

OPINION 6

THE SILENCE OF
PAK CIVIL SOCIETY

WORLD 9

46 MIGRANTS FOUND DEAD IN
ABANDONED TRAILER IN SAN ANTONIO

MONEY 10

SENSEX, NIFTY CLOSE SLIGHT
UP AMID MARKETS RECOVERY

BHUBANESWAR, WEDNESDAY JUNE 29, 2022; PAGES 12 ₹4



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STOKES' ENG
SET SIGHTS
ON INDIA
12 SPORTUddhav woos rebels,
son threatens them

TN RAGHUNATHA ■ MUMBAI

Not having lost all hopes about the possible return of a section of rebel Shiv Sena MLAs who are currently campaigning at Guwahati, Maharashtra chief minister Uddhav Thackeray once again appealed to them to come back to Mumbai and hold talks with him so that a solution could be found to tide over the political crisis within the Sena.

However, within hours after the chief minister held out an olive branch to the rebel MLAs, the breakaway faction leader of the Sena and former minister Eknath Shinde tweeted a reply: "On one hand, your son (Minister Aditya Thackeray) and Spokesperson (MP Sanjay Raut) called the revered Balasaheb Thackeray's Shiv Sainiks as pigs, gutter-muck, dogs, cattle, morons, zombies, and even brought in the names of their fathers, and on the other hand, he (Uddhav) is making a call to save the anti-Hindutva MVA government by making an appeal to the same MLAs to return...What does this mean?"

Talking to the media, Uddhav appealed to all Shiv Sena MLAs to return to the parent camp. He said that as the head of the Sena family, he respected their views and made it clear from his heart that till date "nobody is out of the party" though the (rebels) are stuck in Guwahati with all kinds of speculation.

"I appeal to you all... Come to me... Let's talk it out. Let's remove all the misconceptions among the minds of the people and the Shiv Sainiks," Thackeray appealed. Uddhav said that the parent Sena would accord respect and dignity to the Sena rebels "Come in front of me and present your views, let's work out a solution," he said.

This is at least the third

direct appeal made by the CM to the rebels since the party crisis exploded on the night of June 21-22. "Many of you are in contact with us and are still emotionally connected with the Shiv Sena... The families of several have also got in touch with us and conveyed your sentiments to us," Uddhav said.

The ruling MVA was plunged into turmoil, when that night around 39 Sena MLAs and 11 others sneaked out to Gujarat and then to Assam to join the rebel faction herded by Shinde.

"Many of you are in contact with us and are still emotionally connected with the Shiv Sena... The families of several have also got in touch with us and conveyed your sentiments to us," Uddhav said.

The CM said, "If we all sit together, we can definitely come up with a solution to the political turmoil and cautioned them saying that the rebel group had fallen prey to any kinds of wrong measures, hinting at a possible tie-up with the Opposition BJP."



Rebel Shiv Sena leader Eknath Shinde arrives to address media at a hotel where he is staying with other supporting MLAs, in Guwahati on Tuesday

PTI

Fadnavis meets Shah, Nadda to
discuss plan for Govt formation

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Amidst the ongoing political turmoil in Maharashtra, former State Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis met Union Home Minister Amit Shah and BJP president JP Nadda here on Tuesday to consult on the next step to bring back the BJP in power in the State with the help of the Shiv Sena rebels.

Fadnavis, who has met the top leadership at least three-times in the last seven days, was joined by BJP MP and senior

lawyer Mahesh Jethmalani in the meeting with Union Home Minister Amit Shah.

BJP leaders are understood to have deliberated on the options available with the party after the Supreme Court provided interim relief to Sena rebels. They focused on the legal steps to be taken ahead of the party's next possible political move to establish a BJP Government in the State backed by rebel Sena and independent MLAs.

After meeting Shah,

Fadnavis drove to Nadda's residence and briefed him about the unfolding political developments in the western State.

Notwithstanding BJP's repeated denial of any role in the Sena rebellion, Fadnavis is widely seen as making moves to re-establish a BJP Government and known to be in constant touch with Sena rebel Eknath Shinde. Shinde may be made deputy-Chief Minister in the new BJP-led dispensation, sources said.

Man beheads tailor for insult
to Islam, curfew in UdaipurKillers post
video, arrested

PTI ■ UDAIPUR

Two men with a cleaver murdered a tailor here, saying in a video post on social media that they are avenging an insult to Islam and triggering communal tension in the Rajasthan city, part of which was placed under curfew.

Within hours, prohibitory orders banning the assembly of people were imposed across the state for a month and mobile internet services suspended for the next 24 hours. At 8 pm, curfew was declared till further orders in seven police station areas of Udaipur city.

The men who allegedly carried out the daylight murder posted three videos online admitting to the crime and were soon arrested.

In a video clip, one of the purported assailants declared that they had "beheaded" the man and went on to threaten Prime Minister Narendra Modi, saying their knife will get him as well.

Indirectly, the assailants also referred to Nupur Sharma, the BJP leader suspended from the party over a remark on Prophet Mohammad.

Kanhaiya Lal, the tailor, was recently arrested by the local police over some remarks made on social media by him. A BJP leader said the victim



Ghos Mohammad and Riyaz. Riyaz beheaded a tailor named Kanhaiya Lal in Udaipur, while Ghos filmed the crime, according to officials

PTI



feared for his life and had sought police protection, but the authorities did not act on his appeal.

The assailants entered his shop in the city's Dhan Mandi area posing as customers. As the tailor took the measurements, one of them — who later identified himself as Riaz Akhtari — attacked him with a cleaver, nearly severing his neck. The other man shot the brutal murder with his mobile phone.

The two men fled from the scene and later uploaded this clip on social media. In another video, the alleged assailant said they "beheaded" the tailor and threatened the Prime Minister for lighting "this fire".

Yet another provocative video was recorded on June 17, in which Akhtari said he will post it the day he carries out the

murder. He asked other members of the community to continue with similar attacks.

As the videos circulated on social media, tension escalated. Local shopkeepers downed shutters. Shopkeepers stopped police from taking away the body, saying they will allow the removal of the corpse only after the murderers are arrested and compensation — Rs 50 lakh and a government job — given to the victim's family.

On Twitter, CM Ashok Gehlot appealed for calm and asked people not to share the videos. "The guilty will not be spared. The entire police team is working on it with full alertness. I can imagine the anger which is there among people due to the murder. We are taking action accordingly," he told reporters in Jodhpur.

CAPSULE

18 KILLED IN MUMBAI
HOUSE COLLAPSE

Mumbai: As many as 18 persons were killed and 14 others injured after a ground-plus—three storey building collapsed at Kurla (East) in north-central Mumbai shortly before midnight on Monday. There were 32 residents at the building "Nayaknagar Cooperative Co-operative Housing society" when the structure caved in at around 11.53 pm.

ONGC CHOPPER CRASHES
INTO ARABIAN SEA, 4 DEAD

New Delhi/Mumbai: A brand new Pawan Hans' Sikorsky chopper with 9 people on board crashed into the Arabian Sea, about 50 nautical miles from the Mumbai coast on Tuesday, killing four people — including three ONGC employees.

COUNCIL OK'S GST RELIEF,
E-WAY BILL BY STATES

Chandigarh: The GST Council on Tuesday approved changes in tax rates on some goods and services while allowing states to issue an e-way bill for intra-state movement of gold and precious stones, officials said.

ED ISSUES FRESH
SUMMONS TO RAUT

New Delhi: The Enforcement Directorate (ED) has issued fresh summons to Shiv Sena MP Sanjay Raut asking him to appear on July 1 for questioning in a money laundering case linked to alleged irregularities in the re-development of a Mumbai 'chawl' and related financial property transactions involving his wife and alleged associates.

Alt News founder
sent to 4-day
police custody
for 2018 tweet

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Delhi court on Tuesday remanded Alt News co-founder Mohammed Zubair in four-day police custody in the 2018 tweet case in which he had posted a derogatory message against a Hindu deity. The police had sought a five-day custody of Zubair.

During the hearing, advocate Vrinda Grover, appearing for Zubair, alleged that Zubair was being "maliciously targeted" and that the entire case "borders on absurdity." He said the photo which the accused used in the tweets is of an old Hindi film from 1983 by Hrishikesh Mukherjee, "Kissi Se Na Kehna", and that the film was not banned.

Rebutting Zubair's counsel's arguments, the Delhi Police counsel argued that Zubair's "deliberate act of outrageous religious sentiments was on record" and therefore his police remand was required. The Delhi Police also told the court that Zubair allegedly "used controversial tweets to hurt religious feelings in an effort to get fame."

Chief Metropolitan Magistrate Snigdha Sarvaria passed the order after hearing arguments. Zubair was produced before the court on the expiry of his one-day custodial interrogation.

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Another jumbo dies
due to treatment 'delay'

PNS ■ ANGUL

Yet another elephant in the State died allegedly due to delay in treatment. The incident was reported from the Tikarpada Forest Range under the Satkosia Wildlife Division in Angul district.

Sources said the five-year-old tusker was ailing for the last 10 days. Though the Forest Department had spotted the calf, it failed to provide treatment as it was surrounded by a herd of elephants. Its treatment began on Monday, but the animal died late in the night

However, the exact cause behind the elephant's deaths

would be ascertained once its postmortem report comes in, said Satokosia Divisional Forest Officer (DFO) Saroj Panda.

Earlier on June 24, forest officials had exhumed a carcass of an elephant from the Jilinda Range of the Satkosia Wildlife Division and arrested three poachers in this connection. Meanwhile, the Union Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change has on June 15 sought an action-taken report from the Odisha Forest Department regarding the incident in which a male elephant was found injured with gunshots in the Athagarh Forest Division of Cuttack district.

Covid surge: 113
new cases in StateMax 65 in
Khordha

PNS ■ BHUBANESWAR

The Covid-19 positive cases continued to witness an upward trend in the State on Tuesday with 113 new infections being reported from six districts and the State pool. With this, the total tally increased to 12,89,441

Among the newly-infected were 15 children in the age group of 0 to 18 years.

Notably, the State had recorded 69 Covid cases on Monday.

Out of the new cases, 67 were from quarantine and 46

local contacts.

Khordha district reported the day's highest 65 cases followed by Cuttack with 21, Sundargarh six, Sambalpur four, Jajpur two and Puri one.

Besides, 14 cases were registered in the State pool.

The number of active case stood at 517,

So far, 12,79,745 patients have recovered from the disease and 9,126 have succumbed to it,

However, Public Health Director Niranjan Mishra said, "The infections are rising, but the situation is not alarming. The Covid transmission is high in Bhubaneswar and Cuttack."

13 days' Illness over

Trinity's Nabajauban Besha today

Security beefed
up as lakhs to
visit temple

PNS ■ PURI

After 13 days of treatment in the Anasar Ghar, Lord Jagannath and His siblings, Lord Balabhadra and Devi Subhadra, have recovered from fever and will offer darshan to the devotees on Wednesday in



Nabajauban Besha.

At 9 am, the devotees will

be allowed to have a glimpse

of the deities with a new vigour

on the Ratnasinghasan after almost a fortnight. After care and healing by the Daita servitors in the Anasar Ghar, a makeshift clinic set up within the shrine premises, deities are now all set to join their 9-day sojourn to the Gundicha Temple, riding three tallest chariots scheduled on Friday.

On Tuesday, the deities were re-decorated after get-

ting recovery, which is called Banaklaji. With indigenous colour, eyes, noses and mouths and other parts of the deities were painted and they were newly dressed up to get a fresh look. To witness the deities on the Nabajauban besha after 14 days, lakhs of pilgrims waiting in the city will enter the shrine. To control crowd, police have made elaborate arrangement.

Immolation before PS

Kisannagar IIC axed for lapse in duty

PNS ■ CUTTACK

Sasmita Rana, Inspector-in-Charge (IIC) of the Kisannagar police station in Cuttack district, was on Tuesday placed under suspension in connection with the death of a man following a self-immolation attempt before the PS. Rana has been suspended with immediate effect for her negligence in duty, stated an order issued by the State Police Headquarters.

Earlier, the Cuttack Rural SP B Jugal Kishore had recommended the DGP to take action against the Kisannagar IIC after the victim Gunanidhi Bisoi had succumbed to the burn injuries which he had sustained during the immolation bid before the police station. "We have conducted an inquiry and written to the DGP recommending action against the IIC," the SP had said. It was alleged that Bisoi attempted immolation after he

failed to get necessary assistance from the local police officials despite being assaulted by his relatives over a property feud. Bisoi poured petrol and set self on fire before the police station, was rescued by police personnel and was initially rushed to the SCB Medical College Hospital in Cuttack and later shifted to a private hospital. Earlier, the police had arrested the prime accused involved in the attack on Bisoi and his son.

'Make barren land cultivable'

Pradhan seeks project for Talcher mining area

PNS ■ BHUBANESWAR

Union Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan on Monday reviewed the process and scientific methods to recover barren land and introduce scientific methods to make the land cultivable. Pradhan particularly concerned over the increasing barren land in

mining areas of Talcher's Balanda area in Angul district consulted experts of Ministry of Agriculture and International Crop Research Institute to develop the land for agriculture purpose. Notably, a large patch of land after mining has been left barren in the area. He also stressed on imparting training to various farmer organizations and producer groups. Pradhan sought experts' advice to start an experimental pilot project in Talcher Blanda area.

BJP, BJD two sides of a coin: Sarat



PNS ■ BHUBANESWAR

The Congress on Tuesday described the BJP and the BJD as two sides of a coin, saying while the BJP-led Central Government has burdened people with hike in prices of essential commodities, the State's BJD Government is imposing an escalating loan burden. At public meeting in Baripada on the second day of his Jan Sampark Yatra, PCC president Sarat Pattanayak said both the parties have played with emotion of people rather than responding to their day-to-day problems.

He said that while unemployment, farmer suicide and atrocities against women are rising in Odisha, the Modi Government is busy selling public sector undertaking one after another to industrialist friends. "While the BJD and the BJP are fighting with each other in Bhubaneswar, they are hugging each other in Delhi," Pattanayak said. He said the Congress is the only alternative which has the strength to fight both BJP and BJD. He appealed to all leaders and workers who have left the party to come back and strengthen the party.

EOW raids TV channel editor's house

On allegation of duping Delhi bizman

PNS ■ BHUBANESWAR

The Economic Offences Wing (EOW) of the Crime Branch on Tuesday raided the residence of Odia TV channel 'Bada Khabar' editor Ardhendu Das for allegedly duping a Delhi-based businessman of Rs 92.47 lakh. Das was not present at the house during the raid. The EOW had earlier served him notice twice asking him to depose before it. However, he hadn't appeared before the EOW. As per a complaint lodged with the agency by Gagandeep Singh Chawla, proprietor of Solution Broadcast company, Das had

contacted him in 2020 for buying equipment for the establishment of the news channel, following which a deal of over Rs 1 crore was finalised between the two. Das had paid Chawla Rs 10 lakh in advance in this regard while it was decided that the rest would be paid within the next few months. However, Chawla has alleged that Das didn't pay him the amount. On the basis of the complaint, the EOW on June 23 registered a case and started an investigation into the incident. However, Das has refuted the allegation levelled by Chawla saying that most of the equipment was of inferior quality and not usable for broadcast purpose. Most of the hardware and software provided by Chawla have been returned, he added.

Chhatra Cong starts signature drive

Demand withdrawal of Agnipath

PNS ■ BHUBANESWAR

Demanding immediate withdrawal of the Agnipath scheme being implemented by the Central Government, the Chhatra Congress on Tuesday started a signature campaign from the Biju Patnaik College here. Chhatra Congress State president Yashir Nawaaz said the Modi Government which had came to power with a promise of at two crore jobs annually, has launched a started short-duration job scheme like Agniveer, which would not benefit youths of the country and would rather make them beggars. He said the Government which



had stopped recruitments for the Indian Army since 2019 and derailed the process of recruitment of average 50,000 people in the Army annually, is now arguing for Agniveer.

"The job has no pension and gratuity provisions and can't access canteens. What would they do after four years; will they work as security guards in BJP offices and tend grasses," questioned Nawaaz.

Int'l Day of Deaf, Blind

'Ensure social, legal rights of Dibyangs'



PNS ■ BHUBANESWAR

On the International Day of Deaf, Blind, the Child and Women Development Society in association with the Orissa Association for the Blind and JSPL Foundation organised a State level workshop on "Legal rights and access to justice for people with disabilities" here. In the inaugural function, president, Orissa Association for

Blind, Sannyashi Kumar Behera gave the welcome address. Vice Chancellor of National Law University Prof (Dr) Ved Kumari joining as the chief guest, said, "We should not say them disable. If we ensure their social and legal rights, they can flourish and add to social development." MLA Bhubaneswar (Central) Ananta Narayan Jena joined as guest of honour and called upon the society to lend a helping hand

for the upliftment of the Dibyangs. The workshop was divided into two technical sessions and its main objective was to uplift the Dibyangs by providing all the social and legal rights. In the valedictory function, Chief Justice of Orissa High Court Prof Justice S Muralidhar joined as chief guest. Chairman CWDS Maj Dr Kalpana Das presided. About 200 participants, who are visually, speech and hearing-impaired were present.

In Abu Dhabi

Naveen visits Zayed Mosque



PNS ■ BHUBANESWAR

Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik visited the Sheikh Zayed Mosque in Abu Dhabi during his tour of the UAE on Monday. "The marble dome of Sheikh Zayed Mosque, Abu Dhabi is an epitome of magnificence with intricate inlay work inspired by Moghul architecture. I am told the

artisans and the marbles also came from Makrana village of Rajasthan. A bit of India, everywhere," the Chief Minister tweeted and posted a video of the visit. Notably, Patnaik, who arrived in the UAE on Monday, is scheduled to attend an 'Odisha Investors' Meet' in Dubai on Wednesday. He would return to Odisha on Thursday

Raimohan died of asphyxia due to hanging

Police get postmortem report

PNS ■ BHUBANESWAR

The Commissionerate police on Tuesday received the postmortem report of Ollywood actor Raimohan Parida, who was found hanging in his home at Prachi Vihar in the city recently. The postmortem report revealed that the actor died of asphyxia due to hanging with a rope. The minor injuries on his body were caused when the actor made an attempt to hang himself, Capital sources said. A team of doctors of Capital the Hospital had conducted the postmortem. Meanwhile, a viscera report, which is being prepared by a laboratory, is awaited to know whether Raimohan was intoxicated or had taken alcoholic drinks. As per the city DCP, Raimohan was under depression. The actor



also went to Mancheswar police station for personal work and had given an undertaking. As per police sources, an investigation has been launched to know the reason behind Raimohan's depression. Police have already questioned Parida's two daughters, son-in-law, wife and nephew in this regard. Even Parida's mobile phone has been seized and handed over for analysis. However, the reason behind the actor taking the extreme step was yet to be ascertained by police.

Prophet row

Hate speeches threaten secular fabric of India

A controversial Islamophobic remark by some political leaders from BJP ruling at the centre has become a bone of contention in India's diplomatic relations across the globe. As many as 15 Islamic countries and recently, China, have made brooding diplomatic remarks on India's stand on Prophet Mohammed. In due course of action, the BJP has taken coercive measures to manage the dent by curtailing the violent protests, controlling the social media and invoking the spirit of religious tolerance. Further, the Government of India has also cleared its stand as a nation. It is to understand that, as many as 89 lakhs Indians are living, working and studying in gulf countries. The remittances from these countries are high in number. Needless to say that in the year 2020-21, India's trade with the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC), comprising countries like Kuwait, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Bahrain, Oman and the UAE, was \$87 billion. But the controversial remark on Prophet



ABASH PARIDA

has instigated the social media users in Arab countries. The users were already taking offence to the remarks and calling for a boycott of Indian goods. The 57-nation Organisation of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) despised the remarks made by the suspended spokespersons of the BJP and linked the row to the hijab ban controversy and demolition of Muslim properties in India. The Government of India has proved its stand, but as far as statements

by the six-nation Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) are concerned, India preferred to maintain silence. Under the leadership of PM Narendra Modi, the relations between India and UAE along with some other Islamic countries have significantly improved in the past few years, but there is an apprehension made by experts that the controversy could minimise some of India's recent diplomatic successes with these countries. The root of this controversy had started in a TV panel discussion, where a BJP spokesperson made a controversial remark on Prophet which could be labelled as islamophobic. The hate speech of the spokesperson was encouraged and her remarks were endorsed by the TV anchor. It was not the end of this drama. The hate speeches are now a very normal phenomenon and also becoming perpetual. It is not only about Islam or Hinduism but now these hate speeches have increased its canvas to gender, caste and race. The

United Nation is having a strong concern on hate speech. As per the UN, hate speech has been increasing since 1950s. Further to this, it has become one of the strong reasons for violence across the globe. A report by Equality Lab on Quantum of Hate Speech on Facebook in India says that Islamophobia tops the list. Anti-Muslim sentiments hate speech is at top with 37% of total hate speeches. False news has 17% of space in hate speech. Gender related or misogynist hate speech content and Dalit or caste related hate speeches have 13% of share each. Violence hate speech has 11% and anti-religious content has 9% of total hate speech in Facebook. Now in social media or in TV discussion, we have seen a different ball game. This ball game is polarisation. Some even started hash-tag campaigns to boycott Islamic countries airlines. Countries like Netherland, which is reputed for its islamophobic stand, fuelled up the issue in international platform. So here,

one thing must be remembered is criticising religious practices is different and growing intolerance for any religion is different. Due to this mass scale and media induced polarisation, intolerance is growing. We need to understand that in India islamophobia is also a creation of historical interactions with Muslims. Muslim invaders destroyed the country and ruled for hundreds of years. Suppressed Hindu kings looted India, established mosques; damaged temples etc are the interactions which are public narratives about Muslims. After India's Independence and Pakistan's formation, islamophobic and dislike for Muslims as well as anti-Muslims discourses have been more visible. Riots, genocides, cultural dominance and terrorism fuelled it more. This has made a categorisation of communities that is "Them" and "Us". Hindus are "them" for Muslims and Muslims are "them" for Hindus. In local level, islamophobic behaviour

is legitimatised by local leaders or officials. It should be stopped. In many States in India, this polarisation has taken islamophobia to a different stage, i.e xenophobia, which is a catastrophic weapon against social solidarity. There is a process called as "Racialization of Muslims." It defines Muslim community as a race but not as religious or cultural identifiers. This new identification catalogues Muslims as a different community which is identified by their biological or physical aspects. Islamphobia is dangerous when the State induces the process of racialisation. When the process is State-sponsored, then it aims at psycho-social control. Psychosocial control is equal as verbal assault, tirade of speech or dominant actions. The result of the action leads to organise Muslims into two categories such as "Acceptable Muslims" and "Unacceptable Muslims." These two types of Muslims are defined by the State actors. Such classification is made

by a point of view that Muslims whom the State can trust and Muslims the State can't. The fabric of Indian society is secularism. There are many countries and many vested interest groups which may take mileage on the prophet row. India is known for its tolerance, cultural mannerism and social cohesion. The doctrine of "we -feeling" will augment the mutual tolerance between different religions. The mutual respect between two major religions in India is depleting. The trust on Government mechanism to seek justice is questionable. What is more disturbing is that the introduction of new justice system, called as Bulldozer Justice. The arrogance of being majoritarian and brutal suppression of protest is also the add-on which may increase the fissure between citizens of the country.

(Dr Parida is an Assistant Professor in Sociology. Email id-abash.parida@gmail.com)

Nalco mines-hit people boycott RPDAC meet

Demand employment opportunities

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE
■ BHUBANESWAR

With strong resentment, land-affected people of Chhendipada in Angul district desherd a Rehabilitation & Periphery Development Advisory Committee (RPDAC) meeting opposing non commitment of the National Aluminium Company (Nalco) authorities to provide them employment and adequate compensation. The recent RPDAC

meeting under the chairmanship of RDC Suresh Chanda Dalei discussed about the rehabilitation and employment issues arising out of the required land acquisition for the Utkal D and Utkal E coal blocks at Chhendipada. The affected people of villages like Rajiharan, Nandichhod and Gopiballvapur demanded job opportunities to their family members.

But the non-commitments of the Nalco authorities to provide employment and adequate compensation to the villagers created discontentment among the

people and they left the meeting. The RDC postponed the meeting after the villagers boycotted it.

Later, the affected people said they would not give their lands to the Nalco without employment opportunities and compensation. Activist and Congress leader Er Sasmita Behera said, "The profit-making PSU Nalco must take the employment responsibility of the affected people and then operate the coalmines."

The Nalco has failed to develop the Utkal D and Utkal E coal blocks even after five long years of their allotment,

seriously affecting its energy security. The Government of India allocated the two coal blocks to the Nalco in May 2016 for fuel supply to its captive power plant. The Nalco was supposed to develop the coal blocks within 44 months after their allotment.

Seven villages of Chhendipada block, namely, Nandighos, Rajiharan, Kosala, Gopinathpur, Jungle, Kundajharinala and Similisahi, would be affected by coalmining. Around 700 extended families of these villages would be displaced.

"The allotted coal blocks may be developed at the

earliest to ensure supply of coal to the captive power plant," the CAG had said in its report tabled in Parliament.

Previously in August 2004, the Government of India had allotted the Utkal-E coal block to the Nalco to meet the additional requirement of coal for its captive power plant (CPP) for its capacity expansion from 960 MW to 1,200 MW. However, the Nalco failed to implement the project in due time and subsequently faced cancellation of allocation of this coal block following a Supreme Court order to de-allocate 204 coal blocks across

the country.

The same was again re-allotted along with another coal block (Utkal-D) to the company in 2016. However, both the captive coal blocks are yet to be developed.

The Nalco management many times stated that production of aluminium in its smelter plant was restricted keeping in view the availability of economical power from the CPP. The Mines Ministry also endorsed this view. In view of this, the CAG also previously asked the Nalco to develop the coal blocks at earliest to ensure fuel supply to its power plant.

IN BRIEF

GANJAM BAR ASSN HONOURS PUBLIC REPRESENTATIVES

Brahmapur: The Ganjam District Bar Association felicitated public representatives for their contributions towards the society. The ceremony was attended by



Brahmapur MP Chandra Sekhar Sahu, MLA Bikram Kumar Panda, Mayor Sangha Mitra Dalai, BeMc Corporators Sanjit Panigrahy, Surjya Kanta Subuddhi, Malaya Bishoyi, Surendra Moharana, T Kishore and Santosh Sethy. Association president Kapila Pattanayak chaired the meeting. Panda said he would have been a lawyer had he not been a politician. Mayor Dalai praised the service of legal professionals. Advocates Prafulla Jagannath Padhy, Sisira Padhy KK Behra, Nirmala Sahu and Mohan Singhari also spoke.

HC LAWYER BHABANI MISHRA NO MORE

Cuttack: Eminent Orissa High Court advocate Bhabani Shankar Mishra (75) passed away here on June 24. He had been actively pursuing legal profession since last 47 years. He was a helpful and amicable person. He is survived by his wife Kananbala Mishra and four daughters and sons-in-law.



JOURNALISTS PLANT TREES ON KATHJODI BANK

Cuttack: A tree plantation programme was organised by the Cuttack branch of the Joint Staff Journalists Association on the banks of river Kathjodi on Monday. Association State president Bhagabata Tripathy, chief of western Odisha unit and State coordinator Ranjan Rout, Cuttack district president Bijay Barik and senior journalists Sunil Kumar Mishra and Pitabasa Mishra actively participated in the programme.



SCHOOL BUS LAUNCHED BY AM/NS INDIA IN S'GARH

Bhubaneswar: The CSR wing of ArcelorMittal Nippon Steel India (AM/NS India) under its project Padhega Bharat has provided a bus for the convenience of schoolchildren in Sagasahi, Ghoraburhani and Kalmong in Sundargarh district. Students of Classes-I to VIII will avail the facility for commuting to their school. Primary School Management Committee President Kuna Patro flagged off the bus in the presence of AM/NS India Operation In-Charge Mohan Reddy and Lead-CSR Jitesh Rath.



'Agnipath to strengthen India's Defence'

Speakers in seminar urge youths not to be misled

PNS ■ SAMBALPUR

Agnipath is a noble plan to strengthen the Indian Defence system. At the same time, it will provide ample opportunity to the youths to lead a decent and disciplined life after four years of job in defence service, said Col Pravat Kumar Panda, Sena Medal (Veerta) awardee, in a meeting here organised by the Bharat Vikash Parishad (BVP).

Keeping in view the frequent protests against the Agnipath scheme, the BVP organised a seminar where students of different colleges

of the district and elite citizens took part.

"Indian Defence needs vibrant youth power. And only Agnipath can fulfil the need," said Col Panda. "After serving four years in the Army, Navy or Airforce, any youth can also lead a dignified and meaningful life," he added. Dr Binod Bihari Naik, Dr Rajkumar Barpanda, Shyam Sundar Sharma among others took part in the discussion to highlight the merits of Agnipath and appealed to the youths not to get biased by any false propaganda. "Those who are protesting are doing so for political reasons. Otherwise, it has its own merit for the cause of the nation," said Prof Sudarshan Pujari.

Drive to stop PDS rice pilferage in R'gada



Raids conducted; huge quantity of rice seized

PNS ■ RAYAGADA

Even as 48% population of Rayagada district is reported to be 'poor' and lack of food security is one of the primary reasons for the factor, smuggling of PDS rice meant for distribution among the poor continues non-stop here, thanks to a mafia-official nexus. In many places the Re1/kg rice is available in open market.

Fortunately, the Rayagada

police under the leadership of SP Vivekananda Sharma have taken strong initiatives to curb the plunder. Recently, Gunupur police conducted a raid in Penkam village, seized 3,000 kg rice meant to be distributed to BPL families and nabbed the culprits under Essential Commodities Act.

Similarly, after a police raid in a cashew factory at Chalakamba under Gunupur police limit, 5,000 kg PDS rice along with an Ashok Leyland truck was seized and two culprits were arrested. The PDS rice was to be illegally transported to Andhra Pradesh.

In Puri

Spl team to probe burglary at scribe's house

PNS ■ PURI

The Puri police have formed a special team to probe the burglary at the house of The Pioneer reporter Saroj Kumar Mishra on June 7.

The team led by city DSP Janaradan Padhee would probe the burglaries of gold jewellery, cash and financial bonds from the house of Mishra.

Puri SP K Vishal Singh has ordered the IICs of Town and Baselisahi PS to assist Padhee in the investigation and recover the stolen items as early as possible.

Some burglars had entered Mishra's bedroom by breaking the window and looted gold and silver jewellery, Rs 10,000 cash and some bonds of insurance companies from a steel almirah after breaking



open the locker.

The special team was formed after Mishra meet the SP on Saturday after no progress was made in the probe ever after fortnight of lodging of the FIR.

He requested the SP for special attention so that his hard earned valuables kept for daughter marriage could be

recovered.

During the incident, nobody was present in the room and Mishra was sleeping in the drawing room of the house. He lives with his mother only and all other family members live in Bhubaneswar.

After the incident, a police team from the Town PS

reached his house and began an investigation. Police also collected some mobile phone numbers from the locality.

But even after four days, the SIT is yet to be in action mode. As the City DSP leading the SIT is busy in arrangements for the Rath Yatra, the team cannot proceed in the investigation.

Resentment in B'swar over police outpost closure

As crimes spike

UBACHAK MOHANTY
■ BALESWAR

Strong resentment is brewing among residents of the Sunhat area after a police outpost functioning in the area was shut since last four months. The residents said that the area was communally sensitive as well as a crime prone area.

Most crimes in the town are reported from the area due to antisocial activities. Country liquor from Purnabaleswar, a hub of illicit liquor, is

transported through the routes to several parts of the district as well as neighbouring districts too. Besides, contraband trading is rampant in the area.

The outpost was helping in crime control in the area to a large extent, yet after its closure, the anti-socials have become hyper active, they maintained. They demanded immediate functioning of the outpost keeping in view the strategic importance of such an outpost. A senior police officer said not only the Sunhat another two outposts have been closed and staff

were withdrawn following a direction of higher-ups which said to dismantle outposts which were close to a police station.

However, the restoration of the outpost might be considered in due course if necessary, it added.

Meanwhile, a mobile phone looter who was apprehended by locals last evening managed to escape the crowd before police arrived. The miscreant in a spree had looted three mobiles from three different locations. First, he snatched a mobile from a woman from the

District Headquarters Hospital and fled. Then he snatched another phone from Azimabad area. However, he was caught by the locals when he tried to flee after snatching a mobile phone from Fandi Square this time.

The locals after apprehending seized three phones and informed the police yet he could escape. However, he couldn't take his bike. The Sahadevkhunta police, after seizing the bike, tried to identify the looter and ascertain whether he is part of a gang and arrest him, reports said.

District Investment Promotion Agency

Investment promotion and facilitation at the grassroots

DC SWAIN

The key to creating a business-friendly environment and a sustainable industrial ecosystem is to provide support to industries throughout the investment cycle. This is the philosophy of the Government of Odisha that guides its action on investment promotion and facilitation. With this guiding principle and the understanding that the real action in terms of industrial development happens at the district level came the idea of the District Investment Promotion Agency (DIPA). The district administration plays a crucial role at every stage of the investment life-cycle from identification of land for setting up of factory to utility connections like power and water supply to the operationalization of plant to grievance redressal and then further expansion.

In September 2021, the Government of Odisha set up DIPA in 10 industrially developed districts viz. Angul, Balasore, Ganjam, Jagatsinghpur, Jajpur, Jharsuguda, Keonjhar, Rayagada, Sambalpur, and Sundargarh, under the chairpersonship of the District Collectors. DIPA is a committee chaired by the District Collector constituting members from various line departments with the aim of providing investment facilitation and aftercare services at the district level. This committee is supported by a dedicated 3-member professional team constituting a coordinator, an investment promotion expert, and an after-care expert.

This team of professionals is tasked with carrying out investment promotion and facilitation activities, providing after-care services to investors, identifying new land banks for industries, supporting the development of industrial infrastructure, and crucially, facilitating access to credit for the industries by coordinating with banks and other financial institutions in the state. One

of the core ideas behind this new institutional framework was to ensure that investors get the best facilitation and aftercare services wherever they are present within the state.

The DIPA team's activities are inspired from the World Bank's comprehensive investor services framework which focuses on four major aspects of investment promotion, viz., marketing, information, assistance, and advocacy. While the DIPA teams assist the district in promoting itself as an ideal investment destination on one hand, they support the investors by providing a clearer picture about the district and the governance system on the other. While they assist the investors in taking the necessary steps for setting up of industry in the district on one hand, they support the government in dissemination of various measures taken for improving the investment ecosystem on the other. DIPA has been instrumental in bridging the gap between the policy makers at the state level and the policy implementers at the district level. It has also helped state-

level agencies like IPICOL and IDCO to reach-out to industries and provide improved services to the investors.

In the last 6 months, the 10 DIPAs have been a model of success in investment promotion and facilitation. The improved facilitation and support at ground level, dedicated feedback mechanism for the ground level issues and regular monitoring at the central level has resulted in high investor confidence. The consistent industry engagement has resulted in identification of numerous new investment opportunities as well. In this period, the teams have set up an Entrepreneur directory with over 3300 established connects and generated over 25 leads worth INR 380 crores as well as assisted in expansion plans of 8 units. Even more noteworthy is the fact that the teams have facilitated the resolution of over 250 grievances helping industries, particularly MSMEs to continue their operations unhindered. The focus on after-care services at the district level provided by DIPAs has been exemplary. The DIPA


teams have also identified numerous new land parcels across the state for new and upcoming industries. They have conducted over 350 industry visits and over 300 industry consultations.

Another feather in the cap of DIPA came when the DIPA Angul team successfully conducted the "Advantage Angul", a 2-day summit focusing on metal downstream and ancillary industries as well as on sustainability and circular economy on 9th-10th May 2022. It was a first-of-its-kind investment promotion event hosted by a district administration. The event saw participation from major industries like NALCO, JSPL, Tata Steel, and representatives from United Nations Environment Program.

While DIPA has been instrumental in further improving the investment ecosystem in Odisha, it has garnered praise from both the government and the investor community as well. The World Association of Investment Promotion Agencies (WAIPA) has said that post-covid the importance of after-care services for industries is becoming one of the most

essential roles of the IPAs. In this regard, this new institutional measure in the form of DIPA by the Government of Odisha is a much welcome move for all the investors and entrepreneurs.

With the immense success of DIPA in such a short span of time, other states and IPAs are also looking to replicate this model. Odisha seems to have become a leader in yet another parameter of governance and government service delivery.



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OFFICE OF THE
MUNICIPAL COUNCIL, DHENKANAL
DHENKANAL (ODISHA), PIN-759001
Tel.No.06762-224401(0), FAX No.06762-223355
E-mail:- dhenkanal.m.hud@gmail.com

No.....4991.....Date.....27.06.22.....

Quotation Call notice

Sealed quotations in the prescribed quotation paper are invited from the registered firm for "Supply and installation of Lab Equipments for setting up a Testing lab in Faecal Sludge Treatment Plant (FSTP), Dhenkanal", The Rate should be quoted inclusive of all taxes, cost conveyance and fixing.

1- The Cost of each Quotation Paper :- Rs. 6,000.00 (Non Refundable)

2- Start Date of Sale of Quotation paper: - 29.06.2022

3- Last Date of Sale of Quotation paper: - 11.07.2022

4- Last Date of Receipt of Quotation paper :- 12.07.2022 at 1.00 PM

5- Date of Opening of Sealed Quotation :- 12.07.2022 at 4.00 PM

The Quotation will be opened in the presence of the quotationers or their authorized agents. The quotationers should deposit EMD @1% of the total quoted price in shape of Bank draft/Bankers Cheque drawn in favour of Executive Officer, Dhenkanal Municipality. The quotation with enclosures will be received only through Speed Post/ Regd. Post by the under signed in the schedule date and time and not be accepted in any means beyond the date and time. Any postal delay will not be considered. The quotation paper will be available in the office Dhenkanal Municipality during the office hours (except holidays) till dt 11.07.2022 (up to 5.00 PM) and may down load from the Dhenkanal website i.e. dhenkanalmunicipality.com.

The authorized reserves the right to reject any or all the quotations without assigning any reason thereof.

OIPR-13146/11/0019/2223

Executive Officer
Dhenkanal Municipality

Notice under section 13(2) of the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 (The Act)				
Sr. No.	Name of Borrower(s) (A)	Particulars of Mortgaged property/properties (B)	Date Of NPA (C)	Outstanding amount (Rs.) (D)
1.	LOAN ACCOUNT NO. HILAMELO0463947 1. BIMAL CHARAN PRADHAN 2. SRIMANT SAHU	UNIT NO. 01, 9TH FLOOR, D- WING, TIME SQUARE, SAKINAKA, OPP. MITTAL ESTATE, ANDHERI (EAST), MUMBAI-400059, MAHARASHTRA	17.01.2022	Rs. 24,63,432.05/- (Rupees Twenty Four Lakh Sixty Three Thousand Four Hundred Thirty Two and Paise Five Only) as on 17.01.2022
That the above named borrower(s) have failed to maintain the financial discipline towards their loan account (s) and as per books of accounts maintained in the ordinary course of business by the Company, Column D indicates the outstanding amount. Due to persistent default in repayment of the Loan amount on the part of the Borrower(s) the above said loan account has been classified by the Company as Non Performing Asset (as on date in Column C) within the guidelines relating to assets classification issued by Regulating Authority. Consequently, notices under Sec. 13(2) of the Act were also issued to each of the borrower. In view of the above, the Company hereby calls upon the above named Borrower(s) to discharge in full his/her liabilities towards the Company by making the payment of the entire outstanding dues indicated in Column D above including up to date interest, costs, and charges within 60 days from the date of publication of this notice, failing which, the Company shall be entitled to take possession of the Mortgaged Property mentioned in Column B above and shall also take such other actions as is available to the Company in law. Please note that in terms of provisions of sub-Section (8) of Section 13 of the SARFAESI Act, "A borrower can tender the entire amount of outstanding dues together with all costs, charges and expenses incurred by the Secured Creditor only till the date of publication of the notice for sale of the secured asset(s) by public auction, by inviting quotations, tender from public or by private treaty. Further it may also be noted that in case Borrower fails to redeem the secured asset within aforesaid legally prescribed time frame, Borrower may not be entitled to redeem the property." In terms of provision of sub-Section (13) of Section 13 of the SARFAESI Act, you are hereby prohibited from transferring, either by way of sale, lease or otherwise (other than in the ordinary course of his business) any of the secured assets referred to in the notice, without prior written consent of secured creditor.				
FOR DHANI LOANS AND SERVICES LIMITED Authorized Officer				
Place: MUMBAI (MAHARASHTRA)/PURI (ODISHA)				

ED issues fresh summons to Sanjay Raut under PMLA

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Enforcement Directorate (ED) has issued fresh summons to Shiv Sena MP Sanjay Raut asking him to appear on July 1 for questioning in a money laundering case linked to alleged irregularities in the re-development of a Mumbai 'chawl' and related financial property transactions involving his wife and alleged associates.

The Rajya Sabha member was issued the first summons for Tuesday, but he sought more time citing official commitments and a meeting he was supposed to attend at Alibaug in Raigad district of the State during the day.

Raut's lawyers met ED officials at the agency's office in Mumbai on Tuesday and sought about two weeks' time for his appearance. However, the agency granted him relief only till this month-end.

"The ED summons was served late Monday afternoon, so we made an application to seek time because the ED has demanded a few documents," Raut's lawyer told reporters after meeting agency officials



at their regional office in south Mumbai. Through Raut's questioning, the agency is seeking to record his statement under the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA).

The agency is also seeking to know Raut's 'business and other links' with Pravin Raut and Patkar and also about the property deals involving his wife.

The development comes as the Shiv Sena battles rebellion from a group of its MLAs, leading to a question mark on the future of Maha Vikas Aghadi (MVA) Government in Maharashtra. In April, the ED provisionally attached

assets worth over Rs 11.15 crore of Raut's wife Varsha Raut and two of his associates as part of this investigation.

The attached properties are in the form of land held by Pravin M Raut, Sanjay Raut's aide and a former director of Guru Ashish Construction Pvt Ltd, at Palghar, Saphale (town in Palghar) and Padgha (in Thane district).

The attached properties also include a flat in Mumbai's suburb Dadar held by Varsha Raut and eight plots at Kihim beach in Alibaug jointly held by Varsha Raut and Swapna Patkar, wife of Sujit Patkar, a "close associate" of Sanjay Raut, the ED had earlier said.

Centre to go ahead with single use plastic ban

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

India is all set to go ahead with its notification banning identified 19 single use plastic (SUP) items from July 1, 2022. The Centre on Tuesday said there was no plans to postpone the notification as sufficient time was given to the industry. The Government warned that violators will invite punitive action, including a fine or a jail term.

Single-use plastics are those items that are used only once and discarded. "The ban aims to curb pollution caused by single use plastic items which have low utility, high littering potential. We had given enough time to the industry to prepare for the implementation of ban," Union Environment Minister Bhupendra Yadav told reporters on Tuesday two days ahead of the enforcement of the notification. The Minister's statement comes in the wake of



several representations made by various industries either seeking more time or urging the Government to impose the ban in a phased manner.

A senior official from the Central Pollution Control Board said that while directions have already been issued to all states to curb the supply of banned items, petrochemical industries have been asked to stop the supply of plastic raw materials to those engaged in the production of the banned items. As per the notification, the manufacture, import,

stocking, distribution, sale and use of single-use plastic, including polystyrene and expanded polystyrene commodities will be banned from July 1, 2022.

Other prohibited items include plastic sticks that are used in ear buds, balloons, candy, ice-cream; cutlery items such as plates, cups , glasses, forks, spoons, knives, trays; packaging / wrapping films such as that used for sweet box, invitation cards, cigarette packets, and other items such as plastic flags, PVC banners of less than 100 microns, poly-

31% RS MPs declared criminal cases against them, says ADR

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

About 31 per cent of sitting Rajya Sabha MPs have declared criminal cases against them, according to a report released by ADR-National Election Watch. As per the report, while the average assets of the Upper House members are Rs 79.54 crore,

Association for Democratic Reforms (ADR) and National Election Watch have analyzed the criminal, financial and other background details of 226 out of 233 sitting MPs.

In the current Rajya Sabha, one seat is vacant. Two MPs have not been analysed as their affidavits were unavailable and four seats of Jammu and Kashmir are undefined, the report said. Of the 226 sitting Rajya Sabha MPs, 197 (87 per cent) are 'crorepatis' and the average assets per Rajya Sabha MP are Rs 79.54 crore, the report said.

Of 226 Rajya Sabha members, 71 (31 per cent) have declared criminal cases against

themselves and 37 (16 per cent) have declared serious criminal cases. According to the report, two Rajya Sabha MPs have declared cases related to murder (IPC Section 302) and four MPs have declared cases related to attempt to murder (IPC Section 307).

Four Rajya Sabha MPs have declared cases related to crimes against women and out of these four MPs, one namely K C Venugopal (Congress) from Rajasthan has declared case related to rape (IPC Section 376), the report said. According to the report, 20 (24 per cent) out of 85 Rajya Sabha MPs from BJP, 12 (39 per cent) out of 31 MPs from Congress, three (23 per cent) out of 13 from AITC, five (83 per cent) out of six from RJD, four (80 per cent) out of five from CPI(M), three (30 per cent) out of 10 from AAP, three (33 per cent) out of nine from YSRCP and two (50 per cent) out of four Rajya Sabha MPs from NCP have declared criminal cases against themselves in

their affidavits.

The report said nine (11 per cent) out of 85 Rajya Sabha MPs from BJP, eight (26 per cent) out of 31 MPs from Congress, one (8 per cent) out of 13 Rajya Sabha MPs from AITC, three (50 per cent) out of six MPs from RJD, two (40 per cent) out of five from CPI (M), one (10 per cent) out of 10 from AAP, three (33 per cent) out of nine from YSRCP and one (25 per cent) out of four Rajya Sabha MPs from NCP have declared serious criminal cases against themselves in their affidavits.

Giving state-wise details, the report said that seven (23 per cent) out of 31 Rajya Sabha MPs from Uttar Pradesh, 12 (63 per cent) out of 19 MPs from Maharashtra, six (33 per cent) out of 18 from Tamil Nadu, three (19 per cent) out of 16 from West Bengal, six (67 per cent) out of nine from Kerala and 10 (63 per cent) out of 16 Rajya Sabha MPs from Bihar have declared criminal cases against themselves in their affidavits.

SC miffed over registry not listing matters

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Tuesday expressed its dismay over the registry not listing matters despite orders from its vacation benches and said that cases will be listed as per the set procedure. A vacation bench of Justices Surya Kant and JB Pardiwala said that it has on Monday directed a matter to be listed for Tuesday but the registry has said that it will not be listed.

"We didn't want to say it in open court but it's a fact. Yesterday, we made an exception. We had directed a matter to be listed for today but the registry said that it will not list the case. We don't want to say anything more", the bench told senior advocate Abhishek Manu Singhvi, who was seeking urgent listing of a plea filed

by Adani Ports and Special Economic Zone (Adani) against the Bombay High Court order.

The bench said that there is a set procedure in place for the listing of matters during vacations and asked Singhvi to approach the mentioning registrar for urgent listing and if the request is denied then it could look into it. Singhvi said that the court's discretion cannot be circumscribed by the registry and it can make an exception for urgent listing of the matter.

Significantly, the same vacation bench on Monday had ordered the listing of the Centre's petition for hearing on Tuesday against the Tripura High Court order passed on a PIL challenging the grant of security cover to industrialist Mukesh Ambani and his fam-

ily members in Mumbai. Despite the order of the bench passed after the matter was mentioned by Solicitor General Tushar Mehta, the matter was not listed for Tuesday.

Singhvi urged the bench to list the matter saying the Bombay High Court order was given to them on Monday in which it had dismissed a plea filed by Adani Ports and Special Economic Zone (Adani) challenging the disqualification of its bid in a tender issued by the Jawaharlal Nehru Port Authority (JNPA) for up-gradation of a container terminal in Navi Mumbai. The Bombay High Court has on Monday directed Adani to pay a cost of Rs five lakh for bringing to court an "unmeritorious case." Of this, Adani already deposited Rs 4,24,800 with JNPA at the time of submitting its bid.

Govt seems keen to sell off PSUs to its cronies: Cong

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

Congress on Tuesday accused the BJP Government of reckless privatisation of public sector assets and alleged that its plan is to hand over land parcels of strategic PSUs to its select crony capitalist friends.

Congress spokesperson Supriya Shrinat said going by its plans the Government seems keen to completely sell off all public sector banks to private hands which would have serious consequences for the economy.

She also dubbed the BJP as "Beche Jao Party" and accused it of "double-speak". On the one hand, it was talking of providing jobs to 'Agniveers' in defence PSUs. and on the other, it was privatising them, she said.

She also claimed that the Congress has helped stall privatisation of four PSUs including Bharat Petroleum Corporation, Container Corporation of India, Pawan Hans and Central Electricals Limited. "The Narendra Modi government's reckless privatisation and its plans to put India on sale now poses huge risks to the Indian economy and our people.

The Modi government is now all set to completely exit public sector banks being privatised - an ill thought out strategy with dangerous repercussions," she said at AICC Press conference. "Given its sinister plans to put India on sale BJP should now be called the 'Beche Jao Party' - but the Congress will oppose this reckless sale of strategic profit making assets including the complete exit from public sector banks being sold," she claimed. Shrinat said after listing LIC at a wrong time, it led to loss of nearly USD 18 billion (one-third of its valuation) and the

government has been forced to stop its 'reckless privatisation' of four PSUs in last two months.

She said BPCL sale was called off after two of the three investors withdrew, deterred by faulty fuel pricing policies and uncertainties, and sale of Pawan Hans now on hold after 51 percent stake was sold to a company that had failed to honour a previous bid for an insolvent company, and the NCLT Kolkata had ruled against it.

The Congress leader claimed that Central Electronics Limited is a Ministry of Science and Technology PSU that provides it critical materials and services for strategic sectors such as defence, railways and energy.

It was severely undervalued and 100 per cent equity was sold to a financial company with no scientific background that had links to BJP politicians, she claimed, adding that it is now on hold.

The sale of Container Corporation of India (Concor), a unit of Indian Railways, was put on hold over Congress party's charges of how the government was using "backdoor arrangement" to hand over railway land acquired from farmers at a concessional rate or free of cost to a private party for commercial use, she alleged. "The privatisation of three PSUs has been delayed because of issues over the valuation of land.

CONCOR has land around railway stations, Shipping Corporation of India has land in Maharashtra (especially Mumbai) while Bharat Earth Movers (land in WB and Karnataka).

It is clear the single minded objective is to hand over these ventures and the lakhs of acres of land they hold to Mr Modi's chosen few crony capitalist friends," she alleged.

BJP raps Congress for protesting against arrest of Teesta Setalvad

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

BJP on Tuesday alleged a nexus between the Congress party and behind-the-scenes hate-mongers against Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

The party hit out at the Congress for protesting against the arrest of activist Teesta Setalvad saying they were working as part of a 'poisonous ecosystem' where one offender protects another if anyone is caught.

Taking a dig at Congress and asking "Ye rista kya kahla-ta hain" for the opposition party joining the protest against Setalvad's arrest, BJP spokesperson Gaurav Bhatia accused it of opposing judicial actions as per its convenience.

In the backdrop of the Supreme Court's clean-chit to Modi and 62 others in the 2002 Gujarat riots case, he asked if the opposition party has any faith in the judiciary or not. He said Setalvad did not know the content of "false affidavits" she filed in Gujarat riot cases as

they were tailored to suit the designs of the political masters. Attacking Setalvad, Bhatia said despite objections by NCERT, the Congress-led- UPA government gave Rs 1.40 crore to Setalvad's trust which she allegedly used for her own comforts and foreign travels.

Pointing out that the Gujarat Police action against Setalvad was following the Supreme Court's strong denunciation of her and others for "keeping the pot boiling" and levelling false charges against people, including Prime Minister, over the 2002 riots in the state, Bhatia alleged that she had been acting at the behest of the Congress to end Modi's political career. "Setalvad was a small branch for fanning communal hate.

Its headquarters was in the Congress and its president Sonia Gandhi was the CEO," he told a press conference. Citing the recent agitation of the Congress against its leader Rahul Gandhi's questioning by the Enforcement Directorate in the National Herald case, he

said for some people Gandhi is innocent until proven guilty but their standard for Modi is that he is guilty even if proven innocent.

"This hypocrisy will not be tolerated," he said. To questions about journalist Zubair Ahmed's arrest and opposition leaders' protest against it, he said one cannot become a fact-checker only by proclaiming himself to be one.

He has a chequered past and has posted tweets which have hurt religious feelings of a large section of Hindu society, Bhatia said. All major opposition parties and media organisations have condemned Zubair's arrest on Monday by the Delhi Police for allegedly hurting religious sentiments through one of his tweets, officials said.

The Editors Guild of India on Tuesday termed it "extremely disturbing" and demanded his immediate release. Criticising Zubair, Bhatia said if somebody is doing fact-checking, then he can't be selective.

‘Ensure people at gatherings are vaccinated for Covid’

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

As Covid case counts show fluctuating trends in the past few days, the Centre has asked States and Union Territories to ensure that people taking part in mass gatherings and undertaking pilgrimage are asymptomatic and preferably fully vaccinated against Covid-19 as such congregation may facilitate transmission of the infectious disease

In a letter to States and UTs on Tuesday, Union Health Secretary Rajesh Bhushan said mass gatherings in context of various festivities as well as yatras are likely to be held in different parts of the country in the coming months, and that such congregations may poten-

tially facilitate transmission of infectious diseases, including Covid-19. While trajectory of Covid-19 cases has declined significantly from levels that were observed in earlier part of this year, a few States and UTs across country are witnessing a sustained upswing in the cases currently. On Tuesday, till 8 A.M. India recorded 11,793 new coronavirus infections, pushing country's tally to 4,34,18,839, while the active cases rose to 96,700.

The death toll climbed to 5,25,047 with 27 new fatalities. India on Monday had logged 17,073 new coronavirus infections, a 45% jump from Sunday when 11,739 people tested positive for Covid. The Ministry fears that upcoming religious

events may spike Covid cases as usually people do not follow Covid norms during such gatherings. "During many such events/yatras lakhs of individuals undertake intra- and interstate journeys spanning hundreds of kilometres with halting points arranged by volunteers and community-based social/religious organisations.

Such congregations may potentially facilitate transmission of infectious diseases, including Covid-19," Bhushan said. "All states and UTs where such mass gatherings are proposed to be held should widely publicise that all individuals planning to participate in such gatherings/events are asymptomatic and preferably fully vaccinated against COVID-19.

NIA arrests two for terror funding in J&K

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The National Investigation Agency (NIA) on Tuesday said it has arrested two accused in Jammu and Kashmir in the cross-LoC trade and terror funding case.

The agency arrested the two accused persons—Tanveer Ahmad Wani of Achagoza under Rajpora police station of Pulwama district and Peer Arshad Iqbal alias Ashu of Khwaja Bagh, Baramulla in the 2016 cases linked to terror funding via cross-LoC trade.

The case pertains to the generation of extra profits through cross-LoC (Line of Control) trade mechanism between Jammu and Kashmir and Pakistan-Occupied Kashmir (POK) and using those funds for fomenting terrorist activities in Jammu and Kashmir, the agency said in a statement.

The said trade was started in the year 2008 via two Trade Facilitation Centres (TFCs)

located at Salamabad, Uri in Baramulla District and Chakan-da-Bagh in Poonch District. As per the Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) of the trade mechanism, 21 articles were allowed to be traded between POK and Jammu and Kashmir and were based on a barter system.

"During investigation, it has been revealed that extra profit was generated by over-invoicing of export articles and under-invoicing of import articles by the traders," the NIA said.

The arrested accused are cross-border LoC traders and were handling several cross-LoC trade firms registered in their own names or in the names of their friends, family members and relatives.

They used to provide funds to the members of various terrorist organisations, over ground workers (OGWs) and stone-pelters. Further investigation in the case is continuing, it added.

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ongoing for 26 BOs, 29 producers (Ps) and 48 Is, while 76 BOs, 17 Ps and 38 Is have submitted their applications for registration. The EPR, i.e. the Extended Producer Responsibility, means responsibility of a producer for environmentally sound management of the product until the end of its life.

The Union Environment Ministry had notified the EPR guidelines vide Fourth Amendment to Plastic Waste Management Rules 2016 on February 16.

SUP ban aims to make wildlife sanctuaries plastic-free: DGF&SS

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

With rampant littering of plastic along the National Highways passing through tiger reserves in the country posing a threat to wildlife, the National Tiger Conservation Authority (NTCA), an autonomous body under the Union Environment Ministry is banking on the eco development committees composed of locals among others to keep the regions plastic-free.

Chandra Prakash Goyal, Director-General of Forests & Special Secretary (DGF&SS) from the Ministry said that the move aims to make the habitat of the big cats and other wildlife free from plastic which is negatively impacting wildlife.

There have been instances where wild animals have been found eating plastic waste thrown by the tourists. A few of them also died. Union Environment Minister Bhupendra Yadav, too, expressed concern at growing piles of plastic garbage in protected forest areas and shared how during his visit to Sariska Tiger Reserve in Rajasthan recently, he was shocked to see a black buck chewing a plastic bag.

He said this at a press conference held on Tuesday while talking about the ban on single use plastic items being imposed nationwide from July 1. Later, NTCA member secretary and Addl DG(Project Tiger) SP YADAV



explained that the ETC members have been deployed in at least 50 tiger regions or sanctuaries where National Highways are passing through to keep a check on plastic menace. "It is difficult to keep a check on commuters of the vehicles who casually throw away plastics items such as bags or plastic straws on the roads. This harms the health of the animals who ingest them, thinking it as food," he said.

Apart from the National Highways, there are temples inside many forest areas including Sariska Tiger Reserve, Ranthambore National Park and Jhalana Forest Reserve where efforts to keep the regions plastic-free is not so easy.

Yadav said that the ETC members are asked to recycle the collected plastic waste. "This provides livelihood to the locals as well as keeps the tiger reserves, sanctuaries and reserve forest areas plastic free particularly at a time when our focus is on banning the single use plastic items.

In tiger reserves where no National Highways exist, the visitors are provided a textile bag to carry their non-plastic items for which they have to deposit Rs 50 at entry gate.

KK Venugopal may get another term as India's Attorney-General

New Delhi: Senior advocate KK Venugopal may get a fresh term as Attorney General of India, sources in the Government said on Tuesday. Venugopal's current one year term ends on June 30.

The Attorney General usually has a tenure of three years. When Venugopal's first term as AG was to end in 2020, he had requested the Government to give him a one-year tenure keeping in mind his advanced age. He is 91. Last year too, Venugopal was reappointed for one year. In view of high-profile cases Venugopal is handling in the Supreme Court and his experience at the Bar, the government may reappoint him again. The Law Ministry has informed government that his term ends on June 30 and the post needs to be filled. He first took over as Attorney General, the top law officer of the Union Government, on July 1, 2017, succeeding Mukul Rohatgi.

Middle-aged, elderly Indians are more susceptible to Covid: Study

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

Covid-related hospitalisations claimed lives of middle-aged to elderly Indians more frequently than people of the same age groups in other regions of the world, according to a study conducted on 5,313 patients in 40 hospitals from 23 countries.

The study, led by the World Heart Federation in association with the Public Health Foundation of India, also revealed that a higher prevalence of diabetes and hypertension among Indians are the major drivers of the increased mortality. The findings, published in the journal

Global Heart, showed that during the pandemic Indians had nearly three times higher mortality due to Covid hospitalisation, than the European population. However, the number was less than the Hispanics and Blacks.

"South Asians (Indians) in the middle-aged to elderly group died more frequently than other regions due to Covid hospitalisations, owing to significantly greater background prevalence of diabetes and hypertension," D. Prabhakaran from the PHFI, told a news agency.

The study demonstrated that patients were relatively younger as compared to previous research (where the aver-

age age was 57 years), predominantly middle aged men, with high prevalence of cardiovascular risk factors such as hypertension diabetes and high mortality up to 30 days.

Patients of Asian, Hispanic or Black ethnicities had higher death rates both within the hospital and after discharge as compared to white Caucasians, Prabhakaran said, as per the agency report.

Another finding was that patients with HIV had increased death at 30 days but not during hospitalisation.

Various studies have shown that Covid pandemic increased death among patients with heart disease or their risk factors.

18 people killed, 14 hurt in Mumbai building collapse

T N RAGHUNATHA ■
MUMBAI

As many as 18 people were killed and 14 others injured after a ground-plus—three storey building collapsed at Kurla (East) in north-central Mumbai shortly before midnight on Monday.

There were 32 residents at the building “Nayaknagar Cooperative Co-operative Housing society” when the structure caved in at around 11.53 pm.

The rescue and relief operation that began immediately after the mishap continued till late on Tuesday. Of the 14 injured, nine were treated and allowed to go, while the remaining five persons are undergoing treatment at The injured were rushed to Rajawadi Hospital at Ghatkopar and LTMG Hospital at Sion, both located in north-central Mumbai.

The building that collapsed was old and it was in a dilapidated condition. Today’s was the first building collapse in the metropolis during the current year.

The teams of State Disaster Management Authority, Mumbai Fire Brigade, police



officials and besides local volunteers, who joined the rescue efforts there had expressed a potential risk to the adjoining second wing of the same building which could also collapse anytime.

The fire brigade personnel identified eight of those killed in the mishap Ajayy M. Pasnor (28) Ajinkya Gaikwad (34) Kumar Prajapati(20) Sikandar Rajbhor (21) Anoop Rajbhor

(18). Arvind R. Bharti (19) Anil Yadav (21) Shyam Prajapati (18) while ten other deceased had not been identified till late on Tuesday evening. Meanwhile, chief minister Uddhav Thackeray announced an assistance of Rs 5 lakh to each of the bereaved families.

Maharashtra Minister Aaditya Thackeray visited the mishap site twice – once immediately after the mishap on

Tuesday night and second time on Tuesday. Industry Minister Subhash Desai, senior officials of the Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation (BMC) and police officials visited the mishap site. In all 15 residents were rescued from the debris of the building Two pigeons have been rescued alive from the debris at the Kurla crash site. Two pigeons were rescued alive from under the debris.

Post 2 bypoll losses SP allies question Akhilesh’s leadership

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

Trouble is brewing for the Samajwadi Party as its allies have started questioning the political competence of Akhilesh Yadav following the debacle in the Rampur and Azamgarh bypolls.

“The Samajwadi Party cannot afford to lose Azamgarh. Chaudhary Charan used to call Azamgarh as the centre of Samajwadi politics and that he could afford to lose Baghpat, but Azamgarh never,” Om Prakash Rajbhar, president of Suheldev Bhartiya Samaj Party, an ally of the SP.

“Akhilesh Yadav should come out of the comfort of air-conditioned rooms and hit the ground running. For the BJP, politics is a 24X 7 engagement and the SP chief should also borrow the idea from the ruling party — take the plunge and catch the bull of electoral politics by its horn,” Rajbhar said.

“Akhilesh Yadav must have campaigned in Rampur and Azamgarh. If the engine remains stationary, how will the train move? Akhilesh visited Azamgarh nine times during the recent assembly elections and conducted 13 public meetings. But in the Lok Sabha



bypolls, he did not visit the two constituencies even once. The debacle in Rampur and Azamgarh will have ramifications for the SP in the 2024 Lok Sabha elections. Akhilesh should be more accessible to his party cadre and focus on strengthening the organisation at the grassroots level,” Rajbhar added.

He said that the SP owes an explanation to its rank and file and the allies as to why its candidates fared poorly in Rampur and Azamgarh.

Shivpal Yadav, the estranged uncle of Akhilesh Yadav, advised the SP president to honour the mandate given by the people of Rampur and Azamgarh.

“Nobody from the

“The SP owes an explanation to its rank and file and the allies as to why its candidates fared poorly in Rampur and Azamgarh bypolls.”

— OP Rajbhar

Samajwadi party contacted me for the Rampur and Azamgarh byelections and I have been sitting idle since UP assembly elections concluded in March,” he said.

Sanjay Chauhan of Janwadi Socialist Party also slammed the SP chief. Questioning the style of functioning of Akhilesh, he said: “Akhilesh Yadav prefers to conduct his politics through social media, particularly through Twitter. He should respond to the need of the hour and hit the ground running. Instead of relying on a kitchen cabinet comprising rootless wonders, he should rely more on people who have their ears close to the ground.”

Chauhan also criticised Akhilesh for nominating Swami Prasad Maurya to the UP Legislative Council.

“It was an imprudent move by Akhilesh Yadav to oblige a turncoat who defected to the SP from BJP ahead of the UP assembly elections and lost from Kushinagar, and yet nominated to the council. As long

as the non-Yadav OBCs are firmly mobilised behind the BJP, the SP can never win the UP assembly elections. Akhilesh has failed to comprehend this ground reality of UP’s electoral politics,” Chauhan said. President of Mahan Dal and former ally of the Samajwadi Party Keshav Dev Maurya said: “The electoral strategy of the SP for Rampur and Azamgarh was full of loopholes without addressing which the party can never win any election.”

Maurya added: “Akhilesh Yadav is a reluctant leader and is shy of hard work. How can he win an election?”

Dismissing the charges leveled by Akhilesh against the BJP government about the misuse of official machinery in Rampur and Azamgarh, Maurya said: “During the 2017 UP assembly elections. The SP was in power, yet the BJP and its allies won 325 out of 403 seats. Such allegations lack conviction are only for public consumption.”

Two associates of terrorists gunned down in Keran sector

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■
JAMMU

Ahead of the flag off ceremony of the first batch of Amarnath-bound pilgrims from the Jammu-based *yatri niwas* troops of the Indian Army, deployed along the Line of Control in the Keran sector of North Kashmir’s Kupwara district, on Tuesday gunned down two terrorist associates while they were waiting to receive a consignment of arms and ammunition besides facilitating group of infiltrators inside the Indian territory.

The duo have been identified by the police as Majid Chechi and Samsudin Beigh.

In a written statement a police spokesman said, “It is believed they had come to receive a cache of arms and narcotics and to facilitate infiltration of terrorists in the general area of Rauta Nar at fence”.

Meanwhile, Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha is scheduled to flag off the first batch of pilgrims from Jammu on Wednesday. The registered pilgrims have been provided with Radio frequency



Identification tags to ensure their safety. The first batch will be escorted to the base camps in Baltal and Pahalgam under tight security arrangements.

Sharing details of the incident, police spokesman said, “alert troops of the Indian army had reported suspicious movement around 12.15 a.m close to the fence in general area India Gate – Bichu in Keran sector of Kupwara”.

“The suspected movement was challenged by the Army’s patrol party. On being challenged, fire was drawn on the troops from the fence side which was retaliated. On search, two individuals were

found dead near the fence (inside the Indian territory). According to a police spokesman, “04 AK rifles, 08 Magazines and 02 packets of narcotics were recovered from their possession whereas 02 more AK rifles along with magazines and 04 grenades were found on the other side of fence”. “War like stores have been recovered in the operation which include AK 47 & 56 rifles - 05, AK rifle Shotgun – 01, Magazines-15, 7.62mm API rds – 128 rounds, 7.62mm Ball rounds - 177 rounds, Grenades- 04 and Narcotics - 2 packets”, police spokesman added.

PTI ■ GUWAHATI

The overall flood situation in Assam showed signs of improvement on Tuesday with most of the rivers showing a receding trend even though 21 lakh people remained affected by the deluge and most localities of Silchar town in Cachar district were still under water, officials said.

The death toll due to this year’s floods have increased to 134 with five more deaths recorded in the last 24 hours, while one person was missing, as per a bulletin issued by Assam State Disaster Management Authority (ASDMA).

Most of the rivers were showing a receding trend, except for Kopili and Barak, which were flowing above the danger level in Nagaon and Barak Valley respectively.

Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma visited an embankment breach spot at Kuwara in Bajali district to take stock of the flood situation.

“Visited Kuwara at Patacharkuchi, Bajali to understand the current flood situation and damage caused by overflowing of Kaldia river along with my Cabinet col-

league Shri @RanjeetkrDass,” Sarma tweeted.

He also interacted with the affected people and assured all possible assistance to them.

Silchar remained under water for more than a week, with efforts underway to air-drop essential items to people who are yet to be reached.

Deputy Commissioner Keerthi Jalli said the ASDMA has initiated drone survey in Silchar for damage assessment of areas such as Dudh Patil, Chamra Gudam, Silchar Railway station and other places.

She said the district administration along with Silchar Municipal Board and others are working to clean up the city’s garbage, but people are dumping filth on the streets after cleaning their houses and shops.

Jalli requested people to refrain from throwing garbage on streets that have been cleaned to avoid spread of diseases. Medical personnel have been deployed in 28 wards of the town.

Water packets and water purifying tablets have been distributed

among the affected people and temporary toilets set up in



two relief camps.

Meanwhile, work is underway to repair damaged portions of the dyke at Bethukandi that led to the flooding in the town.

Chief Secretary Jishnu Barua held a virtual meeting with deputy commissioners of three flood-affected districts in Barak Valley and Dima Hasao and other stakeholders to take stock of restoration of communication.

He said assessment of all rehabilitation grants in Cachar

district must be completed before July 10.

A total of 2,254 villages in 61 revenue circles remain affected by floods, while 1,91,194 people have taken shelter in 538 relief camps.

Floodwaters have damaged 79 roads and five bridges while six embankments have been breached.

A total of 349 houses have been fully damaged while 573 have been partially damaged due to the floods. Farmlands

over 74,656 hectares are under water, while 2,774 animals have been washed away.

Large scale erosion was reported in Barpeta, Bongaigaon, Chirang, Hailakandi, Morigaon, Nalbari, Sonitpur, and Udalguri districts.

A landslide has been reported in a tea garden in Hailakandi district, while urban flooding continued in Cachar and Morigaon districts.

Didi slams Teesta’s arrest, says Nupur won’t be spared

SAUGAR SENGUPTA ■ KOLKATA

Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee on Tuesday launched a scathing attack on the BJP Government saying the powers that be in Delhi was destroying democracy by suppressing the voices of opposition.

“They are gagging the popular voice ... they are suppressing the voice of dissent ... What wrong Teesta Sitalvad and Md Zubair had done so

that they had to be arrested ... couldn’t this Government give some space to democracy ... what is happening to the hailed democratic culture of India,” Banerjee told a large audience at Asansol.

Banerjee’s remark came a day after Sitalvad a social activist and Zuvair a journalist were arrested by an anti terror squad of the Gujarat Police for fighting the cases for the victims of the Gujarat riots.

Without naming the top

saffron politicians Banerjee said peddlers of hatred were roaming free whereas “those who tried to bring forth the truth are being arrested ... is it a crime to tell the truth ... is it an offence to expose facts... those who speak out against the Government are harassed by the ED and CBI” she said in an apparent reference to the Gujarat riot cases in which the Supreme Court gave a clean chit to Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

Incidentally a galaxy of TMC leaders including the Chief Minister’s own nephew and party national secretary Abhishek Banerjee and his wife Rujira Narula Banerjee have been under the ED and CBI scanner for their alleged roles in the money laundering cases which had reported links to cattle and coal smuggling.

Attacking the Centre for dishing out yet another “Jumla” in the name of Agnipath scheme Banerjee said “they

are dangling lollipops before the country’s youth Banerjee said “it is a big scam and another example of Jumla politics ... after the 2024 elections every such recruitment jumla will go and the youth will be left with nothing in their hands.”

Saying that she had recently received a communication where “I was requested to offer jobs to the Agniveers after four years ... but why we should clear the mess created by the Centre ... it is their mess

and they will have to clean it. We will not take the onus,” she said.

Banerjee had earlier suggested that the retirement age of Agniveer soldiers be extended to 60 years. Speaking before an audience with a sizeable population from the minority communities Banerjee attacked the Centre for doing nothing to BJP leader Nupur Sharma for her remarks on Prophet Mohammad.

“Those who are spreading

hatred and creating animosity among communities in the country are let off ... they are not being touched and even getting protection whereas those who are criticizing such acts are being arrested,” she said apparently in reference to Nupur Sharma case and warned her Government would never let her go free.

“Our Government has taken action and registered cases against these people and we will not spare them ... our

police have summoned them and they will have to face the music.”

Banerjee whose party won the Asansol parliamentary seat for the first time --- thanks to the presence of a large number of minority votes --- reminded how “the TMC has made the BJP Khamosh (silent) from Asansol because the people of this place have understood their real character.” Cine star Shatrughna Sinha recently won the seat for her party.

Suvendu promises Maha encore in Bengal; TMC speaks to Guv

SAUGAR SENGUPTA ■ KOLKATA

The Trinamool Congress has raised strong views against Bengal Opposition Leader Suvendu Adhikari’s suggestions that after Maharashtra it was the turn of Jharkhand and Bengal where the Governments would be toppled through ‘operation lotus’.

Even as the TMC leadership continued sustained movement in the State demanding the arrest of Adhikari named in a number of scams including Sharada chit fund and Narada pay-off cases the BJP leader earlier said that his party was going to do a Maharashtra in Bengal. “Just it is a matter of time that Bengal too will fall by 2024,” Adhikari who had joined

the BJP just ahead of the 2021 Assembly elections said.

A former powerful TMC Minister and Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee’s points-man in Nandigram movement that catapulted her to power had recently been facing a tirade from the Bengal ruling outfit which had been agitating at various ED and CBI offices demanding his arrest.

In an apparent reaction to the recent developments Adhikari said, “The Uddhav Thackeray Government is almost on the verge of collapse and it is a matter of time that Maharashtra will go into the hands of the BJP ... it is almost certain ... now the next target is Jharkhand and then Bengal ... by 2024 Bengal will fall,” to

operation lotus he said.

The TMC reacted sharply with its spokesperson Kunal Ghosh saying if what Adhikari was saying was true and if they were really up to playing the Maharashtra game in Bengal then it was dangerous for democracy. “What Suvendu Adhikari has said is dangerous the democratic-federal structure of the country... they are spending hundreds of crores to topple Governments in various states ... as they are now doing in Maharashtra ... the statement is itself dangerous,” Ghosh said adding however that getting Bengal would remain a pipedream for the BJP.

“Today he is Suvendu Dada (brother) ... he is dreaming of getting Bengal through opera-

tion lotus ... let his bosses try it ... I can assure you they will not get Bengal even in 2056 ... by when he will become a Dadu (a grandfather).”

Meanwhile, in a related development a group of Trinamool leaders led by Bengal Education Minister Bratya Basu on Tuesday met Governor Jagdeep Dhankhar urging him to recommend the arrest of Adhikari who had been named in the FIRs in Sharada and Narada cases.

“He is an FIR-named person and the main accused in the Sharada case Sudipto Sen has written a letter to the agencies that Adhikari had blackmailed him and squeezed crores from him ... so why the CBI is not arresting him,” Basu said.



Construction of chariots in the final stages for the annual ‘Rath Yatra’ festival of Lord Jagannath, in Puri on Tuesday.

(PTI Photo)



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PAPER WITH PASSION

G7 & the war

The grouping must act swiftly and effectively against Russia's barbaric invasion of Ukraine

UK Prime Minister Boris Johnson has rightly accused Russia of war crimes after a missile strike on a crowded shopping centre in Ukraine which killed 18 people and wounded over 59. He lashed out at Russian President Vladimir Putin's "cruelty and barbarism". In a joint statement issued on Monday, G7 leaders also remained "steadfast in our solidarity with Ukraine, and reaffirm our unwavering commitment to support the Government and people of Ukraine in their courageous defence of their country's sovereignty and territorial integrity, and in their fight for a peaceful, prosperous and democratic future". This will enthuse Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy who, along with other Ukrainians, has been fighting valiantly against the much bigger and more powerful Russia. The US-led West's support for the besieged eastern European nation has been admirable; so also is the way they weaponised their financial dominance and used it against Moscow. Besides, their support to Ukraine by way of arming it with the latest arms and armaments is praiseworthy. The same, however, cannot be said about its effectiveness. Despite months of debilitating sanctions against Russia, its war machine is still buzzing. After over a century, Russia has defaulted over a \$100-million payment — not because it doesn't have money but because it is not allowed to pay its creditors. The default is likely to hurt the creditors rather than



Moscow; it won't surely hurt Putin enough to force him to call off the war.

G7 leaders are deploying other means to augment pressure on the Kremlin. They have agreed to study placing global price caps on imports of Russian energy to curb Moscow's ability to fund its invasion of Ukraine and to contribute up to \$5 billion to address global food insecurity, according to a *Reuters* report. However, they cannot be absolved of their role, though indirect, of enriching and thus emboldening Putin to such an extent that he could dare to attack Ukraine. Rich nations, swayed by the rhetoric of climate activists, became so obsessed with checking the use of fossil fuels that they discouraged production in their own jurisdictions. Under US President Joe Biden, for instance, the US has become a net energy importer, though his predecessor Donald Trump had ensured energy independence. This happened because Biden's Democratic Party has increasingly been influenced by the radical Left. Last year, Biden had also allowed Russia to sell oil to Europe. This is not to say that concerns about the environment should be ignored, but the action should be calibrated, not rash. Developed nations didn't realise that though climate change can end the world in a century, a nuclear war can do that in a day. Yes, that's a possibility! Frustrated that a small nation is not surrendering, Putin may decide to escalate his war. That may have calamitous consequences, not just for Ukraine and Europe but the entire world. G7 must ensure that its actions against Russia are not just effective but also non-escalatory.

PICTALK



A reveller at the annual NYC Pride March, in New York.

AP

Disintegrating?

The power tussle in the AIADMK threatens to break up the party and thrust it into oblivion

Modern-day politics in Tamil Nadu is intertwined with its films and cine stars. Starting with first DMK Chief Minister CN Annadurai to AIADMK's J Jayalalithaa and reigning CM MK Stalin, all had their moorings in films. The script and storylines of politics have a lot of similarities with films "assembled" in the studios of Kollywood. The tussle for power in the AIADMK, which is in a state of chaos following the demise of Jayalalithaa in 2016, resembles a comedy film. It has three leaders pulling the party in different directions and all of them are on a State-wide tour to drum up support. Last week's general council meeting in Chennai had a funny end with the participants unanimously shouting down the 23 resolutions introduced by party coordinator O Panneerselvam, who is out to take control of the AIADMK. Edappadi Palaniswami, leader of the Opposition and the party coordinator, wants a single leader to head the party and end the existing dual leadership system since it has not done the party any good since being introduced in August 2017. The AIADMK has not won any election since 2019, substantiating Palaniswami's reservations on dual leadership.

EPS, who was the CM from 2017 to 2021, has proved his mettle and capability. Panneerselvam's liaising with VK Sasikala, the former interim general secretary who was eased out of the AIADMK along with her family members in 2017 to facilitate unity between EPS and OPS, is being viewed with suspicion by party leaders. Sasikala, a close aide

to late Jayalalithaa who was convicted with four-year imprisonment in a disproportionate assets case, is out to hijack the 50-year-old AIADMK. Sasikala is on a *Puratchi Payanam* (revolutionary journey) to influence party cadres and bring them over to her side. Chinnamma, as she is called by acolytes, had declared in 2012 that she would never aspire for any position or power in the party. In 2017, she was about to be sworn in as the CM but the Supreme Court verdict upholding her four-year term saved Tamil Nadu from that predicament. If these leaders fail to sail together, the golden jubilee year of the party could see the burial of the AIADMK. *The Pioneer* had forecast as early as December 11, 2016, that the AIADMK would disintegrate into fragments faster than it was formed. Is the AIADMK leadership reading this?

Stop messing with our military

It is the one institution the nation trusts; any efforts to tinker with its soul & ethos will certainly not go down well with the aspirants, the regulars or even the veterans



ASHOK K MEHTA

Thank the Almighty for minor mercies on Agniveer.

After five days of avoidable all-India arson and damage (railways alone suffered losses of ₹1,000 crore), the Government has backpedalled. Some concessions have been made to Agnipath Yojana: One-time age waiver (21 to 23 years); unwritten reservation in Government jobs; promises of public and private sector employment for demobilised Agniveers, and skilling and higher education schemes — in short, they've been promised the moon when it is a distant crescent. The anger among youth is understandable as many have passed physical and medical tests. For IAF, aspirants had cleared even written examinations but were not called up. The charade of COVID was used to suspend regular recruitment and replaced with Agnipath. The youth were cheated.

Now that Agnipath has become irreversible, the merit of the scheme as youthful infusion into an aging Army was marked by colossal criticism including masking the real reason for its imposition, ie reduction of salary and pension bills. Hundreds of veterans including Param Vir Chakra winner, Capt Bana Singh, denigrated the project. He tweeted: 'save the country from Agnipath scheme as it would badly damage the youth'. Later, it seems he was forced to delete the tweet. Most former service Chiefs adopted *maun vrat*. Only former Naval Chief, Adm Arun Prakash, had the temerity to expose its infirmities. These days, it is dangerous to speak out or speak up lest you're targeted by one or the other public/private agencies. Not many veterans detected or objected to forcing down All India All Class (AIAC) recruitment on single class/caste regiments. But those who did made passionate appeals to spare the high-value regimental system in the fighting arms.

In final briefings to media by Additional Secretary (Department of Military Affairs) Lt Gen Anil Puri and Vice Chief of Army Staff, Lt Gen BS Raju, and NSA Ajit Doval allayed concerns about dismantling the reg-



imental system. This seems to be one more concession by the Government after the uproar. Lt Gen Raju told newspapers that Agnipath is in fact a pilot project and in response to pleas that it should be test-bedded, he said in four years Agniveer would be tweaked. This means the four year-engagement could be increased and the number of re-enlisted could also be increased. The pay package offered to Agniveers is in fact less than what regular soldiers receive after enlistment. There are other anomalies, including severance package, which need to be scrutinised. Listening to youth on social media and TV, it is clear they cannot be duped as they are questioning all aspects of the project, including why not Agniveers for officers also?

In his briefing, Lt Gen Puri let the cat out of the bag. He said: "In the last two years, we got an opportunity and we stopped the recruitment process." So COVID was used as a pretext to stop recruitment when in fact Agnipath was being prepared. He also said: "The AIAC recruitment model will remain unchanged. 75 per cent of the Army is already AIAC except single-class regiments like Sikh, Dogra, Garhwal, Gorkha, Jat and the like. The regimentation (pre-



THE PAY PACKAGE OFFERED TO AGNIVEERS IS IN FACT LESS THAN WHAT REGULAR SOLDIERS RECEIVE. IT IS CLEAR THE YOUTH CANNOT BE DUPED AS THEY ARE QUESTIONING ALL ASPECTS OF THE PROJECT, INCLUDING WHY NOT AGNIVEERS FOR OFFICERS ALSO?

sumably meaning regimental system) will remain unchanged."

Doval said: "The policy on the recruitment will not affect the current regimental system. The concept of regiments, nobody is tinkering with. The regimental system has not ended." Doval insisted there will be no rollback of Agniveer. The good news is that a few single-class regiments which in 2032 will have 50 per cent Agniveer and 50 per cent regulars will continue and be exempt from AIAC. Doval is the highest-ranking Government official to confirm this and put worries of regimental dikeards at rest.

In the future, when Agniveers are enlisted to full capacity of 125,000 annually and 100,000 will be demobilised, second careers will have to be found for the latter. Current assurances by all and sundry are unreliable. The problem is: Agniveers will not only be competing among themselves for re-enlistment, they will also be competing with fulltime regulars. Sporting their Agniveer badges (some are calling it a new rank?), singling out this group will create bad blood creating different types of soldiers. This is a bad idea and should be dropped.

As in the British military from whose sinews the Indian

system is derived, a military covenant is necessary between soldiers and the nation. The country should commit to taking care of them and their families through thick and thin as they put their lives on the block. Will the Agniveers qualify for this as the regulars do? The biggest challenge for Agniveers is their effective integration into the military system and assimilation into combat units imbued with regimental ethos, tradition and motivation which underline the ultimate test on the battlefield.

Varun Gandhi is the only parliamentarian who is deriding the new scheme. One has not seen such an enormous upheaval against what is ostensibly a transformative defence reform. Agnipath Yojana requires a transformation to ensure defence of the realm is not compromised. Given the backlash to Agnipath, Government is unlikely to pick a CDS anytime soon. It has turned it into a modern *swayamvar* with 150 people in the contest.

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

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

US APEX COURT'S REGRESSIVE RULING

Sir — The US Supreme Court's ruling that abortion is no longer a constitutional right is a backward step. It represents an infringement of liberty to make personal choices; it strikes a blow against women's reproductive and physical autonomy. No wonder popular opinion in America is overwhelmingly against the ruling. US President Joe Biden has termed it a 'tragic error' and warned that it risks the 'health and life of women'. Alas, American women are being denied the basic freedom to end a pregnancy. It is not explicitly stated if pregnancies resulting from rape and incest and detection of life-threatening or incurable deformities put no bar on women to seek an abortion.

Sometimes pregnancy poses a health risk to the mother and abortion is needed to save her life. There is also the danger of abortion going underground. The issue is far more complex and complicated than the six court justices have assumed it to be. Liberals look at the anti-abortion ruling as the beginning of a rightward shift in judicial pronouncements on issues that significantly affect the lives of millions. Laws governing modern societies need not be commensurate with religious fundamentalism or obscurantism.

G David Milton | *Kanyakumari*

NEXT STEP FOR SHINDE & CO.?

Sir — The question is being asked that why were the Shiv Sena rebels taken away to Assam and not to the BJP-ruled States of Goa, Karnataka or Madhya Pradesh? Why couldn't they stay in the BJP's citadel of Gujarat? And, finally why is Eknath Shinde still reluctant to return and demand a floor test? With parts of Assam reeling under floods, these MLAs in a five-star hotel come across as insensitive. The longer they stay there, the more the distance grows between them and their constituents. With Shinde facing much loss of face and capital, there is also the suspicion that many of the rebel MLAs may actually vote with Uddhav Thackeray in the House.

A bridge to development



The Padma Bridge inaugurated by Bangladesh Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina is the country's biggest development project since the country's birth in 1971. It symbolises the country's transition from a poor country to a progressing one and substantiates Sheikh Hasina's commitment to public welfare and the country's development. The bridge, connecting India directly to Dhaka, will definitely boost Bangladesh's development. It is expected to impact the lives of 30 million people. What is so special about the bridge is that it was built entirely with domestic financing. It is a symbol

of the country's capacity, strength and dignity. Over the years, Bangladesh has made significant progress in different sectors.

Industrialisation, less poverty, improvement in human development, measures for gender equality, empowerment of women — all these achievements have changed the country. The opening of the Padma Bridge signifies the country's economic development. Bangladesh is smaller than India. On the other hand, the country is ahead of India in several development domains. India must take a leaf out of Bangladesh and take measures for her overall progress. One may argue that the construction of a bridge is only a small part of progress. However, the country's index of development substantiates the progress it has made. The success of Bangladesh shows that by focusing on infrastructure, education, gender equality, manufacturing and exports, a country can make great progress.

Venu GS | *Kollam*

The political drama enters the second week, possibly a decisive week, with time running out for the rebels. And with Sharad Pawar saying openly that it is his duty to protect his friend Bal Thackeray's son and political heir, emotions on the street are running high, something that the rebels will have to contend with. With this, it is sure that their political career is finished and they have become the enemy of the people of Maharashtra. Seemingly, they have dug their own grave.

Bhagwan Thadani | *Mumbai*

HISTORIC WIN FOR MADHYA PRADESH

Sir — History doesn't just happen by itself. The passion and drive of history makers write their own script. June 26, 2022 ... This date has become historic for cricket in Madhya Pradesh. For the first time, the Ranji team of Madhya Pradesh State has won the prestigious Ranji Trophy. The meaning of this achievement is even bigger because this team entered the field

without its five key players. Come to think of it, there was no famous player in the team. The final match was against a much stronger team like Mumbai, who have won the Ranji Trophy multiple times.

However, as they say, who can stand in front of an indomitable spirit? The passion to play the best, the will to win and the resulting stubbornness make players great. The team of Madhya Pradesh has proved this. Be it bowling or batting, the players proved their superiority on both fronts. The Madhya Pradesh cricket team has made a dream come true by winning the Ranji Trophy, which has been seen in the eyes of our State continuously for many years. After this victory, it is now expected that cricket will be taken more seriously in the State. This victory is historic.

Divyansha Sharma | *Ujjain*

Send your feedback to: letterstopioneer@gmail.com

SOUNDBITE

I would reach out to my former colleagues in the BJP seeking their support (in the presidential poll).



Joint Opposition candidate —Yashwant Sinha



French President —Emmanuel Macron

Nothing has got delayed. No one needs to pick anyone up. I am a woman, not a parcel.



Actor —Alia Bhatt



Canadian tennis player —Rebecca Marino

We are in Shiv Sena... taking it forward. There should not be any doubt about it.




Maharashtra rebel —Eknath Shinde

FIRST COLUMN

LOT NEEDS TO BE DONE FOR EASE OF LIVING

Challenge of living is a superset of ease of living



VINAYSHIL GAUTAM

Life is in a continuous dynamic mode. Among the more significant elements in the dynamic flow, there is the physical and the cognitive system. The periodic changes inside and outside the body are obvious indicators of change. Simultaneously, the intellectual and the emotional systems undergo a change. As it happens, most communities have little or no formal systems in assisting people to transit through this change.

Thus, the role of an individual in their own growth is a critical aspect of their coping with reality. This they learn through informal processes and from the environment in which they are embedded. This is an important element to keep in mind in studying how formal education through schools and colleges and informal learning from the context and the environment mutually support each other.

Thus, it is that learning that becomes a very important attribute of the act of living. The changes which one goes through physically, intellectually, and emotionally are significant to the very art of survival. This process is embedded in other features.

One grows up and gets married. Children are born out of marriage and the unit of reference changes. Like everything else, this too is a passing phase; children grow up and parents become again a unit of two.

All this is enmeshed in a dynamic social environment. The external governance systems evolve. This raises two important questions in the creation of civil society. One is access to resources and the other is opportunities for growth.



If there are too many moving parts then the challenge of living becomes bigger.

The challenge of living is a superset of the ease of living. Ease of living has to do, among other things, about forms and formats, screenings and verifications. The challenge of living has to do with the very act of availability of inputs such as energy, water, and security. In all this, the act of healthcare is fundamental.

Once this distinction between the challenge of living and ease of living is recognised, progress becomes simpler and therefore amenable to solutions to a higher degree.

Both the above issues, the challenge and the ease of living, cannot be handled without understanding the unit of reference. The unit of reference is often undefined. It can vary from community to community.

Consider the basic act of garbage collection. It is so basic that most people take it for granted. This is an oversimplification. In an upmarket colony of New Delhi, a little over a decade ago it was found that the sewerage pipe was laid parallel to the water pipe and during the monsoons, contamination of the flow in the water pipe took place from the flow in the sewerage pipe. Illness flowed.

Then proper garbage collection was started. One was the segregation of garbage, between the biomass type and the non-biodegradable type. Disposal of segregated garbage was recommended. This practice is yet to take root in many colonies of even the more evolved cities.

This recognition has to go hand in hand with which agency is charged with the level of collection of what type of garbage.

Illustrations can be many. The solutions will have to do with the recognition of the unit of reference: How is the agency for garbage collection decided? Who will be responsible for ensuring the fair distribution of energy, say, electricity? How will water supply be ensured? Put simply, there is a need to focus on identifying the basic unit of reference of understanding and operation of all systems at a local level, just as much as at any other level. Some work has begun, much more is needed.

(The writer is a well-known management consultant of international repute. The views expressed are personal.)

Control mindset hurts privatisation process

The strategic sale of BPCL couldn't be carried out because the Government wants to regulate fuel prices

After over three years of having initiated the sale of its entire 53.29 per cent shareholding in Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited (BPCL)—a Central public sector undertaking (PSU) in the sector of refining and marketing of petroleum products—the Government has decided to put it on hold. What could be the reason behind this move?

Adopted a big-bang approach to privatisation (when government sells its majority stake in a PSU and transfers control to a private entity) in the Budget for 2021-22, Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman had divided Central PSUs in two broad categories—i.e. strategic and non-strategic.

The former is subsumed under four subgroups: atomic energy, space and defense; transport and telecommunications; power, petroleum, coal and other minerals; and banking, insurance and financial services. The non-strategic category includes all other sectors such as hotel and tourist services, industrial and consumer goods, trading, and marketing.

As per the plan, the government's intent was to privatise all undertakings in non-strategic sectors (all loss-making enterprises in this category will be closed). In the case of CPSUs in the strategic sector, it would undertake privatisation with the caveat that at least one (and a maximum of four) will be retained in the public sector.

BPCL being an undertaking in the subgroup 'power, petroleum, coal and other minerals'—considered vital for maintaining the country's energy security—the Government might be contemplating to retain it in sync with energy security. But this was at variance with the decision of BPCL privatisation in 2019-20, much before the 2021-22 Budget announcement. Perhaps there was a retrospective change of policy.

A second major reason could be the lengthy and cumbersome process of approvals and red tape. Under the extant procedures for granting approval, the Niti Aayog identifies companies for strategic disinvestment which are then considered by the Core Group of Secretaries on Divestment (CGD), a long-drawn process by itself. It then goes to the Alternative Mechanism (AM)—a group of ministers including those of Finance and Road Transport & Highways—for approval.

After the AM's approval, the Department of Investment and Public Asset Management (Dipam) moves a proposal for in-principle approval of the Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA).

In short, strategic divestment involves around 12 steps, which inevitably lead to delays in starting the process. And when the Government enters the market, the conditions may not be favorable.

In a case like BPCL, the challenge is even bigger as it needs bidders with deep pockets. For instance, during 2019-20, it needed a strategic investor who could pay

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PRIVATE PLAYERS CAN'T MATCH THE PRICES OFFERED BY HPCL, IOCL AND BPCL. EVEN THE LATTER WON'T BE ABLE TO ABSORB THE UNDER-RECOVERIES BEYOND A POINT, WHICH WILL MANIFEST IN REDUCED SUPPLIES FROM THEM SOONER RATHER THAN LATER

The author is a policy analyst. (www.uttamgupta.com)



around Rs 60,000 crore (prevailing share price multiplied by the number of shares corresponding to 53.29 per cent holding).

In that year, the market environment was favorable even as the international price of crude oil (fortunes of oil companies went in tandem with it) was hovering around \$70 per barrel. The Government could have got strategic investors willing to put the required sum for buying its entire stake. But the bureaucrats were not ready.

During 2020-21, thanks to the Covid pandemic causing large-scale destruction of demand globally, the average price of crude declined to just about \$40 per barrel (in April 2020, it had plummeted to a low of \$20 per barrel). This made the market environment highly unfavorable.

That apart, the entire Government machinery was too preoccupied with mitigating the consequences of the pandemic—protecting both lives and livelihoods of people.

During 2021-22, the price recovered and ruled above \$70 per barrel, most of the time leading to significant improvement in the market environment. But the officials were not ready yet again, leading to deferment of the sale to 2022-23.

During the current fiscal, the international crude price has zoomed because of the Ukraine war, economic sanctions imposed by the US and the European Union on Russia, and the resulting disruption in supplies of oil and gas. With crude price hovering around \$120 per barrel (at one point, it had even touched \$140 per barrel) and substantially higher valuations of oil

companies, this was a propitious time for carrying out the sale. But it was not to be.

The Government's decision to put BPCL sale on hold at this juncture—when market conditions are favorable and all procedures needed to conduct the sale already in place—may sound a bit puzzling. To unravel the puzzle, let us look at the following:

In theory, petrol and diesel prices were deregulated in June 2010 and November 2014, respectively, as the oil companies were given the freedom to fix their retail price, using a formula that combines their respective import parity price (IPP) and export parity price (EPP) in the ratio of 80:20.

But, in practice, political control over the retail prices of petroleum products is still there. The Government can do this because of the three oil marketing Central PSUs—Indian Oil Corporation Limited (IOCL), Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Limited (HPCL), and BPCL—which account for around 90 per cent of the domestic fuel retail network. Well, technically HPCL is a subsidiary of the Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC), but then ONGC is itself a Central PSU.

The managements of ONGC/HPCL, IOCL, and BPCL receive tacit instructions from their bosses to maintain the prices at the desired levels—that is, the levels that top politicians desire. These are often unrelated to the market determined-prices. For instance, the current pump price of petrol in Delhi is Rs 97 per liter which corresponds to a crude benchmark of \$90 per barrel—as against the current crude price of \$115 per barrel for the Indian basket. If these

undertakings were really free to fix the price based on the formula (linked to \$115 per barrel), the pump price would have been Rs 110 per liter.

Against this backdrop, if one of these oil PSUs (that is, BPCL), accounting for about 25 per cent of the retail outlets, goes into private hands, the Government's ability to influence fuel prices will be diminished significantly.

In the current scenario, when the international oil price is projected to remain high, Prime Minister Narendra Modi can't afford to allow an unrestrained hike in the retail prices of fuels—especially in view of a number of impending state elections. He would like to keep the leverage to influence fuel prices. Hence the decision to put the sale of BPCL on the backburner.

But this is a patently unwise move. Already, an artificial cap on retail prices has led to a drastic cut in fuel supplies from private firms such as RIL and Nayara Energy. They can't match the prices offered by HPCL, IOCL, and BPCL. Even the latter won't be able to absorb the under-recoveries beyond a point, which will manifest in reduced supplies from them sooner rather than later.

Besides, it will impact the valuation of BPCL as and when it is taken up for strategic sale in the future.

A big bottleneck that comes in the way of strategic sales is the desire of the establishment to remain in the driver's seat eternally. Until there is a change in the mindset, privatisation of BPCL or, for that matter, of any other PSU won't happen. And if it happens, it won't fetch a good price.

POINTCOUNTERPOINT

WE SHOULD NEVER FORGET THAT DREADFUL PERIOD OF EMERGENCY.... WE MOVE FORWARD, LEARNING FROM EVERY IMPORTANT STAGE OF HISTORY. —PRIME MINISTER NARENDRA MODI




THERE'S COMPETITION BETWEEN THE GOVERNMENT AND THE RUPEE AS TO WHOSE VALUE IS FALLING FASTER? ATTENTION MUST BE PAID TO GOVERNANCE. —CONGRESS LEADER RAHUL GANDHI

Agnipath good for modernisation but needs relook

The scheme is advantageous for youth and national defence but it should be changed with inputs from armed forces

The Government announced on June 14 that all soldiers below the officer ranks of the three wings of the military would be recruited through the Agnipath Scheme. The Government has taken this decision to keep the armed forces young, making the youth disciplined, and rendering them highly skilled after four years of service, besides of course saving money for the modernisation.

The Scheme has been praised by a large number of experts and veterans, but many in the defence community and also the Opposition parties and political observers have expressed their reservations about the scheme, resulting in protests and violent demonstrations all over the



PK VASUDEVA

(The author is a retired senior professor, International Trade.)

country. It is sad that the government property like railways, buses and cars have been burnt by the youth who should be debarred from the recruitment at one and made to pay for the damage to the public property. Nobody can be allowed to indulge in arson whatever the cause.

As opposed to the existing 15 plus years' service, followed by a lifelong pension, the new recruits, Agniveers, will have a four-year tenure, including six months' training. On completion of four years of service, 25 per cent of them will get the permanent cadre, while the rest will be given opportunities in other organisations at the national and state levels.

They will exit with a tax-free purse of approximately Rs

11.71 lakh and return to civil life. Excellent army training, food, clothing, boarding and lodging, a regimented life of four years, a disciplined lifestyle, and a matured mindset will be the hallmarks for the Agniveers.

Over the years, Agniveers would emerge as a strong second line of defence in the country.

The government has announced 10 per cent reservation packages for the retiree Agniveers in Police, Central Armed Police Forces (CARF), Ministry of Defence Undertakings, and Railways after the completion of four years term.

Overall, the scheme is excellent for nation building. It will help build a younger, healthier, and fitter defence military, high-

ly skilled in the changing technological environment. It will also inculcate military discipline, ethos and skilling as a value addition, improving the prospects for those who return to civil society. It will encourage youth to become entrepreneurs for the economic growth of the country.

Yet, it seems that the Centre was not thorough in its homework before launching this scheme. A study known as 'Tour of Duty' (TOD) was carried out about two years ago at the Training Command; all stakeholders gave their inputs.

The scheme needed to be launched as India is emerging as a major pivot in the global order, being a key nation in two security arrangements—one in the Indo-Pacific and another with the US, the UAE,

and Israel. The Indian military has to adapt to the changing strategic interests keeping in view the threat perception from across the borders.

The presentations were made at the Ministry of Defence (MoD) level; the blueprint of the Agnipath Scheme was drawn out for implementation at a suitable time. The army recruitment methodology of leading military nations was kept in mind while framing it. The main planners of this scheme were Training Command, the late CDS General Bipin Rawat, NSA Ajit Doval, Raksha Mantri Rajnath Singh, and Defence Secretary Ajay Kumar, along with the Finance Ministry.

The three service Chiefs had a very limited role to play in formulating the scheme. The committee so constituted

was bureaucratic in nature, which gave the recommendations for a younger and leaner force with reduced financial liability for modernisation.

The Cabinet Committee on Security (CCS) approved this Scheme. However, it was not put up in Parliament. The NSA, who is highly capable in security issues may not be well-versed with the nuances of the armed forces, represented the three services and CDS.

The whole scheme needs to be refurbished by an expert committee which must have members from the armed forces too. The government is making amends to the scheme in a piecemeal manner. The youth of the country is completely confused.

Instead of strengthening the armed forces, the scheme

will weaken their strength if not implemented properly. The committee must go through the pensions of the defence civilians who get one-third of the total defence pensions. They need to be replaced by armed forces personnel.

Politician's pensions have a serious flaw. These also need to be looked into and pruned.

The violent reactions by the youth in the country could have been avoided and a number of lives saved if had been passed by Parliament and discussed at length at the Armed Forces Commanders Conference, before announcing it piecemeal.

The interest of the armed forces cannot be compromised at any cost.

18 KILLED AS RUSSIAN MISSILE HITS CROWDED SHOPPING MALL IN UKRAINE

AP ■ KREMENCHUK

Rescuers searched through charred rubble of a shopping mall on Tuesday looking for more victims of a Russian missile strike that killed at least 18 and wounded scores in what Ukraine's president called "one of the most daring terrorist attacks in European history."

President Volodymyr Zelensky said many of the more than 1,000 afternoon shoppers and workers inside the mall in the city of Kremenchuk managed to escape. Giant plumes of black smoke, dust and orange flames billowed from the wreckage as emergency crews combed through broken metal and concrete for victims. Drones whirled above, clouds of dark smoke still emanating from the ruins several hours after the fire was extinguished.

Casualty figures rose as rescuers sifted through the smoldering rubble. The regional governor, Dmytro Lunin, said at least 18 people were killed and 59 others sought medical assistance, of whom 25 were hospitalised. The region declared a day of mourning Tuesday for the victims of the attack.

"We are working to dismantle the construction so that it is possible to get machinery in there since the metal elements are very heavy and big, and disassembling them by hand is impossible," said Volodymyr Hychkan, an emergency services official.

At Ukraine's request, the UN Security Council scheduled an emergency meeting in New York on Tuesday to discuss the attack.

In the first Russian government comment on the missile strike, the country's first deputy permanent representative to the United Nations, Dmitry Polyansky, alleged multiple inconsistencies that he didn't specify, claiming on Twitter that the incident was a provocation by Ukraine.

Russia has repeatedly denied it targets civilian infrastructure, even though Russian attacks have hit other shopping malls, theaters, hospitals, kindergartens and apartment buildings in the four-month war.



Ukrainian State Emergency Service firefighters work to take away debris at a shopping center burned after a rocket attack in Kremenchuk, Ukraine, Tuesday, June 28
AP Photo | Efrem Lukatsky

On Tuesday, Russian forces struck the Black Sea city of Ochakiv in the Mykolaiv region, damaging apartment buildings and killing two, including a 6-year-old child. A further six people, four of them children, were wounded. One of them, a 3-month-old baby, is in a coma, according to local officials.

The missile strike on Kremenchuk occurred as Western leaders pledged continued support for Ukraine and the world's major economies prepared new sanctions against Russia, including a price cap on oil and higher tariffs on goods.

Meanwhile, the US appeared ready to respond to Zelensky's call for more air defense systems, and NATO planned to increase the size of its rapid-reaction forces nearly eightfold - to 300,000 troops.

Zelenskyy said the mall presented "no tpthreat to the Russian army" and

had "no strategic value." He accused Russia of sabotaging "people's attempts to live a normal life, which make the occupiers so angry."

In his nightly address, he said it appeared Russian forces had intentionally targeted the shopping center and added, "Today's Russian strike at a shopping mall in Kremenchuk is one of the most daring terrorist attacks in European history."

He said Russia "has become the largest terrorist organisation in the world."

Russia has increasingly used long-range bombers in the war. Ukrainian officials said Russian Tu-22M3 long-range bombers flying over Russia's western Kursk region fired the missiles, one of which hit the shopping center and another that struck a sports arena in Kremenchuk.

The Russian strike echoed earlier-

attacks that caused large numbers of civilian casualties - such as one in March on a Mariupol theater where many civilians had holed up, killing an estimated 600, and another in April on a train station in eastern Kratomorsk that killed at least 59 people.

"Russia continues to take out its impotence on ordinary civilians. It is useless to hope for decency and humanity on its part," Zelenskyy said.

The United Nations called the strike "deplorable," stressing that civilian infrastructure "should never ever be targeted," UN spokesman Stéphane Dujarric said.

Group of Seven leaders condemned the attack in a statement late Monday saying "indiscriminate attacks on innocent civilians constitute a war crime. Russian President Putin and those responsible will be held to account."

G-7 leaders pledge to hurt Russia economically



AP ■ ELMAU, GERMANY

Leaders of the world's wealthiest democracies struck a united stance to support Ukraine for "as long as it takes" as Russia's invasion grinds on, and said they would explore far-reaching steps to cap Kremlin income from oil sales that are financing the war.

The final statement Tuesday from the Group of Seven summit in Germany underlined their intent to impose "severe and immediate economic costs" on Russia.

It left out key details on how the fossil fuel price caps would work in practice, setting up more discussion in the weeks ahead to "explore" measures to bar imports of Russian oil above a certain level.

That would hit a key Russian source of income and, in theory, help relieve the energy price spikes and inflation afflicting the global economy as a result of the war.

"We remain steadfast in our commitment to our unprecedented coordination on sanctions for as long as necessary, acting in unison at every stage," the leaders said.

Leaders also agreed on a ban on imports of Russian gold and to step up aid to countries hit with food shortages by the blockade on Ukraine grain shipments through the Black Sea.

The price cap would in theory work by barring service providers such as shippers or insurers from dealing with oil priced above a fixed level. That could work because the service providers are mostly located in the European Union or the U.K. and thus within reach of sanctions.

To be effective, however, it would have to involve as many consuming countries as possible, in particular India, where refiners have been snapping up cheap Russian oil shunned by Western traders. Details on how the proposal would be implemented were left for continuing talks in coming weeks.

The U.S. has already blocked Russian oil imports, which were small in any case. The European Union has decided to impose a ban on the 90% of Russian oil that comes by sea, but that does not take effect until the end of the year, meaning Europe continues to send money to Russia for energy even while condemning the war.

Meanwhile, higher global oil prices have softened the blow to Russia's income, even as Western traders shun Russian oil.

Energy themes were front and center at the summit throughout. Europe is scrambling to find new sources of oil

and fresh supplies of gas as Russia dials back gas supplies in what leaders say is a political move. Meanwhile high energy prices are a headache for G-7 countries' consumers.

The summit host, German Chancellor Olaf Scholz defended the G-7's decision to soften commitments to end public support for fossil fuel investments, saying the war in Ukraine means time-limited support for new natural gas extraction projects may be necessary.

The G-7 nations said in a statement Tuesday at the end of their three-day summit that "in these exceptional circumstances, publicly supported investment in the gas sector can be appropriate as a temporary response."

Before the summit's close, leaders joined in condemning what they called the "abominable" Russian attack on a shopping mall in the town of Kremenchuk, calling it a war crime and vowing that President Vladimir Putin and others involved "will be held to account."

The leaders of the U.S., Germany, France, Italy, the U.K., Canada and Japan on Monday pledged to support Ukraine "for as long as it takes" after conferring by video link with Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy.

Macron: Russia cannot, should not win Ukraine war

AP ■ KREMENCHUK (UKRAINE)

French President Emmanuel Macron said Tuesday that Russia "cannot and should not win" the war in Ukraine, as its terrible toll was on full view the day after a Russian missile strike hit a shopping mall, killing 18 people.

Speaking at the end of the Group of Seven summit in Germany, Macron said the seven industrialised democracies would support Ukraine and maintain sanctions against Russia "as long as necessary, and with the necessary intensity."

He added: "Russia cannot and should not win."

His comments came as rescuers searched through the charred rubble of the shopping mall, looking for more victims of what Ukraine's president called "one of the most daring terrorist attacks in European history."



President Volodymyr Zelenskyy said more than 1,000 afternoon shoppers and workers were inside the mall in the city of Kremenchuk. Giant plumes of black smoke, dust and orange flames billowed from the wreckage as emergency crews combed through broken metal and concrete for victims.

Officials: US sending advanced missile systems to Ukraine

AP ■ WASHINGTON

The US is planning to buy and send more medium- to long-range missile systems to Ukraine, a move officials hope will help Ukrainian forces hold onto the last remaining segments of land in the eastern Donbas that Russia has not yet been able to capture.

A senior defense official said Monday that Ukrainian forces are already effectively using advanced rocket systems, and that more of those will go into Ukraine with trained troops soon. A new plan for the U.S.

To buy and send NASAMS, an advanced surface-to-air missile system, to Ukraine, is also in the works and would add to its longer-range rocket and missile strike capabilities.

President Joe Biden is expected to announce soon that the U.S. is purchasing NASAMS, a Norwegian-developed anti-aircraft system, to provide medium- to long-range

defense for Ukraine, according to an administration official familiar with the matter.

NASAMS is the same system used by the U.S. To protect the airspace around the White House and Capitol in Washington.

Both the defense official and the administration official

spoke on condition of anonymity to discuss U.S. Military assessments and plans that have yet to be announced.

Russia has been mounting an all-out assault on the last Ukrainian stronghold in the eastern Luhansk region - the city of Lysychansk - from the



ground and air, the local governor said Monday.

Luhansk Gov. Serhiy Haidai said Russian forces were pummeling Lysychansk after capturing the neighboring city of Sievierodonetsk in recent days.

It's part of a stepped-up Russian offensive to wrest the broader Donbas region from Ukrainian government control in what Western experts say has become the new main goal of President Vladimir Putin's war in Ukraine, now in its fifth month.

The defense official said the U.S. Continues to see morale and other command and control problems among the Russian forces, and that some local Russian officials in Ukraine have been assassinated in recent days.

The U.S. Has sent four High Mobility Artillery Rocket Systems, or HIMARS, into Ukraine, which already are being used. Four more will go in soon.

Russia bans Biden's wife, daughter from entry

SAP ■ MOSCOW

Russia on Tuesday announced that it was banning the wife and daughter of US President Joe Biden from entering the country, in response to widening sanctions against Russia.

The Foreign Ministry said 25 names were being added to the country's "stop list" including Biden's wife Jill and daughter Ashley.

It also banned entry to four senators whom it identified as "responsible for the formation of the (US)



Russophobic course." Republicans Mitch McConnell, Susan Collins and Ben Sasse and Democrat Kirstin Gillibrand.

The list also includes prominent academics including Francis Fukuyama, noted for his book "The End of History and the Last Man" that posited the spread of liberal democracies could mark the ultimate development of society.

NATO holds Summit with gaze on Russia and China

AP ■ MADRID

Russia's invasion of Ukraine has shocked NATO back to first principles.

Seven decades after it was founded, the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation is meeting in Madrid this week with an urgent need to reassert its original mission: preventing Russian aggression against Western allies.

Leaders of the world's most powerful military alliance are aiming to increase support for Ukraine's fight against Russian invasion, boost forces on NATO's eastern flank and set priorities for the coming decade - with a new emphasis on checking China's growing international ambitions.

But the gathering will also showcase the difficulties in keeping 30 nations - from tiny Iceland and Luxembourg to huge Turkey and the United States - aligned in an organisation that must make decisions by consensus.

FOCUS ON UKRAINE

NATO was formed after World War II to counter the threat from the Soviet Union and foster cooperation in a shattered Europe. In the years after the

collapse of the USSR, the alliance recast Russia not as an adversary but as a "strategic partner."

No longer. Russia is NATO's dominant issue and main adversary, and the Madrid summit will be dominated by how to support Ukraine and bolster defences along the bloc's eastern borders, where countries from Romania to the Baltic states worry they may be next in Russian President Vladimir Putin's sights.

Until late last year, only around 5,000 NATO troops were deployed in the Baltic states and Poland on a rotational basis. Now hundreds of thousands of troops are on heightened alert, with 100,000 US troops in Europe, and 40,000 under direct NATO command, supported by air and naval power.

The summit is set to agree to stockpile weapons and equipment in eastern Europe and to dramatically increase the number of troops based in the region or on standby in their own countries as a rapid-reaction force. There will also be more support for Ukraine to upgrade its military, still reliant on Soviet-era equipment, to modern NATO-standard gear.

The alliance is trying to strike a



delicate balance, letting its member nations arm Ukraine without sparking a direct confrontation between NATO and nuclear-armed Russia.

That's one reason Ukraine will not be joining NATO in the foreseeable future, despite being put on the pathway to membership, along with Georgia, in 2008.

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy is scheduled to address the summit by video, but he has acknowledged joining NATO is a distant prospect and is instead focusing on

seeking European Union membership. Expansion of the alliance is on the cards, however. Finland and Sweden have both abandoned their nonaligned status and asked to join NATO as protection from Russia.

TURKEY AS SPOILER?

But Turkey, which has NATO's second-largest army after the US, is set to play spoiler to the aspirations of Sweden and Finland - at least for now. Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan has insisted that he will only allow the Nordic pair to enter NATO if they change their stance on Kurdish rebel groups that Turkey considers terrorists.

NATO Secretary-General Jens Stoltenberg hosted talks with Turkey, Sweden and Finland last week to work toward a breakthrough, and will meet with the three countries' leaders on Tuesday, but there's no guarantee the breakthrough will come in Madrid.

"Turkey has legitimate security concerns over terrorism that we need to address," Stoltenberg said. "So we will continue our talks on Finland and Sweden's applications for NATO membership, and I look forward to finding a way forward as soon as possible."



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1. Name of the Work: SUPPLY, INSTALLATION, TESTING AND COMMISSIONING OF 220V DC 1395AH Battery SET NO 1 AT DHARASU POWER HOUSE

2. Cost of work : Rs. 1.7184909 Cr(GST Inclusive)

3. Period of Completion : 180 days

4. Date & Time of availability of bid document in the portal: 30.06.2022 from 16:00 Hrs

5. Last Date/Time for receipt of bid in the portal: 27.07.2022 up to 16:00 Hrs.

6. Date of opening of bid on the website : 30.07.2022 at 12:00 Hrs.

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46 MIGRANTS FOUND DEAD IN ABANDONED TRAILER IN SAN ANTONIO

AP ■ SAN ANTONIO

Forty-six people were found dead after being abandoned in a tractor-trailer on a remote back road in San Antonio in the latest tragedy to claim the lives of migrants smuggled across the border from Mexico to the U.S. Sixteen people were hospitalized, including four children.

A city worker heard a cry for help from the truck shortly before 6 p.m. Monday and discovered the gruesome scene, Police Chief William McManus said. Hours later, body bags lay spread on the ground near the trailer and bodies remained inside as authorities responded to the calamity.

San Antonio Mayor Ron Nirenberg said the 46 who died had "families who were likely trying to find a better life."

"This is nothing short of a horrific human tragedy," Nirenberg said. It's among the deadliest of the tragedies that have claimed thousands of lives in recent decades as people attempt to cross the U.S. border from Mexico. Ten migrants died in 2017 after being trapped inside a truck parked at a Walmart in San Antonio. In 2003, the bodies of 19 migrants were found in a sweltering

truck southeast of San Antonio.

The home countries of all of the migrants and how long they were abandoned on the side of the road were not immediately known.

Among them, 22 are from Mexico, seven are from Guatemala and two are from Honduras, Roberto Velasco Álvarez, head of the North America department in Mexico's Foreign Relations Department, said on Twitter.

"Our condolences," he tweeted. "All responsible will be brought to justice."

South Texas has long been the busiest area for illegal border crossings. Migrants ride in vehicles through Border Patrol checkpoints to San Antonio, the closest major city, from which point they disperse across the United States.

Officers arrived to find a body on the ground outside the trailer and a partially opened gate to the trailer. Three people were taken into custody, but it was unclear if they were definitively connected with human trafficking, McManus said. The trailer was gone Tuesday morning, but access to the area where it was found remained blocked.

Of the 16 taken to hospitals with heat-related illnesses, 12 were adults and four were children, said Fire



Chief Charles Hood. The patients were hot to the touch and dehydrated, and no water was found in the trailer, he said.

"They were suffering from heat stroke and exhaustion," Hood said. "It was a refrigerated tractor-trailer, but there was no visible working AC unit on that rig."

Those in the trailer were part of a presumed migrant smuggling attempt into the United States, and the investigation was being led by U.S. Homeland Security Investigations, McManus said.

Big rigs emerged as a popular smuggling method in the early 1990s amid a surge in U.S. border enforce-

ment in San Diego and El Paso, Texas, which were then the busiest corridors for illegal crossings.

Before that, people paid small fees to mom-and-pop operators to get them across a largely unguarded border. As crossing became exponentially more difficult after the 2001 terror attacks in the U.S.,

migrants were led through more perilous terrain and paid thousands of dollars more.

Heat poses a serious danger, particularly when temperatures can rise severely inside vehicles. Weather in the San Antonio area was mostly cloudy Monday, but temperatures approached 100 degrees Fahrenheit (38 degrees Celsius).

Some advocates drew a link to the Biden administration's border policies. Aaron Reichlin-Melnick, policy director at the American Immigration Council, wrote that he had been dreading such a tragedy for months.

"With the border shut as tightly as it is today for migrants from Mexico, Guatemala, Honduras and El Salvador, people have been pushed into more and more dangerous routes. Truck smuggling is a way up," he wrote on Twitter.

Stephen Miller, a chief architect of former President Donald Trump's immigration policies, said, "Human smugglers and traffickers are wicked and evil" and that the administration's approach to border security rewards their actions.

Texas Gov. Greg Abbott, a Republican running for reelection, was blunt in a tweet about the Democratic president: "These deaths

are on Biden. They are a result of his deadly open border policies."

Migrants - largely from Mexico, Guatemala, Honduras and El Salvador - have been expelled more than 2 million times under a pandemic-era rule in effect since March 2020 that denies them a chance to seek asylum but encourages repeat attempts because there are no legal consequences for getting caught. People from other countries, notably Cuba, Nicaragua and Colombia, are subject to Title 42 authority less frequently due to higher costs of sending them home, strained diplomatic relations and other considerations.

U.S. Customs and Border Protection reported 557 deaths on the southwest border in the 12-month period ending Sept. 30, more than double the 247 deaths reported in the previous year and the highest since it began keeping track in 1998. Most are related to heat exposure.

CBP has not published a death tally for this year but said that the Border Patrol performed 14,278 "search-and-rescue missions" in a seven-month period through May, exceeding the 12,833 missions performed during the previous 12-month period and up from 5,071 the year before.

Abortion battles in State courts after US Supreme Court ruling

AP ■ NEW ORLEANS

Abortion bans were temporarily blocked in Louisiana and Utah, while a federal court in South Carolina said a law sharply restricting the procedure would take effect there immediately as the battle over whether women may end pregnancies shifted from the nation's highest court to courthouses around the country.

The US Supreme Court's decision on Friday to end constitutional protection for abortion opened the gates for a wave of litigation. One side sought quickly to put statewide bans into effect, and the other tried to stop or at least delay such measures.

Much of the initial court activity focused on "trigger laws," adopted in 13 states that were designed to take effect swiftly upon last week's ruling. Additional lawsuits could also target old anti-abortion laws that were left on the books in some states and went unenforced under Roe. Newer abortion restrictions that were put on hold pending the Supreme Court ruling are also coming



back into play.

"We'll be back in court tomorrow and the next day and the next day," Nancy Northup, president and CEO of the Center for Reproductive Rights, which argued the case that resulted in the high court ruling, said Friday.

Rulings to put trigger laws on hold came swiftly in Utah and Louisiana on Monday, and a hearing was scheduled for Tuesday as Texas clinics seek assurances they can resume services for at least a few more

weeks without risking prosecution.

A Utah judge Monday blocked that state's near-total abortion ban from going into effect for 14 days, to allow time for the court to hear challenges to the state's trigger law. Planned Parenthood had challenged the law, which contains narrow exceptions for rape, incest or the mother's health, saying the law violates the equal protection and privacy provisions in the state constitution.

"I think the immediate effects that will occur outweigh any policy interest of the state in stopping abortions," Utah Judge Andrew Stone said.

In Louisiana, a judge in New Orleans, a liberal city in a conservative state, temporarily blocked enforcement of that state's trigger-law ban on abortion, after abortion rights activists argued that it is unclear. The ruling is in effect pending a July 8 hearing.

At least one of the state's three abortion clinics said it would resume performing procedures on Tuesday.

"We're going to do what we can," said Kathaleen Pittman, administrator of Hope Medical Group for Women, in Shreveport. "It could all come to a screeching halt."

Louisiana Attorney General Jeff Landry, a Republican and staunch abortion opponent, vowed to fight the judge's ruling and enforce the law.

"We would remind everyone that the laws that are now in place were enacted by the people through State Constitutional Amendments

and the LA Legislature," Landry tweeted Monday.

In South Carolina, a federal court lifted its prior hold on an abortion restriction there, allowing the state to ban abortions after an ultrasound detects a heartbeat, usually around six weeks into a pregnancy, before many women know they are pregnant. There are exceptions if the woman's life is in danger, or if the pregnancy is the result of rape or incest.

Planned Parenthood said after the ruling that it will continue to perform abortions at its South Carolina clinics within the parameters of the new law.

Also Monday, abortion rights advocates asked a Florida judge to block a new law there that bans the procedure after 15 weeks with some exceptions to save a mother's life or if the fetus has a fatal abnormality, but no exceptions for rape, incest or human trafficking. The ACLU of Florida argued that the law violates the Florida Constitution. A ruling on that is expected Thursday - a day before the law is scheduled to take effect.



UN: More than 3 lakh civilians killed in Syria's conflict

AP ■ GENEVA

The first 10 years of Syria's conflict, which began in 2011, killed more than 300,000 civilians, the United Nations said Tuesday - the highest official estimate to date of conflict-related civilian deaths in the country.

Syria's conflict began with anti-government protests that broke out in March 2011 in different parts of the country, demanding democratic reforms following Arab Spring protests in Egypt, Tunisia, Yemen, Libya and Bahrain that removed some Arab leaders who had been in power for decades.

However, it quickly turned into a full-blown civil war that has killed hundreds of thousands and destroyed large parts of the country.

Tuesday's report published by the UN Human Rights Office followed what it said were rigorous assessment and statistical analysis of available data on civilian casualties.

According to the report, 306,887 civilians are estimated to have been killed in Syria between March 1, 2011, and March 31, 2021, because of the conflict.

The figures released by the UN do not include soldiers and insurgents killed in the conflict; their numbers are believed to be in the tens of thousands. The numbers also do not include

people who were killed and buried by their families without notifying authorities.

"These are the people killed as a direct result of war operations. This does not include the many, many more civilians who died due to the loss of access to healthcare, to food, to clean water and other essential human rights," said UN High Commissioner for Human Rights Michelle Bachelet.

The report, mandated by the UN Human Rights Council, cited 143,350 civilian deaths individually documented by various sources with detailed information, including at least their full name, date and location of death.

Also, statistical estimation techniques were used to connect the dots where there were missing elements of information. Using these techniques, a further 163,537 civilian deaths were estimated to have occurred.

"The conflict-related casualty figures in this report are not simply a set of abstract numbers, but represent individual human beings," Bachelet said.

She added that the work of civil society organisations and the UN in monitoring and documenting conflict-related deaths is key in helping families and communities establish the truth, seek accountability and pursue effective remedies.

Germany: Former Nazi guard, 101, jailed for aiding murder

AP ■ BERLIN

A 101-year-old man was convicted in Germany of 3,518 counts of accessory to murder on Tuesday for serving at the Nazis' Sachsenhausen concentration camp during World War II.

The Neuruppin Regional Court sentenced him to five years in prison.

The man, who was identified by local media as Josef S., had denied working as an SS guard at the camp and aiding and abetting the murder of thousands of prisoners.

In the trial, which opened in October, the man said that he had worked as a farm labourer near Pasewalk in northeastern Germany during the period in question.

However, the court considered it proven that he worked at the camp on the outskirts of Berlin between 1942 and 1945 as an enlisted member of the Nazi Party's paramilitary wing, the German news agency dpa reported.

"The court has come to the conclusion that, contrary to what you



claim, you worked in the concentration camp as a guard for about three years," presiding Judge Udo Lechtermann said, according to dpa, adding that in doing so, the defendant had assisted in the terror and murder machinery of the Nazis.

"You willingly supported this mass extermination with your activity," Lechtermann said. Prosecutors had based their case on documents relating to an SS guard with the man's name, date and place of birth, as well as other documents. The five-year prison sentence was in line with the prosecution's demand. However, the defendant can appeal the court's ruling.

New Yorker convicted of importing illegal controlled substances from India

PTI ■ WASHINGTON

A federal grand jury on Monday convicted a New Yorker of importing illegal controlled substances from India and money laundering, a US attorney said.

Ezhil Sezhan Kamalodoss, from Queens in New York, faces up to 50 years of imprisonment.

"The defendant is now a convicted drug dealer. He lined his pockets off the black-market sales of millions of illegal opioids and misbranded prescription pills without regard for the harm caused by the abuse of these highly addictive and dangerous drugs," United States Attorney Breon Peace stated.

"With today's verdict, the defendant is held accountable for having a hand in every aspect of his pill mill, from the importing of unapproved medications from India to personally filling orders for these drugs for customers throughout the country," he said.

According to federal prosecutors, between May 2018 and August 2019,

Kamalodoss participated with others in a transnational drug-trafficking conspiracy, which involved the importation of misbranded prescription drugs, including Tramadol, a synthetic opioid, into the US from India, repackaging the drugs at a pill mill operating out of a warehouse in Jamaica, Queens, and shipping the drugs via the United States mail to customers throughout the US.

During the course of the charged conspiracy, Kamalodoss and the men who worked for him distributed millions of Tramadol pills, sometimes purchasing hundreds of thousands of pills at a time.

Additionally, Kamalodoss conspired to launder the proceeds of the drug-trafficking operation by using the illicit profits to reinvest in the business, including by paying shipping costs incurred by his co-conspirators - including nearly USD 200,000 in Federal Express costs paid off in exchange for additional pills, it said.

Jordan promises inquiry into deadly blast at Red Sea port

AP ■ AQABA (JORDAN)

Jordan's prime minister on Tuesday said he has instructed authorities to launch an investigation into the deadly blast the previous day at the Red Sea port of Aqaba that killed at least 13 people.

A crane loading chlorine tanks onto a ship on Monday dropped one of them, causing an explosion of toxic yellow smoke. Along with those killed, some 250 were sickened, authorities said.

Prime Minister Bisher al-Khasawneh visited the site on Tuesday and, citing civil defence and environmental authorities, said the gas concentration in the area had returned to normal.

He said that most movement at the port has resumed, except for the exact site of the incident which was being cleaned and inspected.

Al-Khasawneh said "other nationalities" were among the

dead, without elaborating. He said many of those in hospitals were being discharged.

Video carried on state TV showed the moment the tank exploded, sending dockworkers scrambling to escape the toxic cloud. Some 200 people were hospitalised.

The Public Security Directorate, which initially described it as a gas leak, said authorities sealed off the area after evacuating the injured and sent specialists in to address the situation.

State-run Jordan TV said 13 people were killed. Al-Mamlaka TV, another official outlet, said 199 were still being treated in hospitals.

The Public Security Directorate said a total of 251 people were injured.

Aqaba is on the northern tip of the Red Sea, next to the Israeli city of Eilat, which is just across the border. Both are popular beach and diving destinations.

Navalny appeal rejected; another Kremlin critic jailed



AP ■ MOSCOW

A Russian court has rejected an appeal by imprisoned opposition leader Alexei Navalny, who contended that prison authorities illegally prevented his lawyers from bringing necessary equipment including voice recorders and laptop computers to a court session held in a prison.

Navalny testified at the Tuesday session by video, the first time he has been seen since being moved to a maximum-security prison. A lower court had previously rejected his complaint about the recording devices ban.

Close associates of Navalny have faced criminal charges and many have left Russia. Authorities shut down his group's political infrastructure - an anti-corruption foundation and a nationwide network of offices - by labeling it extremist.

On Tuesday, prominent opposition politician Ilya Yashin was sentenced to 15 days in jail on charges of failing to obey police.

He was detained late Monday while walking in a park, and police said he had grabbed one officer by the uniform and vulgarly insulted them.

Germany: Over 2,700 antisemitic incidents reported in 2021

AP ■ BERLIN

A group tracking antisemitism in Germany said on Tuesday it documented more than 2,700 incidents in the country last year, including 63 attacks and six cases of extreme violence.

In a report, the Department for Research and Information on Anti-Semitism (RIAS) said the coronavirus pandemic with its anti-Jewish conspiracy narratives and the Middle East conflict with antisemitic criticism of Israel were

the main drivers of the 2,738 incidents it documented.

The incidents include both criminal and non-criminal incidents, the group said.

The German government's commissioner to combat antisemitism, Felix Klein, called the number of incidents - more than seven per day - frightening, but also said that "at the same time, each of the reported incidents is also a step toward reducing the dark figures".

Right-wing extremists were responsible for 17 per cent of

the incidents, but more than half of all the antisemitic incidents could not be assigned to a specific political view, the report said.

Among cases of "extreme violence," RIAS included an attack on a Jewish participant in a vigil for Israel in Hamburg and a shooting at a Jewish community centre in Berlin.

Altogether, 964 people - both Jews and non-Jews - were directly affected by antisemitic incidents, Benjamin Steinitz, the head of RIAS, told reporters in Berlin.

Scottish leader to give route map to new independence vote

AP ■ LONDON

Scottish First Minister Nicola Sturgeon is set to deliver a statement on Tuesday setting out how she believes a new referendum on Scottish independence could be held.

Scottish voters rejected independence in a 2014 referendum, with 55 per cent of voters saying they wanted to remain part of the United Kingdom.

But Sturgeon, who leads the Scottish National Party and the devolved government

in Scotland, has said it's time to revisit the matter because of changes brought about by Brexit. She wants a new vote on independence before the end of 2023.

That would need a green light from the UK-wide government of Prime Minister Boris Johnson, who opposes a new referendum and has said the issue was settled in the 2014 vote. Sturgeon maintains that her party's success in local elections last year gives her a mandate for a fresh referendum.

Hinckley says he's sorry for shooting that wounded Reagan

AP ■ WASHINGTON

The man who wounded President Ronald Reagan in 1981 apologised for his actions Tuesday and said he doesn't remember what he was feeling when he fired the shots that also wounded three others.

John Hinckley Jr. Told CBS Mornings in his first televised interview since he was freed from all court oversight this month that he feels sorry for all the lives his actions affected.

"I feel badly for all of them. I have true remorse for what I

did," Hinckley said. "I know that they probably can't forgive me now, but I just want them to know that I am sorry for what I did."

Asked about what feelings led him to commit the act, Hinckley said he can't remember those emotions and doesn't want to.

"It's such another lifetime ago. I can't tell you now the emotion I had right as (Reagan) came walking out. I can't tell you that," he said, later adding: "It's something I don't want to remember."

Council OK's GST relief, e-way bill by States

Chandigarh:The GST Council on Tuesday approved changes in tax rates on some goods and services while allowing states to issue an e-way bill for intra-state movement of gold and precious stones, officials said.

The Council, chaired by Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman and comprising state counterparts, also cleared a host of compliance procedures for GST-registered businesses along with a GoM report on high-risk tax payers to check evasion.

The discussion on the crucial issues of extension of compensation to states beyond June 2022 and the imposition of 28 per cent GST on casinos, online gaming and horse racing, will take place on Wednesday.

Opposition-ruled states have been pressing for either extension of the GST compensation regime or increasing states' share in revenue from the current 50 per cent.

In the meeting on Tuesday, the Council accepted the interim report of the group of state finance ministers, headed by Karnataka Chief Minister Basavaraj S Bommai, on rate rationalisation, including correction of inverted duty structure and removing tax exemption on some items, to simplify the rate structure.

The GoM had suggested withdrawal of GST exemption on a host of services including on hotel accommodation or less



than ₹1,000 per day and replacing it with a 12 per cent tax. It also recommended a levy of 5 per cent GST on room rent (excluding ICU) charged for hospitalised patients where the hospital room charges are above ₹5,000 per day.

It wanted all post office services other than postcards and inland letters, book post and envelopes weighing less than 10 gm, to be taxed. Also, cheques, loose or in book form should be taxed at 18 per cent, the GoM recommended. **PTI**

Opp States for continuation of GST compensation

Chandigarh: States ruled by Opposition parties have demanded that either the revenue sharing formula under the GST regime should be changed or the compensation period should be extended by five years, amid concerns over revenue losses.

The Goods and Services Tax (GST) was introduced on July 1, 2017, and states were assured of compensation for the revenue loss till June 2022, arising on account of the GST rollout.

As the GST Council commenced here on Tuesday, the states have also cited a recent Supreme Court ruling that decisions made by the Council are not binding and states need not stick to them.

The ruling by the court has been seen by some as states having powers to determine taxation. **PTI**

Credit card spend crosses ₹1.13 L cr in May: RBI data

Mumbai: Credit card spending has crossed ₹1.13 lakh crore in May compared to ₹1.05 lakh crore in the previous month according to official data.

The month-on-month rise in spending through cards indicates a pick-up in economic activity.

The latest data from the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) showed that 7.68 crore credit card holders spent about ₹71,429 crore for buying online, while the amount was spent through swipes at Point of Sale (PoS) machines stood at ₹42,266 crore in May.

In terms of the number of transactions, credit card payments were marginally lower online at 11.5 crore against 12.2 crore offline or at PoS machines.

The trend also indicates that cardholders are making higher value transactions online on an average than through offline means.

Credit card holders spent ₹65,652 crore for buying online, while the amount spent through Point of Sale (PoS) machines was ₹39,806 crore in April.

As far as the debit card is concerned, the spending through PoS and online together was ₹65,957 crore during the month.

The spending through PoS was ₹44,305 crore against e-commerce spending of ₹21,104 crore through the debit card in



May.

During the month, there has been an addition of about 20 lakh credit cards. The number of the card was 7.51 crore in April.

HDFC Bank had the highest number of credit cards at 1.72 crore in May as the RBI lifted the ban on the issuance of new credit cards in March.

In terms of credit cards, HDFC Bank was followed by the State Bank of India (1.41 crore) and ICICI Bank (1.33 crore) at the end of May 2022.

The RBI had imposed a ban on HDFC Bank in December 2020, asking the lender to stop all launches of its upcoming digital business-generating activities and sourcing of new credit card customers after repeated outages at its data centre, which impacted operations.

The ban was partially lifted in August last year and fully in March this year. **PTI**

Sensex, Nifty close slight up amid markets recovery



Global Surfaces files IPO draft papers with Sebi



New Delhi: Global Surfaces Ltd, which is engaged in the business of processing natural stones and manufacturing engineered quartz, has filed preliminary papers with Sebi to mop up funds through an initial public offering (IPO).

The IPO comprises fresh issuance of 85.20 lakh equity shares and an offer-for-sale (OFS) of up to 25.5 lakh equity shares by promoters --- Mayank Shah and Sweta Shah, according to the draft red herring prospectus (DRHP).

Funds raised through fresh issuance of equity shares will be used for setting up the company's proposed facility -- Global Surfaces FZE-- in Dubai.

For FY22, the company posted a profit after tax of Rs 35.63 crore as compared to Rs 33.93 crore in FY21 and its total income was at Rs 198.35 crore as against Rs 179 crore in FY21. Unistone Capital is the sole book running lead manager to the issue. The equity shares of the company will be listed on the BSE and NSE. **PTI**

'Slowing exports, rising cost likely to limit home textile cos' profitability to 13% 2023'

Mumbai: Lower export demand and a sharp increase in raw material and transportation costs are likely to result in moderate operating profitability for home textile makers at around 13 per cent in this financial year, according to a report.

"Slowing exports growth and high cotton prices will hit the operating margins of home textile exporters by 150-200 pps or around 13 per cent this fiscal.

The rupee's depreciation against the dollar and sustenance of the China+1 policy by global buyers will cushion the hit on profitability to some extent," Crisil Ratings Senior Director Mohit Makhiya said.

The second half of this fiscal should gradually restore demand momentum and market share for Indian home textile exporters as freight and raw cotton costs moderate, and ease pressure on profitability, he added.

Exports account for 60-70 per cent of the Indian home textile industry's revenue, of which over 58 per cent shipments are sent to the US, according to the Crisil Ratings report.

The report stated that global demand for home textiles is expected to be impacted in the near-term by inflationary headwinds, with big-box retailers pruning inventory and consumers cutting down on discretionary spends.

A slowdown in the sales of key US retailers in the past 3-6 months has led to an on-year decline of 5-6 per cent in overall home textile exports from India between January and April 2022, it noted.

Adding to the demand challenge, the price of raw cotton, a key input in home textiles, has more than doubled year-on-year in May to Rs 1,00,000 per candy (about 356 kg), it said.

This will remain a challenge for exporters till the new cotton crop arrives starting October, the report said.

Supply-chain disruptions leading to volatility in ocean freight rates will also impact profitability, it added.

Overall, the report said that the Indian home textile industry's revenue is expected to grow 11-12 per cent this fiscal, primarily because of higher price realisations.

Domestic demand (comprising 30-40 per cent of Indian home textile industry's revenue) is expected to grow at a healthy 13 per cent, driven by sharp demand recovery in the domestic hospitality industry and continued focus on health and hygiene, it said. **PTI**

Mandaviya reviews preparations for India-Chem event

New Delhi: Chemical and Fertiliser Minister Mansukh Mandaviya on Tuesday reviewed the preparation for the upcoming 12th edition of India-Chem to be held in October.

The three-day event beginning October 6, 2022 will be organised in association with industry body FICCI.

Mandaviya also launched a brochure with the theme "Vision 2030 - Chemicals and Petrochemicals Build India, an official statement said.

Minister of State for Chemicals and Fertilizers Bhagwant Khuba, Secretary Arti Ahuja and members of FICCI were present in the review meeting.

"The event will showcase tremendous potential and supportive government policy for sustainable growth in the sector. It will also provide a platform for domestic and international investors and other stakeholders to interact and forge alliances..." Mandaviya said. While the government has been providing a favourable ecosystem for global investors with its "ease of business" policies and incentives, the upcoming global event will showcase India as a favourable destination for investors and stakeholders in the chemicals sector, he added.

Currently, the market size of the Indian chemicals and petrochemicals sector is USD 178 billion. India is the sixth largest chemicals producer in the world and exports to more than 175 countries. It accounts for 13 per cent of India's total exports. **PTI**

Gold rises ₹52; silver falls ₹60

New Delhi: Gold price in the national capital rose by Rs 52 to Rs 50,770 per 10 grams on Tuesday, according to HDFC Securities.

In the previous trade, the yellow metal settled at Rs 50,718 per 10 grams.

Silver, however, slipped by Rs 60 to Rs 60,128 per kg from Rs 60,188 per kg in the previous trade. The rupee plunged by 46 paise to close at record low of 78.83 (provisional) against the US dollar on Tuesday, weighed down by persistent foreign capital outflows and a surge in crude oil prices.

In the international market, gold was trading higher at USD 1,827 per ounce while silver was flat at USD 21.27 per ounce. "Gold prices have held bound range trading on mixed global cues on slowdown worries and larger rate hike expectations from US Federal Reserve," said Tapan Patel, Senior Analyst (Commodities) at HDFC Securities. **PTI**

'India needs 115 GW RE power to meet 5 mn tonnes green hydrogen target by 2030'

New Delhi: India will need 115 GW of renewable power generation capacity and 50 billion litres of demineralised water supply to achieve the goal of five million tonnes of green hydrogen by 2030, as per the EY India-SED Fund report.

In this decade, industrial feedstock-based applications will drive the demand for green hydrogen, a statement said.

Price parity between green and grey hydrogen production will determine the speed and scale of transition, said the EY-SED Fund report titled 'Accelerating Green Hydrogen Economy', released at the CII's conference on 'Green New Energy for a Net Zero India' in Bengaluru.

The report highlights that India's ambition to produce 5 million tonnes of green hydrogen by 2030 will need 115 GW of renewable power generation capacity and 50 billion litres of demineralised water supply.

To get a sense of this scale, the current all-India installed capacity of renewable power generation is 113 GW as of May 2022.

"The impact of the COVID-19 pandemic and the ongoing global conflict are stark reminders of how India's dependence on energy imports and other commodities linked to global supply chains can threaten its strategic interests. The emergence of green hydrogen as a promising low carbon feedstock and energy carrier for industrial applications is a boon for India's long-term energy security, sustainability and self-reliance," Somesh Kumar, Partner and National Leader, Power & Utilities, EY India, said.

The levelised cost of green hydrogen production and storage (LCOH) is currently Rs 400/kg.

Around 40-50 per cent of this cost can be attributed to the renewable energy power plant, 30-40 per cent for electrolyser stack and balance of system, including demineralised water supply and 20-30 per cent for compressed storage, the report said. **PTI**

PTC completes consulting assignment for HPCL

New Delhi: Power trading solution provider PTC India on Tuesday said it has completed a consulting assignment for HPCL for the latter's Visakh Refinery Modernization Project.

HPCL intends to expand the refining capacity from 8.5 mmtpa to 15 mmtpa under the project, a company statement said. Mmtpa refers to Million Metric Tonne per Annum.

PTC has completed the transmission and GIS (geographic information system) consulting assignment for HPCL, it said.

To facilitate the new units, for a reliable grid power supply at 220kV level, HPCL intends to evacuate 220kV power supply from the nearest grid pooling substation at Kalapaka, Andhra Pradesh, it said.

PTC was involved in this project since conceptualization, carrying out the feasibility study, detailed engineering and estimation, package designing, bid process management and subsequently providing project management advisory services to HPCL.

PTC along with its consortium partner WAPCOS has jointly taken up project management consultant works. It is involved in supervision of survey works, detailed engineering, drawing review and approvals, inspection of equipment/material and issuing dispatch clearances, among others. **PTI**

Rupee tanks 46 paise to close at record low of 78.83 against USD

Mumbai: The rupee plunged by 46 paise to close at record low of 78.83 (provisional) against the US dollar on Tuesday, weighed down by persistent foreign capital outflows and a surge in crude oil prices.

At the interbank foreign exchange market, the rupee opened lower at 78.53 against the greenback and finally settled at 78.83, down 46 paise over its previous close.

During the session, the rupee touched an all-time low of 78.85 against the American currency.

"The Indian rupee touched an all-time low against the US Dollar amid weak domestic equities and a surge in crude oil prices. Sustained selling by foreign investors also put downside pressure on Rupee," Anuj Choudhary - Research Analyst at Sharekhan by BNP Paribas said.

The rupee is expected to trade on a negative note on risk aversion in domestic markets and continued selling pressure from foreign institutional investors (FIIs). Elevated oil prices may also weigh on the domestic currency, Choudhary said.

Meanwhile, the dollar index, which gauges the greenback's strength against a basket of six currencies, was trading 0.01 per cent higher at 103.95.

Markets are reassessing their expectations of Fed rate hike. Traders may also take cues from the US consumer confidence data, which is expected to worsen from the previous month. **PTI**



ONGC chopper crashes into Arabian Sea, 4 dead

New Delhi/Mumbai: A brand new Pawan Hans' Sikorsky chopper with 9 people on board crashed into the Arabian Sea, about 50 nautical miles from the Mumbai coast on Tuesday, killing four people -- including three ONGC employees.

The helicopter, was about 4-5 minutes away from its destination - ONGC's Sagar Kiran rig - when the incident took place, company officials with direct knowledge of the matter said.

The chopper went down around 1145 hrs, just 1 nautical mile away from Sagar Kiran, but managed to stay afloat with the help of the attached floaters, helping rescuers pull out all the nine, including two pilots, after ONGC and Navy/Coast Guard scrambled in one of the fastest rescue missions in the western offshore.

Four of the nine pulled out were unconscious and airlifted in a Navy chopper to a hospital in Mumbai, where they were declared dead, an official said.

Three of the dead are employees of Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC), the state-owned firm which had hired helicopter service from Pawan Hans to support its oil and gas exploration and production operations in the western offshore.

The fourth person belongs to a contractor working for ONGC. The circumstances that led to the incident were not immediately known but western offshore had inclement weather and there was a swell in the sea.

Officials said ONGC has already instituted an inquiry into the incident.

The Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) is also likely to order a separate inquiry. Detailing sequence, officials said the chopper took off from Juhu helibase this morning just like any other day but 1 or 1.5 km from the landing zone on the rig, it went down into the sea.



SRM IHM records 100% placement for its 2021- 22 batch

Kattankulathur: SRM Institute of Hotel Management (IHM) at SRM Institute of Science and Technology (SRMIST), Kattankulathur is proud to announce that the 2021-22 outgoing batch has been 100% placed.

IHM recently conducted the Cruise Lines Campus Recruitment Drive 2022 for the present and previous batches. Over 100 students took part in this exciting job offer. Of those place, one alumni Mr. Rathinavel Pandian (2020-21 batch) has received a job offer with the highest package of 845 US\$ per month.

This was announced at a press meet organized at SRM Hotel. The meet was chaired by SRMIST's Vice Chancellor C. Muthamizhchelvan, Registrar S. Ponnusamy and IHM Director D. Antony Ashok Kumar.

Speaking at the press conference, Antony said, "This year we have done 100% placement along with the highest package offered. We not just prepare our students for hotels, they are simultaneously prepared for cruises and airlines among other things.

Addressing the media, C. Muthamizhchelvan said, "Students always look for Colleges that offer placements. This is our specialty. Good Health and wellbeing is one of the UNESCO's eight Sustainable Development Goals. And we at IHM promote this.

Students have been placed under various cadres like Junior Sous Chef, Sous Chef, CDP, Assistant CDP, Pastry Bakery Chefs, Galley Utility, Housekeeping, and Restaurant utility. This recruitment drive remained as a great source of job and experience provider to the candidates. **PNS**



Olympic medallist hockey player Varinder Singh dies



PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Olympic and World Cup medallist Varinder Singh, who was an integral part of some of India's memorable victories in the 1970s, died in Jalandhar on Tuesday morning. He was 75. Singh was part of the Gold-medal winning Indian team at the 1975 men's Hockey World Cup in Kuala Lumpur. This remains India's only Gold medal at the prestigious tournament where the country had beaten arch-rivals Pakistan 2-1 in the final. Singh was also part of the Bronze medal-winning team at the 1972 Munich Olympics and Silver medal at 1973 World Cup in Amsterdam. He also had to his credit a Silver medal at the 1974 and 1978 Asian Games, respectively. The Indian hockey stalwart also featured in the 1976 Montreal Olympics.

ODISHA HYDRO POWER CORPORATION LIMITED.
OFFICE OF THE SENIOR GENERAL MANAGER (ELECTRICAL):
BALMELA HYDRO ELECTRIC PROJECT-POST: BALMELA- DIST: MALANGIRI (ODISHA): PIN: 754 051.
Phone: 0676-2328110 / 2328111 FAX: - 0676-232854-
E mail: -cunit.head_balmela@yahoo.com>
CAD-461 REGD. OFFICE: ODISHA HYDRO POWER CORPORATION LIMITED.
(A Government of Odisha Undertaking)
ODISHA STATE POLICE HOUSING & WELFARE CORPORATION BUILDING, VANDHAR CHOUK, JANAPATH, BHUBANESWAR-72
Tel. : 91-674-254263, 254302, 2542526, 2543026, Fax: 254102, GRAM: HYDROPOWER
E-MAIL: shpc.co@gmail.com / oshpcodisha.com, WEB: www.oshpcod.com

NOTICE INVITING TENDER No. BHPP/DE-III/18/2022-23 Dtd:-28.06.2022

Sealed Tenders are invited in two part bid basis from the Electrical Contractors/Firms/Agencies having experience in the execution of similar work under State/Central PSU/Govt. of Odisha & having valid license & fulfilling the eligibility criteria as per the tender specification for the work as mentioned below.

Sl. No.	Description of Work	Cost of tender paper (Non-refundable) In Rs.	Period of availability of tender documents	Last date & Time of receipt of Tender	Date & Time of opening of Techno-commercial bid
1	SUPPLY, INSTALLATION, TESTING & COMMISSIONING OF LED STREET LIGHTING PROJECT AT VALVE HOUSE ROAD OF BHPP, BALMELA	Rs. 6000/- + (GST @ 18%)(580/- + Rs. 700/-)	02.07.2022	16.07.2022 up to 12:00PM	16.07.2022 at 12:30PM

The date of opening of Price Bid will be intimated later on to the technically qualified bidders only. For details of the tender documents, terms & conditions, please visit our website www.oshpcod.com

OIPR-0419110020223 Unit Head' BHPP, Balmela

THE ODISHA STATE COOPERATIVE BANK LTD.
Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru Marg, Bhubaneswar – 751 001

Ref. No. **OSCB /RRBDD /1540 /2022-23** Date : **27.06.2022**

LL-06 **NOTICE**

The list of shortlisted candidates for the Main Examination for recruitment of Assistant Manager Grade – II (Preliminary examination held on 06.03.2022) and Banking Assistant Grade – II (Preliminary examination held on 13.03.2022) has been hoisted in the website of OSCB.

The candidates may view the same in the Odisha State Cooperative Bank Official Website www.odishascb.com.

Tentative Schedule of Events :

Activity	Tentative Dates
Download of Call Letters for Examination	10 days before Examination
Online Mains Examination	16.07.2022

Sd/-
Managing Director

OIPR-39012/11/0010/2223

GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA
OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER,
PARALAKHEMUNDI(R&B) DIVISION, PARALAKHEMUNDI.
B-318

Bid Identification No. S.E., PKD. R&B DIVN. - 03/2022-23 Date: **27.6.2022**

No. **1795**

INVITATION FOR BIDS

1.	The Superintending Engineer, Paralakhemundi (R&B) Division on behalf of Governor of Odisha Invites Percentage rate bid in Double cover system to be received in on ONLINE MODE only for the construction of works as detailed in the table below:	
2.	Nature of works	: Building works
3.	No. of works	: 2 [Two] nos. of works
4.	Estimated cost (Approximately)	: Rs. 71.40 & 99.16 Lakhs
5.	Bid cost	: Rs. 10000/-
6.	Class of contractor	: "B" class / "A" Class
7.	Availability of Bid Documents in the website	: 10.00 Hrs of Dt. 05.07.2022 To 17.00 Hrs. of Dt.11.07.2022
8.	Date of opening of the Bid	: 12.00Hrs. of Dt.12.07.2022
9.	The Bidders have to participate in ONLINE bidding only. Further details can be seen from the website http://tendersorissa.gov.in Any Addendum /Corrigendum/Cancellation of tender can also be seen in the said website. The authority reserves the right to reject any or all bids without assigning any reason thereof.	

Superintending Engineer
Paralakhemundi(R&B) Division

OIPR-34065/11/0009/2223

ODISHA JOINT ENTRANCE EXAMINATION (OJEE)

Consequent upon the provisions of the Odisha Professional Educational Institutions (Regulation of Admission and Fixation of Fee) Act,2007, the Odisha Joint Entrance Examination Committee was formed on recommendation of Policy Planning Body with due approval by the Government (Skill Development and Technical Education Department) following the resolution no:I-TTE-45/2013-3842/ETET dated 04.07.2013 for the purpose of holding Common Entrance Examinations and conducting counselling process for admission to various Undergraduate / Postgraduate Level Professional Courses in the State of Odisha.

For the 2022–2023 academic session, the Committee will conduct the Joint Entrance Examination for Undergraduate courses such as B. Tech. (Special OJEE), B.Pharm, B. CAT, Lateral Entry to B.Tech, Lateral Entry to B.Pharm and Postgraduate courses like MBA, MCA, M.Tech, M.Arch, M.Plan, M.Pharm and Integrated MBA in various Universities, Govt. Colleges and Self-Financed Institutes in the State.

Furthermore, the Committee will conduct the counselling-cum-admission process for admission to all the above mentioned courses in addition to the B. Tech, B. Arch. and B. Plan courses basing on the All India Rank of Odisha State candidates in the JEE (MAIN) - 2022.

The Committee is also responsible for conducting the counselling-cum-admission process for admission in MBBS, BDS, BAMS and BHMS courses in Universities, Govt. Colleges and Self-Financed Institutes in the State basing on the All India Rank of Odisha State candidates in the NEET (UG) – 2022.

Over last three years, the OJEE Committee has implemented significant reforms in the entire process by switching over to Entrance Examinations through Computer Based Tests (CBT) in place of pen-and-paper method and also adopting online counselling instead of physical counselling.

The endeavour of the OJEE Committee has always been directed towards conducting Entrance Examinations and Admissions in a fair, transparent and efficient manner for various professional Undergraduate and Postgraduate level courses in the State adopting effective state-of-the-art technology.

For the coming academic year 2022 - 23, the Odisha Joint Entrance Examination (OJEE – 2022) is going to be conducted during 4 th – 8 th of July, 2022, for which there are about 58,000 applicants. The examination will be conducted in 62 Test Centres spread over all the 30 districts of the State, besides 3 centres outside Odisha in Kolkata, Ranchi and Patna. The candidates can download their Admit Cards from OJEE website (www.ojee.nic.in /www.odishajee.com) with effect from 27.06.2022.

The OJEE Committee takes this opportunity to convey their best wishes to all the candidates of OJEE – 2022.

CHAIRMAN

DSPL-87



ବିଦ୍ୟାଳୟ ଓ ଗଣଶିକ୍ଷା ବିଭାଗ, ଓଡ଼ିଶା ସରକାର
ପ୍ରଗତିପଥେ ସମଗ୍ର ଶିକ୍ଷା ...



ଛାତ୍ରଛାତ୍ରୀମାନଙ୍କର ଗୁଣାତ୍ମକ ଶିକ୍ଷାକୁ ନିଶ୍ଚିତ କରିବାର ଏକ ପ୍ରୟାସ ...

- ପ୍ରାକ୍ ପ୍ରାଥମିକ ଠାରୁ ଦ୍ଵାଦଶ ଶ୍ରେଣୀ ପର୍ଯ୍ୟନ୍ତ ଛାତ୍ରଛାତ୍ରୀ ମାନଙ୍କୁ ସମଗ୍ର ଶିକ୍ଷା ଯୋଜନାରେ ଗୁଣାତ୍ମକ ଶିକ୍ଷା ପ୍ରଦାନ ।
- ଶିକ୍ଷା ଭିତ୍ତିଭୂମିର ରୂପାନ୍ତରୀକରଣ କରିଥାରେ ସମସ୍ତଙ୍କ ପାଇଁ ଆନନ୍ଦମୟ ଶିକ୍ଷା ଉପଲବ୍ଧ ।
- କୋଭିଡ୍-୧୯ ମହାମାରୀ ସମୟରେ ବିଦ୍ୟାଳୟ ଶିକ୍ଷା ପରିଚାଳନା ପାଇଁ ପ୍ରଥମ ଭୂ ଦର୍ଶନ ଓ ଦ୍ଵାଦଶ ଶ୍ରେଣୀ ଛାତ୍ରଛାତ୍ରୀ ମାନଙ୍କ ନିମନ୍ତେ ‘ଅନଲାଇନ୍ ଯୁବୁବ’ କ୍ଲବ୍ ସଫଳ ସିଧା ପ୍ରସାରଣ ।
- ‘ଶିକ୍ଷା ଦର୍ପଣ’ କାର୍ଯ୍ୟକ୍ରମ ମାଧ୍ୟମରେ ଦୂରଦର୍ଶନ ଓଡ଼ିଆ ଚ୍ୟାନେଲରେ ବୃତୀୟ ଶ୍ରେଣୀଠାରୁ ଦଶମ ଶ୍ରେଣୀ ଓ ଦ୍ଵାଦଶ ଶ୍ରେଣୀ ଛାତ୍ରଛାତ୍ରୀମାନଙ୍କ ପାଇଁ କାର୍ଯ୍ୟକ୍ରମର ପ୍ରସାରଣ ।
- ‘ରେଡ଼ିଓ ପାଠାଶାଳା’ କାର୍ଯ୍ୟକ୍ରମ ଦ୍ଵାରା ପ୍ରଥମରୁ ଅଷ୍ଟମ ଶ୍ରେଣୀ ଛାତ୍ରଛାତ୍ରୀମାନଙ୍କ ନିମନ୍ତେ ଶିକ୍ଷାଦାନର ବ୍ୟବସ୍ଥା ।
- ‘ମୌଳିକ ସାକ୍ଷରତା ଓ ସଂଖ୍ୟାଜ୍ଞାନ’ କାର୍ଯ୍ୟକ୍ରମ ଦ୍ଵାରା ପ୍ରଥମ, ଦ୍ଵିତୀୟ ଓ ତୃତୀୟ ଶ୍ରେଣୀ ପିଲାମାନଙ୍କ ପାଇଁ ଓଡ଼ିଆ ଓ ଗଣିତ ବିଷୟରେ କାର୍ଯ୍ୟପୁଷ୍ଟିକା ସହ ଓଡ଼ିଆ ବିଷୟରେ ବିଭିନ୍ନ ପ୍ରକାରର ଅତିରିକ୍ତ ଶିକ୍ଷଣ ପୁଷ୍ଟିକା ବିଦ୍ୟାଳୟ ସ୍ତରରେ ଉପଲବ୍ଧ ।
- ‘ପ୍ରତିକାରାତ୍ମକ ଶିକ୍ଷଣ’ କାର୍ଯ୍ୟକ୍ରମ ମାଧ୍ୟମରେ ଚତୁର୍ଥରୁ ଅଷ୍ଟମ ଶ୍ରେଣୀ ଛାତ୍ରଛାତ୍ରୀମାନଙ୍କ ନିମନ୍ତେ ବିଭିନ୍ନ ବିଷୟରେ କାର୍ଯ୍ୟପୁଷ୍ଟିକା ବ୍ୟବସ୍ଥା ।
- DIKSHA ଆପ୍ ମାଧ୍ୟମରେ ଛାତ୍ରଛାତ୍ରୀ/ ଶିକ୍ଷକ/ ଶିକ୍ଷୟିତ୍ରୀ ଓ ଅଭିଭାବକମାନଙ୍କ ପାଇଁ ଶ୍ରେଣୀ ଓ ବିଷୟାନୁଯାୟୀ ଡିଜିଟାଲ୍ Content ଗୁଡ଼ିକ ଉପଲବ୍ଧ କରାଯାଇଅଛି ।
- ବିଭିନ୍ନ ପ୍ରଶିକ୍ଷଣ କାର୍ଯ୍ୟକ୍ରମ ମାଧ୍ୟମରେ ଶିକ୍ଷକ ତଥା ପ୍ରଧାନ ଶିକ୍ଷକମାନଙ୍କର ଦକ୍ଷତା ବିକାଶ ।
- ରୂପାନ୍ତରିତ ଉଚ୍ଚ ମାଧ୍ୟମିକ ବିଦ୍ୟାଳୟ ମାନଙ୍କର ଶିକ୍ଷକ ତଥା ପ୍ରଧାନ ଶିକ୍ଷକମାନଙ୍କୁ ସ୍ଵତନ୍ତ୍ର ପ୍ରଶିକ୍ଷଣ Digital Skill , Leadership, 21st century skill etc.) ପ୍ରଦାନ ।
- ଭିନ୍ନକ୍ଷମ ଶିକ୍ଷାର୍ଥୀ ମାନଙ୍କ ଚିହ୍ନଟ ଓ ତାଙ୍କର ପରୀକ୍ଷା ଶିବିରର ଆୟୋଜନ, ସହାୟକ ଉପକରଣ, ବ୍ରେଲ୍ ବହି, ବଡ଼ ଛପା ବହି, ସହାୟକ ଓ ଯାତାୟତ ଭଡା, ବାଲିକା ଛାତ୍ରବୃତ୍ତି, ଶିକ୍ଷକ ପ୍ରଶିକ୍ଷଣ ଅଭିଭାବକ ତାଲିମ, ଥେରାପି ଇତ୍ୟାଦିର ବ୍ୟବସ୍ଥା ।
- ସମସ୍ତ ସରକାରୀ ଓ ସରକାରୀ ଅନୁଦାନ ପ୍ରାପ୍ତ ବିଦ୍ୟାଳୟ କାର୍ଯ୍ୟକଳାପର ତଦାରଖ ଓ ପରିଚାଳନା, ଶୈକ୍ଷିକ ଉନ୍ନତି, ନିରାପଦ ଯୋଜନା ପ୍ରଣୟନ, ବିଦ୍ୟାଳୟ ଭିତ୍ତିଭୂମିର ଉନ୍ନତି ଏବଂ ଛାତ୍ରଛାତ୍ରୀମାନଙ୍କର ବୌଦ୍ଧିକ ଓ ସହବୌଦ୍ଧିକ ଅଗ୍ରଗତିର ସମୀକ୍ଷା ତଥା ଉନ୍ନତ ବିଦ୍ୟାଳୟ ପରିଚାଳନା ପାଇଁ ବିଦ୍ୟାଳୟ ପରିଚାଳନା କମିଟି/ ବିଦ୍ୟାଳୟ ପରିଚାଳନା ଓ ଉନ୍ନୟନ କମିଟି ଗଠନ ।
- ବିଦ୍ୟାଳୟ ସମ୍ପର୍କିତ ଅଭିଯୋଗ ଗ୍ରହଣ, ଅନୁଧ୍ୟାନ ଓ ସମାଧାନ ନିମନ୍ତେ ସ୍କୁଲ ଷ୍ଟୁଡେଣ୍ଟ୍ ହେଲ୍ପଲାଇନ୍ -୧୮୦୦-୩୪୫୬୭୨୨/୧୪୫୧୭୧ର ପ୍ରଚଳନ ।

- ଆଦିବାସୀ ଅଧ୍ୟୁଷିତ ଅଞ୍ଚଳରେ ଅନୁସୂଚିତ ଜନଜାତିର ପିଲାମାନଙ୍କୁ ନିଜ ମାତୃଭାଷାରେ ଶିକ୍ଷାଦାନ ପାଇଁ ପ୍ରାଥମିକ ବିଦ୍ୟାଳୟରେ ‘ମାତୃଭାଷାଭିତିକ ବହୁଭାଷୀ ଶିକ୍ଷାକାର୍ଯ୍ୟକ୍ରମର’ ପ୍ରଚଳନ ।
- ବିଦ୍ୟାଳୟ ବାହାରେ ଥିବା ବା ଅଧାରୁ ପାଠ ଛାଡ଼ିଥିବା ଛାତ୍ରଛାତ୍ରୀଙ୍କୁ ଚିହ୍ନଟ କରି ସେମାନଙ୍କ ପାଇଁ ସ୍ଵତନ୍ତ୍ର ତାଲିମ ମାଧ୍ୟମରେ ମୁଖ୍ୟସ୍ତ୍ରୋତକୁ ଆଣିବା ବ୍ୟବସ୍ଥା ।
- ରାଜ୍ୟର ସମସ୍ତ ସରକାରୀ ବିଦ୍ୟାଳୟ ଓ ସରକାରୀ ଅନୁଦାନପ୍ରାପ୍ତ ବିଦ୍ୟାଳୟଗୁଡ଼ିକରେ ପ୍ରଥମରୁ ଅଷ୍ଟମ ଶ୍ରେଣୀରେ ପଢୁଥିବା ସମସ୍ତ ଛାତ୍ରଛାତ୍ରୀମାନଙ୍କୁ ମାଗଣାରେ ପାଠ୍ୟପୁସ୍ତକ ଯୋଗାଣ ଓ ପୋଷାକ ବିତରଣ ।
- ବାଳିକା ଶିକ୍ଷାର ଉନ୍ନତି ନିମନ୍ତେ ରାଜ୍ୟର ଶିକ୍ଷା କ୍ଷେତ୍ରରେ ଅନଗ୍ରସର ଥିବା ବ୍ଲକ୍ରେ ୧୮୨ଟି କଣ୍ଟରବା ଗାନ୍ଧୀ ବାଳିକା ବିଦ୍ୟାଳୟ ଛାତ୍ରୀନିବାସ କାର୍ଯ୍ୟକ୍ଷମ ଓ ୬୪ଗୋଟି ବାଳିକା ଛାତ୍ରୀନିବାସ ଟାଇମ୍-୪ କାର୍ଯ୍ୟକ୍ଷମ ଅଛି ।
- ସହରାଞ୍ଚଳରେ ଶିକ୍ଷାରୁ ବଞ୍ଚିତ ଛାତ୍ରଛାତ୍ରୀ ମାନଙ୍କ ପାଇଁ ୧୭ଟି ଆବାସିକ ଛାତ୍ରାବାସ । LWE କୋରାପୁଟ ଓ ମାଲକାନଗିରି ଜିଲ୍ଲାରେ ପିଲାମାନଙ୍କ ପାଇଁ ୪ଗୋଟି ଆବାସିକ ବିଦ୍ୟାଳୟ ।
- ରାଜ୍ୟର ସମସ୍ତ ସରକାରୀ ବିଦ୍ୟାଳୟର ପାଠାଗାର ପାଇଁ ଶ୍ରେଣୀ /ବୟସ ଭିତିକ ପାଠାଗାର ପୁସ୍ତକ ଉପଲବ୍ଧ ।
- ଶିକ୍ଷା ସମ୍ବନ୍ଧୀୟ କାର୍ଯ୍ୟକ୍ରମର ଅନୁଧ୍ୟାନ ଏବଂ ତତ୍ ସମ୍ବନ୍ଧୀୟ ତଥ୍ୟ ଉପଲବ୍ଧ କରାଯିବା ପାଇଁ ସି.ସି.ସି. (କମାଣ୍ଡ ଏବଂ କଣ୍ଟ୍ରୋଲ ସେଣ୍ଟର) ‘ଶିକ୍ଷା ସମ୍ପର୍କ’ ଗଠନ ।
- ରାଜ୍ୟର ସମସ୍ତ ସରକାରୀ ଓ ସରକାରୀ ଅନୁଦାନପ୍ରାପ୍ତ ବିଦ୍ୟାଳୟରେ ପଢୁଥିବା ନବମରୁ ଦ୍ଵାଦଶ ଶ୍ରେଣୀ ଛାତ୍ରଛାତ୍ରୀଙ୍କ ଭବିଷ୍ୟତ ବୃତ୍ତି ଚୟନର ଦିଗ୍ଦର୍ଶନ ନିମନ୍ତେ ଓଡ଼ିଶା କ୍ୟାରିଅର ପୋର୍ଟାଲ୍ ଗଠନ ।
- ମଧ୍ୟାହ୍ନ ଭୋଜନ କାର୍ଯ୍ୟକ୍ରମ ମାଧ୍ୟମରେ ବିଦ୍ୟାଳୟମାନଙ୍କରେ ପୋଷଣ ଓ ରୋଷ ଉଦ୍ୟାନର ବିକାଶ ।
- ବିଦ୍ୟାଳୟରେ ଧନ୍ଦାତ୍ମକ ଶିକ୍ଷାର ପ୍ରଚଳନ – ରାଜ୍ୟରେ ଜାତୀୟ ଶିକ୍ଷାନୀତି ଆଧାରରେ ବିଦ୍ୟାଳୟ ସ୍ତରରେ ୫୦% ଛାତ୍ରଛାତ୍ରୀମାନଙ୍କୁ ୨୦୨୫ ସୁଦ୍ଧା ଧନ୍ଦାତ୍ମକ ଶିକ୍ଷା ଅନ୍ତର୍ଗତ କରାଯିବାକୁ ଯୋଜନା ପ୍ରସ୍ତୁତ କରାଯାଇଛି । ଏଯାବତ୍ ୯୬୧ ଗୋଟି ଉଚ୍ଚ ବିଦ୍ୟାଳୟ ଓ ଉଚ୍ଚ ମାଧ୍ୟମିକ ବିଦ୍ୟାଳୟରେ ୧୧ଗୋଟି ଟ୍ରେଡ୍ କରିଥାରେ ଧନ୍ଦାତ୍ମକ ଶିକ୍ଷାର ପ୍ରଚଳନ କରାଯାଇଅଛି ।

OIPR-27068/13/0010/2223

India to tour NZ for limted overs series after T20 WC

PTI ■ WELLINGTON

India will be touring New Zealand for a white-ball series comprising three T20Is and as many ODIs after the World T20 in Australia, New Zealand Cricket (NZC) said on Tuesday.

The series will be held between November 18 to 30 and New Zealand will return to India for a white-ball series in January next year.



"India will arrive in New Zealand at the conclusion of the world cup to play the Black Caps in three T20s at Wellington, Tauranga and Napier, and three ODIs at Auckland, Hamilton and Christchurch," NZC said in a release.

"The Black Caps will then

depart for the sub-continent for a tour of Pakistan and a short form series in India, before returning in early February to prepare for the two Tests against England — at Tauranga (D/N) and Wellington."

India will be playing a rescheduled one-off fifth Test against England beginning on Friday,

besides featuring in three T20Is and as many ODIs at the Old Blighty.India will then tour the West Indies for a white-ball series comprising three ODIs and five T20Is in July-August in the run-up to the T20 World Cup.

In a jam-packed international schedule, New Zealand will also

play a day-night Test against England, while six teams will be touring the country in the 2022-23 home summer.

Besides India, the other touring teams include Pakistan, Bangladesh, England and Sri Lanka men's teams, and Bangladesh women.

EAST COAST RAILWAY

Tender Notice No. SRDCM/KUR/OUTSOURCING/ ENQUIRY/1/2022, Dated : 22.06.2022

DESCRIPTION : CONTRACT FOR OUTSOURCING OF MAN-POWER FOR OPERATION OF COACH INDICATION BOARD, TRAIN INDICATION BOARD, AUTO AND MANUAL ANNOUNCEMENT SYSTEM AND FACE TO FACE ENQUIRY, TELEPHONIC ENQUIRY, COACH GUIDANCE BOARDS AND OTHER ALLIED WORKS PERTAINING TO PASSENGER ANNOUNCEMENT AND INFORMATION FACILITATION ROUND THE CLOCK AT BHUBANESWAR, CUTTACK, PURI, BHADRAK, JAJPUR, KEONJHAR ROAD, KHURDA ROAD, BRAHMAPUR, PALASA, BALUGAON, DHENKANAL, ANGUL, ICHCHAPURAM, CHATRAPUR RAILWAY STATIONS AND COMMERCIAL CONTROL OF KHURDA ROAD DIVISION FOR A PERIOD OF 02 (TWO) YEARS (731 DAYS) FROM THE DATE OF COMMENCEMENT OF WORK.

Approximate cost of the work : ₹3,48,17,992/-, EMD : ₹3,27,300/-, Completion Period : 24 (Twenty four) Months.


Tender Opening Date and Time : At 1630 Hrs. of 13.07.2022.

No manual offers sent by Post / Courier/ Fax or in person shall be accepted against such e-tenders. All such manual offers shall be rejected summarily without any consideration.

Complete information including e-tender documents of the above e-Tender is available in website : <https://www.gem.gov.in>

Note : The prospective tenderers are advised to revisit the website ten (10) days before the date of closing of tender to note any changes/corrigendum issued for this tender. The tenderers/ bidders must have Class-III Digital Signature Certificate and must be registered on GEM Portal. Only registered tenderer/ bidder can participate on e-tendering.

Divisional Railway Manager (Comm.)/ PR-234/N/22-23 Khurda Road



B-320

GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA, "e"-PROCUREMENT NOTICE

WORKS DEPARTMENT

E-mail: pwdoff_khd@yahoo.com


Tender Call Notice No. 10/2022-23

The Superintending Engineer, Khurda (R&B) Division, Khurda on behalf of Governor of Odisha invites percentage rate bid in **Single cover** system in ONLINE MODE from eligible class of contractors having valid registration certificate for execution of the **E.I** work as detailed below:

1. Nature of Work : E.I work
2. No of Work : 01 No
3. Tender Cost : Rs.6000.00 (Online)
4. Class of Contractor : HT Licence
5. Available of Bid documents in the web site. : From Dt. 04.07.2022 at 10.30 AM to Dt . 13.07.2022 at 5.00 PM
6. Date of opening of Bids : Dt 14.07.2022 at 11.30 AM
7. Bidders have to participate in ONLINE bidding only. Further details can be seen from the Website: <https://tenderodisha.gov.in> . Any information regarding Addendum / Corrigendum / Cancellation of tender can be available in the said website.

Sd/-
Executive Engineer,
Khurda (R&B) Division, Khurda

OIPR-34095/11/0004/2223




MESSAGE

I am extremely delighted to note that national English daily The Pioneer is observing its 17th anniversary in June 2022. In Odisha, The Pioneer has done commendable services to the people with a great deal of public awareness on the issues of the nation. Its columns in Odisha offer interesting readings under the editorship of veteran journalist S.P. Nanda, who is considered as a doyen of Odisha journalism having rendered six decades of his career. I wish The Pioneer sanguine success in its glorious journey.

Mrs Snehangini Chhuria, MLA, Attabira

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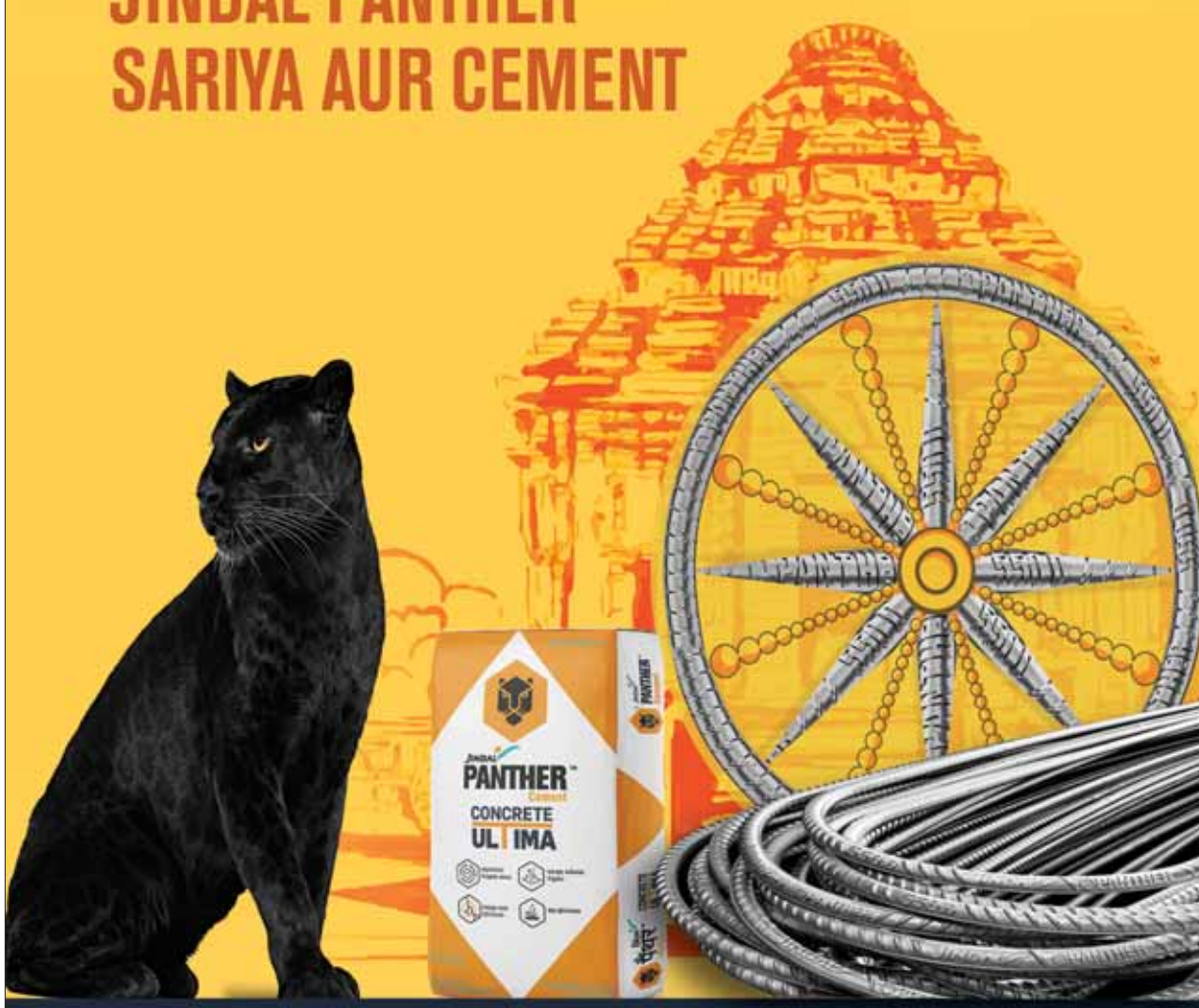
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