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BHUBANESWAR, TUESDAY MAY 24, 2022; PAGES 12 ₹4



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India committed to free, open, inclusive Indo-Pacific: Modi

At Quad, PM calls for robust ties for eco prosperity, peace in region

PNS/AGENCIES ■ NEW DELHI/TOKYO

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Monday said India is committed to a free, open and inclusive Indo-Pacific region and called for robust economic ties between the countries to ensure continued growth, peace and prosperity. Giving this assurance at the launch of the Indo-Pacific Economic Framework for Prosperity (IPEF) in Tokyo, he also said this mechanism is a declaration of a collective desire to make the Indo-Pacific region an engine of global economic growth. He said the foundation of resilient supply chains must be 3Ts — Trust, Transparency and Timeliness. These observations came against the backdrop of China adopting an aggressive stance in the region and repeatedly criticising the Quad combine. India, the US, Japan and Australia are part of the Quad. Ahead of the Quad Summit, Foreign Minister of China Wang Yi on Sunday said the Indo-Pacific strategy of

the US is "bound to fail" as it is vigorously promoted by the US to "contain" Beijing. The "Indo-Pacific strategy" is causing more and more concern in the international community, especially in the Asia-Pacific region. Wang Yi said at his joint press conference with Pakistan Foreign Minister Bilawal Bhutto Zardari in the southern Chinese city of Guangzhou. Meanwhile, speaking at the IPEF launch ceremony in the presence of US President Joe Biden and Japanese Prime Minister Fumio Kishida besides leaders of several other countries who virtually took part in the event, Modi said India has historically been at the centre of trade flows in the Indo-Pacific region, having the world's oldest commercial port in Lothal, Gujarat. He stressed the need for finding common and creative solutions to tackle economic challenges of the Indo-Pacific region. He expressed India's commitment towards working with all countries of the region for an IPEF. "India is committed to a free, open, and inclusive Indo-Pacific region and believes that deepening economic engagement among partners is crucial for continued growth, peace and prosperity," said Modi. *Continued on Page 2*

PM woos Japanese inc, lists ease of doing biz

Modi proposes 'Japan Week' to celebrate business ties

PNS/AGENCIES ■ NEW DELHI/TOKYO

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Monday underlined several steps taken for ease of doing business in India and invited Japanese industry to explore more investment opportunities here. Underlining India's robust economy, he said despite the slowdown in global Foreign Direct Investment (FDI), India attracted record FDI of USD 84 billion in the previous financial year. Terming this a vote of confidence in India's economic potential, Modi invited greater participation by Japanese companies in India and proposed celebrating Japan's contribution to India's development



Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Monday fondly interacted with a boy who was waiting outside his hotel here and praised him for his fluency in Hindi and signed him an autograph in his tricolour drawing, in Tokyo on Monday

Mujhe makhn par lakeer karne mein maza nahi aata hai, main pathar par lakeer karta hoon
— PM NARENDRA MODI

journey in the form of a 'Japan Week'. He made this strong pitch while chairing a roundtable with Japanese business leaders in Tokyo. *Continued on Page 2*

Nitish bowls another googly on caste census

Convenes all-party meet; move seen as his increasing proximity to RJD

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI



In yet another sign of growing proximity between the Janata Dal(U) and the RJD in Bihar, Chief Minister Nitish Kumar has convened an all-party to develop consensus on holding a caste census in Bihar. Leader of Opposition and RJD leader Tejashwi Yadav recently met Nitish Kumar to press for holding the caste census. The BJP has been all along opposed to such an exercise apprehending that could revive the Mandal politics all over again, but the party is expected to attend the meeting. The BJP leadership does not want the caste census to become a trigger for political instability in Bihar at a time when the relationship between the JD(U) and the saffron party is at an all-time low.

Incidentally, the Union Government had gone on record in Parliament saying there was no move to hold a countrywide caste census. The move has come amid speculation that Nitish was moving away from the BJP and has finalised some secret "deal" with the RJD. The crisis in Bihar NDA has yet another dimension. There is a strong

buzz that the JD(U) may deny Rajya Sabha nomination to Union Steel Minister RCP Singh, who is seen as close to the BJP leadership. The denial of ticket to RCP could be seen as yet another rebuff to the BJP by Nitish, who has already opposed to such an exercise for a Uniform Civil Code and removal of a loudspeaker from masjids. Nitish has also reservations about bringing back the CAA and the NRC and said that he would want that a suggestion made by his party in 2010 should be the criteria for the implementation of the Citizenship Amendment Act. The political temperature in Bihar has also risen amid reports that Nitish has asked his party MLAs to stay put in Patna for the next 72 hours, while he himself is going to Rajgir on Tuesday. While JD(U) leader Shrawan Kumar denied that any such directive has been issued to the MLAs, reports said majority of the MLAs and senior JD(U) lead-

After HC prod Cops draw charges against 7 SCB docs

In advocate assault case

PRADIP DAS ■ CUTTACK

More than seven months after an alleged assault on an advocate of the Orissa High Court, the Cuttack city police on Monday filed the charge-sheets against seven doctors of the SCB Medical College Hospital here. City DCP Pinak Mishra informed about it to the High Court in connection with a Criminal Miscellaneous Petition (CRLMP) filed by advocate Sapan Kumar Pal, who had been assaulted by the doctors on October 21 last year. According to reports, Pal had gone to the hospital for treatment of one of his relatives. He was, however, attacked by the doctors mercilessly when

he complained of negligence in treatment and hospital mismanagement. He lodged an FIR at the local Mangalabag police station on the same day. But when police failed to investigate the matter, Pal approached the High Court alleging police inaction. Last month while adjudicating the petition, Justice Aditya Kumar Mohapatra had directed the Cuttack DCP to supervise the investigation when the Government Advocate informed the High Court that the hospital authorities were not cooperating with police in providing the CCTV footages or naming the doctors who were on duty on that date. The DCP on Monday through an affidavit informed that the charge-sheets have been filed against the accused doctors.

Parikrama Project Gajapati, SJTA chief meet Shankaracharya

SAROJ KUMAR MISHRA ■ PURI

Amidst the controversy over the Shreemandir Parikrama Project, Gajapati Maharaja Dibyasingha Deb, Shree Jagannath Temple Administration (SJTA) Chief Administrator Vir Vikram Yadav and district Collector Samarth Verma met Puri Shankaracharya Swami Nischilananda Saraswati on Monday. Though the reason for meeting the Shankaracharya was unknown, it was believed that they held discussions about the Parikrama project. The visit of Gajapati assumed importance after the seer's statement that he has not been consulted by the

Government before resuming work for the Heritage Corridor. The Shankaracharya had also advised the Government to carry out the work by respecting laws. In another development, the first coordination meeting for the upcoming Rath Yatra presided over by RDC (Central), was organised at the Town Hall in the city. Puri MLA Jayant Sarangi, the SJTA chief, the Collector and heads of line departments discussed the preparedness for the festival. A slew of issues, including chariots construction, water and power supply, health and law and order, in connection with the festival came up for discussions.

Sarat Pattanayak appointed OPCC chief

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

As expected, veteran Congress leader Sarat Pattanayak has been appointed as new PCC president of Odisha. This is his second term as OPCC chief as his first term was from 2001-04.

Said to be most loyal and a close confidant of 10, Janpath, New Delhi, Pattanayak has been appointed by All India Congress Committee (AICC) president Sonia Gandhi.

While accepting resignation of outgoing PCC president Niranjana Patnaik, the AICC has recorded appreciation for the senior Patnaik. Sarat had served as State Youth Congress president of Odisha. Active in student politics, he was Sambalpur Law College Students' Union president during 1979-80. Later he became general



secretary NSUI, Odisha and became joint secretary, Youth Congress and later, became general secretary, Youth Congress. He was elevated to vice president of Odisha Youth Congress. He attended the World Youth Festival in North Korea in 1989. He became president of Pradesh Youth Congress Odisha from 1992 to 1996. He was elected as MP from Balangir for two terms, in

1991 and 1996. Later, he became general secretary OPCC, went up in ladder to become vice president and subsequently the president for four years. Pattanayak was also the AICC secretary and worked sincerely for the party. As MP from Balangir, he took up a series of development initiatives like KBK Yojana, Lower Suktel and Lower Indra irrigation project and Balangir-Khurda railway line. He took up developmental work for implementation of Kharkhara Barrage, Central School at Balangir and setting up of Navodaya Vidyalayas at Belpada of Balangir and in Nuapada. Starting DMU train from Titlagarh to Raipur was also his initiative. He also worked for inclusion of all blocks in Balangir in ICDS. When Patnaik took up the issue of

KBK, PV Narasimha Rao as Prime Minister of India had visited Balangir and Nuapada district and declared the KBK Yojana at Kalahandi. Patnaik also took up issue of poverty and backwardness of the region with former Prime Minister HD Deve Gowda and later Gowda had visited Nuapada and Balangir district to declare Lower Suktel and Lower Indra as two major irrigation projects to be taken up on a priority basis. Sonia Gandhi also had visited the drought prone areas of Belpada block. Patnaik is a widely accepted leader from western Odisha and having grass root connect. The AICC president has appointed him to revive the Congress organisation in the State and unite the leaders in interest of the party and State.

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Sevayats move HC for early completion of Parikrama project

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE
BHUBANESWAR

Amid the political uproar over the legality of the Shreemandir Heritage Corridor Project in Puri, several servitors of the temple have moved the Orissa High Court seeking an early completion of the project.

Five senior sevayats, Raghunath Gochhikar, Hajuri Krishna Chandra Khuntia, Binayak Das Mohapatra, Harekrushna Khuntia and Batakushna Modra, have filed a

PIL in the court making the Odisha Government, the Archaeological Survey of India, the Chief Administrator of Shree Jagannath Temple Administration and the Puri Collector parties in the petition.

They have urged the court to "direct the State to complete the Puri Parikrama Project as expeditiously as possible". They have also urged the court to "direct the Archaeological Survey of India to permit and cooperate with the State authorities to complete the project

as expeditiously as possible" as the project is being carried for the benefit of pilgrims and tourists.

"Under the project, the State Government is establishing various amenities for Sevayats and pilgrims such as cloak rooms, pavilions, male and female toilets, separate Sevayat toilets, etc. These works are for improvement of the conditions of the temple, the lives of the Sevayats and the experience of the pilgrims," they said in the petition.

Notably, on May 9, the ASI had informed the High Court that no

valid permission was given for the project.

The ASI also said that the drawing and structural designs included in the revised detailed project report (DPR) are different from the one presented to the National Monument Authority (NMA).

Besides, there is every possibility that the construction agency OBCC during the excavation and removal of the earth might have destroyed the archaeological remains of the heritage site, the ASI affidavit said.

Interview of the week

We can provide social, technical solutions to Mahanadi issue



SUGYAN CHOUDHURY



Dr Rajendra Singh

Immortal English bard Coleridge sang, "Water water everywhere, but not a drop to drink", which is true and eternal. Our good old Mother Earth is not a Japanese toy of yesterday and it needs to be protected by preserving and using water which is life. **Dr Rajendra Singh**, popularly known as the Waterman of India, was on a two-day visit to Odisha recently. By education and training, he is a doctor in Indian medicine. He joined a government job but relinquished it in order to serve the society and the nation. The water issues of the arid Rajasthan posed a challenge to him and the young Gandhian Rajendra accepted it with a rare vision. Years of deforestation and mining had converted the once-fertile Alwar district into a barren land with a dwindling water table and minimal rainfall. Giving emphasis on traditional water conservation system, he changed many dry rivers into perennial streams. The river Aravri after 60 years flowed again owing to his efforts. He played a pivotal role for constructing 375 check-dams in the river. Under his leadership, rivers like Ruparel, Sarsa, Bhagani and Jahajwari were revived after decades. Dr Singh today is a household name in all States of India where there are rivers. In south India, he is very much active now in Krishna and Kaveri regions. As a water conservationist and environmentalist, he has bagged the coveted Ramon Magsaysay Award and the Jannalal Bajaj Award. British English daily *The Guardian* bracketed him in its list of 50 people who could save the planet. He has won the Stockholm Water Prize, an award known as the Nobel Prize for water. He is bestowed with the Ahimsa Award by the UK-based Institute of Jainology. He was in Bhubaneswar last week to inaugurate a seminar in the context of "Save Mahanadi Movement". In an interview to *The Pioneer*, he spoke to **Sugyan Choudhury** on many issues concerning river problems.

What's the sum total achievement in India during four decades of your movement 'Nadi Bachao Andolan'?
My joys know no bounds as I have resonated 13 rivers, two in Maharashtra, two in Karnataka and

nine in Rajasthan. We have constructed 13,800 dams, check-dams and annicuts to raise the groundwater level in order to make rivers of the Indian subcontinent flowing perennially. We have just used a very simple science of the river. We have made a system where water can walk. We make dams and the water can go down, thereby we control the evaporation loss. When we control water evaporation, water is reserved and we construct dams. When the groundwater level comes up, the river flows. You can change the course of history in a small period, but when you are changing the course of geography, it requires time. My first river Arvri took 12 years to resonate; and after having created 600 water bodies, my rivers started flowing as the groundwater level came up.

Do you have plans to resonate almost all the rivers of India?

My first agenda is to seek cooperation of the people, river activists, intellectuals who love the river. 'If the health of the river is OK then my health is OK', this should be the attitude of one and all towards the river. If the river water is clean and if it is flowing perpetually then our health would be alright. That is why I have started a river literacy movement called 'Aao Nadi ko Jane' (Come and know the river). You have to learn from the river; and that is why I have started a 'Nadi Pathshala Movement'. We are continuously doing such movements throughout the country. If people can understand the character of the river, they will start loving the river. That is how we are building river cadres like river warriors, river activists, river lovers, river creators, river resonators and river conservators. We have all these cadres everywhere in our country.

How did you start your movement in Maharashtra?

We initially recruited seven types of cadres to reach our mission in Maharashtra, where we started a river literacy movement. The cadres are Gram Jal Sevak at the village level, Jal Doot at the block level, Jal Premi at the district level, Jal Yodha at the division level and Jal Nayak, who knows all about the water system of the State. Some honest government officers take the responsibility as Jal Karmis. Finally,

the women communities which are really committed to the conservation of river are called Jal Prahari. Today, my heart dances in joyous delight to see my rivers like Agrani and Mahakali perennially flowing in Maharashtra which took me just nine years for completion.

What is the source of your inspiration to work for water?

It is very simple. When there was no water, young men and women migrated to other places for work. When the rivers are resonated, when water flows perennially, these youths no longer migrate and they live with their old parents getting deeply involved in productive agricultural activities with smiles on everyone's face. That is how I have reaped a rich dividend; and I am inspired to work more and more.

For such a huge enterprise, wherefrom do you manage your finances?

I never take a single pie from any Government, either the Centre or the State Governments. I never ever avail a single pie covertly or overtly from any corporate house and never allow corporate houses like Ambanis, Adanis to enter into my work areas. I have constructed 13,800 small dams by now across the country only with the people's voluntary participation. I never desire any governmental aid towards my mission.

What's your opinion regarding the conflict between Odisha and Chhattisgarh relating to the Mahanadi and how it can be resolved?

I have met your CM Naveen Patnaikji three times and he is a nice person with a positive bent of mind and eager to solve the problem. I am of the opinion that the Odisha-Chhattisgarh dispute is not as serious and complicated as Kaveri and it should be resolved by both the Governments amicably. I do not believe in the court or tribunal solutions.

If any offer comes to you to solve this dispute, what can you do in outside-court settlements?

I can say without the slightest hesitation and with all humility that as the Chairperson of the Indian Peninsular River Basin Council, I along with my technical team can provide social, technical solutions between the two States and resolve the issue.

AIIMS Oncology Dvn OPD begins

PNS BHUBANESWAR

To strengthen the chemotherapy needs of cancer patients in Odisha as well as in neighbouring States, the Medical Oncology division of Medical Oncology/Haematology Department, AIIMS Bhubaneswar started its own dedicated day care services and OPD on Monday.

AIIMS Bhubaneswar Director Prof Mukesh Tripathi inaugurated the facilities in the G block of the main building. On the occasion, Director Dr Tripathi reiterated the commitment of AIIMS Bhubaneswar to serve the cancer patients with more vigour and dedication. The day care and OPD services of Medical Oncology division at AIIMS will certainly help the cancer patients requiring

chemotherapy, said Dr Tripathi.

AIIMS Bhubaneswar Medical Superintendent Dr Sachidananda Mohanty gracing the occasion congratulated the faculties and encouraged them. Among others HOD Medical Oncology/Haematology Department Dr Prabodh Das, JMS Dr JS Pillai, Associate Professor Dr Sourav Kumar Mishra and Assistant Professor Dr Ilavarasi Vanidassane of Medical Oncology Division were also present. The Medical oncology division at AIIMS is the first dedicated medical oncology unit in the government sector in Odisha after the AHRCC at Cuttack. The department will do OPDs on Tuesdays and Thursdays and the day care services will run on all week days.

OBB celebrates Int'l Biodiversity Day



PNS BHUBANESWAR

The Odisha Biodiversity Board (OBB) celebrated the International Day for Biological Diversity here on Sunday to spread a message "Building a shared future for all life", the theme announced by the United Nation Secretariat of Convention on Biological Diversity for this year.

Odisha Real Estate Regulatory Authority Chairperson and former Director General of Forests, Government of India, Siddhanta

Das inaugurated the function. Former Principal Chief Conservator of Forests and Head of the Forest Force, Government of Odisha, Dr Sandeep Tripathy was guest of honour. OBB Chairman Rajiv Kumar briefed about the board's various activities towards the implementation of the Biological Diversity Act 2002.

A video on "Biological Diversity of Odisha", books on "Brachyuran Crabs of Devi Estuary" and "Banyajantu Parichalanara Bistruta Margadarshika" were released.

Attack on C'garh tourists 3 Nandankanan staffs held; probe ordered



PNS BHUBANESWAR

Police on Monday arrested three staffs of the Nandankanan Zoological Park here for allegedly attacking and injuring tourists from Chhattisgarh on Sunday.

The accused were identified as Santosh Kumar Sahoo, Kanha Mohapatra and Aman Patsani of Daruthenga area.

The victims have lodged a complaint against the attackers at the Nandankanan police station.

As many as 26 tourists from the neighbouring State had come to visit the zoo. They bought tickets for a safari bus but couldn't avail the service even after waiting for

around three hours. They alleged that some visitors who got tickets after them boarded the bus before their turn.

A heated altercation took place between the tourists and employees of the safari. The matter took a violent turn as the safari staffs attacked the tourists with iron rods.

Nandankanan Deputy Director Sanjeet Kumar has asked the Range Security Officer to submit a detailed report on the incident based on reports from local security staffs and CCTV footages.

"Action against the licensee and his staffs will be taken after investigation by the zoo authorities and police," Kumar said.

Varsha's FIR against Anubhav under scrutiny

Say police

PNS CUTTACK

A day after actress Varsha Priyadarshini lodged a fresh FIR against her husband and BJD MP Anubhav Mohanty, Cuttack DCP Pinak Mishra on Monday said the contents of the complaint were being scrutinised.

"We received a written complaint from Varsha Priyadarshini at Purighat police station yesterday. We have acknowledged the complaint. We will analyse the content of the FIR and take action accordingly," Mishra said.

"A case has been already registered earlier in the dispute between the couple and the MP's friend Jagrati Shukla, and a probe



is ongoing. We are also taking into consideration the subsequent complaints being made by her. We are analysing whether contents are cognisable or non-cognisable offence and take action accordingly," Mishra added.

Varsha lodged the complaint against her husband and his family at the Purighat police station here on Sunday. In her seven-page FIR, she accused Anubhav of telling fabricated stories in two videos to tarnish her image when the matter is sub-judice.

Bad driving leads to traffic woes in Bhubaneswar

Enough has been said about the traffic congestion in Bhubaneswar, which is only getting worse over the years and with no solution in the foreseeable future. Anyone commuting within the city or coming to Bhubaneswar from nearby areas knows what it takes to reach our destinations. I have been living in this city for the last 25 years and traffic congestion is getting worse with each passing day. The traffic police personnel do their best to regulate it but thousands of cars are thronging and clogging roads, at times rendering them helpless. Although this congestion is a perennial problem, it is most acute during school hours. It seems that most of the congestion occurs because of numerous crossing points along the roads. If the traffic flows continuously even at a slow pace,



K RAVI

the problem will be much less.

Apparently, the greater challenge lies in keeping a smooth flow of traffic rather than controlling the number of vehicles on the road. If the Government can come up with some innovative designs to circumvent and keep traffic flowing in all directions at these

junctions, it will be a lesser evil. To make matters worse, people's driving behavior has degenerated. Bhubaneswar proudly held the badge as a city of disciplined drivers, but not anymore. In my initial years in Bhubaneswar, I happily observed cars patiently waiting in long queues at traffic stops and not a single car overtaking. But people have become impatient now. Breaking queues and overtaking at traffic stops have become commonplace. This doesn't help anyone; rather it causes much inconvenience to the incoming vehicles in narrow areas. It also causes irritation in the minds of other motorists who are patiently waiting in queues for a long time. The Bhubaneswar Traffic Police need to take notice and penalize such unruly drivers. We should not allow such undisciplined behavior

to gradually creep into our habits.

Another worrying behavior I lately noticed is some motorists nonchalantly stopping the car on the road and engaging in brief yet lively talk with fellow drivers or roadside shopkeepers. They are unmindful of the inconvenience caused to other vehicles behind them, more so, when people are already stressed with traffic congestion. At the end, I urge the Government to come up with plans and implement them seriously to mitigate the problems. We the public also need to make course corrections in our road manners. Let's not pollute the beautiful city and make our ride in the city roads horrible with our unruly behaviour.

(The writer is a resident of E-237, GGP Colony, Bhubaneswar-751025, and works with NSS, CHSE, Odisha. Mob: 9437616497)

Leopard skin seized; 1 held in R'gada

PNS RAYAGADA

The Special Task Force (STF) of the Crime Branch with the help of Gunupur forest officials conducted a raid near Bangi junction on the NH-23 under Gunupur police station in Rayagada district and seized a leopard skin on Sunday.

The agency also arrested a person in this connection. The accused was identified as Jayanta Bibar of Bandipanka village under the Chandrapur police limits in Rayagada district.

A leopard skin and other incriminating materials

were recovered from Bibar's possession. The accused could not produce any authority in support of the possession of the skin, for which he was detained and handed over to Gunupur forest officials for further action.

Notably, in the special drive from 2020 against wildlife trade, the STF has seized as many as 29 leopard skins, 24 elephant tasks, seven deer skins, 14 live pangolins, 30.4 kg of pangolin scales, two leopard teeth, 29 leopard claws, 46 live wild parrots and arrested 70 wildlife criminals.



In Balangir Hit-and-run mishap a pre-planned murder

Main accused held
PIONEER NEWS SERVICE
BALANGIR

Police on Monday arrested the main accused in the hit-and-run incident at RTO Chowk in Balangir town in which a person died and two others were injured. In the mishap, while a motorbike was badly damaged, it also injured a bullock and

hit a truck coming from the opposite direction and damaged a Toyota Innova car parked on the roadside. One Sanu Nayak along with Srikanth Bag was coming towards the town by a motorcycle when a mini truck driven by one Chitta Mohanty hit their vehicle from the rear, resulting in death of Bag on the spot and injuring two others.

However on Sunday, CCTV footages went viral revealing that the incident was not a mere accident but done intentionally. Earlier, injured Sanu's father Rabindra had complained to police that Chitta had threatened to kill them over a land dispute. The Balangir police nabbed Chitta from Theruvali while he was being

shifted to Visakhapatnam for treatment. After the CCTV evidence surfaced and other factors in the incident came to light, police have registered a case under Section 302 and 120(B) of IPC. Further investigation was on to nab the other culprits in the incident, which is nothing but a pre-planned murder, said Balangir SP Nitin Kulaskar.

Demo in Balangir demands HC Bench

Condemns HC Bar's move
PNS ■ BALANGIR

Members the Balangir Action Committee (BAC) led by Gopalji Panigrahi on Monday staged a dharna before the Collectorate demanding setting up a permanent Bench of the Orissa High Court at Balangir.

They condemned a resolution by the High Court Bar Association urging the Chief Justice of HC not to give his assent to same which is against setting up of a High Court Bench elsewhere.

"Earlier, a HC Bench was functioning here in the pre independence days. We demand setting up a permanent Bench at Balangir, failing which the agitation will be intensified," warned BAC president Panigrahi.

Moreover, members of the Balangir Bar Association led by its president Amrish Tripathy also staged protest before the Collectorate, condemning the resolution of the HC Bar Association and demanded a HC Bench at Balangir.

BJP members led by party district president Shivaji Mohanty also joined the dharna and supported the demand.

Balangir MLA and senior Congress leader Narasingha Mishra in a tweet said, "Condemn the HC Bar resolution against establishment of permanent Bench of high court in western Odisha. The CMO should initiate a consultation process with the Chief Justice as per the latest letter by the Union Minister of Law immediately."

In Kendrapada Unani hosp shut for 20 yrs, yet staffs paid salary

RAJESH BEHERA
KENDRAPADA

A doctor and a staff member are getting salary regularly, but the hospital they are working in has been nonexistent for last two decades. It exists only in pen and paper!

If locals are to be believed, then former Chief Minister Biju Patnaik had set up a Unani hospital at Fakirabad under Kendrapada township during 1990s with an aim to provide health service to the minority community. The Unani is a Perso-Arabic traditional medicine practiced in the Muslim culture. A doctor and a health worker were also engaged in the Unani hospital.

The Unani hospital functioned for eight years. But as people preferred to get allopathic treatment, the Unani hospital was closed in the lo-

cality for lack of patients. Several business establishments were later set up at the place, where the Unani hospital was set up.

While the State Government has taken all steps for the modernisation of a Unani hospital at Bhadrak but in Biju Karmabhumi (Kendrapada), the State Government has been spending revenue to provide salary to a doctor and a para medical staff from the State exchequers though the hospital has been closed.

When contacted, Kendrapada District Headquarters Hospital ADMO Sachidananda Mishra stated that the Unani medicine comes under the Ayush Department. The Unani health centre does not come under their jurisdiction. However, he said that an inquiry would be conducted into the issue.

B'garh: Couple dies as car hits bike



PNS ■ BARGARH

A couple was killed in a road mishap on Monday morning near Sarandapali village in Bargarh district. Following the incident, police detained the driver of the car.

Ganesh Ram Sahu from Keshepali village and his wife Santoshini were on their way towards Parhalla village by a motorcycle. In the meantime, a car coming from the oppo-

site direction hit the motorcycle. The impact of the collision was so severe that Ram and wife Sahu were thrown away in different directions. While Ram died on the spot, Sahu succumbed to her injuries on the way to hospital.

The Barpali police have detained a businessman Rahul Goel, who was driving the car. A case has been registered and the bodies were sent for post-mortem.

In Parlakhemundi 5 parked cars reduced to ashes in blaze



PNS ■ PARALAKHEMUNDI

As many as five cars were reduced to ashes and one was partially damaged in a fire mishap at the Town Hall premises in Parlakhemundi town on Sunday night.

Fire Brigade personnel rushed to the spot, but by that time the damage was done as the blaze spread from one car to another.

A case regarding the incident was lodged at the Parala Model police station following an investigation has begun,

This was first such incident in the town. The car owners had parked the vehicles near the Town Hall at Market Square for security reasons. Earlier the Town Hall was fenced and had gates not to allow parking of any vehicles. But later the tourists who availed accommodation at the nearby hotels were allowed to park their vehicles in the Town Hall premises. Locals have demanded that the Paralakhemundi Municipality take preventive measures to ensure that such incident doesn't reoccur.

For not backing candidate in PRI poll Samiti Member ostracised in Ganjam village

Slapped fine of Rs 4L
PNS ■ CHHATRAPUR

In a bizarre instance, a Panchayat Samiti Member has complained that she was forced to pay a fine of Rs 4 lakh and faced a social boycott in her own village, Subalaya, under Ganjam block.

Samiti Member Mami Das alleged that only because she supported a candidate for Block Chairman other than the one from the ruling BJD, she was ostracised and targeted in the village.

Meanwhile, she had met and submitted a written complaint against her own villagers to the Ganjam SP Brijesh Mishra and informed that if the local administration would not take any action

she would go to the Navin Niwas and meet the Chief Minister.

She also warned of taking the extreme step of committing suicide if the administration failed to give justice to her. She alleged that the villagers had been continuously harassing her.

However, on the contrary, Karuna Das, a resident of Subalaya village denied the allegation of boycott from village and alleged that the Samiti Member had levelled the allegation because she was removed from village president's post.

Mami Das was elected unopposed during the last panchayat polls. She was in news for being kidnapped during the election of Block Chairperson post, but later she had released a video that she was well.

KV location row: Champua Bandh total

All sections of people extend support
RAJENDRA K. SAHU
CHAMPUA

The Champua Bandh demanding establishment of a Kendriya Vidyalaya at a location originally approved by the CBSE was held peacefully on Monday here.

Sources revealed that after a notification of the Union HRD Ministry in the year 2016-17, the location for the KV at Ramla under wards no. 11 and no. 12 of Champua



NAC had been approved by the CBSE, but owing to a dispute over allotment of the required land, it was decided by the district administration to shift the school from Ramla to Kalikprasad village situated by Rimuli - Champua State

highway, about 12 km from Champua.

From the very beginning, the locals of Champua were opposing the change of location of the KV to Kalikprasad, but it turned out to be stronger when a message spread that the representatives of KVS, Bhubaneswar and Principal, Keonjhar KV had visited two sites recently at the request of the district level committee for the KV headed by the ADM and had approved the site at Kalikprasad. The locals alleged a conspiracy of some influential people for a change of the location of the school.

While former Champua MLA Dhanurjaya Laguri, communist leader Bidyadhar Mahanta, Santanu Kar, Santan Das and other members of the Champua Vikash Parisad sat in the dharna, several outfits like the Champua Bar Association, Bus Owners Association, Truck Owners Association, Auto Rickshaws Association, business community, minority community, Ho Samaj, Bhuyan Sanskritik Sangha extended their support to the stir. Meanwhile, the agitators agreed to the request of the administration to put off the strike for a month.

Child marriage stopped in Baleswar

Thanks to prompt action by dist admn
PNS ■ BALESWAR

BALESWAR: The marriage of a minor girl with an adult boy scheduled for Sunday was stalled following intervention by a team headed by the District Child Protection Officer.

After the information was received by the District Child Protection Unit the officials immediately rushed to the house of the girl at Srijang and after verifying the date of birth and ascertaining the age of the girl, the team members including the CDPO and Anganwadi worker asked the parents to stop the marriage.

And it was conceded by them. Reports said both the girl and boy belong to the Brahmin community and residents of Srijang, under the Remuna block. The invitation cards were distributed among the family friends. Local volunteers after learning about the marriage from the card informed the protection unit.

On Saturday while the Mangalpak, a ritual of wedding ceremony before the day of tying the nuptial knot, was going on, it was stopped. Notably, recently the district administration had said that Rs 5,000 would be given as a cash award to those who would be providing the correct information about a child marriage.

INBRIEF

EX-MP SIVAJI PATNAIK PASSES AWAY

Bhubaneswar: Veteran CPI(M) leader and former three-time MP Sivaji Patnaik passed away at a private hospital here on Monday afternoon. He was 91. He had been admitted to the hospital on Sunday after his potassium level deteriorated, informed CPI(M) State secretary Ali Kishore Patnaik. Sivaji Patnaik was elected to the Lok Sabha thrice from the Bhubaneswar constituency. He was the MP between 1977 and 1980. Further, he represented Bhubaneswar from 1989 to 1996.



MLA PRASHANT JAGDEV SENT TO JAIL AGAIN

Bhubaneswar: Chilika MLA Prashant Jagdev was sent to jail again after he surrendered before the Judicial Magistrate First Class (JMFC) Court at Banpur on Monday. As the interim bail period of the legislator expired, he had surrendered before the court, following which he was sent to the Banpur Sub-Jail. Jagdev was arrested for ploughing his vehicle into a crowd injuring many at Banpur in March this year.



B'PUR MAHANAGAR MAHOTSAV ENDS

Brahmapur: The week-long 10th Mahanagar Mahotsav here ended on Sunday. Joining as guests in the valedictory function, Brahmapur MP Chandrasekhar Sahu, MLA Bikram Kumar Panda, BJD district president Dr Ramesh Chandra Chaupattanayak and Ex-BDA Chairman Subash Chandra Moharana highlighted the glorious past of Ganjam and its art, culture and literature. Organising committee president Narayana Mahankuda and secretary Gopal Patanaik coordinated the event. In the afternoon session Brahmapur Mayor Sangha Mitra Dalai had inaugurated a literary meet.



CSPUR DAV STUDENTS' SUMMER CAMP CONCLUDES

Bhubaneswar: Students of the DAV Public School, Chandrasekharpur here performed various cultural programmes at the valedictory ceremony of their summer camp. Over 600 students participated in the weeklong activities in sports, art and painting, music, dance, acting and other forms of creative pursuits to rejuvenate themselves under the active guidance of experts and teachers.



TREE BRANCHES FALL; TRAFFIC DISRUPTED IN JAJPUR RD

Jajpur Road: Vehicular movement and normal traffic were pa-



ralysed on the Jokadia-Jajpur Road for hours together as branches of a huge banyan tree fell on the road between Vyasa Sarovar Square and Khandahata Chhak on Monday. Even after 14 long hours, the municipality and forest authorities were yet to clear the road. Businessmen, small traders, vendors, office goers, students and local residents expressed strong resentment over the traffic disruption. Municipality Executive Officer Ashok Rout said he was informed about the matter late and arrangements were being made to clear the road.

CAPACITY-BUILDING TRAINING FOR TEACHERS HELD IN BHAPUR

Bhapur: A five-day digital capacity-building training camp for headmasters was organised at the Balunkeswar Deb Peeth High School here. It was coordinated by Nityananda Das. Among others, District Assistant Education Officer Ashok Nayak, Mo School Supervisor Niranjan Das joined as guests. About 50 teachers and headmasters representing 17 newly-transformed schools of Bhapur and Khandapada blocks participated. The training covered topics of digital medium of education, smart board, e-library, technology used in science lab, role of teachers and headmasters. Piramal Foundation trainer Rinku Gour, Brajendra High School Headmaster Umakant Sethi and Solapat Headmaster Dr Grijia Shankar Mohaptra conducted the training.



'Let Rajiv Gandhi be your role model'

Ex-PM's death anniv, Prativa Puraskar held
PNS ■ BHUBANESWAR

The Rajiv Gandhi Students Forum (RGSF) and the Rajiv Gandhi Study Circle jointly observed former PM Rajiv Gandhi's 31st Death Anniversary, a State level Rajiv Gandhi Prativa Puraskar event and a Special Lecturer on theme "Contribution of Rajiv Gandhi to Indian Democracy and Nation Building" here.

The programme was organised under the leadership of RGSF State president Satyabrata Nayak. AICC national spokesperson Pawan Khera joined as chief speaker. He told that Rajiv was always working for eradication of poverty from the country. He had a pioneering role in the development of information



technology (IT) in India. Besides, he reduced the age from 21 years to 18 years for voting rights of the citizens. He will be remembered in history for his initiative for decentralisation of power, told Khera. The chief guest of the function Rajasthan Rajya Sabha MP Neeraj Dangi in his address told that Rajiv sacrificed his life

for unit, integrity and dignity of the country. Earlier, PCC president Niranjan Patnaik inaugurated the programme and told that Rajiv believed in peace, non-violence and truth and called upon the youth to follow the cardinal principles of life. AICC secretary and Odisha in-charge G Rudra Raju, Jatani MLA Suresh Routray,

Paryabekshayak Editor Dr Pabitra Mohan Samantaray and Amitav Chakrabati among others spoke. Satyabrata Nayak presided while general secretary Padmakar Guru delivered the welcome address. On the occasion, 85 talented students in various faculties were felicitated with Rajiv Gandhi Prativa Puraskar-2022.

S Odisha forum vows to take up region's issues

Demands permanent solution to Kotia row
PNS ■ BHUBANESWAR

The Dakhin Odisha Unnayan Parishad on Sunday pledged to highlight the art, culture, literary history and rich heritage of the region, besides making efforts to popularise social life, indigenous food and products. In its annual general body meeting held here the Parishad office bearers stated that the organisation would work for betterment of the region and ventilate the genuine problems of the people of Malkangitri, Nabarangpur, Koraput, Rayagada, Gajapati, Kandhamal and Ganjam districts to the concerned authorities.

Addressing a gathering, Parishad president Bhruhu Buxipatra announced that the organisational network would be strengthened in all the 12 sub-divisions spread over seven districts and the forum would play a pivotal role in promoting talents from the area. He said the region which is rich in natural resources, known for maximum concentration of Adivasis and its contribution for strengthening State's economy, needs to get special attention.



The participants raised the demand for immediate and permanent solution of border dispute between Andhra Pradesh and Odisha caused by repeated attempt of AP Government to forcibly encroach upon lands in Kotia villages, sorting out the water disputes with AP concerning construction of dam at the upper basin of Bansadhara river, besides issues like construction of Gunpur-Therubali Railway line, functioning of Rayagada

Railway Division, recognition of first independence struggle of Paralakhemundi, formation of Biodiversity Conservation Board for Mahendragiri hills and tribals and establishment of Agriculture University for the region. While former vice-president Prof Rama Chandra Mishra gave the welcome address, secretary Er Bipin Bihary Panda read out the annual report and treasurers Bijoya Chandra Adhikary presented the accounts at the meeting.

Leader take easy way out, PM tells Indians in Japan

Says BJP Govt has made Indian democracy strong and resilient in last eight years

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE/AGENCIES ■ NEW DELHI/TOKYO

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Monday said he never prefers to take the easy way out because of the teachings and training he received over the years.

Describing his work ethics during an interaction with the Indian diaspora in Tokyo, Modi said because of the teachings "I have got in my life, I have developed a habit that 'Mujhe makhann par lakeer karne mein maza nahi aata hain, main patthar par lakeer karta hoon.'"

He also said the BJP government has made Indian democracy strong and resilient. "In the last eight years, we have made our democracy strong and resilient. It is serving as one of the strongest pillars of progress," he said.

The Prime Minister said "We are working towards building a system that is not only inclusive but caters to a leak-proof governance to fulfill the aspirations of every citizen. We have a people-led government in the true sense in India today. This has become a key reason for strengthening democracy in India."

On ties between the two countries, he said India and

Japan are "natural partners" and Japanese investments have played an important role in India's development journey.

Addressing the Indian community in Tokyo on the first day of his two-day visit to Tokyo, Modi also said India's relationship with Japan is of spirituality, of cooperation and of belonging. There are more than 40,000 Indians there.

"Today's world needs to follow the path shown by Lord Buddha. This is the way to save humanity from the challenges facing the world today, be it violence, anarchy, terrorism and climate change," Modi said.

Noting that India has always found a solution no matter how big the problem is, Modi said that during coronavirus pandemic, there was an atmosphere of uncertainty, but even in that situation, India supplied 'Made in India' vaccines to crores of its citizens and also sent it to more than 100 countries.

Tracing the age old relations between the two countries, Modi said before Vivekananda was going to Chicago for his historic address, he had come to Japan and left a deep impression on his mind in Japan. He had openly praised the patriotism



of the people of Japan, the confidence of the people of Japan, and the awareness of the people of Japan for cleanliness, the Prime Minister said.

He also said the world is realising the speed and scale on which India is increasing its infrastructure and capacity building. Japan is an important partner in building this capacity of ours.

India is fortunate enough to have the blessing from Gautam Buddha. India is continuously serving humanity no matter how big the challenge is, India will find a solution to it, he said.

Modi arrived in Tokyo on a two-day visit on Monday to attend a summit of the Quad leaders. "Landed in Tokyo. Will be taking part in various programmes during this visit including the Quad Summit,

meeting fellow Quad leaders, interacting with Japanese business leaders and the vibrant Indian diaspora," Modi tweeted in both Japanese and English.

"Ohayo, Tokyo! PM @narendramodi arrives to a warm welcome in Tokyo on what is his fifth visit to Japan in the last 8 years," External Affairs Ministry Spokesperson Arindam Bagchi tweeted.

Modi interacted with children outside the hotel in Tokyo. He also saw the drawing of a young girl and signed an autograph for her during his interaction with the children.

He then interacted with a boy who was waiting for him with a drawing of the tricolour. Prime Minister Modi asked him from where he learnt Hindi and praised him for his fluency in the language.

'India, Japan can be imp pillars of secure region'

Modi writes Op-ed in Yomiuri Shimbun in Japan

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Amid China's aggressive actions in the Indo-Pacific region, Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Monday asserted that India and Japan would contribute towards building an open, free and inclusive Indo-Pacific region, connected by trade and investment, defined by respect of sovereignty and territorial integrity and anchored in international law. He said the two democracies "can be important pillars of a stable and secure region."

Writing an Op-ed on the vibrant relations between India and Japan in 'Yomiuri Shimbun, Modi who is on a two-day visit to attend a summit of the 'Quad' leaders at the invitation of his Japanese counterpart Fumio Kishida, said a peaceful and prosperous Indo-Pacific region will be critical for a better future for the entire world.

The Quadrilateral Security dialogue (Quad) is a strategic security dialogue between Australia, India, Japan and the United States.

"As two democracies, strategically located in the Indo-Pacific region, we can be important pillars of a stable and secure region. That is why our



partnership is expanding across a broad range of areas," he said in the article published in the mainline paper published from Tokyo, Osaka, Fukuoka and other major cities.

"Our defence ties are growing rapidly, from exercises and information exchanges to defence manufacturing. We are doing more in cyber, space and underwater domains," Modi said in article titled 'India-Japan: A Partnership for Peace, Stability and Prosperity'.

India and Japan will also contribute towards building an open, free and inclusive Indo-Pacific region, connected by secure seas, integrated by trade and investment, defined by respect of sovereignty and territorial integrity and anchored in international law, Prime Minister wrote, amidst China's aggressive postures in the region.

China has territorial disputes with many countries in the strategic Indo-Pacific

region including Taiwan over which the US President on Monday sent a warning to Beijing with the latter verbally retaliating.

The Chinese government claims nearly all of the disputed South China Sea, though Taiwan, the Philippines, Brunei, Malaysia and Vietnam all claim parts of it. Beijing has built artificial islands and military installations in the South China Sea.

"Besides security, together and with like-minded partners in the region and beyond, in institutions and arrangements like Quad, we are promoting initiatives for development, infrastructure, connectivity, sustainability, health, vaccines, capacity building and humanitarian disaster response in the region," Prime Minister Modi said.

"Special Strategic Global. Each of these three words that describe the India-Japan partnership has a unique significance, yet they fall well short of the true potential of our ties," Modi said.

In a tweet, he said: "Penned an op-ed on the vibrant relations between India and Japan. Ours is a partnership for peace, stability and prosperity. I trace the journey of our special friendship which

completes 70 glorious years. @Yomiuri_Online"

"I have had the opportunity of regularly interacting with the Japanese people since my days as Gujarat CM. Japan's developmental strides have always been admirable. Japan is partnering India in key sectors including infrastructure, technology, innovation, start-ups and more," he said in a series of tweets.

From Bodhisena to Swami Vivekananda, India-Japan cultural ties have a long and rich history of mutual respect and learning from one another, Prime Minister said.

Among Mahatma Gandhi's cherished personal possessions were small statues of Mizuru, Kikazuru and Iwazuru, the Three Wise Monkeys, he said.

Prime Minister Modi said that his own conviction about this partnership began in his early days as Chief Minister of Gujarat.

It was not just the sophistication of Japanese technology and skills, but also the seriousness and long-term commitment of Japan's leadership and businesses, that made Japan Gujarat's preferred industrial partner and the most prominent presence in Vibrant Gujarat Summits since its inception, he said.

INSHORT

NCPCR ORDERS FIR AGAINST RALLY ORGANISERS
New Delhi: The apex child rights body NCPCR on Monday sought registration of an FIR against those responsible for allegedly letting a child raise provocative slogans during a political rally in Kerala. A short video of a boy sitting on the shoulder of a person during the 'Save the Republic' rally held by the Popular Front of India (PFI) in Alappuzha on May 21 and raising allegedly provocative slogans has gone viral on social media.

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
CENTRAL INSTITUTE OF PSYCHIATRY
KANKE, RANCHI-834006, JHARKHAND
Applications are invited for filling up the two posts of Staff Car Driver (Ordinary Grade) (General Central Services, Group C, Non-Gazetted, Non-Ministerial) in the Pay Matrix Level 2 of the Pay Matrix (Rs. 19900-63200/-) as per 7th CPC in the Central Institute of Psychiatry, Ranchi on Deputation/Absorption basis from amongst the Dispatch Rider (Group 'C') and Group 'C' employees in level - 1 in pay matrix (Rs. 18000-56900/-) in the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare who possess valid Driving License for Motor Cars on the basis of a Driving Test to assess the competence to drive Motor Cars falling which from officials holding the post of Dispatch Rider on regular basis or regular Group 'C' employees in level - 1 in the pay matrix (Rs. 18000-56900/-) in other Ministries of the Central Government.
Note : The detailed advertisement including application format and essential qualifications have been published in the Employment News dated 07-13 May 2022 and is also available on the CIP website, i.e. www.cipranchi.nic.in. Sd/- Director

GOVERNMENT OF JAMMU & KASHMIR
OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER PMGSY (JKRRDA) DIVISION BARAMULLA
NOTICE INVITING E-TENDERS
NIT No.: 02/EE/PMGSY/BlA/E-TENDERING-OF 2022-23 Dated:- 21/05/2022
For and on behalf of the Government of Jammu & Kashmir, Executive Engineer PMGSY Division Baramulla invite e-tenders on Percentage Basis for the following works with Two years DLP for Serial No. 1 to 3 & Three years DLP for Serial No. 4 from the eligible & approved contractors of J&K State Govt. CPWD, Railways and other States.
S.No. 1. Name of Work with Package No. :- Renewal coat/ Macadamisation of road Tangwan Payeen to Harshnarg. Length 2.50 Kms, Package No. JK03-90, PMGSY Division Baramulla. Tender Cost Incl GST (Rs. In Lacs.) :- 32.63. Cost of documents (Rs. In Lacs.) :- 0.10. Earnest Money (Bid Security) (Rs. In Lacs.) :- 0.65. Time for completion (Days) :- 45 Days, Tender Call :- 2nd, Time and date of opening of tenders online (Technical Bid) :- 06-06-2022 At 11.00 AM. Class of contractor :- 'A' Class in PWD or equivalent in CPWD/Railways and other state Governments.
S.No. 2. Name of Work with Package No. :- Renewal coat/ Macadamisation of road Lalpora to Nowlari, Length 3.00 Kms, Package No. JK03-53, PMGSY Division Baramulla. Tender Cost Incl GST (Rs. In Lacs.) :- 55.76. Cost of documents (Rs. In Lacs.) :- 0.10. Earnest Money (Bid Security) (Rs. In Lacs.) :- 1.12. Time for completion (Days) :- 45 Days, Tender Call :- 2nd, Time and date of opening of tenders online (Technical Bid) :- 06-06-2022 At 11.00 AM. Class of contractor :- 'A' Class in PWD or equivalent in CPWD/Railways and other state Governments.
S.No. 3. Name of Work with Package No. :- Renewal coat/ Macadamisation of road Namblian to Gutawan, Length 3.00 Kms, Package No. JK03-100, PMGSY Division Baramulla. Tender Cost Incl GST (Rs. In Lacs.) :- 61.64. Cost of documents (Rs. In Lacs.) :- 0.10. Earnest Money (Bid Security) (Rs. In Lacs.) :- 1.23. Time for completion (Days) :- 45 Days, Tender Call :- 2nd, Time and date of opening of tenders online (Technical Bid) :- 06-06-2022 At 11.00 AM. Class of contractor :- 'A' Class in PWD or equivalent in CPWD/Railways and other state Governments.
S.No. 4. Name of Work with Package No. :- Renewal coat/ Macadamisation of road Namblian to Watalipora, Length 4.50 Kms, Package No. JK03-96, PMGSY Division Baramulla. Tender Cost Incl GST (Rs. In Lacs.) :- 124.36. Cost of documents (Rs. In Lacs.) :- 0.10. Earnest Money (Bid Security) (Rs. In Lacs.) :- 2.49. Time for completion (Days) :- 60 Days, Tender Call :- 2nd, Time and date of opening of tenders online (Technical Bid) :- 06-06-2022 At 11.00 AM. Class of contractor :- 'A' Class in PWD or equivalent in CPWD/Railways and other state Governments.
1. The Bidding documents can be downloaded from the website www.pmgstyenders.jk.gov.in from 23-05-2022 (04:30PM) To 04-06-2022 upto 04:30PM.
2. The Bids shall be deposited in electronic format on the website www.pmgstyenders.jk.gov.in from 25-05-2022 (10:00 AM) To 04-06-2022 upto 04:30 PM. The bid uploaded on the Website upto due date and time will be opened online on 06-06-2022 at 11:00 AM in the presence of the bidders who wish to attend. If the office happens to be closed on the date of opening of the bid as specified, the bid will be opened on the next working day at the same time and venue.
3. The complete bidding process will be online.
4. Cost of Bid Form is Rs. 10,000/- (Rupees Ten Thousand Only) per package (non-refundable) only in the form of Demand Draft in Account of Accounts Officer PMGSY Kashmir payable at Srinagar.
5. A Pre-bid meeting will be held on 24-05-2022 at 11:00 AM in the Office of Executive Engineer PMGSY (JKRRDA) Division Baramulla at Ahmad Complex, Delina, Baramulla to clarify the issues and to answer questions on any matter that may be raised at that stage as stated in Clause 9 of instruction to bidders of the Bidding documents. The intending Bidders, before attending the Pre-bid meeting, are advised to visit the site of work and acquaint themselves with the site conditions. It has been made mandatory for all the intending bidders to participate in the pre-bid meeting on the scheduled date and time.
6. Availability of Bid Document and mode of submission: The bid document is available online and bid should be submitted online on website www.pmgstyenders.jk.gov.in. The bidder will be required to register in the website which is free of cost. For submission of bids, the bidder is required to have valid Digital Signature Certificate (DSC) from one of the authorized Certifying Authorities (CA). Aspiring bidders who have not obtained the user ID and password for Participating in e-tendering in PMGSY may obtain the same from the website: www.pmgstyenders.jk.gov.in.
7. Bids must be accompanied by cost of document and bid security in the form as specified in the Bidding Document. The Demand Draft on account of cost of bidding document shall be pledged to Accounts Officer PMGSY Kashmir payable at Srinagar. The bid validity shall remain valid for a period of not less than 90 days after the deadline date of bid submission specified in ITB. The bid security should be in the form of BG/FFDR from a scheduled commercial bank and be pledged to the Executive Engineer PMGSY Division Baramulla payable at Baramulla and shall be valid for minimum 45 days beyond the validity of the bid.
8. The Hard Copy of original instruments in respect of cost of bidding document, bid security, Bank Credit facility and original copy of affidavits (e-stamp) must be delivered in the office of Executive Engineer PMGSY Division Baramulla at Ahmad Complex, Delina, Baramulla Kashmir on a date not later than three working days after the opening of technical qualification part of the bid either by Registered Post or by hand falling which the bids shall be declared non-responsive.
9. The bidders are advised to upload the required documents/ information strictly as per the formats given in Section 3- Qualification Information. The bidder who fails to comply with the said instructions shall be declared as non-responsive.
10. The bidders are informed that failure to complete the work within the stipulated time shall result into blacklisting of the bidder for two years.
11. The date and time of opening of Financial-Bids shall be notified on Web Site www.pmgstyenders.jk.gov.in. This is conveyed to the bidders automatically through an e-mail message on their e-mail address. The Financial-bids shall be opened accordingly online on same Web Site at the Office of Executive Engineer PMGSY Division Baramulla, Ahmad Complex, Delina, Baramulla Kashmir.
12. Other details can be seen in the Bidding Documents.
Note: The intending bidders are advised to study the entire bidding document before preparation and submission of their bids. This includes clause 3 (Eligible Bidders), 4 (Qualification of Bidders of ITB (Instruction to Bidders), Appendix to ITB, Section 3 (Qualification Information), Contract Data to G.C.C. & Section 7 of Bidding Document.
No. DIPK-2512/22
Dated: 23.05.2022
Sd/- Executive Engineer
PMGSY Division Baramulla

Now, pension relief for kin of missing Central Govt staff in militancy-hit areas

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

In a major relief, particularly for Government employees serving in militancy affected areas like Jammu & Kashmir, North-East as well as Naxal prone pockets, the Centre has notified rules extending pensionary benefits to missing Central Government employees.

According to the earlier rule, the next of kin of an employee would not receive the family pension, if he or she went missing and the family pension would not be paid till the missing Government was declared dead in accordance with the law or till seven years after he had passed since he went missing.

Union Minister Dr Jitendra Singh announced that the government has relaxed

family pension rules for missing central government employees. "Now, in all cases where a government servant covered by NPS goes missing during service, the benefits of family pension will be immediately paid to the family of the missing government servant.

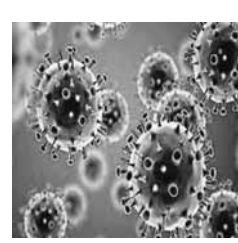
In case he re-appears and resumes service, the amount paid as family pension during the intervening time of his missing period can be accordingly deducted from his salary," Jitendra Singh said in a Press note. The Minister said this is going to provide huge relief particularly in those regions where instances of government employees going missing are reported more frequently. He said, cases of abduction of central government employees working in violence-prone areas have come to the fore and therefore to instill confidence and to protect them and their family interests, the changes in the pension rules were brought about.

New Covid variants don't pose a threat yet, says INSACOG

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

Though the first confirmed BA.4 and BA.5 variants of the Sars-CoV-2 have been detected in India from Hyderabad and Tamil Nadu respectively, these do not yet pose a concern as its other variant, BA.2, an offshoot of Omicron, continues to be dominant in India, already prevalent widely across the country, said the Indian SARS-CoV-2 Genomics Consortium (INSACOG) in its latest bulletin.

"BA.2.10 and BA.2.12 are BA.2 sub-lineages that have been detected and many old BA.2 sequences have been reclassified into these new sub-lineages. So far these sub-lineages are not reported to be associated with increased severity of disease," said INSACOG in its latest bulletin on results of genome sequencing. According to data submitted



to GSAID during the past four weeks, 773 samples were of the Omicron variant, making it about 97.2% of the total submitted samples of the said variant. "Suspected recombination sequences are under further analysis," said the consortium in the bulletin.

The BA.4 variant was detected earlier this month in Hyderabad in samples taken from a traveller from South Africa, where this strain of Omicron has been causing the current Covid-19 wave, people aware of the matter said, adding that this information is subject to an official confirmation.

Inter-State Council with PM as chairman, six Mins reconstituted

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Inter-State Council that works to promote and support cooperative federalism has been reconstituted with Prime Minister Narendra Modi as Chairman and all Chief Ministers and six Union Ministers as members.

This apart, 10 Union Ministers will be the permanent invitees to the Inter-State Council. According to an official notification, the union ministers who were made members of the council are: Rajnath Singh, Amit Shah, Nirmala Sitharaman, Narendra Singh Tomar, Virendra Kumar, Hardeep Singh Puri, Nitin Gadkari, S Jaishankar, Arjun



Munda, Piyush Goyal, Dhamendra Pradhan, Pralhad Joshi, Ashwini Vaishnaw, Gajendra Singh Shekhawat, Kiren Rijiju and Bhupendra Yadav. The mandate of the council is to create a strong institutional framework to promote and support cooperative federalism in the country, activate the council and zonal councils by organising its regular meetings.

It also facilitates consideration of all pending and emerging issues of the centre-state and inter-state relations by the zonal councils and inter-state council and develop a sound system of monitoring the implementation of the recommendations of the inter-state council and zonal councils.

Making allegations against judges now 'unfortunately' becoming new fashion: SC

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court Monday said that making allegations against judges is "unfortunately" becoming a new fashion now and the stronger the judge, the greater the allegations against him.

The apex court, while hearing an appeal filed by an advocate who was found guilty of contempt by the Madras

High Court and was sentenced to undergo two weeks of simple imprisonment, observed that making allegations against judges is rampant in Uttar Pradesh and now it is happening in Bombay and Madras also.

The top court said the conduct of the appellant was "thoroughly contemptuous" and besides levelling wanton allegations against the single

judge of the high court who had issued a non-bailable warrant (NBW) against him, the recusal of one of the judges hearing the proceedings thereafter was sought on thoroughly improper grounds.

"Now, this is becoming unfortunately a new fashion of making allegations against judges. The stronger the judge, the greater the allegations against the judge. This is hap-

pening now in Bombay. Of course, it is rampant in Uttar Pradesh, now Madras," a vacation bench of Justices D Y Chandrachud and Bela M Trivedi said. "Let a strong message go," said the bench, adding that judges are assaulted across the country and in the district judiciary, sometimes not even a 'lathi' (stick) wielding policeman is there for their protection.

Centre warns restaurants against forceful service charge

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

The Department of Consumer Affairs (DoCA) on Monday warned restaurants against levying service charges forcefully on consumers. The department has reminded restaurants and eateries that it is the discretion of the consumers to pay or not pay the service charges as they are completely voluntary. The DoCA has convened a meeting with the National Restaurant Association (NRA) on June 2 to discuss the issue. In a letter written by Rohit Kumar Singh, Secretary, DoCA to President, National Restaurant Association of India, it has been pointed out that the restaurants and eateries are collecting service charge

from consumers by default, even though collection of any such charge is Voluntary and at the discretion of consumers and not mandatory as per law.

It has been pointed out in the letter that the consumers are forced to pay service charge, often fixed at arbitrarily high rates by restaurants. Consumers are also being falsely misled on the legality of such charges and harassed by restaurants on making a request to remove such charges from the bill amount. "Since this issue impacts consumers at large on a daily basis and has significant ramifications on the rights of consumers, the department construed it necessary to examine it with closer scrutiny and detail", the letter further adds.

ASHA workers get Global Health Leaders Award, PM lauds feat

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

Known as the pillars of the healthcare system in India, one million ASHA (Accredited Social Health Activist) workers have brought laurels to the country as they bagged the Global Health Leaders Award-2022 at the ongoing 75th World Health Assembly in Geneva.

"ASHA (which means hope in Hindi) are more than 1 million female volunteers in India, honoured for the crucial role in linking the community with the health system, to ensure those living in rural poverty can access primary healthcare services, as shown throughout the Covid-19 pandemic," said a statement from the World Health Organisation (WHO). They were one of the six recipients of the award.

The ASHA initiative, which falls under the National Health Mission, was launched in India in 2006. However, they are not well-paid. But this has not deterred them from doing yeoman services, which were particularly visible during the Covid crisis in the last two years.

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After 2 years, Yoga Day to be held in physical mode; Modi to lead event

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

After a two-year gap due to the Covid-19 pandemic, the main event of the eighth International Day of Yoga (IDY) celebrations on June 21 will be held in the physical mode at Mysuru in Karnataka. The event will be led by Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

"Apart from the main event at Mysuru, another attraction will be Guardian Ring, a relay Yoga streaming event which will capture and weave together a digital feed of IDY programs organised by Indian Missions abroad on June 20. The proposed plan is to initiate the streaming from Japan, the land of the rising sun, at 6 am local time," Union Minister Sarbananda Sonowal told media persons here.

According to Ayush Secretary, Vaidya Rajesh Kotecha, each Indian mission will organise yoga activities on June 21 as in the past.

Based on the broad pattern of observing IDY in previous



years, these activities could include short functions, speeches, Common Yoga Protocol based yoga demonstrations and local celebrity videos among others, said the official.

The Guardian Ring programme will string together video feeds from 20 to 30 selected missions across different time zones into a continuous social media event of about 18 to 20-hour duration.

The Ayush Ministry has sought concurrence from MEA on which missions will be participating in the programme.

The event will witness the presence of the Karnataka Governor, Union Ministers, film stars, sportspersons, celebrities, revered yoga gurus, eminent dignitaries, experts of Yoga and allied science, local Yoga institutions and Yoga enthusiasts.

Later, Dr Ishwar Basavaraddi, Director of Morarji Desai National Institute of Yoga, Ministry of Ayush shared Guardian Ring will end in North America by 11 pm in the night covering live yoga demonstration in 75 countries through-out the D-day.

"Also, as this Yoga day is being celebrated in the backdrop of the 'Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav' year, events will be held at 75 iconic locations like Shiv Sagar in Assam and Hampi in Karnataka across the country. The focus will be on 'branding India' on a global scale."

He also informed that a series of events are being held across the country and globe in the run-up to IDY and the 25 days countdown is being observed in Hyderabad from May 27, wherein around 10,000 Yoga enthusiasts will participate in the Yoga demonstration.

Sharing that "this time the Government is targeting at least 25 crore people who will be joining yoga events to be held across the world including India," Basavaraddi pointed out adding that "Yoga has become an international phenomenon, with practitioners from all over the world practicing it in different ways. It has been followed by people of all ages and strata to improve their health and well-being."

Didi attacks Centre, demands autonomy of Central agencies

SAUGAR SENGUPTA ■ KOLKATA

Days after comparing the powers that be in Delhi with medieval tyrant Muhammad bin Tughlaq, Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee on Monday drew new parallels for the Narendra Modi Government comparing it with the likes of Adolf Hitler, Benito Mussolini and Joseph Stalin.

Saying that even Stalin, Hitler or Mussolini were better than the present dispensation in Delhi that ruled by CBI, ED et al, Banerjee demanded a complete autonomy for the central agencies.

"This is a government worse than those of Hitler Mussolini or even Stalin," Banerjee said adding "they are bull-doing the federal structure of the country by using the central agencies against the opposition parties."

Demanding autonomy for the central agencies she said, "I do not say that all the officials are bad but the fact is that many of them are influenced by those

in power ... I think the agencies should be made completely autonomous ... I am saying so because this is the need of the time ... these agencies are bound to be made autonomous in days to come only their salaries will be given by the government."

Flaying the BJP for sending the central agencies to the houses of the opposition leaders Banerjee referred to a recent raid in the houses of former Bihar Chief Minister Laloo Yadav. "As soon as Laloo ji came out of jail they sent agencies to raid his houses ... this is because they want to weaken the opposition parties ahead of the elections," Banerjee said.

Presently the Trinamool Congress functionaries including its senior ministers and MPs are facing more than a dozen cases of corruption, violence that are being investigated by the central agencies like CBI, ED and NIA — all upon court orders.

Attacking the Centre for bull-doing the houses of the



poor people Banerjee said how in the past week the BJP-run Bihar government sent police even to Bengal to pull down houses of the local people. "The Bihar Police did not even have the courtesy to inform the Bengal Police ... they simply sent in their men with bulldozers inside Malda district and pulled down the houses of the poorest of the poor people in that locality ... they know how to break."

Rebutting arguments that her own government should order a matching reduction of fuel prices following in the

footsteps of the Centre which cut petrol prices a couple of days ago Banerjee said, after the reduction of petrol prices her State too had suffered loss of Rs 641 crore in terms of cess and rebate.

"They (Centre) are asking us to reduce prices but on the other hand they are holding back our dues ... they release funds to the BJP-ruled States but do not give funds to the States ruled by the opposition parties and now they are asking us to reduce petrol prices," Banerjee said alleging the Centre had in the past a few years earned more than Rs 18.23 lakh crore by increasing fuel prices.

"Before Narendra Modi came to power petrol sold for Rs 71.51 in Kolkata ... after he came to power there was a reduction in price of crude but the Centre instead of cutting the price went on increasing it to Rs 106.03 in May 2022 ... and now they claim credit for reducing the price by a few rupees."

Rain brings respite from heatwave in north, northwest

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Rain and thunderstorms brought some respite from the scorching heatwave in north and northwestern parts of the country on Monday.

According to the India Meteorological Department (IMD), no part of the country, except West Rajasthan, is likely to witness a heatwave condition during the next five days. "No significant change in maximum temperatures very likely over rest parts of the country during the next 5 days," it said.

An extra-tropical weather system approaching from north Pakistan led to formation of rain-bearing clouds that brought showers to parts of Punjab, Haryana, Delhi, Uttarakhand and Himachal Pradesh early on Monday.

"A Western Disturbance

as a cyclonic circulation lies over north Pakistan extending upto middle tropospheric levels. An induced Low Pressure Area lies over northwest Rajasthan and an east-west trough runs from this induced Low Pressure Area to north Bangladesh in lower tropospheric levels," the IMD said.

According to the weather office, thunderstorms occurred at several places in Uttarakhand, while most parts of Jammu and Kashmir, Himachal Pradesh, Haryana, Delhi, Uttar Pradesh and isolated places in Rajasthan received rainfall.

On Sunday, Fatehgarh in Uttar Pradesh had recorded the maximum temperature of 45.9 degrees Celsius.

In Delhi, the morning temperature plunged 11 notches from 29 degrees Celsius to 18 degrees Celsius.



Students of Calcutta University raise slogans during a protest demanding online examinations, in front of the university's campus, in Kolkata

Will Govt do wrongs like Aurangzeb who razed temples: Prof Irfan Habib

PRADEEP SAXENA ■ ALIGARH

Emeritus Professor of Aligarh Muslim University (AMU) and eminent historian Prof. Irfan Habib said that the way Mughal emperor Aurangzeb had done wrong by destroying the temple, so will the Government do wrong in the same way. The temples of Kashi and Mathura were built by Raja Vir Singh Bundela during the reign of Jahangir, which were later demolished by Aurangzeb, as per the history records. He also raised questions on the structure being described as Shivling in Gyanvapi.

Prof Irfan said that there is talk of getting Shivling in Gyanvapi, but there was no mention of this in the petition which was filed. There is a way to make Shivling. Now Shivling is being made an issue. He said that when temples were demolished, its stones were used in

mosques. Stones of Hindu symbols were used in many mosques. Stones associated with the site of Buddhism will be found in many temples. 'Allah' is written in Arabic on a stone of the minaret built by Rana Kumbha in Chittor, but it cannot be called a mosque.

Prof Habib said that in the year 1992, the Babri Masjid in Ayodhya was demolished and it paved the way for the construction of Ram temple. He said that Aurangzeb had destroyed the temples. In those days there was no secret work. The incident of breaking the temple is recorded in history. On the Gyanvapi episode, he said that whenever mosques or temples were built in olden times, stones of Buddhist monasteries were found in them, so should the temples be demolished. These are stupid things. In such a situation many temples will be destroyed.

Priyanka to campaign for Cong in Karnataka Assembly polls: DK

PNS ■ NEW DELHI/BENGALURU

Karnataka Congress president DK Shivakumar on Monday said the party's national General Secretary Priyanka Gandhi Vadra has agreed to campaign and spend time in the State for the Assembly elections next year. The KPCC chief's sudden New Delhi visit came amid talks about differences between him and Congress Legislature party leader Siddaramaiah regarding probable candidates recommended to the high command for the upcoming MLC polls in the state.

Shivakumar's meeting also resulted in the announcements of the final list of candidates for the Legislative Council. Party chief Sonia Gandhi approved the candidatures of M Nagarjun Yadav and K Abdul Jabbar as Congress candidates to contest the biennial elections to be the Legislative Council.

The June 10 Rajya Sabha elections was also discussed with Priyanka Gandhi's name being favoured but the party will take some more time to decide upon it keeping in mind the resolution of Udaipur Chintan Shivir that proposed 'one family, one ticket, one MP'.

Tuesday is the last date to file nominations for the June 3 polls to seven seats of the Karnataka Legislative Council to be elected by MLAs and all the three major political parties in the state — Congress, BJP and JD(S) — are yet to announce their candidates.

"Everyone will have the desire that their leader should come to their state, but as of now it has not been discussed," Shivakumar said in response to a question about several state leaders insisting that Priyanka Gandhi contest the Rajya Sabha polls from Karnataka.



"We have said that she should spend time for the state during elections (assembly polls) and she has agreed to it. She has said that she will campaign in the state...No discussion has taken place regarding Rajya Sabha tickets," Shivakumar said briefing the media.

This comes amid speculation that a section of the Karnataka Congress leaders, including Shivakumar, wants Priyanka Gandhi to contest the June 10 Rajya Sabha polls from the state, as they feel it may benefit the party during the Assembly polls, due next year. Shivakumar had recently said the party wants Priyanka Gandhi Vadra to "concentrate on the south, where elections are coming up".

He said he and Siddaramaiah together had submitted a list of candidates to the high command for MLC polls. Seats are falling vacant, due to the retirement of MLAs — Laxman Sangappa Savadi and Lahar Singh Siroya of BJP; Ramappa Timmapur, Allum Veerabhadrappa, Veena Achaiah S of Congress; and H M Ramesha Gowda and Narayana Swamy K V of JD(S).

According to official sources, in this election, each MLC candidate will require a minimum of 29 votes to win, and on the basis of minimum votes required and tallying it with the strength of each party in the Legislative Assembly, the BJP will be able to win four seats, Congress two and JD(S) one.

SP MLAs create din in Assembly

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

The first session of the 18th Vidhan Sabha of Uttar Pradesh began on a stormy note with the Samajwadi Party, the main Opposition party, creating a din during Governor Anandiben Patel's address to the joint sitting of the legislature.

The SP members, during the hour-long address by Governor Anandiben Patel, raised slogans against the government and asked her to "go back".

Continuing the high drama during the governor's address on Monday, the SP MLAs, who carried placards, trooped into the well of the House and raised slogans.

As soon as the House met on Monday morning, the SP members thronged the well of the House with placards in their hands and raised slogans over issues like law and order, farmers, stray cattle, and incidents of rape in the state.

"The current Bharatiya Janata Party-led government in

the state is responsible for the galloping inflation that has affected everything, from fuel to vegetables, fruits and edible oil. The law and order situation in the state has worsened. The health sector is in a very bad shape and patients' attendants are being beaten up in hospitals in Kanpur Nagar," said SP MLA from Sisamau assembly constituency in Kanpur.

"The situation is very grim. We will raise all these issues in the assembly and will seek an answer from the government," he said.

Nagar said the BJP-led government had "miserably failed" on all fronts. He said the people of the state were facing the brunt of price rise and joblessness. These are the issues, which we will raise in the House, the SP MLA said.

Lone Bahujan Samaj Party MLA Uma Shankar Singh mentioned frequent power cuts as one of the pressing issues in his party's agenda.

Auditors play vital role in shaping e-governance, says CAG

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG) Girish Chandra Murmu on Monday said that auditors have an important role in strengthening e-governance systems by providing inputs to the Government in how it is managing the three Ps, which are the touchstone of e-governance systems - Privacy, Performance, and Participation. He was inaugurating a virtual seminar as the chair of International Organization of Supreme Audit Institutions (INTOSAI) Working Group on IT Audit (WGITA).

Murmu said that the principal beneficiary of e-governance is the people of the country and have to consistently follow the principle of Antyodaya which means no one is left behind.



"While e-Governance systems improve the ease of life, they also raise concerns of data privacy, national information security and associated risks of providing information technology services; creating new challenges and opportunities for Supreme Audit Institutions (SAIs). These advancements have provided opportunities to audit as well. SAI India has embarked on its enterprise-wide audit process automation and knowledge

management system. An ambitious project is the One IAAD One System (IOS) Project implemented in SAI India," said the CAG of India.

He also said that India's apex audit body is increasingly embedding data analysis using advanced tools and techniques into its audit domain. It is supported by institutional arrangements within the organization. Its Centre for Data Management and Analytics (CDMA) of SAI India plays an advisory and facilitating role to our field audit offices in the use of Data Analytics and audit of IT systems and fostering a data-driven culture in our institution. The International Centre for Information Systems and Audit (iCISA), the premier training centre of CAG of India, promotes capacity building on technology related areas within our SAI as well as internationally.

Era of good governance in 5 yrs: UP Gov

Patel lauds Yogi Govt for laying foundation stone for dev in UP

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

Describing the past five years as an era of good governance, Uttar Pradesh Governor Anandiben Patel lauded the Yogi Adityanath Government for laying the foundation of development in the State during its first term.

During her address to the joint sitting of the UP Legislature on Monday, Patel said, "A grand building of development will take shape on the foundation laid during the first term in the next five years. To achieve the goal, efforts are being made to increase investment and strengthen infrastructure to make Uttar

Pradesh a leading state in the country on multiple fronts."

In her address, Patel outlined developmental initiatives of Yogi Adityanath's previous government and also the projections for the next five years. She said work was in full flow on the defence manufacturing corridor projects and there was a focus on self-employment schemes and establishment of micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs).

The work on the Lucknow-Ghaziपुर expressway was on while the government had improved aviation facilities, completed 20 irrigation projects and made five international airports, she said.

Some members of the opposition parties tried to create disturbance during the governor's address but she read out her entire address without stopping.

Appreciating the better law and order situation in the state, Patel expressed happiness over the peaceful completion of various festivals in the recent past.

While addressing the House, the governor mentioned the efforts being made by the government in all areas including housing, social security, pension schemes, industrial investment, infrastructure development, education, health and women's uplift.

She also stated that work would be done while fixing the timeline for implementation of projects and focus would be on performance-based works.

DST awards STUTI programme as PMU to Amity University

PNS ■ RANCHI/ROURKELA

The Department of Science & Technology (DST) has awarded the STUTI program as a Project Management Unit (PMU) to Amity University Uttar Pradesh (AUUP) to conduct 7 days of residential hands-on training on the state-of-the-art equipment, fully sponsored by DST.

Following the award, Amity University organized the second DST-STUTI Program, which commenced on Monday, in collaboration with National Institute of Technology (NIT) Rourkela, on "Developing Skills and Knowledge for Civil and Electrical Engineering Researchers

through Access to Cutting-Edge Technology".

Advising the research scholars, Prof. K. Umamaheshwar Rao, Director, NIT Rourkela, said we must move from untruth to truth, from darkness to light, from death to immortality, and from ignorance to knowledge. Highlighting the researches, patents and innovations done by Amity Universities, Prof. R. K. Jha, VC, Amity University, Jharkhand said Amity is a leading Research and innovation driven University which has filed more than 1600 patents. Dr. Nitin Batra, CEO, Amity Institute of Training & Development, was present on the occasion amidst other dignitaries.



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PAPER WITH PASSION

Tightrope

The new Australian PM has his task cut out with regard to his role in QUAD vis-à-vis China

The Chinese feel that Australian Labour Party leader Anthony Albanese, who succeeds Scott Morrison as the Prime Minister, may adopt a less hostile attitude towards them. Where does that feeling leave the QUAD? The US-initiated security dialogue is about countering the projection of Chinese power in the Indo-Pacific. As an equal partner in the quadrilateral, how the Albanese-led Australia interprets the growing tension between China and the United States becomes crucial for both. The QUAD had a chequered first phase when under Liberal John Howard, Australia withdrew from the dialogue, and his successor, Labour's Kevin Rudd, did not rejoin. The strategic initiative got a second life in 2017, and the four members are today more serious than ever to protect the QUAD. That is why the QUAD would like to reassure themselves that the shrillness of the campaign in the run-up to the just-concluded Australian elections, particularly over the Liberal-Labour spat over who is closer to China and who is not, will not find its echo now that Albanese has taken over. The QUAD and the Australian people want to know if Albanese will review or continue with Morrison's policies. The China-Australia ties were at their worst during Morrison's tenure. In the recent election campaign, Labour was under intense public scrutiny over its China policy. The Morrison-led Liberals accused Albanese of being soft on China, claiming that "the Chinese Government has picked their horse and he's sitting right there". A video showing Albanese trying to speak in Mandarin at an Australian Chinese trade association dinner in 2018 was recirculated afresh.



Albanese did not take the bait and maintained that there will not be a major change on contentious matters like Taiwan and the South China Sea. He said Australia's relationship with China "will remain a challenging one", and that the friendship with the US will remain the "first pillar" of Australia's foreign policy. Closer to the election, the Labour party displayed a similarly hardened attitude towards China. Labour's Penny Wong — the new Foreign Minister — led her campaign saying they will not take "a backward step" on Australia's current tensions with China. The same Wong had said a year ago that the bilateral friction does not mean that "there's no room for improvement in our actions". Wong also criticised Morrison for preferring the AUKUS-linked nuclear-powered submarines pact over the French submarine deal. The Labour at that time wanted Australia to have a view separate from the US over military and security matters. To think that Albanese, new to international diplomacy at this level, would adopt an America-first policy and simultaneously try to rationalise relations with China appears far-fetched. For its part, China is leaving no stone unturned to send the message that a healthy relationship is in the interests of both countries. Beijing will lose no opportunity to drive a wedge in the QUAD. It is time for the real Albanese to stand up.

PICTALK



Anchored boats during a dust storm at a ghat in Varanasi

PTI

Embarrassing cover-up

The Taliban have ordered all female TV news anchors to cover their faces while on air

The Taliban-led Islamic Emirate Government in Afghanistan has pronouncedly returned to its crooked ways, especially with regard to the country's women. Actually, it's always been biased against the fair gender, even when it was in power the last time in Afghanistan from 1996 to 2001. After they seized power again in August last year, the Taliban initially appeared to have moderated their restrictions somewhat, announcing no dress code for women. But in recent weeks, they have made a sharp, hardline pivot that has confirmed the worst fears of the rights activists and further complicated the Taliban's dealings with an already distrustful international community. On March 23, 2022, the first day of the school year in Afghanistan, eager female students arriving for class found closed gates and armed Taliban guards posted there. Despite the *de facto* authorities' assurances only days earlier that schools would reopen for girls above sixth grade, they had barred girls from further education. The Minister of Higher Education — part of an all-male Government — has stated publicly that Islam is more important than qualifications, so education is of no value to boys or girls.



Then earlier this month, the Taliban's Ministry for the Prevention of Vice and the Propagation of Virtue ordered all women to wear head-to-toe clothing in public that leaves only their eyes visible. The decree said women should leave the home only when necessary and that male relatives would face punishment for women's dress code violations. And now, as per a report last weekend, Afghanistan's Taliban rulers have started to enforce a new order requiring all female TV news anchors in the country to cover their faces while on air. After the order was announced midweek, only a handful of news outlets initially complied. But on Sunday, most female anchors were seen with their faces covered after the Taliban's Vice and Virtue Ministry began enforcing the decree. However, the presenters are obviously not happy with the diktat. They feel it's the imposition of "just an outside culture" and there "aren't feeling good at all" while presenting programmes. But all hope's not lost. Not yet! In an act of solidarity with female colleagues, the channel's male personnel covered their faces with masks, including the main evening newsreader. Way to go, you are fighting for a cause.

True trustees of the Constitution?

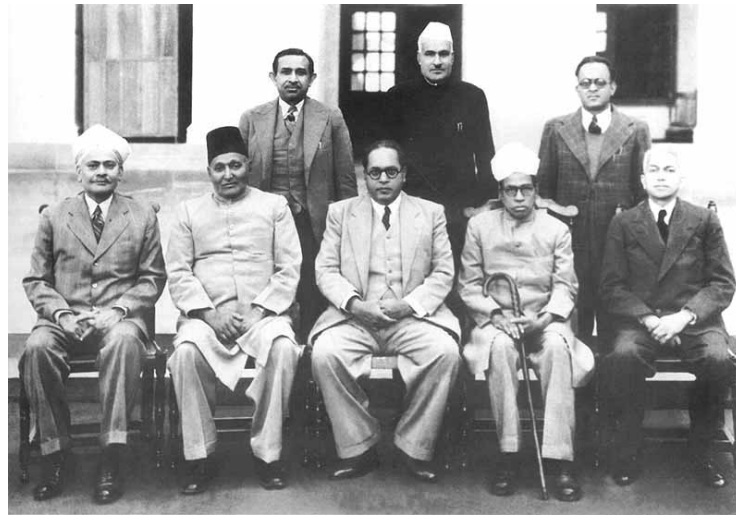
Our forefathers, who drafted the Constitution, had pictured an entirely different scenario for the development of the nation than what it has now become



JS RAJPUT

The unseating of the then Union Government by the people in May 2014 shocked those who were convinced of being the only conscience keepers to the nation, the protectors of the Constitution of India. Come September 2015, certain authors, poets and film personalities gave expression to their hurt conscience on what they thought were increasing intolerance and "unmaking of India". Recently, another letter written by 108 bureaucrats to the PM received only stunted media response; that too, from ideologically inclined fellow travellers. Selective efforts, people understand, are mere manifestation of the loss of hegemony over institutions and regular sources of support from the corridors of power. India deserves far more unbiased and credible civil society think tanks. Is it not intriguing that those worried about the 'victimisation of a particular community, intolerance and attack on secular fabric' just prefer to keep mum when orchestrated violence takes place in West Bengal before and after Assembly elections. Their conscience is not aroused when two ministers of the Maharashtra Government are put behind bars, but refuse to resign! The 108 custodians of the Constitution just did not remember TT Krishnamachari, Keshav Deva Malaviya or Lal Bahadur Shastri! Does it not indict the bureaucracy as a whole when the house of a senior IAS officer is raided and over ₹17 crore in cash is recovered? When orders of the Supreme Court of India on loud-speaker decibel levels are flouted for years and insistence on it being implemented is resisted? The unscrupulous come in the support of the deviant! Does the highest Indian judiciary deserve this treatment?

In Maharashtra and Rajasthan, the State Governments are openly encouraging the flouting of court orders on decibel levels; these two Governments are also the custodians of the spirit of Constitution. Why can't the 'hurt and worried' luminaries issue an appeal to



respect the judiciary?

As one peruses the Constituent Assembly debates, one is inspired by the spirit and intent that remains organically present during these deliberations, conducted with Rajendra Prasad as its president. The chairman of the Drafting Committee, BR Ambedkar, was admired for his comprehension of the socio-economic and cultural context of India. He had thorough comprehension of the global scenario and had acquired a great futuristic vision. He made a historic speech on November 26, 1949, when the draft was finally approved by the Constituent Assembly: "Whatever the Constitution may or may not provide, the welfare of the country will depend upon the way in which the country is administered. That will depend upon the men who administer it. It is a trite saying that a country can have only the Government it deserves."

Those with a hurt conscience must have read it all when they entered the corridors of power to implement the provisions of the Constitution, and preserve

and protect its spirit. Did they realise that it was imperative on the part of the implementers, including the elected representatives, bureaucrats and legal luminaries to remember Ambedkar's expectations: "I shall only hope that all those whose good fortune it may be to work this Constitution in future will remember that it was a unique victory which we achieved by the unique method taught to us by the Father of the Nation, and it is up to us to preserve and protect the independence that we have won and to make it really bear fruit for the man in the street. Let us launch on this new enterprise of running our Independent Republic with confidence, with truth and non-violence and, above all, with the heart within and God overhead."

On November 25, 1949, senior Congress leader Mahavir Tyagi was given four minutes to speak, which he considered "the most precious of my life, past, present and future". The Draft Constitution was a 'concrete picture' before them, in which each of the members had contributed; and Ambedkar was the chief artist. It would be very relevant

to every politician — and also high-perk-privilege-drawing bureaucrats to ponder over what this courageous leader — a member of the AICC for 39 years and arrested by the British 11 times, expressed as his serious apprehension: "Although I have every respect and praise for this Constitution, yet there is one thing which I am most afraid of; and it is that this Constitution is tendentious to create a class a class that democracy has created everywhere of professional politicians."

He had great apprehensions on politics becoming a profession, with allurements of power, perks and privileges. This apprehension has really come true. Mahavir Tyagi, as many others, wanted professionals to come to politics, with all of their expertise, to strengthen the system, but earn their livelihood from their own vocation. Today, exceptions apart, it is inheritance and allurements of power, perks and privileges. This is the current comprehension of the spirit of Ambedkar's Constitution.

But for Mahavir Tyagi and his ilk, it was different: "Only one thing will make this Constitution attractive. If the whole of this Constitution were provided with one supreme provision or safeguard, then I think the whole thing will be all right. It is this: If we could add a proviso to it as follows: 'Notwithstanding anything contained in this Constitution, no citizen of India shall draw for his personal use either from the public exchequer or from private enterprise a pay, profit or allowance which exceeds the earnings of an average wage earner.' Could there be any takers among the elected representatives in this third decade of the 21st century?"

(The author works in education, social cohesion and religious amity. The views expressed are personal.)

IN MAHARASHTRA AND RAJASTHAN, THE STATE GOVERNMENTS ARE OPENLY ENCOURAGING THE FLOUTING OF COURT ORDERS ON DECIBEL LEVELS; THESE TWO GOVERNMENTS ARE ALSO THE CUSTODIANS OF THE SPIRIT OF CONSTITUTION

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

IS SLASHING FUEL PRICES LOGICAL?

Sir — A reduction in central excise duty per litre of petrol by ₹8 and ₹6 for each litre of diesel will translate into retail prices on these fuels dropping by ₹9.5 per litre and ₹7 per litre. Again, the price subsidy for LPG of ₹200 per cylinder to beneficiaries of the Ujjwala scheme is a boon. So it is in the hands of the Finance Minister to control inflation. If this holds true, then inflation can be controlled periodically in the same way instead of making people struggle. Tax reduction must be at once passed to consumers who are now reeling under direct or indirect taxes.

At the same time, the taxes levied must be routed towards reduction of burden of purchasing power of every citizen of State-Central sectors. It is the duty of an elected Government to give concessions to the lower strata of people to ease their day-to-day expenses in terms of fulfilling their basic daily needs. So far they haven't taken positive steps to enhance the purchasing power of the lower and middle class citizens. It is time to control commodity prices; the sale of things should be streamlined and made available in the open market.

CK Subramaniam | Navi Mumbai

INDIA'S CONDITION SAME AS LANKA'S?

Sir — Sri Lanka, our neighbouring country, is experiencing an unprecedented economic collapse that has pushed its Government into a deep crisis. Lanka is struggling to import basic necessities for its 22 million people because of its diminishing foreign reserves and crippling debt; anti-Government protests even turned violent which led to the burning of the houses of the President and other Ministers houses, and this violence ultimately led to the PM's resignation. The policies of Rajapaksa led the \$81 billion economy to bankruptcy. The two policy blunders were the cutting of taxes overnight and barring the import of chemical fertilisers and pesticides to push Lanka into organic farming.

Appreciate the nuances first



Congress leader Rahul Gandhi, while speaking about our country's foreign policy again on foreign land, had compared the conflict with China on Leh and Doklam with the Russian invasion of Ukraine. However, it is expected that he should have learnt a thing or two about the foreign policy from his forefathers, perhaps someone like Pandit Jawahar Lal Nehru. Pt Nehru had such foresight that he predicted way back in the 1950s that Atal Bihari Vajpayee will one day become the PM of India, and his saying came true in 1998-

99 when Vajpayee became our PM. When Indira Gandhi took the bold decision on Bangladesh, the entire Opposition highly praised Indira Gandhi.

When PV Narasimha Rao was the PM, an Indian delegation to the UN was led by leader of the Opposition AB Vajpayee; such instances are rarely seen these days. The foreign policy of any country is a continuous process and, even with the change of Government, the policy and a nation's stand on most issues remain the same. Present example is before us in the context of the Russia-Ukraine war, where India followed its own foreign policy and maintained neutrality as well as old relations with Russia and also purchased oil from it by paying in roubles. Side by side, India is also attending the QUAD meetings and, on this front, even Pakistan had praised the foreign policy of India many times.

Yash Pal Raihan | Jalandhar

Diminishing foreign reserves, huge piles of debt, devaluation of currency, rising inflation, rupee value dropping its lowest level compared to dollar and total economic collapse has compelled the people of Sri Lanka to struggle for their basic needs. The shortage of almost everything from food, medicines to cooking gas has resulted in social unrest and political turmoil. Lankans often call out that there is a threat to their country from Islamic extremists. Same is the situation in our country. Our economy is damaged, rupee value has fallen, commodity prices are out of the reach of common man.

Zeeshaan | Kazipet

SIDHU'S CRIME AND PUNISHMENT

Sir — With a fight for the fourth playoff spot, the fight between bat and ball was more tense than usual. The last two matches evinced keen interest from the bookie angle as the result would have had a bearing on the final outcome. The way Ashwin swept and pulled his old team-

mates from CSK was exhilarating, while the match between MI and DC was somewhat disappointing as the Delhi side could score within 160 and thereby lost a fair chance of going to the playoff stage. MI, who were doing bad so far, prevented DC with a facile win.

Royal Challengers Bangalore are having a minus run rate and that could have ousted them from the championship with NRR. However, the tournament reached the final stage with such interest to decide the last four positions. GT, RR and LSG booked their berth with facile wins and that too with a higher net run rate to show. RCB got a backdoor entry because of MI making a match of the final game. As a matter of fact, a number of bookies were arrested during IPL 15 and we would like to see fewer controversies during the final stages of the championship.

CKR Nathan | Ghaziabad

Send your feedback to: letterstopioneer@gmail.com

SOUNDBITE

It's always people first for us. The decision (slashing fuel prices) will positively impact various sectors.



Prime Minister — Narendra Modi



I believe it's very important that this country has certainty... so it can move forward.

Australia ex-Prime Minister — Scott Morrison

Getting (to act in) Aashram was more of a gift from the universe.



Actor — Esha Gupta



I didn't want to win that way (a late blunder by world champion Magnus Carlsen).

Indian Grandmaster — Praggnanandhaa Rameshbabu

Congress leader Rahul Gandhi is a part-time politician and a habitual offender.



BJP spokesperson — Gaurav Bhatia

FIRST COLUMN TIME TO REJECT FOSSIL FUELS RIGHT AWAY

A candle produces more CO2 than a single firecracker



PRITAM SINGH

More than 95% human activities over the past 4-5 decades are responsible for inching 'mother-earth' towards getting warmer year after year, eclipsing our life-system.



'snowy regions'. These snowy regions are solid water (ice) which act to play a significant role of our "life-line on earth" - cooling down the earth's temperature compatible to our living conditions.

An analytical data from the satellites have observed that the sun's energy output has changed less than 0.1% in the last 40 years whereas earth's warming has increased by at least 1.1° Celsius (1.9° Fahrenheit) in 142 years.

(The writer retired from the Indian Institute of Petroleum, Dehradun and is now an educator and analyst. The views expressed are personal.)

Indian power sector is pushed to the brink



UTTAM GUPTA

Among other things, free discoms from State control, allow them to set tariff for all consumers and permit private firms into the distribution business

Faced with an acute power crisis caused amongst others by sudden spurt in power demand in this season, the Modi Government has fired all cylinders to tackle the most crucial of all bottlenecks in the way, namely coal which accounts for nearly 52 percent of total power generation capacity in the country.

During April/May 2022, the Union Power Ministry - using powers vested in the Government under Section 11 of the Electricity Act, 2003 - issued directions to (i) all imported coal-based plants (ICB) to operate and generate power to their full capacity and (ii) all generation companies (gencos) based on domestic coal to import at least 10 percent of their fuel requirements (there is a move to further raise it to 30 percent).

Other measures include asking all gencos having captive coal mines to maximize production from their mines; Coal India Limited (CIL) - a central public sector undertaking (CPSU) which contributes about 85 percent of domestic coal production - to auction its mines 'not under use' to private companies; galvanizing railways' infrastructure to move coal from mines to plants site etc.

The Government has also announced financial and price support measures to help gencos actually see things happening on ground zero.

Thus, it has directed the Power Finance Corporation (PFC) and Rural Electrification Corporation (REC Ltd) to arrange short term loans for a period of six months with adequate safeguards for ICB plants, which are under stress. It has also allowed 'pass-through' of the increase in cost of imported coal under the power purchase agreements (PPAs) of gencos with power distribution companies (discoms).

The Government's intent is to increase availability of coal- both from domestic and imported sources, by putting more money in the hands of gencos so that they can pay for higher cost imported fuel (in just about two months, its price is up by \$100 per ton, courtesy difficult geopolitical situation) and even more importantly, allow them charge more from discoms to recover the higher cost.

But things may not pan out as desired. The discoms (mostly owned and controlled by State Governments) may not agree to hike in tariff; besides such revisions are open to challenge in the court. It won't be easy to sell expensive stuff in the 'power exchange' either as under the extant regulations, the tariff chargeable is subject to a cap. As for garnering additional production, effort there won't yield results in the near term.

Even if the Government is able to surmount these problems by forcing the buyers (read: discoms) to pay for the higher cost and removing the tariff cap on sales in the exchange, this will push the already fragile discoms into deeper mess.

The discoms are in dire straits because



HAD THE PRODUCTION COME ANYWHERE NEAR THE TARGET, THE CURRENT CRISIS IN THE POWER SECTOR AND CONSEQUENTIAL AGGRAVATION OF DISCOMS WOES COULD HAVE BEEN AVOIDED. THE HUGE SHORTFALL DEMONSTRATES THE DIRE NEED FOR BETTER PLANNING AND TIMELY EXECUTION OF PROJECTS

(The writer is a former Chief Secretary, Government of Uttar Pradesh. The views expressed are personal.)



State Governments order them to supply a sizeable chunk of electricity to households and farmers at a fraction of the cost of purchase and distribution or even free (in some states, subsidy accounts for 30-40 percent of discoms' revenue). Although, States promise to reimburse discoms the excess of the cost over realization from sale, most of them either don't reimburse at all or do it partially and that too after delay.

Discoms' under recoveries are exacerbated by high aggregate technical and commercial (AT&C) loss - a jargon for power theft. To offset, they charge high tariffs on supplies to industries and businesses. Despite this cross-subsidization, overall, discoms incur huge loss.

Thanks to persistent losses, as of March 31, 2022, they had piled up a mammoth debt of over ₹600,000 crore. They also owe about ₹100,000 crore to independent power producers (IPPs) and other generators in the public sector such as NTPC.

The efforts to revitalize discoms have been going on for two decades with four major schemes launched in 2002, 2012, 2015 and 2021; yet none has delivered. The last two under the Modi Government deserve special mention.

Under Ujwal Discom Assurance Yojana (UDAY) launched in November 2015, the Centre coordinated a financial restructuring package (FRP) of ₹400,000 crore for discoms in lieu of their committing to reduce AT&C losses from 20.7 percent during 2015-16 to 15 percent by 2018-19 and reducing the gap between average revenue realisation (ARR) from sale of electrici-

ty vis-a-vis the average cost of supply (ACS) or the ACS-ARR gap from ₹0.59 per unit during 2015-16 to 'zero' by 2018-19.

During 2019-20, discoms' AT&C losses were 18.9 percent against the 15 percent target for 2018-19, while ACS-ARR gap was ₹0.42 per unit against the target of 'zero' for 2018-19.

In the Union Budget for 2021-22, the Finance Minister, Nirmala Sitharaman launched a 'Reforms-Linked, Result-Based Scheme for Distribution' (RLRBSD) with an allocation of over ₹310,000 crore. Under this scheme also, in lieu of support to discoms, the government set targets for reducing AT&C losses to 12-15 percent and ACS-ARR gap to 'nil' by 2025. The release of money - under the Scheme - is linked to their meeting various reform targets.

As in the past, these are hollow proclamations. Under UDAY also, discoms were required to set their house in order. But, they didn't. The current AT&C losses at about 25 percent are even higher than 20.7 percent during 2015-16 (when the scheme was launched). Forget reduction. Hence, claims under RLRBSD don't inspire.

How will the crisis triggered by coal shortage and the manner in which the government is dealing with it impact discoms' finances?

The direction to all ICB plants maximize generation and to domestic coal based plants to do 10 percent/30 percent blending with imported coal will result in sharp in the cost of power purchase by discoms. Since, our political brass won't let HHS/farmers pay even a paisa more and industries are already crippled by high tariff - ₹10 per unit plus in most states; hence can't be further

increased, this will end up further inflating their losses.

In 2015, Prime Minister Narendra Modi had set a coal production target of 1500 million tons (MT) for 2019-20. During 2019-20, India produced around 730 MT. In 2020-21, production declined to 716 MT (courtesy, Covid). During 2021-22, at 777 MT it exceeded the 2019-20 level but was barely 50 percent of the target.

Had production come anywhere near the target, the current crisis in the power sector and consequential aggravation of discoms woes could have been avoided. The huge shortfall demonstrates the dire need for better planning and timely execution of projects. Modi also needs to plan for a smoother transition to renewable sources ensuring that conventional source (read: coal) which currently takes a major share of the load doesn't become an impediment.

However, the most important thing our political class needs to do is to actually carry out reforms in the power sector at ground zero. This will call for unshackling of discoms from State control, giving them freedom to set tariff for all consumers (HHS/farmers included), allowing private firms in distribution business and vesting infrastructure for transmission, wheeling and last-mile delivery of power in an independent entity which should provide access to it on 'common carrier' principle in a transparent and non-discriminatory manner.

If, any State Government wants to give subsidy to farmers and HHS, it should be given directly to the beneficiaries using the direct benefit transfer (DBT) mechanism.

(The writer is a policy analyst. The views expressed are personal.)

POINT COUNTERPOINT

THEY (THE INDIAN FOREIGN SERVICE) HAVE COMPLETELY CHANGED. THEY DON'T LISTEN TO ANYTHING; THEY ARE ARROGANT. — CONGRESS LEADER RAHUL GANDHI



YES, THE INDIAN FOREIGN SERVICE HAS CHANGED. YES, THEY FOLLOW THE ORDERS OF THE GOVERNMENT. NO, IT'S NOT CALLED ARROGANCE. — EXTERNAL AFFAIRS MINISTER S JAISHANKAR

Russia will not disappear soon

It is awaiting leadership change

Russian President Vladimir Putin will almost certainly not be in power three years from now. The war he foolishly began in Ukraine has fatally undermined his political credibility among the Russian elite (and among a large though mostly silent part of the population). One way or another, he will be replaced.



GWYNNE DYER

He may even save everybody the trouble by dying before he can be removed. He definitely doesn't look well, his behaviour is increasingly erratic, and rumours that he is suffering from some terminal disease abound. Russia is not a fascist state, just a kleptocracy where the thieves and the thugs have taken power, but Putin's personal behaviour does begin to resemble Hitler in his bunker in the final days, and Hitler too

(Gwynne Dyer's new book is 'The Shortest History of War'. The views expressed are personal.)

was very ill. Putin knows nothing about military matters, but he is reportedly micro-managing single 'battalion combat groups' (about 1,000 men) in the currently stalled Russian offensive in eastern Ukraine, trying to retrieve a military situation that has sunk into stalemate. Very Hitlerian. So what will become of Russia when he goes?

Alexander J. Motyl thinks it may just disappear. In an opinion piece in 'The Hill', the leading political website in Washington, Motyl, a political scientist at Rutgers University, suggests that "The Russian Federation could metamorphose into 10 or more states, only one of which would be known as Russia. That would change the face of Eurasia forever." It certainly would, but it



does imply the permanent demise of a state that has dominated northern Eurasia for the past four centuries (the first Russians reached the Pacific in 1647). It also ignores the remarkable homogeneity of that state's population: 81% are ethnically Russian, while none of

the many minority group even reaches 4%. There have been occasions, most recently during the civil war of 1917-22, when Russia was temporarily carved up into rival jurisdictions, but these interludes have never lasted long. The sense that there is a special Russian identity, even a unique 'Russian civilisation', always reasserts itself.

Decolonisation came late to the Russian empire and was harder to recognise, because Russia's imperial possessions were around its own land borders rather than across the oceans. Nevertheless, it was the same process, and just as irreversible (as Putin has been discovering).

Russia is as unlikely to split up permanently as France or Japan. Motyl's speculations on its break-up are wishful think-

ing, possibly motivated by the fact (unmentioned by 'The Hill') that both his parents were born in Ukraine.

It is understandable that Ukrainians might wish Russia to vanish, but that is not going to happen. So what will happen when Putin goes?

We cannot know yet what a genuinely post-Communist Russia would look like. Although it's 31 years since the collapse of the Soviet Union, almost all the people in senior political positions began their careers in the Communist Party. The ideology was dumped, but the administrative style and the factional struggles remain.

Moreover, one single man, Vladimir Putin, has dominated Russian politics for more than two-thirds of that time. It's hard to disentangle what is intrinsic-

cally Russian in the way Russia has been run during that time from what was just part of Putin's personality, but we are about to find out.

The default position is to say that the Russians are somehow fundamentally different from other Slavs. After all, the Poles and the Czechs got real democracy and genuine prosperity after 1991, whereas the Russians got Putin, border wars, and (for most people) genteel poverty.

But there were two big differences that had nothing to do with 'national character', whatever that is. One was that all the former 'satellite countries' of Eastern Europe immediately ditched their local Communist collaborators and got a whole new set of politicians, whereas Russia was essentially stuck

with the old Commies wearing new hats.

The other difference was that the western Slavs experienced the change as liberation, whereas their former rulers saw it as a loss of empire that stranded tens of millions of Russians in places that were suddenly foreign countries.

It would have been unreasonable to expect these two sets of people to react in the same way, and sure enough they didn't. But it's equally unreasonable to be convinced that Russians will go on behaving in the same ways when the ex-Communist ruling elite loses power (which may be imminent) and a new post-imperial generation takes over instead.

We have no idea what's coming out of the box then. It could even be something good.

Biden: US would intervene with military to defend Taiwan

AP ■ TOKYO

President Joe Biden said on Monday that the US would intervene militarily if China were to invade Taiwan, saying the burden to protect Taiwan is "even stronger" after Russia's invasion of Ukraine.

It was one of the most forceful presidential statements in support of self-governing in decades. Biden, at a news conference in Tokyo, said "yes" when asked if he was willing to get involved militarily to defend Taiwan if China invaded. "That's the commitment we made," he added.

The US traditionally has avoided making such an explicit security guarantee to Taiwan,



with which it no longer has a mutual defence treaty, instead maintaining a policy of "strategic ambiguity" about how far it would be willing to go if China invaded. The 1979 Taiwan

Relations Act, which has governed US relations with the island, does not require the US to step in militarily to defend Taiwan if China invades, but makes it American policy to ensure Taiwan has the resources to defend itself and to prevent any unilateral change of status in Taiwan by Beijing.

Biden's comments were likely to draw a sharp response from the mainland, which has claimed Taiwan to be a rogue province. A White House official said Biden's comments did not reflect a policy shift.

Speaking alongside Japanese Prime Minister Fumio Kishida, Biden said any effort by China to use force against Taiwan would "just not be

appropriate," adding that it "will dislocate the entire region and be another action similar to what happened in Ukraine".

China has stepped up its military provocations against democratic Taiwan in recent years aimed at intimidating it into accepting Beijing's demands to unify with the communist mainland.

"They're already flirting with danger right now by flying so close and all the maneuvers that are undertaken," Biden said of China. Under the "one China" policy, the US recognises Beijing as the government of China and doesn't have diplomatic relations with Taiwan.

However, the US main-

tains unofficial contacts including a de facto embassy in Taipei, the capital, and supplies military equipment for the island's defence.

Biden said it is his "expectation" that China would not try to seize Taiwan by force, but he said that assessment "depends upon just how strong the world makes clear that that kind of action is going to result in long-term disapproval by the rest of the community".

He added that deterring China from attacking Taiwan was one reason why it's important that Russian President Vladimir Putin "pay a dear price for his barbarism in Ukraine," lest China and other

nations get the idea that such action is acceptable. Fearing escalation with nuclear-armed Russia, Biden quickly ruled out putting US forces into direct conflict with Russia, but he has shipped billions of dollars in US military assistance that has helped Ukraine put up a stiffer-than-expected resistance to Russia's onslaught.

It's not the first time Biden has pledged to defend Taiwan against a Chinese attack, only for administration officials to later claim there had been no change to American policy.

In a CNN town hall in October, Biden was asked about using the US military to defend Taiwan and replied, "Yes, we have a commitment to

do that." Biden's comments came just before he formally launched a long-anticipated Indo-Pacific trade pact that excludes Taiwan.

White House national security adviser Jake Sullivan confirmed Sunday that Taiwan isn't among the governments signed up for the Indo-Pacific Economic Framework, which is meant to allow the US to work more closely with key Asian economies on issues like supply chains, digital trade, clean energy and anti-corruption. Inclusion of Taiwan would have irked China. Sullivan said US wants to deepen its economic partnership with Taiwan on a one-to-one basis.

Lankan police arrest 1,500 people in connection with May 9 violence



PTI ■ COLOMBO

Sri Lankan police have arrested at least 1,500 people so far in connection with the violent clashes between anti- and pro-government protesters in country earlier this month that killed at least 10 people and injured over 200 others, according to a media report on Monday.

On May 9, violence erupted in Sri Lanka after supporters of former prime minister Mahinda Rajapaksa attacked peaceful anti-government protesters demanding his ouster over country's worst economic crisis that led to acute shortages of staple food, fuel and power.

According to Sri Lanka Police spokesman SSP Nihal Thalduwa, 1,500 people have been arrested in connection with violence, online portal newsfirst.lk reported.

Thalduwa further said 152 persons have been arrested in past 24 hours. On Saturday, Inspector General of Police Chandana D Wickramaratne was interrogated by Criminal Investigation Department (CID) over his alleged actions that triggered violent clashes that killed at least 10 people and

Lanka's controversial 21st Amendment to Constitution fails to come up for Cabinet approval after SLPP's objection

PTI ■ COLOMBO

In a major blow to Sri Lanka's new Prime Minister Ranil Wickremesinghe, the proposal for 21st Amendment to Constitution to curb the unfettered powers of President Gotabaya Rajapaksa, scheduled to be referred to Cabinet on Monday was not presented before it.

According to sources, the proposal was not presented in Cabinet after parliamentarians of ruling Sri Lanka Podujana Peramuna (SLPP) objected to it in its present form. They demanded that the proposed legislation be approved by Attorney General before referring it to the Cabinet. The 21st Amendment is expected to annul the 20A which gave unlimited powers to President Gotabaya



Rajapaksa after abolishing the 19th Amendment which had made Parliament powerful over the president.

The constitutional reform was a major plank of the agreement between Rajapaksa and Wickremesinghe when he took over the job of the prime minister on May 12. Rajapaksa had also pledged reforms in the Constitution in an address to the nation earlier this month. The 21st Amendment would make it impossible for those with dual citizenship to hold a seat in Parliament.

injured over 200 others.

Last week, Galle district MP Ramesh Pathirana informed the Parliament that Senior Police DIG in-charge of Western Province Deshabandu Tennakoon informed President Gotabaya Rajapaksa that Wickramaratne had instructed him not to block mob heading to Galle Face to disrupt anti-government protesters, online

Albanese sworn in as PM in Australia ahead of Tokyo summit

AP ■ CANBERRA

Australia's new prime minister was sworn in on Monday ahead of a Tokyo summit with President Joe Biden while vote counting continued to determine whether he will control a majority in a Parliament that is demanding tougher action on climate change.

Prime Minister Anthony Albanese's center-left Labor Party ousted predecessor Scott Morrison's conservative coalition at Saturday's election. The coalition had been in power under three prime ministers for nine years.

"I want to lead a government that has the same sentiment of optimism and hope that I think defines the Australian people," Albanese said in his hometown of Sydney before flying to the national capital Canberra to be sworn in.

Albanese, who describes himself as the first ever candidate for the office of prime minister with a "non-Anglo Celtic name" and Malaysian-born Penny Wong, Australia's first foreign minister to be born overseas, were sworn into office by Governor-General David Hurley before the pair flew to Tokyo for a security summit on Tuesday with Biden, Japanese Prime Minister Fumio Kishida and Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

Biden rang Albanese to



congratulate him on his election win and express the president's wish to make the countries' alliance stronger, the White House said.

Morrison's decision to resign as prime minister during the early vote counting enabled Hurley, who represents Australia's head of state, British monarch Queen Elizabeth II, to appoint his replacement without evidence that Albanese can control a majority of seats in parliament's lower chamber where governments are formed.

Deputy Prime Minister Richard Marles was also sworn in and will act as prime minister while Albanese is in Japan. Katy Gallagher and Jim Chalmers were sworn into economic ministries.

Labor appears assured of 75 seats, one short of the majority in the 151-seat House of Representatives needed to form an administration. The conservative coalition was on track for 58, unaligned lawmakers 12 and six seats were too close to call, the Australian Electoral Commission said.

Bangkok governor's election handily won by Opposition figure

Bangkok: Residents of Thai capital Bangkok, in their first opportunity in nine years to vote for their city's governor, have elected an independent politician seen as representing opponents of country's military-backed government, results released early Monday showed.

Chadchart Sittipunt had been widely predicted by opinion polls to top field, but significantly outpaced expectations by taking 1,386,215 votes, or almost 52% of the 2,673,696 votes cast in Sunday's election, according to virtually complete but uncertified returns. He competed in a field of 31 candidates, with voter turnout just under 61%. The 55-year-old Chadchart, though running as an independent, was seen by

both supporters and opponents as a proxy for Pheu Thai party, the main Opposition grouping in Parliament. He served as transport minister in a Pheu Thai government in 2012-2014, and stood as one of party's prime ministerial candidates in 2019 general election.

"Now that we've received an order from people, I would start working right away, visiting communities and areas to see where I could begin my work as soon as I can as a governor," Chadchart told reporters Monday morning. "I have a young, energetic team who are keen to move." The independent candidate who was seen as a stand-in for the ruling Palang Pracharath party ran a weak fifth in race. (AP)

UK's Boris Johnson awaits judgment of 'partygate' report

AP ■ LONDON

British Prime Minister Boris Johnson has been shadowed by career-threatening scandal for months - but so far he has escaped unscathed. This week he faces one more threat to his political future: a comprehensive report into lockdown-breaching parties in government offices that is expected to be published within days.

Senior civil servant Sue Gray is due to release her findings on "partygate," the scandal over more than a dozen gatherings in Johnson's No. 10 Downing St. Residence and nearby buildings that took place when coronavirus restrictions barred people in Britain from mixing with others.

Beijing extends work-from-home order as Covid-19 cases rise

Beijing: Beijing extended orders for workers and students to stay home and ordered additional mass testing Monday as cases of COVID-19 again rose in the city.

Numerous residential compounds in Chinese capital have restricted movement in and out, although conditions remain far less than in Shanghai, where millions of citizens have been under varying degrees of lockdown for two months. Beijing on Monday reported an uptick in cases to 99, rising from a previous daily average of around 50.

7 dead, 120 others rescued in Philippine ferry fire

AP ■ MANILA

A ferry carrying more than 130 people caught fire Monday while approaching a northeastern Philippine province, killing at least seven people while most passengers and crew members were rescued, the coast guard said.

At least four people remained missing after fire engulfed the M/V Mercraft 2 while it was approaching a seaport in Real town in Quezon province from Polillo island. Many of the 134 passengers

and crew were forced to jump into water, coast guard officials said. The survivors were rescued by vessels in the area, they said. The fire apparently started from engine room, the officials said. The wreckage has been towed to shore in Real.

Pictures released by coast guard showed fire engulfing ferry and dark smoke billowing from it. Injured survivors on stretchers were taken to waiting ambulance vans while a rescuer tries to revive an unconscious survivor by pressing on his chest. (AP)

NORTHERN RAILWAY

TENDER NOTICE
Invitation of Tenders through E-Procurement system

Principal Chief Materials Manager, Northern Railway, New Delhi-110001, for and on behalf of the President of India, invites e-tenders through e-procurement system for supply of the following items:-

S. No.	Tender No.	Brief Description	Qty.	Closing Date
01	82224731	Advance Hand Instrument With OEM Certified Compatibility With Valley Lab Machine in OT/NRCH-Assorted Length	45 Nos	17.06.2022

Note:- 1. Vendors may visit the IREPS website i.e. www.ireps.gov.in for details. 2. No Manual offer will be entertained.
Tender Notice No.: 82224731 Dated: 23.05.2022 1232/22

SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE

PUBLIC NOTICE

General public at large is hereby informed through this notice that my client Plot No.13 and 14, Area 32 Sq. Yards, Kh. No.9/13, 9/14, Village Tilangpur/Kotta, Kotta/Vihar, Ph-II, New Delhi-110043 is being sold by M/s MCF Finlease P. Ltd., At B-204, Vikas Tower, Community Centre, Vikaspuri, New Delhi-110018 against mutual settlement of Loan taken from the Company. Any person having any objection against the same shall inform the Company within 30 days.

Ankur Chaudhary, (Advocate), Delhi High Court, Chamber No. V-34, Tehsil Lane, Tis Hazari Courts, Delhi-110054.

SYMBOLIC POSSESSION NOTICE

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

Whereas the undersigned being the Authorized Officer of ICICI Bank Limited under the Securitisation, Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 and in exercise of the powers conferred under section 13(12) read with Rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) rules 2002, issued demand notices upon the borrowers mentioned below, to repay the amount mentioned in the notice within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said notice.

As the borrower failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the borrower and the public in general that the undersigned has taken Symbolic possession of the property described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on him/her under Section 13(4) of the said Act read with Rule 8 of the said rules on the below-mentioned dates. The borrower in particular and the public in general is hereby cautioned not to deal with the property and any dealings with the property will be subject to the charge of ICICI Bank Limited.

Sr. No.	Name of the Borrower/ Loan Account Number	Description of Property/ Date of Symbolic Possession	Date of Demand Notice/ Amount in Demand Notice (Rs.)	Name of Branch
1.	Rohan Sahani/ Meenakshi/ Ved Prakash/ L/BDL00004965262/ L/BDL00004961412	Plot No-149, 4th Floor, With Roof Rights, Block-A, Sector-8, Dwarka, Delhi 110075/ May 20, 2022	November 10, 2021 Rs. 73,55,445/-	Delhi/ NCR

The above-mentioned borrowers(s)/ guarantors(s) are hereby given a 30 day notice to repay the amount, else the mortgaged properties will be sold on the expiry of 30 days from the date of publication of this Notice, as per the provisions under the Rules 8 and 9 of Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules 2002.

Date: May 24, 2022
Place: Delhi/ NCR
Authorized Officer
ICICI Bank Limited

SYMBOLIC POSSESSION NOTICE

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

Whereas the undersigned being the Authorized Officer of ICICI Bank Limited under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 and in exercise of the powers conferred under section 13(12) R/W Rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) rules 2002, issued demand notices upon the borrowers mentioned below, (on underlying pool assigned to ICICI Bank by Dewan Housing Finance Ltd.) in relation to the enforcement of security in respect of a housing loan facility granted pursuant to a loan agreement entered into between DHFL and the borrower, to repay the amount mentioned in the notice within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said notice.

As the borrower failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the borrower and the public in general that the undersigned has taken Symbolic possession of the property described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on him/her under Section 13(4) of the said Act read with Rule 8 of the said rules on the below-mentioned dates. The borrower in particular and the public in general is hereby cautioned not to deal with the property and any dealings with the property will be subject to the charge of ICICI Bank Limited.

Sr. No.	Name of the Borrower/ Number (Loan Account Number (DHFL Old LAN & ICICI New LAN))	Description of Property/ Date of Symbolic Possession	Date of Demand Notice/ Amount in Demand Notice (Rs.)	Name of Branch
1.	Arun Kumar Jha/ Babita Jha (9600001622 & QZDEL00005004690)	Property No- A-581, First Floor, Without Roof, Block- A Shastri Nagar Delhi, Delhi/ May 20, 2022	September 27, 2021/ Rs 13,71,019/-	Delhi/ NCR

The above-mentioned borrowers(s)/ guarantors(s) are hereby given a 30 day notice to repay the amount, else the mortgaged properties will be sold on the expiry of 30 days from the date of publication of this Notice, as per the provisions under the Rules 8 and 9 of Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules 2002.

Date: May 24, 2022
Place: Delhi/ NCR
Authorized Officer
ICICI Bank Limited

Xinjiang in focus as UN rights chief arrives for China visit

Beijing: Allegations of human rights abuses in China's north-western Xinjiang region are the dominant issue on a visit by the United Nations' top rights official that starts Monday.

Michelle Bachelet's visit is the first to China by a U.N. High commissioner for human rights since 2005, but rights groups warn it threatens to whitewash the ruling Communist Party abuses in Xinjiang. China has locked up more than a million members of its Uyghur, Kazakh and other Muslim minorities in what critics describe as a cam-

paign to obliterate their distinct cultural identities. China says it has nothing to hide and welcomes all those without political bias to visit Xinjiang and view what it describes as a successful campaign to restore order and ethnic cohesion.

Bachelet will begin her six-day visit in the southern city of Guangzhou before travelling to Kashgar and the Xinjiang regional capital of Urumqi. Details have been tightly held and China's entirely Communist Party-controlled media have not reported on her visit. A key question is whether

Bachelet will be allowed to visit the now-largely empty internment camps that China calls reeducation centres and meet with figures imprisoned over calls for greater religious, political and cultural freedoms, such as Ilham Tohti, an economist and winner of the Sakharov Prize. China has also been accused of using forced labour, coercive birth control and separating children from their incarcerated parents, and monitoring group The Dui Hua Foundation says fasting for Ramadan or selling Islamic books has also been targeted.

Iran vows revenge over killing of Guard member in Tehran

Dubai: Iran's hard-line president vowed revenge on Monday over killing of a senior Revolutionary Guard member gunned down in heart of Tehran day before, a still-mysterious attack on country's powerful paramilitary force.

Iranian President Ebrahim Raisi hailed Col. Hassan Sayyad Khodaei as a martyr and blamed "the hand of global arrogance," a reference to United States and its allies, including Israel, for his slaying. There has been no claim of responsibility for killing, carried out on Sunday afternoon by two unidentified gunmen

on a motorbike. They shot Khodaei five times in a car, an unarmored budget SAIPA Pride - among the cheapest, most-common Iranian vehicles.

But style of brazen attack bore hallmarks of previous slayings in Iran blamed on Israel, such as those targeting country's nuclear scientists. "I have no doubt that revenge against criminals for blood of this martyr is assured," Raisi said before leaving Tehran for a state visit to sultanate of Oman, a strategic Gulf Arab state that traditionally mediates between Tehran and West.

UNITED LEASING & INDUSTRIES LIMITED

Regd. Office : Plot No.66, Sector-34, EHTP, Gurugram, Haryana-122001.

CIN : L17100HR1983PLC033460 Website: www.uililtd.com, Email id: investorrelations@uililtd.com, Phone: 011-49075251

Extract of Audited Financial Results for the Quarter & Year Ended 31st March, 2022

(Rs. in lac, except per Share data)

Sl. No.	Particulars	Quarter Ended		Year Ended		
		31.03.2022 [Audited]	31.12.2021 [Unaudited]	31.03.2021 [Audited]	31.03.2022 [Audited]	31.03.2021 [Audited]
1	Total Income from Operations	223.21	176.16	120.16	525.32	314.13
2	Net Profit/(Loss) for the period before tax and exceptional items	24.30	45.56	55.11	67.05	52.96
3	Net Profit/(Loss) for the period before tax after exceptional items	24.30	45.56	14.02	67.05	11.87
4	Net Profit/(Loss) for the period after tax	13.84	45.56	14.02	56.59	11.87
5	Total Comprehensive Income	-	-	-	-	-
6	Paid-up equity share capital	300.00	300	300.00	300.00	300.00
7	Earning Per Share of Rs.10/- each (not annualised)					
	a) Basic	0.46	1.52	0.47	1.89	0.40
	b) Diluted	0.46	1.52	0.47	1.89	0.40

Notes :

- The above is an extract of the detailed format of Audited Financial Results for the Quarter and Year ended March 31, 2022 filed with the Stock Exchange under Regulation 33 of the SEBI (Listing and Other Disclosure Requirements) Regulations, 2015. The full format of the Audited Financial Results for the quarter and year ended March 31, 2022 are available on the Bombay Stock Exchange website www.bseindia.com and on Company's website www.uililtd.com
- The figures for the quarter and year ended March 31, 2021 and March 31, 2022 are the balancing figures between audited figures in respect of the full financial year and the year to date figure up to nine months of the respective financial year.
- Figures of the above Previous periods have been regrouped/reclassified/ restated wherever necessary.

Date : May 23, 2022
Place : Gurugram (Haryana)

For United Leasing & Industries Limited
Anil Kumar Khanna
(Managing Director)
DIN : 00207839

Russian forces step up shelling in Ukraine's east

AP ■ KYIV

Russian forces have stepped up shelling in Ukraine's eastern industrial heartland as they press their offensive in the region that is now the focus of fighting in the 3-month-old war.

Meanwhile, a Ukrainian court is expected to sentence a Russian soldier on Monday in the first war crimes trial of the conflict.

The 21-year-old sergeant, who has pleaded guilty to shooting a Ukrainian man in the early days of the war, could get life in prison.

Grinding battles in the Donbas, where Ukrainian and Russian forces are fighting town by town, have forced many civilians to flee their homes.

"We haven't been able to see the sun for three months. We are almost blind because we were in darkness for three

months," said Rayisa Rybalko, who hid with her family first in their basement and then in a bomb shelter at the local school before fleeing their village of Novomykhailivka.

"The world should have seen that."

Her son-in-law Dmytro Khaliapin said heavy artillery pounded the village. "Houses are being ruined," he said. "It's a horror."

In Tokyo on Monday, U.S. President Joe Biden and Japanese Prime Minister Fumio Kishida joined in condemning Moscow's invasion of Ukraine.

Earlier on his trip to Asia, Biden signed legislation granting Ukraine \$40 billion more in U.S. support for its defense against the Russian attack.

Poland has become an important ally of Ukraine, welcoming millions of Ukrainian refugees and becoming a gateway for Western humanitarian aid and weapons and a transit point for some foreign fighters who have volunteered to fight Russian forces.

Western support - both financial and military - has been key to Ukraine's defense, helping their outgunned and outnumbered forces to repel Russia's attempt to take the capital of Kyiv and fight them to a standstill in other places.

In the face of those setbacks, Moscow has outlined more limited goals in Ukraine, with its sights now on trying to expand the territory that Russia-backed separatists have held since 2014.



Ukrainian forces dug in around Sievierodonetsk, the main city under Ukrainian control in the Luhansk province of the Donbas, as Russia intensified efforts to capture it. Gov. Serhiy Haidai accused the Russians of "simply intentionally trying to destroy the city... Engaging in a scorched-earth approach." Haidai said Sunday that the

Russians had occupied several towns and cities in Luhansk after indiscriminate, 24-hour shelling and concentrating forces and weaponry there, bringing in troops from Kharkiv to the northwest, Mariupol to the south, and from inside Russia.

But the Ukrainian military said that Russian forces were unsuccessful in their attack on

Oleksandrivka, a village outside of Sievierodonetsk. Ukraine's parliament voted Sunday to extend martial law and mobilize its armed forces for a third time, until Aug. 23. Ukrainian officials have said little since the war began about the extent of their country's casualties, but Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy said Sunday that 50 to 100 Ukrainian fighters were being killed, apparently each day, in the east.

While the east is now the focus of fighting, the conflict is not confined there. Powerful explosions were heard early Monday in Korosten, about 160 kilometers west of Kyiv, the town's deputy mayor said.

It was the third straight day of apparent attacks in the Zhytomyr District, Ukrainian news agencies reported.

In other developments, Ukraine's first lady, Olena Zelenska, gave a rare interview

to national broadcaster ICTV alongside her husband and said she has hardly seen him since the war began.

"Our family, like all Ukrainian families, is now separated," she said.

Zelenskyy called the interview itself "a date on air," and

the couple, who have two children, joked in front of the journalists. "We are joking, but we are really waiting, like everyone else, to be reunited, like all families in Ukraine who are separated now, waiting for their relatives and friends who want to be together again," he said.

Zelenskyy calls for 'maximum' sanctions against Russia

AP ■ DAVOS

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy is calling for "maximum" sanctions against Russia during a virtual speech at the World Economic Forum gathering.

He says in a virtual speech Monday that sanctions need to go further to stop Russia's aggression, including an oil embargo, all of its

banks blocked and cutting off trade with Russia completely.

Zelenskyy says his country has slowed Russian advances and his people's courage has stirred unseen unity of the democratic world.

He pushed for the complete withdrawal of foreign companies to prevent supporting its war.

Russian soldier gets life in Ukraine's 1st war crime trial



AP ■ KYIV

A Ukrainian court sentenced a 21-year-old Russian soldier to life in prison on Monday for killing a Ukrainian civilian, sealing the first guilty conviction for war crimes since Moscow's invasion three months ago. Sgt. Vadim Shishmarin pleaded guilty to shooting a Ukrainian civilian in the head in a village in the northeastern Sumy region in the early days of the war.

He testified that he shot the man after being ordered to do so.

He told the court that an officer insisted that the Ukrainian man, who was speaking on his cellphone, could pinpoint their location to the

embargo, all of its banks blocked and cutting off trade with Russia completely. Zelenskyy says his country has slowed Russian advances and his people's courage has stirred unseen unity of the democratic world.

On the battlefield, Russian forces have stepped up shelling in Ukraine's eastern industrial heartland as they press their offensive in the region that is now the focus of fighting.

Grinding battles in the Donbas, where Ukrainian and Russian forces are fighting town by town, have forced many civilians to flee their homes.

In Tokyo

on Monday, U.S. President Joe Biden and Japanese Prime Minister Fumio Kishida joined in condemning Moscow's invasion of Ukraine. Earlier on his trip to Asia, Biden signed legislation granting Ukraine \$40 billion more in U.S. support for its defense against the Russian attack.

Poland has become an important ally of Ukraine, welcoming millions of Ukrainian refugees and becoming a gateway for Western humanitarian aid and weapons and a transit point for some foreign fighters who have volunteered to fight Russian forces.

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In the face of those setbacks, Moscow has outlined more limited goals in Ukraine, with its sights now on trying to expand the territory that Russia-backed separatists have held since 2014.

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to national broadcaster ICTV alongside her husband and said she has hardly seen him since the war began. "Our family, like all Ukrainian families, is now separated," she said. Zelenskyy called the interview itself "a date on air," and the couple, who have two children, joked in front of the journalists. "We are joking, but we are really waiting, like everyone else, to be reunited, like all families in Ukraine who are separated now, waiting for their relatives and friends who want to be together again," he said.

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banks blocked and cutting off trade with Russia completely. Zelenskyy says his country has slowed Russian advances and his people's courage has stirred unseen unity of the democratic world.

He pushed for the complete withdrawal of foreign companies to prevent supporting its war.

Russian diplomat to UN in Geneva quits in protest against attack on Ukraine

AP ■ DAVOS

A veteran Russian diplomat to the U.N. Office at Geneva says he handed in his resignation before sending out a scathing letter to foreign colleagues inveighing against the "aggressive war unleashed" by President Vladimir Putin in Ukraine.

Boris Bondarev, 41, confirmed his resignation in a letter delivered Monday morning at the Russian diplomatic mission after a diplomatic official passed on his English-language statement to The Associated Press.

"For twenty years of my diplomatic career I have seen different turns of our foreign policy, but never have I been so ashamed of my country as on Feb. 24 of this year," he wrote, alluding to the date of Russia's invasion.

Reached by phone, Bondarev - a diplomatic counselor who has focused on Russia's role in the Conference on Disarmament in Geneva after postings in places like Cambodia and Mongolia - confirmed he handed in his resignation in a letter addressed to Ambassador Gennady Gatilov.

A spokesman for the mission didn't immediately respond to calls and a text message from the AP seeking comment.

The resignation amounts to a rare - if not unprecedented - public admission of disquiet about Russia's war in Ukraine among the Russian diplomatic corps, at a time when Putin's government has sought to crack down on dissent over the invasion and sought to quell conflicting narratives from the government line about how the "special military operation" - as it is officially known in Russia - is proceeding.

"It is intolerable what my government is doing now," Bondarev told the AP. "As a civil servant, I have to carry a share of responsibility for that, and I don't want to do that."

Bondarev said he had not received any reaction yet from Russian officials, but added: "Am I concerned about the possible reaction from Moscow? I have to be concerned about it." Asked if some colleagues felt the same, he added: "Not all Russian diplomats are warmongering. They are reasonable, but they have to keep their mouths shut."

MONIND LIMITED
(Formerly Known as Monnet Industries Limited)
Registered Office: Block-7, Room No. 78, Deen Dayal Awas, Kabir Nagar, Raipur-492099, Chhattisgarh, Corp. Office: Monnet House, 11, Masjid Moth, Greater Kailash-II, New Delhi-110048 (INDIA) Phone: +91 11 2921542-46; Fax: +91 11 2921541 Email: ic. mind@monnetgroup.com; Website: www.monnetgroup.com CIN: L5103CT1982PLC009117

NOTICE
Notice is hereby given Pursuant to Regulations 29 & 47 of SEBI (Listing Obligations and Disclosure Requirements) Regulations, 2015, that a meeting of Board of Directors of the Company is scheduled to be held on Monday, 30th May, 2022 at the corporate office of the Company, inter-alia, to consider and approve the Audited Financial Results of the Company for the Quarter and Financial year ended 31st March, 2022. This information is also available on the website of the Company (www.monnetgroup.com) and on the website of the Stock Exchange (www.bseindia.com) By order of the Board of Directors
MONIND LIMITED
(Formerly Known as Monnet Industries Limited)
Dated: 23.05.2022
Place: New Delhi Company Secretary Priya

Government of Jammu & Kashmir
OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER (R&B)
PROJECT CIRCLE DIVISION IST SRINAGAR

CORRIGENDUM

Subject: - Design and Construction of Kulgam Bypass on NH-444 taking off from existing chainage Km 61+650 and rejoining at Km 73+100 of existing chainage (Revised Design Chainage from Km 50+260 to Km 59+010 (Old Design Chainage Km 53+600 to Km 62+350) as 2 lane with U paved shoulder in the UT of Jammu & Kashmir on EPC mode.

Reference:- This office NIT No PCD-R&B 04 of 2022 23 under endorsement PCD-Ist/NIT/368-78 dated: 13-04-2022

Please read the below mentioned condition of NIT/RFP for the subject work as under:-

1. Earnest Money @ 2% of Advertised cost in shape of CDR/FDR/ Bank guarantee shall be submitted online.

Instead of Earnest Money @ 2% of Advertised cost in shape of CDR/FDR shall be submitted online.

Sd/- Executive Engineer
R&B Project Circle Division 1st Srinagar.

No. DIPK-2521/22
Dated: 23.05.2022

Union Territory of JAMMU & KASHMIR
Office of the Executive Engineer, (Jal Shakti) PHE,
Ground Water Division, Nowshera, Sgr.

Gist of e-Tender.
E-N.I.T. No: PHE/GWDS/ 06 of 05/2022

For and on behalf of lieutenant Governor of Jammu and Kashmir, e-tenders are invited in two cover system with 50 meters depth from registered Water Well Drillers/Contractors as per the details given in tender document.

S.No.1. Name of work :- Construction of (07 No) 125 mm dia machine drilled hand pump wells in District Kupwara.

Est. Cost Rs. in Lacs :- Rs. 18.50 Lacs

Earnest Money :- Rs. 37000/-

Cost of Tender Document :- Rs. 1000/-

Time of completion :- 30 Days

Class of Contract :- Registered for Drilling 125 mm dia Machine Drilled Hand Pump Wells

Programme :- B2V Phase-3rd.

Technical Sanction:- PHE/GWD/08 of 05/2022

AAA Accredited Order No :- 317-DDCK of 2020 Dated: 02-11-2020

Critical Dates / Information.

1. Publishing Date :- 21-05-2022 (04:00 PM)

2. Period of Downloading of Bids:- 21-05-2022 (04:00 P.M) to 30.05.2022 (02.00 P.M)

3. Period of Submission of bids :- 21-05-2022 (04:00 P.M) to 30.05.2022 (02.00 P.M)

4. Date of opening of Tender. :- 31-05-2022 at (02:00 P.M)

5. Tender Receiving Authority: Executive Engineer, (Jal Shakti) PHE Ground Water Srinagar Kashmir-190011

6. Document Cost :- Non-Refundable in the shape of Treasury Challan/receipt deposited to Account Head 0215 in favour of Executive Engineer (Jal Shakti) PHE Ground Water Division Srinagar (at Saddar Treasury Srinagar) (The firm shall specify the name of work for which apply)

7. Bid Validity Period: 180 Days

8. The bids can be downloaded or uploaded on www. Jktenders.gov.in

9. The bids of only those agencies shall be accepted who possess valid registration certificate of construction of 125mm dia machine drilled Hand pump wells.

No. DIPK-2447/22
Dated: 21-05-2022

Sd/- Executive Engineer

NORTHERN RAILWAY
INVITATION OF TENDERS THROUGH E-PROCUREMENT SYSTEM
Tender Notice No. 82222915 Dated: 23.05.2022
Principal Chief Materials Manager, Northern Railway, New Delhi-110001, for and on behalf of the President of India, invites e-tenders through e-procurement system for supply of the following items:-

S. No.	Tender No.	Brief Description	Qty.	Closing Date
01	82222915	Equivalent to Harmonic HD1000i with Advance Haemostasis 36cm	40 Nos	17.06.2022

NOTE -1. Vendors may visit the IREPS website i.e. www.ireps.gov.in for details.
2. No Manual offer will be entertained.

1231/22

SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE

SALE NOTICE
The under mentioned Assets will be sold through auction on "AS IS WHERE IS BASIS" and "AS IS WHAT IS BASIS" for recovery of dues as per court orders, in the following cases:-

Case Details	Asset Details	Reserve Price	EMD
ICICI BANK LTD VS TARUN CHAUHAN, OA- 87/2019	Vehicle No. DL6CM5155 Make and Model- BMW 520D Manu Year- 2013	Rs. 4,80,000/-	Rs. 48,000/-

Note: DD/PO of EMD amount has to be made in favour of ICICI Bank Limited, payable at Delhi.
Auction Date: June 08, 2022 From 11:00 am to 2:00 pm.
Place of Auction: Godara Yard, Khewat No. 166/1, Near Atul Kataria Chowk, Behind Gyan Devi, School, Sec - 17, Sukhrali, Gurugram-122022
Contact Person - Rajeev Ranjan (8584874809)/ Jitendra Kumar (7304914763)

Terms of Sale
The particulars of the said asset specified herein above have been stated to the best of the information and knowledge of the undersigned, who shall however not be responsible for any error, misstatement or omission in the said particulars. The interested participant/s are therefore requested, in their own interest, to satisfy himself / themselves/ itself with regard to the said asset and other relevant details pertaining to it before submitting the bids. All bidders are required to come at auction site with original KYC documents and DD/PO of EMD amount in favour of ICICI Bank Limited, payable at Delhi to participate in the auction. Successfully bidder shall have to deposit sale amount (Excluding EMD amount) within 5 days from the Approval date by the way of pay order/demand draft/RTGS/NEFT. In case if you fail to make the remaining sale amount within 5 days, your EMD amount will be forfeited. The intending bidders may visit at ICICI Bank Ltd, 1st Floor, SD Tower, Community Center, Plot No-7, Rohini Sector-8 New Delhi- 110085 for details and inspection of the said hypothecated vehicles.

SALE NOTICE
The under mentioned Assets will be sold through auction on "AS IS WHERE IS BASIS" and "AS IS WHAT IS BASIS" for recovery of dues as per court orders, in the following cases:-

Case Details	Asset Details
ICICI BANK LTD VS DHARMENDER, CS (COMM) 52/20	Vehicle No. HR3825502 Make and Model - TATA WINGER, Manu Year - 2019
ICICI BANK LTD VS RIZOO SOOD, CS (Comm) No. 798/2019	Vehicle No. UP14ET9537 Make and Model - GENERAL MOTORS SAIL, Manu Year - 2015
ICICI BANK LTD VS RANJEET JHA, Suit No.104/18	Vehicle No. DL1ZB2790 Make and Model - GENERAL MOTORS SAIL, Manu Year - 2017
ICICI BANK LTD VS VINOD GIRI, CS (COMM) No. 1168/2019	Vehicle No. DL5CQ0140, Make and Model - MARUTI SUZUKI Wagon R, Manu Year - 2018
ICICI BANK LTD VS NASEEM KHAN, CS NO. 424/18	Vehicle No. DL3SDM9022, Make & Model - HERO SPLENDOR PL US, Manu Year-2016, Reserve Price: Rs. 13,00,000/- EMD Amount Rs.2000/-, EMD is to be made in favour of ICICI BANK LIMITED payable at Delhi and Bidder has to bring original EMD at site with KYC
ICICI BANK LTD VS MARC ANTONIO XAVIER, Suit No. 42/2018	Vehicle No. DL2CAT8986, Make & Model - MARUTI SUZUKI CIAZ ZDI, Manu Year-2015, Reserve Price: Rs. 2,20,000/- EMD Amount Rs.20000/-, EMD is to be made in favour of ICICI BANK LIMITED payable at Delhi and Bidder has to bring original EMD at site with KYC
ICICI BANK LTD VS MOHINDER PAL KAUSHAL, CS No.3191/18	Vehicle No. DL1RTA1662, Make and Model- MARUTI SUZUKI RITZ, Manu Year- 2015
ICICI Bank Ltd. Vs. SOBHA RAM, C.S. NO 3168/19	Vehicle No. UP16ET0758, Make & Model - HUNDAI XCENT, Manu. Year-2016

Auction Date: June 08, 2022 From 11:00 am to 2:00 pm.
Place of Auction: Godara Yard, Khewat No. 166/1, Near Atul Kataria Chowk, Behind Gyan Devi, School, Sec- 17, Sukhrali, Gurugram - 122022
Contact Person- Rajeev Ranjan (8584874809)/ Jitendra Kumar (7304914763)

Case Details	Asset Details
ICICI Bank Ltd. Vs. Babar & Anr., CS (Comm) No. 1377-21	Vehicle No. UP14JT1939, Make & Model - ASHOK LEYLAND GURU 1010, Manu. Year- 2019

Auction Date: June 08, 2022 From 11:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.
Place of Auction: Mahakal Parking Yard, Kharsa No. 527 Village Banthia Near Indane Gas Plant Loni Ghaziabad- UP- 201102
Contact Person- Rajeev Ranjan (8584874809)/ Jitendra Kumar (7304914763)

Terms of Sale
The particulars of the said asset specified herein above have been stated to the best of the information and knowledge of the undersigned, who shall however not be responsible for any error, misstatement or omission in the said particulars. The interested participants are therefore requested, in their own interest, to satisfy himself / themselves/ itself with regard to the said asset and other relevant details pertaining to it before submitting the bids. All bidders are required to come at auction site with original KYC documents and DD/PO of EMD amount in favour of ICICI Bank Limited, payable at Delhi (Wherein applicable) to participate in the auction. Successfully bidder shall have to deposit sale amount (Excluding EMD amount) within 5 days from the Approval date by the way of pay order/demand draft/RTGS/NEFT. In case if you fail to make the remaining sale amount within 5 days, your EMD amount will be forfeited. The intending bidders may visit at ICICI Bank Ltd, 1st Floor, SD Tower, Community Center, Plot No- 7, Rohini Sector-8 New Delhi - 110085 for details and inspection of the said hypothecated vehicles.

RATHI BARS LIMITED
CIN No: L74599DL1993PLC054781
Regd. Office: A-24/7, Mohan Co-operative Industrial Estate, Mathura Road, New Delhi-110044
Ph.: 011-42760373, 42730360
Web: www.rathisteels.com, E-mail: rathibars@hotmail.com

NOTICE
Notice is hereby given pursuant to Regulation 29 read with Regulation 47 of the SEBI (Listing Obligations and Disclosure Requirements) Regulations, 2015, that a meeting of the Board of Directors of the Company is scheduled to be held on Monday, the 30th Day of May, 2022, at 04.00 P.M., inter alia, to consider and approve the Audited Financial Results of the Company for the quarter and year ended 31st March, 2022. This notice is available on the Company's website at www.rathisteels.com and also on the website of the stock exchange where the shares of the Company are listed i.e. www.bseindia.com.

For Rathi Bars Limited
Sd/-
Place: New Delhi
Date: 24.05.2022
Satinder Singh
Company Secretary and Compliance officer

MODI RUBBER LIMITED
CIN: L25199UP1971PLC003392

Registered Office: Modinagar - 201204, Dist. Ghaziabad, (U.P.)
Corporate Office: 4-7C, DDA Shopping Centre, New Friends Colony, New Delhi-110025; Website: www.modirubberlimited.com
Email: investors@modigroup.net; Phone: +91-11-47107398

NOTICE
Pursuant to regulation 29 of SEBI (LODR) 2015, Notice is hereby given that a 297th Meeting of the Board of Directors of the Company is scheduled to be held on Saturday on 28th day of May, 2022 at 02.30 PM at Corporate Office: 4-7C, DDA Shopping Centre, 4th Floor, New Friends Colony, New Delhi- 110025 to inter-alia approve the following:

1. Audited Standalone and Consolidated Financial Statements alongwith the Auditor Reports thereon of the Company for the year ended on March 31, 2022.

For Modi Rubber Limited
Sd/-
Place : New Delhi
Date : May 18, 2022
Head - Legal & Co. Secretary (S K Bajpai)

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

SBFC Finance Pvt. Ltd.

PUBLIC NOTICE
This is to inform the Public that Auction of pledged Gold Ornaments will be conducted by SBFC Finance Pvt. Ltd. on 28th May 22 at Delhi District Branch D-7, 1st Floor, Above Lock Saloon, Jagat Nagar 2, New Delhi-110024, Faridabad District Branch D-2, First Floor, NIT, Near L-2 Chowk, Faridabad, Haryana-121001, and Gurugram District - branch First Floor, Property No. 342/9, Subhash Nagar, New Railway Road, Gurugram - 122001, District - Gautam Budh Nagar - Branch add- Plot No. 5, Ground Floor, Opposite White Castle Hotel, Main Dabri Road, Salarpur, Bhangal, Sector-101, District Gautam Budh Nagar, Noida 201304 (UP), Ghaziabad District - branch add- B2, Basement, RDC Raj Nagar, Ghaziabad -201002, Hapur District - add- First Floor, Above PC Jewellers, Garh Pargana, Garh 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: AP00106631, AP00119828, AP00132472, AP00149597, AP00161488, AP00163273, AP00167955, AP00171938, AP001724_46, AP00174088, AP00175350, AP00183054, AP00187324, AP00190807, AP00194699, AP00195948, AP00198128, AP00202481, AP00205718, AP00207260, AP00212120, AP00212343, AP00216872, AP00218099, AP00218106, AP00218107, AP00218108, AP00218109, AP00218110, AP00218111, AP00218112, AP00218113, AP00218114, AP00218115, AP00218116, AP00218117, AP00218118, AP00218119, AP00218120, AP00218121, AP00218122, AP00218123, AP00218124, AP00218125, AP00218126, AP00218127, AP00218128, AP00218129, AP00218130, AP00218131, AP00218132, AP00218133, AP00218134, AP00218135, AP00218136, AP00218137, AP00218138, AP00218139, AP00218140, AP00218141, AP00218142, AP00218143, AP00218144, AP00218145, AP00218146, AP00218147, AP00218148, AP00218149, AP00218150, AP00218151, AP00218152, AP00218153, AP00218154, AP00218155, AP00218156, AP00218157, AP00218158, AP00218159, AP00218160, AP00218161, AP00218162, AP00218163, AP00218164, AP00218165, AP00218166, AP00218167, AP00218168, AP00218169, AP00218170, AP00218171, AP00218172, AP00218173, AP00218174, AP00218175, AP00218176, AP00218177, AP00218178, AP00218179, AP00218180, AP00218181, AP00218182, AP00218183, AP00218184, AP00218185, AP00218186, AP00218187, AP00218188, AP00218189, AP00218190, AP00218191, AP00218192, AP00218193, AP00218194, AP00218195, AP00218196, AP00218197, AP00218198, AP00218199, AP00218200, AP00218201, AP00218202, AP00218203, AP00218204, AP00218205, AP00218206, AP00218207, AP00218208, AP00218209, AP00218210, AP00218211, AP00218212, AP00218213, AP00218214, AP00218215, AP00218216, AP00218217, AP00218218, AP00218219, AP00218220, AP00218221, AP00218222, AP00218223, AP00218224, AP00218225, AP00218226, AP00218227, AP00218228, AP00218229, AP00218230, AP00218231, AP00218232, AP00218233, AP00218234, AP00218235, AP00218236, AP00218237, AP00218238, AP00218239, AP00218240, AP00218241, AP00218242, AP00218243, AP00218244, AP00218245, AP00218246, AP00218247, AP00218248, AP00218249, AP00218250, AP00218251, AP00218252, AP00218253, AP00218254, AP00218255, AP00218256, AP00218257, AP00218258, AP00218259, AP00218260, AP00218261, AP00218262, AP00218263, AP00218264, AP00218265, AP00218266, AP00218267, AP00218268, AP00218269, AP00218270, AP00218271, AP002182

Expectation of rate hike in next policy 'no-brainer': RBI

New Delhi: RBI Governor Shaktikanta Das on Monday hinted at another interest rate hike in early June to bring down stubbornly high inflation rate which has remained above the tolerance level for the past four months.

"Expectation of rate hike, it's a no-brainer. There will be some hike but how much I will not be able to tell now... To say that 5.15 (per cent) may not be very accurate," Das said in an interview with CNBC-TV18.

The next meeting of the Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) is scheduled for June 6-8.

RBI, in its first rate move in two years and its first hike in nearly four years, raised the repo rate by 40 basis points to 4.40 per cent following an off-cycle meeting earlier this month.

In April RBI raised its inflation forecast for the current fiscal year to 5.7 per cent from earlier estimate of 4.5 per cent and lowered its GDP estimate to 7.2 per cent from 7.8 per cent for 2022-23, citing the impact of escalating geopolitical tensions triggered by the Russia-Ukraine war.

Das further said the RBI and government has entered into another phase of coordinated action to cool down inflation.



RBI has taken a number of steps to moderate inflation in the last 2-3 months, he said, adding that the government on other hand has taken measures, including wheat export ban and cut in excise duty on petrol and diesel. All these put together will have sobering impact on price rise, he added.

Retail inflation has been above RBI's upper tolerance level for the past four months.

The government has mandated MPC headed by the RBI Governor to keep the retail inflation between 2 to 6 per cent. As per the latest print, the Consumer Price Index (CPI)

inflation increased to 7.79 per cent against 6.95 per cent in the previous month and 4.21 per cent in April 2021.

"Interest rates in almost every country today are negative, except Russia and Brazil. The target for inflation for advanced economies is about 2 per cent. Except for Japan and one more country, all advanced economies have inflation of over 7 per cent," he said. "We will move towards positive real rates, but it is impossible to forecast how soon because of the evolving situation," said the governor.

PTI

India, Brazil agree to further strengthen ties in agri, allied sectors

New Delhi: India and Brazil have agreed to strengthen their cooperation in agriculture and allied farm sectors.

Animal Husbandry, Fisheries and Dairying Minister Parshottam Rupala met his Brazilian counterpart Marcos Cordeiro during a five-day visit that concluded on May 20.

"Rupala held very fruitful discussions with his Brazilian counterpart and both ministers agreed to further strengthen the mutually beneficial ties," an official statement said.

Rupala also held meetings with Presidents of the Brazilian Association of Zebu Breeders (ABCZ), Mayor of Uberaba, Brazilian Confederation of Agriculture and Livestock (CNA), and Brazilian Cooperatives Organization (OCB) and discussed ways to increase cooperation in the dairy sector through Research and development (R&D), genetic improvement, and trade and investment.

In January 2020, Brazil for the first time in its history had signed 15 memorandum of understandings (MoU) and agreements with India and decided to widen cooperation in various areas including animal husbandry and dairying,

oil and natural gas, bio-energy, ethanol, trade and investment, and many more.

A Joint Declaration of Technical Cooperation between the National Dairy Development Board (NDDB) and Brazilian Zebu Breeders Association (ABCZ) was also signed in 2020.

During the visit, Rupala also visited the Embrapa Cattle Dairy (Embrapa Gado de Leite) research center in Juiz de Fora and stressed on the early finalization and implementation of a work plan under the MoU signed in 2016.

Training of Indian professionals in Brazil in IVF technology and identification of Brazilian companies to take up IVF embryo production in India are the key activities being identified under the work plan.



Markets pare gains to end flat in volatile trade; Sensex slips 38 pts



Mumbai: In a highly choppy session, equity benchmarks pared early gains to settle on a flat note on Monday, with the Sensex falling 38 points amid a heavy sell-off in metal stocks.

The 30-share BSE benchmark Sensex encountered volatility during the day and settled 37.78 points or 0.07 per cent lower at 54,288.61. During the day, it hit a high of 54,931.30 and a low of 54,191.55.

The broader NSE Nifty declined 51.45 points or 0.32 per cent to end at 16,214.70.

From the Sensex firms, Tata Steel tumbled the most by

12.53 per cent, followed by UltraTech Cement, TTC, Power Grid, HDFC, HDFC Bank, HCL Technologies and Reliance Industries.

In contrast, M&M, Maruti, Hindustan Unilever, Larsen & Toubro, Asian Paints and Kotak Mahindra Bank were among the gainers.

"Nifty once again gave up the intra day gains and ended in the negative. Metals stocks sold off post the levy of export duties over the weekend on iron ore and some steel intermediates," said Deepak Jasani, Head of Retail Research, HDFC Securities.

Meanwhile, Asian markets in Shanghai, Seoul and Tokyo ended higher, while Hong Kong settled lower.

Equity exchanges in Europe were trading mostly higher in the afternoon session. Stock markets in the US had ended on a mixed note on Friday.

International oil benchmark Brent crude gained 1.15 per cent to USD 113.8 per barrel.

Foreign institutional investors offloaded shares worth Rs 1,265.41 crore on Friday, as per stock exchange data.

Gold jumps ₹170; silver rallies ₹458

New Delhi: Gold jumped ₹170 to ₹50,926 per 10 gram in the national capital on Monday in line with firm global precious metal prices, according to HDFC Securities.

In the previous trade, the precious metal finished at ₹50,756 per 10 gram. Silver also rallied ₹458 to ₹61,792 per kg from ₹61,334 per kg in the previous trade.

In the international market, gold was trading higher at USD 1,857 per ounce and silver was flat at USD 21.99 per ounce.

"Gold prices traded higher with spot prices at COMEX trading 0.56 per cent up at USD 1,857 per ounce on Monday. Gold prices traded higher extending weekly gains supported by weaker dollar," said Tapan Patel, Senior Analyst (Commodities), HDFC Securities.

Steel products' prices should fall by 10% for primary producers: EEPC

Kolkata: In the wake of rising input costs, especially primary steel, the government's decision to remove import duty on raw materials for the metal production would lower costs for domestic steelmakers and reduce prices by around 10 per cent, an Engineering Export Promotion Council official said on Monday.

The move would help engineering goods manufacturers and exporters become more competitive in the global markets, EEPC India chairman Mahesh Desai said.

He also said, "imposition of export duty on iron ores and a host of steel intermediaries would increase the domestic availability of the key industry inputs".

The government levied an export duty of 15 per cent on almost all the major steel products, including stainless steel.

In order to reduce the overall cost of domestic production of steel products, the Centre slashed import duty on coking coal and anthracite from 2.5 per cent to zero.

Meanwhile, import duties



for coke or semi-coke and ferromanganese were lowered too, from 5 per cent to zero and 2.5 per cent to zero, respectively.

"Downstream exporters feel primary steel products prices will fall by 10 per cent for primary producers and 15 per cent for secondary steel producers," Desai said in his reaction.

He said that a reduction in fuel prices would ease logistics costs which have been hurting the sector.

"All the steps together would not only help the industry beat the surging input costs but also improve liquidity. We welcome the government decision and greatly appreciate the timely response," he said.

Rising inflation has emerged as a major headache for policymakers across the world, he said, adding that the persistently elevated price poses a serious "risk to demand and growth".

Maruti Suzuki to acquire AI firm Sociograph Solutions

New Delhi: Maruti Suzuki India (MSI) on Monday said it will acquire an equity stake of 12.09 per cent in Sociograph Solutions Pvt Ltd (SSPL) for about Rs 2 crore.

SSPL is an artificial intelligence (AI) software company that specialises in visual AI platform predominantly used to help enterprises improve sales experiences and improve efficiency in their business.

"The investment would help MSI strengthen its offering to customers by creating a customised sales experiences on the web, virtual reality and augmented reality," the auto major said in a regulatory filing.



Crude oil futures gain on spot demand

New Delhi: Crude oil prices on Monday rose by ₹43 to ₹8,661 per barrel as participants widened positions on a firm spot demand.

On the Multi Commodity Exchange, crude oil for June delivery traded higher by ₹43 or 0.5 per cent at ₹8,661 per barrel in 7,787 lots.

Analysts said the raising of bets by participants kept crude oil prices higher in futures trade.

Globally, West Texas Intermediate crude oil was down by 0.92 per cent at USD 111.30 per barrel, while Brent crude traded 1.09 per cent lower at USD 113.78 per barrel in New York.

Sintex Industries Q4 net loss at ₹119 cr

New Delhi: Textiles maker Sintex Industries Ltd on Monday reported narrowing of consolidated net loss to ₹119.30 crore for fourth quarter ended March 2022.

The company had incurred a net loss of ₹144.05 crore during January-March period a year ago, Sintex Industries said in a regulatory filing.

Revenue from operations

was up at ₹1,028.49 crore during the quarter under review as against ₹721.62 crore in the corresponding period of previous fiscal year.

Total expenses were at ₹1,189.41 crore as against ₹894.06 crore. For the fiscal year ended March 2022, it reported a net profit of ₹573.82 crore as compared to ₹1,306.41 crore profit in 2020-21.

BUSINESS BRIEFS

RAIN GAMES LAUNCHES GAME MAGIC T23

New Delhi: India's first hack-proof real money gaming start-up for professional gamers, Rain Games, today unveiled Magic T23, India's first innovative, real money card game. A new genre of card game, it involves tactical decision making & quick thinking and is ideal for even a family to play together. Magic T23 is also India's most transparent game with features like replay, fair play, instant withdrawal & fastest KYC.

EXCON-22: PRODUCTS EXCLUSIVELY DESIGNED FOR INDIA

New Delhi: Sany, one of the leading manufacturers and suppliers of construction machinery, is all set to unveil at mega trade fair EXCON its state-of-the-art products exclusively designed for the application in India, while keeping Indian customer requirements in mind. We were eagerly waiting for this event to unfold since last two years, said Deepak Garg, MD of Sany South Asia. He added Sany has worked with different engine manufacturers on biodiesel.

Rupee recovers from record lows to end 15 paise higher at 77.55/USD

Mumbai: Rupee recovered from record lows and settled 15 paise higher at 77.55 (provisional) against the US dollar on Monday, supported by a weak greenback overseas.

At the interbank forex market, the domestic unit opened at 77.69 against the US dollar. It moved in a range of 77.51 to 77.69 during the session.

The rupee finally snapped its three-session losing streak and closed at 77.55, registering a rise of 15 paise over its previous close.

On Friday, the rupee had settled at a record low of 77.70 against the American currency. According Gaurang Somaiya, Forex & Bullion



We expect the USD-INR (Spot) to trade sideways and quote in the range of 77.20 and 77.80," Somaiya added.

However, unabated foreign fund outflows and firm crude oil prices weighed on the rupee and kept the appreciation bias capped.

The dollar index, which gauges the greenback's strength against a basket of six currencies, was trading 1 per cent lower at 102.12.

On the domestic equity market front, the 30-share BSE Sensex ended 37.78 points or 0.07 per cent lower at 54,288.61, while the broader NSE Nifty fell 51.45 points or 0.32 per cent to 16,214.70.

Non-payment of TDS not a ground for initiation of insolvency process: NCLAT

New Delhi: The National Company Law Appellate Tribunal (NCLAT) has held that dues on account of non-payment of TDS can not be a ground to initiate insolvency proceedings against any company. Setting aside an order of the Kolkata bench of NCLT, the appellate tribunal said "the process of Insolvency & Bankruptcy Code (IBC) cannot be utilised" for recovery of TDS dues by an operational creditor of the company.

"The consequences of non-payment of TDS are provided under Income Tax Act, 1961, and income tax authorities have ample powers to take appropriate action," said the NCLAT bench headed by Chairperson Justice Ashok Bhushan.

The bench said the National Company Law Tribunal (NCLT) has committed a "serious error" while directing to initiate insolvency proceedings over a section 9 application filed by an operational creditor under the IBC after admitting that non-payment of the TDS (Tax Deducted at Source) amounts as default.

"We are of the view that it is not for us to consider whether TDS amount has been paid or not... We, thus, are of the view that the Adjudicating Authority (NCLT) has committed a serious error in admitting the Section 9 Application on the ground of non-payment of two TDS amounts," the NCLAT said.

Prolonged high temperatures could worsen inflation, hurt growth: Moody's

New Delhi: Prolonged high temperatures are credit negative for India, as that could exacerbate inflation and hurt growth, Moody's Investors Service said on Monday.

Over the longer term, India's highly negative credit exposure to physical climate risks means its economic growth will likely become more volatile as it faces increasing, and more extreme incidences of climate-related shocks, it noted. The rating agency said although heat waves are fairly common in India, they usually occur in May and June.

However, this year New Delhi witnessed the fifth heatwave in May with the maximum temperature touching 49 degrees Celsius.

"The prolonged high temperatures, which are affecting much of the northwest of the country, will curb wheat production and could lead to extended power outages, exacerbating already high inflation and hurting growth, a credit negative," Moody's said.

The Indian government has revised down its estimates for wheat production by 5.4 per cent to 105 million tonnes for

the crop year ending June 2022, given lower yields amid higher temperatures.

"The lower production, and fears that a surge in exports to capitalise on high global wheat prices would add to inflationary pressures domestically, has prompted the government to ban the export of wheat and to divert it toward local consumption instead.

"Although the move will partially offset inflationary pressures, it will hurt exports and subsequently growth. The ban comes at a time when India - the world's second-largest

wheat producer - could have been capitalising on the global output gap from wheat following the Russia-Ukraine military conflict," Moody's said.

Global wheat prices have jumped 47 per cent since the conflict began in late February.

The agency said India's export partners will likely face a further surge in wheat prices because of the ban. They include Bangladesh, which absorbed 56.8 per cent of India's wheat exports in fiscal 2021, Sri Lanka (8.3 per cent), UAE (6.5 per cent) and Indonesia (5.4 per cent).

P-Notes investment rises to ₹90,580 cr in April

New Delhi: Investments in the Indian capital markets through participatory notes (P-notes) increased slightly to Rs 90,580 crore at the end of April, as foreign investors are shifting allocation from China to India amid a significant economic slowdown in the most populated country.

P-notes are issued by registered Foreign Portfolio Investors (FPIs) to overseas investors who wish to be a part of the Indian stock market without registering themselves directly. They, however, need to go through a due diligence process.

According to Securities

and Exchange Board of India (Sebi) data, the value of P-note investments in Indian markets -- equity, debt, and hybrid securities -- stood at Rs 90,580 crore at April-end, compared to Rs 87,979 crore in March.

In February, the investment reached Rs 89,143 crore against Rs 87,989 crore in January.

Sonam Srivastava, the founder of Sebi-registered investment advisor Wright Research, said the investment via P-notes rose last month from March, as FPI were net sellers in Indian markets in April with a negative flow in both equity and debt segments.

"The rationale for this slight increase could be that foreign institutional investors are shifting allocation from China to India given the significant economic slowdown in China, or that the IPOs which came out in April pulled in foreign investors. So, there is a tiny up move from March numbers but seeing strategic foreign hedge funds take positions in India is exciting," she added.

Manoj Trivedi, co-founder, Jama Wealth, Sebi-registered investment advisor, said these are legitimate instruments. They can be potentially used for money laundering purposes. When Indian markets are

buoyant, there has been an effort to bring P-Notes within regulatory jurisdiction, but controls have been lifted when capital inflows have been plummeting.

"Given that FPIs have been net sellers in the market for some time, there seems to be an uptick in investments through P-notes.

It probably points to overseas investors continue to look at India as an attractive investment destination, but just want to ensure that they do not get stuck with regulatory compliance in case there is a need to make a quick exit," Srivastava said.



INDIAN PREMIER LEAGUE 2022



The first half (of the tournament) I was playing some of the best cricket I've ever played, and I'm still taking lots of confidence from that going into the play-offs — JOS BUTTLER

GT take on Royals for place in final

PTI ■ KOLKATA

Equipped with a lethal bowling attack and boasting a number of quality finishers, debutants Gujarat Titans will start as favourites against spin-heavy former champions Rajasthan Royals when the two teams face-off in the first IPL Qualifier, here on Tuesday.

Captaining a team in the IPL for the first time ever, a fit-again Hardik Pandya has been a revelation this season as he led from the front with both bat and ball to ensure a top finish for his team in the league stage.

Apart from firing at number 4, Pandya has used his resources well, be it the death bowling of wily Rashid Khan or making his batting exploits count to go alongside the fiery duo of David Miller and Rahul Tewatia. Every little thing has fallen in place.

Their weak link was their top-order batting with highly-rated Shubman Gill failing to convert his starts but the addition of veteran Wriddhiman Saha has done wonders for the team.

The discarded India wicket-keeper-batter is batting with a newfound passion at the top of the order and has scored three half-centuries in nine matches to make up for Gill's lacklustre run.

While the Afghan leg-spinner has been outstanding in the middle and death overs, India senior pacer Mohammed Shami has given them perfect starts, by being the highest wicket-taker (11 wickets) in the powerplay this season.

Saha, who has been making headlines since he was axed for Team India, will look to make a point as he along with Bengal teammate Shami play in front of their home crowd again.

The fact that the playoffs will be



Titans vs Royals
Live from 7:30pm IST
STAR SPORTS 1 NETWORK

played on fresh tracks would put the seamers in focus and Pandya may look to bring in Alzarri Joseph to go alongside Lockie Ferguson and Shami.

The Titans had defeated the same opponents by 37 runs in the league stage but the inaugural edition champions have a spin-heavy attack to go with rich experience and they might prove to a tricky customer.

The Titans also have looked vulnerable as they suffered three defeats in last five matches, including an eight-wicket thrashing by Royal Challengers Bangalore in their previous outing, which would mean that the Pandya-led side has to step up.

Three of Titan's four defeats, and four of Royals' five losses have come while setting up a target as the toss would also be a key area of concern.

The Sanju Samson-led outfit boast of both the Orange and Purple Cap holders this season -- Jos Buttler and Yuzvendra Chahal.

They also have the experience of Ravichandran Ashwin whose versatility has come to the fore especially in the second-half of the season. Ashwin's batting has also made a huge difference.

Batting at number 5 ahead of their regular batters Shimron Hetmyer and Rryan Parag against Chennai Super Kings the other day, Ashwin smashed an unbeaten 23-ball 40 to script a five-wicket win that also sealed their top-two finish.

But for them to repeat their 2008-IPL winning show, the Royals would not just need an Ashwin but the top-order to fire.

IPL Playoffs: Super Over could determine winner in case of disruptions

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

A Super Over could decide IPL 15's champions should rain gods play spoilsport and no play is possible in regulation time.

If not even an over a side is possible, the league standing will take precedence and will decide the winner, according to an IPL briefing note.

This will also apply to the Qualifier 1, Eliminator, Qualifier 2, which do not have reserve days.

May 30 has been kept aside as a reserve day for the summit clash, which will begin at 8pm.

With the IPL moving to Kolkata for the playoffs and inclement weather forecast for the city, the IPL has issued certain guidelines in case of rain-interrupted games.

While Gujarat Titans take on Rajasthan Royals in Qualifier 1 on Tuesday, Lucknow Super Giants will play Royal Challengers Bangalore at the same venue the next day in the Eliminator.

The second Qualifier and the final are slated to be played in Ahmedabad on Friday and Sunday respectively.

"The number of overs in the playoff match may, if necessary, be reduced so that each side has the opportunity to bat for five overs," the IPL guidelines read.

"For the Eliminator and each Qualifier playoff matches, in the event that it is not possible to schedule a five-over match to complete by the end of the extra time on the original day, the teams will, if conditions permit, play a Super Over to determine the winner of the relevant Eliminator or Qualifier match."

If the Super Over is not possible "the team that finished highest in the league table after the 70 matches of the regular season shall be declared the winner of the relevant playoff match or final," it added.

In case of the two Qualifiers and the Eliminator, if one innings is complete but no

Play is possible in the second, the DLS method will come into play.

If the final starts on May 29 that is at least one ball is bowled then the "match will resume at the point where it stopped on the previous day. For the avoidance of doubt, any match recalculations done without the match actually restarting on the previous night will be ignored."

Their leading run-getter Buttler has slowed down in the business end of the season with single digit scores — 2, 2, 7 — in his last-three outings. The Englishman, who has slammed three centuries and three fifties this season, is yet to score a half-century in five innings and the Royals would desperately need him to be back among runs.

Their batting too has slumped with Samson and Hetmyer's loss of form and they would look to get into the act ahead of the big match.

The fact that the loser of the Qualifier One will get a second shot at making the final will give both the teams some breathing space.

Disappointed with last few games: Jos Buttler

PTI ■ KOLKATA

Star Rajasthan Royals batter Jos Buttler is "disappointed" with his form in the last few games but said he is taking a lot of confidence from the big knocks that he had played early in the tournament going into the IPL play-offs.

The English wicketkeeper-batter has accumulated 629 runs at a strike rate of 147, including three hundreds and three fifties, this season but has slowed down in the business end of the tournament with single digit scores — 2, 2, 7 -- in his last-three outings.

"I've obviously been delighted with my form in the IPL, but a bit disappointed with the last few games," said the 31-year-old Buttler ahead of RR's first qualifier against Gujarat Titans at the Edens Gardens on Tuesday.

"The first half (of the tournament) I was playing some of the best cricket I've ever played, and I'm still taking lots of confidence from that going into the play-offs."

RR finished second in the points table behind new entrants Gujarat Titans.

Retiring out is risky but can give competitive advantage: Ashwin

Experienced spinner Ravichandran Ashwin, who has impressed both with ball and bat this season, feels certain decisions like retiring out can provide a competitive edge to the teams if done properly.

"It's important to understand how it (a decision) is going to give us an edge in important moments. I think (retiring out) is part of the future of the game in T20 cricket, and I believe it's there to stay," said Ashwin, RR's most economical bowler this season.

"People are going to perceive it as risky because once you retire a batter out and things don't go your way you might have to explain that. But if it's executed well, then it can give you a competitive advantage." Ashwin has scored 183 runs and picked up 11 wickets at an economy of 7.14 this season.

WARNE HAS BEEN WATCHING ME FROM ABOVE: CHAHAL

Yuzvendra Chahal credited his success to the closely knit group and said playing for RR

I kept learning as a batter & captain: Sanju Samson

PTI ■ KOLKATA

Leading the franchise for a second full season, skipper Sanju Samson said he has never stopped learning and communication has been one of the key components of his captaincy. "I think I've actually developed and learn as a batter and also as a captain. I'm really enjoying the responsibility of leading this team, especially with so many experienced players in our side."

"I think when you lead a side, it's very important to have that kind of perspective where you allow people to come and talk to you in pressure situations and allow them to express their ideas," said Samson.

"I do receive a lot of information, a lot of suggestions... So, I'm really enjoying the unity and the willingness of everyone to contribute to the team, and I think it's very important to listen to everyone. But I also know that the final call has to be from my side, and I have to take the ownership of each and every decision made by the team."

has also been special because of the late Shane Warne, who had led the team in the inaugural season.

"I know it's just the first season here (at Royals) for me, but it feels like I've been playing here for many years. I'm really relaxed here mentally, and I believe the credit goes to the people here, who take really good care of me... It has really made me connect with the franchise at a different level," said the Purple Cap holder.

"On the other hand, it's also special for me because Warne played for RR and I think his blessings are with me. I feel like he's been watching me from above."

VASTRAKAR SHINES IN SUPERNOVAS 49-RUN WIN

PTI ■ PUNE

Pooja Vastrakar picked up four wickets for just 12 runs in a brilliant pace-bowling display as Supernovas notched up an easy 49-run win over Trailblazers in a record-breaking opening match of the Women's T20 Challenge here on Monday.

The 22-year-old Vastrakar claimed the wickets of Trailblazers' captain Smriti Mandhana (34), her opening partner Hayley Matthews (18), No 4 Sophia Dunkley (1) and Salma Khatun (0) in two separate spells to tear apart the batting line-up of the defending champions.

England left-arm spinner Sophie Ecclestone and Australia all-rounder Alana King chipped in with two wickets apiece as Trailblazers could only score 114 for 9 in 20 overs while chasing 164.

The Supernovas had earlier scored the tournament's highest-ever score of 163 all out after opting to bat.

Trailblazers made a strong start to their chase with Mandhana and Matthews putting on 39 runs for the opening wicket in five overs.

But Vastrakar struck triple blows on



Trailblazers to leave the defending champions in deep trouble.

She first had the wicket of Matthews off the last ball of the fifth over and then dismissed skipper Mandhana and Dunkley in the space of four balls in the eighth over.

Wickets kept on tumbling in quick succession as Sharmine Akhter (0) was out in the next over for a duck to be King's first victim of the day.

Runs were hard to come by for Trailblazers as they reached 71 for 4 at the halfway mark. But two quick wickets in

the 11th over bowled by Ecclestone virtually ended the contest.

Ecclestone had Richa Gosh (2) off the second ball of the over and Arundhati Reddy (0) was run out in the next delivery as Trailblazers batters looked in a hurry to return to the hut.

Harmanpreet Kaur brought Vastrakar for her second spell and the pacesetter got immediate success by having Khatun to reduce Trailblazers to 73 for 7 at the end of 12 overs.

Asking rate had climbed more than 11 runs an over by then and one-down Jemimah Rodrigues (24) tried to make a match out of it but she also fell in the 14th over to Meghna Singh to extinguish any hopes of Trailblazers' fight back.

Earlier, Supernovas captain Kaur top-scored with 37 off 29 balls while Harleen Deol and Deandra Dottin chipped in with 35 and 32 respectively.

They, however, lost five wickets in the last two overs for just eight runs, including that of Kaur, in a dramatic collapse.

Matthews was the pick of the Trailblazers bowlers with figures of 3 for 29 while Salma Khatun took two for 30 runs.

County stint will keep me in good stead: Pujara

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Back in national team for the Edgbaston Test after scoring a bagful of runs in County cricket, Cheteshwar Pujara said his stint for Surrey will hold him in good stead when India takes on England in the one-off red ball fixture in July.

The 34-year-old Pujara scored 720 runs, including two double hundreds and two centuries, in five Division two games for Sussex, which forced the selection committee to give him a call-up for the rescheduled 'fifth' Test of the last series.

"I am glad to have been selected for the England Test, and happy that my recent county performances were recognized," Pujara told PTI.

"Having spent some time in the middle during the county games, I do believe



it will keep me in good stead as we get ready for the game against England.

"As always, looking forward to preparing and training well ahead of the tour, and do hope to continue contributing to the Indian team," he added.

The fifth Test, which was postponed last year due to a COVID-19 outbreak in the Indian camp, is scheduled from July 1 to 5 in Birmingham.

Going through a poor run of form, Pujara had been left out of India's home Test series against Sri Lanka earlier this year but he made a return to the squad after producing a scintillating performance for Surrey.

Pujara amassed an unbeaten 201 against Derbyshire, before scoring 109 against Worcestershire. He also smashed 203 and 170 not out against Durham and Middlesex. Playing for Saurashtra in the Ranji Trophy, Pujara had also hit 91 against Mumbai and 64 not out against Goa. Pujara has scored 6713 runs at 43.87 in 95 Tests for India.



Usman dropped for WI ODIs

AP ■ ISLAMABAD

Pakistan has dropped leg-spinner Usman Qadir and hard-hitting batters Asif Ali and Haider Ali for next month's limited-overs international series against the West Indies.

"Usman, Asif and Haider remain in our plans for the shortest format as we have a series of T20s lined up this year, including the T20 World Cup," chief selector Mohammad Wasim said in a statement on Monday.

Wasim said the return of vice-captain Shadab Khan and Mohammad Nawaz from injuries resulted in Usman's absence for the ODI series. Both players missed Pakistan's last ODI series at home against Australia.

Rawalpindi will host the three one-day games, which are part of the Cricket World Cup League, on June 8, 10 and 12.

Arshdeep delighted to represent India

PTI ■ MUMBAI

Delighted to earn a maiden national call-up, left-arm pacer Arshdeep Singh said bowling to the big-hitting Punjab Kings batters in the nets helped him perfect his yorkers.

The 23-year-old, who has impressed one and all with his death over bowling this season, ended his IPL campaign with 10 wickets and an economy rate of 7.70.

His ability to bowl the change-ups along with wide yorkers and deliveries in the block-hole earned him a place in the squad for the home series against South Africa next month.



Arshdeep got to know the good news on his way to Punjab's last league stage match against Sunrisers Hyderabad on Sunday.

"I got to know just before the match, in the bus that I have got selected in the Indian team. Because the match was going on I didn't feel much," Arshdeep told teammate Harpreet Brar after Punjab Kings' five-wicket win over Sunrisers Hyderabad.

OSAKA OUT AT FRENCH OPEN

AP ■ PARIS

Former world number one Naomi Osaka lost in the first round of the French Open on Monday, 12 months after controversially quitting the tournament, while women's title favourite Iga Swiatek stretched her winning streak to 29 matches.

Osaka, a four-time Grand Slam champion, was knocked out 7-5, 6-4 by American 27th seed Amanda Anisimova -- the same player who ended the Japanese star's title defence at the Australian Open this year.

An error-plagued Osaka served up eight double faults and committed 29 unforced errors on her return to Roland Garros, after withdrawing in 2021 when she refused to honour mandatory media commitments before revealing she had been suffering from depression.

"It's tough to see Naomi Osaka in the first round so I knew it wouldn't be easy," said Anisimova, who reached the semi-finals in Paris three years ago.

"I knew I had to play my best tennis and the conditions were not easy."

As rain fell on the outside courts, Swiatek required just 54 minutes to dispatch Ukrainian qualifier Lesia Tsurenko 6-2, 6-0 under the roof on Court Philippe Chatrier.

The 20-year-old Swiatek, who took over as world number one following Ashleigh Barty's shock retirement, has won her last five tournaments and is bidding for a second French Open in three attempts.

"Today was a pretty good match," said Swiatek. "I love playing here even though the last couple of days it's been raining and pretty dark."

The 2020 champion will play Ukraine's Dayana Yastremska or American Alison Riske for a spot in the last 32.



Swiatek is unbeaten since February and has the longest winning streak on the WTA tour since Serena Williams won 34 matches in a row in 2013.

"I'm pretty sure that it can end, but I just want to keep going. I'm sure someday my streak will stop."

"I'm just focusing on tennis and playing my game, not on stats or some numbers."

DJOKOVIC, NADAL READY TO ROLL

Defending champion Novak Djokovic and 13-time French Open winner Rafael Nadal start their Roland Garros campaigns

later on a star-studded Monday.

Djokovic plays Yoshihito Nishioka of Japan in the first of 10 night sessions -- introduced at Roland Garros last year when a pandemic curfew saw most late matches played in front of empty stands.

It is the world number one's first Grand Slam match since his high-profile deportation from Australia. He won his first title of the year at the Italian Open earlier this month.

"I feel I am always in that contention to fight for any Grand Slam trophy," said Djokovic, who is seeded to meet Nadal in the quarter-finals and Spanish teenage sen-

sation Carlos Alcaraz in the last four.

Djokovic's last match at a major was his loss to Daniil Medvedev in last year's US Open final, a defeat which denied the Serb a calendar Grand Slam.

Nadal has yet to win a title on his beloved clay this season, but played down concerns over the chronic foot issue that resurfaced in Rome.

"There is nothing to recover," said Nadal, who faces Australia's Jordan Thompson. "What happened in Rome is something that happened very often in my practices. I was suffering after that for a couple of days, but I feel better. That's why

I'm here." Nadal began the year with a 20-match winning run, capturing a second Australian Open title to claim a record 21st Grand Slam and move ahead of Djokovic and Roger Federer.

The 35-year-old's record at the French Open stands at a staggering 105 wins and just three losses since his 2005 title-winning debut. Djokovic has been responsible for two of those defeats. One came in the bruising semi-final 12 months ago, the most recent clash of the pair's epic 58-match rivalry.

Reigning women's champion Barbora Krejckova will play France's Diane Parry

Naomi may skip Wimbledon over ranking points row

AP ■ PARIS

Former world number one Naomi Osaka on Monday said she may skip Wimbledon over the decision to strip the Grand Slam tournament of ranking points.

"I would say the decision is kind of affecting my mentality going into grass, like I'm not 100% sure if I'm going to go there," said Osaka after her 7-5, 6-4 loss to Amanda Anisimova in the French Open first round.

"I would love to go just to get some experience on the grass court, but at the same time, I don't want to say pointless, but I'm the type of player that gets motivated by seeing my ranking go up."

"I'm the type of player who gets motivated by the idea of rising in the rankings," said the four-time major winner.

"So the intention of this measure was good, but the execution is all over the place."

The ATP and WTA tours last week removed ranking points from Wimbledon after the All England Club banned Russian and Belarusian players in response to the invasion of Ukraine.

Wimbledon chiefs branded the move by the two tours, which threatens to reduce the sport's most prestigious tennis tournament to the status of an exhibition event, as "disproportionate".

On Monday, former US Open champion Sloane Stephens said she supported the move to strip points from Wimbledon.

"I think the decision that was taken was the correct one," said the American.

"I think that there is a lot of things that happened behind the scenes that the press are not aware of, and I think there has been a lot of mishandling of how everything was handled."

in round one. The Czech world number two has been sidelined by an arm injury since late February and is yet to play on clay this year.

Liverpool confirm signing of Fabio Carvalho

AP ■ LIVERPOOL

Liverpool have finally completed the signing of Fulham forward Fabio Carvalho after failing in a bid to bring the 19-year-old to Anfield in January, the Premier League runners-up announced on Monday.

The Portuguese teenager, who is understood to have signed a five-year contract, will officially join the Anfield club on July 1.

Carvalho, out of contract at the end of June, was set for a move four months ago on deadline day when a £5-million deal was agreed with the Championship winners but the transfer window closed without a medical and formal paperwork being concluded.

Liverpool have reportedly agreed to pay extra in add-ons and attach a 20% sell-on clause.

Carvalho played a key role in Fulham's promotion back to

the Premier League, scoring 10 goals and providing eight assists in 36 games as Marco Silva's side won the Championship title.

He made his debut for Portugal's U21s in March, having previously represented England at youth level.

Carvalho's arrival will add another fresh face to Liverpool's dynamic forward line, already

boosted by the arrival of Luis Diaz in January.



India concede late goal to draw-1-1 with Pak



PTI ■ JAKARTA

Defending champions India conceded a late goal to allow arch-rivals Pakistan walk away with a 1-1 draw in their opening Pool A match of the Asia Cup men's hockey tournament, here on Monday.

India took the lead in the ninth minute through Karthi Selvam before Abdul Rana broke their neighbours' heart by equalising in the 59th from a penalty corner. India will next play

Japan on Tuesday. Pakistan had the first scoring chance in the third minute in the form of a penalty corner, but they failed to stop the ball properly as India survived.

Seconds later, it was India's turn to secure a penalty corner but Neelam Sanjiv Xess' effort was saved by the Pakistan goalie Akmal Hussain.

The Indians continued to put pressure on the Pakistan defence and secured two more penalty corners in the first quarter, the second of which was con-

verted by Karthi, who scored his first international goal after his flick went inside the Pakistan citadel after getting a deflection off the stick of defender Muhammad Abdullah.

In between Pakistan also got another penalty corner but the effort went wide.

Soon after the start of the second quarter, Pakistan goalkeeper Hussain made a fine reflex save to deny Pawan Rajbhar from point blank range.

Pakistan made a bright start after the change of ends and threatened the Indian defence early on. Second into their third quarter, Pakistan secured their third penalty corner but Rizwan Ali shot his flick wide.

A lapse in concentration cost India dearly as a long ball caught, an otherwise alert Indian defence, off guard in the final two minutes, resulting in a penalty corner for Pakistan.

Rana pushed in from a rebound after Mubashar Ali's flick was saved at the goal line by Yashdeep Siwach.

Ten Hag aims to smash Liverpool-City duopoly



AP ■ MANCHESTER

Manchester United's new manager Erik ten Hag believes it is possible to end the dominance of Manchester City and Liverpool despite taking over a struggling side that finished a lowly sixth in the Premier League.

United ended up 35 points behind champions City, who pipped Liverpool to the title by a point, as the Red Devils registered their lowest-ever Premier League points tally.

City boss Pep Guardiola has now claimed four titles in five years, while Liverpool manager Jurgen Klopp can complete a treble of cup trophies this season should the Reds see off Real Madrid in Saturday's Champions League final.

Guardiola and Klopp -- the managers of United's two biggest rivals -- have consistently battled it out for the major trophies, leaving the Red Devils, without silverware since 2017, as bystanders.

However, the Dutchman challenged the suggestion it would take the departure of one or both of Guardiola and Klopp for United to be able to compete again.

"In this moment I admire them both," Ten Hag said as he was unveiled at Old Trafford on Monday. "They play in this moment really fantastic football, both Liverpool and Manchester City. But you always see that an era can come to an end. I am looking forward to battle with them."

The former Ajax boss, 52, is United's fifth permanent manager since the club last won a league title in Alex Ferguson's farewell season in 2013.

Ten Hag also had a spell as Bayern Munich's reserve team manager earlier in his career and said he was used to the demands of working at a big club. "This is a project, it takes time," he said. "I know in this club -- I have the experience of Ajax and Bayern -- in the top (clubs) there is never time."

Emery's Villarreal beat listless Barca



AP ■ BARCELONA

Barcelona finished 13 points behind La Liga champions Real Madrid after ending their turbulent season with a whimper on Sunday by losing 2-0 at home to Villarreal.

Athletic Madrid secured third place by winning 2-1 away at Real Sociedad, retaining their one-point lead over Sevilla, who won 1-0 at home to Athletic Bilbao.

Athletic's defeat, combined with Villarreal's excellent victory at Camp Nou, means Villarreal beat Athletic into seventh and qualify for the Europa Conference League.

Villarreal's season was lit up by their sensational run to the semi-finals of the Champions

League but Unai Emery's team has suffered from inconsistency against the lower sides in La Liga and will be demoted to Europe's third-tier competition next term.

Athletic finish eighth while Real Sociedad held onto sixth and Europa League qualification, despite their loss at home to Athletic Madrid.

Barca already had second place and a spot in the top four wrapped up but Xavi Hernandez will be concerned heading into the summer about how his team has faded.

Defeat by Villarreal means Barcelona lost four of their last nine games in all competitions while Real Madrid won La Liga at a canter. After being appointed in November, with the team

Ansu Fati in Spain's Nations League squad

AP ■ MADRID

Teenager Ansu Fati was called up to Spain's national team again on Monday after a long injury layoff.

Spain coach Luis Enrique included the 19-year-old Barcelona forward in the list of 25 players selected for the four Nations League matches La Roja will play in June.

Fati hasn't played with Spain since a Nations League game against Ukraine in October 2020. He was marred by knee and muscle injuries and only recently returned to the Barcelona squad. He scored

lying ninth, Xavi revived the team and achieved the most important objective of qualifying for the Champions League.

But going out to Frankfurt in the Europa League semi-finals and Athletic Bilbao in the Copa del Rey was disappointing while the drop-off during the run-in suggests there is still a lot of work to do.

Villarreal's two goals came either side of half-time as Alfonso Pedraza scored in the 41st minute after latching onto

one goal in five Spanish league appearances in May, all coming off the bench.

Also back in the national team was Real Madrid forward Marco Asensio, who last played with Spain in the team's 6-0 rout of Germany in the Nations League in November 2020.

Another teenager included again in the squad was 17-year-old Barcelona midfielder Gavi Paez. Liverpool midfielder Thiago Alcantara returned after not being in the squad since last year's Euro 2020, and Sergio Busquets was back after missing the last call-up because of an injury.

a Dani Parejo through-ball before Moi Gomez made it two in the 55th.

Athletic's victory over Real Sociedad came after Rodrigo de Paul and Angel Correa scored goals in the second half before Jon Guridi grabbed a consolation for the hosts late on.

Rafa Mir's smart finish inside the post in the 68th minute proved enough for Sevilla to overcome Athletic Bilbao at the Ramon Sanchez Pizjuan.



Salman Butt gets Singapore job

AP ■ SINGAPORE

Former Pakistan Test captain Salman Butt, who was banned over a high-profile spot-fixing scandal, has been appointed to a coaching role with Singapore's national team, cricket officials said. The 37-year-old has been named consultant coach and will bring a "wealth of experience" to the side, the Singapore Cricket Association (SCA) said. His first challenge will be T20 World Cup qualifiers in Zimbabwe in July.

The left-handed batsman was part of the Pakistan team from 2003 to 2010, when a

spot-fixing scandal erupted on their tour of England. SCA chief executive Saad Khan Janjua said he hoped Butt's abilities and experience would inspire the Singapore players ahead of the qualifier.

EAST COAST RAILWAY 'E' PROCUREMENT SYSTEM

The following tenders have been uploaded on website <http://www.ireps.gov.in>

Tender Notice No. ECoRCONT222301 Dt: 12.05.2022 & Tender Notice No. ECoRCONT222302, Dt: 13.05.2022

Brief Description of Materials: MANUFACTURE AND SUPPLY OF 10 MM THICK CORSP (T-8747) & (I) METAL LINER (T-8616 & T-8617), (II) METAL LINER (T-8746) & (III) METAL LINER (T-8749 & T-8750), (THESE ARE SAFETY ITEMS)

Tender closing date & time : at 1200hrs. of 09.06.2022.

Regarding detailed notice, EMD, purchase restrictions and detailed tender conditions, please visit website www.ireps.gov.in and www.eastcoastrail.indianrailways.gov.in.

Deputy Chief Engineer/ConWorks, Bhubaneswar

PR-25/CF/22-23

WATCO
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER, WATCO.
Ground Floor, Unnati Bhawan,
H.B. Colony, Satyanagar, Bhubaneswar-751007, Odisha, India
Telefax: +91-674-2391444
E-mail - mail@watcoodisha.in
md@watcoodisha.in
md@watcoodisha.in
INVITATION FOR BID (IFB)
Bid Identification No. WATCO (W) - 09/2022-23 Dtd.21.05.2022
WATCO No. 2059 Date: 21.05.2022

- Name of the work :- 1. Installation, of 2x1600 KVA 33/0.4 KV sub station (1 No. for running and 1 no for stand by to effect power supply of 1200 KW load to 129 MLD capacity WTP at sector - 13 CDA Cuttack.
- Estimated cost :- Rs. 231.42 Lakh
- Period of completion :- 04 (Four Months).
- Date & time of availability of bid document :- From 11.00 AM of Dt.03.06.2022 to 5.00 PM of 17.06.2022
- Last date / time of receipt of bids in the portal :- 5.00 PM of 17.06.2022
- Date & time of opening of technical bids :- 12.30 PM of 18.06.2022.
- Name and address of the Officer Inviting Bid :- CEO, WATCO
Telefax: - 0574-2391444.
E-Mail: mail@watcoodisha.in
md@watcoodisha.in
- The bidders have to participate in ONLINE bidding only.
Further details can be seen from the web site www.tendersodisha.gov.in

OIPR-1319411/0026/2223 (CEO) WATCO

GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA e-mail: eerwbnj@gmail.com
OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER
RURAL WORKS DIVISION, BHANJANAGAR

"e" Procurement Notice for Road Works
Identification No. Online Tender /03/ RWBNJ/2022-2023
Date: 17.5.2022

No. 1670

- Name of the work :: Road Works
- Total Number of works :: 6 Nos
- Estimated cost :: 5.31 Lakh to 19.47 Lakhs
- Class of Contractor :: D and C Class of Contractor
- Period of Completion :: (Two) 2 and (Three) 3 Calendar Months.
- Other details: ::

Procurement Officer	Bid Identification No	Availability of tender online for bidding
Superintending Engineer, R.W.Division, Bhanjanagar	Online Tender/03/RWBNJ/2022-2023	From 24.05.2022 to at 10.00 A.M., 04.06.2022 upto 3.00 P.M.

Further details can be seen from the website: - www.tendersodisha.gov.in
OIPR-2517411/0003/2223 Superintending Engineer R.W.Division, Bhanjanagar