

OPINION 6

COMMON 'ENEMY'
NO 1' IS CHINA

WORLD 8

WINTER OF DISCONTENT FOR
RUSSIAN TROOPS

MONEY 10

SENSEX SURRENDERS EARLY
GAINS AS IT STOCKS CRACK

BHUBANESWAR, SATURDAY DECEMBER 10, 2022; PAGES 12 ₹4



the pioneer

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THREE LIONS TO
LES BLUES IN WC
QUARTERS TODAY
11 SPORT

CAPSULE

PM CHAIRS MEETING OF GUVS, CMS ON G-20

New Delhi: Prime Minister Narendra Modi chaired a virtual meeting of Governors, Chief Ministers and Lieutenant Governors in the National Capital on Friday to discuss aspects relating to India's G20 presidency, saying it is a unique opportunity for the country to showcase its strengths.

'1.6 MN INDIANS GAVE UP CITIZENSHIP SINCE 2011'

New Delhi: More than 1.6 million Indians have renounced their citizenship since 2011, including 183,741 this year, Minister of State for External Affairs V Muraleedharan told the Lok Sabha on Friday.

MAN BOOKED FOR TRYING TO RAPE BOY IN WEDDING

Ghaziabad: A 34-year-old man was arrested for allegedly trying to rape a boy who had come here with his family on a visit from Adelaide city of Australia, police said on Friday. The boy's family was staying with his father's friend in Chhattarpur area of Delhi and had come here to Akash Nagar colony of Masuri to attend a marriage, police said.

AI FLIGHT WITH 173 ON BOARD HAS FLAT TYRE

Kathmandu: A New Delhi-bound Air India aircraft with 173 people on board was forced to abort its flight from Kathmandu on Friday after it suffered a flat tyre before take off, an official said. The aircraft was scheduled to depart from Kathmandu's Tribhuvan International Airport to New Delhi at 4:30 pm local time. A duty officer at Air India confirmed that the flight AI 216 suffered a flat tyre.

Pratibha leads HP CM race; Gandhis to decide

Cong won in name of Virbhadra, so it should choose CM from family: Singh

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI/SHIMLA

After day-long parleys, a meeting of the Congress Legislature Party in Himachal Pradesh passed a resolution authorising the party high command to pick the CLP leader who will be the next Chief Minister of the State.

Sources indicated the "high command" means Congress' first family Sonia Gandhi, Rahul Gandhi, and Priyanka Gandhi.

Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge said views of newly-elected MLAs in Himachal Pradesh are being sought to bring out consensus on who will be their leader.

Sources said front runner for the top job is Pratibha Singh, Congress MP and the wife of former Chief Minister Virbhadra Singh.

While interacting with the media, she indicated she is in the race for the top job. Congress workers raised slogans in support of Singh, who is also the State party chief.

Former State chief of the party Sukhwinder Singh Sukhu and outgoing legislature party



Himachal Pradesh Congress President Pratibha Singh being congratulated by supporters after the party's victory in the State Assembly elections, in Shimla on Friday

PTI

leader Mukesh Agnihotri are also among the frontrunners for the Chief Minister's post.

"It will be only between Pratibha or her confidant Mukesh," a member involved in

the day's proceedings told *The Pioneer* over phone.

Throughout the day Congress observers Chhattisgarh Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel and former

Chief Minister of Haryana Bhupinder Singh Hooda and AICC incharge for Himachal Pradesh Rajeev Shukla conducted several rounds of meeting. They also met the State Governor and also attended the CLP meeting.

Senior Haryana Congress leader Karan Singh Dalal was also part of the Congress delegation which met the Governor. A separate meeting was held between the Congress observers and Pratibha Singh at a hotel.

Before the observers went to meet the Governor, their vehicle was surrounded for a few minutes by the supporters of Pratibha. They raised slogans that the Chief Minister should be from the family of Virbhadra.

Similar sloganeering was witnessed outside the Congress office. Pratibha too told a section of media that when the party has won and brought votes in the name of Virbhadra then it cannot shy away from choosing a CM candidate from the family.

"I am not in the race for the top post but my mother is one of the contenders for the post of chief minister," her son and Congress MLA from Shimla Rural Vikramaditya Singh said. He added that "collective will of MLAs will be kept in mind and then observers will convey the same to the high command".

Din in RS at private member's Bill on Uniform Civil Code

Bill will destroy social fabric: Opp; RS Chairman calls for division, Bill introduction OK'd with 63 votes in favour, 23 against

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

The introduction of a private member Bill by a BJP member for the preparation and implementation of the Uniform Civil Code (UCC) across the country resulted in chaos in the Rajya Sabha on Friday. The Opposition members urged BJP MP Kirodi Lal Meena to withdraw the Bill and also asked Chairman Jagdeep Dhankhar to not accept the legislation as it will destroy the secular fabric of the country.

The controversial private member's Bill seeks to provide for a panel to prepare a UCC. BJP MP Kirodi Lal Meena moved for leave to introduce the Bill to provide for the constitution of the national inspection and investigation committee for preparation of a UCC and its implementation across India and for matters connected therewith during the private member's business.

However, Opposition members from Trinamool Congress (TMC), Marumalarchi Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam (MDMK), Rashtriya Janata Dal (RJD), Samajwadi Party (SP), Communist Party of India (CPI), CPI (Marxist), Nationalist Congress Party (NCP), and Congress protested against the introduction of the Bill saying, if passed, it will "destroy" the social fabric and unity in diversity that is prevalent in the country.

With the Opposition members seeking withdrawal of the Bill, Rajya Sabha Chairman Jagdeep Dhankhar called for division and the motion for the

introduction of the Bill was passed with 63 votes in favour and 23 against it.

In the past, although the Bill was listed for introduction, it was not moved in the Upper House. The Bill envisages a collection of laws to protect the personal rights of all citizens without considering religion.

"We have a private members' Bill that is totally unconstitutional, unethical, anti-secular. It is being introduced as a private member's Bill by an indulgent Government to test the waters in a very dangerous game. This is brinkmanship," Jawhar Sircar of the Trinamool Congress said. He further said, "There is still time to refrain from making demonstrations of a temporary majority and inflict one sided opinion on a very secular and plural India."

MDMK MP Vaiko accused the ruling dispensation of "implementing one after another agenda of the RSS and the BJP", and said, "They have finished Kashmir. Now they have come to Common Civil Code." He said it is leading towards "disaster of the country and its disintegration and minority people are terribly hurt".

Similarly, Abdul Wahab of Indian Union Muslim League (IUMI) said the Bill has been attempted to be introduced many times in the past and "this is a sort of provocation deliberately the BJP" and asserted that the UCC cannot be implemented in India.

Leader of the House Piyush Goyal objected to the allegations of the Opposition members. "It is a legitimate right of a member to raise an issue, which is a directive principle of the Constitution... Let this subject be debated in the House. At this stage to cast aspersions on the Government, to use the names of the very members of the Constituent Assembly to try to criticise at the introduction stage is uncalled for," he retorted.

G Udaygiri coldest in State at 6 degree

Temp to rise in couple of days
PNS ■ BHUBANESWAR

Even as the State is in grip of a cold wave with the mercury plummeting below 10 degree Celsius at several places, the weather office on Friday predicted that maximum temperature would rise gradually in the State.

"Minimum temperature (night temperature) is likely to gradually rise by 2 to 3 degree Celsius at many places over the districts of Odisha during the next two to three days and no large change thereafter," said the Regional Office of the IMD.

On Thursday night, the minimum temperatures in several places of the State dropped below 10 degree with G Udaygiri recording the lowest of 6 degree and Phulbani 6.6 degree.

The twin cities of Cuttack



and Bhubaneswar recorded minimum temperatures of 13.6 and 14.2 degree, respectively.

Meanwhile, the IMD said the severe cyclonic storm (SCS) 'Mandous' over south-west Bay of Bengal has weakened into a cyclonic storm. It is likely to cross north Tamil Nadu, Puducherry and adjoining south Andhra Pradesh coasts between Puducherry and Sriharikota around M a a l l a p u r a m (Mahabalipuram) as a cyclonic storm during midnight to early

hours of Saturday.

The system does not have any direct impact on Odisha even though an alert has been sounded in several other States.

Light to moderate rain or thundershowers are very likely to occur at one or two places in the districts of Malkangiri, Koraput, Nabrangpur, Rayagada, Gajapati, Kalahandi and Kandhamal in the next 48 hours.

Dry weather is very likely to prevail over most of the districts of the State.

For not registering FIR

HC directs senior cop for fresh training

PNS ■ CUTTACK

In a significant ruling, the Orissa High Court has directed an Inspector of Police to undergo fresh sensitisation training for one month at the Biju Patnaik Police Academy in Bhubaneswar for refusing to register an FIR in a murder case.

The inspector has also been banned from any field posting for one year, the High Court ordered, stating that the inaction shown by Inspector-in-Charge (IIC) of Infocity police station in Bhubaneswar Samita Mishra is highly deplorable. The court observed



that institutional lethargy has crept into the system.

The case, among other things, pertains to the alleged murder of one Anand Toppo (33), a childhood friend of former international hockey player Birendra Lakra. On February 28 this year, Birendra

informed Anand's father Bandhana over telephone that Anand was found uncon-

scious at his Bhubaneswar flat and he (Birendra) was taking him to hospital. But next day when Bandhana reached Bhubaneswar from Rourkela, he was told that Anand had committed suicide. Since there was no suicide note and injury marks were seen on Anand's body, Bandhana suspected foul play and blamed Birendra for the death of his son.

When his repeated pleas to police to register an FIR in this case went in vain, he approached the High Court in October to assign the investigation of the murder case to either CID, Crime Branch po-

lice or to any other independent investigating agency accusing the Bhubaneswar police of shielding Birendra, who once served as a Deputy SP.

Interestingly, after Bandhana approached the High Court, the Infocity police acknowledged his written complaint and registered an FIR on November 24.

Viewing such inaction by police as an attempt to protect the accused, the High Court has also directed the Bhubaneswar DCP to personally monitor the investigation while keeping all the influences at bay and submit a final report within three months.

In city

Boys, fathers punished in Kangaroo court

Victim attempts suicide; 2 detained
PNS ■ BHUBANESWAR

In a case of Kangaroo court justice in the capital city, two minor boys were forced to kneel down as punishment for allegedly passing comments on some schoolgirls.

Besides, the two boys, their fathers were also asked to kneel down and do sit-ups.

The incident occurred at Baramunda village under the Khandagiri police station on Thursday.

Later, one of the boys who were made to kneel down attempted suicide by consuming phenyl. He was admitted to the Capital Hospital in a critical condition.

Based on the complaint of the father of one of the boys, the Khandagiri police con-



ducted a midnight raid and picked up two persons from the village and interrogated them.

The complainant Suresh Taranga said his nephews, who are Class-X students of the Baramunda High School, used to spend their time near a gymnasium. They had an argument over some other boys over a petty issue. Later, a club president interfered and called a meeting of Baramunda villagers.

There he made his son,

nephew and brother to kneel down in the presence of others. When he reached the spot, he was also forced to kneel down on the road and asked to do sit-ups. A video of the incident was also shot and made viral, Taranga said.

The Khandagiri PS IIC said the incident was unfortunate and two persons have been detained. A probe was on to find out who made the video viral and action would be taken against those found guilty.

Prez Murmu's photo in ad sparks row

PNS ■ BARIPADA

President Droupadi Murmu's photo in the advertisement hoardings of a mustard oil company in Karanja town of Mayurbhanj district has sparked a controversy.

A woman lawyer has filed a case in this regard with police demanding action against the firm. The advertisement hoardings of the edible oil company have been installed at several places of the town and nearby villages. It came to the notice of lawyer Jharana Prusty, who has sought legal action against the company.

"The hoardings having



photo of the President are objectionable and defamatory. Action should be taken against the company and its distributors," she said.

The lawyer asked as to who gave the company the permission to use the photo of the President in its advertisement and how the Karanja NAC authorities allowed the installation of such hoardings.

35,144 e-challans issued for MV Act violation

5,868 DLs suspended; 1,275 vehicles seized

PNS ■ CUTTACK
The State Transport Authority (STA) has launched a two-month-long special enforcement drive from November 1 to promote safety, reduce accidents and fatalities throughout the State.

In November, a total of 35,144 e-challans were issued against vehicles who openly disregard Motor Vehicle (MV)

rules. A total of 5,868 driving licences (DLs) were confiscated for suspension and 1,275 vehicles were seized in a month.

The enforcement drive is focused on driving without helmet and seat belt, drunken driving, over speeding, use of mobile phone while driving, driving by juveniles, checking of road worthiness of the vehicle, wrong side driving, driving without registration mark and dangerous parking.

Fines have been imposed for various offences. A total of 9,416 challans were issued for

driving vehicles at excess speed. In the ongoing drive, a total of 15,661 challans were issued in November for driving two-wheelers without helmet.

Due to continuous enforcement activities people are using helmets in the urban areas but are unfortunately avoiding wearing helmets on highways where protection is much more needed. Around 622 challans were issued for triple riding and 225 for wrong side driving. A total of 38 challans were issued for underage driving.

The vehicles plying with overload were also detained and the excess load was offloaded after compounding of challan. Around 510 challans were issued for overloading. Due to overloading, the braking system and steering system of some of them were not working effectively. In some case the loaded material were not covered properly in accordance with the directions of the Supreme Court and MV laws. Similarly, fitness certificate of 528 vehicles were

cancelled for violation of MV Act.

A total of 1,452 people were found driving without seatbelt and challan was issued accordingly. Similarly, a total of 1,423 people were detected driving under the influence of alcohol and were penalised as per the rules.

Total 719 people were fined for using mobile phones while driving. So far, 366 vehicles engaged in transporting school students in the State were penalised for flouting road safety rules.



Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik inaugurates the renovated Catholic Church at Bhubaneswar on Friday. *Pioneer photo*

'Naveen has made polls expensive'

Alleges Jayanarayan

PNS ■ BHUBANESWAR

BJP leader and Leader of Opposition in the State Assembly Jayanarayan Mishra on Friday alleged that Chief Minister and BJD supremo Naveen Patnaik has made the elections in the State "very expensive".

In his reaction to the BJD's landslide win in the Padampur Assembly by-election, Mishra

said the ruling party's victory was due to its spending huge amounts of money besides misuse of the Government machinery.

However, he said that despite this, the BJP has polled more votes in the by-poll than in the constituency in the 2019 general elections.

Mishra said the 2024 general elections in the State would witness an intense fight between the BJD and the BJD with the Congress being nowhere in the scene.

Cong defeat: Tara blames PCC chief

PNS ■ BHUBANESWAR

Senior Congress MLA Tara Prasad Bahinipati on Friday blamed Pradesh Congress Committee (PCC) president Sarat Patnaik for the party's ignoble defeats in all the recent by-elections, including the latest one in Padampur.

"The PCC presidents have been indulging in intraparty factionalism" for which the

Congress is fast decaying in the State, he said and asked Patnaik for a self-introspection over the party affairs.

Bahinipati, who has been aspiring to become PCC chief since long, said the Congress has even lost its deposits in all the by-polls held recently. A situation has come when the party is on its way to oblivion, he observed.

Day for PwDs at BU Innovative solution for PwDs' issues stressed

PNS ■ BRAHMAPUR

The Berhampur University Barrier Free Access to Persons with Disability (PWD) Cell organised the International Day for Persons with Disability-2022 based on the theme, "Transformative solutions for inclusive development."

The programme was presided over by College Development Council (CDC) Director and Vice Chancellor In -Charge Prof Puspanjali Samantaray. PWD Cell convenor Dr Sharada Prasanna Rout introduced the guests and Cell chairman Dr



B Anjan Kumar Prusty spoke about the activities and responsibility of the cell.

School of Science and Technology Department Dean Prof Manas Ranjan Patra stressed upon the need for innovative solutions for PwDs.

Chief guest Berhampur Municipal Corporation

Scouts and Guides Camporee at DAV CSpur



PNS ■ BHUBANESWAR

The 30th District Bharat Scouts and Guides Camporee was inaugurated at the DAV Public School, Chandrasekharpur here on Friday.

Total 1,648 participants from 207 schools of Bhubaneswar BMC, Baliana, Balipatna and Bhubaneswar Block joined the 5-day- long event which was inaugurated by State Scouts and Guides Chief Commissioner and national vice-president Dr Kali Prasad Mishra.

Khordha Collector K Sudarshan Chakraborty was chief guest. Khordha District

Education Officer and District Commissioner Biswanath Tarai presided.

District Scout Commissioner Rabinarayan Jena presented the welcome address. District secretary and Capital High School HM Jitendra Nayak presented the annual report. Regional Director of DAV Institutions, Odisha Dr KC Satapathy was guest. A series of programmes like march past, folk dance, music, quiz, handicraft, village fair, food fiesta and first aid would be showcased during the Camporee. Meritorious scout masters, guide captains and others will be felicitated on the occasion.

Matter of concern in Sundargarh Spears made with flambeau to drive away jumbos

PNS ■ SUNDARGARH

Residents of the villages in forest areas under Kutra block and Badagaon Range of Sundargarh spend sleepless nights every year to save their crops and lives from elephants' rampage. So, they have prepared spears with flambeau to tackle the jumbo menace this year.

"As forest officials are not proactive, we have been facing crop losses year after year. The Forest Department is not restoring water bodies in nearby areas and not growing sufficient trees for the elephants," locals alleged.

On the other hand, the making of spears with flambeau has raised serious concern among animal lovers.

After the inflammable material attached to the

flambeau of a spear is ignited, the villagers throw it at the elephants to drive them away. It often pierces into the bodies of jumbos and causes burn injuries. The wounds caused due to hot iron head of the spear give intense pain; hence, the wandering elephants immediately leave a human settlement and return to their wild habitats. Even to the extent, the burn wounds develop severe infections leading to untimely jumbo deaths, an animal lover stated.

Amid the perennial issue of human-elephant conflict, many animal lovers have demanded action against wrongdoer villagers. They insist that the Forest Department should make arrangements to regularly drive away elephants straying into human settlements.

Laxmanananda murder Dharmendra urged for CBI probe



PNS ■ TALCHER

The 4th grand Satya Sanatan Dharma Sammillani was organised by the Odisha Satya Sanatan Praja Samiti at Talcher.

Joining the event, Sammillani's State president Er Debashisha Hota said that Talcher's great sons are former Union Minister Dr Debendra Pradhan and his son and Union Minister Dharmendra

Pradhan. He appealed Dharmendra to take steps for a CBI probe into the cold blooded murder of Swami Laxmanananda Saraswati in Kandhamal in 2008.

He rued that while Dara Singh has been in jail for last 24 years as a conspirator behind Christian missionary Graham Staines' killing on January 23, 1999, the miscreants behind the murder of the Swami are moving scot-free.

Man gets 23-yr RI for raping daughter

Rs 4 lakh to be paid to victim by DLSA

UBACHAK MOHANTY ■ BALESWAR

Special Judge, POC SO, Ranjan Kumar Sutar on Friday convicted a man on the charge of raping his minor daughter and awarded him 23 years of RI and a fine of Rs 10,000, in default another two-year jail term. Rabindra Bentakar of Balibandha Sahi under the Raj Berhampur police station had committed the crime on April 19, 2020 and his wife lodged a police complaint in this regard.

According to the complainant, the incident occurred when she was out of

home due to some work and the ordeal was narrated by her daughter to her when she returned. When she asked her husband about the incident, the letter admitted it and assured to give medicine to the victim to ward off the fear of pregnancy.

Police after investigating the matter arrested the accused, who was tried under IPC and the POC SO Act.

"The court after examining 15 witnesses and 15 exhibited documents pronounced the judgment today. The court further directed the District Legal Services Authority (DLSA) to pay a compensation of Rs 4 lakh to the victim," said Special Public Prosecutor Pranab Panda.

At Akshara fair Stall of Gandhian books inaugurated



PNS ■ BHUBANESWAR

Gandhi Ghara, a book stall on Gandhian ideology and literature, was inaugurated in 4th Odisha State Book Fair (Akshara) here on Friday. The stall has a separate identity as it aims to spread Gandhi's vision across the masses.

The books available in the stall are written by Gandhian writer Gourang Charan Parida and columnist Dr Abash Parida. Books such as "Ba O Babu", "Mahatmanka Manakatha", "Gandhi

Mahatma", "Mohanru Mahatma" are available.

Dr Abash Parida's books such as "Bliss of Ignorance" and "On the Square", which are relevant to modern social issues and Covid-19 as a factor of social changes are also available.

The stall was inaugurated by Dr Himansu Mohan Padhy, Chairman of the Sophitorium Group of Institutions, and Rabindra Gour, Chief Scientist in the Department of Science and Technology, Government of India.

Why charged-up BJP lost to cool BJD in Padampur

SRIKANTA K TRIPATHY ■ BHUBANESWAR

The BJD's landslide victory in the Padampur by-election by a margin of over 42,000 votes has not just left the BJP licking its wounds; it too has baffled the poll observers who expected the margin to be narrow, considering that the fight was neck and neck.

But ending all speculations, the BJD retained the seat and avenged on the BJP for the Dhamnagar defeat. Once again, the BJD and Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik reasserted that they are invincible and the Dhamnagar was just an aberration.

Winning the Padampur bypoll for the BJD was important for several reasons. Had it lost the election, the BJD would have suffered a blow that has the potential of upsetting its apple cart in the 2024 simultaneous elections. Numerically, a win or loss in Padampur would be immaterial for the BJD given its brute presence in

the Assembly, but its electoral prospects would have taken a huge beating ahead.

On the contrary, if BJP were the winner, it would strengthen a narrative it built after it won the Dhamnagar bypoll last month of a change Odisha is set to witness after 22 years of BJD rule, swaying the voters' mood in 2024. Probably, the last by-election before the 2024 elections which are less than one and a half years away from now, the Padampur verdict is sure to give a big boost to the BJD and demoralize the BJP if it does not focus on its deficiencies and amend its way.

STRATEGY

Since the beginning of the campaigning in Padampur, the BJP adopted an aggressive posturing under the leadership of Union Minister Dharmendra Pradhan. The BJP went on levelling a litany of charges against the BJD

Government and CM Naveen Patnaik, concerning farmers'

plight, crop insurance payment delay, apathy over railway line from Bargarh to Nuapada via Padampur, upgrading Padampur sub division to a district, distress migration and underdevelopment. But all it did was leaving no stone unturned to put the rival party and its supremo in dock, while washing its hand off the charges, though it was an ally of the BJD Government for nine years and has been in power in the Centre since 2014.

On the contrary, the BJD without complaining against the BJP at least at the scale of the latter, immediately came out with bounties for the people, be it announcement of several development projects worth hundreds of crores, farm input subsidy of Rs 200 crore, Padampur district by 2023, sops for workers in Kendu leaf sector or readiness to provide land for the Bargarh-Padampur-Nuapada railway project.

The BJD therefore acted smarter than the BJP in creating a positive

atmosphere while the BJP only concentrated on negative campaigning. Consequently, the voters found the BJD more reliable. Though Union Agriculture Minister Narendra Singh Tomar released crop insurance money, but the timing was questionable. The farmers who had been long suffering due to constant dillydallying by the insurance firms to release money took it as sheer opportunism by the BJP to reap dividends in the poll-bound Padampur. The BJD added to fuel to the fire when Industry Minister Pratap Deb asked, "Was it necessary for MLA Bijaya Ranjan Singh Bariha to die for the Centre to release crop insurance dues?"

LEADERSHIP CLASH

Though seemingly BJP's Pardip Purohit was pitted against BJD's novice Barsha Rani Bariha, the attacking mood of Union Minister Dharmendra Pradhan was indicative of the BJP fighting the Padampur bypoll as a trailer of the

2024 elections. So, the actual fight was between Naveen of BJD and Dharmendra and Co of the BJP. Dharmendra, Union Ministers

Tomar and Railway Minister Aswini Vaishnaw ruthlessly harangued against Naveen and the BJD Government though Naveen was cool and on the defensive. While the BJP tried to disparage Naveen by projecting him as a habitual liar, Naveen in his one liner, "I believe in action not in words" won the heart of millions in his three rallies he addressed just for a day. The mandate he got proved none but Naveen is the tallest and most reliable leader in Odisha.

TIT-FOR-TAT

The raid politics by bringing in ED and State GST into the Padampur battleground misfired for the BJP. Many poll observers even ask if it was at all necessary. The ED all of a sudden raided four local businessmen who are supporters of the BJD at a time when the campaigning for the bypoll had

attained a feverish pitch. A few hours later, the State GST raided a BJP office bearer and his relatives' shops and business establishments in Bargarh district. Though the BJP said the ED's raid was perfunctory, but again the very timing and the target strengthened the conviction that it was politically motivated.

The State GST raid against the BJP supporters followed suits, but since the ED raid came first and the GST raid was a backlash, the voters felt that the BJP was going to any extent to win the election.

JIBES

The BJP used its most potent weapon to win the bypoll when it attacked BJD nominee Barsha on grounds of she being a daughter-in-law of a family of Satyabadi in Puri district. Purohit claimed he was a native out and out while Barsha was not. Being married in Puri she would not stay in Padampur if she won, he said.

Bhubaneswar MP Aparajita Sarangi too countered BJP on this front, while Sundargarh MP Jua Oram went two steps more by questioning if Barsha was any more a tribal after her marriage in a non-tribal family. A series of jibes by one after another BJP leaders and a concomitant spectacle of a sobbing Barsha boomeranged for the BJP.

CONGRESS VOTES

Though the Padampur bypoll was mainly a fight between the BJD and the BJP, still Congress was a force to reckon with. In the 2019 election, the Congress had got over 32,000 votes. But this time, Congress's Satyabhusan Sahu lost his deposit by securing just over 3,000 votes. The BJP said the BJD managed the Congress votes as the vote share of BJP compared to the 2019 election was intact. But why couldn't BJP do it? May be the traditional Congress voters believed CM Naveen Patnaik, who promised to fight for the poor from 'Palli to Delhi.'

In Baleswar

Woman on dharna before in-laws' house

Seeks to stay with them

PNS ■ BALESWAR

A married woman in Remuna has been on dharna for about two months in front of her in-laws' house seeking to enter her matrimonial house at Srikrushnapur under Ward No. 12 of Remuna NAC. Sumati Behera had married Gora Behera about 16 years ago. They were residing in a

rented house as Gora is working in the Electricity Department. Following a marital discord between them, they had separated. While Gora returned to his ancestral house, Sumati returned to her parental house.

However, when Sumati wanted to return to her in-laws' house six months ago, she was not allowed by the latter. Consequently, for the last two months, she has been sitting

in front of the main entrance gate with her six years' old son.

Sumati said that regarding her plights she has informed the local IIC of the Industrial police station, as well to the Superintendent of Police. Further, she sought help of the 'One Stop Centre' but so far she has not got any relief.

She further alleged that her tent was uprooted by her in-laws who also threatened her of dire consequences recently.

Women key to nation's growth: SWC chief

RAJ KUMAR SHARMA ■ JHARSUGUDA

To build a progressive and prosperous nation, development of the inherent qualities of women and the rights of women must be intact. Women's training is necessary for social development, said State Women's Commission (SCW) Chairperson Minati Behera.

During her visit to Jharsuguda, she participated in a district level training and capacity building programme. She appreciated the work efficiency of the workers in the event which was inaugurated by Zilla Parishad Chairperson Tulabati Minj.

District Collector Saroj Kumar Samal said that change



in mentality towards women is the need of the hour. The campaign against child marriage in the district would be successful with the efforts and cooperation of victorious women. Samal appreciated the role of SHG in mask preparation and its distribution visiting every household during Corona period by ASHAs, women health workers and Anganwadi workers.

SP Rahul Jain opined that women need to be aware of

their constitutional rights to live with self-respect.

On the occasion, ASHA Mandakini Ruksha, Anganwadi worker Mahima Sahu, Town Police IIC Savitri Bal, Dr Hrishikesh Nayak, Paramanpur Sarpanch Gunamani Pradhan, lawyer B Nageswari and Sunita Bhainsa of Sakhi Kendra were felicitated.

DSWO Meherunisa Begum coordinated while senior field officer Bijaya Barwa, legal assistant Arabinda Patnaik, DCPO Sunanda Maharana, CWC chairperson Anandini Padhi, Mission Shakti district coordinator Sima Tiga, district coordinator, child marriage, Ranjita Dash and DPM Ramesh Mishra CDPOs spoke.



Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik interacts with Ifu Mallick, a poor student from Kandhamal, who has joined the SLN Medical College, Koraput, with financial help from the CM, at the Naveen Niwas on Friday. *Pioneer photo*

In Cuttack dist

Man killed, wife hurt resisting robbery

Miscreants decamp with valuables worth lakhs

PNS ■ CUTTACK

A man was killed and his wife was critically injured when armed miscreants barged into their house and attacked them during a robbery bid at Bhagabanpur under the Nemala police station in Cuttack district on Thursday night.

According to reports, the robbers entered the house at around 1 am. When the couple offered resistance, they

attacked them with sharp weapons. While the man succumbed to the injuries at the spot, his wife sustained critical injuries.

The deceased was identified as Hrusikesh Muduli. His wife Kanakalata was rescued by locals and rushed to a private hospital.

The robbers decamped with gold ornaments and other valuable4s worth lakhs of rupees.

Police have started an investigation into the incident with the help of a dog squad and a forensic team to identify and nab the miscreants. The incident has triggered panic among the local residents.

TPSODL 'Sampark Kendras' to help customers

PNS ■ BRAHMAPUR

The Tata Power Southern Odisha Distribution Limited (TPSODL) has planned to convert all its Rural Fuse Call Centres (FCCs) into 'Sampark Kendras' to provide a one-stop solution for all electricity supply-related issues in rural areas.

The transformation process has been conducted in the Behrampur Electrical Division II and the Hinjicut Division.

The company intends to convert all FCCs into Sampark Kendras, which would act as a game changer

for service delivery. Customers can visit the Kendras for issues related to bill payment, resolution of disputed bills, updating of contact numbers, email addresses, information on new connections, spot collection of arrears, regularisation of unmetered connections, theft/harassment reporting, registration of commercial complaints and other issues.

The customers can reach out to 24/7 toll-free numbers 1912 or 1800-3456-797 for their grievances and can give a missed call on 7008808888 for availing new connections.

Reopen Kalarangi Mines: Nayak

Criticises OMC apathy

PNS ■ JAJPUR ROAD

In a Press conference here on Friday, trade union leader Mayadhar Nayak expressed concern over the 24-year-long closure of the Kalarangi Chromite Mines under the Odisha Mining Corporation

(OMC) in Sukinda valley in Jajpur district due to the Wildlife Conservation Act.

The OMC authorities had given three years' wages up to 2001 to 700 workers after his fight but illegally retrenched the labourers and stopped their wages, allowances, etc., from 2001, Nayak said.

He demanded payment of

the outstanding dues amounting to about Rs 50 crore. The labourers have been living very miserably and some of them have also died, Nayak said and threatened that if the OMC does not pay the dues, a strong agitation would be launched. He also urged to the Government to reopen the mines and engage the old workers.

Sindhekela IIC suspended for taking bribe

PNS ■ BALANGIR

The Director General of Police (DGP) on Friday suspended Sindhekela police station IIC Alok Behera, who has been arrested by the Vigilance police for taking a bribe of Rs 25,000.

Behera had been caught red-handed while accepting the bribe from a bank employee

to show him undue favours in a case. He demanded the money from Ajit Kumar Ghadei to exclude him from the charge-sheet of a case registered at the Sindhekela PS in Balangir district in 2020.

Based on a complaint by Ghadei with the Vigilance, officials of the anti-corruption

agency laid a trap and caught Behera while taking the bribe.

Following his arrest, Vigilance sleuths raided his office, official residence in the premises of Sindhekela PS and his parental house at Olatpur in Cuttack district to unearth alleged unaccounted wealth accumulated by him.



Many ineligible persons avail PMAY benefits

Binika officials put on notice by Lokayukta, RDC

SRIKUMAR MAHANTA ■ SONEPUR

An investigation has detected irregularities in the allotment of Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana (PMAY-Gramin) in Charada Gram Panchayat under Binika block of Subarnapur district. Earlier, the Lokayukta had slapped a notice on the BDO and two beneficiaries of PMAY in this regard.

After getting notices from the Lokayakta and the RDC

Northern Range on the matter of irregularities in the allotment of PMAY (G), Collector cum District Magistrate Aboli Sunil Narvane recommended draft charge against Binka ABDO Pragnya Panigrahi, PA Dwitkrushna Panda and Executive Officer of Charada GP Mitanjali Ratha for giving false inquiry report to the Chief Development Officer cum Executive Officer, Zilla Parisad, Subarnapur. The Executive Officer, Zilla Parisad also gave a letter to the Binka BDO to take action against these officers. Meanwhile, Collector Narvane also stated to recover the amount from

the beneficiaries.

According to reports, Brundaban Mishra, a youth of Phulamuthi village, had filed a written complaint about irregularities in the PMAY (G) at the Lokayukta in August this year. The Lokayukta issued notices on November 16 to the Binika BDO and two PMAY beneficiaries named Narsingh Mishra and Hadu Charan Mishra of Phulamuthi illage to submit their replies within six weeks. The next hearing of the case will be held on December 27.

It was alleged that some Government officials working in the Panchayati Raj Department are involved in

the PMAY scam. Sources said many persons including some rich and affluent persons have been allotted PMAY housing units in 2020-21 fiscal without fulfilling the eligibility.

On the contrary, scores of poor people eligible to get houses have been deprived of the benefits. Brundaban had written several times to the Subarnapur Collector and the Vigilance Department about the PMAY irregularities in Phulamuthi village. However, officials at the Block level suppressed the matter.

Later, Brundaban wrote to the RDC Northern range in Sambalpur regarding the irregularities. The RDC had

directed district Collector Aboli Sunil Narvane to conduct a probe. Sonepur BDO Soumyaranjan Swain, Binika Tehsildar Mukteswar Panigrahi and DRDA APD Alok Rasmi Mishra found irregularities in the PMAY.

In the report, they stated that people named Narsingha Mishra and Hadu Charan Mishra who are not eligible had been allotted houses under PMAY in violation of the guidelines. One of the beneficiaries has a pucca house while another draws a monthly pension of Rs 10,000. But the inquiry team has not written anything on another beneficiary named Ugrasen Mishra.

Projects not grounded; Rs 6L gulped in K'pada



As false bills submitted

PNS ■ KENDRAPADA

A slew of projects were stated to have been grounded in pen and paper by submitting false bills and Rs 6 lakh was embezzled in Kurunti gram panchayat under Rajnagar block here.

The allegation by locals

INBRIEF

U SAMMILANI HOLDS KANTAKABI BIRTH ANNIV

Bhubaneswar: The Utkal Sammilani on Friday paid rich tribute to the author of 'Bande Utkal Jannani' Kantakabi Laxmikanta Mohapatra on his birth anniversary. Members of the organisation garlanded his statue here and recalled his great contribution to the Odia literature. A meeting was organised where Sammilani Mancheswar Industrial Estate branch president Dillip Dashsharma presided. Among others, branch vice-presidents Dr Surendra Mohan Mishra and Sheetal Chandra Mohanty spoke. The meeting was also attended by Govinda Chandra Subudhi, Sidharth Shankar Garnayak, Basanti Tripathy, Subrat Mohapatra and Akshay Kumar Jethi.



CHILD ARTIST DIES AHEAD OF BARGARH DHANU YATRA

Sambalpur: Twelve-year-old Sreyansh Pujari, who had been selected to play the role of Balaram in the ensuing Dhanu Yatra in Bargarh passed away on Friday. He was a student of the Saraswati Sishu Mandir. He returned from school and went to play with friends. But he all on a sudden felt uneasy and collapsed on the playground. He was rushed to the District Headquarters Hospital, where doctors declared him brought dead. A pall of gloom descended on the district.



GANJA, BROWN SUGAR DESTROYED IN B'PUR

Brahmapur: Following a pretrial destruction of ganja which was performed by District Drug Disposal Committee (DDDC), again 1,537.237 kg ganja and 9.48 gm brown sugar were disposed of here on Thursday at Shergad in Ganjam district. Notably, the ganja and brown sugar were seized in cases under Bada Bazar, K Nuagaon, Jarada, Sadar, Golanthara, Digapahandi, and Gosaninuagaon PS limits, informed Brahmapur SP Dr Sarvana Vivek M.



QUEST ALLIANCE HOLDS TRAINING FOR TEACHERS (Pix)

Bhubaneswar: Nonprofit Quest Alliance in collaboration with the Mo School Abhiyan conducted training for 950 teachers for the 21st-century classroom. The training was conducted in Anugul, Dhenkanal, Khordha, Puri, Sambalpur and Ganjam



districts on Tuesday and Wednesday. The objective was to build the capacity of the teachers to become 21st-century educators by knowing ways to transform the conventional way of teaching, developing the STEM mindset and computational thinking among students. The Alliance has developed courses in English and various vernacular languages including Odia. The organisation has planned to train 20,000 teachers over the next three years.

India vis-a-vis human rights in global context

India has successfully defended the international pressure on it to ensure freedom of religion and to bring an end to the discrimination against human rights defenders and religious minorities during 41st session of Universal Periodic Review (UPR) held in Geneva. While appreciating the role of human rights defenders, journalists and activists in Indian democratic system, Solicitor-General Tushar Mehta also cautioned theactivities of these groups and individuals that they should be in conformity with the law of the land.

Earlier, the UPR has reviewed India for three times which took place in April 2008, May 2012 and May 2017. India has also proved itself a peace loving country and respecting individual rights in different situations at



SITAKANTA TRIPATHY

different periods of time. The evaluations and recommendations made by different international groups on Indian human rights situation may not be always appropriate to follow due to Indian diversities and pluralistic approach.

Since its inception in April 2008, Human Rights Council's

UPR has been engaged in reviewing the track records of human rights promotion and protection initiatives of UN member States periodically. It has been found that, all the UN member States have been reviewed thrice within the first, second and third UPR cycles. It is expected that, the recommendations made during reviews, will be followed to respect the human rights in better ways by cementing the loopholes in different laws, policies and practices of the countries. The reviews are based on the documents like the information provided by the State, the reports of independent human rights experts and groups, the information given by human rights treaty bodies and other UN entities and the information provided by

national human rights institutions, regional organizations and civil society groups.

Mostly, the human rights issues are multi dimensional; so the reports of both the Government and civil societies must highlight the core issues of human rights in particular areas and communities by looking at the pros and cons of the issues. The report must also have a mention as to why the Government officials and civil societies fail to implement different development schemes in those areas and failed to maintain law and order.

The perceptions of general public regarding the increasing number of cases in the National Human Rights Commission and different State Human Rights Commissions over the years

may not always mean that the law and order in the country has been worsening day by day. Rather it is one of the indications of increasing legal awareness among people and active participation of the media and civil societies. In 2020-2021, the NHRC had registered 74,968 cases of human rights violations, while in 2021-2022, it was as many as 1,11,082 such cases. While answering one of the questions in the Rajya Sabha in December 2021, the Home Ministry had stated that in 2018-2019, Rs 27, 67, 54,996 was recommended by the NHRC to be awarded as monetary relief in 713 cases.

The figure was Rs 15, 06, 85,840 for 488 cases in 2019-2020. The NHRC has also reflected in its website that, in 2020-21, the Commission has recommended monetary relief/ compensation in 436

cases amounting to Rs 78,725,000 and 537 cases were closed on the receipt of the compliance reports of the payment of relief amounting to Rs 31,47,13,810.

The arithmetic of cases, compensation, laws, procedures, justice and finally human rights confuse the general public in a variety of ways. On the one hand, many of the filed cases are sub-judice in nature and on the other, solution mechanisms in the NHRC are delayed as they need clearance and approval from different Government departments.

If we look at the other dimension of human rights, it is a matter of concern that, in the Human Development Index, India ranks 132 out of 191 countries and territories in the world. Since the inception of HDI calculation from the

year 1990, India has never come within 100 ranks. Being the second populous country and seventh largest country in the world, our country is yet to prove its stand to bring an all round development in the country. We are on backfoot in terms of industrialisation, urbanisation, dams and using mines and minerals which are symbols of high employment, per-capita income and better civic facilities. Displacement, rehabilitation, resettlement and loss of indigenous culture have been the core issues of tribal and ethnic assertions putting numerous questions on the human rights policies of the State.

Reforms are necessary to give justice but not at the cost of national interest. The welfare schemes launched by the Government on income generation, health and

hygiene, education and communication should reach the beneficiaries in true sense and spirit. Collective efforts with humanitarian approach are important for the protection and promotion of human rights. In conflict zones, the human rights reports must contain as to how often the victims are sandwiched by security personnel and naxals. The living conditions, availability of basic amenities like safe drinking water, food and ration supply, housing and livelihood in different project-affected areas need to be addressed for the sustainability of human rights in letter and spirit. Out of all the diversities, India has brought equality which remains challenging one till date.

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Govt refutes India’s poor rank in Global Hunger Index

The report does not reflect India’s true picture as it is a flawed measure of hunger, says Irani

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■
NEW DELHI

As the Government on Friday in Parliament rejected the Global Hunger Index (GHI) 2022 report placing India at 107th place, Rajya Sabha Chairman Jagdeep Dhankhar urged members to analyse private studies as they can be based on inadequate data or dictated by interests of others.

He made this observation during the Question Hour in the Upper House when Union Minister Piyush Goyal was replying to a query raised by Jose K Mani(KC(M).

The Chairperson also appealed to members to go through these studies before referring to them while raising any issue. Mani said India's rank was 107 among 121 countries. Neighbouring countries such as Nepal, Pakistan and Sri Lanka are ahead of India in the index and only Afghanistan is behind, he noted.

Though the government has continuously questioned the methodology used in the index, the prevalence of hunger and poverty in the country is well seen, he said.

Stating that there were zero starvation deaths in the country, Goyal replied that as regard the hunger index, the name itself is a misnomer.

"Referring to the Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Anna Yojana (PMGKAY) under which the government provided five kg grains over and above the National Food Security Act limit, he said, "We have in a way eliminated



hunger or starvation from the country. Every state has written that not a single death occurred due to starvation during the last two years."He said the hunger index is a private index made by some private non-government organisations based on a subject not related to hunger. So, they first have to decide what the nomenclature should be, he said.

The minister also said the statistics are drawn out of data which is unverified and also on measurements "we don't relate to India. I think we must recognise what is official and validated and what is mere propaganda." In a reply to the Lok Sabha, Minister of Women and Child Development Smriti Irani dismissed India's ranking in the GHI, terming it as a "flawed measure of hunger".

"Global Hunger Index (GHI) does not reflect India's true picture as it is a flawed measure of 'Hunger'. It should not be taken at face value as it is neither appropriate nor representative of hunger prevalent in a country," Irani said in reply to Congress MP Karti Chidambaram. Dismissing the

four indicators of GHI, Irani said, "Out of its four indicators, only one indicator, i.e., undernourishment, is directly related to hunger.

"The two indicators, namely, Stunting and Wasting, are outcomes of complex interactions of various other factors like sanitation, genetics, environment, and utilisation of food intake apart from hunger which is taken as the causative/outcome factor for stunting and wasting in the GHI."

Dhankhar said, "In our country iconic status is granted to parameters which are often baffling...Don't have any rationale, and utilisation of over 1.3 billion people.

Therefore, when we raise an issue in the House...They should not carry much conviction unless the honourable member or minister premises them on our own record. Let's believe in our worth."

He said it will be very difficult and inappropriate to sur-render our assessments, achievements to be assessed by those who have either inade-

quate data or whose actions are dictated by their interests, not ours.

"Try to digest what I have said. We must analyse the calibration.... We should not be captive," he said. "Our country cannot be allowed to be hurt by calibration from outside on premise which we don't believe. That doesn't mean that the calibration outside does not have credibility. We have to get into those areas," he said.

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■
NEW DELHI

Issues ranging from alleged worsening law and order situation in Bihar, nomination of two Kashmiri Pandits in the Jammu and Kashmir Assembly and problems faced in withdrawing money from banks by the next of kin of deceased figured prominently in the Rajya Sabha on Friday.

Speedy compensation to farmers injured in Lakhimpur Kheri incident last year and hassle free travel to pilgrims to Gurudwara Darbar Sahib in Pakistan through the Kartarpur corridor were also raised by the Elders. Raising the law and

order situation in Bihar, Satish Chandra Dubey (BJP) cited several incidents of crime to allege that the state was moving towards 'jungle raj part two.' He also claimed the public was living in an atmosphere of fear. As he raised the issue, MPs from the RJD, JD(U) and the Congress protested his remarks.

They got support from other parties, including the Samajwadi Party and the Aam Aadmi Party(AAP). Rajya Sabha Chairman Jagdeep Dhankhar pacified the MPs and advised them to ensure decorum in the House. Sushil Kumar Modi (BJP) wanted an amendment to the Jammu and

Kashmir Reorganisation Act to allow for the nomination of two Kashmiri Pandits and one displaced person of Pakistan-Occupied Kashmir (PoK) in the assembly.

He said the Delimitation Commission has recommended representation for Kashmiri Pandits and displaced people from PoK by way of nomination in the Jammu and Kashmir Assembly.

Raising the issue of compensation to those injured in Lakhimpur Kheri violence, Jayant Chaudhary(RLD) said the Uttar Pradesh(UP) government had promised to give jobs to the kin of the four farmers who lost their lives after a

vehicle mowed them down and Rs 10 lakh compensation to those injured. But the reply given by the chief minister in the Uttar Pradesh assembly this week revealed that no action on the promise has been taken, he said. On October 3, 2021, eight people were killed in Lakhimpur Kheri's Tikunia during a violence that erupted when farmers were protesting against Uttar Pradesh Deputy Chief Minister Keshav Prasad Maurya's visit to the area.

Raghav Chadha(AAP) elaborated upon the difficulties pilgrims face while visiting Gurudwara Darbar Sahib in Pakistan through the Kartarpur corridor opened in 2019.

IN SHORT

RAJNATH, BSY APPOINTED GUJARAT OBSERVERS

New Delhi: Defence Minister Rajnath Singh, former Karnataka Chief Minister BS Yediyurappa and Union Tribal Affairs Minister Arjun Munda were on Friday appointed as observers for the Gujarat BJP Legislature Party meet.

50 PRIVATE MEMBER BILLS IN LOK SABHA

New Delhi: More than 50 private member bills, including the one seeking to revert to the old system of voting through ballot papers instead of electronic voting machines (EVMs), were introduced in Lok Sabha on Friday. The bill to amend the Representation of the People Act, 1951 was introduced by BSP member Danish Ali.

MEASLES IMMINENT THREAT, SAYS WHO

New Delhi: The WHO has declared measles as an 'imminent threat'. According to a WHO report, 9 million people were infected with measles in 2021. The number of people who died from measles that year was as high as 128,000. Moreover, the steady decline of measles vaccination drives due to the pandemic induced lockdowns has led to more children getting diagnosed with measles or dying from it.

DEVELOP 2ND-GENERATION COVID VACCINES: PANEL

New Delhi: There is an urgent need to develop second-generation vaccines in view of the constantly mutating Covid-19 virus, encourage vaccine development on more efficient platforms and evaluate the efficacy of the existing vaccines for the disease, a parliamentary panel has said.

'NOT ENOUGH TAKERS FOR TECHNOLOGY'

New Delhi: Speaking at a programme of Central Electronics Limited (CEL), a PSU under Department of Scientific Industrial Research (DSIR), Ministry of Science & Technology, Union Minister Jitendra Kumar on Friday lamented that sometimes best of the R&D institutes tend to follow a downhill course because there are not enough takers for the technologies developed by them.

KERALA GETS THREE ADDITIONAL JUDGES

New Delhi: The Supreme Court Collegium headed by Chief Justice D Y Chandrachud on Friday approved the proposal for appointment of three Additional Judges. Justices Abdul Rahim Musaliar Badharudeen, Viju Abraham and Mohammed Nias CP, as Permanent Judges in the Kerala High Court.

SC ASKS BIHAR GOVT TO GIVE INFRA SCHEDULE

New Delhi: The Supreme Court on Friday asked the Bihar government to specify schedule for construction of infrastructure for special courts which would deal with cases under the Bihar Prohibition and Excise Act.

SC: ACCOMMODATE UG MEDICAL STUDENTS

New Delhi: The Supreme Court on Friday asked Centre, National Medical Commission (NMC) to find out a solution to lodge those undergraduate medical students who have returned from foreign countries like Ukraine and China, saying their career will be left in lurch if no solution is found at this stage.

Cong raises demonetisation in LS

New Delhi: The issue of demonetisation was raised in the Lok Sabha on Friday by Congress leader Adhir Ranjan Chowdhury who criticized the government's decision on November 2016 to demonetise high-value currency notes, claiming the move did not meet the desired goals as cash in circulation and fake currency have gone up. Congress member's comments were countered by the BJP's Nishikant Dubey who said the Reserve Bank of India took the

"big step" to eliminate corruption and terror financing which were "rampant" under the Congress rule.

Raising the issue during the Zero Hour, Chowdhury said cash in circulation increased from Rs 18 lakh crore in 2016 to Rs 31 lakh crore currently. Also, fake currency and deposits in Swiss banks have increased, he claimed. "The health of the economy is in a bad shape because of demonetisation. Demonetisation was launched with the objective of

bringing back black money and stopping fake currency and terrorism. But none of the objectives of demonetisation has been fulfilled," Chowdhury said.

Dubey responded to Chowdhury by saying RBI decided to go ahead with demonetisation to end the menace of terrorism, black money and fake currency. He also alleged that the Congress sides with the "tukde tukde gang" those involved in corruption. **PNS**

Daughter belonging to tribals entitled to equal share in dad's property: SC

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■
NEW DELHI

Maintaining that a female tribal is entitled to parity with male tribal in intestate succession, the Supreme Court on Friday directed the Centre to examine the issue and consider amending the provisions

of the Hindu Succession Act so as to make it applicable to the members of the Scheduled Tribes. The apex court said when the daughter belonging to the non-tribal is entitled to equal share in the property of her father, there is no reason to deny such a right to the daughter of tribal communities. As



or not. "We hope and trust that the Central Government will look into the matter and take an appropriate decision taking into consideration the right to equality guaranteed under Articles 14 and 21 of the Constitution of India," the bench said. The apex court said a female tribal is entitled to parity with male tribal in intestate succession.

"To deny the equal right to the daughter belonging to the tribal even after a period of 70 years of the Constitution of India under which right to equality is guaranteed, it is high time for the Central Government to look into the matter and if required, to amend the provisions of the Hindu Succession Act by which the Hindu Succession Act is not made applicable to the members of the Scheduled Tribe," the bench said.

The top court's observations came while dismissing a plea on whether a daughter (belonging to Scheduled Tribes) is entitled to the share in the compensation with respect to the land acquired on survivorship basis under the provisions of the Hindu Succession Act.

CPI-M tables Judicial Commission Bill in RS amid Collegium row

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Amid the ongoing Collegium row in the country, the CPI(M)'s Bikash Ranjan Bhattacharyya on Friday introduced a private member Bill in the Rajya Sabha seeking to regulate the appointment of judges through the National Judicial Commission. However, it was opposed by AAP MP Raghav Chadha. The National Judicial Commission Bill, 2022 was introduced after the majority of voice votes were in favour of tabling it in the House.

Bhattacharyya moved bill that aims to regulate procedure to be followed by National Judicial Commission for recommending people for appointment as the Chief Justice of India and other judges of the Supreme Court and Chief Justices and other judges of High Courts.

The bill, if approved, will also regulate their transfers and to lay down judicial standards and provide for account-

ability of judges, and establish credible and expedient mechanism for investigating into individual complaints for misbehaviour or incapacity of a judge of the apex court or of a high court and to regulate procedure for such investigation.

It also proposes for presentation of an address by parliament to the president in relation to proceeding for removal of a judge and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto.

AAP member Chadha opposed the bill, saying concept of NJAC has come under consideration of Supreme Court three times in 1993, 1998 and 2016.

"All three times, while giving importance to independence of judiciary, the Supreme Court dismissed framework of NJAC. I have stood to oppose NJAC which my honourable colleague has introduced," Chadha said. "We are attempting to do a constitutional impossibility," Chadha said.

Bacteria in saline water stop chilli fungus: Study

ARCHANA JYOTI ■ NEW DELHI

Researchers from Goa have found that bacteria present in saline water such as salt pans can act as bio-control agents against fungus attacking chilli also known as red/green pepper, an essential component of Indian cuisine.

India is the largest producer of chilli (Capsicum annum) with about 1.7 million tonnes in the world, followed by Thailand and mainland China.

According to M Pawaskar and S. Kerkar from School of Biological Sciences and Biotechnology, Goa University, Goa and KP Krishnan from Department of Arctic Operations, National Centre for Polar and Ocean Research, Goa, twenty one bacteria from 196 isolates showed an inhibitory effect on the growth of the mycelia of fungi that are common agricultural pathogens. The study is published in Current Science. These bacteria, from the Brevibacterium and Bacillus genera, did not show any toxicity in preliminary studies. They were also able to survive

and thrive in soil under different ambient conditions, said the study. "The bacteria may serve as biocontrol agents against fungal pathogens in agriculture," the researchers said, suggesting that they can also act as plant growth promoting activity for the chilli. Percentage wise, today, India contributes to 25 per cent of the world's total production of chillies with Andhra Pradesh being the largest supplier followed by Maharashtra, Karnataka, Gujarat and Tamil Nadu. Because of its colour, flavour and pungency, chilli, also known as pepper, is an essential spice in Indian cuisine. The phytochemicals of pepper have a remarkable potential in the history of new bioactive compounds and natural ingredients for agro-food, cosmetic and pharma industry.

However, every year, a considerable loss in the yield of chilli is being observed due to factors including fungus. The authors have recommended further field trials to confirm synergistic effect of the bacteria on the environment, ascertaining their use as sustainable BCAS.

CBI files charges against 8 accused in Arunachal PSC exam leak case

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The CBI on Friday said it has chargesheeted eight accused persons in connection with a case related to alleged leakage of question paper for recruitment examination of Assistant Engineer (Civil) conducted by the Arunachal Pradesh Public Service Commission (APPSC).

The CBI filed the chargesheet against the accused persons before the Court of Special Judge, CBI Cases, Yupia (Arunachal Pradesh), the CBI said in a statement.

Those chargesheeted in the case are Akhilesh Yadav, (teacher of the private coaching institute), Taket Jerang, Tanya Gaduk, Loth Ezing, Binam Jomang and Talung Jomang. The CBI had registered the case on October 26 following a request from the Arunachal Pradesh government and further orders by the Centre for transferring the investigation of FIR No.



11/2022 dated September 27 of Special Investigation Cell (Vigilance) Police Station corresponding to Itanagar Police Station Case No. 229 dated September 10. The said case was registered against a private person of a Coaching Institute at Itanagar and unknown officials of APPSC on a complaint related to the allegations of leakage of question paper before written examination for recruitment to the post of Assistant Engineer (Civil) conducted by APPSC on August 26 and 27.

The complainant (a candidate) had alleged that the accused (a teacher of the institute) was in possession of questions for the said examination disclosing leakage of paper by him in connivance with unknown officials of APPSC.



YSR Telangana Party president YS Sharmila with supporters stages a protest after reportedly denial of permission for her 'padayatra', in Hyderabad on Friday

PTI Photo

HM to meet Maha, K'taka CMs to resolve border row

PNS | PTI ■ NEW DELHI | MUMBAI

Union Home Minister Amit Shah will meet the chief ministers of Maharashtra and Karnataka here on December 14 to soothe tempers on the border dispute between the two states, NCP leader Amol Kolhe said here on Friday.

Kolhe was speaking to reporters after a delegation of parliamentarians of the Maharashtra Vikas Aghadi (MVA) — Shiv Sena-NCP-Congress coalition — met Shah to air their grievances on the border dispute.

The MVA delegation also complained to Shah about the “insulting references” to Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj by Maharashtra Governor Bhagat Singh Koshiyari and some other BJP leaders.

“The home minister gave us a patient hearing and assured the MVA parliamentarians that he will call chief ministers of Maharashtra and Karnataka on December 14 and work towards finding a cordial solution to the issue,” Kolhe, the Lok Sabha member from Shirur in Maharashtra, told reporters here.

On Thursday, the MVA parliamentarians had written to Shah warning that the Karnataka-Maharashtra border row had reached a stage where it could erupt into full-blown violence and had sought



his personal intervention.

In a letter to Shah, they claimed that “high-handed” actions by Karnataka had “hurt the sentiments” of the Marathi-speaking people in the border districts at a time the matter was in the Supreme Court.

The Karnataka-Maharashtra border row escalated into violence after vehicles from both states were attacked and damaged in Belgaon and Pune.

Since its creation on May 1, 1960, Maharashtra has claimed that 865 villages, including Belgaon (now Belgavi), Karwar and Nippani, should be merged into Maharashtra. Karnataka, however, has refused to part with its territory.

The meeting came on a day the Maharashtra State Road Transport Corporation (MSRTC) partially resumed bus services to Karnataka from Kolhapur in southern Maharashtra after consulting local police authorities, an official said here.

The state-owned public transport body had suspended 382 out of 1,156 services to Karnataka, mainly between Kolhapur and Belagavi via

Nipani, after protests erupted over the border row between the two states. Some MSRTC buses were defaced in Karnataka. Buses from Karnataka were similarly targeted in Maharashtra. The MSRTC spokesperson said that normal services between Kolhapur and Belagavi via Nipani restarted from Friday afternoon.

Meanwhile, a Lok Sabha member from the Eknath Shinde faction of the Shiv Sena, an ally of the BJP, on Friday accused the BJP government in Karnataka of resorting to “strong-arm tactics” against the state’s Marathi-speaking areas.

Raising the issue in the Lok Sabha, Dhairyasheel Mane, the member from Maharashtra’s Hatkanangle, said the Marathi-speaking parts of Karnataka had been witnessing protests and agitations and there was an “atmosphere of terror” in the region.

“The state government there, the chief minister has made some statement that has caused anxiety among the people there. There is tension along the border. A law and order problem has arisen,” Mane said.

He said Karnataka Police had been resorting to strong-arm tactics in a big way and the Kannada Vedic organisation was treating Marathi-speaking people in an unjust manner.

Cong slams Guj unit for poor poll results

Asks State leadership to introspect, signals hard decisions in offing

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

A day after its worst-ever performance in Gujarat Assembly elections, the Congress on Friday blamed the State leadership for the poor show and said it is time to introspect as well as take “tough decisions”. The grand old party which has been struggling to remove Narendra Modi’s hegemony from Gujarat for about two and half decades now accused the Aam Aadmi Party

and the AIMIM of colluding with the BJP, saying they were “informal alliance partners” of the ruling party.

The party took respite from Himachal Pradesh and appreciated its State leadership and the campaign led by Priyanka Gandhi and said the high decibel campaign by Prime Minister Narendra Modi in the Himalayan State did not work.

“For us, the Gujarat results show the need for introspection and for taking tough deci-

sions. In Gujarat the election results have been very disappointing and are far below our expectations. It is a very sad reflection on the State’s organisation,” Congress chief spokesperson Jairam Ramesh said at AICC Press briefing.

“For us, the Gujarat results show the need for introspection and for taking tough decisions. In the next election, our vote share would come back to 40 per cent,” the Congress leader claimed.

“The BJP has lost miserably

in Himachal Pradesh, given the fact that the Prime Minister campaigned extensively besides BJP president J P Nadda and Union minister Anurag Thakur, both of who hail from Himachal, the BJP has still lost,” Ramesh alleged.

He also blamed the AAP and the AIMIM for the poor performance of Congress, saying both the parties were BJP’s “informal alliance partners” in Gujarat. The party however avoided to answer anything on the role of Rajasthan Chief

Minister Ashok Gehlot who was incharge of the Gujarat elections and campaigned extensively despite of the impending crisis in his State.

Ramesh also said that an atmosphere of fear was created in Gujarat to ensure that many sections of society who supported the Congress do not come out and vote.

He credited the Congress’ promise to restore the old pension scheme as one of the primary reasons for the party’s success in Himachal.

Yogi magic works as BJP wins back 8 of 12 Guj seats lost to Cong

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

When Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath started an election campaign in Gujarat, he was given a task of winning back the constituencies which the Bharatiya Janata Party had lost to Congress and therefore out of 25 seats where he campaigned 12 were occupied by Opposition leaders.

Yogi’s magic worked there too as the party won eight of these seats. Out of the constituencies in which Yogi Adityanath campaigned, 10 were occupied by the Congress, one by an Independent and one by the Bharatiya Tribal Party.

The Bharatiya Janata Party won eight of these seats. BJP’s Ritesh Bhai Basava won the Jhagadia seat held by the Bharatiya Tribal Party by a margin of 23,500 votes.

Yogi Adityanath held roadshows in three constituencies and the BJP’s lotus bloomed in all of them.

In Viramgam constituency, which was represented by Congress in assembly, people greeted Yogi with chants of Jai Shri Ram, and after Yogi’s appeal to vote for BJP, they voted en masse for the party following which Hardik Patel won there by the margin of 51,707 votes.



Congress leaders Sonia Gandhi and Rahul Gandhi during a safari, at Ranthambore National Park in Sawai Madhopur, Rajasthan



PTI

INS Mormugao to be commissioned in Mumbai ahead of Goa Liberation Day

TN RAGHUNATHA ■ MUMBAI

A day ahead of the Goa Liberation Day on December 19, the Indian Navy’s latest indigenous guided stealth destroyer Mormugao — armed with surface-to-surface BrahMos missiles and Barak-8 long range surface-to-air missiles — will be commissioned in Mumbai on December 18.

Built at Mazagon Dock Shipbuilders Ltd (MDSL) as part of the Project 15B destroyers or the Visakhapatnam-class, Mormugao was delivered to the Indian Navy by the MDL on November 24.

The commissioning of Mormugao a year after the ship sailed for her maiden sortie on December 19, 2021.

The Indian Navy played a pivotal role in Goa’s liberation struggle and dedicating the ship’s name to the maritime state of Goa will not just enhance the bonding between the Indian Navy and the people of Goa, but also link the ship’s identity permanently to the crucial role the Navy played in nation-building.

Mormugao is a seaport city situated in the eponymous Mormugao sub-district of the district of South Goa in the tiny State of Goa along the Arabian Sea on western coast of India.

The indigenous content in P15B class destroyers is 72% which is a notch above their predecessors P15A (59%) and P15 (42%) Class Destroyers, reaffirming the Government’s focus in the ‘Make in India’ programme.

Gokhale’s rearrest in Gujarat BJP misusing EC, settling scores with Opp, says TMC

SAUGAR SENGUPTA ■ KOLKATA

A day after the Gujarat Police rearrested Trinamool Congress national spokesperson Saket Gokhale the Bengal ruling outfit on Friday slammed the BJP Government for misusing the Election Commission to settle scores with the opposition parties.

“The recent development — where our national spokesperson was arrested at a time when model code of conduct was still in vogue in Gujarat — only proves how the Election Commission has surrendered before the BJP Government,” TMC national general secretary Abhisek Banerjee said.

The TMC has sent a five-member team of MPs to Morbi in Gujarat where the Gokhale was taken after his arrest. Among the TMC leaders who were sent to Gujarat were Dola Sen, Shantanu Sen, Sunil Mondal and AsitMal.

Gokhale was first arrested on December 6 from Jaipur airport for tweeting against the Prime Minister Narendra Modi. Later he was granted bail and then rearrested on December 8 leading the TMC leadership to cry vendetta.

“The party (TMC) demands unconditional release of our national spokesperson,” Banerjee said even as sources said that he had again been granted bail.

Gokhale was earlier arrested after he tweeted on the Prime Minister’s visit to Morbi post the collapse of a hanging bridge that led to 135 deaths. In the tweet he said that the expenditure incurred by the Prime Minister’s visit to Morbi was far more than the compensation provided to the kin of the victims.

Subsequently he was arrested on December 6 by the Gujarat Police for peddling false reports. He was released on December 8, but hours after his release he was once again arrested by the police.

Reacting to Gokhale’s arrest senior TMC parliamentarian Sukhendu Shekhar Roy wondered why the police would not arrest Mumbai actor and BJP leader Paresh Rawal for making derogatory remarks about the Bengalis.

“They (police) were silent on a Mumbai film actor’s comment on the Bengalis but they arrested Gokhale for writing a tweet ... we all know that model code of conduct is still in vogue in Gujarat ... if so then how the Election Commission could order his arrest ... did he break any electoral law ... it is nothing but a witch hunt ... clearly and act of political vendetta,” Roy said.

A team of senior TMC leaders are scheduled to take up the matter with the EC on Monday, sources said.

PSPL’s signboard removed after Shivpal OK’s merger post SP’s victory in Mainpuri bypoll

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

Pragatisheel Samajwadi Party (Lohia) founded by Shivpal Singh Yadav has formally ceased to exist as the signboard of the party was taken off from its office at a government bungalow in Raj Bhavan Colony.

The PSPL flag was also removed from the party office.

A notice pasted on the gate of the bungalow informs that this is the camp office and residence of Shivpal Yadav.

PSPL founder Shivpal Singh Yadav had on Thursday announced the merger of his party with the Samajwadi Party. The announcement was made by Shivpal Yadav in the presence of his nephew and SP chief Akhilesh Yadav in Saifai.

Akhilesh Yadav presented a party flag to his uncle Shivpal Singh Yadav in Saifai, indicating the merger of PSPL with SP. An SP flag was also put on Shivpal Singh Yadav’s vehicle.

In 2016, Akhilesh had shown the SP exit door to his uncle Shivpal due to family disputes. Shivpal later formed his own party, Pragatisheel Samajwadi Party (Lohia). However, the PSPL failed to win any seat in the state in the 2019 Lok Sabha elections and 2022 UP assembly polls.

Govt panel urges Indian diaspora to invest in UP, take part in investors’ summit ’23

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

To achieve Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath’s objective of turning the State into a \$1 trillion economy, a delegation including UP Industry Minister Nand Gopal Gupta ‘Nandi’ and PWD Minister Jitin Prasada held a roadshow in Frankfurt, Germany, on Friday.

The Uttar Pradesh Government’s outreach to the Indian diaspora ahead of the Global Investors’ Summit 2023 is evoking a good response.

Earlier on Thursday, the delegation from the State met Indian business leaders in Frankfurt and invited the Indian community to expand their businesses in Uttar Pradesh and participate in successfully organising the UP Global Investors’ Summit 2023.

Senior government officials, including Navneet Sehgal, Excise Commissioner, Senthil C Pandian and Pranjal Yadav, Secretary, MSME department, were also present.

The delegation reached Samson, Continental AG, Innoplexus AG, and Zack Technologies GmbH and will prepare investment intentions for Uttar Pradesh.

The delegation visited Samson AG Headquarters in Frankfurt and invited its Chief Executive Officer Andreas Wildt to invest in the UP.

Investment and skill development and exchange of skilled labour in sectors such as logistics, textile, healthcare and pharma, tourism, automotive and electric vehicles (EV) were also discussed on the occasion.

Indian industrialists who remained present included Shantanu Mohan, Senior Vice-President, Trail Blazer Tours India, Vijay Kapoor, Managing Director, Crystal & Somas, Chitra Agarwal, Managing Partner, CSA Healthcare, Gautam Mehta, Business Development Manager, Skyways Logistics and Dr Satish K Batra, President, Horizon Industries.

Dr Amit Telang, Consul General of India in Frankfurt, and members of the Consulate General in Frankfurt joined the delegation for dinner on the occasion. Through the roadshow in Germany, the delegation of the Government of Uttar Pradesh will contact German companies like Samson, Continental AG, Innoplexus AG, and Zack Technologies GmbH and will prepare investment intentions for Uttar Pradesh.

The delegation visited Samson AG Headquarters in Frankfurt and invited its Chief Executive Officer Andreas Wildt to invest in the UP.

Zoo, night safari in UP’s Kukrail likely by 2023, says Min



PNS ■ LUCKNOW

Uttar Pradesh’s Minister of State for Environment, Forest, Climate Change and Zoological Gardens (Independent Charge) Arun Kumar Saxena said that a target had been set for establishing Kukrail zoo and night safari by the end of the year 2023 and the next foundation day of Lucknow zoo would be celebrated in Kukrail.

“This decision has been taken so that the work of establishing Kukrail zoo and night safari is started as soon as possible,” the minister said and added that the work of digital survey of Kukrail zoo and night safari had been completed.

He said work on the camp structure and war room should be completed by the end of

February so that the upcoming review meeting in this regard could be held in the war room itself.

Saxena gave these instructions during the departmental review meeting held at Parijat auditorium. On the lines of One District One Product scheme, he gave instructions to all the divisional forest officers of the state to make available the proposal of One District, One Wetland in each district of the state.

“Wetlands in each district should be developed under eco-tourism,” he said.

On the tree plantation campaign he said that if any plant had dried up during the tree plantation campaign, another plant should be planted immediately in its place. Its monitoring will also be done by a third party.

Shraddha’s father meets Fadnavis, seeks Aftab’s hanging, slams Palghar police

TN RAGHUNATHA ■ MUMBAI

A month after the ghastly murder of his daughter Shraddha Walker came to light, her father Vikas Walkar met Maharashtra Deputy Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis, castigated the Palghar police for their failure to “save” his daughter and rooted strongly for the hanging of Shraddha’s live-in partner and alleged killer Aftab Poonawala.

Talking to media persons after meeting the Deputy Chief Minister, Walkar said, “Had the Vasai Police and Nala Sopara Police in Palghar district taken timely action in the matter, my daughter could have been saved from being murdered by Poonawala”.

Walkar also demanded a thorough investigation against the Poonawalla family members so as to establish their role



Vikas Walkar, father of Shraddha Walker, addresses the media after meeting with Dy. CM Devendra Fadnavis, in Mumbai on Friday

PTI

in the circumstances leading to the murder of Shraddha.

Maintaining that justice would be done to his daughter only if Poonawala was hanged to death, Walkar said: “There should be proper investigation into the murder and he should be hanged to death,

Earlier in the day, Fadnavis — who holds the State Home Portfolio — assured Walkar

that justice would be given to his family and his daughter Shraddha, and appropriate punishment shall be given to the accused.

Walkar — who was accompanied by senior BJP leader Kirit Somaiya, when he met Fadnavis — said: “There should be investigations against Aftab’s family members, relatives and all others involved in the incident”.

“As of now, the case is being investigated by the Delhi Police and Vasai police. It is going well. But, in the initial stages, the Vasai and Nala Sopara had bungled up the case leading to the murder of my daughter,” Walkar said.

“The Delhi Police have assured us that we will get justice. The Maharashtra Deputy Chief Minister (Fadnavis) has also assured us of the same,” he said.

Australian investors meet Yogi, show will to invest in UP

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

A delegation of Australian investors met Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath at his official residence here on Friday.

During the meeting, the delegation, led by Australia’s Deputy High Commissioner to India Sarah Storey, discussed the possibilities of investment in various sectors in Uttar

Pradesh and expressed its enthusiasm for participation in the Global Investors’ Summit 2023, the state government said in a statement.

The chief minister said the UP government was organising a Global Investors’ Summit in Lucknow from February 10 to 12 next year. “With the aim of increasing the per capita income in the state, it is our endeavour that the country

and the world can benefit from the immense business opportunities available in the state,” he said.

“This Investors’ Summit will prove to be useful in providing an integrated platform for the global industrial world to cooperate in economic development. The cooperation of Australian entrepreneurs and investors will be useful in taking this summit to new

heights,” he added.

Uttar Pradesh, blessed by nature and God, was today creating a new identity as the growth engine of India’s economy, Yogi Adityanath said, adding that it is the fourth largest state in India in terms of size.

“Our state is home to 25 crore people, making it India’s largest labour and consumer market. The government of

Uttar Pradesh is developing infrastructure at a rapid pace to ensure seamless connectivity through air, water, road and rail networks, which will enhance the accessibility of logistics to enable industries to access global and domestic markets,” he said.

“We have the world’s most fertile land, and the richest water resources,” Yogi Adityanath said.

Stalin launches Tamil Nadu Climate Change Mission

PTI ■ CHENNAI

Tamil Nadu Chief Minister MK Stalin launched the Tamil Nadu Climate Change Mission on Friday to protect the natural resources in the State besides restore them on a long-term basis. The state will achieve carbon neutrality much ahead of 2070 target set by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, he said while launching the pioneering initiative, which takes the climate agenda on priority with district missions and climate officers already in

place in the state. The state is first to launch its own Climate Change Mission to make Tamil Nadu a climate smart state.

“Let the Dravidian model guide (the nation) not only in social justice but also in ecological justice,” Stalin said in a tweet, after launching the mission at the TN Climate Summit 2022. During the budget for 2021-2022, the state government announced the launch of the Tamil Nadu Climate Change Mission for an outlay of Rs 500 crore to undertake climate change management.



A fisherman rows his boat across the Hooghly river at sunset, in Nadia district on Friday

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PAPER WITH PASSION

Bad beginning

The Veep should have better avoided criticism of the apex court in his Rajya Sabha speech

Vice-President Jagdeep Dhankhar has begun his tenure as Chairman of the Rajya Sabha with a combative note. In his maiden address in the Upper House, he expressed his displeasure over the fact that the National Judicial Appointments Commission (NJAC) Bill, unanimously passed by Parliament, was “undone by the Supreme Court.” This was, according to him, a “severe compromise of parliamentary sovereignty and disregard of the mandate of the people.” The remark was as uncharacteristic as it was avoidable. Uncharacteristic because when a person enters a high office, they prefer to say nice things and sound accommodative. Platitudes rather than barbed comments are heard on the first day. But it looks like Dhankhar is yet to shed his belligerence that he exhibited in Kolkata as West Bengal Governor. He became a thorn in Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee’s side, incessantly slating her government and its actions. It is widely believed that he has been rewarded for his bellicosity. At any rate, his elevation may have inspired other Governors to become more aggressive; one example is Kerala Governor Arif Mohammad Khan. But Dhankhar must realise that his statements will now be highlighted and scrutinised much more than they were earlier. He should have avoided criticism of the apex court in such strong words. He must remember that the executive, the legislature, and the judiciary are three integral organs of the system which have to work in tandem, not fight with each other.



This is not to say that the Supreme Court’s decisions cannot or should not be criticised; they can be and must be, for that is how a vibrant democracy functions. But the manner in which criticism is made is very important—more so when the person slamming an apex court verdict holds a Constitutional office, as Dhankhar does. Hinting that the top court of the land disregarded the mandate of the people was not just excessive but also in bad taste. We commented earlier that the Government’s preference for the NJAC was justified. Three or half of the now disbanded NJAC comprised top judges only; two other members were also appointed in a manner in which government representation was in a minority. It looked like a reasonable system but the Supreme Court invalidated it in 2015. So, the collegium system continues. A few weeks ago, Law and Justice Minister Kiren Rijiju described the collegium system as “opaque.” In fact, he claimed that a majority of judges agreed with him: ‘Judges are not happy with the collegium system today.’ He claimed that when judges select judges, there is politics. In fact, “the politics of us politicians is nothing to what goes on in the judiciary.” By echoing the Government’s position on an important issue, Dhankhar has not presented himself as an impartial Chairman of the Rajya Sabha who could hope to enjoy bipartisan support in the House. This is unfortunate.

PICTALK



A fisherman rows across the Hooghly river during sunset, in Nadia district

PTI

The ayurveda circle

Among ancient India’s biggest gifts to the world, we must embrace it emphatically first

Union Minister of State for Tourism Shripad Naik has rightly advocated the need for giving benefits of ‘Ayurveda’ to the world. The 9th World Ayurveda Congress is being organised by the World Ayurveda Foundation with support of the Union Ministry of AYUSH and Government of Goa. Prime Minister Narendra Modi will address the valedictory session on December 11. “It (Ayurveda) is not just medicine, it’s our tradition. We need to give benefits of it to the world,” he said. ‘Ayurveda has been facilitated by the setting up of a separate Ministry of AYUSH, credit of which goes to Modi’ Naik added. He also said that the Modi government took Yoga to the world. And that is perhaps where he was off the mark. Indeed the AYUSH ministry was formed to give fillip to the alternative medicines especially Ayurveda but has it achieved its objective is rather questionable. More than 5,000 delegates and 200 delegates from 30 countries are attending the congress. Though conclaves like this do help, the minister and the government at large should understand that it takes more than just words to make a system popular. Equating it to Yoga would be wrong as Yoga was already popular in the west and the credit for that certainly does not go to the government.



The Ministry of AYUSH, is responsible for developing education, research and propagation of traditional medicine systems in India. The Department of Indian Systems of Medicine and Homeopathy (ISM&H) was made into a ministry by the Modi Government in 2014. But in its eight years there is hardly anything that AYUSH can be proud of. It started with much fanfare but has delivered nothing. It promised 100 AYUSH hospitals across the country were proposed, an Institute of Naturopathy in Pune at the cost of Rs 1,000 crore and posting 4,000 AYUSH practitioners across the country. Perhaps the AYUSH ministry can throw some light on the progress made. Somewhere the ministry lost its sense of direction and got embroiled in unnecessary controversies with its advisories which were not backed by scientific research. It failed to provide an infrastructure for alternative medicine and create awareness about the alternative medicines. The minister would do well to come up with a viable plan to provide facilities for the alternative medicines. Before that happens it would be just lip service to a great cause by the union ministers, nothing more.

Common ‘enemy No 1’ is China

Our Asian neighbour, riding on the might of its economic muscle, doesn’t mind being brazenly expansionist even at the cost of global peace

George Fernandes was perhaps the first Indian politician to call out the Chinese as ‘enemy number one’. It had raised hackles, piqued debate and seen as a tad bit alarmist and premature, as the hyphenated relation with Pakistan was still consuming emotions. However, it didn’t take long for the neologism of *Zhongguo shiji* or Chinese Century, to confirm George Fernandes’s forewarning. The advent of Xi Jinping as the President of China in 2013 accelerated the portents of an expansionist and authoritarian Dragon that would threaten the peace of established global order.

Back in the United States, the erstwhile Soviet Union was the centrepiece of its military strategy till its implosion with the *Revolutions of 1989*. A brief run of the US as the solo hegemonic power in the 90s ensued. However, it was the George Bush administration which recognised the emerging realities with the Pacific Ocean emerging as the theatre of tensions and focus of deployment in *Cold War 1.0.2*, with China having supplanted the Soviet Union/Russia, as the primary enemy. Given the physical distance between the mainland of US and China, constraints of a viable and sustainable ‘long-range power projection’ became inevitable, and therefore the urgency for establishing credible and strategic partnerships in the Indo-Pacific realm. This doctrinal evolution was the progenitor to the strategic conceptualisation of *Sino-centric* ‘blocs’ like *QUAD* (Quadrilateral – Japan, India, Australia and US) and *AUKUS* (Australia, UK and US), as indeed the ‘*Pivot to Asia*’ policy by the subsequent Obama Administration. Barack Obama was believed to have been sworn into the Oval Office as the ‘first Pacific President’. But it was Donald Trump who transformed the US-China narrative into open hostility – Trump spoke of Chinese expansionism in the geopolitical and geo-economic realm that needed to be checked, bluntly. From person-



ally calling Xi an ‘enemy’, escalating trade-wars, threatening Chinese allies like Pakistan and North Korea to even calling the Covid-19 virus as ‘Chinese Virus’, Trump opened the floodgates to China.

Incumbent Joe Biden administration has stayed the course on China and Biden himself described his conversation with Xi Jinping on the sidelines of the Group 20 summit at Bali as, ‘very blunt with one another’. Even though it is the traditional *cold war* nemesis i.e., Russia, which is in a bloody conflict with the US-supported Ukraine, and is doing so in the midst of the earlier imagined theatre of Eastern Europe – US remains firm in holding the strategic view that it is China and not Russia (hence, Indo-Pacific theatre and not the European or the Middle Eastern region) that is going to be the ‘enemy number one’, going forward. Even the recently released 2022 *China Military Power Report* by the US Defense Department confirms China as, ‘the most consequential and systemic challenge to the US national security and a free and open international system’. It went on to add



BACK IN THE UNITED STATES, THE ERSTWHILE SOVIET UNION WAS THE CENTREPIECE OF ITS MILITARY STRATEGY TILL ITS IMPLOSION WITH THE REVOLUTIONS OF 1989

that Beijing was, ‘the only competitor with the intent, and increasingly, the capacity to shape the international order’. The dragon’s intent is underscored by the fact that despite the crippling financial implications of the Covid pandemic, China has managed to double its nuclear arsenal to 400 from 200 warheads in 2020. Even their ballistic missile testing in 2021 has been more than the sum total testing done by the rest of the world!

Months earlier, the US Defense Department had released the 2022 *National Defense Strategy* where it had explicitly noted, ‘The most comprehensive and serious challenge to US national security is the PRC’s coercive and increasingly aggressive endeavor to refashion the Indo-Pacific region to suit its interests and authoritarian preferences’. Importantly for India, it had specifically covered the Indian concerns as the conflict on the Line of Actual Control (LAC) in the Summer of 2020 was one of the three specifically mentioned regions of concern, ‘a broader pattern of destabilizing and coercive PRC behavior that stretches across the East China Sea, the South

China Sea, and along the Line of Actual Control’.

Today, the haunting commonality of China underwrites the brewing Indo-US equation, and they feel mutually comfortable and impelled enough to do joint Military Exercise a la *Yudh Abhyas* (literally, War Practice) in the near vicinity of the exact flashpoints which were wounded in the Indo-Chinese standoff, recently. Even differing responses on Ukraine, Pakistan or even unsettled trade issues between US and India have not stopped Joe Biden from describing India as ‘indispensable partners’ – and the indispensability of the said relationship is essentially cemented and predicated on the perceived threat perception from China. Towards the same, leniency of overlooking Delhi’s legacy purchase of arms and oil from Russia, is par for course. Russia is a pale shadow of its past and China is the proverbial Dragon in the room for both Delhi and Washington DC to tame.

(The writer, a military veteran, is a former Lt Governor of Andaman & Nicobar Islands and Puducherry. The views expressed are personal.)

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

GUJARAT VOTE BELONGS TO MODI

Sir — The BJP’s victory in Gujarat by record-breaking 156 seats, 86 per cent of the 182 seats grabbing 52.5 per cent votes has surprised thousands. But the credit must go to Prime Minister Narendra Modi, who was leading the campaign all the way for the BJP and his popularity, which was unlinked to the performance of the State Government, helped power the BJP to a historic victory. Beside Modi, the entry of AAP (which played spoiler on many seats to the Congress) and the defection of 19 Congress MLAs to the BJP (not only pushing the BJP’s tally to 111 in the last Assembly but also a majority of Congress turncoats or their family members fielded by BJP emerged victors), created confusion in the Opposition space.

In Gujarat, Modi is more popular than his party, and the Opposition is unable to create the politics or programmes that can challenge it. But in Himachal Pradesh, Modi’s extensive campaigning was not enough. Why did the BJP’s double engine Government run out of steam in Himachal; was not there any public welfare and development? Narendra Modi’s development model is only for Modi’s home State?

Bidyut Kumar Chatterjee | Faridabad

MUMBAI BREATHES HEAVY

Sir — India’s financial capital Mumbai has been detecting “very poor” air quality for the past few days. While it is India’s capital, Delhi, that makes headlines for having dangerous levels of air pollution during the winter months, Mumbai is considered to have better air quality due to its vast coastline. However, Mumbai overtook Delhi’s pollution levels several times this week, the *BBC* reported. Mumbai has joined a growing list of Indian cities that have bad air. As per experts, rapid construction, adverse weather conditions and increasing pollution from vehicle emissions are a few of the main factors responsible for the deteriorating air quality.

The level of PM 2.5 — a fine particulate matter that can clog lungs and cause

Not all’s hunky-dory in Qatar



There’s a lot more happening behind the scenes than meets the eye! The world is glued to the football World Cup matches currently going on in Qatar, with the final slated to be played on December 18. Statistics show how the Government of Qatar, since the day their country was allotted to hosting of the 2022 World Cup, started a period of brutal torture on migrant workers. Harassment of labourers, keeping them in inhumane conditions, salaries not being disbursed in time, confiscating their pass-

ports to make them work 12-18 hours under severe heat conditions: All these were normal conditions and widely reported. According to confirmed reports, data from India, Bangladesh, Nepal and Sri Lanka showed that there were 5,927 deaths of migrant workers in Qatar during 2011-2020.

Besides, data from Pakistan’s embassy in Qatar has confirmed 824 more deaths of their workers between 2010 and 2020. Instead of showing sympathy to the families of the deceased, the Qatari Government continues to ridicule the charges even today. Just recently, in an interview, tournament owner Nasser Al Khater said “death is a natural part of life” in response to a question asked by journalists on the workers who died. This answer has spread anger among human rights organisations and activists around the world. Does FIFA still feel that awarding the host to Qatar was the right decision?

Jang Bahadur Singh | Jamshedpur

a host of diseases — was 308 in Mumbai on Friday at 8:30 am, compared to Delhi’s reading of 259, according to Government data. Many Indian cities often report PM 2.5 levels well above the safe limit. Meanwhile, local hospitals in Mumbai have reported an increase in the number of people coming in with breathing difficulties and other ailments related to the poor air quality. Doctors have advised people to wear masks and avoid going out when not necessary.

Bhagwan Thadani | Mumbai

A MULTI-FACETED PERSONALITY

Sir — It is saddening to know that Yoginder K Alagh, former Union Minister, eminent economist and academician, who brought out the best in those who collaborated with him, is no more with us. Born in Punjab of undivided Punjab in 1939, he studied at the University of Rajasthan and pursued his doctorate from the University of Pennsylvania. He joined the IIM,

Calcutta, in the late 60s. In 1979, he chaired a Planning Commission Task Force which used nutritional requirements to formulate poverty lines for rural and urban areas. Several anecdotes about his simplicity and handling of real life situations make his persona even bigger.

One such incident relates to his unique methodology in solving complex matters. He was then the JNU VC, and the students were on a hunger strike. He too went on a satyagraha to support their cause. Whatever may be the motive, it cannot be denied that he adopted a wider world view. From 1996-98, he served as the Minister of Power, Planning and Programme, as a member of the Planning Commission implemented programmes at the Centre, attained greater heights by virtue of his balanced and meticulous economic acumen and foresight.

Vijay Singh Adhikari | Nainital

Send your feedback to: letterstopioneer@gmail.com

SOUND BITE

Congress’ Bharat Jodo Yatra was attracting the attention of the whole world and the youth associated with it would prove to be an asset for Rahul Gandhi.



Rajasthan CM

— Ashok Gehlot



The opportunity for India to buy Russian oil at a cheap price comes from the fact that Ukrainians are suffering from Russian aggression and dying every day.

Ukraine Foreign Minister

— Dmytro Kuleba

I’ve chosen consciously to put at risk the thing that is most dear to me, and that is my work. And the cost has been huge and it’s been personal and emotional in the sense that I don’t get to do the thing that I love doing, which is acting. I don’t get to do it enough.



Actor

— Swara Bhaskar



I will only decide who is going to be the captain when I reach the stadium. I don’t know the lineup. What I have always done is focus on the immediate match.

Portugal team manager

— Fernando Santos

Like Hindus and Muslims, Christians also have their own festival so they should get the chance to celebrate these festivals.



Adhir Ranjan Chowdhury

— Congress MP

FIRST COLUMN

DIGITAL NOMADISM: AN INSPIRATIONAL TREND

Organisations should enter into agreements with nomads



HIMA BINDU KOTA

Businesses have witnessed unprecedented trends during Covid times. One area that has seen a major revamp is the place of work for employees. The pandemic gave wings to an already fledgling idea of digital nomadism and changed employees' workstations forever.

Apart from the office, a digital nomad can work remotely from any place like a beach, a library or even a foreign country while traveling. According to a survey conducted by MBO Partners, this trend is fast rising. In the US alone, the number of digital nomads increased by 50 per cent to 11 million in 2020 and is expected to grow to a massive 35.7 million by 2025. It is interesting to note that the composition of this group changed from freelancers, independent consultants and entrepreneurs to regular, traditional, office goers with 9-5 work hours.

But who are these digital nomads? A research by Harvard Business Review finds that an average digital nomad is a digitally savvy, well-educated and highly skilled individual employed in tech industry, the creative arena, digital marketing and so on. Although digital nomadism became popular during the pandemic, this trend does not show any signs of slowing down. There are some ways in which employers can cater to this demand for flexible remote working facilities.



Firstly, the flexible policies that can provide freedom to employees can help companies attract talent. Many companies like Airbnb, 3M and Lift have taken cue and have developed and implemented adaptable remote working policies. The second most important requirement to promote digital nomadism is strong technological investments. To allow employees data access, many companies are using cloud-based technologies.

Thirdly, it is easier for companies with open office design concepts to step ahead and transform into a culture of digital nomadism. Although it is difficult for traditional companies with fixed 9-5 working hours and hierarchical seating arrangements to take a leap into remote working, companies which already open work spaces with different and new design elements like lounges, game rooms, project rooms and hotdesks, can help transition from flexible work style to nomadic work style.

So are companies in general ready with their policies to attract digital nomads? It is found that in spite of the growing trend of digital nomadism, only few organisations have formally designed policies for them. Therefore, digital nomads generally travel without their organisations knowing about it. In most cases, the immediate supervisor would have this information, but due to lack of concrete organisational policies would just turn a blind eye. However, this lack of clear policies can leave a firm open to any litigation or regulatory risks.

Generally, a person working in a particular location comes under the jurisdiction of that state/country, and the laws and regulations of the country apply to her irrespective of the location of the employer. So being present in another state or country, there is a possibility that digital nomads unintentionally end up creating the presence of the employer as a permanent establishment exposing it to an array of legal, regulatory, taxation laws and rules. Organisations should realise that the trend of digital nomadism is here to stay. To attract and retain employees, organisations should enter into agreements with digital nomads to clearly specify the terms and conditions of remote working.

Social media is playing an important role in the rise of digital nomadism. Owing to their strong social media presence, digital nomads communicate about their experiences through vlogs, blogs and Instagram accounts, making their lifestyle coveted. Although digital nomadism started out as a choice, it is more of an aspiration now. Organisations must adapt quickly and include the requirements of employees who want to enjoy being free to travel.

(The author is an associate professor at Amity University)

Cong, Savarkar and the Karat syndrome

Since the 1980s, Communists have been sneaking into the Congress and allegedly toxifying the minds of the top leadership in the party and the Govt



M NAGESWARA RAO

India's independence movement produced freedom fighters from a kaleidoscope of ideologies, from the radical left to the civilisational right. The freedom that we enjoy today is the result of their cumulative efforts and collective sacrifice. Therefore, every Indian should feel proud of those sons of motherland who gave up the prime of their youth, underwent tremendous hardships, atrocities, and humiliation, with the sole aim to free the motherland from the foreign yoke.

Our current ideological incongruence with theirs should never be a barrier in being grateful and reverential to them. It is, however, understandable that some center-left establishmentarians who came to power immediately after independence could not outgrow their personal animosities. But that is long past. Why should the third generation leaders after independence abhor Hindu-right leaders of the freedom movement who suffered more than the most?

In Hindu thought, except the supreme Brahman even the manifested gods are not perfect, what to speak of humans. And freedom fighters like any human beings had their own follies and defects in their persona. Further, before the might of the State even the strongest break down. Many top leaders of all ideological shades too had at times cozier up to the colonial rulers to avoid adverse personal consequences. And as the British were most brutal to the freedom fighters from the Hindu-right, some of its leaders had to buckle to survive, for you can't fight war unless you are alive. Therefore, maligning them by selectively highlighting certain of their deeds out of context is both unfair and ungrateful.

In any case, what is it that we gain by vilifying those who fought for our freedom? Inexplicably, Vinayak Damodar Savarkar is the most prominent Hindu-right freedom fighter who remains the prime target of left-liberals. He was an atheist, a prolific writer, an ideologue, a powerful orator, and a firebrand revolutionary leader. He wrote 'The Indian War of Independence-1857' for its 50th anniversary and 'The Essentials of Hindutva' among many others. The British banned the former book even before it was published.

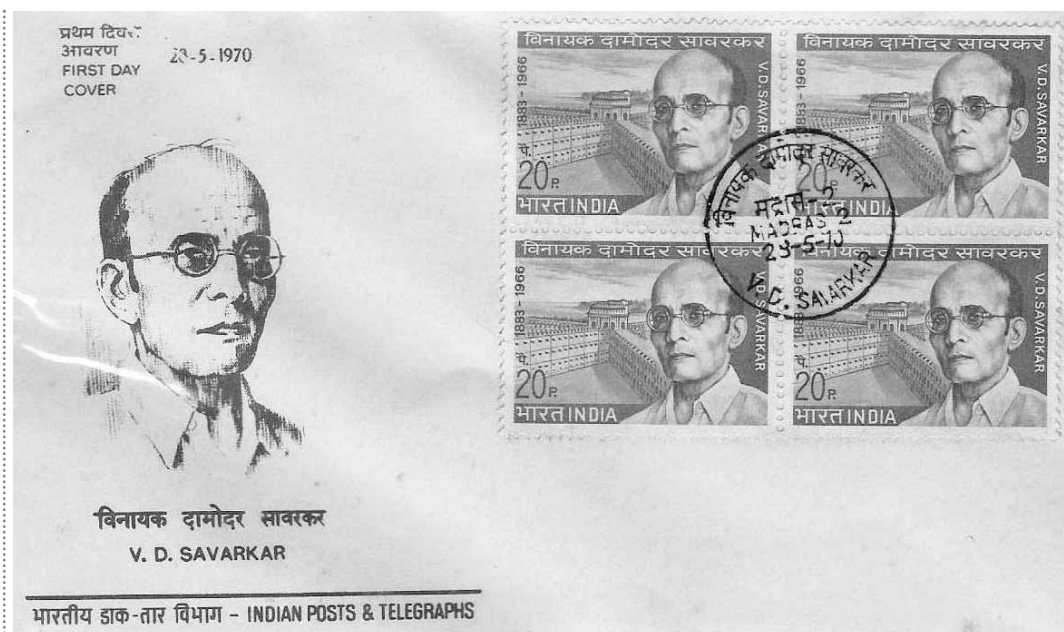
For waging war against the colonial government, the British sentenced him to 50 years of imprisonment and transportation for life. He was lodged in the infamous Cellular Jail in the Andamans. The punishment there was inhuman. It ranged from hard labour to extra hours on the grinding mill, to standing handcuffed for a week, to bar-fetters for six months, to confinement in solitary cells, to four days of starvation diet and to cross bars for 10 days, a punishment which compelled the victim to keep his legs apart.

Savarkar endured all that inhuman torture for 11 long years, which others could not even imagine to be for 11 min-



AS OPPOSED TO THE PRAGMATISM OF HIS PREDECESSOR HARKISHEN SINGH SURJEET, PRAKASH KARAT IS EXTRAORDINARILY RIGID IN IDEOLOGY AND VIRULENTLY ANTI-HINDU. NO WONDER, DURING HIS ERA, THE CPI(M) HAD THE SHARPEST DOWNFALL FROM WHICH IT COULD NEVER RECOVER

(The author is a former Director, CBI. The views expressed are personal)



utes. Based on his mercy petitions, which was a legal avenue available for all, he was shifted to Ratnagiri Jail and then released to be confined to only Ratnagiri district for 15 years. Was there any prominent leader of freedom movement from any ideological stream who underwent the kind of inhuman sufferings as did Savarkar?

Indira Gandhi celebrated Savarkar. In 1970, her government issued a commemorative postage stamp on him. In a letter of May 20, 1980 for his birth centenary, she said that Savarkar's daring defiance of the British Government has its own important place in the annals of freedom movement. "I wish success to the plans to celebrate the birth centenary of this remarkable son of India," she said. In 1983, Indira Gandhi got a documentary film on Savarkar made through the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting. She also gave a grant to the Savarkar memorial in Mumbai. This is a representative example that the old Congress not only did not have any ill-will towards Hindu right or Savarkar but they also celebrated the contribution and sacrifices of the latter.

With the waning of Communism in post 1980s, many leftists sneaked into Congress pastures, bringing their visceral hatred for anything Hindu, including Savarkar, and toxified minds of Congress leadership, including Rahul Gandhi. Their hidden agenda is to transform the Congress into a new Communist party.

For several decades the RSS-BJP used to loathe Gandhi, Nehru, and

several Congress leaders of freedom struggle, but it did not give them any political dividends. As they needed to deepen their political acceptability, they course-corrected and started appropriating leaders from other ideological streams. They built the world's tallest statue of Sardar Patel. They incorporated Gandhi and Ambedkar in their pantheon. They eulogise Indira Gandhi as Maa Durga.

They fete PV Narsimha Rao to gain cross political legitimacy for their own brand of reforms. They installed a statue of Bose under the India Gate canopy. After appropriating Swami Vivekananda, Tagore, Jaya Prakash Narayan, they are now even celebrating anti-Hindu Periyar and Jyotiba Phule. Sooner than later, they will also appropriate Nehru. The list is getting longer despite feeble protests of the Congress against BJP stealing their icons.

The results of the general elections, from 1951 to 2019, show that a party (not a coalition) could secure absolute majority only when Hindus consolidate for it. From 1951 to 1971, Hindus were solidly with the Congress for its inclusivity. Emergency distanced them but marginally. The dismal failure of the Janata Party experiment brought them back to the Congress in 1980. The last time Congress secured absolute majority was in 1984 as Hindus hugely consolidated in the wake of tragic assassination of prime minister Indira Gandhi.

Thereafter, it secured a near majority in 1991 due to Hindu consolidation in the phases of election

that took place after the terrible assassination of Rajiv Gandhi. The UPA rule from 2004 to 2014 badly alienated Hindus from the Congress as it was widely seen for the first time as anti-Hindu. As a result, Hindus massively rallied behind the BJP as never before, giving it absolute majority for the first time in its history in 2014 and repeated it in 2019. More importantly, the election data indicate that historically Hindus reposed faith in the Congress more than in any other party when it was centrist and not anti-Hindu.

Here is a lesson for the Congress. Prakash Karat is a top apparatchik of the Communist Party of India (Marxist) and was its national chief from 2005 to 2015. As opposed to the pragmatism of his predecessor Harkishen Singh Surjeet, Prakash Karat is extraordinarily rigid in ideology and virulently anti-Hindu and had no personal skin in the electoral game. No wonder, during his era the CPI(M) had the sharpest downfall from which it could never recover.

To recap, while on the one hand, Congress is losing its icons to the RSS-BJP, on the other its diatribe for no rhyme or reason against Hindu-right and historical personalities like Savarkar is pushing Hindus away from it. Why is the Congress in self-destructive mode?

Because the Congress leadership is in the intellectual grip of left-liberals, who have no skin in the electoral game. They are doing to the Congress what Prakash Karat did to the CPI(M).

POINTCOUNTERPOINT

HE (CHIEF MINISTER ARVIND KEJRIWAL) IS A 'NAMOONA' FROM DELHI WHO IS A SYMPATHISER OF TERRORISTS. — UP CHIEF MINISTER YOGI ADITYANATH



ELECT THE BJP IF YOU WANT ABUSES, HOOLIGANISM, CORRUPTION AND UGLY POLITICS, BUT SUPPORT US IF YOU WANT SCHOOLS, HOSPITALS, ELECTRICITY, WATER AND ROADS. — DELHI CM ARVIND KEJRIWAL

Highlight of COP27 was 'Loss and Damage Fund'

Increasing climate risk around the globe requires a more strategic and broader approach to incorporate optimisation of consumption

The 27th edition of the United Nations Climate Change Conference or Conference of the Parties, COP27, concluded recently at Sharm El-Sheikh and made positive but limited progress. The Egyptian COP27 Presidency has defined the summit's four key goals.

With mitigation, all parties, especially those in a position to "lead by example", are urged to take "bold and immediate actions" and to reduce emissions to limit global warming well below 2°C. With adaptation, parties have to ensure that COP27 makes the "crucially needed progress" towards enhancing climate change resilience and assisting the world's most vulnerable communities.

The goal of finance called



JAIDEEP MUKHERJEE



VAISHALI MISHRA



GAURAV BHATIANI

(Jaideep and Vaishali work with Smart Power-India) and Gaurav is with RTI International (India).

for making significant progress on climate finance, including the delivery of the promised \$100 billion per year to assist developing countries. With collaboration, the UN negotiations stuck to the consensus-based approach, as reaching an agreement will require "inclusive and active participation from all stakeholders".

Increasing climate risk requires a more strategic and broader approach to incorporate optimisation of consumption. Doing more with less, adopting circular economy principles and removing incentives for inefficient equipment, business models and lifestyles need to be at the forefront and centre of the conversation.

Inspiration needs to be drawn from the words of

Mahatma Gandhi that "the world has enough for everyone's needs, but not everyone's greed". This applies not only to energy, but also conserving water, building materials, transportation, food and textiles. Definitive progress was made on the long-standing carbon market process, but many operational decisions were postponed for future negotiations.

Further, the negotiations remained confined to a relatively narrow agenda on fossil fuels and therefore missed the opportunity to comprehensively address all sources of GHGs.

While COP26 focused on mitigation, the highlight of COP27 was creation of the 'Loss and Damage Fund' to support most vulnerable

countries impacted severely by climate disasters. Countries in Asia (India, Bangladesh, Vietnam, and Philippines), Africa (Kenya, Malawi, Chad, Niger), Pacific Islands (Fiji, Tuvalu, Kiribati) and Caribbean Islands (Haiti) are amongst the most vulnerable and impacted.

An area of particular attention is the inadequacy of current climate financing models. Global climate finance remains below the third of annual requirements. At COP27, negotiators deliberated on setting a 'new collective quantified goal on climate finance' in 2024, taking into account the needs and priorities of developing countries.

With millions of people in developing nations lacking access to reliable energy and

depending on fossil fuels for their energy requirements adds to the carbon emission.

Energy access will power the socio-economic aspirations of 2.8 billion people without electricity. For an equitable and inclusive green transition, a scaled-up and integrated approach is required to support the clean energy transition to distributed renewable energy and grid-based renewables and will reduce dependence on fossil fuels.

Distributed renewable energy is relevant even for cities since they consume 60-80 per cent of energy and generate 70-75 per cent of GHG emissions. Hence, enabling energy transition will require significant effort in reforming urban planning and infra-

structure delivery. Technology convergence across electricity, telecom, and transport present newer opportunities for reducing carbon footprints, improving quality of life, reducing cost, and enhancing long-term sustainability. Underground utility systems, which are gaining global popularity, can be integrated with the master plans. Such an approach will require new regulations and institutional structuring to include energy as a part of urban planning. Thus, a strategic approach to urbanization presents a large opportunity, given a strong positive correlation between per capita income and urbanisation.

Last year, the Conference of Parties 26 (COP26) in Glasgow reiterated the global community's ongoing response

to the Paris Agreement to tackle the climate crisis while declaring a state of global emergency. The goal to achieve net-zero global emissions by 2050 while keeping the increase in global average temperature below 1.5 degrees Celsius in comparison to pre-industrial levels was well-intentioned.

COP 27 balanced that with progress on adaptation and the creation of a loss and damage fund. Barbados Climate Envoy called the fund "a small victory for humankind". However, the overall ambition and, more importantly, action on all fronts need to be significantly and urgently scaled to achieve more significant victories in mitigating the global emergency.

Winter of discontent for Russian troops

THE CONVERSATION/AP ■ WEST POINT (US)

With Russian troops digging trenches to prepare for an expected winter standoff, it would be easy to conclude that fighting will slow in Ukraine until after the ground thaws in the spring. But evidence from the Ukrainian battlefields point to a different trajectory.

As a career US special forces officer who conducted field research on the 2008 and 2014 wars in Georgia and Ukraine, it is my view that this war has demonstrated that only one side, the Ukrainians, can execute effective combat maneuvers.

I believe that the Ukrainians will attempt to launch a large-scale counteroffensive in late winter when the ground is still frozen.

WINTER'S IMPACT ON WAR

Historically, the pace of fighting does slow in the winter. Weapons and other equipment can freeze up in extreme cold, and it's much more difficult to shoot a weapon while wearing thick gloves.

Shorter days are a factor. Despite technological advances, most of the fighting during this war has occurred during the day. But this winter may be different for the Ukrainian military.

First, Ukrainian winters are

not nearly as cold and snowy as many believe.

Donetsk, for example, has an average temperature of nearly 25 degrees Fahrenheit (-4 degrees Celsius) in January and February.

Its snowiest month, January, averages only 4.9 inches of snow, or .12 metres. Both January and February average just as many rainy days as snowy days – roughly two days of each.

A BRIEF HISTORY OF RUSSIAN ATTACK

Since the invasion began in February 2022, Russia made most of its gains in the first month of the war when it seized Kherson, surrounded Mariupol, and was on the doorsteps of Kyiv and Kharkiv.

But Russia soon gave up on Kyiv and withdrew all its forces from the north.

Failing to achieve quick victory, Russia instead settled on making incremental gains in the east and south.

Over the next five months, Russia captured Mariupol, but little else of tactical or strategic value.

During this time, Ukraine built up its combat power with new weaponry from the West and planned a large counteroffensive, which it initiated on August 28, 2022.

In the first week of the counteroffensive, Ukraine lib-



erated more territory than Russia had captured in the previous five months.

The success of the counteroffensive showed that Ukraine's military was superior to Russia's in every category with the exception of size.

It had better doctrine, leaders, strategy, culture and will – and it had just proved that it could effectively fight battles with a combination of artillery, tanks, soldiers and air attacks.

By September 12, 2022, Ukraine had liberated much of Kharkiv Oblast as Russian troops routinely fled from their positions.

After liberating the entirety of Kharkiv Oblast in early October 2022, Ukraine turned its attention to Kherson in the south.

This was a different fight, and in some ways Ukraine's military followed Chinese military strategist Sun Tzu's axiom of

“winning without fighting.”

The Ukrainians were able to conquer much of the territory without using many troops on the ground.

Instead, Ukraine used long-range rockets supplied by the US and NATO allies to bombard Russian bases and supply lines that were previously unreachable.

These attacks left Russian forces west of the Dnipro River in an untenable position.

Bulgarian parliament OK's military aid to Ukraine

AP ■ SOFIA, BULGARIA

Bulgarian lawmakers on Friday approved the country's first military assistance package to Ukraine involving a classified list of weapons prepared by the government.

The National Assembly voted 148-46 with one abstention in favor of the weapons to Kyiv following months of political squabbling on the issue in the Balkan NATO member state.

Bulgaria previously agreed to repair Ukrainian military equipment at its factories but refused to send weapons directly due to opposition from President Rumen Radev and the country's Moscow-friendly political parties. Along with Hungary, Bulgaria was the only European Union member country to initially refuse to give Ukraine weapons following Russia's invasion.

While the full list of weapons remains classified, cabinet members told reporters ahead of the vote that the package included small arms and ammunition. Defense Minister Dimitar Stoyanov said in a TV interview that the aid “is fully aligned with Ukraine's priorities” but added that Bulgaria will neither provide S-300 missile systems nor MiG-29s fighter jets.



US sending \$275 million in military aid to Ukraine

AP ■ WASHINGTON

The US is sending an additional USD 275 million in military aid to Ukraine, including large amounts of ammunition and high-tech systems that can be used to detect and counter drones in its ongoing war with Russia, according to US officials.

The total aid amount is smaller than most of the recent packages the US has delivered, and it comes as many military officials and experts predict a reduction in attacks during the winter. NATO Secretary-General Jens Stoltenberg said Russia appears to be slowing its military activities to regroup and launch a new offensive when the weather warms.

The officials said the latest

Limiting Russia's options further, these strikes have been less effective as the war has progressed.

Early in the war, most of Russia's missiles made it through Ukraine's limited air defences.

With the help of western air defence systems, Ukraine was shooting down 50 per cent of Russian missiles in October and is now intercepting over 80 per cent of them. Winter should not affect these types of combat operations.

But snow will have an impact on Russia's already stressed and under-performing logistical system, and the cold will further lower – if that is possible – the already low morale of Russia's poorly outfitted and undertrained soldiers.

WHAT TO EXPECT FROM UKRAINE

As the smaller military, Ukraine cannot afford to take heavy losses.

Thus far, it has used a strategy of defending territory when it could, retreating when it should to preserve combat power, and attacking when the opportunities have presented themselves.

Ukraine effectively employed this strategy to defend Kyiv in the first month of the war and during the September 2022 counteroffensive to reclaim the Kharkiv and Kherson oblasts.

An important question must be asked. Why did it take six months for Ukraine to launch its counteroffensive?

One reason is that Ukraine had to wait several months for promised Western aid to arrive at its bases.

In my view, a significant factor is the lengthy amount of time it takes to plan large counteroffensives and to position supplies, equipment and forces.

The fact that Ukraine conducted the counterattacks in succession suggests that Ukraine lacks the combat power to conduct two large-scale counterattacks at the same time.

Ukraine is going to need time to regroup, refit and plan for its next large-scale operation.

Thus, it seems reasonable that Ukraine will have to wait at least 30 to 45 days – maybe more – before it is ready to execute its next counteroffensive, which would be in the heart of winter.

While conducting an attack in winter may be difficult, off-road movement in the spring could become impossible, as the Russians discovered during their initial invasion in muddy and wet terrain.

It seems reasonable to conclude that Ukraine may wish to initiate its next counteroffensive while the ground is still frozen – and Russian troop morale is at its lowest point since the invasion.



FM: Helping Ukraine self-preservation

AP ■ FRANKFURT

Ukraine's finance minister says crucial Western financial support is “not charity” but “self-preservation” in the fight to defend democracy as his country deals with growing costs to repair electrical and heating infrastructure wrecked by Russian attacks.

Serhiy Marchenko also told The Associated Press in an interview Thursday from Kyiv that he believes European Union officials will sort out a dispute with Hungary that has blocked a key 18 billion-euro (USD 18.97 billion) aid package and would cover much of Ukraine's looming budget gap.

Marchenko said financial support for Ukraine is tiny compared to what developed countries spent to combat emergencies like the global financial crisis of 2008 and the COVID-19 pandemic. And that the money bolsters freedom and security far

beyond his country's struggle, he added.

“It's not charity to support Ukraine,” Marchenko said. “We are trying to protect freedom and democracy of all (the) civilized world.”

He said the damage from Russian missile attacks on civilian infrastructure such as power stations would cost 0.5% of annual economic output next year, adding to the burden as Ukraine tries to cover a budget deficit equivalent to USD 38 billion. The World Bank put Ukraine's gross domestic product at just over USD 200 billion in 2021, so the damage could amount to roughly USD 1 billion.

Ukraine needs outside financing to cover the budget deficit caused by the war. Cash or loans help it avoid printing money at the central bank to cover basic needs like paying people's pensions, a practice that risks fueling already painful inflation.

NORTHERN RAILWAY	
NOTICE INVITING TENDER	
Name of work and its location	30-Elect-61-T-2022-23-E3 Electrical work in connection with improvement of air Conditioning System with replacement of overaged units and other allied works at RRI's having less than 100 routes over Delhi Division.
Approx cost of the works in	Rs. 36.70 lacs
Address of the office	Sr. Divl Elect. Engineer/General, New Delhi.
Bid Security	Rs. 73400.00
Date & time of submission of tender	03.01.2023, 12.00 Hrs.
Opening of tender	03.01.2023, 12.00 Hrs.
Website & notice board	www.ireps.gov.in & Sr. Divl. Elect. Engineer/General, New Delhi.
3287/2022	

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NORTHERN RAILWAY OPEN E-TENDER NOTICE

The Sr. Divisional Engineer-III, Northern Railway, Delhi Division invites E-Tender for the following work.

1.	Name of work	Annual operation and maintenance of sand filter, disinfection system and valve operation at Paharganj, Ram Nagar water complex, MSRR, DLT, Lahori gate Thompson Road near PF-16, RPSF water complex in the section of SSE/WNDLS under DEN/Works (for 8 months) & Annual operation and maintenance of sand filter, disinfection system and valve operation at DLI water complex in the section of SSE/W/DLI under DEN/Works (for one year) in the jurisdiction of Sr. DEN-III
2.	Approx cost of work	Rs. 1,07,83,477.06 (Rupees One Crore Seven Lakh Eighty Three Thousand Four Hundred Seventy Seven & Six Paise Only)
3.	Earnest Money to be deposited	Rs. 2,03,900/- (Rupees Two Lakh Three Thousand Nine Hundred Only)
4.	Cost of tender document	Rs. 0.00/-
5.	Date & Time of submission of tender bid and opening of tender	03.01.2023 @ 15:00 Hrs.
6.	Website particulars where complete details of tender documents can be seen	www.ireps.gov.in

• The tenderers/s must be registered on the Indian Railway E-Procurement System (IREPS) site i.e. www.ireps.gov.in for participating in the e-tender system. • For all terms and conditions please refer tender document. • No manual offers are acceptable. • Cost of tender document and Earnest money will be acceptable through net banking or payment gateway only. No. 128-W/280/e Tender Notice/NIT/92/2022-23/W-3 Dated: 08.12.2022 3281/22

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Phone/Fax No.- 0135-2671940, E-mail - eemdujs@rediffmail.com



फांक: 4010/ई-निविदा सूचना/2022-23 ई-निविदा सूचना दिनांक: 09.12.2022 मुख्य महाप्रबन्धक, उत्तराखण्ड जल संस्थान, देहरादून की ओर से जल जीवन मिशन कार्यक्रम के अन्तर्गत निम्नलिखित पेयजल योजनाओं के कार्यों हेतु ई-निविदा, सिंगल बिड के आधार पर निम्नानुसार आमंत्रित की जाती है :-

निविदा क्र.सं.	विकास खण्ड	कार्य विवरण	बरोहर धनराशि (रु.में)	निविदा का मूल्य (रु.में)	कार्य पूर्ण करने की अवधि
1	2	3	4	5	6
1	सहसपुर	कोटडा कल्याणपुर पेयजल योजना में स्रोत संवर्धन, सतही जलाशय मरम्मत, पाइप लाइन बिछाने एवं तत्सम्बन्धी कार्य।	146500.00	₹4000 +GST	06 माह
2	विकासपुर	माजरी पेयजल योजना में नलकूप अधिधान, उर्ध्व जलाशय निर्माण, राईजिंग मेन पाइप लाइन बिछाने एवं पम्पिंग प्लांट सामग्री की आपूर्ति अधिधान एवं तत्सम्बन्धी कार्य।	254250.00	₹4000 +GST	12 माह
3	विकासपुर	कटारथर पेयजल योजना में नलकूप अधिधान, उर्ध्व जलाशय निर्माण, राईजिंग मेन पाइप लाइन बिछाने एवं पम्पिंग प्लांट सामग्री की आपूर्ति अधिधान एवं तत्सम्बन्धी कार्य।	230300.00	₹4000 +GST	12 माह
4	विकासपुर	लांछा पेयजल योजना में स्रोत संवर्धन, सतही जलाशय मरम्मत, पाइप लाइन बिछाने एवं तत्सम्बन्धी कार्य।	84100.00	₹3000 +GST	6 माह
5	डोईवाला	मोहम्मदपुर बड़कली पेयजल योजना में नलकूप अधिधान, सतही जलाशय निर्माण, राईजिंग मेन पाइप लाइन बिछाने एवं पम्पिंग प्लांट सामग्री की आपूर्ति अधिधान एवं तत्सम्बन्धी कार्य।	187100.00	₹4000 +GST	12 माह
6	सहसपुर	बिकसी नाहड पेयजल योजना में सतही जलाशय मरम्मत, गुरुत्व मेन, वितरण पाइप लाइन बिछाने, एवं तत्सम्बन्धी कार्य।	182000.00	₹4000 +GST	09 माह
7	विकासपुर	सोला पेयजल योजना में सतही जलाशयनिर्माण, राईजिंग मेन, वितरण पाइप लाइन बिछाने एवं तत्सम्बन्धी कार्य।	252850.00	₹4000 +GST	09 माह
8	विकासपुर	मोहीरी पेयजल योजना में सतही जलाशयनिर्माण, गुरुत्व मेन, वितरण पाइप लाइन बिछाने एवं तत्सम्बन्धी कार्य।	118900.00	₹4000 +GST	09 माह
9	विकासपुर	आडवाला पेयजल योजना में नलकूप अधिधान, उर्ध्व जलाशयनिर्माण, राईजिंग मेन, वितरण पाइप लाइन बिछाने, विद्युत संयंत्र सामग्री की आपूर्ति अधिधान एवं तत्सम्बन्धी कार्य।	270350.00	₹4000 +GST	09 माह
10	विकासपुर	बाहवाला पेयजल योजना में नलकूप अधिधान, उर्ध्व जलाशयनिर्माण, राईजिंग मेन, वितरण पाइप लाइन बिछाने, विद्युत संयंत्र सामग्री की आपूर्ति अधिधान एवं तत्सम्बन्धी कार्य।	306000.00	₹4000 +GST	09 माह
11	विकासपुर	चौधपुर खुर्द पेयजल योजना में नलकूप अधिधान, उर्ध्व जलाशयनिर्माण, राईजिंग मेन, वितरण पाइप लाइन बिछाने, विद्युत संयंत्र सामग्री की आपूर्ति अधिधान एवं तत्सम्बन्धी कार्य।	287450.00	₹4000 +GST	09 माह
12	विकासपुर	कुन्ना एवं कुन्नाग्रान्ट पेयजल योजना में नलकूप अधिधान, उर्ध्व जलाशय निर्माण, राईजिंग मेन, पाइप लाइन बिछाने, पम्पिंग प्लांट की आपूर्ति अधिधान एवं तत्सम्बन्धी कार्य।	259300.00	₹4000 +GST	09 माह
13	रामपुर	धारकोट पेयजल योजना में सतही जलाशय निर्माण, राईजिंग मेन, वितरण पाइप लाइन बिछाने, पम्पिंग प्लांट सामग्री की आपूर्ति अधिधान एवं तत्सम्बन्धी कार्य।	156000.00	₹4000 +GST	06 माह
14	रामपुर	धनीला पेयजल योजना में स्रोत संवर्धन, सतही जलाशय निर्माण, गुरुत्व मेन, वितरण पाइप लाइन बिछाने एवं तत्सम्बन्धी कार्य।	182850.00	₹4000 +GST	09 माह
15	रामपुर	धमारीली पेयजल योजना में स्रोत संवर्धन, सतही जलाशय निर्माण, गुरुत्व मेन, वितरण पाइप लाइन बिछाने एवं तत्सम्बन्धी कार्य।	80820.00	₹4000 +GST	06 माह
16	रामपुर	बाहवाली पेयजल योजना में स्रोत संवर्धन, सतही जलाशय निर्माण, गुरुत्व मेन, वितरण पाइप लाइन बिछाने एवं तत्सम्बन्धी कार्य।	80000.00	₹4000 +GST	06 माह
17	रामपुर	सर्गावी पेयजल योजना में स्रोत संवर्धन, सतही जलाशय निर्माण, गुरुत्व मेन, वितरण पाइप लाइन बिछाने एवं तत्सम्बन्धी कार्य।	143200.00	₹4000 +GST	09 माह
18	सहसपुर	रिखोली पेयजल योजना में स्रोत संवर्धन, सतही जलाशय निर्माण, गुरुत्व मेन, वितरण पाइप लाइन बिछाने एवं तत्सम्बन्धी कार्य।	175150.00	₹4000 +GST	09 माह
19	सहसपुर	पुर्नीहिवाला पेयजल योजना में स्रोत संवर्धन, सतही जलाशय निर्माण, गुरुत्व मेन, वितरण पाइप लाइन बिछाने एवं तत्सम्बन्धी कार्य।	115480.00	₹4000 +GST	06 माह
20	डोईवाला	खाण्ड रायवाला पेयजल योजना में वितरण पाइप लाइन बिछाने, विद्युत कार्य, सम्बन्धित संयंत्र की आपूर्ति अधिधान एवं तत्सम्बन्धी कार्य।	107450.00	₹4000 +GST	09 माह
21	सहसपुर	अड्डापुर पेयजल योजना में उर्ध्व जलाशय मरम्मत, नलकूप विकास, पाइप लाइन बिछाने एवं पम्पिंग प्लांट सामग्री की आपूर्ति अधिधान एवं तत्सम्बन्धी कार्य।	217800.00	₹4000 +GST	09 माह
22	डोईवाला	उर्खीकला पेयजल योजना में उर्ध्व जलाशय मरम्मत, पाइप लाइन बिछाने, पम्पिंग प्लांट की सामग्री की आपूर्ति अधिधान एवं तत्सम्बन्धी कार्य।	137000.00	₹4000 +GST	09 माह

निविदा समग्र सारणी (मुख्य तिथियाँ) निम्नवत् है:	
क्र.सं.	विवरण
1	ऑनलाइन प्रकाशन की तिथि
2	निविदा प्रपत्र डाउनलोड करने की तिथि
3	प्रो-बिड मीटिंग की तिथि
4	बिड ऑनलाइन जमा करने की प्रारम्भ तिथि
5	बिड ऑनलाइन जमा करने की अन्तिम तिथि
6	ऑफ लाईन रूप से जमा किये जाने वाले प्रपत्र (निविदा प्रपत्र हेतु निष्पत्ति शुल्क, बिड रिव्यू/रीट, स्टैंडिंग पेपर एवं अन्य सम्बन्धित दस्तावेज)
7	बिड खोलने की तिथि
ई-निविदा से सम्बन्धित समग्र जानकारी ब्राईडर उत्तराखण्ड राज्य की वेबसाइट www.uktenders.gov.in पर ऑन लाइन देखी/प्राप्त की जा सकती है।	
राजेश्वर भाल अधिशासी अभियन्ता	
“जल संयंत्र-जीवन संयंत्र”	

Griner back home in US after Russian prisoner swap



AP ■ SAN ANTONIO

American basketball star Brittney Griner returned to the United States early Friday after being freed in a high-profile prisoner exchange following nearly 10 months in detention in Russia. The deal, which saw her swapped for notorious arms dealer Viktor Bout, secured the release of the most prominent American detained abroad and achieved a top goal for President Joe Biden. But the US failed to win freedom for another American, Paul Whelan, who has been jailed for nearly four years.

Griner is a two-time Olympic gold medalist, Baylor University All-American and Phoenix Mercury pro basketball star.

Her status as an openly gay Black woman, locked up in a country where authorities have been hostile to the LGBTQ community, injected racial, gen-

der and social dynamics into her legal saga and brought unprecedented attention to the population of wrongful detainees.

Biden's authorisation to release Bout, the Russian felon once nicknamed “the Merchant of Death,” underscored the heightened urgency that his administration faced to get Griner home, particularly after the recent resolution of her criminal case on drug charges and her subsequent transfer to a penal colony.

Griner was seen getting off a plane that landed Friday at Joint Base San Antonio-Lackland in Texas.

The athlete, who also played pro basketball in Russia, was arrested at an airport there in February after Russian authorities said she was carrying vape canisters with cannabis oil.

Before her conviction, the US State Department declared Griner to be “wrongfully detained” — a charge that Russia has

sharply rejected.

The Russian Foreign Ministry confirmed Thursday's swap, saying in a statement carried by Russian news agencies that the exchange took place in Abu Dhabi and Bout had been flown home.

Biden spoke by phone with Griner. US officials said she would be offered specialised medical services and counselling.

In releasing Bout, the US freed a former Soviet Army lieutenant colonel whom the Justice Department once described as one of the world's most prolific arms dealers. He was arrested in Thailand in 2008 and extradited to the US in 2010.

Bout was serving a 25-year sentence on charges that he conspired to sell tens of millions of dollars in weapons that US officials said were to be used against Americans.

Following Griner's arrest at Moscow's Sheremetyevo Airport in February, she pleaded guilty in July but still faced trial because admitting guilt in Russia's judicial system does not automatically end a case.

She acknowledged in court that she possessed canisters with cannabis oil but said she had no criminal intent and she accidentally packed them.

Her defence team presented written statements that she had been prescribed cannabis to treat pain.



Putin must face tribunal: Ukrainian Nobel Prize winner

AP ■ MOSCOW

A representative of one the the organisations sharing this year's Nobel Peace Prize said Friday that she thinks Russian President Vladimir Putin must face an international tribunal for the fighting in Ukraine.

Oleksandra Matviichuk of Ukraine's Centre for Civil Liberties said during a news conference in Oslo, Norway, that “We must establish an international tribunal to hold Putin, (Belarusian President Alexander) Lukashenko and other war criminals accountable.”

In October, the Ukrainian group was named a co-winner of the 2022 peace prize along with Russian human rights group Memorial and Ales Bialatski, head of the Belarusian human rights group Viasna.

Bialatski is jailed in Belarus and was unable to travel to receive the prize, which is due to be formally presented on Saturday.

US keeps eye on China's space activities for potential risks

AP ■ BEIJING

The US is closely monitoring Chinese activities that potentially threaten American assets in space as debris rapidly accumulates in low Earth orbit, the head of United States military operations in space said Friday.

Commander of US Space Command Army Gen. James Dickinson also cheered the overwhelming passage in the United Nations of a resolution that countries not conduct direct-ascend antisatellite tests that create vast fields of space debris, which endanger satellites and space stations.

Of the four countries that have conducted such ASAT tests, the United States was the only one that voted in favour, while China and Russia voted no and India abstained.

"We can't continue to contribute to the debris that we find in the space domain," Dickinson said in a telephone news conference with reporters in Asia. Most of that debris lies in crucial low Earth orbit, which has become "congested, competitive and contested," he said.

Even tiny shards of metal can pose a danger and the number of objects is growing rapidly.



partly.

Space Command is now tracking more than 48,000 in near Earth orbit, including satellites, telescopes, space stations and pieces of debris of all sizes, up from 25,000 just three years ago, Dickinson said.

China in 2003 became the third government to send an astronaut into orbit on its own after the former Soviet Union and the United States. Its program has advanced steadily since.

The Chinese space program drew rare international criticism after it conducted an unannounced test in 2007 in which it used a missile to blow up a defunct Chinese satellite, creating debris that continues to

pose a hazard.

Beijing believes that "space is a very important piece to not only their economic or the global economic environment, but also the military environment, so we continue to watch that very closely as they continue to increase capabilities," Dickinson said.

The secretive Chinese program is run by the ruling Communist Party's military wing, the People's Liberation Army, precluding it from participating in the International Space Station or engaging in most forms of cooperation with NASA.

Proceeding with little outside help, China last month launched the last of three mod-

ules for its own space station, which briefly hosted six Chinese astronauts in space during a turnover of the three-person crew.

It also has rovers on the moon and Mars and is planning a crewed lunar mission sometime in the future.

With US-China tensions high over Taiwan, the South China Sea, trade and technology, space is increasingly becoming a potential flash point.

In addition, the Pentagon last week released an annual China security report that warned Beijing would likely have 1,500 nuclear warheads by 2035, and that it has provided no clarity on how it plans to use them.

China continues to "build capabilities that, really quite frankly, hold most of our assets at risk in the space domain," Dickinson said.

Russia's invasion of Ukraine has further showed space to be a "contested domain that must be protected. It's a role that we at US Space Command take very seriously," he said.

"I'm seriously focused on our pacing challenge, China," Dickinson said, using a description of Beijing that has become standard in the Pentagon.

Bill protecting same-sex, interracial unions approved

AP ■ WASHINGTON

The House gave final approval Thursday to legislation protecting same-sex marriages, a monumental step in a decades-long battle for nationwide recognition that reflects a stark turnaround in societal attitudes.

President Joe Biden has said he will promptly sign the measure, which requires all states to recognise same-sex marriages. It is a relief for hundreds of thousands of couples who have married since the Supreme Court's 2015 decision that legalised those marriages and have worried about what would happen if the ruling were overturned.

In a statement after the vote, Biden called the legislation a "critical step to ensure that Americans have the right to marry the person they love." He said the legislation provides "hope and dignity to millions of young people across this country who can grow up knowing that their government will recognise and respect the families they build."

The bipartisan legislation, which passed 258-169 with 39 Republican votes, would also protect interracial unions by requiring states to recognise legal marriages regardless of "sex, race, ethnicity, or national origin." After months of negotiations, the Senate passed the bill



last week with 12 Republican votes.

Democrats moved the bill quickly through the House and Senate after the Supreme Court's decision in June that overturned the federal right to an abortion — including a concurring opinion from Justice Clarence Thomas that suggested the 2015 Obergefell v. Hodges decision legalising same-sex marriage could also be reconsidered.

While many Republicans predicted that was unlikely to happen, and said the bill was unnecessary, Democrats and GOP supporters of the bill said it shouldn't be left to chance.

"We need it," said House Speaker Nancy Pelosi, who presided over the vote as one of her last acts in leadership before stepping aside in January. "It is

magic."

The bill is "a glorious triumph of love and freedom," Pelosi said, tearing up as she celebrated its passage.

In debate before the vote, several gay members of Congress talked about what a federal law would mean for them and their families. Rep. Mark Pocan, D-Wis., said he and his husband should be able to visit each other in the hospital just like any other married couple and receive spousal benefits "regardless of if your spouse's name is Samuel or Samantha."

Rep. Chris Pappas, D-N.H., said he was set to marry "the love of my life" next year and it is "unthinkable" that his marriage might not be recognised in some states if Obergefell were to be overturned.

Myanmar rescues 154 Rohingya from boat in distress

AP ■ BANGKOK

More than 150 Rohingya have been rescued off the coast of Myanmar after their boat started taking on water, Myanmar's military said.

Myanmar's state-run Oil and Natural Gas Corporation sent two boats from an offshore operation to rescue the 154 people — 106 males and 48 females — after spotting their boat in trouble, the military said in a statement Thursday.

It was not clear whether the vessel was the same boat carrying Rohingya refugees from Bangladesh that had been reported to be in trouble earlier this week in the waters of neighbouring Thailand.

Thailand's navy spokesman Vice Admiral Pokkrong Monthathaphin said Friday that crews had been sent to look for the boat in the Andaman Sea after it received the reports, but had found nothing. UNHCR, the United Nations' Refugee Agency, said it did not have independent information on the boat reportedly experiencing engine troubles in Thai waters, but urged countries in the area to help.

In a report earlier this month, UNHCR reported there had been a dramatic increase in the number of people attempting to cross the Andaman Sea this year.

Lanka shuts schools as extreme weather brings pollution

AP ■ COLOMBO

Schools across Sri Lanka were closed on Friday as health and environment officials said the air quality in most parts of the island nation was unhealthy partly due to extreme weather conditions.

Polluted air from neighbouring India was aggravating the problem, authorities said, as a storm in the Bay of Bengal triggered heavy rains and winds across Sri Lanka in recent days.

A haze hung over the capital, Colombo, and other parts of the country, with the level of

fine particles in the air reaching unhealthy levels.

"The current pollution has arisen due to the combination of local air pollutants and transboundary air pollution," said the National Building Research Organisation, a state agency involved in environmental monitoring and risk management.

"This condition can be seen in all parts of Sri Lanka and it has a tendency to cause health problems," it added.

Director General of Health Services Asela Gunawardena said the condition would con-



tinue for the next two weeks and he advised people to limit the amount of time they spend outdoors and to wear a face mask when they are outside to minimize their health risk.

At least two people were killed and another two were injured as heavy rains and winds lashed many parts of Sri

Lanka the past two days. Dozens of houses were damaged by falling trees and several roads were blocked.

The Department of Meteorology said Friday that a severe cyclonic storm was in the Bay of Bengal, about 230 kilometres (143 miles) northeast of Sri Lanka, and likely to move toward India.

Arab leaders in Saudi Arabia for Chinese leader Xi's visit

AP ■ DUBAI

Gulf Arab leaders and others in the Mideast met Friday in Saudi Arabia as part of a state visit by Chinese leader Xi Jinping, seeking to firm up their relations with Beijing as decades of US attention on the region wanes.

Before a joint meeting with Xi, representatives of the Gulf Cooperation Council met in a summit helmed by Saudi Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman, further signalling his control of a kingdom still overseen by his father, the 86-year-old King Salman.

Among them was Qatar's ruling emir, Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al Thani, whose country now hosts the FIFA World Cup and has largely restored ties to its Arab neighbours after a years-long boycott. Bahrain's King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa, whose island nation still has strained relations with Qatar, also attended.



Prince Mohammed made a point in his opening remarks, aired on state television, to applaud Qatar for its hosting of the World Cup. He also could be seen warmly greeting Sheikh Tamim before the meeting, something unthinkable only two years earlier amid the boycott.

The GCC includes Bahrain, Kuwait, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates. The leader of the Emirates, Sheikh Mohammed bin Zayed Al Nahyan, did not attend, instead sending the ruler of the emirate of Fujairah, Sheikh Hamad bin Mohammed

Al Sharqi. Kuwait's crown prince and a representative of Oman's sultan also attended.

Xi's visit comes as China relies on the Gulf Arab states, particularly Saudi Arabia, for billions of dollars in crude oil imports to power his country's economy. While the US still maintains bases across the region and stations tens of thousands of troops, Gulf Arab nations feel Washington's attention has shifted elsewhere after the end of the wars in Afghanistan and Iraq. They also want to maintain relations with China even as US officials believe they face a growing threat from China in Asia and Russia as Moscow wages its monthslong war on Ukraine.

During Xi's visit, Saudi officials have said deals had been signed between Riyadh and Beijing, including some involving Chinese technology company Huawei on cloud-computing, data centres and other high-tech ventures.

Bangladesh police arrest 2 top Opp leaders

PTI ■ DHAKA

Police in Bangladesh on Friday arrested two top leaders of the main Opposition party BNP, a day before its planned grand rally in the capital to call for Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina's resignation.

Bangladesh Nationalist Party's Secretary General Mirza Fakhrul Islam Alamgir and Standing Committee member Mirza Abbas were picked by the detective branch personnel from their homes in separate pre-dawn raids in the capital city.

"DB (detective branch) men arrested Mr Mirza Fakhrul Islam Alamgir from his Uttara (area) residence at about 3 am. There are some cases against (pending against) him," Uttara police station's officer in charge Zahurul Islam told newsmen.

German coup plot fuelled by conspiracy claims, Covid steps

AP ■ BERLIN

An alleged plot to topple the German government, led by a self-styled prince, a retired paratrooper and a Berlin judge, had its roots in a murky mixture of post-war grudges, antisemitic conspiracy theories and anger over recent pandemic restrictions, experts say.

Police detained 25 people on Wednesday described as being part of Germany's Reichsbürger, or Reich Citizens, movement.

While the name might suggest a link to the Nazi era, it actually refers to the first modern pan-German nation formed when Prussia's King Wilhelm I and his chancellor, Otto von Bismarck, united numerous smaller states into a single empire, or Reich, in 1871.

Reich Citizens consider the partition of Germany by Allied powers after World War II and the subsequent democratic states that followed to have been illegal, arguing instead that the original Reich still exists.

Russia's war in Ukraine, chaos in Haiti and rising violence by criminal groups in Mexico contributed to a 30% spike in the number of journalists killed doing their work in 2022 over the previous year, according to a new report released Friday.

The International Federation of Journalists says that 67 journalists and media staff have been killed around the world so far this year, up from 47 last year.

The Brussels-based group also tallied 375 journalists currently imprisoned for their work, with the most in China, Myanmar and Turkey. Last year's report listed 365 journalists behind bars.

With the number of media workers killed on the rise, the group called on governments to take more concrete action to protect journalists and free journalism.

"The failure to act will only embolden those who seek to suppress the free flow of information and undermine the ability of people to hold their leaders to account, including in ensuring that those with power and influence do not stand in the way of open and inclusive societies," IFJ General Secretary Anthony Bellanger said in a statement.



More media workers were killed covering the war in Ukraine — 12 in total — than in any other country this year, according to the IFJ. Most were Ukrainian but also included those of other nationalities such as American documentary filmmaker Brent Renaud. Many deaths occurred in the first chaotic weeks of the war, though threats to journalists continue as the fighting drags on.

The IFJ said "the rule by terror of criminal organizations in Mexico, and the breakdown of law and order in Haiti, have also contributed to the surge in killings." 2022 has been one of the deadliest ever for journalists in Mexico, which is now considered the most dangerous country for reporters outside a war zone.

NORTHERN RAILWAY
OPEN-E-TENDER NOTICE
The Sr. Divisional Engineer-III, Northern Railway, Delhi Division invites E-Tender for the following work.

1	Name of work	Provision of shed at Goods Platform at Shakurbasti station (SSB) & Provision of roads at Goods PF at Shakurbasti (SSB) in the section of ADEN/DLI.
2	Approx cost of work	Rs. 4,26,99,078.30/- (Rupees Four Crore Twenty Six Lakh Ninety Nine Thousand Seventy Eight & Thirty Paise Only)
3	Earnest Money to be deposited	Rs. 3,63,500/- (Rupees Three Lakh Sixty Three Thousand Five Hundred Only)
4	Cost of tender document	Rs. 0.00/-
5	Date & Time of submission of tender bid and opening of tender	03.01.2023 @ 15:00 Hrs.
6	Website particulars where complete details of tender documents can be seen	www.ireps.gov.in
7	Allocation	20536203

• The tenderer/s must be registered on the Indian Railway E-Procurement system (IREPS) site i.e. www.ireps.gov.in for participating in the e-tender system. • For all terms and conditions please refer tender document. • No manual offers are acceptable. • Cost of tender document and Earnest money will be acceptable through net banking or payment gateway only. **No. No. 128-W/280/e Tender Notice/NIT/95/2022-23/W-3 Dated :- 08.12.2022** 3279/2022

SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE

NORTHERN RAILWAY
OPEN E-TENDER NOTICE
The Sr. Divisional Engineer-III, Northern Railway, Delhi Division invites E-Tender for the following work.

1.	Name of work : Improvement of Goods PF and PF No. 01 & Provision of Goods Shed at Goods Platform (Line No 07) of Adarsh Nagar Station (ANDI) in the section of ADEN/DLI.
2.	Approx cost of work : Rs. 4,24,99,856.55/- (Rupees Four Crore Twenty Four Lakh Ninety Nine Thousand Eight Hundred Fifty Six & Fifty Five Paise Only)
3.	Earnest Money to be deposited : Rs. 3,62,500/- (Rupees Three Lakh Sixty Two Thousand Five Hundred Only)
4.	Cost of tender document : Rs. 0.00/-
5.	Date & Time of submission of tender bid and opening of tender : 03.01.2023 @ 15:00 Hrs.
6.	Website Particulars where complete details of tender documents can be seen : www.ireps.gov.in
7.	Allocation : 20536203

• The tenderer/s must be registered on the Indian Railway E-Procurement system (IREPS) site i.e. www.ireps.gov.in for participating in the e-tender system. • For all terms and conditions please refer tender document. • No manual offers are acceptable. • Cost of tender document and Earnest money will be acceptable through net banking or payment gateway only. **No. 128-W/280/e Tender Notice/NIT/93/2022-23/W-3 Dated. 08.12.2022** 3278/2022

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APPENDIX IV A
[See proviso to Rule 8(6)]
Sale Notice for sale of Immovable Property
E-Auction Sale Notice for sale of Immovable Assets under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 read with proviso to Rule 8(6) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002.
Notice is hereby given to the public in general and in particular to the Borrower(s) and Guarantor(s) that the below described Immovable Property mortgaged to Indiabulls Housing Finance Ltd. [CIN: L65922DL2005PLC136029] ("Secured Creditor"), the constructive possession of which has been taken by the Authorised Officer of the Secured Creditor, will be sold on "as is where is", "as is what is" and "whatever there is" basis on 13.01.2023 between 02.00 P.M. to 04.00 P.M., for recovery of Rs. 16,41,211/- (Rupees Sixteen Lakh Forty One Thousand Two Hundred Eleven only) pending towards Loan Account No. HHLDMT00305915, by way of outstanding principal, arrears (including accrued late charges) and interest till 01.12.2022 with applicable future interest in terms of the Loan Agreement and other related loan document(s) w.e.f. 02.12.2022 along with legal expenses and other charges due to the Secured Creditor from Rajesh Dewan and Poonam Dewan.
The Reserve Price of the Immovable Property will be Rs. 48,20,000/- (Rupees Forty Eight Lakh Twenty Thousand only) and the Earnest Money Deposit ("EMD") will be Rs. 4,82,000/- (Rupees Four Lakh Eighty Two Thousand only) i.e. equivalent to 10% of the Reserve Price.
DESCRIPTION OF THE IMMOVABLE PROPERTY
Unit No. 1052, Carpet Area 1860 Sq. Ft. 5th Floor, Tower No. 1st, Parker Residency, Kundli, Sonapat, Haryana- 131001.
For detailed terms and conditions of the sale, please refer to the link provided on the website of the Secured Creditor i.e. www.indiabullshomeloans.com. For bidding log on to www.auctionfocus.in
Date : 05.12.2022
Place : SONEPAT

Sd/
Authorized Officer
INDIABULLS HOUSING FINANCE LIMITED

PUBLIC NOTICE
Notice is hereby given to the General Public on behalf of our client that Mrs. Sunita Devi is the owner of Built up Property bearing No. 749/13, area measuring 42 * 35 Sq. Yds. Situated in the area of Village Sikdarpur, in the abadi of West Rohatash Nagar, Ilaga Shikdarpur, Delhi, vide GPA, Will and ATS dated 05.12.2006 and 11.06.2007. All persons are hereby informed that above mentioned owner want to sell the said property to a person who intends to obtain loan from our client against the said property, if anybody has any objection/s upon the ownership of above owner over the said floor, its sale/mortgage/litigation, and any other objections, kindly inform the undersigned in writing on the below mentioned address within 07 days of the present.
Kumar & Associates (Advocates & Consultants)
200, 1st floor, 23, Shivali Marg, West Nagar, N. Delhi-15
Ph: 011-4112527-28, kumarassociatesadvocates@gmail.com

UJVN LIMITED
H.O.: "UJJWAL", Maharani Bagh, GMS Road, Dehradun-248006, Telephone.: 2763508, Fax- 0135- 2763507
CIN No. U40101UR2001SGC025866, Website: www.ujvn.com
Ref. No.: 900
DATE EXTENSION E-NOTICE-1 Dated : 09.12.2022
Due to unavoidable reasons date of submission and opening of bids against Tender no. : E-CH(Maint.)-24/2022-23 are extended as given here below:-
Last date for receipt of bid in the portal: 16/12/2022, 18:00 hrs.
Last date of submission of document in hard copy: 17/12/2022, 13:00 hrs.
Date of opening of bid on the website: 19/12/2022, 15:30 hrs.
For Further details, kindly visit e-procurement portal "<http://uktenders.gov.in>"
Executive Engineer (Maint.)
"Avoid Wasteful use of Electricity"

UJVN Limited
H.O.: "UJJWAL", Maharani Bagh, G.M.S. Road, Dehradun-248006
Telephones: 0135-2763808, Fax: 0135-2763508
CIN No. U40101UR2001SGC025866, Website: www.ujvn.com
Letter No: 899
E-Tender Notice Date: 08/12/2022
Office of the Executive Engineer (Generation) Chibro Power House, Chibro, invites online bids from interested parties. Brief summary of tender is given below:-
Tender No 22e/EE(G)/CPH/2022-23 for "SITC of Multisifier System with all accessories including dismantling at Chibro Power House.
Estimated cost: Rs. 1,96,43,458/- GST Extra.
Date of availability of bid document on website: 08-12-2022 from 11:00 Hrs.
Last date for submission of bids on website: 02-01-2023 up to 16:00 Hrs
For fuller & further details, kindly visit e-procurement portal "<http://uktenders.gov.in>" **EE (G), Chibro**
"AVOID WASTEFUL USE OF ELECTRICITY"

INTEGRATED TECHNOLOGIES LIMITED
CIN: L31909DL1995PLC277176
C-24, Defence Colony, New Delhi - 110 024, India
Tel: +91-11- 41552579,
Email: info@integratedtech.in | Website: www.integratedtech.in
NOTICE OF THE EXTRA ORDINARY GENERAL MEETING AND E-VOTING INFORMATION
NOTICE is hereby given that the Extra Ordinary General Meeting ("EGM") of the Members of Integrated Technologies Limited ("the Company") will be held on Friday, January 6, 2023 at 1 p.m. (IST), to transact the special business, as set out in the Notice of the EGM. The Company has sent Notice of the EGM on Friday, December 9, 2022, only through electronic mode, to those members whose email IDs have been registered with the Company/ Depositories as on the cut-off date i.e. Friday, December 2, 2022, in compliance with the circulars/Guidelines issued by the Ministry of Corporate Affairs ("MCA Circulars") and Securities and Exchange Board of India. The aforesaid notice is also available on the Company's website www.integratedtech.in website of the stock exchanges i.e. www.bseindia.com, website of NSDL (agency for providing the Remote e-Voting facility) i.e. www.evoting.nsdl.com.
The company is providing remote e-voting facility to all its members to cast their votes on all resolutions set out in the notice. Members, holding shares as on the cut-off date for e-voting i.e. Friday, December 30, 2022, may cast their votes, electronically, on the businesses set out in the EGM Notice, by referring to procedure for remote e-voting given in the EGM Notice, and also available on the e-voting website of NSDL (agency for providing the Remote e-Voting facility) i.e. www.evoting.nsdl.com.
The remote e-voting period commences on Tuesday, January 3, 2023 (9.00 a.m. IST) and ends on Thursday, January 5, 2023 (5.00 p.m. IST). The remote e-voting module shall be disabled by NSDL thereafter, and members may note that anyone the vote on a resolution is cast by the Member, the Member shall not be allowed to change it subsequently. b) the Members who have cast their vote by remote e-voting prior to the EGM may participate in the EGM but shall not be entitled to cast their vote again during the EGM. (c) the Members participating in the EGM and who had not cast their vote by remote e-voting, shall be entitled to cast their vote during the EGM
The voting rights of Members shall be in proportion to the equity shares held by them as on the cut-off date for e-voting i.e. Friday, December 30, 2022. Members can cast their votes on the businesses set out in the EGM Notice, either through remote e-voting facility made available on the above dates or vote at the meeting.
Any person who acquires shares and becomes a Members of the Company after the dispatch of the Notice of EGM and holding shares as on the cut off date 1.e December 30, 2022, may obtain the login ID and password for remote e-voting by sending a request to NSDL at evoting@nsdl.co.in. Any person/ entity, who has not registered his/ her/ their email ID in the Company's records and holds equity shares as of the cut-off date for e-voting i.e., Friday, December 30, 2022; may obtain Login ID and password for e-voting by following the instructions given in EGM Notice or by sending an email to NSDL at evoting@nsdl.co.in. However, if a person/entity is already registered with NSDL for remote e-voting then they can use their existing User ID and password for casting their votes.
Members holding shares in physical form, whose email addresses are not registered with the Company, may register their email address, by providing Folio No, Name of shareholder, scanned copy of the share certificate (front and back), PAN (self-attested scanned copy of PAN card), AADHAR (self-attested scanned copy of Aadhar Card) to the email address of the Company at info@integratedtech.in
In case of any enquiry/ guidance, in respect of remote e-voting, please refer to the "Downloads" section on the NSDL website, www.evoting.nsdl.com or may call on the toll free no.1800 1020 990 /1800 224 430 or contact Ms. Pallavi Mhatre, Assistant Manager, NSDL, Trade World, 'A' Wing, 4th Floor, Kamala Mills Compound, Senapati Bapat Marg, Lower Parel, Mumbai - 400013 at the designated email ids: evoting@nsdl.co.in or at telephone no. 18001020990/1800224430.
Note: Shareholders are requested to update their PAN, e-mail IDs, mobile No's & bank details with company or RTA or Depository Participants as applicable
For Integrated Technologies Limited
Sd/-
Priyanka
Date: 10.12.2022
Place: Delhi
Compliance Officer & Company Secretary

Ministries seized of duty structure issue: Niti VC

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Niti Aayog Vice Chairperson Suman Bery on Friday said the Finance and Commerce Ministries are seized of the matter related to inverted duty structure, but did not elaborate pointing out that the next Union Budget was round the corner.

Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman will announce the tax proposals in the Union Budget 2023-24 which is scheduled to be presented to the Lok Sabha on February 1.

Replying to queries during the CII Global Economic Policy Summit 2022 here, Bery said Niti Aayog has been doing “some internal work” on the issue of inverted duty structures. Also, both the finance ministry and the commerce ministry are seized of the issue, he added.

“But you know, since we are approaching budget time, I don’t want a headline that promises that this is going to be, you know, on the agenda. So I just say I hear you and I will take it back,” the Niti Aayog Vice Chairperson said. Inverted duty structure refers to taxation of inputs at higher rates than finished products that results in build-up of credits and cascading costs.

Earlier Bery said country’s G-20 presidency is an event for all of India with states and Centre combined.



“We are here at an important moment in terms of India’s climb up the size of economy ladder, with the eyes of the world being on India and with the mandate given to us by the prime minister to think through Viksit Bharat (Developed India),” he said.

He was in a conversation session on Indian Economy @2030 with Sanjiv Bajaj, President, CII, and Chairman and Managing Director, Bajaj Finserv Limited.

The Niti Aayog Vice Chairman also observed that

India has an innate resilience, and despite the many criticisms that are made of both the Indian policy establishment and the Indian private sector, whenever there is a challenge, the system seems to work.

“Our watchword going forward should be ‘if ain’t broke, don’t fix it,’” he said.

Bajaj noted that India is at a very interesting place at a time when “we have been a resilient economy that is still exposed as the world is going through a period of uncertainty”.

Sensex surrenders early gains as IT stocks crack

PTI ■ MUMBAI

Equity benchmark Sensex declined nearly 390 points on Friday, pressured by heavy selling in IT and energy stocks despite a positive trend in global markets.

Rising crude oil prices and relentless foreign capital outflows further weighed on sentiment, traders said.

The 30-share BSE Sensex opened strong but came under severe selling pressure to close 389.01 points or 0.62 per cent lower at 62,181.67. Similarly, the broader NSE Nifty declined 112.75 points or 0.61 per cent to 18,496.60.

HCL Tech was the top loser in the Sensex pack, skidding 6.72 per cent, followed by Tech Mahindra, Infosys, Wipro, TCS and Reliance Industries.

On the other hand, Nestle India, Titan, Sun Pharma, Dr Reddy’s, IndusInd Bank and ITC were among the gainers, advancing up to 2.24 per cent.

“Today’s downfall in the domestic market was sparked by IT stocks extending their losses after warning of a potential slowdown in business on global recession fears. This was further aggravated by banks losing their grip as PSBs suffered heavy sell-offs.

“However, global bourses were largely positive, although



the Fed is expected to raise interest rates by 50 basis points next week,” said Vinod Nair, Head of Research at Geojit Financial Services. On a weekly basis, the Sensex lost 686.83 points or 1.09 per cent, while the Nifty shed 199.50 points or 1.06 per cent.

“Markets seems to be consolidating for last few sessions as participants are lightning their position ahead of crucial US Fed meeting next week. US PPI data to be released later on Friday as well as US CPI data on 13th December would be keenly watched as they would influence the Fed’s interest rate decision.

“Further, FIIs have remained net sellers (₹5,500 crore) in December so far (barring one positive day) and added to the overall pressure in the market... We expect weakness in tech stocks to continue on account of weak growth outlook.

Inflows via mutual funds SIP hit fresh high at ₹13,306 cr in Nov

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Flows in the mutual fund industry through systematic investment plans or SIPs route rose to an all-time high of ₹13,306 crore in November, reflecting the growing maturity and confidence of investors.

However, inflows in equity mutual fund schemes plunged 76 per cent to ₹2,258 crore in November from Rs 9,390 crore in the preceding month, data released by the Association of Mutual Funds in India (Amfi) showed on Friday.

This was also the 21st straight month of inflows into equity schemes.

As per the data, flows through SIP was ₹13,306 crore in November, surpassing the previous high of ₹13,041 crore in October.

The inflows through SIPs have been above the ₹12,000-crore mark since May. It was ₹12,976 crore in September, ₹12,693 crore in August, ₹12,140 crore in July, ₹12,276 crore in June and ₹12,286 crore in May. Before that, it stood at ₹11,863 crore in April.

With this, the total inflow has reached ₹87,275 crore in the first eight months of the current fiscal. This came following an inflow of over ₹ 1.24 lakh crore in the 2021-22 financial year.

“The healthiest trend in the Indian equity market now is the steady increase in SIPs, which have touched a new record of



₹13,307 crore in November. It is a proven fact that SIPs are the most successful mode of investment for retail investors,” VK Vijayakumar, Chief Investment Strategist at Geojit Financial Services, said.

Increasing SIPs shows that Indian equity investors are maturing, Vijayakumar said and suggested that SIP investors should not discontinue their investment when markets correct sharply.

S Ranganathan, Head of Research at LKP Securities, noted that foreign investors have been booking profits but domestic flows through SIPs are at lifetime highs, which reflects the growing maturity and confidence of the domestic investors.

Also, mutual funds added 11.27 lakh SIP accounts during the month under review, taking the total to about 6.04 crore.

SIP is an investment methodology offered by mutu-

al funds wherein an individual can invest a fixed amount in a chosen scheme periodically at fixed intervals, say once a month, instead of making a lump sum investment. The SIP instalment amount can be as small as ₹500 per month.

NS Venkatesh, Chief Executive, AMFI, said that mutual fund investors have shown resilience and continue to invest in SIPs, with consistent contributions month-on-month.

Overall, the mutual fund industry registered a net inflow of ₹13,263 crore in November, slightly lower from ₹14,045 crore in the previous month, data released by the Association of Mutual Funds in India (Amfi) showed.

“Market continues to react to global headwinds. Rate hikes will continue to impact global markets but not for long, irrespective of whether the mutual fund industry has performed well.

Gold falls ₹30; silver jumps ₹558



PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Gold prices fell ₹30 to ₹54,305 per 10 grams in the national capital on Friday amid appreciation in rupee, according to HDFC Securities.

In the previous trade, the precious metal had closed at ₹54,335 per 10 grams.

Silver, however, jumped ₹558 per kg to ₹67,365 per kilogram.

The rupee appreciated 19 paise to 82.19 against the US dollar in early trade on Friday on broad dollar weakness and a firm trend in domestic equities.

“Domestic market gold prices were a bit negative following a stronger rupee,” said Dilip Parmar, Research Analyst at HDFC Securities.

In the international market, gold was trading higher at \$1,791.9 per ounce while silver was up at \$23.07 per ounce.

“Gold and silver price inched higher amidst the fall in dollar index, as the investors focusing on key US inflation data and Federal Reserve’s rate hike decision due next week,” Navneet Damani, Senior VP — Commodity Research at Motilal Oswal Financial Services, said.

SBI board to take call on raising capital via bonds

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

State Bank of India (SBI) said its board will meet on December 14 to decide on raising capital through Tier 1 bonds.

As per a regulatory filing, SBI said it will seek “approval for raising of Additional Tier 1 (AT 1) capital by way of issuance of Basel III compliant debt instruments in INR and / or any other convertible currency through a public offer or private placement to Indian and / or overseas investors up to March 31, 2024.”

The fundraise would help the bank grow its loan book.

Earlier this week, SBI announced that its personal banking advances, excluding high value home loans, have crossed the ₹5 lakh crore-mark.

The country’s largest lender took a year to book the



last ₹1 lakh crore of advances, as against over 15 months for the previous ₹1 lakh crore and over 30 months for the ₹1 lakh crore before that.

SBI has 22,309 branches, over 65,000 automated teller machines and 66,757 business correspondent outlets, which drive its entire retail banking franchise.

Earlier in July, the board had approved raising up to ₹11,000 crore through Basel-III compliant debt instruments.

Forex kitty soars \$11 billion to \$561.16 bn

PTI ■ MUMBAI

India’s foreign exchange reserves soared by \$11.02 billion to reach \$561.162 billion for the week ended December 2, Reserve Bank data showed on Friday.

This is the fourth consecutive week of rise in the reserves. In the previous reporting week, the overall reserves had grown by \$ 2.9 billion to \$550.14 billion. For the week ended November 11, the forex kitty had jumped by \$14.72 billion in its second fastest weekly acceleration ever.

In October 2021, the country’s foreign exchange kitty had reached an all-time high of \$645 billion. The reserves have been declining as the central bank deploys the kitty to defend the rupee amid pressures caused majorly by global developments.

Foreign currency assets (FCA), a major component of the overall reserves, increased by \$9.694 billion to \$496.984 billion during the week to December 2, according to the Weekly Statistical Supplement released by the RBI on Friday.



Expressed in dollar terms, the foreign currency assets include the effect of appreciation or depreciation of non-US units like the euro, pound and yen held in the foreign exchange reserves.

The gold reserves increased by \$1.086 billion to \$41.025 billion.

The Special Drawing Rights (SDRs) were down by \$164 million to \$18.04 billion, the apex bank said.

The country’s reserve position with the International Monetary Fund (IMF) was also down by \$75 million to \$ 5.108 billion in the reporting week, the data showed.

Srei CoC evaluates bids, finalisation likely in 2-3 days

PTI ■ KOLKATA

The Consolidated Committee of Creditors (CoC) of twin Srei companies may take two-three days to select the resolution plan from among three bids for the Kolkata-based NBFC entities, a senior official said on Friday.

Since Wednesday, the CoC is holding internal meetings besides deliberating with the three — Varde Partners and Arena consortium, government-backed bad bank NARCL and Authum Investment and Infrastructure — in Mumbai for Srei Infrastructure Finance (SIFL) and Srei Equipment Finance (SEFL).

The consortium of Varde



Partners and Arena has submitted a bid value of ₹14,000 crore, while National Asset Reconstruction Co Ltd (NARCL) submitted a resolution worth ₹13,500 crore. The third bid of Authum Investment and Infrastructure is valued at ₹7,000 crore, a government official who attended the meeting told PTI.

The value of resolution plans could not be independently verified.

The total value of resolution plans submitted by the applicants involves upfront cash payout, deferred payments by way of instruments like NCDs and OCDs and a timeline to clear the dues ranges between three and seven years.

“Authum’s cash payout component is the highest at Rs 2,800 crore and promises to complete the payout of total committed value within 3.5 years. The other two bidders will take 5-7 years to clear the payments. The CoC is scrutinising the offers made for each of the assets of the two companies,” the official said.

There is an attempt to convince the bidders to revise their bid terms.

Rupee gains 10 paise to close at 82.28 against US dollar

PTI ■ MUMBAI

The rupee appreciated by 10 paise to close at 82.28 against the US dollar on Friday, tracking the weakening of the American currency in the overseas market.

Forex traders said muted domestic equities and foreign fund outflows weighed on investor sentiments and restricted the gains.

At the interbank foreign exchange market, the local unit opened at 82.30 and touched an intra-day high of 82.08 and a low of 82.33 against the green-back.

It finally settled at 82.28, registering a rise of 10 paise



over its previous close of 82.38.

Forex traders said investors awaited the outcome of a slew of central bank meetings next week for additional clues on the pace of rate hikes.

“Focus will now be shifting to the FOMC policy statement. The central bank could raise rates by 50 bps and maintain a less hawkish stance,” said Gaurang Somaiya, Forex & Bullion Analyst, Motilal Oswal Financial Services.

Sebi clarifies on ‘schemes of arrangement’ for entities with listed debt securities

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Capital markets regulator Sebi on Friday clarified on the framework pertaining to ‘schemes of arrangement’ for entities that have only listed their debt securities.

Scheme of arrangement is a court-approved agreement between a company and its shareholders or creditors.

Sebi, in November, had put in place operational guidelines pertaining to “scheme of arrangement” by entities who have listed their debt securities — non-convertible debentures (NCDs) or non-convertible redeemable preference shares (NCRPS).

Under this, the entity that has listed NCDs or NCRPS and



which intends to undertake a scheme of arrangement or is involved in a scheme of arrangement would file the draft scheme with stock exchanges for obtaining a no-objection letter, before filing such scheme with any court or tribunal.

Further, the exchange would have to forward such draft schemes to the Securities and Exchange Board of India.

Sebi clarified that the operational guidelines issued in November would not apply to a scheme of arrangement which solely provides for an arrangement between a debt

listed entity and its unlisted wholly-owned subsidiary.

However, such debt listed entity would file the draft scheme of arrangement with stock exchanges for the purpose of disclosure. Besides, stock exchanges would disseminate the scheme documents on their websites.

Earlier, the regulator had amended rules with respect to scheme of arrangement, involving merger, amalgamation among others, by entities who have listed their non-convertible debt securities or non-convertible redeemable preference shares.

TVS Motor’s Singapore arm to acquire EV related tech, assets in Germany

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

TVS Singapore will be acquiring the assets through its subsidiary BBT Vermögensverwaltungs GmbH (name proposed to be changed to Celerity Motor GmbH), it added.

The purchase will help strengthen the company’s expansion in the electric two-wheeler market globally, TVS Motor said.

The company, however, did not disclose financial details.

TVS Singapore will be acquiring the assets through its subsidiary BBT Vermögensverwaltungs GmbH (name proposed to be changed to Celerity Motor GmbH), it added.

The purchase will help strengthen the company’s expansion in the electric two-wheeler market globally, TVS Motor said.

The company, however, did not disclose financial details.

Sebi brings framework for foreign investment in AIFs

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Markets regulator Sebi on Friday came out with a framework for alternative investment funds (AIFs) raising capital from foreign investors.

At the time of on-boarding investors, the manager of an AIF would have to ensure that the foreign investor is a resident of a country whose securities market regulator is a signatory to the International Organization of Securities Commission’s (IOSCO)

Multilateral Memorandum of Understanding or a signatory to a bilateral Memorandum of Understanding with Sebi.

“AIFs may accept commitment from an investor being Government or Government related investor, who does not meet the aforesaid condition, if the investor is a resident in the country as may be approved by the Government of India,” the Securities and Exchange Board of India (Sebi) said in a circular.

Further, the investor contributing 25 per cent or more in the corpus should not be a person mentioned in the Sanctions List notified by the United Nations Security Council and should not be a resident in a country identified in the public statement of the Financial Action Task Force (FATF).

The investor should also not be from a country that has not made sufficient progress in addressing the deficiencies or has not committed to an action plan developed with FATF to

address such deficiencies.

In case an investor who has been on-boarded to a scheme of an AIF subsequently does not meet the specified conditions, the manager of the AIF will not drawdown any further capital contribution from such investor for making investment, until the investor again meets the conditions.

The same would also apply to investors already on-boarded to existing schemes of AIFs who do not meet specified conditions, Sebi said.

BUSINESS BRIEF

CEO OF THE YEAR AWARD CONFERRED ON NTPC CMD

New Delhi: Gurdeep Singh, CMD NTPC has been bestowed with the CEO of the Year Award at the 24th Annual Platts Global Energy Awards held in New York for his outstanding contribution to the power sector. The CEO of the Year demonstrates the ability to sustain their sector amid universal headwinds while undeniably supporting the employees who propel their organization into the future.



STUFF OF DREAMS

Croatia shoot-out Brazil, enter FIFA World Cup semifinals



Morocco chasing WC history against Portugal

AP ■ DOHA

Morocco head into Saturday's last-eight clash with Portugal knowing they are only one step away from making history as Africa's first World Cup semi-finalists, but they face a buoyant opposition fresh from scoring six goals against Switzerland.

Walid Regragui's Moroccans are in uncharted territory after a surprise run which saw them finish top of Group F after beating Belgium and Canada before a stunning victory over Spain on penalties in the last 16.

The Atlas Lions are only the fourth African side to reach the quarter-finals — after Cameroon in 1990, Senegal in 2002 and Ghana in 2010.

Morocco have enjoyed the vast majority of support from the crowds at all their games in Qatar and that is likely to be the case again at Al Thumama Stadium. "I think it's impossible for us to do this without the fans," said coach Regragui after knocking out Spain.

"A lot of fans came to Qatar from a lot of countries — America, Europe, Morocco.

"They love their country and what I can tell them is this — we can do nothing without them, I need them for the quarters and, hopefully, we'll make history."

There has still never been a country from outside Europe or South America in a World Cup



final, but Morocco want to put that right.

"Why not aim for the sky? We needed to change and we needed to change our mentality," Regragui said after the group stage.

"We're not going to stop here. We're going to respect every opponent. But we are

going to be very difficult opponents. So why not dream about lifting that trophy?"

Morocco are unbeaten in seven matches since Regragui took over from the sacked Wahid Halilhodzic in August.

They have conceded only once in that time, an own goal against Canada.

Morocco have overcome several injury problems to get this far in Qatar, with full-backs Achraf Hakimi and Noussair Mazraoui carrying knocks for most of the tournament.

Centre-back Nayef Aguerd hobbled off injured against Spain, while captain Romain Saïss soldiered on despite pick-

ing up an injury during extra time.

"Since the start of the competition, we've been playing with a team that's not 100 percent, that's why it's even more extraordinary," said Regragui.

"We've managed to create a family, and we feel that we have a people behind us."

Spain struggled to create any clear-cut chances against the dogged North Africans but Portugal will be a different proposition after a fluid attacking display against the Swiss.

Coach Fernando Santos took the big decision to drop Cristiano Ronaldo to the bench, but it paid dividends as the superstar striker's replacement Goncalo Ramos scored a hat-trick in the 6-1 rout.

Portugal are in the World Cup quarter-finals for the first time since 2006, when they beat England on penalties before being knocked out by France.

They beat Ghana and Uruguay in the group stage before losing to South Korea, but without Ronaldo in the lineup, Portugal's attacking players appeared freer against Switzerland.

The 21-year-old Ramos stole the headlines, while Bernardo Silva, Bruno Fernandes and Joao Felix all impressed.

The prize for the winners is a semi-final against England or France and the chance to reach the World Cup final for the first time.

Santos calls for line to be drawn under Ronaldo affair



AP ■ DOHA

Portugal coach Fernando Santos admitted on Friday that Cristiano Ronaldo had been unhappy to be dropped to the bench as he pleaded for a line to be drawn under the affair.

The veteran striker was a substitute for the first time at a World Cup since 2006 for his side's last-16 match against Switzerland, which they won 6-1. A report in Portuguese newspaper Record said Ronaldo had threatened to quit the squad

after he was told he was not in the starting line-up.

The Portuguese football federation denied the report and Ronaldo himself took to social media to state that the squad was "too united to be broken by outside forces".

Santos, speaking on the eve of Portugal's quarter-final against Morocco, said he had spoken to Ronaldo on the day of the game against Switzerland.

"I invited him to my office, and told him 'you will not be one of the starters', so it would not

be a surprise," he said.

"I told him he would be important (but) in terms of the strategy, I told him 'it's better for you not to play'. I saved him for the second half."

Santos said five-time Ballon d'Or winner Ronaldo never threatened to leave the team camp, although he was upset about being dropped.

"Cristiano, for obvious reasons, was not very happy about it," said Santos. "He's always been a starting player except for one or two games on the bench -- obviously he was not happy."

"He told me 'do you really think it's a good idea?' But we had a normal conversation in which I explained my viewpoints."

"Of course, he accepted. We had a frank and normal conversation, he has never told me he wanted to leave our national team."

Santos said Ronaldo showed his commitment to the team by celebrating Portugal's goals and leading the players to applaud the fans.

"It's high time we stop with this conversation, stop the controversies," said the coach, trying to draw a line under the affair.

"It's high time for you to leave Ronaldo alone, in acknowledgement for what he's done for Portuguese football."

Deschamps warns England of Mbappe threat

AP ■ DOHA

France coach Didier Deschamps is confident Kylian Mbappe can still make the difference in Saturday's World Cup quarter-final showdown with England even if the opposition put their focus on stopping the superstar forward.

Mbappe is the top scorer at the tournament with five goals in four games, including a brace in the 3-1 win over Poland in the last 16, and England will need to find a way of countering the Paris Saint-Germain striker.

But the holders have formidable quality around Mbappe, with Olivier Giroud, Ousmane Dembele and Antoine Griezmann all impressing in Qatar too.

"I imagine England will take measures like our four previous opponents did but Kylian has the ability to make the difference," Deschamps told reporters on Friday.

"Even in the last game, when he wasn't at his best like



in the first two, he was still decisive, but if we can share around the danger that stops too many precautions being taken against Kylian.

"But Kylian will always be Kylian, with the ability to be decisive at any moment."

The pressure is intensifying for both sides, but Deschamps has won the World Cup as a

player and a coach and the 54-year-old encouraged France not to let the occasion get the better of them.

"As is the case for us and all teams who reach the knockouts, you don't have a second chance," he admitted.

"The further on you go the greater the quality, but the demands are higher too and so

is the excitement.

"This is the next stage but there is no stress, no need to hold back. It is magnificent to play a World Cup quarter-final."

While France are the defending champions, England appear to be growing as a team on the back of their run to the semi-finals in Russia four years ago and the final of Euro 2020.

France goalkeeper and captain Hugo Lloris — who has spent nearly a decade in the Premier League with Tottenham -- was full of praise for Gareth Southgate's England.

"If you look at the English squad they have more players here who were in Russia than France do," said the 35-year-old, who is set to win his 143rd cap and overtake Lilian Thuram as his country's all-time record appearance maker.

"They were semi-finalists at the World Cup, runners-up at the Euro. There is a real progression and I believe this team is getting more mature. They are here to win."

Southgate vows front foot approach

AP ■ DOHA

England manager Gareth Southgate has urged the Three Lions to take the game to defending champions France in a blockbuster World Cup quarter-final clash on Saturday.

Southgate's men are the joint top scorers in the tournament with 12 goals in their four games in Qatar so far but will come up against the firepower of the tournament's top scorer in Kylian Mbappe.

The threat of the Paris Saint-Germain forward has led to suggestions Southgate could change his formation with an extra defender added to deal with France's front four of Mbappe, Olivier Giroud, Antoine Griezmann and Ousmane Dembele.

But Southgate has hinted he intends to force France into worrying more about how to stop England's array of attacking talent.

"There is no point going into a game like this and just covering up and sitting on the ropes. We believe we can cause problems with the ball and we intend to do that," Southgate told ITV.



England reached the semi-finals four years ago as France went onto claim their second World Cup in Russia.

The Three Lions then got to a first major tournament final in 55 years at Euro 2020 before losing on penalties to Italy on home soil at Wembley.

But Southgate is hopeful that those experiences will help his side end the wait for a major trophy that stretches back to the 1966 World Cup.

"We've beaten some big teams. We know we have the experience of high pressure nights behind us and as a team we've been resilient through a lot of situations, but they all prepare you for nights like this," added Southgate.

"We got to the first final for 55 years. We've won a semi-final and been to a semi-final of the World Cup before."

"But, of course, it is a big game against a high quality opponent. Everything that has happened in the past is history, it all comes down to Saturday night."

INDIA STARE AT CLEAN SWEEP

PTI ■ CHATTOGRAM

A struggling Indian team, severely depleted by a spate of on-field injuries and fitness-related problems, will be determined to avoid the ignominy of a clean sweep against Bangladesh in the final ODI of the three-match series here on Saturday.

Bangladesh, riding on two contrasting yet brilliant knocks from Mehidy Hasan Miraz, have already sealed the series after winning the first two matches but if Litton Das' men can blank the 'Men in Blue' 3-0, it will be a historic first in the country's cricket.

Not only will it be an icing on the cake for the hosts but also significantly dent the visiting team's confidence ahead of the Test series, starting at this very venue in less than a week's time (December 14).

For India, there were 20 cricketers originally available for this series since there was a very short turnaround time between the first ODI in Bangladesh and the last game in New Zealand as some players in both squads were common.

But call it a cruel twist of fate as within a week things have gone from bad to worse and they only have 14 fit and available players to choose from for the final game.

Such has been the plight that Kuldeep Yadav has been flown into Chattogram on SOS basis as the Indian bowling attack looks thin on experience. The left-arm wrist spinner with 118 wickets from 72 ODIs will be the most experienced bowler in the line-up.

Regular skipper Rohit Sharma sustained a left thumb dislocation and has flown back home. Up and coming pacer Kuldeep Sen suffered a back injury after playing his first international game. Seamer Deepak Chahar continued his saga of breaking down in almost all the series he has played since his comeback



from a long lay-off.

Add to this, Axar Patel suffered a hit in the ribs and missed the first game while Rishabh Pant, who flew all the way from New Zealand, reportedly had a niggle and had to be rested for excessive workload prior to this series. In fact, there will be two forced changes in the playing eleven with Rohit and Chahar already unavailable.

It is there to be seen whether India bring in Ishan Kishan into the playing XI as an opener or stand-in skipper KL Rahul, who is now a

designated middle-order batter-keeper in this format, decides to promote himself just like during the tour of South Africa.

The other option is continuing with Virat Kohli-Shikhar Dhawan combination and get someone like Rahul Tripathi, who can also bowl some cutters at mid 120 clicks, in the playing XI. If the team management goes for a pure batter rather than a utility player, then the stylish Rajat Patidar could get his first game for India.

In case of Chahar's replace-

ment, there isn't a back-up pacer available and the team might not have an option but to fall back to all-rounder Shahbaz Ahmed, who could be the sixth bowling option.

India's five-pronged bowling attack will be Mohammed Siraj, Shardul Thakur, Umran Malik, Washington Sundar and Axar Patel.

With no Jasprit Bumrah, Mohammed Shami and Ravindra Jadeja, the Indian bowling unit's performance at the back-end has been far from impressive.

While a full-strength Bangla-

desh will start as favourites in the final game, the bigger worry will be KL Rahul, the skipper.

His record, save in the ODI series win against a below-par Zimbabwe, has been dismal and the last thing he would need is another clean sweep defeat against his name after the tour of South Africa.

Till now, there has been little or no indication that Rahul is a long-time future India captain, not having displayed any above average leadership acumen in the matches that he has captained so far.

I've been working on my power-hitting: Sundar

PTI ■ CHATTOGRAM

He is not the quintessential power-hitter. But, keeping in mind the Indian team's requirements ahead of next year's World Cup, Washington Sundar is working "specifically" on how to hit the ball long and hard.

Known to rely more on timing and placement, Washington has also played a few blunders, the most recent coming in the tour of New Zealand. And who can forget his 14-ball 40 against Rajasthan Royals in the IPL, representing Sunrisers Hyderabad.

"That's the role I have been getting in the last few years or so. That's what that particular position demands, and I have working quite specifically that way.

"Whatever positions demand me to do, I have been practising that way. I have been working in those specific manners," Washington said on the eve of the third ODI against Bangladesh.

Washington is happy that his hard work is reaping dividends.

"I am glad that all the hard work has been coming good in the last few months or so. Hopefully, I will continue to do really well in the coming months and years as well."

The all-rounder, who has picked up five wickets in the two preceding matches of the series which India have already lost, is looking to be the player for all situations and positions.

"It was a great opportunity for me in last game. With the World Cup next year, I want to be the player who could play in any situation, in any sort of combinations, and wherever the team needs. To win games, wherever they ask me to play, I will play. That's the kind of player I want to be.

"I want to be able to contribute to my potential, contribute in a way that the team gets to win most of the games, and eventually, be very, very successful in the World Cup. I just want to be in the present and keep doing well,



keep getting better in every aspect of the game."

India lost both their matches in Bangladesh from winning positions, having the hosts at 136 for nine in a chase of 187 in the opener and then reducing them to 69 for six before letting them off the hook to make 271 for seven in the second match.

"To be honest, we had our opportunities in both the games, First game, they needed about 50 runs to win with one wicket and we had a good opportunity. And even the last game, we had a good opportunity.

"In the first innings, they were 70 for six and with the way Shreyas and Axar were batting, we were going to win quite convincingly and Rohit bhai, the kind of knock he played, it was unreal.

"It was just about winning those critical moments, probably doing one or two things better here and there. We will look to end the one-day series on a high."

Call on Rohit's availability for Test series to be taken later: Shah

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

A call on injured India captain Rohit Sharma's participation in the upcoming two-match Test series against Bangladesh, starting December 14, will be taken later, BCCI secretary Jay Shah said on Friday.

Rohit had suffered a blow to his thumb while fielding in the slips during the second ODI against Bangladesh in Mirpur on December 7.

"The BCCI Medical Team assessed him and he underwent scans at a local hospital in Dhaka. He has flown to Mumbai for specialist consultation and will miss the final ODI. A call on his availability for the upcoming Test series will be taken later," Shah stated in a press release.

While the BCCI will wait for an update on Indian skipper's availability, it can be safely concluded that with a dislocation as well as stitches, it will be near impossible for Rohit to train and then play a five-day match starting Wednesday. It is also not just about batting but also fielding.

With India having a packed schedule of white-ball games throughout January, whether the risk will be taken in a Test series against Bangladesh is



there to be seen. The BCCI has also instructed injury-prone pacer Deepak Chahar and rookie Kuldeep Sen to report to National Cricket Academy (NCA) for assessment of their

hamstring and back injuries respectively, informed Shah.

"Fast bowler Kuldeep Sen complained of stiffness in his back after the first ODI. The BCCI Medical Team assessed

him and he was advised rest from the 2nd ODI. Kuldeep has been diagnosed with a stress injury and is ruled out of the series. "Fellow fast bowler Deepak Chahar sustained a left

hamstring strain during the 2nd ODI and is also ruled out of the series. Both Kuldeep and Deepak will now report to NCA for further management of their injuries," Shah stated.

Head, Labuschagne centuries put Oz on top



AP ■ ADELAIDE

Travis Head and Marnus Labuschagne posted big hundreds in a 297-run partnership to set Australia on course for a declaration in the second Test on Friday before Michael Neser took two wickets under lights to consolidate the home team's dominance in the day-night match against West Indies. Head's 175 and Labuschagne's 163 helped Australia to

511-7 before stand-in skipper Steve Smith declared the innings just before the second interval on Day 2. Opener Tagenarine Chanderpaul resisted the Australian bowling attack for 98 deliveries, scoring a defiant unbeaten 47 as West Indies struggled to 102-4 at stumps.


Paceman Neser (2-20) had West Indies skipper Kraigg Brathwaite (19) and No. 3 Shamrah Brooks (8) caught behind and Nathan Lyon took

a return catch to dismiss Jermaine Blackwood (3) and become the leading all-time wicket-taker at the Adelaide Oval, surpassing the great Shane Warne's career haul of 56.

Allrounder Cameron Green chimed in late with the wicket of Devon Thomas (19) before Chanderpaul, in his second Test, and night-watchman Anderson Phillip (1 not out) navigated the final four overs to stumps, with the West Indies still trailing by 409 runs. "We had them out there for nearly two days, then took advantage of the night session," said Neser, one of two injury-enforced changes to Australia's bowling attack after a 164-run win in the first Test at Perth. Offspinner Lyon moved to 57 wickets at the Adelaide Oval in his 12th test and is expected to play a greater role as the pitch deteriorates this week.

"He's a great athlete," Neser said. "He's been performing for many years now — it's great to see him getting milestones."

Labuschagne also had a milestone moment earlier Friday when he surpassed 3,000 career Test runs in his 51st innings, a rate second only to Australian legend Donald Bradman.



GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA
OFFICE OF THE ENGINEER-IN- CHIEF ELECTRICITY- CUM-PRINCIPAL CHIEF ELECTRICAL INSPECTOR,
ODISHA,UNIT-V, POWER HOUSE SQUARE,
BHUBANESWAR
Tel.-0674-2394873, Fax-0674-2391255
Email: eic-epcei@nic.m
No. 5408 Dated, Bhubaneswar the 08.12.2022
NOTICE
AA-27: It is hereby informed to all concerned that the Department of Energy, Government of Odisha has published a resolution No. ENG-BUD-ED-0005-2019/11797 dated 30.11.2022 and EIC (Electricity)-cum-PCEI, Odisha has issued the Operational Guidelines related to One Time Settlement (OTS) scheme vide No.5357 Dated 07.12.2022 to facilitate amicable settlement of arrear electricity duty pending against the captive consumers as on 31.03.2022 through this scheme. This scheme shall be kept open for a limited period of Two Months from the date of issue of operational guidelines i.e. up to 06.02.2023. The Resolution and operational guidelines are available in the web site (https://eicelectricityodisha.nic.in) of EIC (Electricity)-cum-PCEI, Odisha for information. The default captive consumers who wish to avail the benefit of the scheme are requested to apply within the timeline.
Sd/-
OIPR : 04004/11/0007/2223 EIC (Electricity)-Cum-PCEI, (O)

BWF World Tour Finals: Prannoy stuns world No.1 Axelsen

PTI ■ BANGKOK

Already out of reckoning, top Indian shuttler HS Prannoy stunned world number one and Olympic champion Viktor Axelsen in three games to end his BWF World Tour Finals campaign with a memorable win here on Friday.

The tie was already inconsequential for Prannoy, seeded third in the tournament, as he had lost his earlier two Group A matches but the Indian pulled off a shock 14-21, 21-17, 21-18 win over the top seed Dane in 51 minutes to at least end his campaign on a high.

This was Prannoy's second career win over Axelsen, whom he had beaten during the Indonesia Masters last year. The career head-to-head record is, however, in favour of Axelsen at 5-2.

On Thursday, Prannoy had lost to China's Lu Guang Zu in his second Group A match to bow out of the semi-final race. The 30-year-old from Kerala had lost 21-23, 21-17, 19-21 in a gruelling 84-minute contest.

The top two players in each group will make it to the knockout stage. Prannoy is the lone Indian competing in the season-ending tournament.




GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER
OF HORTICULTURE (NORTHERN ZONE),
AT/PO- FARM ROAD, SAMBALPUR-768002
(email: eehortnrx@gmail.com)
Notice No.: 919 Dated 29-11-2022
Identification No. 02 /Hort. / NZ / 2022-23 Dt. 29.11.2022

01	Total Nos. of works : (Deogarh district)	One nos.
02	Estimated cost	Rs 42,02,710/-
03	Period of completion	120 days
04	Date & Time of availability of bid document in the portal	From 10:00 Hrs. of 12-12-2022 to 17:00 Hrs. of 22-12-2022
05	Last date & time of receipt of copies of uploaded documents, draft, affidavits, Schedules etc. in the tender box at the office of the undersigned at Farm Road, Sambalpur 768002.	Before 17:00 Hrs. of 26-12-2022
06	Date & Time of opening of bids	11:00 Hrs. of 27-12-2022 onwards
07	Name and Address of the officer inviting bid	Executive Engineer (Agril.), Northern Zone, Horticulture, C/o Dy. Director of Horticulture, At/PO -Farm Road, Sambalpur, Pin-768002.

Further details can be seen from the web site www.tendersodisha.gov.in

OIPR: 01465/11/0004/2223

Sd/- Executive Engineer, " (Agril.) Northern Zone, Horticulture, Sambalpur



BHUBANESWAR DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY
BHUBANESWAR
AKASH SHOVA BUILDING, SACHIVALAYA MARG, BHUBANESWAR - 751001
Visit us at: <http://www.Bda.gov.in>
CAD-4057 RFPNo.1509 Date: 09.12.2022
REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL FOR SELECTION OF AN AGENCY FOR PROVIDING TEMPORARY LIGHTING ON HIRE / RENTAL BASIS FOR THE BEAUTIFICATION OF STREETS AT VARIOUS LOCATIONS DURING THE HOCKEY WORLD CUP 2023"
Bhubaneswar Development Authority (BDA) invites Proposal for selection of an Agency for providing Temporary Lighting on Hire/ Rental Basis for the Beautification of Streets at Various Locations during the Hockey World Cup 2023. The RFP Documents will be available from 1.12/2022 to 25/12/2022 in BDA website i.e. bda.gov.in. Any further intimation (i.e. Corrigendum/ Addendum/ Responses to the queries/ Clarifications) shall be uploaded in BDA website only).

The Pre-bid meeting is scheduled on 19/12/2022 at 04.00 P.M. in the Conference Hall, of BDA Office. The Last date for receipt of proposals is 26/12/2022 by 3.00 P.M. and the same would be opened on 26/12/2022 at 4.00 P.M. Please refer the RFP documents for further details.

BDA reserves the right to accept or reject bid process without assigning any reasons thereof.

OIPR: 13033/11/0404/2223

Sd/- Executive Engineer Division No. IV, BDA



OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER
N.H. DIVISION, SAMBALPUR
Email- eenhsbp@yahoo.in
BID INVITATION NO. NHD-SBP- ONLINE-03/ 2022-23
Letter No. 3399 Date 03.12.2022

1	The Executive Engineer, N.H. Division, Sambalpur on behalf of the Governor of Odisha invites percentage rate bids to be received in ONLINE MODE only for road works.	
2	Name of work	FDR to N.H.-153(B) such as providing Mastic Asphalt over the damaged wearing coat by repair with BC material at patches from Ch. 114/500 to 115/900 Km on Mahanadi Bridge at Boudh from for the year 2022-2023.
3	Class of Contractor	"B" Class
4	Value of Work	Rs. 84,10,310/-
5	Tender Cost	Rs. 10,000/-
6	Availability of Bid Documents in the website	From 10.00 Hours of dt. 13.12.2022 to 17.00 hours of dated 27.12.2022
7	Date of Opening of Bid :	Dt. 28.12.2022
8	Other details can be seen in the Bidding documents from the website: www.tendersodisha.gov.in .	

OIPR: 34021/11/0004/2223

Sd/- Executive Engineer N.H. Division, Sambalpur