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OF BIDEN'S ASIA POLICY

WORLD 8
EX-LANKAN PM QUESTIONED
BY CID OVER MAY 9 VIOLENCE

MONEY 9
SENSEX HALTS 3-DAY DECLINE,
REBOUNDS OVER 500 PTS

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Sex work legal, police can't punish them: SC

Treat sex workers with dignity, don't abuse them, verbally or physically, apex court orders police

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

In a landmark judgment that will come as relief for millions of sex workers, the Supreme Court has decided to provide legal protection to them and directed police forces in all States and Union Territories to treat them with dignity and not to abuse them, verbally or physically.

"Sex workers are entitled to equal protection of the law. Criminal law must apply equally in all cases, on the basis of 'age' and 'consent'. When it is clear that the sex worker is an adult and is participating with consent, the police must refrain from interfering or taking any criminal action," a three-judge Bench led by Justice L Nageswara Rao said.

The court passed the order exercising its special powers under Article 142 of the Constitution.

The court said the constitutional protection that is given



to all individuals in this country shall be kept in mind by the authorities who have a duty under the Immoral Traffic (Prevention) Act, 1956.

Any sex worker, who is a victim of sexual assault, should be provided with all facilities available to a survivor of sexual assault, including immediate medical assistance, in accordance with law, it said.

The court held that the child of a sex worker should not be separated from the mother merely on the ground that she is in the sex trade. "Basic protection of human decency and dignity extends to sex workers and their children," the court noted.

physically, subject them to violence or coerce them into any sexual activity," said the SC.

The court also directed the police not to discriminate against sex workers who are subjected to sexual offences and provide them with every facility, including immediate medico-legal care.

The court also said the Press Council of India should be urged to issue appropriate guidelines for the media to take utmost care not to reveal the identities of sex workers, during arrest, raid and rescue operations, whether as victims or accused and not to publish or telecast any photos that would result in disclosure of such identities.

"Besides, the newly introduced Section 354C, IPC which makes voyeurism a criminal offence, should be strictly enforced against electronic media, in order to prohibit telecasting photos of sex workers with their clients in the garb of capturing the rescue operation," it said.

It also directed the State Governments to do a survey of shelter homes so that cases of adult women detained against their will can be reviewed and processed for release in a time-bound manner.

Continued on Page 2

Tamil language eternal, its culture global, says Modi

PM takes swipe at KCR, says 'parivaarvadi' greatest enemy of democracy

PTI ■ CHENNAI/HYDERABAD/BENGALURU

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Thursday praised Tamil Nadu as a special place and lauded the Tamil language as eternal and its culture as global.

In his address after inaugurating new completed projects and laying foundation stone for fresh schemes in various sectors, including housing, Modi quoted a popular verse of nationalist poet Subramania Bharathi and said in every field someone from Tamil Nadu was excelling.

Recently, Modi said he had hosted the Indian Deaflympics contingent at his residence. The PM said this time it was India's best performance in the tournament. "Do you know out of the 16 medals we have won, a youngster from Tamil Nadu had a role in 6 of those medals and this is among the best contribution to the team."

He referred to the Subramania Bharathi chair at the Banaras Hindu University in his Varanasi constituency and the full funding to the Central Tamil Classical



Prime Minister Narendra Modi greets Tamil Nadu Chief Minister MK Stalin during the ceremony for the laying of foundation stones of multiple developmental projects at Jawaharlal Nehru Stadium in Chennai on Thursday

Institute by the Centre. Underscoring the National Education Policy, he said technical and medical courses can be pursued in local languages and youngsters from Tamil Nadu could benefit from this. Earlier, Modi and Telangana Chief Minister K Chandrasekhar Rao on

Thursday took apparent potshots at each other, even as the TRS supremo gave a miss to the PM for the second time in a year during an official visit to his State.

While Modi lashed out at family politics saying "parivaarvadi" is democracy's "greatest enemy," KCR, who flew to Bengaluru to meet former PM HD Deve Gowda, said despite "bhaashanbaazi" (rhetoric), industries were closing down, the nation's GDP was crashing and the rupee was falling drastically compared to the US dollar and said all sections of the society were suffering.

In Chennai, Modi said India is providing all possible support to the economic crisis-hit Sri Lanka including financial, fuel, food, medicine and other essential items and recalled that he was the first Indian Prime Minister to visit Jaffna earlier.

Pointing to the new schemes, including those launched and foundation stone for new projects, he said the Bengaluru - Chennai Expressway would connect two key centres of economic growth.

Tamil Nadu Governor RN Ravi, Chief Minister M K Stalin and Union Minister L Murugan among others participated in the event, held coinciding with the PM's maiden visit to Tamil Nadu after the DMK came to power last year.

After babu's dog row, players' time in stadium extended

Revenue Secretary, his wife shifted out of national Capital

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

After reports surfaced that athletes at Delhi's Thyagraj Stadium were forced to cut short their practice because an IAS officer sought to walk his dog there, the Arvind Kejriwal-led Government on Thursday ordered all stadiums to remain open for players till 10 pm.

The order came after reports of Delhi Revenue Secretary Sanjeev Khirwar using the Thyagraj Stadium to walk his dog surfaced. Athletes were allegedly asked to wind up early to facilitate the walk. Delhi BJP demanded an action against Khirwar.

Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal said the Government is issuing instructions to all sports facilities to stay open for sportspersons till 10 pm.

"It has come to my notice that sportspersons are facing

problems because of the heat and the stadiums get closed by 6 or 7 pm. We are issuing instructions that all sports facilities should remain open till 10 pm so that the sportsperson can use them," Kejriwal told reporters.

On Thursday evening Khirwar, a 1994 batch IAS officer, was transferred to Ladakh. His wife Rinku Dugga, a 1994 batch IAS officer, has been transferred to Arunachal Pradesh. Sources said that the Centre has taken his conduct at Thyagraj Stadium seriously.

Earlier, Delhi Deputy CM Manish Sisodia on Thursday tweeted that the Chief Minister has extended the timings of all stadiums in Delhi till 10 pm.

"News reports have brought to our notice that certain sports facilities are being closed early causing inconvenience to sportsmen who wish to play till late night.

Kejriwal has directed that all Delhi Government sports facilities to stay open for sportspersons till 10pm," Sisodia tweeted.

Meanwhile, stadium administrator Anil Chaudhury denied the allegations and said official timings were being adhered to.

Terming it shameful, Minister of State for Housing and Urban Affairs Kaushal Kishore said, "It's shameful that sportspersons have to empty the stadium (Delhi's Thyagraj Stadium Complex) premises because an IAS officer wants to walk with his dog. The officer should apologise. This is a misuse of his authority."

Earlier the Delhi BJP had demanded action against Khirwar for forcing the players to vacate the stadium. The service department comes under the Lieutenant Governor.

Noted activist and lawyer Prashant Bhushan wrote, "Wow! Stadium is emptied, athletes told to leave, so that Delhi Govt's Principal Secretary Revenue Khirwar can walk his dog! Certainly an appropriate babu to serve the Aam Aadmi Party Government."

Will turn Delhi into City of Joy: LG

Saxena takes oath as 22nd LG of Delhi

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Former chairperson of Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC) Vinai Kumar Saxena on Thursday took oath as the 22nd Lieutenant Governor of Delhi.

In a glittering ceremony at Raj Niwas, Saxena was administered the oath of office and secrecy by the acting Chief Justice of the Delhi High Court, Vipin Sanghi.

"I want to tell Delhi people that I will work as a local guardian rather than the Lieutenant Governor," Saxena said after taking the oath.

"I will be more visible on roads than at the Raj Niwas," he told reporters. "Having taken the oath, I want to tell every citizen of Delhi that I will not be their 'Lieutenant Governor'; instead, I will be their 'local guardian'. I will always be on the streets of Delhi to work for



Lt Governor of Delhi Vinai Kumar Saxena with Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal and acting Chief Justice of Delhi High Court Justice Vipin Sanghi during the former's oath-taking ceremony as the 22nd Lt Governor of Delhi, at Raj Niwas in New Delhi on Thursday

the betterment of the city," the LG said.

"It is a harsh reality that Delhi is considered one of the most polluted cities of the world. Also, the city faces a major problem of traffic jams. With the support of Delhi Government, the Central Government and with the cooperation of each one of you, we will work to get rid of traffic jams and make Delhi free of all pollution, be it air pollution, water pollution or noise pollution. With the mantra of 'Sabka Sath, Sabka Vikas aur Sabka Vishwas' we will make Delhi the City of Joy and the City of Flowers," the LG said.

Saxena also spoke about recent incidents of communal riots in the city and recited a poem to give a message of love and peace, asking people to let go of violence. He asked people to forget past violence and bloodshed and show the world their love for the country.

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CAPSULE

CM YOGI HONEST AND HARDWORKING: SHIVPAL
Lucknow: Pragatisheel Samajwadi Party Lohia (PSPL) founder Shivpal Yadav on Thursday praised Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath as "honest" and "hardworking" while claiming that the Opposition would have been in power had it taken his support.

GYANVAPI ROW: NEXT HEARING ON MAY 30
Varanasi: The district court here on Thursday heard arguments on maintainability of a plea by five Hindu women seeking permission for daily worship of the Shringar Gauri Sthal in the Kashi Vishwanath-Gyanvapi complex, and posted the matter for further hearing on May 30.

THREE PAK TERRORISTS GUNNED DOWN IN J&K
Jammu: A joint team of security forces on Thursday foiled a major infiltration bid along the line of control in north Kashmir district of Kupwara by eliminating three Pakistani terrorists belonging to Lashkar-e-Tayyiba. One Army porter, who had received injuries during the exchange of firing, succumbed to his injuries.

4 more pilgrims die in Kedarnath, toll 41



Four more pilgrims died in the inhospitable climate of Kedarnath on Thursday, raising the death toll to 41.

If 13 deaths reported from Badrinath and 24 deaths reported from Yamunotri and Gangotri till Wednesday evening are added to it the number of deaths in the Char Dham yatra has soared to 78.

All four deceased were

BJP launches events across States to celebrate 8 years of Modi Govt

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

As Prime Minister Narendra Modi was busy in public rally and road show down South, the Central Ministers on Thursday fanned out across different States to launch celebratory programmes marking eight years with Modi at the helm.

Vignettes of political journey of Modi, 72, and the theme of him "turning himself to Pradhan Sevak" in the last eight years as he "served" the nation as Prime Minister would be splashed through the print and television media, including the national broadcaster, according to party sources.

Anniversaries of the Modi Government when Modi shifted the power centre from State of Gujarat to the Raisina hills have without exception been



BJP supporters play drums to welcome Prime Minister Narendra Modi upon his arrival at Begumpet Airport in Hyderabad on Thursday

packed with party programmes to reach out to the public with Government policies, particularly Prime Minister's flagship schemes.

Continued on Page 2

Centre 'hoodwinking' its own people with jumlas: Congress

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

The Congress on Thursday attacked the Modi Government on its eighth anniversary alleging that this period has been marked by misery and misgovernance with high inflation, low employment and communal polarisation being the hallmark. The party alleged that the promise of "achche din" made to people has only turned out to be "achche din" for the BJP and a select group of crony capitalists and industrialists whose wealth has increased manifold.

The Congress also released a booklet in Hindi "8 saal, 8 chhal, BJP Sarkar Viphal" (8 years, 8 deceits, BJP government failed) to highlight, what it called, the "failures" of the BJP Government on various fronts.



Senior Congress leaders Ajay Maken and Randeep Singh Surjewala release a booklet at AICC headquarters in New Delhi on Thursday

Addressing a joint press conference here, Congress chief spokesman Randeep Surjewala and former Union Minister Ajay Maken claimed the BJP Government has broken all records of "hoodwinking" its own people with fake "jumlas" and slogans during its eight years of rule. Maken also invited the Prime Minister to come out and debate with facts to counter the claims of "failures" made by it against the BJP Government.

Continued on Page 2

ED raids Sena Min's multiple premises

T N RAGHUNATHA ■ MUMBAI

In a major jolt to the ruling Shiv Sena in Maharashtra, the Enforcement Directorate (ED) on Thursday raided multiple locations belonging to state Transport Minister and senior party leader Anil Parab, a close aide of chief minister Uddhav Thackeray, in Mumbai, Pune and Ratnagiri in an alleged money laundering case.

Fifty-seven-year-old Parab himself was at Ajinkyatara, his official bungalow in Mumbai, when the ED officials carried out the searches.

The simultaneous raids on seven premises belonging to Parab in a simultaneous operation that lasted for 12-long hours.

The ED officials began their raids at 6 am. Among other places they raided since morning were Parab's official

residence 'Ajinkyatara' in south Mumbai, his private residence, the residence of his close associate at Kothrud in Pune with whom the minister had financial dealings.

Among the places where raids were conducted included Ratnagiri town and Dapoli, a hill station in Ratnagiri district where the minister has constructed a holiday resort.

After the arrest of two ruling Maha Vikas Aghadi (MVA) ministers - Nawab Malik and Anil Deshmukh - both of the NCP, Parab is the third State minister to come under the scanner of the ED. Earlier, State Ministers Anil Deshmukh and Nawab Malik were arrested November 2, 2021 and February 23, 2022 in two separate money laundering cases. Deshmukh and Malik are currently behind the bars.

The ED has booked Parab

under the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA).

Considered close to Thackerays for a few decades, Para is a lawyer. He played a role in the formation of the Maha Vikas Aghadi government in November 2019. It was at Parab's suggestion that Aadiya Thackeray contested the Worli seat during the Maharashtra Legislative Assembly polls.

Though the specific details of the raids were not yet known, official sources said that the ED was investigating, the allegations include purchase of a parcel of land in Dapoli by Parab in 2017 for a consideration of Rs 1 crore.

The ED had summoned Parab on August 29, 2021 in connection with allegations of corruption made against him by the incarcerated police officer Sachin Vaze.

Woman, paramour booked for murder of husband

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Delhi Police has arrested a 40-year-old woman, her 'lover' and a habitual criminal for allegedly killing her husband in central Delhi's Daryaganj area. Police said the accused woman wanted to get rid of her husband and for that she had given Rs three lakh as 'supari'.

The accused have been identified as Zeeba Qureshi, a resident of Daryaganj, Shoaib (29), a resident of Meerut in Uttar Pradesh, and Vinit Goswami (29), a resident of Ghaziabad, UP.

On May 17 around 10 pm, one Moinuddin Qureshi (47) was shot dead in Daryaganj area, police said.

According to Shweta Chauhan, the deputy Commissioner of Police (DCP), central district, during investigation, it was ascertained that the shooters may have belonged to UP as the white colour motorcycle used

in murder was found abandoned near Tara Hotel, Daryaganj and on verification, it was found stolen from Meerut.

"Later, police received specific inputs regarding the accused persons following which raids were conducted and accused, including the wife of the deceased, were arrested," said the DCP.

"Zeeba has two sons and one daughter. Her husband Moinuddin was indulged in property dealing business. She was not happy with her husband and wanted to get rid of him and to solemnize nikah with some other person, the DCP said.

"Around two years ago, she came in contact with Shoaib through Facebook and they started meeting with each other. Zeeba lured and instigated Shoaib to kill her husband and to marry her," said the DCP.

CBI arrests ABIL's chairman Bhosale in corruption case

T N RAGHUNATHA ■ MUMBAI

The CBI on Thursday arrested Pune-based politically influential businessman and chairman of the real estate ABIL group Avinash Bhosale in an alleged corruption case involving Yes Bank founder Rana Kapoor and Kapil Vadhawan of Dewan Housing Finance Ltd (DHFL).

Bhosale's arrest came a month after the CBI conducted raids on the premises of Bhosale and two other builders Vinod Goenka and Shahid Balwa in Pune and Mumbai for their alleged involvement in a cheating case relating to the Yes Bank and the DHFL.

Bhosale, who is the founder of Pune-based real estate group Avinash Bhosale Infrastructure Limited (ABIL), is being investigated for alleged routing of illicit funds to several real estate companies in Maharashtra.

NCRPULSE

VP TO VISIT GABON, SENEGAL, QATAR SOON

New Delhi: Vice President M Venkaiah Naidu will embark on a nine-day visit to Gabon, Senegal and Qatar beginning May 30 during which a number of bilateral pacts are expected to be inked to expand cooperation in specific areas. It will be the first-ever high-level visit from India to Gabon and Senegal. Naidu will be accompanied by Minister of State for Health Bharati Pravin Pawar and MPs Sushil Kumar Modi, Vijay Pal Singh Tomar and P Raveendranath.



APPLICANTS CAN'T CLAIM RIGHT ON JOB PROCESS: SC

New Delhi: A candidate who has applied for a job does not have a legal right to insist that the recruitment process set in motion be carried to its logical end, the Supreme Court has said. A bench of Justices K M Joseph and Hrishikesh Roy said that even the inclusion of a candidate in the select list may not provide the candidate with such a right. "The main principle which we should keep in mind is that it is a matter of direct recruitment," the bench said. Even the inclusion of a candidate in the select list cannot confer such a right on him. The Supreme Court, however, clarified that it is pertinent that the employer is free to act arbitrarily.

KEY ACCUSED IN TERROR ATTACK CASE ARRESTED

New Delhi: The NIA has arrested a person believed to be a key accused in the Sunjwan terror attack case that happened in April on the outskirts of Jammu. The accused, Abid Ahmad Mir of Putrigam in south Kashmir's Pulwama, is alleged to be an overground worker of the banned Jaish-e-Mohammed.

MBBS graduate duped of ₹52 L on pretext of PG admission

PNS ■ GURUGRAM

An MBBS graduate has allegedly duped of Rs 52 lakh here on the pretext of admission to a medical college in Kolkata to pursue a master's degree, police said.

The complaint Sudhanshu Vats, a resident of sector 4, alleged that he received a text message on his phone offering admission at KPS medical college and hospital in Jadavpur, Kolkata, they said.

When he called on the given number, one Satish Malik replied and asked Vats to share his documents on WhatsApp and later on e-mail, they said.

On March 13, Malik asked

him for a demand draft (DD) of Rs 23 lakh in the name of the medical college, however, Vats sent a DD of Rs 8 lakh.

After three days when Vats visited the college in Kolkata, Malik introduced him to three people who returned his DD and told him to give Rs 50 lakh to one Dr N P Dutta for admission under management quota, Vats said in his complaint.

He said Dutta came to Gurugram on March 19 and took the money from him and gave an allotment letter which was later found to be fake.

Vats also said that he also deposited Rs 2 lakh as a registration fee in the account of one Budh Singh.

Covid jab reduces risk of death by 34%: Study

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

Even vaccinated people with mild breakthrough Covid-19 infections can experience debilitating, lingering symptoms that affect the heart, brain, lungs and other parts of the body, according to a study published in Nature Medicine.

The study of more than 13 million veterans also found that vaccination against the virus that causes Covid-19 reduced the risk of death by 34 per cent and the risk of getting long Covid by 15 per cent, compared with unvaccinated patients infected with the virus.

However, vaccines were shown to be most effective in preventing some of the most worrisome manifestations of long Covid - lung and blood-clotting disorders - which declined about 49 per cent



and 56 per cent, respectively, among those who were vaccinated. "Vaccinations remain critically important in the fight against Covid-19," said first author Ziyad Al-Aly, MD, a clinical epidemiologist at Washington University. "Vaccinations reduce the risk of hospitalization and dying from Covid-19. But vaccines seem to only provide modest protection against long Covid."

People recovering from breakthrough Covid-19 infection should continue to monitor their health and see a health-care provider if lingering symptoms make it difficult to carry out daily activities."

SC permits Maha Govt to submit proposal for 20 open shelters under Child Protection Services scheme

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court has permitted the Maharashtra Government to submit a proposal to start 20 open shelters under the Child Protection Services (CPS) scheme for the 2022-2023 financial year to provide community-based facilities to Children in Street Situations (CISS).

A bench headed by Justice L Nageswara Rao said in addition to the request for approval under the CPS scheme, the state of Maharashtra shall also make an application to the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment for approval for starting the open shelters.

The apex court also directed the Union of India to take a decision and grant its approval within a period of two months from the date of receipt of the application.



"The State of Maharashtra is permitted to submit a proposal for starting 20 open shelters for the financial year 2022-2023 within a period of one week from today.

Union of India shall take a decision and grant its approval within a period of two months from the date of receipt of the application," the bench, also comprising justices B R Gavai and A S Bopanna, said in its May 19 order.

#YogaSeAyu to promote concept of Yoga, Ayurveda

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

In a run-up to the International Day of Yoga on June 21, the All India Institute of Ayurveda, under the Union Ayush Ministry on Thursday launched a campaign #YogaSeAyu to promote the concept of combining Yoga and Ayurveda to achieve holistic health.

"The integrated campaign is in sync with the MoA's 'Yoga Utsav' and aims to promote the concept of combining Yoga and Ayurveda to achieve holistic health.

Moreover, having their origin in the Vedas, the sciences of Ayurveda and Yoga are two sides of the same coin. Although beneficial on their own, combining the two ancient Indian sciences could help realize their true potential," said a statement from the AIIA. AIIA director Dr Tanuja Nesari said, "Every year on International Day of Yoga, we

take pride in walking on the path shown by our Prime Minister Modi ji, and this year is even more special as we are celebrating 'Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav'.

The Ministry of Ayush has framed the Yoga Day theme with a focus on "Brand India Globally" and to showcase India's iconic places.

Dr Nesari said that bringing Yoga and Ayurveda together provides a spiritual aspect to Ayurvedic treatment, helping it realize its complete Vedic healing powers.

"Being one of the nodal institutes for Ayurveda in the country, we believe that combining the powers of Yoga and Ayurveda creates holistic well-being.

"They complement and benefit each other and can lead to balancing of all doshas when practiced properly. "We are excited about launching this campaign and look forward to the 8th International Yoga Day," she added.

BANARAS LOCOMOTIVE WORKS, VARANASI-221004

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NOTICE is hereby given that Yogendra Kumar Gupta is the owner of Property No. 1/536 now known as 1/536/B4A measuring 80 sq. yds. out of khasra no. 33/35-32-29, 313-311-310 situated at village Jhimil tanpur in the abadi of friends colony industrial area Ilauqa shikara, Delhi-110059 by virtue of Sale Deed dated 14/11/2005 (document no. 318), whereas she has lost the following Documents pertain to the said property:- Original sale deed dated 17/02/2004 executed by M/s Dish Entertainment P Ltd. in favour of Madhu Bansal. FIR has already lodged in lieu of that dated 25/5/2022. All persons having any claim against or in respect of the said Property, or any part thereof, by way of sale, exchange, mortgage (equitable/registered) or otherwise), gift, trust, inheritance, family arrangement, maintenance, bequest, partnership, possession, lease, sublease, tenancy, license, lien, charge, pledge, easement or otherwise whatsoever, are hereby requested to notify the same in writing to us with supporting documentary evidence at the address mentioned below within 7 days from the date hereof, failing which the claim or claims, if any, of such person or persons will be considered to have been waived and/or abandoned.
Kamal Kant Gupta (Advocate)
Shop No. 5 & 6, Pk-E, CSC, Mayapuri Vihar-II, Delhi-11, Mo. 9910083351

Sex work...

From Page 1

"Measures that sex workers employ for their health and safety (e.g., use of condoms, etc.) must neither be construed as offences nor seen as evidence of commission of an offence.

"The Central Government and the State Governments, through National Legal Services Authority, State Legal Services Authority and District Legal Services Authority, should carry out workshops for educating the sex workers about their rights vis-a-vis the legality of sex work, the rights and obligations of the police and what is permitted/prohibited under the law.

4 more pilgrims...

From Page 1

Health screening of pilgrims aged above 50 years has been made mandatory before they embark on the uphill trek to the Himalayan temples.

Elderly pilgrims are being advised by authorities not to undertake the arduous journey if they have Covid history or are suffering from post-Covid complications such as breathlessness, as oxygen level drops at high altitude.

A record 10 lakh pilgrims have visited the Himalayan temples in less than one month since the start of the yatra on May 3. With COVID restrictions no longer in force the temples are witnessing an unprecedented rush of pilgrims.

Will turn...

From Page 1

"In recent times, I saw that many riots and disturbances took place in Delhi," he said.

"I want to say apas mein lade aur khoon bhi bahaya hai bahut par, jo kuch bhi hua hai, achha hai use bhula do (We clashed and spilled much blood, it's better to forget what ever happened)." He said people, irrespective of their religion, should show the world how much they love their country.

"Anything can be achieved if people are united," he said through the poem.

Centre 'hoodwinking' its own...

From Page 1

He should first debate with us and can later debate with our leader Rahul Gandhi, he said.

Asked why the claims made by the Congress were not bearing any fruit during elections, as the BJP continued to win them, Maken said the Congress is raising issues like a strong and alert Opposition and both election results and Opposition activeness are two different things.

"We are fulfilling our responsibilities and as far as better performance in elections is concerned, we have taken some decisions at the party's Chintan Shivir in Udaipur and expect better results in the future. You will see better functioning of the Congress in coming times, but highlighting the failures of the Government is very important," he said, urging the media to take its message to the masses.

Maken accused the BJP of garnering votes in the name of bravery of soldiers but did not even recognise their services by giving them one rank, one pension as was promised by the previous Congress-led UPA Government. Accusing the BJP of spreading hatred in society through communal polarisation, Maken alleged that 10,000 cases of communal clashes have taken place during the last eight years of Modi Government.

Government of Odisha, e-Procurement Notice

(INVITATION FOR BIDS (IFB))
Bid Identification No. C.C.E.,Dki.(R&B) 02/2022-23 Email Id-scdklpww@gmail.com
Letter No. 1244 / Dt. 20.05.2022
The Chief Construction Engineer, Dhenkanal (R&B) Circle, Dhenkanal on behalf of Governor of Odisha invites Percentage Rate bids in double cover system to be received in ONLINE MODE from eligible contractors for construction of Building works as detailed below:
1. Name of the work :- Building works : 05
2. No of works :- (Five) Nos.
3. Estimated Cost :- Rs. 1,073,288/-to Rs. 2,09,61,818/-(as given in column No. 03 of table)
4. Cost of tender paper :- Rs 10,000.00
5. Class of contractor :- 'B' & 'A' (as given in column No. 06 of table)
6. Period of Completion of work :- 07(seven) Calendar months (as given in column No. 07 of table)
7. Date and time of availability of bid Document in the website :- From Dt. 01.06.2022 to 5.30 P.M. of Dt.15.06.2022
8. Date of opening of bid :- Dt. 16.06.2022 at 11.30 hours
The bidders have to participate in ONLINE bidding only further details can be seen from the e-Procurement Portal: www.tendersodisha.gov.in. Any addendum / corrigendum / cancellation of tender can also be seen in the said website.
OIPR: 3413211/0006/2223 Sd/- Chief Construction Engineer Dhenkanal(R&B) Circle,Dhenkanal

PUBLIC NOTICE

Branch Office: ICICI Bank Ltd, 3rd Floor, Plot No- 23, New Rohtak Road, Karol Bagh, Delhi- 110005
The following borrower/s have defaulted in the repayment of principal and interest of the loans facility obtained by them from the Bank and the loans have been classified as Non-Performing Assets (NPA). A notice was issued to them under Section 13 (2) of Securitisation and Re-construction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act-2002 on their last known addresses, however it was not served and hence they are hereby notified by way of this public notice.
Sr. No. Name of the Borrower/ Co-Borrower/ Guarantor/ (Loan Account Number) & Address Property Address of Secured Asset / Asset to be Enforced Date of Notice Sent/ Outstanding as on Date of Notice NPA Date
1. Nidhi Arora, Flat No 902, Tower D5, Pranayam Apartments, Sector 82-85 Faridabad Haryana. A/c No.- 008305502570 House No 840 Sector 15a Escorts Nagar Faridabad 121007 06-May-2022 Rs. 2,00,69,210.59/- 04/03/2021
The steps are being taken for substituted service of notice. The above borrower/s and/or their guarantors (as applicable) are advised to make the payments of outstanding within period of 60 days from the date of publication of this notice else further steps will be taken as per the provisions of Securitisation and Re-construction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002.
Authorized Officer ICICI Bank Limited
Date: May 27, 2022 Place: Delhi, NCR

PUBLIC NOTICE

Execution Case No. 340 of 2021 IN THE HIGH COURT AT CALCUTTA ORDINARY ORIGINAL CIVIL JURISDICTION
Kotak Mahindra Bank Limited Petitioner/Award Holder
-Versus- Respondents/Judgement Debtors
Gurmeet Singh & Anr. To
1.GURMEET SINGH Son of Gurcharan, H. No. 119, Ward No. 16, Dera Bhag Singh, Cheeka, Tehsil - Guhla, District - Kaithal, Haryana, Pin - 136 034.
2.RAMESH Son of Amer Singh, H No. 203, Village - Newal, Post Office - Deedal, Tehsil - Guhla, District - Kaithal, Haryana, Pin - 136 034.
Please note that by an order dated 18th January, 2022 the Hon'ble Court had directed to effect service on the addressees. As the service of the said notice was not clear as per the postal report, the Hon'ble Court has given liberty for this instant publication by an order dated 21st February, 2022. Please note that an Execution application has been filed against you by the Award Holder being Kotak Mahindra Bank Limited praying for several interim orders against you the addressees. Please note that the Hon'ble Court has directed the matter to be listed on 7th June, 2022, when the addressees need to file their affidavit of assets. You are requested to be present in Court on the returnable date and/or be duly represented.
SINHA AND COMPANY ADVOCATES
5, KIRAN SHANKAR ROY ROAD KOLKATA - 700 001.
CON: +9133-2210-1617/1625
E-Mail : sinhacoadvocates@gmail.com
sinhaco@sinhaco.com

PUBLIC NOTICE

Execution Case No. 344 of 2021 IN THE HIGH COURT AT CALCUTTA ORDINARY ORIGINAL CIVIL JURISDICTION COMMERCIAL DIVISION
Kotak Mahindra Bank Limited Petitioner/Award Holder
-Versus- Respondents/Judgement Debtors
Balkar Singh & Anr. To
1.BALKAR SINGH Son of Gurmukh, H. No. 273, Village- Kakrala Anayatt, Tehsil- Guhla, District- Kaithal - 136 034.
2.GURMEET SINGH Son of Gurcharan, H. No. 119, W No. 16, Dera Bhag Singh, Cheeka - 136 034.
Please note that by an order dated 31st March, 2022 the Hon'ble Court had directed to effect service on the Judgment debtors. As the service of the said notice was not clear as per the postal report, the Hon'ble Court has given liberty for this instant publication by an order dated 11th May, 2022. Please note that an Execution application has been filed against you by the Award Holder being Kotak Mahindra Bank Limited praying for several interim orders against you the Judgment debtors. Please note that the Hon'ble Court has directed the matter to be listed on 22nd June, 2022, when you the Judgment debtors need to file your individual Affidavit of assets in Form No.16A of Appendix E of the Code of Civil Procedure, 1908. You are requested to be present in Court on the returnable date and/or be duly represented through your Advocate.
SINHA AND COMPANY ADVOCATES
5, KIRAN SHANKAR ROY ROAD KOLKATA - 700 001.
CON: +9133-2210-1617/1625
E-Mail : sinhacoadvocates@gmail.com
sinhaco@sinhaco.com

BJP launches events...

From Page 1
Emerging out of the Covid-19 phase of past two years when anniversaries remained subdued with the theme of "seva and samarpan", the BJP, this time round, is seeking to scale up the celebratory mood with all Central Ministers asked to visit different States to create nationwide awareness on the benefits delivered by the major policies in last eight years. The BJP will mark the Modi Government's completion of 8 years in power along the theme of "Sewa, Sushashan and Gareeb Kalyan" (service, good governance and welfare of the poor) from May 30.
Union Ministers have been tasked to connect with party workers and beneficiaries of several Central Government schemes from May 30 to June 15 and collect feedback.
The outreach programme is being conducted over a span of two weeks across 140 Parliamentary constituencies. On Wednesday, BJP President JP Nadda had held a meeting with the Central Ministers to work out a schedule for the fortnight-long campaign.

Unified MCD starts to take shape

Three Deputy Commissioners, 22 ADCs appointed in different zones, depts allocated

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

After the unification of the Municipal Corporation of Delhi (MCD), three Deputy Commissioners and 22 Additional Deputy Commissioners have been appointed in different zones and departments have been allocated to them.

According to a senior MCD official, the appointments and allocation of departments form part of the civic body's ongoing staff structuring process which is likely to be completed in a fortnight. "An order regarding the appointments was issued by the civic

body on May 24," he said. As per the order, Rajesh Goyal has been appointed as the Deputy Commissioner of City-SP zone and will also be the Deputy Commissioner (land and estate) for Karol Bagh, Rohini, Keshav Puram, Civil Lines, City-SP and Narela zones.

Sanjeev Kumar Mishra has been made the Deputy Commissioner (labour) and also Deputy Commissioner (factory licencing) for Shahdara (south and north) zones, Deputy Commissioner (health) for Karol Bagh, Keshav Puram, Rohini, City-SP, Civil Lines, Narela, and Shahdara (south and north) zones.

Satnam Singh has been appointed as Director (Personnel-I), Deputy Commissioner (factory licencing) Karol Bagh, Keshav Puram, Rohini, City-SP, Civil Lines, and Narela zones. The order said that 22 officials

have been appointed as Additional Deputy Commissioners (ADC) and given different responsibilities. Amit Kumar has been appointed as the ADC, Director (P&I), DC (Advt.) of the unified MCD.

He will also look after the charge of the joint A&C in (HQ) for the area falling under South, Central, Najafgarh, West, Shahdara (North) and Shahdara (South) zones. Hemant Kumar Fauzdar has been appointed ADC (toll tax) of the unified MCD.

He will also be the ADC (land and estate) for South, Central, West, Najafgarh, Shahdara (north and south) zones.

Vidhu Aggarwal has been appointed Director (Personnel-II) and Director (Inquiries-I), while Amit Bhardwaj will be the ADC Remunerative Project Cell and PPP Cell of the unified MCD. The unified MCD

formally came into existence on Sunday, with IAS officers Ashwani Kumar and Gyanesh Bharti assuming charge as the new civic body's Special Officer and Commissioner, respectively.

Officials said that the department and office space allocation of nine Additional Commissioners, and appointment of three Deputy Commissioners, and three engineers-in-chief was already done earlier this week.

Appointments of department heads and other key officials in different departments will soon be done, officials said.

The MCD was trifurcated in 2012 during Congress leader Sheila Dikshit's tenure as Chief Minister. It is now reunified with merging of the three civic bodies - North, South, and East municipal corporations. The merger has been done under MCD (Amendment) Act, 2022.

Denied seat, Vardhan leaves LG oath event

I will write to Vinai Kumar Saxena ji... They have not provided any seat for even MPs: Harsh Vardhan

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Unhappy over the seating arrangement, BJP Member of Parliament (MP) and former Union Minister Harsh Vardhan on Thursday left the swearing-in ceremony of the newly-appointed Delhi Lieutenant-Governor Vinai Kumar Saxena at Raj Niwas.

Vardhan, who represents the Chandni Chowk Lok Sabha said in a tweet that he was asked by an officer to vacate the seat, stating that it was reserved. After waiting for 15 minutes, he left the venue when no seat was given to him, Vardhan said.

In a video that went viral on social media, Vardhan was seen leaving the venue. When



asked what had happened, he was heard saying: "I will write to Vinai Kumar Saxena ji that this is the arrangement. They have not provided any seat for even MPs." After taking oath as the 22nd L-G of Delhi, Vinai Kumar Saxena did not comment when asked about Vardhan leaving the swearing-in ceremony.

"It was wrongly reported by the media that (I) left the oath-taking ceremony of the L-G because I did not get the desired seat. I sat where one

officer seated me, but another officer made me vacate it saying that it was reserved. I waited for 15 minutes for a seat to be provided and left when it was not given," Vardhan tweeted in Hindi. He also regretted that despite being an MP from Delhi, he could not participate in the oath ceremony of the new L-G and congratulated Saxena, saying Delhi will emerge as the best city under his tenure.

Rohan Gupta, the social media in charge of the

Congress, shared a video on his Twitter handle where a visibly angry Vardhan was seen leaving the venue, and when someone asked, "What happened, sir?", he replied, "They have not provided any seat for even Parliament Members."

"Does Indian Godi Media have the guts to upload this video? Looks like BJP MP Dr Harshvardhan is very angry for not getting a seat in at the oath-taking ceremony of Lieutenant-Governor Vinai Kumar Saxena.

This is what happens to ex-Ministers & senior leaders in BJP," tweeted Rohan Gupta. As expected, the video went viral on Twitter, and was widely shared on the social networking site.

All MPs from Delhi, including seven Lok Sabha MPs of the BJP were invited to the ceremony. North East Delhi MP Manoj Tiwari and West Delhi MP Parvesh Verma were seen sitting in back rows of sofas for dignitaries. Union Ministers Giriraj Singh and Meenakshi Lekhi were also present in the ceremony.

Malik kept in separate cell under heavy security

Tihar's jail number 7 has housed several high-profile prisoners

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Delhi Prison officials have kept Kashmiri separatist leader, Yasin Malik, in a separate cell under heavy security, a day after a Delhi court awarded life imprisonment to him in a terror funding case.

According to a senior prison official, Malik has been kept in a separate cell in jail number seven under heavy security and he may not be assigned any work.

"His security will be regularly monitored and reviewed from time to time. Malik will also not be entitled to any parole or furlough since he is a convict in a case of terror funding," he said adding that officials are keeping eye on him through CCTV cameras.

Even before being awarded life imprisonment, Malik was kept in a separate cell



where he stayed alone in jail number seven. Tihar's jail number seven has housed several high-profile prisoners, including former Finance Minister P Chidambaram, former Union Minister A Raja, Sahara head Subrata Roy and Christian Michel. A Delhi court on Wednesday awarded life imprisonment to Malik in a terror funding case, saying the crimes committed by him struck at the "heart of the idea of India" and were intended to forcefully

secede Jammu & Kashmir from the Union of India.

Special Judge Praveen Singh awarded varying jail terms to Malik for offences under the stringent anti-terror law--Unlawful Activities Prevention Act (UAPA) and the IPC, rejecting the NIA's plea for capital punishment.

The names -- Jack, John and Alpha among others -- were given to important protected witnesses, with hidden identities for their safety, in the terror funding case in which National Investigation Agency (NIA) had seized around 600 electronic devices during its raids at 70 places.

There were nearly four dozen protected witnesses but code names were given only to a select few, who could be of help in making a watertight case, officials privy to the developments of the case said.

The case was probed by a NIA team led by Inspector General Anil Shukla, a 1996-batch IPS officer from AGMUT cadre, with the then Director Sharad Kumar heading the organisation.

According to the Supreme Court, life imprisonment means incarceration till the last breath, unless the sentence is commuted by the authorities.

PICTALK



Lt-Governor of Delhi Vinai Kumar Saxena with acting Chief Justice of Delhi High Court Justice Vipin Sanghi and Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal, during his oath-taking ceremony at Raj Niwas in New Delhi on Thursday

Woman plots own abduction to extort money from brother

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

The Delhi Police has arrested a 38-year-old woman for allegedly plotting her own kidnapping to extort money from her brother. Police said that she also converted her voice into a male voice with the help of an app and sent a recording asking for ransom to her brother.

Police said the woman was going through a financial crisis and was in need of money, following which she made the plan to stage her own kidnapping and demand money from her brother.

According to M Harsh Vardhan, the Deputy Commissioner of Police (DCP), South district, a complainant was received at the Mehrauli police station on Wednesday in which the man stated that his sister had been kidnapped and he was receiving extortion calls and mes-

sages from her phone number.

"He also informed that kidnappers had also sent him a photo of his sister which showed her gagged and her hands tied. A case under relevant Sections of law was registered and investigation was taken up," said the additional DCP.

"During investigation, the police visited the house of the complainant and checked the CCTV footage of the area where they found that the woman had left her home on Tuesday. The mobile phone of the victim was found switched off and it was only available on WhatsApp through which the alleged kidnappers were communicating," said the additional DCP.

"Through technical analysis, the location of the phone was traced to Agra," he said.

A police team went to Agra and based on the last location, they searched around 50 hotels and



resorts. While checking a hotel in Tajganj Market in Agra, they found the woman," said Vardhan.

"The woman told the police that she was going through financial crisis and to fulfil her need for money, she herself planned her kidnapping and demanded ransom from her brother in lieu of her release, he said.

She tied her hand with a rope and gagged herself. She also converted her voice into male voice with the help of an app and sent it to her brother for ransom, Vardhan said, adding that the woman was brought to Delhi and arrested under relevant sections of law for extortion.

1,03,397 candidates have applied seeking admissions: Jamia

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

The Jamia Millia Islamia (JMI) university on Thursday informed that a total of 1,03,397 candidates have applied to it seeking admissions in 136 programmes for the academic year 2022-23.

According to JMI Registrar Nazim Hussain Al Jafri, out of the total candidates, 56,667 are women who have applied for admission. The registration for all undergraduate and postgraduate courses ended on Wednesday.

Among the 136 programmes, 39 are undergraduate courses and 78 postgraduate courses. The registration also concluded for 17 postgraduate diploma courses and two advanced diploma courses.

The JMI released its admission prospectus last month online and admission forms were made available from April 14. It had extended the last date for submission of online application forms for all graduate and postgraduate courses till May 25.

The university had previously set May 13 as the last date for submission of the admission forms. Entrance tests for admission to courses not covered under the Common University Entrance Test (CUET) will begin on June 11.

Quantum of sentence to be awarded today to Chautala in DA case

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Delhi court will pronounce on Friday its decision on the quantum of sentence to be awarded to the 87-year-old Om Prakash Chautala, former Haryana Chief Minister, in a Disproportionate Assets (DA) case.

Meanwhile, Chautala had urged the court to grant him minimum punishment, citing medical ailments and old age.

Special Judge Vikas Dhull on Thursday heard the arguments from the counsels for CBI as well as Chautala who was convicted in the case of acquiring disproportionate assets from 1993 to 2006.

The CBI, meanwhile, sought maximum punishment for the convict, saying it would send a message to society. The agency further said that Chautala was not having clean antecedents since it was the second case in which he has been



convicted. The court had last week convicted Chautala and said the accused had failed to satisfactorily account for such dis-proportionality by proving his source of income or means by way of which, he acquired assets during this period.

The CBI had filed the case in 2005, and a charge sheet was filed on March 26, 2010, accusing him of amassing assets disproportionate to his legitimate income, between 1993 and 2006.

FIR registered after MP Rana files complaint over life-threatening calls

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

The Delhi Police has registered a First Information Report (FIR) against unknown persons after Independent Lok Sabha MP Navneet Rana filed a complaint alleging that she received multiple life threatening calls.

Rana had filed the complaint with the Delhi Police on Wednesday. Rana was recently granted bail by a Mumbai court in connection with the Matoshree-Hanuman Chalisa case.

According to Amrutha Guguloth, the Deputy Commissioner of Police (DCP), New Delhi district, the FIR has been registered under Sections of 506 (punishment for criminal intimidation) and 509 (word, gesture or act intended to insult the modesty of a woman) of the Indian Penal Code (IPC) at the North Avenue police station.

According to the complaint filed by her personal assistant,

the MP received 11 calls on Tuesday from 5.27 pm to 5.47 pm on her personal mobile number. The person on the other end spoke to her in a very inappropriate way, abused her and also threatened that if she comes to Maharashtra, she will be killed, the complaint said.

The caller threatened the Amravati MP that "if you recite Hanuman Chalisa again, you will be killed," the complaint stated.

The complaint further said that Rana was traumatised. A police official privy to investigation said that they are investigating the matter and call details record (CDR) is being scanned to identify the culprits as alleged by the Rana.

In April, Navneet Rana and her MLA husband Ravi Rana had announced that they would recite Hanuman Chalisa outside Matoshree, the private residence of Maharashtra Chief Minister and Shiv Sena president Uddhav Thackeray in Mumbai.

'Delhi's class 8, 10 students perform better than national average'

However, city behind in languages, math, EVS at primary school level

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

The National Achievement Survey 2021 data showed that Delhi is behind the national average in performances in three subjects -- languages, math and environmental studies (EVS) -- at the primary level and has registered a dip in performances since 2017. However, at the class 8 level, it bucked the national trend and recorded better performances than in the pre-pandemic survey. The sur-



vey was conducted in November 2021 with a sample size of 34 lakh students in classes 3, 5, 8 and 10 with the objective of evaluating the progress of students and their learning competencies.

Around 64,049 students in a total 1,602 schools participated in the survey, out of which 48.3 per cent were girls and 51.7 per cent were boys.

A total of 37 per cent stu-

dents were from State Government schools, 36 per cent was from private schools, 10 per cent from Central Government schools and the rest 17 per cent were from Government-aided schools.

The performance of Delhi students of classes 8 and 10 was better than the national average, stated the survey. According to the survey report released on Wednesday, the

national mean score for all levels (classes 3, 5, 8 and 10) and subjects was also found to be lower than that of the previous National Achievement Survey conducted in 2017. In its survey, the NAS covered Government, Government-aided and private schools.

Language, mathematics and EVS for classes 3 and 5; language, mathematics, science and social science for class 8 and language, mathematics, science, social science and English for class 10 were the subjects covered during the survey.

The achievement tests along with the questionnaires -- pupil questionnaire, teacher questionnaire and school questionnaire -- were developed and translated in 22 different languages by the NCERT.

This nationwide survey was administered by the CBSE in one single day at the same

time. The survey was managed through the technology platform designed and developed by the National Informatics Centre. The survey report highlighted that the average performance of students in all subjects declined as they progressed from class to class.

For instance, the average performance of students at the national level was 306 (in scaled score out of 500) in Mathematics in class 3. It declined to 284 in class 5; 255 in class 8; and to 220 in class 10.

The average performance of students at the national level in language stood at 323 (in scaled score out of 500) in class 3. It declined to 309 in class 5, and 302 in class 8.

In class 10, the language section was divided into two parts, modern Indian languages and English, for which the national average remained 266 and 277, respectively.

Eviction proceedings to be initiated against Mann in Delhi

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

The Directorate of Estates has been asked by the Lok Sabha Secretariat to initiate eviction proceedings against Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) leader and Punjab Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann for unauthorised occupation of a Central Government accommodation in the national Capital which was allotted to him as a Member of Parliament (MP).

Mann had resigned as Sangrur MP in March to become Punjab's Chief Minister. In its petition before the estates officer, the Secretariat said Mann was allotted Duplex No 33 on North Avenue, along with its units and 153 North Avenue, as his regular accommodation as



a member of the 17th Lok Sabha.

"The said allotment stands cancelled in his name with effect from April 14," it said, adding Mann failed to vacate the premises. The occupation of the building by the former MP after April 13 is unauthorised. It is, therefore request-

ed the proceedings for eviction of Bhagwan Mann, ex-MP and all persons may be initiated and orders for their eviction be passed," reads the petition sent to the estates officer.

The accommodation has now been issued to Hanuman Beniwal, RLP president and MP from Rajasthan. Central Government employees, MPs and judges are allotted accommodation in the Capital, but after their term expires or ends prematurely they are no longer eligible for it.

As per PRS Legislative, to evict a person a Central Government estate officer issues a notice to the individual after which s/he has to show cause within three working days as to why an eviction notice should not be issued against them.

'Covid killed 1.6L people in 2020' Israel Def Min to visit India next week

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

The Covid-19 killed 1,60,618 people in 2020 and accounted for 8.9 per cent of the total 18.11 lakh medically certified deaths in country, according to Report on Medical Certification of Cause of Death-2020 released by Office of Registrar General of India (RGI) on Wednesday.

This is, however, higher than officially declared Union Health Ministry's Covid death count of 1,48,994 in 2020.

While Covid-19 was fourth biggest cause of medically certified deaths nationally in 2020, it was second biggest in seven States — Maharashtra (17.7 per cent), Manipur (15.7 per cent), Uttar Pradesh (15 per cent), Himachal Pradesh (13.5 per cent), Andhra Pradesh (12 per cent), Punjab (11.9 per cent) and Jharkhand (7.6 per cent).

In 2020, the most Covid deaths in absolute numbers were reported in Maharashtra (61,212) followed by Uttar Pradesh (16,489), Karnataka (15,476), Andhra Pradesh (12,193) and Delhi (8,744). Only one State — Arunachal Pradesh — and one Union Territory — Lakshadweep — did not report any medically certified Covid death during 2020, as per RGI data. For purposes of Report



on Medical Certification of Cause of Death-2020, a separate group Covid was added for data collection after pandemic broke out in 2020.

In the report, Covid deaths have been reported under two sub-heads: One in which code 'virus identified' is assigned to a "disease diagnosis of Covid 19 confirmed by laboratory testing"; and second in which code 'virus not identified' is assigned to "a clinical or epidemiological diagnosis of Covid 19 where laboratory confirmation is inconclusive or not available.

Overall, heart diseases, pneumonia and asthma together claimed highest number of lives — over 42 per cent — of total 18,11,688 medically certified deaths

registered in the country in 2020.

However, the total number of registered deaths in country was 81,15,882. A total of 5.7 per cent of total medically certified deaths were reported among infants (age less than 1 year) while about 71.7 per cent of all infant deaths were reported to be caused by certain conditions originating during perinatal period.

In age-group of 15-24 years, diseases of circulatory system claimed 18 per cent of deaths — the highest — followed by injury, poisoning, and certain other consequences of external causes, which constituted 15.7 per cent of deaths, implying age group to be peculiarly vulnerable to injuries and poisoning related deaths.

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ AGENCIES/NEW DELHI/JERUSALEM

In a boost to the growing ties between the two countries, Defence Minister Benny Gantz of Israel will visit India next week to mark 30 years of diplomatic and defence relations. He will sign a Letter of Intent (LOI) on the occasion.

The Minister was earlier scheduled to visit New Delhi in March but had to postpone it due to terror attacks across Israel.

Moreover, Israel Prime Minister Naftali Bennett had to call off his visit to India to celebrate 30 years of establishment of diplomatic ties with India as he tested positive for corona. The visit was to take place from April 3-5.

The Israeli defence minister's visit signifies growing strategic and defence ties between India and Israel. In the last 30 years, Israel has emerged as one of the top suppliers of high end weapon



systems and allied equipment to the Indian armed forces across the entire spectrum. The two countries are now foraying into joint development and production of weapon systems.

The two countries elevated their bilateral ties to a strategic partnership during Prime Minister Narendra Modi's visit to Israel in July 2017. Since then, the relationship between the two countries has played a key role in the growth stories of the two nations. In a special video message on the completion of 30 years

of full-fledged diplomatic relations between India and Israel, Modi said this period has been very important for both countries. Israel Prime Minister Naftali Bennett has earlier described the "deep relationship" between India and Israel as one coming from the heart and not being about interests and asked Prime Minister Modi to work together to take the bilateral ties to "a whole new level".

A detailed schedule will be released in the coming days, a statement from his office said. Informed sources told PTI that he will be on a three-day visit to India and will meet his Indian counterpart Rajnath Singh. Other details of the trip are being worked out, they said. Some local media reports interpreted the signing of the LOI as a "special security declaration."

Prime Minister Modi said in January this year that there cannot be a better time to set new goals for taking forward India-Israel relations and asserted that the cooperation between the two countries has played a key role in the growth stories of the two nations.

In a special video message on the completion of 30 years

of full-fledged diplomatic relations between India and Israel, Modi said this period has been very important for both countries.

Israel Prime Minister Naftali Bennett has earlier described the "deep relationship" between India and Israel as one coming from the heart and not being about interests and asked Prime Minister Modi to work together to take the bilateral ties to "a whole new level".

Though India had recognised Israel on September 17, 1950, full-fledged diplomatic relations between the countries were established on January 29, 1992.

Since then, the bilateral relations between both countries have developed into multifaceted strategic partnerships.

Earlier in January, Israel's envoy to India Naor Gilon said the 30th anniversary of India-Israel diplomatic ties is a good opportunity to look ahead and shape the next 30 years of relations.

K'taka Cong head Shivakumar, others booked under PMLA



PTI ■ NEW DELHI/BENGALURU

The Enforcement Directorate (ED) has filed a chargesheet under the anti-money laundering law against Karnataka Congress president D K Shivakumar and others, officials said on Thursday.

The prosecution complaint has been filed under various sections of the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA) before a Delhi court, they said.

The federal probe agency, in the chargesheet, has included the statements of various people it recorded during the course of investigation and the

evidence it gathered. Speaking to reporters in Bengaluru, Shivakumar said all "political weapons" were being used against him, ahead of the Karnataka assembly polls expected to be held next year.

He claimed that the chargesheet is "part of a plan to eliminate people, whom the ruling dispensation fear may create trouble for them politically or don't surrender to them", adding that he is ready to "face everything".

The ED had in September 2018 registered a money laundering case against Shivakumar, Anjaneya Hanumanthiah, an employee

CBI raids ex-J'khand Sports Min in multi-crore equipment purchases

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The CBI on Thursday conducted searches at 16 locations, including the residence of former Jharkhand Sports Minister Bandhu Tirkey in then BJP-led Arjun Munda Government, over alleged irregularities in multi-crore equipment purchases for the 34th National Games 2011 held in Ranchi, officials said.

Besides Tirkey, who is now the working president of the Congress in the state, the CBI also searched the premises of noted lawyer R K Anand, who was the working chairman of the National Games Organising Committee, in the national capital. The premises of former director of sports of



the state P C Mishra, organising secretary of national games Madhukant Pathak and organising secretary H M Hashmi are also being searched, the officials said.

As part of the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) operation, seven places in Ranchi and five locations in Dhanbad are also being searched, they said. Tirkey was recently convicted for amassing disproportionate assets by a Jharkhand court

and stripped of his assembly membership. He was a close confidante of Babul Marandi of the Jharkhand Vikas Morcha (Prajanantik) before Marandi decided to merge the outfit with the BJP.

Tirkey did not agree with Marandi's decision and joined the Congress after the 2019 assembly elections.

The case of alleged corruption in the purchase of games equipment was probed by the state anti-corruption branch and later, handed over to the CBI by the Jharkhand High Court in April this year.

The order was passed by a division bench of Chief Justice Dr Ravi Ranjan and Justice Sujit Narayan Prasad while hearing a public interest liti-

gation filed by Sushil Kumar Singh in 2018 seeking a speedy inquiry into the alleged National Games scam.

The bench observed that the ACB had not concluded its investigation even after more than a decade of the games being hosted by the Jharkhand government.

In his petition, Singh had mentioned that the expenditure incurred in hosting the National Games in the state had been pegged at Rs 28.38 crore.

He had claimed that public money was squandered by office bearers of the National Games' organising committee who embezzled money by quoting high prices of sports equipment and accessories.

at the Karnataka Bhavan in New Delhi, and other people allegedly linked to him. Shivakumar, 60, was arrested by the ED in this case in 2019, after multiple rounds of questioning.

A number of people, including his daughter Aishwarya and Congress MLA Lakshmi Hebbalkar, were questioned by the agency during the probe. The Congress leader, a former cabinet minister of Karnataka, is out on bail in the money laundering case.

The case is based on an earlier Income Tax Department chargesheet filed against Shivakumar and others before a court in Bengaluru on charges of alleged tax evasion and hawala dealings.

The I-T department has accused Shivakumar and his associate S K Sharma of transporting huge amounts of unaccounted cash on a regular basis through 'hawala' channels with help of three other accused after it carried out raids in Delhi and Bengaluru against

them in 2017. Shivakumar, after I-T department raids, had said that his "instrumental role" in ensuring safe stay of Gujarat Congress MLAs in a Karnataka resort during the Rajya Sabha polls in 2017, amid allegations that the BJP was trying to poach them, was the reason for the I-T searches and subsequent ED action against him.

The I-T department claimed that Shivakumar set up an extensive network of persons and premises across Delhi and Bengaluru in order to transport and utilise "unaccounted" cash. The other accused in its case were identified as Sachin Narayan, Hanumanthiah and N Rajendra.

According to department, Narayan was a business partner of Shivakumar and Sharma is proprietor of Sharma Transports, which ran a fleet of luxury and passenger buses and provided transport services to various concerns and individuals on rental basis.

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Sale of Immovable Property mortgaged to Bank under Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest (SARFAESI) Act, 2002

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) & Rule (9) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rule, 2002. Notice is hereby given to the public in general and in particular to the borrower (s) and Guarantor (s) that the below described immovable property mortgaged/charged to the Secured Creditor, the constructive/physical/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.

Lot No.	Name of The Branch Name of the Account Name & Addresses of The Borrower/Guarantor	Description of the Immovable Properties Mortgaged/Owner's Name (Mortgagors of Property (ies))	Dt. of Demand Notice u/s 13(2) of SARFAESI Act 2002		Reserve Price	DATE & TIME OF AUCTION	Details of The Encumbrances Known To The Secured Creditors
			Outstanding Amount as on Possession Date u/s 13(4) of SARFAESI Act, 2002	Nature of Possession Symbolic/Physical/Constructive			
1	Branch: Chowk Bazar, Jwalapur, Haridwar Borrower: M/S A. A. Industries, Prop. Smt. Shruti Mangal W/o Sh. Ishan Mangal, Address: Near Ramleela Bhawan, Jamalpur Kalan, Jwalapur, Haridwar, Uttarakhand - 249407, S. Smt. Shruti Mangal W/o Sh. Ishan Mangal, Address - Mohalla Mehtan, Peeth Bazar, Jwalapur, Haridwar, Uttarakhand - 249407. Guarantor & Mortgagor: Sh. Ishan Mangal S/o late Shri. Rajeev Kumar Mangal, Address- Mohalla Mehtan, Peeth Bazar, Jwalapur, Haridwar, Uttarakhand - 249407.	1/2 Share of a South side Shop measuring East - 6 feet 10 inch, West - 6 feet 10 inch, North - 37 feet, South - 36 feet, having total covered area 23.16 squaremeter belonging to Nagar Nigam House Tax khata no. 62/57, Boundaries : East - Road Main Bazar, West - Property of Sanjay Mangal, North - Shop of Rajendra Agarwal, South - Shop of Sanjay Mangal having half covered area 11.58 square meter, situated in Gurudwara Road Mohalla Daat Mandi Jwalapur Pargana Jwalapur Tehsil & Distt. Haridwar within limits of Nagar Nigam Haridwar. Original Registered Gift Deed dated 21.09.2017 registered in Bahi No. 1, Zild No. 4115, Pages 09-26 Serial No. 5178 dated 21.09.2017 in the office of sub registrar Haridwar in the favour of Smt. Shruti Mangal W/o Shri Ishan Mangal.	14.09.2021 Rs. 18,49,082.54 with further Interest, other charges and expenses w.e.f. 01.04.2021 in full	24.11.2021 (Symbolic Possession)	Rs. 37.41 Lakh Rs. 3.75 Lakh 28.06.2022 up to 5 PM Rs. 0.50 Lakh	29.06.2022 From 11.00 AM to 04.00 PM	Not Known
2	Branch: Kankhal Haridwar Borrower: M/s Moon Enterprises, Prop: Mohd. Fayyaz, Govindpur Dadupur, Bahadradab Tehsil Roorkee Haridwar-249401, Mohd. Fayyaz S/o Nazim Hasan, Add: Govindpur Dadupur, Bahadradab Tehsil Roorkee, Haridwar- 249401, Add: Mohalla Pathanpura Manglour, Haridwar-247656, Add: Mohalla Mahigran (Islam Nagar Ramur Road), Manglour Haridwar-247656, Sh Madan Sharma S/o Munge Ram Sharma, 111 Raj Vihar Colony, Football Ground Kankhal, Haridwar 249408	A plot measuring in East- 50 Feet, West- 50Feet, North- 50 Feet & South- 50 feet having total area measuring 2500 Sqft i.e. 232.34 sqmt bearing Khasra No 95 mi, situated at Village Dadupur Govindpur Pargana Roorkee Tehsil & District Haridwar (Outside of Municipal limit of Haridwar) Boundaries: East- Road 20 Feet Wide, West - Land of Seller, North- Land of Seller, South- Land of Seller. Sale Deed registered at Bahi No 1 Zild no . 2808, Pages 129-156 at serial no 5789, on date 18.07.2016 in the office of Sub-Registrar Haridwar- II.	05.06.2021 Rs. 36,16,594.00 with further Interest, other charges and expenses w.e.f. 01.05.2021 in full	13.10.2021 (Symbolic Possession)	Rs. 14.45 Lakh Rs. 1.50 Lakh 28.06.2022 up to 5 PM Rs. 0.50 Lakh	29.06.2022 From 11.00 AM to 04.00 PM	Not Known
3	Branch: Chowk Bazaar Jwalapur Borrower: M/s New Fashion Palace, Proprietor: Ramesh Kumar S/o Sh Nautan Das, Kathera Bazar Masjid Jwalapur, Haridwar-24947, Sh Ramesh Kumar S/o Nautan Das, 103 Mohalla Mehtan Ward No 24, Jwalapur Haridwar- 249407, Sh Nitin Kumar Manchanda S/o Sh Ramesh Kumar Manchanda, 102/95 Mohalla Mehtan Jwalapur, Haridwar-249407, Sh Vikas Kumar S/o Sh Ramesh Kumar Manchanda, 97, Lodha Mandi, Mohalla Mehtan, Jwalapur Haridwar-249407	All that Commercial Shop on first floor, area measuring in East- 28ft, West- 28 Feet, North- 12feet, South- 12feet, having total area 336sqft i.e. 31.22 Sqmt Bounded in East- Shop of Sh Sumar Chand, West- Shop of Goel Shahb, North- Road & South- House of Gurvachan Singh Saini, Bearing Nagar Nigam House Tax No 35/30(Old) & new Khata No 54 Situated at Mohalla Mehtan Jwalapur(within limits of Nagar nigam Haridwar) Tehsil & District Haridwar. Sale deed registered at bahi no 1, Zild no 1190 Page 366, ADF book No 1, Zild no. 1833 Pages 625 -636 Serial no 10330 executed on 03.10.2006 at Sub-Registrar Haridwar in favour of Smt Savita Rani W/o Sh Ramesh Kumar.	21.09.2021 Rs. 13,84,259.18 with further Interest, other charges and expenses w.e.f. 01.04.2021 in full	30.12.2021 (Symbolic Possession)	Rs. 39.12 Lakh Rs. 3.92 Lakh 28.06.2022 up to 5 PM Rs. 0.50 Lakh	29.06.2022 From 11.00 AM to 04.00 PM	Not Known
4	Branch: Roshnabad Haridwar Borrower: M/s Riya Enterprises, Proprietor Naseem Ahmed S/o Gulzar, E-2 Industrial Area Bahadradab, Haridwar. Sh Naseem Ahmed S/o Gulzar, House No. 32 Garh, Garhmeerpur, Haridwar-249402. Sh Gulzar S/o Basir, Village Garhmeerpur District Haridwar.	All that part and parcel of property with area measuring 0.017 hectare i.e. 170 sqmt, bounded in east- seller, in West- Rasta 14 Ft Wide, in North- Land of Rajendra and in South- Land of Madan, bearing Khasra No 584, Situated at Village Garh Pargana Roorkee Tehsil & District Haridwar (outside limits of Nagar Nigam Haridwar) Sale Deed registered in Bahi No 1 Zild no 1349 Pages 277-294, Sr No 5288 on dated 11.06.2013 registered at Sub Registrar Haridwar II, executed in favour of Sh Naseem S/o Sh Munna Hasan.	06.10.2021 Rs. 29,85,499.00 with further Interest, other charges and expenses w.e.f. 01.10.2021 in full	28.12.2021 (Symbolic Possession)	Rs. 38.70 Lakh Rs. 3.90 Lakh 28.06.2022 up to 5 PM Rs. 0.50 Lakh	29.06.2022 From 11.00 AM to 04.00 PM	Not Known
5	Branch: Roorkee, Haridwar Borrower: M/s Uttaranchal Steels Pvt. Ltd., Registered Office- 15.5 Km Stone, Dehradun Highway, Bhagwanpur Roorkee- 247667 Uttarakhand. Director: 1.Sh. Naved Alam, Address: Ravidas Puri Muzzaaffarnagar-251002, Uttar Pradesh. 2. Sh. Mohd. Zakir, Address: Mustafa Colony, Meerut Road, Muzzaaffarnagar - 251002, Uttar Pradesh, Guarantor: 1. Sh. Muzammil Hussain, Address: H.No.- 965, Kungar Patti, Sujru, Muzzaaffarnagar-251003, Uttar Pradesh. 2. Sh. Abdul Kayum, Address: H.No. 84777, Mustafa Colony, Meerut Road, Muzzaaffarnagar - 251002, Uttar Pradesh	A Double storied residential East facing house with area measuring 91.12sqyd or 76.18sqmt on ground floor it consists of two room, Lobby, Drawing room and stair and on First Floor having one room, Lobby total covered area of both Ground and first floor is 75.25 Sqmt, Situated at Mohalla Sarai Faizali, Shahranpur. Boundaries: East- Way 5-6 Feet wide, West- House of Mohammad Iqram, North- House of Sh Kuldeep and South- House of Mohd Haroon. Original Sale deed Registered in Bahi No 1 Zild No 4640, Pages 835-852 and Serial No 3179 on 15.05.2006 in the office of Sub-registrar Sahranpur executed in favour Sh Abdul kayyum.	09.09.2022 Rs. 8,69,54,983.44 with further Interest, other charges and expenses w.e.f. 01.07.2021 in full	19.05.2022 (Symbolic Possession)	Rs. 17.32 Lakh Rs. 1.75 Lakh 28.06.2022 up to 5 PM Rs. 0.50 Lakh	29.06.2022 From 11.00 AM to 04.00 PM	Not Known
6	Branch: SRA Haridwar Borrower: M/s Vatsal Traders, Proprietor: Sh Amit Dhawan S/o Anoop Dhawan, House No 48 Satyamp Vihar, Bhupatwala, Haridwar-249401, Sh Amit Dhawan S/o Anoop Dhawan, House No 48 Satyamp Vihar, Bhupatwala Haridwar- 249401, Sh Anoop Dhawan House No 48 Satyamp Vihar, Bhupatwala Haridwar-249401	All part and parcel of west facing Shop without roof rights, land measuring in East- 14ft, West-14feet, North- 20feet, South- 20feet, having total area 280sqft i.e. 26.02 Sqmt bearing House tax no 301 situated at House no 100 Bhoopatwala Haridwar Pargana Jwalapur Tehsil and District Haridwar within limits of Nagar Nigam Haridwar. Bounded in East- House of Pradeep Singh, west- Road, North- Shop of Sh Pradeep Singh, South- Shop of Sh Pradeep Singh, Sale deed registered in Bahi No 1 Zild No 2717 pages 269-318 serial No 5718 in the office Sub- Registrar Haridwar.	14.06.2021 Rs. 26,06,305.28 with further Interest, other charges and expenses w.e.f. 31.05.2021 in full	16.11.2021 (Symbolic Possession)	Rs. 30.60 Lakh Rs. 3.10 Lakh 28.06.2022 up to 5 PM Rs. 0.50 Lakh	29.06.2022 From 11.00 AM to 04.00 PM	Not Known

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>.

STATUTORY SALE NOTICE UNDER RULE 8(6) & RULE (9) OF THE SARFAESI ACT, 2002

Date: 26.06.2022 Place: Haridwar Authorised Officer

Desi survey ship Nirdeshak launched in Bay of Bengal

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI



The indigenously designed and built survey ship Nirdeshak was launched on Thursday in the Bay of Bengal. It is the second of the four survey vessels(Large)built by the public sector Garden Reach Shipbuilders and Engineers (GRSE), Kolkata in collaboration with Larsen and Toubro (L&T) for the Indian Navy.

Giving details of the ship, Navy officials said here, the vessel was launched at Kattupalli, Chennai. The ship made its first contact with water of Bay of Bengal at 1038 hrs at the launch ceremony graced by the Vice Admiral Biswajit Dasgupta, Flag Officer Commanding in Chief, Eastern Naval Command.

His wife Sarbani Dasgupta launched the ship in keeping with the naval tradition. The ship has taken its name from erstwhile Nirdeshak which was also an Indian Naval Survey ship and was decommissioned after 32 years of glorious service in December 2014.

Part construction of three out of four ships of survey vessels is being undertaken at L&T, Kattupalli as part of collaborative approach between GRSE and L&T shipbuilding.

This model of public private partnership shall be harbingers of future successful collaboration for warship construction in India, they said. The contract for building four ships was signed between defence ministry and GRSE in 2018.

The first of class ship 'Sandhayak' was launched on 11 December last year. The new survey ships will replace the existing Sandhayak Class survey ships with new generation hydrographic equipment to collect oceanographic data.

The Survey Vessel (Large) ships have a deep displacement of about 3,400 tons and a complement of 235 personnel. The

ship is designed to operate at cruise speed of 14 knots and maximum speed of 18 knots. Bow and stern thrusters have been catered for better manoeuvring at low speeds required during shallow water survey operations.

The hull of these ships is made from indigenously developed DMR 249-A steel manufactured by Steel Authority of India Limited.

With a capability to carry four survey motor boats and an integral helicopter, the primary role of the ships would be to undertake full scale coastal and deep-water hydrographic surveys of ports and navigational channels.

The ships would also be deployed for collecting oceanographic and geophysical data for defence as well as civil applications.

In their secondary role, the ships are capable of providing limited defence, besides serving as hospital ships during emergencies.

Despite challenges due to COVID-19 pandemic, the GRSE has made substantial progress and aim to deliver Sandhayak, the first ship by January next year. The delivery of the second ship Nirdeshak is likely by April 2023.

Launch of the second survey vessel reinforces resolve for indigenous shipbuilding as part of the vision of 'Make in India', and 'AatmaNirbhar Bharat'. The Survey Vessels Large will have over 80 per cent indigenous content by cost.

This will also ensure that large scale defence production is executed by Indian manufacturing units thereby generating employment and capability build up within country.

Major infiltration bid along LOC foiled

Security forces eliminate three Pak JeM terrorists in Kupwara

One Army porter succumbs to injuries



PNS ■ JAMMU

A joint team of security forces Thursday foiled a major infiltration bid along the Line of Control in North Kashmir district of Kupwara by eliminating three Pakistani terrorists belonging to Lashkar-e-Toiba outfit. One Indian Army porter, who had received injuries during the exchange of firing, succumbed to his injuries later in the hospital. So far the security forces have eliminated 26 foreign terrorists since January 1, 2022 while six of them have been gunned down in the last 24 hours. Out of these 14 belonged to JeM and 12 to LeT, official sources said.

elimination of 03 Pakistani LeT terrorists as a big success and congratulated the joint forces for successive operations.

The security forces have also recovered arms & ammunition including 03 AK series rifles, 12 AK Magazines, 01 Pistol, 02 Pistol Magazines and 03 mobile phones from their possession.

According to a police spokesman, "based on a specific input developed by Kupwara Police regarding infiltration attempt of terrorists in village Jumagund near LoC area of Kupwara, an ambush was put in place by police and Army in the said area". As the infiltrat-

ing terrorists were intercepted by the joint party of Police & Army, they were challenged who in return fired indiscriminately upon joint party which was retaliated by the joint party leading to an encounter.

In the ensuing encounter, all the three infiltrated terrorists were killed. Based on the source report and as per the documents recovered from them, the killed terrorists have been identified as Pakistani LeT terrorists. Police spokesman said, One civilian porter namely Ab Lateef Mir S/o Majeed Mir resident of Kuchiban Jumagund, had received injuries during the firing and later succumbed to

injuries in hospital.

Meanwhile, ten locals, who were involved in anti-national sloganeering and stone-pelting outside Yasin Malik's house in the Maisuma area of Srinagar prior his verdict on a case related to terrorism and secessionist activities, have been arrested by the Srinagar police.

In a statement, police spokesman said a case vide FIR No. 10/2022 under relevant sections of law was registered in Police Station Maisuma and investigation was initiated. Accordingly, midnight raids were conducted at many places that led to the arrest of 10 accused persons including the key accused involved in the commission of crime. However, other accused persons involved in the commission of crime are being identified and will be booked soon under relevant law. Police spokesman maintained no attempt of creating law & order situation in the valley will be tolerated and all mischievous attempts of provoking law & order situation by vested interests will be treated with full force of law.

Yogi: Focus on self-reliance, overall development of UP

FM Khanna tables ₹6.15 L-cr budget for State

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

Uttar Pradesh Finance Minister Suresh Kumar Khanna tabled the over Rs 6.15 lakh crore budget of the Yogi Adityanath Government 2.0 in the UP Assembly on Thursday.

Before being tabled in the House, the budget was passed at a Cabinet meeting chaired by the Chief Minister at his official residence on Thursday morning.

The Rs 6,15,518.97 crore budget for 2022-23 fiscal has a provision of Rs 39,181.10 crore for new schemes. In the last 2021-22 fiscal, the Yogi government had presented a budget of Rs 5,50,270.78 crore.

Soon after the budget was tabled in the House, Chief

Minister Yogi Adityanath tweeted, "The latest budget is focused on ensuring self-reliance in the State."

Yogi Adityanath promised that the budget would be dedicated to the overall development of Uttar Pradesh.

"The economy of the state is improving rapidly. We believe that we will be successful in taking the state's economy to \$1 trillion," Finance Minister Suresh Khanna said while tabling the budget.

Seated next to the chief minister in the assembly, Khanna said that Rs 276.66 crore had been proposed for Uttar Pradesh Special Security Force entrusted with the task of securing courts and historical and religious places, including Ayodhya, Kashi and Mathura.

For the Police Emergency Management System, the finance minister said that the second phase of the 112 scheme would start in this fiscal and a provision of Rs 730.88 crore had been proposed for strengthening it.

"For women, the budget has proposed setting up of cyber help desks at district

level and a provision of Rs 72.50 crore has been made for women empowerment schemes. A provision of Rs 20 crore has also been proposed for safety and empowerment of women and their skill development under Mission Shakti in micro and small scale industries sector," he added.

The finance minister informed the House, "The budget has proposed Rs 650 crore under farmers' accident scheme and there is a provision to provide a maximum of Rs 5 lakh in case of accidental death/disability of farmers under the scheme. A total of 15,000 solar pumps will be set up in 2022-23 fiscal and 60.20 lakh quintal seeds are proposed to be distributed to farmers. A target to distribute 119.30 lakh metric tons of fertilisers has also been proposed. A provision of Rs 1,000 crore is proposed for the Chief Minister's Minor Irrigation Scheme."

Khanna further said, "Free tablets and smartphones scheme for the youth was started in December 2021 and till now approximately 12 lakh tablets /smart phones have

been distributed. As per the Bharatiya Janata Party's Lok Kalyan Sankalp Patra, two crore smart phones/tablets are to be distributed to the youth in the next five years. Besides, Rs 1,500 crore has been proposed in the budget for Swami Vivekananda Youth Empowerment Scheme."

"Also, to promote entrepreneurship and innovation in various fields among youth, under the new UP Start-up Policy-2020, a target to establish a total of 100 incubators and 10,000 startups in the next five years has been set. With the objective of providing coaching to students preparing for competitions near their homes, Chief Minister Abhyudaya Yojana has been implemented by the government in all divisional headquarters, which is now being expanded to all districts of the state and a provision of Rs 30 crore is proposed for the it," the minister said.

Khanna further said that a provision of Rs 10 crore had been proposed to provide financial assistance to young lawyers for purchasing books and magazines for the first three years of work.

Centre reports 18% fall in road accidents

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

In a major respite, the Centre on Thursday reported there has been a sharp decline in the road accidents parameters in the years 2020 when compared to years 2019. The Ministry of Road Transport & Highways (MoRTH) informed that over the previous year's average, total road accidents decreased on an average by 18.46 per cent, whereas the number of persons killed too decreased by 12.84 per cent and the number of injuries decreased by 22.84 per cent.

According to the report 'Road accidents in India - 2020', prepared by the Transport Research Wing (TRW) of the MoRTH, the number of road accidents has been on a decline since 2016 except for a marginal increase of 0.46 per cent in 2018. For the second consecutive year, the total number of road accident fatalities has declined in 2020. Similarly, the number of persons injured has been on the decline since 2015.



"A total of 3,66,138 road accidents have been reported by States and Union Territories (UTs) during the calendar year 2020, which claimed 1,31,714 lives and caused 3, 48,279 injuries," said a Press statement by MoRTH.

As per the report, there has also been a decline in the number of fatal accidents, i.e., accidents involving at least one death. A total of 1, 20,806 fatal accidents were reported in 2020, which is 12.23 per cent lower than the 2019 figure of 1, 37,689. Interestingly, during 2020, National Highways, State Highways and Other Roads reported a smaller number of accidents, fatalities, and injuries

as compared to the previous year. "For the third consecutive year in 2020, the fatal road accident victims largely constitute young people in the productive age groups. Young adults in the age group of 18 - 45 years accounted for 69 percent of victims during 2020. People in the working age group of 18 - 60 years share 87.4 percent of total road accident fatalities," said the official release.

The Major States that achieved a significant reduction in road accidents in 2020 are Kerala, Tamil Nadu, Uttar Pradesh, Maharashtra, and Karnataka. And the major States that achieved a significant reduction in road accident

fatalities in 2020 are Tamil Nadu, Gujarat, Uttar Pradesh, Rajasthan, and Andhra Pradesh.

"The overall reduction in road crash deaths is driven by the decline in road crash deaths during the months of April and May, which overlapped with the period when the country was under CoVID-19 induced lockdown. During 2020, many states notified provisions of the Motor Vehicles Amendment Act, and some marginal decrease in the first quarter of 2020 can be attributed to that. However, it's too early to say if the implementation of the legislation has led to a decline in road crash deaths in 2020. Perhaps 2021 data shall provide more insights into the effectiveness of the implementation of the legislation, if at all," said Piyush Tewari, Founder and CEO, SaveLIFE Foundation, that has associated itself with the MoRTH and other road stakeholders to do conduct studies and research on road accidents and preventive measures.

Bengal to swap Guv with Didi as Chancellor of universities

SAUGAR SENGUPTA ■ KOLKATA

In a new twist to the perennial tussle between the Raj Bhavan and Nabanna (State secretariat) the Bengal Government on Thursday decided to replace Governor Jagdeep Dhanraj with Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee as the chancellor of the State-run universities.

The decision was taken in a hurriedly called Cabinet meeting on Thursday noon, sources said adding after the Cabinet decision the Government will now amend the existing law and get the Bill passed in the State Assembly.

State Education Minister Bratya Basu said that the "Cabinet has unanimously passed a resolution to replace the Governor with the Chief Minister as the chancellor of all the state-run universities ... now a Bill to this effect will be placed in the Assembly and the law will be amended."

Though the Minister would not dwell on any possible alternative measure should the Governor refuse to sign the Bill, another senior minister said "the Government has the option of sending it for the presidential assent or pass an ordinance to that effect." The second option was more likely he hinted.

Basu had in an earlier statement said that "if the Governor continues not to cooperate with the Government ... by sitting on the files the Government will have no option but to replace him with the Chief Minister so that academic process does not get hampered due to political reasons."

The ruling Trinamool Congress has often attacked the Raj Bhavan calling it a BJP office and the Governor an "agent of the BJP." The Governor on the other hand had alleged that the State had appointed about 25 Vice

Chancellors illegally without taking the consent of the Raj Bhavan and that at the instance of the State Government the V-Cs do not come to attend the meetings called by him.

There was uproar both in the civil and political society soon after the Cabinet decision with opposition BJP calling the decision an attempt to usurp even the academia. "After having extended its sway in all the departments ... after having devoured everything the Government now wants to usurp higher education," said BJP leader Samik Bhattacharya.

Another BJP leader and former MP Anupam Hazra said that "the way the Chief Minister is taking her decisions would have made even Muhammad bin Tughlaq feel threatened too ... today she telling that she is the Chancellor ... tomorrow she will say that she is the Prime Minister of Bengal."

₹100 cr earmarked to make Maha Kumbh a grand event

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

The Uttar Pradesh government has made a budgetary provision of Rs 100 crore for the preparations for Maha Kumbh to be held in Prayagraj in 2025 with Finance Minister Suresh Khanna claiming that the government is making every effort to make this event a grand affair.

Devotees from all over the country and abroad will come to this event. In such a situation, to provide them every convenience, schemes are being executed expeditiously, he added.

The Yogi Adityanath government does not want to leave any stone unturned for the Maha Kumbh to be held in the year 2025. Pucca ghats will be constructed on the Sangam bank. Cleanliness efforts and widening of city roads will be completed at the Mela site.

Ex-UP Min, expelled BSP leader Dubey joins Cong

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

Former Cabinet Minister of Uttar Pradesh and expelled Bahujan Samaj Party leader Nakul Dubey joined the Congress in the presence of senior leader Rajeev Shukla in Delhi on Thursday.

Dubey later met Congress general secretary and party's Uttar Pradesh in-charge, Priyanka Gandhi Vadra.

Speaking to media persons on Dubey's induction into the Congress, Shukla said, "Former UP cabinet minister Nakul Dubey, who was considered a pillar of Bahujan Samaj Party, has joined the Congress. We believe that his arrival will strengthen the Congress in Uttar Pradesh."

Expressing gratitude to the Congress leadership, Dubey said, "In the coming times, we all will work together to strengthen the party not only in Uttar Pradesh, but in the entire country."

During Mayawati's regime between 2007 and 2012, Nakul Dubey held the responsibility of many important departments as a minister in the BSP government of Uttar Pradesh and was considered as one of the prominent Brahmin faces of the party.

On April 16, BSP president Mayawati had expelled Dubey from the party on charges of indiscipline and indulging in anti-party activities.

An advocate by profession, Nakul Dubey is known for his proximity to BSP general secretary Satish Chandra Mishra.



Villagers take shelter in makeshift tents near a railway track due to flooding at Chaparmukh in Nagoan district on Thursday

Photo | PTI

PC George sent to jail for 'hate speech'

KUMAR CHELLAPPAN ■ KOCHI

PC George, a seven-term MLA of Kerala Legislative Assembly, was sent to Thiruvananthapuram District Jail on Thursday as the Judicial Magistrate cancelled the bail granted to the former on May 1 for the Ananthapuri Hindu Mahasammelan Speech at Thiruvananthapuram which the police described as hate speech.

George, a maverick politician, is the lone senior leader from the non-BJP parties to caution the people about the increasing instances of inter-caste marriages happening between Hindu girls and Muslim youth in the State. He was very critical of the Halal food controversy and had asked all those who do not subscribe to the Quranic concept to stay away from establishments sell-

ing Halal products.

A Bench of the Kerala High Court that was to consider the plea for regular bail filed by George on Thursday postponed the hearing to Friday. George was held by the Police on Wednesday evening when he had gone to the Kochi City Police Commissioner for questioning in connection with another hate speech made by him at Ernakulam. While the interrogation was in progress, the Thiruvananthapuram Judicial Magistrate issued an order cancelling the conditional bail granted him by the Judicial Court on May 1.

The arrest of George is seen as a sign of Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan cracking the whip on political leaders resorting to hate speeches in the backdrop of the bye-election scheduled from assembly con-

stituency on May 31. The Congress, the CPI(M) and the BJP are trying to wrest the seat. Vijayan is leading the election campaign from the front and has stayed put in Thrikkakkara. All LDF ministers and MLAs too are working round-the-clock for the victory of Dr Joe Joseph.

The Chief Minister took time off from the hectic campaign at Thrikkakkara on Thursday to meet the victim of the 2017 rape and assault case as she had approached the High Court with allegations that some CPI(M) leaders were hand in glove with the main accused, Dileep and the trial court was out to derail the trial process. Vijayan later told reporters that the victim is fully satisfied with the investigation carried out by the State Police.

Four Congress leaders, including Chidambaram, in race for lone RS seat DMK has allocated to party

KUMAR CHELLAPPAN ■ CHENNAI

Four prominent Congress leaders from Tamil Nadu are the front runners for the lone Rajya Sabha seat which the DMK had allocated to the party. Six seats are at stake from the State in the poll scheduled for June 10. Going by the current party position in the Legislative Assembly, the ruling DMK will have a cake walk in winning four seats while the Opposition AIADMK would win two.

The DMK has allotted one seat from its kitty to the Congress. According to a senior TNCC leader, P

Chidambaram, former finance and home minister, K S Azhagiri (TN chief of the party), Viswanathan (former MP who had represented Kancheepuram Parliamentary Constituency) and C D Meyyappan, AICC leader and former president of the Tamil Nadu unit of the Youth Congress are the front runners for the lone seat.

Chidambaram, the party ideologist and main think tank is the senior leader from the State. "But his statement that a veshti wearing Congress leader would become the PM has not been taken seriously by the party high command", said a party veteran.

8 yrs of BJP rule marks darkest chapter: TMC

PNS ■ KOLKATA

The Trinamool Congress on Thursday hit out at the BJP Government for "navigating India towards complete darkness." In a tweeted video the party said that the eight years of Narendra Modi Government had given nothing but all-round failure. "The eight year of BJP rule can be explained in terms of acute price rise, unem-

ployment, falling rupee, crippling economy, intolerance and injustice," the video said.

Explaining the contents of the tweeted video party spokesperson Kunal Ghosh said that the "eight years of BJP rule is nothing but an eight-year-bluff ... an eight year jumla ... they came promising acchhe din (good old days) they gave us inflation, social despondency, intolerance ...

Prime Minister Modi's eight years in power is the darkest chapter of Indian history post Independence."

The right to life of the people has been hit by the anti-people policy of the Government he said. "The bank interests are down, prices are high with acute unemployment ... the citizens of India had never felt so threatened ever," he said.

New Okhla Industrial Development Authority

Administrative Building, Sector-6, Noida-201301 (UP)
Website : www.noidaauthorityonline.com

E-TENDER NOTICE

E-Tenders are invited from eligible contractors/firms for the following jobs against which bids can be uploaded and same shall be opened/downloaded as per schedule mentioned. The details and conditions of all tenders are available on NOIDA Authority's official website: www.noidaauthorityonline.com & <https://etender.up.nic.in>. Please ensure to see these websites for any changes/amendments & corrigendum etc.

S. N.	Job No.	Name of the Work	Tender Amount (Rs. Lacs)
1.	04/PGM/Sr.M (E&M)-I/ET/2022-23	Providing Lighting arrangement instead of missing poles in sector-80, Noida.	95.50
2.	05/PGM/Sr.M (E&M)-I/ET/2022-23	Providing Lighting arrangement instead of missing poles in sector-81, Noida.	70.26
3.	06/PGM/Sr.M (E&M)-I/ET/2022-23	Providing Lighting arrangement instead of missing poles in sector-83, Noida.	58.06
4.	03/PGM/Sr.M (E&M)-II/2022-23/ET	Internal Electrification of newly constructed Community centre in Sector-63A, Noida.	44.88
5.	04/PGM/Sr.M (E&M)-II/2022-23/ET	Providing & Fixing Semi High Mast & Street light in sector-121, Noida.	32.44
6.	07/PGM/Sr.M (E&M)-II/2022-23/ET	Maintenance of Fire Alarm, PA System, CCTV work for Multilevel Car Parking sector-1, 3, 5 Noida.	35.13
7.	08/PGM/Sr.M (E&M)-II/2022-23/ET	Providing 400 KVA Transformer & LT line in 5% abadi plot, village Nawada Rasulpur, sector-62, Noida.	36.96

The above tenders can be uploaded by dated **09.06.2022** upto **5.00 PM**. Pre-qualification shall be opened/ downloaded on dated **10.06.2022** at **11.00 AM**.

S. N.	Job No.	Name of the Work	Tender Amount (Rs. Lacs)
8.	57/PGM/Sr.M (E&M)-II/2021-22/ET	Providing of New Traffic Signal (05 Nos) at various locations in Noida	46.17

The above tenders can be uploaded by dated **02.06.2022** upto **5.00 PM**. Pre-qualification shall be opened/ downloaded on dated **03.06.2022** at **11.00 AM**.

Principal General Manager, Noida

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PAPER WITH PASSION

Rule of the gun

The Robb Elementary School carnage again raises the issue of gunman fetish among America's youth

The American myth is turning on itself. Pet phrases, like the "world's policeman" or the post-9/11 "world's soldier", are boomeranging. A larger-than-life portrayal of the American Marine in Hollywood and addictive video games has acquired bloody connotations. The American "Special Operator", who is the quintessential symbol of the "American way of life", is the latest Frankenstein. And, it is now happening in Texas, the land of the self-claimed frontiersmen, those buccaneers who still wear cowboy hats and boots and ride horses, the guns and rifles and repeaters completing their macho image. The latest incident of mass killings in Uvalde, Texas, on Tuesday gives Americans a long-overdue wake-up call: The previous mass killers were labelled as Islamist jihadists, white supremacists or right-wing local terrorists. Today's American killer is nothing of that sort. Mostly male, he is an ordinary citizen with a neighbourly attitude that hides the ghosts of penury or social ostracism, a generally wasted life or a pitifully impaired mental status. The killer, ashamed of his situation, decides to get justice the only way he knows: By the gun. But first, the would-be killer has to get into the role. He chooses the image that hits him from every TV screen, chewing gum wrapper, muscle-building whey tin, and film, in fact from every advertisement in the US: the macho, gun-toting American vigilante. So, he acquires the tactical battle uniform including the hat, vest, gloves and cargo trousers, the toughest 'costume' Americans like him swear by.

The "Special Operator" must have thought a lot about the weapon. He chose the DDM4 Rifle, the civilian version of the military's M4 Carbine. Luckily, the civilian version does not switch to fully automatic; otherwise, more would have died. The AR-15 rifle and 375 bullets must have cost him between \$400 and \$2000, the holographic sight an additional \$700. The killer symbolises the current American fetish for the olive-green-clad American military superhero. The world got a hint of such looming disasters quite early in the Donald Trump era as these gun-toting mutants of the Special Ops Forces (SOFs) roamed the country in their pick-ups without purpose other than to advertise their trigger-happy right-wing attitudes. The world remembers the rioters who stormed the US Capitol this January on Trump's calling, wearing Kevlar and metal helmets and fancy weapons. Such "activists" fired bullets in the air to protest COVID mask mandates. They want to shoot guns and say they love America. The gunman fetish has come out of Waco; it is now mainstream. The armed pretenders are the foot soldiers of right-wing 'heroism', settling debts with bullets. The Republicans glorify gun culture; the Democrats make half-hearted attempts to ban it. It is the indifference that is costing that country today. The American mindset needs urgent formatting. It is not just about limitations on guns, but erasing the puffed-up machismo image that makes disturbed people take to guns. It is insulting democratic common sense to insist that owning guns is being liberal.

PICTALK



An aerial view of the flood-affected areas after heavy rainfall, in Assam

PTI

Slipping into abyss

Kerala is experiencing one blow after another in the LDF Government's second term in office

Swami Vivekananda, during his tour to Kerala in 1892, had described the province as a "lunatic asylum" as he was shocked by the vacuous communalism. The Kerala of 2022 needs an epithet stronger than what the renowned monk had used. Despite democratically electing India's first Communist Government and being a social, economic and educational model for the country, the State often spawns communal battle cries, threats and one-upmanship among religious leaders and organisations which even the Kerala High Court has described as "terrorist outfits". The threats and challenges touched a new high as a 10-year-old boy was used by the activists of Popular Front of India, an Islamic outfit, to raise slogans against Hindus and Christians. Though the slogans raised during a Republic Rally at Alappuzha last Saturday are not fit to print, it can be said that these were a blot on Kerala's psyche. Political murders, dowry deaths, student violence and drug trafficking have become regular features in the State's daily life. The CPI(M)-led Left Democratic Front Government under Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan, which retained power in the 2021 election, is clueless or suffering from selective amnesia since it assumed office last May.

This is the first time in four decades that a Government succeeded in retaining power for the second term in Kerala. Despite making a lot of sound and fury, Vijayan's second innings stands out because of its indifference to burning issues. Another news that shook Kerala's conscience pertains to a rape survivor who approached the Kerala High Court with the charge that the trial court has a hidden agenda to derail her case. The victim, herself a popular actress, had named Malayalam cinema's top actor Dileep as the prime accused in the 2017 case in which the latter hired a petty thief to rape the woman. A series of dowry deaths reported from various parts of the State has caused anguish in the mind of Governor Arif Mohammed Khan, who staged a day's fast as a mark of solidarity with the victims. Nothing is going right to date in the second tenure of the LDF Government. Meanwhile, the Chief Minister and his party colleagues accusing the rape survivor of playing politics has further shocked women in the State. Kerala deserves a much better deal than this sexist approach.

Upshot, prospects of Biden's Asia policy

There are several reasons why the Biden Administration's efforts to infuse a new movement in the ties with Asean assume huge significance



SUMIT KUMAR

Amid a gloomy picture of the world order due to the Russian invasion of Ukraine, President Joe Biden has redirected his attention to deepening and consolidating America's ties with its allies and partners in Asia. In this context, the US hosted Asean leaders for a special summit on May 12-13 to take stock of its relationships. Biden paid a five-day visit to South Korea and Japan during May 20-24, launching a mega-regional economic plan for the Indo-Pacific.

While commemorating the 45 years of US-Asean relations, Biden declared the beginning of a new era in their relations. He argued that "a great deal of history of our world in the next 50 years is going to be written and the Asean countries and our relationship with you is the future in the coming years and decades". Undoubtedly, there are several reasons why the Biden Administration's political and others efforts to infuse a new movement in the ties with Asean assume huge significance. Of course, one factor that has dominated the US pivot to Southeast Asia is China's increasing footprints in the region through the Belt & Road Initiative, the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership.

Therefore, to contain China's influence and maintain its permeance in the region, it is imperative for the US to accelerate the level of cooperation with Asean. On the other hand, Asean countries have become alarmed at China's assertive posturing in the South China Sea. Consequently, they not only want strong American military presence in the region, but are also trying to increase trade and commerce with the US to reduce their economic dependability on China.

Sadly, President Donald Trump's unpredictable behaviour, the absence of Asean centrality in the Indo-Pacific strategy, the US withdrawal from the Trans-Pacific Trade Agreement created huge distrust among



Asean countries about the US' desire to invest in the relationship. The Biden Administration's decision to withdraw from Afghanistan, the initial ambiguity in its approach towards Russia's invasion of Ukraine and other issues only compounded Asean's apprehensions about the future direction of the relationship.

Expectedly, the special summit addressed certain critical issues of Southeast Asian countries. One, the US reiterated that its Indo-Pacific strategy will be Asean-centric. This acknowledgment was important because Asean has generated the concern that the US Indo-Pacific strategy will dilute its position in US policy towards Asia. Two, Biden also announced to invest \$150 million in new projects to bolster Southeast Asia's climate, maritime and public health infrastructure. Three, Asean countries, except Singapore, have adopted the policy of neutrality on Russia's invasion of Ukraine. This in turn signalled the decline of US influence in the region. Thus, before starting his Asia tour, Biden wanted to



BEFORE STARTING HIS ASIA TOUR, BIDEN WANTED TO SEND A MESSAGE TO RUSSIA AND CHINA THROUGH THE SPECIAL SUMMIT THAT THE US CONTINUES TO ENJOY CLOSE TIES WITH SOUTHEAST ASIAN COUNTRIES

send a message to Russia and China through the Special Summit that the US continues to enjoy close ties with Southeast Asian countries. At the same time, though the joint statement issued after the Summit did not mention the Russian invasion of Ukraine, Biden must have reportedly asked Asean members to take a tough stand on the Russia-Ukraine war.

On the other hand, during his Asia visit, the launch of Indo-Pacific Economic Framework during the second in-person QUAD Summit emerged as a major development. Ever since the reemergence of QUAD in 2017, formally known as Quadrilateral Security Dialogue, it has made huge progress. This can be gauged from the fact that the QUAD meeting was initially held at the junior bureaucratic level. Now, it is organised at different levels, including the heads of State. While QUAD has played a pivotal role in dealing with the COVID virus, the group has become the anchor of promoting a free, open, prosperous and secure

Indo-Pacific. Addressing an overdue lacuna in the Indo-Pacific strategy, QUAD has launched Indo-Pacific Economic Framework. In turn, it will play a crucial role in limiting China's economic clout in the region.

Earlier, QUAD had shown hesitation in adding security issues to its priority. However, the launch of an Indo-Pacific Partnership for Maritime Domain Awareness (IPMDA) has indicated the willingness of the QUAD countries to foster security cooperation. The IPMDA will offer a near-real-time, integrated and cost-effective maritime domain awareness picture and help Quad members' allies as well to fully monitor their shores.

Of course, Taiwan appeared as a major issue on the priority list of Biden's visit to Asia. In fact, he said in no uncertain terms that the US would intervene militarily if Taiwan came under Chinese attack. This strong presidential statement, with the presence of the major Asian powers in Tokyo, certainly assumes huge importance, indicating the possible shift in the US' approach towards 'One China' policy. Thus, while the visit has crystallised the Biden Administration's readiness to lead the regional and global efforts to contain autocratic tendencies in Asia and beyond, it needs to be realised that the success of the Indo-Pacific strategy and QUAD singularly dependents on whether the US and other powers can protect Taiwan's independence or not.

Thus, while the US has indicated to end the policy of ambiguity on Taiwan, global and regional efforts must be channelised to make Taiwan an integral element of the Indo-Pacific Strategy and QUAD.

(The author is a former Ministry of Foreign Affairs Visiting Fellow, NCCU, Taipei. The views expressed are personal.)

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

AAP'S EXEMPLARY ACT IN PUNJAB

Sir — The news of a Minister of the AAP Government of Punjab indulging in corruption is in the headlines as well as the speedy action taken by the Punjab Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann on this corrupt Minister. Mann without delay dismissed the Minister from the Cabinet. In a way, such Ministers also have to be praised that as soon as their name cropped up in the bribery case, they accepted their mistake. But one thing is incomprehensible that how many days it has been since the formation of the AAP Government and it is very unfortunate to have such allegations against a Minister of a reputed department in as many days. But the good thing is that the Minister did not take any recourse to power to save himself, as usually happens. Or say that the Government did not delay in paying compensation for the Assembly elections of Himachal Pradesh and Gujarat. The Punjab Government and AAP have proved by the immediate dismissal that the mobile number given to prevent corruption is working fine. It is a request to the Almighty that this number keeps working fine. Other State Governments should also provide similar numbers to the common man.

Rajender Kumar Sharma | Rewari

NEED TO BE REASONABLE

Sir — These days we find many discussions going on, some in favour and some against, about the release of Perarivalan, one of the accused in the Rajiv Gandhi assassination case. Some have even gone overboard to say that the Supreme Court has committed a grave mistake in releasing Perarivalan, thereby proving to be more Catholic than the Pope! It should not be forgotten that one of the senior inquiry officers has regretted that he had recorded Perarivalan's statement wrongly, thereby implicating him in the heinous crime.

Reputed legal luminaries, including Justice Krishna Iyer, have raised their

Cong must wake up to reality



Hardik Patel, Ashwani Kumar and RPN Singh. The leadership is at a loss for how to tackle the exodus the party faces. In fact, Sibal had resigned from the party a day after the much-talked about conclave held in Udaipur, aka Chintan Shivir.

By his action, he has dropped a hint that he was dissatisfied with the brainstorming session in Udaipur. It may be recollected that Sibal was part of G-23, a group of dissenting Congress leaders who have been demanding radical changes in the party. Sibal's quitting the Congress is a wake-up call for the party. Its leadership must not take such desertions lightly. The party leadership needs to wake up to reality. A weak Congress party cannot counter the BJP even in the 2024 Lok Sabha elections. The party leadership needs to come out of the cocoon it is settled in and take immediate steps to rejuvenate it.

Venu GS | Kollam

voice in favour of release of Perarivalan confirming that he had only been arrested and kept in jail for three decades only out of suspicion. Can anyone of those who are opposing the release of Perarivalan categorically state that he was involved in Rajiv's assassination with unambiguous and authentic evidence? Let us give the benefit of the doubt to Perarivalan at least now after he has been made to waste his entire youth in custody and allow him to spend the rest of his life peacefully with his mother.

Tharcuis S Fernando | Chennai

THE GOOD MORNING HABIT

Sir — Reading newspapers early in the morning along with a cup of tea is still a morning trend in India. Although in many families, newspapers have been replaced by mobile phones, there are many who recognise newspapers as a more reliable source of information. People believe that anything available on the internet may be untrue and to cross-check people prefer

newspapers or any other printed source (magazines, letter, etc). A newspaper has more advantages than disadvantages while it is the other way round in the case of smart phones. Newspapers increase reading skills, vocabulary, general knowledge and don't affect one's eyesight.

We can get newspapers to update ourselves on various current issues and news from across the world. These are handy items, made of papers and, therefore, eco-friendly and easy to recycle. Most importantly, it is the easiest and cheapest source of information. Entertaining things like puzzles, stories and crosswords are also available in a newspaper. The Indian Readership Survey (IRS) reveals that newspaper readership at the end of Q1 of 2019 has grown to 425 million. The trust which the people have for print media can never be replaced by any other source.

Ishita Patidar | Ujjain

Send your feedback to: letterstopioneer@gmail.com

SOUND BITE

We only know how to run the Government. We don't do vote bank politics.

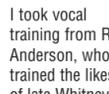


Delhi Chief Minister — Arvind Kejriwal



This is a stupid war which your (Vladimir) Putin started. This war was built on lies.

Kremlin critic — Alexei Navalny



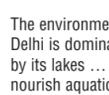
I took vocal training from Ron Anderson, who has trained the likes of late Whitney Houston and Ariana Grande.

Actor — Madhuri Dixit-Nene



The last game we played, we felt almost like we played our best game of this campaign so far.

RCB captain — Faf du Plessis



The environment of Delhi is dominated by its lakes ... they nourish aquatic life and regulate climate.

Delhi Environment Minister — Gopal Rai



FIRST COLUMN

QUAD LEADERS' SUMMIT OUTCOMES FOR FUTURE

Maritime data sharing provides weather and waterway watch



KUMARDEEP BANERJEE

Prime Minister Narendra Modi was in Tokyo for the second in-person QUAD leaders' summit. He had bilateral discussions with Prime ministers of Japan and Australia and US President Joe Biden. It underscores the importance of the Indo-Pacific as the external strategy of the QUAD members. The apprehensions regarding the US losing focus on this crucial region due to Ukraine stand resolved. This group of 4 nations, though not a military alliance, shares common threat perceptions from China. Australia had pulled out from the group in 2007 as it was then in a tight embrace with China. However, an aggressive China in Australia's backyard, used military power to expand its territorial controls, forcing the Australians to get back into QUAD. The Tokyo summit saw a mint-fresh Australian Prime Minister Anthony Albanese attending the meeting in person along with his foreign minister. The QUAD political leaders expanded on their targets they had set out in their meetings since March 2021. One important outcome was announcement of Indo-Pacific Partnership for Maritime Domain Awareness (IPMDA). In a statement, the White House elaborated that IPMDA would provide for "faster, wider, and more accurate maritime picture of near-real-time activities in partners' waters. This common operating picture will integrate three critical regions—the Pacific Islands, Southeast Asia, and the Indian Ocean region—in the Indo-Pacific." Earlier a senior US administration official



had highlighted that maritime arrangement will allow countries "The ability to know what is happening in countries' territorial waters and in their exclusive economic zones." This cooperation could be one of the most significant outcomes from QUAD so far as it brings together all the QUAD partner countries together to share the data they collect individually about their maritime resources and far away islands and get a big picture. This data sharing could lead to early warnings for disasters, climate change incidents and most important be the eyes at the largest waterway in the world. It will keep an eye on illegal military interventions, illegal fishing activities and potentially criminal activities using the sea route. The QUAD leaders were categorical in stating the purpose as non-military but at a level of sharing surveillance data amongst the coast guards. Any analyst would be able to pinpoint the actual reason behind this initiative is to contain China's aggressive illegal occupations and economic activities in many of the islands in the Indo Pacific region.

It is a shared concern for India, Australia and Japan. However, increasingly it has been a major issue of conflict for several countries in South and Southeast Asia which have felt bullied by China. The QUAD decision to make the shared data "unclassified" and therefore open for any country in the region, makes IPMDA an inclusive framework. The focus is on identification and working on cutting edge future technologies to collect the data and make it most meaningful for users. This could make QUAD a unique partner for many countries in the region, as they could fall back on QUAD data and intelligence for securing their maritime economic interests and prevent criminal activities in their backyard. Another key aspect of the recently concluded QUAD summit was the focus on cyber security vulnerabilities faced by each nation and sharing of information between the Computer Emergency Response Teams (CERT). It was also stated that "the Quad will improve software and Managed Service Provider (MSP) security by coordinating cyber security standards for Quad Governments' procurement of software." This should create a common framework for governments in each of the 4 nations to be effective in case of cyber-attacks on their critical infrastructure.

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

The world must unite for fighting inflation

To control inflation, decisions of all Central banks need some kind of real-time coordination, a mechanism for which needs to be worked out and activated



GOVIND BHATTACHARJEE

It seems that for the entire world, high inflation is going to be the new normal, at least for the foreseeable future. In April 2022, the IMF's World Economic Outlook predicted that during 2022, inflation will be at 5.7 percent in advanced economies and 8.7 percent in emerging markets and developing economies—1.8 and 2.8 percent higher, respectively, than its earlier projections in January. The unprecedented supply disruptions caused by the Russia-Ukraine War, now about to enter its fourth month, have been driving commodity prices for quite some time, and conditions are expected to deteriorate progressively.

Worsening supply-demand imbalances and further increases in commodity prices could lead to persistently high inflation at least in the medium term, which in turn would lead to a spiral of rising interest rates, higher wage demands and consequent fall in the profitability of companies forcing them to curtail production, leading in turn to still higher inflation and more losses in real wages. Post-pandemic, the world is already struggling for economic recovery while trying to manage much higher debt levels than before due to the expansionary fiscal policies triggered by the pandemic. Now the higher inflation would expose countries, especially the emerging markets and developing economies, to serious debt vulnerabilities, let alone building fiscal buffers.

The drivers of this rising inflation - the war, sanctions, lockdown in China due to a resurgence of Covid, and the massive supply-chain disruptions as a result of all these — are beyond the control of central banks. Hence monetary policies alone may not suffice to tame the menace of inflation, though the responses of different countries to such policies would vary depending on their conditions and the strength of their fundamentals. Governments would also be weary of reversing their expansionary fiscal policies which would translate into economic hardships for their people trying hard to recover from the losses suffered during the pandemic years. In the unfolding scenario, growth will likely take a back seat for the entire world for the time being.

In India, the retail inflation measured by the CPI had shot up to 7.8 percent in April 2022 from 7 percent in March, the highest in the last 8 years. While the urban inflation was 7.1 percent, the rural inflation soared to 8.4 percent. In the CPI basket, food and beverages carry a weightage of 45.9 percent and fuel another 6.8 percent; even if we take these out, the core inflation still remained at 6.5 percent, way above the RBI's inflation target of 6 percent at the upper band. Factory output also remained sluggish, with the index of industrial production (IIP) rising only by 1.9 percent in March 2022, down from the peak of 134.4 percent recorded in April 2021, mainly due to the low performance



IT IS STRANGE WHY THE RBI TOOK SO LONG TO ACT AND WHEN IT FINALLY DID, WHY IT HAD TO ACT IN SUCH AN ABRUPT MANNER THAT WAS SURE TO JOLT THE MARKET, LEADING TO PANIC SELLING BY FOREIGN INVESTORS LEADING TO SUSTAINED MAYHEM IN THE STOCK MARKET AND SEVERE EROSION IN THE VALUE OF THE RUPEE

(The author is a former Director General at the Office of the Comptroller & Auditor General of India and an academic. The views expressed are personal.)



of the manufacturing sector which has been hit hard by rising input prices and supply disruptions.

A part of the inflation is also imported, since more than 80 percent of our fuel and 60 percent of edible oil are imported from countries which are also facing severe inflation, and the inflated import bill is reducing our foreign exchange reserves which have come down to US\$ 598 billion providing an import cover of about 11 months in April 2022, from US\$ 635 billion in January 2022. The inflation figures are already exceeding 9 percent in certain states like West Bengal, Madhya Pradesh, Haryana and Telangana. The optimism of the Union Finance Ministry that the gradual recovery of aggregate demand was reducing the risk of sustained high inflation may be rather misplaced. Even the higher collection of GST as seen in the recent months may also be partly fuelled by the rise in prices of commodities rather than due to the expansion of economic activities.

Following the US Fed's 0.5 percent hike in inflation, the RBI has increased the repo rate as well as the CRR by 0.4 percent on 4th May. It is widely expected that there would be another steep hike in both the interest rate as well as the CRR in June. CRISIL Ratings has projected inflation to be around 6.3 percent for the current fiscal; it also expects the RBI to raise repo rates by another 0.75 percent to one percent during FY-2023. Economists and corpo-

rate leaders expect the interest rate to finally settle down around 5.5 percent by the mid FY-2023. Indeed, given the huge difference between the repo rate of 4.4 percent and the yield of 10-year G-Sec at above 7 percent which is a benchmark for interest rate in the economy, there is scope for still higher increases. But every increase in interest rate contracts the space for fiscal manoeuvrability of the government and growth becomes the ultimate casualty. Already the growth forecasts for India have been sliced by all agencies - RBI has itself lowered its growth projection to 7.2 percent in 2022-23, down from 7.8 percent it had earlier estimated.

The wholesale inflation measured by the WPI has been much higher than the CPI inflation throughout - it rose to a four-month high of 14.55 percent in March 2022 from 13.11 percent in February. Prices accelerated across all segments - 10.71 percent for manufactured products, 25.97 percent for basic metals, 34.52 percent for fuel and power, and 15.54 percent for primary articles, despite a marginal slowdown in the cost of food articles. On a monthly basis, wholesale prices increased by 2.69 percent in March, the most since the series began in 2004. The reason for such divergence between the WPI and CPI is partly due to the different weightages in their respective baskets - in the WPI basket, manufactured articles get 64.2 percent weightage which is much higher than in the CPI,

whereas primary articles get 22.6 percentage weightage, followed by 13.2 percent for fuel and power.

While the RBI considers retail inflation for its policy decisions, the wholesale price rises ultimately get reflected on the retail prices after a lag of a few quarters as companies tend pass on the burden to consumers. Thus, the high WPI inflation in March for primary articles is likely to get translated into still higher food prices which will affect the poor more than the rich, again belying the Finance Ministry's assumption that at the lower end of the economic strata, the impact of inflation is not as deep as at the upper end.

It is really strange why the RBI took so long to act and when it finally did so, why it had to act in such an abrupt manner that was sure to jolt the market severely, leading to panic selling by foreign investors leading to sustained mayhem in the stock market and severe erosion in the value of the rupee. The increase in interest rates could have been affected in a little more predictable manner, using the mechanism of regular MPC meetings. If inflation is to be controlled, decisions by all central banks need some kind of a real-time coordination, a mechanism for which needs to be worked out and activated without delay. The WTO, must also be involved simultaneously in the battle against inflation. Inflation is as bad as Covid if not worse, and only by coming together, the world can fight it effectively.

POINT COUNTERPOINT

AGAIN, RAHUL GANDHI MEETS UK MP JEREMY CORBYN WHO IS KNOWN FOR HIS HATRED AND DISLIKE FOR INDIA... ADVOCATES KASHMIR'S SECESSION. — UNION LAW MINISTER KIREN RIJJU



AM AMAZED AS TO HOW DEAREST FRIENDS IN TV MEDIA HAVE TO BEND OVER BACKWARDS TO SERVE THE GOVERNMENT'S IDIOTIC AGENDA. — CONGRESS CHIEF SPOKESPERSON RANDEEP SURJEWALA

Arson exposes violent social underbelly of Konaseema

The violence was the result of longstanding community rivalries and discontent with the Govt rather than antagonism towards Ambedkar

What happened in Konaseema district in Andhra Pradesh on May 24 was unprecedented and totally unforeseen. Houses of a Minister for Transport, Pinipe Viswaroop, a Dalit, and MLA, P. Satish, a fisherman, were set on fire by a mob which also indulged in arson and vandalism in Amalapuram town. Violence broke out when the police attempted to prevent a procession taken out by Joint Action Committee (JAC) as part of 'Chalo Amalapuram' from meeting the district collector. Had the police allowed the protestors to submit their memorandum to the collector, things might have been different.

The JAC was formed to oppose the change of the district's name from Konaseema to Dr. B.R. Ambedkar Konaseema



RAMACHANDRA MURTHY KONDUBHATLA

(The writer is a senior journalist and Editor, primepost, a news website based out of Hyderabad. The views expressed are personal.)

District. People of Konaseema are sentimental about the name of their district. The movement for a separate district of Konaseema was on for many years. It acquired momentum with the State Government's decision to create Konaseema district and to add Ambedkar's name to it. Top leaders of major parties supported the proposal though many others, transcending party differences, privately opposed the change. Nara Chandrababu Naidu of the TDP and Pawan Kalyan of the Jana Sena Party gave their consent when YSRCP government sought their approval.

Konaseema district has a peculiar demographic picture. Kapus, Settibalijs and Dalits are the three dominant communities which are equally large, vocal and militant. There



used to be frequent clashes between the Kapus and Settibalijs as till 1993 when some leaders such as Gudipudi Prabhakara Rao brokered peace between the two warring communities. The two communities have not been quarreling ever since barring some isolated incidents. However, the Dalits have been at loggerheads both with the Kapus and

Settibalijs as who are part of the BCs. Konaseema district has one Lok Sabha seat (Amalapuram) and three (out of a total of seven) assembly seats reserved for SCs. Anuradha, an SC, is representing Amalapuram constituency in Lok Sabha. The Minister from the district Viswaroop is considered very close to YSR's family. Dalits are in command in the district and this is detested by Kapus and Balijias.

When AP Chief Minister Jagan Mohan Reddy visited Marumalla village near Amalapuram last week, Viswaroop had taken a delegation of Dalits to him. They submitted a memorandum requesting the Chief Minister to name Konaseema district after Baba Saheb Ambedkar. Jagan Mohan Reddy accepted

the request but wanted the opposition parties to approve the proposal. TDP and JSP leaders had welcomed the idea. A gazette notification was issued last week renaming the district as Dr. B.R. Ambedkar Konaseema District and it asked the people to let the government know within one month if anybody has any objection.

The GO was not openly opposed by any noted political leader. But WhatsApp messages were sent in their thousands by the general public, supporting or opposing the move. The Dalit protagonists were as aggressive as Kapus and Balijias. Viswaroop reportedly told the police to use force in dealing with the situation. The police had clamped Section 144 and Section 30 by way of preventive

measures. But the force which the protestors unleashed in a matter of hours was not foreseen by the police who were unprepared. They used lathis and fired in the air for five times to control the mob. Till 8 pm the street battles between the police and the protestors were going on. The police could bring the situation under control by late in the night. DIG Palraju (Eluru range) and four SPs have been camping at Amalapuram which remained peaceful on Wednesday. Extra forces have been rushed to the town. Forty-six persons have been taken into custody till Wednesday afternoon, according to DIG Palraju. He had spoken to community leaders. He appealed to the people to maintain peace and harmony. Konaseema which is

known for its greenery, coconut trees and high yielding crops, has all of a sudden exploded in the face of the police officials. Nothing of this sort had happened in the last four decades. Even at the time of Vangaveeti Mohan Ranga's murder in Vijayawada in 1989, the riots were all over coastal Andhra and only Kapus in Konaseema were involved in sporadic violence.

This time it was SCs versus all others. It was mostly the result of long-standing community rivalries and discontent with the present Government rather than antagonism towards Ambedkar. The dominant profile of Dalit leaders also added fuel to the fire. Former Speaker of Lok Sabha, GMC Balayogi, hailed from the same place.

Ex-Lankan PM questioned by CID over May 9 violence

PTI ■ COLOMBO

The Sri Lankan police have questioned former prime minister Mahinda Rajapaksa and recorded a 3-hour-long statement over the violent clashes between his supporters and anti-government protesters in the crisis-hit country that killed at least 10 people and injured over 200 others, according to a media report on Thursday.

On May 9, violence erupted in Sri Lanka after supporters of the 76-year-old former premier attacked peaceful anti-government protesters demanding his ouster over the country's worst economic crisis that led to acute shortages of staple food, fuel and power.

Over 200 people have also been injured in the violence in Colombo and other cities.

The Criminal Investigations Department (CID) has recorded a statement from Mahinda Rajapaksa on Wednesday over May 9 incidents at Kollupitiya and Galle Face Green, the official residence of the Sri



Lankan prime minister, the Daily Mirror website reported.

Police said the CID recorded a nearly three-hour-long statement from the former Prime Minister last evening at his residence in Colombo, the report added.

On May 23, a top bureaucrat of Sri Lanka's Ministry of Security who is in charge of

the police department resigned over his failure to curb the violent clashes.

Last week, Sri Lanka's CID also quizzed three members of the ruling SLPP parliamentary group over their alleged involvement in the clashes.

Two of their colleagues who were arrested previously have been remanded in cus-

tody till May 25.

On Friday, Namal Rajapaksa, a former minister and the son of Mahinda Rajapaksa also summoned and his statement was recorded.

Members of the ruling coalition government blamed Opposition party Janatha Vimukthi Peramuna for instigating the violence on May 9,

which was vehemently denied by the Marxist party.

The mob destroyed several tents and other structures erected at Galle Face and also attacked some of the demonstrators.

The violence saw arson attacks on the homes of several politicians, including the ancestral home of the Rajapaksas in Hambantota.

The properties of some 78 government parliamentarians faced arson in the ensuing attacks.

Sri Lanka has been witnessing large-scale protests against the government's handling of the debt-ridden economy -- the worst-ever economic crisis in the country's history.

The country of 22 million is grappling with unprecedented economic turmoil since its independence from Britain in 1948.

The crisis is caused in part by a lack of foreign currency, which has meant that the country cannot afford to pay for imports of staple foods and fuel, leading to acute shortages and very high prices.

Russia takes steps to bolster army, tighten grip on Ukraine

AP ■ KYIV

President Vladimir Putin issued an order Wednesday to fast track Russian citizenship for residents in parts of southern Ukraine largely held by his forces, while lawmakers in Moscow passed a bill to strengthen the stretched Russian army.

Putin's decree applying to the Kherson and Zaporizhzhia regions could allow Russia to strengthen its hold on territory that lies between eastern Ukraine, where Moscow-backed separatists occupy some areas, and the Crimean Peninsula, which Russia seized in 2014.

The Russian army is engaged in an intense battle for Ukraine's eastern industrial heartland, known as the Donbas. In a sign that the Kremlin is trying to bolster its stretched military machine, Russian lawmakers agreed to scrap the age limit of 40 for individuals signing their first voluntary military contracts.

A description of the bill on the parliament website indicated older recruits would be allowed to operate precision weapons or serve in engineering or medical roles. The chair of the Russian parliament's



defense committee, Andrei Kartapolov, said the measure would make it easier to hire people with "in-demand" skills.

Russian authorities have said that only volunteer contract soldiers are sent to fight in Ukraine, although they have acknowledged that some conscripts were drawn into the fighting by mistake in the early stages of the war.

Three months into Russia's invasion of the neighboring country, Putin visited a military hospital in Moscow and met with some soldiers wounded in Ukraine, the Kremlin said in a statement on its website.

Wednesday's event was the Russian leader's first publicly known visit with soldiers fighting in Ukraine since he

launched the war on Feb. 24. Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy has visited wounded soldiers, civilians and children -- including at times when Russian troops were fighting on the outskirts of Kyiv.

A reporter for the state-run Russian TV channel posted a video clip on Telegram showing Putin in a white medical coat talking to a man in hospital attire, presumably a soldier. The man, filmed from behind standing up and with no visible wounds, tells Putin that he has a son. The president, accompanied by Defense Minister Sergei Shoigu, responds: "He will be proud of his father," before shaking the man's hand.

China's Foreign Minister starts Pacific tour in the Solomons

AP ■ WELLINGTON

China's Foreign Minister Wang Yi and a 20-strong delegation arrived in the Solomon Islands Thursday at the start of an eight-day tour that comes amid growing concerns about Beijing's military and financial ambitions in the South Pacific region.

China says the trip builds on a long history of friendly relations

between Beijing and the island nations.

But Australia scrambled to counter the move by sending its own Foreign Minister Penny Wong to Fiji to shore up support in the Pacific. Wong had been on the job just five days following an Australian election and had just arrived back Wednesday night from a meeting in Tokyo.

In Fiji, Wong said it was up to each island nation to decide what

partnerships they formed and what agreements they signed, but urged them to consider the benefits of sticking with Australia.

"Australia will be a partner that doesn't come with strings attached nor imposing unsustainable financial burdens," Wong said. "We are a partner that won't erode Pacific priorities or Pacific institutions."

Meanwhile, the Media Association of Solomon Islands called

on its members to boycott a news conference in the capital, Honiara, held by Wang and his counterpart from the Solomon Islands, Jeremiah Manele, following a meeting between the pair.

That's because only selected media were invited to the event, and the schedule allowed for just a single question to be asked of Wang by China's state-owned broadcaster CCTV. "It's a tough call to make

regarding the media boycott for the press event on Thursday," wrote association president Georgina Keeka on Twitter. "Our protest is for our govt to see our disappointment. They have failed us & they failed to protect #democracy."

According to an official Chinese summary of the meeting, Wang told his counterpart that China would firmly support the Solomon Islands in its efforts to maintain national

security and territorial integrity, while Manele described the visit as historic and a "milestone in the relations" between the two countries.

China signed a security pact with the Solomon Islands last month in a move that sent shock waves around the world. That pact has raised fears that China could send troops to the island nation or even establish a military base there, not far from Australia. The Solomon Islands and

China say there are no plans for a base.

In another move by China, a draft document obtained by The Associated Press shows that Wang is hoping to strike a deal with 10 small Pacific nations during his visit. The sweeping agreement covers everything from security to fisheries and is seen by at least one Pacific leader as an attempt by Beijing to wrest control of the region.

PIONEER AGRO EXTRACTS LIMITED
CIN: L1519PH1993PLC012975
Registered office: Chhoti Nihar, Malakpur, Pathankot-145025 (Punjab), Tel: +91-186-2345352/53/55
Website: www.pioneeragro.co.in / Email: complianceofficer@pioneeragro.co.in

Extract of Standalone audited Financial Results for the Quarter and Year ended March 31, 2022 (Rs. in Lakhs)

S. No.	Particulars	Quarter Ended		Year Ended	
		31.03.2022	31.03.2021	31.03.2022	31.03.2021
1	Total Income from operations	62.21	12.82	85.40	68.88
2	Net Profit / (Loss) for the period (before tax and exceptional items)	2.50	4.30	0.33	38.01
3	Net Profit / (Loss) for the period before tax (after exceptional items)	2.50	4.30	0.33	38.01
4	Net Profit / (Loss) for the period after tax (after exceptional items)	2.39	4.46	0.22	38.17
5	Total Comprehensive Income for the period	2.39	4.46	0.22	38.17
6	Equity Share Capital	435.85	435.85	435.85	435.85
7	Reserves (excluding Revaluation Reserve)	50.00	50.00	50.00	50.00
8	Earnings per Share (of Rs.10/- each)				
	- Basic	0.06	0.10	0.01	0.88
	- Diluted	0.06	0.10	0.01	0.88

NOTES: The above is an extract of the detailed format of Quarterly and Yearly Financial Results filed with the Stock Exchange under Regulation 33 of the SEBI (Listing and Other Disclosure Requirements) Regulations, 2015. The full format of the Financial Results is available on the website of the Stock Exchange www.bseindia.com and on the Company's website www.pioneeragro.co.in.

For Pioneer Agro Extracts Limited
Sd/-
Jagat Mohan Aggarwal
DIN: 00750120

PUBLIC NOTICE
SARV PRIYA MAHAJAN CO-OPERATIVE GROUP HOUSING SOCIETY LTD. Regd. Off. 202, Vardhman Avon Shopping Plaza, LSC, C-Block Market, Saraswati Vihar, Pitampura, Delhi-110034
In pursuance to rule 19(2) of DCS rules, 2007, it is to inform publicly that Sh. Gaurav Sharma (M.No.569) member of Sarv Priya Mahajan CGHS Ltd. (Regd. No. 1384) has resigned from the membership of the society. Further he has been issued account payee cheque for his deposited amount. If anyone has any objections he/she may file his/her objection in the office of the ROC, Parliament Street, New Delhi or at society office i.e. 202, Vardhman Avon Shopping Plaza, LSC, C-Block Market, Saraswati Vihar, Delhi-110034 within 7 days from the date of publication of the public notice.
Secretary-Sarv Priya Mahajan CGHS Ltd.

PUBLIC NOTICE
The Public at large is hereby informed that Late Mrs. Monika Kumar W/o Devendra Kumar Sachdeva R/o 37, Krishna Market, Kalkaji, New Delhi-110019 was having commercial property in joint ownership along with her son Mr. Jayant Kumar S/o. Devendra Kumar Sachdeva name in our project (project name) Vatika Mindscapes, Flat no. A-231 admeasuring 1000 sq.ft which her legal heirs Mr. Jayant Kumar S/o. Devendra Kumar Sachdeva and Devendra Kumar Sachdeva S/o. Laxmi Narain Sachdeva requested the company to transfer to her Husband Mr. Jayant Kumar Sachdeva and her son Jayant Kumar any person having any objection on this please may contact the company officer details as under within 15 days after which No Claim would be accepted.
Vatika Limited
Unit No. A-002, Ground Floor, Block A, Vatika INXT City Centre, Sector-83, Gurgaon, Haryana-122012
Contact : 0955593030

'Horrifying' conspiracy theories swirl around Texas shooting

AP ■ PROVIDENCE



By now it's as predictable as the calls for thoughts and prayers: A mass shooting leaves many dead, and wild conspiracy theories and misinformation about the carnage soon follow. It happened after Sandy Hook, after Parkland, after the Orlando nightclub shooting and after the deadly rampage earlier this month at a Buffalo grocery store.

Within hours of Tuesday's school shooting in Uvalde,

Texas, another rash began as internet users spread baseless claims about the man named as the gunman and his possible motives. Unfounded claims that the gunman was an immigrant living in the U.S. illegally, or transgender, quickly emerged on Twitter, Reddit and other social media platforms. They were accompanied by familiar conspiracy theories suggesting the entire shooting was somehow staged.

The claims reflect broader problems with racism and intolerance toward trans-

gender people, and are an effort to blame the shooting on minority groups who already endure higher rates of online harassment and hate crimes, according to disinformation expert Jaime Longoria.

"It's a tactic that serves two purposes: It avoids real conversations about the issue (of gun violence), and it gives people who don't want to face reality a patsy, it gives them someone to blame," said Longoria, director of research at the Disinfo Defense League, a non-profit that works to fight racist misinformation.

In the hours after the shooting, posts falsely claiming the gunman was living in the country illegally went viral, with some users adding embellishments, including that he was "on the run from Border Patrol."

"He was an illegal alien wanted for murder from El Salvador," read one tweet liked and retweeted hundreds of times. "This is blood on Biden's hands and should have never happened."

The man who authorities say carried out the shooting, 18-year-old Salvador Ramos, is a U.S. Citizen, Texas Gov. Greg Abbott said in a news conference on Tuesday.

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

Sr. No.	Name of the Borrower/ Loan Account Number	Description of Property/ Date of Symbolic Possession	Date of Demand Notice/ Amount in Demand Notice (Rs.)	Name of Branch
1.	Ashutosh Yadav/ Narender Kumar Yadav/ LBGUR00004858678 LBGUR00004863716	Plot No-304, Sector-1 Part -1, Hudda Colony, Urban Estate, Narnaul Tehsil, Narnaul District, Mahinder Garh/ May 24, 2022	December 17, 2021 Rs.51,59,087/-	Delhi/ NCR

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

Date : May 27, 2022
Place: Delhi/ NCR
Authorized Officer
ICICI Bank Limited

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

Sr. No.	Name of the Borrower/ Co-Borrower/ Guarantor/ (Loan Account Number) & Address	Property Address of Secured Asset/ Asset to be Enforced	Date of Notice Sent/ Outstanding as on Date of Notice	NPA Date
1.	Abhi Nath, Dina Nath Maurya, 1344 14 Sourav Vihar, Hari Nagar Vistar, South Delhi, Delhi. A/c No. LBJAI00003862878	Flat No. W 607N, W 608, Pink Pride - The Suites, 6th Floor, Khasra No 9, Jaisinghpura Bass Bhankrota, Sanganer, Jaipur, Rajasthan- 303902	16/04/2022 Rs. 2630357/-	06/12/2021
2.	Abhi Nath, Dina Nath Maurya, 1344 14 Sourav Vihar, Hari Nagar Vistar, South Delhi, Delhi. A/c No. LBJAI00003926897	Flat No. W 607N, W 608, Pink Pride - The Suites, 6th Floor, Khasra No 9, Jaisinghpura Bass Bhankrota, Sanganer, Jaipur, Rajasthan- 303902	16/04/2022 Rs. 1,08,505/-	06/12/2021
3.	Akhilesh Pathak, Rakhi Devi, House No 350, Sector-18, Sarhol 70, Gurgaon, Haryana. A/c No. LBJAI00004589128	Flat No N- 109, N 110, 1st Floor Pink Pride, Khasra No 9, Village Jaisinghpura Bass Bhankrota, Tehsil Sanganer, Jaipur, Rajasthan - 303902	16/04/2022 Rs. 22,15,748/-	06/12/2021
4.	Akhilesh Pathak, Rakhi Devi, House No 350, Sector-18, Sarhol 70, Gurgaon, Haryana. A/c No. LBJAI00004659498	Flat No - 109, N 110, 1st Floor Pink Pride, Khasra No 9, Village Jaisinghpura Bass Bhankrota, Tehsil Sanganer, Jaipur, Rajasthan - 303902	16/04/2022 Rs. 86,763/-	06/12/2021

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

Date : May 27, 2022
Place: Gurgaon
Authorized Officer
ICICI Bank Limited

OFFICE OF THE GENERAL MANAGER, CONSTRUCTION WING, UTTARAKHAND PEYJAL NIGAM
E-32, JUDGE FARM, HALDWANI, DISTT.- NAINITAL (PIN 263139)
Letter No.: 902/Nivida-Anubandh/Ranikhet/82 Dated : 25.05.2022

E-Tender Notice
1. Name of the work:- CONSTRUCTION OF GOVERNMENT INTER COLLEGE MAIN BUILDING AT MACHOD, DISTT-ALMORA
2. Estimated Cost :- Rs. 198.98 Lakh
3. Period of Completion:- 8 Month
4. Date and Time of availability of Bid documents in the portal:- 25-05-2022 (17.00 hrs)
5. Online Bid submission: End date :- 15-06-2022 (17.00 hrs)
6. Date & Time of Technical bid Opening :- 17-06-2022 (11.00hrs)
7. Name and Address of the Officer inviting bid :- General Manager (Kumaon), Nirman Wing, Uttarakhand Pey Jal Nigam, Haldwani.
8. Pre-bid meeting details (if required) Date & Place:- 30-05-2022 (11.00 hrs) Project Manager Construction Unit Uttarakhand Peyjal Nigam, Ranikhet.
9. For further details, details of subsequent Amendment / correction documentation etc. may be obtained from the e-Procurement portal www.uktenders.gov.in
GENERAL MANAGER

OFFICE OF THE GENERAL MANAGER, CONSTRUCTION WING, UTTARAKHAND PEYJAL NIGAM
E-32, JUDGE FARM, HALDWANI, DISTT.- NAINITAL (PIN 263139)
Letter No.: 903/Nivida-Anubandh/Ranikhet/83 Dated : 25.05.2022

E-Tender Notice
1. Name of the work:- CONSTRUCTION OF GOVERNMENT INTER COLLEGE MAIN BUILDING AT Painsiya, DISTT-ALMORA
2. Estimated Cost :- Rs. 198.98 Lakh
3. Period of Completion:- 8 Month
4. Date and Time of availability of Bid documents in the portal:- 25-05-2022 (17.00 hrs)
5. Online Bid submission: End date :- 15-06-2022 (17.00 hrs)
6. Date & Time of Technical bid Opening :- 17-06-2022 (11.00hrs)
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9. For further details, details of subsequent Amendment / correction documentation etc. may be obtained from the e-Procurement portal www.uktenders.gov.in
GENERAL MANAGER

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
Ref. : MD/MK/04/NIT/436 Date : 26.05.2022

TENDER NOTICE
MPMKVVCL, Bhopal, invites following bids from manufacturers through e-tendering.

Tender Specification Number	Particulars	Approx. Value (Rs. Lakh)	Tender Fee (including GST)	Date of Pre-Bid Conference (In Rs.)	Date of opening tender
MD/MK/04/782	Comprehensive Annual Maintenance Contract (AMC) of MDAS at 33/11 KV Substations.	493	11800/-	13.06.22 at 3:00 PM	28.06.22 at 3:30 PM

Other details and full Tender documents would be available on company website <https://portal.mpcz.in> & Govt. Website <https://mptenders.gov.in> shortly.

CHIEF GENERAL MANAGER (PROC.)
M.P. Madhyam/105078/2022

JINDAL LEASEFIN LIMITED
CIN: L74899DL1994PLC059252
Regd. Office: 110, Babar Road, New Delhi 110001

STATEMENT OF STANDALONE AUDITED FINANCIAL RESULTS FOR THE QUARTER AND YEAR ENDED 31.03.2022 (Rs. in Lacs)

Sl. No.	Particulars	Three Months Quarter ended		Year Ended		
		31.03.2022	31.12.2021	31.03.2021	31.03.2022	31.03.2021
1	Total Income from Operations	20.37	-0.45	0.39	19.92	33.82
2	Net Profit/(Loss) for the period (before Tax, Exceptional and/or extraordinary items#)	20.45	-3.48	-5.14	8.97	17.65
3	Net Profit/(Loss) for the period before tax (after Exceptional and/or extraordinary items#)	20.45	-3.48	-5.14	8.97	17.65
4	Net Profit/(Loss) for the period after tax (after Exceptional and/or extraordinary items#)	33.87	-4.31	-1.05	19.47	-2.65
5	Total Comprehensive Income for the period (Comprising Profit/(Loss) for the period (after tax) and Other Comprehensive Income (after tax))	34.14	-0.52	-2.23	40.1	31.89
6	Equity Share capital	300.89	300.89	300.89	300.89	300.89
7	Reserves (excluding Revaluation Reserve) as shown in the Audited Balance Sheet of the previous year	491.59	455.87	449.91	491.59	449.91
8	Earning per Share (face Value of Rs. 10/- each) (not annualised)					
	1. Basic	1.13	-0.14	-0.03	0.65	-0.09
	2. Diluted	1.13	-0.14	-0.03	0.65	-0.09

NOTE: 1. The above is an extract of the detailed format of Annual financial Results for the Quarter and year ended March 31, 2022 filed with the Stock Exchanges under Regulation 33 of the SEBI (Listing and other Disclosure Requirements) Regulations, 2015. The full format of the Annual financial Results is available on the Stock Exchange website www.bseindia.com. The same is also available on the Company's website www.jindalco.in
2. The above results duly reviewed by the Audit Committee, were approved by the Board of Directors in their meeting held on 26.05.2022.
Date : 26.05.2022
Place : New Delhi
Sd/-
(SURENDER KUMAR JINDAL)
Managing Director

Moody's slashes India's economic growth forecast

New Delhi: Moody's Investors Service on Thursday slashed India's economic growth projection to 8.8 per cent for 2022 from 9.1 per cent earlier, citing high inflation.

In its update to Global Macro Outlook 2022-23, Moody's said high-frequency data suggests that the growth momentum from December quarter 2021 carried through into the first four months this year.

However, the rise in crude oil, food and fertilizer prices will weigh on household finances and spending in the months ahead. Rate hike to prevent energy and food inflation from becoming more generalized will slow the demand recovery's momentum, it said.

"We have lowered our calendar-year 2022 growth forecast for India to 8.8 per cent from our March forecast of 9.1 per cent, while maintaining our 2023 growth forecasts at 5.4 per cent," Moody's said.

Strong credit growth, a large increase in investment intentions announced by the corporate sector, and a high budget allocation to capital spending by the government indicate that the investment cycle is strengthening.

"But unless global crude oil and food prices rise further, the

economy seems strong enough to maintain solid growth momentum," Moody's added.

For 2022 and 2023, it projected inflation to be around 6.8 per cent and 5.2 per cent, respectively.

A rise in prices across all items from fuel to vegetables and cooking oil pushed WPI or wholesale price-based inflation to a record high of 15.08 per cent in April and retail inflation to a near eight-year high of 7.79 per cent.

High inflation prompted the Reserve Bank to hold an unscheduled meeting to raise the benchmark interest rate by 40 basis points to 4.40 per cent earlier this month.

In November last year, Moody's had projected a 9.3 per cent economic growth for India in the ongoing fiscal year (April-March).

Earlier this month, S&P Global Ratings had cut India's growth projection for 2022-23 to 7.3 per cent, from 7.8 per cent earlier, on rising inflation and longer-than-expected Russia-Ukraine conflict.

In March, Fitch had cut India growth forecast to 8.5 per cent, from 10.3 per cent, citing sharply high energy prices on account of Russia-Ukraine war.

The World Bank in April

slashed India's GDP forecast for 2022-23 to 8 per cent from 8.7 per cent predicted earlier, while IMF has cut the projection to 8.2 per cent from 9 per cent.

Asian Development Bank (ADB) has projected India's growth at 7.5 per cent, while RBI last month cut forecast to 7.2 per cent, from 7.8 per cent, amid volatile crude oil prices and supply chain disruptions due to the ongoing Russia-Ukraine war.

In its report on Thursday, Moody's said it has lowered its global growth projections and raised inflation forecasts for 2022 and 2023 on account of several negative factors.

The main drivers of the slowing economic momentum are ongoing supply shocks that are stoking inflation and eroding consumer purchasing power, and a shift towards more hawkish monetary policy globally, accompanied by financial market volatility, asset repricing and tighter credit conditions.

Stating that the post-pandemic economic recovery faces a complex set of challenges, it said several cross-currents have hit the global economy all at once, and will slow growth more significantly than it envisaged only a few months ago. **PTI**

Sensex halts 3-day decline, rebounds over 500 pts amid F&O expiry

Mumbai: Equity benchmarks mustered gains for the first time this week on Thursday as investors piled into the recently-battered metal, bank and IT stocks amid expiry of monthly derivative contracts.

Snapping its three-session losing streak, the 30-share BSE Sensex rallied 503.27 points or 0.94 per cent to settle at 54,252.53.

On similar lines, the broader NSE Nifty gained 144.35 points or 0.90 per cent to end at 16,170.15.

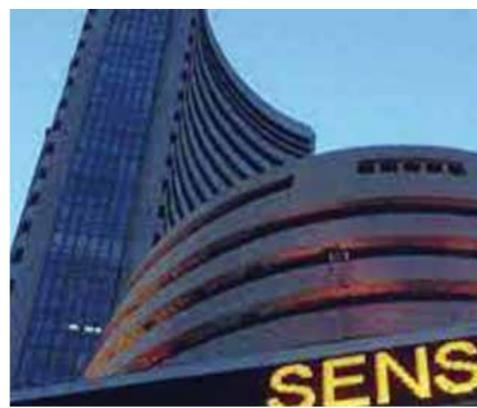
Tata Steel topped the Sensex gainers' chart, rallying 5.27 per cent after its recent rout, followed by SBI, HDFC Bank, Axis Bank, Nestle India, HDFC, ICICI Bank, TCS and Wipro.

In value terms, HDFC twins and ICICI Bank accounted for over half of the benchmark's gains.

In contrast, Sun Pharma, Reliance Industries, Hindustan Unilever, Larsen & Toubro, Dr Reddy's and Bajaj Finance were the laggards, losing up to 1.16 per cent.

The market breadth was in favour of the bulls, with 24 of the 30 Sensex stocks closing in the green.

"Markets witnessed healthy short covering towards the closing hours that helped



key indices to reverse the 3-day losing streak. With the US FOMC minutes out of the way now, market is more or less getting prepared for the likely rate hikes, and hence we saw strong buying on the futures and options (F&O) expiry day.

"While we may see bouts of selling going ahead due to other negative factors like higher inflation, continuous FII selling, and Russia-Ukraine conflict, relief rallies will still be seen amidst volatility," said Shrikant Chouhan, Head of Equity Research (Retail), Kotak Securities Ltd.

Vinod Nair, Head of

Research at Geojit Financial Services, said after the heavy sell-off recently, market showed signs of exhaustion and can rebound for the short to medium-term.

"Technically, the broad market is in the oversold territory and fundamentally valuations are just below the three-year average. A key reason for the current correction is selling by FIIs and a reduction in domestic buying. A drop in FIIs selling will be an important reason for the bounce. **PTI**

SBI economists peg Q4 GDP growth at 2.7%, FY22 expansion at 8.5%

Mumbai: Upcoming release of official data for economic performance is likely to register a 2.7 per cent growth for the January-March period, and the FY22 growth is expected to be 8.5 per cent, economists at SBI said on Thursday.

They were, however, quick to add that it is difficult to comprehend the numbers due to the spate of revisions that we have seen till now and termed this situation as a forecaster's nightmare.

"We ...Believe the GDP projection for Q4 FY22 is clouded by significant uncertainties. For example, even a one per cent downward revision in Q1 GDP estimates of FY22 from 20.3 per cent, all other things remaining unchanged, could push Q4 GDP growth to 3.8 per cent," they noted.

Official data on the economy is expected to be released on May 31.

The Central Statistics Office (CSO) had projected Q4 GDP at Rs 41.04 lakh crore and FY22 real GDP growth at Rs 147.7 lakh crore, an improvement of 1.7 per cent over pre-

pandemic levels, they said, adding that the 'SBI Nowcasting model' with an unchanged quarterly numbers pegs the growth rate of Q4 GDP at Rs 40 lakh crores, that is lower by Rs 1 lakh crore from the CSO preliminary projections. "We believe that downward adjustments in Q1, Q2 and Q3 numbers could have a soothing impact on Q4 GDP numbers. Every Rs 10,000 crore revision adds/subtracts 0.07 per cent from GDP growth," the note said.

Early trends for the March quarter results from listed corporates reported better growth numbers across parameters, as compared to the year-ago period, with a contraction in operating margin due to higher input cost, it said.

RBI reduces net-worth requirement for non-bank Bharat Bill Payment units to ₹25 cr

Mumbai: The RBI on Thursday eased norms for non-bank entities to set up Bharat Bill Payment operating units by reducing the net-worth requirement to Rs 25 crore, with a view to encourage more players in the segment.

At present, a net worth of Rs 100 crore is required to obtain authorisation for a non-bank BBPOU (Bharat Bill Payment Operating Units).

Bharat Bill Payment System (BBPS) is an interoperable platform for bill payments and the scope and coverage of BBPS extends to all categories of billers who raise recurring bills.

"...The minimum net-worth requirement for non-bank Bharat Bill Payment Operating Units (BBPOUs) stands reduced to Rs 25 crore," the Reserve Bank of India said in a circular.

Users of BBPS enjoy benefits like standardised bill payment experience, centralised customer grievance redressal mechanism and prescribed



customer convenience fee.

The reduction in net-worth requirements follows an announcement regarding the same by the central bank in April.

The RBI had said while BBPS has seen an increase in the volume of transactions as well as number of onboarded billers, it is observed that there has not been a corresponding growth in the number of non-bank BBPOUs.

The requirement of ₹100 crore net worth for a non-bank BBPOU to obtain authorisation was viewed as a constraint to greater participation, it had said.

To increase participation, the RBI had decided to align the net worth requirement of non-bank BBPOUs with that of other non-bank participants which handle customer funds (like payment aggregators) and have a similar risk profile. **PTI**

Tata Power Renewable Energy commissions 100 MW solar project in Maharashtra

New Delhi: Tata Power Renewable Energy on Thursday announced the commissioning of a 100 MW solar project for Maharashtra State Electricity Distribution Company Ltd at Partur in Maharashtra.

"Tata Power Renewable Energy Ltd (TPREL), one of India's largest renewable energy companies and a wholly-owned subsidiary of Tata Power, has commissioned 100 MW project for Maharashtra State Electricity Distribution Company Limited (MSEDCL) in Partur, Maharashtra," a company statement said.

According to the statement, the installation comprising over 4,11,900 monocrystalline PV modules is expected to reduce around 234 million tonnes of CO2 annually. The project was executed by Tata Power Solar Systems Limited, an arm of Tata Power, within the stipulated timeline of three-and-a-half months on 600 acres of land.

"Commissioning of MSEDCL project in such a short time frame is a testimony to Tata Power's extraordinary project execution capabilities. It would help Maharashtra contribute to India's renewable energy ambitions by increasing the share of renewable energy in the state's overall energy mix," said Praveer Sinha, CEO & MD, Tata Power. **PTI**

Gold in the national capital on Thursday fell by ₹241 to ₹50,671 per 10 grams, reflecting a decline in international precious metal prices, according to HDFC Securities.

In the previous trade, the precious metal settled at ₹50,912 per 10 grams.

Silver, however, grows ₹87 to ₹61,384 per kg from ₹61,297 per kg in the previous trade.

In the international market, gold was trading lower at USD 1,848 per ounce and silver was flat at USD 21.85 per ounce. **PTI**

Centre forcing States to buy imported coal as cover-up of short supply of dry fuel: AIPEF

New Delhi: All India Power Engineers Federation (AIPEF) on Thursday alleged that the Centre is encroaching upon states' authority and forcing them to buy imported coal to cover-up of its own inefficiencies in supplying domestic dry fuel to thermal plants.

The power ministry's directions issued earlier this month to generating companies is pushing states to import coal to increase blending to supplement domestic coal to offset the short supply of the dry fuel by Coal India Ltd, AIPEF said in a statement.

The ministry has also asked all imported coal-based power units to run at full capacity and said that the upward revision of tariff will be issued by a committee.

"The central government is

encroaching on the state authority and forcing them to buy imported coal to cover up its own inefficiencies in supplying domestic coal to thermal plants," AIPEF spokesperson V K Gupta alleged. **PTI**

उत्तराखण्ड लोक सेवा आयोग
हरिद्वार
पिन कोड- 249404

संख्या-27/1(01)/PCS(PRE)-21/G-02/2022-23 दिनांक: 26 मई, 2022

विज्ञापित

एतद्वारा सूचित किया जाता है कि उत्तराखण्ड सम्मिलित राज्य (सिविल) प्रवर अधीनस्थ सेवा परीक्षा-2021 के प्रारम्भिक परीक्षा का परिणाम दिनांक 26 मई, 2022 को घोषित कर दिया गया है। परीक्षा परिणाम, अभ्यर्थियों के प्राप्तांक, कट ऑफ मार्क्स एवं संशोधित उत्तर कुंजी उत्तराखण्ड लोक सेवा आयोग की वेबसाइट www.ukpsc.gov.in पर उपलब्ध है।
(कर्मन्द् सिंह) सचिव।

NORTHERN RAILWAY
E-TENDER NOTICE

Sr. Divisional Electrical Engineer/Traction Distribution, DRM's Office, State Entry Road, New Delhi for & on behalf of President of India, invites open e-tender under single packet system for the under noted work:-

1 Name of Work with its location	Replacement of failure prone brazed joint Contact wire (39 Km.) 4th phase over Delhi Division.
2 Approx. Cost of work	Rs. 68,24,415/-
3 Earnest Money Deposit	Rs. 1,36,50,000/- (online payment mode available on IREPS website)
4 E-Tender Bid Online Submission Period	06.06.2022
5 E-Tender Bid Submission End Date & E-Tender Open Date & Time	20.06.2022 (15.00 hrs.)
6 Fund Allocation	29366203
7 Website particulars where complete details of tender documents can be seen	www.ireps.gov.in

No.: 06-TRD-NDLS-2022-23 Date: 25.05.2022 1263/2022

Serving Customers with a Smile

OFFICE OF THE GENERAL MANAGER, CONSTRUCTION WING, UTTARAKHAND PEYJAL NIGAM
E-32, JUDGE FARM, HALDWANI, DISTT.- NAINITAL (PIN 263139)

Letter No.: 901/Nivida-Anubandh/Ranikhet/81 Dated: 25.05.2022

E-Tender Notice

1. Name of the work:- CONSTRUCTION OF PROPOSED BUILDING FOR G.I.C. VAJYULA, DISTT.- BAGESHWAR.

2. Estimated Cost:- Rs. 188.94 Lakh

3. Period of Completion:- 12 Month

4. Date and Time of availability of Bid documents in the portal:- 25-05-2022 (17.00 hrs)

5. Online Bid submission: End date :- 15-06-2022 (17.00 hrs)

6. Date & Time of Technical bid Opening :- 17-06-2022 (11.00hrs)

7. Name and Address of the Officer inviting bid: - General Manager (Kumaon), Nirman Wing, Uttarakhand Pey Jal Nigam, Haldwani.

8. Pre-bid meeting details (if required) Date & Place:- 30-05-2022 (11.00 hrs) Project Manager Construction Unit Uttarakhand Peyjal Nigam, Ranikhet.

9. For further details, details of subsequent Amendment / correction documentation etc. may be obtained from the e-Procurement portal www.uktenders.gov.in GENERAL MANAGER

पावरग्रिड POWERGRID

NOTICE

1. Approval under regulation-86 of CERC (Conduct of Business) Regulations '1999 and CERC (Terms and Conditions of Tariff) Regulations '2019 i) Truing up of Transmission tariff for 2014-19 tariff block and ii) Determination of Transmission tariff for 2019-24 tariff block for Petition-F: Transmission assets under 'Fiber Optic Communication system for central sector Sub-stations & Generating Stations in Southern Region.'

2. The beneficiaries of the above mentioned Transmission system are: 1) NTPC 2) NLC 3) NPCIL 4) NTECL 5) MEPL 6) SEPL 7) LANCO (8) KPTCL (9) APTRANSCO (10) KSEB (11) TNEB (12) Electricity Dept. of Goa (13) Electricity Dept. of Puducherry.

3. Tariff details: a) 2014-19 block

Asset	Particulars	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19
Asset-A1	Revised AFC based on truing up	113.00	133.79	126.79	132.65	134.20
Asset-A2	Revised AFC based on truing up	72.19	101.75	95.33	100.58	102.39
Asset-B1	Revised AFC based on truing up	25.45	35.85	45.59	45.13	43.58
Asset-B2	Revised AFC based on truing up	32.70	67.43	71.02	74.17	71.19
Asset-B3	Revised AFC based on truing up	33.84	70.94	74.37	77.59	74.50
Asset-B4	Revised AFC based on truing up	3.20	608.17	599.69	594.88	583.28
Asset-B5	Revised AFC based on truing up	-	1.18	424.52	378.34	360.59
Asset-B6	Revised AFC based on truing up	-	-	218.18	377.99	414.37
Asset-B7	Revised AFC based on truing up	-	-	4.01	252.09	288.92
Asset-B8	Revised AFC based on truing up	-	-	-	120.37	432.72
Asset-C1	Revised AFC based on truing up	-	-	-	1.10	114.31
Asset-C2	Revised AFC based on truing up	-	-	-	-	4.65

b) 2019-24 Block

Project	Tariff	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24
Combined Assets (2019-24)	AFC	2813.18	2766.73	2709.53	2626.28	2542.77

4. A copy of the application made for determination of tariff is posted on the website of the applicant at www.powergrid.in

5. The suggestions and objections, if any, on the proposals for determination of tariff contained in the application be filed by any person, including the beneficiary before the Secretary, Central Electricity Regulatory Commission, 3 & 4th floor, Chandralok Building, Janpath, New Delhi - 110001 (or other address where the office of the Commission is situated), with a copy to the applicant at the address of its corporate office within 30 days of publication of this notice.

Place: Gurgaon
Date: 23.05.2022
Sr. General Manager (Commercial)

POWER GRID CORPORATION OF INDIA LIMITED
(A Government of India Enterprise)
Registered Office: B-9, Qutab Institutional Area, Katwaria Sarai, New Delhi 110 016
Corporate Office: Saudamini, Plot No. 2, Sector-29, Gurgaon, Haryana - 122 001
www.powergridindia.com. CIN : L40101DL1989G0036121

A Maharatna PSU

MEYER APPAREL LIMITED
CIN: L18101HR1993PLC032010

Regd. Office: 3 & 4, Mustil No. 19, Killa No.-5, opposite Tata Consultancy N.H.-8, Village Narsingh Pur, Gurugram-122004 (Haryana) India
TEL: 91-9953696941, EMAIL: info@meyerapparel.com, WEBSITE: www.meyerapparel.com

EXTRACT OF STANALONE AUDITED FINANCIAL RESULTS FOR THE QUARTER AND YEAR ENDED 31st MARCH, 2022
Rs. In Lakh

Sl. No.	Particulars	Year Ended		Year Ended	
		March 31, 2022 Audited	December 31, 2021 Un-audited	March 31, 2022 Audited	March 31, 2021 Audited
1	Total income from operations	107.12	124.85	164.62	503.56
2	Net Profit / (Loss) for the period (before Tax, Exceptional and/or Extraordinary items)	(335.90)	(35.36)	18.80	(106.88)
3	Net Profit / (Loss) for the period before Tax (after Exceptional and/or Extraordinary items)	(335.90)	(35.36)	19.68	(106.88)
4	Net Profit / (Loss) for the period after Tax (after Exceptional and/or Extraordinary items)	(335.90)	(35.36)	19.68	(106.88)
5	Total Comprehensive Income for the period (Comprising Profit / (Loss) for the period (after Tax) and other Comprehensive income (after Tax)	(334.88)	(36.11)	9.21	(106.35)
6	Paid up Equity share capital (Face Value of Rs. 3/- each)	2,426.67	2,426.67	2,426.67	2,426.67
7	Other Equity			(5,248.44)	(5,140.10)
8	Earnings Per Share (of Rs. 3/- each)	(0.42)	(0.04)	0.02	(0.13)
Basic		(0.42)	(0.04)	0.02	(0.13)
Diluted					

NOTES:

1. These financial results have been prepared in accordance with Indian Accounting Standards (Ind AS) as prescribed under Section 133 of the Companies Act, 2013 read with relevant rules issued thereunder and other accounting principles generally accepted in India. The above financial results of the Company for the quarter and year ended March 31, 2022 has been reviewed by the Audit committee and approved by the Board of Directors at their meeting held on 26th May, 2022.

2. The above is an extract of the detailed quarterly and yearly financial results filed with the Stock Exchange under Regulation 33 of the SEBI (Listing Obligations and Disclosure Requirements) Regulations, 2015. The Full format of the Quarterly and yearly Financial Result is available on the Stock Exchange's website: www.bseindia.com and also on the Company's website, namely: www.meyerapparel.com.

For and on behalf of the Board
Sd/-
(Gajender Kumar Sharma)
CFO & Whole Time Director
Din: 08073521

Place: Gurugram
Date: 26th May 2022

PUBLIC NOTICE

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

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

Sr. No.	Name of the Borrower/ Co-Borrower/ Guarantor/ (Loan Account Number) & Address	Property Address of Secured Asset/ Asset to be Enforced	Date of Notice Sent/ Outstanding as on Date of Notice	NPA Date
1.	Rajme Baruah Sudarshan, Sudarshan Ramakrishna Chettur, Bg- 1- 133 Sfs Flats, Paschim Vihar, So West New Delhi, Delhi, 110063, So West, Delhi, A/c No:- LBGUR0000474987	Flat No 303, 3rd Floor, Tower-6, Vatika- Turning Point Tower West End 6, Sector 88-B, Gurgaon Haryana	06-Apr-2022 Rs. 30,36,533/-	04-11-2021
2.	Rajme Baruah Sudarshan, Sudarshan Ramakrishna Chettur, Bg- 1- 133 Sfs Flats, Paschim Vihar, So West New Delhi, Delhi, 110063, So West, Delhi, A/c No:- LBGUR00004375337	Flat No 303, 3rd Floor, Tower-6, Vatika- Turning Point Tower West End 6, Sector 88-B, Gurgaon Haryana	06-Apr-2022 Rs. 2,37,600/-	04-11-2021
3.	Sonia Verma, Ajaydeep Verma, 191 Pockets Delta 1st Back Side India, Oil retrol Pump Greater Noida, Noida, Uttar Pradesh A/c No:- LBNOD0003450302	Plot No.174, Block-A, Omicron-A1, Greater Greater Noida, Noida Uttar Pradesh	06-Apr-2022 Rs. 29,09,746/-	15-01-2022
4.	Amit Sharma, Laxmi Sharma, No.106, Block No. 1, Mamc Campus, Mirdard Lane, Delhi, A/c No:- LBGUR00030503031	Flat No-704, 6th Floor Supertech, Eco City Tower S, Sector 137 Noida, Noida Uttar Pradesh	06-Apr-2022 Rs. 38,86,647/-	07-06-2021
5.	Tanuj Singhal, Surbhi Agarwal, House No-127, First Floor, Ashoka Enclave-III, Sector-35, Faridabad, Haryana A/c No:-LBDEL00002034149	Flat No A1-1702 16th Floor Tower-A1 Victory Aave, Plot No Gh-02 Sector-143 Gautam Budh Nagar Noida	06-Apr-2022 Rs. 28,62,413/-	11-06-2021
6.	Nishant Srivastava, Sarika Srivastava, Flat No-D-9/100 Rajvive Apartment, Sector-3, Rajendra Nagar Sahibabad, Ghaziabad, Uttar Pradesh A/c No:-LBNOD0004403754	Flat No D-803, 8th Floor, Tower D, Officer City, Ghaziabad Uttar Pradesh	06-Apr-2022 Rs. 36,50,086/-	06-05-2021
7.	Anupam Mehrotra, Namrata Kakkur, Flat-375 Tower-7, Fifth Avenue Gaur City-1, Greater Noida West, Greater Noida, Gautam Buddha Nagar, Noida, Uttar Pradesh A/c No:- LBNOD0004970130	Ajnara Panorama Tower Plot No. Gh-04 Sector-22 Yamuna Expressway Industrial Development area District Greater Noida, Noida, Uttar Pradesh	06-Apr-2022 Rs. 32,42,029/-	30-09-2021
8.	Satish Kumar Ranga, Sunita Kumari Ranga, Rzc 81 Near, Primary School, Main Road, Mahavir Enclave, Delhi, A/c No:- LBDEL00002257352	Flat No A 801 8th Floor, Block A Plot No.10 The, People Conservative Cghs Ltd Sector 18, Dwarka Delhi	06-Apr-2022 Rs. 38,31,120/-	06-12-2021
9.	Sumanth Kumar Shah, Seema Devi, H No. Y-143, Gali-71 Laxmi Vihar, Adarsh Enclave Prem Nagar-II, Kirari Suleman Nagar, Delhi, Kirari Suleman Nagar, Delhi, A/c No:-LBDEL00005128183	Plot No A-427-428, First Floor Sector-22, Pocket 04, Rohini, Delhi	06-Apr-2022 Rs. 29,67,880/-	11-06-2021
10.	Magsood Alam, Mohd Rizwan, H-105 Batla House, Jamia Nagar, New Friends Colony, New Delhi, Delhi, A/c No:- LBDEL00002394117	Flat No.1601, 16th Floor Sunworld Arista, Tower 10 Sector 168, Noida Uttar Pradesh	06-Apr-2022 Rs. 35,36,680/-	31-01-2022
11.	Baani Dhamija, Manandeep Singh Dhamija, 51/88 Second Floor Old Mahavir Nagar, Tilak Nagar Tilak Nagar West Delhi, Delhi, A/c No:- LBDEL00003257666	Flat No-806, 8th Floor Oxirich New Delhi Extension, Tower A Plot No. Gh-07A, Koyal Enclave, Yojna Ghaziabad Uttar Pradesh	06-Apr-2022 Rs. 27,67,479/-	03-01-2022
12.	Venu Jain, Puneet Jain, E 162 Plot 8 Pocket 4 Jalvayu Vihar Greater Noida, Rampur Jagir, L A Suraj Pur Gautam Buddha Nagar Greater, Noida, Uttar Pradesh A/c No:- LBNOD00002413370	Flat No.4021, 2nd Floor Tower 4 Ats Allure Pocket P7 Plot No.02A Sector 22D, Yamuna Express Way, Greater Noida, Noida Uttar Pradesh	06-Apr-2022 Rs. 41,21,882/-	30-09-2021
13.	Parul Dhawan, Yogesh Kumar Sharma, C-2, SF, Eldeco Residency, Greens, Sector PI-I, Greater Noida, Noida, Uttar Pradesh A/c No:- LBGUR00002087963	P 0091 Country Homes 2, Sector 25 Special, Development Zone G, Noida Uttar Pradesh	06-Apr-2022 Rs. 33,22,063/-	13-12-2021
14.	Sanjay Kumar, Jyoti Kumar, Unit 2 13-15, Ashion St Rockdale Nsw 2216, New South Wales, New South Wales A/c No:-LBDEL00002064264	Blot No G-2001 20th Floor, Block-G Blossom Colony, Sector-137 Noida Uttar Pradesh	06-Apr-2022 Rs. 42,14,195/-	11-01-2022
15.	Pradeep Kumar, Sheela Upadhyay, 12/A Near Mcd School Mandoli Village, Delhi, Delhi, A/c No:- LBNOD00002176358	Flat No D-603 6th Floor, Tower-D Aims Green, Avenue Plot No Gh-04, Sector-4 Greater Noida, Noida, Uttar Pradesh	06-Apr-2022 Rs. 27,95,012/-	03-01-2022

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

Date : May 27, 2022
Place: Delhi- NCR

Authorized Officer
ICICI Bank Limited

GUJARAT CELEBRATES WORLD BEE DAY

To attract and enhance the relationship with global markets, the Government of India and State Governments are working to improve the quality of honey and collaborating and focusing on beekeeper capacity-building through the use of scientific techniques

To mark the occasion of World Bee Day, a national level function was held in Tent City-II, Ekta Nagar, Narmada, Gujarat on May 20, 2022. It was celebrated with great fervour. The Union Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare Minister Narendra Singh Tomar mentioned that the Government is working hard under Prime Minister Narendra Modi's leadership to bring about a Sweet Revolution in the country.

He also stated that Modi's goal is to empower small farmers and approximately 55 per cent of India's population lives in rural areas and that the country will progress only when the rural population improves.

With virtually inaugurating honey testing laboratories and processing units at several places like Pulwama, Bandipur and Jammu in Jammu and Kashmir; Tumkur in Karnataka; Saharanpur in Uttar Pradesh; Pune in Maharashtra and Uttarakhand, he also opened an exhibition at the event venue.

Under the centrally-funded National Beekeeping Honey Mission which aims to establish five large regional and 100 small honey and its byproducts testing laboratories, three world-class laboratories have already been established. 25 other small laboratories are on the verge of getting established. The Government is also assisting in the establishment of these processing units.

In India, more than 1.25 lakh metric tonnes of honey is produced and more than 60,000 metric tonnes of natural honey is exported. To attract and enhance the global market relationship, the GoI and the State Governments are working to improve the quality of honey and are collaborating and focusing on beekeeper capacity building through the use of scientific techniques.

Tomar also travelled back in time when Modi was the Chief Minister of Gujarat to recall how he paved a new way for the State's development. His administration remained committed to the development of Gujarat's poor and small farmers. The State performed well under his leadership in terms of reducing poverty, creating jobs, developing health facilities and making irrigation accessible for farmers.

During the programme, farmers from various States interacted with Tomar and other dignitaries sharing their stories about how beekeeping has increased their income.

Minister of State for Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare Kailash Choudhary, stated that the Government has provided farmers with the necessary resources as well as new technology through various beekeeping schemes and is developing a mission mode to promote beekeeping in order to increase



farmer income. According to Choudhary, Modi has worked tirelessly for the betterment of farmers.

Ambassador of the Republic of Slovenia Mateja Vodeb; Konda Reddy Chavva, FAO Representative in India; Manoj Ahuja,

Secretary, Department of Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare (DA&FW); Dr AbhilakshLikhli, Additional Secretary, DA&FW; Dr Prabhat Kumar, Horticulture Commissioner, DA&FW; Meenish Shah, Chairman, National Dairy Development

Board, senior officers of Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare and Government of Gujarat and large number of farmers/beekeepers and stakeholders associated with honey production took part in the event.



GAIL inaugurates Gas Receiving Station in Bathinda

Taking a major step to ensure availability of natural gas for large customers, GAIL (India) Limited has laid a dedicated pipeline to supply the fuel to HPCL Mittal Energy Ltd's (HMEL) refinery in Bathinda.

The Gas Receiving Station for the pipeline was inaugurated on May 21 by Prabh Das, Managing Director and CEO, HMEL in the presence of Manoj Jain, Chairman & Managing Director, Deepak Gupta, Director (Projects) from GAIL and Vartika Shukla, Chairman &

Managing Director, Engineers India Limited.

The dedicated pipeline, laid at a cost of ₹142 crore, will supply 1 MMSCMD gas to HMEL.

The 44.26 km pipeline of 12 inch diameter is a spur line of the 500 km Dadri - Bawana - Nangal Pipeline (DBNPL).

The DBNPL is a part of the National Gas Grid and runs from Dadri (Uttar Pradesh) through Yamunanagar (Haryana) to Nangal (Punjab) to meet the energy demand of these northern States.

SRM signs MoU with DSSC



SRM Institute of Science and Technology, Kattankulathur has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Defence Services Staff College (DSSC), Wellington, an Armed Forces Training Institution of the Ministry of Defence, Government of India.

MoU's primary aim is to provide migration facilities for Armed Forces Officers posted as faculty in DSSC by SRMIST leading to the award of PhD in programmes like Defence and Strategic Studies, Disaster Management, Communication, Economics,

International Relations, Logistics, Cyber Warfare, Electronics, Weapon Technology and Defence Budgeting, among others.

Commandant Lt Gen S Mohan, AVSM, SM, VSM represented DSSC.

Vice Chancellor Dr C Muthamizhchelvan and Registrar Dr S Ponnusamy, among others appeared for SRMIST.

Dr Muthamizhchelvan said: "Through this officers of DSSC can pursue masters as well as PhD programmes that are offered here."

HWWA organises a talk programme for mothers



Himveer Weavers Welfare Association (HWWA) paid respect towards mothers by holding a special talk programme on mother's role in shaping the future of the families.

Wrestler Geeta Phogat and Everest Santosh Yadav were the guests of honour on the occasion.

This special motivational talk was organised by HWWA at the ITBP Force Head Quarters, New Delhi, where

mothers of HWWA families with children achieving laurels in the field of education and sports were felicitated by Ritu Arora, Chairperson HWWA.

Geeta Phogat and Santosh Yadav interacted with the HWWA families and children and motivated them. They also answered the questions asked by mothers and children at the talk programme. Thousands of family members and jawans witnessed the pro-

gramme through the online medium. Both Geeta Fogat and Santosh Yadav shared their struggle and success stories with memorable instances of their lives, especially their experience with their dedicated mothers who shaped their personalities.

Arora welcomed the guests of honour on the occasion and elaborated on steps being taken by HWWA for the welfare of families of the Force. She said that the role of mothers in the security forces personnel families is more important to shape the future of the children.

Shikha Srivastava, Vice Chairperson 'HWWA' and other senior members of 'HWWA' were also present on the occasion.

A free BYJU's online e-learning programme in association with Smiles Foundation was also inaugurated on the occasion. The ITBP wards from class 4th to 12th can be enrolled through the programme to have free education for three years with this initiative.

NTPC's Girl Empowerment Mission touches newer heights of success



Girl Empowerment Mission (GEM), the flagship CSR initiative of NTPC Ltd in empowering young girls to realise their dreams, has achieved the newer heights of success.

NTPC Ltd, India's largest integrated energy company, has received widespread acclaim for supporting the upliftment of girls with focus on girl children from the villages around NTPC projects. Further, it is planning to conduct its GEM initiative in about 35 project locations during this year.

The GEM programme has empowered girls from across the country and made them aware of basic education, health and self-defence. With this initiative, NTPC aims to help these girls break the glass ceiling and dispel the misconception about female foeticide in rural areas. The initiative has created a space for the children to showcase their talents and capabilities.

As a responsible corporate citizen, NTPC started the Girl Empowerment Mission back in 2018 and contributed to the empowerment of unfortunate girls in the vicinity of its project locations.

By 2019, the Girl Empowerment Mission bene-

fitted 2,300 girls across 20 project locations. NTPC oversaw the enrolment of girl students between the age of 10-12 years from different locations such as Dadri, Korba, Farakka, Sipat, Singrauli, Kawas, Ramagundam, Simhadri and other project areas.

The girl students have gotten exposed to not only academics but also yoga, self-defence, fine arts and much more. These girls have imbibed a creative mind set and also learnt the importance of team spirit.

GEM ensures that the girl child grows into a well-rounded adult with ample curiosity and quality communication and social skills. Additionally, it motivates the girl child to nurture their creativity, sharpen psychological, social and emotional growth, and makes learning a lively, engaging, and impactful experience.

Since its inception, the company has laid focus on creating pioneering Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) practices that have had a permanent sustainable impact on the lives of the people. NTPC will continue to spearhead such initiatives and touch the lives of the marginalised people and ensure that they live their lives with dignity.



POWERGRID acquires KNTL through TBCB

POWERGRID has acquired the Project Special Purpose Vehicle (SPV) — Khetri Narela Transmission Limited after emerging successful in the Tariff Based Competitive Bidding (TBCB) conducted as per the guidelines notified by Government of India.

The transmission project, which is being established under Build, Own, Operate and Maintain basis would help in evacuation of renewable power from 8.1 GW Phase-II solar energy zones in Rajasthan to Delhi, northern region of the country.

The project includes 765 kV Gas Insulated Substation (GIS) in Delhi and establishment of 765 kV D/C Transmission lines passing through the States of Rajasthan, Haryana and Delhi with each line having a capacity to transfer about 4000 MW of power.

The project will benefit industries, households and businesses, boosting the economic development of the country in totality. It will augment the transmission infrastructure to evacuate green energy thereby reducing dependency on fossil fuels, in line with Government of India's vision of achieving 500 GW capacity from non-fossil sources by 2030.

POWERGRID posts Profit After Tax of ₹16,824 crore

Power Grid Corporation of India Limited (POWERGRID), a Maharatna company under Ministry of Power, Government of India, has announced a PAT of ₹4,156 crore for Q4FY22 on a consolidated basis which is 18 per cent increase over Q4FY21. The total income for Q4FY22 was ₹11,068 crore compared to ₹10,816 crore in the Q4 of the previous year. On a consolidated basis, the company posted PAT of ₹16,824 crore and total income of ₹42,698 crore for FY22 registering a YoY growth of 40 per cent and five per cent, respectively. The company has proposed a final dividend of 22.5 per cent in addition to first & second interim and special dividends aggregating to 125 per cent already paid for FY22.



Celebrating SAIL's golden jubilee

Steel Authority of India Limited (SAIL), the Maharatna steel-making public sector unit celebrated the company's 50 years of incorporation this year.

SAIL's legacy of 50 years was celebrated with the launch of a new commemorative logo and will be followed by several events to be held all across the company throughout the year. The design of the commemorative logo retains the essence of SAIL's company logo while bringing out the spirit of 50 years of journey of this company. The logo was launched by Soma Mondal, Chairman, SAIL, in presence of the company's directors on May 23, 2022.

This feat is a testimony of the company's sustained efforts and initiatives in ensuring better stakeholders' engagement and contribution in nation building over the years.

BHEL back in the black in FY 21-22

Bharat Heavy Electricals Limited (BHEL) has bounced back into the black in fiscal 2021-22 despite the second wave of COVID impacting Q1 operations severely.

Due to a strong focus on speeding up execution, cost control, prudent resource management, and improving service and quality standards, the company has not only achieved break-even in FY 21-22 but has also strengthened its balance sheet.

While revenue from operations surged 24 per cent to ₹21,211 crore, against ₹17,308 crore in the previous year, the company achieved a Profit Before Tax (PBT) of ₹437

core against a loss of ₹3,612 crore in the year before.

Overall, the company achieved an EBIDTA of ₹1,100 crore. This has been achieved despite tremendous pressure on margins due to a sharp spike in metal prices and increase in other material & fuel costs. Profit After Tax stands at ₹410 crore against a loss of ₹2,717 crore in the previous year. Notably, the company has declared a dividend of 20 per cent for FY 2021-22, after a span of three years.

This performance is a result of a shift in focus towards project centric operations over the last couple of years, with the company

achieving the highest level of execution at project sites (in the past five years) as well as the highest ever project closures.

This has also resulted in a cash surplus of ₹660 crore from operation activities. As on March 31, 2022, the company had cash and bank balances, net of borrowings, of ₹2,409 crore as compared to ₹1,868 crore, at the end of FY 20-21.

During the year, BHEL has commissioned and synchronised 4,119 MW of power plants in the utility, solar and captive segments and an additional 1,460 MW of steam generators.

Northern Railway to set up Gati Shakti unit in Delhi division

In order to fast track the construction work required by divisions for removing infrastructure bottlenecks and improving mobility of passenger and freight trains, Northern Railway is setting up Gati Shakti Units in selected divisions at present. First of this unit in the Northern Railway is to be set up in the Delhi Division.

With the opening of the dedicated GS unit at Delhi Division, the Hon'ble PM's National Master Plan for multimodal Connectivity, Gati Shakti, will get impetus.

A meeting was held by Ashutosh Gangal, General Manager, Northern Railway at New Delhi on May 20. The principal heads of the department involved with the Gati Shakti Plan and the Divisional Railway Manager of Delhi divi-

sion were present in the meeting.

The technical, administrative and financial modalities for setting up the unit along with organisational set-up were discussed in detail. Railways will also seek opinions from industry and established experts for design checking, testing of material, site tests and for conducting surveys.

The Gati Shakti Unit has a committee of personnel from the Engineering, Signal & Telecommunication and Finance departments. The unit will be headed by DRM Delhi. With the coming together of all the involved departments, the processes of requisite infrastructure creation will be expedited.

Speed of passenger trains is being improved in sections over

the Northern Railway. Recently, trains have been speeded up to 130 Km/hr in New Delhi-Ludhiana and New Delhi-Palwal sections.

Infrastructure upgrade for providing better services to the rail users has been the focus of NR.

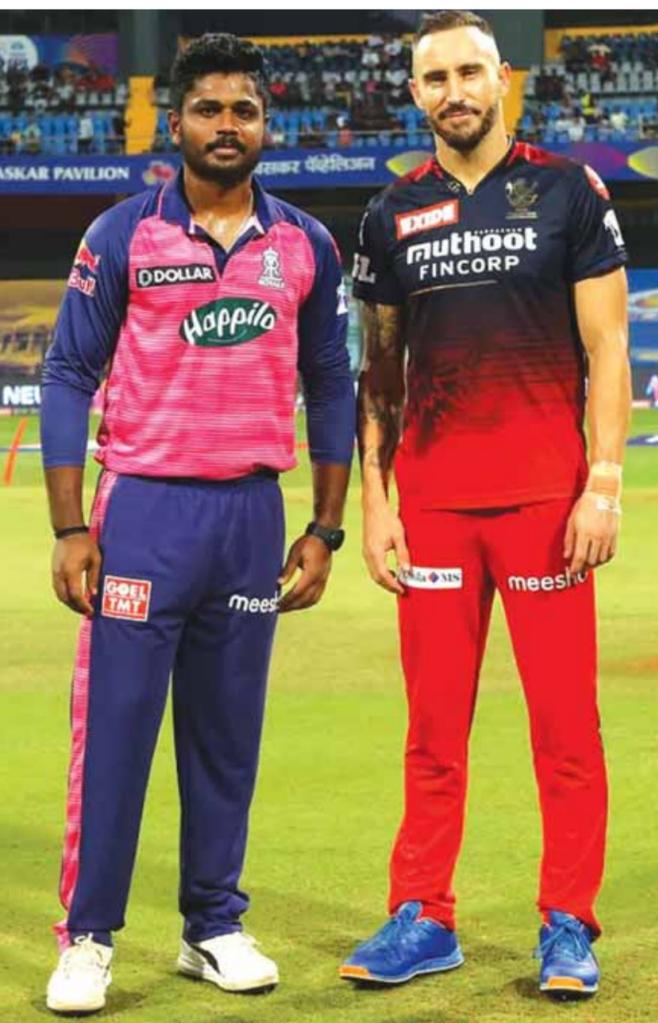
Several new line projects are on-going which will provide rail connectivity to hinterlands. ROBs and RUBs are being constructed instead of LC gates to facilitate rail/road traffic.

33 pairs of trains have been given a traction change from diesel to electric in the last financial year as this will significantly improve mobility of the trains.

Yards over the zone are being improved and re-modelled for better maintenance and operations of trains.



I think it's quite obvious - the reasons why we didn't win. We let ourselves down in the field. Dropping easy catches never helps. Difference was obviously Patidar playing such a knock. — KL RAHUL



ROYAL BATTLE

On a roll, RCB fancy their chances against Rajasthan in Qualifier 2

PTI ■ AHMEDABAD

Rajasthan Royals will need to shake off an ordinary bowling performance in their last outing when they clash with Royal Challengers Bangalore, a team which seems to be peaking at the right time, in the high-stakes IPL Qualifier-2 here on Friday.

Having sneaked into the play-offs, RCB are on a roll and a tight win over Lucknow in the Eliminator has fuelled expectations for a long-awaited trophy.

They take on Rajasthan, a team which has all bases covered but still came up short against Gujarat in Qualifier 1.

The IPL caravan moves to Ahmedabad after a couple of high-scoring games in Kolkata.

It has been a quick turnaround for RCB but they won't mind that as they look to ride the momentum.

"The best thing is that we have one day and we play again. Cannot wait to be in Ahmedabad and take the field again. We are so excited and happy with how things have gone. Hopefully, two more games and we all can celebrate," star RCB batter Virat Kohli told the IPL website after the win over LSG.

Rajasthan vs Bangalore
Live from 7:30pm IST
STAR SPORTS 1 NETWORK

Rajat Patidar, who played the innings of his life on Wednesday, will be a man with supreme confidence in another high-pressure knockout fixture.

For someone who went unsold in the IPL auction and came into the RCB squad as a replacement player, it has been a career-changing season for him.

Both the high-profile openers, Kohli and Faf du Plessis, are big match players and will be itching to make an impact after low returns in the previous game.

Dinesh Karthik has managed to maintain consistency in a tough role and the team management would be also hoping for more runs in the back end of the innings from Glenn Maxwell.

The team is likely to stick to the winning combination. While Wanindu Hasaranga has shown the courage even when he has been taken to the cleaners, Harshal Patel has been the go-to pacer in slog overs. Mohammad Siraj returned

for the LSG game and bowled well with the new ball. Josh Hazlewood enhanced his reputation as a death bowler with a match-deciding penultimate over and with the addition of a yorker in his armoury, has only become tougher to score of.

RCB bowlers will have to be on the top of their game against a formidable Rajasthan batting line up which rely heavily on Jos Buttler and skipper Sanju Samson. Both scored against Gujarat but it did not prove to be enough.

Samson will be eager to convert his 30s and 40s into a substantial knock and lead from the front.

It remains to be seen how the bowlers come back after a forgettable outing. R Ashwin had a rare off day against Gujarat while Prasidh Krishna paid the price for bowling length balls to David Miller in the final over.

I don't shy away from bowling in slog overs: Harshal

PTI ■ KOLKATA

RCB seamer Harshal Patel does feel the nerves while bowling in the death overs but says he wants to be in those extreme pressure situations game after game.

The 31-year-old, who represents Haryana at the domestic circuit, has been the most improved bowler in the recent past and has cleverly used his variations to get the better of batters in the death overs.

Harshal also enhanced his reputation as a 'death overs specialist' in the IPL Eliminator against LSG.

"Whether I would be able to deliver or not, I don't really know, I can't say. But I want to be in those situations, there is no doubt about that," Harshal said after inspiring the team to a 14-run win over LSG on Wednesday.

"I have been wanting to do that for the past two-three years, I have been doing that for Haryana, and I wanted to do it at the bigger stage

and I will continue to put myself in those situations, sometimes it is going to come off, sometimes it is not going to come off.

"There will be games where I will end up losing for the team and I am okay with that as long as I don't shy away from challenges," said Harshal.

On Wednesday, while defending 208 against Lucknow Super Giants, Harshal bowled a tidy spell of 2-0-8-0 in the middle overs.

But with KL Rahul and hard-hitting Marcus Stoinis looking to break free at the death, the seamer was summoned to bowl the 18th over with 41 runs to defend.

"First of all, yes, I was nervous, there is no doubt about that. If you are defending 35 off 18 balls, then you're going to be nervous around it.

"I knew when I gave away six runs without bowling a ball — gave away those wides, I knew that the wide yorker won't work.

"So I thought what worked for me in the first two overs, I want to go back to that and give myself the best opportunity to get KL (Rahul) and Stoinis out. Fortunately, I got Stoinis out at the boundary," he said.

Harshal, who had bagged 32 wickets for RCB last season, once again has been their bowling backbone and has 19 wickets from 15 matches in this IPL.



Meghana, Rodrigues propel Trailblazers to 190/5



PTI ■ PUNE

Batting duo of Sabbhini Meghana and Jemimah Rodrigues slammed scintillating fifties to propel Trailblazers to 190 for five against Velocity in a must-win Women's T20 Challenge match here on Thursday.

Meghana, who was left out of their opening game, smashed a strokeful 73 off 47 balls en route to a 113-run partnership off 73 balls with Jemimah Rodrigues (66 off 44 balls) to set the foundation.

Hayley Matthews (27 off 15) and Sophia

Dunkley (19 off 8) provided the late charge as the defending champions scored the highest total in the history of the tournament.

The only team to open their account yet, Trailblazers came into the match need a huge win to qualify for the finals. They will have to restrict Velocity within 158 to make the summit clash.

Sent into bat, Meghana took the responsibility to steer the team after Trailblazers lost skipper Smriti Mandhana (1) early.

The 25-year-old from Andhra Pradesh, who was dropped at 16 and 63, displayed her big-hitting skills, clobbering seven fours and four maximums.

Rodrigues too had seven hits to the fence and one six in her 44-ball innings.

Velocity was extremely sloppy on the field as their butterfingers fielders dropped as many as four catches -- two in Simran Bahadur's over.

Meghana produced two good hits down the ground off Kate Cross but the bowler returned to dismiss Mandhana with Simran taking an easy catch.

Cross could have added Meghana's wicket to her list but Sneha Rana dropped her at the point.

Rodrigues then slammed two fours off Deepti Sharma as Trailblazers scored 47 for 1 in the powerplay.

Meghana took apart the attack, dispatching Radha Yadav for two sixes -- one an inside out shot over covers and the second one over the bowler's head -- en route to her fifty in the 10th over.

Rodrigues too played some exquisite shots and reached her fifty in the 14th over off 30 balls.

We were trying to hit boundaries but RCB bowled well: Rahul



PTI ■ KOLKATA

When Mark Zuckerberg famously said: "The biggest risk is not taking any risk", KL Rahul ought to have paid attention.

The India player is too good a batter to not take on the bowlers at any stage of a game, but his conservative middle-

overs approach did not help Lucknow Super Giants' cause in the eliminator against Royal Challengers Bangalore.

At the end of the game, the LSG skipper acknowledged that "two big hits" would have probably done the job for his team in a chase of 208.

"Yes, I think now, looking back, yes, it was just about two

big hits in the middle overs and that could have gotten us over the line," Rahul said in the post-match press conference here.

There was a seven-over period after the powerplay during which Rahul managed to hit just one boundary.

Rahul was in red-hot form this season with two centuries and four fifties, but his approach

One of best innings I've ever seen under pressure: Kohli on Patidar

PTI ■ KOLKATA

Batting stalwart Virat Kohli says Rajat Patidar's match-winning century in the IPL Eliminator was one of the best innings produced under pressure.

Little-known Patidar from Indore slammed a 54-ball 112 not out to single-handedly win the IPL Eliminator for Royal

Challengers Bangalore on Wednesday night here.

"That was one of the best innings I've ever seen under pressure by Rajat Patidar, and I've seen many," Kohli, who had added 66 with Patidar, said on RCB's Game Day segment.

"That level of striking in this game is some level of batting. Watch out for him!" he said.

while chasing is something he needed to work on. The IPL debutants lost five of their seven matches while chasing.

"We won a few games but generally overall we did not do well chasing. It's something that we need to learn," Rahul said.

"For me, I think this season has been like every other season, has been a good learning experience. "We, as a team as well, it's been a very challenging season. We've learned a lot."

Rahul, who is only the second batter this IPL to go past 600 runs, scored 79 off 58 balls on Wednesday, which was not enough in their stiff chase.

"I've really done well in other seasons, and I enjoy chas-

ing. Yeah, you become successful and at times you fail," Rahul said after the 14-run loss.

"But it's a team game and the team has really stepped up even when we're chasing," he added.

Rahul, who will lead India in the upcoming five-match T20I series against South Africa next month in the absence of Rohit Sharma, has been in imperious form this season, with 616 runs from 15 matches at an average of 51.33.

But his stats while chasing give an altogether different picture.

He has scored just 191 runs from seven innings while batting second, with an average of 27.28 at a strike-rate of 113.01.



Mathews, Chandimal, bowlers get SL closer to series win

AP ■ DHAKA

Angelo Mathews and Dinesh Chandimal hit centuries as Sri Lanka raised hope of winning the second Test after reducing Bangladesh to 34 for 4 on day four on Thursday.

The host still needs 107 runs with six wickets remaining on the last day to force Sri Lanka to bat a second time. Bangladesh was in survival mode after its hope of a first home series win over Sri Lanka was shattered. Mushfiqur Rahim and Liton Das, who helped Bangladesh

recover from 24 for 5 to post 365 on Tuesday with a record 272-run partnership, were in the middle at stumps after another top-order rout. Mushfiqur was 14 not out and Liton on 1.

Mathews followed his 199 in the first innings with an unbeaten 145, and Chandimal scored 124 to give Sri Lanka a 141-run lead. Sri Lanka was all out after tea for 506 in the first innings.

Mathews and Chandimal combined for 199 runs for the sixth wicket to take the game away from Bangladesh, despite Shakib Al Hasan's 5 for 96.

Langer hits out at politics in CA

PTI ■ PERTH

Former Australia coach Justin Langer has slammed the politics in the national cricket board as he opened up on his messy departure from the top job, specifically hitting out at interim chairman Richard Freudenstein.

In February, the 51-year-old stepped down as the senior men's team coach after rejecting a six-month contract extension, having hoped for a multi-year deal after overseeing a successful T20 World Cup campaign and an Ashes triumph.

The day after quitting his job, Langer had a heated conversation with Freudenstein.

Several Australian legends, including Mark Waugh, Adam Gilchrist, Ricky Ponting, Steve Waugh, Matthew Hayden and the late Shane Warne, came to their former teammate's defence and questioned Cricket Australia (CA) for the treatment meted out to Langer.

"The first thing he (Freudenstein) said to me was, 'It must make you feel so good that all your mates are support-



ing you in the media," Langer told a Chamber of Commerce and Industry WA event in Perth. "I said, 'Yeah it is, acting chairman, but with all due respect, those mates are also the all-time greats of Australian cricket. They are the fabric of Australian cricket. They are work all around the world in cricket."

"So yeah, I'm glad my mates are looking after me. Imagine if you had have'. "Ironically, the last six months of my coaching career

were the most enjoyable period of 12 years of coaching. Not only did we win everything, but I had energy, and I had focus, and I was happy - besides the bull**** politics.

The former Australia opener also clarified he had never spoken to anyone about taking the England coaching job after the sacking of Chris Silverwood.

Langer's departure coincided with the sacking of Silverwood, and the Australian's name was immediately linked to the England coaching position.

The former Australia opener also said he had never spoken to anyone about taking the England coaching job after the sacking of Chris Silverwood.

"I've never spoken to English cricket," Langer said.

"Former England captain Andrew Strauss rang me the day after I resigned... But I have known Andrew Strauss for a long time and that was 14 weeks ago.

"(Apart from that) I've never spoken to English cricket.

"The thought of coaching England ... mate (shakes his head)."

KL becomes 1st batter to score 600+ runs in four IPL seasons

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Even though his dream of winning the Indian Premier League (IPL) title ended once again with a heartbreaking 14-run defeat against Royal Challengers Bangalore on Wednesday (May 25), Lucknow Super Giants (LSG) skipper KL Rahul reached a unique batting milestone during his 58-ball 79-run innings against the Faf du Plessis-led side at Eden Gardens in Kolkata.

The 30-year-old became the first cricketer in the cash-rich league's history to score 600 plus runs in four different seasons. In the 15 matches of this year's edition of the IPL, the right-handed opening batter has scored 616 runs at an average of 51.33 and a strike rate of 135.38. He scored back-to-back hundreds against five-time winners Mumbai Indians and crossed the fifty-run mark on four occasions.

Before this year's edition, the top-order batter from Bengaluru had scored 626 runs in 13 matches of the 2021 edition, 670 runs in 14 matches of the 2020 season and 659 runs in the 2018

edition of the world's richest franchise cricket league.

KL, who is the second-highest run-getter in this season of the league up till now, finished as the third-highest run scorer in the 2018 and 2021 seasons, the second highest in 2019 and won the Orange Cap in the 2020 season, when the tournament was played in the United Arab Emirates.

Besides four 600+ seasons, KL scored 593 runs in the 2019 edition. West Indies T20 batting legend Chris Gayle and star Australian opening batter David Warner have scored more than 600 runs in the IPL on three different occasions and are now second on the list.

Both these left-handed batters have won the Orange Cap on two different occasions and are among the top 10 run-getters in the history of the league.

The 42-year-old Gayle crossed the 600 run mark in three consecutive years (2011-2013) while he was part of the Royal Challengers Bangalore side.

On the other hand, David Warner also achieved the feat in three consecutive seasons from 2016 to 2019 as the Sunrisers Hyderabad captain.



AP ■ TIRANA

Nicolo Zaniolo won Roma their first ever major European trophy on Wednesday with the only goal in a 1-0 win over Feyenoord in the inaugural Europa Conference League final.

Italy international Zaniolo struck with a well-taken finish in the 32nd minute to earn Roma their first trophy of any kind since 2008 and cap a successful first season for coach Jose Mourinho in Rome.

Mourinho was moved to tears by his fifth continental cup as a coach, the first for an Italian team since he led Inter Milan to the Champions League 12 years ago.

"It was a real struggle but I'm really happy," Zaniolo said to Sky. "It was my dream and now I've done it."

Roma, Fairs Cup winners in 1961, rode their luck with Feyenoord having the lion's share of the play and twice striking the woodwork in the second half.

But they remained solid in the face of Dutch dominance and brought joy to one of Europe's most passionate and success-starved fan bases.

Over 50,000 fans packed the Stadio Olimpico in the Italian capital to watch their team make a little piece of history in Albania and poured onto the pitch once the trophy was secured.

Meanwhile the small corner of supporters allowed into Tirana's National Stadium roared with delight once referee Istvan Kovacs blew his whistle to end their team's trophy drought.

"We know that after these amazing victories it's always difficult to start again but a real team wins, celebrates and then gets



ROMA MAKE HISTORY

Serie A club beat Feyenoord 1-0 to win inaugural edition of Europa Conference League

going again," said Rome-born captain Lorenzo Pellegrini.

For 1970 European champions Feyenoord it was their first ever defeat in a European final as well as being the first loss in the competition for Arne Slot's team.

Zaniolo broke the deadlock with the only real moment of magic in what was a tight, scrappy

opening half.

He expertly brought down Gianluca Mancini's ball over the top that just escaped Gernot Trauner before flicking a finish past the onrushing Justin Bijlow.

The goal made Zaniolo the first Italian to score in a European final since Filippo Inzaghi in 2007 as well as a confirmed hero for Roma

fans. Feyenoord had dominated the ball, creating nothing of interest, but that changed almost immediately after the restart.

Trauner diverted a low cross off the post and seconds later Rui Patricio made his first real save of the match, the Portuguese reacting well to push Guus Til's shot away. And the 34-year-old was called

into action again four minutes after the break, flinging himself to his left to just tip Tyrrell Malacia's rocket of a shot onto the woodwork.

Almost straight after Tammy Abraham had his hands in the air in disbelief when he was pulled back by Marcos Senesi just as he was charging through on goal, but

Mourinho hails Conference League 'history' for Roma

AP ■ TIRANA

Jose Mourinho said that he and Roma had made history after winning the Europa Conference League on Wednesday, the club's first ever major European trophy.

Portuguese coaching icon Mourinho tried and failed to hold back the tears after Roma beat Feyenoord in their first continental final in over three decades and he was still emotional by the time he hailed his team after the trophy ceremony.

Roma fans have taken Mourinho into their hearts during an up and down season which culminated in Wednesday's 1-0 win in Tirana which ended a 14-year trophy drought for the capital club.

"I've been at Roma for 11 months, I knew the moment I arrived what it meant to the people. They had been waiting for something like this," Mourinho told Sky.

"This was not work tonight, this was history. We had to write history. We wrote it."

Wednesday's triumph was his fifth European title and made



him the first coach to win all current UEFA competitions.

And he confirmed that he would be staying at Roma next season to build on the solid work done in his debut season.

"I am staying, there's no doubt about that," he said.

"We need to see what our owners, who are fantastic people, want to do next season because this is history, but we can build a special project."

"Now I'm going to go on holiday, sit on the beach and think about it all for a while."

Feyenoord were clearly on top. The Dutch side continued to push but a spirited defensive dis-

play typical of Mourinho's teams held them off and handed Roma a rare moment of glory.



Sreeshankar claims long jump Gold in Greece

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

India's premier long jumper Murali Sreeshankar won the Gold medal at the 12th International Jumping Meeting in Kallithea, Greece with an effort of 8.31m.

The Tokyo Olympian is the current national record holder with a jump of 8.36m, which he had achieved last month.

Sreeshankar was followed by Swede Thobias Montler, who claimed Silver with an 8.27m jump, and Jules Pommeroy of France, who bagged Bronze with an 8.17m effort in the 10-man field. Only the top three jumpers crossed the 8m-mark.

Jeswin Aldrin, meanwhile, finished fifth after he hit the 7.69m mark at the 17th Iberoamerican Meeting in Huelva, Spain.

Filip Pravdiva of Croatia (7.91m), Uruguay's Emiliano Lasa (7.82m) and Peruvian José Luis Mandros (7.77m) completed the top three of the seven-man field.



"Sreeshankar consistently jumping far. In 12th International Jumps Meeting, Kallithea, Greece, event part of World Athletics Continental Tour Bronze. Performance 8.31 meters," Athletics Federation of India tweeted. Competing in his first outdoor international meet since the Olympics campaign, Sreeshankar warmed up on Wednesday evening with jumps of 7.88 and 7.71 metres before leaping 8.31 metres.

Sreeshankar came into the competition on back of his excellent domestic form where he repeatedly breached the 8m mark. The Kerala athlete logged 8.14m and 8.17m at the season-opening Indian Open Jumps Competitions in Thiruvanthapuram before breaking his own national record at the Federation Cup in Kozhikode after a close battle with Tamil Nadu's Jeswin Aldrin.

Indian athletes have been training and competing in Europe over the last few weeks



India enter knockout stage of Asia Cup with 16-0 win over Indonesia

PTI ■ JAKARTA

Rising to the occasion, Indian men's hockey team slammed six goals in the final quarter for a crushing 16-0 victory against Indonesia, a result that took the holders into the knockout stage of the Asia Cup but shut the World Cup door on Pakistan, here on Thursday.

India needed to win the Pool A contest by at least a 15-0 margin to qualify and the young players of the side delivered under pressure.

Both India and Pakistan finished on four points each in Pool A behind Japan but the defending champions qualified for the Super 4s due to better goal difference (1).

Pakistan had lost 2-3 to Japan earlier in the day.

The result not only pushed Pakistan out of the tournament but also dashed their hopes of World Cup qualification since only the top three teams here will be given tickets for the big event.

India, being the hosts, will play the World Cup later in the year and hence Hockey India

decided to send young players to this tournament for exposure.

Dipsan Tirkey (5 goals) and Sudev Belimagga (3 goal) shared eight goals between them, playing a key role in team's crucial win. Veteran SV Sunil, Pawan Rajbhar and Karthi Selvam scored a brace each while Uttam Singh and Nilam Sanjeep Xess were the other goal getters for India.

UPROAR IN PAK

Erstwhile powerhouse of the game, Pakistan's failure to qualify for the men's hockey World Cup has created a furore in the nation with former players finding it "hard to digest" and calling for heads to roll in the national federation.

Once the undisputed champions of world hockey, Pakistan has reeled from one crisis to another and from one disappointment to another and Thursday's blow has led to renewed calls for the sacking of the long-serving president of the Pakistan Hockey Federation (PHF) Brigadier (retd) Khalid Sajjad Khokar and coach Khawaja Junaid.

Sen to train with Axelson in Dubai

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

World Championship Bronze medallist Lakshya Sen is all set to train with World No. 1 Victor Axelson in Dubai from Sunday with the Sports Ministry's Mission Olympic Cell (MOC) approving his request, keeping in mind the upcoming Birmingham Commonwealth Games.

The MOC also cleared two-time Olympic medallist P V Sindhu's request for her fitness trainer M Srikanth Madapalli to accompany her abroad under Target Olympic Podium Scheme (TOPS), the ministry said in a statement on Thursday.

Sen, the 20-year-old from Almorá, was part of the Indian men's team that won the prestigious Thomas Cup this month

and is a big Gold medal prospect at the Birmingham event to be held from July 28 to August 8.

"Lakshya is set to train with Axelson in Dubai from May 29th till 5th June (8 days) and then head out to Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia on June 19th to train at the Malaysian Training Centre from 19th till 26th June (8 days)," the ministry said.

"Both the training proposals were approved by MOC in preparation for the Commonwealth Games.

"The sanctioned amount will cover the cost of his and his physio's air travel, boarding and lodging, and out-of-pocket allowance among other expenses." The ministry also approved Sindhu's proposal for financial assistance towards her fitness trainer's travel along with her.

Real remain Europe's most valuable football club

AP ■ PARIS

Real Madrid remain Europe's most valuable football club despite the ever-increasing dominance of the English Premier League, according to a report published on Thursday by analysts Football Benchmark.

The report ranks Europe's 32 most prominent clubs, calculating their value based on their annual financial statements and assessing squad values.

Real, who face Liverpool in Saturday's Champions League final, came out on top for the fourth consecutive year of the report, with a valuation of 3.184 billion euros (\$3.4 billion).

Bopanna-Middelkoop enter French Open pre-quarterfinals



PTI ■ PARIS

India's Rohan Bopanna and his Dutch partner Matwe Middelkoop marched into the pre-quarterfinals of the French Open men's doubles event with a straight set win over Andrey Golubev and Fabrice Martin here on Thursday.

Bopanna and Middelkoop won the second round with a 6-3, 6-4 scoreline against their opponents in one hour and six minutes.

The Indo-Dutch combo, seeded 16th, broke the from Kazakhstan-French pair at 4-4 in the second set and then Middelkoop served out the match at love. Bopanna's best performance at the clay court major is reaching the last-eight stage in 2011, 2016, 2018 and 2021.

Later in the day, Ramkumar Ramanathan and Sania Mirza will be in action in their respective doubles events.

AP ■ PARIS

Spanish teenage sensation Carlos Alcaraz and third seed Alexander Zverev both saved a match point in five-set French Open thriller, while 13-time winner Rafael Nadal and reigning champion Novak Djokovic eased into the third round Wednesday.

Alcaraz, widely tipped as a title contender, rallied from the brink to defeat compatriot Albert Ramos-Vinolas 6-1, 6-7 (7/9), 5-7, 7-6 (7/2), 6-4 after four hours and 34 minutes.

"I feel tired," said Alcaraz. "It was a great battle, a great match and we fought until the last point."

The 19-year-old Alcaraz is attempting to become just the eighth teenager to capture a major men's title, and backed as the man to break the stranglehold of Djokovic and Nadal.

But he was pushed to the limit by the seasoned Ramos-Vinolas, 15 years his elder and whose best performance at a Grand Slam came when he made the quarter-finals in Paris six years ago.

Alcaraz, the tour's dominant player in 2022 with a season-leading four titles, fought off a match point to break Ramos-Vinolas as he served at 5-4 in the fourth set.

He then clawed his way back from 3-0 in the decider, producing an outrageous backhand pass to retrieve

Nadal easily wins 300th Grand Slam match



the break and more sensational baseline scrambling to move 5-4 in front before closing out victory with an ace.

Alcaraz goes on to face US 27th seed Sebastian Korda, the last man to defeat him at Monte Carlo in April in what was his only loss in 19 matches on clay this season.

Zverev, a 2021 semi-finalist, dug himself out of a deep hole against Argentina's Sebastian Baez to avoid his earliest loss at a major in three years.

Zverev overcame Baez 2-6, 4-6, 6-1, 6-2, 7-5 and will play Brandon Nakashima of the US for a place in the last 16.

"I'm happy still being in the tournament right now," said Zverev, who was match point down on serve at 4-5 in the final set.

"I was planning my holiday in Monaco, where I was going to go and who I was going to with and that relaxed me, thinking about the beach.

"You just have to find a way." It was the third comeback from a two-set deficit in Zverev's career. He trailed fellow German Oscar Otte 2-0 in the opening round at Roland Garros a year ago before his run to the last four.

300 UP

Nadal breezed past French wildcard Corentin Moutet 6-3, 6-1, 6-4 for the 300th Grand Slam win of his career. Roger Federer (369) and Djokovic (325) are the only men to have more than the record 21-time major champion.

His French Open record now stands at a staggering 107 wins and just three losses since his 2005 title-winning debut.

"I think it was a good match against a very difficult player with lots of talent," said Nadal, whose build-up to the tournament was hampered by a foot injury.

"The last couple of months haven't been easy. The victories help a lot."

Djokovic made comfortable work of Slovakia's Alex Molcan, the world number one winning 6-2, 6-3, 7-6 (7/4) against a player trained by his long-time former coach Marian

World No. 227 adds Pliskova to casualty list

AP ■ PARIS

Karolina Pliskova became the sixth top 10 women's seed to exit the French Open on Thursday when she was knocked out by world number 227 Leolia Jeanjean.

Eighth-seeded Pliskova, last year's Wimbledon runner-up and a semi-finalist in Paris in 2017, lost 6-2, 6-2 to the 26-year-old Frenchwoman who cut her teeth as a leading college player in the United States.

Former number one Pliskova joins fellow top 10 seeds, defending champion Barbora Krejickova, Maria Sakkari, Ons Jabeur, Anett Kontaveit and former winner Garbine Muguruza in failing to get through to the third round.

Jeanjean is the lowest-ranked woman to beat a top 10 player at Roland Garros in 34 years.

Vajda, the man who inspired most of his 20 Grand Slam titles.

"So far so good. I'm pleased with the way I'm feeling on the court,"



"I don't really realise what's going on. I find it just incredible," said Jeanjean, all smiles on the court just after his victory.

Considered a future star at 12, Jeanjean saw her career abruptly halted by injuries, including a triple dis-

location of the knee.

She then left to study in the United States, only returning to top-level tennis at the end of 2020.

"I wanted to come back so as not to regret anything. I think I made the right choice," she said.

Pliskova has made the second week at Roland Garros just once in 11 visits.

World number three Paula Badosa overcame a scare to defeat 68th-ranked Kaja Juvan of Slovenia 7-5, 3-6, 6-2.

Badosa, a quarter-finalist in 2021, recovered from a break down in the decider to set up a meeting with 29th seed Veronika Kudermetova for a spot in the last 16.

Also going through was US 11th seed Jessica Pegula who needed eight match points to defeat Anhelina Kalinina of Ukraine 6-1, 5-7, 6-4.

match, but I thought I performed very well. Everything is going in the right direction. I'm looking forward to the next challenge."

Djokovic said after reaching the last 32 at Roland Garros for the 17th straight year.

"It was never going to be an easy