

OPINION 6

JUSTICE DELAYED
IS JUSTICE DENIED

WORLD 8

LANKAN PM STRESSES URGENCY
FOR ECONOMIC REFORM PLAN

MONEY 10

STRUCTURAL REFORMS MUST
FOR INCLUSIVE GROWTH: RBI

DEHRADUN, SATURDAY MAY 28, 2022; PAGES 12 ₹2

the pioneer

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LIVERPOOL
TO FACE
REAL IN CL
12 SPORT

CAPSULE

3RD MODEL FOUND DEAD
WITHIN WEEK IN KOLKATA

Kolkata: A third model was on Friday found dead in mysterious conditions in a matter of little more than a week. Model-cum-small time television actress Manjushri Neyogi was found hanging from the ceiling fan of her room at Patuli area in the southern fringes of Kolkata just a couple of days after her friend and co-model Bidisha De Majumdar was found dead in her Dum-Dum flat.

UCC COMMITTEE
ANNOUNCED IN U'KHAND

Dehradun: Uttarakhand Govt announces a drafting committee to implement Uniform Civil Code. The State Committee is headed by retired SC judge Ranjana Desai and comprises retired Delhi HC judge Pramod Kohli, ex-State chief secretaries Shatrughan Singh, Manu Gaud & Surekha Dangwal as members.

ED SUMMONS FAROOQ IN
MONEY LAUNDERING CASE

New Delhi: The Enforcement Directorate has summoned Lok Sabha member Farooq Abdullah on May 31 at its Srinagar office in connection with a money laundering case linked to alleged financial irregularities in the Jammu & Kashmir Cricket Association, officials said on Friday.

BJP GAINS MAJORITY IN
KARNATAKA COUNCIL

Bengaluru: All the seven candidates in the fray for the biennial election to Karnataka Legislative Council, slated to be elected by the MLAs, were on Friday declared as elected "unopposed".

NCB's clean chit to
Aryan in drug case

TN RAGHUNATHA ■ MUMBAI

Bollywood superstar Shah Rukh Khan's son Aryan Khan heaved a huge sigh of relief on Friday as the Narcotics Control Bureau (NCB) gave him a "clean chit" in the much-discussed mid-sea drug bust case, citing "lack of sufficient evidence" against him.

Apart from Aryan, the NCB also spared five others — Avin Sahu, Gopal Anand, Samir Saighan, Bhaskar Aroda and Manav Singhal — of prosecution in the October 3, 2021 drug bust.

In effect, the NCB did not name Aryan and five others in the charge-sheet before a special court in the drug bust case on Friday.

However, the NCB filed a 6,000-page charge-sheet in the special court against 14 others, including Arbaaz Merchant and Munmun Dhamecha, in the case, before the expiry of the extended deadline for filing of the charge-sheet in the case.

The Special Narcotics Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (NDPS) Act court had on March 31 granted 60 days' extension to the Narcotics Control Bureau (NCB) to file a charge-sheet in the much-discussed drug-bust case in which Bollywood superstar Shah Rukh Khan's son Aryan Khan and others



are accused.

Hours after the charge-sheet against 14 persons, NCB Director General SN Pradhan said his organisation had applied "the touchstone of the principle of proof beyond reasonable doubt" while filing the charge-sheet in the case.

"All accused were found in possession of narcotics except Aryan (Khan) and Mohak (Jaiswal). The touchstone of the principle of proof beyond reasonable doubt has been applied. Based on which a complaint has been filed against 14 accused and a complaint against six (including Aryan Khan) is not filed due to lack of sufficient evidence," Pradhan said in a statement released to media.

Govt orders action
against Sameer
Wankhede for
'shoddy' probe

New Delhi: The Union Government has ordered action against former NCB officer Sameer Wankhede for his alleged "shoddy" work while probing a "drugs-on-cruise" case in which Aryan was arrested last year.

Appropriate action is also being initiated against Wankhede for allegedly providing a fake caste certificate, officials added.

I inspect dev work with
drones, reveals ModiPIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■
NEW DELHI

Painting a very promising future for drone technology in India, Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Friday revealed he even "conducts surprise inspections of development work across the country with the help of drones".

And maintaining that they would also help in ensuring last-mile delivery of services across the country, Modi attacked previous regimes when "technology was considered part of the problem and efforts were made to portray it as anti-poor." Inaugurating the two-day Bharat Drone Mahotsav 2022, Modi said the use of drones will rise in agriculture, sports, defence and disaster management sectors.

"Every month I organise a pragati meeting with Government officials and review the development works in various parts of the country with the help of drones. I conduct surprise inspections of development work across the country with the help of drones," Modi pointed out giving an interesting insight into his drone-linked governance style. "Exactly eight years ago we started implementing new mantras of good governance in India following the path of minimum Government - maximum governance. Today we are making technology avail-



Prime Minister Narendra Modi flies a drone at the inauguration of the Bharat Drone Mahotsav, at Pragati Maidan in New Delhi. Union Minister for Civil Aviation Jyotiraditya M Scindia and MoS for Civil Aviation General VK Singh are also seen

able to the masses first," said Modi at India's biggest drone festival here at Pragati Maidan.

Due to misplaced aversion, he said there was an atmosphere of indifference regarding the use of technology in governance before 2014. "The poor, the deprived,

and the middle class suffered the most due to this," he said.

He also recalled the complicated procedures for availing of basic facilities leading to a sense of deprivation and fear.

"In earlier Governments technology was considered

part of the problem and efforts were made to portray it as anti-poor," he further said.

Modi said progress is possible only when we change with time adding "We have made technology a key tool to impart new strength, speed and scale to the country".

Chautala gets
4-yr jail in DA
case, slapped
with ₹50L fine

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

A Rouse Avenue court on Friday awarded a four-year jail term to former Haryana Chief Minister Om Prakash Chautala in a disproportionate assets (DA) case. The court also imposed a fine of ₹50 lakh on 87-year-old Chautala and ordered the seizure of four of his properties.

In his judgment convicting Chautala, Special Judge Vikas Dhull noted that the accused had acquired disproportionate assets to the tune of 103 per cent of the known sources of income.

According to the order passed by the court, out of the ₹50 lakh fine amount of ₹ 5 lakh would be given to the CBI from that.

7 jawans
killed after
vehicle falls
into riverPIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■
JAMMU

At least seven Indian Army jawans died and 19 others received critical injuries after the vehicle they were traveling in fell into the Shyok River, 25 km ahead of Thoise, in Turtuk sector of Ladakh on Friday.

According to official sources, all 19 injured personnel have been airlifted to the Western command's hospital in Chandimandir, Panchkula, for advanced medical treatment.

The accident took place around 9 am, official sources said. At the time of the incident, soldiers were on their way to a forward location in sub-sector Hanif.

According to field reports, the Army vehicle fell into the Shyok River to a depth of approximately 50 to 60 feet from the road.

CBI summons
Rubaiya Saeed
in her 1989
abduction case

PTI ■ JAMMU

A special CBI court here has summoned Rubaiya Sayeed, daughter of former Jammu & Kashmir Chief Minister Mufti Mohammed Sayeed, on July 15 in a case related to her kidnapping in 1989, officials said on Friday.

This is the first time Rubaiya Sayeed has been asked to appear in the case relating to her abduction on December 8, 1989. She was freed from captivity five days later on December 13 after the then VP Singh Government released five terrorists from the Jammu and Kashmir Liberation Front (JKLF) in her exchange.

Rubaiya Sayeed, who stays in Chennai, is listed as a prosecution witness by the CBI which took over the investigation in early 1990.

3 botch up Fast
& Furious, land
in prison after
stealing 40 cars

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

The Delhi Police has arrested three men, who were inspired by the Hollywood blockbuster "The Fast and the Furious", for allegedly stealing over 40 cars using hi-tech tools, including scanners and GPS jammers.

The accused — identified as Manish Rao (42) and Jagdeep Sharma (43), both residents of Uttam Nagar and Aas Mohammad (40), a native of Meerut — had stolen the cars from Uttam Nagar, Tilak Nagar, Subash Nagar, Pashim Vihar, Munirka and Dwarka among other places in Delhi.

The Deputy Commissioner of Police (DCP), Southwest district, Manoj C, said police teams worked relentlessly and gathered information about people involved in stealing cars and ultimately arrested them.

Inverted Rifle,
Helmet shifted
from India Gate
to War MemorialPIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■
NEW DELHI

The iconic Inverted Rifle and Helmet at Amar Jawan Jyoti, India Gate, was on Friday shifted by the Armed forces in a ceremony to the National War Memorial. Symbol of Fallen Soldiers of 1971 war, the Rifle and Helmet are now installed in the midst of busts of Param Vir Chakra awardees.

With this process, integration of Memorial of Fallen Soldiers of 1971 war with the National War Memorial is complete, the Defence Ministry said here on Friday.

The ceremony was led by Chief of Integrated Defence Staff to Chairman, Chiefs of Staff Committee (CISC) Air Marshal BR Krishna and attended by Adjutant General (AG) equivalents from three Services. As part of the ceremony, a final salute was given and the CISC offered a wreath at India Gate.

Detailed Report on P4

Shree's Tomb of Sand first
Hindi novel to bag BookerPIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■
KOCHI

Tomb of Sand, a Hindi novel authored by New Delhi-based Geetanjali Shree, the unassuming literary figure, and translated into English by Daisy Rockwell based in the USA, won the International Booker Prize 2022 on Friday.

Tomb of Sand, originally titled *Ret Ki Samadhi* and published in 2018, is the first Hindi work translated to English to have received the coveted recognition. Penguin India released its English translation in March 2022. The book has also been the winner of the English Pen Award. Within hours of hitting bookshelves across the nation, *Tomb of Sand* became a hotly debated and discussed literary work among readers.

The story revolves around an octogenarian woman slipping into a deep depression after the death of her husband and then resurfaces to gain a new lease of life. The change



Author Geetanjali Shree, right, and translator Daisy Rockwell pose with the 2022 International Booker Prize author and translator awards for Shree's novel 'Tomb of Sand' in London on Thursday

in Ma's way of thinking and her new found interest in life confuses even her daughter who considers herself as ultramodern. The author takes the reader from the present day to the days of

Partition, a time which saw the protagonist undergoing traumas and shock. Ma, through her eyes and words, re-evaluates 'what it means to be a mother, daughter, a woman and a feminist.

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More than 95% votes for BJP will make history in Champawat- Dhami

PNS ■ DEHRADUN



Chief minister and the Bharatiya Janata Party candidate for the Champawat Assembly by-election, Pushkar Singh Dhami said that the BJP does developmental politics. He said this while addressing a public gathering in the constituency on Friday.

Dhami addressed the public at Dhakna Badola in the local Kumaoni language. He said that he had come to Champawat so that he can serve the people by fulfill the basic requirements of the people and change the face of the area

from the developmental point of view. "My aim will be to meet as many people as possible and fulfill the expectations of all," he said. Dhami opined that considering the enthusiasm and zest of Champawat residents, it is clear that he is going to achieve a historic win in the constituency. The people of Champawat are getting a chance to get their opinion marked in the history of the State, he said. "We are seeing how the whole nation is looking towards Uttarakhand these days, we are being looked upon with hope. The

BJP too has much hope from the people of Uttarakhand, which increases our responsibilities. Together with the people of Champawat, we will defeat all challenges. I thank you all for the enthusiasm I have witnessed in this public gathering. I am confident that more than 95 per cent of your votes will in favour of the BJP," said the chief minister.

He also said that to make higher education more accessible in the region, a campus of Kumaon University will be opened here in the future.

Cong leaders remember Nehru on death anniversary

PNS ■ DEHRADUN

Tributes were paid to the first Prime Minister of the country Jawahar Lal Nehru by Congress members on his death anniversary on Friday. The party members assembled at the state headquarters of the party on the day where they offered floral tributes to Nehru. Speaking on the occasion the Pradesh Congress Committee (PCC) president Karan Mahara said that Nehru was a true patriot under whom the country set up new dimensions of progress. He said that a strong foundation of the country was laid during his leadership and that democracy and secularism were strengthened.

Mahara told the party workers that the country is passing through a tough phase and some people are determined to finish the institutions set up by Nehru. He said that setting up Non



Aligned Movement (NAM) and the model of development under the Five Year Plan show the vision and capabilities of Nehru. The PCC president exhorted the party workers to take the rich tradition of the Congress party and its leaders between the people. He said that unfortunately the command of the country is in the hands of the people who want to divide

people on caste and communal lines to fulfil their mean political interests.

The programme was attended by in charge of the membership campaign Rajendra Bhandari, media in charge of Garhwal Garima Dasauni, Mahanagar president Lal Chand Sharma, spokesperson Deep Vohra and others.

UPES School of Modern Media announces full scholarship for select students

PNS ■ DEHRADUN

UPES School of Modern Media will offer full scholarships to select students to pursue its digital-first media programmes. The scholarship is offered on all the undergraduate media programmes - BA in Journalism and Mass Communication, BA in Digital and Mass Media and BBA in Events, Public Relations and Corporate Communications. These new Digital Innovation Scholarships are funded by Meta (formerly Facebook) and reserved for students from underprivileged backgrounds to support their first career steps into the expanding space of digital media. Six scholarships will be awarded this year and their recipients will be chosen via a competitive nation-wide entrance examination conducted by UPES.

UPES School of Modern Media dean Nalin Mehta said, "Digital technologies have proved to be a great leveller across many social divides and as India's only digital-first media school we are committed to providing best-in-class digital media education by removing access barriers. We are delighted that Meta is supporting this initiative by funding our inaugural Digital Innovation Scholarships. We are focused on providing cutting-edge training to the young talent in the country and preparing them for the needs of the digital media industry. This scholarship programme opens up new opportunities for talented young students who were so far held back from the best opportunities due to financial barriers."

Anti-encroachment drive in Roorkee to resume after violence

PNS ■ ROORKEE

The police have registered a case against unidentified persons and are pursuing it a day after the driver of a mechanical excavator being used in an anti-encroachment drive of the Municipal Corporation of Roorkee (MCR) was injured by stone pelters.

On Thursday, the MCR conducted an anti-encroachment drive in Machhi Mohalla. During the drive, a shopkeeper was hurt accidentally after which some persons began pelting stones at the JCB with its driver also being assaulted. The personnel of the corporation had to return from the site without completing their action due to the violent flare up.

Additional superintendent of police Rekha Yadav said that unknown rioters who were pelting stones at the JCB and beating its driver during the anti-encroachment drive were hindering the removal of encroachments. A case has been registered under various sections of the Indian Penal Code against them. Efforts are underway to identify the miscreants through CCTV camera footage and other sources, she said.

Meanwhile, authorities said that the anti-encroachment drive will be resumed from Tuesday and notices will be issued to the local shopkeepers before that.

NORTHERN RAILWAY			
Tender Notice			
SR.DENI/MB acting for and on behalf of The President of India invites E-Tenders against following tenders closing date 16.06.2022, 16:00 hrs. Bidders will be able to submit their original/revised bids upto closing date and time only. Manual offers are not allowed against this tender, and any such manual offer received shall be ignored. Contractors are allowed to make payments against this tender towards tender document cost and earnest money only through online payment modes available on IREPS portal like net banking, debit card, credit card etc. Manual payments through Demand draft, Banker's cheque, Deposit receipts, FDR etc. are not allowed.			
Tender No. Date	35-DRM-MB-22-23 Date – 25.05.2022		
Name of work	Hiring of 1 MT MUV for each Incharge and 9 MT truck for each P-way Incharge and other for track work in the section of Sr. DENI/1MB.		
Tender Closing Date & Time	16.06.2022, 16:00 Hrs.		
Advertised Value (Rs.)	Rs. 1,84,99,850.33		
Earnest Money (Rs.)	Rs. 2,42,500.00		
Tender Cost (Rs.)	Rs. 5000/-		
Bidding Start Date	02.06.2022		
Validity of Offer (Days)	60 Days		
Period of Completion	24 Months		
No.: 74-W/2/3/WA/Publication		Dated.: 25.05.2022	1274/2022
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NORTHERN RAILWAY							
TENDER NOTICE							
S. N.	Name of work with its location	App. Cost of the work (In Rs.)	Address of the office from where the tender form has been issued	Earnest Money to be deposited (In Rs.)	Completion period of the work	Date & Time for submission of tender & opening of tender	Website particulars & Address of office
1	05/SrDEE/G/MB/2022 (Iind Call):- Balance work for reworking of Railway quarters over Moradabad division. (Approx. 1000 Nos.)	91.04,940.51 (Including GST)	Electrical Branch, Divisional Railway Manager's office, Northern Railway, Moradabad	1,82,100.00	6 (Six) Months	Tender will be received upto 15/00 hrs and opened at 15/00 hrs on 28/06/2022	Website www.ireps.gov.in Divisional Railway Manager's office, Northern Railway, Moradabad.
Tender Notice No.- 11/2022, Dated:- 27.05.2022							1282/22
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Notice under Section 13 (2) of the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002

The following borrowers and co-borrowers availed the below mentioned secured loans from IDFC FIRST Bank Limited (erstwhile Capital First Limited, amalgamated with IDFC Bank Limited and presently known as IDFC First Bank Limited) The loans of the below-mentioned borrowers and co- borrowers have been secured by the mortgage of their respective properties. As they have failed to adhere to the terms and conditions of the respective loan agreements and had become irregular, their loan were classified as NPA as per the RBI guidelines. Amounts due by them to IDFC FIRST Bank Limited (erstwhile Capital First Limited, amalgamated with IDFC Bank Limited and presently known as IDFC First Bank Limited) are mentioned as per respective notices issued more particularly described in the following table and further interest on the said amounts shall also be applicable and the same will be charged as per contractual rate with effect from their respective dates.

Sr No.	Loan Account No.	Type of Loan	Name of borrowers and co-borrowers	Section 13 (2) Notice Date	Outstanding amount as per Section 13 (2) Notice	Property Address
1	20706444 & 34056544	LOAN AGAINST PROPERTY	1.DHARMENDRA SINGH NEGI 2. HEMLATA BISHT 3. KAMLA DEVI	21.05.2022	43,82,006.44/-	ALL THAT PIECE AND PARCEL OF PROPERTY COMPRISING OF LAND BEARING KHATA NO. 1237 (FASLI 1422 TO 1427), KHASRA NO. 313 KA (OLD KHASRA NO. 90), AREA MEASURING 0.046 ACRE, SITUATED AT MAUZA MAAJRI MAAFI, PARGANA PARWA DOON, DITSRICT- DEHRADHUN, AND BOUNDED AS: EAST: LAND OF SHRI GHADIAL WEST: LAND OF SELLER NORTH: LAND OF SELLER SOUTH: 12 FEET WIDE COMMON PASSAGE

You are hereby called upon to pay the amounts to IDFC FIRST Bank Limited (erstwhile Capital First Limited, amalgamated with IDFC Bank Limited and presently known as IDFC First Bank Limited) as per the details shown in the above table with contracted rate of interest thereupon from their respective dates and other costs, charges etc. within 60 days from the date of this publication, failing which the undersigned shall be constrained to initiate proceedings, under Section 13 (4) and section 14 of the SARFAESI Act, against the mortgaged properties mentioned hereinabove to realize the amount due to IDFC FIRST Bank Limited (erstwhile Capital First Limited, amalgamated with IDFC Bank Limited and presently known as IDFC First Bank Limited). Further you are prohibited under Section 13 (13) of the said Act from transferring the said secured assets either by way of sale/lease or otherwise.

Sd/-
Authorized Officer
IDFC FIRST Bank Limited
(erstwhile Capital First Limited, amalgamated with IDFC Bank Limited and presently known as IDFC First Bank Limited)

Date : 28.05.2022
Place : DEHRADUN

UTTARAKHAND PEYJAL NIGAM

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER
MECHANICAL DIVISION, HARIDWAR

Letter No. : 807/ Nivida / 28 Dated: 26.05.2022

CORRIGENDUM-2

The following corrigendum are hereby issued to the E- Tender Invited by this office letter No. 628 /Nivida/20 date 12.05.2022 for the following work:-

Name of work- 1 :- Construction Tubewell, SITC of Pumping plant and other appurtunant works under JJM Programme at Sahipur Water Supply Scheme in Block- Khanpur Dis- Haridwar. (Tender ID 2022_MDPEY_44631_1)

2 :- Construction Tubewell, SITC of Pumping plant and other appurtunant works under JJM Programme at Maheshwara Water Supply Scheme in Block- Khanpur Dis- Haridwar. (Tender ID 2022_MDPEY_44627_1)

CORRIGENDUM-2

1.The following corrigendum are here by issued:-

S. No	Clause No.	Description	Corrigendum
1.	Bid Reference Section-I/ Invitation For Bids Section-II-(Key Dates)- Sr. No.-7	Bid Submission End Date 28.05.2022, 17:00 Hrs.	Bid Submission End Date 31.05.2022, 17:00 Hrs.
2.	Bid Reference Section-I/ Invitation For Bids Section -II - (Key Dates)- Sr. No.-8	Offline Submission of Bid Security and Cost of Bidding Date 30.05.2022, 11:30 Hrs.	Offline Submission of Bid Security and Cost of Bidding Date 01.06.2022, 11:30 Hrs.
3.	Bid Reference Section-I/ Invitation For Bids Section-II - (Key Dates)- Sr. No.-9	Date of Technical Bid Opening Date 30-05-2022, 15:00 Hrs.	Date of Technical Bid Opening Date 01.06.2022, 15:00 Hrs.

2.All other entries will remain the same. (Charu Agarwal) Executive Engineer

THE PIONEER CLASSIFIEDS

CHANGE OF NAME

I have changed my name from Akil Ahmed Mansuri to Akil Ahmed Mansoori for all future purposes. Akil Ahmed Mansoori S/o Raees Ahmed Address - Kargi Grant, Banjarawala, Dehradun (UK)

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Action being taken to dispose mounds of garbage at Kedarnath, claim officials

VINOD CHAMOLI ■ TEHRI

The Char Dham Yatra is witnessing a huge rush of pilgrims this year with long queues of devotees being seen at the shrines. These pilgrims and the local businessmen catering to them are dumping vast quantities of garbage including non-biodegradable and toxic plastic bags, bottles and other such waste items at various places on the Kedarnath route among other places. Scientists and environmental experts have expressed concern and warned of serious repercussions if corrective actions are not taken immediately.

The portals of Kedarnath shrine were opened for devotees on May 6 and since then lakhs of people have visited the shrine. Every day, thousands of devotees reaching Kedarnath are throwing plastic waste in bugyals (high altitude alpine meadows) on the pilgrim route. The garbage spread alarmingly on the route to Kedarnath has elicited the concern

of experts.

HNB Garhwal Central University geography department head MS Negi said that the way plastic waste



has piled up in a sensitive place like Kedarnath is dangerous for the ecology as it will lead to erosion, which can cause landslides.

Negi said that plastic is harmful to the ecology as it is made up of

dangerous chemicals and these chemicals and toxins reach rivers and result in pollution. He said that the place where the plastic waste is dumped will result in depletion of flora as not even grass will grow there. Noted environmentalist Jagat Singh 'Jungle' said that the pilgrims who come on the Kedarnath Yatra bring food and drink with them and throw the packages here and there and this is affecting the soil and water of the Himalayas.

The sub divisional magistrate Jitendra Verma

said that wet and dry waste is being segregated in the Kedarnath area. Wet waste is being dumped and dry waste is being transported to the compactor machine at Sonprayag by mules. The local authority executive officer has been deputed according to the roster for cleaning arrangements. Along with this, daily Challan action is also being undertaken, he averred.

ਪੰਜਾਬ ਨੈਸ਼ਨਲ ਬੈਂਕ

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E-Auction Sale Notice

E-Auction Sale Notice for Sale of Immovable Assets under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act 2002 read with provision to Rule 8(6) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rule, 2002. Notice is hereby given to the public in general and in particular to the borrower/Guarantor/Mortgagor that the below described immovable property mortgaged/charged to the Secured Creditor, the Symbolic possession of which has been taken by the Authorised officer of the Bank/ Secured Creditor, will be sold on "As is where is", "As is what is", and "Whatever there is" on the date as mentioned in the table herein below, for recovery of dues due to the Bank/Secured creditor from the respective borrower(s), and Guarantor(s). The Reserve price and the earnest money deposit will be as mentioned in the table below against the respective properties.

SCHEDULE OF THE SECURED ASSETS					
Lot No	Name Of The Branch Name Of The Account Name & Addresses Of The Borrower/ Guarantor/ Mortgagor	Description of the Immovable Properties Mortgaged/Owner's Name (Mortgagors of Property (ies))	(A) Dt. of Demand Notice u/s 13 (2) of SARFAESI Act 2002 (B) Outstanding Amount as on (C) Possession Date u/s 13(4) of SARFAESI Act. 2002 (D) Nature of Possession Symbolic /Physical/Constructive	(A) Reserve Price (B) EMD (C) Last date of deposit of EMD (D) Bid Increase Amount	Date & Time of Auction Details of the Encumbrances Know to the Secured Creditors
This Notice is also be treated as 30 days statutory notice to under rule 8(6) security Interest (Enforcement Rules, 2002)					
1	Branch : Yamuna, Colony Dehradun Borrower: M/S Monal Construction (Partnership Firm) Add:- Pant Road, Opp. CPWD office, Distt. Dehradun -248001 Partner/Mortgagor/ Guarantor: Sh. B.B. Joshi. Add.- 32/5, Chander Road, Dalanwala, Dehradun - 248001 Partner/ Guarantor: 1. Sh. Anil Kumar Jindal Add:- 109, Chakrata Road, Distt. Dehradun-248001 2. Sh. Subhash Chandra Nagpal Add:- Sheela Niwas, Wing no.4, Prem Nagar, Dehradun-248001 Mortgagor/Guarantor: Smt. Sudha Jindal W/o Sh. Anil Kumar Jindal Add:-H.No.-157, Street no.-7, Vijay Park, Extn., Dehradun- 248001	1. Property forming part of Khata no.402 Khasra no.54 ₹ min measuring 0.1736 hects, Khata no. 834 Khasra no.54 ₹ min measuring 0.0195 hects&Khasra no.54 ₹ min measuring 0.0975 Khata no.668 Khasra no.35 measuring 0.0400 hects, Khata no.669 Khasra no.54-₹ measuring 0.0400 hects, Khata no.800 Khasra no.54-₹ measuring 0.0120 (SD no.10001 dt. 29.12.2005). Ownership: Sh. B.B. Joshi 2. Property forming part of Khata no. 402 Khasra no. 54 ₹ min measuring 0.1887 Hects (SD no. 9999 dt. 29.12.2005). Ownership: Sh. B.B. Joshi 3. Property forming Khata No. 863 Khasra no.54 ta measuring 0.0120 Hects (SD no.10000 dt. 29.12.2005). Ownership: Sh. B.B. Joshi 4. Property forming part of Khata no. 402 Khasra no. 54 ₹, measuring 0.1836 Hects (SD no. 10003 dt. 29.12.2005). Ownership: Smt. Sudha Jinal 5. Property forming part of Khata no. 800 Khasra no. 42-₹ measuring 0.0050 hects. &Khasra 46-₹ measuring 0.0270 hects.,total area measuring 0.0320 hects.(SD no. 10002 dt. 29.12.2005). Ownership: Smt. Sudha Jinal Situatued at Mauza Dhoran Khas Paragana Central Doon, Dehradun.	24.05.2021 Rs. 2,65,95,871.62 +further interest & other charges w.e.f. 01.04.2021 20.05.2022 Symbolic	Pro-1 Rs. 341.47 lakhs Rs. 34.14 lakh 28.06.2022 upto 04:00 PM Rs. 10,000.00 Pro-2 Rs. 168.41lakhs Rs. 16.84 lakhs 28.06.2022 upto 04:00 PM Rs. 10,000.00 Pro-3 Rs. 10.71 lakhs Rs. 1.71 lakhs 28.06.2022 upto 04:00 PM Rs. 10,000.00 Pro-4 Rs. 163.86 lakhs Rs. 16.38 lakhs 28.06.2022 upto 04:00 PM Rs. 10,000.00	29.06.2022 From 11.00 AM to 04:00 PM Pro.5 Rs. 9.52/lakhs Rs. 95,000 28.06.2022 upto 04:00 PM Rs. 10,000.00

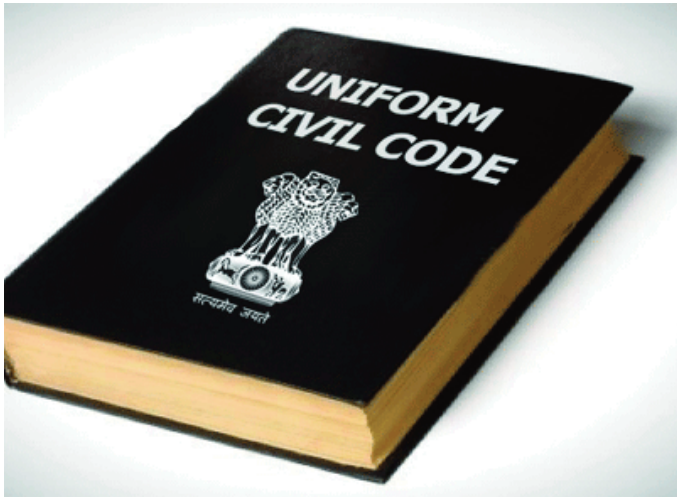
TERMS AND CONDITIONS: 1. The sale shall be subject to the Terms & Conditions prescribed in the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules 2002 and to the following further conditions: 2. The properties are being sold on "AS IS WHERE IS BASIS" and "AS IS WHAT IS BASIS" and "WHATEVER THERE IS BASIS" 3. The particulars of Secured Assets specified in the Schedule herein above have been stated to the best of the information of the Authorised Officer, but the Authorised Officer shall not be answerable for any error, misstatement or omission in this proclamation. 4. The Sale will be done by the undersigned through e-auction platform provided at the Website <https://www.mstcecommerce.com>. 5. For detailed term and conditions of the sale, please refer www.ibapi.in, www.mstcecommerce.com, <https://eprocure.gov.in/publish/app> & www.pnbindia.in 6. For any query the Interested bidder May Contact Sh. Bhupindra Singh, Mob. No.8755047555 (Authorised Officer) & Sh. Rajesh Juyal, Mob. No. 8171169393. STATUTORY SALE NOTICE UNDER RULE 8(6) OF THE SARFAESI ACT, 2002

Date: 28.05.2022 Place: Dehradun Authorised Officer

Uttarakhand forms expert committee on Uniform Civil Code

PNS ■ DEHRADUN

In a major decision taken in pursuance of the Bharatiya Janata Party's pre-poll promise, the Uttarakhand government has constituted an expert committee for preparing the draft of the Uniform Civil Code (UCC) in the state. The committee would be headed by retired Justice Ranjan Prakash Desai. Justice (ret'd) Pramod Kohli, social worker Manu Gaur, former chief secretary of Uttarakhand, Shatrughna Singh and vice chancellor of Doon University Surekha Dangwal would be the members of the expert committee. The committee would examine all existing and relevant laws regarding marriage, divorce, right to property, inheritance, adoption and protection for implementation of UCC in the State. A notification in this regard was issued by the additional chief secretary Radha Raturi. In the run up to the Assembly election of 2022 the chief minister Pushkar Singh Dhami had promised that the BJP government would bring a uniform



civil code in the state. In the very first meeting of the State cabinet after swearing-in of the new government, a decision for setting up of a committee of legal experts and all stakeholders was approved and on Friday the five member expert committee was formed.

It is worth mentioning here that among the various issues raised before the 2022 Assembly elections the two prominent issues were regarding the cause and potential effects of

the drastic rise in population of a certain community in particular areas across the State and the need for the UCC. The issue of demographic changes and the effects it has had and may have in the future have been apparently put on the back burner after the BJP won the elections. However, the CM has now facilitated the second step towards fulfilling his pre-poll promise about facilitating the implementation of the UCC in the State.

Three Marathi pilgrims die en route to Yamunotri

Latest road accident occurs two days after similar mishap which killed 6 travelling to Gangotri

PNS ■ NEW TEHRI

Three pilgrims from Maharashtra died and 10 others were injured when the vehicle they were travelling in fell into a deep gorge between Ojari and Syana Chatti on the national highway to Yamunotri. The injured were referred to the Government Doon Medical College (GDMC) hospital in Dehradun. This accident comes two day after a similar mishap which killed five persons from West Bengal and a local driver on their way to Gangotri.

According to information from the disaster management officials, a Bolero jeep carrying 12 passengers from Maharashtra was on its way to Yamunotri on Thursday evening when the driver reportedly lost control of the vehicle causing the vehicle to plunge of the road and down the mountainside near Sayana Chatti in Uttarkashi district. The injured persons were first sent by ambulance to the community health centres in Badkot and Naugaon from where they were referred to GDMC hospital in Dehradun.



The deceased have been identified as Puran Nath (40), Jayshree Anil Kosare (26), Ashok Mahadev Rao (40) - all residents of Maharashtra.

Observers opine that though the government had supposedly anticipated the considerably high numbers of people who would undertake the Char Dham Yatra this year after a gap of two year when the pilgrimage was hindered by the Covid pandemic, the

authorities have failed to address the pertinent issues. The high load and will of local drivers to push the limits to earn and make up for reported losses in the past are proving fatal within the first month of the pilgrimage. It remains to be seen if the governmental actions go beyond checking of documents and collecting revenue so that avoidable mishaps can actually be prevented.

Contempt notice served regarding animal abuse on Yatra routes

PNS ■ DEHRADUN

As the 2018 directions of the Uttarakhand High Court have not been complied with by the State government, a contempt notice has been is-

sued by People For Animals (PFA) Uttarakhand to the chief secretary, additional chief secretary- Urban Development, Animal Husbandry secretary and the director general of police, stating that the use of animals on the

tracks of the Char Dham Yatra must be stopped forthwith in the absence of requisite infrastructure especially because the State government has

ful the way the State government is allowing the abuse of thousands of mules and horses and abdicating its statutory duties towards the

government was under a policy paralysis."

Earlier, PFA Uttarakhand had sent a representation to the Animal Husbandry secretary highlighting that

equines were being brought from Uttar Pradesh to work in extremely challenging weather conditions in Rudraprayag, Chamoli, Pithoragarh and Uttarkashi. These animals are not tested for the deadly zoonotic disease Glanders which is a notifiable covered under the The Prevention and Control of Infectious and Contagious Diseases in Animals Act 2009. Further, no equine is put through an endurance test to ascertain if they have the strength to ferry people and luggage at higher altitudes which causes accidents and loss of life. Maulekhi said that the Animal Husbandry department provides zero veterinary facilities on the 18 kilometre trek from Garukund to Kedarnath. No sheds, night shelters, warm water for drinking or carcass disposal systems have been put in place. The animals are neither tagged nor vaccinated and no account is kept on how many hours each animal is being made to work in a single day.



sued by People For Animals (PFA) Uttarakhand to the chief secretary, additional chief secretary- Urban Development, Animal Husbandry secretary and the director general of police, stating that the use of animals on the

failed to formulate a policy for management and regulation of equine movement and use in Uttarakhand despite suffering the major tragedies of 2009 and 2013. PFA Uttarakhand member secretary Gauri Maulekhi stated, "It is shame-

Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act 1960. It is even more shocking that our sacred rivers are now littered with dead bodies of abused and discarded animals which have been brazenly exploited for commercial gains while the

Maharaj asks Bahuguna to address equine deaths

PNS ■ DEHRADUN

Issuing instructions in what may appear to be a face saving exercise, Tourism minister Satpal Maharaj said that the alarming number of deaths of

number of deaths of mules and horses on the Kedarnath route. Taking cognisance of this, the minister talked to Animal Husbandry minister



equines should be checked. The minister's instructions came a couple of days after a contempt notice was served by an animal rights organisation on this issue.

Maharaj opined that the number of people arriving in Uttarakhand for the Char Dham Yatra is seeing a record-breaking rise which is a matter of happiness for the State. He issued a "warning" stating that under no circumstances should Kedarnath be overcrowded by pilgrims. Senior politician and animal rights activist Maneka Gandhi also talked to Maharaj on the phone regarding the alarming

Saurabh Bahuguna regarding the regulation equine use on the route. Maharaj also asked Bahuguna to intervene in this matter. The minister strictly told the Tourism secretary Dilip Jawalkar that after their meal, the equines should get three to four hours of rest.

Apart from this, Maharaj further said that pilgrims should be stopped in advance and be sent ahead towards the Char Dham shrines gradually so that crowding doesn't exert unnecessary pressure on the animals. "It is our responsibility to take care of mute animals and irresponsible actions will not be tolerated," he said.

Experts differ on admissibility of disqualification petition against Khanpur MLA

GAJENDRA SINGH NEGI ■ DEHRADUN

Differing views have emerged on the admissibility of the petitions filed in the Uttarakhand Assembly seeking disqualification of the independent MLA from Khanpur Umesh Kumar. These petitions were filed in individual capacity by Ravindra Singh Paniyala, Surendra Singh and others to the Assembly speaker on Thursday. These petitions submitted with evidence claim that Kumar has blatantly violated the provisions of the Anti defection law by joining a political party after being elected as an independent from Khanpur assembly constituency of Haridwar in the recently held election.



on the admissibility of the petition, former secretary of Uttarakhand Assembly Jagdish Chandra was of the view that the petition filed by any person is permissible. He said that the Disqualification Regulations-2005 of Uttarakhand assembly clearly mentions (page 5- 2) that any person can file a petition in the assembly. Chandra said that the Speaker would now issue a notice to the Khanpur MLA on the petition. The reply of the member would be carried in the bulletin of the assembly and would also be conveyed to the petitioners. He added that the speaker is not bound by any time limitation to take any decision on the disqualification of any member.

When asked by The Pioneer, the former joint secretary of Legislative and Parliamentary Affairs, Narendra K Pant said that since the petitions are filed by people in their individual capacities, they are not permissible. He said that as per the law, only the petition filed by the political parties is permissible for the disqualification procedure of a member. Pant said that the speaker is bound to hear the petition on disqualification filed by the political parties. It is worth mentioning here that any decision on the petitions seeking disqualification of a member would be taken as per the provisions of the Article 191 (2), Schedule 10 of the constitution of India and the Uttarakhand Legislative Assembly, disqualification regulations-2005.

While Pant raised questions

In the petitions seeking disqualification of Khanpur MLA the petitioners mentioned that Umesh Kumar had contested the assembly election of 2022 as an independent candidate and he took oath as an independent candidate in the assembly but he joined a political party on April 10 violating section 192 (2) of Indian constitution, schedule 10 and provisions of Anti Defection regulations of Uttarakhand Vidhan Sabha.

Weather warning issued for 5 districts for today

PNS ■ DEHRADUN

The recent spell of pre-monsoon showers has resulted in a drop in temperatures which were reaching 40 degrees Celsius in the plains. Though there has been some rise in the temperatures after a brief lull in the rains, the weather is not expected to get that hot. Even as moderate rain was experienced in various parts of the State on Friday, the State meteorological centre has issued a warning regarding the possibility of thunderstorm accompanied with lightning/hail and gusty winds (30-40 kmph) likely to occur at isolated places in Uttarkashi, Rudraprayag, Chamoli, Bageshwar and Pithoragarh districts towards afternoon/evening on Saturday. Apart from this, very light to light rainfall/thunderstorm are likely to occur at a few places in Uttarkashi, Rudraprayag, Chamoli, Bageshwar and Pithoragarh districts, and at isolated places in the mountainous regions of the remaining districts. Dry weather is likely to prevail in



the plains on Saturday.

The provisional State capital Dehradun is forecast to experience mainly clear to partly cloudy sky with the maximum and minimum temperatures likely to be about 35 degrees Celsius and 22 degrees Celsius respectively on Saturday.

The maximum and minimum temperatures experienced in different parts of the State on Friday were 34.6 degrees Celsius and 21.1 degrees Celsius respectively in Dehradun, 36.1 degrees Celsius and 21.4 degrees Celsius in Pantnagar, 21.2 degrees Celsius and 13.4 degrees Celsius in Mukteshwar, 24.8 degrees Celsius and 15 degrees Celsius respectively in New Tehri.

Ghasyari Scheme extended in four more districts of U'khand

PNS ■ DEHRADUN

Enthused by the success of the Mukhyamantri Ghasyari Kalyan Yojana (MGKY), the Uttarakhand government has decided to extend it in four more districts

secretary cooperatives BVRC Purushottam has started working on the project. T

he MGKY was launched in October 2021 by the Union Home Minister Amit Shah. In

districts of Tehri, Chamoli, Bageshwar and Nainital districts.

Rawat said that the scheme would reduce the workload on about three lakh women in the mountainous areas of the state. Under the scheme the women get packed silage (green fodder) and complete animal feed (TMR). He said that the scheme would also help in promoting the farming of maize in the state.

lecting firewood and fodder for animals.

"We are providing nutritious fodder for the cattle under MGKY which would save the time the womenfolk used to spend in collecting fodder for the cattle and improve their overall health. It would also save them from attacks by wild animals and other accidents. They can now spend the time saved in increasing their family income and proper upbringing of their children," he said.

The minister added that two thousand acre of land in the state would be brought under cultivation of maize. He said that since the maize crop is ready in only 90 to 120 days the farmers can earn more benefit by growing oilseeds, vegetables and peas in their land.

Rawat claimed that the balanced diet of Silage and TMR increases the milk yield by 15 to 20 per cent and fat content by one to one and half per cent.



of the state. The scheme would now become operational in eight districts of the state. On the orders of the minister the

the first phase of the scheme was introduced in the districts of Pauri, Rudraprayag, Almora and Champawat. The scheme would now be extended to the

Rawat pointed out that the rural women in mountainous areas spend about eight to ten hours of their daily time col-

5 lakh to take tobacco-free pledge on May 31

PNS ■ DEHRADUN

More than five lakh people would take a pledge for a tobacco-free Uttarakhand on the occasion of World No Tobacco day on May 31. The mass pledges would be taken in all the government schools, universities, colleges and offices of health and Panchyati Raj department on the day. The Lieutenant Governor of Andaman and Nicobar Islands, Admiral (Retd) D K Joshi and chief minister Pushkar Singh Dhami would take part in a special programme at Government Doon Medical College on the day.

The health and education minister Dhan Singh Rawat said that the students, staff members and others of all the colleges and Universities would take the pledge for Tobacco Free Uttarakhand at 10 am on May 31. In all the schools of the state, the students and teachers would take pledges after the Morning Prayer in the school assembly.

The minister said that local MLAs and public representatives would also take part in the programme in their respective districts. Rawat said that the director National Health Mission (NHM), Dr Saroj Naithani has been made



nodal officer of the state to make the event of mass pledge a success. In the districts the responsibility has been handed over to the Chief

Medical Officers (CMO) and the District Panchayati Raj officers (DPRO). The minister said that the employees who have done commendable

work in the 'Aao Gaon Chalen, Uttarakhand Ko Tobacco Mukht Karen' programme undertaken under National Tobacco control programme would also be felicitated during the event. He said that as per the data provided by a survey report 26.5 per cent people in Uttarakhand consume tobacco. "We need to reduce this figure by increasing public awareness on the issue only then our dream of a Tobacco free Uttarakhand would be fulfilled," he said.

The minister said that the consumption of tobacco provides momentary pleasure but slowly the body is infested by many critical diseases.

PUBLIC NOTICE



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GOLD AUCTION CUM INVITATION NOTICE

The below mentioned borrowers have been issued notice to pay off their outstanding amount towards the facility against gold ornaments. (Facility) availed by them from ICICI Bank Limited ("ICICI Bank"). We are constrained to conduct an auction of pledged gold ornaments on **Jun 08, 2022** as they have failed to repay the dues. ICICI Bank has the authority to remove account/change the auction date without any prior notice. Auction will be held online -<https://jewel-auction.procourier.com> between **12:30 pm to 3:30 pm**. For detailed Terms and conditions, please log into given website. In case of deceased borrower, all conditions will be applicable to legal heirs.

Loan A/C No.	Customer Name	Loan A/C No.	Customer Name	Loan A/C No.	Customer Name
Branch Name: Dehradun-Preentienclave		Branch Name: Haridwar		Branch Name: Pauri	
023905000810	Ankit Sharma	098005003518	Rahul Raj	101805001304	Jaipal Singh
023905000824	Uma Uma	098005003934	Abdul Sameer	Branch Name: Rudrapur	
Branch Name: Haldwani-Kaldungroad		098005004211	Abdul Sameer	053305002099	Sukhwant Kaur
097905003859	Prerna Mehta	098005004269	Abdul Sameer		
Branch Name: Haldwani-Kaldungroad		Branch Name: Nainital			
245905000740	Vinita Devi				
192405000084	Deepshikha Agarwal	098005001753	Himanshu Joshi		

Date : 28.05.2022

Place : Dehradun, Haridwar, Nainital, Udham Singh Nagar, Garhwal

S/d

Authorised Officer

For ICICI Bank Limited

Need to help Af combat terror groups, says Doval



PIONEER NEWS SERVICE/AGENCIES ■ NEW DELHI/DUSHANBE

India is an important stakeholder in Afghanistan and favours strengthening its capability to fight terrorism and terrorist groups posing a threat to peace and security in the region, National Security Advisor (NSA) Ajit Doval said on Friday.

Underlining these points, he also said India has always stood by the people of Afghanistan while speaking at the 4th Regional Security Dialogue on Afghanistan in Dushanbe, Tajikistan. His counterparts from Tajikistan, Russia, Kazakhstan, Uzbekistan, Iran, Kyrgyzstan and China also took part in the high-profile conclave.

His assertions came in the backdrop of India providing humanitarian assistance to the war-torn Afghanistan after the Taliban took control last August. India has committed to provide more than 50,000 metric tons of food grains including wheat to Afghanistan.

India has already provided 17,000 metric tons of wheat to

Afghanistan through the land route via Pakistan, 5,00,000 doses of Covaxin, 13 tonnes of essential life saving medicines and winter clothing as well as 60 million doses of polio vaccine.

In his address, Doval said India was and is an important stakeholder in Afghanistan and called for enhancing the capability of the war-torn country to counter terrorism and terrorist groups which pose a threat to regional peace and security.

Tracing the ties between the two countries, he said India has historical and civilisational relations with Afghanistan and New Delhi has always stood by the people of Afghanistan and it will continue to guide India's approach. "The special relationship with the people of Afghanistan over centuries will guide India's approach. Nothing can change

this," Doval said.

The top security officials, who discussed the situation in Afghanistan and the region, highlighted the need to find constructive ways to ensure peace and stability in Afghanistan and combating risks from terrorism emanating from the region, sources said.

"There is a need for all present at the dialogue to enhance capability of Afghanistan to counter terrorism and terrorist groups which pose a threat to regional peace and security," Doval said.

He said the foremost priority should be the right to life and a dignified living as well as protection of human rights of all the people in Afghanistan. "Assistance should be accessible to all, respect for all obligations under international humanitarian law should be ensured," he added. India has focused on infrastructure, connectivity and humanitarian assistance in Afghanistan over the decades.

Doval also highlighted the need for representation of all sections of Afghan society including women and minorities so that the collective energies of the largest possible pro-

portion of the Afghan population feel motivated to contribute to nation building.

"Women and youth are critical for the future of any society. Provision of education to girls and employment to women and youth will ensure productivity and spur growth. It will also have a positive social impact including discouraging radical ideologies among youth," he said.

"With collective efforts of Regional Dialogue members, we can help proud people of Afghanistan to build a prosperous and vibrant nation once again," he said.

Doval also met his counterparts from Iran, Tajikistan, Russia and other partners in the Dialogue on the sidelines of the meeting.

The dialogue is aimed at firming up a common approach for practical cooperation in confronting increasing threats of terrorism, radicalisation and drug trafficking following the Taliban's takeover of Kabul in August last.

New Delhi had hosted the third dialogue in November 2021 which was attended by eight nations including Iran and Russia.

ED summons Farooq for money laundering



PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Enforcement Directorate (ED) has summoned former Jammu and Kashmir Chief Minister Farooq Abdullah on May 31 at its Srinagar office in connection with a money laundering case linked to alleged financial irregularities in the Jammu and Kashmir Cricket Association.

The ED had questioned Abdullah in connection with the multi-crore Jammu and Kashmir Cricket Association (JKCA) scam case earlier as well.

Abdullah (84), a three-time Chief Minister of the erstwhile Jammu and Kashmir State and is the President of the National Conference besides being a Lok Sabha MP. His statement was recorded in the same case in 2019.

Political parties in the valley said the summons were

"common to all opposition" leaders in the country.

Reacting to the development, National Conference (NC), said the veteran leader would continue to cooperate with the authorities like he has done in the past.

"ED summons to JKNC President Dr Farooq Abdullah is nothing new; this is common for all opposition parties in India. He has continued to maintain his innocence in the matter and has cooperated with the investigative agencies and will do so in this case as well," the NC posted on Twitter.

Between 2011 and 2012, the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) had given Rs 112 crore to the state cricket association for the promotion of the game in Jammu and Kashmir. It was alleged that Rs 46.30 crore from the grant was misappropriated.

ED attaches ₹62.70 cr immovable properties of Maha-based firm



PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Enforcement Directorate (ED) has attached immovable properties of Maharashtra-based Nipko Engineering Services Pvt. Ltd. worth Rs 62.70 crore in a money laundering case linked to a bank fraud.

The ED had initiated money laundering investigation in 2020 on the basis of an FIR registered by the Anti-Corruption Branch, CBI, Pune, wherein a complaint was filed against Nipko Engineering, its director Narendra Achyut Rao Korde and unknown officials of Andhra Bank and other persons for a bank fraud of about Rs 72.99 crore.

"The modus operandi used for laundering the funds was that the accused obtained false/fake purchase orders from different companies/ firms and

thereafter prepared forged supporting documents like invoices, delivery challans, goods receipts notes etc. to show the genuine transactions of goods between the companies," the ED said in a statement.

Thereafter, these documents along with application for bill discounting were submitted to Andhra Bank. Then other associates like directors/proprietors/authorized signatories of fictitious buyer companies used to give acceptance of the said bills to their respective banks wherein no physical transactions of goods were done, it said.

The said fake bills were discounted and amounts were credited in the companies' account of Korde. The funds generated were further laundered in the guise of payment to third parties / fictitious firms and cash withdrawal.

CBI grills Karti for 8 hrs in visa-for-bribe scam

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The CBI on Friday questioned Lok Sabha MP Karti Chidambaram for nearly eight hours on the second consecutive day in connection with alleged bribery of Rs 50 lakh in the issuance of visas for 263 Chinese workers in 2011 when his father P Chidambaram was the Union Home Minister.

The Congress MP who arrived at the CBI headquarters in the morning was confronted with documents related to

the case, officials said.

The CBI had registered a fresh FIR on May 14 against him and others on allegations of a bribe of Rs 50 lakh being paid to him and his close associate and Chartered Accountant S Bhaskararaman by a top executive of Vedanta Group company Talwandi Sabo Power Ltd. (TSPL), which was setting up a power plant in Punjab for re-issuance of project visas for 263 Chinese workers employed there, the CBI FIR said.

ED books WB coal scamster

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Enforcement Directorate has arrested an accused in a money laundering case linked to illegal coal mining in West Bengal, Gurupada Majhi.

Majhi was arrested on Thursday and produced before Rouse Avenue court here that granted his seven-day custody.



Gurupada Majhi is one of the partners of Anup Majee alias Lala (kingpin of illegal coal mining business activities in West Bengal) and has received more than Rs. 66 crore from the Proceed of Crime (PoC) generated through illegal coal mining business.

Further, Gurupada Majhi had provided Rs 26 crore in cash to a Kolkata based chartered accountant for arranging shell companies for the purpose of taking accommodation e n t r i e s . In this process, Gurupada Majhi had acquired 13 shell companies with the help of the said Kolkata-based CA.

Rajnath lauds Navy for high state of readiness to meet any threat

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI /KARWAR(KARNATAKA)

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh on Friday undertook a sea sortie on submarine INS Khanderi and lauded the Navy for maintaining high state of readiness and offensive capability to meet any threat.

After spending hours under the sea, witnessing the combat capabilities and offensive strength of the submarine, he termed the experience as "wonderful and thrilling", and said, he is more assured of India's security.

He also said operational readiness and preparations are not a provocation to any aggression but a guarantee of peace and security in Indian Ocean region. The Defence Minister made these observations during his two-day visit to Karwar starting Thursday.

The Karwar naval base is spread over 11,000 acres and is home to lone aircraft carrier INS Vikramaditya. The base is being developed under Project Seabird and plans are to base more than 30 warships and

submarines there by the end of 2025. The indigenously designed and built INS Vikrant, likely to be inducted into the Navy this August, will also be based at Karwar.

INS Khanderi was built at the Mazagon Docks Limited(MDL), Mumbai in collaboration with France.

He was given a first-hand insight into the combat capabilities and offensive strength of the state-of-the-art Kalvari class submarine. For over four hours, the full spectrum of capabilities of underwater operations of the stealth submarine was demonstrated to him, officials said here later.

The day-at-sea also provided him a glimpse of the submarine's capability to effectively counter anti-submarine operations by an adversary. Navy chief Admiral R Hari Kumar and other senior officials of Indian Navy and Ministry of Defence were also present.

Interacting with media persons after the sortie, Rajnath said, "Today, Indian Navy is counted among the frontline navies of the world. Today, the



world's largest maritime forces are ready to work and cooperate with India."

He described 'INS Khanderi' as a shining example of the 'Make in India' capabilities of the country and appreciated the fact that 39 of the 41 ships and submarines ordered by the Indian Navy are being built in Indian shipyards.

He, however, assured that the preparations being made by the Indian Navy are not a provocation to any aggression, but a guarantee of peace and security in the Indian Ocean region. The operational sortie was accompanied by the

deployment of ships of the Western Fleet, an anti-submarine mission sortie by a P-8I MPA and Sea King helicopter, a fly past by MiG 29-K fighters and a search and rescue capability demonstration.

With this, the defence minister has now witnessed first-hand the three-dimensional combat capability of Indian Navy, after having embarked INS Vikramaditya in September 2019 and conducting a sortie on the P-8I Long Range Maritime Reconnaissance Anti-Submarine Warfare aircraft earlier this month.

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Corporate Office : ReNew.hub, Commercial Block-1, Zone-6, Golf Course Road, DLF City Phase-V, Gurugram, 122009, Haryana, Phone – 0124-4896 670/ 80					
Statement of Audited Financial Results for the year ended 31 March 2022					
Particulars	Quarter ended 31 March 2022	Quarter ended 31 March 2021	Quarter ended 31 December 2021	Year ended 31 March 2022	Year ended 31 March 2021
	(Unaudited) (refer note 5)	(Unaudited) (refer note 5)	(Unaudited) (refer note 5)	Audited	Audited
	INR in millions				
Total Income from Operations	407	409	334	1,447	1,461
Net Profit / (Loss) for the period (before Tax, Exceptional and/or Extraordinary Items)	142	139	86	423	312
Net Profit / (Loss) for the period before tax (after Exceptional and/or Extraordinary Items)	142	139	86	423	312
Net Profit / (Loss) for the period after tax (after Exceptional and/or Extraordinary Items)	122	169	68	346	365
Total Comprehensive Income for the period (Comprising Profit / (Loss) for the period (after tax) and Other Comprehensive Income (after tax))	122	169	68	346	365
Paid up Equity Share Capital	133	133	133	133	133
Reserves (excluding Revaluation Reserve)	2,682	2,336	2,559	2,682	2,336
Equity component of compulsory convertible debentures	1,144	1,144	1,144	1,144	1,144
Net worth**	3,959	3,613	3,836	3,959	3,613
Paid up Debt Capital / Outstanding Debt*	6,079	6,448	6,270	6,079	6,448
Debt Equity Ratio *	2.35	2.61	2.51	2.31	2.55
Earnings Per Share (of Rs. 10/- each) (for continuing and discontinued operations)					
1. Basic :	5.35	7.41	2.98	15.17	15.97
2. Diluted :	5.35	7.41	2.98	15.17	15.97
Debt Redemption Reserve *	270	304	286	270	304
Debt Service Coverage Ratio *	(1.35)	2.41	0.20	0.53	1.73
Interest Service Coverage Ratio	2.31	2.24	1.92	2.05	2.21
Disclosures pursuant to Regulations 52(4) and 52(7) Securities and Exchange Board of India (Listing Obligations and Disclosure Requirements) Regulations, 2015.					
Credit Rating : IND AA+ (CE)					
Change in credit rating : No					
Asset Coverage Ratio : 167% (31 March, 2021 : 164%)					
Debt Equity ratio : mentioned above					
Debt Service Coverage Ratio : mentioned above					
Interest Service Coverage Ratio : mentioned above					
Previous due date for the payment of interest/ repayment of principal of non convertible debt securities and whether the same has been paid or not (as on 31 March, 2022)					
Previous due date for the payment of interest : 31 March, 2022 and the same was paid					
Previous due date for the payment of principal : 31 March, 2022 and the same was paid					
Next due date for the payment of interest/ repayment of principal of non convertible debt securities (as on 30 September, 2022)					
Next due date for the payment of interest : 30 June, 2022					
Next due date for the payment of principal : 30 September, 2022					
Outstanding redeemable preference shares (Quantity and Value) : Not Applicable					
Net Worth ** (31 March, 2022) : INR 3,959 (31 March, 2021 : INR 3,613)					
Net profit after tax : mentioned above					
Earning per share : mentioned above					
Debt Redemption Reserve (31 March, 2022) : INR 270 (31 March, 2021 : INR 304)					
There are no material deviation in the use of proceeds of issue of Non Convertible Debentures from the objects stated in the offer document (Regulations 52(7))					
Notes :					
1. Ratios have been computed as follows:					
- Earning per share (Basic & Diluted) = Profit after Tax / Weighted average number of equity shares					
- Debt Equity Ratio* = Debt (Amount due to Debenture Holders) / Equity (Equity share capital + share premium + quasi equity i.e. Short term borrowing but excluding unamortize fees)					
- Interest Service Coverage Ratio = Profit before interest, prior period items, tax, extraordinary items and depreciation / (Total Interest Expense).					
- Debt Service Coverage Ratio* = ((PAT based on Project Revenues realised (excluding non-cash adjustment, if any) + Depreciation + Interest (Interest, Guarantee Fees, other financing costs payable under Debenture and Project Documents)) / (Interest + Principal Repayment+Guarantee fee).					
- Asset Coverage Ratio = (Total Assets) / Debt (Amount due to Debenture Holders)					
*As per Debenture Trust Deed dated 20 September, 2017.					
** Networth represents issued subscribed and paid up capital plus reserves and surplus. Reserves and Surplus includes Capital reserve, General reserve, Debenture redemption reserve, Securities premium account and Profit and loss account balance.					
2. The company is in the business of development and operation of solar power. There is only one segment (business and/or geographical) in accordance with the requirements of IND AS - 108 "Operating Segments".					
3. The above financial results of the Company for the quarter and for the period ended March 31, 2022 have been approved by the Board of Directors of the Company at the meeting held on 27-May-2022. The statutory auditors of the company have carried out the limited review of the above unaudited financial results of the Company for the quarter and audited financial results of the Company for the year ended March 31, 2022.					
4. The figures of the last quarter are balancing figures between audited figures in respect of the full financial year upto March 31, 2022 and the unaudited published year-to-date figures upto December 31, 2021, being the date of the end of the third quarter of the financial year which were subject to limited review.					
5. The figures of the quarter ended March 31, 2021 are the unaudited and unreviewed management internal reporting figures . However, management has exercised necessary due diligence to ensure that the financial results for the periods provide a true and fair view of the Company's affairs.					
For and on behalf of ReNew Akshay Urja Limited (Sd./) Rahul Jain Managing Director, DIN : 07641891					
Place : Gurugram Date : 27 May, 2022					

Rifle and helmet at Amar Jawan Jyoti shifted to War Memorial

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The iconic Inverted Rifle and Helmet at Amar Jawan Jyoti, India Gate, was on Friday shifted by the armed forces in a ceremony to the National War Memorial. Symbol of Fallen Soldiers of 1971 war, the Rifle and Helmet are now installed in the midst of busts of Param Vir Chakra awardees.

With this process, integration of Memorial of Fallen Soldiers of 1971 war with the National War Memorial is complete, the defence ministry said here on Friday. The ceremony was led by Chief of Integrated

Defence Staff to Chairman, Chiefs of Staff Committee(CISC) Air Marshal BR Krishna and attended by Adjutant General(AG) equivalents from three Services.

As part of the ceremony, a final salute was given and the CISC offered a wreath at India Gate. Thereafter, the Inverted Rifle and Helmet was removed and carried in a ceremonial vehicle to the Param Yodha Sthal and installed at a newly created monument. The CISC accompanied by the AGs equivalents from three Services presented a salute to the new monument.

Southwest monsoon expected to reach Kerala in 3 days: IMD

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

The India Meteorological Department (IMD) on Friday said the southwest monsoon is expected to reach Kerala during the next two to three days.

Earlier, the IMD had forecast the onset over Kerala on Friday (May 27) with help from the remnants of Cyclone Asani, that struck the Bay of Bengal a fortnight ago. The forecast had a model error of four days. However, the influence of the remnant weather systems, that lingered over the

southern peninsula, petered out, dashing the forecast of early onset over Kerala and a swift progress towards the north, the IMD said.

"As per the latest meteorological indications, westerly winds have strengthened in the lower levels over the south Arabian Sea and deepened.

As per satellite imagery, there is an increase in cloudiness over Kerala coast and adjoining southeast Arabian Sea. Hence, conditions are becoming favourable for monsoon onset over Kerala during the next 2-3 days," the IMD said.

India, Hungary review entire spectrum of bilateral ties

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

India and Hungary on Friday reviewed the entire spectrum of their bilateral ties and global affairs including Ukraine during the bilateral meeting here between External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar and his counterpart Peter Szijarto. The two sides also inked a pact on international solar alliance. Jaishankar thanked him for Hungarian support for Operation Ganga and its offer to admit evacuated Indian medical students in Hungarian universities.

Hungary facilitated airlift of Indian nationals including medical students from Ukraine soon after the Russian military action started in late February. Many Indians crossed over to Hungary from Ukraine when the offensive commenced. The evacuation was named Operation Ganga in which more than 20,000 Indian nationals were brought out from Ukraine including 6,000 from Hungary. Meanwhile, Jaishankar in a tweet message regarding his talks with Szijar also "recalled Hungary's early recognition of Covaxin and openness to travel arrangements."

On his part, the visiting Foreign Minister said Hungary on Friday joined the international alliance of solar energy launched by India and France.



"We hope that with your corporation we can further accelerate our investment in solar energy," he said.

The two sides signed two contracts including development of trade and on attracting investment. Szijar said there is going to be an energy supply cri-

sis in Europe and globally may be as well. "And those countries will be safe who can produce the most of energy they consumed," he said. The Hungarian minister noted that economic corporation between India and Hungary has been hitting records.

M.P. MADHYA KSHETRA VIDYUT VITARAN CO. LTD. (Govt. of M.P. Undertaking) Nishtha Parisar, Bijalae Nagar, Govindpura, Bhopal-23 Phone : 0755-2602033-36, Fax : 2589821, 2586636 No. : MD/MK/04/Abgd./NIT/450 Bhopal, Date : 27.05.2022					
TENDER NOTICE					
MPMKVVCL, Bhopal, invites following bids from manufacturers/repairers through e-tendering.					
Tender Particulars	Approx. Value (Rs. Lakh)	Tender Fee (in Rs.)	Date of Pre-Bid Conference	Date of opening of tender	
MD/MK/ 04/781 Repairing & Testing of BGP failed 11/0.4 KV Distribution Transformer (25 KVA to 200 KVA)	11612.08	23600	06.06.22 3:30 PM	21.06.22 12:00 noon	
Other details are available on Company website https://portal.mpcz.in and https://mptenders.gov.in					
M.P. Madhyam/105097/2022			CHIEF GENERAL MANAGER (PROC.)		

Anti-terrorist operations intensify ahead of June 30 Amarnath Yatra

In the last 24 hours the security forces have gunned down four LeT terrorists in two operations

MOHIT KANDHARI ■ JAMMU

In order to check the targeted killing of innocent civilians the security forces have intensified anti terrorist operations to flush out fresh crop of local terrorists and their 'hybrid' associates in Kashmir valley to ensure peaceful conduct of the Amarnath yatra starting June 30.

In the last 24 hours the security forces have gunned down four Lashkar-e-Toiba terrorists in two back to back operations including those behind the cold blooded murder of famous Kashmiri TV artist Amreen Bhat in Chadoora area of Budgam. Besides, 01 hybrid terrorist has been arrested along with arms/ammunition in Bemina area of Srinagar.

In the coming days the security grid is also going to finalise the comprehensive deployment plan of additional

companies of the para military forces along the entire yatra route to plug any gaps.

According to official sources the Union Home Ministry has given its nod to deploy more than 300 additional companies across transit camps, base camps, and security checkpoints along the yatra route. IGP Kashmir Shri Vijay Kumar Friday congratulated the joint teams of security forces for their valour and determination to neutralize and avenge the killing of artist Amreen Bhat within 24hrs. He also termed these operations as a big success and said that during past three days 10 terrorists including 3 from JeM and 7 from LeT proscribed terrorist outfits have been neutralized in the Kashmir valley.

According to a spokesman of the Jammu and Kashmir police, at around 9.33 p.m on a specific input generated by Awantipora Police regarding presence of terrorists in village Aghanzipora area of Awantipora, a joint cordon & search operation was launched by Police, Army (55RR) and CRPF (130Bn) in the said area. During the operation, as the joint search party was laying

cordon around a cluster of houses, the hiding terrorists fired indiscriminately upon search party which was retaliated leading to an encounter. In the ensuing encounter, two local terrorists identified as Shahid Mushtaq Bhat resident of Hafroo Chadoora, Budgam and Farhan Habib resident of Hakripora, Pulwama linked with proscribed terror outfit LeT were killed and their bodies were retrieved from the site of encounter.

While interacting with media, IGP Kashmir Vijay Kumar said that both the killed terrorists had joined terror ranks recently and were involved in killing of artist Amreen Bhat in Chadoora area of Budgam on the directions of LeT Commander Lateef.

Meanwhile, in Soura area of Srinagar, a special & small team of Srinagar Police also launched a cordon and search operation in the said area. During the search, as the presence of terrorists was ascertained and search party proceeded towards suspected spot the hiding terrorists fired indiscriminately upon search party which was retaliated leading to an encounter.

In the ensuing encounter, two terrorists of proscribed terror outfit LeT were killed and their bodies were retrieved from the site of encounter. They have been identified as Shakir Ahmad Waza and Afreen Aftab Malik both residents of Trenz Shopian.

As per police records both the killed terrorist were categorized terrorists and were part of groups involved in several terror crime cases including attacks on Police and security forces. Incriminating materials, huge cache of arms & ammunition was recovered from both the sites of encounter. All the recovered materials have been taken into case records for further investigation.

According to a police spokesman, "Srinagar Police along with security forces also arrested one hybrid terrorist of proscribed terror outfit LeT from Bemina area along with arms and ammunition.

Preliminary investigation revealed that, the arrested accused was working as a hybrid terrorist of proscribed terror outfit LeT outfit and was involved in delivering pistols in Srinagar City to carry out targeted killings.

Gujarat has become gateway of drugs to country: Congress

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Prime Minister Narendra Modi's home state of Gujarat has become the "gateway of drugs" to the country under his watch, the Congress alleged on Friday, questioning the "silence" of the PM and Home Minister Amit Shah.

Congress spokesperson Pawan Khara said there has been a series of recoveries of drug consignments starting from July, 2017 right up to this week from several ports including Mundra and Pulpavav in the state. Just on Thursday, 52 kilograms of cocaine, worth Rs 500 crore, was recovered from Mundra Port that had come from Iran, he alleged at the AICC Press conference.

When under "pressure from the Congress", the Mundra port had announced they will not handle cargos from Iran, Pakistan and Afghanistan, then how the latest consignment of cocaine was recovered from there, he asked.

Khara said the Congress had to question the govern-



ment on the post of Narcotics Control Bureau head lying vacant for 18 months, before the appointment was made under "pressure" from the opposition party.

He alleged Gujarat has become a 'gateway of drugs' to the country under the watch of PM Modi and Home Minister Shah.

"This is a prime minister who talks more and does less. On this particular issue, (he has said) not a word. Why this silence?" Congress leader said drugs cannot be traded just at a retail level and this trade is always a part of larger global syndicates which enjoy active political patronage in whichever country they operate.

Under this government, Khara alleged, the NCB, Enforcement Directorate, CBI and other agencies have been reduced to dealing with "retail politics" and are being "misused" by the ruling dispensation against political opponents.

Instead of "forcing" these agencies to deal into "retail politics", the government should allow them to focus more on recovering the wholesale drug consignments that are coming, he said. He also referred to a major smuggling of drugs that allegedly happened in June, 2021 and "did not get caught". He said it involved consignments of 25 tonnes and costing around Rs 1,75,000 crore.

CM Yogi rebuts Opp charges on crime, jobs

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath on Friday rebutted the charges of Opposition on zero tolerance towards crime, employment, and free food grains. The Chief Minister also accused the opposition of double standards by questioning the EVM (electronic voting machines).

"Leader of the Opposition is insulting the people's mandate. The people have returned the Bharatiya Janata Party to power due to its hard work and welfare works done for the people by the government.

"The people know who has laid the foundation of development works and which government actually completed the work. After 37 years a government has been voted back to power in Uttar Pradesh", the chief minister said in UP Vidhan Sabha on Friday while replying to the debate on the motion of thanks to Governor Anandiben Patel's address to the joint sitting of the UP legislature.



Jeweller's wife, son stabbed to death in broad daylight

PRADEEP SAXENA ■ ALIGARH

A 37-year-old mother and her 8-year-old son were stabbed to death with knives in broad daylight in the densely populated Surendra Nagar of Qwarsi police station area of the city. Both were alone in the house at the time of the incident and the miscreants left after killing them. When the news of the incident that took place in the afternoon spread in the area, the entire staff, including the SSP, reached the spot. The police was engaged in the investigation and are probing all angles including robbery and enmity. On behalf of the jewellers, a complaint has been given expressing the suspicion of murder in the ongoing dispute with the sister-in-law.

Lalit Saraf, originally a resident of Bijauli village of Palimukimpur, has been living here for more than a decade in a house on the street opposite Singhal Sadan and has a shop in the name of Radhika Jewelers at Phool Chowk. The

house is survived by 37-year-old wife Shikha Verma, eight-year-old son Digwanshu alias Govinda, besides two elder daughters. At the time of incident, the daughters had gone to Mathura at aunt's house. Lalit was at the shop. During this, two masked people entered the house and killed both of them and left. The news of this incident spread after neighbors peeped into the house. Lalit himself reached here on information.

Police officers including SSP Kalanidhi Naithani also reached. Two masked men entering and exiting the house have been found imprisoned in CCTV. Several cupboards in the house were open and items were found scattered in them. Lalit has expressed suspicion of murder in the ongoing dispute with sister-in-law during interrogation. A complaint has been



lodge against the sister-in-law and her future husband on suspicion of murder. The police is investigating both the rivalry murder and the robbery aspects. There is also a possibility that the goods were spread to show the incident as loot or to find something.

Kalanidhi Naithani, SSP told that the murder of jeweller's wife and son in Saraf's house has been taken seriously. In the investigation and interrogation so far, the matter of murder has come to the fore. Five teams have been formed. All the teams have been instructed to investigate on every aspect. Soon this matter will be revealed.

Now, ED begins probe in SSC recruitment scam

SAUGAR SENGUPTA ■ KOLKATA

After the Central Bureau of Investigation it is the turn of the Enforcement Directorate to take a look into the high-profile Bengal School Services Commission recruitment scam that has already sucked into its vortex two TMC ministers and a bevy of retired bureaucrats, Vice Chancellors et al.

After perusing the Justice RK Bag Commission report and conducting a preliminary inquiry the ED is known to have registered a case and sought all the details including the copy of the FIR from the CBI which is currently investigating the case following a Calcutta High Court order.

The ED was drawn into the case following reports that hundreds of crores were invested in flats, international schools and other real estates including separate ken-

nels for a minister's pets both within and outside Bengal. According to sources a whopping Rs 15,000 crore or more might have changed hands in the job-for-money scam.

Justice Bag Committee created by the High Court had earlier submitted a damaging 1,500 page report in which it not only showed how fake candidates were given appointments by-passing the merit-listed aspirants at various levels of the recruitment — including Groups C, D, secondary and higher secondary teachers — but it declared appointment of a designated 5-member screening committee created by then Education Minister Partho Chatterjee as totally illegal.

The judicial Panel also recommended criminal proceedings against those guilty leading both the single and the division bench of the High Court to order CBI investigation into the recruitment

scam. Subsequently the Court also ordered the dismissal of Ankita Adhikari the daughter of Minister of State for Education Paresh Adhikari who allegedly topped the merit list of aspiring teachers for Class XI-XII despite securing lesser numbers from her fellow aspirants.

Referring to the new development, senior Trinamool Congress parliamentarian Saugata Roy said that ED's entry into the case was a sheer example of vindictive politics of the Centre. "I do not know whether the High Court order cannot be misinterpreted as the Court had ordered the CBI to probe the matter whereas the ED has not entered the scene ... this indicates vindictive politics of the Centre," he said.

Meanwhile, Congress Lok Sabha Leader Adhir Chowdhury hit out at Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee for harbouring a whole galaxy of corrupt ministers.

Two promoters of DHFL held by CBI in UPPCL PF scam

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

The sleuths of the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) investigating the multi-crore rupees provident fund (PF) scam in Uttar Pradesh Power Corporation Limited (UPPCL) reportedly made a big breakthrough when they arrested Dewan Housing Finance Ltd (DHFL) promoters Kapil Wadhawan and Dheeraj Wadhawan, the two key accused in the case.

The arrest was made from Mumbai and both were produced by the CBI in the special court. The CBI team sought their police custody remand to grill them in the case.

Both Kapil and Dheeraj are alleged to have bought the Uttar Pradesh Power Corporation Ltd. (UPPCL) employees' provident fund amounting to over Rs 2,267 crore for illegal investment.

Special CBI Court Judge Vikram Singh decided to hand over both the accused to the CBI on seven days' remand.

In the application seeking remand, the CBI said that in the initial investigation of the case, it was found that over Rs 2,267 crore of employees' provident fund had been misused.

Despite the notification of the finance ministry, the accused got a commission of crores of rupees by investing the provident fund money in DHFL. It was said that the information of those documents and mediums was to be obtained from the accused.

On the other hand, advocate Pranshu Agarwal, appearing for the defense, opposed the application. He said that half of the amount invested in DHFL had been paid and the accused were ready to pay the remaining amount.

3rd model commits 'suicide' in Kolkata

PNS ■ KOLKATA

A third model was on Friday found dead in mysterious conditions in a matter of little more than a week.

Model-cum-small time television actress Manjushri Neyogi was found hanging from the ceiling fan of her room at Patuli area in the southern fringes of Kolkata just a couple of days after her friend and co-model Bidisha De Majumdar was found dead in similar circumstances at her Dum Dum flat in northern Kolkata.

Though the reason of the death was not clear family sources did not rule out suicide as she had been suffering from depression for quite some time. The mother of Neyogi who had

married a few months ago told reporters that she had was suffering from depression and had attempted suicide earlier too.

"She looked depressed following her friend Bidisha's death and was constantly talking about her since then," the mother of the deceased said.

Little more than a week ago another actor-cum model Pallabi Dey had died in similar circumstances at her Garfa residence in South Kolkata.

"All these models had sufficient work in their hand which meant that they were not depressed due to professional reasons," a colleague of De Majumdar said, adding that she could be in depression on account of her break-up with her boyfriend.



Defence Minister Rajnath Singh had a surprise interaction with the crew of INS Gharial in Sri Lanka over video conferencing. The ship is in Colombo to deliver critical relief material. Photo | The Pioneer

3 women who consumed poison during police raid in Baghpat die, cops booked

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

A case of culpable homicide was finally registered against the cops of Baghpat police after all the three women — a mother and her two daughters — who consumed poison during a police raid on their house died. The beat sub-inspector has been placed under suspension and a special investigation team (SIT) has been formed to probe the incident.

The police allegedly misbehaved with them following which they tried to commit suicide. The local superintendent of police, however, gave a clean chit to the officials claiming that the local villagers were also accompanying the police party during the raid. He also said

that if any complaint was filed in this regard, he would get the incident probed afresh.

Reports confirmed that the woman and her two daughters consumed poison last Tuesday in the presence of police personnel in their house in Baghpat after the cops allegedly misbehaved with them.

While Geeta, the mother, and one of her daughters Preeti, died while being treated in a hospital in Meerut on Thursday, the other daughter, Swati, died on Wednesday.

Geeta's husband, Mahak Singh, has lodged an FIR under Section 306 (abetment to suicide) of the Indian Penal Code against Chhaprauli police station incharge Naresh Pal. Also named in the FIR are a man

called Kantilal and his two sons, who had formerly filed a complaint against Singh's son Prince and are alleged to have accompanied the police team to Singh's residence when the said incident took place.

On May 3, an FIR was lodged against 24-year-old Prince under Section 366 (kidnapping, abduction and inducing woman to compel her marriage) of the Indian Penal Code, after Prince and Kantilal's 22-year-old daughter reportedly went missing together.

Kantilal's family is Dalit and Singh is an OBC of blacksmith caste. Last Tuesday night, the Chhaprauli police raided Prince's home and during the course of the raid the three women consumed poison.

Karti writes to LS Speaker over CBI interrogation in Chinese visa case

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Congress MP Karti Chidambaram has written to Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla regarding his questioning by the CBI in the Chinese visa scam case, saying "gross breach of Parliamentary Privilege by the central probe agency." Karti has alleged that during a raid CBI officers seized "highly confidential" personal notes and papers pertaining to the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Information and Technology of which he is a member, and sought redressal for what he said was a "breach of his parliamentary privilege."

"I've written to Lok Sabha Speaker that there has been a gross breach of Parliamentary

Privilege by the CBI. My parliamentary committee papers that pertain to IT Committee have been taken during search and seizure. No one has the right to take these confidential papers," Karti told a news agency.

"I am writing to you now because I have become the victim of a grossly illegal and patently unconstitutional action," Karti Chidambaram said in his letter to Birla.

"The Central Bureau of Investigation in the garb of conducting an investigation into an 11-year-old decision of the Government in which I have absolutely no involvement raided my residence in Delhi," he said. In the course of this so-called raid, certain officers of the CBI seized my "highly confidential and sensi-

tive personal notes and papers" pertaining to the Parliamentary Standing Committee for Information and Technology, Karti Chidambaram alleged.

"Shockingly, even my draft notes and questions which I had intended to ask witnesses summoned to the Committee, were also seized," he alleged. He claimed that his handwritten notes pertaining to the depositions made to the Committee by witnesses were also seized for reasons best known to the Agency.

Karti Chidambaram alleged that these actions by the CBI, in so far as they relate to "interference with my duties as a Parliamentarian, amount to a direct assault upon democratic principles on which our Parliament is founded".

LS Secretariat summons Maha DGP, Mumbai CP after Navneet Rana's harassment complaint

PNS ■ NEW DELHI/MUMBAI

Acting on the complaint of Aillegal arrest and harassment by Lok Sabha MP Navneet Rana, the Privilege & Ethics Branch of the Lok Sabha Secretariat on Friday issued a notification directing Maharashtra DGP Rajnish Seth along with Mumbai's Police Commissioner Sanjay Pandey to appear before the Committee of Oral Evidence on June 15.

Yashwant Bhanudas, Superintendent of Women District Prison Class-2, Byculla has also been issued with the same directives. "It may kindly be ensured that the officials of the Government of Maharashtra mentioned above

appear before the Committee of Evidence on the date, time and venue indicated above," the order read.

The development comes days after Navneet Rana appeared before the Parliamentary Privilege Committee over her allegation of 'patently illegal arrest and the consequent inhuman treatment meted out to her at Khar Police Station, Mumbai'. Stating that she had placed everything in front of the committee, the Independent MP said that those responsible for alleged atrocities should be punished.

"I have kept everything in front of the committee right from the time they arrested me from my place till 14 days that

I was in the custody. Sanjay Raut (Rajya Sabha MP and Shiv Sena leader) is also a part of it. Now, it is on the committee to decide. They should be punished and they will be punished," Navneet Rana said.

Earlier, the Amravati MP had written a letter to the Lok Sabha Speaker, and informed how she along with her MLA husband Ravi Rana was 'illegally arrested' on April 23 from their Mumbai residence after they declared to recite the Hanuman Chalisa outside Shiv Sena supreme and Maharashtra Chief Minister Uddhav Thackeray's residence. She also alleged being denied access to drinking water and washroom after the arrest.

SP's Lal Bihari may be Leader of Opp in Council

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

Samajwadi Party MLC Lal Bihari Yadav is likely to be leader of opposition in the UP Legislative Council as his party has sent a proposal in this regard to the chairman of the Upper House.

The tenure of Samajwadi Party MLC Sanjay Lather, who was hitherto leader of opposition, ended on Thursday. The SP had entrusted the assignment to Lather after the demise of MLC Ahmed Hassan, who was the then leader of opposition in the legislative council.

On Thursday, a proposal recommending MLC Lal Bihari Yadav from Varanasi block teachers' constituency for the post was sent to the legislative council chairperson on behalf

of the SP.

A resident of Azamgarh, Lal Bihari Yadav was elected MLC in 2020 and his term will expire in 2026. He was the principal of Lal Bihari Inter College founded by Uttar Pradesh Secondary Teachers' Association (Financeless Group).

Yadav shot into the limelight by undertaking a 1200 km Teacher Sandesh Padyatra in 49 days from Ballia to Mathura and has been continuously fighting for the interests of teachers. Also, the upcoming Azamgarh Lok Sabha byelection is also believed to be the reason behind making him the leader of the opposition in the legislative council as SP chief Akhilesh Yadav's wife Dimple Yadav is set to be fielded by the party from that seat.

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PAPER WITH PASSION

Getting their due

The SC has finally validated prostitution as truly a ‘profession’, not just ‘*dhandaa*’

Patriarchy is the last bastion women have to fell to feel truly empowered and liberated. Before that, however, the second-last bastion — prostitution — needs to be vanquished. The Supreme Court helped women do just that by declaring this Thursday that the “oldest profession in the world” is legally a profession. Not many countries, not even the United States, have done that. The apex court said the practitioners are entitled to dignity and equal protection under the law. It protected the women’s natural right to liberty and choice by declaring that where sex workers are adults and participating with consent, the police cannot take criminal action against them. The order also addressed the ambiguity of Indian legislation that deals with the business of sex. Prostitution is not illegal in India, but soliciting and public prostitution are. It is also illegal to own a brothel. Brothels are the best-kept open secret of a hypocritic India where the business of sex is freely practised with the laws enforced rarely or the enforcers bribed to look the other way. The court’s decision addresses the moot question: Prostitution is legal, but how can the sex workers practice if it is illegal to have an office to conduct sex work? The court decision settles the issue. Parliament should now bring the existing legislation in line with the new ruling. There is a lot left for the Government to accomplish.

The priority is to extend labour rights to sex workers and recognise their associations. That will help in two ways. It will call for a gradual end to the exploitation of sex workers by brothel owners and pimps and unsafe and unhygienic working conditions. Two, it can pave the way for sex workers to organise themselves into a registered body to fight for their rights and rightful wages. Just because their ‘work’ has become a profession does not mean they will no longer be stigmatised or oppressed and exploited. Social acceptability campaigns should become an integral form of the affirmation process. Deeper reforms are necessary to give them access to health, social, economic and cultural benefits. However, changes cannot come about till the lawmakers lose their patriarchal hangover. A sex worker, it must be understood, is not a victim who needs to be rescued and rehabilitated. Except where a person is not forced into the profession through trafficking or exploitation, the sex worker is on a par with any other service professional. The Supreme Court order is a call for the United Nations to reframe its sex worker narrative. For the UN, paying for sex is a form of “sexual abuse”. It prohibits the purchase of sexual acts. It calls for abolishing prostitution. It believes the profession is an obstacle to the dignity of the human person. Such a patronising attitude cannot sell any longer. Look at Germany where prostitution jobs are freely advertised and processed through HR companies with no eyebrows raised.



Fans at the Narendra Modi Stadium for the quarter-final match between RR and RCB, in Ahmedabad

Throes of despair

The Congress has badly fallen from its position of strength in Tamil Nadu

The Congress, which ruled Tamil Nadu continuously for almost two decades after Independence, is now virtually on its last breath in the State. The party, once led by titans like C Rajagopalachari, K Kamaraj, S Satyamurti and C Subramaniam, is now run by minnows who would not be able to win even a civic body election without the DMK’s support. The Dravidian major has literally sucked out the blood from the ‘grand old party’ that once had a commanding presence in the State. The Congress has been made to eat humble pie by the DMK, which has thrown its way just a single Rajya Sabha seat from the State in the upcoming biennial election. And it’s not new; just another episode in the series of humiliations heaped upon the Congress by the DMK since the parties forged an alliance in the State in 2004. Since the DMK was launched in 1949 as an offshoot of the Dravida Kazhagam led by EV Ramasami Naiker, a self-proclaimed backward community leader from then Mysore Province, the DMK had only one mission and that was to annihilate the Congress.

The first time the DMK joined hands with the Congress in modern times was during the 2004 Lok Sabha election which saw the Front consisting of other fringe parties like the MDMK and PMK, obliterating the AIADMK by winning all the 38 seats. The DMK, sulking from an unexpected defeat in the 2001 Assembly election, was striving to register a win in 2004 and had allotted nine seats to the Congress,

which won all of those. But the DMK, which had won 16 seats, used the opportunity to extract the maximum benefit from the Congress by demanding the most “healthy” Ministries (which were known by the acronym ‘ATM Ministries’). The DMK had even threatened to walk out of the UPA if its demands were not met. The rest is history. The infamous 2G scam was DMK’s major contribution in the UPA Government’s downfall. The party also played a major role in vitiating the ties between India and Sri Lanka, putting Tamil chauvinism to good use. The Congress leadership in the State comprises political migratory birds who return to Sathyamurthy Bhavan, the TNCC headquarters, for nesting. The party needs a thorough overhaul and freedom from the colonial rule of the Dravidian major.

Justice delayed is justice denied

It’s time that the Supreme Court put a strict end to the vicious practice of lawyers striking work on the flimsiest of excuses in their own interest

Over the years, the disruption of work in trial courts due to strikes by lawyers in western Uttar Pradesh has put thousands of litigants to financial hardship and untold inconvenience. The gravity of the matter can be gauged from the fact that in Uttar Pradesh, more than 51 lakh cases are pending in trial courts which is over 25 per cent of total pendency in all States taken together. A report prepared by a panel of experts and submitted to the Allahabad High Court listing 10 districts where lawyers disrupted work for more than 100 days on an average every year for five years (March 1, 2010, to March 31, 2016) is an eye opener.

During these five years, in Muzaffarnagar district, 753 days were lost due to lawyers’ strike, at an average of 150 days a year. In Aligarh, the figure was 697 days (140 days a year), followed by Agra 690 days (140 days a year), Faizabad 693 days, Sultanpur 603 days, Moradabad 596 days, Mathura 591 days, Ghaziabad 573 days, Balrampur 560 days and Chandauli 524 days. Although the latest data is not available, the situation has gone from bad to worse in the last five years. Taking into consideration the weekly and religious holidays, trial courts generally work for an average of 250 days a year. If over 100 days are lost due to strikes, one can well understand the reasons for higher pendency of cases.

Now, the pertinent question is who benefits from these strikes? Certainly not the litigants. As it is, it is difficult to get your case heard, and then there are frequent adjournments. So it is deeply frustrating to find the courts shut on the appointed day of hearing. There are a large number of petitions that require immediate hearing every day. The foremost examples are bail applications. If the courts don’t work, thousands of citizens are deprived of their right to resume their freedom. Urgent interim orders are sought to protect persons and properties; cause lists show



hundreds of cases where parties seek interim orders. Even a day’s delay is crucial for individuals and causes them irreparable loss. After all, courts are the institutions where complaints and grievances are taken for resolution and lawyers are the experts who provide services to resolve disputes. So, it is a reflection on the honesty and integrity of lawyers if they hold courts to ransom and cause inconvenience to their clients by boycotting courts over petty demands.

The report, prepared by the Allahabad High Court and submitted to the Law Commission of India, states that the strikes based on resolutions passed by Bar associations were called on “unacceptable and flimsy grounds”. In addition, the report says: “Some of the common causes for strike in all UP districts were non-declaration of holidays like Agrasen Jayanti, Basant Panchami, etc.” It adds: “In most districts, the strike is virtually institutionalised. Often these strikes are called for specific actions, where a group of lawyers either do not want a particular case to be taken up or they



AS IT IS, IT IS DIFFICULT TO GET YOUR CASE HEARD, AND THEN THERE ARE FREQUENT ADJOURNMENTS. SO IT IS DEEPLY FRUSTRATING TO FIND THE COURTS SHUT ON THE APPOINTED DAY OF HEARING. THERE ARE A LARGE NUMBER OF PETITIONS THAT REQUIRE IMMEDIATE HEARING EVERY DAY

desire a particular matter to be adjourned.”

However, it is observed that most lawyers are opposed to boycotts and do not approve or support stoppage of work in courts, except in extreme cases of threat to the legal profession or the independence of judiciary. They prefer to keep silent in the face of a vociferous minority that commands proceedings at the meetings of Bar associations and takes arbitrary decisions on behalf of all advocates. Judges are forced to adjourn cases when lawyers do not appear in the courtroom. The lawyers who wish to appear fear obstructive and violent behaviour from those on strike. The vicious circle goes on and the situation has exacerbated over the years.

The Supreme Court of India took the initiative of stemming the rot by instructing the Bar Council of India to suggest ways and means of putting a stop to these incidents of strikes in courts. The issue of whether lawyers can go on strike was dealt with by the Supreme Court in Common Cause vs Union of India (AIR 2005 SC 4442).



BRIJENDER SINGH PANWAR

The court held that it is unprofessional for a lawyer to strike and boycott the court. The Bar associations should not permit meetings calling for such strikes. It is the duty of the State and National Bar Councils to take action against striking Bar associations and sponsors of boycotts. The courts must hear matters posted before them undeterred by boycotts and it is only in the rarest of rare cases that abstention from court is justified, such as dignity, integrity and independence of the Bar and Bench, which must be decided by the judge. Even this must be allowed for only one day, the apex court said.

As the saying “Justice delayed is justice denied” goes, the legal professionals should be aware that with each boycott, they erode their image in the eyes of the public and the institution that protects the rule of law. The Supreme Court should take steps to seriously enforce its ruling.

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

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

SENSELESS KILLING OF SCHOOLCHILDREN

Sir — The senseless killing of 19 children in a classful of innocent kids needs to be condemned in the strongest terms and the US flag should be flown at half mast round the year. Now is the time for the US to realise its own folly rather than giving lessons to other countries. We feel sadness and pity for the young children. But we have come to the conclusion that shooting in schools there is a regular feature and there is no Government control over such killings. It was pathetic to know that the children were made to die in this fashion.

But in the name of God, the brewing up of vengeance made the matter worse and needs to be condemned at all levels. School security must be beefed up in and around sensitive places to avoid recurrence of such merciless killings. It was pathetic to know that the children killed were aged between seven and 10. It was notable that the slain children and teachers were barricaded in a single classroom by the gunman. It is a regular feature in the US and the gun culture has spoiled the future of schoolgoing children rather abruptly.

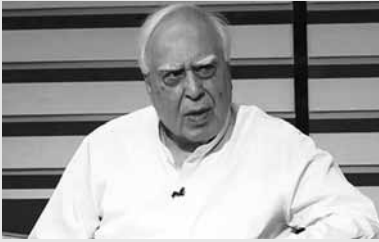
Krishnan S Maniam | Calicut

PM SHOULD DELIVER ON HIS PROMISES

Sir — It is appreciable that Prime Minister Narendra Modi who visited Tamil Nadu to launch multiple infra structure projects said to be worth over ₹31,500 crore has been accorded a deserving welcome by the Tamil Nadu Government and its people. In his address, Chief Minister MK Stalin spoke in detail the expectations of his Government in the Centre-State relationship and reiterated emphatically that his Government will extend all support to the Centre and, at the same time, will never fail to raise its voice for the rights of the State.

He also explained what is meant by the Dravidian model his Government is pursuing. The Prime Minister touched upon various infra structure projects in

Sibal’s exit will hit G-23 camp



The move by renowned lawyer and former Union Minister Kapil Sibal to resign from the Congress is not surprising at all, particularly when he openly admitted to his intentions earlier: “Everyone has to think about themselves.” For Sibal, Congress was in power for 65 years. Now when it is not in power, many who don’t want to struggle and just want power, like him, are leaving for greener pastures. Sibal is not a mass leader and, without the help of any party, he cannot fight any

election. For him, the chances of getting a Rajya Sabha (RS) seat from the Congress were bleak after criticising the Gandhi family.

Hence, after Mamata and Abhishek Banerjee’s refusal, Sibal refused to join the Trinamool Congress (TMC) and, therefore, the only plausible option left for him was to join the camp of SP chief Akhilesh Yadav. Though, for Sibal, politics is a part-time job to enjoy perks and to be relevant in the contemporary political scenario. Not only was his exit “amicable”, but the Congress has stayed soft on Sibal after his exit. Congress spokesperson Pawan Khara rightly commented: “We admired Kapil Sibal for his commitment to the ideology (of the party) and I hate to believe that he took this decision just for a Rajya Sabha seat.” Whatsoever, Sibal’s exit will also have a huge impact on the G-23 camp, rather than the Congress.

Bidyut Kumar Chatterjee | Faridabad

the State and other developments that have taken place under his leadership. It is, however, a great disappointment that he failed to touch on any of the requests made by the Chief Minister and went to continue to recite his prepared speech! While it is laudable that the PM has announced schemes worth ₹31,500 crore for TN, one only hopes that all of them will be implemented soon.

Tharcus S Fernando | Chennai

GOVT MUST ATTEND TO INFLATION

Sir — As the disruption in global supply chains on account of the Russian invasion of Ukraine is driving inflation across the globe, pragmatic protectionism appears to be a safe bet for India in the short run. The decision to put a cap on sugar exports reflects the lessons learnt to avoid the problems faced by wheat traders. With India recording highest global sales for the first time in six years, forcing the Government to restrict exports to the tune of 10 million tonnes

till October 2022, it is a pragmatic step to ensure that the Government does not end up buying expensive sugar in future to meet domestic demand, considering the current geopolitical uncertainties.

As food inflation is showing an upward trajectory jumping from 7.68 per cent in March to 8.38 per cent in April 2022, duty-free import of crude soyabean and sunflower oil until 2024 follows similar relief on crude palm oil and lentils to ease retail prices. Given the fact that this grim geopolitical scenario is unlikely to subside soon, increased prices, aggravated by high energy costs and supply side bottlenecks are here to stay. Easing the pain by whatever means should drive the Government’s policies. Fiscal policy can be used to top up support prices and enhance procurement by the Government.

Vijay Singh Adhikari | Nainital

Send your feedback to: letterstopioneer@gmail.com

SOUNDBITE

The Tamil language is eternal and the Tamil culture is global.



Prime Minister — Narendra Modi



As a nation, we have to ask when in God’s name we’re going to stand up to the gun lobby.

US President — Joe Biden

Like our Mumbai industry, the South industries also try to make different kinds of films.



Actor — Raveena Tandon



All the 23 players are different characters, they bring different things to the table.

Indian cricketer — Hardik Pandya

Our country is unique... Unlike America, we are different. We speak different languages but are united.




Makkal Needhi Maiam leader — Kamala Haasan

FIRST COLUMN


PUTIN SACKS TOP GENs FOR KHARKIV FAILURE

Agreeing to a ceasefire is the only way out for Russia



PK **VASUDEVA**

President of Russia Vladimir Putin has sacked a top General who failed to capture Ukraine's key city of Kharkiv, blaming him for botching his war. Lieutenant General Serhiy Kisel was the head of the elite 1st Guards Tank Army, charged with taking Ukraine's second biggest city. But he has now been suspended for his failure to capture Kharkiv. Vice Admiral Igor Osipov, the commander of Russia's Black Sea Fleet, has also been suspended following the sinking of the flagship Moskva last month. This was one of the greatest successful events of the Ukraine's Navy. It seems that Putin is very upset in losing battles but still not agreeing for a ceasefire, which may salvage his prestige. Putin may have also lost the confidence in General Valery Gerasimov, his senior-most general in Ukraine, as his campaign faltered. As a matter of fact Putin has fired a number of senior commanders who have performed poorly and failed to capture of Ukraine's important strategic military establishments. A culture of cover-ups and scapegoating is prevalent within the Russian military system. Many officials involved in the invasion of Ukraine are likely to be distracted by efforts to avoid personal culpability for Russia's setbacks. This is likely to place further strain on Russia's centralised model of command and control, as officers are increasingly seeking to defer key decisions of their superiors resulting in unrest among the officers and soldiers. However, Russian forces have been forced to withdraw



from around Kharkiv after months of heavy bombardment failed to break stiff resistance, leading to Moscow's second major defeat during the war. It has been reported that a number units have revolted the higher command orders. Chances of a military Coup cannot be denied if the present defeats of Russian troops persist. At the end of March 2022, Russian forces carried out a tactical retreat from the capital city of Kyiv, after a sustained bombardment. Kyiv was considered to be the main objective of the Russian Army. Intelligence sources indicate that Russia might have pulled back its forces from Kharkiv to relocate them to the eastern Donbas region now a priority target.

The poor performance of the mighty Russian Army has shocked the Western strategic analysts who feel that the Russian troops had lacked direction, motivation, intelligence failure, poor strategic vision and the proper equipment to achieve its objective of capturing Ukraine. A lack of experience and empowerment among Russian army's cadre of noncommissioned, and junior commissioned officers so important in world armies and battlefield tactical tinkering by Putin, has also hampered the performance of the Russian troops. Despite their reinforcements, there is widespread scepticism that Russian forces will achieve any breakthrough fast. Russian forces have already sustained high losses after nearly three months of conflict and morale is thought to be low. Their units are made up of men enlisted from the local separatist areas, many under duress, as well as the broader Russian army. The US Senate on May 19 approved a \$40 billion emergency and humanitarian aid package for Ukraine, as the US deepens its support for an increasingly costly and protracted fight against Russian invasion. The measure would bring the total investment in the war roughly \$54 billion in just nearly three months. The Senate approved it overwhelmingly on a vote 86-11, in the latest reflection of the remarkable bipartisan support on Capitol Hill for a massive investment in Ukraine's war effort, which propelled the spending package through the House. The US and EU military aid to Ukraine has shown good results of repelling attacks in Ukraine and Russia is now feeling the heat even as Putin continues his belligerence against the Ukrainians.

(The writer is former Senior Professor, International Trade and Member, Vivekananda International Foundation. The views expressed are personal.)

Nature: The Bharatiya Biocentric Discourse

In the Vedic culture, plants are believed to have consciousness like humans and can feel pain as well as happiness



RAGHAVENDRA P **TIWARI**




THOUSANDS OF SPECIES HAVE ALREADY BECOME EXTINCT AND THOUSANDS ARE ON THE VERGE OF EXTINCTION. EMISSION OF GREENHOUSE GASES, TEMPERATURE RISE & CLIMATE CHANGE HAVE CROSSED ALL LIMITS. WE NEED TO RESTORE VEDIC CULTURE, TRADITIONS AND WAYS OF INTERACTION WITH NATURE IN ALL SPHERES OF HUMAN DOMAIN

(The writer is Vice-Chancellor, Central University of Punjab, Bathinda. The views expressed are personal.)

POINT COUNTERPOINT

I HAVE FILED NOMINATION (TO THE RAJYA SABHA) AS AN INDEPENDENT CANDIDATE. I'VE ALWAYS WANTED TO BE AN INDEPENDENT VOICE. — CONGRESS EX-LEADER KAPIL SIBAL



HE HAD ALREADY WRITTEN TO PARTY PRESIDENT (SONIA GANDHI). PEOPLE COME AND GO FROM OUR PARTY. THIS IS A BIG PARTY. — CONGRESS GENERAL SECRETARY KC VENUGOPAL

Taiwan: The Codger Misspeaks Again - or Does He?

Joe Biden did not actually promise to commit American forces to defend Taiwan against a Chinese invasion



GWYNNE **DYER**

Well, my dear, we didn't know where to look. The old codger was getting away with it again, fielding the questions like a man only nine-tenths of his age, and then somebody asked him about Taiwan. He must have rehearsed that one, but still he blew it - big time. We'll be picking up the pieces for weeks.

President Joe Biden was speaking at a Tokyo press conference, looking not a year older than 79, and somebody asked him if he were "willing to get involved militarily to defend Taiwan if it comes to that?" Since the official US position on that question for many years has been 'constructive ambiguity', he was supposed to avoid both 'yes' and 'no'.

Biden has been playing the international game at the highest level for longer than most people have been alive, and he should know the drill. Say how much he loves Taiwan and how devoted he is to its democracy. He can even mention that he'd be really disappointed and quite cross if China invaded it. But he mustn't say what the United States would actually do.

Instead, with a loud clatter, the president of the United States jumped the tracks. "Yes," he said, "that's a commitment we made. The idea that (Taiwan) could be taken by force, just taken by force, is not...it would dislocate the entire region and be another action similar to what happened in Ukraine."

Compounding his crime, Biden went on to express the hope that China was paying attention to how the US and its allies have responded to the Russian invasion of Ukraine. "This is not just about Ukraine," he said. China is watching to see if the Western response to the invasion stays strong, or if it loses focus as the war drags on. It must stay strong, because otherwise "what signal does that send to China about the cost of...attempting to take Taiwan by force?"

Quite a performance, and the headlines said things like 'US would defend Taiwan militarily if China attacked'. But being an old codger has its advantages, and one is that people panic less when you make some apparently radical remark or commitment. They're in doubt as to whether you just misspoke, or whether you really meant it. Was Biden really sending a serious warning to China, but doing it in a way that did not compel China to respond directly? I suspect the answer is yes, because if you listen closely to what he said, he did NOT actually promise to commit American forces to defend Taiwan against a Chinese invasion.

He meant it to sound as if he had said that - warning that China would be "flirting with danger" if it invaded Taiwan - but there was no such definitive statement.

Maybe Joe Biden has just lost his marbles, but instilling a bit more doubt in the Chinese regime about his likely reaction in the event of a Chinese attack on Taiwan is not necessarily a blunder. 'Constructive ambiguity' requires both the 'yes' and the 'no' to be plausible, and the 'yes' has been losing credibility recently.

In the much more fraught case of the US response to the Russian invasion of Ukraine, Biden has been notably cautious in his actions. Before the invasion had even begun, he made it publicly clear that American or NATO forces would not intervene directly to defend Ukraine.

As the strength of the Ukrainian forces and the sheer incompetence of the Russian army became clear, his willingness to give Ukraine more advanced weapons in larger quantities grew. But his seemingly accidental asides about how Putin cannot remain in power never become actual policy. Every option remains open.

This is a man who has been around the block a few times, and he knows how the game is played. So, if I were an adviser to Taiwan's president, I would tell her the most important thing in the event of a Chinese invasion attempt is to make a good show of resistance in the first few weeks.

There is no more difficult military operation than an opposed amphibious landing, and China has no real-world experience of carrying out that kind of attack across 200 km. of open ocean. So, if you can hold the invaders on the beaches for a week or two, American arms and supplies will start to flow in abundance.

But don't expect US troops to help you directly. Biden is not willing for fight a war against China either. Consider Ukraine.

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Extract of Statement of Audited Results for the Quarter and Year Ended on 31/03/2022 (Amount in lakhs)					
Particulars	Quarter ended			Year ended	
	31/3/2022 (Audited)	31/12/2021 (Un-Audited)	31/3/2021 (Audited)	31/3/2022 (Audited)	31/3/2021 (Audited)
1. Total Income from Operations	34.92	27.13	76.61	115.61	160.96
2. Net Profit/(Loss) for the period(before Tax, Exceptional and/or Extraordinary items)	25.25	15.46	67.80	77.61	134.13
3. Net Profit/(Loss) for the period before tax(after Exceptional and/or Extraordinary items)	25.25	15.46	67.80	77.61	134.13
4. Net Profit/(Loss) for the period after tax(after Exceptional and/or Extraordinary items)	16.64	15.46	67.82	69.00	134.14
5. Total Comprehensive Income for the period [Comprising Profit/(Loss) for the period (after tax) and other Comprehensive Income (after tax)]	16.64	15.46	67.82	69.00	134.14
6. Equity Share Capital (Face Value of Rs. 10/- per share)	1,056.00	1,056.00	1,056.00	1,056.00	1,056.00
7. Reserve (excluding revaluation reserves as shown in the balance sheet of previous year)		-	-	(0.94)	(69.94)
8. Earning Per Share (of Rs.10/- each)(for continuing and discontinued operations) Basic & Diluted	0.16	0.15	0.64	0.65	1.27
Notes 1 The above is an extract of the detailed format of Audited Financial Results filed with the Stock Exchange under Regulation 33 of the SEBI(Listing Obligations and Disclosure Requirements) Regulations, 2015. The financial results were reviewed by the Audit Committee and approved by the Board of Directors at their respective meetings held on 26th May, 2022 format of the Financial Results are available on the websites of the Stock Exchange(s)at www.bseindia.com and on Company's website www.integratelesoftware.com					
For Integra Telecommunication and Software Limited Sd/- Ramaswamy Narayan Iyer Managing Director DIN:03045662					
Place: Mumbai Date: 26.05.2022					

Structural reforms must for inclusive growth: RBI

Mumbai: Making a strong case for structural reforms, the Reserve Bank on Friday said they are essential for sustained, balanced and inclusive growth, and also to deal with the after-effects of the pandemic.

In its annual report, the Reserve Bank of India also stressed that the future path of growth would be conditioned by addressing supply-side bottlenecks, calibrating monetary policy to bring down inflation and boosting capital spending.

“Undertaking structural reforms to improve India’s medium-term growth potential holds the key to secure sustained, balanced and inclusive growth, especially by helping workers adapt to the after-effects of the pandemic by reskilling and enabling them to adopt new technologies for raising productivity,” it said in the chapter on ‘Assessment and Prospects’.

The escalation of geopolitical tensions into war from late February 2022 has delivered a brutal blow to the world economy, battered as it has been through 2021 by multiple waves of the pandemic, supply chain and logistics disruptions, elevated inflation and bouts of financial market turbulence, triggered by diverging paths of



monetary policy normalisation, it added.

“... The immediate impact of geopolitical aftershocks is on inflation, with close to three-fourths of the consumer price index at risk. The elevation in international prices of crude, metals and fertilisers has translated into a term of trade shock that has widened trade and current account deficits,” the report said. High-frequency indicators already point to some loss of momentum in the recovery that has been gaining traction from the second quarter of 2021-22, with 86.8 per cent of the adult population fully vaccinated and 3.5 per cent having received booster doses.

“The inflation trajectory going forward is subject to considerable uncertainty and

would primarily depend on the evolving geopolitical situation,” the report said.

The RBI further said supply-side policy interventions such as removing customs duty on import of raw cotton, prohibiting wheat exports, reducing road and infrastructure cess (RIC) on petrol by ₹8 per litre and diesel by ₹6 per litre, increasing exports duty on certain steel products, reducing imports duty on certain raw materials for steel and plastic manufacturing, restricting sugar exports, removing customs duty and agriculture infrastructure and development cess (AIDC) on import of 20 lakh tonnes of crude sunflower oil and crude soybean oil and other measures as may be taken could, however, provide some offset. **PTI**

No wheat shortage, ban slapped to check rampant export: Min

Gwalior: There was no shortage of wheat in India, but the Centre has imposed a ban on its export to check “rampant” overseas sales of the grain, Union Agriculture Minister Narendra Singh Tomar has said.

Speaking to reporters after attending a function here on Thursday, Tomar said it was the government’s duty to maintain a balance in the market.

“For us, the nation’s interest comes first. And that is why there was no shortage of wheat in the country. It is the government’s duty to maintain a balance in the market. Hence, we have imposed a ban to check rampant export of the food grain. We have to meet the country’s demand,” the minister said.

On May 14, India, the world’s second biggest producer of the cereal, announced a ban on wheat exports as a part of measures to control rising domestic prices amid concerns of output being hit by scorching heatwave.

India’s wheat exports stood at an all-time high of 7 million tonnes, valuing USD 2.05 billion, in 2021-22 on better demand of Indian wheat from overseas. Of the total wheat



exports, around 50 per cent went to Bangladesh.

Tomar said India has to also look after the foodgrain needs of its neighbours.

“Our neighbouring countries depend on us. Many countries in the world need foodgrains, and they are looking at India. We have a responsibility to our neighbouring countries,” he said.

“To discharge all these responsibilities, we have taken the decision (to ban export) by checking our account (stock),” the minister said, responding to a query on the Congress’s allegation that overseas shipment of wheat was stopped without any planning. **PTI**

Markets dart up for 2nd day amid firm global trends; log weekly gains

Mumbai: Equity indices extended their winning run to a second straight session on Friday, buoyed by robust demand for IT, bank and auto stocks amid a supportive trend overseas.

The two-day rally also helped the benchmarks post their second straight weekly advance, in lockstep with a global rebound despite lingering concerns over high inflation and coordinated policy tightening by central banks.

Continuing with the previous session’s momentum, the 30-share BSE Sensex rallied 632.13 points or 1.17 per cent to settle at 54,884.66.

Similarly, the broader NSE Nifty jumped 182.30 points or 1.13 per cent to 16,352.45.

Tech Mahindra was the top performer in the Sensex pack, spurring 4.10 per cent, followed by IndusInd Bank, Wipro, Bajaj Finance, M&M, Infosys, L&T and Bajaj Finserv.

On the other hand, NTPC, Bharti Airtel, PowerGrid, Tata Steel, Reliance Industries, Asian Paints and Nestle were the laggards, slumping as much as 2.43 per cent.

“Joining the global rally, the investors were in a buying mood following favourable retail earnings in the US. Receding FII selling also pro-



vided comfort to the domestic market in bringing down volatility.

“The RBI’s upcoming policy meeting will be a key factor in the market, where they are expected to announce an additional policy rate hike of 25-35 bps,” said Vinod Nair, Head of Research at Geojit Financial Services.

On a weekly basis, the Sensex climbed 558.27 points or 1.02 per cent, while the Nifty gained 86.30 points or 0.53 per cent.

“The recent rebound shows that we’re just mirroring the global markets, especially the US and it may continue ahead

as well. Besides, upcoming macroeconomic data and auto sales numbers will also be in focus... Meanwhile, we recommend maintaining a positive yet cautious approach and focusing more on stock selection,” said Ajit Mishra, VP - Research, Religare Broking Ltd.

In the broader markets, the BSE midcap gauge jumped 1.69 per cent and the smallcap index gained 1.20 per cent in Friday’s session. Among BSE sectoral indices, IT jumped 2.38 per cent, followed by tech (1.84 per cent), capital goods (1.69 per cent), industrials (1.58 per cent), auto (1.50 per cent) and bank (1.35 per cent). **PTI**

Gold jumps ₹303; silver rallies ₹1,023 amid firm global trends

New Delhi: Gold in the national capital on Friday jumped

₹303 to ₹50,939 per 10 grams in line with rally in international precious metal prices, according to HDFC Securities.

The precious metal settled at ₹50,636 per 10 grams in the previous trade.

Silver also rallied by ₹1,023 to ₹62,365 per kg from ₹61,342 per kg in the previous trade.

In the international market, gold was trading higher at USD 1,859 per ounce and silver gained marginally to USD 22.22 per ounce. “Gold prices traded higher with spot gold prices at COMEX trading around half a per cent up at USD 1,859 per ounce on Friday,” said Tapan Patel, Senior Analyst (Commodities) at HDFC Securities. **PTI**

Sebi tweaks SOP in case of defaults by trading, clearing members

New Delhi: Capital markets regulator Sebi on Friday tweaked the standard operating procedure specifying steps to be taken by stock exchanges, clearing corporations and depositories for dealing with possible defaults by trading or clearing members.

The measures are aimed at protecting the interest of non-defaulting clients of trading members (TMs) or clearing members (CMs) in the likely event of default.

The regulator, in consultation with the Market Infrastructure Institutions, has decided to modify the framework in order to provide equitable distribution of funds amongst investors, according to a circular.

Under the new framework, within 30 trading days from crystallization of balances, stock exchanges (SEs) or clearing corporations (CCs) will

have to endeavour to settle the claims of maximum number of clients by way of interim measures under their supervision, prior to issuing show cause notice (SCN) for declaring the TM a defaulter.

The TM is required to be instructed to pay small investors out of available funds and own resources (movable and immovable) under the supervision of the SEs.

Further, the unencumbered deposits available with the SEs or CCs, after adjusting their dues and maintaining the minimum base capital requirement, will also be utilised for settling the credit balance of investors starting from the smallest amount.

“Such amount shall be paid in full to all such investors having credit balance up to the amount of ₹25 lakh, subject to availability of funds. **PTI**

Ola scouts for land to set up cell, electric car factories

New Delhi: Mobility giant Ola Electric is scouting for land to set up its cell and electric car factories and is in talks with multiple states, sources said.

Ola Electric needs 1,000 acres of land to set up its cell gigafactory and electric car factory which is expected to attract an investment of ₹10,000 crore.

Some states are already vying, sources aware of the matter said.

Ola Electric’s four-wheeler ambitions are taking a serious shape with some concept designs almost ready.

It is in talks with governments of Uttar Pradesh, Maharashtra, Gujarat, Karnataka, Tamil Nadu, and Telangana for land acquisition, they said adding the company is likely to finalize it as early as next month.

The firm already has 500 acre in Krishnagiri in Tamil Nadu where it has built its Futurefactory, the world’s



largest two-wheeler factory.

A company spokesperson declined to comment on the developments.

Ola’s current plans for additional 1,000 acre of land are for a separate four-wheeler factory for its much-anticipated car factory and for its proposed cell gigafactory that will supply cells for its 2-wheeler and 4-wheeler product range.

TCI Express Q4 net profit dips over 14% to ₹36 crore

New Delhi: Logistics company TCI Express on Friday posted over 14 per cent fall in its net profit at Rs 35.93 crore during the March 2022 quarter. The company had clocked a net profit of Rs 42.57 crore in the same period of FY21, it said in a regulatory filing.

Its total income, however, increased to Rs 300.28 crore in the quarter from Rs 282.86 crore in the year-ago period.

The company’s expenses soared to Rs 251.43 crore in the said period from Rs 228.12 crore a year ago.

In the entire 2021-22 fiscal year, the company’s net profit rose by about 29 per cent to Rs 128.85 crore from Rs 100.60 crore in the preceding financial year.

The company clocked a turnover of Rs 1,081.47 crore during FY22, higher from Rs 843.99 crore a year ago. In a separate statement, the company’s managing director Chander Agarwal said the last quarter of the fiscal has ended on an overall positive note. “Some operating constraints were present in January due to regional restrictions, but these were offset with subsequent recovery and strong demand from SME customers. EBITDA for the quarter stood at Rs 52 crore, registering a sequential growth of 6.2 per cent with margins of 17.4 per cent.” **PTI**

Non-alcoholic beverage market likely to hit ₹1.47 lakh cr by 2030: ICRIER report

New Delhi: India has the potential to become a non-alcoholic beverage hub and the country’s non-alcoholic beverage market is expected to touch a market size of ₹1.47 lakh crore by 2030, says a report.

According to the report by economic policy think tank ICRIER, “the size of the market was estimated at ₹671 billion (₹67,100 crore) in 2019, which is projected to reach around ₹1,472.33 billion (₹1,47,233 crore) in 2030, in the realistic scenario.”

“India has the potential to become a non-alcoholic beverage hub, given its endowments of raw materials, labour and policy support for encouraging food processing in the country,” the report said.



Bottled water and carbonated soft drinks still account for the bulk of the non-alcoholic beverages sector, the report said, adding that the market for juices, energy drinks, tea, milk and coffee-based beverages and organic drinks is expanding. In India, domestic consumption and exports are low, compared to ASEAN countries

and there is enough space to grow for the non-alcoholic beverage industry.

“India’s per capita sales volume was just 21.36 litres in 2018, and exports were worth USD 29.89 million in 2020. There is scope for increasing both domestic sales volume and diversifying products and export markets. For example, India can develop and export organic fruit-based drinks,” it said. The study found that the non-alcoholic beverage sector contributes significantly to the Indian economy in terms of value addition and job creation.

“The total job creation from this sector is estimated to be 6.91 lakh which includes employment creation both in the upstream and downstream operations,” the study said. **PTI**

TVS Motor launches limited edition of HLX bike range in Kenya

New Delhi: TVS Motor Company on Friday said it has launched a limited edition of HLX 125 Gold and HLX 150 Gold bikes in Kenya.

The company has introduced the two editions to commemorate over two million unit sales milestone achieved by the HLX series.

“Kenya is an important market for us. Most two-wheelers in Kenya double up as boda boda and delivery vehicles, customers always look for long-lasting and durable products,” TVS Motor Company’s Head of International Business H G Rahul Nayak said in a statement.



The HLX brand has consistently catered to these evolving mobility needs backed by a wide service network with trained mechanics and spare parts support, setting a benchmark for superior customer experience and quality in the

Number of ₹2000 currency notes continue to decline

Mumbai: The number of bank notes of ₹2000 denomination has steadily declined over the years to touch 214 crore or 1.6 per cent of the total currency notes in circulation at the end of March this year, according to RBI annual report.

The total number of currency notes of all denominations in circulation stood at 13,053 crore as of March this year, up from 12,437 crore from the year-ago period.

At the end of March 2020, the number of ₹2000 denomination notes in circulation stood at 274 crore, accounting for 2.4 per cent of the total number of currency notes in circulation. The count declined to 245 crore or 2 per cent of the total bank notes in circulation as of March 2021 and further fell to 214 crore or 1.6 per cent



at the end of last fiscal year.

In value terms also, the ₹2000 denomination notes dipped from 22.6 per cent of the total value of currency notes in circulation to 17.3 per cent at the end of March 2021 and further to 13.8 per cent at the end of March 2022.

According to the report, the number of ₹500 denomination notes in circulation rose to 4,554.68 crore at the end of March this year as against 3,867.90 crore in the year-ago

period. “In volume terms, ₹500 denomination constituted the highest share at 34.9 per cent, followed by ₹10 denomination bank notes, which constituted 21.3 per cent of the total bank notes in circulation as on March 31, 2022,” the annual report for 2021-22 released on Friday said.

The ₹500 denomination notes accounted for 31.1 per cent share at the end of March 2021 and 25.4 per cent as of March 2020. In value terms, these notes rose from 60.8 per cent to 73.3 per cent from March 2020 to March 2022.

The total value of currency notes in circulation of all denominations rose to Rs 31.05 lakh crore at the end of March this year from ₹28.27 lakh crore at the end of March 2021. **PTI**

Rupee inches 2 paise higher to 77.59 against US dollar

Mumbai: The rupee inched 2 paise higher to close at 77.59 (provisional) against US dollar on Friday, supported by positive domestic equities and weakness of the American currency overseas. Forex traders said the rupee consolidated in a narrow range as elevated crude oil prices, fiscal deficit concerns and persistent FII outflows weighed on the local unit.

At the interbank forex market, the rupee opened at 77.60 against the greenback and moved in a range of 77.57 to 77.67 in the day’s trade. The rupee finally ended at 77.59, higher by 2 paise over its previous close of 77.61.

“Rupee continued to trade in a narrow range and volatility remained despite gains in domestic equities. Dollar retraced after the US preliminary GDP number came in below estimates,” said Gaurang Somaiya, Forex and Bullion Analyst, Motilal Oswal Financial Services. Euro and pound got support at lower levels and extended support, Somaiya said, adding that “we expect the USD-INR to trade sideways and quote in the range of 77.20 and 77.80.” On the domestic equity market front, the BSE Sensex advanced 632.13 points or 1.17 per cent to end at 54,884.66, while the broader NSE Nifty jumped 182.30 points or 1.13 per cent to 16,352.45. **PTI**

UAE, India discuss economic opportunities of energy transition

Dubai: Government and business leaders in India and the UAE have held a series of high-level meetings focused on opportunities within the energy transition and industrial growth.

The meetings were held on the sidelines of UAE Climate Envoy and Minister of Industry and Advanced Technology Dr Sultan Al Jaber’s visit to New Delhi on Thursday, UAE’s official news agency Wam said.

Union Environment Minister Bhupendra Yadav on Thursday met Al Jaber and the two discussed issues relating to climate change, hosting of COP

28 and other related matters. Prior to the bilateral meeting, a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on climate action was also signed by the two ministers to establish a framework to facilitate and enhance bilateral cooperation on climate action, and also contribute towards implementing the Paris Agreement.

Following Dr Al Jaber’s meeting with Yadav, the UAE and India agreed to expand bilateral cooperation towards accelerated climate action and implementation of the Paris agreement, including public-private partnership across renewable power deployment,

agriculture efficiency, green hydrogen, sustainable finance, and carbon market development, the official Wam news agency reported.

The UAE-India cooperation in climate aims to support India’s ambition to achieve 450 gigawatts (GW) of renewable energy installed capacity by 2030 and aligns with the UAE’s ambitions to expand its low and zero-carbon energy capabilities.

The UAE delegation also met with Indian business leaders discussing new opportunities, particularly those in decarbonisation and climate solutions. **PTI**



the pioneer

INDIAN PREMIER LEAGUE 2022

11

We learnt a lot from the last game. We have discussed a few changes. The team environment is really good. We have got an extra opportunity for finishing second in the table.

— RIYAN PARAG

14 YEARS LATER...

Jos Buttler's 4th hundred in IPL 2022 takes Royals to final

PTI ■ AHMEDABAD

Jos Buttler extended his dream run this season with a record-equaling fourth hundred as Rajasthan Royals produced a ruthless performance to beat Royal Challengers Bangalore by seven wickets here on Friday and reach their first IPL final since the inaugural edition in 2008.

Pacer Prasidh Krishna (3/22) came back strongly from the hammering he received in the last game to help Rajasthan restrict RCB to 157 for eight in Qualifier 2 despite a stellar 42-ball 58 from Rajat Patidar.

Buttler (106 not out off 60 balls), the leading run getter of the tournament by a fair distance, then toyed with the RCB attack to ensure the Royals romped to victory in 18.1 overs. It was only fitting that Buttler hit the winning runs as he clobbered Harshal Patel for his sixth maximum. With his special innings, Buttler matched Virat Kohli for most hundreds in a single season. Kohli had achieved that feat in 2016.

Royals take on IPL debutants Gujarat Titans in the final here on Sunday and would be looking to emulate the special feat of the 2008 batch which lifted the title under the inspirational leadership of the late Shane Warne 14 seasons ago.

The pitch offered extra bounce but after Buttler provided a flying start in the company of Yashasvi Jaiswal (21 off 13 balls), the Royals had the game in the bag.

RCB, who had raised hopes for a long awaited title with a resurgent run, committed too many errors after Royals put them in to bat.



After a below-par batting effort, their bowlers ran out of ideas against a marauding Buttler. Mohammad Siraj ended a forgettable IPL campaign on a dismal note. He leaked 31 runs in his first two overs, allowing the Royals to run away with game.

Buttler crossed the 800-run mark this season and dispatched bowlers to all corners in his match-winning effort comprising sixes and fours. Jaiswal, who smashed Siraj for two sixes and a four in the opening over, too played his part as the Royals raced to 67 for one in the powerplay.

Earlier, Patidar extended his stellar run in the IPL but his effort was the lone bright spot of the RCB innings as the other batters struggled on a tricky pitch.

Royals gained the upper hand by taking five wickets in the last five overs that went for only 34 runs.

After smashing a sensational hundred in the Eliminator, Patidar played with supreme confidence after high-profile openers Virat Kohli (7) and Faf du Plessis (25) failed to come up with impactful knocks. Rajasthan Royals pace duo of Trent Boult (1/28) and Krishna were impressive throughout the innings.

While Boult got his inswingers going in the powerplay, Krishna, who had a horror night against Gujarat Titans in the Qualifier 1, got the ball to rise sharply from good length.

Kohli started with a spectacular six off Boult, a whip over deep square leg, before falling to a loose shot off Krishna. It was a wide ball that rose sharply and Kohli played away from his body to edge it to the wicketkeeper. The extra bounce contributed to his dismissal.

Dhoni sir's WC winning hit inspired me to hit sixes in every game: Navgire



PTI ■ PUNE

Mahendra Singh Dhoni's World Cup winning six resides in India's collective consciousness and it was a shot that changed a lot of lives, including that of little-known Solapur athlete Kiran Navgire.

And so, athletics' loss became cricket's gain as the former Maharashtra state level athlete decided that there is no fun if she can't tonk the ball like her 'idol'. Eleven years later, at 28, Navgire, who plays domestic cricket for Nagaland, has found instant stardom, with

some of the most powerful blows that one has ever seen from an Indian batter.

In her very second big stage game in the Women's T20 Challenger, the right-handed Navgire hit the fastest fifty for her team Velocity and her 34-ball-69 will certainly be remembered for a long time, especially the five sixes.

"I really feel good when I hit sixes and whenever I practise in the nets, I practice hitting sixes, I follow Dhoni sir and I love finishing like him, hitting big sixes," Navgire told her teammate Yastika Bhatia

during an interaction for bcci.Tv.

For her, Dhoni's unbeaten 91 against Sri Lanka made her set new goals as she concentrated more on athletics, kho-kho, kabaddi during her formative years while helping out her father in family farm in Solapur district's Mire village.

"I watched the 2011 World Cup final and Dhoni sir's winning sixer is something that impressed me and remained imprinted in my head. That six inspired me and I always feel that in every match, I can hit a six like that," said the stockily built Navgire, who was a state level shot-putter.

On Thursday, Velocity skipper Deepti Sharma sent her up the order at No. 3 and Navgire didn't disappoint anyone, taking international bowlers like Poonam Yadav, Salma Khatun and Rajeshwari Gayakwad to the cleaners.

"I don't like playing dot balls and want to score something off every ball and hence I got a good score," her answers were as uncomplicated as her lofted hits. "In domestic cricket, I hadn't batted up the order but I had a good season there and had some good scores. My game revolves around my power hitting ability and if it's in my arc, I send it out of the park and if there are good balls, I like to rotate strikes playing singles and doubles," Navgire said.



'Pant's name would be etched in record books forever if he play 100 Tests'

PTI ■ MUMBAI

If Rishabh Pant wants to get this name etched in record books forever, he should strive to play 100 Test matches for the country, one of India's greatest long format match-winners Virender Sehwag said on Friday.

Sehwag, the country's only cricketer to have struck two triple hundreds in Test cricket, is among the 11 Indians to have played 100 plus Tests and scored over 8500 runs.

Pant, who has an enviable record being the only Indian keeper to have scored Test hundreds in Australia, England and South Africa, has played 30 Tests and scored 1920 runs so far at an average of 40.85.

"If he (Pant) goes on to play 100+ Tests, his name would be etched in the history books forever. Only 11 Indian cricketers have achieved this feat, and everyone can recall those 11 names," Sehwag said on 'Sports18' while making it clear that white-ball exploits are not for posterity.

The instant gratification of matches won in T20Is and ODIs are fine but in the long run, people only remember what you have done in a white jersey, said the 'Nawab of Najafgarh'. "Why does Virat Kohli emphasise so much on playing Tests? He knows that if he plays 100-150 or even 200 Tests, he will be immortalised in the record books," Sehwag said.

Babar can become 1st batter to be ranked No.1 batter in all formats: Dinesh Karthik

PTI ■ DUBAI

Veteran India wicketkeeper Dinesh Karthik reckons Babar Azam will soon become the top-ranked batter across formats, adding that Pakistan skipper is reaping the benefits of the subtle changes made in his batting technique.

The 27-year-old, who has been a consistent campaigner across all three formats, currently holds the top spot among batters in T20Is as well as ODIs and Karthik is confident Babar can become the first player in the history of the sport to be ranked No.1 across all three formats.

"One-hundred per cent (he is capable of achieving the No.1 ranking in all three formats). He (Babar) is a high-quality player who is at the peak of his batting prowess and he has got some Test matches coming up," Karthik said on The ICC Review.

"He has been phenomenal in all three formats of the game and he has done well in different batting positions too. I think he has the potential. He has got all the following of Pakistan helping him in abundance to go on and do special things for his country," he added.



recently which has helped the right-hander become a better player and his timing of the ball is now on par with all modern-day batters.

The seasoned wicketkeeper-batter feels Babar has tweaked his batting technique

me when I watched him bat is his balance and his striking point when he plays a ball.

"Whether it is on the front foot or the back foot, his ability to strike the ball more often than not under his eyes, has been phenomenal."

"He strikes the ball at the point where it is optimum power for where the ball is pitched and that makes him a very special player."

In the longest format of the game, Babar is ranked fifth in the world, behind Australia's Marnus Labuschagne and the 'Big Four' of India's Virat Kohli, England's Joe Root, Australia's Steve Smith and New Zealand's Kane Williamson.

"It is a very strong 'Fab Four' that we are talking about and they have obviously been there for much longer, but there is no doubt that Babar has all the credentials and he is going to make it a 'Fab Five'."

"There is no doubt he is there or thereabout ... He is a very special player."

Karthik believes Babar will continue to develop further as he learns how to adapt to different conditions that players face when playing away from home.

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Bilaterals may get 'squeezed' with longer duration for leagues: Barclay

PTI ■ MUMBAI

The bilateral contests between international teams may get "squeezed" if the window for T20 leagues like the IPL keep getting longer, ICC Chairman Greg Barclay said on Friday.

With the addition of two teams this season, the IPL has been expanded to 74 games over a two month window compared to 60 matches last season.

Asked how one strikes a balance between the IPL and the international calendar, Barclay said, "It is a good question. There will be an increase in both the scoping scale of some of the domestic leagues like the IPL and possibly some of the others and there will be new leagues."

"But they are the sovereign domain of the members, the domestic competitions, they can run as they choose to. But

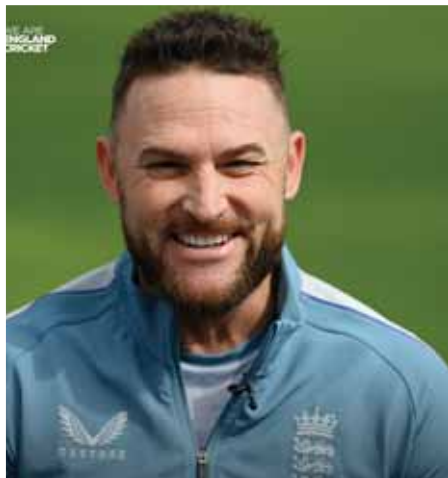
more events, and longer time periods through those events mean there is going to be squeeze, we know there are only 365 days a year..."

"So if there are more domestic leagues, that are attracted to the players, so something has to go and I don't think ICC events, which are there every year, and those events have got more teams, so they are going to take longer, so the bit that gets squeezed are the bilateral arrangements," Barclay said.

The ICC Chairman however praised the IPL saying he loved the cash rich league.

"First thing I would say after two years of not being able to travel, it is great to be back in India. And great to have my first trip back with the IPL - the semis and the final coming up.

McCullum eager to support 'strong leader' Ben Stokes



AP ■ LONDON

Brendon McCullum is relishing the prospect of working alongside a "really strong leader" in new captain Ben Stokes as they prepare to launch a new era for the England Test team.

McCullum himself has only been recently appointed to the role of England Test coach, with the team on a woeful run of one win in 17 matches ahead of their series opener against his native New Zealand starting at Lord's next week.

Former Black Caps skipper McCullum is known for a bold approach that helped kickstart a revival in the fortunes of New Zealand, the reign-

ing world Test champions, and his outlook is expected to dovetail with the attacking instincts of dynamic all-rounder Stokes.

The England job is McCullum's first as a red-ball coach, a point he acknowledged to reporters. "I certainly don't coach technically," he told Sky Sports. "I understand the technique obviously but for me it's more around tactics and management and trying to provide the right environment for the team to try and go out there and be the best versions of themselves."

The 40-year-old added: "I think with Stokes as captain we've got a really strong leader, a 'follow me' type of captain and so I think my job will be to try and ensure that we're consistent with a lot of our messaging."

"I'll look after the guys inside the environment as well and try and allow them to really grow at a speed which they might not have got to previously, so it's a big challenge."

McCullum said an improved England side would benefit Test cricket as a whole.

"I think for me red-ball cricket has always been the pinnacle of the sport," he said.

"If you look at where the game sits currently, it's probably on a bit of a downward trend and to me the nation that can really change that is England — because of the tradition of Test cricket here in England and I guess the fan following and the support that it gets in this country."

"For us to be competitive in Test cricket, I think will go a long way in trying to be able to hopefully just shift that a little bit in terms of the perception of red-ball cricket."

Australia bids farewell to Andrew Symonds



AP ■ SYDNEY

Andrew Symonds was remembered as a supremely talented cricketer with "a pure heart" at a memorial service on Friday for the Australian former all-rounder who died aged 46.

Symonds was killed in a single-vehicle accident in northern Queensland earlier this month, leaving Australian cricket reeling once more following the recent and unexpected deaths of greats Shane Warne and Rod Marsh.

Family, friends, fans and former teammates gathered to celebrate his life at a public memorial service at a stadium in the coastal city of Townsville, where he lived.

Former cricketers Ricky Ponting, Allan Border, Adam Gilchrist, Darren Lehmann and Ian Healy turned out for the man affectionately known as 'Roy'.

It followed a private funeral where a cricket bat, fishing rod, crab pot and a number of hats were placed alongside the timber coffin, local media reported.



SL beat B'desh by 10 wickets, win series 1-0

AP ■ DHAKA

Asitha Fernando finished with a career-best 6-51 as Sri Lanka thrashed hosts Bangladesh by 10 wickets in the second Test on Friday to win the series 1-0.

The visitors bowled out Bangladesh for 169 runs in their second innings with the 24-year-old playing a starring role at Dhaka's Sher-e-Bangla National Cricket Stadium.

"We knew we needed a couple of wickets to go our way," said Sri Lanka skipper Dimuth Karunaratne. "The fast bowlers

did the job for us, both in the first innings as well as the second."

Sri Lanka made 506 runs in the first innings after bowling out Bangladesh for 365.

Oshada Fernando sealed the devastating win with an unbeaten 21 in three overs.

Play had resumed on the fifth and final day with the hosts at a precarious 34-4 and Sri Lanka upped the pressure when Kasun Rajitha bowled Mushfiqur Rahim for 23 in the eighth over.

Shakib Al Hasan and Liton Das both hit fifties in a 110-run

stand and held on through the first session with a mix of caution and aggression, before Asitha drove the hosts' collapse after lunch.

He took the scalps of both Liton and Shakib soon after the break, claiming four of the last five wickets after dispatching openers Mahmudul Hasan Joy and Tamim Iqbal the previous day. Ramesh Mendis trapped Mosaddek Hossain for nine before Asitha wrapped up the Bangladesh innings with the wickets of Taijul Islam and Khaled Ahmed in successive deliveries.



AP ■ PARIS

Jurgen Klopp's Liverpool are seeking to cap a remarkable season by avenging their 2018 defeat against Real Madrid when the sides meet again in the Champions League final in Paris on Saturday, but the Spanish giants have their sights on a 14th European Cup triumph.

It is Liverpool's third Champions League final in five seasons, after they followed their 3-1 loss to Real in Kyiv by beating Tottenham Hotspur in Madrid a year later, and they are widely seen as slight favourites at the Stade de France to become kings of Europe for a seventh time.

That would put them level with AC Milan, with only Saturday's opponents having won the trophy more often, and it would allow the Anfield club to finish the campaign with a treble after they lifted the English League Cup and FA Cup.

For a long time an unprecedented quadruple was on, but Klopp's side fell just short in the Premier League, finishing a point behind Manchester City. "Without the Champions League it would be a great season. With the Champions League it would be a fan-

AN EVENING IN PARIS

Liverpool eye revenge against Real Madrid in Champions League final rematch

tastic season," said Klopp.

It has already been a memorable few years for Klopp's side following their loss in Kyiv, when Mohamed Salah was forced off injured in the first half. Lorius Karius endured a nightmare in goal, and Gareth Bale's brilliance won the trophy for Real.

"I think it is revenge time," Salah, scorer of 31 goals this season, admitted recently. Liverpool appear well placed given how much they have strengthened since 2018, chiefly in goal with the arrival of Alisson, while Thiago Alcantara has been a standout in midfield.

ANCELOTTI TARGETS NUMBER FOUR

The problem is that you could be forgiven for thinking that Real's name is on the cup, as it has literally been so many times before.

While Liverpool saw off Inter Milan, Benfica and Villarreal in the knockout rounds, it is easy to forget now that Carlo Ancelotti's Real side lost at home to Sheriff Tiraspol in the group stage, such has been their extraordinary run since.

They were 2-0 down on aggregate to Paris Saint-Germain in the last 16 before a Karim Benzema hat-trick in 17 second-half minutes in the second leg took them through.

Against Chelsea in the quarter-finals they scored late at home in the return leg to force extra time before Benzema got their winner.

The best was saved for the semi-final against Manchester City when they went into the 90th minute of the second leg needing two goals just to force extra time. They duly got them, and Benzema then struck the winner.

The 34-year-old Frenchman now leads Madrid into the final in his home country after a campaign in which he has scored 44 goals, with 15 in Europe and 27 on their run to the Spanish title.

Benzema will surely be nailed on to win the Ballon d'Or if his club triumphs in Paris, where victory would also help Real supporters get over Kylian Mbappe's decision to snub them. Madrid are chasing their fifth Champions League in nine seasons, a run that began when they beat Atletico Madrid in Lisbon in 2014.

Benzema was in that team, as was Luka Modric, while Ancelotti was the coach in his first spell in charge.

The veteran Italian can now become the first coach to win the Champions League four times, having also triumphed with AC Milan in

2003 and 2007.

The latter victory came against Liverpool and was revenge for the Anfield club's win over Ancelotti's Milan in Istanbul in 2005.

"Playing a final with them is something special. They have won six Champions Leagues, and if they reach seven they would go level with Milan, so I have extra motivation to win this final," smiled Ancelotti, who had a spell as boss of Liverpool's local rivals Everton before returning to Madrid. This will be the third final between the clubs, who also met in Paris in 1981 — then the English side were victorious thanks to Alan Kennedy's goal at the Parc des Princes.

Champions League Final
Live from 12:30am IST
SONY TEN 2 NETWORK

Ibrahimovic intends to continue playing: Maldini

AP ■ MILAN

Zlatan Ibrahimovic intends to continue playing despite the end of his contract with AC Milan and a lengthy layoff in store following knee surgery, club director Paolo Maldini said on Friday.

"From what I understand, his intention is to continue," Maldini told Gazzetta dello Sport, two days after the striker, who turns 41 in October, underwent surgery that is expected to sideline him for eight months.

"We have made an appointment in a fortnight. I don't see any problem in reaching an agreement. He is certainly not at ease playing so little. We will see what happens in the next two weeks," Maldini said.

Ibrahimovic, who returned to AC Milan in January 2020 eight years after leaving and has just helped the club win their first Serie A title since 2011, has had the anterior cruciate ligament in his left



knee reconstructed. The former Inter Milan, Paris Saint-Germain and Manchester United forward said this week he endured six months of sleepless nights due to the pain in his knee because he was determined to fulfil his promise to AC Milan of delivering their first Serie A crown in 11 years.

Thiago, Fabinho fit for final

AP ■ PARIS

Liverpool's preparations for the Champions League final were boosted by the news that midfielders Thiago Alcantara and Fabinho will be fit to face Real Madrid after injury scares.

Thiago was brought off at half-time of Liverpool's 3-1 win over Wolves last weekend nursing an Achilles problem.

Fabinho has not featured since sustaining a muscular injury in a 2-1 win at Aston Villa on May 10. However, the Brazilian took a

full part in an open training session in front of the media on Wednesday.

"Thiago Alcantara and Fabinho will be included in Liverpool's travelling squad for the Champions League final against Real Madrid," Liverpool said in a statement.

"The pair will be among the players journeying to Paris for Saturday's clash at Stade de France following injury concerns and are set to come into contention to return." Both players have been pivotal to Liverpool's stunning season that has already seen them lift two trophies in the League Cup and FA Cup.

Confident India eye revenge against Japan

PTI ■ JAKARTA

Having risen like a proverbial phoenix from the ashes, a rejuvenated Indian men's hockey team would like to put up a much-improved performance when it takes on Japan in its first 'Super 4' match of the Asia Cup here on Saturday.

Despite facing a below-par Indonesia in its final group league game, the young side coached by Sardar Singh must be lauded for being able to score a whopping 16 goals in just an hour.

It was one more than what India required to put a final nail in Pakistan's coffin as far as harbouring World Cup qualification hopes were concerned.

Both India and Pakistan finished on four points each in Pool A behind Japan but the defending champions qualified for the next round due to better goal difference (+1).

But it was not a smooth sailing for India in the first two matches.

Having already qualified for next year's World Cup by virtue of being the hosts, India fielded an inexperienced team with as many as 12 debutants for the tournament to gain much-needed experience.

The young boys did not have the best of starts drawing 1-1 with Pakistan before losing 2-5 to Japan, which pushed them on the brink of elimination.

But the Indians were in no



India vs Japan
Live from 5:00pm IST
STAR SPORTS SELECT 2

mood to bow out without a fight even as they stood at the point of no return. They staged a dramatic turnaround to keep alive their hopes of title defence.

They were also aided by Japan, who beat Pakistan 3-2 in their final match.

Their first goal achieved, the Indians would like to start afresh in the Super 4 stage, where Japan, South Korea and Malaysia are the other three teams. All the teams will play each other with the top two progressing to the final. Revenge

would be high on India's agenda having lost to the Japanese in the pool stages.

But it would be easier said than done as the nimble-footed Japanese rely mostly on counter attacks to surprise their opponents, a ploy they used to perfection against India in their last outing.

One of the perennial areas of concern for India is poor percentage of penalty corner conversions as this team doesn't have a designated drag-flicker like Rupinderpal Singh or Amit Rohidas. In fact, even against minnows Indonesia, India failed to convert even half of the 20 plus short corners that they earned.

Asian Games postponement give us more time to improve: Savita

PTI ■ BENGALURU

Indian women's hockey team captain Savita is confident of a good show at the Asian Games as the postponement of the continental event in Hangzhou provides the side with more training time and improve just like it did when Tokyo Olympics was deferred by a year. "We will once again deal with this postponement as an opportunity to train and be better prepared for the Asian Games," Savita said on the Hockey India podcast 'Hockey Te Charcha'.

"The one-year postponement for the Olympics gave us significant time to

improve and personally for me, I got to work closely with Janneke (Schopman), who has had a great impact on my improvement as a goalkeeper," she added.

One of the most successful goalkeepers in recent times, Savita will lead the Indian team in the FIH Pro League matches in Europe ahead of the FIH Women's World Cup which begins in July.

"Having finished fourth in Tokyo, everyone took notice of us. Earlier, there were expectations from the men's team only. But now, people expect the women also to finish in top three in any tournament we play and that is good for the sport,"

"No one expected we will go beyond the quarterfinals in the Olympic Games. Many of our supporters thought we would reach upto the quarterfinals at the outset, but I don't think anyone believed we could win the quarter finals.

"This zeal to win and not to give up till the last second of the match was inculcated by our coaching staff. We had to, and we knew we would change the script of Tokyo," added the experienced goalkeeper. Speaking about the team's preparations here in SAI, Bengaluru, for the Pro League and World Cup Savita said the side is hoping for a top four finish.

Fit-again Chhetri boosts India's chances in Jordan friendly



PTI ■ DOHA

Upbeat with the return of talismanic striker Sunil Chhetri in their ranks, India still have a tough task at hand when they face higher-ranked Jordan in an international football friendly match here on Saturday.

The 37-year-old Chhetri last played for India during their 3-0 win over Nepal in the

SAFF Championships final in October 2021, but since then was side-lined due to injuries.

The match is India's last preparatory outing ahead of the 2023 AFC Asian Cup Qualifiers which kicks off in Kolkata from June 8.

Jordan is placed at 91st as against 106th of India in the FIFA rankings.

"Another game against a stronger team will always help,"

head coach Igor Stimac said about which team which reached here on Wednesday.

"It's our last friendly game prior to qualifiers, and we need to get final answers on certain questions. Some of our youngsters will have a great opportunity to gain more experience at international level," he added.

The squad has been in a preparatory camp for over a month, first in Bellary in Karnataka and then in Kolkata, and the coach said that the fitness levels of his players "are quite good".

"We have another 10 days (before the Asian Cup qualifiers), and it should be perfect. The boys have done a great job, and they need to be rewarded with some good results in the Qualifiers," Stimac said.

About Jordan as an opposition team, the coach said: "Jordan are ranked better than Belarus (FIFA Ranking 93) but are not as physical as Belarus. So for us, it should be a bit easier in regards to the build-up and ball possession."

The 'Blue Tigers' had played against Belarus in the FIFA International window in March, a match where they went down 0-3.

The Indian squad has been bolstered by the joining of the ATK Mohun Bagan players, who missed the preparatory camp owing to their club commitments in the AFC Cup.

Djokovic, Nadal roll into last 16 at French Open

AP ■ PARIS

Novak Djokovic and Rafael Nadal closed in Friday on a blockbuster clash at the French Open as both reached the last 16, while Carlos Alcaraz prepared to face the only man to beat him on clay this year.

Reigning champion Djokovic and 13-time winner Nadal are on course to meet in the quarter-finals, with the Spaniard seeded outside the top four at Roland Garros for just the second time.

World number one Djokovic strolled to a 6-3, 6-3, 6-2 win over Slovenia's Aljaz Bedene and Nadal eased past Dutch 26th seed Botic van de Zandschulp 6-3, 6-2, 6-4.

"I'm always very motivated when I get on the court, with the desire to produce my best level each time. It's not always possible to do it, but today it was very good," said Djokovic.

The 35-year-old Serb is aiming to become the oldest men's singles champion in Paris in the Open era as he chases a record-equalling 21st Grand Slam title.

Next up for Djokovic, who was also French Open champion in 2016, is a match-up with Argentina's Diego Schwartzman, the 15th seed.

Nadal, the 21-time major champion, improved his record at Roland Garros to 108-3 after seeing off 2021 US Open quarter-finalist Van de Zandschulp.

He has now reached at least the fourth round in 17 of 18 visits to Roland Garros, with the exception of 2016 when he withdrew in the third round with a wrist injury.

"I think I played a good match against a good player. I'm very happy to win," said Nadal.

The Spaniard had a break point for 5-0 in the third set, but Van de Zandschulp refused to roll over, winning four of the next five games before Nadal put away his second match point, having saved a break point in between the two.

"You always feel a little bit the nerves to finish the match, so I'm happy to be through in straight sets," said Nadal, who plays Canadian ninth seed Felix Auger-Aliassime



French Open (Day 7)
Live from 2:30pm IST
SONY TEN 2, 3, 4 & SIX

for a place in the last eight.

"I think it was my best match of the tournament so far for two-and-a-half sets, so I'm very happy with that."

Amanda Anisimova, the 27th seed and a 2019 semi-finalist, advanced to the last 16 as injury-plagued Karolina Muchova retired down 6-7 (7/9), 6-2, 3-0 after falling and twisting her ankle midway through the second set.

Last year's US Open runner-up Leylah Fernandez beat Olympic champion Belinda Bencic 7-5, 3-6, 7-5, while Aliaksandra Sasnovich defeated three-time Grand Slam winner Angelique Kerber 6-4, 7-6 (7/5).

Coco Gauff, the youngest player left in the French Open, made the last 16 with a straight-sets win over Kaia Kanepi, the oldest woman in the tournament at 36.

After saving a match point in a thrilling five-setter against countryman Albert Ramos-Vinolas, Spanish teenage star Alcaraz goes up against Sebastian Korda, the US 27th seed who won their meeting in Monte

Carlo last month.

"I believe in myself, and of course I work hard every day," said the 19-year-old Alcaraz.

"You have to have a good goal, good dreams. Of course trying to follow your dream. Work hard every day. I think that's the secret."

"I'm still young, but I would say pretty experienced player now. I feel comfortable playing on the big stadium, big matches, playing in a Grand Slam. As I said, physically I'm strong. Mentally I'm strong, as well."

Alexander Zverev, the third seed and 2021 semi-finalist, was also staring at defeat in the second round against Sebastian Baez, saving a match point on serve at 4-5 in the final set after fighting back from two sets down.

The German Olympic champion meets Brandon Nakashima of the US who is enjoying his best Grand Slam run on his Roland Garros main-draw debut. It is the first time since Wimbledon in 2011 that all top 12 men's seeds have reached the third round at a major.