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the pioneer

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AUS BEAT SRI LANKA BY 4 WICKETS
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LEGAL BATTLE AWAITS CONFIDENT SHINDE CAMP

Sena rebels to go to court if Dy Speaker disqualifies 12 MLAs

TN RAGHUNATHA ■ MUMBAI

Having lobbed the ball into Maharashtra's Deputy Speaker Narhari Sitaram Zirwal's court in their own tactful ways, the Eknath Shinde camp and the ruling Maha Vikas Aghadi (MVA) constituents on Friday prepared themselves to play an active part in the procedural tangles that will unfold in the run-up to the confidence vote that the Uddhav dispensation may seek sometime next week.

Deputy Speaker Zhirwal, who has been acting as the Assembly Speaker since February 2021 in the absence of a full-fledged Speaker, will have a tough task in hand in dealing with the claims and counter-claims to be made by the Shinde camp and the MVA Government.

Given the complex nature of the emerging situation and the ramifications of the anti-defection law that will come into play in the coming days, the matters relating to the possible disqualifications of MLAs may land in courts, leading to the delay in the resolution of the current political crisis in Maharashtra.

Taking the first step, Deputy Speaker Narhari recognised the decision taken by the parent Shiv Sena Legislature Party (SSLP) on June 21 sacking the rebel Sena leader and Minister Shinde as the Sena group leader in the State Assembly and replacing him with its senior party functionary Ajay Choudhury.

The recognition of the parent Sena leadership's decision to appoint Choudhary as the new SSLP leader in place of Shinde means that the Deputy Speaker has a strong reason to believe that the parent has enough numbers to act in a manner it has done.

The chair's ruling allowing the appointment of Choudhary as the new SSLP leader has ticked off the rebel Shinde camp, which is preparing to challenge the deputy speaker's order in the Bombay High Court on Saturday morning.

On its part, the rebel Sena camp on Thursday submitted a fresh letter to the Deputy Speaker that 37 rebel Shiv Sena MLAs camping in Guwahati (which is more than the requisite two-third strength i.e, 36 MLAs out of total 55 Sena MLAs in the State Assembly) reaffirming that Shinde would continue as the Sena group leader in the State Assembly. Till Friday evening, the Deputy Speaker had not accepted the claim that the Shinde camp enjoyed the support of 37 Sena MLAs.

If the Deputy Speaker accepts the rebel Sena camp's claim that Shinde enjoys the support of 37 out of the total 55 Sena MLAs in the Assembly and declares him as the Sena legislature party leader, the parent party will be as good as over. Because, the Shinde faction — if it has two-thirds of the parent party's strength in the Assembly — can merge with another party or become a separate group in the House without attracting penal provisions of the anti-defection law.

On the other hand, the parent Sena party is hoping against hope that the Deputy Speaker will disqualify 12 MLAs, including Eknath Shinde, for allegedly violating the party whip, based on a written request made to that effect by the parent Sena's new SSLP leader Ajay Choudhury on Thursday.

Continued on Page 2

Shiv Sena leader Eknath Shinde along with other rebel Shiv Sena MLAs at a hotel in Guwahati on Friday PTI

Deputy Speaker set to serve notice on rebels

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Amid high political drama in Maharashtra, Deputy Speaker Narhari Zirwal is likely to start disqualification proceedings against 16 rebel Shiv Sena MLAs on Saturday. The Deputy speaker's office is expected to send notices to the rebel MLAs and the disqualification hearing may take place on Monday.

The rebel MLAs will then have to fly to Mumbai from Guwahati to attend the hearing, something Eknath Shinde camp might resist through a legal battle.

As a first step, two independent MLAs of the Eknath Shinde camp have moved a no-confidence motion against Zirwal to stop them from acting against the rebel MLAs.

So far, the Deputy Speaker has been favorably disposed towards the Uddhav Thackeray camp. The Deputy Speaker has accepted the Shiv Sena recommendation to appoint Ajay Choudhari as the Sena's Legislature Party leader in place of Shinde. In doing so, the Deputy Speaker turned down suggestions by the Shinde camp to appoint Bharat Gogawala as the Sena's whip.

Continued on Page 2

Shinde's U-turn: No national party in touch with us

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

A day after claiming that a "powerful national party" was supporting his group of MLAs in the ongoing political drama in Maharashtra, Shiv Sena rebel Eknath Shinde on Friday said no national party is in contact with them.

Asked if BJP was backing his group, Shinde told a TV channel, "When I said a big power is backing us, I meant the power of Balasaheb Thackeray and (late Shiv Sena leader) Anand Dighe."

Responding to a query on when will the political crisis in Maharashtra end, Shinde, a minister in the Uddhav Thackeray-led Government in the state, said things will be clear after some time. "Out of 55 Shiv Sena MLAs, 40 have come with me to Guwahati. In a democracy, the majority and numbers count," he said.

NDA candidate Draupadi Murmu files her nomination papers for presidential election in the presence of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Union Ministers Rajnath Singh, Amit Shah, Nitin Gadkari and BJP president JP Nadda at Parliament House in New Delhi on Friday PTI

J&K to host G-20 leaders; diplomatic win post Art 370

UT has set up 5-member high level panel for first ever G-20 meet in India

MOHIT KANDHARI ■ JAMMU

Come 2023, the Union Territory of Jammu & Kashmir will be extending a red carpet welcome to the G-20 leaders, an influential grouping that brings together the world's major economies.

This major development is already seen as a major diplomatic victory for India especially after the abrogation of Article 370 and 35-A in August 2019.

India has been a member of G-20 since its inception in 1999. New Delhi will be holding the G-20 Presidency from 1 December 2022 and will convene the G-20 Leaders' Summit in 2023 for the first time.

World leaders of G-20 member nations — the United States, Russia, China, Germany, France, Argentina, Australia, Brazil, Canada, India, Indonesia, Italy, Japan, Mexico, Saudi Arabia, South Africa, South Korea, Turkey, and the United Kingdom — are expected to attend the meeting.

G-20 brings together 19 of the world's leading economies and the European Union, with its members accounting for more than 80 per cent of global GDP, 75 per cent of global trade and 60 per cent of the global population.

The UT administration is scheduled to host the world leaders in Kashmir valley. To facilitate the meeting, the UT administration has already constituted a five-member high level committee for overall coordination.

In September last year, Union Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal was appointed as India's Sherpa for the G-20. The Ministry of External Affairs had said that India will hold the G-20 presidency from December 1, 2022, and will convene the G-20 leaders' summit in 2023 for the first time.

According to an official order issued here on Thursday, the Union Territory's housing and urban development department principal secretary will be the chairman of the committee which was formed in response to a June 4 communication from the Ministry of External Affairs.

"Sanction is hereby accorded to the constitution of a committee…for overall coordination of G-20 meetings to be held in the Union Territory of J&K," said the order issued by Principal Secretary, General Administration Department, Manoj Kumar Dwivedi. The members of the committee include Commissioner Secretary (Transport), Administrative Secretary (Tourism), Administrative Secretary (Hospitality and Protocol) and Administrative Secretary (Culture).

Continued on Page 2

SC rejects Zakia's plea against SIT's clean chit to Modi

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

Upholding the SIT's clean chit to Narendra Modi in Gujarat riots of 2002, the Supreme Court on Friday dismissed Zakia Jafri's petition alleging conspiracy at the highest level, observing that these are attempts to "keep the pot boiling" for years and abuse of process with ulterior design.

Bringing the curtains down on the bid to reopen the probe, a bench headed by Justice AM Khanwilkar said the material collected during the investigation did not "give rise to strong or grave suspicion regarding hatching of larger criminal conspiracy at the highest level" for causing mass violence against Muslims.

The bench, also comprising Justices Dinesh Maheshwari and CT Ravikumar termed the petition of Congress MP Ehsan Jafri's widow as "the devious stratagem to keep the pot boiling, obviously, for ulterior design" and said all those involved in "such abuse of process need to be in the dock and proceeded with in accordance with law". The court said the present proceedings (by Zakia Jafri) have been pursued for the last 16 years with the audacity to question the integrity of every functionary involved in the process.

The apex court also said that disgruntled officers of the Gujarat Government need to be in the dock and proceeded with in accordance with law for creating a sensation by making false revelations on the 2002 riots. The top court also said it finds force in the argument of the State that the testimony of Sanjiv Bhatt (then IPS officer and now in jail for custodial torture) and RB Sreekumar (now retired IPS officer) was only to sensationalise and politicise the matters in issue, "although, replete with falsehood".

"At the end of the day, it appears to us that a coalesced effort of the disgruntled officials of the State of Gujarat along with others was to create a sensation by making revelations which were false to their own knowledge. The falsity of their claims had been fully exposed by the SIT after a thorough investigation," said the apex court.

Continued on Page 2

SC upholds death to minor divyang's rapist

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Friday sent to gallows a man for kidnapping, raping, and killing a seven-and-a-half-year-old mentally and physically challenged girl in 2013, saying the crime was of the nature of "extreme depravity which shocks the conscience" and left "no other option but to confirm the death sentence".

The apex court upheld the death sentence given by the Rajasthan High Court to convict Manoj Pratap Singh

"We may sum up thus: In the case of the present nature, the crime had been of extreme depravity, which shocks the conscience, particularly looking to the target (a seven-and-a-half-year old mentally and physically challenged girl) and then, looking to the manner of committing murder, where the hapless victim's head was literally smashed, resulting in multiple injuries, including a fracture of frontal bone...," said a bench of Justices AM Khanwilkar, Dinesh Maheshwari and CT Ravikumar.

Condemned convict Manoj Pratap Singh, then 28 years of age, had kidnapped the physically and mentally challenged minor girl in front of her parents from their fruit and vegetable vending cart on January 17, 2013, brutally raped her at a secluded place before killing her by smashing the head in Rajsamand district, Rajasthan.

The bench rejected the contention that in the case, hinging on circumstantial evidence, the death penalty should not be awarded saying that if the conviction can be sustained on such proof then the extreme penalty can also be imposed depending on the nature of the offence.

"In the present case, where all the elements surrounding the offence as also all the elements surrounding the offender cut across the balance sheet of aggravating and mitigating circumstances, we are clearly of the view that there is absolutely no reason to commute the sentence of death to any other sentence of lesser degree," Justice Maheshwari said.

Continued on Page 2

Daily Covid count shoots up to 4-month high to over 17K

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

India on Friday reported a single-day count of over 17,000 fresh Covid-19 cases after a gap of over four months (124 days), recording a 30 per cent jump in daily cases.

A total 17,336 coronavirus cases were reported in a span of 24 hours, taking the total infection tally to 4,33,62,294, while the death toll due to the disease climbed to 5,24,954 with 13 new fatalities being reported, according to the Union Health Ministry data.

The national Capital recorded 1,447 new Covid cases and one more death on Friday, while the positivity rate dropped to 5.98 per cent. These fresh cases were recorded out of 24,203 tests conducted the previous day. The infection tally in Delhi has risen to 19,28,841 and the death toll stands at 26,243.

Delhi had recorded 1,934 Covid cases and zero death on Thursday, while the positivity rate had stood 8.10 per cent.

Fresh cases dropped slightly from 858 cases on Thursday to 816 cases on Friday in Karnataka. At the national level, the daily positivity rate was recorded at 4.32 per cent and the weekly positivity rate at 3.07 per cent, according to the Health Ministry.

The count of active cases has increased to 88,284, comprising 0.20 per cent of the total infections, while Covid-19 recovery rate at the national level was recorded at 98.59 per cent, it said.

Continued on Page 2

States can ban abortion, rules US SC

AP ■ WASHINGTON

The US Supreme Court has ended Constitutional protections for abortion that had been in place nearly 50 years in a decision by its conservative majority to overturn Roe v. Wade. Friday's outcome is expected to lead to abortion bans in roughly half the States.

The ruling is the culmination of decades of efforts by abortion opponents, made possible by an emboldened right side of the court that has been fortified by 3 picks of former President Donald Trump.

It puts the court at odds with a majority of Americans who favored preserving Roe, according to opinion polls. The ruling came more than a month after the stunning leak of a draft opinion by Justice Samuel Alito indicating the court was prepared to take this momentous step. **See P9**

A celebration outside the US Supreme Court in Washington on Friday. The Supreme Court has ended constitutional protections for abortion that had been in place for nearly 50 years AP

Forest Dept imposes fine on RLDA for felling trees

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

The Delhi Government's forest department on Friday imposed a fine of ₹ 5.93 crore on the Rail Land Development Authority (RLDA) for "illegally" felling 990 trees at the Bijwasan area, a government order said.

The order issued by the deputy conservator of forest (west forest division) said according to the report submitted by forest guard Brhamanand Malik, it was observed that approximately 990 trees have been removed or felled by "illegal, inappropriate and unprofessional act of RLDA" on 4.09 hectare of area in Bijwasan village.

The issue had come to light after two locals approached the Delhi Police and the forest department and complained about felling of trees in the region.

The order stated that the team of forest division has restored around 207 logs of trees, buried under the dumped sand and soil, during an excavation exercise conducted from May 26-31.

Among the 207 logs, 52 have been found to be in survival condition, including 42 Sheesham trees, five Desi Kikkkar and five Vilayti Kikkar, which are now under the process of rehabilitation, the order said.

"After reviewing the facts submitted by Brahmanand Malik (Forest Guard) and written statement reply submitted by RLDA and seriousness of the issue, the undersigned has ordered to impose the fine of ₹5,93,70,967 on RLDA (offender) and it was also directed to submit the same in the office of west forest division through demand draft in favour of "Dy. CONSERVATOR OF FORESTS (WEST)" by on or before June 30 failing which FIR would be filed on the offender," the order stated.

The order also stated that PK Pawan on behalf of the of RLDA has submitted a written reply on May 30 stating "notwithstanding the above facts, RLDA being a responsible government entity here by submits that the decision of the tree officer as per prevailing law on these subject matter will be fully abided."

5 newly-elected MPs take oath in Rajya Sabha

New Delhi: Rajya Sabha Chairman M Venkaiah Naidu on Friday administered oath to five newly-elected MPs from Andhra Pradesh, Telangana and Odisha. The oath was administered in Rajya Sabha chamber in Parliament House.

Those who took oath are Niranjan Reddy Sirgapoor and Ryaga Krishnaiah (both of YSRCP) from Andhra Pradesh, Damodar Rao Divakonda and B Parthasaradhi Reddy (both of TRS) from Telangana and Niranjan Bishi (of BJD) from Odisha. While Krishnaiah, Divakonda and Reddy took oath in Telugu, Sirgapoor did so in English. Bishi has been elected to Rajya Sabha in bypoll to fill casual vacancy caused in Rajya Sabha due to resignation of Subhash Chandra Singh. He took oath in Oriya.

SC upholds SIT clean chit on Guj riots: Thakur, other BJP leaders say 'Satyamev Jayate'

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The BJP in unison chanted "Satyamev Jayate" after the Supreme Court on Friday upheld the Special investigation (SIT)'s clean chit to Prime Minister Narendra Modi and 63 others in the Gujarat riots of 2002, when he was the State's Chief Minister, and dismissed a plea by slain Congress leader Ehsan Jafri's wife Zakia alleging a larger conspiracy.

Welcoming the judgment , BJP leader and Union minister Anurag Thakur said, "Satyamev Jayate! Similar was the response of other party leaders who tweeted soon after the Supreme Court delivered the judgment.

"Satyamev Jayate,"(Truth alone triumphs) was how another Union minister Smriti Irani also put it while party spokesperson Sambit Patra also tweeted the same expression. Describing the apex court's judgment as a "befitting reply to Modi haters", , BJP spokesperson Shehzad Poonawala also said "The truth always prevails.

NCRPULSE

FAIR TO PROMOTE ALTERNATIVES TO PLASTIC

New Delhi: The Delhi government will organise a three-day mega fair to promote alternatives of single-use plastic from July 1-3 at the Thyagaraj Stadium. The decision was taken after a review meeting, that was chaired by Environment Minister Gopal Rai at the Delhi Secretariat with officers of departments concerned regarding the action report of 14 points under the Summer Action Plan.

DCHFC HANDS OVER 2-YRS DIVIDEND CHEQUES

New Delhi: Delhi Co-operative Housing Finance Corporation (DCHFC) on Friday handed over cheques of ₹7.26 crores as dividend for the last two years to Delhi Chief Minister, Arvind Kejriwal. According to official, the Delhi Government has so far earned more than ₹100 crores as dividends against its investment of ₹30 crores in DCHFC, which is three times the amount invested by the government.

CASH, CHOCOLATES LOOTED FROM DELHI SHOP

New Delhi: Three unidentified men stole cash amounting to ₹48,000 and chocolates worth over ₹7,000 from a shop after assaulting its owner and his servant in north Delhi's Wazirabad. The incident took place on Tuesday, they added. According to the FIR, the 30-year-old complainant runs a general store with his two brothers in Wazirabad. At around 11.30 pm on Tuesday, as he was about to close the shop, three men arrived there on a motorcycle. Two of them got off the two-wheeler, entered the shop and started beating him and his servant Sahil, the complainant alleged.

GANGSTER WITH ₹25K BOUNTY ON HEAD HELD

Gurugram: A team of the Gurugram police has arrested a wanted criminal with a bounty of ₹25,000 along with his aide after a gunfight from Gurugram's Kharkhari village. According to the police, the duo accused had also shot and injured a policeman in April when they were fleeing the spot after committing a chain snatching incident. The accused have been identified as Ismail alias Kala and Junaid a resident of the Nuh district. Ismail was held on Thursday and after his disclosure, Junaid was held after a gun fight with the police team from Kharkhari village on Friday.

TRADERS PROTEST GOODS VEHICLES' ENTRY BAN

New Delhi: The traders and transport organisations while opposing the decision of the Delhi government to ban entry of medium and heavy goods vehicles, said it would "grossly and adversely affect" businesses in the national Capital. The decision to ban the entry of medium and heavy goods vehicles to the capital from October 1 to February 28 was aimed at curbing vehicular pollution.

MUSEUM NIGHT BY MODERN ART GALLERY TODAY

New Delhi: The National Gallery of Modern Art is organizing a Museum Night on 25th of June, 2022 in the premises to experience the creative eclecticism and twilight walk in the sculpture garden with Sri Adwait Gadanayak , DIrector General of the Gallery. The Museum Night will have a screening of Satyajit Ray's documentary on Berode Behari Mukherjee, walk through in the section of Nicholas Roerich of Kshetragya (ongoing exhibition) with historian and curator Vladimir Zaitsev and join the sketching masterclass in the reimagined Amrita Shergil studio space.

DELHI GOVT GIVES TABLETS TO MOHALLA CLINICS

New Delhi: To formulate disease-wise policies and prevent doctors from fudging patient visit data, the Delhi Government has provided tablets to nearly half of the mohalla clinics in the national capital. There are 519 mohalla clinics in the city that offer free primary health care services, including 212 different types of tests, to patients. Every day, over 60,000 people are treated in these clinics, according to official figures.

DCW SEEKS DETAILS ON ARREST OF SEXUAL ASSAULTER

New Delhi: The DCW has issued summons to the Delhi Police seeking details of arrest of the accused in connection with the alleged sexual harassment of a woman at a Delhi Metro station. A Delhi Police officer, however, said investigation is underway but the accused has not been arrested yet.

Kejriwal reviews preparations for shopping festival

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Delhi Chief Minister, Arvind Kejriwal chaired a high-level meeting to review the preparations for the Delhi Shopping Festival in the national Capital. The Tourism Department also presented a detailed blueprint of the Delhi Shopping Festival.

During the meeting, the chief minister directed officials to leave no stone unturned in making Delhi Shopping Festival a world-class experience.

"Along with shopping, the Delhi Government will also promote discounting during the shopping festival to benefit the consumers. Lakhs of people are expected to participate in the Delhi Shopping Festival, Delhi's traders are set to gain huge profits and thousands will get employment through the project," said an official.

Address the livelihood woes of people near ESZs: Rahul to PM

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

IN HIS LETTER TO THE PRIME MINISTER, RAHUL GANDHI SAID HE HAS ALSO SENT A MISSIVE TO THE KERALA CHIEF MINISTER ON THE ISSUE

Former Congress president Rahul Gandhi has written to Prime Minister Narendra Modi, urging him to help address the concerns of those affected by the Supreme Court order on maintenance of Eco-Sensitive Zones (ESZ) around national parks and wildlife sanctuaries.

Sharing his letter to the prime minister in a Facebook post, Rahul said he has drawn his attention to the plight of the local communities of Kerala's Wayanad whose livelihoods will be adversely affected by the recent Supreme Court order.

"The state and the union governments can help by requesting dilution of a minimum width of an ESZ to the Central Empowered Committee (CEC) and the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEF&CC). The Supreme Court judgment considers recommendations made by the CEC and the MoEF&CC," the Lok Sabha MP from Wayanad in Kerala said in his Facebook post. In his letter to the prime minister, Rahul Gandhi said he has also sent a missive to the Kerala chief minister on the issue. "I request the Union government to address these concerns in the larger public interest and reiterate our shared commitment to balancing conservation goals with our people's legitimate developmental needs," he said in the letter to Modi.

Recalling the recent judgement of the Supreme Court in the T N Godavarman Thirumulpad versus Union of India and others case, Gandhi said it mandates maintenance of an Eco-Sensitive Zone (ESZ) of one km around national parks and wildlife sanctuaries which has led to widespread protests around Wayanad parliamentary constituency. "Local communities, still reeling under the impact of the Covid pandemic, have expressed grave concerns regarding the implications of this judgment on their lives and livelihoods.

The Guidelines for Declaration of Eco-Sensitive Zones around National Parks and Wildlife Sanctuaries dated February 9, 2011, as well as the above mentioned judgement prohibit certain activities in the ESZ. The ESZ Guidelines also regulate several activities, including, the change of agriculture systems, protection of hill slopes, and erection of electrical cables," he said.

The judgement, he noted, states that no permanent structure shall be permitted to come up for whatsoever purpose within the ESZ. "As one of the most densely populated regions in Western Ghats, such restrictions hamper the ability of local communities to improve their standard of living.

LEGAL...

From Page 1

If the Deputy Speaker disqualifies 12 Sena rebel MLAs, including Shinde, the development will result in the rebel Sena camp – the strength of which will be reduced to 25 MLAs against the earlier 37 MLAs –attracting action under the anti-defection law.

If such development takes place, the 12 disqualified Sena rebel MLAs will not be able to take part in the confidence vote to be sought by the Thackeray dispensation. It remains to be seen if the remaining 25 Sena rebel MLAs will vote against the confidence vote and if yes, whether they will face action under the anti-defection law.

Till the confidence vote is over, the Deputy Speaker will deal with all matters relating to the strength of the ruling MVA — comprising Shiv Sena (55) NCP (53), and Congress (44) — that had collective strength of 152 MLAs on paper till the Shinde-led rebellion rocked the Shiv Sena on June 21. However, after the confidence vote is decided, Governor Bhagat Singh Koshyari will take control of the situation.

Governor Koshyari, who was admitted to the Reliance Foundation Hospital on Wednesday after he tested positive for Covid-19, will remain in hospital for some more days.

It remains to be seen if Koshyari, despite being in hospital, will intervene in matters which come under the domain of the Deputy Speaker.

Meanwhile, all the three MVA constituents – Shiv Sena, NCP and Congress – are rooting for Uddhav Thackeray seeking a confidence vote on the floor of the Assembly.

On Thursday, NCP chief Sharad Pawar – who is the architect of the Maha Vikas Aghadi (MVA) Government, said that the floor test was the only way to resolve the current political crisis. He expressed optimism that the MVA dispensation would survive the current crisis facing the Shiv Sena. "Let the MLAs come back from Guwahati. The situation will change drastically. The MVA Government will survive the floor test in the State Assembly," Pawar said.

THE PIONEER CLASSIFIEDS

CHANGE OF NAME

I, Aparna Gupta W/o Sanjay Gupta R/o B-101, Sector-14, Noida-201301 District Gautam Budh Nagar, U.P., have changed my earlier name Aparna to Aparna Gupta for all future purposes.

PD(90111)C

PUBLIC NOTICE

This public notice is being issued pursuant to the order dated 22.03.2022 passed by the Hon'ble National Company Law Tribunal, New Delhi, Special Bench (Court-II)
Notice is hereby given that an Application u/s 9 of IBC, 2016 in CP (IB) No.699 (ND) 2020 in the matter of **Printofab** Versus Gopish Pharma Ltd. has been filed before the Hon'ble National Company Law Tribunal, New Delhi, Special Bench (Court-II). Further Notice is hereby given that the next date of hearing in the above mentioned matter before the Hon'ble National Company Law Tribunal, New Delhi, Special Bench (Court-II) is 13.07.2022 and the below mentioned respondents i.e.,
Respondent,
1. GOPISH PHARMA LIMITED, HAVING ITS OFFICE **Registered Office at H-1455, DSIDC, Narela Industrial Complex, New Delhi-110040.**
2. **Manufacturing unit at Ropar Road, Near Dherowal Barrier, Village Behrampur, Nalagarh, District Solan, Himachal Pradesh**
is advised to attend the aforesaid hearing on 13.07.2022 before Hon'ble National Company Law Tribunal, New Delhi, Special Bench (Court-II).
The undersigned can be contacted for any clarification.
Sd/- For and on Behalf of Printofab
Mr. Karan Singla, House No. 1815, Nirvana Society, Sector 49/B, Chandigarh
Email:- Singlaassociates2009@gmail.com, Phone: 98888-66644

PUBLIC NOTICE

NOTICE is hereby given that **Sangeeta Vaid and SatvikVaid** claims to be owner and in possession of **Unit No. P5-08-SF, on 2nd Floor, in Park Elite Floors, Sector -75, in Parklands, Faridabad, Haryana(hereinafter called the said property)** by virtue of **Conveyance Deed Dated 24.03.2021, Initially Raveesh Vaid was the Owner of said property and after his death M/s BPTP has Executed Conveyance Deed In favor of Sangeeta Vaid and Satvik Vaid** and Said **Sangeeta Vaid and Satvik Vaidh** as agreed to sell the said Property to **BHAGESHWARI ANIL SINGH** And Said **BHAGESHWARI ANIL SINGH** has agreed to create a mortgage in favour of our clients, **IDFC FIRST BANK LTD , ITO Branch , New Delhi** All person/s having any claim against or in respect of the said Property, or any part thereof, by way of sale, exchange, mortgage (equitable/ registered or otherwise), gift, trust, inheritance, lien or otherwise howsoever, are hereby requested to notify the same in writing to us with supporting documentary evidence at the address mentioned below within **10 days** from the date hereof, failing which the claim or claims, if any, of such person or persons will be considered to have been waived and/or abandoned and our client shall proceed with the disbursement of loan against the said property and subsequent creation of mortgage in respect thereof.
Vishal Diwan (Advocate)
For Diwan and Company LLP
Advocates and Solicitors
House No.2 (LGF), NRI Complex New Delhi – 19
Mobile No. 9818399999

Deputy Speaker set to serve...

From Page 1

The Sena is unlikely to seek disqualification of more MLAs because if the Deputy Speaker were to accept that demand, then the strength of the house will come down to the benefit of the BJP.

Thackeray camp hopes that if the MLAs return to Mumbai to attend the disqualification proceedings, they could be contacted and persuaded to come back to the party fold.

Meanwhile, NCP president Sharad Pawar on Friday evening met Uddhav Thackeray at the latter's residence. State NCP president Jayant Patil and Deputy Chief Minister Ajit Pawar accompanied Pawar as he arrived at `Matoshree', Thackeray's private residence in Bandra area.

A day before, Pawar had said the NCP will do all it can to save the ruling alliance of the Sena, NCP and Congress.

GOVERNMENT OF JAMMU & KASHMIR
OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER PMGSY DIVISION BANIHAL
NOTICE INVITING TENDERS
E-NITNO:- 09 of 2022-23 DATED:20/06/2022 E-tendering
(Single Cover System)
For and on behalf of the Lt. Governor of Jammu and Kashmir UT, **the Executive Engineer PMGSY Division Banihal** invites tenders by e-tendering mode on %age rates from approved and eligible Contractors/Firms registered with J&K UT. CPWD, MES & Railways for the following work:-
S.No. 1, Name of Work :- Construction of ground floor and first floor by way of dismantling of old building at PWD Sub Division Banihal for PMGSY PIU
Name of the Division :- PMGSY Division Banihal, **Estimated cost of Work (in Lacs):-** 54.30, **Cost of Tender Doc. (in Rs.) :-** 1500/-, **Earnest Money (In Lacs):-** @ 2%of Adv.Cost **1.086**, **Time Allowed for completion :-** 06 Months, **Time and date of opening of tenders (Technical Bid)** :- 29-06-2022 at 12.00 PM, **Class of contractor :-** "A"
Position of AAA: ACCORDED
Technical Sanction: ACCORDED
Position of funds: AVAILABLE
(1) Date of Issue of Tender Notice :- 20-06-2022
(2) Period of Downloading of Bidding Documents :- From 21-06-2022, 10.00 A.M to 27.06.2022, 4.00 P.M
(3) Date , Time and Place of Pre Bid meeting :-
(4) Bid Submission Start Date :- 21-06-2022 From 10.00 A.M
(5) Bid Submission End Date :- 27-06-2022 up to 4.00 P.M
(6) Submission of Hard Copy of Tender Documents :- Only successful bidder who is declared L1 should submit the Hard copy after opening of Financial Bids.
(7) Date & Time of opening of Technical Bids (online). [The date should be one day after deadline for receiving of hard copies] :- 29-06-2022 at 12.00 PM in the Office of PMGSY Division Banihal
(8) Date of opening of Financial Bids (online) :- To be notified after technical bid evaluation is completed
• Downloading
1. The Bidding documents Consisting of qualifying information, eligibility criteria, specifications, Drawings, bill of quantities (B.O.Q), Set of terms and conditions of contract and other details can be seen/downloaded from the departmental website **www.jktenders.gov.in** as per below schedule.
No. DIP/J-3768/22
Dated: 23-06-2022
Sd/-
Executive Engineer, PMGSY Division Banihal

J&K to host G-20 leaders; diplomatic...

From Page 1

"Further, principal secretary to the Government, housing and urban development department is also nominated as UT level nodal officer to coordinate the arrangements for the G-20 meetings in the Union Territory of J&K," the order said. Prime Minister Modi has been leading India's representation at the G-20 summits since 2014. India has been a member of G-20 since its inception in 1999. According to the MEA, India will be part of the G-20 Troika (preceding, current, and incoming G-20 Presidencies) from December 1, 2021 till November 30, 2024.

SC upholds death to minor divyang's...

From Page 1

Even the alternative of awarding the sentence of imprisonment for the whole of the natural life with no remission does not appear justified in view of the nature of crimes committed by the appellant and looking to his incorrigible conduct, added Justice Maheshwari in the verdict.

The top court, in its 129-page judgment, concurred with the findings of the courts below that the offence fell under the rarest of rare categories warranting the imposition of the death penalty on the convict, a native of Maharajganj district in Uttar Pradesh. The verdict was delivered on appeals against the Rajasthan High Court's May 29, 2015 verdict affirming the conviction and death penalty awarded by the Court of Special Judge, Protection of Children from Sexual Offences Cases, Rajsamand.

"The heinous nature of the crime, like that of the present one, in brutal rape and killing of a mentally and physically challenged girl, who was only about seven-and-a-half-year-old, definitely carries excessively aggravating circumstances, particularly when the manner of commission of both the major offences of rape and murder shows the depravity of highest order and would ex facie shock anyone's conscience," said the apex court.

Daily...

From Page 1

An increase of 4,294 cases has been recorded in the active Covid-19 caseload in a span of 24 hours, the data showed.

The number of patients who have recuperated from the disease has surged to 4,27,49,056. The case fatality rate was recorded at 1.21 per cent.

According to the Ministry, 196.77 crore vaccine doses have been administered in the country so far under the nationwide Covid-19 vaccination drive.

India's Covid-19 infection tally crossed the 20-lakh mark on August 7, 2020, 30 lakh on August 23, 40 lakh on September 5, 50 lakh on September 16, 60 lakh on September 28, 70 lakh on October 11, 80 lakh on October 29, 90 lakh on November 20 and the one-crore mark on December 19, 2020.

The country crossed the grim milestones of two crore cases on May 4, 2021, three crore on June 23, 2021 and four crore on January 25 this year.

Thirteen new fatalities due to the disease were reported in the country - seven from Kerala, two from Punjab, and one each from Chhattisgarh, Himachal Pradesh, Karnataka and Maharashtra.

The Subject Expert Committee (SEC) on Covid-19, an expert panel of India's Central drug authority, on June 24 recommended granting emergency use authorisation to Serum Institute's (SII) Covovax for children aged 7 to 11 years. The recommendation has been sent to the Drugs Controller General of India (DCGI) for final approval.

The application for emergency use authorisation was submitted by Prakash Kumar Singh, director (Government and regulatory affairs) at SII on March 16.

SC rejects Jafri's...

From Page 1

The SC appointed Special Investigation Team (SIT) headed by former CBI Director RK Raghavan after four years of investigation has given clean chit to then Gujarat Chief Minister Modi and 63 others in February 2012. Jafri had challenged the SIT's clean chit to 64 people, including Modi alleging a larger conspiracy.

The apex court appreciated the Special Investigation Team (SIT) for its "indefatigable work" in challenging circumstances and said it has come out with "flying colours unscathed".

The top court said no fault can be found with the SIT's approach and its February 8, 2012 final report is backed by firm logic, "expositing analytical mind and dealing with all aspects objectively for discarding the allegations regarding larger criminal conspiracy…"

The bench upheld the decision of a magistrate in accepting the final report submitted by the SIT and rejecting the protest petition filed by Jafri. She had challenged the Gujarat High Court's October 5, 2017 order rejecting her plea against the SIT decision.

"We do not countenance the submission of the appellant regarding infraction of rule of law in the matter of investigation and the approach of the magistrate and the high court in dealing with the final report," the bench said in its 452-page judgement.

Congress leader Ehsan Jafri was among the 68 people killed at Ahmedabad's Gulberg Society during violence on February 28, 2002, a day after the Godhra train burning that claimed 59 lives. The riots that it triggered killed 1,044 people, mostly Muslims.

Giving details, the Central Government informed the Rajya Sabha in May 2005 that 254 Hindus and 790 Muslims were killed in the post Godhra riots.

In its verdict, the apex court noted that the SIT had formed its opinion after considering all the material collated during the investigation. The question of further probe would have arisen only on the availability of new material/information in connection with the allegation of larger conspiracy at the highest level, which is not forthcoming in this case.

"As aforementioned, the SIT has gone by the logic of falsity of the information or material and including the same remaining uncorroborated.

"In that, the materials collected during the investigation do not give rise to strong or grave suspicion regarding hatching of larger criminal conspiracy at the highest level for causing mass violence across the State against the minority community and more so, indicating involvement of the named offenders and their meeting of minds at some level in that regard," said the Judgment.

"Intriguingly, the present proceedings have been pursued for last 16 years (from submission of complaint dated June 8, 2006 running into 67 pages and then by filing protest petition dated April 15, 2013 running into 514 pages) including with the audacity to question the integrity of every functionary involved in the process of exposing the devious stratagem adopted (to borrow the submission of counsel for the SIT), to keep the pot boiling, obviously, for ulterior design," it said.

"As a matter of fact, all those involved in such abuse of process, need to be in the dock and proceeded with in accordance with law," the bench said, criticising the "disgruntled officers" of Gujarat and petitioner Jafri.

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World Cities Summit in Singapore

AAP Govt accuses LG of sitting on file related to CM's Aug trip

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

The tussle between the Arvind Kejriwal Government and Lieutenant-Governor (L-G) Vinai Kuma Saxena is expected to intensify in the days to come as the former has accused Raj Niwas of not clearing a file that would allow Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal to go to Singapore to attend the World Cities Summit scheduled for August 2-3. There was no immediate reaction from the L-G's office on the matter.

"Several files are stuck with the Lt-Governor for many days because of a lack of administrative experience. Among these is the file for the CM to go to Singapore to attend the World Cities Summit. That file has been pending for three weeks," a source said.

Kejriwal had said on June 2 that the High Commissioner of Singapore Simon Wong had invited him and he had accepted the invitation. Sources said that the file was sent to Saxena on June 7. Sources claimed that even files on small issues are "stuck" with the L-G's office and it may affect governance and cause long delays in public interest work in Delhi.

According to protocol, any Minister including the Chief Minister or his Deputy, has to take approval from the Ministry of Home Affairs for official visits abroad. The file seeking such an approval is routed to the MHA through the L-G. The World Cities Summit is an exclusive platform for Government leaders and industry experts to address liveable and sustainable city challenges, share integrated urban solutions and forge new partnerships. It is jointly organised by Singapore's Centre for Liveable Cities and the Urban Redevelopment Authority.

Earlier this week, Deputy Chief Minister Manish Sisodia said that Saxena had permitted a probe into allegations of irregularities in the construction of Government hospitals without following the due procedure of taking permission from the Delhi Government.

He said that Saxena's predecessor, Anil Baijal, had concluded that it was a "frivolous" complaint and it was "politically motivated". "Now the new L-G has reopened the investigation by transferring it to the ACB," Sisodia said. Terming the case "fake", he wrote to the L-G, requesting him to withdraw the permission given for the probe. He alleged that BJP leaders were trying to stall the construction of more Government hospitals in Delhi by filing frivolous complaints.

Earlier this month, some AAP MLAs including Atishi had accused the L-G of "intruding" in the Delhi Government's work and "conspiring" to derail democracy as he visited two Delhi Jal Board facilities and a sewage treatment plant on June 4.

After meeting Saxena, the MLAs, including former Delhi Minister Somnath Bharti alleged that the L-G told them that not just the Delhi Development Authority and the Delhi Police, but the "whole of Delhi is under his control". Bharti said that the L-G made this statement when the AAP MLAs raised several issues before him including some pertaining to law and order.

2 more Govt officials suspended over graft charges

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Two more officials were suspended on Thursday, separately by Delhi Lieutenant-Governor (L-G) Vinai Kumar Saxena and Delhi Chief Secretary Naresh Kumar, in connection with alleged corruption concerning illegal sale of Government land, two days after the L-G sacked three officials in the same case.

A Sub-Registrar of the Delhi Government's Revenue Department has been suspended for "fraudulent" transfer of a land parcel to a private party.

Delhi Chief Secretary Naresh Kumar suspended Hauz Khas Sub-Registrar DC Sahoo on Wednesday for the transfer of prime Delhi Development Authority (DDA) land worth several crores to a private party on Josip Broz Tito Marg in Chirag Delhi. Disciplinary action has been initiated against the Sub-Registrar and some more officials involved in the land transfer may also face action, sources said.

The land parcel measuring 1,250 square yard, valued around Rs 30 crore, was situated near the BRT corridor. A complaint was lodged and action was taken after the matter came to the knowledge of locals of the area.

The land is owned by the village panchayat and meant for community use but it was first transferred to an individual and then to a private entity in a "fraudulent" manner, sources added.

The matter was brought to the notice of Delhi Assembly's petition committee after which records were scrutinised and it was found that the land was transferred to a cultivator although no cultivation had taken place on it.

"Action was taken against the Sub-Registrar as he had registered the sale deed of the land 'without proper verification' that would have revealed it was Government land," sources added. Sources said that Ramesh Kumar the then Kanoongo of the area and record room in-charge has also been put under suspension in the same case. "The Delhi Government and Raj Niwas had been receiving several complaints about the said Sub-Registrar from MPs and MLAs cutting across party lines as indeed individual citizens and groups living in that area. Serious charges of corruption that included blatant demand of bribes for registering properties, subversion of documents and high handedness were brought to his notice," Delhi Government officials said. On June 21, the L-G suspended three officials — two Sub-Divisional Magistrates and one Deputy Secretary in the Chief Minister's Office — over charges of corruption in transfer of evacuee properties to private entities between 2015 and 2021. Senior officials who asked not to be named said the four officials suspended by the L-G were posted as SDM Alipur at different times and allegedly passed orders giving away ownership of evacuee land, vested with the Government of India, to private entities.

House panel began probe against graft in Jan: AAP

LG misleading people by penalising four officers as action has already been initiated, says Bhardwaj

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

The Aam Aadmi Party (AAP)-led Delhi Government on Friday accused the newly-appointed Lieutenant Governor (L-G), VK Saxena, of misleading people by penalising four Delhi Government officers on charges of financial irregularities even though a committee formed by the Delhi Assembly Speaker has already probed the matter and action has been initiated.

AAP spokesperson Saurabh Bhardwaj said that the committee had summoned the then Divisional Commissioner Sanjeev Khirwar for protecting the corrupt and hiding the facts and later after a thorough probe the case was forwarded to Raj Niwas for further action through the controlling Union Home Ministry.

Addressing a press conference, Bhardwaj said that earlier, during the Assembly session, the Revenue Department was asked a question that "Is it true that in Jhangola Village of North Delhi, Government land worth several crores of rupees was sold to private entities illegally?' but the department did not answer this question and there was a ruckus in the House.

"These questions were later transferred to the Privileges Committee by the Speaker, and from January until now, the committee has been investigating the matter," said Bhardwaj."During investigation, the committee several times called upon then Divisional Commissioner, Khirwar and later the current Divisional Commissioner KR Meena.

We also called DM North and their senior officers and found out that several pieces of land that are evacuee properties of families that left India during time of Partition were sold illegally," said Bhardwaj.

"This land was under the custody of the Central Government, and it is also known as custodial land. This land cannot be transferred to any other person under the Delhi Land Reforms Rules, 1954 and its ownership cannot be given to anyone else," alleged Bhardwaj.

"Now while investigating the matter, the committee has found out that it is over 500 bighas – and in very simplistic terms, it is a matter of over Rs 500 crore. A series of SDMs have over time managed to illegally sell this land off to private builders," he said.

"Around two months ago, an SDM named Ajit Thakur was suspended in the matter. Three SDMs named Devendra Sharma, PC Thakur and Harshit Jain were also suspended. The Committee also found that a few more ADM and DMs were indulged in financial irregularities," said Bhardwaj.

"I was the first person to raise this matter. I asked a starred question in the Legislative Assembly and a committee of the Assembly conducted an investigation on the matter," claimed Bhardwaj.

"Hauz Khas Sub-Registrar DC Sahu and another official Kanoongo got suspended and it was projected as if the L-G took the action. The reality is that the Committee on petitions which took the action. For the L-G's information, I want to tell him that this matter is of my constituency," said Bhardwaj.

Adopt standard list of approved fuels: CAQM to NCR States

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

In order to reduce air pollution in the national Capital, the Commission for Air Quality Management (CAQM) on Friday directed States in the National Capital Region (NCR) to adopt a standard list of approved fuels that can be used for various purposes. The fuels approved by the CAQM include petrol, diesel, hydrogen/methane, natural gas, Liquefied Petroleum Gas (LPG) and electricity.

The CAQM said heavily polluting fuels like coal, Light Diesel Oil (LDO) and Naptha stand banned across Delhi-NCR from January 1. Terming air pollution as a matter of "grave concern", the panel said the standard list of approved fuels will come into force from October 1 for areas where PNG infrastructure and supply are already available and from January 1 for other areas.

"With a view to abate air pollution from emissions arising out of polluting fuels being used for various industrial, vehicular, domestic and miscellaneous purposes in the NCR, the CAQM has directed NCR State Governments and the GNCTD for the adoption of a standard list of fuels," the panel said in a statement.

The approved fuels for the entire NCR are petrol (BS-VI with 10 ppm sulphur), diesel (BS-VI with 10 ppm sulphur), hydrogen/methane, natural gas (CNG/PNG/LNG); Liquified Petroleum Gas (LPG) /Propane/Butane, electricity, aviation turbine fuel.

The list also includes refuse-derived fuel (RDF) for power plants, cement plants, waste-to-energy plants, firewood/biomass briquettes for religious purposes, wood/bamboo charcoal for tandoors and grills of hotels/restaurants/banquet halls (with emission channelization/control system) and open eateries/dhabas, wood charcoal for cloth ironing, electricity/CNG/firewood and biomass briquettes for crematoria, it said.

The panel has also issued a list of fuels permissible for selective industrial applications beyond the jurisdiction of the Delhi.

The fuels that are approved for selective industrial applications are biomass/ agriculture refuse and pellets/briquettes, for industrial boilers, power plants, biofuel projects, cement industry, waste to energy plants, biomass pellets/ briquettes is allowed for tandoors and grills in hotels/ restaurants/ banquet halls and for open eateries or dhabas, it said.

Metallurgical coke will be approved for industrial purposes in standalone Cupola-based foundries while low Sulphur Fuels namely LSHS, very low Sulphur fuel oil & ultra-low sulphur fuel oil - for industrial purposes in metal smelting/melting/ refining/ heating furnaces and kilns, it said

The panel said all other fuels will be deemed as "unapproved" in NCR. "It is essential to have a standard list of approved fuels for various applications across all sectors in the entire NCR to achieve improved air quality in the National Capital Region," the statement read.

Financial aid given to 60 sportspersons: Kejriwal

CM handed over cheques to 60 sportspersons under Mission Excellence

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal on Friday handed over cheques to 60 sportspersons under Mission Excellence. "In the first year of the scheme, the Delhi Government had distributed financial assistance of Rs 9.51 crore to 117 players to develop their talent," Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal said at a ceremony to provide financial assistance to sportspersons.

He said the upcoming Delhi Sports University will provide degrees to sportspersons to help them get jobs if they want to work. Kejriwal further said that the Delhi Government had eliminated three difficulties faced by sportspersons – lack of facilities, lack of monetary support and political intervention in the selection processes. "At the Delhi Sports University, players will be provided degrees in their respective sports such as BA in Kabbadi, BA in Wrestling and BA in Cricket among others. This will help them get jobs in case they want to work," Kejriwal said.

"Through the Mission Excellence scheme, sportspersons are being given financial assistance. We have improved sports facilities and there is no political interference in selection of players for the schemes here," he said. He stated, "The best part of Mission Excellence is that there is no political interference in this scheme." A four-member selection committee consisting of sportspersons decides on the merit of an applicant and assesses their financial need. "We extend aid of up to Rs 16 lakh with different players bagging different amounts under the cap as per their assessment.

Now the onus is upon the players to excel. The Delhi Government is here standing behind you. We will not let you face a lack of funds.

We are here for you, leave no stone unturned in your pursuit for gold. This might be the Delhi Government that's supporting you at this juncture, but your aim shouldn't be limited to bringing fame to Delhi. This nation is paramount, India comes before anything else. Make the country proud," he said.

Speaking on the occasion, Deputy Chief Minister Manish Sisodia said that Delhi Government was the first in India to introduce such a scheme in the field of sports, which provides financial support to sportspersons during their preparation and days of struggle.

Special Cell nabs wanted man after shootout

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Following a brief exchange of fire, the Special Cell of Delhi Police has nabbed a 38 year-old wanted criminal in southeast Delhi's Badarpur area on Friday. Police said that a reward of Rs one lakh was also declared on information leading to his arrest.

The accused has been identified as Mohammad Azmal alias Pahadi, a permanent resident of Muzaffarnagar in Uttar Pradesh (UP).

Police said Pahadi is previously involved in a dozen criminal cases including of murder, attempt to murder, extortion, threatening, assault, hurt, trespass, theft, conspiracy, arms act among others registered in Delhi and UP during last 10 years.

Police said that he was wanted in a case of extortion in Nazibabad in Bijnaur and he was also absconding in a case of firing on the members of the team of Special Cell on October 15, 2020.

According to a senior police official, on June 24, a specific input was received that Pahadi would go towards Sarita Vihar metro station between 5.00 pm to 6.00 PM.

"Acting on the specific inputs, a trap was laind and around 5.50 PM Pahadi was spotted on a Hero Splender bike. He was signaled to stop by police team but Pahadi whipped out a pistol and fired four rounds towards the police team," said senior police official."In retaliation, the police team also fired three rounds in self defence and one bullet hit Pahadi in his right leg thigh.

NDMC to launch mission to prune peepal trees

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

The New Delhi Municipal Council (NDMC) will soon launch the "Mission Peepal" initiative under which unwanted trees and branches will be removed from the heritage buildings at the outer and inner circles of Connaught Place, according to an official.

The civic body will first conduct a survey of these buildings, its Vice Chairman Satish Upadhyay told reporters here on Friday.

However, the Lieutenant Governor Vinai Kumar Saxena launched an NDMC drive on Friday for the pruning of old trees at Connaught Place. "Pruning is a healthy procedure that can remove any portion that has a disease, fungi or other types of decay, stopping it from spreading to the healthier branches. Removing these branches can also expose other branches to more sunlight and air circulation, which also helps reduce the incidence of disease and encourages fruit production. The NDMC covers only 3 per cent of Delhi's total area, but 64.5 per cent area of the council is under a green cover," Upadhyay said.

"The NDMC will soon start an initiative called 'Mission Peepal' under which all the unwanted trees and branches will be removed from the heritage buildings of the outer and inner circles at Connaught Place. It will be a good and environment-friendly initiative," he said. "The NDMC will first conduct a survey of these buildings and thereafter, scientifically prune overgrown and dead branches of the old trees," he said.

The civic body will collaborate with the market traders associations (MTAs) for purpose, Upadhyay said, adding that initiative is especially for Connaught Place as thousands of people visit area on a daily basis.

Phase-IV of Delhi Metro could reduce average travel time, reveals study

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

The researchers in a study titled "GIS and Gravity Model-Based Accessibility Measure for Delhi Metro", published recently in a foreign journal, have claimed that the implementation of the phase-IV project of the Delhi Metro "could reduce the average travel time between zones and metro stations".

The study was carried out at three different levels -- the measure of accessibility, the policy for accessibility and the relation of accessibility with MMTS.

MMTS explores the coordinated use of two or more modes of transport for safer, faster and more comfortable movement of passengers in urban areas.

"Traffic congestion and environmental condition of Delhi are degrading continuously, and to improve the situation, a sustainable Multi Modal Transport System (MMTS) with high accessibility must be explored," the study said.

Due to an increasing population and migration of people from nearby places to Delhi for work, education and business, the city roads and the environmental condition are becoming worse. To improve accessibility, it is required to make a policy revolving around accessibility, it said.

The paper, authored by two researchers from the Central Road Research Institute (CRRI), CSIR and NIT-Surathkal, also discusses the policy that "accessibility will be improved by expanding the metro network and by making metro available in walkable distance".

"With the improvement in accessibility through metro, air and noise pollution will reduce due to a reduced congestion on roads as commuters will prefer MMTS," it said. The research paper said "with the higher level of metro accessibility, people will prefer the multimodal transport system with metro as the main mode".

"From these results of the study, we can conclude that the use of policy for accessibility for planning a city like Delhi will help in the development of the city in a sustainable manner," it added.

Under the approved segment of the ongoing phase-IV project, 65 km of new metro lines shall be constructed across three different corridors comprising 45 stations. These new sections shall provide interconnectivity among the already operational lines of the Delhi Metro.

According to the government, the Mukundpur-Maujpur, R K Ashram-Janakpuri West and Aerocity-Tughlakabad corridors were approved by the Cabinet.

The work on phase-IV had begun in December 2019 with a groundbreaking ceremony, but was hit after the outbreak of COVID-19 in Delhi in March 2020.

In the paper, a "policy to improve zone-to-zone metro accessibility for work purpose is discussed and relation between multimodal transport system with accessibility" was studied, using software models.

It was observed that by additions and extensions of metro lines, transport accessibility is greatly improved.

The study also shows that the "percentage of zones in Delhi with higher accessibility level could increase from 5 to 13.88 with the implementation of phase-IV of metro".

In addition, the implementation of phase-IV could reduce average travel time between zones and metro stations. It will also reduce travel time between metro stations substantially (for zones covered in study, average travel time is reduced by 23.63 per cent and for stations, it is reduced by 17.73 per cent), it said.

Fire at house in Noida; 13 rescued

STAFF REPORTER ■ NOIDA

Around 13 people including children were rescued after a lamp lit for a prayer set a doctor's bungalow ablaze in Noida on Friday.

Two firemen also had medical issues after the rescue operation due to the thick smoke. However, no casualties were reported and the fire was controlled in around an hour.

According to Arun Kumar Singh, the Chief Fire Officer, around 10:20 AM, the fire department received a call about a fire in the D block of Sector 20 after which two fire tenders were rushed to the spot initially and later two more were sent to the spot.

"The fire had broken out on the first floor of a doctor's house. The fire had taken place because of the lamp lit for the prayer. It spread rapidly across due to the polyvinyl chloride (PVC) paneling, false ceiling and foam in the furniture. There was thick black smoke all over," said the chief fire officer. When the fire officials started to control the fire, it was found that some people were present on the first and second floor of the house. It was difficult to go through the staircase because of the thick smoke.

"However, the fire department personnel wearing Breathing Operator Set entered through the staircase. The people struck on the two floors were rescued through the terrace and safely transferred on the neighborhood's terrace using a ladder," said Singh. "During the rescue and cooling process, two fire personnel had medical complications due to the thick smoke and high temperature.

The two were identified as leading firemen Mahipal Singh and fireman Nizamuddin. They were rushed to the Apollo hospital in sector 26 and Joint Commissioner of Police Love Kumar also visited to check upon their health," said the chief fire officer.

Droupadi Murmu files nomination papers

PM along with top leadership of NDA hand over her papers to officer

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Momentum for the July 18 Presidential election picked up on Friday as BJP-led NDA's nominee Droupadi Murmu filed her nomination papers. Prime Minister Narendra Modi handed over the set of papers to Returning Officer P C Mody.

Murmu, 64, was also accompanied by Union ministers Amit Shah, Rajnath Singh, Nitin Gadkari and Piyush Goyal. BJP president J P Nadda and several chief ministers including Yogi Adityanath, Shivraj Singh Chouhan, Manohar Lal Khattar, B S Bommai, Bhupendra Patel, Himanta Biswa Sarma, Pushkar Singh Dhami, Pramod Sawant and N Biren Singh were also present..

Every set of presidential nominations has to have 50 proposers and 50 seconders among elected representatives. Besides the NDA leaders, YSR Congress' V Vijaysai Reddy and BJD leader Sasmit Patra, who are not part of the alliance, were also in Parliament to support her nomination. AIADMK leader O Paneerselvam and M Thambidurai, JD-U's Rajiv Ranjan Singh were also present on the occasion.

The Jharkhand Mukti Morcha (JMM) , a tribal party , which until now is supporting the Joint-opposition-consensus candidate and former Minister in the Vajpayee government Yashwant Sinha, is also likely to "review" its stand and back the NDA's 'Santhanl ' leader from Odisha, sources said. NDA's nomination of a tribal leader has put JMM in a spot.

Murmu, the former governor of Jharkhand, if elected, will be the first tribal president and the second woman in the post. She will also be the youngest president ever, second only to N Sanjeeva Reddy, who was a few days older to her when he became the President.

Pratibha Patil became the first woman president of India in 2007 under the Congress-led-UPA government. Meanwhile, Murmu on Friday called up key opposition leaders, including Congress chief Sonia Gandhi, NCP's Sharad Pawar and West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee, and sought their support for her candidature. All the three leaders expressed their best wishes to her, sources said. The counting of votes will take place on July 21.

Murmu , the NDA candidate is expected to clinch the post in her contest against Sinha with ease thanks to additional support from regional parties like BJD, JDU and YSR Congress.

The president is elected by members of electoral college consisting of elected members of both houses of Parliament and elected members of the legislative assemblies of all states including national capital territory of Delhi and Union territory of Puducherry.

Energy security understood by all nations: Kwatra

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■
NEW DELHI

India is procuring crude oil from Russia to ensure its national energy security and this position is well understood by many countries, Foreign Secretary Vinay Mohan Kwatra said here on Friday.

His assertion came days ahead of Prime Minister Narendra Modi travelling to Germany to take part in the G-7 summit on June 26-27. The ongoing military action by Russia in Ukraine is likely to come up during the deliberations.

Many western nations have imposed sanctions against Russia. Kwatra justified India's position while replying to a question on what will be India's approach if New Delhi faces criticism during the upcoming G-7 summit for its procurement of Russian crude oil. The Foreign Secretary said India's consideration for crude oil purchases has been very well understood by the global community. "India's consideration for crude oil purchases is very well understood. It is appreciated across the countries. I do not see that as any point of assuming any pressure," the Foreign Secretary said. Kwatra also said "whatever are the trading arrangements that India puts in place with regard to the purchase of crude oil all over the world is determined purely by the consideration of energy security in India." Modi will visit the Alpine castle of Schloss Elmau in southern Germany on June 26 and 27 to attend the annual summit of G7 countries.

From Germany, Modi will travel to the United Arab Emirates(UAE) on June 28 to pay his condolences on the passing away of Sheikh Khalifa bin Zayed Al Nahyan, the former president of the Gulf nation.

Giving details of the Prime Minister's schedule at a media briefing, Kwatra said India's regular participation at G-7 summits clearly points to increasing acceptance of the country's role to find a solutions to solve key global challenges. The Foreign Secretary said Russia-Ukraine situation has generated food security crisis over the world.

India has taken a proactive stance that food security of vulnerable countries is addressed and India's food security is also not impacted. There has been an appreciation of India's position.

On the Prime Minister's visit to the UAE on way back to India, Kwatra said India and UAE relations are dynamic, robust and widespread. "Energy security is an important pillar of our relations. People-to-people connect is another aspect.

Security, environment, education and investment are other areas of discussion between the two countries," he said. The Foreign Secretary said Modi's visit to the UAE will focus on two main issues. Firstly to pay condolences on the passing away of former UAE President andAbu Dhabi Ruler Sheikh Khalifa bin Zayed Al Nahyan.

Secondly, to congratulate Sheikh Mohammed bin Zayed Al Nahyan for becoming President of the UAE.

On the issue of controversial remarks against Prophet Mohammad leading to protests in many Gulf countries, Kwatra said almost all Middle East countries have an understanding of India's position.

"We have communicated our stand on various platforms. I do not think that will be taken forward anymore," he added. Modi is visiting the country for the first time after the controversy.

IAF starts recruitment process under Agnipath scheme

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■
NEW DELHI

The IAF on Friday started the recruitment process under the recently announced Agnipath scheme. The Army had started the process earlier this week while the Navy will commence the recruitment this weekend.

"Registration window to apply for #Agniveervayu is operational from 10 am today," the IAF said on Twitter.

The candidates will have to register online and then clear an online examination. Those successful will then undergo physical fitness and medical tests for final selection. The Navy also follows same system. So far more than 4,000 aspirants had registered for the IAF examination, sources said.

The Agnipath scheme to recruit jawans to be known as Agniveers on contractual basis was rolled out on June 14. It led to mass protests in many parts of the country.

The government, however, ruled out rolling it back and termed the scheme as "transformative" to ensure youthful profile and technology savvy armed forces to fight modern day war. Unveiling the Agnipath scheme, the government had said aspirants between the ages of 17-and-a-half and 21 years will be inducted for a four-year tenure. After completion of this stint, 25 per cent of them will be selected for regular service of 15 years or more with full pension benefits. Several parts of the country witnessed violent protests against the scheme. A number of opposition parties and military experts had slammed the scheme, contending it will adversely impact the operational capabilities of the armed forces.

The government had on June 16 increased the upper age limit for recruitment under the scheme to 23 years from 21 for the year 2022 as a one time waiver. It said the decision was taken as recruitment was put on hold for the last two years due to the corona pandemic.

The Army has said the new scheme will ensure a youthful profile of the defence forces and result in reduction of the average age of soldiers from 32 to 26 years over a period of time.

Won't take coercive action against Karti, ED tells HC

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■
NEW DELHI

The Enforcement Directorate (ED) on Friday orally assured the Delhi High Court that no coercive action will be taken against Congress MP Karti P Chidambaram till July 12, when his anticipatory bail plea in the alleged Chinese Visas scam will be taken up for hearing.

Justice Jasmeet Singh also asked the ED to file a status report on the matter before the next date of hearing.

Additional Solicitor General SV Raju, representing the ED, orally assured the court that nothing will happen till July 12, next hearing.

"I will not make a statement but it is understood that nothing will happen till then. My understanding is only till the 12th (of July)," he said, adding that there is no apprehension of the arrest. Senior advocate Kapil Sibal, appearing for Karti, urged the court to grant interim protection from arrest to Karti till the next date of hearing.

Karti had approached the High Court after his anticipatory bail plea and that of two others was dismissed by the trial court on June 3 on the ground that the offence was of a very serious nature.

Following CBI's FIR, the ED registered the money laundering case against Karti and others in the alleged scam pertaining to the issuance of a visa to 263 Chinese nationals in 2011 when his father P Chidambaram was the Home Minister.

PUBLIC NOTICE

Be it known to all that We, **Kashyap Mankodi son of Late Sh. Amruth Lal** and **Smt. Jayanti Mankodi W/o Sh. Kashyap Mankodi** both R/o MIG Flat No. 79-A, G.F, Pkt-A/14, Himgiri Apartment, Kalkaji, Delhi-110019, are the purchasers of **MIG Flat No. 79-A, G.F, Poket-A-14, Kalkaji, New Delhi-110019** and have Applied for conversion of the aforesaid flat from leasehold to freehold in DDA. That the original documents issued by DDA I.e., original Allotment Letter, Possession Letter and Possession Slip, NOC for water and Electricity and Bank Challans have been lost/ untraced, A Lost Report(LR) to this effect has been lodged vide **LR No. 528100/2022** in Police Station, Crime Branch Delhi.
Any person (s) claiming any rights, interest, having any objection or found in possession of original documents, may write/contact with above named person at the above address/phone No. 9711113428 within 15 days from the date of publication of this notice. The person claiming any right, interest, objections with respect to this property can personally inform or write to Dy. Director (LAB) H MIG or Director (H)-1, D Block, 3rd Floor, Vikas Sadan, New Delhi.

PUBLIC NOTICE

The General Public is hereby informed that my client is intending to purchase the below mentioned schedule of property from its owner viz. MS CINDY ENGINEERING PVT LTD, having its registered office at 106, Sagar Shopping Centre, J.P Road, Andheri, West Mumbai-400058 represented by Mr. Sujoy Thapa, its authorized Signatory.
If anybody is having any objection, claim, interest, dispute, for the above intended sale transaction, he/she/they may contact the undersigned with the Documentary Proof substantiating his/her/their objection/ claims/ details of dispute/s within Fifteen (15) days from the date of this publication, failing which, my client will proceed to complete the sale transaction with the above owner as if there are no third party claims/objections/disputes in respect of the schedule Property and thereafter no claims/objections/disputes will be entertained.
Schedule of Property. All that the property premises is Basement (Right side portion from front side of building) measuring 450 sq ft . approx,with common staircase and common entrance, without terrace rights, alongwith reserved car parking and utility area with separate (shutter) gate in the stilt area(map attached) (hearinafter called the said property), of property bearing No.- M-5, measuring 175 sq yds, situated at Kalkaji,New Delhi -110019
Sd/- Mr. Satish Khatana Advocate
 # 99717-78737, 98997-33737

PUBLIC NOTICE

"To be known to all that I, Naresh Kumar S/o Sh. Kishan Lal allottee of flat No.173-G, LIG, Third Floor, Pocket-IV, Mayur Vihar, Phase-I, Delhi-110091, under DDA AAY Scheme, have applied for certified copies of the lost documents pertaining to the aforesaid flat, in DDA. I have lost the below mentioned original documents:
1). Original Allotment cum demand Letter, issued by DDA. (2). Original possession letter, issued by DDA. (3). Original NOC for Water & Electricity connection, issued by DDA. (4). Original Site Possession Certificate/Possession Slip, issued by DDA.
Any person(s) claiming any right interest, having any objection or found in possession of the said Original documents, may write/contact with above named person at above address/phone No.8920074394, within 15 days from the date of publication of this notice. The person claiming any right, interest, objections with respect to this property can personally inform or write to the Dy. Director, (Housing)/LIGor Director (H), D-Block, Vikas Sadan, INA, New Delhi.
Naresh Kumar

NORTHERN RAILWAY

OPEN E-TENDER NOTICE

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

1	**Name of work**	Repair and extension of Tower Wagon Shed, compound wall, leaky roof, damaged doors and miscellaneous works in OHE Depot at PTNR in the section of SSE/W/DLI/Line under ADEN/DLI.
2	**Approx Cost of Work**	Rs. 50,37,366.43 (Rupees Fifty Lakh Thirty Seven Thousand Three Hundred Sixty Six and Forty Three paise only)
3	**Earnest Money to be deposited**	Rs. 1,00,800/- (Rupees One Lakh Eight Hundred Only)
4	**Cost of Tender Document**	Rs. 0/-
5	**Date & Time of Submission of Tender bid and Opening of Tender.**	19.07.2022 @ 15:00 Hrs.
6	**Website particulars where complete details of tender documents can be seen.**	**www.ireps.gov.in**

• The tenderer/s must be registered on the Indian Railway E-Procurement system **(IREPS)** site i.e. **www.ireps.gov.in** for participating in the e-tender system. • For all terms and conditions please refer tender document. • No manual offers are acceptable. • Cost of tender document and Earnest money will be acceptable through net banking or payment gateway only.
Notice No. 128-W/280/e Tender Notice/NIT/25/2022-23/W-3
Dated: 23.06.2022 **1552/2022**
SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE

E- AUCTION NOTICE
(DAMAGED FIRE AFFECTED MATERIAL)

E- Auction forms are invited from interested buyers for disposal, strictly on "As Is Where Is" basis, for damaged salvage of 'Damaged Fire Affected Factory Machinery, Raw Material & Finished Goods' on "Weighment Basis" belonging to M/S Insulink packaging Solution Pvt Limited, Salvage of the above materials can be inspected at M/S Insulink Packaging Solution Pvt Limited, E-6, Road Number 17, Industrial Area, Block E, UPSIDC Site C, Surajpur, Greater Noida, Uttar Pradesh 201306.Case Handled by (M/s Riskalyze Insurance Surveyors Pvt. Ltd.) salvage of the above material lying at above location can be inspected Between 10:00 AM to 06:00 PM till from 25/06/2022 to 01/07/2022, after taking prior appointment from Mr. Virender Sharma (Surveyor) Ph.: 9999600599 & Mr. Amit Kaushik (Insured) at Mob: - 9718666006. E-Auction to be held on 02/07/2022 at 05:00 PM. For E-Auction forms, Contact Mr. Akshat Kaushik at Mob: - 8882071473 of Salvage Auction Private Limited (Auctioneers) or download from website: www.salvageauction.co.in. Last date for submission of E-auction form is 02/07/2022 before 12.30 PM.

NORTHERN RAILWAY

CORRIGENDUM NO. 1

Ref:- E-Tender Notice No. 196-S/71/2021-22/Tender Notice/TSO-III/BALP dated 13.06.2022 (RO No.1331/22) The revision in under noted tender the amended as under:-

S. N.	Tender No.	Brief Description	EXISTING CLAUSE	REVISED CLAUSE
1	TS225122	Fabrication/Manufacturing and Supply of Combination SEJ 60Kg/52Kg to RDSO Drg. No. T-6782 with Alt. 2 Conforming to IRS-T-10-2000 correction No. 01 of December 2016. (The Alt. on Drawing and Specification issued by RDSO up to one month prior to tender opening date shall be applicable in this tender.	(Clause No. 9.0 of Special Conditions of Contract at pate No. 36 of 43 of Tender document) **Basic Rate of Rail: Rs.80334.80**	Clause No. 9.0 of Special Conditions of Contract at pate No. 36 of 43 of Tender document **The Basic rate of Rail component mentioned at Clause No. 9.0 of Special Conditions of Contract at page No. 36 of 43 of Tender document will be read as Rs. 67,500/- (Rs. Sixty Seven Thousand Five Hundred only) in place of Rs. 80334.80.**
2	**Time of submission of tender is rescheduled upto 04.07.2022 at 14.30 hrs.**			

Other terms & conditions remain unchanged. **Note:-** The complete information of above E-Procurement tender is available on website **"www.ireps.gov.in"** and **"www.nr.indianrailways.gov.in"**
No. 196-S/71 /2021-22/Tender Notice/TSO-III/Combination of SEJ
Dated: 22.06.2022 **1549/22**
SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE

PUBLIC NOTICE

This is to inform public in general that Kotak Mahindra bank Ltd has organized an auction in below mention respect of Vehicles.
VEHICLES FOR SALE
1) CB_BOLERO MAXI TRUCK REG. NO. DL1LAB6960-YOM -2018
2) EICHER - E_10.75- REG. NO. HR38Y9780- YOM -2018
3) CB_VE 10.59 FULLY BUILT REG. NO. DL1LW3700-YOM -2015
4) CB_KIRLOSKAR 82.50 KVA GENSETENG. NO. 4H89321920403 YOM -2019

UNDER HYPOTHECATION WITH M/S KOTAK MAHINDRA BANK IS UNDER SALE IN ITS "AS IS WHERE IS CONDITION" INTERESTED PARTIES CAN GIVE THEIR QUOTATIONS WITH IN 7 DAYS AT
BRANCH ADDRESS:
KOTAK MAHINDRA BANK LTD., 3RD FLOOR, PLOT NO 7,SECTOR 125,NOIDA-201313 OR
CONTACT: JAGBIR SINGH
KOTAK MAHINDRA BANK LTD.
Cont.No. 9999996157
E Mail-jagbir.singh@kotak.com

Tapan Kumar Deka appointed IB Director

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Centre on Friday appointed Sri Lanka and Indo-China border expert Tapan Kumar Deka as the Director of the Intelligence Bureau (IB) and granted yet another one-year extension to Secretary of Research and Analysis Wing Samant Kumar Goel.

Deka, who has extensively handled operations wing of the agency was put in charge of the counter-terror assaults during the 26/11 Mumbai attack.

Deka will have a tenure of two years, according to an official order issued by the Personnel Ministry. He is a 1988-batch officer from the Himachal Pradesh cadre. He takes over from Arvinda Kumar, who will demit his office on June 30 after exhausting his one-year extension last year. The fate of A S Rajan, a 1987 batch IPS officer, Special Director in IB, whom Deka has superseded was not known yet. He is retiring in February next year. The other Special Director Swagat Das was shifted on Thursday and posted as Special Secretary (Internal Security) in the Union Home Ministry. The tenure of Samant Goel, who has been heading the Research and Analysis Wing (R&AW), has been extended by one more year, the ministry said in another order.

With this, Goel is the third R&AW chief who has got a tenure of more than three years. Earlier R N Kao, the founder chief of RAW served the agency for nine years followed by N F Suptnook who was at the helm of affairs for six years. Deka, considered to be an expert on the affairs of operations, especially in Kashmir as well as the Northeast, currently heads the operations wing of the IB, which he has been serving for over two decades. He has a vast experience about terrorists and Islamic radicalisation in the country and had led the operations against the terror group Indian Mujahideen, which created mayhem through a series of bombings and other subversive activities across India in the 2000s.

Deka, who hails from Assam, was personally sent by Union Home Minister Amit Shah to his home State to handle the volatile situation that arose following the large-scale violence that rocked Assam after the enactment of the Citizenship Amendment Act in 2019.

Parameswaran Iyer picked as CEO of Niti Aayog

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Centre on Friday appointed former Drinking Water and Sanitation Secretary Parameswaran Iyer, who spearheaded the Swachh Bharat Mission, as the CEO of Niti Aayog.

He will replace Amitabh Kant, who will demit office on June 30. Iyer has been appointed for two years or until further orders, whichever is earlier, said an order of the Personnel ministry.

According to the order, Iyer's appointment has been made on the same terms and conditions as were applicable for Kant.

A 1981-batch IAS officer of Uttar Pradesh cadre, Iyer is a well-known sanitation specialist, and best known for spearheading Prime Minister Narendra Modi Government's flagship scheme Swachh Bharat Mission between 2016 and 2020.

Iyer had taken voluntary retirement from the Indian Administrative Service in 2009. He had also worked as a senior rural water sanitation specialist at the United Nations. Outgoing Niti Aayog CEO Kant played a key role in Niti Aayog's policy making, with a focus on digital India, asset monetisation, disinvestment, aspirational districts programme and electric vehicles, among others.

He was appointed as the CEO of Niti Aayog on February 17, 2016, for a fixed two-year term. Kant was later given an extension till June 30, 2019. His term was further extended for two years till June 2021, and then another one-year extension was given till June 30 this yea

India assures support to Afghans amid crisis

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE
■ NEW DELHI

India on Friday assured Afghanistan that it stood in solidarity with the Afghan people in the aftermath of the recent earthquake there, which killed more than 1,000 people. This message was conveyed after New Delhi sent 27 tons of relief material on Thursday and Friday to Kabul as a "first true responder."

India also sent a technical team to Kabul on Thursday to oversee humanitarian assistance to the strife torn country. The team is stationed at the Indian embassy there signaling that it may start functioning soon. The embassy was closed in August last year after the Taliban took control of the country. The Taliban regime on Friday welcomed the move to station an Indian team in its embassy and said it "shows that a safe environment has been created in Afghanistan and all political and diplomatic rights are respected".

Abdul Qahar Balkhi, Taliban spokesperson, in tweets said: "The Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan welcomes India's decision to once again send a delegation of diplomats and a working team to its embassy in Kabul and wishes to continue its engagement and humanitarian assistance to the Afghan people."

"The arrival of Indian diplomats in Afghanistan and the reactivation of the embassy shows that a safe environment has been created in Afghanistan and all political and diplomatic rights are respected," he said.

"The Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan assures all existing embassies that the security of their embassies will be taken care of in accordance with international diplomatic principles," he said.

"The Islamic Emirate also calls on other countries to visit their diplomatic missions in Afghanistan and open their embassies," he said. An Indian team led by J P Singh, Joint Secretary(incharge Pakistan, Afghanistan and Iran division), ministry of external affairs, had recently visited Afghanistan and met Taliban Foreign Minister Amir Khan Muttaqi.

Military strategists must not lose sight of primary objective of war-fighting, says IAF chief

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■
NEW DELHI

India has to constantly update its national security strategy as the global order is being increasingly challenged with little or no regard to rules, IAF chief V R Chaudhari said here on Friday.

Making this point, he also said India must reassess its strategic priorities and realign its actions to ensure that it is not left behind adding that the military strategists must not lose sight of the primary objective of "war-fighting."His observations in a seminar came in the backdrop of India's lingering border row with China in eastern Ladakh, the situation in Afghanistan and the geopolitical upheavals triggered by the crisis in Ukraine.

Refraining from naming any country, the IAF chief said "coercion" is the new strategy with cyber, information and space domains becoming the "new battlefield".

"Today, we are witnessing a rapidly evolving international order that is increasingly being challenged by a complex multipolar world with little or no regard to rules or to the traditional processes of geopolitical interplays," he said. Chaudhari said diplomacy, economy and information are becoming the "primary tools" of engagement with the military instrument being used as a deterrent."Coercion is the new strategy with cyber, information and space domains becoming the new battlefield. Therefore, we must reassess our strategic priorities and realign our actions to ensure we do not get left behind," he said.

The seminar marked the culmination of the first 'Warfare and Aerospace Strategy Programme' (WASP) was conducted by the Indian Air Force.

The WASP was rolled out with an aim to generate strategic thought and understanding amongst mid-career air power practitioners. Chaudhari hoped that the programme will enable the officers to understand the whole-of-government approach and generate independent opinions in dealing with national security issues.

"We believe that such cross-pollination of ideas from multiple disciplines can lead to critical thinking which allows a person to formulate solutions as well as take more rational and effective decisions," he said."At the same time, a military strategist must not lose sight of the primary objective and that is war fighting.

SFI vandalises Rahul's Wayanad office; 1 hurt

40 SFI men trash office over SC's ruling on ESZs; Cong says MP has written to PM

KUMAR CHELLAPPAN ■ KOCHI

The office of Rahul Gandhi, an MP, at Wayanad came under attack from SFI activists on Friday, which resulted in Augustine Pulppalli, an office staff getting seriously injured. More than forty activists of the SFI, the student wing of the CPI-M gate-crashed into the office of the former chief of All India Congress Committee and vandalised the office properties. There were hardly five to six personnel who were present in the office at the time and they were chased out by the SFI activists.

The attack was in protest against the alleged indifference of the MP to interfere in the Supreme Court verdict dated June 3 ordering every protected forest, national park and wildlife sanctuaries across the country should have a mandatory eco-sensitive zone of a minimum one km starting from their demarcated boundaries.

But the office of Rahul Gandhi had said that he had written letters to Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan asking the duo to file appeal against the verdict. There is a widespread apprehension among the Christian and Muslim communities in the State that the apex court verdict would leave 1.5 lakh families living in these buffer zones stranded and without homes.

The Kerala Catholic Bishop Council and various Islamist organisations had issued statements condemning the court order immediately after the supreme Court verdict. Most of the districts in the State observed hartals and bundhs against the Supreme Court verdict.

The attack on Rahul Gandhi's office resulted in Congress workers coming out condemning the incident. K C Venugopal, AICC General Secretary, lambasted the CPI-M led Kerala Government for the attack on Gandhi's office.

"The Narendra Modi Government is after the blood of our young leader Rahul Gandhi and has been tormenting him by unleashing the Enforcement Directorate against him.

The Pinarayi Vijayan Government is aiding and abetting the Modi Government by vandalising Rahul Gandhi's office. There is a secret deal between the Congress and the CPI-M to target Rahul Gandhi who is the most popular leader in the country," said Venugopal.

N D Appachan, president, Wayanad District Congress Committee, alleged that the SFI attack was a pre-planned action and the police extended all support to the SFI activists. P Gagarin, secretary, Wayanad CPI(M) said that he was in the dark about the march to the MP's office.

Many young girls belonging to the SFI were seen gesticulating at police and questioning the deployment of large police force in front of the office of Rahul Gandhi.

At the time of going to Press, hundreds of Congress workers were staging a sit-in demonstration in front of the office of the Superintendent of Police demanding the arrest of the SFI activists.

CPM condemns act

KUMAR CHELLAPPAN ■ KOCHI

The CPI-M on Friday condemned the act of vandalism by SFI activists at the Wayanad office of Rahul Gandhi MP. E P Jayarajan, convenor of Left Democratic Front and Kerala's CPI-M strongman told reporters that there was no justification for the attack on the Wayanad office of Gandhi, who represents the constituency in Lok Sabha.

"The CPI-M or the LDF do not know the reasons behind this attack. A thorough probe would be held about the factors that led to the attack and action would be taken against those who took law into their hands" said Jayarajan.

Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan too expressed his displeasure over the incident and said law would take its own course. The move by the CPI-M in condemning the attack of Gandhi's office is seen as an attempt by the Marxists to minimize the anger among the Congress cadre across the country in the backdrop of the emerging alliance between the two parties in the national level. The Congress and the CPI-M are on the same side of the opposition in their support for Yashwant Sinha , the opposition candidate for the Presidential election.

Flood situation in Assam critical; toll rises to 108

A man uses a makeshift boat to travel on a flooded road in Kamrup district in Assam on Friday PTI

Guwahati: The flood situation in Assam was critical on Friday with with 45.34 lakh people reeling under the deluge, officials said.

The Brahmaputra and Barak rivers along with their tributaries are in spate, even as floodwaters started receding from a few areas, they said.

The toll rose to 108 with seven deaths reported in the last 24 hours, they added.

The situation in Silchar, considered 'Gateway to Barak Valley', is alarming with most areas still under water, a district official said.

The Assam State Disaster Management Authority (ASDMA) said that it has further expedited rescue and relief operations with additional resources deployed in the severely affected districts, especially Cachar where Silchar is located.

Eight NDRF teams with 207 personnel were brought in from Itanagar and Bhubaneswar, while an Army team with 120 members was sent in from Dimapur along with nine boats for the operations in Silchar, officials said.

Additionally, two CRPF and State Disaster Response Force (SDRF) teams were airlifted to Cachar, they added.

The state government has started a helpline -- 0361-2237219, 9401044617 and 1079 -- for the situation in the district.

Nearly 3 lakh people have been affected by an acute shortage of food, clean drinking water and medicines as almost the entire Silchar town is submerged in flood waters, officials said.

Food packets, water bottles and other essentials are being dropped by Air Force helicopters, they said. *PTI*

All tourists are welcomed in State: CM on Sena's rebel MLAs' stay in Assam

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

In the backdrop of a full-blown rebellion in Shiv Sena and MLAs from Maharashtra being moved-out to Assam , State Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma on Friday sought to throw light on the issue saying all "tourists" are welcome there. The 'hotel politics' has become a regular fare in India with 'rebel' MLAs being moved out of the state and put 'securely' in hotels or resorts of other states. In the recent past the phenomenon has been witnessed in Rajasthan, Karnataka and currently in Maharashtra with MLAs being transported to 'safer places'.

"Some people have come to Assam. They booked hotels. I am happy for that. You also come, it will help Assam's economy. Through this, Assam's tourism is also getting promoted," he said after accompanying NDA's presidential candidate Draupadi Murmu while filing her nominations here at Parliament complex.

Asked about the ongoing political developments in Maharashtra, he said he cannot comment on it as it is a big state. "How can I comment on Maharashtra. It is a big state. I am happy that people are choosing Assam as a preferred destination," he said.

On claims that his BJP-led Government was ignoring flood relief work and busy hosting the MLAs, the CM said he cannot order closure of hotels in capital due to floods in some parts of the State.

'BRICS summit vital for post-Covid eco recovery'

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The role of the BRICS forum is more important than ever for post-Covid global political economic recovery as also risk management in the global political economy, experts from Moscow and New Delhi said in an online discussion in the run up to the virtual BRICS summit.

"BRICS not only supports multi-polarity but can potentially strengthen commerce and trade relations especially when the world is facing economic challenges post-Covid. BRICS can contribute to global economic recovery not only to the economies of the BRICS countries but even non-BRICS countries," said former Indian ambassador to Russia Bala Venkatesh Varma.

"The projected global economic growth is expected to be 2.5-2.9 per cent as against the usual 5.5 per cent growth rate before the Covid pandemic. However, India is expected to grow between 7 to 7.5 per cent. India can play a larger role in the revival and regeneration of global economic recovery," Verma said.

"The post sanctions regime, the BRICS is considering the implementation of an international reserve currency to facilitate global trade and partnerships in disruptions in the payment system. Settlements in national currencies can help in mitigating the challenges help in settlement will cater to participants of many countries. Enabling payments in national currencies between the BRICS partner countries can help tourism and health," said Head of the group of South Asia and the Indian Ocean region of the Centre for Asia Pacific Studies, Alexey Kupriyanov.

Former Dean of School of International Studies, Jawaharlal Nehru University Anuradha Chenoy stressed on the need to address the challenges posed by the "selective de-globalisation" and the intended shift in global supply chains will lead to disruptions especially to the vulnerable countries.

Tejashwi Yadav blames BJP for Maha pol crisis

Patna: RJD leader Tejashwi Yadav on Friday squarely blamed BJP's "dictatorial" ambition of "hijacking" the entire country for the ongoing political crisis in Maharashtra.

Yadav said this when asked to comment on the happenings in the western state, where revolt in Shiv Sena threatens to pull down the government it heads with the help of Congress and NCP.

"It is well known that the BJP does not let any government opposed to it function in peace. It tries to topple such regimes by hook or by crook", the former Bihar deputy chief minister alleged.

"BJP wants to hijack every state where it is not in power. It is an attitude of tanashahi (dictatorship)", alleged Yadav who was stripped of power in 2017 when Chief Minister Nitish Kumar abruptly snapped ties with his RJD and returned to the NDA fold.

Yadav, who is now the leader of the opposition, however, declined to comment on whether he foresaw any political instability in Bihar where the saffron party and Kumar's JD(U) appear at daggers drawn, specially in the aftermath of 'Agnipath' scheme which triggered violent protests across Bihar. *PTI*

Prez poll: Shivpal, Azam Khan skip Akhilesh's meeting

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

Samajwadi Party senior leader Mohammad Azam Khan and party MLA Shivpal Singh Yadav stayed away from the meeting called by party president Akhilesh Yadav to finalise the strategy for the presidential election.

The SP and its allies have decided to support joint opposition candidate Yashwant Sinha in the presidential election. The SP and its allies have 125 MLAs which includes 111 of SP, eight of Rashtriya Lok Dal and six of Suheldev Bhartiya Samaj Party.

The members of the legislature council are not in the electoral college for the election of the president of India. Besides, the SP and its allies have five MPs in Rajya Sabha and three in the Lok Sabha. If the SP wins the by-elections to Rampur and Azamgarh parliamentary constituencies, the number of its MPs will increase to five in the Lok Sabha.

The total value of votes of MLAs and MPs of SP and its allies is 26,000.

Members of Rajya Sabha and Lok Sabha and MLAs of the State Assemblies constitute the electoral college of the presidential election. Each MP carries a vote value of 708, which is based on a pre-decided formula. The vote value of each MLA varies as per a State's population (1971 Census) and the number of seats in assembly.

Saudi Arabian committee to popularising Yoga

KUMAR CHELLAPPAN ■ KOCHI

While religious zealots disrupted an International Yoga Day session at Male, the capital city of Maldives on Tuesday and chased away the participants terming Yoga as un-Islamic, the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, dominated by puritanical Islamic theology has wholeheartedly welcomed the ancient Indian system of knowledge and wisdom. Schools in Saudi Arabia have included Yoga in their curriculum as a sports and wellness mission. A media release by Saudi Yoga Committee, a constituent of the Ministry of Sports in Saudi Arabia said that a massive programme is underway to popularise Yoga all over the Kingdom.

Hereafter Yoga sessions would be a daily event in all Saudi Arabian physical fitness centres. The Saudi Arabian Government's Ministry of Sports has launched Saudi Yoga Committee to popularise Yoga among the Kingdom's population and has issued orders to open Yoga schools in all physical wellness centres across the country.

Nouf Al-Marwaai, who was honoured with Padma Shree by the Government of India for her efforts to propagate Yoga across the Kingdom has been appointed as president of Saudi Yoga Committee by the Kingdom's rulers. An important development of the IYD 2022 was the hashtag #Invest In Yoga launched by Marwaai and the unprecedented response it received from Saudi citizens. The Yoga Day organised by the Indian Consulate in Riyadh turned out to be a huge success as hundreds of Saudi citizens and physical fitness freaks thronged the Consulate for getting initiated into Yoga.

The Ministry of Sports, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, will ensure that all cities in the Kingdom have Yoga centres to make it accessible to all citizens. In a major development, the Saudi Government opened an exclusive page for Yoga in its Sports Ministry's website, giving the arts of Yoga equal status to other sports activities.

According to a release by the Indian Consulate, the Yoga has a global market share of $ 215 billion and the Saudi Government is looking for a major chunk of this investment opportunity. The year 2022 opened a new chapter in Saudi Arabia's enthusiasm for Yoga as the conservative rulers in the Kingdom announced cash prizes for winners in the Yoga Sports as well as Yoga Championship. Senior officials of Saudi Sports Ministry took part in the IYD event held by office of the Indian Consul General in Jeddah.

PUBLIC NOTICE

ICICI Bank

Branch Office: ICICI Bank Ltd, 3rd Floor, Plot No- 23, New Rohtak Road, Karol Bagh, Delhi- 110005

The following borrower/s have defaulted in the repayment of principal and interest of the loans facility obtained by them from the Bank and the loans have been classified as Non-Performing Assets (NPA). A notice was issued to them under Section 13 (2) of Securitisation and Re-construction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act-2002 on their last known addresses, however it was not served and hence they are hereby notified by way of this public notice.

Sr. No.	Name of the Borrower/ Co-Borrower/ Guarantor/ (Loan Account Number) & Address	Property Address of Secured Asset/ Asset to be Enforced	Date of Notice Sent/ Outstanding as on Date of Notice	NPA Date
1.	Subal Jalan, Shalini Jalan, Acme Praxis Pvt. Ltd, Jalan Transport Pvt Ltd, LBDEL00003788759, C3/114 Milan Vihar Appartment IP Extension Patparganj, Delhi- 110092	Marvella Flat No. 1202 12th Floor Mahagun Moderne, Plot No. GH-02 Sector-78, Noida 201301	26/05/2022 Rs. 3,51,28,067.01/-	30-04-2019

The steps are being taken for substituted service of notice. The above borrower/s and/or their guarantors (as applicable) are advised to make the payments of outstanding within period of 60 days from the date of publication of this notice else further steps will be taken as per the provisions of Securitisation and Re-construction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002.

Date : June 24, 2022
Place : Delhi/ NCR

Authorized Officer
ICICI Bank Limited

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BSES Yamuna Power Limited, Delhi
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NOTICE INVITING TENDER **Date: 25.06.2022**

Sealed tenders under two Bid System (Unpriced & Priced) is invited for following jobs:

NIT No.	Brief Description	Estimated Cost (₹)	Cost of EMD (₹)	Pre Bid Date & Time	Due Date & Time of Submission	Date & Time of Opening
CMC/BY/22-23/ RS/SV/21	RATE CONTRACT FOR SUPPLY OF DRY TYPE DISTRIBUTION TRANSFORMERS OF RATINGS 400, 630 & 1000 KVA 11/0.415KV	2.25 Crore	4.50 Lakh	01.07.2022 10:00 Hrs	18.07.2022 14:00 Hrs	18.07.2022 15:00 Hrs
CMC/BY/22-23/ RS/SV/22	RATE CONTRACT FOR SUPPLY OF PSC POLES 9 MTR 160 KG & 11 MTR 365 KG	0.92 Crore	1.84 Lakh	01.07.2022 11:00 Hrs	18.07.2022 14:00 Hrs	18.07.2022 16:00 Hrs
CMC/BY/22-23/ RS/SV/23	RATE CONTRACT FOR SUPPLY, INSTALLATION, TESTING & COMISSIONING OF 11KV SMART PACKAGED SUBSTATION WITH 1000KVA DRY TYPE TRANSFORMER (PSS Type – 9)	1.91 Crore	3.82 Lakh	01.07.2022 12:00 Hrs	18.07.2022 14:00 Hrs	18.07.2022 17:00 Hrs
CMC/BY/22-23/ RS/SV/24	TURNKEY PACKAGE FOR DESIGN, ENGINEERING, MANUFACTURING, SUPPLY, LAYING, JOINTING, TESTING AND COMMISSIONING OF 33KV 3X400 SQ MM XLPE INSULATED CABLES WITH REQUIRED ACCESSORIES AS PER THE SCOPE OF WORK, FOR INFEEDS FROM DEV NAGAR GRID SUBSTATION	15.42 Crore	15.42 Lakh	04.07.2022 10:00 Hrs	18.07.2022 14:00 Hrs	19.07.2022 10:00 Hrs
CMC/BY/22-23/ RS/SV/25	TURNKEY PACKAGE FOR AUGMENTATION OF 2 NOS. 66/11 kV POWER TRANSFORMERS FROM 20 MVA TO 31.5 MVA AT BHAGIRATHI GRID SUB-STATION WITH REPLACEMENT OF TWO NOS. 11 KV SWITCHBOARD ALONG WITH ASSOCIATED CIVIL WORKS	12.30 Crore	12.30 Lakh	04.07.2022 11:00 Hrs	18.07.2022 14:00 Hrs	19.07.2022 11:00 Hrs
CMC/BY/22-23/ RS/SV/26	TURNKEY PACKAGE FOR CONVERSION OF 33 KV SYSTEM AT GT ROAD GRID FROM OUTDOOR AIS TO INDOOR GIS WITH DOUBLE BUS BAR SYSTEM, AUGMENTATION OF 1 NO 33/11 kV POWER TRANSFORMER FROM 16 TO 31.5 MVA AND INSTALLATION OF 3 NOS 11KV SWITCHBOARD ALONG WITH ASSOCIATED CIVIL WORKS	21.70 Crore	21.70 Lakh	04.07.2022 12:00 Hrs	18.07.2022 14:00 Hrs	19.07.2022 12:00 Hrs
CMC/BY/22-23/ RS/MD/27	SURVEY, DESIGN, ENGINEERING, SUPPLY, ERECTION, TESTING, & COMMISSIONING OF NEW 66KV & 33KV CONTROL & RELAY PANELS ALONG WITH ALLIED EQUIPMENTS, ACCESSORIES, DISMANTLING OF EXISTING EQUIPMENTS AND WORKS ON TURNKEY BASIS AT SHASTRI PARK (EAST) GRID, DELHI	6.26 Crore	6.26 Lakh	04.07.2022 14:00 Hrs	18.07.2022 15:00 Hrs	19.07.2022 15:30 Hrs
CMC/BY/22-23/ RS/SS/28	SUPPLY, INSTALLATION, TESTING AND COMMISSIONING OF POWER QUALITY MONITORING SYSTEM	1.18 Crore	2.36 Lakh	04.07.2022 15:00 Hrs	18.07.2022 15:00 Hrs	19.07.2022 16:30 Hrs
CMC/BY/22-23/ RS/SS/29	SUPPLY OF 4D (LIVE 3D) ECHO CARDIOGRAPHY MACHINE	0.95 Crore	1.90 Lakh	04.07.2022 16:00 Hrs	18.07.2022 15:00 Hrs	19.07.2022 17:00 Hrs
CMC/BY/22-23/ RS/SS/30	ANNUAL RATE CONTRACT FOR SUPPLY OF TRANSFORMER NEW INSULATING OIL	3.35 Crore	0.67 Lakh	05.07.2022, 16:00 Hrs	18.07.2022, 15:00 Hrs	20.07.2022, 15:30 Hrs

Cost of each Tender Documents: ₹ 1,180/-

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NORTHERN RAILWAY

(E-Auction Notice)

The Sr. Divisional Commercial Manager/PS, Northern Railway, Delhi division, New Delhi invites e-Auction through IREPS (**https://ireps.gov.in**) for allotment of contracts of parking sites/lots for a period of three (03) years on "As is where is basis" at following railway stations/locations:

E-Catalogue No.	**Parking- 11-2022**
Railway Stations/ Location	**1. Faridabad (FDB), 2. Delhi Sarai Rohilla (DEE), 3. Panipat (PNP), 4. Sonipat (SNP), 5. Ghaziabad (GZB) 6. Khatauli (KAT), 7. Sarojini Nagar (SOJ), 8. Delhi cantt (DEC), 9. Meerut City (MTC), 10. Sampla (SPZ), 11. Delhi Shahdara (KM5/9-15 between DSA-DLI line)**
Date & Time for e-auction	**Start: 11.07.2022 at 11:00 hrs** **Close: 11.07.2022 at 15:20 hrs**
Website particulars where complete details of E-Auction can be seen	**https://ireps.gov.in**

All contractors who intend to participate in the e-auctions conducted through E-Auction Leasing module of IREPS should fulfil following mandatory requirements before they can submit their bids:
- Registration on IREPS for E-Auction Leasing module -Active IREPS User Account for E-Auction Leasing Module
- Payment of One Time Registration Fee
- Current Account in State Bank of India
- Integration of SBI Bank Account with IREPS Account
- Lien Marking of Funds
- Updation of Turnover Details
- Contractors who do not have IREPS account for any module of IREPS can submit their online request for registration by clicking on New Vendors / Contractors (E-Tender /E-Auction Leasing) link on IREPS Home page.

Railway Authority to contact, in case of any query	**Divisional Railway Manager's Office, Commercial Branch, State Entry Road, New Delhi 110055** **Email:pkg.delhidivision@gmail.com Tel: 011-23743084**

Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav

No. : 23AC/393/E Auction/2022
Dated : 24.06.2022

1561/2022

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PAPER WITH PASSION

Time to exit BRICS?

India's continuation in the grouping lends legitimacy to the regimes of Xi and Putin

Chinese President Xi Jinping's concern over "expanding" military ties is not the worry of a statesman who is committed to global peace and rules-based international order; it is the fear of a tyrant who is the lord and master of the world's most powerful and dangerous rogue State. Addressing the virtual annual BRICS Business Forum from Beijing, he denounced the US' alliance-building in Asia (read Quad) and the West's sweeping sanctions against Russia. "In the past century, humanity has gone through the scourge of two World Wars and the dark shadow of the Cold War. The tragedies of the past tell us that hegemony, group politics and bloc confrontation bring no peace or security; they only lead to wars and conflicts," Xi said at the event in which there were representatives and business groups from Brazil, Russia, India, China, and South Africa. If there is one country that must learn from the tragedies of the past, it is China; it is also the country that needs to realise that hegemony, group politics and bloc confrontation bring no peace or security. Not just realise but also act on this realisation and stop propping up other rogue States like Pakistan and North Korea. But this will not happen because what Xi wants is hegemony not peace, confrontation not dialogue. Similarly, he uses the Ukraine crisis, which he calls a "wake-up call for all in the world", to rant against the expansion of "military alliances".

The BRICS meet not only allows the Chinese President to spread his lies but also gives an opportunity to Russian President Vladimir Putin to partially regain some respectability that he lost after he launched an unprovoked attack on Ukraine. In his video address, Putin said that his country was "redirecting" its trade flows to BRICS nations and other "reliable international partners". Unsurprisingly, he slammed the debilitating sanctions that the western nations had imposed on Russia, calling them "politically motivated" and "contrary to common sense and basic economic logic". The entire exercise of BRICS meet was galling from the Indian perspective, for Prime Minister Narendra Modi attended it. The head of the Government of the world's largest democracy sharing platform (though virtual) with the two most dangerous dictators was not something many Indians would cherish. In fact, the mere presence of the Indian Prime Minister lends a great deal of legitimacy and even respectability to the two tyrants; just like guilt by association, there is also legitimacy by association. Consider the contrast between India on the one hand and China and Russia on the other. In recent times, India has extended everything it could — PPE kits and vaccines to dozens of countries, aid to crisis-hit Sri Lanka. On the other hand, China exported the deadly virus that killed millions of people and Russia attacked a neighbour for no reason. Frankly, India should get out of BRICS which anyway lacks the *raison d'etre*. Just like the Non-Aligned Movement.

PICTALK

Crowds walk along on the 12th hole at the Travellers Championship tournament, at TPC River Highlands AP

For progress?

A BJP MLA's proclamation on 50 States after the LS poll must be for the right reasons

Stoking a political controversy, BJP's Karnataka leader Umesh Vishwanath Katti has stated that once PM Narendra Modi returns to power after the 2024 elections, the nation will have 50 States. He even elaborated the Union Government's purported plans to, at the local level, have North Karnataka as a separate State, and, at the national level, to split Maharashtra into three states and Uttar Pradesh into four. The six-term member of the Karnataka Legislative Assembly, who currently holds the portfolio in the Ministry of Food, Civil Supplies and Consumer Affairs Department, is a vocal proponent of separate statehood for north Karnataka. A video of him making the statement, which took place at a Belagavi Bar Association event, has since gone viral. Ostensibly, the blueprint primarily takes into account the population numbers of bigger States; such States would be suitably bifurcated for the ease of governance and altogether 50 States would come into existence after the 2024 Lok Sabha election, as per the so-claimed initiative of Prime Minister Narendra Modi. It actually is high time that IT companies, who have Bengaluru their home, looked out outside the metropolis, especially since north Karnataka has huge potential.

Though Katti admitted that it's not his party's official stand, he exhorted the people of north Karnataka to "make it happen". He may have a point, though. Bengaluru is bursting at seams with its burgeoning population; it lacks water supply for citizens, who have to spend hours in traffic jams. The statements by Katti, who represents the Hukkeri Assembly constituency, have reignited the regional divide debate in Karnataka in which most of the population and leaders from the northern parts of the State have been demanding statehood to get better amenities and development for the region. But this scheme by the ruling dispensation is quite understandable provided it's aimed squarely at providing better governance to the grassroots, bring development to the remotest regions and benefit the last man standing at the end of the spectrum. However, if the end aim is to reap narrow dividends for a particular party, the planned move can't be condoned. However, as we all know, there's a lot more to be read between the lines in politics than in their actual content, so there's only hoping that there's no mala fide intention behind the purported move.

Agnipath scheme Govt's trial by fire

BRIJENDER SINGH **PANWAR**

The Govt faces an uphill task in meeting expectations of the nation's youth when economy is experiencing severe recession and job market is unstable

Much water has flown down the Ganges since unveiling of the new human resource policy by the Defence Ministry for recruiting soldiers, sailors and airmen. The country witnessed widespread protests, rioting and violence by youth in many States causing irreparable damage to public property. This abrupt change has not gone well with the youth aspiring to join the armed forces lured by the earlier system of joining service for 17 years and enjoying pension benefits. Taking note of the resentment among the youth and the Opposition encashing upon the unrest, the Government went into damage control and the age limit was enhanced from 21 years to 23 years. Home and Defence Ministries announced 10 per cent reservation to reinstate the retired troops in Central Armed Police Forces (CAPF) forces, defence Public Sector Undertakings (PSUs) and other jobs. Some States also assured job security to Agniveers after their retirement. Indian business magnates justified the Agnipath scheme, claiming that it has large potential for employment.

Senior armed forces officers also sought to clear the doubts. Prime Minister Narendra Modi himself said that some reforms "may look unfair" at first, but will help in nation-building later. He met the three service chiefs to discuss the Agnipath scheme. The Army and the Air Force have since issued recruitment notifications. All these developments indicate that the Government failed to do proper homework before introducing the scheme and is now acting in haste to control the situation.

The scheme has received mixed response from the veterans and public — those in service have supported the decision whereas most retired officers have criticised the move. They have raised apprehensions on various counts like the training duration for Agniveers, whether their motivation level will be as high as that of regular soldiers and the rehabilitation of retired troops. They have also criticised the hasty manner in which the scheme was implemented without putting the scheme to test through a pilot project. To meet the cumulative threat from China and Pakistan, the Indian forces require young, highly trained and motivated soldiers. The pertinent questions are whether the new breed of Agniveers will be able to meet this challenge?

What benefits would the retired Agniveers get? How would the defence forces gain out of this scheme? Critics feel that the first casualty would be the quality of human resources. Any eligible person will first compete for jobs in civilian Government, police and Central forces where she enjoys assured service till the age of 60 years and pension benefits, before opting for the four-year unsecured stint in the armed forces. The second casualty would be training — an Agniveer's six-month stint will be able to gain him neither any worthwhile expertise in handling expensive military equipment nor understand the nuances of a modern battlefield of artificial intelligence, cyber warfare etc. Poor-quality human resources, inadequately trained and poorly paid Agniveers, lacking any motivation with a broken regimental system, will be a disaster in the making for our armed forces.

> POOR-QUALITY HUMAN RESOURCES, INADEQUATELY TRAINED AND POORLY PAID AGNIVEERS, LACKING ANY MOTIVATION WITH A BROKEN REGIMENTAL SYSTEM, WILL BE A DISASTER IN THE MAKING FOR OUR VALOROUS ARMED FORCES

The scheme's supporters hailed it as a path-breaking initiative that would replace an aging Army, in which more than 60 per cent men are above 30 years of age and would pave the way for regular intake and availability of young, fit and motivated youth who wish to don the uniform and serve the nation for short periods. The scheme is expected to open up new opportunities for our youth, boost civil-military fusion and pave the way for becoming worthy representatives of the best regimental traditions of the armed forces. One of the biggest challenges facing the armed forces is the budgetary constraints. Ballooning salary and pension bills have placed enormous stress on the availability of funds for military modernisation. The emphasis of the new scheme is on ensuring a youthful and tech-savvy profile of the armed forces while reducing the overall burden on pension and gratuities. Another logic given in favour of this scheme is that several foreign models were studied before its implementation. The service period ranges from two to eight years with options for active and reservist service in many modern armed forces of the world, such as the US, UK and France. The Israeli army, which is considered to be one of the best in the world, has service of 30 and 20 months, respectively, for men and women.

The Government faces an uphill task of tackling this peculiar situation of meeting expectations of the frustrated youth at a time when the economy is experiencing severe recession and job market is unstable. Unfortunately, the 1.4 million-strong Army has faced neglect by all Governments, defence expenditure being relegated to the "non-plan" category and Finance Ministry, instead of finding ways and means of raising essential, additional funds for national defence, has passed the buck to the armed forces and demanded that they evolve measures for reducing the pension bill. All these lacunae need to be taken care of before it is too late.

(The writer is a senior journalist and Chairman, the Panwar Group of Institutions, Solan, Himachal Pradesh. The views expressed are personal.)

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

OUR SOLDIERS LEARNING MANDARIN

Sir — At a time when modern communication techniques are transforming the landscape of military warfare, the prospects of countries are likely to depend on how soldiers conduct themselves when they face their enemy soldiers at an unarmed border. In this respect, basic conversation in enemy language is of utmost importance. The Government's initiative to train them in the Chinese language is aimed at easing tensions emanating from a lack of proper language communication between the border patrols. Several transgressions like border standoffs, first in Doklam and now in Ladakh, take place every year and such inscidents highlight the increasing gravity of the situation.

To combat such unforeseen circumstances, over 60,000 Himveers and Indo-Tibetan Border Police personnel have already completed their training in Mandarin in order to communicate fluently with the People's Liberation Army (PLA) soldiers during patrols. Acquiring the Chinese language skills could help reduce misunderstandings along the border at a time when relations between the two countries are still incendiary. Proficiency in enemy language can help on-the-spot negotiation and contact procedure. This concept needs to be replicated in other northeastern States bordering other countries, which can help in better communication and can even enhance cultural ties.

Vijay Singh Adhikari | *Nainital*

WHO IS BEHIND THE MAHARASHTRA CRISIS?

Sir — We have heard it straight from the horse's mouth. Eknath Shinde has revealed that the entire operation of splitting the Shiv Sena was supported by a 'national party'. There are no prizes for guessing which party it is. He gave the clue, of course to whom it was needed, that it was the party, a 'superpower' that taught Pakistan a lesson. The strength and confidence of Shinde appears to be emanating more from BJP's support than the number of MLAs owing allegiance to him. It falls on the BJP to convincingly rebut the charge that the threat of using Central agencies has facilitated the revolt against the MVA Government.

Shinde says that his sole demand is that the Sena snap ties with Congress and NCP and join hands with the BJP, its 'natural ally'. The dilution of Hindutva under Uddhav Thackeray's leadership because of the ties with the Congress and the NCP cited for the revolt is only a fig leaf. The BJP's role in triggering the political crisis might not have been as explicit as in Karnataka or Madhya Pradesh but the party has lost its moral compass and become accustomed to toppling non-BJP State Governments.

G David Milton | *Maruthancode*

MODI NOT TO BLAME FOR GODHRA

Sir — The Supreme Court has upheld the clean chit given to former Chief Minister Narendra Modi and 63 others in the Gujarat riots, triggered by the burning of a railway coach in which *kar sevaks* were burnt alive. The Godhra carnage was a spontaneous public reaction to the killing of innocent *kar sevaks*, like the Sikh massacre. It is easy, and right too, to say two wrongs cannot make one right. But mob frenzy on an unprecedented scale would cause immense damage before the situation is brought under control. This is what happened both in the Indira Gandhi assassination case and the *kar sevaks* burning case.

The SIT closure report giving clean chit to Modi and others was challenged by Zakia Jafri, the widow of slain Congress leader Ehsan Jafri. Zakia has fought a relentless legal battle to get "justice" for the death of her husband. But she must concede that Modi had not engineered the Godhra incident. Zakia should come to terms with the reality surfacing now. Just as she is bereaved, the families of *kar sevaks* are also bereaved by their death. Godhra was an offshoot of *kar sevak* killings that spread across the State.

KV Seetharamaiah | *Bengaluru*

PM package employees' woes

Since after the barbaric and gruesome killing of Rahul Bhat (a PM Package employee) by terrorists in the Kashmir Valley, which was followed by a series of such dastardly acts by militants in the region, all Kashmiri Pandit package employees went on the streets and are protesting for their one-point demand of being relocated outside the State of Jammu & Kashmir. These package employees are peacefully agitating since the last 45 days in Jammu as well as in Kashmir. Due to the recent spike in the targeted killings in Kashmir, the PM package employees are feeling insecure, threatened and totally unsafe. Many Hindu minority employees were massacred at their workplaces and this is indeed a very grave concern.

Thus, rightly, these hapless and unfortunate employees are only demanding their relocation outside Kashmir, at least as a temporary measure, as there is fear psychosis among them. These Kashmiri Pandit employees have become soft targets in Kashmir. Therefore, relocation outside Kashmir is the only viable solution at this juncture to stop further bloodshed. India is currently under the strong leadership of PM Narendra Modi and thus all PM package Kashmiri Pandit employees have full trust in his Government. It is now hoped that the Centre will pay immediate heed to the protesting Kashmiri Pandit employees and order their temporary adjustments outside Kashmir in order to save their lives.

ON Koul | *New Delhi*

Send your feedback to: **letterstopioneer@gmail.com**

SOUNDBITE

Why are you (BJP) disturbing the Assam Govt when they are facing floods?

West Bengal CM
—Mamata Banerjee

The Cold War mentality must end. BRICS must oppose the abuse of sanctions.

Chinese President
—XI Jinping

Three films from down south did really well. Films in Hindi have also done well.

Actor
—R Madhavan

In 2020, we were coming up; it was the transition period for the juniors.

Indian cyclist
—L Ronaldo Singh

This (₹60,000 crore) is one of the largest transfers to a foundation in Indian corporate history.

Asia's richest person
—Gautam Adani

FIRST COLUMN

CUSTOMS DUTY IS MUST ON E-TRANSMISSIONS

It will provide a level playing field to the domestic industry

ASHWANI **MAHAJAN**

Moratorium on customs duties on electronic transmissions has got another lease of life at the World Trade Organisation's 12th Ministerial Conference (MC12). Some say this has happened due to pressure exerted by the United States, others think that India has bargained this for other gains.

It's noteworthy that India had pronounced that it would oppose this moratorium, as it causes a huge loss of revenue, apart from hurting our digital development, as domestic players face intense competition from global tech companies.

Significantly, at the time of the start of the WTO, trade in electronic products was very limited. In such a situation, the tariff on the trade of electronic products was temporarily suspended and it was decided in the Second Ministerial Conference of the WTO in 1998 to study the issues related to the global electronic trade with reference to the development needs of the developing countries. It was proposed that tariffs on electronic products be postponed till the next ministerial conference.

It is unfortunate that the developed countries kept suspending the decision on imposing tariffs on the import of electronic products, on several pretexts. Today the situation is that more than $30 billion of electronic products are being imported into India alone. That is, even if 10 per cent tariff is imposed, the government will get revenue of more than $3 billion.

According to a recent study, developing countries could have generated $56 billion from imports of just 49 digitalised products in the period 2017-19. Least developed countries could have generated $8 billion in this period, which is double the amount they need for giving double dose of Covid vaccine to their populations.

The issue here is not only about loss of revenue, it's a much larger issue for a country like India, where our start-ups and software companies are able to make a variety of electronic products, where we can make movies and other entertainment products in our own country, but when all such products are imported undeterred, without tariff, there is little incentive to produce them indigenously.

Tariff moratorium on e-products is actually killing our efforts of Atmanirbhar Bharat, benefitting the US, European countries, and China.

At the beginning of MC12, India started with a bold stance and Commerce Minister Piyush Goyal said: "I think this moratorium, which has been continuing for 24 years, must be reviewed and re-looked at."

However, the decision on moratorium in MC12, is read as follows: "We agree to maintain the current practice of not imposing customs duties on electronic transmissions until MC 13, which should ordinarily be held by 31 December 2023. Should MC 13 be delayed beyond 31 March 2024, the moratorium will expire on the date unless Ministers or the General Council take a decision to extend."

In the earlier Ministerial Conferences of WTO, in the last 24 years, the developed world had been easily getting the moratorium. MC12, was the first such conference where they faced some resistance from the developing countries. With this, a hope had arisen that the moratorium would end ultimately. But this battle was also lost.

Since 1998, the digital revolution has changed a lot in the world. There are digital products which are fast replacing physical products. Many of the digital products in health, fintech, public services, etc., incorporate artificial intelligence and 3D printing. Failure to tax them in innovative ways is likely to impact the government finances adversely.

\We have started developing our own digital products; the production linked incentives (PLIs) scheme has been designed to nurture our infant digital products industries. Imposition of custom duties can help them by providing a level-playing field.

Though MC12 is over, India should leave no stone unturned to end this moratorium.

(The author is Professor, PGDAV College, University of Delhi)

Despite its low share price, LIC is valuable

NIRJHAR **MAJUMDAR**

The IPO was a failure but LIC policyholders and investors will get their money's worth in course of time

The insurance industry is now at a crossroads. The regulator is busy changing the rules of the game. Insurers are changing business models, disrupting the traditional value chain. Foreign insurers and reinsurers are taking more interest in the business, as the insurance market is growing, following the rising prosperity of people despite a recessionary situation. Yet, insurers are still at their wits' end as to how to take insurance penetration to the next level.

Amidst this scenario, LIC launched its IPO by offering 3.5 per cent of its shares to retail and institutional investors. This has enabled the government to mop up about Rs 21,000 crore from the market. As much as 10 per cent of the offloaded LIC shares have been allotted to policyholders and 5 per cent to employees. In fact, this was the biggest IPO in India's corporate history.

About a month has elapsed since the listing of LIC's shares in stock exchanges. At the moment, LIC shares are traded about 30 per cent below the issue price. Some doomsayer analysts have already started fear-mongering in the market, proclaiming this as a bad omen for the market leader. In this article, I would try to dispel this notion.

Certain facts merit special attention of those who have invested money in LIC's IPO. This article is all about instilling confidence in LIC policyholders and shareholders by reassuring that they will get their money's worth in the days to come.

Let us see how LIC is placed in the market vis-à-vis its competitors. It has customers all over the country and across all sections of society. It has 30 crore in-force policies in its books as on date. On the other hand, none of the private insurers has a strong presence in rural India, as most of them are engaged in picking up low-hanging fruits of the metro and Tier-I cities. None of the private life insurers has even 1 crore of in-force policies. Most Indians living outside metros and Tier-I cities have not even heard the names of leading private insurers. For them, life insurance means LIC.

Besides, LIC is insuring the lives of crores of poorer citizens through low-cost group insurance schemes. Some financial analysts go to the extent of saying that LIC's products are not innovative enough. The fact is all insurers have innovative products. It is more important to check whether the insurers are able to sell those products in the market. Even on this count, LIC is much ahead of the competition. LIC sells all types of insurance products in large numbers—endowment, term, whole life, or even annuities. On the other hand, private insurers as a whole earn 40 per cent of the premium income by selling Ulips only.

> THE LIC HAS CUSTOMERS AND 30 CRORE IN-FORCE POLICIES ALL OVER THE COUNTRY AND ACROSS ALL SECTIONS OF SOCIETY. ON THE OTHER HAND, NONE OF THE PRIVATE LIFE INSURERS HAS EVEN 1 CRORE OF IN-FORCE POLICIES

(The author is an insurance industry analyst)

While Ulips are not necessarily undesirable products, they are more investment-oriented than insurance. Indians need more protection, savings, and annuity products than investment products with some element of insurance. And LIC has been selling more protection/savings products, to take the benefits of insurance to the remotest corners of the country.

Let's talk a little bit about the technicality of this business. Embedded value (EV) is defined as the present value of future profits plus adjusted net asset value. EV of LIC was calculated to be Rs 5.4 lakh crore before the launch of IPO. This was arrived at, on the basis of realistic assumptions on future mortality, expenses and interest rates. Insurers and their consultants made pretty conservative assumptions on these parameters. All these bases of valuation are, however, more or less the same for all the insurers (except to some extent the expenses).

What then can make the difference? I would say persistency ratios of insurers (especially 61-month persistency) can determine EV of the insurers a lot. For LIC, this ratio is 48 per cent in terms of policies (the industry average being 33 per cent and 59 per cent in terms of premiums). This is very close to the global standard. A satisfactory persistency ratio of LIC means there will be a satisfactory flow of premium income in future, resulting in better surpluses. If there are better surpluses, there will be higher dividends and also higher share price.

Nobody can belittle the contribution of private insurers. But people need to know certain facts which prove LIC's dominance in the industry across the country. LIC is respected not just for its holding 66 per cent market share but also for its omnipresence in the country, making it convenient for ordinary people to visit the insurer's offices. The hallmark of its operations is the honesty and integrity with which the employees have been discharging their duties and clean image that the organisation has been able to maintain in the midst of corporations getting entangled in recurring financial scams. LIC is one organisation which has worked from their brick-and-mortar offices even during the worst of pandemic times, keeping the interests of crores of its customers and one million plus intermediaries in sight.

Now, let's talk about the movement of share price of LIC. As have already been mentioned, only 10 per cent shares have been sold to policyholders and 5 per cent to employees. A bulk was sold to anchor investors. Hence, the people reposing faith in LIC as policyholders and the people investing in IPO are completely different.

A section of investors is being made to believe that the IPO was overpriced and that the price would slide even further as the fundamentals of the organisation were below par. They were also fed on the rumour that anchor investors would offload their shares immediately after lock-in period. All such negative publicity contributed to the fall in share price so rapidly. But there is a limit to such fall as regards the share price of an organisation as financially sound as LIC.

Let's remember some basics of the investment game. Once Warren Buffet said, "In the short run, stocks behave like a slot machine, but in the long run, they behave like a weighing machine." Now the share price of LIC is moving randomly and is getting determined purely by forces of demand and supply. These random movements cannot be used to predict the long-term value of the stock.

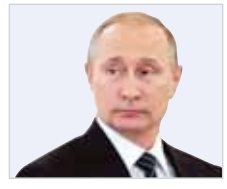
In the long run, the intrinsic value of a company remains constant, irrespective of what the traders of stocks do every day in the market. In the long run, the share price will be equal to the intrinsic value of a company. This is true for all the markets and for all the stocks. The annual report of LIC is in the public domain and investors can access that. All successful investors of the world muster the skill of making sense out of financial and industry data, and wait patiently for the fair value of a company to emerge.

Every Indian knows what LIC stands for. The organisation has weathered many storms in its 66-year journey since 1956. Yes, there is a need for the business model of the organisation to undergo change; it is already working towards that.

Finally, we must remember that not all analysts are in the business of misguiding investors. JP Morgan said in its recently released report on LIC that the market failed to understand the strength of LIC. The price to embedded value ratio (P/EV) is unrealistically low. This means that both the LIC policyholders and investors will get their money's worth in course of time.

POINT COUNTER POINT

BRICS CAN BOLSTER GLOBAL POST-PANDEMIC RECOVERY... MUTUAL COOPERATION HAS BENEFITED THE LIVES OF ALL CITIZENS.
—PRIME MINISTER
NARENDRA MODI



THE WEST IS FOMENTING CRISIS. THE STATE OF GLOBAL ECONOMY IS DUE TO THE SELFISH ACTIONS OF INDIVIDUAL STATES.
—RUSSIAN PRESIDENT
VLADIMIR PUTIN

US-Pakistan partnership: Always at India's cost

Pakistan, which played an important role in containing the spread of communism, continues to be of help to the US

NISHTHA **KAUSHIKI**

US State Department spokesperson Ned Price recently commented in favour of advancing the "US-Pakistan partnership" in a manner that serves their "mutual interests." Elsewhere, at the CNN News18 Town Hall, S. Jaishankar stated that a "lot of India's problems with Pakistan are directly attributable to the support that the United States gave to Pakistan." The link between the US support to Pakistan and India's problems needs to be revisited.

Theoretically, the power of the weak states to attract the great powers has been well established. Weak states cannot defend themselves. Consequently, they seek financial and military aid in exchange for their strategic autonomy and the geostrategic location. Pakistan is one such state.

Soviet Union leader Stalin first extended an invitation to Pakistan PM Liaquat Ali Khan in 1949 to visit Moscow. The fundamental differences between an Islamist state and a communist Soviet prevented that entente; hence, Pakistan sided with the US and played an important role in containing the spread of communism.

By 1955, Pakistan had joined two regional defence pacts, the South East Asia Treaty Organization and the Central Treaty Organization (Baghdad Pact). A little before 1955, in 1953, when Ayub Khan visited Turkey, he reiterated Dulles's 'northern tier defence pact' in which the two countries would occupy a prominent position. Later in 1954, the Turko-Iraqi agreement (Baghdad Pact) superseded the Turko-Pak plan.

Consequently, from 1953 to 1961, Islamabad received nearly $2 billion in US assistance, one-quarter of this in military aid. Apart from this data, information retrieved from the Stockholm Peace Research Institute (SIPRI) indicates that from 1955 to 1959, US arms exports amounted to $1.02 billion. When correlated with Pakistan's then financial situation, strong indications of a vicious cycle of US aid and US arms exports emerge. In the budding relationship between the two, the core security concerns of India, a democratic nonaligned country, were sidelined.

Upon India's vehement protests, oral assurances were given by Eisenhower to Nehru that the US would take care of the situation in a case of Pakistan's aggression against India. Thus, while India was idealistically following a nonaligned policy, Pakistan was hard bargaining its geostrategic location in lieu of military aid. According to the strategic experts, nearly four-fifths of all the foreign aid Pakistan received during 1951-60 came from the US. From the 1960s to the late 1970s, there was a brief period when US aid to Pakistan decreased.

The 1979 Soviet invasion of Afghanistan again allowed Pakistan to extract more aid from the US. In exchange for Pakistan's role in the Afghan war, a $400-million US aid was offered to Pakistan. It was rejected by the Zia-ul-Haq regime in 1980 and was labeled as 'peanuts.' Haq eyed the F-16, which Islamabad later got.

Thus, from 1983 to 1990, Pakistan received military aid of $3.73 billion along with 1,000 Stinger missiles, and the component of US arms sales was $2.2 billion. This was the same period when Pakistan's proxy war in Kashmir started, including the massacre of Kashmiri Hindus.

Also, at a regional level, many security experts attribute the birth of the Taliban to ISI and US agencies. Had the US assistance not been there, Pakistan would not have been so aggressive against India and its other neighbours, such as Afghanistan and Iran. Thus, the relationship between Pakistan and the US has always been based on a patron-client state wherein foreign or military aid is given to serve the US' geopolitical interests.

In the post-Cold War phase, Pakistan was reeling under sanctions due to its nuclear tests and was denied any military aid. However, the 9/11 attacks in the US again brought Pakistan to the forefront of Washington's South Asia policy. As per the SIPRI data, during 2002-14 Pakistan, as a major non-NATO ally, got military aid worth $5.81 billion and the arms sales component was $3.2 billion.

This was the same period when the Nandimarg massacre and Mumbai attacks took place. All these attacks were attributed to Pakistan. India collected the 'proof' and gave it to the US, hoping that the US might acknowledge it and help India. Little did India realise that the geopolitics of national interests, military aid, and arms trade are closely interrelated factors. Hence Pakistan was never labeled as a 'terrorist state' by the US.

It was only after Pakistan's backstabbing of the US in Afghanistan that former US president Donald Trump realised America's mistake and commented in 2018 that it had "foolishly" given aid and, in return, merely got "lies and deceit."

Today, despite Washington's zero-tolerance policy against terrorism and the backstabbing by Pakistan in Afghanistan, the US is all set to re-engage Pakistan, which will harm India's interests.

Given the evolving situation, India too is changing. The coupling of strategic autonomy and Atmanirbhar Bharat in the defence sector is the answer to the geopolitics of the patron-client relationship.

(The author is Assistant Professor, Central University of Punjab, Bathinda)

UKRAINIAN ARMY TO LEAVE BATTERED CITY TO AVOID ENCIRCLEMENT

AP ■ KYIV

After weeks of ferocious fighting, Ukrainian forces will retreat from a besieged city in the country's east to avoid encirclement, a regional governor said Friday.

The city of Sievierodonetsk, the administrative center of the Luhansk region, has faced relentless Russian bombardment. Ukrainian troops fought the Russians in house-to-house battles before retreating to a huge chemical factory on the city's edge, where they holed up in its sprawling underground structures.

In recent days, Russian forces have made gains around Sievierodonetsk and the neighboring city of Lysychansk, on a steep bank across the river, in a bid to encircle Ukrainian forces.

Luhansk Gov. Serhiy Haidai said that the Ukrainian troops have been given the order to leave Sievierodonetsk to prevent that.

"Regrettably, we will have to pull our troops out of Sievierodonetsk," Haidai told The Associated Press. "It makes no sense to stay at the destroyed positions, and the number of killed in action has been growing."

He said that the Ukrainian soldiers have "received the order to retreat from Sievierodonetsk to new positions in fortified areas and continue resistance from there."

Haidai noted that Ukrainian troops still remain in Sievierodonetsk, facing massive Russian bombardment that has destroyed 80% of buildings.

Haidai said the Russians were also advancing toward Lysychansk from Zolote and Toshkivka, adding that Russian reconnaissance units conducted forays on the city edges but were driven out by its defenders.

The sculpture of prominent Italian poet Dante Alighieri, is protected by sandbags, on Vladimir's Hill in Kyiv, Ukraine AP Photo

The governor added that a bridge on a highway leading to Lysychansk was badly damaged in a Russian airstrike and became unusable for trucks.

The Russian Defense Ministry declared Friday that four Ukrainian battalions and a unit of "foreign mercenaries" totaling about 2,000 soldiers have been "fully blocked" near Hirske and Zolote, south of Lysychansk. The claim couldn't be independently verified.

Following a botched attempt to capture Kyiv, Ukraine's capital, in the early stage of the invasion that started Feb. 24, Russian forces have shifted focus in the war to the Donbas region, where the Ukrainian forces have fought Moscow-backed separatists since 2014.

The Russian military controls about 95% of Luhansk province and about half of neighboring Donetsk province, the two areas that make up the Donbas.

After repeated requests to its Western allies for heavier weaponry to counter Russia's edge in firepower, Ukrainian Defense Minister Oleksii Reznikov said a response had arrived in the form of medium-range American rocket launchers.

A U.S. defense official confirmed Wednesday that all four of the promised High Mobility Artillery Rocket Systems, or HIMARS, were in the hands of Ukrainian forces but said it wasn't clear if they have been used yet.

The U.S. approved providing the precision-guided systems at the end of May, and once they were in the region, Ukraine's forces needed about three weeks of training to operate them. The rockets can travel about 45 miles (70 kilometers).

The U.S. will send an addition $450 million in military aid to Ukraine, including four more of the medium-range rocket systems, ammunition and other supplies, U.S. officials announced Thursday.

Ukrainians cheer nation's EU candidacy amid wartime woes

AP ■ KYIV

The European Union's decision to make Ukraine a candidate for EU membership offered war-weary Ukrainians a morale boost and hope of a more secure future Friday as the country's military ordered its fighters to retreat from a key city in the eastern Donbas region.

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy hailed the decision of EU leaders as vindication for his nation's fight against Russia's aggression and said he was determined to ensure Ukraine retained the ability to decide if belonged in Europe or under Moscow's influence. "This war began just when Ukraine declared its right to freedom. To its choice of its future. We saw it in the European Union," Zelenskyy told the nation in a televised address late Thursday.

"That is why this decision of the EU is so important, motivates us and shows all this is needed not only by us."

Others recalled the 2014 revolution that ousted Ukraine's pro-Moscow president, sparked in part by his decision not to complete an association agreement with the EU. Russian President Vladimir Putin opposed that agreement, just as he demanded before he sent troops into Ukraine on Feb. 24 that NATO never accept Ukraine as an alliance member.

Arseniy Yatsenyuk, an opposition leader who became prime minister after the revolution, expressed joy at the country's candidate status but also "bitterness" over the "terrible price that Ukraine pays for the desire to be a free, independent European state."

"Thank you to our soldiers - they won this decision," Yatsenyuk tweeted. "Ukraine is a great country that will inevitably become a member of the EU and, just as inevitably, a member of NATO."

Ukraine applied for membership less than a week after Russia invaded the country and must undergo a complicated process of many months to be eligible to join the 27-nation bloc.

Poland gets a loan to help it look after Ukraine refugees

AP ■ WARSAW

Poland is getting a loan of 450 million euros ($474 million) from a bank linked to a European human rights group to help it cope with the influx of refugees fleeing Russia's invasion of Ukraine.

Poland and the Council of Europe Development Bank signed the loan agreement Friday.

Some 4.3 million refugees crossed into Poland after Russia invaded Ukraine in February. Poland is providing them with free shelter, social and medical care, education and job opportunities.

Many have moved on to other countries and some have decided to go back home, but an estimated half of the number remain in Poland.

Prime Minister Mateusz Morawiecki singled out the European Union earlier this month, saying it's decision-making procedures for providing financial support are "sometimes too slow."

The Council of Europe has 46 member countries, including EU nations, and aims to protect human rights, democracy and the rule of law.

Russian military cargo plane crashes, killing 4

AP ■ MOSCOW

A Russian military cargo plane crashed Friday, killing at least four crewmembers and leaving several others injured, officials said.

The heavylift Il-76 cargo plane went down in the southwestern Ryazan region. The Russian Defense Ministry said that the plane suffered an engine problem that forced the crew to crash-land it on the ground.

The regional administration said that four of its crew were killed and a further five were injured when the plane slammed into a field just outside the city of Ryazan. Officials said that those injured were hospitalised in grave condition.

The four-engine Il-76 was designed in the 1970s and has served as the main heavylift cargo plane for the Soviet and Russian air force. It has also been widely used by many countries around the world.

UN chief warns of 'catastrophe' from global food shortage

AP ■ BERLIN

The head of the United Nations warned Friday that the world faces "catastrophe" because of the growing shortage of food around the globe.

UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres said the war in Ukraine has added to the disruptions caused by climate change, the coronavirus pandemic and inequality to produce an "unprecedented global hunger crisis" already affecting hundreds of millions of people.

"There is a real risk that multiple famines will be declared in 2022," he said in a video message to officials from dozens of rich and developing countries gathered in Berlin. "And 2023 could be even worse."

Guterres noted that harvests across Asia, Africa and the Americas will take a hit as farmers around the world struggle to cope with rising fertilizer and energy prices.

"This year's food access issues could become next year's global food shortage," he said.

"No country will be immune to the social and economic repercussions of such a catastrophe."

Guterres said UN Negotiators were working on a deal that would enable Ukraine to export food, including via the Black Sea, and let Russia bring food and fertilizer to world markets without restrictions.

He also called for debt relief for poor countries to help keep their economies afloat and for the private sector to help stabilise global food markets.

The Berlin meeting's host, German Foreign Minister Annalena Baerbock, said Moscow's claim that Western sanctions imposed over Russia's invasion of Ukraine were to blame for food shortages was "completely untenable."

Russia exported as much wheat in May and June this year as in the same months of 2021, Baerbock said.

She echoed Guterres' comments that several factors underlie the growing hunger crisis around the world.

"But it was Russia's war of attack against Ukraine that turned a wave into a tsunami," Baerbock said.

U.S. Secretary of State Antony Blinken insisted that Russia has no excuse for holding back vital goods from world markets.

"The sanctions that we've imposed on Russia collectively and with many other countries exempt food, exempt food products, exempt fertilizers, exempt insurers, exempt shippers," he said.

बिहार सरकार
कार्यपालक अभियन्ता–सह–स्थानिक अभियन्ता का कार्यालय
बिहार भवन, नई दिल्ली

संक्षिप्त निविदा आमंत्रण सुचना

पत्र सं0 –251 /स्था0अभि0, दिनांक– 24/06/2022

बिहार भवन एवं बिहार निवास चाणक्यापुरी, नई दिल्ली हेतु निम्नलिखित कार्ये के लिए समुचित श्रेणी में बिहार लोक निर्माण विभाग में पंजीकृत ठेंकेदारो भवन निर्माताओ से बिहार लोक निर्माण विभाग एफ–2 एकसरनामा में होने वाले कार्यो के लिए मुहरबंद निविदाएँ आमंत्रित की जाती है।

1. विज्ञापन दाता का नाम एवं पता :– स्थानिक अभियन्ता, बिहार भवन, चाण्क्यापुरी नई दिल्ली
2. परीमाण विपत्र के बिक्री की तिथि :– 18.07.2022 (कार्यालय अवधि तक)
3. निविदा प्राप्त करने की तिथि एवं समय :– 19.07.2022 (अपराहण 3:00 बजे तक)
4. निविदा खोलने की तिथि एवं समय :– 19.07.2022 (अपराहण 3:00 बजे से 5:00 बजे तक)
5. परिमाण विपत्र निर्गत का स्थान :– 1, स्थानिक अभियंन्ता कार्यालय बिहार निवास चाण्क्यापुरी, नई दिल्ली। 2. उपस्थानिक अभियन्ता, कार्यालय बिहार निवास चाण्क्यापुरी, नई दिल्ली।
6. निविदा प्राप्ति का स्थान :– स्थानिक अभियन्ता कार्यालय बिहार निवास चाण्क्यापुरी, नई दिल्ली।

क्र मांक	कार्य का नाम	प्राक्कलित राशि	अग्रधन राशि	बी.ओ. क्यू राशि	कार्य राशि
1.	Repair & painting work of HE suits with attached room in Bihar Niwas for the year 2022-23	350000.00	16500.00	750.00	15
2.	Repair, painting & polishing work first floor rooms of Bihar Niwas for the year 2022-23	350000.00	16500.00	750.00	15
3.	Repair, painting & polishing work second floor rooms of Bihar Niwas for the year 2022-23	325000.00	16000.00	750.00	15
4.	Repair, painting & polishing work third floor rooms of Bihar Niwas for the year 2022-23	300000.00	15000.00	750.00	15
5.	Repair & painting work of boundary wall of Bihar Niwas for the year 2022-23	350000.00	16500.00	750.00	15
6.	Repair & painting polishing work of Multipurpose hall of first floor in Bihar Niwas for the year 2022-23	200000.00	10000.00	500.00	15
7.	Repair, painting & polishing work ground floor office rooms of Bihar Niwas for the year 2022-23	200000.00	10000.00	500.00	15
8.	Repair, painting & polishing work corridor and staircase in Bihar Niwas for the year 2022-23	150000.00	7500.00	500.00	15
9.	Painting & beautification of flower bed & bamboo jafri of garden in Bihar Niwas for the year 202223	200000.00	10000.00	500.00	15
10.	Repair, painting & polishing work first floor rooms of Bihar Bhawan for the year 2022-23	250000.00	12500.00	500.00	15
11.	Repair, painting & polishing work second floor rooms of Bihar Bhawan for the year 2022-23	250000.00	12500.00	500.00	15
12	Repair, painting & polishing work third floor rooms of Bihar Bhawan for the year 2022-23	250000.00	12500.00	500.00	15
13.	Repair, painting & polishing work fourth floor rooms of Bihar Bhawan for the year 2022-23	250000.00	12500.00	500.00	15
14.	Repair, painting & polishing work ground floor rooms of Bihar Bhawan for the year 2022-23	250000.00	12500.00	500.00	15
15	Repair, painting & polishing work C.M. suite of Bihar Bhawan for the year 2022-23	250000.00	12500.00	500.00	15
16	Repair, painting & polishing work C.S. & C.J suite of Bihar Bhawan for the year 2022-23	250000.00	12500.00	500.00	15
17.	Repair, painting & polishing work all corridor and staircase of Bihar Bhawan for the year 2022-23	250000.00	12500.00	500.00	15
18.	Repair, painting work of Boundary wall, RTFS & driver room of Bihar Bhawan for the year 202223	250000.00	12500.00	500.00	15
19.	Repair & painting & work of outer portion old wing in Bihar Bhawan for the year 2022-23	350000.00	16500.00	750.00	15
20.	Repair & painting work outer surface New wing of Bihar Bhawan for the year 2022-23	700000.00	35000.00	1250.00	30
21.	Repair & painting work of out house of Bihar Bhawan for the year 2022-23	650000.00	32500.00	1250.00	30
22.	Repair & painting work of Rain Basera and garage in Bihar Bhawan for the year 2022-23	350000.00	17500.00	750.00	15

शर्तें:–

1. निविदा के साथ अद्यतन निबंधन आयाकर प्रमाण–पत्र वाणिज्य कर प्रमाण–पत्र, चरित्र प्रमाण–पत्र, पैन कार्ड आदि की छाया प्रति जो राहपत्रित पदाधिकारी से अभिप्रमाणित हो संलग्न करना होगा।
2. अग्रधन की राशि डाकघर के एन0ए0सी/सावधि जमा के रूप में संलग्न की जानी है जो स्थानिक अभियन्ता चाणक्यापुरी बिहार भवन नई दिल्ली के नाम से निविदा प्राकशन के तिथि के बाद के तिथि में विधिवत प्लेज्ड हो।
3. निविदाकारों को भारतीय मानक विनिर्देश के अनुसार कार्य हेतु उपेक्षित सामग्री की खुद व्यवस्था करना होगा।
4. बिना कारण बताए निविदा स्थगित एवं रद्ध करने का अधिकार अधोहस्ताक्षरी को सुरक्षित होगा।
5. प्राक्कलन की राशि घट–बढ सकती है।

उक्त कार्य के संबंध में किसी प्रकार की जानकारी हेतु अधोहस्ताक्षरी कार्यालय से कार्यालस अवधि में संपर्क कर प्राप्त किया जा सकता है।

हस्ता
कार्यपालक अभियन्ता–सह– स्थानिक अभियन्ता
बिहार भवन नई दिल्ली।

Chief Engineer, Uttarakhand Rural Roads Development Agency
First Floor, Directorate of Panchayatiraj, Opp-IT Park, Sahastradhara Road, Dehradun
Phone 0135–2608125, Fax : 2608126, E-mail : ut-urrda@pmgsy.nic.in, urrda@yahoo.com

Ref. No. : 753/I1-02 (xix)-2 /ITCO/URRDA/22 Dated : 24-06-2022

PRADHAN MANTRI GRAM SADAK YOJANA (PMGSY)
e-Procurement Notice-06/2022-23

The Chief Engineer, URRDA on behalf of Governor of Uttarakhand invites the item rate bids in electronic tendering system for construction of Bridges under Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana in the Districts of **Dehradun** for 01 number of Packages with estimated cost totaling to **Rs. 4.99 Crore** including their maintenance for five years from the eligible contractors registered with PWD/CPWD or equivalent*.

Date of release of Invitation for Bids through e-procurement : 25.06.2022.

Availability of Bid Documents and mode of submission : The bid documents are available online and should be submitted online in www.pmgsytendersuk.gov.in. The bidder would be required to register in the web-site which is free of cost. For submission of the bids, the bidder is required to have Digital Signature Certificate (DSC) from one of the authorized Certifying Authorities.

The bidders are required to submit original affidavit regarding correctness of information furnished with bid document as per provisions of Clause 4.4 B (ii) of ITB with **CONCERNED CIRCLE OFFICES, mentioned in SBD/MBD, only up to or before the time and date of the submission of the Bids (for World Bank funded works) and on a date not later than three working days after the opening of technical qualification part of the bid (for Regular PMGSY Works),** either by registered post or by hand, failing which the bids shall be declared non- responsive. No Physical documents will be accepted after the closing date and time of submission of bids.

Last Date/ Time for receipt of bids through e-procurement : 01.07.2022 01:00 PM.

For further details please log on to www.pmgsytendersuk.gov.in

Chief Engineer
URRDA, Dehradun

** Non Registered bidders may submit bids, however, the successful bidders must get registered in appropriate class with appropriate authorities before signing the contract.*

***Note :** For e-Procurement for any sort of queries 0135-2608125 number may be contacted 10:00 AM to 05:00 PM.*

SC overturns Roe v. Wade; States can ban abortion

AP ■ WASHINGTON

The Supreme Court has ended Constitutional protections for abortion that had been in place nearly 50 years in a decision by its conservative majority to overturn Roe v. Wade. Friday's outcome is expected to lead to abortion bans in roughly half the states.

The decision, unthinkable just a few years ago, was the culmination of decades of efforts by abortion opponents, made possible by an emboldened right side of the court that has been fortified by three appointees of former President Donald Trump.

The ruling came more than a month after the stunning leak of a draft opinion by Justice Samuel Alito indicating the court was prepared to take this momentous step.

It puts the court at odds with a majority of Americans who favored preserving Roe, according to opinion polls.

Alito, in the final opinion issued Friday, wrote that Roe and Planned Parenthood v. Casey, the 1992 decision that reaffirmed the right to abortion, were wrong the day they were decided and must be overturned.

"We hold that Roe and Casey must be overruled. The Constitution makes no reference to abortion, and no such right is implicitly protected by any constitutional provision," Alito wrote. Authority to regulate abortion rests with the political branches, not the courts, Alito wrote.

Joining Alito were Justices Clarence Thomas, Neil Gorsuch, Brett Kavanaugh and Amy Coney Barrett. The latter three justices are Trump appointees.

Thomas first voted to overrule Roe 30 years ago.

Chief Justice John Roberts would have stopped short of ending the abortion right, noting that he would have upheld the Mississippi law at the heart of the case, a ban on abortion after 15 weeks, and said no more. Justices Stephen Breyer, Sonia Sotomayor and Elena Kagan - the diminished liberal wing of the court - were in dissent.

"With sorrow-for this Court, but more, for the many millions of American women who have today lost a fundamental constitutional protection-we dissent," they wrote.

The ruling is expected to disproportionately affect minority women who already face limited access to health care, according to statistics analyzed by The Associated Press.

Thirteen states, mainly in the South and Midwest, already have laws on the books that ban abortion in the event Roe is overturned.

Another half-dozen states have near-total bans or prohibitions after 6 weeks of pregnancy, before many women know they are pregnant.

In roughly a half-dozen other states, the fight will be over dormant abortion bans that were enacted before Roe was decided in 1973 or new proposals to sharply limit when abortions can be performed, according to the Guttmacher Institute, a research group that supports abortion rights.

More than 90% of abortions take place in the first 13 weeks of pregnancy, and more than half are now done with pills, not surgery, according to data compiled by Guttmacher.

Hearing: Trump told Justice Dept to call election 'corrupt'

AP ■ WASHINGTON

Donald Trump hounded the Justice Department to pursue his false election fraud claims, striving in vain to enlist top law enforcement officials in his desperate bid to stay in power and relenting only when warned in the Oval Office of mass resignations, according to testimony Thursday to the House panel investigating the Jan. 6, 2021, Capitol riot.

Three Trump-era Justice Department officials recounted persistent badgering from the president, including day after day of directives to chase baseless allegations that the election won by Democrat Joe Biden had been stolen.

They said they swept aside each demand from Trump because there was no evidence of widespread fraud, then banded together when the president weighed whether to replace the department's top lawyer with a lower-level official eager to help undo the results.

All the while, Republican loyalists in Congress trumpeted the president's claims - and several later sought pardons from the White House after the effort failed and the Capitol was breached in a day of violence, the committee revealed Thursday.

Setting gridlock aside, Congress set to OK gun violence bill

AP ■ WASHINGTON

A bipartisan gun violence bill that seemed unimaginable a month ago is on the verge of winning final congressional approval, a vote that will produce lawmakers' most sweeping answer in decades to brutal mass shootings that have come to shock yet not surprise Americans.

The House was set to vote on the $13 billion package Friday, a month after a gunman massacred 19 students and two teachers at a Uvalde, Texas, elementary school. In Buffalo, New York, a white man authorities said was motivated by racism is accused of killing 10 Black grocery shoppers just days before Uvalde.

The two slaughters - days apart and victimising helpless people for whom the public felt immediate empathy - prompted both parties to conclude that Congress had to act, especially in an election year.

After weeks of closed-door talks, Senate bargainers from both parties produced a compromise taking mild but impactful steps toward making such mayhem less likely.

"Families in Uvalde and Buffalo, and too many tragic shootings before, have demanded action. And tonight, we acted," President Joe Biden said after passage. He said the House should send it to him quickly, adding, "Kids in schools and communities will be safer because of it."

The legislation would toughen background checks for the youngest gun buyers, keep firearms from more domestic violence offenders and help states put in place red flag laws that make it easier for authorities to take weapons from people adjudged dangerous. It would also fund local programs for school safety, mental health and violence prevention.

The Senate approved the measure Thursday by 65-33. Fifteen Republicans - a remarkably high number for a party that has derailed gun curbs for years - joined all 50 Democrats, including their two independent allies, in approving the bill. Still, that meant that fewer than one-third of GOP senators backed the measure.

And with Republicans in the House expected to solidly oppose it, the fate of future congressional action on guns seems dubious, even as the GOP is expected to win House and possibly Senate control in the November elections.

Top House Republicans urged a "no" vote in an email from the No. 2 GOP leader, Rep. Steve Scalise of Louisiana. He called the bill "an effort to slowly chip away at law-abiding citizens' 2nd Amendment rights."

Aftershock in Afghanistan as quake toll rises to 1,150 dead

AP ■ AFGHANISTAN

An aftershock took more lives Friday and threatened to pile even more misery on an area of eastern Afghanistan reeling from a powerful earthquake that state media said killed 1,150 people this week.

Among the dead from Wednesday's magnitude 6 quake are 121 children, but that figure is expected to climb, said Mohamed Ayoya, UNICEF's representative in Afghanistan. He said close to 70 children were injured.

That earthquake struck a remote, mountainous region already grappling with staggering poverty at a time when the country as a whole is spiraling deeper into economic crisis after many countries pulled back critical financing and development aid in the wake of the Taliban's takeover. On Friday, Pakistan's Meteorological Department reported a new, 4.2 magnitude quake that state-run Bakhtar News Agency reported took five more lives in hard-hit Gayan District and injured 11 people.

International aid had been keeping the country afloat, and its withdrawal left millions unable to afford food and further strained already struggling medical facilities.

Royals thank Caribbean migrants for contribution to the UK

AP ■ LONDON

Queen Elizabeth II and her grandson Prince William paid tribute Wednesday to Britain's Caribbean immigrants for their "profound contribution" to the U.K., as a national monument was unveiled in London to celebrate the migrants' work to help rebuild Britain after World War II.

crack down on illegal immigration. Scores lost their jobs, homes and the right to free medical care because they didn't have the paperwork to prove their status.

PUBLIC NOTICE

To, be known to all that my client. **SHRI KHAIRATI LAL NANDA S/o SHRI BANSI LAL NANDA R/O FLAT NO.30, FIRST FLOOR, SURAJ APARTMENTS, SURAJKUND ROAD, PUL PEHLADPUR, NEW DELHI-110044, is the owner of DDA MIG FLAT NO. 30, FIRST FLOOR. SURAJ APARTMENTS, PUL PEHLADPUR, NEW DELHI-110044, VIDE DDA FILE NO. MO35(221)92/PL/NP,** have applied for Conversion of leasehold from freehold of the aforesaid property in DDA. The original documents i.e. **Original DEMAND LETTER and NOC FOR WATER & ELECTRICITY CONNECTION** of the above said property have been lost or misplaced by my client and is not traceable inspite of his best efforts. An F.I.R./NCR to this effect has been lodged in the Police Station, Crime Branch, Delhi **(LR No.527616/2022 dated 24.06.2022.** Any person(s) claiming any rights, interest, having any objection or found in possession of original documents, may write/contact with above named person at above Address/Phone No.**9871335787**, within **15 days** from the date of publication of this notice. The person claiming any right, interest, objection with respect to this property, can personally inform or write to Deputy Director MIG (Housing) or Director (Housing), Vikas Sadan, New Delhi.

Naveen Aggarwal (Advocate)
Ch.No. M-7, Near SBI, Western Wing, Tis Hazari Court, Delhi-54

Public Notice

This is to inform to the public at large, that our Client Mrs. Ruksana W/o Late Shafiquddin Qureshi is the resident and owner of Property bearing No. 2083/4, Katra Chote Lal Ganj, Meer Khan, Turkman Gate, Delhi-110002. My client Ruksana Disown / Disinherited her son namely Mr. Sarfaraz Qureshi from all her movable and immovable properties due to his misconduct and alleged threat to her life. My client sever all kind of relationship with her son Mr. Sarfaraz Qureshi. He will not even participate in her funeral in the event of her demise and will not entitle to inherit any of her properties whatsoever. Any person dealing with him will do so at his own risk and responsibilities.

S/d. Sachin Kaushik (Advocate),
M-52-4, Basement, Malviya Nagar, New Delhi-17

CORRIGENDUM

With reference to the earlier newspaper publication of DHAKAD GYM dated 18th June, 2022, regarding Public Notice to all Gym Members, we hereby request that in the second line of the notice date should be read 28th Dec 2021 instead of 28th Dec 2022, which was erroneously mentioned.

PUBLIC NOTICE

Notice is hereby given to the public at large that **TATA Capital Financial Services Limited** is going to create equitable mortgage on the **Leasehold Plot No. 110, Block-A, area 300 Sq. meters, Sector-93 B, NOIDA, District Gautam Budh Nagar, U.P.** Initially this property was leased out by the NOIDA authority to **Sh. Dharamveer vide Lease Deed dated 11/03/2010 duly registered as Document No.1292, Vol. No. 2681, on pages 679 to 722 in Book No.1 with the Sub-Registrar Gautam Budh Nagar.** After the death of Sh. Dharamveer and on the basis of his last Will dated 04/11/2009 the NOIDA authority mutated the name of Sh. Vipin Awana S/o Sh. Subhash Awana in the record and transfer the leasehold rights of the aforementioned property in the name of Sh. Vipin Awana. Now, Sh. Vipin Awana is the rightful leasehold owner of the aforementioned property. In case, if any person or persons/Financial Institution/ Bank / Authority /Board or any other entity having objection/contingent or vested interest over the aforementioned property he may contact at the following address within 7 days of this publication. It may be further noted that after lapse of aforesaid period no claim in any manner shall be entertained and same will be considered as waived or abandoned.

AVNISH SHUKLA (Advocate)
Ch. No. E-419, Karkardooma Court, Delhi-110032.
Mob. No. 9871603366, 9717476101

UJVN Limited
(An Uttarakhand Govt. Enterprise)
H.O. "UJJAWAL" Maharani Bagh, GMS Road, Dehradun-248006
Telephone- 0135-2763808, Fax 0135-2763508
CIN No.: U40101UR2001SGC025866 Website:www.ujvnl.com

RO. No. 363 **Tender Notice** Dated 24/06/2022

Office of the Executive Engineer (Civil-I), UJVN Limited, Guptkashi, Rudraprayag, invites sealed tenders from interested parties. Brief summary of tender is given below:-
Tender No.: 04/EE (Civil-I)/Dunao/2022-23
Name of work : Annual Repair & Maintenance work of Civil structures at Ram Prasad Nautiyal, Dunao SHP (2x0.75 MW) in Distt- Pauri Garhwal
Estimated Cost : Rs 20.54 Lakh (Plus GST Extra)
Date of availability of bid document on website : 24.06.2022 from 17:00 Hrs onwards
Last date for submission of Tender : 21.07.2022 up to 16:00 Hrs
For fuller & further details, kindly visit our website. The tender documents can be downloaded from the Nigam's website "www.ujvnl.com"

Executive Engineer (Civil-I)

"AVOID WASTEFUL USE OF ELECTRICITY"

SBFC
SBFC Finance Pvt. Ltd.
Address Unit No. 103, First Floor C&B Square, SangamComplex, 127, Andheri-Kurla Road, Village Chakala,Andheri (East), Mumbai 400059 | Telephone: +91 22 67875300 | Fax: +91 22 67875334 | www.sbfc.com| Corporate Identity Number: U67190MH2008PTC178270

PUBLIC NOTICE

This is to inform the Public that Auction of pledged Gold Ornaments will be conducted by SBFC Finance Pvt. Ltd. on **28th June'22** at Delhi District branch O – 7, 1 st Floor, 'above Look Saloon ,Lajpat Nagar 2, New Delhi -110024, District : Gautam Budh Nagar : Branch add- Plot No. 5, Ground Floor, Opposite White Castle Hotel,Main Dadri Road, Salarpur, Bhangel, Sector-101, District Gautam Budh Nagar, Noida-201304 (UP),Hapur District : add- First Floor, Above PC Jewellers, Garah Pargana, Garah Road, Tehsil & District Hapur - 245101, (U.P.)
The Gold Ornaments to be auctioned belong to Loan Accounts of our various Customers who have failed to pay their dues. Our notices of auction have been duly issued to these borrowers.
The Gold Ornaments to be auctioned belong to all linked accounts of Customer ID for various customers mentioned below with branch details.
Delhi: AP00338914,AP00352197,AP00352211,AP00365554,AP00386121, AP00391104,AP00438264 **HAPUR:** AP00358164,AP00378574 **NOIDA:** AP00333070

For more details, please contact:
SBFC Finance Pvt. Ltd.
Contact Number(s): Lajpat Nagar 1800-102-8012 / 011- 40305228 / 207, Hapur branch - 8439761293, Noida branch: 8368589407,
(SBFC Finance Pvt. Ltd.reserves the right to alter the number of accounts to be auctioned &/ postpone / cancel the auction without any prior notice.)

NORTHERN RAILWAY
TENDER NOTICE
Invitation of Tender through E-Tendering (E-Procurement Systems)

	N.I.T. No.	S.N.	07-A, B & C-2022-23-W-V
1	Name of work with its location		A) Rag picking and muck removal work in section of SSE/P.Way/FDB under ADEN/TKD.
			B) Rag picking and removal of muck malba between NDLS-JNC, Ring Railways and GAL Lines in the section of SSE/P.Way/HNZM under ADEN/HNZM. **Similar nature of work:** Any civil work other than track work.
			C) Construction and Extension of Foot Over Bridge 6.10m wide for two-wheeler movement at Inderpuri Halt under Sr.DEN/V/DLI. **Similar nature of work:** Fabrication, supply, assembly, erection and launching/regirdering of girders, through girders, plate girders, FOBs etc. in running track.
2	Approx. Cost of work	A	Rs. 39,99,984.64
		B	Rs. 1,49,99,347.73
		C	Rs. 2,60,65,621.56
3	Earnest Money Deposit		(It should be in the form of net banking or payment gateway Only. **Note:-** FDR will not be accepted as EMD for tender invited on IREPS as per Railway Boards letter no. 201025//CE-I/CT/5/1 dated 31.08.2016)
		A	Rs. 80,000.00
		B	Rs. 2,25,000.00
		C	Rs. 2,80,300.00
4	Completion period of Work	A	6 Months
		B	6 Months
		C	8 Months
5	Date and time for submission of tender and opening of tender		Upto 15.00 hrs. on 19.07.2022. Opening of tender at 15.00 hrs. On 19.07.2022
6	Website particulars notice board location complete details of tender can be seen and address of the office from where the tender form can be purchased etc.		Above tender available on IREPS site i.e. www.ireps.gov.in

No.: 128-W/280/OET/2021-22/W-V/NIT-07-A, B & C-2022-23-W-V Date: 24.06.2022 1558/2022

Serving Customers with a Smile

GOVT. OF BIHAR
OFFICE OF THE RESIDENT ENGINEER,
BIHAR B BHAWAN, NEW DELHI
No- 251 / Dated 24/06/2022

Short Notice inviting Quotation

The reputed firms are requested to submit sealed quotation for following work in Bihar Bhawan and Bihar Niwas Chankyapuri, New Delhi for the year 2021-2022 Quotation will be submitted up to 19-07-2022 till 3:00 pm and opened on 19-07-2022 at 3:30 pm at the office of the Resident Engineer, Bihar Niwas Chankyapuri, New Delhi undersigned office has right to cancel quotation without any further information. Registration, GST, PAN No. and authorization of firm paper here enclosed. Details of items list can be obtained form the office of the Resident Engineer, Bihar Bhawan , New Delhi. The Earnest Money (NSC/ Term Deposit) should be deposited 5% of total contract value before issue of work order.

S.L	Name of work
1.	Renovation of room and toilet of Room No 301 and 302 at Bihar Bhawan for the year 2022-23
2.	Renovation of room and toilet of Room No 307 and 308 at Bihar Bhawan for the year 2022-23
3.	Renovation of room and toilet of Room No 403 and 404 at Bihar Bhawan for the year 2022-23
4.	Renovation of room and toilet of Room No 406 and 407 at Bihar Bhawan for the year 2022-23
5.	Renovation of room and toilet of Room No 408 at Bihar Bhawan for the year 2022-23
6.	Renovation of public toilet (ladies and gents) in Reception area of Bihar Bhawan for the year 2022-23
7.	Installation of New / Extra lights (halogen) at entrance gate and Honable C.M suite garden area at Bihar Bhawan for the year 2022-23
8.	Renovation of Bihar Bhawan office room No- 405 and seepage issues to be rectified for the year 2022-23
9.	Renovation of store on 4th floor (Room No 409) with rectification of seepage issues at Bihar Bhawan for the year 2022-23
10.	Supply fitting fixing Sony make LED TV in Room No. 101,201,301,302,303,304,306,112,403,404,406,407,408,206,205,409,405 at Bihar Bhawan for the year 2022-23
11.	Servicing of chimney, water cooler and refrigerator in canteen in Bihar Bhawan for the year 2022-23
12.	Renovation of gazebo at the Back of Honable C.M suite with polishing of grills installation of new lights and genral painting work at Bihar Bhawan for the year 2022-23
13.	Replacement of damaged pipe in the Basement (water leakage problem in basement at Bihar Niwas fot the year 2022-23
14.	Replacement of waste water pump in Basement at Bihar Niwas for the year 2022-23
15.	Renovation of outer common bathroom at Bihar Niwas for the year 2022-23
16.	Changing of in and out gate pole light fitting with wiring at Bihar Niwas for the year 2022-23
17.	Fixing of all Boundary lights and wiring in Bihar Niwas for the year 2022-23
18.	Replacement of security Barrier (Boom Barrier) at In and out Gate in Bihar Niwas for the year 2022-23
19.	Changing ot Portico double height halogen light (facing down) at Bihar Niwas for the year 2022-23
20.	Repairing ol fire fighting system and up gradation of the lift electricity panel also at Bihar Niwas for the year 2022-23
21.	Renovation of reception common bathroom with exhaust facility at Bihar Niwas for the year 2022-23
22.	Renovation of washroom By. C.M suite and Vistof s room at Bihar Niwas for the year 2022-23
23.	Replacement of Governor suite Balcony door at Bihar Niwas for the year 2022-23
24.	Replacement of Bathdoors in Room No. 101,107,108,113,307,309,311,316, D31, D32 at Bihar Niwas for the year 2022-23
25.	Replacement of Vanity in the bathroom of Room No. 101,104,106,109,114,115,116,119,123,125,126,202,305,307,309,310,311,313,316, D31 & D 32 at Bihar Niwas for the year 2022-23
26.	Replacent of old WC in the Room No 105. 114,116,117,120,122,123,124,305,307,309,310,311,312,313 and 315 at Bihar Niwas for the year 2022-23
27.	Changing of bathroom floor tiles whose chroming is removed / Brocken in Room No: 101,102,119,121,125,127,128,305,307,309,310,313, D21, D22, D31 and D32 at Bihar Niwas for the vear 2022-23
28.	Replacement of old / Brocken washbasin in Room No. 114,123,125,126,202,305,307,309,310,311,313,316, D31 and D32 at Bihar Niwas for the vear 2022-23
29.	Complete renovation of canteen with changing washbasin. Fittings & Mirror at Bihar Niwas for the year 2022-23
30.	Servicing of Chimney in canteen of Bihar Niwas for the year 2022-23
31.	Rectification of water dripping during rainy season in front of the 3rd floor general lift at Bihar Niwas for the year 2022-23
32.	Covering of balcony which open towards room number 217, 218 on 2nd floor & 315 and 316 on third floor at Bihar Niwas for the year 2022-23
33.	Complete renovation of conference hall at ground floor at Bihar Niwas for the year 2022-23
34.	Replacement of doors of Governor suite wings room- Room No. 302, 303, 304, 306, 308, D31 & D32 in Bihar Niwas for the year 2022-23
35.	Polishing of all furniture in the rooms attached to HE wing including all chairs fabrics needs to be changed in Bihar Niwas for the year 2022-23
36.	Supply & Installation of new dressing unit in HE Governor suite Master bed room and Lady Governor room in Bihar Niwas for the year 2022-23
37.	Supply and fixing smart ceiling fan in HE Suite and rooms attached to the wing in Bihar Niwas for the year 2022-23
38.	Supply and fixing false ceiling in HE washroom and Lady Governor washroom in Bihar Niwas for the year 2022-23
39.	Supply & Replacement of furniture in Room No 301 including sofa centre table and vanity box in Bihar Niwas for the year 2022-23

Sd/-
Executive Engineer-Cum-Resident Engineer
Bihar Bhawan, New Delhi

Monetary policy actions to be more moderate than other nations: RBI

New Delhi: RBI Deputy Governor Michael Debabrata Patra on Friday exuded confidence that the monetary policy actions will be more moderate than the rest of the world, as inflation is expected to fall below 6 per cent in the January-March quarter of the current fiscal.

The Reserve Bank has already raised the key policy rate by 90 basis points in May and June to 4.9 per cent to tame high inflation, mainly due to supply disruptions on account of the ongoing Russia-Ukraine war.

Speaking at a session on 'Geo-Political Spill-overs and Indian Economy' at PHDCCI here, Patra said there are indications that inflation may be peaking.

"As monetary policy works through into the economy...Inflation is expected to fall back into the threshold in the fourth quarter of 2022-23 and fall even further in the next year. This is only the baseline scenario," he said, adding that because of initiatives taken so far, the inflation may fall "sooner and faster".

"Therefore, in this world of global inflation crisis, it is possibly better to look at the change in inflation, not the level," said the Deputy Governor, who looks after the monetary policy department in the RBI.

He is also a member of the Monetary Policy Committee (MPC), which decides the key policy rate (repo).

The government has tasked the RBI to ensure inflation remains at 4 per cent with a two per cent deviation on either side.

While the retail inflation based on Consumer Price Index (CPI) moderated to 7.04 per cent in May from 7.8 per cent in April, it remained above the RBI's threshold of 6 per cent for the fifth month in a row. "Against this backdrop, it is our hope that required monetary policy actions in India will be more moderate than elsewhere in the world and that we will be able to bring inflation back to target within a two-year time span.

If the monsoon brings with it a more benign outlook on food prices, India would have tamed the inflation crisis even earlier," he said.

Observing that the decline in inflation will be very "grudging", Patra said India will "succeed in bending down the future trajectory of inflation and thereby it will win the war".

Earlier this month, the Reserve Bank in its bi-monthly monetary policy review raised the benchmark repo rate -- at which it lends short-term money to banks -- by a sharp 0.50 per cent to 4.90 per cent to rein in spiralling prices. It followed an off-cycle meeting on May 4, when the central bank hiked the repo rate by 0.40 per cent. ***PTI***

RBI exploring options to ensure customer safety dealing with PPIs issued by non-bank entities

New Delhi: The Reserve Bank is considering various options to ensure that customers are not put at risk on account of activities of non-bank fintech players with regard to prepaid payment instruments (PPIs), sources said.

Earlier this week, RBI issued an advisory clarifying that non-bank prepaid payment instrument (PPI) issuers cannot load their wallets and cards from credit lines or preset borrowing limits.

Such practice, if followed, should be stopped immediately and any non-compliance will attract penal action, the advisory said.

According to sources, the idea behind the issuance of the advisory was to ensure customer safety and also to stress the fact that any business that requires an authorization or a licence should not be done by someone else without authorization or licence.

The RBI is in discussion with the players and exploring options to deal with the situation, sources said. Innovation should not be based on regulatory arbitrage so various options are being explored including devising a framework and greater disclosure for non-bank fintech players issuing prepaid payment instruments (PPIs) and Buy Now Pay Later (BNPL) players, sources said.

PPIs are instruments that facilitate purchase of goods and services, financial services, and remittance facilities, against the value stored therein. ***PTI***

Sensex, Nifty gain for 2nd day amid firm global trends

Close up nearly 1%

Mumbai: Benchmark Sensex and Nifty rose by nearly 1 per cent on Friday, extending gains for a second straight day on the back of buying in auto, banking, and energy stocks in line with firm global trends.

The 30-share BSE Sensex advanced further by 462.26 points or 0.88 per cent to settle at 52,727.98 as 23 of its constituents ended in the green. During the day, it rallied 644.15 points or 1.23 per cent to 52,909.87.

The Nifty rose by 142.60 points or 0.92 per cent to settle at 15,699.25 with 39 of its scrips posting gains. Sensex and Nifty had recovered nearly 1 per cent Thursday.

"Mirroring a firm trend in the global market and in response to declining commodity prices, the domestic market maintained its positive trend.

The up-move was supported by broad-based buying except in IT," said Vinod Nair, Head of Research at Geojit Financial Services.

From the Sensex pack, M&M was the biggest gainer spurting 4.28 per cent. IndusInd Bank rose by 2.59 per cent, Bajaj Finance by 2.58 per cent, Hindustan Unilever by 2.3 per cent, ICICI Bank by 2 per cent, and Bharti Airtel by 1.72 per cent.

Index heavyweight Reliance Industries rebounded 1.47 per cent and Tata Steel by 1.42 per cent. Nestle, HDFC Bank, HDFC, Ultratech Cement, Maruti, Kotak Bank, Axis Bank and SBI also advanced.

On the other hand, Tech Mahindra, Infosys, HCL Technologies, TCS, Wipro and Sun Pharma were the laggards.

"Markets edged higher for the second consecutive session, driven by firm global cues. Healthy rebound financials, metals and PSU banks aided sentiments," Ajit Mishra, VP - Research, Religare Broking Ltd, said.

The broader markets outperformed and ended higher in the range of 1.4 per cent to 1.6 per cent. Barring IT, all the other sectoral indices ended in the green.

The BSE smallcap gauge jumped 1.60 per cent and the midcap index gained 1.53 per cent.

Among the BSE sectoral indices, telecom jumped 2.53 per cent, auto (1.98 per cent) power (1.73 per cent), consumer discretionary goods & services (1.68 per cent), consumer durables (1.47 per cent) and finance (1.40 per cent). Information Technology and teck were the only laggards.

As many as 2,401 stocks advanced, while 906 declined and 141 remained unchanged.

On weekly basis, Sensex jumped 2.66 per cent or 1,367 points after two straight weeks of losses. ***PTI***

Rupee settles at all-time low of 78.33 against US dollar

Mumbai: The rupee on Friday slipped 1 paisa to close at its all-time low of 78.33 (provisional) against the US dollar.

At the interbank foreign exchange market, the local currency opened at 78.20 and finally settled at its all-time low of 78.33, down 1 paisa from its previous close.

During the day, the local unit witnessed an intra-day high of 78.19 and a low of 78.35 against the American currency. On Thursday, the rupee had settled at 78.32 against the US dollar. The dollar index, which gauges the greenback's strength against a basket of six currencies, fell 0.25 per cent to 104.17.

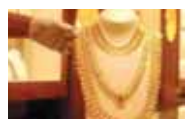
Brent crude futures, the global oil benchmark, advanced 1.13 per cent to USD 111.29 per barrel.

On the domestic equity market front, the BSE Sensex ended 462.26 points or 0.88 per cent higher at 52,727.98, while the broader NSE Nifty gained 142.60 points or 0.92 per cent to 15,699.25.

Foreign institutional investors remained net sellers in the capital market on Thursday as they offloaded shares worth Rs 2,319.06 crore, as per stock exchange data.

Meanwhile, Reserve Bank Deputy Governor Michael D Patra on Friday said the Central Bank will not allow "jerky movements" of the rupee and stressed that the Indian currency has witnessed the least depreciation in recent times. ***PTI***

Gold declines by ₹70; silver falls ₹621



New Delhi: Gold prices declined by ₹70 to ₹50,557 per 10 grams in the national capital on Friday, according to HDFC securities.

In the previous trade, the precious metal settled at ₹50,627 per 10 grams.

Silver prices also declined by ₹621 to ₹59,077 per kg from ₹59,698 per kg in the previous trade.

"Spot gold prices for 24-carat gold in Delhi fell by ₹70 reflecting overnight fall in COMEX gold prices," said Tapan Patel, Senior Analyst (Commodities) at HDFC Securities. In the international market, gold was trading higher at USD 1,828 per ounce and silver was flat at USD 20.97 per ounce. Spot gold prices were up 0.33 per cent at COMEX, Patel added. ***PTI***

Centre procures 52,460 tonne onion till May for buffer stock

New Delhi: The Centre has procured 52,460 tonne of onion till May-end this year for maintaining a buffer stock, a senior Consumer Affairs Ministry official said on Friday.

The Government for the last few years has been maintaining a buffer stock of onion to tackle price rise during the lean season. Onion is being procured through an agency National Agricultural Cooperative Marketing Federation of India (Nafed).

A procurement target of 2.50 lakh tonne of rabi 2022 onion has been fixed for 2022-23. "Nafed has reportedly procured 52,460.34 tonne of onion till May 31, this year," the official said.

The target set for the current year will be achieved by next month, the official added.

In 2021-22, a total quantity of 2.08 lakh tonne of rabi (winter) onion was procured for calibrated and targeted releases to stabilise prices during the lean season.

As per the Agriculture Ministry's estimate, the country's total onion production is estimated to increase by 16.81 per cent to 31.12 million tonne in the 2022-23 crop year (July-June), compared to 26.64 million tonne in the 2021-22 crop year. ***PTI***

Intel India opens new design & engineering centre in Bengaluru

Bengaluru: Intel India on Friday announced the expansion of its design and engineering footprint in India with the unveiling of a new 4.53 lakh sq. Ft facility here.

The new centre across two towers can accommodate 2,000 employees and will help advance Intel India's "cutting-edge" design and engineering work in client, data centre, IoT, graphics, artificial intelligence, and automotive segments, a company statement said.

It was inaugurated by Union Minister of State for Electronics & IT, Skill Development & Entrepreneurship, Rajeev Chandrasekhar.

Karnataka Minister of IT & BT, Higher Education, Science & Technology, C N Ashwath Narayan, and Country Head, Intel India & Vice President, Intel Foundry Services, Nivruti Rai were among those present.

Chandrasekhar was quoted as saying in the statement: "Intel's critical contributions and relentless quest to advance innovation in design and engineering in India over the past two and half decades highlight the design opportunity India offers to the world". ***PTI***

MG Motor inaugurates residential community EV chargers in Jaipur

Mumbai: MG Motor India on Friday said it has inaugurated the first two residential community SMART electric vehicle chargers in Jaipur as part of its plans to set up more such charging stations in the Rajasthan capital.

Under the company's MG Charge initiative, the automaker will install 1,000 AC fast chargers at residential localities across India in 1,000 days, it said in a statement.

MG Motor said it is taking conscious steps towards green mobility and strengthening the EV charging infrastructure in the country.

It provides 6-way charging ecosystem with a plug-and-charge cable onboard, AC fast chargers (installed at the customer's home/office), DC superfast chargers at MG dealerships, public charging network, charge-on-the-go with RSA (Roadside Assistance) and community charger.

MG has also recently partnered with Jio-Bp and BPCL to add momentum to EV adoption by expanding opportunities for intercity travel while installing EV chargers across highways and cities, it said.

The SMART chargers installed in an NRI colony in Jaipur are Type 2 chargers, sim-enabled and supported through a sharable charger management system while the connected AC charging stations will cater to the residents and visitors of these societies for their EV charging needs round-the-clock, MG Motor said.

Along with its partners and other RWAs, MG will continue to bolster the community charging infrastructure in the future, it said. ***PTI***

Automobiles to be accorded 'Star Ratings' based on performance in crash tests: Gadkari

New Delhi: To boost road safety in India, Union Minister Nitin Gadkari on Friday said the new car assessment program -- Bharat NCAP, proposes a mechanism wherein automobiles in India shall be accorded 'Star Ratings' based upon their performance in crash tests.

In a series of tweets, Gadkari said the Bharat New Car Assessment Programme (Bharat NCAP) will serve as a consumer-centric platform, allowing customers to opt for cars based upon their Star-Ratings, while promoting competition among manufacturers (OEMs) in India to manufacture safer vehicles.

"I have now approved the draft GSR notification to introduce Bharat NCAP (New Car Assessment Program), wherein automobiles in India shall be accorded Star Ratings based upon their performance in crash tests," he said. ***PTI***

GST dept may soon clarify on exemptions to IVF, tax on honorarium paid to guest anchors

New Delhi: The GST department may soon issue a host of clarification on certain vexed issues in tax rates, including exemptions to assisted reproductive technology (ART) or in vitro fertilization (IVF) as well as applicability of GST on payment of honorarium to guest anchors.

A committee of tax officers from the Centre and states, referred to as the Fitment Committee, has informed the GST Council that healthcare services provided by a clinical establishment, an authorised medical practitioner or paramedics are exempt under Goods and Services Tax regime and a clarification be issued regarding GST exemptions to ART/IVFs.

GST law defines healthcare services as any service by way of diagnosis or treatment or care for illness, injury, deformity, abnormality or pregnancy in any recognised system of medicines in India.

It also includes services by way of transportation of the patient to and from a clinical establishment, but does not include hair transplant or cosmetic or plastic surgery, except when undertaken to restore or to reconstruct anatomy or functions of body affected due to congenital defects, developmental abnormalities, injury or trauma.

The ailment of infertility is treated using ART procedure such as IVF. Such services are covered under the definition of healthcare services for the purpose of above exemption notification, the fitment committee said adding a clarification may accordingly be issued by way of a circular.

The recommendations of the committee which will be placed before the GST Council meeting on June 28-29 also include a clarification on the issue of applicability of GST on payment of honorarium to the guest anchors. ***PTI***

EV startup Mecwin India to set up ₹50 cr manufacturing plant in Bengaluru

Bengaluru: Electric vehicle startup Mecwin India on Friday said it is going to invest Rs 50 crore for setting up a manufacturing plant here for EV motors and controllers.

The facility will cater to the demand for indigenous mid drive and hub motors along with controllers from EV Original Equipment Manufacturers in India, it said in a statement.

The plant, which will become operational by this year-end, will have an initial manufacturing capacity of 2,000 units per day, it was stated.

"As demand for electric vehicles takes off in India, the time is right for enhancing our manufacturing capacity and contributing to the growth of the EV segment. We also plan to gradually scale up capacity as demand rises," Mecwin India's Co-founder and Director Shiva Kumar H M said.

The announcement comes just months after Mecwin India announced its foray into the EV retrofitting segment with a Rs 1,500-crore deal with Raipur-based Tatva Group.

As a part of the deal, Mecwin India will manufacture and supply five lakh retrofitting kits, which include motor, controller, lithium-ion battery, and charger, for different kinds of vehicles over the next three years to Tatva Group, the statement added. ***PTI***

Govt re-advertises top post of oil regulator

New Delhi: The government has for a second time in as many years re-advertised the post of chairman of oil and gas regulator PNGRB, which has been lying vacant since December 2020.

The oil ministry this week issued an advertisement inviting applications for the post of chairman of the Petroleum and Natural Gas Regulatory Board (PNGRB).

It sought applications by July 21 from those who fulfill the qualifications and are not more than 62 years of age, according to the advertisement.

The post of chairman of PNGRB has been lying vacant since December 4, 2020, when Dinesh K Sarraf completed his three-year term.

A search-cum-selection committee headed by V K Saraswat, Member (S&T), Niti Aayog in June 2021 picked former power secretary Sanjeev Nandan Sahai for the job. But that appointment was not confirmed by the government and so the post was re-advertised in November 2021. ***PTI***

HCL Tech opens new global delivery centre in Vancouver

New Delhi: Indian IT services company HCL Technologies on Friday announced the opening of its new delivery centre in Vancouver, Canada.

The centre will "significantly" expand the company's presence in the country to serve clients primarily in the hi-tech industry, HCL Tech said in a statement.

Announcing the opening of the new delivery centre, HCL Tech said the nearly 9,000 square foot facility would enable faster and streamlined delivery of innovative technology services.

HCL Tech employs more than 2,000 people in Canada and is growing at a rapid pace.

The new centre will also feature a Customer Experience Centre focused on the development of futuristic digital technologies and next-generation products and solutions for HCL Technologies' global customers. This includes full-stack engineering solutions, customer experience and R&D services across different industries."This announcement follows a broader wave of momentum in Canada for HCL Technologies. ***PTI***

NTPC declares commercial op of last part of Kayamkulam Floating Solar PV project

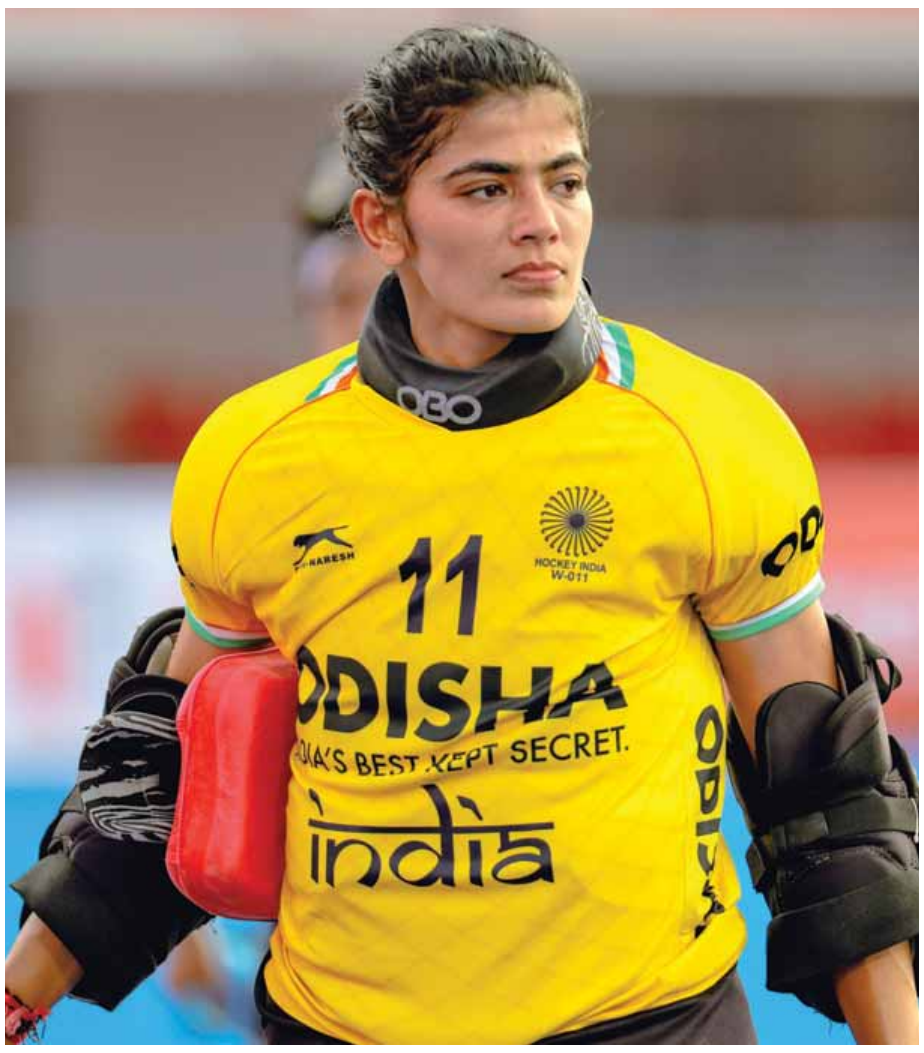
New Delhi: State-owned NTPC on Friday said it has begun commercial operations of the last part capacity of 35 MW out of 92 MW Kayamkulam Floating Solar PV Project at Kayamkulam, Kerala. The company in a regulatory filing said that the Kayamkulam Floating Solar PV Project was declared on Commercial Operation with effect from 00:00 hours of June 24. "Consequent upon successful commissioning, the last part capacity of 35 MW out of 92 MW Kayamkulam Floating Solar PV Project at Kayamkulam, Kerala is declared on Commercial Operation with effect from. 00:00 hours of 24.06.2022," the filing added.

With this, the standalone installed and commercial capacity of NTPC has become 54749.20 MW, while group installed and commercial capacity of NTPC has become 69114.20 MW.

NTPC, under the ministry of power, is the country's largest power producer. ***PTI***

India can finish on podium in hockey WC: Savita

PTI ■ NEW DELHI



India captain Savita feels there is no dearth of motivation and confidence in the national women's hockey team as it eyes a historic podium finish at the upcoming World Cup.

The top International Hockey Federation (FIH) tournament will be jointly hosted by the Netherlands and Spain from July 1 to 17.

India finished a historic fourth at the Olympics last year and Savita said the Tokyo Games had instilled a belief that they can match the best in the business on the biggest stage.

"Our performance in Tokyo gave us the belief that we can finish on the podium in global events," Savita said.

"Post Olympics, we realigned our focus on taking our performance to the next level. We channelled our energy into doing well in the FIH Pro League and finishing third in this prestigious league has given us a boost ahead of the World Cup."

Indian women's best-ever result at the World Cup is a fourth place finish in the inaugural edition in 1974. In the 2018 tournament, India secured the eighth spot.

India's splendid show in Tokyo has changed the face of women's hockey in the country. Featuring in its debut FIH Pro League, the Indian women gave big shots like the Netherlands and Argentina tough fights to finish a creditable third.

"The Indian women's hockey team has never won a medal at the World Cup and it is our mission to make this dream come alive this time," Savita said.

The ace goalkeeper said playing and fighting together as a unit will be key to success in the World Cup.

"We are very excited to play in the World Cup. We just want to play as a team. For us, the Olympics was a great experience. We learnt a lot from there and we believe we have to play together and fight hard," she said.

"After the Olympics, everyone in our team is so motivated, so focused. We really want to play against good teams," she added.

In the upcoming quadrennial event, India are placed in Pool B alongside England, China and New Zealand, and will open their campaign against England on July 3 at Amstelveen.

"Of course, England, China and New Zealand are good teams. We've already played against them. But we have to focus on ourselves first. We will go match by match," Savita said.

Consistency is paramount for progress: Schopman ahead of WC

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Indian women's hockey team coach Janneke Schopman is stressing on consistency, without which, she said on Friday, the side will struggle to go far in the upcoming World Cup.

The quadrennial event will be jointly hosted by the Netherlands and Spain from July 1 to 17.

India's best-ever result at the World Cup is a fourth-place finish in the inaugural edition in 1974. In 2018, India finished eighth.

"If we truly play to our potential, we play the way we know we can consistently, anything is possible. Women hockey at this moment is very tight, anyone can beat anyone," Schopman said.

"(But) consistency is a big point of attention. If we can play consistently well, top-4, and who knows a podium in the World Cup is a possibility."

"At the same time if we don't perform we can miss the quarterfinals."

The coach said the players need to understand their potential and deliver on the field in order to achieve consistency.

"I think we have great potential and if we actually play to our potential we are a tough team to beat," the 45-year-old said.

Schopman, a double Olympic medallist defender from the Netherlands, said players will have to shoulder responsibility to achieve success in the World Cup.

"If anything I need to see is players taking up ownership on the field and believe that they can perform.

"Realistically, I think we are up there. We are in the top 6. Our performance against Argentina (recently in Pro League) showed that we can compete against any country."

India finished a creditable third in their debut FIH Pro League season and Schopman said the recent back-to-back high-intensity matches against Belgium and Argentina augur well ahead of the World Cup.

"Pretty happy with our preparation. We have another week. Last week we had the Pro League matches and quite happy with the way we responded after the Belgium matches. So preparation is going in the right direction."

"It's a great achievement to finish on the podium in your first Pro League. We had good runs against pretty much every team we played. Apart from points we got we learned a lot from these games. It was a satisfying run," she said.

Serena to begin Wimbledon against 113th-ranked foe

AP ■ WIMBLEDON

Serena Williams will begin her Wimbledon comeback by facing Harmony Tan, a 24-year-old from France who is ranked 113th and owns a 2-6 career record in Grand Slam matches.

The placement of Williams in the women's bracket was the most anticipated aspect of Friday's draw at the All England Club. She is making her first appearance in singles at any tournament since she hurt her right leg and stopped playing during the first set of her first-round match at Centre Court a year ago.

Because of her lack of activity over the past 12 months, Williams - who has been No 1 in the rankings - is outside the WTA's top 1,200 this week and so could have ended up anywhere in the field and against any opponent in the first round. She only returned to the tour this week by playing two doubles matches at a tuneup event in England.

While the 40-year-old American's track record would merit a seeding, the All England Club now adheres strictly to the rankings in determining how it seeds players.

Williams has won seven Wimbledon championships, part of her total of 23 Grand Slam singles titles, a record for the professional era. Tan, meanwhile, will be making her debut at the grass-court tournament.

If Williams gets past Tan, next up could be a match against Sara Sorribes Tormo, who is seeded 32nd but has never been past the second round at the All England Club or the third round at any major in 19 past appearances.

The third round potentially would put Williams against a tougher test: No 6-seeded Karolina Pliskova, who was the runner-up to Ash Barty last year at Wimbledon and also reached the final of the 2016 U.S. Open - beating Williams in the semifinals there.

Barty retired at age 25 in March and so is not defending her title when play begins on Monday. That also leaves open the question of which woman will have the honor of playing the first match at Centre Court on Tuesday, a slot traditionally reserved for the prior year's champion.

The two most likely choices would seem to be No 1 Iga Swiatek, who enters on a 35-match winning streak and is coming off a title at the French Open, or Simona Halep, who won the 2019 trophy.

Kvitova vs Ostapenko in Eastbourne final

AP ■ EASTBOURNE

Two-time Wimbledon champion Petra Kvitova advanced to her first grass-court final in four years by beating Beatriz Haddad Maia 7-6 (5), 6-4 at Eastbourne on Friday.

Kvitova will face defending champion Jelena Ostapenko in the final. The eighth-seeded Latvian defeated 12th-seeded Camila Giorgi 6-2, 6-2 in the other semifinal match.

Haddad Maia had won 12 straight matches on grass including back-to-back singles titles in Nottingham and Birmingham over the last two weeks.

The 14th-seeded Kvitova reached her first final of 2022 and first grass-court final since Birmingham in 2018.

Kvitova earned the only service break of the match to begin the second set against the 15th-seeded Brazilian.

The 32-year-old Czech player's only career loss in five grass-court finals was to Marion Bartoli at Eastbourne in 2011, when Kvitova went on to win Wimbledon for the first time.

India clubbed with Brazil, USA, Morocco in women's U-17 WC

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

India will play Brazil in a FIFA World Cup. Not in the world football governing body's flagship event but in its U-17 tournament for women.

Hosts India have been clubbed alongside the football powerhouse, Morocco and the USA in a tough group for the upcoming U-17 FIFA Women's World Cup, the draw for which took place in Zurich on Friday.

The country is slated to host the tournament from October 11 to 30 across three venues — Bhubaneswar's Kalinga Stadium, Goa's Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru Stadium and Navi Mumbai's DY Patil Stadium.

India, being the host nation, are an automatic selection and is placed in Group A.

A total of 16 teams across four groups will be participating in the tournament.

India will begin their campaign against the USA on October 11 (Tuesday) at the Kalinga Stadium in Bhubaneswar. Their second match will be against Morocco on October 14 (Friday) at the same venue. The home team's last group stage match against Brazil will be on October 17 (Monday).

India were scheduled to host the 2020 edition of the World Cup but the tournament was cancelled due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Defending champions Spain, who beat Mexico in the final of the 2018 edition, are placed in Group C along with Colombia, China, and Mexico.

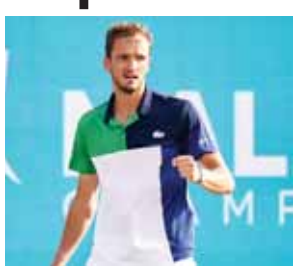
Group B consists of Germany, Nigeria, Chile and New Zealand. Japan, Tanzania, Canada and France constitute Group D.

North Korea are the most successful team in the history of the tournament, having won the trophy in 2008 and 2016, while Japan, South Korea, and France have each won the title once.

Host Mollie Kmita presented the official draw and was joined by former US women's national team player and FIFA women's World Cup winner, Heather O'Reilly, former coach of the New Zealand national team, Ricki Herbert, as well as Jaime Yarza, FIFA's director of tournaments, and Sarai Bareman, FIFA chief women's football officer.

Medvedev loses to Bautista Agut in Mallorca quarters

AP ■ PALMA



Top-ranked Daniil Medvedev will remain without a title on grass this season after a straight-set loss to Roberto Bautista Agut in the quarterfinals of the Mallorca Championships.

Medvedev lost 6-3, 6-2 after entering the match with an 8-2 record on the surface for the year, with his losses coming in consecutive finals in Germany and the Netherlands.

Medvedev, who will not play at Wimbledon because of the ban on Russians over the war in Ukraine, needed to come from behind to get past Aslan Karatsev in the round of 16 on Wednesday.

Medvedev, the defending champion in Mallorca, had only one break opportunity against the 20th-ranked Bautista Agut, who had advanced without having to play in the last 16 because Nick Kyrgios withdrew with an abdominal injury.

Archery WC Stage 3: Compound mixed pair in final

PTI ■ PARIS

Indian archers assured themselves of a second medal in the World Cup Stage 3 with ace duo of Abhishek Verma and Jyothi Surekha Vennam sailing into the compound mixed team final here on Friday.

A day after Deepika Kumari and Co. cruised into the final of recurve women's team event to confirm their first medal of the meet, the compound mixed pair of Verma and Jyothi followed suit, defeating Estonia's Robin Jaatma and Lisell Jaatma 156-151 in a lopsided semi-final.

The Indian duo will face fifth seed France in the compound mixed team final on Saturday.

Making a comeback after more than seven months, world number 3 Jyothi, who was sidelined in the Asian Games trial, is also in the hunt for an individual medal, having advanced into the semi-final.

A day after Lisell gave Jyothi a tough fight in the individual quarterfinal, the Estonian along with her teammate Robin failed to create much pressure and slipped behind after the Indian pair had a perfect first round.

Maintaining their consistency, Verma and Jyothi extended their lead to five points in the third round that proved decisive, even as their rivals levelled it 38-38 in the final set of arrows.

Having got a bye into the pre-quarters, third seeded India began their mixed team campaign eliminating Puerto Rico by a handsome eight-point margin (158-150).

Milan begin Scudetto defence against Udinese in mid-August

AP ■ MILAN

AC Milan will begin their Serie A title defence with the visit of Udinese after the 2022/23 season's fixture list was announced on Friday.

Stefano Pioli's side then face Atalanta, Bologna and Sassuolo before hosting the first Milan derby of the season in early September.

Milan took the Scudetto from Inter on the final day of last season's enthralling title race and will likely be doing battle with their local rivals -- who are set to bring back Romelu Lukaku — for the title in a campaign which starts earlier than usual.

The opening round of fixtures are on August 13, due to the World Cup which kicks off in Qatar in November, and finishes on June 4 next year.

The first week of the season will be held around when Italian families traditionally set off to the seaside, lakes or mountains on holiday to escape the intense summer heat.

The league will break from November 13 to make space for the World Cup but unlike the Premier League will not return in December, with the action starting up again on January 4.

Inter start with a trip to Serie B champions Lecce, one of only three teams from Italy's southern regions, before facing Spezia, Lazio and promoted Cremonese before their first local derby of the season.

Should the season go down to the wire as it did in May, there are some big matches in the final few weeks which could have an impact on the destination of the title.

BERLUSCONI BACK

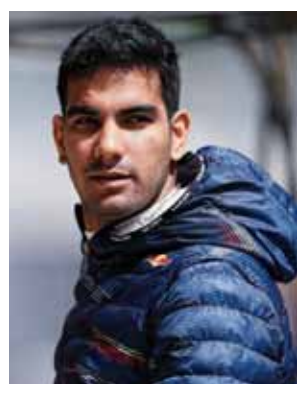
Juventus, hotly-tipped to sign free agent Paul Pogba, host Milan in the penultimate round of fixtures, when Inter await rivals Atalanta at the San Siro.

The week before Inter travel south to Napoli, who were well in the title race last season until they fell away in the final weeks of the campaign.

Milan fans will welcome back former owner Silvio Berlusconi in late October when promoted Monza visit the San Siro during the 11th round of fixtures.

Daruvala completes successful Formula 1 test with McLaren

PTI ■ MUMBAI



Young Indian racer Jehan Daruvala made a successful Formula 1 test debut this week with eight-time constructors' winner McLaren and is now eligible for a Super Lience.

The 23-year-old, who is aiming to become the third racer from India to race in Formula 1, drove the Woking-based team's 2021 race-winning challenger — the MCL35M — on Tuesday and Wednesday at Silverstone.

The test was Jehan's first taste of F1 machinery and he chalked up over 130 laps combined over the two days, over twice the distance F1 drivers will cover during British GP. The track time helped him earn enough points to apply for a Super Licence, which is needed to compete in F1.

Jehan, who ran trouble-free on both the days, currently races with Italian team Prema in the Formula 2 championship, the feeder series that sits one step below Formula 1, and is third in the overall standings.

"I really enjoyed my first time driving a Formula One car. I felt immediately at home and while it was physically more demanding than anything I have driven in the past, I didn't have any issues with my fitness," Jehan was quoted as saying in a media release on Friday.

According to Jehan, the experience gave him good understanding of how teams operate on an F1 weekend.

"As a result, we were able to work through the run plan well and complete everything we had mapped out. We did a mixture of high-fuel long runs and as well as shorter, low-fuel runs on different tyre compounds. That gave me a good understanding of how teams operate on an F1 weekend.

Surya, Sanju set to be in playing XI against Ireland

PTI ■ MALAHIDE

Dashing stroke-players Suryakumar Yadav and Sanju Samson will be returning to the India playing XI in place of Shreyas Iyer and Rishabh Pant in the two-match T20I series against Ireland starting Sunday.

While chief coach Rahul Dravid is in Leicester with the Test squad, National Cricket Academy (NCA) head VVS Laxman, who is in charge of the T20I side for this particular series, is expected to follow the template set by 'The Wall'.

With Iyer and Pant in the Test team, Surya, who is making a comeback from a wrist injury, and Samson, who is looking to make use of what could be his last chance to prove his worth, will be sure-shot starters.

Surya has been a regular in the Indian T20I side for the past one year and will only get his place back.

But as far as Samson is concerned, his alternative could be Deepak Hooda, who can also bowl a couple of overs of handy off-spin, besides possessing an ability to hit the ball hard.

However, if one looks at coach Dravid's philosophy, he doesn't believe in casting his net too wide and exploring too many options. He also needs to close in on spots by the time India play the Asia Cup.

While Ruturaj Gaikwad has not been very successful, the Chennai Super Kings opener might just get two more chances against a weak Ireland side, against whom he can score some runs and get his confidence back.

Ishan Kishan, who has all but sealed the reserve opener's slot for the next few months, will continue in his role for the time being and will open with regular skipper Rohit Sharma in the England leg of the T20Is also.

Stand-in captain Hardik Pandya, who batted at No 5 in the last series, is expected to continue in that position with Dinesh Karthik coming a slot below him.

However, with Karthik being assigned a specific role, he could also come ahead of Pandya, depending on the situation.

But it is still not clear if Dravid or Laxman will try out 'Jammu Express' Umran Malik or blockhole specialist Arshdeep Singh in this series, or continue with Bhuvneshwar Kumar and Avesh Khan, with Axar Patel and Yuzvendra Chahal as the spinners.

INDIAN EVES LOOK TO SEAL SERIES

PTI ■ DAMBULLA

Eyeing a series-clinching victory, the Indian women's cricket team would expect a better showing from its top-order when it takes on Sri Lanka in the second T20 International, here on Saturday.

The Indians made a positive start to the limited-overs tour of the Island nation with a 34-run win in the series-opener on Thursday.

The team would not only aim to secure the three-match series but also address the grey areas and continue the winning momentum ahead of the Birmingham Commonwealth Games, where women's cricket will make its debut in the T20 format.

The Birmingham Games will be held from July 28 to August 8.

In the series opener, the Indians managed a modest 138 for six after opting to bat before the bowlers, led by left-arm spinner Radha Yadav, chocked the Lankan batters. But India's batting show left a lot to be desired in the first game.

The likes of Shafali Verma, who made a run-a-ball 31, skipper Harmanpreet Kaur (22) and Richa Ghosh (11) all got starts but could not convert them into substantial knocks.

Having failed in the previous game, Harmanpreet will be hoping to eclipse the legendary Mithali Raj in the shortest format. She needs just 24 runs to become the highest run-getter from India in this format. Mithali, who recently retired from all forms of cricket, had scored 2364 run from 89 games.

Vice-captain Smriti Mandhana and Sabbhineni Meghana endured an off day in office and the visitors would need the duo to click if India are to put on a big total.

It was left to Jemimah Rodrigues, who made her comeback to the side after a while, and Deepti Sharma to provide the late burst and take India to the winning total Even though Rodrigues and Deepti did the rescue act, the Indian think tank would want the top-order to do better job.

The Indian bowlers, on the other hand, were right on the money with the spin troika of Radha (2/22), Deepti (1/9) and part-timer Shafali (1/10) shinning bright on the low and slow wicket.

With the same venue hosting all the three T20s, spinners of both teams will play vital roles.

Sri Lanka too would be hoping for a better effort from their batters.

Middle-order batter Kavisha Dilhari (47 not out) remained stranded as she failed to get support from the other hand. The likes of skipper Chamari Athapaththu, Vishmi Gunaratne, Harshitha Madavi and Nilakshi de Silva will have to take more responsibility in the batting unit.

On the bowling front, spin duo of Inoka Ranaweera (3/30) and Oshadi Ranasinghe (2/22) would look for support from their opening bowlers to keep Indian batters quiet.

SQUADS

India: Harmanpreet Kaur (C), Smriti Mandhana (VC), Simran Bahadur, Yastika Bhatia, Rajeshwari Gayakwad, Richa Ghosh (WK), Sabbhineni Meghana, Meghna Singh, Poonam Yadav, Renuka Singh, Jemimah Rodrigues, Shafali Verma, Deepti Sharma, Pooja Vastrakar, Radha Yadav.

Sri Lanka: Chamari Athapaththu (C), Nilakshi de Silva, Kavisha Dilhari, Vishmi Gunaratne, Ama Kanchana, Hansima Karunaratne, Achini Kulasuriya, Sugandika Kumari, Harshitha Madavi, Hasini Perera, Udeshika Prabodhani, Oshadi Ranasinghe, Inoka Ranaweera, Sathya Sandeepani, Anushka Sanjeewani, Malsha Shehani, Tharika Sewwandi.

Adil Rashid to miss white-ball series against India

PTI ■ LONDON

England will be without the services of Adil Rashid in next month's white-ball series against India as the leg-spinner has received clearance from the country's cricket board (ECB) to make Hajj pilgrimage to Mecca.

Rashid, a practising Muslim, will fly to Saudi Arabia on Saturday, which means he will also miss the latter stages of Yorkshire's T20 Blast campaign.

"I've been wanting to do it for a little while but I've found it pretty difficult with the timings. This year, I felt as though it was something that I had to do, and something I wanted to do as well," Rashid told 'ESPNcricinfo'.

"I spoke to the ECB and to Yorkshire about it and they were very understanding and encouraging, like: 'yep, you do what you've got to do and then come back when you can'.

"Me and the missus are going and I'll be there for a couple of weeks," he added.

Rashid was part of England's recently-concluded tour of the Netherlands, where the visitors comfortably bagged the three-match ODI series 3-0.

"It's a massive moment: each faith has got their own different thing but for Islam and being a Muslim, this is one of the biggest ones," Rashid said.

"It's a big thing for my faith and for myself. I knew that I needed to do it while I'm young and strong and healthy. This is something that I really committed to myself that I would do."

India take on hosts England in a white-ball series, including three T20Is and as many ODIs from July 7 to 17.

Rashid is expected to miss all six games as he is likely to return in mid-July, ahead of England's white-ball series against South Africa.

Pakistans introduce separate Test & white-ball contracts

PTI ■ KARACHI

The Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) on Friday introduced separate red ball and white ball central contracts for its players with increased retainers but would discourage its elite players from competing in foreign leagues, for which it is ready to pay them compensatory money.

The PCB said that the Board of Governors meeting has approved an annual budget of 15 billion rupees for the fiscal year 2022-23 with 78 percent allocated for cricket activities.

"As part of its strategy to incentivise, reward and encourage its high-performing elite cricketers, as well as to narrow the gap in salaries compared to players of other countries, the BoG has approved changes in the men's central contracts structure," the PCB said in a statement.

From July 1, separate red and white-ball contracts will be given with increased retainers. The number of centrally contracted players has been increased from 20 to 33.

The Board announced a 10 per cent increase in match fees across formats and also an increase in match fee for non-playing members from 50 per cent to 70 per cent of the overall match fee.

A captaincy allowance has also been introduced to compensate the team leader for the additional responsibilities that come with that role.

PCB Chairman, Ramiz Raja also announced at a media conference in Lahore that the Board has also set up a special fund for current players who get offers for playing in foreign leagues.

Ramiz brushes aside rumours of being sacked

PTI ■ LAHORE

Pakistan Cricket Board Chairman Ramiz Raja has obliquely said that he wants to continue in the top post, following prolonged speculations that he was likely to be sacked by the ruling government. There have been speculations for months that Prime Minister Shahbaz Sharif will soon bring in his own nominee to replace Ramiz as PCB Chairman.

Shahbaz recently also held meetings with three former Chairman of the board, Khalid Mahmood, Zaka Ashraf and Najam Sethi on cricket matters leading to more speculations that Ramiz would be told to go home.

"It's been two months now and we can't live on speculations. If something had to happen it would have happened by now. Look unless you give continuity a chance nothing will improve in Pakistan cricket," Ramiz said.

"Cricket gives me excitement. I have a lot of other options. The PM is our line in-charge and I have put in a request to meet him and brief him on what we are doing and our plans for the future."

Ramiz said that his goal is to improve cricket in Pakistan and the good work should not be disregarded.

"There is no ego issue here, we just want to improve Pakistan cricket. If the constitution allows a change fine but just because of tradition you should not undo the good work," he said.

Oz beat SL by 4 wickets

AP ■ COLOMBO

Wicketkeeper-batsman Alex Carey's unbeaten 45 and inspired bowling helped Australia to a four-wicket consolation win over Sri Lanka in the fifth ODI on Friday.

Australia bowled out the hosts for 160, a tricky total on a bowling-friendly Colombo pitch the tourists overhauled with 10.3 overs to spare.

Fast bowlers Josh Hazlewood, Pat Cummins and spinner Matthew Kuhnemann took two wickets each.

Chamika Karunaratne hit a valiant 75 for Sri Lanka, who won the five-match series 3-2 after they had taken an unbeatable lead in the fourth match.

Australia were in trouble at 4-50 when the left-handed Carey and Marnus Labuschagne, who made 31, put on a key stand of 51 to set up the chase.

Teenage left-arm spinner Dunith Wellalage took three wickets including David Warner, for 10, and Glenn Maxwell, for 16, but the left-handed Carey kept his calm.

Earlier Sri Lanka slipped to 85-8 before Karunaratne, who improved on his previous ODI best of 44 not out, and debutant Pramod Madushan put on a stubborn stand of 58 for the ninth wicket.

The tourists had quickly rattled the Sri Lankans after Hazlewood removed the openers inside five overs and finished with figures of 2-22.

Charith Asalanka was run out for 14 after a misunderstanding with his partner Kusal Mendis, who made 26 but was out hit wicket off Glenn Maxwell on the next ball.

Kuhnemann, a left-arm spinner, then struck twice in one over including skipper Dasun Shanaka for one as Sri Lanka slipped further to 85-8.

But Karunaratne fought back as he reached his maiden ODI fifty with a boundary off Cummins to celebrate with a fist pump.

Cummins finally got out Karunaratne, who hit eight fours and two sixes in his stay, to wrap up the innings.

Boult strikes as England slump to 55-6 against Black Caps

AP ■ NOTTINGHAM

Trent Boult took three wickets as England slumped to 55-6 on the second day of the third Test on Friday, with their batting frailties returning to haunt them.

England last week went 2-0 up in the three-match series playing bold and aggressive cricket under their new leadership pair of captain Ben Stokes and Test coach Brendon McCullum, a former New Zealand skipper.

But replying to Test world champions New Zealand's first innings 329, England lost six wickets within 12 overs at Headingley, most of them due to good bowling rather than cavalier batting.

Left-hander Alex Less, dropped in the slips off the first ball of the innings, was bowled by a superb Boult leg-cutter four balls later.

Ollie Pope, fresh from a hundred in the second Test at Trent Bridge, was also cleaned up by Boult to leave England 14-2.

The out-of-form Crawley was next to fall, bowled middle stump by Boult before Tim Southee had star batsman Joe Root caught behind for five on his Yorkshire home ground.

That left England 21-4 and although skipper Stokes counter-attacked by going down the pitch to drive Southee for six, he could only chip recalled left-arm quick Neil Wagner to mid-off trying to play a similar shot.

WORLD TEST CHAMPIONS NEW ZEALAND ARE 2-0 DOWN IN THE THREE-MATCH SERIES BUT MITCHELL HAS BEEN A SHINING LIGHT AND HIS 109 IN LEEDS FOLLOWED SCORES OF 108 AT LORD'S AND 190 IN NOTTINGHAM

And when wicketkeeper Ben Foakes was plumb lbw to Wagner for nought, England were 55-6 from 11.5 overs.

Earlier, Daryl Mitchell hit his third hundred of the series before falling on the stroke of lunch to leave New Zealand 325-8.

World Test champions New Zealand are 2-0 down in the three-match series but Mitchell has been a shining light and his 109 in Leeds followed scores of 108 at Lord's and 190 in Nottingham.

Mitchell, 31, is only the fifth New Zealander to score hundreds in three successive Tests.

After resuming on 78 not out, Mitchell also scored the 12 extra runs he needed to break Martin Donnelly's 73-year-old record for the most runs made by a New Zealander — 462 — in a Test series against England.

Madhya Pradesh close in on maiden Ranji title

PTI ■ BENGALURU

Unheralded Yash Dubey and Shubham Sharma made the biggest stage of Indian domestic cricket their own with well-crafted centuries, that pulled the rug from under heavyweights Mumbai's feet as Madhya Pradesh took a giant leap towards their maiden Ranji Trophy title, here on Friday.

Mumbai's first innings score of 374 looked reasonably good on the second day but Dubey (133, 336 balls) and Sharma (116, 215 balls) added 222 runs for the second wicket to take MP to a solid 368 for 3 at the end of day three.

Madhya Pradesh now need only seven more runs to take a decisive first innings lead and unless they suffer a collapse in the fourth innings, the title is theirs for taking.

MP had lost to Karnataka when the last time they competed in a Ranji Trophy final in the 1998-99 season.

The duo took the sting out of Mumbai attack with some 'khadoos' (stubborn) batting straight out of Chandrakant Pandit's coaching play book as 245 runs were scored through the whole day but more effectively, they ran Mumbai attack ragged with their solid game plan.

Rajat Patidar, one of the heroes of RCB's campaign in the IPL, then used his new-found confidence to score an unbeaten 67 with 13 boundaries.

MP would certainly want to stretch their innings as much as possible so that Mumbai have no chance to make a comeback in the game.

The Chinnaswamy Stadium track didn't show signs of wear and tear and the bright sunshine only helped the MP batters to settle down easily against a Mumbai attack which was at one level ordinary.

The biggest disappointment was their left-arm spinner Shams Mulani (1/117 in 40 overs), who bowled too many loose deliveries.

Veteran Dhawal Kulkarni (21-3-51-0) and the seasoned Tushar Deshpande (24-8-73-1) were also below-par as they consistently gave drivable length the batters in the morning session.

Instead of conjuring up maiden overs and building the pressure slowly, within first half an hour, they allowed Dubey and Sharma to easily hit multiple cover drives to get their eye in.

Kulkarni, the only man in this set-up with experience of winning a Ranji Trophy, bowled too many deliveries outside the off-stump which were left alone.

The only time he looked menacing was when Dubey had taken his eyes off a short ball and was knocked down.

While Dubey hit 14 boundaries and Sharma had 15 hits and a maximum to his credit, what stood out during their partnership was their running between the wickets.

That Dubey (613 runs) and Sharma (578 runs) have been standout performers for MP this season was evident in their on-field communication, where they would tap the ball towards mid-on or mid-off to steal those quick singles.

Dubey in fact after scoring his hundred did repeat the 'Sidhu Moosewala' celebration (thigh thump and index finger pointed towards sky) but it was more about driving home a point for Sarfaraz Khan, who was sledging the duo.

By the time, Sharma was caught behind off Avasthi and Dubey gave Mulani something to cheer after another 72-run third wicket stand, some of the Mumbai players were on their hunches.