction in tax rates for companies which was alleged to have dented the Centre's revenue collections, impacting its spending on social welfare schemes.

The tax department said corporate tax collections at Rs 7.23 lakh crore in fiscal 2021-22 (April 2021 to March 2022) were 58 per cent higher than the mop-up in the previous financial year.

"The corporate tax collections during FY 2022-23 (till 31st July, 2022) register a robust growth of 34 per cent over the corporate tax collections in the corresponding period of FY



2021-22," it said without giving an absolute number for the collection.

Tax collections are one of the indicators of economic activity as higher income of companies suggest demand growth and wealth creation.

The department said the corporate tax collection in 2021-22 were higher by over 9 per cent when compared to collections of pre-COVID 2018-19 fiscal.

"The positive trend of growth continues (in current fiscal), but for the overall impact of the COVID-19 pandemic during FY 2020-21, when the corporate tax collections took a temporary hit," it said. "This indicates that the simplified tax regime with low rates and no exemptions has lived up to its promise."

Reliance Infra net loss narrows to ₹66.11 cr in June quarter

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Reliance Infrastructure (RInfra) on Saturday reported narrowing of its consolidated net loss to Rs 66.11 crore for the quarter ended June 30, 2022.

The company had clocked a consolidated net loss of Rs 95.15 crore in the corresponding period of the previous fiscal, it said in a regulatory filing to the BSE.

Its total consolidated income during the quarter under review rose to Rs 6,349.34 crore as against Rs 4,623.17 crore in the year-ago period.

Total expenditure also increased to Rs 6,714.42 crore compared to Rs 5,208.75 crore earlier.

CCI clears acquisition of ACC, Ambuja Cements by Adani

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The Competition Commission of India (CCI) has given its approval for the acquisition of Holcim's stake in Ambuja Ltd and ACC Ltd by the Adani Group.

In a tweet on Friday, the watchdog said it has approved the 'acquisition of the stake in Holderind Investments, Ambuja Cements and ACC by Endeavour Trade and Investment".

The proposed combination involves acquisition of 100 per cent stake in Holderind Investments Ltd by Endeavour Trade and Investment Ltd.

Endeavour Trade and Investment Ltd is a Mauritius-based company and belongs to the Adani Group.



Holderind Investments is held by Holderfin BV and belongs to the Switzerland-based Holcim group and is a holding company of cement manufacturers Ambuja Cements and ACC Ltd.

Holderind Investments owned 63.11 per cent stake in Ambuja Cements and 4.48 per cent stake in ACC and further, Ambuja held 50.05 per cent stake in ACC.

NMDC targets 46 mn tonnes of iron ore production in FY23

PTI ■ HYDERABAD

State-owned miner NMDC Ltd targets to achieve 46 million tonnes of Iron ore production in the current fiscal, 10 per cent higher than that of last year, Chairman and Managing Director, Sumit Deb said.

The company achieved production of 42.19 MT and sales of 40.56 MT in FY22 with a turnover of Rs 25,882 crore.

"On the back of the developments mentioned above at the Bacheli mine, Kumarswamy mine and other mines, we target production of 460 lakh tonnes of iron ore in FY23. This volume is about 10 per cent higher than in FY22 and would provide a cushion against possible pressure on pricing and we hope to maintain and surpass the top line again in FY23," Deb said in the latest annual report.

He also said the company expects the merger of its three-MT Steel Plant in Chhattisgarh to complete in the current year as its application for demerger has been accepted by the Ministry of Corporate



Affairs and as directed by them, NMDC also held the meetings of Unsecured creditors and Shareholders of our company in June 2022.

We have obtained the No Objection Certificate from the stock exchanges... We expect to complete the demerger within FY23," he said.

He further said NMDC has appointed new consultant for the fifth line of screening and the downhill conveyor augmentation project at Bacheli mine, which is expected to be ready in the current year and add about 2.5 MT of production.

Though the outlook for the iron ore market is not encouraging in short term, long-term demand for iron is expected to be positive, he said on the global demand for iron ore.

Avg office rent up 8pc in Delhi-NCR in Jan-Jun



PM Modi hosts India's CWG 2022 contingent

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The golden period of Indian sports is knocking on the door, said Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Saturday as he hailed the gutsy show of the Indian contingent which returned with 61 medals from the Commonwealth Games.

Modi on Saturday hosted the Indian contingent at his residence to felicitate the players here.

The Indian athletes produced a sensational show in Birmingham, claiming 61 medals, including 22 gold, 16 silver and 23 bronze.

"The real assessment of this performance can't be made with just number of medals, our athletes

competed neck-to-neck. There may have been a difference of 1s or 1cm but we will make that up I am confident of that," Modi said during his speech.

"It is just a start and we are not going to just sit quietly, golden period of Indian sports is knocking on the door."

"We have the responsibility of making a sporting system which is the best in the world, inclusive, diverse and dynamic. No talent should be left out as they are all assets."

While India produced a dominating show in badminton, wrestling and weightlifting, the athletes also did well in athletics, judo and lawn bowl, where they won

India's first-ever medal in the Games.

"Not only are we strengthening the sports that we have been strong in but have also left a mark in new sports. In hockey we are trying to get our legacy back," Modi said.

"Since the last time, we have won medals in four new sports, from lawn bowls to athletics, our performance has been spectacular. This performance will help increase youth's interest in new sports. We have to improve our performance in new sports."

The Indian team also won a silver in women's T20 cricket which was introduced for the first time at the CWG.

"Under Harmanpreet's (Kaur)

leadership, India has produced a fantastic performance in cricket. All players have done well but no one had the antidote to Renuka's (Thakur) swing bowling. It is not a small feat to be the top wicket taker among the greats."

Modi also noted that the achievements of the athletes coincided with the celebrations of India's 75th independence day.

The felicitation program was attended by most of the CWG-returned athletes, including the wrestlers, weightlifters, boxers, shuttlers and table-tennis players.

Modi also congratulated the chess players who competed and won medals at the Olympiad which was hosted in Chennai.

IOA felicitates CWG medal winners with cash awards

NEW DELHI: The Indian Olympic Association (IOA) on Saturday felicitated the Birmingham Commonwealth Games medallists and presented them with cash awards at a function here.

While the gold medallists were awarded a cash reward of ₹20 lakh each, the silver and bronze winners got richer by Rs 10 lakh and Rs 7.5 lakh, respectively.

The event was attended by IOA acting president Anil Khanna, secretary general Rajeev Mehta, treasurer Anandeshwar Pandey, and India's chef de mission of the Birmingham Games Rajesh Bhandhari among others.

During the function, Khanna lauded the performance of the Indian athletes, who bagged a rich haul of 61 medals to finish fourth in the standings, despite shooting's absence from the multi-sport event.

PTI

‘There’re better fast bowlers in Indian T20 cricket than Shami’

PTI ■ DUBAI

Australian legend Ricky Ponting feels Mohammed Shami's strength lies in the longest format and there are better quick bowlers in India's T20 set up, weighing in on his absence from the Asia Cup squad.

India have picked Bhuvneshwar Kumar, Avesh Khan and Arshdeep Singh as the three specialist fast bowlers with all-rounder Hardik Pandya being the fourth pacer in the 15-member squad.

"He's (Shami) been a very, very good bowler for India for a long time now. If you look at his strengths, his Test cricket is probably not that conducive," Ponting said.

Ponting, a two-time World Cup-winning captain, said in the latest episode of The ICC Review.

"I think there are better fast bowlers in Indian T20 cricket than Shami and they've only named three (for the Asia Cup). So if there's potentially four named in the squad he might be the fourth man in."

With Jasprit Bumrah and Harshal Patel nursing injuries, many felt Shami might be included to share the new-ball duties during the Asia Cup.

"I would think they'll probably only have the four quicks coming to Australia. They'll still want to bring a lot of spin here even though the wickets are probably not that conducive," Ponting said.

The Asia Cup will be held in Dubai and Sharjah from August 27 to September 11 and Ponting picked India as the favourites to win the tournament.

"It's always hard to go past India in any tournament, not just an Asia Cup, but I think every time we talk about the T20 World Cup which is coming up, I think that India will be right in the thick of it there," the 47-year-old said.

"Their depth is definitely better than the other teams and I think India will win the Asia Cup."



New Zealand cruise past WI in 2nd T20I

AP ■ KINGSTON

New Zealand pulverised a demoralised West Indies by 90 runs in the second T20I at Sabina Park on Friday to take an unbeatable 2-0 in the three-match series.

In a one-sided encounter which magnified the rapid decline of the two-time World T20 winners over the past 12 months, the Black Caps piled up 215 for five.

They then limited the home team to just 125 for nine in reply to hand the Caribbean side a sixth defeat in their last seven matches in the format.

Glen Phillips' blistering 76 off 41 balls with six sixes and four fours highlighted the tourists' dominant batting performance and earned him the man of the match award after captain Kane Williamson chose to take first strike.

He received excellent support from Daryl Mitchell (48) in an 83-run fourth-wicket stand while opener Devon Conway again made a

useful contribution in getting to 42.

Needing victory to keep the series alive going into the final match at the same venue on Sunday, West Indies crumbled to spin for the second time in six days.

Mitchell Santner and Michael Bracewell returned identical figures of three for 15. Ish Sodhi made it seven wickets to spin when he removed Rowman Powell for 21.

PRETORIA CAPITALS SIGN SA PACER ANRICH NORTJE
New Delhi: Pretoria Capitals on Saturday announced that they have signed South African pace duo of Anrich Nortje and Migaél Pretorius for the inaugural edition of Cricket South Africa's T20 League.

Parth Jindal, owner of Pretoria Capitals said, "Anrich Nortje has been an integral part of the growth and success of Delhi Capitals. So when we decided to expand our cricketing footprint to his country, he was always going to be an automatic choice for us.

Shakib appointed B'desh T20 captain for Asia Cup, T20 WC

PTI ■ DHAKA

The Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) on Saturday appointed premier all-rounder Shakib Al Hasan as the skipper of the T20 team for the upcoming Asia Cup, the New Zealand tri-series and the T20 World Cup.

While the Asia Cup will be held in the UAE, Australia will host the T20 showpiece in October-November.

He was appointed Test captain in June after Mominul Haque stepped down.

The BCB also announced a 17-member squad for the Asia Cup, which will be played from August 27. Bangladesh made several changes in their T20I squad for the Asia Cup, with



Liton Das ruled out of the tournament due to injuries.

Middle-order batter Sabbir Rahman, who last played a T20I in 2019, returns to the squad, while Mushfiqur Rahim, who was rested for the T20I series against Zimbabwe, is also back.

Sindhu pulls out of World C'ships

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

India's star shuttler P V Sindhu on Saturday pulled out of the upcoming BWF World Championships owing to a stress fracture on her left foot.

In a statement which she shared on Twitter, the double Olympic medallist confirmed that she will be missing the 2022 World Championships.

Sindhu has won the World Championships gold in 2019, along with two Silver medals and two Bronze.

"While I am on the high of winning a gold medal at the CWG for India. Unfortunately, I have to pull out of the world championships. I felt pain and there was an injury scare at the quarter-finals of the CWG, but with the help of my coach, physio and trainer, I decided to push as far as I could," Sindhu said in the statement.

"The pain was unbearable during and post the finals. Hence I rushed for an MRI as soon as I got back to Hyderabad. The doctors confirmed a stress fracture on my



left foot and recommended rest for a few weeks. I should be back to training in a few weeks. Thank you all for your support and love," she added.

Messi misses out on Ballon d'Or nomination

AP ■ PARIS

Seven-time Ballon d'Or Swinner Lionel Messi paid a high price for an underwhelming first season with Paris Saint-Germain when he was left off the 30-strong list for this year's coveted football award.

Lucy Bronze, who was runner-up in 2019, is one of three members of England's Euro-winning squad to be short-listed for the women's award.

Messi, who won the title last year, had been an ever-present amongst the nominations since 2006 and a regular feature in the top three since 2007 with the exception of 2018.

But Messi, 35, has missed out on the 2022 award following his switch from Barcelona to the French capital.

A change in the format has also worked against the Argentine superstar with the Ballon d'Or no longer acknowledging the best player over a calendar year.

Instead, it is based on a season's record highlighting "the individual performances" and the "decisive and impressive character" of the nominees, according to the criteria.

After leaving Barcelona in the summer of 2021, Messi was unable to stamp his genius on a PSG team desperate for a Champions League title.

In total, Messi scored only



11 goals for PSG with his relatively indifferent club form failing to impress France Football magazine, the organisers of the Ballon d'Or

which will be awarded in Paris on October 17.

PSG teammate Neymar also misses out after a season where he scored 13 goals in 28

matches.

French international striker Karim Benzema is the overwhelming favourite after being the architect of Real Madrid's 14th Champions League title.

Benzema is likely to become the fifth French winner after Raymond Kopa (1958), Michel Platini (1983, 1984, 1985), Jean-Pierre Papin (1991) and Zinedine Zidane (1998).

In the 2021/2022 season, Benzema scored 44 goals in 46 appearances for a Madrid side who also won the Liga title.

His goal in Wednesday's 2-0 victory over Eintracht Frankfurt in the European Super Cup took the 34-year-old to 324 goals for the Spanish

giants.

Manchester United's Ronaldo, a five-time Ballon d'Or winner, is nominated again this year.

Benzema is joined on the 30-man list by teammates Thibaut Courtois, Casemiro, 2018 winner Luka Modric, Vinicius and former Chelsea player Antonio Rudiger.

Beaten Champions League finalists Liverpool have seven players nominated, the most of any club.

There is a 20-strong list for the women's Ballon d'Or including English stars Bronze, Millie Bright and Arsenal forward Beth Mead who won the Golden Boot at the women's Euro.

Hurkacz ends Kyrgios streak in Montreal

AP ■ MONTREAL

Hubert Hurkacz overcame 53 winners from Nick Kyrgios to halt the Australian's nine-match win streak with a three-set quarter-final victory on Friday at the ATP Montreal Masters.

The Polish eighth seed managed 43 winners of his own in a rapid-fire 7-6(7/4), 6-7(5/7), 6-1 triumph that put him into his fourth semi-final at the Masters level.

Hurkacz will next face Norway's fourth-seeded Casper Ruud, who crushed home hope Felix Auger-Aliassime 6-1, 6-2, in 74 minutes.

Ruud will play his third Masters semi-final this season on Saturday, having defeated Hurkacz in their previous meeting in May at Roland Garros.

At the bottom of the draw, Dan Evans completed a comeback to defeat American Tommy Paul 1-6, 6-3, 6-4, needing two match points to overcome Paul in two and a quarter hours.

But the chance of an all-British semi-final at this elite level fell away as Jack Draper lost 7-6 (7/4), 6-1 to Spain's Pablo Carreno Busta after saving a pair of match points.

The 39th-ranked Evans, who managed only 15 winners, was decisively out-hit by Paul with 40.

Not surprisingly he said reaching his second career semi-final in Masters tournament was a hard slog.

HALEP DOWNS COCO

Toronto: Simona Halep served twice for her match against Coco Gauff without success on



Friday before finally securing a 6-4, 7-6 (7/2) quarter-final victory at the WTA Toronto Masters.

The former number one, a two-time winner in Canada,

made hard work of her triumph over the rising American teenager who just missed a chance at cracking the world ranking top-10 for the first time.

Halep needed a second-set tiebreaker to advance into the semi-finals in just under two hours. Double Grand Slam champion Halep earned her leading 183rd match win at the

Masters 1000 level. She now owns 36 victories in 2022.

NO DJOKER

Novak Djokovic pulled out of next week's hard-court tournament in Cincinnati because he has not gotten any COVID-19 vaccine shots and so is not allowed to travel to the United States.

That is also why Djokovic is not expected to be able to enter the US Open, the year's last Grand Slam tournament, which begins in New York on Aug 29.

Djokovic is a 35-year-old from Serbia who owns 21 major championships, one behind Rafael Nadal for the men's record. Djokovic has said he won't get vaccinated against the illness caused by the coronavirus, even if that prevents him from playing in certain tournaments.



Sambalpur Municipal Corporation
Sambalpur

Email id : sambalpurm.hud@nic.in

No. 7685/SMC/Eng. Dt. 08.08.2022

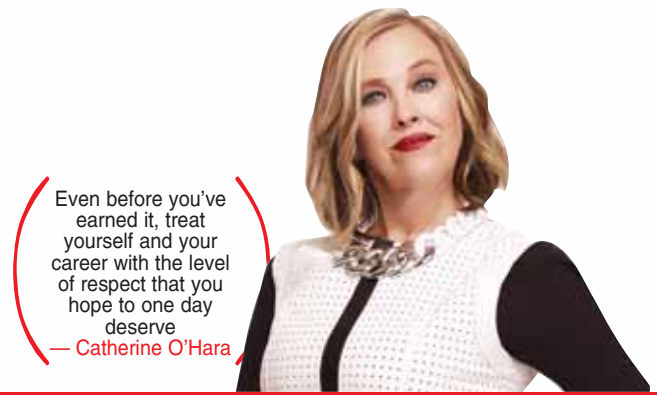
C-987 'e' Procurement NOTICE
Bid Identification No: 09/SMC_SBP/2022-23

The Municipal Commissioner on behalf of Municipal Corporation, Sambalpur invites tenders in Single Cover System. Bid documents consisting of specification the Schedule of Quantities and the set of terms and conditions of contract and other necessary documents can be seen the Govt. Website i.e. <https://tendersodisha.gov.in>

- Number of Civil works: 4_ (Four) numbers
- Estimated Costs: 1.33 lakhs to 21.90 lakhs
- Period of completion: As per NIT
- Date and time of availability of the bid documents in the portal: From 11.00 A.M. of 10.08.2022 to 05.00 PM of 03.09.2022
- Last Date/ Time for receipt of bids in the portal: 05.00 PM of 03.09.2022
- Bids will be opened on: 11.00 AM of Dt. 05.09.2022
- Name and address of the officer inviting bid: **Municipal Commissioner, Sambalpur Municipal Corporation, Sambalpur.**

Sd/- Commissioner,
Sambalpur Municipal Corporation

OIPR : 13122/11/0039/2223



Even before you've earned it, treat yourself and your career with the level of respect that you hope to one day deserve
— Catherine O'Hara

Before Nitish divorced the RJD and shifted to the BJP camp in 2017, similar talks did the round about him squaring up with Modi in the electoral ring. But during the last five years the political scenario of the country has changed completely, and chances of Nitish’s acceptance as the Opposition face has increased proportionality, writes NAVIN UPADHYAY

WHY NITISH BEST BET AGAINST ‘MIGHTY’ MODI

After Nitish Kumar dumped the BJP and embraced the RJD-led Grand alliance comprising Congress and the Left, speculations have once again gained ground that he could be the joint Opposition face to take on Prime Minister Narendra Modi in the 2024 general elections.

Sources in the know of the agreement arrived between RJD and JD(U) claim that Nitish will contest the Lok Sabha election and move to national politics vacating his chair for Tejashwi Yadav.

Nitish may have denied that he harbors any ambition of occupying the PM’s office, but his warning shot to the BJP that the party may not be in power after the 2024 Lok Sabha polls, is a clear indication that, as far he is concerned, the development in Bihar should not be seen in isolation and he could play a vital role in galvanizing the opposition across the nation.

Before Nitish divorced the RJD and shifted to the BJP camp in 2017, similar talks did the round about him squaring up with Modi in the electoral ring in 2019. But during the last five years, the political scenario of the country has changed completely, and the chances of Nitish’s acceptance as the joint Opposition’s face have increased proportionality.

For once, Congress has done little to claim the leadership of any such Opposition formation. Rahul Gandhi may be at the forefront of fighting a verbal duel with the BJP, but on the ground, the party has gained little result. In public perception, Rahul Gandhi lacks the ability to turn the tide of public opinion against Modi. Several opposition leaders such as West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee, TRS chief K Chandrasekhar Rao, and Samajwadi Party Chief Akhilesh Yadav are unlikely to endorse any move to anoint Rahul Gandhi as the face of the Opposition.

The recent raids by the CBI and Enforcement Directorate against TMC leaders and Ministers and the discovery of huge sums of money from them have considerably dented Mamata Banerjee’s image. Mamata’s refusal to back the candidature of Margaret Alva in the Vice-Presidential contest has also raised eyebrows. Her pow wow with Narendra Modi during her last visit to Delhi and her decision to attend the Niti Ayog meeting, which she always boycotted, has left tongues wagging in the political circles.

In such a scenario, Nitish could be one of the best bets to take on Modi for a variety of reasons.

First, he is someone with a clean track record who need not worry about the ED or CBI. Even his political rivals agree that Nitish Kumar is a stickler to rules and attempts to question his probity and integrity could very well bounce back on the BJP. At a time when the majority of the Opposition leaders are hounded by the central

IN SUCH A SCENARIO, NITISH’S POSSIBLE PROJECTION AS THE JOINT OPPOSITION CANDIDATE AGAINST MODI WILL HAVE FAR-REACHING CONSEQUENCES ON BRINGING TOGETHER YADAVS AND NON-YADAVS OBCS UNDER ONE UMBRELLA. INDIA MAY HAVE MOVED , BOTH ECONOMICALLY AND POLITICALLY , WAY AHEAD FROM THE DAYS OF MANDAL EUPHORIA, BUT THE FACT REMAINS THAT IN THE HINDI HEARTLAND CASTE REMAINS A REALITY IN THE ELECTORAL FIGHT. NITISH HAS ALWAYS FROWNED AT BEING IDENTIFIED AS A KURMI LEADER, BUT THAT IDENTITY, MAY BECOME HIS STRONGEST WEAPON AGAINST THE BJP AND TURN THE 2024 LS BOUT INTO A TITANIC CLASH BETWEEN VOTARIES OF MANDAL AND KAMANDAL POLITICS AND IDEOLOGIES



probe agencies, Nitish’s image is the strongest shield for them against the onslaught of the probe agencies. JD (U) national president Rajiv Ranjan Singh alias Lalan Singh put this in perspective, saying, “The party was “not scared of ED and CBI!”

Secondly, the charges of dynastic politics often hurled by Prime Minister Narendra Modi against the Gandhis will not stick to Nitish Kumar. His son has never been seen in the public space; no other member of his family has anything to do with politics.

Third, Nitish is one of the most experienced leaders in the Opposition rank. He has been Chief Minister for 17 years. He will also be remembered as a successful railway minister at the center. His stint as agriculture minister was also noteworthy.

Fourthly, and most importantly, Nitish Kumar can take on Modi on the caste turf as well, because like Modi he too belonged to an OBC caste. Modi’s persona as an OBC leader is one of the most important factors in the emergence of the BJP as an unbeatable force on the pan-India level and the saffron outfit’s deep penetration among non-Yadav voters. That’s where Nitish could be counted on to stop the BJP juggernaut. His Kurmi caste has a sizeable presence across India. If Nitish could end the traditional rivalry between the Yadavs and non-Yadav OBCs, then his Kurmi card could be a game changer in national politics.

It will be interesting to note that in the recently concluded Uttar Pradesh assembly polls, as many as 41 Kurmi candidates were elected to the assembly. Of them, SP won 13 seats, up from two they won in 2107 assembly polls. Kurmis population is pegged at nearly 8 percent in UP, and if Nitish chose to contest from one of the Kurmi-dominated seats in Eastern Uttar Pradesh bordering Bihar, it could galvanize the entire OBC rank in UP just as Modi’s decision to shift to Varanasi did for the BJP. A Kurmi-Yadav-Muslim axis backed by whatever upper caste votes Congress drew in, could become a potent formulation in UP where the Ram Mandir issue will be certainly the BJP’s trump cards in 2024.

Nitish’s projection as PM’s candidate could have strong repercussions in states such as Chhattisgarh (20 pc Kurmi population), Jharkhand (10-12 pc), Maharashtra (7 pc), Gujarat where Patidars are seen as Kurmis (14 pc), Odisha (7 pc). Kurmis also have a sizeable presence in Madhya Pradesh and Rajasthan besides West Bengal.

In West Bengal’s Maoist-dominated Jangalmahal which comprises Jhargram, Purulia, West Midnapore, and Bankura, Kurmis make up nearly 40 percent vote share.

In such a scenario, Nitish’s possible projection as the joint opposition candidate against Modi will have far-reaching consequences in bringing together Yadavs and non-Yadavs OBCs under one umbrella. India may have come a long way, both economically and politically, from the days of Mandal euphoria, but the fact remains that In the Hindi heartland caste remains a reality in the electoral fights. Nitish has always frowned at being identified as a Kurmi leader, but that identity may become his strongest weapon against the BJP and turn the 2024 LS bout into a titanic clash between votaries of Mandal and Kamandal politics and ideologies.

Except for Mamata whose party sees her as a rightful claimant for taking on Modi as the joint opposition candidate after the TMC thrashed the BJP in the state assembly polls, the majority in the non-Congress Opposition rank may not have any reservation in accepting Nitish Kumar’s leadership. The silence of the Congress’ top leaders, especially the Gandhis, on the Bihar development is significant. While Nitish rang up Sonia Gandhi and Rahul Gandhi after quitting the NDA, so far the Gandhis have not publicly welcomed his decision or congratulated him.

For the opposition, there could be two possible scenarios in the run-up to 2024. First, Congress gives its nod to accept a non-Gandhi as the face of the Opposition to take on Modi. Secondly, if Congress refuses to do so, hoping against hope that Rahul Gandhi could mobilize the congress to defeat the BJP, then the opposition could revive the Third Front. In both cases, Nitish is in with a chance to emerge as a consensus candidate.

Before he shifted to the BJP camp in 2017, in private conversation Nitish would argue that to defeat the BJP the opposition must stop reacting to the discourse set by BJP and set its own narrative and present a comprehensive economic plan before the nation. Someone who has worked with the BJP for more than two decades, Nitish Kumar is more familiar with the BJP’s way of contesting polls and its stratagem. Whether or not he is the face of the Opposition in 2024, Nitish has certainly injected some interest in the battle of 2024, which looked hopelessly one-sided before he dumped the BJP and shifted to the opposition rank.

Nitish Kumar could be one of the few people, including Sharad Pawar and Mamata Banerjee, who could be seen as prime ministerial challengers in 2024.

NCP leader MAJEED MEMON

Nitish Kumar will be more of an acceptable face for a joint opposition candidate compared to Mamata Banerjee in 2024. To defeat BJP, you have to either change the rules of engagement or beat them at their own game.

Suspended Congress leader SANJAY JHA

If you assess the personalities in the country, Nitish Kumar is eligible to become prime minister. We are not making any claim today, but he has all the qualities of a prime minister

UPENDRA KUSHWAHA, president of the Janata Dal (United) National Parliamentary Board

Nitish Kumar is one of the most experienced Chief ministers of our time. If Narendra Modi can become PM, why not Nitish Kumar?

Bihar's deputy CM TEJASHWI YADAV

Nitish could be a prime ministerial candidate for the 2024 Lok Sabha elections.

Veteran RJD leader SHARAD YADAV

The JD(U) leader has given the BJP a taste of its own medicine after it dislodged the governments of opposition parties in Madhya Pradesh and Maharashtra. Due to his bold decision, Kumar today stands in the front row in the opposition camp along with Mamata Banerjee and others to lead the downfall of 'Modi raj' in the next Parliamentary election.

Bihari Babu SHATRUGHAN SINHA

Nitish will not be PM even in seven lives.

Former JD(U) leader RCP SINGH

Tough anti-tobacco law for Healthy Nation

At a time when a string of countries such as Ireland, Sweden, Finland, the UK, the US, Australia and Canada and a few others have set “tobacco endgame” targets to get rid of the lethal product by a certain year, India is still sitting over the COTPA (Cigarette and Other Tobacco Products Act) Amendment Bill having stringent tobacco control provisions. It was expected to see the light of the day this Monsoon session of Parliament. But it couldn’t, as the session was adjourned sine die last week, four days ahead schedule. Tobacco endgame goal is generally defined as a smoking prevalence of 5 per cent or less.

A battery of anti-tobacco advocates and health experts tells The Health Pioneer that the passage of the progressive legislation could be a way forward towards achieving endgame goals whenever announced by India.

They also pinned hopes on the Government’s assurance to many Parliamentarians on at least seven different occasions in Parliament for the introduction of the Bill.

Drafted by the Union Health Ministry, the long-awaited Bill has provisions such as:

- Disallowing retail sale of loose sticks of cigarettes.
- Prohibiting sale of tobacco products to persons below 21 years.
- Restricts advertising and promotion of tobacco products at Point of Sale (PoS).
- Ban on smoking designated zones at places like hotels, airports and restaurants.

SHWETA SHALINI

BJP Leader from Maharashtra



There is an urgent and immediate need for action to eradicate tobacco menace, given that in India, over 13.5 lakh individuals per year face death due to the deadly product.

This is not a small number. If we want to make India, a world leader we must have healthy youth. But I feel that there’s strong lobby working against the Government’s dream of becoming world leader. If our youth and kids have ill health, India can never become a world Guru.

It’s good that smoking is completely banned in many public places and workplaces. The law, however, permits the establishment of smoking areas or spaces in airports, hotels having 30 or more rooms, and restaurants having seating capacity for 30 or more. This gap needs to be plugged.

A total ban on smoking in indoor public places will protect men and women from the harms of second-hand smoke, help smokers quit and reduce smoking among youth. Let’s have healthy parents and children for better India.

Over five and a half thousand teenagers in the country are getting addicted to tobacco products daily. It is time to strengthen the COTPA Act to end the conspiracies targeting these youth.

DR SHALINI SINGH

Director, ICMR-National Institute of Cancer Prevention and Research, Union Health Ministry



There is a need to spread awareness about not only tobacco related cancers but also a plethora of diseases caused by the harmful carcinogens in the nicotine laden product. The tobacco lobby is every next day coming up with new product to lure the youth and kids. For instance, now synthetic nicotine is being launched, which is as equally addictive as the nicotine, but does not fall under the purview of the COTPA Act.

Also, there is a need to design gender-sensitive cessation centres so that men or women are encouraged to quit the deadly habit while doctors should take the cudgel on behalf of their patients to save them from life-threatening products.

DR JAGDISH KAUR

Regional Adviser, Tobacco Free Initiative, WHO Regional Office for South-east Asia



India’s tobacco control journey has been long and arduous. From enforcement of CORPA 2003 to implementing WHO FCTC strategies, there have been success on several fronts. India is likely to achieve NCD



Action Plan target on 30 percent relative reduction in tobacco use prevalence by 2025. Country is preparing for the third round of Global Adult Tobacco Survey. Having said that, Endgame is still a distant goal. Gaps in COTPA 2003 requires to be addressed to improve WHO MPOWER score. Best buys for tobacco control including raising tax on tobacco and enforcing bans on tobacco advertising especially indirect and surrogate ads need urgent attention.

PRIYANK KANOONGO

Chairperson, National Commission for Protection of Child Rights (NCPCR)



There is a need to increase taxes on tobacco products as well as on films, OTT platforms and other media that display use of such items in any form. This will not only make these products earned can be used for the treatment and rehabilitation of those suffering from tobacco-related diseases.

Imposition of greater taxation on media that displays use of tobacco will require people to pay more and help discourage glorification of tobacco products. There is a psychological warfare by the tobacco companies. They are targeting young children by positioning tobacco-related ads at their eye-level at points of sale and promoting sale of tobacco products such as gutkha and beedi, alongside sweets, candies, and toys.

PROF (DR) UMA KUMAR

Head of Rheumatology Department, AIIMS, Delhi



The number of tobacco users is rising and it is scary to note that children between 13 and 15 years of age constitute 8.5 per cent of them. People generally think that smoking affects lungs only, but the case is different, it affects every parts and is one of the important risk factors for growing numbers cases related to autoimmune diseases. The first-hand smoke and second-hand smoke both are equally harmful for health. There is a rising smoking habits among women who think that it is in the fashion. But they must know that it may result into infertility, cases of which is also rising these days. Also, smoking may lead

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SCARY FIGURES

After China, India has the second largest consumers (over 26 crore adults (15 years and above)) of tobacco, according to the Global Adult Tobacco Survey India, 2016-17. It leads not only to loss of lives but also has heavy social and economic costs. The total economic costs attributed to tobacco use from all diseases in India in the year 2017-18 for persons aged 35 years and above amounted to

₹177,341 crore (USD 27.5 billion), as per the WHO. According to the Global Youth Tobacco Survey (GYTS)-2019, nearly one-fifth of students aged 13-15 years are using tobacco products in India. The nationwide survey of students revealed that 38% of cigarettes, 47% of bidi and 52% of smokeless tobacco users picked up the habit before their 10th birthday [GYTS-4].

TOBACCO HAS NO BENEFITS

The most prevalent form of tobacco use in India is smokeless tobacco and commonly used products are khaini, gutkha, betel quid with tobacco and zarda. Smoking forms of tobacco used are bidi, cigarette and hookah. Smoking can lead to cancer, heart disease, stroke, lung disease, diabetes, chronic obstructive pulmonary disease including emphysema and chronic bronchitis. SLT also increases risk of tuberculosis, certain eye conditions, problems of the immune system including rheumatoid arthritis.



to premature birth. Tobacco companies that make products like cigarettes and gutkha are specifically targeting teenagers and kids. They prominently display their advertisements near school and colleges so that they are visible to the impressionable minds. These should be completely banned. Doing away with Designated Smoking Areas (DSA) can be a game changer in the direction of health of the vulnerable population and making India’s public places 100 per cent smoke-free.

DR. RIJO M JOHN

Researcher, Rajagiri College of Social Sciences and Economist and Health Policy Analyst



With more than 100 million smokers in India, non-smokers are exposed to second-hand smoke at home, at work, and in public places. There is no known safe level of exposure to second-hand smoke, a deadly mix of

more than 7,000 chemicals that are known to cause premature death and disease in children and adults who do not smoke.

Our recent study has shown that the annual direct economic costs attributable to Second-Hand Smoking in India amounted to Rs 567 billion. This accounts for 8 per cent of total annual health care expenditures on top of the staggering Rs 1773.4 billion (\$27.5 billion) in annual economic burden from tobacco use.

Against such scary scenario, India needs to take strong measures to reduce its large number of smokers and the economic burden of treating tobacco-related diseases. Increasing tobacco taxes is one of the most effective ways to reduce smoking, yet India has not had any significant tax increase on any tobacco products for the past four years. The current tobacco tax collected in India from all tobacco products combined is less than the Rs 567 billion in health care costs caused by exposure to second-hand smoke.

Second-hand exposure continues to be high in India because of the gaps in India’s

smoke-free law that still allow Designated Smoking Areas in public places like restaurants, bars, hotels, and airports.

DR ARCHANA DHAWAN BAJAJ

Gynaecologist and Fertility Expert



Tobacco-induced infertility among couples is increasing at a disturbing pace in the country. Smoking and smoke-less tobacco use can have a serious impact on the fertility of both men and women, and consequently the quality of life in pregnancy as well as negative health on the unborn child, miscarriage, and death. If a woman is a regular smoker, then it has a double adverse impact on a woman’s fertility. Smoking can harm both the eggs and the uterus. It not only affects her egg quality, but can also have endometrial effect. Many studies too have shown that smoking can also affect sperm (which reduces fertility) and increase the risk of miscarriage and birth defects.

Smoking during pregnancy can put a would-be-mom at a higher risk of pregnancy complications, such as preterm labor and delivery. Smoking or passive smoke during pregnancy can also result in negative health outcomes for the unborn baby. From the male’s perspective, the carcinogen quality of cigarettes in general affects the motility of the sperm and excessive smoking can lead to the poor sperm count and other fertility problems.

Hence, if the couple is planning to conceive, it’s better for them to shun the tobacco butt as early as possible.

DR VISHAL RAO

Oncologist and Member of Karnataka Government’s High-powered Committee on Tobacco Control



Majority of the long-term tobacco users commence tobacco use while they are adolescents. Every individual has the right to health and the right to smoke-free public places. Article 21 of the Indian Constitution guarantees this. So when a smoker ‘smokes’ in public places, he or she is not only spoiling his/her health but also threatening the lives of all those who are in that public place. This infringes the right of non-smokers to have a healthy lifestyle. We have to amend COTPA to make our public places 100 percent smoke-free.

DR G K RATH

Oncologist and Former head, National Cancer Institute, AIIMS



Tobacco products are the major contributors for various cancers and other diseases. In India, tobacco-related cancers contribute nearly half of the total cancers in males and one-fifth in females. Cancers caused by tobacco can affect lungs, mouth, pharynx (upper throat), nose and sinuses, larynx (voice box), oesophagus (food pipe), liver, pancreas, stomach, kidney, ovary, bladder, cervix, and some types of leukaemia. It is very disappointing that while tobacco firms are targeting through various marketing strategies to children as young as ten years old, some Bollywood celebrities are “engaged in surrogate advertisements of health hazardous items like gutka.

DR ALOK THAKAR

Professor of Otolaryngology & Head Neck Surgery, AIIMS, New Delhi



There has been rising oral cancer cases due to unabated sale and consumption of tobacco products like cigarette, beedi, khaini, tambaku, gutka and zarda. Since these are yet to be regulated in true sense and not many people are aware about its ill-effects, it will increase the country’s health burden dramatically.

DR RAHUL BHARGAVA

Head of Heamotology Department, Fortis Hospital, Gurugram, Haryana



As long as tobacco products are easily available and affordable for poor and children, achieving ‘Tobacco Free India’ mission will remain a dream. A lot of recent cancer cases are from rural India. Cigarettes form just one component. The bulk of tobacco addiction in rural India is due to chewable tobacco also.

DR RAMBHA PANDEY

Additional Professor, Radiation Oncologist, AIIMS, Delhi



Women are increasingly taking up tobacco consumption, viewing it as a ‘fashion symbol’. This is a very disturbing trend. The habit of smoking and chewing start at the age of 10-12 years among kids, and once they get into the habit, it is difficult to shun. We hope that the stringent COTPA amendments having provisions such as ban on designated smoking zones will help in cutting down tobacco consumption among the public and thus suffering from cancer. People must be told that tobacco has no single benefit.

DR RAKESH GARG

Additional Professor of Anaesthesiology, Critical Care, Pain and Palliative Medicine, AIIMS, Delhi



The link between tobacco consumption and cancer is very clear. There is a need to look into the financial toxicity caused by tobacco consumption resulting in cancer. A multi-pronged strategy focussing on awareness, higher taxes and stringent laws is needed to make these killer products unaffordable and inaccessible to make India healthy.

Anemia rate among our children and adults has gotten worse in the country, putting a question mark on the efficacy of the Government’s Anemia Mukta Abhiyaan or Anemia-Free Campaign. Latest data shows that prevalence of anemia among children aged six months to five years has increased by more than nine per cent in about five years from 58.6 per cent in national family health survey (NFHS) 4 to 67.1 per cent in NFHS-5, conducted during 2019-21. The HEALTH PIONEER reports.

Anemia is a condition in which the number of red blood cells or the haemoglobin concentration within them is lower than normal. The World Health Organization (WHO)

Rising Cases of Anemia in Kids a Concern

defines anaemic individuals as children under five with haemoglobin levels less than 11.0 grammes per deciliter (g/dL) and women in the reproductive age range with haemoglobin levels less than 12 g/dL.

The Government recently revealed this disturbing fact in Parliament saying that Ladakh topped the list with 90 per cent anemic children followed by Gujarat (80 per cent), Dadra and Nagar Haveli and Daman and Diu (76 per cent). Situation was similar in Madhya Pradesh and Jammu and Kashmir (73 per cent), and Punjab and Rajasthan (71 per cent) too.

This decline, despite a string of measures taken by the government in last several years, is a cause of concern.

Responding to a question, Union Health Minister Mansukh Mandaviya in a written reply in Parliament had said that the Anaemia Mukta Bharat (AMB) strategy is being launched under POSHAN Abhiyaan (Prime Minister’s Overarching Scheme for Holistic Nutrition) with the target of reducing anaemia in the six population groups - children (6-59 months), children (5-9 years), adolescent girls and boys (10-19 years), pregnant women, lactating women

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and women of reproductive age group (15-49 years) in lifecycle approach.

In fact, Anemia rate among youth and women is also not impressive.

Health experts have raised concern at the rise in the cases given that anemia has many harmful effects on children’s lives as it reduces learning capacity, attentiveness and intelligence.

Studies show that education and ethnicity of the community has played a key role in cutting down anemia rate. For instance, a research ‘Prevalence and risk factors of anemia among children 6-59 months in

India: A multilevel analysis’ published in journal Clinical Epidemiology and Clinical Health, said that “some aspects of the community influence the anemia risks of children. For instance, a 1 percent increase in the proportion of mother education in the community decreased the likelihood of anemia by 9 per cent among children.

“Northeast region was the only region at lesser risk of anemia. Higher community level ethnic and religious homogeneity is associated with decreased odds of anemia among children. Children aged 12-35 months, girl child, children having diarrhoea, mothers of age group 15-24, high parity and low exposure to mass-media were the high risk individual factors

of anemia among children,” it said.

Dr Rahul Bhargava, Director, Haematology, Haemato – Oncology and Bone Marrow Transplant, Fortis Memorial Research Institute, Gurugram called for increasing awareness about this deficiency which can be at times life threatening.

The doctor pointed out that no doubt most common causes of anemia include nutritional deficiencies, particularly iron deficiency. But deficiencies in folate, vitamins B12 and A are also important causes. Also, diseases like thalassemia or sickle cell disease and aplastic anemia may result in severe anemia or cancer. “Such patients need regular blood transfusions,” he said.

“We need a dedicated day to raise awareness about normal range of hemoglobin in females,” Dr Bhargava added.

Some of the major interventions by the Government under AMB, include prophylactic iron and folic acid supplementation, deworming, intensified year-round behaviour change communication campaign, testing of anemia using digital methods and point of care treatment, addressing non-nutritional causes of anemia in endemic pockets with special focus on malaria, hemoglobinopathies and fluorosis. But given that anemia continue to remain a major public health problem, its time for the authorities to re-evaluate its strategy for better outcome.

Afghans in a terrible predicament

The Taliban snatched power from the West-backed Ashraf Ghani in Afghanistan in August last year after two decades of their ouster by the US troops. The Islamist group ruled Afghanistan from 1996-2001 under the leadership of Mullah Omar, but were thrown out from Kabul in 2001 when the US launched an onslaught to avenge 9/11 terror attacks and to smoke out al-Qaeda terrorists, including Osama Bin Laden, holed up in the country.

Decimated by the mighty US Army, the rag-tag Taliban took shelter in the mountains and countryside to regroup over years during the US occupation, adopting guerrilla warfare. And, finally, the radicals tactfully occupied power by mobilising both physical and diplomatic support with years of back-room negotiations with the Americans in Qatar.

And then on August 15, 2020, the mullahs succeeded in usurping power from the US-backed legitimate government of President Ghani, who ruled the country from September 2014 till August 2021.

Fearing for life and meeting the same fate as that of Mohammad Najibullah Ahmadzai (former president of Afghanistan who the Taliban executed after seizing power in 1996 for the first time), Ghani left the war-torn country, leaving behind embattled soldiers and residents at the mercy of the Taliban.

Though no massive protest rally came out in Kabul, the fear among residents, mostly those who had sided with the Americans, was such that there was a mad rush to leave the country for safety. There was chaos at the Kabul airport on August 16 and some seven people, including some who fell from a departing American military transport jet, died.

Thousands succeeded in leaving the country thinking that they might have to face the Taliban's extreme brutality. However, many Afghans chose to stay on as they never wanted to leave their motherland and also, they were used to such heinous treatments at the hands of the Taliban in the past.

As the chaos was unfolding in Afghanistan, the US under Joe Biden simply dumped the democratically elected Ghani Government without showing any commitment for the future of Afghanistan. Shockingly, Washington has never realised that it has handed over the baton to those monsters against whom it fought the so-called "War on Global Terrorism" (GWOT). In fact, America's withdrawal from Afghanistan was planned during the administration of President Barack Obama.

The Taliban takeover of Afghanistan is a grim signal for a country that may not return to democracy very easily in the near future. The Taliban is predominantly a Pashtun Islamic fundamentalist group, operating mainly in



Afghanistan. It was formed in 1994 as a resistance force against the invading Soviet forces in the 1980s.

In their heyday of the movement, the Taliban promised to impose stability and rule of law after four years of conflict (1992-96) among rival Mujahideen groups. It was in November 1994 when the Taliban entered Kandahar to pacify the crime-ridden southern city, and by September 1996 they seized the capital, Kabul, from President Burhanuddin Rabbani, an ethnic Tajik whom they viewed as anti-Pashtun and corrupt.

The Taliban wanted to impose their interpretation of repressive Islamic rule. They banned television, imposing ultra-strict rules governing the conduct of women. These measures soon made them an international pariah. Their act of destroying the 1,500 years of Buddha statues in Bamiyan province further isolated them. And sheltering the masterminds of 9/11 terror attacks proved to be the last nail in their coffin as the US destroyed the Taliban.

However, the Taliban regrouped and collected enough strength to make a comeback. And hence the group's swift move came as the US planned for the final withdrawal of troops as per the peace deal signed in 2020. Although the Afghan Government forces were well-funded and well-equipped, they could not put up enough resistance when the Taliban seized power. Also, the US

officials openly admitted that they miscalculated the speed at which the Islamists grabbed power.

A year after the Taliban takeover, what the international community can witness is nothing but chaos. Some of the areas that draw global attention are worth mentioning here.

First of all, the Taliban have broken multiple global conventions to respect women's rights and human rights. They are hell bent on destroying the fundamentals of universal human rights accepted by civil society. The mullahs in power have imposed the most severe restrictions over women rights and media freedom. Protest against Taliban rule results in certain death.

Second, unlawful killing has increased manifold. There is absolutely no control over such brutalities and anarchy. In fact, the Taliban are simply concentrating on holding Kabul and managing to survive. So they can hardly afford any time and resources for controlling mafias across the country.

Third, the country is in the grip of the worst economic downturn with stories like people forced to sell their children to earn the means to stay alive.

However, this economic breakdown has not started right now. For a long time, the country has been suffering an economic crisis as it could not properly utilise its massive natural resources.

Fourth, large scale deaths are

taking place because of a severe food crisis in the country. Barely two per cent of the Afghan people have enough food to survive their daily lives.

Fifth, the Taliban have barred girls from attending educational institutions. It displays their extremely patriarchal mindset that denies girls basic right to livelihood.

Sixth, the Taliban have refused to get engaged with international human rights and financial institutions. The foreign governments should ease restrictions on the country's financial organisations specially the banks so as to facilitate development initiatives and daily needs of the people. But at the same time, the international actors also must press the mullahs to allow basic rights and punish those responsible for abuses.

Seventh, finally, the Taliban will not be able to move away from their terror tag though they are working hard to do so. Recently, al-Qaeda chief Aiman-al-Zawahiri was killed by the US drone attack in Kabul itself. It clearly shows how the Taliban are covertly sheltering the terror heads so as to keep their hardcore cadre intact and also to spread the terror networks as far as possible.

Biden's quick exit from Afghanistan had an international impact as well. This withdrawal is a total collapse of the GWOT once launched against the Islamic radicals. However, today's global power equations are entirely different from that

of the 1970s. The allies of Washington in this GWOT in Afghanistan went clueless as the US took its decision to withdraw from the war theatre.

Many of the British ministers came out openly against Biden's move in Afghanistan. It was very clear how the UK and other European allies of the US were dependent on Washington. In fact, their opinions hardly mattered for Biden when the latter wanted to take a crucial decision.

Definitely, Beijing and Moscow are quite content to see the US leaving a two-decade old war field by creating a power void. But how long the smiles in Beijing, Moscow and lately in Islamabad will continue is a matter of concern.

Simply, the Taliban pose an immediate threat not only to the Afghan people but also for the entire central Asian region. Their coming to power has fuelled the ambitions and offensives of other Islamic jihadists like al-Qaeda, Islamic State and especially, the Tehrik-e-Taliban Pakistan (TTP), mainly operating in the Afghan-Pakistan border areas.

There is a vast difference between the Taliban 1.0 and 2.0. Earlier, it was out and out a jihadist outfit. Today it has transformed itself into an organisation that can equally run diplomacy and terror together. They have learnt their lessons in the last two decades of their fighting with the US-led forces.

The future of Afghanistan, known as the graveyard of empires, hinges more on whether the Taliban rule the country as a unified force and less on the reactions of external powers like the US... Conventional wisdom is that it's really difficult for such terror groups to sustain for long in public governance



MAKHAN SAIKIA

For sure, Kabul will soon turn into a war zone. If the Taliban deny the fundamental rights to its people and go on abusing the same, the international actors could snap ties with them, accompanied by suspension of financial aid.

This could be catastrophic for a country that barely has anything to survive. Again, it is a big challenge for the Taliban to maintain cohesion among its own military ranks. Conventional wisdom is that it's really difficult for such terror groups to sustain for long in public governance. Therefore, the future of Afghanistan, known as the graveyard of empires, hinges more on whether the Taliban rule the country as a unified force and less on the reactions of external powers like the US.

It's an uphill task for the Taliban to keep the pace and peace in a country full of problems and with ISIS splinter groups fanned out in villages trying to come into power using the same guerrilla tactics which the Taliban used to topple the US-led Ghani Government.

(Dr Makhan Saikia has taught political science and international relations for over a decade in institutions of national and international repute after specialisation in globalisation and governance from Tata Institute of Social Sciences, Mumbai. He is the chief editor of the Journal of Global Studies, an international research journal)

PERSPECTIVE

Urgency of revisiting unregulated populism

Are freebies any different from the tax concessions given to corporate entities? States are well within their rights to use public funds for public purposes. But that doesn't mean they can't be made accountable for their fiscal profligacy



PIYUSH KAMAL

Even after witnessing respectable economic growth during the post-reform period, India has somehow struggled with the equitable distribution of her wealth. The top 10 per cent of India's population hold 74 per cent of the total national wealth, while the bottom 90 per cent have to manage itself with the rest of the crumbs.

As a mature democracy, we cannot afford to ignore the existing disparity of this magnitude. Yet, all political parties despite their differences in ideologies have historically tried to ostensibly tackle this grave issue by doling freebies and sops to this vulnerable and marginalised section, especially during election periods.

For instance, free electricity, free water supply, waiver of agricultural loans, unemployment doles, and giving away gadgets like television, smartphones, laptops, and tabs have gained widespread acceptance among political stakeholders for making competitive bids for votes. And the sad part is: This indulgence in competitive bidding is rarely done keeping in mind the financial health of the States.

Is it a corrupt practice?

There is a section of diehard ideologues that sees these freebies as furtherance of Directive Principles. They think as long as public funds splurged on freebies are spent after getting proper clearance from the legislature, these populist measures can't be termed corrupt practices.

However, in our enthusiasm to sound rational, are we neglecting an important issue of moral hazard, where the beneficiaries of these freebies are as guilty as political parties dispensing these inducements? Isn't this the job of the social intelligentsia to help beneficiaries make an informed decision, where the long-term cost is rationally weighed against the immediate gains from freebies?

Is it a welfare measure?

There is another section of ideologues that fails to see any problem with freebies. For them, it is another form of welfare measure targeted at the bottom of the pyramid. There is some grain of truth in their contention as quite a handful of national welfare schemes like Mid-day Meal, National Food Security, and



PM Kisan Samman Nidhi started as freebies in different States.

However, that doesn't mean every freebie has an equal chance of becoming a welfare scheme. The distribution of free power is a case in point. In fact, the unabated culture of free power has created

an unprecedented threat to India's energy security; where State discoms are incurring an annual loss of more than ₹75,000 crore.

Is it a failure of governance?

Both eras of the post-independence economic regime (the planned as well as the mar-

ket) have failed us majorly on the social sector front. Most indicators of health, education, and employment are not yet strong enough to establish themselves as the keystone of development.

Political dispensations (both at the Centre and States) are, in fact, aware of their

inability to resolve the long-lasting challenges on these fronts. Hence, the political class rarely shies away from playing Robinhood politics. As a result, the root cause of the issue often remains unresolved. For instance, MNREGA as a job guarantee scheme is mostly a sign of failure on the part of the Government to create a conducive and long-lasting ecosystem for widespread job creation.

Is it equivalent to revenue forgone?

Are these freebies any different from the tax concessions given to corporate entities? How the revenue forgone on the pretext of concessions given to corporates often fails to qualify itself for a mainstream discussion?

States are well within their rights to use public funds for public purposes. But that doesn't mean they can't be made accountable for their fiscal profligacy. While mechanisms to keep populist schemes under restraint can be implemented as per recommendation by the finance commission, it needs to ensure that essential public services don't get affected by these restraints.

Is it possible to regulate them?

The role of electoral democracy in India's economic growth is something that should never be underestimated at any cost. It has always played a critical role in shaping and reshaping the undefined contours of the nation's polity, economy, and society. And being an integral part of this ongoing churning, the political stakeholders can afford to make numerous mistakes as long as they are allowed by their voters.

The Supreme Court's decision to examine this complicated issue by taking recommendations from the body of different key stakeholders raises an important question of whether it is right to bypass the legislature while trying to resolve such a politically sensitive issue. Because, all said and done, the issue of pre-poll freebies in the name of unregulated populism is essentially a political question that can't be outsourced to any other institution of democracy.

(The writer is a former IRS officer & author of the book 'Current Perspectives on the Indian Economy')

